

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 98: WHO ARE THESE TEENAGERS AND WHY AREN'T THEY LIKE ME? UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S TEEN

OUTLINE BY CYNTHIA WATTS

1. Characteristics of today's teen are:
 - a. **Optimistic**
 - b. **Idealistic**
 - c. **Empowered**
 - d. **Ambitious**
 - e. **Traditional**
 - f. **Confident**
 - g. **Committed**
 - h. **Passionate**
 - i. **Team players**
2. If we are trying to teach today's teen the way previous generations were taught, **we will lose them.**
3. Names for this generation of teens are **Generation Y, trophy kids, or Millennials.** The name "trophy kids" comes from the practice of receiving a trophy for just participating in sports or activities, whether they win or not.
4. These teens are **civic minded,** rejecting the attitudes of the Baby Boomers and Generation X.
5. This generation is also sometimes referred to as the *Boomerang Generation* or *Peter Pan Generation* because of their possible penchant for **delaying some of the rites of passage into adulthood** longer than most generations before them, and because of a trend toward **living with their parents** for longer than recent generations.
6. A major event for Gen Y'ers is **9/11.**
7. This generation of teenagers has a passion for **experience.**
8. They seek an **active** and **accepting** environment.
9. **Eight of ten** believe that they will reach their personal goals, find a good job and make enough money to do the things they want.
10. Only **8%** believe they will be victims of terrorism.
11. Popular pieces of clothing include **jeans, crocs, leggings, short skirts.** (Allow the participants to offer their ideas. Try to include these items, too.)
12. Millennials are held to higher standards than some adults apply to themselves; they are a lot less **violent, vulgar, and sexually charged** than the teen culture older people are producing for them, and, over the next decade, they will entirely recast what it means to be young. According to some studies, Millennials could emerge as the next **great generation.**
13. **Alcohol** consumption, **drug usage, pregnancy** and **homicide rates** among teens are down from the previous generation.
14. An emphasis on **family** and **religious values** is returning, and sociologists are predicting a surge in younger marriages and **bigger families.**
15. Over **80%** of active youth group members are nowhere to be found within a year after high school graduation. They are not bailing on Jesus and their faith, but bailing on the church. So using our time with them to develop relationships and leading them to understand the value of Bible study and worship in the church is urgent.

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1. Characteristics of today's teen are:
 - a. O _____
 - b. I _____
 - c. E _____
 - d. A _____
 - e. T _____
 - f. C _____
 - g. C _____
 - h. P _____
 - i. T _____
2. If we are trying to teach today's teen the way previous generations were taught, _____
3. Names for this generation of teens are _____, _____, _____, or _____. The name "trophy kids" comes from the practice of receiving a trophy for just participating in sports or activities, whether they win or not.
4. These teens are _____, rejecting the attitudes of the Baby Boomers and Generation X.
5. This generation is also sometimes referred to as the *Boomerang Generation* or *Peter Pan Generation* because of their possible penchant for _____ longer than most generations before them, and because of a trend toward _____ for longer than recent generations.
6. A major event for Gen Y'ers is _____.
7. This generation of teenagers has a passion for _____.
8. They seek an _____ and _____ environment.
9. _____ believe that they will reach their personal goals, find a good job and make enough money to do the things they want.
10. Only ___% believe they will be victims of terrorism.
11. Popular pieces of clothing include _____, _____, _____, _____, _____. (Allow the participants to offer their ideas. Try to include these items, too.)
12. Millennials are held to higher standards than some adults apply to themselves; they are a lot less _____, _____ and _____ than the teen culture older people are producing for them, and, over the next decade, they will entirely recast what it means to be young. According to some studies, Millennials could emerge as the next _____.
13. _____ consumption, _____, _____ and _____ among teens are down from the previous generation.
14. An emphasis on _____ and _____ is returning, and sociologists are predicting a surge in younger marriages and _____.
15. Over ___% of active youth group members are nowhere to be found within a year after high school graduation. They are not bailing on Jesus and their faith, but bailing on the church. So using our time with them to develop relationships and leading them to understand the value of Bible study and worship in the church is urgent.