



## NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY AT MT. CARMEL IS A DISCIPLING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND LEADERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT AND FORMATION OF THOSE FROM BIRTH THROUGH COLLEGE.

THE END GOAL AND HOPE IS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION TO BECOME CHRIST-FOLLOWERS WHO DEVELOP INTO MISSIONARIES AND DISCIPLE-MAKERS THAT HAVE BEEN CALLED AND EQUIPPED TO FULFILL A GOD-GIVEN MINISTRY AND MISSION.

STATED ANOTHER WAY, THE VISION IS TO UNLEASH WITHIN THE NEXT GENERATION A MINDFULNESS FOR MINISTRY, A MOBILIZATION OF MISSIONARIES, AND A MULTIPLICATION OF DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES.

STUDENTS IN THE NEXT GENERATION DO NOT HAVE TO MOVE TO A FAR AWAY LAND IN ORDER TO BECOME A MISSIONARY BUT ARE MISSIONARIES NOW BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BOTH A MISSION TO FULFILL AND A MESSAGE TO SHARE.

BY THE TIME A STUDENT COMPLETES HIS OR HER NEXT GEN EXPERIENCE AT MT. CARMEL, HE OR SHE SHOULD HAVE SERVED ON A MINISTRY TEAM, WENT ON A MISSION TRIP, AND BEEN A PART OF AND LED A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP (D-GROUP).

### I. SCRIPTURE

**THERE ARE TWO MAIN PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE WHICH PROVIDE THE BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR HAVING A NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY:**

#### ***(1) DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9***

<sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup>These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie

them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**(2) PSALM 78:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—  
<sup>3</sup> things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.  
<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.  
<sup>5</sup> He decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach their children,  
<sup>6</sup> so the next generation would know them,  
even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children.  
<sup>7</sup> Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds  
but would keep his commands.  
<sup>8</sup> They would not be like their ancestors—  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
whose hearts were not loyal to God,  
whose spirits were not faithful to him.

**II. MILESTONES**

**MILESTONES SERVE AS MARKERS OF PROGRESSION ON THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION JOURNEY. MILESTONES ARE FAITH MEMORIAL MARKERS IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES. JUST AS THE NATION OF ISRAEL MARKED SPECIAL EVENTS WITH ALTARS AND MEMORIALS, OUR NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY PROVIDE CERTAIN MARKERS FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

**(1) PARENT COMMISSION / FAMILY DEDICATION**

At the commissioning service, a blessing will be pronounced over the child and the parents. Parents will dedicate themselves to raising their child in a Christ-centered manner. The church will likewise respond to this call as partners in the child's Christian development. Parents are identified as the primary disciple-makers of their children and the church publicly affirms this God-ordained call.

**(2) BAPTISM / BIBLE PRESENTATION**

Baptism is a picture of a changed life in Jesus Christ. As children are baptized in the service, they are publicly professing their new identity and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. For each child, this is a milestone, representing their growth along the path of spiritual formation and of their new life in Christ. After baptism, each child is presented a Bible for his/her newfound Christian journey.

**(3) PURITY COMMEMORATION CEREMONY**

While students are in middle school, parents are encouraged to complete a rite of passage event called a Purity Weekend. After a student makes a commitment to purity, the parent usually gives a ring or some other type of symbol to their student to memorialize the occasion. During the ceremony service, students who made a commitment to purity are invited to the front of the worship center with their parents. In commemoration, students turn toward their parents and join hands as the Next Generation Pastor reads a 'Commitment to Purity' vow.

**(4) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

Graduates are honored with a breakfast before the morning service. Graduates process to the front of the worship center wearing their cap and gown. Parent/Guardian(s) are asked to stand as the graduate's parent/guardian names and graduate life plans/favorite verses are announced. Graduates are prayed over and receive a graduation gift before walking off the platform.

**(5) CAREER COMMISSION / POSITIONAL CALLING**

The last milestone in Next Generation Ministries is for college-aged students (don't have to be in college) who have graduated college or believe God has called them into a specific field of service. Young adults who believe God is calling them into a vocation are asked to come and sit at the front center of the worship center. An announcement is made from the pulpit in reference to the calling the young adult is experiencing. All pastors, deacons, and parents are asked to come forward to confirm this calling in prayer and by the laying on of hands.

**III. rites of passage experience**

**WHEREAS MILESTONES ARE EVENTS TO BE CELEBRATED ON THE BIG STAGE AT CHURCH, THE RITES OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCE (ROPE) ARE MILESTONES FOR FAMILIES TO CELEBRATE AT HOME. THE ROPE IS DESIGNED FOR PARENTS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND TO BE INTENTIONAL AND STRATEGIC IN THE PASSING DOWN OF THE FAITH TO THEIR STUDENT AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL.**

6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: PREPARATION OF ADOLESCENCE  
7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: PURITY WEEKEND  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: BLESSING CEREMONY  
9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: DRIVING CONTRACT  
10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: MONEY MATTERS  
11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: FAMILY TREE  
12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: MANHOOD/WOMANHOOD CEREMONY

FOR RESOURCES RELATED TO *ROPE*, CLICK [HERE](#) OR [HERE](#).

#### IV. FAMILY DEVOTIONS AND FAMILY WORSHIP

**FAMILY DEVOTIONS AND FAMILY WORSHIP ARE HIGHLY VALUED IN NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY.**

“Family devotions is not the same as family worship although family devotions are a form of worship. Family devotions should only last about ten minutes a night. You can find many resources that will help you lead daily devotions for your family. Family worship might also be every night but is a bit lengthier than ten minutes. For instance, some families have been known to have family worship for 30 minutes a night (excluding church days or a once a week family day). Is there a happy medium? I think so! I would suggest families planning a “family night.” Family nights last up to an hour long (not all “day”) and incorporate a time to eat, play, study, and pray together. I don’t know of any better resource for family nights than GenOn Ministries “Family ’round the table” [curriculum](#). Family night is definitely family worship!” - <https://www.next-generation-ministry.com>

#### V. NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY TEAM(S)

**NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY AT MT. CARMEL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT EXCELLENT TEAMS AND LEADERS. CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COLLEGE TEAMS ARE LED BY TEAM LEADERS THAT LEAD A TEAM OF LEADERS. PRESCHOOLERS, CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ALL DEFINED AS STUDENTS AND AS LEADERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE AND EVERYONE HAS INFLUENCE. THE QUESTION IS NOT ARE YOU A LEADER OR DO YOU HAVE INFLUENCE. THE QUESTION IS HOW WILL YOU USE THE INFLUENCE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN? WILL YOU LEAD WELL OR WILL YOU LEAD POORLY? CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COLLEGE TEAM LEADERS GIVE SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, AND DIRECTION TO THEIR TEAMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND GOALS. BESIDES BEING TEAM LEADERS AT THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COLLEGE LEVELS, THESE SAME LEADERS MAKE UP THE NEXT GENERATION TEAM. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NEXT GENERATION PASTOR, THE NEXT GENERATION TEAM COLLABORATES TO ENSURE MILESTONES ARE BEING CELEBRATED AND TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE OVERSIGHT AND VISION TO THE OVERARCHING NEXT GEN MINISTRY.**

**VI. NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY UPDATE(S)**

**EVERY SEMESTER, THE NEXT GENERATION PASTOR PROVIDES A NEWSLETTER TO CHURCH MEMBERS AS TO THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY.**