

Nations & Generations Recast 2023

In this 2 week series we are going to reexamine and recommit to some specific goals we have as our way of making and growing followers of Jesus through our Nations & Generations vision.

Week 2: Asking for Generations

1. Rick pointed out *“To reach nations we must reach generations, and impacting generations results in greater influence among nations.”* **Read Psalm 45:17.** What encourages you the most from that statement and verse?
2. **“GENERATIONS” EMPHASIS. *The scriptures challenge every generation to invest in every generation.*** **Read Psalm 78:2-4 & 145:3-4.** Share some examples of how you're grateful for those who came before you (perhaps tell about someone who invested in you). Share some ways we can be mindful of those who come after us (who are you investing in).
3. **Read Mark 10:13-16.** *Jesus gave the next generation three gifts: time, touch, and prayer.* How might Jesus' personal experience influenced why he blessed the next generation? How does his example encourage you to live with a greater sense of responsibility?

4. **“GENERATIONS” STATUS:**

Goal 1: *Launch and lead Celebrate Recovery and a Freedom Ministry for the redemption of broken generations.* Each Thursday evening **about 110 adults** meet at our NRH Campus for CR to celebrate and pursue freedom in Christ (**80** people have graduated from CR's 12 step program, helped by **50** trained volunteers. **23** people from CR have surrendered to Christ and been baptized. Give God praise for all of this and pray for the ones you know who still need to experience freedom.

Goal 2: *Raise up 25 new foster families and train 100 members to serve foster families..* To date **5 families** are currently fostering, and a **sixth** has completed the adoption process. What are some ways we can be a blessing to a foster family?

Goal 3: *Mobilize 2000 members a year to serve in ministry to kids and students in our church and community.* We know that **1104 unique individuals** have served Next Gen Ministry in our church this year & **more than 500 church members** have served with **para-church ministries we partner with.** Share some stories of how you've been blessed by serving the next generation. Follow up: Where might God be calling you to serve next?



Goal 4: Launch a ministry residency program that trains at least 10 people for future service in the church. To date we have had **2** residents with a **third** resident serving now. Pray for God to continue to use this program as a training ground for ministry.

Goal 5: Guide 3000 people to connect to God, church, and their purpose through Rooted, a small-group discipleship experience. *Rooted is designed to engage participants in the disciplines that form people into the image of Christ.* To date **851 people** have gone through the Rooted experience (we currently have **18** Rooted Groups meeting including **1** in Dallas!). If you've gone through Rooted, share your experience with the group. If not, consider doing so in 2024. You can learn more here: <https://thehills.org/rooted>

Goal 6: Strengthen marriages by developing relationship champions to impact and encourage 250 couples. *Nothing blesses the next generation more than strong marriages in this generation.* **We have trained 31 couples as relationship champions, and to date they have impacted and encouraged 124 couples.** Pray for all marriages to be enriched. You can learn more about our Marriage Ministry here: <https://thehills.org/marriage>

Goal 7: Create an inter-generational mentoring experience for men and women on each campus with a goal of maturing 300 kingdom influencers. For two years we have used a strategy called Radical Mentoring for men (8 groups meeting now) and Gathered Groups for women (59 groups meeting now). **To date we have helped mature 196 future leaders in our church through intentional inter-generational mentoring.** Make a commitment to join us in praying through the 21-day prayer guide Rick mentioned. You can find it here: <https://nationsandgenerations.org/prayerguide/>

5. Which of these seven goals resonate with you the most? Why? Follow up: If you have personally been involved in one of these goals already, share that experience. What has God been teaching you during this season of ministry?
6. **“GENERATIONS” FOCUS** *Instilling faith in the next generation will be difficult, but this is not a new challenge for the people of God.* Rick mentioned the story of Samuel (found in 1 Samuel 1-3) and noted that it reveals three things the next generation needs: **committed parents, invested mentors, and God-encounters.** Why are all three of these so vital? Follow up: Spend some time praying for God to use these three things to instill faith in the next generation.
7. Ask God this question, *What next step should I take to engage with one of these goals more in the next year?* Then take 1-2 minutes in silence listening for a response or an impression. Follow up: What is something God might be asking you to consider doing?

