

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

Jan 4, 2026

## Cultivate: Investing in the Next Generation

### Connect (15-20 mins)

1. If this is your first meeting as a group since the holiday season, spend some time discussing the good and/or the bad from the holidays. Talk through ways you would like to keep or break existing holiday traditions in the future and why.

### Grow (5-10 mins)

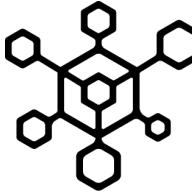
2. In light of the New Year, consider how you may grow into deeper faith, greater faithfulness, and increased dependence on God's grace in 2026. Discuss these thoughts with your group and consider inviting your group into accountability. [Here](#) is a guide for this. **Remember**, as believers, spiritual growth is not about *earning* God's favor, but responding to the grace and love we already have in Christ!

*"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure"*

*(Philippians 2:13)*

### Share (45-60 mins)

3. What are some things that shape the culture of a community—often without anyone intentionally planning it (for example: habits, repeated behaviors, values that are modeled, or unspoken expectations)?
4. Can you think of a season in your life where you were being shaped in ways—whether good or bad—you didn't recognize at the time, but only understood later?
5. In the current season of our local body, we are experiencing significant growth, including among the next generation. **Read Judges 3:5–7**. According to this passage, what happens when God's people are not intentional about forming the next generation?
6. **Read Psalm 71:17–18**. How should this passage shape the way we view our responsibility to those who come after us in the life of the Church?



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## Practice: Invest in the Next Generation

In this week's sermon, we learned from the examples of two men in the Bible who took different approaches to stewarding well for the next generation. King Hezekiah was more concerned with what would happen during his own lifetime (2 Kings 20:19), while Abraham was mindful of those who would come after him (Genesis 21:33).

*“Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.”*

*(Genesis 21:33)*

End your time together by praying for the next generation and asking God to lead you with wisdom as you seek to play a role in caring for and equipping them within our local body. Then, over the coming week, consider the following:

Set aside time to **read 2 Kings 22–23 and Nehemiah 8**. Take time to become familiar with the context of these passages. After reading them, reflect on the following and come prepared to discuss at your next meeting:

In these passages, we learn that the future of God's people is shaped by whether His Word is forgotten or faithfully passed on. Neglect of God's Word led to generational drift, while intentional teaching led to renewal and joy. These passages remind us that forming the next generation is a shared responsibility. The question is not whether formation is happening, but who—and what—is doing the forming.

If we, as a local body of believers, desire to see the gospel continue to advance in our city and in our world, we must be intentional about building up the next generation. As a group, ask yourselves this question: How can we, both individually and together, help cultivate a culture in our local body that builds up and equips the next generation? What are some tangible steps we can take as a result of being moved to action by God's Word and Spirit? This does not need to be something grand—it could be as simple as regularly praying for the next generation in our church.

### *Memory Verse:*

*“O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.”*

*(Psalm 71:17-18)*