



GENERATIONS

It Shall Be Told

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Generations | "Faithful Soldiers" | 2 Tim. 1:15-2:13 | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Jan. 26 - Sunday, Feb. 1 (Week 3)

Emphasis for the Month: **Laying a Foundation of Intentionality**

The beginning of a new semester is full of energy and possibility but it's also when the tone for the entire season gets set. The habits you establish now, the vulnerability you model early, and the intentionality you bring to these first gatherings will shape the depth of community your group experiences in the months ahead.

Start strong by being intentional:

- Show up fully present. Put phones away, arrive on time, and engage wholeheartedly. Your presence communicates value.
- Go first in vulnerability. Don't wait for others to open up. Model the honesty and authenticity you want to see in your group.
- Prioritize connection over content. It's tempting to rush through questions to "get it done," but slow down. Let people share. Ask follow-up questions. Real discipleship happens in the margins of conversation.
- Pray specifically. Don't just pray generically at the end, pray for what people actually shared. Write down prayer requests and follow up during the week.

Remember: Depth doesn't happen by accident, it's built through intentional choices in the early weeks. The investment you make now in creating a safe, authentic, and gospel-centered space will pay dividends all semester long.

As we launch the Generations series and initiative, let your group be a place where passion for Christ is contagious, where people are spurred on toward boldness and generosity, and where the next generation of disciples is being formed.

Thank you for your leadership and intentionality. Looking forward to building something beautiful together!

ICE BREAKER: What's one thing you were really passionate about as a kid that you've either kept up with or completely abandoned? What made the difference?



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CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We will be holding our next Child Dedication Class on Saturday, February 7 at 10 AM, hosted by Eric and Jen Hicks. Please email info@churchatbergen.org to sign up. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger (barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org)
2. Fortify 2026 Men & Women's Conference will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2026 (9:45 AM–1:00 PM) at Bible Baptist Church in Hasbrouck Heights. Sessions will be focused on faith, family, leadership, and godly living. An optional Singles Session will be held Friday, January 30 at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$35 per person (lunch included) and childcare is available by reservation only by January. To learn more and to register, email info@churchatbergen.org
3. Please join us for our prayer gathering every Tuesday night at 6:30PM
4. **Advance Commitment Night** - Thursday, January 29. This will be an important night for all key leaders and covenant members to come out to worship, pray, and be the first ones to offer their commitments to God. However, all people are invited to come if they feel that they are ready to make their commitments.
5. **Commitment Sunday** - Sunday, February 22. This will be the last Sunday in our Generations series when all people who are committing to the vision will bring their commitment cards to church filled out and offer them to God during the service.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from 2 Timothy 1:15-2:13, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In a powerful call to spiritual warfare and generational impact, Pastor Mike unveils the heart of Church at Bergen's "Generations" generosity initiative, drawing from Paul's final letter to Timothy. At this pivotal moment in our church's history, facing space constraints and growing ministry needs, Pastor Mike challenged us to become "good soldiers of Christ Jesus" who will preserve and proclaim the Gospel for future generations. Through vivid biblical imagery and personal conviction, Pastor Mike emphasizes that this \$3.9 million two-year vision isn't merely about acquiring a building – it's about unleashing the church's full potential to "storm the gates of hell" and reach thousands for Christ. He weaves together Paul's military metaphors with practical discipleship, calling all of us to evaluate our generosity journey and make sacrificial commitments that will impact souls yet unborn. The sermon culminates in an urgent reminder that while faithful soldiers may face





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battles, they find endurance by fixing their eyes on the risen Christ and trusting in the unstoppable power of God's Word to transform lives long after they're gone.

QUESTION #1 - Pastor Mike mentioned that if there was anything to remember from the sermon it was this simple, short phrase: "*Please The One*". Where in your life do you drift into "civilian pursuits" away from pleasing, "The One"?

QUESTION #2 - Regarding the Generations generosity initiative, where would you honestly place yourself on the generosity journey (first-time giver, intentional, proportional, tither, sacrificial, generational)? What would it look like for you to take the next step?

QUESTION #3 - Paul says he endures "everything for the sake of the elect." The sermon applied this to sacrificing for future generations who will be saved through this church's ministry, even people we'll never meet. How does thinking about your legacy of faith (beyond your lifetime) change how you view sacrifice today?

QUESTION #4 - The sermon ended with a direct appeal: "Will you endure everything?" As you think about the next two years of the Generations initiative and your own spiritual journey, what does "enduring everything" look like for you practically?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).



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