



Q & A



What Gen Z Really Wants to Know About God *Seven Questions About Life and Faith*

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Tanita Tualla Maddox (DMin, Phoenix Seminary) is the national director for generational impact for Young Life and serves as an associate regional director in the Mountain West Young Life region. With an expertise in contextualizing the gospel for Gen Z, Tanita has been featured on *The Holy Post* podcast and has been published in *The Great Commission Research Journal*, the *Journal of Youth and Theology*, and more.

What is Good News to Gen Z?

What led you to write this book?

Tanita Tualla Maddox: I have been on a journey to figure out how best to share the gospel with Gen Z. There was a moment I realized in my gospel proclamation and discipleship, I was answering questions Gen Z wasn't asking, and ignoring the ones they were. This book is an extension of my doctoral thesis—and as a practitioner, an active Young Life leader, I have found this approach to be effective in reaching our next generation and wanted to share it with others.

What is the thesis of *What Gen Z Really Wants to Know About God*?

Tanita: I have identified key questions Gen Z is asking about life and faith based on their values and worldview, and discuss the context around those questions and how to answer them in evangelism and discipleship.

What do you want readers to take away from your book?

Tanita:

1. Cross-generational ministry is cross-cultural ministry
2. Listen first and try to understand what Gen Z is saying, asking, celebrating, grieving, or worried about—before offering quick responses.
3. The gospel is good news for everyone, everywhere, throughout history, and we have to figure out how and why it is good news to Gen Z.
4. Read the Bible through the questions Gen Z is asking, through their eyes, in order to help interpret it for them.
5. The older generations are stewards of the next one, and we must lean in to help Gen Z reflect the kingdom of heaven on earth in the ways they were designed to.

What else do you want readers to know about the book?

Tanita: This book provides a replicable process that can be applied to many different audiences.



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