

The Messiah, Gen Z, and Squid Game | John 4:26 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To better see how the gospel speaks to the longings of different generations.

Sermon Reminder: Keith continued in our Jesus is More sermon series through the I Am statements of Jesus that reveal to us who Jesus is and what he is for us. Today was unpacking what it means that Jesus is the Messiah. Keith spent significant time talking to Generation Z and how the gospel of Jesus as Messiah better fulfills the longing for justice and a world made right expressed in the incredibly popular Netflix series, Squid Game.

Transition:

Today's sermon discussion will be slightly different than our normal ones. We'll be teasing out the lessons for Generation Z into our own generation.

Discussion:

Here is the Generation breakdown from Pew Research that Keith referenced in his sermon:

- **The Silent Generation:** Born 1928-1945 (age 93-76)
 - **Baby Boomers:** Born 1946-1964 (75-57)
 - **Generation X:** Born 1965-1980 (56-41)
 - **Millennials:** Born 1981-1996 (40-25)
 - **Generation Z:** Born 1997-2012 (24-9)
1. Keith emphasized Squid Games as a story that expresses some of the key longings of Generation Z. What kind of movies or stories or songs highlight the key longings of your generation?
 2. How are some of those longings similar or different from the other generations?

Read John 4:25-26.

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

3. What is the woman longing for that the Messiah will solve?

Transition:

The term, Messiah means anointed or anointed one which is translated Christ in Greek.

Read Luke 23:2.

And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."

4. What is the Messiah tied to according to this verse?

Read Isaiah 61:1.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
 because the Lord has anointed me
 to proclaim good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim freedom for the captives
 and release from darkness for the prisoners

5. What is the Messiah (Anointed One) anointed to do? What is his mission?

Transition:

Keith spoke to Generation Z about how Jesus as the Messiah (King) has come to bring a kingdom that is concerned about setting right the wrongs in the world. We only experience that in part now until he returns. In the meantime, we are called to have faith in (or show allegiance to) Jesus and his kingdom through prayer, participating in his mission of redemption and justice in this life, and waiting for Jesus to return and bring his kingdom to its fullness.

6. Why do we need to hear this?

7. How does Jesus' kingdom speak to the key longings of our generation?

8. What ways do we need to stretch or reach out in order to help the gospel go to other generations than our own?

Sharing and Prayer:

Spend time praying as a group for a generation at our church and beyond that is different than your own.