

Finding peace: “Making disciples in Gen Z”

- Finding peace
- Loosing peace
- Restoring peace

[SLIDE 2] Introduce self briefly.

[SLIDE 3] What to expect in this workshop:

1. Knowing Gen Z
2. Where does **your** peace come from?
3. How can we create **places of peace**?
4. Examples from Alongsiders
5. Q&A session

1. Knowing Gen Z

[SLIDE 4] Turn to your neighbour and discuss for 3-4 minutes:

- What is “Gen Z”?
- What are some characteristics of “Gen Z”?

[SLIDE 5] Explain the generations

- Make a little inventory of who is who?
- Observations of Gen Z - what makes them who they are?

[SLIDE 6] Share some general observations

[SLIDE 7] Share some specific observations on Gen Z & Faith

[SLIDE 8] Empty

This generation is looking for peace, but where can they find it?

Of course Jesus is the answer (the Prince of Peace) but how can that be experienced?

Who gives them a “vision that they will lay down their life for?”

[SLIDE 9] The crisis in the church today is neither a loss of faith nor declining church attendance, for those are just symptoms. Rather, **the church is failing to pass on to the next generation a vision for which they will lay down their lives.** But we can't pass on what we haven't embraced ourselves, and many of us have settled for lives that fall short of Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of God.”

Have we embraced this ‘peace’ ourselves?

2. Where does **your** peace come from?

[SLIDE 10] Empty

We cannot pass-on what we have not embraced ourselves...

What gives you peace?

What gives the ‘church’ peace?

How do you try to ‘create’ peace?

What characterises your life?

What characterises your church?

- When we talk about peace, we talk about Shalom.
- Shalom is not the absence of problems / war / issues.
- Shalom is the presence of Jesus!

[SLIDE 11] Braindump of some of the words that I had to think of when I thought of Church - things that characterise and make things safe and peaceful.

[SLIDE 12] Some of the things we see in the life of Jesus - things that we would maybe not describe as peaceful. Things that would make us scared.

Look at some of the words in the sheet 11 & 12

Again - SHALOM is the precise of Jesus, not the absence of difficulty, pain and sorrow.

[SLIDE 13] Often church is geared as an organisation, an institution, not as a movement in the way Jesus intended it to be.

[SLIDE 14] Focus on the acronym - ACTS. Let's live ACTS together. Not safe - but under and with the SHALOM of Jesus..

So where does your peace come from?

- Does it come from Jesus? From Him alone?
- What are some of the things you need to let go of?
- What are some hindrances in your ministry?

[SLIDE 15] Empty

3. How can we create places of peace?

Or - to use a better translation - how can we create places of SHALOM. Places where God's SHALOM can breakthrough (for Gen Z)?

Within Alongsiders as a movement we try to be culture driven. And for that we use a simple but powerful framework and we have embedded it into our culture and core DNA.

It is called the "Circle of Courage":

- Google it for more insight;-)
- We have adapted some of the terms to better fit Gen Z

The elements are:

1. Belonging
2. Purpose
3. Mastery
4. Ownership

A brief word on every element of them:

1. [SLIDE 16] Belonging

Everyone needs a place to belong.

Mother Theresa: "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty."

Mother Theresa: "The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

Everyone needs a place to belong.

Will you offer someone a place to belong?
Do you see people who are lonely?

Do you see them for who they are?
Or are we after what they can do (for the church)?

Let's welcome them in. Gen Z wants to be seen, loved, heard, challenged, ...

2. [SLIDE 17] Purpose

Nobody wants their life not to count:

- Share the example of the 'end of your life'.
- We are all looking for a higher purpose
- Gen Z'ers feel a void inside and are looking for that to be filled.
Maybe we need to look for different words in order to connect with

them? Do we ever evaluate the 'vocab' we use to see whether to connect with the 'heart-language' of Gen Z?

Gen Z especially wants their life to count.

- This is also their problem - FOMO, but it is their desire to do something that will last. Solve the environment, make an impact, etc
- They are impacted by the global financial crisis and often look for a deeper impact / purpose than just money and wealth.
- They are looking for role-models to look up to, copy, imitate, ask honest questions, etc.

Is your church giving them a vision to lay down their life for?
Are you giving them a vision to lay down their life for?

3. [SLIDE 18] Mastery

Matthew 10:24-25 - Growth and becoming like the Master - Jesus.

Everyone is 'designed' and created to grow / to 'master'..

- How do we challenge our Gen Z'ers to grow?
- How do we help them in that?
- How do we cheer them on and how do we hold them accountable?

4. [SLIDE 19] Ownership

[EXAMPLE] Own car versus hired car. Will you wash a hired car? Of course not - that is something the company did.

Are we willing to let go of power?

Authority?

Decision making?

Are we 'okay' for mistakes to be made?

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[SLIDE 20] Empty

4 motivating factors.

Elements that everyone needs - but especially this generation..

[SLIDE 21] Introduction Alongsiders Europe

[SLIDE 22] Give example of an Alongsider and the impact that it has in someone's life (LBS) and the impact it has in the Alongsiders life.

[SLIDE 23] ...