

GENERATION
STUDY GUIDE

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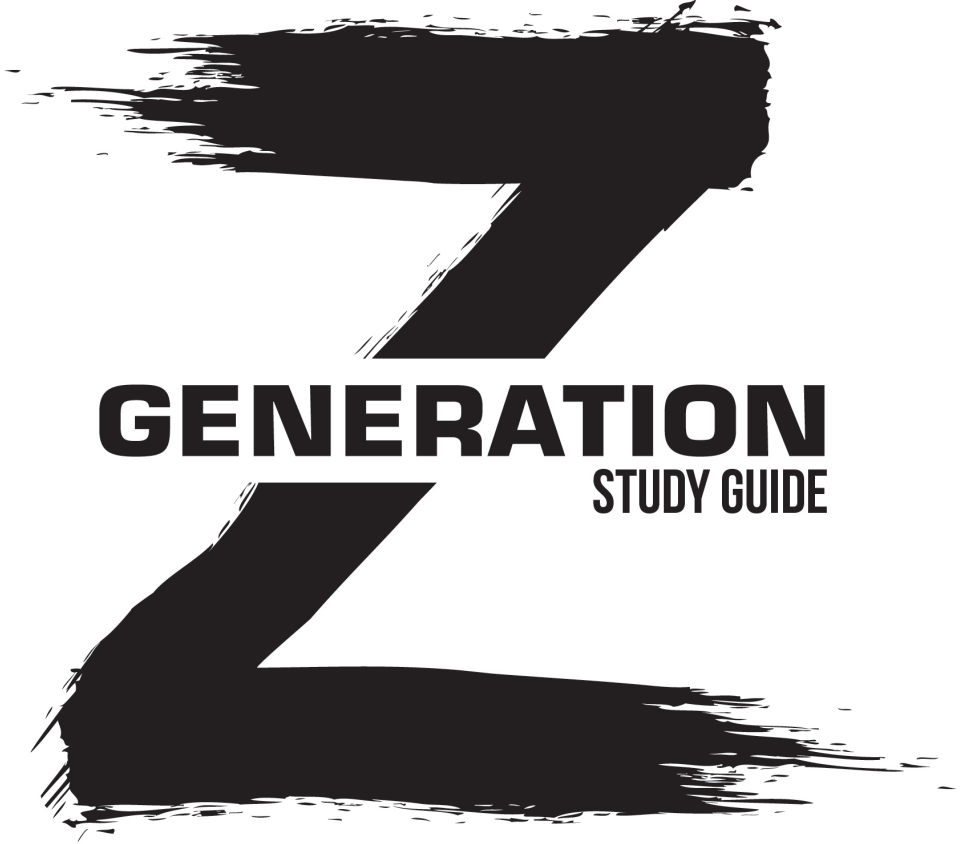
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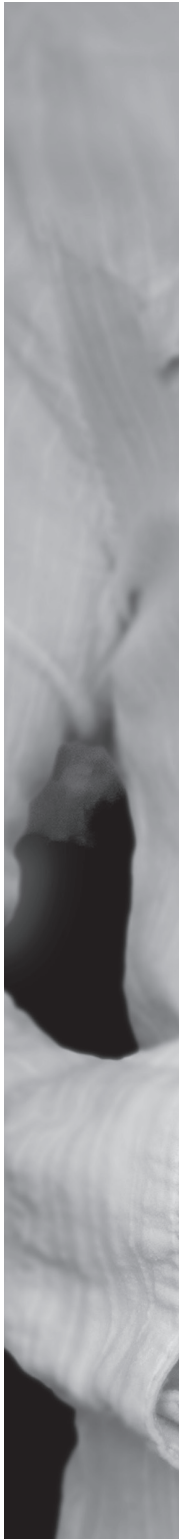
GENERATION
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**BORN FOR
THE STORM**



CONTENTS

<i>Introduction: A Perfect Storm</i>	6
Chapter 1. A Generation Born to Lead: “Zeke”	8
Chapter 2. A Generation Born for A Purpose: Zaphenath-Paneah	14
Chapter 3. A Generation Born to Worship: Zadok	20
Chapter 4. A Generation Born for The Spirit: Zechariah And Zerubbabel	26
Chapter 5. A Generation Born for Hope: Zephaniah	32
Chapter 6. A Generation Born for Integrity: Zacchaeus	38
Chapter 7. A Generation Born for Commitment: Zipporah	44
Chapter 8. A Generation Born for Influence: Zeruiah	50
<i>Conclusion</i>	56



DR. BILLY WILSON

President of ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

Z
GENERATION
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**BORN FOR
THE STORM**

INTRODUCTION

A PERFECT STORM

In many ways, what feels like a perfect storm surrounds this generation in the twenty-first century.

READING TIME

As you read Introduction: “A Perfect Storm” in *Generation Z*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

What is your primary motivation for reading *Generation Z: Born for the Storm*?

How do you plan to use what you learn?

CHAPTER 1

A GENERATION BORN TO LEAD: “ZEKE”

Generation Z must understand that although God has not caused all the storms they have encountered, He can be found in the midst of them.

As you read
Chapter 1:
“A Generation
Born to Lead:
“Zeke”” in
Generation Z,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

What storms have most impacted the lives of the Generation Zs you know?

How have those storms influenced their thinking about the future?

What is your understanding of the emotional and psychological development of Generation Zs considering their formative years have been marked by fear and violence?

How might the eagle be an apt symbol for members of Generation Z?

What conditions prepared Ezekiel to minister to both exiles and those still in Jerusalem?

How would you encourage a Generation Zer who feels like he or she gets no rest between the storm's onslaughts?

Describe the work of a Generation Zer who has turned his or her “storm into a platform” like Peter.

What can you contribute to the Generation Z cause, so they can “soar on wings like eagles” (Isaiah 4:31)?

Reflect on the Apostle Paul’s metaphorical and physical storms. How have you seen Generation Zers exhibit Perception and Insight, Courage and Confidence, Clarity and Decisiveness, Focused Peace, Resilience, or Power?

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

—Matthew 24:4-8

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

How do you interpret Jesus' words to His disciples?

Why do you think He gave them this brief glimpse into their future?

What comfort can you take knowing that Jesus knew then, and knows now what is going to happen in all parts of the world?



CHAPTER 2

A GENERATION BORN FOR A PURPOSE: ZAPHENATH-PANEAH

*Fulfilling your purpose is not
ultimately about you; it is about
God, and it is about others.*

As you read Chapter 2: “A Generation Born for A Purpose: Zaphenath-Paneah” in *Generation Z*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

Compare what you think of when you hear the terms Millennials and Generation Z with Dr. Wilson’s observations.

In what ways do you see people born between the years 1997-2012 driven by communication, justice, technology, etc.?

What “purposes” do you see members of Generation Z embracing?

Why might so many Generation Zers see entrepreneurship as the most viable option to provide for themselves and their future families?

In your opinion, how prepared are the leaders of today to guide Generation Z toward their God-given purposes?

What circumstances in Joseph's early life prepared him for his purpose?

What is the significance of Joseph's Egyptian name?

How could you help a Generation Zer find his or her identity?
How might "fatherlessness" complicate your efforts?

What other lessons can a person — especially a member of Generation Z — learn from Joseph's life?

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise

—Galatians 3:26-29

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

According to the Apostle Paul, what is the first qualification for being a child of God?

How does being a child of God change a person's identity?

What does the future hold for the children of God?



CHAPTER 3

A GENERATION BORN TO WORSHIP: ZADOK

*They get it. Worship is more than songs.
Worship is loyalty to the King, whether
in a church service or a classroom,
at work, or in the grocery store.*

As you read
Chapter 3:
“A Generation
Born to
Worship:
Zadok” in
Generation Z,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

In which generation were you born?
How much of your life resonates with Dr.
Wilson’s description of it?

How much do you think membership in
your particular generation has affected you?

What is your understanding of the term Generation Z? What
might your interpretation of it indicate about you?

Based on the Generation Zers you know, which of the events mentioned in this chapter is the most memorable to them? How do they remember it?

What positives do you see in Generation Z being referred to as “weconomists” and the “DIY” generation?

Considering the Generation Zers’ focus on being seen as individuals, why is Zadok a relevant representation of them?

What does their ability to look past a worship leader's outside and focus on the One they're worshipping say about them?

Which of the statements about authentic worship touched your heart the most?

What can you learn from a Generation Zer's insistence on authenticity?

What will be said of our worship?

“You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

— John 4:22-24

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

What was the context of Jesus speaking these particular words about worship? What does that mean for you?

What does Jesus mean when He says that “the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth”?

What does that look like in a 21st century world?



CHAPTER 4

A GENERATION BORN FOR THE SPIRIT: ZECHARIAH AND ZERUBBABEL

The longing to make a difference on a global scale is palpable in this generation.

This generational passion for the world will lead to a fresh dependency on the Holy Spirit, who will empower them to find global significance beyond their own strength or ability.

As you read
Chapter 4:
“A Generation
Born for
The Spirit:
Zechariah And
Zerubbabel”
in *Generation Z*,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

What has God asked you to do that you knew was only possible through the power of His Spirit?

What challenges can you foresee Generation Z facing in their insistence on individuality and immediacy in terms of the kingdom of God?

What might the “uncomplicated, authentic, not overly-processed spirituality” that Generation Z wants look like?

What challenges do you foresee mentoring or ministering to Generation Z considering their adherence to plurality, inclusivity, or non-religion?

In what ways are Zechariah and Zerubbabel fitting representations of Generation Z?

What role did the prophetic word play in Zechariah's and Zerubbabel's lives?

How did the Holy Spirit work in Zechariah's and Zerubbabel's lives in the following areas:

- Providing motivation _____

- Breaking intimidation _____

- Overcoming opposition _____

- Superseding limitation _____

How have you seen, or do you anticipate seeing, the Holy Spirit move in the lives of Generation Z in the following areas:

- Providing motivation _____

- Breaking intimidation _____

- Overcoming opposition _____

- Superseding limitation _____

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. . . . And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.”

— Joel 2:28-29 and 32a

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

According to Joel’s prophecy, which groups of people are going to experience God’s Spirit?

When is that going to happen?

What hope can these words bring to members of Generation Z?

CHAPTER 5

A GENERATION BORN FOR HOPE: ZEPHANIAH

Generation Zers long for genuine relationships, yet they are seeking them through counterfeit means.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

As you read Chapter 5: “A Generation Born for Hope: Zephaniah” in *Generation Z*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Describe a dark time in your life? Who or what got you through?

How familiar are you with the way Generation Zers are processing and getting through their dark times? What do you know?

What do you find shocking about the number of 18-22 year olds who report feeling lonely?

Dr. Wilson asks, “Why is this happening?” and “Why is such an anointed, talented, potential-filled generation facing such a mountain of emotional and mental turmoil?” What is your response?

How do people seek genuine relationships through counterfeit means?

Which instance of Jesus seeking forlorn people in desperate places touches your heart the most? Why?

How does Zephaniah communicate God's mercy?

Is being merciful part of your character? What evidence can you supply to support your claim?

How would you care for someone who finds him or herself in the depths of despair?



“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

—Isaiah 42:1-4

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

About whom is Isaiah writing?

What can people who feel broken and in despair expect of Him?

What hope can be found in verse 3, “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out”?

CHAPTER 6

A GENERATION BORN FOR INTEGRITY: ZACCHAEUS

Our duty is to teach young men and women to own their failures before God, confess their sins, trust in His forgiveness, and then enjoy the inner peace of integrity.

As you read
Chapter 6:
“A Generation
Born for
Integrity:
Zacchaeus” in
Generation Z,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

What does telling the truth, “the whole truth and nothing but the truth” mean to you?

To what extent do you attempt to tell nothing but the truth?

How can Generation Z’s numbed conscience be a challenge to their becoming leaders of integrity?

What does spiritual duplicity look like?

How can a person feel his or her heart has remained “good” while that person’s body has committed grievous sin?

What is the challenge of teaching Generation Zers to “own their failures before God, confess their sins, trust in God’s forgiveness, and then enjoy the inner peace of integrity”?

What was the evidence that Zacchaeus had been changed?

Is there anyone in your life with which you need to make things right and “repair any damage” that your words or actions have caused before you mentor or minister to someone else?

How might taking care of that situation influence your ability to mentor someone else through the process?

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

Before verses 23 and 24, Paul listed a plethora of destructive behaviors for the Thessalonians to avoid. What impact does Paul's request that "God himself" keep them from those sins have?

What role does humility play as people attempt to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, so they can be kept blameless until Jesus comes?

What hope can anyone take from verse 24? Be specific.



CHAPTER 7

A GENERATION BORN FOR COMMITMENT: ZIPPORAH

What God requires may even cause us deep, personal, and intimate pain, but the work of God is worth all pain or sacrifice required.

As you read
Chapter 7:
“A Generation
Born for
Commitment:
Zipporah” in
Generation Z,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

Who comes to your mind when you think of the word “commitment”? What is significant about that person?

How have you shown, in your own life, your commitment to whatever cause you’ve valued?

Like David Livingstone, how can some people view what other people say are sacrificial experiences as privileges instead?

What cause or purpose is God calling you to? How much are you willing to pay to accomplish that mission and fulfill that cause?

What role is the Holy Spirit going to play as you go about fulfilling that call?

How have you traditionally understood the passage in which Zipporah cut off her son's foreskin, placed it at Moses' feet, and announced that Moses was a "bridegroom of blood" to her?

What does it show about Zipporah's commitment?

What commitments do you see Generation Zers having to make to find their places in God's plan?

What might the "knife of God's word" applied to a "fleshly heart" look like?

How can you encourage someone as he or she goes under the knife?

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

—Luke 9:57-62

Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

When have you found your plans in conflict with what it seemed the Lord was asking of you?

What were the circumstances?

What have been the results of your response to that situation?



CHAPTER 8

A GENERATION BORN FOR INFLUENCE: ZERUIAH

[Generation Zers] are here and ready to bring their voices and influence for and to the King.

As you read
Chapter 8:
“A Generation
Born for
Influence:
Zeruahe” in
Generation Z,
review, reflect
on, and respond
to the text
by answering
the following
questions.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

How do you choose to influence the world around you?

By whom are you and your peers most influenced? In what ways are you influenced?

Why do you think young people have been so influential in the world's great movements of God?

How do you see the influence of Generation Z already?

Which of the quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King speaks to you or for you most clearly? Why?

Based on your understanding, what it is about Generation Zers that makes them so influential?

How does Zeruah's story show that a person can have influence in ways beyond the ordinary?

How do you anticipate Generation Z will influence the church in this century?

Considering that "tomorrow's presidents, prime ministers, educators, business leaders, scientists, medical leaders, artists, inventors, researchers, conveners, and cultural missionaries are in the classroom around the world (or maybe somewhere in a corner playing video games) what can you do to influence them?

Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

— 1 Timothy 4:11-16

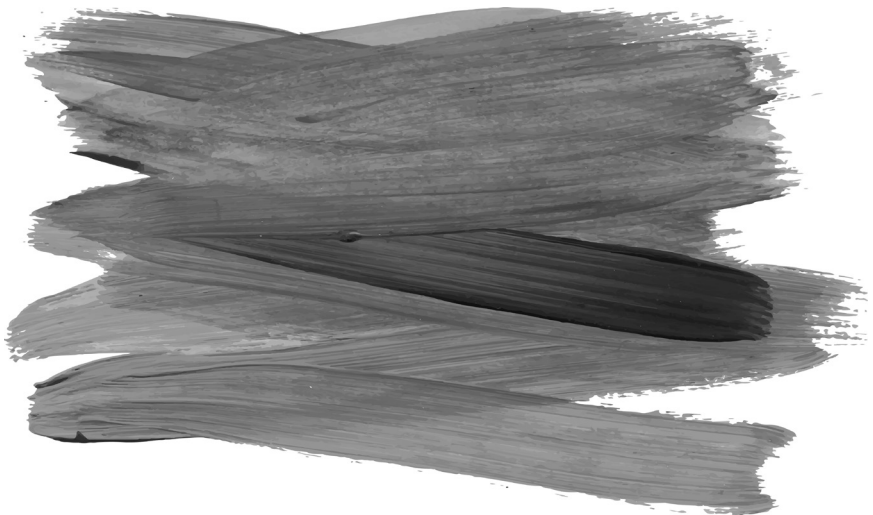
Consider the Scripture and answer the following questions:

Why did Paul mention Timothy's age in the passage?

What encouragement did Paul give to Timothy regarding Timothy's calling?

What did Timothy have to look forward to if he persevered in the calling he had received from God?

What inspiration can you draw both for yourself and your role as inspirer in a younger person's life?



CONCLUSION

I do not claim to understand Generation Z completely, but I do proclaim that I love and believe in them completely.

REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND:

As you read the Conclusion of *Generation Z*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

How is your life a testimony of what happens when a person — young or not — encounters God and is guided by the Holy Spirit?

How has your understanding of and feelings toward Generation Z changed as you've progressed through *Generation Z: Born for the Storm*?

What action steps have you taken or do you plan to take as you personally — as a Generation Zer — or vicariously — as someone of a different generation — weather the storm of these turbulent times?





GENERATION

