

PASTOR'S NICKEL

Pastor's Nickel - Ministering to Emerging Adults

Part 1: Talk to them / Welcome them



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I recently listened to a lecture given by Steve Argue at the Inspire 2022 conference on ministering to "emerging adults." Emerging adults are anyone aged 18-25. As an emerging adult myself, I will do my best to write a three-part Pastors Nickel on this unique group of people and how the church can minister to their spiritual needs.

Emerging Adults find themselves in a decade of transition. People move more between the span of 18-29 than they do at any other point in their lives. The average emerging adult will have around 8 different jobs between the age of 18-32.

To begin ministering to emerging adults all anyone needs to do is welcome them or talk to them. You can be encouraged by the fact that emerging adults are looking for wisdom and experience from people who have already answered the questions: who am I? Where do I belong? **What is my purpose?**

Emerging Adults can be hard to recognize in the church because of their infrequent attendance. Established church members often see their inconsistent attendance as a lack of commitment. In reality, most emerging adults have so many changes going on in their life that their church attendance can seem sporadic and uncommitted. One week they are in church, the next week they spend the weekend up at her parents' place, the following they are on vacation the week after that they are visiting his parents, and before you know it they have not been back to your church in a month! Yet this is not a lack of commitment to the church or our congregation but simply the result of the unsettled lives of emerging adults.

When you see the face of an emerging adult in church, talk to them! If they are new welcome them and let them know their opinion matters. We would love to have them get involved! But keep in mind, just because you don't recognize them doesn't necessarily mean that they are new!

That's my Nickel, Pastor David