

The Atheist Encounter

session 1

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GAME TIME!!!

1. Go to
www.kahoot.it
2. Enter the
game pin
8999614
3. Start the
game!

Are We Preparing the Next Generation?

- 1 in 10 Youth Ministers are having classes relating to faith and science (Kinnamann, 140-142).
- The “nones” are rising. 36% of those born after 1996 are “nones.” (Lipka, *Nones*).

Are We Preparing the Next Generation?

Most U.S. adults now say it is *not* necessary to believe in God to be moral and have good values (56%), up from about half (49%) who expressed this view in 2011 (Smith, *Americans*).

MILLENNIALS TO GOD: NO THANKS

If the world is at a religious precipice, then we've been moving slowly toward it for decades. Fifty years ago, *Time* asked in a famous headline, "Is God Dead?" The magazine wondered whether religion was relevant to modern life in the post-atomic age when communism was spreading and science was explaining more about our natural world than ever before.

We're still asking the same question. But the response isn't limited to yes or no. A chunk of the population born after the article was printed may respond to the provocative question with, "God who?" In Europe and North America, the unaffiliated tend to be several years younger than the population average. And 11 percent of Americans born after 1970 were raised in secular homes.

Scientific advancement isn't just making people question God, it's also connecting those who question. It's easy to find atheist and agnostic discussion groups online, even if you come from a religious family or community. And anyone who wants the companionship that might otherwise come from church can attend a secular Sunday Assembly or one of a plethora of Meetups for humanists, atheists, agnostics, or skeptics.

Source: Gabe Bullard

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/04/160422-atheism-agnostic-secular-nones-rising-religion/>

Are We Preparing the Next Generation?

The share of Americans who identify as atheist has doubled since 2007 (Lipka, *Atheists*).

Are We Preparing the Next Generation?

The percentage of teens
(Gen Z) who identify as
atheist is double that of
the general population
(13% v. 6% of all adults)
(Barna, *Atheism Doubles*).

Are We Preparing the Next Generation?

20 years ago 18% of skeptics were under the age of 30. Today, the percentage is nearly double at 34% (Bishop, *Atheism Popularity*).

So, what's happened?

We are fighting a battle that we aren't prepared for.

- The battles young people once fought were over which doctrines were correct (baptism v. sinners prayer, organization of the Church, women's role).
- Now the battles are over issues like: The existence of God, reliability of the Bible, Old Testament ethics, problems with the trinity, religious pluralism, etc.,
- Given the stats, it is clear that the Church, from top to bottom isn't prepared.

What Has to Change?

- We need to infuse apologetics into our homes, classes, sermons, and camps.
- Apologetics can no longer be an “event” on the calendar. It has to become apart of Christian training.

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We Have to Start Training

1. Gain Knowledge/Experience
2. Impart information.
3. Make application.
4. Generate a Controlled Situation.
5. Debrief.

Common and Questions

- Don't you need a PhD for this stuff?
- What if someone asks a question I don't have an answer for?
- What resources are there?

Resources

- www.apologiainstitute.com
- www.Reasonablefaith.org
- *The Case for Christ; The Case for Faith*- Lee Strobel.
- *Meet Aaron the Atheist*- Apologia Institute.
- Apologetics class at the local congregation.