



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Orange Sunday: Passing Down Faith

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

NextGen Sunday is about rethinking what it means to be the church, what it means to be a community and what it means to belong together.

The Church is not to meant to be:

- A mall. We are not to be a crowd of consumers, just looking to get our spiritual and religious wants taken care of.
- A stadium. We are not to be a crowd of spectators, observing from a comfortable distance.
- A subway car. We are not to be a crowd of anonymous people in close proximity to one another.

We are called to be more than all these things. We are called to reimagine what it means to be the church and reimagine what means to be a community.

We are called to become a multi-generational church working together so that through us, others can come to know Christ.

The Church is the body of Christ. How can the body of Christ move forward if we are not moving with one another in the same direction? If one part of the body is not functioning well, the entire body will suffer and not function properly.

It takes a multi-generational Church to raise a mature disciple of Jesus.

New Life Fellowship is already uniquely positioned as a congregation to help people grow into mature disciples in Christ.

We have never been more connected with one another than at any other time in history while also feeling those most disconnected than any other time in history. When it comes to our children, the speed at which they receive information does not allow them to properly process what they are seeing and hearing. It has become very common place to see children discipling other children, which is not the way discipleship should be taking place. The church is called to become something bigger and to come against these forces.

The invitation for us in Deuteronomy 6 is for us to become a different type of community. The goal for our lives is to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We have a hard time loving and yet as the body of Christ, this is what we are called to do.

We are called to hear. When Moses gave these words, he was speaking to everyone, not just one group of people or one generation of people. This message and calling is true for all of us today, no matter what our age.

We all have something to give and offer to others. As we learn and grow on this journey called life, we can offer our experiences to help the next generation.

The Community at Large has been uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit and has called upon us to impact the next generation.

The greatest gift we can give to our children as parents is emotional connection. It can be very easy to focus on behavior modification and not relate to our children on a heart level. We need to move beyond our own reactivity to offer a calm presence. Our call is to model who we want our children to be, so that they know they are not alone on their journey.

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to be like Jesus and model that to those around us by praying, worshipping, and reading scripture.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Rich and Rosie Villodas, lead our sermon on NextGen Sunday and the ways we are called to love, serve and hand down faith to the next generation.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, were you disciplined by others in your family – maybe your parents or grandparents? Maybe someone outside of your family disciplined you? If you were disciplined, what did that look like for you? Maybe you weren't disciplined by others growing up? How did that inform you today in the way you came to know and follow Christ? Journal your answers to these questions, offering them up to God.
3. How do you feel when you hear that “we all have something to offer the next generation?” Do you feel as though you have something to offer, or do you feel as though you have nothing to offer? If you don't feel as though you have anything to offer, can you ask God for wisdom and guidance on what you can offer? Find time to either share your answers with your small group or a trusted brother or sister in Christ.
4. The next generation needs to see us modelling what a life in Christ looks like. We are to let them see us praying, worshipping, and reading scripture. Do you presently do this so that the next generation sees you being this type of model? If you are not and are unsure where or how you can you begin doing this, find time to sit with God asking for clarity and direction on how you can begin offering yourself as a model to our next generation.
5. How can you step up and help disciple the next generation at New Life? What would it look like for you to help shape future generations to live and be a different type of people? Maybe this means that in this season you are praying for the next generation at our church or it could mean that you become more involved and volunteer with our NextGen Ministries? If you feel called to volunteer, reach out to Brendaliz Ayende at brendaliz.ayende@newlife.nyc for more information.