

# Parent University

*Sharing. Supporting. Partnering.*



Heritage Christian School

*We exist to serve Christ by partnering with parents to provide biblically faithful, academically excellent education. Our vision is to be a leader in developing passionate lifelong learners committed to Christ.*



# Parent University: *What's this all about?*

## Agenda

### › **Origins**

– How did this all come about?

### › **Resources and information**

### › **Why is this so important?**

– Culture

– Exiles

– Resilient Disciples

Gen Z is different

### › **What am I going to learn? *Previewing future sessions***





# Parent University: *What's this all about?*

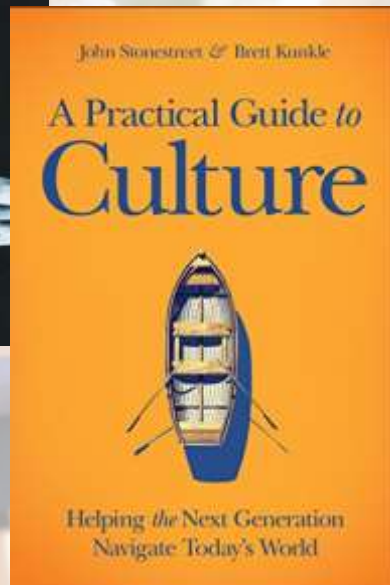
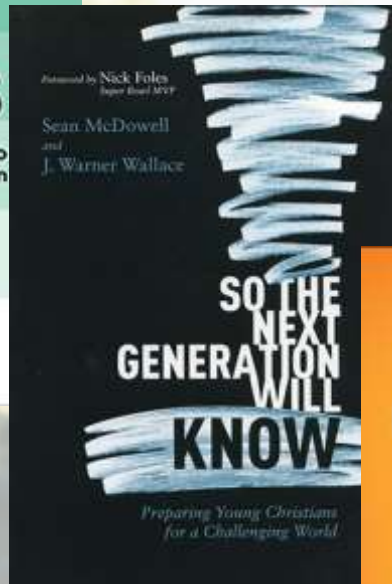
## ORIGINS

- › “ ... partnering with parents ...”
- › **Chains Interrupted**
- › **Culture**
  - *So the Next Generation Will Know*, Sean McDowell
  - *A Practical Guide to Culture*, John Stonestreet / Brett Kunkle
  - Institute 360, Jonathan Morrow and Josh McDowell
- › **Exiles**
  - *Faith for Exiles*, Barna Research on young Christian trends

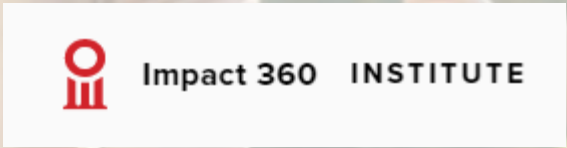




# Parent University: *Resources & Information*



<https://maventruth.com/>



<https://www.impact360institute.org/>





# Why is this so important?

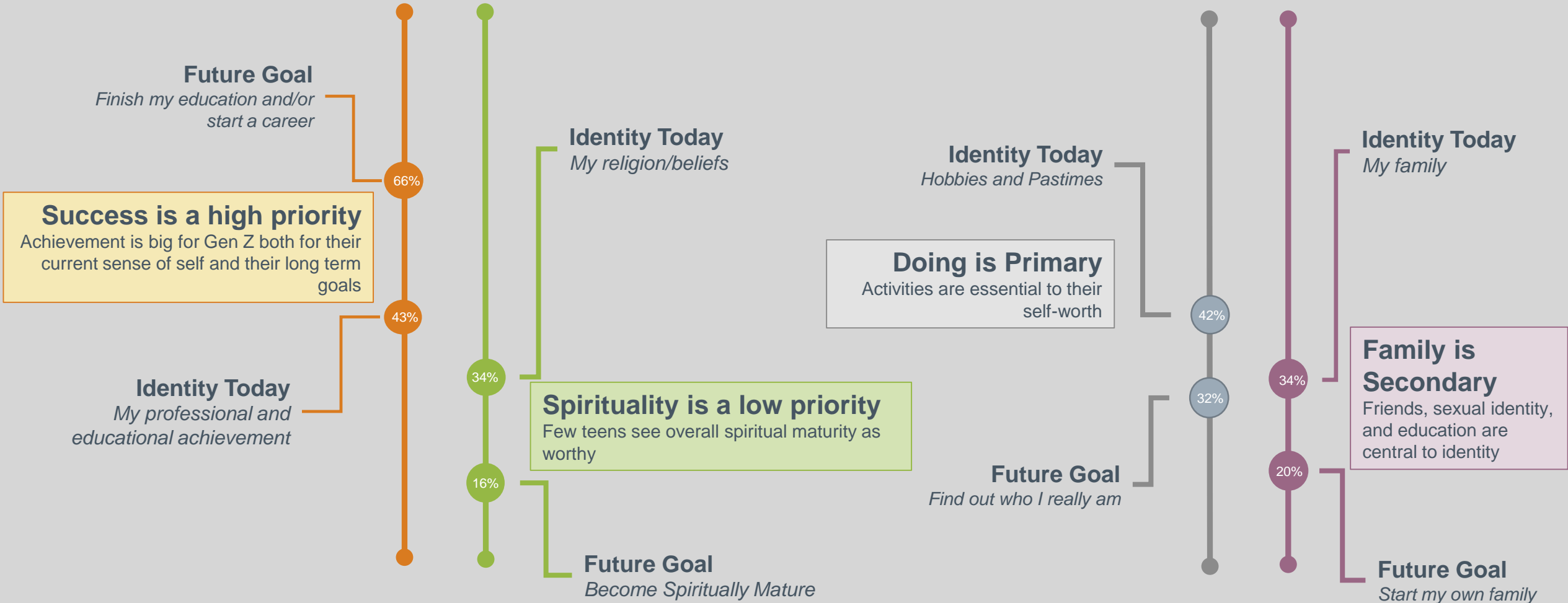
- › We live in a challenging culture for young Christians
  - 50-70% of young Christians will walk away from their faith by the time they are in college<sup>1</sup>
  - In a recent UCLA study, 52% of college students reported frequent church attendance before entering college; only 29% reported the same by the end of their Junior year<sup>2</sup>
- › Parents need resources, support, and encouragement to respond to a generation of students unlike any other
  - The worldview of GenZ is highly inclusive and individualistic; they admire parents but don't find family relationships central to their sense of self
  - They came of age post-9/11 and 2008 Great Recession and are driven to be “happy” which many define as education attainment and financial success<sup>3</sup>
- › Gen Z's crave relationships – but likely not from family

1 J. Warner Wallace, *Cold Case Christianity*, January 2019

2 *Spirituality in Higher Education*, Higher Ed Research Institute, UCLA, July 2018

3 GenZ, Culture and Beliefs, Barna Research Group, 2018

# Gen Z at a Glance



Source: Gen Z: Culture and Beliefs, 2018

# Who I Am and What Matters Most ?



Career and/or Education
Hobbies / Sports
Gender / Sexuality
Groups of Friends
Family upbringing
Religious Beliefs
Race / Ethnicity
"Where I'm from"

● Gen Z
● Millennials
● Gen x

Source: Gen Z: Culture and Beliefs, 2018



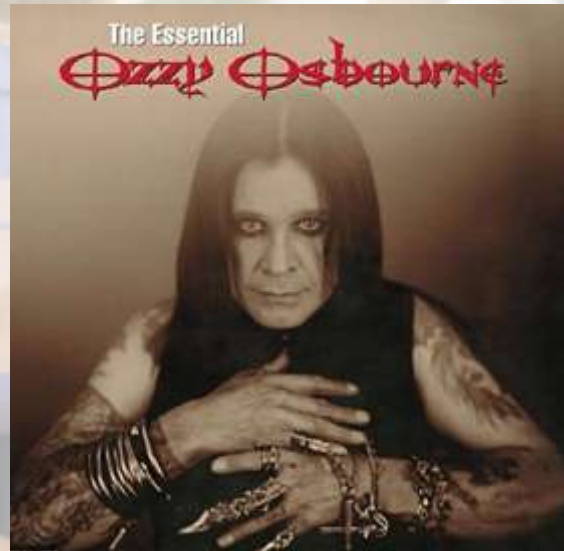
# Culture. Exiles. Resilient Disciples.

## › Culture

- *cultura* – Latin meaning agriculture.
- Not the same thing as creation
- Not just the “bad” stuff









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## › Exiles

- Just like Jews exiled to Babylon, Christians today live in a culture that challenges many of their beliefs

- “All of us are exiles. We live in Digital Babylon,” conclusion of Barna’s research

### › Babylon of the bible is characterized as a collective of human pursuits in opposition to God.

- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- Peter in his letters to the Christian Church and John in the Book of Revelation
- Exiles learned a new language, economic system, and social norms – it was part of the assimilation process
- Exiles came to know Babylon’s power, prestige, and pride as their hearts and minds were colonized

### › Digital Babylon

- The internet colonizes our culture
- Hyper connected. Fear of missing out
- Church is less important – replaced by other activities
- Online and consumer church makes it easy to find a “faith outlet” that “works for me”





# Culture. Exiles. Resilient Disciples.

## › Four Types of Exiles



22% - Prodigals (Ex-Christians)



30% - Nomads (Unchurched)



38% - Habitual Churchgoers



10% - Resilient Disciples

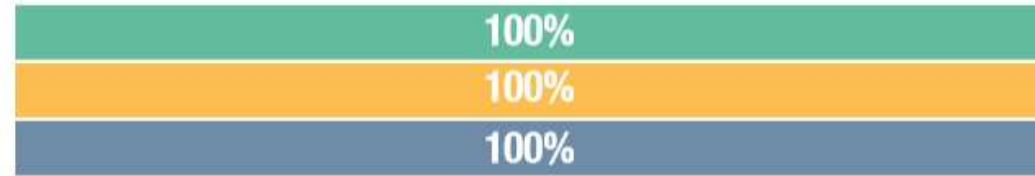
As Christians, our aim in today's culture (Digital Babylon) is to equip and build up our children to be Resilient Disciples capable of influencing "Churchgoers," reaching "Nomads," and returning "Prodigals."



# It's Easy to Say You're a Christian...

## Identifying as Christian

Right now, what religious faith do you consider yourself to be? Christian\*



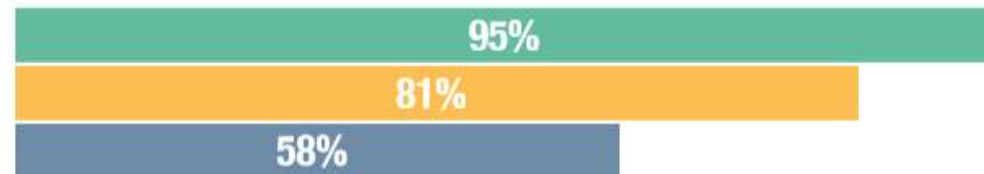
- Resilient Disciples
- Habitual Churchgoers
- Nomads / Unchurched

Which of the following phrases best fits how you would describe your faith to others? (completely or mostly)

A follower of Jesus



A Christian

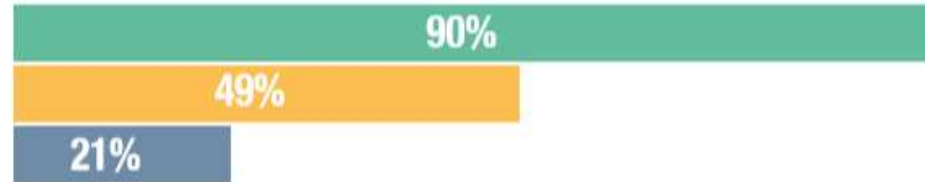




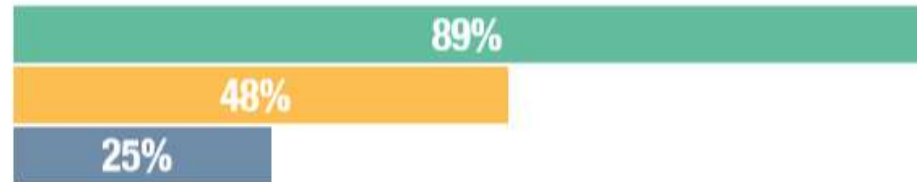
# ...but Less Common to Find Joy in Jesus

## *Finding Identity in Jesus*

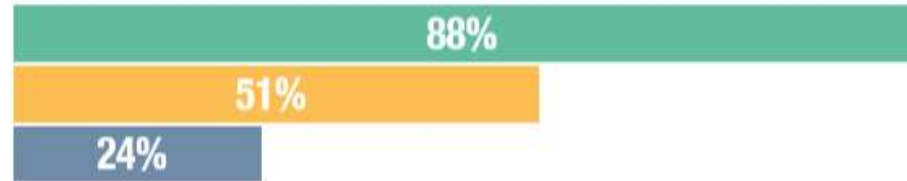
I believe living in relationship with Jesus is the only way to find fulfillment in life



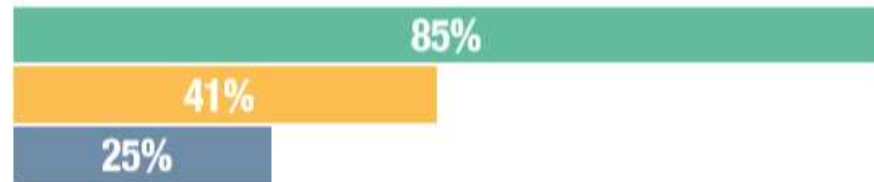
My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction



Following Jesus shapes my whole life: body, mind, heart and soul



My relationship with Jesus impacts the way I live my life every day



- Resilient Disciples
- Habitual Churchgoers
- Nomads / Unchurched





# What am I going to learn?

- › Screens, technology, and social media: *How much is too much?*

- Keeping kids safe online. What do parents need to know?

**Jason Moiser**

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – 6:30 PM**

- › Chains Interrupted: *Human trafficking in Iowa*

- How big is this issue? What do parents need to know?

**Tish Young**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

- › Anxiety and depression in our kids: *Identifying the signs*

- What to look for? When to be concerned? Where to turn to for help?

**TBD**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

- › Digital Babylon: Raising kids to live in this “foreign” land

- Developing resilient disciples. Identifying a countercultural mission and equipping our children.

**Brett Kunkle**

**Saturday, March 7, 2020 – 9:00 AM**





Thanks for coming. See you December 4

Screens, technology, and social media: *How much is too much?*

