



MM/CS226 Spiritual Adulthood: Engaging Gen Y

Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn | 1.5 CR

About the Course

The last few decades has seen the rise of new generational demographic, the emerging adults, or young adults. The task for this generation, transiting between youth and adulthood is a critical one.

. . . the years between eighteen and twenty-five are a time for settling of one's convictions about meaning and morality: Why do I get up in the morning? What do I do after I get up in the morning? One then settles into life with those convictions as the shaping presuppositions and principles of one's entire life. (Steven Garber)

The challenge comes because we need to do this at a time of rapid cultural change. The generation of young adults today is the first that has grown up shaped by the internet and by globalisation while many in church leadership are from an earlier era. This has resulted in many churches struggling in their ministry to the emerging generation. Indeed many churches are losing their young adults. Here is one set of statistics from the American context:

The ages eighteen to twenty-nine are the black hole of church attendance; this age segment is "missing in action" from most congregations . . . Overall, there is a 43 percent drop-off between the teen and early adult years in terms of church engagement. These numbers represent about eight million twentysomethings who were active churchgoers as teenagers but who will no longer be particularly engaged in a church by their thirtieth birthday. (David Kinnaman)

The call to make disciples of all nations, and that means all generations, remain the same. This course will grapple with this question:

What can we do in this generation to empower and equip emerging young adults to reach their God-designed potential for spiritual transformation? (Richard R. Dunn and Jana L. Sundene)

Dates (2019)

Feb 21, 28
Mar 7, 14, 28
Apr 4

(7:15pm – 10:00pm)

Credits

1.5CR

Class Format

Live Class

Location

Zion Bishan B-P Church
4 Bishan Street 13
Singapore 579792

Fees*

S\$225(Credit)
S\$90 (Audit)

* Students from Host Churches are entitled to 20% off credit courses only

Many churches are losing their young adults. What is at stake is not just stemming the bleeding of young adults from our churches. What is at stake is how do we faithfully pass the faith on to future

About the Lecturer

Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn is the director of Graceworks, a ministry committed to promoting spiritual friendship in church and society. He has a BDS from the University of Singapore, a ThM (NT) from Regent College, and a DMin from Fuller seminary. He has served as the lead pastor of two churches and as the executive leader of a major para-church ministry. His passions include connecting the Word of God to the struggles of daily life, and the mentoring of emerging leaders. He wants to do fresh thinking on the meaning of discipleship and what it means for the 21st century.



Course Objectives

As a result of participating in the course the student will:

1. Understand who are young adults especially the millennials and the unique spiritual challenges they present for discipleship
2. Understand what young adults need as they journey from adolescence to adulthood
3. Be introduced to key ministry strategies for ministering to young adults
4. Meet and build relationships with others who are burdened to reach this key generation

Course Outline

Session/date	Lectures	Pre-class Reading
1 Feb 21	<p>The challenge of young adult ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- the numbers -- a turning point in history --the cultural gulf <p>Who are young adults?</p>	<p>Read Emerging Adulthood, by Jeffrey Arnett, https://tinyurl.com/ydx5s2ls</p>
2 Feb 28	<p>The work of spiritual adulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- What needs to happen to successfully transit from adolescence to adulthood? -- Basic life skills --Spiritual curriculum 1: Convictions <p>What do young adults need to know in their journey to adulthood?</p>	<p>David P. Setran and Chris A. Keisling, Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood, Chapters 1 & 2</p>
3 Mar 7	<p>Spiritual issues in adulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---Spiritual curriculum 2: Identity ---Spiritual curriculum 3: Work and vocation ---Spiritual curriculum 4: Family <p>Developing a viable biblical framework for the issues of life</p>	<p>David P. Setran and Chris A. Keisling, Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood, Chapters 3 & 4.</p>

<p>4 Mar 14</p>	<p>Spiritual issues in adulting cont'd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---Spiritual curriculum 5: Church ---Spiritual curriculum 6: Sexuality ---Spiritual curriculum 7: Family ---Spiritual curriculum 8: Community <p>Developing a viable biblical framework for the issues of life cont'd</p>	<p>David P. Setran and Chris A. Keisling, <i>Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood</i>, Chapters 5 & 6</p>
<p>5 Mar 28</p>	<p>2 Basic strategies for young adult ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Relevant bible teaching -- Mentors and mentoring communities <p>Like all generations, young adults need truth and love</p>	<p>David P. Setran and Chris A. Keisling, <i>Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood</i>, Chapters 7 & 8</p>
<p>6 April 4</p>	<p>A vision for young adult ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- Spiritual challenges in the internet age -- Doable spiritual disciplines for young adults -- An intergenerational vision -- Passing the faith forward <p>The challenge and the promise of young adult ministry</p>	<p>David P. Setran and Chris A. Keisling, <i>Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood</i>, Chapter 9</p>

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance (15%)

Class interaction is a key part of this course. We want to learn from the instructor and from each other. And it builds relationships that will continue after the class.

2. Reflections from *Workship* (40%)

Read and reflect on Setran, David P. & Kiesling, Chris A. *Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

Write a one page response to each of the 9 chapters in the book. Each of the response should give one or two main takeaways from the chapter, one or two questions, and one way you will apply what you learned from the chapter. The responses are to be handed in on the day the reading is required.

3. Ministry project (45%)

Draft a 12 page proposal for a young adult ministry in your church/parachurch that takes into account your reading of Martin, Chris. *Ministering to Millennials*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Press, 2018, your other readings, class lectures and discussions etc. The proposal should give: a. Why ---Your rationale for the ministry project, the biblical rationale and ministry needs behind the ministry and your hoped for outcomes. b. How --- Details of what you intend to do --- what, where, how, who, when. c. What concrete steps you will take in 2019/2020 to implement this ministry project.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the document "General Formatting for all Assignments" available on your course Moodle page.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle.
3. *Unless otherwise indicated*, students must submit their assignments 3 months after the first day of the month following the last class/session ("first deadline"). After the first deadline, students will be granted a further 3-month extension automatically ("second deadline"). However, students who submit after the first deadline will incur the **penalty of a one-third grade deduction** on the specific late assignment (e.g., B+ will be downgraded to B). After the second deadline, the status of the incomplete course will be **converted from Credit to Audit**. This conversion will *not* affect overall GPA.

First Deadline: 1 August 2019

Second Deadline: 1 November 2019

NOTE FOR STUDENT PASS HOLDERS:

The first and second deadlines are shortened to 1 month and 2 months respectively.

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.

Course Bibliography

Course Texts:

Martin, Chris. *Ministering to Millennials*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Press, 2018.

Setran, David P. & Kiesling, Chris A. *Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

Select Bibliography:

- Allen, Holly Catterton & Ross, Christine Lawton. *Intergenerational Christian Formation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Arnett, Jeffrey Jensen. *Emerging Adulthood 2nd Ed*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 2015.
- Burnette, Josh & Hardesty, Pete. *Adulthood 101*. Savage, MN: BroadStreet Publishing, 2018.
- Dunn, Richard & Sundene, Jana L. *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Garber, Steven. *The Fabric of Faithfulness*. 2nd Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Kinnaman, David. *You Lost Me*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.
- Martin, Chris. *Ministering to Millennials*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Press, 2018.
- Myers, Jeff. *Cultivate*. Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Ministries, 2016.
- Parks, Sharon Daloz. *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*, Revised Ed. San Francisco, CA: JPsey-Bass, 2011.
- Pokluda, Jonathan "JP". *Welcome to Adulthood*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 2018.
- Reinke, Tony. *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.
- Reitz, Erica Young. *After College*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.
- Sbanotto, Elisabeth A. Nesbit & Blomberg, Craig L. *Effective Generational Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Seel, Jr., David John. *The New Copernicans: Millennials and the Survival of the Church*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2018.
- Setran, David P. & Kiesling, Chris A. *Spiritual Formation In Emerging Adulthood*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Smith, Christian with Patricia Snell. *Souls in Transition*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

For registration, please proceed to bgst.edu.sg/students-portal/

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**

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