



課碼(Workshop): W3

教室(Room #):

講員(Speaker): Iris Wong, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

授課語言: English

題目(Topic): “信二代” **How to raise strong Christian in our next generation?**

專題簡介 (Abstract): This workshop will share the reasons why college students/ young adults are leaving Christianity, what a 35 year study is revealing about ways to pass down religion to our next generation. We will explore this topic from the "family" perspective instead of the "ministry" perspective. Speaker and a panel of young adults will share how their families had impacted their faith development.



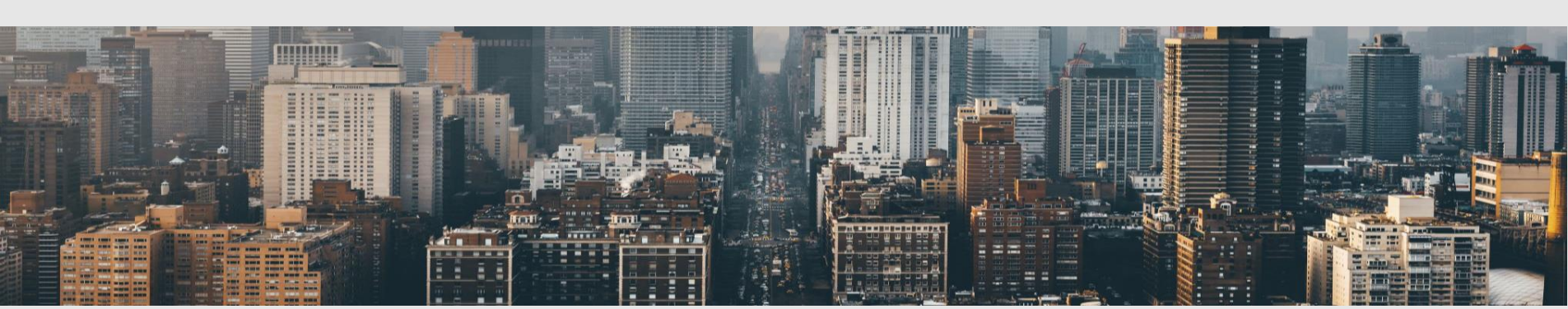
# **How to Raise Strong Christian in Our Next Generation?**

**Iris Wong  
(Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist)  
Executive Director of AACCS  
(Asian American Christian Counseling Service)**



## **Outline**

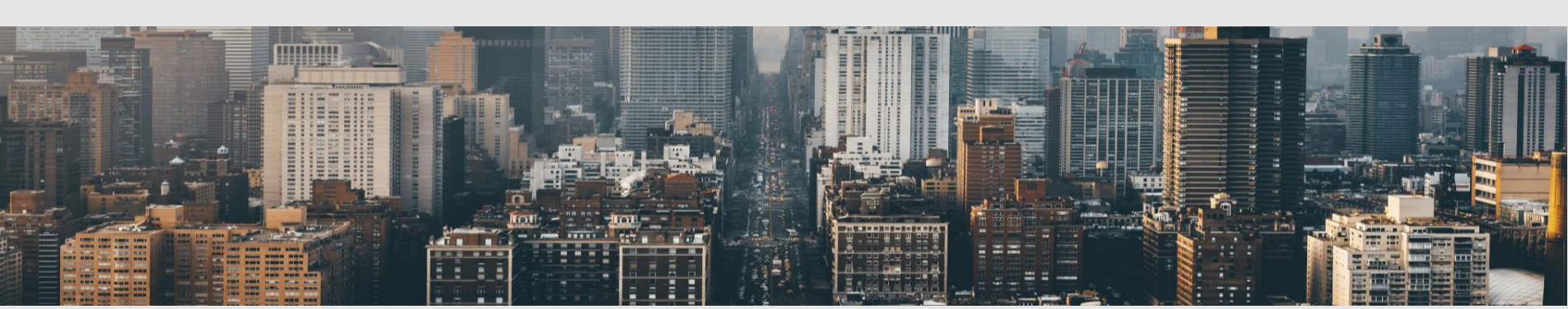
- 1) Speaker & Panelists introduction**
- 2) Panelists' Sharing in 3 areas**
- 4) Research Findings & Summary**



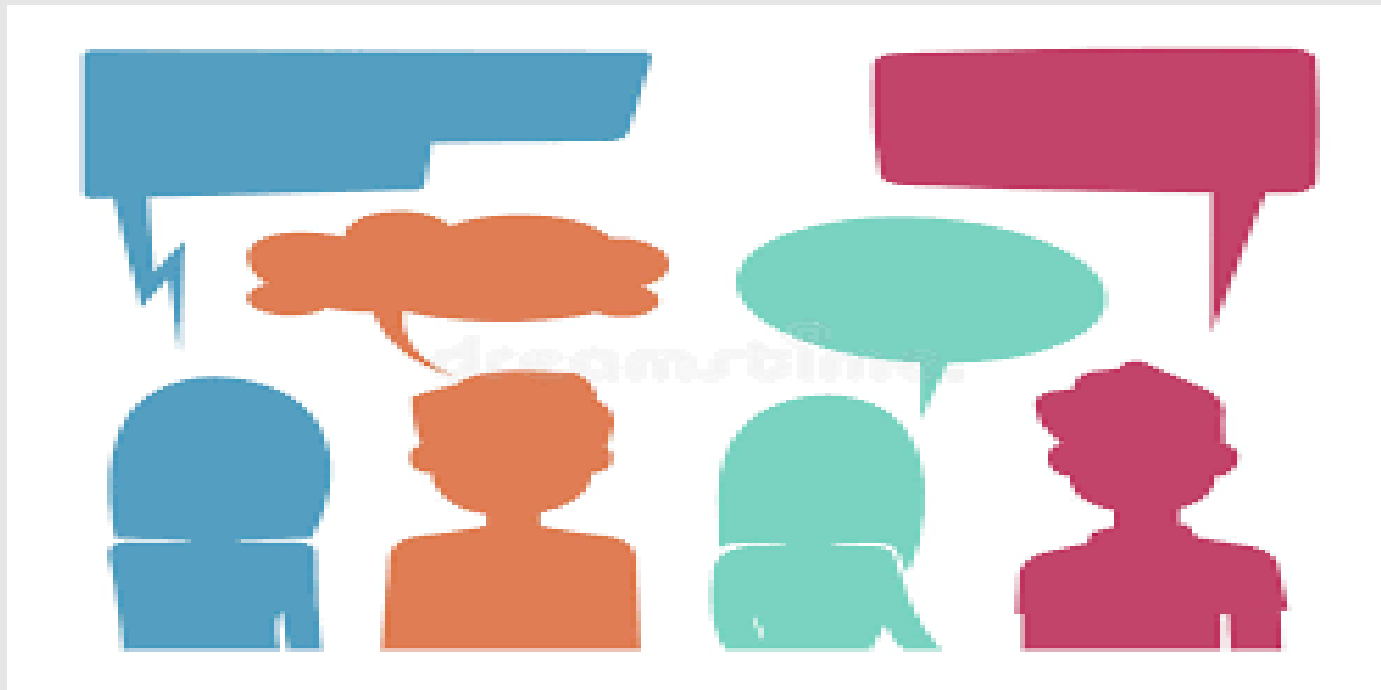
## **Few considerations:**

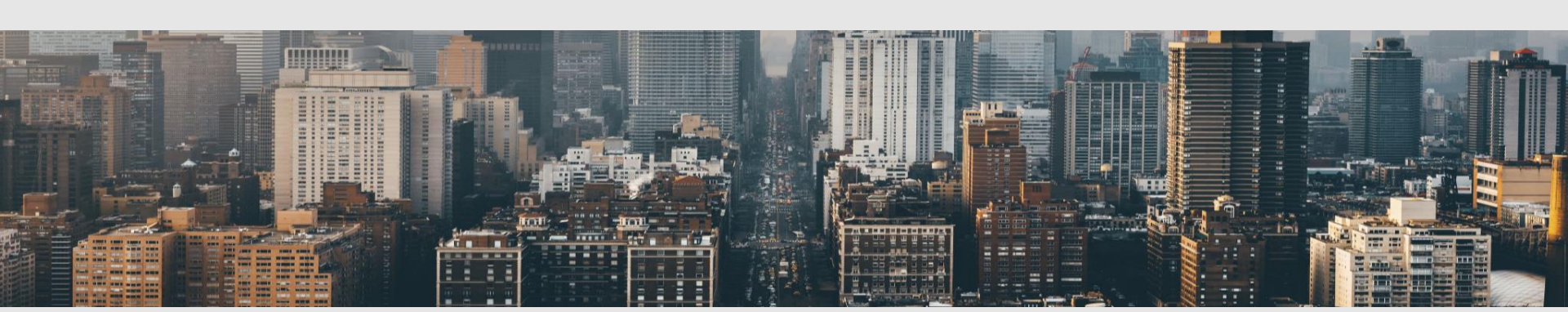
- **We are tackling this topic more from the family perspectives not from the ministerial perspectives.**
- **Privacy of the panelists and their families.**
- **Diversity of the panelists**



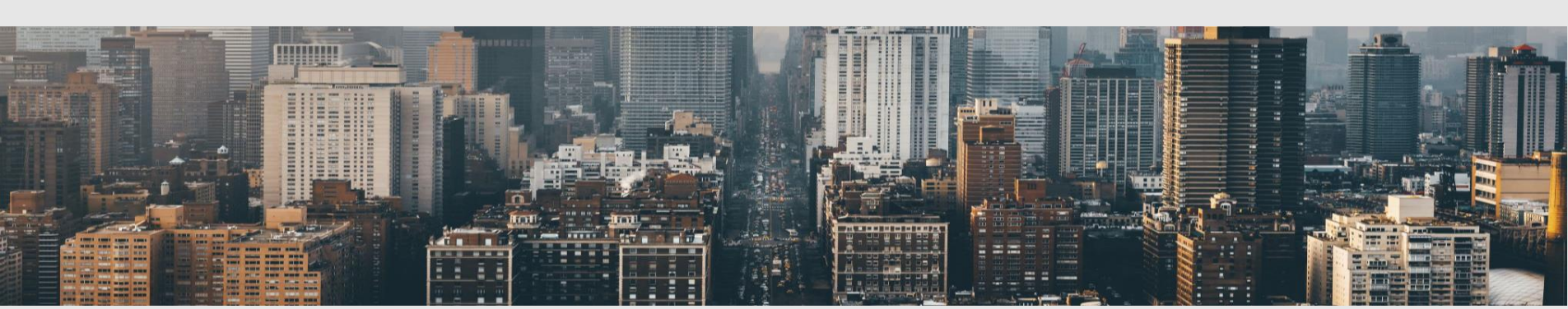


## Panelist's self introduction



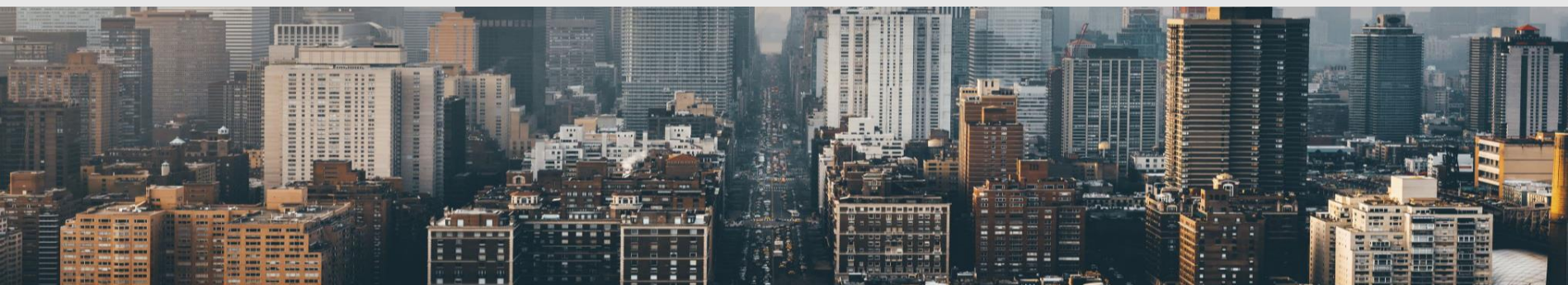


**Q1: How did your parent(s) influence your faith development?**



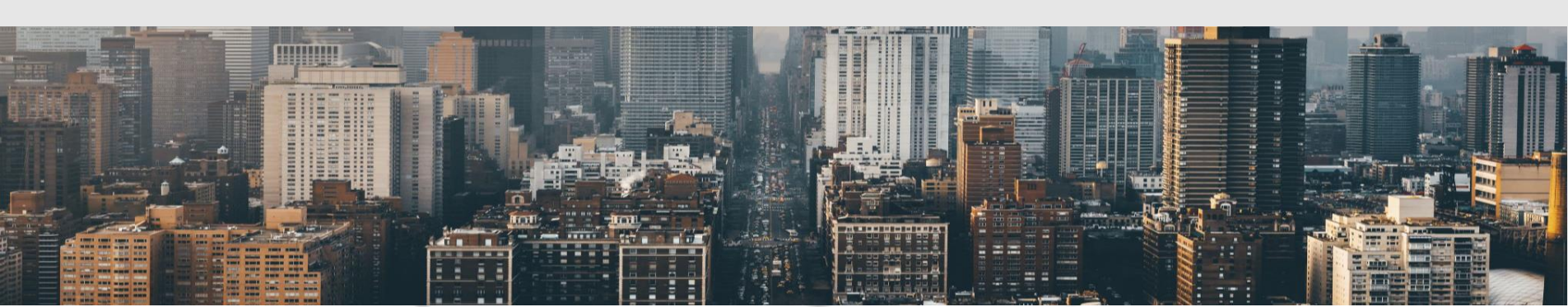
**Q2: How did your parent(s) help to lay foundation of prayer life & knowledge of the Bible?**

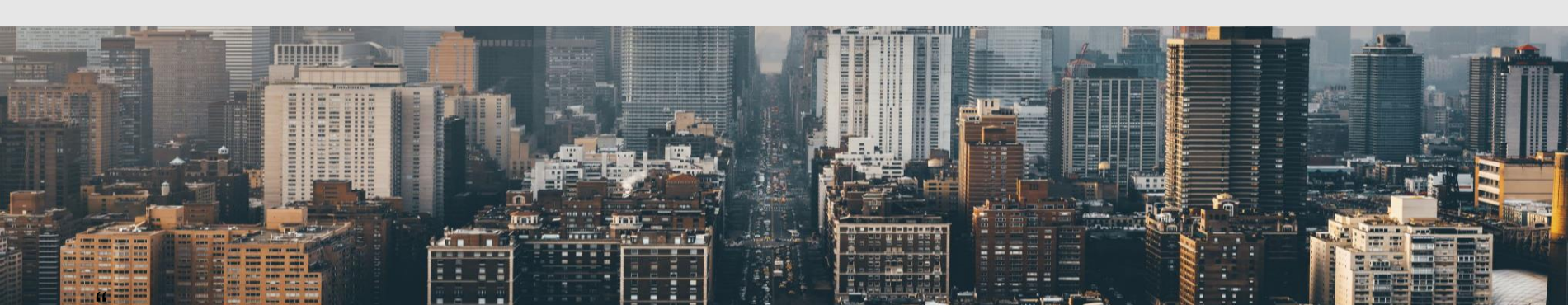




**Q3: What are the challenges that college students/ young adults facing nowadays that might impact their Christian faith?**

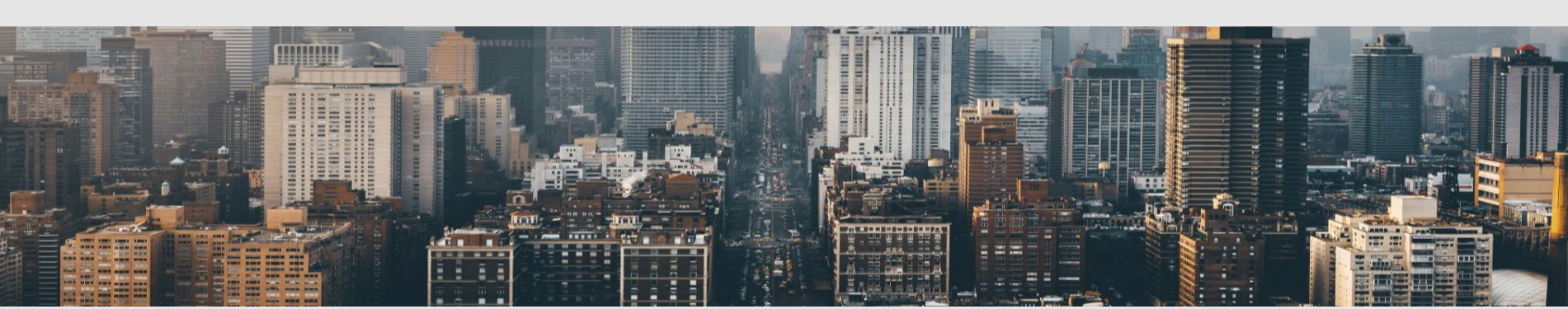






**(Deuteronomy 11:1-7)**

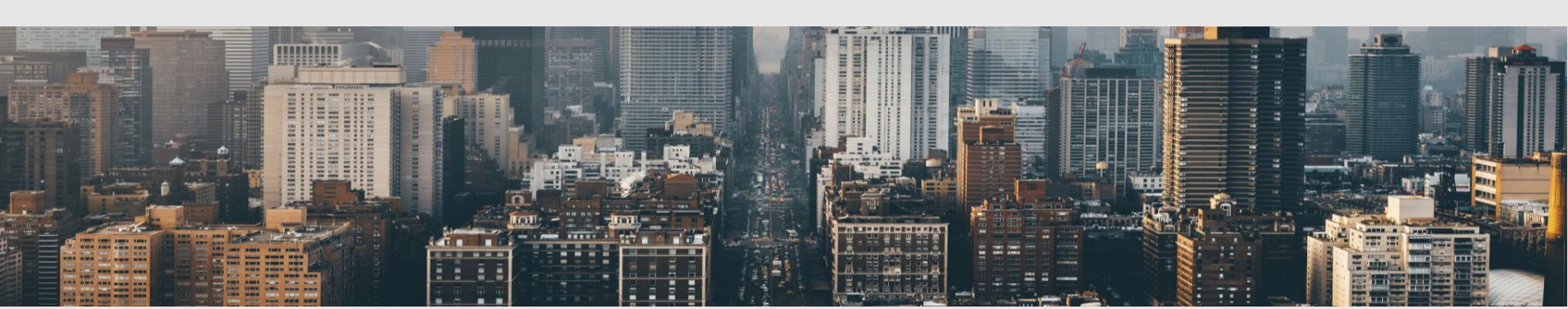
**LOVE the LORD your God and KEEP His requirements, His decrees, His laws and His commands always. <sup>2</sup> Remember today that your children were NOT the ones who SAW and EXPERIENCE the discipline of the LORD your God.....(God's deliverance of Israelite from Egypt).....: <sup>5</sup> It was NOT your children who SAW what He did for you in the wilderness until you arrived at this place, ...... <sup>7</sup> But it was YOUR OWN eyes that SAW all these great things the LORD has done "**



**(Psalm 78: 5-7)**

**He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He “**COMMANDED**” our ancestor to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.**





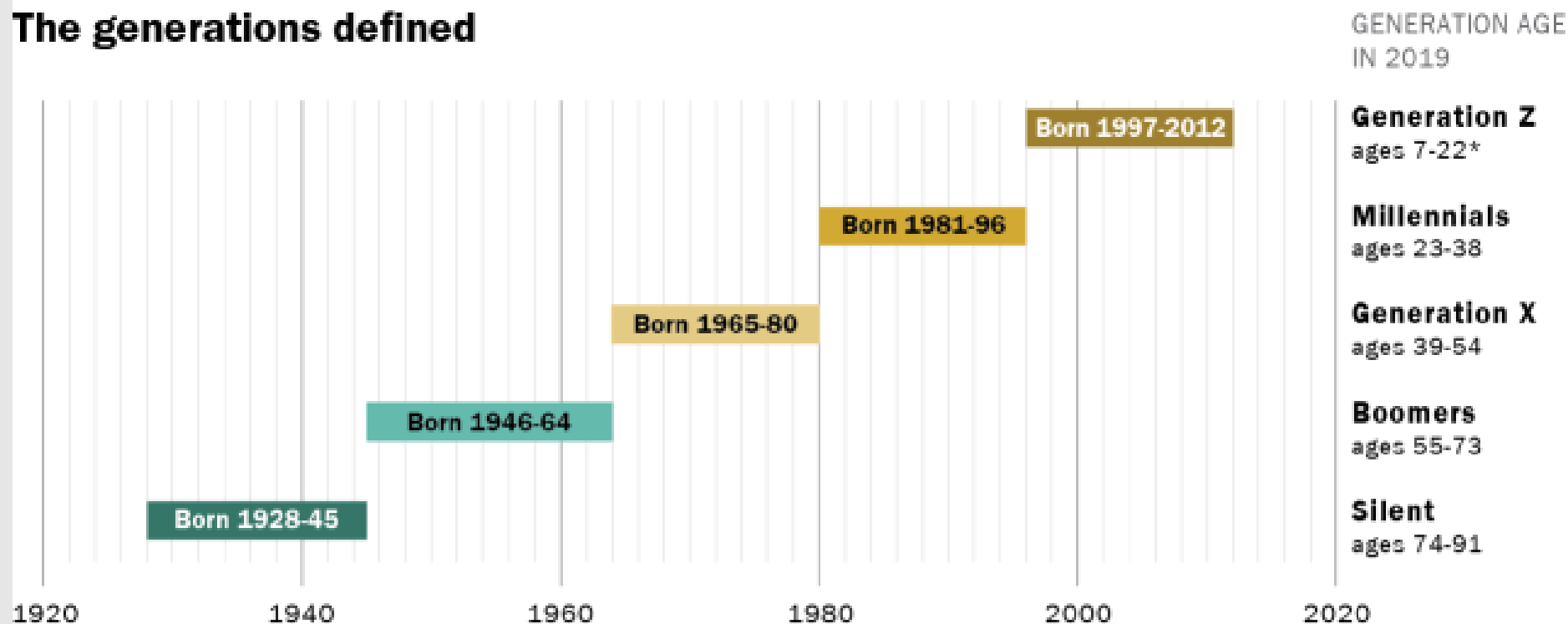
**But why are we  
keep on losing  
the next  
generation?**



**What are  
the  
statistics &  
research  
telling us?**

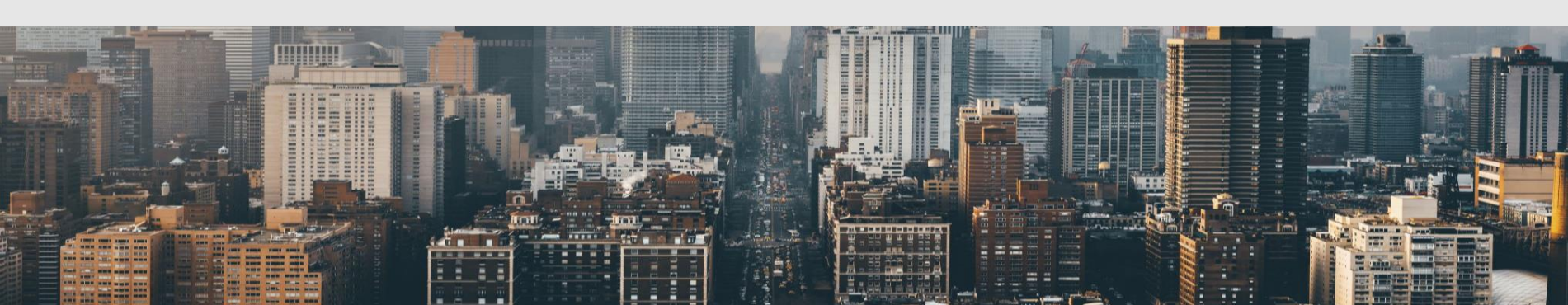


## The generations defined



\*No chronological endpoint has been set for this group. For this analysis, Generation Z is defined as those ages 7 to 22 in 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

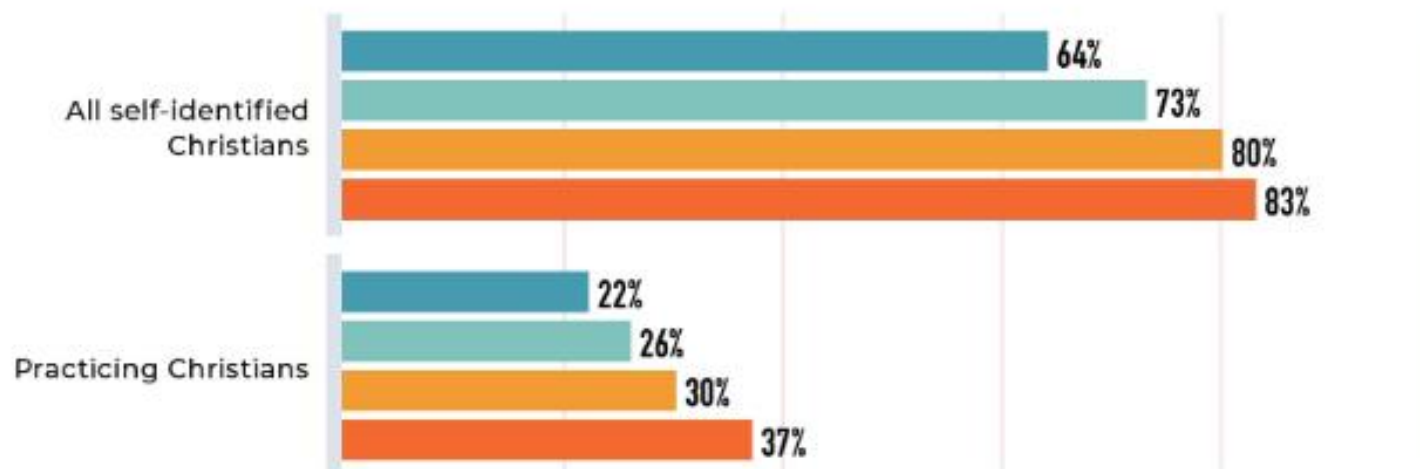


## FAITH IDENTITY, BY GENERATION

Powered by

**Barna** FaithView

◆ Millennials ◆ Gen X ◆ Boomers ◆ Elders







# Research Findings & Summary

## UPDATED: ARE YOUNG PEOPLE REALLY LEAVING CHRISTIANITY?

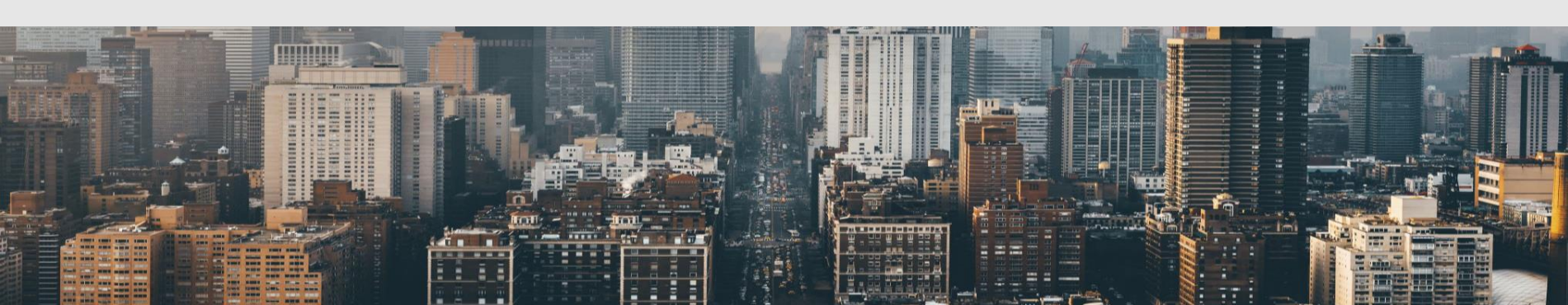
👤 J. Warner    🕒 Jan 12, 2019    📁 Current Events, Writings, Youth    👁 169,225 Views



(Updated on January 12th, 2019)

Much has been written about both the Biblical illiteracy of teenage believers and the flight of **young people** from the Church. Many have observed this trend, and I too have witnessed it anecdotally as a youth pastor (and shamefully, I contributed to the trend for some time before I changed course). Some writers and Christian observers deny the flight of **young people** altogether, but the growing statistics should alarm us enough as Church leaders to do something about the dilemma. My hope in this post is to simply consolidate some of the research (many of the summaries are directly quoted) so you can decide for yourself. I'm going to organize the recent findings in a way that illuminates the problem:





# CIRP Freshman Survey (2017) of student AT 184 US College and University

(CIRP Freshman Survey – was located @ Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA)

## Findings:

1) College freshman are religiously unaffiliated:

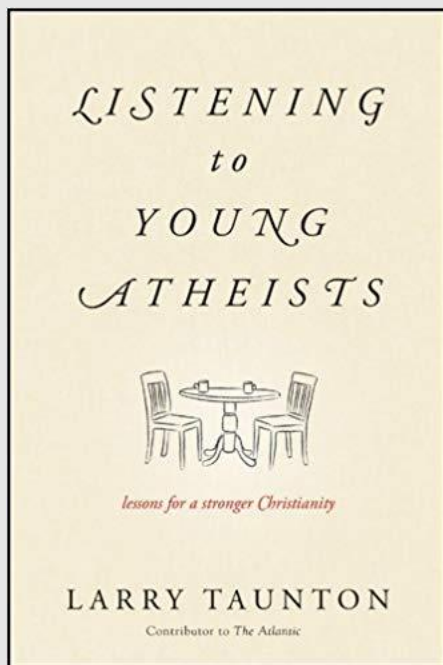
(1986) 10% → (2017) 31% (increase 3x)

2) This survey was done BEFORE the student arrived on campus. So student losing interest in religion not necessary caused by college education.





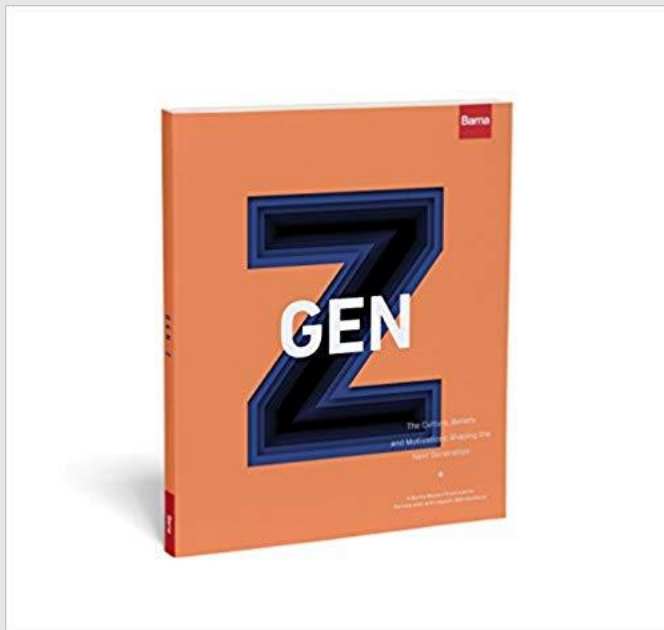
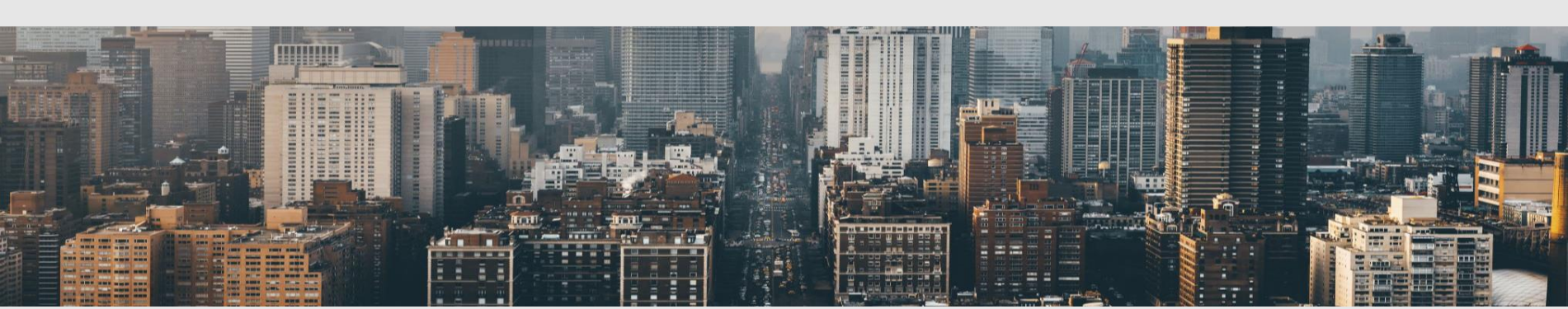
# **REASONS OF KIDS DROPPING OUT** **FROM CHRITIANITY:**



## Listening to Young Atheists: Lessons for a Stronger Christianity

Larry Taunton, Fixed Point  
Foundation (2018)

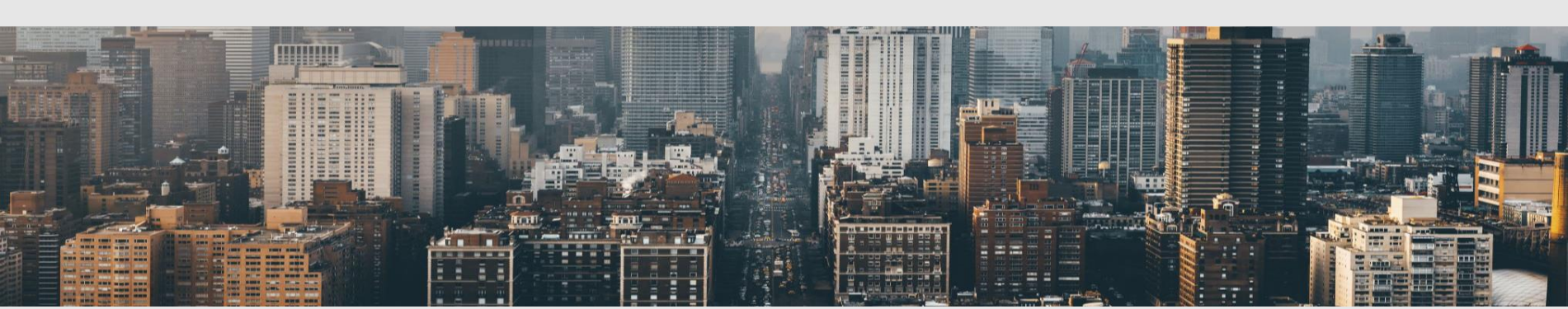




## Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation

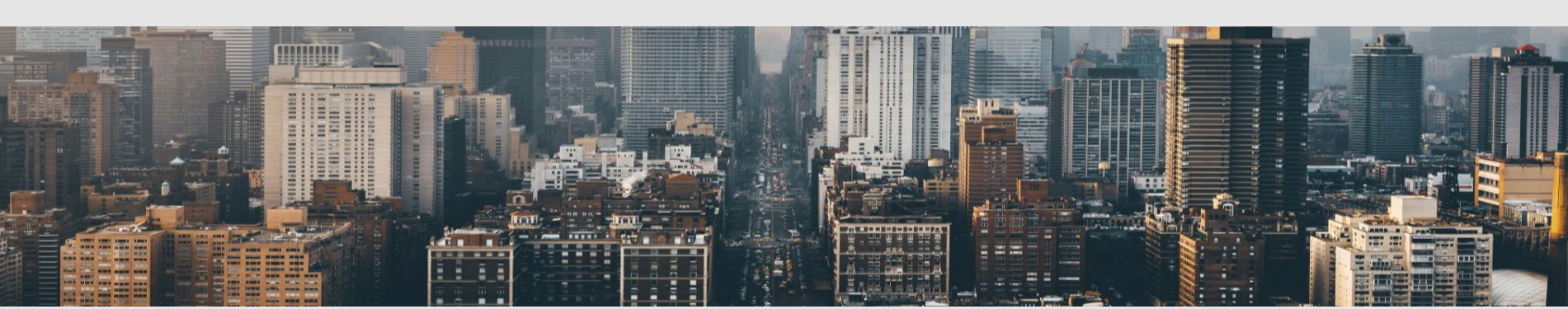
Barna Research Group (2018)

Most comprehensive research  
of 13-18 YO Gen-Z about  
religion.



## Findings from these 2 studies - Reasons of kids dropping out from Christianity:

1. Some Gen Z turned atheists/ irreligious, even they had attended church at some points
2. Cannot believe a good God would allow so much evil/ suffering/injustice in the world
3. Church's teaching is vague or shallow
4. Church does not take Bible seriously



5. Religion is irrelevant for my life
6. Church is out of date
7. Church is overprotective of teenagers
8. Christians are hypocrites
9. Had a bad experience at church with a Christian, or I don't like the people there

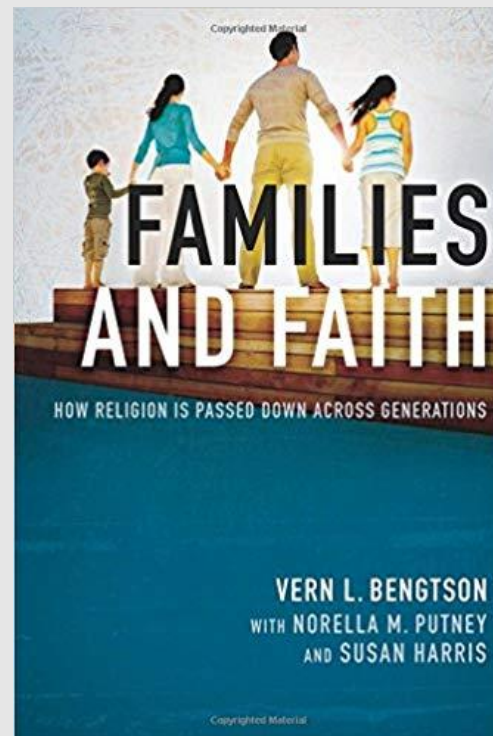


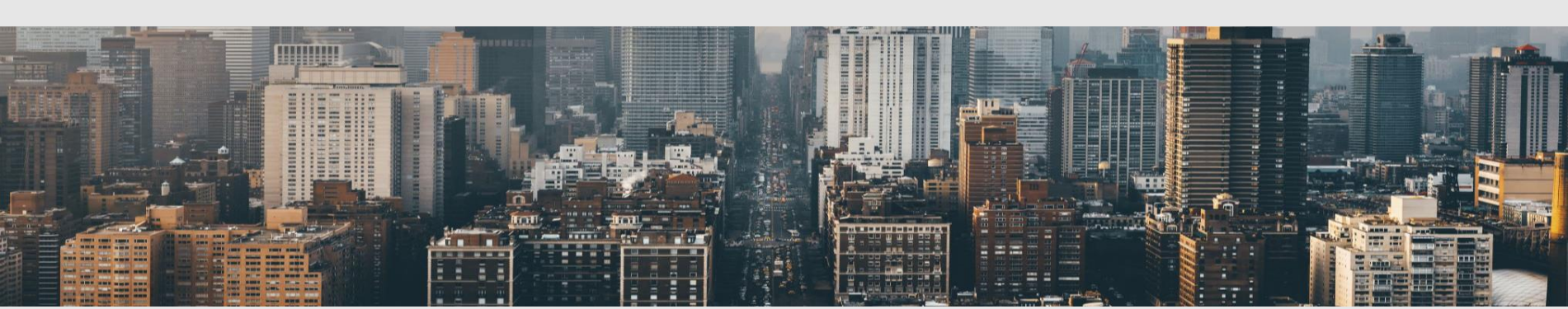


## How To Raise Strong Christian In Our Next Generation?

### Families and Faith: How Religion is Passed Down Across Generations

Vern L. Bengtson. Norella M. Putney, Susan Harris, Oxford University Press (2013)

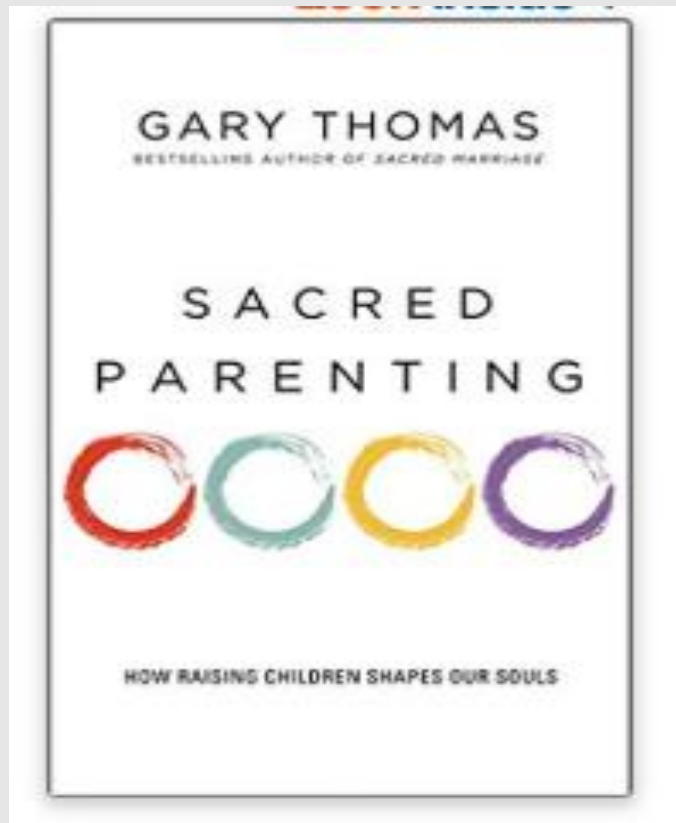
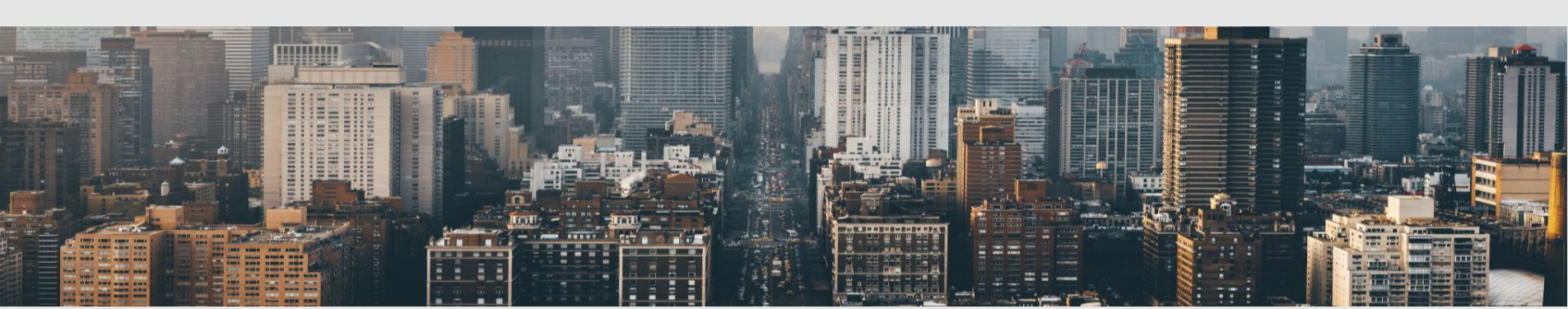




In this **35 year study of families,**  
key findings:

**1. PARENTS IS THE “SINGLE GREATEST INFLUENCE” on their children’s faith.**

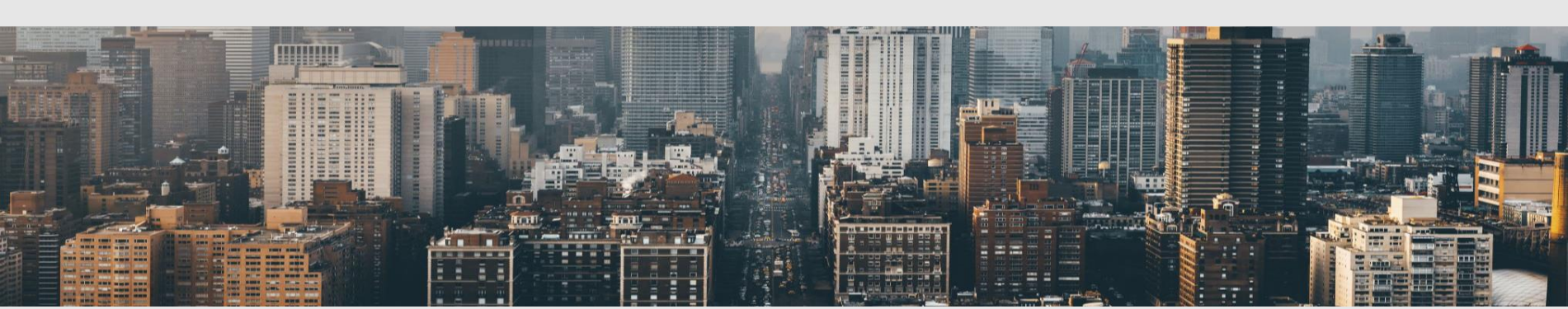
**Christian Parent’s as a living **EXAMPLE!****



## Chapter 11 - “Xerox R Us”



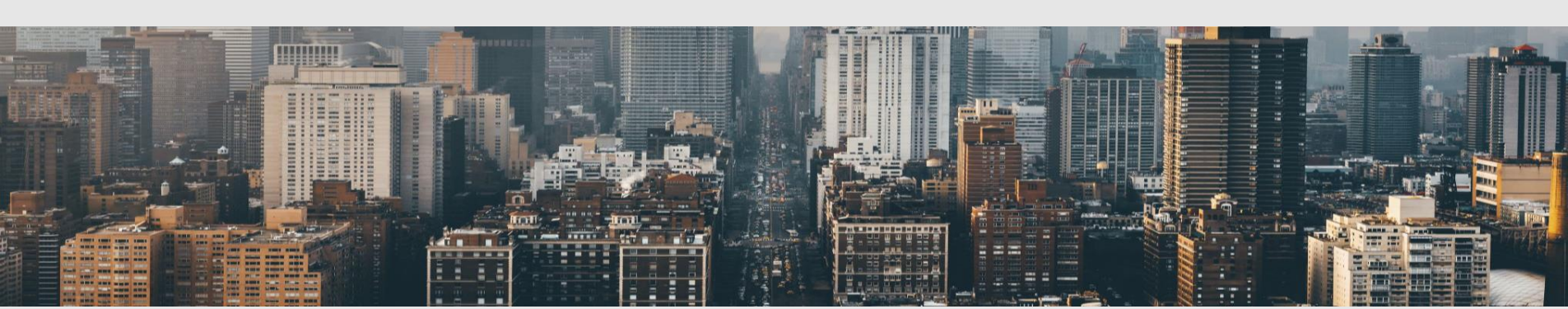




## **2. SEEING PARENT'S FAITH ACTUALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR OWN LIVES**

they're much more likely to follow parent's steps to follow God.

- Q: how we show Jesus really made a difference in \$ / time we spend (Value)
- Q: How we show we are walking in faith?



### 3. CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR PARENTS -

Then young adults are more likely to share their parents' religious beliefs and participation

Q: How strong is your relationship with the kids

Q: How you communicate?  
with the kids?





## 4. PARENTS HAVE BEEN PATIENT & SUPPORTIVE

These young Christians who leave the faith are far more likely to return to God. Parents are more tolerant and open than they had been before the prodigal's departure.

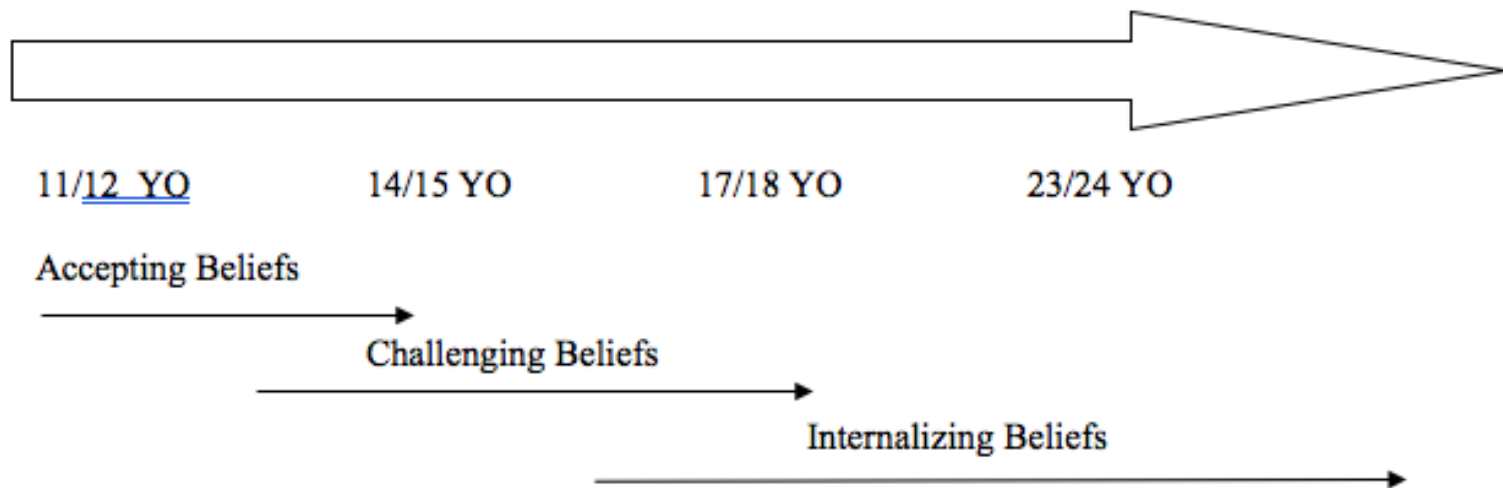


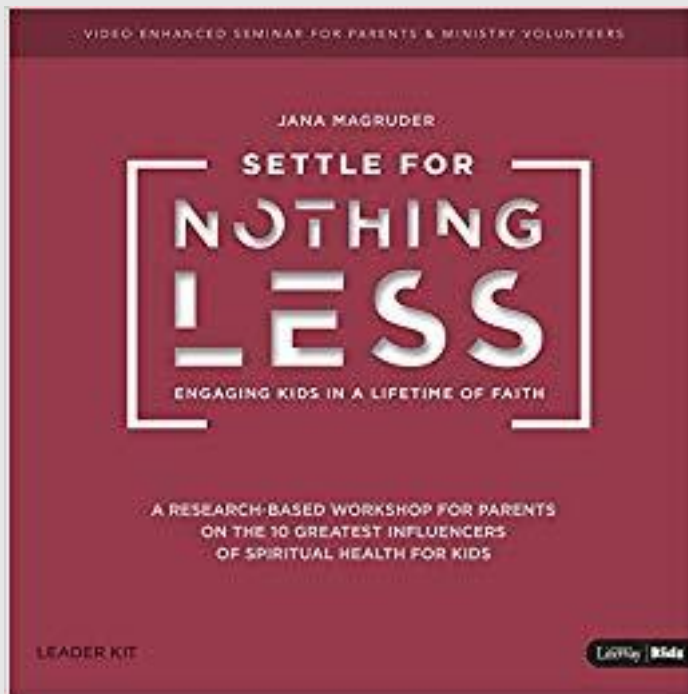
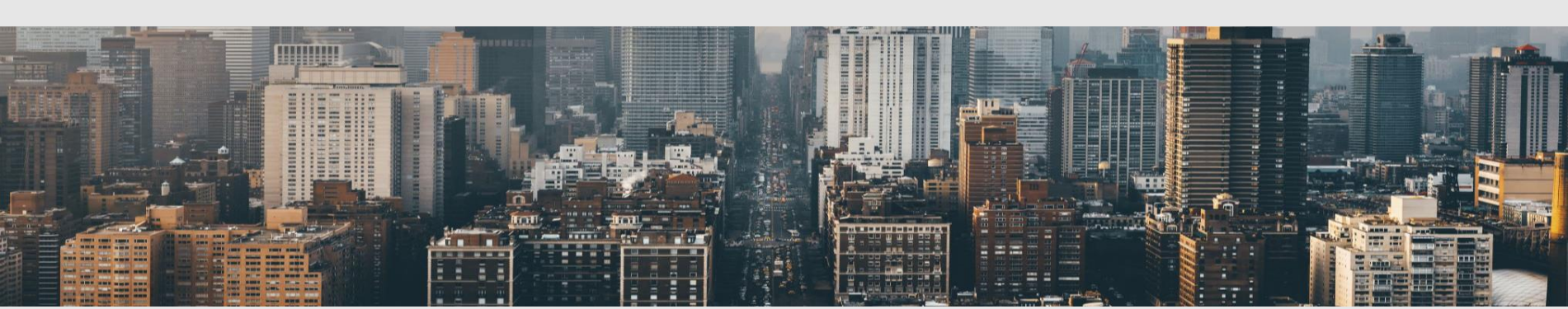




## **Stages of Faith Development During Adolescents**

(Ref: Gerali, Teenage Guys, Zondervan, 2008)

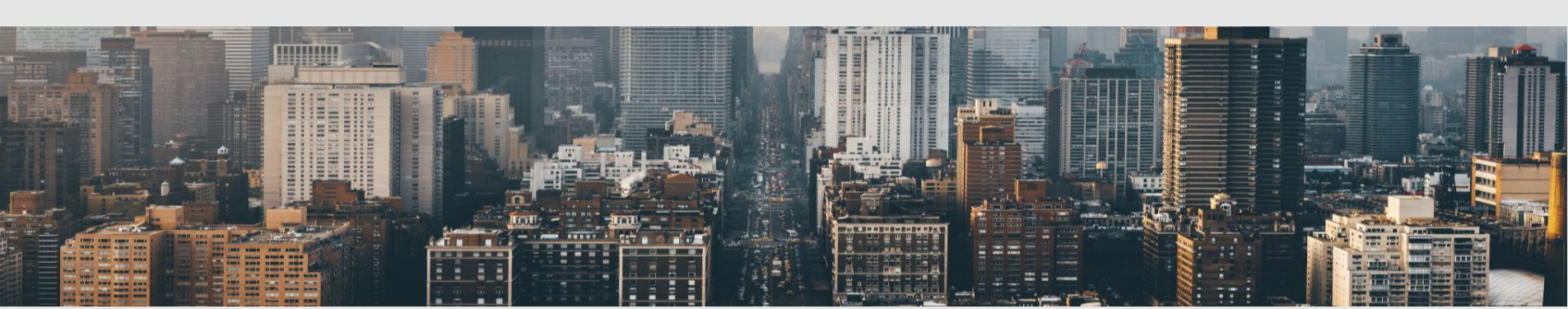




By Jana Magruder and Ben Trueblood (2018)

They surveyed :

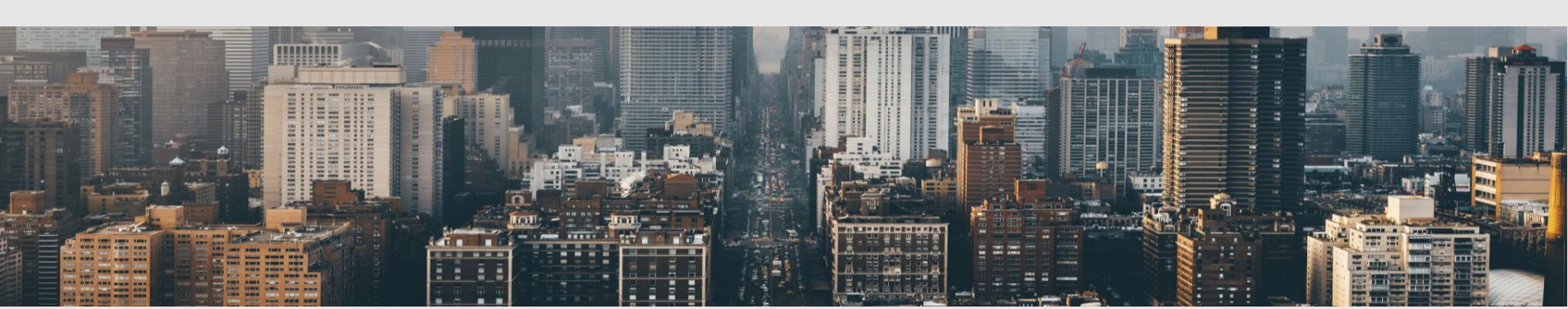
- 2,000 churchgoers parents (at least once 1x/ month)
- Age: Parents who have adult children ages 18 to 30 who are still believers.



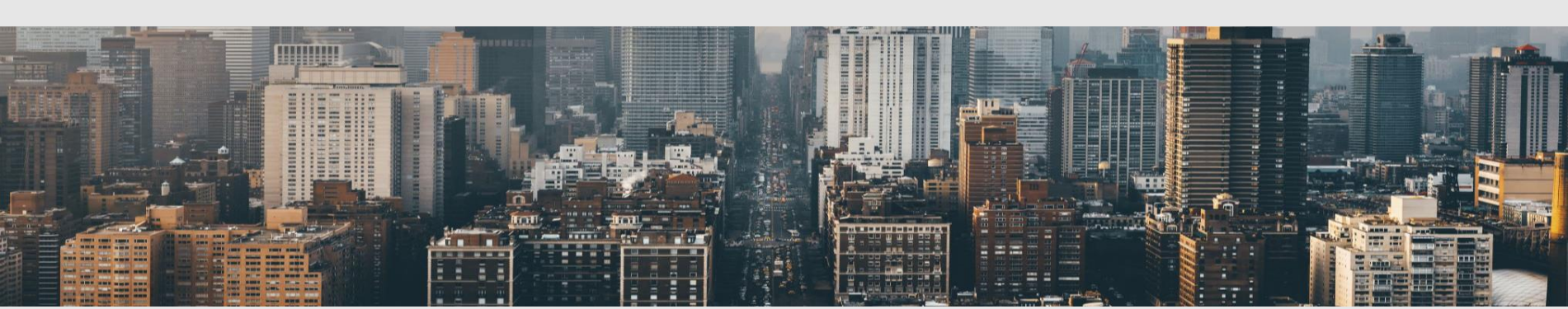
## Predictors of Spiritual Health for Young Adults:

<b>Child</b>	<b>Parents involve in these</b>
<b>Regularly read the Bible</b>	<b>Read the Bible several times a week.</b>
<b>Regularly pray</b>	<b>Teaching the kids to tithe</b>
<b>Regularly served in church</b>	<b>Served in church + tell own teen to serve</b>
<b>Listened mainly to Christian music</b>	<b>Church emphasized on what Bible says</b>
<b>Joined mission trip</b>	<b>Join mission trip as a “family” (see pix)</b>
	<b>Asking for forgiveness when made mistake</b>
	<b>Encourage kids to develop own talent/ interest</b>
	<b>Take annual family vacation</b>





2019 Family Oriented Mission Trip to Taiwan



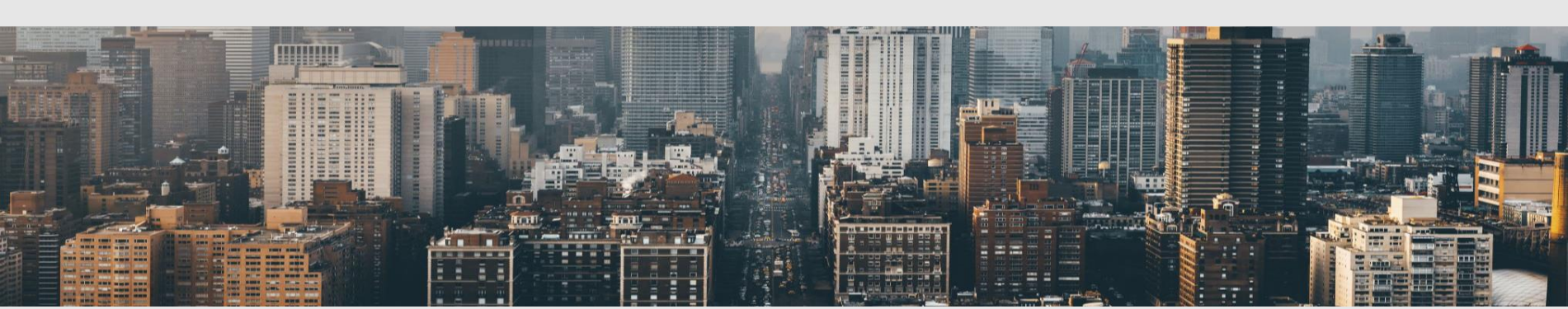
## Speaker's few observation:

### 1) Ministry consideration

Apologetic focus teaching –  
Apologia in Greek = Defense





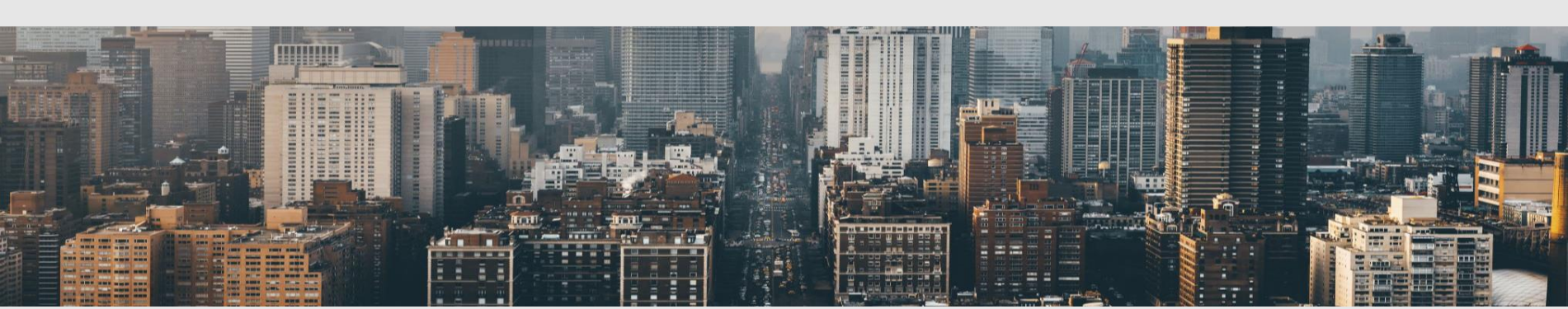


2) Keep a consistent church community –

(Kids friendship and trust last for the next 20-40 years)



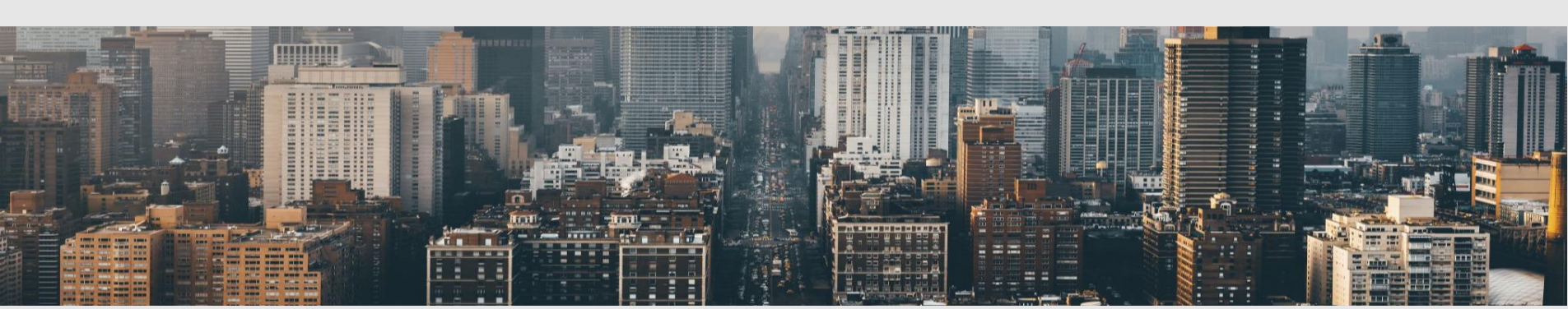




### **3. Relevancy of Christian Faith to Their Daily Life**

Keep abreast of current affairs, trends, internet ad social issues – coaching the kids how to apply Biblical principles to tough situation. Engagement + teachable moment.



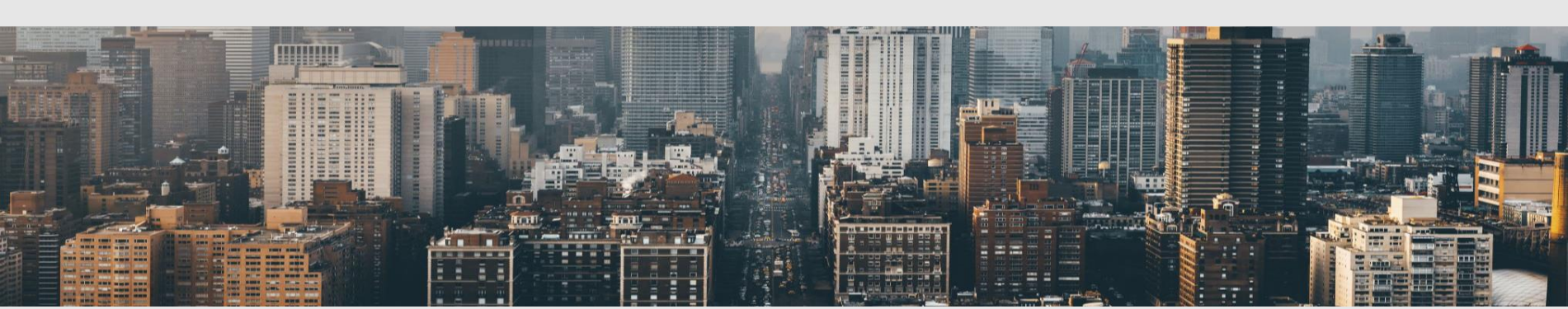


## **4. Link your teens to older brothers/ sisters in the church.**

(Youth workers, college age mentor, discipleship etc)





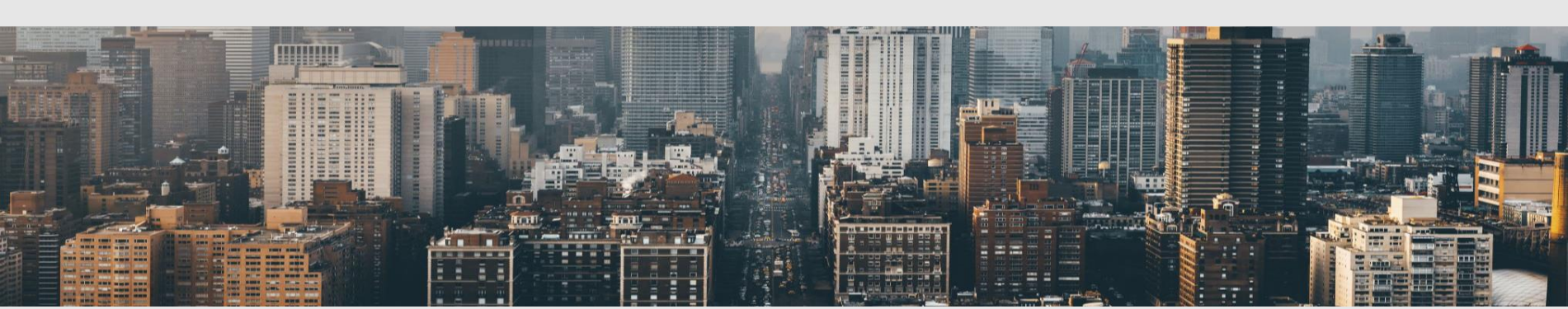


## **5. Open your house for the Lord**

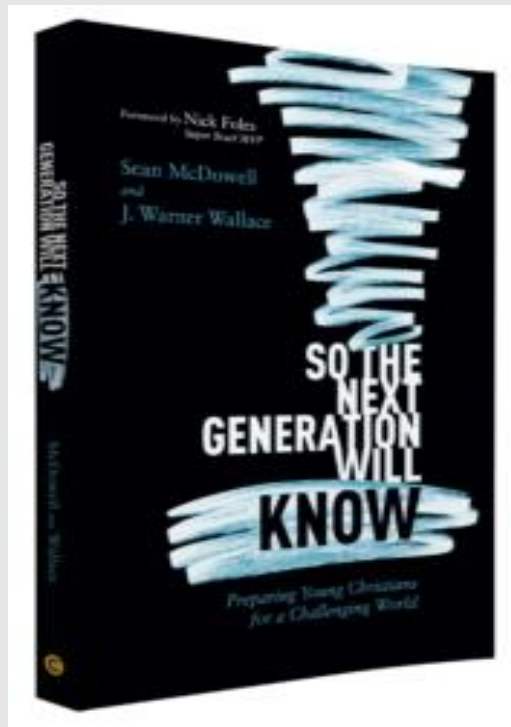
Your kids will have a safe and cozy place to build Christian communities, hang-out, cell groups etc.





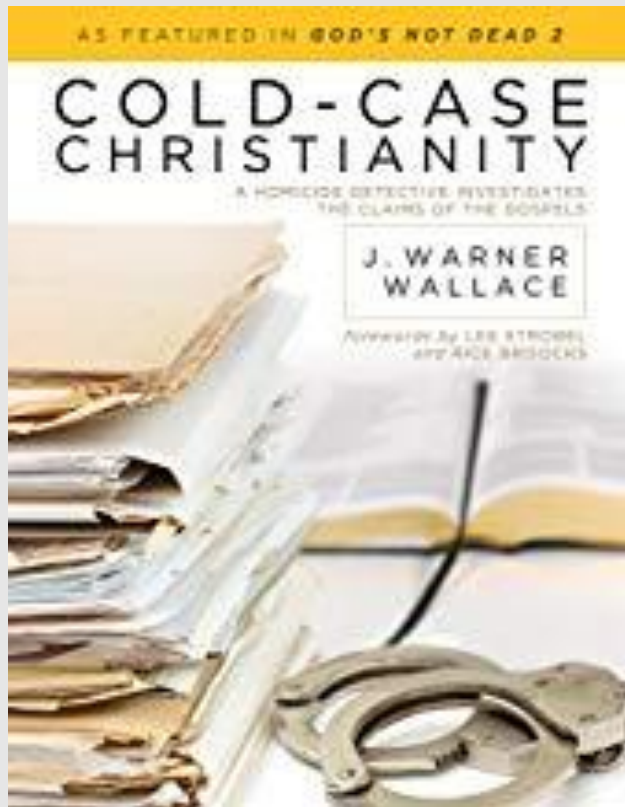
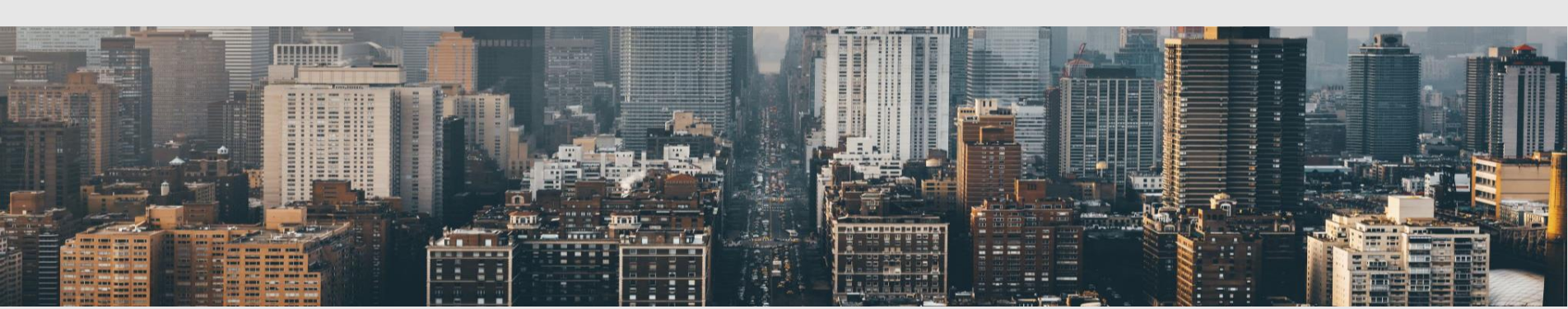


## Recommended Readings:

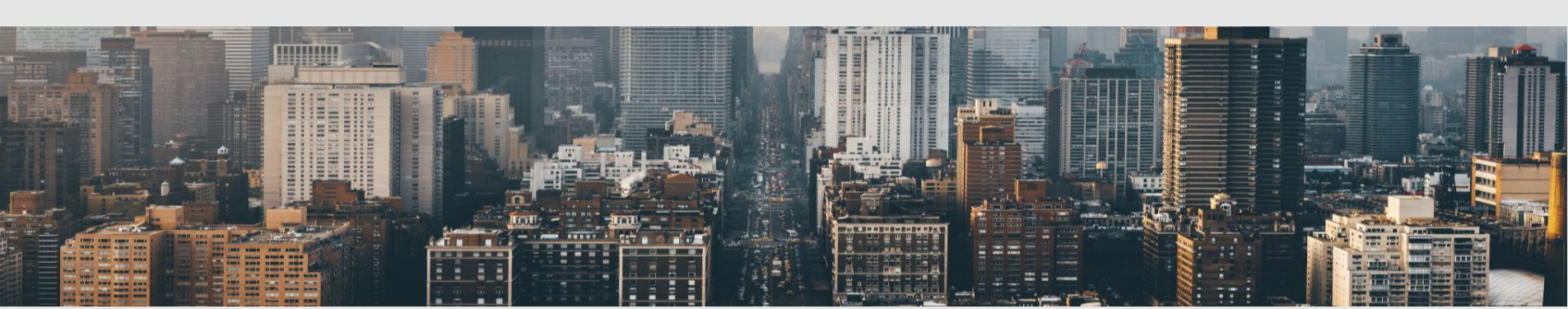


**So the Next Generation  
will Know: Training  
Young Christians in a  
Challenging World,**

**By: McDowell &  
Wallace,  
David C Cook, 2019 ) –  
Book + DVD+  
Participants Guide)**



**Wallace, J,  
Cold Case Christianity,  
David C Cook, (2013)**



35