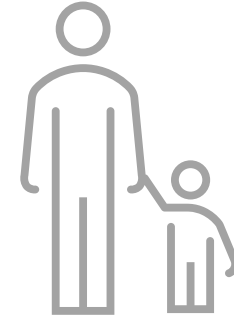


Next Generations



Insights from Hispanic pastors on reaching next generations

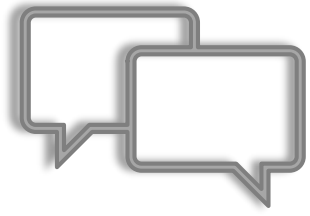
SOURCE

Lifeway Research conducted an online discussion in July 2022 among 62 pastors of Hispanic churches and pastors of Spanish-speaking services in non-Hispanic churches. The 3-day discussion sought to understand how these churches are evangelizing and discipling believers, building community among members, and reaching next generations of children, youth, and young adults.

NOTE

This study was designed to report on the **CURRENT** practices of Hispanic congregations with the hope that additional research can validate which ones are **BEST** practices.

This research anticipates that insights gleaned from these pastors will be beneficial and insightful as you think about your church's ministry, but please remember that these findings should be considered **DESCRIPTIVE** rather than **PRESCRIPTIVE**.



When thinking about those in upcoming or "next generations" your church would like to reach: Who are you thinking of? How would you describe them?



Group 1: _____

Ages: ____ to ____

Challenges reaching them: _____

Opportunities to reach them: _____

Group 2: _____

Ages: ____ to ____

Challenges reaching them: _____

Opportunities to reach them: _____

Group 3: _____

Ages: ____ to ____

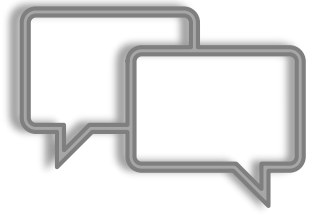
Challenges reaching them: _____

Opportunities to reach them: _____

OUTREACH EFFORTS

WHAT DO HISPANIC PASTORS SAY THEIR CHURCHES DO TO REACH MEMBERS OF NEXT GENERATION GROUPS

- **Social fellowships**
 - ice cream, pizza, burgers, bonfires, bowling, game nights
- **Outdoor adventures**
 - hiking, swimming, fishing
- **Indoor events**
 - fellowships, game nights
- **Sports activities**
 - tournaments, volleyball
- **Musical and theatrical arts**
 - worship band, drama, puppets
- **Multi-day events (local, regional and national)**
 - VBS, camps, mission trips, retreats, conferences
- **Ongoing programs**
 - children's groups, youth groups, small groups, youth leadership council
- **Special programs**
 - youth night



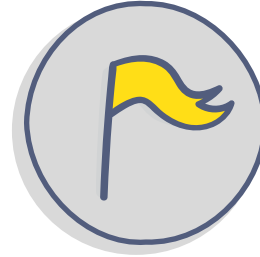
How effective have the following strategies been for your church?



SOCIAL FELLOWSHIPS



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

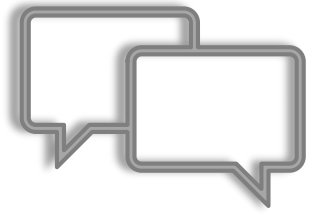


INDOOR EVENTS



MULTI-DAY EVENTS

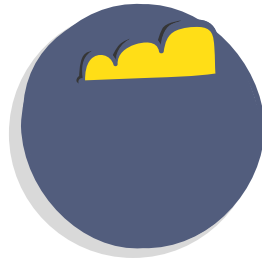




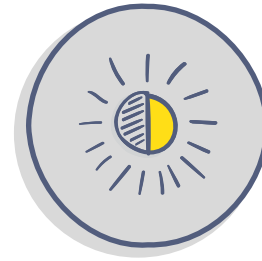
How effective have the following strategies been for your church?



MUSICAL & THEATRICAL
ARTS



SPORTS ACTIVITIES



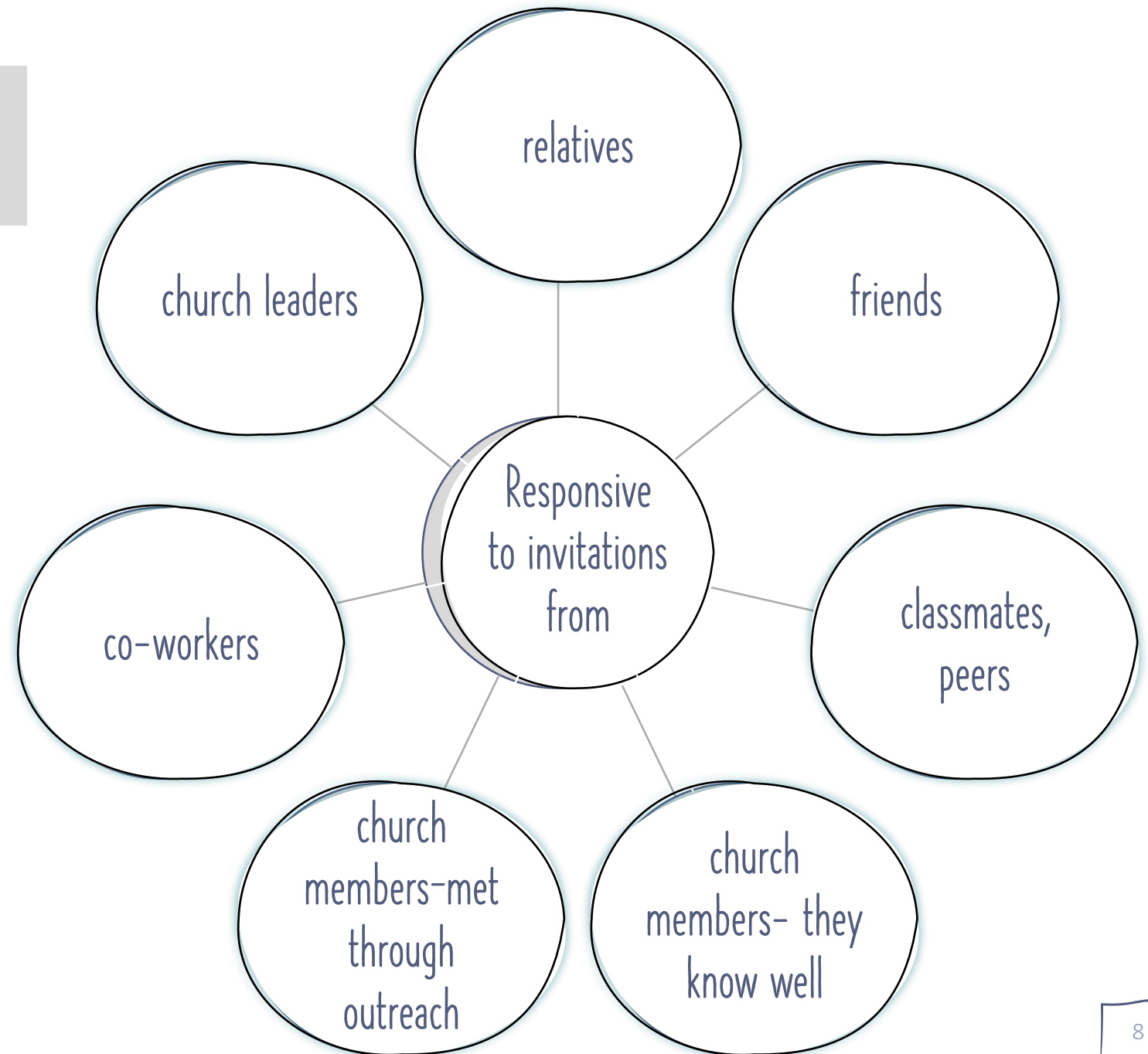
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

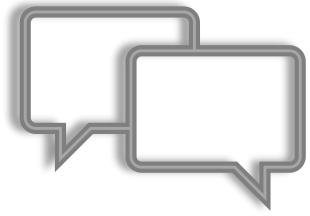


ONGOING PROGRAMS

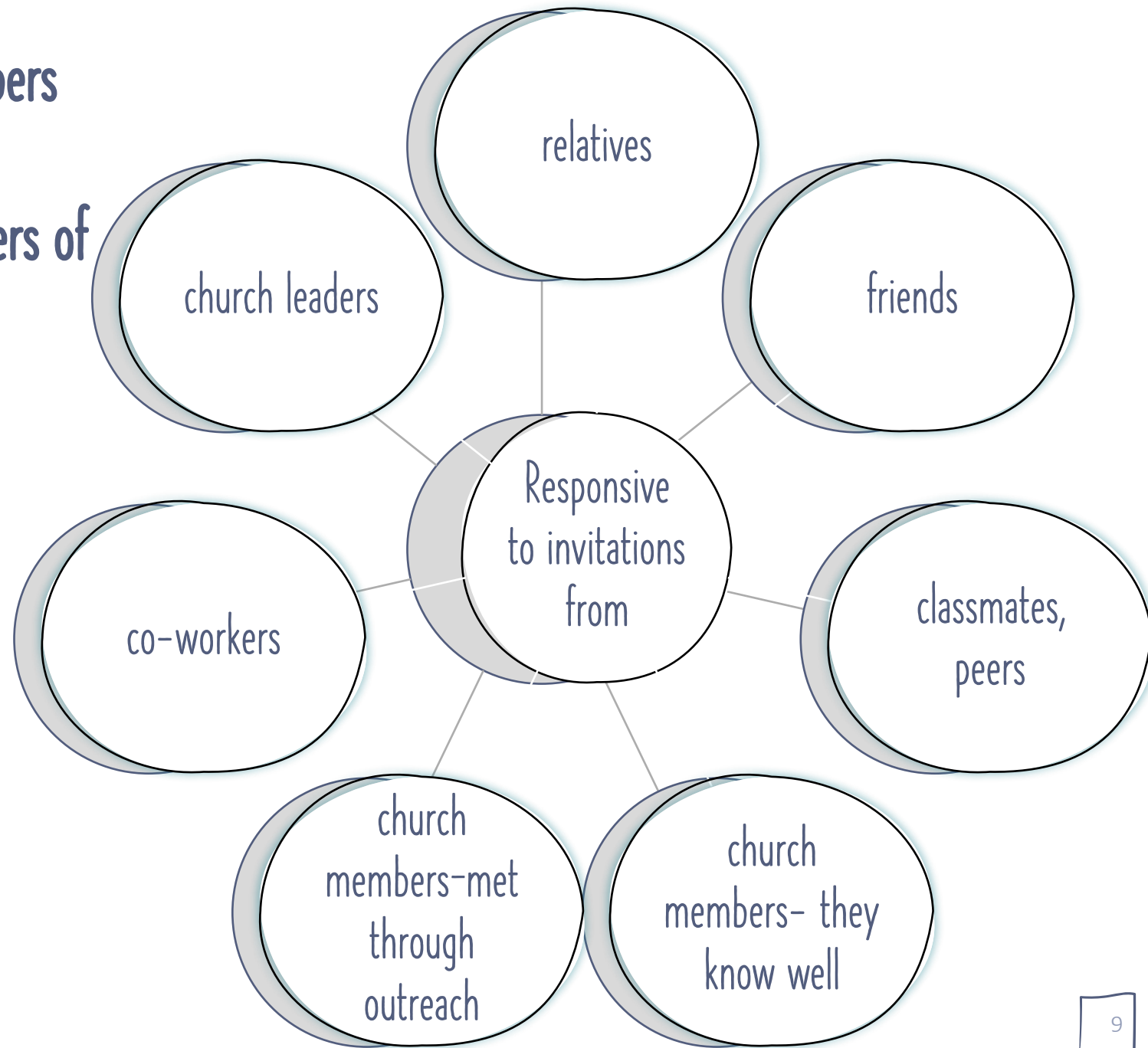
PERSONAL IMPACT

- Personal relationships are key in reaching members of next-generation groups
- Invitations from people with whom they have a relationship have a positive influence on reaching next-generation members





How have your church members recently leveraged personal relationships to reach members of Next Generation groups?



Perceptions of Next Gen

How Hispanic pastors described the differences they see and perceive about younger generations

Different spiritual goals

Attend church less,
families less committed to church than previous generations

Different cultural landscape

Topics that are of interest to them are often not taught in church or taught in a way that interests them.

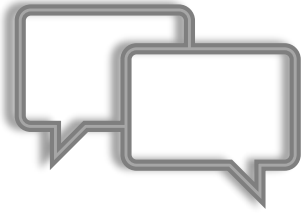
Next Generation Differences

Horizontal relationships

Do not respond to hierarchical leadership the same as older generations

Digital familiarity

More at ease with technology than previous generations



What have been your experiences (challenges & opportunities) relating to members of Next Generation groups in these areas?

Different spiritual goals

Different cultural landscape

Next Generation Differences

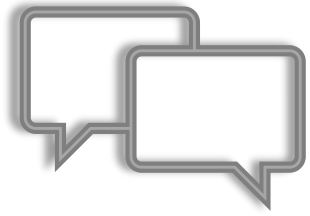
Horizontal relationships

Digital natives

ROLE OF FAMILY

How Hispanic pastors emphasized that parents cannot leave the work of discipleship to the church



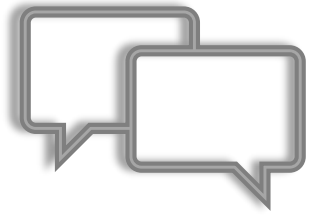


What tools, training, resources does your church currently provide for parents to disciple their children?



Encourage, Expect, and Model church attendance





When you think about families in your church who have successfully established their children as growing disciples, what can others learn from them?



Encourage, Expect, and Model church attendance

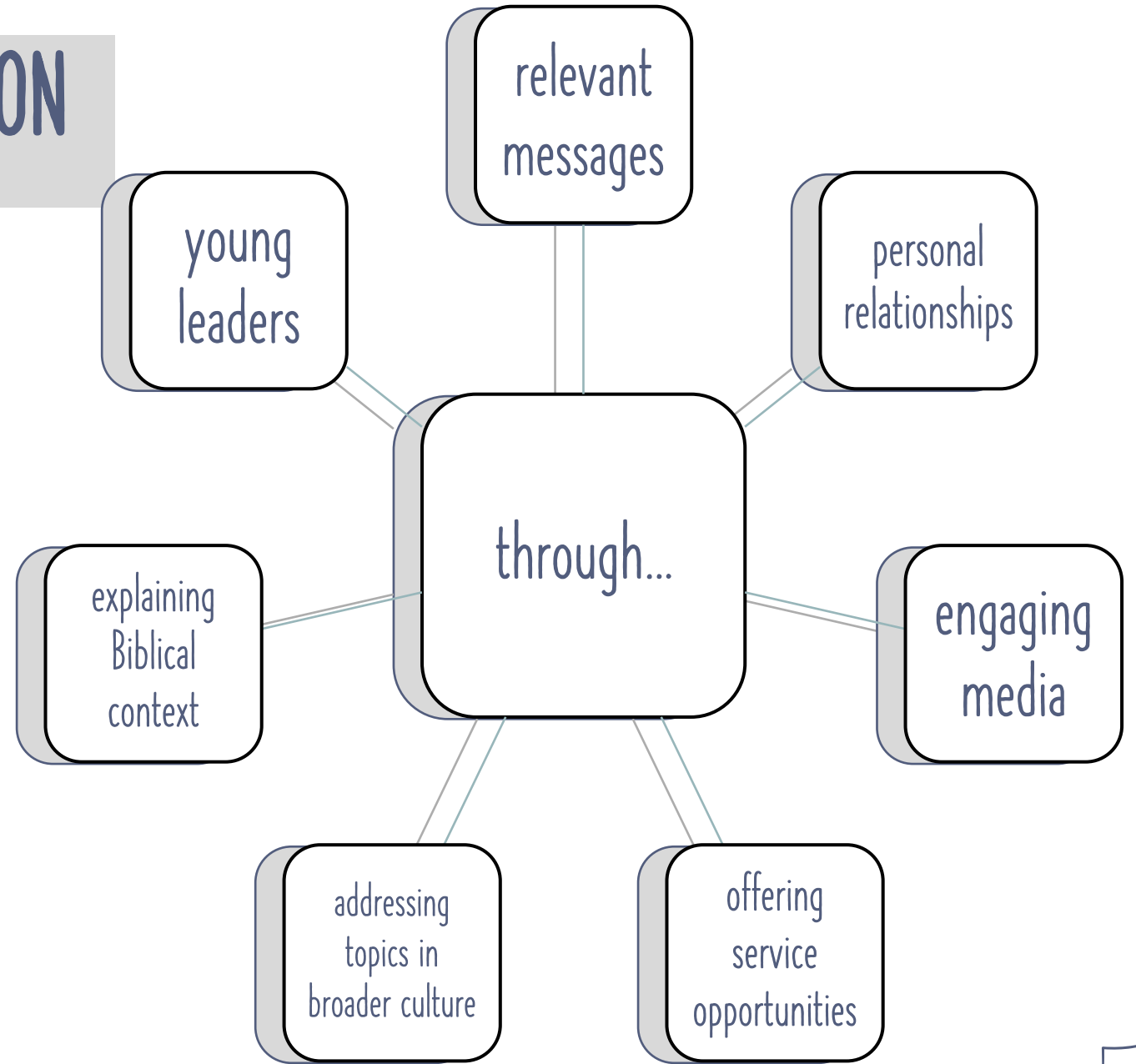


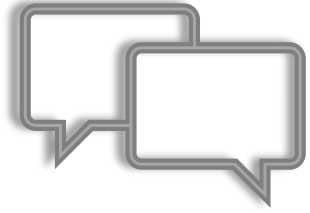
INTENTIONAL, STRATEGIC

Hispanic pastors say their churches have to be willing to change and adapt so they can connect with younger generations

- Changing the old mentality and integrating new ideas to reach next generations
- Training the parents to participate in discipleship in the home and in church ministries
- Implementing targeted programs and efforts that engage young people and teach the Word of God
- Connecting with youth and young adults through social media
- Providing opportunities for next-generation members to serve with the church in the community
- Making sure they have bilingual leaders

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION



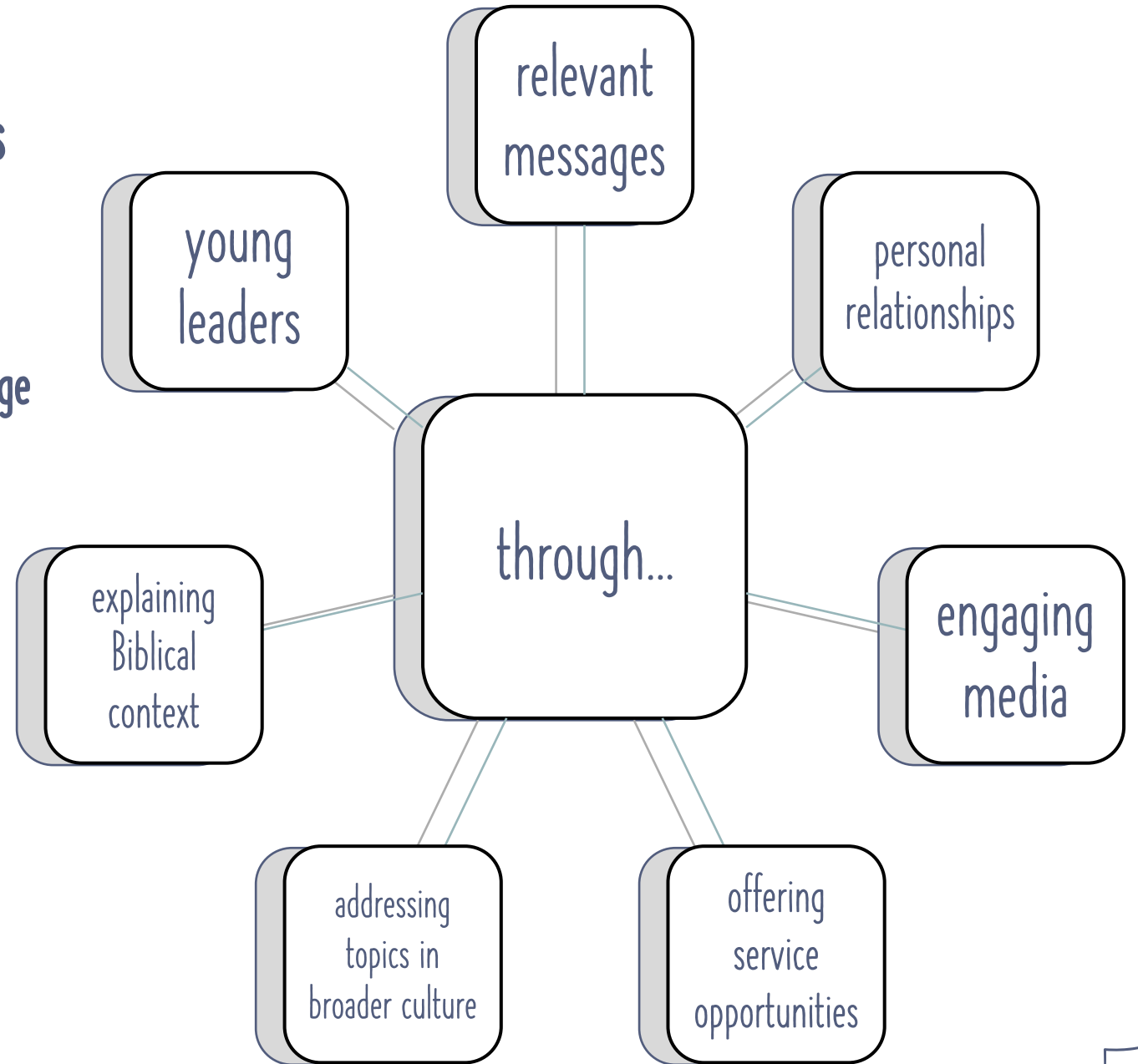


Which of these strategies for discipling the Next Generations is the easiest for you?

- What are new ways you could leverage this in your church?

Which of these strategies is appealing to you but also intimidating?

- What are some ways you could cautiously experiment with that method?



Reaching Children

Pray together

Take time to pray for these specific priorities:

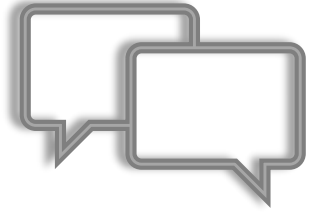
- That our congregation would be motivated to reach the next generation
- That God would raise up teachers who can disciple children
- That parents in our congregation would pray with and share biblical teaching with their children
- That children in our church would build discipleship habits early so that they mature into devoted disciples of Christ

Reaching youth and young adults

Pray together

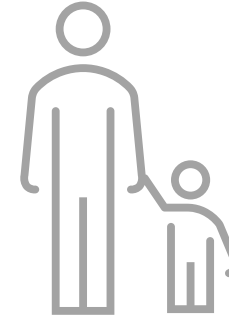
Take time to pray for these specific priorities:

- That our congregation would be motivated to reach youth and young adults
- That God would raise up young leaders that our youth and young adults can relate to
- That our congregation would listen to the young people God brings to our church and build relationships with them
- That our youth and young adults would find their identity in Jesus Christ
- That our congregation would be faithful in teaching the Word of God in ways youth can understand



What are recent examples where members of Next Generation groups inspired you about the future of your church?

Next Generations



Insights from Hispanic pastors on reaching next generations

LifewayResearch.com
Recursos.lifeway.com

Lifeway research