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# You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church . . . And Rethinking Faith

**David Kinnaman**  
Bestselling coauthor of *unChristian*  
President of the Barna Group



## **Synopsis**

Is the Church Losing the Next Generation? More than half of all Christian teens and twentysomethings leave active involvement in church. Based on research conducted by the Barna Group, *You Lost Me* exposes ways the Christian community has failed to equip young adults to live "in but not of" the world--to follow Christ in the midst of profound cultural change. This wide-ranging study debunks persistent myths about young dropouts and examines the likely consequences for young adults and for the church if we maintain the status quo. The faith journeys of the next generation are a challenge to the established church, but they can also be a source of hope for the community of faith. Kinnaman, with the help of contributors from across the Christian spectrum, offers ideas for pastors, youth leaders, parents, and educators to pass on a vibrant, lasting faith, and ideas for young adults to find themselves in wholehearted pursuit of Christ.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

David Kinnaman is coauthor of the bestselling "unChristian." He is president and majority owner of the Barna Group, a private, non-partisan research and resource company located in Ventura, California. In Kinnaman's sixteen years at the firm, he has supervised more than 350,000 interviews for client projects and nationwide studies among American adults, teenagers, tweens, and clergy on matters of faith, spirituality, political attitudes, and social dynamics. Barna Group's body of research is often quoted in major media outlets and from pulpits. David frequently speaks on topics of cultural change, young adults, teenagers, vocation and calling, leadership, and generations. He and Jill, his

wife, have three children and live in California. Share your story, engage further:

[www.youlostmebook.org](http://www.youlostmebook.org) Learn more about the research: [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org) Follow the author on Twitter: @davidkinnaman

Is the church losing the next generation? Millions of young Christians are disconnecting from church as they transition into adulthood. They're real people, not just statistics. And each one has a story to tell. "I knew from church that I couldn't believe in both science and God, so that was it. I didn't believe in God anymore."--Mike "When I write a song that's not used in a way that every Christian agrees on, I get hammered. What am I supposed to be using my talents for?"--Sam "I felt like I had been punched in the stomach . . . I remember thinking on the way home, My non-Christian friends would never do that to me."--Sarah "It just feels like the church's teaching on sexuality is behind the times."--Dennis Now the bestselling coauthor of "unChristian" reveals the long-awaited results of a new nationwide study of 18- to 29-year-olds with a Christian background. Discover why so many are disengaging from the faith community, renew your hope for how God is at work in the next generation--and find out how you can join in. Includes ideas for passing on a flourishing, deep-rooted faith from: Jon AcuffFrancis ChanShane ClaiborneKenda Creasy DeanJoshua DuBoisDonna FreitasSteven GarberSara GrovesGabe LyonsSean McDowellScot McKnightJedd MedefindBritt MerrickWalt MuellerJohn OrtbergCharlie PeacockKara PowellMark RegnerusRichard StearnsJohn Stonestreet" And many more"

David Kinnaman addresses one of the most important issues and concern for our modern day Christianity! In the book he has plenty of statistics and research and I do recommend every church leader to read this book, But again the book takes the view point from an observation perspective and is still lacking the root of the matter which is "Discipling the younger generation by becoming their spiritual fathers & mothers!

A wealth of data about Millennials and their thoughts about Christianity and faith. While the Millennial generation is currently 20-35 years old (by most definitions they are born from 1980-1995), this book will help you understand high schoolers, too, which are part of Gen Z. If you are a parent, this book will help you with your teens and twentysomethings. If you are involved in your church community/family as a teacher or leader of youth, you'll benefit from this book, too. While I don't believe in the Gospel by focus group or opinion polling, this book brings to light attitudes an older generation needs to know about Millennials (or Mosiacs, as Kinnaman refers to

them) so we can all have greater understanding.

It's an insightful book. Definitely examines some issues several churchgoers - especially church leaders - simply choose to ignore. On the other hand, it's pretty patronizing to non-believers.

If you have any concern about the future of Christianity in America, you need to read this book. We've all felt it at the gut level. We've seen churches that don't represent local demographics when it comes to age diversity. But what do we do about the problem of young adults leaving the church? As a youth pastor, this is a truly concerning issue. What's the point of my job if after they graduate from high school they graduate from church? Furthermore, if kids are leaving after they pass through my area of ministry...is what I'm doing effective? What I like about this book is it goes beyond gut feelings and anecdotal evidence and uses hard data through the trusted research of Barna to explore these issues. It helps provide a roadmap for the future of our church by creating a better understanding of where we have failed in the recent past. It's a pretty quick and smooth read considering the ground that is covered. I dare you to read it and not sense a need for our church to change. And to change in a positive, biblical, and possibly even more orthodox way.

Excellent research. Well written and clearly presented. Sadly there is little new here. It seems more a rehash of *UnChristian*. This book joins the long list of those writings which tell us what is wrong with the church-but with little practical support. It is a sincere effort, but not terribly helpful.

Personally, I am disappointed with another video and workbook to buy for small group discussion. One wonders if we are not simply creating a market to provide significant income and celebrity status to a burgeoning number of "experts" telling us where the church has failed. There is nothing counter-cultural in mass producing more books and videos to tell readers that "every story matters" all the while creating a class of specialists drawing large fees to address conferences on what isn't working. I sincerely appreciate the research and the passion that is often evident in Kinnaman's book. Frankly, I'm just totally frustrated.

Thank you David Kinnaman for enlightening me on the millennials who have walked away from church (and there are a lot of them). This issue has really been troubling me as I look at my own extended family and the church, particularly since I read *UnChristian*. This follow up book has created wonderful dialog in our church and helped us rethink how we currently disciple Millennials and reach out in meaningful ways.

A must read for Christians who are concerned about the teens/young adults leaving/avoiding their churches

The book is based squarely on modern survey findings that are often man centered and difficult to discern the meaning of the findings. Many questions are posed without giving definite answers. And when answers are given they seem lacking in biblical power and authority. There are some nuggets to glean but overall the approach and the proposed solutions are both anthropocentric. If you must read do so with discernment.

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