



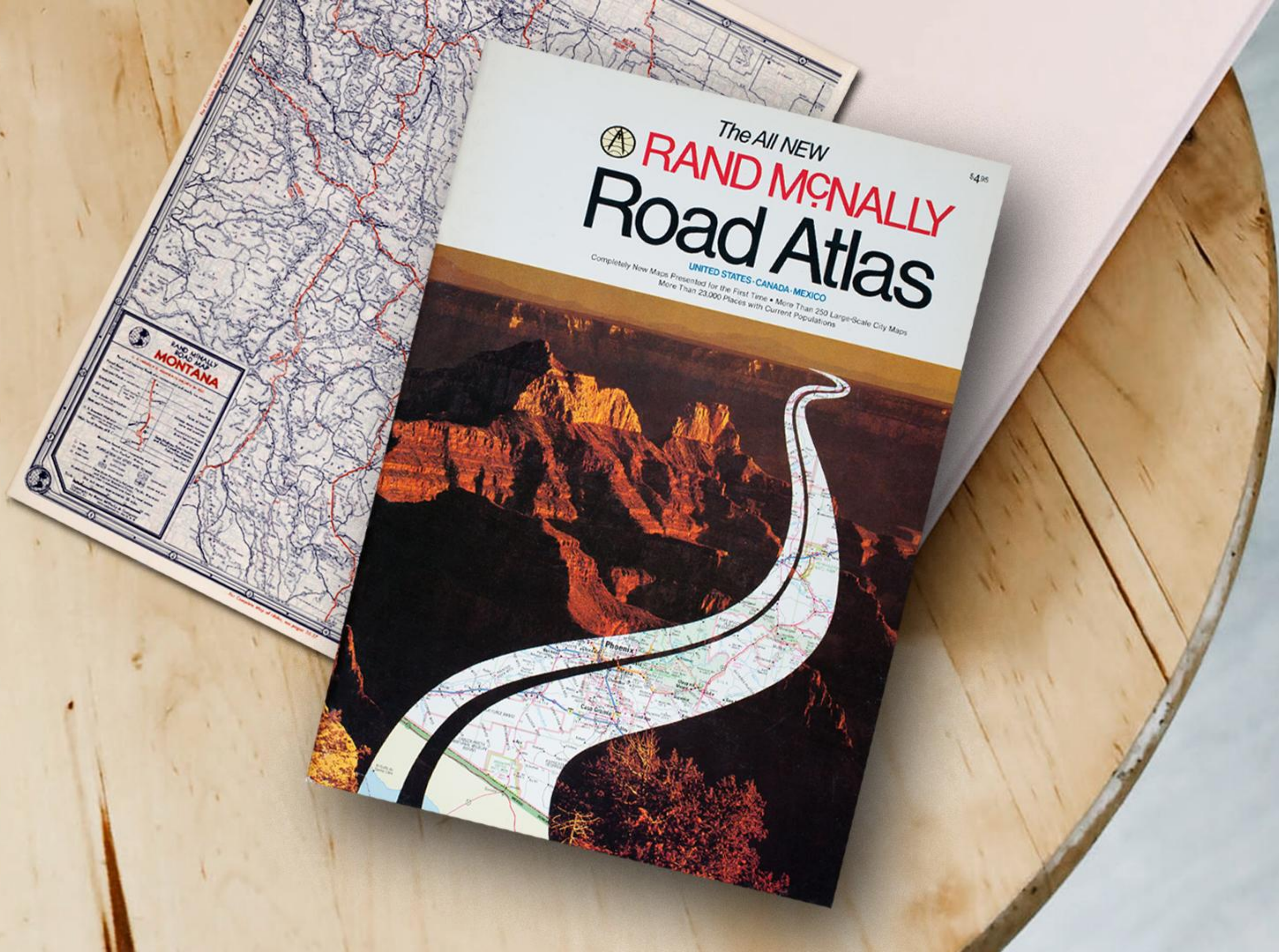
WE'RE USING
**OLD
MAPS**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN A NEW REALITY

MATT MARKINS



Boomers	1946 - 1964
Xers	1965 - 1980
Millennials	1981 - 1996
Gen Z	1997 - 2012







MAPQUEST
Send To Printer Back To Directions

Start: Dallas, TX
US

End: 312 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX
78704-1213 US

Distance: 196.99 miles

Total Estimated Time: 3 hours, 21 minutes

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Directions

	Distance
START 1. Start out going South on N AKARD ST toward FEDERAL ST.	0.1 miles
2. Turn RIGHT onto ELM ST.	0.5 miles
3. Turn SLIGHT LEFT to stay on ELM ST.	0.1 miles
4. ELM ST becomes COMMERCE ST.	<0.1 miles
5. Merge onto I-35E S.	57.4 miles
6. Merge onto I-35 S/US-81 S via the exit- on the left.	137.6 miles
7. Take the exit- exit number 234A- toward 1ST ST/HOLLY ST.	<0.1 miles
8. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto I-35 N.	<0.1 miles
9. Turn RIGHT onto CESAR CHAVEZ ST E/E 1ST ST/TX-343 LOOP.	0.4 miles
10. Turn RIGHT onto BRAZOS ST.	<0.1 miles
11. Turn LEFT onto E 2ND ST.	<0.1 miles
12. Turn LEFT onto CONGRESS AVE S.	0.3 miles
13. Turn RIGHT onto BARTON SPRINGS RD.	0.1 miles
END End at 312 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78704-1213 US	

www.mapquest.com/directions/main.adp?do=prt&2n=TRAVIS%20COUNTY&lg=39Vzi74hg7M... 04/15/2004



18.98





**WE'RE USING
OLD
MAPS**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN A NEW REALITY



Old Map



Rest Stop



New Map



**WE'RE USING
OLD
MAPS**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN A NEW REALITY



Acknowledging these major cities simply says that:

- 1. These cities are the dominant forces of influence within children's ministry,**



Acknowledging these major cities simply says that:

- 1. These cities are the dominant forces of influence within children's ministry,**
- 2. We have more knowledge and insight now than we did when they were built, and**



Acknowledging these major cities simply says that:

1. **These cities are the dominant forces of influence within children's ministry,**
2. **We have more knowledge and insight now than we did when they were built, and**
3. **We need to ask ourselves if these cities should remain the same influential forces in the future that they were in the past?**



The Old Map



CITY #1

CITY #2

CITY #3



The Old Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Church
Growth &
Entertainment

CITY #2

CITY #3



Teaching

Attractional

Missional

House

Formational



Teaching

Attractional (Church Growth)

Missional

House

Formational (Disciplemaking)




Church Growth Movement

“The church growth movement is the stewardship of knowledge and wisdom to grow the church marked by emphasis on evangelism, missions, practical ministries and numerical growth.”

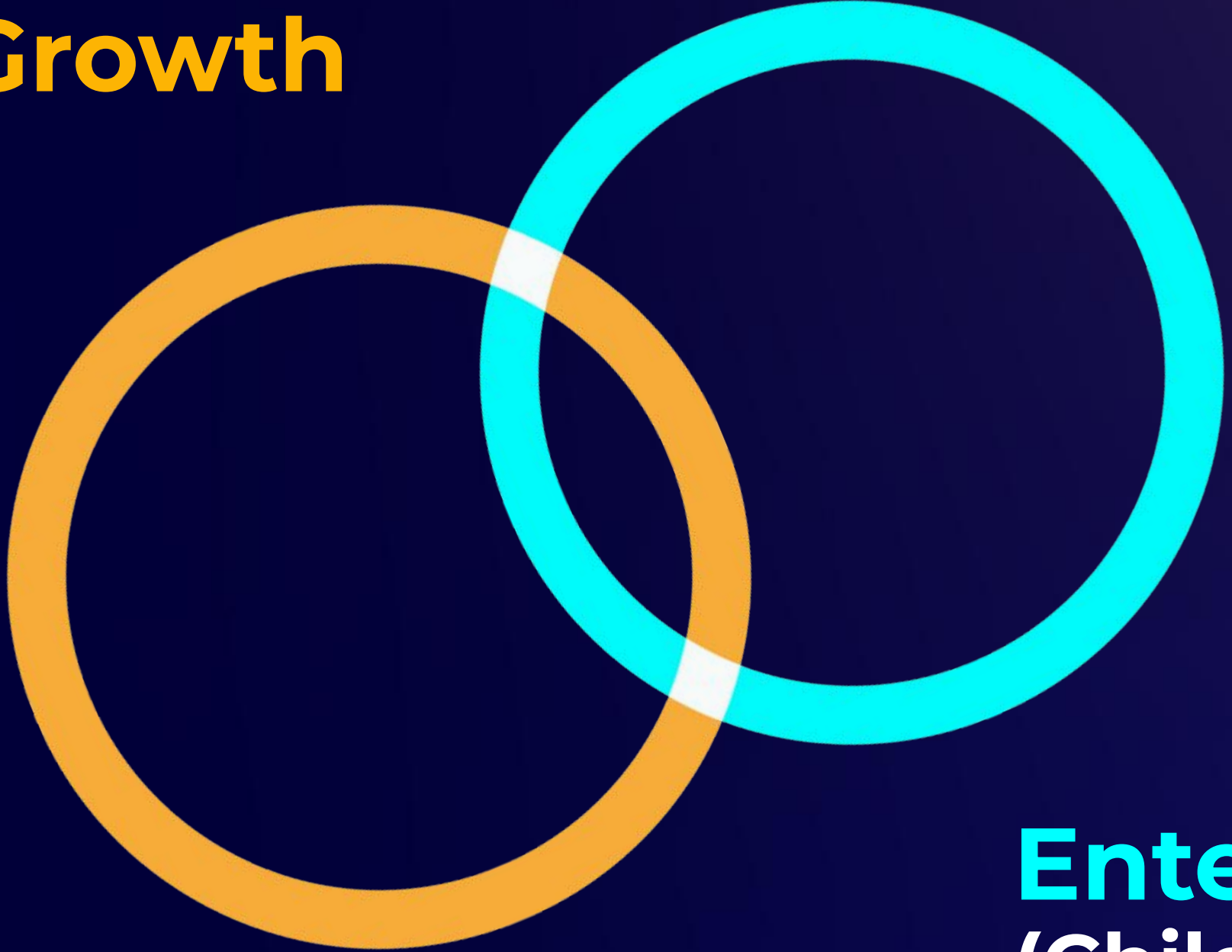
Church Growth Movement

“The church growth movement is the stewardship of knowledge and wisdom to grow the church marked by emphasis on evangelism, missions, practical ministries and *numerical growth*.”





Church Growth



Entertainment
(Children's Ministry)



The Old Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Church
Growth &
Entertainment



CITY #2

Relevance

CITY #3



Boomers	1946 - 1964
Xers	1965 - 1980
Millennials	1981 - 1996
Gen Z	1997 - 2012



Mom jeans are back!!!



RELEVANCE: *rel·e·vance*

**The quality or state of being
closely connected or
appropriate.**



Disney



Exhausting & Unsustainable



The Old Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Church
Growth &
Entertainment



CITY #2

Relevance



CITY #3

Bible Lite

Bible Lite Strategy isn't necessarily inaccurate, but it is incomplete. It emphasizes values, morals or character from the Bible in a way that's unrooted from the Gospel.

Good character is not the goal of a Christian; it's the byproduct of a life surrendered and cultivated in Jesus Christ.



**Higher
View of
Scripture**

**Lower
View of
Scripture**

**Values-Centric
Teaching**

**Gospel-Centric
Teaching**





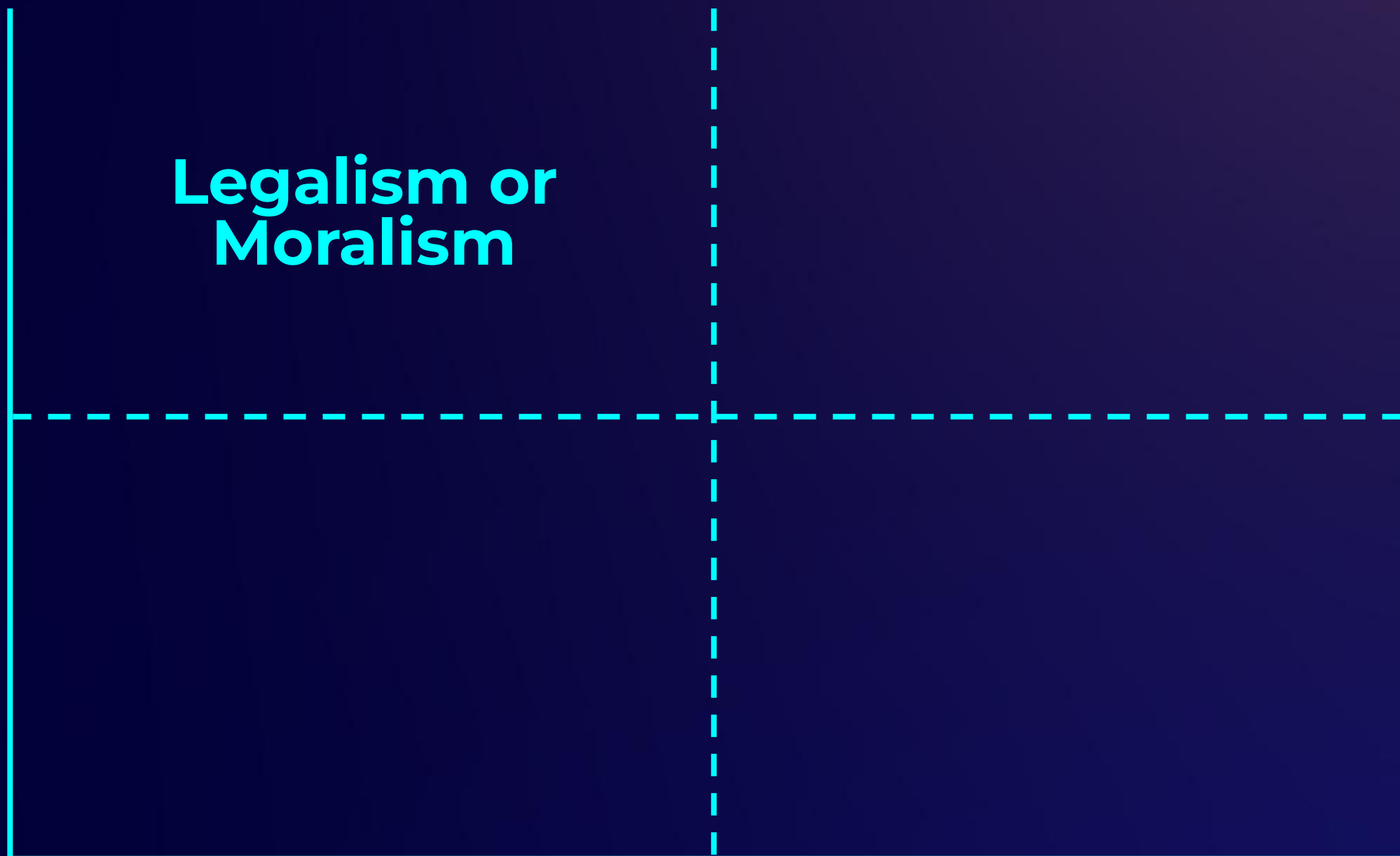
**Higher
View of
Scripture**

**Lower
View of
Scripture**

**Legalism or
Moralism**

**Values-Centric
Teaching**

**Gospel-Centric
Teaching**





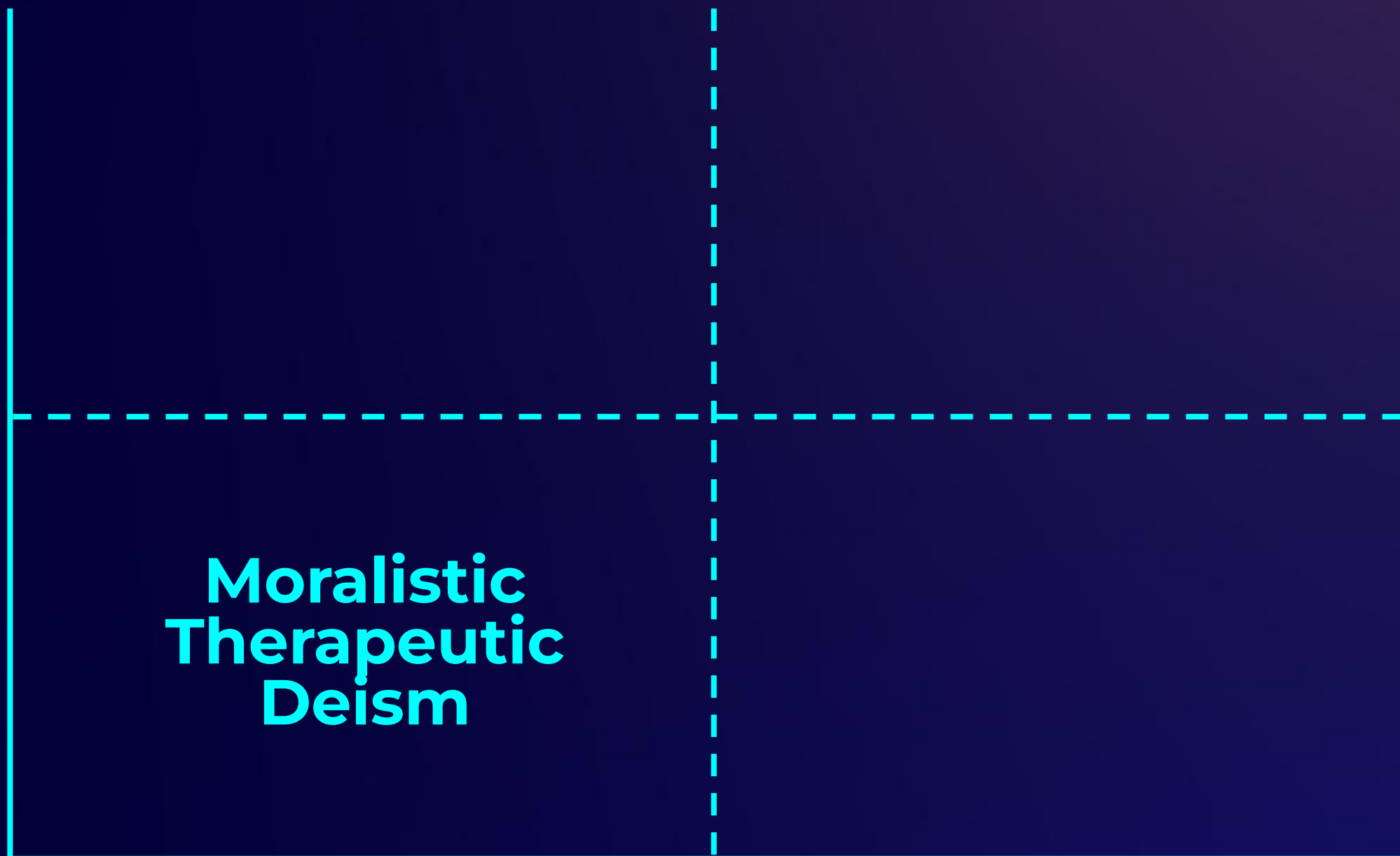
**Higher
View of
Scripture**

**Lower
View of
Scripture**

**Moralistic
Therapeutic
Deism**

**Values-Centric
Teaching**

**Gospel-Centric
Teaching**





**Higher
View of
Scripture**

**Lower
View of
Scripture**

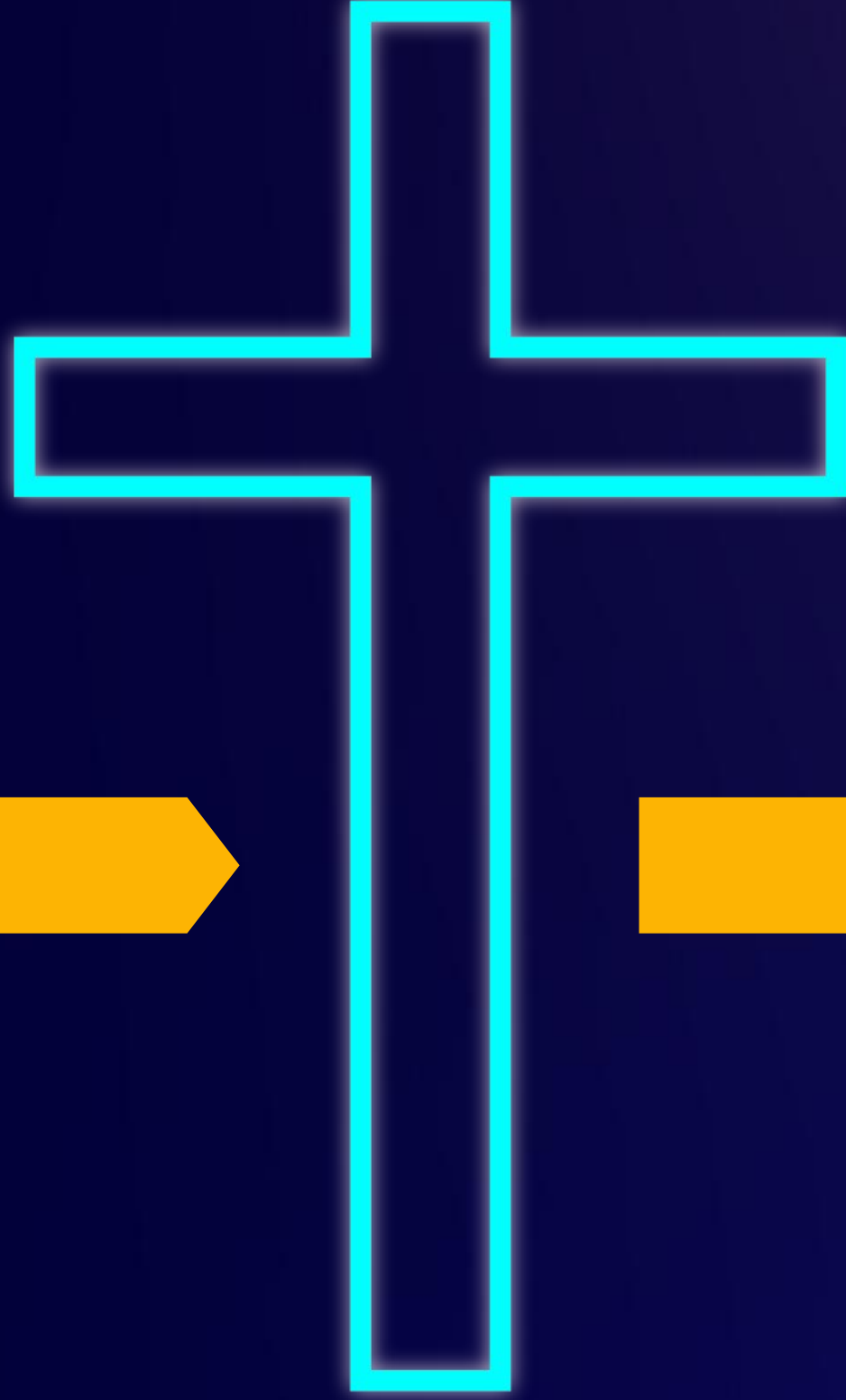
**Values-Centric
Teaching**

**Gospel-Centric
Teaching**





Values







**“The Church is
woefully unprepared
for GenZ.”**

David Kinnaman
Barna Group President



“The Church is woefully unprepared for GenZ.”

David Kinnaman
Barna Group President

11%
Resilient Disciples



Barna





**YOU ARE
HERE**



Old Map

Rest Stop

New Map

Informing our Future with Insight & Wisdom

Barna

+

**Ed
Stetzer**

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

Non-Christians

Non-Christians

CULTURAL DIVIDE

Cultural Christians

Cultural Christians

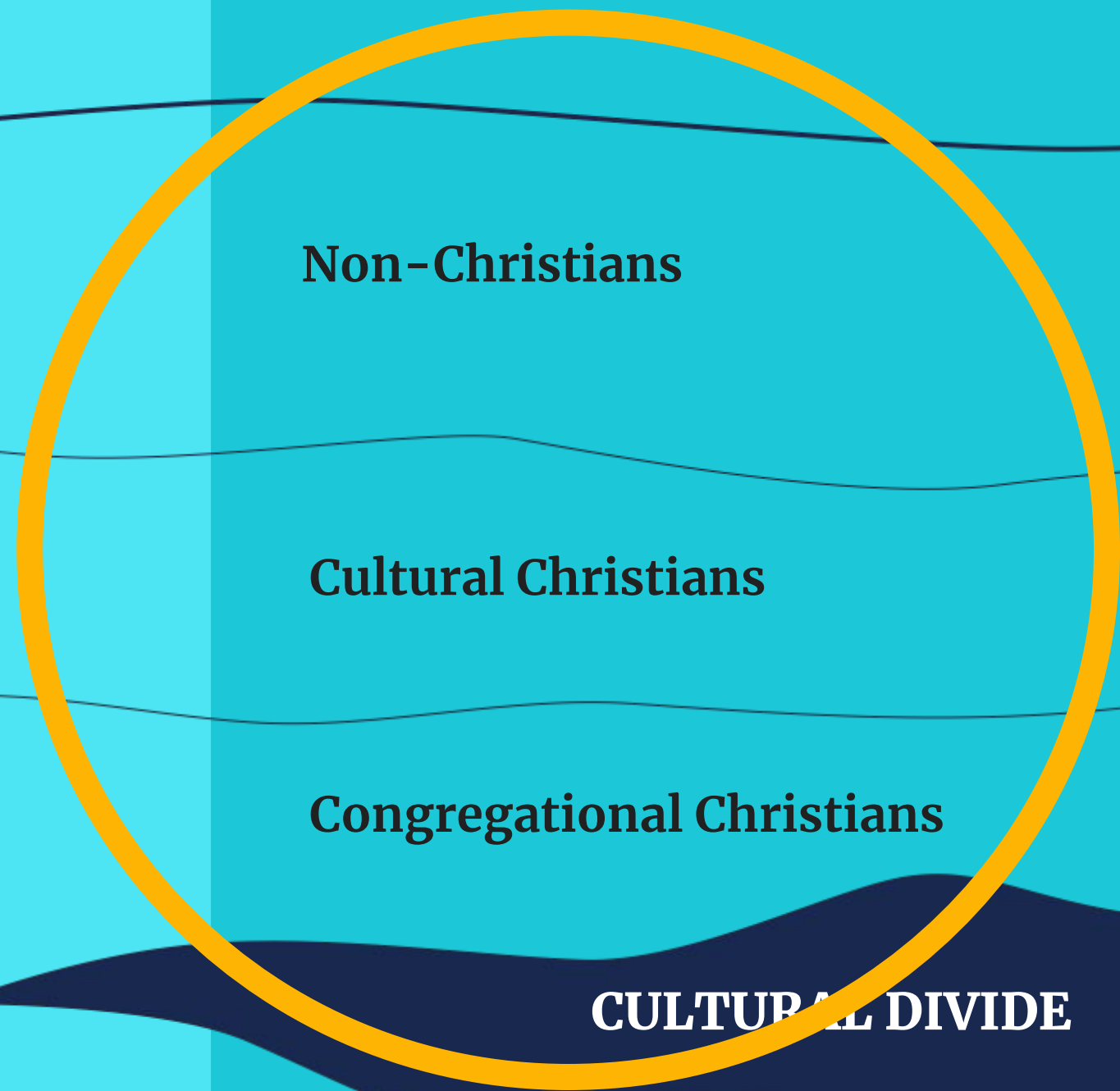
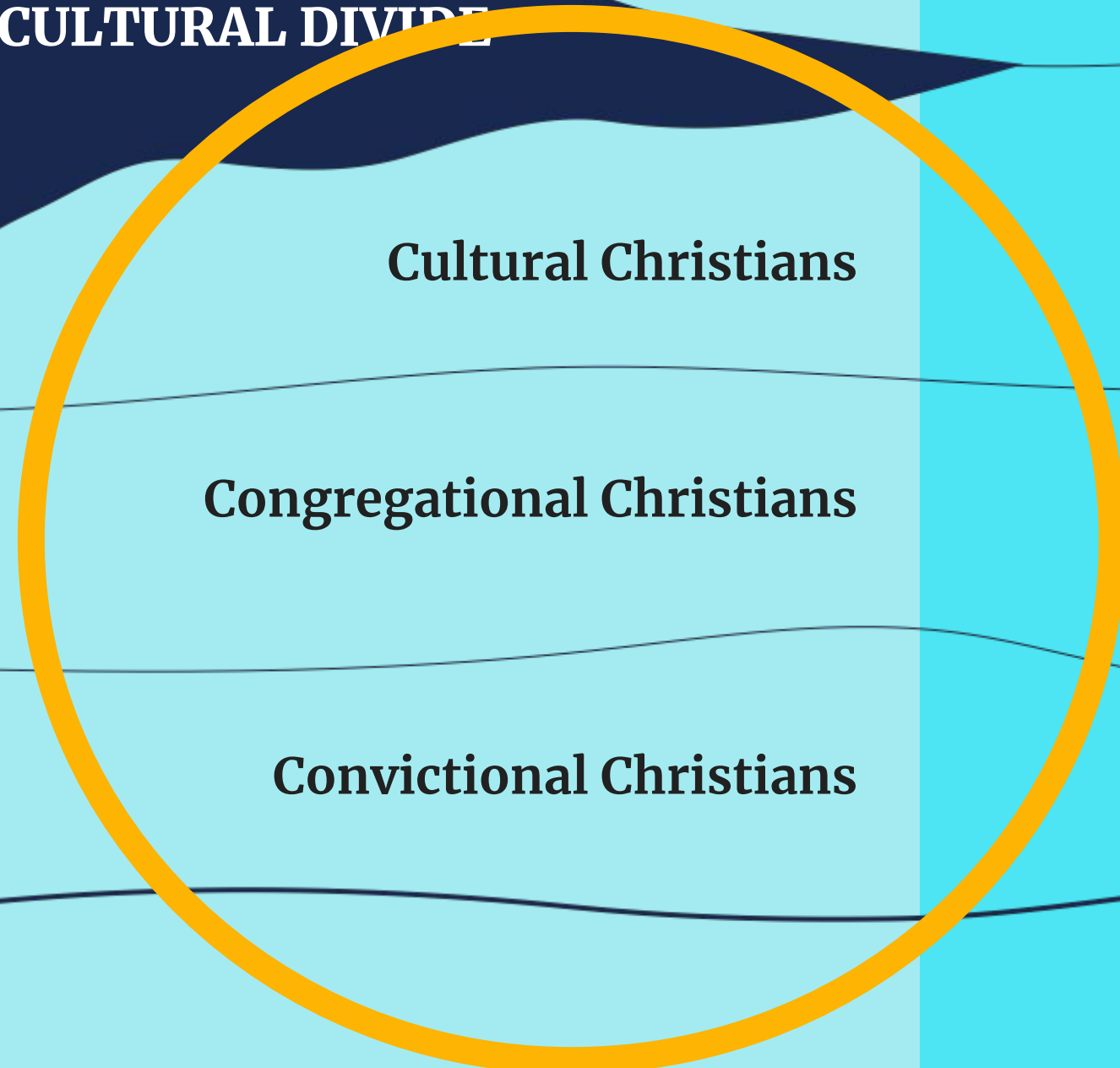
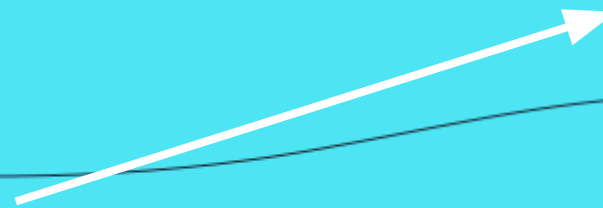
Congregational Christians

Congregational Christians

Convictional Christians

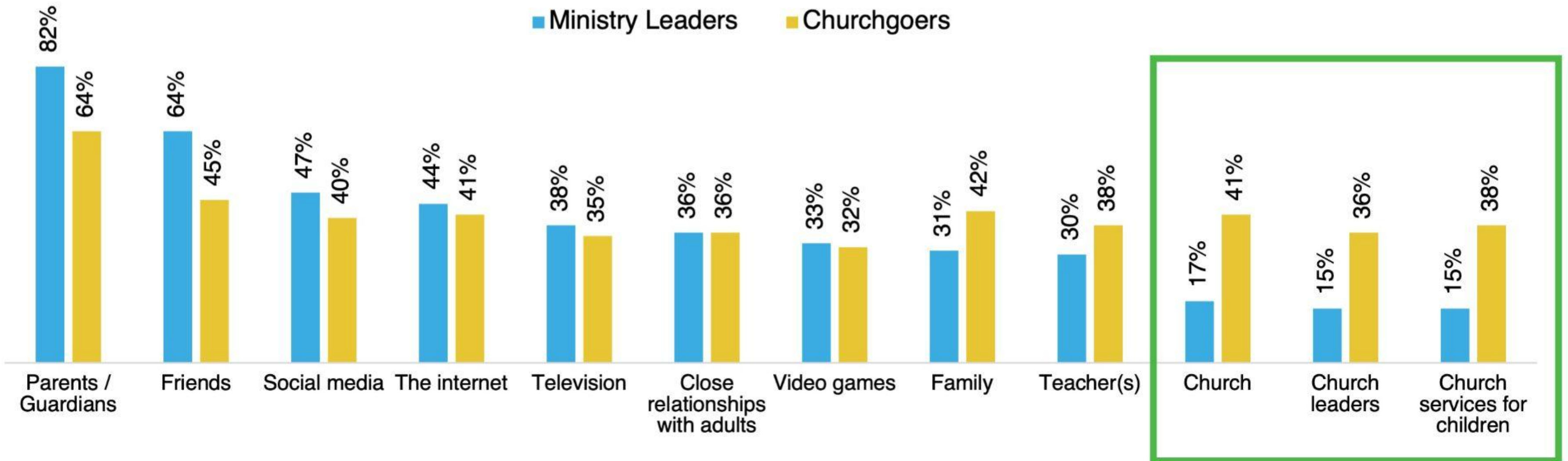
CULTURAL DIVIDE

Convictional Christians



... but compared to churchgoers, ministry leaders are half as likely to feel like the church, its leaders and services for children are influential on a child's development.

How influential do you feel each of the following are on a child's development?
 % very influential



n=600 children's ministry leaders, June 8 to August 16, 2021; n=2,051 churchgoers, June 11 to July 6, 2021.



“... a person’s **worldview** is primarily shaped and is firmly in place by the time someone reaches the **age of 13** ...”

Barna



We must begin with the assumption that our children are being **overly exposed with worldly discipleship and **underexposed** with biblical discipleship.**

- Darren Whitehead
Pastor, Church of the City, Franklin, TN



The New Map



CITY #1

CITY #2

CITY #3



The New Map



CITY #1

CITY #2

CITY #3

The Twin Cities
of Faithfulness
& Lasting Faith

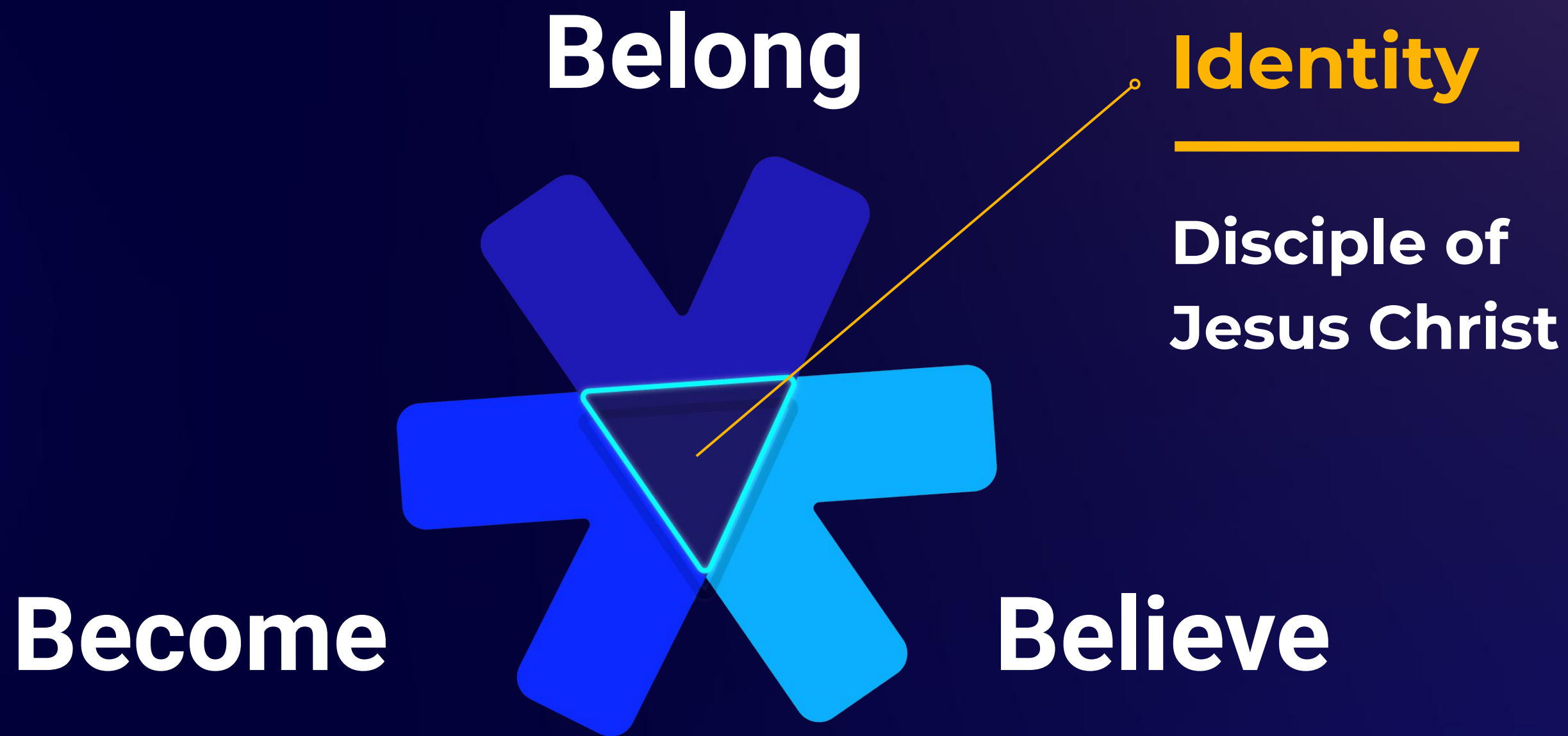


Lasting Faith (paired with **faithfulness**)
is the primary *motivation* of
Children's Ministry.



What factors form lasting faith in kids?

- Observing Jesus make disciples in the four Gospels
- 72 years of ministry impact and personal stories (qualitative)
- 9 Research projects commissioned by Awana, including one Barna Group study (quantitative and qualitative)
- Gathered research from other orgs: Lifeway, Fuller Youth Institute, Christian Smith, Barna Group and many others



Lasting Faith

Child Discipleship is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids ***belong*** to God and his kingdom, ***believe*** in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and ***become*** like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**VBS/SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH GROUP/LARGE
GROUP/SMALL GROUP/COMMUNITY GROUPS
MIDWEEK/STAFF MANAGEMENT/VOLUNTEER
MANAGEMENT/VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING/KEY CHURCH
RELATIONSHIPS/BUDGETING AND PLANNING
BUSINESS MEETINGS/AND THE
SEEMINGLY ENDLESS NUMBER OF SPECIAL**

Lasting Faith

Child Discipleship is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids ***belong*** to God and his kingdom, ***believe*** in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and ***become*** like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.



The New Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Faithfulness
& Lasting Faith



CITY #2

Community



CITY #3

“No matter the source of hardship, the **single most common factor** for children who end up doing well is having the support of at least one **stable and committed relationship** with a parent, caregiver or other adult.”

- **Center on the Developing Child,
Harvard University**



The Belongingness Process

“...moving from *noticed* to *named* to *known*.”

- **Mental Health & Gen Z**
Springtide Research Institute



The Belongingness

“...moving from *noticed* to

- **Mental Health & Gen Z**
Springtide Research Institute





The New Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Faithfulness
& Lasting Faith



CITY #2

Community

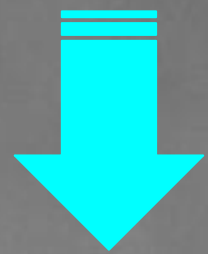


CITY #3

Gospel &
Scripture
Engagement

**CULTURAL
FORMATION**

**Naturalism
Secularism
Hedonism
Post-Christendom
Cultural Christianity**



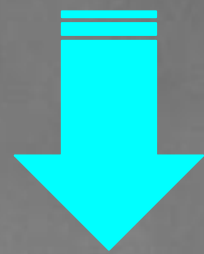
Hyper Individualism

**GOSPEL
FORMATION**



**CULTURAL
FORMATION**

**Naturalism
Secularism
Hedonism
Post-Christendom
Cultural Christianity**



Hyper Individualism

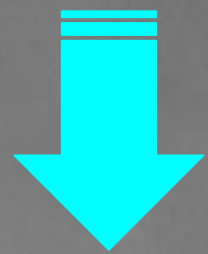
**GOSPEL
FORMATION**

**Creation
Fall
Redemption
Restoration**



**CULTURAL
FORMATION**

**Naturalism
Secularism
Hedonism
Post-Christendom
Cultural Christianity**



Hyper Individualism

**GOSPEL
FORMATION**

**Creation
Fall
Redemption
Restoration**



**Consistent
Bible
Engagement**



The New Map



CITY #1

The Twin Cities
of Faithfulness
& Lasting Faith



CITY #2

Community



CITY #3

Gospel &
Scripture
Engagement



If our **primary investment** in children, the most vulnerable among us, is in ***protecting*** and ***entertaining*** them, we will form within them a likely safe, yet fragile foundation.



If our **primary investment** in children, the most vulnerable among us, is in **protecting** and **entertaining** them, we will form within them a likely safe, yet fragile foundation.

However, if our **primary investment** is in the most vulnerable among us, is in **protecting** and **forming** them, we will become craftsmen who shape a generation whose inner spiritual resilience is so compelling that future communities will gasp at their Christlike beauty.



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