

# Today's Challenge for Tomorrow's Success

Rethinking how to disciple our youth to become  
committed Steward Leaders of Tomorrow

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MANI – AFRICA DISCIPLESHIP CONGRESS – MAY 6-10, 2019

JON LEWIS

# Key Thought

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- The impact of forces shaping African young people today demands rethinking how we must disciple them to be successful and committed leaders for the church of tomorrow.
- Question: What are those forces? How do we face them?

# 3 Big Questions

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- **WHY** are we facing a brand-new challenge in discipling African young people?
- **WHAT** has changed in how young people view discipleship?
- **HOW** can we design a successful discipleship model for the youth of tomorrow?

# 3 Big Questions

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- WHY are we facing a brand-new challenge in discipling African young people?

■ WHAT has changed in how young people view

**A Formula for Understanding Present Realities**

the youth of tomorrow:

Youth Population Explosion  
+  
Technology Access Revolution  
+  
Impact of Global Culture  
=  
NEW MORAL PARADIGM

Youth Population Explosion

+

Technology Access Revolution

+

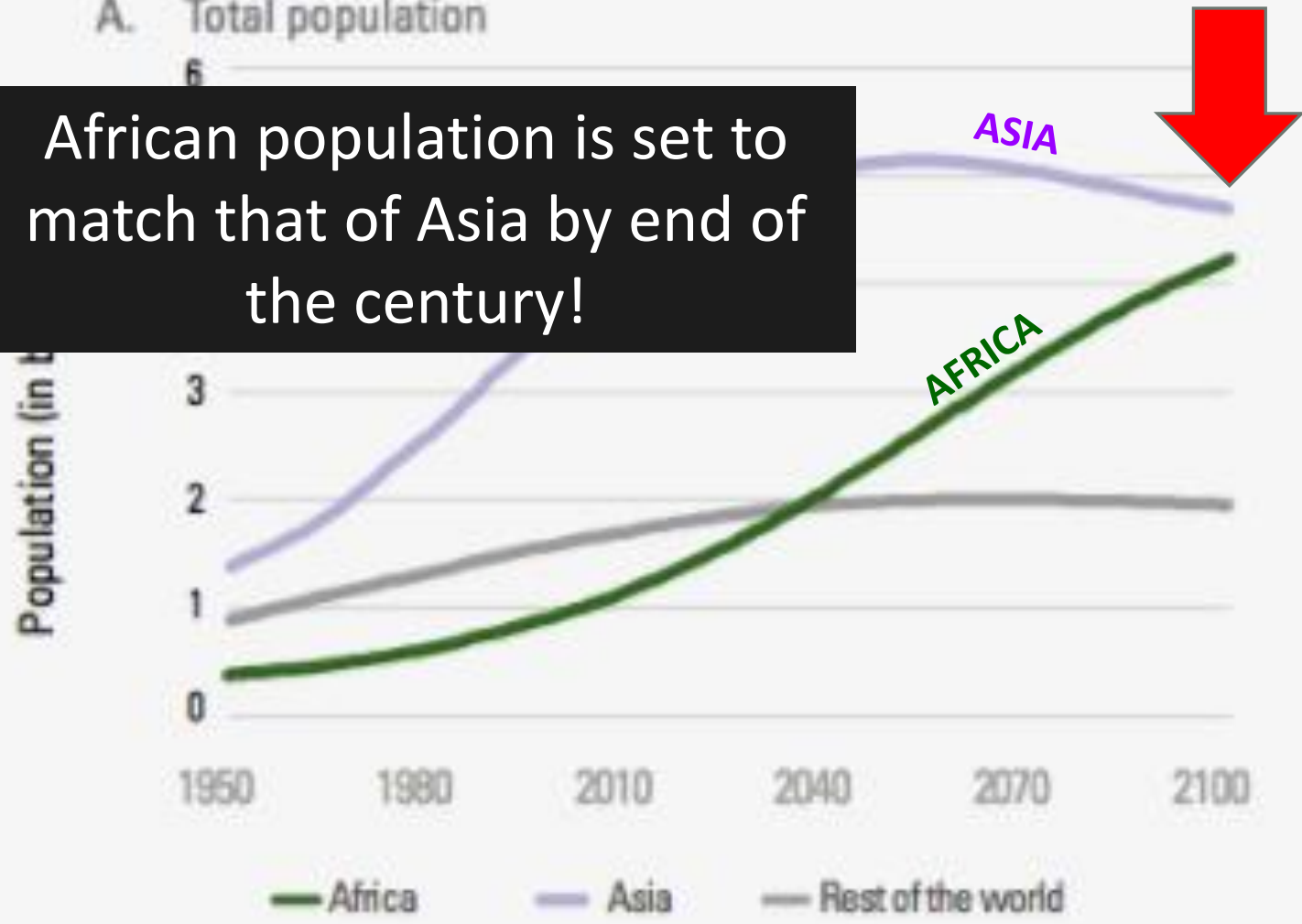
Impact of Global Culture

=

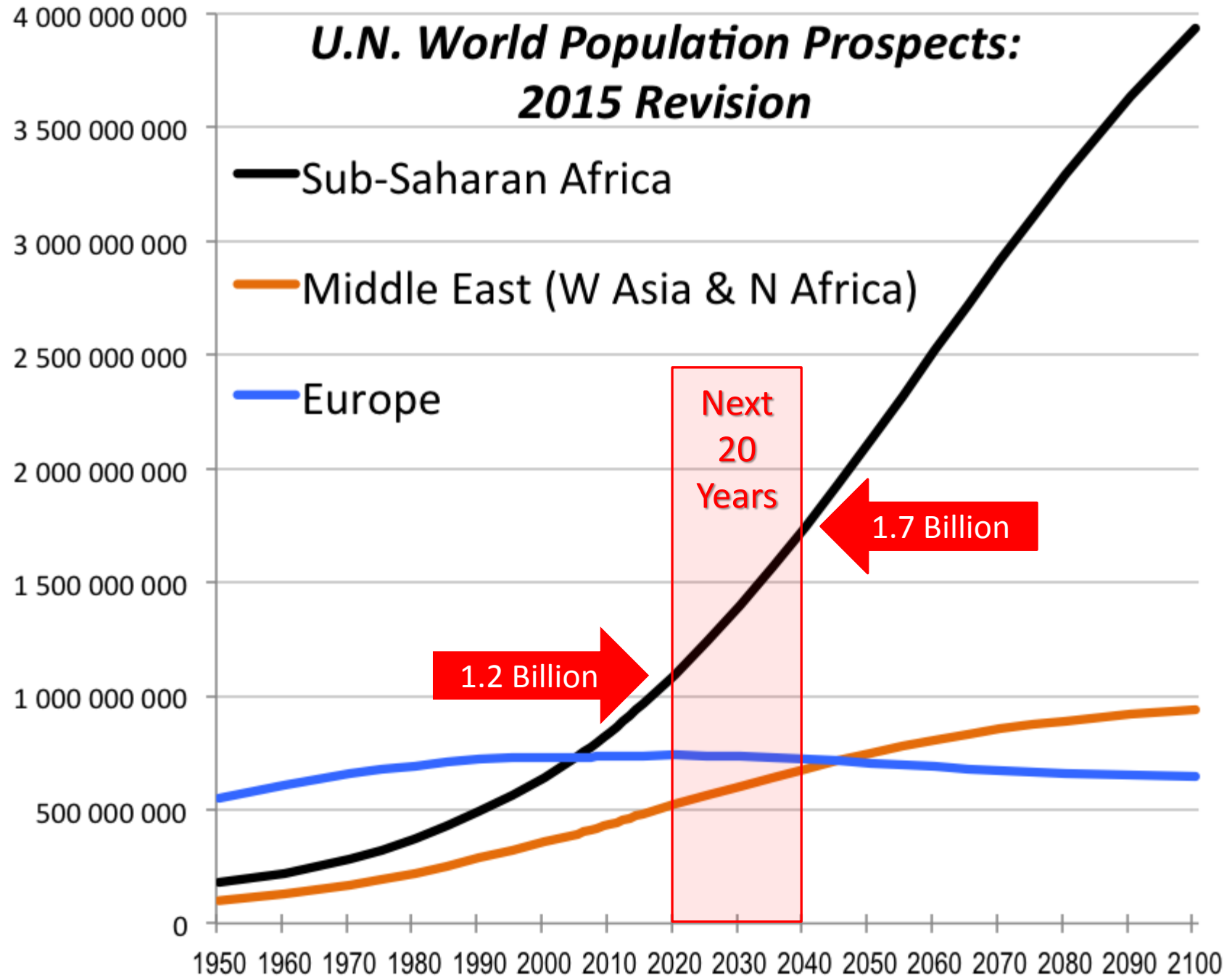
NEW MORAL PARADIGM

A. Total population

African population is set to match that of Asia by end of the century!

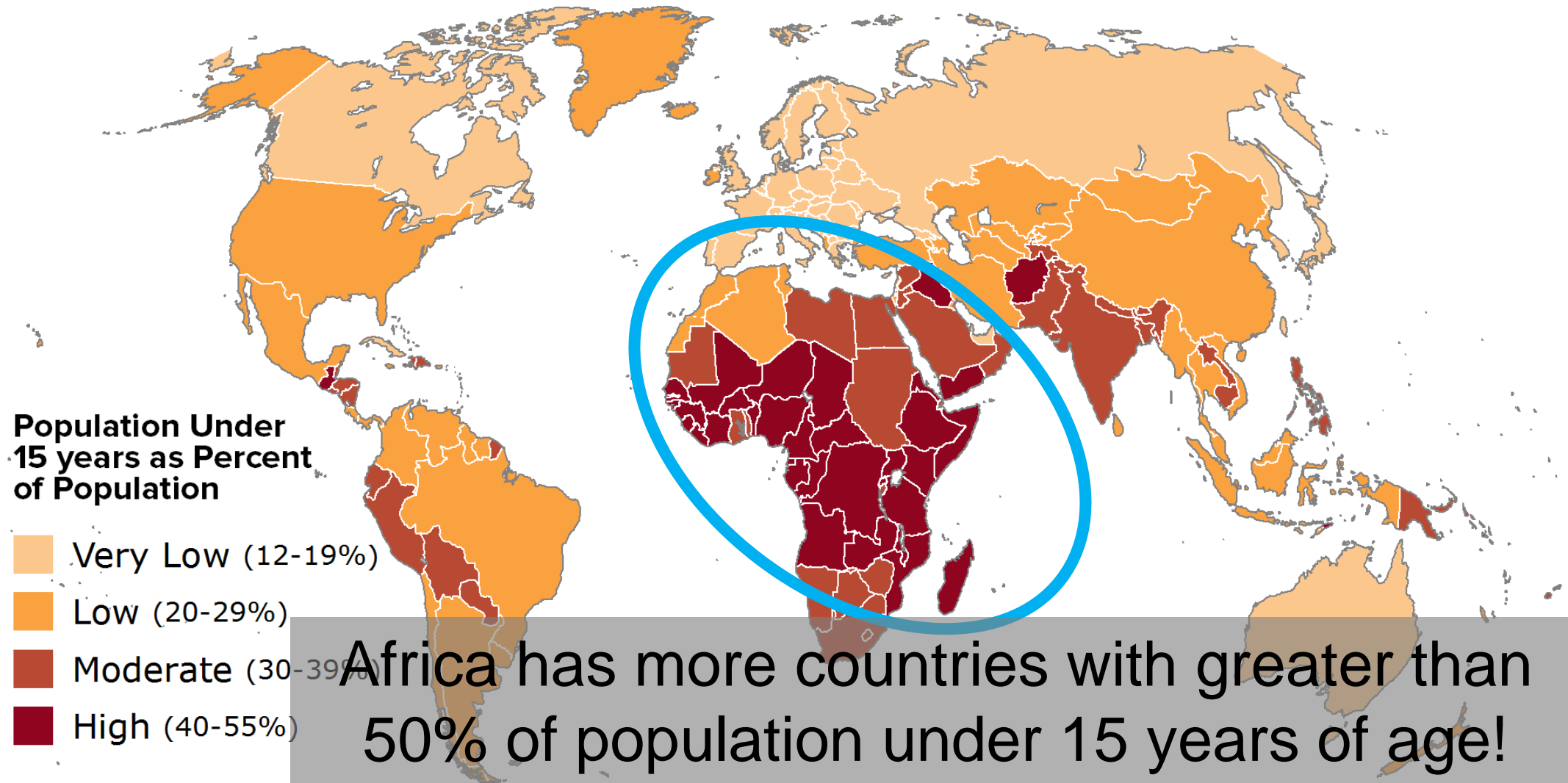


# U.N. World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision



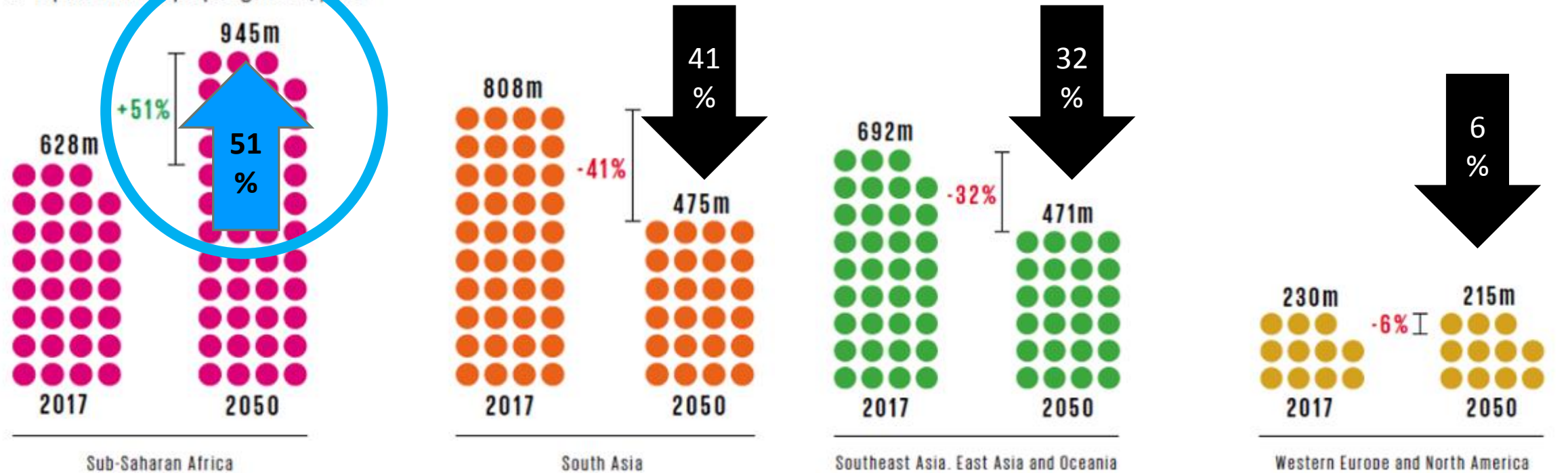


# Youth Population



# Next 30 Years: World Youth Population Change (0-20 yrs)

○ Equals 20 million people aged 0-24 years



Sub-Sahara Africa

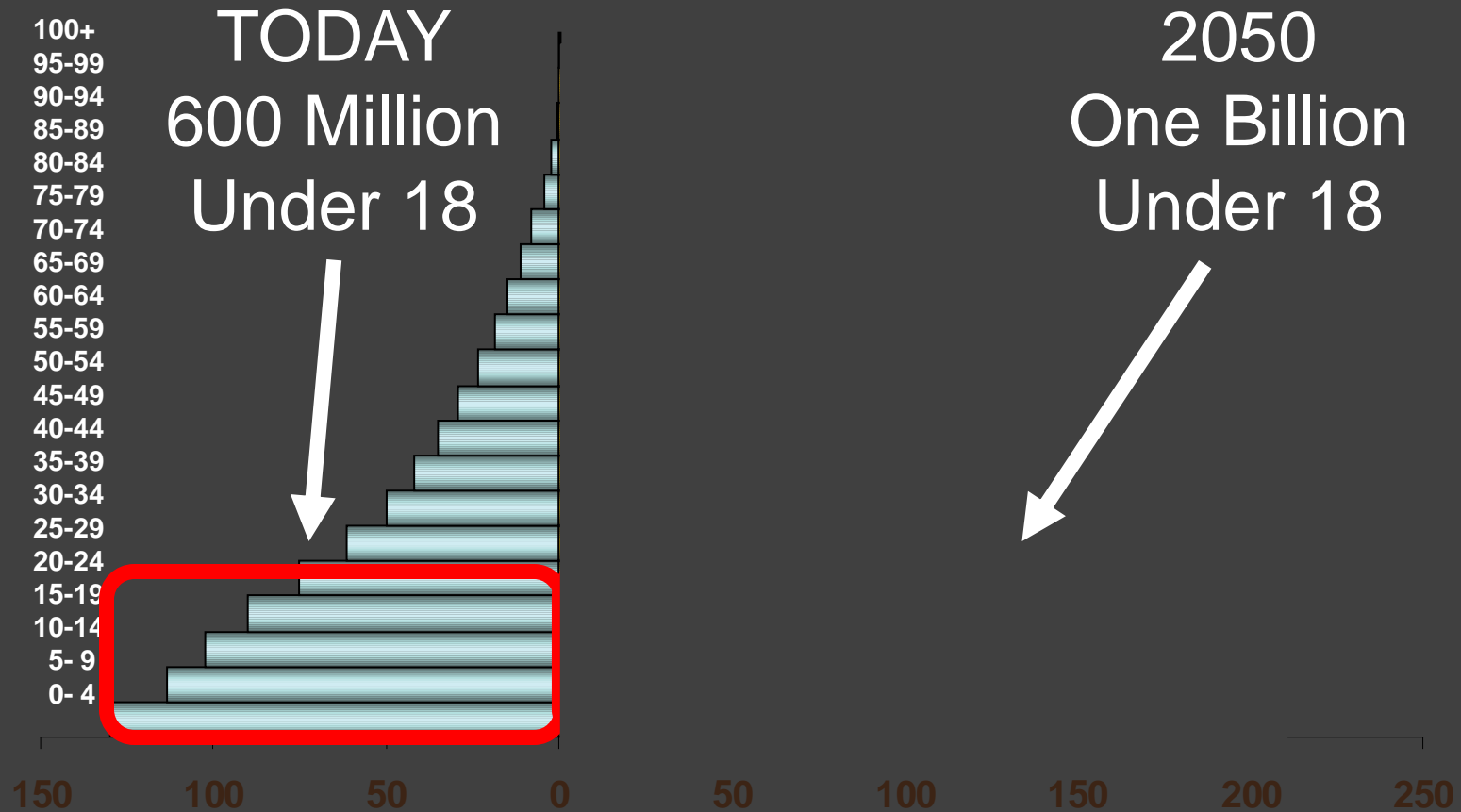
India/South Asia

Southeast Asia

Europe/N. America

# Africa's Population

five year age groups



# Reality = Explosion of African Youth

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Youth Population Explosion

+

Technology Access Revolution

+

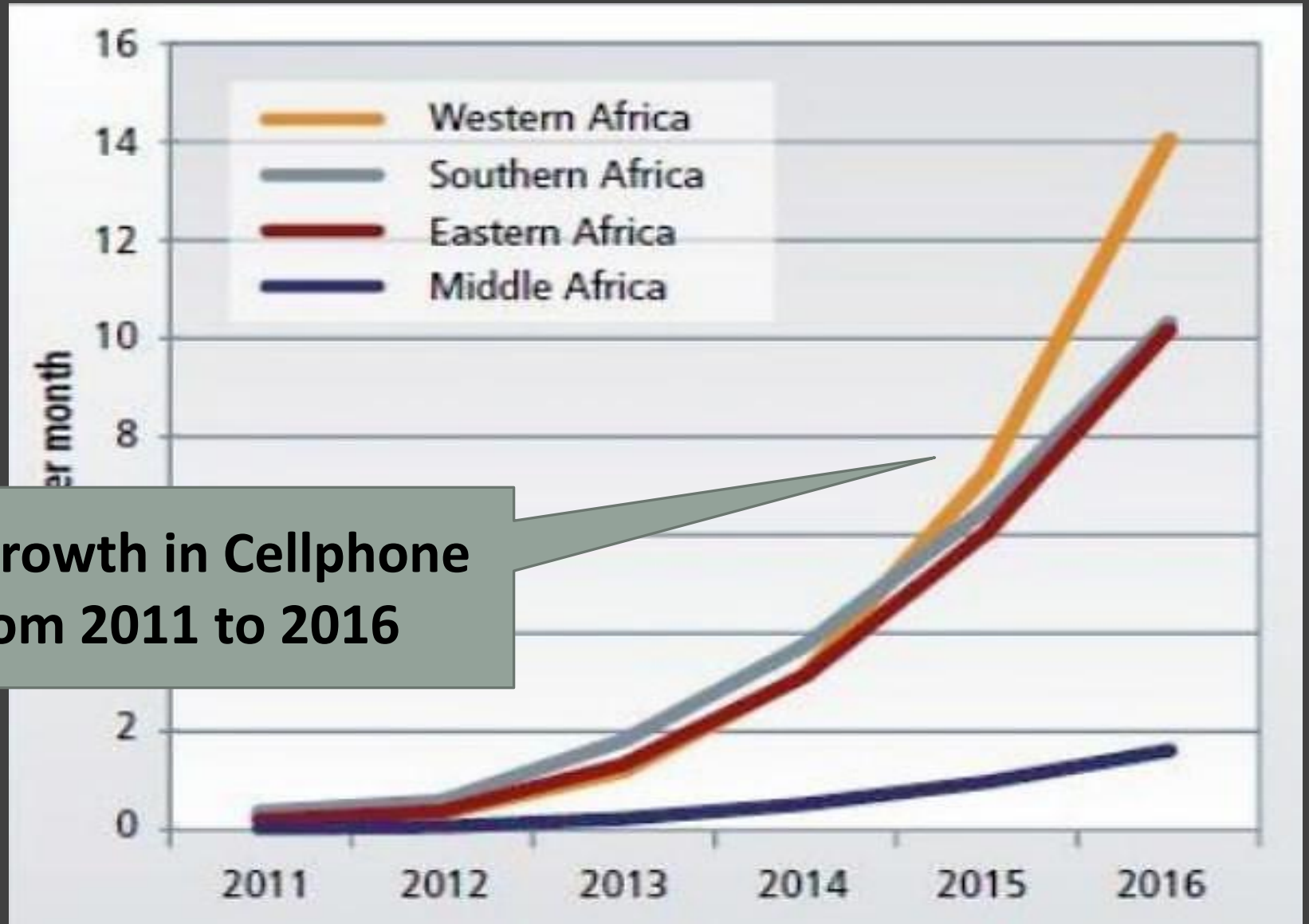
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NEW MORAL PARADIGM



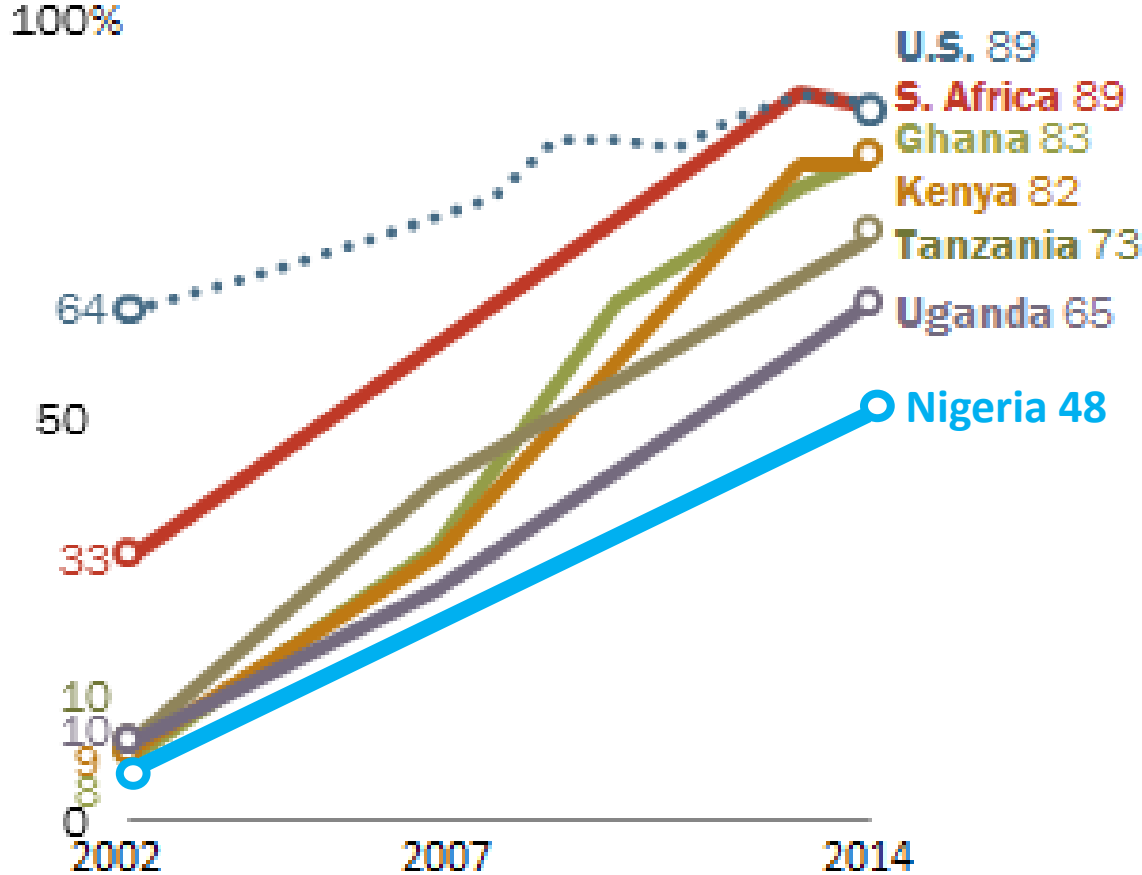
# Cellphone Utilization Trends



**34 Fold Growth in Cellphone  
Use from 2011 to 2016**

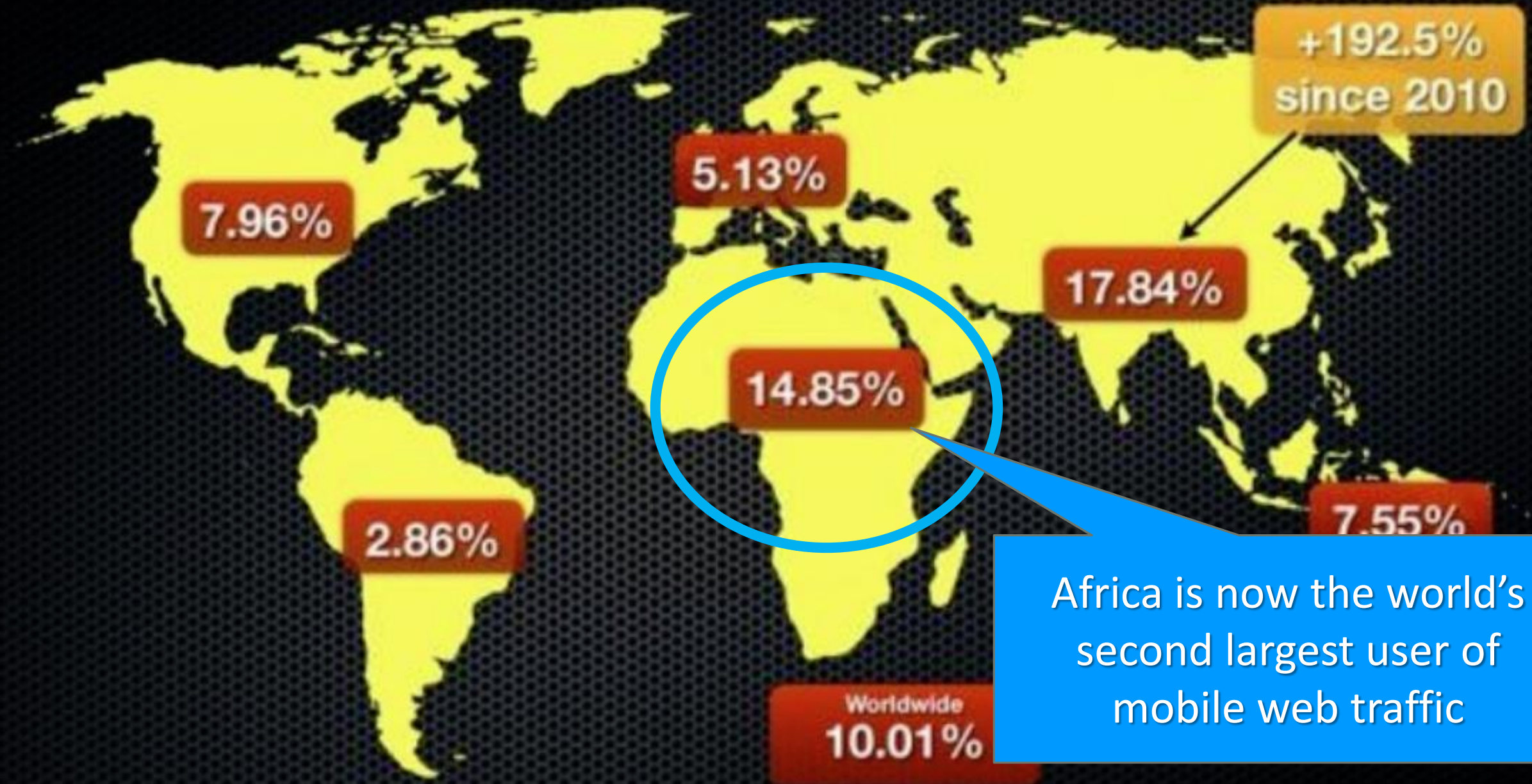
# Cell Phone Ownership Surges in Africa

*Adults who own a cell phone*



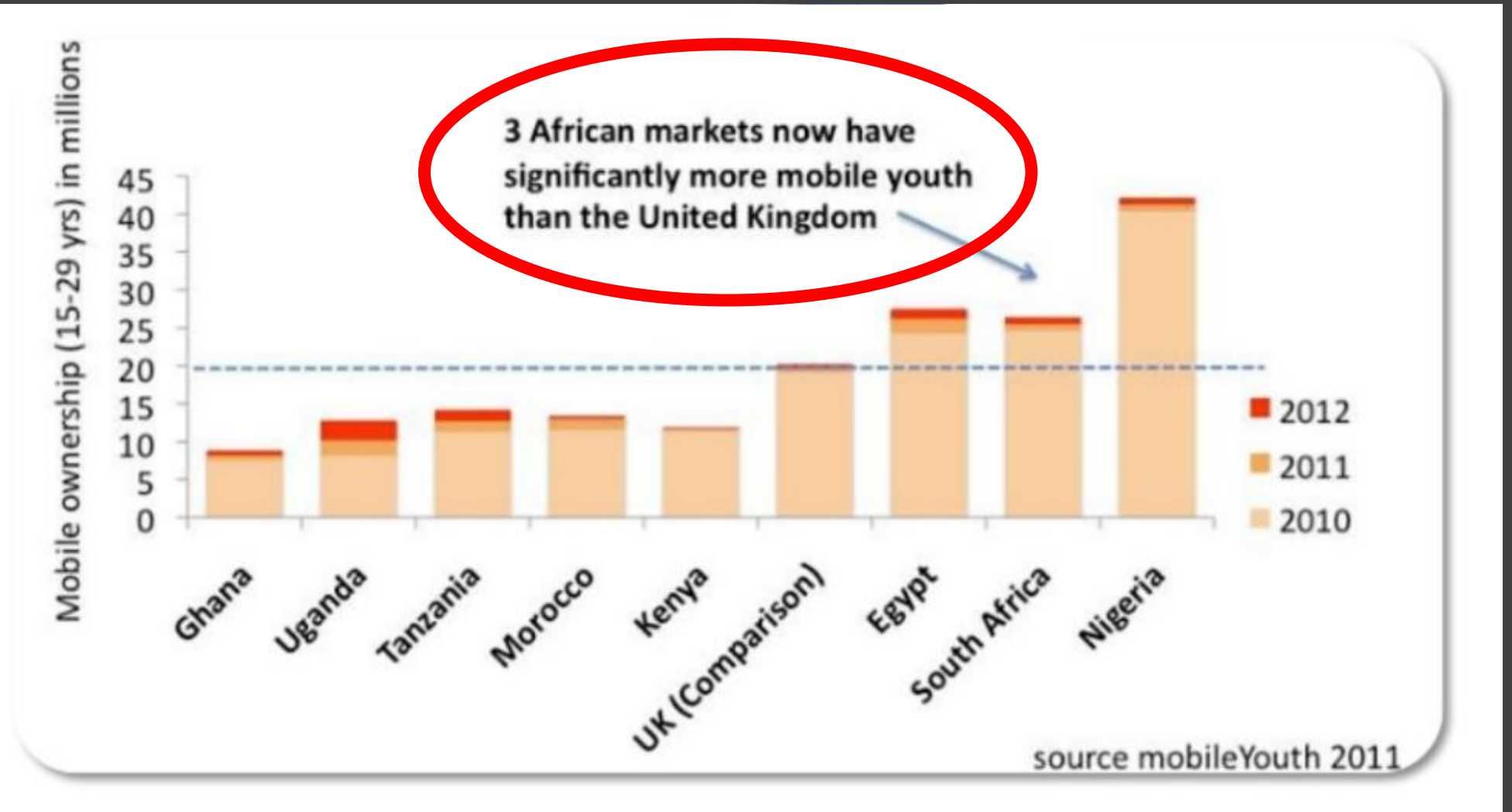
Some African countries now equal the United States

# Mobile browsing: percentage of all web traffic (May 2012)





# Africa Mobile Ownership by Youth Ages 15 – 29

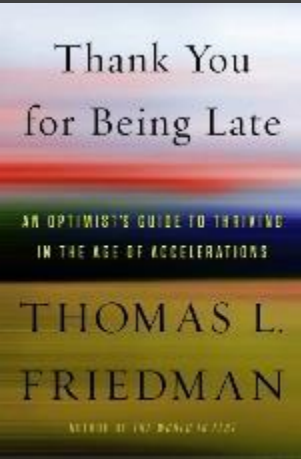


JAN  
2018

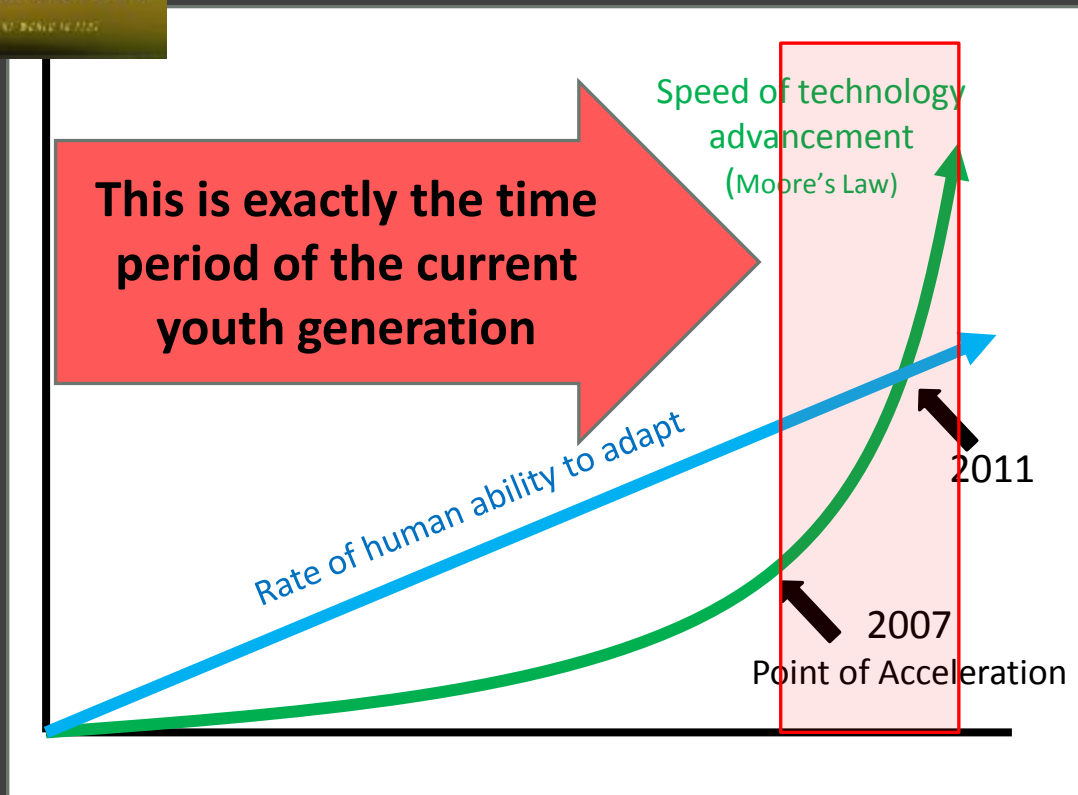
# TOP MESSENGER APPS BY COUNTRY

BASED ON THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE RANK FOR EACH COUNTRY IN DECEMBER 2017





# Thomas Friedman Speed of Change vs. Ability to Adapt



- Moore's Law: Computer power will double every two years.
  - Has been true of 5 decades
  - Not slowing down
- We have crossed the point where human beings can no longer keep up and adapt easily to technology and world change.

# Key Point

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- The speed of change in technology access has created a totally new environment for African youth that is unlike what they faced even five years ago!

Youth Population Explosion

+

Technology Access Revolution

+

Impact of Global Culture

=

NEW MORAL PARADIGM

# 3 Dominant Themes of Global Culture

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- Consumerism
- Secularism
- Relativism

# Consumerism

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- *In the 21st century's globalized economy, consumerism has become a noticeable part of the culture.*
  - Paul James, [Globalizing Consumption](#) 2012
- *We have witnessed a shift away from values of community, spirituality, and integrity, and toward competition, materialism and disconnection.*
  - Madalene Levine, [Challenging a Culture of Affluence](#) 2007

# Consumerism

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- *The success of the consumerist cultural ideology can be witnessed all around the world. As a general trend, regular consumers seek to emulate those who are above them in the social hierarchy. The poor strive to imitate the wealthy and the wealthy imitate celebrities and other icons.*
- Wikipedia: Consumerism 2019

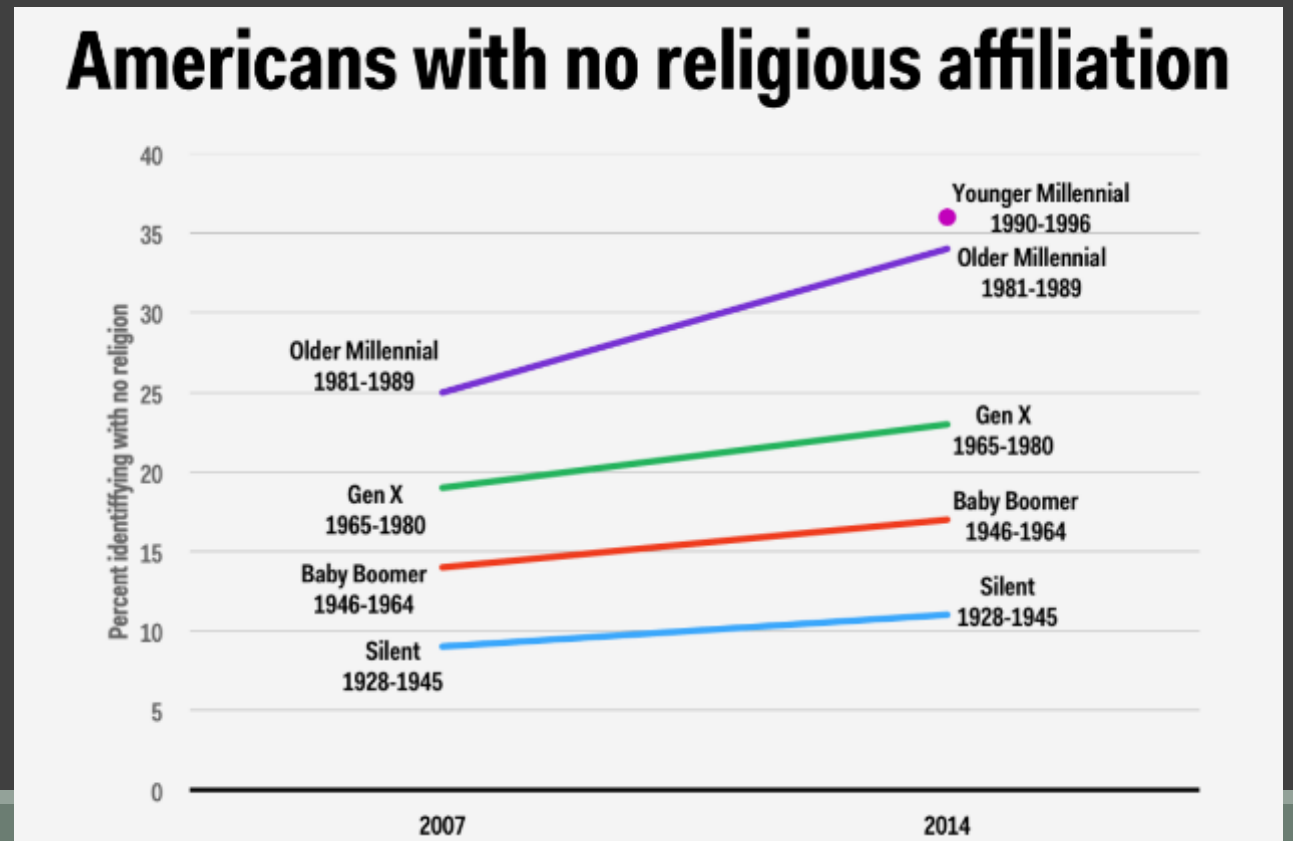


# Luanda, Angola



# Secularism

- The Growth of the “Nones” -- No religious affiliation
- The younger the generation, the less the religious affiliation.
- **What will the impact of this trend be on African youth?**



# Relativism

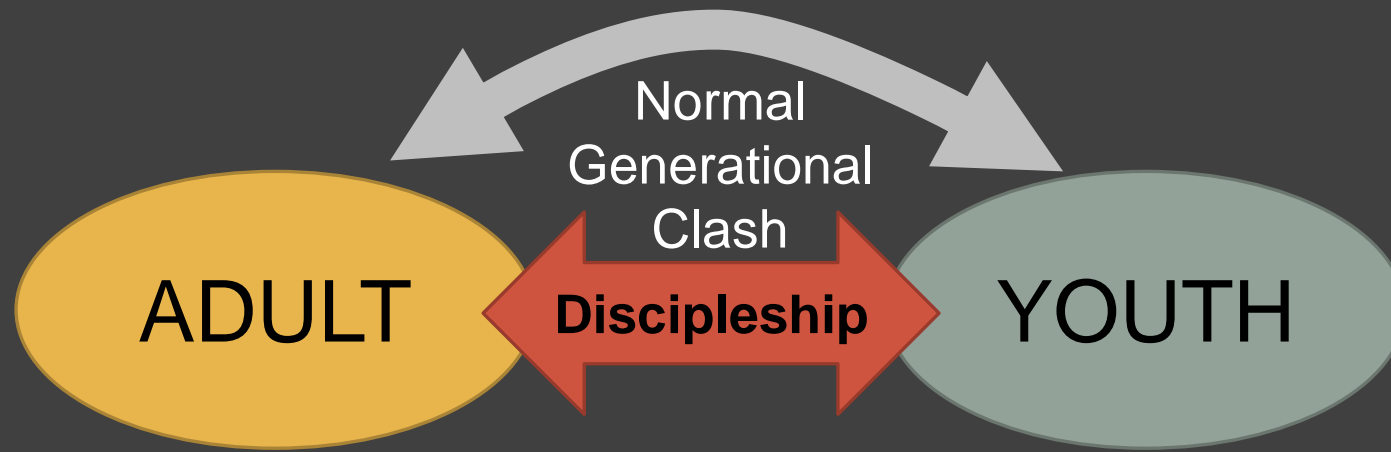
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- **New Post-Modern Understandings of Truth and Freedom**
- **TRUTH means...**
  - Whatever works for me.
  - It is not an absolute that must be adhered to.
- **FREEDOM means...**
  - I am FREE to be whomever I want to be and to do whatever I want to do.
  - I am FREE to choose my own set of moral standards. I therefore should be given the RIGHT to do so.
  - The only limits that I should have on me is that of not hurting someone else.



Youth Population Explosion  
+  
Technology Access Revolution  
+  
Impact of Global Culture  
=  
NEW MORAL PARADIGM

Past  
Reality



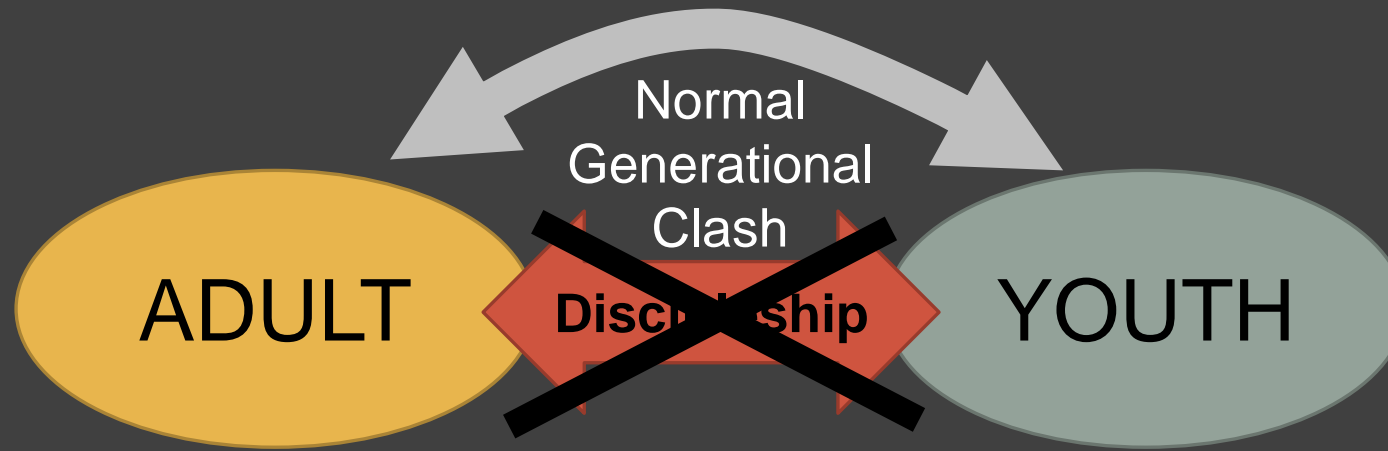
## Moral Paradigm

Truth is Absolute / Sense of Guilt for Sin / Meanings are Clear

### Discipleship Based on Assumptions:

- Similar moral understanding
- Respect for authority based on experience
  - Accepted rules of reason and logic

Present  
Reality



Moral Paradigm

Absolute Truth / Guilty of Sin /  
Meanings are Clear

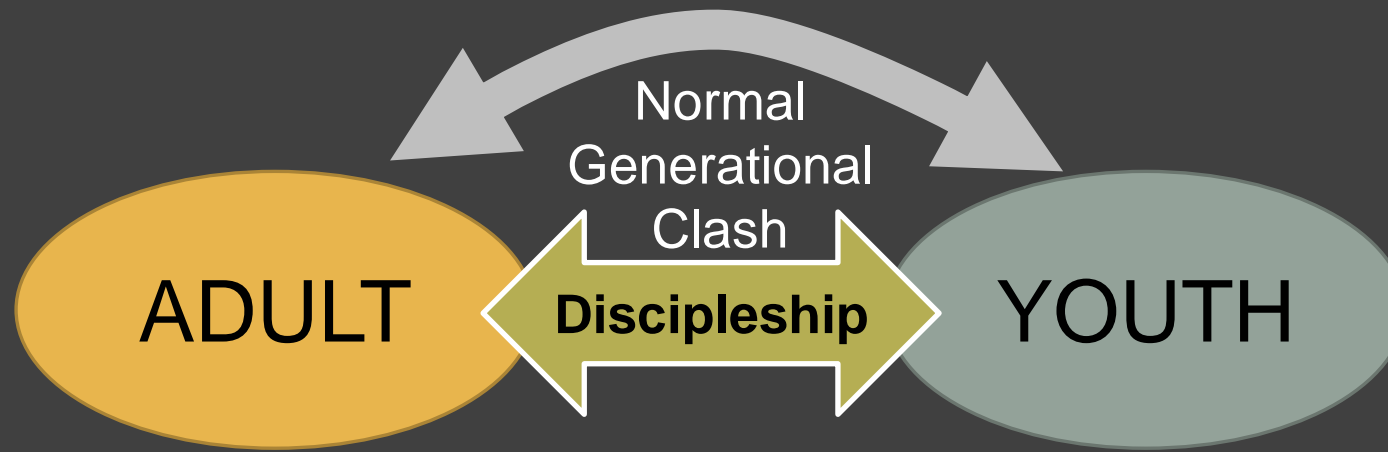
Moral Relativism

Relative Truth / No Sin-No Guilt /  
Meanings need Interpretation

~~Discipleship Based on Assumptions:~~

- ~~• Similar moral understanding~~
- ~~• Respect for authority based on experience~~
  - ~~• Accepted rules of reason and logic~~

Present  
Reality



Moral Foundation

Absolute Truth / Guilty of Sin /  
Meanings are Clear

Moral Relativism

Relative Truth / No Sin-No Guilt /  
Meanings need Interpretation

**Discipleship must be Responsive to Contemporary  
Experience and Worldview of Youth**

- Christianity that is relevant and compelling
- Theology that answers fundamental questions
  - Gospel that is wholistic Good News

# 3 Big Questions

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- **WHY** are we facing a brand-new challenge in discipling African young people?
- **WHAT** has changed in how young people view discipleship?
- **HOW** can we design a successful discipleship model for the youth of tomorrow?



# 3 Big Questions

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- **WHY** are we facing a brand-new challenge in discipling African young people?
- **WHAT** has changed in how young people view discipleship?

1. Primary life influence coming less and less from formal instructional, church-type settings.
2. Instead, lives shaped by 24-7, organic interaction with friends and social media.

# Traditional youth meetings & rallies are still having important impact, but. . .

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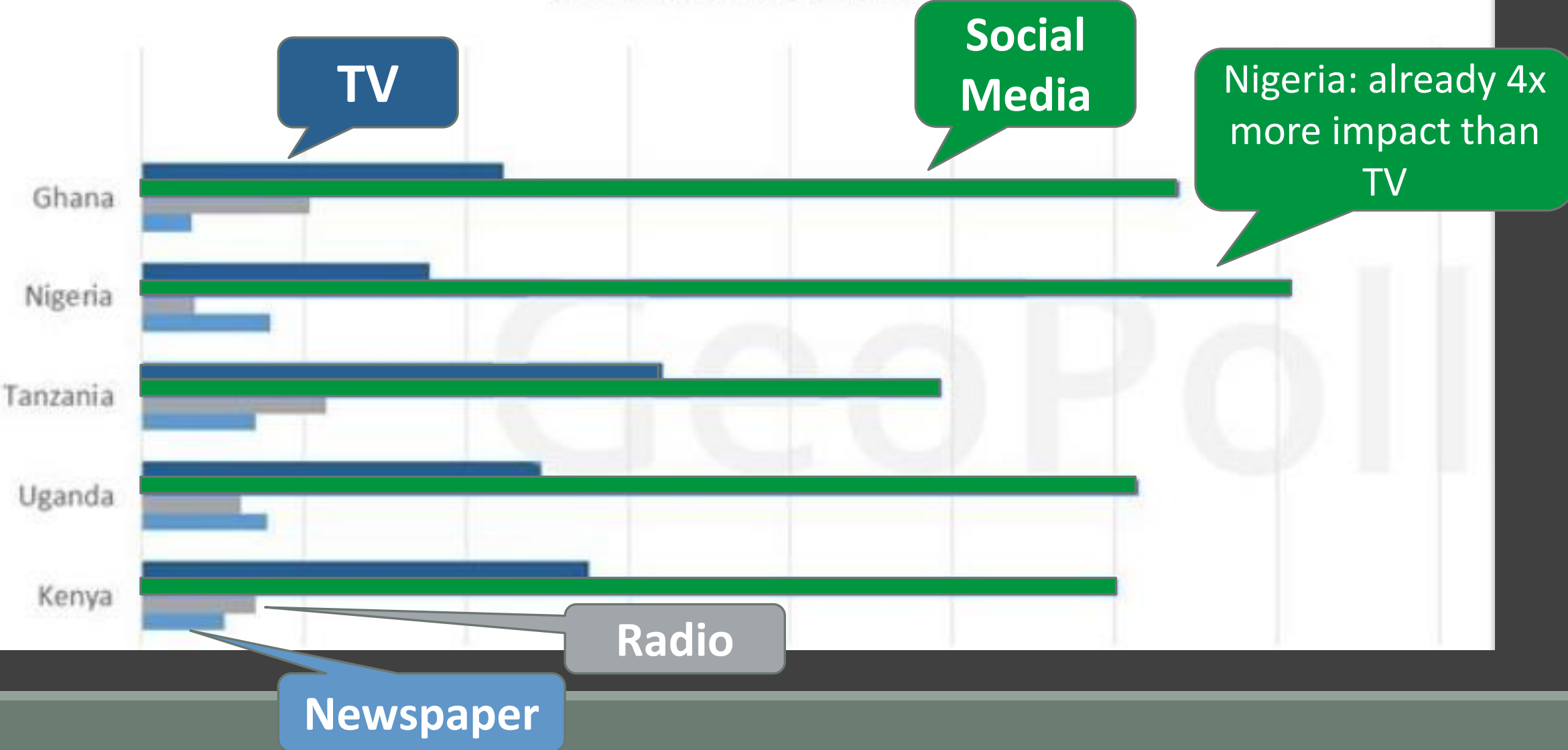


# What will have the greatest impact on the next generation?

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# Social Media is the primary source of news & information for African Millennials



# Question

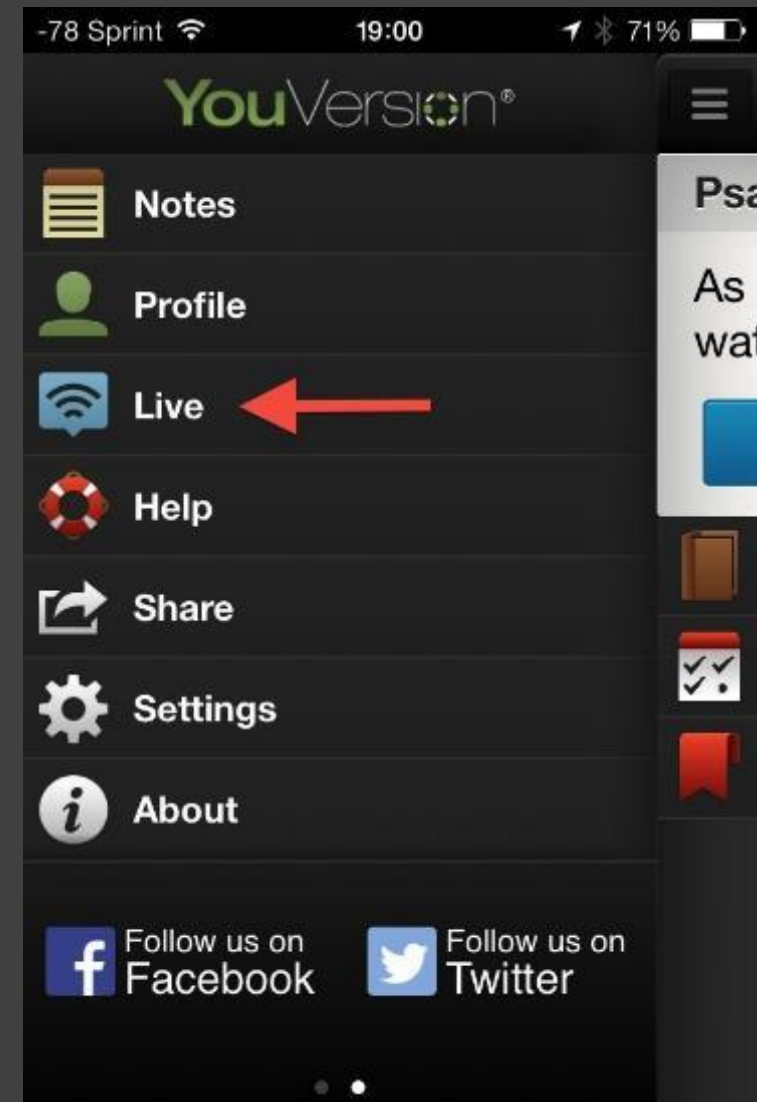
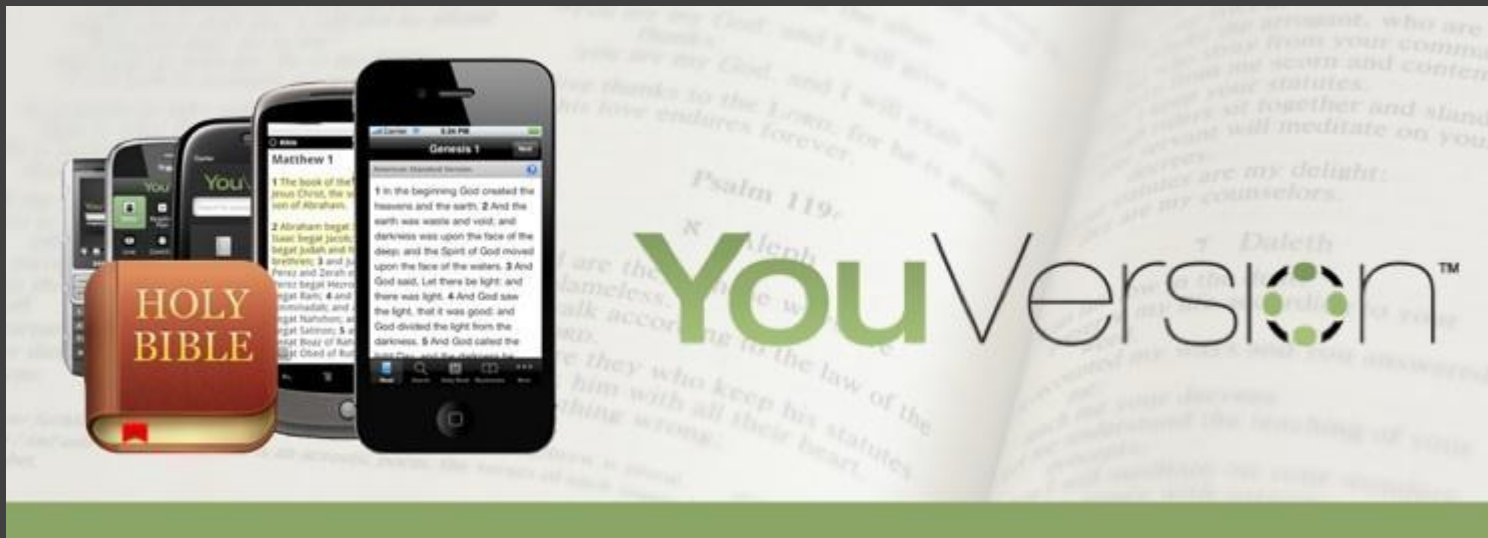
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- How well is the church prepared to expand discipleship methods to include technology?
- What are some positive ways to use technology and social media for discipleship?
- Check out these possibilities. . .

# Most Popular Bible Apps for Youth

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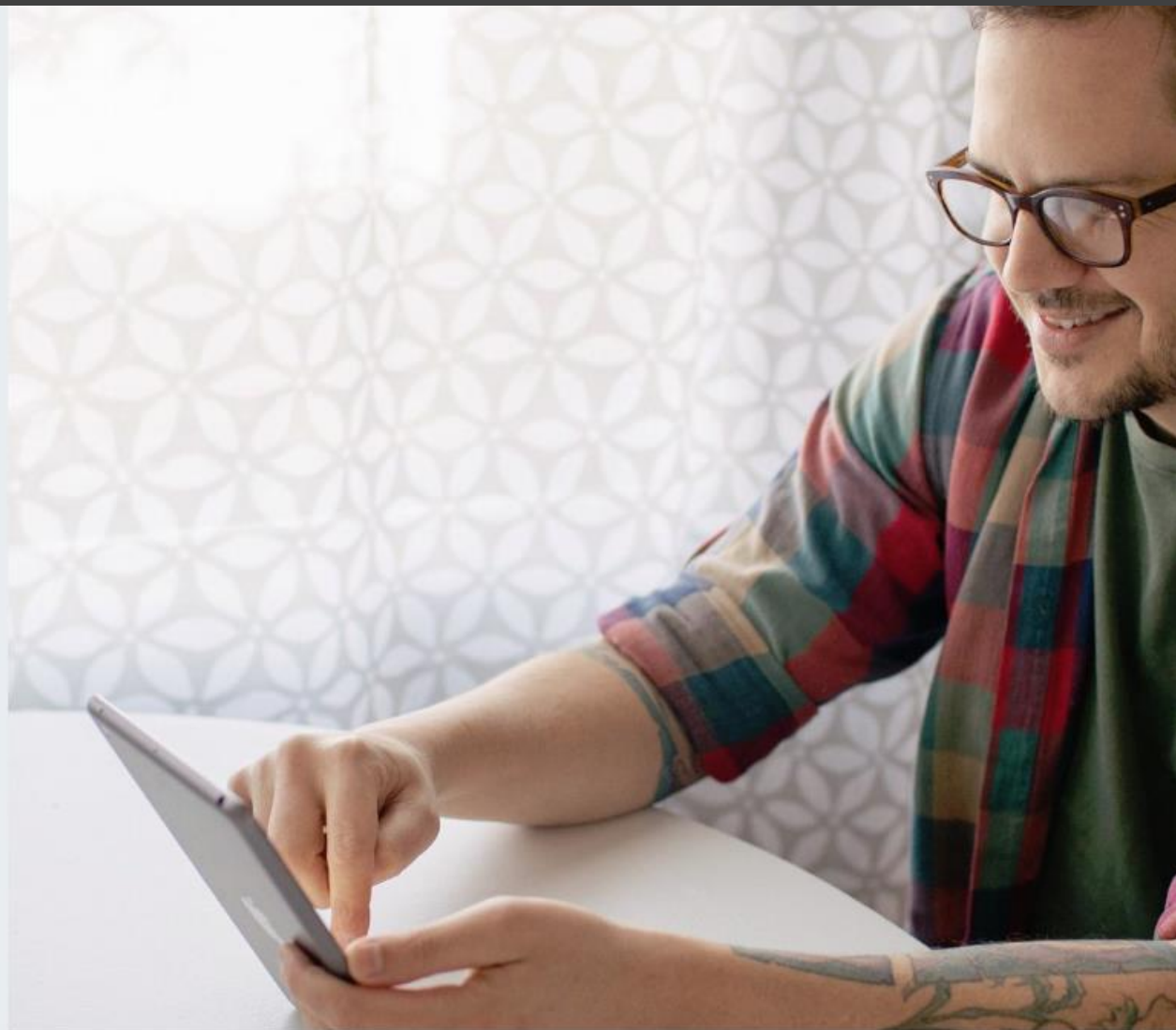
- YouVersion
- Bible.IS / Faith Comes By Hearing
- The Bible Project
- Streetlight Bible





The Bible App's interface is available in more than 50 languages, allowing users to:

Easily **Share** Bible passages on social media, in texts, or via email.



**Bible.is**  
Read. Listen. See.

Experience the Word of God Like Never  
Before. Free.

Go to the Bible

Download the App



**Read.**

Bible.is makes it easy for you to read, study, and share God's Word with friends and family around the globe.

**Listen.**

Hear the Bible brought to life in high quality, dramatized audio in hundreds of languages at home, church, or on the go.

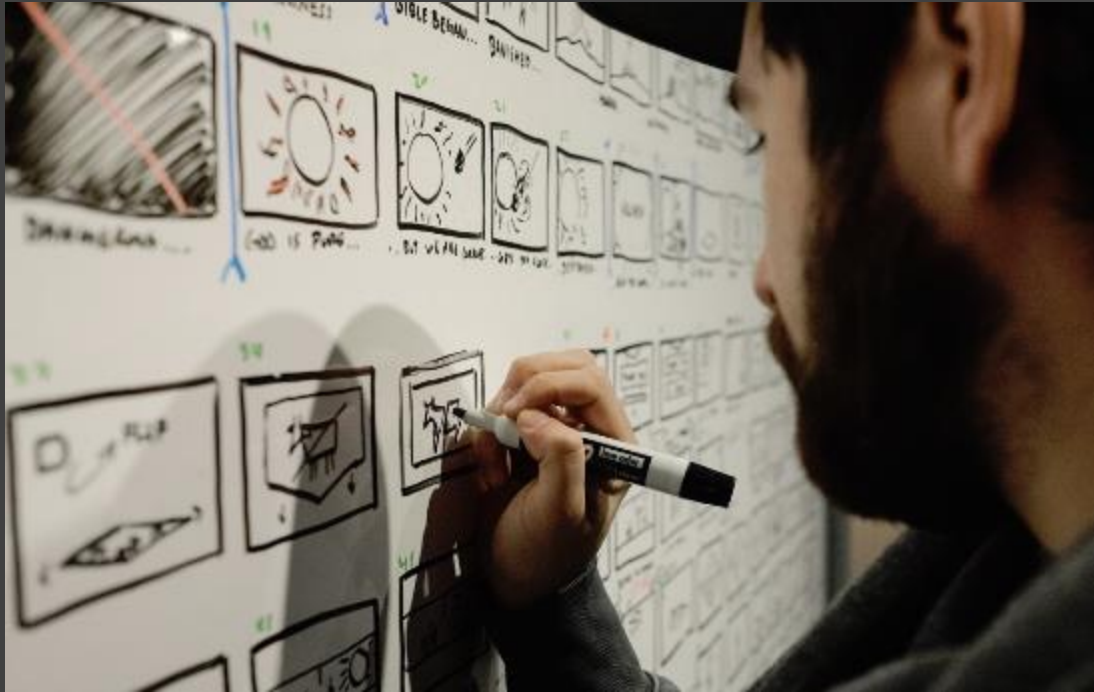
**See.**

With JESUS Film integration, seeing Scripture come to life gives you a truly immersive Bible experience like never before.

**Tap into 1,800+ Languages.**

**Making the Word of God Accessible to All.**

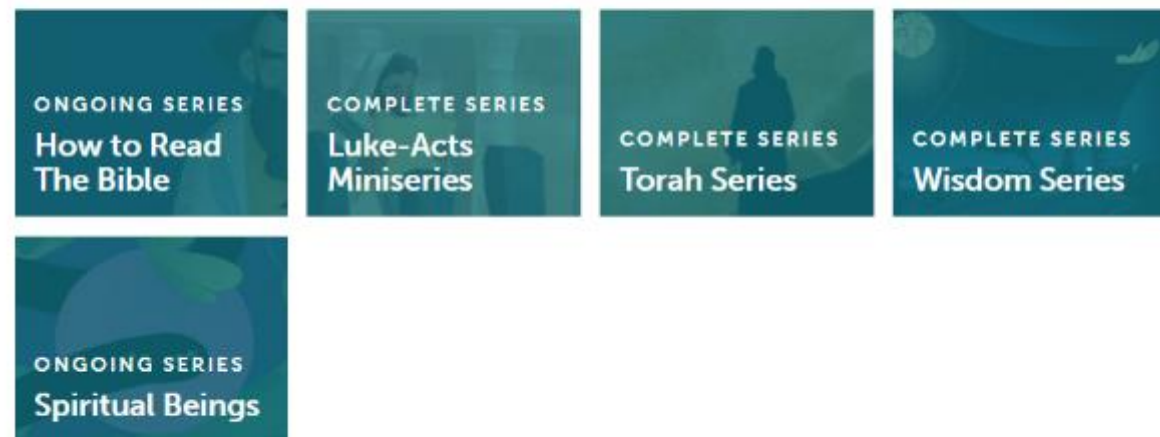
Together with the ministry of **Faith Comes By Hearing**, Bible.is provides a vast library of Bible translations to bring God's church together making disciples from every nation, tribe, language, and people with the tools and technology of today.





## Series

Check out our flagship series that showcase different Biblical books from Genesis to Acts, and even a how-to-read series aimed at helping you see the Bible as one unified story that leads to Jesus.



## Themes

This fully animated series traces key biblical themes from their first appearance through the entire narrative of the Bible.



## Word Study

Explore key biblical words in both Hebrew and Greek to gain a better understanding of biblical language.



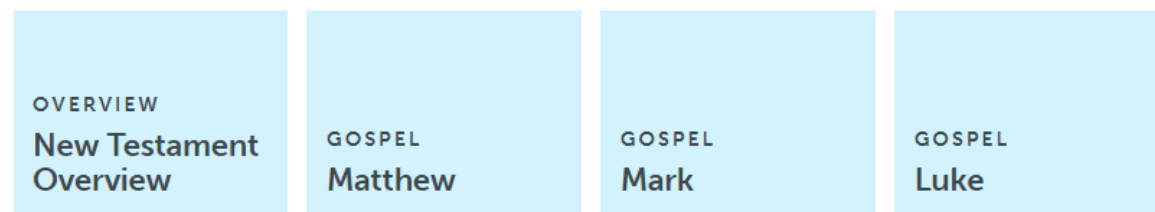
## Old Testament

We want you to read through the bible without getting lost or giving up. We provide free videos and resources for every book of the Old Testament that outlines its structure and design and how it fits into the entire biblical story. Check out our overview video first to get started.



## New Testament

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**EARLY CHURCH HISTORIAN PAPERS**  
MARK COLLECTS FEELING WORDS

(JOHN) **MARK**, A CO-WRITER OF **PETER** AND **PAUL**  
(1 PETER 5:13) (COUSINS?)

THE ONLY TIME MARK TELLS YOU WHAT HE THINKS

HE HOPES TO INFLUENCE YOU BY SHOWING JESUS' A PEOPLE'S REACTIONS TO HIM

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD.

## ACT 1: GALILEE

**1-8a WHO IS JESUS?**

**BEHOLD, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOU TO PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**  
(ISAIAH 40:3)

**12:5** YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON

GOOD NIGHT! GOD'S KINGDOM HAS COME NEAR!

SUMMARY OF JESUS' MESSAGE:  
GOD'S REIGN OPERATES IN THE WORLD  
CONFRONTATION WITH EVIL  
WITNESSED BY LIVING PEOPLE  
GOD'S REIGN PRELUDE TO FOLLOWING JESUS

JESUS BRINGS GOD'S KINGDOM

BE HEALED!  
YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

AND GETS DIVERSE RESPONSES

WHO IS HE REALLY?

WHAT DO THESE PARABLES MEAN?

## ACT 2: "ON THE WAY"

**8b-10 WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR JESUS TO BE THE MESSIAH?**

CONVERSATION #1 (8:27-30)

SUFFERING SERVANT  
ISAIAH 53

VICTORIOUS KING! IMPERIAL ROMANS

YOU'RE THE MESSIAH!

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

FOLLOWING JESUS:  
- IS LIKE BEING  
- PEACE, RESISTING VIOLENCE & TRUST  
- ACTS OF SERVICE & LOVE

FOLLOWING JESUS (crossed out)

CONVERSATION #2 (9:30-37)

CONVERSATION #3 (10:32-45)

THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO BECOME A SERVANT & GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY (10:45)

**THIS IS MY BELOVED SON**

JUST LIKE GOD'S GLORY ON MT. SINAI

THE TEAR PROPHETS WHO SAW GOD ON MT. SINAI

JESUS THE EMBODIMENT OF GOD'S GLORY

THE GLORIOUS GOD SUFFERING FOR HIS PEOPLE

MOSES (EXODUS 33)

ELIJAH (2 KINGS 17)

## ACT 3: JERUSALEM

**11-16 HOW JESUS BECOMES KING**

JESUS' ROYAL ENTRY

JESUS ASSERTS HIS AUTHORITY OVER THE TEMPLE

JESUS CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S LEADERS

PREDICTION OF JERUSALEM'S DOWNFALL

THE CITY & TEMPLE WILL BE DESTROYED WITHIN A GENERATION

THE DISCIPLES WILL BE PERSECUTED

JESUS WILL COME BACK

THE LAST SUPPER

OLD MEANING: LIBERATION FROM SLAVERY TO DEATH

NEW MEANING: LIBERATION FROM SIN & DEATH TO THE DEATH OF THE PRESENT

**DARKNESS**

THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD!

FIRST PERSON IN THE STORY TO GRASP JESUS' IDENTITY

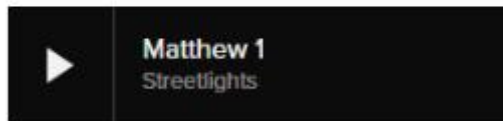
THE CRUCIFIED SON OF GOD IS THE MESSIAH

JESUS ISN'T HERE! HE'S RISEN FROM THE DEAD & WILL MEET YOU UP IN GALILEE!

THEY FLED FROM THE TOMB IN TERROR, TELLING NO ONE, FOR THEY WERE AFRAID.

THE END!





Listen to the entire New Testament Audio Bible and interact with all of Streetlights' teaching, films and other creative communication tools on the Streetlights App. Available for iOS + Android mobile devices.





### **Our Vision:**

Jesus - The Light of the World - seen, understood and loved now & by future generations.

### **Who We Are & Our Task:**

We are a ministry of Creative Communicators called to intentionally engage global urban culture - primarily youth and young adults - with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by producing, translating, teaching and proclaiming God's Word so all can understand. Our identity & call are founded on the belief that God's Word is transformational and needs to be accessible and understandable to all people.

### **Our Mission:**

"Unfold God's Word, So All Can Understand"

## MULTIPLYING GOSPEL COMMUNICATORS

It is a passion of our team to mobilize and disciple while we produce and proclaim. We want to mobilize Gospel communicators locally, nationally, and globally so that the reach of Christ goes beyond our staff.



Daniel Steele (Portland, Or)



Ohmega Watts (New York, NY)



Skrip (Chicago, IL)

# Question:

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- How should we in Africa start using positive apps and Social Media to help disciple our young people?

# 3 Big Questions

- **WHY** are we facing a brain drain of African young people?
- **WHAT** has changed in how we do discipleship?
- **HOW** can we design a successful discipleship model for the youth of tomorrow?

Not a comprehensive curriculum, but a framework in which other existing discipleship courses can fit.

A model based on how to become God's faithful steward.

# Steward Model of Discipleship Offers. . .

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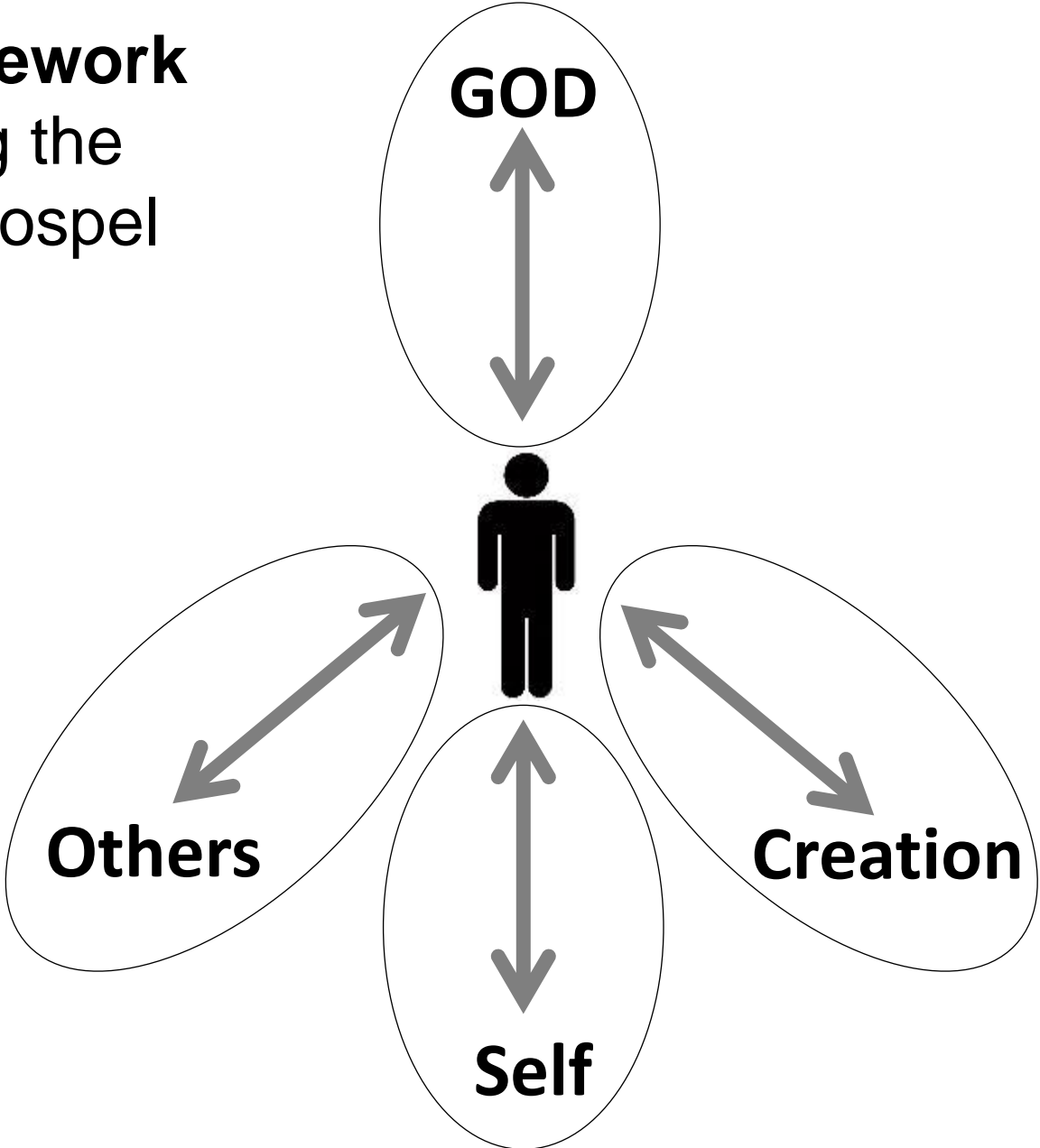


- CONTENT: A framework for teaching a wholistic Gospel
- METHOD: A coaching approach that produces personal ownership of God's Truth



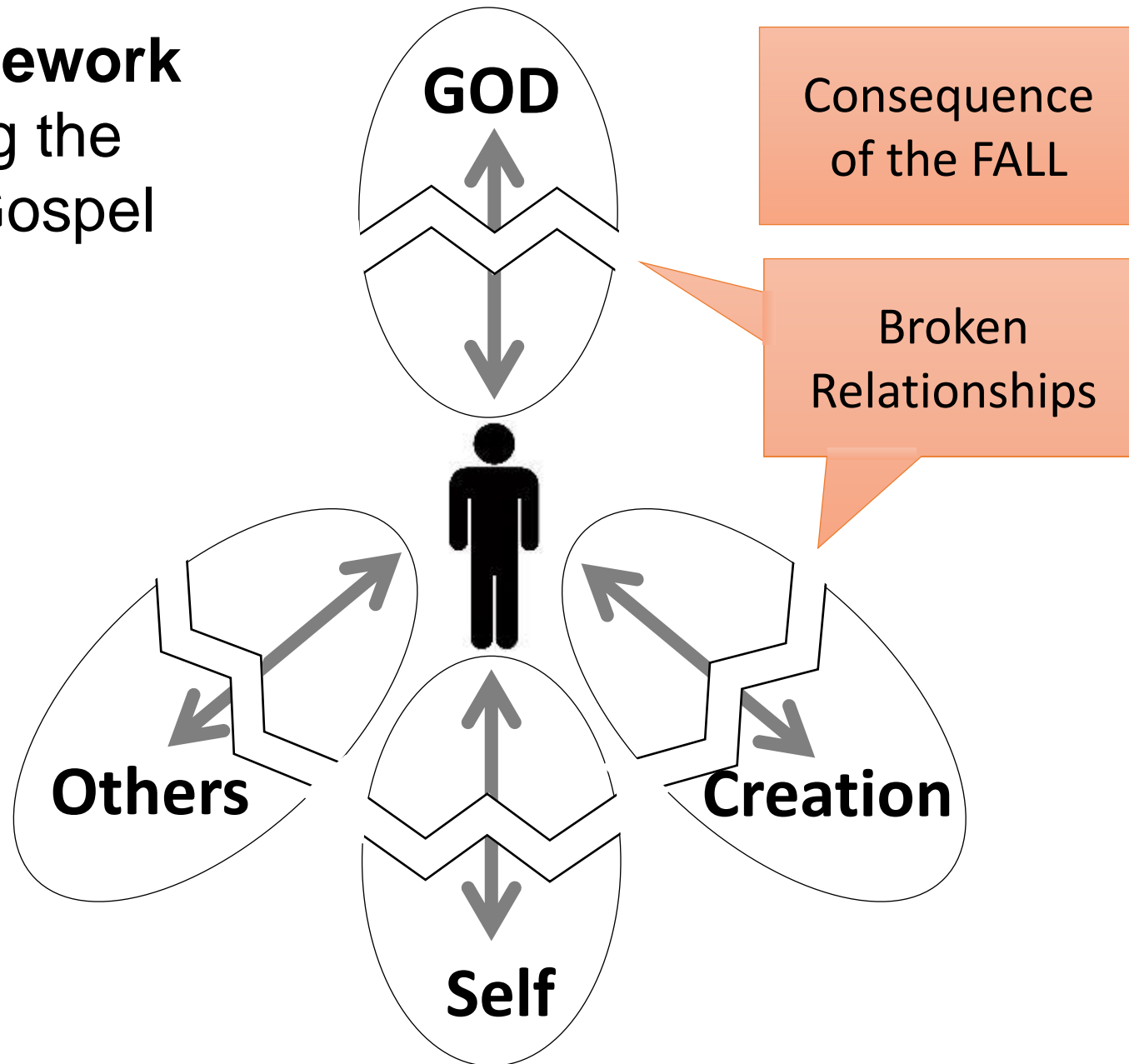
# Theology Framework

Understanding the  
Impact of the Gospel



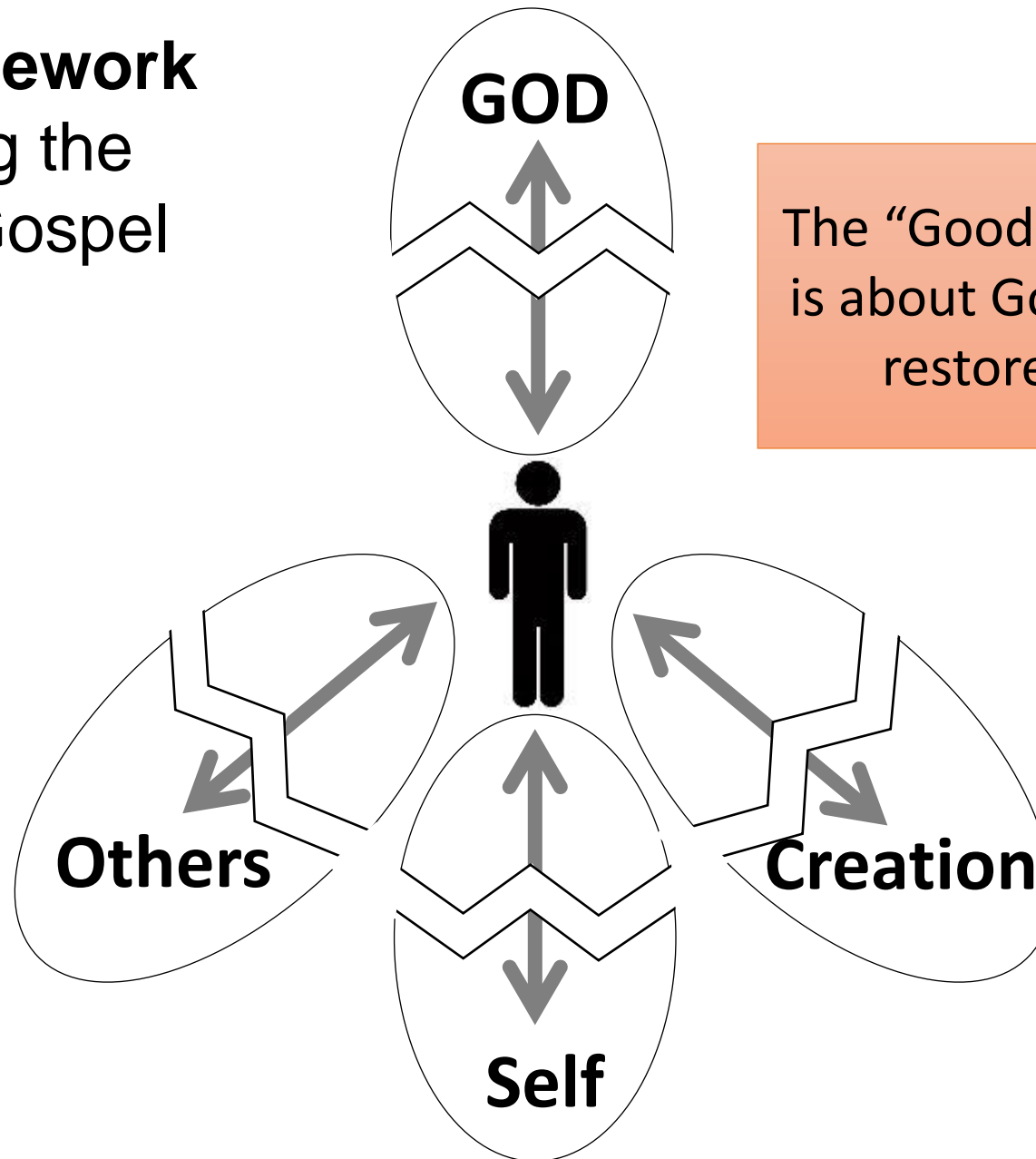
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# Theology Framework

Understanding the  
Impact of the Gospel



The “Good News” of the Gospel  
is about God’s gift of grace that  
restores what is broken

# Theology Framework

Understanding the Impact of the Gospel

Dualism

Spiritual

Material

GOD

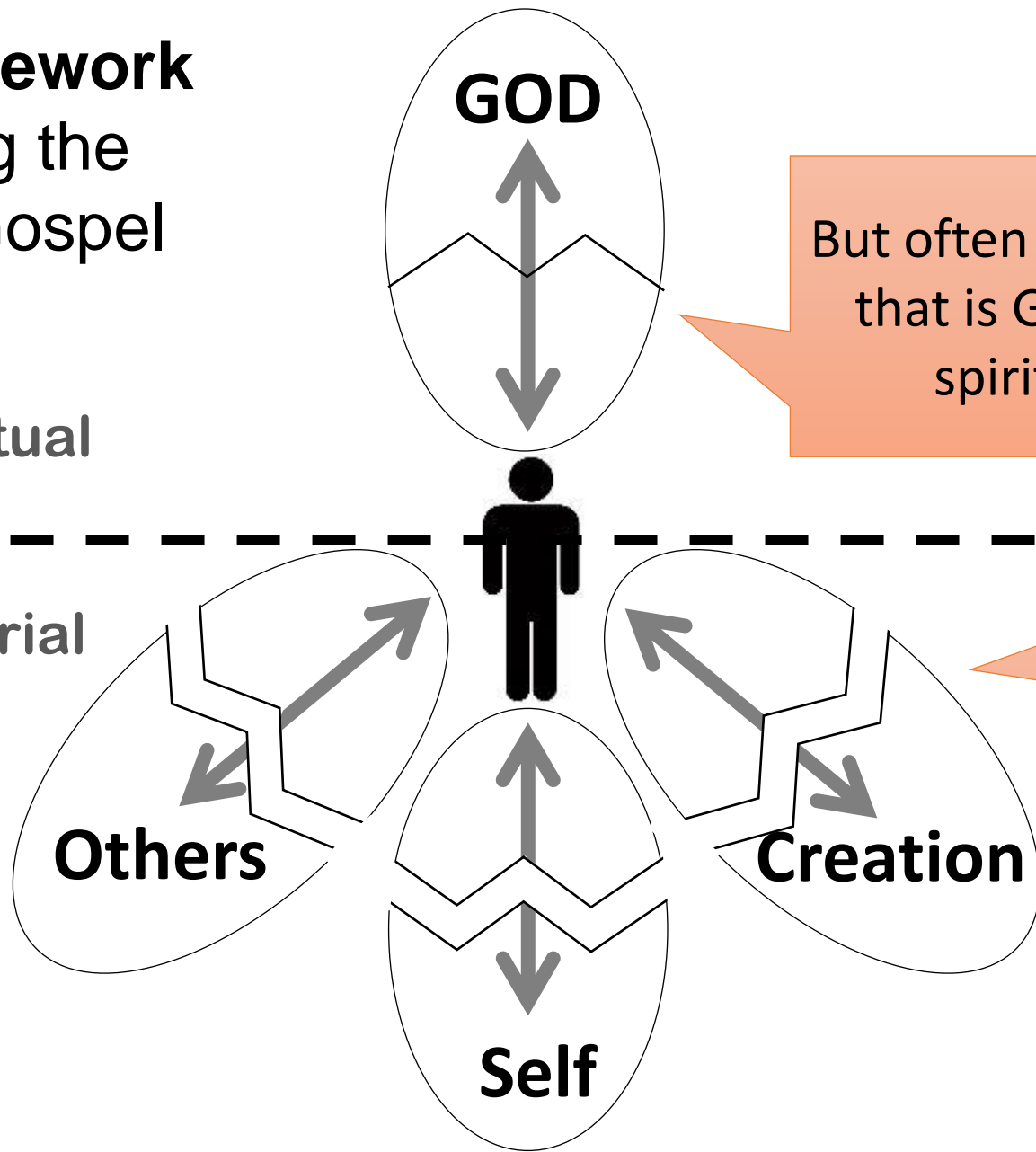
Others

Self

Creation

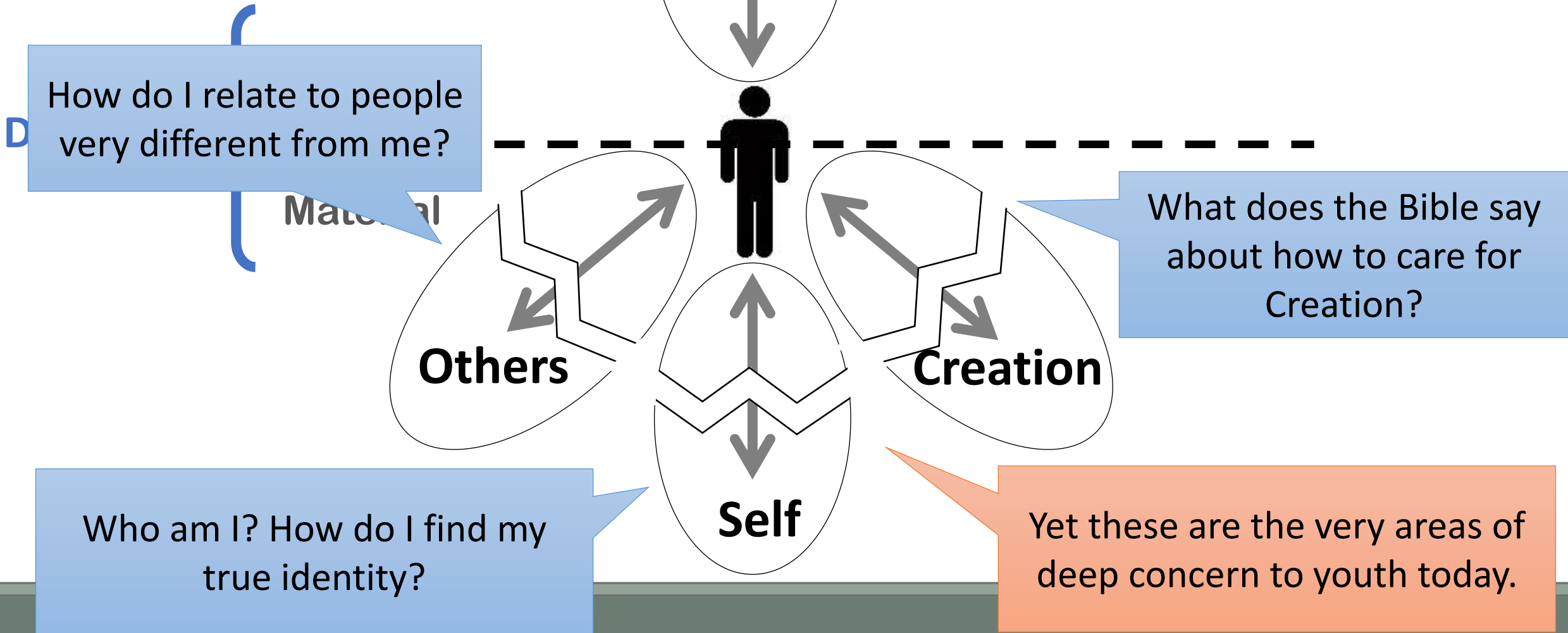
But often we present a Gospel that is Good News only for spiritual restoration

Our Christian faith does not always address the other relationships.



# Theology Framework

Understanding the Impact of the Gospel

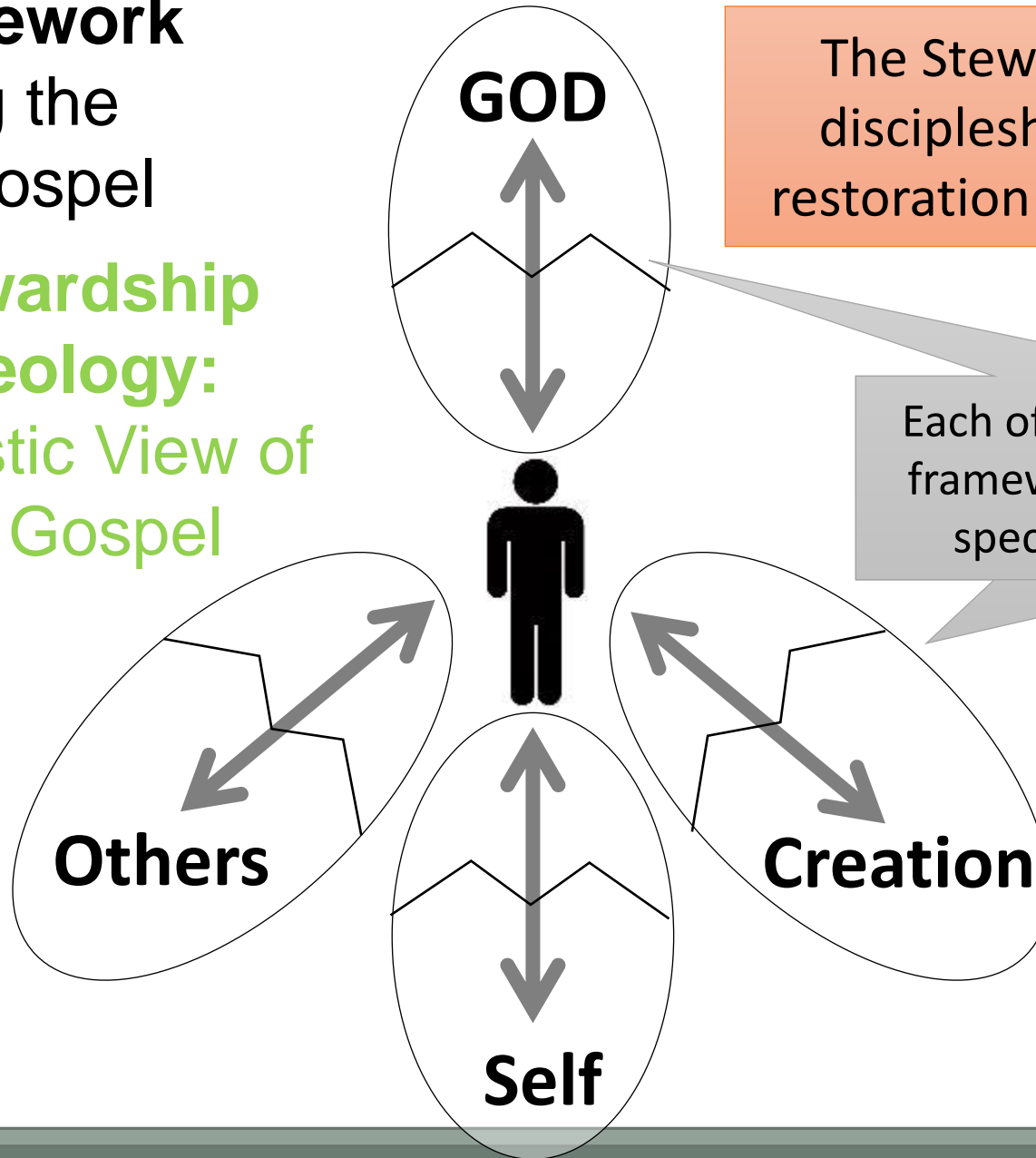




# Theology Framework

Understanding the Impact of the Gospel

**Stewardship  
Theology:  
Wholistic View of  
the Gospel**



The Steward perspective offers discipleship that teaches about restoration in all dimensions of life.

Each of these relationships provides a framework for discipling youth about specific areas of spiritual growth

# Steward Model of Discipleship Offers. . .

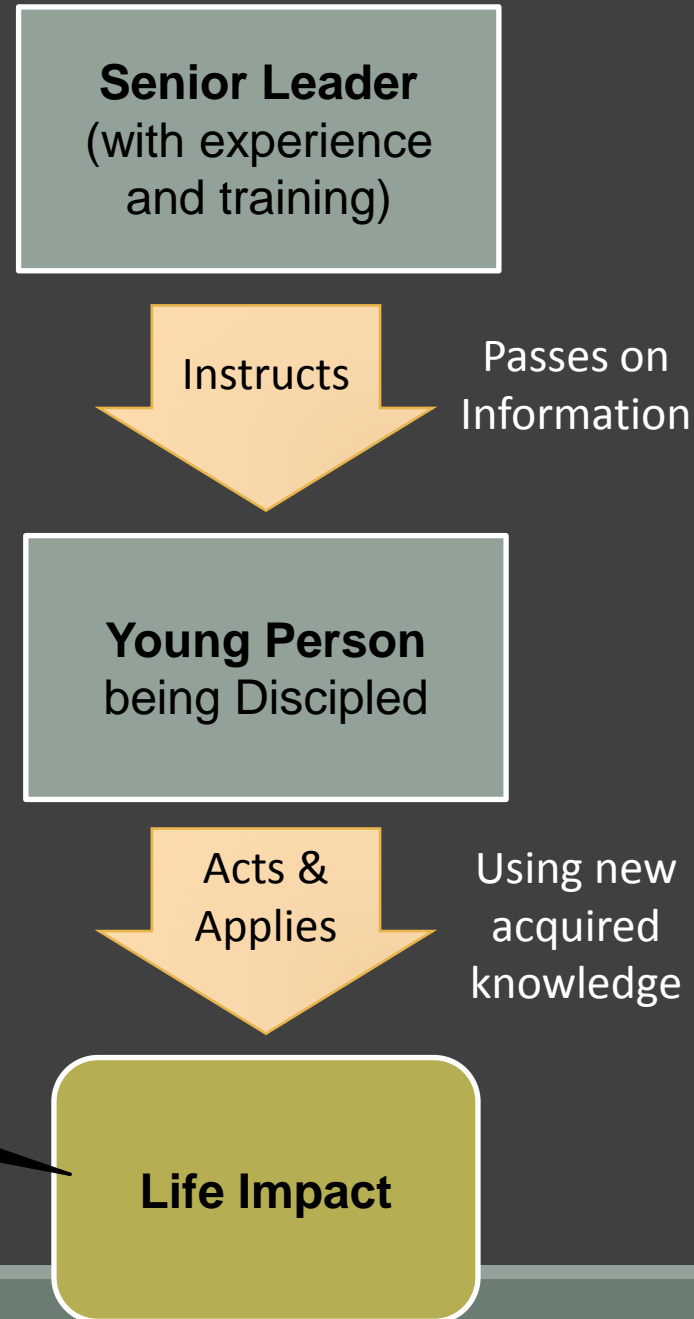
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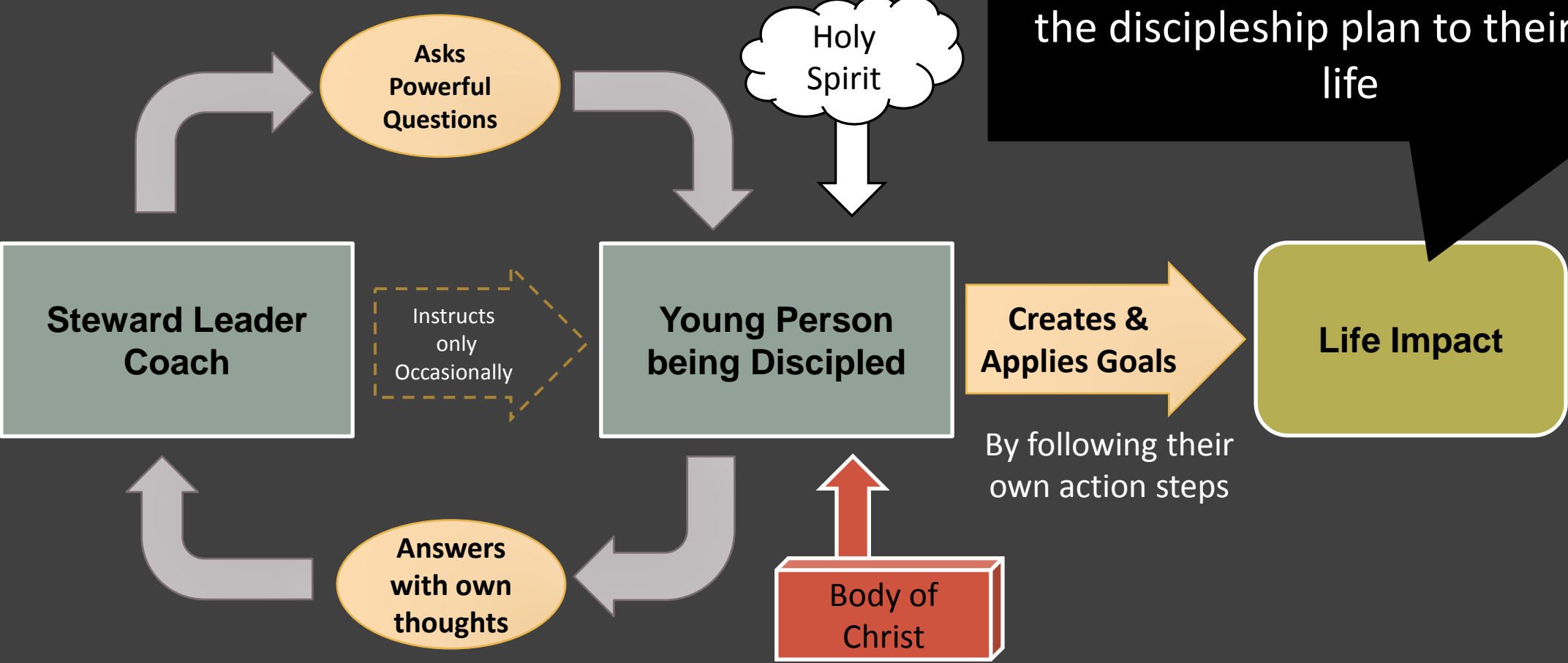
# Method: Instructional Trainer

Potential Problem: Acquired knowledge is not their own. Top-down training depends on level of respect for instructor. Often, the young person does not “own” the new information and is only committed to what they feel is relevant.



# Method: Steward Coaching

Positive: Person believes in and personally owns the need to apply the discipleship plan to their own life



# Question:

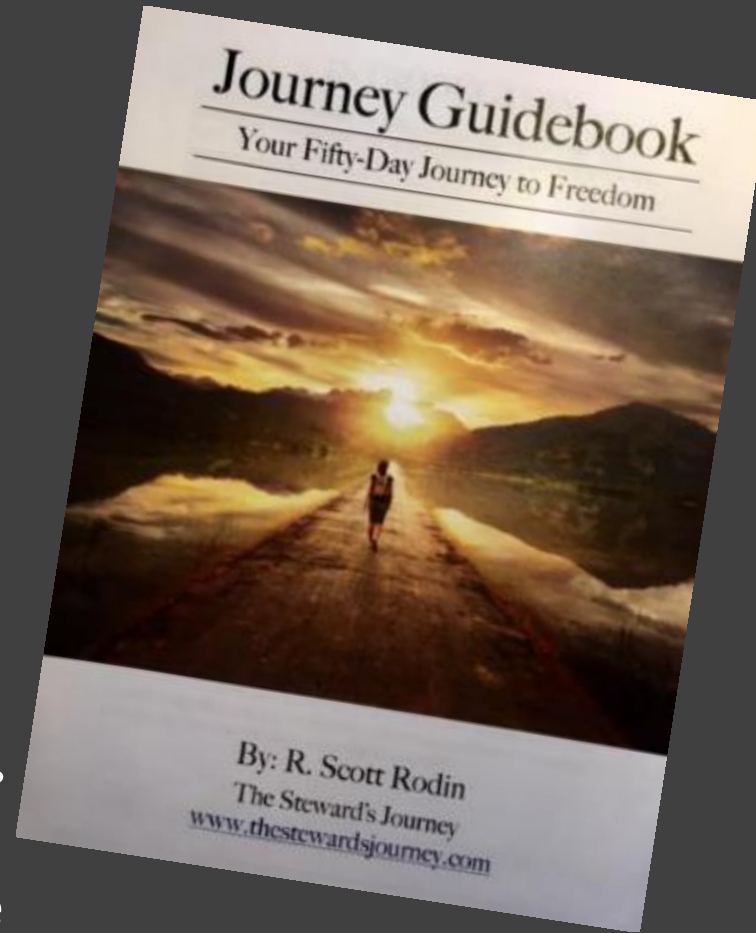
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- How can we access Steward Leader training as a discipleship tool for African young people?



Dr. Scott Rodin

- Author of *The Steward Leader*
- Founder of the new ministry *The Steward's Journey*
- Passionate about helping people find freedom & joy through becoming Faithful Stewards
- Personal friend



# The Africa Steward Leader Initiative




# Africa Steward Leader Initiative

## 7 KEYS TO BECOMING A FAITHFUL STEWARD LEADER

**AT HOME - AT WORK - IN MINISTRY**

*A special two-day conference on Steward Leadership taught by a veteran teacher/trainer with thirty-five year of ministry experience in Africa*

**You are invited to begin a journey that will revolutionize your life and ministry!**




**Come learn about:**

- The new worldview perspective that comes with being God's Steward
- The difference between a Servant Leader and a Steward Leader
- How a Faithful Steward commitment will impact all of life's relationships
- Seven major barriers in becoming a Faithful Steward and the keys that will unlock those barriers

**Jon Lewis – Teacher/Trainer**

Current Senior Associate with One Challenge International  
Former HAF pilot (DR Congo) and CEO of Partners International  
Board Member and designated Africa trainer for *The Steward's Journey* ministry



**Event information:**

## THE AFRICAN STEWARD LEADER



### Introduction

**AFRICAN MINISTRY**

The ministry of Jesus Christ in Africa is a unique and exciting opportunity for the church to reach the hearts of the African people. This book is a practical guide for the church to become a faithful steward leader in Africa. It is a must-read for all those who are called to serve in Africa.

**AFRICAN CULTURE**

African culture is a rich and diverse heritage that has shaped the continent's identity. Understanding African culture is essential for the church to become a faithful steward leader in Africa. This book provides a comprehensive overview of African culture and its impact on the church.

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One to Two Day Seminars  
(English, French, and Portuguese)

Africa Steward Leader Guidebook  
(In process of being written now)

# AFRICA STEWARD LEADER INITIATIVE

*Helping men and women from the largest Christian continent learn to live as God's Faithful Stewards*

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What if in the next three years, you could help bring about. . .

**1 COURSE** on becoming a Faithful Steward specifically designed for an African context

**3 TRANSLATIONS** that make it accessible across all of Africa

**7 VIDEO TESTIMONIALS** by Africans sharing personal stewardship experience

**12 TWO-DAY WORKSHOPS** held in at least nine different African countries

**20 CERTIFIED STEWARD LEADER COACHES** equipped as trainers of trainers

**300+ AFRICAN CHURCH AND MINISTRY LEADERS** living as God's Faithful Stewards

For further interest and  
information contact:  
Jon Lewis

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EMAIL: [JONLEWIS23@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JONLEWIS23@GMAIL.COM)

WHATSAPP: +1 5099819871

# Discussion Questions

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- Do you agree with the premise that the forces shaping African youth culture today are creating a different moral paradigm than 20-30 years ago? Why or why not? Give some personal examples to back up your answer.
- Discuss the two mentoring models presented of 1) Instructional Trainer vs. 2) Stewardship Coach. What do you think are the pros and cons of each? Why do you think one or the other will have more impact on disciplining our current generation of African young people?