

# Caring For Teenagers

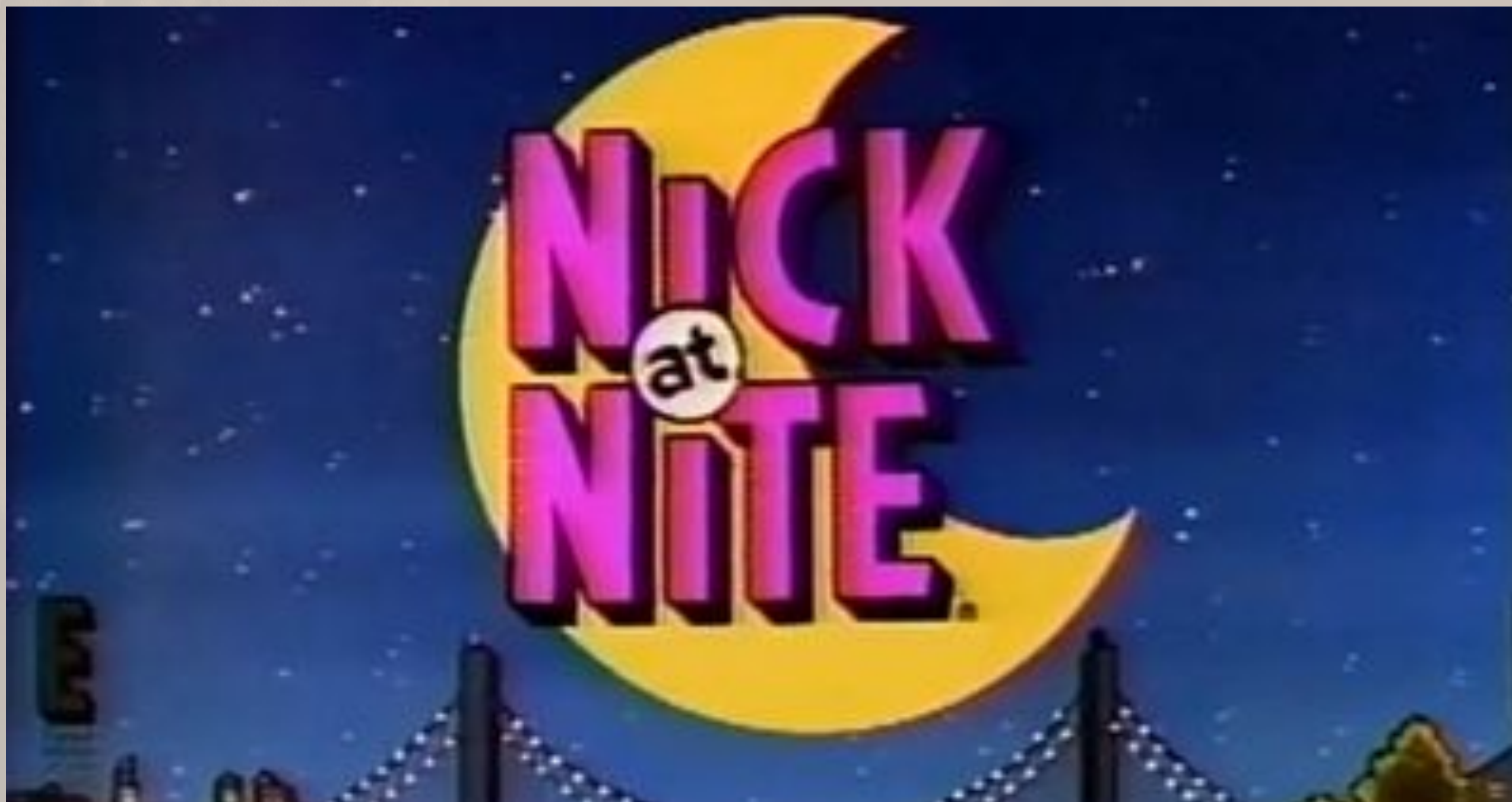






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If you want to influence the faith and future  
of future generations.....

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Pov: a 1990's bully  
transported to 2023

  
TikTok  
© 90skid4lyfe

"Hey dork face.."





# Gen Z

# 1995 - 2010

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# Gen Alpha

## 2010-2025

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# VABE

Values  
Assumptions  
Beliefs  
Expectations

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# VABE

Values  
Assumptions  
Beliefs  
Expectations



Younger Gen Z  
Older Gen Alpha



# VALUE

Highly Collaborative  
Flexibility  
Relevance  
Self-Care  
Security  
Identity

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# ASSUMPTIONS

Lazy

Zero Attention Span

Won't Work Hard

Consumed by Technology



# BELIEFS

More Progressive  
Take Action  
Extremely Vocal  
World View



# EXPECTATIONS

Learn from Experiences

Freedom

Flexibility

Diversity and Representation



# VABE

Values

Assumptions

Beliefs

Expectations

—

Gen Alpha



# VALUE

Digitally Dependent  
Authenticity  
Connectivity  
Inclusivity  
Creative Expression



# ASSUMPTIONS

Emotional  
Confident  
Highest Rate of Anxiety  
Demanding



# BELIEFS

Being Shaped by Polarized World  
Higher Value on Family  
Unchurched



# EXPECTATIONS

Learn Visually  
Early Adopters of AI  
Diversity and Representation  
Algorithm Will Shape Actions



V.A.B.E. is always changing

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CULTURE is changing and always will

We have to get GOOD at discovering and rediscovering the VABES of every incoming class



To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews.

To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win under the law



To those not having the law I became  
like one not having the law (though I am  
not free from God's law but am under  
Christ's law), so as to win those not  
having the law.



To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. Do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



To the GenZ's I became like a GenZ, to win the GenZ's.

To those who worry about the environment, I became like one who cares about the environment (though I myself am not a lover of paper straws), so as to win those who live with environmental anxiety.



To those who want justice for their friends, I  
became as one who wants justice for their  
friends (though I don't even know their  
friends), so as to win their hearts.

To the socially anxious and introverts I  
became introverted, to win the introverts.



I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly out-of-focus photograph of a person's lower body. They are wearing a white, long-sleeved button-down shirt tucked into brown, pleated trousers. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

# What's always true?

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# PHASE

A timeframe in a student's life  
when you can leverage distinct  
opportunities to influence their future



# MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Think like engineers

Engineers solve problems by  
connecting concepts so they  
work together



## 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Asking: Who Do I Like? Who Likes Me?

Need: Acceptance

Result: Gain Stability



7/8th Graders

Asking: Who am I?

Need: Affirmations

Result: Discover Uniqueness

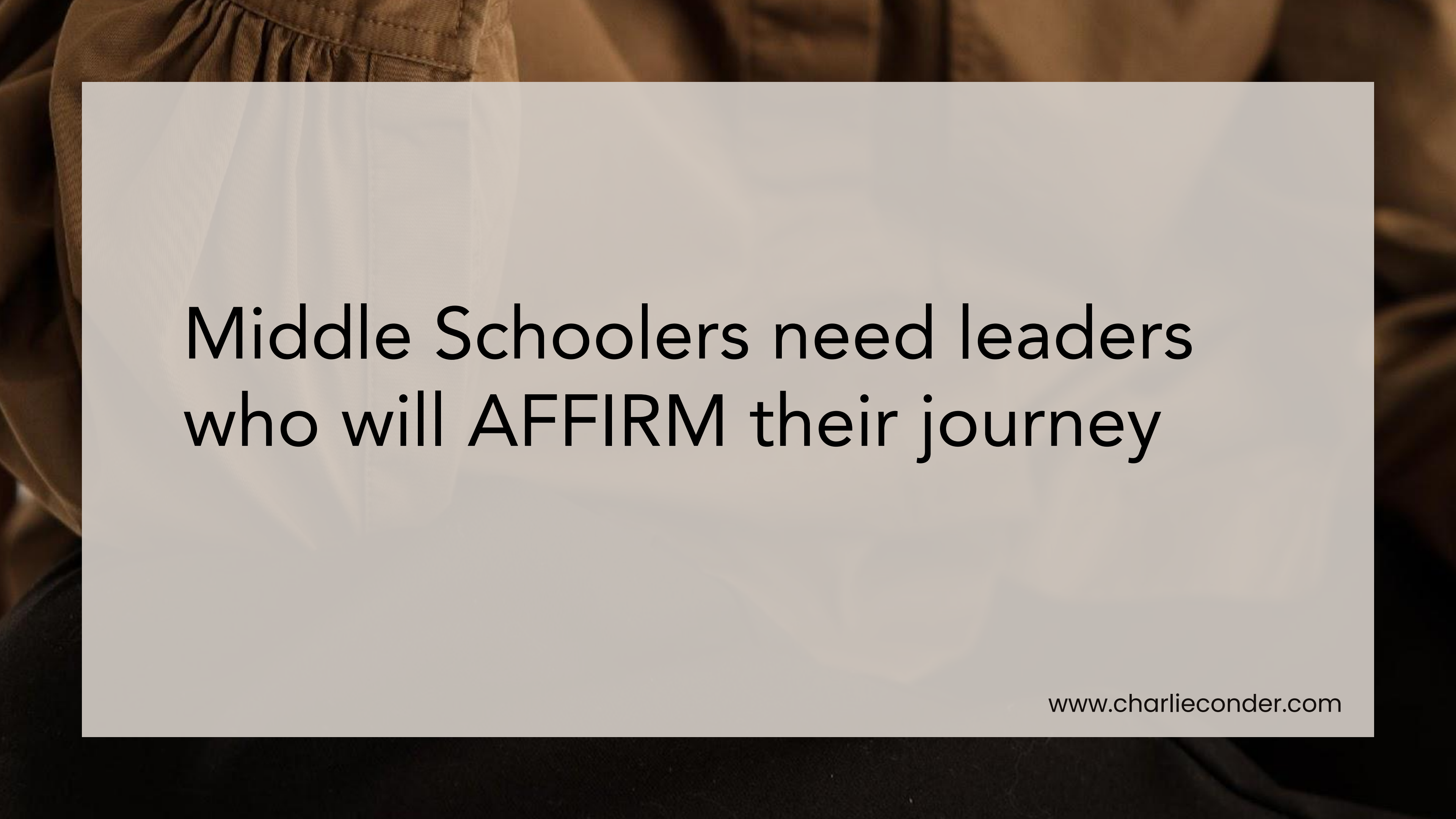


The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly out-of-focus photograph of a white piece of clothing, likely a pair of shorts or pajama bottoms, with a brown elastic waistband visible at the top. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a gentle texture on the fabric.

# What do they need from us?

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The background of the slide shows a close-up of a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing light blue denim jeans and white socks. The person is standing on a dark, textured surface. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the main text.

Middle Schoolers need leaders  
who will AFFIRM their journey

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# Gen Alpha

- Roughly 13 - 0 years old
- Technologically Integrated
- Diverse
- Globally Connected
- Spiritual
- Unique COVID-19 Reflections
- Feisty (Not Researched)



# HIGH SCHOOLERS

Think like philosophers

High Schoolers want to discover meaning  
and learn best by processing out loud



9th Graders

Asking: Where do I belong?

Need: Connection

Result: Community



10<sup>th</sup> Graders

Asking: Why should I believe?

Need: Adults who listen carefully

Result: Clarify Values



11<sup>th</sup> Graders

Asking: How can I matter?

Need: Opportunities to lead and  
serve

Result: Refine Skills



12th Graders

Asking: What will I do?

Need: Encourage experiences

Result: Create Vision

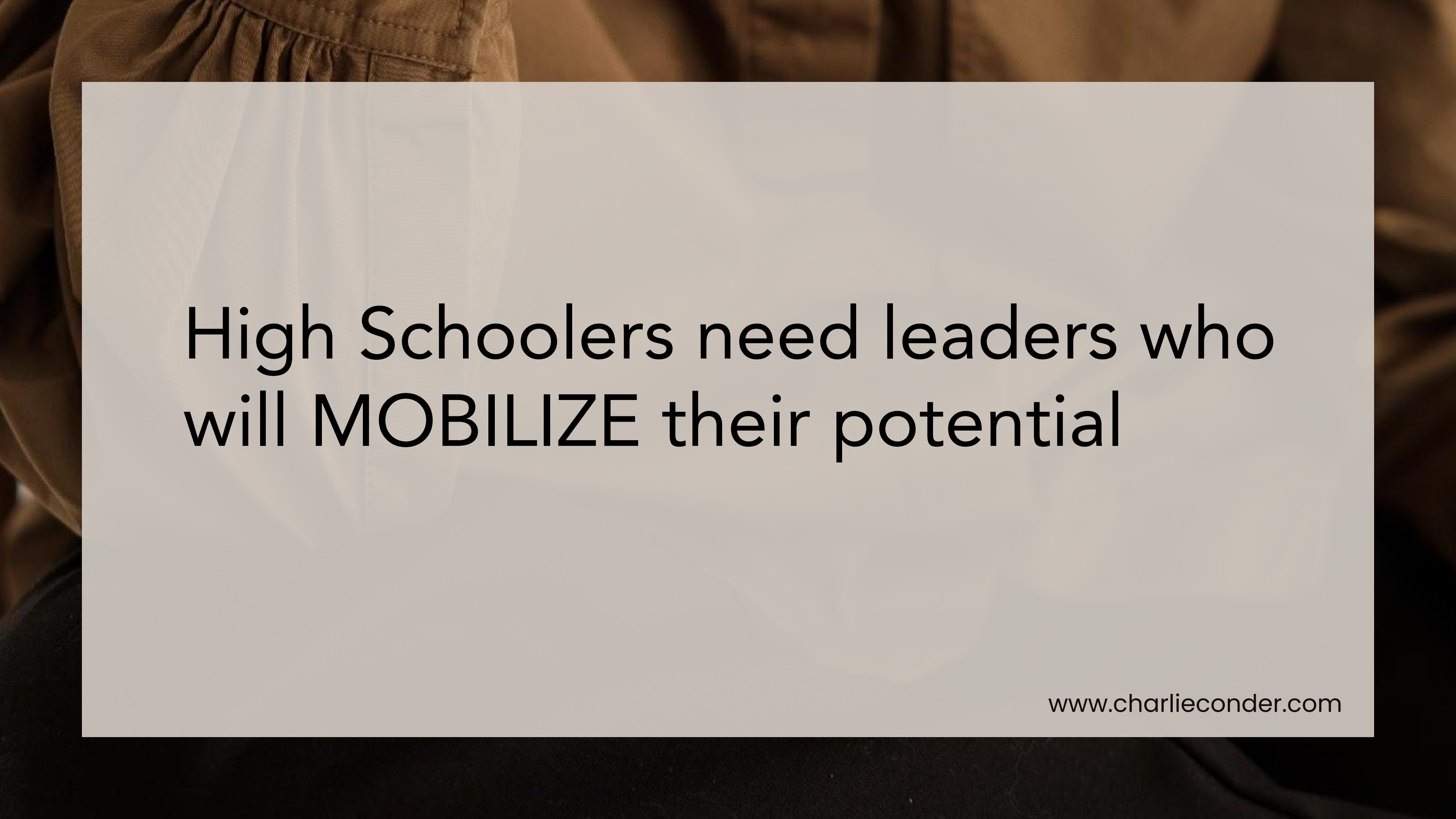


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# What do they need from us?

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High Schoolers need leaders who  
will **MOBILIZE** their potential

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# Gen Z

- Roughly 14 - 27 years old
- Recession marked
- Covid-19 Adolescence
- Digital Natives
- Stressed, Depressed, Anxious
- Passion for Social Issues
- Spiritual but Not Religious
- Identity Fluidity





# Why does this research matter?

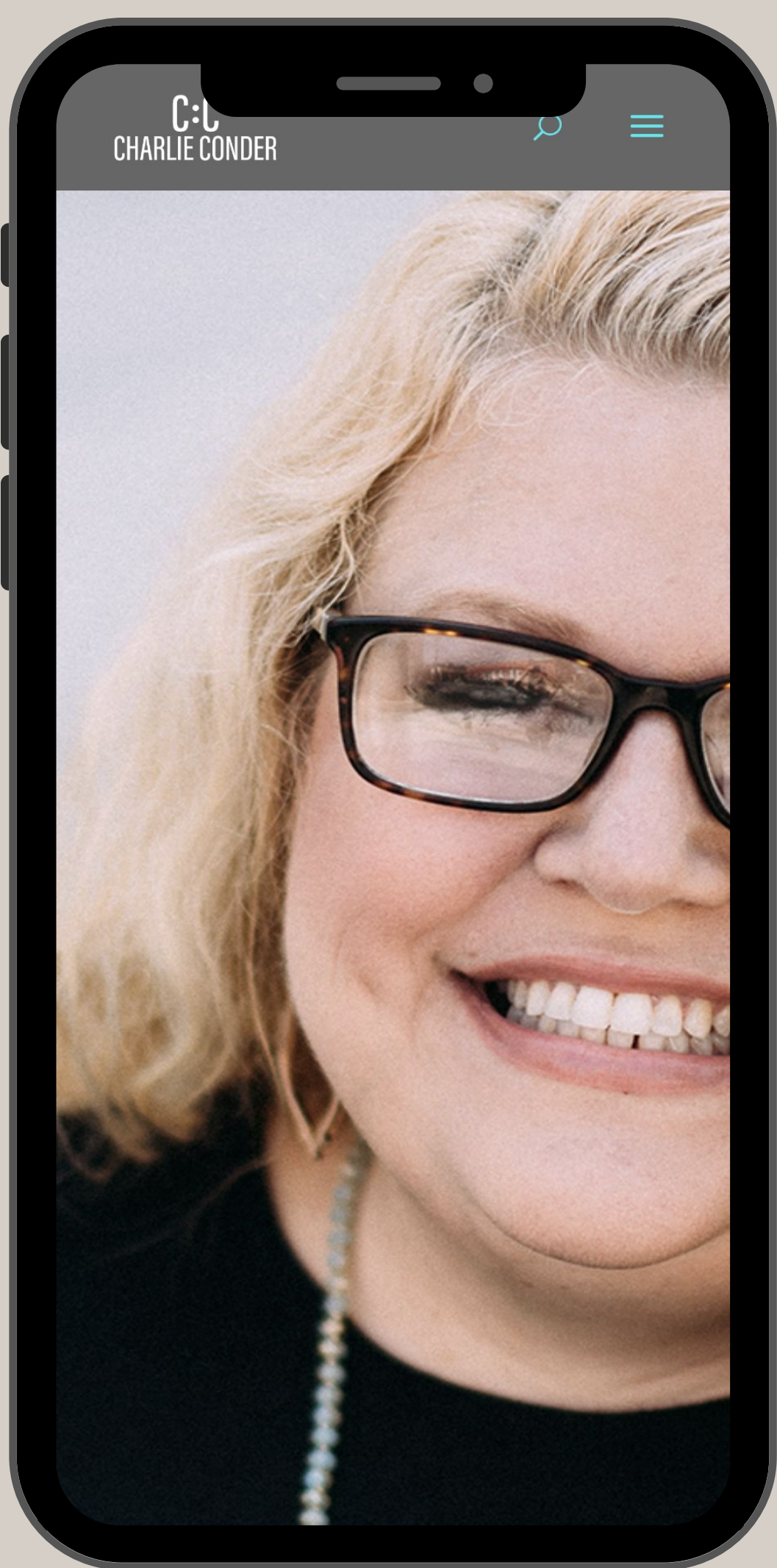
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What's changing culturally?

What's NOT changing but is true of  
this PHASE of development?





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# CONNECT WITH ME

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