

Jean M. Twenge, PhD
author of *Generation Me*

iGen



Why Today's
Super-Connected
Kids Are Growing Up
Less Rebellious, More
Tolerant, Less Happy—
and Completely
Unprepared for
Adulthood*



*and What That Means for the Rest of Us

Birth year time span of 4 generations

- Boomers (1946–1964)
- GenX (1964–1979)
- Millennials (1980–1994)
- iGen (1995–2012)

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“iGen is distinct from every previous generation in how its members spend their time, how they behave, and their attitudes toward religion, sexuality, and politics. They socialize in completely new ways, reject once sacred social taboos, and want different things from their lives and careers. They are obsessed with safety and fearful of their economic futures, and they have no patience with inequality based on gender, race, or sexual orientation.

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They are at the forefront of the worst mental health crisis in decades, with rates of teen suicide and depression skyrocketing since 2011. Contrary to the prevalent idea that children are growing up faster than previous generations did, iGen'ers are growing up more slowly: 18-year-olds now act like 15-year-olds used to, and 13-year-olds like 10-year-olds. Teens are physically safer than ever, yet they are more mentally vulnerable."

How to Make Life Work



WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

Proverbs 1:1-7 (NIV)

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

² for gaining wisdom and instruction;

for understanding words of insight;

³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,

doing what is right and just and fair;



Proverbs 1:1-7 (NIV)

⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—

⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—



Proverbs 1:1-7 (NIV)

⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.



Outline

1. Consider the need for wisdom
2. Experience the beginning of wisdom
3. Listen to the call of wisdom



1. Consider the need for wisdom

Proverbs 1:1-6



1. Consider the need for wisdom

A definition of wisdom

- “Wisdom is the ability to make godly choices in life.” (Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, p. 225)



1. Consider the need for wisdom

A definition of wisdom

- Biblical wisdom contains three essential levels: (1) the skill of living (practical), becoming a good person (ethical), and fearing God (theological). (Tremper Longman III, *The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom*)



1. Consider the need for wisdom

The goals of wisdom literature

- a) To impart skill for right living (prudent behavior)



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The goals of wisdom literature

- a) To impart skill for right living (prudent behavior)

- b) To help us develop discernment (discretion)



2. Experience the beginning of wisdom

Proverbs 1:7: *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”*



2. Experience the beginning of wisdom

The fear of the Lord

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- The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. (Prov. 14:27)
- The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble. (Prov. 19:23)



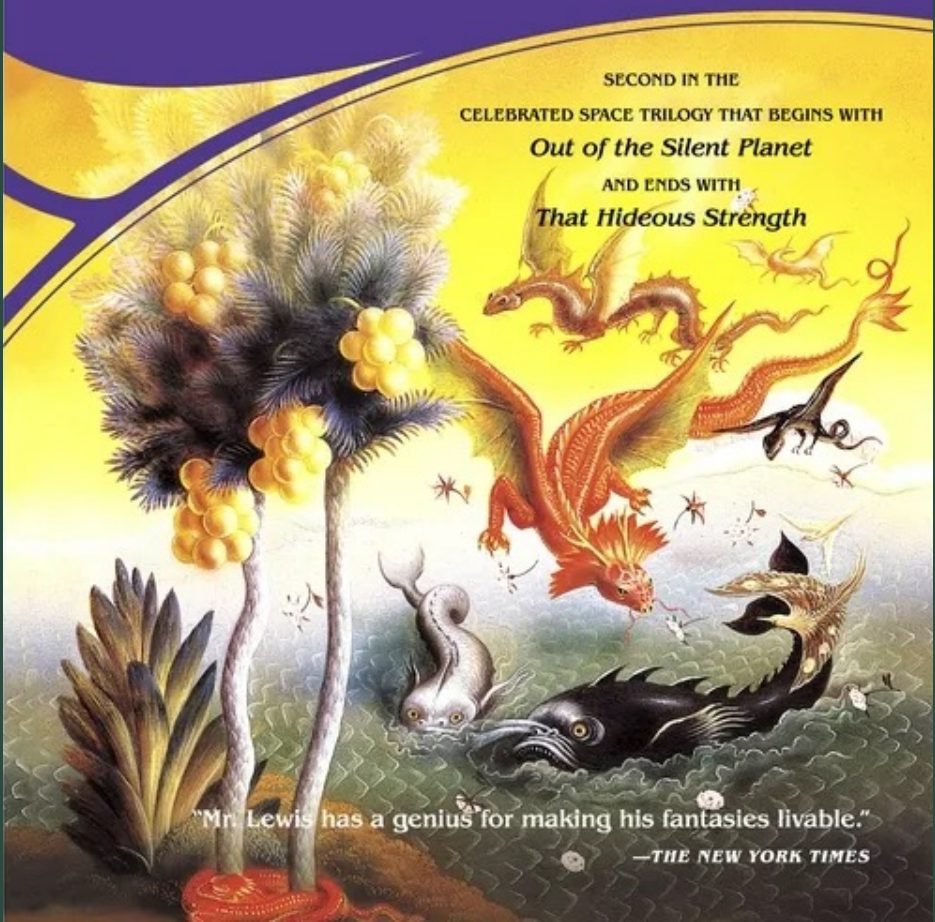
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SECOND IN THE
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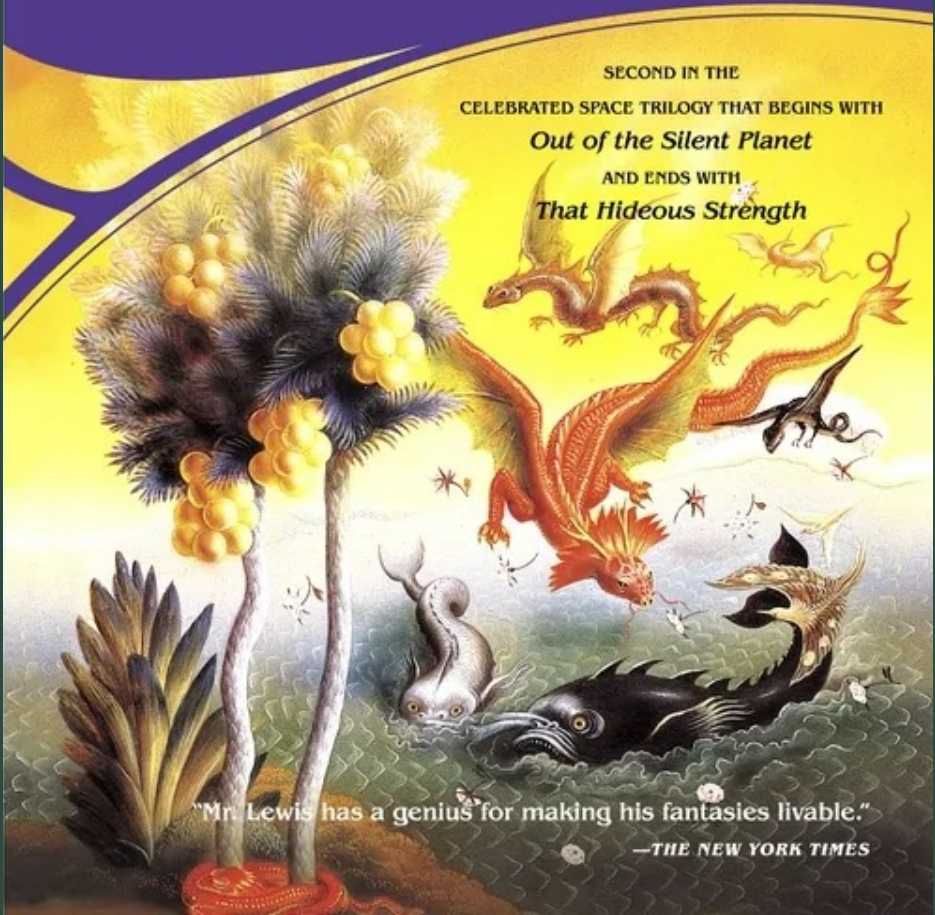
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"...all those doubts which I had felt before I entered the cottage as to whether these creatures were friend or foe... had for the moment vanished. My fear was now of another kind. I felt sure that the creature was what we call 'good', but I wasn't sure whether I liked 'goodness' so much as I had supposed. This is a very terrible experience. As long as what you are afraid of is something evil, you may still hope that the good may come to your rescue. But suppose you struggle through to the good and find that it also is dreadful?"

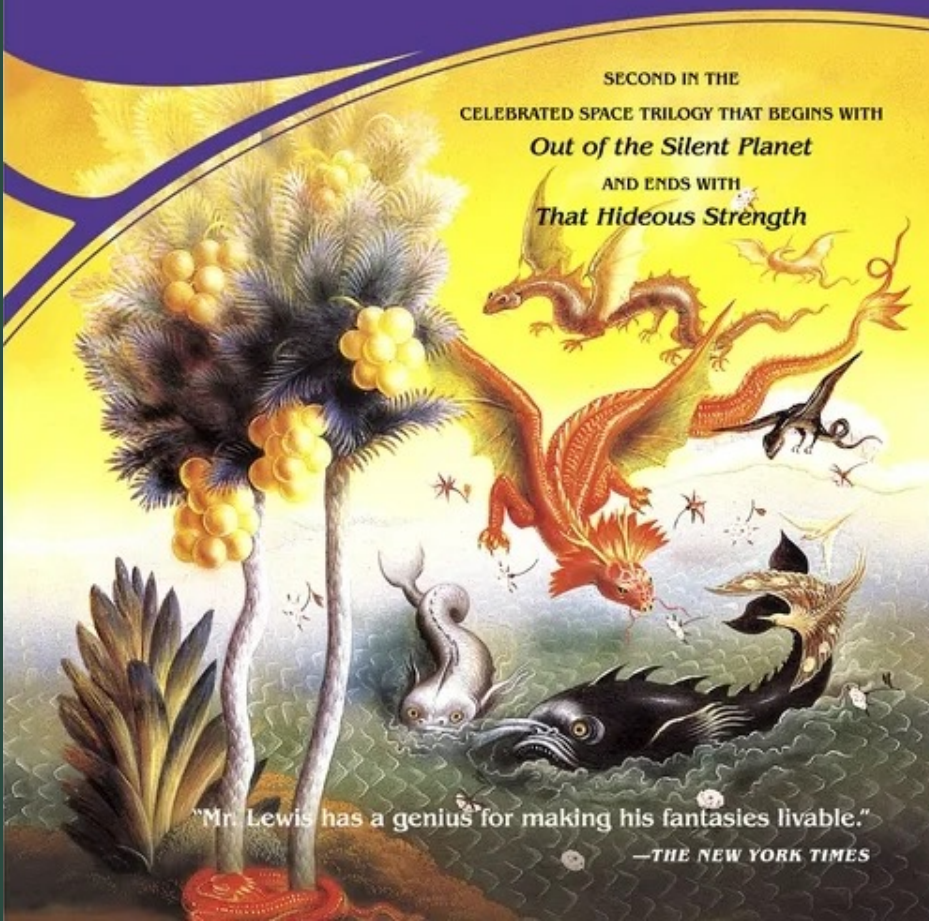
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How if food itself turns out to be the very thing you can't eat, and home the very place you can't live, and your very comforter the person who makes you uncomfortable? Then, indeed, there is no rescue possible: the last card has been played. For a second or two I was nearly in that condition. Here at last was a bit of that world from beyond the world, which I had always supposed that I loved and desired, breaking through and appearing to my senses: and I didn't like it, I wanted it to go away."

2. Experience the beginning of wisdom

Characteristics of those who fear the Lord

- They are humble (Prov. 3:7; 15:33; 22:4)



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- They turn from evil (Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 14:16; 16:6)



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Characteristics of those who fear the Lord

- They are humble (Prov. 3:7; 15:33; 22:4)
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- They walk uprightly (Prov. 14:2)



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Characteristics of those who fear the Lord

- They are humble (Prov. 3:7; 15:33; 22:4)
- They turn from evil (Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 14:16; 16:6)
- They walk uprightly (Prov. 14:2)
- They are satisfied (Prov. 14:27; 15:16; 19:23)



3. Listen to the call of wisdom

Proverbs 1:8-33: *"Listen, my son..."*



Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁰ Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,
she raises her voice in the public square;

²¹ on top of the wall she cries out,
at the city gate she makes her speech:

²² "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?

How long will mockers delight in mockery
and fools hate knowledge?



Proverbs 1:20-33

²³ Repent at my rebuke!

Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,
I will make known to you my teachings.

²⁴ But since you refuse to listen when I call
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,

²⁵ since you disregard all my advice
and do not accept my rebuke,



Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁶ I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;

I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm,

when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,

when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

²⁸ “Then they will call to me but I will not answer;

they will look for me but will not find me,



Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁹ since they hated knowledge
and did not choose to fear the Lord.

³⁰ Since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke,

³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.



Proverbs 1:20-33

³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm."



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Proverbs 1:8-33: *"Listen, my son..."*



3. Listen to the call of wisdom

Hindrances to listening to wisdom's call:

- Listening to wrong influences



3. Listen to the call of wisdom

Hindrances to listening to wisdom's call:

- Listening to wrong influences
- Too distracted with technology





“The devil has made it his business to monopolize on three elements: noise, hurry, crowds. If he can keep us hearing radios, gossip, conversation, or even sermons, he is happy. But he will not allow quietness... Satan is quite aware of the power of silence.”

—Jim Elliot

3. Listen to the call of wisdom

Hindrances to listening to wisdom's call:

- Listening to wrong influences
- Too distracted with technology
- Talking too much



Listen and **silent**
are spelled
with the same letters.

Think about it.



3. Listen to the call of wisdom

Hindrances to listening to wisdom's call:

- Listening to wrong influences
- Too distracted with technology
- Talking too much
- Not believing God's way is best





The desire "which is at the root of all my evil is the desire for complete and ecstatic happiness. But he knows, and I do not, how it can be really and permanently attained. He knows that most of my personal attempts to reach it are actually putting it further and further out of my reach." We can "be quite rid of the old haunting suspicion—which raises its head in every temptation—that there is something else than God ...some kind of delight [which] he 'doesn't appreciate' or just chooses to forbid, but which [would] be real delight if only we were allowed to get it.



The thing just isn't there. Whatever we desire is either what God is trying to give us as quickly as he can, or else a false picture of what he is trying to give us—a false picture [which] would not attract us for a moment if we saw the real thing . . . he knows what we want, even in our vilest acts: he is longing to give it to us . . . Only because he has laid up real goods for us to desire are we able to go wrong by snatching at them in greedy, misdirected ways."

—C. S. Lewis

Summary

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2. Experience the beginning of wisdom
3. Listen to the call of wisdom

