

Value Connection LESSON VIDEO NOTES

The Story of Our Generation (9:30) [LessonVid1](#) (all modules) L1

The Story of Our Generation shows a generation of young people motivated to bring a thriving, just and sustainable world into reality. The video has different young people explaining how they define the current generation of young people and how they are prepared to deal with emergent global issues.

Key Points:

- The younger generation is coming of age at one of the most critical moments of history
 - Humans today are living in a moment of crossroads: we have tremendous access to different technologies while having the large costs (social, environmental, etc.) of those things catch up with us
- In the last 100 years humans have consumed more natural resources than in human history combined up to that point
- Global wealth is more polarized: fewer people owning more resources
 - 2% of the world's population owns 50% of the wealth
- Youth contribute more than 2.4 billion hours of community service each year
- There is a global shift happening in the way young people think about what they do and ultimately they are working towards systemic change

Lost Generation (1:45) [LessonVid2](#) (all modules) L1

Written by Jonathan Reed and narrated by a student, this is a hopeful poem about the dangers of what could happen to a lost generation unless we choose to reverse it.

Key Points:

- We live in a quick fix society
- Everything can be reversed as long as we are open to changing our perspectives and current way of living
- There is hope and we should not give in to the idea that this generation is apathetic and lethargic
- Happiness comes from within not through material and monetary gain
- "I can change the world and I refuse to believe that I am part of a lost generation"

Community Values (4:50) [LessonVid3](#) (all modules) L1

Aimed at younger students, this is an animated video explaining the necessity of connection and community values.

Key Points:

- Emphasis on the universality of community values: from animals to humans around the world
- Ideas of unity and connection are strong in a multitude of religions
- From a scientific point of view, the lack of distinction from one another on a particle level

Third Planet From the Sun (1:40) [LessonVid4](#) (Me & You, Nature Nurture) L1

The introductory video from the *Awakening the Dreamer* symposium, this is a brief reminder of the uniqueness of life and beauty of the planet, as well as how one life touches so many others.

Key Points:

- Earth is in perfect balance to provide us with physical and spiritual sustenance
- Emphasizes that it is through interaction with others and with Earth that we see how all things are connected, using the metaphor of the web of life

The Charter for Compassion (2:10) [LessonVid5](#) (Me & You, Who's In My Hood, The Big Picture) **L1**

A video depiction of Karen Armstrong's project, the Charter for Compassion, is a proclamation declaring that the principle of compassion is at the heart of religious, ethical, spiritual traditions, and calls to restore it to the centre of human interaction today for the creation of a peaceful global community.

Key Points:

- Compassion as the root of justice, equity, and respect
- An acknowledgement that we have failed to live compassionately
- Any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred, or disdain is illegitimate
- The idea of compassion as a principled determination to transcend selfishness, and lead to informed empathy for all human beings
- The need to ensure youth have accurate and respectful information about other religions, beliefs, and cultures
- Compassion as a necessity for a just economy and healing a polarized world

Exploring Community Resilience (2:20) [LessonVid6](#) (Who's In My 'Hood) **L2**

This is a brief animated video from the UK emphasizing the need for "step change" for communities to find a positive way to face the changing world situation together.

Key Points:

- We need to make a "step change" as opposed to our old views of "bouncing back"
- The idea of a breakthrough community that anticipates and responds to shocks
 - Bonding capital: a shared sense of resilience
 - Bridging capital: connecting across the community
 - Linking capital: connecting with other communities to be able to call on others

Listen to the Wombat (1:00) [LessonVid7](#) (Who's in My Hood, Nature Nurture, The Big Picture) **L1**

Aimed at younger students, this is a fun reminder to cherish and protect the earth as it is the only one we will have.

Key Points:

- "The Wombat" tells us to respect and get along with other neighboring cultures and the planet
- Everything is connected and interdependent

Religion, Evolution, and the Ecstasy of Self-Transcendence (Enlightenment) (3:15) [LessonVid8](#) (The Big Picture) **L2**

This video is a brief summary of one of psychologist Jonathan Haidt's TED talks that takes the stand that humans have evolved to see sacredness and that spirituality is an adaptation. It uses the metaphor of climbing a staircase and argues that modern society doesn't satisfy this higher need, and as such we search for morality and self-transcendence.

Key Points:

- Humans as “homo-duplex” from multi-level selection: we are this way because we evolved this way
- The idea that this spirituality is linked to community: we have a need to join to teams to circle sacred objects, people, and ideas, whether or not this is modern organized religion
- Politics as something both sacred and profane, as it is partly out of self-interest but also an act of joining with others to pursue moral ideas
- Morality is linked to this spiritual need: we wish to do something noble
- The “hive” metaphor: humans as bees that broke out of a hive during the enlightenment, and we are feeling a sense of disconnect which is why we search for self-transcendence
- Self-transcendence and the desire for it does not have to be spiritual in the standard sense; it can be as simple as “finding a cause or call to throw [one]self into”