

Kids' Ministry Training Video 9: Connecting Generations

The church has followed society in fragmenting the generations. However, studies show that everyone's faith grows when we do life together intergenerationally across all ages. Faith is passed down and modelled, not simply taught. We have so much to learn from one another!

Here are some ideas for how your church could worship, serve and play together. You don't have to tackle them all at once – try implementing an idea from one area and see the intergenerational relationships flourish!

Serve

- Contributing:** Roster whole families to particular duties, so that mums, dads, kids and even grandparents can serve together.
- Ministry Partners.** Involve kids in as many areas of church life as possible alongside people of other generations. Rather than having a “kids take over” service or a separate Kids' Church project, why not partner up old and young to serve in church, at working bees, and in mission projects together?

Worship

- Mix Generations.** You don't need to have a special kids' song or children's talk to connect the generations, in fact those activities just single out one generation. If you are looking for a Bible reader, ask an adult and a child to share the reading. Are there one or two children who are learning a musical instrument and could join the band even if it's only for some songs?

Learn

- All Age Services.** Services for all ages can be wonderful opportunities to learn together. Consider how you can incorporate some of the other senses – smell, touch, taste or sight – so that all ages can grow together.
- Mentoring.** Partnering older and younger people together in an intentional mentoring relationship has huge value. It can be formal or informal and done as often as is realistic.

Play

- Socialising.** Create social events especially designed for all ages to connect. Picnics, beach trips and games nights are all possibilities! Make sure you're intentional about helping all ages connect – no kids' tables.
- Camps.** Camping trips, retreats or church weekends away are prime time for intergenerational connections to form. The extra time allows for deeper conversations and shared memories.

MODULE THREE: WORKING WITH OTHERS

Create

- ❑ **Projects.** Rather than each age group having their own special projects, think about developing, making or producing something meaningful together as a community.

Further Reading

Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship Holly Catterton Allen, Christine Lawton

Collide Tammy Tolman

<https://refocusministry.org/>

Questions for Your Team

- As a team, what do we see would be the greatest benefits of increased intergenerational connections?
- Are we currently advocates for generational connections? Why or why not?
- Which is strongest at our church – learning, worshipping, serving or playing together? How do we do this well?
- Which is weakest at our church – learning, worshipping, serving or playing together? What's one practical step we can take to start building generational connections in this area?