



IGNITE PARENTING

A Leader and Layperson's Guide to

Intergenerational *Discipleship*

A Special Message from Our Teams

Dear Ministry Leader/Lay Leader,

First of all, thank you. *Thank you for answering the call to ministry.* Thank you for your heart for making disciples. And thank you for taking the next step in building intergenerational bridges in your church.

Our teams are excited to come alongside you and support you as you begin closing a gap that has become far too wide between senior adults and the younger generations. We are excited to celebrate you in your wins and encourage you in your disappointments.

The following pages provide quick-start ideas and practical how-tos for starting an intergenerational ministry in your church.

We pray that this resource blesses you and helps you to launch an effective intergenerational ministry that benefits seniors, youth, and children.

Please continue to follow the Ignite Parenting and Senior Adult Ministries websites for additional resources coming soon!

Assemblies of God Ignite Parenting and Senior Adult Ministries Teams



What Is *Intergenerational Discipleship*?

Throughout the Bible, different generations have invested in the spiritual development of one another. One can read about Moses and Joshua; Elijah and Elisha; Naomi and Ruth; and Paul, Timothy, and Titus. Investing in different generations is a biblical pattern that can be identified as intergenerational.

Intergenerational discipleship focuses on intentional relationship development between two or more generations for the purpose of spiritual growth/formation and spiritual maturity. Perhaps a simpler way to say this is that current generations lay the foundation for the generations to come, leaving a spiritual heritage.

As part of this, intergenerational discipleship helps a person apply their faith to how they live and minister to those around them. This releases kingdom realities of God—His sovereign authority on earth and His call to righteous living through salvation—to another person through a committed and structured relationship.

What Is the *Need*?

Our churches have an older generation that has poured their hearts into furthering the gospel and building the church. They do not want to die having kept their faith to themselves. They are looking for opportunities to deposit the precious truth entrusted to them (2 Timothy 1:14) into the lives of the younger generations. The need is great as many youth and kids face confusion, following convictions that shift and change with the cultural tide. It's essential that the younger generations have someone who's consistent in an ever-changing world.



Why Should I *Be Involved*?

Instead of guarding their faith, many young adults walk away from it. In a recent Barna report, “Nearly two-thirds of U.S. 18 to 29-year-olds who grew up in church tell Barna they have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult after having been active as a child or teen.”¹ We have a generation who asks what Esau asked: “What about me? Bless me, too!” (Genesis 27:34, NLT). “According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17.8 million children, nearly 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.”²

This generation does not want normal; they want supernatural. We must trust the younger generations with the truth and not withhold this blessing from them. As people of the Spirit, we have an opportunity to take a risk by empowering a generation that many have written off with, the truths of Scripture before releasing them into the world.



Ways Senior Adults Can Start *Serving the Next Generations*

After completing your church's screening process for kids and youth workers, volunteer with the leader or pastor of that age group. Then offer to help serve the kids ministry or youth ministry. Be sure to ask the kids ministry leader youth leader about the needs of the ministry and how you might be able to help meet one of the needs. Alternatively, you could offer to volunteer in one of the ways listed here. Always connect with the ministry leader before beginning any of these projects to assure that it fits within the vision and ministry plan for the targeted age group.

Read or share a story in kids church.

Teach the kids a new skill during craft time (e.g., tying a knot, playing the tambourine, sewing a button).

Bake a special treat for the kids. Consider food allergies and sensitivities.

Write a different kid a letter each week.

Share some old photographs and special childhood memories from your own life.

Become a kids church or youth group door greeter, acknowledging each one as they walk into church.

Bring in a board game to teach the kids/youth.

Offer to help kids/youth with their homework at the church or other public place.

Pray for a kid/youth each week and ask them if there is anything specific you can pray with them about.





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AG Senior Adult Ministries.



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