C+G Education

RCL

LIVING THE WORD

Cross+Generational Education

Groupings Guide

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Cross+Generational Ministry has at its core the concept that faith is formed through meaningful relationships. When we connect with people of a different generation, we are able to learn from them and share our own experiences, no matter what age we are. We find our place in God's story best by exploring that story as community.

Effective cross+generational experiences are:
- *Experiential*
- *Interactive*
- *Engaging*
- *Story-centered*
- *Home-based*
- *Equalizing*

all of which promote an **encounter with God**. All of the activities included in this leader guide are intended to engage these principles, through intentional cross+generational interaction and active, creative activities that bring the Bible story to life in our lives.

We pass on the faith through every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God's world. When we do this in meaningful, intergenerational relationships, our faith is enriched from the diversity of the experiences we share with each other. Our communities are strengthened, and we have confidence in our sense of belonging to God and with each other.

3

Cross+Generational

Birthdays

Supplies:

- Card stock folded in half to make table tents
- Marker

Instructions:

1. Determine how many small groups you would like to create, based on the total number who will attend. Aim for five to eight people in each group.
2. You will divide people into small groups based on their birthday month. If you anticipate twelve groups, write one month on each table tent, and place each on a separate table. If you will have four small groups, write the names of three months on each table tent (for example: January, February, March).

Families

Instructions:

1. **Please find a seat at a table with your whole family, and figure out how to "grow your family" to be five to eight people, if it is not that size already. If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself, and invite them to join you. You can also invite pairs of people or other families to join you.**

Craft Stick and Ball

Supplies:

- Small ball for each group
- Numbered craft sticks for each participant, equally numbered #1-10.
- Card stock folded in half to make table tents
- Marker

Instructions:

1. Determine how many small groups you would like to create based on the total number who will attend. Aim for five to eight people in each group.
2. Groups will be formed according to the number on the craft sticks chosen by each participant. Number sticks from 1 to 10 (one number per stick.) Repeat numbers as often as necessary, depending on how many people you expect.
3. If you anticipate fewer than 50-80 people total, you will want to combine number groups. For example, if you have 30 people, you would create three sets of #1-10, and then combine #1 and #2 in a group, #3 and #4, etc.
4. Designate which table each number group should sit at with table tent signs. Place a small ball at each table.
5. When the first person has finished speaking they should toss (or hand) the ball to the person closest to them that has the next birthday.

Flower Bouquet

Supplies:

- Colored silk flower for each participant, one color for each of six age groups
- Vases for each table
- Signs for each flower color: Age: 1-10, 11-17, 18-35, 36-52, 53+

Instructions:

1. Obtain silk flowers in six different colors, totaling enough for each participant. If you know how many people fit into each age category, you can find or buy a more precise amount of each color.
2. Set each group of flowers in a vase on a table in the front or entrance of your room. Set up signs designating which flower color is for which group, for example:
   - Age 1-10: Take a green daisy
   - Age 11-17: Take a purple daisy
   - Age 18-35: Take a red rose
3. Set out an empty vase on each table.
4. **Welcome! Please come to the table with the beautiful collection of flowers. Take a flower that represents your age. Now, you are to create a multi-colored bouquet. The goal is to have at least one flower of each color in each bouquet. Choose a table that needs your flower! If it ends up that your table does not have a full bouquet, try to join another table.**

Generation-Separated

Generation Celebration

Supplies:

- Card stock folded in half to make table tents
- Marker

Instructions:

1. You will divide people into small groups based on their age. Ages 1-10 will be one group, 11-19, 20-35, 36-50, 51-72, and 73+ are the remaining groups. If you do not have enough people to make up six small groups, combine age groups. The youngest group will need at least one adult to assist.
2. Write the age groups on the table tents and place on the tables.
3. **Welcome! Please find a seat at the table marked with your age group. Introduce yourself to anyone you do not know yet. If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family, and at least one adult should assist with the 1-10 age group.**