

INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH

SNAPSHOT HOLIDAY CLUB MATERIAL



Introduction

'Intergenerational' is a growing way of approaching all areas of church life including ministry and mission. Intergenerational, or IG for short, is more than all-ages being together in the same place, doing the same thing (great though that can be!). IG is about fostering interaction between the generations, enabling relationships to blossom that enrich everyone. Building friendships with people of different ages and at different stages to ourselves helps us see the world and our faith from some very different perspectives. Sharing experiences, interests, skills and stories helps us build each other up as we grow closer to each other. Being together binds us together. And having fun is one of the easiest places to start this habit!

"As a church community we must learn to do only those things in separate age groups



which we cannot in all conscience do together" – URC Charter for Children in the Church 1990.

People are now used to the idea of a household bubble, a support bubble (for childcare or those living on their own) and joining bubbles together. You could draw on this idea. However, some people spend too much time with their own household and will want to be with others so think about how to create diverse and safe groups for everyone.

It is OK to have some time in age/peer groups but make this the exception rather than the norm.

Expect more chaos and embrace the randomness of who chooses to do what with whom. Expect things to take longer as people have to translate across the generations and negotiate more with each other. The benefit is the relationships being developed and the co-learning and forming of community.

AN INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY CLUB

This could be offered as a 'fun day', a weekly get together (early evening, bring your picnic tea), or a holiday club over a few days.

Principles

The aim is to enable people to build relationships with those of other ages and generations. To do this they need opportunities to spend time together, doing things together and talking together.

Groups: organise into small groups that mix up the generations! Difference is an asset. You give groups things that not everyone in that group can do, but they can share out the tasks between them – like reading instructions, running to find things, drawing on previous

knowledge, accessing new information, creating things from junk. Help them be a team – give points for how many different things each person contributes to.

Include things that draw on everyone's knowledge – eg a quiz that includes current culture, kids' TV shows, history, Bible knowledge, local information, your church etc. Picture rounds are good too.

Give specific tasks to the oldest, youngest, tallest, shortest, sportiest, most stylish, silliest, wisest member.

Pairs: challenge people to find a partner at least 15 years older or younger for a listening exercise, or to each share something about themselves (eg favourite thing to make / something they are scared of / best adventure story / a group they belong to / biggest surprise etc – link to the story).

Immerse in the story: where's the love? Invite everyone to ask altogether "Where's the love?" at points in the story – and then have three people of different ages give their answers. Don't worry about biblical accuracy or theology in the answers – the aim is for people to explore the stories by seeing if they can find God's love in action in the midst of what happens. With help, the variety of answers unpack what love is (and isn't), and how God loves us and the world. Swop around to give a few people ago for each story.

Response styles: organise people by their preferred activity (rather than age) – construction, art/craft, discussion, drama – and ask each multi-generational group to prepare something linked to the story to share with everyone else. When you get to the sharing time, encourage people of all ages to share/present their group's work and to give feedback on the other groups.

Crafts: encourage different ages to work together and help each other, sharing skills.

Games/songs: invite different ages to choose and say briefly why they like their choice.

Prayers: invite different ages to work together to create and lead prayers; set up prayer stations and invite people to go with a partner at least 15 years older or younger.

Memory verses: encourage everyone to work on ways to remember the verse together. Could the group think of actions or another way to help them remember the verse? Can they share tips on how to remember things? Encourage different ages to test each other on the verse from the day before.

Things to do together: telling the stories, watching videos etc; eating and drinking; playing games (NB keeping score or being referee are key roles for the less mobile); collective art projects; singing and dancing.

Volunteer reflections: share these with older participants and invite them to discuss the questions that are relevant to them and to pray for everyone involved in the holiday club. Encourage them to reflect more deeply on the theme and then to find a way to share their thoughts with younger participants.

SNAPSHOTS

This theme provides lots of opportunities for intergenerational engagement.

♥ Younger participants can use the opportunity to learn more about the lives of older participants and together share their favourite photos / images of themselves or other people / events / the local area. Build in a slot each day when someone is asked about a picture they have brought in – and invite everyone to ask them questions about it.

♥ Creating a 'photo album' – encourage everyone to bring in a picture of themselves as a baby, then try to guess who is who.

♥ Encourage everyone to draw a picture of themselves linked to each day's theme – when they were most creative; were very

brave or imagine they would need to be brave; had a great adventure or to imagine themselves having their dream adventure; felt they belonged; had a big surprise – then take time to listen to each person introduce their picture and ask questions.

♥ Encourage an IG conversation each day linked to the story – encourage everyone to be curious together – you could find some creative ways to record the group conversation on a large sheet of paper and display this, eg have the word LOVE as big letters the group can write in / draw in as they explore love through the stories.