

INTERGENERATIONAL

A Guiding Word

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SHARE



What cross generational experience have you enjoyed most at your church?

What living person would you like to talk to about his or her faith? Why?

How have cross generational relationships with people in your faith community influenced you or your family?

READ



Luke 9:46-48

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

TALK



Welcoming in the Bible often implies being hospitable to others. As people who have been made new through the good news of Jesus we relate to others for their sake and not for our own. This is counter cultural. We are set free to enjoy people for who they are in themselves regardless of their age or social standing.

If only one in ten adults speak to a young person or child that isn't their own, it might mean many children are brushed off or even ignored when the 'adults' are talking. Or perhaps there is a culture of valuing children by having them 'doing things' or 'performing' in church – but who really benefits from the performance? Kids probably love some applause, but how can we value them at an even deeper level?

Our eyes can be focussed on so many things that we think are important, but today Jesus takes a child, has him stand next to him and says, 'Hey! When you welcome this little guy, you're welcoming Me.' In other words you might think a million other things are more important, but you're doing something of lasting, eternal significance if you'll just bend down *and invest in this little guy's faith journey.*'

Culturally we place a high value on education, sports and recreation for young people. Jesus is saying that to do great things in His name is to invest in the *faith formation* of the children in our care.

The Holy Spirit calls people (including children and young people) through the Gospel. Resurrection life is theirs through faith in Jesus. How can we share in forming the faith of little ones and so value them as Jesus values them?

- How might you enjoy hospitality with children, youth and their families in your church?
- What fresh perspectives might a child or young person bring to the complexities of your faith community?
- Share some meaningful ways that children and young people might be engaged, valued and bring value to your faith community.

PRAY



Pray for each other, your congregation and the world.

BLESS



Bless each other with these words: (Name), child of God, may you welcome others just as Christ welcomed you. Amen.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

#7

Children and young people are engaged in meaningful intergenerational church experiences in which they are valued.

FAITH 5



Grow Ministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

