

# EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

## Responding creatively together



Intergenerational ministry takes place when people from at least two generations intentionally gather for the same activity in the name of Christ, interacting with one another in ways which reflect mutual respect and appreciation.

Engaging all ages and generations together in a learning experience that teaches scripture helps nurture the spiritual life of the whole community.

Being creative or creating something together provides a great opportunity for the sharing of skills and ideas across the generations.

A creative response is about making space to explore, in a creative and practical way, what we have learnt or heard through Bible stories. It is about working as a community, small group, family or individual to process the message as the Holy Spirit leads us.

A creative response allows people of all generations to work together sharing and processing their thoughts and faith.

- Following the sharing of a Bible story, invite some wondering questions into your conversation. These can help flesh out what each person is thinking... “I wonder what part of the Bible story you like the best?” or “I wonder where you are in the story, or which part of the story is about you?”
- Have ready a variety of creative materials that allow all ages and skills to empower creativity: Playdough, drawing tools including chalk boards, markers, building blocks i.e. Lego, recycled goods, painting supplies, baking needs etc. This creative space will provide an opportunity for younger ones to learn new skills from their elder Christian brothers and sister too.

The creative response time is about creating space and choice for participants to respond in a way which is personal to them.

This creative space helps the listener process what they have heard or read from the Bible. During this time encourage people of all generations to work together. Sharing with and helping others also helps to process our thoughts.

Congregations are discovering that bringing generations together provides benefits and blessings on a variety of levels—for the congregation as a whole, for families, individuals of all ages, and for the wider community.



Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

## Ideas for creative materials

- **Play dough** - homemade or shop bought store in air tight containers, clay, plasticine. Include mats, rolling pins, cutters etc.
- **Drawing** - look for some different things like pastels, crayons, whiteboards and markers, a sand tray or chalk boards.
- **Building** - Lego, wooden blocks, Duplo, foam blocks.
- **Recycled**—cleaned recycled cardboard boxes, lids, containers, egg cartons etc.
- **Natural** - gumnuts, bark, pinecones, rocks, shells, sticks, foliage.
- **Collage** - pop sticks, sequins, feathers, papers, stickers, pegs, patty pans, straws etc.

## Resource tips

Store materials in plastic tubs. Label each tub clearly with the contents. If you have a number of different tubs you can swap them around and use different ones each time you host a creative response time.

Another great idea is to ask a members of your congregation to 'sponsor a tub'. Invite a family or individual to be responsible for maintaining and replenishing the materials in one of the tubs. This will provide wonderful support to the coordinator and those involved in this ministry.

Provide a variety of ideas, materials and tools to encourage creativity. Try some of the following:

- Different size paper and card stock. This includes different shapes, colours and thicknesses.
- Plenty of scissors (of all sizes), PVA glue, glue sticks, sticky tape, pencil sharpener, etc.
- Allow for quiet journaling, creative writing or reflection.
- Collect interesting objects for collage making.
- Encourage group activities for those that like working together.

Grow Ministries GIFT (Generations In Faith Together) resources have been developed with intergenerational ministry in mind.

A GIFT event provides an opportunity for people of all ages to explore God's love for them through activities and fellowship; sharing the gift of each other and the gift of faith. The gift of building community and relationships with all generations.

Each GIFT event resource includes worship and event outlines, skits or dramatised readings, craft activity templates and much more.



GENERATIONS IN FAITH TOGETHER

