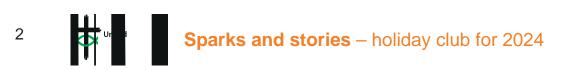# Intergenerational appendix

Introduction

'Intergenerational' is a growing way of approaching all areas of church life including ministry and mission. It is more than all-ages being together in the same place, doing the same thing (great though that can be!) It 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

Prayers

Invite different ages to work together to create and lead prayers, or set up prayer stations and invite people to go with a partner from a different generation to engage with what is there. With the appropriate permissions, why not have a bowl with a piece of paper for each participant on which they have written their name, glued on a photo of them (to aid getting to know one another), and where they've written a little bit about themselves (eg their hobbies, what they like doing, their pets, a bit about their family). Each day get everyone to draw a piece of paper out of the bowl and pray for that person, both during the session and at home. If you're running the holiday club over several days, they could bring their paper back next time and swap it for another.

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.
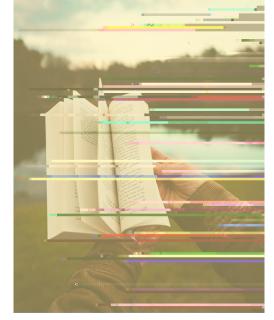
Sparks and Stories

Story, story, story

What better way of building relationships amongst and across the generations than by sharing stories. Stories we've heard, our favourite stories, whether from the Bible or elsewhere, stories from our own lived experience – storytelling is as old as time itself and Jesus himself shared with us the importance and value of story.

There are a variety of stories in the holiday club materials. Encourage people of all ages to take a lead in presenting them to the rest of the group.

The wondering questions can be approached by any age and the challenge for older or more academically inclined people to verbalise their thoughts in a way that a child can understand can enable them to engage with their thoughts and emotions on a deeper level as they unravel just exactly what they signify. The beauty of wondering questions is that there are no right or wrong answers – all can explore together.

Creative prayers

For those who are less comfortable with creative prayers (and this is sometimes children, while sometimes adults find them a new and expressive way to engage with prayer), you could have a prayer station where there is a passage from the Bible story to meditate on, or where people could write their own prayer in response to the theme.

Day one

Baby bunting can be done by all ages and is a good way of creating something that emphasises all being an equal and important part of God's story.

Day two

For these team games you will want to ensure that teams are fairly well balanced in terms of the height of the people involved. The water game is extra fun with a mix of heights and generations and those who are unable to stand could sit on a chair in the line and have an appointed runner to assist them.

For the t-shirt decorating, this is a good opportunity for people to share skills such as painting, crochet, knitting, embroidery etc. People could decorate t-shirts for people of another generation (if t-shirts are not suitable for some, you can also get plain aprons to decorate.)

Day three
The First Aid kit activity is a good chance to take advantage of the skills of people there. If there is someone who has a first aid qualification or, even better, who is a nurse or first aider or doctor etc,

Sparks and stories – holiday club for 2024