




## NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

### PREPARATION

- + Invite a speaker from the [University of the Third Age](#) (u3a) or research the local group
  - + Alternatively invite someone to come and talk about something they have learned in older life
  - + Print the bookmarks on card and provide coloured pens
-  *Provide bookmarks by emailing the bookmarks, giving one in advance or emailing the link for [free printable ones](#)*

### Additional resource

- ❖ Bookmarks

### INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

‘We are never too old to learn’ - or so the proverb says! Learning is an innate habit, one that helps us swim through the various tides of life.

None of us is infallible. We all make mistakes and make wrong decisions in our lives. But every event in our lives has some learning attached to it. Even when we face uphill circumstances, it is persistence and determination that often gets us through it. The encouraging thing, though, is that we get to learn from all such experiences and so end up evolving, which often enables us to help other people because of our own experiences.

So yes, learning should be a lifelong activity, but never forget: ‘Growing old is mandatory but growing up is optional!’

### ACTIVITIES

#### VISITOR

‘The u3a movement has been learning, staying active and having fun for 40 years - showcasing what it means to have a positive later life.’

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Inspire your group by learning about the many opportunities available to meet new people, to learn and to have fun. Or find out about the challenges and rewards about learning a new skill later in life.



## DISCUSS

You are never too old to learn new things. You are never too old to set another goal.

- \* Do you agree or disagree?
- \* What is the most important lesson you have learned?
- \* Who was your favourite schoolteacher and why?
- \* Is there a person you have learned the most from and why?

## HOW OLD? QUIZ

Some people feel that life is lost once they attain their middle age. But this is not so. Here are some great examples of those who have achieved great things in their later years. But at what age did they achieve it?

1. Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid in South Africa. He was elected president, the oldest head of state in South Africa's history, when he was: 75, 77, 85?
2. Colonel Sanders started the fast-food restaurant chain KFC when he was: 58, 60, 65?
3. Jo Pavey, the British long-distance runner, has proved she can run rings round her younger rivals. She won her first European Championships 10,000 metre gold medal in 32 minutes and 22.39 seconds when she was: 35, 37, 40?
4. The oldest person to become Prime Minister was Lord Palmerston in 1855 when he was: 60,65, 70?
5. Singer Dame Vera Lynn made British chart history by becoming the oldest artist in the top 40 albums chart when she was: 83, 93, 103?
6. The oldest woman to complete a marathon was Gladys Burrill, in Honolulu, Hawaii, when she was: 82, 92, 95?
7. William Shatner made history when he became the oldest person to travel in space when he was: 89, 90, 91?
8. Anna Moses, commonly known as Grandma Moses, was a famous American folk artist. She began painting when she was: 56, 66, 76?



## WHO SAID IT? QUIZ

To whom are these quotes about learning attributed?

1. 'Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live for ever.'  
**Mahatma Gandhi**; William Shakespeare; Karl Marx
2. 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'  
Thomas Cook; **Dr Seuss**; Neil Armstrong
3. 'Any fool can know. The point is to understand.'  
**Albert Einstein**; Sigmund Freud; Stephen Hawking.
4. 'The more I read, the more I acquire, the more certain I am that I know nothing.'  
John Bunyan; John Milton; **Voltaire**
5. 'The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.'  
Wilbur Smith; **Mortimer Adler**; Rudyard Kipling
6. 'I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught.'  
Margaret Thatcher; Barack Obama; **Winston Churchill**
7. 'Never let formal education get in the way of your learning.'  
Clive Cussler; Charles Dickens; **Mark Twain**
8. 'Expecting all children the same age to learn from the same materials is like expecting all children the same age to wear the same size clothing.'  
**Madeline Hunter**; Enid Blyton; Beatrix Potter
9. 'Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.'  
George W Bush; Ronald Reagan; **Henry Ford**
10. 'A man who asks a question is a fool for five minutes. A man who never asks, is a fool for life.'  
**Chinese proverb**; Aesop's Fables; the Bible



## BIBLE READING / THOUGHT

### Luke 11:1-13

It seems only sensible that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, for each day they had seen him withdraw to a place for his own personal quiet time with God.

Jesus' prayer life prompted the disciples to ask him to teach them to do as he did. They had watched and learned what a valuable experience it was for Jesus. Jesus' example had brought them to the point where they realised that something was missing from their life - and they weren't too proud to go and ask for help. The disciples had come to realise that prayer would make a difference to each of them.

The disciples learnt that prayer was a way of finding strength and courage in extreme circumstances. It was a way of finding compassion and love for their fellow man in their continued ministry of service to God. We are never too old to learn.

## SONGS

- ♪ SASB 624 'Teach me how to love thee'
- ♪ SASB 392 'Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart'
- ♪ SASB 601 'Lord, I come to you'

## WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect)
- Family Ministries website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families)
- Email: [familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk)
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily\_ministries



## Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | Adults | Everyone



Family  
Ministries  
Having faith in the family



Ask and  
it will be  
**GIVEN** to  
you

Seek  
and you  
will **FIND**

Knock  
and the  
door will be  
**OPENED**  
to you

**Matthew 7:7**

**YOU WILL  
SEEK ME**

**AND  
FIND ME**

**WHEN  
YOU**

**SEEK ME  
WITH ALL  
YOUR**

**HEART**

**JEREMIAH 29:13**



*He who  
began a  
**GOOD  
WORK***

*in you  
**WILL**  
perfect it*

*until  
the day  
of*

**JESUS  
CHRIST**

**Philippians 1:6**