



PLAYING YOUR PART IN FAITH FORMATION

MISSION PRIORITIES

PREPARATION

- ➔ Three different-coloured cards, cut into strips - enough for each member to have at least one strip of each colour, pens and glue
- ➔ Two different-coloured sticky notes - enough for each member to have at least one of each colour, and pens

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

This session encourages individuals to reflect on how faith is shared across generations - not just by church leaders, but by everyone. Through reflection, conversation and practical activities, participants will explore how intergenerational relationships strengthen the Church and how they can actively contribute to nurturing faith in others.

ACTIVITIES

SHARE

Encourage members to share their thoughts on the following questions:

What is a piece of advice an older relative gave you that you didn't understand until much later?

Who in your life has impacted your faith, and what was it about them that inspired you?

Thought

There is a model called The 3 M's of Connection. There are a few ways to interpret the three M's, one being they stand for mirror, mentor and model. The idea is that in life we need three types of people to support us, and we can all be these three types of people for others.

The mirror

These are the people at a similar age and stage of life to you. They are the ones who are experiencing similar issues and similar joys. They get to say 'Me too' to the things you thought you were the only one experiencing - and you get to do that for them too!



The mentor

These are the people who have already walked the path that you are just starting. They get to offer their hindsight as your foresight. Their wisdom is invaluable.

The model

These are those who are yet to start the paths that you have walked. You get the privilege of reaching back for them.

If we take this model, and the idea that we each have a responsibility and an invitation to join in with the Kingdom of God, we see that if we are all in our right place, no one falls through the cracks of faith formation.

CRAFT

Paper chains of faith

Give each member three strips of card, each a different colour, though members may wish for more strips. On the strips write ...

Colour one

Those who have passed faith on to you, thinking about what it was that inspired you. Write their names and characteristics. Members may also wish to colour and draw.

Colour two

Those that encourage you by being at the same point; those you rub shoulders with.

Colour three

Name a few people who you might have the opportunity to mentor. In big and small ways, who do you give advice to, or ask how they're doing? Who do you see yourself in? If this is hard, think about the gifts you have or the areas you care about. Write those down instead / as well.

When members have finished, ask them to make paper chains with their strips. The chains can then be taken home and hung somewhere to help them remember in thanks those who support them, and to pray for those younger / coming behind them. Alternatively all the chains can be linked together so the longer chain of faith can be a visual aid for your group to pray that faith is passed on through them.



DISCUSS

Group wisdom

If the group has members of different life stages / generations, or perhaps is larger, this activity could work well. Intergenerational relationships don't have to just be about mentoring the youth of our church; it's about those in their 50's and 70's connecting too!

Hand out the sticky notes and ask members to record their thoughts on:

Sticky note 1

What is one question you have for other Christians or people at a different stage of life from you?

Sticky note 2

What is one piece of encouragement or advice you would give to those who are following behind you?

Discuss the questions as a larger group, or in smaller ones. Encourage the conversation to flow, and wisdom to be passed between the group's members.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

In 1 Peter 2:9-10, Peter reminds believers that they are a 'chosen people' and a 'royal priesthood', called to declare God's praises. This means that, while Jesus is our ultimate priest, we too share in the priestly role within our communities.

Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 12 where he explains that the Church, as one body, has many members, each with a unique role to serve others.

Together, these Scripture passages show us that everyone has an important role to play in God's Kingdom. Whether it's helping others, sharing what we've learned, offering kind words, or just being there to lend a hand, we each bring something special to the table. It's amazing how our different gifts and experiences come together to make the Church a strong and united family that lives out God's purpose for all of us.



SONGS

♪ 'The UK Blessing'

Video (no lyrics) by The UK Blessing (6:46)

This version was created during the Covid-19 lockdown, a particular time when the family of God needed to work together. As you listen to the words, or sing along, think about the blessings and prayers you have for the generations before you and behind you.

Lyric video uploaded by Emmanuel Church Eastleigh (6:46)

♪ 'Father Abraham'

Action video (no lyrics) by Listener Kids (2:35)

Enjoy and have fun!

Lyric video by Ministers Hub (2:08)

♪ 'We are the Church' by Simon Gough

Lyric video by Music and Arts Ministries, Canada and Bermuda (4:56)

Sing and reflect on our place within God's church!

WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Emails: 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