

The Power of Intergenerational Relationships

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. How many cousins, if any, do you have?
2. Who is the oldest person you know?

Read the following passages: 1 Kings 19:15-21.

Elijah was a prophet during the reign of one of the most wicked kings in the history of Israel. After Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, threatened Elijah's life, he hid in a cave near Mount Horeb, overwhelmed and afraid. One of the key components of Elijah's recovery was a restoration of his connection with the generations that came before him and the generation that was coming after him. We are not alone. Our lives are intertwined with fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters. Intergenerational relationships are one of the most important aspects of a healthy life, and they are an integral component of the mission God has called us to participate in.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you have any meaningful intergenerational relationships outside of your natural family? Explain.
2. What are some of the most common barriers to intergenerational relationships? What can we do to overcome these barriers?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Why did Paul feel compelled to "find" others for Christ? Do you feel any urgency to look for those whom you could help walk with Jesus? Explain.
4. First Kings 19 suggests that Elisha was living a faithful life before Elijah came to find him. What is the difference between living faithfully in the present and being passive? What does faithfulness look like in your life right now?
5. Read Matthew 13:44. What does Jesus mean by this parable? What are the implications for our lives?
6. God called Elisha to learn from a great, but imperfect, mentor, Elijah. What are some of the challenges of following imperfect leaders? What should we do if we're in the role of the mentor? What should we do if we're in the role of the mentee?
7. Do you currently have any mentors in your life? Explain.

Pray