



Intergenerational Worship

Fact Sheet 7, The Elements of Worship Series



COMMISSION
ON WORSHIP
Lutheran Church of Australia

Research reveals that taking an intergenerational approach to worship can encourage and support people of all ages. Intergenerational means engaging people from all generations by involving them in worship and helping them to engage with one another. Building bonds between people of different ages helps to make each person feel that they are a part of the church family, which is God's family. Worship can reflect the wonderful diversity of different ages and cultures coming together.

The intention is to remind us that worship is not about me and God but it is about us and God. So here are a few suggestions:

- Think about what happens before and after worship. Help people intentionally engage with one another.
- Structure your worship services around one clear theme that is reflected in the bible reading, preaching, prayers, activities and songs. Aim to use the best of the old hymns and new songs that focus on what Jesus has done for us.
- Consider crafting the message so that at some point you are speaking directly to the children, then the singles, then the parents and seniors and so on.
- Aim to engage every age group throughout the service without identifying that any part of the service is for a specific generation. Consider using a wide variety of media and imagery.
- Be interactive. Ask questions that people can talk about together. Encourage all ages to engage and listen to one another. Make time for people to share their stories of how God is working in their lives. This helps to build community.
- Include ways for all people to creatively engage with and respond to the message. Introduce creative expressions for everyone, not just the children.
- Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to serve together in worship: for example - reading, praying, leading music, welcoming.
- Don't plan alone. Bring together a team of people from across the generations to help plan and lead your intergenerational worship. People will support what they help create!

Intergenerational worship has the potential to benefit all generations because it causes us to focus on the needs of others and not just our own needs. Be willing to take risks, experiment with different ideas, be creative and ask your congregation for patience. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities each generation brings as we all worship the one true God.

GROW Ministries have developed many excellent resources to assist congregations in developing intergenerational worship. Visit their website at <https://www.growministries.org.au/> to learn more.