



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

“INTEGRITY is intergenerational”

Sun 10th Oct 2021

WELCOME: If you had to define “Integrity” to someone else tomorrow how would you explain it? What has changed in your thinking and understanding since we started this series... if anything? Last week’s message was about Integrity impacting ALL of life.

- **What does the idea of having integrity in ALL of life mean to you?**
- **Are there areas of life that you struggle in that you can share with the group?** (*There is no pressure to share something, only share if you feel safe and that your group may be able to help.*)

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:

Last week’s message moved from “Integrity” as an individual to integrity as a community. This week’s message moved deeper, exploring the nature of a community made up of multiple generations.

- **Can you share any accounts of connection with people from different generations in your own life – parents, grandparents, teachers, kids, grandkids, coaches etc?**
- **What part have experiences with people from different generations had in your life?**
- **In what ways do you think it is important to have connections with people in different generations from you?**

1. Generational Discipleship begins at Home

Re-Read Deut 6:1-9

- **We explored this passage last week, what elements stick out to you that we can apply to God’s people today?**
- **How would you relate what this passage is saying to your family or to a family you know?**

2. Additional godly influence is vital in family discipleship

Read 2 Tim 1:3-7

- **What does the passage reveal about Timothy’s relationship with Paul?**
- **What does the passage reveal about intergenerational influence in Timothy’s faith?**
- **What does verse 6 suggest about spiritual gifts in the lives of believers?**
- **How do you understand what Paul is teaching in verse 7?**

Fuller Theological Seminary, one of the world’s most influential Bible colleges, conducted a multiyear study of hundreds of teenagers, to find out what causes some to have a faith that lasts while others flounder and dismiss Christianity. One of the key truths they found among students that kept a firm faith was that they had a “web of spiritual influence” in their lives. More than just their parents, there were coaches, teachers, grandparents, pastors, and small group leaders that all influenced them. We can see this “web of spiritual influence” in Timothy’s life. Timothy’s mother Eunice brought other influences into her son’s spiritual guidance. She made sure Timothy spent time with his grandmother Lois, and probably encouraged the mentoring relationship Timothy had with Paul. This reinforces the idea of *Deut 6* of investing God’s Word in the lives of younger people and children, and doing it at all times, in all places and in all aspects of our lives. We have previously spoken about the concept that “it takes a village to raise a child.”

- In what ways is developing authentic relationships across the generations important for the future of the church in Engadine in 5 years, 20 years...50 years?

3. Generational relationships are a "two-way street."

Read 1 Tim 4:12

- In our culture today there is not the same dismissal of younger people that existed in the New Testament era – do you see age related discrimination in any way in our culture?
- In what ways do you think it could be important for us to include, mentor and champion younger people?
- In what ways can we learn from younger people?

Read Titus 2:1-8

- How would you summarise this passage in our contemporary setting?
- Paul is giving Titus directions on how to conduct himself, as a younger man leading a church, speaking to people of all ages including more mature people – how does this apply to us today?
- In what ways does Connect church engage with people of all ages and stages of life and how do you think we could or should do better?

Read Matt 18:1-3; 19:14; Mk 10:15-16; Isa 54:13;

- How can we be open to hear from the younger people around us as God uses them?

Our response:

Take a few moments to consider who in the Connect church family, across the generations in our family of faith, you could encourage this week. Consider some of the more mature aged folks, commit to pray for them and to send a message to encourage them this coming week.

Pray together:

Pray that Connect would be a community of faith that is known for integrity.

Pray that we would each be encouraged to learn from those around us regardless of age or status.

Pray that we, as the family of Connect Church, would make the effort to strengthen each other – across the generations – to represent the Church of Jesus well in our world.

Pray we would invest in one another and that the coming generations would be inspirational Christians, who would impact the world far more effectively than we have.

Pray that we would make time this week to listen to God, whether through one another or through our 5 x 5 x 5 journey or other devotional process, make time to listen as God speaks to us.

This week why not engage with the 5 x 5 x 5 process – take 5 mins for 5 days and dig deeper in 5 ways.