

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



How To Be A Multi-Generational Church - Part 2

What are the costs of intergenerational friendships?

1. **I must be willing to push through discomfort.** Cultivating friendships across generations will lead us into uncomfortable situations. There will be awkward silence and unfunny jokes. We may have to labor for that next connecting point. To ask about that opinion we don’t share. These can be work, and they’re not comfortable, but the labor will pay off.

2. **I must speak and listen charitably.** Each generation has its snide jokes about others, its instinctive eye-rolls, its hot-button issues. Cultivating intergenerational friendships will require me to set those things aside. To assume the best of people much older or younger than me, and to explore our differences with grace. This isn’t a squishy tolerance: we may find freedom to disagree, or one of us may turn out to hold an unbiblical view. But we must be willing to show patience for the other on the way toward that decision.

3. **I must elevate Jesus above all else.** C. S. Lewis said that friendship begins when one person says to another, “What! You too?” That is, when we find with delight that we share common ground with another. Friendship in a sense requires commonality of some sort. The further removed we are from another person—financially, racially, generationally—the number of potential connection points we have diminishes.

What’s worse, the Bible teaches that every tribal group tends to build up dividing walls against others. We have a natural tendency to make us/them groups, and generations are no exception.

But as Ephesians 2 teaches, Jesus breaks down every barrier that might divide us, including the barrier of generations. Every Christian can stand beside every other and say, “You know Jesus too!? Tell me about it!” We all are made in the image of God; all of us sin and struggle as part of the common human condition; and all of us know the same divine Savior, the triune God who embodies unity in diversity. Elevating that God together—sharing testimonies, sharing prayer, sharing worship and gratitude and hardship—will draw us closer to members of other generations.

The small group of men to which I belong has bonded somewhat over a common mission. But even more, we’ve bonded over common relationship with Jesus. We’ve grown closer by discussing God’s Word, by sharing our triumphs and struggles in life with God, and by wondering together at the grace of God displayed in Jesus Christ.

KEY VERSE

Acts 2:44 (NKJV)

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 2:41; Romans 12:3-5; Matthew 26

Grow Together In Belonging

1. What does it mean to belong to God?
2. What does it mean to belong to Capital Baptist Church? What does it mean to belong to believers from different generations?

Tuesday: Acts 2:42; I John 1:5-7; Matthew 27

Grow Together In Connecting

3. What are benefits of connecting to someone from another generation?
4. The article on the cover lists the costs of having friendships with people from other generations. Which cost is most impactful to you? How do you overcome these challenges?

Wednesday: Acts 2:43-45; Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 28

Grow Together In Serving

5. What are some benefits to serving with someone from another generation?
6. What are some challenges that may arise when people from different generations serve together? How might different generations view ministry differently?

Thursday: Acts 2:47b; Luke 14:23; Mark 1

Grow Together In Bringing

7. How can being a multi-generational church help us to bring others to church?
8. In what ways is our motto "A place for people like you" true? How can we be sure that people from every generation feel at home here when they are our guests?
9. Who are some people that you can invite to church?

Friday: Acts 2:46-47a; Hebrews 10:25; Mark 2

Grow Together In Worshipping

10. What are some benefits to multi-generational worship?
11. What are some challenges to multi-generational worship?
12. Will you accept Pastor Steve's challenge to establish a Christ centered relationship with someone older or younger than you? How will you get started?