



**ASCENT**  
COLLEGE

PRESENTS

**CHILDREN NOW**

*workshop*

WITH DR. JESSE JOYNER



# Overview

Scan for slides,  
notes, and more!



## Introductions

**10am - Intergenerational Church Life (Jesse Joyner)**

**11am - Neurodiversity in Children's Ministry (Kathleen Reese)**

**12pm - Lunch!**

**1pm - Reaching Generation Alpha (Audrea Gray)**

**2pm - 6 Practical Things You Can Use Tomorrow in Kids Church (Jesse Joyner)**



# Introductions

# Intergenerational Church Life





# Intergenerational Church Life

Deuteronomy 31:12

Zechariah 8:1-5

Luke 2:44

Romans 12:5

Acts 2:17



*“As important as parents are in a young person’s life...some of our (Fuller Youth Institute) most interesting research has been about the power of intergenerational relationships. We looked at 13 different youth group participation variables and the one that most correlated with mature faith was intergenerational worship and relationships...Our research shows how important it is for young people to have not just parents investing in them but other adults investing in them, mentoring them, being that safety net for them as they’re making choices for their own.”*

Source: GenOn Website, Talking Faith with Kara Powell, Kitchen Table Project

*“Intergenerational ministry is more of a cultural characteristic of a church than it is a ministry area; it is a culture that values and creates space for meaningful connections to be made across generational boundaries in a variety of settings for the purpose of generational discipleship, faith formation, and community building.”*

Source: Christina Embree, Refocus Ministry, <https://refocusministry.org/>.



# Intergenerational Church Life

**“Holy Distractions”**

**A story from this past  
Sunday at my church**





# Intergenerational Church Life

Ministry TO Children

Ministry FOR Children

Ministry WITH Children

\*see Scottie May, "What Have We Learned?" in *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*. Edited by Mimi L. Larson and Robert J. Keeley. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

# Intergenerational Church Life

## Ministry BY Children



\*see Scottie May, "What Have We Learned?" in *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*. Edited by Mimi L. Larson and Robert J. Keeley. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.



# Intergenerational Community

## Discussion:

1. What is something you have learned recently from a child?
2. What is something you have learned recently from someone older than you?
3. When is the last time you actively interacted with three or more generations at the same time? What happened?
4. How can we create environments or experiences where different generations can learn from one another? Or worship and serve together? What are some ideas that come to mind?
5. As a group, search the Scriptures and find a Bible story that is intergenerational in some way. What can we learn from that?





# Six Practical Ideas You Can Use Tomorrow

1. MVOTW
2. Group Games: Heads/Tails, 21, If you can't beat 'em, join 'em
3. God Questions - [link](#)
4. Worship Response Stations - [link](#)
5. Act it Out
6. Circle Prayer (with a “centering” aid piece)

MVOTW:  
Memory  
Verse of  
the Week

Teaching Kids to Memorize Scripture



"Ok, ready? One, two, three...."





Group Games:

Heads/Tails

21

Join 'Em



# God Questions

Why does satan  
have so much hate  
toward God. ~~Jesus~~  
Malb

If God knew that sin was  
going to happen, why didn't  
he stop it?

• If Jesus ~~was~~ lived  
just like us did  
he have crushes

In Revelations, what  
will Satan do after  
the thousand years  
are over locked up?



# Worship Response Stations





# Kids Pray for Adults





# Act it Out



# Circle Prayer







—

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# From the Mouths of Children





# From the Mouths of Children:

How Jesus Made Children the  
Teachers

Matthew 21:16 and  
Psalm 8:2



# From the Mouths of Children:

COVID Palm Sunday letter from  
a neighbor

I hope you don't mind, but I eavesdropped on your skit this morning. I had forgotten that it was Palm Sunday, and it really put a smile on my face thinking about when I was a kid marching around our church. It's great that you found a way to still share that! Though I'm not Christian, and monkey grass is not a palm, I made this for you as thanks for the smile you gave me, and the message of peace that Jesus brought to our world.

Peace to you + your family,



# From the Mouths of Children

When my mother met Kezzie



“Thank you for the God”  
(David, 3)

“To the life of God!”  
(Annie, 6)





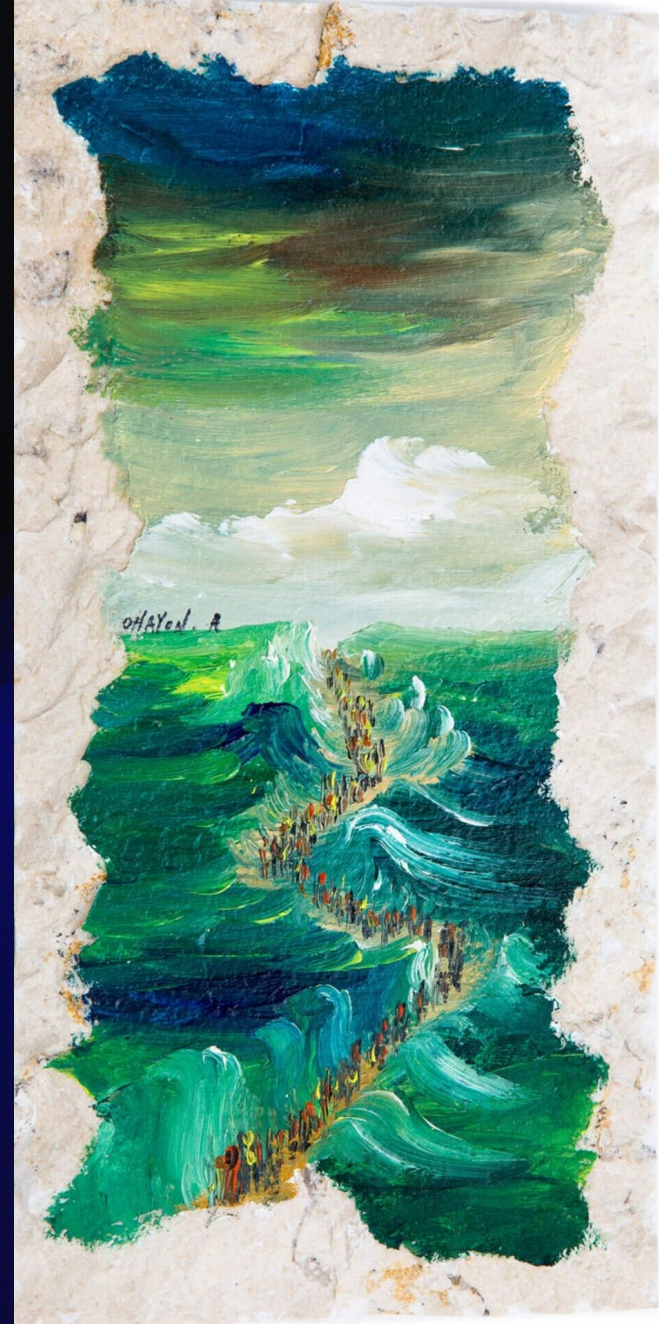
*Jesus with  
the Children*  
by Paul  
Oman

*Paul Oman*





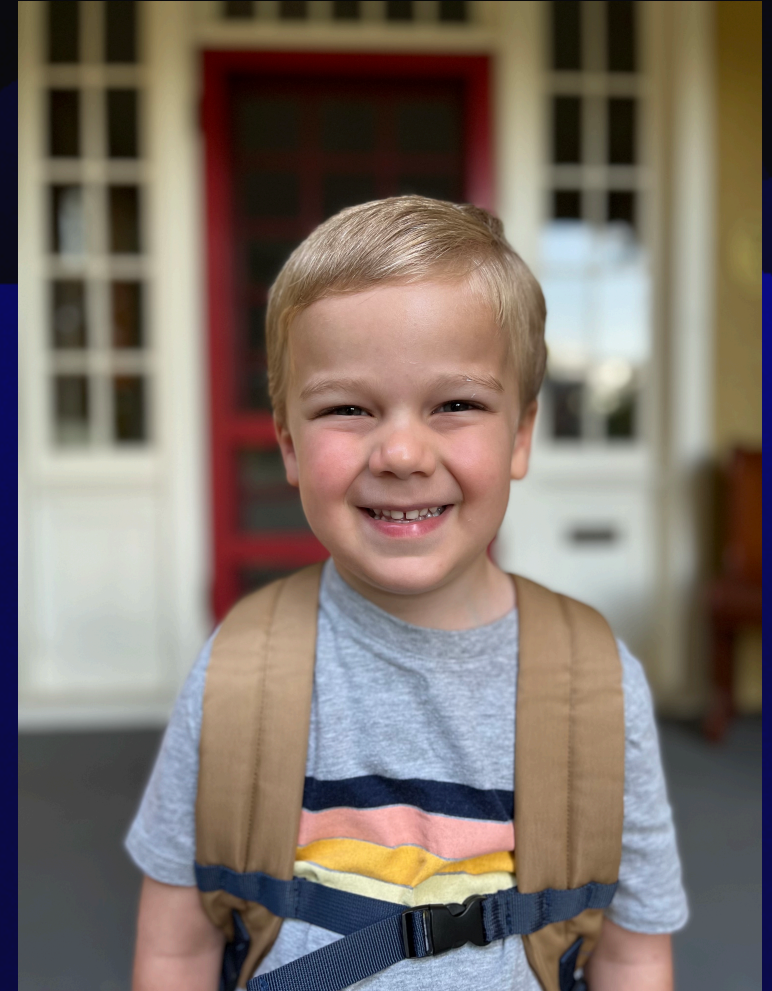
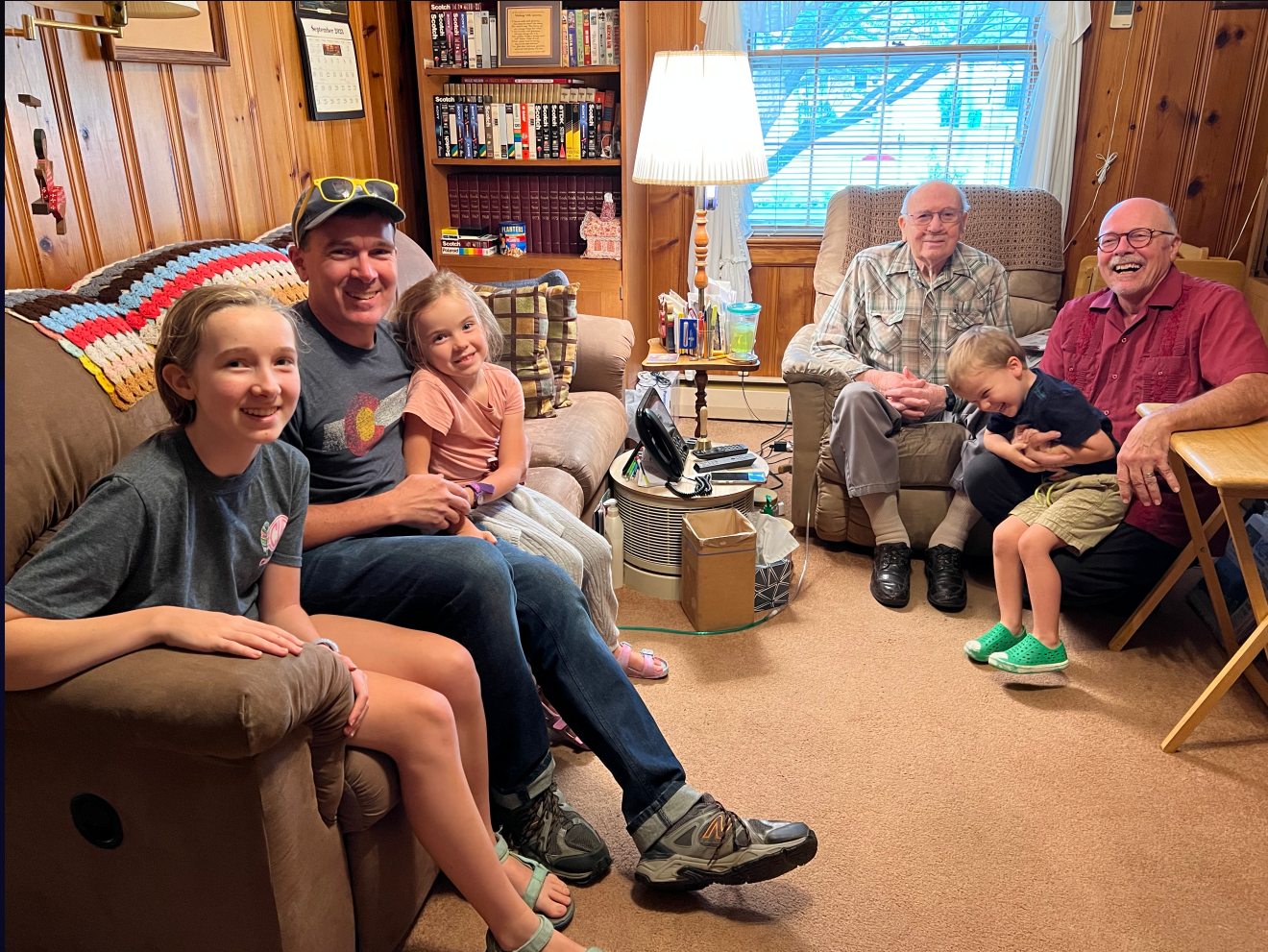
# Psalm 78: Telling God's Story from Generation to Generation



*Parting of the Sea by Avi Ohayon*



# Psalm 78: Telling God's Story from Generation to Generation





We Will Tell  
Psalm 78:1-8



*Daniel in the Lions' Den* by Peter Paul Rubens, circa 1615  
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC



We will not hide them from their  
descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.

-Psalm 78:4

## **We Will Tell**

**Using Psalm 78, answer the following:**

- **Who** are we telling?
- **What** are we telling them?
- **Why** are we telling them?
- **How** are we telling them?



We will not hide them from their  
descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.

-Psalm 78:4

We will not hide them from their  
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# We Will Tell



*Daniel in the Lions' Den* by Peter Paul Rubens, circa 1615  
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC



# We Will Tell



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# We Will Tell



# We Will Tell

“It is evident that teaching the next generation is not merely an option, but an obligation, a covenantal duty commanded by the Lord. As in Deut 6:6-9 and 2 Tim 2:1-7, the truth about the Lord is passed from one generation to the next as a spiritual relay”

-Daniel J. Estes

“The recital of the memory is so that they should *set their hope in God*. It is odd, but true, that our capacity to hope is precisely correlated with our ability to remember...To tell this story is not simply a gesture for entertainment or nostalgia. It is rather a firm, polemical argument about the shape of our world and our place in it”

- Walter Brueggemann



Charles Spurgeon (19th Century English preacher) urged parents of every home to gather their children by the fireside and continually recount four things:

The Biblical story

Stories of the Christian martyrs

Stories of the Reformers

Stories of God's "providence and grace" in their own [the parents] lives



Lithograph of Charles Spurgeon from The Modern Portrait Gallery

Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David, Vol 3, Psalm 53-78* (New York, NY: Funk and Wagnalls), p. 434.

# Finding Ourselves in God's Story

Discussion:

What Bible character do you relate to the most? Why?



# Finding Ourselves in God's Story

Jesus found himself in a Biblical story....

Turn to John 3:16





Rembrandt, *Raising of the Cross*, 1633



How can we help kids find themselves in God's story?



—

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