



Scope



Living in Faith Together

gatherings to nurture intergenerational community

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Inquiries should be addressed to:
GenOn Ministries
info@GenOnMinistries.org

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Introduction

GenOn Ministries puts the highest priority on growing **Christ-centered relationships**, affirming that nurturing people into an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does. When generations mutually invest in one another, Christ-centered relationships grow and intergenerational ministry is born. As relationships among the generations deepen, the church is transformed from doing intergenerational programming to thriving as an intergenerational community. Christ-centered community draws us all closer to God.

Intergenerational ministry nurtures Christ-centered community by bringing together two or more generations in planned and purposeful settings, where all are mutually invested.

GenOn Ministries is committed to helping churches and people of all generations explore and grow Christ-centered intergenerational community through resources and in-person and online training.

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is designed to foster intergenerational community by *bringing generations together* around tables for four activities: sharing food (Breaking Bread Together), enjoying fellowship (Playing Together), worshipping (Praying Together), and studying the Bible (Studying God's Word Together).

LIFT can be used in addition to or in place of other faith formation offerings. Sample settings for LIFT: Sunday School, before or after 5th Sunday worship, special gatherings, offsite events, midweek, summer, Advent, Lent, dinner time, at home, and VBS. Your church may have other opportunities to gather generations together for LIFT.

Using LIFT Scope

LIFT resources are listed below. On the following pages, find a brief description, session titles and Scriptures for each resource.

Title	OT/NT	# of Sessions
Advent and Christmas	NT	12
Faith, Hope, and Love	Both	12
Family Stories from Genesis	OT	12
God Creates	OT	12
Holy Week Stories for Lent	NT	12
New Testament Letters	NT	12
Old Testament Faithful Leaders	OT	12
Old Testament Prophets	OT	12
Psalms	OT	12
This Is Jesus	NT	12
Breaking Bread	Both	6
Friends in Christ	Both	6
Jesus Heals	NT	6
Parables of Jesus	NT	6
The Disciples' Ministry	NT	6
Water Stories	Both	6

There is no set order for using LIFT resources. Churches choose themes based on the desired topic and/or Scripture. Sessions within themes are not cumulative, so churches choose the sessions they desire within each theme.

Sessions are written for intergenerational groups of at least two generations, and include step-by-step instructions for preparing and leading each of the four activities. Sessions are led by one or two facilitators, and take 45-60 minutes depending on the activities chosen.

For a detailed description of how LIFT works, a sample session of LIFT, and other uses for LIFT resources, download the “LIFT Why and How plus Sample.”

12-Session Bundles

Advent and Christmas

Advent and Christmas looks at the stories of Jesus' birth from each of the Gospels. Sessions 1 and 2 are about preparing for Jesus' birth. Sessions 3-7 explore the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke. In session 8, participants read the story of Jesus being blessed by Simeon. Sessions 9 and 10 examine the story of the Magi. Session 11 is about Mary, Joseph and Jesus fleeing to Egypt. And, session 12 is a celebration of the Christmas season.

An Advent liturgical reading is included at the end of the bundle for use with any sessions, as desired.

Sessions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Watch! | Matthew 24:36-44 |
| 2. Prepare! | Matthew 3:1-12 |
| 3. Matthew's Story of Jesus | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 4. Luke's Story of Jesus | Luke 1:26-38. 2:1-7 |
| 5. Gabriel's Message to Mary | Luke 1:26-38 |
| 6. Here Come Mary and Joseph! | Luke 2:1-7 |
| 7. Good News, Great Joy | Luke 2:8-20 |
| 8. Here Come Anna and Simeon! | Luke 2:22-38 |
| 9. Here Come the Magi! | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 10. Asia Anew | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 11. Ancient Egypt | Matthew 2:13-23 |
| 12. Christmas Joy | Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 2:1-20 |

Faith, Hope, and Love

Using stories from the Old and New Testaments, participants focus on faith, hope, and love. In sessions 1-4, the sessions on faith cover Joshua, the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus calming the storm, and curing the Centurion's slave. In sessions 5-7, the sessions on hope cover stories of people sharing their hopes and sorrows and receiving hope, being the light of the world, and Mary visiting Jesus' tomb. The sessions on love look at being a disciple, Nicodemus' question, and loving because God loved first.

Sessions:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Renewing the Covenant | Joshua 24:15 |
| 2. When Did We See You Hungry? | Matthew 25:31-46 |
| 3. Jesus Calms the Storm | Mark 4:35-41 |
| 4. The Centurion's Servant | Luke 7:1-10 |
| 5. Stories of Hope | 1 Kings 3:5-9, Psalm 13:1-2a, Psalm 139:1-11 |
| 6. Light of the World | Matthew 5:13-16 |
| 7. Mary Magdalene | John 20:1-18 |
| 8. Do Unto Others | Matthew 7:7-12 |
| 9. The Greatest Commandment | Matthew 22:34-40 |
| 10. The Prodigal Son | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 11. God So Loved the World | John 3:1-21 |
| 12. God Loves Me | 1 John 4:16-19 |

Family Stories from Genesis

Family Faith Stories from Genesis starts by examining the story of Noah in sessions 1 and 2, and moves to dispersing all the families through the story of the tower of Babel in session 3. Then, participants look at the stories of Abraham and Sarah's family in sessions 4-7, and the stories of Joseph's family in sessions 8-12.

Sessions:

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Noah's the Man! | Genesis 6:9-8:22 |
| 2. In Covenant with God | Genesis 9:1-17 |
| 3. Tower of Babel | Genesis 11:1-9 |
| 4. Abraham and Sarah | Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16 |
| 5. Father and Mother of Nations | Genesis 21:1-8 |
| 6. Isaac and Rebekah | Genesis 24 |
| 7. Jacob and Esau | Genesis 27:1-28:5 |
| 8. Reconciliation | Genesis 32:3-33:20 |
| 9. Joseph: Jealousy | Genesis 37:3-4 |
| 10. Joseph: Dreams | Genesis 41:16, 25 |
| 11. Joseph: Famine | Genesis 42:1-2, 43:1-2 |
| 12. Joseph: Celebration! | Genesis 45:7-8 |

God Creates

In God Creates, using art and other activities, participants explore all aspects of the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2. Sessions 1-5 review the days of creation from Genesis 1 and the first part of Genesis 2. Session 6 is about God creating humans. In session 7, participants draw pictures of the days of creation. Session 8 focuses on the goodness of God's creation. In sessions 9 and 10, participants use creeds and Psalm 29 to reflect on God's creation. And sessions 11 and 12 look at Adam and Eve and how grace is at work in the garden.

Sessions:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. God Creates Earth | Genesis 1:1-19 |
| 2. God Creates Animals | Genesis 1:20-25 |
| 3. God Creates Humans | Genesis 1:25-31 |
| 4. In the Image of God | Genesis 1:26-31 |
| 5. God Rested | Genesis 2:1-4 |
| 6. God Was Involved | Genesis 2:4b-25 |
| 7. A Time for Creation | Genesis 1:1-2:4 |
| 8. God Was Pleased | Genesis 1:1-2:4a |
| 9. Praise God, the Creator | Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; Psalm 29; John 1:1-5 |
| 10. Saying What We Believe | Genesis 1, Matthew 16:13-16, Acts 2:1-14 |
| 11. Adam and Eve | Genesis 3:1-13, 20-24 |
| 12. Grace Abounding | Genesis 3:1-21 |

Holy Week Stories for Lent

Holy Week Stories for Lent surveys events from Palm Sunday through Jesus' resurrection, starting with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in sessions 1 and 2. The Passover meal is explored in sessions 3 – 5, with a special guest to explain the church's process for Communion in session 4. Jesus praying while the disciples slept is the topic of session 6. Jesus' arrest is the subject of Sessions 7, with sessions 8-10 moving from Peter denying Jesus through the celebration of Easter. The post-Easter events of Jesus serving breakfast to the disciples, and appearing to them on the road to Emmaus are covered in sessions 11 and 12.

Sessions:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Jesus Enters Jerusalem | John 12:12-16 |
| 2. Palm Sunday Praise | Matthew 21:1-11 |
| 3. If You Love Me | John 14:15-21 |
| 4. The Lord's Supper | Matthew 26:17-30 |
| 5. Jesus Betrayed | Matthew 26:17-30 |
| 6. Stay Awake | Matthew 26:36-46 |
| 7. Jesus Arrested | Matthew 26:36-55 |
| 8. Peter | Matthew 26: 26:31-35, 69-75 |
| 9. Good Friday | Matthew 27:1-2, 33-38, 57-61, 28:1-10 |
| 10. Easter | John 20:1-18 |
| 11. Feeding the Disciples | John 21:1-19 |
| 12. Walk to Emmaus | Luke 24:13-48 |

New Testament Letters

New Testament Letters leads participants through an exploration of the teachings of Jesus in the Pauline letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, and Paul's second letter to Timothy. In Romans, sessions cover gifts and belonging to God. The Corinthians sessions cover Communion, gifts of the Spirit, the body of Christ, the significance of love, and generosity. The Galatians sessions cover the gifts of the Spirit, and being God's child. Sessions 10-12 include the stories of Euodia and Syntyche, the supreme description of Christ, and Lois and Eunice.

Sessions:

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Giving Ourselves to God | Romans 12:1-8 |
| 2. Belonging to God's Family | Romans 14:8, 1 Corinthians 3:23 |
| 3. Belonging to God through Communion | 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26 |
| 4. Belonging to God through the Holy Spirit | 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 |
| 5. The Body of Christ | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 |
| 6. The Greatest Gift | 1 Corinthians 13 |
| 7. Dedicating Gifts to God | 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 |
| 8. A Time for Jesus | Galatians 4:4-6 |
| 9. The Gifts of the Spirit | Galatians 5: 22-23 |
| 10. Two Philippian Women | Philippians 4:1-6 |
| 11. Family Stories | Colossians 1:11-20 |
| 12. Lois and Eunice | 2 Timothy 1:3-7 |

Old Testament Faithful Leaders

Old Testament Faithful Leaders is a broad sweep of key leaders in the Old Testament and their part in God's story. Participants learn about Noah's wisdom in session 1, Joseph's forgiveness in session 2, Moses getting the ten commandments in session 3, God's calling on Joshua and how Joshua led the people across the Jordan River in sessions 4 and 5, the wisdom and actions of Deborah in session 6, kindness and commitment in the story of Ruth in session 7, Samuel's call from God, Samuel calling David in sessions 8 and 9, Elijah's faith, courage and commitment to God in session 10, the strength and bravery of Esther in session 11, and Daniel obeying God in session 12.

Sessions:

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Noah and the Covenant | Genesis 6:11-22; 7:6-12; 8:13-19; 9:12-17 |
| 2. Family Forgiveness | Genesis 45:1-15 |
| 3. God Instructs | Exodus 19-20 |
| 4. A New Leader | Joshua 1:1-9 |
| 5. What Do These Stones Mean? | Joshua 4:19-24 |
| 6. Deborah, the Judge | Judges 4:1-10, 12-16; 5:1-3 |
| 7. Ruth | Ruth 1:1-18 |
| 8. Samuel | 1 Samuel 3:1-20 |
| 9. Samuel Anoints David | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 |
| 10. Elijah and the True God | 1 Kings 18:1, 17-39 |
| 11. Esther and Purim | Esther 9 |
| 12. Daniel Obeys God | Daniel 6:3-20 |

Old Testament Prophets

Participants are introduced to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, and Micah. They explore Isaiah's message of peace, and the promise of a great leader sent by God in sessions 1-4. Participants learn about God's call to Jeremiah, and his preaching and prophecy in sessions 5 and 6, and Daniel's description of the new ruler in session 7. In sessions 8 and 9, participants discuss Jonah's challenges of being a prophet who rejects God's call. In sessions 10 and 11, participants look at Jesus through Micah's prophecies of peace, and in session 12, participants learn about God's call and invitation to live obedient lives committed to justice and grace and love for others.

Sessions:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Swords into Plowshares | Isaiah 2:1-5 |
| 2. Advent Hopes and Dreams | Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:6-9; Jeremiah 31:31-32 |
| 3. Jesus the Servant | Isaiah 42:1-4, Matthew 12:9-21 |
| 4. We Have a Story to Tell | Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:16-21 |
| 5. God Calls Jeremiah | Jeremiah 1:1-19 |
| 6. They Will Be Like Trees | Jeremiah 17:5-8 |
| 7. What's in a Name? | Daniel 7:13-14 |
| 8. Jonah's the Man! | Jonah 1-2 |
| 9. God's Promise Is for All | Jonah 3-4 |
| 10. Peacemaker | Micah 4:1-8 |
| 11. Bethlehem of Ephrathah | Micah 5:2-5a |
| 12. What Does the Lord Require | Micah 6:1-8 |

Psalms

Participants explore God's majesty and presence, praising God, confession and assurance, thanksgiving, praising God, and water images in the Psalms. Through the Psalm sessions, participants experience a variety of activities including nature walks and nature art, games, crafts, multisensory worship, water games, making Mezuzahs, and conversation.

Sessions:

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. How Majestic Is God's Name | Psalm 8 |
| 2. Prayers of Supplication | Psalm 13 |
| 3. Protect Me | Psalm 16 |
| 4. Prayers of Confession | Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12 |
| 5. The Lord Is My Shepherd | Psalm 23:1-4 |
| 6. Joy and Thanksgiving | Psalm 100 |
| 7. Telling the Story | Psalm 103 |
| 8. Look to God | Psalm 121 |
| 9. Prayers of Thanksgiving | Psalm 136 |
| 10. God Is Always Present | Psalm 139 |
| 11. Give Praise | Psalm 150 |
| 12. Water in the Psalms | Psalm 23, 93, 104, 126 |

This Is Jesus

This Is Jesus is a broad sweep of Jesus' life starting with his birth in session 1. Then, participants move on to studying Jesus in the wilderness in session 2, his calling of the first disciples in session 3, the transfiguration in session 4, Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in session 5, Jesus' walking on water in session 6, and the Lord's Prayer in session 7. The events of Holy Week are explored in sessions 8-10, Peter's denial of Jesus and Jesus appearing to the disciples on the beach and on the road to Emmaus in sessions 11 and 12.

Sessions:

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jesus Is Born | Luke 2:1-7 |
| 2. The Wilderness | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| 3. The First Disciples | Matthew 4:12-23 |
| 4. Transfiguration | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| 5. Teaching Nicodemus | John 3:1-17 |
| 6. Jesus Walks on Water | John 6:16-20 |
| 7. Asking for What We Need | Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4 |
| 8. Preparing Jesus | Matthew 26:1-13 |
| 9. The Last Supper | Luke 22:1-20 |
| 10. Breakfast with Jesus | John 21:1-15 |
| 11. Do You Love Me? | John 21:15-19 |
| 12. Jesus Appears to the Disciples | Luke 24:13-35 |

6-Session Bundles

Breaking Bread

Breaking Bread focuses on stories of food in the Bible. Participants review the Passover from Exodus, two stories of Jesus feeding the crowds, the parable of the Great Banquet, the Lord's Supper in Luke, and knowing Jesus as the Bread of Life.

Sessions:

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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Passover | Exodus 12:21-27 |
| 2. Jesus Feeds Us What We Need | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 3. The Great Banquet | Luke 14:15-24 |
| 4. Remembering Passover | Luke 22:7-20 |
| 5. A Youth's Lunch | John 6:1-15 |
| 6. Bread of Life | John 6:26-40 |

Friends in Christ

Friends in Christ helps participants think about the characteristics of Christ-centered friendships, the kind of friends Christ calls participants to be, and how to show friendship to others.

Sessions:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Loving Others | 1 John 4:7-21 |
| 2. Friends Show Love | Proverbs 17:17 |
| 3. Friends Forgive | Luke 6:27–31; 17:3–4 |
| 4. The Gift of God’s Family | Matthew 25:31-46 |
| 5. The Friend to All | John 4:5-42 |
| 6. Friends Work Together | Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 |

Jesus Heals

Participants look at six stories of Jesus healing people. Five stories (session 1-4 and 6) look at Jesus healing physical maladies, and all the stories are about Jesus healing the hearts and minds of all who are healed and the witnesses.

Sessions:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Healing Simon's Mother | Mark 1: 29-34 |
| 2. Lowered through the Roof | Mark 2:1-12 |
| 3. Jairus' Daughter Healed | Mark 5:21-24a, 35-42 |
| 4. Who Touched Me? | Luke 8:42-44, 49-56 |
| 5. The Woman at the Well | John 4:1-30, 39-42 |
| 6. The Blind Man | John 9:1-7 |

Parables of Jesus

Parables of Jesus explores six teaching stories Jesus told: building a house on rock and sand, planting seeds in rocky ground and good soil, the lawyer asking about his neighbor, finding a lost sheep and a lost coin, the prodigal son returning home, and Jesus teaching that he is the vine.

Sessions:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. On Rock and Sand | Matthew 7:21-27 |
| 2. A Seed Story | Matthew 13:1-9 |
| 3. Who Is My Neighbor | Luke 10:25-37 |
| 4. A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin | Luke 15:1-10 |
| 5. A Lost Son Is Found | Luke 15:11-24 |
| 6. I Am the Vine | John 15:1-8 |

The Disciples' Ministry

The Disciples' Ministry starts with Jesus sending the disciples out with specific instructions for spreading his message. Then, participants learn about Jesus' ascension, followed by the disciples' experiences of growing the early churches led by the Holy Spirit, including the ministry of Peter and John, and Peter and Tabitha.

Sessions:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. On a Mission | Mark 6:7-13 |
| 2. Now What? Ascension | Acts 1:6-11 |
| 3. Holy Spirit at Pentecost | Acts 2:1-15 |
| 4. Fellowship of the Spirit | Acts 2:14-47; 4:32-37 |
| 5. Peter and John | Acts 3:1-4:22 |
| 6. Peter and Tabitha | Acts 9:36-43 |

Water Stories

Water is a significant part of stories in the Old and New Testament. Water Stories looks at six stories starting with Noah and the flood, Moses floating in the basket, and Moses parting the waters of the Red Sea in the Old Testament. New Testament stories are about John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, and Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

Sessions:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Noah | Genesis 6:10-8:22 |
| 2. Saving Baby Moses | Exodus 2:1-10 |
| 3. Let the Waters Part | Exodus 14 |
| 4. John the Baptist | Luke 3:7-18 |
| 5. A Voice in the Wilderness | Mark 1:1-11 |
| 6. Disciples Serve as Jesus Served | John 13:1-5, 12-15 |



Who is GenOn Ministries?

GenOn Ministries is a non-profit organization that partners with churches to nurture, grow, and deepen intergenerational Christ-centered community. Our guiding principle is that nurturing an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does.

What does GenOn Ministries do?

GenOn offers resources, experiences, training and support to help churches grow Christ-centered relationships and move toward forming deeper intergenerational community.