



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Building a Multi-Generation Church”

Preached by Daniel Grothe

August 3rd 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pastor Daniel discusses the importance of building a multi-generational church as part of New Life Church's core distinctives. He emphasizes that it is the church's greatest duty to share the story of God with future generations, drawing from Judges 2 where a generation arose who neither knew the Lord nor what He had done for Israel. The pastor warns against focusing so much on building physical structures that we neglect passing on our faith to the next generation.

Key Passage | Judges 2:6-10 (NIV)

"After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. Joshua, son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel."

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father,

as we gather to discuss what it means to build a multi-generational church, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your wisdom. Help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us today. May we not just hear these words but allow them to transform how we interact across generations. Guide our conversation and help us see the unique role each of us plays in continuing Your story of faith. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

Who was one person older than you who significantly influenced your faith journey, and what did they do that made such an impact on you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. The sermon mentions that 'God has no grandchildren.' What does this statement mean, and how does it relate to our responsibility to pass on faith?
2. What are some practical ways we can ensure that the story of faith continues beyond our lifetime?
3. The sermon warns about the danger of 'building houses but not strengthening households.' What does this mean, and how might we be guilty of this in our own lives?
4. What is the difference between 'fluid intelligence' and 'crystallized intelligence' mentioned in the sermon, and why is this important for understanding multi-generational ministry?
5. How can we create more opportunities for meaningful interaction between different generations in our church?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your every day life

This week, take a meaningful step toward building intergenerational relationships within our church community. Intentionally connect with someone from a different generation than your own—not just in passing, but through a genuine, thoughtful conversation. If you're a younger person, consider reaching out to an elder or someone with more life experience. Ask them to share how their faith has grown over the years, how they've seen God's faithfulness in different seasons, and what advice they might have for someone navigating your stage of life.

If you're older, look for an opportunity to encourage and invest in someone younger. This could be a student, a young adult, or a new believer. Ask about their dreams, struggles, and the questions they're wrestling with in their faith. Share stories from your own journey—not as the expert with all the answers, but as a fellow traveler who has seen God work in both the highs and lows.

Be intentional about listening with empathy and offering support. That might look like praying with them, checking in later in the week, offering mentorship, or even helping with something practical they're navigating. Pay attention to what God might be teaching you through this interaction—about them, about yourself, and about His Church.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- It is our greatest duty to share the story of God with the people entrusted to us, ensuring faith continues to the next generation.
- A healthy multi-generational church needs the wonder of the youthful, the work ethic of the kings and queens, and the wisdom of the saints and sage
- At every age, we have a unique and vital role to play in God's kingdom - no one is too young to serve or too old to contribute.
- The goal is for each generation to jump off the shoulders of the previous one, taking faith further than before.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for the beautiful picture of a multi-generational church where each person plays a vital role in Your kingdom. Help us to value the wonder of youth, the work ethic of those in their prime, and the wisdom of our elders. Forgive us for the times we've focused on building external things while neglecting to pass on our faith. Give us the courage to invest in relationships across generational lines. May we be faithful to share Your story so that no generation under our care would grow up not knowing You or what You have done. Help us to die empty, having given away all You've entrusted to us. May Your favor be upon us and a thousand generations after us. Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Verses for Further Study

1. Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”

2. Titus 2:3–6 (NIV)

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live... Then they can urge the younger women... Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.”

3. Job 12:12 (NIV)

“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?”