



# CHURCH *for All Ages*

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION *Guide*

This guide is designed for personal reflection or team discussion.  
After engaging with the teaching content, use this content to  
process, pray, and plan.





**Personal Reflection**

- Choose one passage that stands out to you. Pray with it, asking: What would it mean for our church to take this seriously in practice?

**Discussion Questions**

- How has our church tended to read Scripture: through an individual lens or a communal one?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What biblical images (Body of Christ, Covenant, Household of God) most resonate with our context?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If we re-centered discipleship on relationships rather than content, what would change?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How might children and youth disciple adults in our church?

**Scripture Reflection**

Read and reflect on the following passages. As you do, ask:

- Which of these passages challenge our tendency to see faith as an individual journey?
- What do these verses reveal about the communal nature of faith?
- How might these texts shape your church’s approach to worship, discipleship, leadership, and mission?

Genesis 17:7

Mark 10:13–16

Galatians 3:26–28

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Luke 2:25–40

Ephesians 6:1–4

Deuteronomy 31:9–13

John 6:9

Colossians 3:20–21

Joshua 4:4–7, 21–22

Acts 2:17–18

1 Timothy 5:1–2

Psalms 78:1–8

Acts 16:31–34

2 Timothy 1:5

Joel 2:28–29

Romans 12:4–5

Hebrews 12:1–2

Matthew 18:1–6

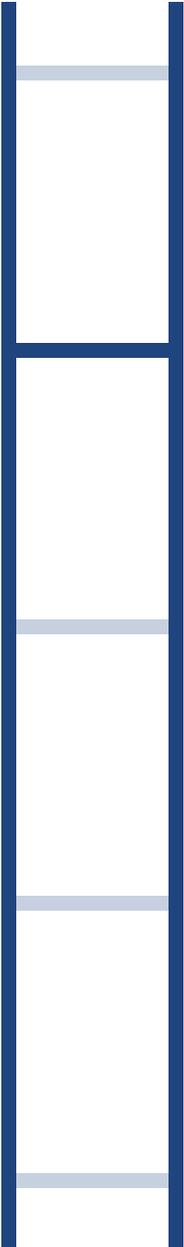
1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Revelation 7:9–10



Use this tool individually or as a team to prayerfully discern where your church currently stands on the ladder of generational engagement. Each “rung” includes a definition and reflection questions that highlight what may be missing and where God might be calling you to grow. Keep in mind that different aspects of your church life might fall within multiple rungs. The invitation isn’t to necessarily align everything to the intergenerational rung, but to discern:

- Where are we now?
- What is one faithful step forward?
- How might God be calling us to embody His intergenerational vision of communal life more fully?



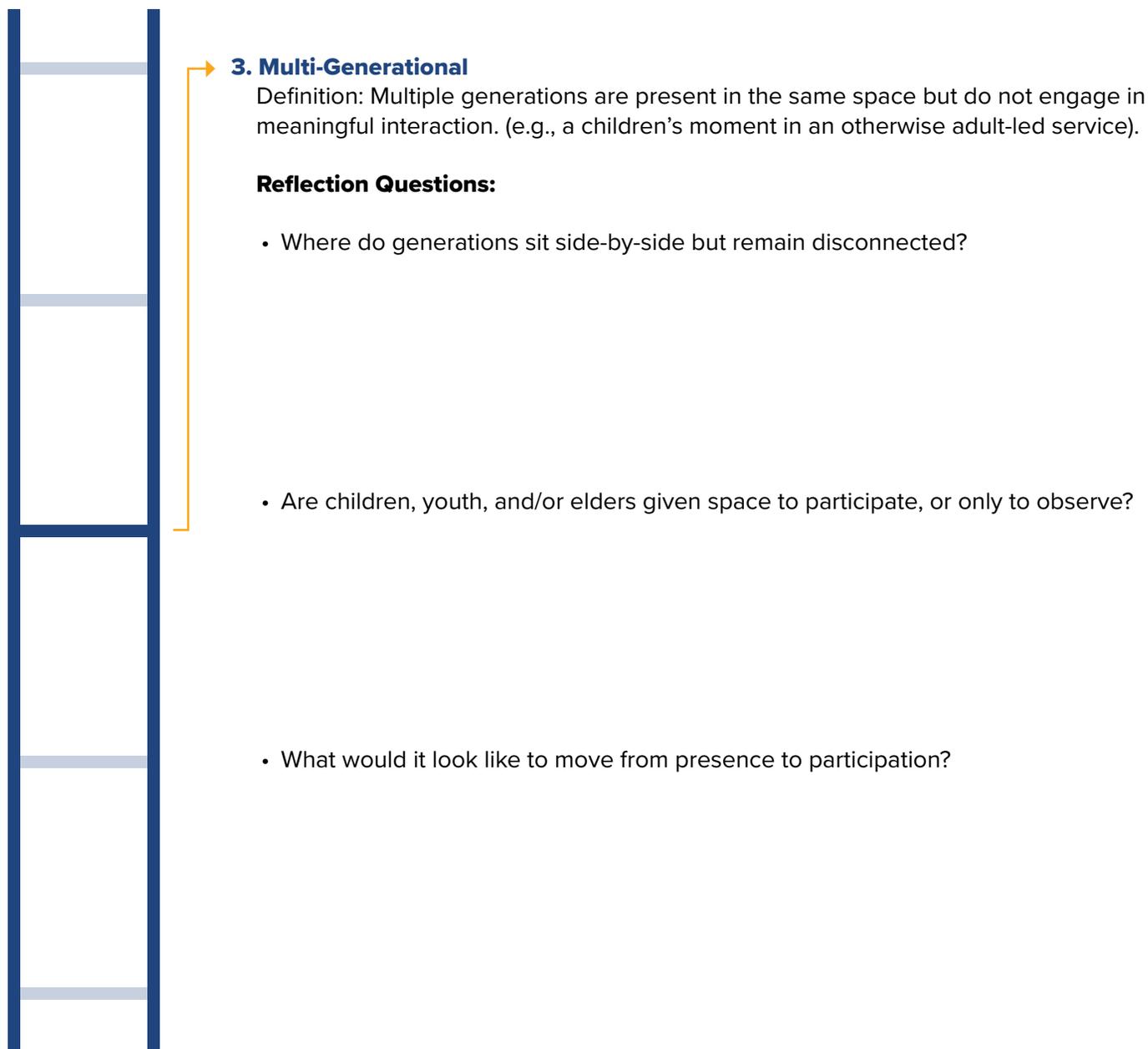
**2. Age-Segregated**  
Definition: Different age groups are present in the church but meet separately in parallel spaces (e.g., Sunday school for children while adults worship in the sanctuary).

**Reflection Questions:**

- Where in our church do generations remain separated?
- What are the strengths of age-specific ministry in our context? What are the dangers?
- How do we ensure that age-specific programs don’t replace intergenerational belonging?
- What does this communicate about belonging in our church?

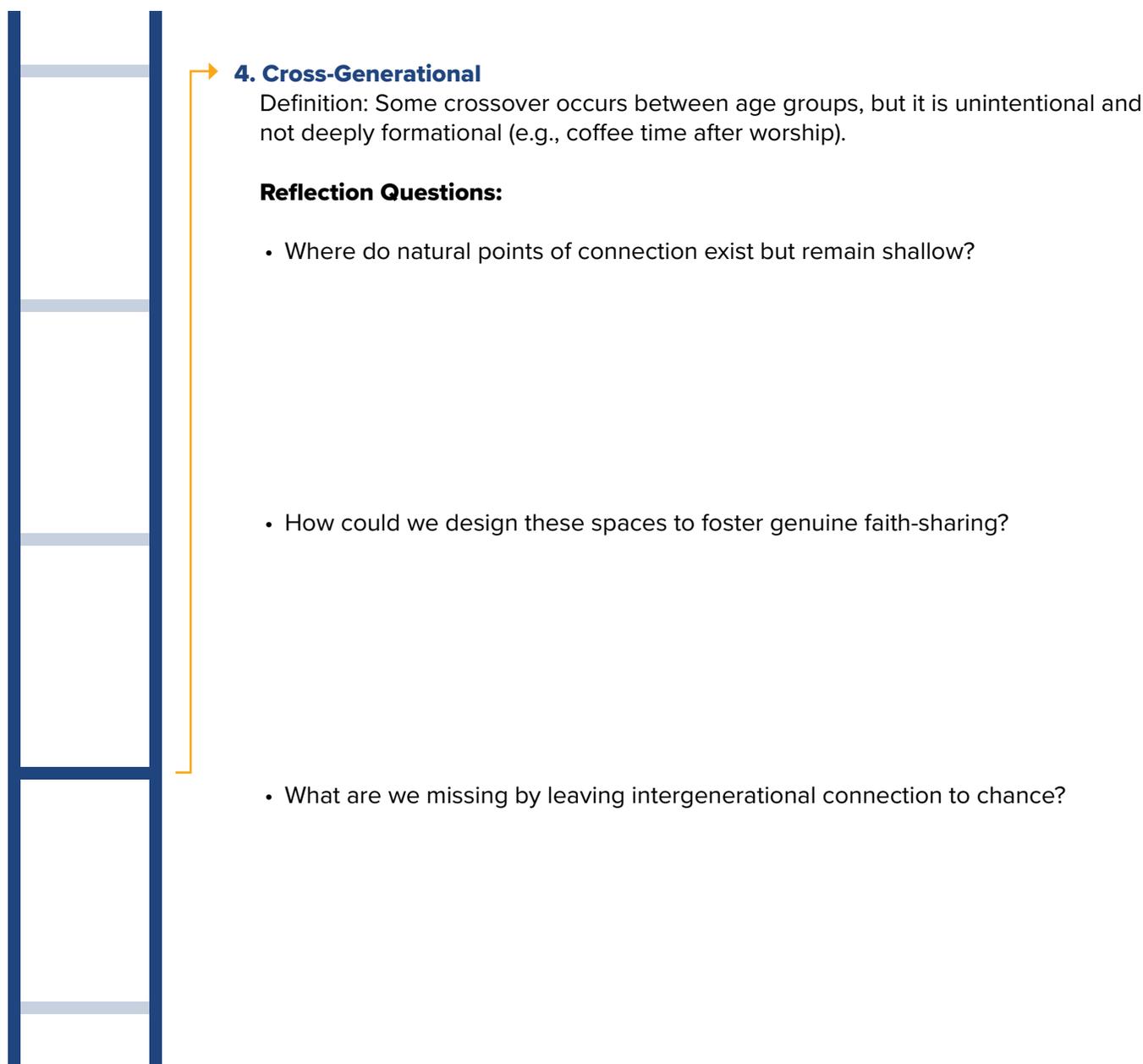
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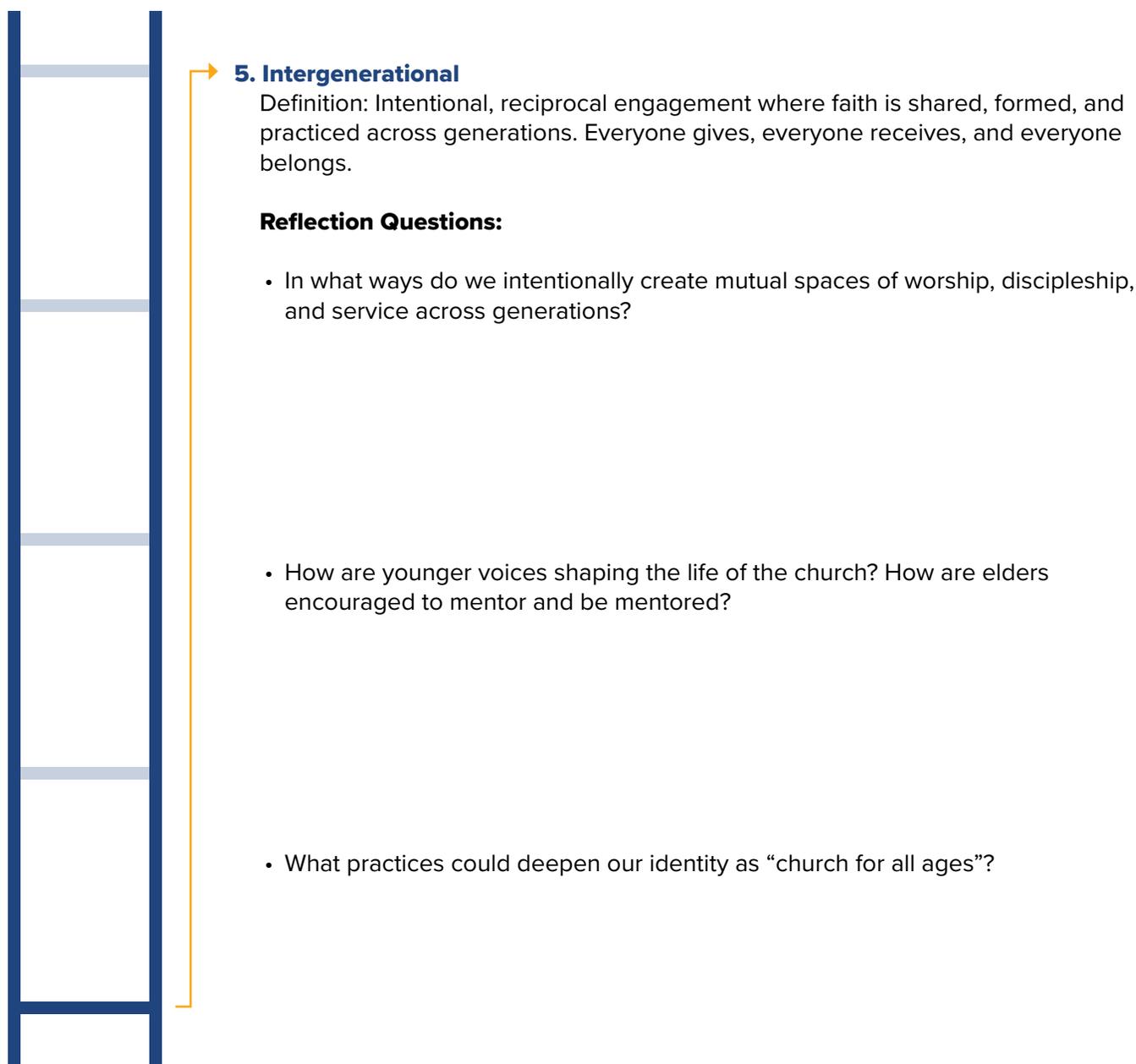
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## Taking Action Together

Intergenerational ministry is everyone's responsibility. You don't need a pastoral title or ministry role to make a difference. Every member of the church has a part to play in creating spaces where faith is shared, formed, and practiced across generations. Whether through mentoring, listening, welcoming, teaching, or simply showing up, each person contributes to the life of the whole body. When all generations take ownership, the church becomes a living, relational community where everyone belongs. Try one or more of these practices this month:

### 1. Intergenerational Interviews

Find someone in a generation older or younger than you. Ask them:

What has been your most meaningful experience of church?

What do you hope the next generation\* will experience in our faith community?

What makes you feel most connected or most disconnected here?

*Who can do this? Anyone willing to listen and learn from another generation.*

*\*For the purpose of this particular question we define the term "next generation" as those under 18*

### 2. Story Swap

Pair up with someone of a different generation than you and share a 5-minute story each about how you remember first experiencing God.

Notice similarities and differences.

*Who can do this? Small groups, Sunday school classes, ministry teams, or even friends within the church.*

## NEXT STEPS *Prayer Exercises*

### 1. Intergenerational Interviews Prayer

Before you meet someone from another generation, pray: *"Lord, help me to listen with open ears and a humble heart. Show me what I can learn from this person and how I can encourage them in their faith."*

After the interview, pray silently or aloud for the person you spoke with, thanking God for their gifts and asking for His guidance in building bridges between generations.

### 2. Story Swap Prayer

As you share your story and hear another's, pause together and pray: *"Thank you, God, for the ways you have worked in our lives. May our stories inspire and strengthen one another in faith."*

Consider closing with a short prayer for the generation you just connected with.

### 3. Sunday Experiment

Sit with someone of a different generation than you in worship. Afterwards, ask:

What stood out to you in today's service?

How did you connect with God through it?

*Who can do this?*

*Every worshipper, from teens to elders.*

### 4. Ministry Lens

Pick one ministry area (worship, small groups, fellowship, service). Ask someone of a different generation than you:

How does this ministry include or exclude people your age?

What would make it more welcoming?

*Who can do this?*

*Any church member who participates in ministry life.*

### 5. Blessing Conversation

Approach someone in a generation younger or older than you and simply say: "I see God in you when..."

Ask them: "How do you see God at work in me?"

*Who can do this?*

*Anyone willing to extend affirmation and encouragement across generations.*

## NEXT STEPS *Prayer Exercises*

### 3. Sunday Experiment Prayer

While sitting with a different generation in worship, use a simple breath prayer:

*Inhale: "Lord, unite us..."*

*Exhale: "...as one body in Christ."*

Afterwards, silently pray for the people around you, asking God to help you notice and honor their gifts.

### 4. Ministry Lens Prayer

As you ask someone about a ministry area, pray first:

*"Holy Spirit, help me see this ministry through another's eyes. Teach me how to include, value, and connect with all ages in our church."*

Pray after your conversation for wisdom and creativity in building intergenerational spaces.

### 5. Blessing Conversation Prayer

Before giving a blessing, pray: "Lord, show me the ways you are at work in this person's life. Help me speak encouragement and see your Spirit in them."

Afterward, pray: "May we grow together, learning from each other and building your Kingdom across generations."

## Continuing THE LEARNING

After trying one or more of these Next Steps practices and reflecting on what you've learned through this series, you may be wondering how to keep growing in intergenerational understanding and practice. As we have highlighted throughout this series, there are many different entry points and pathways to becoming a more intentional church of all ages. There is no one-size-fits-all path. That's why we want to walk with you as you discern where to go next. Whether you're looking to explore worship ideas, service projects, intergenerational leadership, or conversation starters, or whether you want to deepen existing ministries like Sunday School or youth ministry, we have tools and coaching to support you. And remember, you don't need to overhaul everything at once. This is a journey, and every journey begins with just one step. Connect with your CBOQ Regional Associate or explore some of the resources provided on the separate resource page.

***May you step forward with courage and imagination into God's call to become a church where every generation is welcomed, formed, and sent in Christ's name.***

*Questions?* **REACH OUT TO US!**

**Here is a list of our Regional Associates you can contact:**

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Children and Family Ministries Associate