



Class Objectives – After this class you will be able to:

- Learners will develop empathy for senior adults.
- Learners will be aware of the importance of intergenerational ministry for all generations.

Key Terms:

- Transitions
- Intergenerational Ministry

Senior Adults, Intergenerational Ministry

I. Honoring the Aged

- A. Leviticus 19:32
- B. Psalm 78
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:18

II. Aging Gracefully

Aging Gracefully?

Aging gracefully in a Peter Pan society is no easy task. Older Americans are remaining active and living longer than ever before, but they no longer enjoy immunity from our culture's forever-young demands. In place of blatant age discrimination, there is a new ethic of exaggerated non-discrimination that says older Americans must meet the same standards of physical health, sexual allure and perpetual hipness as everyone else — or die trying.

*“Growing Old in a Culture of Perpetual Adolescence”
Colleen Carroll Campbell
St. Louis Post-Dispatch 9-13-07*

III. What's at Stake? – Statistics:

IV. Articles:

- A. Seaver, Anna Mae Halgrim. "My World Now: Life in a Nursing Home, from the Inside."
- B. Burroughs, Alice. (2005). "Being Eighty."

V. Transitions:

A.

Life Transitions

✦ Anticipated Transitions

*Major life events we expect

✦ Unanticipated Transitions

*Disruptive events that occur unexpectedly

✦ Non-event Transitions

*Expected events that fail to occur

B.

Themes from 1 and 2 Corinthians

- + 1 Corinthians 12.4 - Different gifts, Same Spirit.
- + 1 Corinthians 12.18,27 - Each one of you is part of the body of Christ.
- + 2 Corinthians 5.18 - God reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

How do/can members of the body of Christ participate in one another's maturing in Christ given the variety of ages, stages, and life transitions represented?

What are the age and stage groups in your church? What do brothers and sisters within each group need from and can offer to brothers and sisters in each of the other groups?

C.

Intergenerational Conversation: One Church's Experience

Goal: Intergenerational Conversation
around topics of mutual interest

✦ More Time

✦ Better Talk

✦ Deeper Faith

Please complete the following **Activity** (13.1).

Take a few moments to reflect on Lesson 13 and briefly write down one or two take-away(s).

Please complete the following **Activity** (13.2).

Sometime in the next week take time to ask two or three elderly members of your church the following questions:

1. Why do you attend this church?
2. How does this church minister to you?
3. How are you able to apply your gifts in this church; if not, why not?
4. What hopes do you have for this church?