

Connecting the Generations

Gosnells CRC Session

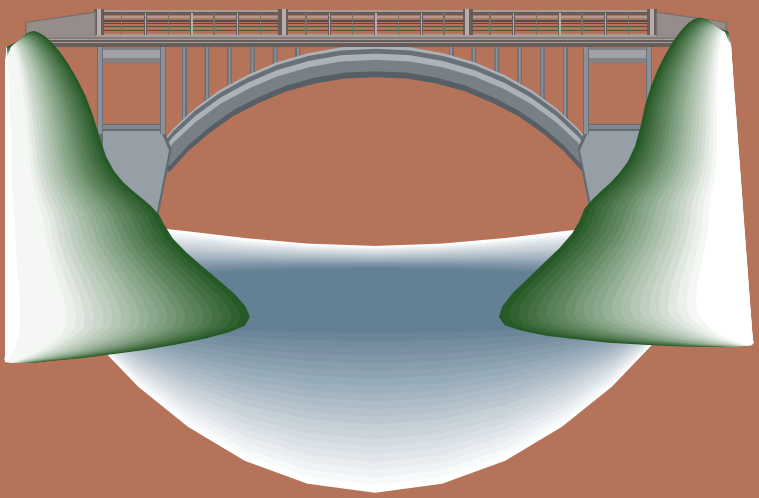
2 April 2011





Connecting the Generations

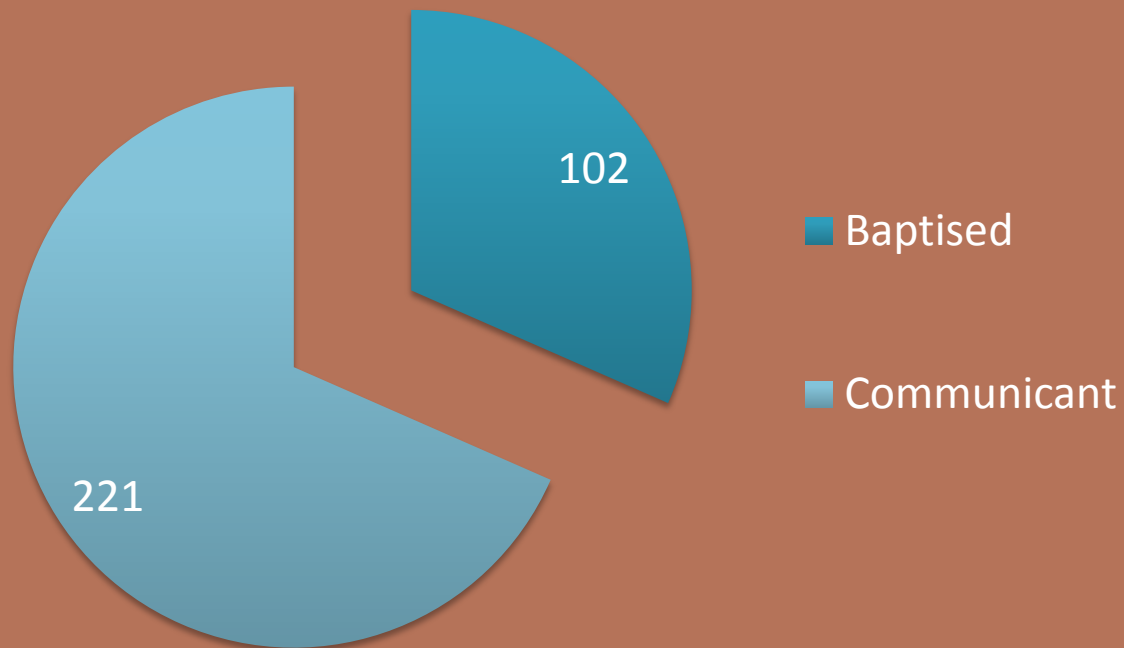
Closing the gap between younger and older people in your church






Connecting the Generations

- Closing the gap between younger and older people in your church




Exercise A

A photograph in the top-left corner shows a man lying down with his eyes closed, and a baby is resting on his chest. The man's face is in profile, looking towards the right. The baby is looking towards the camera.

All the sermons, lessons and devotionals you remember that had a deep spiritual impact on you as a teenager

Exercise B



All the people you remember who
had a deep impact on your
spiritual journey as a teenager



Defining Terms

- **An Intergenerational Ministry Approach:**
 - views the roles of parents and the surrounding adult community as the primary influence in a young person's spiritual formation
- Ministries are designed to create opportunities for spiritual growth across generational lines while still offering programs that meet the specific age-appropriate needs of both younger and older people



Redefining Family

- A structural definition
 - Marriage, birth/adoption, divorce, remarriage, and others variations





Redefining Family

- A functional definition
 - loving one another, being faithful to the same Lord, and adopting one another as brothers and sisters in the household of faith



A circular inset image in the top-left corner shows a baby with blue eyes looking up, and a man's face in profile looking towards the baby. The background of the slide is a solid brown color.

Redefining Family

- Genesis 2:23-24: “flesh” relation
- Matthew 12:50: “functional” relation
 - “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”
- Psalm 68:5-6: “God sets the lonely in families.”
- Church = “household of God” Eph 2:19; 1 Tim 3:15

A photograph in the top-left corner shows a man lying down, looking up at a baby who is sitting on his chest. The man has his eyes closed and a peaceful expression. The baby is looking towards the camera with a curious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

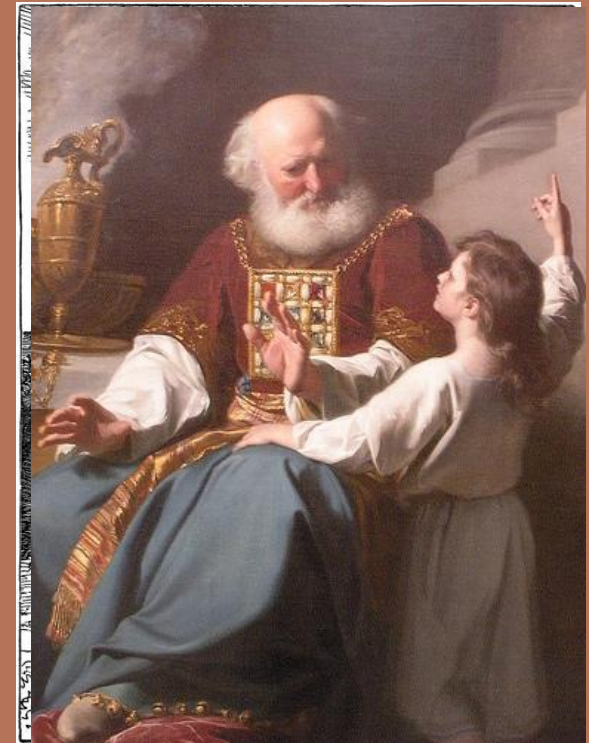
Reflect

Which definition of "family" do we design our ministries around, a structural definition or a functional definition?



Faith and Family in the Bible

- The Israelites: a relational community
 - Genesis 22: Abraham and Isaac
 - I Samuel 3: Eli and Samuel
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-9





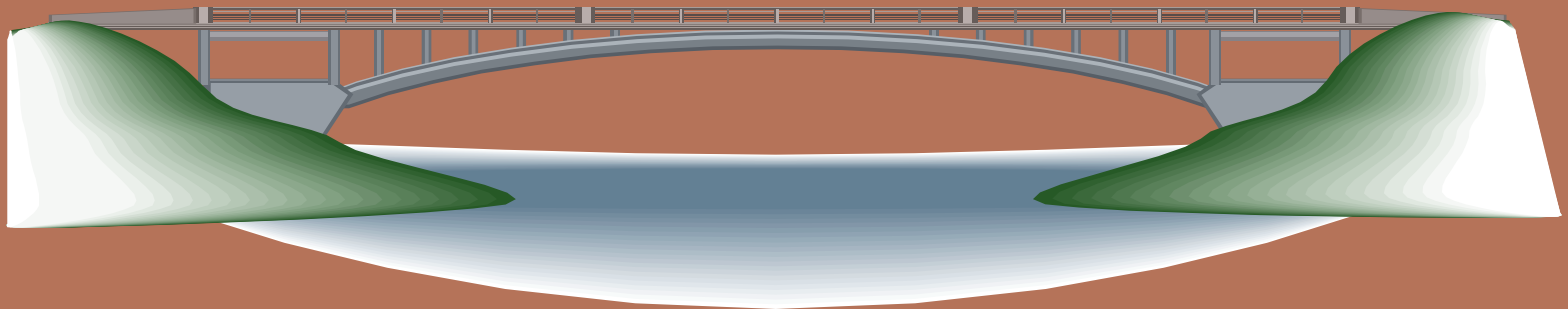
Faith and Family in the Bible

- The Early Church: a relational community
 - House Churches (Acts 2:46-47; 4:32-35; 16:31-34)
 - Households
 - Lydia (Acts 16:15)
 - Philippian Jailor (Acts 16:33)
 - Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)
 - Children bidding farewell to Paul (Acts 21:5-6)



Bridging Generations Principles

- Age Integration
- Generational Understanding
- Integration of “Households”
- Parental Responsibility (Deut 6:6-9)





Reflect



What will be our biggest obstacle to intergenerational ministry?



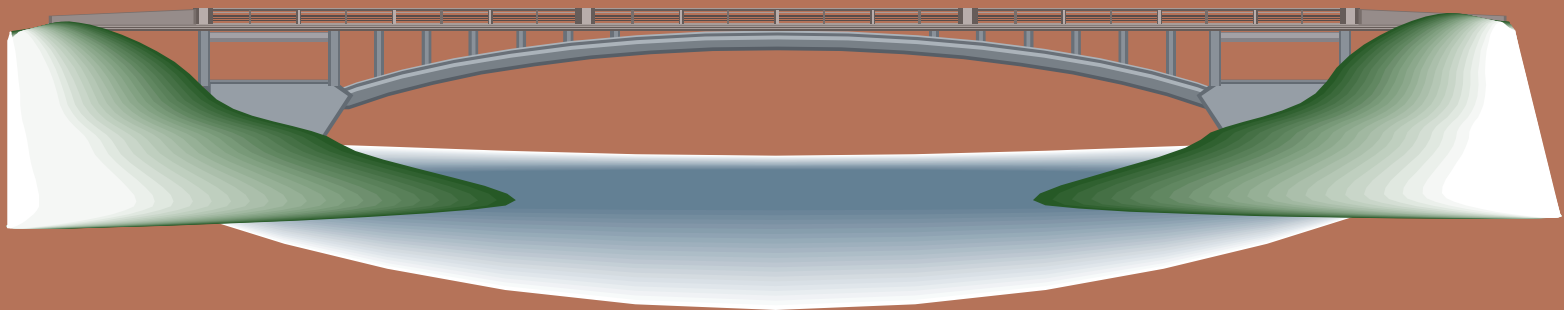
Casting the Vision

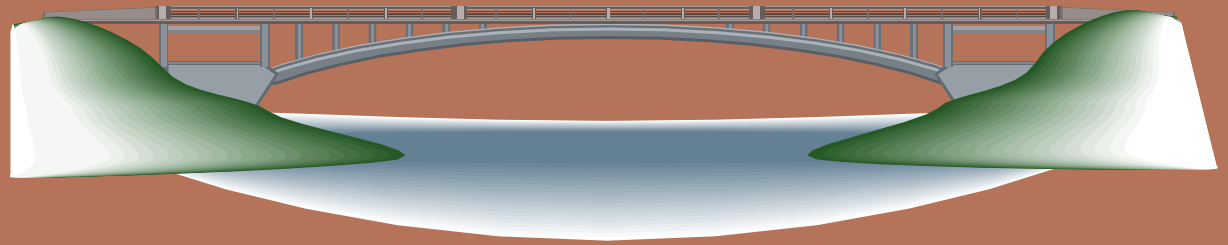
- “The younger generation no longer honours the traditions. They will destroy our culture.”
 - Babylonian Stone Tablet
- ‘Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers, consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is our God, our God forever and ever.’ (Psalm 48:12-14)
- “One generation will commend your works to another” (Ps. 145:4)



Casting the Vision

- Bringing the generations together requires humility, mutual submission, and respect for one another
- "I am so proud to be part of a church that sees the next generation not as the church of tomorrow, but as the church of today."

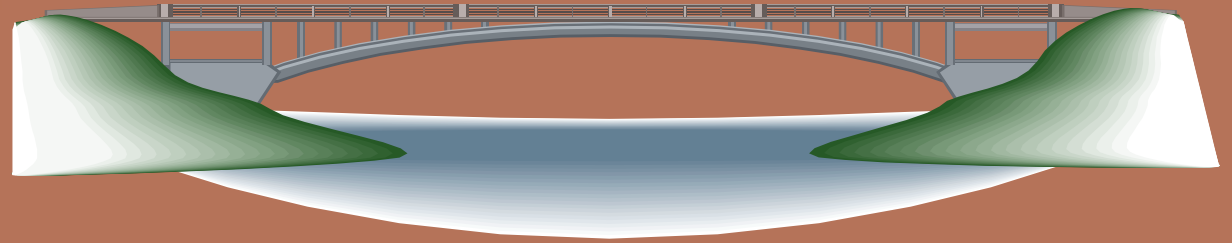




Building the Bridge

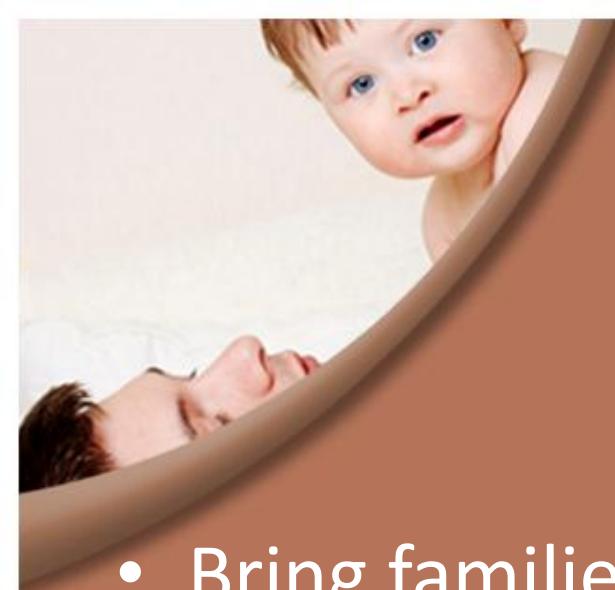
- An intergenerational ministry brings diverse ages together in the same place, with the same materials, for the same purpose.
- The goal: to build cross generational relationships that strengthen faith formation in the community and at home.

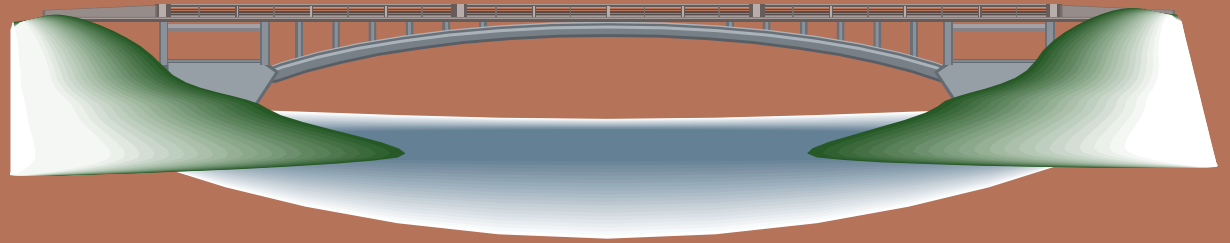
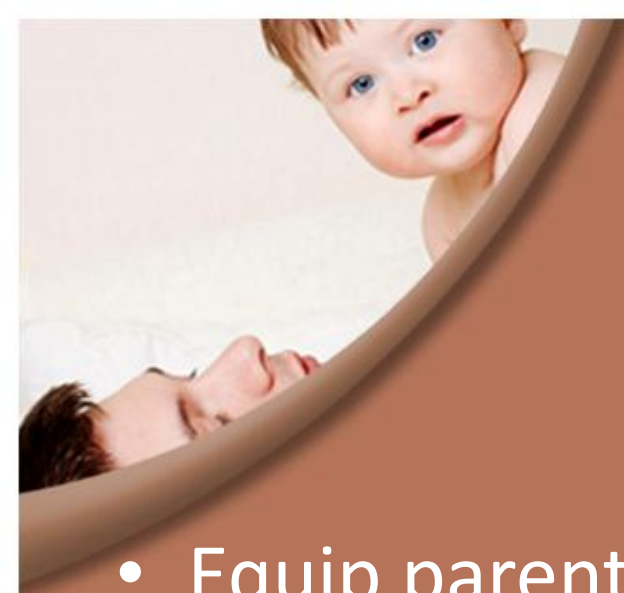




Building the Bridge

- Bring families together in their walk of faith on Sundays
 - Align sermons with children's and youth ministries
 - Sermon based life groups/small groups
 - Encourage youth participation in worship
 - Encourage youth in leadership

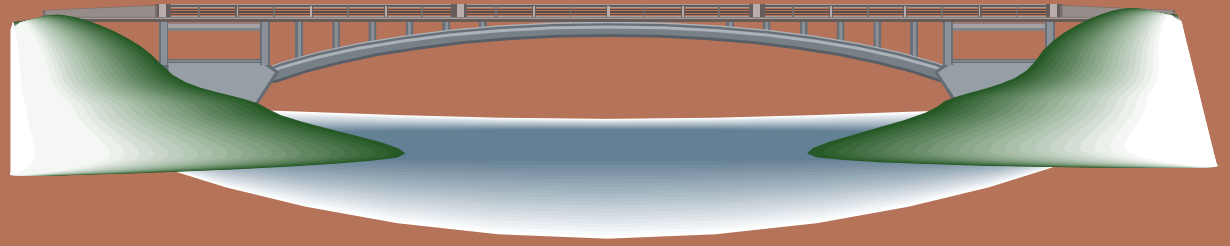
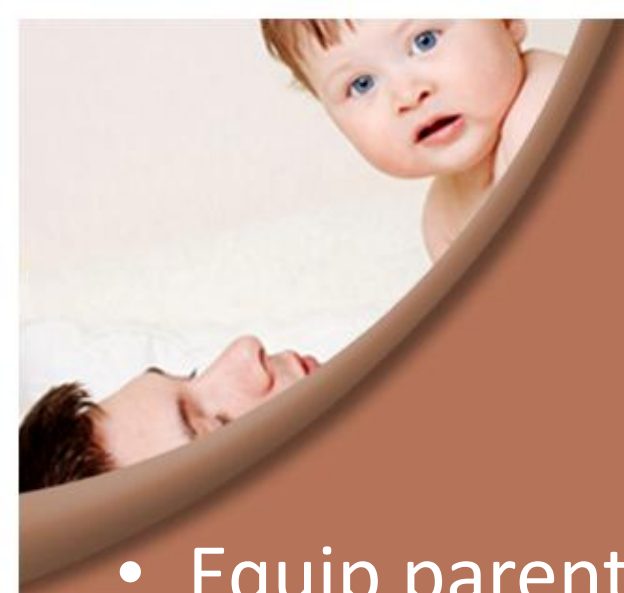




Building the Bridge

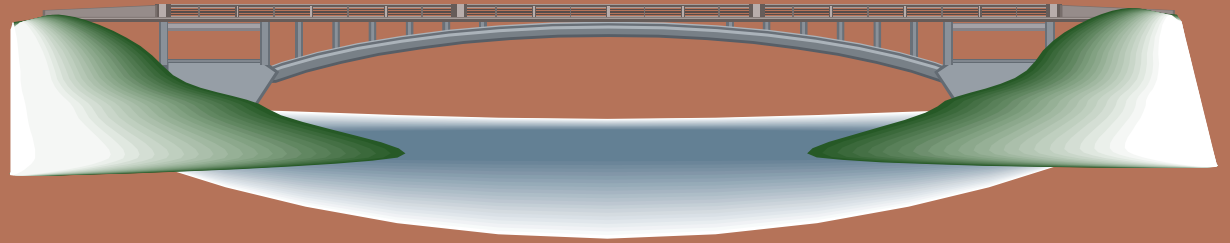
- Equip parents to lead their family's faith development





Building the Bridge

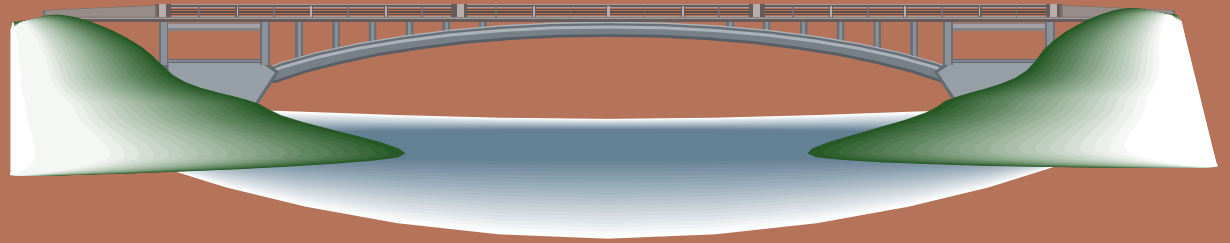
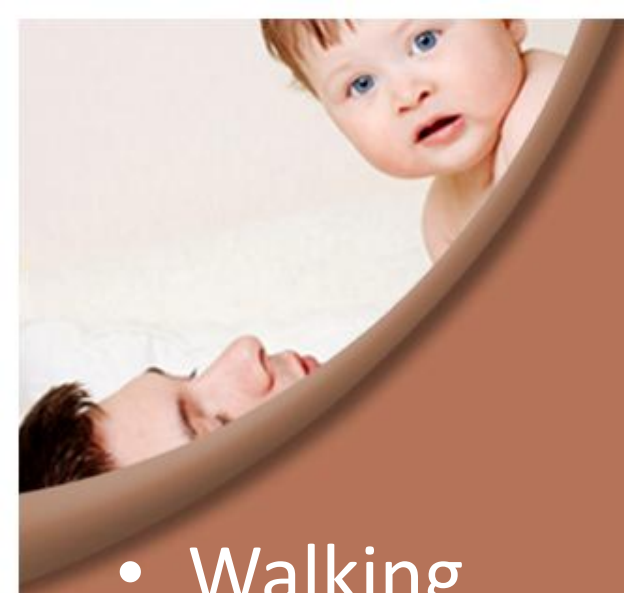
- Equip parents to lead their family's faith development
- Bring "families" together for a Family-Home Adventure
- Transform church activities into intergenerational events



Building the Bridge

- Be inclusive: include the non-nuclear family units

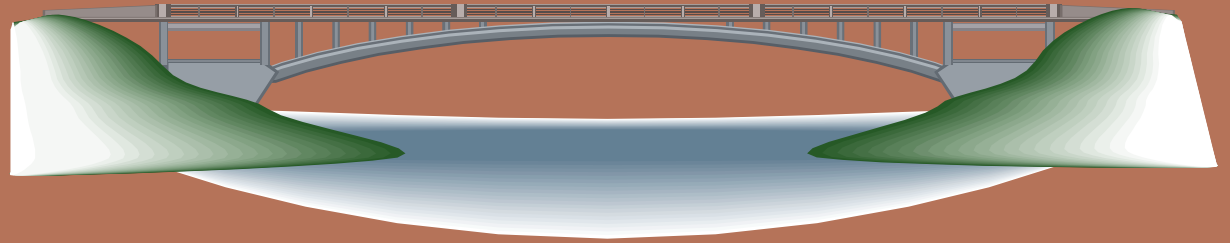
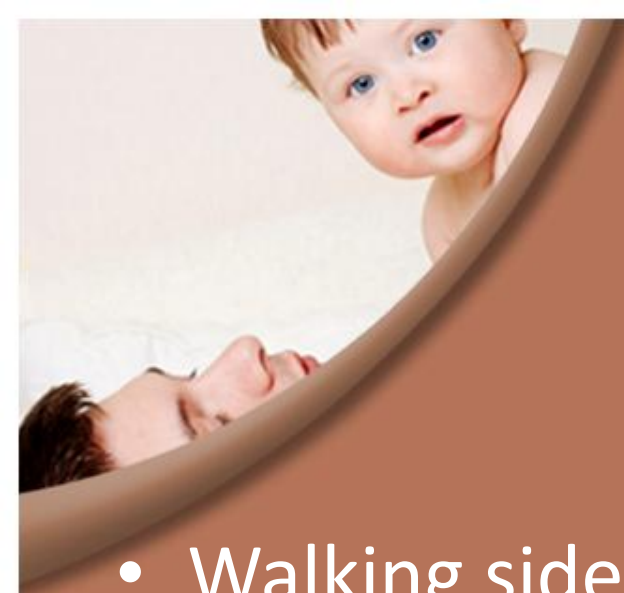




Embrace Mentoring

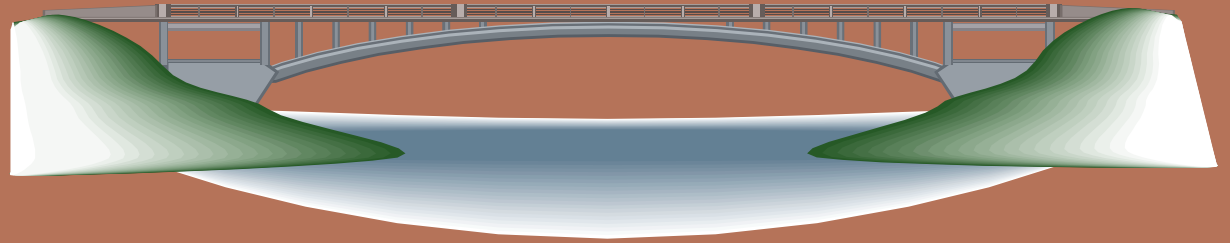
- Walking side by side with others





Embrace Mentoring

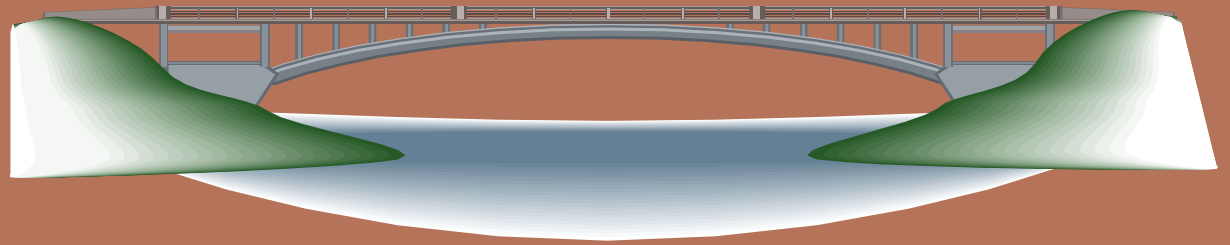
- Walking side by side with others
- “A brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”



Embrace Mentoring

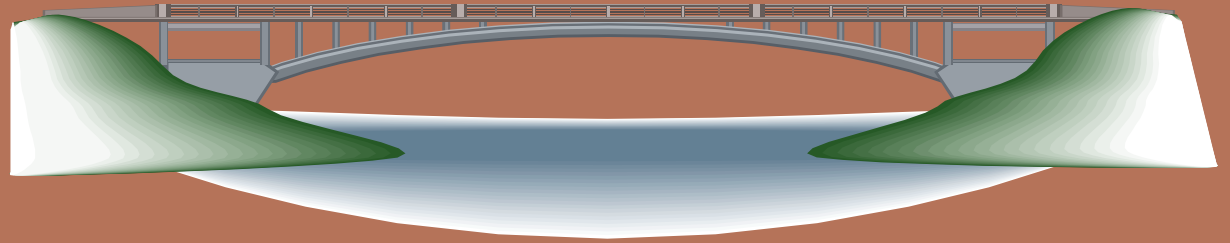
- “Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

- Titus 2:3-5



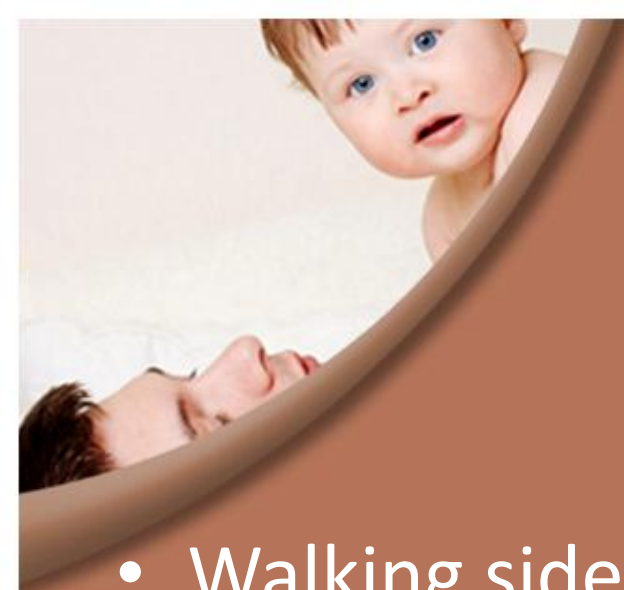
Embrace Mentoring

- “¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”
 - 2 Timothy 2:1-2



Embrace Mentoring

- Walking side by side with others
- “A brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”
- The Benefits of being a Mentor:
 - Sense of significance
 - Personal growth





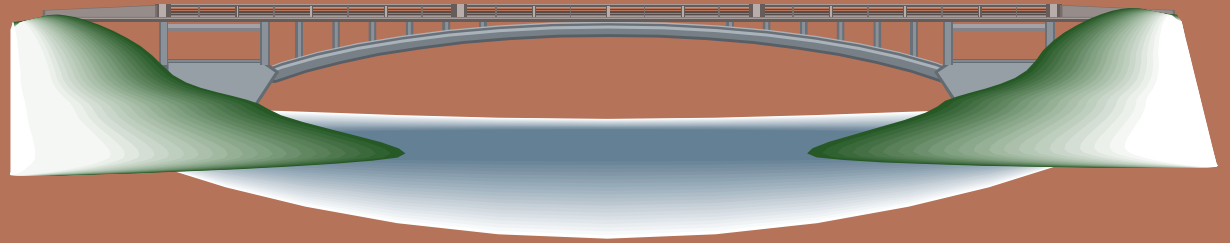
Questions Mentors Can Ask

- How is your ministry or job affecting your relationship with God?
- How is your sense of God's call being clarified?
- Where are your skills being tested?
- Where is your character being tested?
- What are your hopes and dreams for your future?
- How can I help you?
- What evidence can you point to of the presence and power of God in your life?



Questions Mentors Can Ask

- As you assess your growth, where do you see areas you need to work on? What are your felt deficiencies?
- What are some new things you could try?
- What pain have you experienced and what were some of the effects of that pain?
- How has that shaped who you are?
- How might God use your past to prepare you for ministry in the future?



No Short Cuts

- Mentoring is not for the impatient
 - John 13
 - 1 Corinthians 13
- As a mentor you're never without a ministry



Reflect



How can we better facilitate mentoring relationships in our church?



Meeting the Objections

- Making room for both intergenerational and age-specific ministries
- Consider which programs can be cut to make room

Reflect



Who in our church—including parents and students—would be interested in brainstorming ideas for intergenerational participation?