

Practicing Intergenerational Worship

Fusion Workshop
Led by Nelson Cowan

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Why should we care about being more intergenerational in our worship practices? In this workshop, we will define some key terms, develop our ultimate theological and practical “why” for becoming a more fully intergenerational church. We’ll discuss barriers to intergenerational worship, while also working together to develop some practical on-ramps for better engaging young people in our worship services. Participants will leave with new frameworks for worship, supported by implementable plans.

OBJECTIVES

1. Distinguish between multigenerational and intergenerational worship, establishing a clear theological and practical foundation for engaging young people in corporate worship.
2. Identify and dismantle common barriers to intergenerational participation.
3. Collaboratively design practical intergenerational worship on-ramps across key areas of worship services.
4. Formulate a concrete next-steps plan to introduce and sustain these practices within local ministry contexts.

OUTLINE

1. Introduction and Defining Terms
 - a. Multigenerational vs Intergenerational
 - b. Doing it for the right reasons
- i. Counteracting transactional models of ministry
- ii. Cultivating lifelong faith, creative resilience, leadership, and connecting Sunday to Monday
 2. Group Discussion
 - a. Why are we not involving children more frequently in worship?
 3. The idolatry of “excellence”
 4. Flow vs Fabric: Working toward a Better Metaphor
 5. Working Groups: Intergenerational Worship On-Ramps
 - a. Song selection
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Liturgies/Prayers
 - d. Worship planning
 6. Planning next steps
 7. Conclusion/Prayer