

5 'Matters' of CHILDREN and FAMILIES Ministry 2020 on

Cheryl's Reflections and highly recommended resources

1 Life-long Faith Matters

II Timothy – Paul shares wisdom with Timothy

Passing on faith is core to the church's purpose. Keep a long view of discipleship in your church from babies to older adults. Understand the "whys" before launching into the 'how and what' No one size fits all.

No recipe. Listen, plan, practice, review.

Two excellent websites with a HEAP of resources, being added to all the time: HERE2STAY from Australia

<https://here2stay.org.au/>

LIFELONG FAITH from USA

<https://www.lifelongfaith.com/practices.html>



2. Children Matter

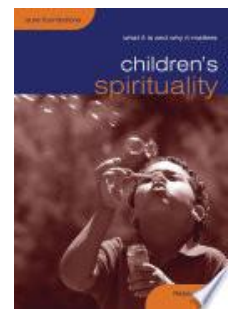
'Let the children come to me and do not stop them'

Luke 18:15-17

Children are spiritual too and able to explore faith from an early age. Highly recommend:

"Children's Spirituality – what it is and why it matters"

Dr Rebecca Nye shares important research and challenges what that will mean for our content, programmes and relationships with children. Helpful 6 point SPIRIT checklist:



- **S**pace – physical and auditory (time to think and answer)
- **P**rocess – spiritual life is not product
- **I**magination – encourage use to help them go deeper
- **R**elationship – at the core- with God, with one another
- **I**ntimacy- creating safe spaces to question and share
- **T**rust – God is at work- take a long view of 'results'

3. Families/households Matter

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

It's widely recognised that PARENTS are the primary nurturers of their children's faith. Church's role is to support, encourage and equip the home/households of faith to flourish.

There is no shortage of resources available but that can be part of the challenge. What do churches choose to focus on to support their parents without sending them on a guilt trip about all the things they are NOT doing? Below is ONE idea and resource that could make a big difference if practised regularly.

FAITH5 Faith Acts In The Home is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice. When done over time, the **FAITH5™** carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding and promote mental, physical and spiritual health for everyone in the family.

Watch Dr Rich Melheim enthusiastically unpack what each of the 5 steps is about and get started straight away! www.faith5.org

Here are the FAITH 5 (five minutes and five steps) that can change a family



1. **Share** your *Highs & Lows* of the day (the best and worst thing that happened)
2. **Read** a Bible verse or story
3. **Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your *Highs & Lows*
4. **Pray** for one another's highs and lows.
5. **Bless** one another before turning the lights out each night

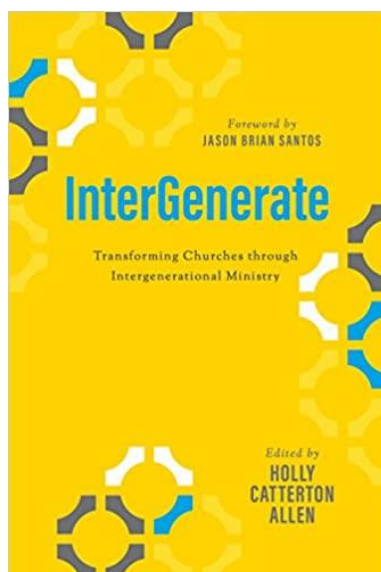
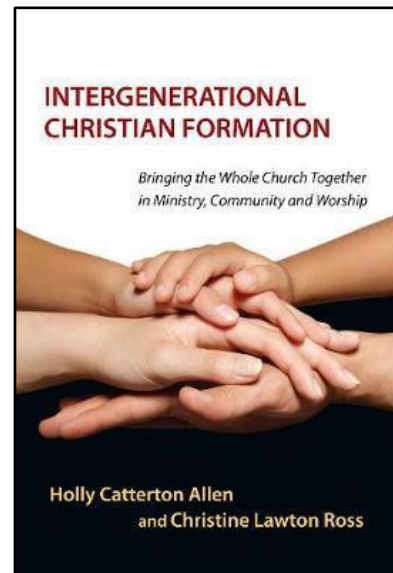
What is ALL the households of faith in your congregation started practicing Faith5 regularly?

4. **All Ages Together Matter -Intergenerational Ministry** *Psalm 78:1-7*

Doing more TOGETHER is the other key challenge and focus of direction and resources in the 21st century. Research is showing that alongside INFORMATION, experiences that encourage FORMATION are needed for ALL ages to grow in faith as life-long followers of Jesus for TRANSFORMATION.

Faith is caught more than taught and is passed on best when churches *'intentionally bring the generations together in mutual serving, sharing and learning in order to live out being the body of Christ to one another and the greater community.'*

"Intergenerational Christian Formation"
By Holly Catterton Allen and Christine
Lawton Ross
(a dense read but highly recommended)



'Intergenerate' tackles the important question 'How can we bring the generations back together?' Each chapter is a keynote address or workshop from the Intergenerate conference (2018) representing multi ages, countries and denominations.

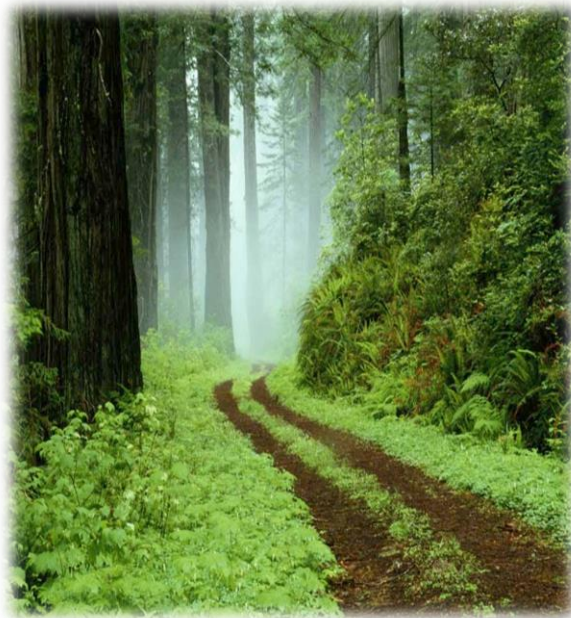
Read taster summaries of each chapter under resources/thinking intergenerationally at www.pcfm.org

(Both books are also available on Kindle)

5. YOU matter!

"Come to me. Get away with me and you will recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me, work with me and watch how I do it... learn the unforced rhythms of grace." Matthew 11:28-30 The Message

You can't keep giving out in Christian ministry if you are empty and worn down. Take time to discover and regularly practise rhythms of spiritual nurture that help YOU keep close to God and 'fill your tank' (Bible reading, study, prayer practices, physical exercise, sharing with friends, rest and refreshment)



Finally from Cheryl:

THANKYOU for all you do to support and encourage ministry with children and families in your church and community.. It has been a pleasure to walk alongside you for part of the journey.

**"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious
to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace."**

Numbers 6:24-2