

Intergenerational Trivia

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Purpose

The Intergenerational Trivia is intended to encourage people to get to know one another better and to observe what makes us all, young and old, so unique. This activity can be used to strengthen the relationship between generations, promote discussion and work through stereotypes we may have of one another. You may find this a useful activity for group building in your church or ecumenical organization and to promote the value of each member's contributions in a group.

Preparation

- Print off the pages
- Cut out the "Intergenerational Trivia Cards"
- This activity can be done in large or small groups with people of mixed ages. For large groups, divide the people into smaller groups of about 5-7 persons. Make sure there is a mixture of ages in each small group. To do this activity with children, you may wish to create more age-appropriate statement cards that relate to their interests and experiences.
- This activity can be done in as little as 15 minutes or as long as an hour—depending on the size of the groups, how many cards you give them, and how much time the group spends on the debriefing questions.

Starting the activity

One or more cards are distributed to each member of the group. Each person takes a turn to read out the statement written on their card. Anyone in the group who can answer "yes" to the statement should raise their hand. Group members may be encouraged to ask that person questions about their response. For each person who answers "yes" an "X" can be written on the Intergenerational Trivia chart. Place the "X" in the column that corresponds to the category of the card (i.e. *life experience, family connections, education and historical moments*).

After each person has had a turn to ask a question (or until the group has gone through all the cards) add up the total number of "Xs" in the chart. After the activity, ask the group to reflect on the following questions to about the experience.

Questions for debriefing

1. In which columns are there the most "X" marks? In which are there the least?
2. Are there any statements or answers which surprised you?
3. What are your reactions to this activity?
4. What would you like to say about the statements in which you answered "yes" to?
5. Speaking from your own experience, how do you think the context and era in which you were born has shaped or influenced you? (i.e. your faith, identity, values, expectations, choices, perceptions, worldview etc). Do you think this makes you unique or different from other people younger or older than you?
6. What is the place/role of children, teenagers, young adults/youth, middle age adults and elders in your church and community? Are these roles all the same? What are the differences?

Notes for the facilitator

Encourage each person in the group to start by introducing themselves before starting the Trivia. Depending on the group and context, you may also want to do some other activities to help the group get to know one another better and feel more comfortable before starting.

Feel free to create new statements and more cards that will correspond best to the context and the group.

Think of what you hope the outcomes of the activity will be and prepare additional questions for discussion and debriefing to help the group reflect on the activity and build better intergenerational understanding and dialogue.

At the end of the Trivia, encourage the groups to see the accumulation of “Xs” on their chart as resources and assets of the group. Regardless of age, our individual experiences add to the collective wealth of knowledge and add to the richness of perspectives. In the debriefing questions you may want to explore this concept further—i.e. in the church are there certain life experiences or perspectives which are privileged over others? Are some life experiences overlooked? What are the gifts we each bring?

Other ideas for intergenerational dialogue & community building

After the Intergenerational Trivia, you may want to continue or deepen the discussion. Ask the group to divide into smaller groups according to age (i.e. a group of young people and a group of senior adults). In the small groups ask the people to discuss the following questions (feel free to add your own questions):

1. What are the questions or issues you’re facing in this stage of your life now (i.e. could be regarding school, family life, career etc)—observe if there are similarities or differences among the responses.
2. How are these issues similar or different to when you were younger? How do you imagine your life might develop in 10 years?
3. What is your role in the church and/or community?
4. What gifts do you have to offer the church?
5. How do you perceive the younger & older generations of people in your church? How do their roles differ/relate to your own role?
6. How do you believe the other generations view you (both as an individual and as a generational group)?

Bring the small groups back together again into one large group. Encourage the small groups to share their replies—focus especially on the last two questions so that stereotypes can be identified and discussed by the whole group. How do the different groups feel about the perceptions made about them (there may be varying opinions in the group)?

You may want to end these activities with a prayer and invite the participants to state what qualities and gifts from the older or younger participants they are thankful for.

Intergenerational Trivia Cards

☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I have never lived in the world when HIV/AIDS did not exist	I am a parent	I was a student in the 1950s	I remember how I felt when I heard Martin Luther King Jr. was shot
☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I have had an email account since the time I was a teenager	My grandparents are still living	I was a student in the 1960s	I remember when the Berlin Wall came down
☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I was alive during the cold war	I am a grandparent	I was a student in the 1970s	I remember when the Lord of the Rings books first appeared
☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I witnessed my country gain its independence	I am an aunt or uncle	I was a student in the 1980s	I was alive when India gained independence

☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I was born during the time of World War II	I speak the same language my great grandparents spoke	I was a student during the 1990s	I was alive when Nelson Mandela went to prison
☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I am close to the same age Jesus Christ was when he lived and taught with the disciples	One person that influenced my decisions in my life is someone that lived and died long before I was born	I am still a student	I can remember when my country won the World Cup

☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments
I have lived in the world before there was such a thing as nuclear weapons	There have been children I know who taught me important lessons for life	I am a life-long learner	I remember the first time people went to the moon
☀ Life Experience	♥ Family Connections	★ Education	🕒 Historical moments