

PBCC LifeGroups: *I See a Church...*



Lesson #6 - ... That Honors the Past, but Is Willing to Risk It All for the Future

Introduction: God makes His power and presence known to us!

Have you ever heard someone squash an innovative idea with the simple phrase, "that's just the way we've always done it"? It can be easy to stick with the way things have always been done, but in so doing miss out on what could be a better way.

The balance between honoring the past and moving forward into the future is not easy to strike. But it is essential for a healthy church. A leader's job is to pass on the truth of the gospel, as well as to welcome new ideas from the next generation about how to present that truth in relevant ways.

A multi-generational church honors both the past and the future. It is a church that cares about discipleship—and knows that one generation can disciple the next. And that next generation can learn from the past, so that they can then risk for the future. They can have eyes to see the new things that God is doing.

Focus Verses: Isaiah 43:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Open it! Start with prayer!

1. What has surprised you most about this group? Where did God meet you over the last six weeks?

2. Why do some people tend to resist change in churches? How do you feel about change when it comes to your church?

Explore it!

3. Watch the video for Session 6. Take some notes about interesting quotes, questions, or ideas:

3.a. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-5.** ¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

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Reflect on it! Acts 2:46-47

4. What do you think this passage means when it exhorts the older generation to be shepherds to the younger? What attitudes does this passage tell us to have toward people of other generations?

5. In the video, we heard about the importance of positioning ourselves as learners. How might that help ease the transition from one generation to the next?

6. In the video, we heard that "sticking points" sometimes exist between one generation and another. What are some of the sticking points that come up when a church transitions from one generation to another?

Apply it to your life...

7. Who are you currently discipling? Even if you're young, who is someone younger than you who would benefit from your wisdom and experience?

8. What do you hope that the next generation in your church will do? How can you build into them and equip them so that someday they can do those things you dream of?

9. As this is the last meeting in this study, take some time to celebrate the work God has done in the lives of group members. Have each person in the group share some step of growth that they have noticed in another member. (In other words, no one will talk about themselves. Instead, affirm others in the group).

If your group still needs to make decisions about continuing to meet after this session, have that discussion now. Talk about what you will study, who will lead, and where and when you will meet.

To go deeper, check out the resources on the church website under the LifeGroups tab.

How can we pray for each other this week?



Going Deeper in Lesson 6

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:13-14, AND 2:1-2

- ✓ The Apostle Paul mentored Timothy, a young man. What advice does Paul give to Timothy in these verses?
- ✓ How did he honor this young man, yet still instruct him?
- ✓ What can we learn about discipling the next generation from Paul's words to Timothy?

READ PSALM 145:3-7

- ✓ What does this Psalm tell us about God's character?
- ✓ What does it mean when it says "One generation commends your works to another"?
- ✓ What does this Psalm direct us to do as people who love God?

Daily Reflections:

Day 1. READ PSALM 78:2-3 I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.
CONSIDER: What are some things that "our ancestors have told us"—traditions, stories, miracles that God did—that you can tell others?

Day 2. READ PSALM 78:4 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.
CONSIDER: How does hearing about the deeds of the Lord encourage you in your faith? How can telling about these deeds help others to strengthen their faith?

Day 3. READ PSALM 78:5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children.
CONSIDER: Why did God command people to teach their children about him? How are you building into the next generation?

Day 4. READ PSALM 78:6 ...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.
CONSIDER: In this verse, we see God's heart for a multi-generational church. What do you need to do to help build that kind of church? What struggles do you face in accepting or encouraging the next generation?

Day 5. READ PSALM 78:7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.
CONSIDER: What does God want or expect from his people? In what specific situation do you need to trust God for today?

Day 6.

Reflect on any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your devotional time this week. You may also want to write down observations or questions that you'd like to share with the group at your next meeting.