

*SPRING 2022*

# **ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER**



# ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER

GREAT LAKES  
CONFERENCE  
BRETHEN IN CHRIST

*A quarterly resource to equip and support congregations in the Great Lakes Conference of the Brethren in Christ for the work of growing lifelong disciples within their faith family and surrounding community.*

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# CHILDREN & YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

As we are moving into the summer months and the children and youth move into a rhythm outside of the academic calendar, it can be challenging to maintain the schedule your church might be used to having. Here are some ideas to make the summertime one that is meaningful and engaging for rising generations.

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Put together a Family Faith Formation packet for family time at home (Family Faith Formation section)

## FLAT JESUS

The Flat Jesus Project is simple: each student gets their own paper cutout of Jesus to take with them on their summer adventures. You'll encourage them to take photos of their Jesus as he walks with them—helping them keep Jesus at the forefront of their minds. For more click here: <https://blog.wearesparkhouse.org/introduce-flat-jesus-summer>

## SUMMER FAMILY ACTIVITY BOOKS

The intention of this fun activity book is to help families “to be intentional with your time together as a family.” It includes helping families set a rhythm, to capture God moments when they are out and about, activities to do as a family and other milestones. You can download a digital copy here and modify it to fit your context or family. <https://www.stpaulsbiblechurch.org/summer-family-activity-book.html>

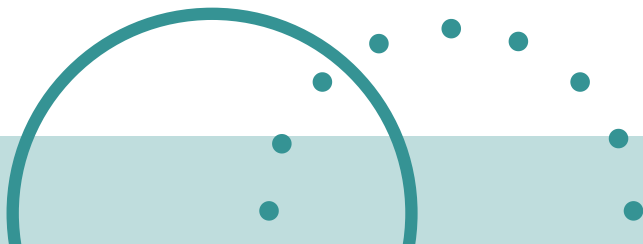
## SECRET SERVANT

This game is like Secret Santa only instead of giving material gifts, instead you are doing “random acts of kindness.” Everyone in the family chooses a name and then their job is to secretly serve that person for whatever amount of time your family can handle the “not knowing.” A month about tops it for most families and at the end, do a “reveal” dinner and find out who was our secret friend for the month. For younger kids, it's good to have a list of ideas or pictures of things they can do for others like helping to clean, washing their bike, making a snack, etc. so that they can have plenty of ways to serve.



## ON MISSION

Sometimes the fun isn't in doing something secretly but doing something together. Lots of families will go on family missions trips but if that's outside your budget or not the right age for your kids, there are a lot of other ways you can serve together as a family. You could bake cookies for your neighbors, run a free car wash, serve at a local food pantry or free meal program, host a neighborhood potluck, visit the shut-ins or homebound members of your church, make up a picnic lunch and give it to another family, etc. Making service a family activity is not only fun, but it is the #1 ways researchers have found that teens connect their faith in Jesus to their life. Make Jesus come alive by being His hands and feet together!





FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

# JOURNEY WITH PAUL

Perhaps you've been looking for a way to help household intentionally engage with one another around faith formation and Scripture this summer; if so, feel free to use the materials below!

## Journeying with Paul At-Home Packet

Included in Packet: Family Photo Scavenger Hunt, Family Olympics, Water Balloon Battle, Family Garden, Picnic in the Park

*NOTE: You will need to purchase the supplies for each activity; I found most of my items on Amazon and at the Dollar Tree. See the supply list at the end of the packet materials.*

### Activity #1 - Photo Scavenger Hunt

In I Corinthians 15:2-5, Paul explains the gospel that he preaches to those he visits in his journey. He writes, "By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve."

**Use the Photo Scavenger Hunt found at this link for this fun family activity.**

**<https://refocusministry.org/easter-photo-scavenger-hunt-for-families/>**

### Activity #2- Family Night: Olympic Edition

Paul's Missionary Journeys - Jumping into Paul's Journeys

Using the sidewalk chalk in the packet, draw a traditional Hopscotch shape on the sidewalk. Instead of numbers in each block, put the names of the cities that Paul visited on his first missionary journey. Find a stone to throw and jump through the countries in traditional hopscotch fashion to visit all the cities that Paul visited. Once someone lands on a city, mark it off. The person who lands on the final city "wins."

**Antioch in Syria Acts 13:1-3. Selucia Acts 13:4. Cyprus Acts 13:4. Salamis Acts 13:5  
·Paphos Acts 13:6. Perga Acts 13:13. Antioch in Pisidia Acts 13:14. Iconium Acts 13:51  
·Lyrstra Acts 14:6. Derbe Acts 14:6 and Acts 14:20**



## SUPPLY LIST

Scavenger Hunt, Printout  
Sidewalk Chalk  
Bean Bags & Paper Plates  
Foldable Frisbees  
Rings and Cones  
Water Balloons)  
Seed Packets

### Activity #3 - It's a Toss Up, Meeting Paul's Friends

Using the enclosed bean bags and plates, create a Bean Bag toss game by laying out the plates and trying to land on them with bean bags. Each plate has the name of one of Paul's friends and the Scripture reference where you can find them in the Bible. Whoever "meets" the most of Paul's friends, "wins."

**Lydia, Acts 16:11-15. Priscilla, Acts 18. Barnabas, Acts 9:26-27.**  
**Silas, Acts 16: 25-36. Timothy, 2 Tim. 2:2-6. Phoebe, Rom. 16:1-2**  
**Junia, Rom. 16:7 Titus, Titus 1:4-5**

*Mix it up and use the foldable frisbees instead of the bean bags*



### Activity #4 - Ring Toss

Third Time's the Charm

Paul went on three missionary journeys, his final landing him in Rome. Set out four cones, including the one labeled "Rome." Use the rings in the packet to toss around the cones. The first person toss the ring around all three cones and then around Rome "wins." Even though Paul knew that he would likely end up in jail and dying in Rome, he went there because God told him to and because of that we have much of the New Testament.

### Activity #5- Plant a Garden

We've been looking at Paul's story over the summer and Paul talks about how sharing about God with others is like planting a seed. In 1 Cor 3:5-9, he shares about how he and another person named Apollos both helped to plant God's story in people but only God can make it grow. You have some seeds and planters so that you can plant the seed and water it, but only the God could make all the sun and water and soil grow that plant. Have fun gardening together with God!

**JUST FOR FUN - You gotta have water to make plants grow. And playing with water is just plain fun! Use your balloons for a family water balloon battle!**



## INTERGENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Prayer is a powerful bridge-builder for believers. Why? Because we can all pray, no matter what the age, and we can all pray for one another.

This summer, consider creating a communal space (a bulletin board, a table, a couple of poster boards) where people can share about things they would like to have prayed about over the summer. It could be anything from friends and family in need to global issues they've heard about on the news. Throughout the summer, invite your congregation, all ages, to write prayer requests, add pictures, celebrate answers, and decorate the poster with your church's prayers for one another.



Worship and intercession must go together; the one is impossible without the other. Intercession means that we rouse ourselves up to get the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray. — Oswald Chambers

The Pray for Me Campaign connects the generations in your church community through prayer. During the campaign, students and families invite believers from multiple generations to pray for one year through the Pray for Me Prayer Guide. The start of the new academic year is the perfect time to kick off this prayer campaign so summer is the time to get all your pieces in place. I have helped many churches use this resource and would love to help you as well! Reach out to me at [christina@refocusministry.org](mailto:christina@refocusministry.org) for ideas on how your church can connect the generations through intercessory prayer.

# THE FINAL FOUR

ONE BOOK, ONE VIDEO, ONE WEBSITE, ONE RESOURCE

## *Relentless Parenting: The Crucial Pursuit of Your Teen's Heart* by Brian Haynes

I have recently re-read this book as we are in the midst of the teenage years in the Embree household. Like many parents, we can sometimes feel frustrated and disconnected from their teens. Brian and Angela Haynes understand those feelings and provide great insight into loving and leading teens. While it may be tempting to step aside from parenting and avoid conflict, the authors encourage parents to do the hard things. This book engages the hearts of parents by providing ideas for how they can stay connected to their teens.

## *Gospel of the Kingdom* Video by the Bible Project

There's a lot of unrest and disquiet in the world today and it impacts all of us from the oldest to the youngest. This video from The Bible Project offers the opportunity to spark a discussion about the goodness of God in the midst of these turbulent times. In the story of Jesus, we are invited to see that even the most unwelcome and tragic events cannot thwart God's plan to restore our world.

Online at <https://bibleproject.com>

## *Legacy Coalition* <https://legacycoalition.com/>

Legacy Coalition encourages churches to minister to grandparents as they encourage and influence their grandchildren. Their desire is for grandparents to look beyond the retirement culture and intentionally invest in the lives of their grandchildren. Legacy Coalition raises the importance of grandparenting through training, discussion, seminars and webinars as well as recommended resources shared by ministry partners. Legacy Coalition wants grandparents to reap the rewards of their ministry to their grandkids.

## *The Culture Translator* from Axis.org

This weekly email is committed to translating pop culture to help parents and caring adults understand and disciple their teenagers. Each week, the Axis team researches culture to help you stay up to date on the music, movies, TV shows, and social media trends impacting your kid's world. I read it from beginning to end each week. The free version is fantastic but if you become an Axis member, the additional member resources are incredibly helpful and practical. You can subscribe for free at the website (above)

# refocus

## Training and Coaching Opportunities

DUE TO A GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE, ALL COSTS HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY OVER 75% FROM THE ORIGINAL PRICE.

### EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP

For parents/caregivers who desire to be intentional in the faith formation of their children, this webinar offers practices for daily discipleship at home.

***\$50.00/webinar***

#### INCLUDED:

- Unlimited access to all church members
- Personalized for your church
- Resources for the webinar and as follow-up for parents/caregivers

### RECONNECT WEBINAR

ReConnect Webinar is designed for pastors and ministers interested in beginning to take steps to connect generations in ongoing spiritual formation and discipleship.

***\$80.00/participant***

#### INCLUDED:

- Groups of 4 or more
- 4 One Hour Workshops
- Resources/Handouts for during and after each workshop
- One 1/2 hour personal coaching session following webinar

### PASTORAL TEAM COACHING

ReFocus coaching experiences help churches create missional communities focused on generational discipleship and spiritual formation. Through personalized mentorship, trainings, and coaching, ReFocus will help your church move into a deeper experience of community within your church family.

*\$200-250 based on church size and needs*





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