



Photo by Richard Allred

# Effective Approaches for Faith Formation: Intergenerational Ministry

Sarah Bentley Allred



# Our Time Today

Worship & Reflection  
Intergenerational Ministry  
Discussion Groups  
Q&A + Resources  
Closing Prayer

Photo by Richard Allred





# A Time of Worship



Photo by Richard Allred

## PREPARING

Create a sacred space. Breathe.

## SINGING

Praise the God of All Creation

## READING

Psalm 145: 1-8

## PRAYING

Thanksgivings, Intercessions

## SINGING

Bless The Lord, My Soul

## Psalm 145: 1-8

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.



## Psalm 145: 1-8

They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.



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# WHAT DID YOU NOTICE?

What did  
you sense?

Where did  
you  
experience  
God?

What  
distracted  
you?

How do  
you feel  
now?



# The Research: Bottom Line



Photo by Richard Allred

"An intentionally intergenerational environment is more likely to encourage and sustain lifelong discipleship for all ages." ~Chris Barnett

John Roberto  
Kara Powell, Brad Griffin, & Cheryl Crawford  
Holly Catterton Allen, & Christine Lawton  
Dave Csinos & Ivy Beckwith  
John Westerholff



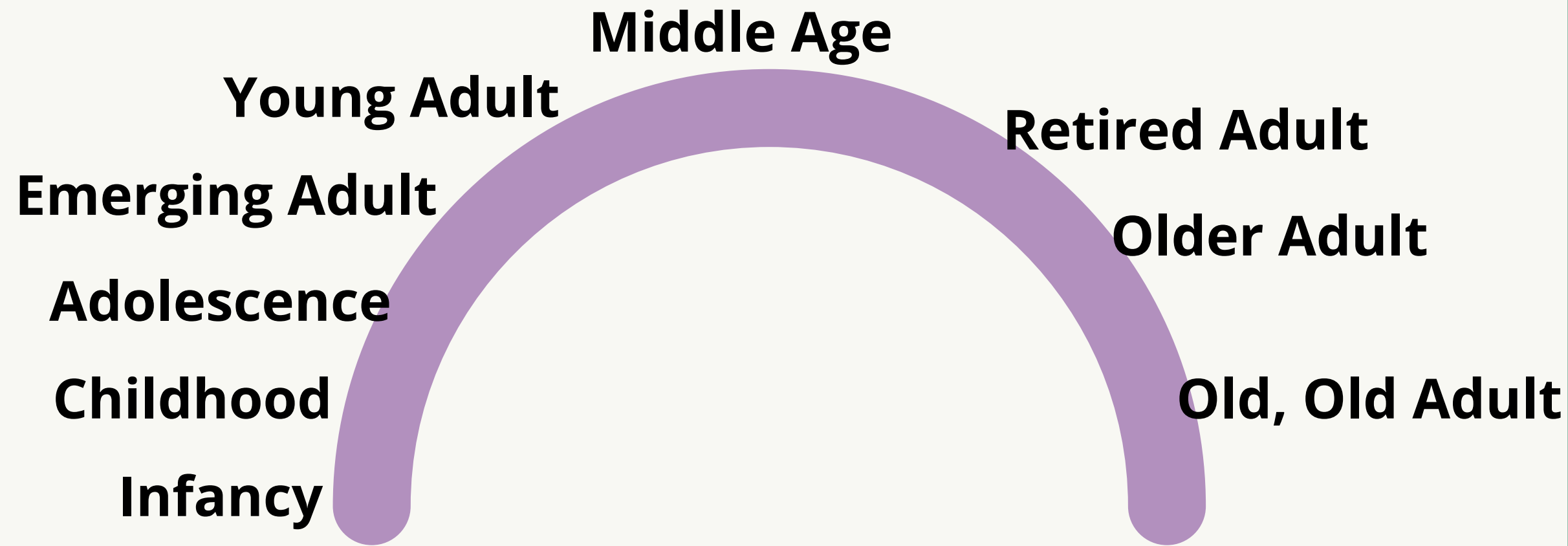
# Some Language: What is "intergenerational"?

- Two or more "generations"
- Often, we need to be more precise
  - Multi-generational
  - All Ages
  - Household
  - Family
  - Child-friendly
- The Key: Intentionality



## Intentional Intergenerationality

- **Mutuality**
  - All participate, benefit
- **Reciprocity**
  - All give, receive
- **Equality**
  - All equally valued

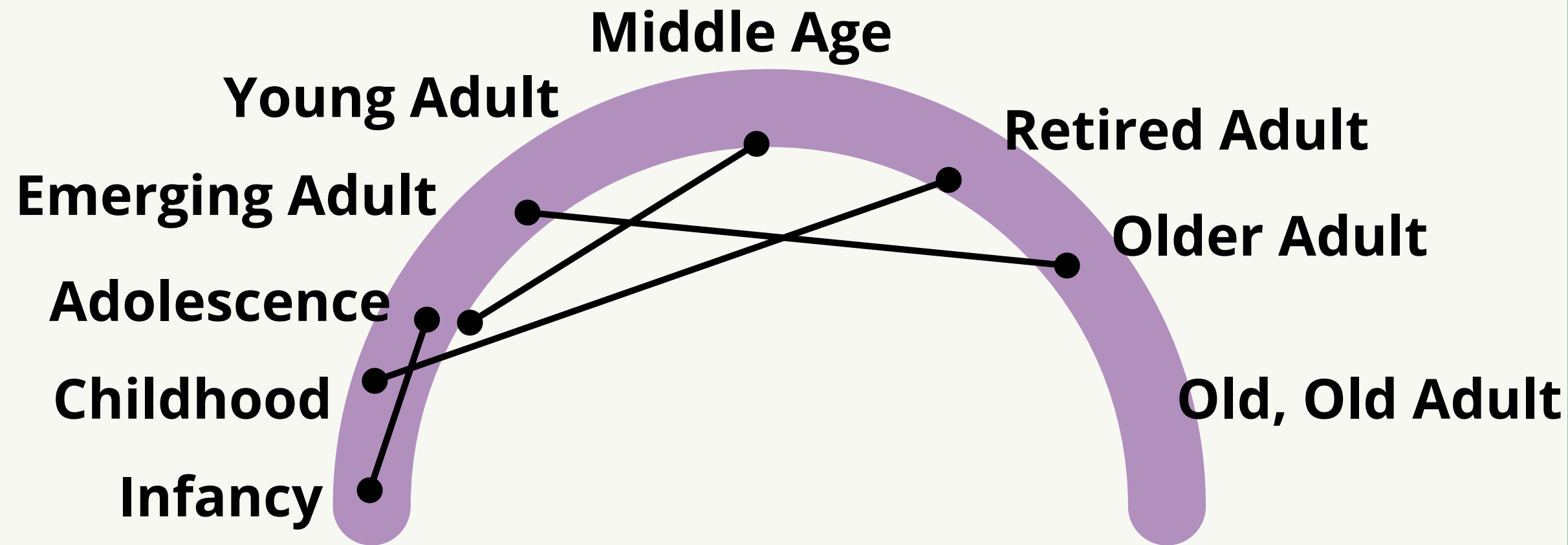




# Intentional Intergenerationality

- **Relationship Building**
  - Preschool reading buddies
  - Confirmation mentors
  - Storking
  - "Genius Bar"

What have you done?



# Practical Steps

- **Let People In**
  - Find a co-conspirator or gather a team
- **Start Small**
  - Don't build a big machine
  - Invite one child to serve as a lector
- **Be Kind To Yourself**
  - Personalize
  - Grace

**KENDRA ADACHI**

Foreword by **Emily P. Freeman**



"I could not be more excited about this book."  
—**Jenna Fischer**, actor and cohost of the *Office Ladies* podcast

The  
**Lazy**  
**Genius**  
Way

A stylized illustration of a lit lightbulb with a yellow glow and radiating lines, positioned between the words "Genius" and "Way".

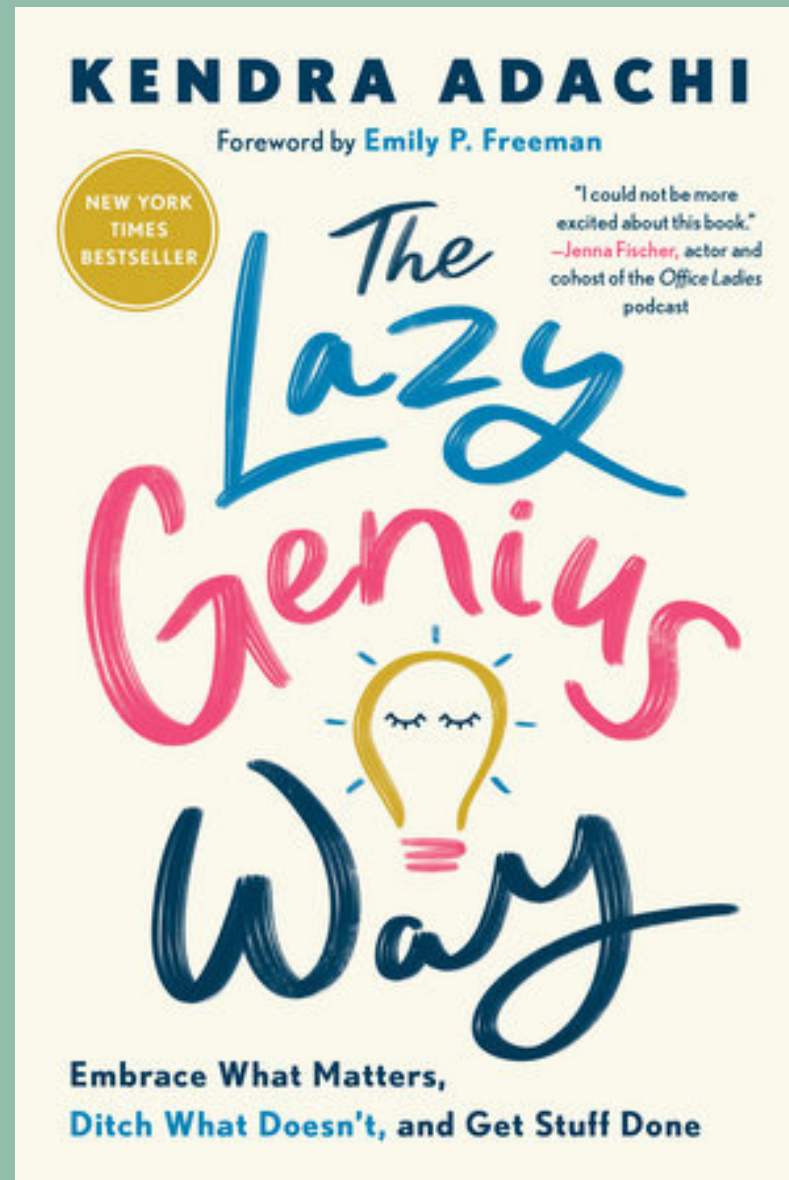
**Embrace What Matters,  
Ditch What Doesn't, and Get Stuff Done**



# Discussion Groups

- **What can I do now** to make intergenerational ministry easier later?
- **What gets in the way** of intergenerational ministry? Are there ways to remove (or lessen or mitigate) what gets in the way?

# Discussion Groups



- **The Magic Question**

- What can I do now to make \_\_\_\_\_ easier later?

- **Essentialize**

- Name what matters
- Remove what is in the way
- Keep only the essentials



# Resources

- Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Practical Steps to Increasing Intergenerationality
  - By Jenna Campbell on [buildfaith.org](http://buildfaith.org)

## WHAT IS INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY?

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY IS ABOUT BUILDING AND DEEPENING INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Intergenerational ministry is characterized by people across the generations doing life together - sharing, learning, growing and serving in relationships. It is characterized by an emphasis on community and the building of deep, genuine relationships. Intergenerational connections can be with any generation of a different decade.

INTERGENERATIONALITY IS MARKED BY...

**MUTUALITY**  
(we all participate and benefit)

**RECIPROCITY**  
(we all give and receive)

**EQUALITY**  
(we are all valued equally)

Being intergenerational is...

- Not just about children, it's about **people of all ages**
- Not just about what we do, it's about **who we are**
- Not something that just happens, it requires **intentionality**

Simply having multiple generations in the same space does not make the experience intergenerational. To be truly intergenerational requires the generations to be **genuinely interacting and engaging together**.

Intergenerational ministry seeks to **actively engage and equally value** the gifts and needs of every generation. We are most fully the people of God when we are gathered for worship, service, learning, and fellowship together with all ages. We learn, worship, serve, and build community best when we **honor the perspectives and gifts of all ages**.

### WHY INTERGENERATIONAL?

From John Roberto's article "Our Future is Intergenerational"

- Encourages greater faith in all generations
- Utilizes the strengths (wisdom, experience, and knowledge) of one generation to meet the needs of another generation
- Nurtures special relationships
- Fosters leadership regardless of age or stature
- Provides "up close and personal" formation in faith as all ages engage in sharing faith, teaching, learning, and praying for one another
- Provides role models
- Affirms each person's value in the total community (regardless of age)

AN INTENTIONALLY INTERGENERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS MORE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL AGES.

Handout created for First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, OK by Jenna Campbell - [jennacampbell28@gmail.com](mailto:jennacampbell28@gmail.com)  
Portions of this handout are adapted from the resource Engage Together: More than Worship, More than Sunday by Chris Barnett, Emma Parr, and Melissa Neumann; <https://ctm.uca.edu.au/children-and-families/more-than-worship-more-than-sunday/>