

Are my children learning?

Yes, they are learning! Children absorb a tremendous amount that is of value. And this is true even if they say they are bored. Music and words become familiar. The message of the music starts to sink in. The form of the service comes to feel natural. They are learning the sights and sounds of church. They are learning by observing you, their parent, participate in church. This will have a profound affect on their understanding of you and your faith. And they are learning from what they hear in the service. Children get something out of everything they experience. That is why there is a great value, for even an infant, to experience authentic worship.



The Power of Togetherness.



Worshiping together counters the contemporary fragmentation of families. Hectic American life leaves little time for significant togetherness. It is hard to overestimate the good influence of families doing valuable things together week in and week out, year in and year out. As children grow up in intergenerational church settings they build lasting relationships with people of all ages. This gives them a connection with committed Christians during the sometimes difficult journey of growing up.

FAMILY MINISTRY

What can I do as a Parent to help my child connect with church?

The greatest stumbling block for children in worship is that their parents do not cherish the time. Children can feel the difference between duty and delight. Therefore, the first and most important job of a parent is to fall in love with the worship of God. Think about it this way. It is difficult to inspire someone else to care about something more than we care about it ourselves. But, when we are truly inspired and committed to something, others want to know why.

A WEED IN THE CHURCH



How a culture of age segregation is destroying the younger generation, fragmenting the family, and harming church

SCOTT T. BROWN

Want to know more? As parents we know you have a great blessing and responsibility raising your children and at Grace Community we want to join and assist your family. If you have any questions on this matter or simply want to learn more about intergenerational church, please contact Pastor Colton. We also recommend the book "A Weed in the Church" by Scott T. Brown

Welcome
to **grace** +
COMMUNITY CHURCH



We are,

Intentionally

Intergenerational!

Aspiring to bringing people together from all age groups. Making it a priority to foster relationships across generations.

www.gracecommunity.us

What is “Intergenerational Church?”



Intergenerational church is based on the biblical model of worship which brought the entire family together. At Grace Community we believe going to church together as a family means more than going to the same building together; it means sharing the worship experience together. Together to sing, pray, listen and connect! We believe it is imperative for children to grow in the sanctuary with their family. *One Body, One Family, One Church!*

Why is this so important?

To know why this is important for every parent to consider, let's first consider the alternative. Over the past fifty years it has become common in the American church to divide the family during the time of worship into age segregated services. In fact, this has become common everywhere in society, resulting in an unprecedented fracturing of the family. When this began it looked like a great way to reach young people, but it became a devastating way to divide families. Recent studies have shown the incredibly unfortunate impact this practice has had on the church. Children raised in age segregated congregations are leaving church at the highest rate in history! Today the American church is faced with this crisis that can no longer be ignored.

How are the two related?

Keep in mind that, for most of their childhood years, children experience a “church” service that does not reflect the main congregational service of their parents. Their time at church has for the most part focused on keeping them entertained. This type of engagement continues throughout their childhood. After this at (or around) the age of 16 to 18, they are expected to join the adult community; a community they have never had the opportunity to know or identify with. Parents seem shocked when at this age their children no longer want to attend church. But the truth is they have never really attended the same church as their parents.

FAMILY

As church leaders and as parents we must turn the tide. As an alternative to this we believe it is time to return to the traditional biblical church model; that is, intergenerational church! God's design (revealed in scripture) for the church makes it a “body” and a “family” composed of a diverse mix of ages and personalities and life stages. God brings this diversity together in “one body.” At Grace Community we believe it is important to take the long view in this matter and we plea with every parent to consider this.

What if my child becomes disruptive?

We understand that there are times when children can become disruptive as they are learning to be a part of the church community. The first thing you should know is that we understand and do not want you to feel rushed to leave the room. If, however you do decide to step out and give them time to calm down. We have a “cry-room” available! You will see a sign over the door north of the baptistry on the west side of the sanctuary. This is a quiet, comfortable room for you and your child. If this is needed, do not be discouraged, it happens. Children are learning to be a part of the service. You will be astonished at how quickly they adjust and learn to be a part of the congregation.



Children
are
A
★
GIFT
FROM THE
Lord:
THEY are
A
reward
from HIM
Psalms 127:3