



Older
People's
Ministries

STUDY
GUIDE

Age to Age

Thirty discipleship conversations for those
journeying through their later years



‘Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.’

DANIEL 2:20-21

Contents

Introductory Session	8
A New Season	18
Who Am I - Really?	48
Growing Older Gracefully	74
Modern Times	104
Joy	146
Trust	178
Forgiveness	206

Foreword

These Age to Age materials and resources brought to us by the Older Peoples Ministries Team of The Salvation Army reinforce the truths found in Scripture that relationships are an indispensable means of spiritual growth and that discipleship is of course fundamental to our individual Christian lives and our corporate life as believers and followers in the Church. None of that stops when we reach retirement! The command to ‘Go and make disciples’ was never time bound and so it is an ongoing privilege for us all to journey alongside others along paths of discipleship.

These unique reflections and biblical insights, written by and for Older Christians, highlight many of the issues and spiritual transitions that are experienced in later years. We pray that as you journey through ‘Age to Age’ you will be encouraged to connect together, to love God more, love God’s people more and lovingly impact the world for Jesus Christ.

Commissioner Anthony Cotterill

The Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army
United Kingdom and Ireland Territory

We are so grateful to our friend Gillian Parish for the wonderful illustrations in this book.

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- 1 My Story
- 2 Passion and Talents
- 3 Gifts
- 4 Time and Talents

Session 1

My Story

Aim

Think back to when you were children, with all the hopes and aspirations of life before you.

- To start to relax within the group
- To find out more about the life story of others within the group
- To start considering our story as a building block in our personhood

Activity

 15 - 30 minutes

Scrabble

If there is time then play a game of Scrabble - set the amount of time that you will play e.g. 15 or 30 minutes depending on how long you plan this first session to be - use a timer if possible. (The remainder of the session should take about an hour.)

Teaching

Our history plays a large part in who we are and how we are seen. The events that we have seen, activities that we have taken part in and perhaps most of all, the people we have interacted with have shaped us to be the people we are today.

As this first session is primarily about getting to know one another we will all have opportunity to tell something of our life. Use the letter tiles to spell out two or three key things about your life and each take ten minutes to tell something of your story. This is just about getting to know one another better and in some ways starting to write a new chapter in which we are all characters.

Discussion

Take some of the Scrabble tiles from earlier and let each person tell their story - the letter tiles are simply there to provide some focus and perhaps give some ideas for consideration. It might be helpful to have a timer!

Teaching

While these parts of our story influence who we are and have shaped us through our lifetimes, it is important to recognise that they do not define us, nor are they the 'be all and end all' of who we are. In a very real way our hi-'story' is still being written. While society tends to have an opinion of us based upon our career, our wealth, our education or significant achievements, we should reflect on the fact that God looks upon us and sees beyond our achievements, education and monetary wealth. God looks upon us and calls us: children, family, friends, the new humanity, saints, the promise, living stones, chosen and as a kingdom of priests. These titles of the kingdom refer to us all.

The story of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels is important in our understanding of who God is, how he interacts with his creation and what his essential plan for us is - to experience 'life in His name'.

'Now Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you might have life in his name.'

John 2:30-31

Throughout these sessions we will look at the way in which his story and our story are interwoven as a complex counterpoint and how we can more clearly discern the main theme that he wants to introduce in our lives during this moment.

Reflection

Consider the titles of children, family, friends, the new humanity, saints, the promise, living stones, chosen and as a kingdom of priests.

- *In what ways does the life we live reflect the way God looks at us?*

Choose 1 or 2 of the titles above and reflect on the way that you experience that title in your life.

- *What events in your life story would you record 'so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ'?*

Consider writing these things down as a reminder especially during 'times in the desert' of God's unfailing provision in your life.

For the next session
Bring something which reflects
your previous occupation

Notes