

John 1:1-5  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

# Give it *Life*



# Session

# 1

## What is "life"?

Let's look at 12 things that it is not:

### 1. It is not the basics of water and food

Luke 12:29-30 "And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them."



### 2. It is not easy

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Luke 10:2 "He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

### 3. It is not wealth

Luke 12:15 "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

### 4. It is not clothes

Luke 12:27 "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."

### 5. It is not health

Matthew 10:28 "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Luke 12:25 "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"

### 6. You cannot pretend

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

Matthew 7:22-23 "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your

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name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

### **7. It is not expensive**

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Matthew 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

### **8. It is not religion**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

### **9. It is not family**

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."

Matthew 12:48-50

He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

### **10. You cannot hide it**

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 10:26 "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known."

### **11. It is not found**

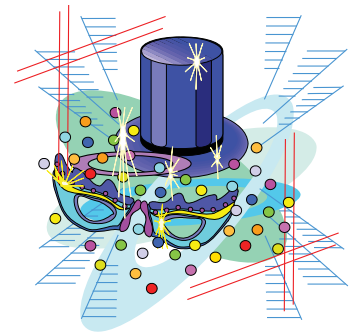
Matthew 10:39 "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

### **12. It is not heavy**

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**None of these things is a sin; we need each one! But these things are not the sum of our lives.**

Luke 9:48 "Then he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.'"



-With Kristina Krauss

# Session

# 2

## *Giving life to your ministry*

### *Introduction*

Close your eyes, I want to invite you for a moment to imagine your little ones there in your classroom, do you see them? Yes, some are misbehaving, but I want you to see yourself there teaching a class, smiling, singing, and doing the craft. And now I want you to take one of those children and imagine them about 15 years later. How do you see them? Are they serving God? Can you see the result of your effort when looking at them ministering, teaching, directing, playing an instrument, being a leader? That is what happens when there is life in your ministry. They will be like those planted trees next to the water currents, which bear fruit in their time.

Psalm 1: 3

### **1. How is a ministry full of life? (Write your answer)**

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John 15:16, Colossians 1:10

### **2. How do we have a ministry full of life?**

a. Organize versus Improve

Exodus 18: 17-18,21

b. Dynamics versus Routine

Colossians 3:17

c. Vision versus losing focus

Philippians 3: 13-14, 4: 9

### **3. Fun in your class is not fighting against your teaching!**

### *Conclusion:*

The slogan of our ministry says, "You are here to change lives, we are here to help you." Part of the vision of our ministry "Children are important" is to be able to encourage all those who work in children's ministry: pastors, leaders, teachers, and volunteers. We want your ministry to be full of life week after week, year after year and until Christ returns.

-With Flor Boldo

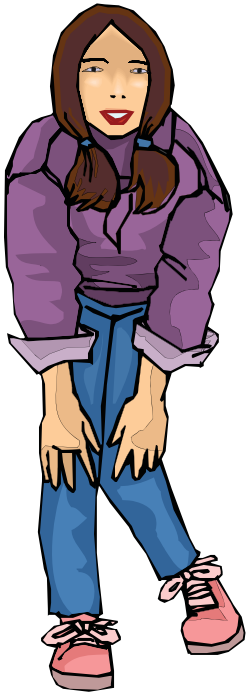
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# Generational Bridge

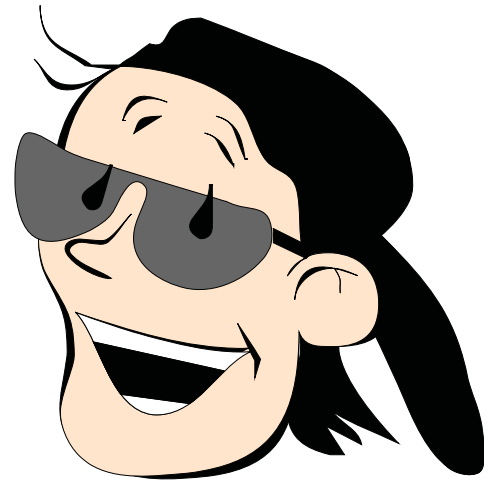
## Introduction

I want to share something about my life and ministry. I was a teenager when I was invited to work as an assistant to an older sister. I was nervous because that sister had been a children's teacher for many years and of course I was wondering, what could someone so inexperienced like me do in her class?



The surprising thing about working with her was a conversation we had that I still remember in my heart. She told me "Flor, I am an older woman, and I do not have the same energy as you. I need your strength and energy to work with these little ones! (Which by the way was "Jesus's little lambs" group with children 3-6 years old!) I need you jumping, smiling, and making the actions to the songs. Also, you will bring the biblical text to memorize each week." Oh, I felt like a super girl! I would like to honor her by mentioning her name, she is sister Socorro Varguez, and I carry her in my heart with a lot of love. Today she has Alzheimer's and is very, very old, but her legacy carry's on in me.

You can make a big difference! If you're an adult teacher, do not feel jealous of a younger teacher. God has placed them close to you to be your support, to raise your arms as Aaron and Hur did with Moses; and if you are a teenage or younger teacher and you must work with the older brother or sister, it is a fabulous opportunity to learn from their experience and be a great team in the body of Christ.

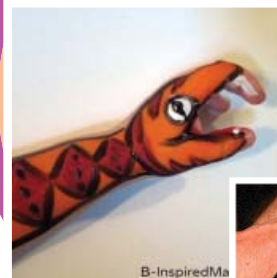


## Definition

### What is a generational bridge?

It is the structure composed of a series of fundamental principles that serve as a link between one generation and another, thus perpetuating the values and foundations of one generation to another.

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## Younger Generation:

### *- Building the bridge with the older generation -*

#### **Show: instead of talking**

It is better to show the older teachers. For example, for an older person, you may think that only time is lost on the cellphone mobile or on social media. They cannot understand or have trouble understanding that through these means you can contact the parents of students, send announcements, advertise an event, or be in contact with your students. Show them that these new platforms and tools are a part of being in touch.

#### **Listen with respect and ask questions**

If an older teacher has been working in the ministry for a long time, it is for a reason, and they have years of knowledge and experience. You can learn a lot from them! Ask them about their experiences, this not only helps you learn, but it also reminds you that we do not know everything. By respectfully asking questions, the older person feels valued.

#### **Be patient**

Many times, you will have to repeat the same information, however be patient and kind. Someday you will be in that same place, and yes, you too will be old someday. You may get frustrated that they just want to do things in the same way and structure. Instead of saying "that's a very old-fashioned way of doing it" is better to say, "It would be good if we tried this change" or "I would like you to give me the opportunity to try this idea."

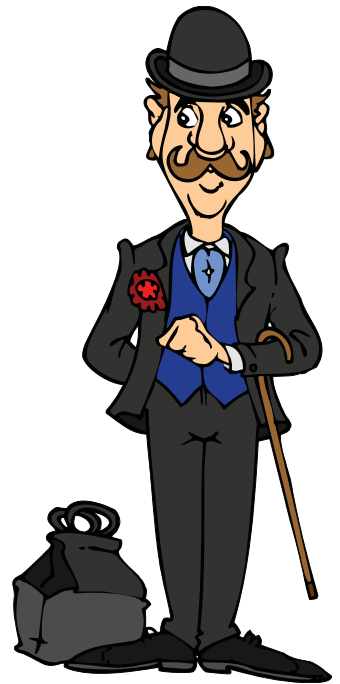
## Older Generation:

### *- Building the bridge with the younger generation -*

Perhaps your next child ministry leader may be younger than you and you will have to think of a way to not sabotage your leadership by making them feel that their ideas or work are wrong because they have no experience. Encourage them by rejoicing in their successes and support them with advice when they make mistakes. Avoid the famous phrase "they are younger than me, what can they teach me?" or "I told you so, you are very inexperienced." Do not despise their youth.

#### **Adapt**

If you are older, you may have noticed that your energy has decreased, and I want to be very clear I am not talking about creativity or ideas. For example, when you are teaching a song; sometimes you cannot jump or bend over or maybe even pick up the crayons that have rolled under something. Working with preschoolers, or even





with active teenagers does require extra energy. By having someone younger being your support, you can concentrate on having the class ready on time and show your assistant what responsibility looks like. Do not be afraid to adapt to this new change.

How difficult it is when others make changes, taking away our habits and traditions! For example: class always starts with prayer, then two songs, then the memory verse, the Bible story, the student's sheets, we collect the offering, we sing, then we pray to close. Do you find it familiar? However, what if today we start with a game, then we sing and pray? Sure, you're thinking: that is not right! However, is it actually wrong or is it just fear to adapt to these ideas in our class?

### Ask for help with technology

Ask the teenagers or young people for help, they are geniuses with technology. The difficult part is in asking, so do not worry! They will feel super important that someone older asked them for help and knowledge.



### Learn new ways to communicate

Not only do I refer to social networks such as Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, approach and ask your young teacher, how did you like the class? How about your school? Is there something you would want us to pray for? It not only makes you look like an expert teacher but also as an empathic person, loving God and loving others.



## Conclusion

We know that young people want to change the world and adults want to improve young people, but as a teacher, their knowledge, experience, practice, creativity and dynamism is essential for working in the body of Christ. Remember that, as we are being kind to the younger teacher or the older teacher, we inspire the lives of the children in our class. We are here to work in unity, creating bridges that unite us to guide the growth of the children in our churches. ○

*by Flor Bolde*

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