

The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of dark green leaves, likely ivy, with visible veins. The leaves are arranged in a way that creates a textured, organic feel. The text is overlaid on this background.

— we prayerfully value —

all generations

7 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day One

By Bill Terry

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

-2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

I love the imagery this passage conveys: spiritual impartation, passion, passing the torch, a leader in one generation cheering on a torchbearer in the next generation. The call to be a torchbearer is a worthy vocation; one that every Christ follower should give serious attention to as we prayerfully value all generations. Christ followers are called to be torchbearers. Torchbearers are simply story-tellers of God’s redemptive plan and purpose for all generations. The torchbearer lives with the conviction that God’s story must pass from generation to generation. Paul mentored Timothy and encouraged him as he grew in his own ministry. He possessed a keen awareness that the fire of God must burn bright for the story-telling to remain faithful and steadfast.

- 1. How does one model valuing all generations?***
- 2. How can you be a torchbearer and pass God’s story on to someone you know?***
- 3. Is there someone in your life that you could begin encouraging like Paul did with Timothy?***

Day Two

By Jana DeLano

“Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck” Proverbs 1:8-9 (NIV).

The book of Proverbs gives us a manual for wise living. It provides a general overview for proper character, actions, words, and especially for healthy relationships. The first chapter teaches us how a wise son (or daughter) grows in understanding, fears the Lord, submits to discipline, and listens. It describes the effect of listening and applying a parent’s teaching as something beautiful that we can display and cherish. No matter how old we get, we will always remember the special words of wisdom passed down from someone we respect. It is critical that we continue the tradition of passing along God’s redemption and grace through our testimonies. God never intended for us to live in isolation. Instead, he created environments for us to live in community so we can learn from each other. Community provides accountability for wise living, just as Proverbs provides the manual.

1. How can you quickly incorporate your story of God’s grace in daily conversation?

2. How are you pursuing community?

3. In what ways can we adapt our language to make sure that every generation participates and understands the path before them?

Day Three

By Samantha Snipes

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4 NIV).

When we are disciples of Christ, we are walking in relationship with Him and learning His principles. By doing this, we experience breakthrough by the power of the Spirit and we impact the next generation. His Word and His Spirit are alive in us. So much so, that we spill over onto those we are around. As we do this, Matthew 28:19a becomes a reality because we seek to tell others of His greatness and His ways. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words].” (AMP) As we “go” about our lives, let’s intentionally disciple people and teach them about God. This breaks down barriers between generations, cultures, and anything else that might attempt to divide us. With the world that we are living in, we can connect multigenerationally and multiculturally every day. By living in overflow, you will be creating a culture, changing the world around you, and revealing His love. Let’s change the world one person at a time!

- 1. How can we intentionally make disciples each day?***
- 2. What can I do to overflow with God’s Spirit, so that Psalm 145:4 is alive in my life?***
- 3. Who will God lead me to share His love with today?***

Day Four

By Josh Lafferty

“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse”

Malachi 4:4-6 (NKJV).

This represents the last prophetic voice revealed in Scripture prior to the coming of John the Baptist and the Messiah Jesus Christ. Hundreds of years passed before God chose to record His intentions for humanity again. Considering that it has been almost 2,000 years since the last word of Revelation was penned, modern Christianity can equally glean from this portion of text. Observation of the Jewish culture upon the arrival of both John and Jesus unveils that they followed closely the command of verse four. They remembered Moses and his statutes and ordinances almost to a fault and often with impure motives. However, that they were completely unaware or prepared for the ministry of Jesus shows that they did little to heed what is communicated in verses five and six. The Jews were not found watching and waiting for “the great and dreadful day of the Lord”. We, the modern church, must not make the same mistake.

- 1. When God says He will “turn” the hearts of fathers and children, what is He referring to? What is the turn?***
- 2. Jesus revealed that John the Baptist carried the spirit of Elijah. What similarities existed between John and Elijah? What similarities were there in Israel that each was called to?***
- 3. What is the modern-day application of this Scripture? Is the relationship between fathers and children as equally severed today as it seemed to be then? What sort of turn must we make?***

Day Five

By Lindsey Snider

“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV)

Paul’s words to the Thessalonians were all encompassing of each generation, with the purpose of reminding Christ followers to encourage, help, and represent patience in all things. Each generation represents change, but emotions run throughout those changes. Emotions are a constant no matter what year we are born. In his words, Paul urges the people to build one another up. Paul didn’t say “warn the children who are idle and disruptive” or “be patient with the widows.” He gave an overall word to warn, encourage, help, and offer patience to everyone, no matter the differences. There was no mention of specific age, knowing that these words fit all generations. There will always be times of weakness and feeling idle, but Christ asks that each of us do our part in supporting our brothers and sisters.

- 1. Is there an area in your life where growth can happen? Possibly in patience? Lending a hand to those in need?***
- 2. How can your generation be a support for the generations before and after you?***
- 3. If God asked you to step outside of your comfort zone to connect with the generations around you, what would that look like?***

Day Six

By Irvina Parker

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” Colossians 3:16 (NIV).

The [promotional video](#) that the IPHC used to introduce the core value of all generations is striking. It features a piano and shows the hands of a mixture of generations coming together to learn, to teach, to enjoy. I think it spoke so poignantly to me because I came from a family where music was central. My own mother’s hands so often intertwined with mine and my sisters’ hands on the keyboard. Later, when the grandchildren and great grandchildren climbed onto the piano bench with her, she would gently guide their fingers, rarely cringing when their creative style clashed with hers.

Cultural shifts have impacted society and even the church. There are dissonant chords ringing out. People often don’t feel valued by other generations. Deep down, they long to learn from each other. My mother would have never dreamed of pushing her child or grandchild off the piano bench just because of the struggling sounds. Instead, she endured, she instructed, and she encouraged practice until a blending of the music came through.

Colossians 3:16 gives us a great picture of a family coming together, whether at church or at home, to learn and to worship together. I can think of no better way to proclaim the great message of John 3:16 than this “3:16 principle”

in Colossians. When I first saw that piano video, I saw my late mother’s hands. However, a newer image quickly emerged. I saw the hands of my great nephew Ashton Brown who, after the passing of his great grandmother, discovered his own gift for “tickling the ivories.” Just as they were from two distant generations, their experiences were unique. My mother learned to play on an old upright piano. Ashton started teaching himself how to play the electric keyboard using computer apps. Along the way, some great church musicians recognized his gift and offered their wisdom and guidance. They have taken the time to pour into him, and he opened his mind to receive from them. Now, at the age of 14, he is one of the keyboard players for a large, vibrant congregation with multiple services. That is a perfect example of this “3:16 principle” in action. Let’s invite Christ to dwell among us richly as we encourage each other.

- 1. Music too often tends to divide the church and it is often characterized by generational differences. What steps can we take to build a bridge that brings sweet harmony?***
- 2. What other ways can you think of to employ this “3:16 principle” in your home or church?***
- 3. Whether it’s a gift of music, or some other type of gift, have you found someone recently to come alongside to help develop a God-given talent?***

Day Seven

By Kaleigh Hamilton Bishop

“For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations” Psalm 100:5 (NIV).

Our God is the Promise Keeper. We see it time and time again, from the beginning of humanity with Adam and Eve, on through Abraham, and continuing to Jesus and God’s fulfillment of His promise of a Savior, and even further to Jesus’ promise to return. Psalm 100 is a prophecy, a song of praise, and a declaration.

“The Lord is good, and His love endures forever.” We can stand upon the Lord’s promise that He is good, even if our circumstances are not, and that He will love forever, even past our concept of time.

“His faithfulness continues through all generations.” As God is our Promise Keeper, we are a people of promise. God is faithful, worthy of our trust, and we can rest in the knowledge that the promises He has given will extend, not only to us, but also to the generations after.

We are a family in Christ and He is a good father. What He promises one generation, He will not keep from the next. Though our world has changed drastically since the beginning, our God has not.

- 1. What promises does God make throughout the Bible?***
- 2. Think of a circumstance in your own life. Is there a promise of God that you can apply to your situation?***
- 3. Find someone in your life who is from a different generation, older or younger. What promises of God can you tell that person that you have seen fulfilled in your own life?***