



The Big Session

Each year, as we start to plan for the next 3Generate, we need your help! Please let us know what topics your children and young people want to talk about at 3Generate. There are many ways to find this out (simply asking them is fine!), but if you want a session plan to help you explore what issues your young people are concerned about, then here is just that!

Please email a summary of what you find out to 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk. It is most helpful to us to have this feedback in January/early February each year.

Time required: 5 – 10 mins preparation time and 20 – 45 mins to run actual session.

You will need:

- A selection of recent newspapers or other media (optional)
- Ten sheets of flip chart paper/large strips of old wallpaper or craft roll
- Blu-tack/masking tape (optional - the flipchart sheets don't need to be stuck to wall)
- Marker pens/felt tips
- Post-its (optional)
- Note paper and pens

Step 1:

On each of the ten sheets of flipchart/wallpaper/craft roll write one of these uncompleted statements:

- *Something I've heard about this week that made me think or question...*
- *What does being Courageous look like for you at Church, in School, in your community...*
- *I think the world would be a better place if...*
- *In my perfect church, there would be...*
- *One of the things that makes me worry about the future is...*
- *If I could ask the leadership of the Methodist Church one question it would be...*
- *What issues worry you in your school, Community and the World...*
- *What do you want to talk about in your church or group...*
- *What questions do you want to explore and find answers to...*
- *What questions do you want to explore about the bible...*

Then, in different corners/parts of the room, use the Blu-tack or masking tape to attach these sheets to the wall (or layout on a table each) and leave a pile of pens/felt-tips/markers next to each sheet. You may also want to leave a pile of post-its next to each sheet as well.

Step 2:

Ask the young people to 'mill around' the room, looking at each sheet and completing the statements in their own words, using the pens provided. They could treat the exercise as a 'graffiti wall' and be as artistic as they like when writing their answers or, if you want, you could ask them to write their answers on post-it notes and then stick these to the sheet – this might make it easier to organise their work into common themes later on but it could restrict creativity!

Allow plenty of time (at least 10 minutes, but ideally 20 – 30) for the group to finish the brainstorming activity. If you want to help inspire them, you could also provide a pile of recent newspapers, or even, if you are technically minded, a montage of recent video clips from the TV news. Make it clear that, if they want, they can write more than one answer per sheet – as many as they like!

Step 3:

Divide the young people into small groups and ask each group to choose one or two of the sheets of paper. Give these sub-groups 5 – 10 minutes to come up with a list of common themes from their sheets. If, during the last activity, the young people wrote their answers onto post-its, this exercise can be done by arranging the post-its into groups.

If you do not have enough young people to create several small groups, the groups could take more than one sheet each. Alternatively, you could work as one big group and just look at one sheet at a time.

Step 4:

Ask each of the sub groups to now come up with no more than two workshop/ session titles/topics, based on the common themes from their sheet. Based on people's work, what should 3Generate be talking about this year? Again, this could be done as a larger group if necessary.

Step 5:

Once the possible workshop topics have been agreed, the leader/facilitator should compile these and send them to 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk clearly marking them for 3Generate Big Session and letting us know what age group/s the responses have come from.

Thank you so much for your help!

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