

# FOR CHURCHES AND GROUPS

**Accompanying children, young people and leaders on the 3Generate 365 journey...**

## Why this resource?

For 3Generate 365 to work well, the Church as a whole needs to understand the theology that underpins it, and the responsibility – both collectively and individually – that church members have for the children and young people in the Church. Local churches, organisations and groups have a vital role to play in encouraging, praying for, listening to and learning from your children and young people over the coming months. This resource is designed to help you to reflect on how you can be part of 3Generate 365. You could use this material as an individual, or as part of a leadership team or house group session.

## What is 3Generate 365?

3Generate 365 is a year-round process of engagement with children and young people in their local setting. It will enable children and young people to listen to God, discern what God is saying, deepen their faith and be confident in being evangelists and sharing their faith with others. We want to see children and young people participating fully in the mission of their local church.

3Generate 365 will explore topics of prayer, being one body in Christ, prophecy and covenant. 8 to 23 year olds will be encouraged to take part through:

- engaging in 365 resources with their group/leaders
- using the 3Generate app
- attending monthly 'Tune Ins' events
- voting in the Youth President and Rep election process in November
- sharing their prophetic voice with District Ambassador volunteers who will be supporting 3Gen 365 locally.

We're excited for all this year holds. At its heart is tuning into God, to be speaking and listening to all God has to say at this time. It's about being people of all ages who pray, who are inspired to act on what God says and where God leads us.

Children and young people are called by God to serve, just as adults are. Therefore mission and ministry are both for and with children and young people, as well as adults. We need to help children and young people to understand the nature of calling and the importance of serving, and to see this as part of the journey of being a disciple. The wider Church needs to recognise, release and respond to the prophetic voice of children and young people.

## A Bible bit

Read 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 19

Questions to consider:

- What strikes you about this passage? What might God be saying to you as you read this passage?
- Samuel did not yet have a personal relationship with God (verse 7), although he worked in the Temple. What does this story therefore tell us?
- The message that God asked Samuel to deliver was not an easy one. How does this challenge us about ministry with and amongst children?
- What does this story tell us about how we can facilitate and curate spaces for children and young people to be heard? Who holds the responsibility for making this happen?

Reflection:

In 1 Samuel 3 we read about the Lord's call of Samuel to be a prophet. Samuel was only 12 years old and had been a servant of the Temple since the age of four. A prophet is one who speaks for God to the people and offers challenge. Samuel – at the age of 12 – was called to be prophetic and began the great tradition of the prophets in Israel, bridging the time period between the Judges and the Prophets. Eli gave Samuel good advice. Samuel was to say "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." He was not to ask the Lord for his heart's desire or for help with solving problems. No, Samuel was to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." The Hebrew word used that is translated as 'listening' means 'to hear with a view to obeying'.

God draws out Samuel's spiritual gifts and calls him to also recognise them and respond. Eli, though not a good priest and far from perfect in his ministry, also recognises God's call on Samuel and empowers and instructs him to listen. Afterwards, Eli calls Samuel to account and encourages him to deliver the message, however difficult. Samuel goes on to spend a whole lifetime of listening and responding to God's call with action.

You could also read Genesis 1: 27 – 28, Genesis 2: 19 – 20 and 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 31

Questions:

- How does God invite us all to participate?
- What other Biblical examples are there of people being invited to participate – either through taking responsibility for their own faith journey or through being invited to shape God's mission?
- Why might children and young people struggle to find their place in the body of Christ? How can we encourage and support them to do so?

**Final thoughts:**

As you come to the end of your Bible study, you might like to spend some time praying the 3Generate 365 prayer, written by Youth President Phoebe Parkin:

God, You have been with me  
From the beginning of my life,  
And now You are beside me  
At this particular time.  
You see, I'm going on a journey  
I don't know exactly where  
But I'm listening really carefully  
For your answer to this prayer.  
I pray for all the gifts you give,  
That are special just to me.  
And I want to know how I can live  
So that what You want will be.  
So Holy God, pack your bags  
And join us on our way  
We travel all together,  
With you beside us each and every day.

**Amen**

Please turn over and prayerfully consider, either as an individual or as a group, what you might commit to going forward and how you might support children, young people and their leaders on the 3Generate 365 journey...

## MY ROLE AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH

Please prayerfully consider committing to:

- Praying
  - for children and young people, that they will expect to hear from God and be brave enough to share what they hear God saying
  - for those working with the children and young people
  - for your own journey as a disciple
  - to be open to where God is leading children and young people, and therefore the Church.
- Tell others your story
  - Think about your story. How did you get to this place, who were your influences, what were your struggles?
  - Think about the best way to tell your story.
- Discover the stories of children and young people
  - Listen to stories of their spiritual journeys and everyday lives. Ask them what God might have been saying to them recently.

## OUR ROLE AS THE CHURCH

- Pray as a church for the children and young people and those working with them.
- Look at the themes that the children and young people are discussing during 3Gen 365 (this could be in services, house groups, etc.)
- Make space for children and young people to be part of the full life of the church through continued opportunities to explore and develop vocation and discipleship.

Material for this page adapted from *Participate!* (The Bible Reading Fellowship, 2012).