



Intergenerational Activity – The Light Shines Through

This activity is designed to help multiple generations work with one another to tell stories and create a project together. It can be adapted in many ways as the context and time available allows.

Take a Trip to the Sanctuary

The first part of this intergenerational activity is to take a trip to the church sanctuary (if your sanctuary has stained glass windows). If the church has a historian or window expert, ask them to lead the tour. If your church does not have stained glass windows, you could design a presentation on a computer from pictures found online.

Share the following information as you view the windows:

Throughout history, stained glass windows have been a staple in many Christian churches, known for their intricate designs and stunning visual display. Why do these windows play such an important role in religious architecture?

Despite being primarily decorative features, stained glass windows hold a deeper symbolic meaning that has been appreciated by the Christian community for centuries.

Each color in stained glass windows has a specific symbolism in Christian art. Blue represents heaven, red signifies Christ's sacrifice, green symbolizes hope and growth, and purple represents royalty and penitence.

Stained glass windows are also used to visually narrate biblical stories. The intricate details and colors of the windows help to portray the story to non-reading congregants.

The use of light in stained glass windows represents the divine presence and illuminates the sanctuary with a mystical and ethereal glow. It symbolizes the presence of God and the light of faith.

Ask some wondering questions:

1. Do you have a favorite window? Why is it your favorite?
2. How do these windows help you describe your faith?
3. Does one of these windows stand out to you? Why?
4. If you could design a window, what would it be?
5. Do you think it looks different in the morning light than in the afternoon? Why do you think the light looks differently at various times of day?



Intergenerational Activity – The Light Shines Through (Continued)

Make a Suncatcher

This activity is to create suncatchers, either ones that you purchase or ones that you make. You can purchase these online or at a craft store. Alternatively, you can make them. This video provides step by step instructions, including the materials that you will need:

<https://youtu.be/jlwyF9yKoJo>.

Once you have made the suncatchers, display them in an area where they can be seen and catch light!

Alternative Activity

Supplies: Crayons, markers or colored pencils; a sheet of blank paper where participants can design their own stained glass window.

If you do not want to create suncatchers as described above, intergenerational groups may draw and color the design for a stained glass window. As a part of their drawing, they could share how this new window will serve as a shining light, offering a story of faith to those who see it.

Instructions:

On the sheet of paper, ask participants to draw their own creative design of a stained glass window that could be placed in their sanctuary. Ask them to include symbols or colors that connect their window to being the light for others who see it. What will they see? What will they learn when they look at this window?

Conclusion

Ask the smaller groups to reflect together how the world would be different if the light was shining through all of our lives all of the time. Ask the group to come up with 10 sentences describing how we would know we were experiencing this. Here is an example – “The people of the world would know that everyone is loved and respected for who they are.”

Give the groups only 3-4 minutes to work on this activity. See which group can come up with ten sentences.

Ask the groups to share their work with the whole assembly.

After they have shared, consider asking some more wondering questions:

- How can we “be the light” when we share an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing?
- How does the One Great Hour of Sharing offering shine the light of God’s love throughout the world?