

September - Bulletin Insert - B09-237-16

## For the Whole *Family of God*

This year, United Intergenerational Ministry Bulletin Inserts equip generations to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Care More

We live in a world where chaos exists and there is a debate about whether chaos disables or enables us. Some say chaos keeps them from caring more, others say it motivates them to care more.

While a slower paced and orderly life gives some people time to care more, others say they need the rush of chaos to care more. The old saying "If you want something done, ask a busy person" may hold some truth.

Jesus was an extremely busy person. He had much to do on earth and so little time to do it. Yet, He desired to do God's will (John 4:34). So He always took time to rest and pray because doing so was God's will. It brought God's order and peace to His life then (1 Corinthians 14:33) just as surely as it brings these to our lives today.

Jesus' life was busy, but He did not need to be busy. He desired and it was His great joy to be busy. His busy life was not chaotic. It was orderly and full of peace and joy and love and prayer and rest. If we do not have all of the above in our lives, chaos is waiting and can easily take us down, chaos that may fill up our lives, but leave our souls empty and wanting.

We need to determine if our busy chaotic lives help us rest and pray or keep us from doing so. This will tell us if we need to slow down or if we can be busy and still be like Jesus. Whether we slow down or rush around, we can be sure that as we rest and pray, God will give us time to care more. And as we read, hear, study, and digest God's Word, He will help us make the right decision.

What a relief for those who love chaos but have been putting all of their efforts into slowing down to care more. Now they can simply work on becoming more like Jesus. And those who need to slow down because chaos disables them can do the same. Being like Jesus is the key to being able to rest and pray and care more.

Lots of activities can keep people strong and even "young." However, when they keep us from God and disable us, they hurt our bodies and our souls. This is exactly why we need the wisdom we gain from God through His Word to help us choose activities that allow us time to pray, rest, and care more.

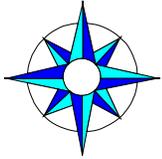
Even church activities need careful analysis. We tend to think these activities are desired and even commanded by God. Yet, any activities that keep us from rest, prayer, caring more, and from God's Word are not God's will and they keep God's peace and order and joy and love from our lives and souls.

So, whether you feel the need to be busy or the need to slow down, increase the time you spend with God and His Word. He will give you the time and everything you need to care more, which brings God's order to your life and soul so that you can help bring it to the lives and souls of generations.

**Share this Resource  
to Encourage the Rest,  
Prayer, Time in God's  
Word, and Care  
we all need.**

For more UIM resources that help to bring order to generations of chaos, visit:  
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## For the Whole *Family of God*

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# Christian Fellowship Outreach

The fellowship of all believers should in no way limit us from befriending all people. While we are not to be yoked with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14) and need to be careful when we restore sinners so that we do not fall into their same sin (Galatians 6:1), the "Great Commission" commands us to preach the Gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19). The Gospel message of forgiveness brings God's order to generations of chaos.

Reaching all people with the Gospel message does require marching straight into the middle of a sinful world with boldness and confidence. Yet we should never march in alone or go unprepared. We need God to help us. We also need the fellowship of all believers. They are the people God sends to help us reach all people.

- When we worship and pray together with fellow believers, their prayers give us strength from God to spread and live the good news of forgiveness and salvation.
- Temptation and sin will not find an easy access into our hearts and lives if we are surrounded by fellow believers who stand prepared to keep us on the straight and narrow path *even when we don't want them to.*
- God commands us to do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the household of faith (Galatians 6:10) or the fellowship of all believers. We need to build fellow believers up in their faith first so that they can keep us strong in our faith to spread the Gospel to all people.

There is no room in the fellowship of believers for favoritism (James 2:1-4) or thinking Christians are better than other people (Romans 12:3). All people have sinned (Romans 3:23), and our God desires all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Our purpose in life, indeed, our only reason for being on earth is to bring all people to Christ for faith to be saved.

God knows we are vulnerable to failure. That's why He asks us to meet with fellow Christians for the study of His Word, for breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42). He does not want us to be left alone to minister to a sinful world without the support and fellowship of believers.

### To Receive God's Strength through the Fellowship of Believers:

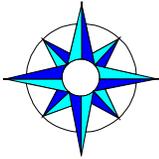
FIRST - Worship regularly, partake of Holy Communion, attend Bible study, and pray with fellow believers to gain knowledge and courage to extend the hand of Christian fellowship to all people.

SECOND - Seek out fellow Christians in your everyday lives, neighborhood, school, and work place for support and strength to live your faith and share it to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Share this Resource to Encourage Christian Fellowship.

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### Return Thanks

My husband, a pastor, once gave a sermon that made three points: 1)The Lord has blessed you. 2)You have many blessings. 3) So, return thanks! That was the end of it, three minutes max. That day, the organist didn't even make it off the bench to her usual seat during the sermon.

People remember that sermon more than any other. Some remember it because it was short; others remember the words enough to describe it to their friends, and there are a few, like me, who remember the meaning of the message: The Lord has blessed me. I have many blessings. I need to return thanks!

Thanksgiving Day is an excellent time for each of us to return thanks for all of God's blessings.

On Thanksgiving Day, some "count their blessings" by talking about what they are each thankful for. And that is wonderful! However, counting our blessings is only one step in returning thanks. We also need to recognize that all we have comes from God and His blessings never cease. They cannot be counted.

The Bible directs us to return to God one portion, a tithe or tenth as Deuteronomy 14:22 states, of the blessings He gives to us. The amount is not as important as our understanding that we can never give God enough and that He will return it (Deuteronomy 15:10; Luke 6:38) We have nothing of any value to give God, except in what value it might have to God because it is given out of our deep love for Him.

When the widow gave her last coin (Luke 21:1-4), which was of little value in human terms, it had great worth in God's sight. In a well-known non-biblical story, a little drummer boy gave Jesus his most precious possession, his drum. In God's eyes, his well-worn drum would have had greater value than the gold, incense, and myrrh given by the generous Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12).

Of course, returning thanks does not require giving God back all that He has given us, leaving us with nothing. It is about using all He gives us for His glory.

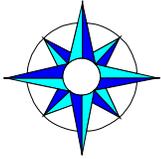
What we have to give may not cost money, but our time. It may require the use of a talent we are shy or afraid to use. We can return thanks by casting out fear to teach, build, comfort, etc., for it is in giving that we receive more from God than we can ever give to Him like His endless peace that gives our lives order. Then, as we pass it on, we help to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Read about more of the rewards of giving below:

- The tithe: God will open the windows of heaven and pour down a blessing until there is no more need (Malachi 3:10).
- Whatever you give readily, will take on great value in God's sight (2 Corinthians 8:12).
- Give generously; you will be given much to be generous with (2 Corinthians 9:11).
- Discover and use the gifts God has given you (Romans 12:6-8) and return thanks to Him.

### Share this Resource to Help Generations Return Thanks and Spread God's Order.

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December - Bulletin Insert - B12-240-16

## For the Whole *Family of God*

This year, United Intergenerational Ministry Bulletin Inserts equip generations to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Renewal

One amazing aspect of Christmas is the spirit of renewal the birth of God's Son creates in people everywhere. Kneeling before the manger, we can become like children all over again. We don't lose our adult responsibilities or stature, but we feel like we could. Our step is little lighter, our path somehow brighter.

Some may attribute the remarkable improvement in human disposition around the Christmas season to a magical Santa Clause Syndrome. Yet, Jesus was in a manger long before Santa began to ride in a sleigh. As for me and all believers, our Christmas peace and joy come because Christ was born that first Christmas and He continues to bring His joy and peace to the world in every generation.

Those who attribute their good moods and good will to Santa miss the great and mighty wonder of the full and holy joy of Christmas. Yet instead of reprimanding them for their irreverent misconception, we must share the Truth, *Christ is born!*

In words and actions, let us announce the coming of our King and Savior! It's time to show from whom true and lasting joy comes - Christ!

The true meaning of Christmas has room for giving and receiving gifts. It is just that these trivial reflections of human thoughtfulness cannot provide the lasting joy and peace Christ's birth brings. Nor can endless baking and decoration displays adequately renew those who use them to create the Christmas spirit.

This year, if you do not feel the peace and joy that comes with knowing CHRIST IS BORN FOR YOU, find a quiet place in your home and in your heart to reflect on the One born for your personal and eternal salvation.

Stop everything you are doing and take a journey of the soul. Leave the hustle and bustle of decorations, gifts, and activities behind. Stretch out your arms to the Child who changed the world and let Him change you. He renews lives tattered with worry and chaos and brings His joy and peace to the world each Christmas and every day of the year.

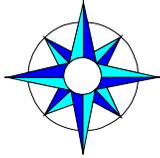
If Christmas renewal has already descended into your heart, rejoice and be exceedingly glad! What you feel is only a portion, a tiny glimpse, of what is to come. The joy you feel now cannot compare to the majesty and splendor you will experience on the day Christ comes to escort you to His glorious home in heaven.

Christ has come for you. *Treasure and share the good will He offers. Hang the spirit of renewal He instills on your heart. Carry His kindness deep inside your soul. Let your countenance Shout CHRIST IS BORN!* You will be helping to bring God's peace and order to generations of chaos.

**O COME LET US  
ADORE HIM!**

**Share this Resource  
to Bring Christmas  
Renewal to  
Generations.**

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January - Bulletin Insert - B01-241-17

## For the Whole *Family of God*

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### Communicating In Love

Lack of love and the ability to communicate are causing chaos that grows more harmful and hurtful in every generation. God's love enables and compels all believers to communicate in love. As we pass on our ability and deep desire to communicate in love, we help to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

Believers are able to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). God's love empowers us to listen and to speak in love. His love enables us to be more understanding, resolve conflicts more easily, and forgive more completely. The love God gives us through Christ thoroughly equips us for the task of communicating in love. So, everyone needs God's love.

We receive God's love because God is love (1 John 4:8-9). The closer we come to God, the more we come to know Him and His love fills us to love Him and others, and equips us to communicate in love to others and to a world in desperate need of His love.

*Our ability to communicate in love continually increases as we read His Word:*

John 3:16 tells us of God's great love for us, while Ephesians 4:15 commands us to speak the truth in love. Galatians 6:1 urges us to be gentle, while Colossians 3:19 warns us not to be harsh. Matthew 7:1 commands us not to judge, and Colossians 3:13 reminds us to forgive as we have been forgiven. God's love enables us to do these things and more.

*While God's Word guides us and His love compels us to love, our sinful human nature does not always communicate in love.*

- Our words are not always as gentle as they need to be. We may even feel the need to be harsh. We cannot speak to some people at all, much less gently.
- Our words may sound or even be judgmental. We can't help how we feel.
- We forget that we are sinners too. We anger God just as much as people anger us. But He loves and forgives us.

To communicate in love from our hearts, we need to confess all sin in our hearts. As we confess our sins, God loves and forgives and strengthens us through Christ to communicate in love and to love even our enemies and do good to those who hate us (Luke 6:27).

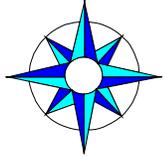
How could we be so foolish as to think we could communicate in love without God's love and forgiveness for us. Through Christ, it is God who makes us gentle, not harsh. He helps us not to judge. He leads us to forgive. He sends His Holy Spirit to give us the words to say (Luke 12:12) and the wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:13) to communicate in love and help to bring His order to generations of chaos.

### Share this Resource to Help Generations Communicate in Love.

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### God's Order and More...

God's Word brings His order to the world. Yet even when we want to read and study God's Word, we simply never find enough time. So, along with a myriad of other sins, we confess our inability to read and study God's Word as much as we should. As we do, God forgives us and helps us to read His Word.

It's true! We need God's help to read His Word. By even thinking we can do it alone, we fail. We need God's help both to read His Word each day and to understand it. Without God, we can do nothing. With God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), including reading and understanding His Word. As we do, we receive His order and so much more.

#### Reading God's Word Offers:

- Strength when we are weak.
- Comfort in sadness.
- Courage in crisis.
- Joy, renewal, inspiration.  
and more.....

When storms enter our lives, God's Word is designed to be our unrelenting shelter. That's why God is so ardent about directing us to study His Word. He longs to shelter us from the storms of life. He knows that when we are intimately connected to Him through His Word, our lives that are filled with chaos:

- **feel His peace** which surpasses all understanding.
- **know His joy**, which *has no end!*
- **have His order and more.....**

*Receive God's order:*

#### Spiritually:

- Pray. Confess your inability to read and study God's Word every day and receive God's forgiveness and strength to commit yourself to reading and the study of His Word in personal and group Bible Study.

- Open up your heart and life totally to do God's will. Place Him first and God will draw you to Himself.

#### Practically:

- Get up 10 minutes earlier in the morning to read and study God's Word.

- Turn off the television set 20 minutes sooner at night to read and meditate on God's Word.

- Keep a Bible handy in your purse, pocket, drawer at work, or locker at school, etc. Read verses throughout the day for strength and order from God.

- Read the Bible through once a year. Pick up a yearly Bible Reading Schedule from your Church, on the web or from a local Christian Bookstore.

- Memorize one Bible Verse every week. Write it down and hang it on a wall, the bathroom mirror, etc. where you will see it every day to read it over and over and learn it by repetition.

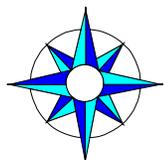
- As an individual, meditate upon, and as a family and/or with fellow believers, discuss what verses mean.

- Especially share Bible verses with children in the morning, when they go to bed at night, and all the time God gives you in between to offer them and your own faith and life God's order and so much more.....

For more UIM resources that help to bring order to generations of chaos, visit:  
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March - Bulletin Insert - B03-243-17

## For the Whole *Family of God*

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### **Sunday School Partnership**

Bringing children to Sunday School is one of the deepest spiritual acts of love parents can demonstrate. Yet it does not take the place of parental responsibility to teach faith lessons to children in their homes (*for that is what God commands us to do*). Certainly, Sunday School does give added strength of faith and additional opportunity for faith lessons parents teach to take root and grow in their children and in their homes.

When faith in Christ is taught at home and reinforced in Sunday School, children are two times more equipped and prepared for life. They have a double opportunity not only to learn right from wrong, but to obtain strength and a desire to do what is right. Reinforced learning can help lessons stick for life so they are passed on for generations.

Children thrive most in homes where God's Word is taught and then reinforced in Sunday School. Through faith, they receive God's peace and the order only He can bring to their lives. There is, therefore, great value and benefit in home and school working together in partnership to build and strengthen faith in Christ. Not only can this partnership create peaceful homes, but it can give children and parents in those homes God's peace and order in the best and worst of times.

While it is important to bring our children to Sunday School, it is equally important for parents to attend Adult Bible Class to receive strength of faith and knowledge to teach their children well. With the problems and tragedies in our world today, children need to learn God's Word well.

This Sunday School partnership also includes the congregation. The members of a congregation need to attend Adult Bible Class for their own learning as well as for the children of the congregation who need to see them in Bible Class. Adult members often fret because children leave the church after Confirmation. Children who see adults in Bible Class see that their learning does not end with Confirmation. It continues all of their lives.

While congregations offer Adult Bible Class and Sunday School for all ages, adults can attend with children during UIM Sunday School. This new approach works to reunite and strengthen all ages or generations in faith through the wisdom and power of God's Word. Those who attend become one family of God thoroughly equipped to help each other handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies. Congregations can offer UIM SS as intergenerational for all ages together or for Adults and children separately as they desire. It can be offered as the only option or as an additional option along with regular SS.

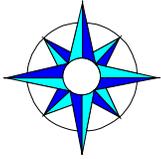
As congregations offer SS in partnership with parents and adults, the learning and growing will bring God's order to the faith and lives of all who attend. As those who attend pass on what they learn, they will help to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

To check out UIM SS with Adult Bible Class and Preschool Instructions, visit: **[familycrossfires.org](http://familycrossfires.org)**

Click on Programs

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April - Bulletin Insert - B04-244-17

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### **Bear One Another's Burdens**

We all know burdens can take over lives and cause chaos. That is why God in His Word instructs us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2. In Romans 13:10, we learn that love is the fulfillment of the law. Jesus teaches us to love others as He loves us in John 15:12 and showed us His love by bearing the burden of all our sins on the cross.

And this burden bearing love, while a steep command, is not all God teaches. In Luke 6:27, Christ teaches us to "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." It is hard enough to carry the burdens of people we love. How can God expect us to carry the burdens of people we hate or who hate us? How can we ever fulfill these demands of love?

The truth is, all of the laws of God have been fulfilled for us through Christ. We are weak, sinful human beings who cannot fulfill the demands of God's law or love as He loves us all the time. That is why He sent Jesus, who forgives us each time we fail. And that is why God sends His Spirit to give us strength of faith to keep trying to bear one another's burdens.

God does not ask us to do anything that He is not ready, willing, and able to help us do. He desires and waits for us to depend upon Him for help and strength. In fact, each time we try to bear burdens or love or forgive without God's help and fail to depend on Him, we sin. Yet, He stays with us to the end of the age just as He promised (Matthew 28:20).

When we try to handle burdens without God, they tend to pile up one right on top of the other and cause chaos that keeps us from God and His help and strength. The only way to stop this cycle is to depend upon the Lord and not lean upon our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

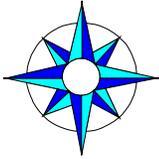
- God wants us to share heavy burdens because no burden is too big for Him and He protects us with His whole armor (Ephesians 6:13).
- God wants us to share light burdens. He invites us to cast all our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7).
- God wants us to share burdens we think are so little we are sure we can handle them alone. He wants to give us rest (Matthew 11:28).
- God wants us to come to Him for strength to be more like Jesus, who while bearing the burden of all our sins on the cross was still able to pray, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

As we cast all our cares upon God, He makes them lighter (Matthew 11:30). He makes it possible for us to do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13) and that includes fulfilling God's law of love, which brings God's order into our lives along with all that we need to bring His order to generations of chaos.

### **Share this Resource to Help Generations Bear One Another's Burdens.**

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May - Bulletin Insert - B05-245-17

## For the Whole *Family of God*

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### Get Rid of Sinful Anger

Anger is an emotion, not a sin. Jesus became angry in the temple (Matthew 21:12), but He did not sin. It is true anger can cause sin. That is why Ephesians 4:26 warns us to "Be angry and do not sin." Still, anger by itself is not sin.

Though we don't often think of anger as a healthy emotion, it can force us to act in ways that are positive like when someone says we can't succeed and it makes us so angry we succeed. Anger can create strong desires to protect and even defend with our lives. It can motivate us to improve situations because they are wrong and make us angry. Anger over a wrong can even send us on a crusade to change a wrong to right and in the process change the world!

Anger is a powerful emotion that can inspire people to powerful action. That same powerful emotion of anger can also cause us to sin and sinful anger can destroy all that is good in our lives. It can cause us to lash out at and refuse to understand or forgive people. It can withhold our love, and in anger, we can hate with an intensity that shrivels our soul.

Sinful anger when it is allowed free reign can destroy both earthly and eternal lives. Physically, it can cause medical problems (high blood pressure, heart attacks, etc.) that lead to incapacitation and even death. Not being forgiven or able to forgive can cause hatred that leads to the destruction of self or others and chaos that lasts and hurts for generations.

Sinful anger can also intensify existing emotional illness (depression, etc.) and lead to suicide, etc. When it does not allow for forgiveness, it prevents being forgiven and leads to eternal death. So, getting rid of sinful anger is critical for our faith and lives.

Be aware, though, that we need God's power, *not our own*, to get rid of sinful anger. Certainly, we can and should work hard to control our anger before it becomes sin. But we are weak and sinful. When we become angry, we lash out. It is *the reality of our sin*.

If you have problems controlling your anger or you know of someone who does, God's Word can help: *Read and share the following anger management passages:*

Psalm 103:1-13  
Proverbs 15:1; 29:2  
Galatians 5:22-26  
James 1:19-20  
1 Peter 1:13-15  
2 Peter 1:3-9  
1 Peter 5:6-11  
1 Corinthians 13

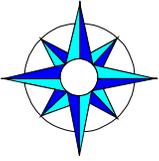
Find a quiet place to pray and meditate on God's Word daily. Fill your heart

and mind with thanks and praise for the great and mighty things God has done for you through Jesus Christ. Then, each time the emotion of sinful anger arises in you, confess your sin and marvel that God has forgiven you. Bask in His love. Know that sinful anger cannot reign in your life once God and His order and peace are in control of your soul.

### Share this Resource to Help Generations Get Rid of Sinful Anger.

For more UIM resources that help to bring order to generations of chaos, visit:  
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June - Bulletin Insert - B06-246-17

## For the Whole *Family of God*

This year, United Intergenerational Ministry Bulletin Inserts equip generations to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Forgiveness Brings Order

Lack of forgiveness can cause chaos when people who refuse to forgive and who are not forgiven cannot receive God's peace. People refuse to forgive because they feel the sin committed against them is too great to forgive or they have forgiven the sin too many times already. They do not realize that forgiving others benefits them, not the person they forgive.

Certainly, some people we forgive may feel better if they desire to be forgiven, but some do not care if we forgive them or not. They do not gain anything from our forgiveness. We, on the other hand, have much to gain when we forgive others and much to lose if we don't.

The truth is, when we forgive others, God forgives us (Luke 6:37) and we receive God's peace, peace we can pass on to bring order to generations of chaos.

We often forget that not forgiving others separates us from God and His forgiveness. Matthew 6:15 warns us to forgive others or God will not forgive us. God does not withhold forgiveness from us. Rather, our lack of forgiveness will not let His forgiveness into our hearts. We withhold His forgiveness when we fail to forgive others. Thankfully, God sent His Son so that we can be forgiven through faith in Christ even when we fail to forgive others. But the warning remains and so does our need to forgive because it blesses us.

As we confess our sins, God not only forgives us, He sends His Spirit to open our hearts so His deep love that compels us to forgive others as He forgives us can come in. Not forgiving others is a sin we need to confess so that we can be forgiven and receive God's strength to forgive others.

Forgiven of our own sin, we are able to forgive, not because we want to or have any holy desire to forgive, but basking in the love of being forgiven, we forgive because it is part of our new self.

Our old sinful nature may continue to tell us we can't forgive, while our new nature casts out all doubt and firmly believes God has already given us His power to forgive.

Our old nature may tempt us to think we have been hurt in a way that makes it impossible to forgive those who hurt us, but our new nature helps us to clearly see how forgiving others blesses us with God's peace no matter how badly we have been hurt by sins committed against us.

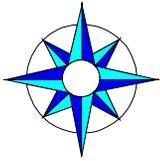
#### Two Steps to Forgiveness:

1. Partake of God's Word and Sacraments to receive His strength to confess your sins and forgive others.
2. Seek out people you need to forgive; believe and do not doubt that Christ has already made you new and able to forgive.

#### Share this Resource to Help Generations Forgive as They are Forgiven.

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July - Bulletin Insert - B07-247-17

## **For the Whole *Family of God***

This year, United Intergenerational Ministry Bulletin Inserts equip generations to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### **Compromise or Not?**

Compromise requires that we give up some of what we want so that someone else can have some of what they want. It means that no one gets what they want, not completely anyway. Still, if we do not have compromise, wars can rage and chaos can reign. So, sometimes we need to compromise, but sometimes we should not compromise.

We should never ever compromise in matters of our faith; we should never accept sin to keep peace. The Bible commands us to love even our enemies (Luke 6:27), but we are to hate evil (Romans 12:9). Making compromises that accept sin increases sin and sin destroys peace. In fact, compromises that accept sin keep God's peace and order out of lives and souls.

God's Word helps us determine when compromise is right and if it is wrong. Hebrews 12:14 tells us to make every effort to live at peace with all people and Acts 5:29 directs us to obey God rather than man. So, if we can compromise to keep peace and obey God at the same time, we need to make every effort to do so.

If the compromise we are asked to make accepts sin, we cannot make it, and our refusal may require giving up much more than half for the sake of compromise. It may require that we give up all for the sake of Christ. Does that mean we lose everything when we follow Christ? No, it means we will receive all that we ask for and all that we need through Christ (Philippians 4:19).

God's Word assures us that when we lose our lives, we gain life (Matthew 16:25). The life we gain is eternal, but it is also the life we live on earth filled with God's order and a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

The more we read and study God's Word, the more we will receive wisdom from God to know when we must compromise and when not to compromise, as well as the strength of faith we need to stand strong and refuse to compromise.

If we must refuse to compromise and lose all things, God will strengthen us through the saving work of His Son and the power of His Holy Spirit. We will give up everything out of love for Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We will give no thought to our own needs or desires. We will be totally focused on doing His will and we will receive peace only God can give, the peace that gives our lives His order.

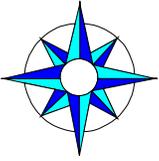
Most amazingly, we will not carry any resentment for what we will give up. Instead, we will rejoice daily over the opportunities we are given to stand firm in our faith and help bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### **Share this Resource to Help Generations do all things through Christ.**

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August - Bulletin Insert - B08-248-17

## For the Whole *Family of God*

This year, **United Intergenerational Ministry** Bulletin Inserts equip generations to bring God's order to generations of chaos.

### Prayer

God does not need our prayers, though He desires to hear them. We are the ones who suffer from lack of faithful and frequent prayer in our faith and lives. Without prayer, chaos and sin can easily gain free reign in our lives and souls and world.

We can pray at any time, in any place and on a moment's notice. That's awesome! Where else on earth can we get that kind of service and help?

We may live in the midst of loving families and caring friends. We may have access to wise and faithful pastors and counselors, but none of these wonderful, caring people can be available for us every minute of every day. *God is available at all times, 24/7.*

And when we pray, we don't need to say anything really profound. We just have to turn our minds and hearts to the Lord and speak to our dear Father in heaven as we would speak to a kind and loving father on earth.

Neither do we need to be afraid to tell God our deepest secrets and sins. He already knows them all, and He loves and forgives us for each one of them through His tender mercy and love for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Most importantly, God has the power and has promised to answer our prayers. In fact, God knows our prayers even before we bring them to Him. He is just waiting for us to come to Him so that He can give us His peace.

In our world of chaos, prayer has the power to give us peace the world cannot give (John 14:27). Knowing this, it is hard to comprehend why anyone would forget to pray, *but we do*. We become absorbed by things in our busy lives like jobs, problems, etc. We forget about God and the power prayer has to help us in every situation.

Still, God forgives us for our forgetfulness. He faithfully hears and answers our prayers. All that He requires is that we pray with faith, believing and not doubting (James 1:6) that He will hear and answer all of our prayers.

#### Practical Prayer Tips:

- *Set a specific time aside to pray and also pray constantly, throughout each day.* Pray about everything you do. Pray when you are stopped at a traffic light - doing chores - taking a break - getting the mail - etc.
- *Keep a prayer journal.* Write down prayers of request and thanksgiving. Add names of people and situations you can pray for and about. Read your journal as you pray each day.

- *Seek out people to pray for.* Tell people you will pray for them and faithfully add their names to your prayers and/or journal.

- *Make prayer a routine.* Pray when you rise, before you go to sleep, and before and after every meal.

Prayer brings God's order into your life and strengthens you to bring His order to generations of chaos.

### Share this Resource to Help Generations Pray Constantly.

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