

United Intergenerational Ministry or UIM Sunday School

Offers

**13 Lessons
Each 50 Minutes**

50 Minute LESSONS

Each Lesson Includes: <u>Interaction and Lively Activities!</u>	Approximate time
Opening Song: Introduces the principle taught in the lesson.	(2 minutes)
Opening Activity: Prepares generations to work and learn together.	(10 minutes)
God's Word For Us Today: Teaches weekly passage through repetition.	(2 minutes)
God's Word Application: Creates better understanding of weekly passage.	(3 minutes)
Interactive Litany: Requests God's help to do what is learned.	(3 minutes)
Interactive Bible story: Teaches the Bible Story and principle of the lesson.	(10 minutes)
Bible Story Application: Applies Bible Story and lesson to faith and life.	(3 minutes)
Teachable Craft: Reunites generations to work, play, and review lesson principle.	(15 minutes)
Closing Prayer: Reviews the lesson and teaches generations to pray.	(2 minutes)
Take Home Activity: Helps generations take home and practice what they learn.	

Reproducible +++ Interactive +++ Reusable'



UIM has been Created and is Distributed by

Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

Family Crossfires endeavors by the grace and power of God to combat, prevent, and heal the family breakdown pattern presently threatening to destroy church and society.

The above Mission is carried out through **United Intergenerational Ministry** or **UIM** Resources.

The Mission of UIM, first and foremost, is to lead generations to Christ for faith, forgiveness, and salvation as all ministry should do. Tragically, today, lives and souls are being lost because generations are becoming increasingly separated from God and from fellow Christians. Consequently, they are not receiving the support and love they need and that God and fellow Christians offer to help them through the big and even the little struggles of life. That is why on top of helping to save eternal lives through faith Christ, UIM reunites and strengthens generations in faith to handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies to help save earthly lives and is being called a life and soul saving ministry.

However, while the mission of UIM is awesome,
your Mission is simply to offer UIM Resources and know that God will do the rest.

**Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc. exists
solely through the generous donations of God's people.**

Each time you use this Resource, we ask that you send a donation so that we can continue to offer UIM Resources for a donation to congregations just like yours.

Thank You for Prayerfully Considering Ongoing Donations to this Ministry.

Please send donations to:

Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc.
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Shawano, WI 54166-1763

Make Checks payable to: Family Crossfires Ministries

Questions? E-mail: info@familycrossfires.org Call: (715) 745-5064
To review a wealth of UIM Resources visit: familycrossfires.org

† † †

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***IMPORTANT*:** UIM Sunday School is simply Sunday School with Bible Stories , Bible Words, and Bible Crafts just like any Sunday School curriculum. The Supplemental Instructions included with the lessons will help you teach it to your Sunday School class. However, UIM SS offers much more than just Sunday School lessons. If you would like to learn more about all that UIM SS offers or maybe get more generations involved, read through this Introduction. If you would just like to teach UIM SS use the Supplemental Instructions and ENJOY UIM SS!

UIM is a break-through in ministry: United Intergenerational Ministry or UIM is changing ministry as we know it today, transforming Sunday School classes into caring family groups and congregations into “one caring family of God.” As problems and tragedies increase and intensify in each generation, congregations are looking for resources to help handle, prevent, and heal problems before they turn tragic. UIM Resources bring people to Christ for faith that saves in heaven and helps generations through the problems and tragedies they face on earth. This fact helps to make them some of the most critical, valuable, helpful, and desired resources available.

UIM helps generations build relationships: Past generations had trouble communicating. Present generations have problems even connecting. Effective communication is a characteristic of every strong, healthy relationship; some experts report it is the key. But if generations cannot even connect, how will they communicate and build strong, healthy relationships that prevent loneliness, depression, fear, and even anger by providing someone to turn to in times of need. Our amazing God has created UIM to help generations communicate and connect in and through God’s love and build relationships that give the faith and life support needed to handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies.

UIM is Not Always Easy: Congregations easily agree that there is a need to reunite and strengthen generations in faith and fellowship support. They may even appreciate UIM because it works to prevent problems before they turn tragic. However, generations have become comfortable being separated from each other because they do not understand each other and some may even be afraid of each other. This makes taking any steps big or small toward reuniting or bringing them together seem impossible. Thankfully, with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

√ Check Out One Easy Way to Begin UIM in Your Congregation

With God at your side, one of the best ways to begin UIM and strengthen and reunite generations is by printing the UIM Newsletter Articles and Bulletin Inserts into your church newsletters and bulletins each month throughout the year. They give practical help, but most importantly, they give God’s help through Christ, who is the solution to every problem and tragedy. UIM articles and inserts address issues pertinent to generations today; they meet the needs of people today. Church growth experts report people are drawn to congregations who meet their needs. From their inception, God designed UIM articles and inserts to be used by His Church to draw people to His Church.

Download Reproducible UIM Newsletter Articles and Bulletin Inserts

FREE on the Web at: **familycrossfires.org**

UIM!
Changing Ministry as we know it!!
Changing the World for Christ
one Generation at a Time!
Saving Earthly lives
through Christ, who saves Eternal Souls.

Dear United Intergenerational Ministry Sunday School Leader,

Although many neglect to say so, they remember their Sunday school experience(s) throughout their lives. Sunday school teachers are often instrumental in bringing and keeping generations in the faith and the reason parents bring their children back to Sunday school for generations! Whether you are or have ever been a Sunday school teacher with all of the experience that gives or if you simply desire to lead Sunday school for the first time or want to reunite generations, you are the most valuable person we could ever hope to have as a UIM SS leader. The same holds true for anyone who has ever taught others about the Lord or who desires to do so. You are qualified by God to lead and we are absolutely honored to have you!

Please know that although the task of preventing and healing problems and tragedies is an awesome task, your task is simply to lead UIM Sunday School lessons. God, through the power and wisdom of His Word, will do the rest. The Supplemental Instructions that come with the lessons for every UIM SS Series will help you lead each lesson. Basically, every lesson offers simple interactive activities that teach strong biblical principles for faith and life. You won't even know you are involved in anything but leading the lesson. The life and soul saving prevention and healing of UIM SS is taught indirectly by God through His Word and you and all who attend UIM SS will benefit and be blessed by Him.

At the same time, UIM SS does offer more than just lessons. If you desire to know more about everything UIM SS offers, take some time to read through this UIM SS Introduction. Do not be overwhelmed by all the information. You do not need to know all of this information to lead UIM SS. Reading this introduction will help you understand the value of UIM SS and how it helps you to become a part of this life and soul saving ministry and bring generations with you!

The basic difference between UIM SS and other Sunday Schools is that family groups are formed and members are equipped to help and care for and teach each other. Younger learn by listening to older read and discuss. They are asked to repeat answers to keep them involved and listening. Older are taught faith lessons that only the faith of younger children can teach. It is truly a wonder to see generations learning, interacting, listening, sharing, and growing in their faith and knowledge of God as they study His Word together.

Also, there is a great deal of helping and caring that goes on during UIM SS. Generations are reunited as they help each other with lesson activities, crafts, keeping quiet to hear instructions, finding or reading a Bible passage or story, and even working together to clean up. Caring for each other builds relationships and communicates God's love, which makes generations bloom and grow in love for God and one another. Christian love and caring draws people to UIM SS, strengthens them in faith to face struggles, and equips them to pass on their faith and coping abilities to present and future generations and, thereby, help to save lives and souls.

God Bless You for your desire to lead.
He will provide all you need to succeed.

An Introduction to United Intergenerational Ministry or UIM



Return to Times of Faith and Family

With all the Love and Support and Strength these Offer!

UIM takes congregations on a spiritual journey of the soul. It takes generations back to a time of faith and family where God and His Word are central and then through the wisdom and power of His Word moves them ahead to all that is new in and through faith in Christ: New Purpose - New Vision - New Outreach - Through a New Holistic Approach to Ministry where all resources work together under the same theme and Scripture for one year to provide deeper, more holy learning for the faith and lives of generations.

- uses the “old and unchanging” to inspire the “new and changing:” There is great need for change, yet God and His Word must remain the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). UIM uses everything of God that does not change, His love, peace, joy, forgiveness etc. to make us new creations through Christ, able to lay aside all that keeps us from running the race God has set before us (Hebrews 12:1) to lead generations to Christ for faith, forgiveness, and salvation.

- is an attitude. It is putting on the mind of Christ (Romans 13:14). Christ put all people before Himself and successful UIM emanates from our doing the same. Generations strengthened in faith to place the needs of others before their own like Christ have all of their needs met through Christ (Philippians 4:19), echoing our Lord’s words, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* Acts 20:35. It is this "selfless" giving by all generations that makes UIM so valuable and successful. Over time, it creates a loving and caring congregation, willing and equipped to meet the needs of every member intentionally to draw people to the Lord to grow His Church.

- can help congregations get along with each other: Conflicts are dividing and closing congregations. The foundation of Christian love and care laid through UIM can help congregation members get along better and, thereby, accomplish greater ministry, keeping congregations open, active, and leading generations to Christ.

UIM Resources:

- are Unique: Many congregations offer a different resource for every generation. UIM resources are uniquely designed to reach out to every generation in the same resource.

- transform: They also lead the way to “We.” “We are one in the Spirit - We are one in the Lord - We are one in the Body of Christ - We are one caring family of God.”

- reunite and strengthen generations in faith that saves in heaven and on top of this helps through life on earth. Hence, UIM is being called “ministry on top of ministry” and “life and soul saving ministry.”

- draw people to God’s Church: Each resource can be used effectively alone, while each additional resource used offers even more wisdom and power from God through His Word to help and care in ways that draw people to the Lord and to His Church.

Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc. creates, produces, and distributes all UIM Resources. However, UIM is not Worship, Sunday School, Newsletter Articles, Bulletin Inserts, or any UIM Resource alone. UIM is not even a combination of all of these resources. UIM is an inspired, growing caring and love for one another that only God can create in us through the redeeming work of His Son and the power of His Holy Spirit.

UIM Resources are designed to strengthen and equip each generation to pass on their faith and coping abilities to present and future generations.

UIM is a gift congregations can give that never stops giving!

Learn more about UIM on the web at: familycrossfires.org

IMAGINE!

- Sunday Schools formed into caring family groups. Congregations becoming one caring family of God.
- Entire congregations memorizing passages along with the Sunday School and discussing Bible Stories to strengthen faith and save eternal and earthly lives in generations for generations.
- A Pastor's Page that helps to incorporate Sunday School into Worship, reinforcing weekly Scripture lessons and even having congregations sing Opening UIM SS songs.
- Your congregation being able to offer resources that prevent and heal a wealth of spiritual and emotional problems before they cause bigger problems and tragedies for generations.
- Yourself being part of a ministry that offers prevention, healing, mentoring, help, and care, builds strong Christian character, grows God's order, and so much more!

There are several ways to offer UIM SS:

- Offer every week
- Offer once a month.
- Offer for one quarter a year.

There are many different reasons for offering UIM SS

- To reunite and strengthen generations in faith to handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies.
- To breath life into existing Sunday School programs.
- To draw generations to the Lord and His Church.
- To provide important life and soul saving purpose and vision for congregations.
- To involve all generations, singles, parents, and families in Sunday School.
- To help congregations memorize and discuss God's Word for help and strength in their times of need.
- To offer an additional or different "alternative" SS class for families and/or generations.
- To offer valuable and affordable Sunday School curriculum.
- To reach every age, preschool through adult, any number, on any given week with the same resource.
- To create an atmosphere of help and caring that meets people's needs, draws people to the Lord, and that can also help congregations get along better and carry out more ministry for the Lord.
- **For out-reach:**
 - advertize UIM in the newspaper and on the radio using publicity that comes with every UIM SS Series
 - invite all members with invitations that come in the publicity for every UIM SS Series.

For in-reach and out-reach:

Offer a foundational UIM church growth program entitled: "Christ's Caring Intensified in Congregations" or CCIC. Find out more about CCIC on the web at: familycrossfires.org

How does UIM SS Work?

How do younger and older all learn together? UIM SS lessons are designed for every generation to learn as much as they are able to comprehend. This means that in the same lesson, younger generations learn the basics through activities that hold their interest while older generations are helped to look and think deeper through readings, questions, and the same activities. Also, older learn by answering questions while younger learn by hearing the answers and repeating them. Lessons request one word answers from younger and more explanation from older.

How do all ages remain interested? Caring keeps generations coming back for more. Participation keeps them interested. They listen because they know they will have to repeat words, count the same word in a story, draw a picture, play a game, make or place props for a Bible Story Play, read (those who cannot read are helped to read by reading words to them they can repeat), etc. Bible passages are constantly repeated on cue to teach by repetition and hold attention, crafts that hold interest also teach the lesson, etc. One activity after another helps to keep members moving quickly from one thing to the next, leaving no time to become disinterested.

AND THERE IS MORE: During UIM SS, generations inspire generations to attend by simply showing up every Sunday. As one generation shares their faith, other generations grow in faith. A great deal of faith and life mentoring can happen, and all who attend are taught how to pass on what they learn to present and future generations.

LAST, BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST: The child-like quality the permeates UIM, the one word or simple answers necessary to teach preschoolers, is intentional. It keeps UIM SS or the study of God's Word non-threatening for all ages. Also, in Matthew 18:3, our Lord tells us we must become like little children (helpless, trusting, and receptive). Having children among us brings out the child in us. In Matthew 11:25, we read that God hides from the wise what He reveals to little children. God's teachings are actually so simple that children understand them best. UIM SS helps generations become like little children in their faith so that they can understand what God is saying, trust, and receive more fully all that God offers through childlike faith in Christ.

How exactly are deeper Christian faith and life concepts taught? Each UIM SS Series concentrates on one issue pertinent to generations today for one full year and floods this issue with many different Bible stories and Bible passages that reach deep into the souls of those who attend, teaching God's answers to questions and concerns. Each lesson addresses the same issue using a different approach that leads generations to Christ, who meets every need. A strong dependence on the redeeming work of Christ and the power of God's Holy Spirit as generations partake of His Word and Sacraments and as they pray is emphasized to receive power or deeper Christian faith that is able to do as God teaches. However, it is the repetition of the biblical concept taught by God Himself through His Word that does the actual work of deepening and growing faith in the lives of those who attend. The results are seen when generations begin to ask questions and make decisions based on what they have learned from God through His Word. It is the passing on of all that is learned that brings God and His Word and deeper Christian faith and life concepts to present and future generations.

Doesn't focusing on the same issue pertinent to generations for 13 weeks or even an entire year get boring? All Sunday School curriculums share the same Bible Stories over and over again. They make the stories teach different principles of faith to keep them interesting. UIM SS applies a different Scripture passage to each story that reinforces what is taught by the Series as a whole and specifically in each lesson. It is this story and Scripture combination that give the lesson deeper meaning and insight for faith and lives. Also, since some members do not come for every lesson, the issue and principle need to be addressed in every lesson. If members say they already know the faith principle repeated every week, compliment them for learning it. Explain that now they will need to listen even more closely to discover what God would have them do with what they learned. Also comment that they did not have to study hard to learn the principle. **Then, invite them to help you teach others what they have learned because that is what UIM SS is all about. Always look for something new you learned from each lesson and challenge them to do the same.**

UIM SS ADAPTS TO ANY SUNDAY SCHOOL

While UIM SS was created for small SS's with less than 20 members, over the years, it has been adapted to every size and Sunday school situation.



When Your Sunday School is small (less than 30): Attendance may fluctuate or be different for every class every Sunday. Mixing generations or ages of students into family groups allows you to teach every age no matter who shows up on what Sunday. Simply reproduce the same materials for everyone. Never worry if you don't have enough craft materials. Hand out crafts to youngest members first and ask older members to help them. You will be helping to reunite younger and older generations as they help each other.

When Your Sunday School is Large (30-200 or more): In a large Sunday School, students can get lost in the shuffle and numbers. UIM SS breaks this large group up into small, caring family groups. In the large group, members can be teased without anyone taking notice or helping them deal with teasing. The caring families formed during UIM SS learn to care for each other too much to tease or are helped by their caring family group not to tease.

UIM SS can be presented in large SS's in three different ways:

- As an alternative to traditional SS, offer UIM SS large group style as described on [page 8](#).
- Transform multiple classrooms into UIM SS groups as described on [page 9](#).

What about Preparations? To present the lesson, you can do very little preparation and simply read what each section tells you to say. If you desire, you can also study the lesson thoroughly and give Bible background. The time you spend in preparation is entirely up to you and what fits your individual situation. You will need to reproduce pages and obtain items for most lessons listed on the first page and at the beginning of every section or activity. If you need help, and even if you don't, hand out preparations weeks ahead of time to members of your UIM SS or your congregation and ask for their help. Even invite members to make copies for you. This is a great way to get more generations involved in UIM SS. Some who have not been involved may bring their preparations and stay. Be sure to invite them!

What about Preschoolers?: Some may believe preschoolers cannot benefit from UIM SS. They do not understand that preschoolers can receive more one-on-one attention and help in UIM SS than in traditional classroom SS. Each UIM SS Leader's Guide includes a wealth of ways for leaders to include preschoolers. In fact, preschoolers who are constantly asked to repeat answers to questions may learn more than older members. This is why UIM SS Leader's Guides are carefully designed to keep a balance of learning going between all ages and generations. While suggestions for teaching preschoolers separately are given, separation is not recommended because preschoolers can benefit so richly by learning so much from being part of the main UIM SS group.

Adult and Teen UIM SS is Available: Each UIM SS Series contains an Adult UIM SS Guide and Participant's Guide that can also be used with Teens. Having adults and teens remain part of UIM SS small family groups is always encouraged. If this is not possible, then having them attend an Opening with the main UIM SS group and then move to a separate Bible Study area is encouraged. Adult and teen UIM SS groups can meet at the same time as UIM SS or at other times during the week. Adult and Teen Bible Study offers UIM SS leaders and helpers a tremendous opportunity to gain deeper Scriptural insights into each lesson if they attend the week before they lead a UIM SS lesson. It is also possible for adults and teens to attend UIM Bible Study and UIM SS and learn different things from both. Most importantly, always use UIM Bible Study and SS to remind and prepare all who attend to know and share the lessons and Bible stories they learn with those who may or may not attend specifically to give spiritual help and care.

Helpful Instructions for Presenting UIM SS to a Large Group

Large SS's can offer UIM SS in a gym, fellowship hall, church basement, or large classroom. Divide large groups into small family groups of no more than 8-10 and have members seated around tables.

- Large group UIM SS requires more time to explain directions and move from one section to the next, so you will not be able to do all of the lesson activities. Choose well.
- It is best to use power point to hold everyone's attention, so extra preparation time is needed. Use a microphone. Being able to hear and understand instructions is essential for large group UIM SS.
- Sharing the Bible Story in each lesson is a must, and the Opening Song and Litany are fun for all. Cuing everyone to repeat the God's Word For Us Today passage when you pop it up on the screen regains and holds attention well.
- Crafts can usually be started but often need to be taken home to complete.
- Prepare the entire lesson for your first Large Group UIM SS. You will soon discover how much ground you will be able to cover and can adjust your preparations accordingly.
- *Option:* Offering treats (cookies and juice) have been used and are wonderful additions to large group UIM SS. Treats do take up more time, and always be prepared for spills. Offer treats as generations arrive.
- You can invite different adults or families to take turns leading lessons, but you will always need a strong large group leader who understands how to keep the lesson moving from one point to the other and of course knows how to use power point or any sound equipment needed.
- You will need one Family Group Helper for each Small Group present to facilitate instructions given to their small family group by the large group leader. A Family Group Helper's Guide is included with each Series for each lesson to assist FG Helpers in helping their small family groups better understand instructions.
- Maintain constant contact with your small family group helpers. Explain directions, and then ask helpers to raise their hands if they understand. If even one helper does not raise his or her hand, you will need to explain the directions again, maybe just to that helper's table to explain them individually when necessary.
- Never attempt to do Large Group UIM SS without older generations present in each family group.
- Above all, constantly emphasize and find ways for members to help each other read parts and do crafts, and don't forget to have them hand out or pick up materials in their small family groups.

UIM SS CAN BE OFFERED IN MULTIPLE CLASSROOMS

Classrooms need to be intergenerational to provide the help and care between generations. Leaving them all in one age group defeats the purpose of UIM SS by preventing the help and care multi-ages offer each other.

You can offer UIM SS in multiple classrooms in two ways:

- 1) Transform existing classrooms of students into mixed-age generations.
- 2) Add families or all ages from your congregation to existing classrooms.

To transform existing classrooms of students into intergenerational families:

- Each classroom becomes a separate main UIM SS group. Each classroom teacher becomes the large group leader for the classroom's family group(s). Divide Classrooms into family groups of 8-10 members. They can be smaller but should never be larger. Each family group will need one family group helper (adult or responsible teen).
- The best way to transform existing classrooms into intergenerational caring family groups is to bring members from preschool through 1st and even 2nd grade into existing older classrooms. Try to keep students who have been friends in SS for years together unless they cause behavior problems when together. Then separate them. If they complain that other friends are together, make a deal with them. If they agree to behave and be helpful, they can be together. Let them know that if they agree but prove not to behave or be helpful, they will be separated. It leaves the decision in their hands and encourages good behavior and helpfulness.

- Family Group Helpers help family groups listen and understand instructions, as well as encourage participation in activities, songs, and in completing crafts. A Family Group Helper's Guide is provided for each family group helper to read the day of the lesson. They do not need to prepare ahead of time. This Guide gives FG helpers much of the printed instructions the large group leader shares verbally to help them understand the instructions so they can share the instructions with their small groups
- Along with family group helpers, give older the responsibility of caring for younger and share how important younger are because they possess and can help us rediscover “the faith of a child” often lost as we get older. The caring UIM SS creates with members helping each other increases self-worth and, thereby, helps to improve behavior.
- Sharing the life and soul saving emphasis of UIM SS can give members new purpose and vision for their faith and lives, which also improves behavior and learning. As God’s Spirit works through His Word in UIM SS those who attend help and care for others and develop new friends in every generation. Feel free to keep older and younger members who bond during UIM SS together every year.

Here’s How To Begin UIM SS in Your Congregation



Begin with prayer Ask God to touch you personally with the faith and enthusiasm needed to equip generations through UIM SS. Above all, trust that God will touch you and teach you. Absolutely know that He has chosen you for this important and critical task. Then, step out in faith, filled with a sincere desire to serve the Lord in and through UIM SS! God will do GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS through YOU!

Always Remember “Who” is leading you. UIM SS is a new concept in ministry: It is catching on, not by anything we are doing, but through what God is doing through His Holy Spirit. Simply lead UIM SS and God will do all the rest. When you let go and let God, you will see miracles happen. So, let go and let God work through you. You will experience things you never imagined were possible!

Understand Where You Can Go for Help: UIM SS is designed to help generations do nothing less than save lives, earthly and eternal, in and through faith in Christ. Such a great mission and ministry can never be easy. That is why it is so important to remember that you are not alone:

- God is not only with you, He is in you. He is guiding and sometimes pushing you to do the impossible, “For nothing is impossible, with God.” Mark 10:27.
- And Family Crossfires is only an e-mail away: info@familycrossfires.org OR call 715-745-5064.

Use the UIM SS Publicity Provided: Each UIM SS Series offers four weeks of publicity announcements, a poster, invitations, and even a newsletter press release and suggestions for a radio interview designed to introduce UIM SS and excite all who come in contact with it about attending.

Make Sure You Receive UIM Resource Updates: Everyone who orders UIM Resources is automatically signed up for UIM Resource Updates. But what is more beneficial for congregations is to have those individuals pass them on to their members by e-mail or print them off and place them into newsletters, church mailboxes, and even into the hands of members personally and individually to let everyone now about UIM!

About Adults and Teens Attending UIM SS

“Yes,” UIM SS can be presented effectively without adults and teens. Mixed ages of students who attend along with SS teachers and helpers can form caring family groups to promote helpfulness and caring, thus benefitting from all the blessings of UIM SS. However, there are several reasons for adults and teens to attend and there are also several options or ways to add adults and teens to UIM SS for every lesson or selected lessons.

Different Options for offering UIM SS:

- Every Sunday as an alternative to traditional SS Classes or as the only Sunday School.
- Invite adults, teens, or other family members once a month or at various times throughout the year.
- Some large SS's turn one or more classes at a time into UIM SS family groups on different weeks by inviting adults and teens or other relatives or friends of students at various times throughout the year. Remaining classes offer traditional SS.

The Blessings and Benefits of Adults and Teens Attending UIM SS:

- When all generations including adults and teens attend UIM SS:
 - they can double the size of small Sunday Schools and actually keep them going stronger than before!
 - they can send a message that SS is important for all ages and keep youth coming after Confirmation.
 - they can help behavior problems when they help correct and demand good behavior.
 - they can care for and mentor members.

Find even more reasons for adults and teens to attend UIM SS on the next page.

Reproduce it and share it with adults and teens!

**Getting Adults and Teens to Attend is only the First Step
“Be Prepared to Welcome Them and Use Them”**

- Adults and Teens can attend the Bible Study provided for each lesson. However, make sure they know they can attend UIM Sunday School instead or attend both to reunite and strengthen generations in faith that saves in heaven and helps through life on earth.
- If adults and teens decide to attend UIM SS, make sure you are prepared to welcome and use them.
 - Invite them to sit down among all ages, especially if they congregate in one area.
 - Introduce them to members in their family group.
 - Use them as family group helpers.
 - Even pair them with any members who may need help doing lesson activities.
- To hold the attention of your members, ask adults and teens questions. Then, ask younger to repeat one word answers and older to repeat longer answers. Warn members you will be doing this so they listen closely.
- Invite adults and teens to watch for and help any members who may need help doing actions, crafts, etc.
- Enlist the help of adults and teens to hand out materials, clean up, etc.
- If you have members who would benefit from individual care or have behavior problems:
 - privately ask adults or teens if they would like to mentor a member.
 - If they accept this task, provide them with a copy of “Helpful Guidelines for A Mentor” from this Introduction.
 - Then, pair up members with adult or teen mentors.
 - Make sure they understand that being a mentor is simply about being a friend.
 - Be available for your mentors to help them mentor their member.

Why Should Adults and Teens Attend Sunday School?

- To help the large group leader: UIM SS cannot be led successfully without the help of older generations.
- To help the members: Younger UIM SS members will be impressed just by the fact that adults and teens show up. That means adults and teens really do not need to do anything. They do not need to know anything, teach anything, change anything, or be responsible for any activity, lesson, or student. All they need to do is show up.
- They receive all of the blessings and benefits of UIM SS designed to reunite and strengthen generations in faith that saves in heaven and helps generations handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies on earth.

Please Know: When SS students see adults and teens not only attend UIM SS but participate and even take the time to talk to them and help them, they are more than impressed. Their attitude about SS and about God and the importance of His Word for their faith and lives can change dramatically for the good.

Adults and Teens who Attend UIM SS Provide:

- Christian Role Models: Too many children lack access to strong adult and teen Christian role models. Consequently, they can make choices that cause painful problems and horrendous tragedies. When adults and teens who attend UIM SS share their faith, they help members make the kind of choices that help to prevent and heal problems and tragedies.

- Support for Confirmands: Youth do not always return to church after they are Confirmed. They think they no longer need to attend SS. Sadly, there are adults who also feel this way. However, adults who attend SS or Adult Bible Class can help to change how other adults and teens feel about the study of God's Word. Remember, all any age needs to do to share the importance of God's Word is attend SS or Bible Study.

Adults and Teens Who Attend UIM SS Change Hearts and Lives:

- All they need to do is show up!
- When they participate, they do even more to change hearts and lives.
- Through the wisdom and power of God's Word:
 - their own hearts and lives are changed.
 - they become equipped to share their faith in Christ, who saves eternal lives.
 - they receive faith to handle, prevent, and heal problems and tragedies to help save earthly lives.

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Every Member A Mentor

Most of those who attend UIM SS will not walk in and say, “I want to be a mentor.” And UIM SS doesn’t announce that we need mentors or even that there are mentors in UIM SS. However, because members are about the important work of helping each other, all UIM SS members are mentors in-training whether they realize it or not.

Pairing up members can make mentoring happen.

- As older and younger arrive, pair them up and have them sit together.
- One UIM SS has a rule that older can sit at any table in the room they want as long as a younger member they can help is sitting next to them.
- Others assign a mixture of older and younger members to sit at certain tables.
- Any combination of generations works well as long as leaders constantly remind everyone and everyone is about the important ministry business of helping and caring for each other.

Use mentoring with members who may benefit from it:

- If you have members who would benefit from having a mentor, approach members who you feel may be able to mentor them. If they accept, provide a copy of “Helpful Guidelines for Mentors” on the following page.
- It also works to place one mentor on either side of a member experiencing behavior problems so they can talk to the member, keeping him or her busy so there is no time for bad behavior. And it is always important for the mentor to just be a friend. In this atmosphere, few even realize mentoring is taking place.
- Assigning a person with behavior problems to help and care for another member has actually improved their own and their assigned member’s behavior.
- Helping others produces the kind of self-esteem inside those who help and those being helped that prevents and heals many of the problems caused by low self-esteem.

There is not always a need to assign mentors:

- Every time you meet together, remind everyone to sit with those they can help and to care for one another throughout their time together. Keep reminding them until it comes naturally for them to sit by and care for fellow members.
- Even give out prizes for acts of Christian kindness.
- Encourage family groups to brainstorm about ways or how to care, such as not to tease, greet with a smile, say thank you, complement, etc. Even write these things down on newsprint where everyone can see them every time they come to UIM SS. Keep adding to your list.

Mentoring draws Mentors:

Whether you have generations naturally helping and caring for each other or have mentors working individually with those who need them, you have given them an important reason and purpose for coming to UIM SS. When we give those who attend UIM SS important work to do, we give them reason and purpose to be there every week!

Copy and share the helpful suggestions on the following page with those who might find them helpful for one-on-one care or being a mentor.

Helpful Guidelines for Mentors

BEGIN WITH PRAYER FOR THE PERSON AND FOR YOURSELF.

- Ask God for His wisdom and the words to help the person who needs one-on-one help.
- Pray constantly. Never stop!

DON'T EXPECT TO KNOW WHAT TO DO:

- Simply sit down next to the person in need of one-on-one help or attention.
- Introduce yourself and talk to that person just as you would talk to a friend.
- Ask questions about that person's likes, dislikes, hobbies, favorite tv shows and videos, family and friends, etc.
- First, get to know your new friend through simple conversation. Your time to help will come next.

DON'T TRY TO TEACH - JUST LEARN

- Try not to teach or tell the person what to do.
- Learn next to or with the person.
- Be a good role model and participate so the person you are trying to help will feel comfortable participating with you.

ENCOURAGE, DON'T COMPLETE TASKS

- Certainly offer help with any craft, activity, or learning where it is obvious the person needs help. However, realize that a person may often need encouragement that builds confidence to complete a task by himself or herself and may actually become deflated if you complete the task.
- Offer lots of compliments and positive remarks about what the person has done because this can encourage this person to try more difficult tasks.
- Always remember that encouraging a person to do a craft, activity, or lesson is more productive and helpful than doing it for them.

FOR BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

- Sit next to members exhibiting behavior problems and be an example of good behavior.
- Keep them busy participating in activities, answering questions, repeating answers, etc.
- Surround them with other mentors to influence them with good behavior.

FOR SPECIAL ISSUES OR HURTS:

- Do not address any serious issues that the member you are mentoring shares with you. Get help from your large group leader, your parents, your pastor, or any trusted Christian friend about how to proceed.
- Always and only be a friend. Never try to be a counselor.
- For very serious issues, you must help the member seek help or seek help for the member yourself.
- You can pray with the member over the issue and constantly keep the issue in your private prayers.

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IF BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS ARISE?

Behavior management: UIM SS is conducive to maintaining good behavior simply by having adults present to help maintain order. This is similar to having an elder or parents visit a disruptive class and suddenly behavior improves. However, behavior problems can still arise so it is important to be prepared.

When behavior problems do arise: During UIM SS, just as in any Sunday School, we do not have the option of sending a family group member to the principle's office. All teachers have their own students to lead. Neither do we want to send that member home because he or she needs to learn about Jesus and the lessons His Word teaches. Sometimes, inviting parents or adults to visit and help is not possible. Listed below are several suggestions that have proven to be effective in dealing with behavior problems that may arise:



- Pray constantly and read God's Word for guidance and patience. Ask for God to fill your heart with His love and your mind with His wisdom as you deal with every behavior problem.
- Praise does inspire good behavior. But when bad behavior mounts up, it can become difficult to find reasons for praise. Yet we must look for what we can praise, and look hard because praise does change a person deep inside. The more praise, if it is received, the better chance there will be of changing bad behavior.
- Before or outside of class, privately enlist the help of a disruptive member to give special attention to, and thank the member to give praise a chance to work. Ask for help to quiet groups down, write on the board, hand out and pick up materials, even ask for help with a younger disruptive member, etc.
- Privately ask adults and teens to help improve behavior by sitting on both sides of disruptive members and becoming their mentors.
- Privately ask adults ONLY to take a particularly disruptive member aside and sit with him or her away from the family group or even in another room. Explain to disruptive members that you want them to return to the group "as soon as they are able." The adult sitting with them can explain that as soon as they feel able to behave, they can return to the group and caution that if they misbehave, they will both be back sitting here instead of having fun with the group.
- **BEFORE CARRYING OUT THE LAST OR NEXT STEP:**
 - Invite parents to attend UIM SS and/or to give suggestions for resolving their child's behavior problems. If parents cannot attend or help and all else fails, share what you will be doing with parents so they do not keep their child home. Make it absolutely clear that this is being done because you want their child to attend UIM SS and learn but not disrupt so others cannot learn.
 - **Ask one adult to teach the disruptive member alone, hopefully for a short time. But be prepared to continue this on-on-one teaching until behavior improves. Disruptive students are usually easier to teach one-on-one. Make it clear that good behavior is all that is necessary to allow them to return to the group.**
 - Hopefully, boredom, separation, and knowing that their behavior is causing them to learn all alone will encourage the member to behave and return to learn and have fun with everyone else. If not, teach the disruptive member alone in the most boring manner (skip crafts or anything fun, and read the story and Bible Words over and over again).

- **For More Help Visit the web:** Search: "Behavior Management and Sunday School"

WHEN YOU NEED TO TEACH ADULTS AND PRESCHOOL SEPARATELY

You may find some adults do not wish to attend UIM SS with all ages for a variety of reasons. As much as it is within your power, try to keep all adults or some adults part of UIM SS by sharing how important it is. Share the pages on adults and teens attending UIM SS and being mentors in this Introduction.

If Your UIM SS Doesn't Work Well with Some Adults: One of the most frequent reasons some adults do not learn well in the main UIM SS group is because younger generations often learn better in a less structured atmosphere and may need a great deal of stimulation. Older adults not accustomed to this stimulating atmosphere may feel younger students are undisciplined, which may make it difficult for these adults to concentrate and learn. You may find them "disciplining" rather than befriending younger members. Of course, if discipline is what your main UIM SS group needs, this works well. However, if you see that adult's disciplining is keeping members from participating in UIM SS or adults are not attending because of the stimulating atmosphere in UIM SS or that some adults desire to learn deeper concepts of faith, it may be best to offer these adults their own UIM SS Adult Bible Study.

If Your UIM SS Works Best With Certain Adults: Privately and strongly encourage grandparent figures who love to be around children no matter how they behave to remain part of the main UIM SS group. Emphasize how much you need them and how much the younger members need them. Integrate them into your main UIM SS group by giving them tasks to help you or members. Pair them up with younger members, members with special needs, etc. Do not let adults congregate in their own little group. Use ways described in the Introduction to welcome and use them in the main UIM SS group.

To Teach Adult UIM SS Bible Study Separately: Offer the UIM SS Adult Bible Study that comes with every UIM SS Series. There is a Leader's Guide and Participant's Guide for each Lesson. UIM Adult Bible Study offers insights into the Bible Story and the opportunity to review the weekly God's Word For Us Today passage and Scripture lessons each week. UIM Adult Bible Study can be offered during the week to prepare UIM SS leaders and all adults who attend UIM SS for each lesson.

NOTE: The main UIM SS large group leader will not be able to lead ABS. Reproduce one copy of the ABS Leader's Guide for whoever will lead ABS (It can be a different adult who attends every week because all answers are printed) and one Participant's Guide for each participant.

To Teach Adults along with the main UIM SS group Some of the Time:

- Invite your separate Adult UIM SS Bible Study group to sing the Opening Song, do the Opening Activity, God's Word For Us Today and Application, and Litany as you choose along with the main UIM SS group.
- Then, invite adults to go to their own area for their Adult Bible Study any time before or when the Bible Story is told in the main UIM SS group.
- Adults may return to the main UIM SS group to help with the craft or remain together until the end of UIM SS.

Here's How to Teach UIM SS to Preschoolers

- You may encounter adults and parents who believe preschoolers cannot receive all they need when they attend UIM SS. They do not yet understand the concept of how these young ones learn by listening and the individual care they receive when paired with older generations. Preschoolers can receive far more one-on-one help in UIM SS than they do in traditional SS classes.
- So, work to increase understanding of how beneficial UIM SS is for preschoolers. Encourage those who don't understand to visit UIM SS. Use the questions UIM SS leaders are directed to ask preschoolers in each lesson to show them how preschoolers learn exceptionally well in UIM SS. Even have concerned parents or adults ask preschoolers what they have learned. They may be amazed when they repeat Bible Words and concepts. Also provide concerned parents and adults with a copy of a UIM Leader's Guide that contains a wealth of instructions about how to teach the lesson to preschoolers.

Family Crossfires does not provide a separate Leader's Guide for teaching preschoolers. Rather, instructions are printed **For Preschoolers** throughout the lessons that help leaders adapt and teach each part of a lesson to preschoolers. UIM SS leaders will learn as they teach each lesson and sooner than they may think be able to adapt and teach lessons that include preschoolers and all ages. The Bible Story does have special instructions for teaching preschoolers separately, but always suggests that the Bible Story would best be taught to preschoolers along with the main UIM SS group, especially when the story is presented as a play, puppet show, or presentation that would be more interesting for preschoolers to watch in the main UIM SS group.

If preschoolers need to be taught separately: You will need one UIM SS leader for your preschool family group of no more than eight preschoolers. If you have more than eight, form another preschool group. You will need one helper for every two to three preschoolers. IDEA: Invite members from fifth grade on up from your main UIM SS group or congregation to help you to make your preschool group intergenerational. You may want different helpers each week so they can also join their own groups at times.

The following instructions will help you adapt and teach UIM SS lessons to preschoolers.

Opening Song: Sing or say a few words at a time so preschoolers can repeat them after you.

Opening Activity and Welcome: The Opening Activity is optional for preschoolers. It is very important that you welcome preschoolers by name and tell them how glad you are that they have come. Read the titles only of the theme for the year and series and theme verse(s) and have them repeat them after you each week.

Bible Words and Application: First, read the entire passage. Then, throughout the lesson, stop and repeat a few words at a time that preschoolers can repeat after you. You may omit or if possible adapt the God's Word Application for preschoolers as ability and time allow.

Interactive Litany: Read a few words at a time so preschoolers can repeat them and help them to do the actions.

Interactive Bible Story: Present the Bible Story to preschoolers separately as directed in the Leader's Guide, and ask any questions for the large group that you covered in the story. If preschoolers do not know an answer, tell them the answer that is always short so they can repeat it and learn by repetition.

Craft: You may need to do a number of preparations ahead of time to help preschoolers complete each craft. OR return to the main UIM SS group so older can help your preschoolers with their crafts. Also, crafts and instructions can always be sent home so parents can have fun doing them with their preschoolers.

Every Generation from every Situation Can Be Invited to Attend UIM SS!

Babies and Toddlers

- Childcare can be provided ONLY for parents of babies or toddlers who desire to stay and learn with their older children in UIM SS or in adult Bible Study. Publicize that a responsible youth, parent, or another adult must attend UIM SS with all toddlers because this age needs assistance that cannot be provided by the staff leading UIM SS.
- Parents or adults may attend UIM SS with their babies and toddlers, but should be discouraged from taking them to UIM Adult Bible Study. Even in UIM SS, babies can cry and toddlers can get restless, so let those caring for this age know that they can leave and take a walk around the building or go to a mother's room or other designated area and return as many times as necessary if you are not providing child care.
- Encourage toddlers and their parents to stay and be a part of UIM SS. Hold toddlers attention as much as possible by providing items such as coloring pages, molding clay, or other toys that do not make noise. Even set up a quiet toy area for parents and toddlers to enjoy during the lesson or ask parents to bring quiet toys or snacks their children like.
- Above all, make parents feel welcome with their toddlers and babies. Make absolutely sure they know they can come and go as many times as needed and have places for them to go: mother's room, childcare, or a play area, etc. Remind them that walking the hallways does need to be done quietly so it does not disturb any other classrooms.

UIM SS Welcomes Many Other Situations

- **Physically handicapped:** If your UIM SS is not handicapped accessible, try to find a way to make it possible for handicapped persons to attend your UIM SS or UIM Adult Bible Class.
- **Mentally challenged:** The repetition, individual care, and attention to all needs make UIM SS lessons perfect for the mentally challenged to receive the help and support they need as they learn.
- **Autism:** As you would have items available for toddlers, ask parents of autistic children what objects you might have available or they could bring for their autistic children to touch as they learn. More and more cases of autism are being diagnosed every day, so Sunday Schools need to be prepared to meet these needs.
- **All Special Needs:** Have items available during UIM SS and church worship that help anyone with special needs learn and worship the Lord. We, as God's family, want to be prepared to meet the needs of all who have special needs, as well as help and support their parents and families.
- **Visually impaired and blind:** Reproduce UIM SS Participant Guide in Large print. Local schools who teach blind students may also be able to print lessons in braille.
- **Hearing impaired and deaf:** UIM SS is for all ages, so it works well for signers to be present and fit in perfectly. Members can also be taught how to point to words for the deaf and hearing impaired to keep them on track and learning. Also, check out hearing devices that can now be plugged into sound systems to aid the hearing impaired.

How To Make Teaching God's Word a Priority

Constantly Remind Generations to:

- **Learn Chapter and Verse of each God's Word For Today Passage:** When they recite a passage, ask them to also recite where that passage is found - chapter and verse. This will help them learn where they can find it so they can use it to help themselves and others in times of need.
- **Understand the value of God's Word:** Constantly remind generations that God's Word fills people with joy in the midst of sorrow, grants God's success to every endeavor, and helps us to not only survive, but thrive! Hence, memorizing God's Word is an integral part of UIM SS and critical to every step we take in life.
- **Inwardly Possess God's Word:** When problems overwhelm us and threaten to lead us into despair - God's Word gives us wisdom and power to handle, prevent, and heal problems before they turn tragic in our lives or in the lives of those we love.
- **Understand God's Word:** UIM SS has been developed to help generations learn God's Word so that they will understand what God is telling and strengthening them to do to help save earthly and eternal lives.
- **Have a SS or Congregational Memory Work Program:** If you do not have a memory work program in place in your congregation or Sunday School, we encourage you to try one or more of the suggestions below for the memorization and learning of God's Word.

Create a Memory Work Program

- Each week, print the passage for the current week and the passage for the next week in your bulletin. Invite all generations to memorize the passage for the next week and say the passage for the current week at the end of worship each week.
- Instruct generations to write the passage for next week down and display it for all to see or keep it where it can be read constantly all week: school bag, lunch box, purse, jacket pocket, taped to bathroom mirror, etc.
- Challenge generations to say this passage every day until they can say it from memory, including chapter and verse, and to discuss or share it with each other and others to share their faith in Christ.
- Take time to put a booklet together for each participant/family/member with the passages from this Series. Even leave space for them to write down what each passage means to them or how it inspires them in their Christian faith and lives.
- Use the Memory Discussion file included for this Series to help your congregation learn passages and discuss Bible Stories and Scripture each week.

Teach Prayer

UIM SS teaches generations to pray and shares the importance and power of prayer.

Close Each Lesson With Prayer:

- Inviting everyone to join together in saying the Lord's Prayer is an excellent way to close each Lesson, teach the Lord's Prayer, and teach generations to pray.
- Leaders can also close with:
 - the suggestions for prayer given in each Lesson.
 - a prayer they or someone else has written.
 - spontaneous or written prayers from individuals or family groups who volunteer to pray.
 - (1) Write prayers for them to read.
 - (2) Ask for volunteers a week ahead of time and invite them to write their own prayer for the next week

Closing Prayer.

 - prayers participants can pray with Leaders: Leaders pray in short sentences and invite participants to repeat each short sentence. This is a very non-threatening way to teach generations to pray.
 - spontaneous prayer, inviting participants to request or say prayers from their hearts.
 - responsive prayer. Pray several petitions and teach participants to respond after each petition.

For example: Teach them to respond with "Hear our prayer" every time they hear you say "Lord in Your Mercy."

Something as simple as getting every generation to shout "Amen" together to close your prayer may seem silly. However, this type of activity does reunite generations through prayer and faithful enthusiasm. It's simple and easy to remember and adds just the right touch of "fun" to every prayer and lesson.

About the Songs and Song Leaders

- **A Song Leader:** is a blessing and gets one more person involved in UIM SS but is not mandatory. Songs sung to familiar tunes can be sung or read.
- **Opening Song** words introduce and teach the lesson, so they do need to be sung or simply read. Members can participate by singing songs or repeating words read.
- You may add songs your congregation or SS especially enjoy as time allows.
- Even invite the use of the Opening Song in your worship service every week to teach and involve your whole congregation in UIM SS.



About Craft Leaders, Supplies, Etc.

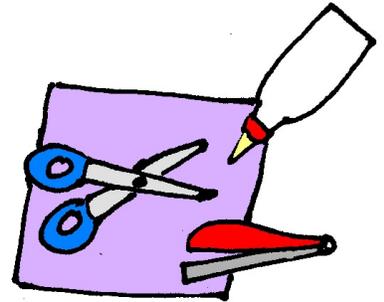
Craft Leader(s): To make your work lighter, delegate the collection of craft materials and the teaching of crafts to the same or different individuals or families every week. If a lesson requires puppets, delegate individuals and families to make puppets or obtain puppets. Getting more people involved in preparing and leading crafts helps you and helps others become involved in UIM SS.

Craft Instructions are included with every lesson along with a list of supplies needed to make the craft.

However, PLEASE NOTE: Craft supplies will need to be purchased or obtained separately.

Select a Craft Option: There may be a number of options or ways you can choose to do a craft. Choose the option that works best for you.

Determine the time needed: It is best to make one craft ahead of time to help determine how much time and all of the supplies you will need to complete your craft. Lengthen or shorten other sections of the lesson accordingly.



Feel free to send crafts home to be finished. See **Sending Crafts Home** below.

Obtaining Supplies: Crafts are simple and supplies are inexpensive. The Leader's Guide also contains quite a few patterns for crafts you can simply cut, color, and glue.

IMPORTANT: Make a list of all the supplies you will need for the crafts you choose. See **Craft Instructions** given for each lesson in the Leader's Guide for a list of supplies for each craft.

- Some supplies may need to be collected by or from congregation members because they cannot be purchased: margarine containers, paper towel rolls, etc. Look ahead to see which supplies will need to be collected. Publish a list of these supplies in your church bulletin and/or newsletter for each UIM SS Series.
- You may also publish a list of supplies that need to be purchased if you desire help with the cost of UIM SS.
- Be sure to give your congregation and yourself lots of time to collect everything you will need for the crafts for each UIM SS Series or individual craft.

Omit or Send Crafts Home:

- If you choose to do all of the optional activities in each Lesson, you may not have time to complete or even begin a craft. Don't worry! It is not necessary to do a craft with each lesson.
- However, sending crafts home to be completed with the help of families is an excellent way to get families involved in UIM SS. Crafts are teachable, so they can teach families the lesson. Simply send the needed supplies and directions for the craft home. Include the directions for each craft by reproducing the directions on the back of your Take Home Activity or on another sheet of paper.

Six years of UIM Resources are available to aid in Church Growth.

2017-2018: Welcome All God's Children - Lectionary Series A-B

Many people today feel unwelcome even in the most welcoming of congregations. Strong Christians are finding themselves unprepared for the difficult responses they face when they try to welcome people in Jesus' name. This Series reunites and strengthens generations in faith through the wisdom and power of God's Word to welcome every generation and situation from autism and disabilities to those who tease and bully to close friends and family, as well as those who are "unwelcoming" (difficult, different religions, our enemies, etc.). Throughout the year, those who attend will discover not only ways to welcome all people, but how to receive power from God to do so.

2018-2019: Holding Life and All of God's Creation Sacred and Safe - Lectionary Series B-C

This Series, which declares our bodies to be temples of the Holy Spirit, helps to equip generations and congregations to hold all life sacred, including unborn life, and to keep all life sacred, pure, and safe in our dangerous world. It also teaches generations to hold everything God created sacred, maintaining it, respecting it, and seeing it as a gift from God. Recycling and "going green" are strongly encouraged throughout this Series. It focuses on people being created to maintain the earth and helps generations use God's Word for wisdom and power to do so.

2019-2020: Binding Generations Together in and through God's Love - Lectionary Series C-A

An ever increasing lack of love for God, self, and others is causing horrendous problems and tragedies. This Series works to bind generations together in and through God's love, who is Christ. Through the wisdom and power of God's Word, generations are strengthened in the faith and supportive love needed to help handle, prevent, and heal problems before they turn tragic, thereby helping to save both earthly and eternal lives. With problems and tragedies sweeping our land, every congregation will want to offer this Series more than one time.

2020--2021 Christian Character Building. - Lectionary Series A-B

This Series helps generations and congregations combat the lack of respect and honor in our world today, and the prevailing problems and tragedies arising because of it. Generations are helped to put on the character of Christ, who alone can restore respect and honor. He alone gives strength of faith and character we need to show respect and honor, be helpful and caring, patient and enduring, and praise and thank God. Because as we do, we help to bring faith and Christian character to a world in desperate need of the strength these offer to not only survive, but thrive!

2021-2022 Building Healthy Christian Generations, Body and Soul.- Lectionary Series B-C

It has been said that in our fast-moving society, those who do not have high blood pressure are "simply not paying attention." We live in a very unhealthy world. People are not eating healthy foods, and that includes the food of God's Word. They are not being nourished in their bodies or in their souls. Unhealthy bodies can die physically and unhealthy souls can die spiritually and eternally. With the death of bodies and souls increasing it has become critical to grow holy generations who have the spiritual wisdom and strength of faith to grow holy healthy generations. This is the life and soul saving mission and the "ministry on top of ministry" God created UIM resources to accomplish.

2022-2023: Bringing God's Order to Generations of Chaos - Lectionary Series C-A

Based on 1 Corinthians 14: 33: *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.* The busyness that causes chaos is separating generations from God and from each other. Consequently, when large and even little struggles arise, generations do not have the faith and strength from God or the support of fellow Christians they need to survive. So, lives and souls are being lost. That is why this year UIM is on a critical mission to restore God's order through the peace only Christ can give, order and peace that come through the wisdom and power of God's Word, which is able to save in heaven and help generations not only survive, but thrive on earth. This is the life and soul saving mission and the "ministry on top of ministry" God created UIM resources to accomplish.

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