

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

1. We need to have a Biblical picture of what it should look like as a person gets older. Ideally, as we go from our 20s to our 60s and 70s, we gain experience and wisdom. We gain skills and knowledge. We are in the ideal position to train, equip, mentor, disciple, encourage and coach the younger generations coming behind us.

Titus 2:2-4 "Teach the older women ... then they can train the younger women."

II Tim 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say ... entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

2. We don't gain the qualities and skills of leadership in #1 automatically just because we are older in years or because we have attended a lot of worship services. Unfortunately, we have many adults in our churches who have not been equipped, they have not been disciplined, they have not developed the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. We should not put them in leadership just because they are older in years. We have to give equal diligence to help adults of all ages to accept Christ, grow in their personal walk with Christ, learn to serve and learn to lead.

3. We have to ask Senior Adults to read the Bible (every day?) at home and then give them time to share what they are learning when we get together in a small group. They can do it.

4. We have to help Senior Adults (and everybody) memorize some key verses of scripture. They can do it. (Examples: John 1:12, John 3:3, John 3:16, John 5:24, John 10:10, John 14:6, Rom 1:16, Rom 3:23, Rom 5:8, Rom 6:23, Rom 10:13, Ephes 2:8,9, I John 1:9, I John 5:11-12, Rev 3:20)

5. We have to help Seniors practice sharing their faith story and explaining the gospel. They can do it.

6. We can get Seniors into small groups and let them share prayer requests and be prayed for.

7. We can help find appropriate service projects for Seniors to help with in the church and in our community.

8. Small groups are great for adults of all ages. Seniors enjoy both SS classes and small groups in homes.

9. Fellowship is not automatic. Many adults attend church and SS class, sit by themselves and go home without ever feeling connected to others in the church. Having acquaintances is not the same thing as friends. Friends spend time together. Friends eat together. Friends sit together in worship. Friends go to one another's homes. We can help facilitate better friendships in our Senior Adult ministry.

10. How does a church grow if almost everyone attending is a senior adult and there are almost no children, students or young adults? I think you start with who you have. You be very intentional to reach new senior adults in the community and the friends, relatives and neighbors of your members. There are churches with 30 seniors in attendance and there are churches with 150 seniors in attendance. I want to be the church with 150 seniors – more people, more resources, more skills, more opportunities for ministry.

11. Make the center of your ministry about spiritual growth, serving others – and also food, trips and fun.