

Group
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SNAP
women's ministry
downloads



GENERATIONAL BLESSING

Devotions

How to Use This Resource

In this SNAP resource, you'll find a devotion that will help your group of women grow closer to each other and Jesus. The focus of this devotion is blessing and honoring women no matter how young or old they may be. This helps bring all generations of women together—young and old—as they show respect and love for those who are younger and older than they are. Use this devotion at a gathering such as a tea or retreat, to kick off your fall or spring Bible study, or as a way to wrap up a large event.

Getting Ready

- ☑ Read through this entire download. You don't need to memorize any content, but be comfortable with this devotional material so that as you present it you don't feel like you're just reading it. Become comfortable with it.
- ☑ Pray that the women who are at your gathering will feel honored and blessed by this devotion and that it will bring women of all generations together in a new way.
- ☑ For added impact, show the "Sabbath Prayer" clip from the movie *Fiddler on the Roof*. This shows the parents singing a blessing over their daughters. If you choose to show this, be prepared with this clip and a way to show it that works with the technology you have available at your location.

The Devotion

If you want to show the "Sabbath Prayer" clip from *Fiddler on the Roof*, open with this. If you do not show the clip, just jump right in.

Say: **Have you ever considered that blessing someone can be a gift to that person? Words of blessing bring honor, show love, and affirm that you are a person of worth, created by God for**

a purpose. In past eras the concept of blessing others was more common, but today the only blessing most of us hear is "God bless you" when we sneeze!

Today I'd like us to consider how powerful blessing each other can be, especially as we think about the different ages of women represented in this room and how



we can bless each other no matter how young or old we are.

Psalm 100:5 says, “For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.”

We are many generations here. One is not better than the other. One is not worse than the other. We are different. And we strive to move toward unity—to being an entire generation that loves God and proclaims his faithfulness.

Explain that you are going to ask women to stand based on the decade in which they were born. They you'll share a few facts about what happened during this decade to give everyone a bit of perspective on the lives these women have lived. After you have shared the facts, have others who were not born in that decade extend a hand of blessing toward the standing women. Encourage them to call out words of blessing over these women.

After about a minute of women calling out words of blessing over the women born in this decade, you will pray a very short prayer blessing these women. Then they will sit down, and you'll have those born in a different decade stand up. Continue through each decade until you don't have any women left to bless. Let women know your intent is not to embarrass anyone based on her age—it is to bring honor to each woman here. After all, Leviticus 19:32 tells us to “Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged,” and Proverbs 16:31 says, “Gray

hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by living a godly life.”

2000s

If you were born in 2000 or after that, please stand.

Wait for any of the youngest women in the room to stand. If there are no women this young, just skip this section and continue to the next decade. If there are young women standing, say:

Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- **The 9/11 bombing of the twin towers**
- **Hurricane Katrina**
- **Wireless Internet became prominent.**
- **YouTube, Facebook, Google, and Amazon all exploded in popularity.**
- **Text messaging becomes a popular method of communication.**
- ***Finding Nemo, Avatar, and The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* are popular movies.**
- **Reality TV**

Have the women who are seated extend hands toward those who are standing and call out words of blessing over these young women. Say: **I'd like to share an additional verse of encouragement over these women who are the youngest here.**

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Then pray a short prayer of blessing on this group, and have them sit down. Continue with the next decade, and follow this pattern through the rest of the decades.

1990s

If you were born in the 1990s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- The Gulf War
- The bombings of the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombing
- Cellphones
- The Internet
- iPods, CDs, DVDs
- Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a car accident.
- **Movies:** *Titanic, The Lion King, Forrest Gump, The Sixth Sense, Home Alone, The Matrix*
- **TV:** *Friends, Seinfeld, The Simpsons*
- **Music:** The Spice Girls, Mariah Carey, Green Day, Blink 182
- Video games: Laura Croft, Zelda, Pokemon

- **Books:** *Harry Potter*

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1980s

If you were born in the 1980s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- “I want my MTV”
- Cable television became standard for most American households.
- The videocassette recorder (VCR) allowed us to record television shows.
- Young urban professionals, or yuppies, replaced the socially conscious hippie of the previous generation of youth.
- Invasion of Grenada
- The Iran-Iraq war
- The Tiananmen Square protests
- Ronald Reagan was elected U.S. president.
- Mount St. Helens erupted in Washington.
- The NASA Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrated after launch.
- Nintendo
- Music included artists such as Michael Jackson, Duran Duran, Prince, Madonna, Queen, Guns N’ Roses, and Bon Jovi.

- **Movies:** *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*, *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1970s

If you were born in the 1970s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- The Vietnam War
- Opposition to nuclear weapons
- The advocacy of world peace
- Hostility to the authority of government and big business
- The environmentalist movement began to increase dramatically in this period.
- Increasingly flexible and varied gender roles for women
- Energy crisis
- Rudimentary personal computers
- Pocket calculators
- The earliest floppy disks, invented at IBM, which were 8 inches in diameter, became commercially available.
- Microwave ovens became commercially available.

- VCRs became commercially available.
- **Music:** Fleetwood Mac, The Carpenters, Ray Stevens, Elton John, James Taylor, John Denver, The Eagles, America, Chicago
- **Fashion:** Bell-bottomed pants remained popular throughout the decade
- Women's hairstyles went from long and straight in the first half of the decade to the feathery cut of Farrah Fawcett.

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1960s

If you were born in the 1960s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- Westerns, adventure series, crime dramas, and more were also adapted from the big screen into television programs: *Flipper*, *The Virginian*, *Gidget*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*.
- The first debate for a presidential election was televised. It was between Senator John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Nixon seemed nervous, but Kennedy stood tall. The debate on TV changed many people's minds about Kennedy.
- Martin Luther King Jr. made the speech "I Have a Dream."

- President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.
- The Beatles, a British rock and roll band, became popular.
- The first hand-held calculator was invented in 1967 by Texas Instruments, at a cost of \$2,500 a piece.
- This was the decade cigarette boxes had a warning printed on it: "Smoking can be hazardous to your health." It had not occurred to the U.S. government to give the warning that smoking leads to cancer and lung problems.
- The first Civil Rights bill was passed to stop racial discrimination.
- Woodstock
- Miniskirts, leather boots, and fake eyelashes. Men wore Paisley shirts, velvet trousers, and high-collared Regency jackets. The "Hippie look" is now popular.
- Television was becoming more and more a part of everyday life, more families had televisions in their homes, and AM radio was also becoming more popular, along with the advent of 45 records, jukeboxes, and eventually albums.
- Rock 'n' roll was creeping into the mainstream.
- Women were still obligated to the status of housewife, and men were the main breadwinners in the family.
- Guys started wearing their hair longer with sideburns and slicked back with grease. They also wore jeans and leather jackets (with the collar turned up to be cool) and girls wore ponytails, poodle skirts, pedal pushers, and scarves.
- Celebrities included Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, and Ricky Nelson.
- Popular television shows were *I Love Lucy*, and *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*.

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1950s

If you were born in the 1950s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.
- Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus.
- Popular slang words: squares, chicks, be bop, threads, keen

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1940s

If you were born in the 1940s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- Oldsmobile was the first car to have fully automatic transmission.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt wins reelection to a record third term.
- Attack on Pearl Harbor; U.S. enters World War II by declaring war on Japan.
- NBC television launched.
- Casablanca released.
- United Nations was established.
- Harry S. Truman becomes president.
- Germany surrenders, and World War II ends in Europe.
- Polaroid camera was invented.

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1930s

If you were born in the 1930s, please stand. Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- The Great Depression, which had a traumatic effect worldwide.
- World War II begins on September 1, 1939.
- Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist German Worker's Party (Nazi Party) rise to power in Germany.
- The German blimp Hindenburg explodes in the sky above Lakehurst, New Jersey.
- Prohibition in the United States finally ended in 1933.

- Radar was invented, known as RDF (Radio Direction Finding).
- The 3M company marketed Scotch Tape.
- RCA Victor introduced the first long-playing phonograph record.
- "Swing" music starts becoming popular.
- *Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* was released in 1937.
- *The Wizard of Oz* was released in 1939.

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

1920s

If you were born in the 1920s, please stand.

You may want to have an extra cheer or group hug for those who were born in this decade—they are a treasure to your lives!

Here are a few things that happened or were popular in the decade that these women were born:

- The decade is sometimes referred to as the Roaring Twenties or the Jazz Age.
- World War I and the rise of Communism following World War I
- Prohibition of alcohol occurs in the United States.
- The major sport was baseball, and the most famous player was Babe Ruth.

- Growth and general acceptance of the Ku Klux Klan in America.
- Warner Brothers produces the first movie with a soundtrack, *Don Juan*, followed by the first “talkie,” *The Jazz Singer*.
- Silent films start giving way to sound films.
- Charles Lindbergh becomes the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean nonstop from New York to Paris, France.
- Clarence Birdseye invented a process for frozen food.
- A. A. Milne publishes *Winnie-the-Pooh*.
- Flappers, the Charleston, and the bob haircut are popular.
- Fads such as marathon dancing, mahjong, Yahtzee, crossword puzzles, and pole-sitting are popular.

Guide the time of blessing; then have these women sit down.

Closing

We need to be intentional about being women who bless others—no matter how young or how old.

As we read earlier, Psalm 100:5 says, “For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.” Each of you here today is testament to the truth of this verse!

Close with a prayer, thanking God for the women and asking a blessing over all of them.



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