

Top Tips



Faith in Later Life

Building Great Seniors Teams

Pippa Cramer



Reaching older people with the good news of Jesus



Discipling older Christians to become like Jesus



Mobilising them to be disciple-makers

Rooted in Scripture: What does the Bible say?

The Bible shows us again and again that God loves to work through teams. In 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 we are reminded that the Church is like the body of Christ – many different parts, all with different gifts, roles and personalities, yet each one working together and all essential and valued. In Philippians 2:3-4 we are encouraged to imitate Jesus in humility – considering others above ourselves and looking to their interests.

When we build great seniors' teams, we are inviting people to take their God-given place, to use the gifts that the Lord has given them, and to become more like Jesus in the process. This is God's beautiful design for healthy teams: serving together with Jesus at the centre, and each person playing their part for His glory.

Fostering Fruitfulness: What difference can this make?

When we build loving, prayerful seniors teams, everyone benefits. Team members feel encouraged, inspired and motivated to turn up, help, and even step up. Serving well together over time builds trust and deepens friendships, gently easing loneliness and bringing joy to team members. As we notice and affirm people and their different gifts, faith is strengthened and confidence grows. For those who don't yet know the Lord, rubbing shoulders with other Christian team members, and observing how we love one another, can be a great and very natural way of exploring their own journeys of faith! Strong seniors teams also help resource midweek groups and events. When a team is centred around love, prayer and encouragement, any ministry is bound to become sustainable, joyful, and full of life-giving hope.

Tips at a glance

**Pray for
God's
wisdom**

**Use personal
invitations**

**Thank and
appreciate
your team**

**Provide love and
pastoral care**

**Bring the team
together**



Faith in Later Life's Top Tips

1

Prayer is essential! Ask God for His wisdom as you plan your work, and once you've launched, keep praying – before, during and after each session. Spend time with the Lord, asking for His voice to lead and guide you, as well as praying for your team members. Encourage them to do the same, both individually and collectively as a team. Invite others in the church to pray for you, your team, your guests and all that God is doing.

2

Personal, prayerful invitations are so much more effective than church notices or emails. After praying to discern who to invite to your team, seek wise input from others. Then arrange a face-to-face chat or phone call over a coffee, passionately share the vision for your seniors ministry, listen to their response, ask them for their ideas, affirm what you see in them, and gently invite them to consider joining the team.

Further Inspiration

For more on this subject, please head over to our Resources on our website at faithinlaterlife.org.

If you lead a ministry among older people in your church or Christian community, we'd love you to join our network – it's free and you can find out more on our website.

3

Regularly thank and appreciate your team. Make a habit of noticing and thanking your team often. Send a quick text, write an encouraging email, or share a kind word face to face – this can mean so much. Publicly thank and appreciate them in front of others so they know they matter. Little treats or cards at Christmas, Easter, or birthdays can speak volumes and help each person feel truly seen and valued.

4

Provide love and pastoral care for your team. Like everyone, your team members will have their personal struggles. Take time to listen, check in, and pray with them so they feel loved, supported and special. Love and care is infectious: when someone experiences genuine kindness from us, they are far more likely to share that same warmth with other team members, which of course then extends to our guests.

5

Bring the team together. Make space not just to serve together, but to be together. Try to gather the team termly or regularly for training, prayer, and updates – and also for fun, food, and laughter. Use these times to celebrate what God is doing, to thank them, and to deepen friendships. These get-togethers can help your team feel united, supported, and joyful – a happy, appreciated and therefore motivated team, is a flourishing one!

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.' Psalm 92: 12-15

