2025 Advent Challenge:

Journey to Christmas

RE-IMAGINING
INTER-GENERATIONAL CHRISTIAN
VALUES AND BELIEFS







2025 Advent Challenge: Journey to Christmas from REIMAGINE

Primary Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1: 26-35; 2:1-17

Advent prepares us for the arrival of Jesus Christ and anticipates and celebrates the birth of the Christ-child. It is a season of preparation and expectation that starts 4 Sundays prior to December 25 and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the first season of the Christian (liturgical) calendar and paves the way for the remainder of the year which includes Lent and Easter (which commemorates the death and celebrates the Resurrection of Christ) and Pentecost (which celebrates the permanent arrival of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives).

Our Advent Challenge encourages families to come together to discuss the real meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. For the next four weeks, generations will consider the experiences and journey that Mary and Joseph shared to reflect upon and discuss how their thoughts, emotions, challenges, and commitment to God help us to have a greater appreciation for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Join us on this Advent journey to unlock the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.
Reminder: Churches who complete the Advent Journey Challenges and submit weekly responses (for at least two weekly options) by January 15, 2026, will be eligible to receive funds to supplement their Christian Education Department.

What's Needed for the Advent Journey

- Two or more people of varied generations (ages from youth to elderly) can compose a team/group* and will come together**to complete the activities of their choice. (To complete the Advent puzzles, click here.)
- Holy Bible/Scriptures
- Crayons/markers and drawing paper
- Journal and pencils/pens.
- Share your responses, drawings, and experiences at info@Reimagineigc.org. Please remember to include the name of your church, the number of people and age range of your group members!

*An intergenerational church school class with people of varied generations (ages from youth to elderly) is considered as a group.
**Groups can meet virtually or in person



WEEK 1 – NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 1:26-33

The first Sunday in the Season of Advent is ***Hope Sunday***. On this day, we light two purple candles. The first candle represents peace, and the second represents hope. The purple candles remind us of the peace and hope that came to us when we were in darkness and separated from God because of sin and disbelief. Jesus Christ brings peace and hope into our lives by bringing believers back into the light, presence and family of God and giving us hope of a better life with Him.

After reading and reflecting on the scripture, consider participating in one or more of the following activities during this week.

A. Discuss what hope means to you and your family or group. How can or does Jesus help you to have that hope? Create a picture that reminds you of hope or describe in your journal how you maintain your hope.

B. Mary and Joseph both received unexpected news. Who brought them the news? What are some of the things that they heard that could have helped them to accept the surprise news they received? How do you feel about angels? Create an image of how you see angels or use your journal to describe an angelic experience in your life.

C. The angel told Mary and Joseph the name of the child before he was born. What was important about this name? Discuss the meaning of your names. What makes your name important?

D. The angel told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins. Being saved means God forgives us of our wrongdoings. Forgiveness restores peace. Discuss why we need to be saved from our sins. Is there anyone you need to forgive? Contact them and apologize, draw a picture symbolizing forgiveness, or record it in your journal.

E. Working with your team to complete this week's **HOPE** Wordsearch puzzle. Once completed share what you remember about the words you found.



REIMAGINE ADVENT CHALLENGE WEEK 1 HOPE

N K B V F E I L E R A O T W
O Q E N E K U L M W X L A Y
I K L H N I J P H T H G I L
T S I W O P B M H O M Y R D
A D E B I P C R L P P I Z S
T D V L T I U G R Y E E B S
C E E P A N F O R Z P A X U
E L R R P K G A H Z B Q C S
P B S E I R U R M N I L T E
X U U S C A D F X I G J L J
E O G E I E L M T E L P F D
N R E N T F U I C B R Y Y R
T T Z C N I K L P U Q E C O
M A T E A V N Q P O S X T L

Anticipation
Troubled
Expectation
Purple
Family
Believers
Peace
Light
Hope
Relief
Presence
Lord Jesus
Pink
Luke
Fear

Made With https://webwordsearch.com



WEEK 2 – DECEMBER 7-13

SCRIPTURE – MATTHEW 1:18-25

The second Sunday in the Season of Advent is ***Peace Sunday***. On this day, we light one of the purple candles. The first candle represents peace. The purple candles remind us of the light that came to us when we were in darkness and separated from God. We became separated from God because of sin and disbelief. Jesus Christ brings peace into our lives by bringing believers back into the light, presence, and family of God.

After reading and reflecting on the scripture, consider participating in one or more of the following activities during this week.

A. Discuss what peace means to you and your family or group. How can or does Jesus help you to have that peace? Create a picture that reminds you of peace or write a paragraph describing how you see peace.

B. Discuss how excited families are when they hear that a new baby is on the way.

Have each generation talk about how they feel when they hear the good news of a new or returning member coming to the family or community. Talk about how Mary may have felt to hear this news. Was it expected or unexpected? What emotions accompany expected or unexpected news?

C. Joesph learns that he will be a father to Jesus. Have each generation talk about

how they feel when they think about role of fathers in the family, church, or community. Talk about how Joseph may have felt to hear this surprising news.

D. What can you do to make your family, household, or community more peaceful? Continue to do something daily during this Advent Season that will help others to experience peace.

E. Work with your team to complete this week's **PEACE** Wordsearch puzzle. Once completed share what you remember about the words you found.

REIMAGINE ADVENT CHALLENGE WEEK 2 PEACE

S T A H D V K B U U H I I S
R X E L C E L C R N V K N W
D O G L E C T T T K Z D A X
J E A I K A G A K V C Y R E
D V A G Y N W A R F F O N S
P R A H N D L H D A I S F S
T U O T F L Q G J V P C P E
E J R L K E C S M Q E E M N
H E W P R S Y I A B L N S K
X S P K L Q Z N N P P G T R
U U Y G I E E P O H E Y W A
N S F E I L E B S I D A Z D
C D E V A S Y L I M A F C O
G L E L I C N O C E R P L E

Separated
Sin
Purple
Disbelief
Light
God
Darkness
Jesus
Advent
Family
Peace
Hope
Candles
Saved
Reconcile
Lord

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WEEK 3 – DECEMBER 14-20

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 1:26-28

The third Sunday in the Season of Advent is ***Joy Sunday***. On this day, we light two purple candles and the pink candle. The pink candle represents joy, and the purple candles represent peace and hope. The pink candle brightens our lives with the joy of Jesus Christ that we experience when we have his peace and hope into our lives.
After reading and reflecting on the scripture, consider participating in one or more of the following activities during this week.

A. Discuss why joy is important to you and your family or group. How can or does Jesus help you to have that joy? Create a picture that reminds you of joy.

B. The angel told Mary to rejoice when she heard the surprising news. Sharing good news gives us a reason to be joyful. Jesus' birth was good news to Mary once she understood why He was coming. Share some of the reasons why Jesus gives you a reason to share joy.

C. What are some of the things in our lives that cause us to lose joy? Have a member of an older generation share how they have learned to share God's joy. Have a younger person respond to how that makes them feel or draw pictures of faces that display emotions with joy.

D. Look around your home, room church, or community for something that continues to bring you joy. Tell others why this object helps you to remain hopeful.

E. Work with your team to complete this week's **JOY** Wordsearch puzzle. Once completed share what you remember about the words you found.



REIMAGINE ADVENT CHALLENGE WEEK 3 JOY

L D W D G E H F J Z I X D H
T G Y E N X D E A J N G I V
E S M S I C E I C V E S E U
D S S S L I K N V I O S O Z
B A G E D T H C O A O R U N
R F E L D E C P L R D J F S
I H G B A M A E E N H J E C
G S A U W E B J C S O T R R
H Z L W S N T Y I Y O E L S
T C I Z V T D E H T I J T I
N D L C V W Q U G G H A K X
E L E I R B A G N C R W E X
S Y E S L E G N A S Q W Q B
S D V E L B I S S O P M I T

Son
Excitement
David
Stars
Jesus
Joseph
Gabriel
Impossible
Blessed
Swaddling
Favor
Throne
Brightness
Joy
Rejoice
Reign
Galilee
Angels

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WEEK 4 – DECEMBER 21-24

SCRIPTURE - MATTHEW 1:22-23 & JOHN 3:16

This is the last Sunday of the Season of Advent. It is ***Love Sunday.*** On this day, we light all the candles. The last candle is a reminder of the love of God which is unconditional and everlasting. All the candles, now lit, reflect the peace, hope, joy and love that God sends us through Jesus. The candles are reminders that God light is present to drown out the darkness in our lives and replace it with eternal light of his Son, our Savior Jesus.

After reading and reflecting on the scripture, consider participating in one or more of the following activities during this week.

A. Share, in picture or words, what love feels like to you.

B. What Christmas movies help you to feel God's love? Share your favorite story. If possible, watch that movie and share how that love can be shared.

C. Mary and Joseph are travelling without many of the family members. If they were to write a letter to their family back home, what might they say to them in the letter? Can you share at least 3 or 5 important things about God's love that they could share with their family? Share them and draw or record some of them in your journal.

D. Work with your team to complete this week's **LOVE** Wordsearch puzzle. Once completed share what you remember about the words you found.

On Christmas Eve, spend a few minutes sharing what this journey has been like for you. As a special way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christmas Day, share the Advent gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love that you discovered during this Advent season.

Merry Christmas



REIMAGINE ADVENT CHALLENGE WEEK 4 LOVE

S B P G R M B Y T S I R H C
J U Z E U S A R O I V A S M
T W F O A U A E C Z I N A J
E C T J I C B V R Q G R O Y
V E I O I A E P E D Y S M E
O L E U N A M M I D E G T Y
L I A D W Y L O H P Y O J X
Q C E I E W G G H I V X Z B
F N G A T I R I P S M K B K
E O R R Y N R O B T S R I F
P C C F A Y S U S E J C N N
O E N A B C D E R O T S E R
H R Q N Q Q E F C E P A G A
D L E G N A O A S N I S G I

Jesus
Afraid
Immanuel
Firstborn
Sins
Angel
Joseph
Holy
Peace
Grace
Joy
Restored
Savior
Christ
Reconcile
Mary
Hope
Saved
Spirit
Love
Agape
Dream

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AUGUST CHALLENGE

THEME: 3Ps

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Preparations, Planning, & Purpose

Get ready for an exciting whirlwind of vacations, family reunions, and the back-to-school hustle! It's time to dive into preparation and planning that will make each moment unforgettable. What adventures are you dreaming up? What's your purpose behind each gathering, and how will you leave your mark?

During family reunions and vacations, seize the opportunity to explore and celebrate your family's rich heritage. Imagine starting a journal to capture these incredible stories! This is your golden opportunity to connect with your roots and uncover the amazing tapestry of your ancestry.

As you plan, pay attention–what insights are you uncovering? How does or could Proverbs 19:21 help you when your plans seem to go awry? What revelations is God sharing with you about these precious moments? And don't forget to jot down a short testimony in your journal; it could inspire others and keep the memories alive. Let's make this journey a fantastic exploration of love, legacy, and laughter! Pictures of essays, drawings, programs, etc., to be submitted to the Reimagining website.

AND READING

APRIL CHALLENGE

APRIL 2 - MAY 2, 2025



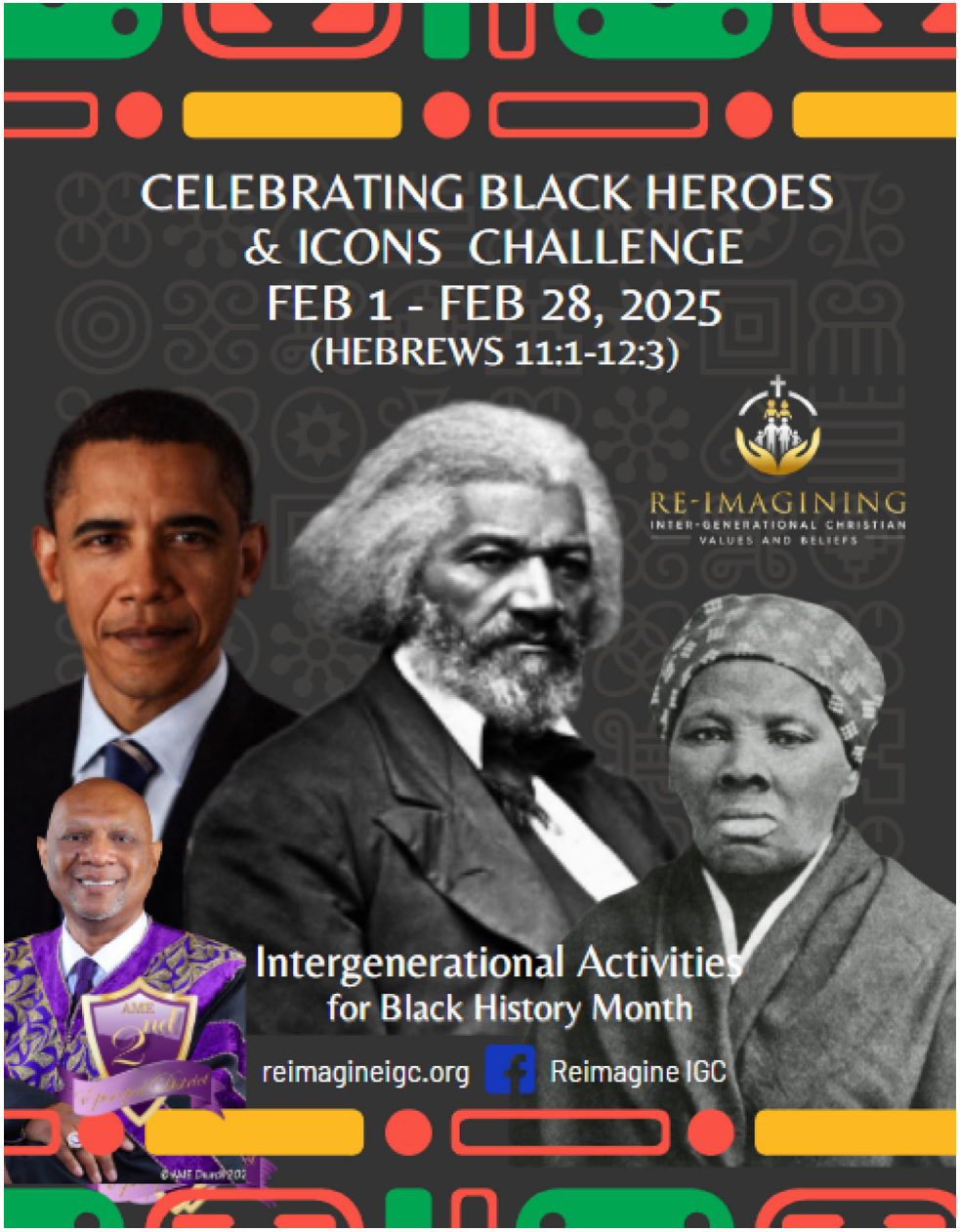


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2 KINGS 22: 8-13

PSALMS: 24


CELEBRATING BLACK HEROES
& ICONS CHALLENGE
FEB 1 - FEB 28, 2025
(HEBREWS 11:1-12:3)
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Intergenerational Activities
for Black History Month
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February Challenge

Celebrating Black Heroes and Icons (Hebrews 11:1-12:3)

February is Black History Month. During this month, we have 2 Challenge invitations. Feel free to do one or both! February 1 – February 28

Challenge One: Heros and Icons

Have adults and youth work together (at least one of each) to identify a hero (someone they admire) and an icon (someone famous). The two persons selected must share similar careers. For example, Person A (hero) is a politician, and Person B (icon) would be like Adam Clayton Powell or Fannie Lou Hamer. The adults and youth can write an essay, draw a picture, write a poem, or use any of the arts to celebrate the contribution of their hero and icon.

Questions for journalling/discussion:

- Are the people listed in the Bible heroes, icons, or both?
- What are the characteristics of heroes?
- What is the difference between a hero and an icon?
- How does your hero and icon align with Christian behaviors?

Resources include **The Holy Bible** with a focus on persons such as Nimrod, Jethro, Ham, Hagar, Asenath (Joseph's wife), Queen of Sheba, Bathsheba, Zephaniah (prophet), and Simon (the man who carried the cross for Christ).

Other resources include websites on Black history, ***Troubling Biblical Waters*** by Cain Hope Felder, and movies, such as "The Price of Hope" on gooddocs.net.

Challenge Two: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Learn the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with the family. Record video and share with us. Alternately, churches could teach the song, record and then share with us. Study its author and origin.

Discussion Points:

· What verses from Hebrews 11:1 – 12:3 do you think applies or relates to "Lift Every Voice and Sing?"

· What faith story is embedded in the lyrics of this anthem?

· What biblical principles are implied in the lyrics?

· What principles from the song are relatable to your generation? What do you want to share with another generation that you learned from this song? Include responses from at least two.

Activities must be completed by March 1, 2025. Discussion responses (4 questions from either challenge, or both) and pictures, videos, poems, artwork, and should to be submitted to info@Reimagineigc.org by March 17, 2025.

Further intergenerational activities to consider for Black History Month:

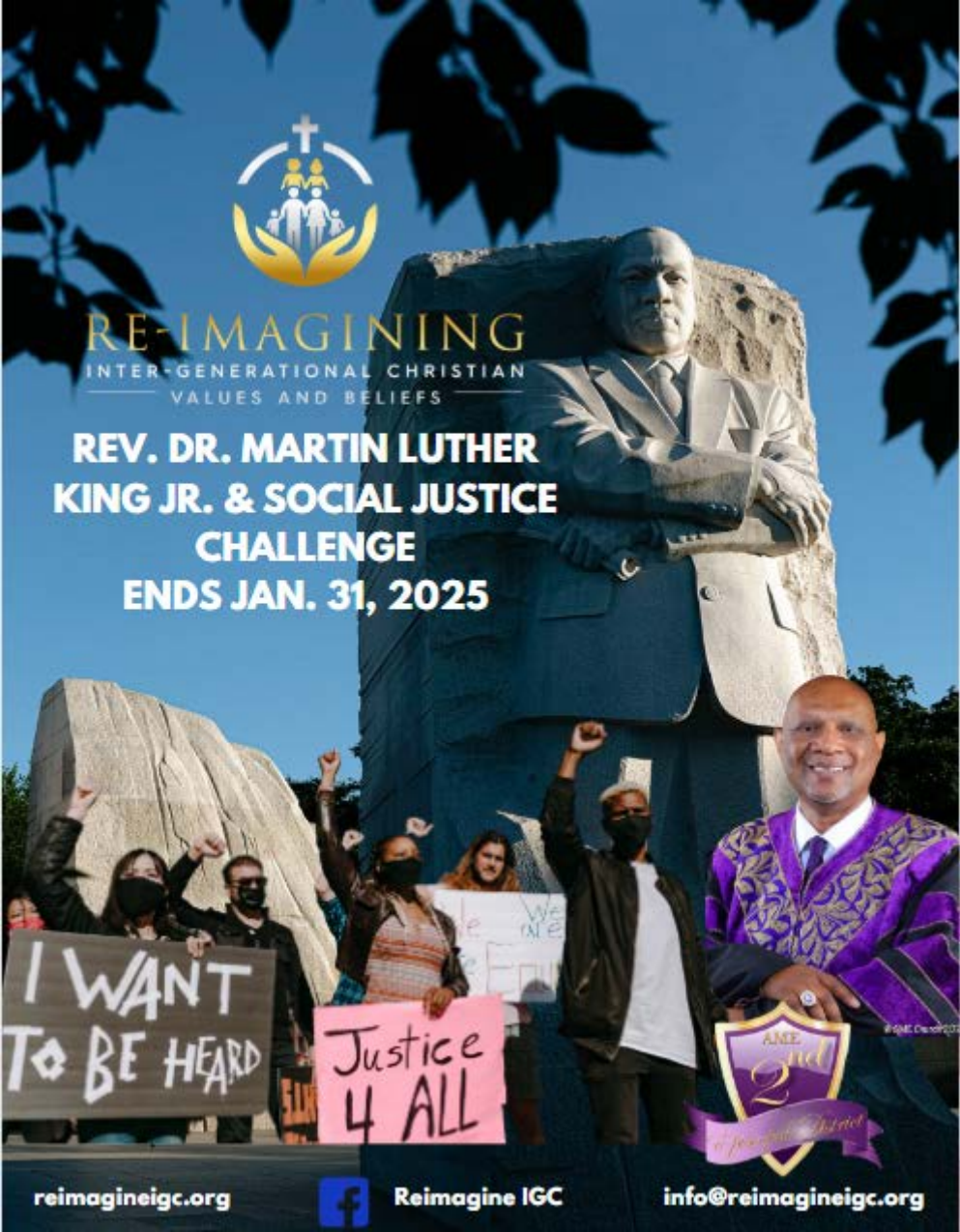
Visit a local black museum. Send pics and share experiences with us.

Document your family tree.

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REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE ENDS JAN. 31, 2025



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AME 2nd Episcopal District

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Intergenerational Advent

Christmas Card Challenge

Nov. 26 - Dec. 30, 2024





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Intergenerational Advent "Christmas Card Challenge"
Nov. 26- Dec. 30, 2024

The Intergenerational Advent or Christmas Card Challenge

- Churches will teach the real meaning of Christmas.
- Encourage generations to work together or in groups to make Christmas cards.
  Be crafty and artistic.
- Cards can be mailed to a person of their choice. Share cards with the elderly or sick or shut-in within the church, or local nursing home residents.
- Pictures of card making showing different generations interacting during the challenge should be submitted to info@reimagineigc.org to be posted to our website.
- Receipts for supplies can be forwarded for resources used in making cards.
- Open date: November 26. Closing date December 30.
  All receipts due by Jan 15.



MAY CHALLENGE

We honor mothers—those born from their bodies and/or hearts. We also celebrate those who graduated from institutions of higher learning and have chosen to share their knowledge with others in the workplace.

MAY 6 - JUNE 5, 2025







SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 66:13



Faith | Family | Fellowship

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October Challenge
October 2-October 31, 2025



Theme: Gather 'Round the Table

Acts 2:46 — They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

The season of crisp air, golden leaves, and football tailgates is fully upon us. Numerous churches use this as a season of Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations. It is a time of year that quietly compels us into more time spent with family and in fellowship with those we love. It is a season that whispers an invitation: "Come closer."

This month's focal text seems to be the perfect response to the invitation to come closer. In the early church, the believers knew something powerful—worship wasn't confined to the temple. Instead, worship was a communal experience that spilled over into homes, into kitchens, into the warmth of shared tables. Those early believers did not just eat together; they lived life as fellow disciples. They built one another up, encouraged one another, and made space for hearts to heal and grow.

This month, we invite you to recreate that Acts 2 spirit. Host a meal that bridges generations. Do so by inviting grandparents, parents, children, neighbors, fellow church members, and friends. Cook together. Let little hands stir while older hands guide. Share recipes that have been passed down for decades, and tell the stories that come with them—stories of faith, resilience, laughter, and love.

Don't just eat the food; savor the fellowship. Look around the table and see the blessings God has gathered. Take pictures of the preparation, the cooking, the laughter, and the joy. Let the table become more than a place to eat—let it be an altar of gratitude, a classroom for wisdom, and a sanctuary where God's love is tasted and seen.

Discussion Questions:

1. In Acts 2:46, believers shared meals "with glad and sincere hearts." When you think about meals in your own family or church, what moments have brought you the most joy and connection?
2. The early church built community around the table. How have you experienced God's presence or deepened relationships while sharing a meal at home, at church, or in the community?
3. Acts 2:46 shows that breaking bread was more than just eating—it was worship and fellowship. How can we make our meals today a time of spiritual encouragement across generations?
4. Bonus Question: In Acts 2:46, the believers met in homes and shared meals with joy. In the AME Church, fellowship meals—whether repasts, church anniversaries, or Sunday dinners—have been a way to pass down faith and history. What memories or stories from our church's shared meals have shaped your understanding of God's family

Interactive Activity Suggestions

1. **Family Recipe Storybook**

· Invite each family to choose one or two recipes that have been passed down through generations.
· Have them write the recipe on one side of the page and the story behind it on the other. Food for thought includes when it was first made, who shared it, and any special memories connected to it.
· Encourage participants to add photos of the cooking process, the finished dish, and the people who helped make it.
· Compile these into a "Church Family Cookbook" or post recipes on a bulletin board so everyone can enjoy them.

What to submit: Photos of the pages, a scanned PDF of the story, or a short video of someone telling the recipe story.

2. Table Talk Jar

· Decorate a jar together as a family.
· Fill it with slips of paper containing conversation starters like:
· "What's the funniest family memory you have?"
· "What's one thing God taught you this year?"
· "What was your favorite childhood meal?"
· At your family meal, each person draws a slip and answers it.
· This creates meaningful, intergenerational conversations that go deeper than everyday small talk.

What to submit: Pictures of your jar or videos of your family using the jar, plus a few favorite responses written down to the Reimagine IGC website or email to info@reimagineigc.org.


Lenten Devotional
Drawing Near to God: Reflect, Repent, Renew
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Reimagine Intergenerational Lenten Devotional

Theme: *"Drawing Near to God: Reflect, Repent, Renew"*

Purpose: To bring all generations (children, youth, adults, and seniors) together in a sacred virtual space to reflect on God's Word during the Lenten season.

Format: In-Person or Virtual (Zoom / Teams / Google Meet)
Length: 60–75 minutes

What Participants Need

- Personal journal binder, or lined paper for reflection
- Pen, pencil, or crayons
- Bible or mobile Bible app
- Quiet space and open heart

Event Order

Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

- Brief welcome from the CE Director, host or pastor
- Warm welcome to all generations
- Brief explanation of Lent and the evening's theme
- Opening prayer focusing on repentance, grace, and spiritual renewal

What is Lenten Season?

The Lenten season is a sacred period in the Christian calendar that invites believers to slow down, look inward, and draw closer to God.

The ***purpose*** of the Lenten season is to intentionally draw closer to God as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

Lent lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays)

It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, leading up to Easter Sunday

The 40 days reflect Jesus' time of fasting and prayer in the wilderness

Purpose of Lent

Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, centered on:

Reflection – examining our hearts, lives, and relationship with God

Repentance – turning away from sin and returning to God with humility

Renewal – growing spiritually through intentional practices

Key practices

Many Christians observe Lent through:

Prayer – deeper, more intentional conversations with God

Fasting – giving up certain foods, habits, or distractions to focus on God

Almsgiving – acts of generosity, service, and justice toward others

Scripture reading – engaging God's Word more consistently

Symbols of Lent

Ashes – remind us of our mortality and need for repentance

Purple – symbolizes repentance, humility, and royalty (Christ as King)

The Cross – a central focus as we remember Christ's sacrifice

Scripture Reading & Short Devotional (10 minutes)
Scripture read by **multiple generations** (child, youth, adult, senior)

Scripture options:

- Psalm 51:10–12
- Joel 2:12–13
- Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

Facilitate a brief reflection with participants on what the passage teaches about drawing near to God.

Guided Group Reflections (20 minutes)
Facilitator will ask participants to discuss and answer prompts below (soft worship music playing in the background)

Prompt Options (choose 3–4):

- Where is God inviting me to slow down during this Lenten season?
- What should I do to draw closer to God?
- How can I live out Jesus' love more intentionally this week?
- What does renewal look like for me right now?

In-Person or Virtual Breakout Activity (20 minutes)

- In-person all participants will break into small groups or can be a family or group of 2 or more.
- All participants will share a word, sentence, prayer, or drawing
- Emphasize listening—no pressure to speak

Select one of the prompts from the group discussion to reinforce group reflection with the following activities below:

Example: How can I live out Jesus' love more intentionally this week?

Recommended Activity Ideas (select at least 1)

- Create a picture reflecting Jesus' love.
- Write a short prayer or poem to answer prompt (can also be a group effort to share during reflection)
- Reflect on God's grace and mercy and respond to the prompt in writing. (can share during reflection)

Purpose: Encourages storytelling and mentoring

Closing Reflection & Prayer (10 minutes)

- Facilitator will:
    - offer a short reflection on the theme of the event *"Drawing Near to God: Reflect, Repent, Renew"*
    - ask for volunteers to share their poems, prayers and reflections.
    - ask youth to offer the closing prayer.

Follow-Up Engagement

- If event was recorded, send portions of your recording to info@reimagineigc.org.
- Send pictures of in-person events, poems, reflections from participants.

Episcopal District

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Rt. Rev. Reginald T. Jackson
Presiding Prelate Second
Episcopal District

Generations in Conversation: The Importance of Voting

RE-IMAGINE CHALLENGE











Join the CHALLENGE!

Engage in a dialogue with another generation about the upcoming election. Go to the **Challenge Connection** page to share your discussions.







NOVEMBER CHALLENGE

Thanksgiving & CHOICES

COLOSSIANS 3:12–15

In a few weeks, we celebrate Thanksgiving. When we think of Thanksgiving, we think of the variety of food that we will consume and family fellowship. Some may choose to work in a shelter, or food kitchen on Thanksgiving. What we do and how we choose to celebrate involve our choices. This month we will look at our choices and what we have to be thankful for. Food is definitely one thing to be thankful for. However, do we think about the choices—good and bad—that we make? Do we reflect on how God is with us as we survived the results of our choices? This month, our challenge is to be thankful, especially for the good results or lessons learned from our choices.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

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TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Actions:

- Read and talk about Colossians 3:12—15. Consider how many choices it encourages us to make regarding our character and actions.
- During the family gathering, ask family members why they are thankful. Questions should include:
  a. Food
  b. Material possessions
  c. Relationships
  d. Self-esteem
- Discuss how your choices affect your ability to be thankful. As you think about the results of your choices, did you learn to make better choices? Are you ready to help others make the same or different choices in similar situations?
- Reflect on what was shared in your family regarding thankfulness and choices. Did you experience courage or a revelation because of the family discussions on thankfulness and choices?
- Submit a one-page essay on lessons learned about thankfulness and choices. The essay should be a joint effort between an adult(s) and a youth(s) and forwarded to info@reimagineigc.org by December 4, 2025, to be posted to the Reimagine website - www.reimagineigc.org.