

What Changes, What Doesn't by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 This is a multigenerational session. Invite persons of every generation, beginning with the teens in your class all the way to the oldest people in your congregation who can remember what life was like when they were teenagers.
- 2 Provide refreshments for a fellowship time
- 3 Give the questions to participants ahead of time so they can prepare their thoughts and bring pictures and other items. Encourage teens and all of the other participants to bring examples of the electronics they've used or are using now.

SESSION OUTLINE:

- 1 Welcome everyone to the session and introduce the topic for the time together: "What Changes, What Doesn't."

- 2 Sharing time.

Beginning with the oldest persons and going down through the generations to the teens, go through questions 1-4 and have people share their answers and their items. Help the generations understand as much as possible about the kinds of technology that was being used through the years. Have fun with this! Let the older people listen to the teens' iPods or text someone on their cell phones.

- 3 What Changes, What Doesn't?

Lead a discussion that answers this question, based on the answers to questions 1-8.

- 4 Enjoy refreshments and fellowship together.

QUESTIONS FOR "WHAT CHANGES, WHAT DOESN'T":

- 1 Tell us about the telephone system when you were a teenager—how it worked, what the phones looked like, etc. If you have an old phone, bring it.
- 2 Tell us about the television you had (if you did) as a teenager.
- 3 Tell us about how people communicated with each other when you were a teenager.
- 4 Tell us about how you listened to music as a teenager. (Bring examples of the equipment if you have some.)
- 5 Tell us about your church as a teenager. The music, worship, sermons, activities, etc.

- 6 Tell us about the beliefs of the church when you were a teenager.
- 7 Name some things that have not changed in how people communicate through the years.
- 8 Name some things that have not changed as far as your church's beliefs through the years.