

Overview: Intergenerational Rally Day Module

Grow to Go

Grow to Go invites us to grow in our faith, so that we can go out into our world and make disciples. Adults, youth, and children will participate in activities that encourage spiritual growth, discipleship, and a greater appreciation of mission in the world. All these things contribute to renewing and growing congregations.

Key verse

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Opening activity

Participants will discuss how they “measure up” spiritually by using tape measures and making a growth chart on a wall.

Large Gathering

A skit, “I don’t have a passport and I don’t know how,” will show that even children can make disciples in their own world. Scripture reading, hymn, and prayer are also included.

Rotations

Three rotations will focus on mission, the key verse, and spiritual growth and renewing congregations. At each rotation, participants will receive a craft foam triangle on which they will write “Grow,” “2” and “Go.” At the end of the rotations, the triangles will be strung together on a paper clip to reveal a hidden message.

Note: The complete rally day format and instructions begin on p. 13.

Rotation 1: Albert Schweitzer

Mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations”

Participants will learn about Albert Schweitzer, a medical missionary to Africa. Though Schweitzer went great distances to heal the sick, he also exemplified mission in daily life.

Participants will make a sun helmet magnet to put on their lockers, file cabinets or refrigerators to remind them of their mission to go and make disciples in their daily world.

Participants will receive a craft foam triangle on which to write the word “Go.”

Rotation 2: Great Commission Relay

Key verse: “I am with you always”

Participants will move through an obstacle course relay that will help them remember today’s key verse.

Participants will write “2” on a craft foam triangle to remind them that they are never alone. God is always with us, giving us the strength and courage to be and make disciples.

Rotation 3: Growing Sonflowers

Spiritual growth and renewal of congregations: “Teaching them to observe all I have commanded”

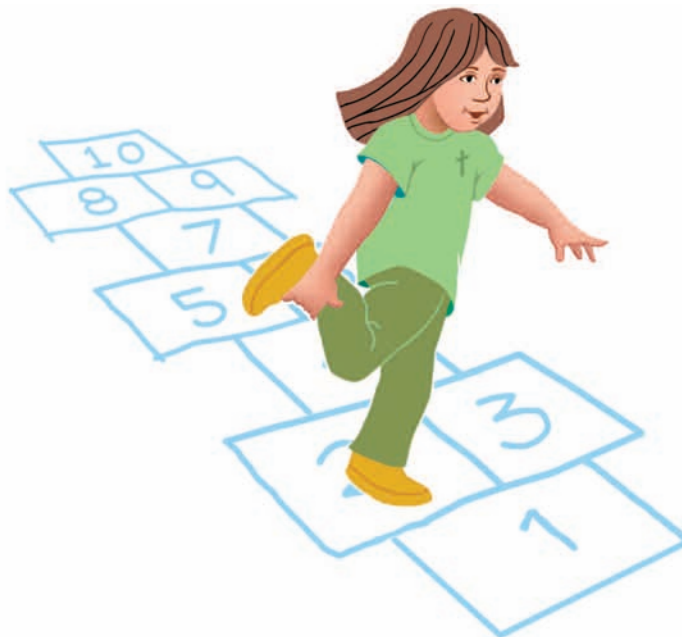
Participants will discuss how to make disciples by being disciples within their congregation and in their world. They will witness to the congregation by making “Sonflowers” for the growth wall to remind others of our great commission.

Participants will write “Grow” on a craft foam triangle.

Closing

Participants will slide their triangles onto a large paperclip or key ring. The message can read both “Grow-2-Go,” or “Go-2-Grow,” which is what mission is really about. These can later be hooked onto backpacks, purses, or key chains. When we reach out to others in faith, our faith grows. When we reach out to churches around the world, their witness strengthens us.

Participants will learn about an opportunity to give to a village education project in the Central African Republic (CAR) (page 26).



Suggestions for Leaders

- Invite everyone in your congregation, not just parents of school-age children, to attend your rally day event. Cross-generational interaction can be a fun and mutually enriching experience for participants of all ages including youth, young adults, and older adults.
- Choose someone to head the CAR village education mission project. He or she can visit the Web site www.elca.org/globalgifts/carschools.html for additional information. A Central African Republic country packet is also available on the ELCA Web site. It includes background information, current issues, a craft project, and other interesting information. Set a realistic, but challenging giving goal for your congregation, and a timetable in which to reach the goal.
- Recruit rotation leaders for each rotation, and have them gather the supplies and recruit the additional help they may need to do the rotation. This event is divided in segments so that the labor can be divided among many as well. Giving others a chance to be leaders helps them grow in faith, too.
- Take advantage of the mix of generations. Are the children or the Baby Boomers more excited about seeing the clip from *Mary Poppins*? Who remembers reading about Albert Schweitzer in magazines or newspapers? Invite adults and children to share ways in which they can be disciples in their worlds. Keep the original groups of three together throughout the morning so that the older person can help the younger ones with crafts and activities.
- The fourth objective of the *ELCA Evangelism Strategy* is to “Start and Renew Congregations.” Revitalizing congregations begins by building disciples. Disciples are those who are growing in their faith, actively seeking ways to strengthen their relationship with and knowledge of God and ready to go forth and serve others. Everyone who shows up for the rally day event is a disciple. The event is designed to uplift and encourage that fact. Try to encourage the discipleship and evangelism discussed on rally day to continue throughout the year.