

Lutheran Women in Mission



Just the Right Age by Ida Mall

Opening

Sing or read "Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care" (*TLH* 24) or "Christ Be My Leader" (*LW* 365, *All God's People Sing* 81).

Sharing

Have you heard a child happily exclaim, "I am four and a half years old"? By adding the half year, it is obvious the child is eagerly awaiting her next birthday. Adults often also wish to be a different age than they are.



- What are some of the benefits of being a young adult?
- Middle-aged? A senior citizen?
- Are you willing to share your age? Why or why not?
- Are you concerned about aging? If yes, what are your concerns?

Biblical Examples/Mentors

The Bible shows us that God uses men and women of all ages to accomplish His work. Consider the Biblical characters listed below. In addition to the questions provided, discuss for each individual:

- his or her age
- the opportunities to serve
- what we learn about how to live and serve

Simeon

- **Luke 2:25-35**

Anna

- **Luke 2:36-37**

How did God use Anna and Simeon to impact the lives of Mary and Joseph as well as all who were listening to their words?

Elizabeth

- **Luke 1:5-7**

What was Elizabeth's situation? **Luke 1:34-37, 1:39-45** and **1:56**

How would you describe Elizabeth's spiritual life?

Why did Mary go to visit Elizabeth?

How was Elizabeth a mentor/example to Mary?

David

- **1 Samuel 16:8-13, 17:32-33** and **17:50**

Naaman's wife's maid

- **2 Kings 5:1-3**

Jeremiah

- **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

In this chapter, God calls Jeremiah. When did God first know Jeremiah?

For what purpose was he born?

Summarize the dialogue between the Lord and Jeremiah regarding his life's purpose.

What assurances of help does God offer Jeremiah?

Sharing

Do you believe God has a plan for you regardless of your age?

What assurance of this do you find in:

- **Jeremiah 29:13**
- **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Philippians 1:6**

Are you sometimes afraid to step out and be about God's business? If yes, what are your fears or questions?

Do you ever use your age as an excuse to exempt yourself from serving the Lord?

Why?

How can we gain strength and enthusiasm for God's work?

How can you help/encourage one another to accept and be joyful about your age?

Closing

Together let's delight in our respective ages as each individual shares one blessing she is experiencing as a result of being the age she is right now.

Remember, because God made us, each of us is exactly the right age for this time. Our loving Lord created us and chose us to be the age we are today.

Ida Mall, Woodland Park, CO, is a past international *LWML* president.