

LIMITLESS

— SUNDAY —

CELEBRATING YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

GUIDEBOOK





LIMITLESS

ELIM'S NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

LIMITLESS SUNDAY - NEED TO KNOW...

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to download the LIMITLESS SUNDAY guidebook. I'm so pleased you're considering getting involved!

LIMITLESS SUNDAY is an opportunity for Elim churches everywhere to celebrate their young people and youth teams. Your Limitless Sunday could be as simple as taking a moment in the service to pray for the young people, or as much as running a full youth-led service. Whatever you do, Limitless Sunday is an opportunity for the local church to say, *"young people are important to us, and you are welcome here!"*

“ *Your Limitless Sunday could be as simple as taking a moment in the service to pray for the young people, or as much as running a full youth-led service.* **”**

LIMITLESS SUNDAY IS...

- ... about championing youth ministry in the local church.
- ... about celebrating the hard working volunteers who make local youth ministries happen.
- ... about sharing stories of the things God is doing in the lives of the young people.
- ... about declaring that church is multi-generational, where all ages are welcome and important.

LIMITLESS SUNDAY IS NOT...

- ... a fund-raising exercise for the national ministries of Limitless.
- ... a promotional push for national Limitless events (though it does present a good opportunity to talk about bringing your young people to Limitless Festival and The Gathering).

So however you choose to run your LIMITLESS SUNDAY, I'm praying it would be a great moment for your whole church family. Please continue to find out how to get involved...



Tim Alford
National Director of Limitless

WHEN IS IT?

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2018 (or whenever you can!)

Lots of churches are running their Limitless Sunday on 18th February, so it would be great if you can do it then. But if you can't, don't let that put you off! Just pick another Sunday and let us know when you're doing it.

HOW DO WE GET INVOLVED?

It's easy! Follow these five simple steps...

- 1. EMAIL US** to let us know the date of your Limitless Sunday.
- 2. READ THIS RESOURCE PACK**, which is full of great ideas for your Limitless Sunday. Pick and choose from what helps you, and go for it!
- 3. DOWNLOAD THE LIMITLESS SUNDAY VIDEO GREETING FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR FROM www.limitlesselim.co.uk/limitlessunday**
- 4. RUN YOUR LIMITLESS SUNDAY!**
- 5. SHARE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM YOUR LIMITLESS SUNDAY**, using the hashtag, #LS18.



SOME HANDY HINTS...

We've tried to fill this resource with as many helpful ideas for your LIMITLESS SUNDAY as we can. However, please feel free to pick and choose in order to make Limitless Sunday work in your context - you don't have to adopt this approach wholesale!

THE ENVIRONMENT...

Why not transform your church into a café style environment, bring out the bean bags and cushions or simply move the lectern to create a more youth friendly environment? You could even consider using a youth led skit or an icebreaker, (see service outline) that brings a creative element to your service.



THE WORSHIP...

If you have a youth band, this is the ideal time for them to lead, yet this is not the only way in which you can involve your young people in worship more intentionally.

There is the opportunity to champion young people by bringing them alongside your usual team. It may be you have budding young musicians that, whilst they are not competent enough to play for a whole worship set, can either play one song or play alongside a more experienced musician. Likewise with your singers, engaging either individual young people or forming a youth ensemble or choir to participate in worship.

For those young people already serving faithfully as part of your worship team, it may be good to give them an opportunity to do something that stretches them. To lead a song or solo a verse. To share a scripture or a scripted prayer or thought is something you can actively engage your young people in.

You may want to take the opportunity to include a creative element or space within your worship time. This may be a spoken word, which is shared, or a space for people to express their worship through art, dance or in creative prayer responses.

You can find lots of different creative prayer ideas at: elim.org.uk/prayerresource

TESTIMONY (The Comfy Chair!)

The Comfy Chair is a testimony segment of your service hosted on a comfy chair which comes complete with its own jingle to play before and after an interview (available to download on the Limitless Sunday website)! It is a great opportunity to interview one or even a few of your young people. It can be pre-recorded or live depending on the confidence of your young people. You could choose for them to finish a statement 'I love to worship God because....', to answer a question like 'What is one way God has changed your life?' or invite them to share how they came to know Jesus or tell those stories of healing, sharing faith and being good news to those around them.



THE MESSAGE...

Limitless Sunday is a great opportunity to invite a youth speaker, have your youth leader/pastor speak or have some of your young people share mini talks.

The Limitless Team have also put together notes to guide a message based around the title 'Generations' which you may choose to use. This outline is available later in the resource pack...

THE WELCOME...

There are a host of different ways that young people can get involved in the welcome aspect of your church. From meeting and greeting people as they arrive, to serving refreshments, hosting the welcome aspect of the service or being involved in video notices. For some young people, the meet and greet role may be a little daunting, so give them something intentional to give away. Chocolate often works as the young people have something to offer with their smile and 'hello' in addition to actively ensuring people are naturally drawn to them.

PRAYER...



Take the opportunity to pray for the young people during the service. Once you have prayed for the young people why not have a young person ready and prepared to lead the church in thanking God and praying for their youth workers. It is a good moment to honour current and previous youth workers who have invested in the lives of young people.

BEFORE AND AFTER...

In the build up to Limitless Sunday, ensure there are plenty of ways in which young people can partner and engage. Encourage them to invite a friend and get involved long before Limitless Sunday arrives. Write to parents, invite them to attend and facilitate their young person's involvement.

How can young people engage in your church after Limitless Sunday? Take the opportunity to ensure information about LIMITLESS FESTIVAL and THE GATHERING is readily available for young people and their parents. You can give out flyers, invite, share information or write a follow up letter to parents.

LIMITLESS SUNDAY SERVICE OUTLINE

The following is a potential service outline for your Limitless Sunday, but once again, please feel free to use as much or as little as you need.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

All videos mentioned below are available to download from
www.limitlesselim.co.uk/limitlessunday

BASIC OUTLINE

Welcome and Video (3 mins)

Introduction (2 mins)

Worship (20 mins)

Sugar Cube Balance (4 mins)

“The Comfy Chair” Testimonies (7 mins)

Prayer (8 mins)

Together we are Limitless (3 mins)

Worship with Offering (5 mins)

Message (30 mins)

Response (7 mins)

Close in Prayer (1 min)

OUTLINE WITH DETAILS

Welcome and Video (3 mins)

Limitless Sunday National Director Greeting

Introduction (2 mins)

"Today is Limitless Sunday, when we when as a church we take the opportunity to celebrate, give opportunity and pray for our young people, whilst also honouring those who past and present who serve on our youth team."

Worship (20 mins)

Worship band with youth engagement and creative element

Sugar Cube Balance (4 mins)

Supplies: Timer, four short rulers, sugar cubes, plates, dust pan and brush

Choose four volunteers (you may want to ask people in advance) from the congregations of different ages. This games test their hand-eye coordination and balance. Each participant holds a short ruler in their mouth, which serves as a platform. The object of the challenge? To stack as many sugar cubes one by one on top of the stick without letting them fall. If they fall they have to start again. The winner is the person with the most sugar cubes at the end of one minute.

Encourage your congregation to actively engaging and cheering for a participant.

"The Comfy Chair" Testimonies (7 mins)

Supplies: Comfy Chair Jingle and a comfy chair

In advance choose two or three people of different generations to come and share about how they are actively involving in passing on to the next generation about how great God is. You may want to choose a young person, a member of your youth team and a grandparent.

Comfy Chair Jingle

Comfy Chair interviews

Comfy Chair Jingle

Prayer (8 mins)

Invite all the young people to come to the front of the church. Take the opportunity to pray for them as a church.

Once you have prayed for the young people why not have a young person ready and prepared to lead the church in thanking God and praying for their youth workers. It is a good moment to honour current and previous youth workers who have invested in the lives of young people.

Together we are Limitless (3 mins)

Supplies: Promo video for limitless festival or the Gathering

Take the opportunity to share with the church that their young people are part of the Elim family of young people. That together as young people across the nations we are invited to be a generation that follows a limitless God.

Show the LIMITLESS FESTIVAL and THE GATHERING videos

Worship with Offering (5 mins)

In addition to your usual tithes and offerings, you may wish to take up a special offering towards youth ministry in your local church.

Message (30 mins)

The message could be given from the youth leader/pastor or one of the young people. The Limitless Team have also put together notes to guide a message based around the title 'Generations' which you may choose to use.

Response (7 mins)

Supplies: Jumbo Paint Pads, rolls of paper, tape and baby wipes (to clean fingers)

In advance write "Psalm 145:4 "Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power." on a roll of paper and either display it or have it ready to put out when you invite the congregation to come and add their finger print to it.

As you invite the worship team to come and play, explain that all of us are to be those who commit to telling future generations of who God is.

As a moment of commitment and togetherness invite the congregation to come and say 'yes' they will commit to being part of a body that works together to ensure that every generation has the opportunity to hear about and come to know God.

The can signify this commitment by placing their finger print on the banner which read "Psalm 145:4 "Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power."

As people engage in this activity have the worship team lead a song of response.

Close in Prayer (1 min)

The Youth Leader or a Young Person

LIMITLESS SUNDAY MESSAGE OUTLINE - GENERATIONS

Introduction

There are those moments in life when you realise that maybe you are simply too old

**Share a personal story* of a time when you realised that you were too old to do something*

It's always hard when you have to tick a different box on a survey.

In life we make some huge transitions, but most of our scariest and biggest transitions happen between the ages of 10-20. It's a huge time in young people's lives and we as the church must stand with our young people.

The referendum in June 2016 highlighted that our society has become divided, especially across the generations. More than ever it highlighted generational differences.

The newspapers reported that young people feel let down by the older generations.

At the time the guardian carried an article in which a young person said "I'm 17 but turn 18 in four days. This morning I've woken up to feel completely betrayed by my own country. One thing that upsets me most is that this decision has been made by people who will not have to live with the consequences for as long as us. Young people voted to remain and older people voted to leave. I feel that I have been let down by an older generation who won't be affected by the volatility of this decisions."

Older generations appear to be suspicious of the younger generations, thinking they are lazy, selfish and apathetic.

The generational differences and the generalisation of these differences portrayed in the media continues to paint a picture of divide generations.

I believe the church has a huge opportunity today to show generational unity to our society.

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

So whether you are

- Red or blue
- Remain or brexiter
- Rich or poor
- Black or white
- Villa or blues
- PlayStation or Xbox
- Skinny jeans or flared jeans
- Platforms shoes or Nike huaraches
- Old or young

WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!

Share a story of your church a story when together you did something together across generation

It is wonderful when we see generations come together, yet I do think we can always strive for improvement.

Today I want to speak to young people and older people. I will let you decide where you fit or if you think you have got one foot in both.

1.Younger people

Deuteronomy 32:7 *"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you."*

Remember the days of old...

Share a story from your church history a story of how previous generations have given, sacrificed and invested so that the young people benefit today.

It is important that we remember and give thanks for those who have given, sacrificed and invested in this church family. We cannot forget that

So on behalf of the younger generation I want to thank-you for your sacrifice and hard work.

Young people we need to thank them.

Ask your father and he will tell you

I work a lot with young leaders and it's amazing - thank you, but I often say 'I miss being 17 and knowing everything'.

When we're a young leader or we've got a dream or a heart for something, it's easy to run with it and think we know best. We have to be willing to listen to the lessons of those that have gone before us.

Give a personal example of how you have learnt and been inspired by the lessons of someone of an older generation than you and the impact it made in your life

Our parents and leaders are incredible - you may not think it sometimes but they are.

Young people listen closely to the older generations, they/we know what we're talking about - most of the time!

2.Older People

Psalms 71:18 "Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."

Old and Grey

God isn't done with you yet!

Give an example of someone who is older yet finding new ways to serve God or if it applies to you a time when you felt you were too old to serve God in a particular area but have come to realise that this is just the beginning because God isn't done with you yet!
It doesn't matter how old you are, God is not done with you yet!

Declare your power to the next generation

We have a duty to invest in the generations after us - it doesn't matter how old you are or how relevant you think you might be.

Share a story of your church of someone who is of an older age who has or does invest in the lives of young people and the importance their contributions has made or makes.

I want to be one who declares God's power to the next Generation. For unless we take up this responsibility seriously our future, our children, the legacy we leave will mirror that of God's people in Judges 2:10 "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel."

I don't know about you, but this terrifies me.

We have to get to grips with how to disciple this generation - known as Gen Z.

They're not that hard to reach - experts say:

- They're pragmatists
- They don't see bad behaviour as a badge of honour
- They're less hedonistic

They are not without their challenges:

- They're Wary of dreamers
- Naturally cynical and distrusting
- They're self reliant
- They exhibit a constant partial attention

However much we do or don't understand about children, young people and young adults these days, we have a duty to invest in the generations that follow.

Conclusion

This investment in future generation is not something just for the old, but for everyone. For even the youngest people here will have generations that follow them.

We ***all*** have a duty to invest in the generations that follow.

Let me conclude by reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

Invite the worship band up and move into the creative response

REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE, EQUIPPING YOUTH LEADERS, INSPIRING
DYNAMIC YOUTH MINISTRY THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH

