



Older Adult Ministry

You shall rise up before the gray-headed and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:32

Resource Recommendations

A Vision for the Aging Church, James M. Houston and Michael Parker, is a great starter book on establishing a vision for reaching the senior generation. It discusses many of the challenges in our world, especially describing how things are going to get worse within the next few generations as the baby boomers prepare to move into the senior years. It has some good practical applications for churches as well.

Complete Guide to Caring for Aging Loved Ones, Editors Henry Holstege and Robert Riekse, is a good guide book that presents a great overview of how to prepare and care for an aging family members. It is easily adaptable to church members. This is the same kind of material as found in *How to Care for Aging Parents* by Virginia Morris.

Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart by Kenneth Haug and *A Sacred Sorrow* by Michael Card are both good books for caregivers who are wondering how to enter into people's suffering. In many cases when we are confronted with the physical effects of the Fall in the aging process as we see the unavoidable devastation it often involves. These things can stir fear and insecurity in our own hearts. Haug teaches us to come alongside people who are suffering, and Card gives us wisdom into understanding God's grace in the midst of our suffering. A similar resource is Nicholas Wolterstorff's *Lament for a Son*. While this isn't related to the elderly, it is helpful for teaching people to lament the brokenness in our world; something that our culture does not know how to do well.

Lastly, I would commend *Bedside Manners: A Practical Guide to Visiting the Ill* by Katie Maxwell. It is a good, basic book with practical tips for visiting shut-ins or those in the hospital. It gives a clear list of do's and don'ts for people who may feel unprepared about doing visitations.

Note: This information was provided by CFL's friend Jake Bennett, Chaplain at [Friendship Village Chesterfield](#), 15201 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017, phone: 636-733-0156,

email: bennettjake@fvchesterfield.com. He, and the staff at [Friendship Village](#), are experts in the care of older adults.