



## **Loving Our Neighbors Why Should I Care about the Elderly?**

1. Implementing our soul care initiatives to achieve deeper friendships within our church family.
2. As individual church members, growing in our ability to build stronger relationships with those who live right around us.
3. As a church family, developing our "parish mentality" to especially serve those who live near our two ministry campuses.
4. Launching our Faith Community Development Corporation to serve urban neighborhoods with excellence.
5. Constructing the first phase of our Senior Living Community.

3 reasons we should value and seek to love those who are older in our church family and community

### **I. Because They Have Found Their Strength in God in the Past – 1-6**

A. The importance of deciding who/what you will trust

**Psalm 71:1** - *In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be ashamed.*

**Psalm 71:5-6** - *For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth. By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You.*

**Psalm 20:7** (ESV) - *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

B. The confidence that comes in finding God to be your rock

**Psalm 71:3** - *Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.*

**Psalm 40:1-3** - *I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

### **II. Because They Are in Special Need of God's Strength Today – 7-13**

A. The unique challenges that come with old age

**Psalm 71:9** - *Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.*

**Ecclesiastes 12:1-5** - *Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": While the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down; when the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows grow dim; When the doors are shut in the streets, and the sound of*

*grinding is low; when one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of music are brought low. Also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; when the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets.*

B. The belief that God will always be near and provide help

**Psalm 71:12** - *O God, do not be far from me; O my God, hasten to my help!*

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### **III. Because They Can Help Us Magnify God's Strength to the Next Generation**

**Psalm 71:18** - *And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come.*