

News Story Summary

In a recent article, Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd challenged churches to value leaders from every generation. He pointed out that in the current group of men and women that are running for President of the United States, “three are in their mid-to-late 40s, four are in their 50s; nine are their 60s, and four are in their 70s. Of these, the top two candidates in the polls presently in both parties are in their 60s and 70s.” Floyd concludes by saying:

If America can value those older generationally and the value they bring to leadership, surely our churches and our Southern Baptist Convention should do so even more. Moses was not even lifted up to leading the people of God until he was 80 years old. All generations add value. We need big leaders and all generations in the SBC.

(Full article available at <http://www.bpnews.net/45598/firstperson-we-need-all-generations>)

Focus Attention

Write the session title “When God Calls” on the board. Direct attention to the title, and ask, “If this was the beginning of a sentence, how would you end the sentence?” Allow for responses, such as, “Respond. Listen. Go. Run.” Ask: *Is there an age limit on this? Is there a point at which God stops calling?*

Summarize the article from Ronnie Floyd, emphasizing the ages of presidential candidates as well as the quote. Say: *Dr. Floyd mentions Moses. Does anyone know how old Abraham was when God called him?* Allow for responses, and encourage group members to listen for the right answer in today’s session. Challenge them to consider how God may be calling them to serve Him as well.

Challenge

Remind group members of Dr. Floyd’s quote: “If America can value those older generationally and the value they bring to leadership, surely our churches and our Southern Baptist Convention should do so even more.”

Comment that Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to leave the familiar and set off on a new adventure. None of us are too old to start something new. Close by praying that your group would be ready to respond when God calls, regardless of how old or young they may be.