

**Discussion Guide for the 1949 Baptist Video
“Groundbreaking of the Culpeper Home for the Aged”**

Video available on LifeSpire’s [YouTube Channel](https://youtu.be/VdEL7qC8hEA):
<https://youtu.be/VdEL7qC8hEA>

Facilitator Tip: View the video as a group, then ask the following questions to encourage discussion. Answers are provided for your reference.

In the video, the year was 1945. Pastor J. T. Edwards shared his vision “to create a Christ-centered home to care for Virginia’s aging adults.” Three years later, the Baptist General Association established the state’s first home for retirees. Edwards called it “a new ministry for seniors.”

Q. Establishing homes for senior adults may have been important 75 years ago, but is there still a need today?

A. Yes – perhaps more than ever before! The number of retirees has increased in recent years as Baby Boomers have aged. Improved healthcare also has increased longevity. Today’s seniors—including some of our members—have a growing need for safe and secure housing, as well as quality healthcare services and community support.

Miss Douglas Oliver, representing the Women’s Missionary Union, said that women especially appreciated their religious liberty and “realized that those who will come to this home will be loved pastors and their wives, many devoted women who have pioneered and served through the years in the missionary societies ...” She referred to them as “heroes and heroines.”

Q. That was 1949. Should today’s seniors still be considered heroes and heroines?

A. Yes, they are heroes and heroines since they paved way for us! They led our churches, taught our children, nursed our families. They are servants who desire and deserve to age with grace and dignity. Their needs give us another opportunity to be on mission for Christ.

Q. In today’s business world, can any senior community really operate as a “ministry”?

A. Yes. Though some operate solely for profit, there are [nonprofit communities](#) that truly stand out. These nonprofits minister to seniors in Christ-like ways, based on their mission and scripture.

Psalm 71:9 reminds us: “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.” Other verses in Psalms and Proverbs also remind us that we are to honor elders, pastors, and widows since “Gray hair is a crown of glory, gained in a righteous life.”

In the video, Dr. R. F. Cavarlee said, “All you have to do is look about you. Every church ... has in it someone who would profit by the ministry of our homes.”

Q. Would you, or someone you know, benefit by living in a retirement community whose focus is not profit ... but rather, peace of mind, wellness, and safety with opportunities for fun and fulfillment?

A. LifeSpire may be the solution. LifeSpire’s nonprofit retirement communities nourish residents’ body, mind, and spirit through quality care, faithful service, and the ideals of family.

Q. From that first 1949 home for the aged, Pastor Edward’s mission has grown to four communities. Previously, they were called Virginia Baptist Homes. Now they are LifeSpire of Virginia. Have you heard about LifeSpire’s four communities across the state?

A. The Culpeper In Culpeper ... amid the Blue Ridge Mountains and Skyline Drive
The Glebe In Daleville ... with views of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains
The Chesapeake In Newport News ... on a picturesque peninsula in coastal Virginia
Lakewood In Richmond ... where suburban comfort blends with urban amenities

Q. Have you heard - LifeSpire recently released [new mission, vision and value statements!](#)

A. Our new mission, vision and value statements will serve as a guide for the present and future of the organization. They are principles for every LifeSpire employee to embody and strive to achieve each and every day.

Mission – Empowering Individuals with choices in purposeful living.

Vision – Vibrant living where fair, wellness and community flourish.

Core Values – Faith, Servant-Leadership, Stewardship, Integrity, Peace of Mind, Innovation, Joy

If you—or a loved one—are considering a retirement community, a LifeSpire representative can help. Since that first Virginia Baptist Home in 1948, LifeSpire has built an award-winning legacy of service ... including benevolence that enables residents to stay in their homes, even when they outlive their financial means. LifeSpire can help connect you with a community that you can proudly call “home.” for more information visit www.LifeSpireLiving.org .