


*Practices and Models of Family
& Intergenerational Faith
Formation & Strategies for
Implementation*

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Topics

1. Importance of Families in Faith Formation
2. 2023 Family Survey Results
3. Models of Family & IG Faith Formation
4. Family & IG Learning Process
5. Pathways to Family & IG Faith Formation
6. Planning



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Importance of Families in Faith Formation

#1. Parents are the most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people.

- faith and practice
- close and warm relationship
- modeling & teaching
- involvement in church life

#2. The primary way by which a religious identity becomes rooted in children's lives are the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities.

#3. The family is the primary community where Christian faith practices are nurtured and practiced.

- Praying
- Serving
- Reading the Bible
- Talking about faith
- Providing moral instruction
- Celebrating

4. The quality of a parent's relationships with their children or teens and the parenting style they practice make a significant difference in faith transmission.

- Warm relationships
- Religious firmness and flexibility
- Talking about religious matters
- Listening more, preaching less
- Authoritative parenting

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2023 Family Faith Formation Survey

408 churches

How effectively does your church implement the following practices:

1. Our church provides experiences for the whole family that promote growth in faith and discipleship.
2. Our church provides families with resources to nurture growth in Christian faith and practice at home.
3. Our church helps parents (or caregivers) grow in faith and discipleship, and practice a vital and informed Christian faith.
4. Our church teaches parents the practices for forming faith at home (celebrating rituals and milestones, praying, serving, learning the Christian faith, reading the Bible)

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2023 Family Faith Formation Survey

How effectively does your church implement the following practices:

5. Our church connects with families at home through social media and a website with content for family faith practices and parent formation.
6. Our church helps grandparents grow in faith and discipleship, and practice a vital and informed Christian faith.
7. Our church equips parents with the knowledge and skills for parenting today.
8. Our church teaches grandparents the practices for forming faith at home.

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2023 Family Faith Formation Survey

Types of family faith formation programming offered:

1. Family large group programs at church (monthly or seasonal) [240 churches]
2. Family-centered sacramental preparation programs
3. At-home family activities (Bible reading, prayers, devotions, rituals, service, etc.)

4. Family service projects and/or mission trips
5. Online resources and courses for parents
6. Parent workshops
7. Family cluster or small group programs
8. Family-centered lectionary-based Scripture reflection

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2023 Family Faith Formation Survey

Types of family faith formation programming offered:

- ✓ Family-centered VBS
- ✓ Family retreats and camps
- ✓ Mentoring for parents
- ✓ Family Bible study
- ✓ Grandparent workshops or webinars
- ✓ Parent webinars (online)

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2023 IG Faith Formation Survey

How effectively does your church implement the following practices:

1. Our church brings all generations together in Sunday/weekend worship, including children and youth.
2. Our church engages all generations in leadership roles in Sunday worship (music, reading, praying, etc.)
3. Our church builds caring relationships among the generations through existing church ministries and events (e.g., through worship, learning, service, and community events and activities).
4. Our church creates intentional opportunities for bringing the generations together to build relationships and engage in shared activities.
5. Our church regularly brings all generations together in actions that serve the poor and vulnerable, locally, and globally.

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2023 IG Faith Formation Survey

How effectively does your church implement the following practices:

6. Our church regularly brings together all generations to nurture their spiritual life through prayer and spiritual practices and disciplines.
7. Our church regularly brings all generations together in actions that promote justice and advocacy, locally and globally.
8. Our church regularly brings together the generations to learn from each other, share their faith stories, and find support for practicing their faith in daily life.

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2023 IG Faith Formation Survey

Types of IG faith formation programming offered:

1. Seasonal/occasional intergenerational program [188 churches]
2. Intergenerational service projects or mission trips
3. Monthly intergenerational learning program
4. Small group intergenerational learning program
5. Weekly or bi-weekly intergenerational learning program
6. Intergenerational mentoring
7. Intergenerational lectionary-based Scripture reflection
8. Intergenerational retreats or camps
9. Intergenerational Bible study

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Family & IG Learning Process

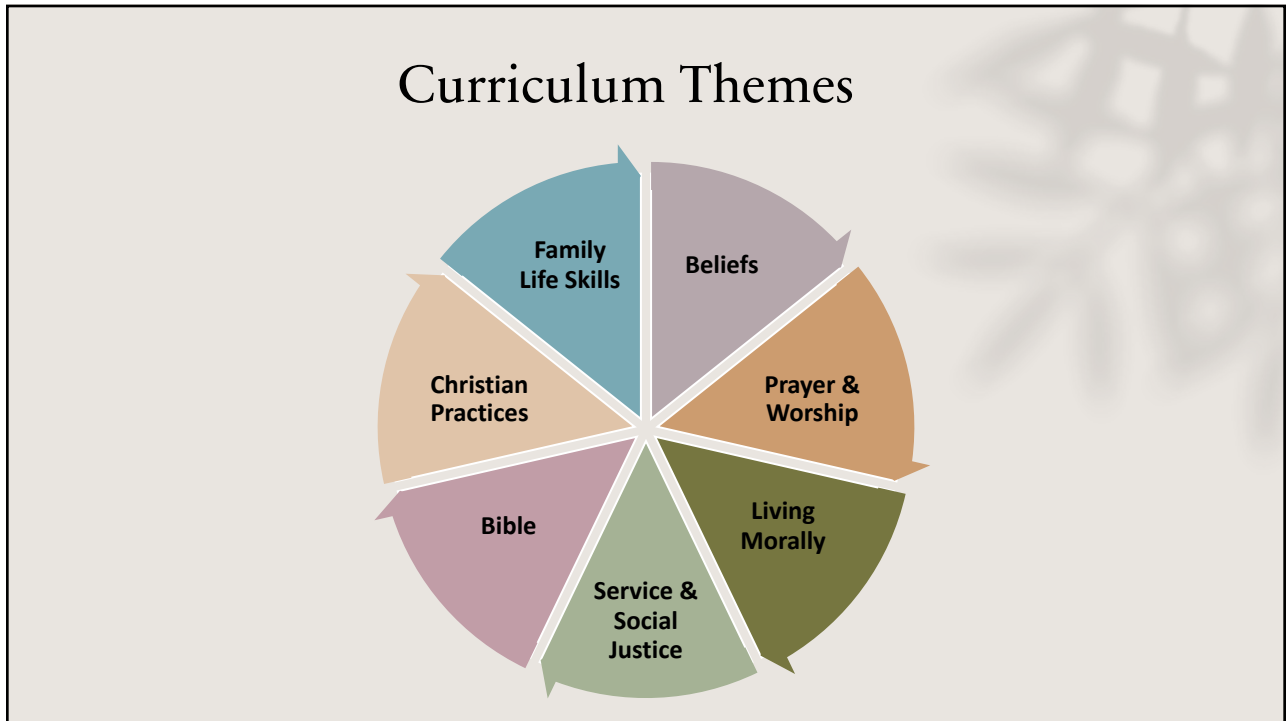
1. A shared meal
2. Shared prayer experience
3. A whole family learning experience on the topic of the program with content and methods appropriate to an all-ages audience
4. In-depth learning
 - a) whole family learning together with activities appropriate to all ages
 - b) parallel learning with learning activities for age groups and parents
 - c) learning activity centers with whole family and age-specific learning
5. A closing whole family activity to discover how to apply their learning to daily life using resources and activities provided in print or digital formats.

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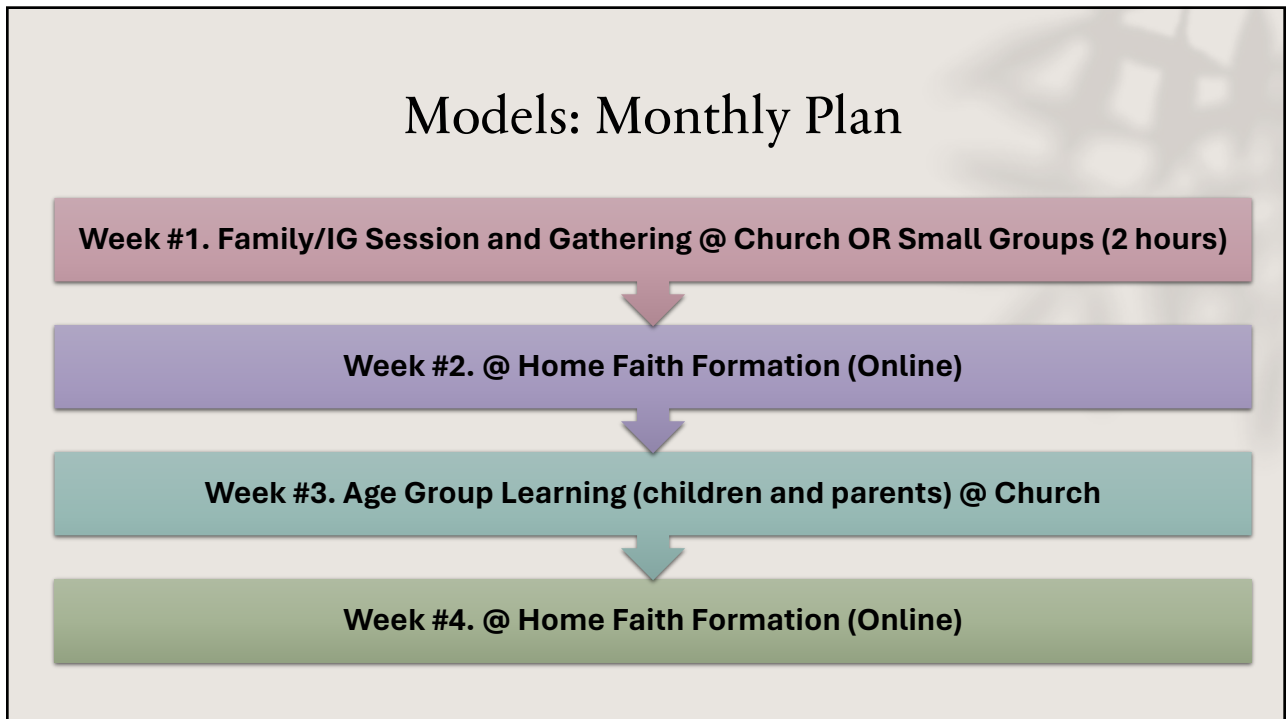
Models of Family & IG Faith Formation

<p>Primary Model for Faith Formation</p> <p>Families with children through middle school OR All Generations</p> <p>Monthly Twice monthly Weekly</p>	<p>Family Faith Formation within an Intergenerational Model</p>	<p>Seasonal Gatherings or Workshops</p> <p>Church Year Seasons: Advent, Lent</p> <p>Fall - Winter - Spring</p>
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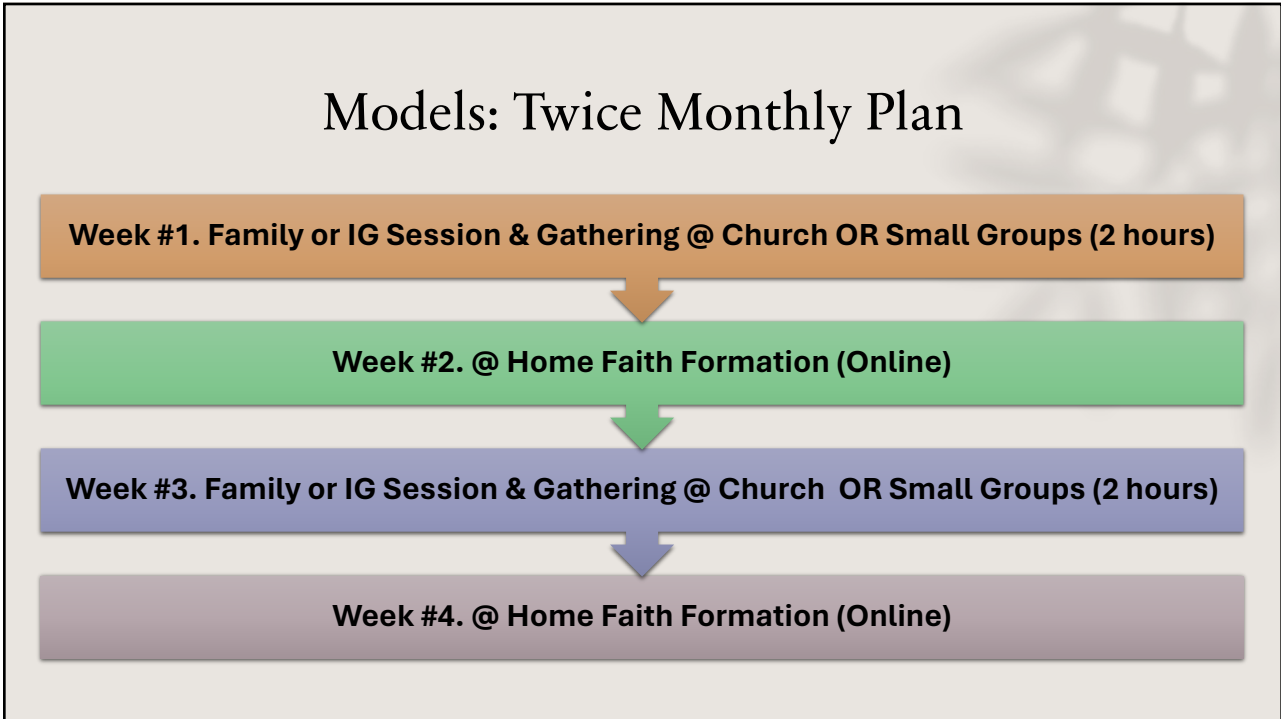
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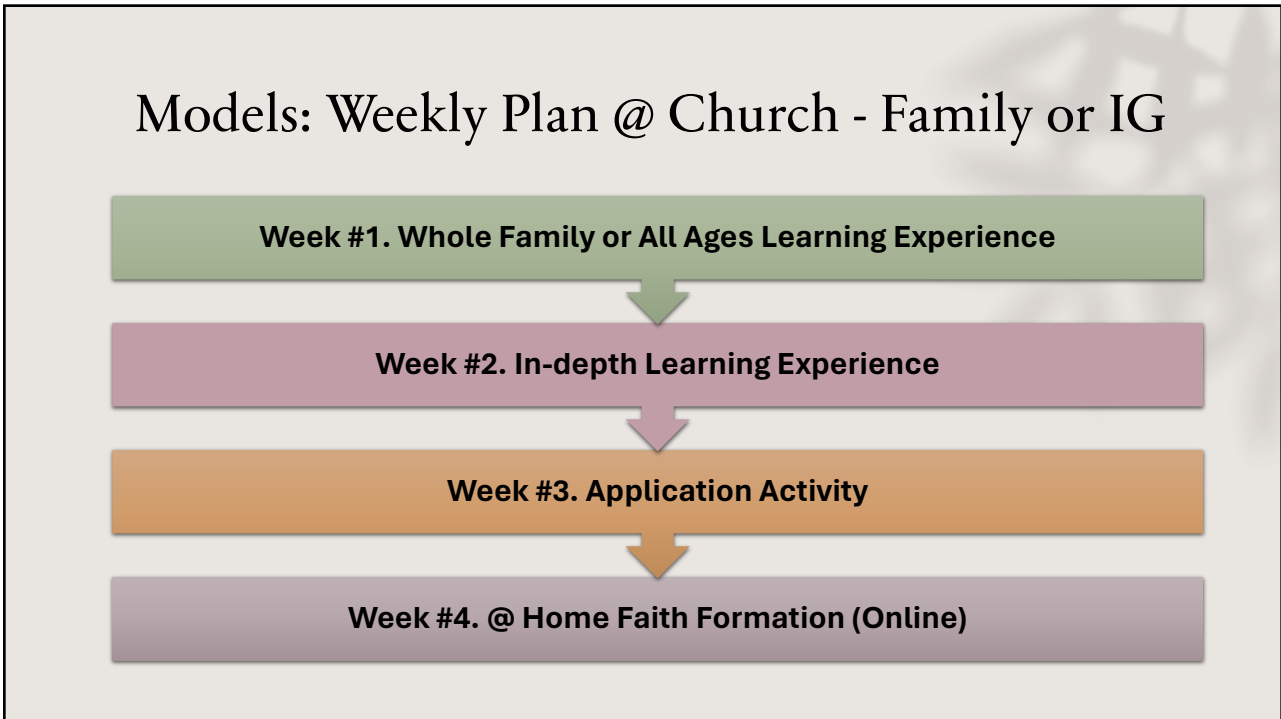
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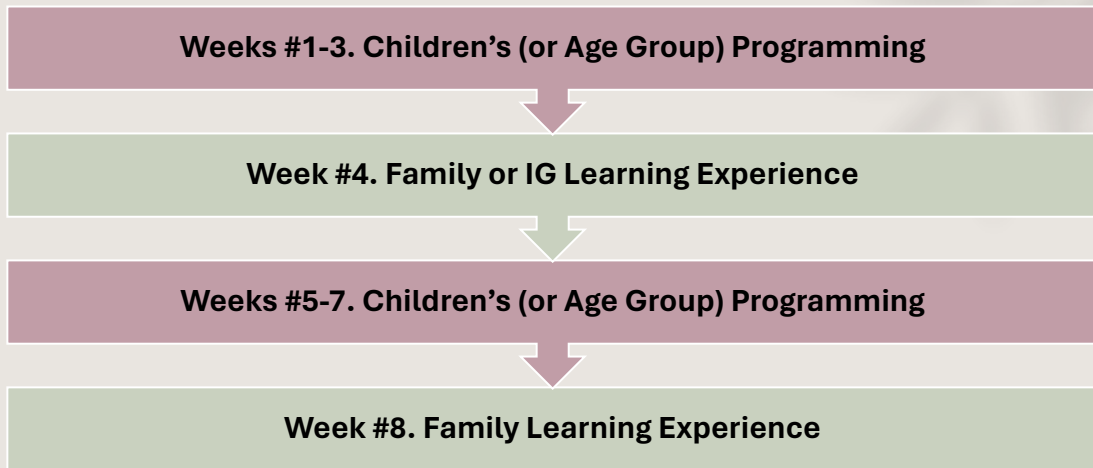


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Models: Integrated with Age Group Programming



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MessyChurchUSA.org

WELCOME TO
MESSY CHURCH, USA



A way of being church for all-ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities. Found throughout the globe. Based on the values of all-ages together, celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ



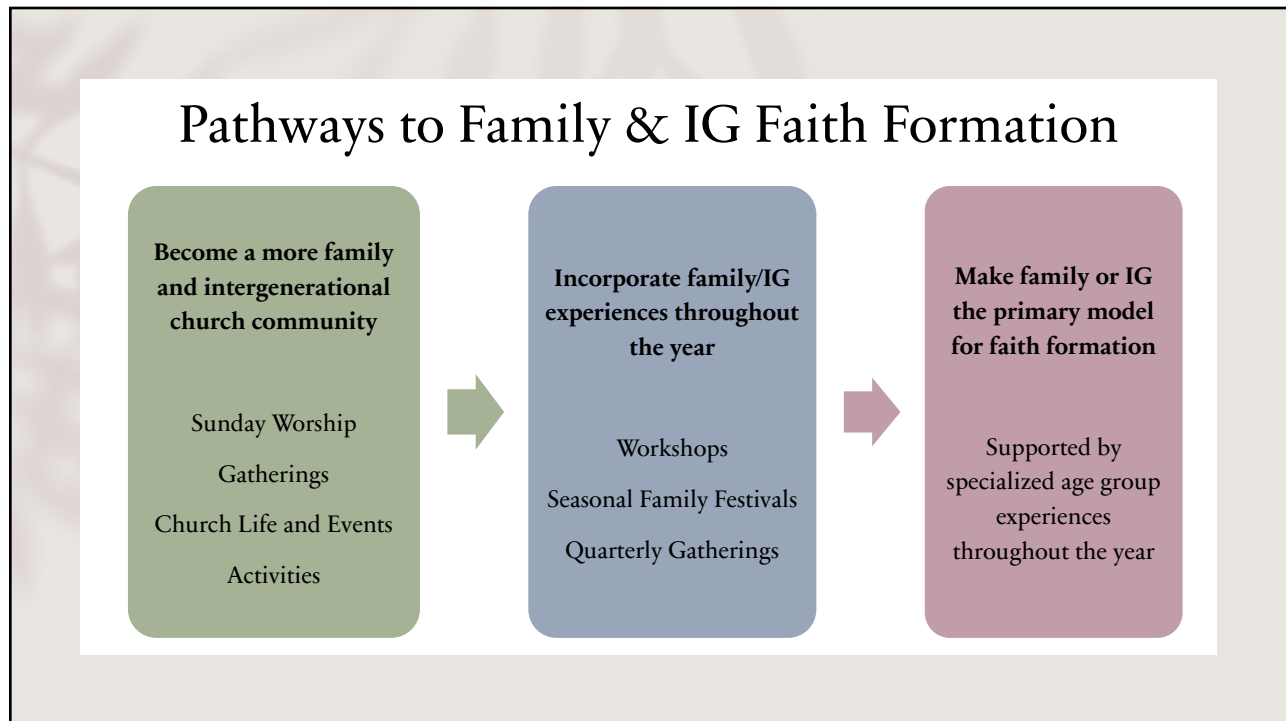
IntergenerationalFaith.com

intergenerational

The Learning Programs

- Christian Practices (5 sessions)
- Creed and Beliefs (6 sessions)
- Jesus and Discipleship (6 sessions)
- Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation (5 sessions)
- Moral Living (5 sessions)
- Prayer (6 sessions)
- Catholic Sacraments (6 sessions)

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Developing a Plan

Expanding Ideas. . . .

- Add a whole family or IG session – every 6 weeks - into your children’s program on one of the core themes in the curriculum
- Offer a Fall – Winter – Spring Family Workshop on family life skills applicable to the whole family (children and teens)
- Design a VBS experience for the whole family or the whole community
- Design a service experience for the whole family or all generations

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Developing a Plan

Transforming Ideas. . . .

- Implement a family or IG learning model as the primary model for faith formation
 - Large group gathering at church and/or family clusters of 6-10 families in homes
 - Hybrid: @church, @home, @online
 - Weekly, Twice-Monthly, Monthly
 - Content: Scripture, Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, Church Year Seasons, Christian Practices, and more

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Creating a Plan

- ✓ **Short-Term Planning** – ideas that can be integrated into existing programs or can be designed and implemented in one year
- ✓ **Mid-Term Planning** – ideas that need more design time and that can be implemented within one or two years
- ✓ **Long-Term Planning** – ideas that need design time, piloting and testing, and then implementation over several years

