

Designing Family Faith Formation

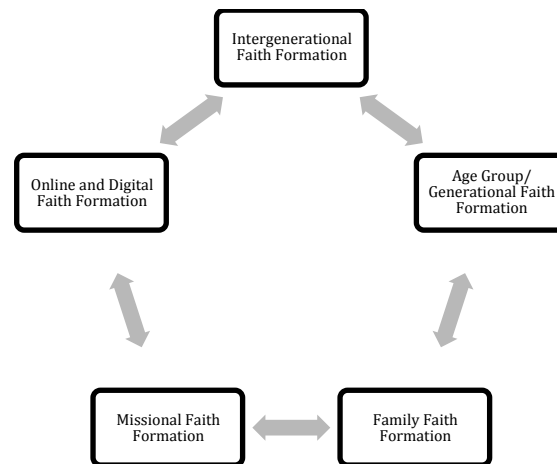
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Websites

1. www.LifelongFaith.com
2. www.21stcenturyfaithformation.com
3. www.intergenerationalfaith.com
4. www.curatingfaithformation.com
5. <http://holytrinityfamilies.weebly.com>
6. www.faithformationlearningexchange.net
7. www.weebly.com
8. <http://vibrantfaithathome.org>

A New Faith Formation Ecosystem

1. *Intergenerational faith formation in the congregation*
2. *Age group and generational faith formation in a variety of physical places and online spaces*
3. *Family faith formation at home*
4. *Missional faith formation to the spiritual but not religious and the unaffiliated*
5. *Online and digital faith formation*



Family Faith Formation at Home

Congregations equip families to become centers of learning and faith growth at home by nurturing family faith and developing the faith life of parents and grandparents, strengthening family life by focusing on family asset-building, and developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents (and grandparents) for parenting. There are five elements in a family faith formation curriculum for the home:

1. *Nurturing family faith at home* by utilizing the eight faith forming processes as the primary content – knowledge, experiences, practices, and resources – developed from events of church life, as well as specially designed family resources.
2. *Building strong families* by developing family assets:
 - a) *nurturing relationships* (positive communication, affection, emotional openness, encouragement for pursuing talents and interests)
 - b) *establishing routines* (family meals, shared activities, meaningful traditions – holidays, rituals, celebrations, dependability)
 - c) *maintaining expectations* (openness about tough topics, fair rules, defined boundaries, clear expectations, contributions to family)
 - d) *adapting to challenges* (management of daily commitments, adaptability problem-solving, democratic decision-making)
 - e) *connecting to the community* (neighborhood cohesion, relationship with others in the community, participating in enriching activities, supportive resources in the community). (*The American Family Asset Study*, Search Institute)
3. *Parent faith formation* through participation in intergenerational faith formation at church and church life, and through targeted programs of theological and biblical formation for parents and grandparents.

4. *Parenting for faith growth training* to equip parents with knowledge, skills, and resources to develop the faith life of their children and practice faith at home as a family.
5. *Parenting education* that develops the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents (and grandparents) for parenting children and teens, with a special focus on parent practices such as love and affection, stress management, relationship skills, respect, promoting and modeling learning, life skills, behavior management, healthy lifestyle, supporting spiritual and religious development and practice, and protection and safety.

Forming Family Faith

1. **Caring Relationships.** Growing in faith and discipleship through caring relationships across generations and in a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love – in the congregation and family.
2. **Celebrating the Liturgical Seasons.** Growing in faith and discipleship by experiencing the feasts and seasons of the church year as they tell the story of faith through the year in an organic and natural sequence of faith learning.
3. **Celebrating Rituals and Milestones.** Growing in faith and discipleship by celebrating rituals, sacraments, and milestones that provide a way to experience God’s love through significant moments in one’s life journey and faith journey .
4. **Reading the Bible.** Growing in faith and discipleship by encountering God in the Bible, and by studying and interpreting the Bible – its message, its meaning, and its application to life today.
5. **Learning the Christian Tradition and Applying It to Life.** Growing in faith and discipleship by learning the content of the tradition, reflecting upon that content, integrating it into one’s faith life, applying it to life today, and living its meaning in the world.
6. **Praying, Devotions, and Spiritual Formation.** Growing in faith and discipleship through personal and communal prayer, and being formed by the spiritual disciplines.
7. **Serving and Justice.** Growing in faith and discipleship by living the Christian mission in the world – engaging in service to those in need, care for God’s creation, and action and advocacy for justice.
8. **Worshipping God.** Growing in faith and discipleship by worshipping God with the community of faith – praising God; giving thanks for God’s creative and redemptive work in the world; bringing our human joys and dilemmas to God; experiencing God’s living presence through Scripture, preaching, and Eucharist; and being sent forth on mission.

Strategies

- Strategy 1. Utilize church ministries and programming to teach, model, and demonstrate family faith practices, and then provide the resources for families to live the practice at home.
- Strategy 2. Involve the whole family in congregational life, programs, and leadership roles.
- Strategy 3. Offer family and intergenerational learning programs, as well as parent-child/teen programs.
- Strategy 4. Develop family faith formation around life-cycle milestones.
- Strategy 5. Offer a variety of developmentally-appropriate family or parent-teen service projects.
- Strategy 6. Provide at-home resources for the core family faith practices.
- Strategy 7. Use the Internet to resource and connect families.
- Strategy 8. Focus on parents – parent faith formation and parental training.

Online

Blended Faith Formation Continuum

Face-to-Face

Fully Online	Mostly Online	Online and Gathered	Gathered and Online Content	Gathered with Online Content
An online program with all learning done online and limited face-to-face, gathered learning settings	A mostly online program with opportunities for regular interaction in face-to-face, gathered settings	Online learning focused on presenting the content of the program <i>combined with</i> face-to-face, gathered sessions using active learning methods to discuss, practice and apply the content.	A gathered event or program that provides online content and activities to extend and expand the learning from the gathered program	A gathered event or program that uses online content as part of the design of the event or program