

A Faith Formation Planning Clinic

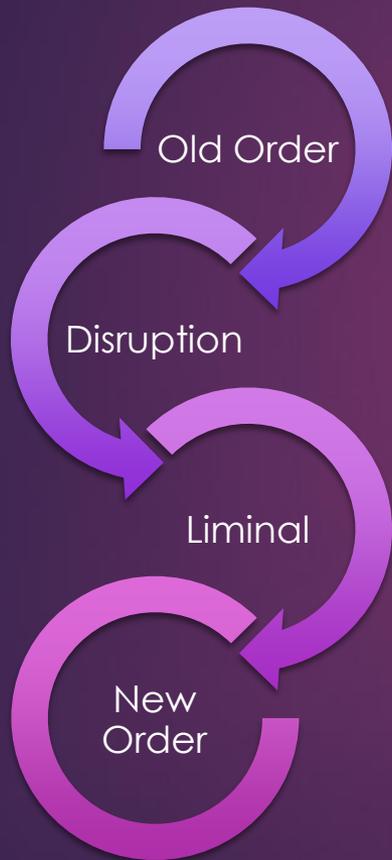


CATZEL LAVECCHIA, MAPM, MARE

What have you learned?

- ▶ **Share one word or phrase that sticks with you from the last 5 webinars** (*You can type it in the chat or unmute yourself and share*)
- ▶ **4 steps for today**
 - ▶ **Building Capacity for Faith Formation**
 - ▶ **Evaluation processes and methods**
 - ▶ **Technology - new ideas**
 - ▶ **How do you put a plan together?**

Where Are We Today?



Liminal space - comes from the Latin root, *limen*, which means “threshold.”

The liminal space is the “crossing over” space – a space where you have left something behind, and you are not yet fully in something else. ... It shakes us out of habit and invites us to change...it is an Invitation to surrender and to be transformed

What We're Learning

Focusing on People (First)

Expanding Vision of Church & Faith
Formation

Using New Hybrid Approaches

Being Synchronous & Asynchronous

Being Mobile

Using Traditional Tools in New Ways

Connecting through Social Media

How Will We Move into the Future?

Will churches try to return to business as usual in faith formation—returning to the approaches, curriculum, programming, settings, and schedules they used prior to March 2020?

OR

Will leaders listen to the needs of their people and their situation today; identify how their lives have been impacted by the pandemic and the issues, struggles, joys, and challenges they face; discern how to respond to this new context; and then develop new and innovative faith formation—content, approaches, methods, media—that responds to people today?

How will you respond?

Focusing on “How Shall We Live Now?”

As we enter the new post-pandemic world, the church has the opportunity to help people of all ages answer the question

“How shall we live now?”

The pandemic has disrupted our lives in ways that we have only begun to name. Everyone is searching for meaning and purpose – now in this new un-chartered post-pandemic world.

- ◆ **What are the approaches, resources, people, and wisdom we need to address this question?**
- ◆ **How can we form people in a Christian way of life today?**

Promoting the Well-being of People

There is a tremendous opportunity for churches and faith formation to focus on wellbeing through pastoral care, community life, support groups, educational programs/activities, and resources.

- ◆ How can you listen for the anxieties, stresses, struggles, and worries of people of all ages, and especially of children, teens, and parents?
- ◆ How can the church community and faith formation proactively address the mental health needs of individuals and parents, and promote their sense of wellbeing, purpose, and meaning in life?

Addressing the Injustices & Inequalities in U.S. Society

This is a tremendous opportunity for the church community to join with the younger generations—to work as partners in transforming the world. This is a great opportunity for intergenerational connection and action—the young and old working together for justice.

- ◆ How can you listen to the stories and struggles of people experiencing injustice?
- ◆ How can you observe and analyze the social forces in your community (and the nation) that give rise to injustice?
- ◆ How can the church community and faith formation educate people of all ages in a faith that does justice and engage them in transformative actions—personal, communal, and systemic—that address injustice: racism, economic inequality, climate change, immigration?

Embracing Hybrid Lives & Hybrid Christian Communities

We can design new **hybrid** models of faith formation that integrate in-person gatherings at church or in family groups or in small group meetings with online playlists that provide a menu of learning experiences on the theme of the program.

Hybrid models of faith formation are more resilient, flexible, and adaptable—just what we need to respond to the challenges of change in our world and in lives of our people!

- ◆ How can the church community and faith formation create, strengthen and/or expand hybrid initiatives that utilize in-person settings with online platforms and digital tools (Synchronous and Asynchronous), methods, and media for nurturing relationships, growing spiritually, worshipping, learning, and engaging in ministry in the post-pandemic world?



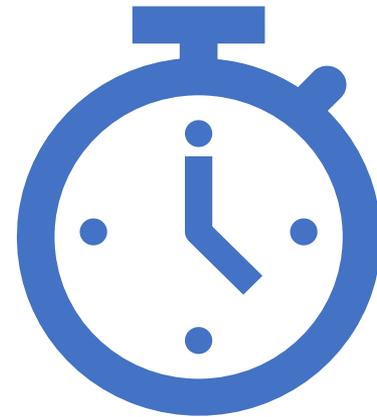
Reconnecting the Generations

This may be the moment when your church makes a commitment to become more *intentionally* intergenerational (no more age silos) in all that it does.

- ◆ Transforming multigenerational into intergenerational
- ◆ Transforming age-specific into intergenerational
- ◆ Designing new intergenerational initiatives.
- ◆ Engaging with the neighborhood community intergenerationally

Time to
Reinvent
Faith
Formation

*Blame it
on the
Pandemic*



Building Capacity for Faith Formation

- ▶ **How do we become capacity builders?**
- ▶ **We develop our organization's strengths and sustainability.**
- ▶ **We look to improve and enhance our ability to achieve our mission!**
- ▶ **Uncover and discover assets and strengths of the community, the wider church, online, etc.**
- ▶ **Seek to improve the church's ability to achieve its mission and sustain itself over time – by looking at**
Leadership, finances, facilities, communication, technology, partnerships with other churches and community organizations, and programmatic resources in all forms.

Building Capacity for Faith Formation

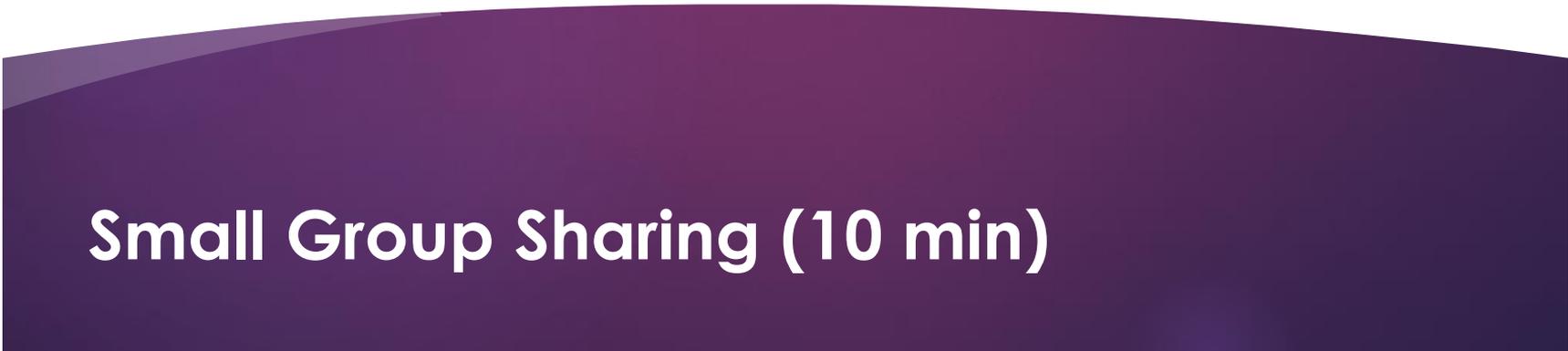
- ▶ **Do a capacity assessment**
- ▶ **Curate new resources- there is a lot of free material out there!**
- ▶ **Develop Leaders Well**
 - **Use a leadership checklist or survey**
 - **Use a Ministries Guide and Gifts Inventory and match people**
 - **Equip and empower them, train them**
 - **See John Roberto's article on Capacity Building for resources**



What are you thinking so far?

How can you move your programs and parish into the future?

What steps do you need to take to build your capacity for Faith Formation?



Small Group Sharing (10 min)

Where do you want to innovate?

- ▶ - Stop doing something
- ▶ - Redesign something
- ▶ - Sustain something
- ▶ - Initiate something new



How can you adapt?

For Whom?

- * Age Group
- * Families
- * All Generations
- * Target Audience

With What?

- * New Approach or Program
- * New Methods & Media
 - * New Technology
- * New Space or Location

Building a More Adaptive, Responsive, Resilient, Flexible Faith Formation

1. Informed by research on forming faith
2. Focusing on goals for **faith maturing**
3. Embracing **holistic faith formation**: intergenerational, family, and life stages
4. **Scheduling in seasonal menus** with a variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces
5. Programming with **three models & three spaces**: online, hybrid, and physical
6. Personalizing through **playlists** of faith forming content and experiences
7. **Evaluate and get feedback along the way**

Begin with WHY: Goals for Maturing in Faith

Jesus

- Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ

Discipleship

- Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life

Bible

- Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today

Teachings

- Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Catholic faith and integrating its meaning into one's life

Praying

- Praying—together and by ourselves—and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

Begin with WHY: Goals for Maturing in Faith

Morality

- Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values

Serving Justice

- Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.

Worship

- Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year

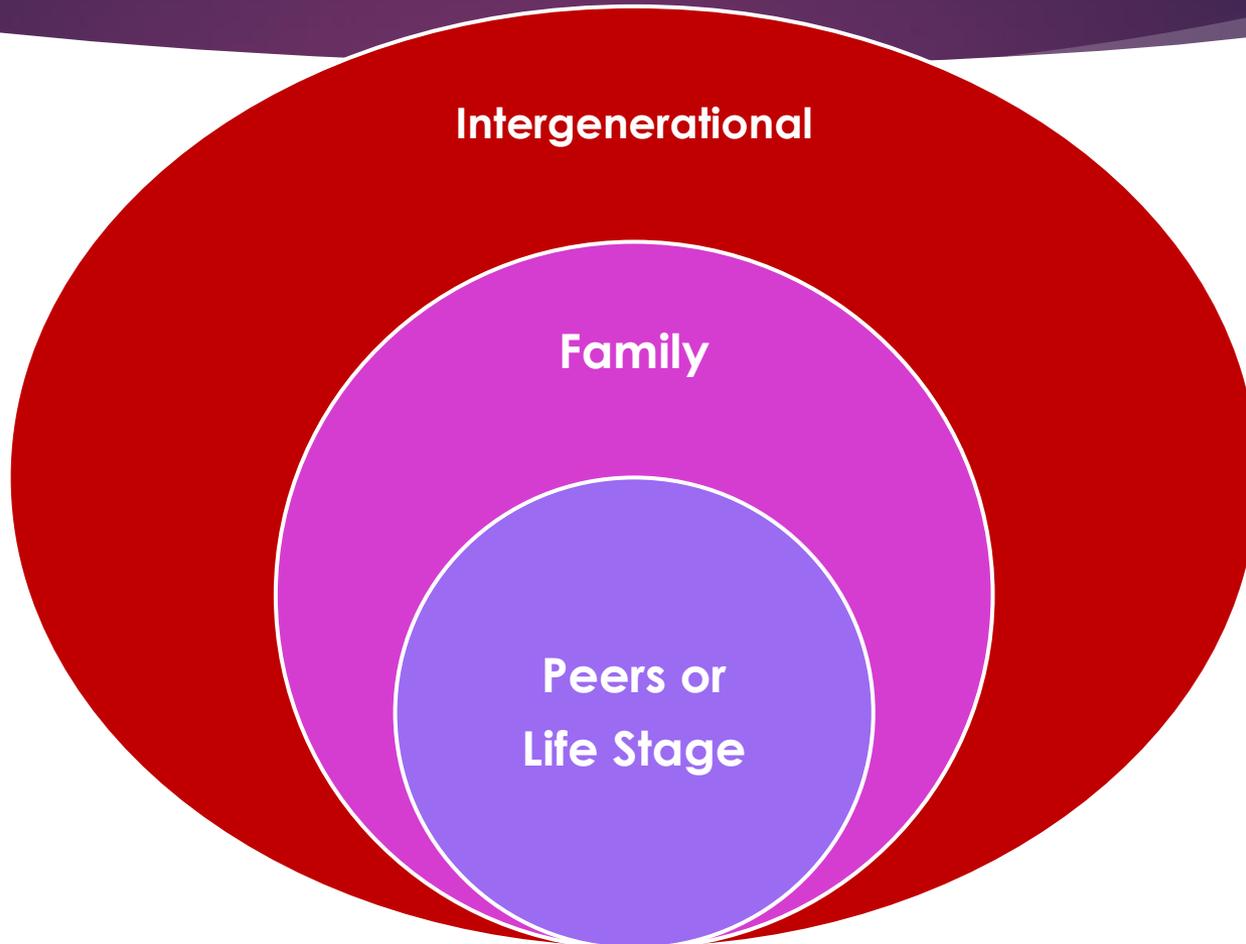
Engagement

- Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community

Gifts

- Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Embracing Holistic Formation

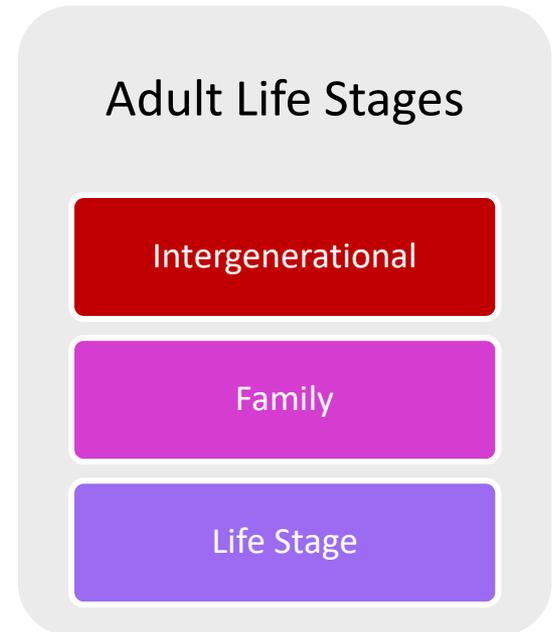
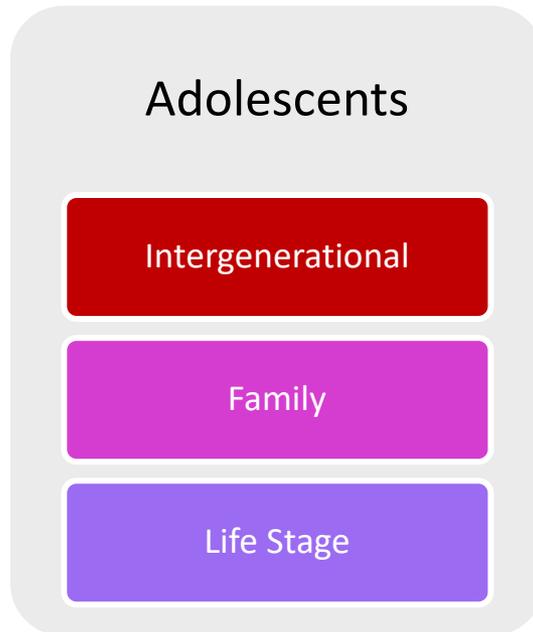
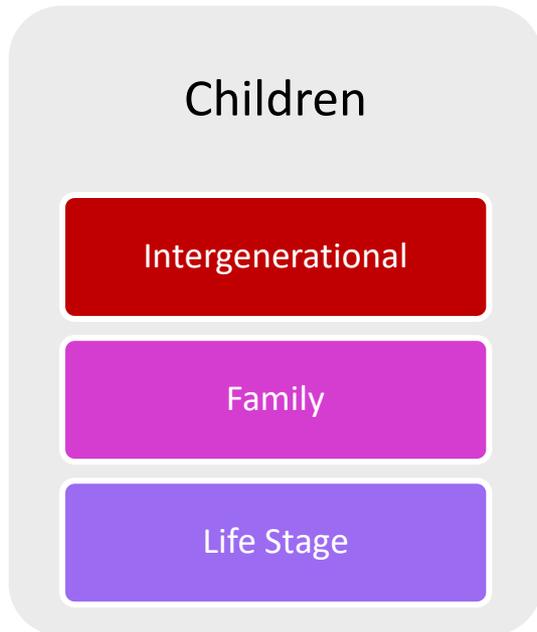
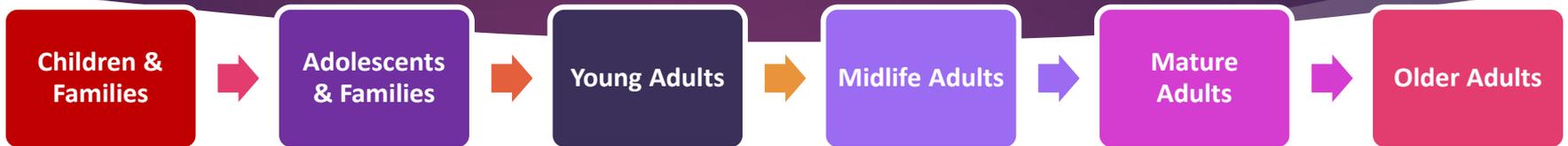


One Goal, Many Methods & Media



Holistic & Lifelong

Three Kinds of Faith Forming Experiences



Holistic Faith Formation

Intergenerational

- Participate in several celebrations of Church year feasts & seasons
- Join the community in a service project
- Participate in a leadership role or church ministry

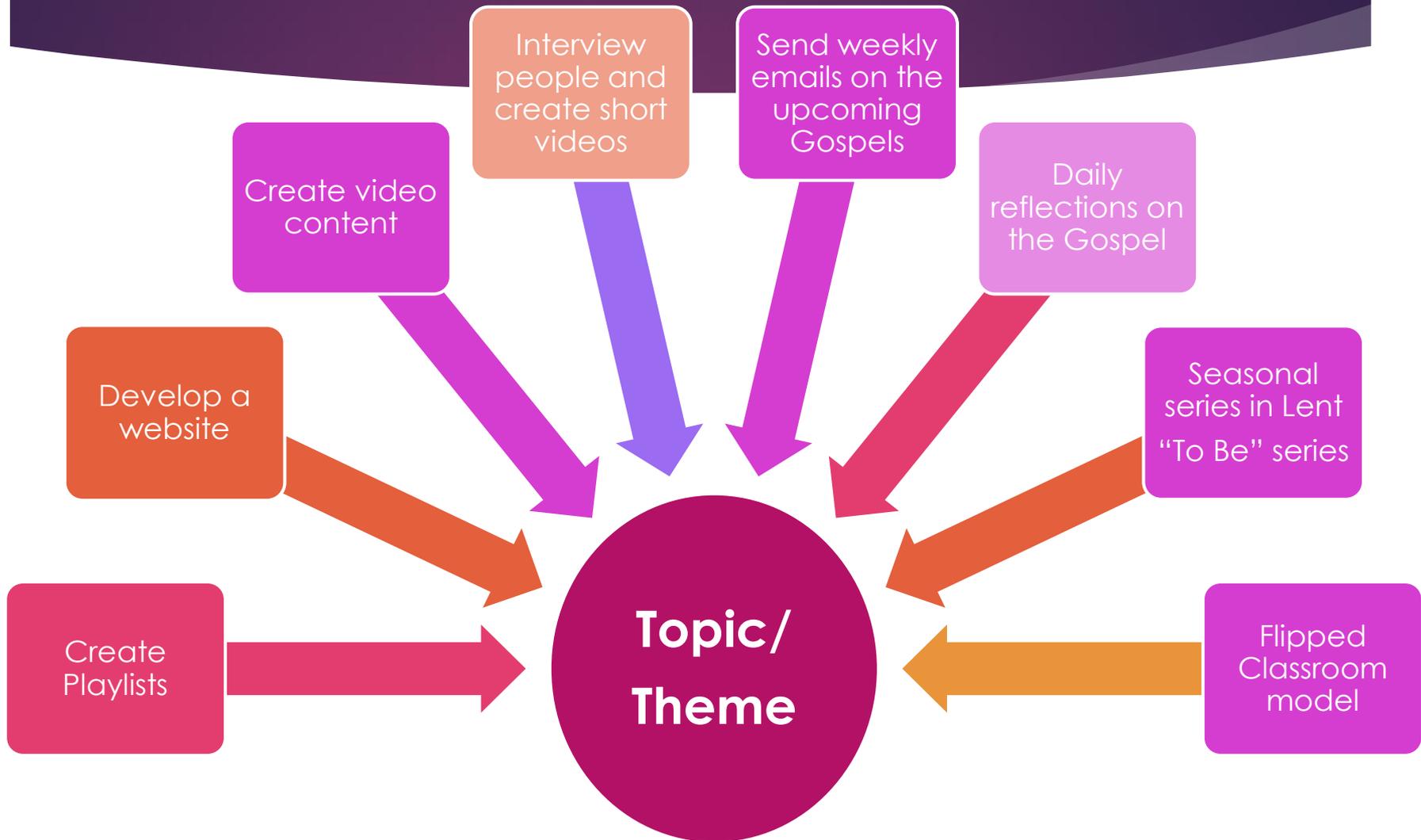
Family

- Develop a faith practice each season: prayer, Bible reading, etc.
- Celebrate church year seasons at home
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

Life Stage / Peer Specific

- Select one's participation in courses, workshops, retreats, vacation Bible school, service projects and mission trips, etc.

Use Technology



Online Programming

Livestream +
online faith
formation
through playlists

Livestream +
online faith
formation
through playlists
+ online small
group meetings

Online faith
formation
(playlist) +
online small
group meetings

Online,
asynchronous
faith formation
for individuals
and families
(playlists)

Hybrid Programming

In-person gathered
faith formation + at-
home online faith
formation (playlists)

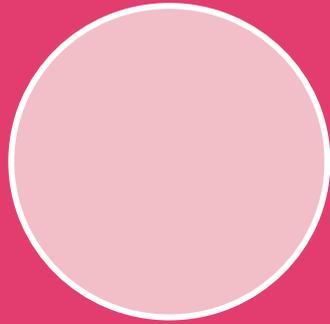
In-person gathered
+ at-home online
(playlists) + online
gatherings

In-person gathered
+ livestream or
video presentations
+ at-home online
(playlist)

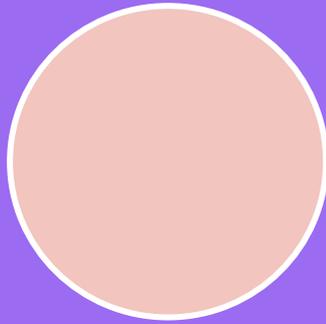
Online + in-person
small group
gatherings + playlist

Worship + online
faith formation
(weekly playlist)

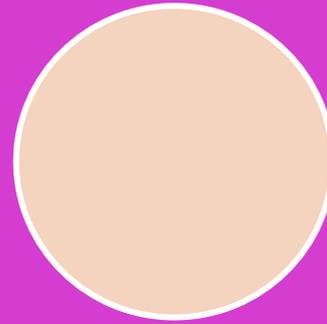
Diverse Religious Paths



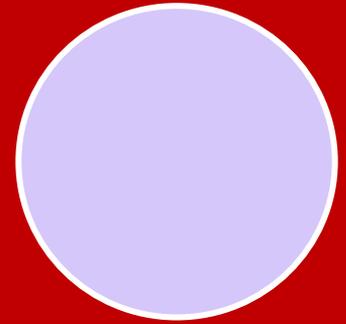
**Not Spiritual, Not
Religious**
Unaffiliated



**Spiritual but Not
Religious**
Uninvolved



**Moderate Faith
Practice &
Occasional
Engagement**
Occasionals



**Vibrant Faith &
Engagement at
the Center of Life**
Actives



Seasonal Menus

Seasons: Sept – Dec Jan – April May – Aug

Variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces



Programming	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Life Issues				
Spiritual Formation				
Scripture				
Theological Themes				
Justice & Service				
Seasons				
Prayer & Worship				

Building a More Adaptive, Responsive, Resilient, Flexible Faith Formation

Evaluate and get feedback along the way
How?

**Surveys, focus groups, file card – 2
questions, verbal one question at end of
session, texting apps, signs around the
room and people move, apps that collect
and tabulate data instantly and post
visually, etc.**



Innovation

Innovation

Enhance & Create



- ▶ Enhance current offerings and/or operations, e.g.,
 - ▶ offering one program in multiple formats (physical gathering, online, hybrid, and homeschooling) to accommodate the needs and safety concerns of people
 - ▶ utilizing digital technologies to deliver existing faith formation, such as live streaming and video conferencing
- ▶ Create new initiatives that generate growth or reach new audiences
 - ▶ family-centered faith formation at home or in family clusters
 - ▶ online faith formation with digital learning platforms, video gatherings, playlists of faith forming experiences to provide the programming content

PLANNING:

This past year what has been a strength? What has given you life? Where have you seen God work?

What are you re-thinking? What maybe needs to be left behind/pruned in order to move forward?

What are you excited about? What do you want to nurture?

What do you need to focus on as you prepare for the Fall?

Small Group Sharing (10 min)



Thank you!

Resources

www.LifelongFaith.com

Go to “Planning Clinic” under Webinar

Catzel@churchofpresentation.org

www.churchofpresentation.org

www.presentationathome.org