



*Faith Formation for All the Seasons of Life*

Archdiocese of Toronto Parish Ministry Conference 2019

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Presentation: Go to Workshops

Resources: Go to Practices



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- Learn practices, approaches, and strategies for forming disciples at every stage of life and designing and teaching faith formation programs that are more holistic and engaging.
- Learn how to use the newest educational methods in our catechetical programs to engage people more fully in faith forming experiences.
- Discover how to integrate intergenerational relationships and faith experiences into faith formation for all ages; and how to make families and family faith formation part of everything we do.
- Discover how to incorporate digital methods and media into faith formation with all ages.



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A decorative graphic consisting of three circles of different sizes and colors (blue, yellow, and grey) arranged in a horizontal line. To the right of these circles is a large, dark grey curved shape that resembles a quarter-circle or a stylized 'C' shape.

Foundations |

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The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. Starting with the “initial” conversion of a person to the Lord, moved by the Holy Spirit through the primary proclamation of the Gospel, catechesis seeks to solidify and mature this first adherence. It proposes to help those who have just converted “to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself: to know his 'mystery', the kingdom of God proclaimed by him, the requirements and comments contained in his Gospel message, and the paths that he has laid down for anyone who wishes to follow him.”  
*(General Directory for Catechesis, 80)*

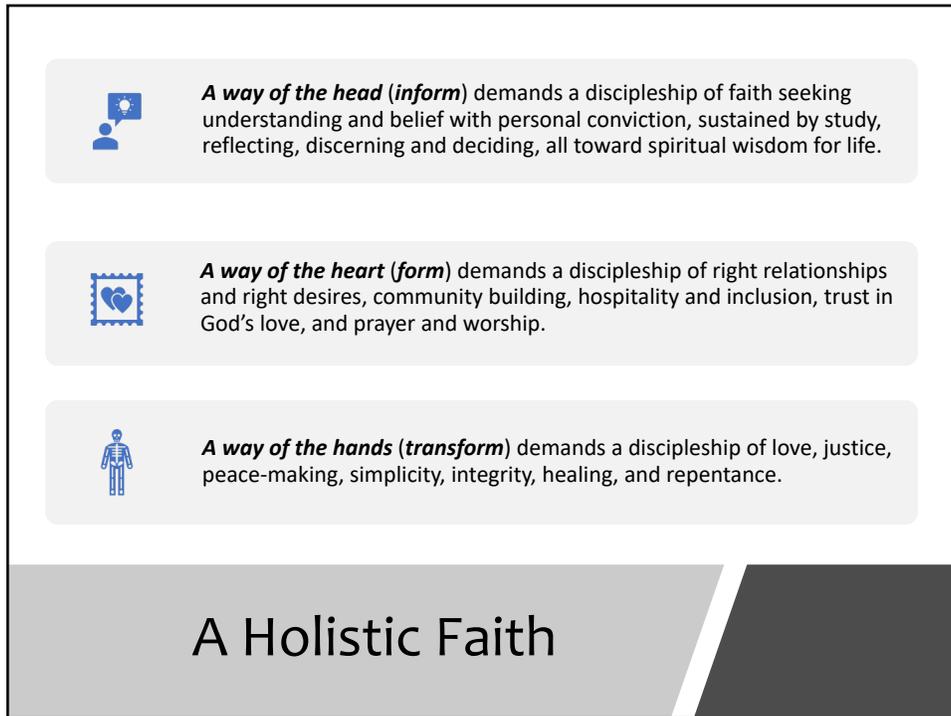


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The catechetical documents of the Church call us to develop faith formation that engages the whole person: heart, mind, and hands. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Mt 22:37-39) Jesus presented faith and discipleship as a whole way of life. How do we form people – children, youth, adults, and families – in this way of life today?



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 **A way of the head (*inform*)** demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.

 **A way of the heart (*form*)** demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God's love, and prayer and worship.

 **A way of the hands (*transform*)** demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.

## A Holistic Faith

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## Lifelong Faith Formation

 Promotes maturity in faith through the ages and stages of life

 Addresses the diverse spiritual and religious lives, engagements, and practices of children, adolescents, adults, and families

 Thrives in a vital and vibrant faith forming Christian community

 Is holistic—integrating three primary faith forming environments: the church community, the family, and life stages

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## Lifelong Faith Formation



Offers a variety of content, programs, activities, and resources in multiple settings, aided by the use of digital platforms, media, and methods.



Guides people in discerning their spiritual and religious journeys and life stage needs, and giving people an active role in shaping their own personal trajectories of faith growth.



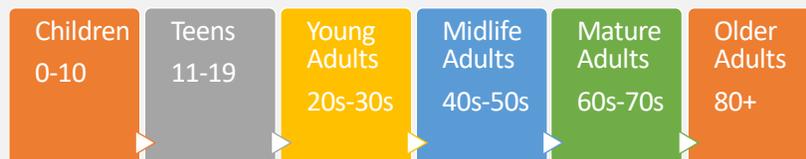
Engages in missional outreach to the spiritual-religious needs and journeys of the “spiritual but not religious” and the “unaffiliated”



Incorporates digital methods and media to enhance and expand the ways people of all ages grow in faith.

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## Maturing in Faith



What are the age-appropriate experiences, programs, activities, resources, etc. that promote faith maturing at each life stage?

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**Maturing in Faith**

- Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
- Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
- Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
- Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith and integrating its meaning into one's life
- Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

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**Maturing in Faith**

- Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
- Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
- Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
- Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
- Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

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Maturing in Faith

- What vision of the Christian life are we seeking to develop in people of all ages?
- What are the particular characteristics of a maturing Christian faith that we are promoting at each stage of life?
- How are all our efforts directed toward this vision of the Christian life?

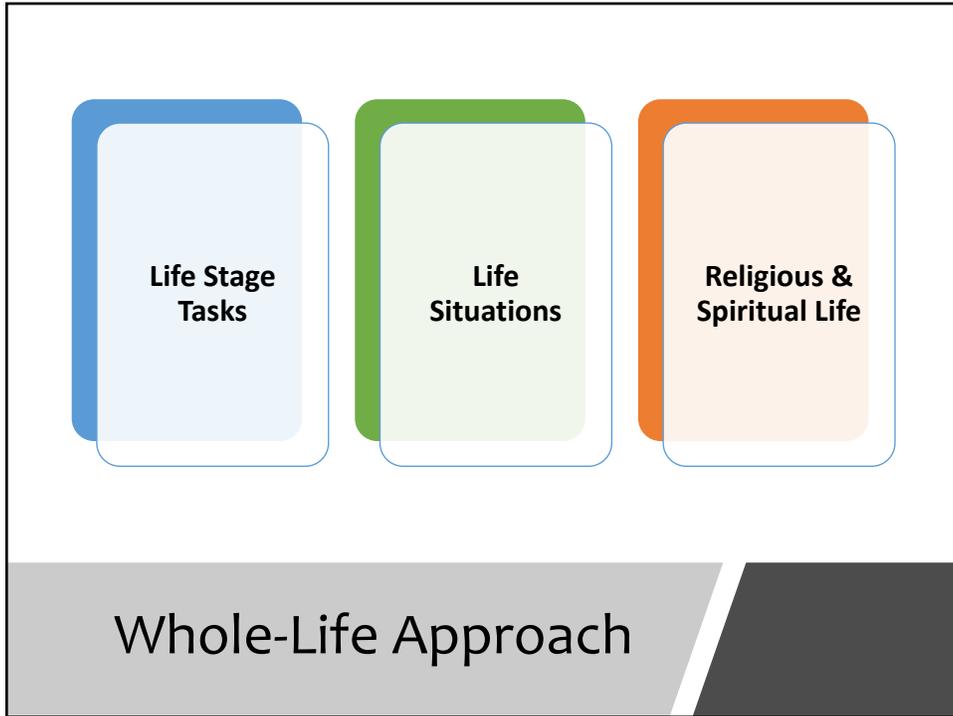
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Maturing in Faith

Are we working toward....

- ❖ Developing a relationship with Jesus
- ❖ Living as a disciple
- ❖ Reading and studying the Bible
- ❖ Learning and integrating the Story
- ❖ Developing a prayer life
- ❖ Living with moral integrity
- ❖ Living the mission in the world
- ❖ Worshipping God
- ❖ Being active in the faith community
- ❖ Practicing faith by using one's gifts

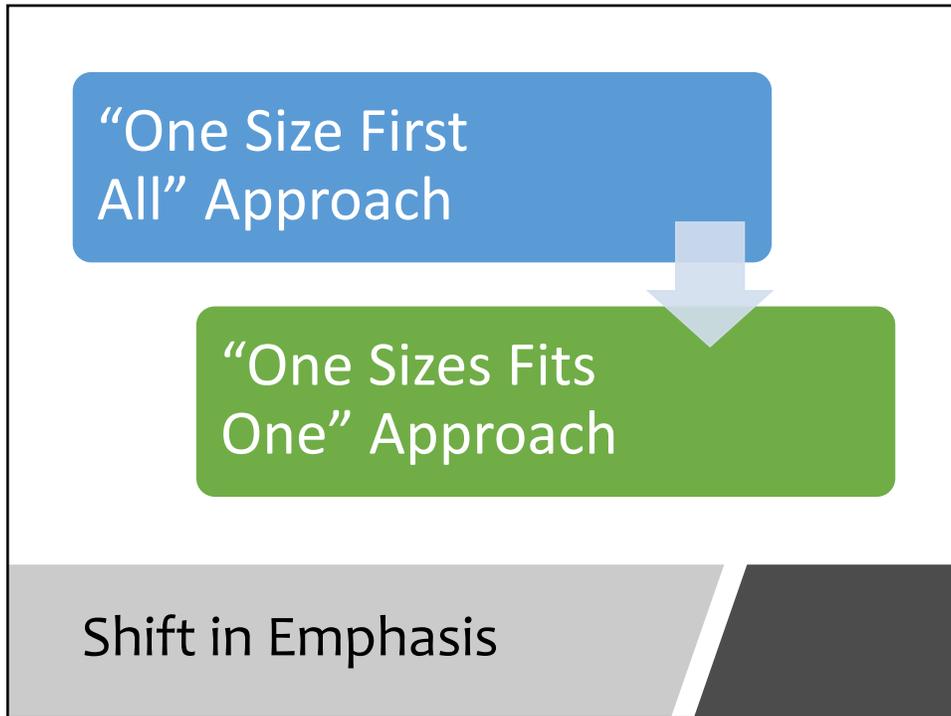
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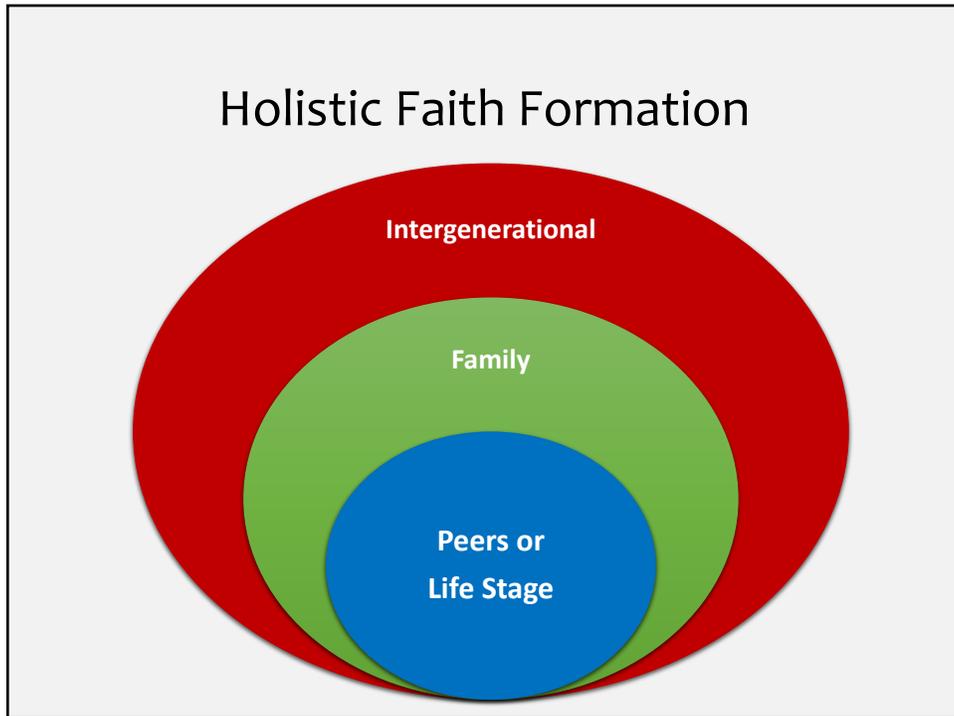
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The complex block features a blue box on the left with the text "Maturing in Faith". To the right of this box is a list of three bullet points. The background of the slide is decorated with faint, curved lines in shades of gray.

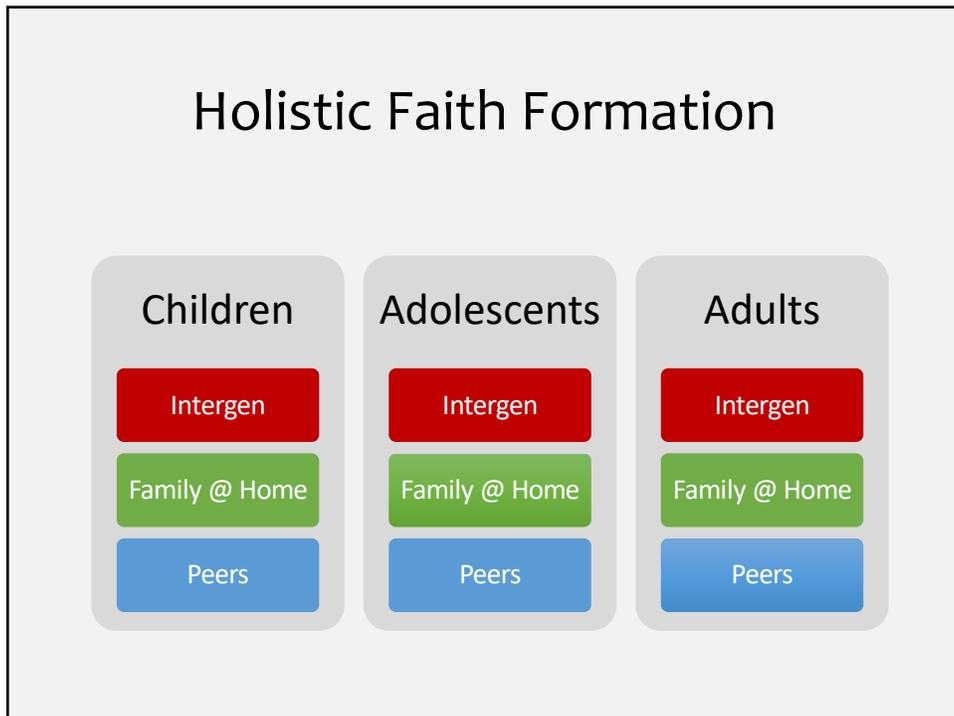
Maturing in Faith

- How are we addressing the four religious-spiritual profiles of people today?
- How do we personalize faith formation around people’s faith journeys within our programming and ministries?
- Do we design programming and resources specifically for each religious-spiritual profile?

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**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 particular church year seasons (Lent, All Saints/Souls)
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

**Life Stage Specific**

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

A Holistic Approach

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Styles of Learning: Builders

-  lecture and expert presentations
-  activities that take into account their age-related abilities to hear, see, and move
-  connect their experience to the topic
-  structure and predictability (no surprises); low-risk learning environment
-  independent skill practice time
-  still like printed resources and books for study

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## Styles of Learning: Boomers

-  group interactions and discussions
-  storytelling
-  chances to try new skills independently
-  stable, risk-free environment but want to interact with others
-  experiential, practical, and fun activities that allow for team exercises
-  use technology as means for learning
-  blend of people who prefer printed books and those who learn online

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## Styles of Learning: Gen Xers

-  experiential with lots of direct experience activities
-  shorter, episodic learning experiences
-  visual learning (images, videos)
-  practical and relevant (What will I do with this learning?)
-  discretion to complete tasks their own way
-  use technology where possible, including online learning, video, etc.

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## Styles of Learning: Millennials

-  Microlearning and episodic learning experiences
-  Lots of activity-based group work
-  Fast-moving, interactive activities
-  Visual learning (images, videos)
-  Technology enabled learning using their own devices for learning
-  Collaborative learning environments with peer interaction
-  Entertainment and learning at the same time

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## Styles of Learning: Gen Z

-  authentic and meaningful experiences
-  more independent in how they learn; self-reliant; self-directed learners
-  adept at using the new digital tools and methods to learn
-  value face-to-face interaction and collaboration and co-creating
-  project-based learning, active learning, and creative-production activities
-  Videos and YouTube, especially short pieces that run from 60-90 seconds

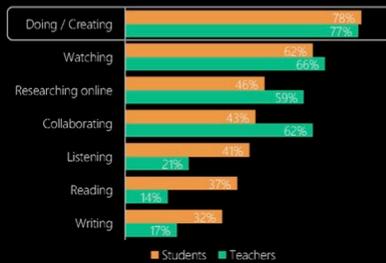
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# Generation Z Learners

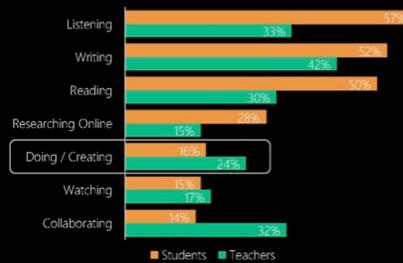
**Students and teachers agree that Gen Z learns best by creating, yet the current curriculum is more focused around lectures, writing and reading**



Effectiveness of Gen Z Teaching Methods



Frequency of Gen Z Teaching Methods  
(Shown: % All of the Time)



Q15: In which of the following ways do [you / Gen Z students] generally learn best when it comes to classwork? [MULTI-SELECT]  
Q16: How often do [you / Gen Z students] get to learn by...? [ASKED FOR EACH METHOD SELECTED IN Q15]

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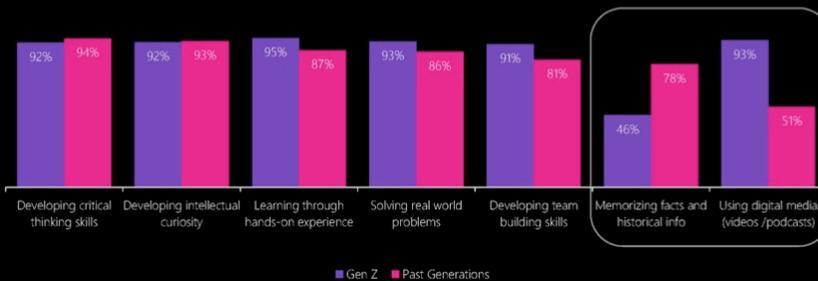
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# Generation Z Learners

**Teaching priorities today are more about interactive tools and less about memorizing facts**



Educational Priorities for Gen Z and Past Generations  
(Shown: % Somewhat / Very Important, Teachers)



Q17: Below is a list of different educational priorities. How important were each of the following in educating previous generations of students?  
Q18: Today, how important are each of the following in educating Gen Z students?

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# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

- Blended Learning
- Micro-Learning
- Immersive Learning Environments
- Multiple Ways of Learning
- Multisensory Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Visual Learning
- Practice-Oriented Learning
- Storytelling

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# Virtual Learning Academy



VLACS provides full time and part time online virtual learning opportunities for both Middle & High School students. Our new online Adult Education program will be available in 2016.

Choose Your Path



**Middle School & High School**  
VLACS is an online virtual public middle and high school offering students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, full or part time.



**Adult Education**  
Learn something for fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult Ed. Now accepting enrollments!

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## Fundamental Digital Skills for 21st Century Teachers

<p> <b>Record and edit audio clips</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Soundcloud.com</li> <li>2- Audioboom.com</li> <li>3- Vocaroo.com</li> <li>4- Clyp.it</li> </ol>	<p> <b>Create interactive video content</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Youtube Video Editor</li> <li>2- Wevideo.com</li> <li>3- Magisglo.com</li> <li>4- Animoto.com</li> </ol>	<p> <b>Create infographics and posters</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Piktochart.com</li> <li>2- Canva.com</li> <li>3- Drawings.google.com</li> <li>4- Thinglink.com</li> </ol>
<p><b>Create PLNs, connect, discover new content, and grow professionally</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Twitter.com</li> <li>2- Facebook.com</li> <li>3- Plus.google.com</li> <li>4- LinkedIn.com</li> </ol>	<p><b>Use blogs and wikis to create participatory spaces for students</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Blogger.com</li> <li>2- Wordpress.com</li> <li>3- Edublogs.org</li> <li>4- wikispaces.com</li> </ol>	<p> <b>Create engaging presentations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Docs.google.com/presentation</li> <li>2- Haikudeck.com</li> <li>3- Zoho.com/docs/show.html</li> <li>4- Prezi.com</li> </ol>
<p><b>Create digital portfolios</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Web.seesaw.me</li> <li>2- Silk.co</li> <li>3- Sites.google.com</li> <li>4- Weebly.com</li> </ol>	<p><b>Curate, organize and share digital resources</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Diigo.com</li> <li>2- Scoop.it</li> <li>3- Educlipper.net</li> <li>4- Edshelf.com</li> </ol>	<p><b>Create digital quizzes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Flipquiz.me</li> <li>2- Riddle.com</li> <li>3- Quizalize.com</li> <li>4- Testmoz.com</li> </ol>

www.educatorstechnology.com

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# Programming Ideas

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## A Variety of Settings for Faith Formation

-  Independent
-  Mentored
-  Small Group
-  Large Group
-  Church Community (intergenerational)
-  Community and World

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## Large Group Methods

- Worship
- Prayer experiences
- Service: local-global
- Justice: education-action-advocacy
- Multi-session learning programs
- Single-session topical programs
- Workshops on life issues/life skills
- Film festivals / music
- Trips and events
- Retreat experiences
- Intergenerational programs
- Leadership development

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## Small Group Methods

- Discipleship or faith sharing groups or study groups
- Bible study groups
- Theological formation study groups,
- Theme or issue oriented study groups
- Book groups

- Practice-focused groups
- Prayer/spiritual formation
- Service/faith in action

- Support/affinity groups
- Life transition groups
- Men / women groups
- Married couples / parent groups

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## Digital Methods

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

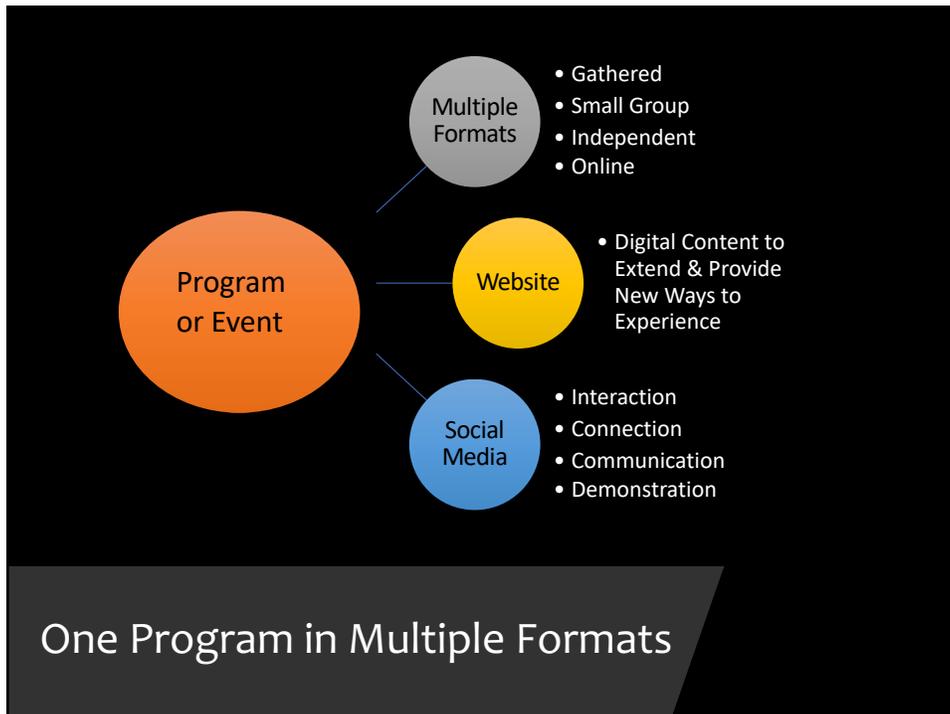
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Digital  
Methods



1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design a program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an a program
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online & gathered
6. Create online only
7. Use webinars, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

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## One Program in Multiple Formats

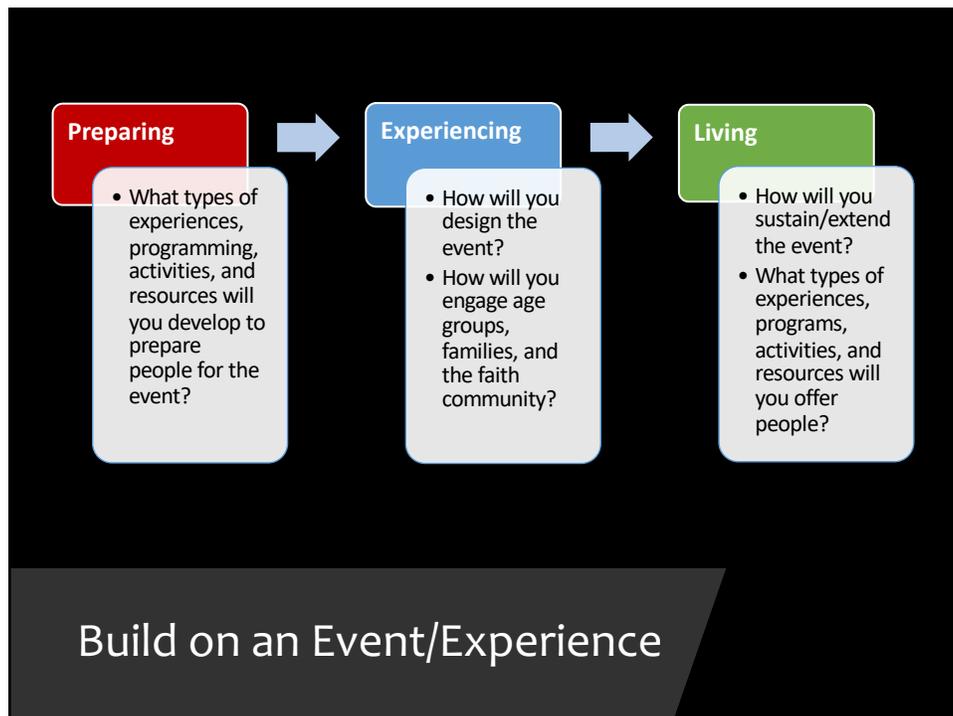
### Program

- @ Church
- @ Home
- @ Coffee Shop
- @ Online: Video Meeting
- @ Online: Facebook Group
- @ Twitter

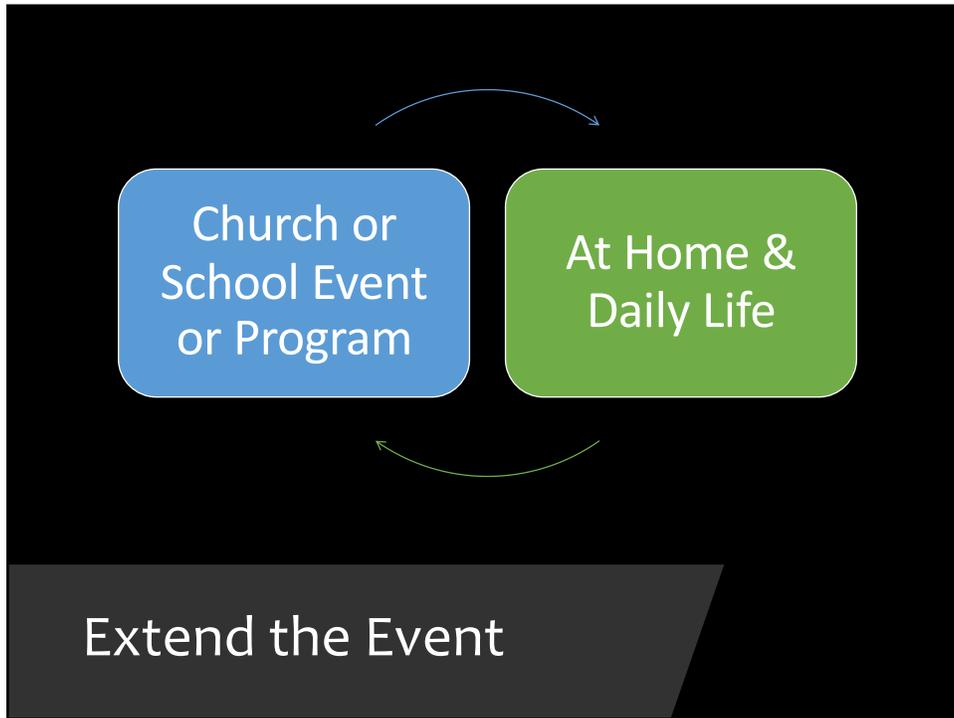
### Presentation

1. Presentation @ Church
2. Live Streaming and Video Recording
3. Small Group using Video and Study Guide (content online)
4. Independent Study using Video and Article (content online)

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## Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living

**Sunday Connection**

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C**  
Sunday, March 31, 2019

Readings & Background **Grades 1-3** Grades 4-6 Grades 7-8 Family

**This Sunday's Readings**

**Year A RCIA Scriptures**

**First Reading**  
Amos 5:18a-27  
The Israelites celebrate the Passover in the promised land.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm 24:2-7  
A prayer of praise for God.

**Second Reading**  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Paul preaches our reconciliation with Christ.

**Gospel Reading**  
Luke 15:11-32  
Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**  
The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina

Sunday, March 31, 2019

**TWO SONS**

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

READING: FROM LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

**THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP**

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

**The Sunday Website**

of Saint Louis University

Español

**3rd Sunday of Easter A**

April 30, 2017

General Intercessions for Sunday

Share this Web Site!

Search for other Sunday

Email Us!  
liturgy@slu.edu

**Praying Toward Sunday**

**Spirituality of the Readings**

**Get to Know the Readings**

**Music of Sunday's Mass**

**General Intercessions**

AN AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE PRODUCTION

# OPENING THE WORD

4th Sunday of Easter  
The Good Shepherd

[▶ PLAY](#)

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**Welcome to Advent**

**LIKE THE ADVENT WREATH**  
(to count down the days)

**Advent Activities**

**Advent Wreath:** Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Usually, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. [Go to Blessing of Advent Wreath.](#)

**Advent Candles:** Decorate a set of Advent candles for your family to use during this season of hope, peace, love, and joy. [Go to Vibrant Faith at Home.](#)

**Alternative Advent:** Kids create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization in their town. Instead of just opening boxes on an Advent calendar or moving Santa from one slot to the next, use Advent as a time to collect donations or goods for a local charitable organization. [Go to Vibrant Faith at Home.](#)

**Jesse Tree:** The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots; Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. [Go to Jesse Tree online.](#)

**Advent Daily Devotional**

[2017\\_advent\\_devotional.pdf](#)  
Download File

**Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)**

[advent-calendar-2017-family-bilingual.pdf](#)  
Download File

**Children's Advent Calendar**

[advent-children-calendar.pdf](#)  
Download File

[advent-children-calendar-spanish.pdf](#)  
Download File

**Best Advent Ever - Daily Reflections:** Starting December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. [Go to Best Advent Ever.](#)

**Sacred Advent Daily Reflections:** Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your e-mail inbox. Sacred Advent is a daily e-mail prayer break during a busy season. Each day invites you to a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. [Go to Sacred Advent.](#)

# Church Seasons Online

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**2019 Fast Pray Give Calendar**  
**busted halo**

**Lent Resources**

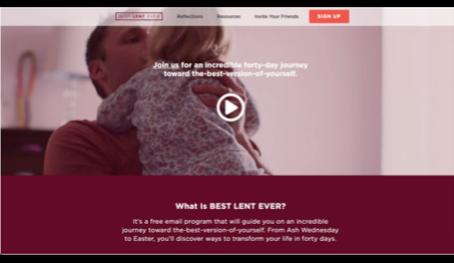
- Lent Calendar** Fast along with you with an online calendar that includes prayer suggestions, devotionals, and more. You can also use it as a guide for your Lenten journey.
- Watch Lent in Three Minutes** Watch Lent in Three Minutes is a short video that provides a quick overview of the season of Lent, fasting, and prayer and how you can make the most of this time of reflection and renewal.
- Missed Lent Photo Challenge** Missed a Lenten prayer, or an offering, or a Lenten photo? Don't worry! We've got you covered. Join the Missed Lent Photo Challenge. Our team will post your photos and prayers on our website.
- 25 Great Things to Do For Lent** Lent is a time to reflect on your faith and to grow closer to Christ. Lent should be a time to reflect on your faith and to grow closer to Christ. Lent should be a time to reflect on your faith and to grow closer to Christ.



**LENT**  
Resources for your Lenten journey

- Ash Wednesday
- Living Lent Daily
- Arts & Faith Lent
- July Week
- Activities
- Perspectives on Lent
- Prayers and Reflections
- Seven Last Words
- Stations of the Cross

# Lent



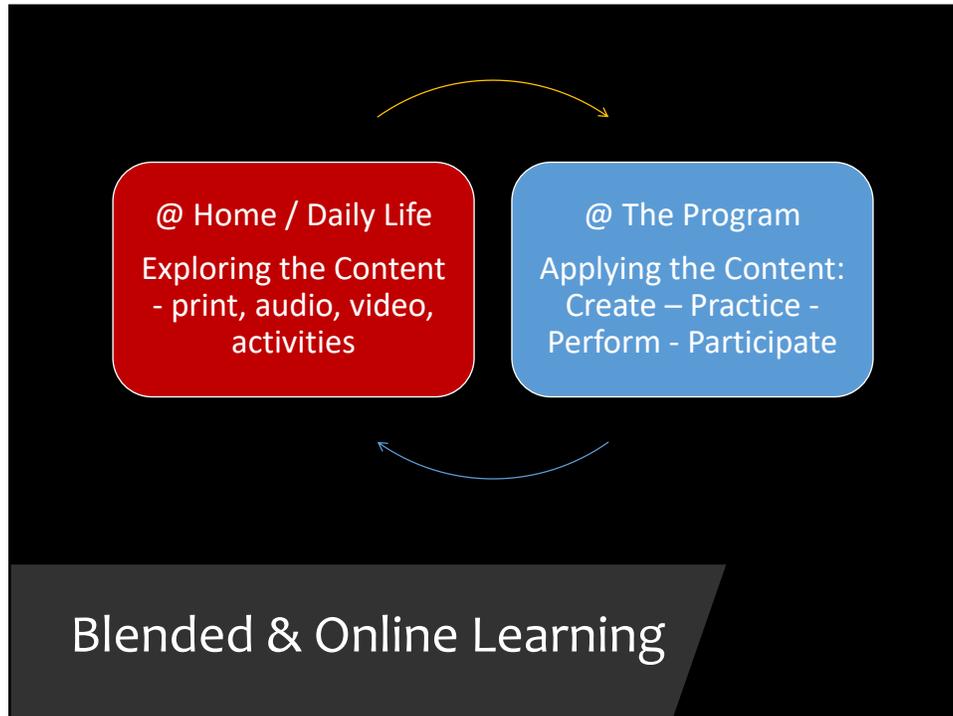
**LENT EVER**

Join us for an incredible forty-day journey toward the best version of yourself.

**What is BEST LENT EVER?**

It's a free email program that will guide you on an incredible journey toward the best version of yourself. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, you'll discover ways to transform your life in forty days.

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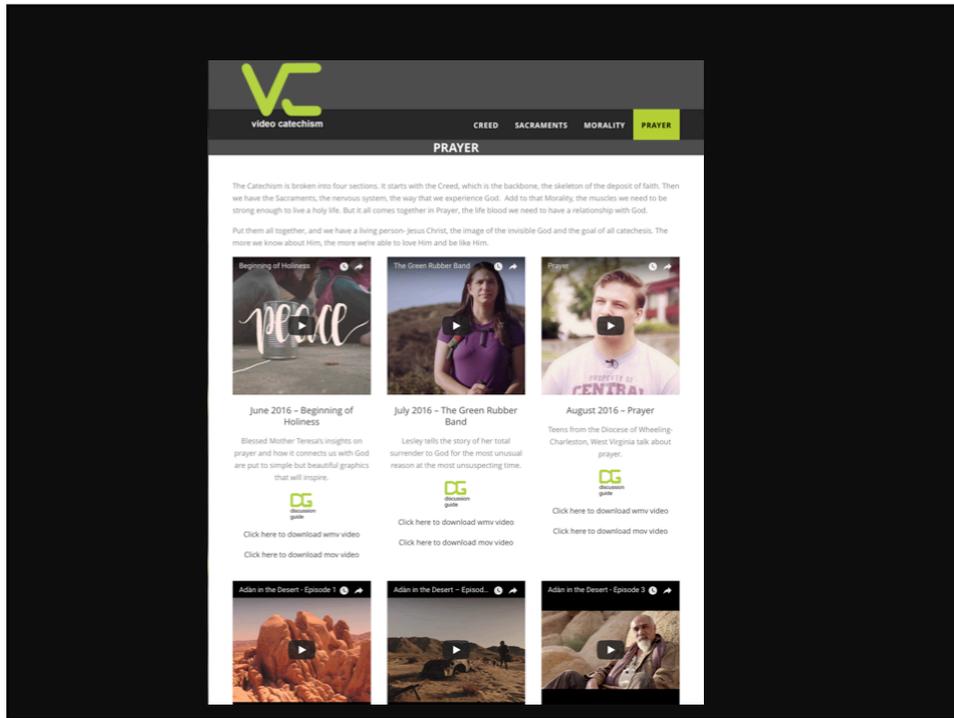
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The screenshot shows the header of a website for 'St. Edward the Confessor Confirmation'. The header features a blue background with white text and a decorative image of birds flying in a blue sky. The text includes a navigation menu with links for 'LOGIN TO CONFIRMATION APP', 'ABOUT', 'REGISTER', 'PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS', 'CALENDAR OF DATES', and 'CONTACT'. Below the header, the main text describes the confirmation preparation program and lists its components.

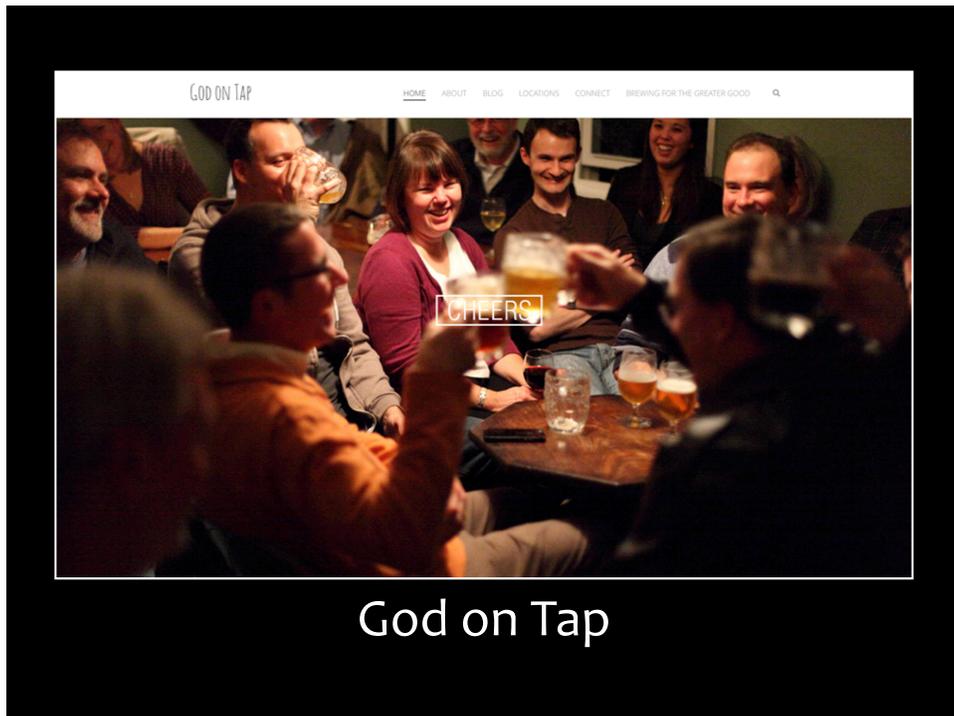
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another.

- Class Sessions- Once a month (7 in total for each year)
- Online Sessions- Three per month
- "Insight" Youth Group Meetings – Attend Three Per Year
- Service Projects- Two per year
- Retreat:
  - Year 1- Weekend Retreat
  - Year 2- Attend 2 "Sponsor Nights" (A total of 4 will be offered)

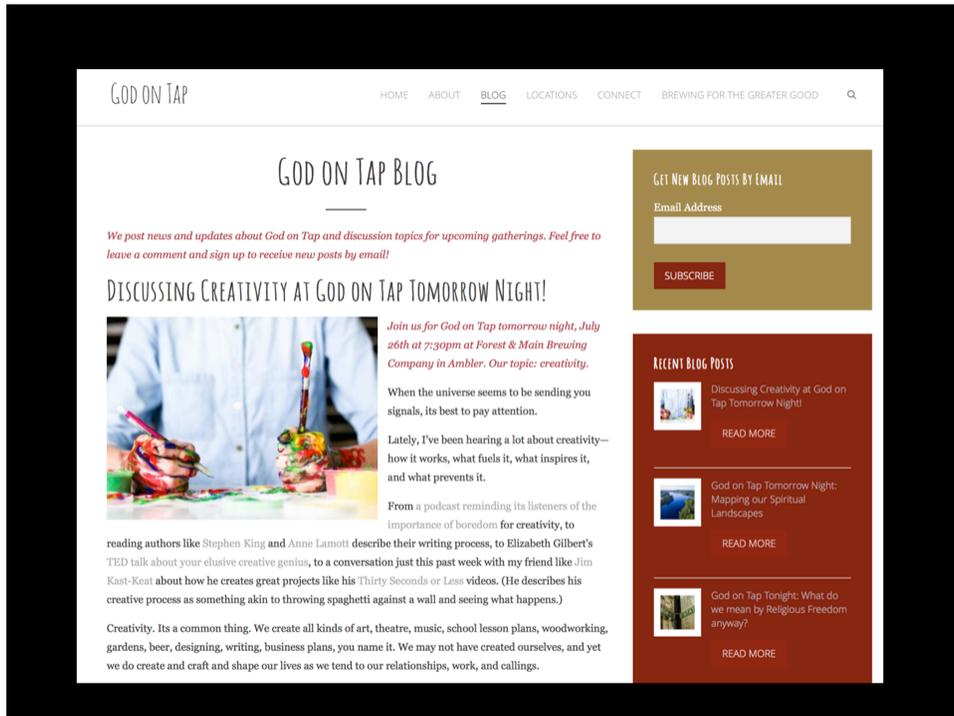
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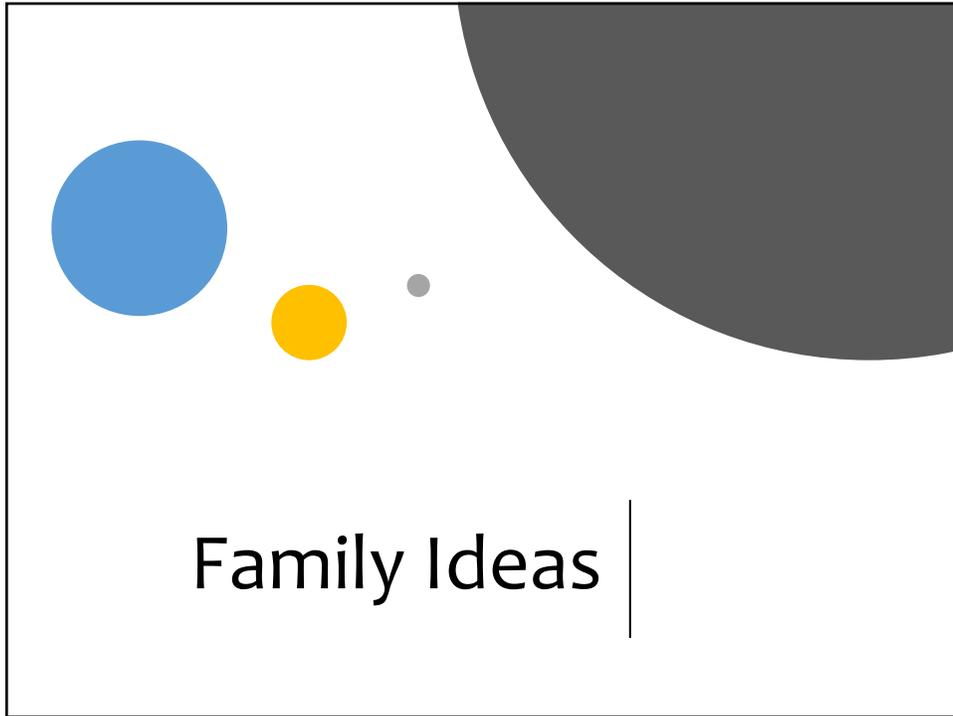
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**Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!**

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you're out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the [UDLC Facebook page](#) at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our [Facebook event](#) with a friend! - Keith

# Webinar & Streaming

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## Family Programming

- Connect Home & Church**
  - Provide activities/resources to expand faith forming
- Infuse and Enhance**
  - Add a family strategy / activity into an existing program
- Redesign and Relaunch**
  - Take an existing program and redesign it into a family program
- Design New Programming**
  - Introduce a new family or parent program

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# Reaching Families

- 
*Through the day:* meal times, car times, morning and bedtime, exits and entries, family sharing times, waiting for... times
- 
*Through key family moments:* good times and hard times, times of joy and sorrow
- 
*Through the year:* church year seasons, holidays, rituals and celebrations—birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
- 
*Through the lifecycle:* milestones and rites of passage
- 
*Finding the spaces and times in family life*

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# Family Methods & Media

-  Print
-  Audio / Podcasts (created / curated)
-  Video (created and curated)
-  TV and Movies and YouTube
-  Online: website, social media
-  Families Together Experiences
-  Church or Community-wide Projects

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Family Experiments

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Faith Practice of the Month

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Connect to Sunday worship

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Seasons @Home and @Church

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Whole Family Programs

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Sacraments & Milestones

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Family Life Skills

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Parent Programming

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Family faith formation website

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## Practical Strategies

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Ideas  
Family  
Experiments

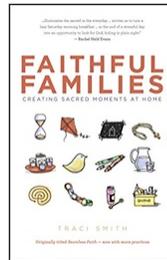
### 7-Day or 30-Day Family Experiments

- Add a faith practice(s) or a family life skill into a family's daily routine.
- Learn together with resources provided by the church (print, video, audio, etc.) .
- What if there was a daily text, email, video?
- Instagram #, Facebook Group, etc. to share experiences, post photos

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The **Family Faith Moments: 7-Day Start-Up Plan** will help you:

- add family faith moments into your daily routine
- learn new spiritual practices alongside your kids; no previous religious experience necessary
- teach your children to appreciate religious diversity with time-tested non-Christian and Christian spiritual practices



1. Get Ready: Create a Sacred Space
2. Imagination
3. Gratitude Cafe
4. Anxiety: Wash Away Worries
5. Bubble Prayers
6. Wind Prayers for the World
7. Daily Office: Morning & Evening Prayer

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## Ideas Bible Story of the Month

Select 12 of the most relevant and developmentally appropriate Bible stories for each age—from age 5 to 18.

Integrate the Bible teaching into one session or program each month; use videos to assist you

Then provide online resources for parents to reinforce the Bible story online: reading the story, watching the video, discussing the story.

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Ideas  
Prayer  
Practice of  
the Month

Teach a different form of prayer, and/or experience a prayer practice each month during the class or program: contemplative, Scriptural, intercessory, praise (adoration), thanksgiving, etc.

Develop a short video of the children or teens praying so that parents can see prayer in action.

Provide prayer activities and resources online for parents to continue the “prayer of the month” at home.

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Ideas  
Practice of  
the Month  
or Season

Incorporate faith practices throughout the year by teaching the practices through experiential activities in children and youth programs, for example:

- Eating Well
- Forgiving
- Generosity
- Hospitality
- Keeping Sabbath
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Stewardship / Care for Creation
- Transforming the World

Then invite parents to reinforce the practice through continued at-home experiences that you provide online for easy access.

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Ideas  
Connect  
Sunday  
Worship

Incorporate preparation and/or reflection for Sunday in children and teen programs, and then deepen the Sunday worship experience at home through activities, practices, and resources from a variety of age-appropriate and whole-family digital content on the website.

- family conversation questions,
- weekly table ritual
- podcast or video of the sermon with a study guide for the parents,
- children’s creative Bible activities
- storybooks
- videos presenting the Bible story,
- daily prayer
- weekly family devotion

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Ideas  
Celebrate  
the Seasons

Identify a monthly seasonal event and publish the activities on the family website. Incorporate Scripture, prayer, learning, service/action, ritual, and family conversation into each seasonal event. Highlight a Christian practice that will be communicated and experienced through the event.

- Jan: ML King Jr. (working for justice and peace, serving)
- Feb: Valentine’s Day (loving)
- March: Lent (praying, serving/almsgiving, forgiving)
- April: Earth Day (caring for creation)
- May: Mother’s Day (honoring parents, loving caring)
- June: Father’s Day (honoring parents, loving, caring)
- July: Independence Day (working for justice)
- August: Back to school (celebrating new beginnings)
- Sept: Fall harvest (grateful, generosity, care for the earth)
- Oct: St. Francis (caring for creation, caring for animals)
- Nov: Thanksgiving (grateful, serving, living hospitality)
- Dec: Advent and Christmas

Seasonal family festivals and gatherings to support the seasonal plan using the four seasons—fall, winter, spring, and summer—or the church year seasons—Advent-Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.

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Idea  
Whole  
Family  
Programs

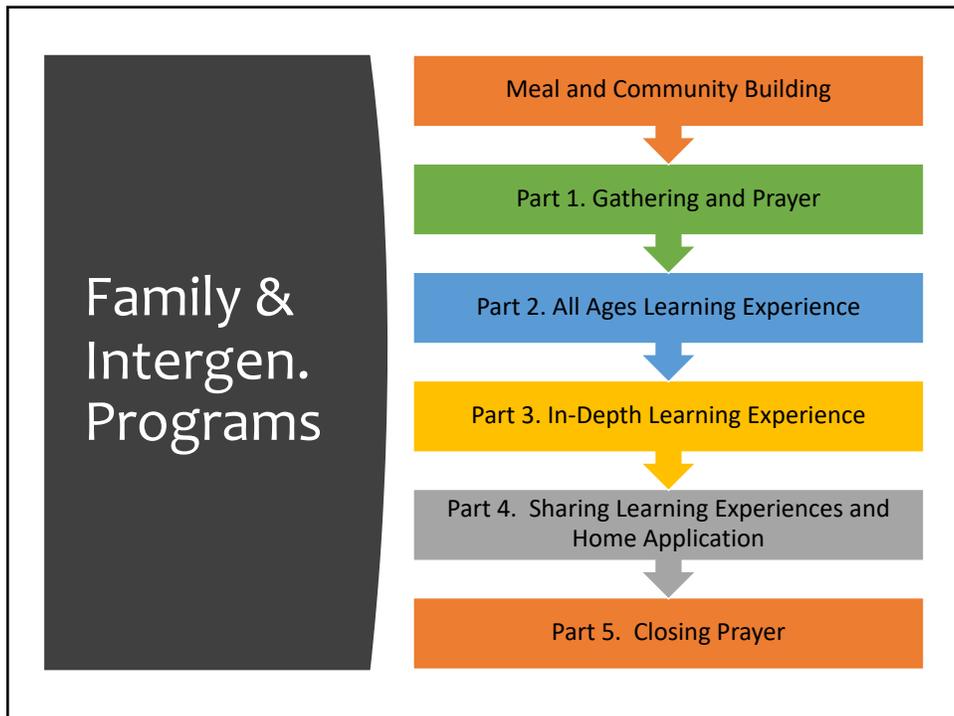
**Incorporate** family programs throughout the year – on seasonal themes, family life themes, etc.

**Substitute** an age group program for a family program: Weeks 1-4 - Age Groups + Week 5 – Family Program.

**Redesign** VBS as a family program or with family components

Design extended time (half-day, full day) **immersion** experiences—at church or in the community—where families can experience the Christian faith firsthand, such as hospitality at a homeless shelter or serving a meal at a soup kitchen or caring for creation by planting a garden.

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## Example: Called to Pray

Gathering and Opening Prayer

All Ages Learning: I'm Ready God, Where Are You? (Drama)

In-Depth Learning: Paths of Prayer

- Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
- Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
- Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
- Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
- Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

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## Themes

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**Christian Beliefs**

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**Christian Practices**

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**Morality**

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**Justice & Service**

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**Prayer**

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**Bible**

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**Liturgy / Church Year**

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**Family Life Practices & Skills**

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### 2018 FAMILY CAMPS



Imagine a powerful Bible camp experience for all ages – from infants to seniors, and everyone in-between, not just a camp for kids. We've been doing this for almost 80 years! This year we have seven camps to choose from, each one will fill you and your family with an authentic joy and peace that comes only from experiencing the gospel at camp.

We gather together as a community, families and staff from around the nation and even world. Come play, study and grow in this beautiful, Spirit-filled place. Click on camp week # to find out more information and to register.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change. Note: ALL of our 2018 Family Camps will include elements of the "FAMILY BLAST" model we introduced last summer!

**Family Mini-Camp #1**  
June 21-24 – Family Blast Sampler  
*The Abundant Life*  
With Ryan Braley, Jonathan & Jana Swenson, Dan Baker.  
Special outdoor concert with Popper Eide on Friday Night.

**Family Camp #2**  
June 30- July 6 – Family Blast  
*Ephesians: Wake Up Week!* • Youth Musical  
with Hobb Huff, Dave Wollen  
Special Musical for Youth/Children

**Family Camp #3**  
July 7-13  
*The Mission of God in the Old Testament*  
with Beth Etness-Hanson, Carl Billings, & Jillian Jones



Join us for an intergenerational "Adventure Anchored in Christ." This special camp provides grandparents and grandkids with adventure-filled days to pray and play together. Life-long memory-making adventures can be expected!

Grandparents and grandkids entering 1st – 4th grades will stay in the comfortable, adult-friendly accommodations of the Christian Center, but spend their days at Pelican Lake. Feel free to bring your motorhome if you prefer.

## Family Camp

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## Family Service

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**Sacraments  
&  
Milestones**

1. Birth / Baptism
2. Baptism anniversaries
3. First prayers
4. First Bible stories
5. Starting school year
6. Receiving a first Bible
7. First Communion
8. Confirmation
9. Graduation

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**Preparing** What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

**Experiencing** How will you design the event? How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

**Living** How will you sustain/extend the event? What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

**Forming  
Faith  
through  
Milestones**

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**New Job Milestone: Connecting God's Presence at Work**

**Desired Outcomes**

- Understanding God's presence in your work whether it's your first job, your career job or your retirement work.
- Understanding ways to offer your faith in your everyday work.
- Discern ways to use vacation as a calling to rest.
- Affirm each person's sense of routine and work during worship.
- Emphasize the centrality of faith as a source of hope and encouragement for our's life in the workplace.

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**Becoming a Parent Milestone: Nurturing and Safeguarding a Child**

**Desired Outcomes**

- Provide an opportunity for the Christian community to share the role of parent in the primary provider and nurturer of the child.
- Recognize the challenges and joys of nurturing the newest member of the family.
- Encourage relationships between parents in the congregation.
- Support parents in their role as the primary influence in children's Christian faith formation.

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**New Home Milestone: Affirming the Physical, Spiritual, and Emotional Transition to a New Living Space**

**Desired Outcomes**

- Talk about changes and challenges of new living situations.
- Share memories of previous homes as well as hopes and dreams for the future in a new home.
- Understand how faith and worship can be practiced in the home.
- Equip those in transition with rituals and traditions for moving into new homes.
- Provide resources for rituals/traditions which can be consistently practiced in the new home.
- Create a culture of the congregation with people in the community working with new homes.

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# Life Transitions

[MilestonesMinistry.org](http://MilestonesMinistry.org)

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Idea

Family Life Skills

Focus on the types of skill-building that will strengthen family life, and parent-child/teen relationships, such as:

- communicating effectively
- discussing tough topics
- making decisions and solving problems as a family
- learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
- supporting each other
- treating each with respect and dignity

Many of these skills can be developed using movies selected for their positive messages. An example of a movie that provides a foundation for follow-up activities is Disney/Pixar's *Inside Out* about the emotional life of child growing up.

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## Developing Strong Family Life

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions & rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths and potential of children & youth
8. Supporting each other: encouraging and praising, giving feedback, standing up for each other
9. Treating each with respect and dignity



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## Keep Connected Website

<https://keepconnected.searchinstitute.org>

Parenting Resources ▾ Programs About Tools ▾ Blog

**What is Keep Connected?**

Healthy, strong family relationships are foundational to young people's growth, learning, and well-being. These relationships build strong social and emotional strengths that kids use throughout their lives.

**But great family relationships don't just happen.**

Keep Connected offers all kinds of families—and organizations that support them—ideas, activities, and experiences to help build strong family relationships. Our goal is to strengthen family relationships to help kids be and become their best selves.

Parents & Families Schools & Organizations Serving Families

**Search**  
INSTITUTE

The Keep Connected program is brought to you by Search Institute  
2007 Broadway Street NE, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN 55412

Strengthen Your Family Express Care Challenge Growth Provide Support Share Power Expand Possibilities Growing Up Responsibility Prevent Alcohol & Tobacco Use Money & Kids

Understand Ages & Stages Ages 0-2 Ages 3-5 Ages 6-9 Ages 10-14 Ages 15-18

Family Relationship Ombuds Media Library Free Resources for Families &

Contact Us Privacy Policy Terms of Service Keep Connected Training Policy

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**Content**

**Idea  
Parent  
Programming**

- Parental Faith Formation
- Faith Forming Skills & Practices
- Knowledge & Skills for Parenting

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**Parent  
Programming**

1. Develop a progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses through the life cycle
2. Incorporate parent formation and education into church events
3. Add a parallel parent experience to the existing child/teen program
4. Add a parent component to VBS
5. Design laboratory experiences
6. Develop parent mentors
7. Create life cycle or affinity groups
8. Provide a website or online group

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**Parent Programming Laboratory Experiences**

- A family-centered worship experience can be an opportunity to teach parents about worship, reading the Bible, and how to do these things at home.
- A church-wide service day can be an opportunity to teach parents about the biblical basis of service and how to integrate service into family life.
- A church year seasonal celebration can be an opportunity to teach about ritual and how to celebrate rituals and church year seasons at home.
- These immersion experiences can be supported with online content for parents and for the whole family.

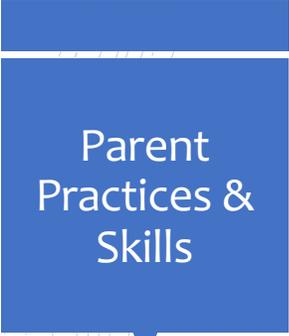
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**Parent Programming A Plan**

Reggie Joiner and the Think Orange team emphasize how important it is to give families a plan. “When parents show up at church, they are often asking silent questions that we must answer; questions they don’t even know they’re asking. To begin looking at parents through a different filter, imagine that every time a parent walks through the door, he or she is asking you to do three things:

- ***Give me the plan.*** They want a plan that will give them a system of support, consistent influence, and a steady flow of relevant information.
- ***Show me how it works.***
- ***Tell me what to do today.*** We have to give them specific instructions or resources to use this week. Give parents a map and a schedule.

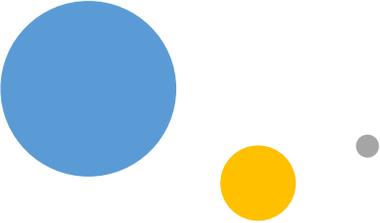
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Parent Practices & Skills

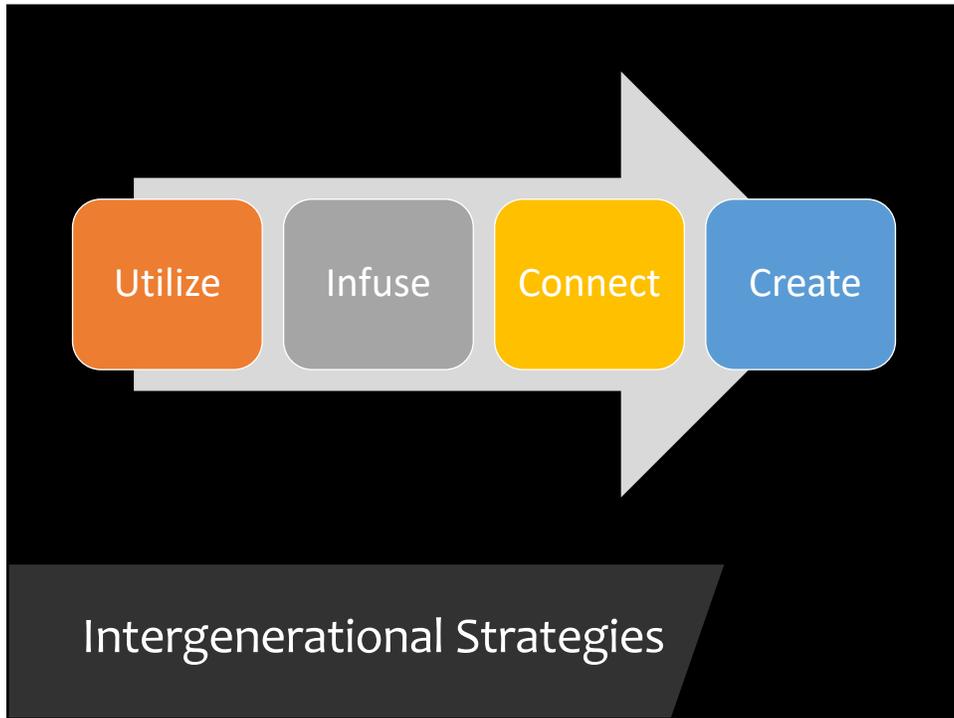
- ✓ Expressing care, love, affection, and support
- ✓ Balancing time and commitments, managing stress
- ✓ Practicing healthy relationships
- ✓ Disciplining and learning discipline practices
- ✓ Creating a warm, caring supportive family.
- ✓ Set boundaries and high expectations for children
- ✓ Managing technology and media use
- ✓ Challenging child to grow & continuously improve
- ✓ Providing support to help children complete tasks and achieve goals
- ✓ Sharing power with children so that their voice is heard and they share in making decisions.
- ✓ Expanding possibilities and connecting children to opportunities for growth
- ✓ Developing emotional communication skills
- ✓ Developing positive parent-child interaction skills
- ✓ Learning to respond consistently to their child

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Intergenerational  
Ideas

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IG  
Strategies

- Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
- Develop mentoring relationships
- Involve the community in praying for each generation,
- Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
- “Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
- Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
- Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
- Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences