Brisbane Catholic Education Master Class: Youth
John Roberto, Vibrant Faith

John Roberto
Vibrant Faith Leadership Team
jroberto@lifelongfaith.com

www.LifelongFaith.com
SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
www.VibrantFaith
WHAT ARE WE LEARNING FROM RESEARCH

Exemplary Youth Ministry Study

- Congregational Life & Ministries
- Youth Ministry
- Congregational Leadership
- Family & Household Faith
Intergenerational Connections

The congregation’s basic ministries are thoroughly intergenerational.

- Young people are welcomed and expected to participate.
- Young people lead in church-wide ministries:
  - Worship
  - Education
  - Fellowship
  - Service and Outreach
  - Decision-making
Family Faith

• Parents possess and practice a vital and informed faith – understanding the Christian faith, participating in worship, praying, and engaging in service and mission.

• Family members’ expressions of respect and love create an atmosphere promoting faith.

• Parents engage youth and the whole family in conversations, prayer, Bible reading, and service that nurture faith and life.
Youth Ministry Qualities

Congregations have developed age-level ministries.
- Marked by trusted relationships
- Custom-designed ministry practices and activities
- Caring atmosphere of high expectation
- Multiple nurturing relationships and activities intentionally planned to create:
  - atmosphere of respect
  - growth
  - belonging
- Generates an “alternative youth subculture

Common YM Practices

- Peer Ministry & Youth Leadership
- Service & Mission Trips
- Bible Study & Religious Education
- Family & Intergenerational Activities
- Retreats
- Special Events
- Youth-Oriented Worship
- Spiritual Support Groups
- Prayer
Catholic High Schools
Lasallian Vision & Core Principles

- concern for the poor and social justice
- faith in the presence of God
- quality education
- respect for all persons
- inclusive community

Fostering Catholic Identity

- Co-curricular activities develop gifts and build community
- Quality of student-teacher relationships
- Religion Curriculum Relevant to Life Today
- Spiritual Formation (retreats)
- Prayer in Daily Life
- Liturgies & Prayer Experiences
- Service Learning (local, global)
- Adults Engaged in Faith Life of School
- Student Centered Holistic Approach
- Community Life: caring, supportive, inclusive
- Formation of Adults
Example: DeMarillac Academy

De Marillac School Culture

- Community Covenant
- Holistic Approach
- Hiring and Orientation Process
- Caring and Competent Teachers
- Student Centered
- Professional Development
- Charisms and Catholic Spirit
- Community Life & Relationships
- Schoolwide Learning Expectations
Growing Young Study

- **Empathize with Today’s Young People** as they grapple with existential questions of identity, belonging, and purpose.
- **Take Jesus’ Message Seriously:** Jesus reigns over poor theology and his words ring true for young sojourners hungry for life-giving direction.
- **Fuel a Warm Community:** welcoming, belonging, accepting, hospitable, and caring.
- **Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere:** Involving young people in every ministry has allowed these churches to thrive with authenticity and intergenerational relationships.
- **Be the Best Neighbors:** opportunities to serve others, pursue social justice, find their calling, interact with popular culture.
Intergenerational Connections

While most U.S. churches focus on building strong youth groups, teenagers also need to build relationships with adults of all ages.

- Participation in all-church worship during high school was more consistently linked with developing a mature faith in both high school and college than any other participation variable.
- Churches and families wanting to instill deep faith in youth should help them build a web of relationships with committed and caring adults.
Intergenerational Connections

While small groups, mentoring, justice works, and a host of other youth ministry activities are important, the reality is that the challenges of kids, ministry programs, and spiritual development are far too complicated to be met with a single solution. The closest our research has come to that definitive silver bullet is this sticky finding: high school and college students who experience more intergenerational worship tend to have higher faith maturity. We found this to be true in our studies of both high school seniors AND college freshmen.

Intergenerational Connections

- **Intergenerational Insight #1**: Involvement in all-church worship during high school is more consistently linked with mature faith in both high school and college than any other form of church participation.

- **Intergenerational Insight #2**: The more students serve and build relationships with younger children, the more likely it is that their faith will stick.
Intergenerational Insights

• **Intergenerational Insight #3:** High school seniors don’t feel supported by adults in their congregations.

• **Intergenerational Insight #4:** By far, the number-one way that churches made the teens in our survey feel welcomed and valued was when adults in the congregation showed interest in them.

  Becoming a 5:1 Church
  worship, teaching, mentoring, rituals, etc.

Intergenerational Connection

Intergenerational connection and involvement during high school promotes mature faith in both high school and college – a “sticky faith.”

• Welcoming and valuing young people’s participation in the life of the church

• Worshipping with all of the generations

• Serving and building relationships with younger children

• Having significant relationships with adults in the church and having the community show interest in them
Intergenerational Connection

Churches and families wanting to instill deep faith in youth should help them build a web of relationships with committed and caring adults.

**Becoming a 5:1 Church**

5 Adults to 1 Young Person in

Worship, Teaching, Mentoring, Rituals, and all of Community Life

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National Study on Youth & Religion

**Factors that Promote Faith Growth**

- The combination of the following factors makes an enormous difference in religious outcomes during emerging adulthood:
  1. the teenager’s parental religion
  2. importance of faith
  3. lack of religious doubts
  4. prayer
  5. Scripture reading and
  6. personal religious experiences
  7. having support nonparent adults in the church

- These most influential factors make differences of sizeable magnitude in substantive outcomes.
Factors that Promote Faith Growth

In these seven factors alone, we have identified some powerful teenage factors associated with and, we think, causing differences in emerging adult religious commitment and practice.

- 85% chance of being Highly Religious as an emerging adult if you were in the top 25% on the scales of:
  1. parental religion
  2. prayer
  3. importance of faith
  4. Scripture reading

Factors that Promote Faith Growth

- 75% chance of being a Highly Religious emerging adult if you were in the top 25% on scales of:
  5. having support nonparent adults in the church,
  6. having personal religious experiences
  7. lack of religious doubts
Factors that Promote Faith Growth

- Approximately 70% of youth who at some time or other before mid-emerging adulthood commit to live their lives for God, the vast majority appear to do so early in life, apparently before the age of 14.
- Most make their first commitments to God as children or during the preteen or very early teen years.
- Many religious trajectories followed in the course of life’s development seemed to be formed early on in life.

Family Religious Transmission

The primary mechanisms by which Catholic identity becomes rooted in children’s lives are not Catholic schooling or sacramental preparation, but rather 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. (Burjkus and Smith)
Family Religious Transmission

This is all to say that the definitive causal agents in the religious and spiritual outcomes of American youth are neither clergy nor youth ministers, neither educators nor the voices of popular culture and media, but parents.
(Burtkus and Smith)

Family Religious Transmission

- Parents by the power of their personality, practices, and way of being, model and generate the culture of the household (both explicitly and implicitly).
- Parents produce, induce, and interpret the household’s experiences of Christian faith.
- Parents are one influence among others - they are nevertheless the dominant influence which orders and shapes the way children experience other influences, i.e. they constellate children’s experiences of various cultural currents, including religion.
One of the most basic suggestions of our findings is that young adults arrive at a sense of their fundamental identity and worldview not by weighing all possible intellectual arguments for and against a proposed way of life, but rather by roughly adopting the worldview of those mentors who left the deepest impression upon them—and who loved them and cared for them the most. It should come as no surprise, then, that the emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.

(American Catholic Religious Parenting, Burtkus and Smith)

Family Religious Transmission (NSYR)

“Emerging adults who grew up with seriously religious parents are through socialization more likely (1) to have internalized their parents religious worldview, (2) to possess the practical religious know-how needed to live more highly religious lives, and (3) to embody the identity orientations and behavioral tendencies toward continuing to practice what they have been taught religiously.”

(Christian Smith & Patricia Snell)
Family Religious Transmission (NSYR)

“At the heart of this social causal mechanism stands the elementary process of teaching—both formal and informal, verbal and nonverbal, oral and behavioral, intentional and unconscious, through both instruction and role modeling. We believe that one of the main ways by which empirically observed strong parental religion produced strong emerging adult religion in offspring is through the teaching involved in socialization.”

(Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults by Christian Smith with Patricia Snell)

1. Parents’ personal faith and practice
2. Parent-child relationship: close, warm
3. Parents’ modeling and teaching a religious faith
4. Parents’ involvement in church life and Sunday worship
5. Grandparents’ religious influence & relationship
6. Religious tradition a child is born into
7. Parents of the same faith
8. Family conversations about faith
9. Family religious practices: prayer, reading the Bible, service to others, celebrating holidays/rituals
What Makes a Difference: Parents

1. Parents participated in mission trips.
2. Parents participated in service projects.
3. Parents frequently shared Christ with unbelievers.
4. Parents personally read the Bible several times a week or more.
5. Parents encouraged their teen to serve in the church.
6. Parents typically asked for forgiveness when they messed up.
7. Parents encouraged their children’s unique talents and interests.
8. Parents attended churches that emphasized what the Bible says.
9. Parents taught their children to tithe.

Family Practices that Make a Difference

1. Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
2. Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
3. Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
4. Participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family
5. Being involved in a faith community and serving in church as a family and as young people
6. Eating together as a family
7. Celebrating rituals and holidays at home
8. Having family conversations
9. Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts
10. Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences
11. Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
12. Providing moral instruction
WHAT ARE LEARNING ABOUT RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

Unaffiliateds
Uninvolved
Occasionals
Actives
Church Attenders
National Church Life Survey, 2011

Parents Approach
National Church Life Survey, 2011

Parents’ approach an important influence on child attendance
A research study using the 2011 NCCLS Child Survey (surveys completed by children aged 8 to 14 years) assessed peer and parental influence on children’s frequency of church attendance, attitude toward church and attitude toward Christianity.

The results indicate the power of parental example on frequency of church attendance. Not surprisingly, young churchgoers attend frequently when both parents attend as well.

Parental influence works differently on shaping attitudes toward church. Young churchgoers who have the opportunity to talk about God with their parents and who do not feel that their parents make them go to church hold the most positive attitudes. Young churchgoers respond to parental encouragement better than to parental pressure.

Although peers’ influence within the church does not make much contribution to how often children attend church, it does contribute to shaping positive attitudes toward church.
Positive Views of Religion Decline in Teen Years
National Church Life Survey, 2011

Children at church with positive feelings about religion are also happy with their lives.

The connection between religious affect (positive emotional meaning of religion to an individual) and happiness has been demonstrated in various research studies of adults and older teenagers conducted overseas.

For the first time, a study examined the relationship between religious affect and happiness among younger children. The study used 2011 NCLS Child Survey data (8 to 14 year olds).

Children were invited to respond to seven items: I know that Jesus helps me; I think going to church is a waste of my time; God helps me to lead a better life; God means a lot to me; Prayer helps me a lot; I know that Jesus is very close to me; I think the Bible is helpful to my life.

The children were also asked if they agreed that they were happy with school, themselves, their family and where they live.

As expected, there was a moderate positive relationship between feeling positive about religion and happiness.

Positive views decline as children hit teen years

Between seven and nine out of 10 children aged 8 to 14 years who participated in the 2011 NCLS had positive views about Christianity and church. However, there was a decline with age.

The children were also asked if they agreed that they were happy with school, themselves, their family and where they live.

As expected, there was a moderate positive relationship between feeling positive about religion and happiness.

Satisfaction with youth and young adults ministries lower than with those for children

Church attenders were asked in the 2011 NCLS about their satisfaction with activities that their church offered for young people.

Whereas a majority of attenders were satisfied with what was offered for children, satisfaction with what was offered for youth (aged 12 to 18 years) declined to less than half, and increased further in relation to ministries for young adults (aged 19 to 25) with less than four in 10 attenders satisfied.

Among six to 10 year old attenders (aged 5.5 to 5 years) were satisfied with what was offered for their age group.

Of course, as a church-based survey, the

A generational drift away from church

In 2011, some 5% of church attenders aged 15 and over were teenagers. Teenagers were most common in Pentecostal churches, making up 10% of attenders.

Of attenders’ children aged 14 or under

Positive Views of Religion Decline in Teen Years
National Church Life Survey, 2011

NCLS is only able to hear the voices of young people who are present at church. Those who have drifted away are not able to have a voice in the survey.

These results suggest that, overall, there are opportunities to improve ministries for young people.

Church attendance of attenders’ children (aged 5+)

Attend here: 34%

Attend elsewhere, same denomination: 15%

Attend elsewhere, different denomination: 8%

Don’t attend: 13%

Don’t know: 14%

Source: 2011 NCLS Child Survey (n=12,410).
Leaving the Catholic Church rarely means becoming an atheist. Many former Catholics still believe in God or some other divine force, and about one-third of them still pray. This is not fundamentally different from emerging adults who are raised in other faiths. It demonstrates a widespread trend in this generation of moving away from organized religion but retaining a belief in and connection with the divine. These youth (and emerging adults) may be open to discussions about the nature of God that are more sophisticated and inviting than some may imagine.

Most Catholic youth today are growing up in environments of major religious pluralism, which can make them hesitate to make strong religious commitments themselves. Catholic youth need to be shown how they can simultaneously seriously believe, practice, and profess their own faith while appropriately respecting and honoring the faith of others who are different.
Religious Commitment

In the National Study of Youth and Religion Christian Smith and his colleagues found that young people committing to live their lives for God is one religious experience that is among the most important factors in leading teenagers into the highest levels of emerging adult religion.

• Almost 60 percent (58.8%) made their first commitment to live their lives for God before the age of 14. Most of these probably committed to God during the childhood years.
• Approximately 6% make a first commitment between 14-17, and another 5% between 18-23.
• Thirty-one percent of young adults reported never committing to God as a teenager or emerging adult. Smith says that one can expect that few of them probably ever will.
• 85 percent of young adults who have committed their lives to God appear to have made their first commitment before age 14.

Religious Commitment

. . . . These findings complement and reinforce one of the larger stories of this research: that the religious commitments and orientations of most people appear to be set early in life and very likely follow a consistent trajectory from the early formation through the adolescent and into the emerging adult years.

When it comes to commitment to God, it is not that experiences and changes during the teenage and emerging adult years do not matter religiously for people—they do, especially for some. It is instead simply that what matters for most even more is what happens religiously before the teenage years, which powerfully conditions most of everything that happens thereafter.
Religious Commitment

Religious commitments and orientations of most people appear to be set early in life. What matters most is what happens religiously before the teenage years and that the early formative experiences powerfully condition everything that happens later.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO
Big Idea #1
Focus on Maturing in Faith

Focus on Maturing in Faith:
Toward What Ends Are We Working

Characteristics of Mature Faith

- Children
- Young Adults
- Mature Adults
- Youth
- Midlife Adults
- Older Adults
Maturing in Faith

- Focusing on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship
- Incorporating knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living.
- Addressing each characteristic in developmentally-appropriate ways at each stage of life

Characteristics

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith (Trinity, Jesus, creed, morality and ethics) and integrating its meaning into one’s life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines
**Characteristics**

6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values

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

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

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

10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one’s gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

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**A Holistic Faith Formation Plan**

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<th>Faith Maturing Characteristic</th>
<th>Young Children</th>
<th>Grade School Children</th>
<th>Young Adolescents</th>
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Develop a Faith Forming Ecology

An Ecological Approach
Faith Forming Environments

Intergenerational

Family

Peers
Life Stage

Utilize intergenerational events in the faith community
Connect the generations through all events and programs
Infuse multiple generations into age group programs
Create new intergenerational programs & experiences

(learning, service, community life)
Intergenerational Approaches

- **Utilizing** the intergenerational events and experiences of church life (community life events, worship and the lectionary, seasons of the year, service and mission projects, prayer and spiritual formation) as a primary “content” in faith formation.

- **Infusing** intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities.

- **Connecting** the generations through new intergenerational programs and experiences that bring together all of the generations for learning, celebrating, praying, reading the Bible, serving and working for justice, and worshipping.

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Become Intentionally Intergenerational

- Connect
- Utilize
- Infuse
- Create
Enhance Intergenerational Relationships

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

Forming Faith: Family

- Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- 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
- Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults
Comprehensive Family Plan
*Children/Teens + Parents + Grandparents*

Three Elements of a Family Plan

- Family Life & Parent Formation
- Family Faith at Home
- Family Engagement in the Intergenerational Faith Community

Faith Practices @ Home

1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation

Young Children  Older Children  Young Adolescents  Older Adolescents
Parent Faith Formation & Home & Church

Families at the Center of Faith Formation
A Network of Experiences, Activities & Resources for Families with Children

Key Content

Parental Faith Formation

Faith Forming Skills & Practices

Knowledge & Skills for Parenting
Developmental Relationships
Search Institute

Express Care
Share Power
Challenge Growth
Expand Possibilities
Provide Support

Developmental Relationships

The Developmental Relationships Framework

Express Care
Show me that I matter to you.

Challenge Growth
Push me to keep getting better.

Provide Support
Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.

Share Power
Treat me with respect and give me a say.

Expand Possibilities
Connect me with people and places.
Parent - Teen Programming

Keep Connected

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths & 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

Family Life Practices

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths & 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
Parenting Practices

- Expressing care, love, affection, and support for children
- Balancing time and commitments, managing stress
- Practicing healthy relationships
- Disciplining children and learning discipline practices
- Creating a warm, caring supportive family.
- Set boundaries and high expectations for children
- Managing technology and media use
- Challenging children to grow and continuously improve
- Providing support to help children complete tasks and achieve goals
- Sharing power with children so that there 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

Developing Strong Family Life

**Family Life Programming**

1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
7. Developing the strengths & 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
Empowering Parents

**Competencies**
- Expressing care, love, affection, and support for children
- Balancing time and commitments, managing stress
- Practicing healthy relationships
- Disciplining children and learning discipline practices
- Creating a warm, caring supportive family.
- Setting boundaries and high expectations for children
- Managing technology and media use
- Challenging children to grow and 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

Three Parental Faith Roles

- **Sponsor of the Faith**
  - point of access between church and home

- **Gatekeeper of the Faith**
  - control over how much and what sorts of religious content their children encounter

- **Interpreter of the Faith**
  - meaningful embodiment of the Christian faith in the lives of children
Parent Programming

1. Parent website
2. Parent programs
   • Progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses through the life cycle
   • Incorporate parent formation and education into congregational events that already engage parents
   • Provide targeted programs of theological and biblical formation
   • Add a parent-only component to family-intergenerational learning programs
   • Add a parallel parent experience to the existing children/teen program
   • Add a parent component to vacation Bible school in the evenings or online.
   • Provide online faith formation for parents
3. Laboratory experiences
4. Parent mentors
5. Life cycle or affinity groups for parents

Suggestions for Programming

1. Address diverse spiritual-religious identities of parents.
2. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions.
3. Design programs that engage parents in the learning experience.
4. Use a variety of environments and methods to engage all parents, anytime and anywhere.
5. Use online platforms and digitally enabled strategies.
6. Give parents a plan.
Family Service

Personalize Faith Formation
Pathways of Faith Growth

Playlists of Content & Experiences
Project-Centered Faith Formation
Characteristics of 21st Century Learning

1. Blended Learning
2. Micro-Learning
3. Immersive Learning Environments
4. Multiple Ways of Learning
5. Multisensory Learning
6. Project-Based Learning
7. Collaborative Learning
8. Visual Learning
9. Practice-Oriented Learning
10. Storytelling

Diverse Spiritual-Religious Needs

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life
Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

- **Pathways**
  - Vibrant Playlist
  - Occasional Playlist
  - Uninvolved Unaffiliated Playlist

Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth

- **Characteristic**
  - Inquiring Playlist
  - Getting Started Playlist
  - Growing Playlist
  - Going Deeper Playlist
Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

**Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**
- Develop pathways of faith maturing
- Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- Upload playlists to a digital platform

**Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**
- Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people
  - *Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper*
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

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A Pathways Model

- **A Pathway is a process** for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
- **A Pathway is life-centered**, reaching into every area of a person’s life.
- **A Pathway is holistic** incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.
- **A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.**
Faith Formation Playlists

A faith formation playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print) and gathered (church, home, small groups, etc.) faith forming experiences and resources that are tailored to the specific faith growth needs of people around a particular characteristic of faith maturing or theme/topic.

Playlists are developed for each “stage” on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper.

Each playlist provides a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith.
Faith Formation Playlists

Variety of Environments: Self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

Variety of Ways to Learn

Getting Started
• Participate in the Bible workshop for parents that is offered twice a year
• Watch the “Reading the Bible with Children” video and/or listen to the podcast on website
• Begin the practice of a weekly Bible story reading and/or video viewing
• Use the online Guide to select and purchase a recommended children’s Bible, and an adult study Bible for parents
• Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

Growing
• Continue the weekly Bible story or video practice
• Practice the FAITH5 each day: Share the highs and lows of the day every night; read a key Bible verse or story every night; talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows; pray for one another’s highs and lows aloud every night; bless one another before turning out the lights of the day.

Personalize the Offerings

Playlist: Bible for Families with Children

Getting Started
• Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
• Learn how to pray with the Bible by watching the video online and using the prayer activities online
• Participate in the church wide “30-Day Bible Experience” of reading one gospel at home.
• Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program

Going Deeper
• Continue the FAITH5 daily practice
• Join an adult Bible study group offered by the church
• Engage the whole family in a 365 day “read the whole Bible” experience using the resources on the family website
• Develop a personal Bible study plan using the resources on the family website
• Participate in the family scripture reflection after Sunday worship each week
• Engage the children in the summer vacation Bible school program
Personalize the Offerings  
Playlists for Reading & Studying the Bible

**Getting Started**
- Participate in the “Welcome to the Bible” program at church
- Watch the video programs on how to read the Bible
- Watch the video program with an overview of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Use the Guide to select a Study Bible and find the Bible online
- Participate in the 30-Day Bible Experience: Reading one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)

**Growing**
- Develop a daily plan for reading the Bible
- Participate in the lectio divina reflection group after Sunday worship
- Learn how to pray with the Bible
- Join a Bible study group (church, home, coffee shop, online)

**Going Deeper**
- Read the Bible in 365 days
- Develop a personal Bible study plan
- Take an online course: Hebrew Scriptures, Gospels, Letters of Paul
- Study and pray the Psalms as a spiritual practice

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What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a classroom website that is completely controlled by the teacher...

…and it looks like Facebook!
Forming Faith: Digital Approaches

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

Church or School Event or Program

At Home & Daily Life

One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats

Event/ Program

Multiple Formats

- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

Website

- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

Social Media

- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration
Build on an Event/Experience

**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?

Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life
Exploring the Content - print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content:
Create – Practice - Perform - Participate
Integrate Online and Gathered

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both on-line and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.

Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

- **Mondays**
  - What: #BreakingBread (Dinner Church)
  - Where: 4E University Plwy Bmore, MD 212
  - When: 6 PM EST

- **Wednesday**
  - What: #SlateReads (Live Tweet Chat - Book Discussion)
  - Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads
  - When: 8 PM EST

- **Thursdays**
  - What: #SlateSpeak (Live Tweet Chat - new topic each week)
  - Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak
  - When: 9 PM EST

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#BreakingBread

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a 'dinner liturgy' we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our 'borrowed' space (graciously offered to us by the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

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#SlateReads

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by these readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!
## A Holistic Faith Formation Plan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith Maturing Characteristic</th>
<th>Young Children</th>
<th>Grade School Children</th>
<th>Young Adolescents</th>
<th>Older Adolescents</th>
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