

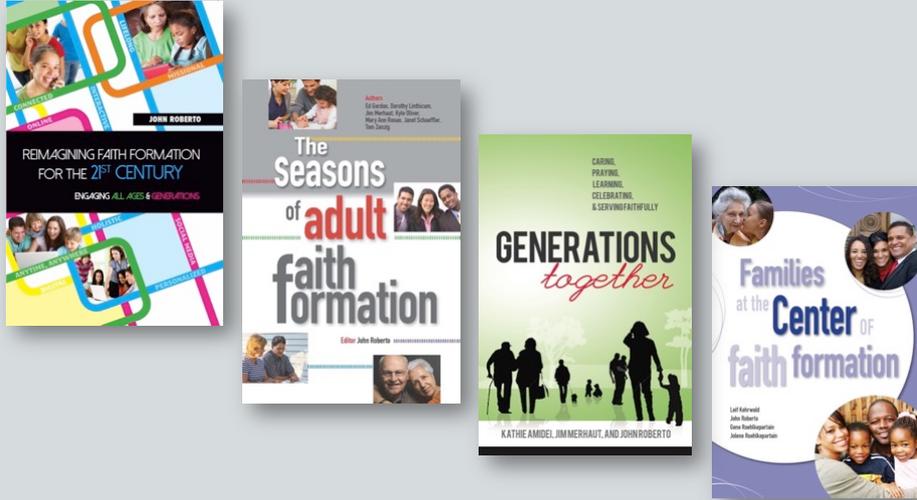


Brisbane Catholic Education Master Class
John Roberto, Vibrant Faith

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www.LifelongFaith.com
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Lifelong Faith Books

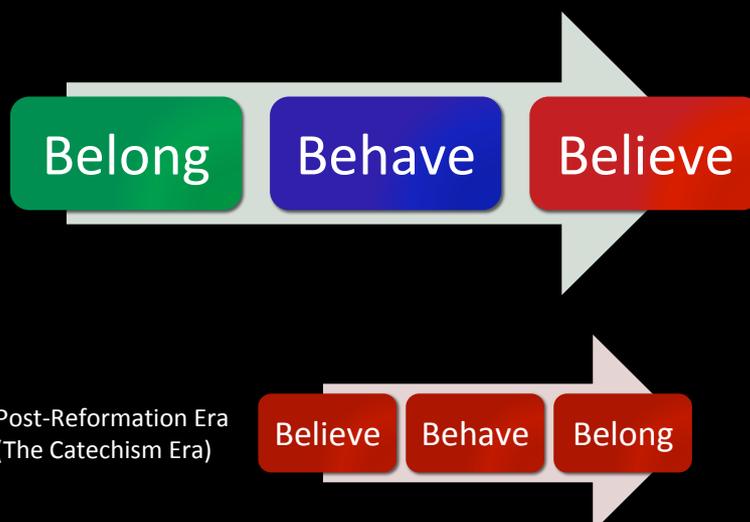


FIVE BIG IDEAS

Big Idea #1 Focus on Maturing in Faith



Big Idea #2 Embrace the Formation Dynamic

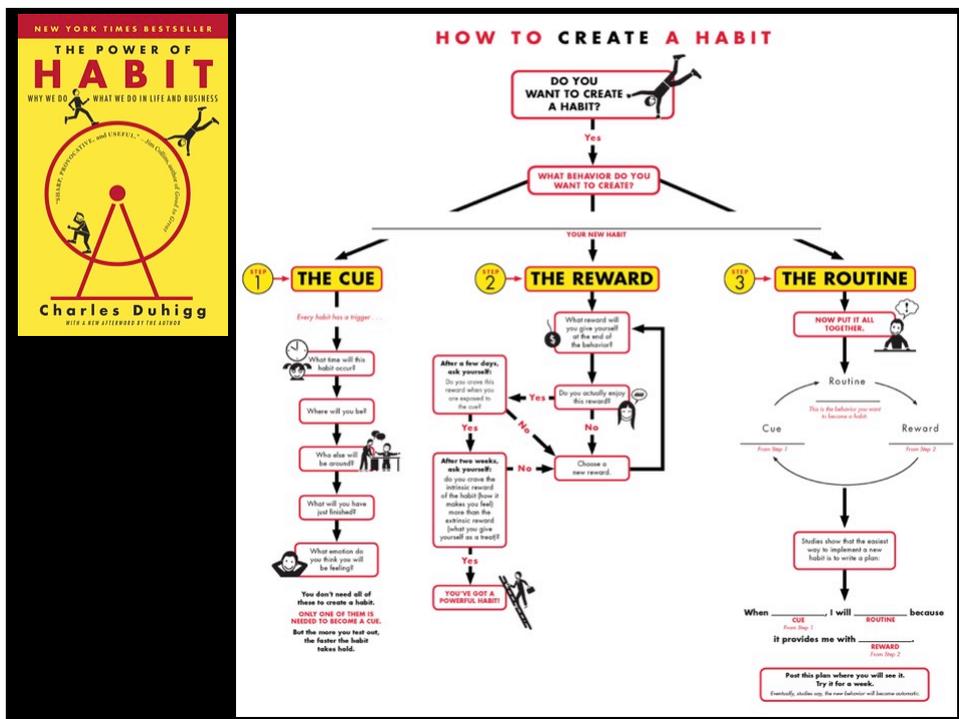


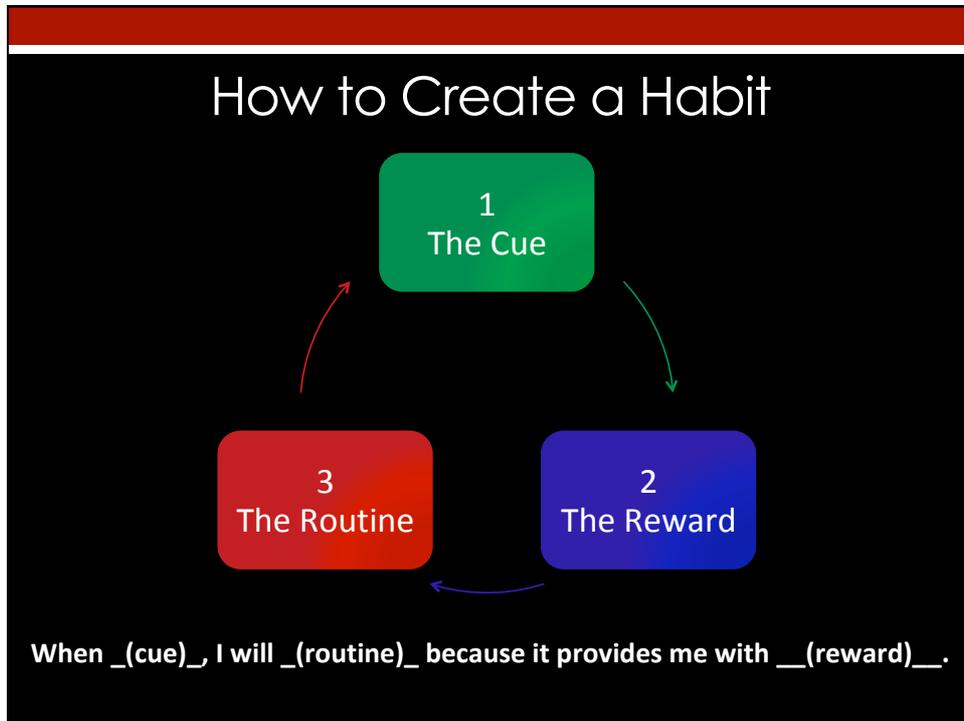
The Formation Dynamic

Relationships lead to craft, which leads to experiential belief. That is the path to becoming and being someone different. The path of transformation.

It is also the path found in the New Testament; the Way of Jesus the leads to God. Long ago, before the last half millennium, Christians understood that faith was a matter of community first, practices second, and belief as a result of the first two. Our immediate ancestors reversed the order. Now, it is up to us to restore the original order.

Diana Butler Bass
Christianity without Religion (HarperOne, 2012)





Big Idea #5 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

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!

Summit's PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

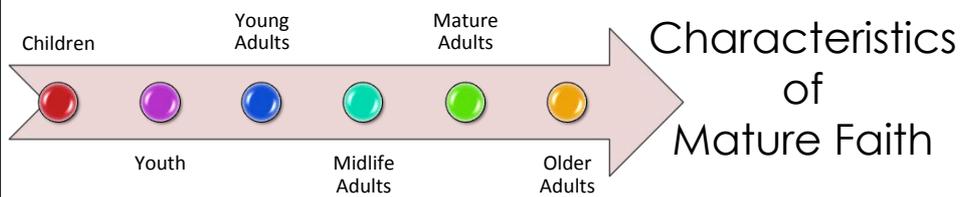
A personalized school is designed to meet the needs of **each & every individual student.**

At Summit, we focus on four key elements of college and career readiness, and empower students to drive their learning and own their success.



MATURING IN FAITH

Toward What Ends Are We Working



Profile of the Graduate at Graduation Jesuit Schools Network

1. Open to growth & responsible for one's own growth
2. Intellectually competent
3. Religiously knowledgeable of doctrine and practices of Catholicism + Ignatian spirituality + choosing a fundamental orientation toward God and relationship with a religious tradition and/or community
4. Loving and deeper relationships
5. Committed to doing justice

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 ones life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

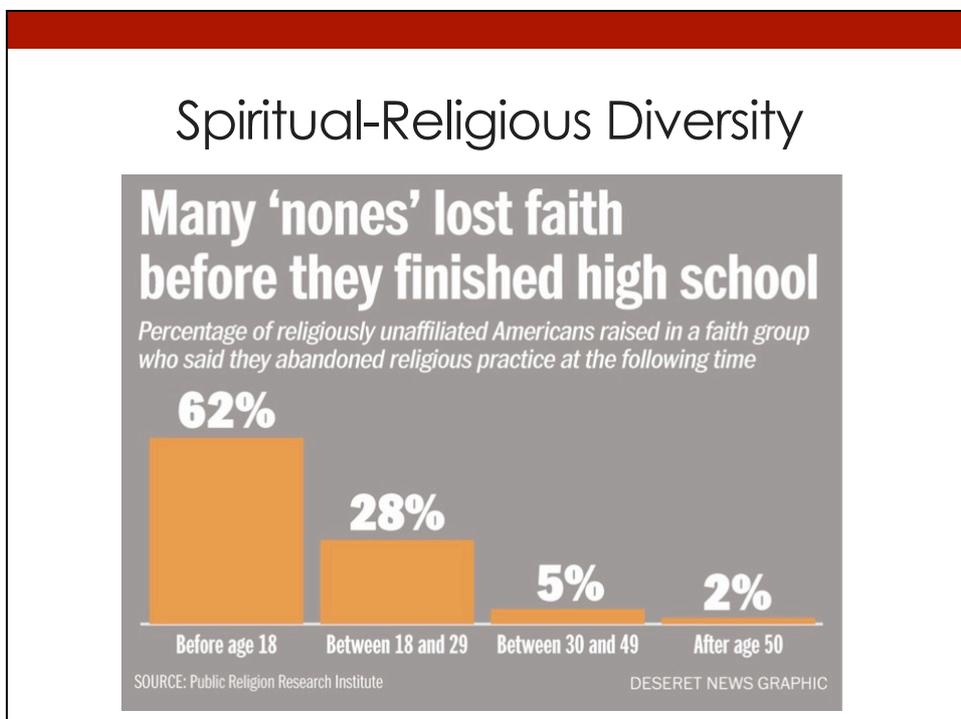
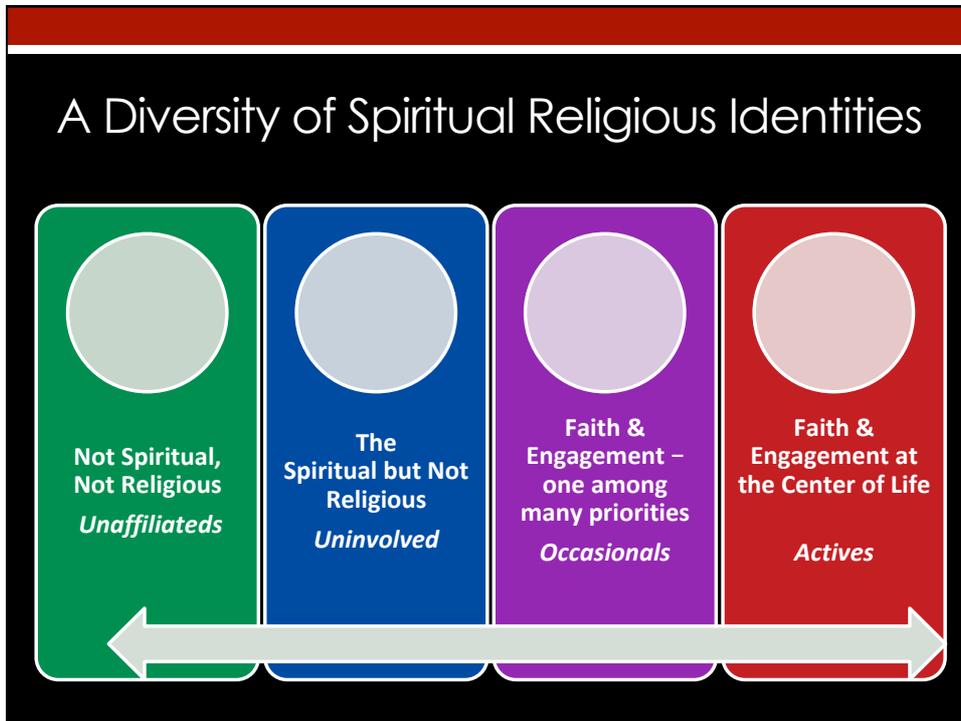
Characteristics

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

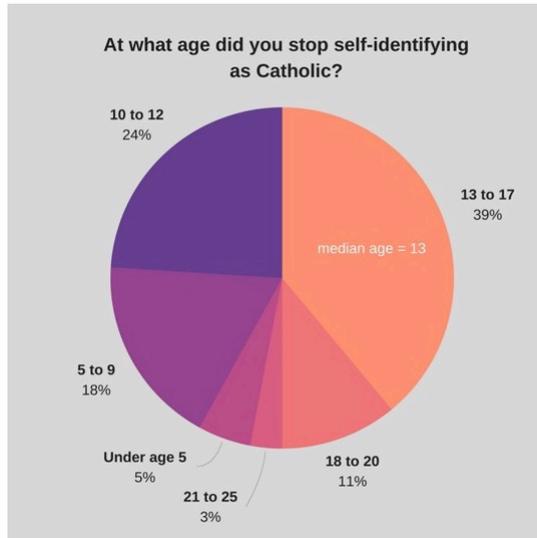
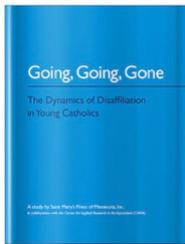
A Holistic Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Young Children	Grade School Children	Young Adolescents	Older Adolescents
	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
	Family	Family	Family	Family
	School Community	School Community	School Community	School Community
	Age Group	Age Group	Age Group	Age Group

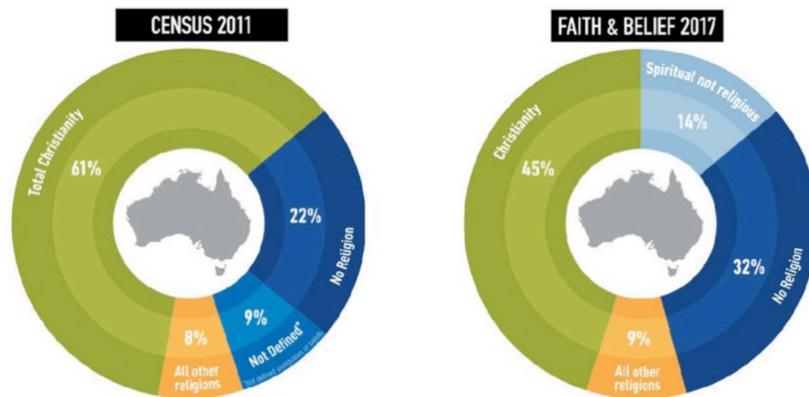
PART 3. CONTEXT & TRENDS



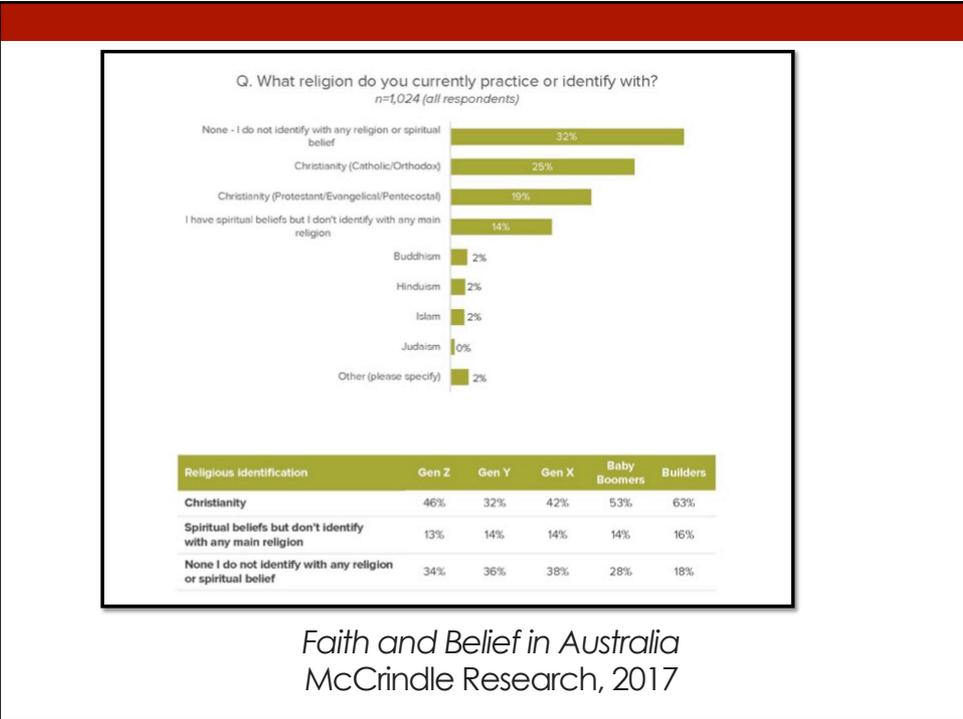
Spiritual-Religious Diversity

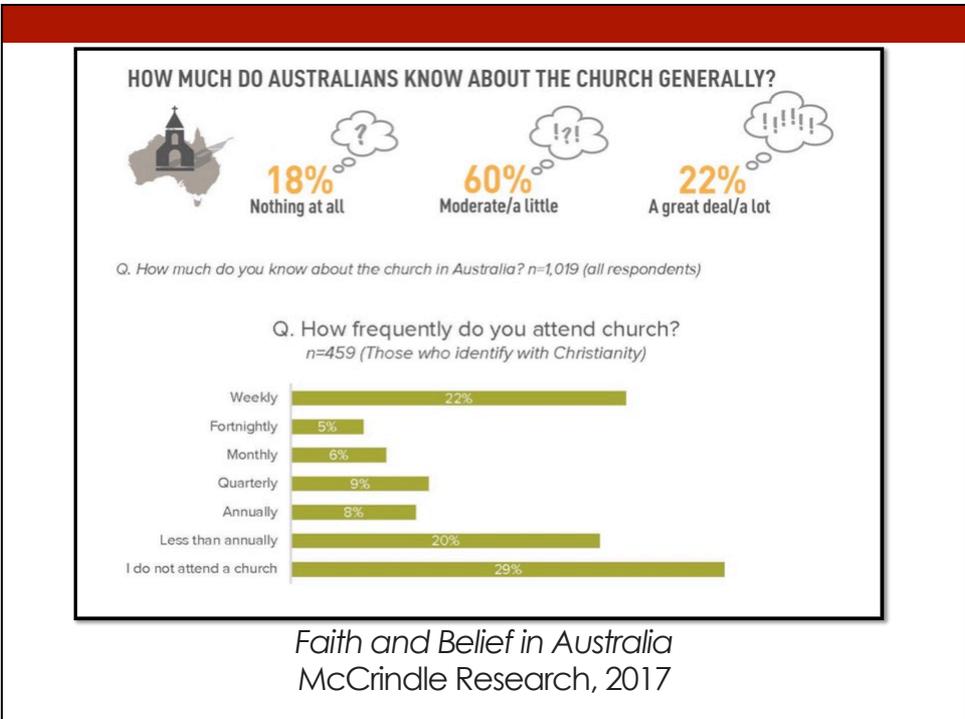


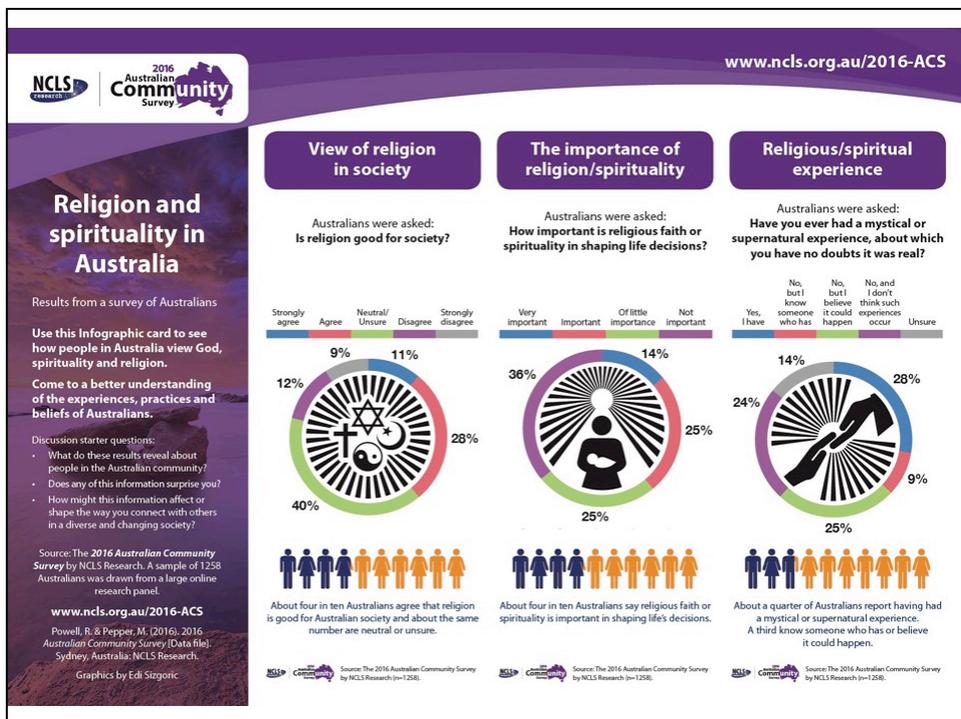
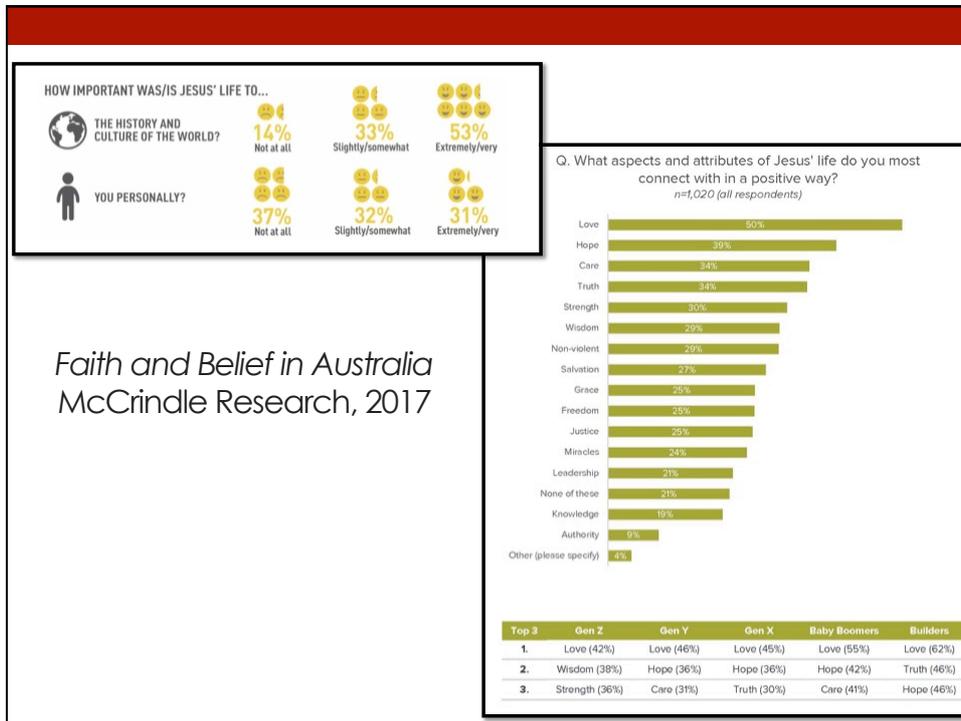
Faith and belief in Australia defined

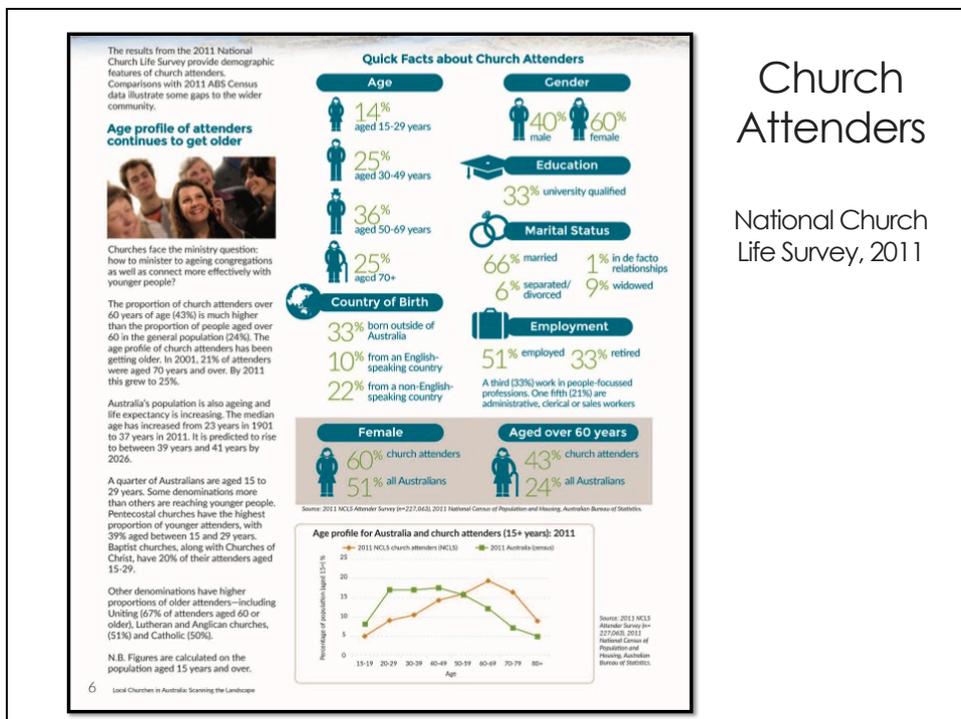
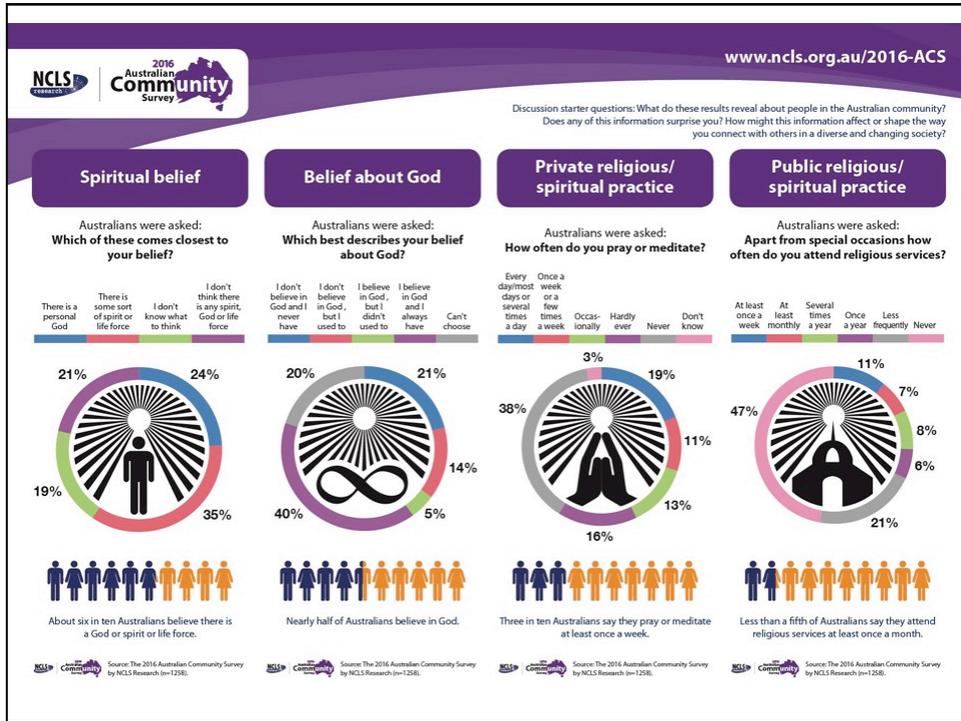


Faith and Belief in Australia
McCrindle Research, 2017









Parents Approach

National Church Life Survey, 2011

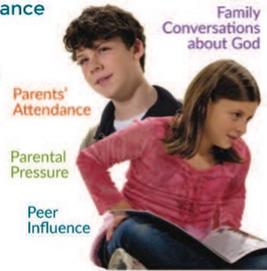
Parents' approach an important influence on child attendance

A research study using the 2011 NCLS 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.



Parents' Attendance

Parental Pressure

Peer Influence

Family Conversations about God

16 Local Churches in Australia: Scanning the Landscape

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.

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.



Source: 2011 NCLS Child Attitude Survey for 8 to 14 year olds (n=2,642, 88). The Child Attitude Survey is an opt-in survey and is not necessarily representative of churchgoing children in Australia.

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.

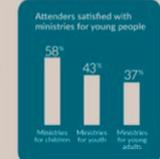
Whereas a majority of attenders were satisfied with what was offered for children, satisfaction with what was offered for youth (aged 12 to 18 years) declined to less than half, and decreased further in relation to ministries for young adults (aged 19 to 25) with less than four in 10 attenders satisfied.

Around six in 10 young attenders (aged 15 to 25 years) were satisfied with what was offered for their age group.

Of course, as a church-based survey, the

NCLS is only able to hear the views 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.



Source: 2011 NCLS Attender Survey (n=227,063).

A generational drift away from church

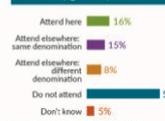
In 2011, some 5% of church attenders aged 15 and over were teenagers. Teenagers were most common in Pentecostal churches, making up 10% of attenders.

Of attenders' children aged 14 or under 91% attended church. Some 65% attended their parents' church and 8% attended another church.

Considering the children of church attenders (aged 15 and over), 38% attended church; 16% attended their parents' church and 23% attended elsewhere.

These results indicate a large generational drift away from the churches.

Church attendance of attenders' children (aged 15+)



Source: 2011 NCLS Attender Survey (n=227,063). All child attendance figures could be selected, so percentages may not add to 100%.

Positive Views of Religion Decline in Teen Years

National Church Life Survey, 2011

NSYR – Christian Smith, et al.

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.

NSYR – Christian Smith, et al.

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.

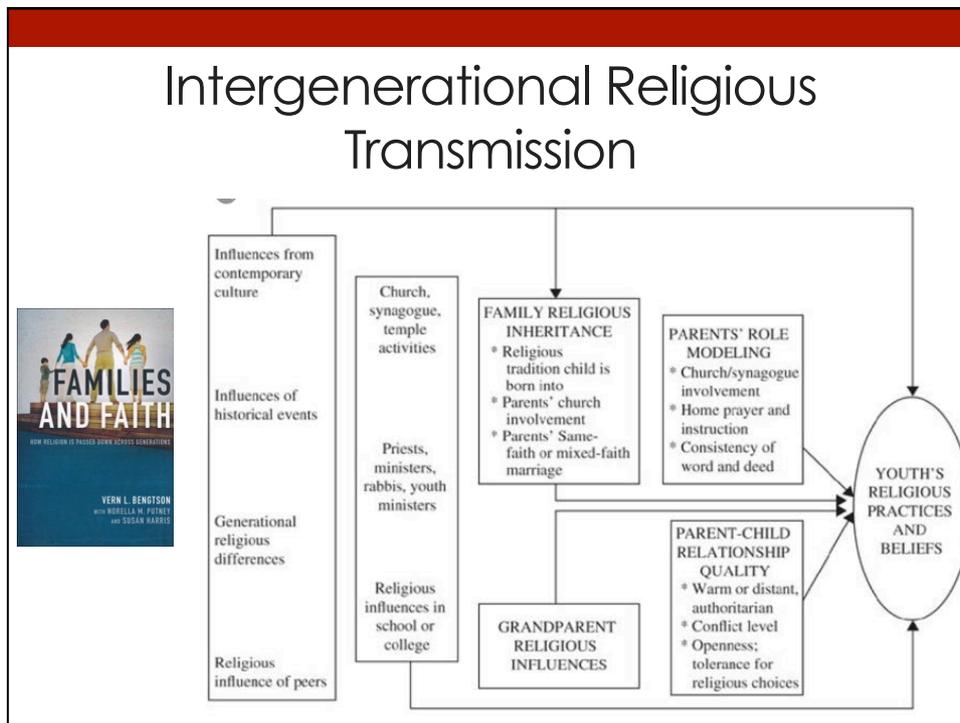
When it comes to commitment to God, it is not that experiences and changes during the teenage and emerging adult years do not matter religiously for people—they do, especially for some. It is instead simply that *what matters for most even more is what happens religiously before the teenage years, which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

INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH
ABOUT FAITH FORMING

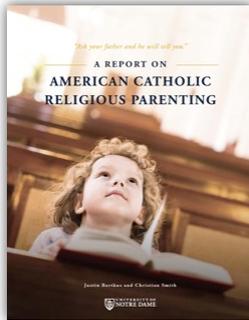


Family Religious Transmission



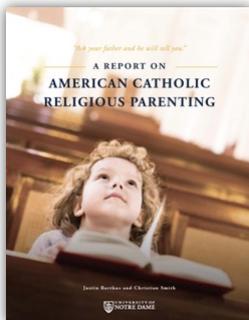

- ✦ Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- ✦ Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- ✦ Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults

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.
(Burtkus 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)

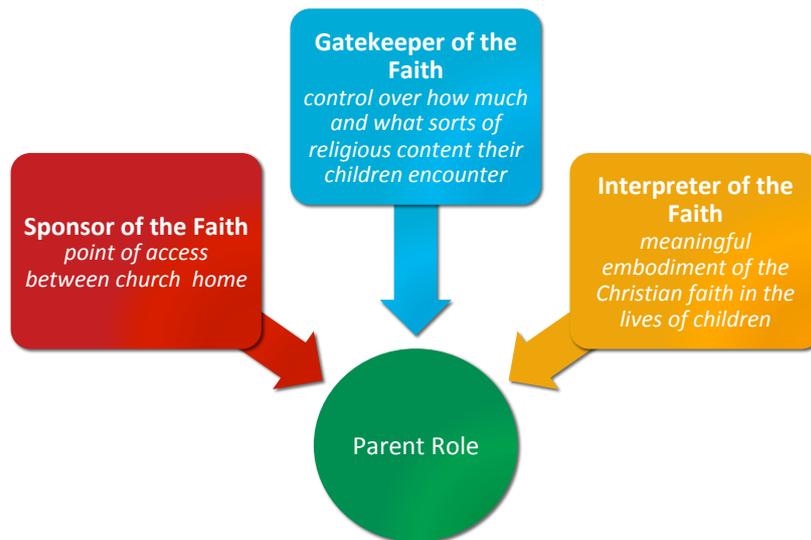
“At the heart of this social causal mechanism stands the elementary process of teaching—both formal and informal, verbal and nonverbal, oral and behavioral, intentional and unconscious, through both instruction and role modeling. We believe that one of the main ways by which empirically observed strong 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)

Family Religious Transmission

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

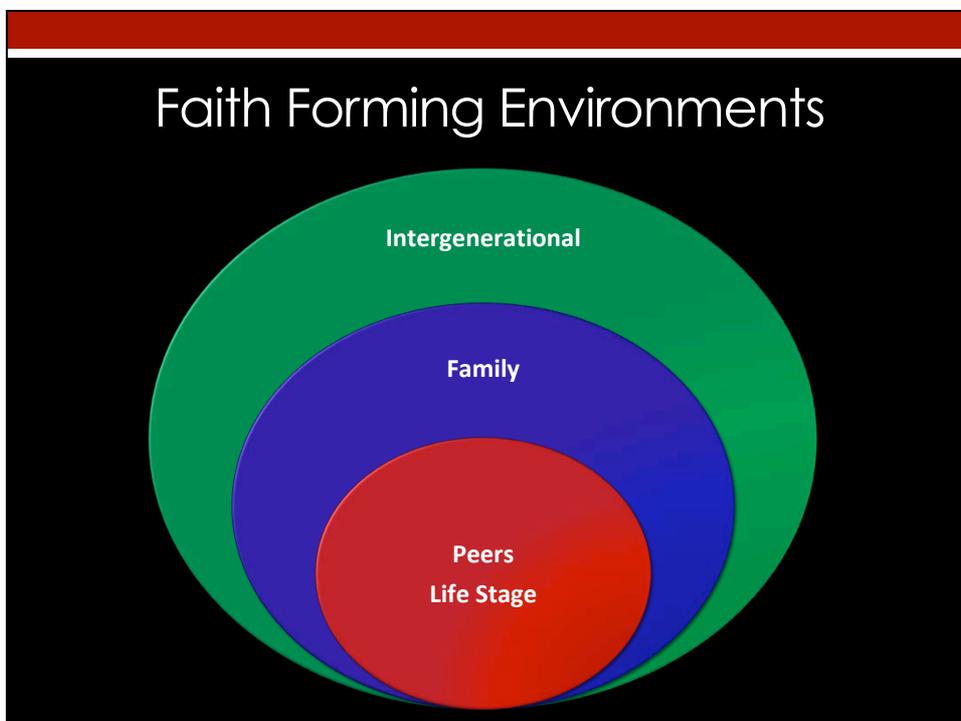
Family Religious Transmission: Parents



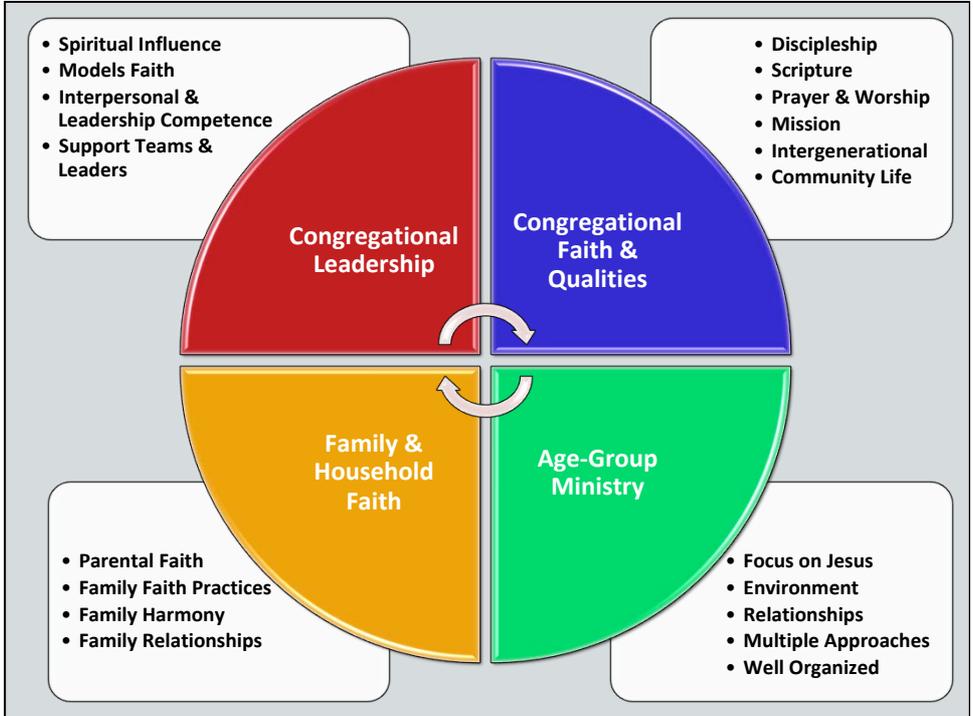
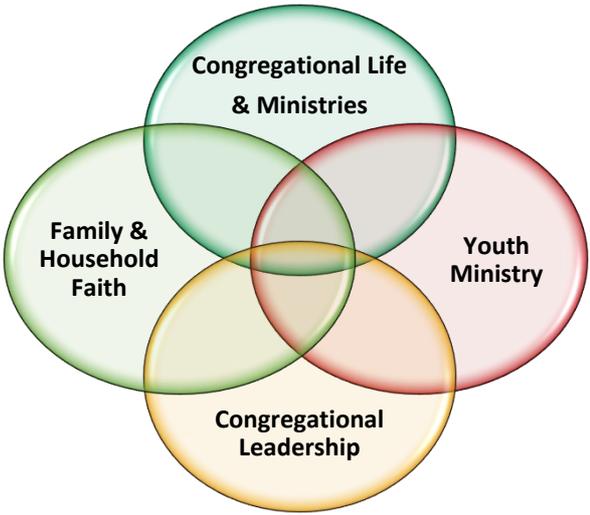
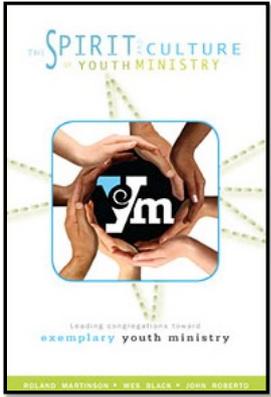
Practices that Make a Difference

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

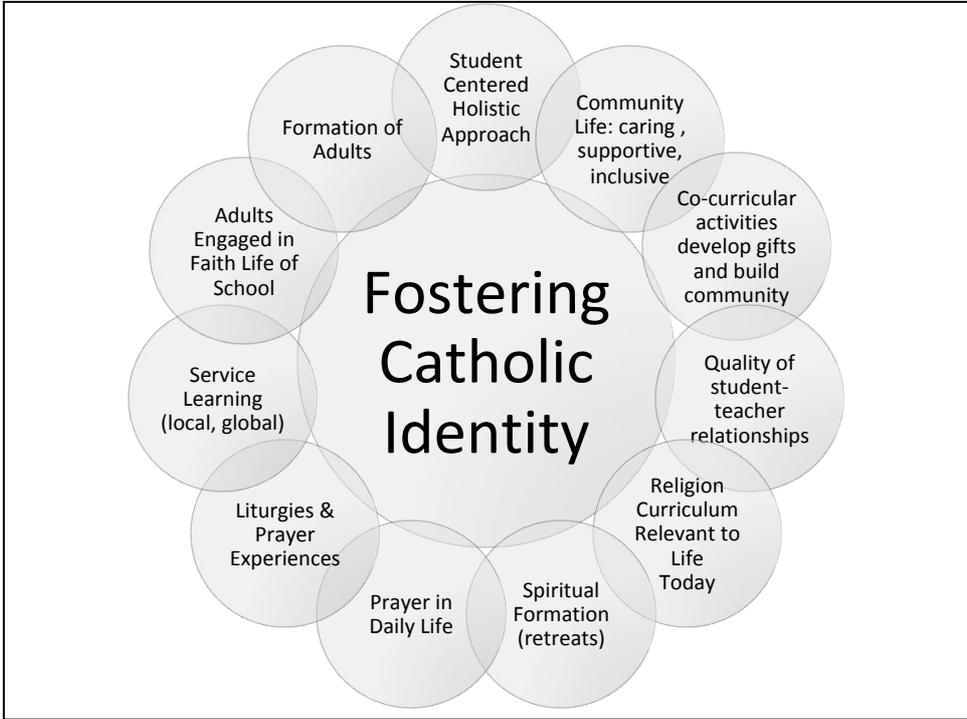
PART 4. FAITH FORMING ECOLOGY



Exemplary Youth Ministry Study



Lasallian Vision & Core Principles

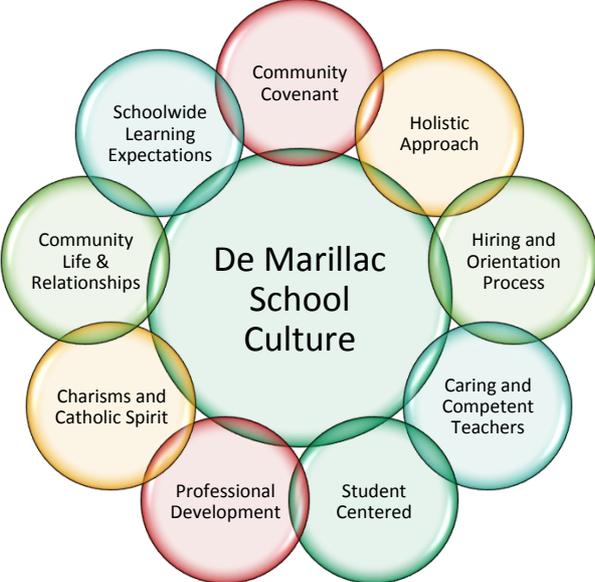


DeMarillac Academy

<https://www.demarillac.org>



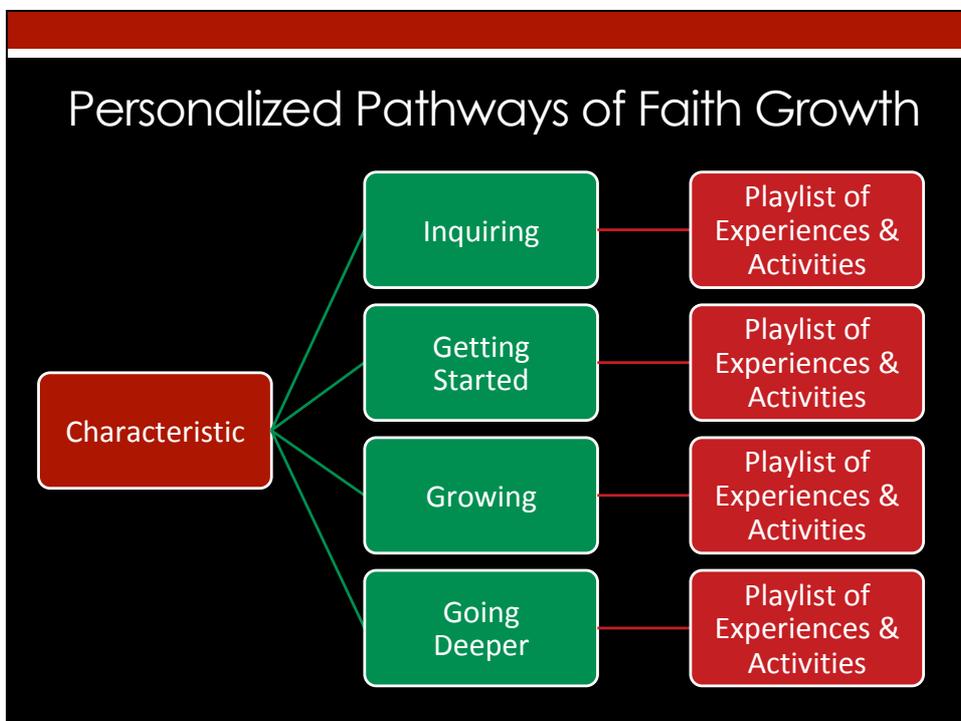
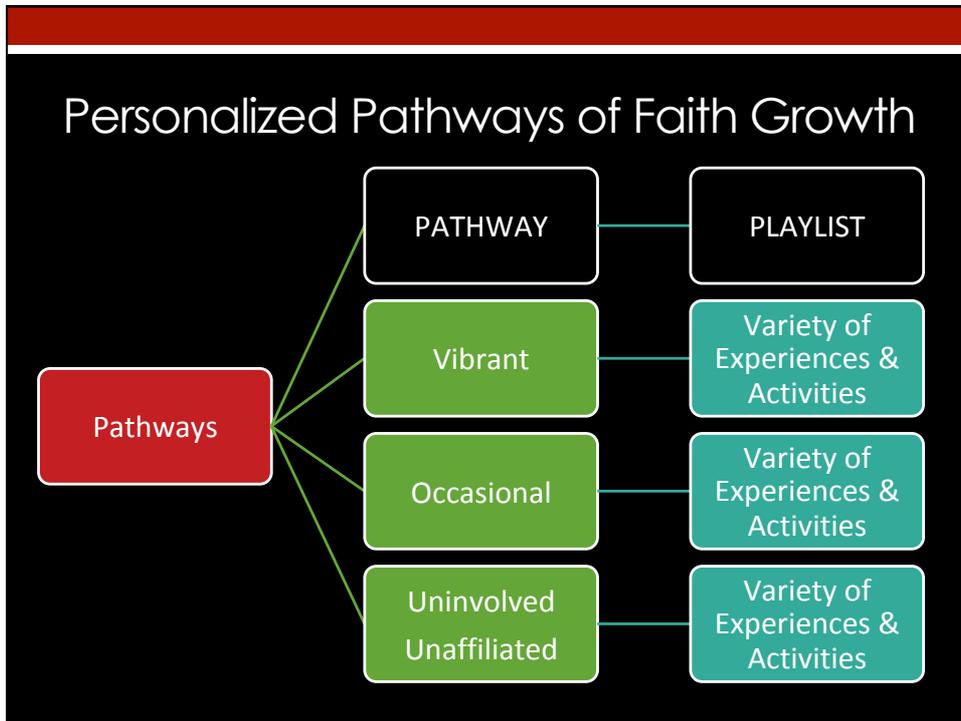
Example: DeMarillac Academy



Strengthening Catholic Identity

1. By presenting and embodying the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith, traditions, and teachings in everything it does
2. By promoting student wellbeing
3. By helping students discover their calling (passion, gift, talents) and how it can serve the world
4. By recognizing the presence of God in every student and treating them with respect and dignity
5. By creating an inclusive community that is welcoming, caring and safe for all, and that promotes an atmosphere of understand and respect
6. By developing caring, trusting relationships among all members of the school community and a culture of responsibility for one another
7. Through student-centered education that promotes the total development of the student
8. Through teaching religion
9. Through justice & service
10. Through liturgy and prayer
11. Through retreats & spiritual formation
12. Through the activities and events
13. By working with the families of the students
14. By addressing the challenge of teaching today: pedagogy, content, and technology
15. By enhancing the vocation of the teachers/staff

PART 5. PERSONALIZING FAITH FORMATION



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

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.**

spiritual assessment

Knowing God

- 1. I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend.
2. I have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding.
3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them.
4. I understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.
5. I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.

loving God

- 1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life.
2. By using my own desires and some of scripture and submit to God's will in my life.
3. As a means of growing in Christ, I regularly practice various spiritual disciplines in my life.
4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to go deeper in Christ.

servng God

- 1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others.
2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.
3. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.
4. I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ.
5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.
Knowing: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Head
Loving: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Heart
Serving: 1 2 3 4 5 Total Hands

No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the results of this table to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels: 0-2 Level 1 3-4 Level 2 5 Level 3

Knowing God

We can't ever fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God). But the mysteries and questions are not obstacles to growth - they are an invitation to continually journey deeper in our understanding of God and the Kingdom to which he invites us. As we increase our understanding of the God we worship and serve, which is what the word "theology" means, we increase our capacity to live the life God designed us to live. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the knowing designation will lead you to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom.

Loving God

What we think and what we do are expressions of who we are. Trying hard to change ourselves is a losing proposition - but when we're traveling with God and letting God work in our lives, we find that transformation becomes a beautiful reality. When you see a calendar item or volunteer opportunity marked with the loving designation, it means that participation will draw you into a deeper level of love for God and neighbor.

Serving God

The Christian life is about more than correct thoughts and a loving attitude, it's about living our calling to be salt and light in the world. This means doing the work of the kingdom. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the serving designation will help you get your hands dirty for the kingdom. These include mission opportunities, volunteering and much more.

Take the next step today.

Visit www.coc.org/nextsteps or the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.



Knowing God: Becoming Theologically Informed

1. I have a growing understanding of the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could share my understanding of them with a non-religious friend.

- Level 1: Memorize the basic points of a particular doctrine in an opportunity to explain them to a Christian.
Level 2: Many Christians hold different views about the Bible. Read a Christian leader from another denomination and compare their views with yours.
Level 3: Many Christians hold different views about the Bible. Read a Christian leader from another denomination and compare their views with yours. Study and memorize the creed and articles.

2. I have a growing knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it daily for maximum understanding.

- Level 1: Commit to reading your Bible each day using the GDS (Disciple-Prep Study) guide.
Level 2: Purchase a good study Bible, such as the The Holy Bible, Study Bible, or The Bible, and read it daily.
Level 3: Purchase a good study Bible, such as the The Holy Bible, Study Bible, or The Bible, and read it daily. Learn how to use the notes, maps and other tools and begin by studying the book of Mark for yourself.

3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel increasingly confident in my ability to give an informed answer.

- Level 1: Learn and understand the purpose and vision of The Church of the Resurrection. Why is this vision important? How do you see your church being faithful in living out this vision?
Level 2: Study the vision statement and the mission statement of your church and how they relate to each other.
Level 3: Study the documents included under the "Bible" tab on the web site. Write two or three paragraphs to explain to someone else what you have learned.

4. I have a growing understanding of basic Christian ethics, and I am continually developing a deeper ability to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.

- Level 1: Each day pray your ethical decisions. Before you can act, you need to know what God's will is for you. What does the Bible say about the issue? What does the Holy Spirit say about the issue? What does your conscience say about the issue?
Level 2: Read Acts 17:1-34. Compare the Apostle Paul's reasoning with your own. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 3: What are the differences between the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes? How do you see your own faith being tested? How do you see your own faith being tested?

5. I have a growing understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.

- Level 1: Choose one of the following: prayer, fasting, solitude, or service. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 2: Write to God each day. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 3: Read the book of Acts. How do you see your own faith being tested?

Loving God: Becoming Spiritually Transformed

1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life.

- Level 1: Intentionally spend time each day thinking about God's grace. Make a list of the "good things" you have done during the day. Reflect on how God's grace is working in your life.
Level 2: For a 21-day period, pray the "Lord's Prayer" every day. Reflect on how the words of the prayer are working in your life.
Level 3: Intentionally spend time each day thinking about God's grace. Make a list of the "good things" you have done during the day. Reflect on how God's grace is working in your life.

2. I have a growing ability to lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.

- Level 1: Examine your life and identify things you do or say that may be causing others to feel uncomfortable or to be offended.
Level 2: Fast from TV or another form of entertainment for one week. Reflect on how the fast is working in your life.
Level 3: Each day pray the "Halleluiah Chorus" and let your heart be drawn to God. Reflect on how the words of the chorus are working in your life.

3. As a means of growing in Christ, I regularly practice various spiritual disciplines (e.g., words, prayer, Bible study) in my life.

- Level 1: Practice "fasting" by identifying one area of your life that is causing you to feel uncomfortable or to be offended.
Level 2: Choose one of the following: prayer, fasting, solitude, or service. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 3: Choose one of the following: prayer, fasting, solitude, or service. How do you see your own faith being tested?

4. I have a deepening experience of "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life - of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

- Level 1: Memorize Galatians 5:22. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 2: Ask yourself "What does it mean to love someone?" and "What does it mean to be patient?" and "What does it mean to be kind?" and "What does it mean to be gentle?" and "What does it mean to be self-controlled?"
Level 3: Ask yourself "What does it mean to love someone?" and "What does it mean to be patient?" and "What does it mean to be kind?" and "What does it mean to be gentle?" and "What does it mean to be self-controlled?"

5. I have a group of friends with whom I meet regularly in order to grow in faith together and to challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.

- Level 1: Invite one of your friends to join you for a meal. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 2: Invite one of your friends to join you for a meal. How do you see your own faith being tested?
Level 3: Invite one of your friends to join you for a meal. How do you see your own faith being tested?

Serving God: Serving God daily in the World

1. I actively serve in God's world by helping meet critical needs through acts of justice and mercy, giving in actions what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

- Level 1: Volunteer made and outside the walls of the church.
Level 2: Consistently give volunteer service made and outside the walls of the church.
Level 3: As God leads you, serve others and/or make plans to all the needs of the church.

2. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others by sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.

- Level 1: Invite a friend, a family member or a neighbor to attend worship or other church activity with you.
Level 2: Keep a journal of your faith journey.
Level 3: Practice having conversations with others about your faith.

3. I have discovered my God-given spiritual gifts, and regularly take steps to develop those gifts and to actively serve Christ by using them.

- Level 1: Identify what things you do or say that may be causing others to feel uncomfortable or to be offended.
Level 2: Learn what your God-given spiritual gifts are, and connect them to the needs of the church.
Level 3: Practice having conversations with others about your faith.

4. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.

- Level 1: Single planning: How much of your income do you plan to give to the church?
Level 2: Increase the amount of your income that you give to the church.
Level 3: Practice having conversations with others about your faith.

5. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others, and I increasingly manage my time according to God's priorities.

- Level 1: Get up at least two hours a week for prayer, fasting, solitude, or service.
Level 2: Identify one of your spiritual disciplines and practice it daily.
Level 3: Practice having conversations with others about your faith.

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Discerning God	Attend Worship Occasionally Read Bible Stories or books	Attend Worship at least once a month Read Bible Stories regularly	Attend Worship regularly Serve as an Usher Read a child friendly devotional regularly	Participate in Worship Serve as a Leurgist/Acolyte Create a Bible reading plan Share your faith story
Firming Disciplines	Pray at mealtimes Learn about different kinds of faith practices Learn about Generosity	Pray at mealtimes and bedtime Try different kinds of faith practices Stewardship	Create prayer rituals (blessings, "Faith") Engage in conversations about God and faith Practice Generosity of Time, Talents, Financial Gifts	Integrate prayer into daily routines Integrate faith concepts and actions into everyday life Share a story about your faith practice/generosity
Learning Christian Traditions	Introduce Basic Faith Words (appropriate to development)	Learn about Foundational Faith Concepts (appropriate to development)	Learn about John Wesley and our Methodist Heritage (appropriate to development)	Participate in a children's small group experience
Seasonal Events and Milestones	Milestones Attend Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	Milestones Participate in a seasonal event	Milestones Participate in a seasonal devotion or study	Milestones Integrate seasonal themes in everyday life

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Changing Relationships	Observe youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Learn about the needs of others	Mimic youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Pray for the needs of others	Worship alongside youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Help a neighbor or friend	Share story of meaning and purpose Invite a friend or neighbor to church or a church event
In Service and Mission	Learn about the needs of others in our community, nation, and world	Donate money or items for a service/mission project Give of your time or talents	Participate in a one-day service project Participate in a family mission experience	Learn about and teach/serve others in a service/mission project that you are passionate about Invite others to participate in service/mission projects Share your experiences

Faith Growth Pathway

Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:
Rev. Kathy Pittenger
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
kpittenger@waterfordcumc.org
248.681.0040

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Connecting with God	Personal Spiritual Practices I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice. I read the Bible from time to time.	I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible. I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason)	I am using spiritual devotions regularly. I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times. I use STER to make decisions.	I am revising my spiritual practices. I can share with others how I connect with God through spiritual practices.
	In Community I attend worship at least once a month. I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month. I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities)	I participate in worship every week unless sick or out of town. I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.	I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays. I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities)
Connecting with Others	Individually I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.	I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.	I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns. I share my faith through personal testimony/story.	I invite others to worship and church events. I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.
	In Community I attend seasonal events or special events. I am learning about ministry opportunities.	I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation. I attend or serve at events.	I provide leadership for special events. I am open to being trained in church leadership.	I am a leader in a Central Connect Group. I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Changing Our World with Christ's Love	Generosity of Time, Talents, and/or Financial Gifts (TTFG) I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community. I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving. I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.	I commit to share my TTFG regularly. I help a neighbor or a charity with my TTFG occasionally. I can share a story about my TTFG.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income (10% and beyond). I share my TTFG regularly. I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a tithe (10%) and beyond. I share my TTFG regularly. I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.
	In Community (Evangelism, Mission, Trips, Service Projects, Social Action) I learn from the church about caring for others in the community. I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world.	I participate in community service through church ministries occasionally. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith to local and political issues.	I participate in community service through church ministries regularly. I invite others to try a variety of serving opportunities outside the church. I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all.	I participate in ongoing service beyond the walls of the church. I recruit and equip leaders for ministries and missions. I participate in a community peace and justice group.

Faith Growth Pathway

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Waterford, MI

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Playlists for Faith Formation



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.

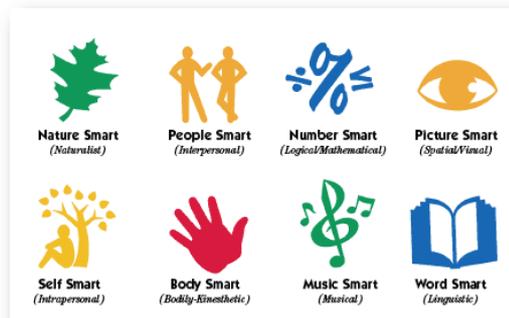
Playlists are developed for each “stage” on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper.

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



Personalize the Offerings

Playlist: Bible for Families with Children

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
- 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

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.
- 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

A Holistic Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Young Children	Grade School Children	Young Adolescents	Older Adolescents
	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
	Family	Family	Family	Family
	School Community	School Community	School Community	School Community
	Age Group	Age Group	Age Group	Age Group

What is Edmodo?

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

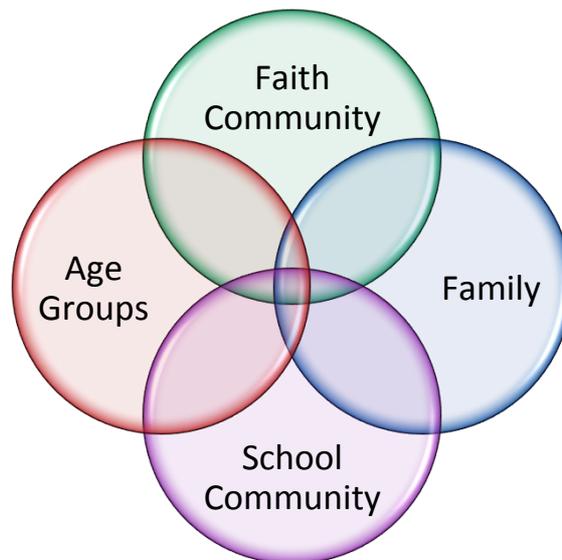
The screenshot displays the Edmodo website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Edmodo logo, a search bar, and links for Calendar, Grades, Library, Home, Profile, and Account. The main content area is titled "By Me" and shows a post by "Mrs. Nero" with a photo of a Christmas tree. The post text says "Me to SPA 9 2012, SPA 9 2012 (Parents) Please bring your cuaderno money to me this week:" followed by a list of names: Meha, Chase, Madie, Josh, Jeremy, Patrick... A green heart graphic contains the text "...and it looks like Facebook!". The right sidebar features a "Notifications" section with "1 New Direct Post", "Send Invitations" with "Invite other teachers to Edmodo", and "Suggestions" including "Create badges for your students!", "Professional Development", and "Mr. Craig Tessier".

Google Classroom

The screenshot displays the Google Classroom interface. At the top, there is a header with the Google Classroom logo. Below it is a grid of course cards for Physical Education, Design 101, Art History, Intro to World History, Poetry for Physicists, and Astronomy. Each card shows the teacher's name, the number of students, and the status of assignments. On the right, there are two mobile device screens showing the Classroom app interface. The first screen shows a "Home" view with a list of assignments like "Algebra 2" and "Balancing Equations Worksheet". The second screen shows a "Record your own video of The Elements Song" activity with instructions and a video player.

PART 6. FAITH FORMING STRATEGIES

An Ecological Approach



Forming Faith: Intergenerational



- 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*)

The Atlantic **The Preschool Inside a Nursing Home**

For the elderly residents, interacting with the kids is a jolt back to the world of the living.



A still from Evan Brigg's documentary, *Present Perfect* shows an elderly resident doing a puzzle with preschoolers. Evan Brigg

TIFFANY R. JANSEN | JAN 20, 2016 | EDUCATION

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.

Become Intentionally Intergenerational



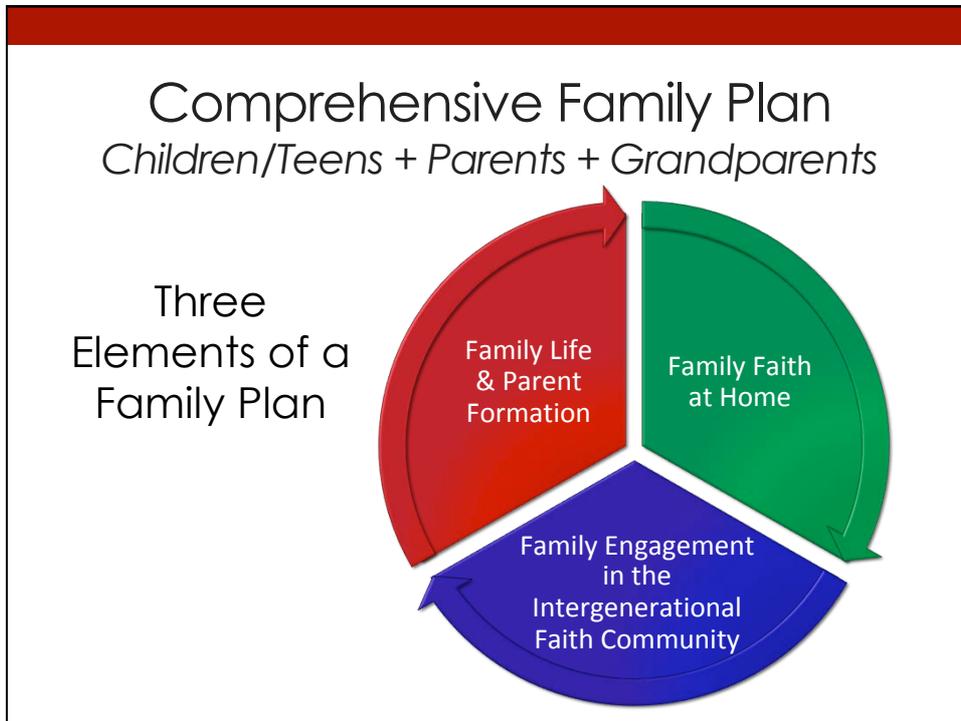
Enhance Intergenerational Relationships

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



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

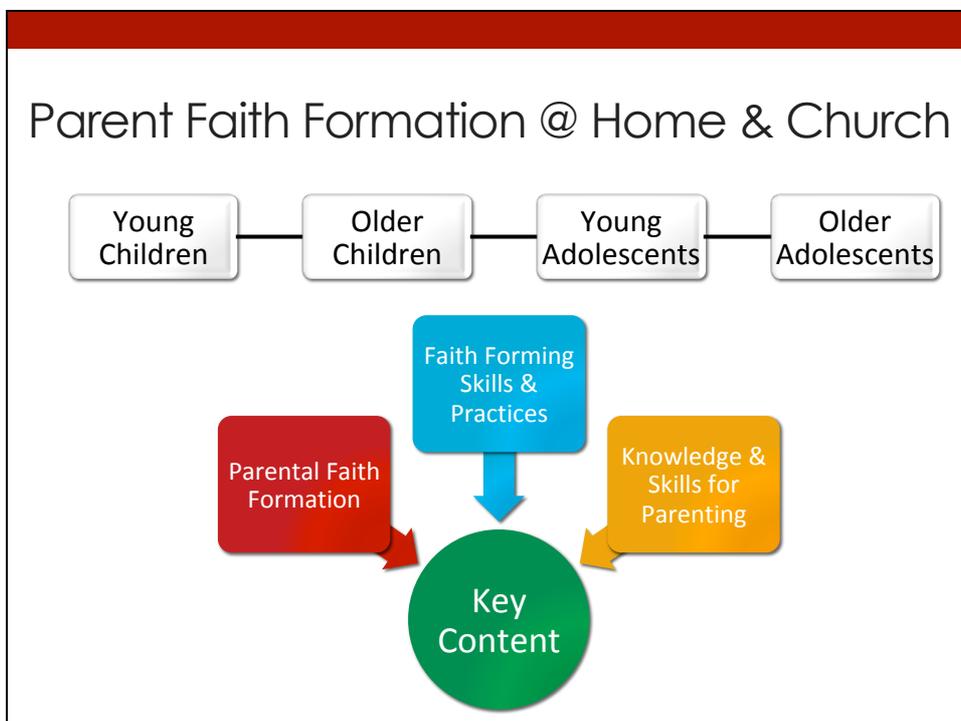
The photograph shows a man, a woman, and a young girl sitting at a wooden dining table. They are all looking down at something on the table, possibly a book or a menu. There are plates of food and glasses on the table. The setting appears to be a home dining room.

Young Children

Older Children

Young Adolescents

Older Adolescents



Developing a Strong Family Life

Developmental Relationships – Search Institute



Express Care



Challenge Growth



Provide Support



Share Power



Expand Possibilities

What Makes a Difference

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.

Developing Strong Family Life

Family Life Programming

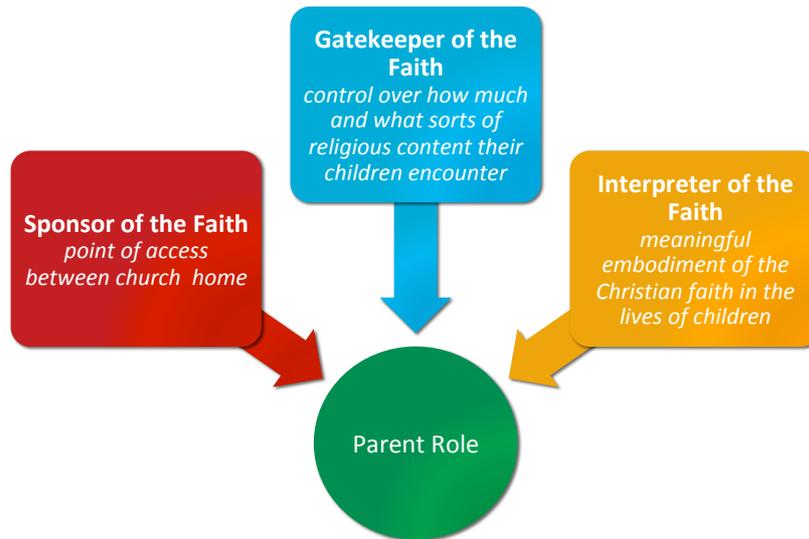
1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care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



Practical Strategies

1. Develop a family faith formation website.
2. Seasonal family festivals and gatherings.
3. Connect to Sunday worship.
4. Schedule a yearlong plan for milestones.
5. Make faith practices a seasonal focus.
6. Create family immersion experiences.
7. Develop a monthly seasonal event.

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

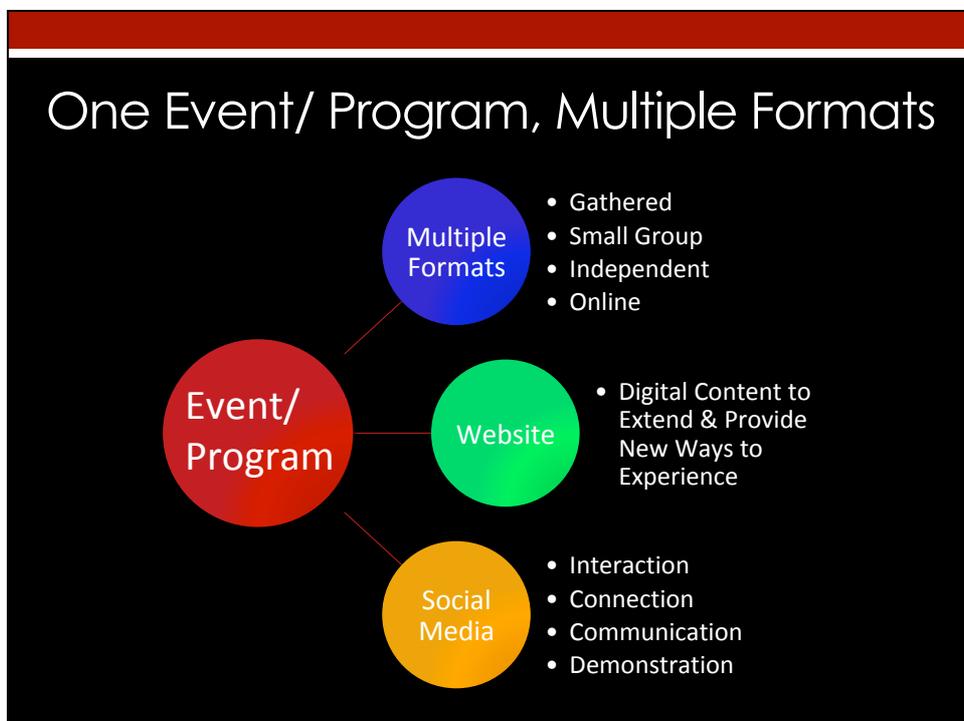
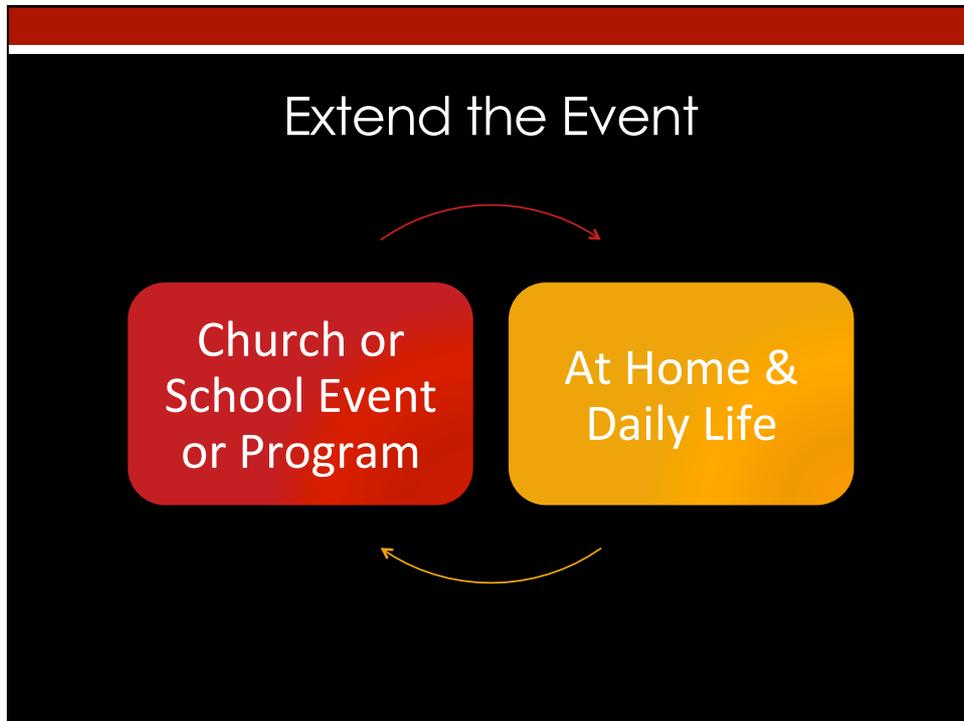
1. Address diverse spiritual-religious identities of parents.
2. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions.
3. Design programs that engage parents in the learning experience.
4. Use a variety of environments and methods to engage all parents, anytime and anywhere.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

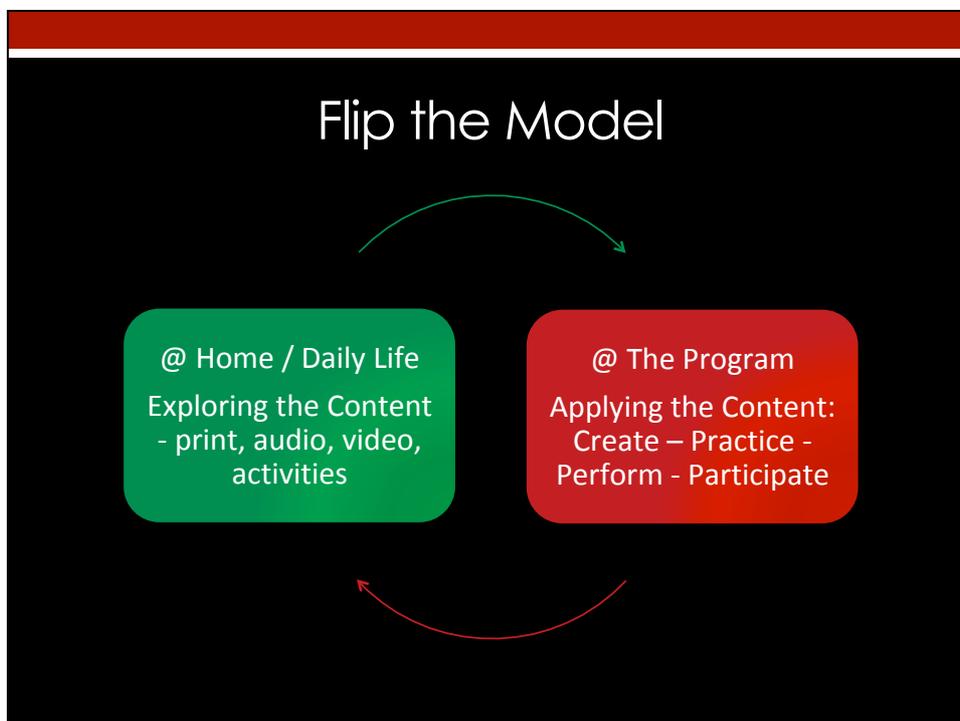
Family Service



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 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





Integrate Online and Gathered

THE SLATE PROJECT

HOME ABOUT CONNECT BLOG COMMUNITY



CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

WHAT'S NEW

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 the 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: 4 E University Pkwy 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



#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.

#SlateSpeak



- #SlateSpeak 101**
- #SlateSpeak is a progressive Christian forum where faith and everyday life meet in an exploration of awesome conversation.
 - You can follow the #SlateSpeak conversation using [facebook.com/slatespeak](#) or [twitter.com/slatespeak](#) to enhance your experience.
 - We do not automatically agree with everything that we read. #SlateSpeak is a safe space for unique & challenging...
 - We do not shame or blame each other here. We make respect each other's experiences and hold space for each other's faith.
 - It is totally acceptable to follow along silently, but feel free to engage if/when you feel comfortable.
 - #SlateSpeak.
 - If you have a question, feel free to ask it! We are a friendly bunch.



Wow. That last hour was awesome. Thanks [#slatespeak](#) for a great chat



#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 those readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!