

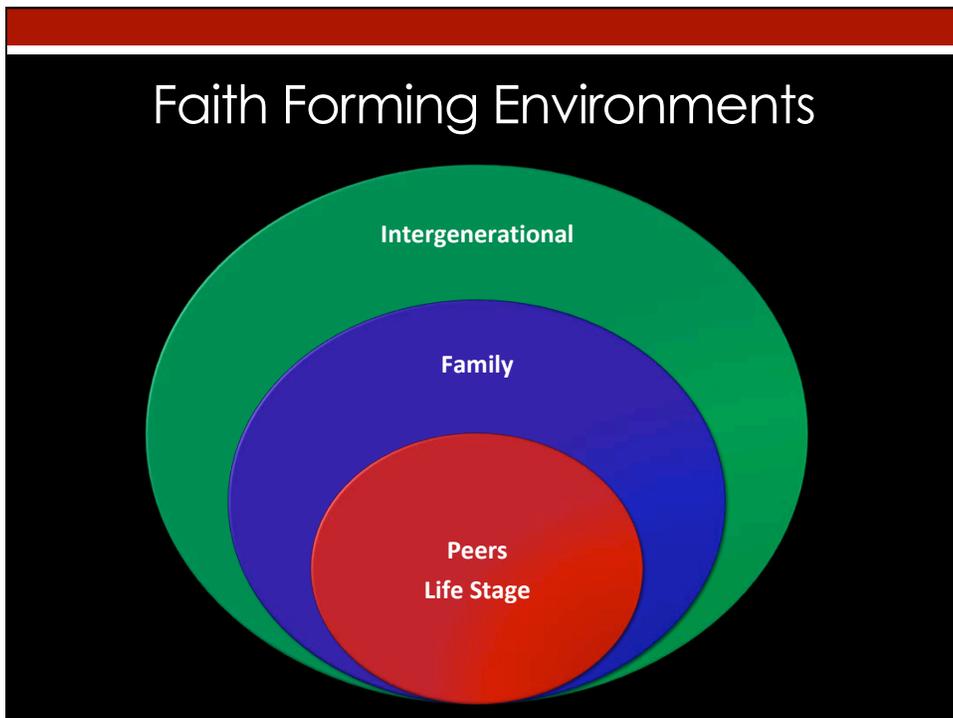


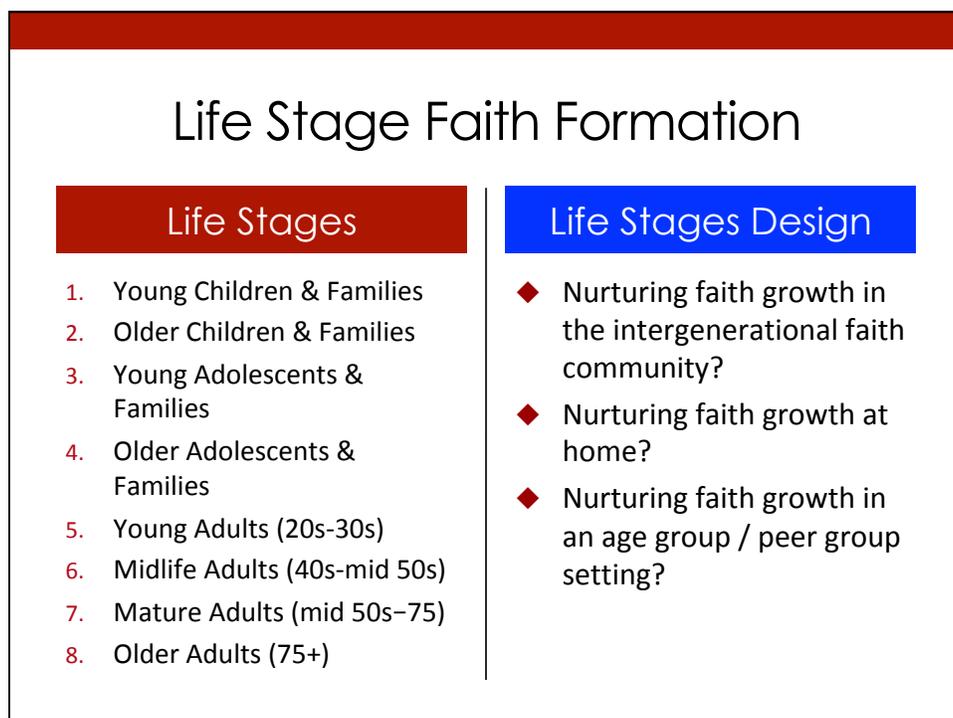
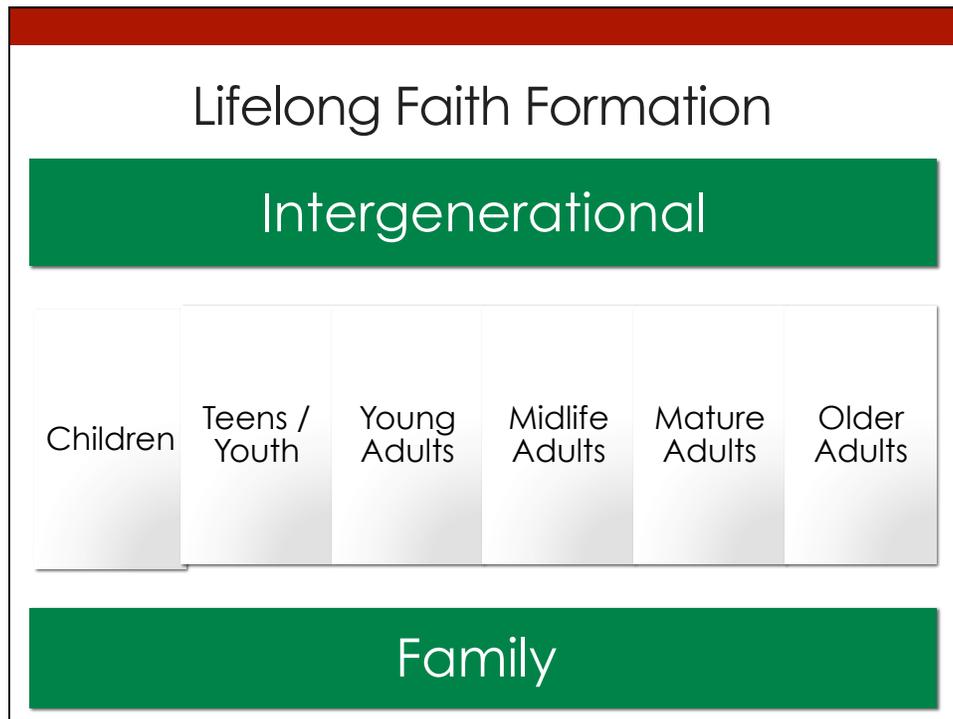
copyright © William Frymire

**Strengthening Faith Forming
Environments**
John Roberto, Vibrant Faith

John Roberto
Vibrant Faith Leadership Team
jroberto@lifelongfaith.com

www.LifelongFaith.com
SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
www.VibrantFaith





Forming Faith: Intergenerational



Utilize intergenerational events

Infuse intergenerational into existing programs

Connect the generations through new intergenerational
new programs & experiences

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.

Worship & All Ages Faith Formation



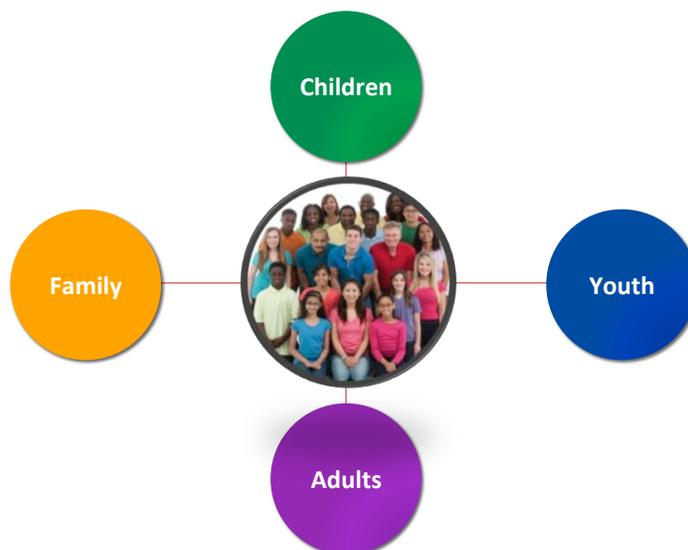
Worship
Theme

- Readings
- Homily/Sermon
- Podcast

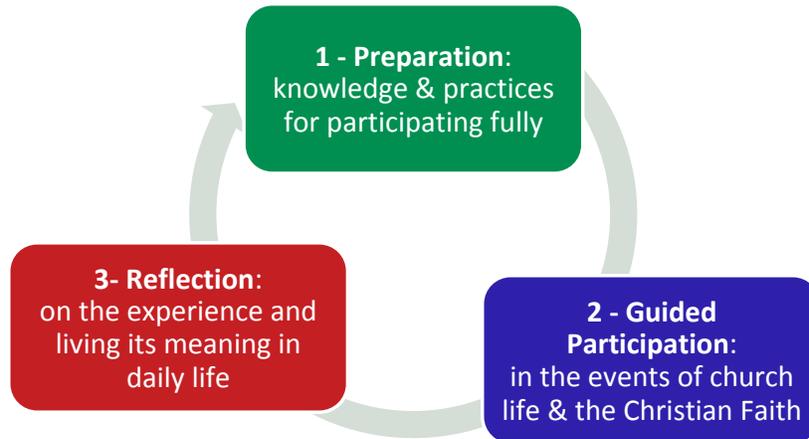
Family
Youth
Adults

- Scripture
- Learn
- Watch / Listen
- Read
- Prayer
- Live

Approaches to Lifelong Faith Formation *Intergenerational Faith Formation at the Center*



Utilizing Events



Infusing Intergenerationality

Infusing intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities, such as bringing mature adults into children and youth programs for interviews, storytelling, and mentoring; and transforming age-group programs (vacation Bible school, service projects) into intergenerational experiences.

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Service projects and mission trips
- ◆ Age group learning programs
- ◆ Social / community program
- ◆ Sacramental preparation

Connecting through New Programs

1. Intergenerational Service
 - Intergenerational Mission Trips
 - Churchwide Service Day
 - Intergenerational Monthly Project
 - Intergenerational Service Nights
 - Intergenerational Service Projects

2. Intergenerational Learning
 - Weekly or Bi-Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Seasonal
 - Small Group & Large Group

Learning

Incorporating Intergenerational Learning in Church Life

1. Age Group Programming
2. Sacramental and Milestone Celebrations
3. Church Year Feasts & Seasons
4. Vacation Bible School
5. Mission Trips & Service Projects
6. Retreat and Camp Experiences

Intergenerational Faith Formation



Engaging all ages and generations together in informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

- Intergenerational Learning
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models

Liturgically-Centered St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Acton, MA

1. September: Stewardship - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 16: 19-31)
2. October: Pray Always - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 18: 1-8)
3. November: Last Things and Heaven - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 21: 5-19)
4. December: Mary - Immaculate Conception (Luke 1: 26-38)
5. January: The Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 13-17)
6. February: You are the Salt of the Earth - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Matthew 5: 13-16)
7. March: The Temptation of Jesus - First Sunday of Lent (Matthew 4: 1-11)
8. April: Palm Sunday (Matthew 26: 14-27)

Thematic
Holy Infant Catholic
Parish, Durham, NC

HI-life Navigating Life with **GPS** –
God's Proven System

Gatherings for 2009-2010

Rules of the Road – God's Commandments

Wednesday	September 9	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	September 10	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	September 11	5:45-8:30pm

Respect and Protect All Life

Wednesday	October 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	October 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	October 16	5:45-8:30pm

Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness

Wednesday	November 18	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	November 19	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	November 20	5:45-8:30pm

Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity

Wednesday	February 3	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	February 4	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	February 5	5:45-8:30pm

Navigating with Integrity and Honesty

Wednesday	March 10	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	March 11	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	March 12	5:45-8:30pm

Be a Good Steward of All God's Gifts

Wednesday	April 14	5:45-8:30pm
Thursday	April 15	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	April 16	5:45-8:30pm

*Wednesday & Friday Gatherings are for all ages.
Thursday Gatherings are for adults & teens.*

Christian Practices

1. Caring for the Body
2. Celebrating Life
3. Discernment
4. Dying Well
5. Eating Well
6. Forgiving
7. Hospitality
7. Keeping Sabbath
8. Managing Household Life
9. Participating in Community
10. Praying
11. Reading the Bible
12. Transforming the World.

Intergenerational Learning Process

Meal and Community Building

Part 1. Gathering and Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Option 1. Whole Group (together)

Option 2. Age Group (parallel)

Option 3. Activity Center

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and
Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Examples of IG Learning

1. As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
2. In Lectionary-based catechesis
3. In sacramental preparation
4. In vacation Bible school
5. In milestone celebrations
6. In intergenerational service projects
7. In liturgical season celebrations
8. In an intergenerational retreat experience or prayer experience

HI-life Gatherings...

Our sixth year of whole community catechesis focuses on *Living a Moral Life*. Our theme is *Navigating Life with GPS – God’s Proven System*. Christian moral life can be summed up as the recognition of the awesome gift of God’s loving presence in our lives and our continuing effort to respond to that love. During this year we will explore the guidelines that God has given us to live lives of love and faithfulness, including the ten commandments and the beatitudes. We encourage parishioners of all ages to participate in our HI-life Gatherings – our intergenerational learning assemblies that are the foundation of our lifelong faith formation process. Our monthly Gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.

➔ **Sharing a Simple Meal Together**
No cooking - just come and enjoy

At a typical Gathering you are welcomed by greeters in the Hospitality Room and escorted to a table in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At your table there might be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, or an empty-nest couple. There will be a couple of questions on the table to focus our table talk.

➔ **Whole Group Opening Experience**
Introduction of the topic to be experienced by all ages

After the meal, everyone moves to the church for an opening prayer and an activity to set the tone for the evening, such as a story or video segment. Each household receives a HI-life Home Kit and learns to use it throughout the evening.

➔ **Exploring the Topic through Age-Specific Learning Activities**
Learning about the same topic according to one’s age or stage in life

Then the group divides into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A typical evening might have adults staying in the church for a speaker and group discussion, young adults in Meeting Room 6, JYM youth in Meeting Room 3, TYM youth in the Hospitality Room, and parents with young children (approximately ages 5-11) together in the Fellowship Hall. There are lead catechists for each group to teach and guide the learning activities of the evening and trained facilitators to assist the parents and children at each table.

➔ **Whole Group Sharing Experience**
Closing of the Gathering for all ages

To conclude our evening, everyone reunites in the church to share what has been learned, to pray together, and to be sent forth to continue learning at home in preparation for the church event or season which is the focus of the month.



Elements of LOGOS

In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring, Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

ACTS 2:42 [NRSV]
They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.



Bible Study: A time for each grade, or a combination of grades, to study the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living. Churches can use non-denominational curriculum developed by GenOn for LOGOS (either “Faith for Life” or our high school Bible studies) or something of their own choosing.



Family Time: The shared meal is a time to gather regular “table families” of various ages who eat together each week for the entire program year. Kitchen teams prepare dinners that are served family style—with table settings and serving dishes—practicing the art of serving one another.



Worship Skills: Choir, drama, bells, or other arts are rehearsed at LOGOS and then presented regularly in corporate worship. Each church decides the best fit with its own liturgy and worship style.



Recreation: All have great fun in a cooperative atmosphere, often drawing on the hobbies and interests of adults in the congregation willing to share their passions on a one-time basis or longer.

Elements of LOGOS

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org

Intergenerational Learning



- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/ theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/ theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others

www.messychurch.org.uk

Home Info Where? Resources Events & Stories Blog Leaders International Contact

Search... Go

Log in / Register

Messy Church

- is a way of being church for families involving fun
- is found across the world
- values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration

Follow Messy Church

Like Follow Join email list

Introducing Messy Church

Introduction | Values | What it is and isn't | For Leaders | Support

Latest on the Messy blog

Messy Regional Coordinator for Wirral
Welcome to Caroline Houghton who...
Grandparents
We've been getting excited about...
Messy Church activities in Kenya
We love to receive stories of the...
→ Read the blog

Messy Church Conference

International Conference 2016
Celebrating & learning with the worldwide family of Messy Church
→ Find out more

Messy Church No. 3337

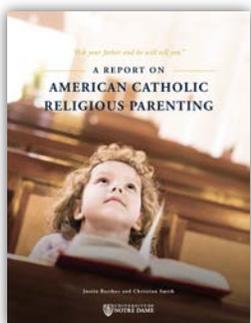
Map data ©2016 Google Terms of Use

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

What Makes a Difference?



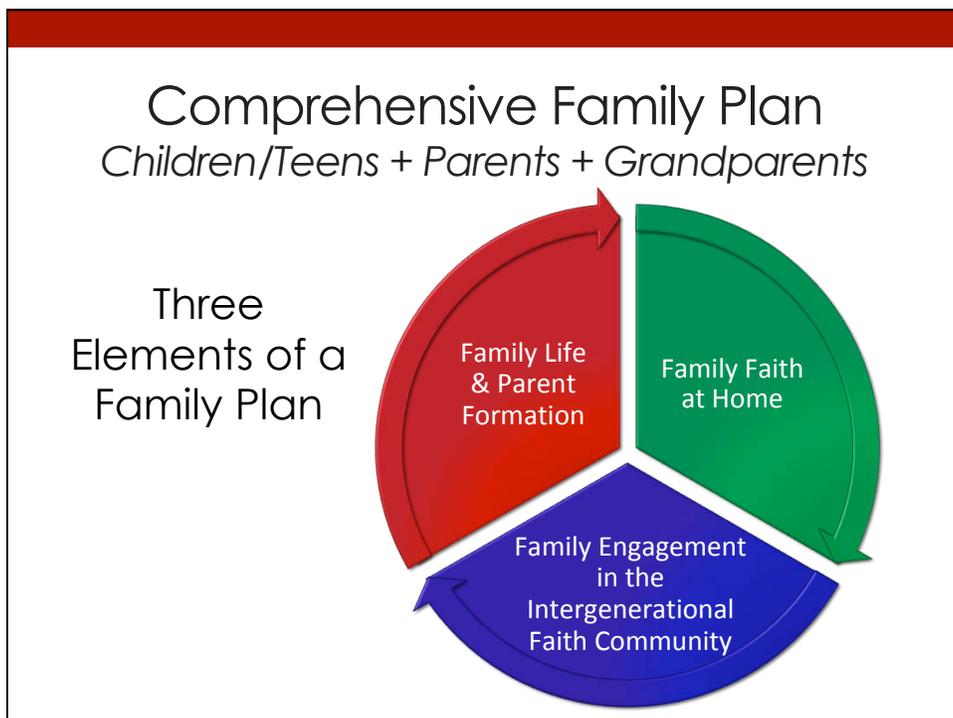
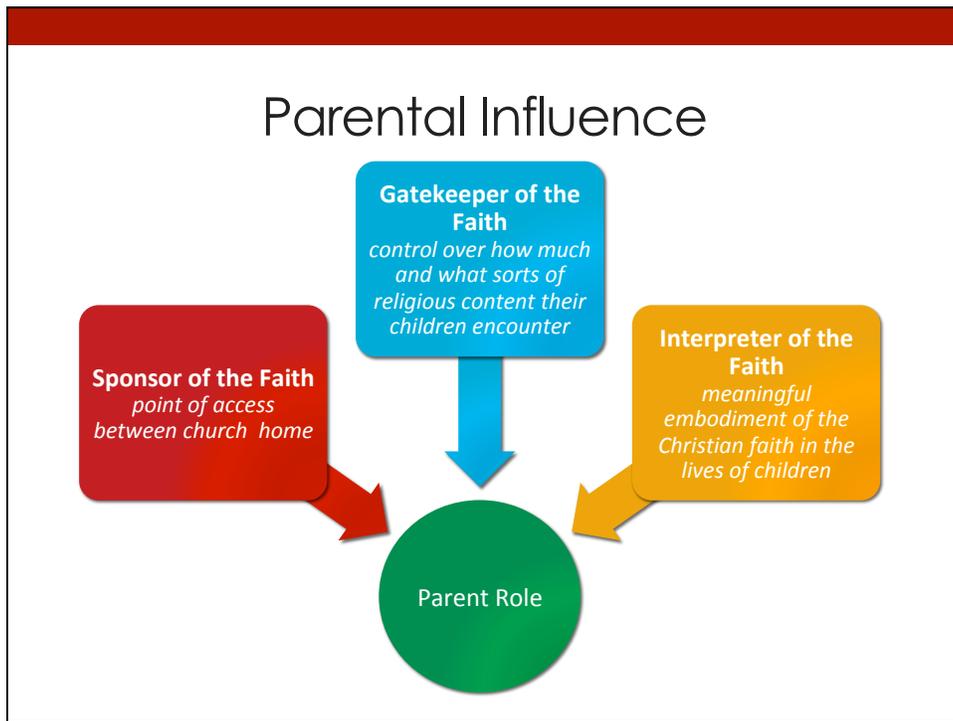
The primary mechanisms by which Catholic identity becomes rooted in children's lives are not Catholic schooling or sacramental preparation, but rather the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities.

(Burtkus and Smith)

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)

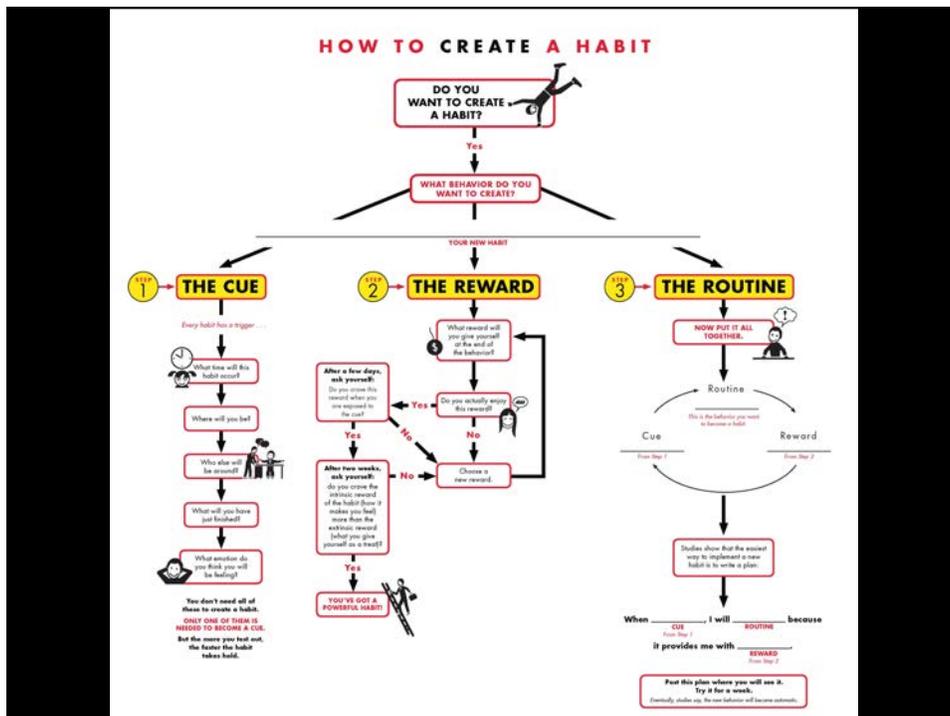
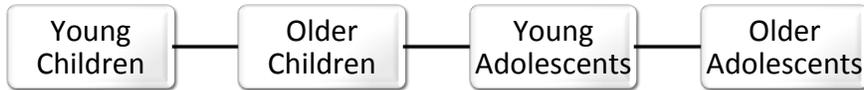
Practices that Make a Difference

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

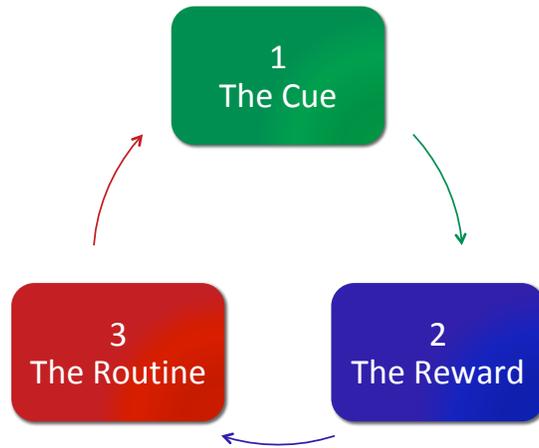


#1. Faith Practices @ Home

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



How to Create a Habit



When (cue), I will (routine) because it provides me with (reward).

LifeLong Faith Associates

FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

HOME PARENTS FAMILY LIFE FAITH @ HOME SEASONS MILESTONES FAITH @ CHURCH SACRAMENTS

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

Children's Ministries Faith Formation @ First Church of Simsbury

Home Schedule Preschool Families Elementary Families Teen Families For Kids VBS 2018 Adults Contact

Faith at Home: God is Love (Feb)

Stories to Print and Read

Jesus Loves the Children from Lambaongs to print and read
 Jesus Love the Children story to print, assemble, and color by Lambaongs

Jesus Loves Me story from Lambaongs to print and read
 Jesus Loves Me story to print, assemble, and color by Lambaongs

I Love My Bible
 I Love My Bible story from Lambaongs to print and read about how God loves us
 I Love MY Bible story to print, assemble, and color by Lambaongs

Activities

Jesus Loves Me BINGO Jesus Loves Me printable Bingo

Jesus Loves You Heart Matching Game
 Jesus Love You printable matching heart folder game

God Loves Me - VeggieTales (web).mov

VEGGIETALES · JESUS LOVES ME
 US LOVES ME WHEN I'M GOOD

Jesus Loves Me Folder Game
 Printable Love First Bible Game

God is love coloring pages
 God is love stain glass coloring picture
 Measuring God's love coloring picture
 Jesus loves the children coloring picture
 Children of God coloring page

#2. Milestones throughout Life



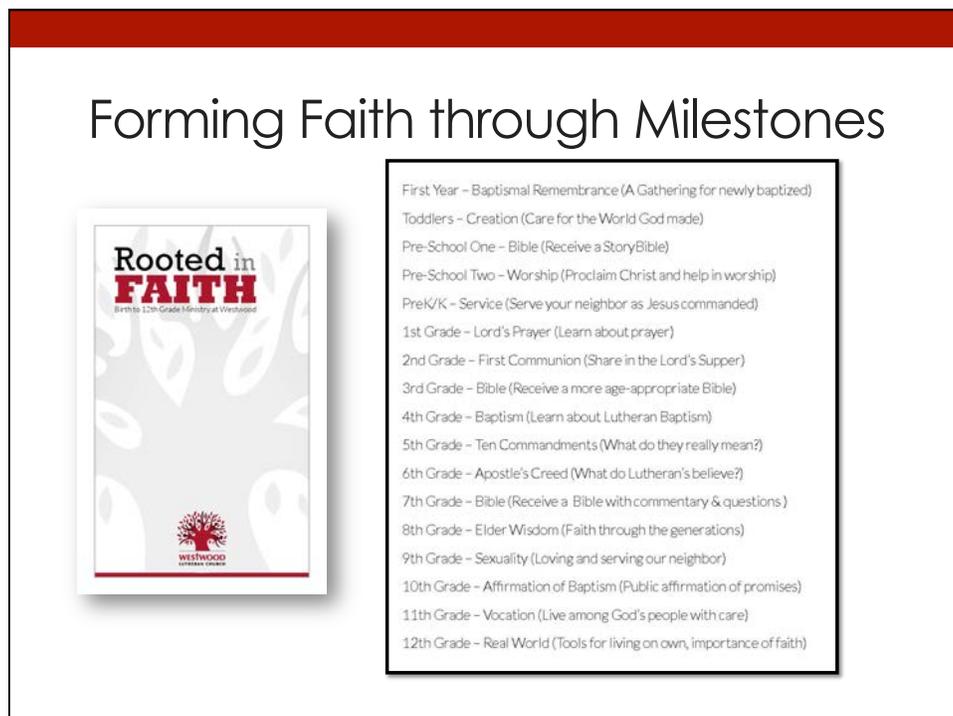
1. Ritual and blessing
2. Home celebration/ blessing
3. Learning program –
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth

Milestones

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ✦ Birth / Baptism | 1. Church ritual/blessing |
| ✦ Baptism anniversaries | 2. Home celebration/
blessing |
| ✦ First prayers | 3. Learning program – at
church or home |
| ✦ First Bible stories | 4. Symbol |
| ✦ Starting school year | 5. Supporting continued
growth |
| ✦ Receiving a first Bible | |
| ✦ First Communion | |
| ✦ Confirmation | |
| ✦ Graduation | |

Forming Faith through Milestones

1. a ritual celebration or a blessing marking the milestone with the whole church community
2. a home ritual celebration or blessing marking the milestone
3. a learning program, often for the whole family or intergenerational, that prepares the individual and the whole family for the milestone and for faith practice at home
4. a tangible, visible reminder or symbol of the occasion being marked
5. resources to support continuing faith growth and practice after the milestone



Rituals & Milestones

celebrate meaningful, memorable moments in your family

Baptism Anniversary



Share with each of your children the story of their baptism day to celebrate their new life in Christ and embrace their relationship with God as their Father and Creator. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Starting School



Going off to Preschool or Kindergarten or First Grade for the first time is an exciting milestone for children and their families. As children prepare to venture out from home and begin a new routine at school, they'll hear your promise to be with them always. Together, the family will create a visual reminder of your great love for children. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Getting Ready to Worship



Getting out the door to make it to worship on time can be a trying experience for parents and children. Create a preparation ritual to help your family get ready to worship at your church, whether on Sunday morning, Saturday night, or during the week. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

Birthday Celebrations

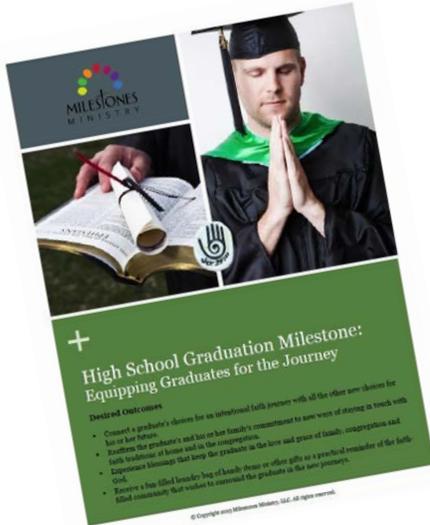


Prayer
 God, we come today to give thanks to you for creating the life of _____ (name). We ask your blessing on _____ (name), that he/she may continue to honor and praise you by using the gifts and talents you have given him/her. We ask that _____ (name) continue to grow in age, wisdom and grace - as Jesus grew.

Scripture Reading
 Be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Ephesians 5:20-21)

Prayer
 Through Baptism, (name) entered God's special life of love. On this special day of remembrance we ask that (name) may be faithful to God's love and trust; may make good choices in life; may continue to grow in age, wisdom

Forming Faith through Milestones



High School Graduation Milestone:
Equipping Graduates for the Journey

Desired Outcomes

- Counsel a graduate's choices for an individual faith journey with all the other same choices for him or her future.
- Strengthen the graduate's self-love and his family's commitment to new ways of staying in touch with faith traditions at home and in the congregation.
- Experience messages that love the graduate as the love and grace of family, congregation and God.
- Receive a free filled binder log of needs, dreams or other gifts as a practical reminder of the faith-filled community that wishes to surround the graduate in the same journey.

© Copyright 2013 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



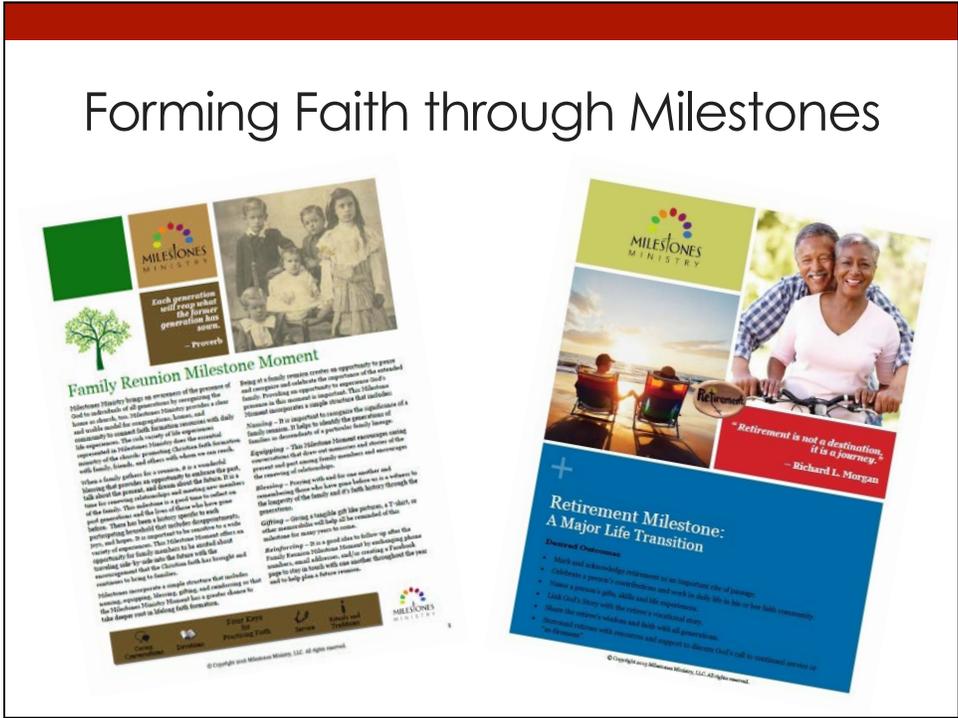
Mission Trip Milestone:
Community Blessings at Home and Away

Desired Outcomes

- Experience the mission trip as a faith journey by water although available for only a few
- Support those on the mission trip with prayer from the home community
- Experience new places, people and experiences as a unique faith journey
- Learn to serve others as an important Christian practice while growing together into more others love and experience God in their own lives.
- Give a new understanding and appreciation of the Christian faith.

© Copyright 2013 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

Forming Faith through Milestones



#3. Celebrating Seasons

Calendar Year

- New Year's Eve and Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Valentine's Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Earth Day
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Father's Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Start of School
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving

Church Year

- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- St. Francis Day—Blessing the Animals (October 4)
- All Saints and Souls (Nov 1-2)

Seasons of the Year

The seasons of the year offers a variety of opportunities for families to celebrate, learn, and have fun together. We have selected one family activity for each month of the year, reflecting the calendar seasons and the church year seasons.

1. January: Martin Luther King Jr.
2. February: Ash Wednesday
3. March: The Real St. Patrick
4. April: Easter and New Life
5. May: Mother's Day
6. June: Vacation Travel
7. July: Independence Day
8. August: Back to School
9. September: Fall Harvest
10. October: Helping Halloween
11. November: Thanksgiving
12. December: Christmas is Coming!

January: Serving Others

Observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service—held on the third Monday of January—with your family. Warm the hearts and feet of people seeking help from emergency shelters with socks and personal hygiene supplies.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

February: Praying through Lent

Teach your children a new prayer (or two) over the course of the 40 days of Lent by taping it by their bed and praying it together every night at bedtime.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

[LENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE HOME](#)

March: The Real Patrick

Saint Patrick was a real person, born in Britain in the year 385 C. E. He was once a slave, then ultimately a priest in Ireland. He brought many people to God at a time when many had turned away from the Lord.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

April: New Life

The popular custom of coloring Easter eggs comes from an ancient Christian practice of dyeing, cracking, and treating on eggs as an Easter celebration. Instead of randomly coloring eggs, draw names to decorate sand birds eggs for one another.

Integrate Online & Gathered 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church →	Daily & Home	← Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Lenten Sunday liturgies Stations of the Cross Lenten prayer Lenten retreat Lenten service Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fasting Praying Service/ Almsgiving Lectionary reflection Family Lenten activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenten learning resources Lenten calendar Daily Lenten prayer Weekly table prayer Video resources Online retreat experience

Example: Earth Day

Community	Church	Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community cleanup • Planting a community garden • All ages workshop on caring for creation • Story time at the library on environmental awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenical prayer service • Intergenerational program on theology of caring for creation • Church audit • Global project for whole community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling activities • Planting a family garden • Meal time creation prayer • Daily Bible verses for April • Children's activities • Storybooks and videos • Home audit

#4. Encountering God in the Bible

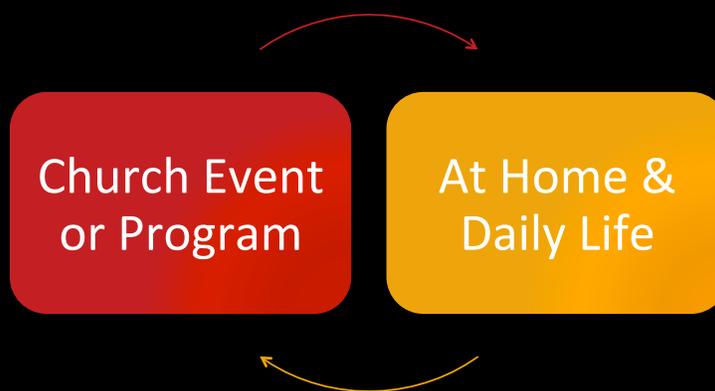
1. Scripture in Sunday Worship
 - Lectionary
 - Sermon Series
2. Exploring the Bible—Family or Intergenerational Programs
 - A Tour of the Old Testament
 - A Tour of the Gospels
 - Walking with Jesus
 - Journeys of Paul

Encountering God in the Bible

Scripture in Sunday Worship Intergenerational & Home Faith Formation

September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
November: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
December: 2nd Sunday of Advent
January: Baptism of the Lord Sunday
February: 1st Sunday of Lent
March: Palm Sunday
April: 4th Sunday of Easter
May: Holy Trinity Sunday

Extend the Event



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.

Family Camp



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

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

2018 FAMILY CAMPS



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

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

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

Family Mini-Camp #1

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

Family Camp #2

June 30- July 6 – Family Blast
Ephesians: Wake Up Week! + Youth Musical
 with Nate Hoff, Dave Wollan
 Special Musical for Youth/Children

Family Camp #3

July 7-13
The Mission of God in the Old Testament
 with Beth Einess-Hanson, Carl Billings, & Jillian Jones

Family Service



#5. Equipping Parents

Equipping parents and grandparents with the knowledge and skills necessary for faith-forming: how to transmit faith and values to their young people, how to become a Christian role model, and how to build a community of faith at home that nurtures faith growth in the young.

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

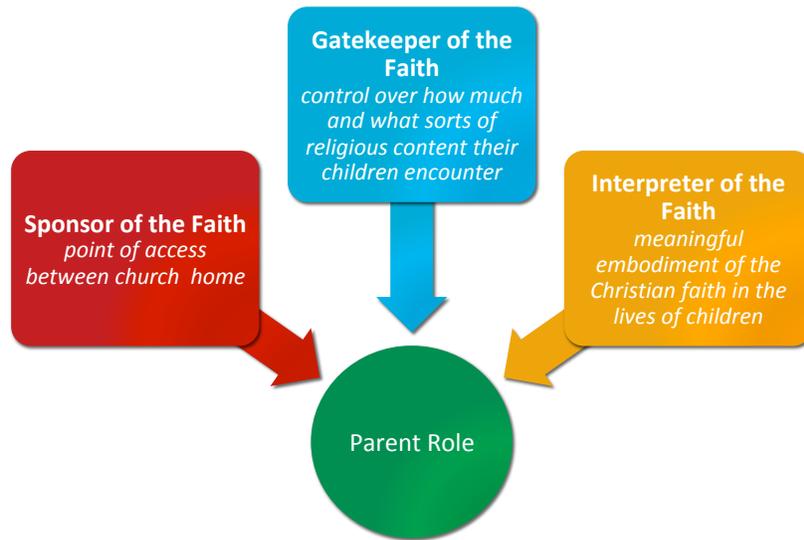
1. Communicating effectively
2. Establishing family routines: family meals, shared activities, daily commitments
3. Celebrating meaningful traditions and rituals
4. Discussing tough topics
5. Making decisions and solving problems as a family
6. Learning how to build strong relationships and express care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

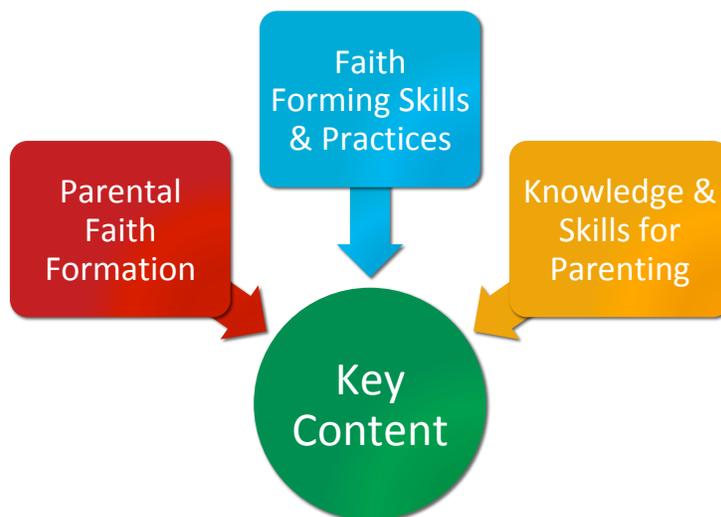
Competencies

- ✓ 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



Empowering Parents



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.

Forming Faith: Children



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

Developing a Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Children	Youth	Young Adults	Adults	Family
	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
1.					
	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family
2.					
	Age Group				
3.					

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

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Discovering God	Attend Worship Occasionally Read Bible Stories or books	Attend Worship at least once a month Serve as a Greeter 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 Disciples	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, "Prayers") 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 practices/generosity
Living Christian Habits	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
Caring 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	Work 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	Learn about and testify/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
Warrenford, MI

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

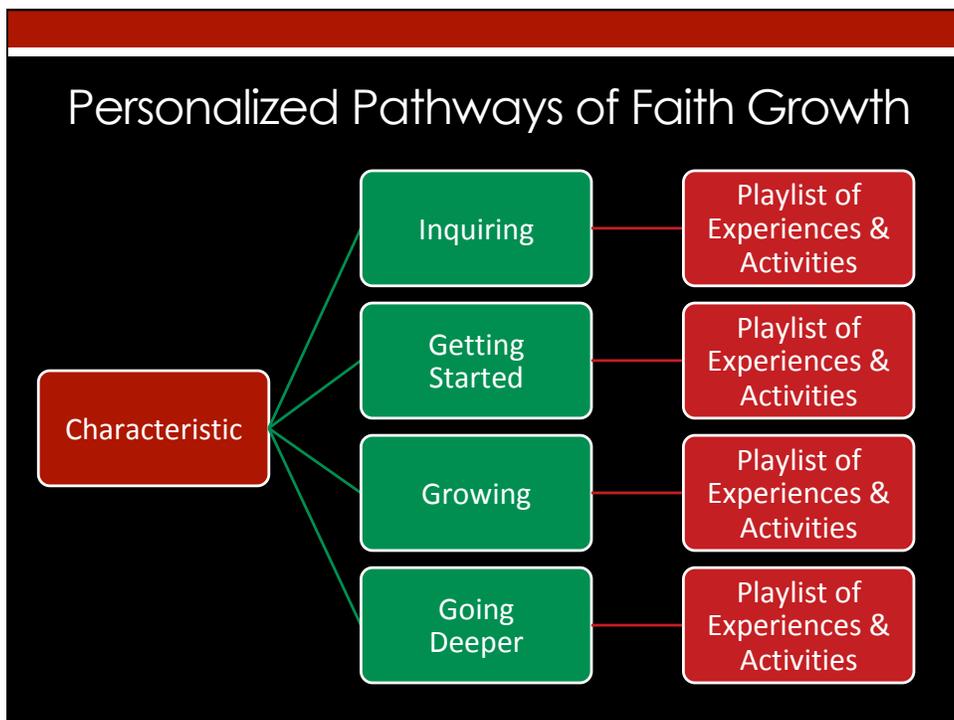
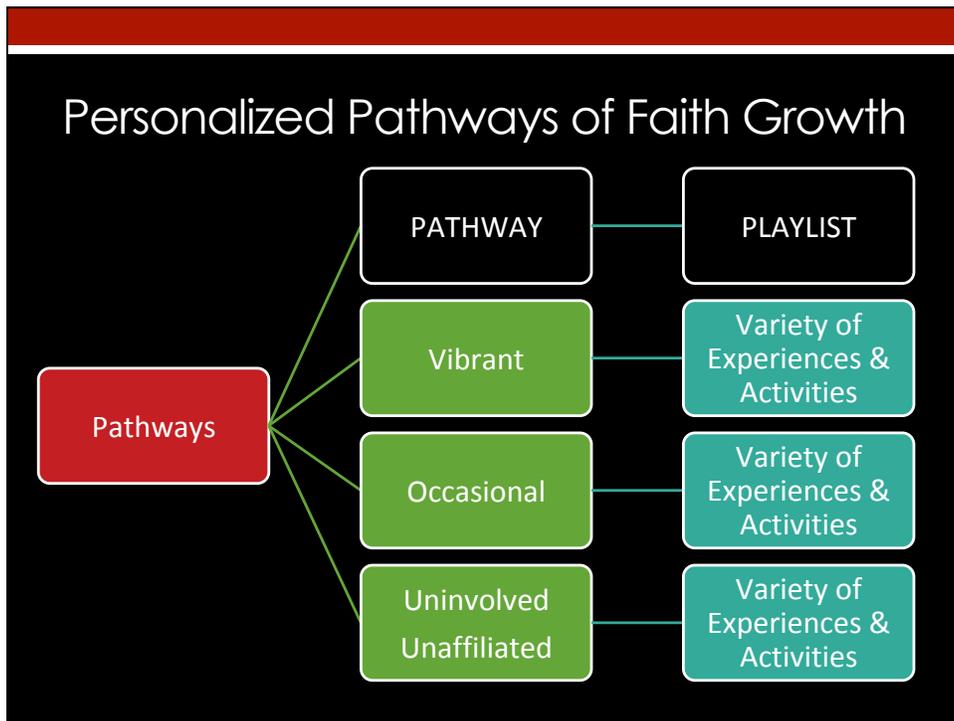
Diverse Spiritual-Religious Needs

Not Spiritual,
Not Religious
Unaffiliateds

The
Spiritual but Not
Religious
Uninvolved

Faith &
Engagement –
one among
many priorities
Occasionals

Faith &
Engagement at
the Center of Life
Actives



Playlists for Faith Formation



Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach to develop the faith of families with young children....

1. *Getting Started Families* (little faith experience)
 2. *Growing Families* (somewhat connected to faith community)
 3. *Going Deeper Families* (involved and practicing)
- How would you engage the parents?
 - How would you engage the children and whole family?

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for first communion...

1. *Getting Started Children* (little to no faith forming experiences)
 2. *Growing Children* (some faith forming experiences)
 3. *Going Deeper Children* (involved and practicing)
- What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of children?
 - What would parent and family faith formation look like?

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.

Personalize the Offerings

Playlists Tailored to Different Faith Needs

Playlist:
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

KEF

Building relationships
with God, family and other
congregants.

Building connections
to Torah, Shabbat, holidays, Israel.

Building knowledge
of Hebrew, history, music, ethics.

Building community
within our Temple and Los Angeles.

KEF is a bold new model of Jewish learning.

Rather than studying *about* Judaism, prayer, celebration and Jewish culture, or reading *about* Jewish literature, the Bible and what makes a Jewish community, participants in KEF will *experience* it all and be a part of building their own Jewish community.

The goals of the KEF program are:

- to learn about the Jewish tradition through family experiences with prayer, celebration and *tikkun olam*;
- to strengthen the family's connections to one another, to the Jewish tradition, and to the congregation as a whole; and
- to build a community of learners at Temple Emanuel.

The participation of the family as a whole, including younger and older siblings, is welcomed. Families will come together in a *K'vutzah*, the Hebrew word for group. Each *K'vutzah* will have its own *Rosh K'vutzah* (group leader).

Program Requirements

Student and at least one adult family member shall participate in the following activities in the course of a year:

- 4-6 *K'vutzah* activities, including orientation, Shabbat dinners, 2 class-age based programs, book club discussions and the culminating Torah activities;
- 10-12 Shabbat services;
- 6 holiday celebrations or commemorations held at Temple Emanuel; and
- 3-4 cultural programs (in the congregation or around the city).

In addition, each family will be responsible to:

- read books from a selected reading list. (the types and number of books would vary with the students' age);
- devote 12-18 hours doing work related to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world); and
- do a Torah project (Each year there will be a theme for these Torah projects, e.g., Genesis, Exodus, mitzvot in the Torah, the prophets, and the Writings).

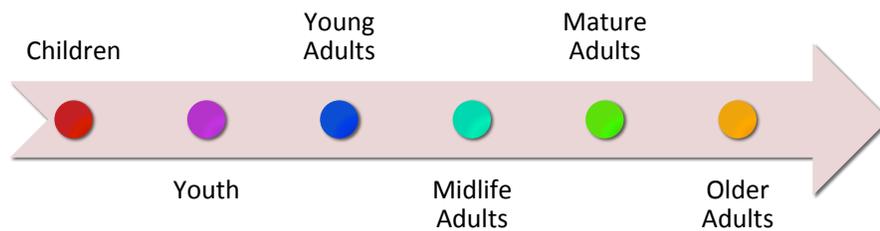


What the program will provide:

- a *Rosh K'vutzah* for each Havurah (the rabbi, educators and coordinators will serve as *roshei k'vutzah*), who will meet with each family *individually* at least twice and with the entire *K'vutzah* several times during the year;
- orientations to worship services and holidays;
- a Torah-related program for children attending the New Emanuel Minyan (during the time the adults participate in Torah reading and text study);
- *K'vutzah*-based activities;
- book discussion groups; and
- a Torah project.



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



Maturing in Faith

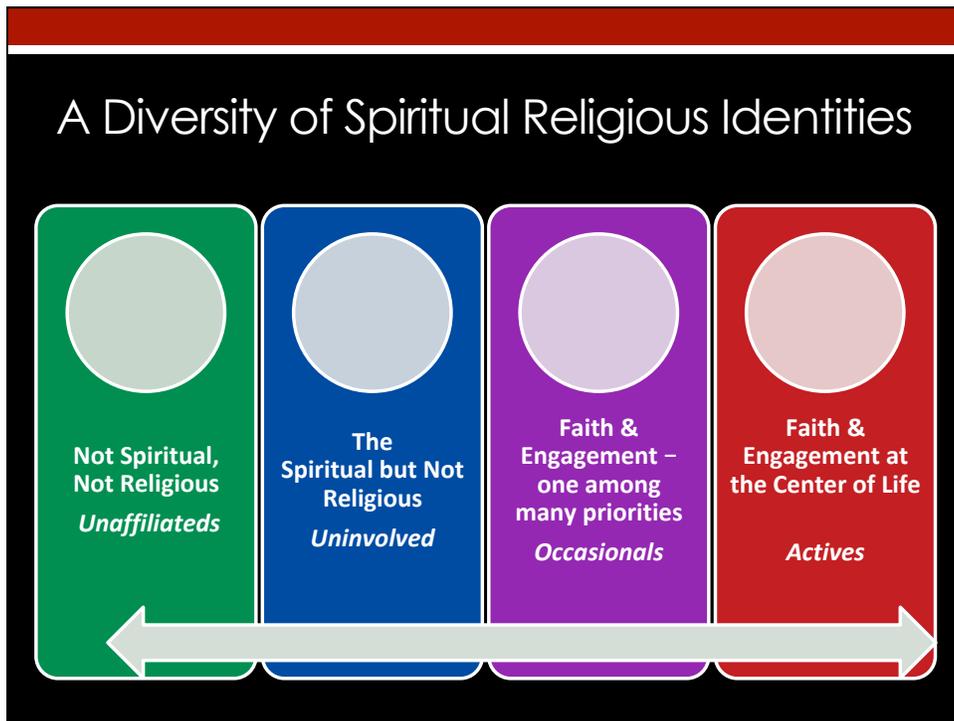
We need to focus faith formation on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship. These characteristics would incorporate knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living. With a lifelong vision of maturing faith we could address each characteristic 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



Developing a Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Children	Youth	Young Adults	Adults	Family
1.	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
2.	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family
3.	Age Group				

Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing

