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## Developing a Lifelong Plan

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LifelongFaith.com

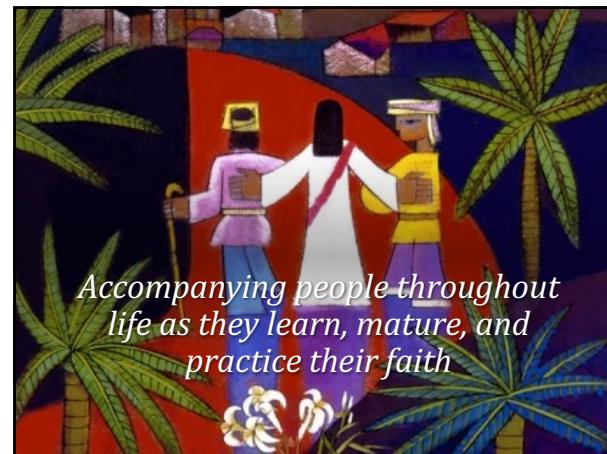
Download the Planning Guide & PowerPoint Presentation from the Lifelong Faith Website:  
Home Tab  
Christian Educators Network

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## Resources

**training studio**

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## What Is This?

- It provides resources, programming, services, and live events for all ages - in physical locations and online formats.
- It provides its resources and programs in multiple languages and in ways that are inclusive of people with special needs and disabilities.
- It provides in-person and virtual career services and mentoring.
- It provides free Wi-Fi access for all ages and assistance in using technology.
- It offers resources, support groups, and programs for all ages, e.g., parents beginning with babies and toddlers and moving through the high school years.
- It offers family-centered programs throughout the year, and a variety of programs and experiences for children and families during the summertime—in person and online.
- It offers after-school programs for children and teens, including help with homework, staffed by older adults.

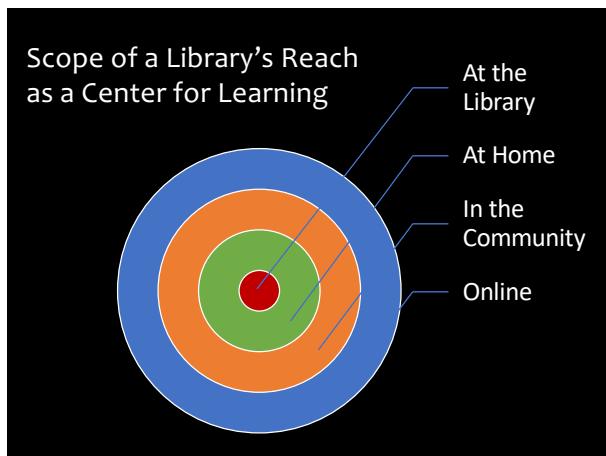
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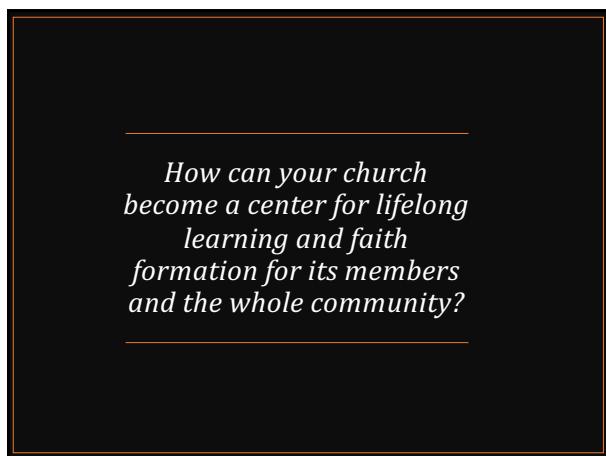
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## Maturing in Faith Goals

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

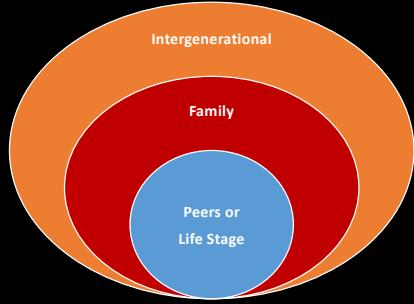
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## Maturing in Faith Goals

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

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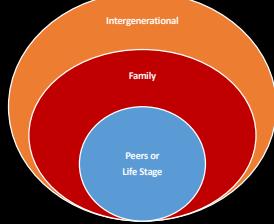
## #2. Provide Holistic Faith Formation



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## Build a Menu of Participation

1. Intergenerational Experiences
2. Family Experiences @ Home and @ Church
3. Age-Group Experiences



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## #3. Adopt a Whole Community Intergenerational Model of Learning

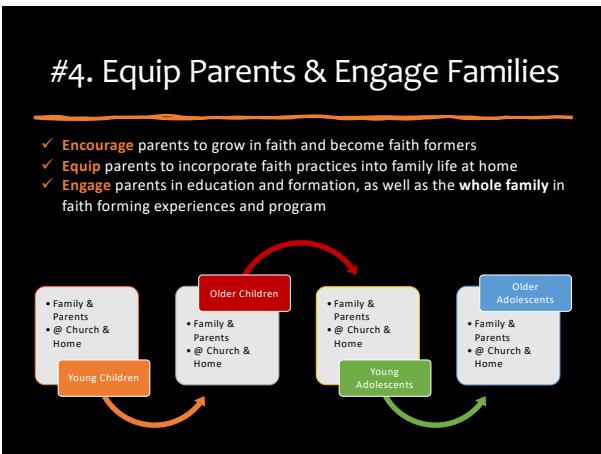
- Meal and Community Building
- Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
- Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
- Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience
  - Option 1. Whole Group (together)
  - Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
  - Option 3. Activity Center
- Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Application
- Part 5. Closing Prayer

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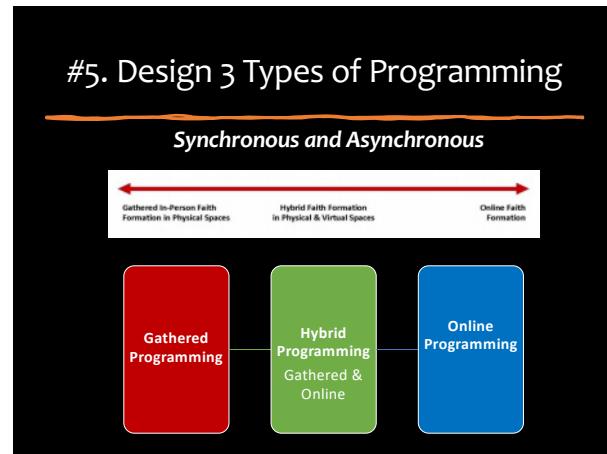
## Call to Prayer Intergenerational Session

- Gathering and Opening Prayer
- Welcome to Prayer Program
- Prayer Experiences: Demonstrate Live & Practice @Home
  - Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
  - Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
  - Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
  - Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
  - Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer
- Making Prayer an Essential Part of Family Life
- Closing Prayer

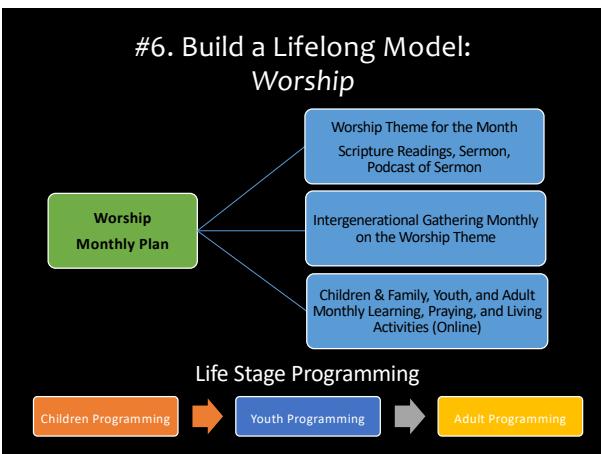
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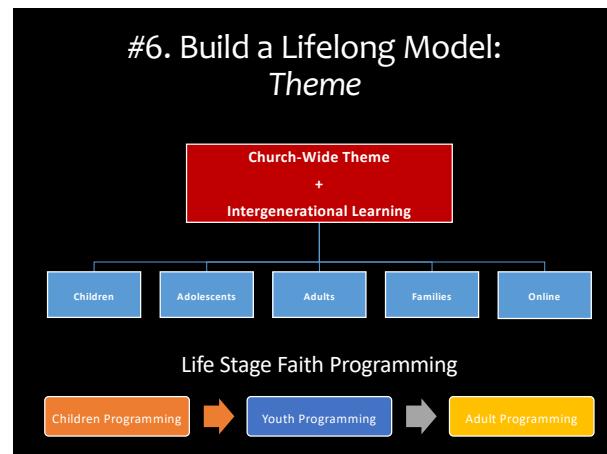
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## Intergenerational

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*Design Intergenerational Learning*

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 Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

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## Call to Prayer Intergenerational Session

Gathering and Opening Prayer

Welcome to Prayer Program

Prayer Experiences: Demonstrate Live & Practice @Home

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

Making Prayer an Essential Part of Family Life

Closing Prayer

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## Intergenerational Program

Matthew 14:22-33

Meal and Community Building

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

Introduce the Scripture Story,

- Dramatic reading, video, skit or role play, or other method
- Brief all-ages commentary

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Option 1. Whole Group – in intergenerational groups

- Visio Divina (or Lectio Divina) + Sharing + Commentary

Option 2. Age Groups

- Children's Activity (video, crafts, coloring, creative activities)  
<https://ministryspark.com/jesus-walks-on-water-elementary-lesson/>
- Youth Activity (Visio Divina or Lectio Divina)
- Adult Activity (Visio Divina or Lectio Divina)

Part 4. Sharing: What we've learned and how we can live

Part 5. Closing Prayer

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## Lectio Divina

- **Read:**  
Matthew 14:22-33. Read the Scripture passage slowly and purposefully. Reflect on it silently for a few minutes to pray with it and to ponder what it might be saying.
- **Meditate:**  
Read it a second time followed by a few minutes of silence. How is this passage speaking to you? Discover a word or two from the passage that is echoing in your heart or stands out for you in any way. What does the word or phrase you have chosen mean to you today?
- **Pray:**  
What do you want to communicate to God? What emotions do you want to express to God? Ask God to strengthen your faith?
- **Act:**  
What is God calling you to do now? How does the story challenge you to grow? What is the next step you need to take?

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**Visio Divina**



1. **Read:** Read Matthew 14:22-33. Listen with the “ear of your heart” for a word or short phrase that God has for you this day.

2. **Meditate:** What does the word or phrase you have chosen mean to you today?

3. **See:** Look at the image and let your eyes stay with the very first thing that you see. Keep your attention on that one part of the image that first catches your eye.

4. **Contemplate:** Breathe deeply and let yourself gaze at that part of the image for a minute or so. Now, let your eyes gaze at the whole image. Take your time and look at every part of it. See it all. Reflect on the image for a minute or so.

5. **Reflect:** What emotions does this image evoke in you? What does the image stir up in you, bring forth in you?

6. **Pray:** What do you want to pray for today?

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**Family Faith Formation**

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## Family

1. **Focus on parents** – the most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people – their faith and practice, the parent-child relationship, modeling and teaching, family conversations, family faith practices.

2. **Focus on home life** – the primary way by which a religious identity becomes rooted in children’s lives are the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it.

3. **Focus on faith practices** – that make a significant difference in nurturing the faith of children and teens at home. Raising religious children should primarily be a practice-centered process, not a didactic teaching program.

4. **Focus on parent’s relationship with child and parenting style** – warmth and love, balancing religious firmness with flexibility and continuity with agency, talking about religious matters during the week, listening more and preaching less.

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## Family

**Focus on Parents**  
Parents are most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people:

- ✓ parents’ personal faith and practice
- ✓ a close and warm parent-child relationship
- ✓ parent modeling and teaching a religious faith
- ✓ parent involvement in church life and Sunday worship
- ✓ grandparent religious influence and relationship
- ✓ family conversations about faith
- ✓ family faith religious practices including praying, reading the Bible, serving others, and celebrating holidays and rituals

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## Family

**Focus on Home Life**  
The primary way by which a religious identity becomes rooted in children’s lives are the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it.

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## Family

**Focus on Faith Practices**  
Certain practices make a significant difference in nurturing the faith of children and teens at home. Raising religious children should primarily be a practice-centered process, not a didactic teaching program. Parents modeling religious practices is primary, and explaining belief systems is secondary”

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## Family Faith Practices

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

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## Family

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**Focus on parent's relationship with child and parenting style:**  
warmth and love, balancing religious firmness with flexibility and continuity with agency, talking about religious matters during the week, listening more and preaching less.

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## Family

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- ❖ How can you **Encourage** parents to grow in faith and become faith formers?
- ❖ How can you **Equip** parents to incorporate faith practices into family life at home?
- ❖ How can you **Engage** parents in education and formation, as well as the whole family in faith forming experiences and programs?

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## Family

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✓ **Encourage** parents to grow in faith and become faith formers  
✓ **Equip** parents to incorporate faith practices into family life at home  
✓ **Engage** parents in education and formation, as well as the **whole family** in faith forming experiences and programs

```

graph TD
    A[Young Children] --> B[Older Children]
    B --> C[Young Adolescents]
    C --> D[Older Adolescents]
    D --> A
    subgraph Family
        direction TB
        A1[Family & Parents  
• Family & Parents  
• @ Church & Home] --- A2[Young Children]
        B1[Family & Parents  
• Family & Parents  
• @ Church & Home] --- B2[Older Children]
        C1[Family & Parents  
• Family & Parents  
• @ Church & Home] --- C2[Young Adolescents]
        D1[Family & Parents  
• Family & Parents  
• @ Church & Home] --- D2[Older Adolescents]
    end
    subgraph Church
        direction TB
        A3[Church & Home] --- A4[Young Children]
        B3[Church & Home] --- B4[Older Children]
        C3[Church & Home] --- C4[Young Adolescents]
        D3[Church & Home] --- D4[Older Adolescents]
    end
    
```

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## Family

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Strategy 1: Family Faith Practices  
Strategy 2: Milestones  
Strategy 3: Seasons of the Year  
Strategy 4: Sunday Worship and Scripture  
Strategy 5: Parent Formation and Parenting Skills

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## #1. Faith Practices for Each Life Stage

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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

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## Faith Practices of the Month

### Themes

- Prayer
- Reading the Bible
- Christian Practices
- Service, Care for Creation, Social Justice
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Moral Values
- Etc.

### Design

1. Teach: Key Content (video, live stream, small group or large group program)
2. Demonstrate: "How to" do this: personal, family
3. Resources: playlist of faith forming activities on the theme

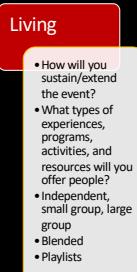
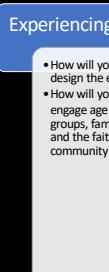
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## 30-Day Family Experiments

1. Focus on a practice.
2. Curate (mobile) resources to explain and demonstrate the practice (video, print, how-to recipe).
3. Publish resources on a web page.
4. Have families find a time to do the practice each day and schedule their time.
5. Do the practice.
6. Remind people daily with text message.
7. Encourage people to share photos or videos on a Instagram # or in a Facebook Group.

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## #2. Sacrament Programming



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## Baptism

### Church

- Mentors/Coaches
- Parent preparation
- Family gathering
- Ritual
- Intergenerational connection
- Celebration of Baptism
- Reunion
- Baptismal anniversaries

### Home

- Caring conversations and storytelling
- Celebrating rituals
- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Serving
- Worshipping together

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## Flip the Model of Formation

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

**@ The Program**  
Applying the Content:  
Create – Practice –  
Perform - Participate

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## #3. Celebrate the Seasons

- Identify a monthly seasonal event (church year or calendar year) and developing a webpage for each season
  - Organize a seasonal family festival / gathering (virtual or physical) to support the seasonal plan.
- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan:    | ML King Jr. (justice and peace, serving)    |
| Feb:    | Valentine's Day (loving)                    |
| March:  | Lent (praying, fasting, almsgiving)         |
| April:  | Earth Day (caring for creation)             |
| May:    | Mother's Day (honor parents, love, care)    |
| June:   | Father's Day (honor parents, love, care)    |
| July:   | Independence Day (freedom)                  |
| August: | Back to school (new beginnings)             |
| Sept:   | Fall Harvest (grateful, generosity)         |
| Oct:    | St. Francis (care for creation and animals) |
| Nov:    | Thanksgiving (grateful, generous)           |
| Dec:    | Advent and Christmas                        |



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## #4. Connect Sunday Mass to the Home

Weekly Lectionary-Based Playlist on the Website

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

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## #5. Parent Education & Formation

Parent Lifecycle Workshops / Webinars / Online Resources

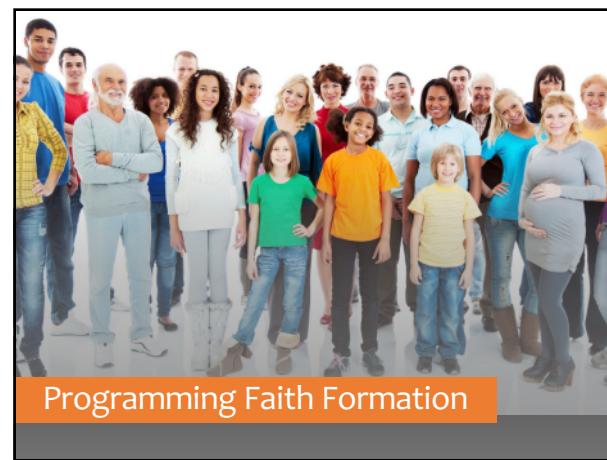
Family Life / Parenting Skills Development Workshops / Webinars / Online Resources

Add a Parent Component to Existing Programs (Embed) – VBS, Children and Youth Program, etc.

Parent Mentors

Support Groups (life cycle, kindred)

Script a Plan for Parents at Each Stage of Life



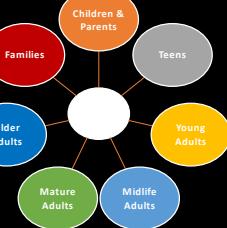
Programming Faith Formation

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## Networks of Faith Formation

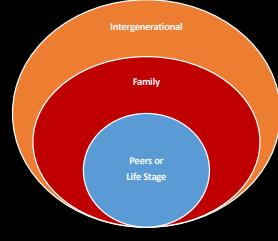
- ✓ a wide variety of faith-forming experiences in intergenerational, family, and life stage settings
- ✓ a variety of content, programs, activities, and resources
- ✓ content personalized to their spiritual-religious growth
- ✓ a variety of formats: on your own, mentored, at home, in small groups, and in large groups
- ✓ in-person, online, and hybrid
- ✓ anytime, anywhere



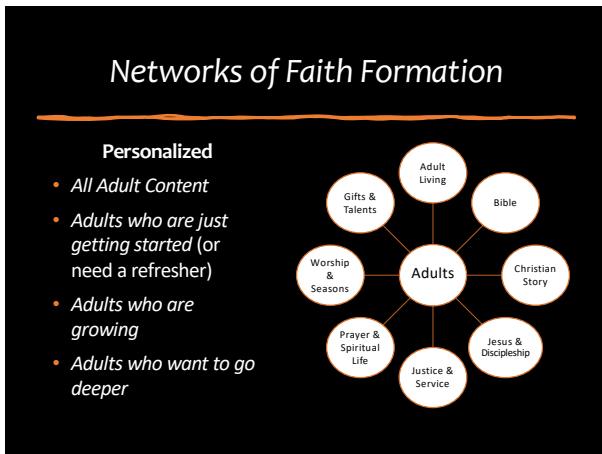
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## Build a Menu of Participation

1. Intergenerational Experiences
2. Family Experiences @ Home and @ Church
3. Age-Group Experiences



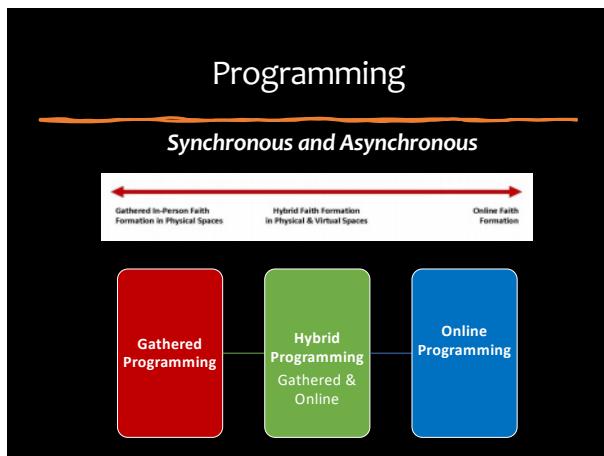
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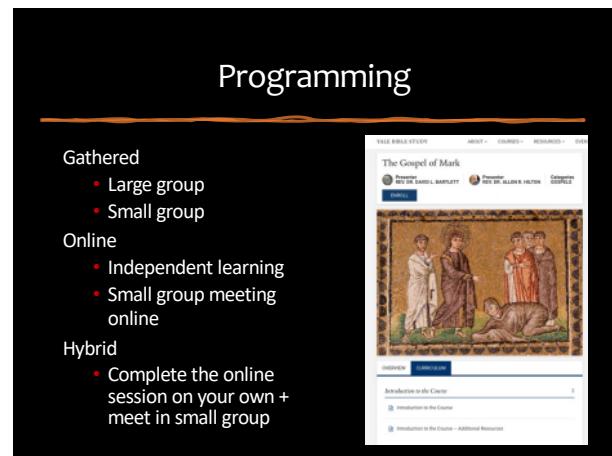
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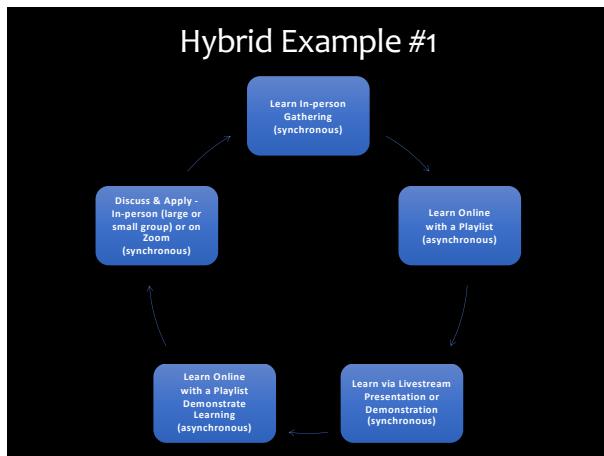
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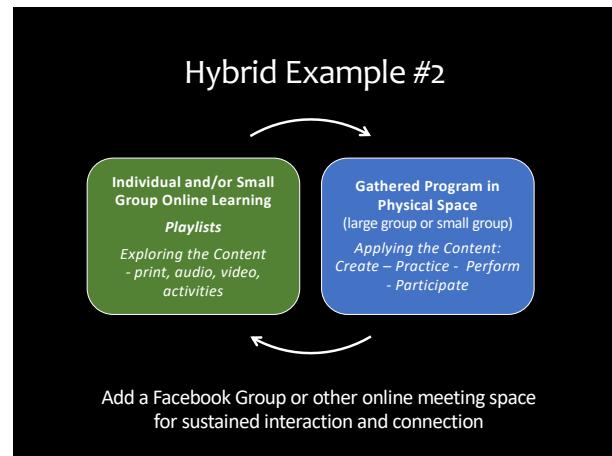
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## “Flipped” Outreach Initiative

The screenshot shows a blog post titled "Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!". It features a photo of a table with various items, a small video thumbnail, and some text about the event. To the right is a sidebar with a "Get New Blog Posts By Email" form and two recent blog posts.

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## “Flipped” Outreach Initiative



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## “Flipped” Confirmation Program

- **On Your Own:** Engage young people with a monthly learning playlist—watching videos, reading short articles, praying, writing reflections in a journal—on the theme.
- **In a Small Group:** Have young people participate in one online small group experience to discuss the content in the playlist and what they are learning.
- **In a Large Group:** Involve young people in a monthly meeting with all groups for community sharing, interactive activities, short presentations, and ideas for living faith.



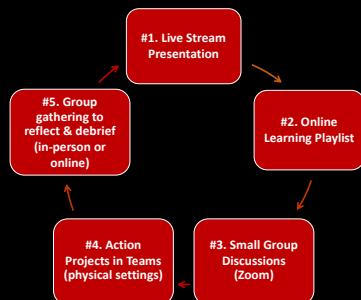
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online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

1. Class Sessions - Once a month (7 in total/year)
2. Online Sessions - 3 per month
3. “Insight” Youth Group Meetings - Attend 3 per year
4. Service Projects - 2 per year
5. Retreat - Year 1 and 2

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## Hybrid Example #3



Add a Facebook Group or other online meeting space for sustained interaction and connection

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## Ideas for Hybrid Design reinvent or create



- Marriage preparation
- Baptism preparation for new parents
- Families with young children (0-5)
- Children’s faith formation with an at-home component
- First communion preparation for parents and whole family
- Confirmation preparation
- All adult faith formation
- Outreach initiatives

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**Personalize Pathways**

*Fashioning faith formation around the faith journeys of families and individuals at every stage of life*

*Guiding each person in his or her growth toward greater maturity in faith*

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**Personalize: Pathways**

- Discern religious and spiritual needs using a faith growth pathways guide.
- Create a faith growth plan with the experiences, programs, activities, and resources that best match with their faith growth needs.
- Create a faith formation catalog with all of the faith formation experiences, programs, activities, and resources that people can access to create their growth plan.
- Incorporate discernment and faith growth plans yearly with families or age groups and into milestones and sacramental moments, such as marriage, baptism, first communion, confirmation, graduations, etc.
- Provide mentoring (one-on-one or in small groups) to discern their faith growth needs and create a plan.

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**Pathways**

Goals or Themes	1 = I'm a beginner in this aspect of my faith.	2 = I'm growing in this aspect of my faith	3 = I'm maturing and going deeper in this aspect of my faith.	4 = I'm sharing my faith and gifts with others.
Relationship with Jesus				
Living as a disciple				
Bible				
Prayer				
Moral Living				
Service / Justice				
Tradition/Teachings				
Worship				
Gifts & Talents				

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**Playlists**

The idea of a playlist is simple: it is a sequence of activities and resources on a topic designed for individual and/or small group learning, usually available on a digital platform.

**Personalized**

**Anytime & Anywhere Learning**

**Curated Activities**

**Micro-Learning Activities**

**Mix of Methods & Media**

**Multiple Ways to Learn**

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**Playlists**

**A Menu of Activities or a Sequenced Learning Plan**

**Extend a gathered, in-person event or program**

**Online learning for an individual or small group**

**Online learning in a “flipped” educational approach that integrates individual and small group learning with gathered in-person programming**

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**MARCH 2, 2022**  
ASH WEDNESDAY

**taking  
faith  
home**

*God's grace is more powerful than sin.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ash Wednesday observance.

**Wednesday** Joel 2:12–17      Call to repentance  
Psalm 51:1–7      A prayer for forgiveness  
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10      Messengers of Christ  
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21      The practice of faith

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

W Ringers have held their bell.  
W We have sung.  
W We have bowed.  
W We have blown.

**taking  
faith  
home**

**ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES**

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

**DEVOTIONS**

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

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Playlist for Lent	
<b>Read</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily Devotional for Lent</li><li>• Daily Scripture Readings</li></ul>	<b>Participate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday worship</li><li>• Friday Lenten soup suppers</li><li>• Stations of the Cross</li></ul>
<b>Watch</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Lent in 3 Minutes” from Busted Halo)</li><li>• “Ash Wednesday and Lent” from Chuck Knows Church</li></ul>	<b>Pray and Reflect</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily Lenten prayers</li><li>• Ash Wednesday at home</li><li>• Holy Week Retreat at Home</li></ul>
<b>Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “40 Ideas for 40 Days”</li><li>• Lenten Calendar</li><li>• Visual Stations of the Cross</li></ul>	<b>Serve</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serving the poor and homeless</li><li>• Advocacy on a justice issue</li><li>• Donating to relief agencies</li><li>• Caring for others</li></ul>

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# Creation Playlist

**Creation**

This playlist has three that focus on Genesis and creation. It includes a video from the Michigan UMC website, a video from the Michigan UMC website, and a video from the Michigan UMC website.

Read Genesis 1-3 from your Bible or the Creation story in your Preschool Storybook.

- wonder what it would have been like to create the world from the beginning
- wonder who the first people created everything
- wonder what your favorite part of creation is
- wonder how long it took to create

**Bible Story**

Read Genesis 1-3 from your Bible or the Creation story in your Preschool Storybook.

- wonder what it would have been like to create the world from the beginning
- wonder who the first people created everything
- wonder what your favorite part of creation is
- wonder how long it took to create

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**Activities**

• Play one creation as a family using some imagination or drawing different parts of creation.

• Take a walk with your family in your neighborhood, park, or woods to look for signs of creation. The world is full of signs of creation, even if they are not always obvious or dangerous to us.

• Please draw a picture of what your family can see during creation.

• Use imagination to draw out what happens in your mind during creation. This might take large paper and the ability to draw outside. You could also draw a small picture of what's going on.

• Write a poem or a story about creation.

• Create a "Word Cloud" - write down the words you can think of that relate to creation. Then cut any words that are too similar together. You can also use a "word cloud" generator for the words you come up with.

• Go on a creation scavenger hunt.

**Books**

[www.readwithme.com/the-best-faith-family-books](#)



**Let There Be Light: An Interactive Drawing Book**

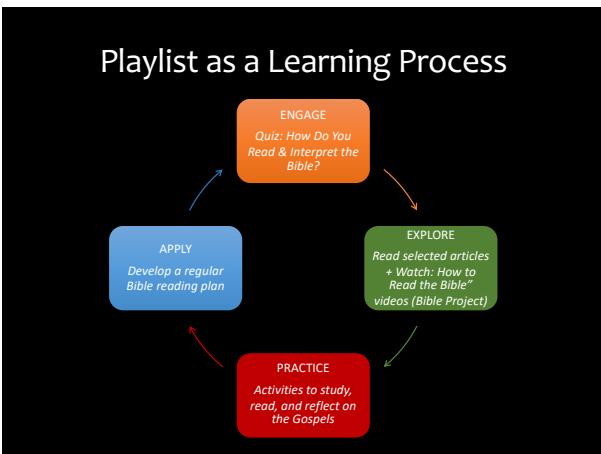


**Music Videos**



<https://michiganumc.org/faith-family-playlists>

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## Capacity Building

### What capacities do we require to implement our plans?

- What will our plan require of the pastor and professional ministry leadership (competencies, skills, processes and procedures)?
- What volunteer leaders will be required, and what competencies (knowledge and skills) and resources will they need to perform effectively (tools, resources)?
- What material resources (facilities, communication, technologies, print and digital resources) will be required?
- What financial resources will be required?

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## Capacity Building

### What capacities (resources) do we already have available to us?

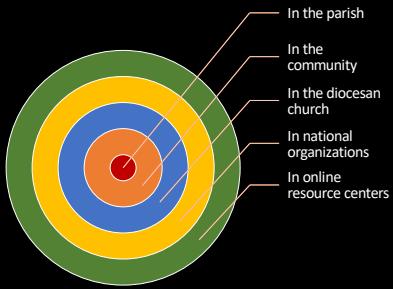
- Within our church community (people, programs, resources, finances)
- Outside our church in other religious congregations, schools and colleges, community organizations, denominational agencies—regional and national?

### What capacities (resources) do we need to develop or enhance in order to implement our plans?

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## Capacity Building

*Start with your strengths and assets*



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## Developing Leadership

- **Work with the time commitments that fit people's schedules.** If leaders can serve for one day or one weekend per year, then have an opportunity ready for them. If leaders can serve for a month (four weeks) in the fall and again in the spring, have four-week program options for them.
- **Offer a variety of roles.** Many people don't want to teach or lead a program but would like to mentor or guide people one-to-one or in a small group. Develop mentoring relationships for people to learn how to pray, to serve those in need, and much more.
- **Develop leadership roles with fewer tasks and divide up a large leadership role into smaller responsibilities.** It's easier to find and prepare people for a more limited and clearly defined leadership role, than to find a leader to do a large job. It is also a way to involve more leaders in a project or program.

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## Developing Leadership

- **Design a program with a primary leadership role (teaching, presenting, facilitating activities) and support roles.** For example, a children's program might have a lead teacher (or two) and adults or youth who serve as small group activity leaders. Small group activity leaders make a four-week commitment each year. The same could apply to any other program where there are lead presenters or facilitators and small group leaders.
- **Design programming in shorter units of time.** Rather than a twenty-four-week program with one leader, create four, six-week minicourses—each with a different leader. Eight-week programs can be conducted in two four-week minicourses.

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## Designing and Implementing



**Where do you want to innovate?**

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

**For Whom?**

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

**With What?**

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

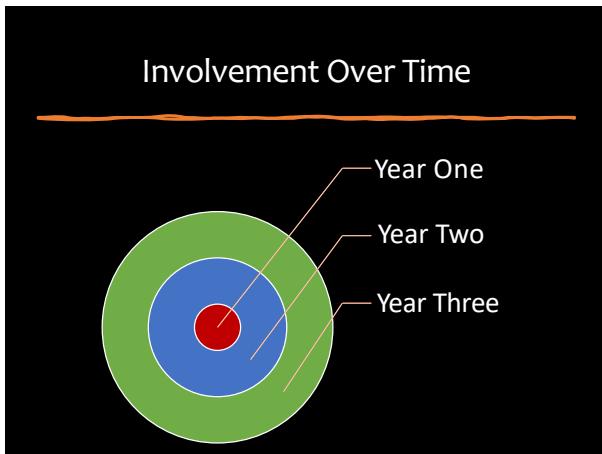
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### Creating & Sustaining New Projects

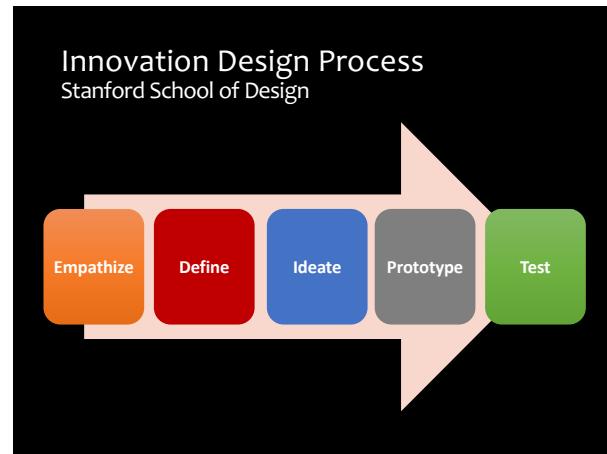


- Follow the bright spots:**
  - When creating investigate what's working and clone it.
  - When sustain, collect feedback (stories, audio, photos) and share it widely
- Point to the destination:**
  - Change is easier when you know where you're going and why it's worth it.
  - Paint a picture of what's happening in people's lives because of the new project.
- Script the critical moves:**
  - Don't think big picture, think in terms of specific behaviors.
  - Guide the team through the steps.
- Find the feeling:**
  - Knowing something isn't enough to cause change. Make people feel something. Build an emotional and rational case for change.
- Plan for small wins that lead to significant innovations.**

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**Planning**  
sustain – enhance – expand - create



- Short-Term Planning** – ideas that can be integrated into existing plans and programs OR can be designed and implemented quickly in the 2022-23 program year
- Mid-Term Planning** – ideas that need more design time and that can be implemented within one or two years (2023-24)
- Long-Term Planning** – ideas that need design time, piloting and testing, and then implementation over the next several years

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### Strategy: The 4 Sacraments of Childhood & Adolescence

**Year 1**

- Select one sacrament as a pilot project: design, implement, evaluate, and make improvements

**Year 2**

- Implement Version 2 of the year 1 sacrament plan, evaluate, and make improvements
- Select one or two more sacraments: design, implement, evaluate, and improve

**Year 3**

- Implement Version 3 of the year 1 sacrament plan, evaluate, and make improvements
- Implement Version 2 of the year 2 sacraments plan, evaluate, and make improvements
- Select one or two more sacraments: design, implement, evaluate, and improve

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“The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:26-29)