

Create a Faith Pathways Model

1. Select a Target Audience for Creating a Pathways Model

- ✓ Children and Parents (young and/or older)
- ✓ Adolescents (young and/or older)
- ✓ Young Adults
- ✓ Midlife Adults
- ✓ Mature Adults
- ✓ Older Adults

2. Review Examples of Discipleship Pathways

3. Develop Categories for Discernment

Develop a "discernment continuum" for your target audience that addresses the religious-spiritual identities of people today: 1) Vibrant, 2) Occasional, 3) Uninvolved, and 4) Unaffiliated.

Example: Youth Discipleship at First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK

Through our baptism, we are called to join Christ in the "River of Life", a life-long journey of discipleship. The following journey markers will help you identify where you are on this journey and to select programs and experiences that move you along the river. Whether you are "checking it out" or "leading others", we want to accompany you on this journey!

- ✓ *Check it Out* (Come and See): You are standing at the shore. You are looking for a place to belong and have questions about what is going on in the water. You are invited to join in! Come and see at Friday Night Live, Lock Ins, Trick or Treating, and the Super Bowl Party.
- ✓ *Step in the Water* (Belonging): You have stepped into the water. You are developing relationships and enjoying life as part of the church community. Find a place to belong at Sunday night Youth Group, Retreats, the Christmas Party, and School Lunches.
- ✓ *Get in the Boat* (Exploring): You are invited into the raft with others. You are becoming equipped with tools for the journey. You are excited to learn and discover more about your faith and are exploring a deeper relationship with Christ. Explore your faith at Sunday school, Confirmation, Wednesdays at the Well, and Sunday Night Youth Group.
- ✓ *Navigate the Waters* (Owning): You are rowing hard, investing in your own spiritual growth. Your eyes are on the water ahead. You are a committed disciple of Christ, have a personal relationship with God and are an active member in the life of the church community. Your faith informs your decisions, actions and attitudes. Own your faith at Small Groups, in Youth Sunday Leadership, and the Senior High Retreat.
- ✓ *Lead Others* (Living): You have become an experienced guide. You're inviting, equipping and leading others on the journey. You continue to explore new waters in your own faith. Live your faith on mission trips, youth in leadership, and as a youth elder/deacon.

4. Combine the Discernment Continuum with Faith Maturing Characteristics

Select several of the Faith Maturing Characteristics and create descriptions that are addressed to your target audience in each category along the discernment continuum. Review the pathways examples for ideas in how to target your descriptions.