

## PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS AS FAITH FORMERS



2016 Symposium: Families at the Center of Faith Formation  
LifelongFaith Associates

## WHAT'S NEW?

## GENERATIONAL PARENTING STYLES

### Parents Have Generational Parenting Styles

- In general Gen X parents approach child-rearing as a set of tangible practices that will keep their children safe, reasonably happy, well-behaved, and ready to take on life's challenges. They practice *protective parenting*.

## GENERATIONAL PARENTING STYLES

### Parents Have Generational Parenting Styles

- In general, Millennial parents, reflecting their values of individuality and self-expression, focus more on a democratic approach to family management, encouraging their children to be open-minded, empathetic, and questioning—and teaching them to be themselves and try new things. They are moving away from the overscheduled days of their youth, preferring a more responsive, less directorial approach to activities. (*Responsive Parenting*)

## PARENTAL RELIGIOSITY

### Parents Have a Diversity of Spiritual-Religious Identities

- Parents reflect an increasing diversity in religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation.
- Increasing numbers are not religiously affiliated and the number of unaffiliated Millennials is growing.
- Families of Generation X and Millennial parents are participating less in church life and Sunday worship. Religion and spirituality may be important to families today, but for many it is not usually expressed by participation in churches.

## PARENT/FAMILY RELIGIOSITY



## RELIGIOUS TRANSMISSION

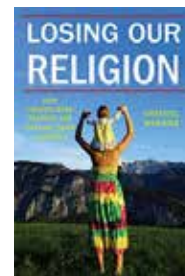
### Religious Socialization & Transmission Is More Complex.

- Significant indicators, such as religious identification as a Christian, worship attendance, marriages and baptisms in the church, and changing generational patterns, point to a decline in family religious socialization across all denominations.
- There is also a decline in religious traditions and practices at home. Younger parents often lack the religious literacy and religious experiences necessary for faith transmission.

## RELIGIOUS TRANSMISSION

Strategies that parents use to incorporate religion in the lives of their children.

1. Nonprovision
2. Outsourcing
3. Self-provision
4. Alternative
5. Traditional



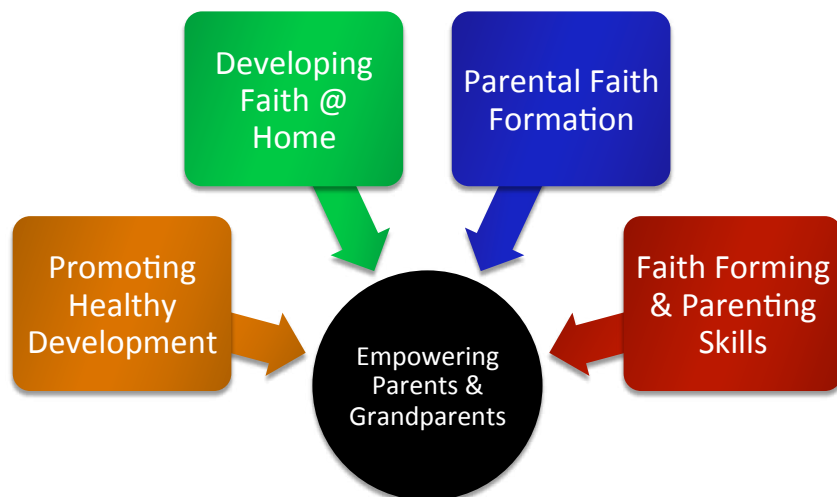
## CHANGING RELIGIOUS TRANSMISSION

Manning found that in most cases, there was a great deal of consistency between the parent's religious or secular identity and how they raised their children.

She observes, "the fact that most parents in the study took steps to incorporate religion into the lives of their children is surprising only if we take None to mean the absence of any religious, spiritual, or philosophical worldview. Once we discover the more substantive dimensions of unaffiliated parents' worldviews, we see that they transmit those beliefs and practices to their children much as affiliated parents do."

## DEVELOPING PARENT PROGRAMMING

## KEY CONTENT



## WHAT ARE THE PRACTICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN FAITH 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
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. Embedded family religious practices – such as reading the Bible, praying, celebrating rituals/holidays

## FAMILY LIFE ASSETS

### Family Assets – Search Institute



## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FAITH FORMATION

1. A **variety** of relationships, content, experiences, and resources
2. New **methods**: immersive, multimedia, multi-sensory, highly visual, participatory, experiential
3. New **formats**: episodic, micro-learning, on demand, mobile, 24x7,
4. New **digital** media and digital platforms
5. Multiple **environments**: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

## DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS Search Institute

<b>Express Care:</b> Show that you like me and want the best for me.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Listen</b>—Pay attention when you are with me.</li> <li>• <b>Be Warm</b>—Let me know that you like being with me and express positive feelings toward me.</li> <li>• <b>Invest</b>—Commit time and energy to doing things for and with me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Show Interest</b>—Make it a priority to understand who I am and what I care about.</li> <li>• <b>Be Dependable</b>—Be someone I can count on and trust.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge Growth:</b> Insist that I try to continuously improve.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inspire</b>—Help me see future possibilities for myself.</li> <li>• <b>Expect</b>—Make it clear that you want me to live up to my potential.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stretch</b>—Recognize my thoughts and abilities while also pushing me to strengthen them.</li> <li>• <b>Limit</b>—Hold me accountable for appropriate boundaries and rules.</li> </ul>
<b>Provide Support:</b> Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Encourage</b>—Praise my efforts and achievements.</li> <li>• <b>Guide</b>—Provide practical assistance and feedback to help me learn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Model</b>—Be an example I can learn from and admire.</li> <li>• <b>Advocate</b>—Stand up for me when I need it.</li> </ul>
<b>Share Power:</b> Hear my voice and let me share in making decisions.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respect</b>—Take me seriously and treat me fairly.</li> <li>• <b>Negotiate</b>—Give me a voice in making decisions that affect me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respond</b>—Understand and adjust to my needs, interests, and abilities.</li> <li>• <b>Collaborate</b>—Work with me to accomplish goals and solve problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Expand Possibility:</b> Expand my horizons and connect me to opportunities.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expose</b>—Expose me to new ideas, experiences, and places.</li> <li>• <b>Connect</b>—Introduce me to people who can help me grow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Navigate</b>—Help me work through barriers that could stop me from achieving my goals.</li> </ul>
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## DEVELOPING PARENT PROGRAMMING

1. Address diverse spiritual-religious identities of parents – targeted content/experiences.
2. Address generational parenting.
3. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions. Immersion.
4. Develop a progression of workshops, webinars, courses, and resources for each stage of the lifecycle.
5. Develop lifecycle support groups for parents.



## DEVELOPING PARENT PROGRAMMING

6. Offer parent coaches.
7. Give parents a plan for parenting.
  - ▶ Give them a plan for parenting proactively.
  - ▶ Show them how it works and how they can use it.
8. Use a variety of environments & methods to engage all parents.
9. Use digitally enabled and digitally connected strategies.
10. Build an online platform for parents and the family.

## PARENT NETWORK - PARENTFURTHER

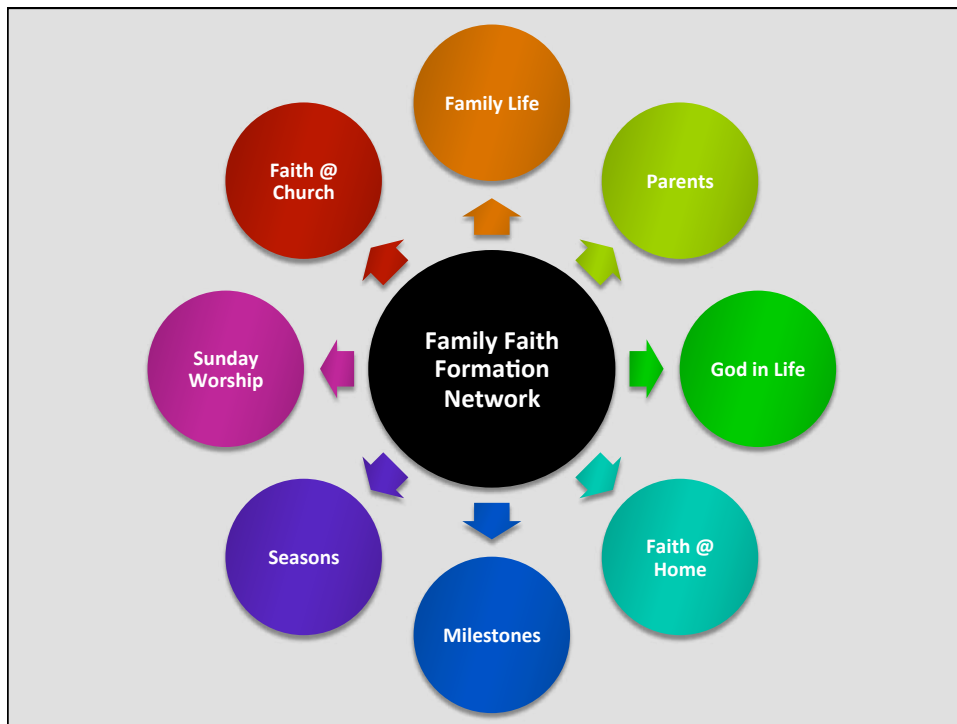
The screenshot displays the ParentFurther website interface. At the top, the logo 'ParentFurther' is followed by three navigation links: 'Strengthen Relationships', 'Prepare for the Future', and 'Understand Ages & Stages'. The main banner features a photograph of a man and a young girl. The text on the banner reads: 'Great Relationships Don't Just Happen.' and 'Strengthen Yours Here.' Below this, a list of topics is provided: 'Express Care', 'Share Power', 'Prevent Alcohol and Tobacco Use', and 'Spark Kids' Motivation'. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'Caring Societies' and 'The Keep Connected Program', with a subtitle 'Building Relationships to Help Your Child Thrive Through Adolescence'. A small text at the very bottom of the banner states: 'Use ParentFurther to partner with families during the transition to middle school by offering this six-session program in your school, organization, or community. [Learn More.](#)'

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NETWORK



## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NETWORK





Family Life	Parents	God in Daily Life	Faith @ Home
<p>Each month we will explore, experience, and practice an important family issue that can enrich your family relationships and build a stronger family.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. January: The Family Meal</li> <li>2. February: Forgiveness</li> <li>3. March: Managing Household Life</li> <li>4. April: Celebrating Births and Milestones</li> </ol> <p>Join us for our MOTHER TALKS (MOMENTS) on the first Sunday of each month after Sunday worship. This will be a time to explore and experience the monthly theme and learn how to practice it at home.</p> <p>Use the resource that accompanies each monthly theme for PRACTICE @ HOME. Each resource includes stories, biblical reflections, and family activities.</p> <p><a href="#">FAMILY LIFE</a></p>	<p>"Just for Parents" offers a variety of aids for you to enhance and enrich your knowledge and skills for parenting children and teens. All of these programs, activities, and resources are designed around research-based aids to help your children and teens grow in healthy and positive ways. (1) exploring cars, (2) challenging them to grow, (3) involving them with support, (4) involving them in decision-making, and (5) expanding their possibilities for the future.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in the "First Wednesday" Parent Series - without leaving your home!</li> <li>2. Use a variety of activities to build positive relationships at home.</li> <li>3. Learn more about your children and teenagers.</li> <li>4. Participate in a Small Group Study with the best writing book: "The Secret of Happy Families by Bruce Baker"</li> <li>5. Watch the the video: "Training for the Long Haul" and download the "7 Parenting Strategies" guide.</li> <li>6. Strengthen family relationships with parents.</li> <li>7. Discover parenting resources.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">PARENTS</a></p>	<p>How can we discover God and the sacred in the "moments" and practices of everyday life that truly permeate us each day, and this presence is discovered in the fabric of our lives - our experiences, our relationships, and more. We see all spiritual beings. We can discover the spiritual in our everyday lives, and recognize, understand, and respond to God's presence in each day. Here are four daily practices to help you discover God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finding God in your day through the daily Eucharist.</li> <li>2. Helping children feel God through bedtime reflection.</li> <li>3. Discovering the sacred each day through the MATHS.</li> <li>4. Finding God through photos.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">GOD IN DAILY LIFE</a></p>	<p>Faith @ Home provides a variety of activities to help your family grow in faith at home - all of which can be easily integrated into family life. Focus is the one</p> <p><b>Reading the Bible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 12-week Summer Bible Reading Plan for Children</li> <li>• An Old Testament Bible Before 5-minute devotional</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning the Christian Tradition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten Commandments Magnet</li> <li>• Church Swaggen Plans</li> <li>• I LOVE GOD</li> <li>• Stand Up for Others</li> </ul> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meal Prayers for All Occasions</li> </ul> <p><b>Serving Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assemble Prayers for the Sick</li> <li>• Participate in a "Clean the Community" Day</li> <li>• Collect Food for the Hungry</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">FAITH @ HOME</a></p>

<h3>Milestones</h3>	<h3>Seasons</h3>	<h3>Bible &amp; Worship</h3>	<h3>Faith @ Church</h3>
<p>Celebrate meaningful, memorial moments in your family's life with these fiscal celebrations of milestones.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Bring the message and experience of Sunday worship into your faith. Try one or more of the following activities to learn more about the Sunday Scripture readings and to find ways to apply God's message to your lives.</p>	<p>Participate with all generations in the events and experiences of the faith community and connect your experiences at church with your faith at home.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baptism Anniversary</li> <li>2. Starting School</li> <li>3. Getting Ready to Worship</li> <li>4. Birthday Celebrations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. January: Martin Luther King Jr.</li> <li>2. February: Ash Wednesday</li> <li>3. March: The Bear St. Patrick</li> <li>4. April: Easter and New Life</li> <li>5. May: Mother's Day</li> <li>6. June: Vacation Travel</li> <li>7. July: Independence Day</li> <li>8. August: Back to School</li> <li>9. September: Fall Harvest</li> <li>10. October: A Helping Hand</li> <li>11. November: Thanksgiving</li> <li>12. December: Christmas is Coming!</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the Sunday's Worship service.</li> <li>2. Watch a video reflection on the Sunday reading in story and music.</li> <li>3. Use "Taking Faith Home" for your daily devotion, Bible reading, and family conversation.</li> <li>4. Use "Sunday Connection" to connect Sunday worship with daily life, and engage children in creative activities.</li> <li>5. Read the daily Scripture readings &amp; watch a video reflection.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Worshipping Together on Sunday</li> <li>2. Celebrating the Church Year Feasts &amp; Seasons</li> <li>3. Engaging in Service to the Community &amp; World</li> <li>4. Gathering for Social Events</li> <li>5. Celebrating Births &amp; Sacraments</li> <li>6. Gathering with All Ages for Learning</li> </ol>
<p>WILDAYS &amp; MILESTONES</p>	<p>SEASONS</p>	<p>BIBLE &amp; WORSHIP</p>	<p>FAITH @ CHURCH</p>