

# Expanding Intergenerational Experiences Digitally

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## Vibrant Faith Catalyst

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**Toolkit: Design Faith Formation 2020-21** [Manage](#)

JUST UPDATED- Tools, strategies, and to help you plan faith formation in 2020-21

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- A Guide to Transforming Faith Formation for a New World
- Webinar Video: From Pivoting to Innovation - Designing Faith Formation 2020-21
- Digital Tools for Online Faith Formation
- Digital Learning Apps
- Playlists for Faith Formation Online
- Curated Digital Resources for Faith Formation
- Family Faith Formation Activities

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A Website to Guide You in Creating Lifelong Faith Formation for Today's World  
Developed by John Roberto

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## Reflect

There has been remarkable development in the thinking and practice of intergenerationality over the past three decades.

Christian congregations are rediscovering the power of the intergenerational faith community for forming and transforming people in Christian faith.



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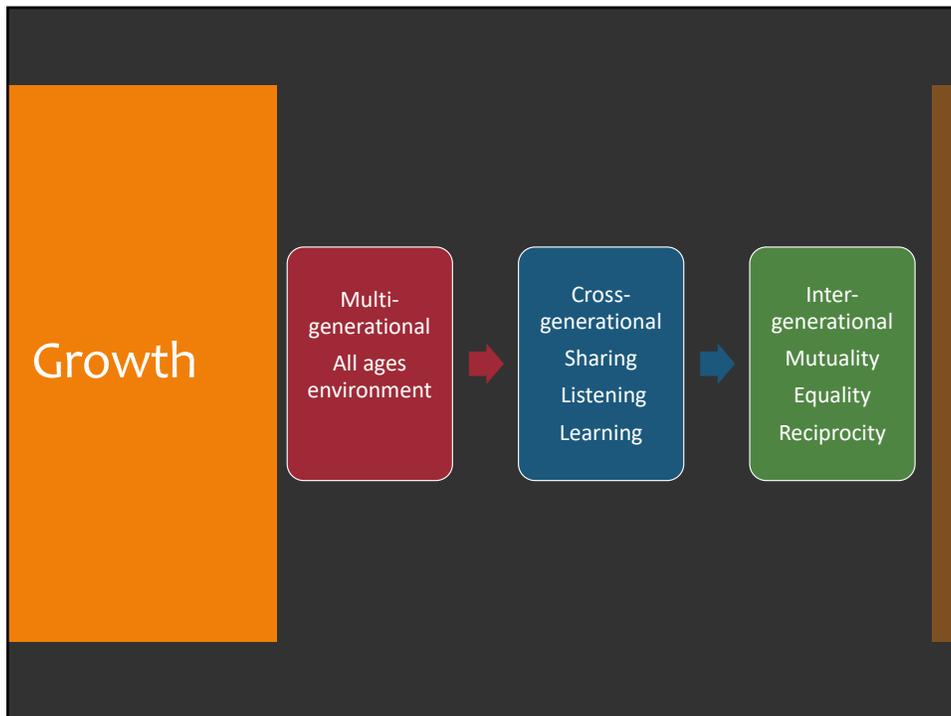
## Reflect

We are rediscovering the primacy of intergenerational community, relationships, and faith-forming experiences for developing and sustaining faith and discipleship in people of all ages and generations.

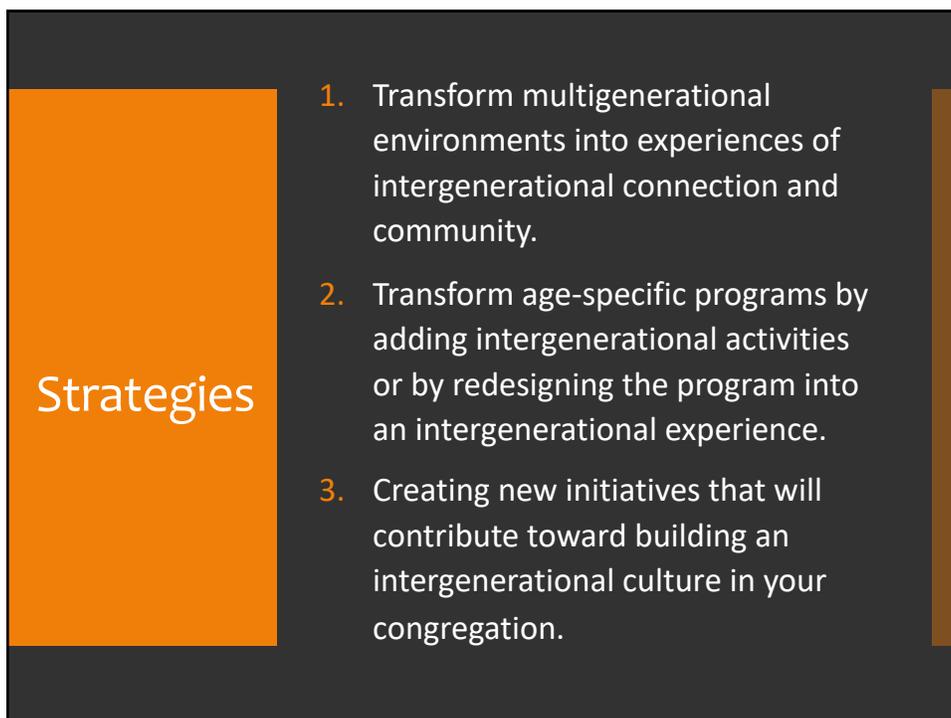
*Churches are rediscovering their intergenerational heart and soul.*



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## The New Context

We are not going back to normal.

We are no longer talking about months but about years of COVID-19.

We will not be able to gather people in church facilities as we have in the past.

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## Urgency of the Moment

This time poses the greatest leadership crisis any of us have faced. It can be a moment of amazing creativity, though it also is going to be a time of unavoidable pain and loss. We will discover that while many resources are suddenly unavailable to us, the most essential resource is still available, and the most important reality has not changed. The reality is that God has called us to a time like this, given us a mission and a community to serve alongside, and we still have the most important resource, which is trust in the context of love. Everything depends on how quickly and thoroughly we move to build on that resource, starting today.

(Andy Crouch, Kurt Keilhacker, Dave Blanchard)

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## Let Us Remember

....as churches begin to slowly resume services, we should ask ourselves: Should we return to business as usual?

For many of us, "church" over the years has become synonymous with steeples, programs, music and attire. But to the first believers, the church meant an intimate, family-centric community of faith.

From my perspective as a pastor, one of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it has forced us to once again make our homes places of worship.

So, before we rush back to business as usual next Sunday, let's take a moment to remember that the church is not a building or a service.

It is a vibrant, diverse community of people, which at its very heart is built by families.

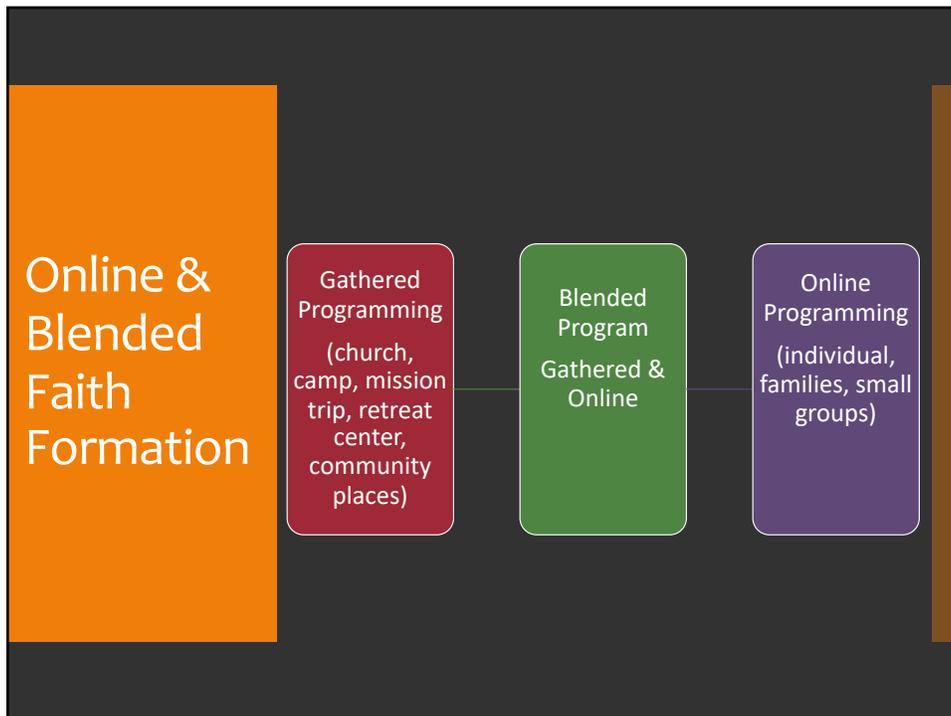
("As churches reopen, let's not lose the sense of sanctity in our homes." Rev Samuel Rodriguez. June 15, 2020)

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Time to  
Reinvent  
&  
Expand  
InterGen  
Experiences  
Digitally



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## InterGen Online & Blended Ideas

- Whole Church InterGen Activities
- Mentoring or 1-1 InterGen Relationships
- Home-based programming
- Small group programming
- Large group programming

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## InterGen Digital Story- telling

### Intergenerational Storytelling Festival

- In families, across the whole church
- Audio and/or video
- Published online & utilized in programs



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## InterGen Digital Story- telling

DISCOVER *StoryCorps* PARTICIPATE ABOUT

### STORYCORPS CONNECT

*StoryCorps Connect is a new technology developed quickly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The technology is still in development, and we appreciate your patience with any issues you may experience.*

#### WHAT IS STORYCORPS CONNECT?

Developed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **StoryCorps Connect** is a first-of-its-kind platform that enables you to record a StoryCorps interview with a loved one remotely using video conference technology. The audio and a still photo from each interview goes into our archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Your interview becomes part of American history, and hundreds of years from now, future generations will listen in. We think of StoryCorps as an ever-growing archive of the wisdom of humanity.

[Record Your Story Using StoryCorps Connect](#)

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## InterGen Story Time Online

NEW VIDEO!

Storyline Online

KICK OFF YOUR SUMMER READING WITH CLARK THE SHARK READ BY CHRIS PINE!  
STORYLINEONLINE.NET

Storypath  
Connecting Children's Literature With Our Faith Story

In collaboration with the William Smith Marion Library at Union Presbyterian Seminary

Home About Book Reviews Lessonary Links Ideas for Ministry Scripture Index Theme Index Contact Us

Scripture Index

<http://storypath.upsem.edu>

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## InterGen Relation- ship Building



**SWEET READERS  
CONNECT**

Welcome!

COVID-19 has left millions of older adults feeling trapped, scared and further isolated. We're here to help. With remote training modules and support, any youth\*, anywhere\*\*, ages 11-22 (Ambassadors), can engage with and bring joy into the home of an isolated adult in need (Adult Participants).

During our 15 and 30 minute Visits, Ambassadors reach Adult Participants through FaceTime, Zoom and WhatsApp. Together they share their stories, favorite music, create collaborative poetry and more.

To reach an adult in need, please sign up by clicking Ambassadors below.  
For adult participants, please sign up by clicking Adult Participants below\*.

The video below will give you some insights into how this works.

<https://connect.sweetreaders.org>

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## InterGen Film Festival

*Shared  
Experience  
+  
Facebook*

On one of our most recent Disney movie nights we chose to watch Disney Pixar's "Up". This is one of my personal favorites and we had a blast putting it together. My daughter made tons of balloons and decorated the whole living room with them. There were so many I started to think we might float away with Carl and Russell! I made a dinner that consisted of hot dogs (or Dug's Dogs as I called them) along with two very yummy desserts: Sky Jello and Carl's Sugar Cookie Balloons. We ALWAYS make sure to have popcorn. And I always name it...this time it was Kevin's Poppin Corn!



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## InterGen Prayer

- 1-1 Prayer Partners from Different Generations
- Online Prayer Wall
- Family – to – Family Prayer Partners
- Community Weekday Prayer: led by multiple generations, praying live or in pre-recorded video segments
- Weekly Prayer Group on Zoom: greet, sing, pray



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## Church-Wide InterGen Justice & Service Focus

### Month-long Plan

1. Select a justice issue, social need, etc. as a focus
2. Research the issue/need: curate learning resources and action projects (direct aid, advocacy, etc.)
3. Kick-off the month with a live stream presentation/demonstration
4. Engage all ages in online learning experiences on the issue/need (video, activities, etc.)
5. Engage in one or more action projects that can be done in families or intergenerational groups (physical or online setting)
6. Bring everyone together (online) to share their experience

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## InterGen Visual Images



- Thought-evoking Images
- Explore Scripture & Story
- Consider Reflective Questions

<https://vibrant-faith-catalyst.mn.co/courses/1385288/content>



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## Small Group & Large Group InterGen Programs

1. Live Stream and/or Zoom Meeting (synchronous)
2. Online Playlist of content (reading, video, audio podcasts, and/or printed materials) (asynchronous)
  - Developmentally-appropriate activities for children, teens, adults, and/or the whole family.
  - Resources for parent enrichment to use the activities at home
3. Group Discussion in Facebook Group (asynchronous) or Zoom Meeting (synchronous)

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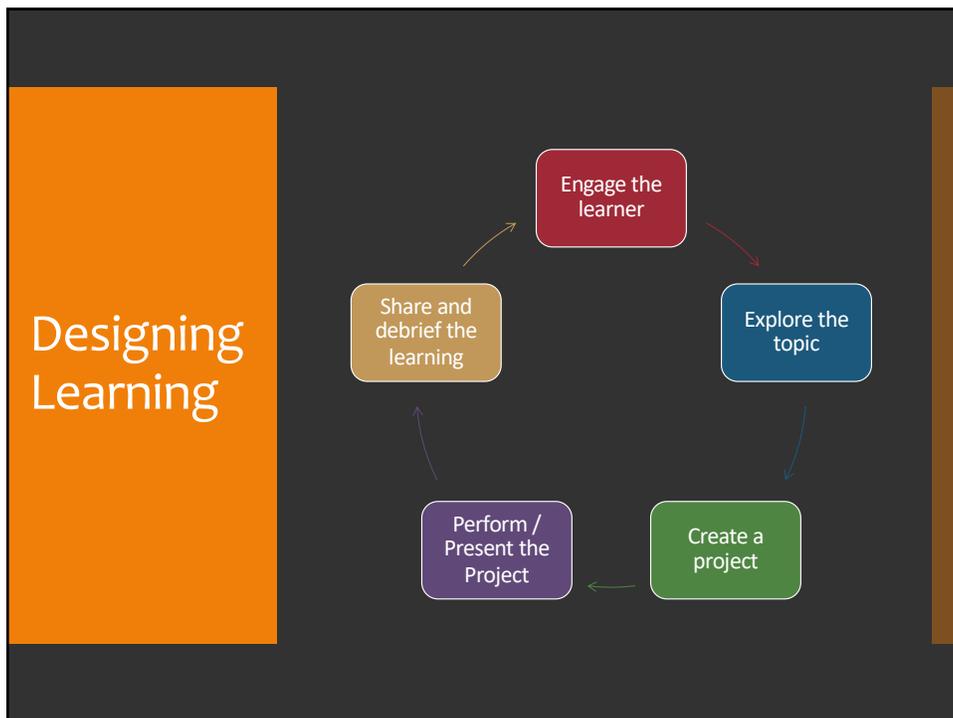
The image shows two chefs in a kitchen setting. The chef on the left is a woman with dark hair, and the chef on the right is a man. They are both wearing dark chef coats with the 'aprons' logo. In the background, there is a kitchen counter with various ingredients and cooking tools. The text 'aprons COOKING SCHOOL' is visible in the upper center. Below that, the text 'SATURDAY, JANUARY 12' is written in large, bold, green letters, and '6:00 p.m. ET' is written in white below it.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**  
6:00 p.m. ET

aprons  
COOKING SCHOOL

Live Stream Intergenerational Program

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## Designing Learning

### **Week 1. Engage the learner in the topic or theme (synchronous)**

- Synchronous live streamed session to “gather” the group, introduce the topic/theme, and show how it connects to the life of the learner. Methods: presentation, demonstration, video, storytelling, etc.

### **Week 2. Explore the topic of theme (asynchronous)**

- Learners select one or more activities that go deeper into the topic or theme. This can take many forms (video, audio, text, reading, prayer or ritual, etc.)

### **Week 3. Practice and demonstrate learning (asynchronous)**

- Learners use a variety of methods to create an activity, individually or with others in the group, that demonstrate learning. Learning apps can provide a creative way to design an activity.

### **Week 4. Perform and present the project (synchronous)**

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## InterGen Small Group

- Week 1. Live stream presentation/ demonstration for all small groups to introduce theme + @home study activities
- Week 2. Small group exploration + @home study (online)
- Week 3. Small group exploration + @home integration activity (online)
- Week 4. Live online session for all groups to share and present creative project

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## Intergenerational Large Group

Presented from a Central Location

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Part 1 All Ages Introduction to the Theme (live stream)  
All Ages Experience (live stream)

Part 2 Demonstration of Home Activities (live stream)  
At Home Family Activity (resources online)  
(age appropriate, together or individualized)  
At Home Adult Presentation (video or live stream)

Part 3 Quick Sharing from Participants using Facebook  
Page or Photos on Instagram  
Closing Reflections & Prayer/Ritual (live stream)

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## Extended Time – VBS, Grandcamp

Hour 1 Introduction, Prayer (song, video)  
Presentation/Demonstration #1 via Live Stream

@ Home activity + break

Hour 2 Presentation/Demonstration #2 via Live Stream

@ Home activity + break

Hour 3 Presentation/Demonstration #3 via Live Stream

@ Home activity + break + snack

Closing Reflections on the Program and Closing Prayer

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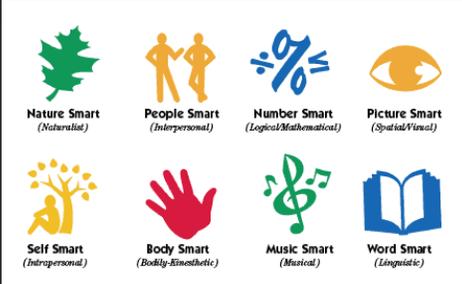
# Playlists for InterGen Learning

## Micro-Learning Activities

### Multiple Ways to Learn

### Mix of Methods & Media

### Learning Apps



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## Playlist for Sunday Worship



**14 June 2020**  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JESUS SENDS US OUT.

**Devotions**

Daily Bible Readings

S	Matthew 9:35 - 10:23	The sending of the twelve
M	Luke 6:12-19	Jesus chooses the twelve
T	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Sending of the seventy-two
W	Exodus 3:1-14	God sends Moses
T	Romans 5:1-8	Peace and Hope
F	2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5	The life of those God chooses
S	Psalms 100	Giving grateful praise
S	Matthew 10:24-39	Call and cost of discipleship

**Discuss the bible reading. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?**

**verse for the week**

Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." MATTHEW 9:37-38

**Caring Conversations**

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

- Imagine that you are going on a walking trip to another town tomorrow. What will you take along with you?
- Jesus sent out his disciples on a special trip to tell others about him (with very little). Share about a time when you told someone else about Jesus.

**Creative Response**

**In Exodus 14:5-6 we read that God called the people of Israel his "holy priests". The New Testament calls all Christians "royal priests" (1 Peter 2:9).**

The role of a priest is to worship God on behalf of others, to pray for others, and to share God's word with others.

Old Testament priests were anointed or marked with oil when they began to serve God. Take a few moments this week to remind one another that you too are God's priests. Put a small amount of olive oil in a bowl and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads.

Say these words: (Name), you are one of God's priests, called to worship and serve him. May God give you all you need to do his will. Amen.

**Service**

One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace.

Make this "wear a cross" week for your household.

Make some as a craft activity from foam, nails, wood, beads or cord.

Give them away to those you talk with this week.

**PRAYER**

We give you thanks and praise, You Lord are good and your faithful love continues forever. Amen.

**BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you as his treasured possession.

**mealttime prayer**

Lord of the harvest, thank you for feeding us with the fruits of the earth. Make us ready to serve as workers in your harvest fields. Amen.

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## Dwelling in the Word

Use in conjunction with Growing Faith at Home

**1 Opening Prayer**  
Begin with a prayer, inviting the Spirit to guide your listening to the word of God.

**2 Bible Passage**

Select the reading for today from Growing Faith at Home.

Have Bibles or copies of the passage available.

Read passage aloud.

**3 Reflection**

Allow a time of silence for each person to reflect and jot down or draw their reflections from the bible reading. What word or phrase was important to you? Did the reading raise some questions for you? Share your reflections.

**4 Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Use prayer and blessing from Growing Faith at Home.

APPENDIX 18

# STAINED GLASS CROSS

One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is to wear or display a cross in their home. Make this stained glass cross and display on a window in your home for people to see.

**You will need:**

- Long coloured strips of paper for the cross outline
- Tissue paper in a variety of colours cut or torn into small pieces about 2cm wide
- Scissors
- Clear Contact self-adhesive book cover. Cut into pieces about 30cm by 25cm

**What to do:**

1. Take one piece of adhesive book covering. Peel off the backing and place it on a work space with the sticky side up.
2. Use the coloured paper strips (all one colour) to stick onto the adhesive book covering and make the outline of a cross.
3. Fill all the space inside the cross by sticking the coloured pieces of tissue paper onto the adhesive book covering. Use as many colours as you like.
4. Use another piece of contact, peel the backing off and stick down over your cross, sticky sides together.
5. Smooth out all over, then cut out your cross around the outside edge.
6. Take your cross home and stick it up on a window.

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# Playlist for Adults

### September - A Month of Gratitude

The spiritual practice of gratitude has been called a state of mind and a way of life. But we prefer to think of it as a *grammar* — an underlying structure that helps us construct and make sense out of our lives. The rules of this grammar open all our activities. Its syntax results a system of relationships being on to the divine and to every other part of the creation.

To learn the grammar of gratitude, practice saying "Thank you" for happy and challenging experiences, for people, animals, things, art, memories, dreams, Christ's past blessings, and praise God. Offer blessings, and express your appreciation to everything and everyone you encounter. By blessing, we are blessed.

Frederick and Mary Ann Brussat (OpenmindedPractices.com)

**Learn**

**Want to be Happy? Be Grateful**

The one thing all humans have in common is that each of us wants to be happy. Join Brother David Steindl-Rast, a monk and interfaith scholar. And Augustine, he suggests, is born from gratitude. An ongoing lesson in sharing ideas, being where you're going, and above all being grateful. Go to [YouTube](#) to learn more and read the transcript.

**For a podcast of Fr. David's interview with Krista Tippett about Gratefulness go to:**

[On Being with Krista Tippett](#)

**Gratitude: Living Life as Gift**

Fr. Curtis Allquist of the Society of St. John the Evangelist describes the gift of gratitude and how to practice gratitude. Go to the [TSP website](#) to learn more.

**Gratitude: Living Life as a Gift - Fr. Curtis Allquist**

**Pray**

**Gratitude Prayer for the Month**

*Gratitude God, in the business of my day, I sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in my life. My blessings are many, and my heart is filled with gratitude for the gift of being for the ability to love and be loved. For the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and waking, for a world that exists and a body that feels I thank you, yes, for those things of my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult. When my heart feels overcast and empty and numb of love from in my weary days, tell I expect that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning. In the absence of my God, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love. Amen.*

**Psalms on Gratitude**

Read and reflect on the Psalms each week. (Just click on the site for the Psalms.)

**Week 1 - Psalm 68 and Psalm 100**  
**Week 2 - Psalm 103**  
**Week 3 - Psalm 104**  
**Week 4 - Psalm 107**

**Read, Listen, & Watch**

**Articles**

- [Read "Ten Words That Will Change Your Life" by Eric Damstra to learn how gratitude begins humility which begins God's grace.](#)

**Book**

**A Grateful Day**

This moving book tells gratitude for the blessing of life and the everyday wonder and beauty of nature. It was inspired by the short film *Gratitude*, a real video sensation by acclaimed filmmaker Louie Schwartzberg recently featured on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday. The book and film give you a daily most uplifting journey—the Internet phenomenon "A Grateful Day" written by renowned spiritual leader Brother David Steindl-Rast—with stunning images by Schwartzberg. This inspirational package includes not just the book but a DVD with two short films by Schwartzberg (including *Gratitude*) and Brother David's own "A Grateful Day" video. The last page has a link to the "A Grateful Day" audio track, which you can use to create your own audio or listen alone or what you are grateful for.

• [Purchase on Amazon.com](#)

**Basic, Daily Gratefulness Practice**

If each day, we could engage in a "basic daily gratefulness practice," it would be enough to positively impact our lives and the world around us, just because a practice is simple does not mean it's simple results. Even though you might choose to try this practice in a more formal way at the same time each day, it can be done anytime, anywhere, and as often as you want. Go to [Gratefulness.org](#) for to experience the practice.

**Gratitude through the Day**

Gratitude, like any other spiritual practice, is something we do not just accomplish on the day it's something we need to practice. To practice gratitude, we don't need a special occasion on which to do, nor a special time of day, nor a special time or special place, nor special means to make our spiritual program beautiful to begin, nor a special prayer or mantra to recite. (None of that is in any way bad or inappropriate. It may well help. It simply not enough.)

What is enough is here and now. The Psalmist reminds us, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118: 24). Gratitude concerns our life and bodies, in fact, because it makes us really available to the real presence of Christ, who is work within us and around us — now. We begin each day and there four simple intentions and see how they change your day.

**4th - Pray Your Gratitude**  
**8am - Bless Your Eyes Open**  
**8pm - Express Your Gratitude**  
**9pm - Sleep Your Life**

Go to [Gratitude through the Day website](#).

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Michigan Conference  
UMC  
Children's Ministry  
"Faith & Family  
Playlist"  
Rev. Kathy Pittenger

<https://michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-tool-box/faith-family-playlists>

### DO NOT BE AFRAID PLAYLIST

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION  
CLERGY  
LOCAL CHURCH

**Need something else?**  
Need another resource? Looking for advice? Please contact [Kathy.Pittenger@umc.org](mailto:Kathy.Pittenger@umc.org)

**Fear, Anxiety, and Jesus**  
The world has felt like it earned upside down for many people across the United States and the world over the last few weeks. The playlist below focuses on acknowledging fear and trusting in God.

**Bible Story**

- Read Psalm 23 from a children's Story Bible or a child-friendly version of the Bible or watch it [here](#).
- Wonder about the story together (you can wonder without having "right" answers)
  - I wonder what it feels like to be afraid.
  - I wonder what it feels like to feel safe.
  - I wonder what God's house looks like!
  - I wonder how we know that God is with us, especially when we are feeling scared or afraid.
- Reflection
  - Draw a picture, or use play-doh or Lego to create a picture of what you think Psalm 23 looks like.

**Books**  
The books referenced here will, as much as possible, either be in a digital format or read-on-line so you have access to them as many library services are closed.

- Book: *Gold Army* by J. Zimmerman  
[Read Gold Army online here](#)
- Book: *Be Brave, Trusting God Through Fear and Change* (Little Seed & Little Fox) by Lisa TerKeurst [available from Amazon Prime](#)

**Activities**

- Help *Emmanuel Kids to Fight Their Fears!* Create adorable mini-artists with scripture verses on them to help who kids feel afraid.
- Print and color *Prayers for when you feel onxious from FaithandAnxiety.com* (click on the "Get Resources" button)
- Have a gratitude chain
  - My kids (ages 8 and 11) were joking that we should make a paper tree and "carve" a dash on it for every day that we get to social distance ourselves. Then we talked about creating a gratitude chain - we will write something we are grateful for or someone we are praying for on a piece of paper every day and create a paper chain to hang in our dining room. It's a visual way to mark time and remember all the people and things we are grateful for and are praying for.

**Music**

*VeggieTales: God is Bigger Than the... So when I'm lying in my bed,*




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**FAITHFUL FAMILIES**  
CHURCH HOME  
EQUIPPING FAMILIES

First Presbyterian, Stillwater, OK  
<https://www.fpcfaithfulfamilies.com>

### FAITH IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

Anxiety is on the rise in our world, and not just because we're in the middle of a pandemic. How do we respond to the anxiety we feel? What might God be telling us through our anxiety? And how does our faith guide us in healthy ways to cope? The resources here will supplement what we're discussing in our PPS Zoom meetings each week.

**READ/WATCH/LISTEN**

**Read**  
Read James' message reflecting on the presence of God in the middle of our anxiety. (James 5:1-11)  
Read 4:20-21  
Luke 11:1-11

**Watch**  
Read and listen from the sermon, "Faith in an Anxious World" (July 12, 2020)  
Session 1 - Life in an Anxious World  
Session 2 - Life in a Restless World  
Session 3 - Faith in an Anxious World  
Session 4 - Faith in a Thirsting World

### WONDER

Wonder:  

- What's making your soul feel unsteady lately? Where is a lot of your anxiety?
- I wonder what God might be trying to tell you? Where do you see God at work in the midst of your anxiety?
- I wonder what healthy ways you've had to learn to cope with stress?
- I wonder who in your life you can talk to safely about the anxieties you're experiencing?

**PRAY**

**PRAYER CHALLENGE**  
Regular month/weekend review of your day using an ancient spiritual practice called the prayer of Examen is a helpful way not only to connect with God, but to also manage anxiety.

**Examen**  

- Recognize God's presence with you.
- Reflect on your "highs" from the day. For what moment am I most grateful? When did I give and receive the most love? When did I feel most alive today?
- Reflect on your "lows" from the day. For what moment am I least grateful? When did I give and receive the least love? When did I most feel life draining from me?
- Pray the day. Share with God - praise, thanksgiving, repentance, forgiveness, and petitions that came from the day.

**DO**

**Grow Your Circle**  
Who is in your trusted circle of adults you feel comfortable calling on when you need to talk about how you feel?  
Check in with one of those adults this week. Show what you find making you anxious lately and ask if they can share any helpful practices to listen to and learn from their anxiety.



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COURSES&TOOLKITS

### Toolkit: Design Faith Formation 2020-21

JUST UPDATED: Tools, strategies, and to help you plan faith formation in 2020-21

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Challenge

Challenges Facing Faith Formation



Design

Designing Faith Formation



Playlists

Playlists for Faith Formation



Tools

Digital Tools for Faith Formation



Curate

Curating Resources for Faith Formation



Practices

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