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Lifelong  
Faith  
Formation

John Roberto  
([jroberto@lifelongfaith.com](mailto:jroberto@lifelongfaith.com))



[www.LifelongFaith.com](http://www.LifelongFaith.com)  
Home Tab  
Lifelong Faith Course

Demonstration Websites  
[www.SeasonsofAdultFaith.com](http://www.SeasonsofAdultFaith.com)  
[www.FamilyFaithPractice.com](http://www.FamilyFaithPractice.com)

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**Lifelong Faith**  
FORMATION FOR ALL AGES AND GENERATIONS  
John Roberto

## Resources



The Lifelong Faith Website. . . .

  
**Goals for Maturing in Faith**  
[Goals](#)

  
**Practices for Forming a Christian Way of Life**  
[Practices](#)

  
**Intergenerational Faith Formation**  
[Intergenerational](#)

  
**Family Faith Formation with Three Generations**  
[Family](#)

  
**Networks for Forming Faith with All Ages**  
[Networks](#)

  
**Hybrid Faith Formation**  
[Hybrid](#)

  
**Pathways for Personalizing Formation**  
[Pathways](#)

  
**Playlists for Engaging All Ages in Faith Formation**  
[Playlists](#)

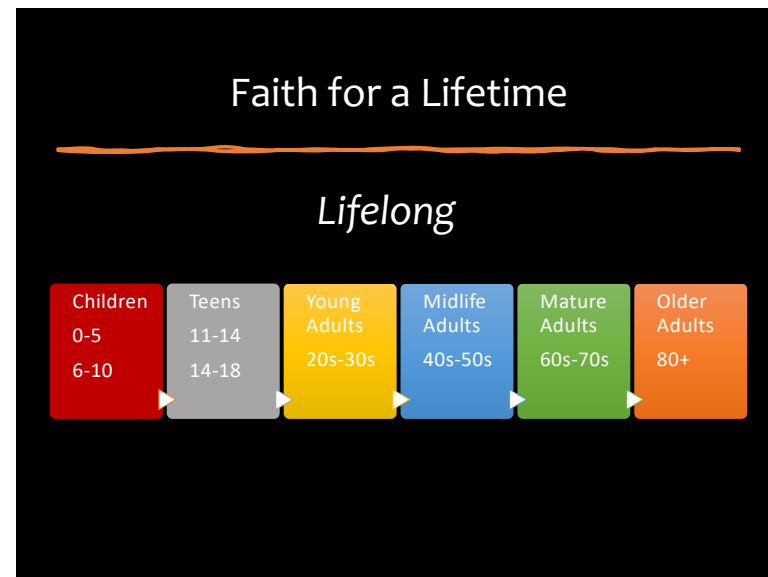
  
**Models of Lifelong Faith Formation**  
[Models](#)

  
**Lifelong Faith Library**  
[Lifelong Faith Library](#)

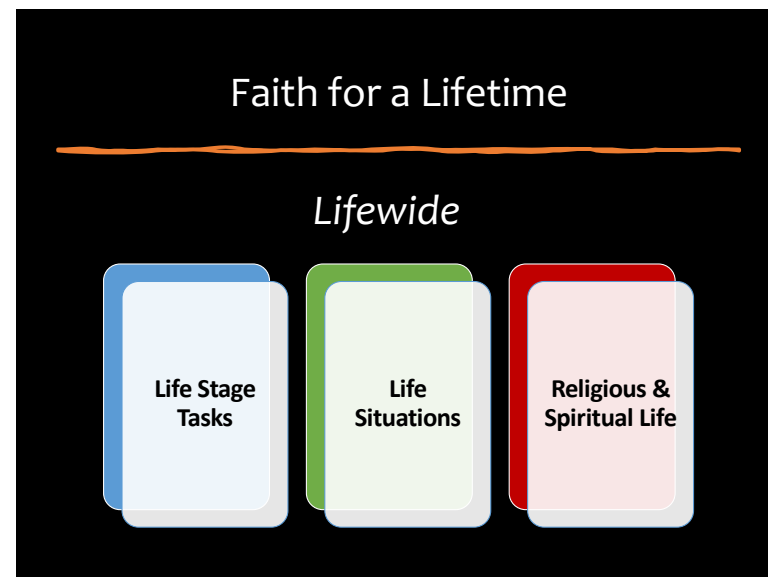
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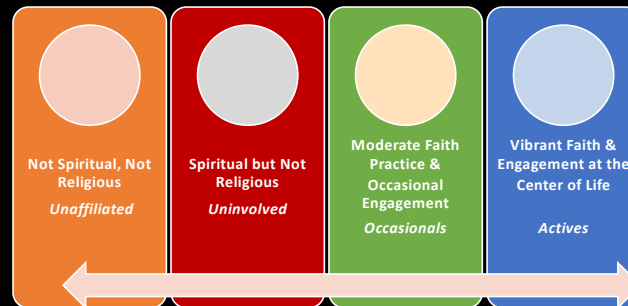


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## For All Religious Practices & Identities



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*How can a church become  
a center for lifelong  
learning and faith  
formation for all ages and  
generations?*

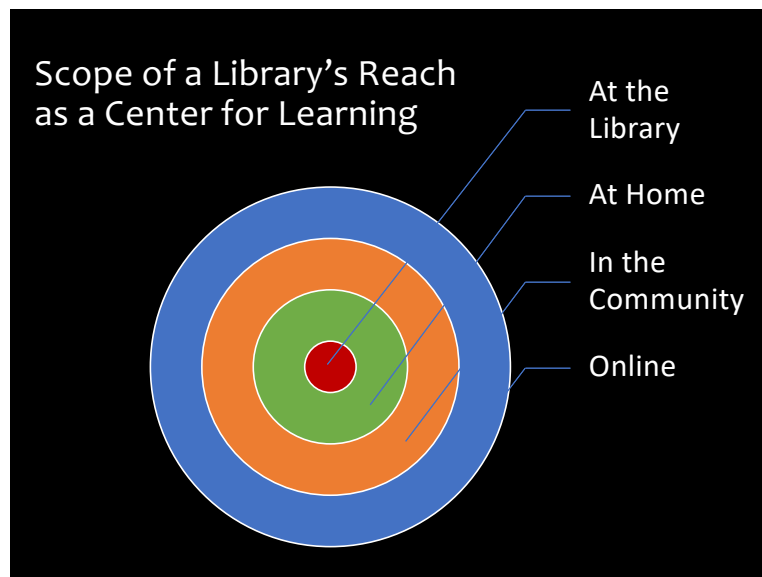
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What would be the ideal faith formation for all ages and generations look like in your church?

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What would you have to do –  
have to create – to make the  
ideal faith formation happen in  
your church?

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## Need to Think and Act Systemically

Systems thinking is a way of helping us view the challenges we face in faith formation from a broader perspective that includes seeing the whole life span and the context of people's lives today, rather than seeing only a specific issue or concern in isolation.

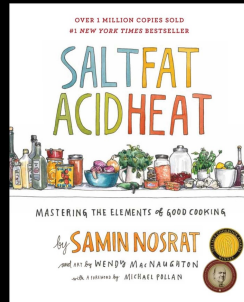
If a problem (or challenge) lingers on, despite our attempts to solve it, maybe the problem is systemic (and not a people or resource problem).

By focusing on the entire system of faith formation, we can attempt to identify solutions that address as many problems as possible in the system. The positive effect of those solutions leverages improvement throughout the system. Thus, they are called "leverage points" in the system. This priority on the entire system and its leverage points is called whole systems thinking.

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## What If...



*"The whole idea behind Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat is that if we can learn how to use those four elements—which play a role in everything that we cook—we can learn how, why, and when to use them, and make anything taste good with or without a recipe. The rest, she says, is just a combination of cultural, seasonal, or technical details, for which we could consult cookbooks and experts, histories, and maps."*

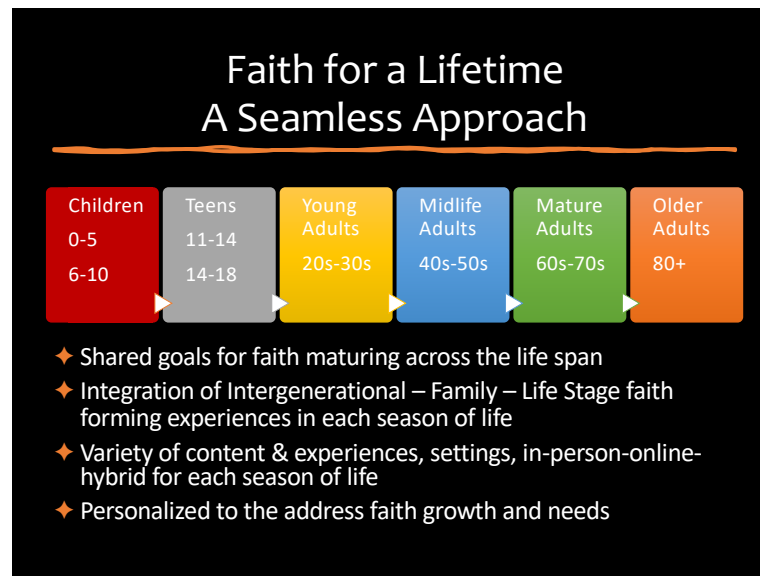
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## Elements of Lifelong Faith Formation

1. A Vision of Maturing in Faith
2. Practices for Forming a Christian Way of Life
3. Intergenerational Relationships and Faith Forming Experiences
4. Family Faith and Practice
5. Networks of Life Stage Formation
6. Pathways to Faith Growth
7. Playlists of Faith Forming Experiences



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## A Vision of Lifelong Maturing in Faith



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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

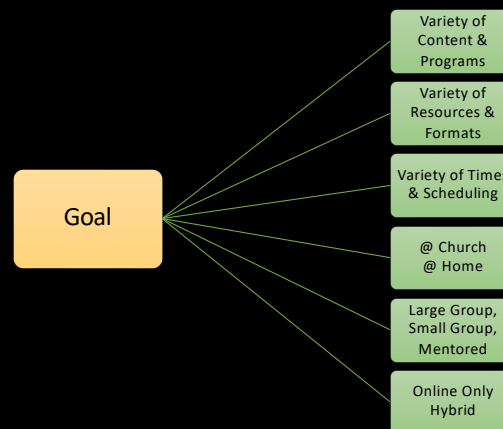
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## Maturing in Faith Goals

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

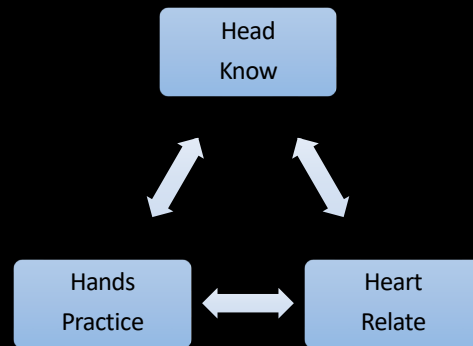
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## Many Ways to Address a Goal



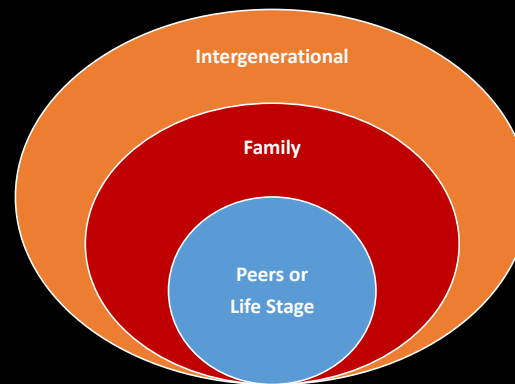
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## A Living Faith



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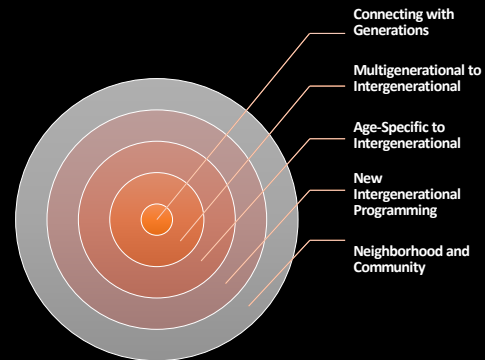
## Holistic Faith Formation



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## Intergenerational

*At every stage of life people need to be connected to other generations and have intergenerational faith forming experiences*

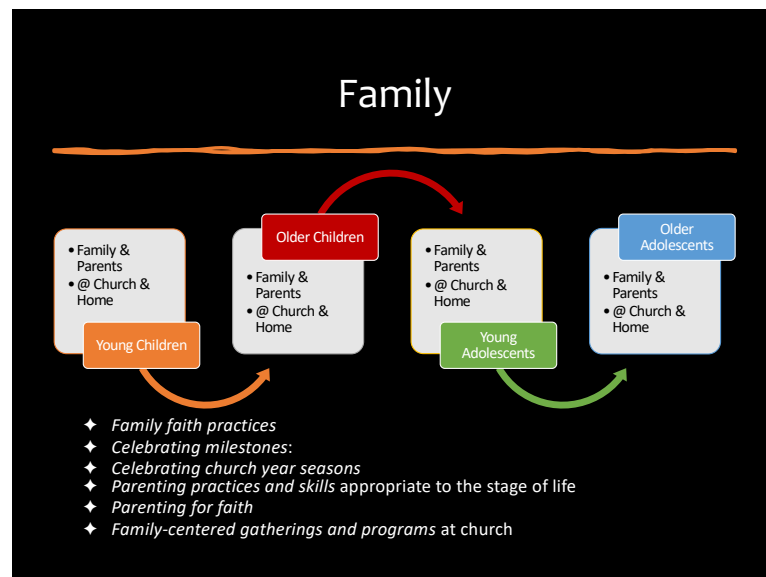


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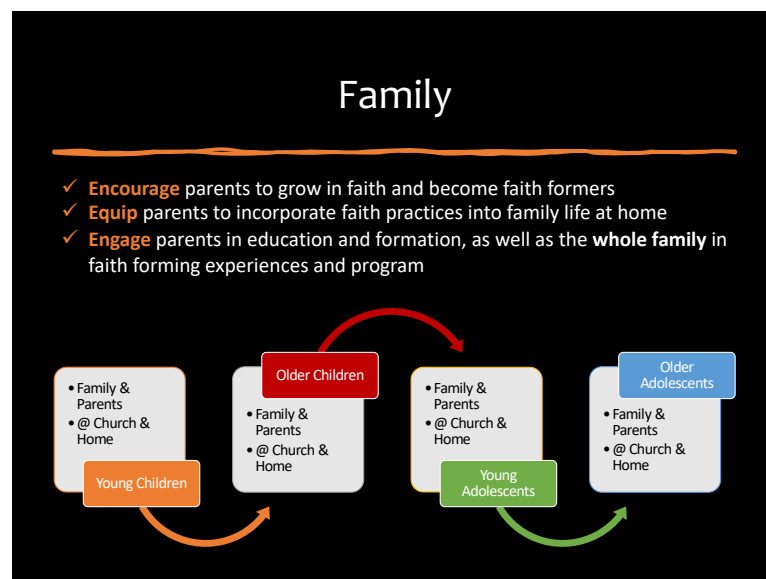
## Family

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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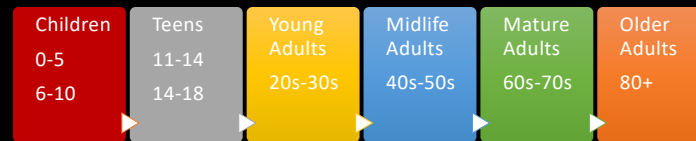
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## Life Stages

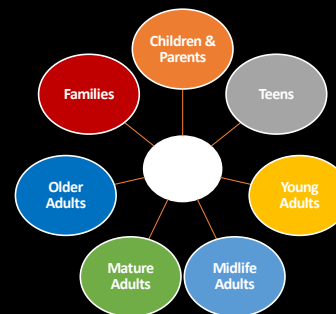
*Responsive to each life stage: developmental, life issues and situations, spiritual and religious diversity*



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## Programming 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



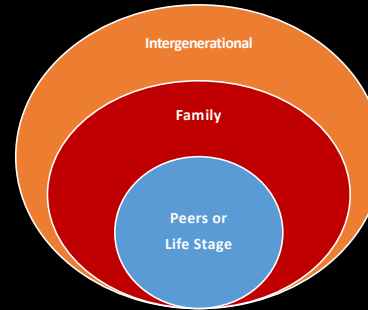
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## Programming

### *Build a Menu of Participation*

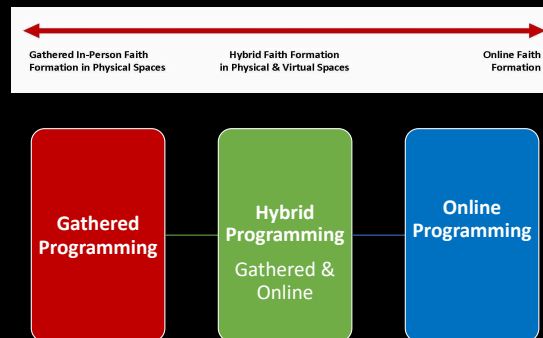
1. Intergenerational Experiences
2. Family Experiences @ Home and @ Church
3. Age-Group Experiences



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## Hybrid Programming

### *Synchronous and Asynchronous*



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## One Program, Multiple Formats

1. *Large group physical gathering:* People gather at church and a leader facilitates the program: live or video presentation, time to read and reflect, and small group discussion.
2. *Small group physical gathering:* People gather in small groups in homes or coffee shops or other conducive setting, watch the video, read and reflect on the content, and discuss the content.
3. *Small group online setting:* People gather online in a small group (Zoom or other video conferencing platform) to watch the video together, read and reflect on the content, and discuss the content.
4. *Hybrid:* People complete each session on their own, share reflections in a Facebook group (asynchronous), meet together to discuss the program (synchronous).
5. *Online independent:* People complete the learning program on their own.

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## Hybrid Approaches

Involve more people with time- and schedule-friendly programming

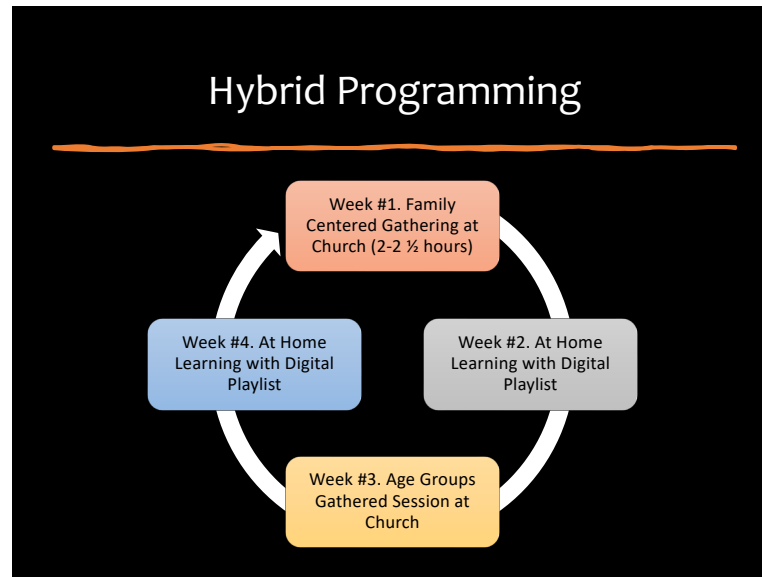
Reach more people through different learning formats

Promote more engaged learners

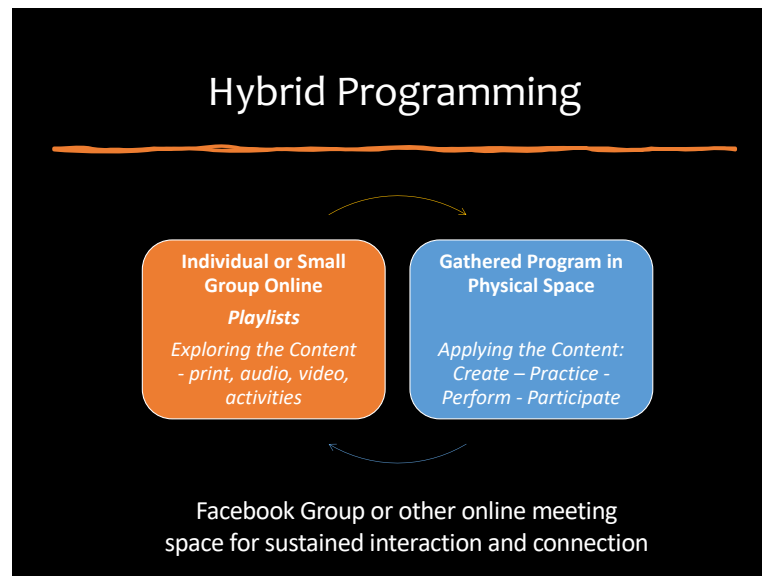
Find multiple ways to use the programming we create.

Engage or re-engage those who participate occasionally or who have stopped participating in church life.

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## Pathways - Personalizing -

*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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## 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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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.



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**MARCH 2, 2022**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**



**taking faith home**

**MARCH 2, 2022**  
**HYMN FOR**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**Return to God**


*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 2:1-2, 12-17**  
**Psalm 51:1-17**  
**2 Corinthians 5:20B-6:10**  
**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

**Call to repentance**  
**A prayer for forgiveness**  
**Messengers of Christ**  
**The practice of faith**


**ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES** 

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS** 

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflection:

- When is a time we were sorry for your actions and wanted to apologize?
- How does God's forgiveness free you to live your life for the care of others?


**DEVOTIONS** 

Read: Psalm 51:1-17.


This psalm is referenced in hymns. Individual verses are used in Christian liturgy. Its beautiful poetry and powerful message of repentance and divine forgiveness have comforted the faithful for thousands of years. At the heart of the psalm is a recognition of human sin. More revealing than the various ways of describing human brokenness is the psalm's declaration of God's activity that forgives and renews life: mercy, steadfast love, and abundant mercy (v. 1). These words can remind us of three essential characteristics: merciful, gracious, and abundant love (see Exodus 34:6). God's ways are so powerful and loving that all our brokenness is overcome with divine mercy that creates in us a new heart, even though the new heart will break again and again.

Discuss: What does it mean to you that God's grace is more powerful than your sin?

Pray: God of mercy, grace, and steadfast love, cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits to trust in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

**SERVICE** 

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ash Wednesday Bible Readings and the theme for the day, who is someone you know that you could tell about God's mercy and steadfast love?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS** 


Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of repentance and confession. As a way to recognize this day, gather around a pit with friends and family. Invite everyone to think about something they feel bad about doing or saying to someone. Then give each person a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask each person to write what they thought about on the paper. Small children can draw a picture with crayons. Next, ask each person to crumple up their paper and throw it into the fire. After the papers become ashes, say together: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.** (Psalm 51:10)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for Ash Wednesday:**  
Dear God, forgive us and renew us with your constant love and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.


**Mealtime Prayer:**  
Give us water: God gives us bread. Let us give thanks for now being fed. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**  
May the God of steadfast love restore your soul through Christ Jesus our Lord.



**MILESTONES  
MINISTRY**

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**MILESTONES  
MINISTRY**

In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

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## Families with Children 0-5

1. *Baptism preparation* that engages the parents in their own faith growth and prepares them for nurturing faith in young children
2. *Mentors* from the church community (e.g., grandparents) to accompany parents on the journey from Baptism to start of school
3. *Faith practices* - Bible stories, prayers, meal rituals, values
4. *Seasons of the year* activities
5. *Milestones* - birthdays, baptism anniversaries, "first" milestones, entry to preschool and kindergarten
6. *Parenting knowledge* - understanding young child development and practices for effective parenting of young children
7. *Parenting for faith skills* - reading a Bible story, praying with a young child, having faith conversations
8. *Online group* for parents of young children
9. *Gatherings for parents and for families* at church

At Church

At Home

Online

Hybrid

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## Developing a Lifelong Plan

\* Whole Church - All Ages & Stages

\* Life Stage(s)

\* Sacraments  
marriage-baptism-eucharist-confirmation



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