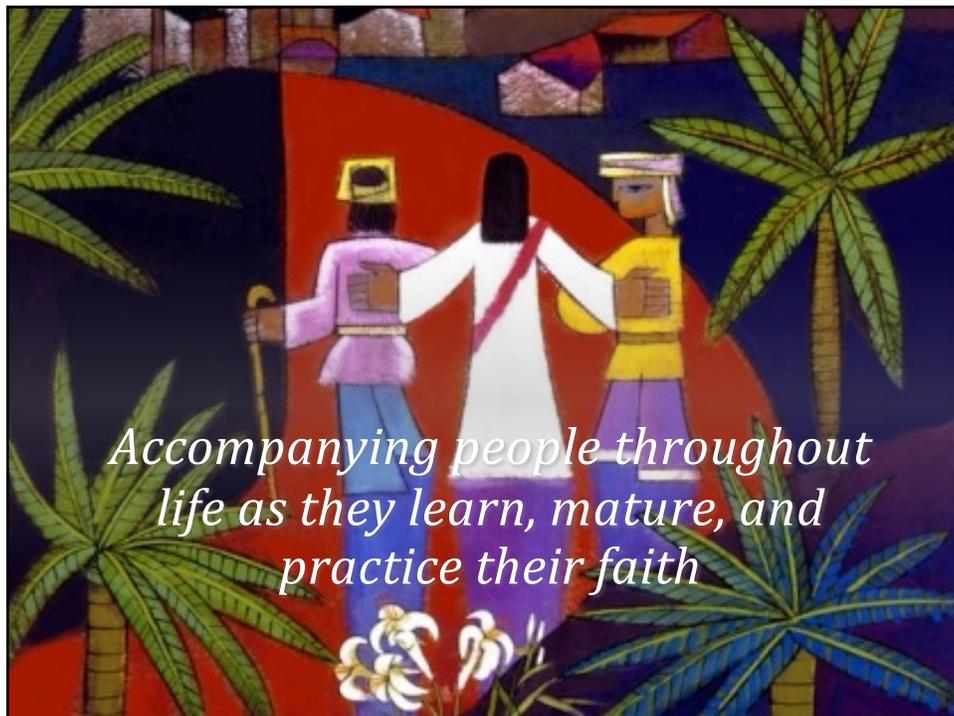


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2

Workshop Program

John Roberto
(iroberto@lifelongfaith.com)

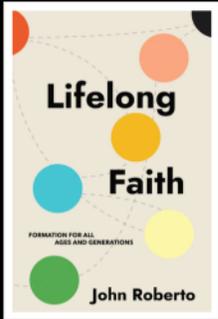
LifelongFaith.com



1. Introduction
 - Is This the Time for Lifelong Faith Formation
 - Seven Elements of Lifelong Faith Formation
2. A Profile & Analysis of Faith Formation with all Ages and Generations
3. Models of Lifelong Faith Formation
4. Goals for Maturing in Faith for a Lifetime
5. An Integrated Approach: Intergenerational, Family, & Life Stages
6. Creating a Multi-Year Plan
7. Networks of Faith Formation: Programming Approaches, Formats, and Methods
8. Pathways and Playlists for Faith Formation
9. Capacity-building for Faith Formation

3

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 Articles, Books, Journals, Webinar Videos Lifelong Faith Library		

4

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.

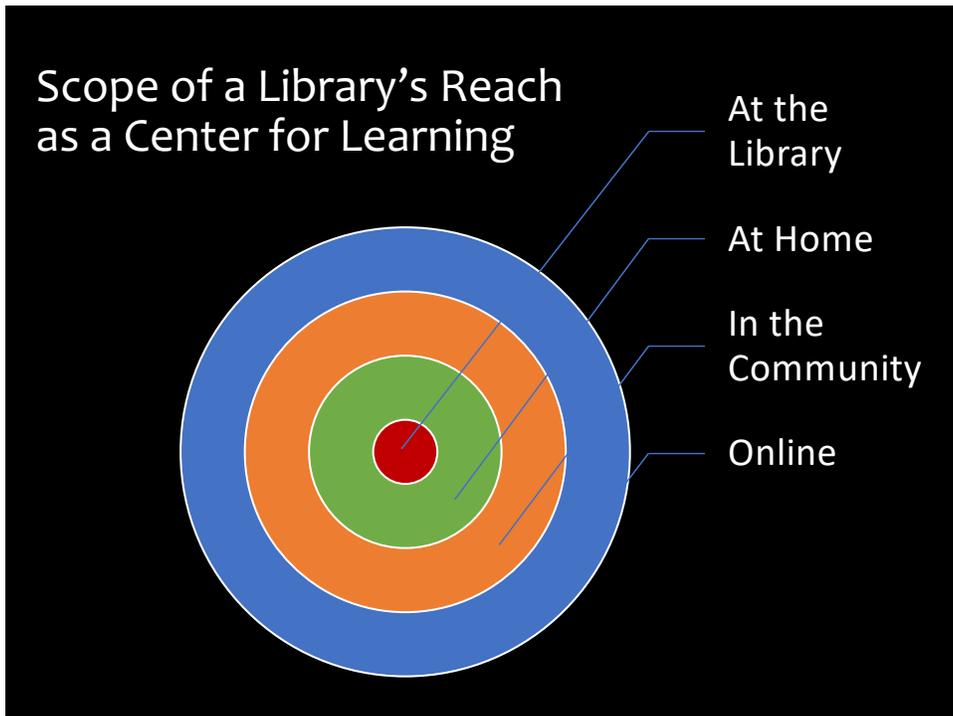
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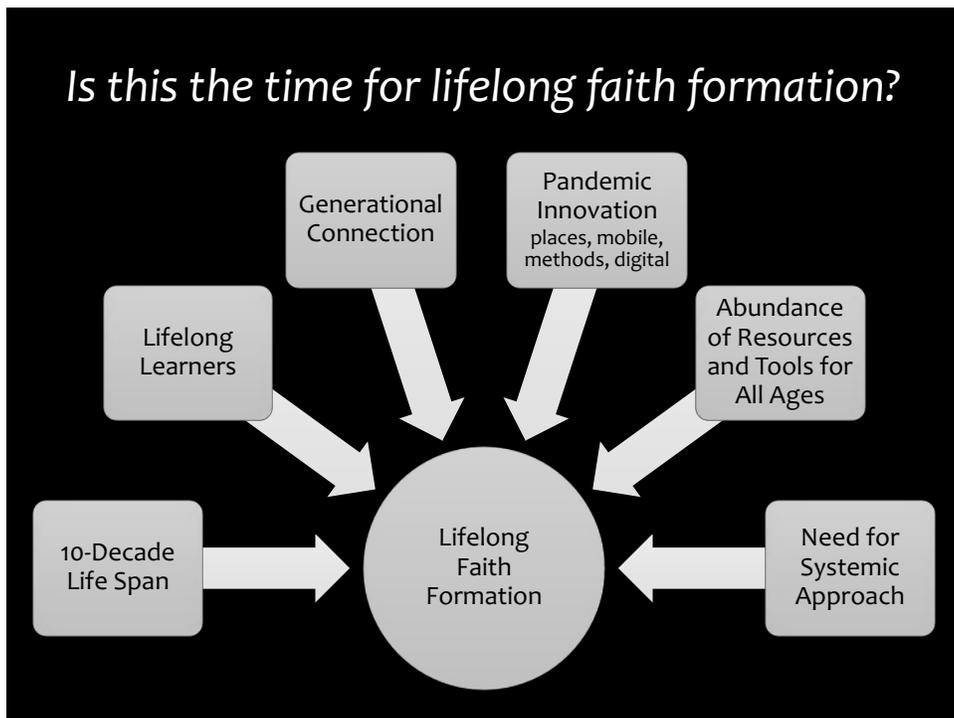
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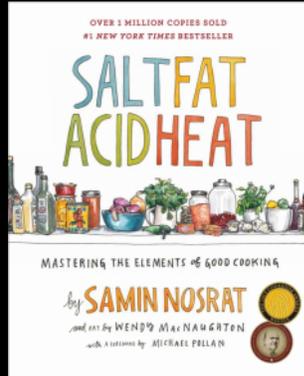


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What If...



“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.”

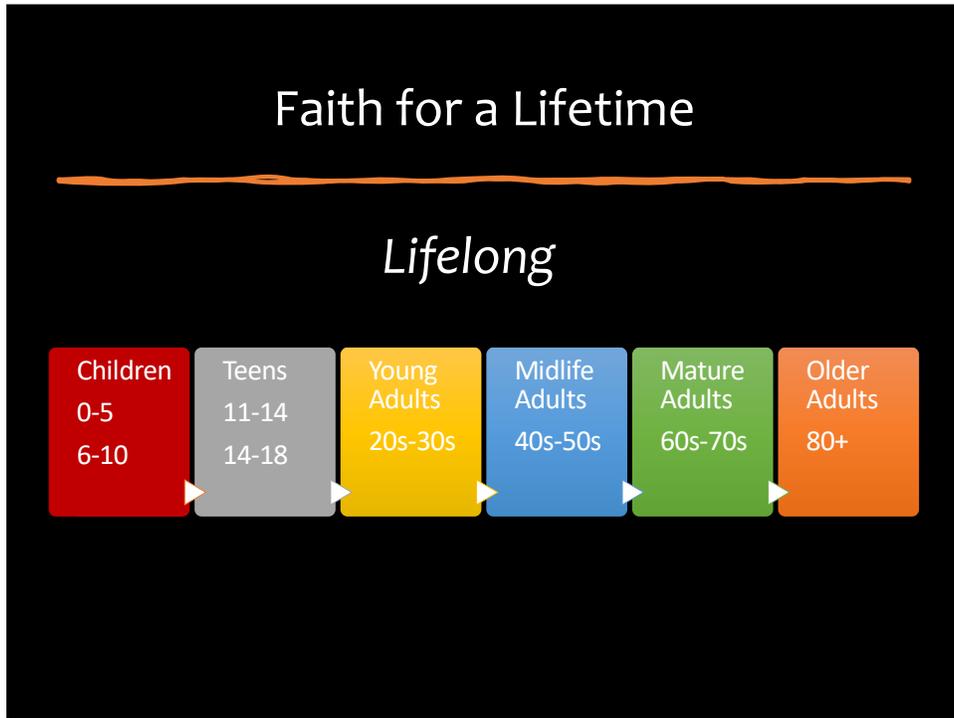
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Elements of Lifelong Faith Formation

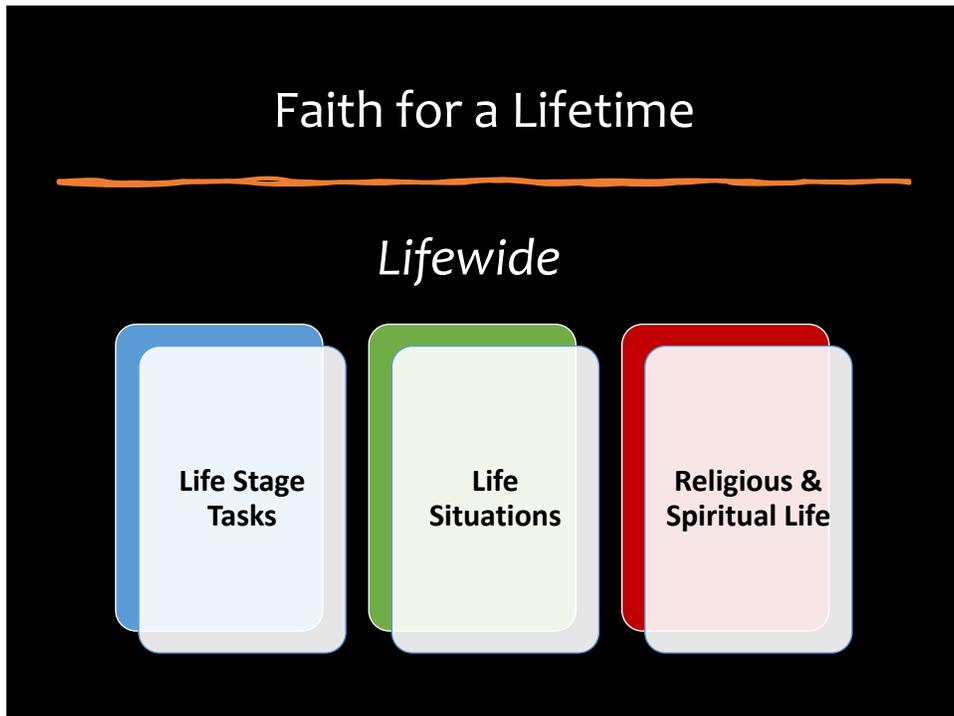
1. A Vision of Maturing in Faith
2. Practices for Forming a Christian Way of Life
3. Intergenerational Relationships and Faith Forming Experiences
4. Family Faith and Practice
5. Networks of Life Stage Formation
6. Pathways to Faith Growth
7. Playlists of Faith Forming Experiences



12



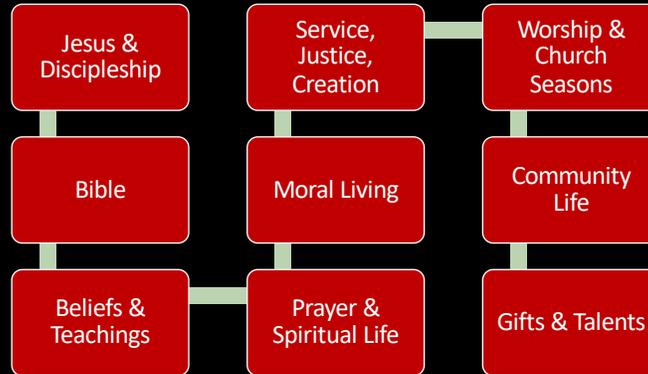
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Faith for a Lifetime

Maturing in Faith



15

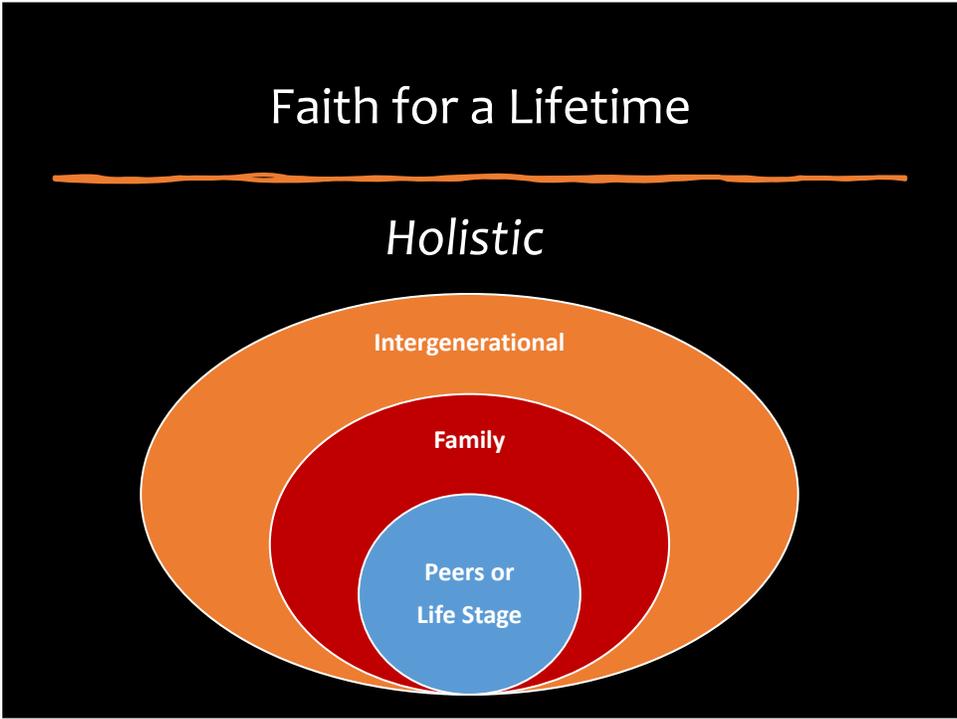
Faith for a Lifetime

Christian Practices

Guiding people in learning to live the Christian way of life

- Learning the basic practices of the Christian faith
- Being drawn into participation in them
- Learning to do them with increasingly deepened understanding and skill
- Caring for Creation
- Discernment
- Doing Justice & Serving the Poor
- Dying Well
- Eating Well
- Forgiveness
- Finding God in Everyday Life
- Honoring the Body
- Hospitality
- Keeping Sabbath
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Worship

16



17

Faith for a Lifetime

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

The diagram features a central white circle connected by lines to seven surrounding colored circles. Clockwise from the top, the circles are: orange ('Children & Parents'), grey ('Teens'), yellow ('Young Adults'), blue ('Midlife Adults'), green ('Mature Adults'), blue ('Older Adults'), and red ('Families').

18

Faith for a Lifetime

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



19

Faith for a Lifetime

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.



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Profile: Lifelong Faith Formation

	Life Stage Faith Formation - with this age group -	Family Faith Formation - with the family -	Intergenerational Faith Formation - with other generations -
Young Children			
Grade School Children			
Young Adolescents			
Older Adolescents			
Young Adults			
Midlife Adults			
Mature Adults			
Older Adults			

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Profile of Lifelong Faith Formation

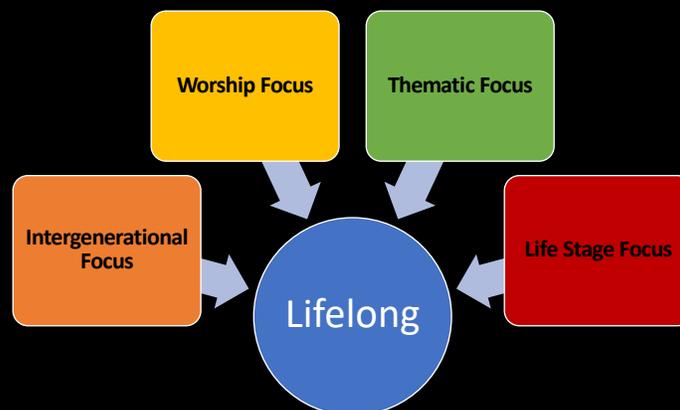
Analysis

- ✓ What are the strengths in our current programming?
- ✓ What do we need to continue doing?
- ✓ What do we need to stop doing?
- ✓ What needs to be strengthened or improved?
- ✓ What needs to be expanded with more programming or needs to be extended to reach and engage more people?
- ✓ What do we need to start doing? What new initiatives need to be created to address gaps in lifelong faith formation, to respond to new needs and challenges, or to engage new audiences?

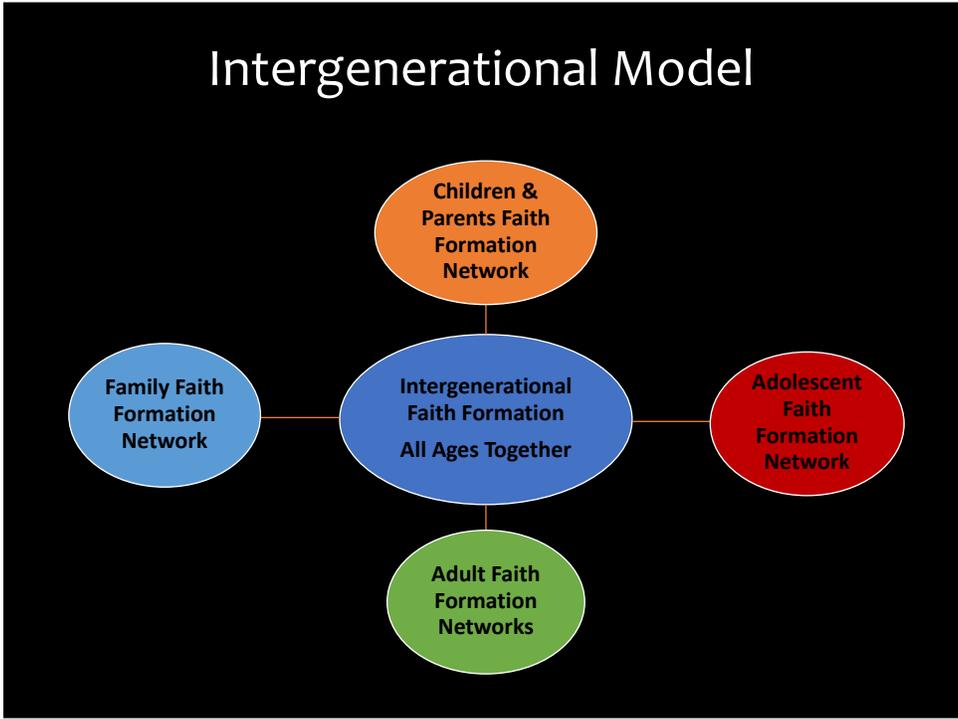
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Faith for a Lifetime

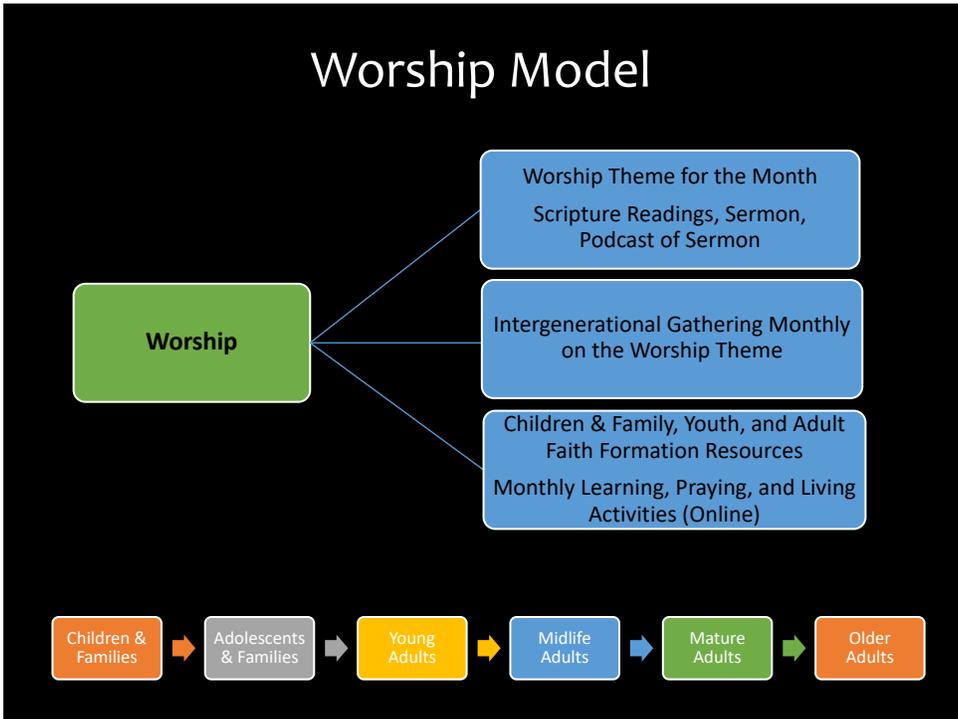
Lifelong Models



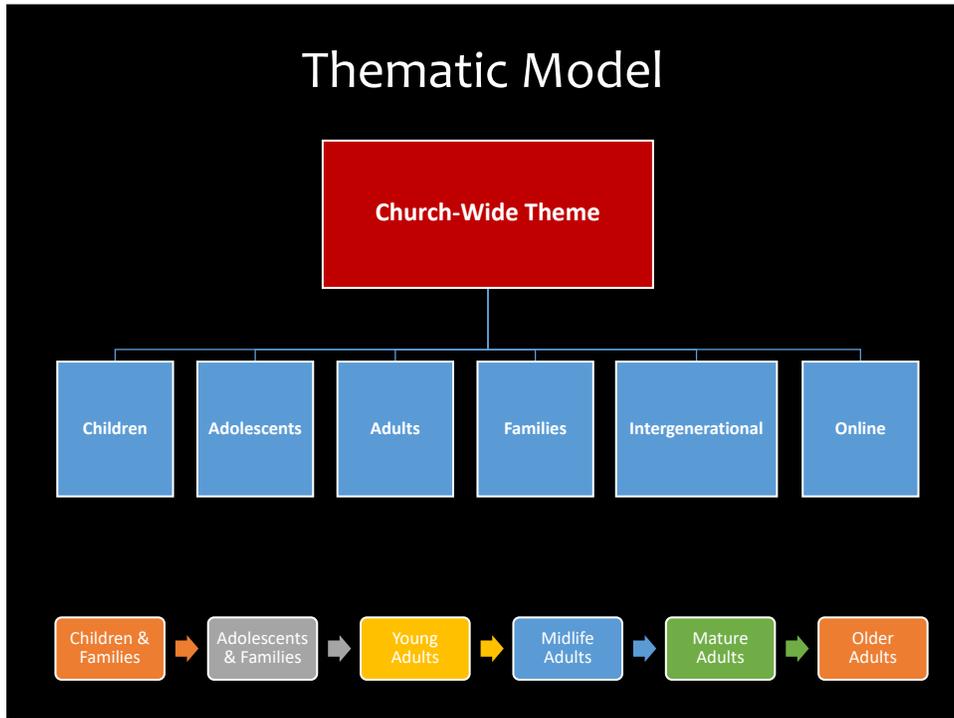
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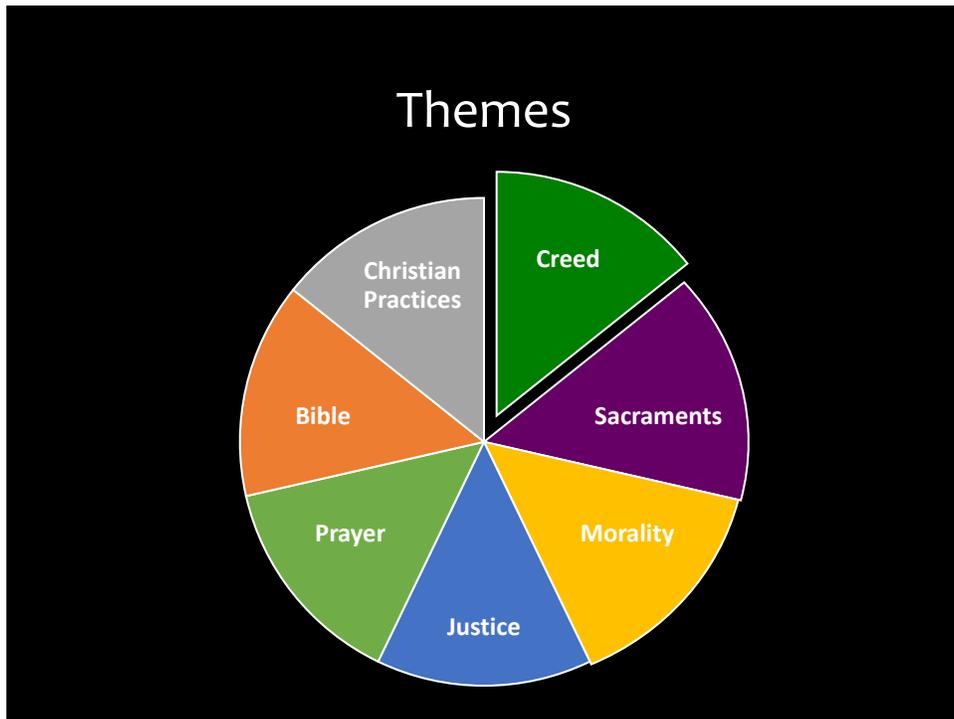
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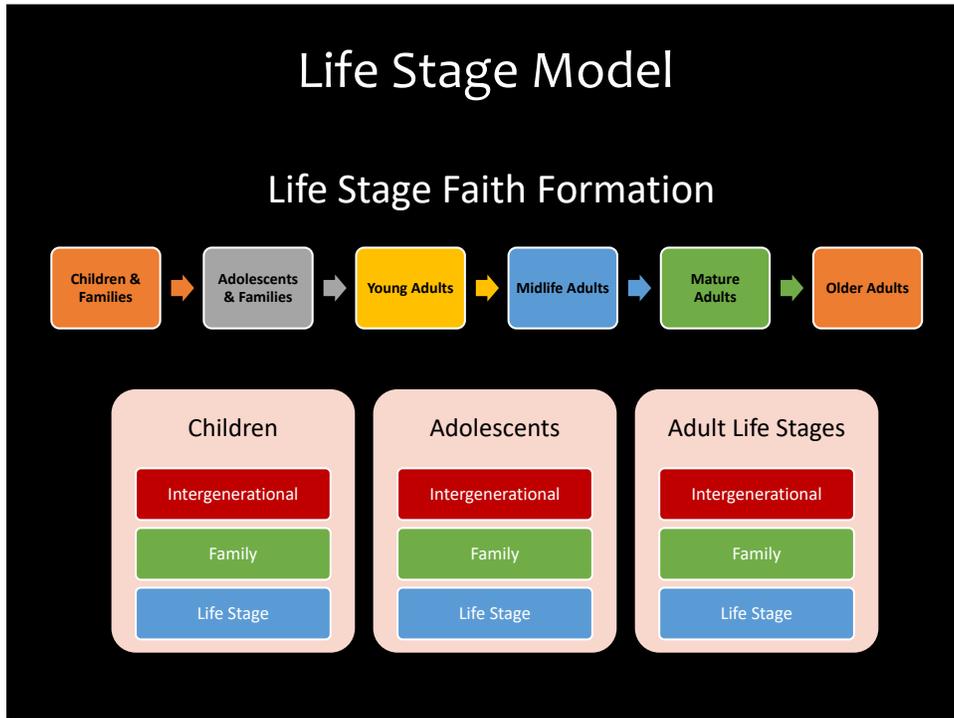
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29



30

Maturing in Faith Goals

Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
Teachings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Catholic faith and integrating its meaning into one's life
Praying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praying—together and by ourselves—and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

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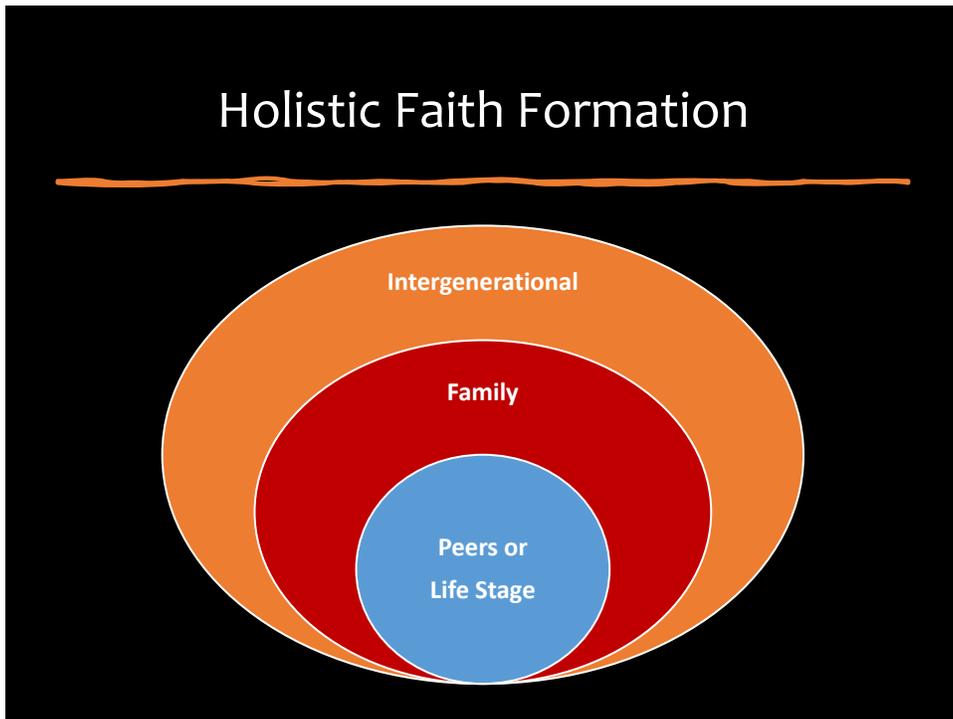
Maturing in Faith Goals

Morality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
Serve, Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
Engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
Gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

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34

Intergenerational

Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational in Church Life and Ministries



Young people today are experiencing epidemic levels of loneliness.

Our data in *Belonging* indicate that one in three of our young people feel completely alone much of the time. Nearly 40% have no one to talk to and feel left out, and 45% feel as if no-one understands them.

One in three of our young people feel completely alone much of the time.

Nearly 40% have no one to talk to and feel left out.



Young people need more trusted adult relationships in their lives.

Connecting young people to even just one additional trusted adult can reduce their feelings of loneliness, isolation, and stress. But the benefits of connecting young people to five or more trusted adults is a game-changing prospect—and ought to be our goal.

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Intergenerational

- Creates a welcoming environment of hospitality, trust, acceptance, emotional safety, and care that is conducive to promoting faith growth and mutual support across generations
- Builds caring relationships among the generations in the church through worship, learning, service, and community events and activities
- Creates intentional opportunities for bringing the generations together to build relationships and engage in shared activities
- Involves all generations together in Sunday weekend worship; gives special attention to being inclusive of children and teens in Sunday worship; and engages all generations in leadership roles in Sunday worship (music, reading, praying)

36

Intergenerational

- Engages all generations together in learning experiences that teach the Bible and the Christian tradition, and form disciples of all ages in Christian identity
- Brings together the generations to learn from each other, share their faith stories, and find support for practicing their faith in daily life
- Nurtures the spiritual life of all generations together through the community's prayer life, rituals, and blessings; brings together all generations to nurture their spiritual life through prayer and spiritual practices and disciplines
- Engages all generations together in service to the poor and vulnerable, in the works of justice and advocacy, and in care for creation

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Intergenerational

Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational in Church Life and Ministries

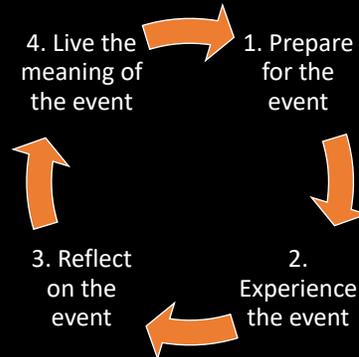
1. Create intergenerational connection, relationships, nurture, mentoring.
2. Transform multigenerational into intergenerational
3. Transform age-specific into intergenerational
4. Design new intergenerational initiatives
5. Make intergenerational learning central to church life

38

Intergenerational

Formation around Church Events

- Sunday worship
- Feasts and season of the church year
- Rituals, milestones, and sacramental celebrations
- Justice and service ministries
- Congregational events
- And more



39

Intergenerational

Multigenerational to Intergenerational

Every church has multigenerational environments in which at least two generations are participating in an event or activity—Sunday worship, church events, social gatherings, and more.

How can you transform multigenerational environments into experiences of intergenerational connection and community?

Relationships

- ✓ How will the generations interact with each other, get to know each other, share stories with each other?
- ✓ How will the experience incorporate intentional relationship building activities?
- ✓ How will everyone feel welcomed and safe?

40

Intergenerational

Multigenerational to Intergenerational

Content:

- ✓ How will the experience engage generations in shared activities and in generationally-appropriate activities?

Leadership

- ✓ How will each generation be involved in leadership roles, appropriate to their gifts, abilities, and age?
- ✓ How will the leadership team engage multiple generations?

Inclusion:

- ✓ How will each generation feel valued and recognized in the experience?

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Intergenerational

Transform Age-Specific into Intergenerational

How can you transform age-specific programs by adding intergenerational activities or by redesigning the program into an intergenerational experience?

Adding Intergenerational Activities:

- ✓ How can you incorporate another generation in sharing their faith, wisdom, and interests in the program (e.g., interviews, storytelling, presentations, demonstrations)?
- ✓ How can you add mentors or spiritual guides to a program (e.g., grandparent mentors for young parents or spiritual guides for young people in confirmation)?

42

Intergenerational

Transform Age-Specific into Intergenerational

Replacing Age-Specific for Intergenerational:

- ✓ How can you incorporate regular intergenerational gatherings into your age group program schedules throughout the year?

Consider Redesigning the Program:

- ✓ How can you redesign an age-specific program into an intergenerational program involving at least one additional generation (e.g., transforming camp or vacation Bible school into a grandparent-grandchild program, or transforming a youth service program/mission trip into an intergenerational service activity for all ages)?

43

Intergenerational

Design New Intergenerational Initiatives

Creating new programs, activities, or experiences that bring together all of the generations for learning, celebrating, praying, reading the Bible, serving and working for justice, worshipping, and more.

Where are the greatest needs and/or opportunities for creating new initiatives that will contribute toward building an intergenerational culture in your congregation?

44

Intergenerational

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

45

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 Catholic 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

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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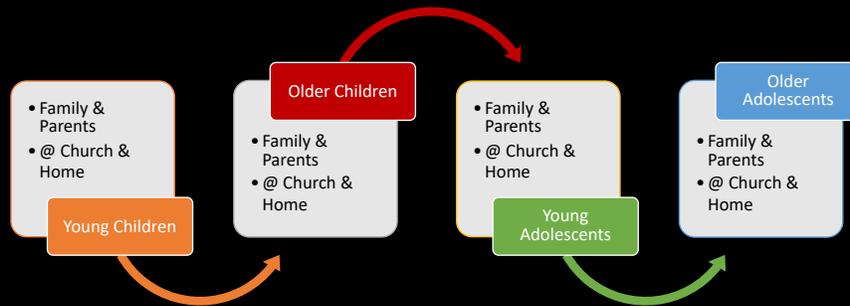
Family Faith Practices

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

- ✓ **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 program



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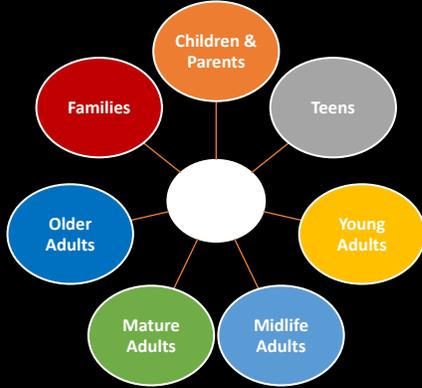


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Faith for a Lifetime

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



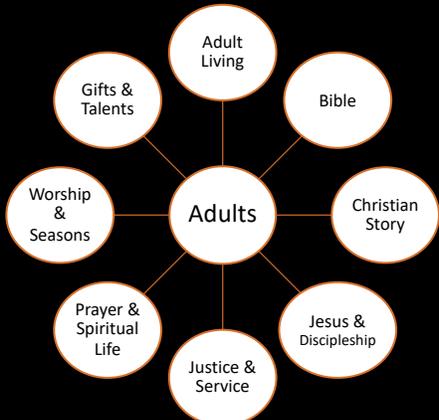
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Faith for a Lifetime

Networks of Faith Formation

Personalized

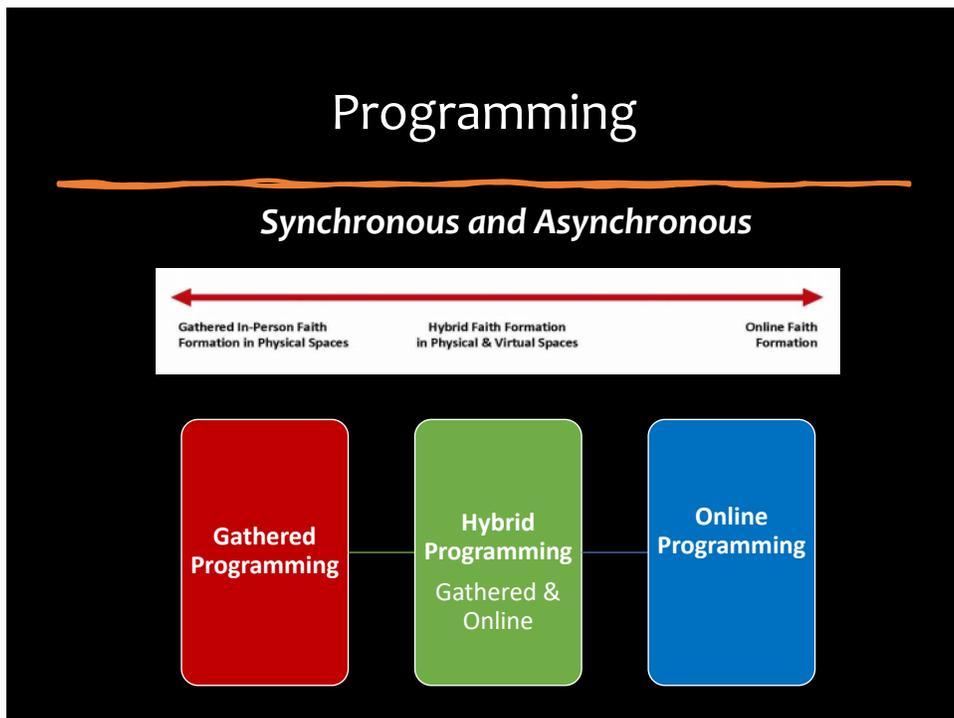
- *All Adult Content*
- *Adults who are just getting started (or need a refresher)*
- *Adults who are growing*
- *Adults who want to go deeper*



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Programming

Gathered

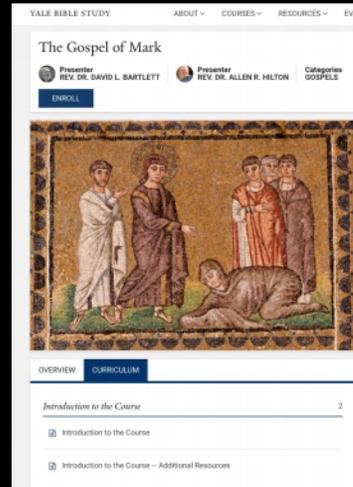
- Large group
- Small group

Online

- Independent learning
- Small group meeting online

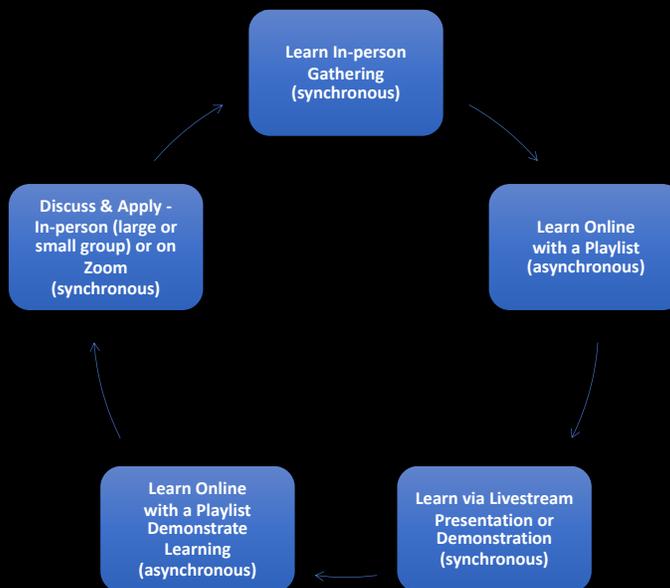
Hybrid

- Complete the online session on your own + meet in small group

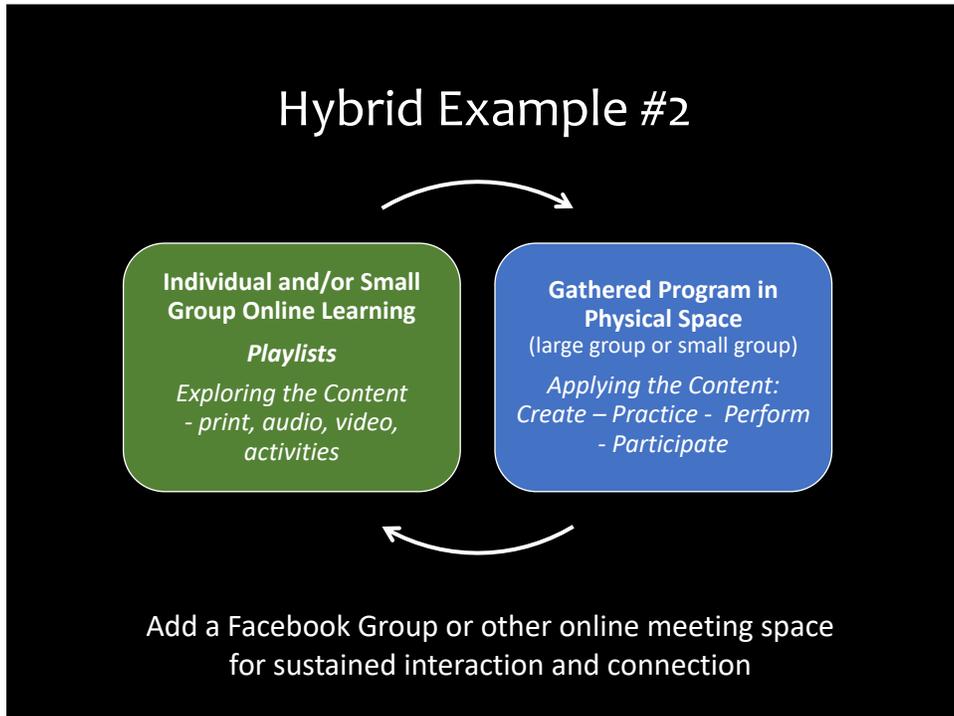


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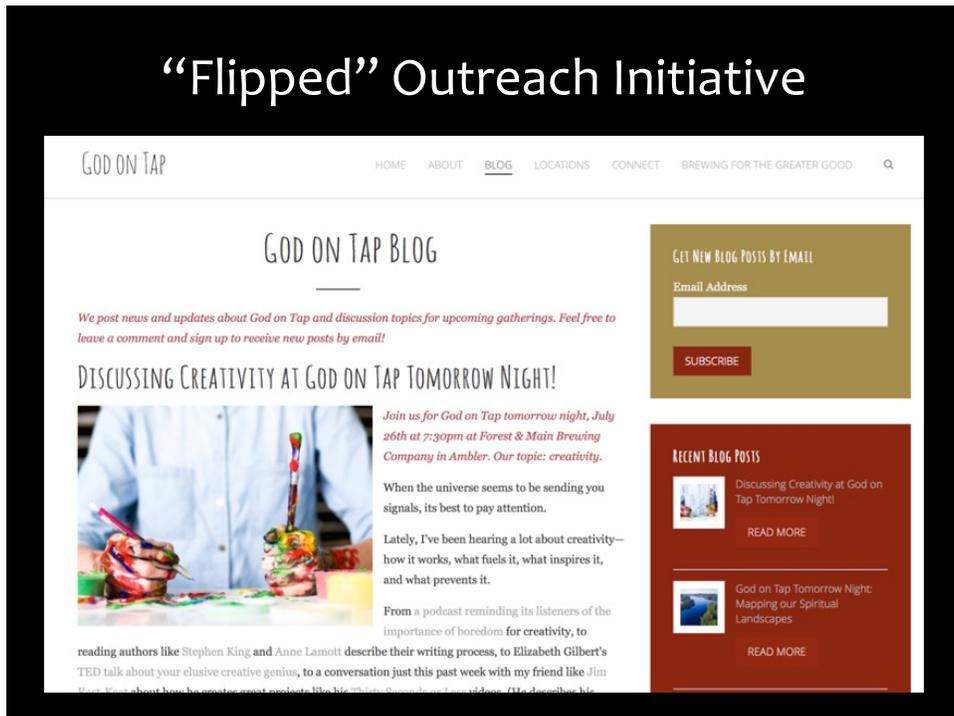
Hybrid Example #1



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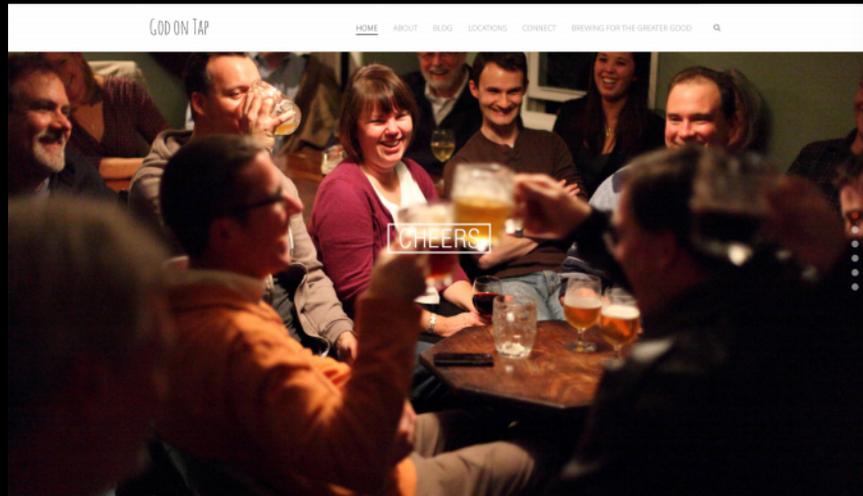


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“Flipped” Outreach Initiative



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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.

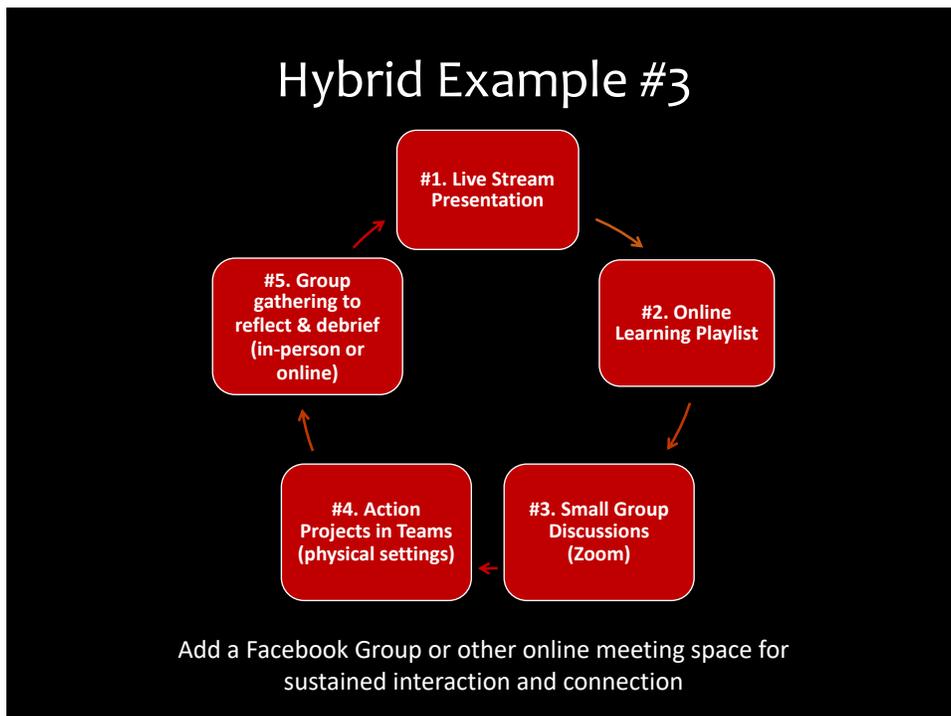
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Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint 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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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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PATHWAYS & PLAYLISTS

64

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



65

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

**MARCH 2, 2022
ASH WEDNESDAY**

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.

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

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

Mealttime Prayer:
God gives 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.

MARCH 2, 2022

HYMN FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
Return to God

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 reflections:

- When is a time you 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 description of God's activity that forgives and renews lives: mercy, steadfast love, and abundant mercy (v. 1). These words can remind us of God's three essential characteristics: merciful, gracious, and steadfast love (see Exodus 34:5). 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 fire 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, tell 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)

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Playlist for Lent

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

Learning about the Bible



Experience #1 (Distraction) - How to Read the Bible

How to Read the Bible 1: Literary Styles in the Bible

How to Read the Bible 2: Jewish Meditative Literature

How to Read the Bible 3: What is the Bible?

How to Read the Bible 4: Jewish Meditative Literature

How to Read the Bible 5: The Story of the Bible

How to Read the Bible 6: The Story of the Bible




Experience #2 (Evening & Going Deeper) Bible Reading Practices

Experience #3 (Evening & Going Deeper) Journey through the Bible

Experience #4 (Evening & Going Deeper) Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflections

Experience #5 (Evening & Going Deeper) Weekly Bible Study Plan

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Creation Playlist

Creation

This playlist is from the first chapter of Genesis and contains one of the stories of Creation (the second is in Genesis 2:4-25). For children, the important part of the creation story is learning that God created the world and everything in it and called it good! If you want to learn more about the book of Genesis visit the [Bible Project](#).

Bible Story

- Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 in your Bible or the Creation story in your favorite StoryBible.
- Wonder about the story together:
 - I wonder what it would have been like to create the world from the beginning.
 - I wonder what you would have created differently.
 - I wonder what your favorite part of creation is.
 - I wonder how you take time to rest.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for creation! Thank you for the light and dark, for the sun and moons, for the water and sky, for the big and small animals, and for all the people. Help us to take care of creation. Help us to remember to rest. Bless our family celebrations and requests here if desired. Amen.

Activities

- Play charades or "Pictionary" as a family taking turns acting out or drawing different parts of creation.
- Take a walk with your family (in your neighborhood, at a park, or local school) and pick up trash. Be careful of sharp or dangerous items.
- Make a list of ways that your family can help care for creation. Choose 1 or 2 to do this week.
- Use materials from around your house to re-tell the story of Creation. You might use Legos, paper and crayons, play-doh or clay, action figures, etc. Take pictures of each "day."
- Write a poem or a story about creation.
- Create a "Word Cloud" - write down all the words you can think of that relate to Creation. Then write your words in a variety of sizes that look like a picture. Or use a "word cloud" generator like [www.wordart.com](#).
- Go on a creation scavenger hunt.

Books

[When God Made the World](#) by Matthew Paul Turner



[Let There Be Light](#) by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nancy Turner

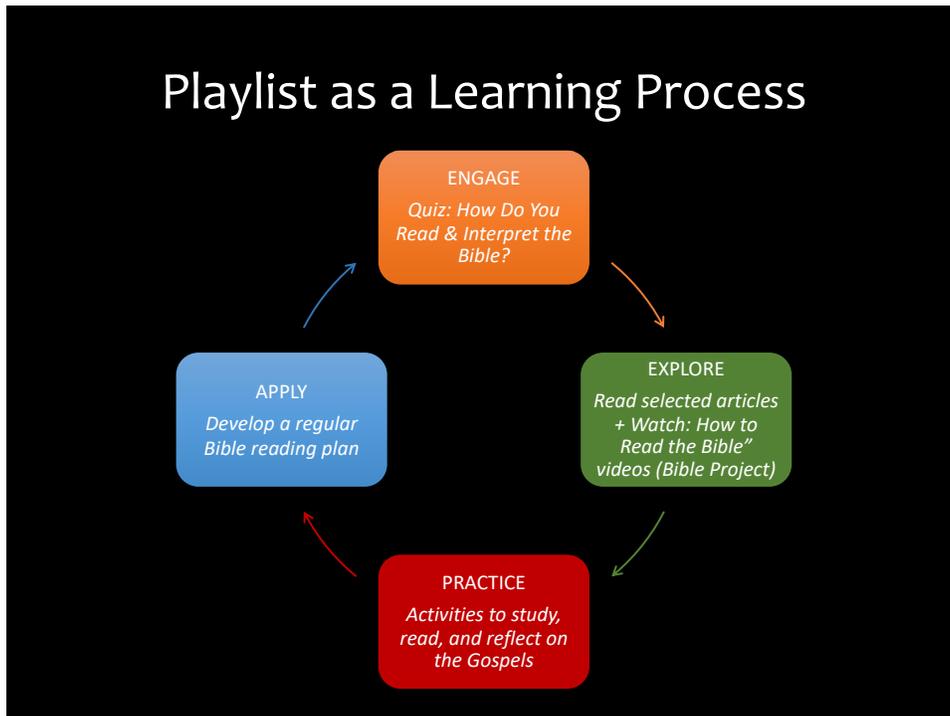


Music Videos




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

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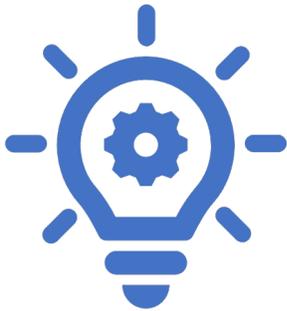


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Capacity Building

1. 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?
2. What capacities (resources) do we already have available to us within our church community (people, programs, resources, finances), and outside our church in other religious congregations, schools and colleges, community organizations, denominational agencies—regional and national?
3. What capacities (resources) do we need to develop or enhance in order to implement our plans?

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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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