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Lifelong Faith Books

Ecology of Faith Forming

Intergenerational

Family

Life Stage
Intergenerational Faith Formation

1. Faith formation program for the whole community
2. Lectionary-based program
3. Sacramental preparation
4. Milestone rituals and celebrations
5. Vacation Bible School
6. Family, parent-child, parent-teen programs
7. Service projects & mission trips
8. Liturgical season celebrations/festivals
9. Retreat experience or renewal experience
Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formations Strategies

1. Faith Practices @ Home
2. Milestones
3. Seasonal Events
4. Bible through the Year
5. Family & Intergenerational Programming
6. Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers

Family Digital Platform
Family Formation Plan

- **0-5 Young Children**
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- **6-10 Older Children**
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- **10-14 Young Adolescents**
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- **14-19 Older Adolescents**
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

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Lifelong & Lifewide

- **Intergenerational**

- **Children**
- **Teens / Youth**
- **Young Adults**
- **Midlife Adults**
- **Mature Adults**
- **Older Adults**

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Family
Life Stage Faith Formation

**Children & Youth**
- Weekly classes
- Mini-courses
- Sacrament/Milestones programs
- Small group program
- Monthly gathering
- Worship/lectionary-based program
- Family-centered program
- Retreat programs
- Service projects & Mission trips
- Summer educational program
- Vacation Bible School
- Online program

**Adults**
- Bible study programs
- Courses (theology, Bible, spirituality)
- Small group programs
- Book groups
- Worship or lectionary-based program
- Retreat programs
- Mission trips
- Service projects
- Online courses and resources

Missional Faith Formation

Expand and extend the church’s presence through **outreach**, **connection**, **relationship building**, and **engagement** with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.
Pathways to Discipleship

Missional faith formation provides pathways for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.
**Digital Methods**

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

**Designing Faith Formation**

1. Describe the audience.
2. Develop creative responses.
3. Identify potential directions.
4. Design for the four religious-spiritual identities.
5. Personalize the process and the faith formation offerings with a variety of content, methods, times, and formats designed to engage all people.
6. Use digitally enabled and connected strategies to enhance and expand faith formation.
7. Design a website platform and a social media strategy.
8. Develop the complete faith formation plan, implementation steps, and timeline.
Developing a Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Year Three</th>
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Empathize  Generate Ideas  Design Prototypes  Test & Evaluation  Scale

“Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard” by Chip Heath & Dan Heath
Things to Remember

1. **Follow the bright spots**: investigate what’s working and clone it.
2. **Script the critical moves**: don’t think big picture, think in terms of specific behaviors. Shrink the change.
3. **Point to the destination**: change is easier when you know where you’re going and why it’s worth it.
4. **Find the feeling**: knowing something isn’t enough to cause change. Make people feel something. Build an emotional and rational case for change.

How People Change

People change what they do less because they are given **analysis** that shifts their **thinking** than because they are shown a **truth** that influences their **feelings**.

(John Kotter)
Anchoring Change in the Culture

Culture changes only after you have successfully altered people’s actions, after the new behavior produces some group benefit for a period of time, and after people see the connection between the new actions and the performance improvement.

(John Kotter)

Others can better write about Nelson Mandela’s impact on the world stage, on how he stood up for the dignity of all people and on how he changed our world.

For those that seek to make a change in the world, whether global or local, one lesson of his life is this:

You can.

You can make a difference.

You can stand up to insurmountable forces.

You can put up with far more than you think you can.

Your lever is far longer than you imagine it is, if you choose to use it.

If you don’t require the journey to be easy or comfortable or safe, you can change the world.

(Seth Godin)