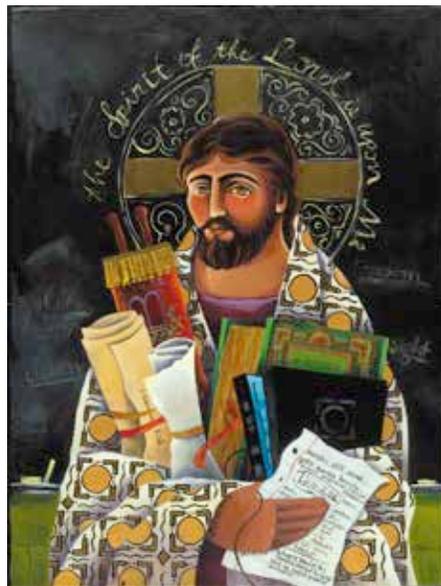


REIMAGINING  
FAITH  
FORMATION  
FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY



John Roberto

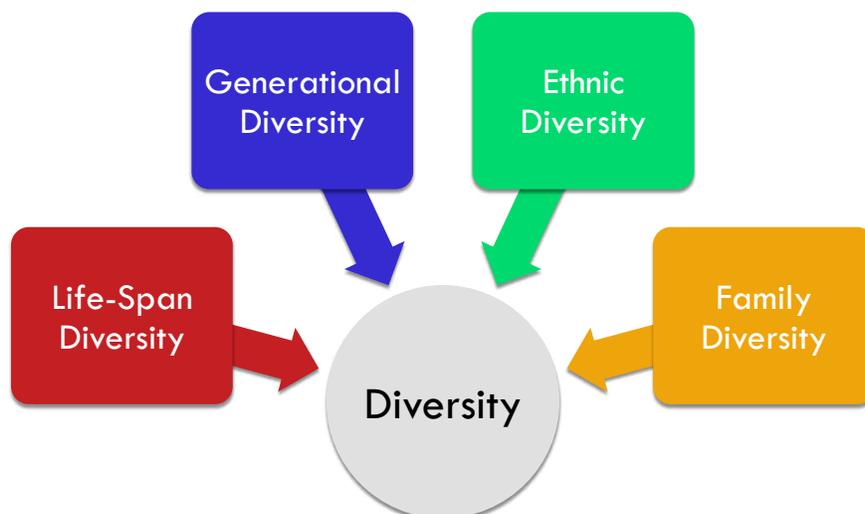
[jroberto@lifelongfaith.com](mailto:jroberto@lifelongfaith.com) [www.LifelongFaith.com](http://www.LifelongFaith.com)

Part 1. Adaptive Challenges

## 4 Big Adaptive Challenges

1. Increasing diversity throughout American society in the length of the lifespan, in generational identities, in family structures and marriage patterns, and in the ethnic makeup of America
2. Rise of new digital technologies that are reshaping society, and the emergence of a connected, networked society
3. Dramatic changes and increasing diversity in the religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation of Americans
4. Decline in religious transmission from generation to generation

## Adaptive Challenge 1: Diversity



## We Are More Diverse



## Generational Diversity

iGeneration (2000 - )

Millennials (1980-99)

Generation X (1961-79)

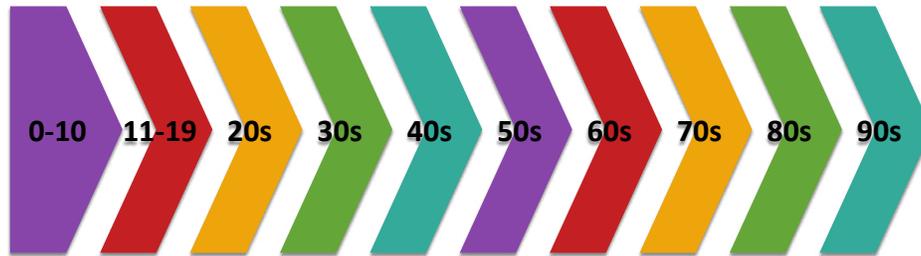
Baby Boomers (1946-60)

Builders (pre 1946)

### Generational Differences

- Relationship to Institutions
- Relationship to Authority
- Family Relationships
- Work-Life Balance
- Communication Style
- Technology Usage
- Learning Style
- Religious Expression
- Worship Style

## Life Span Diversity



## Family Diversity

**The 1950s Family**



**The 2010s Family**

modern **family**



# Family Diversity

1. Married Couple with Children (original biological family)
2. Married Couple with Children (blended family)
3. Single Parent with Children
4. Unmarried Couple with Children
5. Unmarried Couple without Children
6. Same Sex Couple with Children (married or unmarried)
7. Same Sex Couple without Children (married or unmarried)
8. Grandparents & Parents with Children (3-generational)
9. Grandparents as Primary Caregivers
10. Parents with Single Young Adults Living at Home



Adaptive Challenge 2:  
Digital



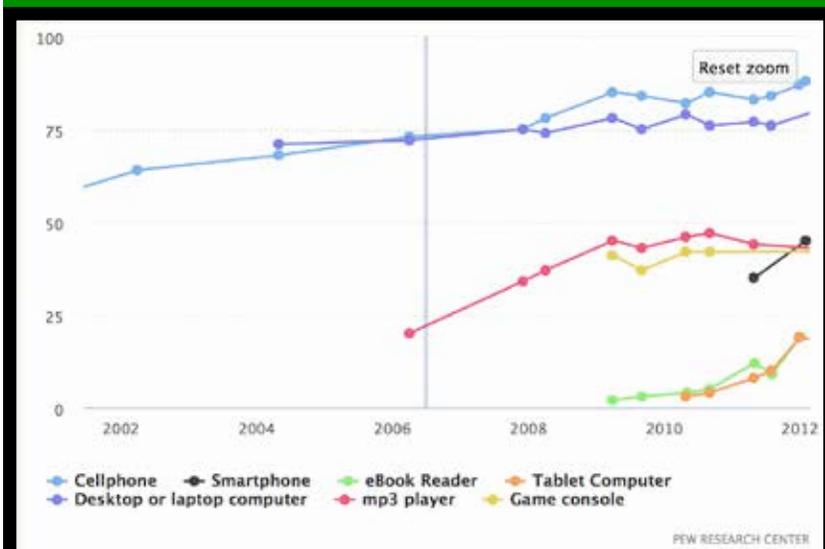
## Mobile Technologies



## Social Networking Tools



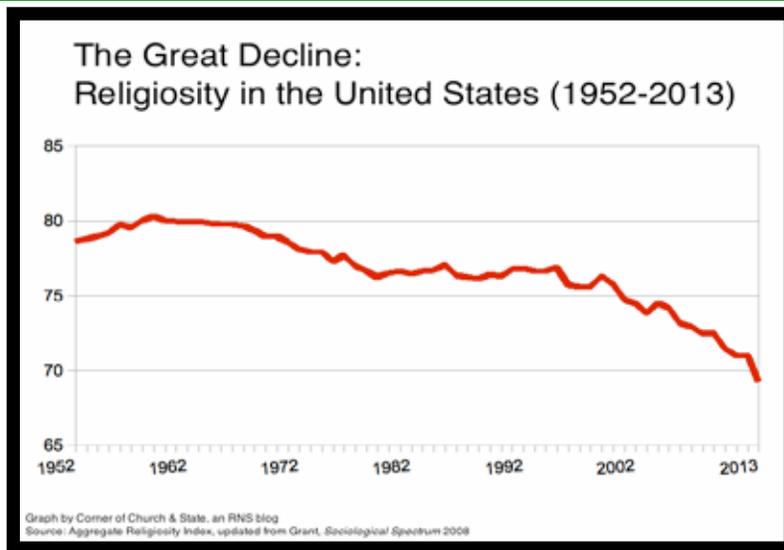
## Mobile Usage



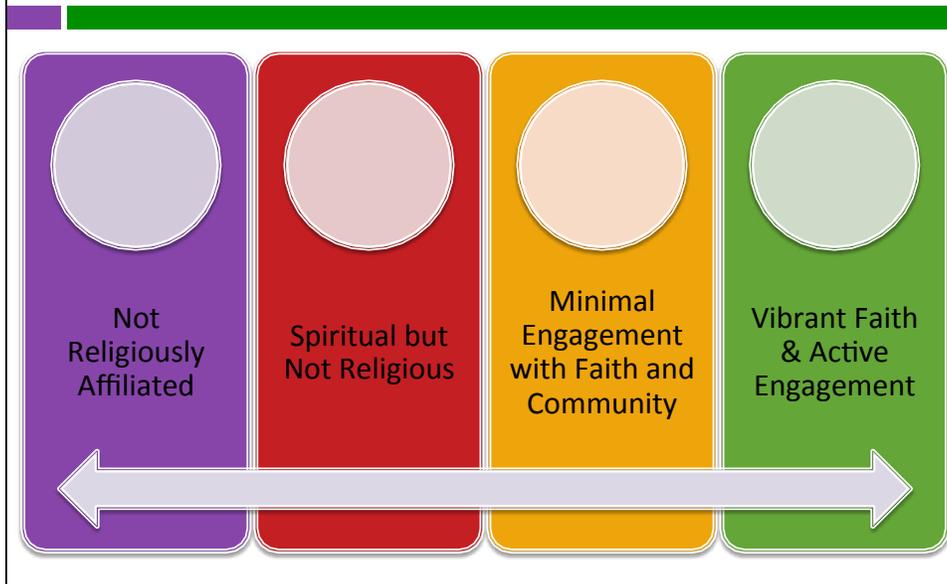
## Mobile Revolution

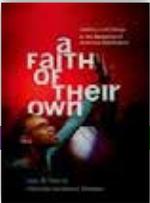
- ✦ Mobile devices have fundamentally changed the relationship between information, time, & space.
- ✦ Information is now **PORTABLE, PARTICIPATORY, PERSONAL**
- ✦ Information will find you through social networking. “If news is important it will find its way to me.”
- ✦ People turn to their social networks to help them evaluate new information they encounter.
- ✦ People have become content creators – when they discover content they will share it with their broad network.
- ✦ Reciprocal sharing is the way people build their social capital and reputations.

## Adaptive Challenge 3: Religiosity

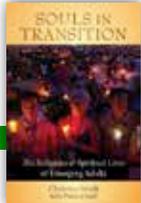


# Religious Diversity





## Religious Diversity



<u>Youth (teens)</u>				
Abiders	Adapters	Assenters	Avoiders	Atheists
<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>5%</b>

<u>Emerging Adults (20s)</u>					
Committed Traditionalists	Selected Adherents	Spiritually Open	Religiously Indifferent	Religiously Disconnected	Irreligious
<b>15%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>

## Adaptive Challenge 4: Religious Transmission

- Declining importance of religion and religious practice
- Declining levels of family religious transmission and faith practice at home

## Religious Transmission

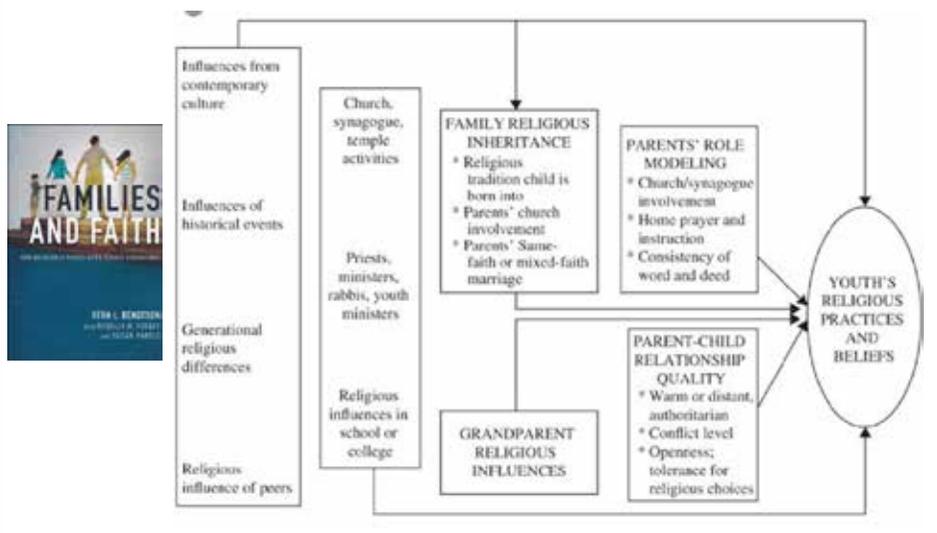
“Emerging adults who grew up with seriously religious parents are through socialization more likely (1) to have internalized their parents religious worldview, (2) to possess the practical religious know-how needed to live more highly religious lives, and (3) to embody the identity orientations and behavioral tendencies toward continuing to practice what they have been taught religiously.”

# Religious Transmission

“At the heart of this social causal mechanism stands the elementary process of teaching—both formal and informal, verbal and nonverbal, oral and behavioral, intentional and unconscious, through both instruction and role modeling. We believe that one of the main ways by which empirically observed strong parental religion produced strong emerging adult religion in offspring is through the teaching involved in socialization.”

*(Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults by Christian Smith with Patricia Snell)*

# Religious Transmission



## Concluding Thought

The world is now changing at a rate at which the basic systems, structures, and cultures built over the past century cannot keep up with the demands being placed on them. Incremental adjustments to how you manage and strategize, no matter how clever, are not up to the job. You need something very new to stay ahead in an age of tumultuous change and growing uncertainties.

*(John Kotter, Accelerate: Building Strategic Agility for a Faster-Moving World)*

## How do I get rid of the fear?

*Alas, this is the wrong question.*

*The only way to get rid of the fear is to stop doing things that might not work, to stop putting yourself out there, to stop doing work that matters.*

*No, the right question is, "How do I dance with the fear?"*

*Fear is not the enemy. Paralysis is the enemy.*

*(Seth Godin)*

## Part 2. The New Ecosystem

*You never change things by  
fighting the existing reality.*

*To change something, build  
a new model that makes  
the existing model obsolete.*

Buckminster Fuller

## Holistic Faith & Formation

- + *A way of the head* (inform) demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.
- + *A way of the heart* (form) demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God's love, and prayer and worship.
- + *A way of the hands* (transform) demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.

(Thomas Groome)

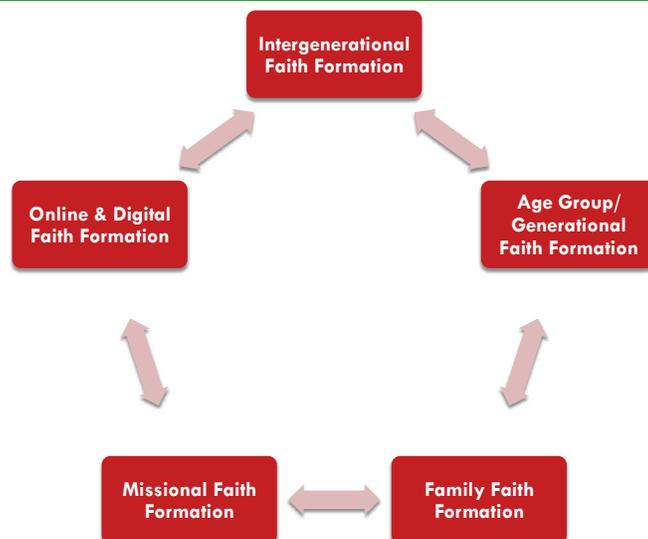
## Eight Faith Forming Processes



## Eight Faith Forming Processes

Faith formation is developed around the eight faith forming processes—providing both a *framework* for a comprehensive curriculum with age groups, generations, and families; and the *content*—knowledge and practices—of the Christian faith.

## A New Faith Forming Ecosystem



## Intergenerational Community

Intergenerational faith formation and whole community faith experiences are at the *center* of all faith formation networks, engaging all ages and generations in the life and events of church life and the Christian faith and participation in intergenerational faith experiences.

## Intergenerational Community

We invite people into the way of life that embodies God's love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation, by being, doing, and thinking about it together. The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.

(Joyce Mercer)

## Intergenerational Community

Guided participation in a community of practice puts a premium on both participation and practice. . . . We become Christian, taking on the identity of one who is a disciple of Jesus, by acting the way Christians act, and by talking the way Christians talk. Over time through practice, even our hearts and minds are formed in this way of life.

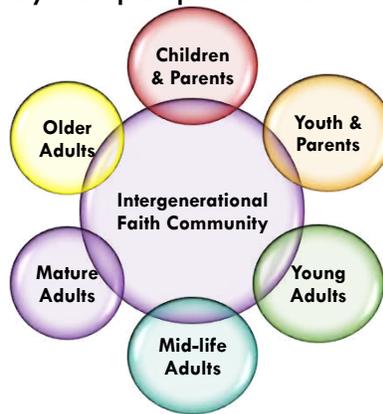
(Joyce Mercer)

## Intergenerational Community

- **Caring:** Community building activities, storytelling, mentoring, social events
- **Celebrating:** Sunday Worship, whole community sacramental celebrations, milestones celebrations, church year feasts and seasons
- **Learning:** Intergenerational learning programs (weekly, monthly, small group); incorporating intergenerational learning into age group programming
- **Praying:** Community prayer experiences, intergenerational prayer groups, spiritual guides/mentors
- **Serving:** Intergenerational service projects and mission trips, church-wide service days

## Age Group Faith Formation

Age group and generational faith formation addresses the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of people at each stage of life.



## Family Faith Formation

Congregations equip families to become centers of learning, faith growth, and faith practice in five ways:

1. Nurturing family faith at home through eight faith forming processes

## Eight Faith Forming Processes



## Family Faith Formation

2. Parent faith formation
3. Parenting for faith growth training
4. Parenting education
5. Building strong families by developing family assets: nurturing relationships, establishing routines, maintaining expectations, adapting to challenges, and connecting to the community.

## Family Assets (Search Institute)



## Missional Faith Formation

Missional faith formation expands and extends the church's presence through outreach, connection, relationship building, and engagement with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.

- ❑ Moving worship and faith formation into the community
- ❑ Opening programs to everyone – VBS
- ❑ Life skills: parenting, careers, training, mentoring
- ❑ Small group programs on a variety of topics
- ❑ Community-wide service
- ❑ Community events: arts, music, theater

# The Wesley Playhouse



[www.freshexpressions.org.uk/stories/playhouse](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/stories/playhouse)



# Service in the Community



A **Third Place** gathering space in the community, offers hospitality, builds relationships, hosts spiritual conversations, provides programs and activities, and nourishes the spiritual life of people.



### PLANT A LIFETREE CAFE

**What if you could create a comfortable place and time for people to gather weekly to explore life and faith?**

What if it looked and felt like the kind of place you typically meet a friend for food and drink and fun? What if the atmosphere encouraged conversations, questions, and personal stories? What if the conversations about life somehow led to an ah-ha of God's real presence and his genuine love?

Those questions led to the creation of Lifetree Café. Now each week people gather in cozy venues to explore life and faith. The hour-long Lifetree Café experiences feature real stories of real people, guided conversation, time to build relationships with new and old friends, laughter, fun, spiritual insights, and opportunities to serve.

Lifetree Café offers a casual physical environment, warm hospitality, a safe place for questions and doubts, and an encouraging atmosphere for participants to share their own stories.

Lifetree stories dig into the big and little stuff that shapes our lives. Family. Friends. Fears. Busyness. Balance. Money. Materialism. Health.

"I felt welcomed the minute I walked in the door... and my opinions were welcomed too. Thank you Lifetree Café."

"I found myself sharing things I've never shared with anyone before."

"My wife and I like to come here as a date night out."

Learn more about planting a Lifetree Café in your community by visiting [Discover.LifetreeCafe.com](http://Discover.LifetreeCafe.com).





## Missional Faith Formation

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.

## Pathway: The Alpha Course

Introduction Dinner: Is there more to life than this?

Week 1: Who is Jesus?

Week 2: Why did Jesus die?

Week 3: How can we have faith?

Week 4: Why and how do I pray?

Week 5: Why and how should I read the Bible?

Week 6: How does God guide us?

Week 7: How can I resist evil?

Week 8: Why & how should we tell others?

Week 9: Does God heal today?

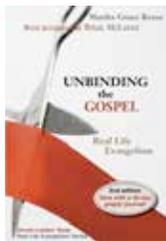
Week 10: What about the Church?

Weekend: Who is the Holy Spirit?

## Pathway: Our Lady of Soledad Parish

- *Mini-Retreat 101: “Catholics Alive!”*
  - “What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?”
- *Mini-Retreat 201: “Alive and Growing Spiritually!”*
  - Maturing in the Catholic faith
- *Mini-Retreat 301: “Alive and Gifted!”*
  - Discerning how to serve God in ministry
- *Mini-Retreat 401: “Alive in the World!”*
  - Living as witnesses for Christ, as contagious Catholic Christians
- *Mini-Retreat 501: “Alive to Praise God!”*
  - Catholic worship and the sacraments

## Pathway: Unbinding the Gospel

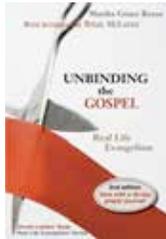


Step One. Church Leader’s Study: *Unbinding the Gospel*

Step Two: All-Church Saturation Study: *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing.*

- six-week, church-wide, small group E-vent!
- pray each day’s scripture and prayer exercise and work with a prayer partner
- study a chapter of the book with their small group
- worship with sermons, music, and prayers centered on the week’s chapter

## Pathway: Unbinding the Gospel



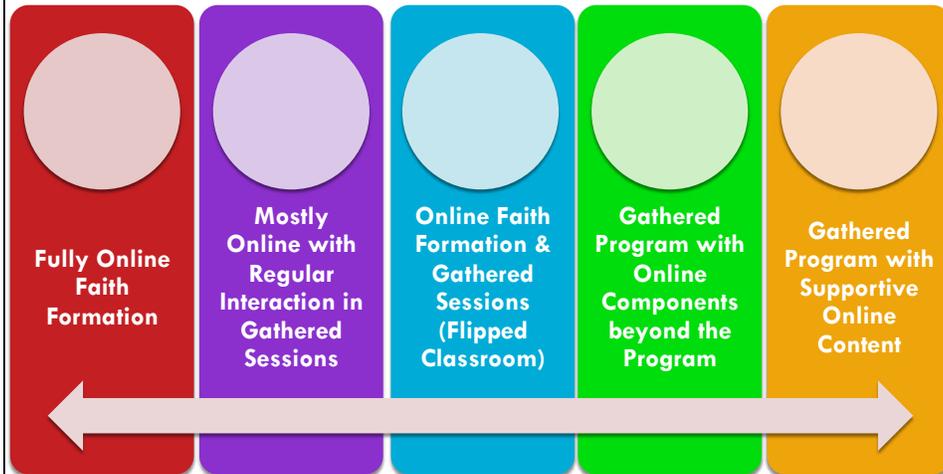
### Step Three: An Experiment in Prayer and Community: *Unbinding Your Soul*.

- a no-obligation experience of substantial spiritual discussion, prayer and community for people who aren't connected with a church
- church members invite their friends into a four-week small group experience with short study chapters, an individual prayer journal, prayer partner activities, and group exercises.

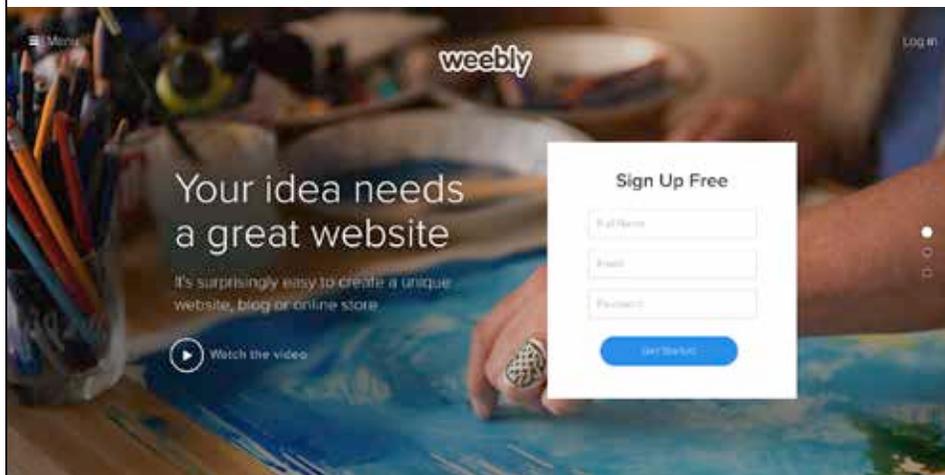
## Online & Digital Faith Formation

Faith formation utilizes the digital technologies and digital media to engage people with faith forming content anytime, any place, just-in-time; and that can extend and expand faith formation in physical, face-to-face settings into people's daily lives through digital content and mobile delivery systems.

# Digitally-Enabled Faith Formation

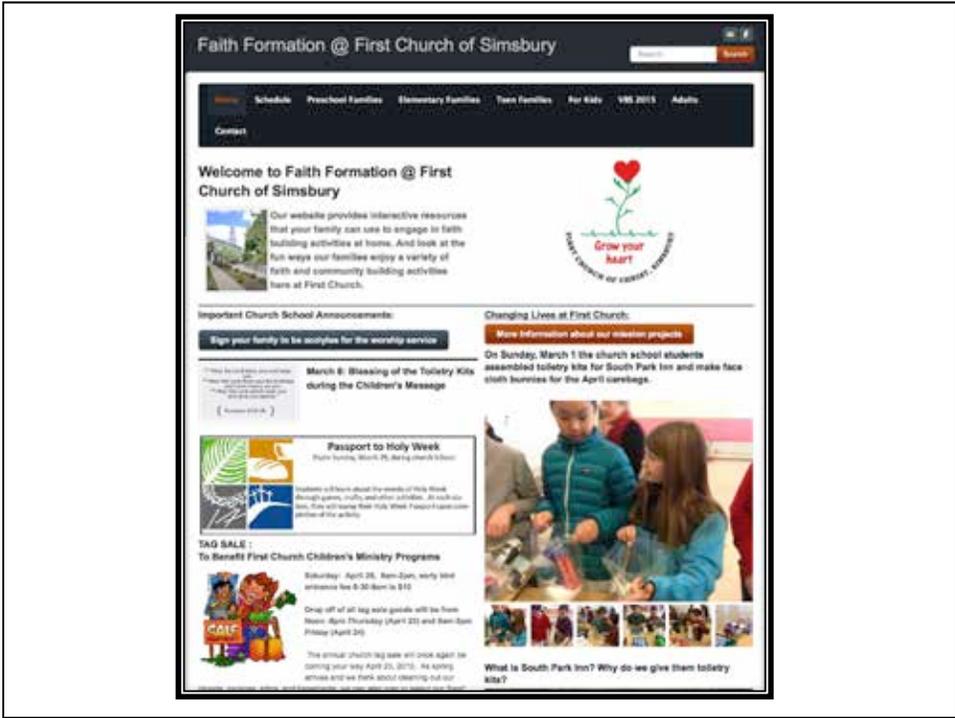


## Digital Platform

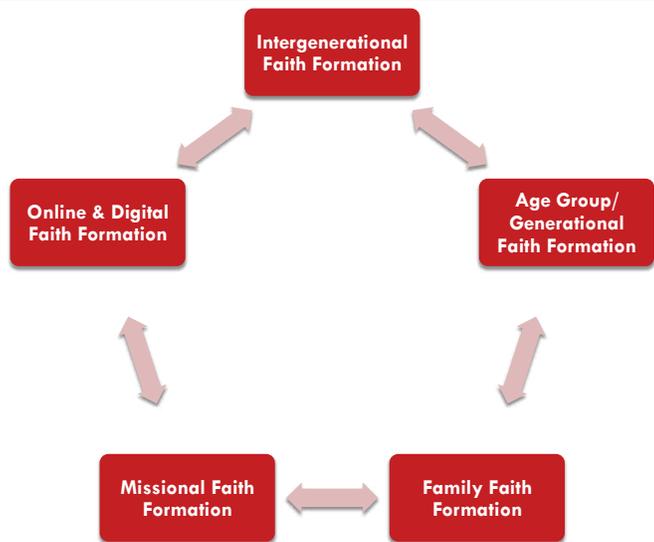


### Other Platforms

[www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org)   [www.wix.com](http://www.wix.com)   [www.squarespace.com](http://www.squarespace.com)



# A New Faith Forming Ecosystem



## Part 3. The Network & Curriculum

### Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



A shift from education to learning anywhere, anytime.

A shift from consumption of information to participatory learning.

A shift from institutions to networks.

## Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- ✦ **A shift from education to learning.** Education is what institutions do, learning is what people do. Digital media enable learning anywhere, anytime; formal learning must be mobile and just in time.
- ✦ **A shift from consumption of information to participatory learning.** A new system of learning must be peer-based and organized around learners' interests, enabling them to create as well as consume information.
- ✦ **A shift from institutions to networks.** In the digital age, the fundamental operating and delivery systems are networks, not institutions such as schools, which are a node on a young person's network of learning opportunities. People learn across institutions, so an entire learning network must be supported.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

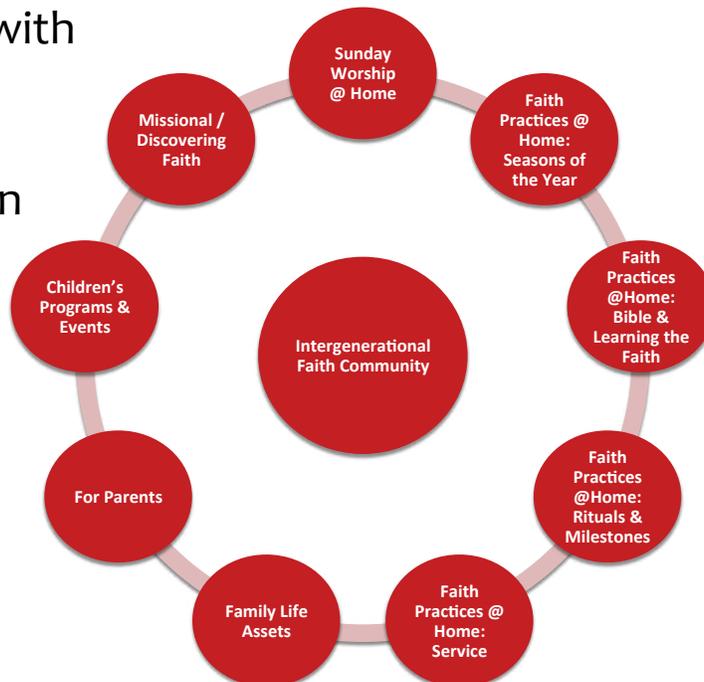
What if learning adapted to each person instead of expecting each person to adapt to the school or the curriculum or the program?

- Putting learners at the center
- Enabling learners to be co-creators of their learning experiences
- Connecting learning to life concerns and real world issues

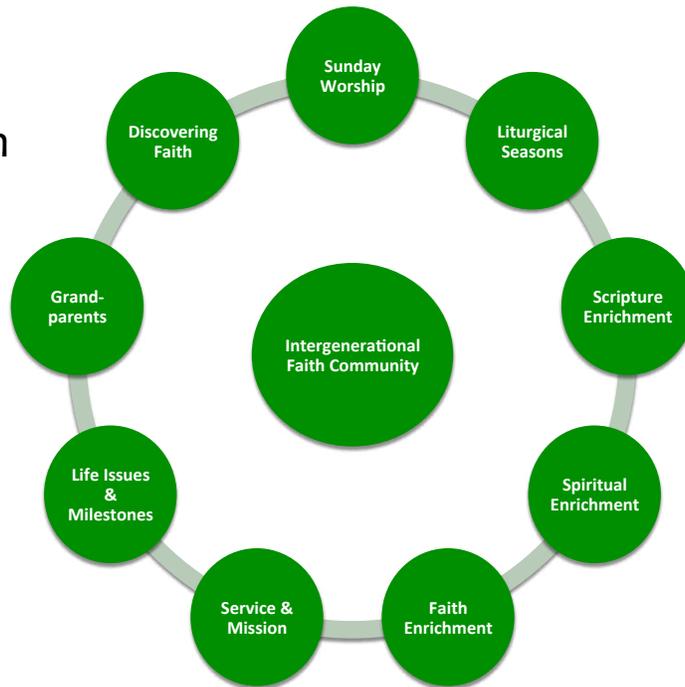
# Learning in a Network



## Families with Children Faith Formation Network



## Adult Faith Formation Network



## Networked Faith Formation

- Faith formation provides a variety of experiences, programs, activities, resources, and social connections that are available anytime and anywhere, in physical places and online spaces, and conducted in variety of settings—self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.
- Faith formation incorporates digital platforms (websites) that integrate all of the content (programs, activities, resources), connect people to the content and to each other, provides continuity for people across different learning experiences, and is available anytime, anywhere, anyplace, 24x7x365.
- Faith formation integrates online and face-to-face learning, blending them in a variety of ways from online programs with minimal interaction in physical settings to programs in physical settings that utilize online content or extend the program using online content.

## Personalized Learning & Faith Growth

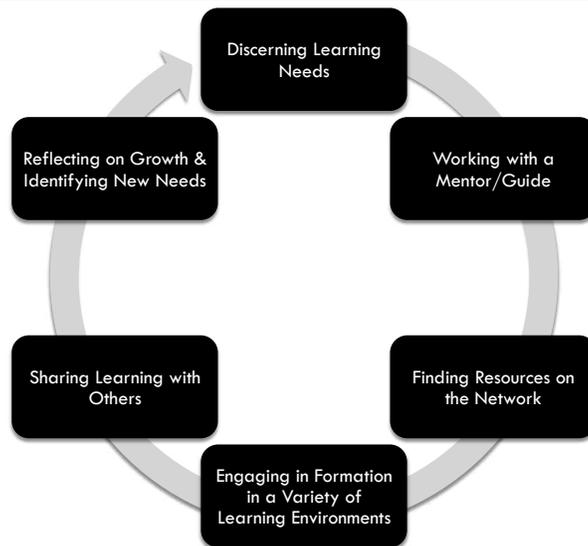


## Personalized Faith Formation

Personalized pathways for discipleship & faith growth. . . .

- Guide people in discerning their religious and spiritual needs
- Equip people with the resources and tools to learn and grow at their own pace
- Provide mentoring and support for the journey

## The Flow of Personalized Learning



## Personalizing with a Faith Growth Plan

Create expectations for participation in faith formation and church life by providing a seasonal/yearly growth plan with a variety of options for experiencing the Christian faith through community life. For example:

1. Sunday worship
2. Church year feasts and seasons
3. Service/mission projects
4. Retreat experience
5. Faith practices @ home, e.g. reading the Bible, praying, rituals, and more

**KEF**

**Building relationships**  
with God, family and other congregants.

**Building connections**  
to Torah, Shabbat, holidays, Israel.

**Building knowledge**  
of Hebrew, history, music, ethics.

**Building community**  
within our Temple and Los Angeles.

The participation of the family as a whole, including younger and older siblings, is welcomed. Families will come together in a *K'vutzah*, the Hebrew word for group. Each *K'vutzah* will have its own *Rosh K'vutzah* (group leader).

KEF is a bold new model of Jewish learning. Rather than studying about Judaism, prayer, celebration and Jewish culture, or reading about Jewish literature, the Bible and what makes a Jewish community, participants in KEF will experience it all and be a part of building their own Jewish community.

The goals of the KEF program are:

- to learn about the Jewish tradition through family experiences with prayer, celebration and *tikkun olam*;
- to strengthen the family's connections to one another, to the Jewish tradition, and to the congregation as a whole; and
- to build a community of learners at Temple Emanuel.

**Program Requirements**

Student and at least one adult family member shall participate in the following activities in the course of a year:

- 4-6 *K'vutzah* activities, including orientation, Shabbat dinners, a class-age based program, book club discussions and the culminating Torah activities;
- 10-12 Shabbat services;
- 6 holiday celebrations or commemorations held at Temple Emanuel; and
- 3-4 cultural programs (on the congregation or around the city).

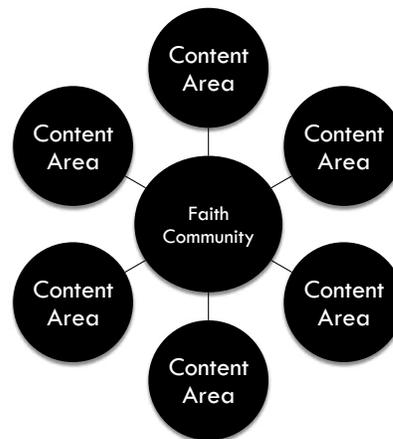
In addition, each family will be responsible to:

- read books from a selected reading list. (The types and number of books would vary with the students' ages);
- devote 12-18 hours doing work related to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world); and
- do a Torah project. (Each year there will be a theme for these Torah projects, e.g., Genesis, Exodus, mitzvot in the Torah, the prophets, and the Writings).

Part 4. Design

## Designing a Network: Content Areas

1. Caring Relationships
2. Celebrating the Seasons
3. Celebrating Rituals & Milestones
4. Learning the Christian Tradition
5. Praying & Spiritual Formation
6. Reading the Bible
7. Serving, Working for Justice, & Caring for Creation
8. Worshipping God
9. Missional
10. Life Issues
11. Life-Stage
12. Major Programs

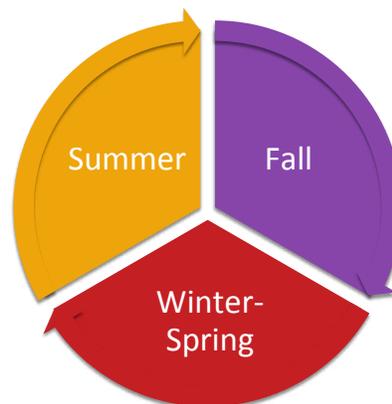


## Three Seasons of Programming

**Fall Season:**  
**September 1 –**  
**January 1**

**Winter/Spring**  
**Season: January**  
**1 – May 1**

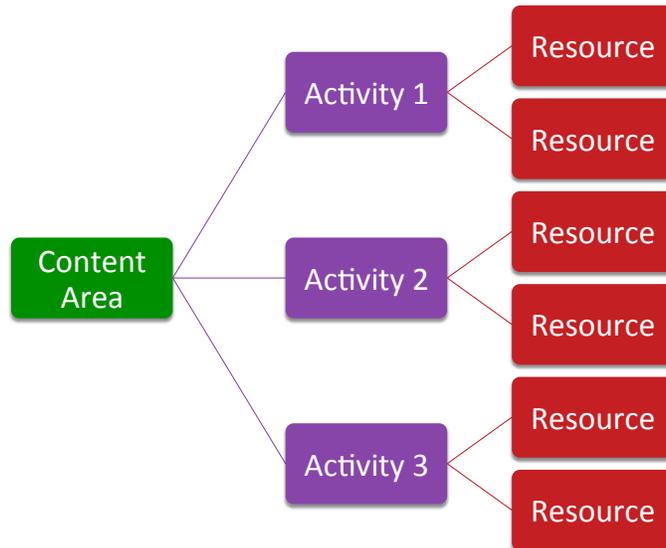
**Summer Season:**  
**May 1 –**  
**September 1**



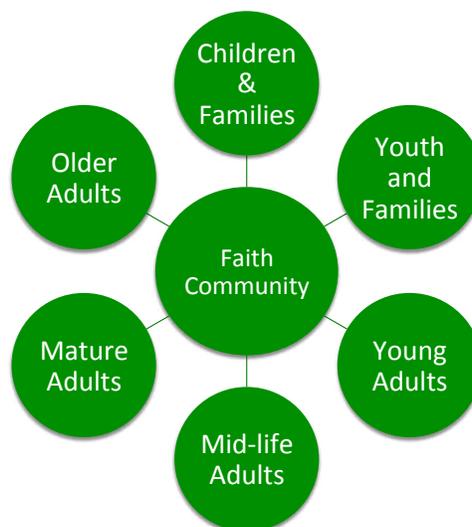
## Designing a Network: Programming

Current  
Activities &  
Programs

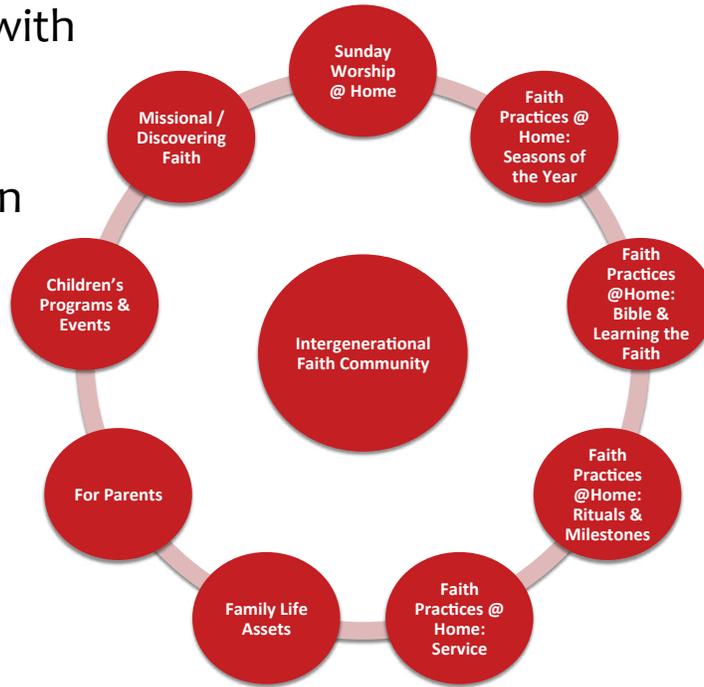
New  
Activities &  
Programs



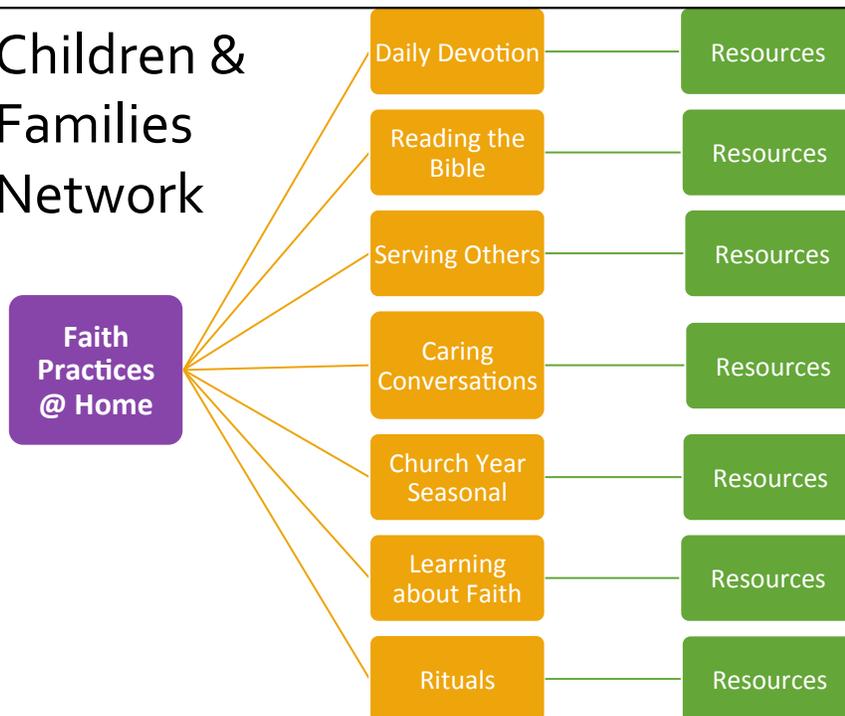
## Whole Community Network



## Families with Children Faith Formation Network



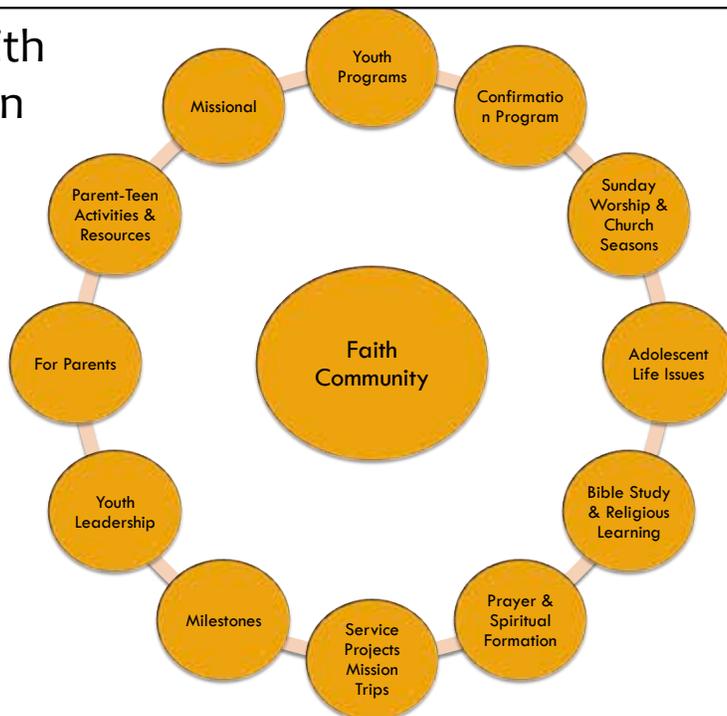
## Children & Families Network

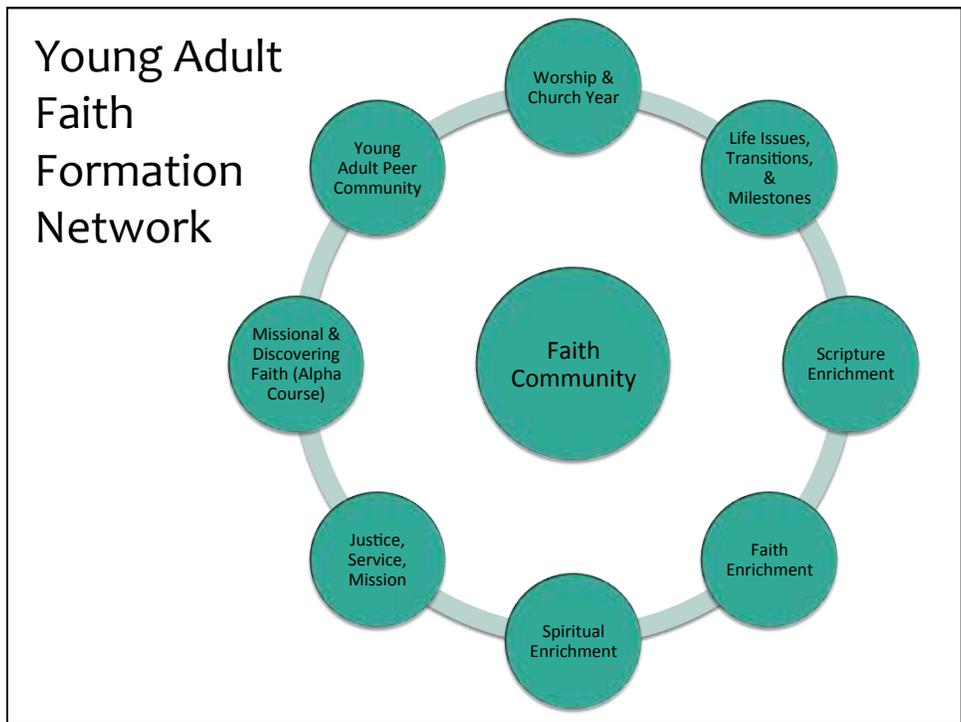
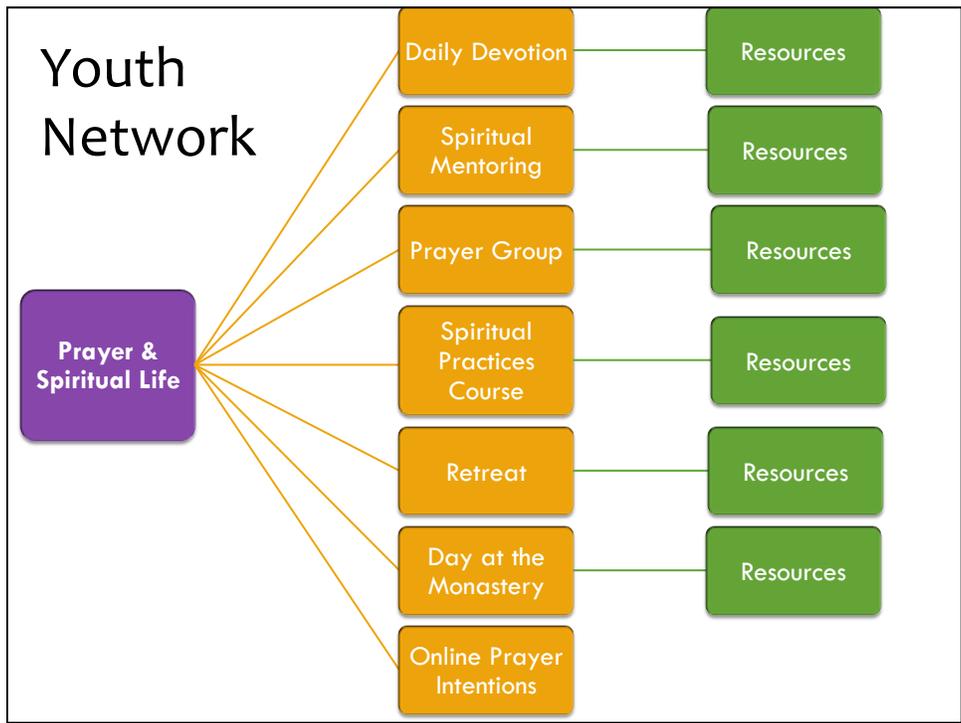


# Family Faith Formation Network

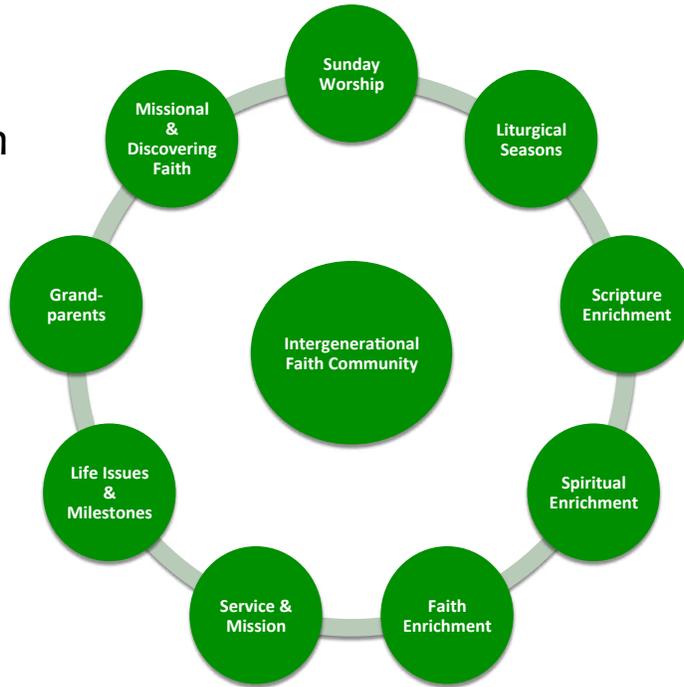


## Youth Faith Formation Network

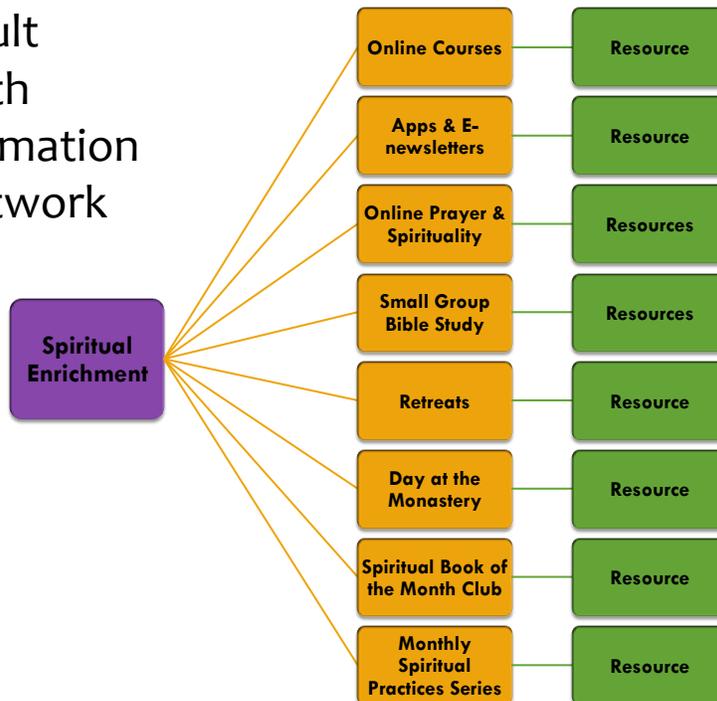




# Adult Faith Formation Network



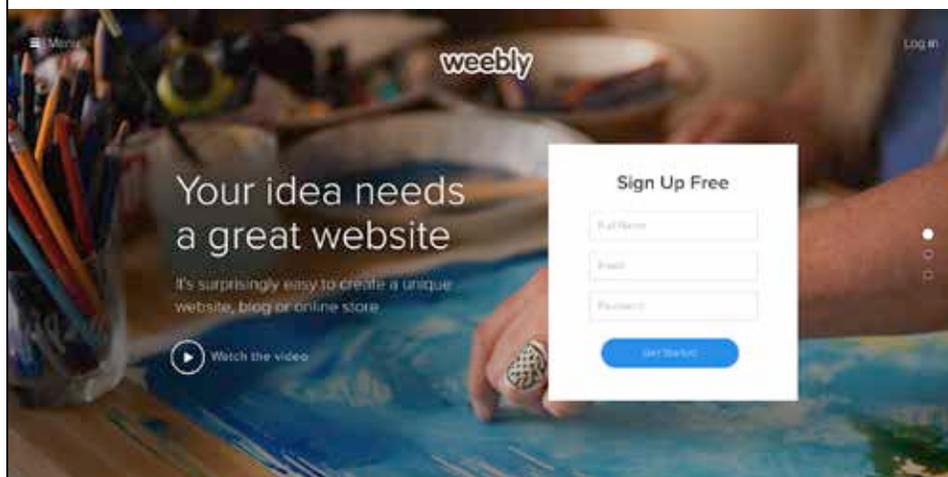
# Adult Faith Formation Network



# Adult Faith Formation Network



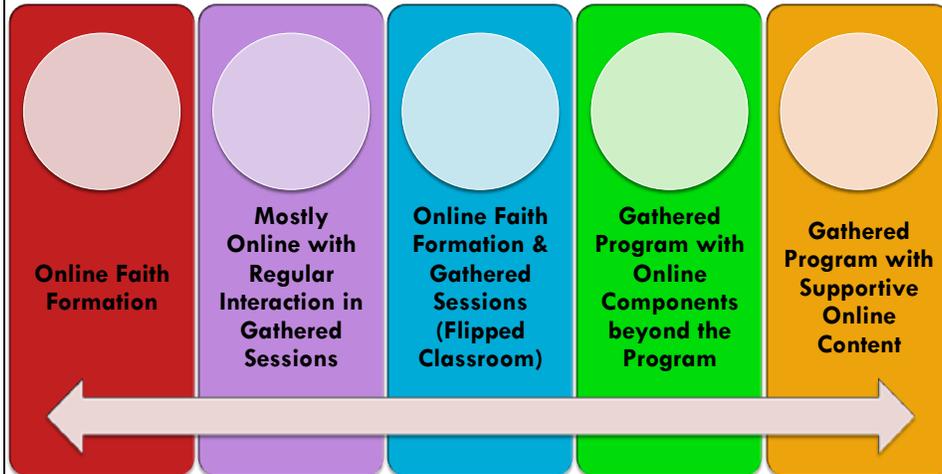
## Digital Platform



### Other Platforms

[www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org)   [www.wix.com](http://www.wix.com)   [www.squarespace.com](http://www.squarespace.com)

## Digitally-Enabled Faith Formation



## Gathered with Online Content

A gathered program using online content from websites, videos from YouTube or other video sites, and blogs and other social media. With an abundance of high quality digital content, this first option is the easiest way to bring the digital world into a gathered program.

## Gathered and Online Content

Connecting church programs or events with online content that extends and deepens the experience through learning, prayer, ritual, action, etc.

- Sunday worship & church year feasts and seasons
- Intergenerational & family programs
- Children, youth, and adult classes & programs
- Extended programs: mission trips, retreat experiences, and vacation Bible school, summer camp

## Gathered and Online Content



## Example: Sunday Worship

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
Experience of Worship in the Congregation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday worship and lectionary</li> <li>• Church year feasts and seasons</li> <li>• Church rituals: baptism, communion, funerals, etc.</li> </ul>	Experience of Sunday worship, rituals, and church year seasons in daily life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting on the sermon and readings at home</li> <li>• Practices: Lectio, etc.</li> <li>• Application to daily living</li> </ul>	Online worship, church year, and lectionary resources on the church's faith formation website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectionary commentaries online</li> <li>• Video reflections and commentary</li> <li>• Online activities and projects</li> </ul>

## Example: 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ash Wednesday</li> <li>• Lenten Sunday liturgies</li> <li>• Stations of the Cross</li> <li>• Lenten prayer</li> <li>• Lenten retreat</li> <li>• Lenten service</li> <li>• Lenten soup suppers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fasting</li> <li>• Praying</li> <li>• Service/Almsgiving</li> <li>• Lectionary reflection</li> <li>• Family activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenten learning resources</li> <li>• Lenten calendar</li> <li>• Daily Lenten prayer</li> <li>• Weekly table prayer</li> <li>• Video resources</li> <li>• Online retreat experience</li> </ul>

# Online and Gathered

“Flip the classroom or program” by creating a digital platform to provide the content that people would learn in the gathered setting in an online learning space using print, audio, video, and more. And then transform the gathered program using interactive activities, discussion, project-based learning, and practice and demonstration.

- Flip children’s programming: At home learning with parents (print, video, online); in-class application with activities, project-centered learning
- Flip confirmation programming
- Develop a online justice and service center

The screenshot shows a website for St. Edward the Confessor's Confirmation program. At the top, it says "St. Edward the Confessor" with a flame icon, followed by "CONFIRMATION" in large bold letters. Below that is the phrase "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit". There is a "Welcome to Confirmation" section with a description of the sacrament and a "LEARN MORE ABOUT CONFIRMATION" button. The main content is divided into three columns: "LEARNING" with a laptop icon and a "login" button, "PROGRAM" with a clipboard icon and a "requirements" button, and "SERVICE" with a wrench and screwdriver icon and a "projects" button. Below these are three boxes for "Confirmation 1", "Confirmation 2", and "Insights", each with a calendar view showing dates and times for classes and meetings.

Flipped Classroom

# Flipped Classroom

*St. Edward the Confessor*

## CONFIRMATION

*Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit*

[Back to Confirmation Homepage](#)

**Program Requirements**

**1) PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY ONLINE LEARNING**

- Complete weekly online lesson
- Participate in online small group discussions

**2) ATTEND MONTHLY SUNDAY SESSIONS**

- Sessions begin at 4:00 p.m. and end after the 5:30 p.m. Mass
- 1 Absence allowed

**3) SERVICE PROJECTS**

- Participate in 2 service projects per year (Service project opportunities will be available online or you can suggest one to us that you would like to participate in)
- Write one reflection per project completed online

**4) ATTEND "INSIGHT" (YOUTH GROUP) MEETINGS**

- Attend 7 insight Youth Ministry Meetings, none is encouraged!
- Insight takes place Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Knight Hall (please refer back online insight calendar)

**5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR**

- Confirmation I - One-day retreat with parent or proxy (September 28, 2013)
- Confirmation II - Overnight weekend retreat (February 14-15, 2014 or March 7-8, 2014)
- \*\*\* Registration for Confirmation II Retreat will begin online January 8, 2014

## Online Resource Centers

The screenshot shows the 'video catechism' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'About', and 'Provide'. Below that, a dark header contains the logo 'video catechism' and four menu items: 'Creed', 'Sacraments', 'Morality', and 'Prayer'. The 'Creed' menu item is highlighted in green. The main content area is titled 'Creed' and includes a search bar. Below the search bar, there is an introductory paragraph: 'The Catechism is broken into four sections. It starts with the Creed, which is the backbone, the skeleton of the deposit of faith. Then we have the Sacraments, the nervous system, the way that we experience God. Add to that Morality, the muscles we need to be strong enough to live a holy life. But it all comes together in Prayer, the life blood we need to have a relationship with God. Put them all together, and we have a living person- Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God and the goal of all catechists. The more we know about Him, the more we're able to love Him and be like Him.'

Below the text is a grid of 12 video thumbnails, each with a red play button icon. The thumbnails are arranged in three rows and four columns. The first row includes 'Creed Overview', 'Theme: Believe "The Father"', 'Theme: God the Father "St. Thomas"', and 'Theme: Creation "Genesis"'. The second row includes 'Theme: Lord, Lord or Lordie "Say Bony"', 'Theme: Incarnation "And Became Man"', 'Theme: Suffered died and was buried "That 1 Day"', and 'Theme: Resurrection "Where's The Body?"'. The third row includes 'Theme: Final Judgment "You're Dead, Now What?"', 'Theme: Holy Spirit "Come Pigeon on Fire with The Holy Spirit"', 'Theme: Church "This is My Church"', and 'Theme: Communion of Saints "Pray for Me"'. Each thumbnail has a small 'HD' icon in the bottom right corner.

The screenshot shows the 'G-CAST' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'BROWSE', 'DONATE', 'APPS', 'STUDIO', 'EDUCATORS', 'HIRE US', and 'LOGIN'. Below that, there is a 'WELCOME' banner with the text: 'If you're ever far overhead about your Jewish knowledge, welcome home. G-cast is for you! A place to love to be taught for a few minutes at a time, we've got dozens of animated short films and multimedia for adults and kids.'

The main content area features a video player with the title 'Parshat Yitro: Mager and Ishmael'. The video player shows a cartoon illustration of a man sitting under a large green cactus in a desert landscape. Below the video player, there are social media sharing icons and a list of subtitles: 'Subtitles: English, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, Hungarian, Italian, Turkish'. Below the video player, there is a 'Featuring' section with a profile picture of 'Eran Widenstein' and a 'Text' section with the text: 'There's so much to see in this week's parsha for Eran Widenstein, experienced educator, decides to zoom in and focus on the story of two relatively minor characters. (One of them... is baby... is an actual mouse)'. To the right of the 'Featuring' section, there is a 'TABLE TALK' section with the text: 'The storyteller asks, "Could you have become the person you are without the suffering you've gone through?" Do you agree that suffering is part of the growing up process?'. Below the 'Featuring' section, there are links for 'Resources for the G-Cast', 'Buy at Amazon', and 'Source: Widenstein'.

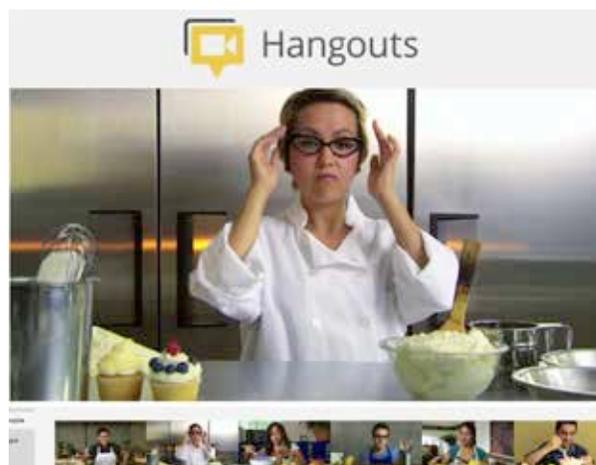
## Mostly Online

Offering opportunities for individuals, families, and small groups to utilize the digital platform as their primary learning setting and provide opportunities for regular interaction in face-to-face, gathered settings or in a web conference format, such as a Google+ Hangout.

- Parent webinar programs delivered to parents at home in four-month semesters: three webinars followed by a parent gathering at church; three more webinars and concluding with a parent gathering at church.
- Online learning resources for self-study or small group study, and gathering at the conclusion to share their insights with others who participated.
- Online Bible study where groups can meet regularly in a physical setting or virtually through Skype or a Google+ Hangout for sharing their learning.
- Selected online courses and activities from colleges, seminaries, and religious organization for individualized learning with the option for a mentor or small group gathering.

## Google+ Hangout

- Online Course, Small Group, Workshop, or 1-1 Mentoring
- Broadcast a Presentation
- Record the Presentation (YouTube)





## Emerging Roles

### Current Roles

- **Developing** religious content
- **Designing** programming
- **Managing** programming
- **Teaching/Facilitating** programming

### Emerging Roles

- **Designing** learning environments—*architecture*
- **Curating** religious content and experiences

## What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

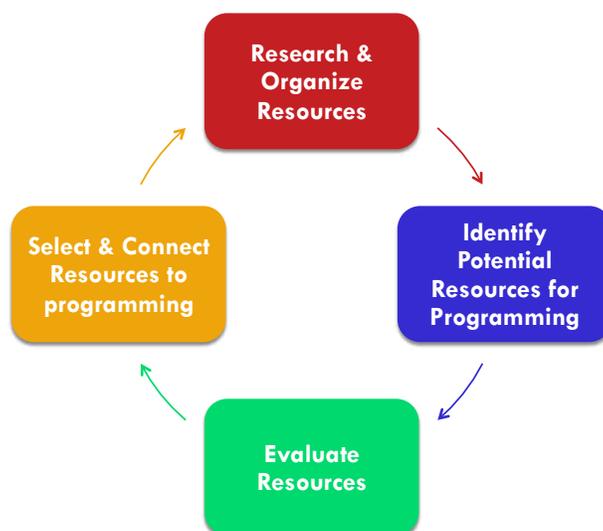
Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn't unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.

## Faith Formation Curators

A Faith Formation Curator is a trusted guide who continually finds, groups, organizes, evaluates, and connects the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific topic to match the needs of a specific audience.

## Curating Religious Content



# Build a Curation Support System

1. Develop trusted expert curators to assist.
2. Develop a list of high quality online resource centers.
3. Subscribe to faith formation blogs and newsletters.

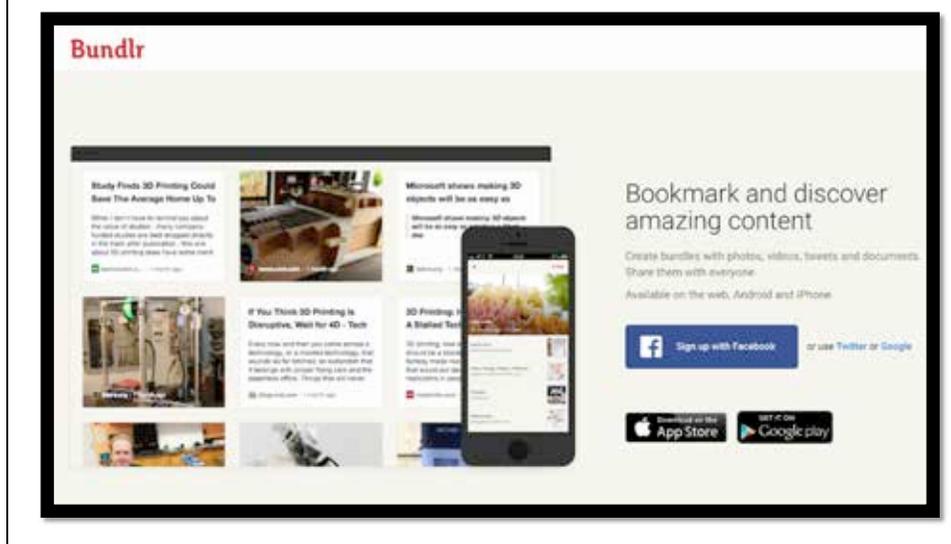
# Curate with ReadKit - Mac & iOS



## Curate with G2Reader - PC & Android



## Curate with Social Bookmarking



## Research Checklist

1. People: teachers, mentors/guides, program leaders, small group leaders, guest presenters
2. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
3. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries, educational organizations
4. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
5. Regional and national denominational programs, events, websites
6. Museums
7. Books (with study guides) & E-books
8. Apps
9. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
10. Videos & Video learning programs
11. Online courses & online activities
12. Television shows
13. Organizational websites
14. Resource center websites

## Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Biblical content and interpretation
- ✓ Theological content and emphasis
- ✓ Developmental appropriateness
- ✓ Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness
- ✓ Inclusive of diversity
- ✓ Respect for diverse ways of learning
- ✓ Appearance and visual appeal
- ✓ Ease-of-Use
- ✓ Quality of Experience
- ✓ Applicable: Able to be incorporated into daily and home life

# Curating Religious Content

