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## Symposium Design

- Activity 1. Growing a Church Culture that Forms Faith
- Activity 2. Vision & Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation
- Activity 3. Maturing in Faith for a Lifetime
- Activity 4. Creating a Plan for Lifelong Faith Formation
- Activity 5. Implementing Lifelong Faith Formation & Building Capacity

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Lifelong faith formation is accompanying people throughout life as they mature in faith and discipleship, learn more deeply about the Christian faith and how it informs and forms their lives today, and practice their Christian faith in all the arenas of their lives.



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## Table Groups *organized by church size*

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1. Churches with 150 people or fewer
2. Churches with 150-400 people
3. Churches with 400+ people
4. Churches with 1000+ people

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# Introduction

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*Lifelong learning is the new normal. It is the recognition that learning never stops as we mature and age.*

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## What Is This?

- It provides resources, programming, services, and live events for all ages.
- It provides its resources and programs in multiple languages and in ways that are inclusive of people with special needs and disabilities.
- It offers resources, support groups, and programs for all ages:
  - Parent programs beginning with babies and toddlers
  - Adult programs, especially for older adults, such as book groups, educational programs, speaker series
- 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.
- It provides in-person and virtual career services and mentoring.

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It's a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library  
*a center for lifelong  
 learning*

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It's a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library  
*a center for lifelong learning*

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**New York Public Library**




**Summer at the Library 2023**

Get creative and express yourself all summer long at The New York Public Library with free events for all ages, programs for kids and teens, reading recommendations, exhibitions, and much more!

Learn more in [aspañol](#) (Spanish), [中文](#) (Chinese), [বাংলা](#) (Bengali), [Русский](#) (Russian), [français](#) (French), [العربية](#) (Arabic), [한국어](#) (Korean), [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) (Haitian Creole), [اردو](#) (Urdu), and [English](#) what the Library offers kids and teens this summer.

**Education**


For 125 years, the New York Public Library has been an essential provider of educational programs and resources. From English language classes and technology training to storytimes, we





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**EDUCATORS**


Get Updates  
 Kids & Teens  
 Parents & Caregivers  
 Educators  
 Adults



Learning Resources for Kids & Teens



NYPL After School



NYPL KIDS E-NEWSLETTER

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**Kids & Teens**

Early Childhood Through High School & Beyond  
 Everything early learners, kids, and teens need to become lifelong learners.

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**Parents & Caregivers**

Resources for Kids of All Ages  
 Find programs and resources to help develop children's language skills and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

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**Educators**

**CENTER FOR EDUCATORS & SCHOOLS**  
 Center for Educators & Schools  
 Find programs and services tailored for the educator community, such as book lists, credit-bearing workshops, special access to exhibitions, teaching tips, and more.

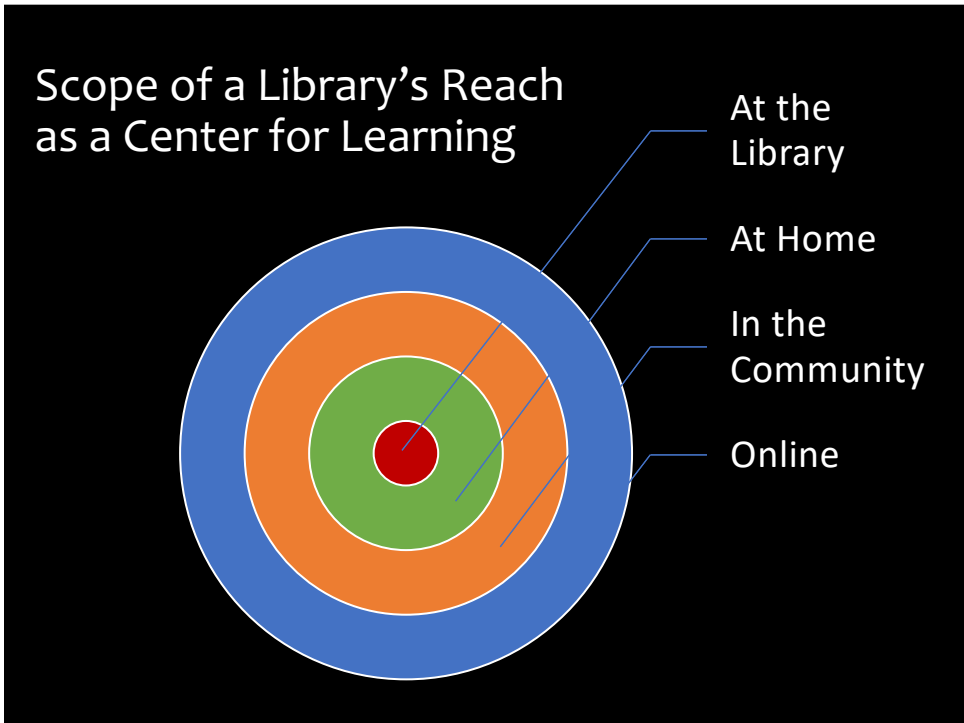
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**Adults**

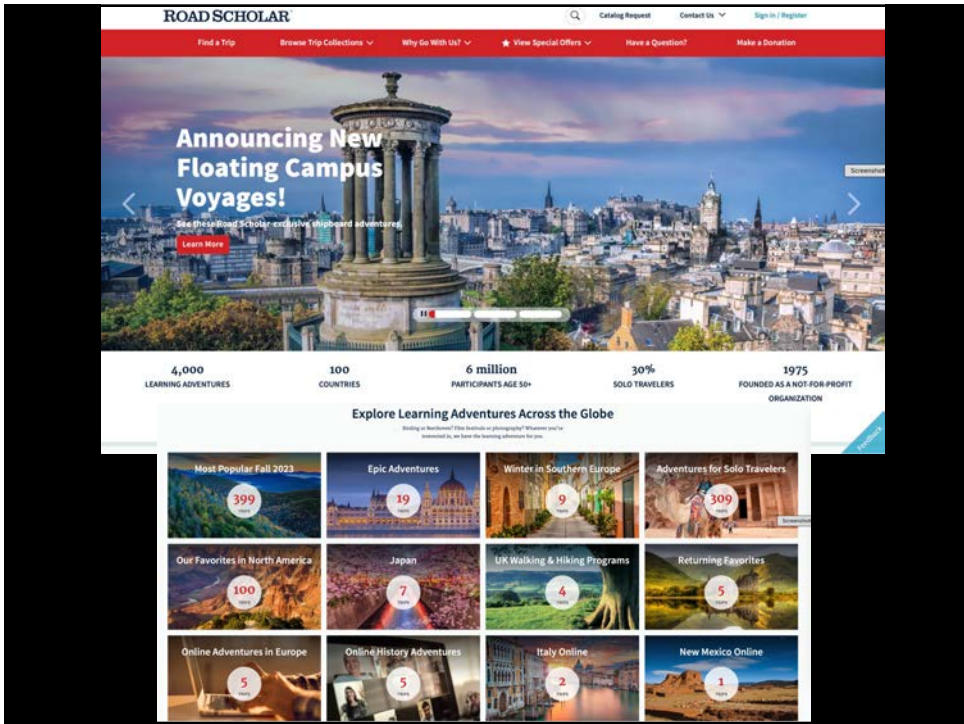
Technology, Jobs, and Education  
 From ESL classes to small business help, the Library has a wide range of resources to help you learn new skills, explore our collections, and stay connected—all from home.

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**150 YEARS OF 92NY**  
For 150 years there's been no other place like this.

**CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'**  
Aprita & friends  
California Dreamin'  
Jessica Vosk  
Sings the  
Songwriters of  
Laurel Canyon

**REASONS TO SUPPORT THE 92ND STREET Y**  
NEW YORK'S GLOBAL CENTER FOR CULTURE, CONNECTION AND ENRICHMENT

- You are supporting an institution that for almost 150 years has been guided by the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* — repairing the world by countering antisemitism and deepening our collective humanity.
- You are revitalizing the arts, bringing the most exciting new dancers and choreographers to our stages and giving new vitality and relevancy to classical music.
- You are nourishing the wellbeing of everyone in our community through access to health, fitness and sports programs that foster joy and connection along with wellness at every age and stage of life.
- You are fueling social good by creating programs that bring people together across geographic and political divides to connect over the things they care about.
- You are advancing the ideals of civic dialogue and community education, allowing us to produce hundreds of talks and thousands of classes in every imaginable subject each year.
- You are making families stronger, parents wiser and children happier with early childhood programs.
- You are creating a home where all Jews may find connection and community.
- You are providing children with almost limitless opportunities for learning and enrichment — and helping us to build our world-class arts and humanities programs to engage students in schools all over America.
- You are providing 800 seniors each year with community and a renewed sense of purpose through more than 60 weekly programs in the Heman Brown Program.
- You are ensuring the future of this one-of-a-kind place which, on the eve of its 100th anniversary, remains one of the most forward-looking, inclusive and all-encompassing cultural and community centers in New York City and anywhere in the world.

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**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY** **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY** **pwc** **UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA** **ASU**

**ILLINOIS** **Google** **Duke** **Yale**

**cal arts** **UNIVERSITY OF LONDON** **CISCO**

**match EDUCATION** **EMORY**

**Coursera**

**We believe**

Learning is the source of human progress.

It has the power to transform our world from illness to health, from poverty to prosperity, from conflict to peace.

It has the power to transform our lives for ourselves, for our families, for our communities.

No matter who we are or where we are, learning empowers us to change and grow and redefine what's possible.

That's why access to the best learning is a right, not a privilege.

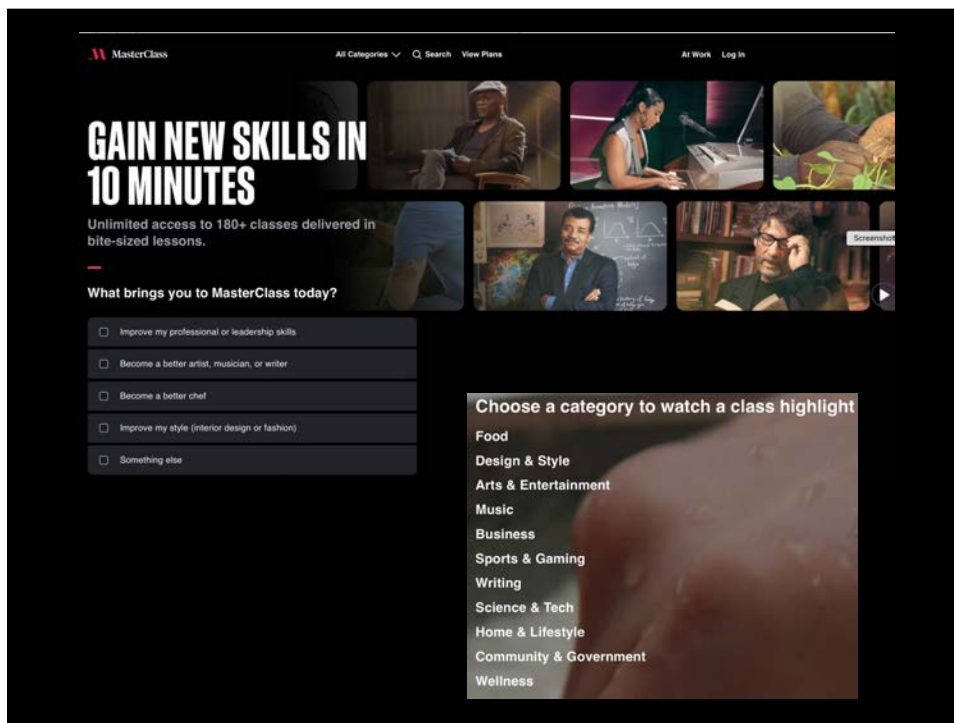
And that's why Coursera is here. We partner with the best institutions to bring the best learning to every corner of the world.

So that anyone, anywhere has the power to transform their lives through learning.

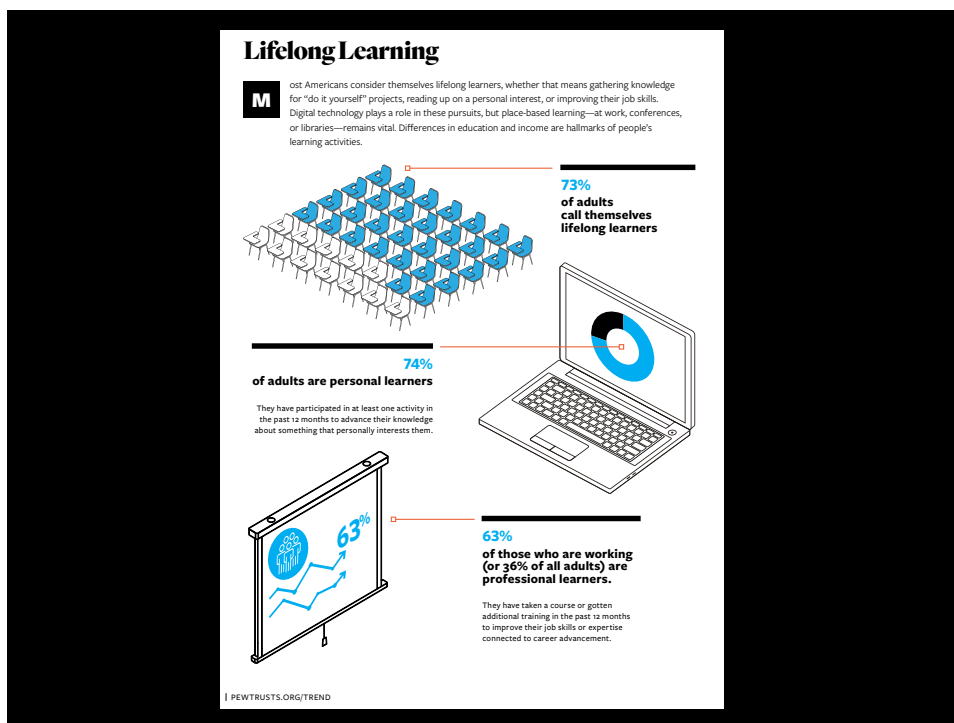
Coursera partners with **more than 275 leading universities** and companies to bring flexible, affordable, job-relevant online learning to individuals and organizations worldwide. We offer a range of learning opportunities—from hands-on projects and courses to job-ready certificates and degree programs.

- \* Over 113 million learners around the world
- \* More than 5800 courses

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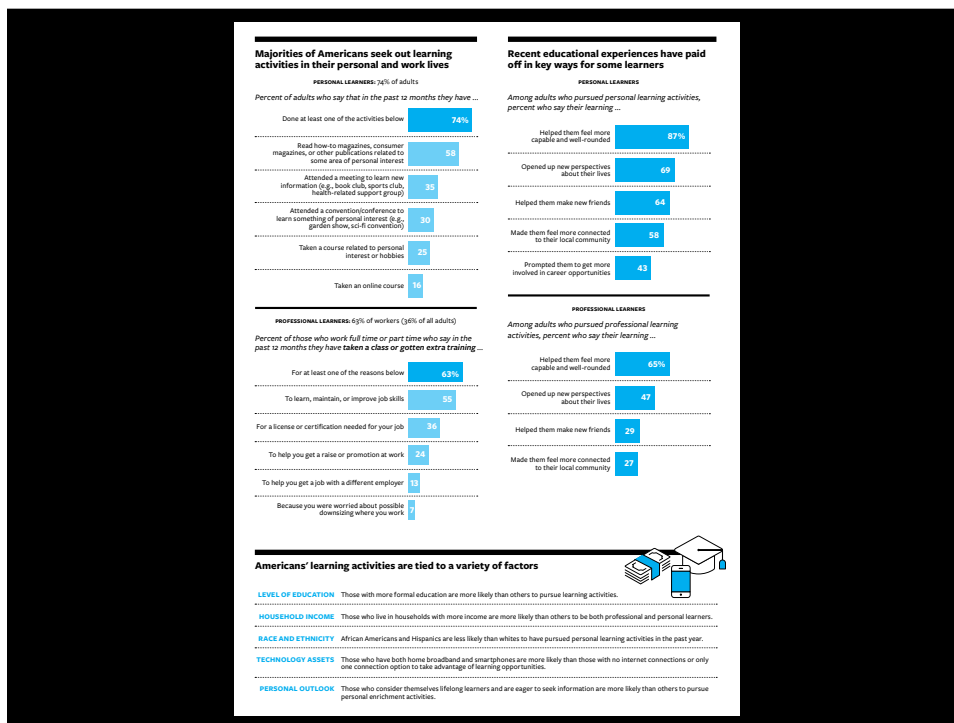


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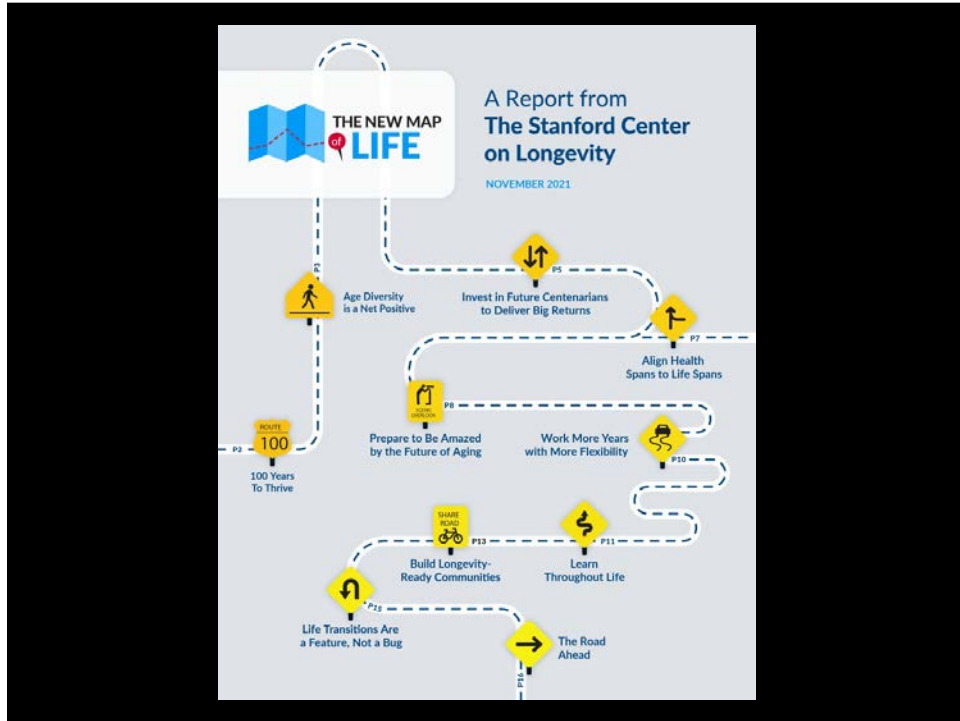




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# Activity 1

## Growing a Church Culture that Forms Faith

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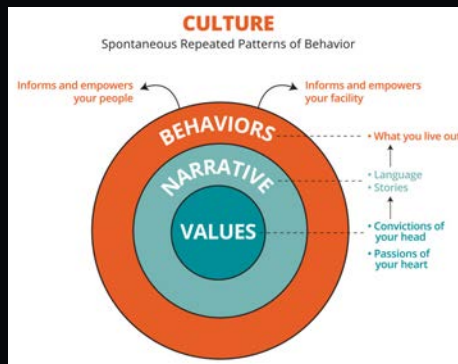
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# Church Culture

**Values and Beliefs** – the things that are truly important to us. They are what we really value and really believe about faith and forming faith.

**Narrative** – the stories we tell and the language we use. These are the messages that we repeat which explain and give meaning to our behaviors and practices. The narrative is how we tell others about our behaviors.

**Behaviors** – the specific practices that embed the beliefs and values. We value culture in our heads and hearts. We tell stories and use language. Behavior is what we do with our hands and feet.



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# A Faith Forming Culture

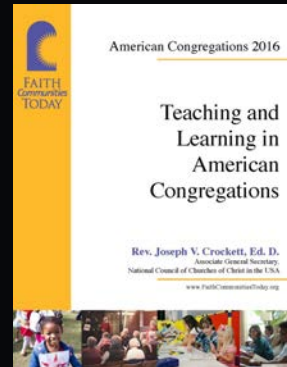
- ❖ Community Life
- ❖ Worship
- ❖ Ritual and Sacraments
- ❖ Prayer & Spiritual Practices
- ❖ Learning and Forming Disciples
- ❖ Serving those in Need
- ❖ Working for Justice
- ❖ Outreach to Uninvolved & Unaffiliated
- ❖ Leadership

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## Faith Communities Today Research Findings

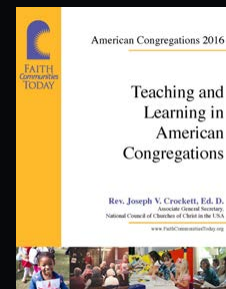
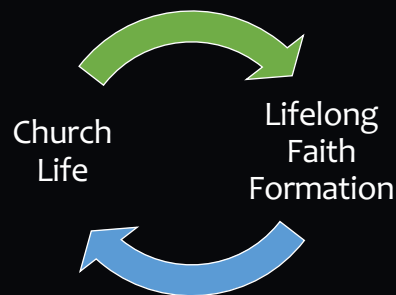
Joseph V. Crockett found that many of the characteristics of vital congregations from the research positively related to the six priorities of faith formation in a congregation, and most likely to the effectiveness of faith formation. Congregations with the highest scores on the six priorities rated the vital characteristics. . . .

- mission clarity and effectiveness (4 X higher)
- adaptability & willingness to change (10 X)
- incorporating new members (4 X higher)
- spiritual vitality (4 X higher)
- working for social justice (2 X higher)
- thriving now and into the future (4 X higher)



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## Faith Formation & Church Culture



Vital and vibrant lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute towards building a vital congregation that lives its mission. *How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation.*

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## A Faith Forming Culture

Robust, vital lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute toward building a thriving congregation that lives its mission. How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation. The practice of lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the life of a church as well. When a church embraces lifelong faith formation as essential to its mission and makes a commitment to create and sustain faith formation with all ages and generations, the culture of the church is strengthened.

- ❖ Community Life
- ❖ Worship
- ❖ Ritual and Sacraments
- ❖ Prayer & Spiritual Practices
- ❖ Learning and Forming Disciples
- ❖ Serving those in Need
- ❖ Working for Justice
- ❖ Outreach to Uninvolved & Unaffiliated
- ❖ Leadership

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## Activity

### What is your ideal vision of a faith forming church culture?

- What is your image/picture of the ideal vision of a faith forming community? Paint a picture.
- What are the characteristics of your ideal vision of a faith forming community. Describe: what do you see happening? what are people experiencing? what are people doing? what are leaders doing?

### Reflection

- Complete the "Church Vitality Assessment."
- What did you learn about your church culture from the assessment results?

### Application

- What are the ways your church culture currently promotes maturing in faith?
- What are the ways your church culture could promote maturing in faith?
- How can you strengthen the faith forming potential of your church culture?

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## Activity 2

# Vision & Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation

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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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Lifelong faith formation is accompanying people throughout life as they mature in faith and discipleship, learn more deeply about the Christian faith and how it informs and forms their lives today, and practice their Christian faith in all the arenas of their lives.



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## *Church as a Community of Learners*

*Where everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner*

*Accompanying each other*



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## Church as a Center of Learning for the Community

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*Opening church  
programs to the  
community*

*Moving church  
programs into  
community spaces*

*Creating new  
community-based  
programming*



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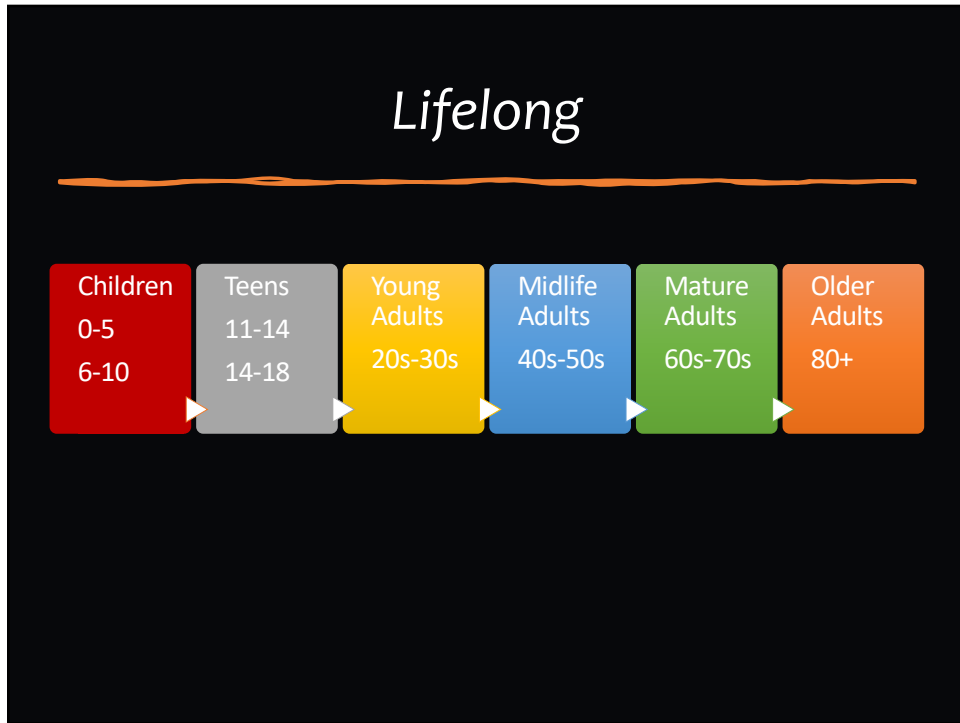
## Lifelong Faith Maturing

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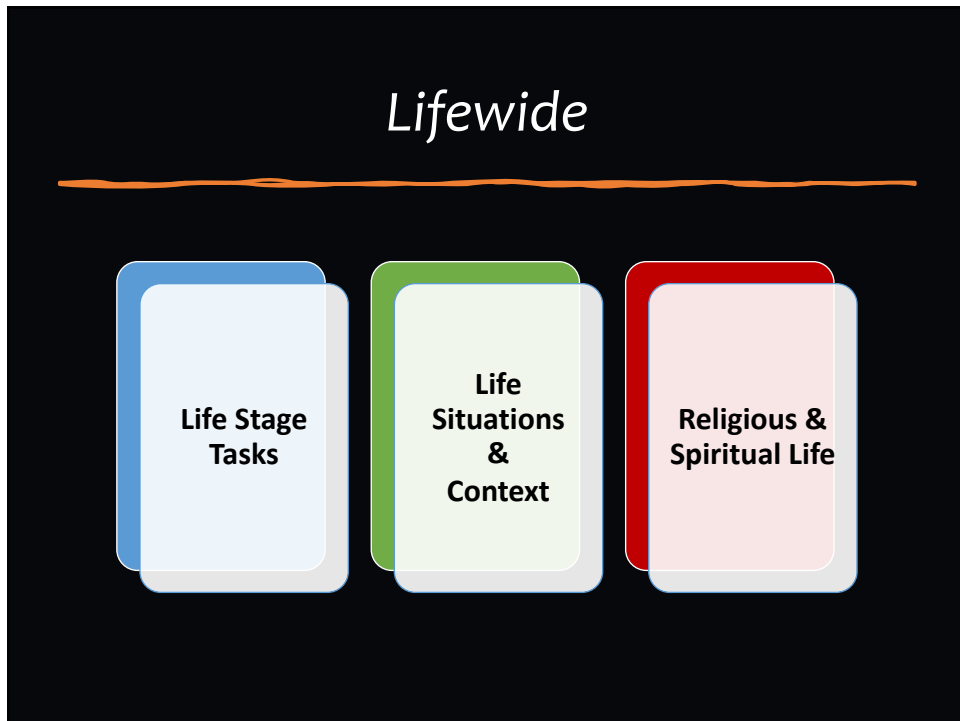
Faith matures over a lifetime. Discipleship and learning is lifelong. At each stage of life people have new religious and spiritual needs and challenges, which often find resolution in the next stage of life.



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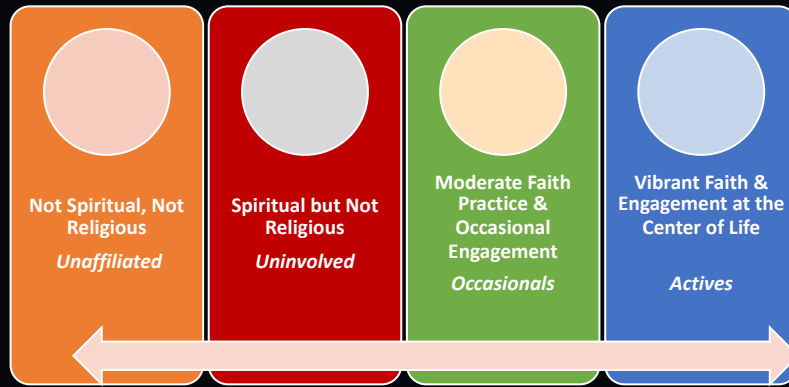


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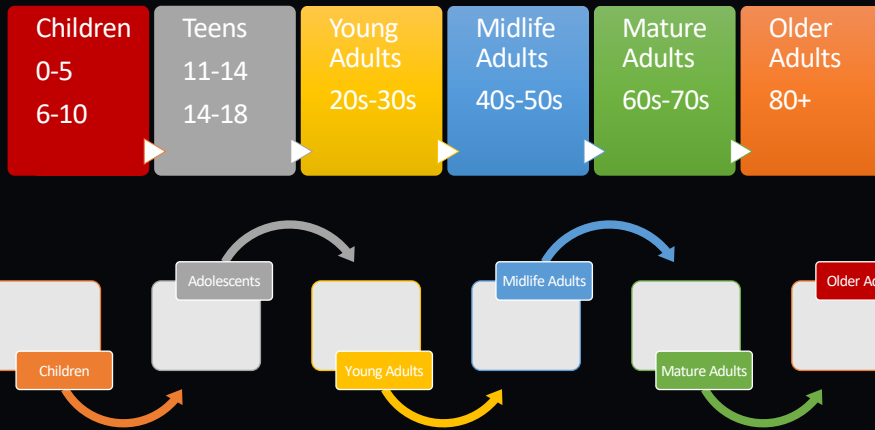
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## Diverse Religious/Spiritual Identities



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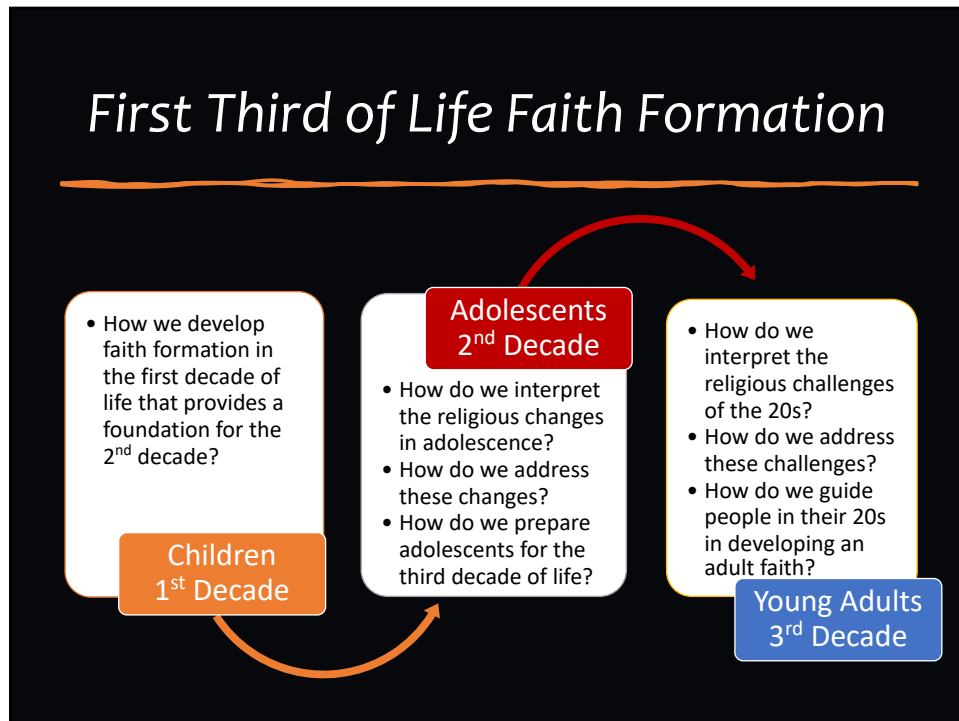
## Lifelong & Continuous



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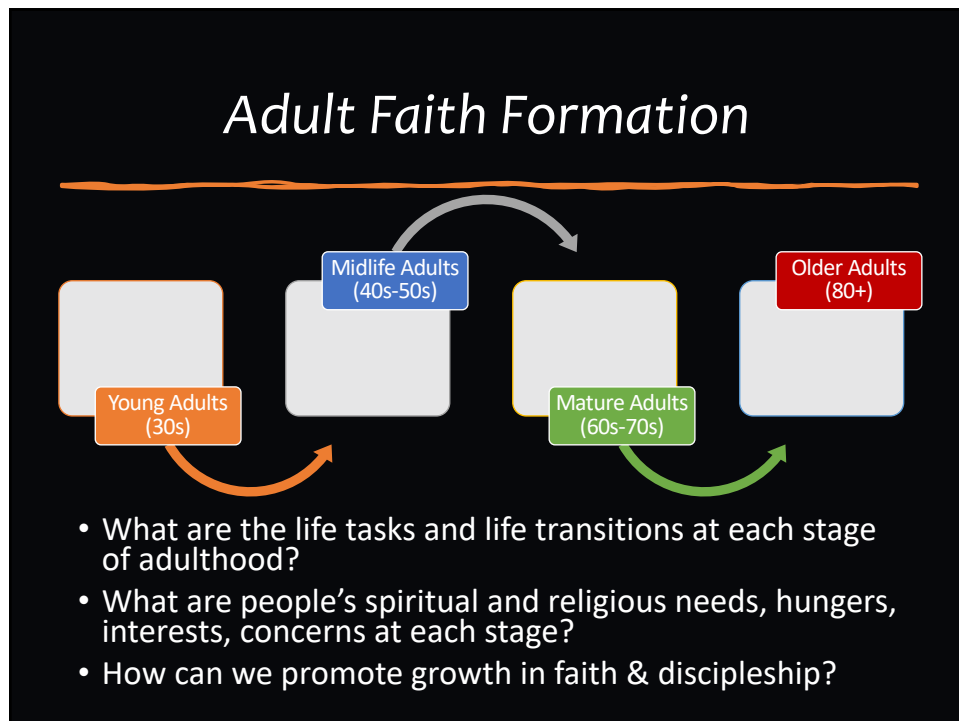


## First Third of Life Faith Formation



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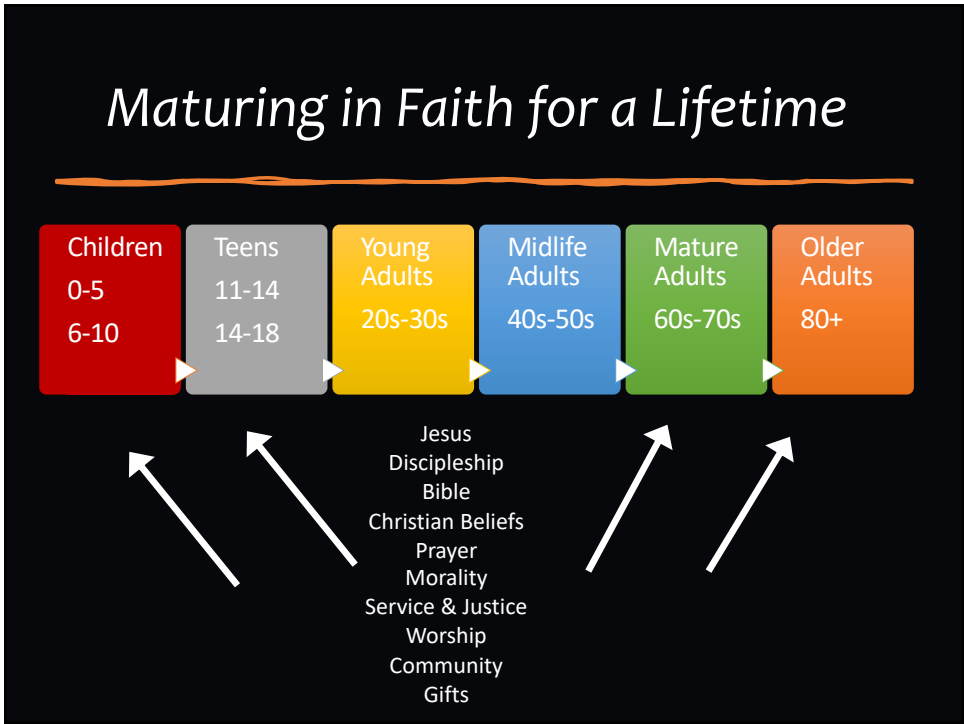
## Adult Faith Formation



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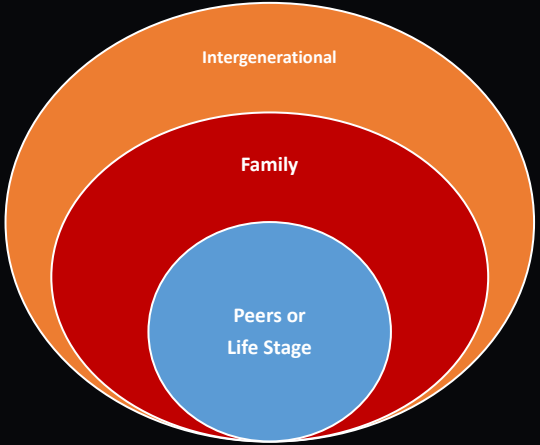


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# Holistic Formation

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

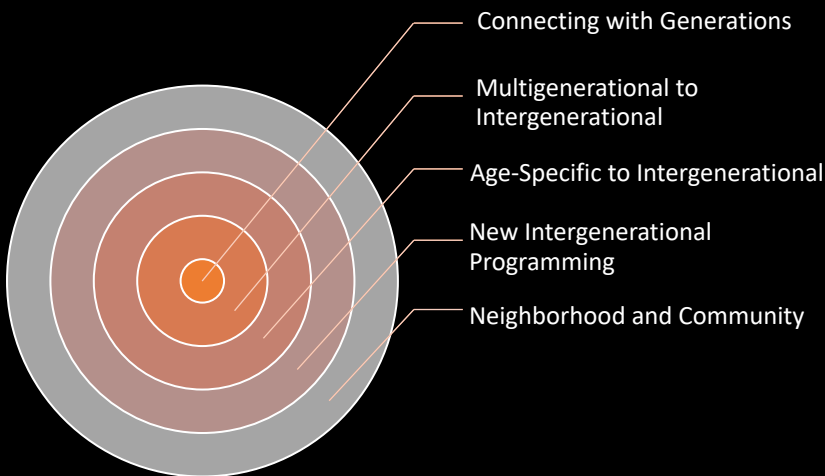


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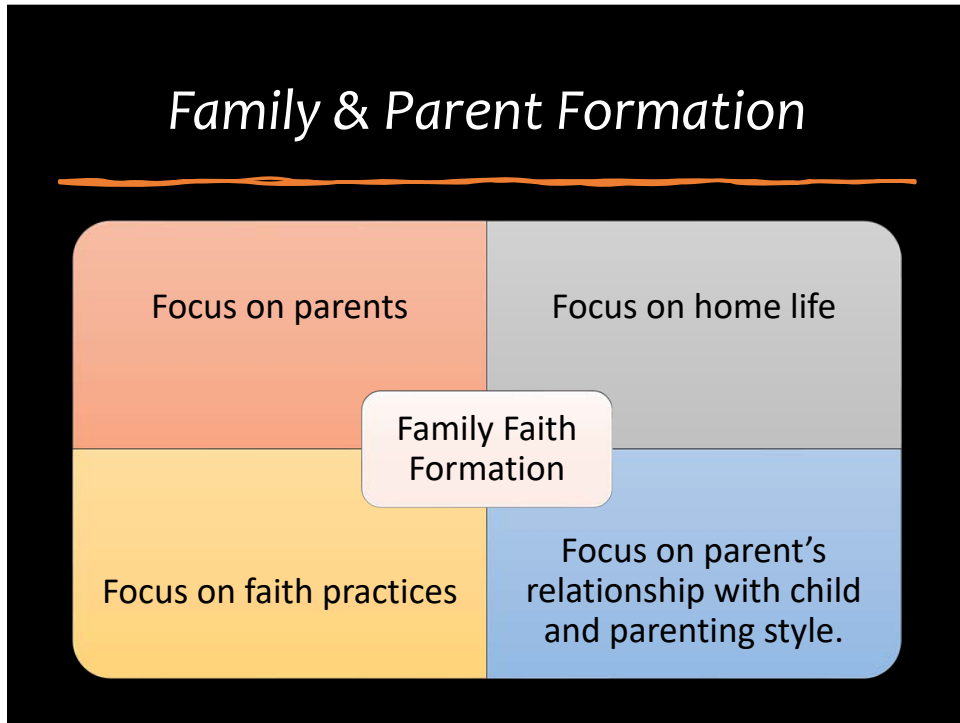
# Intergenerational Experiences

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

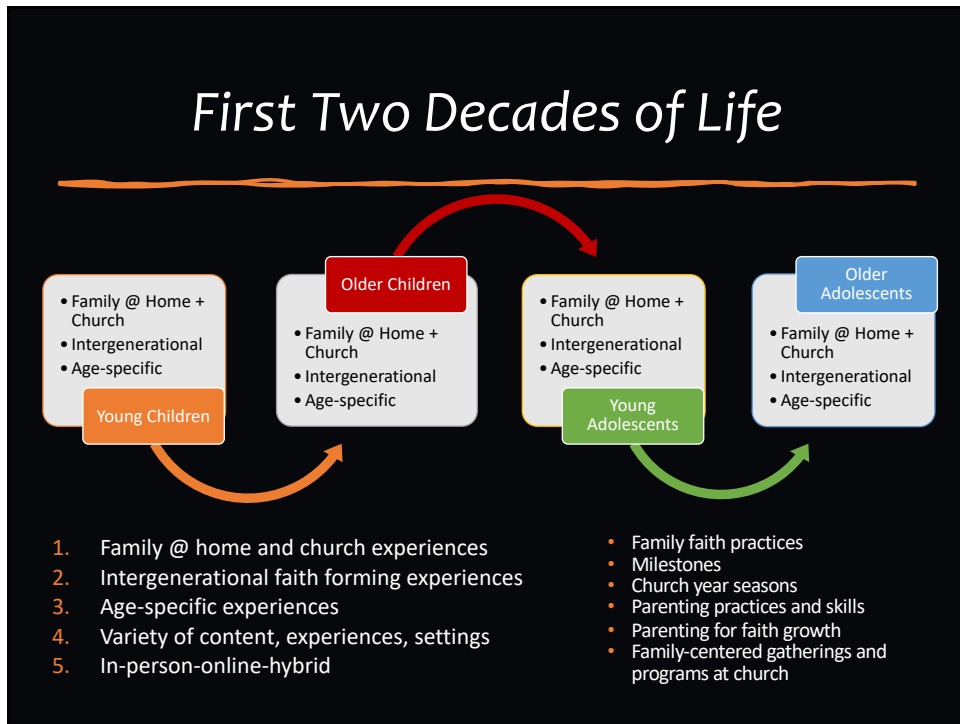
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## Diverse Programming

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- ✓ A menu of faith-forming experiences for families and individuals in intergenerational, family, and life stage settings
- ✓ A variety of content, programs, activities, and resources to address a diversity of needs
- ✓ A variety of formats: on your own, mentored, at home, in small groups, and in large groups
- ✓ A variety of settings: in-person, online, and hybrid
- ✓ A variety of schedules: in-person, online, hybrid
- ✓ Available anytime & anywhere

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## Personalized

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- Develop pathways of faith formation tailored to the four spiritual-religious identities
  - **Actives**: people of vibrant faith and engagement
  - **Occasionals**: people of moderate faith and occasional engagement
  - **Spirituals**: people who are spiritual but not religious
  - **Unaffiliated**: people who are not spiritual and not religious
- Offer content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities

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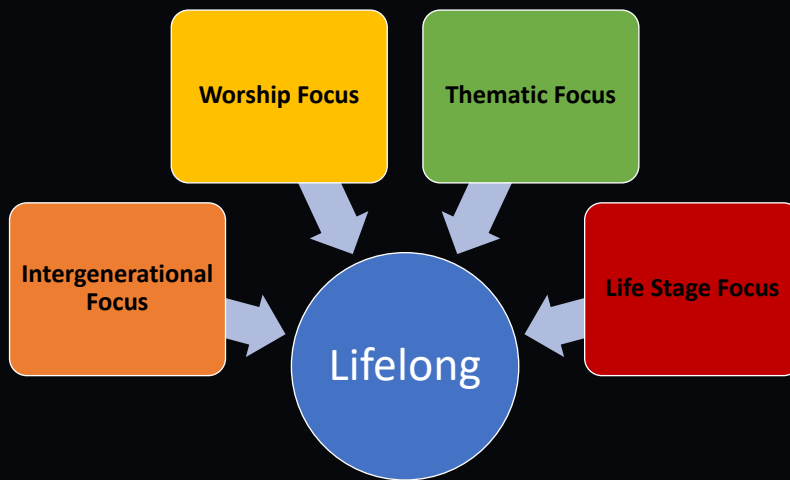


# Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

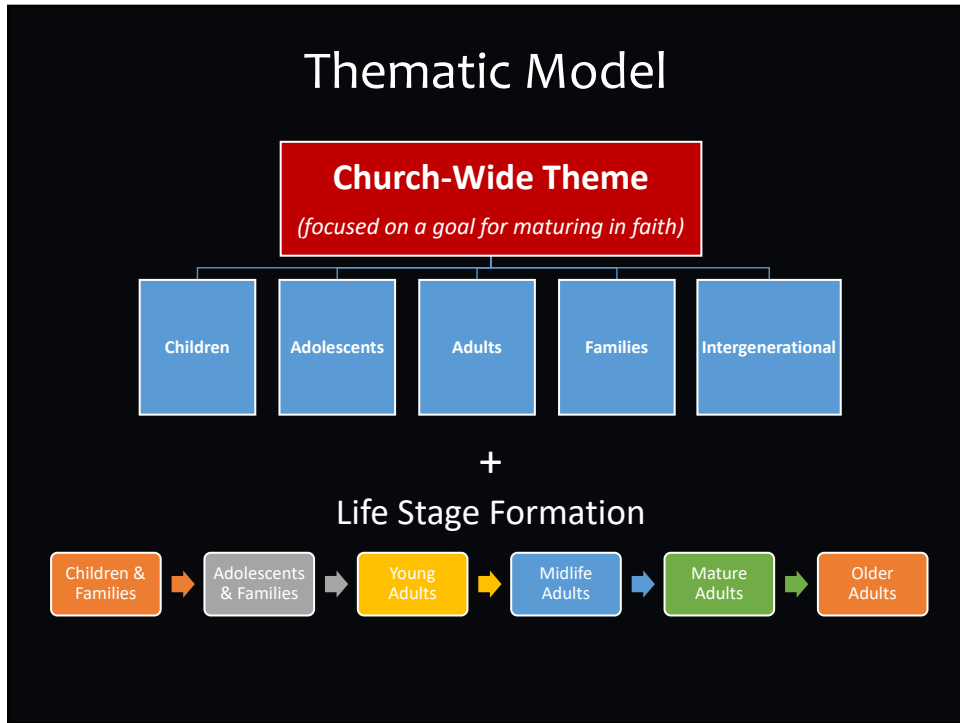
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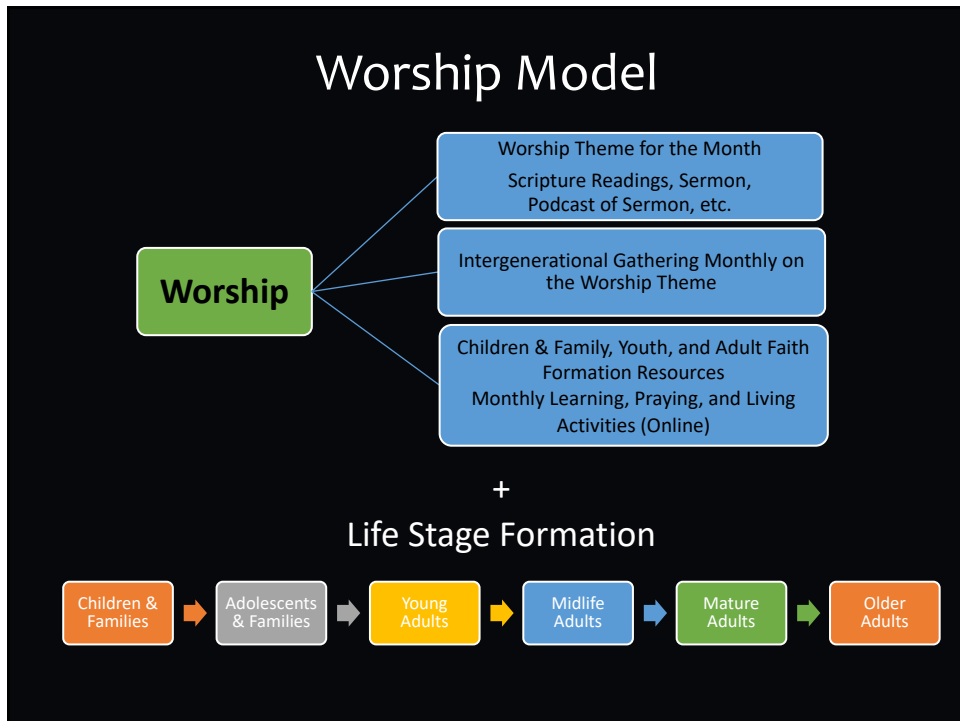
## Lifelong Models



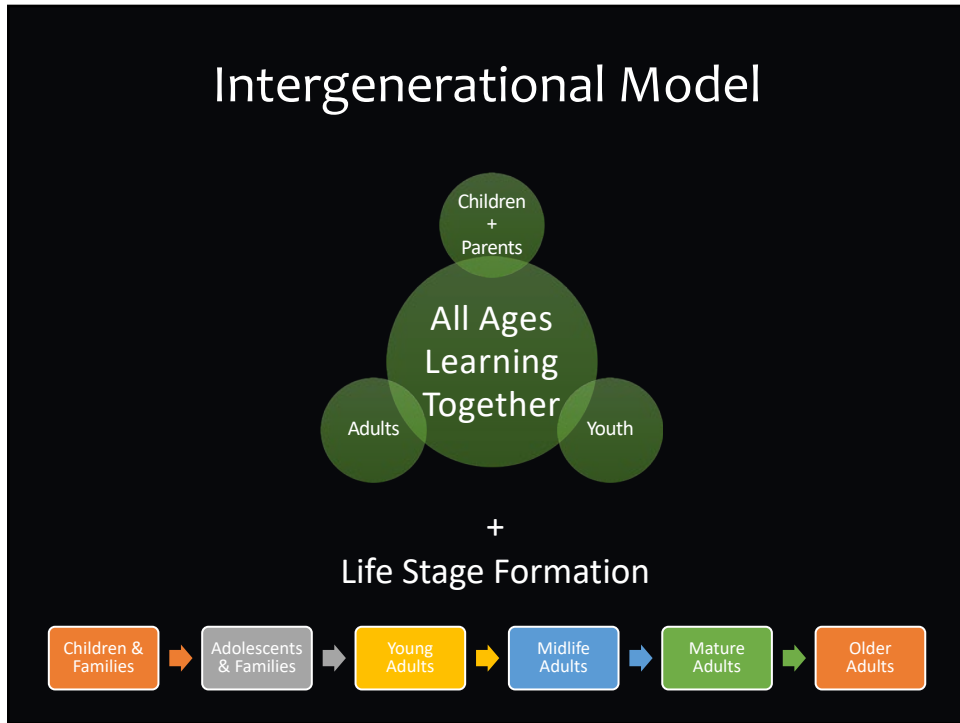
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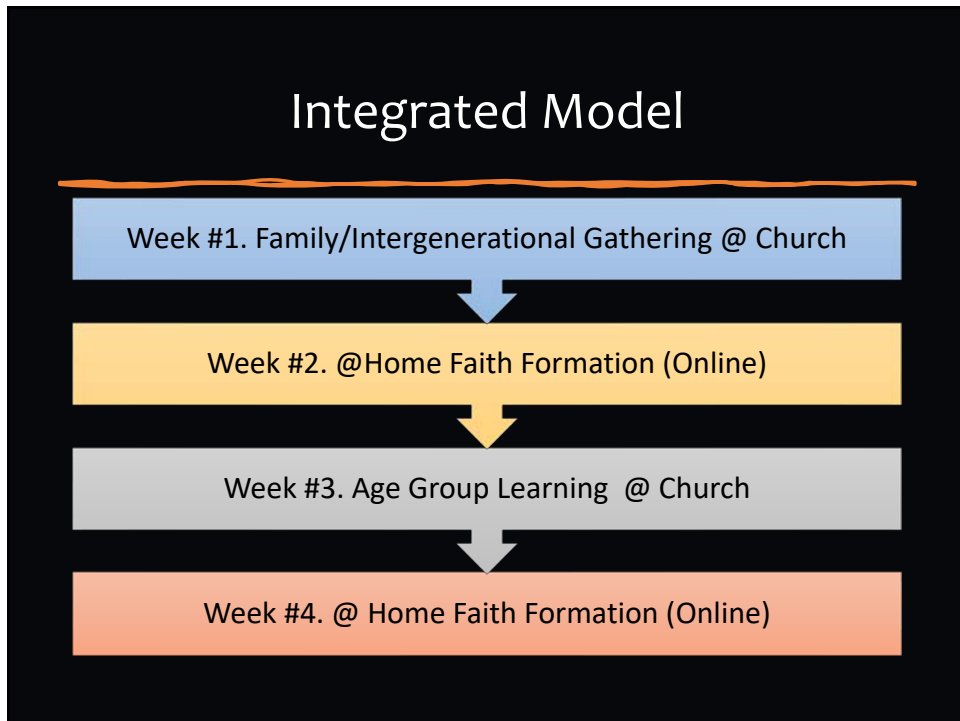
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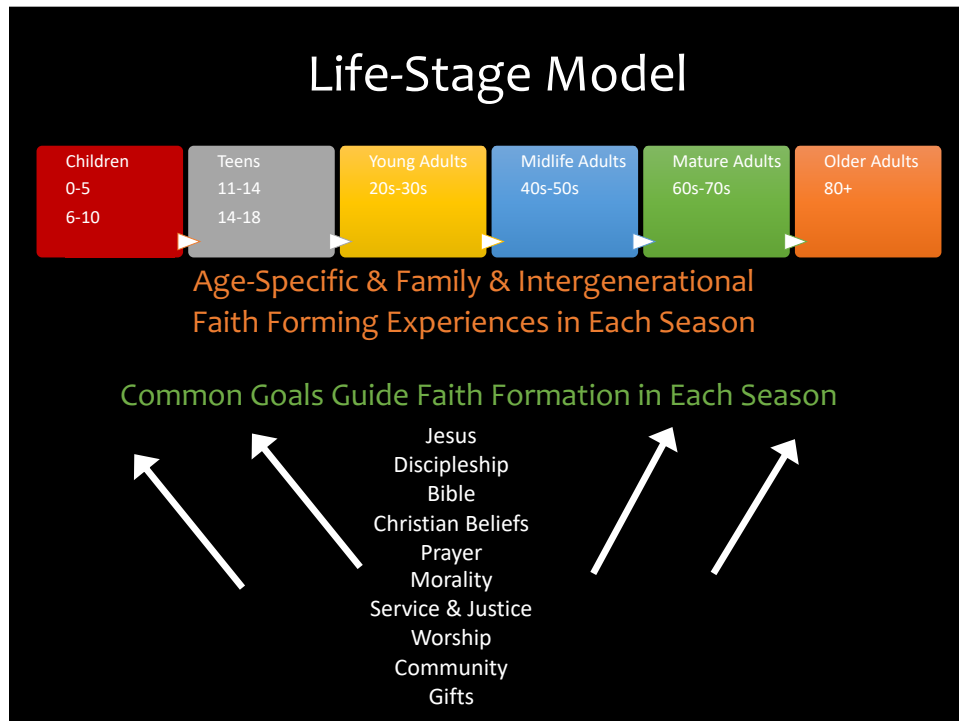
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## Activity

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1. Review the four models.
2. Name your current model.
3. Analyze your church model.
4. Use the four models to design your model.

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# Activity 3 Maturing in Faith for a Lifetime

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## Goals for Maturing in Faith

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## Families with Children 0-5

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

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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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## Goals to Guide Lifelong Faith Formation

Goals	How does your church address these goals in the lives of people, across the life span: Children, Adolescents, Young Adults, Midlife Adults, Mature Adults, and Older Adults?
Jesus	
Discipleship	
Bible	
Teachings	
Praying	
Moral Living	
Justice/Service	
Worship	
Community	
Gifts	

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## Activity

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### Activity: Your Church's Vision of Maturing in Faith

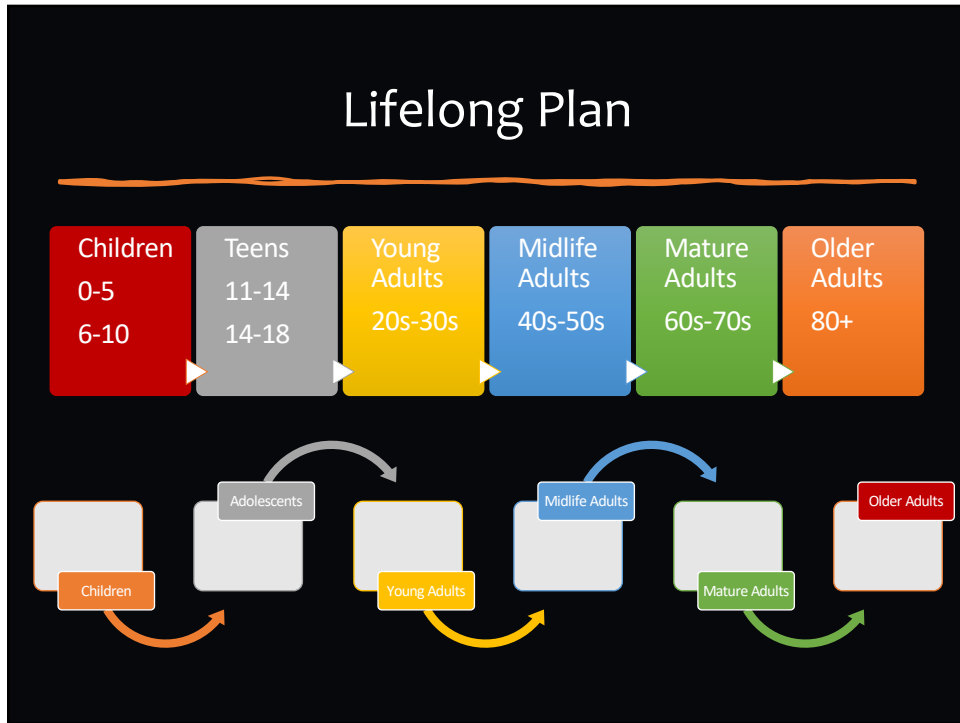
- What are your goals (vision) for lifelong maturing in faith and discipleship for all ages and generations?
- How do your goals for maturing in faith inform or guide faith formation with all ages and generations? How do you see these goals reflected in your practice of lifelong faith formation?
- How can your vision of maturing in faith inform what you are trying to accomplish in the lives of people at each stage of life from childhood through older adulthood?

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## Activity 4 Creating a Lifelong Plan

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## Goals for Faith Maturing Guide the Plan

Goals	Children	Teens	Young Adults	Midlife Adults	Mature Adults	Older Adults
Jesus						
Discipleship						
Bible						
Beliefs						
Prayer						
Moral Living						
Service						
Justice						
Worship						
Community						
Gifts						

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## Review & Analyze

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### Review Profile of Lifelong Faith Formation Today

#### Analyze Your Profile

1. What do we need to continue doing?
2. What do we need to stop doing?
3. What needs to be strengthened or improved?
4. What needs to be expanded or needs to be extended to reach and engage more people?
5. What do we need to start doing? What new initiatives need to be created to address gaps, respond to new needs and challenges, engage new audiences?

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## Explore a Model

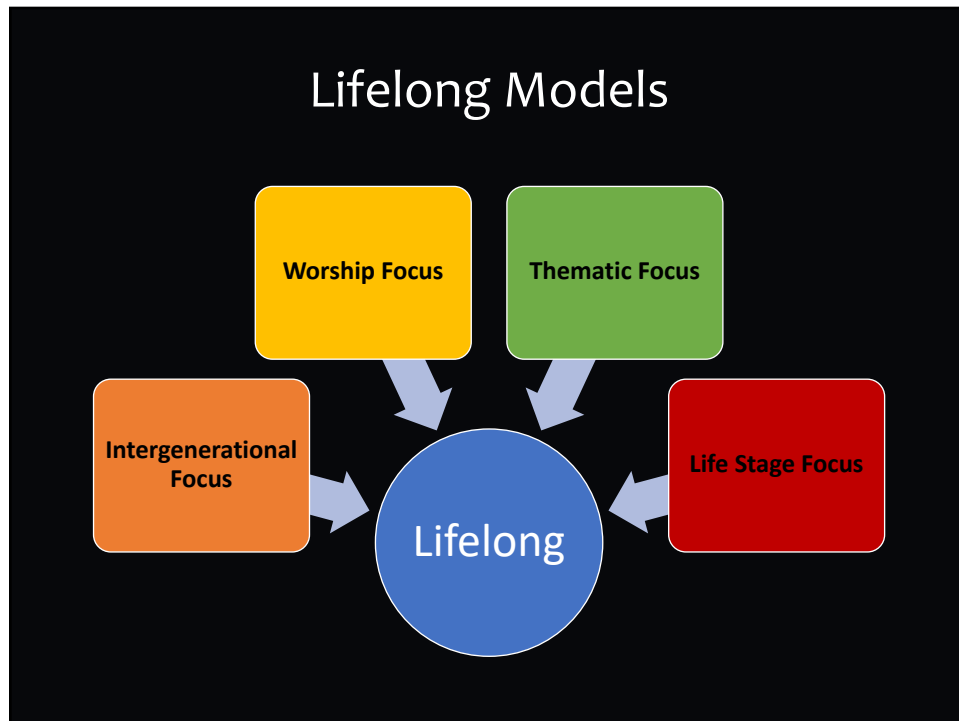
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### Explore Using a Model of Lifelong Faith Formation

If you are using a model of lifelong faith formation, how will that influence the work of creating a plan for lifelong faith formation:

- Thematic Model
- Worship-Centered Model
- Intergenerational Model
- Life Stage Model

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## Select & Describe an Audience

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**Select Your Target Audience: Life Stage(s) or Family Life Stage**

Identify the major life tasks and interests, life transitions, and spiritual and religious needs of people you want to address at this stage of life?

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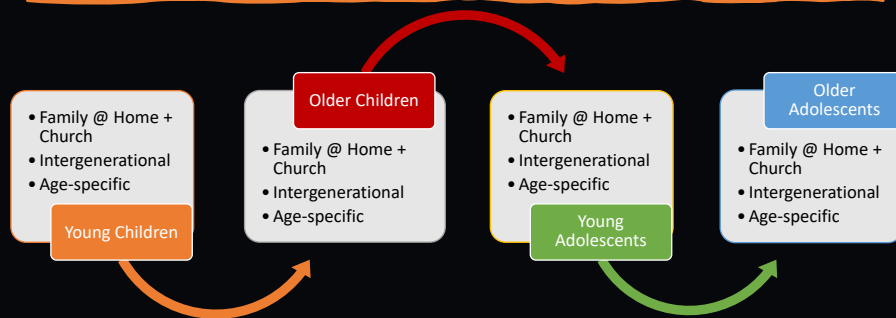
## Focus on Particular Seasons of Life



1. What does faith formation look like right now?
2. What does faith formation look like in the Earlier Stage and in the Next Stage of life?

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## First Two Decades of Life



1. Family @ home and church experiences
  2. Intergenerational faith forming experiences
  3. Age-specific experiences
  4. Variety of content, experiences, settings
  5. In-person-online-hybrid
- Family faith practices
  - Milestones
  - Church year seasons
  - Parenting practices and skills
  - Parenting for faith growth
  - Family-centered gatherings and programs at church

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# Develop a Plan for Your Audience

Develop your faith formation plan around the shared goals for faith maturing that is responsive to each stage of life.

## Generate Ideas.

Goals	How should we address the lives of our target audience through this goal? Generate programming ideas : intergenerational, family, and age group	
<b>Continue</b> What do you need to continue doing?	<b>Stop</b> What do you need to stop doing?	
<b>Improve / Expand</b> What do you need to be improved or expanded to reach and engage more people?	<b>Create</b> What do you 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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# Goals for Maturing in Faith



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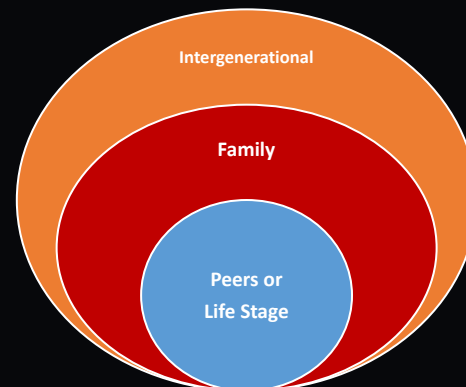
## Programming

- ✓ A menu of faith-forming experiences for families and individuals in intergenerational, family, and life stage settings
- ✓ A variety of content, programs, activities, and resources to address a diversity of needs
- ✓ A variety of formats: on your own, mentored, at home, in small groups, and in large groups
- ✓ A variety of settings: in-person, online, and hybrid
- ✓ A variety of schedules: in-person, online, hybrid
- ✓ Available anytime & anywhere

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## Build a Menu of Participation

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



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## Personalized

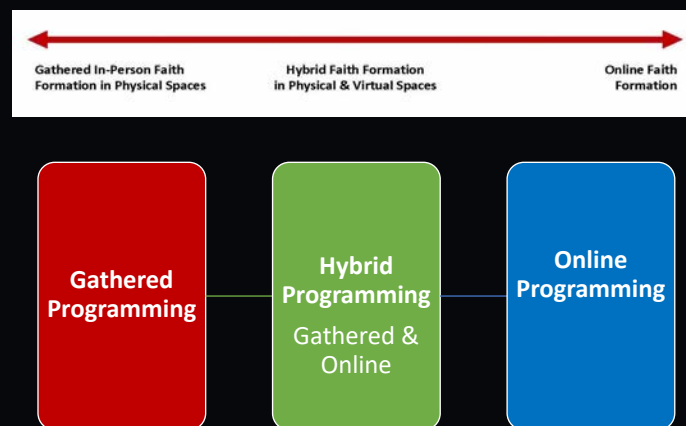
Offer content, experiences, and activities to address different spiritual-religious identities:

- **Actives:** people of vibrant faith and engagement
- **Occasionals:** people of moderate faith and occasional engagement
- **Spirituals:** people who are spiritual but not religious
- **Unaffiliated:** people who are not spiritual and not religious

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## Hybrid Programming

*Synchronous and Asynchronous*



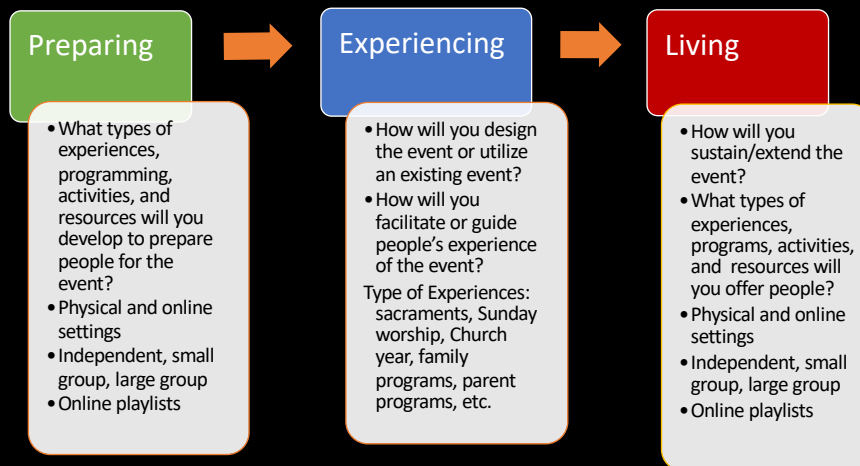
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## One Program, Multiple Formats

1. **Large group physical gathering:** People gather at church for a program, presentation, experience + Live Stream + Video Recording
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) to watch the video together, read, reflect, and discuss.
4. **Hybrid:** People watch the video and read an article 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.

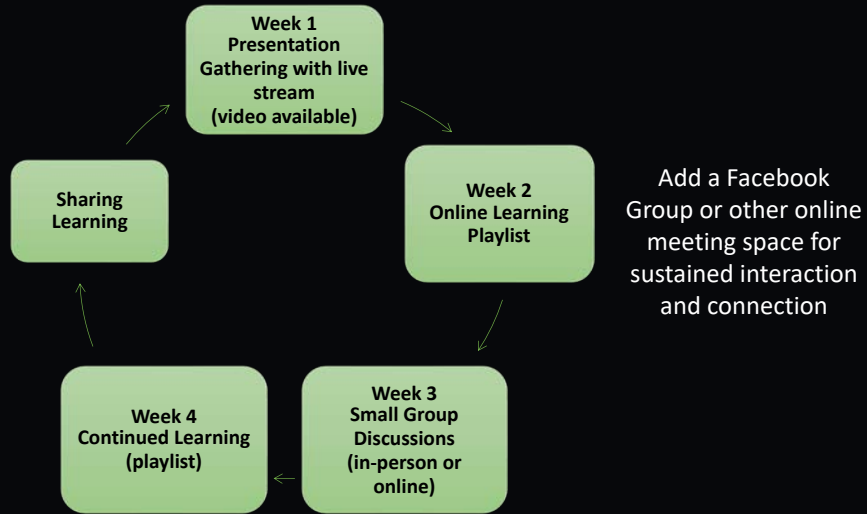
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## Hybrid: Process



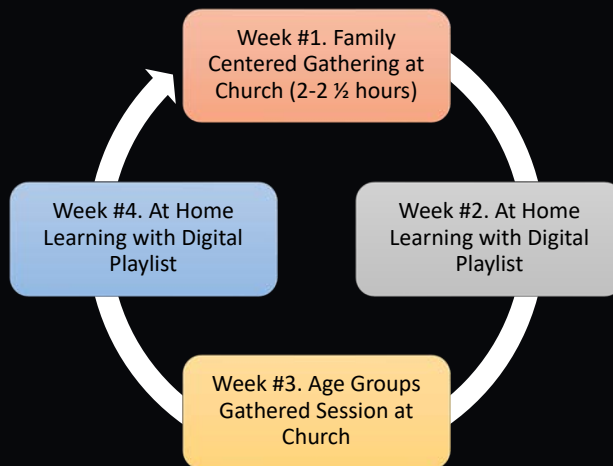
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## Hybrid: Multi-Session Programming

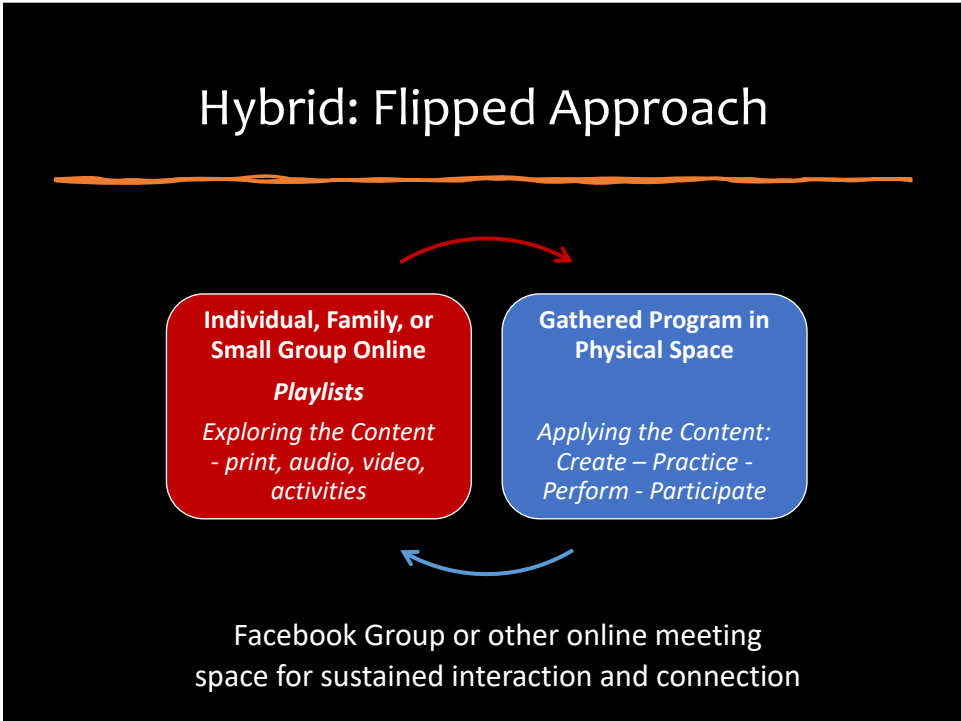


79

## Hybrid: Monthly Plan



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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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## Activity 5

# Implementing & Building Capacity

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## Planning

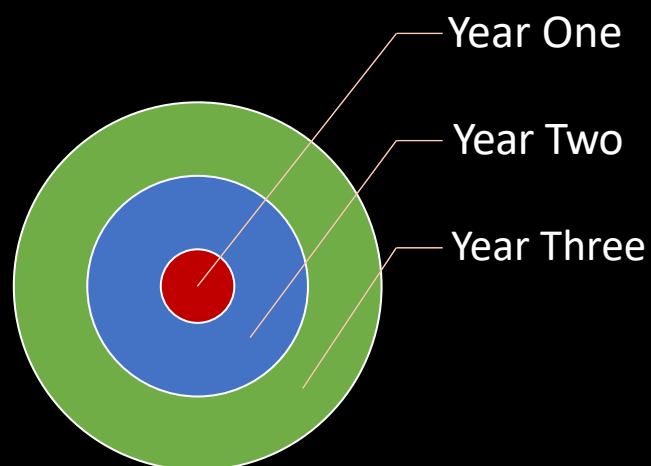
*sustain – enhance – expand – create  
(and stop things that aren't working)*



- **Short-Term Planning** – ideas that can be integrated into existing plans and programs OR can be designed and implemented quickly in the 2022-23 program year
- **Mid-Term Planning** – ideas that need more design time and that can be implemented within one or two years (2023-24)
- **Long-Term Planning** – ideas that need design time, piloting and testing, and then implementation over the next several years

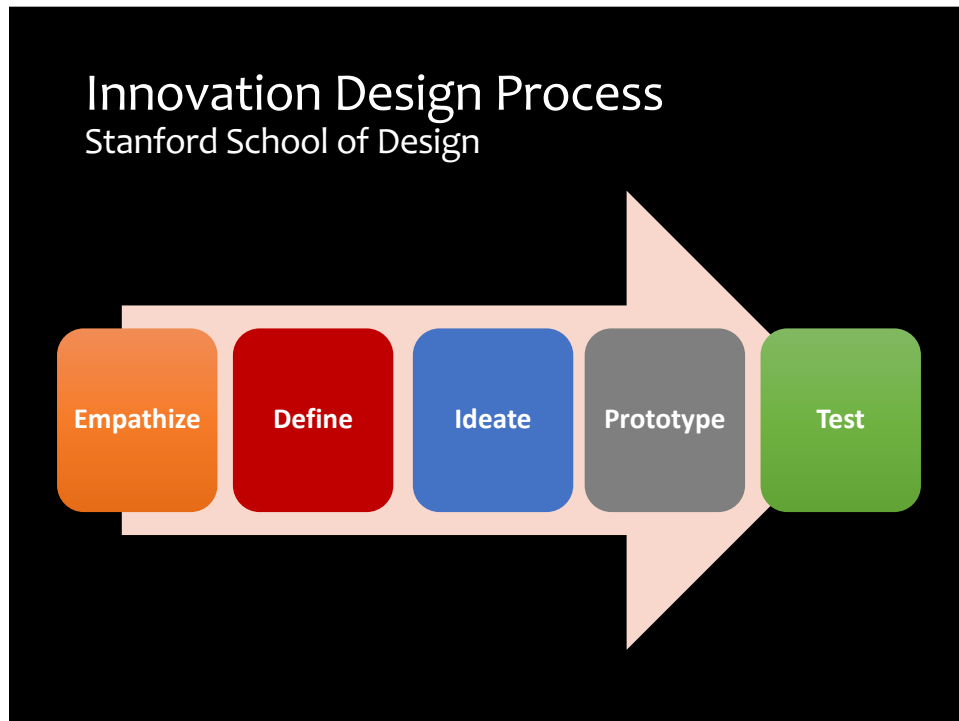
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## Involvement Over Time



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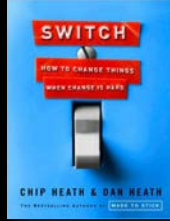




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## Creating & Sustaining New Projects

- Follow the bright spots:**
  - When creating investigate what's working and clone it.
  - When sustain, collect feedback (stories, audio, photos) and share it widely
- Point to the destination:**
  - Change is easier when you know where you're going and why it's worth it.
  - Paint a picture of what's happening in people's lives because of the new project.
- Script the critical moves:**
  - Don't think big picture, think in terms of specific behaviors.
  - Guide the team through the steps.
- Find the feeling:**
  - Knowing something isn't enough to cause change. Make people feel something. Build an emotional and rational case for change.
- Plan for small wins that lead to significant innovations.**



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## Planning Template

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This design process uses the following template to develop implementation plans for each goal:

**Goal:** What do we want to accomplish?

**Strategies/Activities:** How we will accomplish the objectives over three years?

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

**Personnel:** Who will lead and implement the objectives?

**Resources:** What resources are needed to implement the objectives?

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## Build Capacity

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## Capacity Assessment

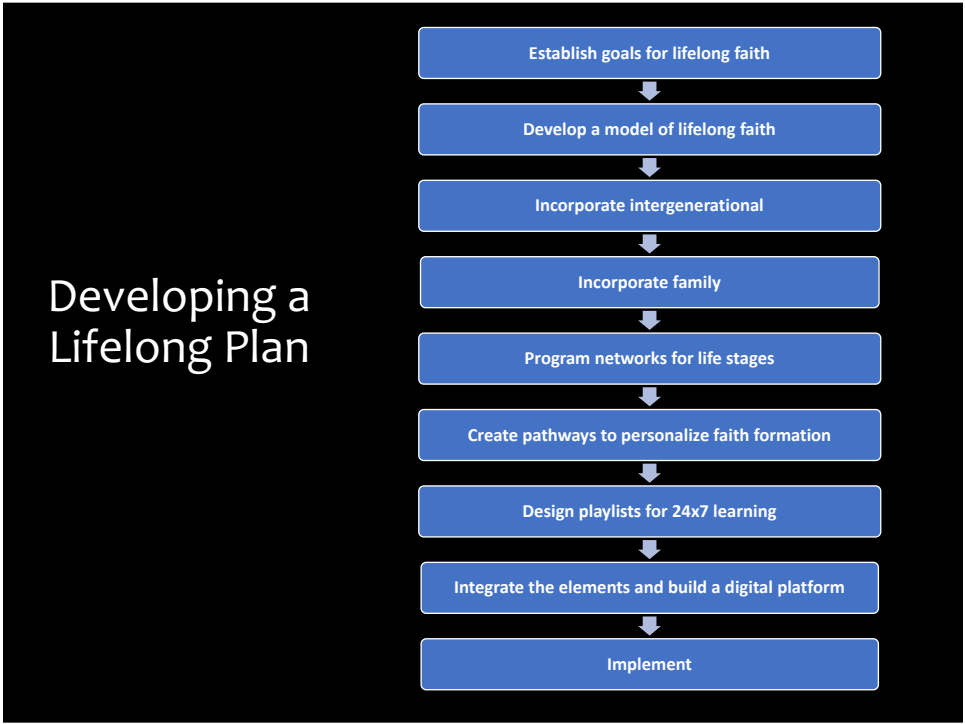
1. What capacities do we require to implement our ministry plans for the coming year?
  - What will our plans require of the pastor and professional ministry leadership (competencies, skills, processes and procedures)?
  - What volunteer leaders will be required for our plans, and what competencies (knowledge and skills) and resources will they need to perform effectively (tools and resources)?
  - What material resources (facilities, communication, technologies, print and digital resources) will our plans require?
  - What financial resources will our plans require?
2. What capacities (resources) do we already have available to us for the coming year 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 and flourish as a community (or ministry)?

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## Capacity Building

1. Utilize the abundance of resources – print, audio, video, digital – for lifelong faith formation.
2. Utilize the resources in the community and other congregations.
3. Cultivate the gifts in the church community: everyone's a learner and everyone's a teacher.
  - Work with the time commitments that fit people's schedules.
  - Offer a variety of roles with varying levels of responsibility and time commitments.
  - Develop leadership roles with fewer tasks and divide up a large leadership role into smaller responsibilities.
  - Design a program with a primary leadership role (teaching, presenting, facilitating activities) and support roles.
  - Design programming in shorter units of time.

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Additional Ideas:  
Intergenerational &  
Family

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# Intergenerational Faith Formation

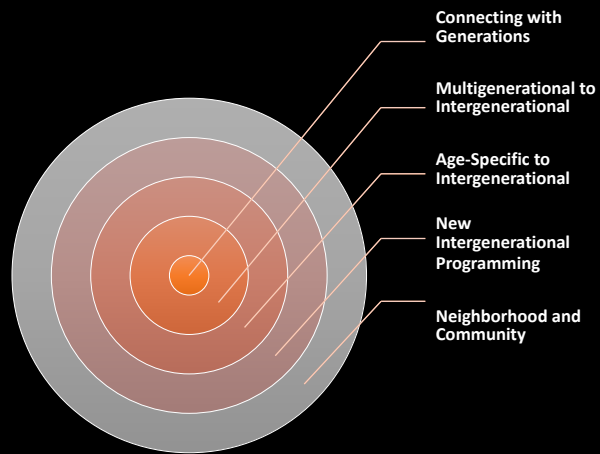
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## Intergenerational Experiences

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



98

## Intergenerational Experiences

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

1. Design All-Ages Faith Formation around Intergenerational Church Life Events
2. Transform multigenerational into intergenerational
3. Transform age-specific into intergenerational
4. Design new intergenerational initiatives
5. Make intergenerational learning central to church life

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## Connecting the Generations

Creating small actions to build relationships, trust, and respect by . . .

- Praying for other generations
- Mixing generations on leadership and ministry teams
- Mentoring relationships between generations
- Generations sharing/contributing at worship
- And much more...

- cumulative effect over the year -

100

## Transform 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?*

Identify ministries, programs, and activities that are already intergenerational (with generations building relationships, learning, praying, worshipping, serving, and/or leading together); and develop strategies for strengthening and expanding intergenerational ministries, programs, and activities.

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## Transform Multigenerational to Intergenerational

Transforming multigenerational settings by . . .

1. Including relationship building activities
2. Engaging in storytelling
3. Praying for each other
4. Participating in shared activities as mixed-generation groups
5. Sharing leadership roles appropriate to gifts, abilities, and age
6. Making people feel welcome, respected, valued, and recognized by other generations

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## Transform Age-Specific into Intergenerational

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

Identify ministries, programs, and activities that are multigenerational (with all ages present without the intergenerational connection and experiences) that can be transformed into more intentionally intergenerational experiences

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## *Design New Intergenerational Initiatives*

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Create 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?*

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## *Design New Intergenerational Initiatives*

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Creating new initiatives that will contribute toward building an intergenerational culture in your congregation by . . .

- Milestones throughout life as intergenerational experiences at church and home
- Intergenerational models of learning—weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or seasonally—for the whole faith community
- Intergenerational models of vacation Bible school or camp programs or Bible study programs
- Intergenerational Sunday worship, prayer experiences, prayer groups, retreat experiences, spiritual formation programs, spiritual direction
- Intergenerational local and global service projects, actions for justice, care for creation, and more

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## *Engage with the Neighborhood Intergenerationally*

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Our faith communities are rich resources of social capital. We can partner with other religious congregations and community organizations to address a wide range of topics—from literacy to loneliness, housing to health care, education to the environment, and much more.

Faith communities can be catalysts for connecting the young and the old, fostering communication and understanding across generations, building community in neighborhoods with intergenerational events and activities, activating public spaces with intergenerational programming, advancing early care and education by engaging more adults 50+ with children, improving outcomes for youth and older adults through mentoring, increasing affordable housing by expanding intergenerational housing options, and much more.

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# 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

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## Call to Prayer Intergenerational Session

Gathering and Opening Prayer

Welcome to Prayer Program

Prayer Experiences: Demonstrate Live & Practice @Home

- Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
- Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
- Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
- Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
- Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer

Making Prayer an Essential Part of Family Life

Closing Prayer

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# Family Faith Formation

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## Family

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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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## Family

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### Focus on Parents

Parents are most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people:

- ✓ parents' personal faith and practice
- ✓ a close and warm parent-child relationship
- ✓ parent modeling and teaching a religious faith
- ✓ parent involvement in church life and Sunday worship
- ✓ grandparent religious influence and relationship
- ✓ family conversations about faith
- ✓ family faith religious practices including praying, reading the Bible, serving others, and celebrating holidays and rituals

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## Family

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### 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.

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## Family

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### Focus on Faith Practices

Certain practices 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. Parents modeling religious practices is primary, and explaining belief systems is secondary”

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## Family Faith Practices

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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

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### 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.

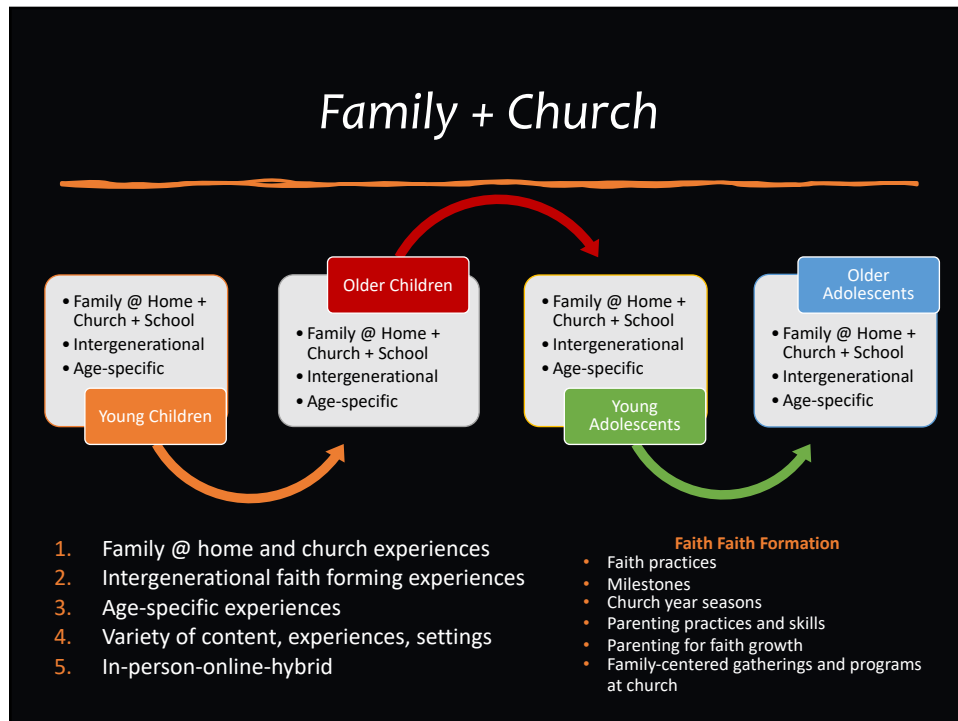
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## Family

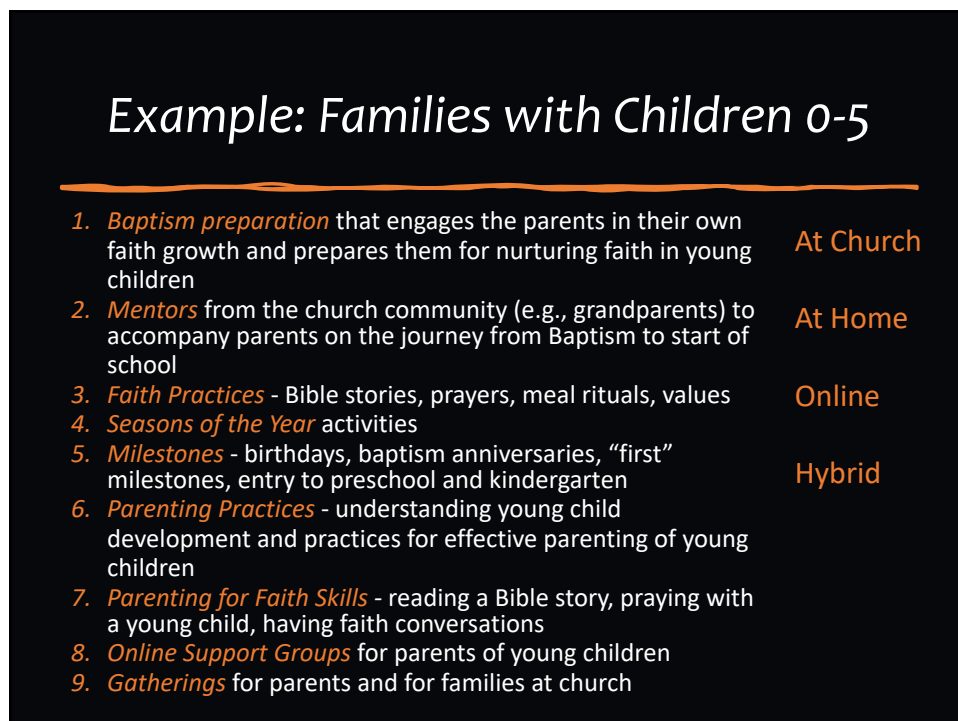
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- ❖ How can you **Encourage** parents to grow in faith and become faith formers?
- ❖ How can you **Equip** parents to incorporate faith practices into family life at home?
- ❖ How can you **Engage** parents in education and formation, as well as the whole family in faith forming experiences and programs?

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## Family

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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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## #1. Faith Practices for Each Life Stage

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1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation

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## Faith Practices of the Month

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### Themes

- Prayer
- Reading the Bible
- Christian Practices
- Service, Care for Creation, Social Justice
- Church Year Feasts & Seasons
- Moral Values
- Etc.

### Design

1. Teach: Key Content (video, live stream, small group or large group program)
2. Demonstrate: “How to” do this: personal, family
3. Resources: playlist of faith forming activities on the theme

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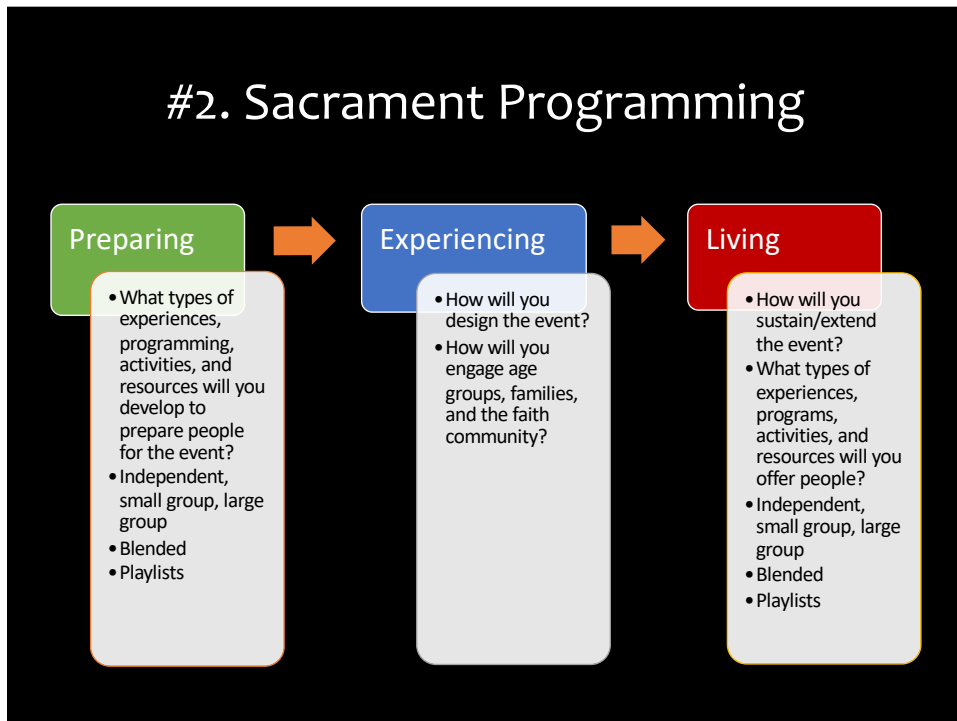
## 30-Day Family Experiments

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1. Focus on a practice.
2. Curate (mobile) resources to explain and demonstrate the practice (video, print, how-to recipe).
3. Publish resources on a web page.
4. Have families find a time to do the practice each day and schedule their time.
5. Do the practice.
6. Remind people daily with text message.
7. Encourage people to share photos or videos on a Instagram # or in a Facebook Group.

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## #2. Sacrament Programming

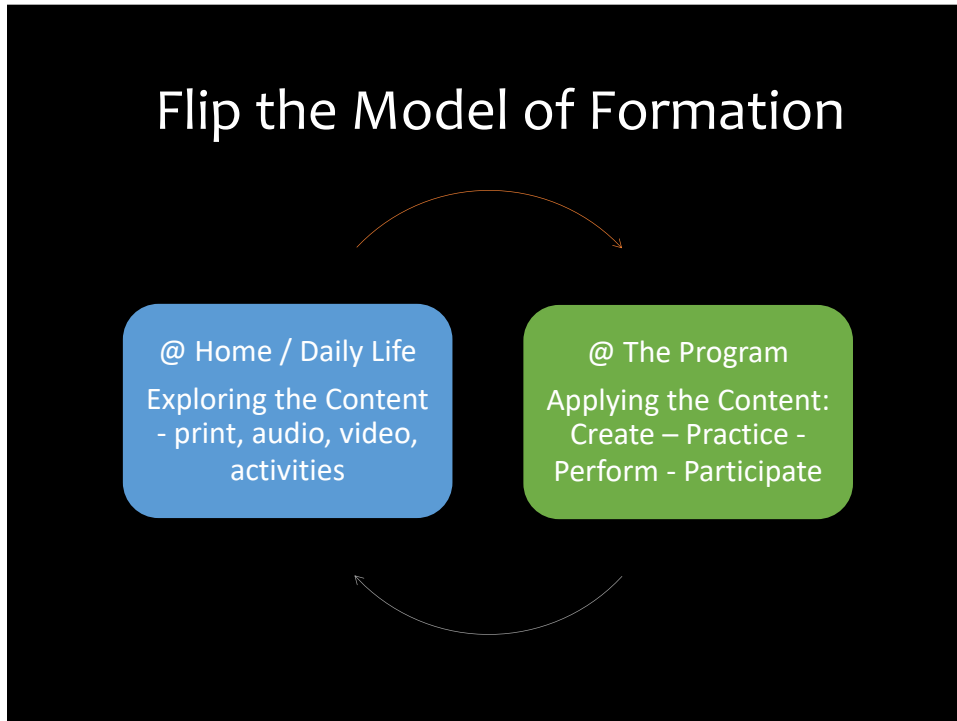


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## Baptism

Church	Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentors/Coaches</li> <li>• Parent preparation</li> <li>• Family gathering</li> <li>• Ritual</li> <li>• Intergenerational connection</li> <li>• Celebration of Baptism</li> <li>• Reunion</li> <li>• Baptismal anniversaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring conversations and storytelling</li> <li>• Celebrating rituals</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Praying</li> <li>• Reading the Bible</li> <li>• Serving</li> <li>• Worshipping together</li> </ul>

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## #3. Celebrate the Seasons

- Identify a monthly seasonal event (church year or calendar year) and developing a webpage for each season
- Organize a seasonal family festival / gathering (virtual or physical) to support the seasonal plan.

Jan:	ML King Jr. (justice and peace, serving)
Feb:	Valentine's Day (loving)
March:	Lent (praying, fasting, almsgiving)
April:	Earth Day (caring for creation)
May:	Mother's Day (honor parents, love, care)
June:	Father's Day (honor parents, love, care)
July:	Independence Day (freedom)
August:	Back to school (new beginnings)
Sept:	Fall Harvest (grateful, generosity)
Oct:	St. Francis (care for creation and animals)
Nov:	Thanksgiving (grateful, generous)
Dec:	Advent and Christmas

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## #4. Connect Sunday Mass to the Home

### Weekly Lectionary-Based Playlist on the Website

- ✓ family conversation questions
- ✓ weekly table ritual
- ✓ podcast or video of the sermon with a study guide for the parents,
- ✓ children's creative Bible activities
- ✓ storybooks
- ✓ videos presenting the Bible story
- ✓ daily prayer
- ✓ weekly family devotion

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**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.

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

**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.

**Mealtide 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.



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**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)



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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## #5. Parent Education & Formation

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Parent Lifecycle Workshops / Webinars / Online Resources

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Family Life / Parenting Skills Development Workshops / Webinars / Online Resources

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Add a Parent Component to Existing Programs (Embed)  
– VBS, Children and Youth Program, etc.

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Parent Mentors

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Support Groups (life cycle, kindred)

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Script a Plan for Parents at Each Stage of Life