

# REIMAGING FAITH FORMATION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Topic 5  
Missional  
Faith Formation



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## MISSIONAL FAITH FORMATION: OUTREACH

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. For example:

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

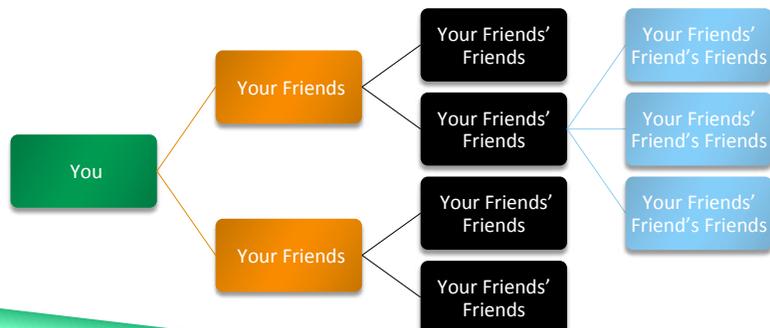
## STRATEGY IDEA: BEGIN WITH ASSETS

Start with who you have. . . .

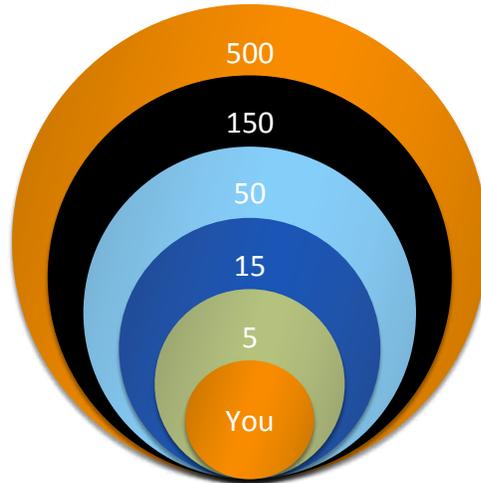
- ▶ Grandparents – faith formers of their grandchildren
- ▶ Mature adults (Boomers & Builders)
- ▶ Milestones celebrations
- ▶ Intergenerational experiences at church, e.g., Sunday worship add-ons
- ▶ Connecting with parents/grandparents through children's programs, e.g., add a component to VBS

## SOCIAL NETWORKS

Our social network is made up of all the people we're connected to, all the people they are connected to, all the people they are connected to, and so on.

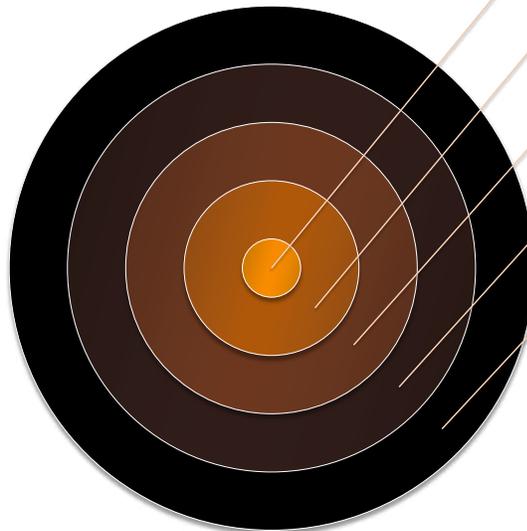


**Our social networks tend to have clear boundaries, from people we care a lot about (in the center) to people we loosely know (on the periphery).**



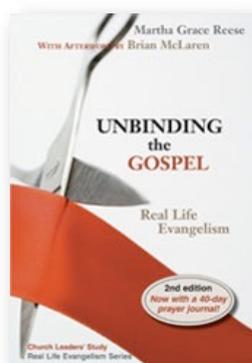
- 500 – Weak Ties (you know but don't feel close to)
- 150 – Stable Social Relationships (know each of these people and which of them know each other)
- 50 – Communicate Group (aware of what's going on in their lives)
- 12-15 – Sympathy Group
- 5 – Inner Circle (advice, emotional support, times of trouble)

**Most of our communication is with people closest to us – at the center of our social network**



- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least once every few months
- At least once a year
- Not guaranteed in any give year

## 1-1 COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

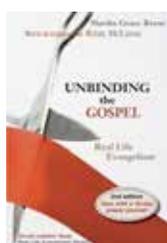


Step 1. Prepare church leaders

Step 2: 40-day preparation for community members (study, prayer, worship, small groups)

Step 3: Invitation to one person & four-week small group experience with “taste & see” church experiences

## 1-1 COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

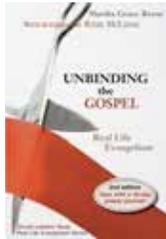


Step One. Church Leader’s Study: *Unbinding the Gospel*

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

## 1-1 COMMUNITY EVANGELISM



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.

## STRATEGY IDEA: EXPAND THE CAMPUS

Move AFF off-campus, out into people's lives

- ▶ Café, homes, community centers
- ▶ Faith formation on the go: online faith formation
- ▶ Life-centered, life-issues, life-transitions faith formation
- ▶ Community events with a spiritual theme: arts, concerts, film festivals, etc.



## THIRD PLACE SETTING

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).

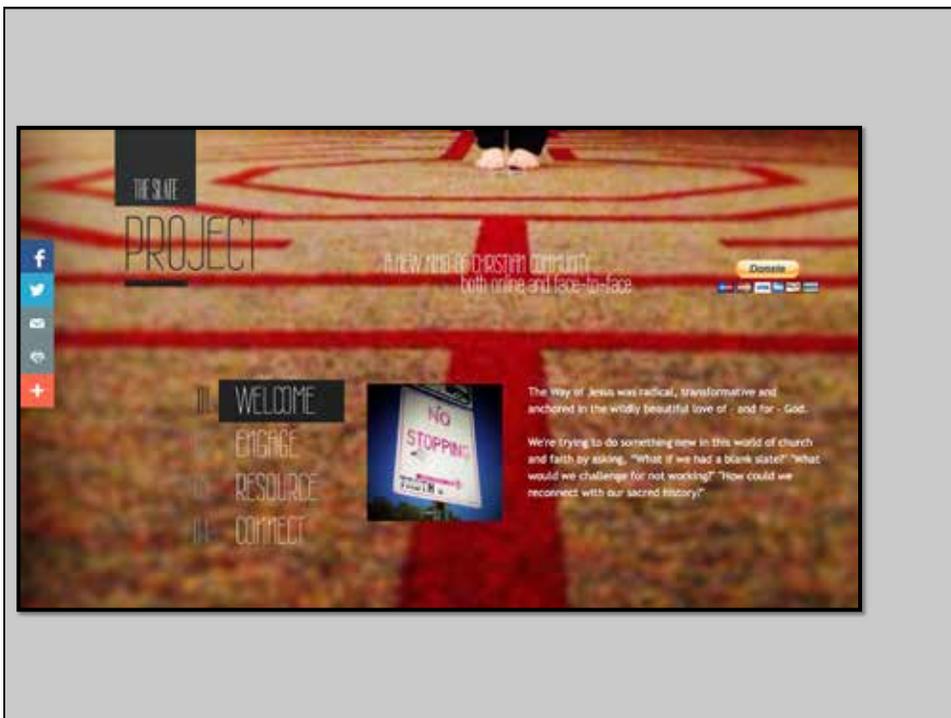




## CONGREGATIONS AS COMMUNITY CENTERS

Life in Deep Ellum is a cultural center built for the artistic, social, economic, and spiritual benefit of Deep Ellum and urban Dallas. Through its four pillars of *Art*, *Music*, *Commerce*, and *Community*, it strives to promote life and growth in our city through creative initiatives and strategic partnerships. Life in Deep Ellum is about a way of life, cultivating purpose, and guiding people into relationship with God.







## MISSIONAL FAITH FORMATION: PATHWAYS

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.

## MESSY CHURCH



- ▶ A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- ▶ Creative exploration of a Bible story/ theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- ▶ A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- ▶ A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others

# Alpha is for Everyone

who wants to explore life's big questions

Alpha is running in unique settings across the globe.

  
Churches

  
Bars

  
Coffee Shops

  
Homes

## 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?

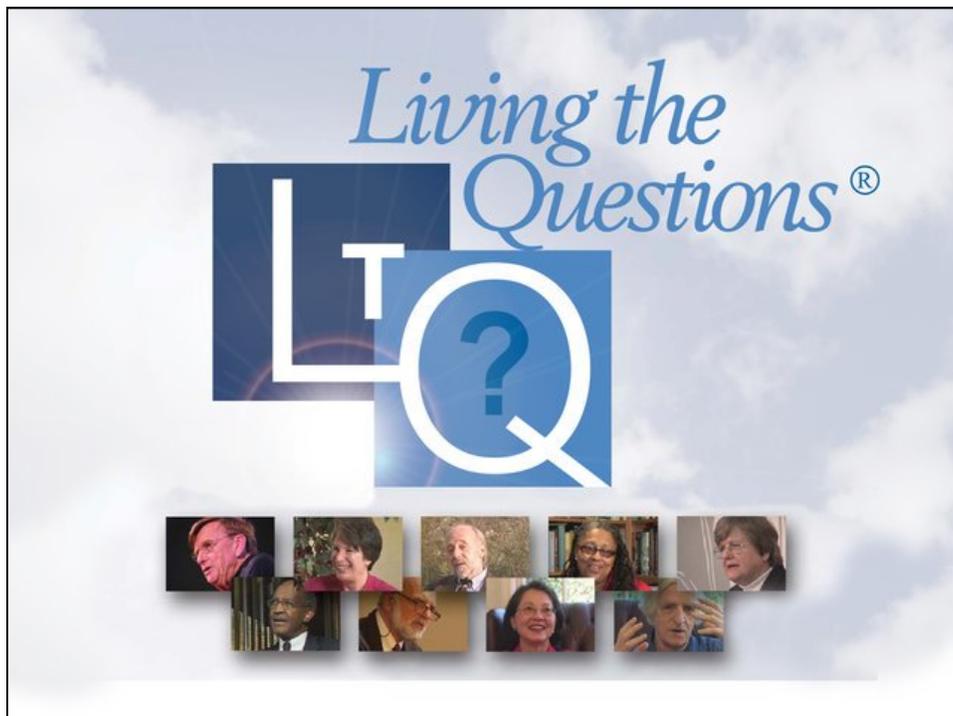
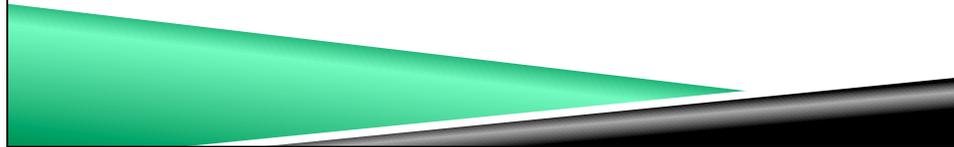
Week 7: How can I resist evil?

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?



## 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

## INTRO TO CHRISTIANITY - ONLINE

