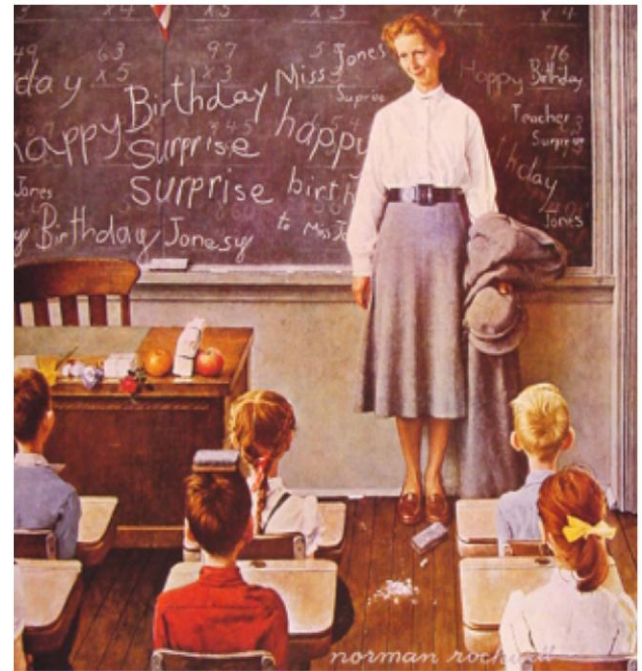




# THE NEW LANDSCAPE FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FAITH FORMATION

VISION & PRACTICE OF 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FAITH FORMATION

A long time ago in a  
galaxy far, far away...







1 **NEW**  
DEFINITION  
IS ADDED ON  
urban

1,600+  
**READS ON**  
Scribd.

13,000+ HOURS  
**MUSIC**  
STREAMING ON  
PANDORA

12,000+  
**NEW ADS**  
POSTED ON  
craigslist

370,000+ MINUTES  
VOICE CALLS ON

98,000+  
**TWEETS**

skype™

320+  
**NEW**  
twitter  
ACCOUNTS

100+  
**NEW**  
Linked in  
ACCOUNTS

1 associatedcontent  
**NEW**  
ARTICLE IS  
PUBLISHED

6,600+  
**NEW**  
PICTURES ARE  
UPLOADED ON  
flickr™

50+  
**WORDPRESS**  
DOWNLOADS

695,000+  
**facebook.**  
STATUS  
UPDATES

125+  
**PLUGIN**  
DOWNLOADS

79,364  
**WALL**  
POSTS

510,040  
**COMMENTS**

Google

Google Search

168 MILLION  
**EMAILS**  
ARE SENT

694,445  
**SEARCH**  
QUERIES

60+  
**NEW**  
BLOGS

1,500+  
**BLOG**  
POSTS

70+  
**DOMAINS**  
REGISTERED

600+  
**NEW**  
VIDEOS



100+

40+

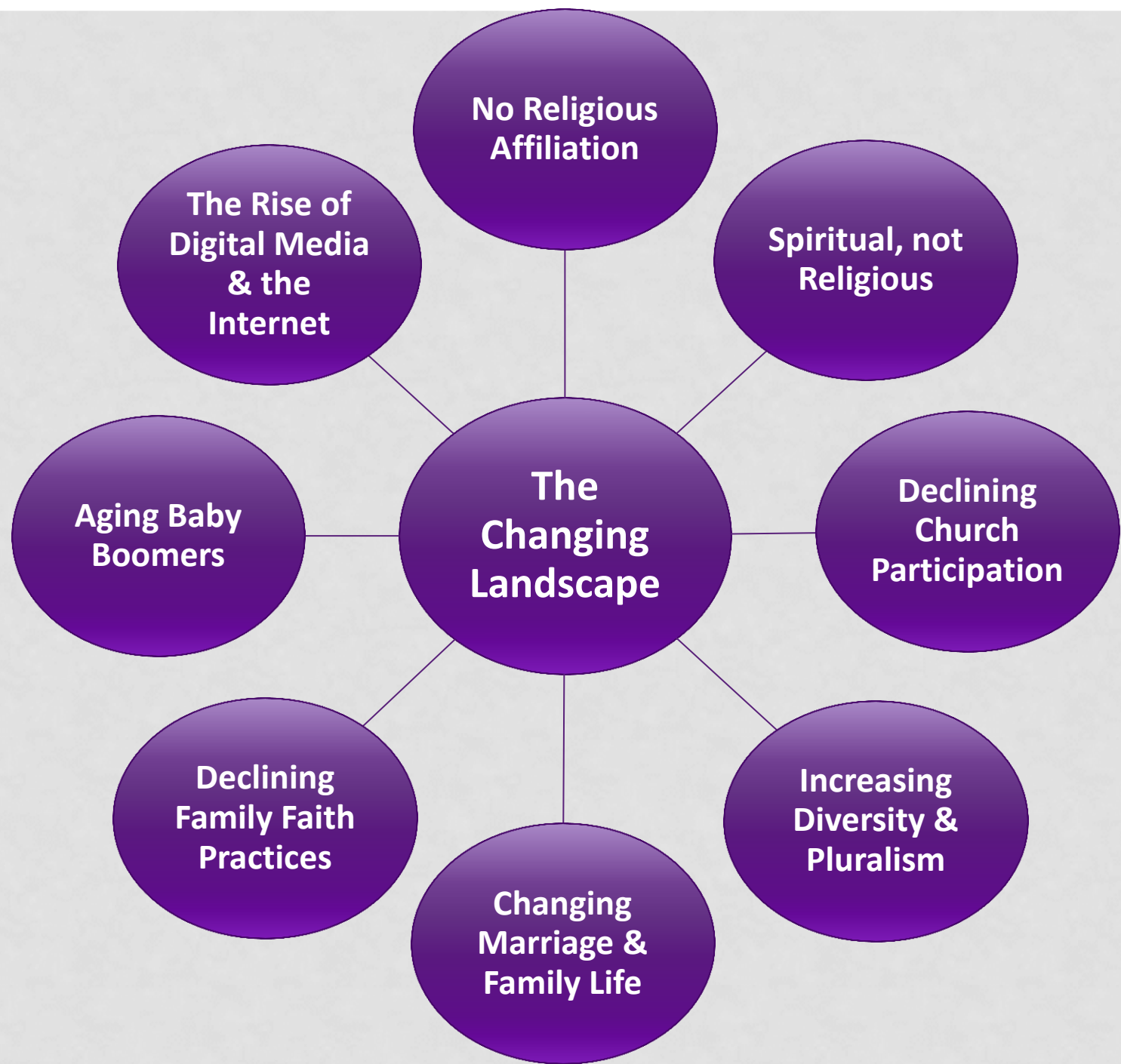
Answers.com

YAHOO! ANSWERS

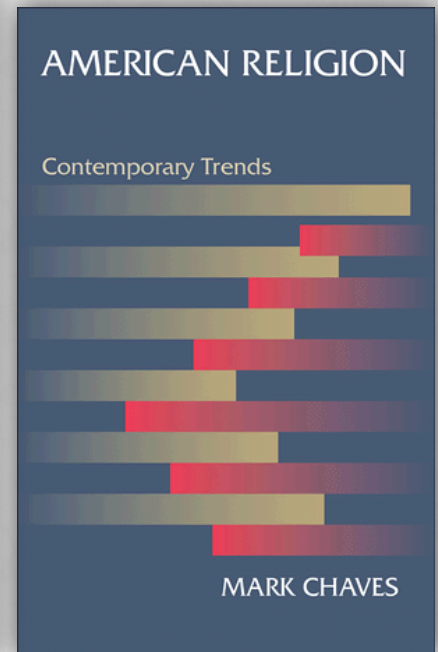
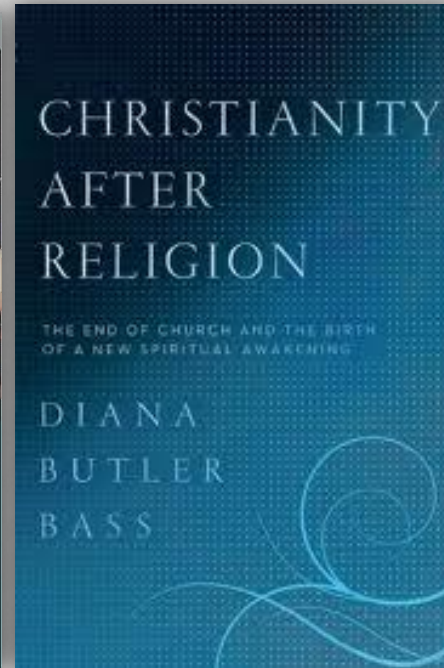
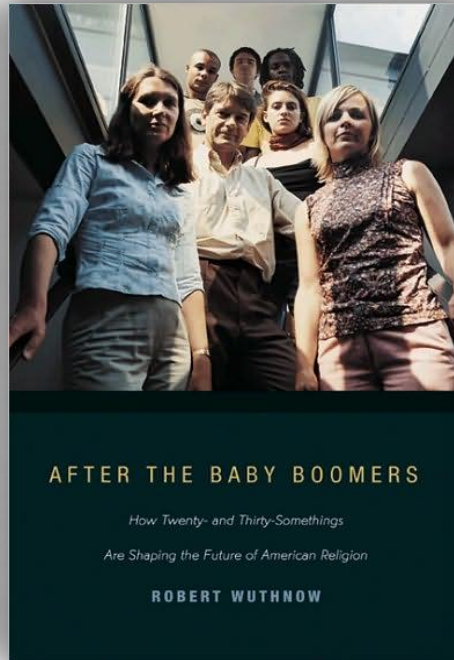
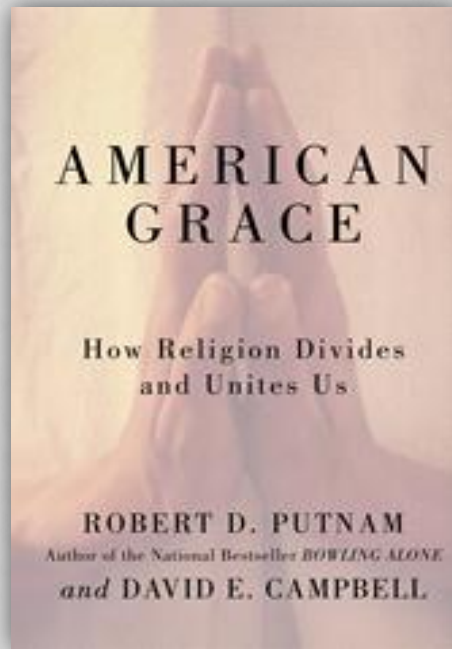
**QUESTIONS**  
ASKED ON THE  
INTERNET...

25+ HOURS  
**TOTAL**  
DURATION





# KEY STUDIES



[www.PewResearch.org](http://www.PewResearch.org)  
[www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org](http://www.FaithCommunitiesToday.org)



# *DEVELOPMENTAL & GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY*

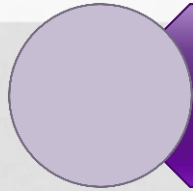
## **Developmental**

- ⦿ Children
- ⦿ Adolescents
- ⦿ Emerging Adults
- ⦿ Young Adults
- ⦿ Mid-Life Adults
- ⦿ Mature Adults
- ⦿ Older Adults

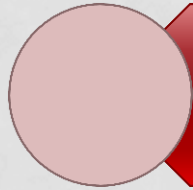
## **Generational**

1. iGeneration
2. Millennials
3. Generation X
4. Baby Boomers
5. Builders

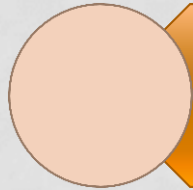
## *5-GENERATION DIVERSITY*



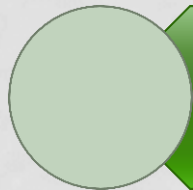
iGeneration (2000 - )



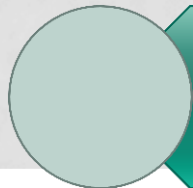
Millennials (1980-99)



Generation X (1961-79)



Baby Boomers (1946-60)



Builders (pre 1946)



# *CHANGES IN GENERATIONS- SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES*

1. Increasing number of “Nones” – no religious affiliation
2. Increasing number of “Spiritual but not Religious”
3. Declining participation in Sunday worship and sacraments (marriage, baptism)
4. Declining levels of family faith practice & socialization

# ***NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION***

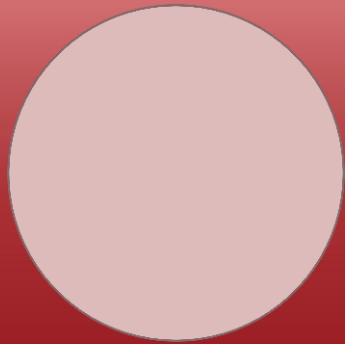
- 15% of all Americans claim no religious affiliation (2008; today: 19%)
- 25% of all 18-29 years
- In 1951 only 1% had no religious affiliation
- 10% drop in the number of Christians
- *The challenge to Christianity in the U.S. does not come from other religions but from a rejection of all forms of organized religion.*



# *SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS*

- Today, 18% of 18-39 year olds say that are “spiritual, but not religious” compared to only 11% a decade ago.
- In terms of stewardship, for every 1 Builder who passes away, it now takes 20 Millennials to replace them.

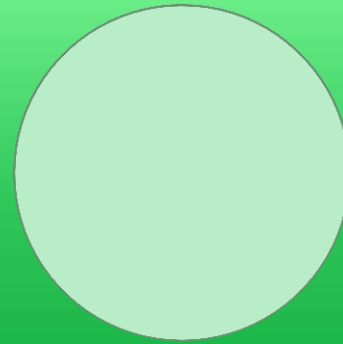
# *DIVERSITY IN FAITH PRACTICE & RELIGIOSITY*



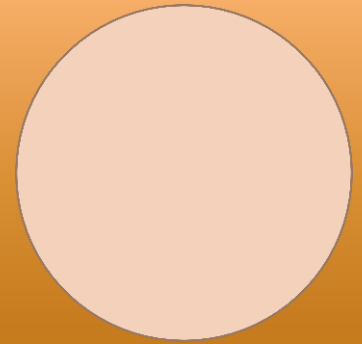
**Not  
Religiously  
Affiliated**



**Spiritual but  
Not Religious**



**Minimal  
Engagement  
with Faith  
and  
Community**



**Vibrant Faith  
& Active  
Engagement**



# *YOUTH & EMERGING ADULT RELIGIOSITY*

## Youth (teens)

Atheists	Avoiders	Assenters	Adapters	Abiders
5%	24%	31%	20%	20%

## Emerging Adults (20s)

Atheists	Avoiders	Assenters	Adapters	Abiders
25%	25%	20%	15%	15%

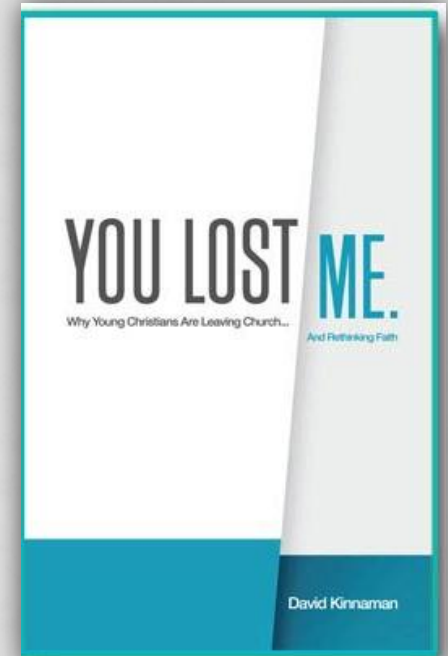
# *YOUTH & EMERGING ADULT RELIGIOSITY*

- **Abiders**: highest levels of religiosity and practice: believe in God, pray regularly, engage in personal religious practice, attend services, serve others, think about the meaning of life; most likely to say their religion is the only true faith
- **Adapters**: high levels of personal religiosity + accepting of other people's faiths + attend religious services more sporadically
- **Assenters**: believe in God and feel somewhat close to God, but they are minimally engaged with their faith and practice only occasionally. Religion is tangential to other aspects of their lives.
- **Avoiders**: believe in God but have low levels of religious practice; God is distant, impersonal; and often don't name a religious affiliation.
- **Atheists**: don't believe in God and don't attend services.



# *YOU LOST ME: KEY FINDINGS*

1. Churches seem overprotective.
2. Teens' and twentysomethings' experience of Christianity is shallow.
3. Churches come across as antagonistic to science.
4. Young Christians church experiences related to sexuality are often simplistic, judgmental.
5. They wrestle with the exclusive nature of Christianity.
6. The church feels unfriendly to those who doubt.



# *DECLINING RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION*

- Declining worship attendance
- Declining participation in celebration of sacraments & rites of passage

**Example:** The number of marriages celebrated in the Catholic Church has fallen from 415,487 in 1972 to 168,400 in 2010 — a decrease of nearly 60% — while the Catholic population has increased by almost 17 million. To put this another way, this is a shift from 8.6 marriages per 1,000 U.S. Catholics in 1972 to 2.6 marriages per 1,000 Catholics in 2010. (CARA, 2011)

**We are blessed at St. Paul's; increased religious participation; we need to realize that is increasingly rare among churches!**

# *CHANGING FAMILIES*

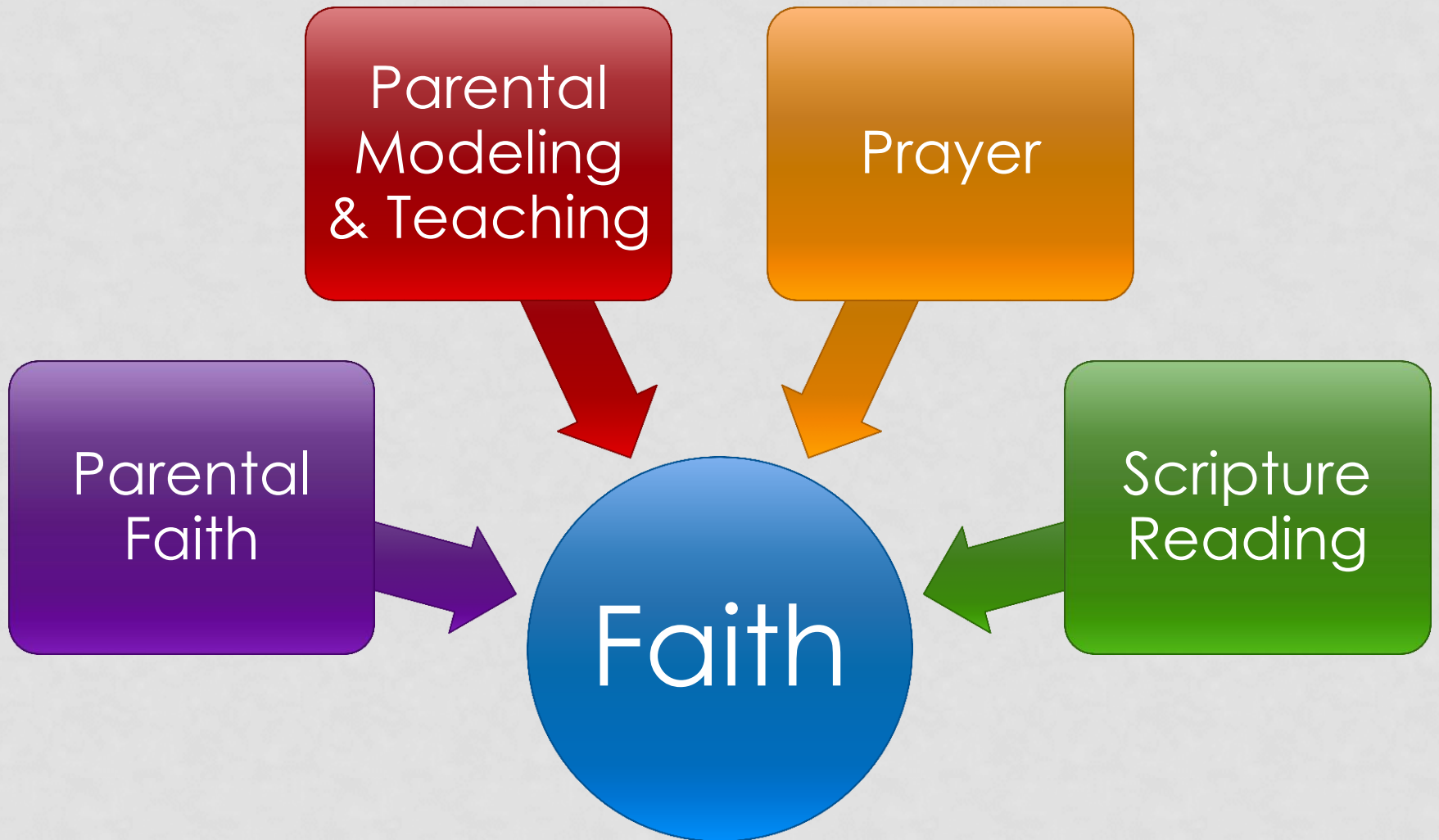
- ◉ Changing family patterns and structures
  - Growing diversity in family structures
  - Increasing number of unmarried couples living together
  - Delaying marriage: marrying later and having children later in life
  - Not marrying and having children
  - Decreasing number of children in two-parent households
  
- ◉ Declining levels of family faith practice & socialization

# *FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION IS DECREASING*

- ***Parental Influence***: The single most important social influence on the religious and spiritual lives of children and adolescents is their parents.
- ***Embedded Family Religious Practices***: Effective religious socialization comes about through specific religious activities that are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family life



# *FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION*

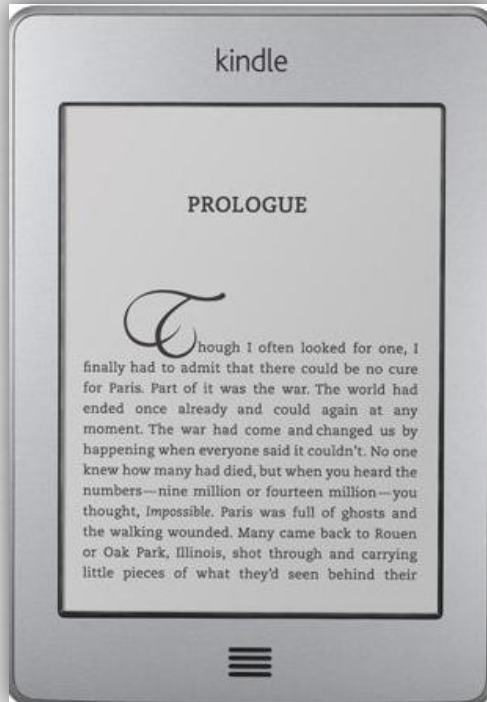


# ***FAMILY RELIGIOUS SOCIALIZATION***

*Children and teenagers with seriously religious parents are more likely than those without such parents to have been trained in their lives to think, feel, believe, and act as serious religious believers, and that training “sticks” with them even when they leave home and enter emerging adulthood.*

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

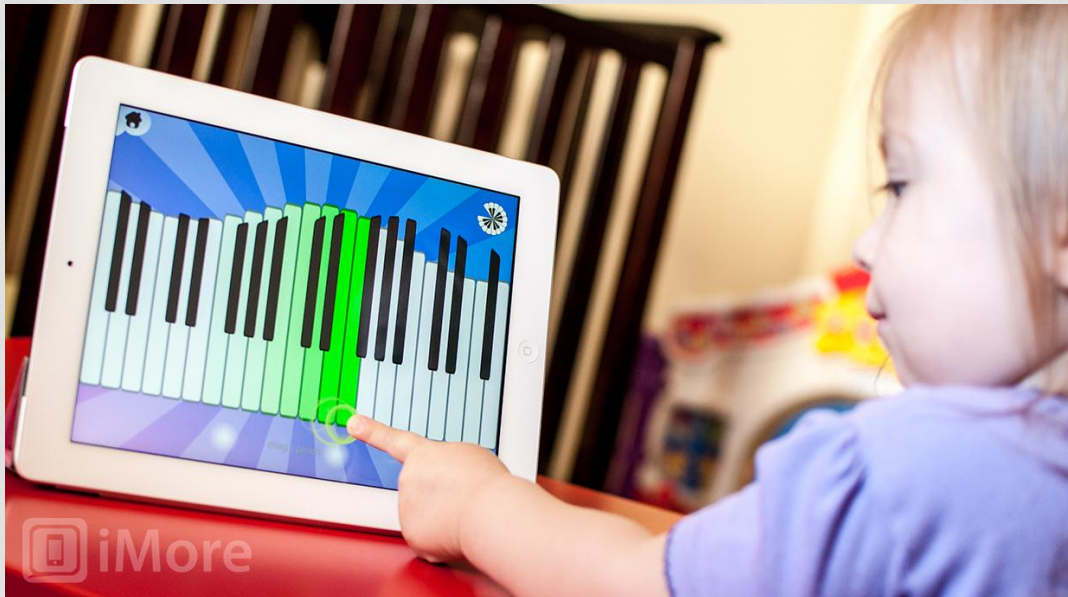
# CHANGING TECHNOLOGY



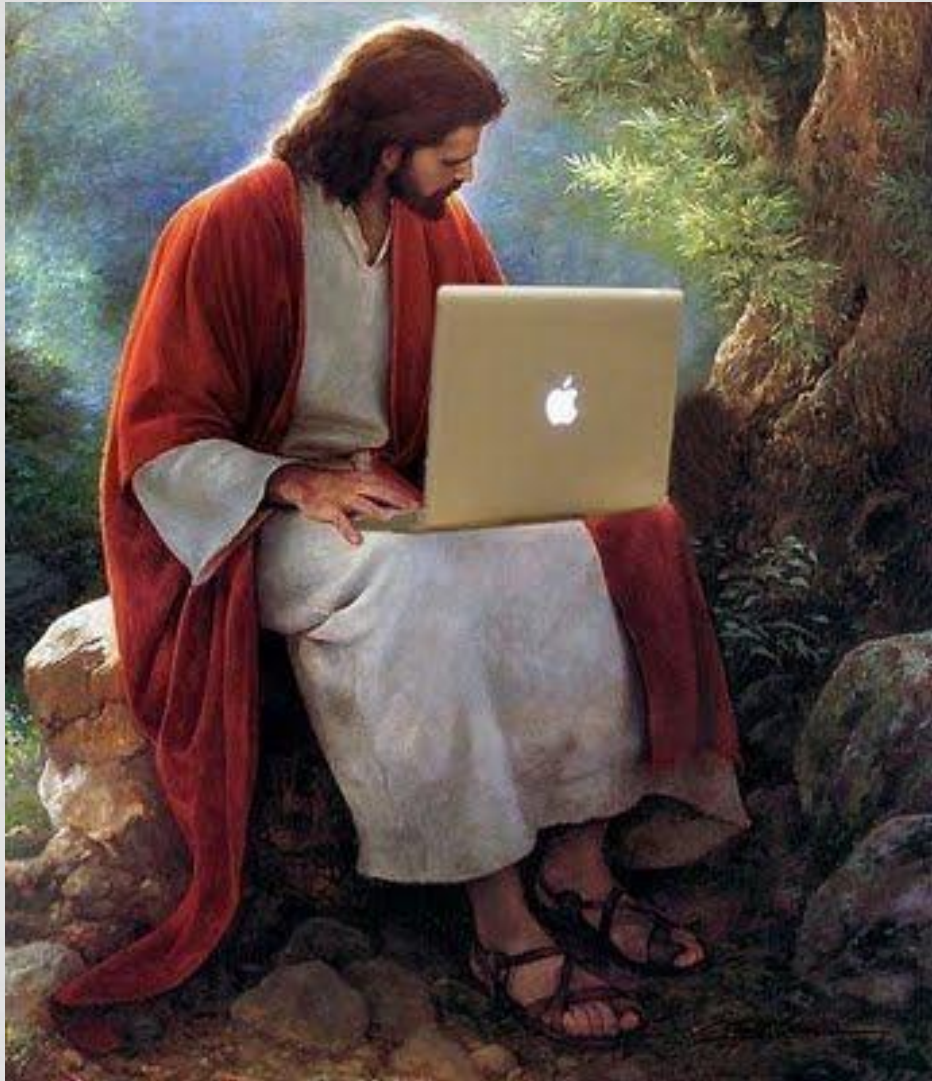




This is  
not the  
future,  
this is  
now.









NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT TWITTER.  
I LITERALLY WANT YOU TO FOLLOW ME.

--JESUS



Instead of  
having  
technology  
use us;  
we need  
to use  
technology!



# CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

Google™



facebook



You Tube

twitter



flickr

Linked in



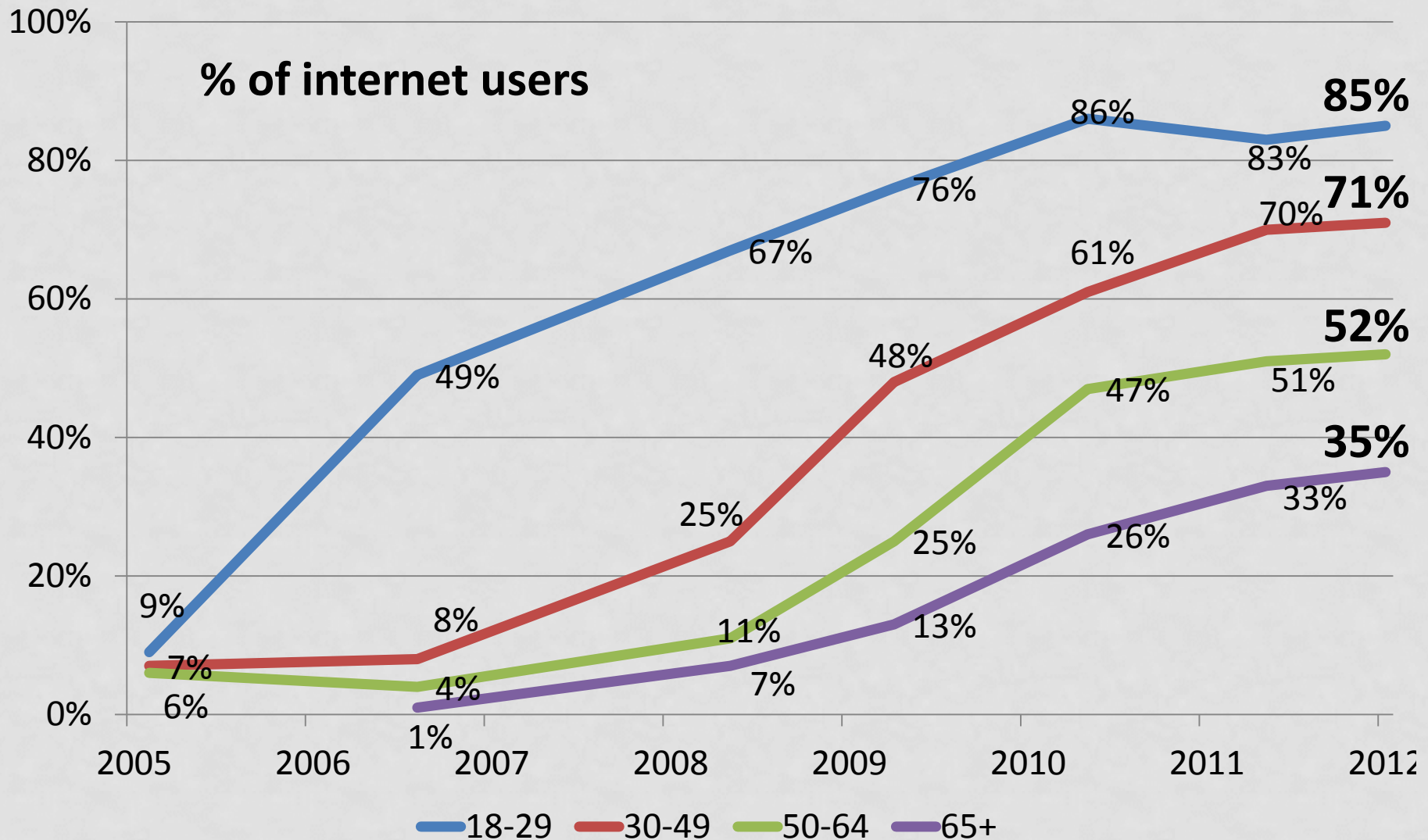
## *NEW RESOURCES*

Video Programs  
Online Resource Centers

Websites Social Networks

Apps Digital Books  
Blogs Online Courses

# INCREASE IN SOCIAL NETWORKING – 52% OF ADULTS



## INCREASE IN TABLETS

**67 million iPads sold since 2010 when it was introduced.**



**Prediction: 665 million tablets by 2016**

**2012: 120 million tablets – a 100% increase over 2011.**

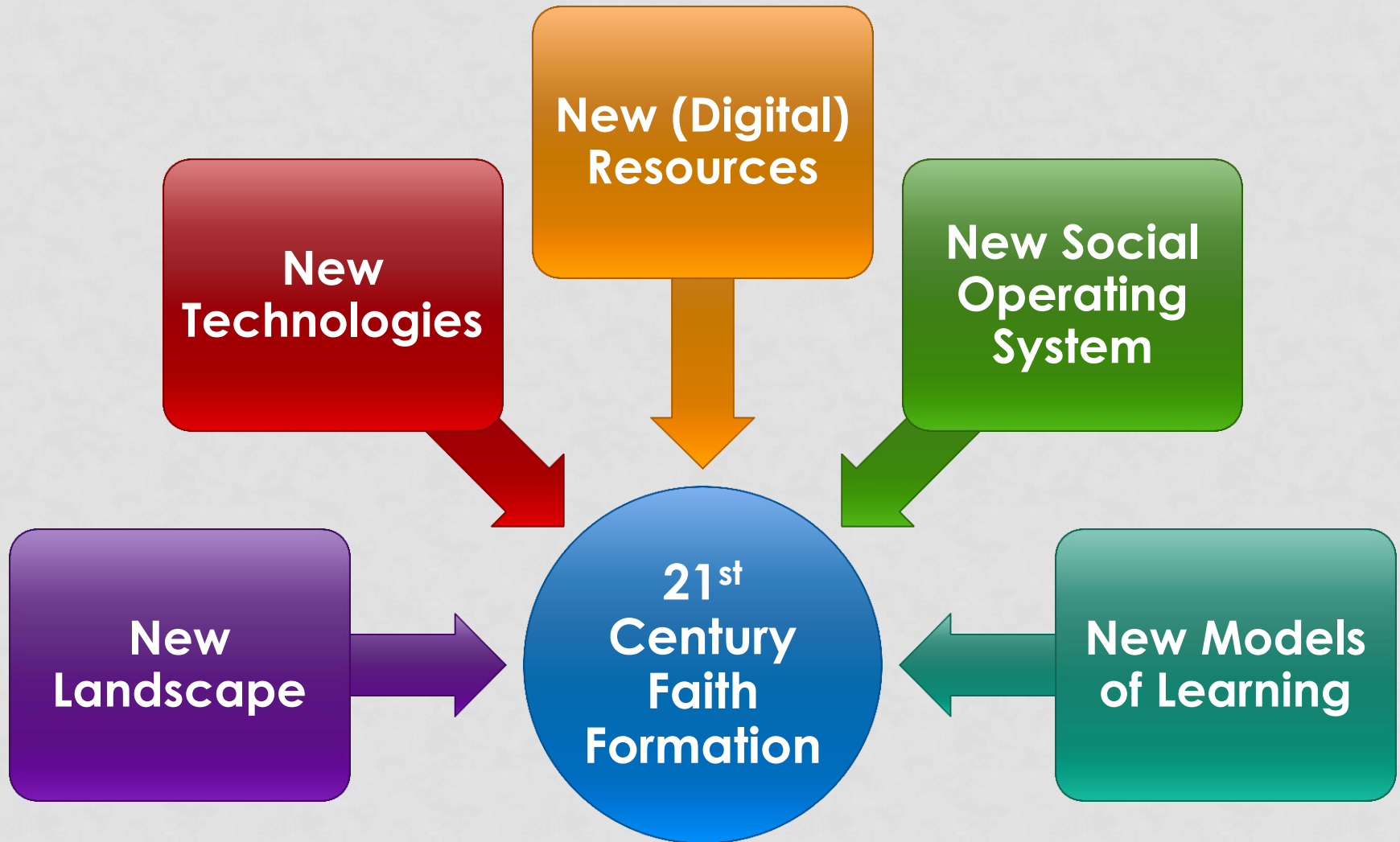
# What Happens in an Internet Minute?



## And Future Growth is Staggering



# *CONVERGENCE*





# *THE VISION OF FAITH FORMATION STAYS THE SAME: ANCIENT & FUTURE*

Churches want faith formation that helps people. . .

- grow in their relationship with God throughout their lives
- live as disciples of Jesus Christ at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world
- develop an understanding of the Bible and their faith tradition
- deepen their spiritual life and practices
- engage in service and mission
- relate the Christian faith to life today
- participate in the life and ministries of the faith community

# HOW DOES THE CHURCH KEEP ALIVE THE VISION?

- ⊙ **The challenge of Adaptive Change** requires experiments, new discoveries, and adjustments from numerous places in the organization.
- ⊙ Without learning new ways—changing attitudes, values, and deep-seated behaviors—people cannot make the adaptive leap necessary to thrive in the new environment. *Adaptive challenges* call for changes of heart and mind—the transformation of long-standing habits and deeply held assumptions and values.

Leadership is “*the activity of mobilizing people to tackle the toughest problems and do the adaptive work necessary to achieve progress.*”  
(Ronald Heifetz and Martin Linsky)

# *THE CHALLENGE OF ADAPTIVE CHANGE*

*“The significant problems we face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”*

Albert Einstein

There is **HOPE!** Hope in the future of faith formation. Hope in the next generation. Hope in churches that are resilient and adaptive in the face of great challenges and opportunities. Hope and trust in God who will do marvelous and wondrous things in our churches and world through us.

The first steps have been taken:

Faith formation leaders from a diversity of Christian traditions explored, discussed and created Faith Formation 2020. (including Faculty members from Episcopal seminaries and Church Publishing)

[www.faithformation2020.net](http://www.faithformation2020.net)  
[www.lifelongfaith.com](http://www.lifelongfaith.com)







# 4 SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE OF FAITH FORMATION



## Faith Formation 2020 Scenarios

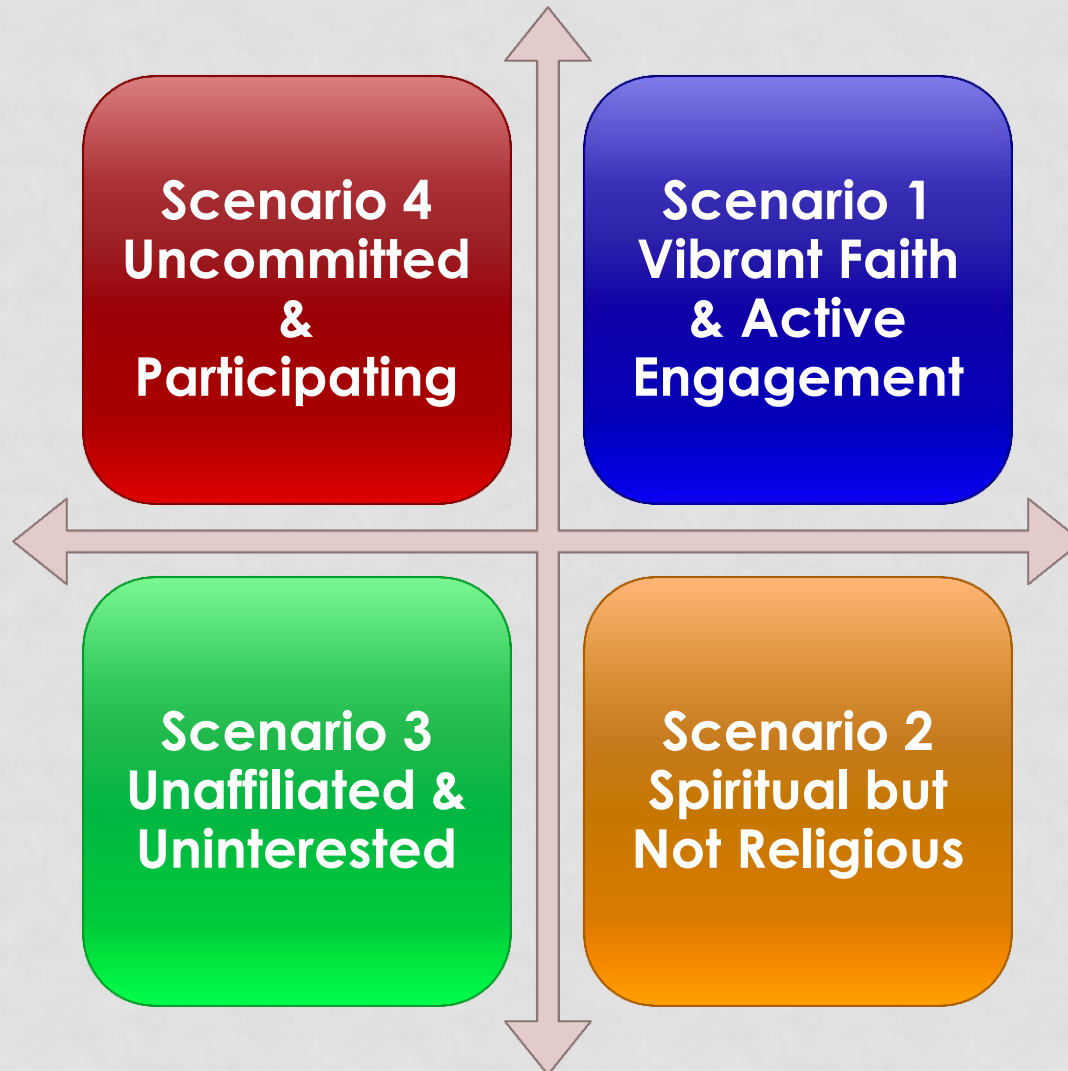
### RELATIONSHIP WITH ORGANIZED RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY

#### RECEPTIVE TO ORGANIZED RELIGION





# *4 SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE*





## *SCENARIO #1*

### *VIBRANT FAITH & ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT*

A world in which people of all ages and generations are actively engaged in a Christian church, are spiritually committed, and growing in their faith. People have found their spiritual home within an established Christian tradition and a local faith community that provides ways for all ages and generations to grow in faith, worship God, and live their faith in the world.

In most congregations the overwhelming majority of resources, energy, and leadership are directed toward faith formation with people in Scenario #1. The future of faith formation in Scenario #1 is being significantly impacted by trends, e.g., people in their 20s & 30s leaving established Christian churches, and the decline in family religious socialization and practice at home.

**Challenge:** provide lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, at home and at church, that develops vibrant faith, is continuous throughout life, and engages all people in the life and mission of the church community.





## *SCENARIO #4*

### *UNCOMMITTED AND PARTICIPATING*

A world in which people attend church activities, but are not actively engaged in their church community or spiritually committed. They may participate in significant seasonal celebrations and celebrate sacraments and milestone events (marriage, baptism). Some may even send their children to religious education classes. Their spiritual commitment is low and their connection to the church is more social and utilitarian than spiritual.

While receptive to an established church, their occasional engagement in church life does not lead them toward spiritual commitment.

**Challenge:** Provide faith formation that recognizes that belonging (engagement) leads to believing (spiritual commitment) and a more vibrant faith, and develop approaches for increasing people's engagement with the church community and the Christian tradition. Craft faith formation around their spiritual and religious needs, and their relationship with the faith community.



## *SCENARIO #2*

### *SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS*

A world in which people are spiritually hungry and searching for God and the spiritual life, but most likely are not affiliated with organized religion and an established Christian tradition. Some may join a nondenominational Christian church focused on their spiritual needs, while others may find an outlet for their spiritual hunger in small communities of like-minded spiritual seekers, in local or global acts of service, or in online spiritual resources and communities.

The Spiritual but Not Religious reflect a growing minority of the American population, especially among the eighteen-to thirty-nine-year-olds.

**Challenge:** Engage people where they live (physical and virtual communities), build relationships, engage in spiritual conversations, and offer programs and activities that nurture their spiritual growth.



## *SCENARIO #3*

# *UNAFFILIATED AND UNINTERESTED*

A world in which people experience little need for God and the spiritual life and are not affiliated with organized religion and established Christian churches. The Unaffiliated and Uninterested reject all forms of organized religion and reflect an increasing percentage of the American population, especially among 18-29 year-olds.

**Challenge:** Expanding the vision of faith formation to embrace the life worlds—and spiritual needs—of people in Scenario #2 and #3 who see little need for church, and the need for God and the spiritual life. Developing strategies and approaches for moving faith formation from the church campus into the world—to “plant” faith formation in the midst of their cultures and worlds, build relationships, and be witnesses to the Christian faith in the world today.

# *TARGETED FAITH FORMATION*

Scenario #4

Scenario #1

Scenario #3

Scenario #2



### Scenario #4

- + Marriage & FF
- + Baptism & FF
- + Family faith formation in the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of life
- + Milestones faith formation
- + Pathways to deepen faith & engagement

### Scenario #1

- + Millennial Generation
- + Marriage & FF
- + Baptism & FF
- + Baby Boomers FF
- + Empowering people to share their faith

### Scenario #3

- + Third Place settings
- + Family life center
- + Events (movie nights, concerts, festivals)
- + Community-based ministry (service, recovery ministry)

### Scenario #2

- + Third Place settings
- + Targeting 20s-30s
- + Service: local - global
- + Spiritual formation
- + Pathways to deepen faith & engagement

# ***Faith Formation in the Age of Networks***



# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORKS*

Religious networks provide a rich set of connections each of us can make to people in both our online and offline worlds who can help us with our spiritual development and faith growth pursuits. Today we can turn to people, organizations, and resources anywhere in the world to help us answer questions, connect to relevant content and resources, or just share their own experiences with us.



# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORKS*

*Instead of being the center of faith formation experiences, programs, classes, and books now become nodes on a much broader faith formation network that is lifelong and lifewide.*

*The shift to networks will be transformative in how we imagine and organize faith formation for all ages and generations.*



# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK*

**We are moving from. . .**  
**One Size Fits All Curriculum & Programming**  
**to**

**A Network of Personalized & Customized  
Faith Formation Activities & Resources**  
*focusing on addressing people's spiritual and  
religious diversity by offering a wide variety of  
religious content and experiences*

***Providing Differentiated Faith Formation***

# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK*

We now have the resources and technologies to:

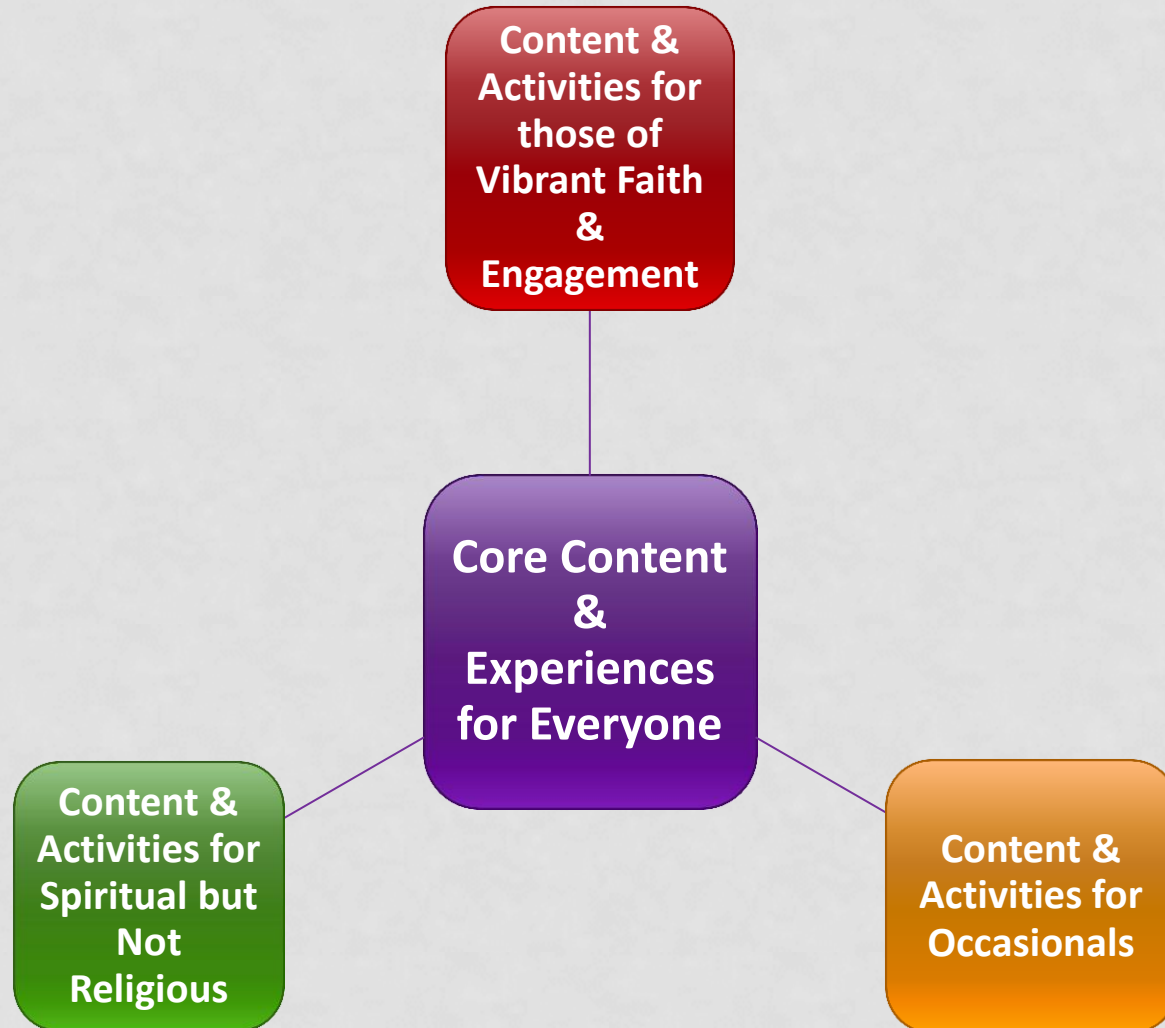
- **Expand** faith formation to address the diversity of people today – life tasks and issues, religious and spiritual needs
- **Deliver** religious content and experiences to people wherever they are, 24 x 7 x 365
- **Engage** people in a wide variety of experiences tailored to their needs, interests, spiritual journey, and busy lives
- **Connect** people to each other – in physical places and virtual spaces

# FAITH FORMATION NETWORK AT ST. PAUL'S

## Examples:

- Working with individual families who can't attend weekly; two households, work schedules, activities=provide in home resources
- Skyping with other faith communities- Tweens in Texas and Confirmation students in Twin Cities
- [www.stpaulsfaithformation.org](http://www.stpaulsfaithformation.org) – 24/7/365 faith resource center

# ***NETWORK FOR DIFFERENTIATING FAITH FORMATION***

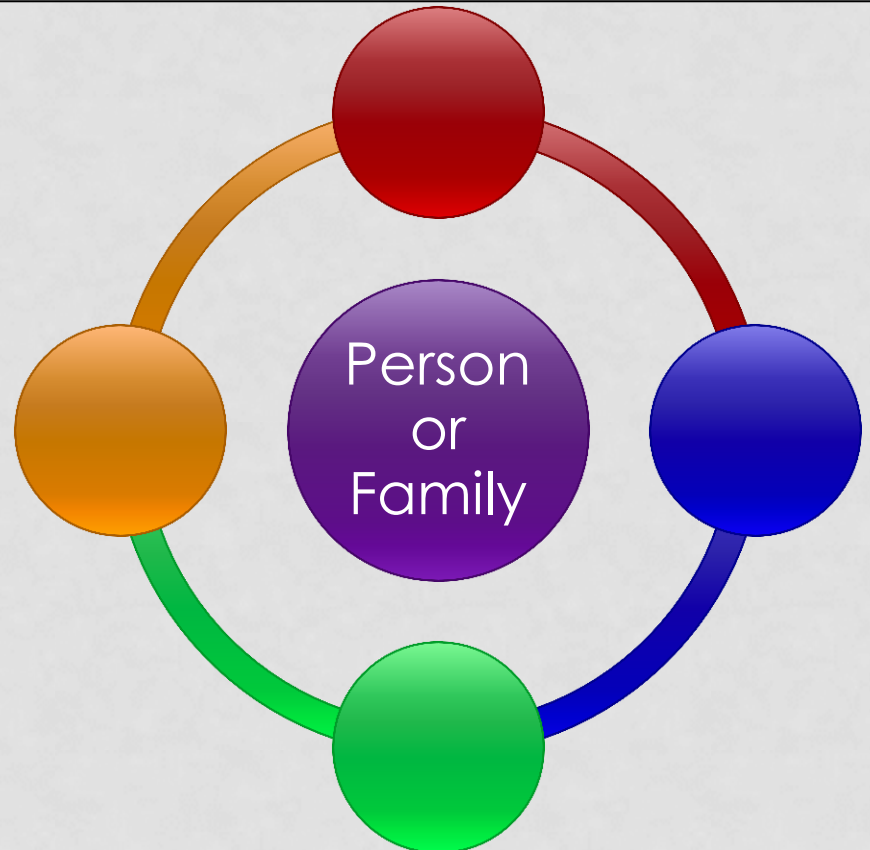




# ***FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: 6 PRINCIPLES***

1. Address the diverse spiritual and religious needs with a variety of content, programs, activities, and resources.

Fashion Faith Formation  
around the People



# *FASHIONING FAITH FORMATION AROUND THE PEOPLE*

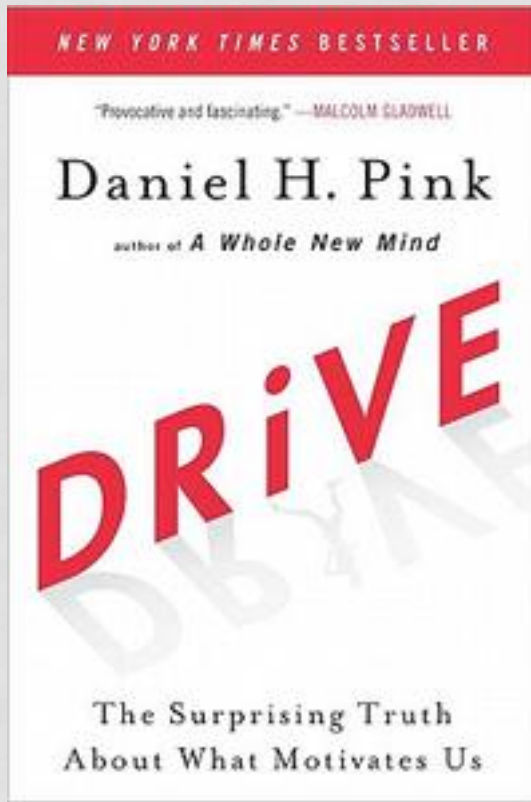
- Children & Families
- Teens & Families
- Emerging Adults: 20s
- Young Adults: 30s-40s
- Mid-Life Adults: 40s-50s
- Mature Adults: 60s-70s  
(Baby Boomers)
- Older Adults: 80+

1. Life Tasks
2. Life Issues
3. Milestones and Life Transitions
4. Spiritual & Religious Needs
5. Ethnic-Cultural Needs

# ***FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES***

2. Recognize that learning is a process of active inquiry with the initiative residing within the individual.

# MOTIVATION 3.0



## Motivation 3.0 (Daniel Pink)

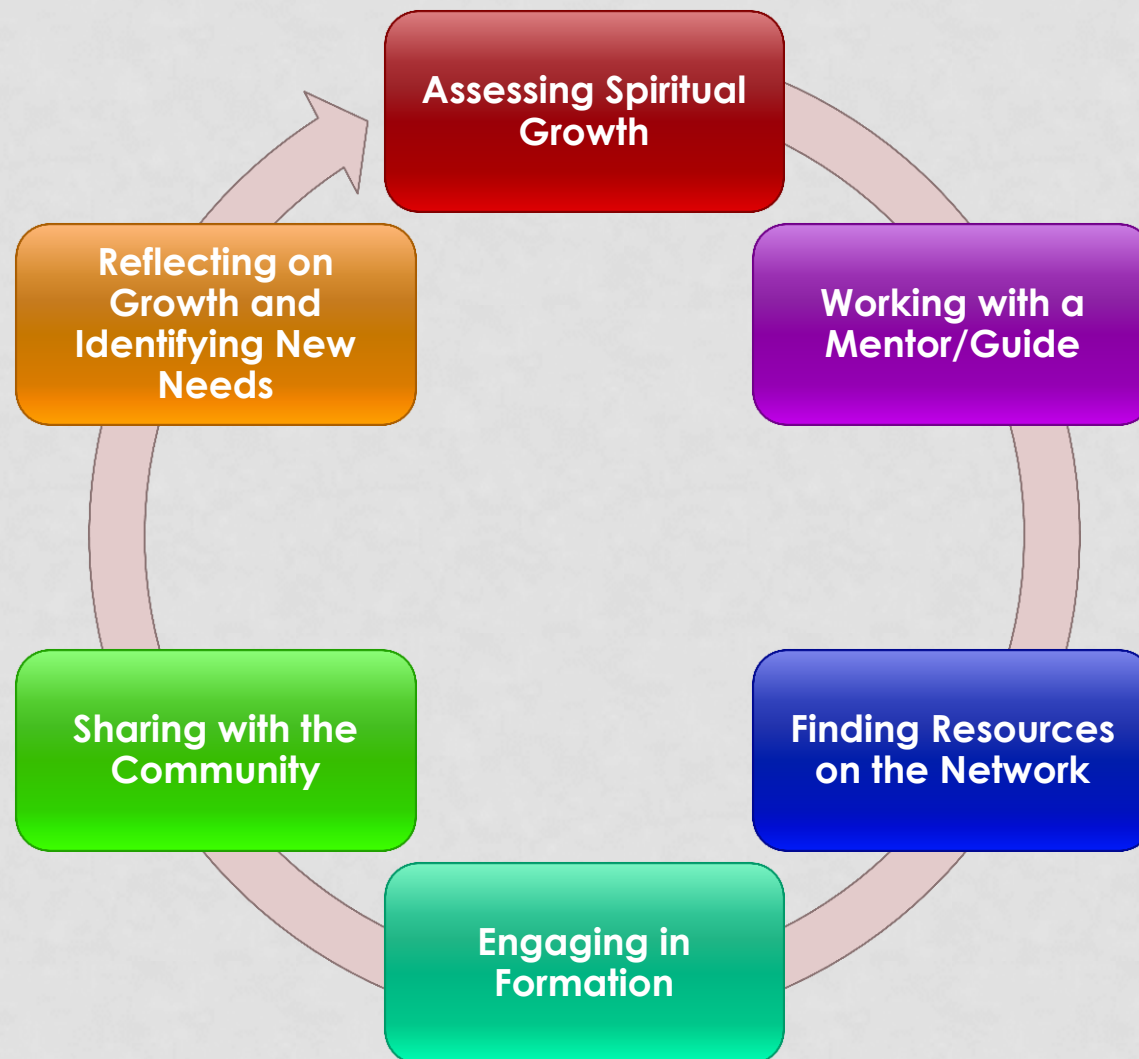
- *Autonomy*: desire to direct our own lives
- *Mastery*: urge to get better and better at something that matters
- *Purpose*: the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves



# ***FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES***

3. Guide individuals and families in discerning their spiritual and religious needs and creating personal plans for faith growth and learning.

# *A PERSONALIZED PROCESS*



## spiritual assessment

### knowing God

1. I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend.
2. I have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding.
3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them.
4. I understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.
5. I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.

DOES NOT APPLY			APPLIES SOMEWHAT			APPLIES COMPLETELY		
0	1	2	3	4	5			
0	1	2	3	4	5			
0	1	2	3	4	5			
0	1	2	3	4	5			
0	1	2	3	4	5			

### loving God

1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life.
2. I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.
3. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines in my life.
4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.

0	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

### serving God

1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others.
2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.
3. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.
4. I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ.
5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.

0	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.

**Knowing:** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Head \_\_\_\_\_  
**Loving:** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Heart \_\_\_\_\_  
**Serving:** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hands \_\_\_\_\_

■ No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the inside of this folder to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels:  
 0-2 Level 1      3-4 Level 2      5 Level 3

### Knowing God

We can never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God!). But the mysteries and questions are not obstacles to growth – they are an invitation to continually journey deeper in our understanding of God and the Kingdom to which he invites us. As we increase our understanding of the God we worship and serve, which is what the word "theology" means, we increase our capacity to live the life God designed us to live. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the knowing designation will lead you to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom.

### Loving God

What we think and what we do are expressions of who we are. Trying hard to change ourselves is a losing proposition – but when we're traveling with God and letting God work in our lives, we find that transformation becomes a beautiful reality! When you see a calendar item or volunteer opportunity marked with the loving designation, it means that participation will draw you into a deeper level of love for God and neighbor.

### Serving God

The Christian life is about more than correct thoughts and a loving attitude, its about living our calling to be salt and light in the world. This means doing the work of the kingdom. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the serving designation will help you get your hands dirty for the kingdom. These include mission opportunities, volunteering and much more.

### Take the next step today.

Visit [www.cor.org/nextsteps](http://www.cor.org/nextsteps) or the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.

## THE JOURNEY

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT



### The Journey: Knowing, Loving and Serving God

*At Church of the Resurrection, our purpose is to build a Christian community where non and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians. Christians who know, love, and serve God. This short assessment is designed to help you identify where you are in your spiritual journey so that you can make better choices to guide your growth.*

*Use these 15 questions to assess where you are at honestly and prayerfully. Add up your totals, and select one or two of the suggested next steps.*

The United Methodist Church of the  
Resurrection

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection

## Knowing God: Becoming Theologically Informed

- 1. I have a growing understanding of the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could share my understanding of them with a non-religious friend.**

### Level 1

We recommend the Alpha course as a great starting point. Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over 10 thought-provoking weekly sessions. It's low key, friendly and fun (click here for more information, or to register).

### Level 2

Many Christians find a hymnal their most helpful spiritual book after the Bible. Buy a United Methodist hymnal to use in daily private and family devotions. Read the words of one hymn daily as poetry. Sing the ones you know. Study and memorize the creeds and prayers.

### Level 3

Within your small group or with a group of two to three others, memorize the Apostles' Creed. Write down what each belief statement means, find where it is supported in scripture, and share your understanding of this belief with your group.

- 2. I have a growing knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it daily for maximum understanding.**

### Level 1

Commit to reading your Bible each day, using the GPS (Grow-Pray-Study) guide. Click here to download the guide each week, or to sign up for e-mail delivery of the daily readings.

### Level 2

Purchase a good study Bible, such as the TNIV Study Bible or The New Interpreter's Study Bible. Learn how to use the notes, maps and other tools, and begin by studying the book of Mark for yourself.

### Level 3

Talk with your small group about how to deepen your group Bible study, using questions such as "How is God speaking to me personally through this passage?" or "What will I change in my life because of what I've learned from this passage?"

- 3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel increasingly confident in my ability to give an informed answer.**

### Level 1

Learn and understand the purpose and vision of The Church of the Resurrection. Why is this vision important? How do you see your church being faithful in living out this vision?

### Level 2

Study Lovett Weem's book *Confessing the Controversies*, available at The Wall bookstore. As you read, reflect on how willing you are to look at both sides of tough issues, and prayerfully ask God to help you grow in your ability to make informed, responsible ethical choices.

### Level 3

Study the documents included under the "Beliefs" tab on the umc.org website. Invite two or three people to read the Beliefs with you and dialogue around what you read.

- 4. I have a growing understanding of basic Christian ethics, and I am continually developing a deeper ability to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.**

### Level 1

Each day you face ethical decisions. Before you act, ask yourself (and pray about the answer), "What course of action will best express my love for God and neighbor?"

### Level 2

Read Adam Hamilton's book *Confessing the Controversies*, available at The Wall bookstore. As you read, reflect on how willing you are to look at both sides of tough issues, and prayerfully ask God to help you grow in your ability to make informed, responsible ethical choices.

### Level 3

What is the difference between charity and justice? Prayerfully study what it would mean for you to actually "do justice" versus "charity." Write out two specific ideas you could adopt, and live into them.

- 5. I have a growing understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.**

### Level 1

Choose one decision, little or big, you are currently making, and pray over that decision at the same time each day, seeking God's will rather than your agenda. Keep a journal of your experience.

### Level 2

We long to be needed. One way we try to meet this need is busyness. Keep a log of your busy life, of your activities and obligations. Ask "Does this busyness flow from God's will, or is it just an effort to make myself feel important and needed?" Is there something you need to give up doing?

### Level 3

Prayerfully study Romans 8 and 12. Based on these chapters, answer the questions, "Who am I?" and "Who does God want me to be?" Alter your life, even your calendar and finances, in light of your answers. Discuss your changes (perhaps with your congregational care pastor), and pray about the changes with that person.

## Loving God: Becoming Spiritually Transformed

- 1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to wherever that may lead in my life.**

### Level 1

Intentionally spend ten minutes daily thinking about good things. Make a list of the "good things" you think of during this time. Discipline your thoughts to live out the principles of Philippians 4:8—what is true, honorable, just, pure and commendable.

### Level 2

Set a plan to rid your life of hurry. Take the first step by picking the longest line at the grocery store, choosing the slow lane, celebrating each red light, parking in the farthest parking space. Use the time to speak to the person in line with you, pray, or enjoy a time of silence.

### Level 3

Memorize the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17). Assess yourself: Are you stealing (even stealing time)? What "good" do you place before God? Do you honor your parents? Love your neighbor? Discuss with a trusted Christian friend (perhaps your congregational care pastor) how to make the Commandments a guide in your daily life.

- 2. I have a growing ability to lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.**

### Level 1

Examine your life and identify things you do or say to mainly make yourself look good to others. Surrender those habits to God.

### Level 2

Fast from TV or another time-consuming habit for one week. Reflect on how this habit affects you. Use the extra time to enjoy your family and friends, or to spend with God.

### Level 3

Each day pray the Wesley Covenant Prayer. After praying the prayer, take one line each day and meditate on what living a life reflective of this line would mean for you.

- 3. As a means of growing in Christ, I regularly practice various spiritual disciplines (e.g. worship, prayer, Bible study) in my life.**

### Level 1

Pray "flash prayers" silently for others. Standing in line, driving your car or riding on a bus, sitting in a room—in any setting, pray for the people or circumstances around you, saying "God touch their lives, watch over them, and draw them to you."

### Level 2

Discover what it means to really worship. Arrive early and pray for those who will sit near you; meditate on God's majesty and love; look at the words to the songs and sing with enthusiasm; savor the times of silence; enter deeply into prayer; praise God and welcome others with joy.

### Level 3

Set aside 15 minutes a day for solitude. Use the time for journaling, meditation on the scripture, or some other spiritual discipline to which God calls you. Choose a discipline (or disciplines), consult *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, available at The Wall bookstore—and commit to incorporating it in your spiritual growth plan.

- 4. I have a deepening experience of "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life—in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."**

### Level 1

Memorize Galatians 5:22, the verse that lists "the fruit of the Spirit." Which fruit do you struggle living out daily the most? Ask God to help your life show the fruit of the Spirit to others.

### Level 2

Ask yourself, "Where does my joy go when something painful happens?" or "Why do I lose my peace when something frightens me?" Ask God to plant the fruit of the Spirit in your life under all circumstances, and to teach you how you can cooperate in that.

### Level 3

Ask three people who know you very well for honest feedback on your life and on how well you live the fruit of the Spirit. Enlist their help in targeting one area for growth.

- 5. I have a group of friends with whom I meet regularly in order to grow in faith together and to challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.**

### Level 1

Reorder your time to make two hours a week available for Group Life or another group that fosters Christian friendships.

### Level 2

The disciples gathered around Jesus, not just to get to know one another, but to respond to the vision of shared life in the Kingdom of God. How is your group moving beyond socializing, and into a deeper shared life in the Kingdom? Discuss what you want the group to become as you journey in Christ.

### Level 3

Help your group become one where trust and accountability replace surface talk. If one member is trying to grow in a particular area, do you ask "How is it going?" Does the group share pain and failure, as well as joys and victories? Is it okay to say, "I pray for me—I'm struggling spiritually."

## Serving God: Serving God daily in the World

- 1. I actively serve in God's world by helping meet critical needs through acts of justice and mercy, showing in actions what it means to follow Jesus Christ.**

### Level 1

Volunteer inside and outside the walls of the church choosing occasional or one-time opportunities like FaithWork, Vacation Bible Camp, or a mission team.

### Level 2

Consistently give volunteer service inside and outside the walls of the church, e.g. a regularly scheduled usher or ongoing involvement with a mission partner.

### Level 3

As God leads you, serve others and pursue justice in all that you do, including in accordance with your giftedness leadership in a ministry area or extended missionary service.

- 2. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others by sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.**

### Level 1

Invite a friend, a family member or a neighbor to attend worship or other church activity with you. Begin by praying for God to open doors to extending such invitations.

### Level 2

Keep a pocket Testament with you and be prepared to give it to someone who does not have a Bible. Pray for greater awareness and when the opportunity comes your way, give the pocket Testament away and tell the person how God is changing your life.

### Level 3

Practice turning conversations toward a spiritual focus, creating more intentional opportunities for you to share your faith story. Make this a regular part of your interaction with others.

- 3. I have discovered my God-given spiritual gifts, and regularly take steps to develop those gifts and to actively serve Christ by using them.**

### Level 1

Identify what things (paid or volunteer) you really love doing, and find energizing and rewarding. Find ways to do those things for God.

### Level 2

Learn what your God-given spiritual gifts are, and connect to one or more ministries that will benefit from those gifts. Study the *Serving from the Heart* Spiritual Gifts curriculum with your small group.

### Level 3

Focus on how God intends your giftedness to shape, not less, occasional volunteer activities, but your entire life. Find a mentor (possibly your congregational care pastor) and discuss how you might use your gifts to live out your God-given calling.

- 4. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.**

### Level 1

Begin planning your financial giving as a proportion of your income, given at each pay period, rather than simply on impulse as a special appeal moves you.

### Level 2

Increase your giving by one or two percent of your income, as a move toward the goal of tithing (giving 10% of your income).

### Level 3

Make tithing the baseline for your giving, and give more than 10% of your income as God makes that possible. Include God's kingdom in your estate planning, as well as in your regular, ongoing giving.

- 5. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others, and I increasingly manage my time according to God's priorities.**

### Level 1

Set aside at least two hours a month specifically for serving God and others.

### Level 2

Identify two non-productive activities you spend time on, and eliminate them in order to have more time to give to God and God's service.

### Level 3

Review your entire calendar. Ask yourself, "If I were accused of making God the most important person in my life, would my calendar convict me of that charge, or acquit me?"



# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES*

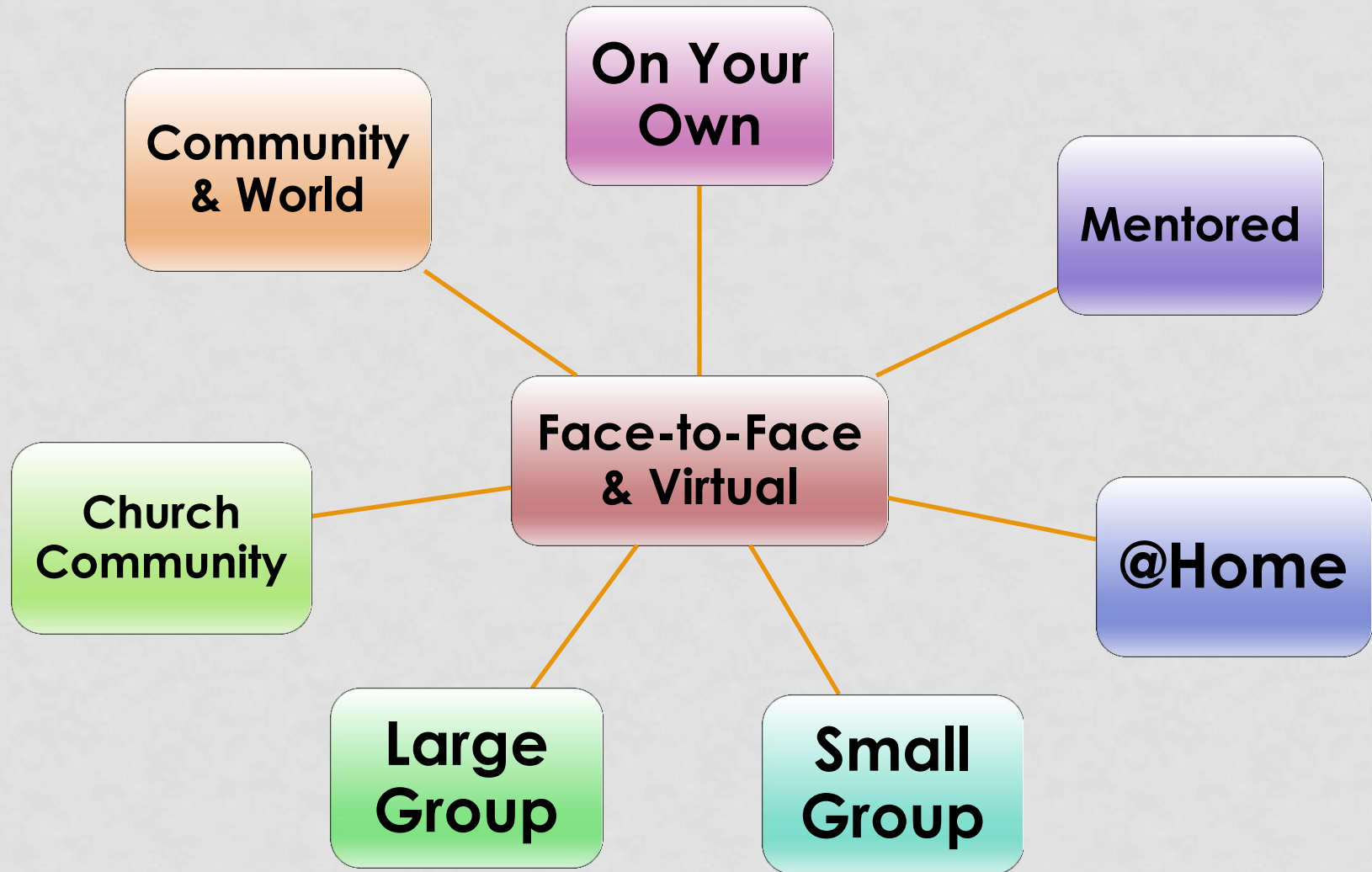
4. Incorporate informal learning, as well as formal learning in faith formation.

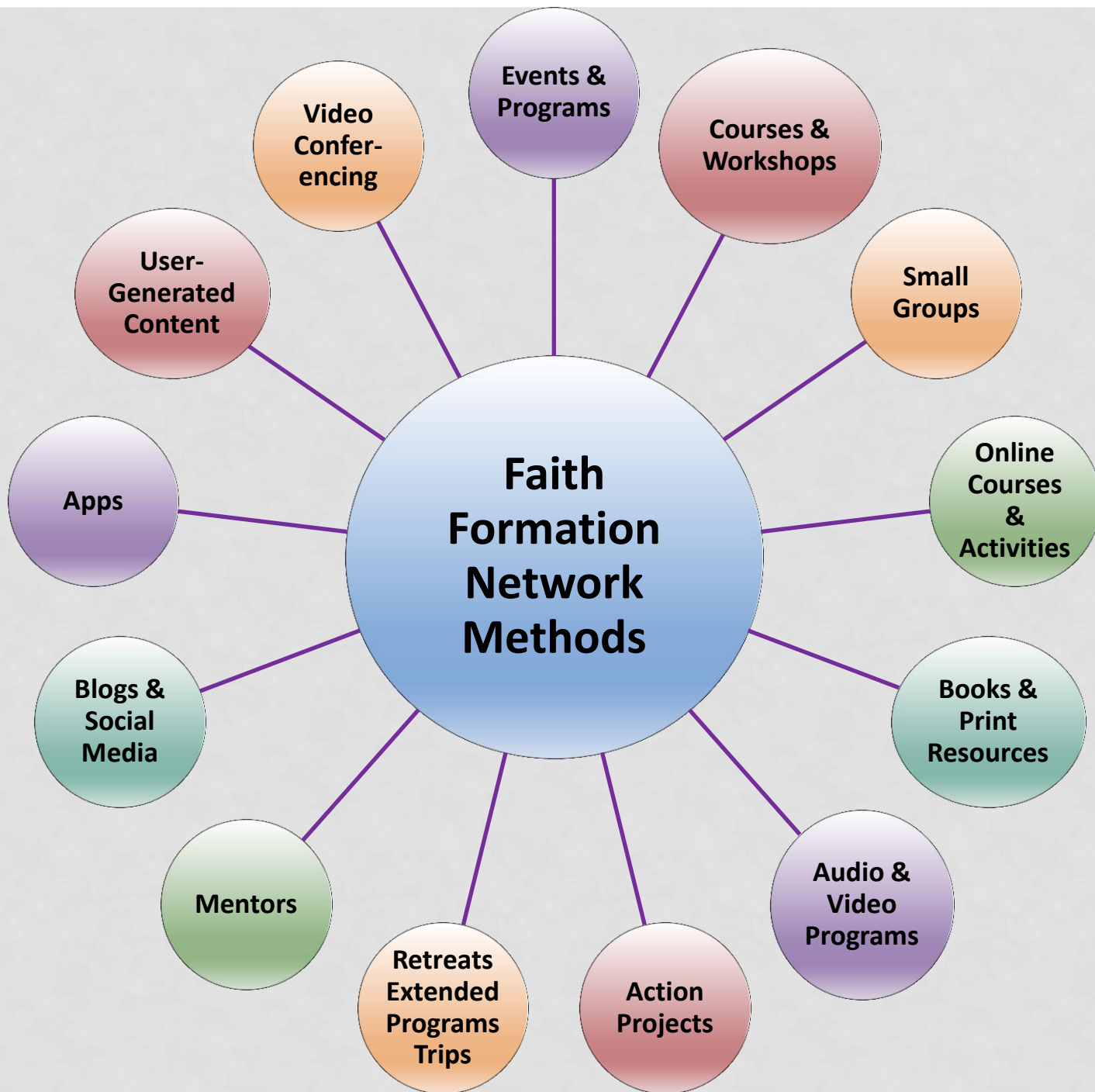
<b>FORMAL</b>	<b>LEARNING</b>
classes & workshops speaker series online courses small group Bible study	self-study Bible study social networking faith-sharing groups
<b>INTENTIONAL</b>	<b>UNEXPECTED</b>
reading /watching a DVD mentoring service/mission activity program at the library or local bookstore	internet surfing watching a movie TV show shopping at a home improvement store
<b>INFORMAL</b>	<b>LEARNING</b>

# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES*

5. Utilize a variety of faith formation settings and methods to address the diverse life tasks, religious and spiritual needs, and interests of people:
- on your own
  - at home
  - in small groups
  - in large groups
  - in the congregation
  - in the community and world

# ***FAITH FORMATION SETTINGS***







# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES*

6. Offer programs and activities in face-to-face physical settings; in virtual, online settings, and in blended settings that combine both.
  - They can be offered only in **physical locations**
  - They can be offered only in **virtual settings** (online course, wiki, online resource center.
  - They can be offered in a **blended approach**, combining a gathering in a physical location with online delivery (activities, group projects, interaction)

# *FAITH FORMATION NETWORK: PRINCIPLES*

7. Incorporate communities of practice to connect individuals and groups throughout the congregation.





**We Can Now  
Provide Faith  
Formation for  
All Ages &  
Generations!**



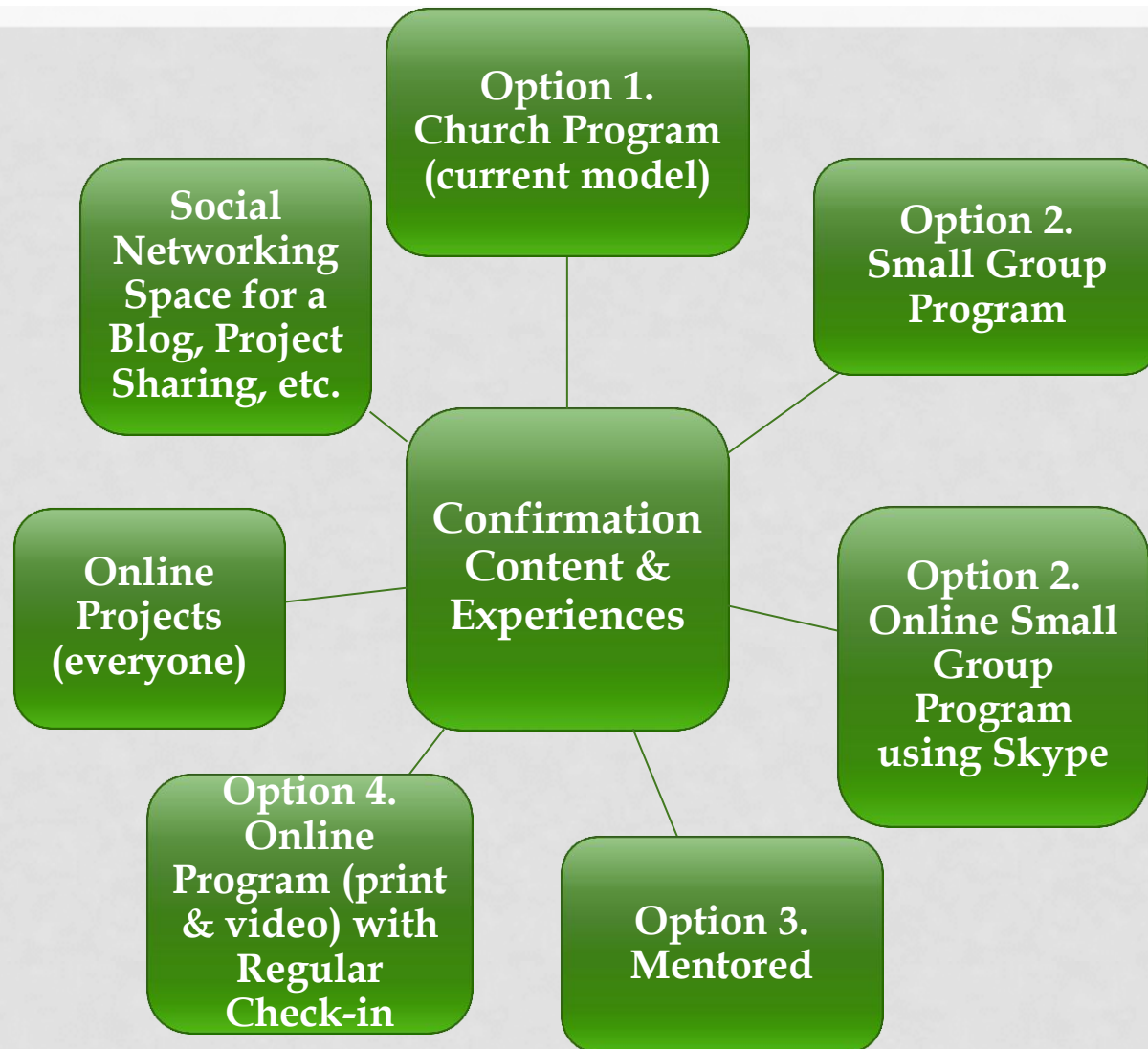


EXAMPLE: CONFIRMATION

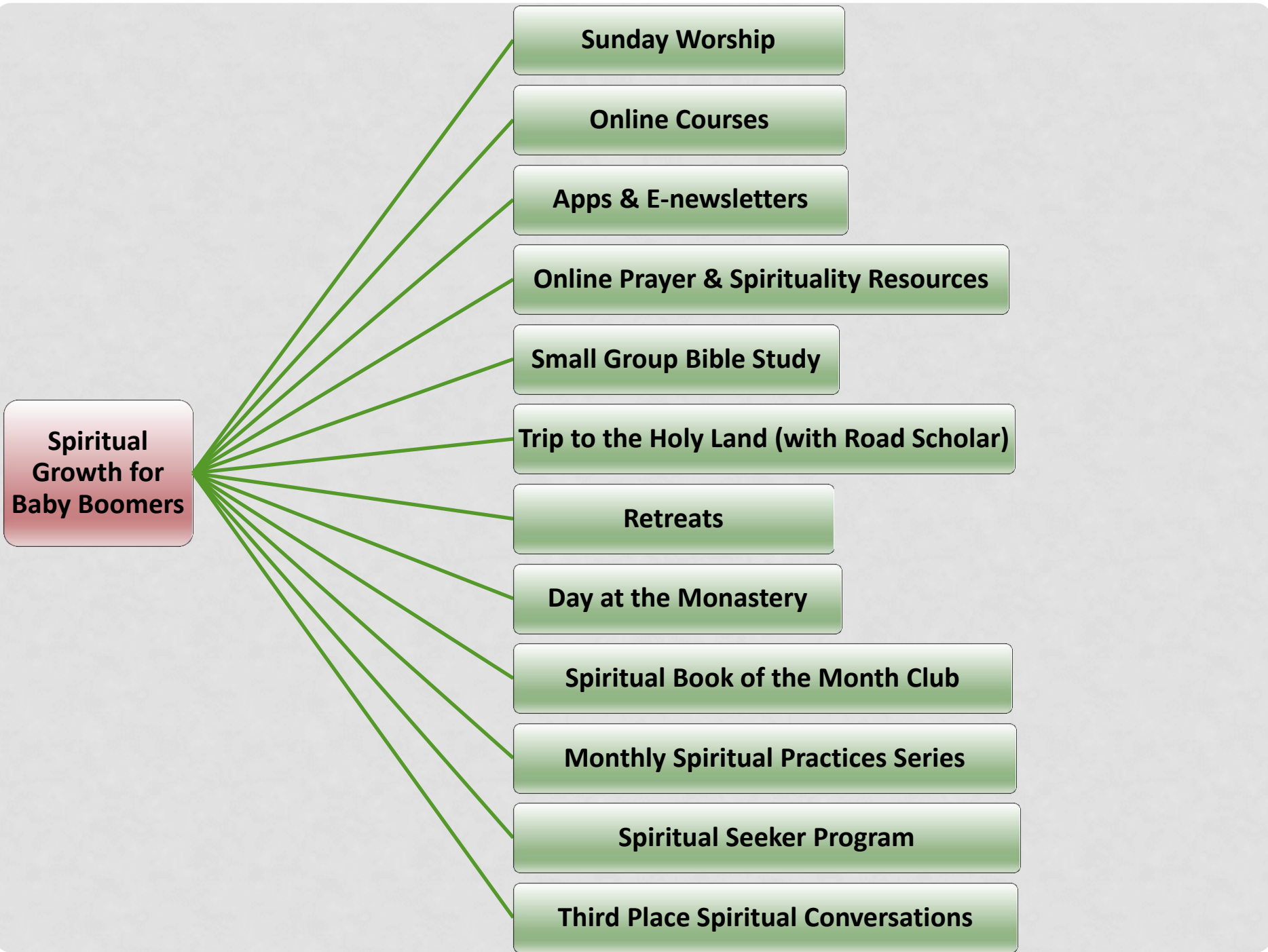
FAITH FORMATION NETWORK



# TRANSFORM A “ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL FAITH” INTO A VARIETY OF FAITH FORMATION FORMATS



# EXAMPLE: AN ADULT FAITH FORMATION NETWORK



Share It

Blog/Forum  
After Worship Conversation  
At-Home Conversation  
Activity

Study It

Taking Faith Home Insert  
Homily Video + Study Guide  
Daily Readings  
Scripture Online Bible Study

**Sunday  
Worship**

Live It

Ideas for living the Message  
Weekly Christian Practice  
Justice & Service Ideas

Pray It

Weekly Table Prayer  
Praying with the Saints  
AM & PM Prayer





Sunday, March 25, 2012

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**WHOEVER WANTS TO SERVE ME MUST FOLLOW ME****John 12:20-33 (Good News Translation)**

<sup>20</sup> Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. <sup>21</sup> They went to Philip (he was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. <sup>24</sup> I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. <sup>26</sup> Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honor anyone who serves me. <sup>27</sup> Now my heart is troubled—and what shall I say? Shall I say, "Father, do not let this hour come upon me"? But that is why I came—so that I might go through this hour of suffering. <sup>28</sup> Father, bring glory to your name! " Then a voice spoke from heaven, "I have brought glory to it, and I will do so again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard the voice, and some of them said it was thunder. while others said. "An angel spoke to him!" <sup>30</sup> But Jesus said to

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- ▶ 2010



## **Audio Files - Recent sermons; latest Thu Evensong and Sun 11 am Eucharist**

Audio files for the most recent sermons can be found in the list below. In addition, we provide the most recent complete Thursday 5:15 p.m. Evensong and Sunday 11 a.m. Eucharist. If you are looking for audio files of The Forum, [click here](#).

### **Thursday 5:15 p.m. Evensong**

[Download the service leaflet.](#) (PDF)

### **Sunday 11 a.m. Eucharist**

[Download the service leaflet.](#) (PDF)



We archive sermons on iTunes. To listen to sermons on iTunes or subscribe to our podcast, [click here](#).

Apple has released a [podcast app](#) for the iPhone and iPad that is getting great reviews for being easy to use and better controls when listening.

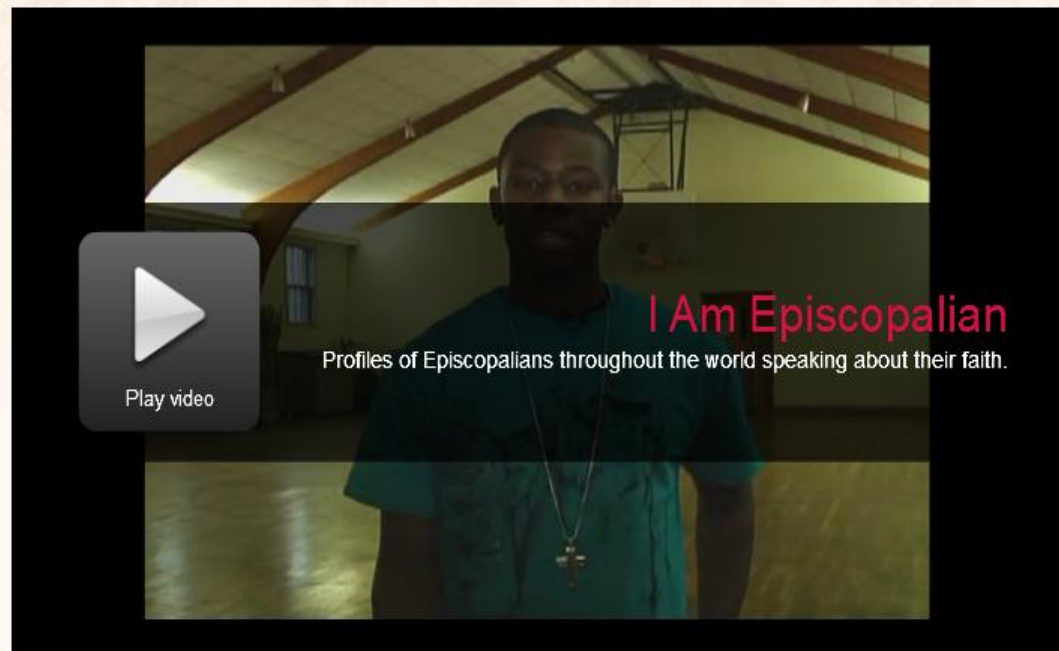
# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

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## *I Am Episcopalian*



### I AM EPISCOPALIAN

As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



# EPISCOPAL CAFÉ



An Atmosphere Of Prayer

...art we're doing this summer | [See more](#)

## The Lead

## Video

## Daily Episcopalian

## Speaking to the Soul

## Art Blog

Explore The Episcopal Church

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### THE LEAD

#### Divest? Foreclose? Reinvest? Renew?

Along the way to church foreclosure/divestment lurk a number of thoroughly unpleasant questions. The less they're addressed over time, the greater the chance of catastrophe. But if we find ourselves asking them, it may mean we're in slow-burn mode.

[Read more »](#)

### VIDEO



#### The Bread of Life. What is it?

What does Jesus mean when he says he is the bread of life? Barbara K. Lundblad, Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary shares a few ideas in this video by Odyssey Networks

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### DAILY EPISCOPALIAN



### SPEAKING TO THE SOUL





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## Worship Well / Home

**Welcome to the Worship Well**, the online community for sharing and creating fresh, innovative worship resources in the Episcopal Church. Enter the Well regularly to find and pass along [liturgical and scriptural resources \(Word\)](#), [art, multimedia and graphics \(Image\)](#), and [music \(Sound\)](#) for worship in a variety of communities and contexts. If you need resources specific to the [current season](#) in the liturgical year, we've tailored a collection of materials just for your use. Some of the resources are available for purchase; many more are free.

[Read the seasoned advice and wisdom](#) of peers who've been around the block. [Submit and share](#) information you believe others would find inspiring and useful. As our community grows, we'll create space for interactive conversations and offer new ways to become involved. And [gather here](#) with people of faith who are dreaming, seeking, creating, singing and praying their way into the future — just like you.

You'll need Adobe Reader to open lots of files on The Worship Well. If you don't have it, safely [download](#) your free copy now.

[About us](#): Church Publishing Incorporated, the Office of Liturgy and Music, Episcopal Church and Visual Arts, and All Saints Company are collaborating to create this resource. We look forward to welcoming more groups into this creative community. [Contact us directly](#) if you've got questions, want to request materials you don't already see, or want to share your thoughts on this ground-breaking, holy adventure.

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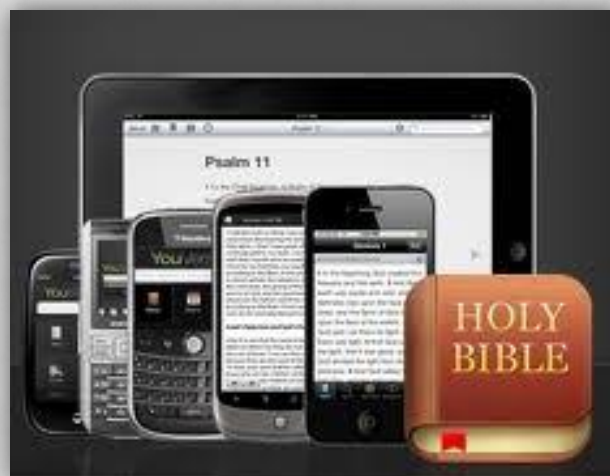
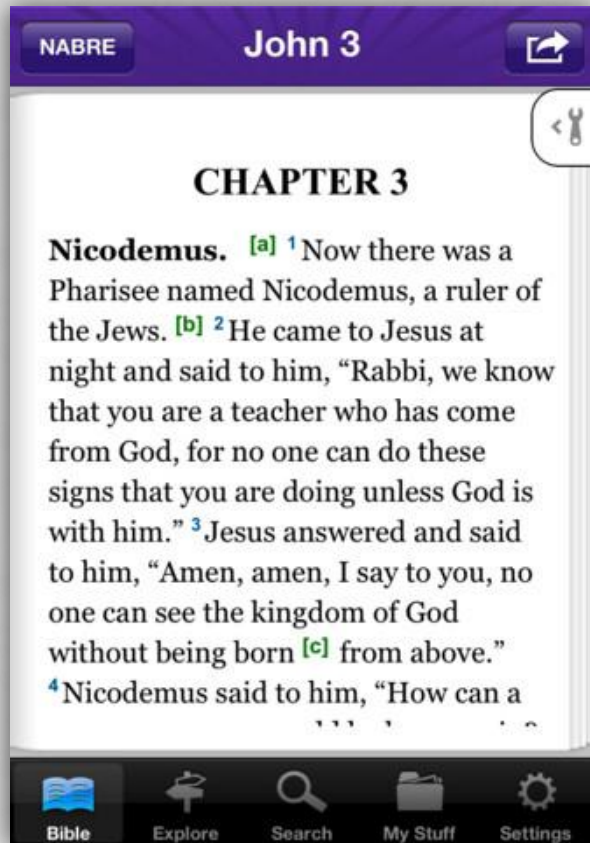
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# Anglican lists, web forums, &c

**YOU'LL FIND NUMEROUS** Anglican-related or specific-interest mailing lists on the Internet. With any mailing list, you can participate in the exchange of ideas with others around the world. Read on to have a look at your choices.

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## Mailing Lists, Web Forums, and Selected News Groups

Mailing lists are groups of people connected by electronic mail. If you join a mailing list, you will receive messages sent to the list in your email box, and you'll be able to send posts to everyone else who is subscribed. When you subscribe, you'll be sent instructions (usually termed a FAQ, which is a common Net abbreviation for 'Frequently Asked Questions'). A FAQ contains lots of useful information, so do give it a read. And be sure to save it, since it will give you information about how to remove yourself from the list if you decide to at a later time.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Many modern email systems have the ability to send "rich text" or "multimedia" or "MIME" or "formatted" email. You *must not* use this to communicate with the various mailing list mechanisms. None of the automatic processing software that subscribes you to email lists (and unsubscribes you from them) can deal with mail in any format other than plain text, and most of the subscribers to such lists are displeased when people send list members messages in formats other than plain text.

- [Anglican Blogs](#)
- [Mailing lists and discussion boards](#)
- [Special-purpose](#) Anglican discussion lists
- [Chat rooms and IRC](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

Over 100 Anglican  
discussion boards!

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## Lists of Blogs

We don't list blogs.

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## Mailing lists and discussion boards

These lists are for general discussion of things Anglican, open to whomever wishes to subscribe.

### [The Anglican Examiner](#)

An online forum devoted to religion and public affairs from an Anglican perspective.



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3 minutes a day can give you 24 hours of peace.



### The Unity of Believers

Start your retreat



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[Begin the Prayer »](#)

[print version](#)

### Something to think and pray about this week

I have a friend, a young woman, who works with children after school, in a homework club. She is kind and caring and she is fun to be with. She is a teacher herself and knows the value of education. But she is wise enough to know that there are many kinds of education. [read more...](#)

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## Current E-Courses:

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- [Ways to Pray from Around the World with Maggie Oman Shannon](#)

## Updates:

07/20/12

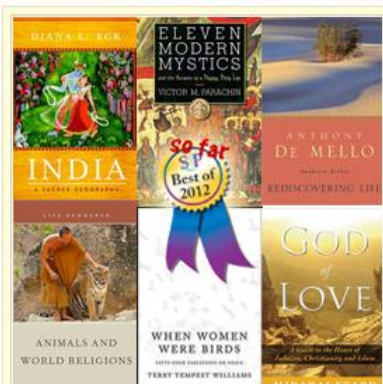
[Opening Friday](#): The Dark Knight Rises, The Well-Digger's Daughter

07/19/12

[Premiering tonight on PBS/POV](#): The Light in Her Eyes

07/18/12

[New in Books](#): optimism, prayer, conversations with God, the sacred art of writing, group spiritual direction, breath, A Course in Miracles, shalom, being fully alive



Every year from the more than 300 books we review on this website, we choose 50 "best spiritual books." These are titles that have most impressed and inspired us. Our full list will be published in December, but we already know some that will be on it.

► See the list of [the Best Spiritual Books of 2012 \(So Far\)](#)

## Current E-Courses



### [Ways to Pray from Around the World with Maggie Oman Shannon](#)

is a six-week e-course with emails delivered twice a week presenting

12 creative spiritual practices from different cultures and religious traditions around the world. Maggie Oman Shannon will explain the

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### Spirituality





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## Welcome to Spirituality & Practice's E-Courses



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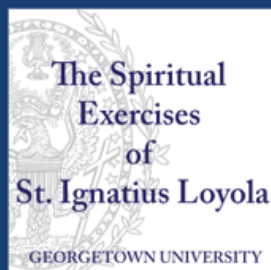

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## The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

Georgetown University

### Description

Reflecting on Georgetown's rich Jesuit Heritage

▲	Name	Time	Released	Description	Popularity	Price
1	The Spiritual Exercises of ...	37:21	1/7/10	Dynamics of the Spiritual Ex...	i	FREE
2	The Spiritual Exercises of ...	27:25	1/7/10	Emerging Role of the Laity	i	FREE
3	The Spiritual Exercises of ...	25:26	1/7/10	Rediscovery and Renewal ...	i	FREE
4	The Spiritual Exercises of ...	17:01	1/7/10	Rediscovery and Renewal ...	i	FREE



## C21 ONLINE

[About C21 Online](#)**Courses**[Registration](#)► **Course Schedule**[Online Learning](#)[Certificates](#)[Computer Requirements](#)[FAQ](#)[Facilitators](#)[Resources](#)[The Network](#)**Enroll Now!****Participants log in here:****Blackboard Vista**[bc home](#) > [schools](#) > [stm home](#) > [c21 online](#) > [opportunities](#) > [course schedule](#)

## Summer and Fall 2012 Schedule

C21 ONLINE, SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Date Course Begins	Date Course Ends	Course (C21R = workshop based on an issue of C21 Resources)
6/13/12	6/27/12	<a href="#">Gospel of Luke</a>
6/13/12	6/27/12	NEW! A Sacramental People (C21R)
8/1/12	8/28/12	<a href="#">Teaching Religion: Creative Strategies and Best Practices</a>
8/8/12	8/21/12	<a href="#">Eucharist: At the Heart of Catholic Life</a> (C21R)
8/15/12	8/28/12	<a href="#">Growing Faith: Children and Adolescents</a> (C21R)
9/19/12	10/16/12	<a href="#">What Makes Us Catholic, Part 1</a>
9/26/12	10/16/12	NEW! Effective Preaching: Homily Preparation
10/24/12	11/20/12	<a href="#">Autumn Blessings: Spirituality in the Second Half of Life</a>
10/24/12	11/13/12	NEW! The Parish Liturgy Committee
10/31/12	11/13/12	NEW! Title TBA (C21R)
11/7/12	12/11/12	<a href="#">What Makes Us Catholic, Part 2</a>
12/5/12	12/18/12	<a href="#">Jesus Foretold and Fulfilled</a>

**Registration opens May 1st for Fall 2012 offerings.**

# stillpoint

nurturing deeper spiritual practice



Welcome to the website of StillPoint - a project nurturing spiritual practice from within the Christian contemplative and mystical traditions. Please explore these pages to find out more about who we are and what we do.

now booking.....



## What is StillPoint?

StillPoint is a project which aims to deepen spiritual practice. It is resolutely focussed on *practice* rather than study and is therefore seeking to be experientially based rather than academic.

StillPoint is based in the city of Oxford and on the coast-moor edge of South-West England.

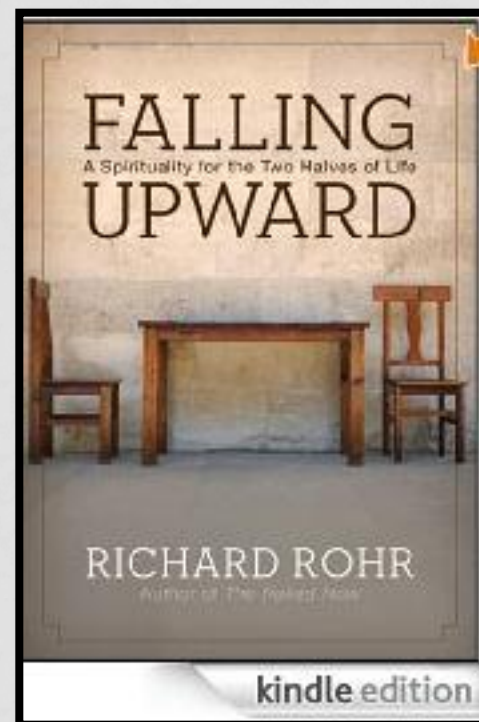
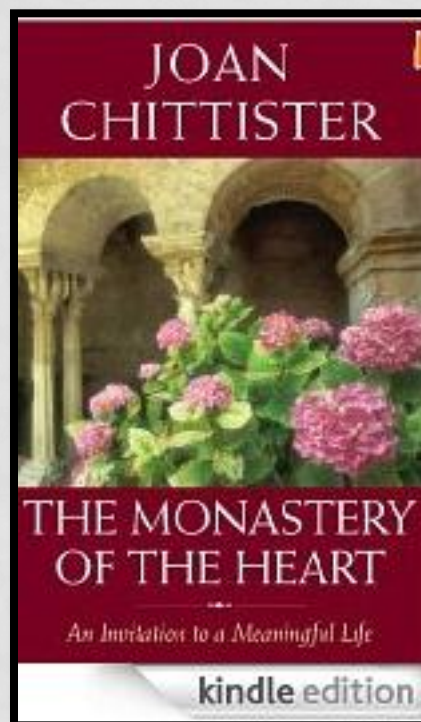
StillPoint exists to nurture and encourage the practice of Christian spirituality in a variety of ways but particularly focussing on the practice of Christianity as an eastern religion and exploring the contemplative and mystical streams of the Christian tradition, whilst positively engaging with other spiritual traditions and the arts.

Its aim is to serve both spiritually searching people who would not previously have considered the Christian way as a path to deepen their spiritual search, as well as people who would identify themselves as Christians but are looking for opportunities to learn practices that will deepen their interior journey.

StillPoint will do this in a number of different ways - through conferences, courses, classes and groupwork, the provision of resources, artistic and cultural events, and through spiritual

SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
FOR EVERYONE





## HOME

EXPLORE FAITH ▶

FACES OF FAITH ▶

LIVING SPIRITUALLY ▶

PRAYER AND MEDITATION ▶

TOOLS FOR YOUR JOURNEY ▶

LIFE ISSUES ▶

RESOURCES ▶

CONNECTIONS ▶

ABOUT US ▶

## January 27<sup>th</sup>

For Today...

"Remember that while you are seeking you are also being sought... you will be found. You will be led. You will enter in. Look for that. Expect it. Expect to come to revelations of the Lord. Expect shells to break in their season. Expect boats to ride as the tide comes in. This is hope, to desire and to expect."

-- Oswald W.S. McCall



## Our Prayers

...for hope, for peace,  
for friends and loved ones,  
spoken out loud and held in silence



### Signpost Daily Devotions

Reflections on the words of scripture — how they apply to our lives and nourish our spirit



### Faces of Faith

Stories of faith and spirituality in the lives of those who lived long ago and the examples of spiritual mentors in our midst today



### Benedictine Spirituality

What can we learn about balance from a sixth century monk? This gathering of excerpts, quotes and essays on Benedictine spirituality points to ways practicing Benedict's Rule can lead to an authentic, faith-filled life.



### Keeping Money in Balance

Strategies for managing your finances using a spiritual perspective



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[Click here to see the online version of the current Intergenerational catalog.](#)

### Highlighted Programs

Most Popular  
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Budget-Friendly Programs  
Last-Minute  
Low Activity Level Programs

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Plan a summer adventure  
Music Festivals  
Intergenerational Adventures  
National Parks  
African American Inspired

### Find a Program...

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    U.S. & Canada  
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    Small Groups

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### Popular Intergenerational Programs

#### U.S. & Canada



##### California - Northern

Cheetahs, Giraffes and Zebras: A Safari in California With Your Grandchild

#### International



##### Spain

Intergenerational: ¿Qué tal, Barcelona?



##### Oregon

Grandparents and Grandchildren:  
Sharing a Common Love for Animals



##### France

Intergenerational in the City of Lights: À la  
Découverte de Paris

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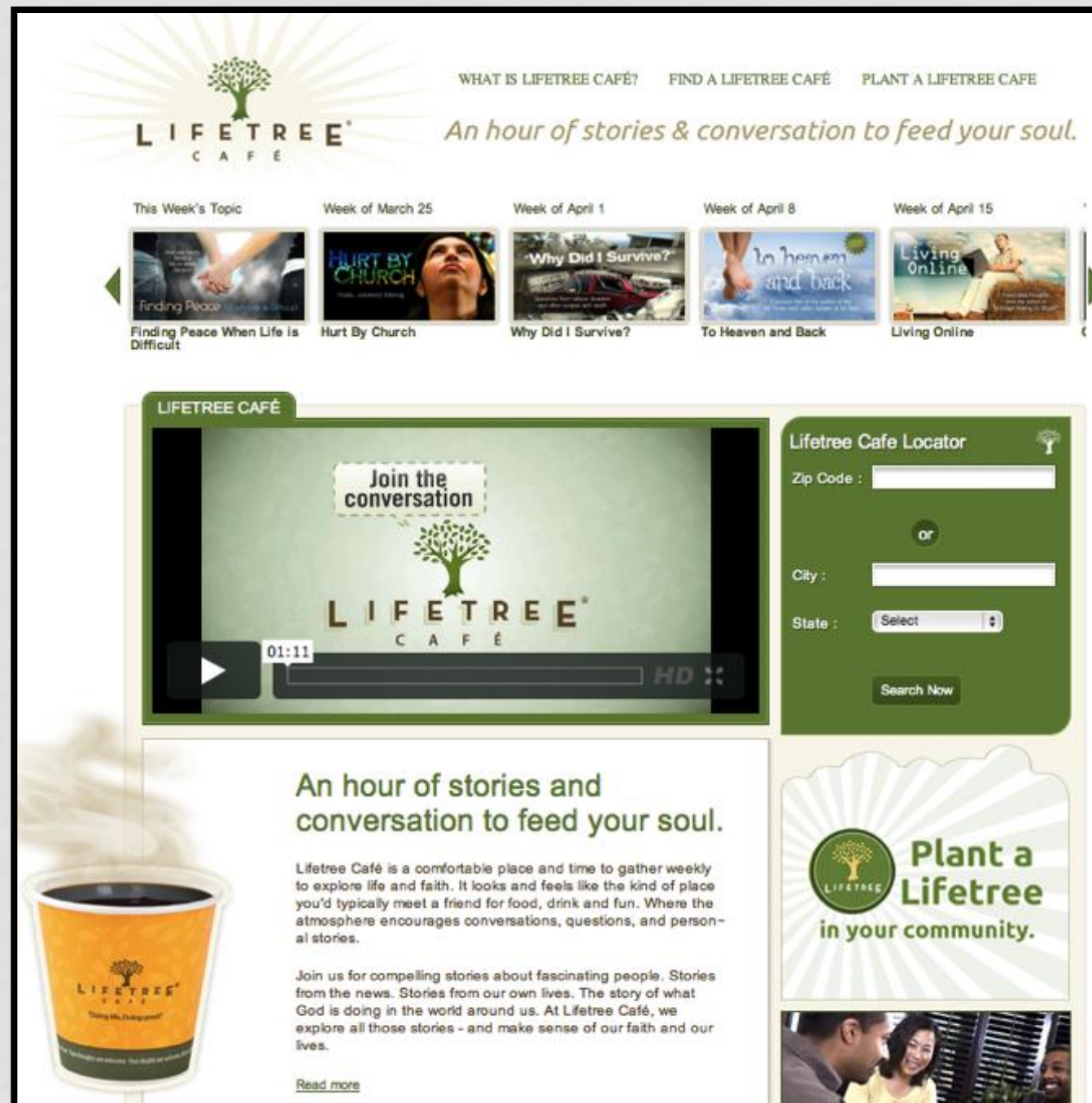
from:

[Any Date]

to:

[Any Date]

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.



The screenshot shows the Lifetree Café website. At the top is the Lifetree Café logo, featuring a stylized tree with roots and branches, and the text "LIFETREE CAFE". To the right of the logo are three links: "WHAT IS LIFETREE CAFE?", "FIND A LIFETREE CAFE", and "PLANT A LIFETREE CAFE". Below the logo is the tagline "An hour of stories & conversation to feed your soul." in a cursive font. A horizontal scroll bar displays five featured topics with corresponding images and titles: "Finding Peace When Life is Difficult", "Hurt By Church", "Why Did I Survive?", "To Heaven and Back", and "Living Online". Below the scroll bar is a large video player with the title "Join the conversation" and the Lifetree Café logo. To the right of the video player is a "Lifetree Cafe Locator" form with fields for "Zip Code", "City", and "State", and a "Search Now" button. Below the video player is a section titled "An hour of stories and conversation to feed your soul." with a paragraph of text and a "Read more" link. To the left of this section is an image of a steaming cup of coffee with the Lifetree Café logo. To the right is a "Plant a Lifetree in your community." section with a stylized tree logo and a photo of three people smiling.

LIFETREE CAFE

WHAT IS LIFETREE CAFE? FIND A LIFETREE CAFE PLANT A LIFETREE CAFE

*An hour of stories & conversation to feed your soul.*

This Week's Topic Week of March 25 Week of April 1 Week of April 8 Week of April 15

Finding Peace When Life is Difficult Hurt By Church Why Did I Survive? To Heaven and Back Living Online

LIFETREE CAFE

Join the conversation

LIFETREE CAFE

01:11

HD

Lifetree Cafe Locator

Zip Code :

or

City :

State :

Search Now

**An hour of stories and conversation to feed your soul.**

Lifetree Café is a comfortable place and time to gather weekly to explore life and faith. It looks and feels like the kind of place you'd typically meet a friend for food, drink and fun. Where the atmosphere encourages conversations, questions, and personal stories.

Join us for compelling stories about fascinating people. Stories from the news. Stories from our own lives. The story of what God is doing in the world around us. At Lifetree Café, we explore all those stories - and make sense of our faith and our lives.

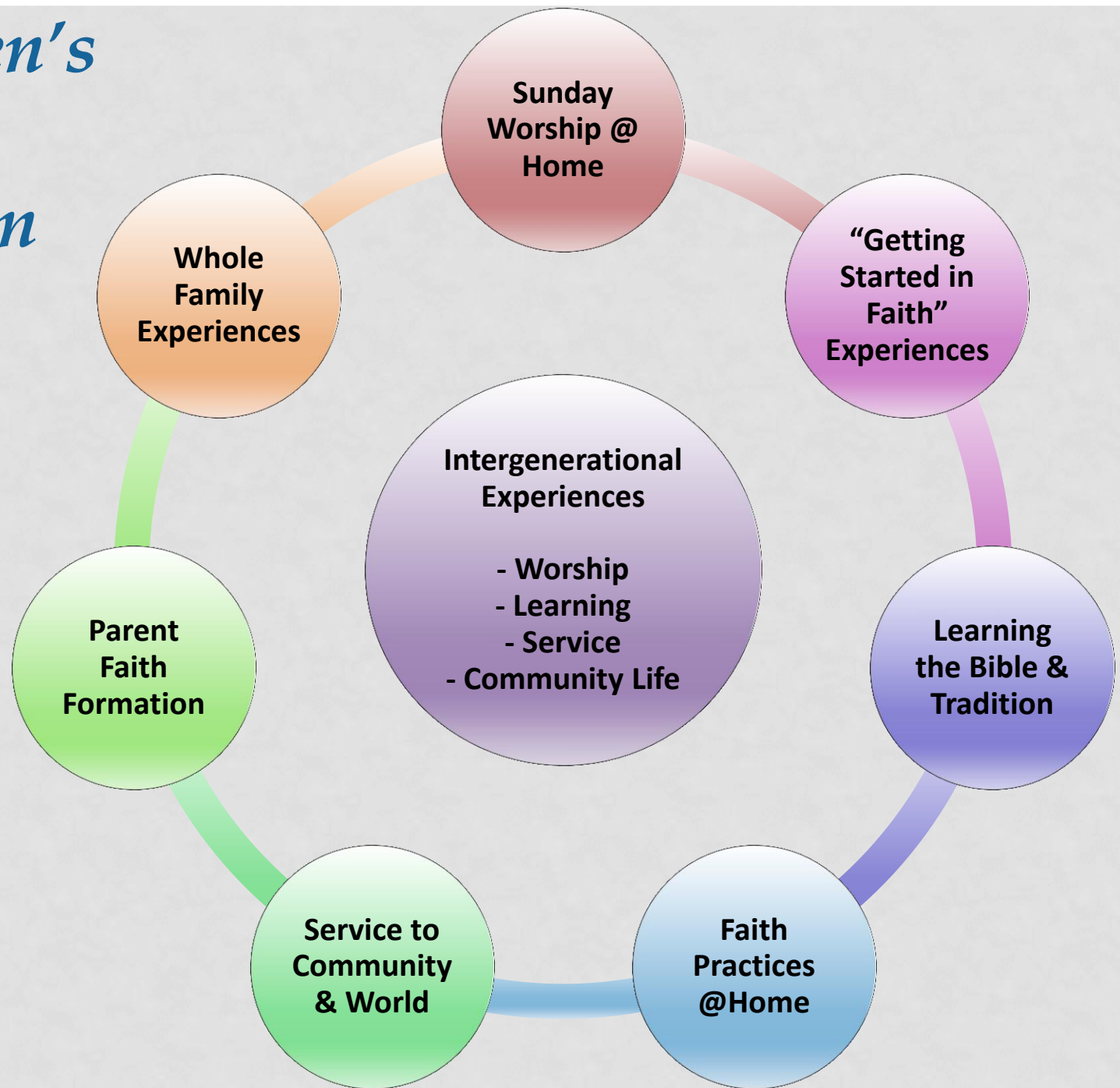
[Read more](#)

Plant a Lifetree in your community.

# EXAMPLE: CHILDREN'S FORMATION NETWORK



# *A Children's Faith Formation Network*





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**VF @ Home Login**

## Ritual & Tradition

### Emergency Prayers



There are many opportunities to pray during the day that can pass us by. Enhance your family prayer life by praying aloud whenever you hear a siren, see an emergency vehicle, or pass someone whose vehicle has broken down.

**Read more: [Emergency Prayers](#)**

[Write comment \(0 Comments\)](#)

## Jesus' Half Birthday



Mirror that same joy felt in December when celebrating

## 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.

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.

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).

## 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, 2 class-age based programs, 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 (in 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' age);
- 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).



What the program will provide:

- a *Rosh K'vutzah* for each Havurah (the rabbis, educators and coordinators will serve as *roshei k'vutzah*), who will meet with each family individually at least twice and with the entire *K'vutzah* several times during the year;
- orientations to worship services and holidays;
- a Torah-related program for children attending the New Emanuel Minyan (during the time the adults participate in Torah reading and text study);
- *K'vutzah*-based activities;
- book discussion groups; and
- a Torah project.



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## RABBINIC WOMEN

How Ancient Rabbis Viewed Women

The rabbis of the Talmud designated specific female roles and activities, and were wary of women's nature. However, they also tempered biblical laws that caused hardships for women.

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### INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

- ▶ [Divorce](#)
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- ▶ [Liturgy](#)
- ▶ [God](#)
- ▶ [Newborn Ceremonies](#)

### DRINKING ON PURIM



There are different opinions about the obligation to drink on Purim. What is the meaning behind this injunction? And how drunk should one really get?

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



Enter your zip code:

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[Jewish Calendar >](#)

### WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Parashat Tzav

Annual Cycle: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Triennial Cycle: Leviticus 6:1-7:10

[Summary of Tzav](#)
[Lost & Found](#)
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BY FRED BURNER

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0:00 / 0:00



# FAITH AT HOME: EXPLORE AND ENJOY YOUR FAITH WITH YOUR KIDS!

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- [Who is Faith at Home?](#)
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  - [Tips and ideas for faith in daily life](#)
  - Read "[Every Day, Many Ways: Bringing faith into family life](#)"
  - Great resources about [children and Sunday worship](#)
  - Our [books](#) for enriching family life
  - Enjoy articles on [parenting & children's faith formation](#)
  - A variety of wonderful [books for children](#) (check out the great [books on saints](#)!)
  - [Children and death](#) — the loss of a child, the loss of a child's parent, pregnancy loss, and related areas.
  - [Children with challenges](#)— special needs, limitations due to illness, and so on.
- **Other popular areas**
  - Read "[In the Shadow of Fear: Living with violence, disaster, and war](#)"
  - Our [Violence, Disaster, & War](#) page at Faith at Home.
  - [Helpful tips & ideas](#) for your family

If you've wondered who created and runs Faith at Home, and why, this page is for you!

The Faith at Home Web site is a labor of love by one person: me, Barbara Laufersweiler. I'm a happily married at-home mom of two young sons, I am over 40, I live in the southern Great Plains of the USA, I am Episcopalian, and I am the designer, owner, and maintainer of Faith at Home.

I create nearly all of the content and find all of the resources myself, and I code it all up myself, too. Occasionally I'm able to find a great article that fits well into my vision for this site and I reprint it on Faith at Home with permission. I also create and publish the seasonal flyer of the same name, Faith at Home.

At its roots, Faith at Home is a result of becoming a parent. My two sons were born in the mid- and late 1990s, and those first years of motherhood gradually pushed into higher relief my desire to ground myself and my family in a life of faith, lived in our daily lives.

**When I became a parent I expected to find resources for someone like me whose family was fairly nonreligious and who found her spiritual center as an adult in a non-Catholic sacramental and liturgical church (as I said, I'm [Episcopalian](#)). As it turned out, I found few faith-and-parenting resources in the middle ground between the well-represented Evangelical Christians and the fairly well-represented Roman Catholics. That was tough, because I don't fit well in either of those categories.**



# CLERGY FAMILY CONFIDENTIAL

FINDING GOD IN DOMESTIC CHAOS



## *“Honk if You Love Jesus”*



My latest “In Good Faith” column is a special mid-August bonus edition. Yes, my monthly column has gone bi-monthly (at least this time). If it sounds vaguely familiar, it’s because I used a recent blog

post (Bumper Sticker Theology) as the basis. Enjoy.

### **“Honk if You Love Jesus”**

*By the Rev. Tim Schenck*

Sitting in summer vacation traffic has me reflecting on bumper stickers; specifically Christian-themed bumper stickers. I’ve always wondered what general impression of Christianity these four and five word pronouncements offer to non-churchgoers. I don’t think it’s very positive.

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TURN OFF THE TV,  
PUT DOWN THE NEWSPAPER,  
SET THE CELLPHONE ON  
SILENCE AND INVEST 5 MINUTES  
IN YOUR FAMILY WITH THESE  
SIMPLE STEPS.

**1. SHARE**  
YOUR HIGHS & LOWS  
OF THE DAY

**2. READ**  
AND HIGHLIGHT A VERSE  
OF SCRIPTURE IN YOUR BIBLE\*

**3. TALK**  
ABOUT HOW THE BIBLE  
VERSE RELATES TO YOUR  
HIGHS & LOWS

**4. PRAY**  
FOR YOUR HIGHS & LOWS,  
FOR YOUR FAMILY, AND  
FOR THE WORLD

**5. BLESS** ONE ANOTHER

# THE FAITH 5

EVERY NIGHT IN EVERY HOME



## Overview

### Inkubators

### Quick Links

- ◆ Inkubators/Resources
- ◆ Head to the Heart
- ◆ Bible Song
- ◆ Faith Stepping Stones
- ◆ Faith Inkubators Seasonals
- ◆ The FAITH 5™ Faith Practice
  - ▶ An Introduction to the FAITH 5
  - ▶ Step One - Share (Video)
  - ▶ Step Two - Read (Video)
  - ▶ Step Three - Talk (Video)
  - ▶ Step Four - Pray (Video)
  - ▶ Step Five - Bless (Video)

## THE FAITH 5 + An Introduction



Rev. Rich Melheim introduces the origin, philosophy and potential impact of five simple steps that can strengthen the church—one family at a time, one night at a time.

[Adobe Flash Player](#) is required to view video.

## The Five Steps

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## Hot Topics in Parenting



Most often, parents deal with daily challenges like helping to resolve sibling conflicts and providing proper nutrition for a picky eater. Parenting is an adventure filled with highs and lows, and many questions along the way.

ParentFurther is your resource for [expert-approved](#), [research-based](#), [parent-tested](#) information that will help you raise successful kids.

Browse the Hot Topics in the left menu, and click on the topic of your choice to get started!



Everyday Steps are the little things you can do as a parent, every day. These little steps add up to successful kids in the long run. Look for the Everyday Steps icon throughout ParentFurther, and remember: **The little things you do—every**

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- [My 5 Simple Food Rules for Picky Eaters](#)





The ParentFurther blog is home to the latest advice, anecdotes, and stories on the hottest topics in parenting.

- **Need advice? Got a topic suggestion? E-mail our experts! >**

## Meet our Bloggers!



## Recent Blog Posts

- [Back-to-School: A Parent's Checklist](#)
- [Treat Your Family to a 'Night Out' This August 2nd, Reap the Benefits for Years to Come!](#)
- [Explore Your Community!](#)
- [Easy Ways to Create Memorable Family Picnics](#)
- [10 Tips to Beat Summer Boredom](#)

## ParentFurther Blog

### Back-to-School: A Parent's Checklist

*By: Jolene Roehlkepartain*  
*Getting ready for school can be a lot of fun as long as everything doesn't happen at the last minute! Spread out everything that needs to get done over these next few weeks of summer so that by the time school starts, you and your kids can relax and step confidently into the new school year. [Read More >](#)*

[Read more...](#)



## Other Blog Posts

[Treat Your Family to a 'Night Out' This August 2nd, Reap the Benefits for Years to Come!](#)  
*By: Jolene Roehlkepartain*

Every year, on the first Tuesday in August, communities across the nation gather to create neighborhood spirit, get to know their neighbors, and create safer neighborhoods. If you've never attended the annual event, I have a few good reasons why you should! [Read more >](#)

[Explore Your Community!](#)  
*By: Jolene Roehlkepartain*

The community in which you live often has a gold mine of opportunities for families. Research reveals that a strong community protects kids from [risky behaviors](#). [Read More >](#)

[Easy Ways to Create Memorable Family Picnics](#)  
*By: Jolene Roehlkepartain*

In Minnesota, we *live* for summers! There almost always isn't a weekend where a barbecue or picnic *isn't* happening. Over the years, I've learned that when you make these events special and simple, your kids can enjoy them more. Try these tips for a successful family picnic. [Read More >](#)

[10 Tips to Beat Summer Boredom](#)  
*By: Jolene Roehlkepartain*

The familiar sound of "I'm boooooored!" is bound to kick in at some point over the summer. But don't despair! A bored kid often needs a jump-start with a new idea or a new activity. Consider these 10 secrets for shaking the boredom blues and getting kids excited about doing something.

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- [Books by Jolene](#)
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## Welcome to Tumblon!

**Tumblon** helps parents understand and nurture their children's growth, by informing and inspiring them to engage in the joys of parenting.



## YOU'RE a BUSY PARENT.

✓ tumblon can help

Tumblon gives you customized *developmental information* about your children and lets you *record milestones*, *write stories*, *upload photos*, and keep *family and friends* updated on your children's growth.

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### Featured milestones

Jumps on both feet	record
Shows jealousy for attention	record
"reads" to dolls or stuffed animals	record
Recites parts of well-known stories	record
Brushes her teeth	record
Scribbles with crayons	record
<a href="#">More Milestones</a>	



our mission



track milestones



preserve memories



get parenting tips



share with your family

## COMMUNITY STORIES

not artificial July 30, 2011 // xingqiliu

the human heart July 30, 2011 // xingqiliu

keep in touch July 30, 2011 // xingqiliu

a matter of regret July 30, 2011 // xingqiliu

evoke our deep July 30, 2011 // xingqiliu

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Preventing Anemia in Your Child

July 31, 2011

Anemia occurs when you don't have enough healthy red blood cells in your body, and therefore your organs are not getting enough oxygen. It is important to know what to feed your child at each age of development to prevent anemia. This article details what you need to know at each stage.

[Continue reading](#)

### Bed-wetting

July 26, 2011

## PRODUCT REVIEWS



### Gear

**Moby Wrap Baby Carrier- Moby Select- 3 Styles (Organic Moby Wrap- Natural Color)**

[See more](#)

### Book

**Time for Bed**

[See more](#)

### Toy

**Rattle**

[See more](#)







## 3-Minute Retreat

3 minutes a day can give you 24 hours of peace.

### The Unity of Believers

Start your retreat



## Parenting 101

Parenting 101 is a simple guide of multiple Parenting tips that can make parenting skills to help parents.

Content is organized into the following topics

Behaviour and Parenting >

Entertainment >

Health Care and Nutrition >

Study Tips and Schooling >

Index

## Subjects

### Behaviour and Parenting

A Parent's Role >

In Transit >

Make Them Responsible >

Parenting the Right Way >

Spic and Span >

# DESIGN PROCESS: NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

**1. Select a  
Target Group**

**2. Research  
Target Group**

**3. Define the  
Group's Point  
of View**

**4. Identify  
Primary Needs  
or Themes for  
the Network**

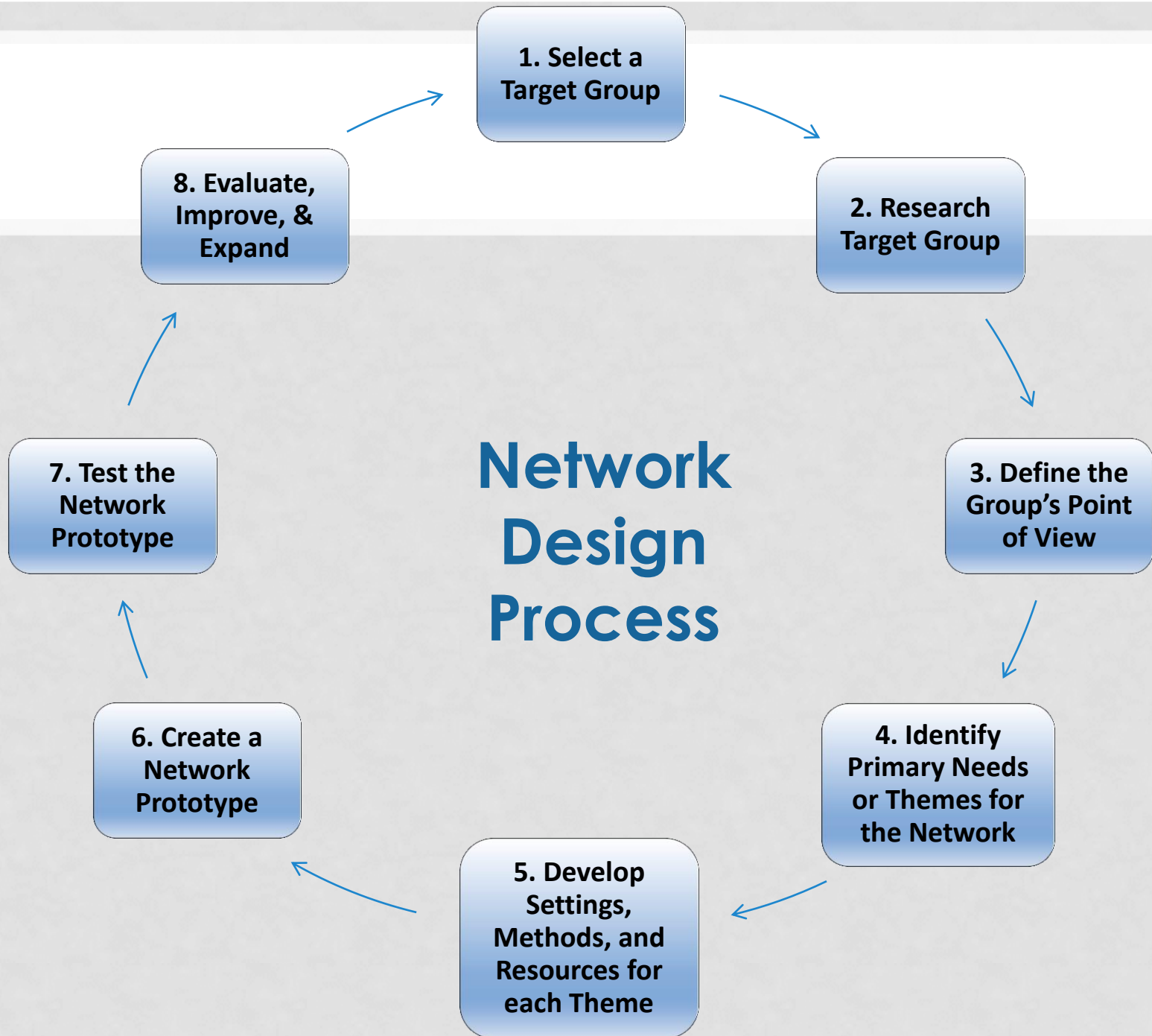
**5. Develop  
Settings,  
Methods, and  
Resources for  
each Theme**

**6. Create a  
Network  
Prototype**

**7. Test the  
Network  
Prototype**

**8. Evaluate,  
Improve, &  
Expand**

# Network Design Process



# *DEFINE - POV WANT AD*

## **Family Example**

*Time crunched, stressed and pressured families seek connections, support and guidance to develop a strong, healthy, value-centered family life where faith can be applied to daily needs. Must deal with contradiction that we want to feel welcome and involved, but don't bug me or take my time.*



Home

Children

Tweens

Teens

Celebrations/Milestones

Worship

Prayer

Wednesday Community  
Night

The Bible

Just for Parents

Just for Kids

Celebrating the Seasons

Young Adults



Rally Day is  
coming Sunday,  
September 7!

Free catered lunch available on  
the front lawn, huge inflatable  
moonwalk and obstacle course,  
music, and fun!

Register for Sunday School



Home

Children

Tweens

Teens

Celebrations/Milestones

Worship

Prayer

Wednesday Community  
Night

The Bible

Just for Parents

Just for Kids

Celebrating the Seasons

Young Adults

Adult Formation



Advent in 2 Minutes



Like



Share

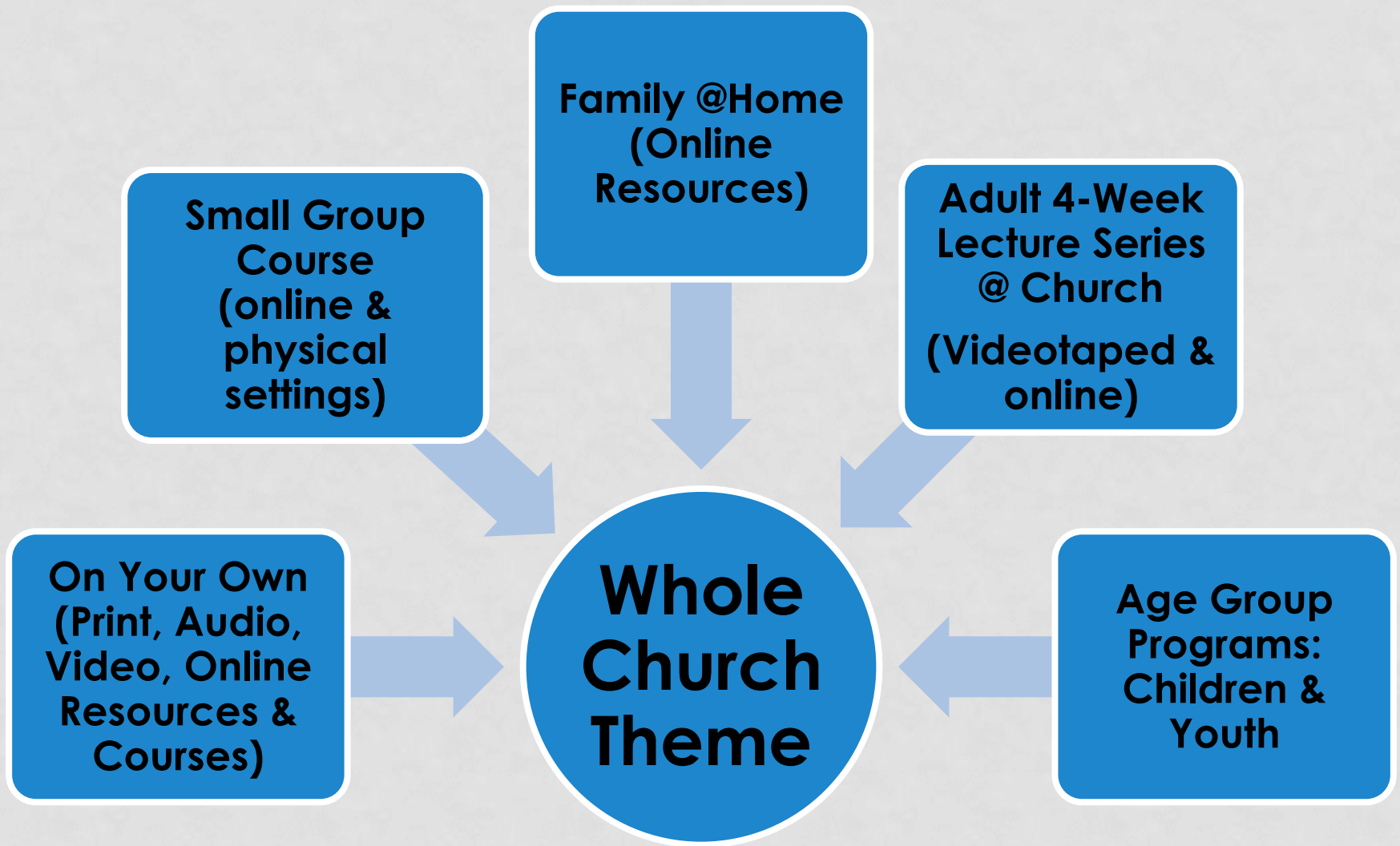


More info

LIKE THE ADVENT WREATH



# OFFER FAITH FORMATION ON ONE THEME IN A VARIETY OF FORMATS



# FAITH FORMATION CURATOR

- Shifting from **providing** religious content and programming to **curating** religious content and experiences for all ages
- ***A content curator is someone who continually finds, groups, organizes, and shares the best and most relevant content on a specific subject to match the needs of a specific audience.***



# FAITH FORMATION CURATOR

*What would you curate?*

- **Congregational Programs & Activities**
- **Community Programs & Activities**
- **People Resources**
- **Print Resources**
- **Audio & Video Resources**
- **Art, Drama, and Music Resources**
- **Online Content: Websites, Courses, Blogs**
- **Apps & Digital Resources**

# *DEVELOPING TRUSTED SOURCES*



# *STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING*

- ⊙ Biblical Content
- ⊙ Theological Content
- ⊙ Developmental Appropriateness
- ⊙ Ethnic-Cultural Appropriateness
- ⊙ Inclusivity
- ⊙ Ease-of-Use
- ⊙ Quality of Experience

*AMERICA'S  
RELIGIOUS  
LANDSCAPE*

