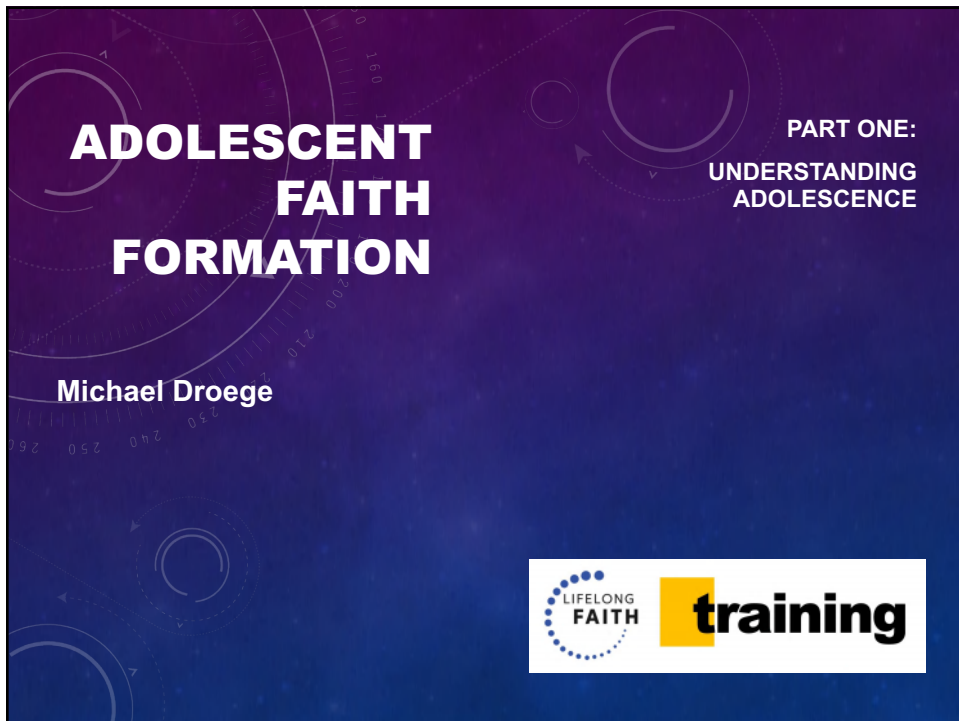




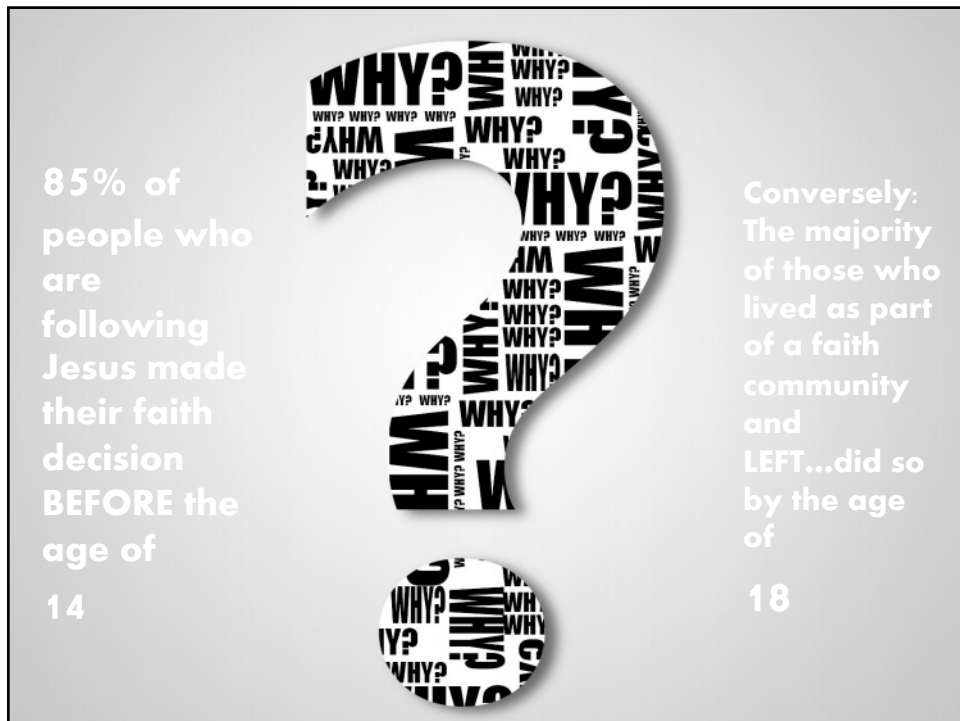
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4

THE LIMINAL STAGE OF LIFE

- Between Childhood and Adulthood
- G. Stanley Hall “Adolescence...”
- Storm and Stress
- Mood Disruption
- Risky Behaviors
- Parental Conflict



5

ADOLESCENT IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT: THE FACTORS OF CHANGE

JOANNA LEE WILLIAMS, PH.D.

Early Adolescents (11-14):

- Desire to identify themselves in multiple ways outside of their role in the family
- Increase awareness of themselves as part of a peer group
- Develop flexibility in how they present themselves in different situations
- Prioritize personal values and decisions to reflect how they see themselves
- Experience greater sensitivity to feedback from others, particularly peers

6

ADOLESCENT IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT: THE FACTORS OF CHANGE

JOANNA LEE WILLIAMS, PH.D.

Middle Adolescents (14-18):

- Begin to imagine their own adolescent identity and role in the larger world
- Actively explore identity alternatives — trying on different hats to see which one fits best
- Consider themselves and their beliefs in relation to broader social-cultural groups like gender, race, and religion
- Take stronger stances on social, ethical, or moral issues
- Increase stability in how they see themselves across different places and social groups

7

AND SOCIOLOGY....

Who am I?

Who are you?

Where do I fit in?



8

KEY QUESTIONS

- **Who am I?**
 - **IDENTITY**
- **Who are you?**
 - **BELONGING**
- **Where to I fit?**
 - **PURPOSE**



9

CAUTIONS TO CONSIDER...

Careful with generalities. Adolescence is dependent on:

- **Economics**
- **Social Location**
- **Uniqueness**

10

AND
THEN...2020

Digital Natives

- First Generation to never be disconnected
- We must learn the digital language

COVID-19

- Lockdown – Quarantine
- Loss of rites of passage
- Adult pressure to “keep up”
- Digital learning

Socio-political Tension

- Greater sense of social and political awareness
- Feeling the pressure to act
- George Floyd-BLM
- Jan 6 - mistrust of Government
- LGBTQIA+

11

ADOLESCENT FAITH FORMATION

Michael Droege

PART TWO:
UNDERSTANDING YOUTH
MINISTRY (PAST AND PRESENT)



The logo for Lifelong Faith Training features the words "LIFELONG FAITH" in a circular arrangement of dots, followed by a yellow square and the word "training" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font.

12

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR MINISTRY?

- a. What is/was your primary ministry methodology (youth group, mentor program, intergenerational, family ministry, etc)
- b. Who are the primary “ministers” of youth (those who have direct faith formation connections)?
- c. What would parents say is the primary purpose of your youth ministry? Pastors? Students? You?

13

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Practical theology is an attempt to link the academic study of theology and belief with the learning of other sciences and the practices of the church.



14

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

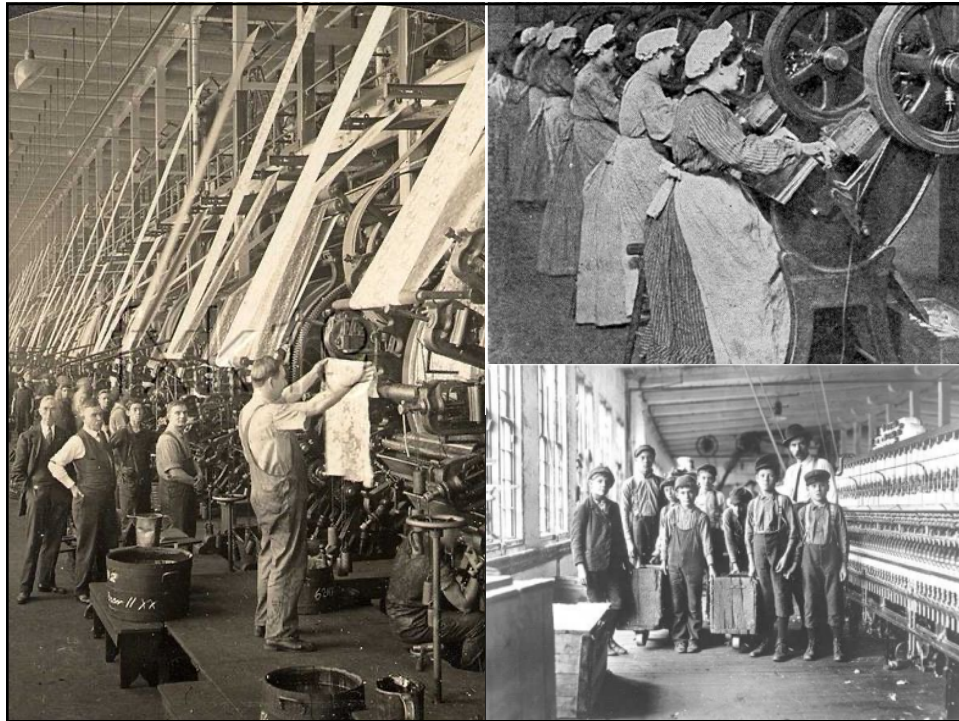
- What is going on?
- Why is it going on?
- What ought to be going on?
- How might we respond?



15



16

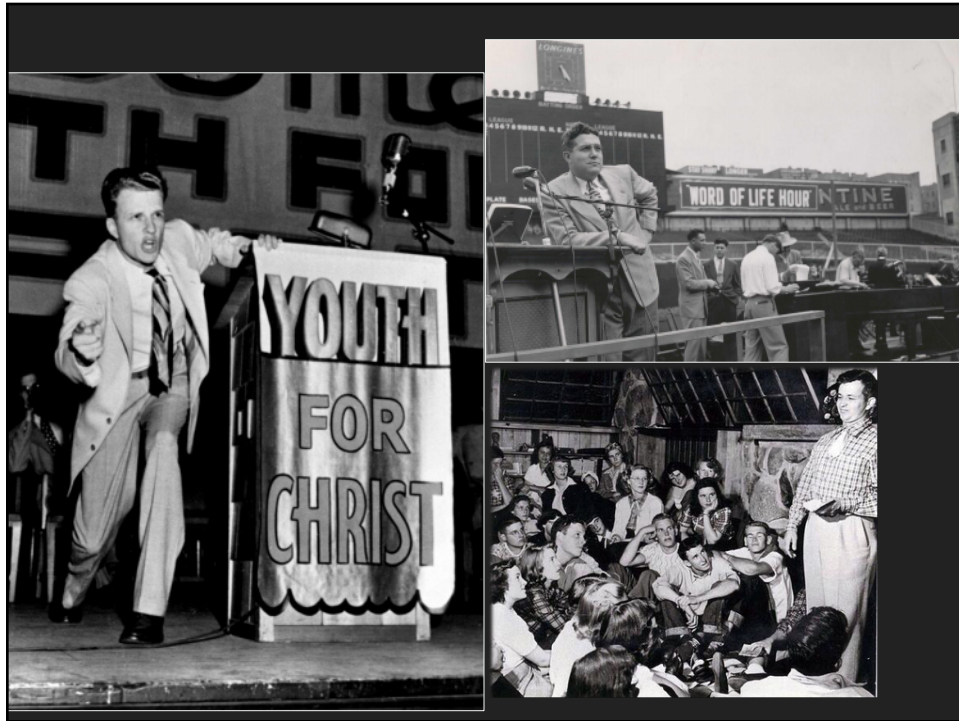


17

**“IT IS A WEED IN THE
CHURCH... THEIR FAMILIES ARE
DIVIDED WHEN THEY OUGHT TO
BE TOGETHER”**

Rev Thomas Burns criticizing the Sunday School
movement of Robert Rakes

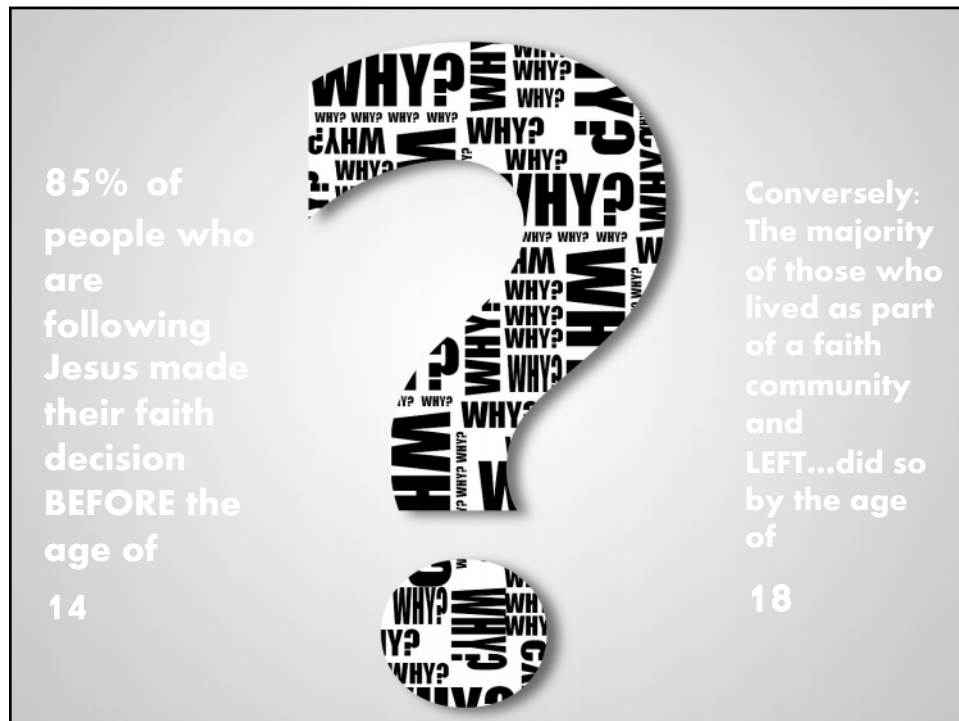
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20



21

DR. MALAN NEL FROM: *YOUTH MINISTRY, A MISSIONAL APPROACH*

...the first step is to establish a **comprehensive** and **inclusive** perspective on ministry. There is quite enough proof that the traditional idea of youth work grew out of and was fed by congregations, parents, Sunday School teachers, ministers, elders, and deacons who did not succeed in taking the youth into account in, and as a part of, the local church.

22

THE MISSION OF GOD...THE MISSION OF US.

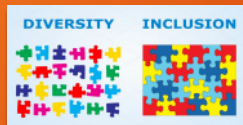
The church exists as an extension of the mission of God in the world and we the representatives.

As members of the local church, the mission of God in the world is our mission and our ministry with the young is no different than our larger mission.

We in faith formation are seeking ways to bring the young along on the mission of God.

23

Three guiding concepts of Inclusion



Inclusion

Inclusion means we view everyone as essential to who we are as a community and intentionally work to go where we go as one

Access

Access means we find ways to include all ages in the core life of our congregation.

Agency

Agency is defined as being able to make choices and decisions to influence events and to have an impact on one's world

24



KEY QUESTIONS


- Who am I?
 - IDENTITY
- Who are you?
 - BELONGING
- Where to I fit?
 - PURPOSE

25

ADOLESCENT FAITH FORMATION

PART 3:
BUILDING BLOCKS OF
EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY

Michael Droege



26

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW YOUTH MINISTRY

- Recognize the three areas of identity formation and plan accordingly
 - Who Am I? - Who are YOU? - Where do I belong?
- Engage the digital spaces
 - Hybrid
 - asynchronicity
- Co-create their ministry with them
- Create space to allow them to participate in congregational life as an influencer.
 - Treat them as gifted and not "helpers"
 - Treat them as co-creators and not students
 - Most of your work will be with adults having a hard time sharing power
- Spend a great deal of time listening.

27

WHY LISTEN?

28

BECAUSE WE NEED TO BE TRANSFORMED

From *The Innovative Church* by Scott Curmode. (Baker House, 2020)

Before we can invite people into the gospel story, we need to understand their story, what matters to them, what defines them.

29

LISTENING QUESTIONS...

What are you hoping for?

What have you lost in the last year?

What are you grieving?

What are you celebrating?

What would you love to be able to do?

What are you hoping for?

What's one thing you longing for--for yourself? For your family?

What changes in our community are you looking for?

How is God moving in your life (or in this community)?



30



31

ONLINE

- Ask 5-10 ADOLESCENTS from your church to use the questions to ask their friends/followers about their longings and losses on their social media accounts.
- (In this process, you will also find out what social media platforms are in common use!).
- Ask them to return the responses (comments) they received after a week without names attached.

32

IN WORSHIP

When your youth are gathering in person for worship again, create some time for distanced pods or groups of 4 and ask young people at your church 2-3 of these same “*longing and losses*” questions.

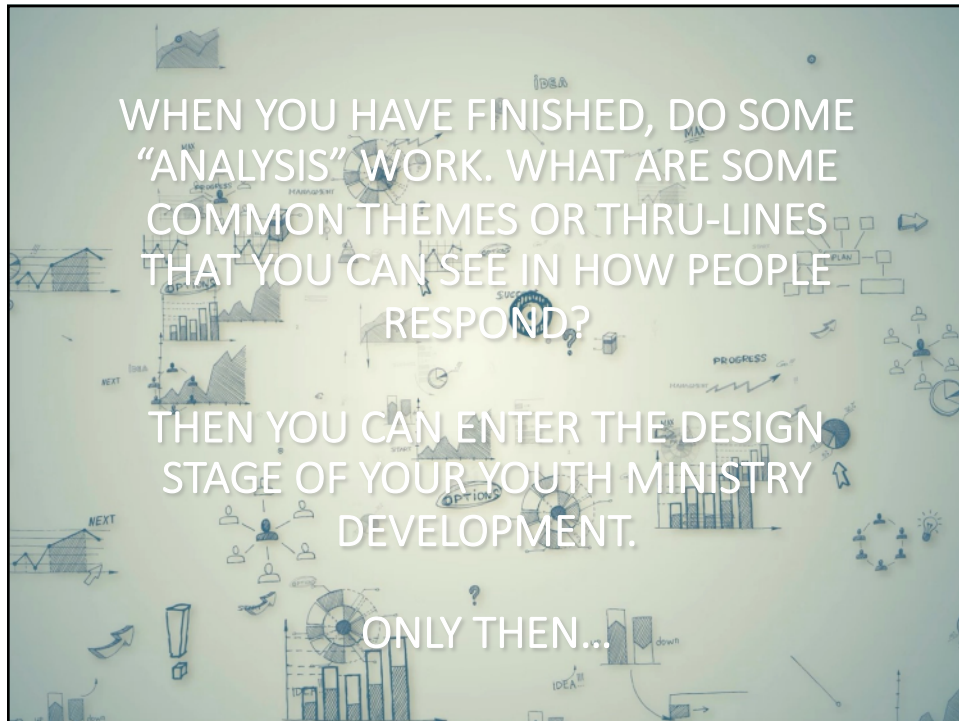
Be sure to have a recorder in each group who writes down peoples’ responses.

33

IN THE COMMUNITY—CHOOSE ONE

- Check in with neighbors or friends who have teenagers and explore some of these questions with them.
- Connect with 3-5 community or grassroots leaders in our community. Offer to buy them lunch. Ask them the *longing/losses* questions about your community. Make sure someone is writing down their answers.
- Connect with some teachers or school administrators or counselors and ask them what they are seeing in regards to these longings and losses questions.

34



35



36



37

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW YOUTH MINISTRY

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38



39

**WHAT IS
UNIQUE IN
2022?**

- Most American teens have always been connected (digital natives)
 - Difference in digital perspectives – community vs. disengagement
 - Self can be even more acutely defined by community standards (likes)
 - Modern teenagers have access to EVERYTHING
 - Do not need youth group for socializing.
- Digital connections have made them more aware of the world and are less susceptible to adult mythology (institutions such as church, America, jobs)

Digital space provides opportunity for faith formation engagement that many youth ministries have yet to explore.

In other words...do you TikTok?

40

DIGITAL METHODS

1. **Extend programming.** Which current programs can you extend using online programming? Identify the kinds of content you would provide online to extend each program.
2. **Flip the program using online content.** Is there high-quality digital content (audio, video, visual, print) available in an online format? Identify the programs you could flip. What will be available online? What will the gathered session look like when the content is online?
3. **New Online programming.** What types of programs can you create online? How can you deliver programming online (webinar, streaming presentation)? How can you develop an online resource center as a portal to curated content?
4. **Multiformat programming.** Which programs are good candidates for multiformat programming? What would a design look like for one multiformat program?
5. **Prepare and follow-up programming.** Which programs can you use a digital strategy to prepare people online for an event or program and then follow up with online content and activities? What would a design for one program look like?

41

TWO WORDS TO REMEMBER...

1. Asynchronous

2. Hybrid

42

COMMON DIGITAL PLATFORMS

1. *Find out what is common in your church – what platforms are being used.*
2. *Instagram – photos and brief comment*
3. *Twitter – common among politically engaged teens*
4. *TikTok – Short user-generated videos, primarily music*
5. *Snapchat – primarily video messaging, messages “self destruct”*
6. *Discord – popular with gamers, open conversation spaces with MMO connectivity*
7. *Twitch – primarily to watch video games*
8. *MMO – vast amount of games, play with friends or strangers*

43

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

1. *Don't try to be an expert when you are not*
2. *Don't "I don't do..." or "I'm too old..."*
3. *Ask for help. Nothing more powerful than a teen being able to assist someone they respect.*
4. *Respect Boundaries – look for cues/invites from the young.*
5. *Behave the same as you would in public.*
6. *Keep comments to a minimum.*
7. *Careful with DMs. They can be rich places and dangerous ones. Do not go alone.*

44

Recognize the three areas of identity formation and plan accordingly

- Who Am I? - Who are YOU? - Where do I belong?

Spend a great deal of time listening to their stories

Engage the digital spaces

- Hybrid
- asynchronicity

Co-create their ministry with them

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BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW YOUTH MINISTRY

45

RESOURCES

WWW.LIFELONGFAITH.COM

LIFELONG
FAITH

46