

Children's Faith Formation



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Children's Faith Formation

Part I
Foundations



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Grounding



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*How do we build faith formation
with children that is...*

Holistic
Inclusive
Responsive
Resilient
Flexible
Adaptable

4



Today's Work

- Know why faith formation with children is important.
- Learn how children grow in their faith.

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Psalm 139:1-14

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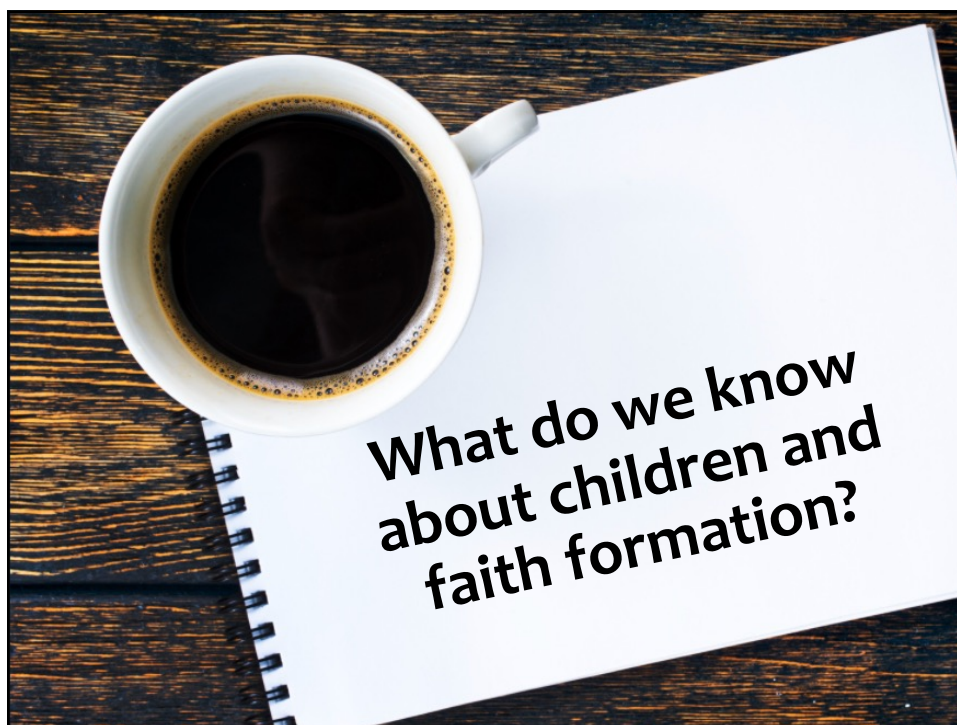
High View



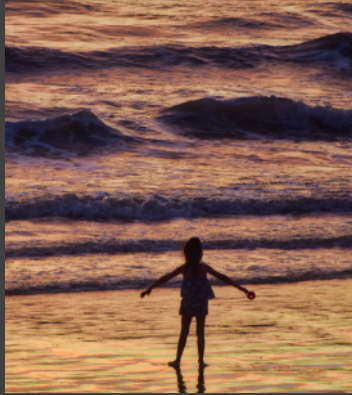
all of
humankind on
each step of
our journey
have access to
the divine

(K.Rahner)

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- God is actively present.
- Children have all they need.
- Children are God's good and beloved creation.
- God gives children gifts for holy work.
- God is present and at work- in the lives of people of all ages

Experiencing God Together

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Meaning Makers

- Children have a capacity for faith
- Experiences matter
- Discoveries shape understanding
- Children learn through modeling and practicing
- Repetition and routine are essential



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Making Meaning



Relationships



Wonder



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The Holy Dance

God ★ Children ★ Family ★ Church

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Part II
Current Insights

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Grounding



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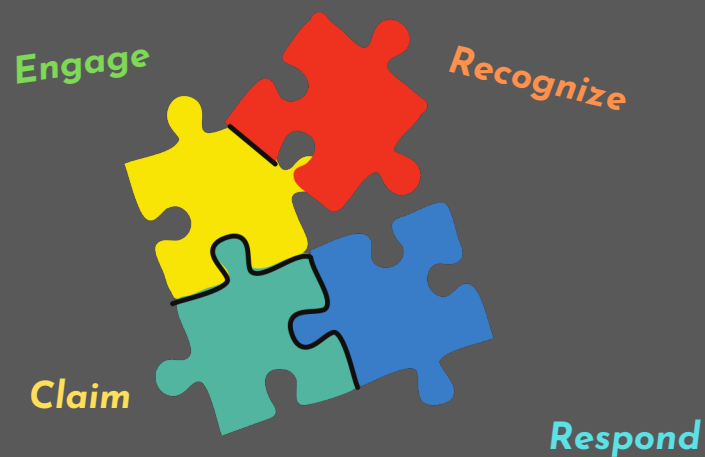


Today's Work

- Describe how children make meaning
- Identify tools they use for this work
- Name practices that support them in their meaning making process
- Claim current shifts and trends influencing children's faith formation and ministry with children.

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How children make meaning



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Meaning Making Together

Tools for this work

story

Liturgy/Ritual

Relational Awareness

Memory Markers

Wonder

Work



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Other important Practices

1. Create a safe space
2. Discover purpose
3. Try new things
4. Build Relationships
5. Practice
6. Explore
7. Seek justice

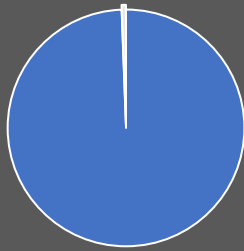


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Today's Reality



1 Hour a week
.006 of a person's time



God is with us 24/7



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Trends

- Families have disappeared and/or are disconnected
- Shift towards On Demand
- FF happens outside of Sunday mornings and the church building
- Relationships are essential



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every moment of every day
is an opportunity for
children to connect with
and respond to God's
presence and love



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Shifts

- Instruction—> Practice
- age graded—> family/IG
- large group —> small group
- One track—> pathways and playlists
- One hour a week—> 24/7
- yearly—> shorter, “seasonal” modules



It is important that we look at these shifts as opportunities.

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Shepherds and Guides



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Work of the Church

- Connect
- Equip
- Resource
- Support



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Equipping, resourcing, and supporting families is an essential part of ministry.



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The Holy Dance

God ★ Children ★ Family ★ Church

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Self-Care



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Part III Designing Ministry

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Grounding



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Today's Work



- Consider a new ecology for faith formation
- Identify Faith Forming Environments
- Highlight ministry essentials
- Share practical ideas and possibilities

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Designing Children's Faith formation

Remember:

- Foundations
- Cultural Insight
- Tools and practices

Lean into what you know:

- Training
- Experience
- **Listening**

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Invitation to Imagine and Create

- Claiming our Why
- Leaning into what we know
- Using the tools and resources available to us



With God's help, we will create relevant and impactful ministries

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Design Work

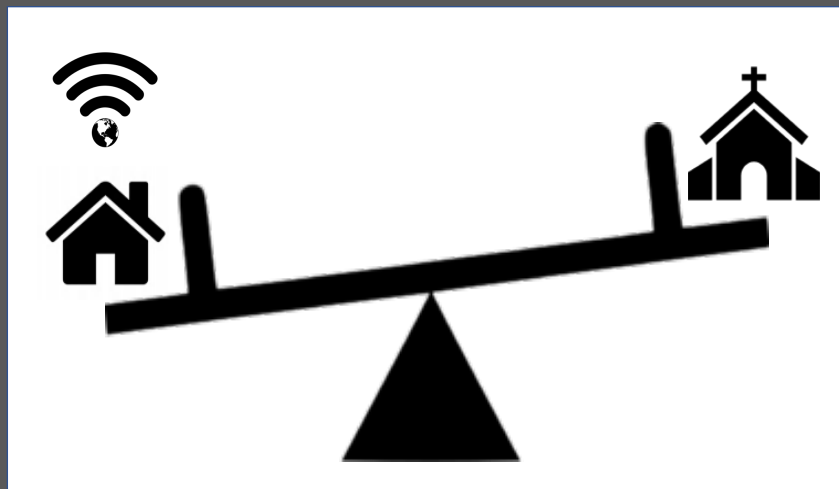
Where ministry happens



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Design Work

Hybrid Ministry: Finding a balance



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Design Work

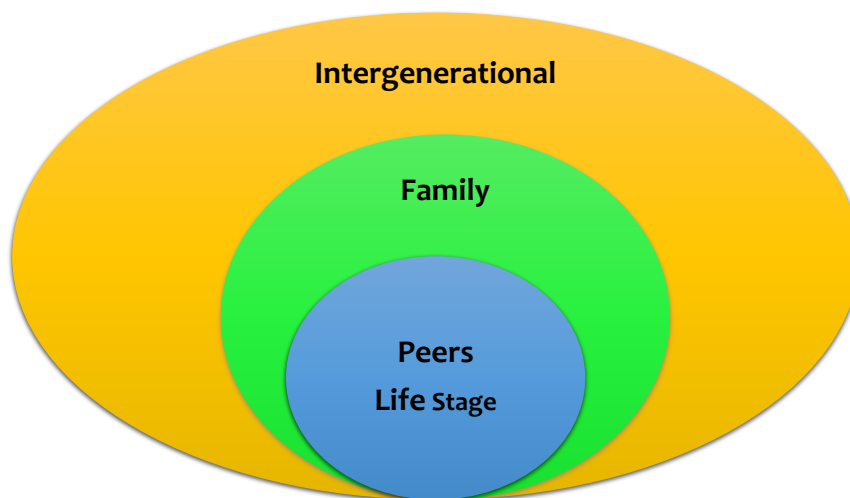
Learning Communities



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Design Work

Holistic Approach



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Design Work

Holistic Ministry

Intergenerational

- Participate in several celebrations of Church year feasts & seasons
- Join the community in a service service project
- Participate in a leadership role or church ministry

Family

- Develop a faith practice each season: prayer, Bible reading, etc.
- Celebrate church year seasons at home
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

Life Stage / Peer Specific

- Select one's participation in courses, workshops, retreats, vacation Bible school, service projects and mission trips, etc.

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Build a framework

Focus: Children	Gathered in person	Gathered online	Asynchronous (Digital Content)
Intergenerational	Weekly meal with discussion cards on table		
Families			Weekly Playlist of content for families to use to learn and practice how to pray
Peer Groups		Prayer group/check-in/Small Group	

Evaluate your ministry:

- What is going well?
- What needs to change or let go of?
- What do you need to add?

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Meaning Making Together

Tools for this work

story

Liturgy/Ritual

Relational Awareness

Memory Markers

Wonder

Work



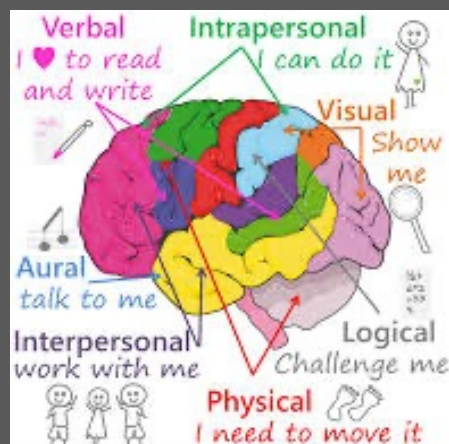
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Design Work

Learning Styles

- Make it interactive
- Create space to process
- Utilize all the senses
- Honor the different learning styles



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Plan Well

Ministry: Small Groups	Opening	Faith Formation Experience	Closing
Learning styles	External processing – invite participants to share as they gather	Kinesthetic: walk around the church	Internal processing- give them 1minute to silence their bodies and to think about their prayers
Meaning Making tools (Story, Liturgy and Ritual, Relational Awareness, Memory Markers, Wonder, Work)	Liturgy Relational Awareness Memory Markers	Story Wonder	
Spiritual Practices	Getting Ready	Journaling	Prayer

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Ministry Essentials



Creative



Relationships



Intentional



Equip Families



Experiential



Spiritual Disciplines



Hybrid



Keep it Simple

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Blessing

Go knowing that God has called you into ministry for such a time as this. Lean on all that God has given you as you do this important work. Remember, you are not alone. God is with you, Christ is beside you, and the Holy Spirit is moving in you. Go in peace to continue God's work.



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