

INTEGRATED PATHWAYS OF FAITH FORMATION

A Guiding Word

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SHARE



Name some significant milestones along your faith journey.

What are you involved in now that tends your faith? This might include; worship, small groups, meeting with a mentor, personal devotional life.

Name some significant life transitions that occur in our lives from birth to death. How do you think your congregation could support people during these times?

READ



Psalm 71:16-18

I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone. Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds. Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

TALK



Do you know the moment of realisation, 'Oh where's (insert name of person)?'

It's a sad reality that when people come across difficult life experiences or transitions, they often disconnect. It's an intergenerational challenge for any congregation effecting children, youth, families and older adults.

In Psalm 71, it's like we're spectators listening to the prayer of a person who has been blessed with integrated pathways of discipleship throughout their life. How can we say this? It's simple.

As we listen to the Psalmist we hear them facing a new crisis situation in old age. The difference is there is no hint of disconnection. Instead they draw upon the deep wells of faith formation that have continued to shape them over their whole life journey. This person is anchored, steadfast, and confident in the Lord in difficult circumstances.

Pathways aren't about programs, they point to the ongoing deep spiritual needs people face over their lifetime. They begin as entry points into the community and seek ways to continually shape and form faith in God's precious children.

- Have there been different times throughout your life when God has powerfully intervened to help you? How often do you talk about these with the next generations?
- How can we encourage generations to spend time together sharing about their experience of faith and life at significant life transitions? Beginning school, high school or university? Receiving their first Bible, learning to drive, preparing for marriage, just to get you started!

PRAY



Pray for each other, your congregation and the world.

BLESS



Bless each other with these words:
(Name), child of God, God has blessed you in Jesus and will never leave or forsake you. Amen.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

#4

Integrated pathways of faith formation tend the faith journeys of children, young people and their families through the various ages and phases of life.

FAITH 5



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