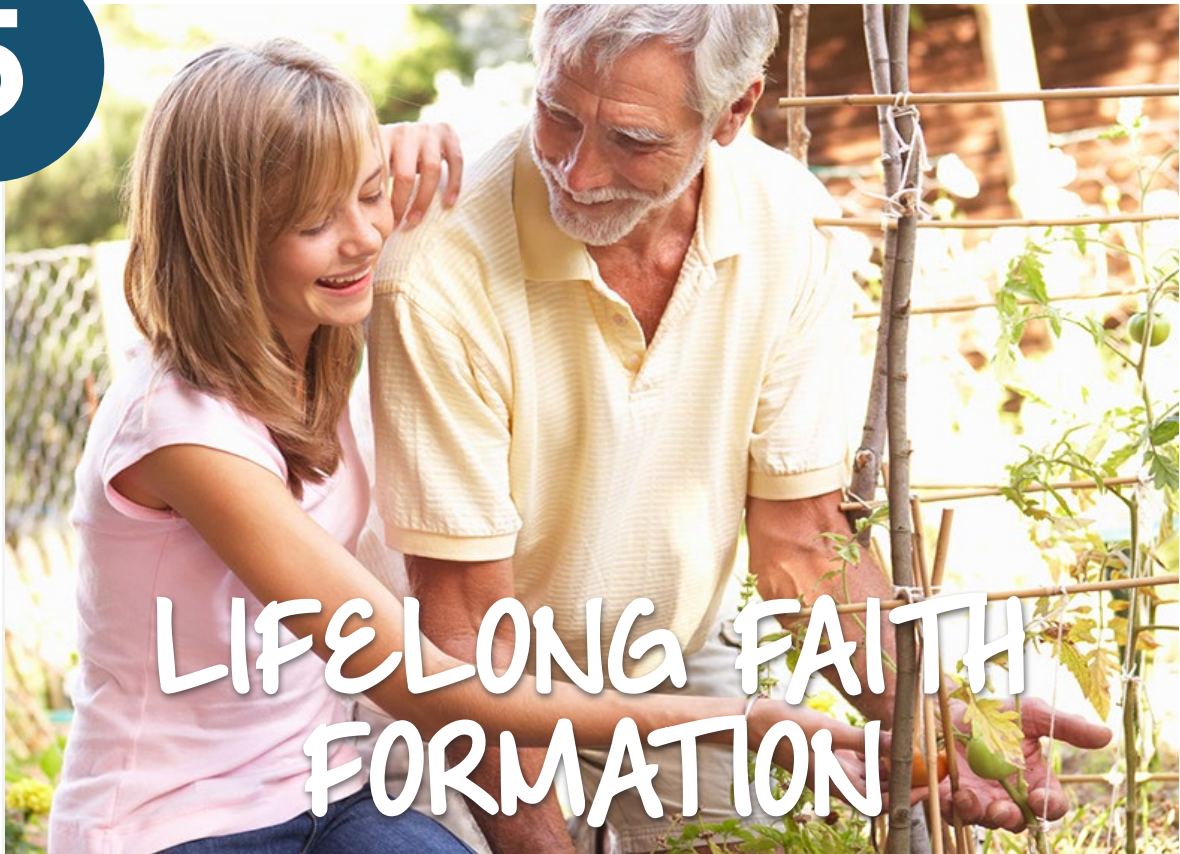


# 5



## LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

People of all ages are discipled in faith through the different stages of life.

*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.*

PSALM 71:16-18

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. They are anchored, steadfast, and confident in the Lord in difficult circumstances.

In the twenty-first century, faith formation involves planning a journey of lifelong discipleship. It is a process of experiencing, learning, and practising the Christian faith as we seek to follow Jesus in today's world.

This faith-formation journey seeks to support the needs, interests, and spiritual growth of every age group. This takes place as we are informed through the study of God's word and as we discover God's plan for us. We are formed by participating in community through worship, prayer and hospitality. We are then transformed to live a life of discipleship and service to others.

To provide this holistic pathway requires intentional planning. This could include celebrating faith milestones or rites of passage. Every ending, beginning, transition, and moment in life is an opportunity to actively claim God's grace and blessing for our lives.