

SURFACE TO SOUL

Live Well | Lead Well | Coach Well

Four Questions for Forming Faith

QUESTION 1 | WHAT ARE OUR DREAMS FOR FORMING FAITH EVERY DAY?

SAMPLE DREAM STATEMENT: Our deepest desire is to equip people to be living expressions of Jesus Christ in the world where they gather, grow, give, and go to serve and bless others. We will provide pathways that support:

- Transformational, intergenerational worship experiences.
- Long-lasting, life-giving, faith-shaping, intergenerational relationships.
- Practicing faith at church, in our homes, online, and on the go.
- The celebration of meaningful rituals and traditions.
- Opportunities to serve and bless our neighbors and communities.

QUESTION 2 | WHAT PERSPECTIVES OR CONVICTIONS DO WE HOLD ABOUT FORMING FAITH?

List your core beliefs and convictions about how faith is formed and how one lives vibrant faith in their daily lives. Listed below are sample belief statements from various congregations.

- We believe that God is present and active in the world; our task is to partner with God's dreams for the world.
- Faith formation is about learning to follow in the way of Jesus, with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
- Faith formation as a lifelong process that's lived out every day, everywhere.
- Faith is formed in the context of community that includes settings at and beyond the congregation.
- The world we interact with every day is our mission field and where we practice and experience our faith.
- Households are learning laboratories for forming faith every day.
- Our homes serve as mission outposts to our neighborhoods where we serve and bless.
- We recognize the uniqueness of each person and strive to meet people where they are in life and faith.
- We believe that everyone has a gift to share, a story to tell, and callings to fulfill.
- We believe that stewardship involves everything we say and do after we say "yes" to God.
- Extending Christian hospitality is an integral element of following in the way of Christ.

QUESTION 3 | WHICH PRACTICES/PATHWAYS WILL WE EMPHASIZE?

Describe what a faith-forming greenhouse looks like for your setting (see sample statements below).

- We make faith central in all that we say and do. God must be the subject of our conversations.
- We demonstrate radical, genuine hospitality where people experience God's love through each another.
- We frequently share life and faith stories during worship, in small groups and homes, and online.
- We introduce people to life-giving, faith-forming spiritual practices that enliven one's soul.
- We celebrate people's gifts, honor people's callings, and help people develop and deploy their gifts.
- We are Spirit-driven, joyful, grateful people who are full of hope, wonder, and laughter.
- We provide tangible ways that people can connect, celebrate, learn, and serve together.
- We provide pathways for people to practice faith individually and with others, and to practice faith at church, at home, online, in daily interactions, and through immersion experiences.

QUESTION 4 | WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS OF A MATURING CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Answer the questions below to gain greater insight on what following in the way of Jesus might look like:

- What would maturing Christ-followers *value*? How will it change their outlook on life?
- What would maturing Christ-followers *do or practice* (e.g., habits, routines, etc.)?
- What would maturing Christ-followers *know*? What do you hope they will *experience or be exposed to*?



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