


CONNECTING EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

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BECOMING CHRISTIAN...

- How were you “formed” as a Christian?
- Where did it happen?
- Who was involved?
- What practices?
- How do you describe it? Was it “evangelism” or “Christian education” or both?



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THE “GOAL” OF EVANGELISM:


- Conversion?
- Repentance?
- Salvation?
- What does discipleship have to do with this?



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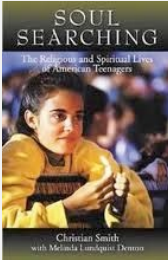
FORMATION

- Are moral choices just a matter of individual taste?
- “I would do what I thought made me happy or how I felt. I don’t have any other way of knowing what to do but how I internally feel.”



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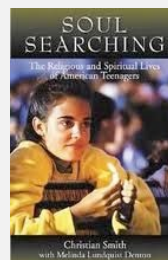
NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH & RELIGION



1. Most American Teenagers have a positive view of religion but otherwise don’t give it much thought
2. Teenagers lack a theological language with which to express their faith or interpret their experience of the world
3. A minority of American Teenagers—but a significant minority—say religious faith is important, and that it makes a difference in their lives.

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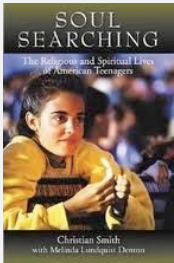
NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH & RELIGION



4. Many teenagers enact and espouse a religious outlook that is distinct from traditional teachings of most world religions—an outlook called Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

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NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH & RELIGION



- 4. Many teenagers enact and espouse a religious outlook that is distinct from traditional teachings of most world religions—an outlook called Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- 5. Most US teenagers mirror their parents' religious faith

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EVANGELISM AND FORMATION



- Reconnecting Conversion, Formation, Initiation and Baptism
- Catechesis:
 - Kata: Down
 - Echein: To Sound

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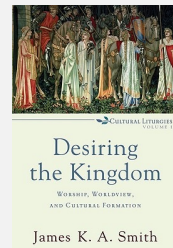
EVANGELISM AND FORMATION



- Catechesis seeks the "mind of Christ."
- Catechesis aims at the formation of a community, not just individuals.
- Catechesis requires renunciations and adhesions

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DESIRING THE KINGDOM



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FORMATION THROUGH RITUAL/PRACTICE

Thin Practices:



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FORMATION THROUGH RITUAL/PRACTICE

Thick Practices:



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FORMATION THROUGH RITUAL/PRACTICE

"Our thickest practices...have a liturgical function insofar as they are a certain species of ritual practice that aim to do nothing less than shape our identity by shaping our desire for what we envision as the kingdom—the ideal of human flourishing." (87)



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PRACTICES AND LITURGIES



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PRACTICES AND LITURGIES



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PRACTICES AND LITURGIES



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EVANGELISM AND FORMATION

"Evangelists ought to think of themselves as language instructors, grammar coaches, or partners in a conversation conducted in the language we call 'Christian.'" -- Live to Tell, 118

- Where does this take place?
- What does this look like in action, in the local church?



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DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

- Membership vs. Discipleship
- Renewed post-Christendom emphasis on Formation
- Drawing attention to the need for "system" that embodies missional intention toward formation

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DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

Every intentional discipleship system should include the following:

- 1. Characteristics of a disciple: Create descriptions of what a disciple looks like at each stage of growth.
- 2. Characteristics of a maturing disciple: What is the end product of your system?
- 3. Stages of growth in the system: How does a disciple grow?

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DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

Elements in the System:

- A disciple worships
- Is part of a community
- Commits to spiritual practices
- Is generous and serves
- Is seeking to be Christ-like

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STAGES OF GROWTH

- Searching – Seeking to make sense of our life; asking questions like, "What gives my life purpose, joy, and fulfillment?"
- Exploring – Attend, but not belong; may not be committed to follow Jesus; wrestling with God's presence in our life.
- Beginning – Beginning to understand and put into practice our newfound faith; excited about faith, but still have doubts.
- Growing – Eager to be identified as a follower of Christ; taking personal responsibility for our growing relationship with Jesus; beginning to integrate our faith into life in a holistic way and looking to Jesus for help.
- Maturing – Moving toward surrender of our lives to Jesus; longing to know, love, obey, serve, and be with Jesus as a disciple; begin to make disciples.

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THE CLIMB

Discipleship Pathway

TONGANOXIE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Discipleship Pathway

Will, Attitude & Motive
Group Type 2: covenant groups, one-on-one accountability & Leadership training

Mind, Belief, Behavior
Group Type 1: LIFE groups, ministry teams & classes

Heart, Need, Emotions
Support groups, Serve/Witness & Mission/outreach

PEACE
United Methodist Church
Pickering, Ohio 45117
www.peace.org

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Faith Growth Pathway

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