



surface to soul
going deeper with vibrant faith

INTERVIEWING FAMILIES ABOUT NEXT STEPS IN FAITH

Interviewing families about their background, family and faith traditions, and hopes for their children provides faith formation leaders with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the life and faith journeys of the families they serve. It gives church leaders a venue for sharing their philosophy on lifelong faith; what it means to be the church; and how households can live their faith every day, everywhere, with everyone.

STEP 1 | Begin with asking a few questions about the family.

1. Tell me about your family (Members? Grow up here?).
2. What are some things that you do together as a family?
3. What are some things you consider important to your family?
4. What are some of the challenges you currently face as a family?

STEP 2 | Ask questions about the student's and the parents' spiritual life.

1. How long have you been a member of this congregation?
2. What are your hopes regarding _____ involvement in our ministries?
3. In what ways would you like to see _____ grow in his/her faith between now and the time he/she graduates from high school?
4. Are there specific things you hope ____ learns or experiences as a result of being involved in our congregation's youth ministry program?
5. As parents, what are your plans for continuing to grow in faith this year?
6. What role do grandparents, sponsors, friends, and relatives play in helping you grow as a Christian? What role would you like them to play?
7. How do you currently practice faith at home throughout the week (prayers, devotions, etc.)?
8. What do you need from me/our congregation to continue to grow as followers of Christ?

STEP 3 | Share your philosophy about forming lifelong faith.

1. "At ____, we view parents as one of the key faith shapers in the lives of their children and we're here to support households in that process."
2. "We encourage families to infuse their daily activities with opportunities to pray, learn, serve, and celebrate."
3. "We offer a variety of programs/activities to support youth and their parents in their faith journey (describe some of these items). Are there any specific programs/ministries you could envision your family participating in?"
4. "Research shows the importance of worshipping as a family, and we hope that you will worship regularly (3 or more times a month) as a family. Is that a realistic expectation for you?"
5. "We believe that everyone has a story to tell and a gift to share. What are some ways you'd like to use your gifts to love and serve others?" Are some ways you could see yourself supporting young people here?

STEP 4 | Share "next steps" for growing in faith.

1. Invite student/parents to register for upcoming events, classes, trips and retreats.
2. Collect Student Profile form and obtain parent contact information.
3. Give the family a few faith-forming resources offer a closing prayer.