

# Faith Integration: A New Perspective

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# The Dead Cat Story...



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- Faith integration cliches.
- Faith formation faux pas.
- What do we know about our students and their faith development?
- What has research taught us about faith development in the lives of our students (and even our own lives!)?
- Theories of Faith Development/Formation...

# Fowler's Stages of Faith Formation



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6		(Quite Rare) Universalizing Faith	A non-dualistic approach to life. Sees oneself as part of whole regardless of nationality, social class, gender, age, race, political ideology, or religious tradition.
5		(Middle Adulthood) Conjunctive Faith	Adult thinker recognizes multiple perspectives, paradoxes, and can hold more than one at a time.
4		(Early Adulthood) Individuative-Reflective Faith	Adult takes on faith as identity. Personal responsibility, religion, social justice, beliefs, etc. become important.
3		(Adolescence) Synthetic-Conventional Faith	Teen begins to recognize stories, actions, examples of faith in those outside of family. Internalized faith begins.
2		(School Age) Mythic-Literal Faith	Child begins to take on stories, actions, examples of faith as belonging to community.
1		(Toddler-Early Childhood) Intuitive-Projective Faith	Fantasy filled, imitative phase. Child influenced by stories, actions, examples of faith in primary adults.
0		(Infancy-Age 2) Primal and Undifferentiated	Attachment bonds develop laying foundation for trust and meaning-making <a href="http://www.brittneydoll.com">www.brittneydoll.com</a>





## 1. Experienced faith

Infants assume the faith of their care givers, as it is what they are first exposed to - their first and vital exposure to Christianity.

## 2. Affiliative faith

Children start copying what they see in those around them; they will join in because 'everybody else does it.'

# Four stages of faith

## 3. Searching faith

Children start asking questions, trying to understand the things they have already been taught, so they can decide whether they believe this themselves.

## 4. Owned faith

This is when a child passes through the searching stage and gets to a place where they 'own' their faith.



Piaget's Stages of  
Cognitive Development

**Sensori-  
motor**

**Pre-  
operational**

**Concrete  
operational**

**Formal  
operational**



- **What if we approached “faith integration” from a whole-school perspective?**
- **What if we celebrated the knowledge and experience each of us has at our grade levels as we consider our students’ faith formation?**
- **What if we considered the common faith questions of the students at our grade levels?**
- **What if we got organized and developed consistency in answering those questions – school-wide?**



- Notice the groups posted on the walls.
- When prompted, please organize yourselves according to the grade level you teach and/or with whom you are most familiar.
- Use the QR code on the next slide to access and add to the sharepoint doc of Common Faith Questions





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- **What's next?**
- **Faith Integration: A New Perspe....Practice?**
- **How can we use this kind of activity in our own schools to celebrate the knowledge and experience each of us has at our grade levels?**
- **How can we help one another understand the common faith questions being asked in our classrooms?**
- **How can we get organized and develop consistency in answering those questions school-wide?**



- **Taking this back to your schools...**
  - **Involve your whole school/campus. Grab the administrative assistants, the lunch providers, the custodians, the coaches, the pastors, the volunteers...**
  - **Use the questions as a basis for your campus devotions.**
  - **Rely on the the age-experts to help guide age appropriateness.**
  - **Rely on pastors to help inform doctrine/theology.**
  - **Grow as a team in this new practice of faith integration!**



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# Concordia University, Nebraska

Training students for professional  
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**Education (LTD), Pre-Sem,  
Director of Christian Ed  
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