

An intergenerational,  
Christian formation\*  
curriculum that replaces the  
old Sunday School model with  
a program that is  
more practical, more flexible,  
and more innovative.

Specifically designed for small  
congregations that don't have  
“critical mass” to separate  
out into different age groups  
for formation time.

Used between two Sunday  
morning worship services (but  
easily used at any other time of day),  
GIFT® has two parts:  
breakfast and formation time.

*Growing In Faith Together*  
(GIFT)® is run by a team of  
volunteers, and allows for  
less energy input, greater  
participation, and more  
ownership of faith formation  
by the entire congregation.

*\*“Formation” is the term replacing education,  
because “formation” encompasses education,  
but also provides opportunities for  
life-long learning, fellowship, prayer, renewal,  
and faith exploration.*

## Food



## Fellowship



## Formation



*Growing In  
Faith Together*®  
Programming & Consulting

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*I'd love to get to Sunday school, but...  
...it is too early  
...Sunday is our time to have a  
real brunch as a family  
...I don't get to see my kids  
much during the week  
...there aren't enough  
people my kids' age  
...my high schoolers aren't engaged  
...my kids just don't want to  
...there isn't anything for adults*



Tired of the excuses?

CHECK OUT:

*Growing In  
Faith Together*®

# Food

Breaking bread together and sharing a meal is a tradition that started with the very first churches. Sometimes it is done as part of a liturgy (Communion or Eucharist), but sometimes it is less formal.

GIFT® incorporates a meal (often breakfast) to bring us all together, and to allow families to enjoy a relaxed, homemade, nutritious meal together.



The meal should be hot, homemade, and not something someone could pick up at a drive-thru or bagel shop on the way. It is not only a sign of hospitality, it is nutritious brain-food so that the participants can more fully engage in the formation time (and worship if that is to follow).



Sharing breakfast also makes getting to formation on time easier. All the participants have to do is roll out of bed, get dressed, and head to church!

# Fellowship

Although fellowship is often seen as a social event, not connected with anything too spiritual, fellowship is a key part of a good formation program.

Fellowship, truly getting to know one another, allows for more sincere and trusting sharing of our spiritual journeys.



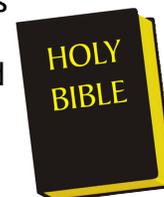
An added bonus is that the more individuals meet and create deep, meaningful relationships, the more they will want to come to church (and stay at church) for formation and other activities, including worship. Participants in *Growing In Faith Together*® also tend to become more involved in other areas of the church: vestry, altar guild, buildings and grounds...

# Formation

The formal formation time starts after the meal. Exactly what happens during this time is highly dependent on what needs and resources your congregation has. At one parish, there are many actors, teachers, and artists, so much of the response time is art or drama. At another parish, most of the congregants are professors, and might want more discussion during their response time.



Generally, two people lead formation time. One is the facilitator, who follows a set script and keeps things moving at an appropriate pace. The other person is in charge of the response time: leading a discussion, an art project, a drama response.



The Bible passage, the responses, and other details are decided by the GIFT® team. Darby can consult directly with the team and provide materials and lesson plans.

