

INFANCY

0-2 Years Old



- Rapidly physical, cognitive, and emotional development measured in months.
- Base their idea of the world and its stability on relationship with parents
- Develop an image of God, based on the care provided by parents.
- Born with intrinsic trust.
- Egocentric
- Base view of world on what they can sense.
- Ruled by impulse.
- Short attention span.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

3-6 Years Old



- Imagination is supreme.
- Narrative understanding of the world.
- Black and white mentality, in which something is either all good or all bad.
- Active and full of Laughter, talkativeness, and spiritedness.
- Egocentric but more aware of others needs.
- Concrete thinkers.
- Naturally curious.

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

6-12 years Old



- Become part of a community and associate God with the characteristics of the group.
- Developing their self-concepts.
- Begin reflecting on themes found in faith.
- Faith is a feeling or sensation and begin to articulate their faith.
- Moving from an imagination based understanding of the world to a fact based one.
- Begin to distinguish the difference between fact and fantasy though fantasy is still used to explain events or realities that cannot be understood
- Beliefs are concrete in nature and God is seen in human terms.

ADOLESCENCE

12-20 years Old



- Faith emerges in relational terms.
- Begin to ask questions about contradictions between faith and other belief systems.
- Feel competition for attention between family, peers, academics, sports and media.
- Faith begins to become a system of synthesizing values.
- Faith becomes a way to make sense of identity and values.
- “Identity Crisis” due to the discrepancies between self and values of others.
- Think abstractly and incorporate logic.
- Experiences begin to expand beyond the family at this point.
- Religion and spirituality are a vital part of the search for answers.

YOUNGEST ADULT

20-40 Years Old



- Experience transition from “leaving home.”
- Examine self, background and values.
- Commitment to intrinsic responsibilities becomes more important.
- Higher self-awareness.
- Attempt to fit together identity with their values and worldview.
- Awareness of justice and laws that must be followed.
- Personal ethics become important.
- Faith becomes more internalized and is less about religion and more about the personal spiritual journey.

MIDDLE ADULT

40-60 Years Old



- Become more open to deeper experiences.
- Openness to understanding and learning about other religions in order to identify commonalities and differences.
- Want to experience other’s viewpoints in order to gain an understanding
- Orientation to others and a commitment to justice takes place.
- Can begin looking for ways to add a spark to their relationship with God and others through service or drastic life change.
- Ability to be more honest with ones-self and others .

OLDEST ADULT

65+ Year Old



- These individuals usually live in a community setting but live alone.
- Religion becomes more important in the lives of people as they get older.
- Church attendance increases in people as they age, while participation declines.
- May rely more heavily on belief, faith and prayer than they are in attendance to a religious organizational activity.
- Health, declining physical ability and difficulty with transportation religious services.