

MAKING THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT MEANINGFUL

APCE 2024

Workshop #111

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INTRODUCTIONS



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CHALLENGES

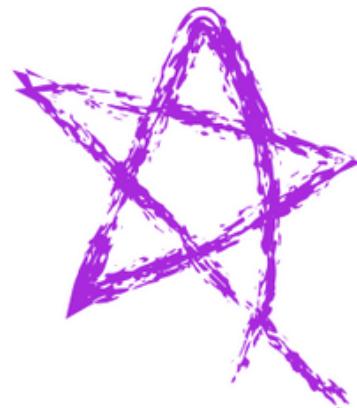
- Lack of child development knowledge
- “Entertaining” the adults in the room
- Low numbers of kids
- Scripture that is not kid-appropriate
- Neurodiversity among children
- I’m out of ideas!

Let's turn our challenges into **opportunities!**

CHALLENGE:
**LACK OF CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
KNOWLEDGE**

OPPORTUNITY:
LET'S LEARN!

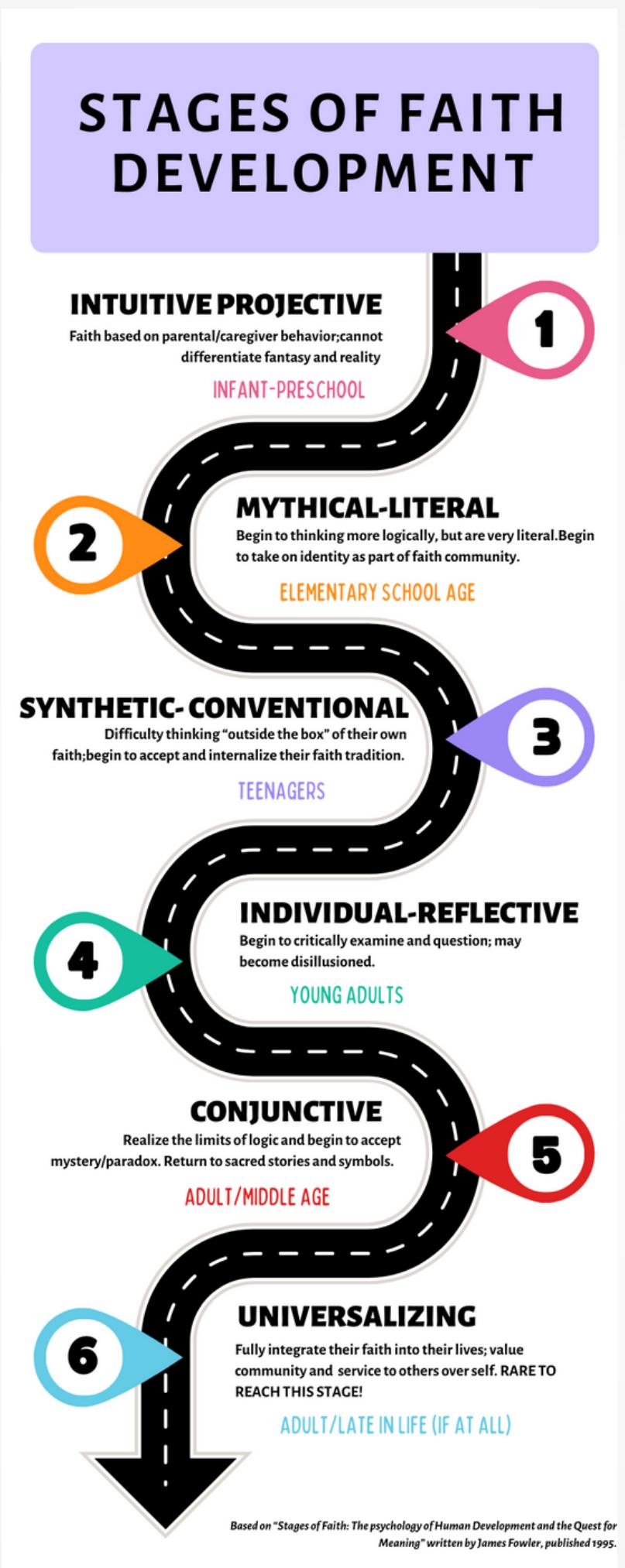




Stages of Cognitive Development



Age Range	Description	Developmental Events
Birth-2 years	Sensorimotor Experiencing the world through senses and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stranger anxiety• Object Permanence
2-6 years	Preoperational Representing with words, images, but lacking logical reasoning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language Development• Pretend Play• Egocentrism
7-11 years	Concrete Operational Logical thought about concrete events; mathematical reasoning; concrete analogies..	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation• Less egocentric• Still struggle with abstract
12 years+	Formal Operational Capable of abstract reasoning, moral/ethical logic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deductive reasoning• Sense of future/planning



All the way through elementary school, children, in general are VERY literal thinkers.

The younger they are, the more true this is.

CHALLENGE: THE ADULTS



OPPORTUNITY:
“IT’S NOT FOR THEM!”

CHALLENGE: LOW NUMBERS OF CHILDREN

OPPORTUNITY:
INVITE PEOPLE OF
DIFFERNT AGES



CHALLENGE: SCRIPTURE IS NOT CHILD APPROPRIATE

OPPORTUNITY:
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MATCH!



CHALLENGE: WIDE VARIETY OF AGES

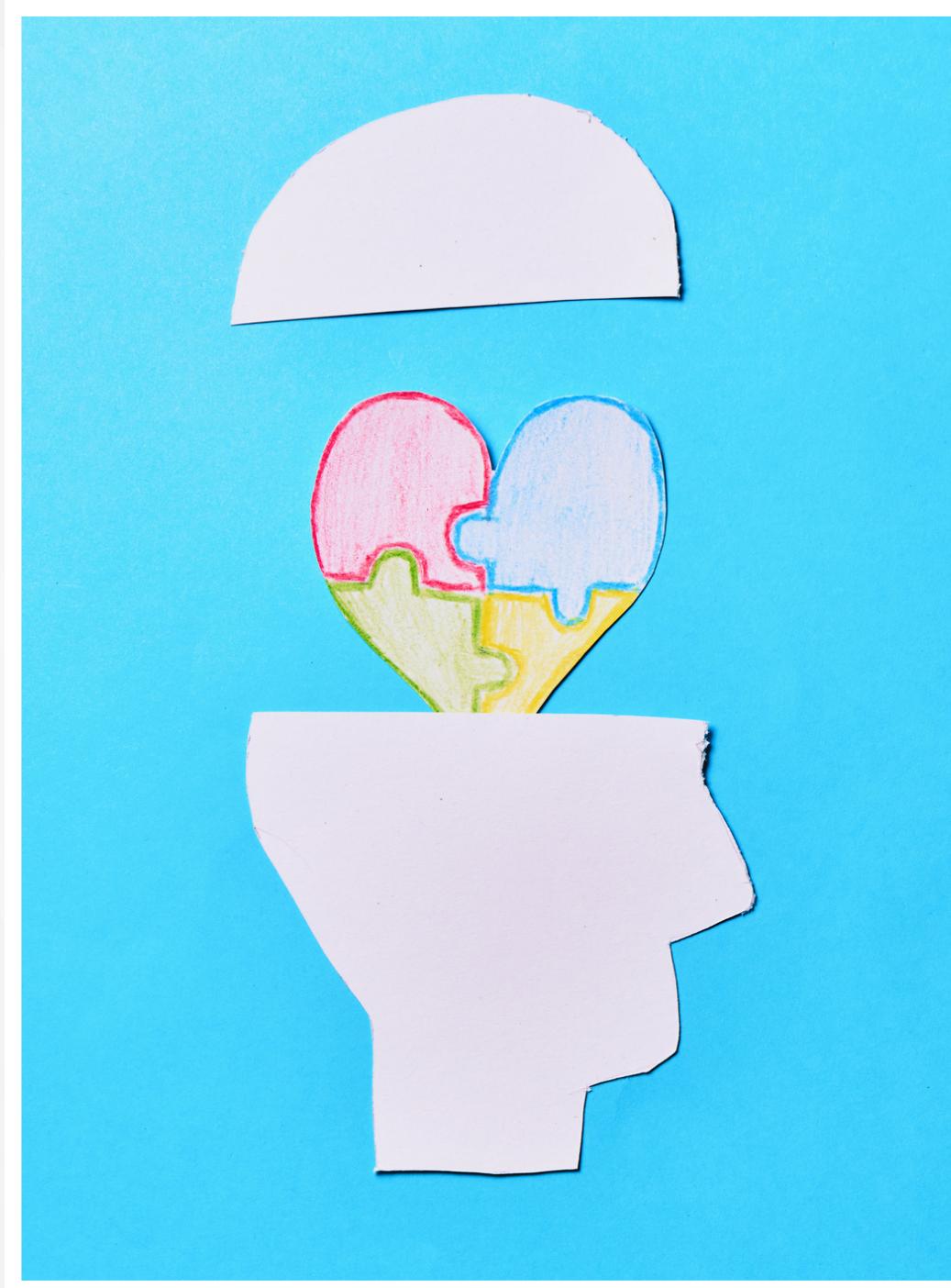


First
United
Methodist



OPPORTUNITY
AIM IN THE MIDDLE AND
DIVERSIFY!

CHALLENGE: NEURODIVERSITY



OPPORTUNITY: INCLUDE AND ADAPT

- ANTICIPATE AND PREPARE
- INCLUDE BRIEF INSTRUCTIONS
- TALK TO PARENTS
- USE HELPERS
- GO WITH THE FLOW!

A LOT OF THE OTHER
STRATEGIES DISCUSSED
WILL HELP!

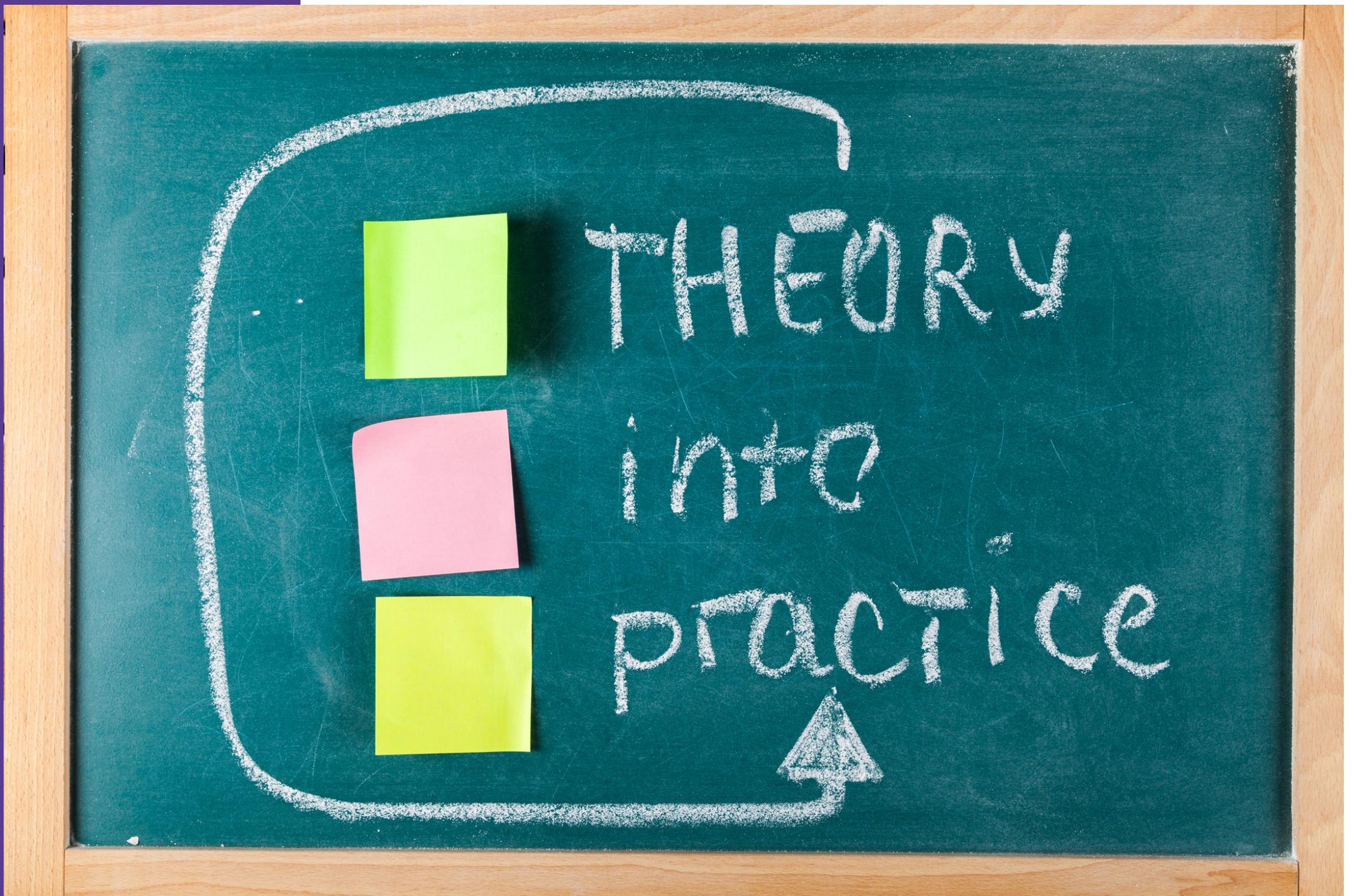
CHALLENGE: I'M OUT OF IDEAS!



OPPORTUNITY: TRY SOMETHING NEW!

- CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- CHOOSE A THEME
- CHRONOLOGICALLY THROUGH THE BIBLE
- SPIRITUAL PRACTICES
- MUSIC
- GODLY PLAY
- REPEAT & RECYCLE!

LET'S PRACTICE!



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Thanks
for
coming!