

STAGES OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT

INTUITIVE PROJECTIVE

Faith based on parental/caregiver behavior; cannot differentiate fantasy and reality

INFANT-PRESCHOOL

1

MYTHICAL-LITERAL

Begin to thinking more logically, but are very literal. Begin to take on identity as part of faith community.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE

2

SYNTHETIC-CONVENTIONAL

Difficulty thinking “outside the box” of their own faith; begin to accept and internalize their faith tradition.

TEENAGERS

3

INDIVIDUAL-REFLECTIVE

Begin to critically examine and question; may become disillusioned.

YOUNG ADULTS

4

CONJUNCTIVE

Realize the limits of logic and begin to accept mystery/paradox. Return to sacred stories and symbols.

ADULT/MIDDLE AGE

5

UNIVERSALIZING

Fully integrate their faith into their lives; value community and service to others over self. RARE TO REACH THIS STAGE!

ADULT/LATE IN LIFE (IF AT ALL)

6