

Cycles, Units and Sessions...

The following pages give you an overview of the sessions in each cycle. There are four cycles. Each cycle has six units (the themes are the titles across the top of the page). Each unit has six sessions (1-6 vertically below each theme title).

The focus of the First Cycle is the formation of community. The formation occurs through the sharing of personal stories within the context of the stories of the Scriptures. Participants are introduced to various “Tools of the Trade” and “Spiritual Formation” resources to provide practical assistance to the formation process. These resources are addressed in the introduction to each unit and then practiced in the unit and in one’s personal prayer and daily scripture reading.

The Second Cycle focuses on the formation of theologians, while the Third Cycle focuses on history and ethics. A new segment is introduced: “Christian Practices.” These practices are those things that we, as the Christian community, do together. They are corporate practices. In the church, they are reflected in our liturgy so yet another new segment is added at this point: “Liturgical Practices.” In addition to talking about how we, as a congregation, practice hospitality in general, participants look at how that is reflected in our liturgy.

The Fourth Cycle focuses on other faiths and will introduce aspects of organizational systems theory. This cycle provides an opportunity for participants to gain an understanding of and respect for other faiths which, in turn, enables them to gain a deeper understanding of their own faith.

The Development Process

You will notice that parts of Cycles Three and Four are blank or in italics. That is because *LifeCycles* is “under development” – being created as we go along. The process includes session content that is brainstormed by local *LifeCycles* groups who have been using two previous curriculums over the past 15-20 years and are drawing on their experience to help create this process. (This is *not* a curriculum – i.e., a course of study with a beginning and an end designed to teach a specific content. Rather, it is a process of formation intended to be repeated and become a way of being together as Christians rather than being a course of study.) The initial sessions are written by those with advanced degrees and/or are seminary faculty/deans. Activities, “information boxes,” additional resources, etc., are added by team members in other dioceses and organizations (all circulated electronically). Once the sessions in a unit are ready it is circulated to team members for copyedits. A final review is conducted by the publisher and it then goes to pilot parishes across the country and around the world. When input from those parishes is received, each unit is reviewed and that input incorporated. The unit is then posted as “ready” – but it continues to change as new users continue to contribute activities, corrections, additions, questions, references, etc. You can see where we are in the process by looking at this *Overview of Sessions* and seeing where the detailed titles end. Over the next couple of years, these pieces will be filled in as we grow.

The same process is used to develop Focus Units – which provide one to six or more sessions on a specific topic. Several are listed on the page after Cycle Four. Diocesan materials are developed by and for the primary diocesan partners; they include examples of how baptismal ministry teams have been established, Commission on Ministry procedures, preparatory materials for congregations, training for ordination, licensure and for specific ministries. These materials undergo a similar development process. For more information about *LifeCycles*, contact LeaderResources at 800-941-2218.



LifeCycles

Cycle I: Forming Community Through Story

Christian Transformation in Community

19 Dec 2006

UNITS ⇒ Sessions ↓	UNIT 1 Encountering Our Story	UNIT 2 Gathered by the Spirit	UNIT 3 Sent Forth by the Spirit	UNIT 4 Washed & Renewed	UNIT 5 Fed with Thanksgiving	UNIT 6 Celebrate & Serve the Reign of God
Session #1 Experience	Telling Our Stories	Places where We Gather in Our Lives	Our Own Experiences of Being Sent	Living Waters	Telling the Stories of our Meals	Our Experiences of the Reign of God: Diversity
Session #2 Creativity in the Hebrew Scriptures	The Community Tells Its Stories of Creation: Genesis	Created for Places of Promise	Creating a People: Exodus	Created as a People Who Thirst	Created as a People Who Hunger	Co-Creating the Reign of God: Who Is In, Who Is Out?
Session #3 Love in the Christian Scriptures	Stories of Loving in John	Gathered to be a Community of Boundless Compassion	Church Built on Forgiving- Love: Matthew	Washed by Waters of Love: Mark	Love Known in Sharing a Meal: Acts	Anointed in Love: The Reign of God in Luke
Session #4 Liberty in the Saints of History	Being Set Free: Absalom Jones & Dorothy Day	Gathered to Be Free in Christ: Paul of Tarsus & Harriet Tubman	The Sacred Journey: Brigid & Brendan	Wading into the Waters: Sojourner Truth & Dag Hammarskjöld	Free to Eat, Free to Labor: Caesar Chavez & Elizabeth of Hungary	Celebrating & Serving God's Reign: Frederick Douglas & Eleanor Roosevelt
Session #5 Restorative Justice & Community	Creating Our Story of Restorative Justice	Gathered as a Sign of Justice	Sent to Heal	River of Renewal	Caring : Welcoming to the Table	Everyone Belongs: The Reign of God
Session #6	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate
Spiritual Practices	Daily Devotions The Offices	Journaling Canticles	Collects	Symbolic Action	Thanksgiving & Graces	Intercessory Prayer
Tools of the Trade	Biblical Overview	Scripture Translations	J,E,D,P	Gospel Parallels	Literary Devices	Types of Literature
Leadership Skills	Inclusion	Asking questions	Setting boundaries	Giving and receiving feedback	Caring vs. therapy	Supporting diversity
Technological Skills	Downloading files	Using website links	Logging onto the forums	Searching/evaluating websites		



LifeCycles

Cycle II: All Are Theologians

Christian Transformation in Community

UNITS ⇒ Sessions ↓	UNIT 1 Encountering Our Story	UNIT 2 Gathered by the Spirit	UNIT 3 Sent Forth by the Spirit	UNIT 4 Washed & Renewed	UNIT 5 Fed with Thanksgiving	UNIT 6 Celebrate & Serve the Reign of God
Session #1 Experience	All Are Theologians	All Are Theologians: A Communal Action	All Are Theologians: Resources for Reflection – Scripture	All Are Theologians: Resources for Reflection – Tradition	All Are Theologians: Resources for Reflection – Reason	All Are Theologians: Theology as Transformative
Session #2 Creativity in the Hebrew Scriptures	God's Ways Are Not Humanity's Ways: Jeremiah	Created At-one-ment: Suffering Servant of Second Isaiah	The Human One: God and Ezekiel	Renewal, not Destruction: Hosea	From Judgment to Restoration: Micah	Transformation & Instincts: Conversion in the Body Space
Session #3 Love in the Christian Scriptures	From Conditions to Compassion: Galatians	Self-Sacrifice, not Sacrifice of Jews: Romans	The Cross: Power & Wisdom – Corinthians	Clothed with a New Self: Colossians	An Empty Lordship: A Loss of Status: Philippians	Transformation & Avoidances: Conversion in the Heart Space
Session #4 Liberty in the Saints of History	Apostle of Non- Violence: Francis of Assisi	Common Ground: Meister Eckhart	Mohandas Gandhi: Satyagraha Warrior	Betrothed to Christ, Set Free to Reform: Teresa of Avila	The Motherhood of Christ: All Will Be Well -- Julian of Norwich	Transformation & Virtues: Conversion in the Head Space
Session #5 Restorative Justice & Community	Beyond Security and Status	Awakening to At-One- ment with All	Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly	Envisioning the Reign of God: From Domination to Wholeness	Restoration, Emptiness, Motherhood: A Compassionate Whole	Transformation & Holy Ideas: Journey into Holy Essence
Session #6	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate
Spiritual Practices	Centering Prayer	Lectio Divina	Imaginative Visualization	Meditation	Meditation on Images	Music
Tools of the Trade	Source Criticism	Form Criticism	Redaction Criticism	Tradition - Historical Criticism	Reader Response	Exegesis
Leadership Skills	Managing over-talkers	Keeping the group on track	Reviving a bogged down group	Helping groups deal with change	Encouraging research & reflection	Using multiple intelligences
Technological Skills						

Titles in italics are tentative titles or under development



LifeCycles

Cycle III: Life in Christ: History & Ethics

Christian Transformation in Community

UNITS ⇒ Sessions ↓	UNIT 1 Encountering Our Story	UNIT 2 Gathered by the Spirit	UNIT 3 Sent Forth by the Spirit	UNIT 4 Washed & Renewed	UNIT 5 Fed with Thanksgiving	UNIT 6 Celebrate & Serve the Reign of God
Key writer	Fredrica Harris Thompsett	Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook	Ormonde Plater	Steven Charleston	Joseph Fortuna	Scotland
Session #1 Experience	Life in Christ: Ethics as Relational-Responsibility	An Ethic of Care	Creator and Co-Creators: God and Humanity at Play	<i>Relational-Responsibility: Love (Compassion)</i>	<i>Relational-Responsibility: Liberty</i>	Voices in Our Communities
Session #2 Creativity in the Hebrew Scriptures	Stories of Ruth and the Covenant	<i>The Book of Psalms</i>	Societies of Mercy & Justice			Becoming a Community of Jubilee
Session #3 Love in the Christian Scriptures	Prologue to the Gospel of John	<i>The Letter to the Hebrews</i>	Societies of Divine Love			Compassion as Loving Action
Session #4 Liberty in the Saints of History	<i>Richard Hooker & Verna Dozier</i>	Catherine of Siena: Mystic & Writer and George Herbert & Priest & Poet	Anna Alexander of Georgia			Dom Helder Camara & George MacLeod
Session #5 Restorative Justice & Community		Racial Justice in the Church Community	Communities of Creativity, Mercy, Justice, and Love			The Healing of Community
Session #6	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate
Spiritual Practices	Icons	Chanting	Prayer Beads/Rosaries	Healing Prayer	Sacred Movement I	Sacred Movement II
Tools of the Trade						
Leadership Skills	Introducing the new	Decision-making	Handling conflict	Negotiation	Mediation	Pastoral Care
Christian Practices	<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>Confession</i>	<i>Discernment</i>	<i>Healing</i>	<i>Thanksgiving/Offering</i>	<i>Celebration</i>
Liturgical Practices	<i>Hospitable liturgy</i>	<i>Corporate Confession</i>	<i>Affirmation of Discernment</i>	<i>Laying on of Hands for Healing</i>	<i>The Offertory/Thank offerings</i>	<i>Liturgical Celebrations</i>
Technological Skills						

