



LifeCycles Overview

18 March 2011

LifeCycles 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 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,” “Spiritual Formation” and “Leadership Skills” – these are resources to provide practical assistance to the formation process. They 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 Life in Christ. In the Third Cycle “Christian Practices” are introduced. These practices are those things that we, as the Christian community, do together. 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, Awakening to the Sacred in Peoples of Other Faiths 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.



LifeCycles

Christian Transformation in Community

Cycle I: Forming Community Through Story

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 Formation	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



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Cycle II: All Are Theologians

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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 Center
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 Center
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 Center
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 Formation	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	Stages of Group Development	Task/Maintenance Functions	Handling Hogging, Frogging, Bogging	Understanding Power	Encouraging research & reflection	Using multiple intelligences



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Cycle III: Life in Christ

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	Donald Schell?	Joseph Fortuna	Scotland
Session #1 Experience	Ethics as Relational-Responsibility	<i>An Ethic of Care</i>	Creator and Co- Creators: God and Humanity at Play	<i>Relational-Responsibility: Love (Compassion)</i>	<i>Liberty: A Puzzle Assembling Itself</i>	Voices in Our Communities
Session #2 Creativity in the Hebrew Scriptures	Shaping Ethical Covenants to Transform Community	<i>The Book of Psalms</i>	Societies of Mercy & Justice		<i>Song of Songs: Immersion into Beauty of Human Erotic Love</i>	Becoming a Community of Jubilee
Session #3 Love in the Christian Scriptures	The Prologue of John's Gospel as Community Transformation	<i>The Letter to the Hebrews</i>	Societies of Divine Love		<i>Epistula Apostolorum: The Self-Assembling Puzzle of Christian Origins</i>	Compassion as Loving Action
Session #4 Liberty in the Saints of History	Liberty and Learning in the Lives of the Saints: Richard Hooker & Verna J. Dozier	<i>Catherine of Siena: Mystic & Writer and George Herbert & Priest & Poet</i>	Anna Alexander of Georgia: A Paradigm of Service to All		<i>Bartolome de las Casas: Liberty for Liberty</i>	Dom Helder Camara & George MacLeod
Session #5 Restorative Justice & Community	Courageous Creative Conversations	<i>Racial Justice in the Church Community</i>	Communities of Creativity, Mercy, Justice, and Love		<i>Restorative Justice: Appreciation, Co- Creation, Articulation</i>	The Healing of Community
Session #6	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	<i>Review & Celebrate: Fed with Thanksgiving</i>	Review & Celebrate
Spiritual Formation	<i>Icons</i>	<i>Chanting</i>	<i>Prayer Beads/Rosaries</i>	<i>Healing Prayer</i>	<i>Sacred Movement I</i>	<i>Sacred Movement II</i>
Leadership Skills	<i>Introducing change</i>	<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Handling conflict</i>	<i>Negotiation</i>	<i>Mediation</i>	<i>Pastoral Care</i>
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>



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Christian Transformation in Community

Cycle IV: Awakening to the Sacred in Peoples of Other Faiths

UNITS ⇒ Sessions ↓	UNIT 1 Encountering Peoples of Other Faiths	UNIT 2 People of Jewish Faith	UNIT 3 People of Islamic Faith	UNIT 4 People of Hindu Faith	UNIT 5 People of Buddhist Faith	UNIT 6 Indigenous Peoples Faith	Unit 7 Encounter Revisited
Contributors	Kwok Pui Lan S. Wesley Ariarajah Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook	Lori Lefkowitz, professor in Reconstructionist Rabbinic College, and Isabel de Koninck	Shabana Mir, Professor of Islam and Gender	Pankaj Jain, Lecturer of Hindu studies at Rutgers University	Anthony Stultz, founder and director of the Blue Mountain Lotus Society	Mary Churchill, Professor of Native American Studies	Christopher Duraisingh
Session #1 Experiences of the Sacred	Experience of Religious Diversity	A Covenantal People: God, Torah, Israel and the Jewish Sacred Experience	Muslim Spiritual Experiences		Awakening to the True Self		
Session #2 Texts of the Faith Tradition	The Bible and Peoples of Other Faiths	People of the Book: Experiencing Jewish Text through Partner (Hevruta) Study	Texts of the Faith Tradition: Qur'an and Hadith		Understanding the True Self		
Session #3 Religious Practices of the Faith Tradition	Goals, Principles, and Practices of Interfaith Dialogue	Ritual and Prayer in Jewish Daily Life and the Jewish Life Cycle	The Pillars of the Faith		Connecting with Your Inner Power		
Session #4 Pilgrims of the Faith Tradition	Two Leaders of Interfaith Dialogue: Diana Eck and Aloysius Pieris	Sages for All Time	The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him)		Trusting in the True Self		
Session #5 Ethics & Community	God Beyond Borders: Interreligious Dialogue in Congregations	Negotiating Sacred Text and Contemporary Ethics	The Ethical World Envisaged by Islam		Expressing the True Self		
Session #6	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate	Review & Celebrate: The Dance of the Ego Self	Review & Celebrate	



LifeCycles

Christian Transformation in Community

Practicing Theology Units

ROOTED IN GOD: MOVING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

An excellent practical introduction into the baptismal ministry experienced and explored in LifeCycles
10 sessions plus a “rule of life” workshop

WADE IN THE WATER

An introduction to the theology and ecclesiology of baptismal Ministry based upon the DVD created by the Episcopal Divinity School
4 sessions

LITURGY, BAPTISM, EUCHARIST AND THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

6 sessions

TALKING ABOUT GOD AND MONEY

An exploration of the Christian life of financial stewardship
6 sessions

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN OUR DIVERSITY

An introduction to diversity
6 sessions

WASHED & RENEWED

A Lenten exploration of baptism
6 sessions

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.