



Practice Discipleship 2014 “FRAME”

"Frames are important. A picture frame gives perspective and focus to the picture within. The frame of a house gives a foundation from which rooms can be built and decorated. Frames give understanding. Frames help us expand our understanding. Frames give purpose.

In life and ministry, there is an overwhelming volume of information that competes for our attention and time. We can't become experts in everything, so how do we choose? This year Practice Discipleship will explore biblical, theological and practical frames that can give intentionality to how we prioritize our ministries and respond to the gospel in our daily lives."

1. Framing Life Biblically: Where is God? God is "with us"!

(Dave Ellingson - Professor of Children, Youth & Family Studies – Trinity Lutheran College)

The biblical narrative is a powerful story of pilgrimage, a journey from creation, through death and into new life. This session will explore how this powerful narrative becomes a framework for how we view the world and our lives and how we invite children, youth and families into this powerfully transformative story.

2. Framing Youth

(Jeremy Myers – Associate Professor of Religion – Augsburg College)

Society's views and stereotypes of youth are based primarily on myths. Unfortunately, many of our ministry practices are influenced by these myths. This session will uncover some of the myths that cause us to frame our young people negatively and will offer practical ways to help you and your congregation to begin framing youth as children of God who have gifts to share and calls to live.

3. Framing Failure with Forgiveness

(Colleen Windham-Hughes – Assistant Professor of Religion – California Lutheran University)

Life and ministry tend to place many demands upon us all. We often feel like failures in one or more areas of our lives. The world seems to frame us with expectations of perfection and success but God's grace frames us with forgiveness. This session will remind you of this truth and give you practical ways to live into that forgiveness and share it with others.

4. Framing Christian Community

(Joshua Graber – Mission Developer – ALT Year)

This lesson will present a way of walking alongside individual young people, communities and families as we help them frame their lives by learning through relationships with surrounding community, learning from an intentional community and learning about yourself through community. We will explore practices of faith that help us frame our lives in solitude and in community.

5. Framing the Vision: Seeing Things New

(Mindy Makant – Professor of Youth and Family Ministry – Lenoir Rhyne University)

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish . . .” (Proverbs 29:18). That sounds great, but how do you figure out what that vision is and get people to buy into it? This session will explore the various ways ministry with children, youth and families fit within a congregation and will introduce you to some steps you can take and some tools you can use to guide your congregation through a process of discerning its mission for ministry with children, youth and families.

6. Framing the Path: Practicing Things New

(Rozella White – Program Director for Young Adult Ministries – ELCA)

You have come to realize that the culture is shifting. Church is not as important in peoples’ lives as it once was. You are also probably convinced that your congregation’s approach to ministry with children, youth and families needs to change. Maybe you even have some ideas! This session will help you frame a path towards change in your congregation. We will help one another identify and plan the steps we need to take to create the change we need to see in our congregations’ ministry with children, youth and families.