

Chapels & Faith Development



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Growth in Life & Faith

<https://usachcstraining.army.mil/religious-education>



Developmental Domains

- ☞ Cognitive/Intellectual
 - How Children Think
- ☞ Social/Emotional
 - How Children Relate to People and the World Around Them
- ☞ Faith
 - How Children Come to Know God and Respond to God in Faith

Domains of Development are Closely Related



Cognitive/Intellectual Development

☞ How do children think?

- Concrete and Literal
 - Difficulty “conserving” information and transferring it.
- Egocentric
 - Difficulty seeing things from the perspective of others.
- Present Tense
 - Limited sense of time, past and future.
- Attribute Human Characteristics to Inanimate Objects and Natural Phenomena
 - Work to create balance and harmony (“equilibrating”) to make sense of the world.



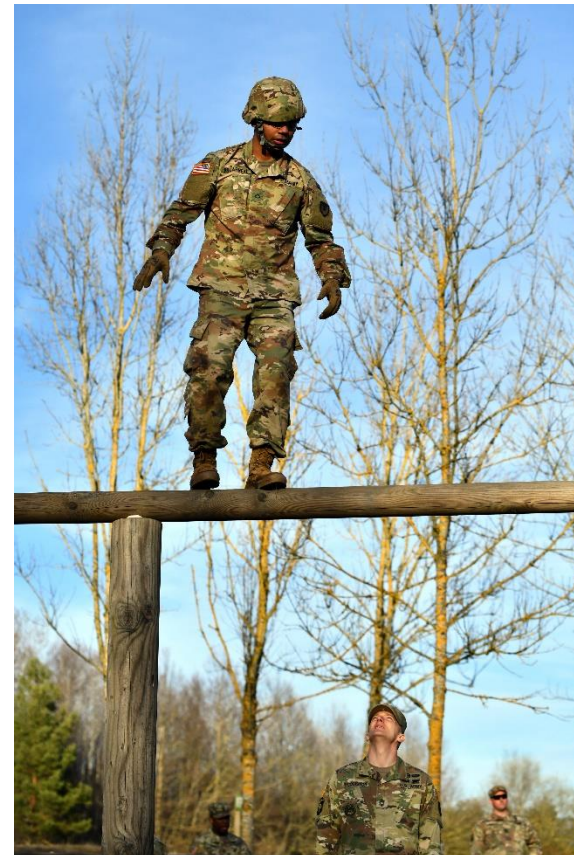
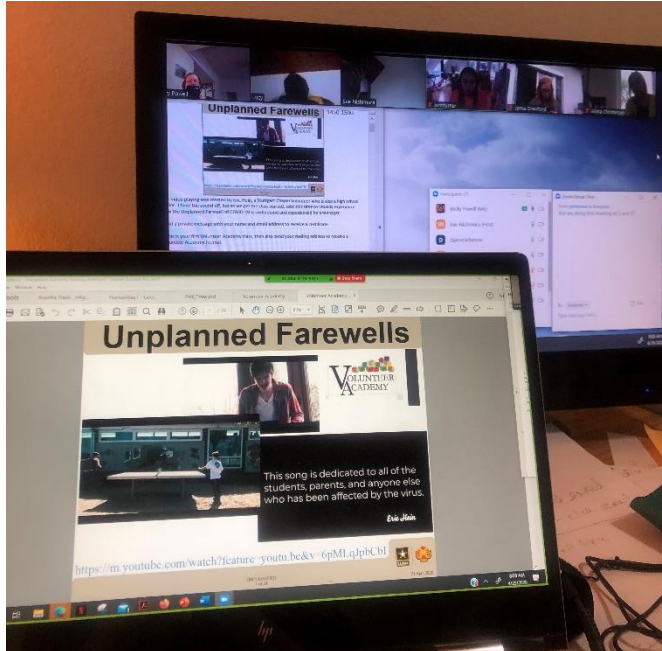
Social/Emotional Development

- ∞ How do children relate to people and the world around them? WITH A SENSE OF
- **HOPE** in the battle between Trust or Mistrust
- **WILL** in the battle between Autonomy or Shame & Doubt
- **PURPOSE** in the battle between Initiative or Guilt
- **COMPETENCE** in the battle between Industry or Inferiority



Reliance

- ☞ Faith is reliance
- ☞ Religiosity is a collection of actions



Faith Development

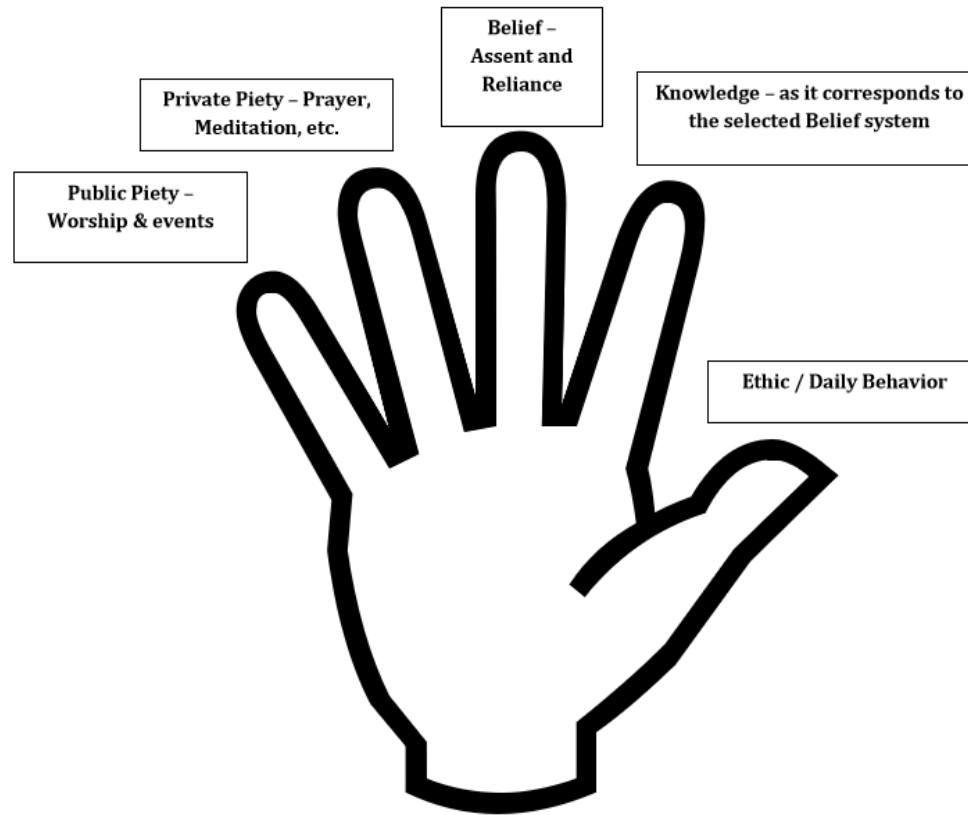
Faith Development is a lifelong process...

Adults, Adolescents & Children



Religiosity

- ∞ Faith is reliance
- ∞ Religiosity is a collection of actions that describes this reliance.



Religiosity is the joining of all 5 aspects of thoughts, feelings, faith, & actions.

Spirituality is the use of the interior 3 aspects.



Faith Development

- ☞ How do people come to know God and respond to God in faith?
 - A Ringed Approach
 - Experienced
 - Affiliative
 - A Staged Approach
 - Undifferentiated
 - Intuitive-Projective
 - Mythic-Literal



Faith Development

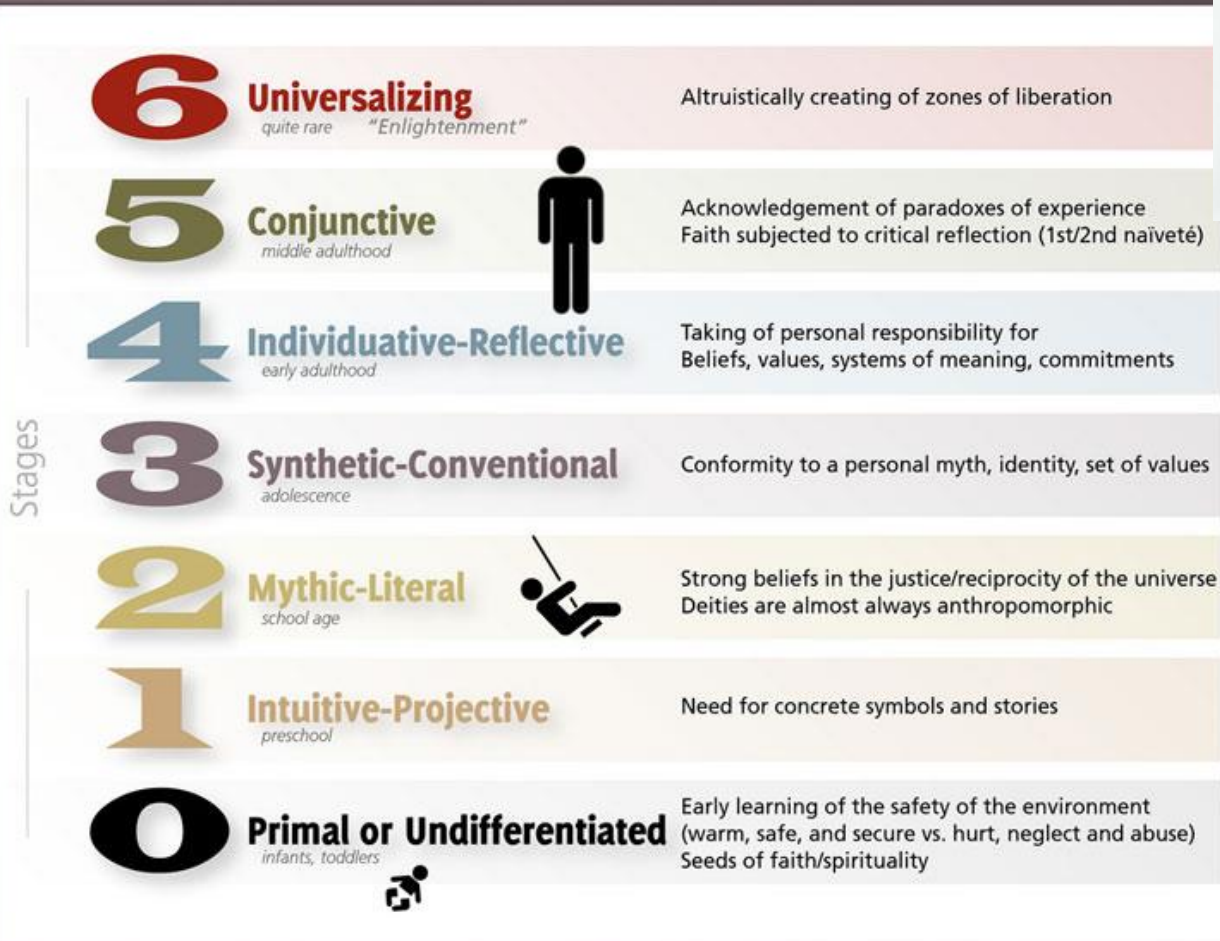
☞ John Westerhoff

- WILL OUR CHILDREN HAVE FAITH?



Faith Development

6 Stages of FAITH DEVELOPMENT



James Fowler

- WEAVING THE NEW CREATION & STAGES OF FAITH



Faith Development & Mediators

- ∞ Dependability – All people need to know Chapel Leaders will be available.
- ∞ Flexibility – Life can be unpredictable. Chapel Leaders can find ways of reaching out to Soldiers and Families no matter what is going on.
- ∞ Sensitivity – Speak to and about people in positive, caring and affirming ways.
- ∞ Confidentiality – Participants choose when and to whom they disclose details of their life.



Development Summary

∞ To Know

- Development proceeds at varying rates.
- Development advances when children can practice what they learn.
- Children develop and learn best when they feel safe and valued. their physical needs are met and they feel psychologically secure.

∞ To Do

- Take time to learn about the individual Soldiers & Families in your midst.
- Pay attention to developmental changes and signs of stress.
- Provide active and engaging, *planned out* learning experiences.
- Create a caring community by showing respect for all people and other Chapel Leaders.



Leading, Learning & Positive Discipline



Leading

☞ 10 Questions to Ask and Answer.

- How will I personally prepare for leading children?
- Who are the children I am leading?
- How will I lead them and what will they learn?
- What activities and resources will I use?
- What strategies will I use to keep children involved?
- How will I arrange space to welcome children and encourage learning?
- What questions will I ask and how will I ask them?
- How will I respond to children's words and actions?
- What choices will children be invited to make?
- What directions will I give and how will I give them?



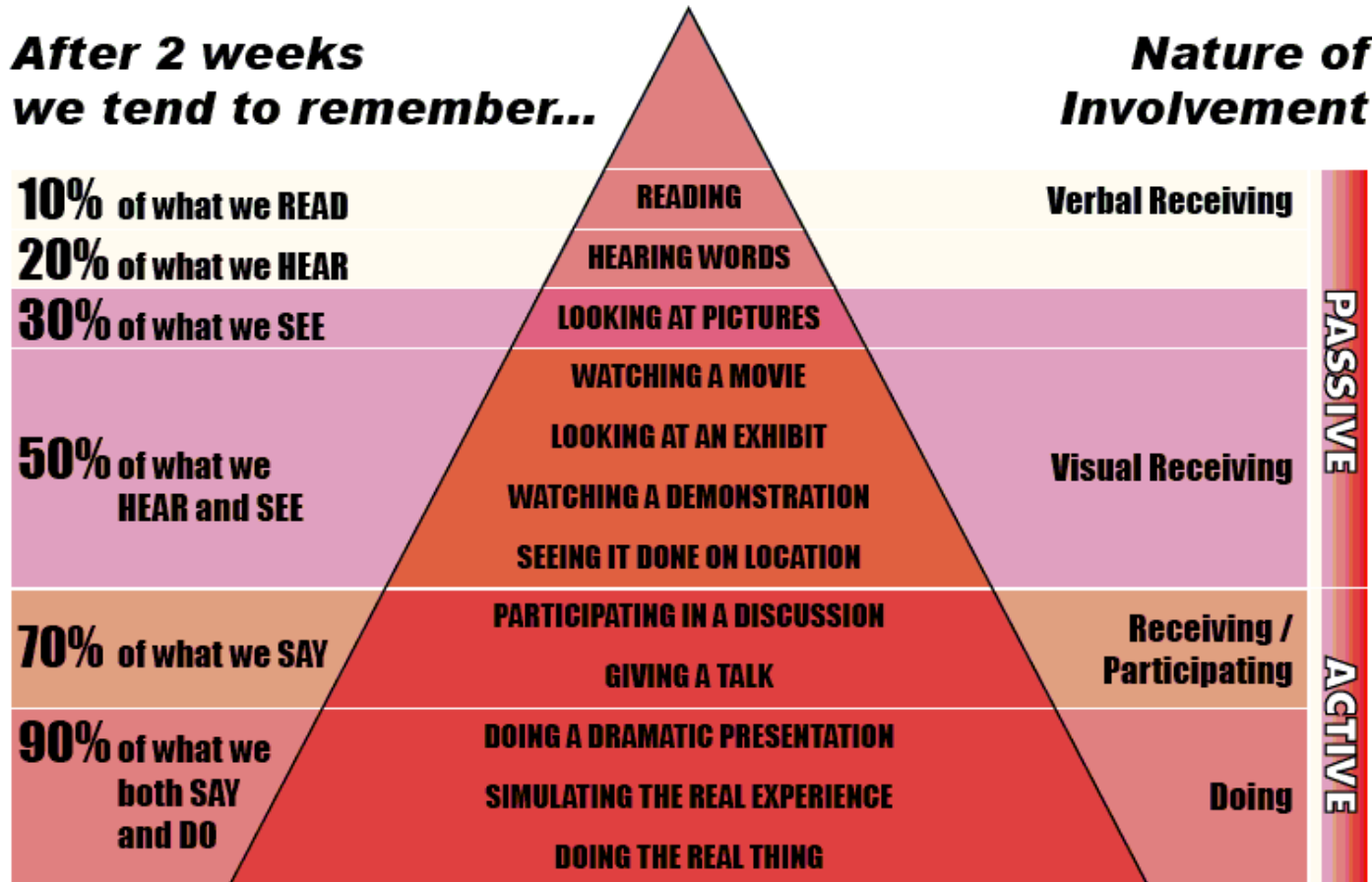
Learning

- ∞ Learning is brain based!
- ∞ Learning requires attention!
 - Plan ahead for a variety of learning activities.
 - Be open and responsive to *individuality*.
 - Provide frequent changes of *pace*.
 - Engage children's *senses*.
 - Include multiple opportunities for making *choices*.
 - Limit the presentation of facts in lecture mode.
 - Increase the amount of time for *exploration*.



Learning

Cone of Learning (Edgar Dale)



Positive Discipline Techniques

- ☞ Set Clear Boundaries
- ☞ Offer Positive Encouragement
- ☞ Redirect
- ☞ Give Choices
- ☞ Note Natural Consequences
- ☞ Encourage Problem Solving & Conflict Resolution
- ☞ Be Consistent
- ☞ Don't Blame, Shame or Humiliate

Compare this slide to the classroom rules & consequences handout.



“Safe” Spaces for Growth & Learning

<https://usachcstraining.army.mil/religious-education>



Emotional/Spiritual Safety

☞ *“The righteous walk in integrity – happy are the children who follow them!”*

Proverbs 20:7

☞ Adults are responsible for modeling maturity and providing children with an emotionally and spiritually safe living/learning environment.



Follow Up Activities

- ∞ Your assignment today is to pick 1 of the following; write your answers in your JOURNAL. Send a photo of your activity notes.
- Reflect on your own faith development in light the ringed approach and the staged approach. Write a paragraph about which ring of faith development and what stage of faith development you feel like you are at – and why.
 - Compare our Chapel programs to the stages/rings of faith development. Which ring/stage does each program/class/event match up with?
 - If you are a chapel teacher, list some specific activities from the Cone of Learning that you can use Journals to help your students develop faith.

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