

# Hybrid Faith Formation Cohort Outline, Fall 2014

**Mission:** Convene an online learning community for leaders interested in planting hybrid faith formation networks in their ministry contexts, with particular emphasis on helping participants launch a network in the near future (or even in parallel if necessary/desired).

**Learning goals:** (1) experience an online learning network from the participant perspective; (2) develop and refine a plan for a hybrid faith formation learning experience in your context; (3) articulate strengths and challenges for implementing this plan in your context; (4) consider and evaluate potential tools, activities, and techniques for the craft of hybrid network facilitation.

**Expectations:** Between mid-August and mid-November, make every effort to (1) attend monthly web conference (via Google+ Hangout—which we'll help you get up and running with), (2) spend about 30 minutes on weekly learning activity, (3) discuss ongoing learning with fellow participants via closed Facebook group, (4) complete short, written end-of-group evaluation to reflect on our time together and help us improve the program. *But remember that grace abounds and that we do this work with God's help.*

**Facilitators:**

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**Participants:**

[redacted for public version of document]

## Learning outline

### **Week 1 (8/11-8/17): First web conference – Getting connected**

The first task for any network is to get connected. Attend web conference at **3 p.m. Eastern on 8/14**, signing in 15 minutes early if this is your first web conference on Google Hangouts. **Post to the Facebook group** a brief self-introduction including one ministry joy or frustration currently on your heart and/or mind.

### **Week 2 (8/18-8/24): Social media basics**

Social networks provide the “hub” of interaction for a hybrid network. **Read pages 3–31 (chapters 1-6) of Meredith Gould's *Social Media Gospel***, introducing social media in the

ministry context. **Post to the Facebook group** one idea about how your own generational or learning style preferences might affect your work in social media ministry.

### **Week 3 (8/25-8/31): Faith formation basics**

Faith formation has always relied on the dominant media of the day. **Read pages 27–42 and 59–78 (chapters 2 & 4) of Julie Lytle’s *Faith Formation 4.0***, introducing a model of discipleship and tracing the ways oral, written, mass-mediated, and interactive communication have shaped faith encounters and growth. **Post to the Facebook group** an answer to Lytle’s reflection question: “Can you identify ways in which your community includes elements from each era and their impact on your community?”

### **Week 4 (9/1-9/7): Faith formation networks**

Our hybrid faith formation cohort was born out of a desire to build a learning community of practitioners combining classic small group ministry with faith formation networks as informed by the [Faith Formation 2020 Project](#) and described by John Roberto. **Read pages 26–36 of Roberto’s *LifelongFaith Journal, Summer 2013***. You are on the cutting edge of planning/testing/evaluating this model. **Post to the Facebook group** one piece of feedback about John’s vision, based on your past ministry experience.

### **Week 5 (9/8-9/14): Pause**

This is probably your program kickoff week. We know you’re swamped. **Post to the Facebook group** a prayer request or other personal check-in. Let us know how you’re doing and what our community can do to support you.

### **Week 6 (9/15-9/21): Sketching a hybrid network plan**

You’ve had some exposure now to the vision of this ministry model and the tools for implementing it. Spend your 30 minutes this week doing some prioritizing: What theme and general approach seems useful right now in your setting? What learning goals do you have for your participants? How will you help them achieve these goals? What activities will you engage in person and online? How will those two components fit together? How will you evaluate the group’s collective learning? **Post to the Facebook group** a summary of your ideas.

### **Week 7 (9/22-9/28): Second web conference – Getting concrete**

This week we’ll start to go into some details about what we’re hoping to do in our contexts (and how). **Attend web conference at time TBD** to share these hopes and begin talking about activities and other curricular concerns.

### **Week 8 (9/29-10/5): Evaluating online/at-home activities**

In the weeks between your in-person gatherings, the goal is to help your people learn “alone together”—trying things at home and then sharing about their experiences with each other.

**Explore the extensive activity library** at [Vibrant Faith at Home](#). **Post to the Facebook group** your assessment of one or two of these activities: Is it appropriate for its intended audience? Are you confident it’s realistic for self-directed participation? What changes would you make?

### **Week 9 (10/6-10/12): Finding online activities**

Only a limited number of publishers are creating materials appropriate for hybrid networks “out of the box.” **Read Gould 39–44 and 99–101 (chapters 8, 9 & 24)** on online audience and content, then pick a topic or theme and try to find an resource you could adapt into an online/at-home activity. **Post to the Facebook group** a short description of your search and evaluation process. If you’d like to go further, try writing up the activity and sharing with the facilitators and/or group for feedback.

### **Week 10 (10/13-10/19): Planning in-person gatherings**

The online component of your network experience will probably sink or swim based on existing relationships and their strengthening at in-person gatherings. **Read the sample in-person activity plans provided** (links/attachments TBD). **Post to the Facebook group** your observations about how this activity aims to build community and how you could emulate and build on this strategy in online follow-up.

### **Week 11 (10/20-10/26): Third web conference – Getting personal**

This week we’ll share our experiences with in-person and online community and discuss strategies for helping facilitate online conversations that can go deep. **Attend web conference at time TBD.**

### **Week 12 (10/27-11/2): Attending to the community**

Group dynamics are just as complicated online as they are in person. **Read Lytle 102–120 (chapters 6)** on the ecology of faith and **Gould 102–109 (chapters 25 & 26)** on conflict and burnout (recall also Gould chapter 6 on virtual community as real community). **Post to the Facebook group** an anecdote about an online community you were a part of (faith-based or not) and your assessment of how it might have better fostered loving relationships.

### **Week 13 (11/3-11/9): TBD**

For this week, we'll choose readings and/or activities as a group based on our experience the first twelve weeks. We want to hold a space for big questions that trickle up!

**Week 14 (11/10-11/16): Looking ahead**

This week, please **revisit your sketch from Week 6. Post to the Facebook group** about any course corrections: How might you change your plans based on what you've learned the past eight weeks? What's your plan for moving forward—including your very first step?

**Week 15 (11/17-11/21): Final thoughts, evaluation, and a mutual commissioning**

Please come to our final face-to-face gathering ready to reflect on and celebrate our time together and set your sights on where God is calling you next. **Attend web conference at time TBD.** Complete short written evaluation (evaluation link).