Vibrant Faith strives to meet people where they are in life and faith and walk alongside them in ways that are helpful to them as they grow in faith, love, and hope.

**KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

Which scenario best describes where you are in your faith journey?

How does your church come alongside the people who represent these scenarios?

Which scenario represents where most of your current members are? What do you offer that addresses their needs?

Which scenario do you find the hardest with whom to reach and engage? What are the challenges you encounter?

How might your awareness of these scenarios influence how you connect with and equip people?

### Faith Formation 2020 Scenarios

**Relationship with Organized Religion and Christianity**

- **Receptive to Organized Religion**
  - **Scenario #1:** Vibrant Faith and Active Engagement
    - The first scenario describes a world in which people of all ages and generations are actively engaged in a Christian church, are spiritually committed, and are growing in their faith. People have found their spiritual home within an established Christian tradition and a local faith community that provides ways for all ages and generations to grow in faith, worship God, and live their faith in the world. Congregations are challenged to provide lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, at home and at church, that develops vibrant faith, is continuous throughout life, and engages all people in the life and mission of the church community.

- **Scenario #2:** Spiritual but Not Religious
  - The second scenario describes a world in which people are spiritually hungry and searching for God and the spiritual life, but mostly likely not affiliated with organized religion and an established Christian tradition. Some may join a non-denominational Christian church focused on their spiritual needs, while others may find an outlet for their spiritual hunger in small communities of like-minded spiritual seekers, in local or global acts of service—or in online spiritual resources and communities. The Spiritual but Not Religious reflect a growing minority of the American population, especially among the 18-39-year-olds. Congregations are challenged to engage people where their live (physical and virtual communities), build relationships, engage in spiritual conversations, and offer programs and activities that nourish their spiritual growth.

- **Scenario #3:** Unaffiliated and Uninterested
  - The third scenario describes a world in which people experience little need for God and the spiritual life and are not affiliated with organized religion and established Christian churches. The Unaffiliated and Uninterested reject all forms of organized religion and reflect a steadily increasing percentage of the American population, especially among the 18-29-year-olds. Congregations are challenged to find ways to “plant” themselves in the midst of the cultures and worlds of the Unaffiliated and Uninterested, build relationships, and be witnesses to the Christian faith in the world today.

- **Scenario #4:** Participating but Uncommitted
  - The fourth scenario describes a world in which people attend church activities but are not actively engaged in their church community or spiritually committed. They may participate in significant seasonal celebrations, such as Christmas and Easter, and celebrate sacraments and milestone events, such as marriage and baptism. Some may even attend worship regularly, and send their children to religious education classes. Their spiritual commitment is low and their connection to the church is more social and utilitarian than spiritual. Congregations are challenged to provide faith formation that recognizes that belonging (engagement) leads to believing (spiritual commitment) and a more vibrant faith, and develop approaches for increasing people’s engagement with the church community and the Christian tradition.

- **Scenario #5:** Resistant to Organized Religion
  - The fifth scenario describes a world in which people have a low or non-existing relationship with organized religion and Christianity. They believe that organized religion is a part of the past and that God is not a part of their life. Congregations are challenged to engage people who have a low level of religious involvement and to provide them with spiritual guidance and support.

### Links

- Email: hello@vibrantfaith.org
- Website: vibrantfaith.org
- Phone: 877-239-2492
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