

# Ten Ways

## TO USE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH



What do people need in order to grow in their faith? How do you know if your church is meeting those needs? That's where the Building Blocks of Faith come in.

The Building Blocks of Faith offer a new way to look at faith formation. Designed for use with people of all ages, the Building Blocks of Faith are based on four shared spiritual needs and longings (see right).

Below are ten ways to use the Building Blocks of faith in your congregation.

Learn more in our Building Blocks of Faith toolkit at [crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits](https://crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits).

### The Building Blocks of Faith

#### I Belong

I belong to Jesus and thus to his body, the church.

#### I Know and Understand

I know the story of God's faithfulness, of which I am a part.

#### I Have Hope

I have confidence, through Christ, in all of God's promises.

#### I Am Called and Equipped

I am called to work in God's kingdom, and I am equipped to do that work.

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH TO YOUR LEADERS

Encourage the church council and ministry leaders to look around and see how the Building Blocks are already incorporated into your church's ministries and where you might make adjustments to enrich your church's faith formation environment.

### 2 INCORPORATE THE BUILDING BLOCKS INTO ELDER VISITS

Check out our [list of Building Blocks-related questions](https://tinyurl.com/elderquestions) ([tinyurl.com/elderquestions](https://tinyurl.com/elderquestions)) that elders can use when they visit with members of the congregation. These nonthreatening questions will help put members at ease and give elders a friendly "script" to work from.

### 3 USE THE BUILDING BLOCKS IN NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Tell new members about all the things your congregation does to help people feel that they belong, grow to know and understand God and God's story, participate in the hope of God's promises, identify God's call in their lives, and become equipped for service.

## 4 PLAN A SERMON SERIES

Get your worship planning team together to craft a four-week sermon series around the four Building Blocks of Faith. Also consider asking your visual arts team or an artist in your congregation to create banners or artwork to go with the theme.

## 5 CRAFT CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

Create a series of children's messages around the four themes of the Building Blocks of Faith. Check out the Resources for Church and Home tab in our online [Building Blocks of Faith toolkit](#) for sample sermons you can use in your congregation.

## 6 SHARE FAITH STORIES IN WORSHIP

Sharing faith stories is a great way to help faith grow! Invite members of your congregation to share their stories of how they have come to know that they belong in God's family, how they have come to know and understand God and God's story better, why they have hope, and how they live out God's call in their lives. For more on sharing faith stories, visit our [Faith Storytelling Toolkit](#) ([crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits)).

## 7 EVALUATE YOUR MINISTRIES

Use the Building Blocks Assessment Tools in our online [Building Blocks of Faith toolkit](#) to take a "snapshot" of faith formation in your congregation and see how well you're doing in each of the four areas. Ask, "What programs do we have that meet the faith formation needs of our various age groups? In what other ways could we meet their needs?"

## 8 PLAN A CHURCH-WIDE BUILDING BLOCKS PROJECT

Invite one of Faith Formation Ministries' regional catalyzers to consult with your church about how to incorporate the Building Blocks of Faith into all your faith formation programs. This service is free of charge to Christian Reformed churches.

## 9 DISCUSS IN SMALL GROUPS

Talk about how different people experience the Building Blocks of Faith in youth groups, adult small groups, and intergenerational groups. Check out a [Building Blocks of Faith discussion guide](#) ([tinyurl.com/bbsmallgroups](http://tinyurl.com/bbsmallgroups)) to see how one church did it.

## 10 PRACTICE USING THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Know the four Building Blocks well so that you can observe them in all your church's ministries. Share what you see so that others in your community can celebrate these faith sightings with you.

Faith Formation Ministries encourages and equips local CRC ministry leaders in their calling to shape intentional, lifelong faith formation in their context. The [Faith Formation Ministries](#) team and our [regional catalyzers](#) are available to consult with your congregation on any faith formation matter.

For more on the Building Blocks of Faith, visit our online toolkit at [crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits).



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