



# Building FaithQuest Awareness in a Congregation

Following are suggestions for introducing FaithQuest and for teaching the church new ways of thinking.

## Articles & Announcements

Take advantage of the ways your congregation already communicates internally. Use weekly bulletins, newsletters, and websites to communicate the purpose and activities of your FaithQuest team. As your group continues through the process, consider inviting team members to write articles about their new insights and relationships.

## Banners

For your sanctuary, worship setting, or meeting room, make a banner featuring the FaithQuest logo, a favorite quote from the study or from Scripture . . . or your vision for the church.

## Bulletin Boards

Bulletin board displays/signs are a good way to share FaithQuest with the congregation. Perhaps FaithQuest has provided opportunities (especially Session 7) to re-evaluate the visual impression your building makes.

## Poster Pages

Enlarge and display the poster pages from your FaithQuest Training Manual. Some congregations have incorporated the poster page definitions on bulletin boards or in worship bulletins. Others have added artwork or copied the pages on colored paper to draw the attention of the congregation. To download the FQ logo for use in your congregation, go to: [www.gbod.org/quest/downloads/](http://www.gbod.org/quest/downloads/)

## Sample Invitation to Orientation Session

Dear *(individual's name)*,

As we approach the beginning of the FaithQuest journey, I want to thank you for your willingness to participate. Our journey together will begin on *(date)* at *(time)* for an orientation to the FaithQuest Study. The leaders for this study will be *(names)*. The orientation session for our FaithQuest team will take place in *(name/number of room)*. Our first session of the 17-week Bible study will begin on *(date of first study session following orientation)*. If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service,  
*(sign your name)*

## Sample Bulletin Announcement

Our congregation has enrolled in **FaithQuest: A Journey Toward Congregational Transformation**. Over the next few months, several people from our congregation will meet and use the FaithQuest study materials to better discern our congregation's mission and vision and to listen more closely for God's direction for us. This team, who represent all our congregation, will begin with a 17-week study, produced by the General Board of Discipleship, that explores the Scriptures and Wesley's teachings in a deep and meaningful way. Participants will gain a better understanding of the Word of God and the foundations of The United Methodist Church. The FaithQuest experience will be led by *(names of trained leaders in your congregation)*. They have prepared for leadership by attending a 3-day training event. Please contact one of the leaders for more information.

## FaithQuest at the Movies

One way to build a team, learn things in a different way, and have some fun is to have a movie night. These two movies are a playful and entertaining way to explore some of the core concepts of FaithQuest. Invite people to see them in a new way with some of these discussion questions in mind. And don't forget the popcorn!

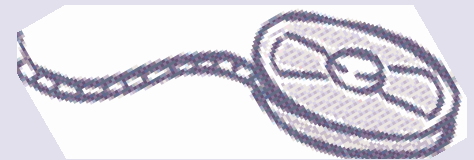
### BABE

*Universal Studios, Rated G*

Babe, a pig, challenges his destiny and radically changes the paradigm of the role of a pig on the Hoggett Farm. This is a light look at paradigm shifts, leadership styles, and assumptions.

### Questions for Discussion:

- What assumptions does Babe challenge?
- What leadership styles do you see?
- Do you see them in the church?
- Which style(s) would you find to be the most helpful and healthy? Why?



### TOY STORY

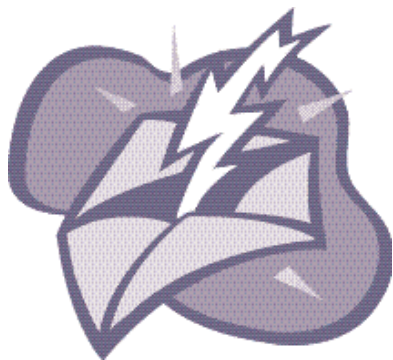
*Walt Disney, Rated G*

This first totally digital feature film represents a big paradigm shift! It begins with a familiar community of toys who all know each other very well—each other's stories, habits, and even peculiarities. One day everything changes and they are thrown into a time of disorientation and chaos. The toys encounter change, resistance, and even fear for their own existence both as individuals and as a community.

### Questions for Discussion:

- Who is the "Paradigm Pioneer"?
- Identify some of the forms of resistance.
- What transformational change takes place?
- Did this change benefit the community? If so, why?

## Email Updates from FaithQuest Groups



### ***From the Baltimore-Washington Conference***

Our FaithQuest groups are still going strong. Of the 27 folks who started, all but 4 are still active and enthusiastically working through the program. We are also planning a new group in the fall for those who were unable to participate this round — or have changed their minds and now wish to find out what this is all about.

Acceptance of new thinking has been shown in a number of ways, even among those who have not been part of the FaithQuest group. Groups have made changes in our worship

service. Long-standing issues related to what seemed to be inconsequential deficiencies in the physical plant have been addressed and corrected. There is acknowledgment that much more needs to be done as we rethink ourselves into a faith-forming community. Most important, we are committed to continuing the process.

### ***From the Peninsula-Delaware Conference***

We affirm your advice to keep the Faith-Quest group small. Eight is about the right size to allow everyone to develop ideas.

### PRAYER FOR LEADERS

O LORD JESUS, IN THIS HOUR LET ME HEAR AGAIN YOUR CALL, "FOLLOW ME."

COME, I PRAY, AND MAKE YOUR WAY CLEAR BEFORE ME. AMEN.

## The Bookshelf

These books are recommended for your personal meditation and reflection as you lead FaithQuest.

Go to [www.gbod.org/congregational/book.asp](http://www.gbod.org/congregational/book.asp) for other book reviews.

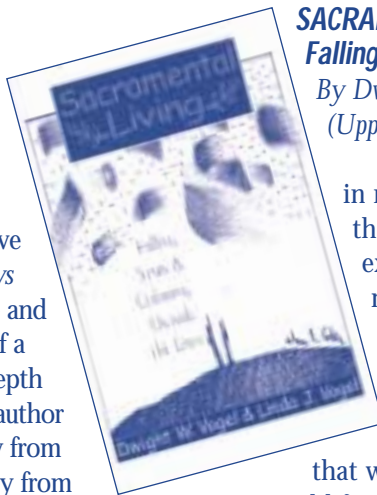
### ***TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE***

***An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson***

by Mitch Albom (Doubleday, 1997)

Some books leave us feeling good, while others fill us with questions about the meaning of life. Some bring healing and comfort, while others simply leave us grateful to be alive. This book does it all! *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a basic primer in what it means to live and die with honor and integrity. The powerful story of a man who faced death in a heroic way, it is given depth and relevance through the honest exploration the author embraces in his own life. We walk Morrie's journey from life to death, and we walk with Mitch in his journey from pain, guilt, and quest for control to a search for integrity, love, and fullness of life. *Tuesdays with Morrie* explores a number of issues and themes relevant to the FaithQuest process and could serve as an excellent book study with your FaithQuest team. These focus questions will guide a discussion:

- Who has been the Morrie in our lives? What qualities made that person so important to us?
- Is there anyone for whom we serve as a mentor or guide?
- If Morrie is a "Paradigm Pioneer," what are some of the old paradigms he challenges?
- For you, what is the most significant issue this book addresses? Why?
- What might you do differently after reading this book?



### ***SACRAMENTAL LIVING***

***Falling Stars & Coloring Outside the Lines***

By Dwight W. Vogel and Linda J. Vogel  
(Upper Room, 1999)

FaithQuest invites us to look at things in new ways. The Vogels introduce us to the idea of seeing our everyday lives, experiences, and relationships as sacramental. "The sacramental is a visible and audible part of our sensible experience. We see and hear and thereby perceive hints of Christ's real presence in such significant and transforming ways that we can talk about receiving grace. The sacramental life seeks to be open to this invisible grace everywhere, not only in what the church calls sacraments —though most certainly there—but in all kinds of human experiences." The Vogels use their personal and professional stories and experiences to explore the concept of sacramental living. This book is an enlightening and affirming discussion of how we as individuals, groups, and faith communities can begin to better understand how to celebrate the everyday and see the presence of Christ in what appears to be the ordinary. *Sacramental Living* could be extremely helpful to FaithQuest Bible study leaders in learning to better appreciate and celebrate the process of community building in your study team.

# News from the 'Net

Check out these websites as you build your FaithQuest team:

[www.americangreetings.com](http://www.americangreetings.com) and  
[www.bluemountain.com](http://www.bluemountain.com)

Send free postcards, animated messages, and reminders to your FaithQuest study team.

[www.iBelieve.com](http://www.iBelieve.com) and [www.umr.org](http://www.umr.org)  
(United Methodist Reporter Interactive)

These Christian lifestyle sites announced June 5 that they have signed a partnership agreement for joint content and marketing. Their shared mission is "to provide information and resources for Christians worldwide."



**The Upper Room:** [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org)  
Resources and articles for spiritual leadership, plus the Upper Room bookstore. You can subscribe to the periodic e-mail newsletter *Around the Center* at:  
[www.upperroom.org/maillinglists/leadership.html](http://www.upperroom.org/maillinglists/leadership.html)

## How Can We Help?

We depend on you — church leaders — to tell us about needs, successes, and challenges.

We look forward to hearing how we can help you and your team become transformational leaders in your congregation.

*f*

## Themes for Future Issues

### ADULT LEARNING

Information and resources on spiral learning

### STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

Practicing and teaching spiritual practices

To order FaithQuest study materials, call toll-free 877/889-2780, Ext. 7674.

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FaithQuest congregational leaders.*

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