STAR Series

For Congregational Leaders

LEARNING

COMPETENCY: Lifelong **learning** principles are essential for effective ministry with young adults who value authentic, informed engagement. The key themes below focus on curiosity over judgment, the comprehensive learning framework, practical learning strategies, intentional curiosity practices, and staying current with generational changes.

Lifelong Learning in Young Adult Ministry

1 EMBRACE CURIOSITY OVER JUDGMENT

As Ted Lasso wisely said, "Be curious, not judgmental." Learning isn't just about formal education—it's about maintaining curiosity about the world and people around you. When engaging young adults, being willing to learn about what makes them feel more engaged. A learning mindset helps you find common ground with generations different from your own and creates a safe space where young adults can thrive. Leaders who are also learners are naturally more approachable and effective.

2 UNDERSTAND THE FOUR PILLARS OF LEARNING

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Four Pillars of Education provide a comprehensive framework: Learning to Know (acquiring foundational skills and curiosity), Learning to Do (turning knowledge into action and practical skills), Learning to Live Together (developing empathy, collaboration, and social skills to coexist with others), and Learning to Be (identifying purpose and becoming self-aware through reflection on values and experiences). By considering all four pillars, you ensure well-rounded personal and ministry development.



3 MASTER TWO LEARNING APPROACHES

Use "snorkeling" for quick surface-level learning when you need basic context for conversations—search hashtags, Google topics in various ways, or read a few articles to gather enough information to participate meaningfully. Use "deep diving" for comprehensive understanding when you need expertise—invest significant time researching through multiple sources, videos, and articles. Both approaches are valuable depending on your goals and available time.

4 STAY CURIOUS THROUGH INTENTIONAL PRACTICES

Set a goal to learn something new every week from any source—people, books, social media. Ask questions and seek feedback from others to maintain a learner's mindset and remember you're not the expert. Channel empathy in daily situations by challenging judgmental thoughts with curious alternatives. For example, when someone seems slow at checkout, consider they might be learning the system rather than assuming incompetence.

5 CONTINUOUSLY LEARN ABOUT YOUNG ADULTS

The twentysomethings you serve today differ significantly from those you served years ago. Stay current by reading generational research, googling "what should I know about Gen Z," watching Ted Talks about generations, and seeking perspectives from professional contacts. Consider exploring "design thinking" and "pivot frameworks" used successfully in young adult ministry. Your commitment to learning makes the church more welcoming and relevant.

s.t.a.r. FOR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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ROADMAP

Curriculum Domain, Competency and Task Constellations

STAR Domain:	Listening
Associated Competency:	Relationship building and Compassion
Associated Task:	Equanimity

STAR Domain:	Young Adult Leadership
Associated Competency:	Resourcefulness and Communication
Associated Task:	Recruiting

STAR Domain:	Faith Journey
Associated Competency:	Creating Trust
Associated Task:	Spiritual formation

STAR Domain:	Culture
Associated Competency:	Adaptability
Associated Task:	Embracing failure

STAR Domain:	Intergenerational Connections
Associated Competency:	Mentorship
Associated Task:	Generational literacy and Digital literacy

STAR Domain:	Community
Associated Competency:	Authenticity and Inclusivity
Associated Task:	Managing conflict

STAR Domain:	Church Leadership
Associated Competency:	Influence and Purpose
Associated Task:	Creating buy-in

STAR Domain:	Frameworks, Programs, & Events
Associated Competency:	**Learning**
Associated Task:	Sticky programs and Measure and assess