

raising faith-full children in media cultures

children's spirituality conference workshop

11/12 June 2012

chicago, il

breaking bread

- living with faith amidst media culture is an adaptive challenge
- our practices of breaking bread, of food, are foundational to how we understand the Emmaus story
- they are also a key to adaptive practice in relation to media/technology
- what are good practices? how do we help each other with media?
- how does this intersect with faith?

adaptive challenge

messy, no clear answer or
technique will suffice, changing
contexts, learning together



so we learn...

with each other
with our children





to understand media you need to understand practice



media practice is about communication and relationality

analogies?

best one might be to food



food

- we all require it to survive
- we are embedded in a culture that offers us a lot of unhealthy choices
- the artful practices of preparing and eating food are stressed if not extinct
- no clear social consensus



media

- we require communication to survive
- we are offered a lot of unhealthy communication practices
- artful practices of preparing and engaging in communication are stressed if not extinct
- no clear social consensus



so what are we to do?

analogies

- help families develop healthy practices around media
- encourage a diverse media diet
- encourage the production of media
- provide ways to share more communally in consuming pre-produced media



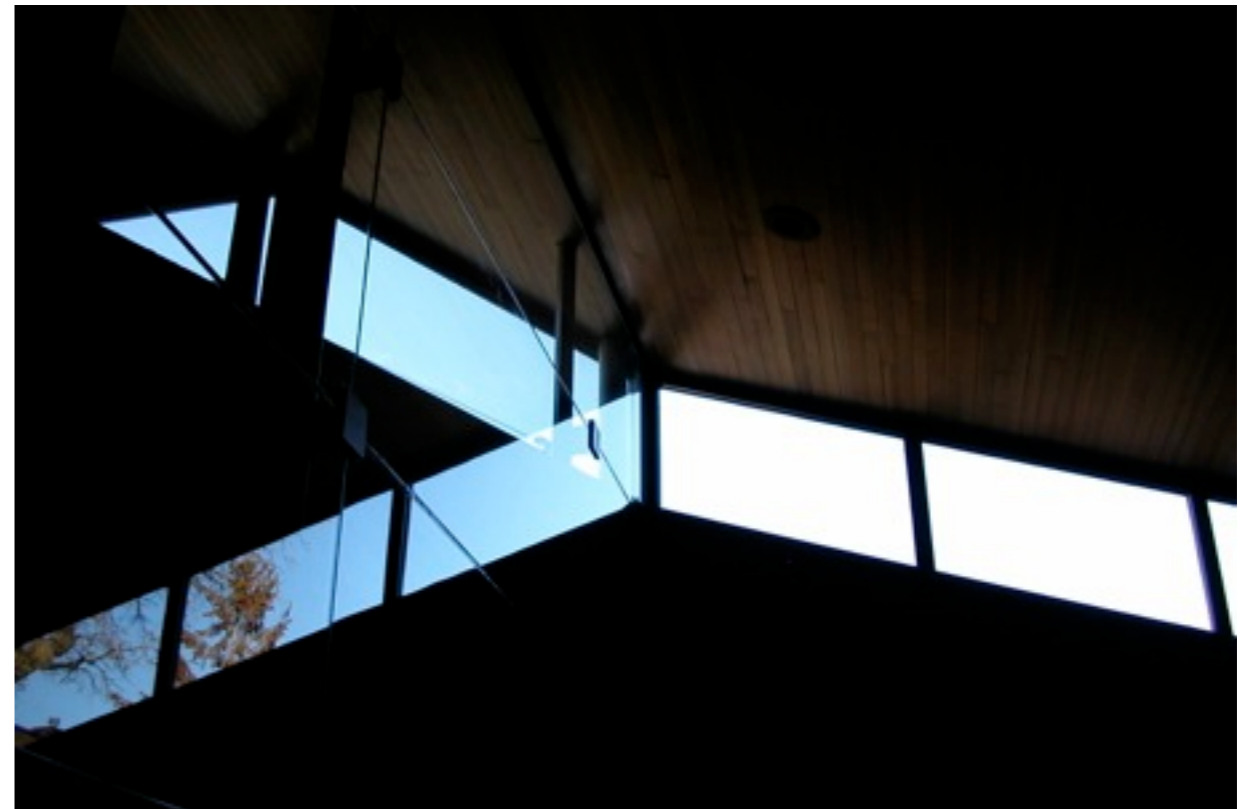
and what about faith in all of this?



we know that faith has to be nurtured at home, although community matters



we know that practices matter



we remember that God is always with us in the midst of our journeys

some examples, NOT definitive!

for young children

- limit commercially produced media consumption
- for the times you do engage media, put good pieces in front of them (Common Good radio, Children's literature, etc.)
- institute table prayers and practices (candles, etc.)
- invite a biblical imagination into daily practice (Bible Stories for the 40 days)



for school age kids

- invite them to create media ([MyPopStudio](#), [animoto](#), etc.)
- watch media together
- have clear family practices around media use
- diversify your media diet
- choose media with deep theological themes to engage together
- choose Wii or Kinect



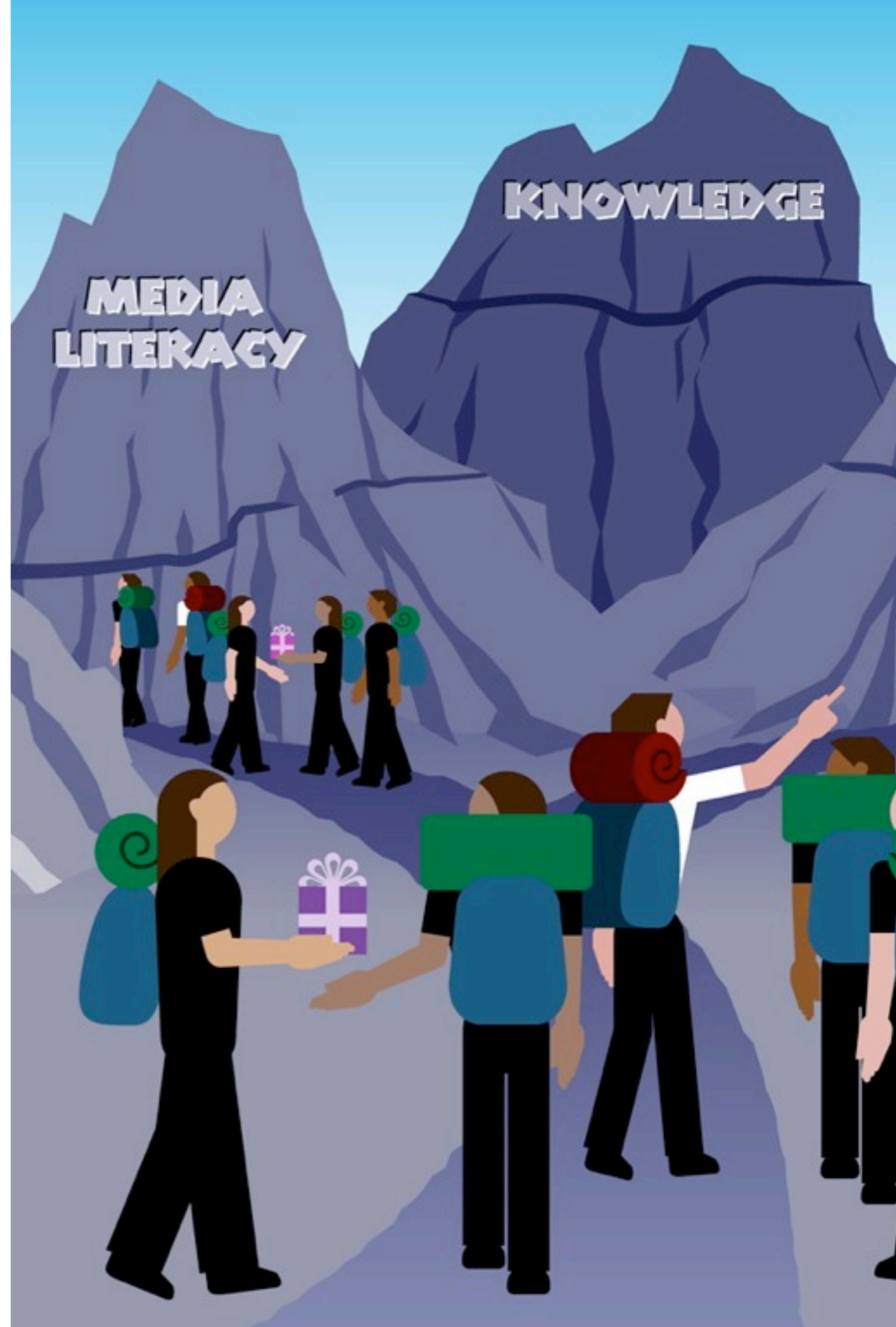
for teens

- play and learn online together
- set clear guidelines for family media use
- provide opportunities to create in media
- practice open and engaged communication in any medium
- engage in service together
- participate with them in social media



for adults

- choose the Net over cable tv
- diversify your media diet
- develop a thoughtful news diet
- learn with young people
- create in media



remember

- practices by which we engage media are more determinative than media content
- emerging technologies make engaging media an adaptive challenge
- faith emerges in every context, God is present
- support families with media in ways that you support families to have healthy food practices
- support families with faith practices that engage and produce media

Q & A

more info: www.luthersem.edu/mhess