

## Session 1: What's the Difference Between Christian Education and Christian Formation?

- I. Introductions
- II. What is Christian Education?
  - a. A Brief History of Christian Education
    - i. The Catechumenate - *κατηχέω* (*katēcheō*) – Luke 1:4
    - ii. Sunday School
    - iii. The current status of things
  - b. What is Christian Formation?
    - i. What has formed you? Who helped form you? Discuss formative experiences.
    - ii. Bigger than just education – formation definitions (handout)
  - c. Part of Discipleship - *μαθητής* (*mathētēs*) - Matthew 4:19 & Matthew 28:19–20
  - d. Biblical basis for formation
    - i. Romans 12:1-2
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
  - e. Creating a hunger and thirst for the Gospel – *curiosity* - Matthew 5:6
- III. The Way Forward: Both Ancient and New
  - a. Ancient: Habits of formation
    - i. How liturgy forms us - “We are what we love” – Proverbs 4:23 & Colossians 3:15-16
    - ii. Spiritual habits & a Rule of Life (handout)
    - iii. Discipleship by apprenticeship and mentorship – Luke 10 & 1 Samuel 3 (handouts)
    - iv. Mysticism – “the Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist.” – Karl Rahner
  - b. New: Current Models of Adult Learning
    - i. The Learning Pyramid (handout)

## Session 2: Let's Practice Bible Study

- I. Bible Translations - Functional vs. Formal
- II. Luke 24:32 – Jesus puts our hearts on fire for Scripture
- III. Inductive Bible Study Practice (handout)

## Session 3: Best Practices

- I. Benefits of small(er) church formation
  - a. Remember small is the norm!
  - b. Customizable/personalization/IEP
  - c. Mentors
  - d. Celebrations!
- II. For children
  - a. Focus on helping the parents
  - b. Send materials home – help parents teach their kids (40 hours vs 3,000 hours)
  - c. Create wonder, use all the senses
  - d. Tell stories – their story is part of the larger story of God
  - e. Provide opportunities for intergenerational worship – children are the church too
  - f. Teach children the *how* of prayer and allow them to practice

- g. Celebrate milestones!
- III. For youth
  - a. What do you want young people to know about Jesus by the time they graduate high school? What do you want them to do with their faith? What do you want their faith to look like?
  - b. Goal of 10% of ASA for critical mass participating in ANY way in the life of your church
  - c. Take advantage of quarterly events (ie Fall Festival – then invite to Christmas)
  - d. Look out for multigenerational opportunities
  - e. Create mentor relationships – ask youth who they would turn to for help – invite those people to work with youth
- IV. For adults
  - a. When in doubt, go deep
  - b. Accountability – challenges (praying each day a certain way, reading the Bible, etc), make it fun (Men vs women), creating a Rule of Life
- V. Other things not covered before
  - a. How to run small groups (handout and bookmark from Denise)
  - b. Other resources (handout)