

Informal Education

John 4:7-32

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." (NIV)

QUESTIONS

1. In the space below, squeeze in as many things you can recall you learned by the time you were five (5) years old:

2. Identify the three most important lessons about yourself and about life that you want your children or youth to learn also. Indicate where and from whom you learned this.

(1) Lesson: " _____
_____."

Learned from: _____

Learned at: _____

(2) Lesson: " _____
_____."

Learned from: _____

Learned at: _____

(3) Lesson: " _____
_____."

Learned from: _____

Learned at: _____

DISCUSSION: After sharing your responses with your small group answer and discuss the following question:

(1) How many of these lessons were learned through "informal education?"

(2) How many of these lessons were learned in formal academic settings?

(3) Would you say that your most life-changing learning moments came through "formal" or "informal" education. Why? Give an example.

“Informal Education”

Intro:

“Children learn 1/2 of what they will learn their entire life by the time they are 6.”
Much of what we learn about the spiritual life can be attributed to “informal education.”

Definition of informal education: *“The process of personal change that is the result of learning through unstructured, unanticipated, but intentional relationships and activities.”*

Examples:

- One of the most powerful forces of informal education is television.
- One of the most permanent forces of informal education is our family of origin.

John 4: Jesus models informal education.

Handout: Question #1

Lessons learned. III.

Handout: Question #2

Small Groups: Handout - Discussion.

Informal education in youth ministry:

The Christian faith is more “caught than taught.” If so, Informal Education can be more effective than formal teaching experiences and programs. What are some ways we can engage in Informal Education for Christian growth. How will you practice it in your ministry?

- Learning Contexts - homes, church, parties, retreats, school,
- Learning Dynamics - friendships, dialogue, mentoring, example, overhearing, experiences,
- Learning Outcomes

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“The process of personal change that is the result of learning through unstructured, unanticipated, but intentional relationships and activities.”

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- Learning Contexts for Informal Education (*Where does it happen?*):

- Learning Dynamics for Informal Education (*How does it happen?*):

- Learning Outcomes for Informal Education (*What do you want to teach?*):