



The Practice of Intentional Faith Development

From Scripture:

Exodus 18:20 – Teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 – Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 25:4-5a – Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me.

Psalms 119:10-16 – With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Psalms 119:105 – Your word is a light to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 143:10 – Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

Proverbs 9:9 – Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous, and they will gain in learning.

Mark 4:2 – He began to teach them many things in parables.

Mark 9:24 – Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Luke 2:52 – And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Acts 2:42 – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 4:18-20 – So they [the Jewish Council] called them [Peter and John] and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Romans 10:17 – So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:11 – When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

Colossians 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.

2 Timothy 1:5 – I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

Hebrews 5:12b-14 – You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

From Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase:

p. 63 – Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. His followers grew in their understanding of God and matured in their awareness of God's will for their lives as they listened to Jesus' stories, instructions, and lessons while gathering around dinner tables, on hillsides, and at the Temple. Jesus taught us to learn our faith this way.

p. 63 – Learning in community helps people explore possibilities that God may have for them that they never would have considered on their own.

pp. 63-34 – [Paul] presents faith not as something static, a possession, or an all or nothing proposition, but rather as something we grow into and strive toward. . . . Christian faith is dynamic. It requires cultivation.

p. 65 – Bible study is not just about self-improvement but about setting ourselves where God can shape us, intentionally opening ourselves to God's Word and call.

From The Vital church

By Clark M. Williamson and Ronald J. Allen:

p. 55 – Christians are purposefully created, shaped, formed by a church that realizes that if it does not create Christians, nobody will.

p. 62 – Everything we do in the church teaches. Worship, liturgy, preaching, pastoral counseling and calling, administration and program development, the way people are treated, the kind of community we try to make real in the congregation – all teach the Christian faith and shape Christian character.

From Other Sources:

You cannot take credit for beauty at sixteen; But if you are beautiful at sixty, it is your soul's doing. – *Marie Stopes*

I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am. – *John Newton*

Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too. – *Voltaire*

The mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work unless it's open. – *unknown*

Don't join an easy crowd; you won't grow. Go where the expectations and the demands to perform are high. – *Jim Rohn*

Superficiality is the curse of our age. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people. – *Richard Foster*

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it. – *Harry Emerson Fosdick*

The man who views the world at fifty the same as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life. – *Muhammad Ali*

You've got to continue to grow, or you're just like last night's cornbread – stale and dry. – *Loretta Lynn*