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CD702 Working with People
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Critical Assessment Form

List the 8 (9) books (4 required, 5 chosen) you've read/watched:

1. *Designing Your Life* by Burnett & Evans
2. *The Road Trip that Changed the World* by Sayers
3. *Difficult Conversations* by Stone & Patton
4. *A Creative Minority* by Tyson & Grizzle
5. *Is God Anti-Gay?* by Allberry
6. *Soul Care* by Reimer
7. *Redeeming Sex* by Hirsch
8. *The Gift of Being Yourself* by Benner
9. *Healing for Damaged Emotions* by Seamands

1) Why were these chosen?

Books 1-4 were required. *Redeeming Sex* was selected as it is required for another course.

Soul Care is a book that I like to read every few years to challenge me; it was due.

Is God Anti-Gay? was selected because I have a heart for those who are struggling with SSA.

The Gift of Being Yourself has challenged me in the past to be who I am in Christ and I desired a refresher in this encouragement.

Healing for Damaged Emotions was chosen because I have recently realized that I have some emotions that are going through healing. (I also did not realize I had hit 4 chosen already.)

2) What was challenging? What was the most helpful? What was not helpful?

Challenging: Between *The Gift of Being Yourself* and *Soul Care*, I was challenged to submit a fear from which God has been releasing me; this resulted in a soul freeing breaking through.

The Road Trip that Changed the World and *Creative Minority* challenged me to really pay attention to what is going on around me so that I can be proactive in helping people in the "here and now" rather than only in the "after."

Most Helpful: *Designing Your Life* allowed me to accept that there are many different paths my life/career could have gone down that were not wrong and has encouraged me to stand firm in the path I have selected while releasing the others.

Difficult Conversations has left me with tools that can be imparted not only in my daily approach to conversations, but in guiding others who ask for assistance in having difficult conversations.

Not Helpful: *Healing for Damaged Emotions* was not as helpful as I thought it would be as it primarily focused on those who struggle with damaged emotions due to perfectionist tendencies.

3) How have the readings continued to develop your approach to working with people?

Were there any paradigm shifts for you? If so, what?

In general, these readings have encouraged me in the necessity of seeing people as individuals with their own stories, while, at the same time, inviting people into community to grow together.

My biggest paradigm shift was linked with the books *Redeeming Sex* and *Is God Anti-Gay?* I was given time to reflect on just how differently each person who experience SSA views this part of his/her life and had my eyes opened to a wider variety of reasons why each may have chosen that particular response. Before these readings, I had more of a "cut and dry" stance, believing that the basis for SSA life choices stemmed from only a few reasons. My heart has now been opened to the necessity of carefully listening to individual stories and learning to see the difference in perspectives. I have also been affirmed in the necessity of not only allowing but encouraging those who are LGBTQIA+ to participate in the life of the Body of Christ.

4) How will the readings be applied to your personal and professional life?

Often, as one who resides primarily in Christian circles, I miss the culture that is just outside of my door. Through these readings, I have been reminded of the necessity of intentionally engaging with not only academics but also with culture and with the people who comprise that culture. Without engagement with real people in real places, without praxis, my theology cannot be true. If my theology is not true, both my personal and professional lives will portray a distorted image of the true Christ who is in me, and I will lead people astray.