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CD702: Working with People
Dr. Sanders, Prof. Park
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LE2 - Critical assessment book reviews

List the 8 books (4 required, 4 chosen) and/or any handouts, articles, blogs, or videos you've read/watched:

1. Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life. Bill Burnett & Dave Evans
2. The Road Trip That Changed The World: The Unlikely Theory that will Change How You View Culture, the Church, and Most Importantly, Yourself. Mark Sayers.
3. Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most. Douglas Stone & Bruce Patton
4. Creative Minority: Influencing Culture Through Redemptive Participation. Jon Tyson & Heather Grizzle.
5. Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts. Les & Leslie Parrott.
6. Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations About Sex & Spirituality. Debra Hirsch
7. The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations: Walking Alongside People Who Believe Differently. John Crilly & Mary Schaller.
8. The Power of Mentoring: Shaping People Who Will Shape the World. Martin Sanders.

OTHER: I also reviewed multiple websites/ resources suggested in the syllabus. I was particularly interested in the life change and developing/understanding people resources.

Why were these chosen?

In my current season of life, I'm raising 4 kids (ages 13, 11, 8, 6) and working in full-time ministry as Director of Worship & Young Adult Ministries. Basically, all of my ministry (home life/career) involves the development and leadership of others. Not only was the online class content for this course particularly helpful for me as a leader but the books and resources were also extremely helpful to me as I am leading not only my own children, a worship ministry (with 40+ volunteers), and a young adult ministry consisting of 18-30ish-year-olds. The books required were beneficial but the chosen options were strategic considering my ministry.

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

I found The Road Trip That Changed The World particularly challenging, especially considering I am a worship leader and his quote about the church being full of spectators instead of disciples hasn't left my mind. Ouch. I also found it challenging because I had no clue who Jack Kerouac was prior to this book and he's mentioned too many times to count. Due to the number of books to get through in a short time, I need to go back to this one at some point.

I found The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations very helpful, particularly how the author framed how we often separate discipleship and evangelism and challenged this way of thinking.

I don't know that I would say anything wasn't helpful other than the short amount of time to try to get through all of the content.

How have the readings continued to develop your approach to working with people? Were there any paradigm shifts for you? If so, what?

These readings have given me great insights on working with all types of people. One of the highlights from the readings was reading *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts* because my husband and I came alongside a newly engaged couple in our young adult ministry and read it with them. I met with the bride weekly to discuss the readings and my husband met with the groom. We have a future plan to meet together. This was a great read and the newly engaged couple found it just as impactful as my husband and I (who have been married for almost 15 years).

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

These readings were practical, relatable, and easily can be applied to my personal and professional life. The leadership takeaways, biblical references, researched methods, and emphasis on spiritual formation throughout all of the readings make it easy to begin applying some of the more basic principles now and grow into some of the more difficult principles. A first step for me will be taking a tip from *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations* and nurturing my facilitator skills helping others to become more engaged.