

### Critical Assessment Form

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

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| 1. Designing Your Life                  | 5. Is God anti-gay?                            |
| 2. The Road Trip that Changed the World | 6. Saving your Marriage before it starts.      |
| 3. Difficult Conversations              | 7. The Gift of being yourself                  |
| 4. Creative Minority                    | 8. Comparing Christianity with World Religions |

#### **1) Why were these chosen?**

The first four books are required reading.

- \* Is God anti-gay? I was interested in choosing this book to find the author's theological reason for saying no, and the author delivers the point very well in the book.
- \* Saving your Marriage before it starts. I have been married for 17 years now and try to understand the issues that other people have as married couples and suggestions to resolve them.
- \* The Gift of being yourself. Sometimes it is difficult to find and admit who we truly are. This book may help people find their true selves behind the mask they created.
- \* Comparing Christianity with World Religions. I was curious to learn about other religions, and in comparison with Christianity hope to learn how to deal with people who have a different faith, and this book was a great help to develop myself.

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

If we consider all the material covered by the books, there are so many things to consider to work with people. The most challenging part was to analyze and develop my strategy and list the realistic approach I could comfortably do or admit that I could not do.

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

Working with people requires many skills, thoughts, principles, experiences, and sacrifices. However, knowing true myself should be the first step that I need to take before practicing or using other skills to work with people. Because there are so many different contexts in which we are working with people (e.g., in marriage, work, church, or with friends, family, or even strangers). If I don't know my true self and have a mask on it, I cannot deal with all other cases honestly, and even I create more masks each time. Therefore, I am working on getting to know myself more clearly to improve to work with people.

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

'Designing Your Life' helps me think and design how to balance my career, ministry, and family time, aligning with who I am and what I want to be in my life. 'The Road Trip that changed the World' suggests we be more conservative Christians to resolve many problems the recent generation created. However, we need more creativity to adopt and develop our faith in the most recent culture instead of being conservative. 'Difficult conversation' provides me with valuable skills to avoid hurtful feelings in the conversation. Creative Minority shows me how to be effective as the body of Christ in the world, not in the church. 'Is God anti-gay?' gave me an excellent theological analysis of how we can define marriage, sin, and homosexuality and a practical way to deal with the conversation about this issue. 'Saving your marriage before its stars' made me understand the problems I never experienced in my marriage that could help me work with people by understanding the problem. "The gift of being yourself" emphasizes that finding and admitting true myself is the most crucial step to working with people I have never focused on before. Finally, 'Comparing Christianity with World Religions' provided me the helpful knowledge and information I can use when working with people of a different faith.