



The following assignments are to be prepared for the March Session. **Those in bold print should be sent to the instructor by Feb 25, 2018**

1. Read *Formation in Faith* by Sondra Matthaiei

We will be discussing a large portion of this book in this session and returning to it in the following session in regard to teachers and resources/curriculum.

- a. Write your 1 paragraph answer to the question “What does it mean to make disciples?” from Chapter 2; Pg 36**
- b. From Chapter 2, compare and contrast the various ways some scholars have described how persons grow in faith. Use the listing on Pg 36-37. How would you see it for your own faith story? Describe how you see others of your faith community in these various ‘stages’?**
- c. From Chapter 4, pg 68 & 69; prepare the lists regarding giftedness of those in your congregation and yourself. Perhaps have some others around you list what they see as your giftedness and how you use it. This will be part of our discussion in class. You do not need to turn anything in ahead of time.
- d. Prepare a sheet listing the ministries of your local church where people are offered hospitality, can find authentic relationships and learning/growth experiences. Then prepare a list of new ideas/areas that might be explored for your community and church. What are the needs or the areas that are not being met for people in your area that your congregation might pick up on and provide? Consider some of the wording in the appendix section of the book as you prepare. Again – part of the class discussion time.

2. Begin to read *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie J. Thompson

For the first session of class, we will be looking at the first 5 chapters of the book.

- a. As you read, consider the question “How do you understand the connections between inward growth and outward expressions of faith?” Write a response that exhibits knowledge of the chapters of the book.**
- b. At the back of the readings there are study questions for use in groups. Pick the chapter (1-5) that most speaks to you and answer the questions (I understand that some will be more difficult to answer as you are not necessarily in a group, but do your best), and reflect on how you might use the particular spiritual discipline in a group gathering at your location. Does one exercise seem more likely to be taken up than another? Do you see a particular group choosing to experience one over another? ETC**
- c. We will be sharing in and discussing our view and experiences, past and present on these ‘Soul Feast’ chapters in class.

Assignments to be prepared for the second session in April (details to be confirmed at the March session.) Work should be submitted to the instructor before April 8 via email.

Continuing in *Formation in Faith*

1. **Focusing on Chapter 3 – Look at question 2 on pg.61 – create a chart/timeline for your own life including the persons who were present with you and how God used that person/persons to influence your growth in faith.**
  
2. Continuing in *Soul Feast*
  - a. Be sure to have read the last chapters of the book
  - b. Write a paragraph in response to chapter 8 “Entertaining Angels Unawares” describing your own personal experiences. You may find the questions on this chapter of the study guide helpful as you respond. THIS WILL BE FOR CLASS DISCUSSION ONLY. No need to send it in ahead of time.
  
3. In the Introduction section of *Teaching the Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living*, Jack Seymour makes this statement  
“If we claim to be Christian, we are called to teach the way of Jesus. Clergy and laity teach to help others follow Jesus’ way of the realm of God. We seek to be faithful to a message, a vision and a way of life that we know profoundly transforms lives and communities.”  
**Write a page on how you see Jesus as a teacher, focusing on his style and methods as much as on his message.**  
ALSO for class discussion purposes - Prepare a paragraph on a teacher who made an impression on you – for good or bad – in their style, attitude, etc. Could be a public school teacher, a coach or piano teacher, a Sunday School teacher or youth group leader – anyone that you viewed as a ‘teacher’, to be shared in session.
  
4. **Prepare a teaching plan of a Bible Story – use the same story but prepare it for children, youth and adults accordingly. (so you should have 3 plans on the same passage/story) I should be able to tell that you are making it relevant to each age group and using a variety of methods in teaching it to them, include lists of supplies needed or links to videos/other resources etc.**

There will possibly be some revisions to the assignments for session two made at the first session when we are together.