

Learning Experience #1: A Collage of Learning Experiences

ConneXions is not a traditional, lecture-driven series of courses, but it consists of a collage of learning experiences. In fact, our lives and ministries were built through a multifaceted collage of relationships and learning experiences.

1. Please read these definitions of the word “collage.” As you read, circle what is most interesting to you. We will hear a sample.

Etymology: from French *collage* “a pasting,” from Old French *coller* “to glue,” from Greek *kolla* “glue.”

1: an artistic composition made of various materials and objects (e.g., paper, cloth, or wood) glued on a surface, often with unifying lines and color.

2: an assembly of diverse fragments, such as a *collage* of ideas, or a collage of conflicting memories.

3: a work (as a film) having disparate scenes in rapid succession without transitions.

We can put it another way:

One’s life is like a work of needlepoint. When viewed from underneath, it is a confused mass of thread with no pattern or meaning. However, from the top – from God’s perspective – we can see the beauty of the intricate pattern; all the threads actually have meaning and purpose! With God, no experience is wasted, no event is so small as to be insignificant, no hardship so unpleasant as to be ignored. God uses it all, and the emerging leader must learn to understand how it all fits together.

2. Read the following:

From *Building Leaders: SpiritBuilt Leadership #4* by Malcolm Webber:

Even though we can identify certain of its elements, leadership development is not a simple and orderly step-by-step procedure of moving through a series of predictable and successive points. In reality, leadership development is a complex and multifaceted experiential collage. It is an experiential collage of diverse people, relationships, influences, assignments, tasks, responsibilities, duties, deadlines, opportunities, pressures, crises, blessings, sufferings, rejections, successes, mistakes, etc., that all work together to build the emerging leader.