

The Power of Prayer



In the October newsletter I asked you to prayer for growth for E.F.M. At that time I said there were 13 people in E.F.M groups (including mentors). I have to confess that I made a mistake and counted someone who had withdrawn so there were only 12.

I asked you to pray for the board, the trainers, the mentors and the group members. Particularly I asked for a doubling of the number of people doing E.F.M. I thought that was a huge ask of you and the Lord. But I am delighted to report that:

- The number of groups has grown from 2 to 4
- The number of participants has grown from 12 to 22

I would particularly like to thank Leanne Munro, Jean Malcolm and Ailsa Cornell for their hard work in promoting E.F.M. and recruiting new members.

I ask for your continued prayers for E.F.M. Especially I would like you to prayer for two more groups to be established - in Auckland and in the South Island.

Remember that E.F.M. groups can start at any time of the year except in December or early January.

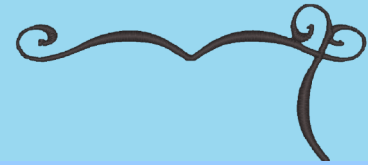
Michael Crawford-Butler
Administrator

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Trainers' Corner



A place to find some ideas for EfM groups

This material comes from Steve Isham in USA. He used these questions as an alternative way of exploring the metaphor and making connections

The Four Stages of Faith

Faith After Doubt, Brian D. McLaren

Brian McLaren proposes a model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith.

Simplicity: Dualistic Thinking

Stage One is called simplicity because it revolves around a simple mental function of sorting everything into one of two categories. What matters is simply trust; simple obedience; unquestioning loyalty, etc. For this reason, in Stage One, we set out to master the mental skills of dualism, of seeing the world in twos: this or that, in or out, right or wrong.

Perspective Questions Examples

What in the focus image/picture/metaphor do you see as "dualistic?"

What do you see when looking at the image at the surface level, or with a pedestrian point of view?

What do you notice at first glance?

Complexity: Pragmatic Thinking

Stage Two is called complexity because it revolves around pragmatism and independence. We want to self-differentiate by learning how to think for ourselves and develop our own goals, along with our own skills to obtain these goals. In Stage Two, everything is learnable and doable, if only we can find the right models, mentors, mentors, and coaches and master the right techniques, skills and know-how

Perspective Questions Examples

What do you need to learn or explore to look beneath the surface of the image ?

What do you notice when you look beneath the surface?

How does your view of the image change when you look at it with more complexity?

What, if any, doubts arise for you when you look below the surface?

Perplexity: Critical Thinking

Stage Three is called perplexity because life in it is more than simple and more than complex; it is downright mysterious and downright perplexing. In Stage Three, we see the damage done by unchallenged structures and institutions, we distrust and challenge even our own institutions constantly, perhaps obsessively. We generally operate on what is often called a "hermeneutic of suspicion" in Stage Three because of our disillusionment with structure, authority, organizational purpose, and belonging. Stage Three embraces relativism, the idea that every viewpoint is relative to the point from which it adherents view the world.

Perspective Question Examples

What do you need to learn or do to see what has been damaged in the image?

Where do you see disillusionment at the meso level; that is with structure, authority, organizational purpose or belonging.

What in the image has the potential to give you different viewpoints about the image?

What do you learn from these viewpoint that you may not noticed previously?

What is considered to be "truth" from these various viewpoints?

What, if any, doubt arise for you when you see the image from different view points

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The Four Stages of Faith (continued)

Harmony: Non-dual Seeing

Stage Four is called harmony because it revolves around a new dimension of non-discriminatory love that becomes possible during this stage. We may feel a little embarrassed in Stage Four because after all our thinking, all our mental anguish, all our adventures in missing the point, this discovery of unifying harmony beyond disintegrating perplexity seems very simple, almost childish. In Stage Four, we finally descend to a point so low that instead of looking down on everything, we have to look up at it from a humbled position of understanding, and in doing so, we become capable of encountering something without needing to control it. Rather, we are able simply to see it, perhaps even with loving eyes.

Perspective Questions Examples.

What has been "missing the point" so far in your exploration of the image?

What do you see in the image when you look at it without any agenda, that is not trying to control the image or your view of it?

What do you need to simply view the image with "loving eyes?"

Where do you see God active in a harmonious view?

How have your doubts been addressed in a harmonious view?

A History of Christianity Videos

Diarmid MacCullough produced a 6 episode TV series (also available on DVD) on the history of Christianity. This is not a direct parallel with his book *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* but many people have found it a useful resource. This link is a free to view site with all six episodes

<https://watchdocumentaries.com/a-history-of-christianity/>

Notes on the material covered in each episode/DVD are available in the Mentor's Resources on the EFM New Zealand web site <https://efm.org.nz>



Education for Ministry

Administrator: Michael Crawford-Butler

62 Herewini St, Titahi Bay, Porirua 5022

Phone 021 246 0672

educationforministrynz@outlook.com

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