



ADULT LEARNING: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

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1. Lifelong Learning

“We understand that the deepest lessons are not learned in textbooks, but instead are discovered as learning meets life.” Steven Garber, *Fabric of Faithfulness*

- **Adults retain what they discover for themselves.**

2. Dynamics of Adult Learners

What are you curious about these days? What are you seeking to learn? What are you currently working on that you are finding really energizing?

- **Adults are self-directed learners.**

3. Adult-centered Approaches to Learning

The Land of Fools

Once a man strayed into the world known as the Land of Fools where he saw a number of people fleeing in terror from a field where they had been trying to harvest wheat. “There is a monster in that field,” they told him. Upon close examination the man saw that it was a watermelon.

The stranger offered to kill the monster for them. He walked into the field, cut the melon from its stalk, took a slice and began to eat it. Now the people were more terrified of him than they had been of the melon. They drove him away with pitchforks crying, “He will kill us next, unless we get rid of him.”

Years later a second man strayed into the Land of Fools and the same thing happened to him. But, instead of offering to help them with the monster, he agreed with them that it must be dangerous, and by tiptoeing away from it with them he gained their confidence. He spent a long time with them in their houses until he could teach them, little by little, the basic facts, which would enable them not only to lose their fear of melons, but even to cultivate them.

- **The answers are in the room.**

4. Leaning into Life Experiences

Poll Question: Which picture most speaks to you as a way of describing where you find yourself these days? Choose a number on the poll question.

- **Sharing our stories gives God the opportunity to reframe, refresh, restore and renew our experiences for good.**

5. Being a Guide

“We have maps and map-makers ad nauseum in the church in North America. What we need are a few more mountain guides.” James Houston

- **Providing a patient presence over time.**