

CED 6421 Learning Theory Spiritual Formation Interviews

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Overview. The purpose of this interview is for you to discover practices that have helped individuals who have persevered in their Christian walk to learn and grow in their faith.

Sample. Pick two individuals whose Christian walk you respect. There are two factors that you should consider: 1) they should be mature Christians; 2) they should have walked with the Lord over many decades. You might consider choosing at least one person who has the same professional role as you aspire to.

Procedure. Get the person's permission for interviewing them and arrange a time. Choose a quiet location where you will not be disturbed. After introducing the course project, ask them each question exactly as it is written. You may follow-up each question with "probing" questions to clarify their responses. Write their responses as closely as possible to the very words they use. (Audio recording is a valuable practice.)

Interview Questions.

Background

- *Note their gender.*
- What is your age?
- What is your denomination?
- What is your ministry/occupation?
- How long have you been in the Christian faith?
- How did you come into the Christian faith?

Spiritual Formation Questions

1. What practices are you currently using to help you grow and learn in your faith?
2. What time in your life did you grow the most in your spiritual faith? Describe the situation.
3. What have been the biggest spiritual challenges that you have faced? How did you handle those challenges?
4. How do you battle temptation to sin in your life?
5. What have been the most significant life experiences that have helped you grow in your faith?
6. What types of church involvement have contributed most to your spiritual growth?
7. What influences outside of the church have contributed to your spiritual growth?
8. Do you have a spiritual mentor? If so, how has that helped you to grow in your faith?

Writing the Report. The report should include the following sections:

- *Introduction: Background and Purpose.* Give a brief explanation of spiritual learning and formation in one paragraph and explain the purpose of the project in the next paragraph.
- *Methods Section:*
 - *Research Design.* Briefly explain the research design.
 - *Participants.* Give the background information on your two individuals, taken from the background questions.
 - *Instrument.* Briefly explain the instrument (aka interview) that was used.
 - *Procedure.* Briefly explain the procedure for conducting the interviews.

- *Results*: Explain the general findings from the interviews. What commonalities did you find between the two participants' responses? What key differences? What surprised you from their responses? What were the overall findings about spiritual learning and growth? Support your results with quotations from the interviews.
 - **Example**: Prayer played an important role in both participants' spiritual learning. Participant A said, "God teaches me in prayer." Participant B said, "Prayer helps me to focus on God."
- *Conclusion and Recommendations*: Based on the interviews, what can you conclude about spiritual learning and growth? What recommendations do you have for individuals who want to sustain their Christian faith?
- *Appendix*. Include a transcript of the participants' responses in an Appendix.

Rubric for Assessment

Category	Points Possible	Points Earned
Introduction	3	
Research Design	1	
Participants	3	
Instrument	1	
Procedure	1	
Results	8	
Conclusions & Recommendations	5	
Interview in Appendix	3	
Total	25	