

FAITH INTEGRATION STRATEGIES

Dr. Brad Alles • Concordia University Wisconsin • brad.alles@cuw.edu • bradalles.com

• Approaches

1. Isolation—faith confined to one class, separate from other subjects
 - *Learning apart for Source of Truth (Pr 1:7; Co 2:2-3)*
2. Interaction—faith issues addressed occasionally
3. Integration—faith and learning intertwined
 - *Seeing all of life from God's perspective (Ps 24:1)*
 - *Walking in the Truth (Ps 86:11)*

• Contextual (can be mere tokenism without next 3 strategies)

1. Tactical
 - *Describing school's denomination & mission*
2. Ornamental
 - *Posting biblical messages & symbols*
3. Environmental
 - *Hidden curriculum of teacher-student interaction, discipline, extra-curriculars...*

• Illustrative

1. Analogous
 - *Comparisons used to convey spiritual truth (church as a body in 1 Co 12)*
2. Narrative
 - *Bible stories fitting a topic ((weak vs. strong—David & Goliath)*
3. Exemplary
 - *Modeling by teacher—relationships, conduct, managing life (1 Th 2:7-12)*

• Conceptual

1. Textual
 - *Explaining relevant Bible passages in lesson (Ro 13 and government's role)*
2. Thematic
 - *Examining course goals from biblical perspective (collaboration in Ne 4)*
3. Valuable
 - *Addressing life issues with ethical implications (free speech in Ac 26:26)*

• Experiential

1. Personal
 - *One-on-one guidance with student (Woman at the well in Jn 4)*
2. Inter-relational
 - *Cooperating with others and serving others (Ga 6:2; 5:13)*
3. Declarative
 - *Ways to express faith—in the world but not of it (Jn 17:15-18)*

• Resource

"Instructional Strategies for Integration of Faith and Learning" by John Wesley Taylor V
(christintheclassroom.org)

- **How Christianity Changed the World (Alvin Schmidt)**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. People transformed | 6. Hospitals & health care |
| 2. Sanctity of human life | 7. Education, science, labor |
| 3. Elevation of sexual morals | 8. Liberty, justice, abolition of slavery |
| 4. Charity & compassion | 9. Arts, music, literature |
| 5. Dignity of women | |

- **Spiritual growth stages (*Reveal & Follow Me*)**

1. Exploring Christ
2. Growing in Christ
3. Close to Christ
4. Christ-centered

- **Catalysts for spiritual growth**

1. Beliefs & attitudes (essential for all stages)
 - *Jesus 1st, Truth, authority of Bible*
2. Organized church activities
 - *Church services (only for first 2 stages)*
3. Personal spiritual practices
 - *Bible reading, prayer*
4. Spiritual activities with others
 - *Community events, evangelism*

- **Barriers to spiritual growth: Stalling & quitting faith (in 1st 2 stages)**

1. Emotional problems
2. Addictions
3. Inappropriate relationships
4. Not making spiritual growth a priority (most significant)

- **Barriers to spiritual growth: Dissatisfied & quitting church**

1. Lack of relevant Bible teaching
2. Lack of challenging teaching
3. Lack of in-depth Bible study

- **Bible—most powerful catalyst**

1. Teach how to reflect on it—not just read it. Is there a(n):
 - *Instruction to obey?*
 - *Sin to avoid?*
 - *Warning to heed?*
 - *Example to follow?*
 - *Encouragement to hear?*
 - *Promise to believe?*
2. Intimacy with Christ is goal

- **Disciple—not just following; being like the rabbi**

“Follow a rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered by the dust of his feet.”



- **Luke 6:40**

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”