

Effective Education Using Concept Formation

How Jesus Taught

Facilitator's Directions

Procedure:

1. (5 -10 minutes) Demonstrate the Concept Formation strategy with an *example to the whole group. [Project the four quotes below about “Teaching by Questioning” on a large screen.]

Say: “*The Urantia Book* has lots to say about teaching and learning.

Please read the four quotes on the screen and think about an educational approach that characterizes each of them. What is the concept that ties them together?” Allow a few minutes for attendees to read the quotes then ask them to turn to a neighbor and share their ideas. After a minute or two say: “Who’d like to share an idea?” Call on someone. Most likely the respondent will say: “Teaching by questioning”, or “Jesus taught by asking questions” or something like that. Say: “Thank you. “How many of you thought that *questioning* was the concept that tied these quotes together? Any other ideas?” If so, take responses and assure the respondent that there are no right or wrong answers. We’re just looking for the unifying concept.

2. (15 minutes) Divide the participants into groups of three or four and give each group a set of 12 quotes. Tell them that they will all have the same quotes. Their task is to classify them into groups by principle or concept and give each group a label – just like they did with the “questioning” quotes. They should discuss the quotes with each other and categorize them. Tell them that if they finish before time is up, they may use their books or computers to find additional quotes that fit the classifications. There are no right or wrong answers. The object is to discover the concepts that might be useful in helping to better understand [whatever topic you have chosen to teach]. Ask for questions and take enough time to be sure the directions are clear.

3. (20 minutes) Give each group a set of quotes [cut up in a folder], a blank paper for labels and a marker, and send them to separate parts of the room.

Participants will discuss the quotes, think about their meanings and find a reason to classify them into groups. Each group of quotes should be given a label. There may be different rationales for different classifications. There are no “right” answers. [Facilitator should circulate to assist groups if they’re having trouble.]

- The quotes may be classified in different ways, but when the group is satisfied with the classifications they should label them.
- If they finish quickly, they may use their books, or electronic devices to find additional quotes that fit the classifications.

4. 20 minutes) Bring the group back together.

- Ask a representative from each group explain the rationale for their classifications to the whole group. Project the responses on a screen.

- Acknowledge the diverse observations - different groups will have different rationales for their classifications.

5. (20 minutes) Lead a discussion using the concepts that participants have “discovered” to tie the ideas about your topic together and bring the lesson to a conclusion.

The takeaway: Participants will have been engaged in an interactive process to enhance deep thinking and may discover a new way to approach the study of a topic.

***Example:**

What is the educational approach that ties these quotes together?

1. (1460.6) 132:4.2 Jesus’s usual technique of social contact was to draw people out and into talking with him by asking them questions. The interview would usually begin by his asking them questions and ending by their asking him questions. He was equally adept in teaching by either asking or answering questions. As a rule, to those he taught the most, he said the least.
2. (1383.1) 125:5.8 [Jesus] conveyed his teaching by the questions he would ask. By the deft and subtle phrasing of a question he would at one and the same time challenge their teaching and suggest his own. In the manner of his asking a question there was an appealing combination of sagacity and humor which endeared him even to those who more or less resented his youthfulness. He was always eminently fair and considerate in the asking of these penetrating questions.
3. (1546.1) 138:8.10 Though Jesus’ public teaching mainly consisted in parables and short discourses, he invariably taught his apostles by questions and answers. He would always pause to answer sincere questions during his later public discourses.
4. 139:5.7 Jesus knew that on his worlds of space there were untold billions of similar slow-thinking mortals, and he wanted to encourage them all to look to him and always to feel free to come to him with their questions and problems. After all, Jesus was really more interested in Philip’s foolish questions than in the sermon he might be preaching. Jesus was supremely interested in men, all kinds of men.

(Quotations to be used in this workshop application of "Concept Formation" are below.

HOW TO EDUCATE EFFECTIVELY • Concept Formation

All quotes from *The Urantia Book*

Sample

1)

... [Jesus] conveyed his teaching by the questions he would ask. By the deft

and subtle phrasing of a question he would at one and the same time challenge their teaching and suggest his own. In the manner of his asking a question there was an appealing combination of sagacity and humor which endeared him even to those who more or less resented his youthfulness. He was always eminently fair and

considerate in the asking of these penetrating questions. ...

P. 125:5.8 (p. 1383.1) Educational Technique: _____

Sample

2)

begin by his asking them questions and end by their asking him questions. He was equally adept in teaching by either asking or answering questions. As a rule, to those he taught the most, he said the least. ...

... Jesus' usual technique of social contact was to draw people out and into talking with him by asking them questions. The interview would usually

P. 132:4.2 (p. 1460.6) Educational Technique: _____

Sample

3)

apostles by questions and answers. He would always pause to answer sincere questions during his later public discourses.

Though Jesus' public teaching mainly consisted in parables and short discourses, he invariably taught his

P. 138:8.10 (p. 1546.1) Educational Technique: _____

Sample

4)

... Jesus knew that on his worlds of space there were untold billions of similar slow-thinking mortals, and he wanted to encourage them all to look to him and always to feel free to come to him with their questions and problems. After all, Jesus was really more interested in Philip's foolish

questions than in the sermon he might be preaching. Jesus was supremely interested in *men*, all kinds of men.

P. 139:5.7 (p. 1557.1) Educational
Technique: _____

HOW TO EDUCATE EFFECTIVELY • Concept Formation (continued)

All quotes from *The Urantia Book*

1)

... One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is *teamwork*. The spheres of

perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. ...

P. 28:5.14 (p. 312.1) Educational Technique: _____

2)

The methods employed in many of the higher schools are beyond the human concept of the art of teaching truth, but this is the keynote of the whole educational system: character

acquired by enlightened experience. The teachers provide the enlightenment; the universe station and the ascender's status afford the opportunity for experience; the wise utilization of these two augments character.

P. 37:6.3 (p. 412.3) Educational Technique: _____

3)

... Knowledge can be had by education, but wisdom, which is indispensable to true culture, can be

secured only through experience and by men and women who are innately intelligent. Such a people are able to learn from experience; they may become truly wise.

P. 81:6.13 (p. 908.2) Educational Technique: _____

4)

... And this was his method of instruction: Never once did he attack their errors or even mention the flaws in their teachings. In each case he would select the truth in what they taught and then proceed so to

embellish and illuminate this truth in their minds that in a very short time this enhancement of the truth effectively crowded out the associated error; and thus were these Jesus-taught men and women prepared for the subsequent recognition of additional and similar truths in the teachings of the early Christian missionaries. ...

P. 132:0.4 (p. 1455.4) Educational
Technique: _____

HOW TO EDUCATE EFFECTIVELY • Concept Formation (continued)

All quotes from *The Urantia Book*

5)

The miller he taught about grinding up the grains of truth in the mill of living experience so as to render the difficult things of divine life readily receivable

by even the weak and feeble among one's fellow mortals. Said Jesus: "Give the milk of truth to those who are babes in spiritual perception. In your living and loving ministry serve spiritual food in attractive form and suited to the capacity of receptivity of each of your inquirers."

P. 133:4.2 (p. 1474.2) Educational
Technique: _____

6)

To the Greek contractor and builder he said: "My friend, as you build the material structures of men, grow a spiritual character in the similitude of

the divine spirit within your soul. Do not let your achievement as a temporal builder outrun your attainment as a spiritual son of the kingdom of heaven. While you build the mansions of time for another, neglect not to secure your title to the mansions of eternity for yourself. Ever remember, there is a city whose foundations are righteousness and truth, and whose builder and maker is God."

P. 133:4.6 (p. 1474.6) Educational Technique:

7)

The parable proceeds from the things which are known to the discernment of the unknown. The parable utilizes the material and natural as a means of introducing the spiritual and the supermaterial.

P. 151:3.7 (p. 1692.6) Educational Technique:

8)

respective spiritual possessions. ... And since wisdom is superknowledge, it follows that, in the union of wisdom, the social group, small or large, mutually shares all knowledge.

P. 160:2.7 (p. 1776.1) Educational Technique:

... Thus does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other. In this way men enrich the soul by pooling their

HOW TO EDUCATE EFFECTIVELY • Concept Formation (continued)

All quotes from *The Urantia Book*

9)

... Peter taught methods of public preaching; Nathaniel instructed them in the art of teaching; Thomas explained how to answer questions;

while Matthew directed the organization of their group finances. The other apostles also participated in this training in accordance with their special experience and natural talents.

P.163:0.2 (p. 1800.2) Educational
Technique: _____

10)

“... what you have not been able to get from my teachings and my life,

you must now prepare to acquire at the hand of that master of all teachers – actual experience. ...”

P. 181:2.24 (p. 1961.3) Educational
Technique: _____

11)

“... And did I not even send you out to teach, two and two, that you might not become lonely and fall into the mischief and miseries of isolation? You also well know that, when I was in the flesh, I did not permit myself to be alone for long periods. From the very beginning of our associations I

always had two or three of you constantly by my side or else very near at hand even when I communed with the Father. Trust, therefore, and confide in one another. ...”

P. 193:3.2 (p. 2055.2) Educational
Technique: _____

12)

In religion, Jesus advocated and followed the method of experience, even as modern science pursues the technique of experiment. ...

P. 195:5.14 (p. 2076.5) Educational Technique:

Educational Techniques•Possible Responses

(There are no right or wrong answers)

Sample: Questioning

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1)... [Jesus} conveyed his teaching by the questions ... | P. 125:5.8 (p. 1383.1) |
| 2) ... Jesus' usual technique of social contact ... | P. 132:4.2 (p. 1460.6) |
| 3)Though Jesus' public teaching mainly ... | P. 138:8.10 (p. 1546.1) |
| 4) ... Jesus knew that on his worlds of space ... | P. 139:5.7 (p. 1557.1) |
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I. Learning by Experience

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|---|-------------------------|
| 2) The methods employed in ... the higher schools ... | P. 37:6.3 (p. 412.3) |
| 3) ... Knowledge can be had by education, ... | P. 81:6.13 (p. 908.2) |
| 10) "... what you have not been able to get from ..." | P. 181:2.24 (p. 1961.3) |
| 12) In religion, Jesus advocated and followed ... | P. 195:5.14 (p. 2076.5) |

II. Using Prior Knowledge

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|--|------------------------|
| 4) ... And this was his method of instruction: ... | P. 132:0.4 (p. 1455.4) |
| 5) The miller he taught about grinding up the grains ... | P. 133:4.2 (p. 1474.2) |
| 6) To the Greek contractor and builder he said: ... | P. 133:4.6 (p. 1474.6) |
| 7) The parable proceeds from the things ... | P. 151:3.7 (p. 1692.6) |

III. Teamwork for Effective Education [Cooperative Learning]

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|--|------------------------|
| 1) ... One of the most important lessons ... | P. 28:5.14 (p. 312.1) |
| 8) ... Thus does the mind of one augment ... | P. 160:2.7 (p. 1776.1) |
| 9) ... Peter taught methods of public preaching; ... | P. 163:0.2 (p. 1800.2) |
| 11) "... And did I not even send you out to teach, ... | P. 193:3.2 (p. 2055.2) |

