**Sherry Camp**

**1/27/2023**

**PHI 805-22**

**Faith Learning Integration and Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Assignment #1**

**Essential Element: Interdisciplinary Research**

Interdisciplinary Research (IDR) is used to solve complex real-world problems, (Repco, et al., 2017, Ward, 2014, pp.47-49). Integrating faith into this research from a biblical worldview platform makes real world sense. One of the greatest honors in being an school administrator is the opportunity to listen to problems from teachers, staff, parents, and students. These challenges are real to them, and many of these difficulties are effects of living in this world. Some of these folks do not know their Christian identity and they struggle to find God during the difficulty. The desire to point them to Jesus is a thrill for me. Because of the OGS methods of research in problem solving, I am learning to apply critical thinking skills from a biblical worldview, more than ever before as I read scholarly articles and books and share with others as I learn. This enhances my career in serving others both conceptually and practically.

Of particular interest is, “Cultivating the Learning Tree with Faith,” an organic metaphor for developing the course, (Ward, 2023). This was used as a correlation with Psalm 1:3, a tree planted by the rivers of water. Using the imagery of a blooming fruit tree above, and the root system underground, we are drawn to the unseen first (underground hidden life), the soil of spirituality and roots of worldview (identity), that contain the life-bood of the tree. What is seen is above the ground in the trunk (of integration) that brings continued nourishment to the branches (of interdisciplinarity) to the leaves of methodology and finally, the fruit (results) of the tree. As the roots grow deeper in the soil for water and nutrients, more fruit and glorious outcomes are observed.

Thus, in my calling as a middle school principal and a scholar practioner at OGS, I agree that “Christian interdisciplinary research can arise from a researcher’s response to God’s calling in any of the spheres of life that scripture addresses: family, religion, government, work, or culture. Such a call in service to God should lead to truth, not bias,” (Ward, 2014, p. 34). I look forward to reading and studying interdisciplinary research and the ability to use my faith through biblical worldview to solve complex real world problems and continue my study to change the world for Christ. Will all of us accept our identity in Him and be faithful to His call, together?