



## Scholé Muses with Colleen Leonard

### Cultivation of Virtue

#### Outline:

#### Cultivation of Virtue

- Virtue is:
  - “rightly ordered love. The condition of affection which every object is accorded that degree of love which is appropriate to it” C.S. Lewis
  - Aristotle talks of formation of right habit and the pursuit of human excellence to lead a student to virtue.
  - Habit shaping practices:
    - What are we doing that either leads toward virtue or away from it from the beginning of the day to the end.
  - Generally “caught not taught”
- Students don’t know how to sit without virtue.
  - Students can talk about the character of love while actively not demonstrating it in their seats.
  - Need to have their actions pointed out to them in order to understand the virtue.
- Be a Godly example.
- Put into place habit forming practices.
- Do object lessons.
- Embodied learning elements
- Think about the little things as well as the big things
- Practical ways to cultivate virtue
  - First things first: Morning Time
    - Holding up what is lovely and loved
    - Beauty, love truth and goodness come first and supersede the utilitarian
    - Start with what you want your child to hold in high regard and ways to show God’s character.
  - In Scholé Groups
  - Singing the Doxology
  - 5 “I Wills” of virtue
  - Proverbs 3
  - William Bennett’s books on virtue
  - The Beatitudes



- Singing hymns
- Common Prayers
- Studying virtues and using object lessons
- Across instruction areas
  - More than the delivery of content
    - Look to Jesus teaching.
      - Used parables, stories, and embodiments to teach.
    - Making sure we use the five senses in our instruction.
      - Five senses inventory
      - Define the terms “liturgy, etc.”
    - Deeper embodiment of learning
      - Learning celebrations in the classroom, lunchroom, and community.
        - Classroom
          - Setting out tea for reading and discussion time
        - Lunchroom
          - Latin feast
        - Community
          - Poetry Café, students recite poetry they have written to parents and friends
          - Science fair
          - Theater presentation
- Practical application
  - Jenny Rollins “Classroom practices for cultivating the affections”
    - “Virtue is the result of having emotions that have been trained by habit. Our habits shape what our hearts love”
  - Scholé lunches
    - Service projects during lunch
    - Bring in people in from the community to share talents.
    - Students entertain each other with talents
  - Curriculum choices
    - Shaping worldview: How does the curriculum present man his humanity and God and his sovereignty?
  - Liturgy: Practices that engage the heart through senses
- “Where a child’s body goes so his heart does.”