

DEIJB Conversations

with Rev. Jacquie Fernandez, MDiv

Context is Everything: Lead with Self



What is context in this context?



What is context in this context?
Ingredients of your social identity
(who, what, where, when, why about you)



What is context in this context?

Ingredients of your social identity

(who, what, where, when, why about you)

**Race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability status,
socioeconomic status (includes access to healthcare),
geographic location, education, family structure,
hobbies, beliefs, career, experiences, etc**



Why does context matter?

We are One and we accept everyone, right?



Why does context matter?

We are One and we accept everyone, right?
**When we understand our unique identities,
we acknowledge and learn from each other.**



Why does context matter?

Example:

**Consider the different lived experiences of two women:
a cis-gender white woman and a black transgender woman.**

**Both experiences are valid and true, both will experience
discrimination yet very different in terms of privilege and social capital.**

***Add nuance of socio-economic status, education, employment, etc**



Why does context matter?

- **Context creates perspective, depth, connection**
 - **It cultivates understanding and empathy**
 - **It impacts access to equity, justice, belonging**
**(with self and others)



What does it mean to lead with self?

When interacting with individuals or groups:

- **Awareness**
- **Curiosity and openness**
 - **Name and claim**



What does it mean to lead with self?

In leadership roles:

- Relevant and relatable
- Demonstrate shared values
- Impact inclusivity through accessibility



Practical application in ministry

- **Accessibility: spiritual, physical, financial**
 - **Belonging: specific over general**
- **Impact: demonstrate Oneness principle**



Practical application in ministry

- **Accessibility: spiritual, physical, financial**
 - **Belonging: specific over general**
- **Impact: demonstrate Oneness principle**

Remove oppressive barriers; create resources; systemic change



Practical application in ministry

- **Accessibility: spiritual, physical, financial**
 - **Belonging: specific over general**
- **Impact: demonstrate Oneness principle**

Where is your growing edge?



Next Meetings:

4th Thursday: March 28th Reflection Session

**Homework: Explore context with 1-2 people (share yours and inquire about theirs);
Take action toward your growing edge, personally or professionally.

2nd Thursday: April 11th

Prep for Pride Month: Pronouns & Other Easy Things

