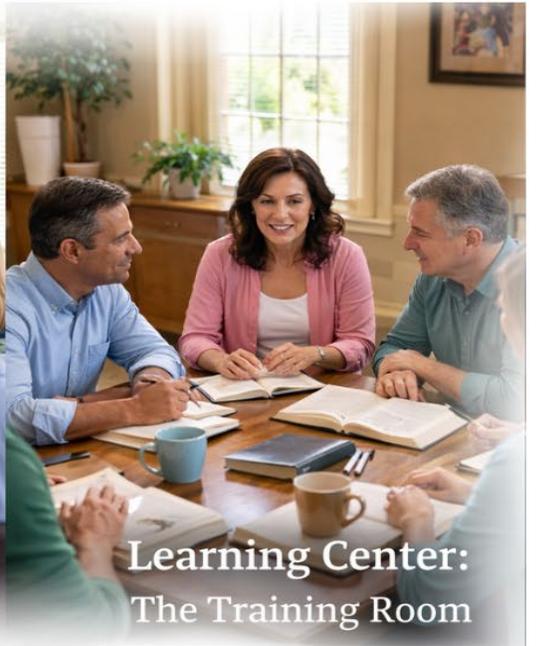


BRIDGE TO DISCIPLING

HELPING EACH OTHER



Sunday School:
The Gateway

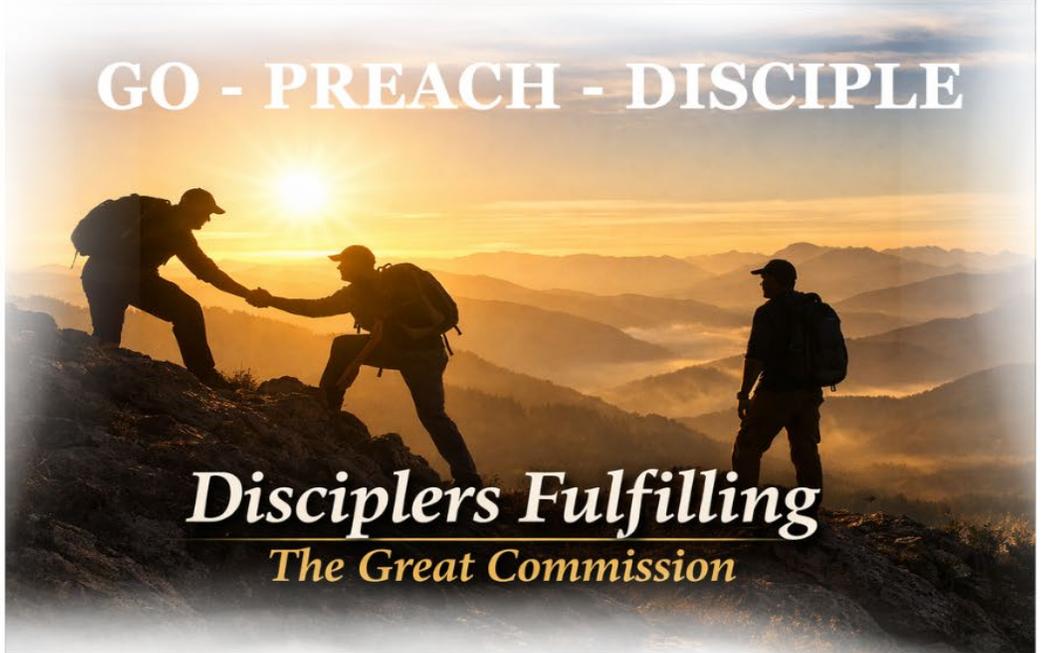


Learning Center:
The Training Room



From Listening to Learning
Practicing explaining Scripture to another

GO - PREACH - DISCIPLE



*Disciplers Fulfilling
The Great Commission*

The Bridge to Discipling Helping Each Other

Look at the first picture on the cover. It shows a Sunday School class. A teacher stands with an open Bible. Believers sit with open hearts. They are listening. They are learning. They are faithful.

That room represents something good.

Sunday School has served churches faithfully for generations. Through those classrooms, Scripture has been explained, new believers have grown, and pastors have shepherded their flocks. Many of us first began to understand the Word of God in a Sunday School class.

Sunday School is the gateway.

It is where truth is introduced. It is where believers gather in smaller settings to hear Scripture explained, ask questions, and strengthen fellowship. It remains a blessing.

We are not stepping away from the gateway.

We are asking what might grow naturally from it.

Because within almost every Sunday School class, there are hearts that quietly desire to help someone else grow. They listen to the lesson, and something stirs within them. They want to understand more clearly. They want to be useful. They want to disciple someone else someday. They may not feel ready, but the longing is there.

The bridge begins inside the gateway.

Not outside it.

Not against it.
Inside it.

Preaching remains central. The pulpit remains sacred. Sunday School remains faithful. These are foundations we honor. The Great Commission does not call us away from those foundations. It calls us to build upon them.

Our LORD commanded us not only to teach, but to make disciples — helping believers observe and apply all that He has commanded. That invitation is not a correction of the past. It is a continuation of faithful obedience.

A Learning Center is simply a bridge from hearing to discipling.

It does not require every believer to cross in the same way. Some will continue primarily as listeners, and that is honorable. Faithful listening strengthens the church. Others may desire to prepare themselves to disciple more intentionally, and that too is honorable. The two are not in competition. They are helping each other.

Many believers understand truth when it is explained, yet hesitate when asked to explain it themselves. That hesitation is not failure. It is simply lack of practice. A Learning Center provides a gentle place to practice.

But before anything begins, one foundation must remain clear:

Jesus First.

Not because He has been forgotten, but because He is always first. Every ministry, every class, every effort must flow from love for Christ. If Jesus remains central, unity will be protected. If Christ remains first, structure will remain a servant.

And as we consider this bridge, we must remember something else.

Every One According to His Own Ability

In every church, the LORD has placed different gifts and different measures of ability. Not everyone is called to the same task. Not everyone grows in the same way or at the same pace. Yet every believer has been entrusted with something.

Our Lord spoke of fruitfulness — some thirtyfold, some sixty, some a hundred. He also spoke of servants entrusted according to their own ability. The measure was not comparison. The measure was faithfulness.

Pastors carry a shepherd's calling. They preach, protect, guide, and pray. Sunday School leaders faithfully open the Word and care for smaller groups. Listeners strengthen the body through steady attendance, prayer, encouragement, and quiet obedience. And among them, some sense a longing to disciple more intentionally.

None of these roles compete.

Each one matters.

The Learning Center is not about asking everyone to become something they are not. It is about giving space for those who are ready to grow into what God has already placed within them.

Some will remain steady listeners, and their faithfulness strengthens the church. Some will grow into disciplers, and their preparation strengthens the church. Pastors and teachers continue shepherding both.

This is not about producing a hundredfold from everyone. It is about helping each believer reach the measure the LORD has given them.

When every part of the body grows according to its ability, the whole body is strengthened. Unity deepens. Confidence grows. And Christ is honored.

So how might this begin?

Begin by praying.

Ask the LORD to show you who within your Sunday School class has a heart for discipling. You may already know. They are attentive. They ask thoughtful questions. They care about others. Speak personally to a few of them. Invite them to join you for a focused season of deeper learning.

Keep it small.

Keep it simple.

Keep it voluntary.

Do not announce a new movement.

Do not compare it to existing ministries.

Simply extend an invitation.

The Teacher's Guide and the Student's Guide were developed to make beginning easier. The Teacher's Guide provides a clear structure so the leader knows how to guide discussion, review Scripture, and encourage practice. The Student's Guide helps anchor learning through repetition and application. These tools are not replacements for Sunday School curriculum. They are supports. They exist to strengthen what is already happening.

Each week can follow a simple rhythm.

Pray together.

Review a key verse together.

Clarify one central truth carefully.

Allow questions.

Practice explaining that truth in pairs.

Encourage participants to share what they have learned with someone during the week.

Repetition builds clarity.

Clarity builds confidence.

Confidence strengthens service.

As participants grow more confident, Sunday School itself becomes stronger. Discussions deepen. Questions are answered more clearly. Families become more grounded in Scripture. New believers are nurtured carefully. The gateway remains strong, and the bridge quietly extends from it.

The second picture on the cover shows a smaller group gathered around a table. That is not a separate church. It is the gateway extended into practice.

The third picture shows one believer helping another understand Scripture. That is the bridge in action.

The final picture looks outward toward the horizon. Disciples helping disciples. The Great Commission quietly being fulfilled, not by pressure, but by preparation.

The bridge is not the goal.

Christ is the goal.

Sunday School gathers the body.

The Learning Center equips willing hearts.

The Teacher's Guide supports the leader.

The Student's Guide strengthens the learner.

And all of it rests on one foundation:

Jesus First.

LORD, thank You for faithful pastors and teachers who have opened Your Word week after week. Thank You for Sunday School classrooms where truth has been taught, and lives have been shaped. We honor the work that has already been done.

Help us now to build wisely upon that foundation. Show us the hearts within our churches who desire to disciple others. Give us humility as we begin. Keep Jesus First in every gathering.

Give courage to those who feel unprepared. Give clarity to those who long to explain Your Word more faithfully. Let repetition build confidence. Let confidence produce service. Let service multiply steadily for Your glory.

May preaching remain strong.

May Sunday School remain faithful.

May discipling grow naturally.

Strengthen Your church and multiply it for the honor of Christ and the fulfillment of His Great Commission.

Amen.

With love and prayers,

Dave Weeks

LearningCenterMinistries.org