

# PASTOR'S PATH TO WELL DONE

## CREATING LEARNING CENTERS





## PAUL: CREATOR OF LEARNING CENTERS

Based on Acts 18:11, Acts 28:31, Matthew 28:19-20, and Ephesians 4:11-14

The Apostle Paul was not just a missionary. He was a teacher. A discipler. A builder of people. In every city where the gospel took root, Paul did not simply preach and move on. He stayed. He taught. He trained. And he left behind believers who were grounded in truth and equipped to teach others. Paul was creating learning centers, places where disciples were made, matured, and multiplied.

In Acts 18:11, we read, “And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” Paul was in Corinth, a city filled with idolatry, confusion, and immorality. Yet in that dark place, he established a light. And he knew that the only way to strengthen the church in such a place was through solid, sustained teaching. Paul wasn’t just holding meetings. He was creating learners. He was preparing disciplers.

Years later, in Acts 28:31, we find Paul again not in a synagogue or public square, but under house arrest in Rome. And what do we see him doing? “Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.” Even in chains, Paul was still making disciples. His rented house became a learning center. People came daily to hear the Word, not entertainment, not trends, but truth.

Paul understood what many churches today have forgotten: you cannot build a strong church without building strong believers. And you cannot build strong believers through surface-level

listening. You must teach the Word in such a way that it reaches permanent memory so that it can be lived, shared, and multiplied.

That is exactly what Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19-20:

“Go ye therefore, and teach [disciple] all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

The church has not been given a choice in this. We have been given a command. And this command does not end with conversion; it continues with discipleship.

## THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE OUR CHURCHES

Every church has the privilege of not only gathering people together but also training them for a lifetime of service. We can fill hearts as well as seats. We can equip saints to serve with joy and confidence. When we combine faithful teaching with intentional discipleship, growth is no longer accidental; it becomes the natural fruit of believers rooted in God’s Word, maturing in doctrine, and prepared for every good work.

The result is that many believers today cannot clearly explain the gospel. They do not understand the foundational doctrines of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, or the Bible. They lack confidence in discipling others because they themselves have not been disciplined. And pastors, overwhelmed by the burden of doing everything alone, have no structure in place to multiply mature leaders.

But Ephesians 4:11–14 gives us a different model:

“And he gave some... pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of

the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...”

The job of the pastor is not just to preach sermons, but to equip saints to train the church for ministry. This is not optional. It is the only way to bring the church to spiritual maturity.

If we do not return to this model of disciple-making, we will continue to see churches shrink, truth watered down, and the next generation left unequipped.

We must not fail.

## LEARNING CENTERS: A BIBLICAL SOLUTION

Learning Centers are not new. They are not another program. They are the biblical answer to the problem we now face. Paul used them. Jesus modeled them. And we must restore them in our churches today.

So what is a Learning Center?

A Learning Center is a dedicated time and space where serious followers of Jesus are taught how to become disciplers. It is not a lecture hall. It is not a casual Bible study. It is an intentional training environment, built on Scripture, where believers are equipped to grow in knowledge, confidence, and usefulness.

And it starts simply.

## SHORT AND SIMPLE STEPS FOR DISCIPLES

Step 1: Start with Two Essential Truths

Begin with salvation and assurance. Use tools like the Goodness Test and clear gospel Scriptures to help learners grasp, memorize,

and share these two truths with confidence. These must be learned so well that they remain in permanent memory and can be clearly explained to others.

### Step 2: Make Learning Intentional

Choose a time and place each week where learners gather not to listen passively, but to learn, discuss, and grow. Begin every session with Scripture reading and end with action steps.

### Step 3: Equip to Share, Not Just Know

Use repetition. Practice conversations. Have learners explain what they've learned to someone else. Role-play real gospel interactions. Train them to answer questions from the Bible itself.

### Step 4: Use the Bible as the Core Textbook

Don't rely on man-made curriculum. Let Scripture speak. Encourage marking, memorizing, and meditating on key passages. Help learners find and use verses directly.

### Step 5: Train to Train

From the beginning, make the goal clear: every disciple becomes a discipler. Encourage learners to identify one person they can begin discipling right away.

### Step 6: Expand into Doctrinal Foundations

Once the first two truths are mastered, move into the core doctrines:

The doctrine of God (Theology)

The doctrine of Christ (Christology)

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

The doctrine of Scripture (Bibliology)

Step 7: Multiply Through Accountability

Ask each discipler to meet weekly with their learner. Encourage sharing testimonies. Celebrate small steps of growth and faithfulness.

Step 8: Let Leaders Emerge Naturally

As learners begin teaching others, they become leaders. Empower them. Pray with them. Please encourage them to train the next generation.

THE TIME IS NOW

Pastor, you have everything you need to begin. A Learning Center can start with just two or three believers who are eager to grow. As you teach them and equip them to teach others, you'll see the joy of discipleship spread through your church. It doesn't require a large budget or a new building, just a willing heart, an open Bible, and the LORD's leading. Imagine what He can do when even a small group is trained and sent out for His glory.

Pastors could encourage their people to begin praying about establishing a Learning Center in their church, a place where believers are disciplined to become lifelong disciplers. As they pray, hearts will be prepared, and the LORD will guide the next steps. My commitment is to assist any church whose leadership desires to start a Learning Center, equipping believers to use the tools, memorize Scripture, and share what they've learned. In God's time, this will multiply disciples for His glory. This is how we will reach the world.

We cannot fail because the church cannot afford to ignore the command of Christ. The commission has been given. The method has been shown.

Now it's time to obey.

Let's disciple... now.

## MY REAL STORY: LEARNING CENTERS IN ACTION

Some years ago, I did a conference on cult evangelism at a church. Later, the pastor contacted me with a unique request. It was July, and their church was holding Vacation Bible School. But they had nothing planned for some of the older members, faithful saints in their 60s, 70s, and even 80s. He asked, "Would you be willing to come Monday through Friday, from 7 to 9 each night, and teach them something?"

I said, "Absolutely. I have just the thing in mind."

That Monday evening, if I remember right, 17 of them showed up. Most had been in church for years. They loved the LORD. But like so many today, they had never been discipled; no one had taken them step by step through basic truths that reach the permanent memory and trained them to share them with others.

Each night, I taught just two simple truths. And each night, I challenged them to call two people before the next evening and teach them what they had just learned (they could say it from memory). That rhythm continued all week. Two truths a night. Two people to teach. Each day they studied. By the end of the week, they could repeat everything from memory.

On Friday, I asked, “How many of you would commit to discipling others with what you’ve learned, not just for a while, but for the rest of your lives?” And every hand went up. It was a moment I’ll never forget.

In September, the same pastor called me again. He invited me to speak at his Labor Day all-night service from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., followed by a meal and fellowship until midnight. When he introduced me, he said something I’ll never forget:

“I don’t know what Dave Weeks did with those people in his class, but they have started a revival in our church that continues to spread.”

Those precious people had once been undisciplined, but they were so thankful someone had taken the time to teach them that they determined to remain faithful to the LORD and help others learn the same way.

That is what a Learning Center can do.

If this booklet has helped you, consider passing a copy of it to other pastors. You may be the spark the LORD uses to awaken a heart, stir a vision, and multiply disciples in another church. Let’s strengthen one another until every believer is equipped, and every church is making disciples who make disciples.

Love and prayers,

Dave Weeks

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### The Holy Spirit

- Prov 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

### The Holy Bible – The King James Version

- Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

### Proofreading, Grammatical, and Content Support

- The Microsoft Word 365 App
- The Grammarly App
- The ChatGPT OpenAI, 2024