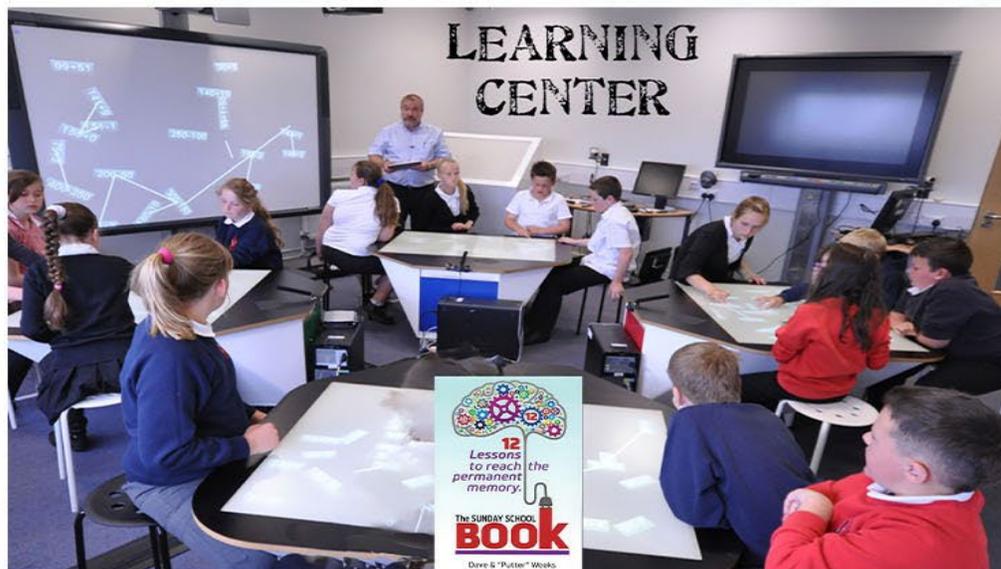


CREATING LEARNING CENTERS

TO DISCIPLINE BELIEVERS



**Sunday School builds listeners...
Learning Centers build
disciples.
Proverbs 3:5-6**



Learning Centers That Multiply Disciples

For more than a century, Sunday School has been the church's primary tool for teaching. It has done much good in its time, but in most places, it has not produced disciples who make disciples. Week after week, year after year, thousands faithfully attend and listen, but listening alone does not equal learning, and hearing does not equal doing. The result is a congregation filled with lifetime listeners rather than lifetime disciplers.

The Great Commission does not call us to gather audiences. It calls us to teach believers to observe all things Christ has commanded us to do: training them to be disciples who multiply their faith into others. The church must do more than fill pews; it must equip saints. Learning Centers are one way to do this.

A Learning Center is not another class. It is not just a different name for a Bible study. It is a place where believers move from passive listening to active learning, from storing knowledge in the short term to planting it in the permanent memory, and from hearing the Word to living and sharing it. It is where the Word is put to work in the hearts of God's people.

Too many Christians live their whole lives without ever being taught how to disciple another person. They attend

faithfully, they love the LORD, but they remain listeners rather than laborers. The church today needs laborers more than ever, and those laborers are sitting in our pews, waiting to be trained.

My Real Story: Learning Centers in Action

Please let me share with you my personal experience. It shows exactly what happens when believers move from passive listening to active discipling.

Some years ago, I held 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 disciplined; 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 week of Vacation Bible School still reminds me that discipling is not reserved for the young or pastors alone. Even saints in their sixties, seventies, and eighties discovered the joy of multiplying their faith. That is the heartbeat of a Learning Center.

What happened in that small class is what could happen in every church. Imagine if pastors and leaders everywhere trained even a handful of believers to teach others what they know faithfully, step by step, until it becomes a lifestyle. The church would not only grow; it would multiply.

A Call to Pastors and Churches

Pastor, you do not have to wait until you are sixty or seventy to begin multiplying disciples. You don't have to wait until your members are older to teach them how to share their faith. The time is now. You can begin with a few willing people, just as I did, and let the LORD multiply their faithfulness.

Do not underestimate the quiet saints in your pews. Many have been waiting for someone to equip them. Some may feel too old or too unskilled, but as I have seen, even those in their later years can ignite a revival if given the tools and

the challenge to disciple others.

The question is not whether your people are capable. The question is whether you will give them the opportunity. Will you take the time to equip them, step by step, so that they can, in turn, equip others? That is what a Learning Center does.

If you build a Learning Center in your church, you will not only strengthen the faith of your people, but you will multiply it in their families, their workplaces, and their communities. It is the difference between gathering listeners and sending out disciplers. And one choice, one commitment can change your church for generations to come.

Prayer

LORD, thank You for showing us that Your Great Commission is not a burden but a blessing. Thank You for those saints who, even late in life, discovered the joy of discipling others. I ask that You touch the heart of every pastor who reads these words. Stir them to lead with vision and courage. Touch the hearts of every believer who longs for more than just listening, and give them the joy of multiplying their faith into others. May every Learning Center become a place where lives are changed, churches are revived, and Your Name is glorified. Amen.

Summary

Learning Centers are not classrooms for listeners but training grounds for disciplers. They equip believers with truths that stick in the permanent memory and train them to share those truths with others. I have seen it firsthand: seventeen older saints went from undisciplined listeners to lifelong disciplers, sparking revival in their church.

Pastor, you can begin the same in your congregation today. Do not wait. Start with a few. I can help you teach them to teach others, and watch the LORD multiply your faithfulness.

I would love to hear from you. Please call or email me with your feedback about joining others who see the need to equip their churches for ministry. Together, we can raise up a generation of believers who not only hear the Word but also live it, teach it, and multiply it.

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With love and prayers,

Dave Weeks