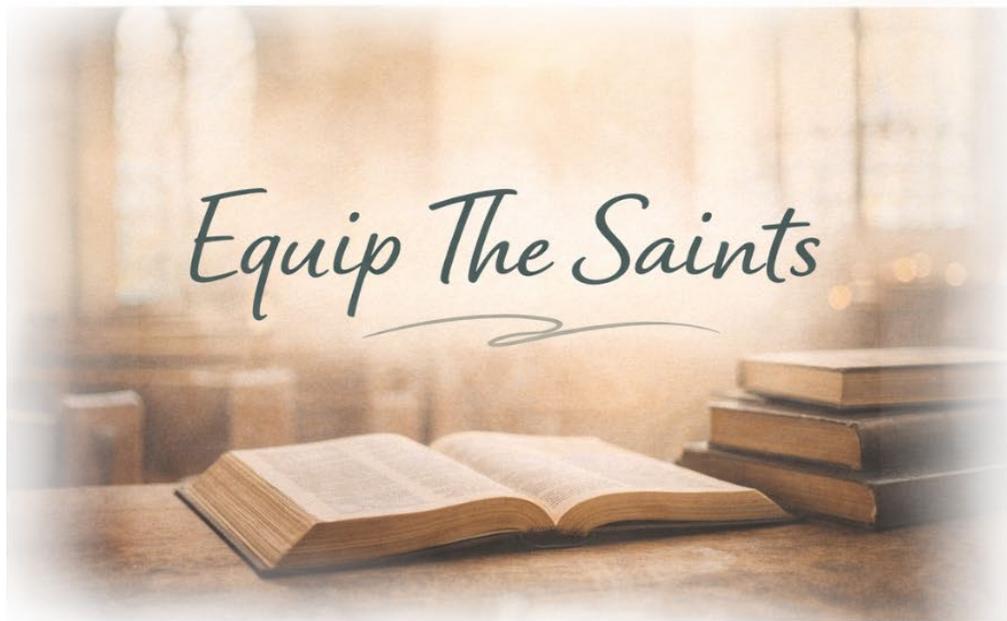


LORD WAKE UP YOU'RE

SLEEPING CHURCH



## **Why This Booklet Exists**

This booklet is written as a prayerful appeal, not a criticism. It is offered with deep respect for the pastoral office and with a sincere desire to strengthen the church of the LORD Jesus Christ. It is written by one who loves pastors, understands the weight they carry, and believes that God has entrusted them with something far greater than maintaining a weekly schedule.

Learning Center Ministry exists because Scripture gives pastors a clear and sacred calling: to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. That calling has never been rescinded, redefined, or replaced. Yet over time, many faithful pastors inherited a ministry model that emphasized preaching while quietly minimizing teaching. This shift was rarely intentional. It was traditionally passed down, accepted, and often assumed to be the biblical norm.

Most pastors did not deliberately choose this path. They were trained in it. They were affirmed in it. They were measured by it. And like many traditions, it slowly became invisible. Few stopped to ask whether speaking alone produced understanding, or whether listening alone produced disciples.

The result has been churches filled with sincere believers who love sermons, attend faithfully, and support the work of the church, yet who have never been taught how to understand Scripture deeply, handle it confidently, or disciple others effectively. Many pastors feel this tension. They see devotion without depth, enthusiasm without endurance, and faith that struggles to reproduce itself. Often, they carry this burden quietly, unsure how to address it without unsettling what already exists.

This booklet was written for pastors who love the LORD, love His

church, and desire to finish well. It is not a call to abandon preaching, nor a criticism of faithful men who have labored sincerely. It is an invitation to restore teaching to its biblical place. Teaching was never meant to be assumed as an automatic byproduct of preaching. It was meant to be intentional, relational, and equipping.

According to the Word of God, pastors were never called to do all the ministry themselves. They were called to prepare God's people to do it. This is not a modern philosophy or a ministry trend. It is the design Christ Himself gave to His church. When that design is followed, the burden of ministry is shared, the body grows stronger, and joy replaces fatigue.

Preaching proclaims truth, but teaching establishes it. Preaching can inspire obedience, but teaching produces understanding that remains. A sermon may stir the heart, but teaching trains the mind and steadies the soul. Without teaching, believers depend continually on the pastor. With teaching, believers grow strong enough to serve others, answer questions, and bear responsibility in the body of Christ.

Teaching does not diminish preaching. It completes it. When believers are taught how to study Scripture, apply it, and pass it on, ministry multiplies naturally. When they are not, the work of the church remains centered on one man, and over time, exhaustion quietly replaces joy. Many pastors feel this exhaustion and assume it is simply the cost of ministry. Scripture suggests otherwise.

Historically, following Constantine, the church gradually moved from homes and learning environments to platforms and audiences. Teaching was compressed into sermons, and sermons became the primary, and sometimes the only, means of instruction. This model shaped generations of pastors. It produced strong preaching traditions, but weak learning environments. Over time, listening was mistaken for

learning, and attendance was mistaken for discipleship.

Believers learned how to listen, but not how to study. They learned how to admire pastors, but not how to disciple others. They learned church routines, but not how to defend their faith or pass it on to their families. This drift was inherited, not intentional. Most pastors simply continued what they were taught, assuming that what had worked for others would surely work again.

Learning Center Ministry exists to address this drift by restoring environments where believers interact with Scripture, ask questions, retain truth, and grow confident in using God's Word. This is not innovation. It is a return to the biblical pattern that produced strong, enduring churches. It is a way for pastors to teach without abandoning preaching, and to equip without overwhelming themselves.

Jesus Himself gave a gentle but sobering warning when He said that those who break God's commands and teach others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven (Matt 5:19). This is not a warning about salvation, but about faithfulness, trust, and eternal reward. It is a reminder that how we teach matters, and what we model is often learned more deeply than what we say.

The danger is not imperfect teaching. Every teacher grows. The danger is modeling a diminished view of obedience, even unintentionally. When believers are taught, directly or indirectly, that listening equals learning, or that equipping is optional, God's design is quietly set aside. The loss is not heaven itself, but eternal usefulness. Christ's words are merciful precisely because they are spoken while there is still time to adjust course.

A pastor who lovingly restores teaching, equips the saints, and helps believers grow into confident disciples is not correcting a failure. He

is reclaiming his calling. Such a ministry may begin quietly and grow slowly, but its fruit lasts far beyond one generation. Families are strengthened. Believers mature. And the work of the church no longer rests on one set of shoulders.

Learning Centers are not programs. They are teaching environments designed to help pastors obey Scripture naturally and sustainably. They restore interaction instead of monologue, understanding instead of assumption, and discipleship instead of dependency. They do not replace preaching. They strengthen it, support it, and give it lasting fruit.

Pastor, this booklet is not asking you to do more. It invites you to return to what God has already defined. Teaching still matters. Equipping still matters. And greatness in God's kingdom is still within reach for those who do and teach what Christ commanded. This is what Learning Center Ministry is all about.

### A Closing Prayer

LORD, we thank You for calling men to shepherd Your church. We confess that at times tradition has spoken louder than Scripture, and we ask You to awaken our hearts anew. Restore to pastors the joy of teaching, the patience to equip, and the faith to trust Your design for the church. Give wisdom to lead faithfully, courage to take obedient steps, and grace to serve without fear. May Your Word dwell richly among Your people, and may Your name be honored in all things.  
Amen.

With love for Pastors and the LORD'S Church,

Dave Weeks