

2026-4 Email Intro for April 2026 Prayer Letter  
Continuing the Work of Discipleship  
By Dave Weeks

Dear Pastor and Faithful Friends,

As I continue praying for the churches the LORD has allowed us to serve, one burden continues to grow in my heart: many believers faithfully listen to truth, yet few are being equipped to give an answer for the hope that is within them. Peter wrote, “Be ready always to give an answer...” (1 Peter 3:15).

This verse has deeply impressed upon my heart the need for Learning Centers in our churches. The pastor’s calling is not only to preach, but also to be apt to teach and to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. When believers are taught in a way that moves truth into permanent memory and daily practice, they become confident disciples who can help others grow in Christ.

One of the great needs in our day is for believers to move beyond being lifelong hearers and become lifelong disciples. The Great Commission was never intended to end with hearing truth alone, but to continue through teaching others to observe all things whatsoever the LORD has commanded. When even one believer is grounded in truth and begins to disciple another, the fruit can continue for generations. This is the burden that Learning Center Ministries carries in prayer each day—that churches everywhere might see the joy of multiplication through equipped saints and that pastors might be encouraged in their God-given calling as teachers who strengthen the disciples.

For many years, tradition has often limited the pastor’s role to preaching and administration. Yet Scripture calls the pastor to equip believers so that ministry is multiplied through the whole body.

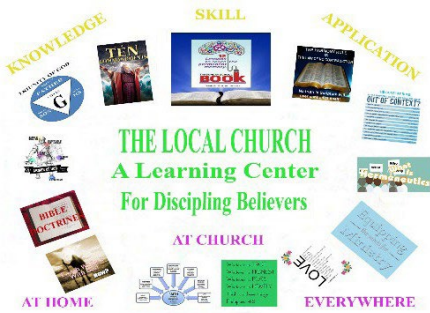
My prayer is that the enclosed booklet will be an encouragement to pastors and church members alike, helping us all consider the difference between tradition and obedience, and the eternal fruit that can come when one willing heart becomes a disciple who discipled others.

I believe the LORD is stirring many hearts in this hour with a longing not merely to attend church, but to grow in Christ and help others do the same. When pastors and people begin to see discipleship as the work of the whole body, churches can move from maintenance to multiplication, and the fruit can be eternal.

With love for Pastors and the LORD’S Church,

Dave & Putter Weeks

Learning Center Ministries



## CREATING LEARNING CENTERS

WHERE BELIEVERS BECOME DISCIPLES

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### WHEN LONGING HEARTS ARE INVITED TO LEARN

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).*

Every church has believers whose hearts long for more than simply attending services. They love the Lord, love His Word, and desire to grow deeper in their understanding of the Scriptures. Often, they are waiting for an invitation to move from listening to learning and from learning to helping others grow. This desire comes from the Lord's leading.

This is the heart of Our Story.

The LORD once opened a door for a few believers whose hearts longed to be discipled. They were not looking for another program. They desired permanent knowledge that would remain in their hearts and be used in their lives. As they learned the Scriptures, they made a commitment to teach others what they had learned.

That commitment changed everything.

What began with a few longing hearts became disciplers helping others fulfill the Great Commission. The attached booklet simply shares that story and offers one way churches can invite those same hearts to grow into disciples who disciple others.

Many pastors have faithfully preached the Word of God for years, and this letter is not meant to suggest otherwise. Rather, it is an invitation to recognize that within every congregation there are longing hearts already present: believers who desire to grow in permanent knowledge and who would gladly help teach others also. Sometimes all that is needed is a simple invitation and a place where learning can become discipleship.

The invitation is simple, but the fruit can be eternal. Sometimes, one willing heart becomes the beginning of many disciples who will be faithful disciples of others.

# BRIDGE TO DISCIPLING

# HELPING EACH OTHER



**Sunday School:**  
The Gateway

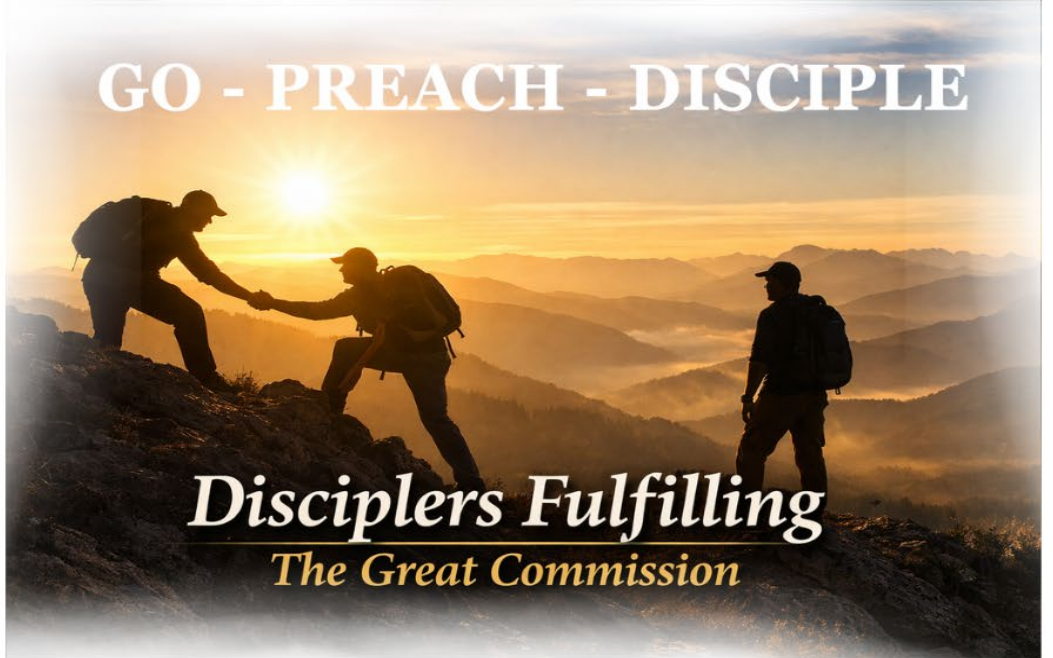


**Learning Center:**  
The Training Room



**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](http://LearningCenterMinistries.org)