

Strategies for the Learning Journey

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## **Preface**

Discipleship is at the heart of the gospel. Jesus developed His followers so that they could multiply His own efforts to bring salvation to the world. Discipleship is also important because it allows the disciple to experience the full life that is only possible through a growing relationship with God.

If you have picked up this book, it is likely that you are involved in the disciple-making process in some manner. The principles provided in this book will work in any disciple-making venue, so don't let terms in the book like "Sunday School" and "small groups" become a stumbling block to you if you use one of the many other fine discipleship vehicles available to Christian leaders today.

The premise of this book is twofold. First, it is my firm conviction that Jesus desires His Church to disciple all those who enter a salvation relationship with Him. Second, many discipleship programs in local churches unintentionally limit the discipleship opportunity for some believers because many teachers in the local church have not been informed of the

various ways people learn. As a result, these teachers have not provided learning opportunities that meet the needs of those who learn differently from themselves.

In this book, you will explore the purpose of teaching, discover the best discipleship delivery system for those God has entrusted to you, examine the various learning styles of people, and identify methods that will meet the learning needs of these people.

This book is designed to be a reference tool for your personal teaching library. After reading through the book the first time for general information, you will want to refer to it often as you prepare your lessons for years to come. Some of the methods suggested in the text will stretch you. Don't be afraid to give them a try. You can only fail as a teacher if you fail to try anything new!

I want to thank my wife Rachel, my daughter Bridgette, and my son Robert for allowing me to use our personal experiences as illustrations in this book. I love each of you and am forever indebted to you for your support of me and my ministry efforts over the years.

I also want to thank Carmen Roebuck, my coworker for nearly four years. She has consistently made my work look better and covered for many of my shortcomings. She is a joy to work with. She has worked her magic once again on this manuscript to make it more readable and enjoyable for you.

It is my hope that this book will make learning a more fulfilling experience for your students and more enjoyable for you. It is my prayer that you will find the disciple-making ministry as exciting as I have.

Read on, and enjoy the journey!



To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

