

Favorite Teacher
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But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:18

Who are your favorite teachers and why? I certainly have favorite teachers who made me love a subject! One of them was a volunteer Sunday school teacher who made Jesus meaningful and accessible to me at a young age. However, when I think of my favorite teachers, the ones that come to mind first don't rise to the top because of the information they shared.

My favorite teachers, the ones that made the biggest impact, and therefore are the most difficult to forget, are the ones whose impact went beyond the subject matter. I don't want to say beyond the classroom because, for many of them, our relationship didn't extend beyond the classroom. The impact of the teacher came out in the in-between. It came out in the how and the why.

My favorite teachers dealt graciously with disobedient students. They endured the ups and downs of the year. They knew when to set aside the curriculum and engage the classroom as humans, not just students. At Seminary, my favorite teachers modeled their relationship with Jesus in the devotions they shared and in the way they engaged with the curriculum, seeing it not just as information but as nutrition for the soul. All of us have been students at some point, and all of us are currently teachers!

Jesus calls us to be disciple-makers.

Most of us know we are called to be disciples who study and learn about Jesus, and to follow Him as He leads us in the path of righteousness. However, most of us defer to someone else when it comes to being a disciple-maker. We say, "Let someone else teach Sunday school, preach on Sunday, or host an at-home small group."

It isn't possible to defer. We CAN decline formal positions of leadership and teaching of others. We CAN choose careers that keep us away from mentoring. We CAN'T avoid others watching our lives and learning from how we live.

The greatest impact a person makes is seldom in their formal roles; more often, it is the in-between things that make the greatest impact! It's the time between the teaching, or the unstructured time you spend with neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Our positions and roles give us proximity and a platform to lead, but it is the light of Christ showing through us in ALL things that causes us to be disciple-makers.

Pray for students and teachers. Pray for their safety, effectiveness, and joy for the school year ahead. Above all, though, pray they have and are a witness for Jesus. Pray that they would live in such a way that others would see them and be impacted in a positive way. If you are going into the classroom, just pray for God to do His thing, every day! After all, salt and light don't do anything special. They simply are special

because of how God has made them to be, and it is the same with us. Be who God has made you to be, follow His lead, and He will take care of the rest!