



Learning Lifeline

A LETTER ABOUT LEARNING FROM ESTHER WILKISON

I wouldn't want to build bridges of concrete and steel, but it does seem like that job has a significant advantage, given that heavy machinery and building materials don't get distracted, discouraged, and unmotivated. The urgency we feel as we prepare our kids for the challenges they will face is not an urgency our kids often feel. Is there something we can do that actually has the potential to change internal motivation?

Consider with me what Jesus was up against in bridging the learning gaps of His students. He wanted His followers to get to the place where they could live like He lived and do what He did to extend His eternal Kingdom to the ends of the earth. Yet, His students were motivated by their own importance in a temporal, earthy kingdom.

To bridge the gaps, Jesus taught through stories, demonstrations, and lessons that required the full participation of each disciple. One lesson came after the first time the disciples handed out a small lunch that multiplied to feed thousands of people. After that, Jesus went into solitude to pray while the disciples got in a boat headed across the lake. Normally, the trip would have taken only a few hours, but this time the wind and waves were against them. By three in the morning, they had only rowed a few miles. Jesus knew they were in trouble, so He walked down the mountain and across the water. It looked like He would walk past the boat, but when the terrified disciples cried out—Jesus calmed their fears and, eventually, calmed the waves as well.

I love what this account shows us about Jesus. Even today He knows where we are and what challenges we face. He still prays for us and is willing to meet us in our storms, but He waits for us to invite Him in. While it's impressive that Jesus walked on water, notice what Jesus was doing before that. He knew He needed time alone in prayer. If we are going to see anything truly transformational happen in the lives of those we influence, we need this same Bedrock Strategy.

Get Alone with God and Pray

When we pray for our students, we join Jesus in His mission. Here are some of the ways I've seen this work.

- One teacher prays down the line of students when her class was waiting for assemblies to start.
- Another teacher prays for each student as she read what they wrote in their weekly journal assignment.
- Many parents pray for their children beside each child's bed.
- Some teachers pray for each student while sitting at each student's desk.
- One teacher frequents a place behind the school where someone had left a functional broken chair.
- One pastor prays while walking in the woods.
- One ministry leader uses a journal to stay focused as he prays.
- Another leader rolls onto God the needs of those she cares for while still in her car before she walks into her house at the end of her workday.



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Whether or not you use one of those options, find a time and place to pour out your heart to God. We may never know the impact of our prayers, but our work will not have a life-changing impact if we work in our own strength. The one thing we can be confident of is that when God begins a good work, He will finish what He starts (Philippians 1:6).

Note: I would love for you to respond to this email and let me know a specific way I can pray for you. For all of you who pray for the work of Learning Lifeguard—thank you! God is up to good things.