

Making Disciples As You Go
Lesson Six: Basics of Mentoring
The Learning Cycle

I. Introduction:

This week we are going to consider the Learning Cycle together. This material was developed for the Wilderness Institute for Leadership Development (WILD). It is a way of looking at the purposes of God and how He intentionally **CREATES** and **REDEEMS** tension in our lives for the accomplishment of His purposes in our lives.

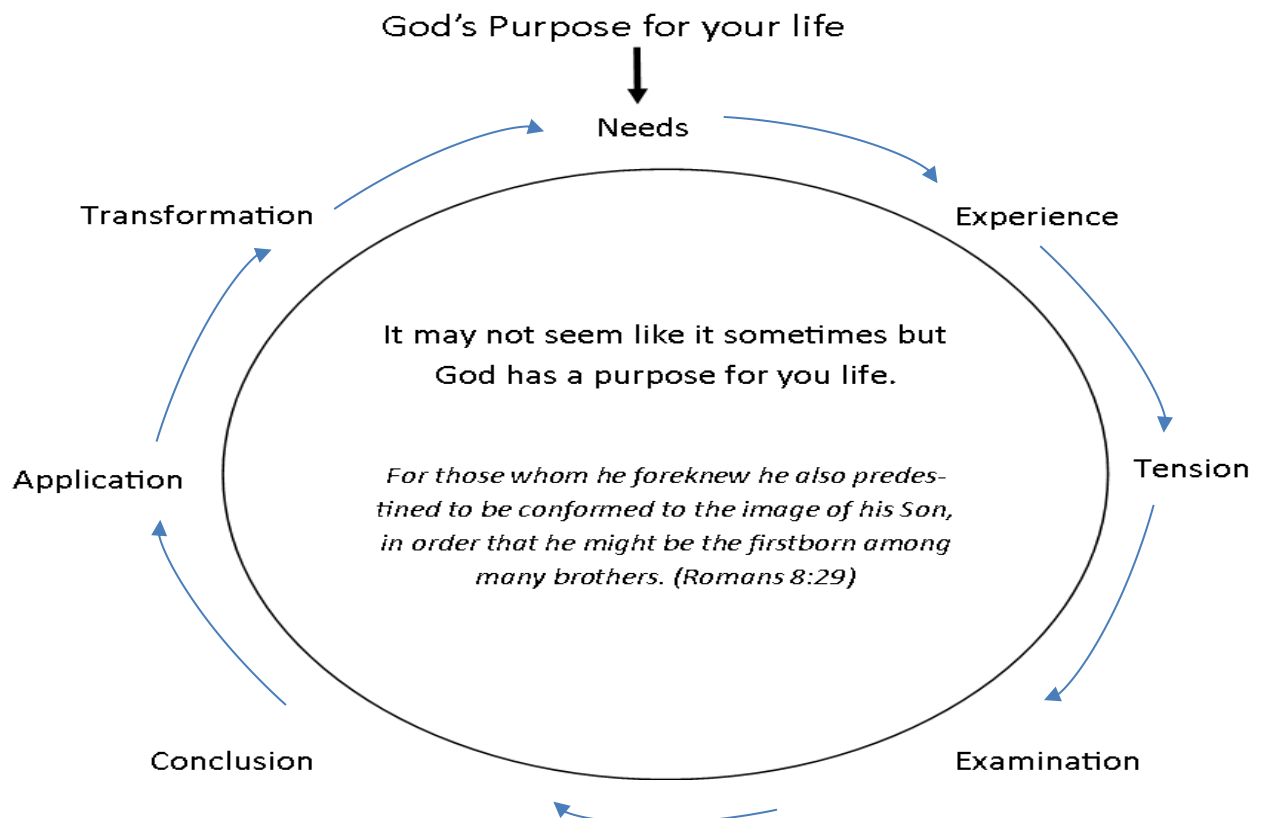
And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:28-29)

The purpose of this class is to equip you to **EMBRACE** what God is doing in your life and to position you to be the person of strategic influence who can help someone else unpack the seasons of tension in their lives and see the greater agenda of God for their **GOOD**.

II. The Learning Cycle:

The fundamental principle of the Learning Cycle is that God is actively at work through the **PEOPLE** and the **CIRCUMSTANCES** therein to complete the good work He started in you when you trusted in Jesus Christ.



- The Learning Cycle begins with recognizing and submitting to the sovereignty of God over your life and allowing Him to set the agenda. Functionally, we get ourselves into trouble because we have an agenda for our lives which is often in conflict with God’s agenda for our lives. God’s overarching agenda for your life determines the needs in your life.
- Our needs determine our experiences. These experiences are designed to provide what we need to accomplish what God called us to **BE** and to **DO**.

I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things. (Isaiah 45:7)

- These experiences put us in a state of tension. Tension can be defined as putting something or someone in a state of being **STRETCHED** or strained.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (Galatians 5:16-17)

- Tension triggers examination. Experience is not the best teacher. Examined experience is the best teacher.

➤ See Luke 7:18-23

- Examination produces conclusions that deepen our understanding of God’s character and promises, the Gospel, our “self”, and His plan and purposes for our lives. These conclusions must be based on the Bible.
- A Biblical conclusion demands a **RESPONSE** on our part. We must act on what we have come to know. This application must be practical, measurable, and attainable. Additionally, we need to be held accountable for change.

²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- Spiritual growth takes place when the **MIND** is transformed and the heart is transformed.

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (Ephesians 4:28)

This transformation and growth then redefines what you need **NEXT** so that you can continue to make progress in our journey toward Christ-likeness. Thus, the process begins again.

III. Conclusion:

God has a grand and glorious agenda for our lives that is often in conflict with our agenda. Therefore, we must think our way through not only our circumstances but our responses to our circumstances so that we don't fight against God's purposes, but rather join in the work of progressive sanctification.

Additionally, those we are discipling will struggle to rightly view the people and events that God brings into their lives for their good. They will need a person of strategic influence to come alongside them to support them, to encourage them, and to challenge them to embrace what God is doing in their lives.

IV. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
(Romans 8:28-29)