

# **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 70: HOW TO TEACH TO ALL FOUR LEARNING STYLES IN THE SAME LESSON**

OUTLINE BY GARY HARVEY

As teachers, we all struggle with how to teach effectively to different learning styles. On top of that, we are faced with the seemingly impossible task of teaching to all four learning styles in the same lesson on the same Sunday! Through this discussion, we will examine a strategy by which teachers can effectively communicate God's Word to people in each of the four learning style categories.

**Divergers** are feeling people who like to get involved with others, and they learn in situations that allow for relationships to develop. They learn best by feeling.

**Assimilators** are called "assimilators" because they like to assimilate diverse information into a collective unified whole. They learn best by watching.

**Convergent learners** are called convergent because when presented with a question or task, they move quickly (converge) to find the one correct answer. The greatest strength of this learning style is the learner's ability to solve problems, make decisions, and make practical application of ideas. Convergent learners ask, "How does this work?" They learn best by thinking.

**Accommodators** do well in situations where they must adapt to meet new circumstances. They learn best by doing.

## **The Learning Cycle**

### **Stage One: Concrete Experience (Divergers)**

Suppose you were teaching a lesson on serving from John 13:1-17. The lesson would start out with concrete experience by teaching the biblical truth about serving. During this stage, learning would be enhanced by utilizing a small group discussion or a drama that portrays one person serving the other. This would address the **feeling** aspect of learning.

### **Stage Two: Reflective Observation (Assimilators)**

This is where the class would think about what was just discussed and use class members that were serving to tell about their service and how it had impacted their lives. This is the **watching** part of learning.

### **Stage Three: Abstract Conceptualization (Convergent learners)**

This is the stage where the teacher would allow the class to begin forming ideas and ways to start serving. Using good, purposeful questions could help the learning process at this point. This is the **thinking** aspect of learning.

### **Stage Four: Active Experimentation (Accommodators)**

The final stage would be the active experimentation, and this is where the learners would put into practice what they had learned. Teachers could actively encourage application at this point by having a list of service opportunities in the church available for the class. This is the **doing** aspect of learning.

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