

# Learn - Do - Teach

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In light of the global situation, there is a spectrum of notifications that are being published... from CDC official recommendations all the way to Internet memes. While the "official" sources are more credible, sometimes the memes can provide the needed laugh or a simple break from the stresses we all face. One came my way the other day that was both amusing and a helpful reminder. It was a child standing surprised, watching as a soccer ball came hurling directly towards his head. The soccer ball was labeled "**All the things I could have accomplished during the Quarantine**". The child was labeled, simply, "**Me**".

I began thinking about what I should be focused on with this shift in normal life and it took me back to a study of Ezra 7:10 from years ago and Ezra's attitude towards the task at hand.

## Ezra's Formula

In the medical field, there is a concept of mastering a skill that goes like this: "See One, Do One, Teach One". The idea is that a medical student needs to see or watch the task, treatment, operation, or whatever it is *first*. They learn it before they do anything else. Then after they've seen it, they need to do one on their own. Finally after doing it, they need to teach someone else how to do it.

Not only does it sound practical, this method has been a very successful teaching tool. And it makes sense... You learn it, you do it, and then you teach it. While each step may take some time, it's a pretty simple formula: **Learn – Do – Teach**. This comes directly from Ezra 7:10: "*For Ezra had set his heart to **study** the Law of the LORD, and to **do** it and to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.*"

### 1 - See One (Learn)

First, Ezra devoted himself to **study**. Have you ever tried to do something very important without reading the instructions first? What about a defibrillator? Some of you may know exactly how to operate one of these; I do not. I've been told it's not that difficult, but I know what the thing does. It's a small box, about the size of a toolbox or socket set, that's designed to shock you to get your heart going again. To me that's a pretty big deal.

Now, I've been shocked before, often when I wasn't expecting it. It's not pleasant. But to be shocked to get my heart restarted... that's something I would want you to make sure you get right the first time! So what do we do? We read the instructions! We read how we are to use it so we can get it right. There's not a whole lot of room for trial and error with something like a defibrillator. The instructions are important.

...Maybe our shift is to spend more time in the "instructions" for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

### 2 - Do One (Practice)

Second, Ezra had decided that he would put the things he learned into practice. This was a great attitude to have! Not only was he going to study what the Law of God said, he was going to take action.

ME WHEN I HEAR QUARANTINE WILL  
BE OVER IN TWO DAYS



This same attitude is echoed in the New Testament as instructions for us to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). The whole book of James tries to convey this “practice what you preach” or “do what it is you’re learning about” attitude. James says that we should do more than just listen, otherwise we are deceiving ourselves and just think we’re ok. We need to learn, but we also need to do.

...Maybe it’s not doing something *new* that we need, but to “keep on keeping on” during this time. Hang in there, that crown will be worth it! (Rev 2:10)

### **3 - Teach One**

Finally, the third thing on Ezra’s list was teaching. We could drop any of these three steps and run into issues, but it seems like it’s a lot easier to leave out the third one. The first two are focused on *us*. It’s *our* responsibility to learn, it’s *our* responsibility to do. But, it’s also *our* responsibility to teach too. We all know the commission we have to teach (Matthew 28:19-20) and that others can’t learn unless we do (Romans 10:14). What can we teach others during this time? What can we teach our children? (Besides their school work... Welcome to homeschooling, Everyone!!)

...Maybe the time at home is spent teaching more. In teaching we gain better understanding ourselves.

Is there something we can learn, do, or teach that may help us find a new routine when all others seem to be disrupted? Can we spend some time digging in like Ezra to help see us through?

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105*