

TED Elders Training Curriculum

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Ministerial Association | General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | Trans-European Division





Spiritual Leadership

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Habits of a Lifelong Learner

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Overview:

- What – definition
- How – 9 habits
- Why – 5 benefits



Lifelong learning



“All leaders are learners. The moment you stop learning, you stop leading.” – **Rick Warren**



“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” — **Henry Ford**

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Lifelong learning



Teachers should be diligent students of the word of God, and ever reveal the fact that they are learning daily lessons in the school of Christ. CSW p.94

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Definition of lifelong learning

An ongoing, voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons.

Learning for Life: Paper on Adult Education, Department of Education and Science (2000).



Is lifelong learning biblical?

- Lk 2:52 *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*
- Eph 4:15 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ.*
- Heb 6:1-2 *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...*
- 1Pet 2:2 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*
- 2Pet 3:18 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*



Why is lifelong learning important?

“Do yourself a favour and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper.” (Proverbs 19:8 GNT).

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”
(Hosea 4:6)



Habits

1. Accept that you will never stop learning

“The most important thing that I learned, is that it is important to keep on learning.”

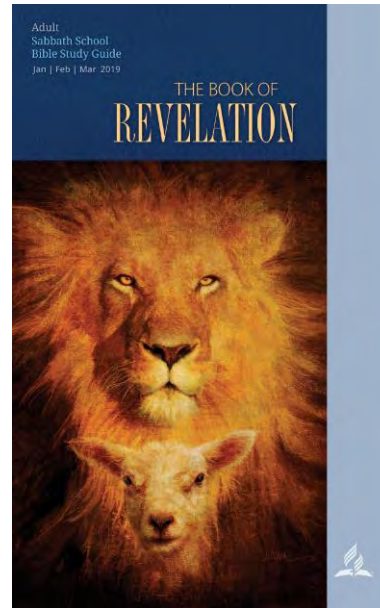
— Bill Clinton at the Global Education and Skills Forum 2014



Habits

2. Learn steadily, never cram

Learning as a lifestyle rather than a finite task



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Habits

3. Collaboration and mentoring

Eccles 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

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Habits

4. Approach learning reflectively, get feedback from others



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Habits

5. Be positive, enjoy learning

“The capacity to learn is a gift;
The ability to learn is a skill;
The willingness to learn is a choice.”



Habits

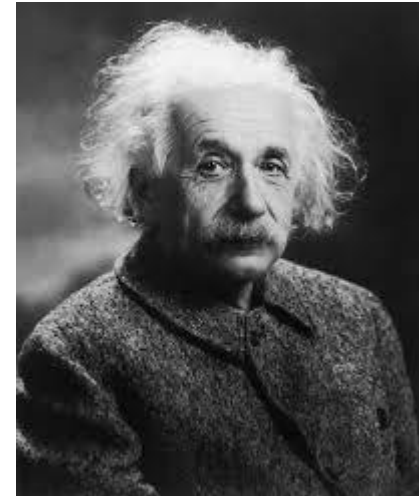
6. Be proactive

-Seek out learning

-Seek out opposing opinions

“I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”

Albert Einstein



Habits

7. Visualise the goal, break your learning into parts



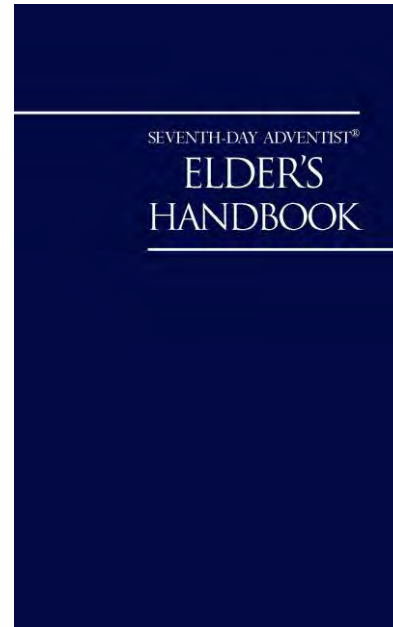
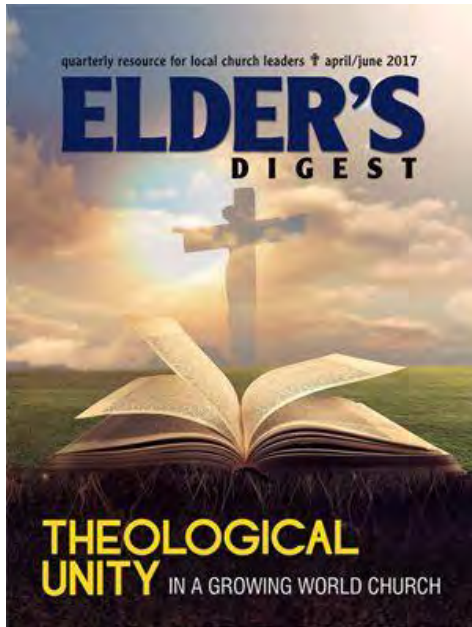
Habits

8. See problems as challenges, view failure as a learning tool



Habits

9. Use all of the learning tools available, including technology



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Benefits of lifelong learning

1. Spiritual

Learning feeds the spirit and draws us closer to God who is the source of all knowledge and wisdom.

The order of God's providence in relation to His people is progression—continual advancement in the perfection of Christian character, in the way of holiness, rising higher and higher in the clear light and knowledge and love of God, to the very close of time. Oh! why are we ever learning only the first principles of the doctrine of Christ? 5T p484



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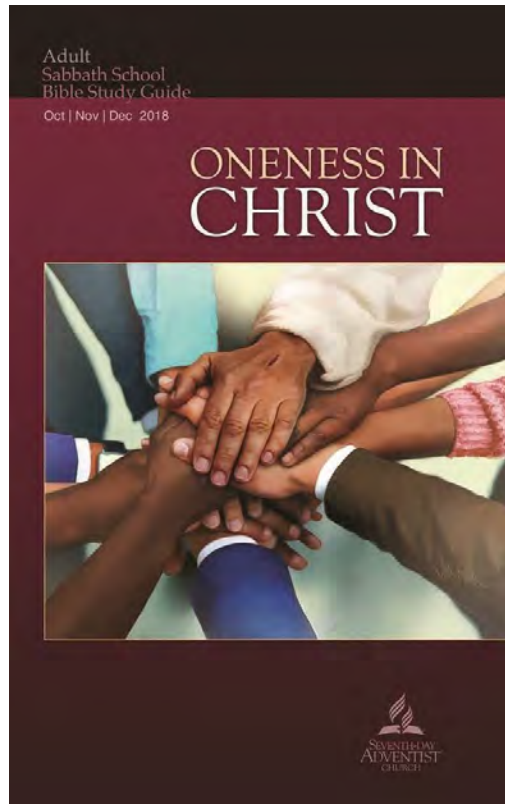
2Pet 1:5-8 Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control...



Benefits of lifelong learning

1. Spiritual

Learning promotes unity



Eph 4:12 ...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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Benefits of lifelong learning

2. Intellectual

Lifelong learning fuels creativity and innovation.

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

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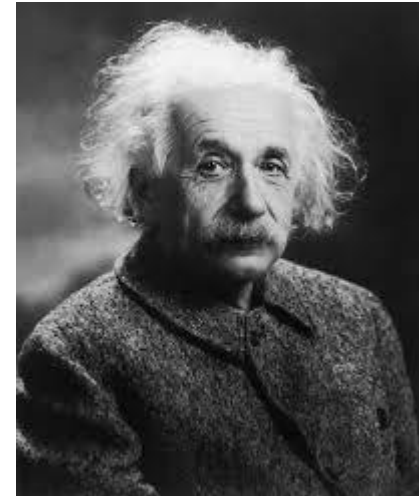


Benefits of lifelong learning

3. Physical

“Once you stop learning, you start dying.”

Albert Einstein



Benefits of lifelong learning

4. Social

A large percentage of what you know came from social interactions:

- watching and listening to parents
- experimenting with friends
- testing new ideas on family
- trying skills on colleagues



Benefits of lifelong learning

4. Social

Evidence suggests that people with strong social connections tend to be happier and live longer.



Benefits of lifelong learning

5. Economic

We live in a learning economy. To thrive economically you have to keep learning.



Lifelong Learning

“Do yourself a favour and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper.” (Proverbs 19:8 GNT).

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