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# PREMISE FOR MINISTRY PREPARATION

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*This is a short article taken from one of “Daniel’s Travel Journal” entries he made while traveling, sharing relationship and ministry with friends and churches in various parts of our country and overseas.*

Unfortunately, our training model in church is based on a premise that makes people feel perpetually unqualified for leadership. No one comes right out and says so, but how we train people communicates one major fact: “You need to know what you don’t yet know!” Yikes. No wonder people feel like they don’t know enough to be a leader. If they always need to learn what they don’t know—in preparation for ministry that they will one day do—they will always know that they need to know more before they minister.

Can you see what a vicious cycle that is? There is no way that a normal, thinking person ever can conclude that they are now ready to minister!

My premise for ministry preparation goes more like this:

“You already know many things. Jesus has taught you a lot. He wants you to learn more, of course, but what He has already taught you is enough for you to be able to minister to people right now. The only things you need to know to minister are those things you’ve already learned. In other words, teach what you’ve been taught—and don’t worry about what you don’t yet know.”

That is a far more hopeful and do-able training/ministering partnership to offer to people.