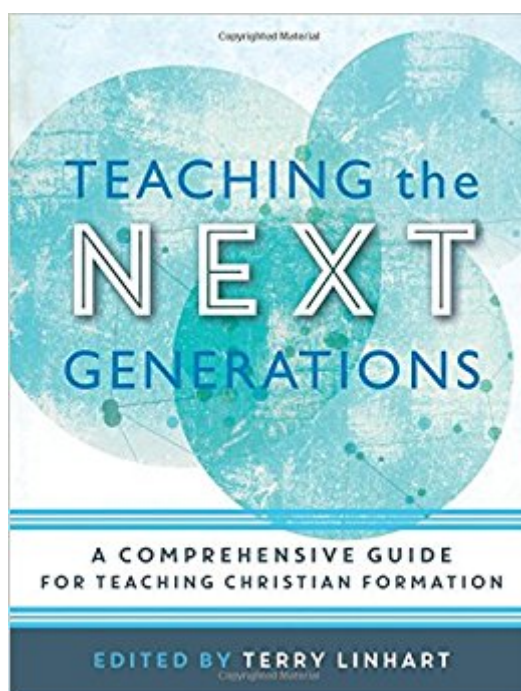


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# Teaching The Next Generations: A Comprehensive Guide For Teaching Christian Formation



## Synopsis

**How Ministers Can Be Excellent and Effective Teachers** Effective teaching is important not only to the Christian faith but to the success and impact of Christian ministry. This book champions the role of teaching as a necessary skill for ministers to develop, equipping them to work effectively for the spiritual growth of young people. Terry Linhart, who has more than twenty-five years of experience training youth workers, brings together expert Christian educators representing a broad array of evangelical institutions and traditions to show how teaching connects to discipleship and the church in current contexts. Designed for the classroom, the book covers a wide range of topics and includes helpful illustrative diagrams, tables, line drawings, and charts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Too often I see ministry leaders who could use a crash course in improving their communication chops. This book is that course! Terry Linhart has brought together the best teachers to help us understand how teaching and learning intersect with ministry to young people. This book is loaded with biblical concepts and practical examples. When you're done digesting all that's here, you'll have new confidence and a skill set that will make you a more effective teacher. Whether you're studying this in a college classroom or you're a veteran youth worker looking to improve, I'm happy to recommend this book to you."--Doug Fields, veteran youth worker, author, and cofounder of Download Youth Ministry

"For decades Christian education has been a staple of ministry. The idea that to grow we must be taught is not new, but as culture has changed the role and methods of

teaching have changed. In response to these changes, Terry Linhart has brought together some of the finest thinkers in Christian education to equip Christian teachers to faithfully and effectively fulfill their calling. Teaching the Next Generations will be a valuable resource for teachers for years to come."--Chap Clark, author of Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the Family of Faith; Fuller Theological Seminary

"Terry is a good friend and youth ministry thought leader. I welcome his input in my life in any way, shape, or form. The input in this book contains helpful guidance on effective communication. I need all the help I can get, and I bet it will benefit you too."--Josh Griffin, cofounder of Download Youth Ministry

Contributors  
 Ron Belsterling  
 Robert Brandt  
 Mark Cannister  
 Freddy Cardoza  
 Ken Castor  
 Amanda Drury  
 Doug Gilmer  
 James K.  
 Hampton  
 Mark Hayse  
 Allen Jackson  
 Karen Jones  
 Sharon Galgay  
 Ketcham  
 Jeff Keuss  
 Jason Lanker  
 Terry Linhart  
 Kerry Loescher  
 Bob MacRae  
 Scottie May  
 Karen McKinney  
 Barrett McRay  
 Ginny Olson  
 David Rahn  
 Duffy Robbins  
 Andrew Root  
 Brenda A. Snailum  
 Troy W. Temple

Terry Linhart (PhD, Purdue University) is director of the youth ministry and adolescent studies program, professor of youth ministry, and chair of the department of religion and philosophy at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana. He previously served in full-time youth ministry for fifteen years with Youth for Christ and as a youth pastor. Linhart directs the Youth Specialties Academic Support Network and is the author of six books.

An excellent book for anyone working with young people.

Great!

It has been often said that the young is the future of our society. In churches all over the world, the young are also the future of the leadership of the Church. How the children and formed when young often becomes the way they help lead the Church in the future. What then are the factors to guide them? How can the leaders of today help the formation of the leaders of tomorrow? How can we navigate the complex realities today for an unknown tomorrow? If adults are already facing difficult challenges, how can we expect the young to tackle their generational challenges if we do not lead by example? This book's premise is that teaching Christian Formation is an imperative, not an option. We need to help them understand spiricual formation and that learning happens at all ages. We need to be guided by important theologies and appropriate theories. We need a repertoire of creative methods and to be committed to the spiritual disciplines like prayer, and spiritual

transformation. We need to teach not merely to download information but to work toward spiritual transformation and growth. This means working toward maturity and be anchored in Christ. It also means discipleship. The book is subdivided into five sections.

1) Core Concepts Allen Jackson links teaching with discipleship and presents various models on discipleship. From the Old Testament, Jeff Keuss gives a theological angle by understanding our formation in terms of "cycles in our faith journey." Ron Belsterling adopts several New Testament passages to show us the scriptural basis of teaching. Bob MacRae looks at the quality of the teacher and reflects on the six characteristics of an effective Christian teacher. Mark Cannister describes the five basic philosophies of education; the three curriculums; the three educational objectives; and gives us a broad overview before encouraging us to adopt and adapt them to our contexts. Andrew Root connects the shape of human knowledge and Christian ministry to help us teach the young to stay balanced even as they ponder upon their own spiritual journeys.

2) Influences that Shape Learning This section provides a dialogue between theology and educational psychology. Barrett McRay looks at the way people learn and the three dimensions of learning: Cognitive; Behavioral; and Dispositional. Karen Jones recognizes the unique learning abilities of individuals and compares the global and analytic characteristics of learning. She uses Howard Gardner's eight intelligences and the five learning styles inventories to show us that the key to learning is to understand our own learning dispositions. Sharon Galgay Ketcham adopts a social theory of learning and the importance of community to the educational objectives of the organization. David Rahn believes that the key to learning is motivation while Ginny Olson notices the intricate relationship between culture and diversity of learning.

3) Three Curricular Implications for Teaching Effective teaching requires a good roadmap. Terry Linhart says that there are currently two types of curricular theories. The first is the "technical one" where one identifies the desired outcome and then plans accordingly. The second is the experiential one where one literally learns on the fly. He then lists several curriculum formats one can use. Scottie May chooses to focus on teaching children and suggests six concepts. Amanda Drury believes that teaching young adults requires an understanding of stages of faith theory. Brenda Snailum sees families as integral to the learning experience of the children. Ken Castor sees equipping generative faith and leadership as fundamental ways to influence young adults. Mark Hayse takes a look at educational technology and provides us some useful questions to mix and match resources with methods.

4) Methods for Christian Teaching This section focuses on the how-to ways to teach. Duffy Robbins looks at the laws of learning and the importance of learning by doing. Troy Temple uses the discussion platform to facilitate learning. Jason Lanker gives some tips on how to teach large groups. James Hampton adopts the storyline technique while Karen McKinney points out the way to

learn via simulation. Doug Gilmer contrasts and asserts the importance of learning outdoors in a world where people are increasingly living indoors.<sup>5</sup>) Managing Teaching for Maximum Impact

Teaching for impact is a concern for many teachers. No one likes their students to learn quickly and forget quickly. Kerry Loescher says that constant evaluations facilitates continuous learning experiences. Robert Brandt believes that equipping others to teach is a way forward to pass the learning and teaching baton. Freddy Cardoza gives a theology of technology and uses modern technologies for learning. This book is one of the most comprehensive handbooks on Christian Education and learning. With 26 different contributors all coming from different walks of life and experiences, all of them share the same passion and concern: To enable better learning for all. The title of the book suggests the focus is the next generations, which is also about passing down the baton to the next in line. By putting together their shared expertise and knowledge, this book itself has gotten the ball rolling. With the rich experiences shared, this is an invaluable resource for any teacher to begin with. Whether it is planning something from ground zero, or to improve existing curriculums, or enrich present learning environments, it challenges us to think beyond our existing boxes of learning. I appreciate the way the various articles have been categorized. Each article is brief and clearly demarcated with points and easy to follow arguments. There are questions at the end of each chapter to help us engage with the content and also to summarize important learning pointers. The bibliography at the end provides advanced readers some resources for further research. This resource is particularly helpful because not only does it show us how to learn, it reveals many insights on how we learn. Terry Linhart is Professor of Youth Ministry at Bethel College in Indiana. He is also advisor to Youth Specialties and all things youth ministries. Rating: 5 stars of 5.

conrade This book has been provided courtesy of Baker Academic and NetGalley without requiring a positive review. All opinions offered above are mine unless otherwise stated or implied.

To teach the next generation of believers is an important passion of many Christians. Yet how do you learn from some of the brightest teachers in this area? I suggest reading and studying *TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATIONS*. As Terry Linhart writes in the introduction, “The truth is that young people are still wired to learn. They do wonder about important questions, and they still engage in what is meaningful and relevant. Perhaps part of the problem today is not with the learners but is on the side of the teaching. It certainly feels like at no other time in recent history has it been as important for Christian teaching to be effective, engaging and of excellent quality.” (page x). Twenty-six contributors lend many different voices to this important topic of teaching the next generation. This book has a careful and

well-executed design. It makes great use of subheads throughout the book. Each chapter includes Questions and Activities which are thoughtful and help readers dig into the contents of the chapter. Also each chapter includes a Further Reading section. While this book comes from an academic perspective, every Christian who teaches others will find inspiration, insight and valuable information in TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATIONS. I highly recommend this book. Read it carefully with a yellow highlighter so you can return to it often to influence how you teach the next generation. W. Terry Whalin is an editor and the author of more than 60 books including his latest *À Billy Graham: A Biography of America's Greatest Evangelist*

This book has been a great way to generate meaningful discussion within our youth group leadership team. Beyond speculating about what our leaders should be doing, Teaching the Next Generation has provided us with real world research and tangible takeaways in which to ground our reflection and planning. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone studying, teaching or practicing youth ministry or working with teenagers in any context.

Youth today learn a whole lot digitally... then from friends... and cautiously from family. Youth leaders (along with parents and other adults) are in a better position than they realize, to teach. But what is most important to teach? and especially: "How can we most effectively teach, or better discover truth, with young people. This book is up to the task of helping us with these challenging questions.

Amanda Drury is the best! Therefore this book is the best! #mandydrury2016

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