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## **Remembering Our Teachers**

If I were to ask you to remember a favorite teacher, would you have trouble narrowing it down to just one? I know I would. I have lots of favorite teachers. My 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher allowed me to see teachers as more than just a person in the classroom – for she was also my Sunday School teacher. My 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher really inspired me to love spelling and history. My 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher shared a love for reading with me. My 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher helped develop my love for travel. My high school French teacher provided a love for other cultures and languages beside English. My high school band teacher gave me a love for classical music. My high school accounting teacher helped direct me to the right college and ultimate career – not in accounting but in ministry.

When I was younger, I had no idea I would do some teaching myself. For 16 years I did substitute teaching which turned into a regular position at Indian Springs Middle School. As a substitute teacher I taught every grade from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. My time substitute teacher reminded me how much work teachers must do to prepare for each day of class. Then I thought about all those students who are going through plenty of changes in their life – sometimes they want to listen to a teacher and other times not. Teachers deal with a myriad of things each and every day.

Recently I had several former students of mine say thank you for inspiring them in class. I was elated to know that what we did in those class sessions back in 8<sup>th</sup> grade really did make a difference. But you know it wasn't just the content I taught, but also how I taught that made a difference. Each student knew I was a pastor AND a teacher. That's how I introduced myself on the first day of class. Those students knew my heart was in the right place. I wanted to be there. I wanted them to learn and thrive.

Teachers are under so much additional pressure this fall as school gets back in session. Just like the medical personnel we prayed for at the beginning of this pandemic, I implore you to now add teachers to your prayers. Send a card of encouragement. Share a thank you! I wish I had thanked more of my teachers. The training they provided at an early age has been invaluable.

However, classroom instruction was not the only aspect of their influence that has lasted in my life. My high school accounting teacher inspired me to serve in camping ministry - which I continue today. You see lifelong learning is what teachers provide. Jesus said: "The student is not above the teacher" in Matthew 10:24. What we can become through good, caring, positive instruction creates a foundation of learning that continues for each of us throughout our lives so that we might become more like our favorite teachers!

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