



## Learning Styles and Living Among God's Faithful People

*By Judy Washburn, Vice President, Christian Education Network of the ELCA*

The first baptismal promise is to 'Live Among God's Faith People', and those people have different learning styles and preferences. Here are two tips for providing a learning-centered approach to baptism.

1) Modify any curriculum or resource by adding a variety of verbs.

Example: Use our 'bottle cap' resource (see link below) and add activities. Ask for volunteers to collect bottle caps and gather additional supplies. Students could write a short story, compose a jingle or chant, or take a science or nature walk to identify elements that match the symbols. Write creative discussion questions and design additional learning tasks using a variety of the verbs below.

[https://faithfulteaching.org/f-ft/u24/Five%20Gifts%20of%20Discipleship%20Bottlecap%20Cross\\_1.pdf](https://faithfulteaching.org/f-ft/u24/Five%20Gifts%20of%20Discipleship%20Bottlecap%20Cross_1.pdf)

2) Not sure what type of learners your students are? ASK!

Example: Ask your students to describe what they like to do best. Listen carefully to their verb choices and take some notes. Try to categorize the verbs they give you using the chart below and design some activities for an upcoming session that use those verbs. Meet them where they are, and it will be easier to get them to **do something** with the content, thereby retaining and internalizing it.

Learning Style	Description	Verbs
Verbal	Having an easy way with words	Write, Create, Joke, Listen, List, Retell, Label and Paraphrase
Visual	Aware of surroundings and good at remembering images	Observe, illustrate, diagram, draw, paint, depict, and design a story
Logical	Thrive on models, measurements, and abstractions	Reason, analyze, collect, record, compare, contrast, rank, evaluate, and sort
Musical	Rhythm and Music are helpful ways to memorize content	Sing, listen, compose, improvise, and record
interpersonal	Interact with others effectively	Discuss, respond, survey, question, clarify, and affirm
Intrapersonal	Good at looking inward and figuring out their own feelings.	Journal, reflect, study, rehearse, log, and express
Bodily	Physical, like to use hands, and are very active	Dance, sculpt, perform, act, dramatize, and build
Naturalist	Curious about living things and the planet	Relate, discover, uncover, observe, dig, plant, design, compare, and display