

Henricks, HowardTeaching to Change Lives

3. Introduction: A Passion to Communicate

The author opens by telling how a poorly educated but devoted Sunday school teacher named Walt reached him as a boy from a broken home. The point: teaching is not just professional for him, it is personal. This introduction frames the book's seven teaching 'laws' and argues that what they all really come down to is a passion to communicate.

Key takeaways

- Walt had only a sixth-grade education and wasn't impressive, but he loved the boys for Christ's sake, and that love is what changed them.
- Of the thirteen boys Walt gathered, eleven ended up in full-time Christian work; the author's own ministry exists because one committed teacher showed up.
- The book presents seven 'laws' of teaching: Teacher, Education, Activity, Communication, Heart, Encouragement, Readiness.
- An 83-year-old woman rode a bus to a convention just to become a better teacher; 84 of her boys entered full-time ministry.

- The real secret behind effective teaching is not method but a passion to communicate that never dies.

Passages worth keeping

"I can't tell you much of what Walt said to us, but I can tell you everything about him ... because he loved me for Christ's sake."

Sums the book's thesis: the teacher's character and love matter more than technique.