

STARTING OVER

Three Myths Andy Stanley

Scripture: Romans 8:28

Idea: Next time can be better than last time, but not just because you want it to be.

Introduction

1. I don't like to read directions. It slows me down. I can put things together incorrectly so much faster without those pesky directions.
*Directions are for people who want to get it right the **first** time.*
*Directions are for people who don't know the joy of **reassembling**.*
*Directions are for busy people who don't have time to **start over**.*
2. I wanted to install RAM on my Mac Mini without help. Sintya wanted to help. She said I should watch a YouTube video. I'm thinking, *What can some 14-year veteran IT tech teach me about replacing RAM in a computer with screws so small that you don't actually pick them up—you just mash them with your finger and they stick.* I didn't have time to watch a video . . . and then I had to start over and watch a stupid YouTube video while my IT staff tried not to make eye contact with me. I recently discovered that my infrared remote doesn't work anymore. *I won't make that mistake again.*

Parents, you know. Christmas toys: "Honey, I realize everybody else's Barbie house has a roof . . . but your Barbie house is special . . . 'Construction Zone Barbie' . . ." *Won't make that mistake again.*

"Honey, the box says 'gas grill.' But we're going old school. Either that, or I have to disassemble the entire thing . . ." *Won't make that mistake again.*

3. This is a series about starting over. *Starting Over: How to ensure **next** time won't be like **last** time.* Here's what I've observed . . .
 - We learn from our mistakes in the areas that matter **least**.
 - We repeat our mistakes in the areas that matter **most**: *finances, relationships, parenting, leadership, romance . . .*
 - We ask, "When will I **learn**?" Good question.
 - But in the areas that matter most, before we've had time to "learn," we jump right back in and make the same mistakes we made last time around.
 - The reason next time may look a lot like last time is that there's a common denominator: **YOU**.
 - You keep following yourself around.