

# Lessons for Teachers and Workers Meeting / Volunteers meeting

Gathered and prepared By Austin Gardner

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# History of Sunday School

It has frequently been said that "Necessity is the mother of invention," and this was the case with Sunday School. There was a need, and the first Sunday School class was an 18th century Englander's attempt to meet that need.

**Robert Raikes**, acclaimed the founder of Sunday School, was editor of *The Gloucester Journal* in Gloucester, England. He took both his influential position, which he had inherited from his father, and his religion seriously. He was concerned about people, especially the poor who were often arrested for trivial offenses; he wrote frequent editorials about the conditions they faced in the city's crowded jails. But he did more. He put feet to his convictions and visited the jails himself, passing out Bibles and reading the Word to those who could not do it for themselves.

Raikes' personal life, however, was far different from that of the men and women he visited in the jails. He was well-groomed, a meticulous dresser; so careful was he of his appearance that some called him " Buck Raikes, the dandy."

Raikes' attention to detail carried over to the clean, comfortable home he had provided for his family. It was with plans to further enhance the beauty of this home that, one afternoon, he set out for the slum district in search of a gardener. While there, he was severely jostled by a gang of ragged boys. He mentioned the confrontation to a lady in the neighborhood.

"You ought to see them on Sunday when the factory is closed and they have nothing to do but get in trouble," she responded.

His imagination was stirred. Evidently the slum boys were becoming a growing threat to the district. Conviction gripped Robert Raikes' soul. Here were the children of those he had been working with in the jails. Left to their own devices these

children had become half-wild creatures whose lives were filled with hate, fear, and ignorance. What was to be done for them?

He went to Reverend Thomas Stock and together they collected the names and addresses of about 90 children in the area. They visited the families and frequently were cursed for their efforts. But they persisted. Gradually they succeeded in gathering a small class which met in the kitchen of Mrs. Meredith, the first Sunday School teacher.

And so the first Sunday School began; but it was different from our Sunday Schools of today. For one thing, **the teachers were paid**; indeed, this was almost a necessity considering the challenge they faced. The curriculum was different, too. The slum children were illiterate and had to be **taught how to read and write**. As they learned, they were encouraged to use these new skills in studying the Word of God. The length of the classes was much longer also. **A two-hour session began each Sunday morning at 10:00 and was followed by a short break. Then, after another teaching period, the students were escorted to church.**

**Discipline was a special problem** in that first Sunday School. The group was rowdy and experienced in the ways of mischief. On occasion a student would become so unmanageable that Raikes would escort him to his home, wait as the offender's parent administered the appropriate punishment, then bring him back to class to finish the day's lessons. But the ways of a lifetime were not easily unlearned, and soon the group became too much for Mrs. Meredith. She resigned her post and the class moved on to the kitchen of Mrs. Critchley.

**Lives consistently exposed to the truths of God's Word do not remain unchanged, however.** As the seeds of Scripture planted in these young hearts began to take root, changes became evident in their lives. In time, Robert Raikes' Sunday School areas became the most orderly in the city of Gloucester.

When Raikes saw the indisputable evidence of transformed lives he began promoting Sunday School in his newspaper. **In just four years, Sunday School enrollment in England reached 250,000 children, and by his death in 1811,**

**approximately 1,250,000 children in Great Britain were being reached weekly by Sunday School.**

Raikes' influence for Sunday School did not stop with Great Britain. News of this successful new ministry spread to other continents. **John Wesley urged**, "There must be a Sunday School wherever there is a Methodist society."

Today there are many who believe that it was John Wesley, rather than Raikes, who was the true founder of Sunday School. They maintain that in Savannah, Georgia some 50 years earlier Wesley began instructing children in the Word of God on Sunday afternoons. This is true. Wesley's classes, however, could not technically be termed Sunday School because his efforts concerned the children of Christians—catechism instruction and the aim of edification.

**A true Sunday School has four unique characteristics:**

(1) it reaches the unsaved as well as Christian children; (2) instruction is given from the Word of God rather than the oral question and answer drills of catechism; (3) its purpose is to evangelize the lost as well as to instruct the saved; and (4) it

is operated by laymen rather than by clergymen. The unique nature of Sunday School itself discounts Wesley's claims and reinforces Raikes' position as founder.

The first recorded American Sunday School was started in **1785** in Oak Grove, Virginia, by William Elliott. Another Sunday School appeared in Virginia in 1786. Rapidly, Sunday Schools began to spring up in South Carolina, Maryland, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania. Just 11 years after Robert Raikes started the first Sunday School in England, a new Sunday School Society was organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Within three months this group raised \$3,968 for the establishment of new Sunday Schools.

Around 1829, the Mississippi Valley enterprise captured the imagination of Sunday School leaders in the East. The region west of the Alleghenies to the Rocky Mountains was practically void of religious influence despite its four million population. The American Sunday School Union spearheaded a massive evangelistic thrust to reach this area with the gospel. In May, 1830, they resolved to start a Sunday School in every town in the Mississippi Valley; they wanted to complete this project in

two years. Two thousand people supported and promoted the project, including such well-known figures as Daniel Webster and Francis Scott Key.

Over **80 missionaries were sent out to establish Sunday Schools** in the Midwest; one of these was a man who himself had been reached for Christ through the American Sunday School Union. "Stuttering Stephen" Paxson had overcome the double handicap of a limp and a stammer to become a successful hatter and the favorite fiddler for the Saturday night square dance in the little town of Winchester, Illinois.

"I'll get a star if I bring a new scholar to Sunday School," said his little daughter Mary. "Will you be my scholar, papa?" she begged. Paxson was a good husband and father and he was soon coaxed into becoming little Mary's "scholar."

Paxson's first visit to Sunday School was different from most. Rather than being a mere spectator he was immediately saddled with the responsibility of teaching a boys' class. Somehow, with much coaching from the boys, he made it through the morning's lesson. The class

period had been a tremendous struggle for Paxson and he was relieved when it was over. The boys, however, had enjoyed having Paxson as their teacher and begged him to return the following Sunday. He finally agreed, but only on one condition: he would teach the same lesson again, only this time he would do it right.

This was only the beginning for Paxson, for as he studied to prepare those Sunday School lessons week after week, **he met the God of the Bible.** As Paxson learned more about God's Word, he caught the vision of the American Sunday School Union and moved his family to the Mississippi Valley. There he and his horse, appropriately named Robert Raikes, set out to establish Sunday Schools. **Over the next 25 years the two traveled 100,000 miles, stopping to speak to any child they passed. In the 1,314 Sunday Schools established by this zealous missionary, 83,000 children were reached for God.**

During the next 50 years, 80 percent of all the churches in the Mississippi Valley came out of Sunday Schools. Between 1824

and 1874, 61,299 Sunday Schools were organized, reaching 2,650,784 young people for Christ.

The Sunday School movement was growing, but there were **problems**. There was **no printed Sunday School material** so each teacher taught the Word of God as best he could. In many cases the pastor would instruct the teachers at the **weekly meeting**, and on Sunday the teachers would present the identical lesson to their pupils. This alleviated the problem to some extent.

Immediately following the Civil War, Sunday Schools radically changed. In 1866, John H. Vincent, a Methodist minister of Chicago, published *The Sunday School Teacher* containing "**a new system of Sunday School study**," with analytical and illustrative helps for teachers and lesson helps for pupils. B. F. Jacobs, also of Chicago, urged in a Sunday School convention in 1872 the idea of uniformity of lessons (prior **catechism** lessons had been graded to some extent). Vincent's new lesson plan and Jacobs' plan of uniformity were adopted. They were used by various denominations and were published in secular papers and religious weeklies. *The Sunday School*

*Times*, a weekly newspaper, became a main vehicle to spread the Sunday School lessons throughout America. At one time, it had the **largest circulation of all magazines** in the United States. Churches in Canada became interested and the system of lessons was soon adopted also in Great Britain, and within a few years they were being used in as many as nineteen nations as The International Uniform Lesson. Many millions of people were studying these lessons by 1900, and the lessons are credited with the period of great progress in the Sunday School throughout the world.

In spite of their popularity and widespread use, not everyone was satisfied with the uniform lessons. It was claimed that they did not provide **comprehensive, consecutive and complete knowledge of the Bible** and they did not allow for denominational doctrinal differences. Others urged that the graded principle be recognized, with lessons more suitable to young children. Eventually an all-Bible graded series of lessons was worked out by Clarence H. Benson by the early thirties.

The Sunday School conventions, which had been organized earlier, began to grow after the Civil War years. These

conventions were, in actuality, massive rallies where **laymen motivated each other to do the work of Sunday School. Small committees worked on resolutions, strategy, and plans; but little attention was paid to practical techniques.** The conventions were, in fact, large scale revival meetings and made great impact on the cities in which they met.

In the early 1900s, however, Sunday Schools in great numbers turned from spiritual horizons to academic ones. Liberalism crept into theological seminaries and sifted down to the churches and ultimately affected the Sunday School. The Sunday School convention eventually became the International Council of Religious Education under the liberal World Council of Churches.

A little girl once asked, "If Sunday Schools used to be so big, why doesn't everyone go now?"

That is a good question. Why has Sunday School lost the influence it once had? Let's make the answer simple enough for a little girl to understand. **When Sunday Schools taught**

**the Word of God, people attended because they wanted to know what God was saying; but when they neglected the miracles and denied that Jesus was the Son of God, Sunday Schools became like every other school**-so children would just as soon stay at home and play. Attendance went down; Sunday Schools had lost their influence.

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# Requirements for Bible Class and Sunday School Teachers

A Sunday School Teacher should...

1. Be sure of their salvation
2. Be a baptized member of our church
3. Be faithful to all the services and classes of the church
4. Be faithful to read their Bible, have their devotional time and prayer each day.
5. Be faithful to tithe
6. Promise to go out and visit and win souls each week. That includes visiting those who were absent from their class and all the visitors.
7. Have a good attitude towards the work of the church and the pastor.
8. Prepare well and before hand their Sunday School lesson.
9. Be faithful to be discipled and then disciple others afterwards

10. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the service and be ready to help and serve those who are arriving for the service.
11. Attend the weekly volunteer meeting where we cover important topics pertaining to all our teachers and volunteers, as well as address questions that come up.
12. Serve as a helper in a Sunday School class and then move up as they prove themselves.

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# **Things to put into practice in your Sunday School class**

1. Be sure that you are making disciples
2. Get a Sunday School Roll and know who is on it. Do not remove them unless they ask to be removed.
3. Consider your Class roll your ministry list
4. Contact everyone on your roll on a weekly basis.
5. Do not be the Sunday School Nazi criticizing them for not attending
6. Allow your class to ask questions and discuss things just be sure to bring them back to Jesus, His Words, His actions, what He wants us to do
7. Be careful that you prepare a lesson that has an application. Does it point to Jesus. Does it emphasize His

grace. Is it only telling something moral to do

8. Look your class over and see if you see God's Word beginning to make a difference in their lives. Are they being transformed
9. Keep a list of the prayer requests. Make sure and try to meet each need, birthday, hospital etc
10. Set up an email ring
11. Develop a weekly email newsletter
12. Send cards and notes to those that miss the class
13. Have someone in the class write a thank you card to those that visit
14. Have someone text all those that miss
15. Organize the class

16. Set up sign for class
17. Get pictures of class and members to put on sign
18. Delegate lots of jobs. Someone to call, text, write those that are absent. Someone to bring food or make coffee, keep up the face book page, the email ring, the weekly email newsletter
19. Plan some ministry opportunities for your group
20. Look for every means of staying in touch that you can use.

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# **The Importance of Taking Responsibility**

It has been said that you have one chance to make a good first impression. As we consider visitors coming to our church, it is easy to think, "That is not my responsibility" or "Someone should do something about..." The reality is that if we would all take responsibility for making a good first impression, we would be more like to do just that.

Here are some things to think about when you come to church:

1. If you see it, fix it
2. If parking is an issue, help someone find a place to park.
3. When you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself.

4. Help someone before they get to the Welcome Table.
5. Take someone under your wing for the day. Never walk alone.
6. If the material in the Welcome Table is out of date, throw it in the trash.
7. If someone looks like they need help, they usually do. Help them.
8. When you find trash laying around, remove it.
9. If the trash can is full, take it out.
10. Before and after the service pick up trash and straighten the room on your way in and out.
11. Straighten signs if needed.
12. If displays look messy, clean and straighten them.

13. Help someone find a seat before the ushers do.
14. Be available to give up your seat in a heartbeat.
15. Stop by the toilets and clean them before they need it.
16. Wipe down counters before calling someone else to do it.
17. Replace the paper in the toilets yourself.
18. Look for people in need and serve them.
19. Come early and stay late.

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# Am I Ready to Teach?

1. Am I ready to teach?
  - a. Before I teach I should thoroughly examine myself.
  - b. I should not teach others until God has taught me the lesson that I am teaching.
  - c. I cannot expect my class to grow in their walk with the Lord if I am not doing so.
  - d. I must remember that I can never take my students where I have not already been.
2. Have I bathed my lesson in prayer?
  - a. I must pray for myself before I prepare the message and as I prepare the message.
  - b. I need to ask God to help me rightly divide the Scriptures as I prepare to teach.

- c. Prayer shows my utter dependence on the Holy Spirit of God to do the work in my class.
  - d. Pray for your students that God would already be working in their hearts even before they get to the class.
  - e. Have you asked God to do the work in you from the passage before He does it in the students?
3. Do I know who and what I am teaching for?
- a. It is for Him not even for the students.
  - b. It is to honor and glorify God.
4. Questions to ask yourself as you prepare the lesson.
- a. What examples are there to follow from this lesson?
  - b. What are the commands that we should obey?
  - c. What are the mistakes or even sins that we should avoid?
  - d. What Biblical principles do I find in this lesson to live by?
5. Bible Study Methods--Ask yourself the following questions.
- a. What is the text saying—read the passage many times to know for sure—do not forget to get the whole context.
  - b. What does it mean?

- c. Why did He write it?
- d. How should I respond to these truths?
- e. What difference will this make in my life?

6. Teaching the lesson.

- a. Ask yourself what is the best way to present this subject.
- b. What object lesson can you use.
- c. Memory verse.
- d. Story to tell.
- e. Drama that the kids can get involved in—also the adults.

7. Thoughts on story telling.

- a. Know the story real well.
- b. Never read it just tell it.
- c. Add details.
- d. Be descriptive.
- e. Be enthusiastic.
- f. Get the students involved.
- g. Prepare some visuals.
- h. Act out the story.
- i. Lose yourself in the story.
- j. Move around.

k. Change your voice.

l. Make sure to look every student in the eye.

8. Think back over the lesson.

a. What could you have done better?

b. What caught their attention?

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# How to improve the quality of my teaching!

1. Good teaching leads to effective learning
  - a. That means we want them to understand the truth and appropriate it, make it theirs!
  - b. It is not the facts but the living
  - c. It will affect their living all of their lives and Lord willing be passed on to the next generation
2. As you prepare your lesson write down what the student will have learned and put into practice by the end of the lesson!
  - a. What will they know-things that they have learned
  - b. What concepts have they understood
  - c. How will they apply the truth to their lives
  - d. Do they understand the truth enough to share it with others
  - e. Have you asked them questions that show that they understand and can explain it correctly

- f. What methods do you have to help you understand how much they actually understand

### 3. Always involve the students

- a. A classroom research study showed that immediately after a lecture students recalled 70% of the information presented in the first 10 minutes and only 20% of that from the last ten minutes
- b. We can maintain their attention throughout the session by giving them something to do!
  - i. Giving a fun test to see what they learned
  - ii. Getting them to repeat what you have taught in their own words
  - iii. Putting the truth into a real life experience and having them tell how they would use the truth
  - iv. Help them see how it will help them make a decision some time and then ask them how they will decide
  - v. Having them explain the truth to the class in their own words

### 4. Always be evaluating

- a. Evaluate yourself as the teacher

- i. Are you growing
- ii. Are you learning more
- iii. Are you loving the students more every day
- iv. What can you do to improve
- v. Are you wasting time
- b. Evaluate the students
  - i. Are you seeing growth
  - ii. Are they learning and putting into practice the truths that they are taught
  - iii. Are they involved in discipleship
  - iv. Are they baptized
  - v. Have they made a profession of faith

5. Give some homework

- a. Verses to read or memorize
- b. Things to pray about
- c. Truths to test during the week
- d. Do your homework
  - i. prepare your lesson
  - ii. but also do a personal debriefing
  - iii. what could you have done better

iv. what should you use again because you could see it worked

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# How to Treat Guests

1. Be prepared for the service spiritually. Pray for the service. Be at your post faithfully and early.
2. Show yourself friendly. Don't expect them to come to you. Make the first step. (Proverbs 18:24)
3. Shake hands warmly and look him in the eye.
4. Tell them you are glad to see them and there to help if they need anything.
5. Don't give them undue attention and smother them. They just want to fit in. They do not want to be embarrassed.
6. Let them be anonymous and be real sensitive about not being too intrusive. (Example: Pushy salesman)

7. If they tell you their name, remember it. Don't be pushy to ask for a surname or any other information.
8. Be sure to help them know where the toilets, crèche, and classrooms are, if needed.
9. You may even want to give them a tour of the church.
10. Introduce the guest to the pastor and other people in the church.
11. Be seated with the guest, if it seems to be agreeable to them, or invite them to sit with you.
12. Make sure they have a bulletin, Bible and/or hymnal, if they would like one. Watch to see if they need help finding Bible passages.
13. Be sure that their children know where to go for Discovery Zone, Bible Class, or nursery , etc.

14. Be aware if he shows interest in being saved during the service.
15. The three minute rule: Do your best to not speak to someone you know in the first three minutes after the service. Seek out guests and greet them.
16. Be sure to get all the information you can without being intrusive or nosy. Tell them about the "Guest Information Card" in the bulletin.
17. If you find out where they live or get a phone number, be sure that he gets a visit, card or call from you and the church during the week.
18. Pray for the guest during the service and until God saves him.
19. Ask if he/she has any questions, doubts, etc.

20. Let the guest know that they are welcome to any of the information on the info table.
21. Try not to embarrass them or make them do anything that is uncomfortable for them.
22. Don't push them too much or corner them. If they want to talk, then talk. If they want to go, then let them go.
23. Ask general questions: Do you live close by, did you enjoy the service, do you have any questions, can we help in any way, how did you hear about our church?
24. Get to know them on their timetable not ours – it may take 2,3,4, 10 visits before they will be comfortable and we need to allow people the freedom to come and go as they feel led.

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# **Making People Feel Welcome at Our Church!**

1. Being a greeter is a very important job
  - a. The job is much more than just shaking hands and giving out a bulletin
  - b. Get their name and then use it in a sentence back to them if you can.
  - c. We only get one chance to make a first impression and you are that impression
  - d. Make sure no one gets in or out without one of us speaking to them
  - e. Get a bulletin in their hands
  - f. Hospitality is our goal. Make them feel like we want them.
  - g. Give a genuine smile
2. Continue being a church where people like each other.
  - a. As long as there are lots of conversations, laughter, noise, hugging, eye contact, etc then people will think that they are going to like our church and be welcome

- b. Churches where people come in at the last minute and leave as soon as it is over are signaling that people are not happy and the church is in trouble
  - c. Let the love and fun be genuine and they will feel it
3. Help make the lobby a place that is likable.
- a. We need to keep it clean
  - b. Make it a gathering place
  - c. A place that is comfortable and fun to hang out
4. Help keep the restrooms clean
5. Handshaking time
- a. Make sure it isn't awkward
  - b. Get to the first timers and newer people
  - c. Do not ask embarrassing questions
  - d. Do not leave them standing there while you talk with your friends
  - e. Do not overwhelm them
6. Nursery worker and children's ministry
- a. You are very important

- b. I hope you have both Spanish and English people working together. We are not two churches but one.
- c. Make sure to help the parents feel secure but don't overwhelm them with too much
- d. Get information but don't be too pushy, the same applies to the greeters

7. Treat all visitors and first attenders as VIPs

- a. Leave them the best parking spaces
- b. Escort them to where they need to be
- c. It would be great to have someone outside meeting people as they arrive and helping them find where to park
- d. I would love to ask our people to be careful about parking the closest to the building

8. Be careful with the questioning

- a. Don't ask them if they are new or if it is their first Sunday
- b. Don't push to get too much info if they are reluctant to give it
- c. Feel free to answer their questions and put information in their hands

d. Feel free to say, I don't think I have met you yet. My name is\_\_\_\_\_!

9. Try to introduce them to people that will make them welcome and be in their possible age and friend group. Even introduce them to the church staff
10. Remember that the most important person that they will meet at our church today is you! Meaning, go greet them and do not wait on someone else to do so!
11. Pray for every visitor that God might work in their life
12. Pick up any trash you see in the parking lot or the building. It is God's house but we are responsible. If it looks out of place then fix it. Help us make a good first impression
13. Don't forget the 3 minute rule
14. Let's add the 10 foot rule. If they are within 10 feet of you make the effort to shake their hand and welcome them.

15. For the music people, we always need to sing and play at least one or two songs that are known by people that do not frequent church
16. Try to follow up with any first attender if you get any of their info
17. Help check the bulletin to make sure all the best information is there for anyone visiting
18. Remember we have very few minutes to make them like the church and think of coming back
19. We always need some music playing in the background so the sound guys can help with that. Not too soft like a funeral home and not too loud where people can't talk.
  - a. The microphones and sound system need to be ready early so that the guest aren't seeing us fumble around
  - b. The powerpoint announcements would be good
20. I want to thank all of you for already doing so well with these things but this might help us get even better.

# Church Friendly rules!

1. The three minute rule. We are not to speak to someone we know in the first three minutes after the service. We must seek out first attenders or guests and greet them.
2. The ten foot rule. If a visitor gets within ten feet of you be sure and greet them
3. Never ask if they are a visitor or if it is their first time. Just ask how long they have been at our church . That way you do not offend the visitor or first attender.
4. Be sure to help the first attender find the bathroom, classrooms etc so that they can feel at home

5. Be sure they know where the nursery is
6. Learn their name
7. Introduce the guest to the pastoral staff and other friends
8. Be seated with the guest if it seems to be agreeable to them
9. Give them a tour of the church
10. Be sure to get all the information you can without being intrusive or nosy
11. Be sure that he gets a visit, card or call from you and the church during the week
12. Pray for the first attender during the serve and until God saves him

13. Ask if he has questions, doubts, etc
14. Shake hands warmly and look him in the eye
15. Be sure that their children know where to go for Sunday School or children's church etc
16. Be aware if he shows interest in being saved during the service
17. Take the first attender to the welcome center and then to meet the pastor in the guest reception
18. Make personal notes of their names and anything you spoke about so you can call them by name the next time they attend.

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# Showing Ourselves Friendly to New People

1. Be genuinely interested in others.
  - a. Listen to them
  - b. Help them know that they are important to you, to the church and to God
  
2. Think about them and not yourself
  - a. What do they need
  - b. How can we be a blessing to them
  - c. Do they need a kind word, a listening ear, a smile, or what
  - d. Think about giving to them instead of getting from them
  
3. Be careful not to judge
  - a. Don't judge or say harsh things about the visitor or anyone else for that matter
  - b. Realize that they might be having a tough time and really hurting
  - c. See how you can build up instead be critical

4. Be positive
  - a. Say positive things
  - b. Be friendly
  - c. Be love the person that others can laugh with
5. Appreciate the differences in others
  - a. Be careful not to be jealous of others
  - b. Do not criticize them
  - c. Overlook faults
  - d. Realize that many things go into making a person like they are
6. Be a real, honest, transparent person
7. Develop a friendly mindset
  - a. Get rid of unfriendly behaviors
    - i. If you do not act friendly then people will think that you are not
    - ii. Smile
    - iii. Show trust and kindness
    - iv. Be positive
    - v. Don't come across angry

- b. Be likable
  - c. Think of ways to be friendly
  - d. Start the conversation
  - e. Say hello and introduce yourself
  - f. Don't talk about yourself
8. Remember you are here to serve God by serving others
- a. Your friendship and kindness could make a difference in their life
  - b. You never know what they are going through and how your kindness might change their life
  - c. Concentrate on the person you are talking to
    - i. Do not look beyond them to the next person
    - ii. Be careful to be all there
    - iii. Get them to others you can introduce them to but not hurriedly

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# Organizing our activities

1. Try to organize every special event where we do not miss the service to get ready for the event
2. Be careful not to forget the 3 minute rules
3. Be careful to have people from your class watching for visitors and late comers to greet them
4. Steps to reaching more souls for Jesus
  - a. Let's begin praying that God will move in our midst to reach souls.
    - i. We need His power, direction, and blessings
    - ii. Please be praying for our leaders, members, and guests
  - b. Everyone must work at making more contacts to their members, enrolled, and new people
    - i. We need to encourage our class to make contacts, invite their friends, get us email addresses etc.
    - ii. We need to make 10 contacts to get one more person in our class
  - c. Organize regular get togethers and fellowships for your class
    - i. Have your class invite their friends

- ii. Invite new people yourself
- iii. Go out to eat together, have a backyard BBQ
- d. Set some realistic goals for your class, the number of contacts you will make as a class, the number you will enroll
- e. Set up care groups so that every attender and new members are being worked with. Try to hook up maybe 3 members and 3 guests under one person to contact
- f. Find some needs that your class can meet to reach new people

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# Survey results

- According to a recent survey of the 300 million people in the United States, fewer than 20% regularly attend church. And our research suggests that close to 7.9 million people may be leaving churches annually.

## 1. Why are they leaving the church?

- a. They are too busy
- b. They think that their family and home needs are more important than attending a local church
- c. They moved away from their home church
- d. They are no longer happy with the church because they see the pastor to be judgmental, insincere and lacking good preaching abilities.
- e. They feel that the church members are judgmental and hypocritical.

- f. They said that they saw a lack of harmony, holding grudges, unloving, etc.
- g. They didn't believe that God was at work in the church
- h. Many simply weren't saved

## 2. What can we do to bring them back

- a. 62% of those that left said that they are open to the idea of returning
- b. 41% said that they would return if a friend or acquaintance invited them
- c. Younger adults are even more influenced by the power of the invitation—60% of 18-35 said they would consider returning if someone they knew asked them to come back
- d. Almost 1/3rd of the formerly churched mentioned that if they were to return to church, they would want to be part of a local body where they can make a difference.
- e. They want to feel like God is using them
- f. They would look for a church with high expectations
- g. They want to serve and know that they are contributing to something significant

- h. Nearly half that said they are considering returning said they would do so because they feel it will bring them closer to God
- i. They sense a void in their lives
- j. They want to go to a church that holds their same moral standards
- k. If they return they want sound Biblical teaching that applies to their lives

## **Upcoming plans and prayer requests**

1. World Vision Celebration September 20-23—invite your class, maybe plan an activity with them and the missionary to get them involved, teach your class about Faith Promise, show them the envelope and explain how we give to missions and the church offering first
2. Going to change the name of Diversity Sunday to something else like Multicultural

3. Sunday night September 23 we will have our Spanish outreach banquet—please try to prepare Spanish food but if not bring whatever you like
4. September 29 9:15 am will be visitation breakfast—going to go out and invite people to church and prepare for round up Sunday—rent snow cone machine, have clowns to invite the children in different areas
5. Explain plans for round up Sunday—everyone dress up in cowboy type clothes, have watermelon for the children and a water melon spitting contest, Bar-b-que Chicken, Slaw, Baked Beans, Hamburger Buns, Sweet Tea, Unsweet Tea, Cowboy Boots, Cowboy hat, Cowboy tie
6. October 7 will be Youth Sunday night
7. We need to covenant together to pray that God will work in our different ministries

- a. Master Clubs
- b. Children's church
- c. Sunday School
- d. That each teacher would have the power of God on their lives
- e. That those that sing will have God's touch on their lives
- f. Pray for boldness for all of our people
- g. Pray for me that I would have the wisdom that I should have as pastor and leader
- h. Pray for the finances of our church
- i. Pray that God would direct all of our future

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# Asking God to Help us Reach Souls

1. Chris to talk to us about the Seventy and getting the word out about services, soul winning and witnessing etc,
2. Ask everyone to be careful to contact absent teens and especially those that come for the first time
3. I ask you to give up your doubtful mind along with me  
Luke 12:29
  - a. I think that our doubt may be the single biggest hindrance to what God wants to do at our church
    - i. It causes us to be afraid to invite people to church or to follow Jesus Christ I John 4:18
      1. We are afraid that they won't like it
      2. We think that no one is looking for our kind of church
      3. We feel bad about all this doubt but can't seem to get victory over it

- b. I think our doubt makes us like the double minded man that can get nothing from God--one day we are excited and others we are just embarrassed to invite them
- c. Can I remind you that we are over comers and already have the victory I John 5:4

4. Doubt causes God not to do the work that even He wants to do

- a. He didn't do many mighty works because of their lack of faith Matthew 13:58
- b. God determines to work based on our asking with faith Matthew 21:21-22
- c. He could do no mighty work there Mark 6:5-6
- d. When God's people didn't believe Him He just took His work elsewhere
  - i. The widow of Sarepta Luke 4:25-26
  - ii. Naaman the leper Luke 4:27
  - iii. The Roman Centurion Matthew 8:5-10
  - iv. The woman of Canaan Matthew 15:21-28
  - v. A wicked woman Luke 7:36-50

5. Let's get rid of our doubt

- a. Confess it as sin Romans 14:23, Hebrews 11:6
- b. Believe and ask for help Mark 9:23-24
- c. Don't make excuses. You are not doubting yourself or our church

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# Teacher Training

What is the desired result of all of our efforts in Sunday School? What outcomes are we working to produce in members' lives? How are we expecting them to behave as a result? These questions and more have been on my mind recently.

- **Has a daily quiet time to read the Bible and pray.** Would be more than habit. Would be a genuine seeking for God and his leadership in their lives. Action alone could revolutionize our classes, churches, and world.
- **Reads the lesson weekly.** Prepares for the group Bible study time. Anticipates the learning experience. Wants to learn more about God's Word through reading the pupil commentary.
- **Prays for and invites guests.** Enjoys the fellowship and learning and wants to share it with others. Prays for

prospects by name. Invites them to eat a meal in the home. Invites them to a class fellowship. Invites them to attend a Bible study session. Encourages them to enroll.

- **Shares a Sunday School testimony with prospects.**

This may be a natural step in the previous behavior. Regularly tells others about the benefits of his/her class experience: Bible learning, best friends, ministry in times of needs, and others.

- **Fellowships with class members and guests monthly.**

Desires to be with those who attend class beyond Sunday. Gets together often with attenders for group and individually planned social and ministry experiences.

- **Is willing to help a class friend in time of need.**

Friendships are deep. Willing to give of time, effort, and resources to minister to friends.

- **Communicates with one or more class members weekly.** Related to the previous two behaviors.

Communication flows out of caring relationships. It is

about connecting and ministering. It is about carrying out work of effective classes.

- **Participates honestly and openly in the lesson each week.** An effective class member doesn't sit on the sideline. He/she desires to grow and desires for others in the class to do the same. They are engaged in the lesson. They share honestly. They are transparent, admitting they are not perfect and need help.
- **Serves in some way to strengthen the class, church, and Kingdom.** Again, he/she refuses to keep knowledge about Jesus, God, the Bible, etc. to himself/herself. There is a desire to live it out, to practice what has been learned. There is a need to share the love of the Lord. A place of service is fulfilling to the member and to the class, church, and/or Kingdom.
- **Seeks to meet God in Bible study during class and daily quiet time.** Members desire to worship, to encounter God in Bible study. They seek to meet Him. They seek to hear Him. They seek to understand His will,

His ways, and His purpose for their lives. When you open God's Word, He speaks.

- **Weekly lives out the truth learned in Sunday School.**

Real learning is tested by life-integration. Those encountering God in His Word desire to live out the truth. They are different as a result of the encounter. They realize the need to be different and act differently. They commit to do it.

- **Supports efforts to start new classes.** New classes are able to care for more people. New classes disciple more people. New classes give more opportunities for more people to grow as leaders. New classes enable more people to care for more people. They tend to be more evangelistic and to reach more unchurched people. Class members know that new classes are a great way for the church to carry out the Great Commission.

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# Becoming a Better Teacher!

1. Being a teacher means you are under stricter judgment.

People are watching you. They see what you are doing. You teach more by what you do than by what you say!

**James 3:1** My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

- a. A good teacher is a faithful, consistent follower of Jesus Christ who gives an example to be followed

**Philippians 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

- b. Being a Bible teacher is a Life commitment
- c. If you are not faithful you can't teach others to be faithful
- d. Your actions speak louder than you words

2. Every teacher ought to desire to be a better teacher and be actively working on improving **Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I *do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14** I press toward

the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- a. Ability + opportunity = responsibility
  - b. Every Christian should desire the opportunity to teach others
  - c. Good teachers don't just happen. We have to work at it
  - d. The teacher is the key to success in any Bible class
  - e. The success or failure of a class ultimately lies with the teacher
3. Every Bible teacher should realize how much we need God to work in and through us as we teach
- a. Ask God for help. You have not because you ask not
  - b. Make prayer a regular part of your daily life
  - c. Pray for your students and all that is going on in their lives
4. Be a personal student of the Bible not just a teacher
- a. Work at learning more of the Word of God and more than anything see how you can practice what you learn
  - b. Your students will soon decide if you are a hypocrite or not. They are watching you

- c. Get so full of what you will teach that it spills out of you
- d. You should be very excited about the time with your class and even more than that what you will be sharing with your class
- e. There should be a fire and passion in you as you speak of God, His Word, that your students can easily see is very real to you

5. Not everyone can really teach.

- a. We do not have the same gifts and abilities
- b. As a teacher you must not only learn what the Bible says you must communicate it in words and ways that they can understand
- c. That will really only work as it works in and through you. You really can't separate the teacher from what they are teaching.
- d. It must be lived to really be taught
- e. If it is real to you then it will show in your life and then the teaching of it will simply be overflow

6. You must study

- a. You have to know what you are teaching. You must know the truth
- b. This is not a general knowledge or idea but you have dug down to get what the Bible is saying in the passage you are teaching
- c. You must work hard at studying. If you will not make time to study you really should give up being a teacher
- d. Always make the Word of God the authority in your class. Do not say, well to me this means!
- e. Stay away from opinions or traditions

## 7. Good teaching calls for sacrifice

- a. You will have to sacrifice your time to study, maybe miss some fun things, spend money to get some tools to study
- b. You must give time to study, to meditate, to pray
- c. You must sacrifice to be dependable. This is more important than your job. It is the work of God
- d. You might have another job but it is to give you the funds to do the job that is of eternal value.
- e. Don't come in late to your class-it tells everyone in the class what you think of the class

- f. Some teachers will miss more than be there even when they committed to teach
- g. Sacrifice to really love and like those you teach no matter how difficult

## 8. Get control of yourself

- a. Your life, your teaching, and your person should demand and receive the respect of your students
- b. Be confident, firm, courteous, kind, and considerate
- c. Keep yourself under control-don't get mad at the students
- d. Be in a good mood no matter what is going on around you
- e. Never allow yourself to think that you are a good enough teacher

## 9. Practical steps to improve yourself

- a. Constantly analyze yourself and your class, participation, attention
- b. Record your class, listen to yourself. Listen to them
- c. Accept criticism
- d. Grow spiritually

- e. Work on using new things that you are learning. New ways of communicating the truth

## 10. What to do when

- a. Do not be afraid to say that you do not know and that you will get back with them later
- b. Offer to meet outside of class to further discuss things that someone is dealing with
- c. If you notice your attendance dropping you need to quickly analyze yourself. Do not blame them for not being spiritual
- d. If you notice that they lose interest, come late, etc then again you need to find out what you can do to be more effective. Get participation. Ask questions.

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# Ideas to help us be better teachers!

1. Get you ready before the class
  - a. There is a certain mind set that I need when I am going to teach or preach
  - b. I need to quit thinking about me and my problems
  - c. I need to think about Jesus
  - d. I need to think about my students or those listening
  - e. I need to focus on the lesson, the truth, the material so that it consumes me and the fire will show through as I teach it
  - f. I need to leave my troubles, tiredness, sorrows to one side so that I can be happy, alert, excited and teaching them great truths
2. Be an example of what you are teaching. Set the example!
  - a. Everything is more caught than taught
  - b. It doesn't matter so much what you say as it does what you do

- c. They are watching you. They can tell if you are interested, faithful, living out your faith or not
3. Show compassion. Care about them and their needs, what is going on in their lives.
- a. Birthdays
  - b. Sickness
  - c. Absence
  - d. Deaths in the family
  - e. Any important event
4. Help them see the practical application of any truth that you set before them
5. Know what you are trying to accomplish in each lesson.
- a. it is definitely not to just cover the material
  - b. It has to be a truth that they can learn and apply
  - c. It is not for them to learn a certain amount of facts
  - d. Get set in your mind the major truth that they should carry home today
  - e. Think about mistakes you have made or improvements that you could make to accomplish your goals

- f. Remember things that you will never do
  - i. Lose your cool, get angry
  - ii. Insult even jokingly
  - iii. Call on someone to read or pray that you do not already know would be glad to do so
  - iv. Not greet everyone and shake their hand, etc
  - v. Be careful not to in anyway make someone feel less because of an answer, etc

6. Let your classroom simply open the door for more meaningful interaction outside of class

- a. You are a spiritual leader
- b. You want to see them disciplined
- c. You want to be their mentor
- d. They need to know that they have someone that cares about them all the time

7. Never quit learning yourself

- a. Learn more Bible
- b. Apply more Bible
- c. Grow in your walk with the Lord
- d. Learn more about teaching and communicating

- e. Work at being a better teacher all the time
- 8. Be human. Let them know that you have had to learn these truths. Don't be so perfect that they are sure that it will never work in their lives
- 9. Avoid assuming your students know what you are teaching. Find out by asking questions, having discussions. Even little quizzes
- 10. Always call for action. The truth is to be put into their lives and lived out

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# Teaching our Students to Study the Bible

1. Have your student learn to ask himself the following questions as they read the Bible.
  - a. What **persons** have I read about, and what have I learned about them?
  - b. What **places** have I read about, and what have I read about them?
    - i. If the place is not mentioned, can I find out where it is?
    - ii. Do I know its position on the map?
  - c. Does the passage refer to any particular **time** In the history of the children of Israel, or of some leading character?
  - d. Can I tell from memory what I have just been reading?
  - e. Are there any **parallel passages** or texts that throw light on this passage?
  - f. Have I read anything about God the Father?
    - i. About Jesus Christ?
    - ii. About the Holy Spirit?
  - g. What have I read about myself?
    - i. About man's sinful nature?
    - ii. About the new nature?

- h. Is there anything I should learn to **do**?
  - i. Any example to follow?
  - ii. Any promise to lay hold of?
  - iii. Any exhortation for my direction?
  - iv. Any prayer that I may echo?
- i. How is this Scripture **profitable** for doctrine?
  - i. For reproof?
  - ii. For correction?
  - iii. For instruction in righteousness?
- j. Does it contain the gospel in **type** or in evidence?
- k. What is the **key verse** of the chapter or passage? Can I repeat it from memory?

2. Teach them 4 necessary attitudes and actions for learning the Word of God

- a. Admit its truth
- b. Submit to its teachings
- c. Commit it to memory
- d. Transmit it.

3. What they must learn to do

**a. Feed themselves**

- b. They must learn to **continue reading the Bible**
- c. Help them learn to **read the Bible** more than books about the Bible
- d. Teach them to **carry their Bibles** and to mark them as they learn
- e. Teach them to use a **concordance** and look up things
- f. Teach them to do a **word study** in the Bible from the beginning to the end, first mention, etc
- g. Teach them to spend a few minutes **every day** reading the Bible
- h. Teach them that as they read it is to **learn to be and do**
- i. Teach them to **memorize** the Scriptures
- j. Teach them to **meditate** on the Scriptures

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# Applying the Truth

1. We are to be doers not hearers and so are our students

James 1:22 But be ye **doers** of the word, and not **hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** 23 For if any be a **hearer** of the word, and not a **doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he **beholdeth** himself, and goeth his way, and straightway **forgetteth** what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being **not a forgetful hearer**, but a **doer of the work**, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

2. Our goal is not only to explain the text but to apply it

3. Topical preaching or teaching is often application heavy and not really drawn from the text. Bible teachers can dump info and give truth without any application. We must stay away from both extremes
4. The Scriptures were not written for information but for transformation. The Scriptures are relevant if we can bridge the gap which is our job to do
5. Our job is to take the truth, apply it to their lives, explain how and why it is relevant, and encourage them to make the changes the Scripture is teaching
6. Our job is to first find the truth
  - a. What was meant when it was written
  - b. Who said it to who
  - c. What type of literature is it
  - d. How does it fit in with the rest of Scripture

- e. What did the author mean when he was given that text
- 
- 7. We do not have to make Scripture relevant simply understand how it applies, how it is practical
    - a. Give them illustrations and examples
    - b. Make suggestions to how it might work in their life right now
    - c. Use the Bible to illustrate the Bible
- 
- 8. Good teaching should be persuasive. They should be challenged to apply the truth to their lives
- 
- 9. The preaching saying is, so what and now what
    - a. The application is the main thing to be done from that text
    - b. The application is actually where the lesson begins—how does this truth apply to me
    - c. The truth should drive them to love God more

- d. What they learn and know should lead them to do something
- e. It is the bridge between the Word of God and the world we live in
- f. It is the call for action from the Scriptures

10. Our teaching has accomplished its purpose till the student is thinking and acting differently because of the Word of God

11. Preaching or teaching applied is obedience to the Word of God

- a. All behavior is based on belief
- b. Behind every sin is a lie I believe.
- c. Change always starts in the mind.
- d. To help people change, we must change their beliefs first.
- e. Trying to change people's behavior without changing their belief is a waste of time.

- f. The biblical term for "changing your mind" is "repentance."
- g. You do not change people's minds, the applied Word of God does.
- h. Changing the way I act is the fruit of repentance.
- i. The deepest kind of preaching is preaching for repentance.

12. Be careful that our application is Christ centered and not morality centered

- a. We do not want to slip into legalism
- b. Make sure the student sees the greatness of God and His grace
- c. Make sure they see His love
- d. Be sure that we are not trying to manipulate a certain behavior

13. Always ask any text these 13 questions

- a. Is there an example for me to follow?

- b. Is there a sin to avoid or confess?
- c. Is there a promise to claim?
- d. Is there a prayer to repeat?
- e. Is there a command to obey?
- f. Is there a condition to meet?
- g. Is there a verse to memorize?
- h. Is there an error to avoid?
- i. Is there a challenge to face?
- j. Is there a principle to apply?
- k. Is there a habit to change, either to start or to stop?
- l. Is there an attitude to correct?
- m. Is there a truth to believe?

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# More Meaningful Classes and Learning Experiences

1. Try to get an introduction that helps you grab their attention
2. Try to have the material divided into sections where at most you give a mini lecture before a time of questioning, reflection, review or whatever that helps cement in what you have studied to this point
3. Show them how this subject, lesson, etc is not just for church and Bible study but really applies to their lives
4. Let your class help you develop a relationship with you that makes you accessible, transparent, and allows them to bring questions and concerns without fear or reservation
5. Teach your students to ask good questions about the material that will help them learn it

6. Try to get your students to be reading their Bibles so that they can learn these lessons for themselves
7. Try to get your students involved in discipleship, discipleship
8. Don't give too much material. If you dump too much material they will tend to memorize and be able to repeat but not understand what you are talking about
9. Try to get student participation in your class, make them feel like it is their class
10. Try to help them see how you study the Bible, how do you get the answer. Show them so that they can do the same

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# How we interpret the Bible

1. We interpret the Bible literally
  - a. That means that we seek to understand the Bible in its plain, natural, normal sense. It looks for the clear and obvious meaning of a text.
  - b. It means that we do not believe that God wants to hide His truth from the believer
  - c. We believe He wants to communicate His truth to His own in a very clear way.
  - d. Our responsibility is to simply take God at His Word.
  - e. God means what He says and says what He means
2. Others use what is called the allegorical method of interpretation.
  - a. This interpretation looks for a hidden spiritual meaning which transcends the literal sense
  - b. They cast four anchors out of the boat.
    - i. What do those anchors represent
    - ii. You can imagine how any pastor can interpret them to get his point across
    - iii. There is no way to test this interpretation

- iv. It is the pure imagination of the interpreter
  - v. It means what you want it to mean
  - c. Those who believe in a literal interpretation believe that the five stones represent five stones and David used one to kill Goliath, that is it
3. We realize that any text can have many applications but it only has one meaning
  4. As a careful Bible teacher we must make sure that whatever applications we make are based on the plain, normal, literal sense of the text.
  5. We do not look for hidden meanings in the Bible. Instead we look for the obvious sense of the text.
  6. We do not read in between the lines, we simply read the Scripture in order to determine its plain and simple meaning, based on the normal meaning of the words, their context, and commonly accepted rules of grammar

7. "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; Therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise." David Cooper
8. If the plain sense makes good sense seek no other sense lest it result in nonsense.
9. If we interpret Scripture literally we will notice the differences where God showed a clear difference
  - a. The differences between the Jew, the Gentile and the Church of God.
  - b. The differences between the two comings of Christ.
    - i. He came once and died on the cross
    - ii. He is coming again [John 14:3](#)
    - iii. We are living between the two comings
    - iv. There are great differences in what is described about His coming
      1. He will suffer and die
      2. He will rule and reign

3. His first coming was to a cross
4. His second coming will be to a crown
5. One has all the prophecies fulfilled the other has many prophecies still unfulfilled

c. The differences between the two resurrections.

- i. The first resurrection is that of the saved
- ii. The second resurrection is that of the lost

d. The differences between the judgments.

- i. Judgment seat of Christ
- ii. Great White Throne judgment
- iii. Judgment of the nations

e. The differences between law and grace.

f. The differences between the believer's standing and state.

- i. This means our practice and our position
- ii. This means that though I am a new creature I do not always live like one

g. The differences between salvation and rewards.

h. The differences between believers and professors.

10. The most basic study shows us that God literally created the world in six days

a. He used the word day

- b. He said evening and morning were the first day
- c. He numbered the days
- d. He made day and night
- e. What do you think Moses thought when he wrote the passage
- f. How do you think Jesus interpreted the passage before we had a theory of evolution
- g. How will you interpret the Scriptures

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# Preparing the Outline to Teach

## **1. Start with the text.**

- a. Read the entire context - the chapter or even the book.
- b. Make sure you know to whom who God is talking.
- c. Make sure you know about what what God is talking.
- d. Make sure you get the story in the Biblical context.
  - i. You really do not need any other books to get this context.
  - ii. You just need to read all the Bible stories about the subject.
  - iii. For example if it is talking about a servant look that word up in the Bible and see how it is used—look at the Old Testament and all that word entails—it will put it into context.

## **2. Read it many times.**

- a. Mark it as you read it.
- b. Watch for connecting words.
- c. Watch for repeated words.
- d. Watch and maybe write down every verb.

- e. Look up every word that you do not understand and even those that you think you understand and consider synonyms and antonyms.
- f. Look up all the parallel passages and read them several times.

### **3. Find what God's point is in the passage.**

- a. What is God trying to communicate?
- b. Be careful that you do not look for what you would like to find.
- c. Be careful to not come to the Bible with preconceived ideas.
- d. Get the point and that will be the aim of the lesson.
- e. The aim or point of the passage is what the appeal would be.
- f. It is what the passage is telling me to do.
- g. There may be several aims but we need to be careful to choose at most two primary ones.
- h. Be careful not to be too technical—your job is to take the difficult and make it understandable.

- i. Be careful not to show off your knowledge—they came to hear from God not see you.

**4. Once you know what the text is saying then you divide it into points**

- a. What 3 steps would you take or points would you make to explain the point?
- b. Break the text or the point down to sizeable steps that move a person to the point.
- c. Be sure that the points are in the text and not something that you superimpose.

**5. After you get the 3 or so major points that lead to the conclusion then divide each point into 3 or 4 points that prove that point**

- a. Each point of the message should be able to be a stand alone lesson.
- b. Be careful that every point is born out of the text just like the major points.

**6. Consider what is the practical application of each point.**

- a. How does this apply to me and to my students.
- b. You should have looked for commands and now you are applying them to their lives.
- c. Do not just study the theory—remember it is all profitable or so that means it is useable.

**7. Find a way to illustrate each point.**

- a. Make the illustration be a window or light to the text not the structure or the meat.
- b. Do not over do illustrations.
- c. Use a Bible story if you can then you will be teaching the Bible and illustrating it with the Bible so they will get it double.

**8. Figure out what aids you need to get the message across.**

- a. Maybe you could have something the class could look at.
- b. Maybe you could paint a picture with your words.

**9. Get it so simple that they can take it home.**

**10. There must be a handle on the bucket if you want them to take it home.**

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# Seeing the Differences throughout the Bible

1. Check to see if we are using the simple church software
  - a. Every ministry should be trying to enroll everyone
  - b. Try to get the info on visitors in the software
  - c. Try to get all into a Sunday School class because that is how we will do all of our ministry
  - d. The most important ministry is Sunday School and through that we will get them involved in church
2. Discussion with those in Awana
  - a. You must be careful not to be baby sitting but teaching the Word of God
  - b. You must be very concerned for the eternal souls of all those children
  - c. You must use every opportunity to get the gospel to each of them
  - d. You need to try and work to get every child enrolled in Sunday School and church
    - i. Be sure they are in the Simple Church program

- ii. Be sure that you are working to involve them in all the ministry of the church
- iii. This seems to be the best outreach that we have so please take it seriously
- e. You must realize that there are parents that are attending that may not know God
  - i. You need to befriend them
  - ii. You need to be sure that they hear the gospel
  - iii. You need to see what you can do to get each of them in church and Sunday School
- f. I beg you to take seriously this ministry you have to so many that may not know the Lord Jesus Christ

### 3. Last time we discuss how we take the Bible literally

- a. That means that you are smart enough to know that a parable is a story with a meaning
- b. It means that you know that the thorn in Paul's flesh wasn't a literal thorn
- c. It means you have to study the Bible like it was written and for the reason it was written

### 4. Today we want to focus on some differences in Word of God

- a. We know that God never changes **Malachi 3:6** For **I am the Lord, I change not;** Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
- b. God doesn't change but He deals differently with people at different points over the course of history
- c. We know that God has gradually revealed Himself to man from the beginning till now
- i. That is why we talk about first mention, progressive mention, and full mention in our Bible study
  - ii. Adam didn't know as much about God as Abraham did
  - iii. The apostles had 39 books of Scripture while some before had none and then others only the books of Moses

**Matthew 13:17** For verily I say unto you, That many **prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see,** and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

- iv. Other times we know that the disciples weren't ready to hear and so Jesus didn't tell them **John 16:12** I have

yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

v. Paul learned more and then John even more as he wrote the book of Revelation

d. God has always saved all by grace [Ephesians 2:8](#) For **by grace are ye saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: [9](#) **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

i. That is how He saved Abraham [Genesis 15:6](#) And he **believed** in the Lord; and he **counted** it to him for **righteousness.** [Romans 4:3](#) For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

ii. David was saved the same way [Romans 4:6](#) Even as **David** also describeth the blessedness of the man,

unto **whom God imputeth**

**righteousness without works,**

- e. Though God has always saved by grace there have been many differences throughout the Bible
  - i. We would never bring a lamb to church for a sacrifice like they did in the Old Testament
  - ii. We do not worship on Saturday or the sabbath nor do we put people to death who do work on Saturday or Sunday for that matter
  - iii. In the Old Testament there were a group of priests but today all believers are priests **I Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**
  - iv. Parents are no longer required to circumcise their children
  - v. Adam had a forbidden tree that we know nothing of today
  - vi. Baptism and the Lord's Supper take place in the New Testament and not on the Old Testament

vii. There are even differences in the time Jesus is doing ministry on the earth

1. First in [Matthew 10:5](#) Jesus told His men to preach only to the Jews **These twelve Jesus sent forth,** and commanded them, saying, **Go not** into the way of the **Gentiles,** and into *any* city of the **Samaritans enter ye not:** [6](#) But **go rather** to the **lost sheep of the house of Israel.** [7](#) And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

2. In [Matthew 28:19](#) He tells them to go into all the world **Go** ye therefore, and teach **all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

5. Notice some key events in the Bible that cause these differences

a. The fall of man

i. They were naked and not ashamed [Genesis 2:25](#)

ii. They were naked and ashamed and trying to cover themselves [Genesis 3:7](#)

iii. This event affects us until today [Romans 5:12](#)

Wherefore, as by one man **sin entered into the world,** and **death by sin;** and so death **passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

b. The world wide flood

i. Man was given vegetables to eat [Genesis 1:29](#) And God said, Behold, I have given you **every herb** bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; **to you it shall be for meat.**

ii. After the flood man was given meat as well [Genesis 9:2](#) And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon **every beast of the earth,** and upon **every fowl** of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon **all the fishes** of the sea;

**into your hand are they delivered. 3**

**Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.**

- c. The tower of Babel sees the languages develop all over the world and the human race is divided into nations

[Genesis 11:7-9](#)

- d. God chose Abraham and then God began using the terms Jews and Gentiles. Then circumcision would be commanded which had never happened before
- e. Moses gives written commandments which had never existed before
  - i. Now a mandatory Sabbath to be observed
  - ii. Moses gave the Jews laws about their food to eat and not to eat
- f. The cross of Jesus
  - i. Before the cross God's people worshiped on Saturday
  - ii. After the cross they worship on Sunday
  - iii. Before the cross there are sacrifices and after the cross Jesus is considered the sufficient sacrifice

g. There is a kingdom coming that will have drastic differences [Isaiah 11:6](#) The **wolf** also shall dwell with the **lamb**, And the **leopard** shall lie down with the **kid**; And the **calf** and the **young lion** and the **fatling** together; And a **little child shall lead them.** [7](#) And the **cow and the bear shall feed**; Their **young ones shall lie down together**: And the **lion shall eat straw like the ox.** [8](#) And the **sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp**, And the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. [9](#) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: For the **earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord**, As the waters cover the sea.

# Distinguishing between Israel and the Church

1. Totally different beginnings
  - i. Israel traces its origin to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the 12 tribes
  - ii. The church traces its origins to the gospels, some time between [Matthew 16:18](#) and the day of Pentecost
2. One became a Jew by birth unless he became a proselyte while you only get in the church through the new birth for both Jew and gentile
3. Male Jews were circumcised as sign of the covenant and would be circumcised in the heart if they truly believed. Believers were never required to be circumcised but are circumcised in heart.
4. Israel is seen as the wife of God, Jehovah, the book of Hosea shows us that Israel was an unfaithful wife while the church is the bride of Christ [Ephesians 5:27](#)

5. Israel is a nation chosen by God and the church is an assembly of believers
6. Israel's temple is located in Jerusalem and will be rebuilt while the Christian or the church is individually the temple of the Holy Spirit
7. The nation of Israel had men that God set aside as priests while the church and New Testament shows all believers are a nation of priests
8. Israel fought other nations and people while the church fights spiritual warfare
9. Israel worshipped on the seventh day, Saturday, and the church worshipped on the first day, Sunday
10. Israel worshipped with sacrifices of animals in Jerusalem while the church remembers the Lamb that was slain for them where two or three were gathered together

11. Israel has earthly promises of their kingdom, their land, and their king

12. Israel as an earthly nation still is here on the planet while the church has no earthly citizenship but is a pilgrim and stranger here on the earth

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# Thinking about Discussion in your Class

1. Giving a lecture, lesson, or sermon gives a lot of content and they do learn.
2. Letting them say things, ask questions etc helps them become more sure of what they believe
3. They get the chance to have the teacher, more experience, wiser clarify whatever they are not getting right
4. You get to see what they would say if they were doing the talking and they will be
5. Learning the facts is just the start. How will they apply it? Do they know what it means?
6. They need to learn to express what God is doing in their life.
7. You do not allow them to just talk, you control the discussion. You make sure that they are expressing truth. You find out what they are hearing instead of knowing only what you are saying.

## 8. Discussions

- a. Will help them think, be interested, analyze, and pay attention
- b. You clarify what they are learning
- c. You teach them to solve their own problems with the Scriptures. You find faulty thinking and point them in the right direction.
- d. Discussion will allow others to hear that their friends are learning and growing and may provoke them to do the same
- e. Discussion will let you see into their lives and what is going on
- f. As they speak they will learn to defend what they are saying and be better able to share with others

## 9. Ideas to get them talking

- a. How can we put this truth to work in our lives this week?

- b. How would you explain this to a non Christian, to your friend, or family?
  - c. Can you explain what Jesus or the Bible is teaching here?
10. Be careful to encourage them no matter what is said.
- a. Try to find a positive way to handle the comment
  - b. Even if they are wrong say something like. Thanks for that now lets see how the Scripture handles that
  - c. Don't let anyone take over
  - d. Do not mock or condemn
11. Constantly be thinking of how to keep their interest. You do not want to get so predictable that they no longer are interested
12. Consider how to give homework, a test, a checkup
13. Consider using an interview to help them learn. Ask them questions. Ask someone else questions that will cause people to see what you are talking about

14. Always take time to evaluate what you are doing and see how effective it is
15. Never use discussion as a way to be lazy and not prepare

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# **Communicating the Truths That are so Important!**

1. Our first job is to truly know our material
  - a. Knowing the material would mean that we not only understand it but are living out the truth
  - b. We have learned how the Scripture we will teach relates to the rest of Scripture
  - c. We see how the passage gets to the cross, grace, and Jesus
2. After we know our material we prepare to teach it in a clear, concise, interesting way
  - a. We prepare where we are not afraid of questions
  - b. We prepare knowing what the students are very likely thinking and how to answer their questions and concerns
  - c. We try to decide how we can involve them in the learning experience
3. As an effective teacher we want to develop certain things
  - a. Trust and respect
  - b. An environment where our students feel loved and want to love the others

- c. We want them to understand the Bible and put its truths into practice in their lives
- d. We want them to learn to communicate truth with others

#### 4. We can learn to be better communicators

- a. We are not simply dumping information
- b. They must get the truth and feel the truth
- c. I must communicate my passion, my feelings for the truth
- d. If I learn to express my love and concern even the negative or difficult can be taught without destroying their trust
- e. Watch other communicators. See how they connect. How do they make the points
- f. Don't try to go your own way when you can learn from others also

#### 5. Steps to learning more about communication

- a. We must learn to listen
  - i. We want to understand people
  - ii. We especially want to understand the people that we are teaching
  - iii. Listen to people around you

- iv. Observe them
- v. Get into their lives by learning how they feel and where they are
- b. In class listen also to your students
  - i. Be sure to clarify what they are saying
  - ii. Be careful to avoid conflicts if at all possible
  - iii. Focus on the person speaking
    - 1. Read their body language
    - 2. Repeat their words in your head
    - 3. Do not plan your answer until you have listened
    - 4. Try not to interrupt
    - 5. Try not to top their story
    - 6. Don't tell them that you are not interested by your facial expression
- iv. Avoid seeming judgmental
  - 1. You don't have to agree
  - 2. You do need to set aside judgment and criticism until you fully understand
- v. Show interest
- vi. If they know you love them and want to hear them then they will open up

- c. Read, study, and think on material that teaches about how to communicate and how to teach
    - i. the law of the learner
    - ii. the law of the teacher
  - d. Consider how you understand different communicators
  - e. Consider how your spouse or children understand and learn from others. That will give you more perspective on learning
  - f. Study how Jesus communicated truth in the Bible
6. Remember that good communication includes emotions
- a. The emotions need to fit the truth
  - b. The passion you feel will help them believe or not
  - c. If they don't believe that you believe what you are saying they probably will not believe it
  - d. If it isn't real to you then it will not be real to them
7. Try to leave them with a hook, a handle, a way to take the truth home and apply to their lives
- a. They need an application
  - b. All good truth communication will have to say here is what you do with this

- c. Do they have a bucket to take the truth home with them
- d. Did you make them want to live it out

## 8. Characteristics of a bad communicator

- a. Having a bad attitude or making the students feel that you do
  - i. seeming angry
  - ii. having an ax to grind
  - iii. this actually turns people off to the message
- b. Talking a lot and not saying anything
  - i. fluff
  - ii. repetition just to fill the time
- c. Talking down to the class
  - i. Knowing too much can hinder you
  - ii. If you make them think you know so much they might not feel free to follow or learn
- d. Not connecting

## 9. Characteristics of a good communicator

- a. He has learned to ask questions
- b. Is a friend to his students
- c. Identifies with his class

- d. Uses illustrations well
- e. Shows passion
- f. Teaches you something
- g. Is confident

10. Never, ever, be satisfied that you are doing a good job! You can always do better

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# Teaching them how to study the Bible

Are you involved in discipleship?

Are you a giver?

Do you spend time in God's Word?

Who are you training to do the ministry you are involved in?

Are you living out what you want your students to do?

1. Help them understand why they will be studying their Bible

a. We study the Bible to know Jesus

b. The Scriptures are about Him **Luke 24:44** And he said

unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you,** while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, **concerning me.** **45** Then **opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,** **46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ

to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- c. They must know what the Bible says about eternal life
- d. Teach them to study for themselves and to know on their own what they believe and why they believe it

## 2. Teach them to ask the right questions about each passage

- a. Teach them how to recognize a paragraph, a passage
- b. Teach them that They are to ask "What does the passage say?"
- c. They are to ask "What does the passage mean?"
- d. They are to ask "How should I change?"
- e. "How does this apply to my life, now, where I live, and what I am doing?"

## 3. Practice with them

- a. You can't tell them you have to show them
- b. You do it and they watch
- c. They do it with you
- d. They do it by themselves and you watch
- e. They do it alone and become self feeders

- f. They need to learn to ask good questions that will help interpret the text
  - i. Read through and make initial observations
    - 1. Who are the characters
    - 2. What is going on
    - 3. Where is this taking place
  - ii. Ask the important questions
    - 1. Who is speaking
    - 2. Who is this about
    - 3. Who is God talking to
    - 4. Who are the main characters
    - 5. What is the point of the passage
    - 6. What event is being discussed
    - 7. What can we learn about the people, the main event, the doctrine spoken of
    - 8. When does this happen or will it happen
    - 9. Where is it taking place
    - 10. Why is this being said
    - 11. Why would this happen
    - 12. Why at that time or to that people
    - 13. How will it happen
    - 14. How is it illustrated

iii. Once you understand what is being said you must find out the overall meaning.

1. Why did He include this story
2. What is the primary meaning
3. What is the author trying to communicate
4. Remember the main questions you need to answer is  
What failure of man is being addressed or corrected in this passage
5. How does this get me to Calvary

iv. How does this passage apply to us

1. What actions do we need to take to make this passage do its job in our lives
2. What is God trying to say to me through this passage
3. How am I thinking wrongly about God and need correcting based on this passage

g. Help them see the main point

h. Show them how to get from the passage to Jesus and Calvary

i. Teach them how to apply the passage to every aspect of their lives

4. Give them homework. Expect them to practice

- a. Get real excited about whatever they do on their own
- b. Give them a worksheet
- c. Let the worksheet get them a prize, a ticket to the next event, or something
- d. Don't be ugly to those that don't do but do really brag on those that do the work

## 5. Help them learn more steps

- a. Help them with questions that might explain the text to them
  - i. Who wrote it
  - ii. What was the author talking about
  - iii. What other passages of the Bible talk about this truth
- b. Help them to put the passage in its context
- c. When they read a passage they need to take note of
  - i. The grammar
  - ii. The structure
  - iii. The Genre
  - iv. The mood
- d. Help them ask what the main point of the passage is, Why did God put this passage in the Bible

- e. Teach them to watch for repeated words, connectors, and characters
- f. Teach to look for things that are similar and different in the passage

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# Planning the Lesson

1. What are you trying to accomplish?
  - a. Be very expressive as you teach. This will motivate the student to learn. Try to pique their curiosity
  - b. Try to help them solve a problem so something that they think about incorrectly
  - c. Give them background, Bible knowledge, a summary that might help them see the big picture
  - d. Help them see the structure or organization of the material
2. Be sure to say more than what they can just read for themselves
  - a. Organize the material
  - b. Bring in other verses and stories that make the truth come alive
3. As you teach
  - a. Have an objective, an aim, a point, where you are going
  - b. Leave room for some questions and discussion
  - c. Review what you are teaching so that they remember it

- d. Don't go too fast
  - e. Don't cover too much
  - f. Divide the chunks of material and then take time to let them ask questions, etc
  - g. Use any illustrations, visual aids or whatever you can
  - h. Remember to work on your introduction and your conclusion
- 
- 4. Make connections between what they are learning right now and something that they already know
- 
- 5. Help them learn to anticipate the consequences
- 
- 6. State the truth conversely so that they can think it over clearly
- 
- 7. Help them know your objectives when you start and stop and see if it worked, did they get it

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# Faithful in the Small Things

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is **least** is faithful also in **much**: and he that is unjust in the **least** is unjust also in **much**. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the **unrighteous mammon**, who will commit to your trust the **true riches**? 12 And if ye have not been **faithful** in that which is **another man's**, who shall give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve **two masters**: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

1. The way you handle the ministry you have today proves what you would do with a greater ministry Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is **least** is faithful also in

**much:** and he that is unjust in the **least** is unjust also in **much**.

- a. We might say, if I had more people in my class I would but that is simply not true
- b. We take our class lightly only proving that we are unable to have a greater ministry
- c. What would you do if you were the teacher of 3,000
  - i. Would you study extra hard
  - ii. Would you pray
  - iii. Would you come on time
  - iv. Would you miss for the reasons you currently miss
- d. Someone said that a penny saved is a penny earned, interesting that they didn't say a dollar or a \$1,000
- e. The way you take care of time is by the minute or even second but not by the hour or week

2. What does faithful mean? **Luke 16:10** He that is faithful in that which is **least** is faithful also in **much:** and he that is unjust in the **least** is unjust also in **much**.

- a. Trustworthy, believable, worthy of credit.

- i. Do you live and act in such a way that people can believe you really care about the ministry.
  - ii. Do you handle the small things that God has given you in such a way that you are worthy of the trust?
  - b. Dependable as in faithful in the performance of duty
    - i. Can the students rely on you
    - ii. Are you a dependable messenger
  - c. Faithful would also mean doing things like you really have faith or believe
    - i. Do you believe what you teach
    - ii. Is it important enough to give your entire life to it
  - d. The word faithful means to be loyal, keeping your promises, your word, conscientious, binding
  - e. Faithful is used in meaning true to the original-so in other words being like Jesus
  - f. Faithful speaks of a firm resistance to any temptation to desert or betray
3. We respect people handling money wonderfully better than those handling Bible truth correctly **Luke 16:11** **If therefore ye have not been faithful in the **unrighteous****

**mammon**, who will commit to your trust the **true riches?**

- a. Money is not neutral, it is basically evil **Luke 16:11** If therefore ye have not been faithful in the **unrighteous mammon**, who will commit to your trust the true *riches?*
- i. Jesus calls money unrighteous if you will notice
- ii. When referring to pastors and deacons He calls it filthy **I Timothy 3:3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of **filthy lucre;** but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **8** Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of **filthy lucre;**
- iii. The reference to filthy is made a total of 5 times **Titus 1:7** For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to **filthy lucre;** **11** Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for

**filthy lucre's sake.** I Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for **filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind;

- b. Only God can sanctify money and use it correctly
- c. "We cannot safely use mammon," writes Richard Foster, "until we are absolutely clear that we are dealing, not just with mammon, but with unrighteous mammon"
- d. People who are unfaithful in the way they use money are also unfaithful in the way they use the "true riches" of God's kingdom.
- e. You can't be right about your theology and at the same time heretical in the way we use money.
  - i. Paul was concerned that everything be done right with money II Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.
  - ii. We are to be completely surrendered, devoted, given to Jesus over money Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the

other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

- iii. If God is our Master, then money will be our servant, and we will use our resources in the will of God. But if God is not our Master, then *we will become the servants of money*, and money is a terrible master! We will start *wasting* our lives instead of *investing* them.
- iv. Henry Fielding wrote, "Make money your god and it will plague you like the devil!"
- v. Jesus said, "Make money your servant and use today's opportunities as investments in tomorrow's dividends."

#### 4. Application for today

- a. Use every opportunity wisely
- b. Realize that you can't separate the spiritual from the material
- c. Spiritual growth and understanding is directly related to how you manage your money
- d. Managing your money is more than tithing and giving to missions. It is not about getting rid of 10% so that you are free to do what you want with the 90%. It is about living a Christ life!

- e. Take your class seriously. Quit acting like it is a small thing. Be faithful in whatever you are doing.
- f. Steps to take today
  - i. Really study for your class
  - ii. Come on time
  - iii. Invite your class and stay in touch with them
  - iv. Don't miss unless it is super important
  - v. Don't call in crawl in!
  - vi. Students need stability
  - vii. Teach them to be faithful by your faithfulness
  - viii. Be involved in the discipleship program of our church

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# Preparing your Bible Lesson

1. Don't come to the passage with a predetermined idea of what it means! Do your absolute best to find out what the passage is talking about and make that your opinion to communicate in your class.
  - a. It is very dangerous in Bible teaching to start with an opinion and find Scripture
  - b. True Bible teaching is saying what the Bible says not what you want to say
2. Start your study early in the week or even before so that you can think, pray, meditate on the passage. You will be surprised how much your heart and mind will draw from the passage if you start early enough and pray that the Holy Spirit teach you.
  - a. Never study without praying and asking for Holy Spirit guidance
  - b. Make a habit to think over the passage until you get almost to the point of memorizing the passage

- c. Think on it at night, in the early morning, when you are driving
- 
- 3. Study to learn what you can for your own life before you ever think of what is in it for others.
    - a. Never study to teach rather study to learn
    - b. Ask God to grow you and teach you as you study
- 
- 4. All through your reading and study be asking the regular questions, who, what, when, where, why, and how!
    - a. Take notes
    - b. Circle words
    - c. Ask yourself as you read it through—read it through at least once for every word
- 
- 5. Be sure as you read it to put yourself in the place of those that originally received the message.
    - a. What would a person in that culture and society have thought

b. Study Bible manners and customs so you know who they were and where they were living—read the Old Testament and you will get an idea

6. Read the passage several times, include the verses from before and after to get the entire context. Make a list of all words you do not understand or could get a better understanding if you researched the word.
7. Look for words that are repeated in the passage.
8. Look for the first mention of the word that seems to be central to your study and follow it through the Scripture
9. Compare the use of the word in other passages
10. Make sure you do not accept the meaning of the word today without researching what the word meant in the time of the translation.

a. Peculiar-- Etymology: Middle English peculiar, from Latin peculiaris of private property, special, from peculium private property, from pecu cattle; akin to Latin pecus cattle — more at fee Date: 15th century

i. characteristic of only one person, group, or thing : distinctive

ii. different from the usual or normal:

1. special, particular

2. odd, curious

3. eccentric, queer

iii. synonyms see characteristic, strange

b. divers Function: adjective Etymology: Middle English divers, diverse Date: 14th century. various

11. Look up the word in the dictionary, find its synonyms, use the concordance and Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

12. Look for action verbs to see what is happening in the passage—it may be telling us what to do or what they did.

13. Look for connecting words

a. Wherefore, therefore

b. Then, if, and but

c. Prepositions are good to look for

14. Ask who is writing the passage.

a. Study his story and life

b. Learn what you can about his culture

15. Who is he writing the passage to.

16. What purpose of the passage

17. Look for parallel passages and make sure that they are the same story

18. How does the truth that you think you have found fit the harmony of Scriptures

19. Share the truths you are learning with others in a discussion
  - a.If they do not understand then you can clarify your lesson
  - b.They may mention things that you have not thought of
20. Look at commentaries to make sure that you are not coming up with something that no one else has ever seen

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# Characteristics and behaviors of Great Teachers

1. They come prepared to teach!
  - g. Take the class seriously enough to have studied
  - h. Pray for your class and think of them
  - i. Remember to Learn the truth
  - j. Then learn the student
  - k. They get from one side of the great gulf to the other
2. The best teachers are approachable.
  - a. They are warm and friendly
  - b. They are vulnerable and transparent
  - c. They are passionate.
  - d. They really believe what they teach and it is obvious
  - e. They are enthusiastic
3. They communicate the truth clearly
  - a. Great teachers do not teach more.
  - b. They tend to teach less but with more focus
  - c. They teach one big idea
  - d. They are focused
4. Great teachers stimulate interest

- a. Make eye contact
- b. Change your voice and tone

5. Great teachers involve the students

- a. Get them talking
- b. Get them participating in the class
- c. Help them learn to study
- d. Help them teach the same truth
- e. Great teachers value and respect their students

6. Teach them to cause them to learn and want to continue learning

- a. I am going to learn you a thing or two
- b. Show them how
- c. Build on what they have already learned
- d. Make sure the lesson is applicable to them now

7. Remember the following with teaching

- a. They need to feel safe in your class.
- b. No one will make fun of them or hurt them if they speak
- c. They need to feel the lesson, take it to their heart
- d. Challenge them.
- e. Don't make things easy or it seems unimportant

- f. Stretch them
- g. Show them something that they don't know.
- h. Make it a learning time
- i. Help them learn the Bible study methods and use them

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# Get Excited about Sunday School

1. Make your Sunday School class a great evangelistic tool
  - a. Pray for every student's salvation
  - b. Be sure that they have heard sufficient to be saved
  - c. Be sure that they learn security of their salvation
  - d. So be focused on being a soul winner to those in your class
2. Remember that the primary goal of your class is not fellowship but evangelism
3. Know what you want to accomplish when you walk into your class
  - a. It is not about information but transformation
  - b. Goal number 1 is salvation of all
  - c. Goal number 2 is that they would share salvation with their friends
  - d. Goal number 3 is security of salvation and understanding the Bible truth about that
  - e. Goal number 4 is baptism and church membership where they will continue to grow and mature in Christ

- f. Goal number 5 is that they get involved in discipleship and then start discipling
- 4. Use Sunday School to get more people involved and serving. There is more joy in doing than watching
- 5. Sunday School is an optimal way to be carrying out the great commission on your personal level and the level of your students
  - a. Get them saved, baptized, and serving
  - b. Train them to do the work
  - c. Get them excited about how their life counts for Jesus
  - d. Move them from student to servant

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# Teaching Adults and Teens

## 1. Adults like to be in charge

- a. They may feel like they already know most of the material you are covering
- b. They like to feel in charge, many are control freaks
- c. The only time, in their free time, that they are willing to sit and be taught is church
- d. They definitely do not like being treated like children
- e. Most people do not have a positive memory of school and the classroom
- f. The adult has lots of life experience so they test out all that we say based on what they have already experienced and learned. Often their experiences trump the Word of God for them.
- g. Where they are in life often affects what they will be willing to listen to and learn
  - i. I have a good marriage I do not need a marriage retreat
  - ii. My kids are good no need for teaching about that
  - iii. My money is fine so
  - iv. You get the idea

- h. If they are going to learn they want to know how they can really immediately use the lesson
- i. If it works for them then they will be interested

## 2. How do I connect with adults

- a. Treat them like adults
  - i. Be careful to let them think
  - ii. Give opportunities to speak, question, comment and be genuine about doing so
  - iii. Don't embarrass them
  - iv. Don't put them on the spot
  - v. Even if their answer is wrong think of how to counter without confrontation or embarrassment
- b. Try to understand where they are living and what they need, understand them
  - i. Go out to eat with them
  - ii. Ask questions
  - iii. Listen
  - iv. Don't judge so that they will really be willing to talk
  - v. Be careful to not be such an expert that no one wants to talk to you
- c. Ask them what they need in their relationship with God

- i. I am sure that you have noticed that most feel like they are in pretty good shape
    - ii. Just look at FaceBook and see if that isn't true
    - iii. Give small tests that you do not grade publicly but that might help them see that they do not know
  - d. Be a people watcher
  - e. Get them involved by asking questions that you can use to lead you into the material
  - f. Help them learn how to deepen their walk with the Lord so that it has real personal meaning
  - g. Help them see that you are still a learner
3. Be people centered more than material centered
- a. Watch and see if they are enjoying it
  - b. Test yourself by watching your attendance, their attitude, if they invite people etc
  - c. Somehow help them know that you have a genuine interest in them
  - d. They will not remember your lessons near as much as your love
  - e. Be careful to show them your heart more than your brain

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# Anticipation and Excitement

1. One of our biggest problems as teachers and workers is the desire to see our students excited and anticipating the opportunity to hear the Word of God
  - a. We all wonder why people aren't more excited our our class and ministry
  - b. We want them to get more engaged, invited others, help us!
  - c. We would never admit it but we feel hurt that they don't appreciate the class, the study, the work, our effort
  - d. This becomes like a self fulfilling curse
  - e. Notice the story of Gideon. God wanted him to get rid of the fearful and afraid **Judges 7:3** *Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is **fearful and afraid**, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. **Deuteronomy 20:8** And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man *is there that is* fearful and fainthearted? let him go and*

return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart.

- f. Our fear and worry about our class has the opposite effect on it that we want. It perpetuates itself in others

2. Notice how God slowly removes this from Gideon's heart. The real problem isn't with my students but me!

- a. Gideon's problem-He doesn't really trust God to do the work that He is calling Him to do
  - i. He doubts that God is even with Israel [Judges 6:13](#) And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, **if the Lord be with us, why** then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? **but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us** into the hands of the Midianites.
  - ii. All Gideon can see are his inadequacies [Judges 6:15](#) And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

iii. God has spoken to Gideon but that doesn't matter he wants proof **Judges 6:21** Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and **consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes.** Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

b. Notice how God slowly grows the faith of His man

i. He moved Gideon to build an altar and tear down another altar, small moves but important for him **Judges 6:26** And build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

ii. Gideon still doesn't believe but has the fleece experience

iii. God then tests his faith by removing all that could physically help him

iv. Gideon is still afraid so God sends him down to hear what He is already doing **Judges 7:9** And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for **I have**

**delivered it** into thine hand. 10 **But if thou fear to go down,** go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: 11 And thou shalt **hear what they say;** and afterward shall **thine hands be strengthened** to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

- c. Do you think that the God that has you serving Him is as patient with you as He was with Gideon
- d. Do you think that He might be at work in your life preparing you and making you a better teacher and worker

### 3. Steps you take

- a. Believe the Word of God
- b. Count it a privilege to serve where ever God has opened a door for you
- c. Humble yourself to His ways and His methods **Judges 7:2**  
**And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* **too many** for me to give the Midianites into**

their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me,  
saying, **Mine own hand hath saved me.**

- d. Don't rely on your own abilities and smarts. Get ahold of God in prayer. Ask Him to work. Trust Him. Come excited because you know that He is at work. **Judges 7:16** And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. **17** And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, **as I do, so shall ye do**
- e. Keep working as hard as you can to do what God has called you to do. Work on improving. Never think that you have arrived. **Judges 8:4** And Gideon came to Jordan, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men that *were* with him, **faint, yet pursuing them.**

#### 4. Practical points

- a. No one will be excited unless you are
- b. No one will expect God to do something unless you do
- c. Pray and come believing God
- d. Contact your class-use email, text, calls

- e. Be a listener-it often hurts but it helps in the long run
- f. Show genuine personal interest and connect with them
- g. Answer their questions
- h. Don't turn it into a preaching session. You will preach a bunch but this is a small group on purpose
- i. If we wanted just publication and information then we could just have one large class
- j. Remember teaching is not sharing facts. You must "learn" your student. Not correct grammar but correct for the ministry
- k. The only ones to flunk out of Jesus' ministry walked away on their own. He didn't flunk them He just taught them till they got it
- l. Discipleship is very different from what is commonly thought of as teaching!

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# Wanting More

1. Raise the bar of expectation in your own heart
  - a. Do not be satisfied with people getting to your level
  - b. Do not let your growth or lack there of be an excuse for others to stay there
  - c. Everyone should be giving everything to God
  - d. It shouldn't surprise us when someone surrenders completely to God and does things above their ability
  - e. We should be surprised when our students settle and live like the world
2. Beg God to do His work in the students
  - a. I am but a guide and worker standing between the student and God and His Word
  - b. My job is to ask God to work in them
  - c. My job is that God would take His Word and drive it home to their hearts
  - d. We ask God to move in and through us
3. Be careful to handle the Bible accurately [II Timothy 2:15](#)
  - a. If we are not careful we lead people astray

- b. Be sure that you are teaching what is in harmony with the whole Bible
- c. Be sure that you have read the entire book of the Bible you are teaching from to get the truth from what you are teaching
- d. Listen to the passage and get the spirit and lesson it is teaching
- e. Get some good simple guidelines to help you
  - i. Warren Wiersbe Outlines of Old and New
  - ii. Wilmington's Guide to the Bible
  - iii. Halley's Bible Handbook
- f. Your job is to discover the meaning, doctrines, principles and application of the passage
- g. Make sure you say what the text says and help people see what it means and how it applies

#### 4. Understand your audience and make application

- a. Be willing to answer questions
- b. Help the student discover the meaning
- c. Be prepared to lead the study so that the time is not wasted in meaningless questions and discussion

5. Main principles to remember when teaching any passage of the Bible
  - a. Context
    - i. What is the big idea of the book you are studying
    - ii. What is the big idea of the chapter
    - iii. Have you found the paragraph
  - b. Words, repetition
  - c. Study sentence structure
  - d. Verbs, commands
  - e. Ask the main questions about the text, who, what, when, where, why, how
  - f. What are the commands
  - g. What doctrine is mentioned or taught
  - h. What is the theme
  - i. Do ask what it means to them but rather what does it say
  - j. What does this passage teach us about God
  - k. What are you going to do with what this passage says
6. Get the point of the passage and let that be the goal of your lesson and class

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# First Steps in Discipling Others

1. Be sure that you are a person of integrity [Psalm 15:1](#)

Lord, Who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? [2](#) He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaketh the truth in his heart. [3](#) *He that backbiteth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his neighbour, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 4* In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; But he honoureth them that fear the Lord. *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. 5* *He that putteth not out his money to usury, Nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

- a. We are to live out our faith [Psalm 15:2](#) He that

**walketh uprightly,** and **worketh righteousness,** And speaketh the truth in his heart.

- b. The truth is to come from our heart [Psalm 15:2](#) He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And **speaketh the truth in his heart.**

- c. We are not to be gossips or hurt our neighbors, friends, and brothers **Psalm 15:3** *He that* **backbiteth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his neighbour, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.**
- i. If there is a problem go to them and speak to their face
  - ii. If you can't help them then go to a person that can.
  - iii. Do not talk to others even asking prayer requests
  - iv. Do not hurt people around you
  - v. Do not get in fights that aren't your fights
- d. Love truth and hate sin **Psalm 15:4** *In whose eyes a* **vile person is contemned;** But he **honoureth them that fear the Lord.** *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*
- e. Tell the truth even if it hurts **Psalm 15:4** *In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; But he honoureth them that fear the Lord.* ***He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.***
- f. Don't take advantage of people even financially  
**Psalm 15:5** *He that* **putteth not out his**

**money to usury,** Nor taketh **reward**

**against the innocent.** He that doeth these *things* shall never be moved.

2. Be sure you have replaced your old life with the new

Ephesians 4:22 That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the **old man,** which is **corrupt**

according to the **deceitful lusts;** 23 And **be**

**renewed** in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye

**put on the new man,** which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore

**putting away lying,** speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be

ye **angry, and sin not:** let not the sun go down

upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let

him that **stole steal no more:** but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that

he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let **no**

**corrupt communication** proceed out of your

mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all **bitterness**, and **wrath**, and **anger**, and **clamour**, and **evil speaking**, be put away from you, with all **malice**: 32 And be ye **kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- a. We are to put off the old and put on the new
- b. We have been saved but now we are to start living it out

Ephesians 4:22 That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the **old man**, which is **corrupt** according to the **deceitful lusts**; 23 And **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

- c. We stop lying and start telling the truth [Ephesians 4:25](#)  
Wherefore **putting away lying**, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.
- d. We do not let anger take control of us [Ephesians 4:26](#) Be ye **angry, and sin not**: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27](#) Neither give place to the devil.
- e. We have stop stealing and started giving [28](#) Let him that **stole steal no more**: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
- f. We have stop using words to hurt people and started using words to encourage and build up [Ephesians 4:29](#)  
Let **no corrupt communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
- g. We are sensitive to the fact that God's Holy Spirit lives in us and we do not want to offend Him [Ephesians 4:30](#) And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

h. We are getting rid of the normal lifestyle of lost people and who we were [Ephesians 4:31](#) Let all **bitterness,** and **wrath,** and **anger,** and **clamour,** and **evil speaking,** be put away from you, with all **malice:**

- i. Bitterness-holding a grudge, being hostile, resentful
- ii. Wrath-leaving rage behind, an intense anger
- iii. Anger-stop being irritable, furious
- iv. Clamour-loud, angry protests
- v. Evil speaking-slander, blasphemy

i. We are going to be loving and kind [Ephesians 4:32](#) And be ye **kind one to another,** **tenderhearted, forgiving one another,** even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- i. Kind, easy, benevolent, generous
- ii. Tenderhearted, feeling for others, compassionate
- iii. Forgiving

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# Lifestyle of Obedience

1. Ask who used the software to take care of their class
2. We want to get everyone in the church on one of our Sunday School rolls
  - a. Please involve a student in your class as the outreach leader that will see to it that all absentees are contacted
  - b. Please also have a care leader for every 5 to 8 students
  - c. Then the outreach director can work through them to make sure all are contacted regularly
  - d. Please get everyone's picture into the software
  - e. Please get all birthdays, anniversary's, date of salvation, date of baptism, date they joined, which family they are connected to, and all other data you can get
    - i. Use this opportunity to have serious talks with your students
    - ii. D L Moody's Sunday School teacher found out he had cancer and was contacting all of his class, that is how Moody heard the gospel and got saved

- f. Please do not take anyone off of your role unless they ask you to do so.

- 3. Remember your goal as a teacher is to get them into a lifestyle of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have**

**commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always,

*even* unto the end of the world. Amen. Joshua 1:8 This

book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but

thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou**

**mayest observe to do according to all**

**that is written therein:** for then thou shalt

make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- a. We make sure that they are saved
- b. If they are obedient they will be baptized
- c. They will be faithfully attending all the services possible
  - i. Teach them how to attend church
  - ii. Teach them to arrive early
  - iii. Teach them to bring a notebook and ink pen

- iv. Teach them to sit at the front
- v. Teach them to pray to hear, understand, and learn
- vi. Teach them to pray for the teacher and preacher
- vii. Teach them to listen expecting God to say something to them
- viii. Teach them not to talk and disturb others during the service
- ix. Teach them to resist distractions
- x. Teach them to look up every reference
- xi. Teach them to respond in the service
- xii. Teach them to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit
- d. They will be giving a tithe
  - i. Please start teaching children to tithe
  - ii. Children will be far more ready to listen and learn than adults
- e. They will spend time in their personal devotions each day
  - i. You should be teaching them how to read the Bible each day
  - ii. You should teach them how to pray
  - iii. You should teach them how to hear from God everyday
- f. Teach them to be concerned for lost people

- g. Teach them to care for their brothers and sisters
- 
- 4. Remember that real learning is obedience and change
    - a. Remember it will not touch them unless it touched you first
    - b. Make sure you are applying this truth in your life first
    - c. Make much of God and His Word
    - d. Let their eternal condition weigh heavily on your heart

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# Being the Best Sunday School Teacher You Can!

1. Pray for your students on a regular basis! Let them know you do! Be interested in their lives
2. Let them know you love them. Tell them in the class, contact them. Tell them in person. Be overly expressive
3. Prepare your lesson with anticipation and prayer. If you are unprepared, bored yourself then they will be also
  - a. Questions that you should ask yourself about your class
    - i. Did they hear anything that they have never heard before, better explained, etc
    - ii. How many times are they looking at their watch
    - iii. Was it good enough that they want to invite a friend
  - b. Are you learning as you prepare or do you already know it all
  - c. Are you excited about what you are learning
  - d. Do you enjoy preparing for your class
4. Remember that you have to make the Bible boring it is not! If it is then you need to work on getting more excited about it and presenting it in an excited manner

- a. Watch their eyes
  - b. Notice their interest or lack there of
  - c. Make it fun
  - d. Make it a time of getting together with your best friends to talk about your favorite subject
5. Everything rises and falls on leadership! I often hate that statement but there is great truth in it
- a. Good teaching will not necessarily grow a class, but bad teaching will definitely kill a class.
  - b. Always seek more training
  - c. Sunday School is for reaching, teaching, and growing believers
6. Allow some participation.
- a. Try to involve the students in your class
    - i. Let someone else take the prayer requests
    - ii. Let someone else lead in prayer
    - iii. Let someone else help plan activities
  - b. Do not call on people to read
  - c. Do ask for prayer requests
  - d. Do let them ask questions
  - e. Do be in control of the discussion

- f. Remember, our classes are small groups. They want to know each other, love each other, spend time together. Don't turn it all into a lecture
- 7. Break down any deep or big thought into bite sized chunks. Do not try to teach too much in one week
  - a. Remember to keep it simple
  - b. Remember to give them a handle that they can carry the truth home with
  - c. Get the main idea and drive it home
  - d. Look up any hard words and be ready to explain them
  - e. Give cross references that help understand the passage
  - f. Do not let the class time drag
- 8. Remember that teaching Sunday School is spiritual work
  - a. Be careful about your daily walk
  - b. Be prayerful about your class and what you will teach
  - c. Have your daily time with the Lord
  - d. Be sure that you keep close accounts with the Lord
  - e. Don't let jealousy, wrong thoughts, bad attitudes sneak in and cripple you
  - f. Be sure that you keep growing

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# Helping the Student Apply the Truth

1. Application is the most neglected yet the most needed stage in the preparation of our lesson
  - a. It is not enough to interpret the Bible
  - b. It is not enough to understand what the Bible is saying
  - c. They need to know what it says
  - d. They need to know how it works
  - e. They need to know how it will make a difference in their lives
2. The Bible was not given as a source of information but transformation
  - a. Our goal is not for them to do something with the Bible
  - b. The goal is for them to allow the Bible to do something in and to them
  - c. We want our students to be changed by the Bible
3. Our goal is to make the truth attractive
  - a. The truth maybe hard but there is a reason to do it

Titus 2:9 **Exhort servants** to be obedient unto their own masters, *and to please them well in all things;*

not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**

- b. The danger of Bible study is that it becomes intellectual but not transformative so it frustrates the student
  - c. There must be a change in the person, conviction, transformation, or we have failed
4. Be careful to apply and not make the mistake of
- a. Interpreting the Bible without a life changing application
  - b. Seeing superficial obedience without heart and life change
  - c. Learning to do away with repentance and change by rationalizing why this truth doesn't apply
  - d. Touching the emotions without real life change
  - e. It is not about talking but walking what you talk
5. We must get them to look in the mirror so that they can make the changes James 1:21 Wherefore **lay apart** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness** the **engrafted word**, which

is able to **save your souls.** 22 But be ye **doers** of the word, and not **hearers** only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a **hearer** of the word, and not a **doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his **natural face in a glass:** 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway **forgetteth what manner of man he was.** 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being **not a forgetful hearer, but a doer** of the work, this man **shall be blessed in his deed.**

- a. We must get the right interpretation, what does it say.
- b. There will be one interpretation but many applications
- c. We look for the Scripture to convict and reprove, shows us what is wrong that needs to be fixed [II Timothy 3:16](#)

**All scripture** *is* given by **inspiration** of God, and *is* **profitable** for doctrine, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for instruction in righteousness:

- d. It also speaks to how to do right, the positive **for instruction in righteousness:**

## 6. Steps to make application

- a. We must know what the text says.

- b. We must know ourselves

- i. How am I doing in those things that help me grow spiritually

- 1. Bible study

- 2. Bible memorization

- 3. Prayer

- 4. Reading other material

- ii. What areas I am asking God to work on in my life

- iii. What wrongs need correcting

- iv. What things am I not doing that I should be doing

- v. How is our family life

- vi. How is my church life

- vii. How are you at work

- viii. How are you in your community

- c. As I learn to apply the Word in my own life I can help others apply in their live

- i. The Word will expose my sin

- ii. I will find God's promises in the Word

iii. I will know what God thinks about things as I get into the Word

d. Memorize and meditate on the Word

e. Put in practice what you are learning

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# **Advantages of your Sunday School Class over the Preaching Hour**

1. I don't want you thinking that what you do isn't super important.
  - a. It is easy to think that since you are not preaching to the big crowd that your job isn't important
  - b. It is easy to think that they are only children or teens
  - c. It is easy to not believe that God is doing something big in you so I want to take a minute and disagree with your negative thoughts
2. Personal relationship
  - a. You can know them personally
  - b. You can remember their birthday
  - c. You can know when they are sick or in need of special help
  - d. You can pray for them by name regularly because there aren't so many of them
  - e. You can lead them in the "one another ministries"

3. You can answer questions
  - a. You can allow for discussion
  - b. You can respond easily because you know them better
4. You can give opportunity for them to try some leadership and ministry gifts
5. Your students are much more likely to open up and feel part of the ministry. Somebody said circles are better than rows
6. Smaller can be more fun and relaxed
7. You can put personal interest in a person you are training to become a teacher also
8. People can make friends, really get to know each other which is vitally important to having people stick in church
9. Since people really know each other they can be encouraging and challenging each other

10. It is easier to bring a friend to meet with your friends
11. It is easier to know the needs of others in your small group
12. Dangers of your Sunday School class
  - a. Small can be scary
  - b. You have to teach your class to go out of their way to be friendly
  - c. You can't let little fights fester and turn into something that destroys the class
  - d. Discussions can get off track and make the class hard to lead
  - e. People have to be taught to be encouraging and challenging
  - f. You can be too relaxed

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# Getting Ready to teach

## 1. Am I ready to teach?

- a. Before I teach I should thoroughly examine myself.
- b. I should not teach others until God has taught me the lesson that I am teaching
- c. I can not expect my class to grow in their walk with the Lord if I am not doing so
- d. I must remember that I can never take my students where I have not already been

## 2. Have I bathed my lesson in prayer?

- a. I must pray for myself before I prepare the message and as I prepare the message
- b. I need to ask God to help me rightly divide the Scriptures as I prepare to teach
- c. Prayer shows my utter dependence on the Holy Spirit of God to do the work in my class
- d. Pray for your students that God would already be working in their hearts even before they get to the class

- e. Have you asked God to do the work in you from the passage before He does it in the students
- 3. Do I know who and what I am teaching for?
  - a. It is for Him not even for the students
  - b. It is to honor and glorify God
- 4. Questions to ask yourself as you prepare the lesson
  - a. What examples are there to follow from this lesson
  - b. What are the commands that we should obey
  - c. What are the mistakes or even sins that we should avoid
  - d. What Biblical principles do I find in this lesson to live by
- 5. Bible Study Methods--Ask yourself the following questions
  - a. What is the text saying—read the passage many times to know for sure—do not forget to get the whole context
  - b. What does it mean?
  - c. Why did He write it?
  - d. How should I respond to these truths?
  - e. What difference will this make in my life?
- 6. Teaching the lesson

- a. Ask yourself what is the best way to present this subject
- b. What object lesson can you use
- c. Memory verse
- d. Story to tell
- e. Drama that the kids can get involved in—also the adults

7. Thoughts on story telling

- a. Know the story real well
- b. Never read it just tell it
- c. Add details
- d. Be descriptive
- e. Be enthusiastic
- f. Get the students involved
- g. Prepare some visuals
- h. Act out the story
- i. Lose yourself in the story
- j. Move around
- k. Change your voice
- l. Make sure to look every student in the eye

8. Think back over the lesson
  - a. What could you have done better
  - b. What caught their attention
  - c. Think over what you saw Ed Dunlop do to control the environment

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# Motivating our Students to Learn the Word of God

1. Help the students identify with you!
  - a. The student needs to feel that the teacher understands them
  - b. Tell it like it is
    - i. Don't be so technical
    - ii. Don't try to impress with words
    - iii. Just tell the truth
    - iv. They know if you know what you are talking about in the way it relates to their lives
    - v. If you just teach ideas they will know you don't really know
  - c. Try to understand where they live and what they are going through
    - i. Great teaching is the Word of God
    - ii. But to make it connect you must get to the student
    - iii. You must understand them
    - iv. You must be able to relate real truth to real life
    - v. Understand them then you will understand how to make the Bible apply to them
    - vi. You can't live in the White House and understand Waffle House

- vii. You can't live in a bubble and understand the real world
- d. Tell them about your own struggles
  - i. If you are perfect you will discourage more than motivate because no one can relate to you
  - ii. If God helped you then maybe He can help me
  - iii. Don't be so worried about keeping up your appearance that you can't help them see how God worked in your life
- e. Develop a personal relationship with your students
  - i. More is caught than taught
  - ii. Be a friend
  - iii. Be concerned about their lives and what is going on with them
  - iv. Listen so you can talk
  - v. Ask questions and get to know them
- f. Be willing to laugh at yourself
  - i. If you are too hung up on yourself then the students will never identify with you
  - ii. If you make a mistake just learn to laugh with everyone else
  - iii. Have fun
  - iv. Let them enjoy being with you

- v. If you are real they will know. And just being human means sometimes something funny will happen

## 2. Believe in your students and make sure that they know it

- a. Be honest about their development
  - i. Watch for the little things
  - ii. Do not lie about it to brag on them
  - iii. Watch them and see their growth
- b. Find what they are doing that you can brag on
- c. You can show them what they are doing wrong as long as you show them what they are doing right first and more
  - i. They will need you to correct them
  - ii. But they get fussed at a bunch already so how about finding something positive to say
  - iii. Say the positive more
  - iv. They get beat up every where they go and maybe even at home
  - v. Create an environment of believing in them
- d. Don't be critical
  - i. It is easy to see all their mistakes
  - ii. It is easy to nitpick
  - iii. Help them do better but don't be "always putting them down"

- e. Be critical but only when they know you love them
- f. Someone said they do not care how much you know till they know how much you care
- g. Find their potential, let them know you see it, and keep telling them you believe in them and know that they can reach their potential
- h. Brag on them publicly
- i. Be excited about their accomplishments
- j. Help them see where they can be
- k. Have double vision
  - i. See where they are and where they can be
  - ii. Let them hear you telling them that they are the mighty man of valor

### 3. Help them believe that God can use them

- a. Be careful not to be telling them what they ought to do
  - i. It should be how to do it
  - ii. It should be why to do it
- b. If we tell them what they ought to be doing without the how to do it they will only be discouraged and beaten
  - i. They may not read their Bible simply because they do not know how

- ii. Show the student how to read and get something from the Bible
- iii. Show them how to do their devotions
- iv. Teach them how to make it fun and to grow them
- c. Help them see how the Word of God works in their life
- d. Help them learn to apply it
  - i. If we teach them facts and information they will not be interested
  - ii. If they see how it will work in their life then they will like it
  - iii. If they see how it will make them a success then they will be eager to learn
- e. So if I understand them and where they live I can give them a map of how to get to where God wants them to be
- f. We can't descend from the heavenly's say something from the Bible and just go back up into the heavenly's
- g. If they see how God's Word works in their life then they will want to be listening and learning
- h. They will become blessed and successful
- i. They will see how God can use them because the Bible applies to them and works in their life

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# Becoming the Best Teacher/ Preacher that I can!

1. Be passionate about what you are teaching. The best lesson taught without passion lacks life, seems dry, makes people not want to listen or learn
  - a. It means you have to **pray** about it till you are certain God is going to help you
  - b. It means you have to **study** till you are sure that you are going to explode with the truth
  - c. You have to think of how these truths are going to change their lives so much that you get really excited about what you are going to be teaching
2. Passion without substance is a waste of time and energy.
  - a. We are tempted to take short cuts on our study and preparation
  - b. Help them learn the Bible
  - c. Teach them the books of the Bible
  - d. Have them learn memory verses and teach them what they are about
  - e. Teach them how to find books in the Bible

- f. Teach them tricks or tools for using their Bibles
- g. Explain the concordance, cross references, underlining, marking their Bibles

### 3. Teach them Bible Study principles

- a. The point is to teach them to study on their own
- b. They must become self feeding Christians
- c. The harmony of the Scriptures
- d. Context
- e. Parallel passages
- f. First, progressive, and full mention
- g. How Scripture interprets itself
- h. How to recognize different types of literature, figurative, literal, etc
- i. Teach them to ask the right questions
  - i. Who is he talking to
  - ii. Is this to an individual or to a nation
  - iii. What is the message of the story
- j. Teach them that the Bible is to interpreted by the same rules and principles that we use with any literature
  - i. Take everything literally until there is reason to do otherwise
  - ii. Look up the meaning of words

- k. Teach them that no doctrine stands on one isolated verse
  - l. Teach them to look for an application once they have figured out what He is saying
  - m. Teach them to interpret the unclear by what is clear in the Bible
4. Good teaching means listening to see if they are getting it
- a. That means you want some response in the class
  - b. It means that you learn to ask questions
  - c. Give tests though you do not give tests
  - d. Good teaching means caring that they learn the greatest truths of all time
5. Good teaching is becoming a mentor
- a. That means helping them learn why they should learn
  - b. It means being there outside of class
  - c. It means that they know that they can call you
  - d. It means living life together
  - e. It means having fun, crying together, being their pastor

# Being the Best Sunday School Teacher You Can!

1. Pray for your students on a regular basis! Let them know you do! Be interested in their lives
2. Let them know you love them. Tell them in the class, contact them. Tell them in person. Be overly expressive
3. Prepare your lesson with anticipation and prayer. If you are unprepared, bored yourself then they will be also
  - a. Questions that you should ask yourself about your class
    - i. Did they hear anything that they have never heard before, better explained, etc
    - ii. How many times are they looking at their watch
    - iii. Was it good enough that they want to invite a friend
  - b. Are you learning as you prepare or do you already know it all
  - c. Are you excited about what you are learning
  - d. Do you enjoy preparing for your class
4. Remember that you have to make the Bible boring it is not! If it is then you need to work on getting more excited about it and presenting it in an excited manner

- a. Watch their eyes
  - b. Notice their interest or lack there of
  - c. Make it fun
  - d. Make it a time of getting together with your best friends to talk about your favorite subject
5. Everything rises and falls on leadership! I often hate that statement but there is great truth in it
- a. Good teaching will not necessarily grow a class, but bad teaching will definitely kill a class.
  - b. Always seek more training
  - c. Sunday School is for reaching, teaching, and growing believers
6. Allow some participation.
- a. Try to involve the students in your class
    - i. Let someone else take the prayer requests
    - ii. Let someone else lead in prayer
    - iii. Let someone else help plan activities
  - b. Do not call on people to read
  - c. Do ask for prayer requests
  - d. Do let them ask questions
  - e. Do be in control of the discussion

- f. Remember, our classes are small groups. They want to know each other, love each other, spend time together. Don't turn it all into a lecture
7. Break down any deep or big thought into bite sized chunks.  
Do not try to teach too much in one week
- a. Remember to keep it simple
  - b. Remember to give them a handle that they can carry the truth home with
  - c. Get the main idea and drive it home
  - d. Look up any hard words and be ready to explain them
  - e. Give cross references that help understand the passage
  - f. Do not let the class time drag
8. Remember that teaching Sunday School is spiritual work
- a. Be careful about your daily walk
  - b. Be prayerful about your class and what you will teach
  - c. Have your daily time with the Lord
  - d. Be sure that you keep close accounts with the Lord
  - e. Don't let jealousy, wrong thoughts, bad attitudes sneak in and cripple you
  - f. Be sure that you keep growing

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# Getting a Biblical Worldview into Our Students

1. Do our students and we as teachers and leaders have a Biblical Worldview?
  - a. Our world view is formed in great part by our culture
  - b. The books we read
  - c. The education we have received
  - d. Television and the internet help form our worldview
  - e. Our worldview affects everything
    - i. Our personal standards of right and wrong
    - ii. The way we handle our money
    - iii. The way we vote
    - iv. The way we treat our family
    - v. The attitude we have towards God and church
2. What is a Biblical worldview
  - a. Believing that there is an eternal, personal, Creator God
  - b. Believing that God has in the Scriptures revealed Himself, His character, His purposes, etc
  - c. That He has given us a revelation of Himself in His Scripture
  - d. There is absolute truth and it is determined by God and revealed to us in His Word

- e. Right and wrong are not determined by popular opinion or our personal feelings
- f. Truth and right and wrong do not change but are eternally established by God Himself

3. Our students and our whole church must see the importance of developing a Biblical worldview

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days**

**perilous times shall come.** 2 For men shall be

lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers,

incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than

lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying

the power thereof: **from such turn away.** 6 For

of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead

captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers

lusts, 7 **Ever learning, and never able to**

**come to the knowledge of the truth.**

- a. This is an accurate description of the day we live in

- b. Today new truth and reality seem to come forward every day
- c. People are more aware of false gods and religions today than ever
- d. The temptation is right in front of them via the internet that has made the world so small
- e. People choose to believe what feels good to them and what will allow them to fit in with their friends and the society around them

4. For most people everything is relative

- a. They make their own truth
- b. Things aren't right and wrong in themselves just for you but not necessarily for me
- c. Tolerance is the new motto but only if you are tolerant also
- d. Our children are affected by this every day in school, on TV, on the internet, and even playing with their friends
- e. The adults in our church fall into this more than they would ever want to admit
- f. Everyone who believes in God and does the best that they can will get to Heaven and God
- g. We should respect all faiths

- h. Doctrine isn't important
- i. We should all just love each other and get along

5. A Biblical worldview is extremely clear

- a. God is the creator, the judge, the decider
- b. His Son, Jesus, is the only way to God and Heaven
- c. All men have sinned and are in need of salvation
- d. All roads do not lead to God
- e. People who die without Christ go to an eternal Hell
- f. We do not determine what we are supposed to do with our lives
- g. We do not determine what is truth or right and wrong
- h. Your opinion really isn't important but rather what does God say
- i. A biblical worldview is believing in God as He is revealed in Scripture.
- j. It is looking to the Bible, and the Bible alone, as the source and authority for your belief.
- k. It is not what you feel, not what you've heard, not what is popular, not what is acceptable, not what is perceived as hip or cool, and not what fits in with contemporary culture.

6. How do we help them develop a Biblical Worldview
  - a. Get them into the Bible every class
  - b. Have them memorizing verses and learning what they mean
  - c. Teach them to meditate on the Word so that it begins to permeate their hearts and souls
  - d. Get them to listen in all the services so that they can articulate what is being said and make sure that they are understanding
  - e. Get them involved in discipleship so that their hearts and minds are more affected
  - f. Don't waste time on things of no importance when it is time to teach
  - g. Bring every thought into captivity to the Scriptures in your class
  - h. Get them reading their Bibles and making notes
  - i. Reward Bible reading by letting them share something
  - j. Be careful to have discussion so you know if you are getting through to them
  - k. Help them realize that they are in a war
  - l. Let them bring questions from school and see how the Bible responds to what they are being taught

m. Be kind but do confront false teaching, thinking and doctrine when you need to

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# Personal Evaluation

1. Am I ready to teach?
  - a. Before I teach I should thoroughly examine myself.
  - b. I should not teach others until God has taught me the lesson that I am teaching
  - c. I can not expect my class to grow in their walk with the Lord if I am not doing so
  - d. I must remember that I can never take my students where I have not already been
2. Have I bathed my lesson in prayer?
  - a. I must pray for myself before I prepare the message and as I prepare the message
  - b. I need to ask God to help me rightly divide the Scriptures as I prepare to teach
  - c. Prayer shows my utter dependence on the Holy Spirit of God to do the work in my class
  - d. Pray for your students that God would already be working in their hearts even before they get to the class

- e. Have you asked God to do the work in you from the passage before He does it in the students
- 3. Do I know who and what I am teaching for?
  - a. It is for Him not even for the students
  - b. It is to honor and glorify God
- 4. Questions to ask yourself as you prepare the lesson
  - a. What examples are there to follow from this lesson
  - b. What are the commands that we should obey
  - c. What are the mistakes or even sins that we should avoid
  - d. What Biblical principles do I find in this lesson to live by
- 5. Bible Study Methods--Ask yourself the following questions
  - a. What is the text saying—read the passage many times to know for sure—do not forget to get the whole context
  - b. What does it mean?
  - c. Why did He write it?
  - d. How should I respond to these truths?
  - e. What difference will this make in my life?
- 6. Teaching the lesson

- a. Ask yourself what is the best way to present this subject
- b. What object lesson can you use
- c. Memory verse
- d. Story to tell
- e. Drama that the kids can get involved in—also the adults

7. Thoughts on story telling

- a. Know the story real well
- b. Never read it just tell it
- c. Add details
- d. Be descriptive
- e. Be enthusiastic
- f. Get the students involved
- g. Prepare some visuals
- h. Act out the story
- i. Lose yourself in the story
- j. Move around
- k. Change your voice
- l. Make sure to look every student in the eye

8. Think back over the lesson
  - a. What could you have done better
  - b. What caught their attention
  - c. Think over what you saw Ed Dunlop do to control the environment

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# True Discipleship

1. True discipleship is more than a lesson from a book
  - a. It is life on life
  - b. It is loving them as your family
  - c. It is investing or pouring yourself into another person
  - d. It is with-ness **Mark 3:14** **And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,**
2. Use the right method
  - a. Allow your disciple to think for himself and to make mistakes
  - b. Consider what Jesus did with his disciples
    - i. Luke 10:1, 17
    - ii. Luke 8:22, 25
    - iii. John 6:6
3. What to do in the actual session
  - a. Start with prayer
  - b. Teach him to read his Bible each day

- i. Don't forget that you can't ask him to do anything that you are not doing
- ii. You will be accountable to him as he is to you
- iii. He is to read a passage that is the same one that you are reading
- iv. He is to keep a written record
  - 1. Date, text
  - 2. What the passage says
  - 3. How he can apply it to his life
- v. Discuss what he has read each day the past week and motivate him to read to get something from the word each day
- c. Have him take notes on all the Pastor's messages and Sunday School so that you can discuss what he doesn't understand [Matthew 13:10-17, 36](#)
- d. Go over the Bible verse for the week
- e. Each week have him memorize 5 books of the Bible until he has memorized all the books of the Bible and can successfully find Bible passages
- f. Ask him what he is dealing with or might have a question about so that you can help him from the Scriptures
- g. Take the lesson of the week and go over it for the remainder of your time

- i. Do not progress until he understands and accepts the Bible lesson
    - ii. You are not in a hurry to cover a certain amount of the lesson. Your goal is to love him and help him in his personal and family life
    - iii. Give him some homework for next week and then have prayer
  - h. Be sure to work at developing your friendship
  - i. It is your responsibility to spend time with him at church, before and after so that he can be assimilated into the church
4. After about 8 lessons have him seek out his own disciple and begin teaching him.
- a. You will coach him each week as you help him disciple others
  - b. Make him a success and he will love you for the thrill he gets from helping others
5. Get him involved in the ministry of the church
- a. Sit with him and his family
  - b. Get him to Sunday School and all the activities of the church

c. Teach him to tithe, get to church on time, listen etc by your example

d. [Ephesians 4:11-12](#)

6. Remember that the goal is not a series of lessons but to develop a man who can train others also

a. Our Goal is to develop leaders of leaders and not just leaders

b. To truly develop a man you must take him from the very basic level to the priority God wants him to have of being reproductive

c. Prepare all to serve God full time and be shocked if they do not

d. Take them as far as they are willing to go

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# Getting the message to our Students

1. We want to work hard at getting our message to be relevant, meaningful, and acceptable to those that we are teaching
  - a. That in no way implies that the Bible is not relevant.
  - b. God's Word is always relevant but I might not be conveying His truth in a way that it gets to their heart and culture
  - c. We are the conduit that delivers the message. If the pipe is dirty it doesn't matter how clean the water was back at the spring only that it has been contaminated
  - d. We know the Bible works but we must consider how to communicate it so that it finds receptive hearts
  
2. I must make these truths my own
  - a. I translate them into something that I fully understand
  - b. I make them easy to understand because they work in my life
  - c. I do not worry about teaching others until the Lord has taught me these truths and they have become an integral part of my heart and life
  - d. When the truths reside in me then it will be easier to just naturally explain what God has shown us and how it

works in our lives

3. There is great danger in trying to be relevant
  - a. We might work so hard at being cool and liked that we would not even worry about the Biblical text
  - b. We never want to compromise our witness to fit in. We do not want to sin or slip into what isn't true to gain friends even to hear us
  - c. We do not want to take the offense out of the gospel. We want them to hear what hurts, they are sinners, they need Jesus and what He did on the cross
  - d. Our methods are never as important as the truth that we are communicating
4. Let's approach our students and class with respect
  - a. We want to be teachable
    - i. So we listen.
    - ii. We think in the terms that they do.
    - iii. We need to get inside their skin and feel what they feel, hear what they hear
    - iv. Think of their problems as being as great or greater than our own
  - b. We must build relationships to get this done

- i. We must talk to them
  - ii. We must listen
  - c. It is always good to see who is the unwritten leader and try to talk with him to see how best to get everyone coming along
  - d. Learning good, relevant, illustrations is a good start
5. We want our students to learn to serve
6. We must be willing to teach our students the Bible and not our traditions
- a. There is a good possibility that we have underlying things that we think we must teach that are our culture and not necessarily the Bible
  - b. We like to make our preferences a rule
7. Let's make our lessons and training practical and teaching that leads to action

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# Taking Stock and Moving Forward

1. I challenge you to consider what God has done with you over the past year
  - a. Think of prayers that He has answered
  - b. Think of things that He has allowed you to accomplish
  - c. Think of areas in your life where you believe God would want you to improve, start being obedient, etc
  - d. In what areas of your life have you grown the most over the past year or several years
  - e. If you continue in the same direction you are going where will you be in a year
  - f. What are the right things that you have been working on this past year
  - g. Take some time to go back over the year and evaluate
2. I would like to challenge you to set some process goals.
  - a. Things you will work at doing just because they will lead to the result you want
  - b. Process goals are different than product goals
  - c. If we do the right things then they will produce results
  - d. This is not a time of condemning ourselves but of taking stock, evaluating, so that we can see what we want to do for the next year

- e. This is not some pipe dream idea but what I will do today, tomorrow, and next week
- f. These are good habits that I will form that will lead to doing the right things or what I believe God wants me to do
- g. As I do the steps I will arrive at the goal. I just need to make sure that I am taking the right steps
- h. Stop looking for that big thing to happen and just take care of the little stuff

### 3. Personal, spiritual growth

- a. Do I have a Bible reading plan
  - i. A time set
  - ii. A place
  - iii. A disciplined and organized plan that will teach me the Bible
- b. I want to challenge you to read the Bible two ways this next year
  - i. Read it from cover to cover to get the whole picture
  - ii. Read certain books, things of interest, and preparation for teaching or ministry
  - iii. You can read the Bible through in about 15 minutes a day

- iv. Just try to write down one thing you get each day
- v. Keep a Bible reading journal
- c. Do you have a plan for praying, keeping a record of your prayer time
- d. Do you have your money under control
  - i. Are you a giver
  - ii. Start with tithing
  - iii. Continue moving up to use your money for the Lord
- e. Do you have your thoughts under control so that Satan is not winning in your heart and mind
- f. Do you evangelize as much as you feel like you should personally
  - i. What will you do to improve that
  - ii. Use your resources, Facebook, friendships, etc to evangelize
  - iii. Carry gospel tracts
- g. Is your church attendance where you want it to be

#### 4. Family

- a. Am I leading my family in the every day things that will lead to spiritual growth
- b. Do I give the example I want to give in my family

- c. Do we have any type of Bible teaching and prayer in our family
- d. Do we as a family make church the priority of our lives
- e. Am I teaching my family about giving
- f. Am I teaching my family about using time and talents to serve God
- g. Is my family serving the Lord as a unit

## 5. Ministry

- a. Are you working on accomplishing the right things at the right time in your ministry
- b. Do you see excitement in your ministry and a desire to be together and in church
- c. Do they talk about their growth, their love of Jesus, their desire to be a part of the ministry
- d. Are they inviting their friends
- e. Are they taking part in outreach
- f. Do they hunger to know God better
- g. Do they have their quiet time, Bible reading and prayer
- h. Are we seeing numerical growth
- i. Are more participating in camps and other projects
- j. Are our people getting involved in ministry
- k. What does our future look like

I. Who will be doing more next year

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# Looking for Someone to Disciple

## Pray for a Disciple

1. Pray for someone to disciple. Luke 6:12
2. Ask God for a band of men whose hearts he has touched.  
I Samuel 10:26
3. Be on the lookout for men that you can call to yourself and train. I Samuel 14:52
4. Look for those who are faithful and able to teach others.  
1 Timothy 2:2

## Where They Might Come From

1. Some will come from our own family as we train our children. (Noah and his three sons, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 sons.)
2. Some will come from our ministry. (Moses and Joshua and the other leaders, captains and judges that worked with

Moses.)

3. Some God will miraculously call out and send to you. (Eli and Samuel)
4. Others will be at work in other jobs and not even in the ministry but God will use you to see them called into His service. (Elijah and Elisha)
5. Others will give their lives to be trained. (The sons of the prophets)
6. People will be drawn to you as they see God's hand on you and want to be a part of what God is doing in your life and ministry.
7. Some will be struggling to find their place and you will be there at the right time to help them. (Barnabas and Saul)
8. Some will be saved under the ministry of someone else but you can adopt them into your ministry as your son. (Paul and Timothy)

9. Some will be prepared under the ministry of another to a certain point and then God will send them to you.  
(Disciples of John the Baptist that followed Jesus Christ)
10. Some will be saved under your ministry.
11. The point is God will get you the men/women to train as you seek to put his plan into action.

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# Reaching and Keeping More People with the Gospel

## 1. Believing God together

- a. We should be anticipating God to work in our services
- b. We should be ready to do things simply because we are believing and trusting God
- c. We have challenges to face in our current situation but we will believe God.
  - i. We may need more or different space
  - ii. Cleaning may not be as easy as it could be
  - iii. The nursery might not be what we would ideally want
  - iv. But we will not make excuses. We will simply work with what God has given us
  - v. We will smile and be excited waiting to see what God is going to do in and through us
- d. We will refuse to think that things are harder, getting harder, people do not want to hear, people are not coming. We will just go and do our job expecting God to work
- e. We know we are on the winning side, are winning, and will win

- f. We know that God can do, we know He can do it here, we know that He can do it with us, we believe that He will do it with us, we believe that He is doing it with us now, here
- g. We know that God is great and cannot be defeated so we will expect that and live like it is true

2. I ask you to help me notice what God is doing.

- a. He is at work
- b. We can become complacent
- c. We can just accept things as being that way instead of seeing that God is working
- d. We need to see God moving and be able to share that short excitedly

3. Always choose the attitude that shows a great God doing a great work among His people. If we see it and feel it then others will also

4. Let's work on our faith

- a. Strengthen it by getting into the Word of God
- b. Live out your faith in your daily life
- c. Tell stories to yourself and others that show how God is doing great things in your life and ministry

- d. Celebrate the blessings of God on your life, ministry, and church

## 5. Know who we are

- a. We are not in competition with other churches.
- b. We want to teach people the Bible, the Word of God
- c. We want to see everyone disciplined
- d. We want to train people to do ministry
- e. We want to send people to the world
- f. We want to evangelize the world with the gospel message
- g. We want to love everybody with an unconditional love
- h. We want to see lives completely transformed by the gospel
- i. We want to see Jesus glorified by our obedience and carrying His name to our community and the world

## 6. Somethings we will not do

- a. Compromise on the gospel
- b. Compromise on getting the gospel to the world
- c. Judge ourselves by our building, our attendance, our limitations. We will judge ourselves by our obedience, our faithfulness, our work to get the gospel to our

community, to the world, and our faithfulness to believe God

- d. Condemn, manipulate, judge, have an environment of fear
- e. Be selfish with what we have
- f. Accept things as they are
- g. Make excuses
- h. Accept our own laziness

## 7. Some personal challenges

- a. Keep growing in your personal life
  - i. Grow in your spiritual life, Bible reading, praying
  - ii. Start discipling if you are not already
  - iii. Grow in your giving
  - iv. Grow in what you do to reach souls
- b. Find how you can make your ministry do more for Christ
- c. Find others that you can get involved and helping you in the ministry that God has given you
- d. Learn about other ministries so you can continue stretching and do more for the Lord
- e. Don't become comfortable with our church and take it for granted

- f. Continue growing as a servant who works to help others, do the smallest jobs, make a difference in every life

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# Preparing the Outline to Teach

## 1. Start with the text

- a. Read the entire context which may mean the chapter or even the book
- b. Make sure you know who He is talking to
- c. Make sure you know what He is talking about
- d. Make sure you get the story in the Biblical context
  - i. You really do not need any other books to get this context
  - ii. You just need to read all the Bible stories about the subject
  - iii. For example if it is talking about a servant look that word up in the Bible and see how it is used—look at the Old Testament and all that word entails—it will put it into context

## 2. Read it many times

- a. Mark it as you read it
- b. Watch for connecting words

- c. Watch for repeated words
- d. Watch and maybe write down every verb
- e. Look up every word that you do not understand and even those that you think you understand and consider synonyms and antonyms
- f. Look up all the parallel passages and read them several times

3. Find what God's point is in the passage

- a. What is God trying to communicate
- b. You must be careful that you do not look for what you would like to find
- c. You must be careful to not come to the Bible with preconceived ideas
- d. Get the point and that will be the aim of the lesson
- e. The aim or point of the passage is what the invitation would be
- f. It is what the passage is telling me to do
- g. There may be several aims but we need to be careful to choose at most two primary ones

- h. Be careful not to be too technical—your job is to take the difficult and make it understandable
  - i. Be careful not to show off your knowledge—they came to hear from God not see you
- 4. Once you know what the text is saying then you divide it into points
  - a. What 3 steps would you take or points would you make to explain the point
  - b. Break the text or the point down to size-able steps that move a person to the point
  - c. Be sure that the points are in the text and not something that you superimpose
- 5. After you get the 3 or so major points that lead to the conclusion then divide each point into 3 or 4 points that prove that point
  - a. Each point of the message should be able to be a stand alone lesson

- b. Be careful that every point is born out of the text just like the major points
6. Consider what is the practical application of each point
    - a. How does this apply to me and to my students
    - b. You should have looked for commands and now you are applying them to their lives
    - c. Do not just study the theory—remember it is all profitable or so that means it is useable
  7. Find a way to illustrate each point
    - a. Make the illustration be a window or light to the text not the structure or the meat
    - b. Do not over do illustrations
    - c. Use a Bible story if you can then you will be teaching the Bible and illustrating it with the Bible so they will get it double
  8. Figure out what aids you need to get the message across
    - a. Maybe you could have something the class could look at

- b.Maybe you could paint a picture with your words
- c.Get it so simple that they can take it home
- d.There must be a handle on the bucket if you want them to take it home

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# How to Motivate your Students to Learn

1. Start with the question that the text is answering
  - a. Make questions that allow the students to think more
  - b. Make it safe to to ask questions and give opinions
  - c. Get them to teach you how
  - d. Let them enjoy discovering the truth with you
  - e. Consider how Jesus used parables to teach truths. It wasn't direct
  
2. Make the message real
  - a. Inspire
  - b. Involve them in the learning
  - c. Help it to be practical or something that works in their lives
  - d. Knowing your students and their lives will help you make it fit
  - e. Make the message work in their lives
  
3. Have examples of how the truth works in real life
  - a. Be prepared with Bible, historical, and personal examples
  - b. Think through their lives and how things work for them in real life

- c. See if they want to share some examples that show how the truth works
- d. Remember that they are asking, When will I ever use this
- e. How will this bring honor to God, improve their lives, give them joy

#### 4. Praise their participation

- a. They want to participate
- b. They want to feel needed
- c. Thank them for thinking
- d. Laugh with them. Make it fun
- e. Tell them how much you enjoy being with them and talking about the things of God

#### 5. Use only constructive criticism

- a. If they are wrong in their answer then just help them see how and why
- b. God is not in the business of putting down His children
- c. God is very negative about the world but even there offers hope and salvation
- d. If you correct their answer be careful not to say— no that is wrong. Try to find something positive then turn the

answer correctly

## 6. Show lots of energy

- a. If the truth didn't touch you then it will not touch them.
- b. you should study till you are about ready to burst wanting to tell the wonderful truths that you have found
- c. Be careful not to be negative unless the Bible is
- d. Too many times we have been taught a very negative approach to Scripture and its truths
- e. Be careful not to threaten, manipulate, or try to make them feel guilty

## 7. Reward them every way you can

- a. Praise the right answers and the correct responses
- b. Show them that you really care about them
- c. Let them see how approachable you are
- d. Be vulnerable so that they know you are real
- e. Try not to know everything. Let them win when you can
- f. Be concerned about their problems and goals

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# Preparing your Sunday School Lesson

1. Understand your goals and objectives [Matthew 28:19-20](#)
  - a. We are to teach, make disciples
  - b. Make sure they are baptized
  - c. Teach them the Word and how to live it out
  - d. We equip and empower believers
  - e. Help them understand the Bible
  - f. Help them live out who they are in Christ Jesus
  
2. Know who you are talking to
  - a. What are they interested in
  - b. What problems are they dealing with
  - c. Do they know how much you care
  - d. Will you be able to make application from the Scriptures to what they are living
  - e. Remember you have not taught until they have learned
  - f. Learning is the goal and that will mean that they put it into action
  
3. Choose what you will teach and work through with your class
  - a. Pick a book or topic

- b. Be careful to gather materials to help you study
- c. Don't just learn the details but how the details relate to us now, where we live
- d. Get the deep subjects down to something the student can learn and see how it applies to them
- e. Try to find something that would be how they would apply it and put it into action this very week

#### 4. Practical lesson preparing ideas

- a. Start preparing as soon as possible
- b. Read the passage at least 10 times
- c. Look for Jesus-the book is about Him
- d. Make an outline
- e. Underline your teaching with love
- f. Prepare your lesson with the students in mind
- g. Have a reachable aim or goal for each lesson
- h. Do not present too much material
  - i. Teach one thing well
  - ii. Do not teach 5 things poorly
  - iii. Be repetitious
  - iv. Be a living example of your lesson
  - v. Use words that they can understand
- i. Get a lesson goal and stay on target, don't chase rabbits

j. Be predictable

## 5. Steps to failure

- a. Not knowing what you want to accomplish
- b. Being willing to be mediocre, average, not trying to be better every time
- c. Not being disciplined enough to get there on time, have prayed, studied, rested, and be excited about teaching
- d. Procrastination
- e. Not being persistent
- f. Being negative
- g. Being jealous
- h. Not being enthusiastic
- i. Prideful egotism, thinking you have arrived while others haven't

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## **Possible ideas to help invite people to Sunday School and church!**

1. Saturate your entire effort with prayer! Ask God for direction into who, when, where, and how to invite people to come to Christ and His church
2. Let's work at making friends
  - a. Maybe we could make cookies and give them to neighbors for Christmas
  - b. Find ways to meet their need from picking up their mail to taking their garbage cans back to the house after the pickup
  - c. Give them a welcome to the community
  - d. Offer to pray for them or visit family etc when there is a sickness
3. Most people that are going to come to Sunday School and Church will come because someone invites them-especially

a friend or family. This has been proven in recent research by Thom Rainer. Can you be positive about the need to come to church, study the Bible, enjoy the worship, hear the Bible preached? If not we need to talk about what we need to change

4. Remember if they are going to say no if you invite them that you have lost nothing by inviting them-so don't get discouraged-just invite them and keep inviting them until God breaks through and deals with them-it may take 6 or 7 invites while being the friend to finally get through to them
5. Could you prepare a list of friends and associates that you might be able to invite because you know that they would benefit from the Word of God and what happens here at our church. You find people to invite by first looking here: 1. Family 2. Friends 3. Coworkers or fellow students. 4. Neighbors
6. Watch for the right times or seasons to invite: Death of a loved one, Move to a new neighborhood, city, job, or school, Divorce, Marriage, Family problems, Major illness, Birth of a

child.

7. Will you believe or do you believe that: people matter to God, people are spiritually lost, people need Christ, people need answers, people need friends, people need something applicable from the Bible and people need time.
8. Can you identify their needs that might be met from what is taught and practiced here at our church.
9. Do you know how to share what the Lord has done in your life and speak the gospel, can you start a conversation, can you answer the hard questions--work on telling your story
10. Share with your friends how the Bible, the Lord Jesus, and our church have made a difference in your life
11. The idea is not to get your friend here to fill up a particular class but to make a difference in their lives--so figure out what class would most meet their personal needs

12. You might consider inviting your friend personally or via a text message, email, phone call, card or letter but you know that they need the truth and the word of God
13. Help them to know how God, the Bible, and church can help them in every way possible-financially, with their family, with their children, emotionally, in every way
14. Help them to know that God's word and church is the way that their life can make a difference and live a life of long term significance.-Help them to understand that it is about something more than themselves
15. Help them know that they can benefit by knowing God and understanding the Bible right now-it is not something so hard that they can't understand and learn right now

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# Not an Information Dump

1. We discussed that teaching in a spiritual setting is more than dumping information
  - a. It is the relationship of a parent to a child [Galatians 4:19](#)  
**My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,** [20](#) I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.
    - i. Paul thought of them as his children
    - ii. He struggled and strained to see them grow in Christ
    - iii. He wouldn't stop until he saw his goal reached
    - iv. He asked questions and held discussions to find out where they really were
    - v. He was pretty much in their face as he worked at developing their relationship with the Lord Jesus
  - b. The goal was to see them walking in truth [III John 4](#) **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**
  - c. So it would involve spending time with and communicating with your class

- d. It means having a discussion and questions about the material to see where the students are.
- e. Are they learning the material
- f. Are they applying the material
- g. Are you asking questions to see if you are getting through to them

2. The question is are they learning what I am teaching

- a. The usual professor answer is that I give out the material they are responsible to get the material
- b. The parent answer is, I will help my child until they get it.
- c. I will be patient, repetitive, loving, laughing, enjoying every step until they get it
- d. I am not trying to get out information but to see them apply the information to bring about a transformation
- e. Small things that we definitely use to check out well we are doing in our class
  - i. How is their marriage and family
  - ii. How faithful are they to worship
  - iii. Are they saved
  - iv. Are they baptized
  - v. Are they giving
  - vi. Are they sharing their faith

vii. Are they involved in discipleship

3. The problem with this model is that we have so much good information that we must get out
  - a. That is why we want them in every church service
  - b. That is why we want them involved in discipleship so that they can learn and then teach others
  - c. It is not our job to disciple everyone as much as it is our job to get everyone involved in discipleship
  - d. That is why we share good books, web sites, podcasts, material with our class so that they can continue growing
  - e. Let the majority of the material come in more natural settings than just from the pulpit
    - i. Question and answer sessions
    - ii. Email rings
    - iii. Facebook
    - iv. Whatever method would help get the info out
4. Here are some practical ideas
  - a. Get to know each other
  - b. Talk on the phone, email, Facebook in an attempt to get to know each other better
  - c. Talk about life, other things

- d. Get them reading a book that you can discuss with them
- e. Get together with others so that it is not as intense as a one on one meeting
- f. Share any material that has blessed you
- g. Obviously be praying much for them
- h. Be transparent, your perfection only scares people and makes them think that they can never be you
  - i. Tell the truth
  - ii. Let them know your hurts
  - iii. Let them know about your failures
  - iv. Show them how God gave you the victory
  - v. Don't try to portray yourself as the hero, the one who has no warts
- i. Be positive about them. Believe in them and let them know that you believe in them
- j. Be a giver. Make sure that you are not using them to have a great Sunday School class or be a successful spiritual leader
- k. Never give up on your disciple. If they leave be waiting for them to come back
- l. Never use guilt and manipulation as tools
- m. Always show them how excited you are about what God is teaching you and doing in your life

n. Take time to listen to them

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# Getting ready for the Sunday School class!

1. Begin preparing for next week's lesson by evaluating what happened this week
  - a. What went wrong
  - b. What could have been done better
  - c. Was I prepared to teach
  - d. What questions did they ask that I wasn't ready to answer
  - e. When did I lose their attention
  - f. How many students aren't showing interest in the lesson, why
  - g. What can I do to make them want to come
2. Always pray
  - a. Pray that you will remain teachable
  - b. Being the teacher often leads to pride that causes us to be unteachable
  - c. Knowledge puffs up
  - d. Attitudes of superiority develop
  - e. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in and through you.  
This is His work, not ours
  - f. Pray for your students

3. Always have a goal, an aim in the lesson. What are you trying to get across today. We are not interested in sharing facts but seeing God change lives
  - a. A goal will guide the study
  - b. A goal will give unity, order and efficiency in teaching
  - c. A goal will use your teaching time wisely
  - d. A goal will help you clarify the method to use in the class
4. Teach for decision
5. Remember the rules of study
  - a. What is the point of the passage. Be a voice for the text
  - b. What problems do you see in the passage? What problem do the text answer?
  - c. What parallel passages are there?
  - d. Are you using any helps or just going on what you know?
    - i. Commentaries
    - ii. Bible dictionaries
    - iii. Concordance
6. Have an outline
  - a. Let a series of questions be the outline
  - b. Ask factual questions

- c. Questions that cause us to interpret the Scriptures
  - d. Questions that cause discussion
7. Make sure you have a way to draw all the truths together for a decision, the conclusion
8. A real teacher teaches more by their life and example than they do by their words. Examine yourself
- a. Are you faithful to all of the services
  - b. Do you arrive on time
  - c. Are you being what they should strive to be
  - d. Do you live out the truths that you teach
  - e. Are you accessible
  - f. Do you try to be so perfect that people can't believe what you say because no one could ever be you
9. Goals you should have for your class, students
- a. See everyone of them be saved
  - b. See them grow spiritually
  - c. Help them evangelize their friends
10. Goals you should have for yourself
- a. Always be learning and growing

- b. Realize that you are part of a large team
- c. Always be cooperating, working together with others
- d. Do not be in competition
- e. Be an example of what you are teaching

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# HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF DURING PREACHING

Updated January 4, 2009 (first published June 26, 2002)  
(David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org); for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

## 1. SIT RESPECTFULLY AND ALERTLY

Examples of what not to do: leaning on your elbows with your head down and chewing gum. Such things send signals that you are not interested in what the preacher is saying.

Remember that others are watching you. Your attitude and very bodily posture affects the preacher, those sitting around you, and the entire atmosphere of the service

## 2. DON'T DISTRACT OTHERS

Examples of things that distract others are talking and writing notes back and forth between persons, making noise (i.e., cracking your fingers), playing with babies, and children looking at the people behind them. Parents need to be aware of what their children are doing and make certain that they are not distracting someone. Another example is leaving the service to go to the restroom. Parents should make sure that their children don't develop this distracting habit. It is extremely dishonoring to the Word of God that is being preached. There is plenty of time to go to the bathroom before and after the services. Of course, if an individual has a medical or health problem that requires him or her to leave the service, that is a different matter altogether. Such a person can sit in the back and slip out quietly.

## 3. LISTEN WELL

LISTEN WITH COMPASSION TOWARD THE PREACHER. God uses all kinds of men and not all are powerful, fascinating speakers. It appears that Paul wasn't (2 Cor. 10:10). Jonathan Edwards preached one of the most famous of sermons,

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” but Edwards was not a great speaker. In fact, he simply read the sermon. The preacher who was instrumental in the conversion of Charles Spurgeon was not a mighty speaker. Spurgeon described him as a very simple, uninteresting speaker, yet how greatly God used him! Remember that God can use weak men. An example is Solomon. He had tremendous problems, but God used him to write three important books of the Bible, including the book of Proverbs, which is the book of wisdom. Our eyes must be upon God and not upon the preacher. Listen to the preacher as you would want people to listen to you. Avoid a critical attitude.

LISTEN PRAYERFULLY. Nothing significant is accomplished apart from prayer (Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17). Pray for yourself. Pray for the preacher. Pray for others who are in attendance.

LISTEN ATTENTIVELY. Listen as if Jesus Christ were speaking. 1 Peter 4:11 says the speaker is to be the very oracle of God, meaning His mouthpiece. If you listen carefully and seek something from the Lord, you can be edified even from a seemingly boring message. Don't let your mind wander to

other things. Don't do something else when you should be listening to the preaching. I have seen people read novels in church! More often they read the hymnal or pass notes or other such things. You won't get anything from the preaching if you don't listen attentively.

LISTEN WITH AN OPEN, SUBMISSIVE HEART. God's invitation is extended throughout the message and not merely at the end. Let God speak to you, reprove, rebuke, and exhort you. Don't think that the preaching is for someone else. Don't make excuses for your sins and faults.

LISTEN WITH FAITH (Heb. 4:1-2). The Word of God is ineffective unless it is "mixed with faith." Some listen to preaching as a form of entertainment. They enjoy it but they don't believe it enough to change how they live. This was how the Jews were listening to the prophet Ezekiel: "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words,

but they do them not” (Ezek. 33:31-32).

LISTEN DISCERNINGLY. The Bible warns that we must not put our trust in man (Jer. 17:5). We must carefully test all preaching by the Word of God (Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 14:29; 1 Thess. 5:21).

LISTEN STUDIOUSLY (2 Tim. 2:15). Have paper and pen ready so that you can capture something from the message. Write things in your Bible (important things, such as cross references, definitions, important thoughts). By the way, you should have your own Bible rather than merely looking on with someone else. Take notes of the important points. Write down things to study later, things to check later, and things to share with others. This will help you remember what is preached.

#### 4. TREAT THE INVITATION SERIOUSLY

Respond to the invitation as Lord leads, and pray for others. Be careful not to distract others during the invitation. Be conscious of their needs.

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# How to Profit from the Preached Word

## Hebrews 4:2

1. To profit from the preached Word you should prepare before you come to the service
  - a. Get enough sleep the night before
  - b. Get ready early, arrive at church before the hour. Get up early to avoid arguments
  - c. Have a clear mind. Make sure that worship is the most important thing in your life **Luke 10:39** And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
  - d. We have to come with the full assurance of faith **Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
  - e. Bring an ink pen and notebook
  - f. Sit close to the front of the church
2. To profit from the preached Word you should come praying

- a. Have a time of prayer before the service even on Saturday evening
  - b. Ask God to speak to you
  - c. Pray for the pastor
  - d. Wait on God **Jeremiah 33:3** Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
3. To profit from the preached Word you must listen correctly
- a. Listen without excuses or pride
  - b. Listen carefully to be sure that what you are hearing is the Word of God for sure **Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
  - c. Listen quietly **Psalm 46:10** Be still, and know that I *am* God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
  - d. Listen with faith **Romans 14:23** And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin. **Hebrews 11:6** But

without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- e. Listen to the Lord gratefully
  - f. Do not talk during the service
  - g. Don't think about others but focus on your own life
  - h. Resist all distractions
4. To profit from the preached Word you must have the right attitude towards the Word of God
- a. Receive the Word of God like it literally is from God because it is **I Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*
  - b. You have to obey what you hear **James 1:23-24**
  - c. Look up every reference
  - d. Respond to what you are hearing
  - e. Confess every sin that He shows you
  - f. Be submissive to the Holy Spirit
  - g. Be honest

h. Ask questions

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# Hermeneutical Fallacies Twisting God's Message

II Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation**. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*.

1. Coming to the text with preconceived ideas based on my culture, my thoughts and not discerning what the Scriptures themselves are saying
  - a. Proof texting or looking for verses that back up what I believe and want to teach
  - b. The Bible is used to validate and prove what they assume to be true. It is not to learn God's word or will but to back up their own word that they study.
    - i. We claim the Bible as the basis of our faith and practice
    - ii. We use very little Bible when we preach
    - iii. The pulpit becomes little more than a political podium or bully pulpit where we say what we want to say
  - c. Our proof texting and coming with our preconceived ideas causes us to over emphasize something and underemphasize others

- d. We are more guilty than we would ever want to admit of trying to prove what we already believe instead of finding out what God is actually saying
- e. Preaching becomes more about my opinions and biases than what God wanted said
- f. This is the trick of the cults. We hate it when they do that then fall into the same trap
- g. Real Bible study should be about getting out of my culture and into His culture
- h. It should be about finding out what God actually says
- i. Please remember that Bible men, Bible preachers have defended things from the Bible that we know were blatantly wrong
  - i. Slavery
  - ii. Destroying the American Indian
  - iii. Salem witch trials
  - iv. Latin Americans believe in communism because of the early church
  - v. God hates FAGS
  - vi. Doubt cast on Genesis 1-11 because I don't understand it and doubt all the miraculous stories **II Peter 3:16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things;**

in which are **some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, **unto their own destruction.**

- j. When we read the Bible devotionally we see things and think in terms of where we are and what is going on in our life
- k. We choose what to believe because of how that saying seems to fit our thought process

## 2. Misinterpreting Old Testament narratives as well as those in the New Testament

### a. By allegorizing

- i. The idea that the literal sense takes us to a secondary more spiritual, deeper sense

1. Allegorizing is the idea of searching for a hidden or secret meaning underlying but remote from and unrelated in reality to the more obvious meaning of a text.

2. It is as though the Bible is written in code

- ii. The actual historical, original words or events have little importance
- iii. The interpreter can basically put whatever meaning he would like on the passage irregardless of what the passage says
- iv. The mind of the expositor becomes the authority
- v. This opens the door to all sorts of speculation
- vi. There is no basis for testing the preaching because the interpretation is based on what is reasonable to the interpreter
- vii. Examples of allegorizing
  - 1. The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is the church
  - 2. The 4 anchors that were thrown out of the ship
  - 3. The 4 friends carried their friend to Jesus
  - 4. If this then that or extrapolation
    - a. The word or idea is found in one place
    - b. We assume that it should be connected to a word in a different place
    - c. We build an entire doctrinal position on this extrapolation or great leaps from one verse to another

d. This crazy example can be seen in messages today

Why Are Fire Engines Red?

They have four wheels and eight men;  
four plus eight is twelve;  
twelve inches make a ruler;  
a ruler is Queen Elizabeth;  
Queen Elizabeth sails the seven seas;  
the seven seas have fish;  
the fish have fins;  
the Finns hate the Russians;  
the Russians are red;  
fire engines are always rushin';  
so they're red.

b. By spiritualizing

- i. Again this tends to ignore the plain meaning of the text and look for an inspired meaning behind the text
- ii. For example, here we find an example for us. The star led people to Jesus in the Christmas story as must we all
- iii. The wisemen met Jesus and returned a different way
- iv. Jonah went down, down, down as he ran from the Lord's will for his life

- c. By moralizing
  - i. We see here what Joseph did to be a success so let's learn the principles of success
  - ii. We look for good pop culture ideas illustrated in Scripture that will meet the felt need of our audience even if it is not what the Scripture is saying
- d. God is telling us a story about what someone did or didn't do and we make it a command
  - i. Always remember that indicatives can't be made imperatives
  - ii. Descriptive is not normative
- e. Not asking the right questions as you study the Old Testament
  - i. Who was God talking to in the passage
  - ii. Was He talking to a nation or an individual
  - iii. How do I understand this passage in light of what I know from the New Testament and the total revelation that we have
  - iv. Did He really expect the nation of Israel to obey all the laws? If He did then why did He institute the sacrifice system

v. Were the 10 commandments given to us to obey today

II Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able

**ministers of the new testament;** not of

the letter, but of the spirit: for the **letter killeth,**

but the spirit giveth life. 7 But if the **ministration**

**of death,** written *and* engraven in **stones,** was

glorious, so that the children of Israel could not

stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his

countenance; which *glory* was to be done away: 8 How

shall not the **ministration of the spirit** be

rather glorious? 9 For if the **ministration of**

**condemnation** *be* glory, much more doth the

**ministration of righteousness** exceed in

glory.

- f. You can't claim a promise to Israel in the Old Testament like it was for you unless the Bible gives you the authority to do so

- i. As a young man a pastor told me to walk all over the land that I wanted for the church and claim it based on where the sole of my foot touched
- ii. Another told me to throw a coin on top of a building and tell God I had already put my investment there and expected Him to get it back to me. Cast your bread on the water and it will come back

### 3. Not making distinctions where God does

#### a. Israel and the church are not the same

- i. Promises made to Israel in the Old Testament can't be automatically transferred to the church
- ii. God promised Israel the promised land but that doesn't apply to me
- iii. As a New Testament Christian we are not under the Mosaic law
- iv. We do not have to circumcise our children or baptize them into the covenant
- v. Our leadership doesn't wear robes like the Old Testament priests
- vi. We do not keep the Sabbath day like they did

- vii. As a preacher I am not speaking to my country, the president and the congress like an Old Testament prophet often was
- viii. Promises about the temple and praying facing the Temple do not apply to me
- ix. I am not the anointed of God above all my brothers and sisters in Christ
- x. My church doesn't owe me and all of my staff the entire tithe since we are the modern day Levites
- b. Children of God and creation of God are not the same
  - i. God did create all but they are not all His children
  - ii. He loves everyone but you must be made a child of God
  - iii. We all belong to God but not in the same way
- c. Jew, Gentiles, and the church
  - i. God used the nation of Israel in a special way in the Old Testament
  - ii. He still has plans for them in the future
  - iii. He has temporarily set them aside but they are still His people
  - iv. Gentiles are the pagans without God. It is who we were before Christ

- v. The church is made up of Jew and Gentile made into one body with the middle wall of partition broken down
- d. Some make too many distinctions
  - i. They find different means of salvation
  - ii. They rule out entire passages of the Bible as having vitally no value
  - iii. They fail to see how the Bible is one story written by One person with one complete idea from start to finish

#### 4. Word studies gone crazy

- a. Studying the roots of words. The game is to take a word, break it apart, and get what it means by the parts.
  - i. Good bye
  - ii. Butterfly
- b. Using the word's total meaning in the verse
  - i. The other extreme is to look up a word and then try to act like every meaning fits
  - ii. The correct use is to allow the context of the verse to tell you the meaning of the word
- c. Picking the meaning of a word that best suits what you want to say instead of allowing the context to dictate the meaning

- d. A word study can often take you completely out of the context given in the passage
- e. The Bible defines most words for us and help us understand from the context what is being communicated

## 5. Misunderstanding the literary genre

- a. Proverbs are well proverbs, they are neither promises nor laws
  - i. If you make proverbs into promises then you have lots of misunderstandings, discouragement etc when things don't work out like the proverb said
  - ii. Proverbs demand thinking, mediating, and studying to see how the proverb applies
  - iii. Proverbs are God giving us wisdom on how to live as we fear Him
  - iv. Consider the following proverbs

- 1. Proverbs 26:4 **Answer not a fool** according to his folly, Lest thou also be like unto him.
- 2. Proverbs 26:5 **Answer a fool** according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own conceit.

3. Proverbs 17:21 He that **begetteth a fool**

*doeth it to his sorrow: And the father of a fool hath no joy.*

4. Proverbs 22:6 **Train up a child** in the way he

should go: And **when he is old,** he will not depart from it.

b. There is a great deal of poetry in the Bible

1. The Bible is called a mirror

2. Jesus is the Bread of Life

3. Jesus is the Door, the Way

c. We can't take Bible history and stories and make them normative

i. Just because something happened in Ruth's life doesn't mean it will happen that way for others

ii. The stories are great illustrations of New Testament truths but must not be made into commandments

I Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were **our**

**examples,** to the intent we should not lust after

evil things, as they also lusted. 11 Now all these things

**happened unto them for ensamples:**

and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

- d. Even the law of the Bible must be studied to see who He gave it to and why
  - i. Do we circumcise our baby boys?
  - ii. If not does that mean that we must baptize infants?
- 6. Not preaching the text, the passage of Scripture in front of you
  - a. Every time you preach you have to leave something out
    - i. So be sure that what you leave out is your conjectures
    - ii. Leave out things that you might look for that will get the amen
    - iii. Leave out things that show how smart you are as you study
  - b. It is a mistake to answer questions or go places that the writer wasn't asking you to go
    - i. He had a purpose in putting that passage in the Bible
    - ii. He has a message He wants to communicate
    - iii. It isn't hidden or cute just plain and in front of you

- c. Don't preach obscure passage, verses, and thoughts that aren't clear. Don't build doctrine from verses that are not in harmony with the rest of Scripture
- d. Don't miss the intent of the writer
  - i. God gave the writer a message He wanted communicated
  - ii. It is easy to get caught up in details and side lines instead of getting to the message
- e. It is a mistake when you do not allow the Scripture to dictate even the structure of your message
  - i. You are communicating what God says
  - ii. He doesn't need us to fix it
  - iii. He doesn't need us to rearrange it
- f. When you don't stick to the text then you preach out of context
  - i. We make commandments out of statements
  - ii. We take the joy out of salvation
  - iii. We take the Good out of Good News because we misread what the Scriptures are saying
- g. When we miss the point of the text we can begin preaching morality

- i. We teach lost people how to live like saved people when they are not saved
  - ii. We fail to see that doing is not being
  - iii. We push people to do things to be instead of being something that will cause them to do
  - iv. We miss the purpose in the law which was to get them to Jesus and grace. He never expected His people to be able to live out the commandments
  - v. We teach our children to be good without really knowing God so that when they are older they don't understand why to be good
  - h. The people do not need pithy sayings they need Scripture
    - i. Don't preach the story behind the psalm instead of the psalm or we have missed the message He wanted preached
    - j. Don't preach Old Testament stories and fail to look for the message God was giving us in the passage
7. Foolishly thinking that you know and understand enough not to check your understanding
- a. God told me this about this passage

- i. Too often we say God told us things much like we were charismatic
- ii. We come up with different and new stuff based on what God tells us
- iii. We see things that no one has ever seen
- b. Never feeling the need to consult
  - i. Some are so dependent on reading books about the Book that we fail to read any books
  - ii. They follow a doctrinal position because of what they have read so we decide that we do not need to check with anyone
  - iii. We allow very little accountability in our lives or preaching because we have become the authority, like the pope, even replacing the Bible
- c. If it is new and no one else has thought of it then you are probably wrong. People have been studying the Bible for nearly 2,000 years.
- d. It is easy to be so sure of something that you will later not understand how anyone could be so sure of that
- e. It is far safer to spend long hours in the Book, talk like the Book, let the Book talk and not try to develop so

many thoughts that aren't extremely clear in the  
Scriptures

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# Studying to Preach the Word of God

II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that **needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God is quick, and powerful,** and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

8. The first basic truth that helps me understand how to study and preach the Bible is to understand that He chose every passage on purpose
  - a. There is too much history to be contained in such a small book
  - b. The Bible covers over 4,000 years of history and doctrine
  - c. God left out large sections of information

- d. I must assume that He did that on purpose
- e. If all that Jesus did was in the Scriptures the word couldn't contain them [John 21:25](#) And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even **the world itself could not contain the books** that should be written. Amen.
- f. God leaves great, big, gaping holes in the story
  - i. From Genesis 50 to Exodus 2 there are over 400 years of history we know little or nothing about
  - ii. From Malachi to Matthew another 400 years
  - iii. We know of Jesus birth then wait over 10 years for another update before waiting another 18 for the next news
- g. That means that all Scripture has a purpose, no wasted words [II Timothy 3:16](#) **All scripture** is given by **inspiration of God,** and *is* **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** [17](#)

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

- i. Since God has a purpose you must find His purpose
- ii. You must let go of your purpose
- iii. You are there to say what God wants said not what you feel needs to be said
- iv. Is Jesus literally standing at a person's heart knocking on the door or was that Jesus outside a church knocking to get in? What was the real purpose in that statement
- v. What should you learn from Jonah
  1. What God does to runaway preachers?
  2. Or Jonah knew God's character better than you do?
  3. The book of Jonah mentions Jonah 18 times and the name of God appears 39 times.
  4. G. Campbell Morgan said men have looked so hard at the great fish in Jonah that they fail to see the great God
  5. Everything in Jonah obeyed except for Jonah who supposedly knew Him best

- h. I must study and learn why He said what He said because He wanted it said
- i. We say we believe the church belongs to God and not us ... but for someone reason we work so hard to make sure they never hear from Him. Just our messages to them with the Bible as a footnote.
- j. Know that God put the emphasis on things that He wanted there.
  - i. You shouldn't be putting more emphasis on something than God does
  - ii. You want to learn to say what God said, try to get to all of it
- k. There will be things you do not understand nor can. If He wanted it clearer He would have made it so
  - i. Don't solve problems that God didn't
  - ii. Don't explain things that God didn't
  - iii. Do not teach or preach anything that makes the people have to wear the DaVinci Code glasses or Joseph Smith's either

- iv. You will never understand God and His Word fully
- v. You will always be a student so remember to approach the Word humbly, to learn, to be taught

9. The second rule of Bible study is to know that the Scriptures are about Jesus **Luke 24:44** And he said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you,** while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, **concerning me. 45** Then **opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- a. We study the Bible to know about Jesus
- b. They must know what the Bible says about eternal life
- c. Every verse, every truth some how either directly or indirectly points me to Jesus and His finished work on the cross

- d. The underlying truths that get us to Jesus is to understand and look for the following
  - i. Man's failure
  - ii. God's grace
  - iii. And how to get to Calvary

10. Since it is God's Book, written by Him, for His purposes I must approach it as such

- a. It can not be my goal to find something new to impress those that listen.
  - i. Some have to find some new thing that no one has ever seen
  - ii. They dig into the Scripture and make comparisons that can in no way be shown from the Bible
  - iii. If it has never been seen before it probably means it is not there
  - iv. This makes them look like great men of God
  - v. Our goal should be to be a mouth piece for the Word of God
  - vi. At the end of the message God should look big because the people have seen what God had to say

- vii. The Scriptures should seem great, God inspired,  
beautiful not how smart or articulate the preacher is
- b. I can not be preaching my opinions, my culture, what I  
feel like my church people need to do or change
- c. The old concern I had was thinking of myself as the  
doctor given prescription preaching to sick people
  - i. Dealing with issues that I saw or heard in counseling
  - ii. Becoming reactive instead of proactive
  - iii. This view lifted me up and my ability to meet the needs  
of my people
  - iv. The other view would be that if I just preach the Word  
of God the people will get a proper diet
  - v. This diet will help them overcome much of what they  
might need medicine for
- d. I often missed God's intended purpose for a passage  
because I came to the text with a preconceived notion
- e. I unintentionally made commandments out of things that  
God didn't give as commandments but I was sure would  
help the people and their families in my opinion

11. All Bible should be interpreted literally unless God indicates otherwise
  - a. We believe the Bible, the 66 books, are God inspired, inerrant, and preserved so that we can see what God said
  - b. Our job is to understand the passage in its context
    - i. Who wrote it
    - ii. Who did he write it to
    - iii. What was his purpose in writing the passage
    - iv. How would it have been understood in the context it was written
    - v. What was God telling His people
  - c. Find the teaching that God is making and see how it applies to today
  - d. While many might find the allegory there would be no way to be sure that their application was correct
    - i. It would be subject to the opinion of the preacher
    - ii. It might change depending on its time in history or the culture of the people
    - iii. It would mean different things to different people
  - e. Believing that we can find what God is saying by studying the text shows several truths

- i. We believe that it is really a God book and perfectly able to communicate His truth
- ii. We believe that God was speaking to His people through His man, the writer
- iii. Since we believe that the text can be trusted our job is to study the words, sentences, paragraphs, etc to find what God is saying
- iv. We believe we can faithfully communicate the truths God intended from the passage before us

12. Our goal as we study the text is to discover the author's intended meaning of the text and how to apply it to our people

- a. We must first accept that the entire Bible is the Word of God.
  - i. It is written by God to communicate one primary message
  - ii. It is not just literature
  - iii. It was not just the opinion of the writer

- iv. It has one meaning not to be understood as meaning one thing to you and another to me
- v. Would the original recipients have understood it like you are saying it now
  - 1. Would Moses even understand what you are preaching from "his text"
  - 2. Or would he have thought you were disconnected from the passage
- b. Context is obviously one of our first considerations
  - i. Context starts with a good grasp of the entire message of the Bible
    - 1. Without understanding the passage you are about to preach in light of the entire Scripture you will easily end up in the wrong place
    - 2. All Scripture is interpreted in light of all Scripture
  - ii. The author who originally wrote the passage had a message he was trying to communicate
- c. The law that is so misused and misunderstood today was only a schoolmaster to get us to Jesus and grace

- i. When He told them to build the ark of the covenant He had the law put in it
- ii. Then He put mercy seat over the ark of the covenant and said that He would speak to them from there

Exodus 25:22 And there **I will meet with thee,** and **I will commune with thee** from above the **mercy seat,** from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

13. Studying the Bible means learning to ask the right questions to help interpret the text. Here are some steps to put into practice

- a. Read through and make initial observations
  - i. Who are the characters
  - ii. What is going on
  - iii. Where is this taking place
- b. Ask the important questions
  - i. Who is speaking

- ii. Who is this about
- iii. Who is God talking to
- iv. Who are the main characters
- v. What is the point of the passage
  - 1. What event is being discussed
  - 2. What can we learn about the people, the main event, the doctrine spoken of
  - 3. When does this happen or will it happen
  - 4. Why is this being said
  - 5. Why would this happen
  - 6. Why at that time or to that people
  - 7. How will it happen
  - 8. How is it illustrated
- c. Once you understand what is being said you must find out the overall meaning.
  - i. Why did He include this story
  - ii. What is the primary meaning
  - iii. What is the author trying to communicate
  - iv. Remember the main questions you need to answer is  
What failure of man is being addressed or corrected in this passage
  - v. How does this get me to Calvary

- d. How does this passage apply to us
  - i. What actions do we need to take to make this passage do its job in our lives
  - ii. What is God trying to say to me through this passage
  - iii. How am I thinking wrongly about God and need correcting based on this passage
- e. Help them see the main point
- f. Show them how to get from the passage to Jesus and Calvary
- g. Teach them how to apply the passage to every aspect of their lives

14. We must learn to ask the right questions about each passage

- a. Remember that you can't understand the text without understanding the whole Bible
  - i. Preaching Deuteronomy and law will be very moralistic and full of history
  - ii. Unless you understand that these laws all get us to see our failure
  - iii. The 10 commandments lead to the sacrifices and sacrificial system

- b. We need to learn to recognize a paragraph, a passage
  - i. Every paragraph has a point
  - ii. It has a topical sentence
  - iii. The point may be hard to understand or find but it is your job to look for it as much as possible
- c. We ask ourselves "What does the passage say?"
- d. We ask ourselves "What does the passage mean?"
- e. "How does this apply to their life, now, where they live, and what they are doing?"
- f. Important questions as you prepare
  - i. What does this text teach about God and His character and ways?
  - ii. What does this text teach about fallen humanity?
  - iii. How does this text point to Christ?
  - iv. What does God want my people to know?
  - v. What does God want my people to do?

## 15.Steps to understanding

- a. Ask the questions that might explain the text
  - i. Who wrote it
  - ii. What was the author talking about
  - iii. What other passages of the Bible talk about this truth

- b. Get the passage in its context
- c. When we read a passage we need to take note of
  - i. The grammar
  - ii. The structure
  - iii. The Genre
  - iv. The mood
- d. We need to ask what the main point of the passage is,  
Why did God put this passage in the Bible
- e. Watch for repeated words, connectors, and characters
- f. Watch for things that are similar and different in the  
passage

#### 16. Basic hermeneutical principles that must be employed

- a. Complete context
  - i. The context rules when we interpret the text.
  - ii. The text must be interpreted in light of all Scripture.
  - iii. Scripture will never contradict itself.
  - iv. Scripture should be interpreted literally (or according to  
its genre).
  - v. Do not develop a doctrine from obscure or difficult  
passages.

- vi. Discover the author's original intended meaning and honor that meaning.
- b. First mention, progressive mention, to full mention of a word, theme, or truth
  - i. Look for key verbs
  - ii. Find the words you need to define
  - iii. Look for repeated words
  - iv. Look for divisions in the text
  - v. Look for other Scripture that supports this text
- c. Investigate the word based on the time of translation and the original language
- d. Use a dictionary, thesaurus, and concordance
- e. Make sure to check verbs, are they imperatives?
- f. Get the outline of the Scripture
- g. Find parallel passages
- h. Harmony of all the Scripture
- i. Let Scripture interpret Scripture
- j. Learn to recognize different types of literature, figurative, literal, etc
- k. Is this to an individual or to a nation
- l. The Bible is to interpreted by the same rules and principles that we use with any literature

- m. No doctrine stands on one isolated verse
- n. Interpret the unclear by what is clear in the Bible
- o. Bridge the gap between the writer and his time and culture and the hearer and where he lives

## 17. To prepare the message correctly

- a. So we will need to read the entire book to find God's purpose for the book
- b. We must have the passage located correctly to make sure we are saying what God is saying, the total passage, the total context, from verse to entire Bible
- c. When we know the purpose of the book we can talk about the purpose of the passage
- d. We must speak with the same voice and tone as the passage
- e. Read before and after to make sure that we know what the writer was saying
- f. Be careful not to take either too many or too few verses
- g. We ask what it was that God wanted to communicate from this passage
- h. We must get our points from the passage
- i. What is the application that God wants from this passage

j. What work has the Holy Spirit done in my life from and through this passage of Scripture

## Suggested Reading

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# Sunday School Teacher Visitation

The Sunday school is the church organized to fulfill the purpose of the church. Here at Lancaster Baptist Church, we state our purpose in three phrases: loving God, growing together, serving others.

About a week ago, I recorded a video for the Sunday school teachers of our church, encouraging them to serve those in their classes by faithful visitation.

Hebrews 10:24–25 instructs, *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

Sunday school visitation is a tremendous way to provoke—or stimulate—class members to love, good works, and faithful church attendance.

Consider the value of just one visit. A Sunday school visit can accomplish one or more of the following:

- Enroll a recent visitor into the class
- Encourage a student
- Encourage a student's parents or family
- Help you better understand your student (When it comes to really understanding a student's special needs or prayer requests, there is no substitute for making home visits.)
- Allow you to deliver a gift to your student
- Seek any unsaved family members and witness to them

Of course, class teachers are not the only ones who can make Sunday school visits. Care group leaders or other class leaders as well as other members in general may wish to visit one another to encourage faithful growth.

I don't know of any Sunday school teacher with a heart for his or her class who doesn't *want* to make visits. But the key in making it happen is four simple steps of planning:

1. **Determine a time.** What gets scheduled gets done.
2. **Determine a partner.** This may be your class assistant, or it may be another member of the class (allowing for a time of mentoring).
3. **Plan your calls.** Prayerfully read through your roster, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you on which visits to make

each week. Then, plan out those visits in order of their proximity to one another.

4. **Set goals.** I ask our teachers to visit every class visitor within one week, absentees who have missed three weeks, as well as visiting each enrolled student at least once a year.

Visitation requires discipline and love, but it truly makes the difference in building and encouraging your class.

Remember, you can impress people from a distance, but you can only impact them with a personal touch.

from Ministry127 [http://ministry127.com/adult-classes/sunday-school-teacher-visitation?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+ministry127%2Fmain+%28Ministry127+Articles%29](http://ministry127.com/adult-classes/sunday-school-teacher-visitation?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ministry127%2Fmain+%28Ministry127+Articles%29)

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