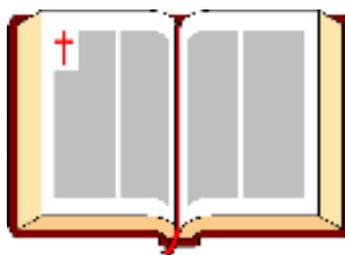


How To Effectively Teach A Bible Class

TEACHING 101



Notes by Ray Reynolds



HOW TO EFFECTIVELY TEACH A BIBLE CLASS

Notes by Ray Reynolds (Sunday AM, August 19, 2012)

Keep The Main Thing, The Main Thing

Objective #1 = Seeking to glorify God (**Ephesians 6:7, Colossians 3:17**).

Objective #2 = Using our talents to glorify God (**Matthew 25:31-46, Ephesians 4:11-16**).

Objective #3 = Effectively communicate the gospel message (**Ephesians 4:15, Mark 16:15-16**).

Objective #4 = Teaching others to repeat the process (**Matthew 28:18-20, Titus 2:1-8**).

Effective Bible Teaching Begins With Effective Bible Teachers

What does it mean to be an effective teacher?

- 1) A Good Teacher Is A Christian (**I Peter 2:21, Colossians 3:17**)
- 2) A Good Teacher Is Servant-minded (**I Thessalonians 5:22, John 13:1-6**)
- 3) A Good Teacher Is Faithful (**Hebrews 10:24-25, II Timothy 2:2**)
- 4) A Good Teacher Is Prayerful (**John 15:5, I Thessalonians 5:17**)
- 5) A Good Teacher Is Zealous (**Jeremiah 20:7-9, Hebrews 5:12**)
- 6) A Good Teacher Is Able (**I Corinthians 12:29, Romans 12:3-8**)
- 7) A Good Teacher Is Truthful (**II Timothy 2:15, I Thessalonians 2:2-4**)
- 8) A Good Teacher Is Working (**I Timothy 4:13, II Timothy 2:15**)
- 9) A Good Teacher Is Sacrificial (**Matthew 16:24, Mark 12:30**)
- 10) A Good Teacher Is Dependable (**I Corinthians 15:58, II Timothy 4:6-8**)
- 11) A Good Teacher Is Understanding (**Philippians 2:3-4, Ephesians 4:3**)
- 12) A Good Teacher Is Self-Controlled (**Galatians 5:22-23, II Peter 1:5-9**)

What does it take to improve our skills as a teacher?

- 1) Teachers should be willing to look for ways to improve.
- 2) We should understand that good teachers do not "happen," they are made!
- 3) The "I am good enough" or "I don't need help" attitude needs to cease.
- 4) The "I can't teach because I'm not good enough" attitude needs to cease.
- 5) Improving our spiritual walk will improve our teaching.
- 6) Study, pray, and meditate on the things you need to do in your own life.
- 7) Adopt the attitude of Paul (**Philippians 4:13**).
- 8) Become a "master" in the field/subject you are teaching.
- 9) Find practical ways to improve and make better application.
- 10) Challenge yourself, and reward yourself, when you reach your goals.
- 11) Realize that you are working for God and not for men (**Ephesians 6:7**).
- 12) Go to workshops, seminars, and stay up to date on new methods.

What else should we learn about teaching in a classroom?

- 1) Find out how many students you will have and get an attendance chart (take role).
- 2) Avoid lecturing, unless you are teaching the adult class, then only frequently.
- 3) Learn how to teach every age group. Learn the dynamics of those groups.
- 4) Find games, crafts, activities, to keep their attention (use visual aids).
- 5) Deal with problems, questions, and controversies immediately.
- 6) Maintain structure, order, and organization in the class.
- 7) Do not criticize those who disagree with you. Maintain communication/dialogue.

Excerpts from "*Being An Effective Bible Class Teacher*" (by Gene Taylor)

<http://www.padfield.com/acrobat/taylor/Teachers.pdf>

Do's and Don'ts For Effective Bible Teaching

DO'S

- Do your own work and prepare for class.
- Speak as both as a fellow-learner as much as a teacher.
- If you are teaching new Christians or visitors, welcome and introduce them.
- Be sensitive to your audience.
- Anticipate experience that needs to be clarified in your teaching.
- Try to stay with your outline/material.
- Remember your audience and try to anticipate their thoughts and questions.
- Explain the subject of your teaching early on—within the first minute.
- Use personal applications.
- Use good illustrations.
- Consider the educational level of your audience.
- Have good, clear, and concise thought development.
- Smile, use humor, and warm up to your audience.
- The proper use of grammar and slang.
- Make use of vivid imagery and graphic description.
- Stay focused.
- Have a concise introduction and get into your lesson quickly.
- Use rhetorical questions when possible.
- Pause briefly after humor or important statements.
- Make good eye contact and engage your audience when you speak.
- Try to work from the text/material.
- Have a solid conclusion and end the lesson with the application of it.
- Be yourself! Be REAL!!!

DON'TS

- Don't enter class without a Bible.
- Unless you are a very experienced teacher, don't tinker with your material 24 hours prior to teaching.
- Do not abbreviate the books of the Bible.
- Don't bore your audience (K.I.S.S.).
- Don't use vague applications.
- Don't use too much material.
- Don't stand still and don't sit still.
- Don't become predictable in your style.
- Don't narrate stories of the Bible when you can read it to them!
- Don't use an out-of-date translation.
- Don't use out-of-date material.
- Don't say, "When I was your age!"
- Don't use too many biblical references.
- Don't try to run ahead of your audience.
- Avoid doing a verse-by-verse commentary of the story.
- Don't express too many personal opinions or church traditions.
- Don't act timidly about touchy subjects.
- Don't end declarative statements with a questioning tone in your voice.
- Don't mix corniness with a serious story.
- Don't let your class get out of control.
- Don't assume your audience knows your text, story, or a specific Bible character.
- Don't apologize for your inexperience or lack of full knowledge on a subject.
- Don't forget that your audience may not know the Bible well.
- Don't just turn the class loose without a prayer, song, craft, or reading.
- Don't forget your audience when class is over! Be PERSONAL!

Preparing Your Bible Class Material

Steps For Effective Bible Studies:

- 1) Pray.
- 2) Choose your material.
- 3) Read the material.
- 4) Study the material.
- 5) Review the material.
- 6) Organize your thoughts about the material.
- 7) Deliver the material.

30 Tips for Teaching a Bible Class

To Teach An Effective Bible Class:

- 1) Read the text as if you have never read it before.
- 2) Read the text multiple times looking for repeated words and phrases.
- 3) Find the connection between stories (Gospels, OT narrative).
- 4) Form your own opinion before going to the commentaries.
- 5) Ten minutes of solid, challenging, thought provoking questions, can be better than a one hour lecture.
- 6) Never underestimate the importance of background (audience, location, author, etc) to the text you are studying.
- 7) Determine what information you want to cover can most likely be generated by discussion and what information cannot.
- 8) Know more than you intend to teach.
- 9) Use illustrations but only one or two that really make the point of the class and make sure to come back to that illustration at the end and tie up loose ends.
- 10) Don't belittle anyone's comments.
- 11) Try to find the connection/nugget of truth in comments that aren't quite on the mark (consider where it might be going).
- 12) Give credit to the class.
- 13) If you want more discussion, encourage it.
- 14) The biggest way to kill discussions is by making the classroom a dangerous place to answer questions or give input.
- 15) Be positive.
- 16) Make sure you get the big picture.
- 17) Be a resource for others.
- 18) Don't be afraid to say you don't know.
- 19) Be consistent.
- 20) Be early.
- 21) Be hungry.
- 22) Be humble.
- 23) Don't fear the truth.
- 24) Try to follow the flow of the text rather than pre-determined chapter breaks.
- 25) Different genres are not read or taught the same.
- 26) Try teaching inductively rather than deductively.
- 27) If you haven't studied Greek or Hebrew use it sparingly and try not to make your major points off of it.
- 28) Use commentaries written in the last 25 years from a reputable series.
- 29) Use handouts effectively.
- 30) Email your class members regularly.

Excerpts from "*30 Tips for Teaching a Bible Class*" (by Matt Dabbs)

<http://mattdabbs.wordpress.com/2008/03/31/30-tips-for-teaching-a-bible-class/>

Organizing An Effective Bible School Program

Steps For Effective Bible Schools:

- 1) Define the scope of Christian education.
- 2) Establish a philosophy (mission statement) for the Bible school.
- 3) Set attainable goals for the Bible school.
- 4) Establish an educational director.
- 5) Establish an education committee.
- 6) Recruit, select, train, and retain good Bible class teachers.
- 7) Consider the parameters of your congregation and the cultural climate.
- 8) Search for biblical and applicable Bible class material.
- 9) Keep up with new trends, ideas, and methodology.
- 10) Get to know your students and their parents.
- 11) Consider the learning styles of your students.
- 12) Keep accurate records.
- 13) Maintain good discipline and establish a hall monitor.
- 14) Find ways to edify your membership through the Bible School.
- 15) Find ways to evangelize your community through the Bible School.
- 16) Honor God, your director, your teachers, and your students.

Material collected from "*Let's Be Great Teachers*" (Sue Crabtree), "*Foundations of Ministry*" (Micheal J. Anthony), "*Curriculum*" (by Bill Bagents), and "*Organization & Administration of the Bible School*" (by Coy Roper)