

IMPROVING OUR SERVICE

Lesson 9

Teaching Bible Class

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Local Church Bible Classes.

1. We live in age of instant information. We compete with many forms of media: phones, computers, the Internet, etc. The Bible class must be the best that it can be to compete with the worldly wisdom that comes to the members throughout the week.
2. The importance of teaching.
 - a) Christianity is a taught religion (Jn. 6:44-45), not a fought, bought, or caught religion.
 - b) Teaching is a great responsibility and a great privilege.
3. The importance of Bible classes (Mt. 28:19-20).
 - a) The Bible class is not just an appendage tacked on to the church service. Why do we have Bible classes? Habit? Tradition?
 - b) The Bible class is an “arm of the local church” (Deut. 31:12). It is a “reaching arm” – gather people of all ages together (saved and non-saved). It is a “teaching arm” – hear and learn. It is a “saving arm” – fear and obey the word.
 - c) Local churches in the NT had teachers (Acts 2:42; 4:2; 5:21, 25; 11:26; 13:1; 15:35; 18:11; Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; 14:6, 26; Eph. 4:11 and 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Tit. 1:9, 11 [the elders]; 1 Tim. 2:7; 4:11, 13, 16; 6:2; and 2 Tim. 2:11, 24 [the preacher]; 2 Tim. 2:2; Tit. 2:3 [the women]).
 - d) Individual Christians are to grow to be teachers (Heb. 5:12).
 - e) Teachers must take their role seriously and use their tongues carefully (Jas. 3:1ff).
 - f) People are brought to God through teaching (Jn. 6:44-45; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 4:21).
4. We must know what is and is not a good Bible class.
 - a) A good Bible class is not...
 - (1) A “party” atmosphere.
 - (2) Built on entertainment.
 - (3) Replacing the scriptures with literature.
 - (4) Dead lecturing or simply taking up time.
 - b) A good Bible class is...
 - (1) Taught by concerned, sacrificial Christians who are willing to know their Bible, their lesson, their students’ needs, and their classroom.

(2) Centered on the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16; 4:2).

B. Let's See How We Can Be Good Teachers, Good Students, and Good Parents of Good Students.

II. THREE BIBLE CLASS TEACHING MISTAKES.

A. Teachers Who Are Unprepared to Teach or Unwilling to Teach.

B. Students Who Have an Unprepared Lesson or Who Are Unwilling to Learn.

C. Local Church Leaders and Parents Who Are Unwilling to Improve Their Bible Classes.

III. WHAT CAN TEACHERS DO?

A. Live a Consecrated Life.

1. Ezra 7:10.
2. Teachers are examples (Tit. 2:7-8; Mt. 23:3). Be responsible and live right!
3. Teachers are to be "trustworthy" (faithful), capable, and able to teach God's word (Jer. 23:28; 2 Tim. 2:2; Jas. 3:1ff).
4. Teachers should be genuine Christians, Christ-like, sound in doctrine (2 Tim. 1:13; 2:15; Tit. 2:1), courageous, sincere, dependable, prayerful, loving of souls, cooperative, humble, compassionate, concerned, cheerful, and always growing.

B. Be Teachable.

1. A good teacher is first a good student and a good learner.
2. Like Apollos, be willing to learn more and correct any misinformed thinking you have (Acts 18:25).

C. Plan a Good Lesson.

1. Planning a good lesson is like preparing a good meal to eat.
2. The lesson must be a "balanced diet" (Acts 20:27; Rom. 15:4).
3. The lesson must be a "nutritious, healthy diet" (Mt. 15:9; 16:12; Jn. 7:16-17; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3; Tit. 1:11; 2 Pet. 2:1; 2 Jn. 9-10; Rev. 2:14-15, 20, 24).
4. The lesson must be an "age-appropriate diet" (1 Cor. 3:1-2).
5. The lesson must be "flavorful diet" (Psa. 19:10; 119:103).

D. Be Thoroughly Prepared.

1. Consider two expressions: "By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail" and "The more you perspire before your lesson, the less you will perspire during your lesson".
2. Set a good example for the student. Study in advance.
3. Saturday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon is good for review, but not for preparation.
4. Don't stall for time. Often activities are used (in the lower classes) for a substitute because the teacher has not learned the Bible or the lesson.

5. Know the scriptures. Know your Bible and accurately handle it (2 Tim. 2:15)! You cannot teach what you do not know.
 6. Make use of study aids (books, computer programs, etc.). Three good websites for Bible study are: biblehub.com, biblegateway.com, and blueletterbible.org.
- E. Be Regular and Be on Time.
1. Greet your students and visitors and build a relationship with them so that they will be more interested in what you have to teach.
 2. Begin your class with a prayer and then briefly summarizing your previous studies and your current study.
 3. If you don't know something, tell the class you will get back with them after you have time to do more study.
 4. If you forget your train of thought, don't call attention to it. Just move on to your next point.
 5. Move along. Don't take the entire class time to talk about one point within the lesson.
- F. Teach the Bible, not Something Else.
1. Some teach only the workbook or an outline from someone else. A workbook is good, but it is just an aid. Focus on teaching God's word (the Bible text), not the words of the author of the workbook.
 2. Some teach their "hobbies" (1 Tim. 6:3-4; Tit. 3:9), "strange" doctrines (Heb. 13:9), something outside the teaching of Christ (2 Jn. 9-11), or false teaching (Rev. 14, 15, 20, 24). Some teach only what the audience wants to hear (2 Tim. 4:3).
 3. Some teach only activities and busy work. Remember, it is a Bible class, not simply an activities class.
 4. Make time for E-E-A: examination of the text, explanation of the text, and application of the text (Deut. 31:12-13; Ezra 7:10, 25-26; Neh. 8:1-18).
 - a) Examination: What does the text say?
 - b) Explanation: What does the text mean?
 - c) Application: What does the text mean to me for my life today?
 5. Take time to read the Bible text during class. Do not simply refer to the Bible or paraphrase it; actually read from it. There are often students in the class that have not read the text yet. You can also have students read from the text. This is especially good for younger students.
 6. Ask questions from the Bible text, not just from the workbook. Require that the answer come from the Bible text, not just the workbook.
- G. Teach, Don't Simply Lecture, Referee, Moderate, Etc.
1. Know what it really means to teach. Teaching is not just being a moderator or referee. Teaching is not just talking. Teaching is not just imparting information. Teaching leads a student from one point (the unknown) to another (knowledge and application).

Teaching is explaining and the applying God's word. You have not really taught the student until the student is able to repeat the lesson back to you in a understandable way.

2. Know what you're teaching – the Bible, the most important subject in life. A teacher should not be indifferent or lazy toward the class.

H. Be Enthusiastic, Creative, Personal, Sensitive, Visionary, and Loving.

1. Be challenging while teaching the class, creative in your teaching approach and method, personally involved with the students, sensitive to the needs of the students, looking for the good in a student, and loving them with care.

I. Vary Their Style of Teaching.

1. Some teachers prefer the "lecture method" of teaching. The advantage of this method is that a teacher can discuss a lot of material in one class period. The disadvantage of this method is that the students are not as engaged as they could be, so they don't learn as much.
2. Some teachers prefer the "class participation" (student interaction) method. The advantage of this method is that the students learn more through participation (see next point). The students, of course, need to be encouraged by the teacher to prepare their lessons. The teacher needs to tell the students that they will be called upon to participate. The disadvantage of this method is that it takes more time to cover a section of material and a teacher must be able to keep the students "on track" throughout the class and not let a student dominate all the time.

J. Encourage Participation.

1. A student remembers 10% of what he reads, 20% of what he hears, 30% of what he sees, 50% of what he sees and hears, 70% of what he says as he reads, and 90% of what he says as he does something.
2. Get students to participate by answering questions in the workbook, reading the Bible, or making comments in response to your questions. Give them time to respond. Don't respond for them. Don't ask a question of a student and then answer your own question. Don't ask questions to discourage or embarrass your students. Call upon your students by name and this will keep them engaged.
3. Keep lecture to a minimum.

K. Learn From Teachers in the Bible.

1. Read the gospels and see what Jesus did to teach others. Study his methods and emulate them.
2. Read the book of Acts and Paul's epistles to see what Paul did to teach others. Study his methods and emulate them.

IV. WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO?

- A. Teachers Should Regularly Talk to Their Students About What Students Should Do to Be Good Students. Students Should...
- B. Appreciate the Importance of Their Bible.

- C. Have Their Lesson Prepared, Prepared, Prepared (Acts 17:11).
- D. Get Involved. The Teacher Must Work to Keep the Students Involved (see above).
 - 1. Ask and answer questions.
 - 2. Read the Bible.
 - 3. Make applications.
 - 4. A student gets out of class what he or she puts into it.
- E. Support Their Teacher (Gal. 6:6).

V. WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- A. Teachers Should Regularly Talk to the Parents About What Parents Should Do to Encourage Good Bible Study in Their Children. Parents Should...
- B. Set the Right Example for Study.
 - 1. Does your child see you studying your own lesson?
- C. See That Lessons are Prepared.
 - 1. Last minute “flying through the lesson”, or working on the lesson on the way to the church building, is not good preparation.
 - 2. Be enthusiastic about your child’s spiritual learning just like you would be of their secular education at school.
- D. Discuss the Lesson with Your Children.
 - 1. How can we measure success or take accountability? No grades or tests are offered in Bible classes [no one is suspended], so many children grow up feeling that they can get by with nothing and often they do.
 - 2. Family Bible study at home is a good time for discussion, progress evaluation, and accountability regarding a child’s Bible study and learning.
- E. See that the Mind and Body is Prepared.
 - 1. Learning takes place in the mind of a student who is mentally alert. Alert bodies lead to alert minds.
 - 2. Don’t be out late or stay up late on Saturday night. Children should be well and at their physical best when they come to class.
- F. Be Regular and Be on Time.
 - 1. Occasional tardiness cannot be avoided, but habitual absentees and habitual latecomers deprive their children of learning and disrupt the class.
- G. Insist on Good Behavior (Discipline) in Class.
 - 1. Do you know whether or not there is a problem in the class? And if so, is your child involved? Often the parents don’t ask, the teachers won’t tell, and students don’t care.
 - 2. Remember, we are in God’s presence, studying God’s word. Support the teacher when discipline is necessary.

H. Discuss Your Child's Work with the Teacher.

1. We do this with public education (I hope), so why not with the Bible class? Discuss your child's specific needs with the teacher.

I. Volunteer to Teach.

1. This is a good way to set the right example for your children and get your lesson prepared. The local church always needs more teachers, so get involved.

VI. WHAT CAN LOCAL CHURCHES DO?

A. Members Can Support the Teaching Program By Working to Train New and Better Teachers.

B. Have Regular Teacher Training Programs.

1. Rotate the teachers around so new teachers are used.
2. Ask specific members to start teaching.
3. Organize a teaching program with a schedule of teachers and subjects for a year. Have good supplies and curriculum on hand for the teachers.

VII. WHY BETTER TEACHERS AND CLASSES?

A. Better Bible Classes Make for More Converts (Mk. 6:34; Jn. 6:44-45).

B. Better Bible Classes Make for A Better Defense Against the World (Psa. 119:98-100).

C. Better Bible Classes Make for Strong Christians (Col. 1:28; 1 Tim. 4:16).

D. Lack of Good Teaching Leads Only to Ruin (2 Chron. 15:1-7; 2 Kings 17:28-29).

VIII. CONCLUSION.

A. Let's Go Out Now and Teach Great Bible Classes.

B. Class Motto: "I Will Try To Do Better!"