

Fundamentals of Teaching
Teacher Training Class – Week 3

- I. Introduction
 - A. Why do we have Bible classes?
 - B. Torah (Law of God, first 5 OT books) – to shoot an arrow, to put forth as instruction, teach
 - C. A teacher must know where he is going and what he is doing (what his goal is)
 - i. Understanding of the ultimate goal of teaching
 - ii. Knowing what good teaching requires
 - iii. Understanding the fundamental approach for teaching God’s word
 - iv. Comprehension and proper usage of teaching techniques
 - D. What are we trying to accomplish in our Bible classes? Why are we here?

- II. The ultimate goal of teaching
 - A. Someone trying to teach without understanding his goal is like an archer firing his bow without understanding that his target is the bulls-eye
 - B. In a sense, there are many goals of teaching (e.g. teaching sinners, children, or novices)
 - C. The ultimate goal of teaching, however, is to enable each person to reach the point where he will have sufficient knowledge of God’s word to be able to take his Bible, study it for himself, and grow even more in his understanding without requiring someone else to simplify and outline it for him
 - D. Our goal is to teach our students so that they will not need materials anymore (Bible only)
 - E. Recall from the Bible how important knowledge is
 - i. The key to being pleasing to God is knowledge of His word, Christ, and God, himself
 - ii. The difference between a “good person” and a Christian is knowledge
 - iii. John 8:32; John 14:6-9; 2 Peter 1:2-4
 - iv. The teaching program (and teachers) must be geared toward preparing students to learn the whole Bible on their own, as it would be impossible to teach it all here
 - F. Our aim should be to “teach ourselves out of a job” (“if you teach a man to fish...”)

- III. How do we accomplish this goal?
 - A. If our students only study during the time they are at Bible class at our assemblies (an hour or so each week) they will remain spiritually weak forever – outside study is necessary
 - B. As a result, many times teachers are given workbooks to distribute to their students, which are supposed to be studied at home (questions answered, etc.)
 - C. Workbooks can be used as crutches by teachers who seek to minimize the amount of work and preparation needed to effectively conduct a class or just do not know how else to teach
 - i. Reading through the workbook in class
 - ii. Question-answer method of conducting class
 - D. If workbooks are used in this way, class becomes boring and little is learned; teachers must use workbooks and other resources as minor tools, not the major components of a class
 - E. Ultimately, the goal of bringing each student to be able to study his Bible independently can never be reached, even if we have the very best workbooks and systems
 - F. We must focus our attention on developing effective teachers
 - i. Develop the kind of Bible knowledge necessary to teach others
 - ii. Develop a knowledge of people in order to address each individual’s needs
 - G. Teachers must become genuine students of the Bible before teaching others to do the same

- IV. Requirements for good teaching
 - A. The most important factor in successful teaching is the teacher himself
 - B. There are three aspects in all teaching (without all aspects, you may not be as effective)
 - i. Knowledge of the subject matter to be taught
 - ii. Knowledge of people (ages and circumstances)
 - iii. Knowledge of how to put information into easily understood, interesting thoughts
 - C. Characteristics of a good teacher
 - i. Knowledge
 - 1. The biggest problem facing most Bible teachers is that they do not know the subject they are teaching well enough (including context)
 - 2. Without seeing the big picture, one cannot appreciate God's wisdom (and thus, cannot help others to appreciate it either)
 - 3. A good teacher studies hard and always has something worthwhile to say
 - 4. Be as prepared as you can to answer questions; if a question comes up that you cannot answer, admit your ignorance and return with an answer later
 - 5. Technique and visual aids cannot be substituted for knowledge of the Bible
 - 6. A good teacher first goes directly to the Bible to prepare for his class; additional time is used to review workbooks, visual aids, etc.
 - ii. Faithfulness
 - 1. A teacher must be an example in his own life (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - 2. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for not being examples (Matthew 23:2-3)
 - 3. Before teaching, be sure your commitment to God is what it should be
 - 4. If you are "playing at religion," please do not teach; you may do great harm
 - iii. Wisdom
 - 1. A good teacher has the wisdom to digest the Bible and present it simply
 - 2. He can recognize where students are in their knowledge and teach them according to their ability (both in subject matter and in technique)
 - iv. Reverence
 - 1. A Bible teacher must genuinely love God, the Bible, and the people in it, and demonstrate that love in his teaching
 - 2. Many people, unwittingly, demonstrate irreverence in their teaching
 - a. "I do not know why God did that. It seems awfully cruel to me!"
 - b. "I do not understand Paul's writings here. It doesn't make sense."
 - 3. Do not criticize God (or Bible teachings) until you know all that God knows
 - 4. One of the greatest ways we can show reverence is to make sure that, in teaching any passage, that we make the point that God intended to make
- V. Basic rules about teaching
 - A. Recognize the great privilege and responsibility of teaching a class (do your best to attend every class, and be sure to have a capable substitute if you absolutely must be absent)
 - B. Be realistic in your goals as a teacher (understand that you may not be ready, yet)
 - C. You will learn by teaching
 - i. You will learn more when you study than you will by sitting in another class
 - ii. We retain facts better when we have dug them out and understood them ourselves
 - iii. Try to teach various ages; each age has its own challenges and opportunities
 - D. Team teaching (2 adults in the room for class) has advantages and disadvantages; consider both before attempting to use this technique in a Bible class
 - E. Rotating teachers keeps teachers and material fresh and moving; consider disadvantages