CHRISTIAN TEACHER TRAINING

HOW TO PREPARE A LESSON

1. Analyze your previous lesson and class session

a. Think about what really went on in the class
b. Note areas of weakness (ex. in your preparation & delivery)
c. Set goals for next week.

2. Pray for wisdom before you prepare your lesson

3. Prepare each lesson by fresh study (using helps if needed)

a. Read & meditate thoroughly on all scripture that relates to the lesson theme.

b. Understand the main point or theme of your lesson

c. Master the key elements that develop that theme.

d. Arrange the lesson in outline form in your own words.

1) Write out your theme (overall main point you wish to communicate)

2) Write out your main points to communicate
(your main points explain your theme)

Your main points should include:

a) Explanation of the Biblical Text

b) Illustrations (examples of the principles to be taught)

c) Applications (showing how the truth(s) can be applied & obeyed)

e. Write out your introduction

A good introduction will be a "hook" to gain attention, create interest, and direct the students minds toward the theme of your lesson.

The purpose of an introduction is to bridge the gap from where students are (when the enter the class) to where they should be (when they begin to hear the lesson)

Suggestions for an introduction:

1) A story from everyday life.
2) A story from the Scriptures
3) A thought provoking question.
4) A current event

f. Write out your conclusion

A conclusion should:

1) Summarize your main ideas
2) Refresh the minds of the students
3) Call for an application of the truth learned.

4. Study until you can put the lesson in your own words.

Know thoroughly the lesson you wish to teach; teach from a full mind and clear understanding (See Luke 6:39, 40)

Imperfect knowing will be reflected in imperfect teaching.
Truth must be understood clearly to be taught vividly (with life).

5. Apply the lesson to your own life

The teacher must know, believe, & obey what he wants to teach.

6. Schedule ample time for lesson preparation

Don't wait until the last minute to prepare your lesson.

Here is a suggested schedule:

Sunday
Review previous lesson & class

Monday - Wednesday
Read & meditate on Scripture you will teach

Thursday
Read & study the lesson in the teacher's manual (if you are using curriculum)
Cut out visuals; Prepare materials

Friday
Write out a lesson outline

Saturday
Review Lesson & pray for your class

THE AIM OF TEACHING

A. YOUR AIM IS THE GOAL YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH
Many teachers do not accomplish anything because they never really plan (intend) to.

B. YOUR AIM GIVES YOU:
1. Motivation
2. Direction
3. Purpose

C. QUALITIES OF A GOOD AIM
1. Brief enough to be remembered
2. Clear enough to be written down
3. Specific enough to be achieved

NOTE: Make sure that your aim is God's aim from the text (passage of Scripture) you are teaching.

D. WHAT GENERAL AIM DOES GOD WANT IN ANY LESSON WE TEACH?

In every lesson, God wants us to:
1. Know the truth (John 8:31-32)
   a. Hear the Word (Rev. 2:7)
   b. Desire the Word (I Pet. 2:2; Jer. 15:16)
   c. Believe the Word (John 4:39-42)

2. Apply the truth (Mt. 21:45; Lk. 13:3, 5)
3. Live the truth (James 1:22)
Teaching is useless unless it is lived, acted upon, or obeyed.
EXAMPLE:

Mt. 28:20 - "...Observe (to do)..."
Josh. 1:8 - 1) Consume it
2) Digest it
3) Do it
Mt. 7:24-27 - Wise man and foolish man

Eph. 4:11-12 -

Teachers (the means of teaching; cp. v. 7)
Equipping saints (the purpose of teaching)
Work of ministry (the result of teaching; cp. II Tim. 3:17)
Edifying to maturity (the goal of teaching)

GOAL: Col. 1:28

A Challenge to Bible Teachers

THE NEED FOR TEACHERS

For young children, these are the:

A. FORMATIVE YEARS
Children are tender (soft-hearted).
Character is being formed; outlook, principles of life are being learned.
EXAMPLE: Timothy (II Tim. 3:14-15); Deut. 6:7

B. PREVENTATIVE YEARS
Training now will prevent a life of ruin (sin)
"Train up a child . . ." (Prov. 22:6)

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS

A. YOU MUST BE:
1. Saved (You must know the Lord)
2. Baptized, and church member who is busy serving the Lord (You must obey the Lord)

3. Spiritual (You must love the Lord)

B. YOU MUST HAVE:

1. Desire - You must want to teach (EXAMPLE: I Tim. 3:1)
2. Commitment to:
   a. Love (Pray for and visit your students)
   b. Work (It will take time and effort)
   c. Faithfulness
      1) Must not miss (without notifying S.S. superintendent and finding a replacement)
      2) Must not quit

Remember: We are giving the eternal Word to eternal souls!

THE DEFINITION OF TEACHING

What is Biblical teaching? It is the communication of truth, so that the truth is comprehended, applied, and lived (obeyed).

ALL TEACHING SHOULD AFFECT THE "HEAD, HEART, AND HAND" (John 12:40)

1. INTELLECT (rational/ thinking) - Truth must be known
2. EMOTION (emotional/ feeling) - Truth must be understood and embraced (applied)
3. WILL (volitional/ doing) - Truth must be acted upon or responded to

To reach the intellect without the emotions is cold, dry, and dead teaching.
To reach the emotions without the intellect is fanaticism without a foundation.
To reach the intellect and emotions without touching the will is useless and impractical (not related to life).

GOOD BIBLICAL TEACHING WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Explanation - the foundation to build upon (the basis) ("What does the Bible say?")
2. Illustration - the windows to shed light (the example) ("What does the Bible mean?")
3. Application - the doors and keys to put the truth into action (the practice) ("What does the Bible mean to me?")

TEACHING AIDS

A. A DEFINITION OF "TEACHING AIDS"

A teaching aid is anything that helps a teacher to help a learner to learn and retain. It is a "hook" that catches and holds the attention of the pupil.

It is a "nail" that fastens the truth to the students' minds.

B. THE NEED FOR TEACHING AIDS

1. Short Attention Spans - A child's ability to sit, listen, and think varies with age and background. A picture or illustration of some type will generally hold anyone's interest.

2. Different Levels of Learning
   a. 0 - 2 years: Learns through senses
   b. 2 - 5 years: Learns concrete facts
   c. 6 - 9 years: Thinks logically, primarily with concrete facts
   d. 10 - 12 years: Thinks logically with abstract terms
   --Because children do not have a developed ability to think about abstract concepts, using teaching aids (audios and visuals) is vital!

3. People are visually orientated by nature
   We remember approximately 2% of what we read
   We remember approximately 10% of what we hear
   We remember approximately 75% of what we see
   We remember approximately 90% of what we do

4. People today are living in a visually-orientated society (color photographs, films, videos, movies, TV, billboards, etc.)
   *"A picture paints a thousand words"

C. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF USING TEACHING AIDS

1. He used stories
   a. Real-life examples (historical facts; EX: Lk. 13:4 - "Tower of Siloam")
   b. Hypothetical examples (Lk. 13:6ff - "A certain man")
   c. Parables (earthly message with spiritual applications; Mt. 13:3 - "And he spake many things unto them in parables")

2. He used objects lessons
   a. Mt. 18:1-10 - He called a little child
   b. Jn. 13 - He washed the disciples' feet
   c. Writing in the sand, millstone about neck, coin with Caesar's picture, etc.

3. He used dramatics - Mt. 21:7-16 - The triumphal entry and cleansing of the temple

4. He used questions (Mk. 13:3; Lk. 13:15; Jn. 4:6ff)

5. He used daily experiences - Jesus frequently referred to familiar objects and experiences: air, altar, birds, bread, camel, candle, cloth, door, etc. (use the concrete to clarify truth and lead people to Christ)

6. He used the O.T. Scriptures to illustrate (Jn. 3:14 - "As Moses lifted up the serpent")

7. He used various kinds of analogies (Jn. 15:1-9), **metaphors** (Mk. 7:27), and **similes** (using "like" or "as" - Mt. 7:24-27; and **substitutions** - Lk. 13:32, Jn. 10:9, etc.)

D. VARIOUS KINDS OF TEACHING AIDS
(Visual aids and audio-visual aids)

Impressional aids - involve doing of the teacher

Expressional aids - involve doing of the learner

1. Suggested aids for the teacher
    a. Objects
    b. Maps
    c. Pictures (prints, film strips, movies)
    d. Chalk board
    e. Flannelgraph (suspense, movement)
    f. Flash card stories
    g. Visualized songs
    h. Role playing (teacher acts out the story)
    i. Puppets
    j. Records/tapes
2. Suggested aids for pupil's use
    a. Handwork and handcraft
    b. Projects
    c. Some of the things used by the teacher may also be used by the Students
    d. Role playing (pupils act out a story)

E. FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING A PARTICULAR TEACHING AID

1. Aim of the lesson
2. The students' age, needs, and backgrounds
3. The students' level of understanding
4. Attitudes and conduct
5. Classroom situation
6. Available equipment and material
7. Variety
8. Teacher's ability

F. THE BENEFITS OF TEACHING AIDS

Teaching aids (pictures or illustrations of various types) are beneficial in the following ways:

1. To center attention and create atmosphere
2. To secure interest
3. For background information
4. To clarify the unfamiliar
5. To furnish incentives for right conduct
6. To stimulate discussion
7. To review or summarize the lesson
8. To illustrate Bible lessons
9. To tell a story

G. SUGGESTIONS TO REMEMBER IN USING TEACHING AIDS

1. Color is better than black and white

2. Action is better than still life
3. Size should be suitable to the purpose
4. Teaching aids should be within comprehension of the age group
5. Details should be true to the incident
6. Teaching aid should indeed aid your presentation of truth, not confuse it
7. Use a variety of aids (not the same ones week after week)