

Teaching the Lesson

The purpose of teaching

The purpose of teaching is to evangelize and equip the saints for the work of ministry. We want to develop spiritually mature individuals who desire to serve God above all else. This purpose must be kept in mind as we teach.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The purpose of the lesson

Beside our overall purpose, we should have a purpose in teaching each lesson. Of course, part of this purpose would be to provide students with Bible knowledge. Bible knowledge is not the only goal we should have for the lesson. We should have a purpose that involves bringing the students to a closer walk with God.

I Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

I Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

Commercial materials vs. Developing your own lesson using the word of God

Using commercial materials is important for inexperienced teachers. It is also important to note, however, that we should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and make changes as necessary in those materials. The Bible should be open and used regardless of whether you are using commercial materials or not. We should also be Berean in using these materials. They are not inspired like God's word is. If you are using commercial materials, please feel free to adapt them as you desire and are led in your preparations.

Using visuals

Using visuals such as pictures and objects is important for young children. Many students are visual learners and we all learn better when we are presented with visuals. We just taught a lesson on David and Goliath. We brought in a sling, pouch with 5 round stones, a spear and a sword. All of these

materials were made(sling and pouch), collected(stones) or purchased inexpensively(toy sword and spear).

Using the Bible

Read verses from the actual Bible, not a paper or computer. Students need to trust God's word the Bible and know it is different from what the teachers say or from what the materials say. The Bible has no errors in its original languages.

Using variety with children

- Do not always present the lesson in the same way. Use a variety of methods to teach the lesson.
- Paper plate lessons—paper plates or note cards are passed out to students with key names and words in the story. As you tell the story, the students hold up their plate or card. This keeps their attention and they are involved in the story.
- Acting out the lesson
- Storytelling techniques
- Having the children relate the lesson if it is one that they know.

The importance of application

There is nothing more important than the application. The lesson should be aimed at this application. Class 350 is devoted to the application.

Making lesson plans

There is a sample lesson plan that is on the website. Feel free to use or change this in any way. A lesson plan will give you confidence in teaching the lesson as well as help you think it through. Many commercial materials have lesson plans attached. You may want to design your own plan to fit your personality and needs.

Terminology

Be careful with the terminology that you use in teaching the lesson. Try to avoid church jargon—not that there is anything wrong with that. Students, especially those from un-churched homes do not understand that terminology. Secondly, use terminology that is age appropriate. We want students to understand what we are teaching. We need to also be careful that we don't talk down to the students. Thirdly, we need to be careful about using terminology that gives wrong impressions. We need to make sure that students understand the difference between our physical heart and our soul. We also should use the word Bible lesson instead of Bible story. The word story to our children means something that may or may not be true. We do not want them to think that these accounts in the Bible are merely stories, but part of history. They are historical accounts of what really happened.