

Leading Bible Study Groups

The Teacher As A Guide

- “So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.” (Acts 8:30-31)
- The word for **“guide”** in the original language is **“hodegeo”** which means **“to lead or guide in the way”**.
- **It is this guidance that people need today even more than ever because there are so many blind leaders of the blind.**

Depend on The Holy Spirit

- “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”-1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- Above all else, when we sit down with others, we are sharing what the Lord has done and what He is doing presently in our lives.
- It is important to be yourself in response to what the Spirit is doing in your life.
- **“It’s not my ability, but my response to God’s ability, that counts.”**-Corrie Ten Boom

Responsibility Of A Teacher

- “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”- **James 3:1**
- Believers ought to work towards being qualified to teach. -(1 Peter 3:15; Hebrews 5:12-14)
- The Lord has given to the Church teachers for equipping believers for ministry.- Acts 13:1; Eph. 4:11-12
- James is concerned that people don’t become a teacher without realizing what an huge responsibility it is to be a teacher of the Word of God.
- All who become teachers must do so “....knowing we shall receive a stricter judgment.”-3:1

- A teacher needs to use carefulness and limitation in what he is trying to communicate.
- A teacher needs to be genuine in his motives. A teacher is merely a instrument in the Masters hand.
- A teacher needs to be prepared.
- This is a problem today in the modern church!
- “.....desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.” -1 Timothy 1:7
- Be cautious of the tendency of externalizing the Scriptures so that we teach but never learn its lessons.
- “A wise man will hear and increase learning...” - Proverbs 1:5

Traits To Avoid Of Unhealthy Teachers

- They will demonstrate envy toward others especially other teachers.
- They will have a desire for personal reputation through their teaching.
- They will teach whatever doctrine will enhance their reputation and position of influence.
- They will teach and defend doctrines that clearly contradict plain Bible truth.
- Their teaching will result in bondage and legalism among those whom they have taught.

Traits To Nurture While Teaching

- An effective teacher’s teaching is characterized by peace not confusion and turmoil.
- An effective teacher is not harsh and overly critical.
- An effective teacher must not take themselves too serious.
- An effective teacher will teach with authority but is willing to acknowledge and listen to the personal opinions of others.
- “...avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.”-2 Timothy
- An effective teacher will acknowledge when he is wrong.
- An effective teacher will have an attitude of humility toward correction not resentment and bitterness.

- An effective teacher wrestles over the Scripture through study. (2 Tim 2:15)
- An effective teacher seeks to “cut the word straight” or “rightly divide the Word of God”.
- An effective teacher proclaims the WHOLE Will and PURPOSE of God’s redemptive Word. (Acts 20:27)
- An effective teacher knows that they will be held accountable before God Himself. (James 3:1)
- An effective teacher knows that what they say with their tongue has the power to influence what others believe. (James 3:2)
- An effective teacher watches his doctrine. “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”-1 Timothy 4:16

Practical Thoughts

- Don't get stuck in holding to the method of the study as the goal and forget the message!
- Strive to be effective, not perfect!
- Pray for God's will in how to lead the study for your group!
- "...redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."-Ephesians 5:16-17

- Fellowship is fun and necessary but build disciples.
- Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded....."-**Matthew 28:19-20**
- Be dedicated to a time of study!
- Trust in God to work through your weaknesses, inadequacies, and ignorance. Praying that the Holy Spirit will use your human frailties.
- Pray that your words would be used to lead others to the Living Word!

How Often Should You Talk?

- We don't want to do all the talking!
- How much talking should the leader do?
- What problems arise when the leader talks too much or too little?
- Be careful not to let one or two persons do all the talking! What happens when a person in the group talks too much?
- Don't be afraid of awkward silence! Ask them what they are thinking?

Asking Good Questions

- Ask opened questions: Do you have any thoughts?
- What are some of your thoughts to the passage we just read?
- Does anyone have anything they would like to share or to add?
- Where do you have difficulty applying what we just read or talked about?
- As the leader it is important to always attempt to engage in the conversation of the question that is being asked!