

Teaching Effectively / Church of the Open Bible / 09.18.16

Teaching Questions Designed To Teach You!

1. Is it more likely to be a better teaching if [A] the teacher tries to inspire you, empower you, and excite you about the subject, or [B] the teacher only wants to share information with you? *The goal of teaching is not merely to convey information. Teaching is inspiring students, empowering students to learn and analyze, and exciting students about the subject so they are motivated to learn.*
2. Would it be more interesting to you if [A] the teacher made eye contact and spoke to you or [B] the teacher reads off the page for thirty minutes?
3. Would it be more interesting if [A] the teacher's voice fluctuated in intensity and volume to fit what s/he was saying or [B] the teacher spoke in a monotone, with no emotion, regardless of what s/he was saying? *How do you think Jesus spoke in Matthew 23.33?*
4. Is it more interesting if [A] the teacher makes use of humor or [B] the teacher stays serious all the time? *Good teaching, like good music or good stories, builds tension/intensity and then releases it. Humor, stories, quotations, statistics, real life examples or applications all help make the teaching more interesting, memorable, and understandable. An example of this is in Luke 18.1, with Jesus using a parable to teach a point.*
5. Is it better [A] when the teacher mixes in some humor, stories, real life examples and other things or [B] when the teacher stays intensely focused on lecturing you?
6. Is it more interesting and effective when [A] the teacher shows you the background to the situation so you understand what is happening in the text or [B] the teacher ignores it?
7. Is it [A] helpful when the teacher uses graphics such as timelines, pictures, and maps or [B] not helpful? *See an example of Jesus using a child as a teaching tool in Matthew 18.1-6.*
8. Is it better for the teacher [A] to use graphics and props or [B] to stick strictly to verbal teaching techniques? *Visuals of any sort can help some students who are visual learners and help all students by appealing to multiple senses [along with hearing]. They help make things interesting and memorable, and they help convey information and provide clarity with their different presentation.*
9. Even in lecture, is it more effective if [A] the teacher asks some questions or [B] the teacher does all the talking? *How did Jesus teach? See for example, Luke 13.18. The more you make it a discussion instead of straight lecture, the more effective you will be in teaching, because you will stimulate more interest, force them to think harder, allow them to express themselves and feel they are contributing, teach them to think, and realize greater buy-in to the conclusions.*
10. When you are preparing to teach, would it be better [A] to make a list of questions designed to draw out the information from the students or [B] make a list of things you want to share with them?
11. If you were teaching the children, should you [A] break up the conversation into smaller chunks, intermixed with other learning activities or [B] try to have a conversation with them for half an hour straight? *Do a learning activity, then talk a little, then play a game, then talk a little, then practice the memory verse or sing a song, then talk a little more. This will prevent boredom, increase participation, and help them learn more.*
12. Is it more interesting if [A] the teacher gets you started on the topic with a story that illustrates the point, humor about the topic, and/or thought-provoking questions, or [B] the teacher starts right in teaching the text? *When teaching, come up with a "hook," some way that to get their attention and stimulate interest in the discussion. We recently saw how Paul did this in Philippians 1.1, provocatively calling himself a slave and the believers in Philippi saints.*

13. Is it better when teaching [A] to sometimes excite people with something surprising or [B] to always be predictable so they know what is coming? *Look at how Jesus got Nicodemus' attention in John 3.1-3!*

Teaching Wisdom To Help You Teach!

1. Try to meet a cognitive [intellectual need] with information, an affective [emotional] need with motivation and encouragement, and a behavioral need with application to life.
2. Prepare well and early for teaching. Do the research, pray about it, figure out what learning activities you will use and in what order, come up with a hook to get their attention, think through what questions will develop the conversation.
3. Be sure to use scripture for what it really means in its context [and to fix curriculum that might make this error]. Stay consistent with the church's theology [and to fix curriculum that might stray].
4. Use a Bible translation to fit your audience. For little children, we usually use the NIRV, which is the NIV brought down to third grade reading level. For teenagers, we use the NLT, which has a seventh grade reading level.
5. Keep in mind that you likely will have students with a wide range of age, knowledge, and spirituality.
6. Teach those who are there. Whether you have two or twenty students, give them your best effort!
7. Look at Matthew 26.36. Jesus modeled what was important to him. He sang worship songs with his disciples, he prayed before them and with them, he followed the Jewish law completely. We too can model what we believe for our students. This is especially true if we spend time with them outside of church, such as couples who go out to dinner together or small groups that meet during the week. But even for our little children and teenagers, we can lead by example in the classroom, showing them our excitement for scripture, dedication to prayer, passion for God, unwavering faith and obedience. And by preparing well for each lesson, we show them the importance of giving our best to Christ's service, their value to us, how much we treasure growing and serving.

Teaching Protocols

1. Take attendance so we can keep track of who is coming and what they are learning.
2. Pray with your students. Find out what concerns they have, pray with them, encourage them to pray, and be sure to follow up the next week at church, so they know you really care. Pray for them during the week too!
3. Always follow the church's child safety policy. We will share a written form of this policy with you in October.

Thanks and Encouragement

God wants to use *you* inspire people in life, to empower people in ministry, to excite people about scripture! God wants to use *you* to help facilitate the miracle of spiritual transformation in people! If you have doubts about that, see the sermon entitled "Teaching What The Bible Says About Teaching What The Bible Says" on the church website [if you search for "teaching," it comes up]: www.cotobible.com. Or I can email you my notes, if you prefer to read.

For all of you who are teaching our little children, our teenagers, or our adults, thank you! Thank you for doing this tremendously important work for Christ! I know it takes sacrifice, as you invest hours into prayer, study, lesson preparation, and interacting with the students. Please remember that the rewards will be tremendous! You are investing in Christ's gospel mission, and he will bear fruit through your efforts, even if it takes much time to see it. Stay encouraged, pursue your own spiritual growth and equipping for ministry, and rejoice in the work God gives us!