

Training Men To Be Worship Leaders

Lesson 6: Preaching And Teaching Bible Class



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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Learn how to be an effective congregational worship leader when you preach and teach Bible class

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW177

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 6: Preaching And Teaching Bible Class

Christian men have the tremendous responsibility and opportunity to lead people in worshipping God. As we continue our training series, we specifically want to consider preaching and teaching Bible class. Like all activities done in worship to God, we should give these our full attention so that we might do them as effectively as possible.

Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just limited to the sermon that is presented during the assembly. Instead, it is also applicable to invitations that are commonly offered during the Wednesday evening assembly. A degree of preaching is also done when giving talks around the Lord's table (though we have dealt with these at other times). This is a tremendous opportunity to teach the lost, edify the saved, and correct the erring.

Then, your effectiveness at teaching Bible class will either help or hinder people who are interested in learning the word of God and how it applies to their lives. Although these classes are not held during the assembly, they are often offered by local churches as a means to further teach the gospel. And, while Christian women can and often do teach the younger children in Bible class, the responsibility of teaching classes of Christian men falls to Christian men (as 1 Timothy 2:11-14 is applicable to that situation). This often results in men having the

responsibility to teach the adult Bible class and the Bible classes for the older children (i.e. High School class).

With these basic thoughts in mind, let's proceed to consider each of these two activities. First, we want to consider preaching, considering the purpose, some "dos," some "don'ts," and some suggestions for growth regarding preaching. Second, we want to consider teaching Bible class, considering the purpose, some "dos," some "don'ts," and some suggestions for growth regarding teaching Bible class.

Preaching

Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ is an activity that God has authorized local churches to be involved in when they worship God collectively. For instance, whenever Paul assembled with the church in Troas on the first day of the week, not only did they partake of the Lord's Supper, but he also "spoke to them and continued his message until midnight" (Acts 20:7). The Greek suggests that this was more than a casual conversation between them. Instead, this was a formal kind of discourse (i.e. a sermon). Another example of preaching in the assembly can be seen in 1 Corinthians 14 regarding the discussion about prophecy (i.e. verse 26). Although the miraculous gift of prophecy has ceased, some early Christians had access to it because they did not have the completed word of God. So, the prophet would be directly inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak God's message. We do the same thing today whenever we speak God's words from the Bible in our preaching. So, let's consider some points that will help you become more effective at preaching.

The purpose

Preaching is a necessary part of the worship local churches offer to God. So, let's consider the purpose of preaching.

(1) To teach. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Notice that the word of God is “profitable for doctrine” (or, teaching). So, it teaches us all of the things we need to know in order to be saved eternally because the gospel is God’s power to salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). Therefore, whenever you preach God’s word, you are proclaiming its truths to others in a way that will (hopefully) result in them believing the teachings of God and acting in obedience to it.

(2) To convict and correct. As you preach the gospel and individuals believe what is said, the words you speak will work to convict and correct people who are living in their sins. 2 Timothy 4:2 says, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” When you preach, one of your main focuses ought to be to convict those who are not Christians of their need to obey the gospel of Christ in hope that they will work to correct their lives. Then, you should also preach in such a way to convict erring Christians of the sin they have committed in hope that they will return to the Lord and correct their lives.

(3) To train in righteousness. In addition to convicting and correcting, the teaching of the gospel should also work to provide the proper instruction in the ways people ought to be living their lives and equipping them to do the good works God wants people to be doing. So, preaching the gospel should help people put on the kind of character God approves, speak in the way God approves, fulfill their responsibilities in the family, in the church, in society, teach the lost, correct the erring, edify their brothers and sisters in Christ, etc.

(4) To edify. Part of the instructions given in 2 Timothy 4:2 is to “exhort” while preaching the word. This is to edify. Acts 20:32 says, “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” God’s word has the unique ability to build people up spiritually (edify). In fact, the word of God is the source of all edification that we can receive. It is the

way that we can make other people stronger in the faith of Jesus Christ and help them overcome the obstacles that they face in life.

Some “dos”

Whenever you preach, you will want to keep some specific things in mind. These will help you be effective in preaching.

(1) Pick a subject/text. The first decision you need to make after accepting the great responsibility of preaching God’s word is picking a subject/text to speak about. The subject must be something that will be beneficial for your audience (according to the four purposes of preaching we have just discussed). Your talk could be a specific subject matter or it could be based on a particular Bible text. Then, give your talk a title that reflects the subject/text you have chosen (and you will want to let your audience know what your talk is titled).

(2) Have a clear main point. There needs to be a central point to your talk (whether an invitation or sermon). You need to be very well aware of this central point because it is what ties everything you will say together and is the point that you will want your audience to remember the most of everything you say. This may be reflected by the title, may be directly stated as the purpose of the talk, or may be more subtly repeated throughout the talk.

(3) Study the subject thoroughly. You must know your subject inside and out. If it is a specific text, you must not just study the text you will be speaking about, but the overall context so that you can accurately interpret the text you are discussing. Study it thoroughly and make sure that you have interpreted it accurately. Or, if you are teaching on a specific subject, make sure that you have not neglected anything on that subject. Remember that there are severe consequences for adding anything to God’s word and for taking anything away from God’s word (Revelation 22:18-19). So, you must recognize that the “entirety” of God’s word “is truth” (Psalm 119:160) and carefully study the subject to reflect the entire truth.

(4) Be careful to rightly divide the Scriptures. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” To rightly divide the word of truth means to cut it straight, or accurately interpret the word of God. So, you must be diligent not to take verses out of context in order to make a point that is not supported by the Scriptures. For, there are many people in the religious world who do not accurately interpret the Scriptures and preach false doctrine as a result. Two things are extremely important in this matter: Context and harmony. All verses can only mean what their contexts allow them to mean. And, since all of God’s word is in perfect harmony (agreement), a verse cannot contradict any other verse in the Bible.

(5) Make appropriate applications. Preaching is more than just reading the Scriptures. It involves expounding on the Scriptures so that individuals will better understand and apply them. So, as you prepare your thoughts, make sure that the applications you will make are appropriate and supported by the Scriptures. Don’t force your own opinions or personal preferences on anyone!

(6) Choose appropriate illustrations. Although man-made illustrations are not necessary for understanding the Bible (or else God would have given them to us), carefully chosen illustrations can amplify understanding and help people remember the point. But, there must be extreme care in selecting illustrations. They must be helpful to understanding God’s word. If they do not or leave some people behind, leave them out!

(7) Have three parts to your talk. As you prepare your talk, you should divide it into three parts. The first part is the introduction. This should be simple and only long enough as is necessary to introduce the subject, give necessary background information, get people interested in what you have to say, and identify the main point. The second part is the discussion/body. This should be where the vast majority of your time is spent and where the primary teaching will take place. You should have two or more main points in this section to develop your

subject/text. The third part is the conclusion. Summarize the main point and what you have said in this section and include any necessary calls to action. This section should also be very brief. So, tell them what you want to say, tell them, and tell them what you told them!

(8) Outline your talk. As you prepare your talk, develop an outline. Divide your talk into main points. Then, for longer talks, write subpoints under each one of those headings. Continue as needed. This helps to keep you on point throughout the course of your sermon/invitation. Then, this helps your audience follow the development of your main point. Even if you are not using a handout or a presentation application, your audience should be able to follow this outline (especially your main points).

(9) Prepare as many notes as needed. You should begin with an outline and know your outline very well throughout your preparation and presentation. But, you can use your outline to write out any notes that are needed. It is common and appropriate for beginners to write out their entire lessons. And, it is not a bad practice for anyone to write out their lessons and review what they have prepared (as long as it does not tie them down when they are presenting).

(10) Review thoroughly. Practice, practice, practice. Go over the material as much as you can so that you can use your notes as little as possible. Know your outline by heart (i.e. your title, your main points, and your subpoints). This will help you stay focused and know your direction throughout the talk.

(11) Make sure you understand your subject. You cannot teach what you do not know. So, if you are uncertain about *anything* you are planning to say, do one of two things. Either choose a different subject you do fully understand or study the subject until you fully understand it (or, understand as much as can be known about it). You don’t want to confuse people or leave them with unnecessary questions, doubts, or misunderstandings!

(12) Practice out loud. Stand in front of a mirror and preach to it. Practice out loud as much as is needed for you to be properly prepared. Watch you

posture (as you should not be leaning on the podium). Consider your level of engagement with the audience. If you have opportunity, it can also be helpful to go to the place you will be speaking and practice there.

(13) Arrive early. There is great preparation that goes into giving a talk. Be early to the place of assembly so that you do not make people wonder if you will show up. Also, arriving early will help you get everything in order in a timely fashion (i.e. if you need copies made, your notes arranged at the podium, a computer set up, a microphone to be used, etc.). And, it will help you settle your nerves more than rushing in at the last minute and barely getting things arranged in the proper time. Then, it will help eliminate problems that can occur during your talk.

(14) Preach the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15 says to speak “the truth in love.” Remember, 2 Timothy 4:2 commanded, “Preach the word!” So, every word that you say must be according to truth. And, the way that you speak the truth is also important. You should not speak in such a way that is so brash it turns people away from Christ. Instead, your speech must be with grace, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:5-6).

(15) Speak to be understood. God’s word is meant to be understood (Ephesians 3:3-5; Ephesians 5:17). You are there to help people understand it. So, don’t make it unnecessarily complicated. Keep it simple. Use words that your audience will understand. Carefully pronounce your words. And, speak loud enough to be heard by everyone present.

(16) Be bold. Boldness is essential to effective preaching (see Acts 4:31). There will be times when the truth is unpleasant for people to hear, but necessary for their salvation. Boldness simply refers to being unreserved. It is *not* speaking in a mean-spirited kind of way! Instead, boldness simply means that you are willing to say what needs to be said – in the way it needs said.

(17) Engage your audience. As long as you have presented God’s word in truth and love, and in a way that it can be understood, you have done your job in preaching. You must not think that you have

to be an excellent public speaker with great oratory skills in order to preach (consider the example of Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:7-11). Yet, the more that you can engage your audience, the more you will help them be engaged in the truths you are teaching. Consider a few suggestions: Stand in a place to engage everyone (i.e. on the platform with the podium is usually the best place for people to see you), speak to be heard by everyone, use your notes as little as possible and keep good eye contact with the audience, use appropriate hand gestures, etc.

(18) Be passionate. You need to feel the importance of what you are saying. If you don’t, you shouldn’t expect your audience to appreciate its importance. So, treat the subject/text you are teaching with the appropriate level of passion. Let your passion be reflected in your voice and actions.

(19) Speak as the oracles of God. Your talk is not about words of human wisdom, but the words of God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). So, speak according to the words (oracles/utterances of God, see 1 Peter 4:11). Speak as the Bible speaks (not as the religious world speaks). Call Bible things by Bible names. Developing a good Bible vocabulary will go a long way to help this. And, you must have Bible authority for everything you say (Colossians 3:17).

(20) Be conscious of the time. While the assemblies of the local church should not be strangled by time constraints, things ought to be done in a timely fashion. You need to consider how long your audience is prepared to sit and listen to God’s word and adjust your talk appropriately (whether sermon or invitation). Making a talk too long or too short can harm the message.

Some “don’ts”

In addition to the things that you should do whenever you preach, consider some things you ought to avoid. Refusing to do these things will help you be effective in preaching.

(1) Be arrogant. Preaching is *not* about you. Whenever you preach, you must simply view yourself as God’s instrument for carrying His message to others. So, don’t take compliments too

far and criticism too personally. Then, do not preach “down” to people and make yourself appear holier than everyone else. Just as Jesus demonstrated humility throughout His life, you must demonstrate humility in your preaching.

(2) Be ashamed or fearful. Don’t hold back saying things that need to be said (at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way). Trust in the power of God working through His word and don’t neglect to tell people what they need to hear.

(3) Preach opinions. We all have opinions and personal preferences we like to talk about. But, preaching is *not* the time for opinions! Preaching is all about learning and applying God’s word. Whenever it is helpful to insert an opinion (i.e. about what a difficult text means), make sure you label it as an “opinion.” Don’t let people think the stated opinions are anything more!

(4) Be overly repetitious. The one thing you will want to repeat is your main point. Other than this, try to avoid repeating yourself. Most repetition becomes burdensome to an audience over time.

(5) Be monotone. I have already stated the need to be passionate. So, don’t speak in one constant tone of voice that shows no enthusiasm for the subject. Instead, vary your tones, vary your speed of delivery, and show the appropriate emotion. Remember, you are dealing with the souls of people. It’s okay to show some emotion!

(6) Chase “rabbits.” The idea of chasing “rabbits” in preaching refers to getting distracted from your main point. This can often happen whenever you consider something that may be a “pet peeve” of yours that you feel strongly about. Not only can this take away from the main point in your talk, but it can also do great harm. For instance, chasing “rabbits” implies that the thing you are talking about is not something you prepared to talk about. So, if you have not carefully considered what you are about to say, it could come out in a way that does more harm than good. If you believe something needs to be said, prepare to say it and work it into your outline so that it can accomplish the most good!

(7) Tell too many jokes and stories. Humor and illustrations can have a place in preaching. But, too much of it does great harm. Humor and illustrations ought to be carefully chosen to amplify points from the Scriptures. Unfortunately, many “preachers” today have become obsessed with using these things and their “sermons” or “invitations” become more of a story time and stand-up comedy session than a gospel lesson! Over time, such “preaching” holds back the audience from growing in the faith – even though they may feel entertained and leave feeling good. Your talk *must* be about God and His word! Ultimately, your jokes and stories (no matter how good they are) will not save or edify anyone! So, remember your purpose!

(8) Preach on too few subjects. When you are just beginning, you will probably want to preach on a subject that is very comfortable to you. But, as time goes on, you must be careful not to preach only on a select few topics. Not only will this hold back your own growth, but it will also harm those who hear. The apostle Paul determined not to keep anything back from people that was helpful (Acts 20:20) and declared the “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:28). Therefore, he was innocent of the blood of all men (Acts 20:27).

Suggestions for growth

Whether you are just beginning to preach or have done so for quite some time, there is room for growth. Consider the following suggestions.

(1) Spend more time in effective personal Bible study. This is the single best way to prepare yourself to be an effective preacher. You must know the Scriptures in order to teach them. The better you know them, the more confidence you have in your own faith and in your teaching. And, the more you know, the more effective you will be at selecting passages that are helpful to make your points.

(2) Practice preparing both topical and textual studies. I suspect that the most common kind of talk is a topical one (where a subject is selected and then passages are chosen from various Bible texts to teach on that subject). Yet, there is great profit from a textual study (where a text is selected

and the points are derived from that single text). You should challenge yourself to be able to do both effectively.

(3) Start with small talks. Start with an invitation or talk around the Lord's table. Then, agree to preach a 15-minute sermon (perhaps having someone else preach another 15 minutes). This will help you to become comfortable with preaching and give you opportunities to organize your thoughts in an effective way.

(4) Listen to different preachers. There are many tools you can use to listen to other preachers. Take advantage of those resources and consider what makes some preachers so effective at communicating the word of God. Adopt what you find to be effective to your preaching.

(5) Have a "backup" sermon/invitation always ready. You never know when the one who is scheduled to give a talk will be sick or have something unexpected come up that keeps him away from the assembly. Work to be prepared for these times. Have an extra sermon and invitation ready to go and take some time periodically to refresh your memory of them. Your preparedness can be a great help to the congregation and give you an excellent opportunity to grow.

Teaching Bible Class

Gospel preaching and teaching Bible class are similar in many ways. So, many of the points we have just been considering are equally applicable here. Yet, there is a different dimension to teaching Bible class. And, rather than getting our authority for Bible classes by a specific example (as we do with preaching), the authority is derived from the generic authority God has given to local churches to teach the gospel. For instance, 1 Thessalonians 1:8 speaks of the Thessalonian church sounding forth the word of God and their faith in their local community and beyond. One way congregations can choose to follow this example is by offering Bible classes. When they do, the Bible demands that Christian men

teach the classes that have other Christian men in them (1 Timothy 2:11-14). So, let's consider some points that will help you become more effective at teaching Bible class.

The purpose

Teaching Bible class is an effective way for churches to teach the gospel. So, let's consider the purpose of teaching Bible class.

(1) Same as preaching. Go back and review the four-fold purpose of preaching. The same thing applies here because the same message is to be taught. So, there must be teaching, convicting/correcting, training in righteousness, and edification.

(2) Encourages interaction and questions. Here is where Bible classes differ from preaching. During the preaching, there is no opportunity for interaction and questions. For, recall that Christian women are to be silent during the assembly of the church (1 Corinthians 14:34-35). Then, everyone must do things in an orderly way (1 Corinthians 14:40). But, during Bible class settings (that do not constitute an "assembly" of the church), there is more flexibility in this regard. Although things still ought to be done in an orderly way, individuals have the opportunity to comment and ask for help. The result of this should be greater understanding of God's word for everyone.

Some "dos"

Whenever you teach Bible class, you will want to keep some specific things in mind. These will help you be effective in teaching Bible class.

(1) Have a goal. By their very nature, Bible classes are unpredictable. You do not know who will say what. So, there may be many questions and comments during one class and very few during another. Yet, it is important for you to start with a goal in mind. One of the dangers is allowing the class to set the pace for the study. This *can* result in getting bogged down and studies taking far longer than they should. However, you also need to be careful going so fast that you rob the students of the understanding that could be gained from going into more detail

through questions and comments. So, pay careful attention to the class and select an appropriate goal for each class time.

(2) Be thoroughly prepared. Preparation is important in any of the ways you will lead people in worship. However, the Bible class requires even more preparation because of its nature. So, have a thorough understanding of your subject, prepare a good outline, and have as many notes as you need. Not only do you need to consider the subject matter you plan to address, but you need to have extra material prepared in case you get through the material faster than you anticipated. Since most congregational Bible classes have set times attached to them, the class does not end just because you have run out of material. So, be extra prepared. Then, be extra prepared for any potential questions that can come up. Not only do you need to think about the points you want to make, but you also need to prepare for the points and questions others may want to make/ask.

(3) Arrive early. Once again, do not make people wait for you. And, by arriving early, you will be able to get all of your notes arranged on the stand/lectern you will be using, prepare any visual aids you may have, make sure there are enough copies of your handouts, be prepared to use the microphone, and give your mind some time to focus.

(4) Start with a quick review. Since most Bible classes build over the course of the class, you should do some review before you start into new material. But, this should be a *quick* review. Give the context of the passage or the main focus of the study. Make it as brief as possible to give people the needed information for the study you are about to lead them in. And, stay clear of the danger of spending a significant period of your time going over points you have already covered. Don't be like one class I was told about that actually went backwards in a verse-by-verse study because of the time spent in review! The exception to this rule may be if there was a significant number of people who were not able to be present at the previous class (i.e. due to bad weather).

(5) Teach the truth in love. Even though you have some more flexibility to go "off script" during

Bible class, don't forget this principle that should guide your teaching. Everything you say must be true (with opinions carefully labeled as such). And, the truth must be presented in a loving way that considers those who hear (Ephesians 4:15).

(6) Use a conversational tone. The Bible class is not a lecture. In many ways, it is a conversation to discuss Bible truths, with you taking the lead and doing most of the talking. So, don't speak in a way that is lecturing the class. Instead, speak to them in the same way you would if you were having this study across a dining room table from them.

(7) Encourage class preparation. It is good to encourage the members of the class to study the text/subject on their own and be prepared for the time in class. This can save you time reading certain texts or getting blank stares throughout the class time. It is good to assign readings or give handouts for the students to complete before the next class. This should result in a more engaged class that is not caught unprepared for the discussion you lead.

(8) Be engaging. Interact with the students as best you can. Show them you are interested in their questions and insights in the Scriptures. Don't keep your eyes on your notes and read for the entire class time (although there is nothing wrong with reading when needed, particularly on more delicate matters).

(9) Encourage participation. Every Bible class teacher will have to make some decisions about class participation. I believe that participation and engagement is a good thing. But, too much of it can also harm the class. Remember that you are the teacher and have studied the material thoroughly. So, don't allow the class to be taught by the students. Still, you should encourage participation. One excellent way of doing this is by asking very specific questions. By doing this, you will steer the interaction in the direction you want the class to move in. You can also ask the class, "What questions do you have?" But, be careful directing the class by continually asking, "Are there any comments anyone would like to make?" This can take the class in any kind of direction the students may think of!

(10) Be a good listener. If you are inviting comments and questions, you need to listen to them and make the one who is speaking feel appreciated and valuable to the class. So, don't allow your mind to wander. Focus on what they are saying. If it is a question, you may restate the question for the benefit of the rest of the students (who may not have heard) and to make sure you have understood. You can also do the same for comments.

(11) Correct error. Although it may be uncommon, some comments that are made are just wrong. Choosing to ignore this error would be a mistake. It fails to help that individual gain a true knowledge of the Scriptures and it can hinder others who have heard it. But, you need to respond in love and with wisdom so as not to insult, belittle, or turn away the one who has commented (although there may be times for harsher answers if there is an impure motive that is known).

(12) Be enthusiastic. One of the best ways to ruin a Bible class is to have no passion in your teaching. For, if you are not passionate and enthusiastic for what you are teaching, why should anyone else be enthusiastic to learn? So, let them see your enthusiasm! Remember, God would not tell us something in the Bible if it was not important to the overall story of salvation (even genealogies are important and can be exciting when they are kept in the proper context)!

(13) Use wisdom and patience. You will need to be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove when teaching Bible class (Matthew 10:16). And, you will need to be patient in your teaching (2 Timothy 4:2). Let both of these be reflected in your teaching and in how you respond to comments. Don't let your tongue cause damage while trying to teach God's word (James 3:1-12)!

(14) Speak to be understood. Once more, you must speak clearly and loud enough for people to understand you. Use the appropriate microphone (when available) that will help people hear you and so that you can keep a conversational tone. And, carefully pronounce all of your words without mumbling.

Some "don'ts"

In addition to the things that you should do whenever you teach Bible class, consider some things you ought to avoid. Refusing to do these things will help you be effective in teaching Bible class.

(1) Allow the class to be directed by the students. You are not there just to start a Bible conversation that begins at a certain subject or text. Instead, you are there to teach. Now, class participation can help you teach; but you must not allow the class to become the teachers and lead the class wherever they desire. If something is off point, steer it back to the point. You can always say, "That's an interesting and good point that we should study sometime."

(2) Be afraid to say, "I don't know." During your time as a teacher it is probable that someone will eventually ask you a question that you do not know how to answer. It's okay to say that you do not know. Then, go find the answer before the next class (if it is pertinent to the class). In fact, giving an answer you are not sure about can do more harm than good!

(3) Be afraid to move on. Don't continue beating a dead horse. Every member of the class doesn't have to get their "two cents" in. Once the point has been made, move on. There is too much to study in the Bible to get bogged down. I have heard of a preacher who said that when a class starts arguing about the size of the pomegranates, it's time to move on.

(4) Lose sight of the main point. Whether you are in a textual or topical study, keep relating everything back to the main point. Although you may be deep into some detail, help the class understand why it is important and relevant to the main point. For instance, if you are in a verse-by-verse study, help the class keep the main point of the author in mind.

(5) Confuse truth and opinion. Since Bible classes offer more opportunities to go "off script" it can be tempting to start talking about opinions. However, you must be extremely careful to label any

opinions as such – and keep them to a minimum. You are still there to teach the word of God, not opinions!

(6) Answer your own question. If you ask a question that you believe the members of the class knows the answer to, don't answer it when nobody speaks. Now, you may try to rephrase the question to make it more clear. But, don't answer it yourself. Answering your own question may discourage future participation. That said, recognize that you may ask a question the audience legitimately does not know the answer to or know what answer you are looking for.

(7) Lose control. You are the teacher of the class and must make sure that order and truth prevail. Never allow the class to debate and become contentious. Those things need to be settled privately. If there is a question that people want to debate or be contentious over that applies to a large part of the group, address the issue from the Scriptures.

Suggestions for growth

Whether you are just beginning to teach Bible class or have done so for quite some time, there is room for growth. Consider the following suggestions.

(1) Learn from effective Bible class teachers. Think about teachers who have been effective in the past. Use the many resources at your disposal to learn from Bible class teachers. Consider what approach helps you to understand the Bible best and adapt the approach to your style.

(2) Study the Bible more. The way you will be able to teach people effectively is to study the Scriptures more. This will not only help you in preparing your material, but also in answering questions and comments that will be addressed to you during the class.

(3) Teach more personal/small group Bible classes. Before you jump into teaching a large adult Bible class, you may want to teach a home Bible study that involves just one person or a small group of people. This will help you learn how to respond to

questions and direct your thoughts in a way that will help other people learn effectively.

Conclusion

I'm sure that there is much more we could discuss relating to preaching the gospel and teaching Bible classes. But, I hope that these have provided some useful tips and guidelines in these areas. In preaching and teaching Bible classes, you should strive to be as effective as you can possibly be in serving God and your brethren. So, you are encouraged to put these things into practice and work to grow every time you are given the opportunity to lead in these ways. May God bless you in your service!

Study Questions

How does your effectiveness at preaching and teaching Bible class impact those who desire to worship God?

1. Preaching

What is the purpose of preaching?

List some things that you should do whenever you preach.

List some things you should not do whenever you preach.

List some things you can do to grow at preaching.

2. Teaching Bible Class

What is the purpose of teaching Bible class?

List some things you should do whenever you teach Bible class.

List some things you should not do whenever you teach Bible class.

List some things you can do to grow at teaching Bible class.