

## Exercise: So, You Want to be a Teacher

### Ask yourself these questions...

- 1.) Are you called? Are you gifted by God to teach?
  - a. The evidence for this is that your students should actually learn.
- 2.) Are you led? Is the Holy Spirit urging you to take on this responsibility?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you see a need and want to help fill it.
- 3.) Examine your heart. Are your motives pure?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you want people to come to Christ as their Lord and Savior and to grow in knowledge of Him.
  - b. If you don't have the best interest of you students as your primary motivating factor, please do not become a teacher.
- 4.) Do others agree with you becoming a teacher?
  - a. The evidence for this is that people you know and respect think it would be a really good idea for you to be a teacher. They think it would be a good use of your gifts and talents.
- 5.) Have you given your heart to Jesus?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you are a new creature in Christ.
  - b. It doesn't mean you are perfect. (None of us is perfect!) It means that you have repented of your sins and accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Did you answer "YES" to all of the questions?

YES – Great!

*Now, it's time to get started! You will be working with your mentors for the next few weeks. Please contact your mentor if you have any questions.*

OK. Then... Let's get started...

## Tips for Teaching Sunday School

We will assume (for practical purposes) that you already have a group of students to teach, a place to meet, a lesson to present, and the support of your pastor.

### Step ONE – Pray

- Ask God to enable you, through His Holy Spirit, to understand the lesson and to be able to teach it
- Pray that God will bless the members of your class, so that they may understand the lesson and learn His ways from it
- Psalm 37:5 tells us, “Commit thy way unto the *LORD*; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

### Step TWO – Become a Student

- Learn what is in the lesson
  - In order to be a good teacher, you must know what is in the lesson
  - It must mean something to you, before you can share it with others
  - You can try to skip this step, but then your teaching will not be effective
- How to get started learning the lesson
  - Read over the lesson to get the basic idea and to find the scripture verses
  - Look up the scriptures yourself in a Bible and read them, along with the other verses around them
  - Ask yourself what the scripture verses are saying
- Find the Major Points in the lesson
  - There are probably 2 – 3 major points in each lesson
  - These are the important things you want your students to learn in class
  - Make sure you have a Bible verse that confirms each major point in the lesson  
*(You don't have to share these with the students. You just need to make sure that what you are teaching the students is Biblically-based.)*
  - For Example:
    - Major Point – God Loves You
    - Scripture Verse – John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”*

### Step THREE – Move Your Students Forward

- It is the job of any good teacher to take his/her students from where they are and to move them forward.
  - In order to do this, you must first know where they are.
  - Ask yourself, “What do they know already?”
    - EXAMPLE: You cannot teach children to add and subtract, if they do not already know their numbers.
  - Hopefully you can find out what your students know BEFORE you start teaching the lesson, but this is not always possible.
- Start where your students are and move them forward
  - Begin simply. Make sure everyone is following you
  - Evaluate as you are teaching. If your students don't seem to understand a word or an idea, stop and explain it, especially if it is very important.
  - This approach may slow you down.
    - You may only make it through 1 or 2 of your Major Points, but that is alright... you can always do the other ones later on! 😊
    - The goal is to move your students forward successfully.

### Step FOUR – Remember Your Students

- Students' attention spans vary with their age
  - For younger students, plan 5-10 minute sections for activities/lessons
  - For older students, plan 15-20 minute sections for activities/lessons
- Students' abilities vary with their age
  - Plan activities/ crafts that are challenging, but not exasperating!
- Remember that children learn while they are playing
- For youth, be sure to incorporate opportunities for service and leadership

### Step FIVE – Pray With Your Students

- It is important for students to learn to pray
- When you pray with your students, it teaches them how they can pray
- Always thank God together
  - Thank Him for His truth that you learned today
  - Thank Him for who He is
  - Thank Him for what He has done for us
    - Loved us
    - Come for us
    - Saved us
- When the time is right, ask your students if they would like to pray for the class.

## How to Teach a Lesson

### Prepare Yourself

- Pray
  - Confess your sins to God and accept His forgiveness
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the lesson and be able to teach others

### Prepare Lesson

- Start a few days early
  - It doesn't work as well if you start at the last minute
  - It gives you a few days to let the Holy Spirit inspire you
- Read the lesson
- Look up the Bible verses and read them in context (with the verses around them)
  - Get the idea of what the Bible passage is talking about
  - Ask yourself, "What is God trying to teach us through these verses?"
- Read through the lesson again
  - Decide how this lesson applies to yourself and your class
  - What sounds really important?
  - Make some notes
  - Think of personal stories or other creative ways to present the Truths of the lesson
  - Think about what you will say, and what you will emphasize
- Make plans for class
  - Gather any necessary items to take with you. For example:
    - Your Bible
    - Your Notes for the lesson
    - Something to "show and tell" to help others understand the message
    - Any materials for activities, games, or arts and crafts
    - NOTE: *If you are planning a craft project, I always suggest trying it out at home first! It helps you to know if it works, and what you will need to do it. And it makes a nice sample for you to show your students!*
- Pray for your class and the lesson

### Go To Class

- Welcome
- Pray with and for students
- Be excited! Present the lesson
- Pray, thanking God!
- Activities/ Games or Discussion
- Dismiss

### While in Class

- Have a plan
- Stick to the plan (if at all possible)
- Watch your time
  - Don't allow conversations or other distractions to completely sidetrack you
  - (For instance, don't start talking about things that get off the subject too much)
- If things in class aren't working, switch things up
  - *This is really necessary with children, but it also works with adults*
  - Change positions in classroom
    - Move just yourself or the entire class!
    - This works great with children, sometimes they just need to move
    - Move class to a different place in room (and maybe just sit on the floor)
  - Have the class stand and/or do something
  - Have someone read out loud
  - Ask some "volunteers" to act out part of the story
  - Sing a song
  - Play a quick game
  - Ask the class (or just a few students) a question or two from the lesson
  - Make some other impromptu change (something you think up on the spot)
- If you are working with children, make sure that they see you reading out of the Bible, or that you talk about the verses of scripture being from the Bible.
  - This encourages the students to know that God's Word is for them too
  - It helps them realize that they can look for answers to their questions there
- Always pray with and for your class