

# The Teaching Ministry



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES



# The Teaching Ministry

fourth edition

by Marjorie Stewart



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# Table of Contents

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PREFACE.....	7
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES .....	9
BEFORE YOU BEGIN.....	10

## UNIT ONE

### Lesson

<b>1</b> Teaching Is Ministry .....	16
<b>2</b> Importance of Christian Teaching .....	26
<b>3</b> Christian Teaching Is Special.....	38
<b>4</b> Everyone Needs Teaching.....	48
<b>5</b> Everyone Can Teach .....	58

## UNIT TWO

### Lesson

<b>6</b> The Parent Teacher .....	70
<b>7</b> The Need for a Message .....	78
<b>8</b> The Need for Methods .....	88
<b>9</b> Jesus's Methods .....	100

## UNIT EVALUATIONS

### Unit

<b>1</b> Evaluation .....	109
<b>2</b> Evaluation .....	115
Final Words.....	121

## Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

**The Teaching Ministry**

The Christian in His Community

## **PREFACE**

My friend Donna came to our home Bible study and listened and learned as we taught God's Word. Donna became excited about what she learned. She went home and began to teach her seven children. Each of them became a Christian. Then she invited the children in her neighborhood to go to her home one afternoon a week. She taught them about Jesus. Many of the children learned to love Jesus. They accepted Him as their Savior. Donna became a teacher of others because someone taught her.

This is the way Christian teaching works. It is like throwing a small rock in a pool of water. The ripples run to the edge. When we teach one person and that person teaches others, the results ripple throughout the world.

I pray that this course will help you understand how to have an effective teaching ministry. If you obey the command to teach, lives will be changed.





## THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

*The Teaching Ministry* is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Unit 3</b>
<b>Spiritual Life</b>	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
<b>The Bible</b>	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
<b>Theology</b>	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
<b>The Church</b>	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
<b>Service</b>	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
<b>Christian Ethics</b>	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

# Before You Begin

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## How to Use this Book

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is the outline or **The Plan** for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are lesson goals. **The Goals** are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read them carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you achieve your goals, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Check Your Answers**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question.

## How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

#### *Example*

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is **b)** 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around **b)** as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - (b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.
  - d)** 2 books.

### TRUE-FALSE

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

#### *Example*

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
  - (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
  - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
  - (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

### MATCHING

A matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

#### Example

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

...1... **a)** Received the Law at Mt. Sinai 1) Moses

...2... **b)** Led the Israelites across the Jordan 2) Joshua

...2... **c)** Marched around Jericho

...1... **d)** Lived in Pharaoh's court

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

### Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, or other opportunity.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

## Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

## Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at [www.globaluniversity.edu](http://www.globaluniversity.edu) for more information and start-up helps.

## Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through Gospel Publishing House in the USA.

## Additional Helps

The School for Evangelism and Discipleship (SED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the SED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

Visit us at [www.globaluniversity.edu](http://www.globaluniversity.edu)  
and [www.globalreach.org](http://www.globalreach.org) for additional resources

## About the Author

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Dr. Stewart traveled extensively in Asia and visited Magadan, Russia, and Jamaica to lecture and teach writing workshops. She developed the TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) program for Northwest University and an English as Second Language program for a seminary in Baguio, PI.

Dr. Stewart is a graduate of Northwest College and received both a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Washington. Northwest College honored her with an honorary doctorate.

A stylized globe composed of thin, light gray lines forming a grid of latitude and longitude. The globe is centered behind the text.

# Unit 1

# Unit

---



---

## **Lessons**

- 1 Teaching Is Ministry**
- 2 Importance of Christian Teaching**
- 3 Christian Teaching Is Special**
- 4 Everyone Needs Teaching**
- 5 Everyone Can Teach**

# 1 Teaching Is Ministry

---

In this study you will learn why God wants you to teach, and you will be given tools to learn how to teach. In our first lesson we will look at Matthew 28:19–20, which shows Jesus’s command for us to teach.

We will also see that Christian teaching is one fundamental way God planned to let people know about himself. He expects us to share His Word and example with everyone, so they that they can find truth, fulfillment, and eternal life.

## ***The Plan***

---

- A. Christian Teaching Is Distinct
- B. Christian Teaching Is Spiritual

## ***The Goals***

---

1. State the difference between teaching in general and Christian teaching.
2. Give reasons why Christian teaching is a spiritual ministry.

### **A. CHRISTIAN TEACHING IS DISTINCT**

**Goal 1.** State the difference between teaching in general and Christian teaching.

#### **Different From Other Teaching**

Teaching is done in many different places. Although we usually think of a school when we hear the words *teach* or *teacher*, much teaching occurs outside of the schoolroom.

A broad definition of teaching is “helping another person to learn something.” What is learned can be general knowledge or a particular skill. We need to learn many things to live successfully. Therefore, teaching is important.

#### ***Application***

---

- 1 Explain why teaching is necessary.

.....

.....

**2** (Circle the letter in front of the answer that best completes the following sentence.) By sharing with others knowledge we already have, we are

- a)** becoming skilled.
  - b)** being different.
  - c)** teaching.
- 

Christian teaching is sharing with and explaining to others our knowledge of the relationship between God and us. It is a God-given ministry of helping another person to learn about growing in God.

Knowledge alone is not enough. There is also the spiritual importance of seeing results in a person's life. Christian teaching does not just present facts. It guides the learner into obeying the Word of God. As we obey, we come into the right relationship with God. (See John 8:31 and James 1:22–25.)

A Christian teacher teaches for practical results in the student's life. The student shows by action that he or she has received what was taught. Jesus did not just issue information; He saw lives changed by His teaching.

### ***Application***

---

- 3** Circle the best answer from those given in parentheses.
- a)** Who gave the ministry of Christian teaching? (God/man)
  - b)** Christian teaching will help us and others to (only gain knowledge/grow spiritually)
  - c)** Christian teaching is different from teaching in general in that it helps us to learn about (things in the world/God)
- 

### **Different From Preaching and Testifying**

The apostles used three methods to spread the gospel: preaching, testifying, and teaching. Luke 20:1 shows that Jesus both taught and preached. Acts 5:42 tells us the apostles “never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news.” What does

it mean to preach? Preaching is proclaiming or announcing the message of the gospel in such a way that the hearer will accept the message and act upon it. A preacher tries to convince the listener to believe the message and accept it.

Sometimes there is teaching in the preaching. Both seek for a change in the listener, but teaching explains while preaching announces the message and asks for repentance and dedication. Think of a sermon you may have heard recently. Were your emotions or mind stirred to the point that you decided to change in some way? Did you act upon that?

Read Acts 10:34–43, where Peter is testifying of Jesus to the people gathered in Cornelius' house. In verse 39 he says that he and the other apostles witnessed everything Jesus did. They had seen His death and had seen Jesus after His resurrection. Peter tells his listeners that God had commanded them to preach and testify of Jesus. To testify means to tell about something you have seen or experienced. The apostles had seen and experienced many things that happened in Jesus' life.

### ***Application***

---

**4** Match each definition in the left column to the ministry it best describes (right column). Write the number of the ministry in front of its definition.

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| ... <b>a</b> Announcing the good news                     | 1) Teaching   |
| ... <b>b</b> Telling about something God has done for you | 2) Preaching  |
| ... <b>c</b> Explaining a truth                           | 3) Testifying |

**5** In your notebook, write a short testimony of what the Lord has done in your life.

---

Teaching is as important as preaching and testifying. We need all three ways to present the gospel. It requires preparation

to teach, but the rewards are wonderful. Pray now for the Lord's guidance about your teaching ministry.

## B. CHRISTIAN TEACHING IS SPIRITUAL

**Goal 2.** Give reasons why Christian teaching is a spiritual ministry.

In His last words with His disciples, Jesus told them that part of their work would be to teach. He said,

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

### The Command

Jesus commanded His disciples to teach. This command is as important as any other He issued. But He did not tell us to do something that no one has ever done before.

The life of Moses introduces us to teaching. In Exodus 24:12, the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.” Another word for teaching is *instruction*. Moses was to instruct Israel in the laws God gave to them. In the books of Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, Moses did that.

Many of the priests and prophets in the Old Testament were also teachers. In our next lesson we will take a closer look at some of these.

Jesus taught as well as preached. Read John 17:6–8, where Jesus said that His teaching came from God. God planned that Jesus would teach. So when Jesus commanded us to teach, He was passing on a method that God initiated in His plan for giving His message to humankind.

God gave teachers for the purpose of helping the church. Paul writes,

It was he [God] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:11–12)

Teachers are needed to help in the work of building up the church, the body of Christ. From Old Testament times through the New Testament writings, the teaching ministry has been in the plan of God. We, also, are commanded to teach as part of the church's work.

### ***Application***

---

**6** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement below.

- a)** Jesus told His disciples they were to teach others.
- b)** Jesus was the first teacher in the Bible.
- c)** Moses was involved with a teaching ministry.
- d)** It was in God's plan that we should teach as Jesus taught.
- e)** Teaching is a ministry.

**7** Suppose several of your neighbors were visiting you now. How could you use the ministry of teaching as part of God's plan?

.....

.....



### **The Textbook**

Review Matthew 28:20. Jesus said we are to teach people to obey the things He commanded. This is the gospel we ourselves have received. Jesus also tells, in Matthew 5:17–20, that He did not come to do away with the Law of Moses or the teachings of the prophets. They were a part of His ministry. Rather, He said

that ““whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.””

We study many subjects that give useful facts to help us in our daily life. History helps us know more about the world we live in. Mathematics, science, and other subjects are of great benefit. But most significant is God’s Word, which gives us what we need to know about this life and eternal life. God’s Word reveals His plan for all of us. If we are going to teach people about God, and His plan for their lives, we must use His Book, the Bible.

## Application

---

**8** Circle the letter before each true statement below.

- a) Jesus said we should teach God’s Word.
  - b) God’s Word teaches us how to have eternal life.
  - c) We learn about God’s plan in the Bible.
- 

## The Helper

You do not need to be afraid in obeying His command to teach. Before Jesus returned to the Father, He promised us another Helper. Jesus said,

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.” (John 14:16–17)

Jesus gave the Holy Spirit the title of *Helper*. Read Luke 4:14–15 and see how this Holy Spirit helped Jesus teach. What does this mean to you in your teaching ministry?

Jesus explains again in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit helps us serve God. He said, ““But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.””

The Holy Spirit will help us teach people what they need to learn. We may be talking to someone about a problem and a



Scripture comes to mind. The Holy Spirit helps us remember this Scripture in the time of need. He is our Helper. Thus, when you obey His command to teach, the Holy Spirit will be with you. He will help you to do your very best in your teaching ministry.

## ***Application***

---

**9** Who did God send to help us teach in the way Jesus taught?

.....

**10** Describe one way the Holy Spirit can be your Helper when you are teaching.

.....

.....

---

## **The Students**

Jesus meant for us to teach everyone. In Matthew 28:19, He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” This means that every man, woman, and child needs to be taught to obey His commands. Sometimes we teach only those in our churches and Sunday schools. But Jesus said that wherever we find people we are to be ready to teach. Our neighbors, friends, and relatives need to be taught God’s plan for their lives. You do not have to be a teacher in the church before you reach out and teach others. We all have a command to teach as well as a need to be taught.

A rock thrown in a pool of water makes ripples that spread out in wider circles. In Exodus 17:6, God gave Israel water from a rock in the desert. Paul described this to the church at Corinth as an example for us. Paul said, “[Israel] drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4). In the same way, our teaching of God extends to the world around us.

## ***Application***

---

**11** Can you think of anyone who does not need Christian teaching?

.....



## Check Your Answers

---

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order so that you will not easily see the answer to your next question ahead of time.

**11** No. I can't either.

**1** It helps us learn what we need to know to live in this world.

**10** He can bring Scriptures to your mind when you need them in your teaching.

**2 c)** teaching.

**9** The Holy Spirit

**3 a)** God

**b)** grow spiritually

**c)** God

**4 a 2)** Preaching

**b 3)** Testifying

**c 1)** Teaching

**8** All are true.

**6 a)** True

**b)** False

**c)** True

**d)** True

**e)** True

**7** Your answer. Perhaps you could teach them the plan of salvation and tell them about God's love for them.

**5** Your answer. Perhaps the Lord has healed you in some way or blessed your family.

# LESSON 2 Importance of Christian Teaching

---

In Lesson 1 we studied about Christian teaching as a ministry. We discussed the difference between teaching, preaching, and testifying. We also learned that Jesus commanded us to teach. He gave us a textbook, a Helper, and an audience.

In this lesson we will look at the history of teaching in the Bible. Teaching was important in the lives of the people in the Old Testament, and the ministry of teaching continued through the New Testament. As much as people in Bible times, we today need to be taught the Word of God. In a world of sinful hearts, our only hope is to hear God's message. By learning this message we can be examples to others.

## ***The Plan***

---

- A. Teachers of the Law
- B. Teachers of God's Ways
- C. The Great Teacher
- D. Teachers of the Word

## ***The Goals***

---

1. State why the teaching of the Law was important to Israel.
2. Discuss the effects of Israel's disobedience of God's laws.
3. Describe how Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught His disciples.
4. Explain the importance of teaching in the times of the apostles.

## **A. TEACHERS OF THE LAW**

**Goal 1.** State why the teaching of the Law was important to Israel.

### **Teaching Was Commanded**

God taught such individuals as Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. Spiritual teaching of broader groups of people started with God's chosen people, Israel. Israel was to be different from the nations living around them because God told Israel, "I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations" (Leviticus 20:24).

As with us all, Israel needed to know how they should live. No one can live without some rules or laws, for rules help us know what to do and what not to do. In part, God has put in our heart some of His rules.

God gave Israel the laws they would need to please Him. Read Exodus 24:12 to remember what God told Moses. Notice what God said was the reason for the laws: instruction, or

teaching, of the people. Moses was to teach the laws to the people.

Moses obeyed God. In Deuteronomy 4:1, he told the people,

“Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.”

The people were to obey the commands of God that Moses had given them. They were not to add anything to these laws or take anything away from them. The people were to teach these laws to their children. The knowledge of God’s laws would be passed on to each generation in this way. Abraham passed the knowledge of God to his son Isaac, but Moses was teaching a nation. They did not have the close example of Abraham’s personal experience in following God.

Moses told the people in Deuteronomy 6:1, ““These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe.”” Moses began the spiritual teaching ministry in the Old Testament when he obeyed that command. That ministry continues today. As you study the Old Testament you will learn these truths that God taught Israel through Moses.

## Teaching Was Blessed

God blessed the nation of Israel when the priests followed Moses’ example. The people saw how to live clean and healthy lives by some laws. They could see how to bring sacrifices for their sins, how to worship God, and how to treat each other in other laws. These things were important to their happiness. Moses told the people that if they obeyed the Law, the other nations would know they were wise. In Deuteronomy 4:7–8, Moses said:

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And

what other nation is so great as to have such  
righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws  
I am setting before you today?

When Jehoshaphat became king of Judah, he tried to stop  
idol worship. (Read 2 Chronicles 17:7–9.) Would you try to get  
people to worship the true God by reading the Bible to them?  
Those men taught God’s law to the people in Judah, and the  
fear of the Lord fell upon the nations around them. Instead of  
making war on Jehoshaphat, the other nations brought him  
gifts.

God had kept His promise. When His people taught and  
obeyed His laws, God blessed them. He kept them in their own  
land and protected them against their enemies.

**Application**

---

**1** Read 2 Chronicles 17:7–9 and answer the following.

**a)** Where did Jehoshaphat send a group of men?

.....

**b)** What did they do when they got there?

.....

.....



**B. TEACHERS OF GOD’S WAYS**

**Goal 2.** Discuss the effects of Israel’s disobedience of  
God’s laws.

**Teaching Was Needed**

The need for teaching in the nation of Israel was very great.  
People at that time were the same as today. It is hard to do the  
right thing all the time. We may want to do what is right, but we  
still give in to the wrong things. We are weak when we want to  
be strong.

Samuel knew this was true of the people of Israel. He had been their judge and prophet for many years. The people decided they wanted to be like the other nations by having a king to rule over them. Samuel did not want to do it because God was their king. But God led Samuel to make Saul the king.

Samuel knew the Israel needed more teaching to live as God wanted them to live. After Saul was made king, Samuel told the people, “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right” (1 Samuel 12:23).

Learning God’s laws will help us not to sin against Him. David confesses, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).

## Teaching Was Rejected

The people of Israel did not always obey God. At times, they rejected God’s laws and did not listen to the priests who taught the Law. God could not bless them when they were disobedient.

One who rejected God’s law was Joash. When he became king of Judah, “Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him” (2 Kings 12:2). But he did not continue to obey those instructions after the priest died. Read 2 Chronicles 24:17–22 and notice the change in Joash. Why did he allow the people to stop worshipping God and encouraged them to turn to idols? What did God do?

Joash listened to the people instead of to the priests who taught God’s laws. Because God loved the people, God sent prophets to warn them. But Joash and the people killed the priest. In response, God punished Joash and the people because they sinned. Joash was killed after God allowed the nation to be defeated in battle.

It is very important to obey the teaching of God’s Word. We need to know His Word if we want to live, as He wants us to live. If we reject His Word, we will lose His blessing.



**Application**

---

- 2** Circle the letter in front of each true statement.
  - a)** Samuel wanted Israel to have a king.
  - b)** Samuel did not think Israel needed any more teaching.
  - c)** Teaching God’s Word helps to keep us from sinning against God.
  - d)** Israel always listened to the priests teach the Law.
  - e)** Joash was killed because he rejected God’s law.
  
- 3** If we want to live as God wants us to, it will be important to
  - a)** live by the Law.
  - b)** listen to the teaching of God’s Word.
  - c)** do what others are doing.



**C. THE GREAT TEACHER**

**Goal 3.** Describe how Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught His disciples.

**Teaching Was Planned**

Jesus thought of himself as a teacher, always willing to teach in the synagogues (Jewish churches) and in many other places. All four Gospels tell us that Jesus taught.

**Application**

---

- 4** Read Matthew 4:23, Mark 6:2, Luke 6:6, and John 7:14, then answer these questions.
  - a)** Where do these verses say Jesus taught?  
.....
  - b)** Why do you think all four Gospels told this fact about Jesus?  
.....  
.....



Jesus told His disciples that He was a teacher. In His last conversation with them before His death, He said, “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am” (John 13:13).

Jesus also allowed others to call Him *Teacher*. For instance, Nicodemus approached Jesus one night and said to Him, “‘Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God’” (John 3:2). Jesus responded, “‘I tell you the truth . . .’” (John 3:3). Jesus was telling Nicodemus that, as a teacher, He spoke the truth.

In Jesus’ ministry, He gave high honor to teaching. Jesus planned to teach. One day when Jesus was talking with the Jews, He said, “‘He who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world’” (John 8:26). Jesus was saying His words came from His Father. He was obeying God’s plan to teach.

The people who heard Jesus teach knew there was something different about His teaching. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew writes, “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law” (Matthew 7:28–29).

The way He taught and lived showed that Jesus thought of himself as a teacher. Yet, He is more than a teacher. He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world! Since teaching was that important to the Savior of the world, it must be important to you and me. He is our example.

## Teachers Were Taught

The 12 men who followed Jesus were called *disciples*. A disciple is a learner. The disciples learned from Jesus as they walked the dusty roads of Palestine. They learned as they watched Him perform miracles. They listened as He spoke to the large crowds that followed. Whenever Jesus taught, the disciples were there, learning His message and His methods.

Jesus’ ministry to these disciples was mostly a teaching ministry. After Jesus performed a miracle, or after He ministered to the crowds by telling a story, He took the disciples off to a place where they could talk quietly.

One day Jesus healed a young boy who had had an evil spirit. When Jesus and the disciples were alone, the disciples asked Him why they could not drive the spirit out. Jesus replied, ““This kind can come out only by prayer”” (Mark 9:29). Jesus used His disciples’ questions as an opportunity to teach them.

Mark tells us, “They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples” (Mark 9:30–31). Jesus knew how important it was to teach people. In a short time He was going to leave them the work He was doing. When He left, Jesus told His disciples to teach others. Those believers were also called disciples (Read Acts 6:1–2, 7).

This is the way the gospel message has come down to us. One person has passed God’s Word on to others through teaching. It is now our turn to teach others. But before we can teach another person, we have to become learners.

We have God’s Word, the Bible, to learn from. We also have pastors and teachers in the church to teach us. As you learn more about the value of teaching, learn as much as you can from the Bible and from your pastor.

***Application***

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- 5** List three reasons why Jesus was known as a teacher.
- a)** .....
- b)** .....
- c)** .....

- 6** Circle the letter before each true statement below.
- a)** The twelve men that followed Jesus were called disciples.
  - b)** As disciples they learned His message and methods.
  - c)** Being a disciple means being a preacher.
  - d)** We need to become disciples.
- 

## **D. TEACHERS OF THE WORD**

**Goal 4.** Explain the importance of teaching in the times of the apostles.

### **Teaching Was Continued**

The apostles believed Jesus and accepted His command to teach. They followed His example. The church in the book of Acts became a teaching church because they did this.

Although Jewish religious leaders had the apostles whipped, telling them to never again speak about Jesus, still the apostles taught. Luke writes, “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 5:42).

Paul started many churches and had a teaching ministry. Paul, with Barnabas, stayed for a year in Antioch to teach the church. Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching the people the Word of God. He also taught both in their homes and in public, as he lived three years in Ephesus.

The early church may have started with preaching, but it was built on teaching. The apostles knew it was important for the new converts to learn about Jesus and His commands.

### **Teaching Was Rewarded**

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, “In the church God has put all in place: in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

### Application

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**7** Read Ephesians 4:11–12 and answer the following questions.

**a)** Is teaching listed among the different ministries?

.....

**b)** Who does Paul say has a teaching ministry?

.....

**c)** Why are these ministries given?

.....



Teaching is listed with pastors in this Scripture. Your pastor is your teacher. That is how God planned it. God will bless you as you learn from your pastor.

Teaching is rewarding. It results in strong churches with Christians who know and understand the Word of God. Christians like that build up the church. In the book of Acts the number of Christians grew as the apostles continued to preach and teach about Jesus. More people became Christians when they heard the Word of God taught.

Do you want your church to grow? Do you want friends and relatives to become Christians? Teaching the Word of God will help make this happen. God’s Word leads people to Jesus. That is the greatest thing we can do for others.

### Application

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**8** Circle the letter in front of each true statement.

**a)** The apostles continued to teach after Jesus returned to heaven.

**b)** The apostles stopped teaching when they were whipped and told to stop.

**c)** Paul preached only in the churches he started.

**d)** God gave the teaching ministry to the church.

**e)** Pastors should not teach.

9 How can God's plan for the teaching ministry affect your life?

.....

.....



## Check Your Answers

---

- 9** We need to learn from Christian teachers; then we must teach others.
- 1 a)** Jehoshaphat sent the men to the towns of Judah.  
**b)** When they got there, the men taught the Laws of God.
- 8 a)** and **d)** are true.
- 2 a)** False  
**b)** False  
**c)** True  
**d)** False  
**e)** True
- 7 a)** Yes  
**b)** Everyone  
**c)** For the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body
- 3 b)** listen to the teaching of God's Word.
- 6** All but **c)** are true.
- 4 a)** In the synagogue  
**b)** To show how important teaching was to Jesus
- 5 a)** He taught in the synagogues.  
**b)** He said He was a teacher.  
**c)** He taught with authority.

# LESSON 3 Christian Teaching Is Special

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In our last lesson we saw in both the Old Testament and the New Testament the importance of teaching. Our guide for a teaching ministry today is the history of teaching in the Bible.

In this lesson we will look at why we teach. Everyone needs learning but not everyone needs to be taught the same thing at the same time. Some need to learn the plan of salvation. Others need to be taught how they may grow as a Christian. And still others need teaching to find their place of service in the church.

I hope you are beginning to understand the importance of teaching in everyone's life. We are all in need of teachers, and we are all commanded to teach. Spiritual truths, both given and received, are included in teaching ministry.



## ***The Plan***

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- A. Teaching for Salvation
- B. Teaching for Spiritual Growth
- C. Teaching for Service

## ***The Goals***

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1. State the teaching necessary to find God's answer to our greatest need.
2. List two important elements of spiritual growth.
3. Show areas in the church where we can serve as we are taught.

## **A. TEACHING FOR SALVATION**

**Goal 1.** State the teaching necessary to find God's answer to our greatest need.

### **Humanity Without God**

Maybe you have heard of someone who got lost while walking through a forest. There was no one to show him the way. After a long time of wandering, he began to fall from hunger and weakness. Some people who have been lost like that have been found. Others have not.

There is something worse than being lost in a forest. It is going through life without ever knowing God. Many people search all their lives to find God. They try different religions, pray to other gods, pay money, and work hard, but they never find peace. Without God people are lost forever.

Christians know they will be with God through all eternity. Eternity starts when our physical life ends. Sin will separate us from God eternally. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence (Romans 3:23). Through one man sin came into the world, bringing death with it. Death, as a result, spread to the whole human race (Romans

5:12). But there is hope! God does not want people to be forever lost. He wants them to receive salvation.

## Salvation Through Jesus

Showing lost people how to find God is part of the work of teaching. Asking Jesus to be our Savior is how we ourselves have found God. We now must share this message with the lost men, women, and children around us.

Anyone who comes to Jesus can be saved. This is the message of God to all people. John writes, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

There are only two things a person must do to be saved: Repent of sin and believe in Jesus. To repent means to be so sorry for your sin that you turn away from it. To believe in Jesus means to trust Him to do what He said He would.

A few Bible verses you can use to teach people how to be saved are:

- “Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15).
- “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household” (Acts 16:31).
- “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11–12).

Also, if you have not already done so, you may want to study the Christian Life course *Personal Evangelism*. This will prepare you to teach the way of salvation to those who have not received it.

## Application

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1 What is humanity’s greatest need?

.....

**2** What is God's answer to this need?

.....

**3** Match each definition (left) with the word it best describes (right) by writing the number of the word in front of its definition.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| ... <b>a</b> Sorry enough for sin to turn away | 1) Eternity |
| ... <b>b</b> Period of time that lasts forever | 2) Believe  |
| ... <b>c</b> To trust                          | 3) Repent   |

**4** Circle the letter below that best completes the following sentence: If a friend of yours did not know God, you would

**a)** teach him to repent and believe in Jesus.  
**b)** teach her about several religions and let her decide.  
**c)** wait for him to ask you about God.

---

## B. TEACHING FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**Goal 2.** List two important elements of spiritual growth.

### Growing in the Word

After we have been saved, God does not want us to stop growing spiritually. Accepting Jesus as Savior is just the beginning. It is an open door to life with God. The goal of Christian teaching is to help Christians grow into that life. The best way for a Christian to grow is to learn from the Word of God. This is why we teach the Bible in Sunday school and church. The Bible is also our textbook in home Bible studies or in personal teaching.

We should also teach people to read the Bible for themselves. Everyone should have a time every day to read the Bible and pray. If you do this yourself, then you can share the truths you learn with those you are teaching. Teaching people to look to God and to the Bible for life's answers will help them deal with everyday issues.

The Bible is our textbook in teaching for growth. Paul told Timothy how important the Bible is to the Christian.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

The Holy Spirit will urge us to act on what we have learned as we study God’s Word. The Holy Spirit will gently push us into doing the right things. We can say no to Him, but if we let Him, He will teach us. It may mean asking God to forgive us of sin in our lives. As we obey His urging, we become more like Jesus. Then we can teach others the importance of obedience.

## Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Teaching for spiritual growth is not complete without teaching that all believers may have the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Peter spoke of this on the Day of Pentecost:

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38–39)

When we Christians receive the Holy Spirit, He puts a desire in our hearts to obey God. He helps us live and work for God. This is how we grow in our Christian life.

The Holy Spirit is also our Teacher. We talked about what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 14:26. Read that verse again and think about your answers to the following questions. What name did Jesus give the Holy Spirit? How does that name make you feel towards Him? What two things will the Holy Spirit do for you? How will this help you as you teach others?

The Holy Spirit is our Helper. We can teach others when we have allowed Him to teach us and help us remember Jesus' words. The Holy Spirit calls people into a teaching ministry and also teaches those He calls.

To grow in God, we have to know God. We can never learn all there is to know about God, but the Holy Spirit knows God and will teach us about Him. Paul writes,

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. (1 Corinthians 2:10–12)

To have a teaching ministry that is blessed by God, we must have the teaching of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. Then we can teach others that spiritual growth will come as they allow Jesus to fill them with the Holy Spirit.

## ***Application***

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Circle the letter in front of the best answer to each question.

- 5** What does God want us to do after we are saved?
- a)** Find the answer to a friend's problem.
  - b)** Read our Bible every day.
- 6** Who can be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- a)** Only pastors and teachers
  - b)** Every Christian
- 7** What does the Holy Spirit do to help us grow?
- a)** He urges us to do what is right.
  - b)** He makes us perfect so we do not sin anymore.

**8** How does reading the Bible help Christians to grow spiritually?

- a) It increases our ability to learn.
  - b) It teaches us the truth.
- 

## **C. TEACHING FOR SERVICE**

**Goal 3.** Show areas in the church where we can serve as we are taught.

There is no place to stop in our spiritual growth. All of us need to grow in our Christian lives until this life is over. In God's plan for the Christian, one of the purposes for our life is to do good works. These good things we do are not to save us. Salvation comes from God. God's Holy Spirit urges us to work because we are saved.

As we do the things God wants us to do we will continue to grow in Him. Maybe a mother you know is sick, and cannot take care of her family. Taking that family some food for their dinner, or taking care of the baby might be good works. As a Christian you are showing in this that God loves her too.

Growth in our spiritual lives happens when we use our time, effort, and money to help others. We do this in the church, where we live, and on our job. We teach people in the church to support the work of the church with their money. We learn to bring our offerings and tithes to God. A tithe is one tenth of the increase in money God gives us. If He has blessed us, through earnings or gifts, we must return to Him ten percent of those earnings or gifts. God blesses people who give with a willing, happy spirit. As people learn to do this in the church, they grow in their trust in God for His blessings.

We also learn in church how to serve God with our talents. Talents are special abilities God has given us. Some people, for example, can sing well. Others cannot. Singing can be a skill they learn. But sometimes it is a talent God has given to them.

Christians sometimes need to be taught how to use their talents, or that God gives them talents.

Teaching can help keep the church working together. Teachers and workers in the Sunday school need training. Classes can be set up to train them. Other workers need to learn how to serve communion, greet visitors, and do many other important tasks in the church.

### ***Application***

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- 9** Circle the letter in front of each true statement below.
- a)** Spiritual growth continues for just a short time after salvation.
  - b)** Christians should be taught to give money to God because they have to.
  - c)** We should teach that we grow in God when we show His love to someone.
  - d)** Teachers need to be taught.
  - e)** If someone wants to serve in the church, let him do so even though he is not trained.
- 



## ***Check Your Answers***

---

**1** To find God

**9 c) and d)** are true.

**2** Believe in Jesus Christ.

**8 b)** It teaches us the truth.

**3 3)** Repent

**1)** Eternity

**2)** Believe

**7 a)** He urges us to do what is right.

**4 a)** teach him to repent and believe in Jesus.

**6 b)** Every Christian

**5 b)** Read our Bible every day.





# 4 Everyone Needs Teaching

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Have you ever watched a mother bird when her babies are ready to fly? She pushes them out of the nest. The process of teaching has started. This will continue until the baby bird is able to care for itself. The same principle is applied to our children. From their earliest years, we teach them how to live in this world.

We have seen the three purposes of Christian teaching: (1) to help people learn of their need for salvation, (2) to help them grow in their Christian life, and (3) to lead them into Christian service. Everyone needs teaching, for the Creator wants everyone to know and love Him.

We will be better Christian teachers the more we learn about Christian teaching. Our desire should be to teach so the lives of children, teenagers, and adults will be changed. Pray that the Lord will help you understand the needs of each person you know. This is the first step to becoming a teacher for the Lord.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. All-Inclusive Teaching
- B. Everyone Is Different

## ***The Goals***

---

1. State Jesus's model for teaching.
2. Identify spiritual learning differences of various age groups.

## **A. ALL-INCLUSIVE TEACHING**

### **Jesus's Example**

#### **Goal 1.** State Jesus's model for teaching.

In Lesson 1 we examined Jesus's command to teach for us to teach: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). How can we obey it? Few of us will ever go around the world. And even those who can go to many places will not be able to teach everyone.

Christians must be willing to be taught, and then must teach others. This way you can obey the command. Some of the people the Lord wants you to teach may be in the church. Others may be in your neighborhood or on the job. However, the most important audience to whom you will teach God's truths is in your own home. It would not be long until everyone has heard God's message.

Jesus is our example. His message was the good news of God's love. The message was for everyone. Jesus never left the area of Palestine where the people of Israel lived. He taught all the people around Him. Mark notes that "Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen to me, everyone, and understand this'" (Mark 7:14).

He taught those who came to Him. John says, "At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them"

(John 8:2). Jesus did not refuse anyone. He took care of their needs and taught all who came to Him.

It is easy to think someone is not important enough for us to teach. We do not want to waste our time on some, thinking that they would never accept the gospel. We may even be afraid to teach people we deem of greater importance. But we should not allow our perceptions of others to deter us from teaching them. Jesus's example is inclusive of all people of all cultures and social status.

## Application

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**1** Explain how you can obey Christ's command to teach all people everywhere.

.....

.....

.....

**2** Circle the letter in front of the true sentences.

- a)** God's command to teach is not for everyone.
- b)** We need to teach the people who live in our own homes.
- c)** Our command to teach is found in Matthew 28:19.
- d)** Jesus turned away people He was afraid to teach.
- e)** Jesus taught only leaders.



## Everyone's Need

Paul taught that the message of God's love was for everyone. In Athens, he taught the people about Jesus and the resurrection. He told them how God had made the world and everything in it and that God now "commands all people everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

Paul's letter to the church at Rome explained,

"As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the

same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”  
(Romans 10:11–13)

It is not enough just to say everyone needs to be taught. We must examine why everyone needs teaching. People who are not Christians need teaching to learn how to become Christians. They must learn there is no other way to have peace in their hearts but through Jesus Christ.

What about those who are Christians; do they still need teaching? Yes, we all need to be taught. None of us is perfect, nor will we be until we reach heaven. Paul taught the Christians:

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.  
(Colossians 1:28)

Read 1 Timothy 4:1–6 and answer the following questions. What are the two wrong teachings? What did Paul say was the correct teaching on these two things? What was Timothy supposed to do for his Christian brothers? What was he to do for himself?

False teaching may spread. In this case to think it was wrong to marry or to eat certain foods was false teaching. False teaching will keep us from growing spiritually. Paul told Timothy to teach what God’s truth is. If we do not know the truth, how will we recognize lies?

## ***Application***

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Choose the best answer for the following questions.

- 3** You could be a modern-day Paul by teaching
- a)** the people in Rome.
  - b)** those who know Jesus.
  - c)** everyone who needs Jesus.
  - d)** the people in Athens.

- 4 Everyone needs teaching to have
    - a) a lot of knowledge about God.
    - b) wisdom.
    - c) eternal life through Jesus Christ.
  - 5 To overcome lies we need to learn
    - a) God's truths.
    - b) world history.
    - c) honesty.
- 

## **B. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT**

**Goal 2.** Identify spiritual learning differences of various age groups.

We are all different—not only in our spiritual growth, but also in our level of understanding. Everyone needs to be taught God's truths, but we cannot teach a child in the same way that we teach an adult. Now we will see how it is best to teach various age groups.

### **Children**

Children are important to Jesus. When His disciples argued about who among them would be greatest in heaven, Jesus showed them a child and said:

“Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.”  
(Luke 9:48)

How early should we start teaching children? A mother and father should begin to teach their children at home at a very early age. They should take their children to Sunday school programs that give children the teaching they need.

Before they could talk, I read to my children and sang to them about Jesus from the time they were born. They grew up knowing Jesus as a Person who was a friend to our family.

Children grow in understanding of life around them. A parent does not ask a two-year-old to build a house. The child first learns to play with blocks of wood and later learns how to use a hammer, and then a saw. Growth is like this in a child's spiritual life. A two-year-old does not understand Jesus' death and resurrection. Instead, he or she can be taught that Jesus is his or her friend.

The following chart shows differences in learning about spiritual truths for different age groups of children:

<b>Learning Differences</b>				
	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>4–5 years</b>	<b>6–8 years</b>	<b>9–11 years</b>
<b>God</b>	feels God is real	thinks of God as a Father	sees God as loving and holy	sees God as Great Judge
<b>Jesus</b>	feels Jesus is best friend	feels the presence of Jesus	responds to Jesus and accepts Him as Savior	grows to know Jesus better
<b>Bible</b>	is a special Book	is a special Book	starts reading	makes reading a habit and memorizes verses
<b>Prayer</b>	prays simple prayers	prays simple prayers	has a belief in prayer	is ready for prayer habit
<b>Spiritual Growth</b>		knows about right and wrong	can know God's help	cares about other's spiritual needs

Study this chart whether you are a parent or a teacher of children. It will help you know what to teach your children about spiritual truths.

## ***Application***

---

- 6** Circle the letter before each true statement below.
- a)** Jesus meant that children are too young to be taught about Him.
  - b)** We are to include children in our teaching ministry.
  - c)** Children are ready to hear about the resurrection when they are two years old.
  - d)** It is never too early to teach a child about Jesus and His love.
- 7** Since children cannot be expected to understand difficult things, we should
- a)** wait until they are older to teach them about God.
  - b)** start early to teach them simple truths about Jesus's love for them.
- 

## **Teenagers**

When children become teenagers, there are even more changes. Teenagers tend to challenge the things they believed as children. There are several things teachers will need to do to help resolve this tension:

1. Answer their questions. No matter what a teenager asks, an answer needs to be received. It may be hard, but with God's help we can look for answers to show that God's way is best.
2. Listen to them talk. Their minds are working hard exploring all of life. They want to share what they have seen and learned. It may be explaining the science test taken in school or describing a friend's car. They want to tell you their ideas, and they need to be listened to.



3. Set an example. The teenager needs to see that Christianity really works. Share your own needs and answered prayers. As they see Jesus working in your life, they will know what you are teaching is true.
4. Apply God's truth to their lives. Pray and work with them so they will learn for themselves the truth of God's promises. They need to see God work in their own lives. This builds their faith.

## ***Application***

---

- 8** Circle the letter before each true statement below.
- a)** Teenagers need to see that God does work in our lives.
  - b)** We must not try to answer all questions of a teenager.
  - c)** It is important to take time out and listen to the teenager.
  - d** An important way to teach a teenager is to be a good example.
- 9** A teenager is different in his spiritual growth because he
- a)** never really understood what he was taught.
  - b)** will not listen to adults.
  - c)** is beginning to question all the things he believed as a child.
- 

## **Adults**

Adults can understand the Bible in ways that children and teenagers cannot. Adults need to be taught to live the truths they learn, else they will stop growing spiritually. As adults obey God's Word, they continue to learn deeper truths. Teaching the Word of God should bring about changes in their lives.

Adults need to learn that Jesus Christ should be the Lord of their lives and is the head of the church. Jesus can show each one of us how to live for Him even though we are all different. We make Jesus the Lord of our lives when we obey Him.

As adult believers, we can be teachers of the Word and workers with God. Teachers need to learn of God and learn about their students. Teachers are better able to teach what

adults need to learn when the students' needs are known. God wants everyone to learn of Him. Because we learn in different ways, we need not only to study the Bible but also to learn how to reach students on all levels of learning.

### ***Application***

---

Choose the correct answer in parentheses to complete each sentence.

**10** Adults can be taught (faster/deeper truths).

**11** When an adult does not obey the truths from God's Word, he or she (stops growing spiritually/can still teach).

**12** Teachers are (merely adults/workers with God).

**13** What will you do when you have a chance to teach someone, now that you know some of the differences between the different age groups?

.....

.....

.....



## Check Your Answers

---

**13** I would get to know the person. First, I would find out if he is a Christian or not. Then I would teach him the things he could understand at his age level.

**1** By teaching the people you know

**12** workers with God.

**2 a)** False

**b)** True

**c)** True

**d)** False

**e)** False

**11** stops growing spiritually.

**3 c)** everyone who needs Jesus.

**10** deeper truths.

**4 c)** eternal life through Jesus Christ.

**9 c)** is beginning to question all the things he believed as a child.

**5 a)** God's truths.

**8** All but b) are true.

**6 a)** False

**b)** True

**c)** False

**d)** True

**7 b)** start early to teach them simple truths about Jesus's love for them.

# LESSON 5 Everyone Can Teach

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Some of the greatest blessings come to the Christian who teaches, as the teacher shares in the joy of seeing someone accept Jesus as Savior. When that person who becomes a Christian grows in the Lord because you have taught him or her, the joy is amplified.

In this lesson you will see why everyone can and should teach. We cannot say we are not able to teach. It is God's plan and He will help us do it. If you are willing to follow God's plan, then you will have God's joy. There is no greater joy than helping another person find God's will for his or her life. You can do it!

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Involve Yourself
- B. Be Dedicated
- C. Use Every Opportunity
- D. Develop Your Gift

## ***The Goals***

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1. Explain how every Christian can be involved in teaching.
2. Describe the dedication needed by a Christian teacher.
3. Show how we can use everyday opportunities to teach others.
4. Determine your place in the teaching ministry.

## **A. INVOLVE YOURSELF**

**Goal 1.** Explain how every Christian can be involved in teaching.

A teacher of God's Word must be a Christian. Those who try to teach the Bible but have not accepted Jesus as their Savior do not have the help of the Holy Spirit to understand fully the teachings of God. Part of the Holy Spirit's work is giving us understanding of the Bible so that we can live out Jesus's commission for us to teach others.

You do not have to know everything about the Bible before you can teach others. None of us knows all there is to know about the Word of God. We teach what we know. When we are saved from our sins, we share with our families and friends what God has done for us. This is the beginning of our teaching ministry. As we grow in our own Christian life, our ability to teach others will also increase.

Others say, "I can't teach because I'm not perfect. I'm too weak in my Christian life. I still sin." It should help you to know that Jesus chose imperfect men as His disciples. These disciples were to be the ones who would teach others about Jesus.

Three men who were probably closest to Jesus were Peter, James, and John. James and John were brothers whom Jesus named *Boanerges*, which means “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). The name was coined because the disciples had argued among themselves concerning which of them would be the greatest. James and John asked Jesus if they could sit at privileged places, on His right and left sides, when Jesus came to His kingly throne. This was a selfish request. At another time, these brothers became angry when men of a town would not let them enter. In retaliation, they asked Jesus to call fire down from heaven to destroy the men. In spite of the brothers’ vices, Jesus chose them as His disciples.

In addition to the brothers, Peter had a hard time doing the right thing. Once Peter said he would die to protect Jesus, yet a few hours later, he cursed and denied ever knowing Jesus. After His resurrection, Jesus sought after Peter and chose him to be a teacher of others.

It is clear that none of us is perfect. We all have sinned. But Jesus chose us to be teachers for Him just as He chose the disciples who were sometimes sinful. Jesus knew that we could not be perfect by our own efforts, but He does want us to obey Him and not sin. Thus, He has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to live holy.

When we know we have been forgiven of our sins, we know that God loves us. This is the message that every Christian can teach others. God is eager to forgive them, for He loves them too.

## ***Application***

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- 1** Answer the following questions with a *yes* or *no*.
  - a)** Can a person who does not have the Holy Spirit understand the teachings in the Bible?
  - b)** Do Christians know all they need to know about the Bible?
  - c)** Were the disciples perfect?
  - d)** Did Jesus choose perfect men to teach His commands to others?
  - e)** Are we to teach our friends that God loves them?

**2** Write what God did for you when He saved you. Think of how you would say this to a friend who is not a Christian.

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.....  
.....  
.....

- 3** I can teach about Jesus because I
- a)** am perfect.
- b)** continue to sin willfully.
- c)** have studied about Him.
- d)** have the Holy Spirit as my Helper.



## **B. BE DEDICATED**

**Goal 2.** Describe the dedication needed by a Christian teacher.

Whoever you are, God can use you to teach others. But you need to dedicate yourself to obeying His command to teach. To dedicate means “to set something apart for a certain purpose.” For example, God calls some people to be pastors. When one chooses to obey and become a pastor, one’s life is dedicated to that ministry.

We need this kind of dedication to the ministry of teaching. Even if you do not become a teacher in Sunday school, you can help those who are. The best way to support the teaching ministry is to be willing learners and obey the truths learned.

For those who do become teachers in the Sunday school or other areas, teaching will not be a full-time job like pastoring. But whatever kind of teaching we do, we need to plan and study for it. We need to be dedicated, for there are some things a teacher needs to know and do.


1. The teacher must believe that everyone needs teaching.
2. The teacher must know that without God people are lost.
3. The teacher must know that Christians need to grow spiritually.
4. The teacher must know what to teach. This requires Bible study.
5. The teacher must live what he or she teaches.

Teaching can be a challenge. Whenever a Christian teaches in Sunday school or church, something else is also needed. This is the gift of teaching that the Holy Spirit gives. We will talk more about this later. Christians may have received other gifts, and not the gift of teaching. Still, they must obey Jesus's command to teach in everyday life.

When we are willing to give ourselves to teaching, God will help us. The psalmist wrote, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this" (Psalm 37:5). God has never turned away any person who dedicates himself or herself to obeying Christ's commands.

## ***Application***

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- 4** Choose the best answer given in parentheses.
- a) What do teachers need to know about sinners? They are in need of (perfection/teaching).
  - b) To set apart something for a certain purpose means to (dedicate it/learn it).
  - c) Before we can teach others about God's truth we should (know everything/obey the truth).
- 5** (Circle the letter in front of the best completion.) Christians who are not Sunday school teachers can best help teachers by
- a) asking their pastor for the gift of teaching.
  - b) being an obedient learner.
  - c) studying to become a pastor.
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- 



## **C. USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY**

**Goal 3.** Show how we can use everyday opportunities to teach others.

When we think about teaching we may think about Sunday school, books and desks, lecterns, and pulpits. But teaching is needed everywhere. Parents in the home, workers on the job, business professionals, students—all can find a way to teach something to someone. Everywhere a Christian may be, there is an audience that needs to be taught about Jesus the Savior.

Jesus taught in many different times and places. When the Jewish leader Nicodemus came to talk to Him one night, Jesus used this to teach him how to be saved. Another time, Jesus and His disciples were traveling through Samaria, and Jesus stopped by a well to rest. While His disciples had gone into the town to buy food, a woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus used the time to teach her about the Living Savior.

Jesus did not just teach in the Jewish church. He taught in the countryside by the sea; He taught as He and His disciples walked on the road; He taught in homes and wherever people would listen.

Have you ever shared from God's Word while having a meal with others? Maybe it was with your family, or perhaps with some friends. Reading a few verses of Scripture and talking together about them can be very helpful. This, also, is a form of teaching.

When there is time to talk at work, this is an opportunity. Wherever else you meet with friends you can share God's truths. Most people go through troubles at some point. You can teach them then about your Lord, who answers prayer.

One woman I know always greets her friends by asking, "What has the Lord done for you today?" This leads into talking about spiritual things. Christians who do this find themselves teaching the things that God has taught them.

## Application

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- 6** Circle the letter in front of each true sentence below.
- a)** We need a book and a desk before we can teach.
  - b)** Every Christian can teach somewhere.
  - c)** Jesus showed how we can find opportunities to teach in everyday life.
  - d)** One way of teaching is talking about our troubles.

**7** List opportunities where you could use your teaching ministry.

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## D. DEVELOP YOUR GIFT

**Goal 4.** Determine your place in the teaching ministry.

Thrice in the New Testament, Paul names the gifts of the Spirit. Each time the gift of teaching is named with the others. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach (Romans 12:7).

In the church God has put all gifts in place: in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers (1 Corinthians 12:28). Paul writes that it was God who gave gifts to the church, by appointing some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11).

The gift of teaching was needed to build up the church in the days of the apostles, and it is needed today, too. But from a study of these Scripture verses, we learn that not everyone receives the gift of teaching. There are other gifts issued for the purpose of building up the church. Every Christian can receive one or more of these gifts. We may not all receive the same gift.

Those who have other gifts should do the things their gift helps them do. If a person's gift is to serve, then he or she should serve or help others when needed. Stop right now and ask the Lord to reveal to you what your gifts are. You might also pray for God to give you a special gift.

What is the gift of teaching? Like the other gifts, it is a supernatural ability. It is an ability that God gives to explain His truths. The Christian teacher is not one that always knows more about the Word of God than others. The Christian teacher has a gift to teach others so they can learn and grow.

All Christians can be teachers. Paul told the Christians in the Colossian church: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). In the church, teachers who have received the gift of teaching are especially needed.

Every Christian should discover his or her spiritual gift and develop them. Some may have the gift of teaching and not know it. If you have a desire to teach, try teaching. You and others may see God's blessing in your teaching.

If you know you have the gift of teaching, use it. We do not know what gift Timothy had, but what Paul told him is good for us too. Paul said, "I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Timothy 1:6). The best way to keep a gift alive is to use it in your ministry to the church. Peter encourages, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). As we use the gift of teaching, or any other gift God has given us, it will grow. We will become better teachers as we work at learning how to teach.

### ***Application***

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**8** Who should be chosen to teach in church?

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- 9 Circle the letter in front of each true sentence.
- a) The gift of teaching is named once in the Bible.
  - b) Everyone who is a Christian receives the gift of teaching.
  - c) Sunday school teachers need the gift of teaching for explaining the Word of God.
  - d) The gift of teaching is a natural ability that can be learned.
  - e) We can find out if we have the gift of teaching by studying hard.
  - f) If you have the gift of teaching, you need to use it for the good of others.
- 

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT ONE. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.

## Check Your Answers

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- 1 a)** No  
**b)** No  
**c)** No  
**d)** No  
**e)** Yes
- 9 c)** and **f)** are true.
- 2** I would say that He forgave my sins and showed me that He loves me.
- 8** Those who have the gift of teaching. God gives different gifts to each Christian to build up the church.
- 3 c)** have studied about Him.  
**d)** have the Holy Spirit as my Helper.
- 7** Here is a list of a few but you could list many more:  
When visiting with friends  
When working with others  
At dinner
- 4 a)** teaching  
**b)** dedicate it  
**c)** obey the truth
- 6 a)** False  
**b)** True  
**c)** True  
**d)** False
- 5 b)** being an obedient learner.



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## **Lessons**

- 6 The Parent Teacher**
- 7 The Need for a Message**
- 8 The Need for Methods**
- 9 Jesus's Methods**

# 6 The Parent Teacher

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When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we receive great joy. Do you remember when this happened in your life? You wanted to share it with someone right away. You can still have that same joy and eagerness to share it with others.

We have been talking about how and why teaching is needed by everyone. We have seen how you can teach someone, no matter who you are. In this lesson we will learn about two kinds of people you can teach right in your own home. This teaching gives greater joy than you have ever known. I hope you will try these different ways of teaching.



## ***The Plan***

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- A. Parents As Teachers
- B. Friends As Learners

## ***The Goals***

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1. Give biblical examples of how parents taught their children.
2. Outline a method for teaching friends in your home.

## **A. PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

### **Bible Parents**

**Goal 1.** Give biblical examples of how parents taught their children.

The teaching of children by their parents has always been an important part of God’s plan for His people. When Moses told the people of Israel to obey God’s commands, He also told them to teach those commands to their children and grandchildren:

Be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Moses instructed them to tell their children and grandchildren about how God had met them at Mount Sinai. This was something important that had happened to them. But the story also was to help them remember to obey God.

As parents told their children about this, the children learned that God was real and was able to meet with them. A little while later, Moses told the people of Israel when and how they were to teach their children.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.  
(Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

Teaching their children was to be a way of living for the people of Israel. They were not just to set aside an hour each day to make their children listen as the commands of God were read. Although the children were to hear God’s laws, the parents were also to talk with their children about God’s goodness while they did things together. Parents were not to do all the talking. They were to interact with their children and respond to their questions. (See Deuteronomy 6:20.)

## ***Application***

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- 1** Read Deuteronomy 6:21–25, and answer the following questions with *yes* or *no*.
  - a)** Were the parents told to tell their children how God saved them from the king of Egypt?
  - b)** Did God want parents to tell their children they could do anything they wanted to do?
  - c)** Was God pleased when His people were slaves in Egypt?
- 2** What do you think happened when the children heard from their parents the stories of what God had done?

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Many years later David wrote: “One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4). God wants His mighty acts kept alive as His people remember them. We also learn from these stories that God blesses the people who obey Him. It is not enough to say to your children, “Do this” or “Don’t do that.” Children also need to know who said it and why.

## Parental Example

Children learn by watching their parents. As the mother and father take care of their home and family, they demonstrate obedience to the commands of God. Children will also see the blessings their parents receive. Soon they will learn that obeying God is good. Children can learn, too, that God will help them go through troubles and His power will keep them from sin.

Jesus taught His disciples by word and by example. When He and His disciples went to the wedding at Cana, Jesus performed a miracle of turning water into wine. John writes, “Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee: there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him” (John 2:11). Jesus’s act told the disciples that He cared about people. When His disciples saw this, they believed in Him.

For our children to learn that God wants us to love our neighbors, we must show that we love our neighbors. Gossiping about our neighbors or ignoring them does not show love. The apostle John told how important our actions are when he wrote “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

## Application

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Choose the best answer to the following questions.

- 3** When children model their parents' obedience to God,
- a)** there are no problems.
  - b)** they will have trouble with their neighbors.
  - c)** God will give them joy and strength even in times of trouble.
- 4** Our actions teach our children that we believe
- a)** our neighbors should visit us often.
  - b)** God blesses those who obey Him.
  - c)** they should do as we do, but not as we say.
- 5** Jesus's disciples knew He cared about people because of
- a)** what He said.
  - b)** His actions.
- 

Moses told the parents in Israel that they were to talk to their children about God's commands. Suppose your child fights with another child. You could use this to teach God's way of showing love. For instance, discuss with your child what the Bible says about fighting?

Reading the Bible in our home is very important as children need to hear God's Word. In His Word are many truths that help us build our lives. Time should be given to talking about verses that we read. This is a time when children will ask questions. A wise parent will take the time to find the answers.

The need for parents to teach their children is taught in the book of Proverbs. For children to obey God's command, and receive the blessing God has promised, the parent must teach them. Thus, Proverbs 1:8–9 reads,

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Most of us would like to have a son like Timothy in the New Testament. From what Paul wrote to Timothy, we know his mother and grandmother taught him. I am sure they taught him both by what they said and what they did. Paul writes to Timothy, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5).

### Application

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- 6 Circle the letter in front of each true sentence.
  - a) Parents should talk about God to their children whenever they can.
  - b) Questions children ask do not have to be answered.
  - c) Timothy learned about God from a friend.
  - d) Talking about God to our children is just as important as our actions.

7 List several things you could teach your child by talking to him or her.

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## B. FRIENDS AS LEARNERS

**Goal 2.** Outline a method for teaching friends in your home.

In the book of Acts the story is told of Cornelius, who sent for Peter to come and teach him the good news of the gospel. The following day Peter arrived in Caesarea, where Cornelius was waiting for him, together with relatives and close friends that he had invited (Acts 10:24).

This is one of the first home Bible studies recorded in the Bible. Cornelius asked Peter to come as the teacher. Then he

brought his family and friends together to hear what Peter had to say. God gave His Holy Spirit to these people, and they were baptized in water.

Christians in many countries invite their friends and neighbors to home Bible studies. If possible, each person in the study group should have a Bible to read during the meeting. It is good to use a study guide, which gives questions about the lesson. The people in the group answer the questions by finding the answers in the Bible, and the leader of the group makes sure everyone finds the answers. Anyone who is a Christian can lead a Bible study like this. In this way you can teach those who visit your home.

A woman in Indonesia studied a Global University course like this one you are studying, and she became a Christian. She wanted to share her new faith with others, so she asked women she knew to come to her home to study other Bible lessons with her. About 25 people became Christians through this method.

## ***Application***

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**8** If you were to begin a home Bible study now, what basic things would you have to do?

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## Check Your Answers

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- 8** Invite people; send for teachers or teach yourself; bring Bibles; and use some kind of study guide.
- 1 a)** Yes  
**b)** No  
**c)** No
- 6 a)** True  
**b)** False  
**c)** False  
**d)** True
- 2** It helped them to know who God was and what He wanted them to do.
- 7** Your answer. I would include: About God's love and how He shows it. What is in God's Word and what it means. How to apply God's Word to our daily life
- 3 c)** God will give them joy and strength even in times of trouble.
- 4 b)** God blesses those who obey Him.
- 5 b)** His actions.

# LESSON 7 The Need for a Message

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Every year people choose certain kinds of seeds to plant in their gardens. But most gardeners do more than just plant seeds. They prepare the ground by plowing it and marking rows before the seeds are planted. Then, at harvest time the gardener reaps results from his labor.

Preparing to teach is like that. The right message is chosen, and then it is prepared as a lesson. During the class time, the teacher plants in the hearts of the students the seeds of God's Word. All this work is done to ensure the student has a full life in Jesus Christ. Also, it is especially pleasing for the teacher to see his or her students replicate their learning.



## **The Plan**

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- A. The Message of the Word
- B. The Message From Your Life
- C. The Message for the Learner

## **The Goals**

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- 1. Explain why the teacher must believe the message.
- 2. Discuss how our example can teach others.
- 3. State the importance of a learner-centered message.

### **A. THE MESSAGE OF THE WORD**

#### **Goal 1.** Explain why the teacher must believe the message.

God has given us the most important message in the world to teach: the message of the gospel. How we feel about it can help others learn from us about Him. Do you love to read your Bible? The psalmist said, “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97).

We need to pray as we study to teach this message. This will open our hearts and minds to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Read and study God’s Word, and the Holy Spirit will teach you the meaning if you ask Him to. David prayed, “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” (Psalm 119:18). Let us make this our prayer as we study the message we take to others.

Paul talked about this message when he wrote to the church at Corinth. He said, “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Read Paul’s earlier message to the Corinthians:

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I

proclaimed to you the testimony about God.  
 For I resolved to know nothing while I was  
 with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.  
 (1 Corinthians 2:1–2)

People need to know Jesus. They need to receive His forgiveness, which is available only because of His death on the Cross. Jesus is the one who forgives our sins and helps us grow in our Christian lives.

## ***Application***

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Read 2 Timothy 2:14–19. Then circle the letter in front of the best completions to the following sentences.

- 1** A person who teaches the message of God presents
    - a)** lessons that show how much he or she knows.
    - b)** his or her own message.
    - c)** the truth about the resurrection.
  - 2** Teachers please God when they
    - a)** say that our resurrection is past.
    - b)** bring people to God’s truth.
    - c)** fail to present the message of new life.
  - 3** The message we are to pass on in our teaching ministry is
    - a)** that God will not forgive all sins.
    - b)** why we are to teach.
    - c)** how people can have new life in Jesus.
- 

Second Timothy 2:14–19 show us how important it is to work hard at teaching. If we want the blessing of God on our teaching, we must be careful to teach His truth. Sometimes it is easy to let our own ideas about these things become too important. God wants us to think for ourselves. But He also wants us to test our thinking by the truth of His Word. We must not teach something that is not verified in Scripture, no matter how good it sounds. To know Jesus is to have spiritual life forever. That is the reason we feel our message is important.

## ***Application***

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- 4** Choose the best answer given in parentheses.
- a)** What should your attitude be as you study the Bible? (Questioning/Prayerful)
  - b)** What was Paul's message when he preached and taught? (His own ideas/The truth about Jesus)
  - c)** What happens to believers when we fail to teach the truth of God's Word? (They will grow/They cannot grow)
- 

## **B. THE MESSAGE FROM YOUR LIFE**

**Goal 2.** Discuss how our example can teach others.

The goal of teaching is to see a change in those we teach. Whether you are teaching your family, friends, or a Sunday school class, keep this goal in mind. Furthermore, if you want to teach people to obey Christ, you must obey Him first.

It is not enough just to learn a lot of facts and pass them on to others. If you have not been changed by God's power, then you cannot expect those you teach to be changed. People need to see those facts from God's Word changing your life also. Then they will want the same thing in their own lives. Philippians 2:15–16 notes, "You may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."

## ***Application***

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- 5** It is most important in your teaching ministry to
- a)** teach many facts so those you teach will think about them.
  - b)** teach by being an example of how Jesus can change lives.
- 6** Does your life give a message that can teach others to change? Pray about this as you continue to study this course.
-

Read the instruction Paul gave to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:11–16. Like Timothy we need to be an example to our students. When we say God’s Word is alive, we mean that His Word has the power to change our lives. But this happens only when we obey the commands of the Word and believe its promises.

As a teacher you should be the leader in bringing about change. To do this, you will need to study and share the Word. Paul teaches that “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).

This verse helped me through many days when my heart was filled with fear. Then one day I was with another woman who was fearful of her future because of her illness. I read the verse to her and prayed that God would comfort her as He had comforted me. She, too, found strength to keep trusting God.

## ***Application***

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**7** Circle the letter in front of each true sentence.

- a)** Timothy was to wait to teach until he became older.
  - b)** His conduct and speech were to be an example to believers.
  - c)** If Timothy watched himself and his teaching, those who heard him would criticize him.
  - d)** Timothy was to practice the things that he also taught.
  - e)** If he lived a changed life, Timothy would be a good example to those who listened.
- 

Changes in lives are the evidence that learning has occurred. Either an action or an attitude shows these changes. Our purpose in teaching is to see changes in the lives of those we teach. Here are five things we must do in our teaching ministry to accomplish this end:

1. Let the students know what we want to teach them—the message of God’s salvation.
2. Repeat the message many times. This does not always have to be done in the same way. The same message can be given

by different methods. In our next lesson we will look at four methods of teaching.

3. Ensure our teaching is understood. Starting with something the students already know in order to explain something new will help them to understand.
4. Help students to believe in our message. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to teach in such a way that students will respond actively.
5. Guide our students into using truths learned. Show them how to use these truths daily. This is called applying the truth to their lives. When this is done, the life of the learner is changed. James explained it this way:

The man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.  
(James 1:25)

If I taught my small daughter to tie her own shoes without having her try to do it herself, she would not learn to do it. If she did practice tying her own shoes by herself, she would be applying what she had learned. This is the same way we learn and apply spiritual truths. We put into action the truths learned from God's Word.

## ***Application***

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- 8** Without looking back at the lesson, circle the letter in front of each sentence that tells how a teacher should teach.
- a)** She lives what she teaches.
  - b)** He never lets the students know he has made mistakes.
  - c)** She shares her experiences, even her failures.
  - d)** He shares his feelings about the message.
  - e)** She does not repeat what she has already taught.
  - f)** He tells how the message can work in the student's life.
-

## C. THE MESSAGE FOR THE LEARNER

**Goal 3.** State the importance of a learner-centered message.

### Preparing the Message

As we have said earlier in this course, the Bible is the textbook for Christian teaching. Therefore, the teacher must know as much as he or she can about the Bible. This is not easy; it requires a lot of disciplined study. And even after many years of study, we cannot know all there is to know.

Sunday school teachers usually have a lesson book that explains the message to be taught. This is helpful. If you use such a book to prepare your lesson, be sure then to read the Scripture passage in your Bible that is given in the lesson. Look at each person in a Bible story. Use truths from the story that will help you and your students to live better Christian lives.

When you plan your lesson, be sure to think about those you will be teaching. What needs do they have that can be helped by this lesson? The answer to this question not only will help you make your message more interesting, but it will also help those you teach to grow in their relationship with God and with one another.

Learning the best ways of preparing our message does not take away from the Holy Spirit's work in our ministry. He will help us learn to be better teachers. Paul told Timothy:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

### Speaking the Learner's Language

Our language—our words—is what we use to communicate the truths we want to teach. We understand what we are saying, but sometimes the person we are teaching does not. There are certain words used in Christian teaching that explain what we

believe. Those who are not Christians do not always understand these words as we do.

For instance, once I was teaching a small group and talked about our need to have faith. One of the women asked, “What is faith?” We explained that many things we do in our natural life take faith. Faith is the belief that someone or something will do what he or it is supposed to do. Every time we sit in a chair, we show that we have faith that the chair will hold us. To have faith in God means we believe that God will do what He said He would.

It is important to know the language of the learner and to use such language clearly. This kind of careful teaching is especially needed for children or for those who are not familiar with the Bible. If we know the language level, we can use words they will understand. Then we will be better able to convey God’s truth to them.

It is also important to know that each learner understands the meaning of the words in the Scripture verses he or she reads. This takes time, but if the learner does not understand, he or she may not learn the message you are teaching.

## ***Application***

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Complete the following statements by choosing the best answers.

- 9** To help the learner better understand your message, think of
- a)** what the lesson really is.
  - b)** his or her needs.
  - c)** what Bible he or she uses.
- 10** Learning the best ways of preparing your message will
- a)** help you make it more interesting.
  - b)** take too much time.
  - c)** make it hard to understand.

**11** To speak the learner's language means to

- a)** stop explaining everything.
- b)** have him or her tell the stories.
- c)** know his or her language level and Christian maturity.

**12** Think about those you have taught. Did you use words that you had to explain? Were you prepared to give your students a definition to help them understand your message?

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When you have an opportunity to teach, use the following list to remind of the process of preparing a lesson. Check off each step as you complete the list.

#### **STEPS IN PREPARING A LESSON**

1. Pray for understanding of the lesson.
2. Read the Bible verses for the lesson.
3. Read the lesson book.
4. Write down the truths in the lesson that you need to obey yourself.
5. Write down your students' needs that this lesson could help meet.
6. Pray for each student and his or her need.
7. List words in the lesson that the students might not understand.
8. Look up the meaning of each word and write it down.
9. Outline what you want to teach.



## Check Your Answers

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**12** Your answer

**1 c)** the truth about the resurrection.

**11 c)** know his or her language level and Christian maturity.

**2 b)** bring people to God's truth.

**10 a)** help you make it more interesting.

**3 c)** how people can have new life in Jesus.

**9 a)** what the lesson really is.

**b)** all are correct.

**c)** what Bible he or she uses.

**4 a)** Prayerful

**b)** The truth about Jesus

**c)** They cannot grow.

**8 a), c), d), and f)** are true.

**5 b)** teach by being an example of how Jesus can change lives.

**7 b), d), and e)** are true.

**6** Your answer

# 8 The Need for 8 Methods

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We want our spiritual “food” to taste good. We want to teach in such a way that the learner will be interested in what we are saying and will grow spiritually. That is why we need to use the right methods when we teach.

We have just seen that we have a wonderful message to share with the world. It is the most important message ever given. How we present it is also very important. Methods are not, in themselves, either spiritual or unspiritual. But they make it possible for us to teach spiritual truths so people of all ages can understand and accept them. Use the best methods when you teach these wonderful truths from God’s Word.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. You Need a Method
- B. Teaching Methods

## ***The Goals***

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1. Explain why teaching methods are needed.
2. Discuss various methods of teaching.

### **A. YOU NEED A METHOD**

**Goal 1.** Explain why teaching methods are needed.

Have you ever sat in a class without learning anything? Maybe the teacher had studied the lesson, but when the class was over, you did not know what he was trying to tell you. Or maybe what he said did not really interest you. Sometimes this happens if the teacher has not prepared the lesson well or if the teaching was not made relevant.

We have already studied how to prepare a message in our last lesson. But a poor outcome can be had if the right method is not used in preparing and presenting the message. Methods are “ways to present your message in an orderly arrangement of ideas and topics.” You need to know not only the message of the lesson, but also how you want to teach it. The message is what is taught. The method is how you present the message.

Using the right method will be important in your teaching ministry. Some people say that methods are not needed. They feel that if they just talk, the Holy Spirit will tell them what to say. Teaching which results in people growing spiritually is just not that easy. Anyone who tries to teach without using good methods will find out after a few years that those he or she has taught have not learned much of anything.

It is not against God’s plan to use teaching methods. Jesus used a number of different methods to teach both His disciples

and the crowds that followed Him. We will look at these examples in our next lesson.

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to guide the Christian. If you will ask Him to, He will guide you in choosing methods that best present your lesson.

## ***Application***

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- 1** In teaching, the method we use is
    - a)** what we are trying to teach.
    - b)** the way we plan to teach a lesson.
    - c)** the same as the message.
  - 2** Good teaching methods are needed so teachers will
    - a)** feel satisfied with themselves.
    - b)** get through the lesson faster.
    - c)** see spiritual growth in students.
- 

## **B. TEACHING METHODS**

**Goal 2.** Discuss various methods of teaching.

Be aware of different methods used in teaching as you plan your message. Several methods may be used. In choosing which method to use, think about the ages of those you are teaching. Because children are different from adults in their learning abilities, you will need to choose different ways of teaching them. We will now look at four teaching methods. As we discuss them, think of how you could use them in your teaching ministry.

### **Give A Lecture**

A lecture is a planned speech or talk on a chosen subject given for the purpose of instructing. The lecture can be short or long and is best used with adults. Children have difficulty listening to a speaker for very long.

There are several reasons why a lecture is used.

1. It saves time. The teacher can present a lesson and give facts that would take students much longer to find out for themselves.
2. It keeps the teacher on the subject of the lesson. A complete lesson can be given without the students getting the teacher off onto another subject. This is important when presenting new truths or wanting students to learn one certain thing. The teacher will give only facts and ideas that apply to that one lesson.
3. It helps in teaching large groups. A lecture can be given to 100 people as easily as to 10 people. Other methods of teaching are harder to use with large groups.

Along with the good reasons for using the lecture, there are some things you will need to be careful about.

1. Because there is less opportunity for students to talk during a lecture, it must be kept very interesting. If students get bored or lose interest, they will not learn what is being taught. To learn, people need to be led into thinking for themselves. There are ways of doing this, even when lecturing. We will suggest some a little later in this lesson.
2. Even though the teacher will do most of the talking in a lecture, it is a good idea to give students an opportunity to ask questions or make comments along the way. Of course, these must pertain to the lesson to be acceptable.
3. Lecturing requires careful attention in how to present the truths of the message. Of course, this is also true of other methods of teaching. When lecturing, be sure the message reaches the learner's feelings as well as his or her mind.
4. Think about what is being said. It is important to speak clearly and loudly enough for everyone to hear.

If you choose to give a lecture, carefully plan how you will present your message. Outlining, or listing the order of your different topics, can do this. Then, follow the order of your

outline as you are teaching. For example, at the beginning of this lesson, I presented an outline of what we would study—*The Plan* and *The Goals*. We are studying in that same order.

Another thing that can be done to help students learn from the lecture is to give them a set of questions concerning what is being presented. Have them listen for the answers and write them down. At the close of the lecture, give students time to share their answers.

It is important that you get to know those you are teaching so you will know if they are growing spiritually. Remember, this is the goal of all Christian teaching—that people grow spiritually.

## Application

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**3** What is the best age group to teach by the lecture method?

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**4** In which of the following situations would the lecture method be a good way to teach? Circle the letter in front of your choices.

- a)** Several children have gathered around you, and you feel the leading of the Spirit to teach them.
- b)** Twenty or thirty Christians have gathered together, and you want them to learn more about the life of Jesus.
- c)** You and a friend are talking, and she asks how she can become a Christian.
- d)** The school has asked you to speak at a meeting of the graduating students.

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## Tell A Story

Storytelling is one of the oldest ways to teach. Jesus was a master storyteller. His stories were interesting and full of action. He took these stories from everyday life, for they were about things people did and knew.

Children, teenagers, and adults all love to hear stories. You can bring truths to life in a story. The action holds the student's interest, and learning is increased. With young children the story often presents the whole lesson. With older children and adults, the story can be used in at least three ways:

1. At the beginning, to introduce the lesson
2. In the middle, to explain an idea that was given
3. Toward the end, to apply the message to everyday life.

Expressions such as love, faith, or being thankful are sometimes hard to explain. In a story they can be made clearer. What child would not be excited about listening to the story of Daniel in the lion's den? It is a story for all ages, explaining the meaning of faith in God who cares for His people.

In Christian teaching, though, stories should not be chosen just to please the learner. Every story Jesus told had a message because He was trying to teach His listeners. The stories we use in our teaching must also have a particular message. There are stories in the Bible that you can use to teach for growth in the learner's Christian life. Or find a story that applies to everyday life, as Jesus did. Maybe you can even find a story connected with a current news item.

In choosing a story, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does the story teach the truth I want to use in this lesson?
2. Will this story have meaning for the age group I am teaching?
3. Is there action in this story? Are people doing something?
4. Will my students and I enjoy the story?

Before you tell the story, practice telling it aloud two or three times. If the story seems to come alive and have meaning to you, then it will also have meaning for your listeners.

## Application

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- 5** Choose the best answer given in parentheses, and write it in the blank space.
- a)** Jesus told stories to (please people/teach God’s truths)
  - b)** Storytelling is a good way to explain the idea of love because it gives (an example of love/many ideas)
  - c)** When teaching children, it is best to tell a story at the beginning of the lesson to get them to (learn faster/listen)
- 6** Develop a short lesson including a story on the subject of having faith. Use the story in one of the three ways we talked about.
- 

## Have A Discussion

Paul writes, “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor” (Galatians 6:6). A good discussion can help the learner to act on the truths taught. A group I once led discussed for many weeks what it meant to be a Christian. We all knew of a family in a nearby neighborhood who was in need of help. The mother had been in the hospital, and the father could not work because he had heart trouble. We decided to act on the truths we had learned. So we took them a box of food and enjoyed our time of ministering to them.

Discussions are not just talking about something or arguing about what is taught. Discussion is the sharing of ideas and truths learned. A true discussion happens when everyone in the group tries to reach an understanding of a truth. This method of teaching is harder to use than any of the others. It will take careful preparation, and you will need to be ready to guide the learner’s thinking.

Several things are needed to make a good discussion:

1. The question or problem to be discussed must be clearly understood by everyone. The questions should not ask for one certain answer, which would limit the discussion.



2. The discussion must be a part of the lesson. It can take up the whole class time or just a small part.
3. It should be organized to help the learner feel free to share his or her thoughts.
4. Enough time must be allowed to complete the discussion. If the student is to learn from the discussion, it should be applied to his or her life.
5. There must be an honest desire of the learner to know the truth.
6. The leader must be careful not to criticize the comments of the student. Criticism will discourage learners and keep them from speaking out in the future.

It is also important to know that a discussion is best used with a small group. If there are more than 12 to 14 people in a class, it is hard to let everyone take part. A large class could be divided into smaller groups, though, with leaders prepared to discuss some part of the lesson. Many people enjoy talking. So if a discussion is used, it can help students to grow in their understanding of spiritual things.

### ***Application***

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**7** Name three things you think are most important to a good discussion.

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**8** Suppose you were to use a discussion to teach a message on faith. What are some questions that could start the discussion?

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## Ask Questions

The question-and-answer method is the best way to find out how learners are growing in their Christian life. Questions that ask for thoughtful answers will show you how well they are applying what has been taught. They can also help the learner become interested in learning more and in finding ways to apply new truths.

You were asked to write several questions for a discussion on faith. This was because questions are an important part of a discussion. You can guide the discussion through the use of questions. Three kinds of questions are useful to those who are teaching:

1. *The fact question.* This asks the person to state a fact learned in the lesson. This kind of question is important because we need to know the facts before we can apply them to our lives.
2. *The problem question.* This is a question about some problem that needs to be solved. You can guide the learner by asking questions that help him or her think of ways to resolve the problem.
3. *The application question.* This asks the learner to apply the message of the lesson to everyday life. The application question can be used to ask someone to believe in Jesus as his or her Savior. It asks the learner to act on what he or she has learned.

In your teaching ministry ask questions to find out how much those you are teaching know. They in turn will ask questions because they want to learn. A good time of learning will include questions by both the teacher and the learner.

## Application

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**9** Circle the letter before each true sentence.

- a)** In a discussion you can ask questions to find out what the learners are really thinking.
- b)** Questions are used to cause the learner to think about a truth learned.
- c)** A fact question asks the learner to apply the lesson to his or her life.
- d)** A good question can get the learner's interest started.

**10** Write a question covering each of the three kinds of questions mentioned. Use Galatians 6:6 as a basis.

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## **Check Your Answers**

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- 10** Your answer. You could use the following:
- (1)** What should we do as we are taught the Christian message? (fact)
  - (2)** Would it be correct then to say we all have a teaching ministry? (problem)
  - (3)** How can you as a learner act upon this? (application)
- 1 b)** the way we plan to teach the lesson.
- 9** a), b), and d) are true.
- 5 a)** teach God's truths.  
**b)** an example of love.  
**c)** listen.
- 2 c)** see spiritual growth in students.
- 8** Your answer. You might say: "What is faith? If faith is a gift of God, what can we do to get it? How necessary is faith?"
- 3** Adults
- 7** (1) Asking a clear question that will be discussed, (2) keeping the discussion organized and moving, and (3) getting everyone involved in some way
- 4 b)** and **d)** are correct.
- 6** Your answer. One example would be to tell the story in Matthew 13:31–32 about the mustard seed. This story could be used in any of the three ways.



# 9 Jesus's Methods

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Cutting down trees can sometimes be a dangerous job. Those who hire a person to do the job give him the authority to do it. He then sets a goal of putting the tree on the ground. There is a right way to cut it down to make sure that it falls the way he wants it to go and does not fall on a house.

Jesus had the authority to teach God's truth. He showed this authority when He taught. He also had a goal and methods for reaching the goal. This is the example He left for us to follow.

As you study this final lesson, ask Jesus to help you learn from Him. Let Him lead you to someone this week whom you can teach. And follow the best method in teaching that person.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Jesus Taught With Authority
- B. Jesus Had a Goal
- C. Jesus Used Methods

## ***The Goals***

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1. Describe how Jesus's teaching was different from that of the teachers of the Law.
2. Apply Jesus's example in setting goals for your teaching ministry.
3. Explain how Jesus used different methods of teaching.

### **A. JESUS TAUGHT WITH AUTHORITY**

**Goal 1.** Describe how Jesus's teaching was different from that of the teachers of the Law.

In the time of Jesus, the priests were the teachers of the Law. But when Jesus taught, the people saw right away that His teaching was different. Mark writes, "The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law" (Mark 1:22).

The teachings of Jesus showed He had the authority or power. He had been given this authority from the Father, and He knew what He taught was truth. The people who heard Him saw this and listened to Him. Even the guards who were sent to arrest Jesus returned to their leaders alone, saying, "No one ever spoke the way this man does" (John 7:46).

Jesus did not teach like the priests. They taught only what teachers of the past had taught. Jesus taught the people what God's law meant to them in their everyday lives and how He had a plan for them. He also helped them to understand that He loved them and they in turn were to love each other.

Jesus had this authority because He was the Son of God. When the Jews asked Jesus who He was, He told them:

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.” (John 8:28)

Elsewhere when Jesus said, “I am who I am,” He used the name that God gave himself when talking to Moses by the burning bush in Exodus 3:14. The Jews who followed Jesus knew the source of His authority.

### ***Application***

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**1** Circle the letter in front of each true sentence.

- a)** The teachers of the Law taught the same way Jesus did.
- b)** Even those who did not believe He was the Son of God knew He taught with authority.
- c)** Jesus wanted to teach with the authority of the priests.
- d)** Jesus taught what His heavenly Father wanted Him to teach.
- e)** Jesus taught God’s truths so that people’s lives would be changed.

**2** List three ways Jesus’s teaching was different, and compare them with the ways you are to teach.

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## B. JESUS HAD A GOAL

**Goal 2.** Apply Jesus's example in setting goals for your teaching ministry.

Jesus had one goal in His ministry: to lead individuals into knowing and accepting God's truths. He told the crowd of people that followed Him:

“I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.” (John 6:38–40)

Jesus' life and ministry was spent in teaching, preaching, and working miracles. Altogether these activities were meant to lead people to believe on Him as their Savior. Everywhere He went, He preached and taught the good news. Mark tells us, “Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God” (Mark 1:14).

A little later we see Him telling His disciples He had to go on to other villages to preach. When He came to the shore of Lake Galilee, a crowd of people were following Him, “and he began to teach them” (Mark 2:13). As we follow Jesus's life through the four Gospels, we see Him preaching and teaching the good news everywhere He went.

### ***Application***

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Choose the best answer to the following questions.

- 3** Jesus wanted people to know how to
- a)** have authority.
  - b)** know His heavenly Father.
  - c)** be a follower.

- 4 What was the most important thing Jesus wanted to do with His time on earth?
- a) Talk to the crowds who followed Him
  - b) Talk to the rulers
  - c) Tell people the good news
- 

## C. JESUS USED METHODS

**Goal 3.** Explain how Jesus used different methods of teaching.

Jesus not only knew what to teach—He also knew how to teach. He used the same methods we talked about in our last lesson. Look at each one again. But this time we will also look at how Jesus used these methods.

1. *Jesus gave lectures.* There are several good examples of these lectures in the Gospels. One of them was the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7. (Read it now.) Notice also in Matthew 7:28–29 that when He finished speaking, “the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” Jesus knew how to use lectures.

2. *Jesus used storytelling.* His stories were called parables. There are 61 of these parables of Jesus in the Gospels. The parables were about things, plants, animals, or people. They were stories about situations that could have happened to almost everyone. The parables were meant to teach spiritual truths, and each parable taught one truth.

An example is the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30–36. This story was given in answer to a question that was meant to trap Jesus. The parable taught a spiritual truth without causing an argument.

3. *Jesus used questions and answers.* In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, He used this method. He also used it when He gave the Sermon on the Mount. By doing this, He helped

His listeners understand the full meaning of His teaching. When telling them not to worry about their daily sustenance, He asked, “Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?” (Matthew 6:25).

Another time Jesus wanted to teach His disciples about civic responsibility. He asked them several questions, including one that was directed to Peter. (See Matthew 17:25.) Jesus did not need Peter's opinion, or his thoughts on taxes, but He wanted Peter to think about the subject. This was an important part of Peter's learning.

4. *Jesus used discussions.* One of the best examples of this was the discussion He had with the woman at the well in Samaria (John 4). Jesus began by asking the woman for a drink of water. He gently guided her as she tried to get off the subject until she learned who He was and what He wanted to teach her.

When Jesus's disciples found Him talking to the Samaritan woman, Jesus said to them, “My food, . . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34). Jesus knew His responsibilities and how to fulfill them. As you study His life, look at how He ministered to different people by using various methods of teaching.

## Application

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**5** Answer the following questions.

**a)** When you teach, why do you need to know where your authority comes from?

.....  
 .....

**b)** Why do you need to know your goal?

.....  
 .....

**c)** Why do you need to have a good method of teaching?

.....  
 .....

**6** Apply the way Jesus taught to your own teaching ministry. Prepare God's message in a way that will lead people into knowing and accepting His truths.



Jesus also told His disciples: “Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:35). He was talking to them about the harvest of souls. It is not a long way off, but people are ready now to believe in Jesus if someone will teach them.

Who lives next door to you? Have they ever heard about Jesus? What do you talk to them about? Do they know you are a Christian? Use what you have learned from this course to teach them and others. There are many souls to be harvested. Why not be God's harvester by using your teaching ministry?

Now that we have come to the end of our study about the teaching ministry, perhaps it would be good for you to think about how the teaching ministry can be a part of your life. We have given you some things to consider in the chart below. Put an X in the box in the column that indicates your answer.

	Yes	No
I enjoy being taught.		
I feel I need to receive Christian teaching.		
I came to know Christ after someone taught me about Him.		
I know someone I would like to teach about Jesus.		
I have shared the meaning of a verse of Scripture with someone.		
I have thought about what I would say to someone who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.		
My life has been changed because of Christian teaching I have received.		
I have already told a story to someone to help him or her learn a lesson.		
I have discussed a lesson with someone by using questions and answers.		
I have asked God to help me teach someone else.		
This course has helped me to see the importance of the ministry of Christian teaching.		

Ask God to help you find a place of service for Him. Be willing to do what He wants you to do. You will find joy in sharing your life with others.

Now that you have completed the second unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT TWO. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide and ask about another course of study.

## ***Check Your Answers***

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**6** Your own application

**1 b), d), and e)** are true

**5 a)** We can be sure of what we are doing when we know we have God's authority behind us.

**b)** So you will know what results you want to see from your teaching

**c)** So the students will learn

**2** (1) Jesus taught with God's authority—You can teach with that same authority. (2) He taught God's truths—You should also teach these truths. (3) He applied these truths to their daily lives—You can show people how to apply God's truths in their lives.

**4 c)** Tell people the good news

**3 b)** know His heavenly Father.

**CL5350    The Teaching Ministry****UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name .....

Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address .....

.....

.....

Country .....

**Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

**Example**

- 1** To be born again means to
- a)** be young in age.
  - b)** accept Jesus as Savior.
  - c)** start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A)  (B) (C) (D)

*Turn page over when you are ready to begin.*

## UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>11</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>2</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>12</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>3</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>13</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>4</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>14</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>5</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>15</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>6</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>16</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>7</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>17</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>8</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>18</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>9</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>19</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>10</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) | <b>20</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

*For GU Office Use  
Only*

Date .....

Score .....



## UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** Teaching is an important part of our daily lives because
  - a)** we need to learn many things to live in this world.
  - b)** we want to become more skilled than others.
  - c)** a well-educated person earns more money.
  
- 2** The ministry of teaching is primarily
  - a)** announcing the good news.
  - b)** telling about a personal victory.
  - c)** explaining biblical truth.
  
- 3** The command to teach others about Christ comes from
  - a)** church tradition.
  - b)** Christ himself.
  - c)** Old Testament prophets.
  
- 4** Christian teaching is centered on
  - a)** God's Word.
  - b)** our personal experiences.
  - c)** commentaries of the Bible.
  
- 5** The Holy Spirit helps us in teaching by
  - a)** giving us lesson plans.
  - b)** helping us remember what we have learned.
  - c)** making every listener attentive to us.
  
- 6** The main reason we teach as Jesus instructs is that
  - a)** teaching is a glorious profession.
  - b)** we have accepted His command to teach.
  - c)** we need to learn more about the universe.
  
- 7** The importance of teaching is shown in Israel's failure to obey God's laws, which led to
  - a)** fewer people teaching God's laws.
  - b)** an increase in secular knowledge.
  - c)** God's removal of blessing from Israel.
  
- 8** Jesus taught His disciples to teach by
  - a)** sending them to the best schools.
  - b)** spending time teaching them many things.
  - c)** outlining the characteristics of a teacher.

- 9** The apostles obeyed the command to teach so that
- a)** others would be trained to teach about Christ.
  - b)** they would be received with honor.
  - c)** they would remember the truths they had learned.
- 10** The main message in your teaching ministry should be about
- a)** salvation through Jesus Christ.
  - b)** all the religions in the world today.
  - c)** our physical growth.
- 11** We teach so that believers may have
- a)** all the answers to every problem.
  - b)** the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - c)** earthly riches.
- 12** Teaching for service in the church is
- a)** important for every area of service.
  - b)** more essential for training new teachers.
  - c)** an optional function for churches.
- 13** How can one begin to obey Christ's command to teach all people everywhere?
- a)** Leave one's family to go out and teach.
  - b)** Teach only those who are Christians.
  - c)** Teach the people one knows.
- 14** One reason that even believers need teaching is to
- a)** help them achieve perfection.
  - b)** equip them to recognize false teaching.
  - c)** keep them humble.
- 15** When teaching God's truths to children, we should
- a)** use the same method all the time.
  - b)** wait until they are nine years of age.
  - c)** remember to teach so the children can understand.
- 16** It is important when teaching teenagers to
- a)** answer their questions.
  - b)** make them listen to you.
  - c)** tell them your own ideas.

**17** You can teach about Jesus when you

- a)** become perfect.
- b)** are growing in Christ.
- c)** live sinfully.

**18** To dedicate your life means to

- a)** set yourself apart for a purpose.
- b)** study a certain subject.
- c)** find a full-time job.

**19** We can best carry out a teaching ministry by

- a)** being employed to teach in a Christian school.
- b)** using every opportunity in our daily lives.
- c)** equipping a room of our house for teaching.

**20** The gift of teaching is

- a)** a supernatural ability to teach.
- b)** the possession of superior knowledge.
- c)** available to everyone who wants it.



**CL5350    The Teaching Ministry****UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name .....

Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address .....

.....

.....

Country .....

**Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

**Example**

- 1** To be born again means to  
**a)** be young in age.  
**b)** accept Jesus as Savior.  
**c)** start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A)  (B) (C) (D)

*Turn page over when you are ready to begin.*

**UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>11</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>2</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>12</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>3</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>13</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>4</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>14</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>5</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>15</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>6</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>16</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>7</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>17</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>8</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>18</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>9</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>19</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>10</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) | <b>20</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

*For GU Office Use  
Only*

**Date** .....

**Score** .....

## UNIT TWO EVALUATION

- 1** The Israelites taught their children about God
  - a)** an hour a day.
  - b)** by having them listen to readings.
  - c)** as a way of life.
- 2** The way of teaching that is best for children is
  - a)** showing love and care.
  - b)** telling them what to do.
  - c)** having many books to read.
- 3** Parents can teach their children through their words by
  - a)** telling them to go to church.
  - b)** reading and explaining the Bible at home.
  - c)** praying for others to teach them.
- 4** A teacher of God's Word must be a
  - a)** perfect person.
  - b)** Christian.
  - c)** professor.
- 5** Teachers of God's Word must appreciate its importance in order to
  - a)** argue its merits.
  - b)** strive to master it.
  - c)** continue to learn from it.
- 6** Like Timothy, we need to live so our lives
  - a)** will always be exciting.
  - b)** can be an example to those who hear us.
  - c)** will cause others to be afraid of God.
- 7** When you are teaching, be sure the message is
  - a)** difficult.
  - b)** understood.
  - c)** original.
- 8** If we want the blessing of God on our teaching, we must
  - a)** create our own message.
  - b)** know whom we are to teach.
  - c)** be careful to teach His truth.

**9** When studying the Bible, your attitude should be

- a)** doubtful.
- b)** prayerful.
- c)** idle.

**10** We know that those we teach are learning when they

- a)** ask many questions.
- b)** say they are interested.
- c)** change their attitudes and behavior.

**11** When you are teaching, be sure to think about

- a)** those you are teaching.
- b)** everything there is to know.
- c)** how you look.

**12** Why is a certain method of teaching needed?

- a)** To help you present the message in the best way
- b)** So you can show everyone how well you teach
- c)** So your students will know what to expect

**13** Using the lecture method of teaching would be appropriate for

- a)** a class of graduate students.
- b)** a home fellowship Bible study.
- c)** a Sunday school class of children.

**14** Using storytelling to teach is a good way to

- a)** shorten your preparation time.
- b)** hold the interest of your students.
- c)** make the truth fit your purpose.

**15** Discussion is a good teaching method for

- a)** getting everyone involved in some way.
- b)** classes when you have not had time to prepare.
- c)** groups that are not highly motivated.

**16** The use of questions and answers in teaching is a good way to

- a)** find out who knows the most.
- b)** depend on others for help.
- c)** measure the learning.



**17** How was Jesus's teaching different from that of the teachers of the Law?

- a)** He did not get tired.
- b)** He taught from the past.
- c)** He taught with authority.

**18** Jesus's goal in teaching was to

- a)** expose people's ignorance.
- b)** lead people to know God.
- c)** display good methods.

**19** Jesus's teaching of the Samaritan woman is an example of

- a)** discussion.
- b)** storytelling.
- c)** lecture.

**20** The teaching of children by their parents is

- a)** adaptable to the latest social trend.
- b)** an important part of God's plan.
- c)** not recommended.



## FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much He sent His Son to die for us. “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). When He died, Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins.

Do you want to make sure Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God, and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart, and let Him know you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

*Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe You are the eternal Son of God. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank You for saving me.*

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life. Blessings to you!

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Name .....

**Do you have a friend who needs to know more about Jesus?**

Send us your friend's name and address for answers to the great questions of life.

Name .....

Address .....

.....



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

KNOW ABOUT CHRISTIAN TEACHING?

LEARN HOW TO TEACH OTHERS?

KNOW METHODS OF TEACHING?

The opportunity is unique, the challenge is for today, and the reward is long-term. What is this? It's about becoming an instrument of God through teaching His Word. Such teaching could occur in a classroom, in a home, or in whatever scenario the need calls for. The author guides potential teachers in a consistent and clear process of how they can impact future generations!

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The Christian Life series comprises 18 courses divided into three units of six courses each.

*The Teaching Ministry* is Course 5 in Unit 3.



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