

10 PRACTICAL POINTS FOR NEW Home Bible Study Teachers



POINT #1: Always be ready to provide an explanation of your faith.

We must commit ourselves to a serious study of the Word of God and be able to properly teach its truths (2 Timothy 2:15). The foundation of a person's teaching ministry is built upon what they first learn and experience in their personal life. According to 1 Peter 3:15, we must have a "ready answer" to give to anyone that asks about our faith in Christ. As Bible studies are taught to different people, many of the same questions will be repeated. We should have ready answers for these common questions.

POINT #2: The effective teacher always teaches from a full heart.

Before we can convince others of the life-changing power of Jesus, we must first be convinced. For that to happen, we must *know* Jesus and abide in Him (John 15:4—5). In the words of Howard Hendricks, "You cannot communicate out of a vacuum. You cannot impart what you do not first possess. If you don't know it—truly know it—you can't give it."

POINT #3: Capitalize on "hunger moments."

Developing a ministry starts with recognizing and meeting the needs around you. To accomplish this, one must learn to capitalize on "hunger moments." A hunger moment is a moment in time when a person expresses a desire to know more about God or reveals a pressing need in their life. It is when you realize that a person is "hungry" for God. Moments like these are opportunities for ministry.

POINT #4: To begin, consider the 3-Step Learning Progression.

First, practice teaching a friend or family member. Secondly, adopt a new convert and teach them key aspects of Scripture. Thirdly, step outside of your church seek to win a lost soul with a Bible study. Having taught a friend or two and having used Scripture to disciple new converts, you will have the sufficient know-how to teach the unchurched. The 3-Step Progression is a safe way to learn and will prepare you for a more productive future.

POINT #5: Be comfortable saying, "I don't know."

If someone asks a question that you do not know, simply reply by stating that you do not know. Do not feel pressured. Write down the question and tell your students that you will seek out an answer. In this process, as you research what you previously did not know, you will learn alongside those you teach.

POINT #6: Before you teach, have clear-cut objectives in mind.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. This I fight: not as one who beats the air (1 Corinthians 9:26, NKJV).” Before he ever entered the boxing ring of ministry or life, he knew what to aim for. In like manner, we must have objectives in mind before every lesson. This will prevent wasted time, distractions, and the chasing of rabbit trails.

POINT #7: Understand your audience and teach accordingly.

While on earth, Jesus taught multitudes and crowds, a small group of disciples, and certain individuals. As his audiences changed, so did his methods. When teaching crowds, Jesus rarely opened the floor to discussion. When teaching smaller groups, Jesus took time to respond to questions and he delved deeper into certain topics. When teaching individuals (which he did 19 different times in the Gospels), Jesus was more direct. Teachers should mold each lesson to their student’s needs and speak in a way that their audience can understand.

POINT #8: Find a Bible study is right for you and your objectives.

When choosing material to teach, if you do not write your own, choose something that is right for you and your objectives. The lesson material must support the goal you have in mind for your students. Whatever lesson series or teaching manual that you choose to utilize, feel free to personalize it and mold in into something with which you are comfortable.

POINT #9: Great ministries take a lifetime to build.

As a Bible study teacher and as a leader in general, you will never “make it big” or see big results overnight. There is no such thing as fast food church. If you have a desire to be a great Bible study teacher, do not lose heart when people reject what you have to say and do not be discouraged when the seed you plant falls on hard ground. Work to reach, teach, and keep – *no matter what!*

POINT #10: Once you have taught others, teach them to teach others also.

In all the work that you invest into a Bible study ministry, do not forget at the end of the day to multiply your ministry in others. After teaching others, train them to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). The greatest reward a Bible study teacher can receive is the knowledge that the people they taught in the past are now teaching others in the present. Do not keep the baton of ministry to yourself. Pass it on.

NOTES
