

# David C Cook

## A Guide to Hybrid Sunday School

Tips and Ideas for Engaging  
**Adults**

1

HYBRID SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDE—ADULT



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## INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to help you use the curriculum you know and trust as your adult ministry adjusts to a new normal. We've provided tips and ideas to help you adapt the lessons for teaching and engaging your students—whether you're meeting with them online, meeting in person, sending lessons to them, or taking a hybrid approach.

## CONTENTS

### TEACHING—A HYBRID APPROACH

- Prepare to Teach
  - EXPLORE BIBLE-IN-LIFE
  - GENERAL BEST PRACTICES
  - FOR EACH QUARTER
  - FOR EACH LESSON
- Teach the Lesson
  - BEFORE THE LESSON STARTS
  - DURING THE LESSON
  - AFTER THE LESSON

### IDEAS FOR USING REAL LIFE DOWNLOADED IN A VIRTUAL SETTING

- Using RLD While You Meet
- Using RLD During the Week

# TEACHING—A HYBRID APPROACH

When we use the term “hybrid teaching,” we’re referring to combining virtual tools—tools that enable you to communicate and interact online with your adults—with physical site options.

Check out this article on [teaching virtually](#). You’ll find technical suggestions as well as tips to keep your students engaged online!

Even when your ministry is ready to return to your church building, some of your members won’t feel comfortable coming back right away. Consider offering—or continuing to offer—an at-home Sunday school option. Providing lessons and resources for adults at home is a great way to invest in and connect with everyone you serve!

We’re also creating bonus curriculum content (coming soon) that is free to you as a current customer. It will be full of resources to help you engage the folks you serve.

## Prepare to Teach

### EXPLORE BIBLE-IN-LIFE

Bible-in-Life’s teaching resources are available in print and in digital bundles. We encourage you to explore all of the files—including [Real Life Downloaded](#)—and see what works best for your ministry.

#### Bible-in-Life Adult Resources at a Glance

- *Adult Comprehensive Bible Study Teacher’s Guide*
- *Adult Creative Teaching Aids* (Bible posters, discussion starters, worksheets, and more!)
- *Adult Comprehensive Bible Study Student Book* (available in regular print and large print)
- *Adult Comprehensive Bible Study Lesson Leaflet* (this “visitor’s lesson” includes the KJV lesson Scripture and the questions from the student book)
- *Quiet Hour* devotional guide
- *Power for Living* take home stories
- Adult [Real Life Downloaded](#) (bonus option for Step 1 of the teacher’s guide)

#### Coming this Fall

- Unpacking the Lesson podcast (for each lesson)
- PowerPoint presentation (for each lesson)
- Journaling Prompts (based on the Daily Bible Readings)
- Special playlists based on lesson themes and Scripture

## GENERAL BEST PRACTICES

- **Time**  
Keep your time shorter than you normally would. While you might be able to engage for an hour and a half in a classroom setting, it's much harder to do so in a video call. Instead, use a shorter amount of time to connect with students and highlight main points from the lesson.
- **Text**  
Highlight the main points of the lesson without trying to read all the text. There is lots of information provided in each lesson, but students won't be as focused over video calls. Instead, focusing on highlighting the main points with the time you have.
- **Group Size**  
Although most digital video services can accommodate a large number of participants, consider doing several smaller groups if you have a large class. That way, students all have a chance to share their thoughts, interact with their peers, and feel heard.
- **Communication**  
Connect with your class throughout the week—whether it's a phone call, card, email, or text message—so students will feel seen and known when you reach out.

## FOR EACH QUARTER

- Listen to the Unpacking the Lesson podcast (coming this fall!) each week for teaching tips about the lesson.
- Set a time limit for each lesson, but allow time before and after each lesson to socialize.
- Organize the digital files you will be using, such as the digital teaching aids in the *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit*, so you can access them easily while you teach.
- Note the summary of the quarter printed at the beginning of the student book.

## FOR EACH LESSON

- Prepare your heart with prayer and read the Teacher Devotional on the first page of each lesson.
- Check online for the optional PowerPoint presentation for each week (coming this fall!). You will want to practice going through the slides before you show them to your class.
- Familiarize yourself with the Lesson Focus and Scripture passage. You may want to buy the [Standard Lesson Commentary](#), which has additional information on the same Scripture each week. Or, you may purchase *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, which comes in two volumes, for the [Old Testament](#) and [New Testament](#). The page numbers to read in the *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* for the week's lesson are given in Step 2 of the teacher's guide.
- You may want to send out the "Before Your Students Arrive" option material in the teacher's guide a day or so early so students can think about how they would respond during class time, as well as the Step 1 questions for them to think about.
- For Step 1 of the lesson, an alternate opening is available at [RealLifeDownloaded.com](http://RealLifeDownloaded.com). It connects your lesson this week to a current story and has alternate Step 1 questions.
- Give your students a link where they can download their *Comprehensive Bible Study* (CBS) student book for this week's lesson to read as you teach.

# Teach the Lesson

## BEFORE THE LESSON STARTS

- Begin your lesson stream 5 to 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled start.
- One way to open early is to show the question from the “Before Your Students Arrive” option and have students consider how they would respond.
- Remind students to have something to write on, and with, to take notes or jot down meaningful insights.

## DURING THE LESSON

### Step 1: Life Connection

- For this step, have someone in the class read the opening story in the student book. Then, instead of answering the opening questions in small groups, you will want to answer the questions together. That method may work better for all the questions in the lesson when you are teaching online.

### Step 2: Bible Exploration

- Invite someone to read the Scripture (KJV or NIV) in the CBS student book and the lesson commentary there as well. *OR*, rather than reading all the commentary, you may want to summarize the Scripture and commentary using the bulleted points in the teacher’s guide.
- Next, discuss the questions at the end of each Scripture section.
- Emphasize that at this point you want everyone to understand what the Scripture is saying before applying it in the next two steps.

### Step 3: Bible Interaction

- If you’re meeting online, this section may be hard to do as written; however, you can ask someone to read Step 3 in the CBS student book, then answer the discussion questions together.
- The more hands-on activity options may not work well virtually. However, you could use the handout from the *Adult Teacher’s Resource Kit* as a discussion aid. You can read the sheet and answer the questions together, and you can share the file of the sheet on your screen so everyone online can see what the sheet says.

### Step 4: Life Response

- This section may also be hard to facilitate online as written, but you can certainly read together what is in CBS and discuss how you would apply in your life what the Scripture and Lesson Focus say this week. You may do this together as a class group, or you can encourage students to form pairs and talk about how they will put the Focus into practice this week.

## AFTER THE LESSON

- A playlist of songs related to the theme of each quarter is available online (coming this fall!). You and your students may want to listen to the songs this week during your devotional time or play the songs before and after class.
- You will want to encourage your students to think about the prompt for next week's lesson given in the teacher's book.
- You will also want to encourage them to read the Daily Bible Readings this week that are listed at the end of each lesson in the student book so they will be prepared for next week. A daily devotional for each reading is featured in *The Quiet Hour*. We also provide Journaling Prompts online that you can send your students to read and think about after they read the day's Scripture and devotional.
- Depending on your class size and makeup, you may want to challenge your students to contact each other this week to chat, pray for each other, or to encourage one another to complete/continue the Step 4 activity.
- If you are teaching your lesson online, encourage students to give contact information for your online class to their friends and family so they can join in. Even those who may not be comfortable coming to your church building may be curious enough to listen in online.

# IDEAS FOR USING REAL LIFE DOWNLOADED IN A VIRTUAL SETTING

Maybe you have been using [RealLifeDownloaded.com](https://RealLifeDownloaded.com) (RLD) in an online setting like Zoom or Google hangouts or a video stream. Maybe you're using RLD as part of a phone conference session. Are you physically mailing or emailing the lesson to people to read?

Whether you use RLD to prepare your group before you meet or to extend the learning into the week, here are a couple of additional ideas for using these weekly products to enrich your virtual class—both in your group time as well as during the week.

## Using RLD While You Meet

Whether you're meeting in small in-person groups or online, these tips will help you get the most out of RLD.

- **Weekly Check-in**  
Before you start the lesson, allow at least a few minutes for a weekly check-in to help the group feel connected with each other.
- **Discuss the Current Event**  
Talk together about the top paragraph, where RLD features the modern-day story. You could send this out to your group before your scheduled meeting time and include any of the discussion questions that match that part of the article. You could also invite members to offer their own discussion questions. During your meeting, give the group time to discuss the article before moving on in the lesson.
- **Discuss the Bible Event**  
Talk together about the second paragraph, which leads into the Bible lesson. You could send this out to your group ahead of time along with any of the discussion questions that match that part of the article. Invite members to come up with some of their own discussion questions. During your meeting, give the group time to discuss the article before moving on in the lesson.
- **How Does the Tune Fit?**  
You could send this one of the suggested music videos out to your group ahead of time. In class, share your screen and play one of the suggested music videos. Talk as a group about how that song fits the lesson.
- **Worship Time**  
Have a lesson-themed time of worship during the lesson. Share your screen and play one of the suggested music videos. Give time for the group to respond in prayer.
- **Breakout Rooms**  
If you're using a tool like Zoom and your group is comfortable with the technology, try sending small groups to different rooms (like [Zoom Rooms](#)) for a short discussion time.



Then bring everyone back together to summarize the discussion before moving on with the next part of the lesson.

## Using RLD During the Week

These ideas can be used to prepare your students before you meet or afterward to help keep the lesson going.

- **Music Group**  
Create a text group or another social media group. Send out the music links throughout the week for people to use during their personal devotion times.
- **Daily Bible Readings**  
Send out the key verse along with the Lesson Scripture and Lesson Focus to encourage regular Bible study.
- **Commentary Group**  
Create a text group or another social media group. Send out the link to one of the commentaries. Add a question at the end asking people what they learned in their reading. Encourage people to share their thoughts in the thread.
- **Coffee Time**  
Invite people to join in an online video discussion time during the week to talk more about the lesson. Ask everyone to brew and bring their favorite hot beverage!

This [article](#), while focused on children's ministry, offers several suggestions you might add to your own personal teaching-virtually-tool set.