



HELP!

I'm A Sunday School Teacher

**Ideas For Preparing My
Sunday School Lesson**

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that
needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

II Timothy 2:15

WHAT DO YOU HOPE WOULD HAPPEN?



Let's Pretend...

Your daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren have just moved to a new city. You have prayed a lot for them during this transition and especially that they would find a good church to attend. It will be easy for them to get busy and not take the initiative to get involved in an unfamiliar church. After a couple of weeks, they identify a church not far from their home. This Sunday, they will be attending Sunday School and the morning worship service to check it out.

What kind of Sunday School teacher would you like for them to have?

Most likely, you will want them to have a teacher...

- Who is friendly and welcoming
- Who is intentional in the development of relationships among class members
- Who is an energetic communicator who knows how to capture and maintain interest
- Who is well-prepared to lead a healthy Bible study
- Who is equipped with a lesson plan that will give opportunities for interaction and spiritual growth

--OUR GOAL AS A TEACHER--

To teach in the same dynamic way
we want a teacher to lead a Sunday School class
where our children and grandchildren attend.

PREPARED -- ENERGETIC -- INTERESTING -- INFORMATIONAL -- PRACTICAL

In preparing a Sunday School Lesson...

THE TEACHER ASKS
ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS



1. What does the Bible passage SAY?

This is INFORMATION.



2. What does the Bible passage MEAN?

This is INTERPRETATION.



3. What does the Bible passage mean TO US?

This is APPLICATION.



4. How has the Bible passage been demonstrated?

This is ILLUSTRATION.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

A teacher begins by gathering **INFORMATION** from the passage to answers questions like:



- **Who** are the people in the passage?
- **What** are the important words, key theological concepts, sequences of events, developments of information and thought, historical facts?
- **When** did the events in the passage occur?
- **Where** are the historical events of the passage occurring?
- **How... Why...**

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Some places to start are:

- (1) Your Bible
- (2) Leader Guide
- (3) References like Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries
- (4) On-Line Resources

For example, on your search line, type phrases like:

- ✓ "Bible Commentaries on (Bible Reference)"
- ✓ "Bible verses about (key word)"
- ✓ "Information about (key character)"

STEP ONE

IS

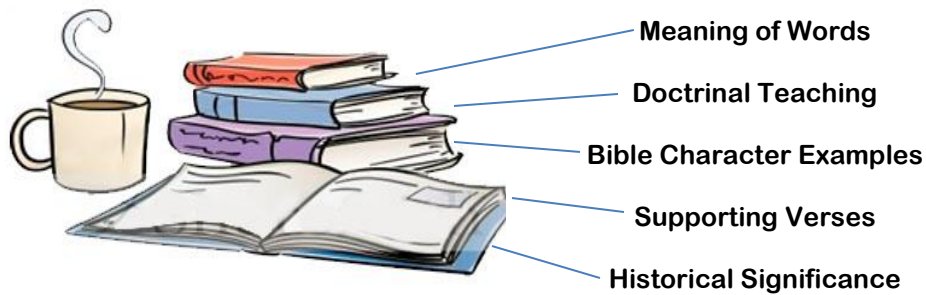
***"LOADING YOUR
INFORMATION
WAGON"***



STEP 2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A teacher continues preparing with **INTERPRETATION**, which is seeking to understand the biblical meaning of words, concepts, events, traditions, etc.



WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH INTERPRETATION?

- ⇒ The **LEADER GUIDE** is an excellent resource for Biblical Interpretation.
It often contains word definitions and doctrinal understandings that are designed to assist teachers in finding “golden nuggets” from the Bible passage.
- ⇒ **BIBLE COMMENTARIES** and **WORD STUDIES** (in print or on-line)
Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance
Vine’s Word Study
- ⇒ **STUDY BIBLE NOTES**
David Jeremiah Study Bible
John MacArthur Study Bible
- ⇒ **BIBLE GATEWAY**
www.biblegateway.com

When you have completed gathering information and made random notes,
begin to shape the information into a general order.

For ideas, see the page titled
“DEVELOPING A LESSON PLAN”

STEP 3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN OUR LIVES?

A teacher designs the lesson with **APPLICATION** in mind.

The ultimate goal of Sunday School is

CHANGED LIVES.



BRING IT IN TO HOME BASE!

INFORMATION & INTERPRETATION SCORE
when your class members bring the lesson
into the home plate of **APPLICATION**.

The Sunday School lesson must be taught
with the ultimate destination of a **HEART
CHANGE**-- God's Word learned, embrace and
applied.

STEP 4

HOW HAS THE BIBLE PASSAGE BEEN DEMONSTRATED?

APPLICATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH...

- Putting a face on the Lesson being taught
 - An Illustration
 - An Example
 - A Testimony
- Illustrate by asking Questions which will drive the lesson home:
 - "When have you...?"*
 - "How do you see 'this' working ...?"*
 - "Can you think of a time when...?"*

INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION, APPLICATION AND ILLUSTRATION do not have to be presented in chronological sequence. For example, you do not need to wait until the end of the lesson to use application. These four elements of lesson presentation are most effective when they are interspersed throughout the lesson. These four important elements should be present in every lesson. Remember, the purpose of Sunday School is not just to impart information.

THE GOAL IS CHANGED LIVES that comes from an understanding of and obedience to God's Word.

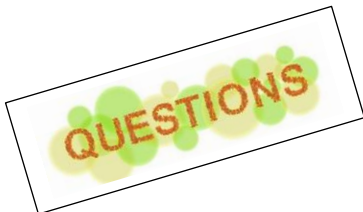
“Bringing Order To Your Research” DEVELOPING A LESSON PLAN

Study notes will be unorganized and even messy. These random notes are the ingredients that will come together to form a great lesson. As you examine your Scripture passage and notes, you will begin to see units of information that will become your teaching points to form your LESSON PLAN. Lead your teaching session from your personalized LESSON PLAN that you will use as you teach.

Here are some ideas of ways to organize your lesson plan

<u>USE AN OUTLINE</u>	<u>USE A SUBJECT/TOPIC LIST</u>
I. 1 st Major Section or Subject	1.
A.	
B.	2.
C.	
II. 2 nd Major Section or Subject	3.
A.	
B.	4.
III. 3 rd Major Section or Subject	
A.	5.
B.	
C.	6.

Remember that the lesson will include information, interpretation (explanation), application, and illustration.



TO GENERATE CLASS PARTICIPATION, ALWAYS INCLUDE IN YOUR LESSON PLAN CAREFULLY DESIGNED QUESTIONS THAT ARE DISPERSED THROUGHTOUT THE TEACHING SESSION.

As a GENERAL RULE, be careful about just throwing out questions for anyone’s response-- *“Anyone have a comment about this?”* Why? Because some people are hesitant to volunteer to respond, even though they may have something to say. These people will rarely participate in class discussion unless called on to respond. And then there are the talkers who always are primed and ready to speak to any question asked.

Many times when a class is asked an open question for discussion, the women/wives are the first to speak up. Women are generally more verbal by nature. This is often intimidating to the men/husbands, especially if the wife appears to be more biblically literate than he. As a general rule, women speak up more often than men in an open class discussion.

LET’S HELP DISPERSE DISCUSSION. Direct your strategically prepared questions to specific class members. Keep these questions more “opinion” or “understanding” or “experience” rather than “knowing the right answer.” Over time, try to direct questions to a variety of class attenders, even those who are more reserved, because in reality everyone has something to say that they think is worthy of sharing, even those who may not often speak up. Be sure to assign questions to both men and women.

A WRITTEN-OUT LESSON PLAN

Do I really need a written lesson plan?

Few people have a photographic memory!

Your lesson preparation will unfold a multiplicity of information and interpretations that you will want to share as you teach the lesson- key words, characters, definitions, historical data, theological concepts, sequences, insights, etc.

And you will have interspersed throughout the lesson strategic questions that will help the class apply the lesson.

And you will have a variety of applications to use as a challenge to the spiritual growth of the class members.



WOULD YOU TRUST YOUR RANDOM MEMORY TO REMEMBER ALL THIS?

The truth is... We need a lesson plan with plenty of personal notes to keep us on course and to keep our class session strategic.

I once knew a Sunday School teacher who said, “Just give me a 3X5 card, and I can talk for two hours.” I am sure he could. But I am not sure that many folks would have found what he said in his random verbalizing to be that life-changing.

Why can't I just teach from the *Leader Guide* or *pupil quarterly*?

The Leader Guide and pupil quarterly are tools for preparation, just like any other reference material. These resources are not intended to be a manuscript for teaching. They are tools in the teacher's “*Tool Box*” for lesson preparation. Once the lesson is prepared with good notes, the tools in the tool box are not needed any more. They stay in the “*shop*”. The prepared teacher has the finished personalized product (lesson plan) for a well-planned teaching session. **HAPPY TEACHING!**

WHY IS SUNDAY SCHOOL SO IMPORTANT?

People COME to a church because of the worship service.

People STAY in a church because of their Sunday School class.

**THAT'S BECAUSE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS WHERE
LASTING RELATIONSHIPS ARE BUILT.**

Sunday School moves people from the congregation to a caring unit of belonging.

Newcomers to a church who immediately become active in Sunday School are five times more likely to remain in the church five years later.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS THE CHURCH'S STRATEGY

- For Leading People to Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- For Building Disciples for Christ

Through Engaging God's People in

- ✓ **Evangelism**
- ✓ **Discipleship**
- ✓ **Fellowship**
- ✓ **Ministry**
- ✓ **Worship**



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