



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING

NOTES

Introduction

One of Christ's primary ministries while here on earth was that of teaching. His disciples and the multitudes frequently referred to Him as "Rabbi" or "Teacher." When He returned to Heaven, Jesus set forth the mandate for the eleven to go and "*teach all nations*" and "*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:18-20). *Teaching*, therefore, became one of the vital ingredients in effective follow-up.

In Acts 2, we read that on the Day of Pentecost, through the witness of Peter, some 3,000 people were won to Christ, and with this event the first follow-up program in Christian history had begun. The apostles taught the new believers the things Christ had taught them, and the Church went from miraculously *adding* to *multiplying*.

The Conversion of 3,000

33 A.D.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:41)

Follow-Up Begins

33 A.D.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 2:42)

Multiplication Begins

35 A.D.

And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied....

(Acts 6:1)

Multiplication Continues

44 A.D.

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

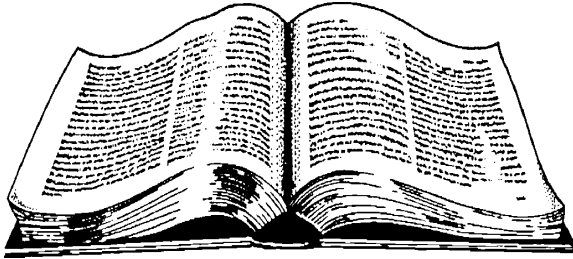
(Acts 9:31)

Basic Ingredients in Teaching

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The Word of God

In order to teach another person what Jesus has taught us, we must teach the Word of God.



And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

(John 8:32)

Jesus, of course, was the living embodiment of the Word of God. What God had once taught only by the spoken and written word was now being lived out in Christ's life.

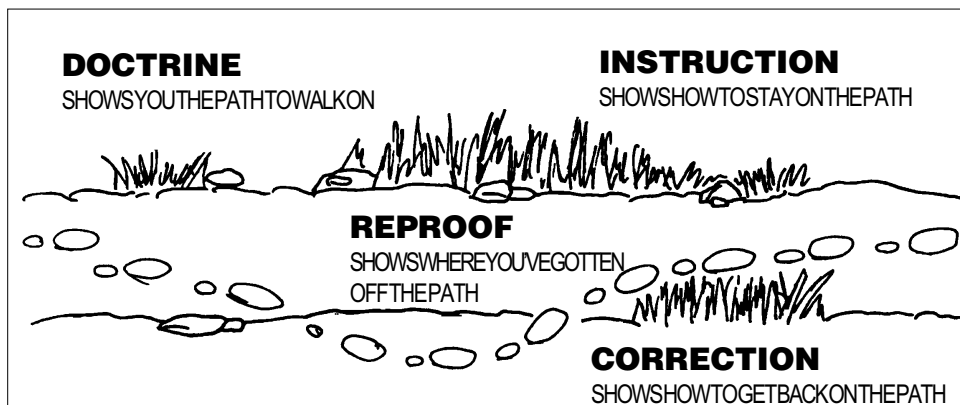
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(John 1:1-3)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

As these verses explain, God revealed to man, through the Written Word and the Living Word, the things he needed to know to please and obey Him. Paul reminds us that the Word of God is inspired, or "God-breathed," and is profitable in four main areas of teaching:



The Holy Spirit

Jesus told His disciples that it was necessary for Him to leave the earth so that the Holy Spirit could come to them. Jesus promised that when the Spirit came, He would perform various functions. He taught that the Holy Spirit would:

- **Comfort and Indwell Us**

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(John 14:16-17)

- **Teach Us All Things**

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(John 14:26)

- **Testify about Jesus**

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

(John 15:26)

- **Bring Conviction of Sin**

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

(John 16:8)

- **Guide Us into all Truth**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(John 16:13)

- **Glorify Christ**

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(John 16:14)

In the ministry of teaching and follow-up, we must recognize what an important Person the Holy Spirit is. He Who Dwells Within the Christian can minister to the deepest needs of the heart and mind. Our job is simply to give the Spirit the tool He needs to work with—the Word of God. As we share the Word with others through Bible Study, helping them to memorize and to have a Quiet Time, the Holy Spirit will custom tailor the passages to meet their deepest needs.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

(Ephesians 6:17)

Pacesetting

In the Great Commission Jesus said that we are “to teach them to **observe** all things...” The word “observe” here can also be translated as “obey” or “to do.” By teaching *active obedience*, we are teaching a new lifestyle—a lifestyle of *doing* and *acting* as Christians.

In teaching any **action** concept, the pupil must not only hear lectures on the subject, but he must also see the teacher demonstrate the skill. Imagine trying to learn gymnastics by lecture alone! Impossible! The potential gymnast must also be able to see a skilled athlete doing what he one day hopes to be able to do.

Jesus understood the importance of setting an example, or **pacesetting**, for His followers. He selected twelve men to travel and live with Him as He went about His earthly ministry. Through this intimate companionship, He was able to teach them not only by His words, but also by His example. His life was His greatest message.

And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

(Mark 3:13-14)

The Apostle Paul was another disciple who realized the importance of pacesetting in the teaching of new Christians. Both the Thessalonian believers and Paul’s young son in the faith, Timothy, learned to follow God by observing and following Paul’s life as well as God’s Word. Paul wrote...

For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

(1 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

Paul also encouraged Timothy with these words:

(10)But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.... (14)But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15)And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 3:10, 14-15)

To the Philippian Christians Paul said:

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

(Philippians 4:9)

Would you or I have the kind of life and walk with Christ which would allow us to exhort others to follow as Paul did? This may sound awesome and idealistic, but God is very concerned that those who disciple others would strive to be exactly what they teach. The cold, hard truth is that if people do not see the Christ-life in us, they will not embrace it for themselves.

Application in the Student's Life

Even if we teach the Word of God through the power of the Spirit and set the example in our own lives, others will not become disciples unless we lead them or they are taught to apply the Scriptures to their own personal lives.

James warns that believers cannot be satisfied with head knowledge alone:

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

(James 1:22)

Jesus reminded His disciples that their lives would be filled with joy only when they actually practiced what they had been taught.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

(John 13:17)

Jesus promised to make men successful in the art and act of fishing for men. He did not want to simply make them philosophers. He meant what He said when He spoke to them...

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

(Matthew 4:19)

Steps in Teaching

Tell Them Why

If people do not understand why something is important to them or profitable, for them, they will not incorporate it into their lives. They may engage in an activity or program for a certain amount of time because of peer pressure, initial excitement, etc., but their lives will not be permanently changed for Christ. The teacher has a tremendous responsibility to make sure that his students understand why Christ's commands and teachings are important to them.

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

(Matthew 13:18-23)

In this parable it is interesting to note that the "good seed" was the only one that "understood" or knew why. All **heard** but only *one understood*.

As we teach these principles of discipleship and try to help them understand, we must be careful to build all knowledge and understanding from the Word of God. The Holy Spirit will only bring conviction to a heart by using His Sword, the Word of God. Therefore, our message must always find its foundation in the Scriptures. We may choose to support our teaching from other sources, but the basic foundation must *always* be the Bible.

Show Them How

If people properly and clearly understand the why of an issue, they are usually motivated to do it. However, many people lack the practical *know-how* to begin a personal application. The successful teacher will use several tools to help his learners know how to actually apply the truth in daily life. This is the step which seeks to reduce theory down into reality and gives people confidence that they can actually do what they know they should.

Jesus *showed* His disciples *how* when He taught them to pray. His disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus answered their request by actually setting up a model for them to follow. We call this model “The Lord’s Prayer.” By using this model and praying with them, Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

(Luke 11:1-4)

To give you an example of how this principle works, consider the Bridge Illustration. Before learning the Bridge Illustration, many of you in this course knew that you should be presenting the Gospel to others, but you did not know how to do it clearly and concisely. When the Bridge was taught to you, you were not simply taught the dialogue and Scripture verses, but a role-playing demonstration was also set up to show you how it worked. In this way you were actually shown *how* to use the Bridge with another.

Get Them Started

Even after mastering a skill, people usually need a little encouragement and impetus to get them to use the new skill. Just as baby eagles need to be nudged out of the nest in order to learn to fly, most Christians need a gentle nudge by a godly teacher to get them to take the first step.

After spending some time teaching and training the twelve, Jesus launched them into a preaching and teaching exercise to help them begin practicing what they had learned.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

(Matthew 10:5-10)

In the same way, you were required in the course not only to memorize and practice the Bridge Illustration in class, but also to share it with outsiders with whom you should feel comfortable. Now you are encouraged to give the Bridge to two non-Christians as part of your assignment for the course. This requirement helps you to launch out into the real world of winning the lost.

Keep Them Going

Though a learner develops convictions and is actually doing what you have taught him, the teacher's job is not yet done. Satan is eager to side-track Christians and get them to quit doing what they know to do. The faithful teacher will continue to check on his student, to encourage him, and to pray for him so he will *keep going* in the skill he has been taught. Only those who *keep going* will be able to reproduce themselves later in yet other lives.

One of the most effective ways to *keep them going* is to help the learners write objectives for the skills you have taught them to do.

Get Them Reproducing

The first commandment God ever gave to man was to reproduce.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

(Genesis 1:28)

Not only are we to reproduce physically, but spiritually as well.

(8)Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (16)Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that

whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

(John 15:16)

NOTES

Not until the teacher can see his student actually beginning to reproduce himself in the lives of others is the task complete. When the learner has his own small band of disciples who are looking to him for guidance, then he becomes the new pacesetter and teacher. He will then be forced to practice the discipline of Christian living for the benefit of those who are following him, and the process will begin all over again.

Summary—What To Teach

Jesus told us to teach others to *obey all the things He has taught us*. As we study the Scriptures, we must list the teachings of Christ which are necessary for us to pass on to others.

There are four general areas that must be communicated when making disciples.

- **Instruction**—Imparting knowledge
- **Training**—Imparting ministry skills
- **Building**—Teaching character traits
- **Developing**—Teaching leadership and spiritual gifts

My good friend and collaborator, Don Arvin, after reviewing this lesson said, "Dawson, you need to summarize this lesson with this simple, yet profound, chart." I agreed.

This chart gives us the three key words of Teaching—Know, Be, Do.

How To Teach

State Biblically	Know
Illustrate From Experience	Be
Apply Practically	Do