

"I Want To Teach"

Lesson 2, Lesson Topics

Last month we began a series of suggestions to help you grow in the skills of teaching a Bible class. We have already looked at prayer as our first action in developing a lesson. Now we need to select a lesson topic.

What is a lesson topic?

The lesson topic is what you decide to study. It is the object of your studies. It must be something that one can study from scripture. There needs to be a spiritual point. For example one would probably not want to take class time to discuss the latest football game, who won and how the other team could have improved their performance.

How do I determine what to study?

What do your students need at this time in their life? What age group do you have? If they are preschool age you will have to pick something they can relate to. For obvious reasons the subject of dating would not be appropriate. However if you were teaching a teen girls' class dating would be a great topic.

The lesson topic may be any number of things, possibly a person such as Joseph. Maybe you choose to learn different aspects of his life as a young man and how his attitude affected his later life. Or you may want to study a subject matter such as baptism. Is it necessary; why denominations don't think so? You might want to choose an attitude that your students need to grow in: kindness, forgiveness, sharing, patience, etc. Or you may want to discuss attitudes they might want to avoid: selfishness, arrogance, anger, etc.

Where do I begin?

First and foremost, be sure your lesson is correctly based from the scriptures and rightly divided. You may use a concordance or other aids to find where your subject matter is located in the Bible. Be sure to read all the Bible says about your lesson. You may also need other aids to best present your lesson; a good book of maps or charts if you are studying Joshua, for example.

Sit down and begin a list of topics: the life of CHRIST, the apostle Paul, Moses OR music in worship and out, LORD's supper, behavior in worship, respect OR honesty, obedience, modesty, diligence. Anything that can bring about growth in the LORD is an acceptable topic to study.

Now sort the topics from your list: Apostle Paul, his life before he was a Christian; how he became a Christian; His first journey, second journey, third journey, trip to Rome. The life of CHRIST: His birth, childhood, His baptism, His ministry, His parables, His miracles, His death burial and resurrection, etc. These are just suggestions of how you might proceed. Then determine the needs for the group of students in your class. Consider the age level, all girls, all boys, mixed class, etc. Now decide how much of your list can be accomplished by your class at this time and age. Pray, choose your next lesson topic, start studying, and look forward to influencing the souls in your class!

Watch for the importance of memory work in the next issue of Ladies Epistles. See you then!