

I Want To Teach

A test is an evaluation of what has been learned or accomplished. We as Bible class teachers need to know that our students are learning. We need to be sure that we treat the learning of the Bible to be at least as important as Math & Science. Is there anything more important than planting the Seed into their hearts so they might not sin against GOD? (Psalm 119: 11)

In today's world our young people need to know what the truth is about creation, the gospel of Christ, the Word of GOD and the GOD we worship! The world is striving to turn our children away from truth and the truths we are teaching them. The teaching of evolution and all that it involves is destroying the foundations of our children's faith. It is vital that we make sure we are firmly planting the Word of truth in their hearts so that they can grow to make it their own faith. When they grow to be an accountable adult, just following what their mother always did will not be enough. We must affirm that they have the knowledge and understanding of the Word that they might be "*strong in the LORD and in the power of His might*," that they can "*put on the whole armour of GOD that they might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*." (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Testing is an important way for you to gage if you are doing a good job. It is a way of seeing which child may need some more help in understanding. It also helps you to see if you should slow down, speed up or review information more. I test about every 4 -5 weeks so as not to have too much material to cover on one test. As teachers we must realize that the testing is a tool for us to see if we were successful in planting the Word of GOD into the best soil available. The test should enlighten us and encourage our students.

I begin my test by stating, "right now everyone has a zero on this test because there are no answers on these pages. Let's see how many points we can add to this score." That way anything they make is an improvement. I list the value of the each question so they know how important it is to their grade. Spelling counts! I believe it is important that my students learn to spell the names and places in scripture. I deduct one point for each misspelled word. I make sure they know that ahead of time. I am afraid that texting and emails have decreased in our young people's minds, the necessity of being correct. The world has 'dumbed-down' the importance of exactness in almost every area of life. This is not acceptable in regard to the Bible. I also give extra credit for any information they may include that we have learned that I did not ask for directly. The students really enjoy an extra credit sheet. I give points liberally. The test is composed of a possible 100 points and then they can make up to 25 to 50 extra credit points. Most of my students make much more than 100% on their tests. I am adding a test I have used in a 4th -6th grade class in the work sheets below so you might see an example of how I do these things.

Always use study sheets before test class period. Review all the materials to be on the test the last class before the actual test and maybe at the very beginning of the class period of the test if possible. Remember we want everyone to pass! **Never mark a failing number grade on any test paper.** Just simply indicate the incorrect ones writing in the correct answers. If a student did poorly on the test do not make a big deal about the grade but emphasis the number of questions they answered correctly— pray for that student. Pray for your ability to re-teach the things they missed. Be thankful for the opportunity to have another chance to plant the seed in that heart. It is vital that the student feel good about what they did learn and not feel awful about what they have yet to learn. Take this student aside and discuss what they did on the test. Do not say "you failed". Do not blame the child for not knowing more. Simply encourage them to study more, offer to help them if there are things they are struggling with and offer them another opportunity to take the same test over. Let them take the test with the corrected answers home to study to retake the same test. This is not cheating. The goal is for them to gain knowledge – not to pass a grade as in regular school.

Always grade and return the papers at the next class period. Encourage students to have their test signed by parents. This gets the parents involved in their child's learning of GOD's word. Working together with the parents for healthy spiritual growth in your students is very important. It is important that the parents understand their child is not 'failing' but simply needing a little more help. You do not want the test to become a negative time between the child and parents.

Teaching the Word of GOD is very important. We need never feel that we are standing alone when we test our students to see if we are doing a good job. Christians are never alone when they are endeavoring to do the will of GOD!