

Bible Study Teacher Training Presentation

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephes 4:11-15

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My Story – Teachers that helped me grow

When I was 17 yrs. old, Toni invited me to visit her church's youth group. My knowledge about spiritual things was pretty close to zero. A couple of months later, I heard the story of Jesus and the gospel explained and I made the decision to believe in and follow Christ. As a new Christian, I began to learn and grow and there were several people who were extremely influential in helping me learn.

- The Student Pastor gave me a piece of paper with information about how a person could receive Christ and 15 Bible verses to memorize. Two months later, he gave everyone in the youth group a written test so we could write down what we had memorized.
- Nancy gave me a book about discipleship to read, *Disciples Are Made Not Born*.
- Tom and Gloria taught our small group on Sunday morning and got us involved in discussion about what we were learning and how to apply it. They invited us into their home, played sports with us and shared their lives with us.
- Gerry took us out to visit church guests and share the gospel with people of all ages from many different backgrounds.
- Jim and Larry invited us to go with them to a State Prison and have conversations with some of the men who lived there.
- Carroll and Donna invited several college students to be part of their small group on Friday nights. They gave us a workbook with homework assignments to do every week and then led us in discussion about our homework when we met as a group. They gave us 60 cards with a Bible memory verse on each card and helped us practice memorizing them. They helped us to begin reading a chapter from the Bible every day and then talk about what we read.
- Jesse, a deacon, invited me to go with him to visit hospitals and homes.
- We went on church mission trips to other states and other countries.
- The Children's Pastor invited us to help with children's camp and VBS.
- Collectively these people used personal reading, homework, memorization, small group discussion, serving others, prayer, letting us share our testimony and fellowship in their homes as ways to help us learn. I want to be a teacher like that.

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What is Your Story?

1. The first few years after you began to follow Christ, what helped you to grow the most?
2. Did a person spend time helping and encouraging you?
3. Did you do some things on your own – like reading the Bible, praying, memorizing, or teaching? Did you have homework to do during the week?
4. Did you learn how to tell your story about becoming a follower of Christ or explain the gospel to others?
5. Did you get involved in serving others or going on a mission trip?
6. Do you get involved in a small group Bible study and participate in the discussion?
7. Were you invited to social events and did you invite others to social events that were helpful in strengthening friendships?
8. Were you given a small “first-step” leadership task like singing, speaking or serving others?

The kind of things that helped you to grow are probably the same things that will help someone else grow.

Most people do not say *attending* something helped them grow. They usually say things that got them more engaged in a personal way hands-on were the most helpful.



Bible Study Teacher Training

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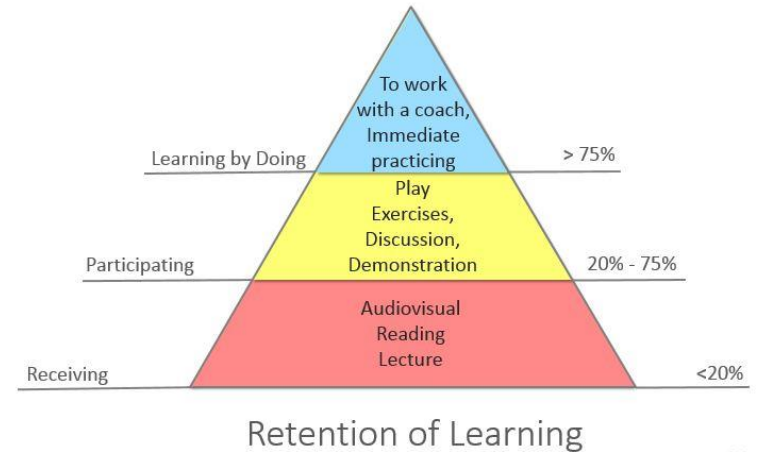
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13 Factors That Affect Learning and Small Group Success

The Learning Pyramid

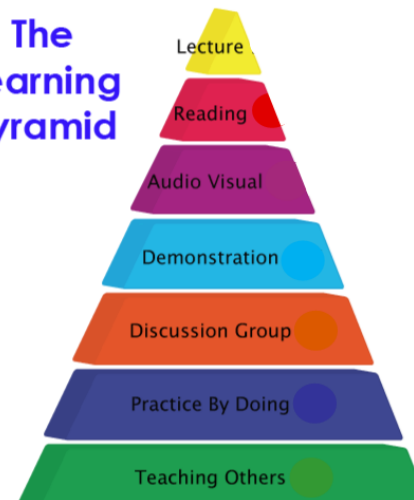
Sometimes the way we saw others teach a class did not give us a model of teaching that fits the way people actually learn best and most effectively.

We want to teach in a way that helps people to study on their own, interact with others about what they read and then practice doing it.



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The Learning Pyramid



Could we use different ways to teach?
What are some ways we can increase engagement?

Prepare Your Classroom



- People communicate best when they are face-to-face, not in rows.
- Sit in a circle or at least a semi-circle without extra chairs.
- If your class is large (over 10 people), split into more than one smaller circle when you are not in your large-group teaching and sharing time and ready to discuss.
- Declutter your room. Consider cleaning the carpet, painting the walls or replacing the curtains, if needed, so your room is clean and attractive.

Prepare Your List of Contacts

Small Group Contact Information	
Name	_____
Address	_____
Cell Phone	_____
Email	_____
Spouse	_____
Children	_____
Recreation or hobbies you enjoy	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
Cell Phone	_____
Email	_____
Spouse	_____
Children	_____
Recreation or hobbies you enjoy	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
Cell Phone	_____
Email	_____
Spouse	_____
Children	_____
Recreation or hobbies you enjoy	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
Cell Phone	_____
Email	_____
Spouse	_____
Children	_____
Recreation or hobbies you enjoy	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
Cell Phone	_____
Email	_____
Spouse	_____
Children	_____
Recreation or hobbies you enjoy	_____

- Ask for name, address, phone, email, spouse, children and hobbies for everyone in your class
- Ask for contact information every time a guest visits your class or a fellowship event
- Ask your church office for contact information of past and present guests in the worship service that are the age of your Sunday School class
- Send an email once a week to your contacts telling them which scripture verses to read for the class next Sunday.
- Send an email or text to your contacts inviting them to your class fellowship or service project every month

Keep Track of Who Attends Your Class

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1		1-Jan	8-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb	5-Mar	12-Mar	19-Mar	
2	John	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
3	Paul	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
4	George		x			x		x		x	x			
5	Ringo	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
6	Ross	x	x		x									
7	Chandler	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
8	Joey		x			x		x		x	x			
9	Rachel	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
10	Phoebe	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
11	Monica	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
12	Jerry		x			x		x		x	x			
13	George	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
14	Elaine	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
15	Michael	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
16	Newman		x					x			x			
17														
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- It helps you know who is interested and faithful and might help you with leadership
- It might give you a signal of who doesn't feel connected and who might need extra encouragement
- It helps you know the trend of whether your class is growing and when and why

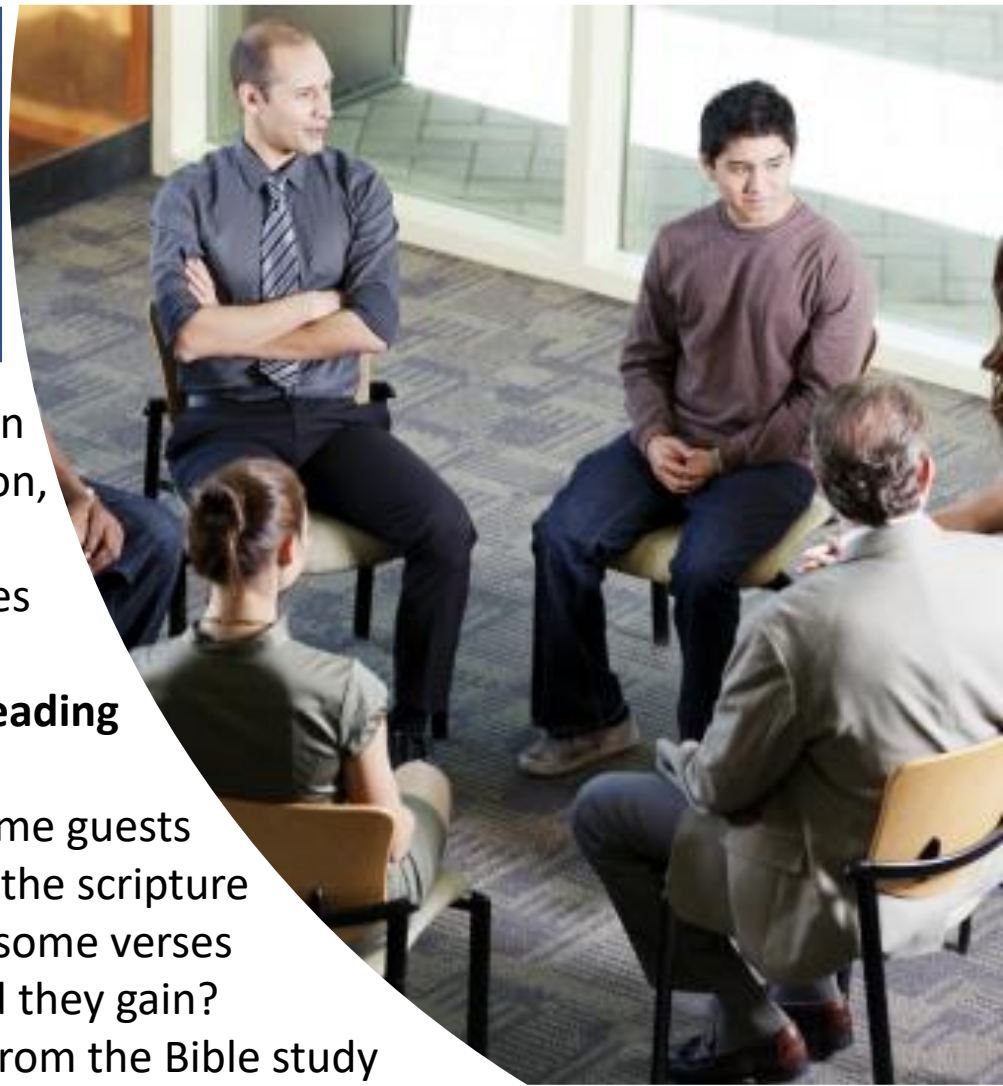
Prepare Your Class Members

- Ask every class member to read the scripture you will be studying next Sunday. Reading the Bible study booklet is nice, but optional. Reading the scripture is essential.
- This is a new habit for them, it will take a few weeks for them to get used to it.
- As they read the Bible verses at home, ask them to pick out three verses that stood out to them from what they read. Ask them to be ready to share why those verses stood out – why they are meaningful to them in a personal way.
- They are not required to share in class - only if they want to.
- Ask a few confident members to be ready to voluntarily speak up first and share their verses.



Adapt Your Lesson Strategy

- Some Bible study booklets design the lesson like this – lecture, question, lecture, question, lecture, question.
- Some SS classes' teaching style is sometimes mostly lecture and little discussion.
- **Try this model that encourages personal reading and group discussion:**
 - 5 min Begin with announcements & welcome guests
 - 10 min Let anyone who is willing talk about the scripture they read during the week and why some verses stood out to them. What insights did they gain?
 - 15 min Gather all the discussion questions from the Bible study booklet and add a few of your own. You should have a total of 6-10 questions. Get in groups of 4-6 people and talk about each question.
 - 15 min Lecture – using the Bible study booklet material, you can summarize, give Biblical background and context and share your insights.
 - 10 min If needed, get back in small groups to share prayer requests and pray.



Plan Some Fellowships and Invite Friends



- A once-a-month fellowship is a common event for Bible study groups.
- You can ask different people to plan and host a fellowship or a team can be in charge.
- It doesn't have to be expensive. Each person should help pay if there is a cost.
- It isn't a Bible study. It is a social event to deepen friendships and form new ones.
- Examples: Super Bowl party, Christmas party, Game night, July 4th cookout, movie night, picnic in a park, volleyball or softball, bowling night, a hayride, a bonfire, a hike, a fishing trip, a canoe trip, etc.
- Invite all the people on your contact list – class members, guests who visited your class, worship guests, family and friends

Put Some Service Projects on the Calendar

- A one or two-hour service project on a Saturday will usually fit in a class member's schedule every other month or so.
- You can help a church member or people in the community.
- A person or a team can help plan a few of these a year.
- Ways to help in the church: VBS, a big church event, a graduation banquet, a welcome gift for new middle school students, a lunch for new high school students, an event for single Moms, or help sponsor some kids for summer camp.
- Ways to help in the community: the homeless shelter, a foodbank, a children's home, a pregnancy counseling center, an event for veterans, an event for senior adults, a free car wash, handing out bottled water at a park, rake leaves, an event for special-needs children, or a free sports-camp are just a few of hundreds of ideas.



Deepen Your Friendships



- Children spell love “t-i-m-e”. It is the same for most adults.
- When you walk into your classroom, sit beside someone instead of on the other side of the room, and have a conversation.
- When you and your spouse walk into the worship service, choose to sit beside someone from your Bible study class. Even better if the whole class chose to sit together up front.
- Invite a person or a family to your house for lunch or supper.
- Invite people to join you for a hobby, recreation or exercising.

Have a Passion For Welcoming Guests



- When a guest comes to your class, someone ought to sit beside them and start a conversation.
- Shaking hands is not enough. Talk with them.
- After class, walk with them and sit with them in the worship service.
- Before or after worship, introduce them to a friend or someone they may have something in common with.
- Remember their name the next time you see them.
- Ask if they would like to be invited to your class fellowships and get their contact information.
- Invite them every time you have an event.
- Invite them to lunch or supper sometime this month with your family.

Prepare the Leaders of Tomorrow



- In your class, look for members who are faithful, available and teachable
- Spend some extra time with them.
- Ask them to help you plan or carry out a fellowship or service project. Or ask them to go with you to visit a new guest at their home or a member in the hospital.
- When you split up into smaller groups for discussion, ask them to lead a group.
- Ask them to be ready to go first when people share what they read and learned last week.
- Ask them to teach the lecture part of the lesson for 5 minutes, then 10, then 15 as they get more confident.

Pray for Every Person In Your Class




- When you have a class of 10 to 30 people, there is not time for every person to share a prayer request and be prayed for.
- When you have a large group, many people will hesitate to speak about a prayer need to the whole group.
- If you have a small class of 8 or less, you probably have time to go around the circle and let everyone share.
- If your group is larger than 8, it is probably better to divide into small groups of 4 to 6 people so that every person can share and be prayed for.
- If you divide your class into smaller discussion groups, that might be the right time to also pray.

Create An Evangelistic Culture In Your Class



- Every Christian needs to learn to share their testimony and explain the gospel to another person. We need to, we want to, we wish we could, but we don't feel confident because we have not practiced.
- A Sunday School class is the perfect place for people to learn and practice. It is a small group of friends who already know one another and are supportive.
- Ask 3 or 4 of your mature class members to go first. Every other week, or once a month, ask a different person to share their story of salvation in 2-3 minutes.
- After the most confident people have taken their turn, ask for others in the class to sign up for a Sunday when they would like to share, but it is strictly voluntary. Optional – do an interview.



Teaching
is not
telling

Listening
is not
learning