

Taking It To The Next Level

- What are a teacher's responsibilities? Teaching the facts? Covering the material? Completing a lesson plan? Talking about a subject?
- What does the Bible mean when it says "teach" and "learn"?
- **Deuteronomy 4:1** Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I **TEACH** you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.
- **Deuteronomy 5:1** And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may **LEARN** them, and keep, and do them.
- When you take the prefix and suffix off the Hebrew word for "learn" all that remains is the word "teach." When you take the prefix and suffix off the Hebrew word for "teach" all that remains is the word "learn." THEY ARE THE SAME WORD!
- You cannot separate teaching from learning! How do you know if you are a great teacher? By what your students learn!
 1. Teachers are responsible to CAUSE students to learn.
 2. Teachers will stand ACCOUNTABLE before God for their teaching. (James 3:1)
 3. Teachers are responsible because they control the SUBJECT, the STYLE and the SPEAKER.
 4. Teachers impact more by their character and commitment than by their COMMUNICATION.
 5. Teachers exist to SERVE the students.
 6. Teachers should judge their SUCCESS by the success of their students.
- **James 3:1 (NLT)** Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness.
- **James 1:24-25 (NIV)** Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, **not forgetting** what he has heard, but **doing it** – he will be blessed in what he does.
- Only when we get people to **look at, remember** and **do** God's Word, are we teaching them! Most preaching and teaching gets people to look at, but not remember or do the Word.
- People must not merely be **informed**, but **transformed**.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
- Doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness are merely a means to an end! (for...for...for...for...so that!)
- The purpose of the Bible is LIFE CHANGE! To change our character (perfect, mature, complete) and to change our conduct (good works).
- D.L. Moody: "The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives."
 - **John 6:63** The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are **life**
 - **Philippians 2:16** Holding forth the word of **life**
 - **John 10:10** I am come that they might have **life**
- If I intend to be a Biblical teacher, my lessons must always be life-oriented, not just information-oriented. MY STUDENTS MUST RETAIN WHAT I AM TEACHING!
- RETENTION OF THE LESSON:
 - Retention of facts by the student is the TEACHER'S responsibility.
 - Retention of facts is effective only after they are UNDERSTOOD.
 - Retention increases dramatically as the student recognizes the subject's RELEVANCE.
 - Retention requires the teacher to focus on the facts that are most IMPORTANT – not all facts are created equal!
 - Retention demands that the facts are ARRANGED so they are easy to memorize.
- God's purpose for the teacher is to be a bridge-builder, to declare eternal truths that never change and apply them in a world that is always changing.

- THE APPLICATION BRIDGE
 - THEN – Bible text
 - NOW – practical application
 - BRIDGE – timeless principle
- Four stages of bridge building:
 - Observation – study the text
 - Implication – find the timeless truth
 - Contextualization – think of your audience
 - Personalization – apply the truth to their need
- Building an application (2 Timothy 3:16-17) – four questions:
 - Doctrine – what should I believe?
 - Correction – what should I not believe?
 - Instruction in righteousness – how should I behave?
 - Reproof – how should I not behave?
- Jesus said profound things in simple ways – we often do the opposite!

How to C.R.A.F.T. a Lesson

Ecclesiastes 12:9-11 (NASB) In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly. The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-11 (NLT) Because the Teacher was wise, he taught the people everything he knew. He collected proverbs and classified them. Indeed, the Teacher taught the plain truth, and he did so in an interesting way. A wise teacher's words spur students to action and emphasize important truths. The collected sayings of the wise are like guidance from a shepherd.

- Two results of this kind of teaching:
 - “goad” – It spurs people to action, motivating them to do something
 - “well-driven nail” – People will remember it! Firmly embedded! Driven deep!

C – collect & categorize

- Eccl. 12:9 (NLT) Because the Teacher was wise ... He collected proverbs and classified them ...

- Collect Bible verses, quotes, articles, books, sermon tapes, illustrations, etc. – even years in advance!
- Categorize them in a filing system – put something away each day

R – research & reflect

- Eccl. 12: 9 (NASB) The Preacher ... pondered and searched out ...
- Research is studying with my mind; reflection is listening with my heart (meditation).

A – apply & arrange

- Eccl. 12:11 (NLT) A wise teacher's words spur students to action and emphasize important truths.
- Each lesson should answer three important questions:
 - What?
 - So what?
 - Now what?
- Arrange your lesson in an outline:
 1. Keep it SIMPLE.
Haddon Robinson: “Television has destroyed linear thinking”
 2. Get to the point QUICKLY.
 3. Make sure your points follow a logical PROGRESSION.
 4. Arrange your points to end with IMPACT.
“Your lesson must have movement to move people”
 5. Arrange your points to use TENSION and RELEASE.
“Use humor, use emotion, use up and down”
 6. Use a variety of teaching METHODS.
“People forget 90% of what they hear within 72 hours”

F – fashion & flavor

- Eccl. 12:10 (NASB) The Preacher sought to find delightful words ...
- What is the most practical way to say it?
- What is the most positive way to say it?
- What is the most personal way to say it?
- What is the most interesting way to say it?
- Illustrations are windows that let the light in!
- Matthew 13:34 (NLT) Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.

- Chuck Swindoll: “If you think the gathering of biblical facts and standing up with a Bible in your hand will automatically equip you to communicate well, you are deeply mistaken. It will not. YOU MUST WORK AT BEING INTERESTING. Boredom is a gross violation, being dull is a grave offense, and irrelevance is a disgrace to the Gospel. Too often these three crimes go unpunished and we preachers are the criminals.”
- Flavor your lesson with illustrations and quotes, humor, and special features.

T – trim & tie together

- More does not mean better! Slower does not mean deeper!
- Confinement produces power!
- Tie the parts of your lesson together to ...
 - Connect with your students (relationship before response)
 - Gain attention (brevity! variety!)
 - Achieve excellence
 - Answer their question: “Why should I listen?”
- Ways to conclude a lesson:
 - Restate your main points forcefully and personally
 - Use a compelling illustration
 - Use a piercing question
 - Introduce the next lesson using suspense

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.