

Teaching Bible Classes
A Study and Discussion Guide for Digging Deeper
by Keith Stanglin and Todd Hall

Episode 1. Introduction to Teaching Adult Bible Classes

Summary:

This session discusses the importance of teachers and of teaching, including the call and responsibility of Bible class teachers, and the anxieties and concerns that new teachers typically face.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have Sunday school classes changed from 10 or 20 years ago? Are there good changes? Bad ones?
2. Think of a great teacher you have had. What characteristics made that teacher great?
3. Think of a bad teacher you have had (don't name any names!). What characteristics made that teacher not so good?
4. Describe your present feelings about teaching. Teaching Bible classes, for me, is: (challenging, etc.)
5. What strengths do you believe you bring to your teaching? (biblical knowledge, etc.)
6. What do you think you need the most help with? (planning lessons, interesting ways to teach, etc.)

Episode 2. Goals and Types of Classes

Summary:

This episode discusses some of the goals of adult Bible classes and the different types of classes. This series focuses on textual Bible (more than topical) classes and discussion-oriented (more than lecture-based) classes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think should be the goals of adult Bible classes? Can you prioritize them?
2. What means do you plan to use to help achieve those goals?
3. When do you use lecture and when discussion? What do you think is the right blend? How do you know?

Episode 3. Understanding the Bible

Summary:

This episode goes through the basics of how to read and interpret the Bible's various genres in its historical and literary contexts, with a view to application.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the purposes of learning and teaching the Bible? Try to prioritize the different goals.

2. What is the most difficult biblical book or passage for you to understand? Why?
3. What do you think are the advantages or disadvantages of studying and teaching from a print Bible versus one on an electronic device?

Episode 4. Nuts and Bolts of a Bible Class

Summary:

This episode offers practical advice for developing and teaching adult Bible classes, including basic steps such as introduction and conclusion, explaining the text, dealing with difficult texts, and application.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the purposes of the introduction and conclusion?
2. Why is the “social” time of the class important?
3. How does a reminder of the previous class session help prepare your class for the current discussion?
4. What are some strategies for preparing to teach difficult texts?
5. What steps and strategies are good for making application of the text?

Episode 5. Asking Good Questions

Summary:

This episode presents a guide to leading a discussion class.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some types of questions to avoid in a discussion class?
 2. What are some strategies for encouraging good discussion in class?
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1. Consider some effective ways of dealing with difficult class participants. What possible scenarios can you envision arising? How would you deal with a person who is abusive/offensive? What are some strategies for dealing with an “over-eager” student?