

The purpose of this class is NOT to make preachers, teachers or elders out of all who attend. We would encourage each one be attentive to developing and improve themselves in each area that we will study. Even though you may not have a desire to preach, teach or serve as an elder today, by learning more about those positions you can assist those men who serve to achieve greater result, giving God the glory. As time, circumstances and maturity comes your way many things you can learn here in this class may become very important in your growth as a Christian. The Lord expects His people to conduct their worship services with a degree of refinement and respect. Proverbs 9:9 NKJV 9 *Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*

Always prepare mentally, physically & spiritually for every service!

DRESS AND ACT REVERENTLY

1 Peter 1:13 WEB 13 Therefore, **prepare your minds for action**, be sober and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ--

Goals for this class

1. To help each person to learn to serve the Lord and to serve this congregation, more effectively by have a fuller understanding of working together to reduce the distractions that can occur without good coordination as we go through the worship service.
2. To help each of us to improve the way we serve but also have a better understanding of why we are doing the things we do and giving us a higher level of confidence in our abilities to serve.
3. To help each of us to be prepared to recognize opportunities to work and serve. To be “ready onto every good work” [Titus 3:1]
4. To help each of us be convinced that we are neither too young nor too old to develop into a more useful servant in the kingdom.
5. To help each of us to overcome the fear of failure this is nearly always the greatest hindrance to try new opportunities. Many people do not realize that the greatest failure is not trying at all. When we give God our best effort we will never fail. By making an effort to serve we succeed, and with each opportunity grow a little stronger and the less we fail. Instead of suffering from embarrassment when a mistake is made, we will soon find ourselves accepting each error as a challenge to do better next time with great effort, practice & determination.

The essentials to Christian service

- 1. *Christian character***—As we prepare for **greater** service to the Lord, it is well to consider some of the things that are essential to serving in the worship services. As a member of the body of Christ earnestly endeavoring to live a Christian life, publicly serving the congregation is a form of leadership. Our lives must reflect the teachings of Paul, 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV 16 **Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.** Without pure godly lives we will become a stumbling block in our service and detract from the worship service to God. Acts 20:28 NKJV 28 "**Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.** In both references emphasis is placed on personal living. The proper place to begin an effort to develop as a servant of Christ is with Christian living. Every act of service will carry greater weight when those in the audience have confidence in you because of your demonstration of love, zeal and devotion to God. Remember NO distractions!
- 2. *Knowledge of the truth.*** Each of us started as “babies in Christ”, having an understanding of the “elementary principles” [Heb. 5: 11-14] in need of milk, not solid food. Part of this class will be to advance each of us into more solid food, becoming more mature by practice and training our senses for greater service to the Lord. Unless we continue to grow every day [2 Peter 3:18 NKJV 18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.**], we are drifting back toward the need for milk, not meat. With the instructions in this class, encouragement from each other we can improve our skills which will lead to more successful experience in the application of what is learned in the worship services.
- 3. *Dedicated service.*** There are 456 verses in the bible that refer to the term “servant”, many of those refer to being a “servant of the Lord”, Joshua 1:13 refers to Moses as the servant of the Lord, Numbers 14:24 to Caleb, 1 Sam 3:10 the boy, Samuel said “speak Lord your servant hears”, 1Kings 11:32 refers to David. In the New Testament Christ set the tone in. Luke 16:33—no man can serve 2 masters, but we must servants of Christ in all that we do. Paul, Peter, James, John, Jude and Phoebe were all called servants in the kingdom, but more importantly Christ is called a servant [Acts 3:13] setting the example for us to follow.

4. **Christ's Slave**- We were brought with a price-Romans 6:22 NKJV 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

A slave is had no opportunity to choice his way of life, but was totally under the control of the master. It would follow that a **slave of Christ** would also be totally under the control of his master Jesus Christ.

1Pet. 1:17-19 having said in the previous verse “be holy for I am Holy”, the writer proceeds to explain in the rest of the chapter why this is important. Because of the impending judgment before an impartial judge, on our own works, **conduct** yourselves in fear while you live on earth. We were not redeemed with earthly [material] things, but with the very blood of Christ, the unblemished, spotless sacrifice of the Son of God. With verse 22 Peter directs this thought to us----- 1 Peter 1:22-23 NKJV 22 Since you have **purified** your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, let's look at where we are in our life, because of Christ's sacrifice, our souls have been purified, because of obedience to the truth, Peter now instructs us love one another fervently. Just as Jesus instructed in Matt. 22:38-39, the success of this class will depend on how well we demonstrate the *kind of love* for one another that Jesus spoke of in this passage, coupled with dedication and commitment to serving the living God.

1. What does it mean to be more effective in our service to God?
2. What is required to be ready for “every good work”?
3. What is the greatest fear that most have when trying something new? Why?
4. Describe Character? Christian Character?
5. What is Paul's emphasis in 1 Tim. 4:16?
6. How do we move from a milk diet to Meat?
7. Can we drift back to a milk diet? Luke 16:13
8. Where did the idea of redeeming with physical things come from?
9. How do we purify our souls?
10. What should the end result of our purification be while here on earth?

Proper Attitude in Serving

The word attitude is comparable to disposition, outlook, or approach the one manifests to a subject or principle. Webster defines attitude *as posture, a position assumed, a feeling or mood*. We pay other a fine compliment when we can say that they have a great attitude about a situation.

Jesus spoke about attitude in the Sermon on the Mount when he referred to the beatitudes, as everyone one of these statements refers to the person's attitude as subjects in His kingdom that was to be established. Examine **Matt. 5:3-12** carefully, and then make the application to our own lives.

Notice how Jesus saw the proper attitude in the lawyer in **Mark 12:34**. The Apostle Paul is giving us directions to a proper attitude in **Phil. 4:8**.

Attitude is always a great factor in the response that people make when the gospel is presented as we can see in the following passages: Acts 2:41, 24:25, and 26:28-29. Look for the type of attitude in these passages.

Attitudes govern our actions. The passages above show a pattern of response to God's word, a proper attitude bring acceptance, a negative attitude bring rejection of His word, sometimes we can just be indifferent to what Go's word instructs us to do and by that we stand condemned.

2 Thess. 2:10-12—Study and examine what kind of attitude is present in this passage. Paul mentions the "love of the truth" in verse 10 and pleasure in wickedness sin verse 12, at first there would seem to be a great distance between these two passages, however when you consider that they had NO love for the truth the passages fit perfectly together.

Peter uses the term **inexpressible joy** in 1Pet.1:8 that will be the proof of their faith at the coming of the Lord, the joy available in God's kingdom can only be attained through our obedience coupled with a *proper attitude*. Anytime you see indifference, or murmuring it will be followed with a lack of joy in serving. If we haven't developed a proper attitude we will never be happy, especially in serving the Lord.

Revelation 2:10 NKJV 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.** How could we ever follow this command if we have a bad attitude?

Look at the attitude displayed in these verses:

Acts 20:24

Phil. 1:21-23

2 Tim. 1:12

2 Tim 4:7-8

Nothing must be allowed to take precedence over our desire to KNOW the truth and then to PRACTICE what we have learned. John 17:17 Truth MUST be placed before everything and everyone, Matt. 10:37-38, 15:8-9, Col 2:8.

We must always obey God rather than man, Acts 5:9, Gal. 1:10, and while taking this stand to elevate God over man, have the attitude that the scriptures are the last word in answering any religious question, principle and problem. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet: 1:3ff, Luke 10:26, 2 John 9-11.

When we have a proper attitude about being “pilgrims and strangers “in this world and that we shall be judged by the word of God [John 12:48] we are only looking for the coming of Christ.

Let us determine to apply these principles of a proper attitude to every subject we study as well as our daily lives as consider passages like John 8:31-32 NKJV 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

If we will diligently study 2 Pet. 2:5-9 the components of a proper attitude will be very available to us for application [practice] into our daily lives that provides us an entrance into the “eternal kingdom of God”[vs.10] and abundantly supplied [vs 11].

- In your own words, what is a proper attitude?
- Which “beatitude” helps you in establishing a proper attitude?
- From the book of Acts list some examples of proper attitudes?
- What value do you place on a proper attitude?
- What action does a good attitude govern?
- How does 2 Thess. 2:10-12 affect you?
- Have you ever had “inexpressible joy” in your service to God?
- Does that joy continue today?
- What is the predominant feature of your life?
- How do we apply 2 Tim 4:7-8?

Leadership

There is an ever growing need for leadership in every phase of life, our communities, and our homes and in the church. Not just fathers, elders and government officials, but everyone needs to take the initiative to demonstrate leadership in every phase of life. There is a place for men and women, young and old, mature Christians and young in the faith to make a difference by both influence and example by having and showing the heart of a servant.[Phil.2:15]

The objective of this lesson will be to help focus on helping each of us reach our potential as a leader, realizing that leaders are made, not born, shaped by our own personal experiences, teachings and the influences of those who have helped use reach the point in life that we find ourselves today.

Good leaders are first and foremost followers of God. You cannot be a leader in the kingdom without first being a follower of Christ. Any authority is not primary, it comes from God. Shepherds must look to the chief Shepherd, masters must remember that their Master is in heaven, man is head of women but Christ is the head of every man. The first step in answering the call to lead is am I willing to follow.

Good leaders are not afraid to try. When God called Moses at the burning bush, he made many excuses about why he couldn't lead the children of Israel to freedom. We are faced with a similar challenge today, leading the lost to freedom from the world [Phil2:15-16]. It is difficult to know if Moses was afraid to **try** for fear of failure or what but he became a great orator with God's help.

There is no such thing as a born leader! Some may have more raw talent in one area or another, maybe a more comfortable presence before people, but these are learned skills that need to be sharpened, honed and refined through diligent work, trying and failing, dusting yourself off and trying again.[determination] Becoming a good leader requires many thing but begins with trying, pushing ourselves a little further ,giving God the opportunity to mold you into something greater than ourselves, leading us beyond our own weakness into a greater strength for the Lord.

Leadership is influence. Good leadership is influencing others to follow. Great leadership is influencing others to follow joyfully. The scriptures a filled with examples of different kinds of leadership for us to examine.

Joshua- learned leadership—Joshua 1:5-7

Failed to influence the other 10 spies & the people. [Numbers 13& 14]

Joshua 1:16-18—Things changed

Joshua 18:1-10 –

Joshua 23:1-9 –

Leaders are grown, not born. Growth is the natural order of things in every phase of life, including the spiritual realm. God has always given living things the capacity to grow, for example the mustard seed grow from a tiny seed to a large plant, and increases in importance and influence. [Luke 13:19] Other passages that need to be considered in this study: 2 Pet. 3:18, 1Pet. 2:2, Eph. 4:15 and Heb. 5:11-14. Leadership is a character trait that develops day by day. As we continue to “grow in the grace and knowledge” of our Lord Jesus Christ, putting in place the spiritual principles that we learn from a daily study of His word we will grow in importance in the kingdom and in influence to others like the mustard plant.

Jacob’s son Joseph **became** a great leader because of way he conducted his life, as we examine Gen. 37, 39-40 we can see the steady growth in Joseph’s life, the consistent behavior and his determination to overcome whatever obstacles came his way.

Leadership begins from within- in 2 Chr. 34:3 Josiah, “while he was still young began to seek the Lord”. Judah was a wreck that was caused by BAD leadership, corruption, and idolatry had almost destroyed the land. Josiah made a change in his life before he began to change Judah. There are 5 principles to remember to influence the hearts of others:

1. *Leaders must change themselves before trying to change others.*
2. *A good speech instructs people: a good life inspires others.*
3. *People see better than they hear.*
4. *Anybody can teach what is right: it is harder to live what is right.*
5. *The most precious gift you can give another is the gift of live.*

Good leaders look for opportunities to grow others. Moses listened to the advice of his father-in-law regarding the judging of Israel and began to use other in settling the disputes of the people, thereby giving them the opportunity to grow in service to the Lord.

In Acts 11 Barnabas realized that the work was more than he alone could handle, so he left Antioch to seek Paul in Tarsus to get his help in teaching those who were seeking the gospel in great numbers, Paul and Barnabas remained there for a year bringing considerable numbers to the Lord. The need in the kingdom is not for heroes but for those who will encourage others to rise to their full potential in their service to God, by setting a good example for others to follow, then encouraging the followers in improving through daily thought and practice of things they have learned.

No one will follow a leader who they don't trust. Trust, integrity and respect are character traits we find in the great leaders of the bible. Trust begins with being dependable, seeing a need that other have, with the ability to meet that need and the strength and willingness to serve. Integrity is soundness of judgment, uncorrupt able which gives that leader a great value to others in time of difficulty, trials or temptation. With these character traits are visible a sense of respect begins to grow and others will follow this leader. In Judges 4:1-9 recorded the history of Deborah, a great leader used by God to save His people. She had shown herself ready to lead by serving others, demonstrated wisdom and had the confidence of the people, possessed integrity [vs.4-5] , held fast to her conviction[vs 6], contributed to the success of others[vs 6-9] gave credit to others and the glory to God [vs 9]

Samson provides us with some examples of what was missing in his life that made him a loner, not a leader. He had a great advantage or capacity in physical strength, but he was a weakling in judgment, wisdom and self-control. His conduct caused him to lose all credibility; no one will follow those who don't learn from their mistakes. A good leader will **own** their mistakes, not try to blame others, like Samson, followers will trust a person big enough to take responsibility for their errors. Very little is said about Samson correcting his errors, or leaning from his mistakes. A good leader will profit from his mistakes and be determined to not repeat them again.

Study the scriptures; put these leadership traits in place within your life so you can be ready, willing and able to be used by God in his service, because when we are well prepared we will see the opportunity to serve.

1. Where must we begin to become a good leader for the Lord?
2. Why was Moses a successful leader?
3. What made him successful? Support your answer
4. How does leadership start?
5. What is influence? How do we get it?
6. Why is it important to "grow other"
7. Why is trust important?
8. What role does integrity and respect play in leading?
9. Give a character trait in these men that made them a great leader:

Nehemiah

David

Peter

Paul

What is Worship?

Worship is defined as reverence paid to worth: honor, respect, the act of paying homage- Webster New Colligate Dictionary.

As a Christian worshipping God is the ultimately the *focal point* of our lives, it is the point of everything we do. Worship is a vital part of the life of a Christian.

Throughout the history of the world mankind has worshipped. Often time the object has been **things** rather than the God of heaven, but mankind will always worship the object of his devotion. Rom. 1:21-25 worshipping the creature rather than the creator. The Old Testament is a commentary on false and misdirected worship. Ex. 20:3, Ex. 32. And on into the New Testament the need to FLEE IDOLS is repeated 1Cor. 10:14, 1 John 5:21 that leads to the flat statement in Rev.22:9 **Worship God**, leaving no doubt about who or what to worship.

Man needs direction on HOW to worship correctly. The heavens declare the glory of God but don't show us how to worship Him, so we turn to the pages of God's revealed word. Psa. 19:1, Jer. 10:23, Isa. 55:8-9, 2 Tim 3:16-17

John 4:24 NKJV 24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Our worship MUST contain both the completeness of truth coupled with the cooperating spirit that bears witness with our spirit. There are 5 kinds of worship mentioned in the N.T.:

Vain worship---Matt. 15:7-9 ----substituting for God's way

Mock worship—Mark15:19-20----No sincerity

Will worship--- Col2:18-23----- pleasing self

Ignorant worship---Acts 17:23 uninformed about the true God

True worship----John 4:23-24

In spirit—proper disposition of mind involving sincerity and devotion

In truth—as authorized by God—Acts 2:42, 20:7, Eph. 5:19, 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 11:20, 23-29. We must learn to discern God's word, our own activities, in our service to Him. 1Cor. 11:28-30

Every Christian needs to understand the true purpose of worship!

It is not entertainment---Gal.1:10, 2 Tim. 4:3-4, 1 Cor.11:20—I tis not about me, make it your goal to encourage others, to make others want to return to our worship services to be edified, strengthen and lifted up.

It is not a display of talent in singing, praying or preaching. We are blessed to have many really good song leaders who have prepared themselves for the purpose but the ability to lead is a means of enhancing the praise of our lips[Heb.13:15], our real focus is on the message of the song, using the leader to remove the distraction that are always present.

To honor God—with reverence and awe. Rev. 22:9, Eph. 3:21, 1Cor. 11:24

Remember Jesus---during the Lord's Supper mediate, focus yourself on the sacrifice Christ made on Calvary for you. Remember it is about Christ not about you or me. Lk. 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24

Edify, strengthen and instruction ---Even in the time of spiritual gifts there was orderly for the purpose of edification and instruction [Lk. 22:19, 1 Cor. 14:26, 31, Col. 3:16

Acceptable worship before the Lord:

Begins with a submissive attitude to God: Mt. 26:39, 4:10 Christ gave us the perfect example to imitate in the attitude of our worship as well as our daily lives which must correlate with each other. Consider John 6:38, Heb. 5:7, Phil 2:8. A submissive attitude can ONLY be achieved when coupled with spirit of **humility** as we can see in: Phil 2:5-8, Matt. 18:3-4, Jas.4:6, Lk18:13-14.

Having our hearts full of forgiveness. In the model prayer, Jesus taught his disciples to have a spirit of forgiveness, and God's forgiveness is

dependent on our relationship with our brethren. Matt. 6:14-15, Lk 23:34, Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13.

A prayerful attitude was seen in Jesus at every turn in His life here on earth, prayer sustained Him through every trial all the way to the cross. Jas. 5:16-18, 1 Pet. 3:12, John 9:31,

A heart focused on a living sacrifice--- Rom 12:1-2 the free and voluntary offering of the “whole body” as animals were sacrificed under the old law; we must present ourselves, the entire person devoted to God. A sacrifice is an offering made to Him as an expression of our thanksgiving, homage, reverence and awe. The “living” sacrifice is active, vigorously devoted to God in worship and service in His kingdom.” Holy”- without blemish or defects, set apart, devoted, our sacrifice is not to be divided or separated but whole and completely given to God. We are to consecrate giving the best we have of our minds focused on Him, our time dedicated to His service and our talents, sharpened and honed through training and service. By following God’s word with the proper attitudes we can have assurance that our worship will be acceptable.

Worship is about giving not receiving!

During our public assemblies, which are dedicated to worshipping God, we can contribute to enhancing our own [personal] worship by:

Good preparation—making sure that you are well rested, to be alert, active and involved in the worship services. To prepare yourself through prayer for a proper attitude, study to prepare for bible class, singing to motivate yourself and others in praise to God.

A good way to remove the focus from yourselves and focus on others, is to sit with that you may not know as well, get to know them, encourage them.

During the song service focus on the words, make eye contact with the leader, avoid distractions for others, and always remember we are offering praise to God.

During the sermon: take notes as though you are going to teach this lesson from your notes. Make specific application to your personal situation. Make eye contact with the speaker. Nod when you agree. If you feel frisky, an amen can be made to encourage the speaker.

Remember that ultimately the quality of your worship is decided by you.

1. What does it mean to you to Worship God?
2. How do you define worship?
3. List 3 passages from the O.T. that show how mankind has worshipped false gods?
4. What is the importance of Rev. 22:9?
5. What are the different types of worship in the N.T.?
6. Describe what “will worship” is?
7. What is the purpose of worship?
8. How can we make our worship acceptable to God?
9. What is the difficulty of Rom. 12:1-2?
10. Add other ways we can contribute to a higher quality worship.

Bible Study

Teaching a bible class at any age is a challenge for most, however it is very rewarding when done successfully. You have the opportunity to teach someone how to become a Christian and to live a faithful life before God.

The long-term growth of any congregation can only be sustained by developing quality bible classes beginning with the very young. The cradle row can begin as young as 6 months which develops learning on many levels for the child but also involves the parents and it is a beginning point for teachers.

Teaching our children is the bedrock on which the future of God's church lies, the continual development of the young is vital, not only for their souls but for those who follow in the years ahead. The next generation of teachers, preachers and elders are being trained today with each bible class. Examine Phil.2:15-16, look for our responsible in the world today, and tomorrow. Parents are primarily responsible for the training of their children; bible classes provide the opportunity for group studies with their peers, with group discussions that may open the mind even further.

1 Tim. 4:15 - Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that **your progress may be evident to all.** [NAS "take pains" – planned study, setting aside time to focus[be absorbed] , none of this just happens accidently. 2 Tim.2:15 "be diligent"---approved of God. It takes a lot of time, planning, and determination to complete the journey to heaven.

There are a number of different methods of teaching, which will vary depending on age, spiritual development and the personality of the teacher. There is ultimately only one goal---teach the students the truth and guide them in living a faithful Christian life. The method of teaching should be the one that will achieve that goal.

Methods of teaching:

The **recitation method** has been around for many years and has been used successfully because it brings interaction between the students and the

teacher. The systematic use of questions the teacher can lead the students into expressing themselves. As questions are discussed the (1) teacher is able to know how well the students are grasping the lesson material. (2) This method encourages class participation and individual development. (3) It helps the teacher discover incorrect impressions in the minds of students and give the opportunity to correct them. There are some cautions: (1) Don't allow the students totally rely on memorized answers that hinder real growth, (2) never allow 1 or 2 to dominate the class or the timid will get left out and the teacher may be less effective with some students.

The drill - can be effective with small children, but is not effective with older children.

Class discussion- It takes a very skillful teacher to rely totally on this method, as classes can descend into aimless discussions that reach not conclusions and provide little or no benefit. Adults seem to have a greater problem in these area then younger students.

The lecture method- ineffective in younger classes, and not generally liked by adults because it is too much like preaching with no opportunity for discussion.

Regardless of the method chosen there are some fundamental questions that every teacher must ask themselves about teaching every bible class, whether younger students or adults:

1. What do want the class to know?
2. Why do I want them to know it?
3. What do I want the class to do?
4. Why do I want them to do it?
5. What is the win for the class?

The 2 "*what*" questions help you determine the main focus of the class. If we just wade through a series of question that someone wrote with no aim we may just be filling time. The 2 "*why*" questions help the teacher determine the relevancy. If you can't figure out why your goals are relevant to the students and convey them, don't expect the students to figure it out either. The "*win*" question helps

you figure out the measurable goal of the class. Once you answer these 5 questions you can determine how to select material for the class and how to use it.

A dull and boring bible classes is when we turn our minds off or have thoughts about other things going on in our heads. *Christianity is a thinking man religion.* God made the bible simple enough for all to understand, but challenging so we must use our brain to figure it out. We can't turn our brains off and reap the benefits. Consider Peter's statements in 2 Pet.3:16 which helps us understand the need for careful thought and study if we are to fully grasp the scope of who God is and why. There is great joy in figuring out a difficult passage from your individual study; however bible study is far more than academic exercise, it how God speaks to us. Through the study of His word He is shaping and honing us into His image and glory [2 Cor. 3:18]. Developing self-discipline to study the bible leads to a recognizing God's ability to reveal Himself to me in an understanding way.

A survey of a large number of teenagers was done with the following results:

- 14% thought that Jesus was baptized for the remission of sins
- 24% didn't know which apostle denied Christ.
- 28% didn't know who the wisest man in the bible was.
- 35 % didn't know how many were baptized on the day of Pentecost.
- 48 % didn't know who the first king of Israel was.
- 54 % didn't know who wrote the book of Acts.
- 68 % didn't know who took the place of Judas.
- 74% didn't know who the name of the weeping prophet.

It is safe to say these were NOT Eastside kids, however without Quality bible classes in one generation it could be here.

After you have been selected to teach, have answered the 5 questions, gathered the appropriate material, always remember the grave responsibility teachers have at every level. [Next lesson deals with this subject]

General suggestions in preparing to teach:

- Prepare well in advance. Spend a few minute every day reading material.

Get the subject firmly fixed in your mind, then let the subject “get” you

Read the text and get the context firmly in mind. Have a thorough understanding of the setting and background

As you prepare try to anticipate questions that may be asked and seek to have answers for them. [Teacher also learns more than the students because some material is not presented]

Each time you sit down to study, begin with a prayer and bring a prayerful attitude to class.

Always remember that the salvation of some soul may depend on you, how well prepared and how effective you are as a teacher.

Get the students attention—many parts of the bible are very interesting
Hold their interest-with younger children the harder-sometime adults drift
Create desire to learn- in our culture there is a constant stream of stimulation from mostly electronic devices- sometimes it is a challenge
Inspire action- encourage deeper study- further investigation.

1. How do you determine the purpose or goal of the class?
2. What are something of things to be considered in selecting the proper method to use?
3. Why is inadvisable to ask a question that you don't know the answer to?
4. Why would answering the 5 questions help you have a better bible class?
5. What does question #5 mean “win for the class”?
6. How does God shape us into His image?
7. If you are not teaching you are not learning the maximum. True or false
8. What kind of attitude should we bring as we prepare to teach?
9. Name the 4 aspects that make an effective teacher?

Proper Divisions of the Bible

1 John 5:20 NKJV 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

We can't know all of God, but we can strive to know more of Him than we do at present. God created us in His image, he designed us for fellowship with Himself, and He intends us to know Him deeply and joyously. It would be a mistake to be content with anything less. [G. Henry]
The purpose of this class will show us the hand of God as he reveals His glory, the salvation of man, through Jesus Christ, God son.

The theme throughout the Old Testament is the coming of Christ. Isa. 53

The New Testament rings with the message; Christ has come and is coming again. 2 Thess. 1:7-9

The bible is one volume containing 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books.

There are 2 major divisions:

The Old Testament begins with Genesis through Malachi, written for our learning [Rom 15:4, 1Cor. 10:11] that serves as type, shadow, copy, and a figure.

The New Testament, after a 400 year period of silence from God, gives us the revelation of the birth, life, and death of Christ. The establishment of the church and the history of the blood bought bride of Christ. It is the anti-type, substance, original and real.

The Bible is shown in Dispensations.

The Patriarchal Period

2500 years

Creation _____ Giving of the Law

Genesis 1-Exodus 19, Job

1500 years

The Mosaic Period

Giving of the Law _____ Pentecost

Exodus 20-Acts 2

The Christian Age

Until He comes

Pentecost _____ Judgement

Acts 2- Revelation 22

The Old Testament has 4 major sections:

Law- [5] Genesis through Deuteronomy

History [12] Joshua- Esther

Poetry [5] Job –Song of Solomon

Prophecy:

5 Major prophets: Isaiah –Daniel

12 Minor Prophets: Hosea- Malachi

The New Testament has 4 major sections:

The **gospels** show us God’s plan for mankind, to convince us that Jesus Christ was and is God’s son.

Acts is the eye witness testimony of the conversion of man.

Romans – Jude outlines proper conduct for living a Christian life.

Revelation- was written to comfort mankind with the knowledge that God is in control.

There are 4 kinds of scripture:

Facts to be believed

Command to be obeyed

Promises to be received

Warnings to be heeded [J. Meadows]

Time Line of the Bible

A Period Proving

Creation _____ Flood

4004-2348 B.C.

1656 years

Adam-Noah

Genesis-Job

Period of Preparation

Flood _____ Law of Moses

2349-1491B.C

857 years

Abraham-Joseph

Gen. 12-Exodus 18

Period of Conquest

Law of Moses _____ King Saul
 1491-1095B.C. 396 years Moses-Joshua-Gideon-Samuel Ex. 19-1 Sam. 10

Period of Power

King Saul _____ Death of Solomon
 1095-975 B.C. 120 years Saul-David-Solomon 1 Sam. 10-1 Kings 11

Period of Decline

Death of Solomon _____ Babylonian Captivity
 975-587BC 388 years Elijah-Isaiah-Jeremiah 1Kgs.11-2 Chron.36

Period of Captivity and Restoration

Babylonian Captivity _____ End of Old Testament
 587-400 BC 187 years Daniel-Nehemiah-Ezekiel-Ezra----- Malachi

Period between the Testaments

End of Old Testament _____ Birth of Christ
 400BC-4AD 396 years

Periods of the Bible in Chronological Order [R. Deavers]

<u>Periods</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chief Character</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
Antediluvian	4004-2384	Adam	Gen. 1-5, 1Chron. 1-9
Postdiluvian	2384-1921	Noah	Gen. 6-11
Patriarchal	1921-1706	Abraham	Gen. 12-45, Job
Egyptian Bondage	1706-1491	Joseph	Gen.42-Exodus 11
Wandering	1491-1451	Moses	Ex.12- Deut.34
Conquest of Canaan	1451-1400	Joshua	Joshua
Judges	1400-1095	Samuel	Judges 1-1Sam. 8: Ruth

United Kingdom	1095-975	David	1Sam.9-1Kngs 11: 1Chr.10-2 Chr. 9, Psalms, Prov. Eccl. Song of Solomon
Divided Kingdom	975-722	Elijah Micah, Nahum	1 Kgs 12, 2 Kgs 20 Chron. 16-32, ISA. Hos. Joel, Amos J Jonah
Kingdom of Judah	722-587	Josiah	2 Kgs.21-25, 2 Chr. 33-36, Jer. Sam. Hab.
Babylonian Captivity	587-537	Daniel	2Kgs. 25, Dan.1-8, Obad.
Restoration of Jews	537-445	Ezra	Zech. Dan. 9-12, Esther, Mal. Ezra, Neh. Hag
Between the Testaments	445-4 ad	Judas	Josephus, Herodotus
Life of Christ	4-30	Christ	Matt, Mark, Luke, John,
Church of God	30-100	Paul	Acts- Revelation

1. What value is an outline of the bible?
2. Why did God create man?
3. What is the purpose of this study?
4. What is the theme of the Old Testament?
5. What purpose did the 400 year silence play in the scheme of salvation?
6. List the 3 different dispensations?
7. List the different kinds of scriptures?

Responsibilities and Rewards of a Good Teacher

Ephesians 4:11 NKJV 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and **teachers**, as we begin with this verse and examine the scriptures concerning those who would teach, pause for a moment, everyone who knows we are a Christian sees our example every day, so we are teaching in that manner. Shame on us if our friend, neighbors and family don't know that we belong to the family of God. It is God's plan to use a variety of people and positions within the church to carry out His will, including teachers, who are given special responsibility as we can see from Eph.4:11, Verse 12. For the perfecting of the saints.

For the work of the ministry.

For the edifying. For building it up; that is, in the knowledge of temple of God.

This arrangement had a designed purpose-- perfecting --preparing-edifying
GOAL-- unity--looking like Christ

Hebrews 5; 12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

James 3:1 NKJV 1 My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. What reasons can you think of that would have made James make such a statement? Is he trying to discourage some from being a teacher? He is getting at a *heart issue*; don't teach for selfish ambition, to be seen of men. [Matt. 23:5]

The responsibility of a bible [*in or out of the classroom*] teacher is fully emphasized when you consider what is to be taught:

- Dealing with the souls-----Matt 16:24-26---Matthew 16:25 NKJV 25
"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life for My sake will find it.**
- John 12:25 NKJV 25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who **hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**
- Brings men to Christ -----John 6:44-45
- Leads to spiritual growth-----1Pet. 2:1-2-what makes grow?
- Helps to prevent falling away-----Acts 20:32
- Which is able. Which has power. Gospel, has power to build you up. Heb. 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, [living, life-giving, zwn,] and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword," etc., and that it is adapted to the end in view, the conversion and sanctification of the soul. Comp. Ro 1:16; 1Co 1:18; 2Co 10:4.
- To build you up-- to establish, make firm, or permanent; and hence to instruct, to establish in doctrine, and in hope. The word of God was able to confirm and establish them in the hopes of the gospel, amidst the dangers to which they would be exposed.
- And to give you an inheritance. To make you heirs; or to make you joint partakers with the saints of the blessings in reserve for the children of God. Those blessings are often represented as an inheritance, or heirship, which God will confer on his adopted children, Mt 19:29; Mt 25:34; Mk. 10:17; Heb. 6:12; Re 21:7; Eph. 1:11; 5:5; Col 1:12; 3:24; Ro. 8:17; Ga 3:29.

The future of the Lord's church [*the strength of any local congregation is in the development of strong bible classes*] and the destiny of the world is in the hands of bible class teachers.

Qualifications of a bible class teacher

The master teacher is the best place to start looking for the traits needed to be a successful bible class teacher. Jesus knew his father [John 17:25] Paul's desire is to really know the Lord. [Phil. 3:10]Romans 8:17 NKJV 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

No one can be an effective teacher without intimate knowledge of God. The effective teacher must get to know their student, demonstrate love and concern for their welfare and their future. Jesus showed his concern for his students by giving them the words that God gave Him, [John 17:6] , Titus 2:1-8 Example of who we should be --teachers & students--- Jesus prayed for his students [John 17:9]. Paul warned his students with great encouragement [Acts 20:31] but also using gentleness on other occasions [1Thess 2:7-9] Every teacher should consider his students as those God has given him to train and direct in living a Christian life.

Jesus had one main purpose in teaching others, [Luke 19:10, John 18:37] to **seek and save the lost**, so we must follow His example. Paul, a great teacher was clear when he stated: Philippians 3:13 NKJV 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, making the application to teaching as slogan --**This one thing**--to mold and shape those I teach into useful, faithful servants of God.

A teacher must be willing to practice some amount of self-denial.

- Christ denied himself to come to this earth and teach us how to be reconciled to God. Phi. 2:6-7
- Paul tells us how we may learn to practice self-denial. Titus 2:11-14
 - Sometimes a teacher must deny themselves of certain activities in order to have time to prepare lessons.
 - Other self-denial will occur to engage the students.

The great teacher will seek methods to inspire students. An example of *inspiring* others, causing them to study because of desire to know more about God rather than I have to. An old description of bible study for too many people: (1) the cod-liver oil stage-hard to take but good for you: (2) the shredded wheat stage-dry but nourishing: (3) peaches & cream stage-sweet and enjoyable. (Teacher, 1966).

The teacher needs to know the students. No one can know every student completely, but the better you know them the better you can understand the strengths, weakness, likes & dislikes which can reaching a point of understanding.

Every teacher must be a living example. Acts 1:1 our example will ALWAYS state more than we will ever say. Our attitude toward God's word is very important- Psa. 119:97 Practice what you preach-1Tim 4:10-13

Every teacher must demonstrate a commitment to serving the Lord. Attendance is important, however participation in the even more important, *continue steadfast in the apostle's doctrine*-Acts 2:42, *cease not to teach and preach* Acts 5:42, Paul admonishes Timothy to give attention to reading, exhortations and teaching 1Tim 4:13asv, 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Peter 3:18 NKJV 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Every teacher must also demonstrate attention to their personality: Thoughtful, thorough, always true to the book, governing your tongue, your time, and your temperament.

The rewards of the teacher

The bible class teacher receives a great payday! In most endeavors there are visible rewards:

- Go to work and get a pay check
- Proper exercise results in gaining strength
- Go to college and get a degree

- School teachers determine progress by exams.

Many of the rewards for the Bible class teacher are invisible:

- One student may determine to be more committed to the Lord
- Another may decide to improve their conduct
- A husband or wife may resolve to make a better home
- Someone raises their aim for future service to God.
- The teacher always grows in knowledge

The effective bible class teacher will receive a visible payday:

- Being personally involved in helping someone obey the gospel is very rewarding.
- Helping them and other to remain faithful and to see their growth.
- The reward of heaven at the end of life is the ultimate goal.

Matt 19:29, 1Pet. 1:4-5

Questions

1. Compare Eph. 4:11, Heb. 5:12 and Jas. 3:1-What is the common thread?
2. Do you agree that the future of the Lord's church is in the hands of the bible class teacher? Why?
3. Why did Paul warn his students In Acts 20?
4. What is self-denial? Is it important to the Bible class teacher?

5. How can we inspire others?

6. What are the 3 stages of bible study?

7. Describe commitment?

8. List the rewards of the bible class teacher?