

## Teaching the Bible – Early to mid-teens

**Scriptural references – e.g. Matt 8 v 10-14, Mark 10 v 13 –16, Psalm 34, 2 Tim 3 v 14-17**

### **Introduction –**

**Preparing your own heart** – If you love Christ, you'll love the youngsters. Are you going on? Does your life show grace/joy? Your class will read you as well as the Bible. What do they see? Love, kindness, concern or...? (Think of those who have made an impression- why?)

**Prayer** - It's necessity. General or specific?

Commit the lesson and the youngsters. Nothing is achieved in our own strength or wisdom.

They cannot believe without the Holy Spirit. Do we pray for individuals? If not why not?

**This is a valuable work** – Are you discouraged/ as committed?

Remember the Scriptural injunctions. Be encouraged by past conversions etc. (incl. yourself?)

Share accounts, read of God's working in children's lives (e.g. *Children in Revival* –Sprange)

**1. Know your group-** Are they saved? Seeking? The reality is most are mixed and probably most are not converted. Danger of presuming saved and mistaking head knowledge for genuine work. Thus we must maintain an evangelistic Gospel element. Keep the Cross a central theme. Not promoting religious knowledge but Godliness.

Do you believe or expect these youngsters can be saved? God certainly can work.

Do we really desire this or are we focussing on covering Biblical and doctrinal information and 'testing' knowledge? Promoting experiential Christianity?

'Labour to arouse the conscience' – Spurgeon Spiritual Blessing P. 85

**2. Know your Bible study** – Are you really clear on what you're teaching, the passage etc?

Key Question is what does this tell us about God so we are not to get side -tracked by incidentals. You are giving a Bible *lesson* rather than a Bible story.

Spend a great deal of prayerful time in the Word before you turn to commentaries.

We are seeking to be engaging, challenging but not entertaining, nor offering our own wisdom  
1 Cor 1 v 17, 2 v 4.

There needs to be the right balance between direct instruction and dialogue. We are still required to teach not merely open up discussions. There are truths to be *learned* 2 Tim 3 v 14+  
For teens we can put before them more meat than younger ones depending on if they're truly Christian and background.

For the converted, teaching key Scriptural themes and doctrine is essential:

1. To avoid error
2. To make them useful and promote service
3. As a source of comfort and encouragement

**3. Know where you are going** – How do you plan what you will cover?

Does it reinforce teaching elsewhere e.g. Sunday sermons? Or stand alone?

Useful to map out what is to be covered over months /year to avoid gaps, repetition esp. for those who attend much, but don't be rigid.

How can we encourage thinking (as Lloyd-Jones desired)? Paul 'reasoned' & 'persuaded'.

We are able to encourage early teens to understand doctrinal terms e.g. propitiation which carry great truths but need to seek they are simplified if nec. and not merely an intellectual challenge.

**4. Varying approaches** – use permissible means (Spurgeon) Can be difficult area!

Illustrations, anecdotes, etc. Also themes/ books of Bible/ set study books etc

How useful are questions? From leader, from teens? Do we value qns or prefer to press on?

Our approach can encourage responses.

Valid questions from teens? e.g. genuine, reveal heart, helpful to group, don't divert, allow helpful answers.

Exploring answers – Be Biblical. Be honest. Be sensitive.

**5. Summing up** – conclusions

See privilege and responsibility. We may be laying seed. Psalm 127 v.1 Rom 10 v 14 – 16

Benefits to study leader in own spiritual walk.

As unto the Lord. Keep on keeping on.