

Workshop Guide with Note Taking Sheets
Focus on God's Word
David Apple, Presenter

Teaching Plan:

Prepare the room with chairs, one for each participant facing a focal wall.

Prepare the following materials:

- Worksheet, "Examples of Scriptures that are easy or challenging to teach"
- Notetaking sheet, "Tips for Teaching God's Word"
- Prepare homemade visuals to overview Tips for Teaching God's Word, or use PowerPoint presentation with AV equipment and screen.
- Large sheets of paper on the focal wall with marker pens, or marker board with dry erase markers and an eraser
- Nametags and markers for participants
- Provide quiet, background music as participants arrive (optional).

Introduce the opportunity to teach God's Word

1. Welcome participants and invite them to make a nametag using a Sharpie, visit with others as they arrive, and sit down. Play quiet music as participants arrive (optional).
2. Say, "We are given life-changing encounters to experience God through His Word. We discover that the Lord disciplines us no matter where in Scripture we investigate. We discover that the Lord gives us opportunities to study His Word and teach it to others. Let's acknowledge that some Scriptures seem much easier to teach than others."
3. Distribute worksheets ("Examples of Scriptures that are easy or challenging to teach"), one for each participant.

Ask, "What are examples of some Scriptures that you feel are easier to teach than others? And Why?" Ask, "What are some of the Scriptures you feel are hard to teach? And Why?" If we were to list several passages from which you would be given an opportunity to teach, which ones would you identify as easier to teach? Consider some of the following passages. Lead participants to briefly share responses.

Joshua 24:14-24

Matthew 4:1-11

2 Samuel 7:4-16

Mark 6:1-13

2 Chronicles 20:1-12

John 3:1-15

Psalms 25:1-11

Acts 4:19-31

Isaiah 29:13-19

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Daniel 6:19-27

Hebrews 9:11-22

STOP AND RESPOND

4. Read or summarize the following two paragraphs.

We are commissioned to follow Jesus. In order to follow Him, we must get to know Him, God's Word, His purpose for us, and the ways He seeks to disciple us and others through us. As we teach God's Word, we join Him at work.

God speaks through all of His Word. The Old Testament, among other things, compels us to identify how much we need a Savior, Guide, and Master. God has promised to redeem His prized creation. The New Testament lets us celebrate that God fulfilled His promises for the Savior, Guide, and Master by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus.

5. Lead in prayer.
6. Say, "Let's identify ways to teach God's Word by investigating steps to prepare, teach, and help people apply God's Word. Let's celebrate a specific Scripture that can help model for us ways to investigate, teach, and apply God's Word."
7. Use Luke 4:16-21 as an example for preparing and teaching God's Word.
 - A. Read Luke 4:16-21. Explain that this could be considered an easy passage to teach because it is an example of when Jesus was teaching. It could be considered a challenging passage to teach because it relates to Scripture, cultures, and promises that may not be familiar to some modern readers.
 - B. Say, "Imagine being in the room when Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-3 and declared He was fulfilling this remarkable Word. Imagine hearing Jesus identify who you are, who you and I are to minister to and teach, as well as strategies we are to follow which He modeled."
8. Investigate the context and content of Luke 4:16-21.
 - A. Lead participants to read Isaiah 61:1-3. Explain that this is the Scripture Jesus read and used to declare His – and our assignment. Lead the group to highlight significant words and phrases in the passage that help us investigate the context and the content of the passage.
 - B. Explain that this passage is about Jesus. Then state, "This passage also has your name on it: 'The Spirit of the LORD God is on me.' Ask, 'what implications does this have for you that God's Spirit is on you?'" **STOP AND RESPOND.**
 - C. Say, "The groups Jesus identified in this passage are among the ones He reached out to, ministered to, and taught. These are the same ones we are to reach out to and teach." Lead participants to identify the following individuals and groups that Jesus listed. Ask,

“In what ways are people in Alabama like one or more of these categories? Record these groups on a markerboard or large sheet of paper. (Use homemade visuals or POWERPOINT.)

- poor
- brokenhearted
- captives/prisoners
- Those who mourn.

Select one or two of these categories and start a list of ways people now fit in that category. For example, what are ways people who live around here are poor, or brokenhearted, etc.? **STOP AND RESPOND.**

Lead participants to list the actions Jesus said He would do and that we are to do based on this short passage. Record these responses on a marker board or large sheet of paper:

- Preach the gospel (good news)
- Heal (bind up)
- Proclaim liberty; Set at liberty
- Comfort

(Use homemade visuals or POWERPOINT).

Ask the following questions, and lead participants to discuss responses: “Based on this short list, what are some of the things the Spirit of God has commissioned us to do as we are disciplined by Him? What are some of the challenges and obstacles you face that you feel limit what God chooses to do with and through you? (Use homemade visuals or POWERPOINT); **STOP AND RESPOND.**

D. This passage represents what we get to do in teaching and in modeling discipleship in the groups we lead when we focus on God’s Word.

9. Distribute the notetaking sheet, “Tips for Teaching God’s Word.” Lead participants to fill in the blanks to list actions in order to prepare, teach and follow up using any given passage of Scripture.

A. Before the group gathers: **Prepare.**

1. Prepare as though **God has an appointment with you.**

- Read the selected Scripture.
- Investigate and overview the background (context) of the specific passage.
- Investigate the meaning and message (content) of the passage.
- Prayerfully ask God what He wants to say to and through you, as well as to and through persons who could be in the group you will lead.

2. Prepare as though God will put at least one person in the group experience who is a **divine appointment**.
3. Prepare and be **flexible**. Lead participants to list the following actions we can take to prepare and be flexible:
 - Examine the following statement: “As a teacher, we certainly need to prepare, but we also want to be flexible in following the ways the LORD will prompt and lead us and the group. The more you are prepared the more **flexible** you can be.”
 - Be confident that the Holy Spirit is the **only real teacher** of His Word, and He invites you to be dependent on His direction as you prepare and lead the group.

Ask, “What are some of the most important actions you can take to prepare to teach?”

STOP AND RESPOND

- B. During the Bible study session, lead learners to **participate**.
4. Have some kind of experience(s) that help them **remember** what is being taught.
5. Provide **resources and learning aids** for participants.
 - Make sure persons have a copy of God’s Word
 - Provide explanations (commentary) of the passage, and examples of questions they can consider.
 - Provide notetaking sheets or other visuals as appropriate.
6. Use a **variety** of Bible study experiences as you plan and lead the group.
 - Call attention that there are basic teaching approaches such as illustrated lectures, question and answer, and discussion.
 - Explain that there are also additional teaching approaches that lead participants to use their senses as they explore and consider the truth of Scripture.
 - Remember this important statement: “The worst way you can teach is the way you teach all the time.”

Ask, “What are some of the most significant challenges for you in teaching God’s Word? What are some of the most significant opportunities for you in teaching God’s Word?”

STOP AND RESPOND.

- C. After the Bible study session, lead participants to put the experience to **practice**.
7. Ask, “What must I do to **obey** what God has said through His Word?”
8. Intentionally pursue ways to answer this question: “**Who else needs** what we experienced by engaging in this Scripture?”

9. **Expect God to work** in your life and in the lives of others who intersect with the Body of faith.

Say, “there are so many opportunities as well as challenges in studying and teaching God’s Word. It’s part of the journey of being and making disciples. What are some significant takeaways for you from our experience together?” **STOP AND RESPOND.**

Lead in prayer for teachers and for those who we will teach. Dismiss.

Worksheet: "Examples of Scriptures that are easy or challenging to teach"

Review at least two Scriptures from the following list. Categorize which one(s) would you identify as easy to teach or hard to teach. Why did you choose these responses?

Joshua 24:14-24

Matthew 4:1-11

2 Samuel 7:4-16

Mark 6:1-13

2 Chronicles 20:1-12

John 3:1-15

Psalm 25:1-11

Acts 4:19-31

Isaiah 29:13-19

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Daniel 6:19-27

Hebrews 9:11-22

Notetaking Sheet: Tips for Teaching God's Word

List actions to take in order to prepare, teach and follow up using any given passage of Scripture.

A. Before the group gathers: _____

1. Prepare as though _____ has an appointment with you.
 - Read the selected Scripture.
 - Investigate and overview the background (context) of the specific passage.
 - Investigate the meaning and message (content) of the passage.
 - Prayerfully ask God what He wants to say to and through you, as well as to and through persons who could be in the group you will lead.
2. Prepare as though God will put at least one person in the group experience who is a _____.
3. Prepare and be _____. Lead participants to list the following actions we can take to prepare and be flexible:
 - Examine the following statement: "As a teacher, we certainly need to prepare, but we also want to be flexible in following ways the LORD will prompt and lead us and the group. The more you are prepared the more _____ you can be."
 - Be confident that the Holy Spirit is the _____ of His Word, and He invites you to be dependent on His direction as you prepare and leads the group.

B. During the Bible study session, lead learners to _____.

4. Have some kind of experience(s) that help them _____ what is being taught.
5. Provide _____ for participants.
 - Make sure persons have a copy of God's Word

- Provide explanations (commentary) of the passage, and examples of questions they can consider.
 - Provide notetaking sheets or other visuals as appropriate.
6. Use a _____ of Bible study experiences as you plan and lead the group.
- There are basic teaching approaches such as illustrated lectures, question and answer, and discussion.
 - There are also additional teaching approaches that lead participants to use their _____ as they explore and consider the truth of Scripture.
 - Remember this important statement: “The worst way you can teach is the way you teach all the time.”

C. After the Bible study session, lead persons to put the experience to _____.

7. Ask, “What must I do to _____ what God has said through His Word?”
8. Intentionally pursue ways to answer this question: “_____ what we experienced by engaging in this Scripture?”
9. _____ in your life and in the lives of persons who were intersected with the Body of faith.