

DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

WINTER 1992-93

National Department of Christian Education
and Foursquare Publications

Volume 17

One - Step - Further. . . Teaching Discipleship

"The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men (women) who will be ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO, 2 Tim. 2:2.

A seasoned Sunday school teacher of 42 years had developed an excellent pattern of going "one step further" in teaching and it was this: MAKE EVERY STUDENT A TEACHER! She prayed and worked with every student that came to her class. In some, there was not a whole lot to work with, nonetheless she was determined to make teachers out of her students. Her class went far beyond the reach of the four walls of the building. It knew no boundaries. From summer youth camps to snow parties, she loved to be with her kids. It was no wonder while visiting her recently she buttoned holed me with these penetrating words: "A church that does not develop teachers out of its students is a parasite on the Christian movement!" As salty as she was, she was right!

The teacher who loves teaching helps others love learning. The teacher brings them to the place that they become disciples and carry on the teaching process. This in essence captures the words of Jesus in the Great Commission. You see, teaching is not a ministry of unimportance, but a ministry of multiplication. "No human being is fully aware of the power resident in teaching and every time one teaches he launches a process which, ideally, will never end." (Teaching For Changed Lives, Gangel and Hendricks, 1989, p.8).

According to Howard Hendricks in "The 7 Laws of the Teacher," a teacher must know two things:

1. **CONTENT** - What they teach (inculcating principles)
2. **CONSTITUENTS** - Whom they teach (infected people)

But to take these two "known" steps a step further, a teacher must know their **COMMISSION**, why they teach (inciting perpetual teaching).

During my college days there was a funeral home near our apartment that had a slogan that was meant to be synonymous with their name — perpetual care. The only problem was the funeral home went out of business a few years later. God does not plan for us to go out of business. He is making perpetual disciples out of his people.

Are you going that one step further and seeking, through prayer, the "reliable men and women" who will also be qualified to teach others? There are potential teachers waiting to belong and become. They need a catalyst, an encourager, a teacher that will help shake and shape them into being the disciples that Father God intended them to become.

The following is the "Master Teaching Plan" that is tried and true. I trust it will be of help. If not pass it on.

An experienced (master) teacher is paired up with a prospective teacher (trainee) so they together can grow and improve their teaching abilities. Both are then allowed to progress at their level of comfort in a less threatening manner. The training is then specialized to each teacher's background, interest, and abilities.

YOU WATCH ME TEACH
YOU HELP ME TEACH
YOU TEACH AND I'LL HELP YOU
YOU TEACH AND I'LL WATCH YOU

One of the greatest privileges and experiences I had was when my Junior High School teacher began to work with me. By the way, she is the Sunday school teacher that had taught for 42 years. Her success rate with the help of the Holy Spirit was that an average of 8 out of 10 of her students became teachers.

Let us go one step further in helping make our students, Bears' club members, and congregation members a disciple teacher.

Rick

Rick Wulfestieg
National Minister of Christian
Education and Director of
Foursquare Publications



◊ ◊

EQUIPPING THE TEACHER IN DIVERSIFIED ROLES

In the role of a teacher, the Sunday school worker wears many different kinds of hats and plays numerous parts, each of which is interwoven to make them an effective worker.

The teacher is a:

PERSON - The teacher is an example in attitude and action. They manifest love toward all. The teacher is a "growing person." Their mental, social, physical and spiritual self must continually be maturing.

FRIEND - Students are looking for a friend as well as a teacher.

COUNSELOR - You may not possess "all the answers" but God does. Your students need a listener and a confidant.

STUDENT - When we cease to learn, we cease to teach. It is important for the teacher to be alert and conscious of current "happenings" in our vast changing world.

EDUCATOR - While the teacher needs to depend upon the Spirit, he must also use his abilities and keenness of mind, which are also gifts from God, to prepare himself for teaching.

SEEKER - The teacher will learn to know their pupils, attitudes, habits, influence and their friends.

EVANGELIST - Paul said that he would be "all things to all men, that he might by all means save some." (II Cor. 9:22) Teach to win. As a class evangelist the following actions will pave the way to leading a student to Christ.

Know your students, study them.

Use your Bible, make learning activities depend on the Bible.

Lesson preparation, pray that you may have God's wisdom.

Pray for every student by name.

Opportunities, take advantage of each one.

Believe God for the salvation of each student.

Teaching for Life Change

The Teacher As Guide by Joseph Cookston

The sun blazed hotly and the tall marsh grass swished about the legs and shoulders of the junior camp counselor and his eight 4th grade boys. The indistinct trail faded time and again around the spongy clumps of sodded grass roots.

The campers had listened diligently to hiking instructions and were trying, for the most part, to stay on the trail and to keep their feet dry. As the grass grew thicker and the marsh became wetter several began to complain about the impossibility of avoiding the muck.

In the midst of the jabbering and complaining one camper, immediately behind the camp counselor, offered his solution to the present dilemma, "I don't have to worry about getting my feet wet, I just put my feet in the footsteps of Brother Joe!"

"I just put my feet in the footsteps of Brother Joe!" That's it. Students have an expectation of being able to follow their teacher. Teachers are leaders. Teachers are guides. Teachers are persons who walk their talk. By our actions, even in unguarded moments, we point our students to the way of life.

Let us look at what it means as a teacher to be a guide.

GUIDE

The references to teaching, training, and instructing are plentiful in both the Old and New Testaments. Though these words refer to the same general idea, they contain some deeper meanings.

For instance, one of the uses of the word teach in the old Testament has the meaning of dedicate or induct.

This meaning is used in Proverbs 22:6 verse: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The idea of this training or teaching is to consecrate a thing—a child—to its intended purpose. This consecration consists especially in the initiation of the child into the story of God and his people: It places them personally in the story so that the story becomes their story.

Another usage of the word instruction comes with the expression of the Torah. Though the term usually associates with the Law of the Old Testament, the concept of Torah encompasses more than written commands. The Torah of God is understood as God's instruction in His way. Torah is direction, guidance, and information. In Israel's religious life teachers of the Torah served God by giving life-shaping pointers.

In the New Testament Gospels, Jesus is referred to again and again as the Teacher. Both in the manner of his public performances and in the subjects He discussed, Jesus clearly resembled the teachers of Israel. One characteristic of His teaching, though, set Him apart from his contemporaries: He taught with a new kind of authority. It was clear that there was a difference—the multitudes were astonished at this doctrine, "for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes" (Matt. 7:28-29). Jesus was one who not only unfolded old truths but opened new perspectives, revealing God and authenticating His doctrine by healing the sick and saving sinners. A new doctrine with authority!

The teaching of the New Testament church was seen in light of making persons disciples of Jesus Christ. For point of reference, consider the Great Commission: "Make disciples, . . . baptizing, . . . teaching" (Matt. 28:20). The mandate given to the apostles discloses the nature of the teaching of the church in its connection with and distinction from the teaching of Jesus Christ. The teaching of the church does not replace the teachings of Jesus, nor does the teacher in the church replace the Teacher. Jesus Christ remains the teacher: the church and its teachers can only lead people into the discipleship of the Teacher.

The disciples of old and the church of today are the representation of the people of God who have been called out of every generation, and nation, to be the community of God. Our mandate is "Call all persons into what you

yourselves are!" The Twelve must be multiplied over and over again.

APPLICATION

Put all these biblical meanings of teacher and teaching together and what do you have that sheds light on the tasks of today's church teacher?

A church teacher invites a person into discipleship of Christ: a discipleship of action. It is important to understand that Christ did not command his followers to know, but to observe all that He had commanded.

A church teacher invites persons to a way of life, a way that is directed toward the totality of life and all its aspects. The church's teaching includes, yet surpasses content and doctrine knowledge and seeks that which is an aid to faith and an aid to living.

A church teacher guides persons into discipleship of Christ, a task which calls for a teacher to live out "the way" and an exemplary life, not just in what they say but also in what they do.

Let us consider ways we sharpen our skills as persons who guide:

1. Nurture the life of devotion and discipleship. Vitalize personal discipleship of Christ through reading, journaling, meditation, prayer, solitude.
2. Make every effort to allow the content of the teaching session to come alive in us. We are a primary channel through which the Spirit brings session content to life in our students.
3. Avoid packing a session too full of content or activity. Life generating guidance needs space for persons to think and process.
4. Increase our listening skills. An effective tour guide needs to know where his followers are on life's map and the condition of their vehicle.

A teacher is a guide who assists persons in avoiding some of the muck of life as together they follow the path of discipleship of Jesus Christ.

This article was written for Christian Leadership Magazine. Joseph Cookston is with the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana. Used by permission.

Why Train the VOLUNTEERS?

Search Institute surveyed 1,500 children's ministry volunteers in more than 500 congregations as part of its national study "EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: A NATIONAL STUDY OF PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONS." The study found the following:

- only 42% of churches offer an in-service training more than once a year.
- 3% offer any kind of training or meeting five or more times a year.
- 38% of teachers know and understand the Bible.
- Only 39% of teachers know how religious faith forms and develops.
- Even fewer (30%) know about different learning styles.
- Only three out of 10 know and understand their denomination's theology and tradition.
- And one out of four (27%) know educational theory and practice.

It was also discovered that only 32% of children's volunteers express a mature faith characterized by a life transforming relationship with God and a consistent devotion to serving others

Thus a majority of children's volunteers are at risk of burning out early because they don't have the spiritual resources to keep them going. Furthermore, most churches don't provide any regular opportunities for volunteers to nourish their faith.

What can be done

- ✓ Have volunteers gather monthly or quarterly to plan and prepare. This approach not only creates team unity and direction.
- ✓ Form teams of two or three volunteers to team teach or rotate. Thus allowing teachers to take breaks and participate in adult education.
- ✓ Offer special Bible studies for volunteers as a way of nurturing their own faith.
- ✓ Provide resources or skills training for personal growth for volunteers to use at home.
- ✓ Plan to use recommended resources edited by the National Christian Education Office for teachers training (see enclosed sheet "Training the Trainer").
- ✓ Participate in local or regional Sunday school or Christian education training conferences or conventions offered by District or Division or Sunday School Associations.

The fact is that something must be done to address the volunteers' need for growth.

When to train

The question is often asked, "When is the best time to train my teachers?" There are no special times, training can fit into your schedule anytime.

If the teacher is to be effective there must be adequate training and equipping! YET, IT IS ONE OF THE most difficult agencies to pull together. Here are a few suggestions:

- In depth study for one week (preferably during the winter months, e.g. January)
- Two day retreats (away from church facilities. Topic to be chosen based on current need).
- One-day retreat (one in Fall and the other in Spring).
- Well planned, one-hour monthly training sessions and/or teacher meetings.
- Elective class during the Sunday school hour (for potential teachers).
- Individual job training.

It's not WHEN it happens that is important, but "making it happen" that is essential.

How to train:

Make sure you invest time in showing the new teacher what you expect them to do! Then give them time to grow in their job, gradually reducing your involvement as they "learn the ropes." Nothing is more frustrating than being "thrown to the lions" before you are ready, or feeling that every move is being watched after you have exhibited knowledge and competence in a particular function.

Recognition

There is a old management adage "Praise in public and correct in private." Be sure to take every opportunity to compliment each worker on a job well done. Remember rewards such as Teacher of the Month and Teacher Appreciation dinner. These should be at the top of the list:

Growth and Involvement

Allow a person to rise to their potential. As each one grows in their responsibilities they become more involved in the growth of the ministry. They are able to help plan, promote, and participate in various activities.

Feeling "in on things" or "part of something" ranks high with a volunteer. Remember as the trainer and equipper, it is your responsibility to cultivate a happy productive teacher or worker — a team. To this add the tremendous fulfillment in being used of God to touch lives.

Psalm 78:2-5

"I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done."

TRAINING RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Foursquare Publications offers some of the finest resources for teacher training and orientation. Here are a few suggestions:

YOU CAN DO IT! An easy to use video featuring leaders in Christian Education that demonstrate the effective use of biblical teaching principles and child development skills.

TEACHING IN A FOURSQUARE SUNDAY SCHOOL - This book part of the APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FOURSQUARE CHURCHES, is prepared for the novice and experienced teacher alike.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES - How to communicate biblical truths and apply them to life situations. The text outlines the "know-how" of lesson preparation and spiritually dynamic presentation.

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE - Gives insight into your student's personalities, experiences, interests and needs. A excellent study for Christian teachers' and parents.

WE BELIEVE - Thirteen lessons taken from the Declaration of Faith. Recommended for pre-membership and indoctrination study. Comes in teacher's book from with separate student handout masters ready to be reproduced.

SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER VIDEO TRAINING SERIES by Dr. Howard Hendricks - is an excellent training series for purchase or rent. The cost is \$7.00 per video rental with a series of seven tapes.

Check your FOURSQUARE PUBLICATIONS catalog, pages 3, 4, 9 - 11 for ordering information.

AWESOME TEACHER . . . AWESOME CLASS

An awesome teacher is an awesome leader because they realize and apply their God-given qualifications. A teacher is a guide! The following are seven facts that makes for awesome teaching:

TEACH THE BIBLE - John 5:39; 8:32. Teach Jesus and search the scriptures.

SHOW THEM GOD'S LOVE - John 15:9. Don't minimize your effectiveness by your own sense of insufficiency.

PRAY FOR THEIR SOULS - John 17:21; John 3:16; John 12:46. Pray that they would be children of light rather than of darkness.

LEAD THEM TO CHRIST - John 17:21. Precious is a decision, don't take for granted the salvation of a child. But use no manipulation or arm twisting.

BEGET SPIRITUAL HUNGER - John 7:38. Be hungry for the deep things of God.

TOUCH THEM WITH POWER - John 14:12. Signs and wonders. You cannot escape God's working a miracle in your life. "The works I do shall ye also do."

CULTIVATE KINGDOM PEOPLE - John 15:16. They are chosen for God's great work of grace.

You will have a awesome class when you realize your calling is awesome and the one to equip you for the teaching ministry is awesome!

Pastor Jack Hayford

Notes from a Southern California Christian Education Conference

Get Out of Your Rut, Teacher

One definition of RUT is: becoming monotonous and boring in the thing one does. There is no excuse for ruts in Sunday school — let the children have a new experience each week! Here are some suggestions to help you develop more variety in the classroom.

Instead of sitting in chairs, sit on the floor.

Take the children outside under a tree for the lesson.

The back of a pick-up truck would be different.

Switch teachers one week.

Dress as a Bible character for a little excitement.

Try using homemade attendance charts. They can be made from any number of household items. Use wrapped candy or gum instead of stars.

Turn the lights off and tell the story by candlelight.

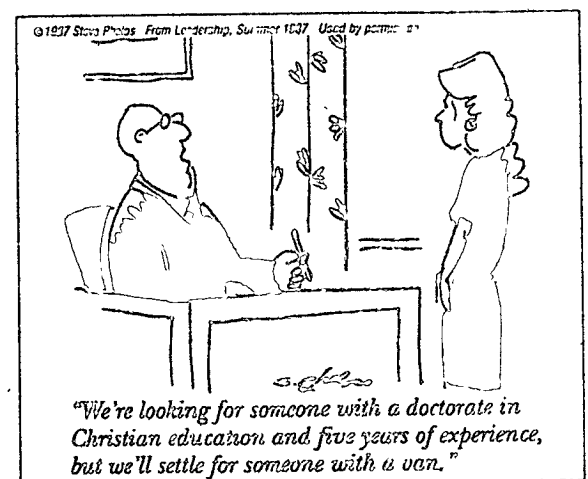
Practice a song or skit to show to the adult Bible class.

Have a special "Parent's Month." Invite a different set of parents to observe the class every week. Let them be in charge of reading a story to the class.

Involve the children in each lesson you present. For example: let the children experiment to see if they can walk on water, anoint their feet with perfume or blindfold them so they can know what it is like to be blind.

Meet with your class once a month or so outside of the Sunday or Wednesday period. Have a Bible party or go on a field trip together.

Condensed from *Christian Bible Teacher*



Tips For Parents

TEN STEPS TO HELP YOUR TEEN SAY "NO"

The theme of this Directions is discipleship, and parents are the primary influence in a child's life. The following is a quick list of actions you can take to help your children avoid alcohol and drug use. We also feel the tips were biblically-based principles for parents to follow in the discipleship of their children. (Provided by Pine Grove Hospital)

- 1. Talk To Your Children About Alcohol And Drugs.**
Make sure your children understand the dangers and problems of alcohol use in their teen years. Share information about alcohol with your children and explain it.
- 2. Learn To Really Listen To Your Children.**
Just talking to your child is half the job. Knowing how and when to listen can keep the lines of communication open.
- 3. Help Your Children Feel Good About Themselves.**
Pre-teens and adolescents are often unsure of themselves. Knowing that their parents have confidence in them and believe their self-worth means a lot.
- 4. Help Your Teen Develop Strong Values.**
A strong value system and a sense of right and wrong can give children the courage to make decisions based on facts, rather than peer pressure.
- 5. Be A Good Role Model Or Example.**
Kids are very aware of your attitudes and habits concerning alcohol and other drugs. Your teen will follow your example, so you may want to examine your own consumption.
- 6. Help Your Teen Deal With Peer Pressure.**
Teens may need help in developing skills to enable them to resist group peer pressure. Communicate openly about these needs.
- 7. Set Firm Rules About Drinking And Other Drug Use.**
Make your family rules clear and consistent. Tell your children they are not allowed to drink, smoke, use other drugs, or anything else you object to. Be sure they also thoroughly understand the consequences of breaking these rules, and be consistent in your enforcement.
- 8. Encourage Healthy, Creative Activities.**
Make sure your teens have enough structure in their lives. Create activities for them or encourage them to take part in sports, school programs, or hobbies -- anything that they can have fun with. Even better, join them in having fun.
- 9. Talk With Other Parents.**
They're all going through the same thing you are. It can help to network with other neighborhood parents and community groups. If your teen is going to a party or get-together with friends, make sure there is a chaperone and there is no alcohol or other drugs.
- 10. Know What To Do If You Suspect A Problem.**
Parents can learn to recognize the signs of alcohol use and can get help, when needed, from a mental health professional.

Good News Bears Update!

May 1992 marked the beginning of the fourth year of the Good News Bears Clubs. It is estimated that over 600 active clubs are in existence today with over 25,000 children in 19 countries.

NEW Recommended Resources

(To order see pp. 11 & 12 of Foursquare Publications Catalog)

- ✓ The Life and Lessons of Jesus — Creative Bible-learning activities for children ages 6-12. Perfect as a supplement to Good News Bears' meetings. Permission to photocopy for church use.
- ✓ 5-Minute Messages For Children — 52 children's lessons for any occasion.
- ✓ Super Meetings For Kids Grades 4-6 — Twelve easy-to-use lessons on: anger, parents, compassion, initiative, appearance, emotions, etc. With reproducible sheets.
- ✓ Incredible Meetings For Kids Grades 4-6 — Twelve easy-to-use lessons on: enthusiasm, competition, self-image, patience, thankfulness, etc. With reproducible sheets.
- ✓ Terrific Meetings For Kids Grades 4-6 — Twelve easy-to-use lessons on: the occult, racism, stepfamilies, Christian thinking, salvation, etc. With reproducible sheets.

NEW Accessories

New kazoo. Make joyful noises with a red plastic kazoo. "Good News Bears" white imprint. \$.99

New quartz digital watch with time and date. Black strap with red "Good News Bears" face. \$5.95



New surfer style T-shirts. Light ash gray crew-neck made of 50-50 blend with the Good News Bears Serving Jesus logo on the upper left front in a new florescent red. Child sizes cost \$6.50, adult sizes cost \$7.75.



Vision, Prayer and Hard Work:

Vacation Bible School (VBS) In The "Inner-City"

Seeing is believing! In the midst of burned-out, graffiti-tagged buildings and violent crimes is the Willowbrook Foursquare Church. This last August over 200 children and youth attended Vacation Bible School. The rooms were packed out so they put up poles with a tarp covering. Even then, many of the children had to stand in doorways or sit on the floors. Also, the weather was HOT! In spite of all these factors the sovereign peace and working of the Holy Spirit was there. God brought together children and youth of many races and from troubled homes to know HIM.

Through that week Pastor Flores, his wife Lydia, and their volunteer staff led 175 in first time decisions for Jesus Christ. That is a great miracle!

There were some principles they followed to make this VBS successful. They have had a summer VBS program for years. They served a simple meal of a hot dog and soda each day. Some of their volunteers got up early in the morning each day to pray for the children. Other volunteers walked up and down the streets near the

church to pray for the salvation and physical protection of the children in the neighborhood. Their volunteers are very dedicated and truly care about the spiritual lives of those children.

Pastor writes "We look forward to a greater 1993 Summer Vacation Bible School when again many needy children of this community WILL respond to God's word which is the real food for families and souls to be saved."

DIRECTIONS FOR FOURSQUARE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS is a resource published quarterly by the National Department of Christian Education in Los Angeles, California. You may receive bundle (5 or more) copies of the newsletter to distribute in your church for a small charge to cover shipping costs.

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter we would appreciate hearing from you.

NATIONAL DEPT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1910 West Sunset Blvd, #200
Los Angeles, CA 90026
213/484-0105