
TEACHING BASICS

1 PETER 3:15

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:2

“But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God”

We must study scripture carefully to fully understand what it has to say or we risk tampering with God’s Word. This why we are providing some tips here to help your intentional study of scripture.

STUDYING SCRIPTURE

Whether you are preparing for a lesson or preparing to respond to a tough question a student asked you, the process is the same. You start by praying. Next you find the scripture that addresses the topic, however you must be mindful to not ever force scripture to say what you want it to say!!!

Context

Understand the context of the scripture you are studying. Who is the author? Why did he write this book? Who was this book written to and for what purpose? How does this scripture fit into this context?

Original Language

Look to see if the scripture has any words that have a special or significant meaning in its original language. The best way to do this is to go to <http://biblehub.com> and after finding the scripture, click on “Lexicon” in the menu bar. This will break the scripture down into its original language and give you the specific definition for each word or section of words.

Lesson and Application

What is the main point or the lesson? How does this apply to you? How would this apply to your student(s)? What is an example of this in the context of today’s culture? Biblehub.com has many different commentaries that can help you answer these questions. If you need help with this website, ask your youth director for a tutorial!

SAMPLE OUTLINE

Prayer (*at some point during message, before or after*)

Introduction(Ice-breaker)

Scripture -- What does this scripture mean?

Application -- How does this apply to me? What do I do with it?

Closing

Small Group Questions



FILLING IN THE OUTLINE

Message Title

Prayer: I personally believe that it is crucial to pray at some point near the beginning of your message. Either at the very beginning, or here are great times to pray.

Example: Let's pray to get things started...(Pray)...Okay, so back to the scripture... let's dig into it!

Introduction: This is an opportunity to warm up the audience. You might want to use a video, a story or an image to capture the attention of the audience and focus them on the topic of your message. As you move from your introduction to Scripture, it can be a huge help to actually write out a "transition sentence," that you can refer to in order to help you move into your next section with ease.

Example of a "transition sentence": *Today we'll be breaking down some scripture and seeing what in the world this (story, visual, or video) has to do with God, and what he's desiring to teach us...*

Scripture: Scripture should always be incorporated into your message, but simply reading through a scripture may only go so far. It's important to highlight a word, phrase, or point that you are wanting to focus on. You can do this by actually bolding or highlighting the word, or phrase up on screen. And, you might want to bold or highlight the word, or phrase in your own personal teaching notes as well.

Example: 1 John 5:12- Whoever has the Son has **life**; **whoever does not** have the Son of God **does not have life**.

What does this scripture mean? Give some background to the scripture. Who's saying it, why are they saying it, are there any cultural implications we should know about, what is the person hoping to communicate?

Application:

How's this apply to me? – This is where you want to take the information you just introduced about the scripture and make it meaningful for our lives today. What is this scripture saying to us?

What do I do with it? - Then, you will want to help the audience with their next step. If this is what the scripture is saying, what do I do with that? What's the take-away? What's my next step?

**You will notice that it can be helpful to ask yourself all of these questions and then craft how you will address those questions with your audience.*



Closing: This is a time for you to reiterate the main point of the message and wrap things up so that your audience can take it with them as they go.

Example: In order to have true LIFE, we have to be IN RELATIONSHIP with the Lord. Are we consistently focused on our relationship? If life feels empty, it's most likely because you aren't IN relationship. As we reflect, there will be an opportunity for you to respond. Do you want to be IN RELATIONSHIP with the Lord? Let's close in prayer! (response time.)

Small Groups: The final step in creating a message is to set up the small group leaders with at least three questions that allow the students to demonstrate their understanding and explore your lesson deeper. Be sure to avoid any yes/no answers!

Disclaimer: when teaching youth there are bound to be times when you will have to adapt your message based on time, group size, or audience. While the outline is meant to serve as a guideline, it is not meant to be rigidly followed. Think of it as a foundation that ensures you are communicating effectively and intentionally, but gives you the freedom to build on top of that foundation and adapt as needed.





DISCUSSION

How do you think you can ensure that you do not twist scripture to say something it doesn't actually say?

What do you learn most from when someone else teaches? Videos, stories, visuals, hands on?

How do you best explain something to someone else? Telling stories? Drawing pictures or diagrams? Talk as they are doing it themselves? Something else?

What do you think your style of teaching is?

Using the example closing from the sample lesson above, develop three questions you believe would check for a student's understanding of that lesson. (remember to avoid questions that can be answered with a yes or no!)

