

# **The Bible Study Teacher's Guide**

## **KEY QUOTES FROM EACH CHAPTER**

### **ONE**

If we are teaching the Bible without having been called by God to do so, we may be able to communicate facts and truths, but passion and power will be the missing ingredients.

If God is calling, don't miss it!

Calling may not happen in one burst of revelation.

Desire often translates into gifting.

If we obey the calling even when it doesn't sound too appealing, God will provide the desire and eagerness to do what he wants us to do.

When one who is called teaches God's Word, it is released in power and lives are changed

Our roles and specific responsibilities may change as we adjust to the ongoing and evolving calling of God upon our lives.

### **TWO**

My spiritual life and my teaching life are not separate worlds.

It it's not real to me, no one will care what I have to say.

I am not in teaching for the power; instead, teaching is my offering.

He does not expect perfection from me, but he does expect that I will care enough about my relationship to him that, when I do sin, I will want to come clean.

If you have taught for any length of time, I suspect you have thought about quitting at least once (or maybe once a week!).

It is more important to God that we be sensitive to the leading, teaching, and empowering of the Holy Spirit than it is that we be eloquent or scholarly or funny or popular.

I invite you join me in the practice of saying "OK, God" many times each day.

### THREE

As I learn what drives them to action and what keeps them awake at night, I am more able to teach to their hearts and not just to their heads.

Most of the time, it seems that the Spirit wants me to teach others what he has been teaching me in my own spiritual journey.

I read in gulps, gathering concepts and drinking in viewpoints of other experts on the subject.

If my class is going to remember only one thing from what they hear me say, what do I want it to be?

Our students are listening, not reading. They are hearing, not seeing. Therefore, we must keep our message tightly focused from beginning to end.

By making emotional contact after laying the intellectual groundwork, we are positioning our students to leave our classroom ready for action.

### FOUR

We do not necessarily have to be beautiful or handsome, but we do need to present ourselves well to those who are looking to us as examples of what God can do in the life of his followers.

Your voice will be better, your capacity to stand and move better, and your appearance more appealing if you exercise regularly.

Because my students are coming from busy, distracting lives, I realize that the first thing I have to do is capture their attention away from those distractions and to the topic at hand.

A little extra emphasis may seem theatrical to us, but it will most likely convey sincerity and interest to our listeners.

If our students walk away muddled or over-stimulated with new ideas, their intellects will be tickled, but their lives may not be changed.

One of the best ways to have emotional impact on our students is through stories.

Have something to say, say what you mean, and care if they listen

## FIVE

When we teach successfully, we are helping others to think bigger, more creative, and more profound thoughts; and we are helping them to become more Christ-like in their attitudes, their understanding, and their actions.

When someone listens to teaching or wisdom that you have gleaned from Scripture and applies it effectively in their lives, you know that you are connecting.

God's approval is our highest reward as teachers, but watching lives transform comes a close second.

God's method is always incarnational. He loves to take his truth and wrap it in a person.

We must never underestimate the power of one contact, one word, one touch, or one conversation in the life of a student.

Knowing they will have an opportunity to respond encourages them to be mentally engaged during the lecture phase of our presentation.

Talking without connecting is not teaching.

## SIX

In a healthy, well run discussion format, both teachers and students become learners.

We have to be always prepared to field questions, respond to new directions in thinking, and encourage open minds and hearts.

One of the most important roles of a good discussion leader is active listening.

We must make sure all are welcome to participate, all are given opportunity to enter into discussion without being drowned out by others, and all participants are treated with respect.

We have to practice the fine art of mind reading, too, but for us it will always be an inexact science!

As leaders, we are the ones to monitor the flow of ideas and to direct them to the desired ends.

Carefully crafted and guided discussions by teachers who think deeply and engage creatively will encourage such involvement by students

## SEVEN

Sometimes it takes a one-on-one relationship to bring out in any of us the best of our God-given talents.

Sometimes it is influencing only one life that will, in God's eyes, make our years of study and prayer worthwhile eternally.

By the time someone is humble enough to ask for help, he is desperate enough to respond to the teaching.

We must guard against having all the answers to questions our mentee is not asking.

I simply had to tell her what worked for me, help her to assess her own situation, and guide her into truth as I understood it from God's Word.

When we prayed together, we bonded to each other and to God and we committed our ways to him for direction and help. He never let us down!

If our teaching does not work on a one-on-one level, it does not work at all

## EIGHT

As teachers, we are put in places of honor, we are considered authorities, and we are particularly prone to a bit of prideful arrogance

If we, in our humanness, have made a mistake in interpretation or presentation, then we must acknowledge our fault and correct it.

If my behavior in the public arena is not consistent with my teaching in the classroom, my credibility is lost.

We must resist the temptation to be so immersed in our study and our teaching that we do not become fully developed persons.

When we choose to accept God's invitation to teach his Word to his children, we enter a very emotional world.

We don't look for conflict, but we must show courage when God sends us to the front lines.

The evil one does not want the Word of God to be taught. He often thinks that if he can disable the teacher, he will disable the message.

## NINE

You and I can teach with all our might, but we will never accomplish anything of benefit in the Kingdom of God until we allow the Spirit to control and empower us.

We know instinctively that parabolic truth surrounds us. We just have to be aware of situations that occur in our lives and how those experiences can be turned into illustrations of spiritual truths as we teach others.

Reading helps us make sense of things, helps us to appreciate language, truth.

Feel free to borrow freely from other authors, teachers, pastors, and even radio speakers, but always, always, *always* give credit.

In reality, the best way to learn to speak is by speaking, but in order to make sure that we are not just practicing (and getting good at) really bad speaking habits, it is wise to submit ourselves to some more formal speech training

The Bible is still our best and primary resource. The rest are just points of light to help us understand it better.

## TEN

We can know the Bible inside out and backwards, but if we don't know God, we are teaching facts and stories and our teaching is not going to change lives.

We should challenge and sharpen our thinking by reading some authors with whom we disagree.

Those of us who love to learn need also to learn to love.

It is as if we have an awesome secret and we are letting them in on it.

The best teachers see themselves as facilitators, those who present ideas for intellectual and spiritual processing by the students.

When I am preparing, I try to keep up my research and study until I find something in the lesson that excites me, that challenges me, and that changes me.

Teaching is a privilege that comes with many rewards.