

# Training For Service Education

*As we seek to increase and improve our abilities to serve GOD, learning is one of the critical steps of our journey. The following is information from multiple sources that I have learned from mentors in my life's journey. I pray that this will be of benefit to you in your journey.*

Jeff.

- If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.
- Nobody has arrived. If you think you have arrived, then you really have not arrived.
- The constant question to be asked must be, "How can I improve?"
- As long as you live, you learn, and as long as you learn, you live.

**Luke 6:40** says, "...everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher" If you want to minister through teaching others, then **FIRST** ask God to minister to you. He desires to sharpen and clean the instrument, so it becomes a more effective tool in His hands. Remember that God has chosen to work through **US**. We are the teachers.

## Who are Teachers.

I had a recent conversation with a local high school principal, and he told me about what he was looking for in prospective teachers. He was looking for people who were not just academically qualified but also possessed life skills qualities. I find it interesting that it takes at least 4 years of education plus several years of **apprentice experience** are needed to teach in the public school, but all that is required of a teacher in the church is a willing heart ????

Dr. H. Hendricks a well-known theological professor, stated *"To teach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ, anything is good enough – and that is why it too often degenerates into a ministry of mediocrity."*

To prevent this descent into mediocrity, perhaps we should avoid the following methods of recruiting teachers:

1. Public Announcements pleading for people to step forward,
2. Arm-twisting and offering unrealistic promises,
3. Last minute appointments – put someone on the spot, just for now and then leave him/her there with a sense of guilt if he/she leaves.

Education Ministry needs **FAT** people.

**F** = Faithful;

**A** = Available;

**T** = Teachable.

Most adults must overcome one major hurdle in order to commit themselves to teach. **Low self-confidence**... They will need to take steps to build their confidence so that they can find the hidden skills they possess. These steps include team teaching, reading teaching/mentoring books, appropriate planning and preparation.

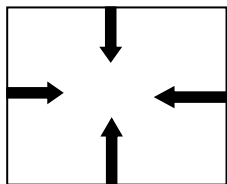
## WORTHY GOALS FOR THE BIBLE CLASS TEACHER

### 1. Bringing Change in the Life of the Student

Challenge your students by asking, “How have you changed lately.... in the last week, or in the last month, in the last year?”

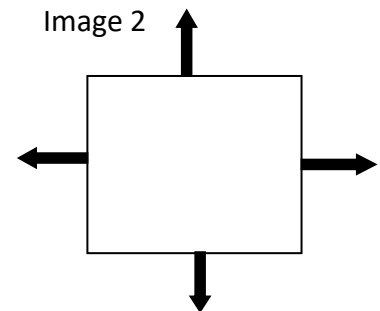
Be candid when asking the question, “When you are growing, HOW?”

Image 1



The arrows represent your life – your questions AND BARRIERS, interests and mental energies. Image 1 represents those who are dying. Image 2 Represents those who are developing.

Image 2



If you believe you are too old to teach then you are spiritually dead or dying, because you have stopped growing. Unless you continue to grow you will slowly die spiritually and mentally. As Christians we are teaching people, and we are teaching truth (**2 Tim.2:2**). Some of the most exciting and interesting people you will ever meet are older people who have decided **not** to stop learning. Look at the example of the Apostle Pau in **Phil. 3:13-14**. Near the end of his life, when most are looking for rocking chairs, he made these observations,

- You learn from the past, but you do not live in it.
- Properly relate to the future - here are your goals and hope.
- Live in the present with definitive action “I press on...”
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### 2. Understanding the Bigger Picture of Growth

New converts are exciting because they have not yet been influenced by the older members and still want to try and put into practice what they are learning. Growing is something we all need to be involved in, even Jesus grew. **Luke 2:52** Jesus grew in at least 4 areas:

1. “in wisdom” – intellectual development
2. “in stature” – physical development
3. “in favor with God” – spiritual development
4. “in favor with men” – social and emotional development.

Many have not stopped to consider how they are doing in the four areas that Jesus grew in. Please understand that we are talking about a very individual process, and we cannot cookie cut a system for all. Do not spend time comparing yourself to anyone else. **YOU ARE YOU.** Rather than wasting time making comparisons, ask God, **“LORD HOW AM I DOING?”** and be prepared to be honest with yourself.

### 3. Intellectual Growth and Development

1. **Maintain a consistent reading and study program.** Understand that leaders are readers and readers are leaders.
2. **Enroll in continuing education courses.** Choose courses that will improve not only your content, but also your skill level. Today there are many great opportunities, especially with UTM and other colleges on our doorstep, but the most important course is your own personal Bible study program. I’ve never found anyone with significant spiritual maturity who does not have a strong intake of God’s Word. When the Word of God is in the heart of those involved in a teaching ministry, no one can predict the full impact it will have 2 **Tim. 2:2**
3. **Get to Know your Students.** – Become an authority on the needs and characteristics of their age group, but go beyond that, by getting to know your students on an individual basis. Find out as much as you possibly can about them. Realize students learn and behave in different ways. Use their individual attributes to engage them to learn.

### 4. Your Physical Condition

As Children of God we talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit. If then this temple (our body) is the dwelling place of God (The Holy Spirit), how ought we take care of it? Take some time to get personal – not looking for perfection.

- a. Is your money under control? Over 80% of Christians owe more than their worth. (2001).
- b. What controls your life? Whenever it comes to material possessions, everything is either an idol or a tool.
- c. How do you use your time? Do you have control of it? If you do not control it, someone/something else will.
- d. If you are married is your sex life in order? This can greatly influence attitude toward daily events.
- e. How does Christianity relate to your thinking? Purity breeds purity and Garbage breeds garbage.
- f. Your daily consumption of food and drink impacts your life of your students.
- g. Exercise stimulates physical and mental health. No time? Hmmm! Consider a change of pace to bring a balanced lifestyle into existence.

## 5. Your Social Life

Who are your friends. I know Christians enjoy associating with fellow Christians. BUT how do you meet people to share your faith with???? There is a time and place to extend your comfort zone. Try being a regular person for a while.

*How do you define a friend? Here is one test I found useful*

- Knows everything about you, yet totally accepts you.
- Will listen to your most critical ideas without rejecting you.
- Know how to criticize you in a way that you will listen.

### HOW ARE YOU DOING?

The good teacher's greatest threat is satisfaction – the failure to keep asking the question “How can I improve?” Do not ever hesitate to ask the question “How am I doing in light of what someone is asking me to do?” and expect an honest reply.

All evaluation, including self-evaluation, should be built around THREE penetrating questions.

1. What are my **Strengths?**
2. What are my **Weaknesses?**
3. What do I need to **Change?**

As we have opportunity to teach people, the screaming need is for our students to see men and women who

- know the living Word of God,
- constantly study the Word of God.
- allow the Word of God to grip them so they grow to hate what God hates and to **LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES.**