

Sometimes people will ask me how to set up a class.

Sometimes they want to know if I had any trouble in answering all of the questions that came up when I first started teaching classes?

I recall setting down and writing out an outline of the things I wanted to discuss.

I recall my outline didn't have the answers to the questions I was asked when I got into the class.

I had to come up with those verses I needed to show the way to my student.

I continued to try this method for a number of years, mainly because I wasn't familiar enough with the Bible to teach without a help.

You may wonder why it matters why I had trouble teaching.

Of course I never wanted to look dumb, but most of all, I wanted to show others the way.

Christians are told to go teach others in Mt 28:20.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Notice especially that Jesus said “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Back in 1973, Brother Peter Wilson came to Glen Burnie, to tell us about ways that we could make the church grow, he pointed out that some folks didn't think that we were ever told that every Christian should go teach. He used this passage to remind us that Jesus told his apostles to teach "them to observe all that I commanded you."

He also told us about the not so subtle reminder of the number of baptisms on the board.

Brother Wilson asked, “What had he just told them?”

Of course the answer is, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

As Brother Wilson then said, “If there was ever anything that anyone ought to understand applies to us, it is that they [the apostles] were to teach us what they had been commanded and that was to go, teach and baptize others.”



Every once in a while someone will ask me about the vine and the fruit. A grape vine that hasn't been messed with by some man will reproduce itself by its fruit. You don't find oranges or pears growing on grape vines. Not unless some man has messed with the vine so it doesn't breed true.

Just so, the fruit of a Christian is another  
Christian.

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father  
is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that  
does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every  
branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it  
may bear more fruit.

Don't confuse this fruit with that of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God and God the Father does not prune God the Holy Spirit to make more fruit.

Gal 5:22-23 gives the fruit of the Spirit. God wants you to bear fruit. Stuff that looks like you spiritually.

How can we fix it so that someone looks like  
us spiritually?

We plant the word.

Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is  
the word of God. 12 "And those beside the  
road are those who have heard; then the devil  
comes and takes away the word

If you are having trouble bearing fruit, you really need to look at how much seed you are planting.

I have a places on the farm where I planted a lot of grass seed and not much happened. Why? Bad ground! It needs to be tilled and fertilized

Sometimes the cattle stomp it out.

Sometimes they pull it up when it doesn't have much root.



Luke 8:6 "And other seed fell on rocky soil,  
and as soon as it grew up, it withered away,  
because it had no moisture.



What do you do in such a case. Continue sowing the seed until God provides better soil for the seed.

He chooses because He knows the heart. You don't know which heart will respond because you can't read the heart of someone else.

Luke 8:8 "And other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."

Sometimes we are too worried about how we will do that we forget the power of conversion is not ours but God's.

Isa 55:11 So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
for it is the power of God for salvation to  
everyone who believes, to the Jew first and  
also to the Greek.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and  
hearing by the word of Christ.

Sometimes we are so worried about others thinking that we are such poor teachers that we don't start teaching others.

2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

If we stick to God's word, that's all we need to do. Present what you know fairly and accurately and tell others we'll find the verses that answer their questions and get back to them.

So how do you start a class?

I suggest a short study of one on the epistles.  
However, a person asking me the question  
started with a group that knew absolutely  
nothing about religion. They started in  
Genesis with an overview.



Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the  
heavens and the earth.

Most folks think there was a beginning  
although atheists may not.

But who was God that created the heavens and  
the earth.

It's time to talk about the three persons in the  
Godhead.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Luke 3:21 Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."

But how do you know how to find those verses. I recommend a Bible with large margins into which you can write reminders. I suggest you write small and in a fine ball point pen so the ink doesn't smear and you can read it 30 years later.

Moving on to Adam and Eve and sin came into the world.

There are several things the student needs to know.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Your friend may have chosen to study with you because either you are or you are raising your children to be like their idea of a “Christian”. They need to know that you aren’t perfect.

I Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Another thing they need to be taught is that  
there is no such thing as original sin.

Ezek 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

As subjects are introduced in your study that are major religious doctrines, you can easily point out the truth in the Scriptures without having to name the offending religious group.

It may come up in the discussion following your study of the Scripture, but you don't have to bring it up.



By the time you get to Cain and Able, there are several more important points.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Luke 6:46 "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Remember to ask for their questions and then try to answer them. With time and study, you won't need the outline which will often get left in the dust anyway.

But if you don't start to teach others, your job as a Christian isn't being done.

Perhaps you haven't started on the journey at all

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saying, "All authority has been given to Me in  
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