

Teens Teaching the Bible to Teen Audiences

(appropriate for High-Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily 8/26/08 (30 minutes)

1) TEACHING IS A SOLEMN AND SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY, IT IS NOT PLAYTIME

James 3:1 - Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

II Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (Key AWANA verse)

God takes the teaching of His Word very seriously. It is not playtime. He expects us to prepare diligently. The word diligent means to work very hard, to give it everything we've got, to do our very best – no excuses. The key AWANA verse says that if we are not diligent in teaching we will be ashamed of ourselves when we stand before God at the Judgment.

Isaiah 66:2 - "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

2) PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP AND GUIDANCE AS YOU PREPARE

John 15:1-5 - "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 so that it may bear more fruit. 3"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

3) FIND A WAY TO BE EXCITED ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE TEACHING

The judgment for teachers who are diligent will be a source for great reward.

I Peter 5:1-4 - Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

God wants us to teach with eagerness. Find an angle for your study that is exciting to you personally. For example, study to find the answer to a difficult question related to the topic that you have always wondered about.

4) MAKE THE SCRIPTURES THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR TEACHING

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

I Corinthians 2:4-6 - and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

If you do everything else in this lesson but do not use and demonstrate the power and wisdom of God's Word then you will have failed and ultimately, lives will not change. Being enthusiastic is necessary, being memorable is necessary, but the goal is to continuously demonstrate that God's Word is the only foundation to build our lives on. It is the only thing that has the answers to life's questions. If we do everything else but fail to do this then we have demonstrated, whether we meant to or not, that maybe God's Word does not have the answers and maybe the World system does.

When teens get into the adult world (ex: college) the entire academic power of the world system will attack them with the goal of destroying their faith. Studies show that the majority of kids raised in Christian churches will "lose their faith" and only 30% of these will ever come back. I believe the reason that kids "lose their faith" in college is that churches failed to constantly demonstrate the things mentioned above. When kids get to college and the world presents them with their reasons why the Bible can't be trusted in areas of science, philosophy, child raising, sexual behavior, etc. - they are not prepared. After a few years of college Satan comes along with the following thoughts for them to think about:

"There are lots of hard questions and difficult issues that we study in college and the answers we learn are not what my parents live by in their religion. I remember my time in church back home. That was a happy time, lots of fun and good memories. But that was childhood and childhood is a time to be silly and happy and perhaps a little ignorant – that's the way it should be. I love the adult leaders who were there with us – they were good, happy, fun, sincere people and they obviously cared about us. But perhaps they were a little too happy and a little too ignorant – they never answered the hard questions I am now dealing with in college and in life. I guess its because the bible doesn't have answers to these issues. Maybe to believe the bible you have to just not ask certain questions. But I am an adult now and the time for blissful ignorance is over. I appreciate the good times we had in church but I have to face reality. I am an intelligent person and I have to deal with the real world now and the world seems to know what it is talking about."

In our teaching we have to be interesting but that is not the goal. We need to have fun but that is not the goal. We have to be memorable, but that is not the goal. The goal is to constantly demonstrate the power of God's Word and its wisdom from every angle and for every issue. If we don't do that one thing above everything else then we failed.

Psalms 119:98-100 - Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.

5) REMOVE YOURSELF FROM BEING AN OBSTACLE – ITS NOT ABOUT YOU!

Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Its not about you. The focus should be maximizing the effectiveness of your message for the good of other people.

II Timothy 2:16 – But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness

Eliminate empty chatter and useless talk. No side comments. Talking to an audience is different from talking one on one with someone. It is harder for an audience to follow what you are saying. Every time you make an unnecessary side comment you lose half your audience for five minutes while they struggle to figure out what the side comment has to do with the message. It is better to have a few moments of silence than to fill it in with an unnecessary side comment that confuses people.

Speak loudly. Speak clearly. Speak slowly. Repeat key statements more than once. When you speak to a group, people are fading in and out in terms of their attention – its harder for them to follow your train of thought. You may have to speak louder than you are comfortable with. You may have to speak slower than you are comfortable with. That's OK because..... Its not about you.

Stay on message: If you are nervous that is fine but you don't have to tell everyone – its not helpful, its distracting – its too much about you and it does not matter. If you did not prepare well whose fault is that? Too bad for you but telling us is not helpful. We don't need to know that. If you had a bad day you can tell someone later, not while you are teaching.

6) YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION AND OPPOSITION – PLAN ON IT!

Ephesians 6:12 – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Anytime you are about to do something spiritually significant Satan will oppose you. It is normal when preparing and presenting a bible study for the effort to be ten times harder to accomplish than you thought. Don't be surprised if your stuff breaks, the car has a flat tire, your boss yells at you, you get sick as you prepare your study – this is not unusual, this is normal. I know that anytime I teach the Bible, that week is going to be a bad week. (For example, the weekend before I first presented this study my computer crashed and I had to spend most of Saturday and Sunday rebuilding it).

Don't show up on the night you are supposed to teach and say, "I worked really hard to get everything else done and I set aside Monday night to prepare my lesson for today but guess what? I got sick! I never get sick. I haven't been sick in 5 years. But last night, as I was getting ready to prepare the study, I got so sick I had to go to the emergency room! So, of course, I was not able to prepare for today". Well, whose fault was that? You should have known better. Did you really think Satan was going to leave you alone unopposed? You need to back it off a few weeks and prepare well ahead of time. If you wait until the night before to prepare and then you get sick and can't prepare – well, you should have known better.

Even angels have this problem (the angel mentioned below was held up for 3 weeks by the demons controlling Persia - today called Iran, Michael is the top ranking angel or archangel).

Daniel 10:2-14

In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult. Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you " And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

7) CREATE AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR AUDIENCE, DON'T JUST TRANSMIT DATA

Mark 12:28-31

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

God wants people to love Him with all their HEART, SOUL, MIND, and STRENGTH. Therefore, the best way we can help them do this is to try to engage these four things as much as possible in our teaching. We don't want to just transmit data (mind), we also want to engage their emotions, their spirit, and their physical senses, to the extent possible. In other words, create an experience for them. If you can immerse your audience in an experience they will enjoy it more and remember it better. The movie industry does this well.

For example, when the movie industry tells you a story they don't say – the boy met the girl, they fell in love, got married, end of story. You would not pay money to see that kind of movie, would you? Instead they open with the camera high above the tree in the spring time, as the camera slowly pans down and around the tree we glide toward the young woman gazing into the setting sun, golden sunlight streaming across her face, the gentle breeze flowing through her long, satin hair, a tear welling up in one eye. You can almost feel it, taste it, smell it – it engages your emotions and senses as well as your mind.

What they are doing is immersing you in an experience. People like that. The marketing and sales professions have studied this to death and have come to the conclusion that if you want to communicate a message and have it remembered, the most effective way is by immersing your audience in an experience.

So, how did Jesus teach?

He used stories (parables) to immerse his audience in an experience.

Matthew 13:1-9

That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. 2And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. 3And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5"Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6"But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7"Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8"And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9"He who has ears, let him hear."

The sower went out to sow. People could see the sower in their imagination as if they were watching a movie.

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27"The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

A house built on the sand. You can feel the rain pounding the house, you can see the house sliding down the sand into the ocean. Its an experience. Its like a movie clip in people's minds.

8) USE A PREEMPTIVE APPROACH TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGES

Another approach that works well is to imagine that you are a member of your audience at their station in life, listening to you, and try to imagine what questions, arguments, and challenges will be going through their mind. State those and then answer them. These things include honest questions, arguments they have heard from the world system that no one has ever countered, and challenges from demonic attempts at deception that have not been effectively countered.

So, as you teach your lesson occasionally you may stop and say in a slightly melodramatic fashion, "Oh, but Mr. Daily, what about....." Then you state the challenge - then you lead them to the answer to the challenge.

Don't wait for someone in the audience to jump up and say, "You're wrong, Mr. Daily, and here's why". Occasionally this may happen but most of the time people will not say it, but they will be thinking it.

Spend some time identifying ahead of time what these difficult questions or common challenges are going to be and spend most of your preparation time studying the Bible to figure out the answers.

You can use Bible search web sites such as (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>) to help you in your study.

For extremely difficult issues you may also want to get some wisdom from others. Perhaps you can find a pastor or "wise man" to get advice from – if not perhaps you can buy their book. A search on the Focus on the Family web site book section is a good resource.

This is a very powerful teaching method. The opposite is also true. The worst thing you can do is avoid the hard questions or pretend they don't exist. If you don't address them people figure you don't have an answer and therefore the challenge must be correct.

One of the most valuable things you can do is pick the most difficult and challenging issues and work diligently during your preparation to answer them. This is harder work but the result is you will make a significant contribution to strengthening people's faith in God and confidence in the Bible.

Jesus used a similar approach in that He often answered questions that had not been asked.

Matthew 9:1-8

Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over the sea and came to His own city. And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." And he got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 5:21-45

"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. 25"Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26"Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent. 27"YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY"; 28but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29"If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it

out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30"If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. 31"It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE'; 32but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33"Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' 34"But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. 36"Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil. 38"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' 39"But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40"If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41"Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42"Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 44"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Teens Teaching the Bible to Teen Audiences*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *James 3:1, II Timothy 2:15, Isaiah 66:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 15:1-5*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 5:1-4*

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THEME: *Teens Teaching the Bible to Teen Audiences*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 4:12, I Corinthians 2:4-6, Psalm 119:98-100*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Philippians 2:3-4, II Timothy 2:16*

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 6:12, Daniel 10:1-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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THEME: *Teens Teaching the Bible to Teen Audiences*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Mark 12:28-31, Matthew 13:1-9, Matthew 7:24-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

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