

The Lakeview Lamp

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” -
Psalm 119:105*

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Do You Teach an Edifying Class?

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(Continued from last week, with the first point being **To be a good teacher you must love the Word and love to learn the Word.**)

2. A good teacher asks good questions and leads the class to find the answers.

Questions in a class are very important. They stimulate meditation and self-discovery. We teachers do not want to tell our class what we have discovered, we want them to discover it for themselves. If you have thoroughly studied the text as outlined in step 1 above, you will be able to ask the questions that you had during your study. When you ask questions that intrigue you, you will eliminate questions that are too obvious or pointless. As a change of pace, you may also begin by asking your class what questions they had about the text. Most importantly, remember that the best questions are, *“What is the main point?”* and *“What did you find interesting?”* This gives your class the opportunity to share their discoveries so that the text is laid bare.

3. Prepare the members of the class for class discussion. No matter how good we are at teaching, a class will be dull if the class members are dull and are not prepared. Make sure your class has a clear idea of what will be studied and plenty of time to accomplish the task. Your class should understand why participation in the discussion is so important. Remind them that class participation helps us accomplish the following goals:

First, participation enables us to become better equipped to do the work of ministry and edifying the body of Christ (**Eph.4:11-12**).

Second, by discussing the truths we are discovering, we learn to “*speak the truth in love*” (**Eph.4:15**). Many Christians think they know the answers to questions asked by their unbelieving friends, but find themselves stumbling when they begin to speak. Class time is a good opportunity to practice our readiness.

Third, we are in a search for truth, and no one person has a corner on that market. We need input from everyone so that we can all learn as much as possible. Our classes are not for the purpose of rehearsing an unwritten creed. We should never be afraid to challenge long held beliefs, not for the purpose of being argumentative, but to make sure these beliefs are backed by scriptural authority. Freely discussing contradictory ideas will also establish the faith of younger Christians. We will quickly become a “Church of Christ” denomination if we never allow a discussion of divergent views.

Fourth, discussion helps draw us together in unity as we practice love in listening to one another and sharing our ideas. We have defeated the purpose of our classes if we allow class members to use a harsh tone of voice or demeaning comments when there are disagreements.

4. Be a teacher. Be informative. At appropriate times during the class period reveal things you discovered in your research that your class did not discover. In this category would be definitions of words, background information, and ideas that the class did not come up with on their own.

Every teacher gets stumped by questions from time to time. If you don't know the answer to a question, open it up to the class for discussion. If you are still not satisfied with the answer, plan to answer the question at the next class. Then go study!

If you need to jumpstart some discussion, call on someone who usually has something to say. You can say, “*John, let's start with some of your wisdom today.*”

Finally, when you get home after class, go back over the class in your mind to discover ways you can improve. Was there enough participation? Did you cover the material in an interesting and informative way? Were you able to keep the

class going at a good pace?

Teaching is the cornerstone of the work of the local church. When our classes are dull, the whole church will be dull. Let's do all we can to be good students and good teachers of God's word.

Sorrow looks back,
worry looks around,
and faith looks up.

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"My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed." -Psalm 71:23

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).