

What to Ask Myself Before I Teach the Bible

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The results of our teaching are entirely God's business.

But it is *our* business to be as prepared as possible. This not only means that we must know our subject, but that we must be spiritually-minded and intentional. The following are questions to ask yourself before you teach others:



- Have I prayed?
- Do I consciously and desperately need the Spirit?
- Do I believe that my hearers *must* hear what I have to say?
- Am I attempting to live by the truths I am presenting?
- Will my demeanor and words reflect the beauty and significance of the passage?
- Do I believe God will change my listeners through what I will say?
- In what principal way do I believe my hearers will be different because of this teaching?
- How would this truth affect _____, _____, _____ (put in names).
- Am I saying what the passage says, or am I using the passage to justify saying what I want to say?

- Will the most mature Christian be challenged and the least mature understand?
- In what ways am I remembering *all* who may be present (i.e., children, singles, retired, those without Christian spouses, etc.)?
- Am I using vivid word pictures and helpful illustrations to make my teaching memorable and clear?
- Is there anything I am *planning* to say that I should *not* say?
- Am I passionate about this truth, and will my passion be evident to my listeners?
- In what ways will I make Christ known (even from the Old Testament)?

Those who teach are essential to the Body of Christ. If you are a teacher of the Bible in any capacity, you must not take your responsibility lightly. As James warned, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1).

Also, remember that true believers are not interested in your *cleverness*, but rather your *faithfulness*. You will do them immense good if you will simply teach what the Bible says, as accurately and as clearly as possible. Do not try to steal the attention away from God.

For the best results, keep this list in your Bible or at your desk, and review it prayerfully each time you prepare to teach.

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