

## INTRODUCTION:

You have accomplished a great deal in learning how to study using the Modified Inductive Method. Now it is time to utilize what you have learned in developing your own Sunday School Curriculum. Why should you desire to even consider that option since there are many publishers who are spending millions of dollars using many ideas, many people, to bring you the “best” literature that is available? We have a mandate according to Matt 28:19-20 “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them**” entrusting the truth to them so they can teach others. To accomplish that mandate we must have a plan and within that plan include the “everything I have commanded you.” That includes how to be saved, the church doctrines, the way to grow and mature, the how to’s of the Christian life and more. Could it be that God has now entrusted the skill of studying to you so that you now can utilize that skill in lesson preparation to prepare the next generation to take over? Could it be that this is your reason?

Jesus told the parable of the talents to show us that God has entrusted His wealth to us and we are to be good stewards of His wealth. Paul reiterated that truth [1Co 4:2 Now what is sought in stewards is that one be found faithful](#). Also, James reminds us Jam 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, because you know that we will be judged more strictly but in also in Eph 4 Paul said that God gave us people to be teachers for one purpose: to build up the body until we all reach the unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God and become mature. Therefore although James reminds us that not many should become teachers there will be those whom God has chosen specifically for that purpose. Are you the one? So we have both the example to be good stewards and the warning to be judicious with the talents God given to us. Blessed One, I believe that since you are a proven worker, rightly now dividing the word of truth, you are ready to teach and to be obedient to the Great Commission.

As a good steward we must be wise in our choices of what we use to prepare our students. In the first century there were no quarterlies, no commentaries and no internet. However today many have internet access and are in desperate need for Biblically based curriculum that is sound doctrinally. What will that curriculum look like?

1. It will cause students to grow and to mature
2. It will appeal to the heart and to the hand.
3. It will meet the needs of the culture into which the student lives, moves and works
4. It will develop the students so that they too will then pass on what they have learned to others.

For the teacher using this material the curriculum will:

1. be easily accessible across the global platform utilizing the methods by which that culture learn best.
2. stretch the teacher to research beyond where they are spiritually
3. transform the students from milk to meat eaters

Therefore we must be preparing curriculum that can be used across the global platform of the internet, not just the glossies of major publishers. We must remember that today’s publishers are just one of God’s tools that is being used to open the eyes and

provide accountability for study. We have the tool of the internet; we can offer what we prepare free, remembering Matthew 10:8 “Freely you received, freely give”. The principle of Lev 23:22 “When you gather in the harvest of your land, you must not completely harvest the corner of your field, and you must not gather up the gleanings of your harvest. You must leave them for the poor and the foreigner” is as true today as it was then. We have the tools to glean; we have the mandate to share with the needy of the world.

Thus our question before us is: are we preparing students to study? Are we preparing them to take their knowledge to the next step in sharing what they have learned with those they meet? Are you being obedient to 2 Tim 2:2 “entrust what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.” Are your students being challenged to think and reason, to use higher critical thinking skills? Let’s walk through a mini-checklist to see:

1. Does your class have a 5 day study guide that will prepare them for the class on the following Sunday and do you hold them accountable to that?
2. Is your class being challenged at the level of their intelligence through critical thinking skills? One test is that they come prepared; they enter into the discussion of the text, not drawing upon “gray matter old experiences” that has no relevance to the current lesson.
3. Are you being challenged to dig and find the truths of the passage your church has assigned to you or are you satisfied with the denominational literature as presented and only use that as your preparation?
4. Is your class learning what the Bible teaches as well as what your denomination teaches?
5. Are you spending time on class preparation that is fruitless because your curriculum is so full of illustrations that it lacks depth of truth? A good measure is to check and see how many non-biblical stories are included.
6. Are you feeding your class fish but not teaching them to fish for themselves?
7. Is your church spending many dollars on literature that gets tossed, stained, lost, and rarely used by the student? Or does your church find a way to recycle that literature?
8. Are you using the quarterlies the way they are to be used; that is do you expect the students to bring it with them, consult it, walk through the illustrations, answer the questions?
9. Are the needs of your class being met using the quarterlies?
10. Do you have to research, and do you research, beyond the quarterly to achieve the purpose for your class?
11. Are you using the quantity of extras that the denomination gives you to assist in your teaching (ex. Maps, handouts, games pieces etc)? Could it be better spent elsewhere to achieve the purpose of meeting the needs of those inside and outside the church?
12. Are you frustrated at the lack of homework accountability, lack of student preparation, lack of entrance into the discussion?
13. Are your class members only bringing their quarterlies to class but not their Bibles?

## *Applying the Study Methods to Curriculum*

14. Do you have a mission statement from your church that will guide you in your preparation?
15. Is there a scope and sequence for your age group?
16. Is there an evaluation format by which you are guided, observed, checked?
17. Is someone guiding you in teacher orientation, preparation, execution?

As you ponder the answers to the above questions let me tell you a story that actually occurred. Having been a teacher for over 20+ yrs and having moved to a new state and new church I was anxious to start ministering in the Sunday School Dept. My husband and I were assigned to an adult class and were excited to start this new project. You can imagine our amazement when on the first Sunday all those who showed up brought only their quarterlies, opened them to the lesson for that day, folded their arms and waited for us as the teachers to instruct them on which paragraph to read. When that did not happen they left class in a huff and several did not return the following Sunday. The class went from a whopping 40+ members to 10. These 10 were intrigued that these new teachers wanted them to “think”, to “reason”, and give evidence linking the OT to the NT to bring about a spiritual principle and practical application. And so began a journey with those ten which eventually grew to over 50 members. We began by giving them small nuggets of homework assignments and, although frightened, many stepped out and began this journey. The others adamantly said “no way, you are trying to make me a college student” to another stating “I already did Bible college and I don’t need to repeat it”. Yet they returned week after week. Within a semester those who were so against it were now the biggest supporters and thus began a love affair with God’s Word that would continue throughout the life of the class. How did that all happen? It happened because of prayer, because of planning, and because of executing that plan into a workable curriculum that met their needs where they were in their walk with Jesus so that they could then be entrusted with those truths for others.

The lesson from this was that if you provide the “water for the horse to drink” and he is thirsty enough he will drink. Our prayer must be for our students to be thirsty and hungry for the Word of God. As a teacher you can provide nourishment that will challenge and inspire. In reading the biography of Bonhoeffer’s training of the new and young pastors in the seminary he was leading, one fact came across; he demanded that the young men be held accountable for their time and their learning lest they leave him unprepared. He is quoted as saying : “One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons”. This your time to be obedient to the task God has placed before you. Will you join me in this endeavor to prepare quality materials for not only your students but the majority of students worldwide?