

Nov 29, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God teaches us so that we can teach others

HISTORY FOR THE WEEK:
According to Homer's Odyssey, when King Odysseus went off to fight in the Trojan war, he left his son Telemachus in the hands of a wise old man named Mentor. Mentor was charged with the task of teaching the young man wisdom. The word mentor soon came to mean "a wise and responsible tutor", an experienced person who advises, guides, teaches, inspires, challenges, corrects, and serves as a model

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2:2 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 21, 2014)

**Series SACRED GIFTS AND
HOLD GATHERINGS**

UNIT: What We Bring to God

NEXT WEEK

The Sabbath Day
(Exodus 20:5-8-11; 31:12-16)

Teaching God's Word

Acts 18:1-11, 18-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson outlines the steps we can use in **Teaching God's Word**. The **study's aim** is to understand the role of teaching ministries in a local church. The **study's application** is to recognize and use teaching as a means of spreading the gospel to people.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

When Paul left Athens, he made his way to Corinth. Once he arrived, he met Aquila and Priscilla, who were tentmakers. Since Paul was familiar with the craft, he stayed with them and supported himself by making tents as well. On the Sabbath, Paul would go to the synagogue and talk about Jesus with the Jews and the Gentiles who worshipped with them. There are many people in the body of Christ who desire to be in full-time Christian ministry. Why some saints are able to walk into the "ministry" as soon as they receive the call and others are not is a question for God alone. Sometimes we have to keep our day jobs until the time comes when we can teach about Christ all day long. Until that day, be patient. God has not forgotten your desires. When Timothy and Silas arrived in Corinth, Paul was released to make teaching his main focus. He continued to try to persuade the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah, but they remained stubborn and became abusive. Paul said, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles." Paul left the synagogue and began preaching at a nearby house. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, accepted Paul's teaching about Jesus, and Crispus's entire household believed and were baptized. Have you ever noticed how a breakthrough often comes just at the point when we are ready to give up? Paul was ready to move his focus away from the Jews, and God had the chief ruler of the synagogue join him in faith, followed by many other Corinthians. God does not give up on anyone. He is patient, wanting people to come to repentance. The scene at the synagogue must have been quite traumatic to cause Paul to want to wash his hands of the Jews. If we take ridicule and abuse on a daily basis, it begins to wear down our spirits. Even a heart that trusts God completely can be heavy in the midst of trying circumstances. Our God is merciful, and He sees what is happening around us. God spoke to Paul in a dream, saying, "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10). Paul ended up staying and teaching in Corinth for a year and a half. God gave him the strength to persevere. We cannot expect people to change their actions if we do not provide them with the truth to change their thoughts. As truth-tellers, we need to be teachers of the Word not only through words but also through actions and deeds.

Sometimes we make a distinction between preaching and teaching. We think of preaching as what the pastor does in declaring the gospel to bring people to faith in Christ. We think of teaching, or educational ministries, as what teachers do to help believers know more about the Bible. While this distinction is true in part, we need to recognize also the value of teaching ministries as a means of spreading the gospel. Both preaching and teaching are needed in a church. In his book Teaching for Spiritual Growth (Zondervan), Perry Downs likened preaching and teaching to the two wings of a plane. A plane needs both wings to fly, and a church needs both ministries—teaching and preaching—to fulfill its mission. Preaching and teaching are different, but they share the common goal of helping people understand and respond to the Word.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

TEACHING IN THE SYNAGOGUE (ACTS 18:1-6)

Creating new relationships (1-3)

A relationship where we can carry other's burdens (Gal 6:2)

A relationship where there is always forgiveness (Matt 18:21-22)

A relationship where there is sympathy, compassion and humbleness (1 Peter 3:8)

A relationship where it doesn't matter the positions of others (Rom 12:16)

Being compelled by the Holy Spirit (4-5)

Compelled to love others (1 John 4:21)

Compelled to edify others (John 21:15-18)

Compelled into obedience (1 John 2:4-6)

Handling opposition (6)

Handle opposition understanding they are never too large for God (Judg 7:4-7)

Handle opposition understanding God helps the powerless against the mighty (2 Chron 14:9-12)

Handle opposition understanding reliance on God can always bring deliverance (2 Cor 1:8-10)

TEACHING IN THE HOME (ACTS 18:7-8)

Finding locations (7)

We should pray that God leads us to the right places (Ps 27:11)

Use God's word as the guide to where we should be (Ps 119:105)

God always places people where and when He wants them (1 Cor 12:18)

Experiencing the power of belief in God (8)

Belief in Jesus overcomes condemnation (John 3:18)

Belief in God provides righteousness (Rom 3:22)

Belief in God allows us to be children of God (Gal 3:26)

TEACHING PROTECTED BY GOD (ACTS 18:9-11)

Hearing and trusting God (9-10)

Trusting God is a blessing (Ps 84:12)

Trusting God overcomes challenges (Rom 8:31-36)

Hearing God through His making His voice and words known to us (John 10:14-16)

Hearing God brings eternal life (John 5:24)

Be steadfast in obedience (11)

Steadfast because obedience is an obligation (Rom 8:12-14)

Steadfast because we should obey regardless of circumstances (Dan 3:16-18)

Steadfast because obedience leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Steadfast because obedience shows love for God (1 John 5:2-3)

TEACHING IN NEW MISSION FIELDS (ACTS 18:18-21)

Remember and keep promises (18)

When making a promise, we must keep it (Eccles 5:4)

Never be slow about fulfilling our promises to God (Deut. 23:21)

Keep promises even when it hurts (Ps 15:2-4)

Never hastily or rashly give a promise (Prov 20:25)

Be a good witness wherever you go (19)

Witness because Jesus commanded it (Matt 28:18-20)

Witness through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

Witness through teaching (2 Tim 2:2)

Respect commitments (20-21)

Commitments to cling to what is good (Rom 12:9)

Commitments of faith (1 Tim 1:5)

Commitments to draw near to God (Heb 10:22)

Commitments to the wisdom of God (James 3:17)