

Men's Teacher Training

Part of our task as evangelists and pastors (for those of you who serve as both) is to equip the saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11ff). One need churches often have is for more men who are capable of teaching solid bible classes. Below is a proposal which my co-worker, Joe Greer, and I have developed for use in our home congregation.

Proposal: a class encompassing two quarters, designed to help men become better bible students and teachers. This class is taught by you, the preacher (most likely).

Part 1, quarter 1 of 2: A Sunday and/or Wednesday class open to men who have a desire to teach adult-level classes. Topics include things like how to study inductively, surveying entire books, outlining sections, organizing thoughts, writing material, presentation skills, PPT use, etc.

Part 2, quarter 2 of 2: Take 6 men (or less, but not more) and give them the opportunity to utilize the skills they learned in the previous quarter by having them be the teachers of an adult bible class.

- This needs to be a Sunday AND Wednesday class.
- Class teachers will teach for two rotations of a Sunday and Wednesday.
 - Ex: Teacher #1 teaches Sunday and Wednesday the first week of the quarter. Teacher #2 does so the second week of the quarter. Teacher #3 does so the third week, etc. etc. Teacher #1 will do his second rotation in week seven, #2 in week eight, etc. etc.
- Each of the 6 men is also required to attend a Thursday night class for the purpose of critique of the week's teacher, and for assistance in preparing the next week's teacher.

Goal: If done correctly and consistently, this has the potential of creating several strong teachers for congregational bible studies.

Continuing Applications: As a follow-up to this training class, the 6 men who were involved in the second quarter need to be included in future adult classes. The future classes should incorporate them more and more until each man feels confident in his abilities to effectively teach.

This type of training class could be repeated over time to continually train men.

Considerations: A likely objection to this plan: If you, the preacher, are teaching the class, this plan would put you out of the general view of the membership for two consecutive quarters. You'd be teaching a small group class for two quarters instead of the auditorium/large membership class. If you have elders, you have to have their support on this in order to follow this plan. If you do not have capable men in your congregation to step in and do an effective job in bible classes, you cannot afford NOT to do this (or some other) plan to train teachers.

I'm sure there are other plans out there to train men that are effective. This one suits the needs of our congregation; perhaps it suits yours, perhaps not. If you think it might work, give it a try.

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