

SOS for Teachers

“...teaching them to observe
all things whatsoever
I have commanded you...”
Matthew 28:20

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Sowing and Reaping

Matthew 13

There are many ways to sow crops. They are proven ways that have been tested throughout the history of the world. Jesus, in this passage, compares the sowing and reaping to the spiritual realm.

The preparation of the soil is the first phase. Seed that is cast on rocky soil, by the wayside, on top of the soil and among thorns did not become fruitful, but that which fell on good “prepared” ground was productive.

The next step is tending. The sunshine, watering and weeding help the plant to mature and produce a harvest.

Reaping is the purpose of the sowing. The reaping may be 100%, 60% or 30%. It all depends on God, who sends the sunshine and the rain, and the people who do the tending.

Then the process begins all over again. Part of the harvest becomes the seed for the next crop. Many are involved in the whole process. We should all be involved in the sowing, tending and reaping. As teachers, we prepare our students for this great endeavor. Our job is a privilege, a blessing and great responsibility.



God's Promise

“And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
Galatians 6:9



Preparing a Student Worksheet

Reinforcing the learning experience
through practice and repetition

We know that students learn much more when they participate in an activity that requires reproduction of the lesson they are learning. Keeping in mind the aim of the lesson while preparing the student worksheet helps us maintain the purpose of the exercise. Make it attractive, useful and “user friendly” so the students will want to do the work. Here are some tips to help prepare a productive worksheet.

1. Make it age appropriate.
 - a. For the youngest a simple picture to color with the memory verse present.
 - b. Beginning readers need a few blanks to fill in, things to match, something to color and the memory verse.
 - c. Those who read and comprehend well need more of a challenge, but not so much as to discourage them. Word finds, mazes, matching, problem solving, etc. and the memory verse.
 - d. The greatest challenge in the preparation of the worksheet is for the adolescent departments. They need exercises of proof from the Word of God, drawing conclusions in line with the Bible, decision making, comparisons, application, matching, Bible exercises and games, Scripture searches, etc. and the memory verse.
 - e. And don't forget the adults. Include deeper Bible studies, dividing Scripture, referencing passages, comparisons, fill in the blanks, etc., and the memory verse.
2. Keep it interesting.
 - a. Divide the exercises into sections.
 - b. Make each section short.
 - c. Don't fill the page too much. Leave open spaces.
 - d. Use drawings and pictures.
 - e. Use color.
 - f. Make it fun.
3. When to use it:
 - a. In class
 - b. As homework
 - c. When visiting absentees
4. How to cultivate the art:
 - a. Ask God. – James 1:5
 - b. Observe and cultivate creativity.
 - c. Write down ideas as they come.



A good teacher guides to learning and doing.

Discovering Faith

Hebrews 11

Memory Verse:

A.

“But without _____ it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to _____ must believe that he _____, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently _____ him.”

Hebrews 11:6



Looking for Faith:

B.

1. How many times does the word "faith" appear in this chapter? _____
2. How many people are mentioned in this chapter? _____
3. What is faith? Now faith is the _____ of things _____ for, the _____ of things not _____."
4. Without what is it impossible to please God? _____
5. How many things that faith did are listed in verses 32 - 38? _____

C.

Finding Faith

What do these verses tell us that faith does?
(Faith equals Believe. Link the verse with the right word.)



- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| A. Romans 3:28 | 1. Saves |
| B. Acts 15:9 | 2. Purifies the heart |
| C. Acts 26:18 | 3. Justifies |
| D. Acts 16:31 | 4. Sanctifies |
| E. I John 5:4 | 5. Overcomes the world |

D.

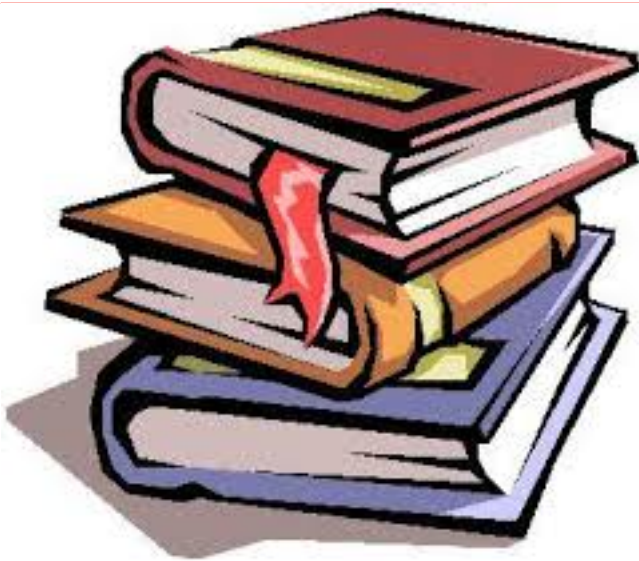
The Reward of Faith

Choose the right answer.

1. Who offered a more excellent sacrifice proving he was righteous?
(a) Noah (b) Gideon (c) Abel
2. Who had the testimony that he pleased God and did not see death?
(a) Abraham (b) Enoch (c) Moses
3. Who became heir of righteousness by faith and saved his family?
(a) Noah (b) Isaac (c) Sara
4. Who chose to suffer with God's people rather than the pleasures of sin?
(a) Joshua (b) Rahab (c) Moses
5. Who stopped the mouths of lions?
(a) Gedeon (b) Daniel (c) Samson



“Every tomorrow has two handles.
We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith.”



Building your Library

Someone has said: “You are what you read.” And it is also true that people believe what they read. The written word has great power. We not only need to be careful what we read, but also what we recommend to others. Care should be taken as to whom we quote, because, if we use a good thought from a well-known author who exhibits other fallacies, many will think that all he writes is good. We should choose our library according to our likes, but also in accord with the Word of God.

While doing research, one needs to determine the use of the information. Is it news, methodology, secular facts? Is it to inform, prove, illustrate or the exposition of a spiritual truth? In the preparation of lessons, secular facts and illustrations may be used. One needs to verify the source and not accept anything and everything just because it is written. Facts may be slanted to back up a person’s view and we need to be careful to present the truth. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, etc. are great assets to anyone’s library.

Books, either paper or electronic, of a religious nature need to be filtered and carefully chosen. They should be examined for false doctrine, practices that do not lead to a holy life, using Scripture out of context, the use of sarcasm to influence belief, playing with truth to convince people and an erroneous use of logic. There are many denominations using the WEB and they can be very subtle in the presentation of their interests. Remember to always make backups of the information gathered as some sites may be discontinued or information may be deleted as they update. Don’t forget to give credit to the author when using their information.

A good personal library and a church library are great assets. The internet is a great tool and the “good” sites may be recommended to others for research.

**“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
John 5:39**

Salvation: ¿Given, bought, earned?

What did each one do or try to do to be saved?			
Nicodemus	_____	Phillip	_____
Rich Young Ruler	_____	Matthew	_____
Bartimaeus	_____	Peter	_____
Saul/Paul	_____	Felix	_____
Abraham	_____	Agrippa	_____
Thief on the cross	_____		
Simon the sorcerer	_____		

**“For by grace are ye saved through faith:
and that not of yourselves:
It is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8, 9**

Creating Interest



“If any of you lack wisdom,
let him ask of God,
that giveth
to all men liberally,
and upbraideth not;
and it shall be given him.”
James 1:5



“A good teacher
doesn’t talk all the time;
he (she) listens
to his students.”

Students learn most by what they say and do. Provide opportunities in each lesson for them to do both. The lesson should be reproduced in talking and doing. Participation expedites the learning process and helps the teacher obtain the goal to which he is working.

An interesting lesson helps the students listen. Listening students learn. And so we see the importance of teaching lessons that interest the students.

An interesting lesson brings the students back to the class. As more students are exposed to the teaching of God’s Word, more will be saved and more will grow to Christian maturity.

What makes a class interesting? There are many things that contribute to an interesting, helpful lesson.

The first element of a good lesson has to do with the teacher. The one thing above all that a student wants to know is: Is the teacher interested in me? If he or she feels unappreciated, what the teacher says won’t have positive results. Interest and love are the greatest magnet a teacher possesses.

A lesson that meets their needs is the second factor. A study of specific age characteristics of the group being taught helps one to know their needs. Visiting and spending time with the class members reveal the specific needs of each student. Although the teacher doesn’t point out publicly their needs, he can teach principles and practices that will help them resolve their problems. Presenting problems and guiding them in practice on how to solve them is effective.

An interesting lesson involves many things: the teacher’s natural ability, good examples, visual aids, participation, etc. Some other areas that help make the lesson interesting are: contrast in color, size, volume, touch, opposites, etc.

Action in storytelling, illustrations and dramas awaken and maintain the interest of the students.

Using all the senses in the lesson gives portals to learning. Can they see it, hear it, smell it, touch it and taste it? Use as many as possible in each lesson.

Make the lesson practical. Give them examples, roll plays, stories of people who have been in the same circumstances.

Think of ways to apply the Word of God to their lives in specific manners. Being too general or all-inclusive limits the learner’s ability to understand what is required of him or confuses him as to what is right and wrong. They need specific guidelines, principles on which to base their decisions.

A good teacher is a guide to learning, interested in each member of his class, leading the class in practical exercises in order to help form them into spiritually healthy mature Christians.

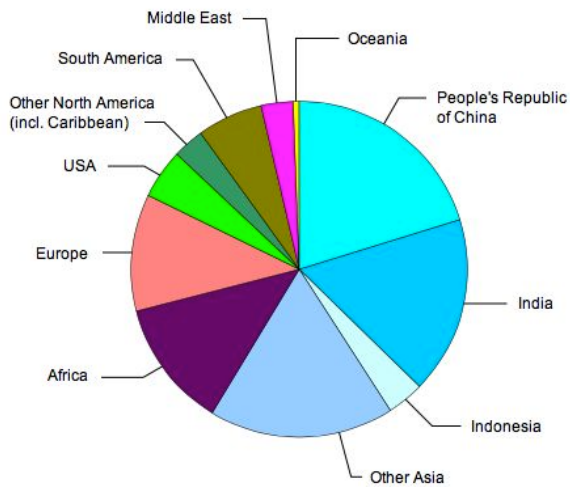
“Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God;
thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.”
Psalm 143:10

Giving Testimony

John 1:1-36

- I. Introduction: John 12:32, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
- II. John came to bear witness. - John 1:6, 7 His purpose in life was to give witness
- III. He gave testimony. - John 1:15, 19, 32
- IV. He fulfilled his purpose. - John 1:29 34, 35 “this is the Son of God”, “Behold, the lamb of God...”
- V. Conclusion and application:
 - a. John fulfilled his purpose.
 - b. Are we fulfilling our purpose? - Acts 1:8; Luke 24:46-48

Distribution of World Population in 2005

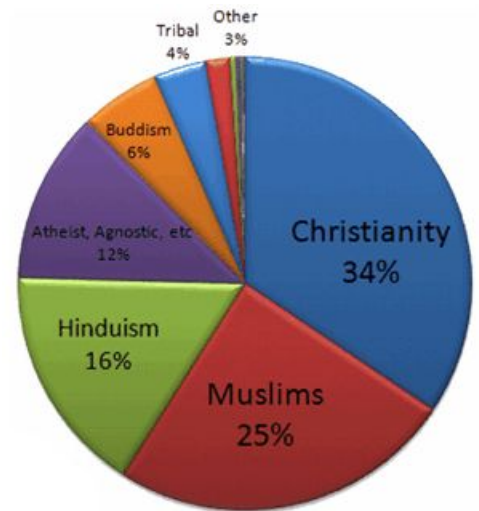


The Progress of Evangelization

Each generation must reach its generation with the gospel or the entire world can never be reached with the gospel. It is thought that the first generation after Christ met this goal according to various Scriptures. Colossians 1:23 says: "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;" and also: Titus 2:11,12, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Although there are varying opinions as to the meaning of "world", it is evident that they were active in trying to take the gospel to the whole world, as Jesus himself had commanded them.

The question is: are we reaching the whole world with the gospel? Are we reaching "Jerusalem" (where we live), "Judea" (our state), "Samaria" (neighboring states) and "unto the uttermost parts of the earth"? How do our actions and our budget reflect our obedience to this command of our Lord Jesus Christ? It is worthy to note that in Acts 1:8 it says, "both" giving us to understand that they should be reached simultaneously.

Are we obeying? Are we winning the whole world? The statistics give us the answer. Where is there a need to take the gospel? Everywhere is the correct answer, but there are some places where fewer Christians are going to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.



World Religions Chart



"You can't take the gospel to the wrong address."
Bob Hughes,
Missionary to the Philippine Islands

World Missions Statistics

- There are 22 mission agencies that each have over 1,000 missionaries in service. Who's the largest? Answer: For the year 2010, Campus Crusade for Christ International with 9,913 workers in 128 fields.
- In 1900 Britain was the largest sender of missionaries, eclipsed soon by the United States. In 2010, 3 of the top 4 missionary-sending countries were Asian. If the USA sends the most in 2010 (95,000), who comes next? Answer: India (82,950), South Korea (21,500), China (20,000), Nigeria (6,644), and then the United Kingdom (6,405).
- What are the top three countries where missionaries were sent in 2000? Answer: to India (42,023), to the USA (20,219) and to Brazil (6,966).
- In how many countries is less than 1% of the population affiliated with any branch of Christianity? Answer: 24. If you exclude Christian "foreigners" living in various countries, the answer is 35. As with all other stats, the book depicts them in a helpful graphic.
- Where are the people groups with the least exposure to the gospel? Answer: North Africa and the Middle East, followed by Asia. This area has been described as the 10/40 Window, and several graphics analyze it.
- Where are the most evangelicals? Answer: USA, followed by China, then Nigeria, India, Brazil, Ethiopia, Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Congo and Indonesia. On that list, the ranking of China and Indonesia surprised me the most. In a few years China's evangelical population will most likely surpass that of the USA!