

SOS for Teachers

“...teaching them
to observe all things whatsoever
I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:20

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Contents

- 2 Tips for Illustrating
Guide lines for illustrating
lessons, hymns, verses, etc.
- 3 Shine, Where and When
you are - Involving Golden
Agers in the ministry
- 5 The Living Word
- 6 The Sunday Night Service

Teaching God's Word

The greatest occupation in the world is sharing and teaching God's Word. No other career deals with eternal values. It is a job that should be well done, excellent in content, style and example.

In these pages, we hope to give you helps, ideas and encouragement to renew and refresh your teaching skills.

The SOS for teachers is available only on the internet, but we encourage you to print it for those who don't have the ability to access it electronically.

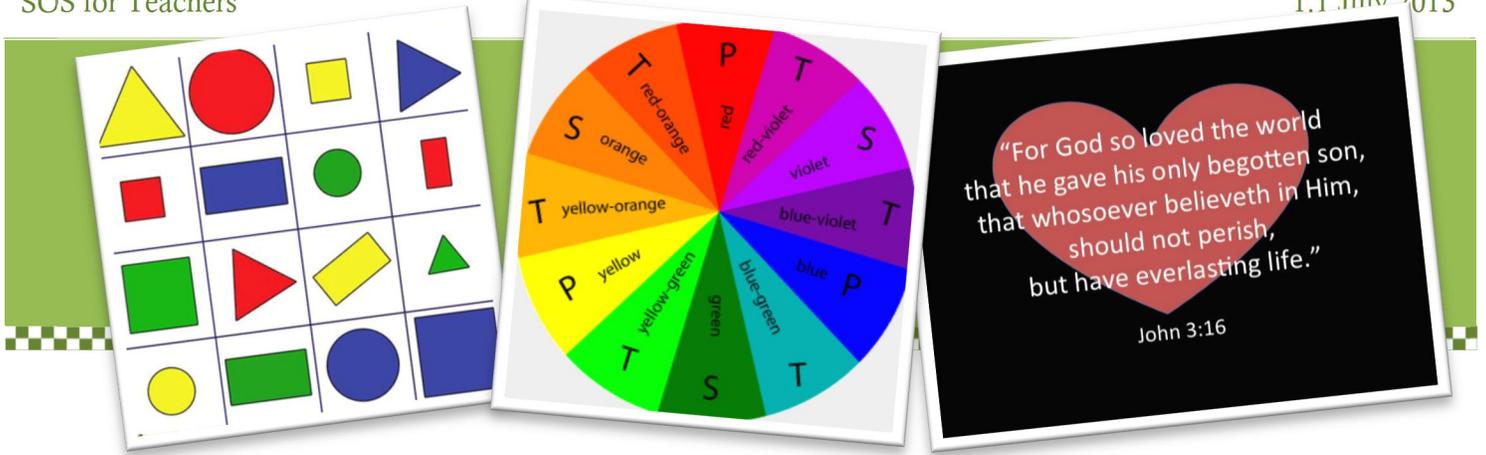
We appreciate your input of ideas, articles, lessons, etc. Please mail them to: sharonlilly@lillymx.com.

Your prayers for this ministry are greatly appreciated. It is a ministry of love and our prayer is that it will be used greatly by God to reach the lost and teach His Word.



God's Promise

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11



Tips for Illustrating

Are your illustrations easily read and understood?
Are they balanced and artfully painted?

Whether one uses paper materials or video to prepare illustrations, there are certain principles that not only make them attractive, but also easier to read. Form and color determine the attraction of the visual. Legibility determines the effectiveness of the message.

Form

Certain shapes are more appealing to the eye. The proportions of a sheet of letter size paper, with the orientation either horizontal or vertical, are attractive to the human mind. Shapes can be used effectively to guide the eye and emphasize the message.

Placement on the paper or the video scene also influence the presentation. Balance is important. One side too loaded or busy can have a negative effect on the viewer. Empty space on the page encourages attention to the design. A common error is to include too much on one page. When using a graphic or picture of a person or animal they should be directing their vision to the inside of the page. Working in groups of odd numbers and not evens is more pleasing to the viewer. Practice working with different designs and shapes that enhance the message you wish to promote.

Color

All decorating principles of color apply to the illustration of visual aids. A study of the color wheel and color combinations will be a great help in creating attractive presentations. Color should be coordinated with the message to enhance effectiveness. Most presentations should use no more than two colors plus one other (optional) for small accents. Black, white and gray (and sometimes cream) are not considered colors, but neutrals, and can be used in any layout with other colors.

It is attractive to use the same color scheme throughout the same illustrated lesson, verse or song. Most computer publisher programs have preset designs that are easy to use. A lot of information is available on the Internet that would be helpful to the serious illustrator.

...Continued on page 4



Shine where And when you are

Age isn't an excuse to stop, but it may be a time to change type of ministry. Each one should seek how God wants him to serve during each stage of his life. Are we providing opportunities for service according to talent and age grouping?



“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which he have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10

As we age and have less stamina and energy, we may think that our usefulness in God's ministry is ending or that we have done our part. However, we see in God's Word that the “elders” didn't cease to minister, but changed the way they ministered. Sometimes the aged become depressed, which in some cases is due to a feeling of uselessness. The change from the heavy schedule to a slower pace can be traumatic.

How can we help this group to keep on serving instead of being let sit completely on the side-lines? How can they keep on letting their light shine for the Lord?

Shine using their talents

Romans 11:29 says: **“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”**

We can find out what their talents are and present them with a

challenge to continue using them for the Lord giving them specific opportunities to do so.

A dear pastor's wife told me once that she didn't have any talents, but I knew that her great talent was loving people and being a great encouragement to them. She was loved by all and thus had a great ministry.

Shine before the Throne

I remember when my great grandmother passed away. I knew that I had lost a great prayer warrior; it was tangible. **“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16.** What a ministry is prayer! We need the effectual fervent prayer of the dear saints.

Shine before hearers

What a blessing and encouragement it is to hear testimonies of how God has protected, provided, given peace and love, worked out impossible situations in the lives of others. What stories they could tell if they had patient loving listeners. When my father was dying I heard him

tell some stories I had never heard before. I wish I had them on paper or recorded.

Shine before readers

If we could get them to write stories of their lives or short anecdotes, what a blessing they would be.



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Shine before viewers

In our electronic day, it is very easy to shoot videos of testimonies to use as sermon illustrations, promos, remembrances, etc.

Continued on page 4

Legibility

The purpose of the illustration is to communicate a message. The words used, the size, contrasting colors, light, proper language use and simplicity determine the success of the communication. If the audience cannot read the message, the purpose is defeated. Using letters too small or too ornate make it difficult to read. Using improper sentence or phrase division chops the visual and hinders reading. For instance, a bad division would be:

"Years I spent in
vanity and
pride,"

A complete phrase should be on one line and not divided. A better division would be:

"Years I spent
in vanity and pride,"

Diagramming the sentence will help determine the proper phrase placement.

Use a good contrast of colors between the graphics, and especially between the words and the background. White on black or black on white makes a good contrast. However, two dark colors or two light colors won't have enough contrast to be easily legible. Certain combinations create a moving sensation on the computer screen and are not easily read, for instance: red on green or green on red. I have found that in rooms with a lot of light it is better to use a dark background with very light letters. Websites that teach webpage designing have information that will help you choose good color combinations for preparing your illustrations.

Strive to prepare good visuals that communicate well the lessons, verses, songs, etc. that you wish to teach. Excellence and attractiveness serve as magnets to bring people to Christ and promote growth and spiritual maturity.

Learning is a continuing experience. There is always a need for teachers.

Shine... - Continued from page 3

Shine giving council

Leviticus 19:32 says: **"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."**

Many verses in Proverbs teach what should be our attitude toward the elderly. They have a panoramic view of many years, much experience and wisdom. They can give godly guidance and have not become out of sync with the world because they still live in it.

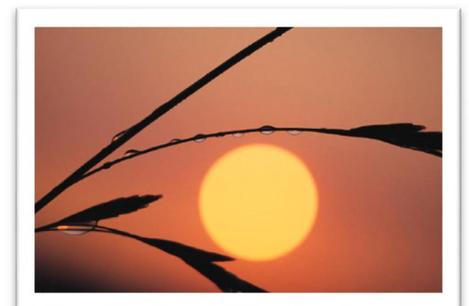
Mentoring when paired with the right person can be an effective ministry for the elderly.

Shine before all

Shine, communicating love and encouragement. This can be done in many ways: personally one on one, through email, mail, social networking or just notes of encouragement.

Don't let lack of confidence in abilities, physical limitations or

depression keep you from serving the Lord. You are of great value and we need you to shine where and when you are.



The Living Word



“In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word
was with God,
and the Word
was God.”
John 1:1



Without teachers –
no lesson
Without students –
no learning

An effective, growing class is the result of a balanced ministry. Going and giving share equally; going to bring them in and giving them God's Word.

Persistence, patience and prayer help bring them in. Planning, preparation and prayer create interest in the class.

Expositional teaching of the Word of God is becoming a rarity. Many are teaching a philosophy of religion. Some teach the practice of Christianity. Others with charismatic personalities have great followings. But what moves people to make lasting decisions in spiritual matters? Is it not the Word of God?

Isaiah 55:11 tells us: “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

The Living Word of God changes people's lives. Hebrews 4:12 says: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Psalm 119 teaches us the importance of the Word of God. We should hide it in our hearts. It should light our path. Many other truths of the Word of God are taught in this chapter.

The Bible teaches that “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Timothy 4:3,4

Do we teach the Word of God? Are our lessons saturated with the Scriptures? Are we leading our students to memorize Bible verses and passages?

Not only should our Bible be in our hand and/or visible to the class, but we should study God's Word, and memorize His Word, knowing that He promises to prosper His living Word.

“Open thou mine eyes,
that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”
Psalm 119:18

Learning

Listening and learning are not synonymous. One can listen with only 20% capacity. A good teacher looks for ways to gain the students full attention. Using visual aids, planning participation, using a diversity of methods, gaining love and respect and presenting an interesting, valuable lesson are means to gain and maintain attention. The more the student listens and participates the more he will learn. “...teaching them to observe all things...”



The Sunday Evening Service

The Sunday evening Church service was an anticipated event when I was growing up. A half an hour before the service we had training union, a special time of Bible study and activities that resulted in spiritual growth. I remember the services being exciting and challenging. They weren't just another service, but a time of activities, testimonies, special music, etc.

In contrast many churches today have such poor attendance that they are cancelling them or only meeting in small special interest groups. There are many reasons why this is happening, but I would like to give you some ideas to make this service not only interesting, but profitable, things that will attract God's people to His church.

Music

A more flexible service on Sunday evening would allow both planned and spontaneous music. Including more specials, using new talent, including the children in the program add interest for the audience and training for the participants. If children, young people or adults are training on instruments it is good to expose them to playing in public. Interspersing these specials with congregational singing helps maintain interest and participation.

Do you remember when we were asked during the service what hymn we wanted the congregation to sing? Sometimes they just asked for requests and sometimes you had to give a testimony or win a Bible drill. Participation is a tremendous way to awaken and maintain interest.

Even spontaneous events can be goal or theme oriented. Think "training" and not just routine and/or entertainment. Plan for diversity. Remember, "same o - same o" kills interest.

Testimonies

Testimonies of God's working in other people's lives encourage us. There are different ways to plan the testimonies. A good way to kill a service is to have long testimonies or the same testimonies service after service. Testimony time can be planned. Ask a certain person to give a testimony about a certain thing; for instance, Faith Promise Missionary Giving or tithing, or answered prayer, etc. Spontaneous testimonies should be time limited and controlled. There are popcorn testimonies (giving thanks for one thing in a few words), match testimonies (until the match burns out), stop watch or timer testimonies, etc. Passing the blessing always is interesting. These ideas are not just for children, but interest young people and adults as well.

Bible Games

Oh, what fun we had during Bible drills! We became adept at finding Scriptures. We learned where to find the different books of the Bible. There should be rules, however. Just reading without understanding or good diction shows a lack of respect for God's Word. Having the drill theme oriented emphasizes the goal of the message.

Persecution is a game in which the leader begins and continues reading a passage of Scripture until someone in the audience finds it and stands and begins reading with the reader.

Searching for verses related to the theme trains people in Bible research. Research Bible games and you will find many things that will enhance your service on Sunday evening.

Memory Work

Learning a verse or (over time) a passage of Scripture helps us hide God's Word in our hearts. Illustrate the verse or verses using either materials or video. Reward people who learn the verses. If someone learns a chapter of a book of the Bible, ask them to repeat it during the service. Use diversity and moderation in the presentation of this special time. And don't forget to review each week.

Video Presentations

A short video presentation always awakens interest. They could be a missionary presentation, a theme presentation, a promotional presentation or even one that occupies the entire service like a biography, historical presentation, etc.

Special Children's Time

Children need to be in the church service at least once during the week in order to complete the training toward adulthood. Sunday night could be a special family service. If so, you could include a special time for them: Children's choir, children's bell choir, a short story or lesson, a child's testimony, repeating their memory work, special music (good training), etc.

Other Specialties

Some other ideas include: a 2 to 5 minute word study, an object lesson, Bible magic, character study, hymn story, favorite verse quote, poetry, mime, short drama, etc. Use the talents of the people in the church to make this a special time.

Create an atmosphere of love and companionship and you will draw your people back to Sunday evening services. Keep the service interesting by using diversity in each service. Use more than one of these ideas each time. Keep them guessing. Don't let them go expecting the same things each meeting. Plan and work to make each time memorable, profitable and interesting. Ask God for His direction and help. Follow His leading. People grow spiritually when challenged in God's Word. Never a dull moment attracts people.