



NextGen Teaching Development

This document describes tools and techniques to develop an effective Teaching and engage the NextGen audience.

The Teaching in a NextGen class is five to ten minutes in length and brings the Scripture lesson into focus to make it relevant to the lives of the audience. The Teaching should also provide a clear Bible Truth/Central Idea and issue a challenge to Live the Truth. Effectively engaging the audience helps them understand how to apply what they have learned to their lives and allows them to be transformed by God's truth.

Prepare Your Heart

- Pray. Ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit as you complete the lesson, read, reread, and meditate on the week's passage. Read the passage in several different translations.
- Seek God's message for the class. Hold the Teaching with open hands and allow God to direct what you write.
- Consider what God is teaching you. Relevant messages are often an overflow of the heart. Real transformation in one's life can be contagious to the audience.

Develop the Teaching

- Use the NextGen Teaching Template as a guide.
- Summarize the passage. Answer the question: "What is God saying?"
- Determine the Bible Truth/Central Idea. The Bible Truth answers the question, "What does God want us to learn?" This is a timeless truth, a key principle learned from the passage.
 - Bible Truth examples:
 - God keeps His promises.
 - God is always in control.
 - Nothing is impossible with God.
 - God will equip you for His plans.
- Challenge the audience to Live the Truth. Answer the question, "What does God want us to do about the truth we have learned?" Motivate them to act in response to the Bible Truth.
- Creatively introduce the Teaching. Grab the attention of the audience, raise a thought-provoking question, or point out the relevance of what you are about to say so that they are eager to listen.
- Develop 1–2 points to support the Bible Truth.
- Conclude the Teaching with a Live the Truth challenge.

Engage the Audience

- Be real, relational, relevant, and relaxed.
- Illustrate your points with visuals, personal stories, or object lessons.
 - Use skits, plays, stories, dialog, game shows, panels, or songs.
 - Vary methods and mediums.
 - Choose age-appropriate illustrations.
 - Share stories or events from your life that are God-honoring and keep Him as the hero.
 - Incorporate visuals and props.

- Dress up—be a super-hero or shepherd.
- Encourage interaction by asking youth or leaders to participate.
- Incorporate object lessons.
 - Bag of school supplies—God supplies our every need.
 - Tube of toothpaste (once it is out you can't put it back in)—use words pleasing to God.
 - Google Maps—the Bible is the spiritual navigation system for our lives.
 - Toolbox—tools to cope with life.
 - Puzzle—nothing is impossible with God. He works through the mess to a beautiful finish.
 - X-ray or Magnifying glass—God sees everything, even what is really in your heart.
 - Light switch—Jesus brings light to a dark world.
 - Masks—don't pretend or hide; God created you and loves you just the way you are.
 - Binoculars—God sees everything you do.
 - Umbrella—God will protect you.
 - Backpack—God will carry your burdens.
 - Life preserver—Jesus died to save you.
 - Molding clay—God wants to mold your life.
 - Mirror—you reflect Christ.
 - Life raft without any air in it—doesn't do any good to follow Jesus halfway.
 - Bag of tricks—Satan will use every trick he knows to get you to do what he wants.
- Use discussion questions to expand understanding of the Bible Truth and Live the Truth.
- Repeat what you want remembered. Consider using motions and having the audience repeat the Bible Truth.
- Hand out small reminders, for example: life savers, anchors, compass, or bracelets.

Teach for Transformation

- Repeat the Bible Truth throughout your Teaching to make it stick.
- Emphasize application as you conclude.
- Be well rehearsed. Know your Teaching well enough that you don't have to read. Make eye contact.
- Trust the Lord and watch Him work in your class!

"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." Exodus 4:12 NIV
