

HOW TO TEACH TEENAGERS GOD'S TRUTH

- 1. Consider what is at stake.**
What happens in their lives in the future if they don't get what you are trying to give them? If a burden for what the teens need will grow, so will a desire to really get through to them!
 - 2. Creatively approach the truth.**
How can one creatively capture their attention and communicate the reality of this truth in an understandable way? Be appropriate but willing to appear foolish in order to get across the truth you teach.
 - 3. Connect personally with the listeners.**
How can a youth leader personally connect?
Study them...attempt in every way possible to understand their lives.
Eyes – look at them
Body Position – physical location as well as movements and habits
Facial Expression – add life to the message
Heart – connect from the heart: be honest, transparent, open and sincere
 - 4. Create space for feedback.**
From teens in the form of questions and responses.
From others who can honestly tell you your strengths and weaknesses in teaching.
From the Holy Spirit who will guide you into teaching material.
From yourself – not too critical, not too proud...sincerely honest – willing to grow.

Get the teens involved in the lesson somehow...rather than just sitting there hearing a lecture. Get them to think and discover the truth with you.
 - 5. Contain personal and practical illustrations in every lesson.**
Sincere, humble, real situations in which you can illustrate how you learned God's truth. Be transparent without glamorizing sin and wrong. Be real.
 - 6. Compel a personal response.**
When preparing a lesson ask yourself two simple questions...
What do I want them to know?
What do I want them to do about it?
Always conclude with, "What do I want them to do about this truth?"
Be clear, be specific, put action to what you teach. Give them specific ways to put into practice the truth you've taught.
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- 7. Commit to personal touch outside class.**
Be real, be genuinely interested, be fun, and be a friend outside of the class. As relationships outside of class are built, the right to be heard inside of class is earned.
- 8. Commend yourself and your listeners to God.**
Don't ever let the devil convince you that what you're saying is not making a difference. God's Word will always work in their hearts. Whether or not you see the results you want to see, just keep teaching and let God do the rest.
- 9. Continually grow personally.**
Your best teaching will be from that which God has recently taught you. If you haven't learned anything recently, then your teaching will be dry and boring. Read, study, grow, and take the journey yourself.
- 10. Compliment spiritual growth.**
Everyone is motivated by positive affirmation...so are teens when it comes to spiritual growth. How?
Written note
Loving word
Public praise
Small encouraging gift
Personal time together

When you see a teen really "getting it," call attention to it in some way. Recognize it and praise it. Look for the good and praise it.
