

CHAPTER TWELVE: SUNDAY SCHOOL PREPARATION

Thursday: This is the day where SS teachers can begin their preparation:

One of the reasons we have been laboring in the vineyard on this project is so that if you are a Sunday School Teacher you can now implement this into a practical exercise for your students.

Let's see how this works for any teacher of a Sunday School Class. Let's learn how to the lesson study guide sheet for each student to do a week ahead. First you will have to energize yourself and be a week ahead of the Sunday School quarterly plan. *[The purpose of a lesson sheet is to get the student into the lesson on a daily basis – like a daily quiet time devotional. It is hoped that as they work on their study guide they will see the plan unfolding as well as the purpose for this passage with an ultimate goal of having a thirst for the Word of Truth.]* As the teacher you should aim to formulate all questions to follow the “Jesus/Socrates/Bloom’s Taxonomy” format for question development.

Here’s a weekly schedule that works best so that you are not pulling a Saturday night exercise in preparation:

Thursday: Make a student study guide sheet and at the same time doing a ‘save as’ to make an answer sheet along with your questions. It will be amazing to you as you implement this that often you write a question and at the same time are able to recall the facts for each as the answer! Sometimes you find that the Holy Spirit will give you a question for which you have no answer. This is the time the Holy Spirit will direct you into further study. Or you may write questions and find that the answers flow like water from a tap. This should confirm to you that you have internalized the passage and have it “cemented” in your mind.

Friday-Saturday After having completed your lesson sheet, take your answer sheet and begin to find illustrations; stories; props and maps that you might like to use to open the lesson. Remember you are working a week ahead so this gives you time to not only prepare for tomorrow’s lesson but also to begin a week ahead.

Saturday. Set this time aside to pray, meditate on lesson and polish, asking the Holy Spirit to anoint you for the time you will teach the following day.

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

Practical Steps to Preparing a Study Guide: How does one take the information from the study worksheet and make a study guide pertinent to your class setting. PRAY~! Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the needs of your class that you may formulate a study guide sheet that is prepared specifically for them and not for a general audience.

A study guide sheet is ideally designed with a five day format in mind beginning with Monday and ending on Friday. Always begin with a sample review paragraph and introducing the new lesson which ties the previous week and the future week together. Follow that with the principles you have gleaned from your study and then the Aim. See a sample below from Matthew 14 to 16 passage which was done by this author.

Matthew 14 to 16	Date:
<p>A study of the scripture reveals to us that God is seeking men/women of faith who will worship him in purity. We all fall into one of two categories of faith: We either have it or we don't. And those who have it have a measure of faith. And further if we have it we are commended if we utilize it and rebuked if we do not. In the OT and NT we find that God shows us both true and false faith through circumstances and people's actions. Such is the picture in Matthew chapters 14 to 16 for it is here that through the eyes of Matthew we see three distinct demonstrations of faith: feeble faith, false faith, and full faith, two of which respond to Him in worship.</p> <p>PRINCIPLES: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1 False faith is condemned whereas proven faith is rewarded.</p> <p>Our AIM this week is to see which kind of faith we have and how we respond accordingly to the measure we have.</p>	

Figure 1-Sample Study Guide Beginning

Once you have 'set the stage' for your students, begin with the Day One Questions. Alert your students to the passage scripture you want them to read followed by some questions. Limit your questions to no more than three per day! If you are working with children or teens limit it to no more than 2. The purpose is for you to get the student involved in a daily quiet time each day in preparation for the lesson the following Sunday. Your goal is for you, the classroom teacher, to be the facilitator of the discussion using the questions as a backdrop and adding more information as you teach. You want the class involved not like a 'bump on a log'. As the students study it is hoped that their hunger for the Word will increase. Be sure to leave ample room for your students to write their thoughts. That spacing has been removed in the sample below.

DAY ONE: Matthew 14:22-33 What do Storms and Feeble Faith teach us about Worship?

1. (**Gathering Facts-Knowledge**) Read the account of this miracle from Matt 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21. Jesus needed time to talk with His Father about many things, so he retired to the mountain to pray. Using Matthew 14 and John 6:15 give some reasons why he went to pray.

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

2. (**Evaluation**) Now let's look at Peter. Give some ideas as to why Peter wanted to "walk on water" to Jesus? Jesus told the disciples to have courage and be not afraid. Did Peter obey those instructions? If not, why not: James 1:6, Luke 22:31. Do you think he ever forgot this lesson? See 1 Peter 1:6.
3. (**Analysis-Synthesis**) So far we have seen the Magi worship Jesus; the leper worship Jesus and now the disciples. Do a word study on worship. Who are we to worship? ? [Mat 2:2,8](#), [4:9-10](#), [15:9](#)How are we to worship? Why are we to worship?

Figure 2-Sample Day One Questions

Continue to work until you have approximately 15 questions for your students divided up into Days One through Day Five. Those questions should follow the Bloom's Taxonomy pattern. If you need help remembering go back and re-read the section on Bloom. Always ask yourself: How does the Bible present it and how should I present it? What does the Holy Spirit want the student to glean and then apply?

Teachers need to have their work prepared in advance and well thought out. As you are preparing your student's study guide sheet, do a 'save as' and then flip between a student's study guide sheet and a teacher's answer key. Here is a sample from Day One from a Teacher's Answer Key for Question #3. NOTE: Answers are in blue or red.

Question #3: (**Analysis-Synthesis**) So far we have seen the Magi worship Jesus; the leper worship Jesus and now the disciples. Do a word study on worship. Who are we to worship? ? [Mat 2:2,8](#), [4:9-10](#), [15:9](#)How are we to worship? Why are we to worship?

Teacher's Answer Key and Study Helps: Worship: proskuneo <4352> **pros-koo-neh'-o to kiss**, to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence to worship, do obeisance, show respect, fall or prostrate before.

The ancient Oriental (especially Persian) mode of salutation between persons of equal ranks was to kiss each other on the lips; when the difference of rank was slight, they kissed each other on the cheek; when one was much inferior, he fell upon his knees touched his forehead to the ground or prostrated himself; throwing kisses at the same time towards the superior. It is this latter mode of salutation that Greek writers express by proskuneō. In the NT, generally to do reverence or homage to someone, usually by kneeling or prostrating oneself before him. In the Septuagint it means to bow down, to prostrate oneself in reverence, homage.

How: it appears that we are to worship in one of two ways, by kneeling or by falling prostrate;

Why : it shows that we see the other as superior to ourselves

Whom: we are to worship Jesus and Him alone as seen in [Mat 4:10](#) Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Matt 2:2 saying, “Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose⁶ and have come to worship him. 2:8 He¹² sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well.

Satan desired to be worshiped, NOTE: he specifically asked Jesus to fall down (that is prostrate Himself) and worship him. Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Teacher note: Jesus noted that the Pharisees were worshiping in vain, that is what they were doing was futile for they were ignoring God’s commandments and replacing them with those they designed.

Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Additional Discussion Question for Class which will help you ascertain if they are gleaning the principles and ideas from the passage:

After reading the accounts give a spiritual principle about storms of life; Jesus, prayer; and how we are to respond using Prov 15:3 and Heb 4:13. (**Application**) No matter where we are, Jesus is praying for us and sees and knows all we are facing. Jesus prays us through the storms and in the storms. After the disciples came through the storm they fell down and worshiped Him. They acknowledged Him as the Son of God and that teaches us a valuable lesson about humility and reverence when we too come through a storm. The more important point is that we are to see that while we are in the storm, Jesus is watching us and watching over us, nothing is hidden from Him, He knows all that is taking place. How precious to know that our very Lord cares so much for us that He allows us to go through a storm and prays us through it, watching us every step of the way and He comes to us just at the right moment when we are weary of toiling and ‘at the end’ of our resources, He comes “walking on the water” to us to rescue us.

Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on those who are evil and those who are good. Heb 4:13 And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.



(**Application**) What did this account teach you about: storms, prayer, feeble faith and worship that you can practically apply this week? This is such a marvelous lesson about how Jesus sends us into storms that He might teach us obedience. The disciples could have turned the boat around and headed back to the shore from whence they had come, but they obediently pressed on. That was step one of their lesson. Jesus came at “just the right moment” not a moment too soon or a moment too late. He may startle us by His appearance but He is there to assure us that He is right there with us in the midst of the storm. He had been praying for us in the storm...we may not even recognize it but He has been praying. Peter’s faith may have been feeble but better to have a little faith than no faith like the Pharisees we shall see next. When we see how Jesus can calm the storm,

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

and take us to the end of the storm, what can we do but fall down and worship Him, for He is the Son of God, maker of heaven and earth.

Figure 3-Sample Teacher Answer Key

Teaching Sunday School is a high calling and one that should not be taken on lightly: James 3:1 “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, because you know that we will be judged more strictly.” Therefore, it behooves us as teachers to concentrate on the preparation for our class. In addition, Sunday School should not be a “sponge” exercise but one that challenges. Sponges take in water but unless wrung out they are useless to do the job for which they are designed. Paul wisely counseled Timothy: 2 Tim 2:15 “Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.” And Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice – alive, holy, and pleasing to God – which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.” All of which is summed up by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: 4:11-14 “It was he who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and **teachers**,

The Purpose: *to equip* the saints for the work of ministry, that is, *to build up* the body of Christ,

How Long: until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God – a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ’s full stature.

The Reason: So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.”

May God grant you wisdom to know when you are to take on this responsibility and then to use the tools herein to guide you into your study so that you are preparing students for a higher calling, mature and steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord for the day is quickly approaching when all will be held to account for the work for which he/she has been called.

For future reference: Lesson Development step by step.