



Teaching the Christian Faith

Timothy Leadership Training Institute
www.tlti.org
All rights reserved. 6th Edition © 2016
5th Edition © 2014
4th Edition © 2011
3rd Edition © 2008
2nd Edition © 2006
1st Edition © 2004



Introduction

Through this manual you will explore the challenge of teaching in the church and develop skills to engage in this ministry faithfully and effectively. It is designed for Sunday school teachers as well as those engaged in youth ministry and adult education.

Since Pentecost, each generation of Christians has faced the challenge of sharing their faith and building disciples in obedience to Christ's command in Matthew 28: *Go and make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.*

The teaching ministry of the church has taken many forms throughout its history. In recent centuries, day-schools have developed throughout the world to promote literacy and education for all. The worldwide day-school movement has often influenced the way churches structure and conduct their own teaching ministry. When working through this manual, participants will reflect on the challenge of making disciples using both formal and informal teaching methods.

At the heart of the manual, four lessons present a method of preparing and facilitating Bible lessons. This method is useful for those who lead Bible lessons for children, for youth or for adults.

Working through this manual, you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to understand the importance of the teaching ministry of the church and how it relates to different dimensions of the human being.
- Become familiar with the 4-step method to prepare a Bible lesson and develop skills to use it effectively.
- Better understand the challenges related to teaching children, youth and adults.
- Practice what is learned through Kingdom oriented action plans related to teaching.
- Continue to develop skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability.

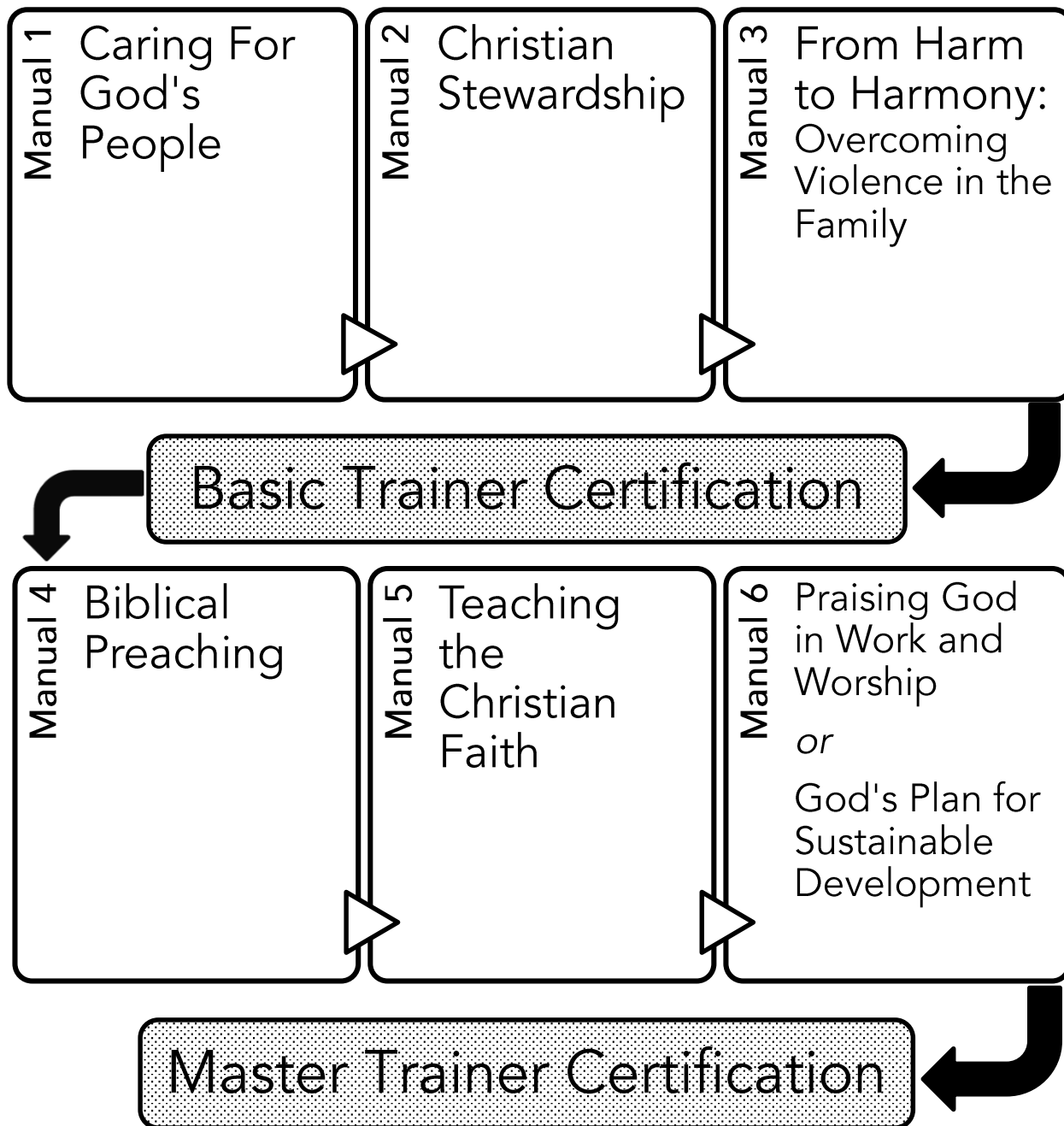
As you study this manual, think of those who you may train using it in your local church or elsewhere. Ask yourself the question, "Who else in my church can be used by God to prepare and lead Bible lessons?" In your group, discuss how God can use you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you, once again, to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God's People: ***Great Things with God***. We are confident that God can continue to bring significant changes to your church and your community through this training.



Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Master Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through reporting@tlti.org.



Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	2
Timothy Leadership Training Certification	3
Participant Testimonies	5
Reminder to TLT Trainers	6
Lesson 1 – Teachers and How They Teach	7
Lesson 2 – Learners.....	9
Lesson 3 – Learning by Example and through the Apprentice Method	11
Lesson 4 – Preparing a Bible Lesson I: The Theme of the Bible Text	13
Lesson 5 – Preparing a Bible Lesson II: Teaching for Results	15
Lesson 6 – Preparing a Bible Lesson III: Teaching Activities	18
Lesson 7 – Preparing a Bible Lesson IV: The Lesson Plan	21
Lesson 8 – Teaching Children, Youth and Adults in the Church	23
Lesson 9 – Making a 4-6 Month Action Plan	26
Lesson 10 – Final Lesson: 4-6 Month Action Plan Reports	30
Appendix: Preparing a Bible Lesson.....	31



Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

ASIA

India

One pastor who leads three small churches in three different villages learned how to start Sunday schools. He started a Sunday school in each church with average attendances of 7, 8, and 32, respectively. He wrote the lessons himself since he had no literature available.

One pastor was surprised to realize that, after the training, his church leaders were able to produce ten Bible lessons, which they can use and share with other churches. In addition to that, they are looking to produce and compile 84 other new Bible lessons in four months.

AFRICA

Kenya

After implementing my action plan on Teaching the Christian Faith, we had new children join the church. We then decided to visit the parents who were not coming to the church at the time. Today those parents are now members.

Malawi

After training Sunday school teachers in the whole synod, teaching improved. As a result, 1480 adults, 95 Sunday school children, and 45 youths joined the church.

Uganda

Before attending TLT training, we used to teach Sunday school for adults at my church without planning a series of lessons to be taught. After the training, we managed to develop a plan of various lessons. People now find it to be more appealing for them, and as a result Sunday school attendance has increased.

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba

A committed Sunday school teacher planned to prepare four people to become members of the church. She taught them lessons on “first steps for new Christians.” With great joy, she reported that these four people were received as members. Teaching God’s Word is something she has learned to do well.

Peru

A children’s ministry leader taught four families to have daily devotions and prayers with their children. They are all still doing this regularly. She is also involving children in the worship services. Because of this attention, the children’s ministry has grown by over 30%.



Reminder to TLT Trainers

Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1st lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.

Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

Reminder: The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



LESSON 1

Teachers and How They Teach

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:5-8, 2 Timothy 2:2

Why is teaching so important in the family and in the church?

2. My Testimony

Think of a person who had an important influence in your life.

- *How did that person influence you?*
- *Think of a few words to describe that person's **life qualities** (knowledge, personality, attitudes).*
- *Share these words together and make a list of them.*
- *What are the qualities mentioned most often?*

3. Teachers in the Bible

Think of two or three good teachers in the Bible (other than Jesus). What were their life qualities that enabled them to be good teachers?

Jesus the Teacher

Matthew 9:36; Mark 1:27, 38; John 13:13-15

What were the life qualities that made Jesus a good teacher?

Jesus was also a good teacher because he taught in many different ways.

Mark 12:41-44, Luke 8:4, 10:1, 11:1

What were some of the different ways Jesus taught?

4. What we teach: the Bible

In **2 Timothy 3:16**, Paul gives four reasons to teach the Bible. *What are the four verbs used in your Bible translation?*

These four verbs describe how to teach the Bible:

- 1) **Teach what is true.** Good teachers help us **understand** what God is doing in the world and God's will for our lives.
- 2) **Show what is wrong.** Good teachers **warn** us about wrong ideas and wrong living.
- 3) **Correct.** Good teachers do not just tell us what is wrong; they help us **correct** what we are doing wrong.
- 4) **Train.** Finally, a good teacher, like a good sports coach, helps **train** us to develop our talents and serve God.



5. The Teacher's Authority

Teachers do not have authority because they are always right! Their authority does not come from their position. A teacher's authority comes from a good understanding of Scripture and his/her ability to model and teach it.

Why did Paul have authority in his ministry? Acts 20:19-20, 27, 35

6. MY PLAN

Activity: Write one thing you will do in your family or your church, before the next lesson, to practice one of the four verbs found in 2 Timothy 3:16. When will you do this?

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

7. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.



LESSON 2

Learners

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Did you accomplish the activity planned during Lesson 1?
- Did you encounter any obstacles which prevented you from accomplishing it? If so, how can you overcome those obstacles, by God's grace, before Lesson 3?
- Did the change you expected and prayed for happen? How do you know?
- Did anything unexpected happen?

2. *Think of a person whom you would consider mature. What makes them mature? What are their life qualities?*

Ephesians 4:13

What is the reason Paul gives for teaching in the church in verse 13?

3. Maturity

Christian maturity concerns **knowledge, attitudes, and actions.**

KNOWLEDGE

Give an example of how someone helped you gain new knowledge; for example, new information or a new idea.

Psalm 103:2, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 4:14, Acts 18:28

Why is knowledge so important for faith?

Give examples of things that Christians are expected to know.

ATTITUDES AND DEEP FEELINGS

Give an example of an experience during which you felt something deeply (like joy, sadness, love, or anger).

Deuteronomy 6:5, Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 119:127-128, 1 John 4:11-12

What are some of the attitudes and deep feelings that God expects of Christians?

When might anger be an appropriate Christian attitude?



ACTIONS

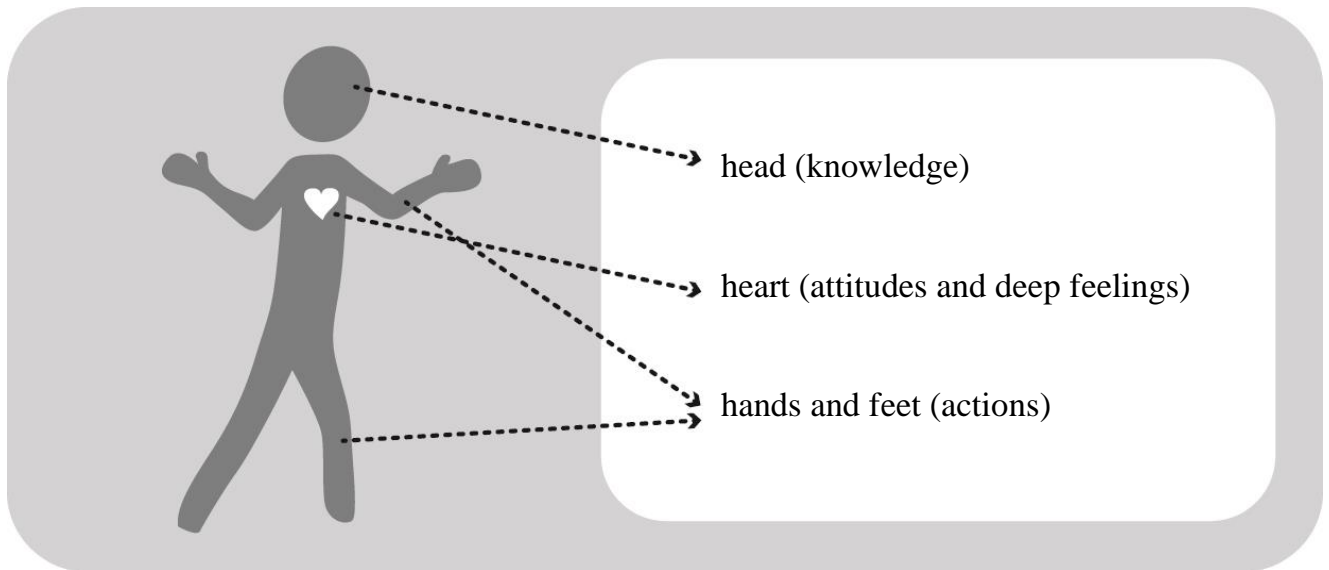
Give an example of something you learned to do from someone else.

Deuteronomy 5:1, Psalm 37:3, John 13:12-17, James 1:27

What are some of the actions that God expects of Christians?

4. **Head, Heart and Hands**

Knowledge, attitudes, and actions are all part of each person. We can think of these three parts as related to the **head**, the **heart** and the **hands and feet**.



5. **Teaching for the head, heart and hands**

Together, make 3 three lists of examples of teaching particularly:

- 1) *For knowledge*
- 2) *For attitudes and feelings*
- 3) *For actions*

Think about the way you teach. Do you tend to emphasize the “head,” the “heart,” or the “hands and feet” when you teach?

What happens when teaching does not include all three?

6. **MY PLAN**

Activity: Write one thing you will do in your family or your church life, before the next lesson, to demonstrate an appropriate Christian attitude. When do you expect to do that?

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write one change that you expect to happen, by God’s grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

7. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.



LESSON 3

Learning by Example and through the Apprentice Method

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Did you accomplish the activity planned during Lesson 2?
- Did you encounter any obstacles which prevented you from accomplishing it? If so, how can you overcome those obstacles, by God's grace, before Lesson 4?
- Did the change you expected and prayed for happen? How do you know?
- Did anything unexpected happen?

In addition to our formal learning, we all have learned much by the **example** of others and through the **apprentice method**.

2. Example

Young children watch and imitate parents and older brothers and sisters. They learn so much through example. Later, it is hard to change what was learned at an early age.

What are a few things you learned from the example of your parents?

*Why does Jesus speak so severely in **Luke 17:1-2**?*

Hebrews 13:7 *What do your family members and those in your church learn about the Christian life from observing you?*

3. Apprentice Learning takes place when an experienced person takes an apprentice (a learner) for assistance and training, for example, in cooking, farming, or computers. One of the main ways in which Jesus taught his disciples was through apprentice learning.

Give examples of apprentice learning in your community.

These are the four steps of apprentice learning:

- 1) The apprentice carefully observes the trainer do a task.
- 2) The trainer explains what he/she has just done. The apprentice listens carefully.
- 3) The trainer asks the apprentice to do the task and watches him/her do it.
- 4) The trainer evaluates the apprentice. He/she affirms what was right and corrects what needs to be changed. The apprentice listens carefully.

Then steps one and two are **repeated**, followed by steps three and four. *A good trainer does not skip any steps.* All four steps are repeated until the apprentice does the task well.

What does the trainer do in each step?

What does the apprentice do in each step?

Give examples of training with the apprentice method from the Bible.



Is there someone who you could train using the apprentice method?

4. MY PLAN

Activity: Write the name of one or more persons in your family or church who could engage in apprentice learning with you. Write the ability they could learn with you. Before the next lesson, speak to that person about this possibility and propose to him or her an activity that you could do together. Examples:

- Together plan and teach a Bible lesson for youth.
- Together visit one or more families of children in your church.
- Together train your church's Sunday school teachers how to plan Bible lessons for adults.

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

5. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.



LESSON 4

Preparing a Bible Lesson I: The Theme of the Bible Text

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Did you accomplish the activity planned during Lesson 3?
- Did you encounter any obstacles which prevented you from accomplishing it? If so, how can you overcome those obstacles, by God's grace, before Lesson 5?
- Did the change you expected and prayed for happen? How do you know?
- Did anything unexpected happen?

2. Preparing a Bible Lesson

In the next four lessons, you will learn to prepare and lead Bible lessons by asking and answering these four questions:

- 1) What is the **theme** of the Bible text I will teach? (Lesson 4)
- 2) What are the **results** I expect to achieve by teaching this lesson? (Lesson 5)
- 3) What are the teaching **activities** I will use to achieve these results? (Lesson 6)
- 4) What is my **lesson plan**? (Lesson 7)

3. The Theme of the Text

The theme is the *main idea* or the *main subject* of the text.

Note: Even if you do not preach in the church, we recommend that you study the manual Biblical Preaching. It will help you prepare Bible lessons because the three keys of good preaching are also the three keys of good teaching:

- [1] Teach the **Text**
- [2] Teach the **Gospel**
- [3] Teach for **Results**

To find the theme of the text:

- 1) Read and then reread the Bible text.
- 2) Think about the different ideas or the different events presented in the text. Write them down.
- 3) Ask the most important question: "*What is God doing in this text?*"

These three steps will help you find the theme of the text.

An example:

- 1) Read and reread **John 3:16**.
- 2) Think about the different ideas in the text: God gave Jesus, believing, eternal life. *What are some other ideas in the text?*
- 3) *What is God doing?* **God loves the world**. There are many ideas in John 3:16, but what God does is most important: **God loves the world**. This is a good theme for a lesson on this text.



Another example:

- 1) Read and reread **Psalm 1**.
- 2) Think about the different ideas in the text: meditate on the law of God, be like a strong tree, or be like chaff that will perish, or another example from the text.
- 3) What is God doing in this text? **God blesses those who keep God's law**. This is a good theme for the text. What God does is the most important part of the text.

What is God doing in this text? It is important to answer this question so that the children and adults we teach will hear about **God's** deeds, **God's** call, and **God's** encouragement for them. It often takes time and reflection to answer this question. Read the Bible chapter before the lesson text and the chapter after. It may also help to speak to someone else, like a pastor, to help answer the question.

4. Read the following passages to see what God is doing:
 - **Psalm 6** - God is listening to the cries of a believer.
 - **Mark 10:13-16** - God, in Christ, welcomes children and honors them.
 - **Genesis 50:15-21** *What is God doing in this text? What would be a good theme for a lesson on this text?*

The manual on preaching presents other exercises to help answer the question: "What is God doing in this text?"

5. MY PLAN

Activity: Your facilitator will now assign everyone the same Bible text to work on individually during the coming week. (Your facilitator may assign a different text to different participants if this is more appropriate.)

Write down a time during the coming week when you will:

- 1) Read the assigned Bible text carefully.
 - 2) Make a list of the different ideas or events in the text.
 - 3) Answer the question, "**What is God doing in this text?**"
 - 4) Write down a good theme for a lesson on this subject.
6. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.



LESSON 5

Preparing a Bible Lesson II: Teaching for Results

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Did you accomplish the activity planned during Lesson 4?
- Did you encounter any obstacles which prevented you from accomplishing it? If so, how can you overcome those obstacles, by God's grace, before Lesson 6?
- Share together the names of the leaders in your church who could be trained to give good Bible lessons.

2. Review the four steps used to prepare a Bible lesson from Lesson 4.

Lesson 4 presented the first step: **theme**. This lesson presents the second step: **results**.

3. Teaching for Results

What are other words for "results"?

The apostle John wrote his gospel to bring about **results** or **expected changes** (John 20:31). God wants the Word to bring change in our lives, in the church, and in the world (Isaiah 55:10-11).

What changes can we expect to observe in the lives of those we teach according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

Give examples of some changes we can observe in the lives of those we teach.

Give examples of some changes we can't always observe.

4. Now we will think together about the following question.

*How does the **theme** of my lesson relate to the **needs** of my learners?*

For example:

Read **John 3:16** (Theme: God loves the whole world.)

How does God's love for the world relate to the needs of those I teach?

(What are the needs of those you teach? How does God's love to the whole world relate to that need? Think, for example, of their need to receive God's forgiveness by faith, or their need to show God's love to others, or their need to engage in Christ's worldwide mission.)

Discuss your answers to this question together.

Read **Psalms 1** (Theme: Those who keep God's law are blessed.)

How does this theme relate to the needs of those I teach?

Discuss your answers to this question together.

Ask the same question as it relates to the Bible text you chose in the last lesson.

How does the theme of that text relate to the needs of those I teach?

Discuss your answers to this question together.



5. Results for “head,” “heart,” and “hands”

Lesson 2 showed that God wants the Bible to bring results (changes) to:

- Our **head** (knowledge and understanding),
- Our **heart** (attitudes and deep feelings), and
- Our **hands and feet** (actions).

Good teachers think about how their Bible lessons will bring results to the “head,” “heart,” and “hands” of those they teach. Completing the following three sentences will help you bring results to “head,” “heart,” and “hands”.

KNOWLEDGE

My lesson will enable those I teach to discover/know/understand/learn...

ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS

My lesson will enable those I teach to feel deeply/be affected by...

ACTIONS

My lesson will enable those I teach to do/act/say/practice...

6. Example: John 3:16 says that **God loves the whole world.**

My lesson will enable those I teach to:

- **Understand** that God loves the whole world
- **Feel** thankful and joyful that God loves sinful people and wants to share eternal life with them
- **Tell** in their own words about their faith in Jesus

What other possible results could be used to prepare a lesson on John 3:16? Discuss your answers together.



7. Example: Psalm 1 says that **those who keep God's law are blessed**.

My lesson will enable those I teach to:

- **Understand** that they cannot be successful in life without understanding and obeying God's law
- [1] Experience **feelings of happiness and joy** because they can have a blessed life and
- [2] Experience **feelings of disapproval** towards mockers and sinners
- **Promise to do** something, before the next lesson, which honors God's law and **share that intention** with the group before the end of the lesson

What other possible results could help prepare a lesson on Psalm 1? Discuss your answers together.

8. Your facilitator may choose to give another example before explaining the **MY PLAN** below.

9. MY PLAN

Activity: Before the next lesson, indicate three results (head, heart, and hands/feet) for the text assigned at the end of Lesson 4.

Bible text and lesson theme: _____

This lesson will enable those I teach to discover or learn something. *What?*

This lesson will enable those I teach to feel something deeply. *What?*

This lesson will enable those I teach to say or do something before the end of the lesson. *What?*

Kingdom Change: What is one thing that could change if you taught and prayed for results in your teaching?

10. At the end of the lesson, pray together that God would bring about that change in your teaching ministry.



LESSON 6

Preparing a Bible Lesson III: Teaching Activities

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Share your answers from the activity at the end of lesson 5.
- If you have questions about that assignment, take time to discuss them with your facilitator.

2. Review

Lesson 4 presented the first step: **theme**.

Lesson 5 presented the second step: **results**.

This lesson presents the third step: **teaching activities**.

3. Teaching Activities

Some examples of teaching activities:

- Learn a song together
- Memorize a Bible verse together
- Tell a story to the group
- Ask questions and discuss them in small groups
- Make plans to go out in pairs to visit sick people and report back to the group

What are other teaching activities?

Many different activities can be used to teach the faith. Good teachers use different activities. They know that if they always use the same activity, their learners will lose interest.

4. Organizing the Group

Teaching activities also refer to the way the teacher organizes the learners. A teacher can organize the group in three basic ways:

- 1) Activities for **the whole group** together
- 2) Activities in **smaller groups**
- 3) Activities for each **individual** learner

For example, at the end of each lesson in this manual, the **whole group** reads together the instructions for “MY PLAN.” Then, **individuals** write their plans. Finally, in **small groups** of two or three, these plans are shared and prayed for.

5. Choosing Good Teaching Activities

How do we choose good teaching activities? The **results** we expect will help us to choose good **activities**.



For example: John 3:16, “God loves the whole world” (theme)

“HEAD”: TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

Result: This lesson will enable learners to **know** that God loves the whole world.

*What **activities** will help our learners know that God loves the whole world?*

Possible activities:

- Memorize John 3:16 together.
- Ask questions like “Who does God love?” “How was God’s love shown during Bible times?” “What are signs of God’s love today?”
- In small groups, read other Bible texts which present God’s great love, and answer other questions prepared by the teacher.
- Discuss how God’s love for us is like our love for each other and how it is different.

Can you think of other possible teaching activities for John 3:16 which concern especially the “head”?

“HEART”: TO FEEL DEEPLY

Result: This lesson will enable learners to **feel** thankful and joyful that God loves sinful people and wants to share eternal life with them.

*What **activities** will help our learners feel thankful and joyful?*

Possible activities:

- Sing about God’s great love.
- Listen to a testimony about someone in the group who discovered God’s love and became a Christian.
- Read (as individuals, in small groups, or in the larger group) the story about Jesus’ death on the cross.
- Read Revelation 21:4 and imagine together a world without pain and suffering.

Can you think of other teaching activities for John 3:16 which concern especially the “heart”?

“HANDS AND FEET”: TO DO

Result: This lesson will enable learners to **respond** in faith and commitment to Jesus.

*What **activities** that take place during the lesson itself will help our learners respond in faith?*

Possible activities:

- Say prayers of thanksgiving for God’s great love.
- Testify to personal faith and commitment to Christ.
- Invite non-Christians in the group to commit their lives to Christ.
- Plan a weekend of evangelism in a neighboring community.

Can you think of other possible teaching activities for John 3:16 which concern especially the “hands and feet”?



6. As a group, think of activities that match the given results from Psalm 1, “Those who keep God’s law are blessed” (theme).

“Head” result: Understand that they cannot be successful in life without understanding and obeying God’s law

“Head” activity: _____

“Heart” result: [1] Experience **feelings of happiness and joy** because they can have a blessed life and [2] Experience **feelings of disapproval** towards mockers and sinners

“Heart” activity: _____

“Hands” result: **Promise to do** something before the next lesson which honors God’s law and **share that intention** with the group before the end of the lesson

“Hands” activity: _____

7. MY PLAN

Activity: Before the next lesson, continue to prepare a Bible lesson for the text assigned at the end of Lesson 4. Write down at least one activity for each result you indicated for your **My Plan** in Lesson 5.

BIBLE TEXT & THEME _____

*(Take your results from your **My Plan** in Lesson 5.)*

“Head” result: _____

“Head” activity: _____

“Heart” result: _____

“Heart” activity: _____

“Hands” result: _____

“Hands” activity: _____

8. At the end of the lesson pray together for perseverance and joy in this learning process.



LESSON 7

Preparing a Bible Lesson IV: The Lesson Plan

1. MY PLAN Reports

- Share your answers from the activity at the end of lesson 6.
- If you have questions about that assignment, take time to discuss them with your facilitator.

2. Practice

Preparing good Bible lessons takes time and practice. Do not get discouraged if you find this difficult! If necessary, ask your group facilitator to give more examples. Ask experienced teachers if you can observe them as they teach children, youth, or adults. It is important that pastors learn to teach well so that they can be an example to other teachers.

3. Lesson Plans

The final step in lesson preparation is to make a **lesson plan**. It shows the different steps from the beginning to the end of the lesson. In a lesson plan, we put into **order** the different teaching activities.

A John 3:16 LESSON PLAN

- Welcome personally each person who comes for the lesson (show God's love to each one.) (*heart*)
- Sing about God's great love. (*heart*)
- Ask the question, "Does anyone know of someone who made a great sacrifice for a person he or she loved?" (*heart and head*)
- Read together John 3:16. (*head*)
- Ask questions to help learners understand the text. For example, "How do we know that God loves us?" (*head*)
- Ask the question, "Would you rather be a loser or a winner? Do you know someone who likes to lose more than win? Would you rather gain eternal life or lose it?" (*heart*)
- Ask the question, "What does it mean to believe in Jesus?" Read other Bible texts which help answer the question. (*head*)
- Ask learners, in a few words, to say prayers of thanksgiving for God's great love. (*hands*)
- Pray together, in small groups, for friends or family members who have not yet put their faith in Christ. (*hands*)

Often things happen during lessons which are not planned!

Give examples of unexpected events that could happen during this lesson on John 3:16.

Why is it important to plan well even though we know that unexpected things will happen during the lesson?

- #### 4. Individually, prepare a lesson plan on the Bible text that was assigned at the end of lesson 4.



5. In groups of two or three, share your lesson plans and evaluate them together.
6. In the larger group, share together your questions and insights as you prepare to teach that lesson during the coming week.

7. MY PLAN

Activity: Before Lesson 8, teach the lesson you just prepared to a group of children, youth or adults in your church. When do you plan to do it?

After teaching the lesson, reflect a few moments about how it went. *How were the participants affected in their head, hands and heart?*

8. At the end of the lesson, pray for God's guidance and blessing as you teach this lesson.



LESSON 8

Teaching Children, Youth and Adults in the Church

This lesson can be studied through personal reading or in discussion with your learning group. *(Note: Divide the learning group into three small groups—one for each sector. Each small group will prepare a short list of things that your church can do to improve its teaching ministry.)*

Teaching Children

1. **Psalm 78:1-8, Deuteronomy 6:7, Matthew 19:14** *Why is it important for children to be taught in the home and in the church?*

2. **Raising and Teaching Children**

Here are some ways families and churches can meet the needs of children:

- Provide a good **role model**.
- Invite children to **participate** in family devotions and church activities.
- Show them **love, counsel, discipline** and **encouragement**.
- Together, listen to family and Bible **stories**. Through stories, children discover who they are and their place in the world.
- Encourage children to act out these stories in their **play**.
- Enable children to **memorize** verses from the Bible.
- *What can you add to this list?*

3. **Church leaders** are called to:

- Teach, supervise, and encourage Sunday school teachers.
- Provide for the financial needs of the Sunday school in the church budget.
- Pray regularly during public worship for the children of the church, their parents and their Sunday school teachers.

In which of the above areas do you think your church leaders need to improve?

4. **Learning activities** which teach the head, heart, and hands and feet of children:

- Memorizing
- Singing
- Listening to stories
- Learning to pray
- Acting out Bible stories
- Listening to someone who is not their teacher and who has been invited to meet them
- Visiting elderly people
- Engaging in a small work project
- Going together on a short trip
- Participating in regular family devotions

5. *What is one thing your church can do to improve its teaching ministry to children?*



Teaching Youth

6. Like children, young people need to participate in church activities with adults. They also need the personal attention of adults whom they respect. But they also must learn to think for themselves and make important decisions concerning their lives. Sometimes this creates tensions in the family and the church.
7. **Church leaders** are called to:
- Show interest in each young person. Meet with them personally to give guidance and encouragement.
 - Invite them to participate actively in public worship.
 - Encourage the youth group to organize their own activities and service projects.
 - Teach them to think and live in a Christian way through Bible studies.

In which of the above areas do you think your church leaders need to improve?

8. Leading Bible study and discussion with youth

Good questions help young people learn to think in a Christian way. It is most helpful for young people to search for answers to questions instead of being told the answers right away by the leader. When they find the answers for themselves, young people appreciate the truth they discover much more and are motivated to put it into practice.

Youth leaders who lead Bible studies will:

- Ask good questions related to the head, the heart, and the hands and feet.
- Help young people express themselves freely and clearly.
- Teach them to appreciate and evaluate the ideas of others.
- Keep the attention of the group focused on the theme of the Bible study.

9. *What is one thing your church can do to improve its teaching ministry to youth?*

Teaching Adults

10. How Adults Learn

Adults learn best when they face new responsibilities.

Think about a newly engaged couple. *What do they want to learn?*

Think about a father who is having difficulty speaking with his son. *What does he want to learn?*

Think about a new Sunday school teacher. *What does he or she want to learn?*

Adults are motivated to meet with others who share the same kinds of responsibilities. For example, Sunday school teachers want to meet together to share their best practices, to speak about the problems they are facing and to encourage each other.



11. Church leaders are called to teach the adults of their church:

- Through their preaching.
- By providing discipleship training for adults who are new in the faith.
- By asking good questions and by answering questions asked during personal conversations and home visits.
- By discerning their spiritual gifts and providing the opportunity to develop and use them in the spirit of Ephesians 4:11-13.

In which of the above areas do you think your church leaders need to improve?

12. What is one thing your church can do to improve its teaching ministry to adults?

13. Back in the larger group, each small group will share at least one way to improve its teaching ministry to children, youth or adults.

14. MY PLAN

Activity: Write one thing that your church could do to improve its teaching ministry. Then, write one thing that you will do during the coming week to contribute to this improvement.

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

15. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.



LESSON 9

Making a 4-6 Month Action Plan

1. **MY PLAN** reports
 - Did you accomplish the activity you planned during Lesson 8?
 - Did the change you expected and prayed for happen? How do you know?
2. **Congratulations!** You have completed a significant part of this TLT training manual. Now, during the next 4-6 months, you will put into practice and improve what you have learned.
3. Even if you are an experienced teacher, you will need regular practice to learn to use effectively the 4 steps for Bible teaching taught in this manual. We find that most trainees need to prepare and teach about 10 lessons before the 4-step method becomes a natural part of their teaching practice. For this reason, you are asked to indicate the number of “4-step” lessons you will prepare and give, as part of your 4-6 month action plan. The form included in the Appendix will assist you in your preparation and training. In addition, include in your SMART 4-6 month action plan a Kingdom change that you expect to happen, by God’s grace, because of what your church will do (the planned activity) to improve its teaching ministry over the next 4-6 months.
4. **Review together the qualities of a SMART action plan.**
 - **Specific:** It describes specifically what I plan to do.
 - **Measurable:** I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.
 - **Appropriate:** It is in line with God’s will.
 - **Realistic:** It takes into account my limitations and availability.
 - **Time-bound:** It mentions an exact period of time.

What do you find to be the most challenging or difficult part of writing a SMART action plan?

Discuss your answers and share together what you have learned in the past months about making good action plans.

5. Now, review the testimonies at the beginning of the manual. Think together of other examples of SMART Kingdom changes related to Gospel preaching and related to generosity, trust and obedience.

For example:

- **Related to faith and trust:** 2 young people from our church express the desire to publically profess their faith and be baptized if not yet already baptized. *How could your teaching activity contribute to this Kingdom change?*
- **Related to generosity:** 3 members of our church volunteer for Christian service in a new way. *How could your teaching activity contribute to this Kingdom change?*
- **Related to obedience:** 3 church members tell how they stopped wasting so much time watching television or surfing the internet. *How could your teaching activity contribute to this Kingdom change?*



- Related to obedience: 2 unemployed youth of our church have found productive work.
How could your teaching activity contribute to this Kingdom change?

Share together other examples.

6. Now, reflect silently on the phrase “May your Kingdom come” in our Lord’s Prayer while thinking about this question:

What specific Kingdom Change can come in my church and community, by God’s grace, through my teaching ministry and/or the teaching ministry of my church, in the next 4-6 months?

7. **Answer this question about Kingdom Change.**

What SMART change do I expect to happen in 4-6 months, by God’s grace?

This **change** describes **what you expect to happen** in the church or community through your preaching.

8. **Now, answer these 2 questions related to your activities:**

1) *During the next 4-6 months, what will I do so that this Kingdom Change will take place?*

2) *Is this activity SMART?*

9. **Write your 4-6 Month Action Plan**

Steps to follow:

- 1) On a separate sheet of paper, write your SMART Goal for Kingdom Change and SMART activity.
- 2) In groups of 3, read aloud your Action Plan so that others can improve it by asking SMART questions. Revise your Action Plan accordingly.
- 3) Place your Action Plan on a table or post it on the wall, so that all participants, guided by the trainer, can read and critique it. If necessary, revise your Action Plan again.
- 4) Fill out the 4-6 month Action Plan form on the next page. Write a second copy of your Action Plan and give it to your trainer.
- 5) Place all the Action Plans on a table or post them on the wall. Go around the room and **pray** that God would bless each Action Plan.
- 6) The trainer will indicate a date in 4-6 months for **the last lesson** (4-6 month Action Plan Reports).

10. Back at home, place your copy where you will be reminded of it regularly.



4-6 Month Action Plan Form: *Teaching*

See previous page

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Locality of Training _____ Date _____

Goal for Kingdom Change:

Is this Goal for Kingdom Change *SMART* (Specific, Measureable, Appropriate, Realistic, Time-bound)?

Planned Activity for next 4-6 months:

Is your planned activity *SMART* (Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, Time-bound)?



Report of 4-6 Month Action Plan: *Teaching*

See next page

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

City and Country _____ Date _____

What planned activity did you accomplish 4-6 months ago?

Did you encounter any **obstacles** or **difficulties**? If so, what were they? Did you overcome them? If so, how?

What SMART **Kingdom Change** happened as a result of your planned activity?

Did any **unexpected Kingdom Changes** happen? List them below.



LESSON 10

Final Lesson: 4-6 Month Action Plan Reports

Before the group meets for this last lesson, the trainer will make certain that each participant has already filled out the Report of 4-6 Month Action Plan found on the previous page.

1. At the beginning of the session, participants place their Action Plan Report Forms on a table or post them on the wall so that everyone can read them.
2. Then, each participant will make a report (in the large group or in small groups).
 - *Did you accomplish the activity you planned 4-6 months ago?*
 - *Did you encounter any obstacles?*
 - *Were you unable to overcome any of these obstacles?*
 - *How can your group help you overcome these obstacles?*
 - *Did the SMART Kingdom Change you prayed for and expected happen? How do you know?*
 - *Did any unexpected Kingdom Changes happen in your church or community?*
3. Together, take time to praise and thank God for everything accomplished during the past months.
4. With your trainer, make plans to continue training.
5. **Blessing**
Go in the grace and power of Christ. It is His Kingdom that you serve!



The different activities planned:

$F = \text{Feelings (Heart)}$

A = Actions (Hands and Feet)

KFA	Activity	Minutes
Total Minutes Planned		

Appendix: Preparing a Bible Lesson

2. Theme (see Lesson 4)

The theme of the text is the *main idea* or the *main subject* of the text.

To find the theme of the text:

-
-
-
-



3. Results (see Lesson 5)

God wants the Bible to bring results (changes) to:

Our **head** (knowledge and understanding),

Our **heart** (attitudes and deep feelings), and

Our **hands and feet** (actions).

HEAD / KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

My lesson will enable those I teach to

discover/know/understand/learn...

HEART / ATTITUDES AND DEEP FEELINGS

My lesson will enable those I teach to feel deeply/be affected

by...

HANDS AND FEET / ACTIONS

My lesson will enable those I teach to do/act/say/practice...



4. Activities (see Lesson 6)

Many different activities can be used to teach the faith. Good

teachers use different activities. They know that if they use the

same activity, their learners will lose interest.

HEAD / KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

HEART / ATTITUDES AND DEEP FEELINGS

HANDS AND FEET / ACTIONS



TIMOTHY
LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

Individual Contact Form

Congratulations on the completion of your 4-6 Month Action Plan. Please complete this form and turn it in to your trainer along with your 4-6 Month Action Plan Report. We want to keep in touch with you!

Module: **Teaching the Christian Faith**

Module Start Date _____ Module Completion Date _____

Personal Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Town/City _____ Country of Origin _____

Country of Residence _____ Phone 1 _____

Phone 2 _____ E-mail Address _____

List Primary Social Media (Facebook/Other) _____

Preferred Contact Method _____

List Languages Spoken _____

Church Information

Local Church or Organization _____

Role in Church or Organization _____

Denomination _____