

Why Do We Teach?

A Bible Study for Armenian Sunday School Teachers

There is no more important job in the Church than that of teaching. Teachers need to know this; they need to feel both the privilege and the responsibility of the work they have taken on.

This Bible study is intended to help teachers take a closer look at the "why's, what's, and how's" of their work. It might be used for a teachers' meeting or as part of a retreat for teachers. Or teachers can use it individually to do some study and renewal on their own.

Time and Procedure:

Done in a group, with time for discussion, this Bible study would take 30 minutes, or more if there is a lot of discussion. Its format is to present a question, and then some Bible passage reflecting on that question, with suggested points for discussion. A group leader can use these to lead the discussion after the group, either silently or by turns aloud, has read the Bible passages.

Question One: *What did our Lord and His followers have to say about teaching?*

Mt. 28: 18-20
I Tim. 4: 1-16
John 14: 25-6

Points for discussion:

- Our mandate to teach comes from God Himself, through the Holy Spirit.
- Because we teach for God, we must ourselves be steeped in His word, and teach only that.

Question Two: *How important is our teaching?*

Mt. 18: 1-6 and 19:13-15
James 3:1

Points for discussion:

- The New Testament places a great responsibility on anyone who is in a position to teach, or be an example to young people and children.

Question Three: *How and what do we teach?*

2 Tim. 2: 23-26
Colossians 3: 12-17
Mt. 5: 17-20
Ro. 14: 1-23
Hebrews II
I John (letter) 2: 18-25

Points for discussion:

- We teach more by example than by words or instructions to others.

- We may have to approach various people in different ways as we teach.

- The source of what we teach is God's Word, revealed through Jesus Christ.

- We have inherited the teachings of the Old Testament, which Christ fulfilled. They are part of our Christian teaching.

- Part of being a good teacher is to be able to discern the false teachings that surround us. The way to do this is to know Christ in His revelation - to know and live what He taught.

A Final Note:

As teachers go through this Bible study, they should be thinking of how the words of the New Testament apply particularly to them as teachers.

They may want to use a Concordance to find and read more Biblical references to teachers and teaching.

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