

22 Tips for Teaching Young People

One of the great joys of life is the privilege to speak to young people. The tips below are helpful to remember while instructing young people. However, most are applicable when teaching students of any age! Here are twenty-two tips that will help you to effectively teach teens.

1. Teach the Bible! Not stories. Not your ideas. Not hot topics. The Bible. Do not try to be merely a youth teacher. Be a Bible teacher, and God will use you to reach youth.
2. Never stop being a student. The best teachers want to be taught themselves.
3. Mark your passages – do not lose the young people while you are looking for your text.
4. Give your listeners time to find the Scripture passage.
5. Ask them to mark their Bibles and write down key ideas.
6. Be yourself – use a conversational tone.
7. Use illustrations they understand - The key is variety: stories, object lessons, etc.
8. Encourage participation when appropriate - have others read, answer questions, etc.
9. Never embarrass a student.
10. Maintain eye contact – do not read your notes.
11. Major on beliefs *and* behaviors – teach doctrine, but make application.
12. Do not ramble – make your point and move on.
13. Use appropriate humor but never try to be funny. (If you have to try, it is not funny!)
14. Do not talk down to young people – consider how you address them, tone, etc.
15. Leave students with ONE great truth – challenge them to do something with it.
16. Never try to act or talk like one of the teenagers.
17. Be brief and be a good steward of the time you are given.
18. Always speak with enthusiasm.
19. Move around a little as you speak.
20. Avoid religious jargon – define Bible terms.
21. Do not call attention to time constraints or other distractions.
22. Speak from your heart but be careful not to talk too much about yourself.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

– 2 Peter 3:18 –



Scan here to access
an additional helpful
teaching resource by
Scott Pauley

ENJOYING
THE
Journey