



Teaching Effectively, part 1 of 2—

# Increase the Effectiveness of Your Teaching

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**W**e have made several moves during our married life. Each time we looked for a good church in the area before we made our move. We realized the important influence the church would have on our family. We knew that if our children were strong spiritually, they could handle the challenges of life and would choose the right path in whatever situation they found themselves.

The story of Daniel and the three Hebrew children is an example of what early training can do in the lives of young people (Daniel 1, 3). Daniel and his three friends remained true despite intense pressure to give in to idol worship and to compromise their faith in the land of their captivity. Their courage has been an example to believers down through history. The importance of Christian education in the lives of children cannot be overemphasized. It is more important than ever as we look to the future. Here are 10 suggestions to help you increase the effectiveness of your teaching ministry.

## 1 Understand the value of the teaching ministry in the church.

Spirit-led teaching is essential for the growth and development of all believers in the local church. This is especially true for children who are in the formative years of their lives. While not everyone has the gift of

opportunity to get the training and education we need and to “stir up the gift” we have by using it (2 Timothy 1:6). Our calling as teachers is both a gift and a responsibility. The effectiveness of our teaching depends on the investment we make in developing our teaching gift and preparing for ministry.

## 3 Teach students what the Bible says and how to apply it to their lives.

Children need to know what they believe and why they believe it. There is growing concern that our young people have little knowledge of Scripture or Bible history and how it applies to their daily lives.

In a recent article in *Christianity Today*, Gary M. Burge, professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, shares his concern over the lack of Bible

knowledge of today's Christian young people. For the last four years the Bible and theology department at Wheaton College has studied the biblical and theological literacy of incoming freshmen. Here is a summary of their findings:

When asked to complete a



teaching, everyone can support teachers as they help build the body of Christ through this ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13).

## 2 Develop your teaching gift (2 Timothy 2:15).

This means studying the Bible for ourselves. It means taking advantage of every

test in which a series of biblical events must be placed in order, students returned surprising results. One-third of the freshmen could not put the following in order: Abraham, the Old Testament prophets, the death of Christ, and Pentecost. Half could not sequence: Moses in Egypt, Isaac's birth, Saul's

death, and Judah's exile. One-third could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names.

Burge goes on to say that in similar tests he gave to church youth groups, only 15 percent could place in order the events of Jesus' and Paul's lives. He noted a particular lack of knowl-

edge of Bible stories, with most of the students having only sketchy ideas of what really happened, when it happened, and how it related to the Church or to their personal lives.

*(Points 4 through 10 are continued in part 2.)*

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### Questions For Further Study—

1. What is essential for the growth and development of all believers in the local church?
2. How can you develop your own teaching gift?
3. How can you encourage your helpers to develop their teaching gifts?