

THE AIM of TEACHING the BIBLE

Teacher's Personal Aims

1. Understand and master the biblical text or doctrine

a. Delimit the scope of your Bible lesson

The good teacher knows that he cannot teach everything about a passage or biblical idea in one lesson.

b. Determine the main message, the "big idea"

What is the Bible saying in the relevant portion(s)?

c. Determine how the sub-parts support and develop the big idea

2. Communicate the relevant message of the Bible to bring change in the student

- The teacher must ask, "What do I want my students to know about it?"
- The teacher must know
 - a. the meaning and implications of the message
 - b. the student and his world
 - c. proven methods of conveying/bridging the message from biblical times to the student and his times

General Aims in bringing change in the student

in the areas of "head, heart, and hands," (a.k.a., cognition, conviction, competence)

Acts 2:36-37 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

1. Cognitive change (head)

--Information, data, and observations that gives content about a subject

--Cognitive data, even of a heavenly nature, will not necessarily impact learners:
Matt. 13:13-15

--Students cannot think without facts. Facts and concepts are the grist of thinking, and provide the growing framework of a knowledge base. "Without changing the student's knowledge base and thinking categories, changes in attitude and behavior are generally just superficial." --Richards & Bredfeldt, 139

2. Affective change (heart)

--Emotionally affected by the teaching

--Our relation to God calls for a heart responses (praise, contrition, joy, etc.)

3. Behavioral change (hands)

--God calls us to be more than philosophers about his Word to us. He calls us to obedience.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only... (James 1:22)

--Moving from capacity to ability/skill requires maturity in the learner

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb 5:14)

Defining and refining the lesson AIM through a written lesson plan with aims for change

It should be

1. Short enough to be remembered
2. clear/developed enough to be meaningful
3. specific enough to be achieved by designed change
4. written in terms of the student response/understanding

Review good but slightly limited lesson aims in Richards & Bredfeldt, p. 141.