

Working with Adults (18 Years Old and Older)

Working with adults can be very rewarding. Of all the age groups, they are the most likely to be able to study any part of the Bible and learn how to apply God's truths to their lives. **However, many adults** (especially new Christians) **know very little about the Bible**. So it is important to think about what your group already knows, and take them forward from there.

ADULTS who are NEW CHRISTIANS

- Sometimes it is best to involve new Christians with helping in their children's classes
 - Hearing the Bible stories
 - Learning basic Bible truths
 - Learning to work with students and other teachers
 - Learning service to others
 - Showing God's love to others
 - It's good for the adults and for their children!
 - Pastor Darrell Fraley in his book "Children's Ministry: The Trust Building Business" says that "*Children's Ministry is the best basic discipleship method available in the church today.*" Not only for the child, but also for an adult working in children's ministry
 - Pastor Fraley also says, "*A children's Sunday School ministry that uses quality, published curricula, will provide a scope and sequence that will give an overview of the major highlights of the entire Bible. For adults new to the faith, this is vital to spiritual growth and faith development.*"
- Another option is to start a "New Members" class
 - Usually taught by the pastor or another staff member
 - Go over "basic beliefs" of Christianity and "doctrines" of the church
 - Salvation
 - Holy Spirit
 - Baptism
 - Communion
 - Body of Christ (the Church)
 - Gospel (or the Good News about Jesus)
 - Evangelism – Reaching Out to Others and telling them about Jesus
 - Spiritual Disciplines
 - Prayer, Reading the Bible, Giving (tithing)
- Or, start a class with New Christians to help them understand the Gospel message and how to tell others about it
 - Read Bible verses, sing praise songs, encourage one another
 - Talk about how God is working in your lives
 - Pray for each other, for you pastor, and for others in church and community
 - Show love to others

- Practice acts of kindness and service to others
- As you go along, read more about the Bible
- From time to time have your pastor come and talk to your class

ADULTS who are MATURE CHRISTIANS

- Topics to Study
 - There are a myriad of topics available for adult classes to study
 - Some suggestions might include:
 - Reading through the Bible
 - Old Testament History: (Genesis, Exodus, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Samuel)
 - Gospels (stories of Jesus in New Testament) Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - Parables of Jesus (found in the Gospels)
 - Psalms and Proverbs (Wisdom literature and praise of God)
 - Church Instruction (Letters of Paul to the various churches in New Testament: Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Thessalonians, etc.)
 - Marriage, Raising Children
 - Salvation Message and How we are Saved (Romans and Hebrews)
 - The Early Church (Acts)
- Teachers for adult classes
 - Discuss curriculum choices with your pastor or church elders
 - Stay at least one lesson ahead of your class! ☺
 - Teach what you have learned
 - Teach what you know, so you can talk about your own experiences
 - Therefore the lessons are “real” to you and your students
 - Always have a Bible verse to back up your major points in your lesson
 - Don't teach your “opinions” unless they are upheld by a Bible verse
 - Remember that your opinions are not more important than what the Bible says
 - Try not to dwell on (or argue about) tiny details
 - Let class discussions be thoughtful
 - Try not to give out any misinformation
 - And try not to let it be given out in class by others
 - Never read the Bible? Start with the Old Testament stories (like the children do)
 - In that way you will learn about the character of God
 - You will also learn important lessons by studying the men and women of the Old Testament and how they related to God
 - Remember that God does not change, so He is the same now as then!

Suggestions for Schedule during Class Time (Adult Classes)

- Welcome Time – talk, have refreshments (maybe coffee and pastries)
- Open with Prayer
 - Remember the sick, the elderly, and others in need
 - Thank God for being with you and ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth about the lesson
- Business (if any)
- Lesson
 - Bible Reading
 - Teacher gives his/her thoughts
 - Short Discussion: What does this mean to us in our lives?
 - Look at the Bible verse again and ask yourselves:
 - Is there a lesson to learn?
 - Is there a command to obey?
 - Is there an example to follow?
 - Consider how you might put these things into action in your lives
 - Conclude Lesson
- Other Business/ Needs of Community: How can we help others/ show love to others?
- Close in Prayer
- Dismissal Time – talk, enjoy fellowship together, etc

Other Things that you might want to Schedule during Class Time

- Offering
- Announcements
- Organizational Business
- Sign-up for Things (church activities, volunteer opportunities, and such)
- Discussions on How to Help Others (as a class or as individuals)
- Celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, holidays)