

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE
TEACHING GUIDELINES**

Here are some key teaching guidelines that will help you to better convey lesson content to your disciple.

1. Preparation

Every teacher should begin a lesson only after sufficient preparation. Things you can do to prepare:

- Go through concepts and clarify anything that you are not sure about with your leader(s)
- Write down what you want to say including illustrations or testimonies
- Highlight the points you want to emphasise
- Compile verses into a single sheet for quick referencing

Most importantly, as you prepare, pray and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.

2. Language

Pitch your language according to your disciple's level of understanding. For example, the way most adults speak to children is vastly different from the way we speak to adults. Key things to note:

- Avoid using overly theological jargon that may be hard for the new convert to grasp
- Explain using phrases and words that are more easily understood
- Rephrase your sentence if your disciple looks confused

As your disciple grows in the Lord and his/her understanding of God's Word, you can introduce new Christian terms and phrases at a manageable pace.

3. Examples and illustrations

The concepts that we deal with, although foundational, can be quite difficult to understand for new believers as they are abstract. Spiritual things generally are as we cannot see or touch them in the natural sense. In the four Gospels, Jesus used illustrations from daily life to convey spiritual truths to His disciples. Some general tips:

- Bear in mind the frame of reference your disciple comes with (e.g. family situation, work environment, etc)
- Center illustrations around contexts familiar to your disciples
- Share your own personal experience



4. Pace

Everyone learns at a different pace. Depending on your disciple, you may have to teach at a slower or faster pace. It is important that they understand the spiritual truths that you are teaching. Some things you can do:

- Repeat or rephrase for clarity
- Cite more examples and illustrations to bring a point across
- Don't worry when your disciple may not fully understand something, you can revisit the concept later on
- Be flexible - don't lock yourself in to a preset pace

5. Encourage questions

One of the ways that you can find out whether your disciple understands what is being taught is to ask him/her questions and vice versa. Some tips on how to navigate this:

- Plan questions ahead to check understanding
- Give sufficient "think time" for your disciple to formulate a response
- Create a climate that is open by accepting all kinds of questions even though they may appear "silly" or even irreverent
- If you can't answer a question posed to you, let your disciple know that you need some time to think and you will get back to them later. Approach a leader for help if you need to.

6. Prayer

Prayer is powerful. Through it we develop our relationship with God, experience His miracles in our lives and in the lives of others. Prayer is an essential part of the teaching and learning process as it helps us to be aligned with the Holy Spirit and what He wants to do in the lives of our disciples. Some tips on when and how to engage in prayer:

- Seek for God's guidance and wisdom during lesson preparation
- Pray for and pray with your disciple
- Give your disciple time to pray after each lesson (e.g. ask God for help to apply what they have learnt)

7. Application

For someone to truly follow Jesus, it's not enough to understand a biblical principle or to even pray about it. The key is to apply what they have learnt to their lives. For this to take place, it requires a humble heart and a teachable spirit. We can create the right environment for practical growth by:

- Being open about our own weaknesses and how we have overcome them
- Building rapport with our disciple (e.g. care for them, show interest in them as a person, etc.)
- Giving them time to reflect on their own lives and if you are able to, point out areas for improvement
- Challenging them with one specific application as "homework" after each lesson and following up the next lesson with a review

