

Explanation for “Excited About the Bible!” Class Notes

The notes for this class are somewhat different than the usual. Teaching others to understand and enjoy Scripture for themselves is readily reproducible, but it is intrinsically a face-to-face conversation. It does not work well any other way. As a conversational process, it is dynamic, and so does not follow lecture notes or a predetermined script.

The methodology for this class, and thus the process of reproduction, is based on two simple ideas. First, Scripture should be taught in ways that allow the text to make its own divinely inspired point. Second, learners should be involved directly, often and vigorously in doing their own thinking about the text.

Departing from these pursuits would invite any teacher who might follow to merely think my thoughts after me. That might transfer some good information but would enfeeble the next teacher (and learners). I want to empower them instead.

Bible digs are the best way I know to do that. The Reader’s Guide that I am using for this class, as a separate document from the notes, provides the basics needed to do or lead a dig. The Guide will be referenced in each week’s notes to provide a framework for how every passage is approached. For each week I will also include more specific sample questions relevant to each passage to give the flavor of the conversation.