

# Preparing Your Heart to Teach

## Learner's Listening Guide

Bryan Butler, Discipleship Pastor  
The Woodlands First Baptist Church

Being a teacher of God's Word gives each of us an unbelievable *influence* in the lives of our learners. As such, we need to recognize that we have a *responsibility* to prepare our hearts to teach so that we can maximize our *effectiveness* to help them grow and be motivated to expand God's Kingdom.

1. As you begin thinking about next week's teaching and lesson preparation just take a *deep breath*—**Breathe**.

a. *Withdraw* to a quiet place and just experience Psalm 46:10 which teaches us to "be still and know that I am God." We often take time out of a busy day to have a cup of coffee with a friend or lunch with a co-worker, give God the same time by practicing the discipline of "being still."

b. *Move* towards *God*. The scripture teaches us in James 4:8 to "draw near to God and He will draw near to you." As we move closer to God and experience his presence in a powerful way, we experience an *environment* which enhances our ability to study and prepare a lesson.

2. *Consider* your *audience*—**Empathize**.

a. What struggles or challenges or celebrations and victories are happening in the lives of your group members?

b. Remember that our learners are struggling even on a good day. Romans 3:23 teaches us, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

c. Our teaching is designed to point our group members to obedience. Remember that just like you they are struggling with the Romans 7:15 dilemma.

3. *Humble* yourself before *God* and your *group members*—**Be Humble**.

a. Philippians 2:3-5—formula for how to treat *others*.

b. "In humility value others above yourself."

c. As you teach take on the role of a *Player/Coach*.

#### 4. Realize your own disobedience—Confess.

a. I John 1:9 teaches us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

b. As you prepare to teach, pray the words of the psalmist in Psalm 139:23 and 24, “Search me oh God and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Consider the following questions:

What impact does having a pure heart have on your delivery of a lesson?

If you are in right relationship with God, what impact will that have on your group members?

As a teacher or leader, does it matter whether we are obedient or disobedient to God?

What are possible consequences to our small groups if we are obedient? Disobedient?

#### 5. Reach beyond the assigned lesson—Hunger for God’s Word

a. 2 Timothy 2:15 gives us direction, “Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

b. Do not limit your study of God’s Word to your assigned lesson.

Our prayer together as teachers can be this:

Lord,

**Help me to be still and know that you are God. Help me to take a deep breath and realize your creative genius.**

**Give me a heart of compassion for those whom I teach, understanding that their struggles are often my**

**struggles and their failures can often be no so different than my failures. Let me consider the importance of**

**others and protect me from being myopic or self absorbed. I want you to be pleased with me, so I am so sorry**

**for the many times I let you down or even worse when I am intentionally disobedient. Please give me boldness**

**to confess my failures even when I do not want to talk about them with you. Lord, thank you for your Word.**

**Please help me to never confuse my study time with my intimate time spent with you. Thank you for the**

**privilege that you have given me to teach your word to your people. Use me to help grow your kingdom as I**

**teach each week. Amen**