



Teaching the Christian Faith

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Timothy Leadership Training Institute

www.tlti.org

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Introduction

Through this manual you will explore the challenge of teaching in the church and develop skills to engage in this ministry faithfully and effectively. It is designed for Sunday school teachers as well as those engaged in youth ministry and adult education.

Since Pentecost, each generation of Christians has faced the challenge of sharing their faith and building disciples in obedience to Christ's command in Matthew 28: *Go and make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.*

The teaching ministry of the church has taken many forms throughout its history. In recent centuries, day-schools have developed throughout the world to promote literacy and education for all. The worldwide day-school movement has often influenced the way churches structure and conduct their own teaching ministry. When working through this manual, participants will reflect on the challenge of making disciples using both formal and informal teaching methods.

At the heart of the manual, four lessons present a method of preparing and facilitating Bible lessons. This method is useful for those who lead Bible lessons for children, for youth or for adults.

Working through this manual, you will:

- Interact with Scripture and your co-participants to understand the importance of the teaching ministry of the church and how it relates to different dimensions of the human being.
- Become familiar with the 4-step method to prepare a Bible lesson and develop skills to use it effectively.
- Better understand the challenges related to teaching children, youth and adults.
- Practice what is learned through Kingdom oriented action plans related to teaching.
- Continue to develop skills as a TLT facilitator and receive feedback on that ability.

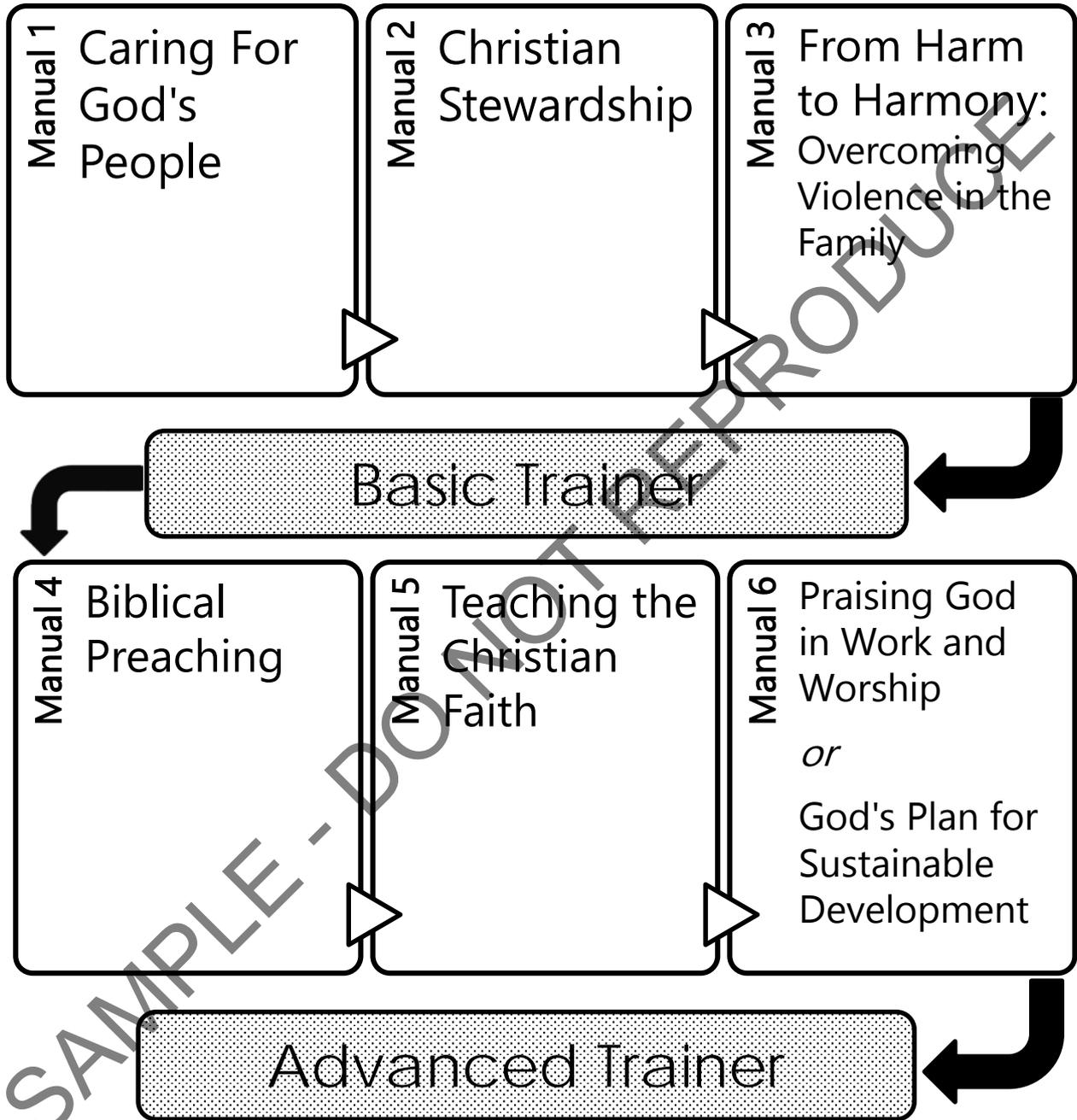
As you study this manual, think of those who you may train using it in your local church or elsewhere. Ask yourself the question, "Who else in my church can be used by God to prepare and lead Bible lessons?" In your group, discuss how God can use you to train others, even those from other churches or from outside your area.

Before working through this manual in your group, we encourage you, once again, to briefly review Lesson 1 of the manual Caring for God's People: *Great Things with God*. We are confident that God can continue to bring significant changes to your church and your community through this training.



Timothy Leadership Training Certification

This is the path for Basic and Advanced Trainer certification by Timothy Leadership Training Institute.



*Note: to receive an official TLTI certificate you must be trained by a TLTI certified trainer following standard guidelines. Trainers report trainings and request certificates through reporting@tlti.org.



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Participant Testimonies

The following testimonies come from participants around the world. More such testimonies are available on the Timothy Leadership Training website.

ASIA

India

One pastor who leads three small churches in three different villages learned how to start Sunday schools. He started a Sunday school in each church with average attendances of 7, 8, and 32, respectively. He wrote the lessons himself since he had no literature available.

One pastor was surprised to realize that, after the training, his church leaders were able to produce ten Bible lessons, which they can use and share with other churches. In addition to that, they are looking to produce and compile 84 other new Bible lessons in four months.

AFRICA

Kenya

After implementing my action plan on Teaching the Christian Faith, we had new children join the church. We then decided to visit the parents who were not coming to the church at the time. Today those parents are now members.

Malawi

After training Sunday school teachers in the whole synod, teaching improved. As a result, 1480 adults, 95 Sunday school children, and 45 youths joined the church.

Uganda

Before attending TLT training, we used to teach Sunday school for adults at my church without planning a series of lessons to be taught. After the training, we managed to develop a plan of various lessons. People now find it to be more appealing for them, and as a result Sunday school attendance has increased.

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba

A committed Sunday school teacher planned to prepare four people to become members of the church. She taught them lessons on “first steps for new Christians.” With great joy, she reported that these four people were received as members. Teaching God’s Word is something she has learned to do well.

Peru

A children’s ministry leader taught four families to have daily devotions and prayers with their children. They are all still doing this regularly. She is also involving children in the worship services. Because of this attention, the children’s ministry has grown by over 30%.



Reminder to TLT Trainers

Lesson Procedure

TLT lessons follow 4 steps:

- 1) **Report** - At the beginning of each lesson (except for the 1st lesson) each participant presents the report of what was accomplished since the last lesson.
- 2) **Reflect, discover, and discuss** - Then, participants read Scripture and discuss together the related questions. It is often helpful to read the Bible texts in their context. Group discussion trains participants to listen carefully to each other and to present their ideas clearly.
- 3) **Plan** - Participants write a plan to put into practice what they have learned. They report on that plan at the beginning of the following lesson.
- 4) **Pray** - At the end of each lesson, participants commit their plans to God.

TLT training is for those who are prepared to make plans, to put their plans into action between the lessons, and then report on them during the next lesson. Most TLT learning takes place between the lessons as participants work their plans.

Inductive training

TLT training is not like classroom teaching when the teacher stands up in front of the class and talks while students listen and take notes. TLT training is interactive and *inductive*. *Inductive* means that during a lesson participants talk more than the trainer. An inductive trainer asks good questions and then gives participants time to reflect and discuss. A TLT trainer is like a good mathematics teacher who gives the class a problem to solve ... and then leaves the students **time to reflect** to find the answer instead of just giving them the solution!

Participants in TLT training discover new ideas and practices through their **own** reflection and discussion. And then they use what is learned to formulate and accomplish their **own** action plans for Kingdom change.

When you begin TLT training, you may find it difficult to teach in an inductive way. You may be talking more than other participants during a lesson. In that case, you must work to develop a more *inductive* style. It is often helpful to break into smaller groups so that each participant can reflect and discuss what is being learned.

A good trainer has already put into practice what is taught in the manuals and can tell how TLT brings change in the church and community. Good trainers also show that each participant is a valued member of the group and provide individual encouragement and assistance, even between training sessions.

Reminder: The last two lessons, the 4-6 Month Action Plan and its Report, are very important and should not be skipped!



LESSON 1

Teachers and How They Teach

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:5-8, 2 Timothy 2:2

Why is teaching so important in the family and in the church?

2. My Testimony

Think of a person who had an important influence in your life.

- *How did that person influence you?*
- *Think of a few words to describe that person's **life qualities** (knowledge, personality, attitudes).*
- *Share these words together and make a list of them.*
- *What are the qualities mentioned most often?*

3. Teachers in the Bible

Think of two or three good teachers in the Bible (other than Jesus). What were their life qualities that enabled them to be good teachers?

Jesus the Teacher

Matthew 9:36; Mark 1:27, 38; John 13:13-15

What were the life qualities that made Jesus a good teacher?

Jesus was also a good teacher because he taught in many different ways.

Mark 12:41-44, Luke 8:4, 10:1, 11:1

What were some of the different ways Jesus taught?

4. What we teach: the Bible

In **2 Timothy 3:16**, Paul gives four reasons to teach the Bible. *What are the four verbs used in your Bible translation?*

These four verbs describe how to teach the Bible:

- 1) **Teach what is true.** Good teachers help us **understand** what God is doing in the world and God's will for our lives.
- 2) **Show what is wrong.** Good teachers **warn** us about wrong ideas and wrong living.
- 3) **Correct.** Good teachers do not just tell us what is wrong; they help us **correct** what we are doing wrong.
- 4) **Train.** Finally, a good teacher, like a good sports coach, helps **train** us to develop our talents and serve God.



5. **The Teacher's Authority**

Teachers do not have authority because they are always right! Their authority does not come from their position. A teacher's authority comes from a good understanding of Scripture and his/her ability to model and teach it.

Why did Paul have authority in his ministry? Acts 20:19-20, 27, 35

6. **MY PLAN**

Activity: Write one thing you will do in your family or your church, before the next lesson, to practice one of the four verbs found in 2 Timothy 3:16. When will you do this?

Goal for Kingdom Change: Write one change that you expect to happen, by God's grace, before the next lesson, because of what you will do.

7. At the end of the lesson, share your plan with another person and pray together.

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