

Methods for Teaching High School Students (Grades 9-12)

- A. How High School students (Grades 9-12) learn. You may not even have to teach them anything since they know it all. They are characterized by:
 - 1. The search for, and establishment of, personal identity.
 - 2. The profound influence of peers.
 - 3. The continued shift toward abstract thinking.
- B. What works and what does not work for High School students.
 - 1. Do's for High School Classes:
 - a. Do expect your students to challenge values and beliefs. Create an atmosphere where questioning is safe.
 - b. Do encourage discussion, even in smaller groups.
 - c. Do challenge your students to discover what is important to them.
 - d. Do set up opportunities for group activities.
 - e. Do encourage the exchange of ideas and much discussion. Find out what they are thinking.
 - f. Do provide activities to encourage group problem solving.
 - g. Do expose your students to moral reasoning and Biblical values.
 - h. Do be a powerful positive role model.
 - i. Do be a true friend.
 - 2. Don'ts for High School Classes:
 - a. Don't discourage "big" questions.
 - b. Don't lecture exclusively.
 - c. Don't assume all students know what is important.
 - d. Don't rely on seatwork for the entire class period.
 - e. Don't do all the talking and expect the students to only listen.
 - f. Don't give students the answers. Help them to discover them for themselves. "Give me a fish and I eat for today. Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime."
 - g. Don't hesitate to challenge students to think about their own moral beliefs.
 - h. Don't dictate to students how to apply what they have learned.
 - i. Don't underestimate the impact you are having on your students.
- C. Specific Suggestions:
 - 1. Be sure to explain difficult words and customs.
 - 2. Memorize Bible verses.

3. Study background materials.
4. Maps can be helpful.
5. Stress the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
6. Bible aids (Bible dictionaries, concordances, etc.) can be used.
7. Book reports can be made on Bible stories.
8. Be sure to relate Bible verses and lessons to problems of children. Judge current events and community news in the light of Bible principles.
9. Raise questions and require that answers be given by reference to verses.
10. Class projects can be a means of learning and growing.
11. Bible charts can be used to teach lessons.
12. Use written exams on the Bible occasionally.
13. Group discussions.
14. The Bible needs to be used to solve teenage problems. Establish relevancy.