

Killing Crickets  
Resourcing and Writing Engaging  
Sunday School Lessons

What does SUCCESS look like?

What do we want our class to DO with a Bible study lesson? **APPLY IT** \_\_\_\_\_.

In class time, what is a good indication that you are moving from KNOWLEDGE of SCRIPTURE to APPLICATION of SCRIPTURE?

We see **ENGAGEMENT** \_\_\_\_\_. How can you accomplish that?

One way is with **DISCUSSION** **QUESTIONS** \_\_\_\_\_.

First let's talk about setting the tone for a good discussion.

What does a pitcher do before he pitches? A singer before she sings?

Set the tone with an opening **DISCUSSION** **QUESTION** \_\_\_\_\_.

Usually related, sometimes not. Usually an **EXPERIENTIAL** question everyone can respond to. Some exceptions.

We said the way to ENGAGE the class is with questions and discussion. What are some reasons people are hesitant to answer questions and speak up in class? Let's talk about how to deal with those.

• Tips on Asking Good questions.

- If you want someone to open up and talk what is the WORST kind of question?
- Rarely. **Yes** or **No**...exception: observation or emphasis.
- Use more **Open Ended** questions.
- Another reminder: A good balance of **experiential** vs **Theological** questions.
- Sunday School guru and author Josh Hunt recommends these types of questions:
  - What does the text say? What does the text mean?
  - What was it like for them ( people in scripture)? i.e. "How do you think Abraham felt when he saw the ram?"
  - "Jump Ball" questions: Could go either way. i.e. "His Christianity easy or hard?"
  - "Where are you now?" Indirectly asked. i.e. "Why don't most Christians spend more time in their Bible?"

- Application questions. i.e. "What one thing could you do for your spouse this week that would demonstrate a servant's heart?" (Source: Disciple-Making Teachers)
- How do we come up with Good questions? Some ideas...
- Do your prep first then, reframe points as questions.
- Sources for questions: Josh Hunt's Good Questions. Study Bibles. Serendipity Bible. Devotional books. The electronic version of the Explore The Bible teachers guide. New Testament Lesson Maker book <http://www.amazon.com/New-Testament-LessonMaker-Customized-Passage/dp/0891096884>
- Caution: Use questions, but not too many.
- Make it an (almost) open book test: Give Them the Notes
  - I send the class the notes and questions in advance. Notes emailed and posted for the class.
  - Not totally open book but close. Leave some questions unanswered.
  - Teaching notes. Everyone does it differently. (Example of my marked up notes in the handout.) You need to learn how many pages equals 35 to 40 minutes. Your mileage will vary.
- During class time.
  - Make it safe to speak up. AFFIRM, but not to the point of error.
  - Caution: Don't "pool IGNORANCE" in discussion! YOU have to control this by knowing the material.
  - Keep it moving...don't allow one to dominate or run rabbits.
  - Free yourself to drop or change elements of the lesson. Even on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Final thoughts:

- WINGING it is for the birds...always come prepared.
- Control the FLOW of class time. To have time for discussion you need to start on time. We do all the basic elements were asked to do (fellowship; outreach; care groups), but I work at keeping us on time.
- What about the Holy Spirit's leading? I believe in being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and calling an "audible" once in awhile.

Additional Handout: My Process for Lesson Prep (Not a CORRECT method...just what works for me.)