Your Heart in His Hands—Connecting to Teach

(Preparing Your Heart to Teach)

I. The significance of teaching God's Word

A. The Bible is God's message to men, women, boys and girls.

1. All Scripture is from God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
2. The Holy Spirit moved men to write God's Word (2 Pet. 1:21).
3. Scripture is God's Word and will accomplish His purpose (Isa. 55:11).

B. As you teach God's Word to children, He speaks to their hearts.

1. God's Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12).
2. God's Word brings understanding (Ps. 119:103, 104).

Quote

"It is not how many Bibles are sold that counts, nor even how many people read them; what matters is how many actually believe what they read and surrender themselves in faith to live by the truth. Short of this the Bible can have no real value for any of us." (Alliance Witness)[1]

After you understand the importance of God's Word in the lives of the boys and girls, you must prepare yourself. Ezra taught God's Word, but he did not teach without first being prepared.

II. Ezra's four-step plan for successful teaching (Ezra 7:10)

A. Pray

"Ezra prepared his heart . . . . "

1. As a teacher of God's Word, you need a prepared heart.
2. Be a clean vessel (confess all known sin) so God can fill and use you.
3. Ask yourself, "Am I a clean vessel that God can use?"

B. Study

" . . . to seek the law of the Lord . . . ."

1. Spend time in the **Word.**
2. Look for new insights.
3. Find the message God is conveying to you.

Quote

"The Bible, God's inerrant Word, is forever true whether or not anyone reads or believes it; but it becomes of value to you when you get hold of it for yourself. Never leave a passage of Scripture until it has said something to you." (Robert A. Cook)[2]

Ask yourself, "Will I allow God to speak to me through His Word?

C. Apply

" . . . and to do it . . . . "

1. **Personally**, am I doing what God says to do or being what He wants me to be?
2. Do not expect your class to do or be what you are not willing to do or be!

Quote

"To look is one thing. To see what you look at is another. To understand what you see is a third. To learn from what you understand is still something else. But to act on what you learn is all that really matters, isn't it?" (Harvard Business Review)[3]

Ask yourself, "Am I doing what God shows me through His Word?"

D. Teach

" . . . and to teach . . . . "

1. Share with the children what God gives to you!
2. God desires for us to be **diligent** to do what He commands (Ezra 7:23).
3. Encouragement comes from God (Ezra 7:28).

Ask yourself, "Am I willing to share with children what God teaches me?"

Teaching Aids to Help You Share the Importance of Heart Preparation

1. *Children's Ministry Resource Bible* (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
   - Bible lesson outline

     "The Value of God's Word" (Psalm 119)
2. Children's Ministries Institute® cefcmi.com
   - Training opportunities

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[1]Reprinted from *Quotable Quotations* by Lloyd Cory, published by Victor Books, 1985, SP Publications, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60187, p. 39.

[2]Ibid., p. 40.

[3]Ibid., p. 212.