



What does the Bible say about teaching and learning?

The training and instruction of children should be predicated on the Scriptures. Here are ten biblical principles:

1. Jesus is the Teacher and the source of all knowledge and truth (Proverbs 9:10, John 13:13, 14:6). Learning begins with knowing that Jesus is the means and mediator of learning.
2. The Bible is essential. Teaching and learning should be informed by God's Word (Deuteronomy 29:29, Romans 15:4, 1 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. The purpose of teaching, with this world and eternity in mind, is to connect children with Jesus (Matthew 19:14), and teach them to obey His Word (Matthew 28:20) so that they see life as Jesus sees it, understand and act according to His will (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
4. The goal of learning is for children to trust in Jesus, know the truth, keep His Word, be equipped for good works, share His story with the world, be transformed by the renewing of their minds, and grow in maturity (Psalm 78:6-7, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 16:15, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 5:1, 2 Timothy 3:17)
5. Teachers are accountable to Jesus, the head Teacher. Teachers must teach what Jesus wants them to teach and in so doing be a conduit through which He communicates His truth and love (Romans 14:12, Titus 2:1, James 3:1, 3 John 1:4).
6. Teaching isn't morally neutral (1 Corinthians 1:19-20). Godly wisdom and worldly wisdom can't coexist (Colossians 2:8). Every teacher teaches from a worldview - either God's or man's (1 Corinthians 2:12).
7. The primary responsibility for teaching rests with parents. With the support of the church, fathers and mothers must teach their children how to walk in the way of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Parents should never be passive observers, but active participants in their children's learning (Deuteronomy 4:9-10, Proverbs 1:8-9).
8. The teacher should be a Christ-like model of integrity, dignity and sound speech who is worthy of imitation (Luke 6:40, James 3:1, Titus 2:7-8).
9. Teaching and learning can take place at any time, in any place, in many ways. Jesus taught privately (John 3:1-21) and publicly (John 7:14), in formal (in the synagogue e.g. Matthew 4:23), non-formal (from a boat e.g. Matthew 13:2-3), and informal (with His friends, family and disciples, e.g. Luke 24:27) environments.
10. Teachers should be lifelong learners (Psalm 25:5, Romans 2:21). Ongoing teaching is inextricably linked to ongoing learning. Learning will only come to completion "at the day of Christ" Philippians 1:6.