



Stages of the Learning Process

The lesson should be organized around the three basic stages of the learning process: securing interest, communicating ideas, and making applications.

1. **Contact:** this part of the lesson captures and focuses student attention on the subject matter by demonstrating relevance and/or stimulating curiosity. It helps the student answer the question: *“Why is this important?”*
2. **Content:** this part of the lesson engages students in the discovery of, and interaction with, the important facts, stories, principles, experiences, ideas, and skills that make up lesson content. It presents the truth claims of the lesson and facilitates critical reflection upon them in light of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience. It helps the student answer the question: *“What is the truth regarding this topic?”*
3. **Connection:** this part of the lesson guides the students through a process of reflection on what the content means in their own context (ministry situation). It helps them master and apply the learning in actual life. It also helps them evaluate their current beliefs and practices in light of the new understanding provided by the content section, and develop their convictions about the topic. It helps the student answer the question: *“What does this mean for me and what should I do about it?”*

In developing lessons, it is assumed that knowing what the Scriptures say is a key component of the learning process. Lesson designers take seriously Paul’s reminder to Timothy that:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work - 2 Tim. 3.16-17.



Contact

Captures and focuses students’ attention on the subject matter by demonstrating relevance or stimulating curiosity.

Content

Engages students in the discovery of and interaction with important facts, principles, ideas, skills, etc.

Connection

Guides the students through a process of reflection on what the content means in their own context; helps them determine ways to master and apply the learning in actual life.

Reflection on Scripture is at the heart of course content. Memorization of Scripture is a necessary part of the learning process. Each course has Scripture memorization assignments that highlight and help the student retain the key principles learned.

Scripture forms the core of the curriculum and is the final arbitrator of truth claims. However, there is much truth to be learned and taught in addition to the Scriptures. All truth is God's truth. No realm of human learning, experience, or activity is outside the legitimate investigation of Christian scholarship. Any truth claim must be critically evaluated, but all genuine truth - no matter what the source of its discovery - is available for the use of the Christian scholar.