Welcome

Welcome to *Rooted in the Word*! Just as healthy roots give strength and stability to a growing tree, God's Word gives us the truth we need to build strong and faithful lives. Through each lesson, you will explore Scripture, discover what God is teaching, consider how His truth applies to your life, and be challenged to live out your faith. As we grow together, may our roots go deeper into God's Word, our faith become stronger, and our lives produce fruit that reflects Christ.

"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith…"
Colossians 2:7 (KJV)

Course Goal

Equip new Sunday School teachers to study Scripture accurately, prepare organized biblical lessons, engage learners in meaningful discussion, encourage life application, manage the classroom, and continually improve their teaching.

MODULE 1: Called to Teach

Big Idea

Before developing teaching skills, understand the responsibility of the teacher.

Key Scriptures (KJV)

- James 3:1 – *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*
- Ezra 7:10 – *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.*
- 2 Timothy 2:15 – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, teachers should be able to:

1. Explain the biblical responsibility of a teacher.

2. Describe the relationship between personal spiritual preparation and effective teaching.
3. Identify several characteristics of a faithful Bible teacher.

Training Topics

Why we teach

Teaching point: Teaching is a response to God's call and a way to pass truth to the next generation.

Discussion question: What motivated you to say yes to teaching, and how does that motive shape your preparation?

Teaching as ministry

Teaching point: Teaching is service to people, not a performance; learners are entrusted to our care.

Discussion question: How can you minister to each learner, not only deliver content?

Spiritual preparation

Teaching point: The teacher's own walk with God comes before the lesson plan.

Discussion question: What daily habits keep your heart ready to teach?

The teacher as a student of Scripture

Teaching point: A faithful teacher keeps learning, studying the text carefully before teaching it.

Discussion question: What is your current plan for studying a passage before you teach it?

Character and credibility

Teaching point: Learners watch how we live as well as what we say.

Discussion question: Which areas of your character most support or weaken your teaching?

Dependence upon God

Teaching point: We plant and water, but God gives the growth.

Discussion question: How can you pray and rely on the Holy Spirit as you prepare and teach?

Teacher versus preacher

Teaching point: The teacher explains and guides learners into understanding through discussion, while the preacher proclaims and exhorts.

Discussion question: How does your role as a teacher differ from preaching in a classroom setting?

Teaching for transformation rather than information alone

Teaching point: The goal is changed lives, not just filled notebooks.

Discussion question: What would it look like for a learner to apply this week's lesson?

Practice Activity: My Calling to Teach Reflection

Take a few quiet minutes to respond to each question in writing.

1. Why do I teach?

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2. What strengths do I bring to teaching?

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3. Where do I need to grow?

Characteristics of a Faithful Bible Teacher

List at least three characteristics you see in Scripture (see Ezra 7:10 and 2 Timothy 2:15) or in teachers who have shaped you.

1.

2.

3.

Teacher Notes

- **Suggested time:** 45–60 minutes (add your own estimate once you have taught the module).
- **Materials:** Bibles (KJV), copies of this handout, pens, and a whiteboard or flip chart.
- **Opening:** Begin with prayer and read James 3:1 aloud, then invite brief reactions.
- **Facilitation tip:** Allow quiet time for the reflection questions before inviting anyone to share; sharing is optional.
- **Link to objectives:** Topics 1–4 support Objectives 1 and 2; Character and credibility supports Objective 3.
- **Follow-up:** Ask teachers to bring one growth goal from the reflection to the next module.

Takeaway: Before I prepare a lesson, God is preparing the teacher.