

session 10 study guide

building up the church

the gift of teaching and the gift of pastoring

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Teachers. Coaches. Bosses. Family. Pastors. Who are the people in your life who have taught you the most? Those with the gift of teaching or pastoring have the unique ability to guide and inform us, but they are also in the position to have a great influence on our confidence, outlook and goals.

the gift of teaching

“So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us . . . If it is to teach, we must teach” (Romans 12:6-7, *TEV*).

There are some teachers who have a remarkable impact on our lives. Usually it is not so much what they teach as how they teach. These teachers have a special gift to make spiritual truth and other subjects come alive. Many of these teachers use their gift to greatly influence our lives.

1. Think about the different kinds of teachers you have had in your life. Who is a teacher who . . .

Taught you a new skill? What skill did he or she teach you?

Taught you facts or information? What facts/information?

Taught you something about life? What life lesson?

Taught you about faith in Jesus? What faith lesson?

2. Teaching does not come easy to many people. Which two of the following would be the hardest for you to teach?

- ☐ someone older than you
- ☐ someone younger than you
- ☐ someone how to play a sport
- ☐ someone how to play an instrument
- ☐ someone how to get from point A to point B
- ☐ your parents
- ☐ your grandparents
- ☐ a stranger
- ☐ a close friend
- ☐ someone who speaks a different language

3. Why would you find this so hard?

Even if we don't have the gift of teaching, we will all likely come across opportunities when we are required to provide instruction to others. How can we learn to be better teachers? By learning from Jesus' example.

4. Jesus earned the respect of His students. Read Matthew 7:28-29 and Mark 1:22. How did Jesus earn the respect of His audience in this passage?

5. Jesus was humble about His knowledge. In John 8:28, according to Jesus, who deserved the credit for His knowledge?

6. Jesus taught with compassion. According to Mark 6:33-34, why did Jesus stop to teach the people?

7. Jesus spoke plainly and in ways that the people understood. Read Mark 4:30-34. Why did Jesus rely on parables to teach?

8. *Jesus fervently sought after knowledge and wisdom.* According to the story told in Luke 2:45-47, where did Jesus' parents finally find Him?

9. *Jesus taught truth, even when it was hard for the people to hear.* Read John 6:53-64. What message was hard for the disciples to hear in this passage?

10. According to the Bible, those with the gift of teaching are held by a higher standard than others. Read James 3:1. Why might teachers be judged more harshly than others?

the gift of pastoring

“And his gifts were that some should be . . . pastors” (Ephesians 4:11, *RSV*). “Pastor” is the Latin word for *shepherd*. Those with the gift of pastoring are charged with guiding others in the ways of the Lord. It’s not just a spiritual gift for the pastor of your church. You may have this gift, too.

1. Read John 10:11-16. What qualities of a shepherd are described in this parable from Jesus?

2. What would a shepherd of people, instead of sheep, do?

3. Use each passage to discover a role of a shepherd.

PASSAGE

ROLE OF A SHEPHERD

Matthew 9:36

Matthew 25:32

John 10:11

John 10:14

Luke 15:2-6

Can you see how the New Testament portrays the shepherd as the person who cares for the flock and leads them into safe places? If the sheep wander away, the shepherd seeks them out and saves them. He or she protects them from their enemies.

4. Besides the pastor of your church, who is someone else you know with the gift of pastoring? How does he or she demonstrate their gift?

5. How can you “pastor” your friends? List three friends and some specific action you could take to shepherd, pastor and care for each of them this week.

NAME OF FRIEND

HOW YOU CAN SHEPHERD THIS WEEK

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reflect

1. What qualities make someone a good teacher, regardless of what he or she is teaching?

2. Beyond preaching sermons and performing weddings and funerals, what new roles do you understand that a pastor of a church is responsible for?

3. Why might the gifts of teaching and pastoring make those who have them more vulnerable to pride or a focus on self?

4. Why might pastors and teachers be especially in need of encouragement?

5. Think about an important teacher and/or pastor in your life. What could you do to encourage and thank him or her this week?

meditation



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love,
in faith and in purity. . . . devote yourself to the public reading
of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your
gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when
the body of elders laid their hands on you.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-14