

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR TEACHER TRAINING

These practical ideas have proven useful at numerous churches through many years. The thing to do is prayerfully tailor them to your church situation. Add to the list, delete what does not apply or modify them as you deem best.

- Start small and build. Whatever the situation at your church you can move forward. If you have not had any training for some time, set a date and start planning an enriching workshop. Maybe the need in your situation is to have more mentoring. Consider asking some of the more experienced teachers at your church to allow others to observe what they do or serve with them as an assistant/helper.
- Plan a year in advance. At many churches it is important to get key dates on the calendar well in advance. If you want to schedule your pastor or a guest speaker, it is essential to plan ahead. Whatever strategy you determine, make definite plans with deadlines.
- Make teacher training indispensable. There are many things that need to be done at every church. The faithful and effective teaching of the Bible is central to the work of every church. Since the church is the pillar and support of the truth, it is essential that Bible teaching be done well.
- Bring in an outside speaker. Having a guest presenter can help make organizing a workshop easier to prepare. Contact Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 to schedule an experienced trainer. Also, consider inviting a nearby pastor or Christian educator. Many times these people can assist with very little or no expense involved.
- Provide resources. There are many good books, tapes and CD's that can greatly benefit teachers. One church had a policy that if a teacher was willing to use the resource the church would provide it for them. Other churches maintain a library of resources. For assistance with resources, contact Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or the CE&P Bookstore at 800-283-1357.
- Get others involved. Leading a teacher training ministry need not be done alone. If your church has a Christian education committee, each member of the committee could have a part of the responsibility. Some churches have a separate committee, which is responsible for training.
- Link with other churches. It is not unusual for churches to combine their efforts to train teachers. Two or three churches sharing the work load can make it easier for everyone. This is especially helpful with smaller churches and allows for a wider variety of training. Some small churches simply link with a large church, which has a well defined training ministry. If applicable, consider contacting your denominational Christian education office to see if they can help.

PCA Christian Education at 678-825-1100 or OPC Christian Education at 215-830-0900.