

We have seen that drawing the learner into the teaching/learning process as an active participant rather than a passive observer is an educationally and scripturally sound principle. Involvement is the most efficient method for reaching the goal of changed lives, and it is the most effective instrument for focusing on the learner who is at the center of the teaching/learning process. But there are several implications which surface when this teaching style is accepted, and these implications invade the basic areas of Scripture teaching.

- **The teacher.** If we view involvement of the learner as the chief method in teaching, the role of the teacher includes more than merely pouring truth into the learners as one pours milk from a pitcher into glasses. In addition to studying the lesson Scriptures and gaining personal insights, the teacher must determine ways by which his learners can become involved in the Scriptures and the topic so they can enjoy a maximum learning experience. The teacher is not just a teller in the classroom, but a catalyst present to spark interest and reaction in the learners as they come in contact with God's Word. He is also a guide in the classroom, setting guidelines and parameters and channeling the learners' activities so that their involvement leads to firm commitment and growth.
- **The learner.** The learner's role has traditionally been that of a passive observer. Learner involvement means that *the learner should be involved as much as possible in discovering Scriptural truth for himself while the teacher guides him*. A rule of thumb which has been advanced for learner involvement is, "Don't tell the learner anything he or she can discover for himself." Thus a learner should read and search out answers from the Scripture himself whenever possible instead of having them read or recited to him. Students should be asked to discuss and apply their lesson Scriptures with the teacher's guidance, rather than having the teacher make application for them. The more involvement the learner experiences, the more he will retain, learn and change from it.
- **The Holy Scriptures.** The heart of involvement learning as a method to change lives is involvement with God's Word, the Holy Scriptures. Involvement here means getting the learners' hands and eyes, as well as his ears on the Scriptures firsthand.
- **Curriculum.** Preparing a learner-involving lesson is a task which should not be taken lightly. It requires time, ingenuity and resourcefulness. Involvement curriculum for learners should include choices of learning activities that help students explore and discover an Scripture truth and make life application.
- **The teaching session.** Teaching that involves learners requires more preparation than the traditional "listen and learn" approach. However, retention will be higher and progress toward changed lives will be greater with learner involvement.

With the foundation of solid educational and Scriptural principles for the teaching/learning task, your Bible teaching ministry can flourish and grow in the lives of people.

The teaching ministry of the church is a *high calling* for all that are involved. God has entrusted us to use His Holy Scriptures to deepen their relationship and obedience to Him that they might glorify Him and bear fruit for His kingdom.