

Biblical Teaching for Students

Key is to generate power! Flatness is a sinful contradiction - if this stuff is so important, why does the teacher not seem to care all that much?

Content:

Depth...

- Yes, you can go deep! A lot of talk about how teens won't listen to content - not true. Just can't go long.
- Don't be too simple; want to be seen and treated as adults. Can really patronize and lose their respect.
- #1 challenge is to keep from boring them; what a shame to get them to a meeting and then to bore them with Biblical truth!
- 1, maybe 2 points that you hit hard.

Discussion...

- Discussion can be good, or can be very bad. Students can really bore each other - some discussions just meander or get weird. Need to have couple points in the teaching where allow students to react & give their opinions, impressions. Question that is really challenging.
- Don't confuse discussion with recitation : "*And Jesus said that if our eye causes us to stumble we should what?*" and they say, "*gouge it out.*" This is not discussion, and it only appeals to those with some knowledge of the bible - will alienate unbelievers.

Thesis/Antithesis Teaching

- Very key at this age to use this method: they like a sense of violence and a good fight; they are hormonal and aggressive.
- They enjoy seeing the teacher getting into a fight with someone (the antithesis)
- You have to find an antithesis they can relate to and understand (not neo-orthodoxy)

Delivery

Emotion...

- They want to feel something while they sit there
- Some people get into one emotion; need to experience a whole range of emotion during the teaching : anger, humor, intrigue, contempt, awe,...
- "Catch fire and let people watch you burn!"

Eccentricity is good...

- Weird figures of speech; strange pronunciations; contorted facial expressions. They really remember these!

Physical activity...

- At certain points in the teaching, need to stimulate them visibly - not just a listening experience.
- Jumping at a student; waving; one teacher lied down on the ground
- Physical contact can be good - beating a student on the head as you emphasize a point. Of course, needs to be appropriate.

Volume

- May seem to you like you are shouting, but you need to be loud

- Not just so others can hear - can't rely on PA for that - there is a sense of urgency and intensity that is communicated through a loud, even strained voice; may need to turn PA down, but don't tell teacher to be more quiet

Appearance

- What looks good to adults may not look good to students; there is a balance here : can't dress like students, you'll look stupid to them and everyone else. Look casual.
- Most are intolerant of obesity and it will cause you to be discredited off the bat.

Humor

- Of course it is great to get them laughing, but many teachers use humor exclusively. Loses its effect if used too much; again, they need to experience a range of emotion.

Illustrations

- The ones adults use are not always appropriate to the age - story about getting frustrated with kids or spouse - they can't relate to that.
- Need to be earthy (God was in OT, Jesus was)
- No need to get into profanity
- Find illustrations that fit into their lives & meet them where they are at (job, car stuff, dealing with parents, friends)

Heroic Thinking

- They are not idealistic, more cynical; they are suspicious of heroes, but still thirst for them
- Need to play off their loathing of being controlled; the boundaries their peers put on them are the most limiting and frustrating to them. They will rebel against this and be their own person if they have a good reason to.
- Need to gradually build a thirst for biblical non-conformity.

Black & White Thinking

- We as adults know there are usually shades of gray involved with most issues; but when you qualify your points with students, they lose all their fizz.
- Lay out teaching in stark, black and white manner - will get more reaction & involvement; qualify later, if needed; every once in awhile you'll get a sharp kid who questions you, and then you can qualify your point, but most won't.