

Contents

Preface 11

Part 1 Effective Teaching

- 1 The Church's Unfinished Task 15
 - How the Church Has Fooled Itself About Bible Teaching
 - The Two Levels at Which Bible Teaching Can Fail
 - Strategy and Planning Problems
 - Keys to Improved Teaching
 - Why the Problems of Bible Teaching Must Be Addressed
- 2 The Tasks of the Effective Teacher 41
 - Fostering Active Learning
 - Motivating Students
 - Clarity of Communication
 - Challenging Students
 - Making the Class Minutes Count
 - Focusing on the Big Idea
 - Making the Truth Personal
 - Building a Constructive Class Atmosphere
 - Distinguishing Between Major and Minor Issues
 - The Ideal Teacher

- 3 The Teacher: The Human Element in Teaching 59
 The Teacher as a Means of Grace
 The Teacher as Spiritual Liability
 The Well-Rounded Teacher
 The Passions of the Effective Teacher
 Three Myths About the Effective Teacher
 Understanding the Life Cycles of Teaching
- Part 2 The Methods of Effective Bible Teaching**
- 4 Teaching the Big Idea 81
 The Big Idea: Topic and Theme
 Illustrations of Formulating the Big Idea
- 5 Bridging the Gap 95
 The Journey to the World of the Bible
 From the Bible to Our Own World
- 6 Discovering the Unity in Biblical Passages 109
 Thematic Unity
 Structural Unity
- 7 Principles of Biblical Interpretation 123
 The Purpose of Biblical Interpretation
 The Nature of the Bible
 The Language of the Bible
 Rules for Individual Passages
 Interpreting a Text
- 8 Understanding the Methods of Inductive and Directed Bible Studies 139
 What Is Inductive Bible Study?
 The Methodology of Inductive Study
 Directed Bible Study
- 9 Leading Inductive Bible Studies 153
 Preparing to Lead an Inductive Study
 Writing Questions: The Heart of the Inductive Method
 Conducting an Inductive Bible Study

- Part 3 The Bible We Teach**
- 10 What Kind of Book Is the Bible? 181
 A Collection of Books
 The Unity of the Bible
 A Book of Encounter
- 11 Types of Writing in the Bible 191
 An Overview of Biblical Genres
 The Bible as Literature
- 12 Teaching the Stories of the Bible 207
 The Challenge and Necessity of Teaching the Stories of the Bible
 The Descriptive Level: Setting, Characters, and Action
 From Story to Meaning
 Avoiding Some Common Pitfalls
- 13 Teaching the Poetry of the Bible 223
 Thinking in Images
 A Language of Comparison
 Poetry as a Form of Fiction
 How Poems Are Organized
- 14 Teaching Other Genres of the Bible 237
 The Proverb
 Satire
 Visionary Writing
 The Epistles
 The Parables
- Index of Subjects 251
 Index of Authors 255