

The JOURNEY

YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS NOW



If Church members perceive the class has value for them, they will attend. This means that the material presented is relevant to their everyday lives and presented in such a manner that is conducive to learning.



**What value do you
place on your
Sabbath school?**



2 Skills of effective Sabbath School Teaching



1.Preparation

How to properly prepare materials for a captivating, thought provoking discussion. This includes; relating to class participants, developing discussion points and classroom setup.



2. Presentation

How to deliver and present the Sabbath school lesson in an exciting way through capturing and holding the attention of class participants; using great questions; coping with difficult class participants; and maintaining control of the Sabbath School class.



1.Preparation

Preparation for the Sabbath School class discussion must cover 3 important areas;

1. Personal Preparation
2. Material Preparation
3. Classroom Preparation

These are foundational to effective Sabbath School classes.



Personal Preparation

- **True preparation starts with you.**
- **Before you begin to focus on the spiritual needs of others you must first begin with your own spiritual needs.**



Personal Preparation

You cannot give what you do not possess!

**To communicate spiritual truth with impact demands
you must live a spiritual life.**



“He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession”

Ellen White. The Desire of Ages Page 357



Keys to Personal Preparation

1. Reflection Time

Designated personal time to contemplate your role as Sabbath School teacher

Am I bringing the best of me or what is left of me to the Sabbath School class?



Tips for Reflection Time

- Take time to reflect and share with God, placing the Sabbath school class before Him, asking for His will to be done, his blessing to be poured out and for Him to speak through you.
- Pray for each member of you class
- Prayer for guests



Tips for Reflection Time

- Pray that God will prepare each heart
- Pray for any prayer requests of the class

You've done the preparation, you then allow Him to do the transformation! Hand it over!



Personal Preparation

2. Bible Study

- Every Sabbath School class should be a Bible Based session.
- To teach the Bible demands you must study the Bible and this demands you prioritise Bible Study in your life.



- While it is good to include other materials in your lesson time the Bible should be your main source
- Personal Bible Study is not to dogmatically prove a point already held but instead to seek and learn God's will.



Material Preparation

How do we best prepare our materials for weekly class?



- Start with time!

10 minutes = 1 hour

If the Sabbath School class is allotted 30 minutes then
invest a minimum of 3 hours preparation time



No matter how long you have been a Sabbath School teacher providing fresh, relevant and useful information and facilitating a transformational class takes time.



- **Know your Sabbath School Class members**



Make up a spread sheet like this sample

	Name	Age	Birthday	Gender	Married	Class Attendance	Other
1	Joe King	75	Feb 18	M	Y	Not Often	Vey Funny!
2	Rae King	30	Feb 19	F	N	Regular	Needs Pick Up
3	Lee King	25	December 25	M	N	Irregular	Seems to like to fall in the cracks
4	C King	59	June 30	F	Y	Regular	Lapping it all up/Loves Sabbath School

- Find the Theme

What is it all about?

This is the very first question you must answer when opening the lesson guide each week.



- Find the Theme

The Theme is identified as the one vital truth the lesson guide is built upon and this is to be used as the foundation upon which the rest of your preparations is built upon.



- # Develop Take Aways

- Each member should at the end of the discussion leave with take aways. These are the useful Bible Based insights that can be applied to their lives

A simple giveaway often helps to highlight the take away it might be a card, poem, verse, picture, gift...Anything to highlight the key to that weeks take away!



- **Develop Take Aways**
- A simple giveaway often helps to highlight the take away it might be a card, poem, verse, picture, fridge magnet or gift...Anything to highlight the key to that weeks take away!



- Develop Takeaways

Creating Take Away Points

- Write down the Theme in a circle in the middle of the page





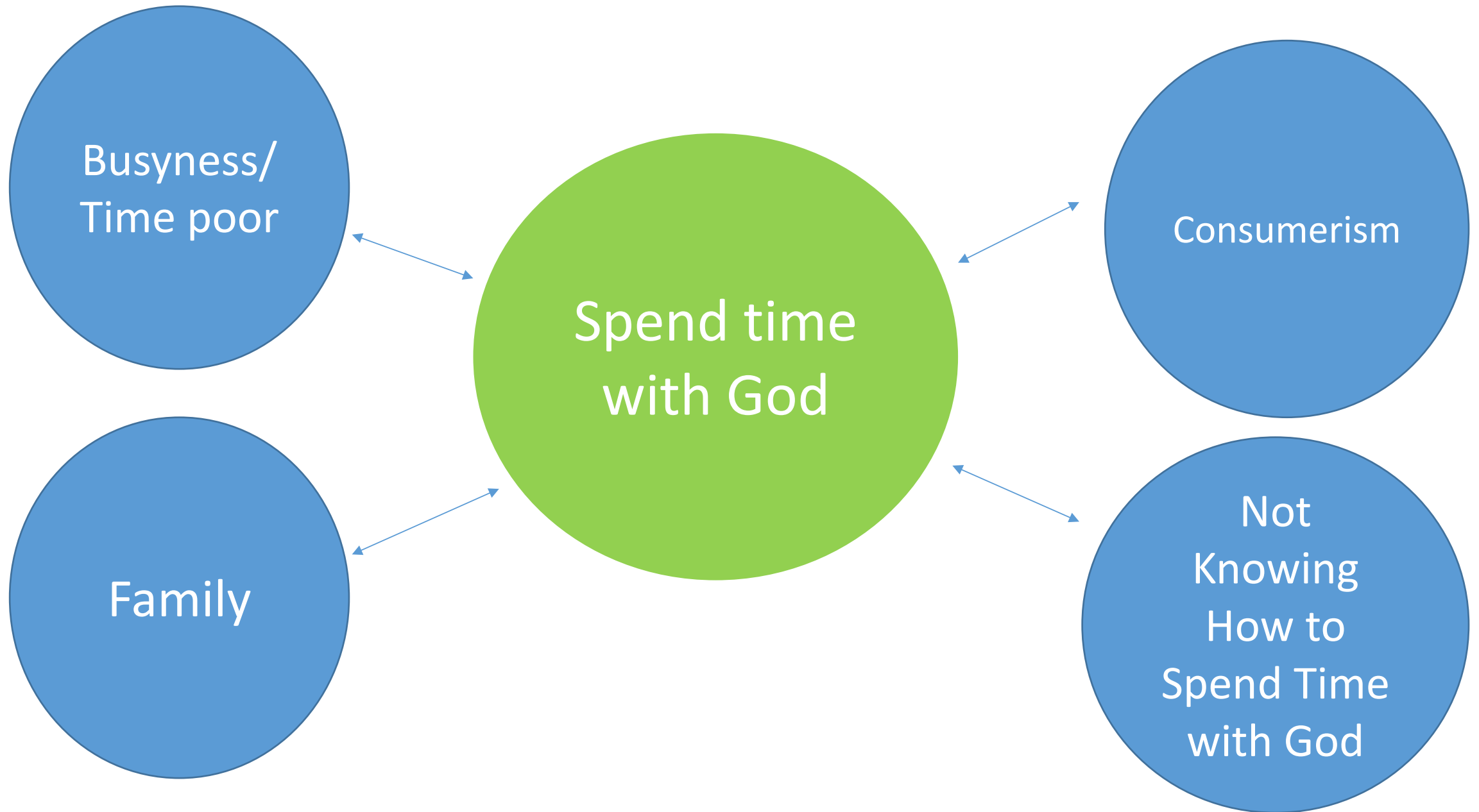
Spend time
with God

- Develop Takeaways

Creating Take Away Points

- Write down the Theme in a circle in the middle of the page
- Draw 4 to 5 circles around it and write key issues likely being faced by class members



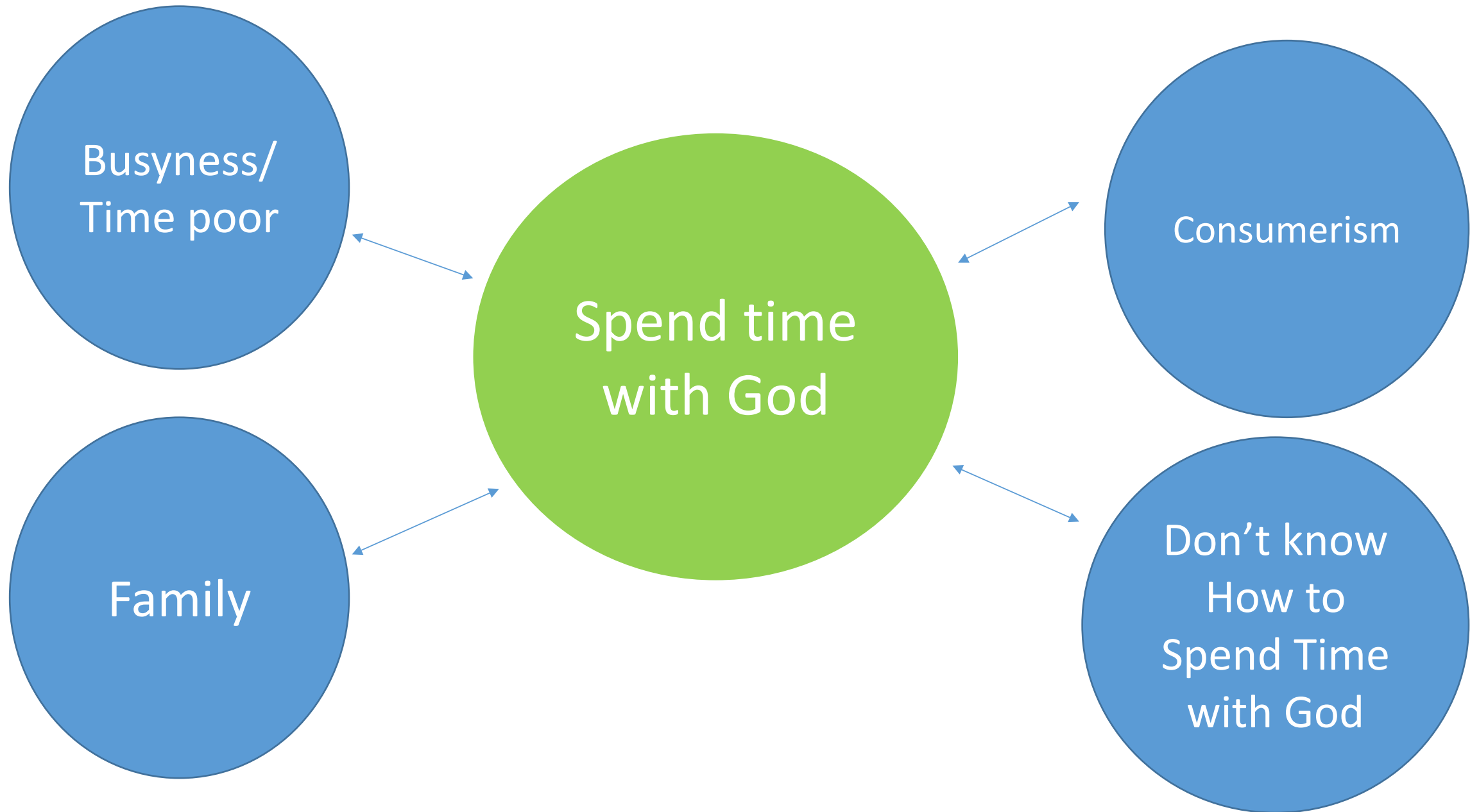


- Develop Takeaways

Creating Take Away Points

- Write down the Theme in a circle in the middle of the page
- Draw 4 to 5 circles around it and write key issues likely being faced by class members
- Using this information begin to narrowly focus your studies on what the Bible says about them





- Talking Points

- These are the guidelines to use for Sabbath School class discussion and helps you stay on target in the discussion
- These must revolve around the takeaways and when arranged in logical order helps to lead back to the takeaways.



- Talking Points
- Creating Talking Points
- Write down the take away



How To Spend Time With God



- Talking Points
- Creating Talking Points
- Write down the take away
- Under the take away list a series of questions that will lead the Sabbath School class discussion



How To Spend Time With God

- _____
- _____
- _____



- Asking the right questions
- The quality of the questions will determine the quality of the discussion.
- Great questions will do more for engaging Sabbath School class participation than any other technique.



- Use the 5 W's of open-ended questions

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

And How?



A thought provoking question means that the question goes beneath the surface of the typical open ended question. It's stretches the participants mind to go deeper.

You can tell a man is clever by his answers

You can tell a man is wise by his questions

Naguib Mahfouz



- # Creating Talking Points

- Write Down the take away
- Under the take away list a series of questions that will lead the Sabbath School class discussion
- Use a question to bridge your talking points.
- Write your questions/thoughts in bullet points.



Note:

- If you didn't cover all the points but had an insightful discussion on just one then consider your class a success.
- Resist the urge to cover all of your prepared materials. If there is a lot of interest in one talking point don't force the discussion to change to another, it is on these times of discussion and study the Holy Spirit can convict and speak to the heart.



**It's not a 30 minute race
through the lesson pamphlet**

BUT

**A Bible study in the Word of
God**

3. Classroom Preparation

- Prepare beforehand.
- Make sure whiteboards, furniture, books, visual aids etc are ready to go!
- The ideal set-up for a Sabbath School class is one where the participants can sit and view each others face.



3. Classroom Preparation

- If in the Sanctuary sit close to one another – Ask the class to come in closer
- Turn the pew around, form a circle if you have chairs
- The last thing you want as a teacher is for people to be in front of someone else.



Break

2. Presentation

Keys to Transformational Presentations

- **Enthusiasm**

Enthusiasm makes the difference between an ordinary Sabbath School class discussion and an extraordinary class discussion



“An important element in educational work is enthusiasm. On this point there is a useful suggestion in a remark once made by a celebrated actor. The archbishop of Canterbury had put to him the question why actors in a play affect their audiences so powerfully by speaking of things imaginary, while ministers of the gospel often affect theirs so little by speaking of things real.



“With due submission to your grace,” replied the actor,
“permit me to say that the reason is plain: It lies in the power
of enthusiasm. We on the stage speak of things imaginary as if
they were real, and you in the pulpit speak of things real as if
they were imaginary.”

The teacher in his work is dealing with things real, and he
should speak of them with all the force and enthusiasm which
a knowledge of their reality and importance can inspire.”

Ellen White Education page 233



2. Presentation

Keys to Transformational Presentations

- **Energy**

Bringing energy to start the Sabbath School class discussion with the right tone will make the class lively and exciting



- Energy
- Use good posture and body language
- Your body language should always say that you are confident in your role as teacher and knowledgeable in the subject matter.
- Show energy in your greeting to the class
- Show energy by smiling



- **Energy**
- Greet each class member with at least a warm smile and a firm handshake and include eye contact.
- Begin the discussion with positive facial expressions and words remembering you want to set the right tone for the class discussion
- Be excited – It's contagious



2. Presentation

Keys to Transformational Presentations

- **Grab their attention**
- Start the class with an attention grabber

News article, statistics, visual aids, object lessons, stories



2. Presentation

Keys to Transformational Presentations

Tell stories

What makes a good story teller?

- Enthusiasm – be in the story
- Relevance - Relates to today
- Insight – Find the jewels



2. Presentation

Keys to Transformational Presentations

- **Speech**

“The greatest Teacher the world has ever known, was the most definite, simple and practical in his instruction”

Ellen White Gospel Workers Page 50

Simplicity is the key!



5 Minute Break!

Have a stretch, have a drink, get refreshed!

But don't leave!



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2. Presentation

- **Discussion time.**

Now initiate class discussion with a question

Never start with...

“What does/did the Sabbath School lesson...”



- **Discussion time.**

Simple questions give everyone the opportunity to participate in the class discussion



Be mindful of guests when you;

- Ask questions
- Rephrase questions and explain responses for their benefit.
- If you begin a question with what does Mondays lessons says about... you are eliminating many from your class discussion.



- Discussion time.
- NEVER EVER tell someone they are wrong!
- Instead say that was interesting or thankyou for sharing with us.



- Discussion time.

When Hijacked!

2 Rules.

1. The Sabbath School teacher is always responsible for the Sabbath School class discussion
2. You are to edify and encourage



- Discussion time.

When Hijacked!

- Pray

Proven techniques to diffuse the Hijackers
attempt to take over the class

- Be sure to look directly at the individual, make eye contact and say;



- Discussion time.

When Hijacked!

1. Let's hold that thought for now while we discuss the current subject and immediately return to the discussion topic



- Discussion time.

When Hijacked!

2. Let's hold that thought until after the lesson discussion and immediately return to the topic



- Discussion time.

When Hijacked!

3. I understand your point but we will not be discussing that particular issue today then return to the topic of discussion.



- Discussion time.

Finishing Well

Be sure to schedule time at the end to;

- Summarise the take away points,
- Hand out a take away memory
- Encourage/challenge the members of the class to LIVE OUT the take aways.



- Discussion time.

Finishing Well

End with Prayer. Include

- Take Aways
- Ask for divine help in living these
- Holy Spirit to lead as we study our lesson this next week



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