

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' RETREAT  
19-20 JANUARY 2024**

**Session #1**

**Friday, 19 January 2024**

**Theme: "Effective Teaching"**

**Goals:**

1. To learn how we can teach more effectively
2. To be equipped with Biblical principles and practices that will make us effective teachers
3. To grow a deeper faith through a more thorough knowledge of the Scriptures
4. To have a greater sense of commitment to share our faith in the Lord
5. To teach with conviction and power from the Lord

**WHAT IS EFFECTIVE TEACHING?**

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

*Acts 2:37*

*<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."*

*<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

*<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

*Acts 2:40-42*

1. Initial response
  - a) The heart is convicted
  - b) A desire to positive action is expressed

## 2. Further response

- a) The word was received gladly
- b) 3000 sought baptism
- c) There was steadfast interest in the doctrines of the apostles
- d) Fellowship and prayer were practised

## THE BOOK OF ACTS

*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach*

*Acts 1:1*

### 1. The author of Acts was Luke

- a) He was not an Apostle
- b) Nor a pastor
- c) He was not one of the original disciples
- d) He was not even of Jewish descent
- e) He was a Gentile who had come to faith in the Lord Jesus
- f) His obvious faith and love for the Lord Jesus was his inspiration

### 2. Knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a) Luke showed a remarkable knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) Two broad categories mentioned
  - i) The deeds of the Lord
  - ii) The teachings of the Lord    Acts 1:1

### 3. How did Luke obtain such knowledge?

<sup>1</sup> *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,*

<sup>2</sup> *just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,*

<sup>3</sup> *it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,*

<sup>4</sup> *that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*

*Luke 1:1-4*

- a) There were others who had planned to write
- b) Luke's sources of knowledge
  - i) Eyewitnesses
  - ii) Ministers of the word
- c) Description of the knowledge of Luke
  - i) "A perfect understanding of all things"
  - ii) Literary Ability to write "an orderly account"
  - iii) A desire and determination to share his faith

### **A GLIMPSE OF HOW THE LORD JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES**

*<sup>2</sup> Until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,*

*<sup>3</sup> to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

*Acts 1:2-3*

#### **1. How the Lord Jesus taught**

- a) He chose some to become Disciples
  - i) He taught them diligently
  - ii) He taught them how to discern Truth from error
  - iii) The Disciples struggled to learn well and they eventually succeeded
- b) The Involvement of the Holy Spirit
  - i) He was filled with the Holy Spirit
  - ii) The Spirit's Ministry was explained carefully      John 14-16

- c) Post-Resurrection Teaching
  - i) He was alive after His suffering
  - ii) Many infallible proofs were given
  - iii) He continued to teach them about the Kingdom of God
- d) His commandments
  - i) His teachings were commandments
  - ii) They were full of authority and power
  - iii) The teachings were never seen as “mere knowledge”

### **THE COMMANDMENT TO WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER**

*<sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;*

*<sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

*Acts 1:4-5*

#### **1. A clear command**

- a) To not depart from Jerusalem
- b) To wait for the Promise of the Father
- c) The Disciples had been well-taught      John 14-16
- d) They had seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Lord Jesus

#### **2. The Promise Reiterated**

- a) The Ministry of John
  - “John truly baptised with water” Acts 1:5a*
  - i) It was preparatory work
  - ii) He prepared the way of the Lord

- iii) It was a temporary ministry
- b) The Ministry of the Disciples
  - "But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:5b*
  - i) It would be a greater ministry than that of John
  - ii) They would be a permanent ministry
  - iii) The Spirit of God would baptise them with power and authority
  - iv) They would be able to serve effectively

### **A QUERY OF THE DISCIPLES**

*Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

*Acts 1:6*

1. The original Disciples were Jews
2. They were pre-occupied concerning the kingdom of Israel
3. Their understanding of the Kingdom was taken up with Israel
4. This was a wrong focus
5. The Lord Jesus had to address this problem

### **THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD JESUS**

*<sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*

*<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*Acts 1:7-8*

1. The right Focus must be maintained

- a) It is not “to know the times and seasons”
- b) All matters are under God’s “own authority”

## 2. The Task of the Disciples emphasised

- a) To receive Power
- b) When the Holy Spirit comes upon the Disciples
- c) To be Witnesses for the Lord Jesus
  - i) In Jerusalem and all Judea
  - ii) In Samaria
  - iii) To the end of the earth

## **FUNDAMENTALS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING**

### 1. A deep knowledge of the Lord Jesus

- a) His life
- b) His deeds
- c) His teachings
- d) His character

### 2. Authority and Power of the Holy Spirit

- a) He has already been given
  - i) As our Seal
  - ii) As our Guarantee      Ephesians 1:13-14
- b) The Power of the Spirit
  - i) It must be sought
  - ii) It must be found

### 3. A challenge to be effective Sunday School Teachers

- a) To be Disciples
- b) To learn as the Disciples did

### 4. The call to be true Disciples of the Lord Jesus

*<sup>23</sup> Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

*<sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

*<sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?*

*<sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.*  
*Luke 9:23-26*

- a) Desire to follow
- b) Denial of self
- c) Daily taking up our cross in following the Lord
- d) Danger of loving this life and ultimately losing it
- e) Determination not to be ashamed of the Lord Jesus and His word

### 5. The Effective Teacher

- a) He lives out his faith in the Lord Jesus
- b) He demonstrates the reality of faith
  - i) In his life
  - ii) In his teaching



**THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*<sup>1</sup> When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

*<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.*

*<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Acts 2:1-4*

1. The Promise of the Lord Jesus was fulfilled
2. The Holy Spirit fell upon the Disciples
3. They experienced a special gift of the Holy Spirit
4. They were able to speak in languages they had never known

**REACTION OF THE MULTITUDE IN JERUSALEM**

*<sup>5</sup> And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.*

*<sup>6</sup> And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"*

*<sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?*

*<sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,*

*<sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,*

<sup>11</sup> *Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

<sup>12</sup> *So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”*

<sup>13</sup> *Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”*

Acts 2:5-13

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Confusion  | Acts 2:6   |
| 2. Amazement  | Acts 2:12a |
| 3. Perplexity | Act 2:12b  |
| 4. Mockery    | Acts 2:13  |

#### **THE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OF THE APOSTLE PETER I**

<sup>14</sup> *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.*

<sup>15</sup> *For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.*

<sup>16</sup> *But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

<sup>17</sup> *‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

<sup>18</sup> *And on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;  
And they shall prophesy.*

<sup>19</sup> *I will show wonders in heaven above  
And signs in the earth beneath:  
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

<sup>20</sup> *The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

*<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass  
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD  
Shall be saved.'*

*Acts 2:14-21*

1. Peter stood up
2. The other 11 Apostles stood with him
3. An Analysis of Peter's Speech
  - a) It was a Defense of the Gift of the Holy Spirit
    - i) Clear
    - ii) Convincing
    - iii) Compelling
  - b) It was a Display of knowledge of the Scriptures
    - i) The prophecy of Joel was cited Joel 2:28-32
    - ii) Peter must have been familiar with this prophecy
    - iii) He declared that this prophecy was fulfilled

## **THE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OF THE APOSTLE PETER II**

*<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—*

*<sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

*<sup>24</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

*Acts 2:22-24*

1. Shifting to Focus on the Lord Jesus Christ
  - a) This was a necessary shift

- b) It was also wise and skilful

## 2. A Summary of the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a) Peter identified “Jesus of Nazareth”
- b) He was “A Man attested by God”
  - i) By miracles
  - ii) Signs
  - iii) Wonders
- c) This knowledge was widely known
- d) What was determined?
  - i) The Purpose of God
  - ii) The Will of God
- e) The sinful and shameful treatment of the Lord Jesus
  - i) Lawless hands
  - ii) Crucified
  - iii) Put to death

These were also well-known facts!

- f) God’s Power
  - i) He raised up the Lord Jesus
  - ii) He loosed the Lord Jesus from the pains of death
  - iii) It was not possible for death to control the Lord Jesus

## 3. The Effective Teacher

- a) He must be thoroughly acquainted with the life of the Lord Jesus

- b) He must know how to apply the significance of His life
  - i) To our salvation
  - ii) To the blessing of our life
  - iii) To the Sovereign Will of God
- c) Every aspect of the Life of the Lord Jesus has significance

### **THE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OF THE APOSTLE PETER III**

*<sup>25</sup> For David says concerning Him:  
 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face,  
 For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.*

*<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;  
 Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.*

*<sup>27</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Hades,  
 Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

*<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
 You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'*

*Acts 2:25-28*

1. Peter cited the Scriptures again Psalm 16:8-11
2. Peter understood this Psalm as Messianic
3. He used this Psalm to apply it to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus
  - a) The Soul of the Messiah will not be left in Hades
  - b) The Holy One will not see corruption
  - c) He will be brought back to life
4. Peter's skill in the Scriptures
  - a) It was not there at the beginning
  - b) He acquired both knowledge and skill

## 5. The Effective Teacher

- a) He has a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures
- b) He knows how to apply the Scriptures appropriately

### THE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OF THE APOSTLE PETER IV

*<sup>29</sup> "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*

*<sup>30</sup> Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,*

*<sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.*

*<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.*

*<sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted <sup>l</sup>to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

Acts 2:29-33

1. Peter skilfully applied the text of Psalm 16:8-11  
He obviously knew this text well!

2. His description of David

- a) He was a patriarch
- b) He was a prophet
- c) He had a deep knowledge of God

3. He was a prophet who had an amazing knowledge concerning the Messiah

- a) That God had given an oath
- b) The Messiah would come from the line of David
- c) The Messiah (Christ) would sit on his throne
- d) He foresaw His death and His resurrection

- i) He cannot remain in Hades
- ii) His flesh will not see corruption (decay)

#### 4. The witness of Peter

- a) The Lord Jesus is the Messiah
- b) God had raised Him from the dead
- c) There were many who bear witness of the Risen Saviour

#### 5. The outpouring of the Spirit

- a) The Lord Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God
- b) He has received the promise of God
- c) The Holy Spirit had fallen on all of Apostles and Disciples
- d) The people had heard and seen this gift from the LORD





**AN ASTUTE OBSERVATION**

<sup>34</sup> *"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:*

*'The LORD said to my Lord,*

*"Sit at My right hand,*

<sup>35</sup> *Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '*

<sup>36</sup> *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

<sup>37</sup> *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

<sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>39</sup> *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

*Acts 2:34-39*

1. God (LORD) said to the Lord Jesus

- a) A word of promise to the Lord
- b) God Himself will make His enemies a footstool

2. The Lord Jesus Christ

- a) He has been made Lord
- b) He is the Messiah (Christ)

3. Peter had made a very strong case

- a) He presented his thoughts with conviction
- b) He spoke with clarity and courage

#### 4. The Response of the multitude

- a) They were cut to the heart
  - i) They were convicted
  - ii) Their conscience pricked them
- b) What were they to do?
  - i) They were guilty of a great sin
  - ii) Was there a solution?

#### 5. Strong words of encouragement

- a) Repentance was necessary
- b) Being baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- c) Remission of sins would be given
- d) The gift of the Holy Spirit would be received
- e) Believing in the promise of God

### THE RESULTS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING

*<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."*

*<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

*<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

*<sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*

*<sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,*

*<sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

*<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

*<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:40-47*

1. Glad reception of the word
2. Baptism was sought and given
3. 3000 were added to the Church
4. Steadfastness
  - a) In the apostles' doctrine
  - b) In fellowship
  - c) In the breaking of bread
  - d) In prayer
5. A new church community had arisen
  - a) Fear (reverence) was felt
  - b) They shared freely what they had
  - c) They continued in fellowship in homes
  - d) There was gladness
  - e) There was simplicity of heart
  - f) There was great praising of the Lord
6. God continued to show signs through the Apostles
7. The Lord added to the Church those who were saved