

## METHODS

### FIRST, DECIDE YOUR PURPOSE, THEN CHOOSE THE METHOD WHICH WILL BEST ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOAL.

Kinds of Teaching OBJECTIVES  
What do you want to accomplish?

**Today, I want my class to . . .**

1. . . solve a problem. How can we . . . ? When is the proper time to . . . ? Who is allowed to . . . ? What is wrong with . . . ? Why didn't God . . . ? How can we reconcile these two passages? What should we do when . . . ?
2. . . thrill my students about getting involved: in reaching the world, or explore an attribute of God, or discuss how a biblical principle works in a practical sense, or get excited about a certain missionary's work, or the describe the sheer volume of verses where a certain doctrine is mentioned!
3. . . force students to come to a decision.
4. . . communicate a huge quantity of truth in as short a period of time as feasible.
5. . . make a complex theological concept simpler for children, for teens, for unbelievers, for illiterate, for college students, etc.
6. . . allow everyone in the room to voice his/her opinion fully in a short period of time.
7. . . make sure each student "owns" the material, not just nods at the right times.
8. . . allow full throat to adversaries without upsetting the apple cart.
9. . . allow gut feelings to be presented without pointing unkind fingers at each other.
10. . . reach a very large audience but make it seem as though I'm talking to each one over a cup of coffee.
11. . . permit someone to bolster a minority opinion.
12. . . give greatest opportunity for an eloquent speaker to persuade the opposition.
13. . . give time to serious thinkers to ruminate over matters with many facets to consider: words, scholars' varied opinions, think through many passages bearing on the same topic, different schools of thought, etc.
14. . . allow guest speaker enough time to be superbly prepared, and thoroughly equipped to address every question students might ask. He/she knows more about the topic at hand than any other person in the room. He might use a multi-media presentation, taking advantage of eyes, ears, PowerPoint, music, testimonies, quotes from experts, tear-jerking stories, interchange between learners, handouts, notetaking, jokes, personal anecdotes, audience participation, and assignments for the learners to complete afterwards.
15. . . make session so memorable that students will think about it many times before the class meets again. Perhaps phenomenal visuals, fear, piercing and vivid illustrations, or a tune as hard to forget as "It's a Small World After All."
16. . . connect with personal experiences of every person in the room.
17. . . create guilt.
18. . . make an application to Scripture extremely practical for many situations.
19. . . force listeners to compare their opinions squarely with Bible verses. Allows for no comments which cannot be supported by Scripture.
20. . . grab the attention of everyone in the room with the first sentence out of the teacher's mouth.
21. . . bare the soul of the teacher.
22. . . answer a specific question with Scripture.
23. . . explain "how to" do something. Read the Bible, pray, witness, lead someone to the Lord, politely side-step objections of unbelievers, use a concordance, memorize Bible verses, invite someone to church, do a word study, identify false teachers on TV, become a missionary, calm down a rebellious child, etc.
24. . . prove a point without upsetting everyone.

"Methods" don't take away from teaching time, they just glue the lesson in the brain.  
You ARE using methods. Are you using the best ones for each topic you present?