

Teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Quorums

What should we discuss in the School of the Prophets?

"How vain and trifling have been our spirits, our conferences, our councils, our meetings, our private as well as public conversations—too low, too mean, too vulgar, too condescending for the dignified characters of the called and chosen of God, . . . let honesty, and sobriety, and candor, and solemnity, and virtue, and pureness, and meekness, and simplicity crown our heads in every place; and in fine, become as little children, without malice, guile or hypocrisy" (TPJS, p.137).

1. How can a teacher prepare for the lesson?
Find the parts that speak to your soul & to the needs of your brethren (pp.98-9).
Read about the principle. Study in many sources. Get filled with the doctrine.
Make every effort to live the principle in your own life.
2. How can a teacher invite the Spirit to quorum instruction?
See Jesus and His purposes in every teaching. Give all praise and honor to Him.
"I am so grateful for the opportunity to speak of His gospel!"
Do not resist any wave of gratitude.
Express your love for Heavenly Father and the Savior
Bear your testimony
Ask the Lord for mercy on you & the brethren. (pp. 41-47; See Ether 3:2-3).
Invite the brethren to be open to instruction from Heaven.
3. How can a teacher manage feelings of inadequacy?
This is His lesson not yours. Replace temptation to panic with faith in Him. (p.41)
When you don't have a thought, He may be sending a message through a class member. "Your thoughts?" Watch their faces for a readiness to share.
4. How can a teacher get the group to think deeply?
Ask the right questions. Quotes and questions make the best lessons (p.68).
"What can we learn about Jesus and His perfect purposes from this?"
"How can we use the ideas in this passage to live closer to Him?"
"Does that passage stir any thoughts or feelings?"
Listen carefully to what they say. Welcome all comments. (pp. 66, 77)
Appreciate and celebrate comments that are honest and earnest.
The object is not to "get through the lesson" but to get the lesson in us.
5. How can a teacher make the lesson more meaningful for brethren in the class?
Love the class members and enjoy their unique life stories and perspectives.
See them as Jesus sees them (pp.31-38).
Make class members into teaching partners by drawing ideas from them.
Allow the Lord to lead the lesson to the place that will bless your brethren.

Joseph Smith: "Go in all meekness, in sobriety, and preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified; not to contend with others on account of their faith, or systems of religion, but pursue a steady course. (TPJS, p. 109)

Key Resource: *Teaching, No Greater Call*, 1999, (36123; \$2), especially "Understanding and Teaching Adults," pp. 123-124.