

LEADERSHIP LESSON 6: EFFECTIVE ADULT TEACHERS

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Much has been stated in the business world regarding the difference between *efficient* and *effective*. The same differences could apply in teaching adults.

“Efficient *adult teachers do things right.*
Effective *adult teachers do the right things.”*

What are the right things when it comes to teaching adults? How does the effective teacher know how to choose the greater of two goods when teaching adults?

Three elements are necessary for the adult teacher to be effective (G.T.O.)

1. A love for **God** – For adult teachers to be effective, a genuine love for God and His Word is foundational. Teaching is viewed as one’s “reasonable service or spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1).
2. A love for **teaching** – Effective adult teachers love to teach God’s Word. Their teaching is a necessary part of their lives and a divine calling from above. Effective teachers would think of doing nothing less than teaching other adults and helping equip them in their spiritual journey. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
3. A love for **others** – Effective adult teachers love people, want to be with people, and want to make a positive difference in the lives of people. These teachers begin with the needs of the individuals in their class and tailor their teaching toward meeting those needs. (Luke 10:36-37)

Leadership Thoughts: Effective adult teachers give consideration to the following areas in their preparation and presentation.

- Room **Arrangement**: Effective adult teachers understand group dynamics and that people are more comfortable with a semi-circle arrangement of chairs. The effective teacher will be seated whenever possible.
- **Start** and **Stop** on Time: Effective adult teachers are time conscious. They know that as a general rule, adults will arrive when the lesson begins. Therefore, the effective teacher starts on time.
- **Worst** Teaching Method: Effective adult teachers know that the worst teaching method to use is the one they use the most. Variety is always intentional.

- **Basic Methods:** Effective adult teachers use all six basic methods in their teaching. They seek in their lesson plans to involve from time to time – Brainstorming; Case Studies; Question and Answer; Role Plays, Monologue; and last, but not least, Lecture. The effective teacher seeks to be unpredictable while at the same time provide variety.
- **The Senses:** Effective adult teachers seek to use all the senses in teaching. They understand that adults learn in the same way as preschoolers by using the senses. It is sometimes difficult to use the senses with adults, but never impossible.
- **Technology:** Effective adult teachers are willing to embrace technology. TV's, VCR's, DVD's, and computers are all viable tools to use in presenting the gospel message.
- **Are Positive:** Effective adult teachers know the value of a positive attitude and are willing to be positive in the midst of a negative world.
- **Provide a Non-Threatening Environment:** Effective adult teachers recognize that not everyone is comfortable speaking, reading or praying aloud in a group. They call only on those whom they know are comfortable.
- **Transformation – Not Just Information:** Effective adult teachers understand that change is necessary for learning to take place.

Discuss: Are you an efficient adult teacher or an effective adult teacher? How can you become more effective?

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Listening Guide

“ _____ adult teachers do things right.
_____ adult teachers do the right thing.”

Three necessary elements for the effective adult teacher:

1. A love for G _____.
2. A love for t _____.
3. A love for o _____.

Effective adult teachers give consideration to:

- Room _____
- _____ and _____ on time
- _____ teaching method
- _____ methods
- The _____
- T _____
- Are _____
- Provide a _____ - _____
- _____ - not just information.