



Reaching the Goal in Teaching

Are you seeing spiritual growth in the students in your class? Sunday School—Christian education—is a means for achieving that. Since the objective is to see the students mature in Christ, each lesson is a step in that direction. A teacher must know where he is going before he can plan how to get there.

Where Are You Going?

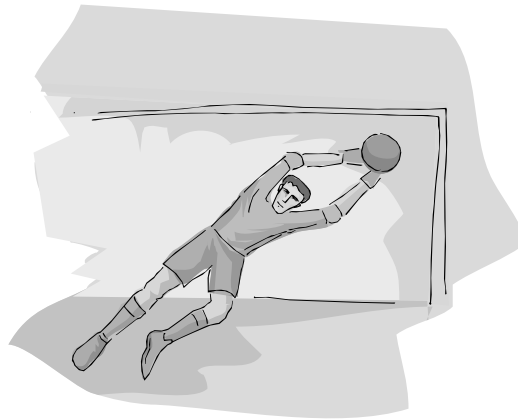
To reach a teaching goal, a teacher must carefully consider the following questions when developing the weekly lesson:

- ? Who am I teaching?
- ? Why should I teach about David and Goliath (for example)?
- ? What will I teach about David's victory?
- ? What will I teach about God through this?
- ? How much of this account should I cover?
- ? How will this affect the students?
- ? How will I know what the students have learned?
- ? How can I know if the students believe this teaching?

Every lesson has a purpose; every unit and every quarter of the lessons are developed based

on a goal or objective. Without a well-written and specifically stated objective, a teacher may:

- ✦ Try to cover too much material
- ✦ Ramble without a purpose
- ✦ Fail to relate to individual needs
- ✦ See little life change or response from students



Lesson Objectives

Teaching the Word of God is too important to be left to a casual procedure. Lesson objectives direct the teaching/learning process in three major areas:

- 1 Knowledge of the concept
- 2 Attitude or feeling about the concept
- 3 Behavior change because of 1 and 2

The objective provides a focus for planning the lesson, taking into account the needs represented in the class. It is written in terms of the student's actions, which can be observed or measured. We can **see** or **hear** what the student's attitude or behavior is after he learns the concept from God's Word. We need to blend the spiritual principle with the student's needs and his ability to understand the concept.

A common problem in teaching is being content to teach only the facts without moving on until the student understands the principles and applies them in his life. It is not enough for the student just to know that God helped David overcome the giant; he must be able to apply the truth that if he trusts in God, God can do the same for him with giant problems in his life.

Knowing the Goal

Integration of biblical principles is not a one-time event. It is a process, a growing toward Christian maturity, step by step, through specific lesson objectives. The teacher needs to know the lesson purpose, how to reach it, and when it has been reached—that's the value of lesson objectives. Reaching the goal depends on knowing what the goal is.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Why should a teacher have lesson objectives?
2. What can happen without a well-written and specifically stated objective?
3. How can lesson objectives direct the teaching/learning process?
4. How can you blend spiritual principles with student needs?
5. What is the main factor in reaching a goal?



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