

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES FOR LEADING COURSES

ACCOUNTABILITY, MOTIVATION, APPLICATION, CLARIFICATION, INSPIRATION, PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

What do you need to do every time you meet with your group to study a course?

I want to just give a short review, a synopsis, on course seminar objectives. So that you will think of them. So you will really know what to do, especially if you need to explain it to somebody else.

What are your objectives each evening when you meet with your group of students to do a course?

I. ACCOUNTABILITY

That happens through exams. That happens through recordkeeping. This means that if a student is not there, you are responsible to find out why and to motivate him to come next time. You follow up on him. Without follow up there is no real accountability. Perhaps you ask, "Did you do your homework?" He says, "No." And you respond, "Oh well!" Do you think he will be motivated to do his homework next time? I do not think so. So you need to go into action.

II. MOTIVATION

Which student needs to be motivated? The one that has the most difficulty with the course! The one that gets the lowest grade! Yes! So when a student does not perform, you need to put into practice the lecture on "**Preplanned Forgiveness.**" Be sure to study that lecture. If you grab that student and say, "What is the matter with you? I am so discouraged with you." Do you think next time he is going to get a high grade? I doubt it.

So when he is discouraged, when he is lost in the course, you need to be cheery and happy. You say, "Oh, God help me to remember *the ten commandments for good relationships* from the lecture: "**Ten Commandments on Human Relations.**" You say, "Now look, it is not all that bad. I know you have missed three lessons. I tell you what. We are now doing lesson six. Forget about the other lessons right now, and do lesson six so that next week you know precisely what we are all talking about. I tell you what, in about three days I will phone you up and see how you are doing. If you need any help, I will come and give you some help." Later you phone him up and say, "Is it going well?" "No, not yet." So now you need to do something.

How can you get him motivated? That is when your job comes into being. That is the secret of being a good course coach--motivating your students. I have known some coaches in Ukraine who, for exams, give a little gift to their students: a pencil, or a package of bubble gum, or something like that. Just to let them know, "I care for you." One excellent idea is to provide the best students with free course books for the next course.



III. APPLICATION

Make sure that at the end of the seminar the student goes home knowing how to use the material he has been studying. Every student should go home thinking, "Now that was a good idea. I want to try that." Now that may be your idea, or it may be an idea from one of the other students. But you make sure that the lessons are being used at home. That they are being lived out. That other people are being blessed because of the lesson.

IV. CLARIFICATION

A good course coach knows before he starts the lesson what areas students have probably been struggling with. So he will make some written questions to help them discover the truth. The best thing is to go to the seminar with some written questions.

I saw a coach, he came to class and he had a nice list of questions. Then I found out in the discussion time that the questions were just copied out of the book. The coach would ask a question and it was question ten on page seventeen. The student just turned to his book and read the answer. That is not what we had in mind.



Clarification can also mean giving a little lecture. Or maybe you have a Bible Encyclopedia and you can share some extra Bible verses on that topic. Keep your lectures short, 10 minutes, not more. You do not want to go over to a lecture method. I was with a group one time and they did not discuss a thing. I had already warned them several times, to prepare at home for discussion of the lesson — nothing. I said, “Oh well, let us stand up and pray.” So we prayed and I went home. They were angry.

V. INSPIRATION

You should inspire your students. Students should always go home encouraged. They should always go home having discovered some new spiritual truth. They should go home saying, “This I would like to try.” They should go home wanting to do something again for Jesus. They should go home appreciating the privilege of studying the Bible and growing as a believer.

VI. PRAYER

Take time to bond together for a few minutes of personal prayer. Not about all the other things in the world but about their personal life and needs.

These are things you must take care of every single time you meet. And I believe that if you do that, you will have happy students. Students who are serving Jesus and live out the material at home with friends and relatives.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

Practical assignment

After the group discussion students should answer each of these personally

1. Why is it important to hold your students accountable every time you meet?
2. How can you make sure that the accountability time generates results?
3. How can you get a student motivated who is not doing too well in a course?
4. Why is it important to pay attention to your best students too?
5. What are some ways you can be sure your students know how to use what they are learning at home?
6. How does a course coach know when his students need clarification on some issue?
7. What are appropriate means of clarification?
8. What does it mean to inspire your students?
9. How can you do this?
10. How much time should a course coach allow for prayer?

11. If there are still issues you have questions about, please raise them now.