

# How To Understand And Teach Children of All Ages

*No matter where they live!*

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## Foundational Truth

Humans possess many basic similarities because we have all been created by the same God! Those who study human nature, psychology and human development will tell you that we all share the same basic needs and desires. Of course, the environment in which we are raised has significant effects on “who” we become, but all humans possess the basic desires to:

- Be satisfied with food and drink
- Be safe
- Be loved
- Feel wanted, valued, important, respected
- To have a purpose
- To be happy (“happy” may be defined differently by all)



Understanding these similarities helps in knowing how to teach or minister to “children” of all ages. Jesus was a master at understanding people and then ministering to those deep needs or fears. Of course, He was God, but we can do what we can, with His help, to minister to people no matter how old or where they live.

### A. How Do We Learn?

1. How did you learn to ride a bike?
2. How did you learn to write your name?
3. How did you learn to dance?
4. How did you learn to play sports?
5. How did you learn to cook, sew, or fix a car?



The best way to learn is by \_\_\_\_\_.  
*if this is true, then....*

The worst way to teach is by \_\_\_\_\_.  
*if this is true, then....*

### B. How To Teach?

**"A teacher is not the giver of all knowledge, but, instead, a guide to knowledge!"**

We can either tell the children what to think, or interest them in learning for themselves. A good teacher knows what the students need to know and creates an environment in which the students explore and discover the learning on their own. There is a big difference between a student saying, "I have to learn this," and, "I want to learn this." The way the teacher introduces the lesson makes the difference!

Visualize a park ranger who knows the trail, but lets the children explore on their own.

#### Creative ways to introduce a lesson:

1. Connect the lesson to a popular show, song, or event
2. Use an object lesson or science demonstration
3. Use a role-play as an opposite example
4. Ask a question that starts a debate or discussion



## A teacher must know the lesson and know the students!

When you plan your lesson, think about these things:

1. Will my children care about this information? What can I do to help them care?
2. If I was a child, what would I think about this lesson?
3. What can I do to let the children **discover the lesson** on their own?
4. How can I use the 5 senses in my lesson (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch)?
5. Move them from "I don't care about this" to "I can't wait to apply this" (baby steps).

### C. "Feed" or "fight" the learning process

#### Things that "fight" learning

1. "Be quiet"
2. "Sit still"
3. "Don't touch"
4. "Just listen to me"
5. "That's wrong!"
6. "Don't ask questions"

#### Things that "feed" learning

1. "Talk about it"
2. "Go see"
3. "What do you feel?"
4. "Tell me more"
5. "Tell us why?"
6. "Ask me why"



***"That character which we value in others must be nurtured and rewarded by us."***