

# 10 Tips for Lesson Preparation

*Teacher Tips by Editorial Staff*

The text you are holding is intended for preparatory study. There is generally too much information packed into each lesson commentary to include it all within an hour-long session. There is certainly too much for a twenty-minute sermon! Therefore, one suggested approach to preparing yourself for an instructional presentation is as follows. May these ten tips guide your discernment.

1. Read through the lesson in its entirety to gain familiarity with the text and the general interpretive concepts.
2. During this read-through, spend time circling or highlighting places where you have questions, curiosity rises, or something particularly resonates with you.
3. Prayerfully reread the lesson, asking God to help you discern which points to emphasize *and what you may be able to skip* to leave margin in your time.
4. Write down words or phrases that stand out to you: Is there a central theme or statement that you feel called to emphasize? Is there anything further you feel led to research or to add?
5. Consider the lesson aims and take notes on how you might best teach the material to fulfill the aims.
6. Don't forget to start with Scripture! Consider incorporating new and different voices by asking various learners to read sections aloud.
7. Follow what is interesting and pertinent to you and your audience. Remember that when you are passionate, your group has a greater chance of catching your enthusiasm and responding with eagerness.
8. When you find geographic location information helpful, consider utilizing a visual—try the *Standard Bible Atlas* (available at [Shop.DavidCCook.org](http://Shop.DavidCCook.org)) and take advantage of the maps or charts available for each quarter in the Standard Lesson Resources. You can also find alternative maps online to print or project.
9. Consider mentioning places where you learned something new or where you felt convicted toward change.
10. Be confident in the gifts and skills you possess. There is no single “right way” to present information or to communicate. Be yourself and offer your perspective and connection with the materials as a gift and invitation to others.

*May God bless your exploration and comprehension of Scripture, and may you teach with grace-filled confidence and courage!*



**Psalm 119:15–16:** I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.