

What is the difference between teaching and training? What is the difference between rebuking and correcting? How does this all relate to what we saw about the disciples learning from Jesus?

### **Read 2 Timothy 4.1-5**

In the light of all that had been said before what was Timothy to do?

### **Read 2 Timothy 2.2 again**

What specific task was Timothy given to make sure that the pattern of teaching disciples continued?

### **Read 1 Timothy 1.2-3**

What therefore is the specific ability mentioned here as necessary for those who are to be overseers in the ongoing Church?

## **Our Vision**

We see the pattern established in the Gospels and Acts, The Teacher, His disciples, their teaching, more disciples. In Timothy and Titus we see how this was to be carried on in future generations with a particular focus on those with a specific teaching ministry.

- What does all this mean for our fellowship at St James today?
- How important do you see teaching in what we do?
- In what different settings do we learn and teach?
- What is the difference between milk and solids and how do we wean people off one onto the other?
- Why is teaching the Bible so fundamental to what we do?

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## **Vision**

### **Study 6 : Teaching**



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."  
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***Teaching : Teaching the Bible so that people will grow in understanding and be stirred up in faith.***

*(St James Vision document.)*

## **Growing up**

### **Read Hebrews 5.11-6.3**

What was the problem with those to whom this letter was written?

What should they have become?

In what way should they have grown up?

Do you feel you are on milk or solids?

What is said here about the benefit of solid food? (v13-14)

## **Teacher and disciples**

*In the gospels Jesus is regularly called Teacher, by his followers, by Himself and by others. Similarly in both the gospels and Acts, the followers of Jesus are called disciples (the word occurs over 250 times in the gospels and Acts, but only once outside them).*

The word disciple means a pupil or student; one who learns from another. What does this tell us about what it means to be a Christian and about our relationship with Christ?

Do you think the first disciples of Jesus simply learnt from Jesus' teaching, or did they learn in other ways too?

Do you think of being a Christian in terms of being a disciple?

### **Read Matthew 28.19-20**

In this Great Commission what three things are the first disciples told to do. How does this show the continuing importance of teaching for the Christian life?

In what way are the four gospels themselves fulfilling Jesus' command to teach people about him?

*Matthew and John were first generation disciples. Mark is said to have learnt much from Peter but there is a strong tradition that Mark was a teenager at the time and did witness some things first hand. In particular it is said that he was the young man who ran away in Mk 14.51-52. Whereas Luke definitely became a disciple through other disciples. None of Luke's teaching is first-hand but he carefully investigated what others handed down and used eyewitness accounts and the message of the 'servants of the word' (Lk 1.1-4).*

### **“Teaching them”**

*Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus shows us how the disciple-to-teacher pattern was to be followed in Church from one generation to another. If you have time in preparation read all of 2 Timothy.*

### **Read 2 Timothy 1.13-14**

How do these two verses show us Timothy as both a disciple and a teacher?

What is said about part of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers?

What do these verses suggest about the core content of the Christian faith and how it might develop or evolve over the years? (See also Titus 1.3)

### **Read 2 Timothy 2.2 and 1 Timothy 1.5**

From whom had Timothy learned?

How he being told to make sure that the disciple-teacher-disciple chain continued?

### **Read 2 Timothy 2.18-19**

What danger is set out here? (See also Romans 16.17) Are there still similar dangers today?

### **Read 2 Timothy 3.1-7**

*(Note that Paul is not talking about the future here, but about the present, he is telling Timothy to avoid these things now, v7. The last days are the gospel age, and so we are also living in them.)*

What is said about learning in verse 7 and why is this particular teaching wrong? What do you think this means?

### **Read 2 Timothy 3.14-17**

How does verse 14 link back to what had already been said in ch 2 v2 and ch 1 v5.

What things are said here about the purpose of Scripture?