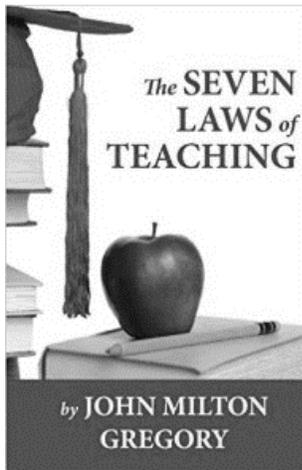


TEACHERS & THE SEVEN LAWS OF TEACHING

These principles are enumerated and explained by John Milton Gregory, a Baptist Minister and Educator, in *The Seven Laws of Teaching*, revised edition (1917, original 1884), reprinted by Baker Book House, 1993.) These principles continue to be popular with Christian Schools and Home schoolers who want to pursue a “classical education.”



The Seven Laws of Teaching are:

- 1) The Law of the Teacher**
- 2) The Law of the Learner**
- 3) The Law of the Language**
- 4) The Law of Teaching a New Subject
(or Law of the Lesson)**
- 5) The Law of the Teaching Process**
- 6) The Law of the Learning Process**
- 7) The Law of Review & Application**

A Shorter Version: In Acrostic Form

- *T**eachers know their stuff
- *E**eager students pay attention
- *A**ble to understand each other
- *C**onnect the known to the unknown
- *H**elp children to find out for themselves
- *E**xpress and explain it
- *R**eview and apply it

Seven Laws to Help You Present Better: An Abridged version

1. Know the subject

- Study the material fresh each time
- Seek out and use illustrations from real life
- Use a natural order of truth, from the simple to the complex

2. Generate audience interest

- Gain and keep the attention and interest of your audience
- Use a variety of presentation techniques: visual aids, stories, illustrations, questions and Discussions
- Make your presentation interactive by asking questions

3. Use words that your audience knows

- Use short sentences
- Explain new ideas by using objects, visual aids, slides, pictures, analogies and discussion

4. Build on known truths

- Relate your points and illustrations to what your audience has experienced
- Help your audience understand that practical new knowledge is usable in life experience

5. Stimulate self-learning

- Use practical exercises and illustrations that activate audience members' imaginations and get them involved
- Encourage your audience to try new skills and seek new knowledge.
- Demystify the unknown

6. Learn by doing

- Stimulate audience questioning, answering and participation
- Make sure your audience's actions are practical. An activity must lead somewhere and go there for a reason

7. Tell them, tell them again, then tell them what you told them

- Remember that review is the final touch to your presentation
- Repetition begets retention.

Short Description	Full Description
LAW OF THE TEACHER	
<p>The teacher must know what they are teaching and prepare fresh materials each time they teach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The teacher must know the content of the lesson to be taught. b. The teacher must prepare to communicate the content and message of the lesson. c. Methodical lesson preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal study of the lesson content. 2. Thorough planning of the teaching process. 3. Careful selection of teaching materials. 4. Adept selection of teaching methods. 5. Thorough development of teaching procedures d. The teacher should utilize proper tools for his/her preparation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, dictionary, commentaries, Bible atlas, etc. e. Five practical questions the teacher should ask himself/herself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do I want my pupils to know? 2. What do I want my pupils to feel? 3. What do I want my pupils to do? 4. What choices do I want my pupils to make? 5. What kind of character should my pupils manifest? f. Prepare your materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint, object lessons, visual aids, handouts, tools, etc. g. Prepare your methods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture, storytelling, recitation, discussion, question & answer, etc.
LAW OF THE LEARNER	
<p>The learner must attend with interest to the material to be learned. The teacher must gain & keep the student's attention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Formally stated, the law is: the pupil must attend paying attention with interest to the material being taught <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student's interest and attention must be generated by the teacher. No interest, nothing retained. 2. A teacher's enthusiasm is contagious to students. b. Three types of attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The attention may be VOLUNTARY. 2. The attention may be COERCED (forced, insisted upon) 3. The attention may be ABSORBING (gripping, spellbinding, mesmerizing, oblivious to his surroundings)

LAW OF THE LANGUAGE

<p>The language used in teaching must be common to teacher and learner.</p>	<p>a. The language used in teaching must be common to both teacher and pupil.</p> <p>b. The same meaning must be evident to both before good communication is possible.</p> <p>c. The vocabulary of the teacher should be adapted to that of the pupil. Otherwise, the use of words foreign to the pupil's understanding will prohibit the pupil from receiving the message of the lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrations, natural objects, and visual aids are important and can help communicate ideas, provided they are NOT distracting.
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LAW OF THE LESSON

<p>The truth to be taught must be learned through a truth already known; then the teacher builds upon that.</p>	<p>a. Truth to be taught must be learned through truth already known. A teacher must begin with what is already well known to the pupil about the subject, and proceed to the new material by single, easy, and natural steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students, "Has anyone ever seen/heard/been to..." • Lessons are best begun with common and familiar experiences. • Excellent teachers understand the background of their pupils and use it as a starting point. <p>b. Jesus utilized this approach.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables. 2. He compared spiritual water with physical water. 3. He compared door/gate with Himself as the way to Heaven. <p>c. Remember the KISS principle: Keep It Super Simple ☺</p>
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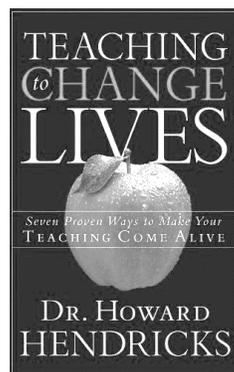
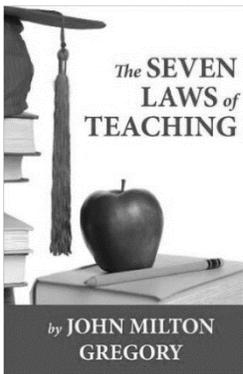
LAW OF THE TEACHING PROCESS

<p>Teaching is arousing- using the pupil's mind, to grasp the desired thought or to master the desired art.</p>	<p>a. The teacher must motivate and guide the student. Teachers are the ones to stimulate the student's mind into action. The stimulated mind, will produce deeds eventually forming character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert teachers arouse and direct self-activities, thus stimulating them to learn for themselves. <p>b. The teacher must help the student be a discoverer of truth. Although you, the teacher, already know the truth and where it is hidden, lead the student to discover that desired truth. Keep the student's thought as much as possible, placing him/her in the attitude of a discoverer and anticipator.</p> <p>c. The teaching process demands student participation.</p>
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Short Description	Full Description
LAW OF THE LEARNING PROCESS	
<p style="text-align: center;">The student must reproduce in his own mind the truth to be learned.</p>	<p>a. There are at least five steps in the learning process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorization 2. Understanding 3. Expressing the thought 4. Giving evidence of beliefs 5. Application of knowledge in daily life <p>b. It is useful for students to bear five questions in mind during the study.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the lesson say? (Facts to be memorized) 2. What does the lesson mean? (Understanding) 3. How can I express the lesson in my own words? (Expressing thought) 4. Do I believe what I read? If so, Why? If not, why not? (Giving evidence of beliefs) 5. How can I use this knowledge? (Application) <p>c. Require the student to reproduce in thought the lesson he is learning--- thinking it out in its various phases and applications until he can express it in his own language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words for the teacher to remember: Recap, review, retell, restate, reiterate, repeat, and summarize. All these will help the student retain information. • Real and valuable learning is more than memorization.
LAW OF REVIEW & APPLICATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">The completion, test, and confirmation of the work of teaching must be made by review and application.</p>	<p>a. This law is based on the demands of the mind for frequent reviews of the lessons learned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review perfects knowledge, confirms knowledge, and makes knowledge ready and useful. <p>b. Frequent reviews are practical for both student and teacher, therefore, review, review, review, reproducing the old, deepening its impression with new thought, linking it with added meanings, finding new applications, correcting any false views, and completing the truth.</p>

**Matt. 13:19**

“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one who has received seed by the wayside.”

**For additional studies on this subject research:**

- “The Seven Laws of Teaching” by John Milton Gregory
- “Teaching to Change Lives” by Dr. Howard Hendricks (whose book was written on the principles laid out by John Milton Gregory)