



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/SEPTEMBER 2012

Back to School

by Kimberly von Oeyen

I'm the first to admit I love the lazy days of summer and the extra time of leisure and travel it provides for my husband and me. However, there is something about getting back into the fall routine that I find compelling.

Though we don't have children who are heading back to school, we are impacted by the more disciplined schedule within our extended family and church body.

Fall is a time of new opportunities, and I'm looking forward to signing up for a new Bible study with the women in my church and attending a conference or two over the next several months.

MAKE THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES

What are you looking forward to doing? Do you have a book of the Bible you'd like to begin digging into a little deeper? Students you are excited to see after a summer break? Friends you'd like to reconnect with now that you're home for the weekend?

Whatever your plans, remember the Lord directs your steps and he will guide you as you begin this next season of life, leadership, and ministry.



Utilizing Teachable Moments

adapted from Kimberly von Oeyen's ICEA workshop

Some moments are better than others for communicating spiritual truths. Not because the Word of God isn't always relevant, but because there are times when people are more responsive to hearing truth.

A teachable moment opens the door for you to talk about biblical truth. It makes initiating conversation

natural and the lesson memorable.

Teachable moments are the heart of Colossians 4:5-6, "Conduct yourself with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."



TEACHING TIP. At the beginning of the semester pass out a schedule of meeting times and class activities. This will help the "planners" and those with challenging work schedules.



TEACHING TIP. Make sure your teaching is profitable by loving your students. Remember without love you are nothing and you gain nothing (1 Cor.13).



TEACHING TIP. Want to do word studies in Scripture yet don't have a library of Bible study tools? There are lots of great resources free on-line including www.blueletterbible.org.

Know how you should respond to each person.

Jesus was masterful at utilizing teachable moments by employing three skills: watching, redirecting, and answering.

Jesus was a people watcher. He often saw what no one else noticed. Two teachable moments recorded by Luke begin by Jesus watching people. He saw the poor widow put two small copper coins in the offering, and he noticed how the invited guests were picking places of honor for themselves.

Watching these actions unfold became teachable moments as Jesus explained the spiritual reality to those around him. We have the same opportunity to explain to others the truth of God by weaving it into the actions we see, but we must be watching.

Look beyond the surface.

Redirecting a conversation by looking beyond the surface is another skill in utilizing teachable moments. Jesus often redirected conversations, and so can we.

My five-year old neighbor surprised me when he said he hated Jesus. Not correcting or scolding him I replied, "Wow. It sounds like you are really mad at him. What did He do?"

"He took my grandma."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Bob Healy

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry and each month Equipping U will highlight and honor one of these faithful servants of God.

By redirecting, through the use of a question, a door was opened for me to explain the gospel to my young neighbor.

The third skill is answering. People have simple, honest questions from which many Christians shy away. We can't do that. If you don't know, find out. Otherwise, give a direct answer. Recognize the time for what it is—a teachable moment.

By using the skills of watching, redirecting, and answering we can take seemingly ordinary activities and conversations and make them teachable moments.

Bob, a classical pianist and chorus director, provides leadership to other ICEA volunteers by serving on the board of directors, and heading the registration process for all of ICEA's conferences and trainings.

Thank you, Bob, for your humble heart and faithful service.

FROM THE EDITOR

As leaders and Bible teachers, it's important to invest in the gifts, skills, and talents God has given us.



ICEA is thrilled to provide this monthly resource and semi-annual training conferences to equip you, encourage you, and stir your passion for the ministry God has given you.

I hope you'll make a further investment in your gifts by attending the October 27 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference.

Details are available at www.iceaOnline.org.

Serving with U,

Kimberly von Oeyen
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NEXT STEPS

Want to be equipped to share the gospel more clearly or learn how to use "magic tricks" in your classroom? Then make plans to attend the Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference on Saturday, October 27.

\$35 early-bird pricing is in effect now!

Register today and save. www.iceaOnline.org

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