

## TEACHING TIPS

Every teacher has a best practice, and participants at The Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference shared their tips for a successful presentation. Try one or more of these ideas the next time you teach or lead a group!

### Getting Prepared

- Pre-read material!
- Research your topic thoroughly ahead of time.
- Prepare an outline and keep your presentation simple.
- Always provide a handout.
- Bring a copy of the scripture reading for everyone because not everyone brings their Bible. Consider writing the scripture reading on a piece of paper that you give out before the session starts.

### Making Introductions

- When teaching a group of 15 or less, always have each person introduce themselves and tell where they're from. If possible, give a short question to be answered too, one that goes along with what is being taught.
- Ask each person to describe her day or week by using one good descriptive adjective. This is a good ice-breaker. It puts at ease persons who may be having a "bad hair" day. It also reminds participants to be sympathetic to others' needs.

### Teaching the Material

- Start with humor! Know that people are "sizing you up" for the first 2–3 minutes and will turn you off if they don't get a good first impression. Share a short story that the audience can relate to.
- Be comfortable.
- Start Bible study with a question. Conclude by sharing answers to the question.

### Involve all people in some way—when people leave they will feel they have a part.

- Ask questions that involve everyone.
- Don't just lecture—ask questions, encourage active participation, role playing, etc.
- During the lesson, use a variety of teaching techniques.
- Use drawings, photos, charts or other visual aids.
- Don't feel like everyone else knows so much more than you—have confidence in yourself.
- Make sure to speak clearly and loud enough. Speak into the microphone if there is one.

### Learn to use it.

- Speak plainly.
- Talk to the students not above the students.
- Include prayer at the beginning, middle and/or end of the lesson.