

RICK WARREN

TEACHING TO **CHANGE LIVES**

A Purpose Driven Leadership Course

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Purpose Driven Leadership Course: Teaching to Change Lives Teacher's Guide

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

C O N T E N T S

About Teaching to Change Lives Course7

How to Use This Teacher's Guide.....8

Session 1 Teaching for Life Change..... 11

Session 2 Who Will I Be Teaching? 29

Session 3 What Does the Bible Say About Their Needs?..... 45

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Session 4	What is the Most Practical Way to Say It?	65
Session 5	What Is the Most Positive and Most Encouraging Way to Say it?	87
Session 6	What Is the Simplest and Most Personal Way to Say it?.....	103
Session 7	What Is the Most Interesting Way to Say it?	123
Tools	Eight Questions to Ask Before You Preach	144
	Sharpening Your Skills as a Teacher	145

TEACHER'S GUIDE

About Teaching to Change Lives Course

This course is part of a series of leadership training courses from Saddleback Church. The goal of this course is to help your leaders to learn how to teach the Bible in such a way that lives are changed as a result of the teaching.

There are three specific resources to be used with this course:

- A **Learner's Guide** with outline notes for each of the sessions.
- A **Teacher's Guide** with the outline filled in and also a complete transcript of the teaching.
- A **PowerPoint CD** with all of the Scripture verses, charts, and fill-ins.
- A **DVD** (for optional use) with each session taught in full by Tom Holladay.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

How to Use This Teacher's Guide

A Few Notes about the Format of this Teacher's Guide

The material in **bold type** is also in the Learner's Guide. The handwritten words are the fill-ins for the learners. The material not in bold is only in this Teacher's Guide.

A Few Notes about the Style of this Teacher's Guide

- The wording is much less formal than you'd see in a typical book, because it's a guide for speaking.
- You'll see a lot of repetition of sentences, because that's what we do for emphasis when teaching.
- Because this was taken from a transcript of Rick Warren's teaching, you'll see lots of personal references from him. We've left many of those in so that you can get the best representation of the teaching. Feel free to replace those with your own personal references and stories.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Three Ways to Teach this Material

Since you have a full transcript of the teaching and also a DVD that contains the same teaching, there are three ways you could use this material.

1. Show the optional DVD of Pastor Tom Holladay teaching the material each week, with you simply facilitating the meeting time and place.
2. You could teach all of the material yourself, using the teaching guide. The optional DVD of Pastor Tom Holladay teaching the material could then be an additional resource for you to watch before teaching.
3. Or you could teach some of the sessions and show the optional DVD of Pastor Tom Holladay for other sessions.

Note: If you're teaching all or part of the material yourself, we've included the PowerPoint® slides for you to use during your teaching.

Our prayer for you is that the Lord will use the teaching of this course to strengthen his purposes in your church, for the glory of God!

TEACHER'S GUIDE

TEACHING TIP

Obviously your experience has not been the same as Rick Warren's, or any other person for that matter! We've left a good number of Rick's personal comments in these notes, to help you to see how he taught this material, and to give you some examples of what you might do. These stories are indicated by being in *italics*, with the header "Rick's Story" at the beginning. As you come across these personal stories you have three choices:

1. Tell a story from your own experience that matches or parallels the experience Rick is relating. This is almost always the best choice!
2. Tell Saddleback's story.
3. You could leave the personal illustration out. In some cases it just won't fit you or the circumstances you're teaching in.

The one thing you don't want to do is to teach another person's experience as if it were your own. It gets embarrassing when you say in the middle of the illustration, "As I said to my wife, Kay . . .," when your wife's name is Linda!

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Session 1

Teaching for Life Change

Establishing a Foundation for Church Growth

In this course, we're going to talk about the single greatest ministry factor that influences the health and growth of our church. That is the teaching and the preaching that happens in our congregation.

Whether you are a Sunday school teacher, lay leader, or staff member, we all need to be better communicators. We pastors are particularly sensitive about our preaching. One young pastor was preaching his very first sermon and he told his deacons, "Be honest with me because I really want to improve. So when I'm messing up you tell me the truth." So he preached his first sermon. And after the service was over he was eagerly waiting for their affirmation. One of the deacons walked up and said, "Preacher, you said to be honest. That sermon stunk!" So the young man was trying to be really open about it. He said, "Tell me specifically what you didn't like." The deacon said, "There were only three things wrong with it. One, you read it. Two, you read it poorly. And three, it wasn't worth reading in the first place."

TEACHER'S GUIDE

I have a little cartoon that I love. It shows a guy standing in front of his congregation and he says, "I asked my wife to look over my notes for today's sermon and mark out everything dull . . . so in conclusion."

Would you agree that preaching and teaching can make or break a church? Teaching is the single most powerful tool for directing a church toward health, vitality, and growth. Nothing even comes close to the power of preaching and teaching. Where else do you get people's attention for 30 or 40 minutes on a weekly basis? There is no other place.

People will put up with a lot of different kinds of things if the teaching — if the preaching — is genuinely meeting their needs. If people are genuinely being changed by the teaching going on in a church, you would have to lock the doors to keep people out. People are looking for answers. They are looking to have their lives changed. They want help. They want comfort. They want to be challenged.

This next Sunday, 55 million Americans will listen to over 1 billion words in sermons, another billion words of teaching in Sunday school and small groups, and another billion each week in high schools and colleges. That's a lot of words. When it's all been said and done, a lot more will have been said than done. So we're going to look at the kind of teaching that produces doers of the Word — that produces life change.

As we begin this course, I want to remind you that you have something to teach that no one else can teach. God made you to be you. God doesn't want you to be anybody else. He made you to be you. If you don't be you, nobody else is going to be you. God wants you to be unique. He doesn't want you to be a carbon copy of any pastor or teacher. God loves your uniqueness. He fashioned you and he takes pleasure in you being you. You don't have to model yourself exactly after any other human teacher.

- We are all different, but we do have some things in common.
- We all have the same amount of time. Every one of us has 168 hours a week — no more or less. I don't have more time than you do.

SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

- We all have the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- We all have the same book — God’s Word — to teach from.
- We all have the same Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us.
- We all have been shown the same grace of God.
- We all have a desire to teach people God’s truth.

And once we start teaching we all have to come up with new sermons and studies for the rest of our lives. For the rest of your life! That’s a discouraging thought on some days. Nobody can be brilliant every week, every study. So we’ve got to help each other out. I can’t be creative every week and neither can you. We need each other. And when we all get to Heaven we’ll rejoice over the people who have been saved if we help each other out.

So we’re in this together. I’m sharing with you not as some authority saying, “Sit still while I instill,” but as a fellow struggler, a fellow traveler saying, “Let me share some things that are in my toolbox!”

Let me say a couple of things as we begin this study.

1. When it comes to preaching or teaching—I am my own biggest critic.

I rarely ever feel satisfied with my own messages. It is pure torture to watch myself on video. I always hope that I was better — but videos don’t lie!

If I seem tough on you — it’s because I am tough on myself! And I love you! What we’re dealing with has eternal implications!

2. Effective teaching or preaching is based on three convictions.

Conviction 1: The authority of God’s Word.

Conviction 2: The truth of God’s Word.

Conviction 3: The relevance of God’s Word.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

You're not ready to teach until you nail down these three convictions. One of the greatest needs in our world and in churches today is for teachers of the Word to believe and demonstrate these three convictions.

By the way, what's the difference between preaching and teaching? Some would say that you preach sermons and you teach classes, but I've heard lots of preaching break out in a class and lots of teaching come in a sermon. For the purpose of this course, let's say that the focus of both is on strengthening God's people to live God's truth. So whether I say preach or teach throughout the course, I'm referring to you!

Now this is going to be a very practical, hands-on course. But we must start with the philosophy of effective biblical teaching or preaching. Philosophy is always first, because what you believe influences everything you do. When you figure out why you do what you do in ministry, God will show you how!

SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

Ten Lessons about Teaching for Life Change



1. All behavior is based on a belief

Do you ever ask yourself, “Why did I do that?” You do something that you think is kind of out of character for you and you ask, “Why did I do that?” You did it because you believed that was the best or most beneficial thing for you at that particular moment. You always act on your beliefs. And when you do something, it’s because you’re believing something at that time.

If you get a divorce outside of God’s will, for example, it’s because you’re believing something at that time. You’re saying, “I believe that disobeying God will cause me less pain than staying in this marriage.” It’s a lie, but you believe it. When somebody comes to you and says, “I’m leaving my husband and I’m going to marry this other man because I believe God wants me to be happy,” they just told you the belief behind their behavior. It’s wrong, but they’re believing it.

If you see somebody who’s having sex outside of marriage, it’s because they have a belief that’s causing that behavior. If somebody is cheating in their business or breaking a promise of some kind, it’s because they have a belief that’s causing that behavior.

So behind every behavior is a belief.

2. Behind every sin is a lie I am believing

When you sin, at that moment you think the best thing to do is what you’re doing — and you’ve been deceived. You say, “I know God says to do ‘this’ but I’m going to do ‘that.’” What are you doing? You’re believing a lie. Behind every sin is a lie. If you don’t get anything else I say in this course, get this. That will change your teaching. Begin looking at the lies behind

TEACHER'S GUIDE

why people act the way they do. When you start dealing with those, you'll start seeing some change.

When your kids do something really dumb, at that moment they're believing a lie. "I know my mom/dad said 'this' but I think 'this.'" And so they act on it.

Titus 3:3 says,

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.

Titus 3:3a (NIV)

When you live in sin, you're living in deception and believing a lie.

When you look at a group you are teaching, you don't see the lies that they're believing, but you do see their behavior. You know they're unfaithful, you know they're uncommitted, you know they're addicted, you know they're hateful toward others — these are the things you can see. The tough part is figuring out the lie behind the behavior. The wiser you get in ministry, the quicker you'll start seeing the lies. As time goes on you'll start thinking, "I've seen that one before!" Somebody comes to you the first time for counsel and you hear the problem and you try to figure it out, but about the fifth time you see it you say, "I've seen that one before!" and you know what they're believing, and you know it's a lie. So as you grow and mature in the ministry, you become more discerning because you start seeing patterns over and over and over. They don't surprise you anymore. People fall for the same old lies.

3. Change always starts in the mind

You've got to start with the lie. You've got to start with the belief behind the behavior. This principle is taught all through the New Testament. The Bible says,



SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2b (NIV)

The way you think determines the way you feel, and the way you feel determines the way you act. If you want to change the way you act you must determine the way you think. You can't start with the action. You've got to start with the thought. Thoughts determine your feelings and your feelings determine your actions.

THINK . . . FEEL . . . ACT

4. To help people change, we must change their beliefs first

The battle for sin always starts in the mind. You've got to help them see the lie that they're believing. That's why Jesus said,

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32 (NIV)

Why? Because to help people change, you've got to help them see their faulty belief first. You've got to help them see their misconception. You've got to help them see the lie that they're basing their behavior on. That's why when you know the truth it sets you free.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

5. Trying to change people's behavior without changing their beliefs is a waste of time

TEACHING TIP

You'll see that throughout this course some of the points have more material under them, and some far less. This is intentional in a longer course — it provides variety for those listening by giving them a sense that you're moving through the material at times and stopping to dwell on a truth at other times.

“What people say with their mouths comes from the way they think; these are the things that make people unclean.”

Matthew 15:18 (NCV)

If you ask a person to change before his mind is renewed, it won't work. He's got to internalize God's Word first.

6. The Bible term for “changing your mind” is repentance

That's what we're talking about here. That's what I was just illustrating — repentance — changing your mind.

What do most people think of when I say the word “repent”? They think of a guy on the street corner with a sandwich board sign saying “Turn or burn . . . You're going to die and fry while we go to the sky.” They think of some kook.

But the New Testament word for “repentance” is a wonderful, positive word. It is the Greek word, *metanoia*, which means “to change your mind.”

SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

METANOIA = “TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!”

Repentance is just changing the way I think about something by accepting the way God thinks about it. That’s all repentance is. Changing the way I think about something by accepting what God thinks about it. That’s the ultimate paradigm shift.

As teachers, we are in the paradigm-shifting business. We are in the mind-changing business. We are in the repentance business. Changing minds at the deepest level — not just at the shallow level but at the deepest level — the level of belief and the level of values. Let me clarify that with the next point.

We are in the mind-changing, metanoia, repentance business. But . . .

7. You don’t change people’s minds, the applied Word of God does!

Let’s keep that in focus. You don’t change people’s minds. It is the applied Word of God that changes our minds to think like Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:13 says,

We speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s words to explain spiritual truths.

1 Corinthians 2:13b (NLT)

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6b (NIV)

So just keep in mind, you don’t change people’s minds, the applied Word of God does.



TEACHER'S GUIDE

Our weapons have power from God that can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4b–5 (NCV)

8. Changing the way I act is the result or "fruit" of repentance

I really want you to get this. Technically, repentance is not behavioral change. That's the fruit of repentance. That's the evidence of repentance. Behavior change is the result of repentance. Repentance is simply changing the way you believe. Repentance does not mean forsaking your sin — that's a common misconception. You cannot find a single Greek lexicon that says repentance means forsaking your sins. That's not what it means. That's what we've taken it to mean: "Stop all your badness and begin all your goodness — that's repentance." No, that is not repentance. That is the result, the fruit of repentance. The word repentance simply means to change your mind. That's why the Bible says a couple of times, "God repented." Why? Did God have to stop doing bad and start doing good? No, it simply means God changed what he was going to do. He changed his thoughts.

It's not a matter of behavioral change. It's a matter of mental change. John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:8,

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

The fruit isn't repentance. The fruit is the result of the repentance. He said, "Okay, you've changed your mind about God, about Jesus, about life, about sin, about death, and yourself, about what's important in life. Now let's see some fruit as a result of it." Paul said the same thing. He said,



SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

“I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.”

Acts 26:20b (NIV)

Repentance is not deeds. Deeds are the proof of repentance.

Why am I belaboring this point? Because we need to beware of mixing grace and works. The change starts in my heart and mind, not in my actions. Without a changed heart — a changed mind — acting differently doesn't impress God one bit. And it leaves us unchanged.

9. The deepest kind of teaching is teaching for repentance

Because life change only happens once you change somebody's thinking, then teaching for repentance is teaching for life change. It is the deepest kind of teaching — teaching for life change. Teaching for repentance. It is not shallow. Life application, life repentance teaching is the deepest kind of teaching you can do.

You must try to communicate God's Word in such a way that it changes the way people think. You have to ask yourself, “How do I want them to think differently?” About God? About themselves? About other people? About their past? About their present? About their future? About their possessions? About their priorities? About the pleasures in life? About their values? Their goals? Their ambitions?

All of these are mental changes. Unfortunately, the word “repentance” has taken on such a negative context that we need to explain the word when we use it — or use a different word. People think repentance means the guy with the sandwich board sign. So you might preach repentance every single week without ever using the term — saying “change your heart and mind” or “make a spiritual U-turn” instead. Repentance, ladies and gentlemen, is the central message of the New Testament. What did the New Testament preachers preach on?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

REPENTANCE: THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF NEW TESTAMENT PREACHERS

John the Baptist	" <u>Repent</u> , for the kingdom of heaven is near."	Matthew 3:2
Jesus	From that time on Jesus began to preach, " <u>Repent</u> . . ." " <u>Repent</u> and believe the good news!"	Matthew 4:17 Mark 1:15
The 12	They went out and preached that people should <u>repent</u> .	Mark 6:12
Peter	" <u>Repent</u> and be baptized, every one of you . . ."	Acts 2:38
Paul	"I preached that they should <u>repent</u> . . ."	Acts 26:20
John	<u>Repent</u> !	Revelation 2-3

Jesus told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations . . ."

Luke 24:46-47 (NIV)

The deepest kind of teaching is teaching for repentance.

10. To produce lasting life change you must enlighten the mind, engage the emotions, and challenge the will

In other words, there's a knowing element of teaching, a feeling element in teaching, and there is a doing element in teaching or preaching. We're going to get into this in quite a lot of detail in our next sessions. An effective message must appeal to all three. The knowing element, the feeling element, and the doing element. Sometimes the will needs to be encouraged. Sometimes the will needs to be confronted. And sometimes the will needs to be challenged. You have to be sensitive as a teacher to the need.



SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

One of the great weaknesses of Bible teaching today is that there are a lot of folks who are afraid to stand on the Word of God and humbly but forcefully challenge the will of people, and then to just sit there and be silent and let them stew.

EVERY MESSAGE COMES DOWN TO TWO WORDS:

WILL YOU?

One of the most difficult things to do is make a serious request and wait for the answer. It takes courage to do that. It takes courage to be a good preacher — a good teacher. It takes courage because it's risky, because they may reject you. And they may reject your message, and they may get mad at you, and they may talk about you behind your back. That's why it takes humility to be a great teacher. You must be willing to be rejected. You must be willing to have people say, "No, I will not change my mind. I want to believe what I want to believe about sex. I want to believe what I want to believe about money. I want to believe what I want to believe about my goals and ambitions."

Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and money." He didn't say you might be able to. He didn't say, "It's kind of easy to." He didn't say, "It's difficult to serve God and money." He said, "You can't!" You cannot serve God and money at the same time! That is the challenge, and it takes courage — and it takes humility to state that challenge.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 29:25 that,

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)

That means the moment I start worrying about what other people think, I'm dead in the water. It's a trap. The fear of people is a trap. If you're afraid of the opinions of other people, you need to work on that to be able to communicate God's truth. You've got to be sensitive to the needs of people but they do not set your agenda.

When teachers of the Word are unwilling to challenge people and bring change in belief resulting in repentance and obedience and change in behavior, our nation and churches and families will fall apart.

Proverbs 29:18 says,

Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled.

Proverbs 29:18a (NCV)

P. T. Forsyth said, "What the world is looking for is an authoritative gospel spoken through a humble personality." What the world is looking for is an authoritative Gospel spoken not as a hammer, not with glee, but with joy, not with "I love to beat you up!" but with humility.

So as we close this first session, I have a personal challenge for you. I have a life application for you. Knowing that teaching for repentance is the preaching New Testament preachers did and is the deepest form of teaching — teaching to change the minds of people. My question is, are you going to keep teaching the way you always have? Are you just passing along information when you teach, or are you teaching for God to change hearts and lives? Do you need to repent? Do you need to confess that you haven't used God's Word the way it was intended to be used? That you sometimes majored on minors and have been satisfied in simply giving

SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

people information and interpretation of God’s Word without forcing the issue? Will you change?

You must make a mental shift from seeing your teaching primarily as an explanation or interpretation with a few applications thrown in, added on to make it practical. This is not a matter of preference or style that we’re talking about here. We’re talking about using the Bible the way it was intended. To fall short of what the Bible calls us to do, there’s a word for that — sin. I can sin when I don’t use God’s Word in the way he intended for it to be used, when I use it to increase the knowledge but not change the life. This is no innocent mistake I’m talking about here.

So my question is, what are you going to do about it? I honor you for being here at this course. It means that you’re a learner and I honor you for that. I pray that you will say, “God, I want to be the kind of learner that never stops growing.” But will you repent of preaching or teaching in ways that were not focused on doing God’s Word, on seeing change in people’s character and conduct?

We need teachers like David.

David had served God’s purpose in his own generation . . .

Acts 13:36a (NIV)

He did the timeless in a timely way, the eternal in a contemporary way. He served God’s purpose, which never changes, in his generation, which is always changing.

We need people who are like the men of Issachar.

[The] men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do . . .

1 Chronicles 12:32a (NIV)

Both the contemporary and the classic.



TEACHER'S GUIDE

There are people who want you to stay on the safe issues. And they want you to talk about Bible background and safe subjects like prophecy and things like that, because they're deeply in debt due to materialism, and dad's reading pornography, and mom's depressed, and the teenagers are sleeping with their dates. So they're really content to have you and me just challenge them with, "Let's read a little more Scripture and talk about what that means in the original language." We need preachers like David who served God's purpose in his generation. Teachers like the men of Issachar who understood the times and knew what to do. That's my prayer for you.

Prayer

I look out on these faces, Father, and I see how you're using people from all different kinds of backgrounds. You made us who we are. You don't want us to be anybody else. You made us unique. Thank you for the privilege of calling us to serve you. We certainly don't even deserve to be believers, to have grace, to be saved. But you have called us to share the Word of Life, and today we do want to repent. We want to repent for the times we've shared when we really haven't prepared. We let other things take a priority. We want to repent for the times that we have skated on issues that needed to be dealt with because we didn't want to cause a conflict, because we were worried about what others would think. We repent of not applying your Word to our own lives. Help us to be purpose-driven teachers and not waver from what you've called us to do. Give us clear minds and sensitive hearts and teachable attitudes. I pray that this course will be life-changing for all of us. In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

SESSION 1 ~ TEACHING FOR LIFE CHANGE

Discuss and Act

1. Talk together about the lies that are behind the sins that we fall into. As you share examples that you've seen in your ministry experience, you'll help each other to see this truth more clearly.

To help you get started, you might ask:

- What's one lie that's often behind the sin of gossip?
- What's one lie that's often behind the sin of greed?
- What's one lie that's often behind the sin of lust?
- What's one lie that's often behind the sin of unforgiveness?
- What's one lie that's often behind the sin of lying?
- What are their hurts?
- What physical, emotional, or spiritual pain are they experiencing?

2. Tell stories about how you have seen the application of the truth of God's Word bring about change in your own life.
3. End this session by praying for each other, asking that God will strengthen you in communicating to change lives through what you learn and put into practice from this course.

