

Philosophy of Teaching

Oasis of Truth Church



Purpose

The purpose of the Teaching Ministry of Oasis of Truth church is to aid people in pursuing spiritual maturity by teaching them to think biblically about life (Colossians 1:28). This type of biblical thinking is achieved only through regular, purposeful interactions with the Word of God. The Teaching Ministry seeks to provide these encounters with the Bible in a way that provides opportunities for questions and personal interaction with biblical truth. The focus of every teaching service is the proclamation of God's incomparable Word. Scripture is the primary source of truth concerning God, the nature of man, and the message of the gospel (1 Timothy 3:16-17).

Goals and Objectives

- Provide people with essential knowledge about core doctrines, biblical data (people, places, events, etc.), and systematic theology (cohesive statements of truth).
- Equip people with the skills needed to study the Word of God for themselves (2 Timothy 2:2). It is our desire to make God's Word more readily available to our people as they study it on their own.
- Teach people how to make the truths of Scripture work in real life. Mere knowledge of the Scriptures is not worthwhile if it does not change the way we live (James 2:15-26). This includes teaching a biblical worldview which acts as a framework around which we structure our lives.
- Give opportunities to build mutually beneficial relationships around the teaching of God's Word. These relationships will provide encouragement and will stimulate people to grow in their relationship with Jesus (Galatians 6:1-5, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Curriculum

Scriptural Basis

At Oasis of Truth Church we are committed to the fact that the Scripture is sufficient to meet every spiritual need that we have (2 Peter 1:3-4). Because of this commitment the Word of God provides the foundation and guide for all of the teaching that is done at Oasis. It is essential that the words of Scripture be the focal point of every lesson that is taught at Oasis (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). Any teaching that is based solely on the opinions and thinking of men is subject to error and is ultimately unprofitable and dangerous (Acts 20:29-31, 2 Peter 2:1-3).

Varied Approach

The primary method for educating our people is the systematic teaching of biblical books (expositional approach). This method highlights the cohesiveness of Scripture and ensures that none of the important truths of Scripture is overlooked. Some subjects, however, are better treated by examining the biblical data on a particular topic and by presenting the overall teaching of Scripture on that subject (topical approach). Other helpful resources such as books, videos and special speakers are also valid and helpful avenues for teaching the Bible.

Flow of Teaching

The Bible is the primary source for all of the teaching at Oasis. The preaching during the Sunday worship services sets the direction for all of the teaching at Oasis. The passages and topics discussed on Sunday will be the focus of the discussion in the shepherding groups during the week. It is our desire that these same themes will be discussed and further taught in the homes of every family at Oasis.

Preaching

The flow of teaching begins with the preaching at the Sunday Worship Services. The preaching of the Word of God is the focal point of these meetings (1 Timothy 4:13-16). Every element of the service is intended to point towards the teaching of God's Word. It is our goal as your pastors to declare God's Word to you every week in a way that is accurate, complete, and applicable. God's Word is completely infallible in all aspects (1 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21), and our desire is to mirror that accuracy as much as is humanly possible. We also strive to be complete in our preaching of Scripture—preaching the difficult parts as well as the easy parts (Acts 20:26-27). We also want to demonstrate each week how God's Word is applicable to you—how it works in your life.

Small Groups

The flow of teaching continues through our small groups. Small groups meet during the week in the homes of our people for the primary purpose of continued study and application of the week's messages. The small groups allow for more focused teaching, give opportunity to discuss the sermons, and provide more time for follow-up questions. It is also our desire that these small groups would help both to build and to grow close personal relationships between the members of Oasis (Titus 2:1-8). These relationships will allow for a level of personal care and concern that is not feasible during corporate worship services.

Homes

It is not enough for the flow of teaching to stop at the small group level. It is the goal of Oasis that the flow of teaching should find its end in the words, actions, and hearts of our families. We would encourage the men in our church to take the truths that they have learned to apply those truths to their own lives, and teach those truths to their families (Deuteronomy 4:10, 6:7, 11:19; Psalm 34:11, Proverbs 1:8). The pastoral staff is always available to help parents who desire help in instructing their children.