Cutting down trees can sometimes be a dangerous job. Those who hire a person to do the job give him the authority to do it. He then sets a goal of putting the tree on the ground. There is a right way to cut it down to make sure that it falls the way he wants it to go and does not fall on a house.

Jesus had the authority to teach God’s truth. He showed this authority when He taught. He also had a goal, and He had methods for reaching the goal. This is the example He left for us to follow.

As you study this final lesson, ask Jesus to help you learn from Him. Let Him lead you to someone this week whom you can teach. Follow the best method in teaching that person.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Jesus Taught With Authority
Jesus Had a Goal
Jesus Used Methods

This lesson will help you . . .

• Present the message to others using the example of Jesus as the Master Teacher.
• Describe and use Jesus’ example in setting goals for your teaching ministry.
• Identify the way Jesus used different methods of teaching.

JESUS TAUGHT WITH AUTHORITY

Objective 1. Describe how Jesus’ teaching was different from that of the teachers of the Law.

In the time of Jesus, the priests were the teachers of the Law. It was an important thing to them. But when Jesus taught, the people saw right away that His teaching was different.
The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught, for he wasn’t like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority (Mark 1:22).

The teachings of Jesus showed He had the authority, or power, the priests wished they had. He had been given this authority from the Father, and He knew what He taught was truth. The people who heard Him saw this, and they listened to Him.

The guards that were sent to arrest Him went back to their leaders alone. They said, “Nobody has ever talked the way this man does!” (John 7:46).

Jesus did not teach like the priests. They taught only what teachers of the past had taught. Jesus taught the people what God’s law meant to them in their everyday lives and how He had a plan for them. He also helped them to understand that He loved them and they in turn were to love each other.

Jesus had this authority because He was the Son of God. When the Jews asked Jesus who He was, He told them. These were the words His Father in heaven gave Him:

When you lift up the Son of Man, you will know that “I Am Who I Am”: then you will know that I do nothing on my own authority, but I say only what the Father has instructed me to say (John 8:28).

When Jesus said, “I Am Who I Am,” He used the name that God gave himself when talking to Moses by the burning bush in Exodus 3:14. The Jews who followed Him knew where His authority came from.

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**For You To Do**

1. Circle the letter in front of each TRUE sentence.
   a. The teachers of the Law taught the same way Jesus did.
   b. Even those who did not believe He was the Son of God knew He taught with authority.
   c. Jesus wanted to teach with the authority of the priests.
   d. Jesus taught what His heavenly Father wanted Him to teach.
   e. Jesus taught God’s truths so that people’s lives would be changed.

2. List three ways Jesus’ teaching was different, and compare them with the ways you are to teach.

   ............................................................................................................................................................
   ............................................................................................................................................................
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**JESUS HAD A GOAL**

**Objective 2.** *Explain how Jesus’ goal was a part of His life and ministry.*

Jesus had one goal in His ministry. This was to lead individuals into knowing and accepting God’s truths. He told the crowd of people that followed Him:

Because I have come down from heaven to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life (John 6:38-40).
Jesus’ whole life and ministry was spent in teaching, preaching, and working miracles. Altogether these activities were meant to lead people to believe on Him as their Savior.

Everywhere He went, He preached and taught the good news. Mark tells us, “Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God” (Mark 1:14).

A little later we see Him telling His disciples He had to go on to other villages to preach. When He came to the shore of Lake Galilee, a crowd of people were following Him, “and he started teaching them” (Mark 2:13). As we follow Jesus’ life through the four Gospels, we see Him preaching and teaching the good news everywhere He went.

Choose the best answer to the following questions.

3 Jesus wanted people to know how to
   a) have authority.
   b) know His heavenly Father.
   c) be a follower.

4 What was the most important thing Jesus wanted to do with His time here on earth?
   a) Talk to the crowds who followed Him
   b) Talk to the rulers
   c) Tell people the good news
Objective 3. Describe how Jesus used different methods to teach.

Jesus not only knew what to teach—He also knew how to teach. He used the same methods we talked about in our last lesson. Do you remember what they were? Let’s look at each one again. But this time we will also look at how Jesus used these methods.

1. Jesus gave lectures. There are several good examples of these lectures in the Gospels. One of them was the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7. (Read it now.) Can you see how Jesus talked about many things?

Notice also in Matthew 7:28 that when He finished speaking, “the crowd was amazed at the way he taught. He wasn’t like the teachers of the Law, instead he taught with authority.” Jesus knew how to use this method of teaching.

2. Jesus used storytelling. His stories were called parables. There are 61 of these parables of Jesus in the Gospels. They were about things, plants, animals, or people. They were stories about situations that could have happened to almost everyone in everyday life. The parables were meant to teach spiritual truths, and each parable taught one truth.

An example is the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-36. This story was given in answer to a question that was meant to trap Jesus. The parable taught a spiritual truth without causing an argument.

3. Jesus used questions and answers many times in His teaching. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, He used this method. He also used it when He gave the Sermon on the Mount. By doing this, He helped His listeners understand the full meaning of His teaching. When telling them not to worry about food and clothes, He asked, “After all, isn’t life worth more than food? And isn’t the body worth more than clothes?” (Matthew 6:25).

Jesus asked questions to make His listeners think, because He wanted them to understand what He was teaching.

Another time, Jesus wanted to teach His disciples about paying taxes. He asked them several questions. He began by saying, “Simon, what is your opinion?” (Matthew 17:25). Jesus didn’t need Peter’s opinion, or his thoughts on taxes, but He wanted Peter to think about the subject. He knew this was an important part of learning.

4. Jesus also used discussions. One of the best examples of this was the discussion He had with the woman at the well in Samaria (John 4). Jesus began by asking the woman for a drink of water. He gently guided her as she tried to get off the subject until she learned who He was and what He wanted to teach her.

When Jesus’ disciples came back and found Him talking to the Samaritan woman, He told them, “My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do” (John 4:34).

Jesus knew what His work was, and He knew the message He came to preach and teach. He also knew how to give the message so men and women would believe in Him. As you study His life, look at how He ministered to different people by using different methods of teaching.
5  a  When you teach, why do you need to know where your authority comes from?

...........................................................................................................................................................

b  Why do you need to know your goal?

...........................................................................................................................................................

c  Why do you need to have a good method of teaching?

...........................................................................................................................................................

6  Apply the way Jesus taught to your own teaching ministry by getting out and using the knowledge you have gained. Prepare God’s message in a way that will lead people into knowing and accepting His truths.

Jesus also told His disciples:

You have a saying, “Four more months and then the harvest.” But I tell you, take a good look at the fields: the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! (John 4:35).

He was talking to them about the harvest of souls. It is not a long way off, but people are ready now to believe in Jesus if someone will teach them.

Who lives next door to you? Have they ever heard about Jesus? What do you talk to them about when you see them? Do they know you are a Christian? Use what you have learned from this course to teach them and others. There are many souls to be harvested. Why not be God’s harvester by using your teaching ministry?

Now that we have come to the end of our study about the teaching ministry, perhaps it would be good for you to think about how the teaching ministry can be a part of your life. We have given you some things to consider in the chart below. Put an X in the box in the column that indicates your answer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy being taught.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel I need to receive Christian teaching.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I came to know Christ after someone taught me about Him.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I know someone I would like to teach about Jesus.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have shared the meaning of a verse of Scripture with someone.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have thought about what I would say to someone who needs to accept Jesus as Savior.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My life has been changed because of Christian teaching I have received.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have already told a story to someone to help them learn a lesson.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have discussed a lesson with someone using questions and answers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have asked God to help me teach someone else.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This course has helped me to see the importance of the ministry of Christian teaching.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask God to help you find a place of service for Him. Be willing to do what He wants you to do. You will find joy in sharing your life with others.

Now that you have completed the second unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT TWO. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide and ask about another course of study.
6 Your own application

1 Statements b, d, and e are true

5 a We can be sure of what we are doing when we know we have God’s authority behind us.
   b So you will know what results you want to see from your teaching
   c So the students will learn

2 (1) Jesus taught with God’s authority—You can teach with that same authority. (2) He taught
   God’s truths—You should also teach these truths. (3) He applied these truths to their daily
   lives—You can show people how to apply God’s truths in their lives.

4 c) Tell people the good news

3 b) know His heavenly Father.
One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are happy people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems that trouble almost everyone in the world. They believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches us how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5; John 10:10; 2 Peter 3:18.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book, you should find a card called Decision Report and Request Card. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions or make requests for prayer or information.