



## **30 MARKS OF AN INEFFECTIVE BIBLE CLASS**

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It is essential to our goal of enriching our teaching and Bible classes that we take a look at some marks of ineffective Bible classes. When we learn what something should not be we are in a better position to learn what it should be. Therefore, knowing these 30 marks of an ineffective Bible class should help us improve our Bible classes. Take time to make a positive response on how to correct each point.

1. Teacher poorly prepared or lacking in teaching skills. Suggestion for correcting:
2. Study material irrelevant to needs of class members. Suggestion for correcting:
3. Teacher and students arrive late for class. Suggestion for correcting:
4. Students have made no prior preparation for class. Suggestion for correcting:
5. Negative environment for learning: Students scattered all over auditorium. Suggestion for correcting:



6. The class is no more than a ritual or habit—"We've always had Bible classes."  
Suggestion for correcting:

7. No class enrollment or monitoring of attendance—students drift in and out.  
Suggestion for correcting:

8. No class goals, projects or involvement outside of class. (Come and go). Suggestion for correcting:

9. Debates and arguments consume class time. Suggestion for correcting:

10. Questions and discussions are discouraged (Keep it to yourself). Suggestion for correcting:

11. No intentional application of the lesson is discussed or suggested. Suggestion for correcting:

12. No goals for the growth of the class, spiritually and numerically, are developed.  
Suggestion for correcting:



13. Relationships aren't developed as a result of the class—attendees don't know each other. Suggestion for correcting:

14. A lack of promotion of the class by the teacher, class members and church leaders. Suggestion for correcting:

15. A lack of study aids and materials provided for students. Suggestion for correcting:

16. Students aren't trained in how to get more out of Bible classes (taking notes, etc). Suggestion for correcting:

17. The class content is not personalized; it is abstract and without meaning to hearers. Suggestion for correcting:

18. The class does very little actual study of the Bible (study books of men, etc). Suggestions for correcting:

19. The class is more "teacher-centered" than "student-centered." (God centered). Suggestion for correcting:

20 Finishing the lesson, not changed lives, is the objective of the class. Suggestion for correcting:



21. A lack of prayer in class and for the class cripples the power of the class. Suggestion for correcting:

22. The teacher has no idea who his students are and what their needs are. Suggestion for correcting:

23. The goal of changing students (1) *thinking*, (2) *feelings*, and (3) *behavior* is not part of the lesson plan or objective of the class. Suggestion for correcting:

24. A failure to realize that the test of teaching is not only what the teacher DOES but what students DO because of what the teacher DOES. Suggestion for correcting:

25. Neither teacher nor students take time to evaluate the results of their time spent together in class. Suggestion for correcting:

26. The teacher is harsh, critical and overbearing in his methodology; doesn't speak the truth in love (cf. Ephesians 4:15). Suggestion for correcting:

27. The teacher rushes through the lesson because he must teach the next lesson next week; the goal is not learning but finishing the material in 13 weeks. Suggestion for correcting:



28. The teacher never seeks to improve his or her teaching skills: "I am good enough."

Suggestion for correcting:

29. Failure by both teacher and students to understand that Bible classes are the key to a healthy and growing church. Suggestion for correcting:

30. Failure to constantly remember that Bible classes bring God glory in the church.

Suggestion for correcting:

Knowledge of these 30 marks of an ineffective Bible class and properly correcting them will move the church way down the road in having dynamic, effective and God glorifying Bible classes