

7 HABITS^{OF} HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS

MIKE MAZZALONGO

TEACHER'S GUIDE

bibleTalk^{TV}



DOWNLOAD
OUR APP



Copyright 2021 BibleTalk.tv

All our material is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License.

This means you can use it almost however you need.

The only thing you can't do is re-sell it.

Habits of Highly Effective Church Members

Christians, Ministers, Elders and Deacons

Mike Mazzalongo

This series of lessons uses Steven Covey's approach (7 Habits of Highly Effective People) to explore the spiritual habits that saints and leaders in the church cultivate in order to become effective in ministry.



bibletalk.tv/habits

**Teacher Guide created by
David Laton, D.Min.
2020**

Table of Contents

Lesson #1 - 7 Habits of Highly Effective Christians	6
Lesson #2 - 7 Habits of Highly Effective Ministers and Elders.....	12
Lesson #3 - 7 Habits of Highly Effective Deacons.....	18

Overall Teaching Strategy

It is recommended that teachers use a combination of informal lecture and guided discussion to present these lessons. There are discussion questions associated with each lesson that teachers may use and/or supplement with their own questions.

It is recommended that teachers have students view the associated video or read the text for the lesson. This helps students come to the class ready to discuss the lesson and to formulate questions of their own. Teachers should begin the class with a review of key points from the video/text before starting the discussion.

Begin each lesson with appropriate introductory statements that help students focus on the lesson. Teachers should also provide a brief summary of the previous lesson and an overview of key points of the new lesson. This helps students see the ongoing narrative of scripture.

Conclude the lesson by summarizing or having students summarize the information from their notes. It is also helpful to ask questions from the lesson to determine that students grasp the concepts. Asking questions in this manner serves as an assessment to ensure objectives are met.

Challenge students with a call to action by applying this information to their lives in order to help them grow spiritually and help others to do so as well. This can be accomplished by asking students how this information relates to their spiritual development at this time and moving forward.

For more information on teaching adults, please visit:
<https://bibletalk.tv/101/teaching>

A student workbook is also available for this series:
<https://bibletalk.tv/workbooks/7-habits-of-highly-effective-church-members>

Lesson #1 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Christians

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on developing an understanding of habits of highly effective Christians. Of special note in this lesson is an understanding of how we can use these habits to increase our effectiveness as servants of Christ.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand habits that enhance our effectiveness as faithful Christians.
- **Feel:** Strive to increase our effectiveness as faithful Christians.
- **Do:** Change our attitudes and actions to reflect the teachings of Jesus in our lives.

Support

- Series – Habits of Highly Effective Church Members (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 1 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Christians
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 1

Body of the Lesson

- 1.1 Overview of 7 habits of highly effective Christians
- 1.2 Lessons Learned

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. As an introduction into the concept of being an effective Christian, discuss the following questions. Answers will vary depending on understanding and spiritual maturity.

Why is it important to examine ourselves as Christians?

As Christians our goal is to become more and more like Christ. A foundational activity in this is to look at ourselves and determine if we are living for self or living for and as our Lord wishes. This is central to much of what Paul teaches.

How do you understand the concept of habit?

A habit is something we do about it or even being conscious of what we are doing. It can be good or bad depending on its purpose and benefit.

How do you understand the concept of effectiveness?

We do a lot of things. Some things have no value while other things enhance our and other's lives tremendously. Effectiveness helps determine our quality of life. We can perform many roles but are we doing these to achieve the greatest and most positive impact? As someone seeking to grow spiritually, we must remove actions and attitudes that decrease our effectiveness as Christians and strive for those that visibly demonstrate our maturity in Christ.

2. Explain what you understand concerning the following habits of effective Christians.

Effective Christians read and obey God's word. It is difficult, even impossible to be an effective Christians without understanding God's will. His will is found in scripture. We must learn it, apply it in our lives and teach it to others.

Effective Christians have an active prayer life. It is difficult, even impossible to be an effective Christian without a prayer life. Our goal should be to increase our prayer life to the point that it becomes a natural (habit) part of our lives. We should have the same idea that Paul encouraged in II Thessalonians 5:17 which was "to pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, knowing that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Effective Christians set "Spiritual" goals. Secular teachers tell us that to be effective, we need goals. This is true in our spiritual lives. Without spiritual goals we cannot grow as we should nor can we know if we are growing in the right direction. Spiritual goals are specific actions and attitudes we want to achieve as we continue striving to become spiritually mature.

Effective Christians cultivate the talents of others. It helps us to become more effective when we look at the positive examples of others. We should seek out spiritual leaders and study them to learn how they succeeded. We should also look at the examples from scripture with the same idea in mind. We should also look to become spiritual mentors to others in order to help them grow.

Effective Christians take responsibility for souls. We must hold ourselves accountable before God and ensure we are obeying God's will. We also look to help others come into a relationship with God that He desires. This is a unique responsibility God has placed on each of us as we answer the command Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20 and Paul reminds us of in II Corinthians 4:7.

Effective Christians serve others. Christianity is about serving. We serve God. We serve others. We serve those we love and those that challenge our love. This marks us as servants and the household of God. Jesus said so in John 13:35. The love he speaks of here is a serving kind of love.

Effective Christians remain focused on the Kingdom. Satan uses many tactics to shift our focus away from our faithful service to God. One way is to distract us with things of the world. Paul teaches us to keep focused on higher things...things of God (Colossians 3:1-4).

3. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

We should all strive for effectiveness in our service to God. It begins with obedient faith seen in our repentance and baptism. It continues in faithful living in which we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18). In doing this we become more and more like Christ and more and more able to serve God. This is the Christian lifestyle that presents an effective witness to non-believers and also confirms that we are sincere if we have the opportunity to share our faith with them.



Lesson #2 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Ministers and Elders

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the biblical qualities of preachers and elders necessary to be effective in carrying out their respective roles. Of special note in this lesson is their application of knowledge, skills and attitudes as they serve as leaders in their congregations.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for effective ministry.
- **Feel:** Value the importance of the role of elders and ministers.
- **Do:** Commit to excellence in developing and applying knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to effectively lead congregations.

Support

- Series – Habits of Highly Effective Church Members (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 2 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Ministers and Elders
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 2

Body of the Lesson

1.0 - Habits of effective preachers/ministers

1.1 - Purifying themselves

1.2 - Preaching

1.3 - Perseverance

2.0 - Habits of highly effective leaders

2.1 - On guard

2.2 - On duty

2.3 - On fire

3.0 - Lessons learned

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. How do you define effectiveness and how does it differ from correctness?

Answers will vary but look for those that relate to qualitative and not quantitative responses. Effectiveness relates to how well one does while correctness relates more to adherence to a standard. One may indeed be doing something correctly but not to the best of one’s ability or in a most effective way. For example, one may teach someone the basic elements related to God’s plan of salvation but not present them in a way that moves a person to the desired response of repentance and obedience. Although the student carries the burden of responding, as teachers we carry the burden of doing the best we can to inform and persuade them to accept our teaching as true.

2. Explain each of the following habits of effective preachers/ministers.

Effective preachers purify themselves (2 Timothy 1:6) – To purify means to remove unwanted or unhelpful elements. For preachers, this means staying focused on their task of presenting God’s word to the best of their abilities and to remove from their own lives those habits or attitudes that make hinder the progress of their students.

Effective preachers preach (2 Timothy 1:8-12) – Preachers must stay dedicated to their role as proclaimers and teachers of God’s word. They must believe in and be zealous for the truth of their message as revealed in God’s word.

Effective preachers persevere (2 Timothy 1:13-14) – To persevere means to stay true to the task, to “stick with it” especially in times when it is tempting to change or when things become discouraging. As outlined in the lesson, one must persevere in doctrine, ministry and love for the church.

3. How do the habits of effective preachers/ministers relate to all Christians?

All of us are called on to teach others about Christ and His invitation to salvation. Just as a traditional preacher/minister must hold fast to the elements previously mentioned, so must all that serve our Lord maintain the truth of the gospel without change.

4. How do you define leadership and how does this relate to all Christians?

Answers will vary but look for responses that center on the ability to influence someone to adopt an attitude, develop knowledge and accomplish a task.

All of us are called upon to influence others to learn about and positively respond to our Lord. We employ the knowledge and skills we've been gifted with in our service to the church, especially in helping fellow Christians grow into spiritual maturity.

5. Describe each of the habits of highly effective elders.

Effective elders are on guard (Acts 20:28-30) – Elders will give an account for our souls because of their unique position, appointed by the Holy Spirit, to lead us in faithfulness to our Lord. We all will be held accountable for ourselves, but elders, because of their unique position, will be held to a higher standard. To do this, elders must guard themselves, guard the flock and guard the word. These are specific areas of faithfulness to which they are called.

Effective elders are on duty – Elders are always on duty as they look after those given to their care. Just as we see in the imagery of shepherds guarding sheep, so too our shepherds guard the flock, giving up much of their lives up in the fulfillment of this task.

Effective elders are on fire (Acts 13:1-3; 15:3-4) – Accomplishing the task of shepherding a congregation requires intense dedication. It is natural that over time fatigue and discouragement will set in. Elders must combat this. Additionally, as examples to us, elders must demonstrate the dedication to their role, serving our Lord and growing spiritually. In doing so they teach us to do so by example.

Effective elders are on the same track (Ephesians 4:2) – Elders must be united in their role as elders. Even though an elder is in this position, he remains in subjection to the other elders as a company of equals. In this way he demonstrates deep humility, a necessary trait of an effective elder. He must ensure that he refrains from division while also maintaining his objectivity in working with the other elders.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

In God's infinite wisdom He gave us leaders in our congregations to help us remain faithful. We must honor these individuals and support them in their role. It is not an easy task and it is one that they will be held accountable for. Because of these things they are indeed worthy of honor.

Lesson #3 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Deacons

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the habits of deacons. Of special note in this lesson is how Steven serves as a model for this critical role within the church.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the habits of effective deacons.
- **Feel:** Explain why the role of deacon is critical to have an effective congregation.
- **Do:** Adapt the habits of an effective deacon.

Support

- Series – Genesis – Foundational Book of the Bible (Mike Mazzalongo)
- Video – Lesson 3 – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Deacons
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 3

Body of the Lesson

1.1 - Steven as a model (Acts 6-7)

1.2 - Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Discuss the following questions regarding the role of a deacon:

What are deacons and where do they receive their authority to serve?

A deacon is a Christian brother designated to serve in a specified activity. The major passage that notes the qualifications of a deacon is found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

List the qualities of Steven found in Acts 6:1-5 and discuss how these should be qualities of all Christians and why.

The qualities listed in Acts regarding not only Stephen but the other men as well are: good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom. These are important for all Christians as we seek to serve our Lord. All of us, men or women, are called on to serve, however, by maintaining a good reputation within the congregation, growing spiritually so that we become more Christlike and employing God's wisdom, we will greatly enhance our ability to serve in the Lord's church.

2. Explain the following habits of highly effective deacons.

Effective deacons are spiritually minded – Being full of the Spirit is to demonstrate an abundance of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in your everyday life. One cannot have these characteristics without them being visible.

Effective deacons are effective workers – Effective workers go beyond simply being busy. It means that there is a positive result from one's work. In the context of the church it means we are glorifying our Father, positively impacting the church and leading others to Christ. When deacons effectively serve, their personal ministry area grows and the mission of the church is accomplished.

Effective deacons submit to leadership – A deacon serves all. He humbly submits to the leadership of a congregation to accomplish the goals of the congregational leaders and the mission of the church. In serving humbly he recognizes that it is not about him but about his work and glorifying our Father.

Effective deacons continually develop their skills – Not only must we grow in our knowledge and grace of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18), we must also grow in our ability to serve. When we do so we magnify our effectiveness for the Lord. We must never be satisfied with “good enough” otherwise the danger of complacency sets in.

Effective deacons take criticism well – Criticism, honestly and humbly given, is an opportunity for the deacon to grow in his ability to serve. It also indicates that a need is not being met as effectively as it could. We all should be aware that one of Satan's attacks is to create division. Sadly, he does that most effectively when he uses those within the Body of Christ. A deacon must know that he will be attacked and must be willing to listen, consider and act in the best interests of his ministry area. This is not an easy thing to do because unwarranted or poorly delivered criticism hurts and is discouraging.

Effective deacons study the Word – A deacon may be assigned a task that seems to not be related to studying God's word. We must all realize that God's will is revealed through His written word so we all must study it and grow in our knowledge of it. A deacon, as an appointed minister of God, always needs to be growing in the knowledge of God's word. He will be highly effective through his dedicated study.

Effective deacons rely on God – None of us have all the answers to situations we face. In addition to relying upon our fellow Christians, we must always rely upon God. We do that through study, prayer and meditation. A deacon puts his knowledge, skills and abilities at God's disposal and depends on God to always direct his actions. In his prayer life he continually asks God for wisdom in making decision regarding his area of ministry.

3. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

All of us are called upon to be servants. Some are given a specific area of ministry in which to serve and are referred to as deacons. This is a responsibility to serve as the Lord instructs. But again, all of us must develop the qualities necessary to increase our effectiveness as servants for the Master. Deacons, by virtue of their spiritual and physical qualifications, are set apart by the elders for service or responsibility over specific tasks related to the church.



BibleTalk.tv is an Internet Mission Work.

We provide textual Bible teaching material on our website and mobile apps for free. We enable churches and individuals all over the world to have access to high quality Bible materials for personal growth, group study or for teaching in their classes.

The goal of this mission work is to spread the gospel to the greatest number of people using the latest technology available. For the first time in history it is becoming possible to preach the gospel to the entire world at once. BibleTalk.tv is an effort to preach the gospel to all nations every day until Jesus returns.

The Choctaw Church of Christ in Oklahoma City is the sponsoring congregation for this work and provides the oversight for the BibleTalk ministry team. If you would like information on how you can support this ministry, please go to the link provided below.

bibletalk.tv/support



BibleTalk.tv is one of the
most-prolific uploaders on
Amazon Prime Video with more
videos than any major Hollywood
studio except Paramount Pictures.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.