

Effective communication with teenagers 1 (‘The law of the learner’)

This video training session is primarily for volunteer youth leaders to use at a time which is convenient to them, ideally as a group, though it could be used by individuals. The structure of the session allows for a flexible length depending on time and situation. The following notes are to guide the person leading the session, but do not assume any previous training experience.

If your time is limited, try to ensure you cover the parts **in bold**. However, feel completely free to alter the session, add your own questions and make it work best for your situation.

This is one of two separate sessions which look at communication with young people. This video addresses the question of how to make young people want to learn when we teach the Bible. **You should allow at least 20 minutes for this session but if you have 30-40 minutes, it could be helpful.**

The speaker is world-renowned youth ministry trainer, Dr Duffy Robbins, Professor of Christian Ministries at Grove City College, Pennsylvania.

OPENING DISCUSSION (5-10 mins)

You might want to read out the information above and ask someone to pray. Then discuss one or both of the following questions:

- *Have you ever been at a talk and struggled to understand so much you just didn't want to be there?*
- **Think of a sermon or talk you have heard in the past year that really grabbed and engaged you from the start. What was it about the speaker's approach that was most effective?**

VIDEO

Duffy examines the need for young people to want to learn.

- Play video *Effective communication with teenagers 1 ('The law of the learner')* (5 mins)

DISCUSSION (10-20 mins)

- *Can you describe the feeling of giving a talk or leading a study when the young people present clearly do not want to be there?*
- **What was the key message in the illustration of the air safety talk?**
- **How “thirsty” do you think your young people are to learn from the Bible? Does this result in any way from the way they are taught?**
- *Think about some of the most effective programmes, talks or studies you have done this year. Can you identify anything you did that helped your young people to be “thirsty” and want to learn?*
- **Is there a talk or study you are leading soon? If not, revisit one you have done recently. How could you introduce the topic in a way which generates interest and makes them want to listen?**

Take some time to pray together and, if appropriate, make a commitment to take 2-3 practical steps together to put this into action.