

THE TEACHER

Gifted for Wisdom

WATCH THE TEACHER VIDEO

Found online at centralwesleyan.org/groupmaterials

INTRODUCTION

Can you recall a teacher who took complex ideas and broke them down into simple truths? From the Ephesians 4 perspective, a teacher isn't just someone who transfers spiritual knowledge, instead, a teacher is someone who communicates spiritual truth in a way that others can understand, digest, and apply.

Yes, part of a teacher's role is to assist the people of God as they discern what doctrine is true and should be embraced, and what doctrine is false and should be avoided. A consistent theme throughout the New Testament is a warning against false teachers. One of the great teachers we read about in the book of Acts is Apollos (chapter 18). He is celebrated because his teaching is accurate, energetic, and bold.

THIS WEEK WE LOOK AT THE ROLE OF TEACHER



A Teacher is one who is concerned with the passing on of wisdom and understanding. This involves bringing a comprehensive understanding of the revelation given to the Church. A biblical understanding of teaching emphasizes wisdom, not simply speculative philosophy. Teaching also involves taking complex ideas and making them easy to pass on to the next generation.

Jesus taught people wherever and whenever He could. He chose, instructed, and guided disciples, teaching them His Way and the Ways of the God of Israel. He actually recast the Torah by fulfilling it. His teachings were accessible to the simplest and the wisest alike. He was called Rabbi, Logos, The Truth, The Way, Our Teacher, The Word Made Flesh, God's Wise Judge, and the riches of knowledge and wisdom. The medium of His life was its message: *The Truth and Light. He is the greatest Teacher, ever.*

Callings of a Teacher might include educators, investigators, guides, writers, truth-tellers, information workers, debaters, engineers, researchers, theologians, disciple-makers, accountants, forensics, legal workers, coaches. Examples in real and mythical life are: Jesus, Apollos, Socrates, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas, John Calvin, Henry Nouwen, Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Albert Einstein, Helen Keller, Stephen Hawking, Yoda (*Star Wars*).

WEEK 6

ROLE CALL

We're glad to have you join us this week as we discuss the role of Teacher. But first, let's discuss your APEST results.

- Let's do a speed round—each person says their primary and secondary APEST result (ex: *Shepherd/Teacher* or *Apostle/Evangelist*)
- What resonated with you about your results?
- What questions do you have, if any, about your results.

ROLE PLAY

Now that we've explored the five roles that God has given for His Church's flourishing, let's take some time to visualize what this could look like in our lives, our church, our neighborhoods, and our community. By now, you have probably begun to recognize a "role" (or set of spiritual gifts or callings) that resonate with you. As a group, let's take a few minutes to engage our imaginations, considering what it could look like if our community of faith embraced these wonderful roles.

Imagine your life one week, six months, or a year from now...

- What does it look like for you to live into your "role"? What mental pictures or opportunities come to mind?
- How does it feel? Who are you serving, and who are you serving alongside?
- Share some of your impressions with your group!
- Be prepared to share next week what your thoughts are regarding living into your role.

ROLE OUT

There is no pressure to answer every question.

1. What stands out to you the most from this week's sermon?
2. Read Acts 18:18-28. How was Apollos initially described as a teacher? After Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos speak, why did they pull him aside? In the narrative, how does Apollos appear to react to their additional teaching?
3. If you or someone in your group identifies with the role of teacher, has this sermon encouraged you to live more powerfully into your role? If so, what might that look like?
4. How could you develop or encourage writers, investigators, guides, truth tellers, debaters, engineers, etc., to powerfully embrace their role as a teacher?

ROLE ON

In groups of 2-3 people, pray for teachers you know before heading your separate ways (remembering this isn't necessarily a K-12 teacher).