



# ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY AUDIT

## I. Aims

### A. Biblical examples

Consider all the times God, Jesus, Paul, and others define the *why* of what they're saying or teaching. Look at the "so that" phrases in the scriptures below:

*"This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, and so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the Lord has given them through Moses" (Lev 10:9b-11).*

*"Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you" (Deut 4:1).*

*"This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place," declares the Lord, 'so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand'" (Jer 44:29).*

*With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught (Luke 1:3-4)*

*"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away" (John 16:1).*

*"I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, 'Do not go beyond what is written.' Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other" (1 Cor 4:6).*

*"We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart." (2 Cor 5:12).*

Learning outcomes are biblical and important. It's important to know *why* we're teaching what we're teaching, and it's important to make those reasons explicit to the learners.

### B. What kind of people should we be forming?

If an adult committed to, say, 3 or 5 years in our ministry, how might we tell them they would be different? What is the "so that" of our teaching program? Here are some possible outcomes.

1. People who can handle **solid food** not just **milk** so that they can tell **good** from **evil** (Heb 5:11-14).
2. People who can **teach** others (Heb 5:12).









3. People who can correctly handle the word of truth (2 Tim 3:16).
4. People who exhibit the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:23).
5. People who can speak with clarity about their faith (1 Pet 3:15).
6. People who are discerning about teaching (Eph 4:14).

## Questions

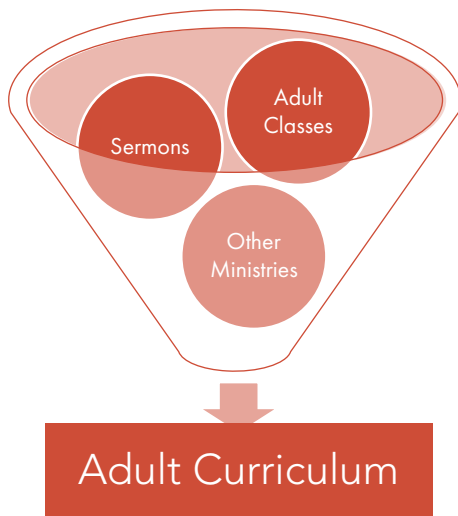
1. Do we have clearly defined outcomes and goals for our adult education ministry?
2. Do we use outcomes and goals to aid in planning classes?
3. Do our outcomes and goals help us say “yes” and “no” to potential classes?
4. Do our teachers plan their series with these goals in mind?

## II. Alignment

### A. The reality in most churches: Silos

							
Sermons	Sunday Class	Weds. Class	Small Groups	Men’s/ Women’s Ministry	Mission Trips	Service	Others

### B. What it could be



## Questions

1. Do we sync our classes with at least one other “formational” ministry occasionally.
2. Do the leaders of our adult class ministry regularly communicate and plan with leaders of other ministries?

## III. Attention

### The problems

- Many church websites don't have a prominent section for their adult classes.
- When they *do* have a section, it's not up to date.
- Adult Ed doesn't get much “air time” in congregational communications.
- Classes are hard to find and not guest-friendly.

## Questions

### Website/Communications

1. Is your adult education ministry listed as one of your “ministries” on your website (if that's how you structure things)?
2. Are your current series/offerings listed?
3. How many clicks does it take to find them?
4. Are your class lists current?
5. Do you need to smooth the path between adult ed. leadership and webmaster?
6. Does your social media strategy include promotions of your adult education ministry?

### Internal Communications

1. Do ministers and elders mention the adult education ministry at least occasionally in the assembly?
2. Do leaders ever publicly pray for your classes and leaders?

### Building

1. Are your classrooms clearly marked and easy to find?
2. Are your rooms well-kept and inviting (to communicate the importance of what happens there)?
3. Can guests easily get help choosing a good class and finding their way there?

## IV. Recommended Resources

Israel Galindo, *Mastering the Art of Instruction: The 9 Essential Instructional Skills Every Teacher Needs to Master*. ISBN: 978-1514645109.

An easy-to-read manual that is helpful to give teachers as they improve their skills.

Israel Galindo, *Planning for Christian Education Formation: A Community of Faith Approach*. ISBN: 978-0827230118.

A model for organizing a congregational adult education ministry.

Houston Heflin, *Teaching Eutychus: Engaging Today's Learners with Passion and Creativity*. ISBN: 978-0-89112-230-2.

Short chapters with practical ideas for classroom engagement.

Gary A. Parrett and S. Steve Kang, *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful: A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church*. ISBN: 978-0830825875.

Comprehensive guide to the theory and practice of Christian teaching. Includes different frameworks and models for curriculum planning.