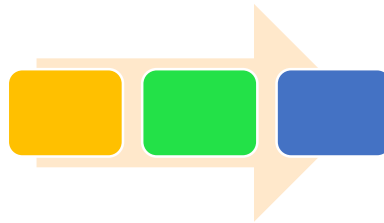
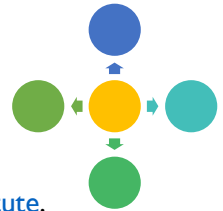


# Teaching Techniques: 20 Strategies for Teaching in the Gospel Class

None of these strategies will work for every teacher in every class. This is a non-comprehensive list of possible strategies designed to allow teachers to use variety in teaching methods. Every teacher should rely on his/her own personal preparation and guidance from the Spirit in deciding which methods to use. No one method is successful in every class, nor should any method be used every single class (other than questioning in general).

## 1. Brainstorming

- ✓ Draw an outline on chalk/white board to fill in as the discussion progresses.
- ✓ Be sure to prep the topic adequately.
- ✓ Set an amount of time before you begin.
- ✓ Use “Smart Art” in Microsoft Office for outlines like these (usually under the “INSERT” tab). You can find a tutorial on how to use Smart Art at [bit.ly/smartart-tute](http://bit.ly/smartart-tute).



## 2. Case Study

- ✓ Share a scenario (real or fictional) with the class. If fictional, be sure to make that clear.
- ✓ As a whole class or in groups, discuss the scenario from the perspective of the principle being taught using questions.
- ✓ Question prompts may include:
  - How can this situation be resolved?
  - How can it be avoided?
  - How is this similar to ...?
  - What can we learn from ...?
  - Is this the best way ...?

## 3. Discussion

- ✓ When leading discussion, try to keep a 25/75 split, with the teacher talking no more than 25% of the time, and the class talking 75% of the time.
- ✓ Use class members’ comments to facilitate more discussion, member to member
  - Who agrees with ...?
  - In what way is what \_\_\_\_ said true?
  - Who can add to what \_\_\_\_ said?
- ✓ You may wish to toss a soft object to “toss” the conversation.
- ✓ Get the question stems list at [bit.ly/question-stems](http://bit.ly/question-stems).

#### 4. Draw It

- ✓ Learn to draw basic shapes and stick figures –steps for stick figure at [bit.ly/stick-figure](http://bit.ly/stick-figure).
- ✓ Learn a really easy way to draw faces with different expressions at [bit.ly/draw-faces](http://bit.ly/draw-faces).
- ✓ Practice the drawing before class.
- ✓ Have a variety of colors of dry erase markers.
- ✓ Have the class draw themselves on paper or small dry erase boards (you can use plastic plates as dry erase boards).
- ✓ Avoid apologizing for your drawing.
- ✓ Ask someone else to be the drawing “scribe” for you while you talk.
- ✓ Position yourself so that you are not blocking the view of the drawing.

#### 5. Games

Almost any game can be adapted and used in the classroom. Here are a few ideas:

- ✓ Matching/Concentration
- ✓ *Jeopardy!* Style
- ✓ Hangman
- ✓ Password
- ✓ Search [lds.org](http://lds.org) for a variety of created games, although Google sometimes does a better search.
- ✓ Bingo – Create a variety of cards for same word set at [print-bingo.com](http://print-bingo.com).
- ✓ Find games at [ldsteach.org/games](http://ldsteach.org/games).

#### 6. Games – Guessing Game

Have class guess the doctrine or person you will be talking about using clues like these:

- ✓ The principle most associated with this is...
- ✓ This principle is harder for people who...
- ✓ This principle will help you...
- ✓ I am related to...
- ✓ If you go to \_\_\_\_\_, you might see me.
- ✓ I spoke with....
- ✓ I served as...
- ✓ I love...
- ✓ I do not like...
- ✓ I wish everyone would...

#### 7. Group Think & Shout

- ✓ Divide the class into groups (as small as two) and give them time to discuss a principle or scripture for a certain period of time.
- ✓ After the discussion time, have the groups share out the results of their discussion.
- ✓ Keep groups to five or fewer people. Larger groups tend to break into smaller ones.
- ✓ Be clear about the expectation for sharing.
- ✓ Make sure every group shares.
- ✓ You can also use large sheets of paper or the board to facilitate the sharing.

## 8. Guest Speaker

- ✓ Invite someone to visit the class either as themselves or as a character from a story in the lesson.
- ✓ Make sure to set the parameters ahead of time for the time it will take.
- ✓ Panel discussions – invite three people to sit up front as a panel to address questions or issues about which they are familiar (i.e., in a lesson on families, have a child, a parent and a grandparent on the panel)
- ✓ Make sure to leave time to connect the guest to the doctrine.

## 9. I Have/Who Has Games

- ✓ Choose a student to go first, and have him/her read his/her card aloud.
- ✓ The student who has the card with the word then reads that answer aloud: “I have \_\_\_”. This student will then read the question at the bottom of their card – ‘Who has \_\_\_?’ Then the student with the card that answers the question responds. Every card in the set is connected to a card before it and a card after it.
- ✓ Create, save and share them easily at [ihavewhohasgames.com/games](http://ihavewhohasgames.com/games).

## 10. Maps

- ✓ Draw maps on the board
- ✓ Locate the same place on multiple maps.
- ✓ In addition to the scripture maps (found at [bit.ly/lds-maps](http://bit.ly/lds-maps)), regular maps can also be useful to bring class alive.
- ✓ Print maps for use in class at [bit.ly/print-maps](http://bit.ly/print-maps).
- ✓ Colored pencils are best for use on maps.
- ✓ The LDS maps are available in the Gospel Library Mobile App.
- ✓ You can use clear transparency film on top of a map to mark on the maps during discussion.

## 11. Memorizing

Memorizing a verse as a class can bring focus to a key scripture.

- ✓ There is a scripture mastery app that can be used to memorize or find ideas for practicing.
- ✓ An easy way to do this in class is to write the verse on the board & say it aloud in unison. Erase all but the first letter of every fifth word & say in unison again. Erase all but the first letter of every third word & say in unison. Erase all but the first letter of all of the words & say in unison.
- ✓ Consider memorizing a phrase of a verse.

## 12. Multimedia

- ✓ Show a video of a song being sung or with a slide show behind it.
- ✓ Show a silent slide show.
- ✓ Give a copy of a short article for class to read silently.
- ✓ Show an image from [bit.ly/ny-images](http://bit.ly/ny-images) and connect it to the concept.
- ✓ Play wordless music while class reads scripture silently.
- ✓ Use the LDS Media Library at [lds.org/media-library](http://lds.org/media-library).

### 13. Music

- ✓ Sing or read a hymn or Primary song that reinforces or teaches the principle.
- ✓ Use the scripture references in the hymns as a point of discussion. In what way is the hymn connected to the scripture?
- ✓ Play a sacred song to set the mood.
- ✓ Sing at the conclusion of the lesson.
- ✓ Set the scene for music by sharing how the song is connected and why it's being included.

### 14. Object Lessons

Find ideas for object lessons at [bit.ly/object-lessons](http://bit.ly/object-lessons).

Common household items often provide simple & effective object lessons. Examples include:

soap/cleaner	key	bread	books
bread	water	cup/glass	pictures
towel/paper towel	shoe	blanket	radio/music player
flashlight (or app)	paper	pen/pencil	box/bag
clock	money	plant	oil
salt/seasonings	lamp/candle	trash can	brick/stone

### 15. Printables

Printables can include any kind of handout. Sometimes they can be printed on paper, & sometimes they can be displayed digitally. They can include:

- ✓ Quotes by General Authorities (find some done artistically at [ldsprintables.com](http://ldsprintables.com))
- ✓ Sometimes there is a useful diagram or map in the manual or Church magazine.
- ✓ For youth classes especially, printable items can be glued into interactive notebooks to create study journals.
- ✓ Try a Google image search for “lds printables.”

### 16. Question Reflection

Reflective questioning is questioning that is individual to each class member.

- ✓ Ask the question, but allow no oral answer. All answers should be in the mind or on paper/dry erase/board.
- ✓ You can rotate class members up to the board to respond, then give the chalk/marker to another student who then comes to the board.
- ✓ Find a list of question stems at [bit.ly/question-stems](http://bit.ly/question-stems).

### 17. Scripture Deep Dive

- ✓ Look up every footnote.
- ✓ Explore the etymology of key words - [etymonline.com](http://etymonline.com) is a good source.
- ✓ Use the Bible Dictionary to explore key points of doctrine or read about the text (e.g., *John, Gospels of*).
- ✓ Create a scripture chain.

- ✓ Divide the class into groups, with each group having the responsibility to deep dive a verse or a cluster of verses, then share.
- ✓ You can use memorizing as part of a Deep Dive.
- ✓ Find more ideas for scriptures in class at [bit.ly/scriptures-class](http://bit.ly/scriptures-class).
- ✓ Keep in mind that it is critical to keep scripture in context. Exploring a single scripture with a Deep Dive does not mean that it is to be seen in isolation.

## 18. Scripture Lists

Create lists of and with the scriptures. Suggestions include:

- ✓ Favorite scriptures
- ✓ Scriptures most likely to be used in General Conference
- ✓ Scriptures about a particular doctrine
- ✓ Scriptures about a particular application
- ✓ Scriptures that are doctrinal anchors
- ✓ Scriptures that pair well with other scriptures
- ✓ Scriptures that bring peace
- ✓ Scriptures that led to change
- ✓ Things that could happen as a result of this

## 19. Story

Pair scripture stories with modern application stories.

- ✓ If you tell a story that is fiction, make it clear that it is fiction.
- ✓ Invite the class members to share personal stories. Sometimes it is appropriate to ask ahead of time.
- ✓ Avoid too many of your own stories or the excessive use of story in place of scripture.
- ✓ Select stories with care. Create a bank of stories to use at any time.
- ✓ Only tell stories that invite the Spirit.

## 20. Word Focus

Focus on a single word. To do this:

- ✓ Write a word on the board.
- ✓ Look it up in the Bible Dictionary & Topical Guide.
- ✓ Look up its etymology, denotation and connotation.
- ✓ Create an acrostic of it, listing related words.
- ✓ Where is it found in hymns?
- ✓ What are antonyms? Synonyms?
- ✓ What are examples? What are non-examples?

Visit [ldsteach.org](http://ldsteach.org) for more information, ideas and resources.