

# What I Wish I Knew When I Started Teaching Seminary

Where to Start to Learn About and Understand My Calling:

## CES home page for Seminary

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/si/seminary?lang=eng>

- President Nelson's personal invitation to attend seminary
- The S&I Objective – Live, Teach, Lead
- Most recent S&I Annual Training
- Training on Life Prep Lessons



Direction & Policies are found in 2 locations:

## The Church Handbook – 15.0 - 15.1.5

- This will help answer some of your questions. Bring additional questions to your Seminary Stake Supervisor first, and then to your Coordinator.
- Pay special attention to section 15.1.1 on Teachers



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/15-seminaries-and-institutes?lang=eng#p1>

**Seminary & Institute Policy Manual.** Understanding these policies over time will help with questions. Asking your stake supervisor and coordinator for clarification is often helpful and will allow you to have confidence in the experiences you are providing for the youth. Your coordinator will share updates or adjustments to policy as needed.



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ro70fYRU-qbFHchxBGdsVMivD83Geelr/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105154783180835435142&rtpof=true&sd=true>


## Teaching in the Savior's Way

This is one of your greatest tools to learn and grow into teaching like the Savior and provide the hoped for learning experiences in seminary classes.



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teaching-in-the-saviors-way-2022?lang=eng>

## What to Focus On:

1. Deepening you and your students' conversion to Jesus Christ. This is done by keeping lessons Christ-centered, scripture based, and learner focused.  
Remember: Teach about Jesus no matter what!
2. Adopt lessons 99% and then prayerfully adapt methodology and by using words of living prophets and apostles to meet the needs of your students. These variety ideas (scan QR code) are a great way to adapt and can help change things up and engage students. Remember: Purposeful variety is the spice to teaching, too much can distract from our Objective.  

3. Simplify your lesson planning:
  - a. What versus (quotes) do students need the most? These versus (quotes) will create powerful revelatory and converting experiences.
  - b. What will you do to build the itch/relevance/personal application before sending them into the scriptures?
  - c. What inspired questions do you need to ask to help your students have a meaningful discovery as they study?
4. You are teaching people, not lessons. Gone are the days of traditional teaching where teachers stand and lecture. The new teaching model focuses on:
  - a. creating relevance
  - b. asking inspired questions that lead to a scripture study experience where the Spirit can teach each student through personal revelation
  - c. asking students to share what they learn
  - d. inviting students to act on the impressions and revelation they received.

Remember: *"Students are not containers to be filled but are fires to be ignited."*  
(Jeffrey R. Holland)
5. Class culture is vital and takes time to create, so be patient. Genuinely loving your students and showing it is key. A high love – high expectation approach makes all the difference. Remember, *"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care"*. And *"We must raise our sights"* (Henry B. Eyring) so that our students will raise theirs. There is much they can accomplish and achieve.

6. We have a website that is meant to serve as a “one stop shop” and make finding things easy for you. It is filled with helpful resources. Anything and everything that you need can be found there. And if it’s not there, just let me know and I’ll get it on there.

