

## Teaching Tip: Presenting and Testing

Let's assume for a moment that there are two essential approaches to teaching: presenting and testing. Most teachers, indeed most lessons, make use of both. In a presentation, information flows from the teacher to the students; for example, a lecture or a diagram on the overhead projector. Testing on the other hand, is an information flow from student to teacher, such as a written test, a question that students must answer or an activity which students must complete. Many teachers rely on presenting and have found creative ways to do so. However, if challenging and enabling students is part of your vision for ministry, you need to own the testing model as well.

Testing allows the teacher to monitor and gauge what the students already know and what they are learning and incorporating from the lesson. Without tests, it is impossible to assess the achievement of your aims. But surely, you ask, I am not advocating that every youth group Bible study end in an exam. Not at all. What I am advocating is the use of tasks, which are a kind of test, but not the threatening kind that you write in June with an invigilator.

A task is similar to an activity, with this caveat: a task has a measurable outcome. In other words, the person performing the task knows when it is over. This is an important distinction. Learners are motivated to do that which they believe that they can do; a measurable outcome indicates to them that they are able to complete the task. It sends a message of competence and confidence. Tasks are one of two keystones of the test model and of student-centred learning. The other follows.

**TASK:** Sort the following into tasks and activities. Check Feedback 3 (page 249) to confirm your answers.

1. "Discuss your view of the end-times."
2. "With your partner, find 6 examples of admirable leadership in the Old Testament."
3. "Imagine that you are Ananias and Sapphira in this story. How does that make you feel?"
4. "With your partner, decide which one of the fruits of the Spirit are being depicted in this movie scene."
5. "Match the following Biblical quotes with their speaker."