

The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 3

Introduction: *Emphasize the personal nature of handwriting.*

Bring something with sentimental value that is written in a loved one's handwriting. (Ideas include a family recipe, a letter, or an inscription in the front of a book or Bible.)

Display the item with the loved one's handwriting and describe the situation or circumstances. Say something like, "These words are precious to me not only because of what they say but also because I know and love the one who wrote them to me."

Engage learners in discussing the unique characteristics found in each person's handwriting. Say, "Today we're going to consider the implications of getting a message from the Lord in His own handwriting."

Point 1: *Show how security is a universal desire.*

Read the following excerpt from a John MacArthur sermon:

The word *security* is a word we all understand. It hits us where we live. Everybody wants security. We seek that comfortable sense of freedom that comes when we are confident there is no threat of danger or trouble. That is security, the absence of threat, the absence of fear, the absence of danger, that comfortable freedom that says everything is under control. People talk about economic security; they want to have enough stashed away so that they're really set and in no financial danger at all. They want to have job security. They want to get a job which offers to them a future, which gives to them a certain guarantee that they're not going to be out on the street.

They want marital security, the confidence that they are loved and beloved by a trusted, faithful partner. People want even home security. And so they put bars on their windows and burglar alarms and buy big, ugly dogs that growl at mailmen. And frankly the kids sometimes are more threatening than the dogs.

You see, everybody wants security. Frankly, insecurity is a killer because insecure people tend to have psychological, emotional, personality problems; very difficult to live in this world without a sense of security, a sense of well-being. The dictionary says to be secure is to be free from and not exposed to danger. To be free from

any apprehension, any fear, any worry or any doubt; you just want to make sure everything is set so you fear nothing.

And I think particular men also look for spiritual security. To be free from anxiety about death, to be free from apprehension about facing God, about divine judgment, to be free from the fear that your sins are going to be brought up and held against you.

Now we can find a certain measure of economic security by diversifying our investments or by having a big sock somewhere in the closet. We can gain a certain amount of job security by having long-term contracts negotiated by a union, or by being married to the boss' daughter or any assortment of other secure factors. We can find a measure of marital security by devotedness and love. We can find a certain amount of security in our homes by arming the house or getting a dog or a wall or whatever it is that makes us feel secure. But most people are hard-pressed to find any kind of spiritual security. And yet there is a tremendous pressure on people to try to find some way to secure themselves so they don't live under the fear of death and the fear of judgment.

{Source: John MacArthur, "False Security, Part 1," Grace to You [online], 1 November 1981 [cited 9 December 2016]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/45-22/false-security-part-1>.}

Point 2: Accent the value of humility.

Read the following online article, "Do These 6 Things to Be More Humble," from *Success Magazine*:

<http://www.success.com/article/do-these-6-things-to-be-more-humble>

Summarize the article **OR** read through the title, introductory paragraph, and the six main points aloud.

Say something like, "This article is written from a purely secular point of view. It is not biblically based or God-centered. And yet humility is seen as a beneficial aspect of life and business and relationships."

Discuss how God's command to be humble is more than just beneficial; it's an outward expression of who God is and how we relate to Him.

Conclusion: *Connect the lesson to Jesus.*

Invite a volunteer to read John 8:2-11 aloud. Point out the effect of Jesus' handwriting on the Pharisees: they were ready to stone the woman for her sin, but after seeing Jesus' handwriting and hearing His simple instruction of humility, they left.

Lead a discussion of the parallel between Daniel 5 and John 8 by saying something like, the following:

“Both inside the church and out, we are called to model humility. In living according to God's power and will in our lives, we reveal His handwriting to others in our attitudes and actions.”

Teaching Tip of the Week

Sometimes people agree with the biblical instruction of humility in theory but feel they may get taken advantage of if they live humbly in certain situations. Encourage learners to demonstrate faith—in a concept that seems impossible—by living humbly in every aspect of their lives.