

Teaching From Images

We live in a culture rich with images. We grew up with photographs, TV, movies, video, MTV, and DVDs. We can't escape the power of the visual image -- and most of us don't want to.

I've learned over my career that most of us are visual learners. We like to see a picture, not just hear a word. Author, Leonard Sweet, says that images are the language of the 21st century, not words. Some of the best communicators in history taught using the power of the metaphor and image -- from Jesus Christ and His parables to Martin Luther King, Jr. and his "I Have a Dream" speech during the Civil Rights movement.

Why? Because pictures stick. We remember pictures long after words have left us. When we hear a speech, we often remember the stories from that speech more than the phrases used by the speaker, because they painted a picture inside of us. They communicate far more than mere words. In fact, words are helpful only as they conjure up a picture in our minds. Most of us think in pictures. If I say the word "elephant" to you, you don't picture the letters: e-l-e-p-h-a-n-t, you picture a big gray animal. Pictures are what we file away in our minds. They enable us to store huge volumes of information. There's an old phrase that has stood the test of time: A picture is worth a thousand words. I hope these pictures help you teach truths that linger in the minds and hearts of your group. I trust they'll impact you profoundly as they have me.

Habitudes Book One

This Teacher's Guide is to be a companion to Book One of the Habitudes® series. It is designed to help you equip this generation for leadership by using pictures, questions and experiences. Each Habitude® is designed for students to discuss in a community. Every picture contains layers of reality, and your discussion about them can go as deep as you allow it to go. The Habitudes® are created to help students navigate their leadership journey. This Teacher's Guide prepares you teach them in a memorable and transferable way. We want these images to help every student tap into the leadership qualities inside of them. We also hope the images will be so simple that any student can teach them as well. We believe that leadership runs 360-degrees. We influence others all around us. We must first lead ourselves (Habitudes® Book One). This gives us the credibility to influence those above us and those around us (Habitudes® Book Two). Finally, we influence those for whom we are responsible (Habitudes® Book Three). Ultimately, we transform our culture (Habitudes® Book Four).

The first book in the series on "The Art of Self-Leadership" covers key leadership principles such as building character, time management, self-discipline, and taking initiative.

Some sociologists describe this generation as EPIC: Experiential, Participatory, Image-driven, and Connected. If that's true, I believe we'll get the most out of resources that give us an image, an experience and a way to connect with each other. This guide will help you teach Habitudes® in an EPIC fashion. Be sure you don't simply lecture about the images. Use this guide to make the learning time fun and interactive. As a facilitator, it is up to you to set the tone of the environment. Once you've done that, allow these images to take on a

life of their own by letting your students share their ideas and make their application. This guide contains enough creative thoughts to launch into your discussion and your practice of the leadership truths. Use the ideas that are most relevant to your setting. You don't have to use them all. "Eat the fish and spit out the bones." Once you spark the discussion, get ready to watch the power of truth as it transforms a student's life.

As you prepare to use this guide, let me encourage you to add some of your own "flavor" to each chapter. For example, I have furnished you with stories that illustrate each principle (image), but you will likely think of some examples for each principle from your own life. Go ahead and add them where appropriate. Since you know the students you'll be teaching, you also might want to add a specific question or two that are relevant to their lives. You might even think of a game or an experience that suits your student group. Go for it. Feel free to personalize the truths to make them hit home with your listeners.

Each section of this Teacher's Guide provides you with the following tools:

An image	Each chapter includes a visual picture that demonstrates a leadership principle that is developed throughout the rest of the chapter through stories, activities, and movie clips. All of the images can be found in the <i>Habitudes</i> ® book.
Chapter Objectives	At the beginning of each section is a summary of the leadership principle developed in the chapter.
Creative Ideas	Every chapter has a creative activity that introduces or teaches each principle.
Movie Ideas	Each image has two or three movie clips that illustrate each leadership principle. Before using a clip, be sure to preview the movie. Some clips may have inappropriate language or behavior for your particular group. The clips are there to provide you with another way to communicate the images. Use only what is best for your group. Before you show a clip, review the copyright laws.
Going Deeper	This section appears after each image is explained and includes stories that further illustrate the leadership principle from that section.
Big Deal Question	<i>Going Deeper</i> is followed by a question or two that will spark discussion about the image illustrated in that chapter.
A Look at the Book	Each chapter includes a handful of key discussion questions and Scripture references that help students personally integrate the leadership principle being discussed.

Getting Personal

At the end of each chapter is a “Getting Personal” assessment that will help students examine where they are at with each leadership principle and where they need to improve.

Practicing the Truth

After the “Getting Personal,” students are offered an exercise in which they can participate. The exercises are practical applications of the principle that allow the students to practice the leadership principle in their daily lives.

I trust these tools will spark some of your own creative ideas as you teach. Remember, the more creative you are, the more unforgettable the Habitudes® will be. My hope is that they’ll become a new language for leadership in your group.

Dr. Tim Elmore

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