

Reflecting on
seeker groups and
your presentation

Zabine Maryam Van Ness
Seattle 2009

Content

- Safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race.....
- Growth...identifying principles, qualities and approaches.
- Methods and materials are an outcome of study, consultation, experimentation and reflection.
- Methods of teaching have no hard and fast rules
- Teaching is like entering a House of Worship
- Neighborhood based activities
- What is the difference between a Reflection Meeting and personal reflection?
- Time to determine a method to employ
- How should we present the message of Baha'u'llah?
- Gathering around a table for Reflection
- Some training aspects of "Entry by Troops" to consider
- Around a table "Reflection" agenda
- If there is no chocolate I am not going
- My Personal Teaching Plan and Goals
- Acting in unity does not mean we all do the same thing.
- So many ways to be part of a Teaching Team.
- Fundamental prerequisite for a successful teaching campaign.

Content....continued

- The Path to Him is wide
- Many of the opportunities to teach will arise in everyday conversation
- Some of us are “Head People” and some of us are “Heart People”
- Respect for other people’s customs
- Don’t be hindered by anyone
- Become sensitive to the capacity of those who hear us.
- Not every one learns or responds at the same rate
- Addressing seekers needs and interests
- Eleven seeker types
- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Social Activist
- Mystical Seeker
- New Age Enthusiast
- I am not religious...I just want to be your friend
- We just arrived in this country. Or...I am barely surviving
- I feel like a broken winged bird
- I was raised a Christian ,but have drifted away
- I believe in Jesus Christ and have never heard of Baha’u’llah
- Believers of different Faiths

Content ...continued

- Believers of different Faiths
- Practicing your personal presentation for a forthcoming home visit or fireside
- Two aspect of the message to convey...the first is information.
- Some points to remember when we are with our seekers.
- Information or Concepts?
- Absorbing a concept involves understanding
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- Some of Book 2 “ideas for discussion” in chapter on introducing Baha’i Beliefs”
- Anna’s Presentation Concepts to convey
- Making sure that Anna’s Presentation not reduced to series of information points
- What is a Concept?

Content....continued

- Some seeker issues that we might want to consider for discussion.
- Fireside and Home Visits
- In the beginning fake it till you can make it. First attempts at making a presentation
- Reflecting on the actual content of your presentation
- Practice sample sheet
- Teacher Preparation Worksheet to develop a concept(s).
- Practice questions/concepts individual worksheet
- You should read the passages several times, study them carefully, and practice saying the same ideas in your own words.....
- List of Questions about Christ and Baha'u'llah from the Bible.
- Rules of Engagement when studying and teaching from the bible with “Bible Topics”

Promote the unity of the human race

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. Suffer it not to become a source of dissension and discord, of hate and enmity. This is the straight Path, the fixed and immovable foundation.

Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 215

**Growth...identifying principles,
qualities and approaches.**

While the case studies offer an impressive account of the activity in each cluster, you will, we hope, not be content only to read the narrative but will try to identify the principles, qualities, and approaches that have made possible the progress achieved.

“Attaining the dynamics of growth” ITC April 2008

Methods and materials are an outcome of study, consultation, experimentation and reflection.

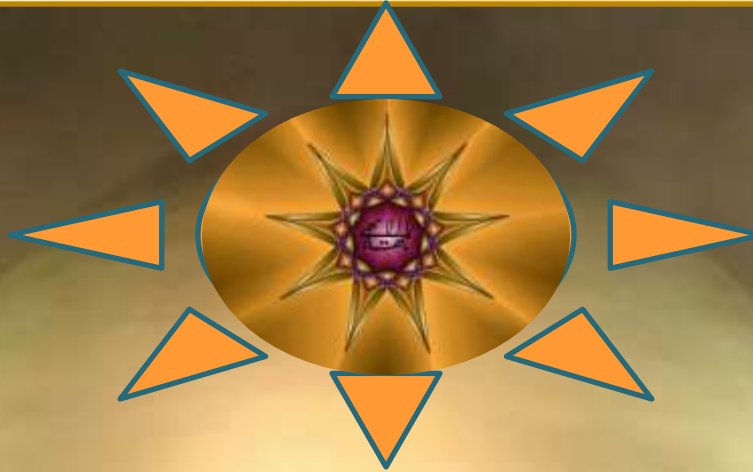
The methods and materials used in the(teaching) project are not to be determined by the likes and dislikes of the group of people who participate. They should be an outcome of diligent work over an extended period of time- study, consultation, experimentation, and reflection on the methods and results of action.....Once this had been achieved, few small pilot projects would be launched; then an increasing number of teachers would be trained and the campaign extended to region after region.

Methods of teaching have no hard and fast rules

Methods of teaching cannot be governed by hard and fast rules.

Clearly those who do not feel comfortable employing any specific direct teaching method should not be obliged to do so. Yet it is equally important that the inhibitions of individual believers, though rooted in the prevalent culture, and undoubtedly the result of a sincere desire to safeguard the interests of the Faith, do not prevent others from learning how to approach people directly and offer them the message for which their hearts so desperately yearn.

Teaching is like entering a House of Worship



Does it really matter through which door your seeker enters into a House of Worship?

All entrances usher them under the protection and station of the Greatest Name once they are inside. For every seeker it is different and meaningful in their own special way.

For some it is through the love of a friend, Others want to analyze a concept. And again some are looking for a Faith that lets them be a productive member of society through service around them. Each find their spark of Faith in many different ways. No two seekers are alike. If you listen to them first they will tell you what matters to them most.

Neighborhood based activities



It is our task to set up a system capable of receiving large numbers of people wishing to enroll in the Faith, and this calls for larger numbers of small neighborhood-based activities.

Stephen Birkland, ITC representative
Atlanta Conference, Dec 2008

What is the difference between a Reflection Meeting and personal reflection?

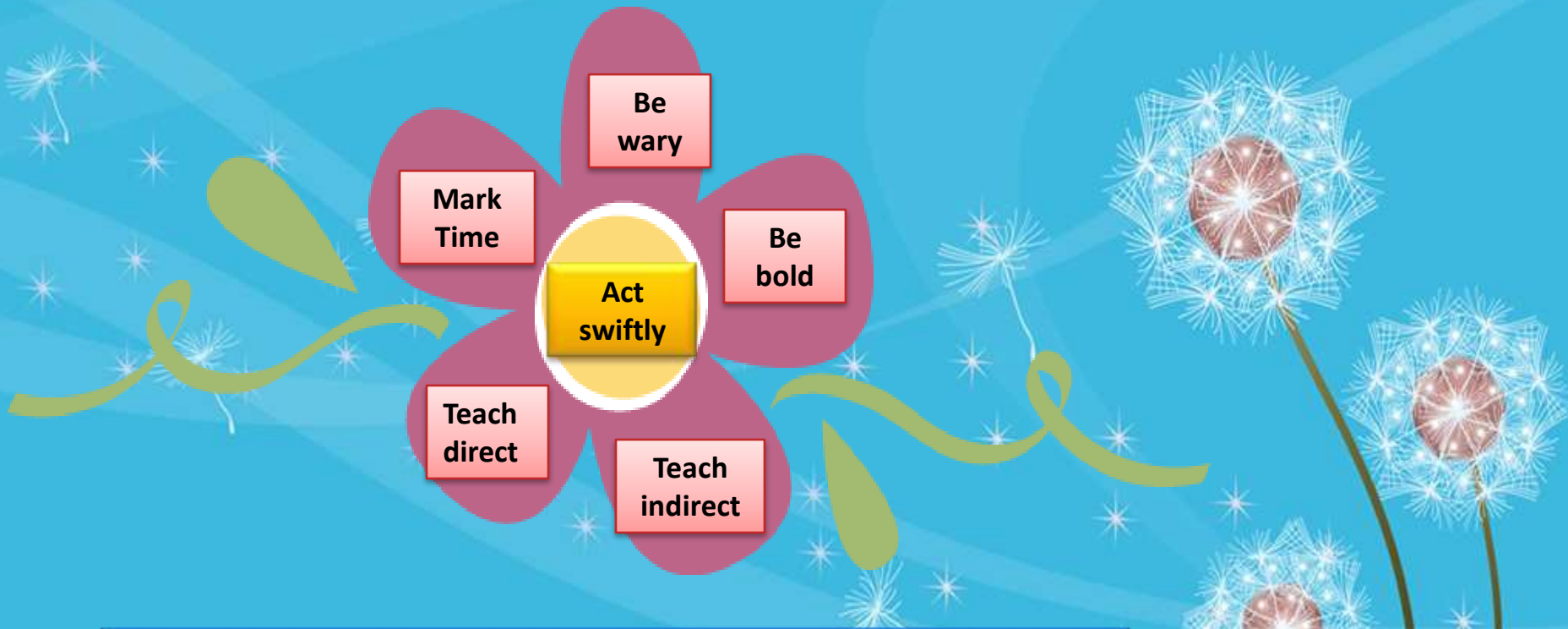
Reflection Meetings

- Are planned by each ATC
- Are quarterly
- Are attended by the whole community
- Are usually right before the expansion phase starts
- Look back at the last overall quarter's activities
- Announce the next goals and planning stages
- Launch the teaching campaign

Teaching Team Reflection

- Are designed to be ongoing for individuals or small teaching groups
- Help them with personal teaching plans, campaigns, seeker receptivity, presentation exercises, sequencing, presentation concepts, enrollment examples, core activities referrals and consolidation.

Time to determine a method to employ



Through their constancy in teaching, they have increased their ability to determine whether their receptivity of their listeners requires them to be “wary” or “bold”, to “act swiftly” or to “mark time”, to be “direct” or “indirect” in the methods they employ.

How should we present the message of Baha'u'llah?



In their presentation of their message of Baha'u'llah and the exposition of its verities, they have taken to hearts the words of Shoghi Effendi that they must neither "hesitate" nor "falter", neither "overstress" nor "whittle down" the truth that they champion. . Neither are they "fanatical" nor "excessively liberal".

Gathering around a table



Some aspects of our Reflection:

- Preparing your personal teaching plan.
- Planning your campaign for family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.
- Practice your presentation.
- Track and evaluate your ongoing teaching campaign for effectiveness and results.
- Hand tailor our hand-outs to the seekers' interests, passions and events that have an appeal.

...”be asked to identify instances of success, analyze the most effective approach and develop a short course on how to....”

Ruhi Book 7 section 18 p. 77

Some training aspects of "Entry by Troops" to consider



Identifying Receptivity

Your Personal Teaching Plan

Effective Campaign Tracking



Deepening or Consolidation



Networking into The Core Activities

Making concept choices about your presentation



How do I ask seekers to enroll?



Answering questions from the Writings

Learning about concepts vs information

Around a table “Reflection” agenda

Teaching Team members:

Expansion phase:
Sector (teachers):

Consolidation phase:
Teaching area:

- Open with a prayer
- Review of personal teaching plan(s)
- Dialogue on Campaign mail-outs
- Discuss Seeker list
- Analyze Receptivity
- Network seekers into Core Activities
- Seeker Types
- Review fireside/home visit invitations
- Practice Presentation (s)
- Practice answering questions
- Practice Sequencing

- Conceptualize your “Registration Invitation”
- Make plans for Consolidation visits
- Network new believers into Core Activities
- Analyze/evaluate new believers journey that lead to enrollment
- Closing Prayer

If there's no chocolate

in heaven,

I'm not going.



Un...unless there are some other
bec rewards for a teacher that might
be better than chocolates.....

My Personal Teaching Plan and Goals



My vision statement for the year:

This year I will try and memorize:

Some of the books that I want to read:

Core Activities :

- Completion of the following books:
- A devotional that I will start:
- Children's classes that I will assist with:
- A Junior Youth activity that I can help with:
- Home Visit or Firesides with my team
- Home Front Pioneer: Travel Teach:

Teaching and Registration goals

- Start a campaign for my seekers:
- Attend activities to find and invite new seekers:
- Learn and practice my presentation(s)
- Learn to respond to my seekers questions:
- Learn to enroll _____ new believer(s)
- Consolidate and accompany my new believer

Acting in unity does not mean we all do the same thing.



Unity of thought is unfulfilled if it is not translated into unity of action. Acting in unity does not mean that we all do the same thing. On the contrary, when a community devises a plan of unified action, and the diverse talents of every believer are used to the fullest. Our powers multiply...

So many ways to be part of a Teaching Team.

- Prayer Team.
- Planning the campaign.
- Taking a community survey.
- Become part of the “Phone Caring” campaign.
- Direct teaching using “Door to Door”.
- Doing home visits.
- Helping with deepening theme home visits.
- Planning confirmation visits.
- Helping the friends with finding family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.
- Learn to be more effective with reflection, evaluation and analyzing data.

Fundamental prerequisite for a successful teaching campaign.



“Nor should any ... overlook the fundamental prerequisite for any successful teaching enterprise, which is to adapt the presentation of the fundamental principles of their Faith to the cultural and religious backgrounds, the ideologies, and the temperament of the divers races and nations whom they are called upon to enlighten and attract.”

The Path to Him is wide

Not everyone learns or responds at the same rate but the path to Him is wide enough to accommodate one and all regardless of their pace. "The Cause of God has room for all suggests that not only are diverse peoples welcome but that individuals may be at different points in their understanding and acceptance of the Faith. Adopting an attitude of openness and inclusion will help diminish the sharp line that believers have sometimes tended to draw between themselves and the public at large."

ITC, 2003 Apr 23, Building Momentum, p. 19

Many of the opportunities to teach will arise in everyday conversation



The way you introduce Baha'i ideas into a conversation should never appear unnatural or forced.if you express your ideas freely and mention the source of your insights in a natural way, the opportunity to speak directly on the Faith will arise sooner than you expect.

Some of us are “Head People” and some of us are “Heart People”



Why is Faith so complicated?

Who is this “Baha’u’llah”?
I have never heard of him before.

OR



I have so many questions and it needs to make sense to me. There are many pieces of this puzzle that I hope to get answers to.

It is said that the longest journey is from the head to the heart.

Respect for other people's customs

The first concerns how one responds to the various elements of a culture.

...it is not difficult to identify those elements of a culture that are either in clear agreement with the Teachings of the Faith or in direct conflict with them....

One special element of every culture is its perception of what is polite and courteous. When the subtleties of politeness are not understood, it is easy to offend a people or even, hurt them.

The second point you will need to bear in mind when working among other people is that, if approached with proper attitudes, the interaction between diverse cultures is actually an enjoyable experience.

The diverse peoples of the world may be seen as points scattered on the outer surface of a sphere with Baha'u'llah at its center, at its core.....if each one of these points, if each one of these peoples, is allowed to move along its own direct path towards Baha'u'llah, they will naturally come closer to one another. Their cultures will change and be enriched as they each make contributions to emergence of a world civilization.

Ruhi Book 6 section 30 p 140-141

- We have several sequences and quotes in our tracks that are culturally sensitive and give guidance from the Writings.



Don't be hindered by anyone

“Unfortunately, it is also possible for our teaching efforts to be hindered by our own friends, even Baha’is, who, without realizing it, discourage us from pursuing our goals. For example, the pessimism of those who, for whatever reason, have not been successful in teaching and the prejudices of some toward a particular group of people can become obstacles in your path.”

Become sensitive to the capacity of those who hear us.

[Click here
For list of
questions](#)

'Not everything that a man knoweth can be disclosed, nor can everything that he can disclose be regarded as timely, nor can every timely utterance be considered as suited to the capacity of those who hear it.'


Compilations, The Individual and Teaching - Raising the Divine Call, p. 13
Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause pg. 45

Not every one learns or responds at the same rate

Not everyone learns or responds at the same rate but the path to Him is wide enough to accommodate one and all regardless of their pace. "The Cause of God has room for all" suggests that not only are divers peoples welcome but that individuals may be at different points in their understanding and acceptance of the Faith.

ITC, 2003 Apr 23, Building Momentum, p. 20

Addressing Seekers needs and interests

An illustration showing a central figure, a man with a white robe and an orange turban, holding a large globe. He is surrounded by five other people of diverse ethnicities and ages, all holding hands in a circle around the globe. The background is a dark brown color.

...one of the most important qualities of a Baha'i teacher is to listen carefully to those whom one teaches and bring forth truths enshrined in the Writings that address their specific needs and interests.

Ruhi Book 2 Arising to Serve chapter 5 page 49

Eleven seeker types

[Click here](#)
For list of
questions

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Social Activist
- Mystical Seeker
- New Age Enthusiast
- New Immigrant /barely surviving
- Broken Winged Bird
- Disillusioned Christian
- Confirmed Christian
- Believers of different Faiths
- Friendship Seeker
- ❖ We are sure there many more but this is just a beginning attempt.

“Familiarizing oneself with an individual interested in the Faith, deciding how best to present the Message to him with kindness, nurturing him and aiding him to proclaim his acceptance of Baha’u’llah...”

Ruhi Book 2 “Arising to Serve” section 7 page 17

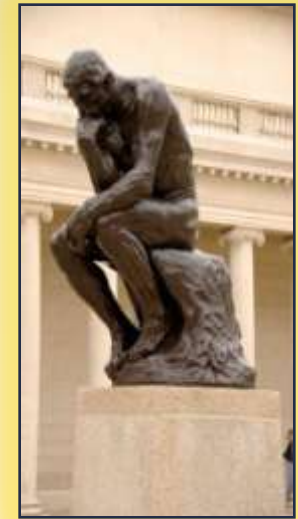
Agnostic

Possible responses to receptivity points

- I don't know if *God exists*...He might, I am just not sure.
- God might exist, but I do not believe in a *messenger of God*. God does not have a plan for mankind, he just created it.
- I believe in the Big Bang, evolution. God is no longer involved (*Revelation*).
- There is no *soul*, but I try to live by the Golden Rule.
- Our actions only have consequences during this life.
- No *life after death*. Just return to dust...I guess we will both find out later.
- I prefer staying with facts and things that can be proven (*matters of spirituality*).

Suggested Tracks

- Existence of God
- Science and Religion
- Spiritual Journey
- Governance
- Principles
- Health and Healing
- Central Figures (Who is Baha'u'llah?)





Atheist



Possible responses to receptivity points

- Nobody can ever prove the *existence of God*.
- There is no God, *no Messengers*, and no plan for humanity. People create history.
- Only the Big Bang, cosmic soup, evolution. *No Book can be proven to be from God*.
- The *soul* cannot be proven scientifically and doesn't exist.
- There is no *life after death*. The only consequences for our deeds are here on earth.
- I don't need God *to feel spiritual*.

Suggested Tracks

- Existence of God
- Science and Religion
- The Journey of the Soul
- Bahá'í Principles
- Community and Global Governance
- Central figures – Who is Bahá'u'lláh?





Social Activist

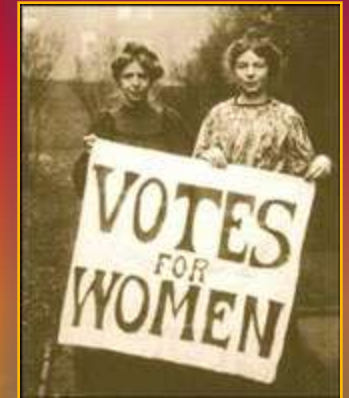


Possible responses to receptivity points

- Don't think about it that much, but I am sure *there is a God*. Just wonder where He is as there is so much pain and starvation in this world.
- Could be, but I feel that most of them are truly wonderful *men who inspired everybody* around them. Mother Theresa and Al Gore are some examples.
- There are many *good books* out there.
- Maybe, there is a *soul*. I am not sure as there is much to do and I do not think about it that often.
- I sure hope there is *life after death*. Then good deeds will be rewarded.
- I *feel spiritual* when I help someone. That does not have to be religious...does it?
- It is important to remember that here you may very well have a very religious person or just somebody that likes to help others. Take time to listen to their beliefs and value system.

Suggested tracks:

- Principles
- Health and Healing
- Family and Marriage
- Life Issues
- Governance
- Prayers
- Spiritual Journey
- Meditations...
- Central Figures



Mystical Seeker

Possible responses to receptivity points

- *God is everywhere. He reincarnates Himself in many different ways . We shall never see or understand the Creator.*
- *Yes, some humans have almost reached the state of perfection and we can learn from them. I admire these masters or gurus.*
- *I love to read their wisdoms and listen to music or experience silence.*
- *Yes our soul is like Karma. I sometimes even see the colors of your Karma around you. I meditate to get in touch with my soul.*
- *I believe in reincarnation and reaching Nirvana or experiencing many different stages of lives in different dimensions or worlds of God. That is the true life after death.*
- *I am on a spiritual path most of the time.*

Suggested Tracks

- **Spiritual Journey**
- **Pearls of Wisdom and Meditation**
- **Life after Death**
- **Progressive Revelation**
- **Creativity and the Arts**
- **Prayer**



New Age Enthusiast



Possible responses to receptivity points

- *God is everywhere. He reincarnates Himself. God is everywhere, even I can be God. I am Him and He is in me.*
- *Everybody can learn and experience wisdoms from God. We are created in His image and therefore we have God within us.*
- *Wisdoms are handed down or you can meditate and God gives them to you. Wise souls pass down their wisdoms in books.*
- *Yes, we are all wise souls. Reincarnation teaches us to become wiser.*
- *We keep coming back till we reach Nirvana or perfection. Life after death is just temporary.*
- *I feel on a spiritual journey most of the time.*

Suggested Tracks

- **Health and Healing**
- **Spiritual Journey**
- **Life after Death**
- **Pearls of Wisdom and Meditation**
- **Creativity and the Arts**
- **Progressive Revelation**
- **Central Figures**

I am not religious...I just want to be your friend

Possible responses to receptivity points

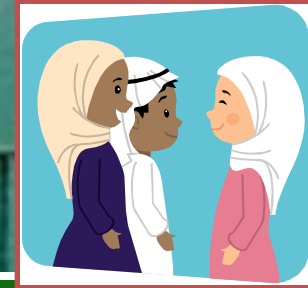
- **God?** I watch some of the documentaries on the History and Discovery Channel, but not sure if I believe in God the way you do.
- I feel these *messengers* give some people comfort in time of need, they are just not for me.
- I love reading *self-help books* and watch Oprah. She has lots of good authors on her program.
- Reincarnation and the *soul* sounds interesting, but I am not sure at this stage. I love to listen to the Baha'is and their good ideas. It cannot hurt and sounds like it would help the world in the end to bring about peace.
- I am sure about *life after death*. It will work out somehow in the end. I am not sure at this stage but will cross that bridge when I come to it.
- I think more about feeling happy and peaceful. I help many people and that makes me feel good. I guess you could call the *feeling spiritual*.

Suggested Tracks

- Principles
- Life Issues
- Spiritual Journey
- Prayers
- Health and Healing
- Existence of God
- Progressive Revelation
- Central Figures



We just arrived in this country. Or...I am barely surviving



- We just arrived here and are trying to understand your *concept of God*. Or*God has deserted us*.
- I believe in *Christ* and He loves me. Or ...I come from a country where *we have different messengers*.
- I believe in the *Bible*. Or... I believe in *many books* sent by God.
- I am not sure about a *soul*. Or... I definitely believe in a soul. But life is very hard right now and I am happy that you stopped by. I really need some friends here as all is so strange and difficult and complicated.
- Lots of people die where I came from . Or... I cannot think about *life after death* right now ...many kids die in my neighborhood and crime is rampant.
- I wish I had more time to feel spiritual as my children (all ages) need to learn more about
- morals and good character to get away from all of this crime and temptation.
- *Be aware that you will no doubt have very committed and deeply faithful believers in this neighborhood. Be prepared to teach with the Bible or other Holy Scripture from their homeland.

Suggested Tracks

- Anna's Conversation
- Principles
- Prayers
- Central Figures
- Family and Marriage
- Health and Healing
- Becoming a Baha'i
- Life Issues
- Life After Death
- Progressive Revelation



I feel like a broken winged bird



Possible responses to receptivity points

- I feel God has deserted me.
- I am not sure about God's messengers as I am filled with grief and anxiety and helplessness.
- I try to read some scripture but am overwhelmed and cannot concentrate.
- I feel like a lost soul .
- Life after Death sounds like a good idea right now.
- A Spiritual Journey would be wonderful as it can bring me some peace and tranquility and hope.

Suggested Tracks

- Prayer
- Life Issues
- Who is Baha'u'llah (Central Figures)
- Meditation and Pearls of Wisdom
- Life after Death
- Health and Healing
- Spiritual Journey



I was raised a Christian ,but have drifted away

Possible responses to receptivity points

- ***I still believe in God.***
- ***I believe in Jesus* but I am not sure if I believe in the Trinity or organized religion.**
- **I am not sure about the authenticity of *the Bible*. I feel the Bible is still God's book for mankind today.**
- **I believe I have a *soul*, I am just not sure how to relate to that part of me.**
- **I am sure there *is life after death*, but the idea of the devil and hell scares me.**
- **I get confused about my *Spiritual Journey* as I am very turned off and against organized religion at this time.**



Suggested Tracks

- **Authenticity of the Bible**
- **Bible Topics**
- **Christ and Baha'u'llah**
- **Progressive Revelation**
- **Central Figures**
- **Life after Death**



I believe in Jesus Christ and have never heard of Baha'u'llah

Possible responses to receptivity points

- I definitely believe in *God*.
- I believe that *Christ is the Son of God* who came to earth to die for our sins.
- I believe in the *Holy Bible*.
- God created me with my *soul*. I or my soul is saved because I am born again.
- There is *a life after death*. I will be resurrected and/or raptured. Unbelievers will go to hell and be tormented by the Devil.
- My *spiritual journey* is with Jesus as he is the *Only Way*. No other name under heaven.

Suggested Tracks

- Bible Topics
- Christ and Baha'u'llah
- Authenticity of the bible
- Central Figures
- Progressive Revelation
- Prayer



Believers of different Faiths

Possible responses to receptivity points

- We all see *God* in a different light.
- My *messenger* is divine.
- My *Holy Book* is divinely inspired and I am not sure about the others.
- *Life after Death* is promised to me.
- Everybody has a *soul*.
- My Faith makes me feel very *spiritual*.

Suggested Tracks

- Progressive Revelation
- Principles
- Central Figures
- Prayers
- Spiritual Journey
- Life after Death
- Health and Healing



Practicing your personal presentation for a forthcoming home visit or fireside

A visit to a home should be seen as one element of a coherent pattern of action that seeks to enable specific populations to contribute to the construction of the society envisioned by Baha'u'llah... that enable people of varied backgrounds to advance on equal footing and explore the application of teachings to their individual and collective lives.

Getting answers from more knowledgeable believers

...You approached questions presented to you with an attitude of humility, and quite often admitted that you had to speak to more knowledgeable believers and search in the Writings for the appropriate answers...

Ruhi Book 2 section 3 page 30



Two aspect of the message to convey ...the first is information.

“As you begin to think systematically about the way you will explain the Faith to others, you may find it useful to consider two aspects of the message you will convey. The first is information. The listener will naturally want to know a number of facts about the Faith....What information you will offer to a person on a given occasion will depend on the nature of your conversation. ...”

Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause section 3 page 88

This is where we listen to the needs of a seeker as it depends on the nature of your conversation. See worksheet for this purpose and practice.

Some points to remember when we are with our seekers.

- Take your time to recognize receptivity.
- Give your seeker a chance to empty their cup.
- Take your time to refill that “empty cup” directly from the Writings.
- Recognize and act when you are seeing that “Spark of Faith.”
- Once our seekers recognizes that Baha’u’llah is the Manifestation for this day he/she is ready to become a Baha’i. The rest can wait till later. Note the new registration cards.
- Continue to stay close to them in this transition phase into the community and core activities. Accompaniment is vital.

Information or Concepts?



Seekers
Journey

“I just need
some basic
facts.”

“I need to understand the
overall concept behind
my question to discover
the Station of
Baha’u’llah.”

Once you have made a distinction between information and concept, you will have no difficulty identifying a significant number of concepts, the understanding of which will help seekers recognize Baha’u’llah and join the ranks of His followers.

Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause section 4 page 89

...“your aim is to help open the gates of the city of the seeker’s heart to Baha’u’llah. Through your presentation, you will provide the listener with certain information and assist him in understanding several fundamental concepts.

Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause section 5 page 90

Absorbing a concept involves understanding



“The statement “Baha’is believe that Baha’u’llah is the Manifestation of God for today (see new registration card) by itself is only an item of information, admittedly the most important item of information in the universe. Yet, is the mere pronouncement of this fact sufficient to help most people recognize the Station of Baha’u’llah?

Now consider something, which, though related to this fact, is not simple information, namely, the concept that “Baha’u’llah is the Manifestation of God for today”. While a piece of information needs only to be given and received, absorbing a concept involves understanding. What does Baha’u’llah mean by “God” and by “Manifestation”, and what is the nature of His claim to be the Manifestation of God today?”

Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause section 4 page 89

This process of understanding a concept is what we call in our Reflection Tables sequencing a statement or question (see worksheet).

Joy of accompanying other souls on their spiritual journey.



Whether they are paying a visit to a family's home to draw them into a conversation about the Faith or helping one another to perform acts of service as part of their study of the institute courses, it is the joy of accompanying other souls on their spiritual journey that motivates the believers.

"Attaining the dynamics of growth" ITC April 2008 pg. 4

Some of Book 2 “ideas for discussion” in chapter on “Introducing Baha’i Beliefs”

Conditions of society Life after death Literacy Trade or profession
Agricultural practices New Technologies Religious conflicts Equality of
women and men Creation of the universe Advantages of solar
energy Existence of God Power of human intelligence Human Rights
Lack of justice Situation in the Middle East Great figures in
history History Modern literacy Humanity’s future Unrest in today’s
world Banning of weapons of mass destruction
Spread of anarchy and terrorism in the word Brutality of war
Things that bring us happiness Gardening Diversity
The beauty of nature Class prejudice Human rights Oppression
The elimination of poverty Unemployment Family Life
The establishment of peace Great women in history Human progress
Child rearing Social progress The power of science
The School system

Anna's Presentation Concepts to convey:

- God, our relationship with Him and His Manifestations; Baha'u'llah as the Promised One of all ages.
- Unity as the Primary aim of Baha'u'llah's teachings, oneness of humanity...eliminate prejudice.
- Story of Baha'u'llah - His suffering ...His revelation and its influence on people's hearts and minds.
- Story of the Bab; His Station as the Gate leading to the Promised One...
- Covenant of Baha'u'llah; life and station of Abdu'l-Baha; the station of the Guardian; establishment of the Universal House of Justice.

- Laws and commandments as a sign of God's love; a few examples of spiritual and social laws. (such as obligatory prayer, prohibition against backbiting and intoxicants, and importance of education)
- Religion building a World Order:
- Roles and benefits for the individual believer; roles and benefits for the community; roles of the institutions and benefits for society.

"The American Baha'i"
May/June 2008 p. 36

"Teachers in clusters around the world are finding "Anna's presentation" from Book 6 of the Ruhi curriculum to be a helpful model for direct teaching. As teachers gain in experience, they learn to adapt the presentation according to individual circumstances..."

Making sure that Anna's Presentation not reduced to series of information points

More often than not, the friends have found the presentation of the Faith outlined in Book 6 of the Ruhi Institute most useful in this respect. It is clear, however, that those making such a presentation need to avoid the trap of reducing it merely to a series of points of information that are enumerated for the listener.

What is a Concept?

Concept: an idea of something (*The Station of Baha'u'llah*) formed by mentally combining all its characteristics or particulars .
Webster's Dictionary



Spark of Faith

Anna's Presentation

Many sequences to form additional different concepts

From Doubt

Not everyone learns or responds at the same rate but the path to Him is wide enough to accommodate one and all regardless of their pace. "The Cause of God has room for all" suggests that not only are divers peoples welcome but that individuals may be at different points in their understanding and acceptance of the Faith.

Some seeker issues that we might want to consider for discussion.

Devotionals often are not a place to find answers to questions that our seekers have.

Book 1 only covers 3 specific topics, but our seekers have many more questions than that.

We often make seekers feel that their questions are for “later” when in truth they are important to them now.

Anna’s Presentation is wonderful to share verities of the Faith and covenant issues. It is not designed to answer personal questions that many seekers have.

Not enough firesides in most communities to find a place for seekers to bring their many questions.

Home visits should also be a place for answering questions and not just devotionals or deepening themes.

Fireside and Home Visits

Firesides (Your home)

One of the best ways to teach the Faith is through Firesides. Firesides are warm and intimate meetings held in one's home to which those interested in the Faith are invited. They provide excellent opportunities for the exchange of ideas and fruitful conversation which can lead people to the acceptance of Baha'u'llah.

Ruhi Book 6 Teaching the Cause section 1 page 85

Opportunities to share the priceless gems of wisdom...come in many ways... You may have a meeting at your home in which you introduce some of your friends to the Teachings.

Ruhi Book 2 Arising to Serve chapter 1 page 59

Home Visits (Their home)

- To visit friends holding core activities to show support/offer help
- Visit friends who have completed institute courses to encourage them in undertaking service components
- Visit "inactive" Bahá'ís to re-establish contact
- Visit newly registered Baha'is
- Visit seekers

Responses to the National Assembly's letter of
14 August 08

**In the beginning fake it till you can make it.
First attempts at making a presentation.**



Practice

Practice

Practice

YES you can!



**Reflecting on the actual content
of your presentation**

Practice your Personal Presentations

Practice Sample sheet

(We did not include names and pertinent information on each seeker here.

Seeker Type : see slide for different types

Culture: Age bracket F/M

Question:”?”

Quote: “.....”

Key Issues:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Rephrase in common language so that seekers understand the issues shared from above quote.

“.....”

Identify a possible sequence that might now come up next:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Try and memorize the quote from the original question above.



My seekers have many questions



Christ and Baha'u'llah



Life after Death

Teacher Preparation Worksheet to develop a concept(s).

Question/Topic:



This worksheet is provided to assist presenters in thinking through the organization of their presentations.

It is recommended that each presentation be organized around a specific topic of interest to the Seeker....

(It is suggested that the organization include an 'Introduction', a 'Discussion' or 'Argument' with a pre-thought-out sequence of slides/pages, and a 'Conclusion'.) Use the boxes, below, to identify each of the slide/page numbers you are planning to include, in the appropriate sequence. Try to anticipate your Seeker's interest!



Introduction	Sequence of slide #'s in 'Discussion' to develop concept(s)	'Conclusion'	General Comments

Notes:

Introduction': Key Issue(s):

'Discussion'/Sequence: Key Issues:

'Conclusion': Key issue



1. Receptivity Indicators (these are just some and you may think of more.) Ask your seekers if they “believe in” or “have”:

- Believe in the Existence of God
- Believe in a Messenger sent by God
- Believe that answers are given in Revelation sent from God
- Believe in Life After Death
- Believe in the Existence of a Soul
- Have a Desire to explore their Spiritual Path

Comments:

See if you can identify your seeker type

2. Seeker Type(s): check one or more below

Culture:
F/M:

Age Bracket : (10/20) (20/30) (30/40) (40/50) (60 and over)

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Social Activist
- Mystical Seeker
- New Age Enthusiast
- Broken Winged Bird
- Disillusioned Christian
- Confirmed Christian
- Friendship Seeker
- Recently arrived immigrant or struggling with survival
- Believers of different Faiths

Comments and Thoughts:

Core Issues that are of interest to your seeker:

Proposed **Tracks** along with **page/slide number(s)**:

Quote(s) used:

Key Issues in Quote(s)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Put **3 key issues into a new statement** in easy to follow language:

Identify sequence questions that might come out of this quote and identify **3 new questions**:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.


Repeat and see if you can memorize the quote(s) with your teaching partner.

Tracks: (see A-Z index or list of questions)

- Baha'i Central Figures - BCF
- Baha'i Principles - BP
- Progressive Revelation - PR
- Life Issues - LI
- Life after Death - LAD
- Prayer - PR
- Journey of the Soul - JS
- Meditation and
- Gems of Divine Wisdom - MG
- Creativity and the Arts - CA
- Family and Marriage - FM
- Health and Healing - HH
- Community and
- Global Governance - CGG
- Science and Religion - SR
- Existence of God - EG
- Christ and Baha'u'llah - CB
- Authenticity of the Bible - AB
- Bible Topics A-Z - BT
- Enrollment - E

You should read the passages several times, study them carefully, and practice saying the same ideas in your own words.....

You should read the passages several times, study them carefully, and practice saying the same ideas in your own words.....as you converse on different topics, you will be able to share with your friends insights you have gained from the Writings and help them to see things in the light of the Revelation of Baha'u'llah.



Home visits...delving into the Writings and exploring their implications for their lives.

[Click here
For list of
questions](#)

Conceived as a means for exposing believers to the fundamentals of the Faith, “home visits” are giving rise to an array of deepening efforts, both individual and collective, in which the friends are delving into the Writings and exploring their implications for their lives.

*Learning and the Evolution of the Bahá'í Community Paul Lample
Plenary talk given at the 32nd annual conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America pg. 11
29 August to 1 September 2008*

List of Questions about Christ and Baha'u'llah from the Bible.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10





Rules of Engagement when studying and teaching from the bible with “Bible Topics”

You each have your own bible. This topic is designed for teaching the Station of Baha’u’llah from the bible only. All Baha’i Writings are in “Christ and Baha’u’llah “ track for further study.

Your seeker will have his list (prior slide) and can take his/her time to write down all of their questions. Allow your seeker to priorities the first 5 questions.

These are some conditions we recommend:

Share that you are willing to answer all of the questions listed. The condition is that you are allowed to bring your answers using the various bible quotes to a conclusion. No interruptions. All further questions can be added to the list. Upon conclusion your seeker now has a chance to give a rebuttle and you too will not interrupt . Add new key issues to your list of further comments.

Proceed until all questions have been answered in an orderly and systematic fashion with respect for process and conclusion of each argument.

Never, never engage in” scripture slinging” out of the air as that will result in chaos and everybody loses.

Have confidence that all topics will lead to a meaningful conclusion. You need to study the pages at your “reflections tables” to build a feeling for sequencing from the bookmarks noted on the left side of each page. Note that some topics have several pages (1/4) Graphics are there to assist you and make a more colorful impression of the topic at hand.

We are using David Young ‘s book “The Resurrection of all Mankind”
For further practice go to :

<http://www.fbindiana.org/tce/resurrection.pdf>

[Click here
For list of
questions](#)