

USING THE CURRICULUM

By Buck Griffith, President

Thank you for your interest and willingness to teach. “How should I use the NLB curriculum?” This is a question often asked. Take a few minutes to read through this information. It will help you become more familiar with how to use/teach the NLB curriculum more effectively.

USE the Curriculum

This material is designed to help individuals change their daily conduct. Trust the curriculum. Avoid deviating or chasing rabbits. This curriculum has passed the important “test of time” and has been approved by many departments of correction. “Name recognition” is helpful. If you do not use the curriculum – do not call it a “NLB Class.” Chaplains will stop such classes. If an instructor wants to teach something else, he should present it to the chaplain for approval. The chaplain will then determine whether or not the *non-NLB curriculum* is acceptable.

View the NLB Courses as a Buffet

When Course One (*A Sense of Self*) was first written by Dr. H. M. Motsinger, he did not know that 14 *more* courses would follow. So, do not think that the fourteen different courses are to be taught in numerical order. In time, we will add more courses. Your task is to choose the course(s) most needed *at this time and in this place*. Get together with your chaplain. Look at all the curriculum currently used at the facility. Then, look at the various NLB courses and select the one that best fits current needs.

Four-Step Design

- ***Create a positive environment.*** Seek to individually welcome, touch, and connect with each student entering. Ask: “What good thing happened to you this week?”
- ***Enjoy a devotional experience.*** Read or share a favorite Scripture, sing a song, or lead a prayer.
- ***Teach the lesson.*** The Instructor may do the *Introduction* followed by students who read the rest – section by section – and/or review major points. Reading improves the student’s ready ability and expands his/her vocabulary.
- ***Give this assignment:*** “What will you do with this lesson between now and next week?” Then, ask for a report to *create a positive environment* at the start of next week’s lesson.

Easy-to-Use

Using the NLB curriculum makes it easier to recruit instructors. If a person is asked to teach, the first question is: “What subject?” With NLB, you simply hand the new teacher the course. *What a relief!* Students may receive their copies week by week or in advance. Accommodate students who may have missed due to illness, lockdowns, bench warrants, etc. We are producing all the courses as bound student workbooks (available to license-holders at \$6 each plus shipping). Spanish copies of each lesson are available for Courses I through 10, 12, and the *Children’s Edition*.

Use Tracts

NLB has developed tracts to accompany each lesson in some series (Attitudes & Behaviors, *Christian Marriage Skills*, Christians Against Substance Abuse and

Managing My Anger). Eventually, we will have tracts available to accompany all NLB lessons. It helps to have a tract to reinforce each lesson presented, supplying students with additional teaching on the subject.

Certificates

In order for a student to earn a certificate, we recommend that he or she attend at least ten out of the thirteen lessons during the teaching of a course. We suggest that the student receive two copies of his/her certificate plus the original. This allows one to be kept by the student, one may be sent home and one can be sent to the parole board. The NLB certificate has four boxes that may be checked at the bottom . . .

- Required Attendance
- Perfect Attendance
- Exemplary Participation
- Correspondence

“Exemplary Participation” defines a student who *actively participates* in discussions, asking questions, offering solutions, reading portions of lessons out loud, etc.

Sharing Lessons

These same lessons may be mailed to family members and friends of students. Students want loved ones to see first-hand what they are studying. The curriculum can also help improve the atmosphere at home where most will be going upon release.

Bible Correspondence Use

Few of us will be able to offer all fifteen courses at the same facility. So, students will benefit by taking *other* NLB courses by correspondence. While encouraging the use of NLB by correspondence, students are urged to *attend* any courses offered at the facility. Students receive much more from “live” sessions! To save on postage, we mail lessons one *unit* (3 or 4 lessons) at a time. Students appreciate receiving more than a single lesson at a time and they complete a course in less time.

Regional Directors

NLBM’s “Regional Directors” are scattered around the country to: (1) Acquaint new persons with the curriculum; (2) Recruit and train new instructors; (3) Meet with those in authority to open new doors of opportunity.

Future Plans

We are continuing to publish more courses in the bound student workbook format. We will soon be finished with converting all courses to a BCC format (reducing paper, ink, postage, time, and cost). We are developing new courses such as “Managing My Dollar” and a “Teen” version of CASA. Our long-range goal is to also produce the curriculum in video.

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