

USING THE NLB 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 heard. We are so glad that you asked. Please take a few minutes to read through this brief tract. It will help you become more familiar with how to use/teach it effectively.

USE the Curriculum

Trust the curriculum. Avoid deviating or chasing rabbits. This curriculum has passed the important “test of time” and has been approved by a large number of correctional authorities for use behind bars. If you are not going to use the curriculum – do not call it a “NLB Class.” We encourage chaplains to stop such classes and if the instructor wants to teach something else, he should present it to the chaplain. The chaplain will then determine whether or not the *non-NLB curriculum* is acceptable. It is not “right” to announce a NLB class is offered and then – when the students get to class – the NLB curriculum is not used.

View the NLB Courses as a Food Buffet

When Course One (*A Sense of Self*) was first written by Dr. H. M. Motsinger, he did not know that 13 *more* courses would follow it. So, do not think that the fourteen different courses are to be taught in numerical order. In time, we will be adding still 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 being 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 has happened to you this week?”
- ***Enjoy a devotional experience.*** Read a 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.
- ***Give this assignment:*** “What will you do with this lesson between now and this time next week?” Then, ask for a report as you *create a positive environment* at the start of next week’s lesson.

Easy-to-Use

Using the NLB curriculum makes it much easier to recruit instructors. If a person is asked to teach a class, the first question is: “What do you want me to teach?” With NLB, you can simply hand the potential new teacher the course. *What a relief!* Students may receive their copies week by week or in advance. You need to be ready to accommodate students who may have had to miss one or two lessons due to illness,

lock-downs, bench warrants, etc. Take at least a few Spanish copies of each lesson (available for Courses I through VIII).

Use Tracts

NLB has developed tracts to accompany each lesson in some series (*Christians Against Substance Abuse* and *Christian Marriage Skills*). Eventually, we will have tracts available to accompany all NLB lessons. It helps to leave a tract after each lesson presented, supplying students with even more 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” is defined as a student *participating* by taking part in discussions, asking questions, offering solutions, reading portions 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 fourteen 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 actually *attend* any courses being offered at the facility. Students require much more from the “live” sessions! In order to save on postage, we mail the lessons one *unit* (3 or 4 lessons) at a time. Students appreciate receiving more than a single lesson at a time and it means they can complete the series in less time.

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