

FROM ASPIRATIONAL PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

Each of these practical principles can be mapped to aspirational principles in Teaching in the Savior's Way

1. **Empower People to Co-create the Experience:** Provide the raw ingredients for learning (scriptures, principles, stories) and invite participants to actively create the experience. Encourage participants to contribute their insights, stories, and applications, facilitating a collaborative, interactive learning environment.
2. **Build Authentic Community:** Foster an environment where people feel safe, valued, and heard. This begins with the expectations you set, which has more to do with what you believe about the students than rigid rules. Encourage openness and vulnerability, and foster a sense of belonging. This begins with you: how open and vulnerable are you willing to be?
3. **Be Led by a Single Driving Question:** Anchor your planning and implementation around one deep, belief-provoking question that guides the entire experience. This question should engage hearts and minds, driving participants to explore their beliefs and personal experiences framed by the topic.
4. **Apply the Pareto Principle—20% inputs (content), 80% (outputs) engagement:** Keep the content brief and intended to inspire and support engagement. Use various facilitative techniques to engender introspection and dialogue while managing energy levels.
5. **Hold (Stoke) Positive Tensions:** Offer or encourage perspectives that encourage participants to wrestle with gospel principles in a way that strengthens spiritual capacity. Challenge the students by presenting ideas that expose and stretch their core beliefs without overwhelming them. This will engage the group in “the wrestle”, promoting deeper awareness and personal discovery.
6. **Use Reflective (Not Socratic) Questions:** Ask open-ended, reflective questions that invite personal insight and application rather than debate. Avoid questions that feel like tests of knowledge and instead encourage introspection—e.g., “How does this scripture frame your current situation?” rather than “What does this scripture mean?”
7. **Resolve All Tensions in Christ:** Toward the end of the lesson, bring all ideas and tensions back to the Savior. Don’t attempt to solve problems or tie up loose ends. Send them into the real world holding those tensions in Christ. Highlight how Christ’s teachings or example provide answers and resolution to the challenges or dilemmas discussed.
8. **Be Responsive to Real Needs:** Continuously gauge where the class is emotionally and spiritually. Be flexible, adjusting the lesson in real-time to address unspoken questions, concerns, or struggles. This ensures the class is relevant and tailored to those present.
9. **Guide Them from Desire to Intention:** In the final moments of the lesson, help participants transition from passive desire to active intention. Encourage them to articulate what they’ve learned and how they plan to apply it. Use questions like, “What will you do differently this week?” to translate insights into action.