

**KINGDOM OF GOD
SERIES; TEACHER'S
MANUAL FOR THE
TEACHINGS OF JESUS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649743582

Kingdom of God Series; Teacher's manual for The teachings of Jesus by Harris Franklin Rall

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HARRIS FRANKLIN RALL

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SERIES; TEACHER'S
MANUAL FOR THE
TEACHINGS OF JESUS**

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FOR
The Teachings of Jesus

BY
HARRIS FRANKLIN RALL



THE ABINGDON PRESS
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

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Teachers of this course in The Teachings of Jesus should have the pupil's book as well as this manual. They will find either Huck's Synopsis of the First Three Gospels or Stevens and Burton's Harmony of the Gospels an invaluable aid.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS TO THE TEACHER

Two great ideas underlie the Kingdom of God Series. The first is the idea of the Kingdom. There is a Kingdom that is more than church in this world or heaven in the next; it is the new earth in which the Spirit of God shall rule men's hearts and homes, in which the good will of God shall be done in the factory and on the street, in the nation and among the nations of the earth. Back of these studies is the great thought that such a new world is coming.

The second great idea is that this Kingdom is a development. God is growing a world just as we see him growing Christians round about us. That this is God's method we can see by looking at the world round about us: God does not make things over suddenly by an outside force, but works gradually and from within. In other words, it is the principle of life working from within rather than a machine working from without. The Bible shows us that this has been his way in the past. We trace there God's increasing revelation of himself to men, and his increasing gift of his life in men.

In all your teaching of this course be sure to have these two great ideas stand out clearly before the class. See that they grasp its point of view at the very start.

The first year of this course considered the development of the Kingdom as shown in the Old Testament. Now we come to the central and supreme event in this story of the Kingdom, how God perfectly revealed himself in Jesus Christ, and how with Christ there began the new epoch in the making of the new earth.

The Teacher's Preparation

Two steps are necessary in the preparation of every lesson by the teacher. He must first master the material of the lesson; he must then plan how to teach it. Mastery of the material will best be accomplished by studying the chapter

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in accordance with the "Suggestions for Study" on page 14 of the textbook. This involves, first, a grasp of the outline of each chapter, then a study of it in detail with the Scripture references, and finally a thoughtful consideration of the questions raised in the "Directions for Study" at the end of each chapter. Let your study be thorough, that your class may be enriched by it.

Distinguish clearly between your personal study of the lesson and your plan of teaching. Make your study as thorough as possible, then plan for the teaching of the lesson. (1) Each lesson is part of a larger campaign; connect it with what has gone before. This will make clearer its own meaning and will conserve your past work. (2) Each lesson may be considered a campaign. Decide what your object is to be and then the means of accomplishing it. (3) Learn how to omit. Center upon the main points you have selected and make these clear and strong by illustration and discussion.

Always think in terms of the minds of your class. They must do more than listen to you. *Plan to keep them actively judging and reflecting, forming and expressing opinions upon the material of the lesson.* See that as many as possible have the textbook and read and study. Make definite assignments and follow them up. Encourage the expression of opinions, especially when they are based on study. Help them to study by carefully explaining at the beginning the proper use of the textbook. Show them how to carry out the "Suggestions for Study" included there.

Guard against too many applications and too much moralizing. Make clear the teaching of Jesus and it will speak for itself. To make these teachings clear, however, and to make the work of the class vital and interesting, it will be well to illustrate the principles of Jesus by constant reference to present-day conditions and problems.

Concerning Reviewing

During this course a great deal of stress will be laid upon reviewing, and for two reasons. First, it is only thus that we can conserve results as we go along, fixing in mind what is important to retain. Second, by such reviewing we get hold

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS TO THE TEACHER

of the connection and meaning of the whole instead of being lost in details.

In such reviewing certain principles are important, whether the review cover a few lessons or a half year. (1) Review with a method. Find some plan by which you can state the principal points clearly, simply, and under a few main heads. (2) Select your material with great care. Pick out essentials, and do not confuse by the mass. Learn how to omit. (3) While taking up this old material, make each review as fresh and attractive as possible in its method.

The Use of the Bible

Finally, a word as to the use of the Bible in this course. Too often in our Bible study we simply pick out a few verses and ask, "What does it teach, and what must we do?" We have made the Bible a book of theology and a book of morals. But the Bible is far more than this: it is a book of life. In this course we shall study it as such; not as so many writings dropped down from heaven, but as the record of what God has been doing in men and with men. Our great interest will not be the letter of the writing, but the life out of which the writings grew. We must study this life, what it was, and how it came to be and what it meant. Such a study will make the Bible live for us as never before, and will make it not simply a story of life in the past, but a giver of life to us now.

HARRIS FRANKLIN RALL.