

Creating An Outline Using the Central Theme

When we begin to make a teaching outline it is necessary to understand **the central theme that is being taught**. This should permeate the thrust of the entire lesson. Expository outlines (expose what a passage teaches) and topical outlines (teach on a particular topic). Expository outlines and topical outlines will be different based on how the central theme is derived. (Textual outlines, another category, simply identify what is said in the text.)

An expository outline derives the central theme directly from a single passage of scripture. Whereas a topical outline will be based upon a particular theme, truth or topic sourcing multiple passages.

Regardless of whether you are developing an expository outline or a topical outline it is derived from the Word of God. In addition, regardless of whether you are developing an expository outline or a topical outline to teach affectively you should develop the outline based on the central theme.

Basic Outline Instructions

An outline should follow a standardized format. There are many different standardized formats available. Whichever you choose, be consistent. The use of colors, *italics*, **bolding**, underlining, punctuation, font size, and indentations can be important keys to help you teach better.

A suggested format –

Introduction: How will you introduce the main subject?

I. Main Points (Bold, Font Size – 16pt)

A. Sub Points 1 (Bold, Font Size – 14pt)

1. Support Point (Font size – 13pt)
2. Support Point
3. Support Point

B. Sub Point 2 (Bold, Font Size – 14pt)

1. Support Point (Font size – 13pt)
2. Support Point (Font size – 13pt)

Should support the main point. Should show a logical progression.

Should support the sub point. Should show a logical progression.

Conclusion: How will you review and tie together the entire outline? Ensure you are showing the student how to apply what they are being taught throughout the lesson and at the end.