

I grew up in Belmont, MS which is a small town in Tishomingo County sitting in the northeast corner of the state. I went to church at Liberty Church of Christ, a well established congregation in that community that my family still attends to this day. I remember a lot of positive influences from my youth including my parents, grandparents, and various Bible class teachers to name a few.

As many of you may know, I've been helping teach Bible Classes for at least 17 years. I've helped with kids classes all the way up thru adult classes. My wife Samantha helps as well and we usually work with the kids classes each year. But when I think about WHY I help teach youth, I cannot help but think of a couple of people outside of my family influence that made an impression on me.

One person's name is Don Lee. Don taught me and three other youngsters in the 3rd and 4th grade. I remember thinking at 9-10 years old, "who is this guy?" and "why is he (a man) teaching us young kids?". So I asked him something to the effect of: "Mr. Lee, why do you teach kids when most of the time women do that?". I remember him thinking for a minute and he said, "someone taught me when I was older, and I was so thankful and felt the need to teach others, so this is where I landed." That stuck with me. His explanation made a lot of sense and I can honestly say it made an impact. Here was a guy that was so thankful for someone sharing the gospel with him that he wanted to give back, and he didn't care if it was kids, adults, etc, he wanted to teach where he fit. I appreciated that then and I appreciate it more now. You never may know the influence you can have on people, especially kids, and what overall impact that may have in their lives.

Another significant impact on me was Uncle Freeman's Bible. Freeman Gray married into our family and he was actually my great uncle, but I always called him Uncle Freeman. And like Don Lee, someone had taught him when he was older and once that fire was lit, he was extremely passionate about the word of God. And let me tell you, his Bible was something to see. It was covered in cross references, hand written notes, highlight marks of all kinds of colors. Every page was completely covered in extra notes he personally made thru his own study and years of work. Remember, this was during time before easy to get resources, quick references, Google, etc. His passion for the Word of God made an impact of me in my early teens.

So why do I help teach Bible class? I can honestly say it is because of influences like these men and many others that have helped me along the way.

Your influence matters. Weather it's teaching, encouraging, helping with worship, fellowship meals, evangelizing, media, or just being a positive person in your daily walk. You never know who is watching and what God has planned for the seeds that you plant along the way. Be encouraged in your walk with God and your good works, it is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 ESV

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."

Matthew 5:13-16 ESV

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

