



The Flying Start

Trainer guidelines

1. What counts is a sincere desire.

The Flying Start is actually a foundation course on paper. It is therefore very suitable teaching material for the local church. In addition, *The Flying Start* is perfect for cell groups or for one-on-one contacts. The material is designed in such a way that even if one has just become a Christian, knowing hardly anything about the Bible, it does not matter. What counts is a sincere desire to help others understand the basics of Christian living.

2. Preparation

These trainer guidelines show you the way how to get started. The advantage of following these guidelines is that you might dare to enter the unknown with more confidence. It is a proven method, so that you do not have to reinvent the wheel, as it were.

"Trainer" is a "big" word as it suggests leadership. If you teach the foundation course in your local church, you are indeed a leader. But when you guide one or two people through *The Flying Start*, you are also leading, albeit it very informally. You "lead" others into truths about the Christian faith without a leadership title.

In order to prepare read *The Flying Start* a few times and look up the Scripture references. The need for a thorough examination of the material is vital, but nothing is as important as interceding specifically for the students and for the lesson you are preparing. For example, if the subject is water baptism, then pray that you will be able to explain the subject clearly, that hearts will be receptive and that everyone will choose to be baptized. You will discover that your heavenly Father delights in what you are doing and wants to help you in every aspect. Yes, the enemy will try to thwart you, but many of those obstacles disappear through prayer and whatever is left you simply overcome by doing what you have to do and by persevering.

3. Course layout

The most obvious way of structuring the teaching material is by dividing it into eight lessons. Depending on the students, you can decide how in depth the various sections of the course need to be. The duration of the course may be as long or as short as you want it to be, but a good starting point is to plan for eight meetings and then see how it goes from there. Be flexible about the way you structure the course and inform your students about your approach. You will find the layout of the eight lessons on the last page.

4. During the lesson

It is best not to let a lesson go on for longer than an hour and a half, so that everyone can absorb the material effectively. Welcome the students with a cup of tea or coffee fifteen minutes before the start, so that they feel relaxed and ready to focus on the lesson.

A simple but very effective teaching method is to read the book together and to



look up the Bible verses that are not quoted verbatim. Feel free to share testimonies and personal discoveries that relate to the subject material. In general, students like to hear your personal stories because they make the course more interesting and the students often relate well to these.

You can choose to answer questions immediately or ask students to wait until the end of the session. Both styles have their advantages and disadvantages. However, do inform your students as to what style you have chosen before the start of the lesson. It is not a problem if you do not know the answer to a question. Just say that you will find out and let them know the answer next time.

If there are no more questions, feel free to do something creative with the lesson. You can ask a general question like, "What appealed to you in today's lesson?" During the lesson about water baptism, you could ask if everybody has been baptized. Ask a person who has been baptized to give a personal testimony and take the time afterwards to talk to those who have not yet been baptized. Challenge the people during the lesson on the Word of God to commit themselves to a Reading your Bible in a Year program. Agree with the students to have a day of prayer and fasting. Spend time together in praise and worship after the lesson on "Life of worship". That may either be a time of singing or praying together. Make the lesson on personal evangelism practical by challenging the students to take someone along to *The Flying Start* course or to the worship service. Alternatively, you can go out onto the streets to hand out invitations and share the Gospel on an evening when the shops are open. The possibilities are endless and as a trainer you can be as creative as you would like to be.

Make sure you take time to pray together at the close of each meeting. If students need personal prayer, then make room for this and pray for them. A good guideline in terms of time spent for the closing prayer is fifteen minutes.

5. Tests

For each lesson a test has been developed. This is a useful tool to see if the student has understood the subject material. Tests and answer sheets can be downloaded from the website of the series: www.victoriousliving.eu. The material on this site is freely available to everyone and can therefore be accessed by your students. So ask them not to "cheat" by downloading the answer sheets.

Download the tests from the website and hand out copies at the end of the lesson. Explain to the students that the test was designed to see whether they have understood the subject material. Almost all answers can be found in the book. The test is an open book test: the students are allowed to look the answers up in *The Flying Start*.

Different arrangements regarding the submission date for assignments are possible. The most common deadline is one week, handing it in at the next lesson. The following week the students receive their graded tests back along with a copy of the corresponding answer sheet.

There are several scoring systems one can choose from. If you choose to give a grade or percentage, be consistent but also generous in your assessment. Do not forget to take the time to explain a second time what the student has not understood. In the end it is not about grades, but whether everybody has a good understanding of these Bible truths.



Giving out certificates is a good idea, if the student has completed the course successfully. However, the main objective of the course is that the student has received the complete Peter Package and has got off to a flying start in Jesus!

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Course Layout

Lesson	Title	Subject material
1.	Why Jesus?	Chapter 1
2.	The Peter Package (part 1) - Repentance and water baptism	Chapter 2 §2.1-2.8
3.	The Peter Package (part 2) - Baptism in the Holy Spirit	Chapter 2 §2.9-2.16
4.	Eternal life	Chapter 3
5.	The Word of God	Chapter 4 §4.1-4.10
6.	Prayer and fasting	Chapter 4 §4.11-4.25
7.	Life of worship	Chapter 4 §4.26-4.29
8.	Personal evangelism	Chapter 4 §4.30-4.33

