

## Excellent Teachers: Effective Communication in the Classroom

As Christian academics, we are called to teach with excellence in the classroom. Excellence in education involves both the character and the practices of the instructor. What are the attributes of an excellent teacher? What teaching practices enhance the learning process? How can Christian academics build relationships with their students? This session will present essential characteristics of a good teacher as well as teaching practices which help learning to occur in the university or seminary classroom.

**Teri McCarthy** earned her PhD in education and second language acquisition from the University of Kansas. She also has a Master's Degree in education and a Bachelor's Degree in mass communication and journalism. Teri co-authored *Teaching in a Distant Classroom* (InterVarsity Press), a handbook for Christian professors, which is now in its third printing and has been published in Korean as well. She has traveled, taught, and conducted research in more than 50 countries. Teri has taught in public universities internationally for over 30 years, including in China, Russia, and Afghanistan. From 2010 until recently she taught in Lithuania, including six years as associate professor at Lithuania University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius.

### I. Teach Well to Teach Good

#### A. Characteristics of a Godly Teacher

#### B. Creating Intentional Curriculum

#### C. The Classroom as a Sanctuary

### II. Jesus – The Model Teacher

#### A. Knowing Your Students and Their Needs

#### B. Using the Concrete to Explain the Abstract

#### C. Modeling Behavior/Setting an Example

### III. Nuts-n-Bolts and Practical Ideas

#### ***Suggested Readings:***

Friedeman, Matt. (1990). *The Master Plan of Teaching: Understanding and Applying the Teaching Styles of Jesus*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Romanowski, M. & McCarthy, T. (2009). *Teaching in a Distant Classroom: Crossing Borders for Global Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press

Lewis, C. S. (1996). *The Abolition of Man*. (5th ed.). New York: Touchstone. (Originally published 1944).