

TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

Adapted from www.sundayschoolresources.com

Build Relationships - The most frequent comment voiced by newcomers who do not return is that no one spoke to them or was friendly toward them. Class leaders must be intentional about drawing newcomers into the life of the class as soon as they enter the room. Find a "host" in your class who can sit with the newcomers in class and "adopt" them for the rest of the morning

Make Your Classroom Warm - A good first impression is also important - both with people and the classroom appearance. The appearance of the class creates an atmosphere that is felt as you enter a room. Chair arrangement, items on walls and other decorations create an impression. Make sure your room is positive and warm.

Make Them Feel Important: Here is a checklist to see if your class is accomplishing that task:

Are they accepted?

Do you call them by name once they have introduced themselves?

Does your class use nametags to make sure newcomers learn members' names more quickly?

Are they given the resources they need to fit in, such as member books, newsletters and so forth?

Are they invited to come back again?

Avoid Embarrassing Situations - Making people feel welcome also includes avoiding embarrassing them. Never ask people to read or pray aloud unless they volunteer. Be careful what kind of questions you ask them to answer.

Be Prepared - If a teacher can help a class flow well, use a variety of teaching approaches and generally make the class interesting and meaningful, then people will want to return. A discovery-oriented approach to learning is good because it affirms that each person has something of value to contribute to the discussion and encourages each person present to participate.

TIPS TO REMEMBER...

QUALITIES OF A GOOD TEACHER (ACCORDING TO CHILDREN)

Can pronounce words good

Sweet but strict

Teaches the best he knows how

One that will have fun with you

You can always laugh with a good teacher

One who is not fussy!

Be able to talk so that kids can understand

Be funny sometimes

A teacher that makes learning fun

Not grouchy, but happy

Doesn't get steamed over some little thing

Sets a good example

The teacher shouldn't talk too much, but let the pupils say something

Does things with the lesson besides read it

WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHOD?

The answer depends on the children in the class. Some children can listen and learn. Others learn by doing. Some learn well on their own. Others need the interaction of a group. Using a variety of methods may be the best approach. The following teaching techniques might give you ideas that will work well in your class.

1. Teach by Example.

2. Alternate between active and inactive approaches. For example, you could start with Brain Teasers. Then you could lead a nature walk to identify all the things God created. Follow that with the Bible story where the children listen quietly and answer questions. Then you could do a craft or a game. This approach provides for planned energy releases and helps prevent boredom.

3. Go Outside. Children love the outdoors. You can teach about Life in Biblical Times by serving a snack of unleavened bread and dates on a blanket spread on the ground outside. Or you can re-enact the story of the day. Or let them learn to play together on the playground. Just be sure to come in with the same number of children you went out with.

4. Use Music. Recruit a guitar, piano, or keyboard player to lead songs, or use a CD with lyrics included so that you can teach the song.

5. Use Art. Children love to express themselves. Choose an activity they can complete by themselves or with minimal supervision to build their confidence. They can draw a picture showing what they learned. Or they can colour a Colouring Page.

6. Use Repetition. Choose a Bible Story Activity, Brain Teaser, Memory Verse, and Game that all reinforce the same lesson you are teaching that day.

7. Use Visual Aids. Prepare a wall-sized version of an activity, such as memorizing the Ten Commandments. List the books of the Bible on the wall. Print out pictures or let the children draw pictures of what they learned and hang those on the wall.

8. Use Individual Activities. Schedule at least one activity each Sunday that will require each child to learn individually. Or each student can draw a picture or write in a journal.

9. Use Group Activities. This encourages the development of social skills and reinforces the Bible Truth that God wants us to have friends and work together (Genesis 2:18).

10. Watch a movie. There are a number of good short movies (20 to 50 minutes) that tell the story of a Biblical character or event. Use role play to act out the story.

TIPS TO REMEMBER...
