

How to Teach a Class

What are the time requirements outside of class?

You don't want to get into a commitment that requires too much time. There are no official requirements. Some teachers take 15 minutes a week to prepare for the lesson & class time. Some take more, some less. Since the curriculum is already there, it just takes a little time reading the teacher book. Then, you would pick out things like a game, craft, or something. Then gather the craft supplies from the store room or classroom closet. Before class begins, it is helpful to review the registrations binder, for things like food allergies. Lastly, there may be a little need to arrange some chairs or organize some toys. During the week, you may feel lead to call a student or something, but that is as your schedule allows. It is recommended that you help the Director keep an eye out for those who could help save you time. Feel free to delegate whenever you need, and to ask for help when your schedule prohibits you from a desired task.

Steps to becoming a fully prepared and trained teacher:

- Step 1: Get inaugurated as a volunteer (read policies and complete application form)
- Step 2: Become familiar with the classroom, & supplies
- Step 3: Check out the Teacher's pack.
- Step 4: Watch someone else do it.
- Step 5: Try teaching on a trial basis.

Leading a Child to Christ:

Note: For preschool kids, we focus on explaining gospel-foundation truths. Salvation prayers are not the focus. Otherwise, more teaching tips are available and even a book on the subject.

1. Explain that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. You can refer to the PrayABC's if you like, or distribute the "God is Real" Brochure.
2. Give kids an opportunity every week to pray a salvation prayer or a prayer of getting closer to God.
3. Identify kids who seem to have a meaningful moment where they want to begin a relationship with God. Communicate to parents/shepherds and Director. The decision card in your folders can help with this.

Starting off the class:

When students come in, ascertain if they are registered or not. Ideally parents should complete the registration form if they haven't done so yet(perhaps after class). Mark the attendance form for kids who are present. To help make the rooms secure at drop off and pick up times, unknown or unscreened adults should not be in the class without your questioning who they are and what they want. Refer to our policies for information about how we authorize adults to be in close proximity to children.

Every Week Before Class Begins:

ALWAYS CHECK FOR ALLERGIES BEFORE GIVING SNACKS. LOOK IN THE REGISTRATION BOOK BEFORE CLASS. Become familiar with the other notes in the registration book that have to do with behavior and other things that teachers should know about students.

Creative ways to present the story/lesson:

Use drama, props, snacks, vivid word pictures. See the article called teaching the Bible Creatively and ones related to story telling. Variety and ideas are available.

Topics to stay away from

Generally, it is wise to stay away from highly controversial political topics in children's ministry. It is very important to teach the Bible about certain topics, but the delivery and timing of such topics should be the parents responsibility. Topics include things like sex, extremely disgusting/graphic things, abortion, homosexuality. Additionally, topics like death, hell, end time judgments, biblical atrocities of mass death, are usually not good to use as leverage for getting kids to be closer to God, but should be mentioned only as detailed by curriculum and only with a tone of sadness, and a heart of sensitivity to the tender nature of children (especially children who may have experienced the death of a loved one).

Tactics to stay away from. . .

Shame. This is making kids embarrassed in front of their peers, or implying that a child's poor behavior is because there is something wrong with the child (ie. not "you did wrong," but "you are wrong."). Shame is particularly damaging to older children as peer relations are becoming top priority.

Teacher Arrogance/Authoritarian attitude. This is when a teacher forgets humility and forgets the Christlike example of being a servant leader who is ready to wash feet of children. Never say things like "You should sit down, because I am the teacher and you are just a kid." If you are more offended by a challenge to your authority than the real condition of the child's heart before God, breathe in of God's love, and exhale that of your powerless authority. Respect is important, but demanding it is not as effective as earning it with love and patience. Fear motivated adherence to your authority may just be a outward going through the motions while the child's heart is not in it.

Tips for teaching these things are in the on line library and also physical resources on these things are in the office:

- Games
- Snacks
- Crafts
- Activities
- Prizes
- Puppets
- Drama
- Story telling
- Attention Grabbers
- Teacher tips & Inspiration