

TEACHING IDEAS FOR KIDS CONNECTION TEACHERS AND AIDS

This section is dedicated to particularly help those who teach children or aid or substitute in **Sunday school classes**.

If you would like more ideas for Kids Connection—AWANA, some of the ideas in this section might be helpful but some will not apply and on the AWANA page is a section for *Ideas* that might be more useful.

The hope is that this section will be a fluid one where teachers can come for new ideas and share things which work for them in their classrooms so that we grow in our ability as teachers to relate to our students. **Check in from time to time** on the next pdf file (*Forum for Ideas*) to see if you might learn something yourself!!

Format

Basic Notes for Teachers in Sunday School Type Classes How to Share the Gospel with Children

Forum for Sharing Ideas in Teaching (Go to the next pdf file—Forum for Ideas)

From notes on TEACHER ENRICHMENT 2005

I. Teaching is a Spiritual Calling

- A. **Teaching is a high calling**
- B. Recognizing the call/the gift
 - 1. Desire confirmed by God
 - 2. Affirmed by others, proven by experience
- C. Goals
 - 1. Reaching
 - 2. Teaching
- D. **Show the children Jesus**—why He is central and why He is who we teach

- E. Two means
 - **1. **Conduct** (behavior) as we model and relate to children
 - 2. **Message** (lessons) we teach
- F. Pray, pray, pray

II. The Importance of Children

- A. God, the Father's value of children (Deut. 6)
- B. Jesus' value of children
- C. Children are a mission field
- D. Children are the future of the Church and the World

III. How to Teach Christianly

- A. Start with the God—**Prayer** (Depending on the H.S.)
- B. **Remember Goals**—both the overall (Reach and Teach) and for the individual lesson
- C. **Remember the Means**—both the overall (Conduct and Message)

(Every teacher can model and bring out the relationship aspect of Christian faith and the message of each lesson.)

It is all about relationship!!

(Example of log illustration...we are not to just be piling on logs on the hearth of their minds, but pointing out the difference between a hearth on fire and one that is not!!)

In other words, it's saving knowledge at heart level and not just knowledge that saves!!

IV. Practical Helps in Teaching

A. Style

1. Different styles are acceptable, but a good teacher knows that the **best teaching is a combination of Conduct and effective delivery of Message.**
2. **Good teachers get better.** They pray, take constructive suggestions, **think outside the box**, and understand that their culture is changing and know their children.
3. **Be prepared.** Think ahead and anticipate how children might relate, how to word things best, and how to move smoothly from one activity to another.
4. **Be flexible**
5. A positive sense of **humor** with oneself and others.
6. Discipline is far less a problem with all of the above in mind...Keep it positive with rewards. Keep the pace going; be organized especially between changes of events. Ask for help if needed.

B. Recognize Importance of Senses

Different types of learners—auditory, visual, and tactile. Most are a combination.

C. Recognize Different Gender Issues

1. **Physical differences that make learning more challenging for boys. (Sitting, activities need to be physical, stories need to appeal to boys)**
2. Social—boys generally don't verbalize as well.

3. Emotional/Spiritual—(girls relate better to being pursued, boys to being challenged as a representative of God.)

V. *Mechanics (This Section is unique for SS teachers and not really applicable to other type settings.)*

A. Informal Time

1. Individual Time
2. Snack
3. Review Verses
4. Activity (can relate to something in the story or verse as a teaser)

B. Story

1. Make it a **special time**. Gather together. Avoid reading. Make good eye contact.
2. Prepare—**be a good storyteller**.
3. **Tell the story different ways**.
4. In telling the story **appeal to the senses**, make connections, let them see Jesus.
5. Be careful to **explain abstract ideas**.
6. **Have children repeat** or teacher repeats in different ways the core message, difficult words.

C. Wrap-up Message

1. Ask **good questions** for involvement and for checking their understanding.
2. Allow them to ask questions, too.
3. **End with what the story has to say to our lives**. Stress that the Bible is not just a book. God is speaking to our hearts which need to be challenged and changed.

D. Follow-up Activity (if time)

1. Learn verses or catechism in different ways.
2. Use games, activities, or take-home papers.

E. Prayer Time (somewhere in the class schedule)

Please, all teachers should participate in all aspects of a Sunday School class when members are together. During music time, teachers and aids can sing along with the musicians and children.

From Notes on SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN

Five Facts of the Faith

- * We have all sinned. (Rom. 3:23)
- * God is holy and must punish sin. No unpunished sin(ner) will be allowed into His perfect heaven. (Rom. 6:23; Heb. 12:22, 23; Rev. 21)
- * We can do nothing to save ourselves, to work our way to God. (Is. 64:6; John 14:6)
- * God sent Christ to die, taking the punishment for our sin. (Rom. 5:8)
- * God assures us that as we confess our sins and believe that Jesus is God's Son sent to take our punishment He forgives our sins. Our way to heaven is secure. (John 3:16; John 11: 28)

Leading a Child to Christ

Who? The Holy Spirit...What a privilege it is to be used of God to lead a person to faith in Jesus! However, we need to remember who the most important person is in the counseling situation. The Holy Spirit is the One who takes the Word of God and convicts the child of his or her need. We serve as a guide in leading the young person to Christ. Rely on the Holy Spirit to work in the child, in you and through you...***pray, pray, pray!!!***

Where? *Privately, preferably***...**Challenging a group of children to put their trust in Jesus is appropriate, but as you have opportunities to counsel with children, seek to do so individually. This allows you to focus on their individual needs, discerning where they are in relationship to the Lord. While individual counseling is encouraged, you should never counsel a child in isolation. . *Always make sure that others can see you for your protection (legally) as well as the protection of the child.*

What? The Bible... **Use your Bible when counseling children.** This tells them that God's Word is their counselor and source of help. Explain the passages you use and ask questions to discern their understanding. Illustrating with situations, stories, or drawings is a great way to teach. Finally help them apply the passage to themselves. i.e. "For God so loved (*insert their name*), that He sent His only Son..."

How? Sharing Thoughtfully...

Be sensitive to the child's needs. Use probing questions to discern a child's need. You do not know what they are thinking, so do not presume. As you ask questions you will find out in what areas of their lives the Spirit is bringing conviction.

Share the facts of the faith. (See p. 10) Use illustrations (both visual and otherwise) to explain some of the spiritual and abstract concepts like faith, trust, sin, etc. For example, use the five-bead bracelet. Refer to Christ as the Person of Jesus, especially with younger children.

Invite the child to trust Christ. Use terms carefully. Sometimes the terms we use can subtly shift the focus off the real issue—trusting Jesus—and can also be confusing to younger or less spiritually trained minds. Examples:

NOT: "Give your heart to Jesus." *This is not what God asks us to do. We are not saved by giving anything to God; rather He gives us everything. (Col. 2:10)*

NOT: "Give your life to God." *This is very abstract for little children and again, we are saved when He gives us life. (I John 5:11)*

NOT: "Ask Jesus into your heart." *The Bible doesn't instruct us to do this. We are not saved by asking Jesus into our heart; rather His Spirit comes to indwell us when we believe or trust in Christ's death to save us.*

NOT: "Would you like to pray to receive Christ?" *That is not what the New Testament asks us to do. The issue is not praying, but trusting. The danger is that the person could end up trusting in a prayer to save them rather than trusting in Christ. (Acts 16:31)*

******Use examples to explain or illustrate abstract, spiritual and/or difficult concepts. See the following forum at the end for suggestions and ideas and resources for more ideas.******

Give assurance. Doubts occur when we subtly shift our faith from Christ's work on the cross to ourselves or something else. Assurance can only come as we are convinced that Jesus died for our sins. Salvation and assurance are based on the work of salvation—His death for sin; and the response of the sinner—faith.

Try to determine what the child is really depending on to get to heaven. Ask them what they would say to God if He were to ask, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" Their answer will expose what they are trusting in for salvation.

For example, if they say, "I prayed a prayer when I was younger," they are trusting in a prayer and not Jesus' death. Point out that Christ did all that was required to pay for sins when he died on the cross. What God wants us to do is believe this.

You can ask: "Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins?"

"Are you depending on His death for forgiveness of your sins?"

What the Child Needs to Understand

* God is holy and cannot tolerate the presence of sin. (Ex. 15:11; Rev. 21:27)

* We are all sinners. We are born with a sin nature that causes us to sin. (Rom. 3:23; Is. 64:6; Jer. 17:9)

* God must punish sin. This punishment is eternal separation from Him in hell. (Rom 6:23; Rev. 20:15; 21:8; Is. 59:2; Matt 13:49, 50)

* There is nothing that we can do to take away our sin. (Titus 3:5; John 14:6; Is. 64:6)

* God sent His son, Jesus Christ (who is God) to die in our place, taking the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. He rose again proving that God accepted his sacrifice. (11 Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24; I Cor. 15:3, 4; Rom. 5:8, Heb. 9:22; Is 53:5)

* We must put our trust in Christ, believing (relying or resting) on His death to satisfy God so that He forgives our sins. (John 3:16; Rom 4:5; Acts. 16:31; John 20:31)

* The purpose of salvation is to bring glory to God by becoming more and more like Christ. As His disciples we will want to obey, maintain fellowship with Him and do good works through the power of His Holy Spirit. When we do sin, fellowship with God is hindered, but as we acknowledge our sin then fellowship is restored. (Rom. 8:29, Eph 2: 10; I John 1:9; II Tim. 2:19)

Final Note:

Salvation is a trust issue. **Make the issue trusting Christ!** We are not saved by praying a prayer, walking an aisle, or asking Jesus into our hearts. We are saved by God's grace through faith. Sometimes we shift the focus off His work and rely on the fact that we prayed a prayer or had some religious experience. There is nothing wrong with having a child pray, but make the issue trusting Christ, **not praying a prayer**. Instead of saying, "Would you like to pray to receive Christ?" say, "Would you like to pray, telling God you are trusting in Jesus' death to save you?"

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