

Teacher Training for Children's Ministry

Introduction- Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" -Matt. 18:3. In this verse, Jesus is speaking to adults. He knew that before adults can be saved, they must have childlike qualities, such as

- Humility (opposite of pride)
- Teachableness (open minded)
- Faith (simple and childlike)

Jesus also said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." -Matt. 19:14

Children are important to Jesus. And Since they are important to Jesus, they should be important to us.

If you are currently, or have been thinking about working with children, would you consider the following:

- **Your personal relationship with God**

- A. It's impossible to put out what you don't take in spiritually. The Holy Spirit needs to fill you. Eph. 5:18
- B. Your personal Bible reading Psalm 119:105
- C. Your personal prayer times Matthew 6:6, Philipians 4:6,7
- D. Your church attendance is vital to your Christian growth.
Hebrews 10:25-31
 - ❖ God wants us to worship together. We need to edify one another. If you miss church services, you miss opportunities to be feed spiritually, and encourage others.
- E. Our ministry to children, is an expression of our love and faith in our God. If we love Jesus, would we not love what he loves.

- **Your relationship with the children and their families**

I John 4:7-11

- A. Learn their names and pray for them by name. The more you pray for the children in your class, the more love you will show, even to the “hard to love” child.
- B. Take an interest in them. While they are doing worksheets or having snacks, sit at the table with them. Ask about their week, school, siblings, pets, or anything that encourages conversation.
- C. Send a card or give a small gift on their birthday. Look for ways to make them feel special. Also send a postcard if they are absent, or sick. Let them know you missed them and hope to see them next week.
- D. Call or text your kids/ parents, **especially** if the child has been absent for two consecutive weeks.
- E. Visit the home, share on the commendable qualities of your student, and offer prayer. Consider once a month to go with another teacher or helper to see all your children. Seeing where they live will help you pray for them.
- F. The above is based on the discipline and art of recording the essential contact information for your students. It should be a priority to gather their names, address, phone and guardian details. Once gathered, store the info for your use, and share the info with the pastor.

- **Lesson Preparation**

A. Begin early in the week. Read the scriptures and lesson several times. This gives the Lord time to help you come up with creative ideas to add to your lesson. 2 Timothy 2:15

B. Pray. No matter how much time you spend preparing the lesson, your ultimate success will reflect your dependence on the Lord. Jeremiah 33:3

- ❖ Ask God to speak to you first.
- ❖ Ask Him to help you with ideas to make your lesson fun and interesting.
- ❖ Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to speak through you, and touch the Children's heart.
- ❖ Pray for specific areas in your class that are difficult or need improvement.

C. Make an outline or write the main points of your lesson on 3x5 cards. What is the main idea that you are wanting to communicate?

D. Write out the order of class activities. For an example, here is how I would write the order for Jr church class:

- ❖ Sing a couple songs
- ❖ Skit
- ❖ Memory verse/ game
- ❖ Prayer time
- ❖ Song
- ❖ Bible lesson
- ❖ Discussion questions/ game
- ❖ Craft or coloring sheet
- ❖ Fun game

E. Say the memory verse to yourself a few times, and make sure you know the songs you want to sing.

F. For older children, use reference books, bible dictionary, etc.

G. Get organized. Gather your visuals, songs, crafts, object lessons, etc.

- **How to teach children**

- A. Teach them to pray. Jeremiah 29:12

- ❖ Designate a prayer time.
 - ❖ Take their prayer requests. Either write them on the board, or let children write them on paper and collect. Mark 11:24.
 - ❖ Pray for them out loud.
 - ❖ Encourage them to pray. Encourage them to tell God something they are thankful for. 1 Thess. 5:18

- B. Sing songs. Singing teaches Bible truths and provides movement. Col. 3:16

- ❖ Have the children stand and sing action songs to break up the Bible lesson and memory verse time.
 - ❖ If you don't feel comfortable singing, play kids Christian/Bible music from Spotify, or another source.

- C. Tell the Bible lesson

- ❖ Hold the Bible and read it to the class. It is so important that they see that it is God's word your reading not your word. Older children may enjoy reading the verses. Psalm 119:97
 - ❖ Don't read your lesson word for word. You should know the main points. It's a good idea to write down the main points and use it as a reference. It's better to forget a few things and keep their interest, than to keep your eyes glued on your lesson, while the kids are bored, and become disruptive.
 - ❖ Make eye contact. If your eyes are focused on the lesson, because you don't know the main points, it's hard to read the faces of your class.
 - ❖ Flash cards are a good visual, but they are only one. Use other forms of visuals.
 - ✓ Flannel graph
 - ✓ Common objects for illustrations (like a rock; a hammer; a sword; etc. all illustrate the Bible)

✓ Media for sounds, images, or animation

D. Teach the memory verse

- ❖ Introduce the verse from the Bible, so children know the words are God's words, not yours. Psalm 119:11
- ❖ Explain the meaning of the verse, one phrase at a time, explaining hard to understand words. You may need to look up words before class. Be prepared ahead of time.
- ❖ Say the verse together a few times. Be sure to use good expression, so the children will use good expression. Play a memory verse game. Use the internet to find games, there are so many ideas available for free.

E. Play a review game, or discussion questions, or do a craft that relates to your lesson.

F. If there's still time, play a game that gets the children having fun!

- **Classroom management**

- A. Create an inviting setting. Update decorations, posters, Bible verse poster etc. Maybe decorate the room by season. Don't be afraid to ask if the church budget allows for the purchase of helpful decorations and visuals. (Pinterest has great ideas, and Hobby Lobby has supplies.)

- B. Get to class early.

- ❖ Don't arrive on time. To arrive on time is to be late. Arrive early enough that you have time to get organized. Consider what supplies, activities, anything that needs to be written on the board, this all should be done before class starts. Class time starts when the first child arrives.

- C. Greet each child by name as they enter the classroom.

- ❖ Note- Jr. Church teachers, you must go down to class before the kids are dismissed from the worship service. This gives you control at the beginning of class. If you are serving, such as singing a special, your helper should be in the class waiting for children to arrive.

- D. Please clean up your classroom

- ❖ Put supplies away

- ❖ Wipe tables and chairs if any food or drink has been served.

- ❖ Put chairs on table or in the closet. The vacuum will not operate in a room of tables and chairs. This needs to be done after every class use. Don't assume someone else is using the room after you and they will gather the chairs. Please don't stack the chairs in the corner of the room. Suggestion: only take out the chairs you will use, instead of every chair available?

- ❖ Don't forget to turn off the lights, ceiling fan, and lock any window you may have opened.

- **Behavior Issues**

- A. Encourage Good Behavior

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9ltAgPnWhM#action=share>

- ❖ Post classroom rules where they can be seen. Before you begin class, remind children how important it is to follow the rules. There are several ideas for classroom rules on Pinterest. Here's a sample of rules I found online. I like these because there's only three, and they apply to everything.

- ✓ **Respect God & His Word.** This rule is based on Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and reminds us that rules come from God and that everything we do is about God. The motion for the rule is to point up. This means that we listen when someone is reading the Bible or praying. Remember, we're here to learn about God.

- ✓ **Respect Teachers & Leaders.** This rule is based on Hebrews 13:17 which reminds us that God instituted authority over us. The motion for this rule is to salute one of our teachers. This means that we listen when an adult is talking. We should participate and do what we're told to do.

- ✓ **Respect Each Other.** This rule is based on Hebrews 10:24-25 which teaches us the importance of the gathered church. The motion for this rule is to point to our neighbors. This means that we need to be kind, loving & encouraging to our classmates. This also means that we need to keep our hands & feet to ourselves and refrain from distracting each other.

- ❖ Be pleasant and smile at your children. This shows love.
- ❖ Speak calmly and quietly, don't yell. We want to be an example of respect. Children lose respect for you when you yell at them.
- ❖ Maintain eye contact.
- ❖ Compliment good behavior and class participation such as answering questions, etc.
- ❖ Keep things moving, so class is not boring. Plan
- ❖ more activities than what you need. (Especially for Jr church)
- ❖ Give opportunities to move. Stand and sing a song, have them jump in place 5 times, or bend down and touch their toes etc.... make it fun!

B. What to do about misbehavior?

This is where a helper is essential. It is the helper's job to address disruptions so the teacher can lead the class without having to call out bad behavior from the front of the class.

- ❖ If you need to correct a child, quietly call the child's name or whisper in their ear to get his or her attention. Remind them of the class rules.
- ❖ If the child continues disrupting, move them away from the others and sit beside them.
- ❖ If a child persists in disobeying and disrupting the class, it may be necessary to take the child out of the class and have him or her sit with Mr. Doug or Mr. James. Don't allow a situation to continue. It may keep others from learning and enjoying class time.

- **How to lead a child to Christ**

It's important to know at least a few bible verse you can look up and read to a child. We will be using the wordless book as the main tool to lead a child to Christ.