

## **Resuscitating Sunday School: If you have to do it, you might as well do it right!**

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Change...

- The name. Call it something that reflects your desired outcome.
- The purpose. The original purpose was to teach people how to read English. Have a clear understanding of why we're doing what we're doing.
- The location. Sometimes the location we're stuck with for Sunday School is pretty unstimulating. Meet in a home near church.
- The setting. Establish a setting that is more stimulating and engaging for students. Room setup, color, cheap camp chairs instead of folding chairs, indirect lighting, music playing in the background, let kids decorate the room.
- The format. Don't make it so predictable. Change the rhythm of the meeting.
- The rhythm. 13 weeks on one topic is impossible.
- The leadership. Change the leaders who lead the meetings.
- The expectations. How do you evaluate the effectiveness of your Sunday school program? How do you measure the expectations of "success?"

The first and most important step

- Define the big picture concept you want the kids to walk away with each from each Sunday school class. Don't bury them with lots of information with various points and subpoints. Summarize the goal of your lesson in one simple easy to understand statement.
- Defining "the big picture." What is the one lesson you'd teach from each of these passages? Phrase it in one sentence: Psalm 23; Luke 19:1-9; Luke 8:1-8
- Structuring a lesson to make a real difference. When kids walk in the Sunday school door, they're coming from a LOT of different places and backgrounds.
  - Get their attention. ("here's where we're going with this") Get them thinking about where you're going with the big idea.
  - Get them into the scripture. Get them to dig in to it!
  - Get it into their lives. Get the truth/big picture into their lives somehow. The next week follow-up and hold them accountable for it. Make sure the lesson actually takes some traction in their lives. The application isn't a little after-thought in the lesson.

Effective teaching is...

- **Active** (embrace the teaching process; get the kids up and moving.)
- **Biblical** (are we teaching topics or text to our kids? Either way, scripture needs to be at the heart of the teaching.)
  - Topical Teaching: the topic determines the text you will use. (Identify some text you could use to teach a lesson on dealing with fear, both main verses and supporting passages.)
  - Textual Teaching: the text determines the topic you will teach. (What are some of the topics that come out of the following passages; James 1; Matthew 6)
- **Creative** (allows the artists and right-brain to be involved in the learning process.)
  - Video clip
  - Personal illustration

- Drama, skit, role play
- Current event
- Quote, statistics
- Game or activity
- Music, song, worship
- Visuals, charts, graphs
- **Demanding** (as world religions go, no one has lowered the bar lower than we have. To the rich young ruler, Jesus set the bar high and he let the man walk away.)
  - Calls for a change in...
  - Attitude
  - Perspective
  - Behavior
  - Priorities
  - Relationships
  - If we're going to set the bar high for kids, they need our support, encouragement, resources, accountability, patience, forgiveness and a ton of second chances.
- **Equipping** (Eph 4:11-12. Pastor=shepherd, Sunday school teachers serve in a pastoral role.)
- **Flexible** (if there was a suicide in school that week, ditch your lesson and talk about what they're feeling; if your curriculum isn't connecting with kids, cut it or condense it.)
- **Relevant** (that we're actually answering questions that our kids are asking. It assumes that we're involved in their lives. Become a careful student of your students.)