

How to Plan a Church School Lesson



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You want your teaching to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. What will help you in your planning? Plan one step at a time.

Step 1

Pray for the children in your class. Imagine their faces—some seem shy, some are smiling, some are mischievous. Pray for them by name and, if you know their family, include family members in your prayer. Pray for yourself and people who help you.

Step 2

Read quickly through the lesson to get an overview.

Step 3

Ask yourself, "What is the one main idea in this lesson?" Then, ask yourself what class members would say if their mom, dad, grandpa, or church member said after class, "Tell me about your church school lesson today." Could the children name the one main idea? The lesson should be presented with enough clarity and repetition to make the one main idea obvious to the children.

Step 4

Early in the week, study the Bible reading for the lesson.

As you do ordinary tasks during the week, allow the scripture to come into your mind. Define what the scripture means to you.

Step 5

Make a lesson plan. Choose activities that are good for the children in your class. Jot down an estimated time for each section of your plan. The plan might look like this:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Greet children. Offer choice of 2 activities that introduce the story. | 10 minutes |
| Story and conversation | 10 minutes |
| Learn new liturgical dance | 5 minutes |
| Offer choice of response to story—art group or a new song | 15 minutes |
| Gather to share art and song; pray; say good-bye | 5 minutes |

When you get to your class area on Sunday, post this schedule where you and others can see it.

Step 6

Collect materials and equipment needed.

Ask for special help if required. Consider asking the superintendent, minister, older children, a music teacher, a story teller. Contact resource guests well in advance of lesson.

Think of the children in your class. Are there special needs to consider? For instance, if this is the first time you have done liturgical dance, what would encourage children to participate without feeling awkward?

Step 7

Evaluate after each lesson. Ask yourself and any helpers, "What went well today? What did not work well? Why?"

Involve the children in evaluation and planning. Use questions like these:

"Today we learned a liturgical dance. Since it is the first time we have done this, I would like to hear if you enjoyed it."

"Our study book for next week suggests that we could watch a movie on baptism, or we can make baptism candles for the babies who will be baptized soon. Which would you prefer to do?"

A well-planned lesson contributes to an enriched learning environment and helps people feel secure and responsive as they learn about God.