

Getting Prepared to Teach



Most of us have owners' manuals for our gadgets. We seldom read these, because we assume that we can figure things out on our own. But when it comes to the short and precious time we have to teach people about God and His Word, there are ways to take teaching from humdrum to high-energy!

PREPARING YOURSELF . . .

Read and study the lesson text from God's Word. Spend time feeding your soul by working through the teacher devotional. Read the *Understanding the Bible* feature for background on the section of Scripture the lesson covers. Pray and ask God for wisdom as you teach about Him. Pray for the students in your class.

PREPARING THE LESSON . . .

Familiarize yourself with the different aspects of the lesson. When the curriculum offers activity options, choose which ones will work best for the students in your class. If your age level uses a Bible story, know the story well enough so that you're not tied to the teacher's guide while telling it.

PREPARING THE MATERIALS . . .

During the week, collect materials and prepare them for the activities you've chosen. Being prepared is one of the best ways to prevent students' attention from wandering.

PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENT . . .

Make your room a place that is inviting and interesting for your students. Take time to eliminate clutter and rearrange furniture to work with the activities you have chosen.

PREPARE TO ARRIVE EARLY . . .

It's important to remember that no matter what the official start time for your class is, class begins when the first student enters the room. Get everything set before that first student arrives. That frees you up to welcome and talk with students as they arrive. That's a great way to nurture relationships!

There is little time to impact the students we teach. Being prepared gives us a relaxed attitude that reflects God's love and care as we share the Good News!