

Ten Commandments for Teachers



As you teach the children or youth in your group, here are ten teaching actions to keep in mind.

ONE

Understand that teaching children is a dedicated/God-directed/ vital/ an all-important calling of eternal value; pray for each child and ask for loving wisdom as you prepare. *(Being prepared says you care.)*

TWO

If you are teaching children, get down at their eye level; show love and welcome by your touch, words, and smile. Teach respect by showing respect. *(Your actions teach far more than your words.)*

THREE

Make suggestions more often than you give commands. Phrase directions positively. *(Let students know what they can do instead of what they cannot do.)*

FOUR

Be a teacher of great vision. See the most active, the most difficult, or the most withdrawn student not as a problem, but as a person to be loved as part of God's family. *(Remember and repeat often that God loves and has good plans for each person in your class.)*

FIVE

Give acceptable choices and set reasonable limits; stick to them and keep your word when you make a promise. *(Limits foster a person's sense of security.)*

SIX

Realize that your interaction is always needed, even when students are absorbed in an activity. *(Stay nearby to guide conversations; listen, show love, and ask open-ended questions to help students understand and apply God's Word.)*

SEVEN

Be quick to see, describe, and thank a student for right actions. *(Describing a person's right actions helps one put meaning to concepts like fairness and kindness.)*

EIGHT

Remember that children and youth learn by doing. Provide active ways to learn. *(If your classroom situation allows, have a variety of activities available so students can choose.)*

NINE

Know the typical behaviors for the age level you are teaching. Guide a student toward desirable behavior. *(Students are not always able to see how their action affect others.)*

TEN

Remember how easily children and youth absorb your attitudes and how watchful they are of your actions and reactions. *(One's attitudes and actions will either affirm or deny the truth of one's words.)*

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!