

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

If there is any way I can make teaching Sunday School easier for you, please contact me at the above e-mail address or phone number.

### Discipline - the child who refuses to participate

Usually most of our discipline headaches are caused by disruptive or over-active children but sometimes it can be very worrying to have a child in the class who will not participate in anything, however hard we try to interest him or her. If the child is usually co-operative he or she may just be having an "off" day. He may be feeling a little under the weather, or something may have happened at home to make him feel blue. For one week it is probably best to allow him to watch what is going on without undue concern. If the problem persists try to find out more. Ask him what activities he likes best in the class, or if there is something he would particularly enjoy doing (within reason!) Ask him what he does with his spare time at home. This will give you a clue as to the sort of thing which would appeal to him. Finally, ask him if there is someone in the class he particularly likes and try to pair him with that child for an activity. "Loner" children often feel that no-one likes them or wants to be their friend. Sometimes, though, it is just a matter of breaking the ice.

### Using Sunday School Time Well

Readiness Write down **clear attainable goals** for the long term i.e. what do you hope to accomplish with your class before the end of the school year? Having done that, write down your goals for the next class you will be teaching.

With your goals before you, make a "**to do**" list. Include in your list the things you will need to have prepared for the next class e.g. Get supply of black construction paper. Purchase 'star' stickers. Check off things as you accomplish them. Get rid of accumulated **clutter** in your teaching area. There are few things more destructive of a sense of being in control than mess.

In class Have your list of **goals handy**, and make sure you concentrate on those which are most important. If the service is shorter than usual, you still want to have covered these things - the things of lesser importance can wait until you have extra time one day. Deal with **discipline problems** before they get out of hand and threaten to disrupt

the whole class. If children in your class have a habit of needing to use the **washroom** with regularity, schedule a time when the whole class will go about half way through the class. This can be a lot less time consuming than allowing children to leave the class whenever they feel like it. Constantly **re-assess your priorities**. Your list can be modified if something on it isn't working! There are always activities which we think will be perfect which 'bomb' with kids. Be wise enough to call it quits and do something different!

Afterwards **Clean up**. This really goes without saying, but sometimes when the family wants to get home for lunch we are tempted to cut corners. That just makes things more difficult the following week, unless we are able to come in mid week to sort things out. Enlist the help of others (your family?) and try to leave the room the way you want to find it next time. That may mean doing such chores as re-sharpening the pencils and chucking out broken bits of crayon. **Evaluate** the class. If you may be teaching the same class next year make notes on the curriculum as to what was successful, what wasn't and what could be with some modification. Ask yourself what it was about a particular activity that made it so awesome, or otherwise.

Communication This is often neglected because it takes time.

When you have to give directions to the **class** e.g. how to do a craft, rehearse it in your head beforehand. Imagine yourself following your directions and try to see where the pitfalls are and where you could be clearer. Try to talk with the **parents** of the children in your class regularly. **Attend Sunday School meetings**. It is helpful to have an overview of the whole scheme of things, to plan events ahead of time with the whole group and to be able to bounce ideas off one another too. Meetings are usually only held occasionally and are well worth the time.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Activity

#### January 18 - 25

Make a version of a Christingle. Use a grapefruit to represent the earth. Press whole cloves all over it to represent all the people on earth. (This needs strong fingers so not suitable for the littlest children) Wrapping the bottom of a candle in a piece of foil, press it into the top of the grapefruit to show that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Around the base of the candle, on top of the foil, tie a piece of thin red ribbon to show that all around the world, Christians pray for the needs of the world.