



tips for youth workers

JANUARY 2019

## CREATIVE AND EFFECTIVE TIPS FOR TEACHERS

1. **Prepare Thoroughly.** The biggest mistake a teacher makes is not being prepared. The children in your class will pick up on your lack of preparation and organization. You know you are ready to teach when you don't have to look at your lesson! Tip: have extra ideas.
2. **Pick a Simple Message and Reinforce It Often.** Do the best you can to relate it to real life experiences. Bring it down or up to the level of the children you are working with. Reinforce the message in your prayer at the end of class.
3. **Use Active Learning.** EXPERIENCE is a good teacher. Encourage interaction, act out the story, role-play, and get the children moving!
4. **Look For a Teachable Moment.** The key here is to be observant. When a child understands and shares it – emphasize it to the rest of the class – they can learn from each other! Follow through.
5. **Make the Space Inviting.** Allow children to have a sense of pride in their classroom. Use their work to decorate. Physically talk to them on their level, pictures, chairs, and tables should be for their bodies, not adults!
6. **Model Your Faith.** What you do, not just what you say, teaches them. Share with them your life experience – it is real because you experienced it – not just somebody else they can read about.
7. **Develop Relationships.** Children and youth ministry is all about building relationships. This is what keeps kids coming back. During the week, call, text, send a card, and get involved in their lives!
8. **Helps Students Express Thoughts and Feelings.** Ask questions that don't just ask for a yes or no response. For example: How do you think Daniel felt in the Lion's Den? Get kids thinking, set up a problem-solving situation that they need to work together to solve. Your classroom should be a safe place where children can feel free to share.
9. **Use Good Story Telling Techniques.** If you are a good storyteller you will have a captive audience. Use your voice, change it to fit the character in the story, move around the room, use appropriate humour, use props, make a mistake and see if the children catch it. Children learn the best when they are having fun!
10. **Keep a Good Pace.** Don't drag your lesson out to fill time. This is why it is a good idea to have plenty of extra ideas! You will lose your students if you try to make it last longer than they are able to handle.