Lesson Development Helps (45 Minutes)

**Don’t Overlook a Key Principle: You Must Be Growing Yourself**

A good teacher ministers the Word from the overflow of a full life. What exactly does that mean? It means that you must live according to the following principles as a servant in the church to children.

1. The most effective teachers know God through His Word.
	1. Communicating Biblical principles doesn’t come out of a vacuum.
	2. Imparting what you don’t have is impossible.
2. The most effective teachers are those upon which God works (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Titus 2:7-8).

Suggestions for staying “full”

* + Maintain a consistent lesson study time
	+ Maintain your own personal Bible study time
	+ Pray for each of your students during the week
	+ Pray for yourself and the leading of the Holy Spirit
	+ Establish patterns that nurture improvement as a teacher:
		- Invite the input of others
		- Invest in your ministry (books, online helps, etc.)

**Don’t Ignore a Fundamental Fact: Lesson Development is Work**

Good curriculum will lessen the preparation time required of a teacher. Provided aids will make your prep time shorter. We want you investing the bulk of your time working to understand the Bible Story to tell the Bible Story!

Let’s say you were going to tell children **The Ugly Duckling**. What would you want them to remember from your effort? In the same way, we want children to leave our classes with an awareness that they spent time listening to God’s message for them!

**Truth:78 Lesson Development Procedures** (see handout)

EXERCISE (Acts 5:32-6:11)

Main Theme/Truth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Aim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Storytelling Thoughts & Helps (20 Minutes)

**Reminder: Storytelling is Powerful!**

* “After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the things we need most in the world.”

Author Philip Pullman

* “Our brains…respond to content by looking for the story to make sense out of the experience. No matter what the technology, the meaning starts in the brain.”

Pamela Rutledge, Psychology Today

**Reinforcement: Retelling a story requires advance work and a free spirit**

Classroom Procedures (20 Minutes)

To be an effective teacher you must not only know your teaching material you must prepare the environment for the children you will teach.

Some guidelines or suggestions:

**Be intentional about showing your students love**

* Greet the children individually at the beginning of each class (let them know how glad you are that they have come today).
* Know the children (interests, names, uniqueness) and their families.
* Demonstrate courtesy, kindness, friendliness, humor
* Make each one feel comfortable (especially the new ones)

**Create an organized, comfortable, and purposeful learning environment**

* What should parents and children see?
	+ Nothing you will not be using that day
	+ The materials you will be using that day
* What should parents and children anticipate?
	+ A teacher that is friendly but not a chum to students
	+ A routine that is relaxed, predictable and safe
	+ A place of fun and learning
	+ A prepared education staff
		- Know the unit topic & the big picture
		- Study the Bible lesson, not just the written lesson material
		- Carefully plan each lesson
		- Select desirable outcomes for a lesson
		- Decide on an introduction
		- Prepare an outline or lesson plan
		- Decide on activities & assemble materials
		- Be sure you know correct pronunciation of names of people and places
		- Have all materials laid out prior to the beginning of your lesson (may require you to get to church early)
* What should parents and children know?
	+ A teacher will develop lessons based on a the foundation children already possess
	+ A teacher will get to know each student and aim at gradually increasing the level of difficulty as their ability to perform increases

**Implement principles of effective communication into your teaching**

* Speak clearly so that children understand what you’re saying.
* Vary your pitch and speed (pick them up when you want to convey excitement and bring them down when you’re emphasizing a major point).
* Be aware of your volume—too loud intimidates children, too soft causes them to lose interest.
* Be aware of possible distractions—some come from within the learner and can’t be controlled, others come from the environment (room temperature, room set up, having the visual aids in order.
* Have your lesson plan handy. Go in order, but improvise if needed. Go with the flow and remember that these are children, so anything can happen!
* Always use a scripture reading and review it with the class. If appropriate, let students read from the Bible—keeps them focused on the Bible.
* Ask them questions about the main idea and the details to ensure that they understand.
* Ask them what the lesson teaches.
* Keep the students focused, and try to stay on schedule. Do not wander too far off the subject, but at the same time remember that occasional off-topic class discussions can be very interesting and informative for both the teacher and the class.
* Feedback—find out what the learners know, how they feel, and what they’re doing. Ask questions, lots of questions—especially to find out if they understood the lesson. At the end, ask the children to identify their favorite part of the day. Ask what they remember/learned from the story. Clarify any misconceptions, and tie all the loose ends together.

Old Chinese proverb:

 “I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.”

Consider these facts:

We remember 10% of what we hear.

We remember 50% of what we hear and see.

We remember 90% of what we hear, see, and do.