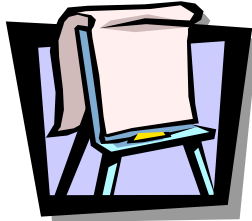


Add **Life** to your Bible Classes

What Makes a Class Fun (Favorite Teachers)?

Go outside for the lesson – Taking the students outside for a study of nature or for other Bible lesson ideas is popular with the students. One teacher compared the size of the Noah's Ark to the size of our church building.



Teacher uses games with lesson – Students like games of course. But older students really liked the games that apply to the lesson...not just a game to be playing a game. These types of games and activities help them mentally "hold onto" the information much easier for later retrieval.

Different stations with activities – Some teachers use "stations" to get students involved in different activities, (i.e., computer station, make posters, reading corner, worksheet at their desks, etc.)

Cool decorations – This one is popular with several of the older students. After 6th grade the teachers stop decorating the classroom, making bulletin boards, etc. The older ones really miss this and mentioned that their room sometimes feel "cold" now.

Acting out – Ask one of the ladies in your congregation who love to sew to make costumes. Patterns for biblical time costumes can be purchased a local fabric store. The students love to act out the lessons and it is a great hands-on approach to use.

Discussion – This point was brought up by ALL ages. All the students like to think their opinion is important and worth listening to, so discussion is a perfect way to achieve this. Also, use of lecturing does not allow students to share feedback, which indicates they understand your lesson.

What Makes a Class Boring (Worse Teachers)?

Teacher No Fun / Bad Attitude / Boring – We as teachers need to have a better attitude than we sometimes display in class and also live a good example outside the classroom. This helps make the class fun and a better environment for learning.

Lecture – Without a doubt, this point is #1 for the worst thing to do. Each age group I've polled hate to be lectured to (teacher talks too much, talks "down" to the students, etc.) Not much learning goes on when the student just hears the information. And it's also very BORING!!!



Read straight from the book – Children are very perceptive. Quite a bit of the time teachers

that read straight from a class book or from a handout are NOT prepared for their class as they should be. The students know this and really think it's a cop-out on the teacher's part. And again...it's also very BORING!!!

Worksheets only – Young students prefer not to do just worksheets as an activity. They would like to do other activities that involve movement, other kinds of thinking, etc.

Focus on Competition – Children do like competition...to an extent. They do NOT like it though when the competition is the #1 focus. Also some students don't excel at games, etc. and do not win very often. Those students are tired of "losing" and would prefer to learn through another method.

Teacher calls on same students – Sometimes teachers tend to call on or "prefer" certain children over others. We must always be careful of this practice. But also, there are some students who are just faster than others and get their hand up first each time. Teachers need to let everyone participate, not just the quick "hands-up first" ones.

