



The Teacher's Pet

The "Special" 2s

Too many times the two-year-old class is the last class that has someone sign up to teach a quarter. This should not be the case. A two-year-old teacher is a "special" teacher in many ways:

* **You are their first teacher.**

You are the first teacher (other than parents) and the first Bible class teacher the students will ever have. This is where the children will get their very first impression of Bible class. This is the first time they will have heard some of the lessons. You will want to make a



good impression on them when they are very young so they will carry those loving thoughts and stories of Bible characters with them throughout their lifetime.

* **Get to know your students before you start teaching.**

by Heather Hunt

They will respect and listen to you much easier and there will be less apprehension from the students. Some students take much longer to "warm up" to you than others. I am in the middle of my second quarter in a row with the same students, and one student just now has started to interact with me in class and in public.

* **Don't label your students.**

When you "warn" other teachers that this child is mischievous and this one is loud, the teacher will go in to the class with a preconceived prejudice for that student. The behavior of a two-year-old changes quite frequently. Your most difficult student one month may end up being your best student the next month.

* **Give them memory verses.**

Don't think they aren't old enough to memorize and retain information. I find it helpful to add a game to the memory verse portion of class. We sit in a circle and pass a ball around while singing *Jesus Loves Me*. Whoever has the ball when the song ends has to say the memory verse. If the student says it correctly (close counts with 2s), they get to wear a necklace with



the verse on it. (Note: Everyone gets a necklace. If they have difficulty with the verse, we help them with it.)

* **The twos remember more of the story than we think they do.**

A good example is in one class I taught on Moses I asked "who put Moses in the basket." Instead of the answer I expected (Moses' mother), the students, in unison answered, "Jochebed."

Let me encourage all teachers to think strongly about teaching these very special babes at least once. You don't know what you are missing if you haven't tried, and who knows...it may be the class you want to teach for many months in the future.

