

Putting it All Together

The teacher must have a plan on what he or she is going to be doing during the time allotted for class. This is always important to have no matter experienced a teacher is. A master teacher is able to change things as unplanned events occur. This includes teachable moments. A teacher must be flexible and much of this adaptability comes with experience.

The class plan:

The class plan is different from a lesson plan in that this class plan is not just about teaching the lesson, but also about adding the other elements to that lesson. Memory verse time, activity time, prayer, etc. would be included in this class plan.

Teachable moments:

Teachable moments occur when something happens in the classroom that you can use to illustrate a spiritual lesson. This can also be a time when you can disciple your students. Another teachable moment comes when a student asks a question concerning God or the Bible. This becomes a teachable moment even if it does not have to do with the lesson. These questions provide opportunities for students to learn something when they are most willing and able to learn it. Please take advantage of these teachable moments. It is okay to stray from the class or lesson plan to take advantage of these moments. A teacher must be flexible and be able to change what they are doing if it is not working or if a teachable moment happens.

Using the time wisely:

Using time wisely includes many principles

1. ***Do not waste valuable class time.*** This may be the only time your students have any Bible instruction. They certainly won't get any in public schools and many do not have any Biblical instruction at home.
2. ***Make sure the important things have the priority in time,*** ie. The Bible lesson.
3. ***Start the class with relationship building.*** Talk to the students as they enter and find out how things are going in their lives.
4. ***Move smoothly from one activity to another.***
5. ***Plan the order of activities so that they make the most sense.***
6. ***Always begin with prayer before teaching the verse or lesson.***
7. ***If students seem tired or inattentive, start with some movement before teaching the lesson or verse.*** This helps children to think and listen.
8. ***Have all materials gathered and ready to be used.***
9. ***Leave your extra time activities until the essentials are completed.***

Include some movement for younger children:

This may be as simple as playing "Simon Says" or similar activities. These activities will enable students to sit quietly during lesson time. There are some cautions with this movement.

- Make sure the area is safe and appropriate for this movement. We always want to watch out for the safety of our students.

- Do not get the students so excited that you will have difficulty getting them to settle down for the lesson.

The elements of a Sunday School or Junior Church Class:

These children's classes should have the following elements included almost every week:

1. Relationship building—essential
2. Prayer—essential
3. Bible Lesson—essential
4. Way of salvation--essential
5. Memory Verse
6. Activities
 - Games
 - Crafts
 - Coloring or puzzles
7. Movement