

OBJECT LESSONS:

Sunday School SHOULD BE FUN! If it isn't fun, the kids won't come back... it's just that simple!

It doesn't matter if the kids are 3 or 18, if you just talk you WILL lose their attention.

Be the teacher that makes EVERYONE EXCITED WHEN THEY FIND OUT IT IS YOUR TURN TO TEACH!

Make every day different and better than the last one.

If you can't come up with an exciting object lesson on your own then go online. There are many people out there who have probably already done what you are trying to do. There are many Sunday School websites (this one!), there is Pinterest (this is not just for ladies), there are science experiment websites, craft idea websites and a whole lot more if you just look around!

Tips for object lessons:

- Object lessons can be extremely basic or VERY complex. Both can be effective.
- Don't let the object lesson get in the way of what is being taught
- Make it a vehicle for teaching the lesson, not the whole point of the lesson
- Make sure when the lesson is over that they come away with the thought you were trying to teach, not just memories off an amazing object lesson
- You can't wait until Saturday night to prepare. Prepare well ahead of time to make sure that you have everything that you need.
- PRACTICE! Things go wrong. Better that they go wrong at home than when it is live.

For a list of one-God object lessons go to <http://www.apostolicsundayschool.com/sunday-school-object-lessons/>

BE PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO!

"I would rather reign in a noble steed than to prod a stubborn mule".

I would SO much rather have to tell a Sunday school teacher periodically to back it down a notch or two than to always have to constantly encourage them to do more or to make their class more exciting.

Teachers ABSOLUTELY have a role to play in attendance, not just the pastor and bus workers. Make sure your class is **worth** attending. Make it something kids WANT to come back to. Never forget that **kids begging to come to church are a powerful motivation to parents.**

Ask yourself. "If I were not a Christian, would I want to come to this Sunday School? If I were a child of a member of this church and had my way, would I want to come to this Sunday School?" **Our children are made to come. We must to give them the best.**

A good teacher is willing to get out of their comfort zone and learn new things to make their class more exciting. If you are only comfortable doing a certain set of things and you repeatedly fall back on those over and over your students will get bored and lose interest. Always try to get better. Never be satisfied with where you are at as a teacher.

- Be the one that is always trying a new science experiment
- Be the one that learns how to tie animal balloons
- Be the one that learns how to do magic tricks
- Be the one that learns how to do puppets

- Be the one that the kids want to be around because they just never know what is going to happen next
- Be the one that dresses up for Sunday School
- Be the one that practices telling stories at HOME to make sure you can do it properly

Don't say, "I'm just not creative – that just isn't me".

IF YOU AREN'T WILLING TO AT LEAST MAKE AN EFFORT TO KEEP YOUR CLASS EXCITING EVERY WEEK YOU MIGHT THINK ABOUT FINDING ANOTHER MINISTRY!

These kids are coming from an entertainment culture and have left their video games and TV to come see you so do your best to make it worth their while. The bus workers have gone on outreach and have succeeded in getting someone to Sunday School and **it is now your job to make them want to come back again!**

There is NOTHING more disheartening for a bus worker than to hear that a kid doesn't want to come back because their class was boring.

Don't be afraid of change. Be willing to change your teaching methods, change yourself, change the decor, change your methods of visitation and follow up. When new things are presented, we are apt to draw away from them. We may even criticize and try to find reasons why not to use the new idea. People sometimes even try to get God involved in why they shouldn't change... as in, "God wouldn't want us to do that!"

We are not for anything that God would be against, but God is not against all new ideas and programs. Some people just don't want to change because it would take HARD WORK. It's just easier to teach a lesson the same way I always have because I don't have to really study... I already know the material.

A wise and very successful pastor once said – "Once something is running so smoothly that you have no more problems, CHANGE IT IMMEDIATELY because it is dying!" This sounds a bit counterintuitive but does have a lot of truth to it.

Remember the saying, "if what you did yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today."

KEEP YOUR CLASS EXCITING:

Never let your Sunday school get in a rut. Always be changing things up and never let the kids know what is going to happen next. **Don't be predictable.**

Never do any one thing in your class for longer than 10 minutes at a time. If you do so they kids will get bored because they come from a world of television where things are always changing in their attention spans are very short. If you start to feel their attention waiver switch gears and do something else but maintain the topic if possible.

Seeing, hearing, touching, moving and experiencing are the ways kids learn. Where their eyes go, their ears follow. Grab their attention from the beginning and don't let it go.

It is said that we retain...

- 10% of what we read
- 20% of what we hear
- 30% of what we see
- 50% of what we SEE and HEAR
- 70% of what we SAY
- 90% OF WHAT WE SAY AND DO!

Teach by **talking to** them, by **showing** them, by having **them talk**, by having **them do**, by having **them act**.