

THE ENCOURAGER

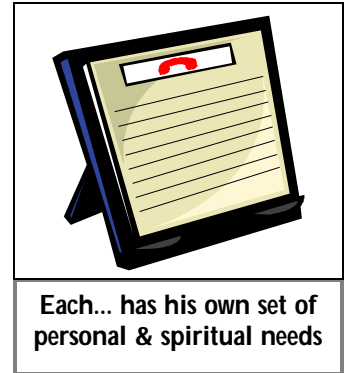
Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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TOO IMPORTANT TO MISS

A teacher needs to be constantly reminded that his job is teaching people—not just the content of his lessons! In order to be effective he needs to take into account that each class member has his own set of personal and spiritual needs. When planning a set of lessons (unit) or an individual lesson—as much as possible—a teacher needs to list each of his students by name and then try to identify the specific and spiritual needs of each learner in relation to the central truth you are seeking to impart. Ideally, a teacher would have no more than 8-10 in his class so that they can effectively address the needs of each.



NAME	NEED
Brent	A real relationship with Christ— needs salvation
Sean	Practical experience in sharing the fact that he is saved
Lee	To let God's Truth settle his questions
Rick	To be saved in spite of his family's natural skepticism and resistance
David	To become respectful enough to take in the Truth

These expressed needs will help you to form and focus your message so that there will be something personal and practical for each class member. Listing their needs like this also helps you to pray for them as individuals. You may want to add a third column in which you can put notes about their circumstances or families or even ideas that might help to accomplish your purpose.

These goals, when carefully pursued, should help the learners to understand the truth you are teaching and to enable them to take something meaningful with them. True learning only takes place when a person's actions change after being exposed to new ideas or truth. If you are working in a unit (group of lessons that tie together) try and keep the overall central goal before yourself and the class. Often this has a greater cumulative effect.

Some will learn well by listening but others will take in far more by Bible Learning Activities. Keep in mind the learner's needs and the lesson's central truth. E.g. When teaching about what God is like, you might:
(A) Have them try and DRAW what they think He is like. Then discuss the drawings focusing on His reality. [Try not to be shocked. You could learn a lot! And adjust misconceptions with care and caution.]
(B) Conduct a BUZZ GROUP where you ask, How is God like your father? How is He not like him?!
(C) Have them PARAPHRASE a verse (or several) that speaks about Him.
(D) Suggest they WRITE a letter to God telling Him about themselves.

ONLY ONE WAY....

If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven? I asked the children in my Sunday School class. "NO!" the children all answered.

If I cleaned the the SS rooms every week, mowed the yard and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven? Again, the answer was "NO!"

Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my spouse, would that get me into Heaven? I asked them again. Again they all answered, "NO!"

Well, I continued, then how can I get into Heaven? A five year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

