Discipleship

Discipleship Skills: Teaching Sunday School-Execution

1. Execution
   1. Overview of the class structure
      1. Introduce lesson
      2. Read text
      3. Lead class to understand, interpret, and apply the text
      4. Conclude and dismiss the class
   2. Starting the class
      1. Prayer
      2. Briefly introduce the theme of the lesson (don’t just read what is written in the lesson—use your own words based on your own inspirations)
   3. Leading discussions
      1. Ask good, thought-provoking questions; instead of asking strictly factual questions, try to ask more open-ended questions
      2. When someone comments, acknowledge his answer, then ask for further comment or explanation or for someone else’s thoughts
         * “OK, why do you think that?”
         * “Yes, and what else do you think this verse means?”
         * “Good question…What do the rest of y’all think?
         * “Thank you. Who else has a comment?”
         * “Does anybody have a different perspective?”
      3. Avoid meaningless questions and details; don’t ask questions that focus on things that do not matter and move the discussion away from that when someone else in the class gets stuck there.
      4. Provide direction to the discussion. If it gets off on some unrelated topic, just say, “OK, let’s get back to our question.” And then ask the question again to refocus the discussion.
   4. Managing time
      1. Pay attention to your time so that you can get to the ideas that you want to.
      2. Make sure you get to the application questions. The lesson is ultimately useless if it doesn’t have an impact on the class’s lives.
2. Final notes
   1. Dos and don’ts:
      1. Do be the teacher. Have a plan and an agenda. Know what you want the class to focus on and learn. (Some say they like discussion, so they don’t want to talk much or provide direction for the class. This is misguided and usually does not lead to good discussion. Discussion usually takes some priming.)
      2. Put some pizzaz in your teaching. You need some enthusiasm about the ideas in the lesson. “Look at this! This is great!” Don’t mumble and bumble and use lame clichés and excuses. Stand up and lead out and do your job!
      3. Tell stories and use analogies to illustrate the meaning of the text
   2. Tips:
      1. Reading the text: Advantages of getting 1, 2, or 3 people to read the text rather than reading around the class verse by verse
         1. More continuity of the text’s meaning
         2. Other people aren’t focusing on when their turn is coming up and about how they are going to come across
         3. Those who aren’t comfortable with reading out loud in public aren’t forced to
      2. Enjoy yourself!