



Class Preparation

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Q How can I find enough time to prepare for my Sunday School class, when my calendar is already full?

A The answer to this dilemma is twofold. First, don't try to do it alone. Team teaching is a wonderful way to share the workload—and the rewards of teaching. This can be accomplished even if some of your team members don't teach on Sunday. Weekday support staff can help you during the week by preparing visuals, gathering supplies, making props and puppets, and organizing teaching materials and interest centers.

Many people do not feel confident teaching children, but they care about young people and want to be a positive influence in their lives. We need to look for people in our churches who can contribute their talents and abilities to children's ministries in creative ways.

Every teacher should have a prayer partner for his/her class. If you don't have a prayer partner, contact the prayer group in your church and ask for someone who can pray for your class on a regular basis. Include your prayer partner as a member of your class by keeping him/her informed about what you're teaching, how your class is going, and special activities you're planning. When the children request prayer each week, pass the

requests on to your prayer partner so he/she can pray for the needs during the week. Give your prayer partner a copy of your attendance roll to use as a prayer list. Ask your prayer partner to visit your class occasionally, and include him/her in class socials. As you involve more people you will notice the load getting a little lighter; you'll have more time for



lesson preparation—and you'll enjoy your time with the children more.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Another suggestion is to set aside a planning time in order to project for the weeks ahead. Take about 30 minutes on a Sunday afternoon to review your lesson topics for the next 3 months.

Make a list of the memory vers-

es, lesson topics, and craft activities in a weekly planner that you can carry with you. Leave space to write down teaching ideas and materials you will need in the weeks ahead. Use this list as a reminder for collecting and purchasing needed supplies during the week when running errands, etc. Prepare Bible verse visuals for the next quarter all at one time. Then file them in a folder or box labeled for each month. The verses will be ready when you need them and you can memorize the verses ahead of time.

I have found it helpful to put the lesson topics for each quarter, or the entire year, on my home wall calendar. This way I'm conveniently reminded of what I'll be teaching at any given week at a glance. This helps me prepare in practical ways, and gives me the time I need to prepare spiritually through prayer and Bible study.

Finally, pray that God will grant you the time you need for preparation. Take advantage of unexpected quiet times when family members are busy with other activities, and set aside some time each day to study and meditate on God's Word. When you have completed your study notes, file them topically for future reference. This can save you a great deal of time in the future. God will reward you and multiply your time back to you as you invest in the lives of others. (See 2 Corinthians 9:6 and Mark 10:29,30.)

Questions For Further Study—

Evaluate your own situation and list steps you can take to expedite your class preparation time.

1. Which aspects of class preparation take the greatest portion of your time?
2. Which tasks could be delegated to others?
3. Name at least three people in your church whom you can contact about helping you with class preparation.
4. Look up 2 Corinthians 9:6 and Mark 10:29,30 and write them in your own words.