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Tailoring the Curriculum for MY Class

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Your new teacher's guide has just arrived. You thumb through it to check out the new unit themes. The topics look good, but as you look closer at the lessons, you realize you will never be able to cover all the material in your short class time. Perhaps some of the activities just won't work in your class, or maybe they require materials which you have no access to.

Don't despair! Here are some proven ways to adapt the lesson to fit your class needs and teaching style.

Know Your Curriculum

Curriculum publishers have the challenge of presenting lessons that will meet the needs of a great variety of classes, teachers, and students. Classes vary in size, supplies available, and equipment. Teachers have varying degrees of Bible background and teaching experience. Students come from different backgrounds and are at different places in their spiritual understanding and Bible knowledge.

In a curriculum that will meet your needs, you will find more activities than you will have time for. You will find more material than you can teach. You will find more resources than you can use. These activities and resources will be relevant to the lesson, not just

an entertaining way to pass time. This kind of curriculum has everything you need to adapt the lesson to your class.

Know Yourself

Certain teaching methods are uncomfortable for some teachers. It might be difficult for you to lecture. Maybe you don't like to do complicated craft projects. Perhaps you don't care for active games.



Just as there are some teaching methods you may not like, you will greatly enjoy using others. It might be doing experiments that have an application to the lesson. Maybe you like illustrating key points on the chalkboard or using object lessons. When you look through a lesson, you'll be drawn to activities which appeal to you or that you can easily find supplies for.

While it is important to select

activities you are enthusiastic about, it is also good to use a variety of activities in each class. Consider the activities your students may enjoy and learn from. They may not be activities you particularly care for, but they may be just the thing that makes the lesson come alive to your students.

Know Your Students

Your students and class situation are unique. Curriculum publishers can provide a variety of teaching methods and activities for a variety of students and teachers. It is the teacher's experience with the students and the class as a whole that makes him or her the best person to select activities and teaching methods for the class.

Your students may not have a church background. They may have little Bible knowledge and spiritual understanding, or your students may have a rich spiritual heritage with a strong spiritual understanding. Your class may be a girls' or boys' class or a mixture of both. You may have one age-level or several.

The activities you select will depend on whom you are teaching. These activities should fit your class, encourage the students to learn more quickly, and apply the lesson to their lives.

