

How to Teach/Interact

Classroom Tips

1. **Patience** – This is the most important point. There will be times when the children are especially difficult and disobedient. At those times **remember** that your primary goal for the class is not to teach something, but to develop a relationship.
2. **Prizes** – Little snacks here and there for good behavior are effective as long as you are **careful** not to reward too often and for less and less achievement (a common trap). Along this line, it is good to devote an entire class, on special occasions, to simply share food and play games. Remember, Jerusalem Ministry has some funding available for these recreational days.
3. **Perseverance** – Remember that each day with the children stands alone. One discouraging classroom experience does not mean your next class will not be a surprising success. **Do not** walk in to your next class expecting a repeat of the last discouraging one. From my experience, you will find that your next class will be just the encouragement you need to lift your spirits again. Children are no less imperfect than you and I - they have bad days too – luckily, they will “*forget*” quickly as long as you “forget” quickly.
4. **Promises** – At all cost, **keep** your promises to your children. Unfortunately, they **do not** forget these.
5. **Praise** – **Go overboard** with the encouragement and the praises for every good behavior and academic achievement no matter how little.
6. **Prioritize** – When you take on the commitment to invest in a child’s life you have taken on a significant responsibility. These children don’t have parents to screen which individuals will contribute to their development. Jerusalem Ministry is in part taking on that role. Do not trivialize your role with the children. You are dealing with human beings and their eternal souls. **Be on time.**
7. **Passion** – Ideally, you want to be go in to each class **wanting** to be there. Your children will pick up on your impatience (if you are pressed for time), or lack of concentration (if your mind is somewhere else). If you are struggling with passion for the children...
8. **Pray** – In your quiet times don’t forget to pray for the welfare of your children. Don’t forget to ask God for help before and during the class. And don’t forget to thank God for his help once the class is over. We will have **no lasting success** without the hand of God.