

Before You Teach...

Planning for Sunday School Success

Bring your lessons alive by using all five senses.
Here are some suggestions to spark your imagination.

Every house needs a good foundation...

Nothing will help your Sunday School lesson get off to a great start better than planning for success. Here are some steps to help you on your way.

Plan ahead

- Make sure your Sunday School teaching commitments are in your daily planner. Use a special color so they are easy to see.
- Start thinking about the lesson at the beginning of the week and read over the story.
- Make up a Sunday School bag and put your lesson materials, pencil, highlighter and copy of the Word in it. This is your mobile preparation unit. Keep it where it will be easy to reach. If you drive a lot—for work or with your children—your car may be the best spot to put it.
- Instead of picking up the paper or a magazine, read your Sunday School lesson as you sit and wait for a child in the car, at a music lesson, soccer game or dental appointment.
- Reflect on the lesson. Spending time with the story or lesson will bring thoughts to your mind.
- Jot down ideas on how you can present the lesson, what project you think will work well and what supplies you may need to gather to make it work.

Lay the “cornerstone” in your mind

- *Read the story in the Word* that you will be teaching *several times* until you can easily tell it to the children.
- Make sure you understand the Lord’s message in the story by using prepared lessons, going to the Heavenly Doctrine, *or* talking to your pastor.
- Think about ways that this story affects your personal life.
- **Choose 3 main points** of the story to focus on in your lesson. Children (and adults) can’t really take in more than that. Mark them in your lesson notes with a highlighter so they’ll be easy to find when you are teaching.

Decide on a plan of action and “build” your lesson

- Visualize the entire lesson—
How you want to read, tell and discuss the story (pictures/props/play/story basket)
What you will do next (discuss the story/play a game/start a project/play/food)
Wrap-up (review and discuss 3 main points)
Clean-up (stop in time to use helpers/gather brooms/set up glitter trays)
- Think about the children in your group. Will this lesson work with them? (active students?) What might make it more successful? (get their hands working on a project sooner?)
- Finalize your plan of action and gather the materials you need.
- Have *everything* ready *before* Sunday morning so that you can relax and enjoy teaching.