



S2.Lesson 1: Expectations

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout

Opening Prayer

OPENING ACTIVITY: Guess and Switch

TELL (words in parenthesis are not meant to be said out-loud)

- We need to make two equal-in-number teams.
- (if there's an odd number, then only one teacher joins a group. If an even number, then each or neither teacher joins a group).
- Teams will gather in different parts of the room. This corner and this corner.
- Very quickly now, each team will choose one person to start this activity and send that person to the middle of the room, where I'm at. You have 10 seconds. If you do not have a person here within that 10 seconds your team loses a point. (count down from 10).
- Now, you two are going to go out in the hallway and together you are going to choose an object, any object, that is of this world. Make sure you agree and are clear about what that object is. Don't take too long. Come back in when you've decided. When you come back in, don't say a word. Got it? Good. Go do your thing.
- (Wait)
- Now that the two volunteers have come back in, they must go to the opposite team.
- Now the opposite team is going to ask them questions that can only be answered with a yes or a no.
- The player **MUST** answer correctly and truthfully.
- The first team to get the correct answer, keeps the other team's player and gets their own player back.
- Then each team picks a new volunteer for the next round and play continues until one team runs out of players or until the we, the teachers, stop the game.
- Let's begin.

DO Guess and Switch activity (10 minutes or less)

ASK

- How did you feel when your team started to dwindle?
- How did you feel as your team started to grow?
- How did you feel when you had to join a different team?
- As the game went on, do you think you got better at asking questions that got you to the answer quicker?

TELL

- This opening activity mirrors, in some ways, what this class experiences every year. There's some new people who have joined us and there's some others who have left us. Also, one of the purposes of this class is to learn how to ask better questions.
- As we start our adventure together, let's start first with introducing ourselves.
- We'll simply go around the circle and say our names and what our favorite candy is.
- I'll go first since I suggested we do it.

DO Name Activity (5 minutes)

TELL (15 minutes)

- Now that we know each other's names, there are some things that we need to talk about regarding class.
- Class starts _____.
- When you get here, unless you are told otherwise, have a seat.

(Learning)

- In the Workshop Rotation Model (K-5th), the focus is on learning the Bible stories (the Who, what, where, when parts of the stories).
- In this class, even though we'll revisit a number of those stories we learned in the Workshop Rotation, our focus will be more on the "why" and on "us" rather than on the who, what, when, where of the story. We'll still start with the story, but we'll bring the focus to us pretty quickly. For example: "Why do the characters do what they do in the stories. Do we do similar things? Why?"
- This type of learning is dependent upon all of us to provide our thoughts and it is dependent on all of us to listen to what others are saying.

(Communication)

- The most important thing that will determine how well this class works is how we choose to communicate with each other.
- If all of us talk at the same time, the class will not go well. If one person, like me, is talking to the class, but two of you are whispering to each other, then that is disruptive to the class.
- If one person shares something and someone else makes fun of that person, then that is disruptive to the class.
- These disruptive aspects of communication are not acceptable.
- Also, it is important for you to be aware that others may not think at the same speed as you do. If you are someone who often has the answer right away, that doesn't mean you should always answer right away. Give your fellow students time and space to mull over, process and share.
- We will have activities in class, like what we just did, as a way to move around, but we will also have conversations.

(Expectations)

- You are expected to participate in both the activities and the conversations in ways that are considerate and respectful of those around you.

- If you do not follow these expectations, there will be some actions that are available for us to take.
- We understand that sometimes you might be feeling a little unfocused, or excited or grumpy and that those things will cause you to not be aware of what you're doing, exactly.
- So, the first action we'll take as teachers is to let you know if you're not following expectations.
- If you persist in the now named behavior, the second action we'll take as teachers is to tell you to leave the room and to come back when you feel like you've figured out a way to participate in class without disrupting it (there's actually a chair outside the room just for this reason).
- If after coming back to class, you still persist in disrupting the class, then we'll send you to the Superintendent's office for the rest of the class and we'll be having a meeting with you and your parents.
- In no way, should that third action ever have to happen this year.

(Schedule/Notebooks/Question box)

- About once a month, we will not meet in class, but will attend the worship service the whole way through.
- The schedule is not yet available. It will be soon. When it is, it'll be available on the website and we'll have a printout for your notebook.
- Your notebook is provided. It stays in the classroom. We will store them on the second shelf of the bookcase.
- Also on the bookcase is the Question Box. Sometimes during a discussion we're having, you might have a question that comes up for you that's not really about what we're talking about. We'd like to answer your question, but we can't just stop class every time to answer a question that is off-topic. So, we have this Question Box for you to put your question in. We will respond to your questions in later classes.

(Last year vs this year)

- There are no shepherds anymore because you don't need them.
- Last year, you had 3 teachers who rotated each Sunday. During the first semester this year, you'll have the same two teachers every class (that's us). We'll be here every week with a few exceptions and we hope that you are here with us.
- Last year we watched a movie clip every week and each week's lesson had very little to do with the previous week's lesson. This year, we'll have 3 to 4 week sessions where we focus on a theme and, even though there will still be video clips, we will not have one every week.

Are there any questions?

Closing Prayer