

Classroom Management

Classroom management from a Christian perspective is unique from our secular school counterparts. First, as Christian teachers and administrators we are commissioned to provide a spiritual as well as an academic environment where Christian characteristics are priority. It is our job as Christian teachers to teach children about God and His values. We do this through a number of mediums throughout the day.

One piece of teaching values is through effective classroom management procedures. As teachers, we want our students to display caring characteristics towards one another. We strive to put in place guidelines that uphold each other.

The purpose of this project is to provide classroom teachers with various activities that he/she can implement into his/her classroom that teach children how to be respectful, responsible, and safe.

These activities that follow could be implemented into a larger school wide character development unit entitled the 3 Bee's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. For primary grades, teachers can add a fun way of kicking off the unit. Bumble bee costumes could be made for this event. Three adults could wear the costumes on the opening day of the unit, and they could explain what the 3 Bee's are during a class assembly. Further, posters could be made (either commercially or by upper grade students) that list out the 3 Bee's and perhaps depict these important characteristics. As the year progresses, students are reminded of the importance of the school wide initiative of the 3 Bee's program.

ACTIVITIES:

Golden Rule - A teacher will begin by explaining a scenario to the class. "A new student comes to school, and many students make friends with him. He has many students that eat lunch and play with during recess. Further, students take time to show him around and help him with classroom procedures. How do you think he feels?" The teacher will list responses on the board.

Now the teacher will explain, "A new student comes to school, and no one makes friends with him." He eats lunch and plays by himself. He is unsure as to what to do in the classroom." The teacher asks, "How do you think this student felt?" The teacher will list responses on the board.

What does the Bible say about how we should treat others? Let's look at the Golden Rule. Turn to Matthew 7:12. Let's read what it says. "Do for others what you would like them to do."

Now, let's list other ways in which we should treat other people. For instance, an older church member is moving across town. What should we do? The pastor has fallen ill, and is in the hospital. What should we do? A classmate is absent. What should we do? (The teacher will list these items on the board). Now, who else can think of a scenario where something has happened? (Teacher lists other scenarios on the board)

Now we are going to break up into small groups. Each group will choose 1 positive scenario and depict how we should treat the other person. You will make a poster and illustrate the scenario. Then write a caption and the Golden Rule. After project is completed, students can share and discuss their posters. Also, the students will memorize the Golden Rule verse.

Paper Chain Acts of Kindness – Read the story of the Good Samaritan to the class which is found in Luke 10:30-37. Discuss those that showed unkindness and kindness. Then, discuss how random acts of kindness can bring happiness to others by simply taking time and of giving of yourself.

Next, the teacher will explain that it is our job to notice the acts of kindness in our classroom. For instance, earlier today I saw Nadine offered to share her markers with Abby to complete their project. This would be an example of an act of kindness. I also saw Forrest give the ball to a third grader so he could try to make a goal. This is another example of kindness.

Once a student or teacher notices these acts of kindness, he/she can write the act of kindness on a paper strip. For instance, I would write “I saw Nadine share her markers with Abby.” At the end of the day, these acts of kindness would be read to the class. Then, the strips will be put together to form a paper chain. The chain is then strung around the classroom. The goal is to keep adding links to the chain to link it around the room, possible several times. Color coded links can be used for each month to see if the class can increase their acts of kindness. As a last day of school activity, the links can be counted, disassembled, and returned to the students as an affirmation.

Fruit of the Spirit - The teacher can introduce the lesson by reminding their students of the Golden Rule activity they completed. He/she can talk about how God transforms people’s character and as a result these people have changed qualities. These qualities are represented by good characteristics. The bible refers to these good qualities as the Fruit of the Spirit. Let’s read the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 6:22. Now when people do not have the Spirit of God living in them, they can display bad characteristics such as being dishonest, and cheating.

Now keeping the good and bad qualities in mind, we are going to play a matching game. The teacher will write out all the fruit of the spirit on one card, and the opposite fruit on another card. On the bottom of each matching card, the teacher will write out the first part of a verse on one card, and the second part of the verse on the other card.

Then students will choose a card and try to find the opposite match (see below for examples). Once students make a match, they will look up the verse which depicts one of the fruits of the spirit. If the story represents their fruit, they have made a correct match. Then students need to read the story, and then create a visual picture of what their fruit that is represented. Then, their illustration will be hung on our “Fruit of the Spirit” Tree. Examples of cards are as follows:

Love – Hate : John 3:16

Joy – Sadness (Philippians 4:4)

Peace – Fighting (Psalms 4:8)

Patience – impatient (Proverbs 18:5)

Kindness – indifferent (Proverbs 31:26)

Goodness - meanness (Romans 14: 17-19)

Faithfulness – worry (Matthew 6: 32,33)

Gentleness – roughness (Proverbs 15:1)

Self-control – impulsive (1 Peter 1:13)

Respectful Role Playing – The purpose of this activity is teaching children how to wait patiently for help. The teacher will show a photo that depicts a problem. The photo is of a child sitting at his desk working on a project. It is clear that he needs help from a teacher, but the teacher is assisting other students.

After showing the photo to the class, the teacher will ask the class:

1. What is the problem?
2. What might happen if the student reacts in a negative way such as yells across the room to the teacher?
3. What are some positive examples of what this student may be able to do? Let's keep in mind some ways in which the Bible would encourage us to do so. What are some such ways?

After responses are given, the teacher can introduce ways in which students can positively handle such situations. For instance, the teacher can talk about respect. When someone is talking it is respectful to wait until that person is no longer talking. So sometimes, we have to wait. Is waiting easy? No, it is not. Is it respectful. Yes, it is.

Another way to handle this situation is to put others first. Let's read about what the Bible says about being first. Let's read Luke 14:8-11. The teacher will ask, "What are the lessons learned in this story."

Another way of handling situations positively is by praying. Sometimes if we are frustrated, we need to simply pray and ask God to help us through the situation.

The teacher will ask, "let's brainstorm a list a problems that could occur in our classroom where we can apply waiting, putting others first, or praying." Problems can include someone says something mean, someone takes something from you, someone takes your turn, or you don't understand what to do.

Then using the list that was generated, the teacher will ask the students to role play the different situation. Emphasis would be on positive ways to handle the situation.

Honesty - The teacher will ask students to define honesty. He/she will embark on a discussion as to why honesty is important. The discussion could also discuss what happens when people are dishonest.

Then, the class can read the account of Peter's Denial of knowing Christ in Luke 22:31-34; 54-62.

Discuss how Peter was confident at first that he would not deny Christ, as well as the actual denial. Discuss how Peter felt after his denial.

Then, students can create puppets of the main characters in this story. Then, students can act out the scene of story.

Later, students can do a text-to-self journal entry as to how you would feel if you were Peter.

Additional Resources

<http://www.csrnet.org/csrnet/articles/classroom-discipline.html>

<http://www.beginningteachers.org/bookstore/index.php?act=viewProd&productId=27>

<http://www.digjudio.com/ClassMgt/>

www.antelope-ebooks.com/.../FRUITS/ftree.htm