

Teaching Children

Study Guide

Teaching Children is an online *DeafPah!* course that helps prepare church members to serve in their congregation's ministry. Your instructor is Rev. Tim Eckert.

You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from deafjesus.org.

The videos were originally prepared as videotapes for the Deaf Institute of Theology. The lesson numbers and titles refer to the textbook for this course -- *Making a Difference*, by Margaret Rickers Hinchey; 1998, Concordia Publishing House.

Lesson 1. Discipline, Part 1: *Love Your Students*

1. What does discipline mean? Remember both parts of discipline.

2. Give three reasons why children behave wrong.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

3. Important! Have the right attitude for children and teaching. What does God's word say about attitude, children and discipline?
 - a. Matthew 18:1-5
 - b. Matthew 19:13-15
 - c. Matthew 6:14-15
 - d. Matthew 22:37-39
 - e. Hebrews 12:11
 - f. Proverbs 22:6

Lesson 2. Discipline, Part 2: Classroom Procedures

1. What does discipline mean? This time, include "planning" and "informing the students" in your definition. Compare your definition with Lesson 1, Question 1.

2. Read each of these lines. Does it encourage the students to behave good or bad? Circle "Good" or "Bad."
 - a. Teacher starts class and says, "I sure hope you feel better than me today. I feel awful." *Good or Bad?*

 - b. Teacher starts the first class, explains rules and goals. *Good or Bad?*

 - c. Teacher tells kindergarten kids, "Here are the crayons and the paper. Draw what you want about Jesus." *Good or Bad?*

 - d. Teacher tells kindergarten kids, "Here is a picture of Jesus calming the storm. Choose one crayon and begin coloring." *Good or Bad?*

 - e. Seventh grade class does a skit about Jesus calming the storm. *Good or Bad?*

Lesson 3. Building Community in Your Class

Plan how you can help build relationships in your class. Plan one activity for each week. Do three weeks of bond building activities, then three weeks of opening up.

Bond Building Activity	Description	Supplies

Opening Up Activity	Description	Supplies

Lesson 4. Planning Your Lessons

1. If you are teaching now, choose **two lessons** you have not yet taught. If you are not teaching, borrow two lessons from a Sunday school teacher or ask your pastor to help you get two children's lessons. Think of activities, how you will tell the story, etc. **Write a lesson plan outline for each of those two lessons**, using this guide.

Lesson Number _____	Lesson Theme _____
Date to be taught _____	Teacher(s) _____
Equipment needed:	
Materials needed:	
Classroom setting:	
How many chairs? _____	How many tables? _____ Other? _____
Opening prayer/worship:	
Introduction activity:	
Lesson Plan:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Summarize the main point:	
Law and Gospel emphasis:	
Closing activity:	
Memory work:	
Take-home activities/reminders:	
Supplies needed for next week:	

2. Discuss your lesson plans with your mentor/pastor.

Lesson 5. Tailoring a Lesson to Fit Your Class

1. You are studying about Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27). The lesson suggests the children go on a boat ride. You can't do that. Another idea is you get a large tub of water and a toy boat and pretend. But your kids are very active and everyone could become very wet. Can you think of other ideas? What do you do?
2. You have 3 children in your class, kindergarten and first grade. First and second grade also has 3 children. List some positive things about teaching separate classes. Then list some times or activities the classes could work and do together.

Lesson 6. Varying Your Presentation Style

When you teach, you should use use various methods (ways to teach) and various activities.

1. Words – telling story, telling information
2. Pictures – maps, charts
3. Video
4. Displays
5. Study trips
6. Demonstrations
7. Drama – plays, puppet shows
8. Games
9. Role Play – acting out the story, practicing a skill
10. Personal experience that is meaningful and real

The last methods in this list are the most successful ways to teach. Getting students actively involved helps the best to learn and remember.

If you are teaching now, use the class you now teach for this lesson. If you are not teaching now, imagine you are teaching third grade Sunday School. Choose one Bible story from the list below. Then choose three different methods for teaching that one lesson. (example: Signing the story, pictures, and study trips). Plan how to use those methods to teach that Bible story.

1. The Flood (Genesis 6-9)
2. Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37)
3. God Gives Moses The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-20)
4. Daniel In The Lions' Den (Daniel 6)

Teaching Children
Study Guide

5. Parable Of The Sower (Matthew 13:1-13)
6. Parable Of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Lesson 7. Teaching the Way Jesus Taught
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1. Jesus taught using things the people understand.
 - a. What things do your kids best know and understand?
 - b. Choose one thing and figure out how to use it in a Bible story.
2. Jesus did not give straight answers. He sometimes let people search for answers.
 - a. Look at Matthew 14:25-33. What truth did Jesus teach?
 - b. How can you teach that truth to your students, let them figure out the answer?
3. Jesus looked for teaching opportunities.
 - a. Think about a good teaching opportunity in your class (example, two students arguing about who is better).
 - b. How can you use that opportunity to teach an important lesson?
4. Jesus taught, then He let people live and do what they learned.
 - a. Read Matthew 14:25-33 again. What lesson did Peter learn?
 - b. How can you teach children that same lesson and give them opportunity to try living that lesson?

Teaching Children
Study Guide

Lesson 8. Learning Styles

If you teach a class now, write each child's name under the words that describe them. If you don't teach a class now, use names of people in a Bible class you attend. How do these people learn? Then under the names in each group, write two activities those people would like to do.

	Kids who ask "Why?"	Kids who like people	Thinking students	Active students
Names:				
Activities:				

Lesson 9. Understanding the Challenging Child

1. Think about some children in class who have behavior problems. If you don't yet teach class, think of some children you know. Write their names, behavior, and what you can do to help them have better behavior in class.

Names	Behavior	Solution

2. Sometimes children can frustrate you! Read these Bible verses and see what God says about teaching those students.
 - a. Psalm 139:14-16
 - b. Proverbs 22:6
 - c. James 2:8-9

Teaching Children
Study Guide

3. Children with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) are very difficult to teach. They have problems sitting still and paying attention. Here are some things to remember when you teach those children.
- They pay attention only a short time. So you should teach in short sections. Don't do the same activity for more than 5-7 minutes.
 - Children can't sit still. Do your activities in different parts of the room. For example, sit on the floor for a story, then go to a table for crafts.
 - Children look away easy. Give simple instructions, one instruction at a time. Do everything one step at a time and show them how to do things.
 - Keep them busy. Do lots of activities that let them do things with their hands. Only sitting and watching or listening is very difficult.
 - Children don't like a lot of stress. Make the class organized. Make clear rules, use the rules, and have consequences if they break the rules.

Lesson 10. Active Learning

Read the story of the **Lost Son**, Luke 15:11-32. **Make one active learning experience** for your Sunday School class. If you are not teaching now, choose a grade and make the lesson for that class. You can use activities like games, drama, arts and crafts, or anything else you can think of.

Lesson 11. The Art of Asking Questions (Teaching: Lesson 11)

1. What kind of questions are these?
Write the letter that matches the type of question each one is.
- I = Information questions
F = questions that make you Figure out the answer
P = Personal questions
- ___ a. In this story, who are the four main people?
 - ___ b. Why do you think Jesus told this story?
 - ___ c. In this story, what was the name of the city?
 - ___ d. What are some times when God forgave you?
 - ___ e. What do you think this story teaches us about God and people?
 - ___ f. Why did the son decide to go back home to his father?

Teaching Children
Study Guide

2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. For this story, write two information questions, two “figure out” questions, and two personal questions.

Information questions:

- 1.
- 2.

Figure out questions:

- 1.
- 2.

Personal questions:

- 1.
- 2.

Lesson 12. Mentoring

1. A mentor is a person who loves, lives their faith, and shares their faith with another person. The mentor wants to help the other person also grow in faith. The video lesson listed some things that a mentor does. Now we want to know what a mentor is like – characteristics and attitude. **Describe a person you think can be a good mentor.** Try to focus on that person’s attitudes and faith.

Teaching Children
Study Guide

2. Think of five children in your class or five children you know. Write their names and some need they have. Then write the name of an adult who can be a good mentor for that child. The mentor can be you or another adult.

Child's Name	Child's Needs	Mentor's Name

3. Read these Bible verses. Name the mentor and the student. Then say what action the mentor did that showed he or she was a mentor.

	Mentor	Student	Action
Acts 15:40-16:5			
Acts 18:18-26			
Matthew 4:18-20			

Lesson 13. Involving Families (Teaching: Lesson 13)
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1. List three ways parents or older brothers or sisters can help in your class.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.

Teaching Children
Study Guide

2. List three ways parents can help children with lessons at home.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Lesson 14. Memory Work

Memory work is important for your students and for you! These are some situations where God's word can help. If you memorize verses, you are ready to give God's comfort and peace.

- #1. Read these situations, then read the Bible verses.
- #2. Memorize these Bible verses and
- #3. Say (or type) them to your mentor from memory.

	Situation	Memorize
1	A friend's older parent recently died.	John 11:25-26
2	A young child has cancer and the doctors can't do anything to help.	Read: Romans 8:28-39. Memorize: Romans 8:38-39
3	Your child made you very angry.	Ephesians 4:26
4	Many things burden you now, and you have doubts about your faith.	Ephesians 2:8-9
5	Your family is moving to another state and you are afraid of the future.	Matthew 6:34
6	You lost your job.	Psalms 121:1-2
7	Your friend says she thinks God doesn't love her and will never do anything for her.	John 3:16

Lesson 15. Dealing With Varying Degrees of Biblical Literacy

1. Children different ages have different abilities. How can you find out what abilities they have? Pick an age group (pre-school and kindergarten, grades 1-2, grades 3-5, or grades 6-8). Then find a teacher, book, or other resource that can inform you about their abilities and interests. Write down 3 things you found out.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Teaching Children
Study Guide

2. Create a **Bible matching game** for second graders. For example, a picture of Noah and a picture of a large boat will match. A picture of Adam and Eve and a picture of a tree will match. If you teach a class right now, your class can make up the game.

Lesson 16. Teaching Prayer

1. Think about these questions for yourself. You do not need to share your answers with anyone. These questions are only to help you know how you pray.
 - a. When is your favorite time to pray?
 - b. Where is your favorite place to pray?
 - c. Do you remember any prayers from when you were a child?
 - d. Do you pray for some of the same things every day?
 - e. Do you feel comfortable if you pray in front of other people?
 - f. How do you define prayer?
 - g. Do you pray for family members? Do they know you pray for them?
 - h. Do you pray for your Sunday school students? Do they know you pray for them?

2. The Bible talks about prayer in both Old Testament and New Testament. Read the Bible verses on the left. Match the verses with one of the words on the right and write that letter with the word.
 - a. 1 John 1:9 ___ Adoration (worship)
 - b. Philippians 4:6 ___ Confession
 - c. Psalm 86:12-13 ___ Thanksgiving
 - d. 2 Corinthians 9:15 ___ Supplication (praying for needs)

3. Does God really attend our prayers? Does He answer? Sometimes people doubt that. Read the Bible verses and write down what God says about prayer.
 - a. James 5:17
 - b. Isaiah 55:8-9

Teaching Children
Study Guide

- c. 1 Samuel 1:27
 - d. Galatians 6:2
 - e. James 5:16
4. Make a prayer list for your students. Write down the student names, then write down things they need. Pray for each student every day.
5. Make a plan for praying in class. When will you pray? What will the students do for prayer in class?

Lesson 17. Changing Hearts, Changing Lives: Law & Gospel

1. Fill in the blanks with “law” or “gospel.”
- The _____ show us our sin. The _____ shows us Jesus our Savior. The _____ tells us what we must do. The _____ tells us what God does for us. Only the _____ has the power to change our lives for God.
2. Read John 3:16. Who does the work of saving us, announcing us righteous to God (justification)?
3. Read Philippians 1:4-6. Now that we are Christians, where do we get strength for living and following God (sanctification)? Are we responsible ourselves to follow, or does God help us follow Him?

Lesson 18. Evangelism in the Sunday School

1. Jesus showed us how to love and take care of people. These Bible verses show different kinds of people Jesus served. Read the Bible verses, then write what kind of people Jesus loved and served.
- a. Mark 10:13-16
 - b. Mark 7:31-37
 - c. Matthew 20:29-34

Teaching Children
Study Guide

- d. Luke 17:11-18
- e. Matthew 9:9-13
- f. Luke 8:26-39

2. Think about this for yourself. Which describes you?

- A. I feel that I can touch other people easily and often with Jesus' love.*
- B. I feel like I could do better at showing Jesus' love.*

Which did you choose?

If you chose "A", list 3 specific ways you can show that love.

- a.
- b.
- c.

If you answered "B", why are you not bold? Choose one reason.

 I am not comfortable talking about my faith.

 Everyone I know is already Christian.

 I don't know enough about the Bible.

 Other reason: _____

3. Make a personal commitment to share God's good news. Write how you will show and tell the good news about Jesus in your class or in your personal life during the next year.

Lesson 19. Integrating Sunday School and Worship

1. Answer some of these questions for yourself. Think about your memories. Write why you think they are important to you.
 - a. What is your earliest memory of Sunday School?
 - b. What Bible stories do you remember from Sunday School?
 - c. What person, event, or teacher do you remember best?
 - d. What is your earliest memory of worship? Do you remember sermons, songs, people?

2. Think about these events. How can you celebrate these events in Sunday School?
 - a. Advent, waiting for Jesus to come
 - b. Pentecost, the Holy Spirit coming
 - c. Baptism
 - d. Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday)

3. These are Sunday school activities you can do in church worship. Describe about how you can do that.
 - a. Tell the story about the Good Samaritan.
 - b. Make banner showing hands that serve God.
 - c. Singing/signing together Psalm 121.

Teaching Children
Study Guide

- d. Act drama about the Ten Lepers.
- e. Pantomime of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Lesson 20. Let's Make Music

These are some different ways to use songs in your classroom.

1. What songs could your class sign/sign about Bible verses?
2. What songs teach Bible stories?
3. What songs are good for worship?
4. What ways can you get students involved in leading songs?
5. Are there other people in your church who can help lead music for your class? Who?
6. What other ideas for music do you have?