

## **Creative Teaching**

Whether teaching children or adults, using the same style of teaching all year long will become a boring, monotonous, tedious, humdrum, dull hour for your students. A variety of teaching styles offers students a fresh approach to learning material. Not all of us excel in learning the same way.

Unfortunately, many teachers, especially Sunday School teachers, talk themselves into believing that students are there to learn Biblical material, and by the importance of the material alone students should somehow crave each lesson.

Often a conscious desire to attain more and more Biblical understanding does not take place until a Christian matures in their faith. As teachers, we should desire to present Biblical lessons using different styles of teaching so that our Biblical principles are not seen as dull. As with just about anything, our approach can make all the difference.

Listed below are materials that can be used not to dumb-down our Biblical principles, but to enhance them. When our students learn that they can find Biblical principles in television shows or movies, maybe, just maybe they will begin to look for them in other avenues of life.

While many teachers are still in the mode of lecturing each lesson or maybe using question/answer methods, we must remember our students are very diverse. They have grown up in a visual world with movies, TV, video games, etc. They learn better by doing and seeing. When we use the same methods in teaching that we used 30 years ago, it is like teaching blind students with pictures or deaf students with the spoken word. Begin using different techniques in teaching and see the difference it will make with your students.

## Video Lessons I Have Used

*The Superman Bible Study*

*The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study (volumes 1 & 2)*

*Parables From The Fishin= Hole (volumes 1 & 2) Andy Griffith Show*

*The Lucy Show (volume 1)*

*The Dick Van Dyke Show (2 volumes)*

*Gilligan's Island & The Seven Deadly Sins*

Usually we will watch an episode and then relate what happened to Biblical principles. Believe it or not, students will remember the principles by associating them with characters or incidents in the episodes.

## Other Creative Bible Study Ideas

Unusual events in the Bible: Make your own lessons

Elisha (bald head)

Battle won because Moses stretched out hands

Sun stood still for a whole day

An army of 700 left-handed men

Axe head floated in the water

Sun traveled backward

Graveyard full of dead bones resurrected

Jezebel ate by dogs

Book of Jonah

About 3 years ago, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox released a children=s movie, *“Everyone’s Hero,”* about a young boy named Yankee Irving who is the son of the janitor of Yankee Stadium.

When the Chicago Cubs steal Babe Ruth=s favorite bat before the Yankees and Cubs meet in the World Series, Irving sets out on a journey to retrieve the bat and restore his family=s good name because everyone is blaming his dad. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox also published a Bible study to use with a DVD that not only included movie clips to use in the study but also Bible games to use to heighten interest. After completing the Bible study we attended the movie and the theater manager gave out posters and buttons to each student.

*Videos That Teach*

*Box Office Bible Study*

*Movie Clips For Kids* (Group pub.)

*Movie Clips For Kids The Sequel* (Group pub.)

*Blockbuster Movie Illustrations* (Group pub.)

## Games:

*Bible Brainstorm* used as a reward when we reach a goal.

Could be used with many ages.

“Roll A Role” effective with teens who are used to speaking out. You’ve got to be fast on your feet as a teacher.

## Special Lessons

“Stick Night” a special lesson that requires students to bring a decorated stick to class.

Hebrews 11:6 *without faith it is impossible to please Him....*

Exodus 3 - Moses and the burning bush, staff

1. Don=t stick to old friends (non-Christian friends)
2. Don=t stick to possessions

3. Don't get stuck on yourself
4. Stick with God - talk about what Moses did with his staff

### Adult Small Group Studies

*Life Connections*, from Serendipity House offers many small group studies. Each leader has a Leader's Guide and each student has their own book. Currently, we have begun a small group study in our home. By next semester, we plan to have at least four groups meeting. Small groups offer an opportunity for folks of all ages to come together in an informal atmosphere. Students are encouraged to do most of the talking. The lessons actually make students talk because there is an ice-breaker as each lesson begins. We have a strong cross-reference of ages as well as both singles and couples.

### Vacation Bible School

Since 1994, our church has used a different format in VBS than the traditional teacher/student/room format. We split 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into 5 groups. Each day (Monday - Friday) a group will go to a different classroom (site), and will be with a different teacher. Our teachers teach 1 lesson 5 times to 5 different groups. We also divide the day into 2 teaching segments of 45 minutes with an hour of activities (music, crafts (woodwork), and recreation/refreshments). You will get more volunteers and students will like it also.

### Summer Reading Tree

Each summer our Library ministry will use Wednesday evenings to teach children ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and also give children the opportunity to check out books and keep up their reading. We have split children into 2 or 3 groups and each week volunteers read or tell a story in character to the children. While one group is in the library, the other group will have their story told to them and will do crafts.