

Creative Lesson Enhancers

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When you find yourself with too much class time at the end of your curriculum, you can always use one of these creative ideas to continue teaching while giving your learners an enjoyable experience.

Using Questions

The process of asking questions forces the teacher to grapple with what needs to be known. The questions should not tell the information, but rather lead the learners to the information. Jesus was a master at this, “Whose picture is on this coin?” or “Woman, where are your accusers?”



1. Ask questions that stir their curiosity – “Why did David collect 5 stones?”
2. Ask questions that don’t have a “yes,” or “no” answer.
3. Ask questions with that drive them to read – “What made Jesus make a whip?”
4. Ask questions that surprise them – “Why didn’t God just kill Pharaoh to free the Jews?”

Using “What if” Scenarios

The use of “What if” scenarios force the learners to think beyond the “normal.” These scenarios force them to consider the motives, and the consequences of other choices.

1. What if Moses didn’t have a brother to “lean on”?
2. What if Jesus just appeared, rather than being born as a child and growing up?
3. What if the Apostles really did stop preaching about Jesus when they were told to?
4. What if Jesus never died for your sins?



Using “Role Play / Reversal” Experiences

Role-plays draw the learners into the story and make them feel, rather than just think. “Reversal” role-plays display the opposite of what the lesson is about.

1. Ask the learners to role-play the scene in the story.
2. Ask the learners to role-play an encounter with a student at school that illustrates the lesson.
3. Ask the learners to role-play an encounter with a student at school that illustrates the OPPOSITE of the lesson, then “rewind” the role-play to show the correct choices.



Using Guest Visits / Interviews

Using guests or visitors is a way to teach through “the back door.” A guest or visitor can attract the learners and introduce or reinforce the learning in a way that the “normal” teacher cannot.

1. A beekeeper who talks about treating mothers like the “Queen bee.”
2. A scientist who does experiments as object lessons for a deeper lesson.
3. A dancer who performs and talks about balance and grace in life.
4. A garbage collector who brings in a garbage can and talks about sin.



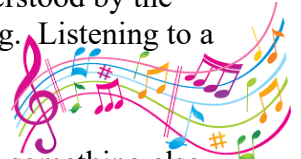
Using Movie or “YouTube” Clips

Movie or YouTube clips are the “language” of today’s kids. A short visual experience can either introduce or reinforce a concept. You can either play the whole clip and talk about it after (or before), or you can stop the clip in the middle and talk about it before letting it finish.

1. Clips from movies they recognize.
2. Clips from television shows they recognize.
3. Clips from unknown movies or shows.
4. Clips from YouTube or WingClips.com

Using Songs

Music is a powerful tool for learning, but it is “complex” because it has to be understood by the learners. Music must suit the “tastes” of the learners, or it may become a block to learning. Listening to a whole song, or a major part of a song may be “boring” to some.



1. Listening to a section of a song.
2. Used as a background to another activity. Children can “hear” a song while doing something else, and the song can enhance the overall learning environment.
3. Asking the learners to “extract” the lesson from a song.

Using “Scavenger Hunts”

A “scavenger hunt” is a planned “search” for “hidden” items with the goal of forcing the learners to involve themselves with the lesson along the way.

1. Read the passage and find 3 things in the room that relate to the passage.
2. Read the passage. Your first item to find is what Jesus was looking for...
3. Go out to the parking lot and collect 5 items that God didn’t create.
4. Go to the field next door and find something that is related to the story.



Using Unusual / Mystery Objects

Bringing in unusual or “mystery” objects (covered up) involves the learners’ curiosity and imagination. The more unusual, the more the challenge to the learner!

1. A “broken” lawn mower in the room – refer to a cookbook to try to fix it.
2. A caged animal to illustrate our control of the “sin nature”
3. A covered “mystery object” – the learners try to guess based on lesson or passage



Using Writing / Photography

For older students, the process of writing is a great way to get them to put the learning into their own words. Once a learner “translates” the learning into their own words, the learning is “sealed.”

1. “Newspaper” stories with pictures
2. Cartoon strips that they draw, with a story
3. Movie “story boards” with a story
4. Pictures that they write a “back story” to that illustrates the lesson or learning

Using Field Trips (live and video)

The mention of a “Field Trip” brings excitement to every learner! Taking the lesson “out” of the “normal” classroom increases the interest of the learners. With Zoom or FaceTime, you don’t have to leave the classroom to go on a “Field Trip.”



1. Show a nature video; ask the learners to thank God for His creative power.
2. Film a “tour” of a store, facility, or home and ask the learners to look for lesson-related items.
3. Take a trip to a location in the church facility and talk about a lesson-related topic while there.
4. Film a “tour” of somewhere in the church facility – learners guess where it is.

Using Science Experiments

Science experiments thrill learners and add to the memory of the lesson. They become visual object lessons to illustrate the lesson. The local Christian bookstore has many books on “object lessons.”

1. “Sucking an egg” – the results of giving into temptation and the consequences of sin
2. Red water and paint thinner – “be in the world, but not of it...”
3. Use of lasers or bright lights in a dark room – “...you are the light of the world...”

Using “Walk-through” Experiences

A “walk-through” experience is like a “Field Trip” without leaving the facility. They usually focus on a Biblical setting and require much work beforehand and cooperation between several age groups.

1. A “walk-through” the wandering in the wilderness
2. A “walk-through” the days of creation
3. A “walk-through” the healing ministry or last days of Jesus
4. A “walk-through” the journeys of Paul

Using Games

Most learners love games. A game incorporates teamwork, competition, and the reward of winning. You can have your “standard” games ready to go at any time or create special ones for special lessons.

1. “Bible baseball” played inside the room – learners answer questions “at bat,” and run around bases.
2. Popular game shows using PowerPoint –
 - a. <http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/PPT-games>
 - b. <http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm>
 - c. <http://teachnet.com/lesson/misc/winnergame022500.html>
 - d. <http://facstaff.uww.edu/jonesd/games>
3. Make your own games at triviamaker.com
4. Create board games for lessons – download free directions:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q31C0DxRt4SjShe2qetk7bLbF_2UZvLr/view?usp=sharing
5. Challenge the learners themselves to create games for the lesson, then play them in class.



Using Arts / Crafts

Everybody loves to color or create something using simple craft supplies! Don’t limit the use of this powerful experience by thinking that your learners might be “too old to do this.”

1. Make collages about the lesson or passage using magazine pictures (be careful with all magazines!)
2. Make large wall murals depicting the lesson or passage.
3. Make “take-away” items that remind the learners of the lesson all week long.
4. Create a “walk-through” experience for younger learners to enjoy.

Using Cooking / Food

The use of food propels the lesson’s effectiveness! Jesus was a master at incorporating food into His lessons (fish, bread, wine, meals in homes, etc.). Remember to work hard at getting the lesson into as many “holes in the head” as you can!

1. Object lessons (not sharing)
2. “This is what _____ tastes like...” (use of good and bad tasting items)
3. Following a recipe / following God’s directions in the Bible
4. Use food as a “craft” item, then eat the finished product



Using Personal Stories / Testimonies

A person's story brings the learning to a "real world" level! Stories or testimonies transform the lesson from a sterile, printed page to a believable truth. This is a great experience for the teller and the listeners.

1. Stories of struggles with choices (be careful to make this positive)
2. Victories in evangelism
3. Answered prayers
4. Stories of God's leading or protection

Using News Stories

Today's news is filled with stories of people who make good choices and poor ones. The stories don't always highlight the consequences, but they are always a great topic of discussion. News stories can also be a great "what do you think" springboard for discussions. Reading carefully edited news stories in class is a great attention-getting technique.

1. Stories of people who broke the law
2. Stories of people who did the right thing
3. Stories of companies who got caught cheating
4. Advertisements that are designed to make you "believe" something



Using Popular TV Shows or Movies

Being able to "connect" with your learners by referencing television shows or movies they watch is an excellent way to do what Jesus did in teaching through parables. "Behold a farmer went out to sow..."

1. Simply use a character's name or personality as an example
2. Refer to a scene that illustrates a point in the lesson
3. Use terminology from the show or movie in your conversation
4. Incorporate the show or movie in your questions or in video clips

Using "Controversial" Comments

The "shock" factor of a comment that is "controversial" cannot be underestimated. Often, the comment is related to the **opposite** view of the lesson. This technique forces the learners to think as a direct result of the "shock." It causes the lesson to become "personal." **Make sure to tell the children that you said that to start a conversation!**

1. God is okay with homosexuals.
2. God doesn't know the future.
3. Only nice people go to Heaven.
4. There's nothing wrong with eating donuts and chocolate milk all day!



Using "Guerilla" Drama

"Guerilla" drama is a "scene" that appears in the middle of a lesson following a cue from the teacher. This scene must be set up ahead of time, using willing "actors" from the class itself.

1. An argument arises between two learners during a lesson on forgiveness.
2. A learner begins texting during a lesson on paying attention to God, or conquering distractions.
3. Two learners begin talking and laughing loudly together during a lesson on respect.
4. A learner gets very angry and storms out of the class during a lesson on anger.