

TEACHERS' CORNER



You want to develop a special lesson, using active learning—how do you do it? Relax—and keep **SciSSors** in mind...

Single point per lesson, please. Sum up your lesson's point in a single, short sentence. Ask, "Does every activity direct students to the point?" If not, cut and replace what misses the mark. **Concentrate on students**. Select age-appropriate activities. Test them (not with your students!) to be sure they work before trying them in class.

Interesting? Maybe. Does your topic interest students? Check—everyone's interests and concerns change frequently. What worked in class last year probably won't work this year.

Sensory teaching makes lessons memorable. Design fun, sensory activities that reinforce your lesson's point—retention will skyrocket!

Sizzle and spice. They come with your enthusiasm! Are you excited about what your lesson will do in students' lives? If not, why should they care?

Observe your class as you teach. Any signs of boredom? Keep your lesson moving—take your cues from students.

Restate the point often. Preschoolers require word-for-word repetition. For older children and adults, rephrase the lesson.

Safety first. Think through activities—is anything about them unsafe—especially for children? A Michigan teacher wrapped a "blindfold" over a student's eyes only to discover the rag had been previously used to soak up paint thinner. The student was nearly blinded. Examine all materials coming into your classroom.

Reprinted from *UPDATE, UPDATE Active Learning*, Group Publishing, Spring 1996

TEACHING IS AN OFFERING

"There's a very real sense in which our teaching is an offering to the Lord. As we work to provide the best we can for our students at the church, we are presenting an offering to the Lord who calls us into that special community.

So the questions are these:

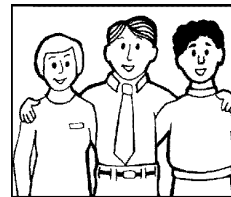
- What kind of classroom atmosphere will we offer to Jesus Christ and His children? A messy, dirty one won't do.
- What kind of preparation for our teaching is a worthy offering to the Lord? Skimpy, half-studied lessons won't do.
- What kind of housekeeping, caring, and hospitality will we offer to Jesus' disciples—in His name? Only our best will do!

"These summer months would be a good time to take to heart the concept of our educational program as an offering to the Lord of the church.

"How about some staff work parties at which every nook and cranny of the churches' classrooms are made attractive, all closets and cabinets are cleaned and made tidy, all display boards are freshened, and everything is put in readiness for carefully-prepared class sessions?"

"And when the work is all done, and you are proud of your offering, you can adjourn to someone's home for one of those special dinner parties—an offering to one another in celebration of the teachers' dedication to their best, for Jesus' sake."

Taken from the article "Our Offering to God—Can It Be Our Best?" By Locke E. Bowman Jr.



Buddy, Can You Spare the Time?

- ♦ You prepare for class alone. Teach alone. Tidy up your room and pack away your materials—alone.
- ♦ *You need a Teaching Buddy.*
- ♦ A *Teaching Buddy* is someone else who teaches—or has taught in the past. Who knows the challenges. Who can tell you if an idea you want to try is likely to fly—or flop.
- ♦ Who'll pray for you, nudge you, encourage you.
- ♦ And a *Teaching Buddy* can keep you from becoming discouraged, stale, and negative.
- ♦ If you're teaching alone, decide now to find and nurture a *Teaching Buddy*.
- ♦ You'll increase your effectiveness—and last longer in the classroom.

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