

6-8 Grade Class Lesson for Sept 13th.

Start with:

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

Assign each group one of these sounds: Hishee, Hashee, Hoeshee. Have each group say them separately, then have all the groups say them together. Then divide the class into three groups and assign each group one of the following sounds: Hish, Hash, and Shoo. Have each group say their word. Tell them, "When I point at your group, say the word you've been given for as long as I point at you." Then point like crazy! Point at two groups at the same time. Finally point in succession at the Hish, Hash and then Shoo groups so that they finally sound like they are sneezing: Hish-Hash-Shoo! Then point at one or two of the other adults who will say... Bless you.

Tell

As you just saw in our first activity, if we work together, we can do incredible things...like making sneezes. In order to be able to best work together, there are some understandings we need to share as a group. So we're going to do that now.

Expectations to share:

Class starts after a Time with Children ends in Worship. It'll take a few minutes to get here, mostly because of the other children, but we expect you to come straight here. No bathroom breaks, no going downstairs and then back up here. You come straight here. And then, unless you are told otherwise, have a seat.

Learning – in the Workshop Rotation Model, the focus is on learning the bible stories (the Who, what, where, when parts of the stories). In the 6-8th grade class, we'll revisit a number of those stories, but our focus will be more on the "why" and on us than on the who, what, when, where of the story. For example: "Why do the characters do what they do in the stories. Do we do similar things? Why?" This type of learning is dependent upon all of us to provide our thoughts and it is dependent on all of us to listen to what others are saying.

Communication – The most important thing that will determine how well this class works is how we choose to communicate with each other. If all of us talk at the same time, the class will not go well. If one person, like me, is talking to the class, but two of you are whispering to each other, then that is disruptive to the class. If one person shares something and someone else makes fun of that person, then that is disruptive to the class. These disruptive aspects of communication are not acceptable. We will have activities in class, like what we just did, as a way to move around, but we will also have conversations. You are expected to participate in both the activities and the conversations in ways that are considerate and respectful of those around you.

Schedule/Worship/Notebooks – about once a month, we will not meet in class, but will attend the worship service. (Sitting together in worship as a class?). The schedule is in your notebook. The notebooks will stay in class. But they will provide you a place to keep information that you gather during the year, in forms of handouts and for a place for you to write down ideas/questions.

Question Box – Sometimes during a discussion we're having, you might have a question that comes up for you that's not really in-line with what we're talking about. We'd like to answer your question, but we can't just stop class every time to answer a question that is off-topic. So, we will have a question box. So let's say you ask a question. We might say, "That's a great question, but that's not really where we're at today, so go ahead and write it down and put it in the question box." Then if you do, then when we do get to that topic, on that Sunday in class, we'll introduce the topic with your question. There will also be a suggestion box. If you have ideas of what the class might do together that can help the class better learn or discuss the bible stories, please write those ideas down and put them in the suggestion box.

Why we're here (taken from EGCC Sunday School Covenant): We are here to teach and learn the stories in the Bible, and to build relationships with each other and with God. We agree to participate in the teaching and learning of these stories by listening, asking questions and doing the activities. By doing these things, we will also get to know each other and God better. If we struggle in participating, then we agree to not interrupt or distract in any way, because we understand that we would then be stopping others from listening, asking questions, doing the activities and getting to know each other and God better.

Sometimes, no matter how hard we try, we make mistakes. Sometimes, we don't even know we have made a mistake. So we need each other to help remind us of what we have agreed to do. Sometimes, we keep making the same mistake over and over and we need help to change that mistake. These are the ways that the teachers and shepherds will try and help if you make a mistake:

1. We'll let you know if you are interrupting or disrupting others who are in class and ask you to choose to help the class and not hurt it by interrupting.
2. If disruptive behavior continues, then you'll be removed from the activity, to give you some time to think about how you can best rejoin the class and participate.
3. If you rejoin the class and still struggle with interrupting others, then we'll have you leave the class and stay with adult supervision (the Superintendent) for the rest of the class time. After class, the Superintendent or Lewis will talk to your parents about what happened.
4. If the next week is the same as the previous week, then you, your parent(s), Lewis and one of us teachers/shepherds will sit down and discuss the challenges you are facing and ways that we can best help you with those challenges.

Are there any questions?

Now, to get a little more acquainted, let's do another activity:

DO

Marshmallow Tower

For this game, you need packet(s) of mini-marshmallows and toothpicks (provided). Split the group into three or four teams. Generally between 3 to 4 students is the ideal team size. Then with each group assign a shepherd or teacher to be part of the team (note to teachers and shepherds: For the most part, let the students tell you what to do – but feel free to direct their attention to things like a solid construction base, overall design, etc). The goal is to see which group builds the highest tower using only the items provided. The towers must be stable, meaning, they have to stay standing up without a human holding it.