

E-NEWS COPY FOR AUGUST 6, 2013

TRAINING FOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS, MINISTRY PROFESSIONALS, AND ALL OF OUR KIDS!

TRAINING FOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS WHO TEACH KIDS

Here are a few simple DO'S and DON'TS to keep in mind as you plan your fall training for ministry volunteers who teach the children of God:

DO

- Let them know that they are answering Jesus' call to "Go, make disciples." This is their ministry to which God has called them.
- Inspire them
- Highlight the important information for them to know
- Teach them how to prepare lessons
- Encourage them to contact the home and connect with parents to multiply the impact of what they do with children and youth
- Share effective strategies to use with their learners
- Have them teach to all three learning styles - auditory (ears), visual (eyes), and kinesthetic (body and movement)
- Help them learn to engage learners and build relationships
- Stress the importance of being fully present with kids
- Create classroom covenants, with input from the kids
- Use experienced volunteers as master teachers, mentors, and a support system, sharing their wisdom and experience
- Offer ongoing training and support
- Be available
- Appreciate all they put into this ministry
- Let them know they are essential

DON'T

- Do a choral reading of the curriculum
- Bore them
- Focus on discipline, rather than loving each child
- Share horror stories
- Make them think they are "helping you with your ministry." This is THEIR ministry!

TRAINING ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN: Ideas for parents, ministry volunteers, and church staff

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6

No one is born knowing everything, so God entrusts children to parents and other loving adults to train and shape them “in the right way.” As we raise children to embrace our faith and values, keep in mind some of the simple, but important DO’S and DON’TS:

DO

- Clearly explain your expectations
- Make the language and concept and behavior age-appropriate
- Describe the consequences, both positive and negative
- Follow through ... every time. Consistency teaches.
- Break down complex ideas or behaviors into small pieces
- Catch them doing it right or improving
- When they don't do it right, remind them of a time they did do it right
- Teach them to apologize by your example
- Divide behavior (which they can change, and you will help them learn how) from personhood (which is always a beloved child of God)
- Reassure them that soon they will be able to do it
- Remind gently
- Pitch in and help them be successful
- Celebrate accomplishments
- Express love all of the time

DON'T

- Expect them to read your mind
- Threaten or intimidate
- Shame or name call or put the child down
- Focus on all that is wrong
- Forget that God loves you both and Jesus is always with you!

One more DO: Do thank God for the gift of this child in your life and enjoy this amazing journey.