

“I want to teach”

Have you ever had homework? Why did you have homework at school? Maybe a better question is why do we not have homework for Bible Class? It is obvious that this is a good way to teach and reinforce knowledge; our public schools have used it for decades.

We can all agree that there is nothing more important for our children to learn, remember and obey than GOD's word. There are many hours between Sunday morning class and Wednesday night class. The more your students have access to the information taught in class the more and longer they will remember them.

You will need to gain the parents assistance in this area, especially for the young children. Send home a letter at the beginning of the new quarter and let the parents know what you intend to teach their children for the quarter. Inform the parents that you want to be a partner with them to teach their children the Word of GOD. Then mention in this letter that you will need their help. Explain that you will be sending memory work, color sheets or work sheets of some kind with their child about each lesson. Be sure they know you would like for them to encourage their children to complete the work and return it the next class period.

Change is always hard. If you have not used homework before this may take a little getting use too. Don't be discouraged – go forward cautiously – but go forward. The young souls in your care need you to be strong and determined to help them grow in the LORD. As the parents see how much this helps their children to remember the things they learn they can't help but be pleased that you are willing to help in the spiritual training of their children. Be positive and expect the cooperation of your students and their parents. Pray about it and be kind and understanding if there are questions concerning the need for homework. Think ahead of time how you can be ready with a courteous answer that will help encourage others.

Be careful to keep a healthy balance. You don't want to overload the students but you do want to encourage them to think about GOD's word between class times. There is an obvious difference between the assignments that might be given for Bible class homework and math homework. For example, the youngest children's homework may consist of just a simple color sheet of the Bible lesson. The older the child the more involved the homework assignments. There should be weekly verses to memorize from scripture; activity sheets of all kind to reinforce the lessons learned can be used; maybe a crossword puzzle or a word search with words peculiar to the lesson; older students can even do special projects. Some time you may just send home one question they need to know the answer to by the next class period. Once I had my students find out who was the second oldest man on record in the Bible. Most people know the oldest man but do you know the second oldest man? Challenge your students to do things that are interesting; like a fill in a map of the journeys of Paul, or assign them to write a list of things they did that week at home to grow in kindness or whatever your subject matter may be. The possibilities are endless! You will soon see a difference in the knowledge of your students and their participation in class. They will be eager to tell you all they remember or to say a memory verse as soon as they come in the door. It takes a little extra thought and effort on our part as teachers but the rewards you will reap will far out weigh the extra time needed. We must be diligent to do our homework in order to come up with assignments for their homework!

Wow! This will work for all concerned. The teachers are challenged to grow, the parents are challenged to grow and the students are challenged to grow. What a wonderful thing for all of us to grow in the LORD together!