

Ideas for Making Your D/C Experience Great

- 1) Open each session by having a class member read a selection of Scripture and pray. You could ask this person to read the key verse for the session. In addition to beginning the class by making a connection with God, it will help the class members become comfortable praying and reading in public.
- 2) In order to encourage your students to complete the Time with God journal be sure to refer to and discuss several of their responses at some point in each week's session. Suggestions for this review have been added to each session. If you do not do this the students will feel that this assignment is optional.
- 3) Try to add something visual to your meeting space for each unit of material. Getting the students involved in creating these visual elements will enhance the learning as well.
- 4) Memorization has traditionally been an important part of the confirmation experience. Some groups memorize the Building Blocks as well as the Ten Commandments, various Psalms (1, 23, 121, and 150), the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. This memorization provides tools for the spiritual life that will be used throughout all of life. Memorization assignments are most effective when teachers and parents take time to encourage, reinforce, and review the assignment with the student.
- 5) You could use the content synopsis as a review at the end of each session. Read each statement and leave out one word. Invite the students to fill in the missing word. This becomes a good check for your teaching as well as your students' learning.
- 6) Make a timeline that will surround your meeting area or at least comprise the length of one wall. Each week write a name or event on a large piece of construction paper and add it to the timeline. You could color code the timeline by unit. This timeline will provide a constant reinforcement of people and events. It will also be a ready tool to use in the Review section. The Introduction section provides a suggestion of what to add each week.
- 7) Create an atmosphere in your meeting room that encourages positive relationship building. Are there games and activities that you could have in your room for the students to use prior to the beginning of class? By arriving early you, the teacher, will be able to participate in these relationship building activities as well.

- 8) Sometimes we think that making a room comfortable with sofas and easy chairs will create a place that the students like and hopefully a great atmosphere for learning. Often comfortable seating like this encourages sleep and not learning. The best room would have tables and chairs for teaching and projects and a comfortable seating area for discussion and prayer times.
- 9) Handouts are used almost weekly to reinforce student learning. Is there a way that you could help the students collect these handouts for review? A file folder or a notebook might be one solution.

Ideas for Time with God

- 1) Set the example by spending time with God daily. If you don't do it, you cannot expect your students to do it.
- 2) Refer regularly to what you learned or insights gained through your time with God.
- 3) Incorporate into each week's session a discussion of some of the questions that the students answered in their journals. The Leader's Guide will prompt you regarding possible places to bring in this discussion.
- 4) Put a sign by the exit to your classroom: "Remember to spend time with God every day." You could also print this on a 3x5 label for students to post in their rooms at home. Sports teams often touch a logo by the door to demonstrate their resolve. Would that work for your class? It would demonstrate their resolve to God and spending time with God each day.
- 5) Invite guests (possibly mentors or parents) to come to class throughout the year to talk about their daily time with God and how their faith has grown as a result. Be sure to select people who are known to have a daily Bible reading and prayer pattern.
- 6) Remember that the Bible isn't a rule book; it's God's guidebook for our lives. Developing a time with God takes practice and discipline. Just like any friendship, it takes time to develop a relationship with God. Encourage the students to stick with it and they will begin to experience the benefits of this deeper relationship with God.
- 7) What is the purpose for this time with God? Primarily it is to know God deeply and allow God to enter our lives so that we naturally choose to live in God's way and not our way. Remind students often of this purpose.
- 8) As we read the Scripture passage for each day it might be helpful to remember: head, heart, and hand.
 - a) *Head*: What do I need to know?
 - b) *Heart*: What do I need to feel or believe? (What challenges or convicts my heart?)
 - c) *Hand*: What do I need to do?