

FORMED A Virtual Conference to Train Teachers in the Local Church

DÉCOR AND DISCIPLESHIP

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SESSION NOTES:



Assess your physical environment.

- Look at your classroom or children's church space through the eyes of a guest dropping off their child for the first time.
- Create a safe, clean, uncluttered, welcoming environment for your students and yourselves.
 - Discard or relocate "stuff" that has not been used for more than a year.
 - Repeat the decluttering process as things build up.



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Spend your prep time on what matters most.

- Time is a limited resource. Spend your prep time throughout the week on what matters most in the discipleship of a child.
- Consider simple wall décor with timeless Scripture/message/graphics.
 - If you love decorating your space, make sure to keep it simple so your design schedule is sustainable and you still have enough time to spiritually prepare for class.
 - If you don't love decorating, forgive yourself and double down on student connection!
- Think about connecting with students during the week to make your class time more meaningful.



Instruction + Education = Discipleship

- If the student has not learned, the teacher has not taught.
- Instruction of students is putting in: furnishing with knowledge.
- Education is drawing out: bringing out what is in a student.
- For students to become disciples with authentic faith, they need Kingdom knowledge and Kingdom purpose.



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Love yourself unconditionally.

- Do not let service for God overtake abiding in God. (The struggle is real!)
- Jesus loves you as you are. Still. Always.
 - Believe in His love for you.
 - Abide in His love for you.
 - Incarnate His love in you.
 - The overflow of His love and grace in you will reach your students.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

- 1. Look at your classroom as if you were a parent bringing your child to church for the first time. Would what they physically see in that space give them confidence to leave their child in your care? What is your classroom telling them about what you value?
- 2. In preparing for your class, are you spending your time focused on what will bring the students into a closer relationship with Jesus? Do they interact more with you and other students, or with "stuff" like coloring pages, art projects, games, toys, and so on?



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