



Top tips for School Lessons

5-11 year olds

Preparation

- Schedule lessons 15 minutes apart to enable time to get to the next lesson and to focus more on relationships with teachers
- Consider getting a list of questions that the children want answered in advance from teacher, to assist in preparation
- Use drama and interaction
- Use a range of group, paired and whole class activities
- Give all children a chance to discuss what they think – do not spend too much time as a whole class asking directed questions, rather discuss things in pairs/table groups
- 'think, pair, share' is good - give children a minute to think on their own (think), ask them to discuss with someone near them (pair) and then take feedback on what pairs have come up with (share).
- Teachers assess KS1 RE using photos/pictures/anecdotal evidence of what children have said on post it notes. So rather than use worksheets could get KS1 children to draw key things (think and recall)
- Worksheets can be good to aid looking at verses in the Bible with KS2
- Make it an interesting lesson, stick with the facts
- Be very careful to phrase the teaching in a neutral way
- Be sensitive with Reception age to not include detail that could offend e.g. nailed to a cross
- Pray that God will spur the children's hearts as a result of what they are hearing

Delivery

- Our motive is to teach facts about Christianity accurately. It is not an opportunity to convert
- Introduce yourself as... I'm a Christian, I go to X Church. I have been asked in to tell you what Christians believe about...
- Pace is key
- Don't say anything contentious
- Give the children an opportunity to respond
- Include lots of 'Christians believe...' and 'In the Bible it says...'

Future

Use lessons as training opportunities for others in the church, with a view to making school lessons a sustainable ministry.