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HIGH IMPACT LESSON & CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS

PRAYER

- Pray for students and their families daily.
- Keep learning and growing in your own faith walk; be intentional in your prayer and sacramental life.

“Witnesses are more powerful than teachers.”—St. Paul VI

LESSON PLANNING

- Find out your grade level’s social and learning developmental tendencies for insights on how to keep them engaged (i.e., some ages are happier with group activities or love discussion time). [Ages and Stages: Teaching Children at Each Level \(buildfaith.org\)](https://www.buildfaith.org/ages-and-stages-teaching-children-at-each-level/)
- Alternate activities between active and passive to help students stay focused and engaged
- Over-plan your lessons so you can flow with their energy and needs, leaving flexibility to address all of their questions, and you'll never have to worry that you're running out of lesson ideas (you can always shift unused activities to future lessons).
- When preparing your lessons, read a little in your *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, so you're ahead on the week's concept and can answer questions. The CCC is also a great source for Bible stories related to the topic.

DURING CLASS

- Set the tone by starting and ending on time; begin in prayer; dress well—your self-discipline sets the tone.
- Calmly stay in charge, and don't back down, but give every kid a fresh start every week.
- Institute an in-class phone policy and stay consistent with enforcement.
- Don't be embarrassed to say, “I don't know, but I'll look that up for you and tell you next week!” This shows the Church has answers, and we're all learning.
- **Avoid:** having children read aloud from the religion book for more than 5 minutes for grades 1-5 or more than 10 minutes for grades 6-up; crafting to fill time; putting up with disrespectful behavior; shaming a child in class.

COMMUNICATION

- Keep parents informed through email, so they know what their children are learning. Include ideas or tips on how they can continue the conversations at home.

- Let the program director know if you need any special supplies, have concerns about a student, or need help of any kind.