

1.1 Introduction & Organization

Lesson Delivery

TEACHING BASICS

Delivering the Lesson

Delivering the lesson is one of the most important aspects of service. It is both a gift and a skill, one that develops over time through prayer, experience, and attentiveness to the needs of the children. With each lesson, you will grow in how to engage effectively, communicate clearly, and reach the hearts of your students.

Some servants excel in preparing their lesson content but struggle with the actual delivery, perhaps forgetting parts of the message, losing their train of thought, or allowing distractions to derail the class. Others may prepare a simpler or average lesson but communicate it with clarity, energy, and connection, capturing the children's attention and ensuring the message is received.

An effective servant must aim to be prepared **both spiritually and practically**. We need tools and skills that help us deliver a lesson that is **clear, engaging, and spiritually fruitful**.

Foundational Principles for Fruitful Lesson Delivery

Before discussing teaching strategies, we must first ground ourselves in several spiritual foundations:

1. Prayer Is the Most Important Preparation

From the 3 P's in lesson Preparation, prayer is the first and most essential element of every lesson. Just as we pray before preparing the content, we must also pray before delivering it. This is not a simple presentation—we are bringing God's Word to His children.

We must ask God to:

- Speak through us as His servants;
- Give us the right words at the right time;
- Open the ears of the children to hear;
- Prepare their hearts to receive and grow from what is planted.

Without God's grace and presence, even the most well-prepared lesson will fall short. As our Lord said,

"I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

2. We All Have Different Gifts in the Body of Christ

Not every servant will be a dynamic speaker—and that’s okay. God distributes different gifts among His people. Some are powerful in public speaking, others in one-on-one interaction, some in visitation and follow-up, and others in building strong emotional connections with children.

You don’t need to excel in every area. As St. Paul writes:

“We, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”
(Romans 12:5)

What matters is being faithful with what God has given you—and growing through His grace.

3. Unity in Service: Supporting One Another

When one servant teaches, the others should support through silent prayer and presence. This spiritual unity creates a peaceful atmosphere and invites the Holy Spirit to work.

“For as the body is one and has many members... so also is Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)

4. The Word of God Is Powerful

Our goal is not simply to entertain or inform—it is to bring the living Word of God to the hearts of His children.

“For the word of God is living and powerful... a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”(Hebrews 4:12)

“He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matthew 7:29)

Let us never forget: we are delivering the most powerful truth in existence. Handle it with reverence, joy, and faith.

The Three Stages of Lesson Delivery

To make our lessons impactful, we must be intentional at each stage:

1. Before the Lesson

a. Prepare the Environment

The physical space affects how well children focus and engage. Aim for:

- A quiet, clean, well-lit room free from distractions;
- Seating in a U-shape or circle: this layout encourages interaction and keeps students visible and involved;

- Clear visibility and audibility between you and every student.

b. Organize All Materials

Before class starts, ensure all needed materials are ready:

- Bibles
- Visual aids
- Crafts or activity supplies
- Printouts or handouts
- Any technology (screens, speakers)
- Comfortable lighting and room temperature

Being fully prepared communicates respect for God's message and for the students who've come to receive it.

2. During the Lesson

a. Build a Personal Connection

As servants of God, we are called not only to teach but also to love. When children feel that you truly care about them, you gain their trust, and your influence grows. Take a few minutes at the beginning to "break the ice." This builds trust, draws the kids in, and prepares them to listen:

- Ask about their week, school, or something you know they care about;
- Show genuine interest and empathy;
- Share a light, relevant moment from your own life (as appropriate).

This brief interaction helps prepare their minds and hearts to listen. It creates a warm and safe atmosphere, so they are more likely to be attentive and engaged during the lesson.

b. Introduce the Lesson with Relevance

Every lesson should begin with a short, engaging introduction to focus the children's minds and create anticipation. A good introduction helps them relate to the topic and transitions smoothly into the main message. Examples:

- Ask question that relates to the topic; "What would you do if someone treated you unfairly?" - "Have you ever had to make a hard choice?" ...
- Start with a brief story or real-life example especially one that connects with their age group or current events.
- Make a connection to their world: school, friendships, sports, culture, social media, or something trending to relate the topic to things they care about, and use it as a bridge to the spiritual message.

For younger kids, keep it simple and exciting:

- "Do you like fishing?" ... "Today we'll hear about people who were fishers of men!"

- Avoid beginning with “What did we learn last week?” unless the lesson is part of a continuing story like Esther or Samson.

c. Tailor the Lesson Type and Approach

Your delivery style should match the lesson type:

Lesson Type	Delivery Focus
Dogma	• Approach: Simplify complex theological concepts through story or visual aid. • Example: For the topic of <i>salvation</i> or <i>incarnation</i>, create a story where God and us are the main characters and narrate it in a way children can relate to. • Tip: Avoid heavy terms; use visuals or real-life examples to simplify the idea.
Social	• Approach: Use short biblical stories to illustrate moral or social principles, with more discussion and explanation. • Examples: • <i>King Josiah</i> – the importance of reading the Bible. • <i>Daniel and friends</i> – peer pressure. • <i>David and Jonathan</i> – friendship. • <i>Paralytic man and his four friends</i> – helping others. • Tip: Focus on the specific part of the story that supports your objective. No need to tell the entire narrative.
Ritual	• Approach: These lessons are more informative, but can still include brief stories or visual aids to explain liturgy, sacraments, or icons. • Examples: • <i>Icons:</i> Explain the ark of the covenant and the angels God instructed Moses to carve. • <i>Sacraments:</i> • Baptism: Bring water, a doll, and a dish. • Unction of the Sick: Bring oil and a plate. • Tip: Use tangible items and mini-demonstrations to make it real and interactive.
Saints	• Approach: Focus on the virtue you want the kids to learn, not just the biography. • Examples: • <i>St. George:</i> courage in faith. • <i>St. Monica:</i> persistence in prayer. • <i>St. Anthony:</i> solitude and spiritual discipline. • Tip: Highlight the unique struggle or spiritual strength of the saint and relate it to the children’s lives.

Tip: Every lesson should have **one clear objective**. Stories, visuals, and examples are tools to reinforce that single message.

d. Tell the Story: Don’t Just Teach It

Storytelling is essential. We are formed by stories. From childhood to adulthood, stories have a way of slipping past our mental defenses and landing deep in the heart. Even in church, a distracted mind snaps back to attention the moment a story begins. This is not accidental, our Lord Jesus Christ

Himself, the Master Teacher, consistently used parables to speak to the people. He didn't just teach the truth; He wrapped it in relatable human experience. As servants, we are called to do the same. Every lesson we give has a goal, a message, a spiritual seed to plant. A story becomes the soil in which that seed can take root. Whether it's a biblical account, a moment from a saint's life, or even a real story from today, let it be purposefully chosen not to entertain, but to illuminate the lesson's objective. A well-told story transforms a concept into a lived experience.

To be effective:

- **Live the story:** Don't just read - Act out emotions, use facial expressions, change your tone: putting yourself in the characters shoes.
- **Engage the class:** Move around the room, use gestures, make eye contact, make the story interactive.
- **Use names:** Call on inattentive children gently to draw them back in.
- **Visuals and verses:** Display verses, read aloud together. Avoid reading from your phone, it breaks connection. Children learn in different ways. Try to include all three major styles in your lesson: Auditory, Visual and Kinesthetic.

Type	Learns Best Through	Example in Story of Calming the Storm
Auditory	Hearing, discussion, spoken explanations	Emphasize the sound of thunder, waves, and panic
Visual	Pictures, visual aids, written content	Describe the gloomy sky, lightning, and the boat
Kinesthetic	Movement, touching, hands-on activities	Move around as if you're in the boat, shake, react physically

Tip: Include elements for each style in one lesson to make it memorable for all.

Foster Dialogue (Especially for Older Kids), moving from monologue to dialogue. Ask reflective questions during the lesson:

- "What would you have done?"
- "Why do you think Jesus reacted that way?"

Encourage thoughtful discussion. This makes them active participants, not just listeners.

Ask Questions, strategically. Questions are powerful learning tools, don't wait until the end—ask questions within the story. You can ask indirectly through characters, for example: "Why did the Lord Jesus look around for the bleeding woman instead of just letting her go healed?" Good questions will:

- Spark curiosity.
- Encourage kids to think deeper.
- Help them relate biblical truths to their own lives.

3. After the Lesson

a. Reinforce Through Review

- For older groups: Summarize key points between sections.

- For younger kids: Repeat the verse or theme through characters or songs.

b. Lead Toward Application

Every lesson should move through this sequence:

1. **Truth (Knowledge):** Teach the biblical fact clearly.
2. **Emotion (Engagement):** Bring it to life with story, visuals, and passion.
3. **Behavior (Application):** Show how the story impacts how we live.
4. **Attitude (Transformation):** With time and the Holy Spirit, hearts are changed.

Example: When teaching about Ananias and Sapphira, we don't just want them to remember the story—we want them to understand the danger of dishonesty and be inspired to live truthfully.

c. Radiate Joy and Peace

You are not only teaching content, you are communicating Christ through your presence. A peaceful tone, joyful smile, and loving spirit make a deep impression. Children will remember **how** you made them feel even more than what you said.



Review Questions

5.

