

Important Teaching Thoughts

Rain, rain go away! It's the rainy season from May through October... If you have access to a laminator, you could protect any visual aids you might bring. Typically it rains more in the afternoons than the mornings, but TIG! This is Guatemala and you never know!! Be prepared.

Numbers attending each of our activities fluctuate, but we've tried to give you a least/most estimate based on last year's numbers.

Resources that were here the last time you were in Guatemala, may not be here this time.

And along the same lines...our ministry is in a constant state of change as we grow and move and work with the culture here. If you've been here on a mission trip in the past, you will have some idea of what to expect and how things may work, but not everything will be the same as the last time you were here.

Teaching activities in general: Basically, you're teaching a Sunday School or VBS lesson. You can ask yourself: If I were going to teach just one lesson to my kids, teens, or adults this year, how could I teach it so they really understand what God is trying to tell them in this lesson?

Here are some lessons learned from the past year:

- ♥ Be sure to take your lesson beyond simply telling the Bible story and doing the craft. What is God saying to them through the story? Be sure to APPLY!
- ♥ Humor in English usually does not translate well into Spanish... Steer clear of plays on words, slang, and really think about the words you're using. Will they still come across right in another language? Will a four year old understand what we're saying?
- ♥ Most of the boys who translate for our teams are not completely fluent in English. Keep your language simple, avoiding complex words and concepts and situations only Americans are familiar with. As you write your studies and lessons, always be aware of the language factor!!
- ♥ If your activity is scheduled to last thirty minutes or an hour, it needs to fill that time. Several of our activities run simultaneously with other activities. We can't dismiss 80 children before their parents are finished with their activity! Yikes!
- ♥ Skits & puppets work much better if they are in Spanish. Attention is easily lost in the lag time between lines, waiting for translation. Again, be sure that the silly parts of your skits/puppet presentations work are silly in Spanish, too! There are people who are fluent in Spanish who would be happy to translate your skit for you. Ask around!!
- ♥ If your skit is translated into Spanish, be sure that whoever is reading it knows how to pronounce things properly. Mispronounced Spanish will not be understood by your audience.
- ♥ Skits & puppet presentations on CD...these work well if you have a CD player that can be loud enough in a room of 90 wiggly kids or outside in a park.
- ♥ Watch the length of your skits/stories...you'll lose the kids if it's too long...just like in the States.
- ♥ BE CREATIVE!! Use lots of visual aids...posters, story scrolls or books. You can use a picture book that has English words...just have them translated to tell the story in Spanish!

Children's activities in Amatitlán are inside the little building. The morning kids in Amatitlán are very few (5-10). Lots of room for them!! Have fun and get the nerves out! The afternoon kids are PACKED into the little room...the numbers keep growing!!

The **Adult Bible Study** in the City on Wednesday is for the parents of our ministry children and community, as well as for some of our ministry family, so it will need to be different than other studies led at the ministry in the City that week.

Important Side note: There were a few times in 2008 where one team did the same craft as another had just recently done. Please submit your lesson plans to avoid this awkward situation!

Kids Crafts: Keep them simple! We really have no place, or the time, really, to let projects sit to dry before the kids take off. There is quite an age range in our groups (3-12). See if you can tie your craft together with your story. That way the kids can take their project home and tell the story to their parents or siblings! Let's keep the light spreading!!

Adult Crafts: Pretty hard in Amatitlán and Wednesday afternoon. Attendees are sitting close together in plastic chairs. If you do something, it needs to be very, very simple and able to be done in their lap. (Lots of moms holding babies, lots of elderly women whose eyesight is failing and who can't read.) Best bet for adult crafts would be the Friday Women's and Men's Bible studies. (Yup, the guys like to do crafts, too!!)

Squatter's area Children's Activities:

In the park: (If you're a single team, you will be teaching here.) The kids that we're reaching here are the kids who are released from the school along the edge of this area for 30 minutes of unsupervised recess. They just pour out and scatter, so our boys station themselves close to their exit and tell them to head over to our "spot"...which is on the ground out in the open... dirt/gravel/small section of sidewalk... Kids straggle in and out so you must try to keep their attention as best as you can... As others see that there's a craft, they come over more and more, but it's pretty fluid. We just do the presentations once, but while the kids are working on crafts, it's another opportunity to chat with them about the story... Least well behaved kids, really need to keep things rolling with them... and you need to keep a close eye on your teaching resources.

In the Squatter's area closer to the dump: The kids are pretty young here and are coming in and out of the activity in this location, as well. It's a high foot traffic area with not much room to spread out. Don't plan on setting up very much stuff here. Large pictures, puppets w/out a stage... Keep things quick and short, changing activities often. Crafts here will be difficult, but a one or two step quick activity would be worth trying.

Teens: Many of the **teens** do hear the story told to the kids at the Children's Activity on Wednesday, but you could certainly expand or build on that story. However, not all the teens work with the kids so they may not have heard it yet. Activity wise, they seem to enjoy ice breaker games and stuff that our teens would like to do, but will be done inside in a not so large space. (Side note: several teams have done the group untangle ice breaker the past couple years.)

English Classes: Let's jazz up our English classes with the children! We're asking each team to concentrate on one or more themes. For example, a team may have the theme "animals". We're hoping our teams can put on their creative thinking caps to teach English words and simple sentences relating to their theme using lots of visual aids (flashcards, posters, books) and songs, whatever!! We've divided our kids into groups by grade and your team is welcomed to divide the grades into even smaller groups depending on your team size and comfort level. If you're able to leave your visual aids in Guatemala when you leave, we'd love to keep using them here!

The older students in grades 5-9 would like to be challenged with more than just word recognition. Put your theme words into simple sentences... Play games with them. Be creative!!

Songs: Both kids and adults LOVE to sing! Adding hand motions to your songs is GREAT!! The kids are full of energy...may as well use it!!

Have your whole team learn your songs by memory if at all possible. It's a lot more fun and you can really interact with the kids when you're not all holding songbooks or song sheets.

Teaching songs to the groups: Children and adults in Guatemala are used to learning things by rote, so it's easiest to either teach the songs one line at a time...nice and slowly!!...or to have laminated song cards or posters. I've found that large font on 8 1/2 x 11 cardstock printed on the

computer are easier to laminate and carry around. Keep each song's cards in a large Ziploc. That way you can add pictures, too! I'd suggest that you take the time to teach the song to the group rather than just singing it by yourselves, hoping they'll catch on. Pick 3-5 great songs with lots of motions and you'll have a blast! We love to learn new songs down here and it would be great to have a copy of the songs you teach the kids so we can sing them again after you leave.

Some teams just don't have that special musical person on their team. What to do... Two options. One would be to sing along to a CD. The other would be to let us know early down in Guatemala so we can be prepared to do the musical portion of your activity. (Option one is best for us so you can bring some new songs down!! Perhaps your church or school has that special musical person who might help your team choose songs and prepare!)

Instruments: We have two guitars down here for your use. Just let us know a month before you arrive if you need them so we are sure to have them ready for your first day's activities.

We love rhythm! Bringing rhythm instruments to have the children play would be great fun! Let's make some noise!!

There is a **CD player** available for use in Amatitlán and in the city. Please let us know a month before you arrive if you will need to use it so we can have it ready. Also, please bring plenty of batteries as plugs aren't always where you'd like them to be! (Player takes 6 'C' batteries.)

Hand Bells: We have four 8 Note Hand bell Sets that were donated to the ministry by the Lake Worth Florida team that are available to use with the children. Let us know a month before you arrive if you would like to use them.

After all is said and done, you might be saying "But I don't even know where to start with this teaching business!!" There are so many faithful servants to which God has given the gift of teaching. Find them!!! What a great way for someone to become part of your team by helping those of you travelling to Guatemala prepare their lessons and activities!!

As always, I welcome your suggestions and hints as your team prepares for service in Guatemala. Let me know what would make your job easier and what might be missing in the manual that would have helped you prepare more effectively.

Our goal is to help your team be prepared for the unexpected. It may rain, it may be really windy, you may get to Amatitlán and realize you forgot the duffle bag full of your crafts at the team house, the guitar strings might break, the batteries may poop out, and the main character in your skit might get sick...

BUT...

Ultimately, the most important goal is to TELL THE STORY!! We want these kids and their parents to hear the message of Jesus' love for them. If all else fails, relax! Just look them in the eyes, show them your heart, give them a big smile and a hug and let them see their Savior's love for them through you!

The Holy Spirit will plant those seeds of faith and will make them grow.
We are simply His humble instruments with servant's hearts.

All for Him!!

Ginny

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Team Activity Descriptions

Below is a chart showing the different activities for which your mission team may be responsible. Check on your schedule to see which activities you need to prepare for. If you have any questions regarding these activities, please contact Ginny at gabby@theservantsheart.org as soon as possible.

Day	Activity	Audience And Numbers	Location and Space Info	Special Instructions
Monday AM 30-45 minutes	Children's Bible Lesson Including: Bible story Singing Craft or other hands on activity	6-10 children ages 6-12	Amatitlán – tile floor; indoors (see Monday PM) There is no time for laying out projects to dry.	There is room for physical activities with this small group. Our leaders will assist with crafts if needed.
Monday PM 45 minutes	Leaders' Bible Study Teach a Bible study on the theme you have been assigned. Needs to be different than the Women's study.	6-10 people ages 18-40 The leaders of our Amatitlán ministry when teams are not present	Amatitlán – in plastic chairs indoors or out	Leaders will have Bibles Interactive
Monday PM 1 hour (Note that this and the Women's Bible Study happen simultaneously)	Children's Bible Lesson Including: Bible story Singing Craft and/or other hands on activities	75-100 children ages 3-12 Different kids than the AM group so this can be the same activity	Amatitlán – inside 8'x12' building. No tables. Children sit on the floor. There is no room for laying out projects to dry.	There are no supplies kept on site. There is no room for physical activities with this group. Our leaders will assist with crafts if needed.
Monday PM 1 hour (Note that this and the Children's Bible Activity happen simultaneously)	Women's Bible Study Including: Singing Praying Bible study or message on your theme.	150-200 women ages 14-90 This group continues to grow by the week!	Amatitlán – outside on plastic chairs under tarps. Long, narrow 12'x50' concrete slab w/concrete block walls.	Women do not bring Bibles. Many are illiterate. Crafts are difficult in this setting unless very simple in their lap.
Tuesday 30 minutes	Children's Bible Lesson Including: Bible story Singing Craft or other hands on activity	50-75 children in the park Ages 7-12 20-30 in La Libertad Ages 3-10	In the Squatter's Area in the City. Children sit on the ground. No tables. There is no room for laying out projects to dry.	This is a very fluid group with children coming and going. Keep it very simple and fast paced. Crafts are fine, but keep it simple! CD players aren't usually loud enough outside.
Tuesday & Wednesday 45 minutes each	English Class You will be given a topic to teach words, phrases and sentences in English	Kinder-2 nd -40 3 rd & 4 th -30 5 th & 6 th -25 7 th -9 th -36 Total - 131	At the ministry in the City.	Use lots of visual aids!! Groups can be split into smaller sizes to be more interactive for the kids and your team members
Wednesday 1 hour	Children's Bible Lesson Including: Bible story Singing Craft or other hands on activity (This can be the same as Monday's)	90-100 children Ages 4-12	At the ministry in the City. Large room, wall to wall children with little room to teach and no floor to work on.	There's no room for physical activities with this group. Our high school kids will assist with "crowd control" and crafts as needed.

Wednesday 1 hour (This happens simultaneously with the children's activity)	Adult Bible Study Including: Singing Praying Bible study or message (Can be the same as Monday's in Amatitlán)	50-75 adults, (ministry workers and parents of children in our program) Ages 18-65	At the ministry in the City. Sitting on plastic chairs. No tables available. Crafts not recommended.	Some people bring Bibles. Many are illiterate. You can break into smaller discussion groups if you'd like.
Thursday 1 hour	Teen Bible Study & Activity Including: Bible study or lesson May also include: Singing Craft Other games or activities	36 teens in our reinforcement program Grades 7-9	At the ministry in the City.	Notify us if you would like Bibles available for the group. Double team weeks will have one team teach the Bible study and the other team will do the Activity.
Friday 1 hour (same time as Men's Study)	Women's Bible Study/Devotional May also include: Singing Craft Other games or activities	15-20 women who work at the ministry Ages 17-40	At the ministry in the City. Women from each team will attend this.	If possible, we would like this to be taught by a woman. Many of these ladies will bring their Bibles, but keep in mind that some are illiterate.
Friday 1 hour (same time as Women's Study)	Men's Bible Study/Devotional May also include: Singing Craft Other games or activities	15-20 men who work at the ministry Ages 17-30	At the ministry in the City. Men from each team will attend this.	If possible, we would like this to be taught by a man. Many of the men will bring their Bibles, but keep in mind that some may be illiterate.
Friday 45 minutes	Closing Devotional Something simple to sum up the week's theme. Including: Devo, prayer, singing.	30-40 of the ministry staff	At the ministry in the City.	We have a ministry song book in Spanish that we can use for this afternoon's devotional or you are welcome to teach something new.

Supplies Available to Your Team

The following supplies will be available to your team to use for your activities:

- Crayons
- Elmer's Glue
- Pencils (boy, do we have pencils!!)
- Puppets
- Guitars (there are two available)
- CD player (needs 6 C batteries)

Please let us know one month before your arrival which of the above supplies your team will need.

A Four Level Approach Help in Planning Your Teaching

The Bible lesson is presented to four levels: *younger children*, *youth* (teenagers), *adults* (many of whom are poor readers or illiterate), and the *leadership* (primarily older teens and young adults). In developing lessons for these various groups, the following concepts and ideas may be helpful as you make your plans.

1. Younger Children

God has built into His design of young children the hunger and capacity for learning. They are vacuum cleaners of knowledge! Visual examples, repetition, hands-on activities, songs, stories, and simple ways to successfully practice a character quality are the key to success.

2. Youth

As children approach the age of 11-12, the human brain physically stops growing while the body begins the transformation from childhood to adulthood. Social factors become extremely important to this age group; gaining knowledge takes a back seat in the learning process. This is an ideal time to place a strong emphasis on appropriate relationships with God and others, as well as the connection between a character quality and relationships with others. Along with clear visual examples, it is important that youth can practically relate the concept to their own social experiences (with parents, siblings, other authorities and peers). In response to this truth, the tendency for many teachers is to allow youth to focus on themselves, but the opposite is the key. Learning Christian character is to look outside of yourself, responding to God's love and meeting our neighbor's need.

3. Adults

For many of the adults participating in the study, their needs are a combination of positive social connections and basic skill training. Adults who have been 'put down' through abuse and neglect need to hear a powerful message of unconditional love and experience acceptance by other adults. Additionally, a lesson including step by step instruction explaining appropriate behavior is necessary. Don't assume that some of the basic behaviors that are second nature to you have been instilled in the lives of these individuals. Many have experienced exactly the opposite that you would expect.

4. Leaders

God is raising up new leaders at the ministry! These are young people that have been around for several years, have demonstrated the ability to learn and follow through with responsibilities, and have revealed a positive spirit and potential for leadership. In preparing your Bible study for these leaders, keep in mind the ways in which the character quality relates to the relationship that should exist between a leader and those that follow. It is also important to stress the need for daily prayer and Bible study. Leadership without this necessary foundation is usually misdirected or collapses when the pressure increases.

The Servant's Heart Lesson Plan
(Initial Brainstorming)

Theme: _____

Objectives: _____

Bible references: _____

CHILDREN'S LESSON:

Introduction: _____

Lesson overview: _____

Activity/Materials needed: _____

Assessment: _____

YOUTH LESSON:

Introduction: _____

Lesson overview: _____

Activity/Materials needed: _____

Assessment: _____

ADULT LESSON:

Introduction: _____

Lesson overview: _____

Activity/Materials needed: _____

Assessment: _____

LEADERS LESSON:

Introduction: _____

Lesson overview: _____

Activity/Materials needed: _____

Assessment: _____
