

Suy Niệm và Chia Sẻ Lời Chúa Ngành Ấu

Sa Mạc Cấp Một Ngành Ấu – August 2015, Miền Trung – Tr. Evan Pham

- Explain the necessary components of a Sharing the Word session:
 - 1) Select a passage beforehand. Prepare by praying with it, asking the Spirit to speak to us.
 - 2) Let the students see and hear you pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit. They need to learn by your example.
 - a. Sing your prayers with them: their memories are sharp, let them absorb good music and prayer
 - 3) When selecting readings, beware of passage length. If the reading is too long, break it down so that the students can focus on a few main points.
 - 4) Use a trustworthy Catholic study Bible, e.g. the Ignatius Study Bible. Have it with you for reference.
 - 5) When reading Scripture, remember that it is Sacred:
 - Avoid placing the Bible on the ground
 - Hold the Bible respectfully
 - Invest in a decent looking cover for your Bible (to show that you care about it)
 - Kiss the passage you read after you finish

- Identify specific challenges when sharing the Word of God with Ngành Ấu:
 - 1) The students are just starting to learn to read, and the Bible is a big book for grownups. To help AN, use your voice, gestures and visual aids well, but beware of overwhelming them: keep it simple: chalkboard, picture/pop-up books.
 - 2) Write new words on the board so AN can see them.
 - 3) Read the passage yourself, aloud slowly and clearly to the students. Scripture has many difficult unfamiliar words and names that can confuse or intimidate anyone.
 - 4) Because HT may be unfamiliar with the Bible, if we share Scripture with the students, we risk misinforming them. We must grow closer to the Word of God, become familiar with the symbolism, historical background, themes, stories, setting, characters, layout, interconnections, etc. This does not mean you need to memorize it, but that you need to know it enough to summarize and share it from your heart and memory.
 - 5) The Bible is not a normal book. It is a library of 73 books that have been translated from ancient languages (Hebrew and Greek). This is not supposed to be easy, but with the struggle comes much growth.
 - 6) AN need help to focus on specific physical things. Point out physical details in the Scripture passage: who is in the story? What is the setting like? Are there animals? Any interesting clothing or characters? Is their food? Try to engage their senses: touch, taste, smell, sound.

- Describe techniques that are effective for Ngành Ấu:
 - 1) Sit at their level, in a semicircle or group (story-time style) so you can see them all and they all can see you. Vary your voice and gestures.
 - 2) Beware if you let them ask questions, they may easily be distracted. Help them stay focused.
 - 3) Simplify the material for them (as you read), but also let them hear the original text (especially Scripture) because: children imitate, so give them something mature to imitate.

- If kids are always talked down to, then they'll stay down.
- Give them a higher standard they'll want to reach eventually.
- Summarize things for them in your own words
- Remember that AN minds are not ready to grasp abstract thoughts yet. Give them concrete examples and images.

- 4) Unlike the older kids, AN do not necessarily need to see how Scripture relates to their lives yet. Instead, help them imagine the life of Christ, His miracles and love. Help them experience and learn the stories, parables and lives of important people.
 - 5) Share your favorite readings, quotes, verses, stories, etc. This cannot be emphasized enough: the Bible does not need to be read from start to finish – we can skip around. There are large parts of the Old Testament that are even obsolete and function best as reference and historical documents. If you are excited about sharing your favorites, then the students will be also. My personal favorites: Tobit, Song of Songs, Creation and the Fall, Revelation.
 - a. Be mindful to keep things age appropriate.
 - 6) Read at a comfortable pace and volume. Change your tone as appropriate. This is the Word of God coming from your lips: practice pronouncing and announcing it!
 - 7) Avoid using videos and movies; these media forms can turn off kids' imaginations. Help them imagine Scripture using their own minds because this is an important mental skill.
 - a. Share about the little girl who was drawing a picture of God
 - b. Allow students to have time to draw what they imagine
 - 8) A few introductory lessons will help students and HT prepare for future regular Scripture sharing sessions. In this lesson, explain the basics of the Bible, what it is, and how rich it is:
 - a. Who wrote the Bible? [The Holy Spirit helped special people write it]
 - b. How the Catholic Church put together and preserved the Bible
 - c. What is the Bible and how important it is to us Christians
 - d. How the Bible is not just a book of the past, but is alive today and is God speaking to us every time we open it and read it with Him.
- Create a plan for one session of Sharing the Word:
 - 1) Open with prayer for ourselves as instructors and for the students. Sample: "Lord Jesus, please help me and all teachers today to do your will, to speak only what you give us to speak, to share what you have given us, and to be generous, wise, patient and loving. Help all the students to be open to You, the Truth, the Way and the Life. Help us all demand Truth, Beauty and Goodness, and nothing else but You. Oh Mary, lead us to your Son always. Amen." Remember to ask the Holy Spirit for help since He is the author of the Bible!
 - 2) PRACTICE:
 - a. Have SMS select Scripture to share and plan a lesson.
 - b. Allow teams to volunteer to share their lesson, then critique
 - c. If time permits, have teams pick Scripture for me to teach on the spot