



6 Ways to Make Lessons Memorable! | Show Notes

In a distracting world of never-ending content, how can we make our message stand out? How can we make truth stick in the minds of the kids we teach? This NEW VIDEO contains the secrets to creating content that will stick in the minds of your audience!

01 Simple

Find the main truth you want to teach and then define it clearly. This is harder than you think because it requires disciplined focus. More is less. By focusing on one single truth, our odds of getting it to stick with our class get better.

We want it to be simple like a proverb. Aesop's fables are memorable because they are in story form, and because the morals have become distilled into bite-sized nuggets that are mentally "digestible."

Don't overload your students with too much information. Find the core and then make it short and simple. Then make everything you do from there review or reinforce your core in some way.

02 Unexpected

People are boring because they're predictable. But when something happens that we didn't foresee, it breaks our guesser. It makes us sit up and pay attention, and that's good. But that's just step one. Step two is to engage curiosity. This is done in two main ways.

- Create knowledge gaps - When you leave out important information that can't be easily guessed. This arouses their curiosity and keeps them engaged until that curiosity itch gets scratched.

Examples: fill in the blanks, a numbered list, objects set up for later, something hidden under a covering, asking leading questions, or alluding to something that will be discussed later.

- Flip your information flow - When you rearrange your information for the biggest possible impact. You can present your lesson like a news story or a mystery. News articles usually give you the most important information first, but a mystery builds up to the big payoff at the end. Flip your flow to make it a mystery.

03 Concrete

Everyone speaks the language of “tangible.” As we get older and smarter, we are able to think and speak in the abstract. But if we want to communicate clearly, we need to step back down and use the language everybody knows, especially when working with kids.

The more senses we can engage, the better. Give your class something to look at, feel, smell, taste, or do. Use real life examples. Represent abstract ideas with tangible things. Never tell them if you can show them.

Use analogies. Avoid big numbers and statistics. Instead, rephrase the relationship of those numbers into things that people understand.

04 Credible

We want our students to trust us and therefore learn what we're teaching them. To do that, we need to have a reliable source for information, and we need to be sure that we know our stuff really well.

Our most credible source is the Bible, but there are many more. The list includes personal testimony, history, testable science, authorities, anti-authorities and so on. The point is that we want to make sure that everything we teach can be verified through another source.

Ultimately, we want our students to have enough evidence to trust what we have to say.

05 Emotional

In order for people to act, they have to care. Your goal is to get your audience to care about your message. Avoid sterile things like analytics and generalities. Work on finding new and interesting ways to express the message.

There are three main ways you can help your students care.

- Associate what you're teaching them with something they already care about.
- Appeal to their self-interest. Tie your message into real-life benefits or consequences that they can understand and relate to.
- Appeal to their identity. People tend to make decisions based on the type of person they believe themselves to be.

06 Stories

Stories are by far one of the stickiest ways we can communicate. They have built-in cues and memory helps that make them almost impossible to forget. A good story often embodies all the other points that we've already discussed.

Stories are how humans have communicated for thousands of years. Stories were Jesus' go-to teaching vehicle. Billions of dollars are spent annually on stories through movies and novels. Everybody loves a good story.

Use this to your advantage. Remember, tell simple, concrete stories. Start collecting good stories now. Keep a folder of inspiring stories for when you need them.

In Your Own Words: Describe what each point means!

Simple _____

Unexpected _____

Concrete _____

Credible _____

Emotional _____

Stories _____

>>> Want more on this topic? | Suggested Resources

- Book: *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die* (Chip Heath, Dan Heath)

Ask Yourself | Reflection Questions

6 Ways to Make Lessons Memorable!



Which of the six points is your strongest? Which is your weakest?



What one single practice will dramatically improve the stickiness of your presentations?



What's one small thing you could try next time?

My Action Step

➤➤➤ Want more? | Additional Resources

Congratulations on taking one more step in your journey of learning and personal growth!

THANK YOU for taking the time to invest in yourself today so that you can be a better children's ministry leader tomorrow.

THANK YOU for investing in the next generation and living in light of eternity.

We want to encourage and equip you for greater ministry impact, so please utilize the following resources!

— “ —

If we stop learning today, we stop teaching tomorrow.

— Howard G. Hendricks

— ” —

More training resources!

- Children's ministry training: www.youtube.com/@TrainingontheGoVideos/videos
- Devotionals: www.inthegap.org/edify/
- Courses: www.inthegap.org/resources/

Volunteer at an after-school Bible Club!

- What is a Bible Club: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwcDxYMNleY
- His life was changed at Bible Club: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cx2EfuBlecM
- Join the mission: www.mission414.net/

Fun & educational resources for kids!

- Christian puppet videos for kids: www.youtube.com/@InTheGapKids/videos
- Character lessons, videos, and downloads: www.inthegapkids.org/
- Character curriculum for kids' ministry: www.inspirecurriculum.com/

See what God is doing and get involved!

- Summer missions for youth: www.inthegap.org/operationimpactoverview/
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/inthegap.ok/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/inthegapokc/
- Newsletter updates straight to your inbox: www.inthegap.org/subscribe/