

# Five Things to Balance as you Teach Children and Youth

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## 1) Scripture

- a. Make scripture a foundation to the work – in your preparation and in your presentation.
- b. Teach them to learn, love and live scripture – for life.
- c. Help them memorize scripture – to hide God’s word in their heart.
- d. Let the stories in the Bible speak for themselves.
- e. Give students an opportunity to retell the story and the meanings – articulating and verbalizing what they have learned.
- f. Practice and encourage bringing your bible to class / group each time you meet.
- g. Offer incentives for getting people to bring bibles, memorize scripture, read daily.

## 2) Service

- a. Children and students at almost any age can benefit from and understand the importance of serving the world in Jesus’ name.
- b. Lives are changed for both the one serving and the one being served.
- c. Raise the level of opportunity, ways for kids at any aged to be “stretched”.
- d. Offer opportunities for your groups to share their faith through action.
- e. Debrief what has been done, and tell the stories of what happens – share them with the congregation.
- f. Build into the fabric of your students and the adults who help) a desire to make service and mission a part of everyday life.

## 3) Study

- a. We want students to know the importance of the discipline of study.
- b. Help students learn to love questions and don’t be afraid to ask tough ones.
- c. Help students learn the basics of the bible, and review, rehearse and rehash all that you know.
- d. Invest a portion of each meeting in making sure they study.
- e. Offer opportunities for deeper study as students mature, grow, or get older.

## 4) Silliness

- a. Don’t forget that many of the lessons learned are when we are not “teaching”.
- b. Help kids understand the concept of Christian love by having fun with other adults in their presence.
- c. Help students understand the importance of holy play.

- d. Be intentional with games, activities, skits and other fun things that help support a lesson.
- e. Or, don't even worry if it doesn't totally fit with the lesson; just have some fun for a few minutes.
- f. Smile
- g. Be reminded and be a reminder of the true meaning of "joy" in the Christian life.

**5) Serenity (Sabbath, Simple Schedule)**

- a. In a world with out-of-control schedules, time commitments and booked up lives, the church needs to help rather than add to it.
- b. Plan things far in advance so that coming up with free time, registration money, etc. isn't such a burden to families.
- c. Help make it easier on parents by offering multi-child discounts when setting up an event that requires students to pay.
- d. Give families time to be together on special days.
- e. Plan events for the families, so they can do something together instead of being fragmented.
- f. Offer seminars or offer to attend seminars as a group – things on parenting, finances, other helpful sessions.
- g. Love the families of the kids in your group or Sunday school class.
- h. Be on time to class and be prepared to hang around following. Always get finished when you say you will.