

# TEACHING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## unit aim:

Teaching the Christian faith is obviously an important part of helping young people to develop faith. In this Unit you will take responsibility for part of a teaching session at your youth/ children's group and learn some helpful guidelines on how to make teaching more effective.

Every children's/youth group will approach how they teach the Christian faith differently. By now you will have watched the leaders on your team teaching the group for several months at least and will have seen the methods and styles they feel are best suited to the young people. You may have helped them with some of the teaching too. The aim of this Unit is not to tell you **how** to teach, but rather to give you some key points to help you see how to make any teaching you do more **effective**, however the teaching programme is structured in your group.

### task 1

You will have to contribute to a formal teaching session during a meeting of your children's/youth group. You do not have to run the whole session (unless you want to!) but you should try to be responsible for up to 50% of the preparation and delivery of the teaching if possible.

To start with you will need to arrange the following with the leaders:

- A suitable time to help with a teaching session.
- A suitable group of young people to run the session with – it is best to work with a reasonably co-operative group of young people if at all possible.
- The content of the teaching session and the sections for which you will be responsible. Only take on activities etc. that are within your capabilities and for which you will have enough time to adequately prepare.
- A leader to be with you in the session and to help with the evaluation afterwards.

### task 2

When you have decided on all of the above, work through the stages below:

## BEFORE the session:

Tick the items off as you complete them:

**The aims of the session are agreed.** For every teaching session it is important to have one or two simple aims that say what it is you want the young people to learn. Write below the aims for your session:

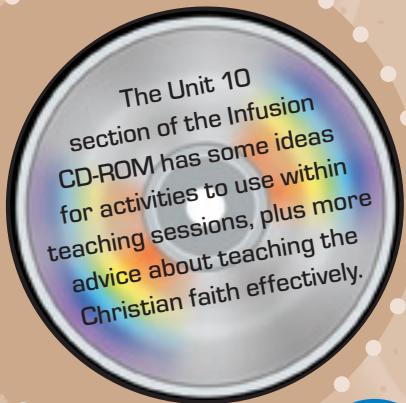
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**All the parts of the session for which you are responsible are prepared, and equipment etc. is ready.** Planning and preparation must not be skimped – it usually takes a lot longer than the actual delivery of the session itself!

**The leader who will evaluate you has seen your material and given any advice you need on how to teach it effectively with the group.** You may find it helpful to have a 'dry run' to practice what you will say and do and see how long things take.



## DURING the session:

Here are some tips to help you:

**If an activity is not going as well as expected, don't be afraid to move on to something else** – don't feel discouraged if you need to do this as it happens to everyone from time to time.

**If an activity is going really well, it may be useful to let it run for a bit longer than planned** – but be prepared to cut down on something else if needed so the session doesn't overrun.

**If you feel you are losing control, or need help at any stage, do ask the leader with you for assistance** – this is a very positive thing to do and is not a sign of weakness on your part.

**Don't forget to work to the aims of the session.**

## AFTER the session:

Some youth/children's leaders treat teaching sessions as a chore to be completed and then forgotten about. However hard or easy we find them, they should not finish when the last learning activity is completed – it is vital that even a short evaluation is made afterwards. This helps to improve the quality of what is taught and how it is taught.

After your session ask the leader who was with you to help you complete the following:

**How well did the session as a whole meet the planned aims?**

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**How well did your teaching content 'engage' with the group?**

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**What can you do next time to make your content even more appropriate?**

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**What were the best aspects of the way you taught the material?**

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**What can you do next time to improve the way you teach the material?**

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Try to help with the teaching sessions in your group as much as possible from now on - as long as you have the time.

## Supervisor's Endorsement:

The Trainee has satisfactorily completed this Unit.

Signed

Date