



Tell Me Again— Why Am I Doing This?



“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

- With what gifts and skills has God entrusted you?
- How does your individual ministry to children declare faithfulness?

▼ Training Session

When you look out over a classroom full of squirming children, do you ever hear yourself saying, “Tell me again why I’m doing this?” Were you excited to volunteer for this ministry, or were you begged mercilessly until you agreed to take on a class—and now you’re stuck?

There are many wonderful reasons to teach kids, but guilt and obligation are not on the list. Guilt may prod you along, but it will never empower. Ask yourself the following questions. Be honest with your answers.

• **Test your motive.** Ask yourself, “Do I *want* to teach?” Children need and deserve to be taught by someone who enjoys being elbow-to-elbow with them around a kid-size table. A good teacher says, “I choose to be here.” But a great teacher says, “I *want* to be here.”

• **Listen for your calling.** Ask yourself, “Am I called to teach?” Having a spiritual gift for conveying the truth of Scripture in a way that brings about

change is God’s way of telling a teacher to go teach. To stay the course in children’s ministry (or any ministry), you must have a sense of calling from God. Without it, the weekly task of presenting God’s truth in fresh ways becomes burdensome. Discover your spiritual gift and put it to work.

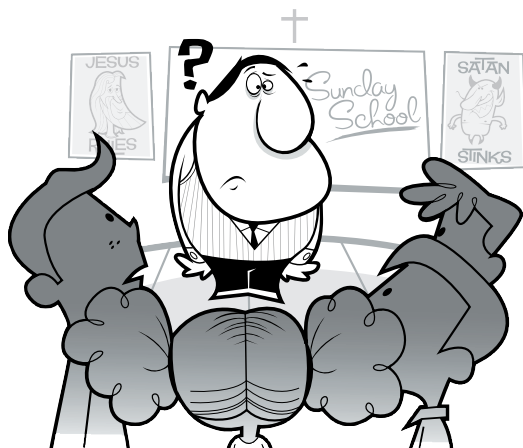
• **Examine your heart.** Ask yourself, “Do I have a servant attitude?” Teaching is largely about serving. Kids require our time, attention, and patience, and are able to give little in return. If your stamina for servanthood is low, you will not likely fill it with a classroom of attention-seeking 5-year-olds. Without

a servant’s heart, the privilege of helping kids know God turns into a duty and teaching becomes a task.

In a perfect world, only gifted teachers who thrive on crayons and lesson plans end up in front of a Sunday school class.

In the real world, however, you may find yourself teaching because there’s a need and no one else to fill it. If that’s your story—bless you for your willingness to serve. Continue to pray for God to use you in the way he sees best and to give you a heart for teaching.

Whether in teaching or helping behind the scenes, the opportunity to have a part in pointing children to God is a gift in itself. Use it to the best of your ability.





Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- If you wore a T-shirt that said, "I teach because _____," what would be written on the line?
- What has God shown you to be your spiritual gift?
- When you look out over a group of kids, what goes through your mind? How does that reaction help you know whether or not teaching is your strongest avenue of service?

▼ Journal

"...and that's why I teach."

Teachers don't teach because they have to, they teach because they can't help it. If you are called, gifted, and motivated by a desire to serve, God has a group of kids waiting for you with open arms. Go get 'em.

▼ Application

If you believe God has gifted you with an ability to teach, but are not happy in your present area of ministry, you might consider other avenues through which you can serve—but don't give up.

Take out five index cards. On each card write a reason you can't give up working with kids. Place each of the cards in a visible place, such as in your Bible, on a mirror, or in your car. When you see the cards, ask God to empower you to do his work in reaching children.