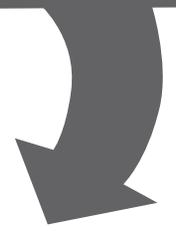


It's a God Thing



“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

- When have you seen evidence of this verse in your life?
- How can you apply this verse to your ministry?

▼ Training Session

God moments. As a teacher, you have them often in your classroom. But do you actually recognize God moments for what they are?

Some might define *God moment* as a teachable moment. And it is. But that doesn't really do it justice. A teachable moment occurs when you're teaching a lesson on patience and the CD player doesn't work. You stop the lesson right there and explain that this is a situation where you need to exercise some patience. Helping kids see a practical application of what they're learning is a valuable teaching aid—a teachable moment.

But it's probably not a God moment.

A God moment might come during the same lesson, when you just happen to overhear Tiffany tell a friend that her parents are getting a divorce and she doesn't know how to handle it. It's no accident that you overheard that comment.

So what do you do about it? You can ignore it and stay on track with your lesson. You can even really comfort Tiffany, sharing in her grief, and asking if there's anything you can do. You'll make her feel valued and cared for.

But any teacher can do that. A *great* teacher takes it further.

You see, a God moment is an ordinary distraction that's taken another step: to a new level of spiritual learning. It's a teachable moment—and so much more! Ask Tiffany if she'd like to ask the rest of the class for their help in handling her feelings. If Tiffany agrees, you can involve the class in offering her their care and concern. Maybe a classmate will relate what helped him or her in a similar situation.

You might have the class pray for Tiffany. Results? Tiffany's encouraged, the class has bonded, and kids exercised Christian compassion and prayer. *That's* a God moment!

We can't plan for God moments. By definition, they're arranged by God. But we *can* often overlook them.

We may think that getting through the lesson is more important than stopping and heading into uncharted territory. We may be unsure of what to say, so we say nothing at all.

But rather than overlooking God moments, be on the lookout for them. Rather than viewing those moments as distractions, embrace them as opportunities from God to draw closer to him and to the others in your class.





Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What's *your* definition of a God moment?
- When have you missed a God moment in your ministry?
- When has a God moment changed your life?

▼ Journal

Lord, you are the Master Teacher. Teach me to . . .

You're never alone when you teach. God's right there with you. So it's logical that there will be times when he interjects a situation he can use to teach or reach someone in your class for his purpose. (And don't be surprised if that someone is you!) Open your heart to God as he uses you. After all, he's the Master Teacher!

▼ Application

Keep a journal of God moments in your life, both in and out of your classroom. Maybe it's a chance meeting with an old friend who needs a word of encouragement. Or maybe it's a time in class when the lesson needs to stop in order to attend to the needs of a hurting or confused child. The more you see God working in your life, the more you'll expect to see him!