



Impact Eternity



“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:17).

- How do you think the disciples applied the lessons they learned from Jesus?
- Do you feel that your students apply the lessons they learn in your classroom? Why or why not?

▼ Training Session

Take a moment to dream about the future of your students. Through God’s power, what kind of person could each become spiritually?

It can be humbling to realize that God’s using *you* as part of his lifelong process of helping children become more like Jesus. And you just thought you were teaching lessons.

Surprise! You’re touching lives for eternity!

So, does your teaching make an eternal impact? Are kids applying their learning to their lives?

Application’s the key to learning success. If kids can’t apply it, they probably haven’t really learned it. It’s OK to check in with kids. See what they’ve learned—and how it’s impacted their lives.

Here are some suggestions to find out if kids are *really* learning and growing in relationship with Jesus:

- **Give kids a weekly challenge after each lesson.** If you’re teaching on serving, challenge them to serve a family member. Or have them do their chores without being asked. You can even give kids options.

- **Form accountability groups with kids.** Give them a chance each week to check in. Have them talk about what they learned the week before and how it applied to their lives.

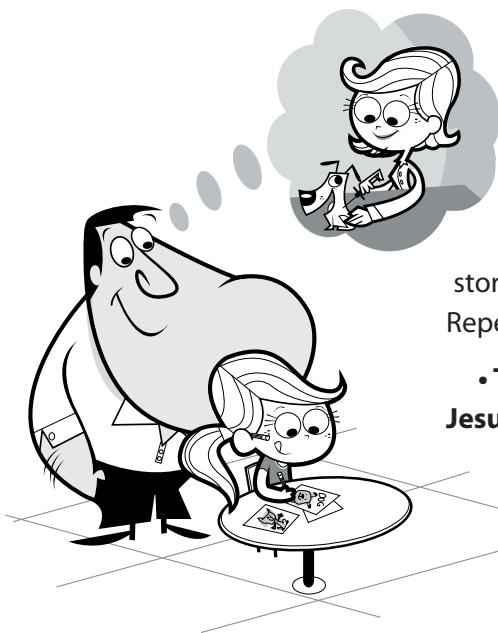
- **Let elementary children write stories or draw pictures about what their relationship with Jesus looks like.** Give kids a question to write or draw about, such as, “How does Jesus respond when we sin?” Use their stories and artwork to gain a base line regarding their relationship with God. Repeat the exercise at the end of the year to see how they’ve grown.

- **Tell preschoolers to draw a picture of what it would look like if they met Jesus face to face.** Use their drawings to understand how they view Jesus.

- **Have a regular prayer time when the children can share their concerns and talk with God.** Lead the children in prayer, but also listen to evaluate how easily the children are able to talk to God.

- **When kids arrive each week, ask them to tell you some things from the previous week.** What was the Bible point? How did you see Jesus at work in your life?

Find ways to make everything you teach apply to kids’ lives. When you do, you’ll impact eternity in every lesson!





Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- Up to this point, how have you known if kids really learned?
- Can your kids summarize the point of each lesson in one phrase? Why or why not?
- How can your kids be blessed if they *do* what they learn?

▼ Journal

God, these are my highest hopes for the children I work with...

These are my fears about evaluating my lessons for application...

As you make the leap to life application in every lesson, you'll begin to see your children through God's eyes. God's goal for your kids is that they reflect his character. And by participating in God's goals, you've just become a partner with him!

▼ Application

Write down a list of all the characteristics of a child who has a growing friendship with Jesus.

Next, write down a list of how you would know that those things were actually in the life of a child. What would the child act like? What would the child's life look like?

You've just taken the beginning steps of evaluating for transformation. For extra credit, check your current curriculum's "application" section. Are children being invited into life change? If not, consider rewriting those sections, or consider suggesting to your ministry leader that it's time to go shopping.