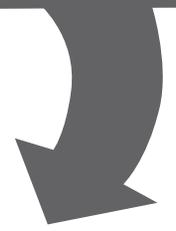


Aligning With Your Church's Expectations



“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1).

- What does your church expect of you as a teacher?
- What are the benefits of understanding your church's expectations as you teach?

▼ Training Session

Some churches expect their teachers to keep kids busy while parents are in “big church.”

Other churches expect kids to be able to write a doctoral thesis in theology by the time they graduate sixth grade.

Most churches fall somewhere between the two extremes.

Do you know what your church expects of you as a teacher? It's critical that you do. It's hard to do a good job if you don't know what's expected of you.

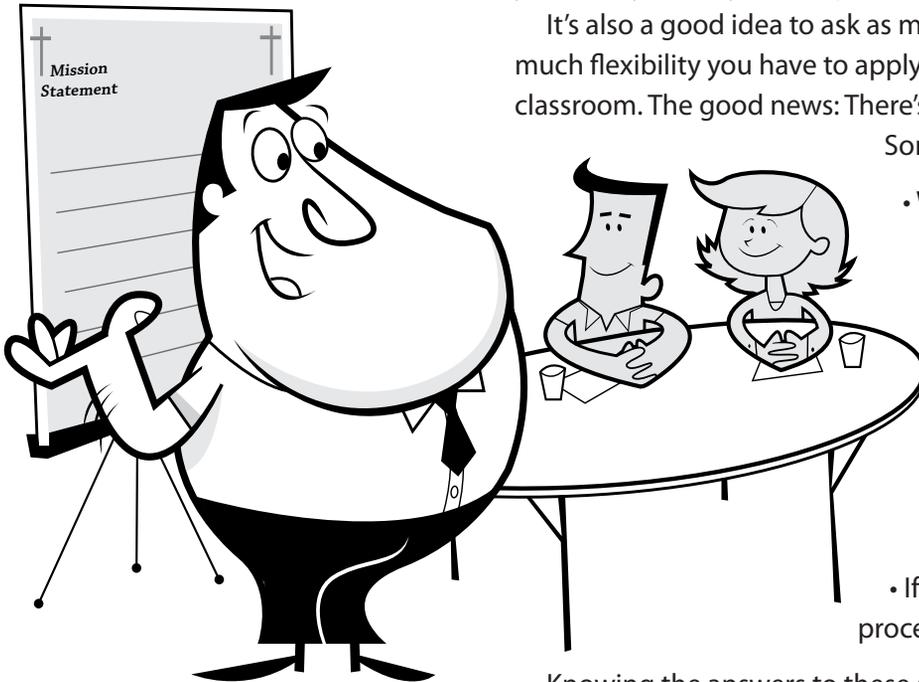
Make sure you know the mission statement for your church's children's ministry. Don't have one? Encourage your children's pastor or director to put one together. You could even volunteer to help out with this!

Everything you do should fit under this mission statement. If it does, you're on your way to living up to your church's expectations.

It's also a good idea to ask as many questions as possible. Find out how much flexibility you have to apply your own style and creativity in your classroom. The good news: There's *plenty* of room for creativity!

Some questions you might ask are:

- Who's my go-to person when I have a question or concern?
- How loud can my class get when we enjoy learning experiences?
- What supplies will the church provide? What should I contribute?
- May I decorate my room any way I choose?
- If I'd like to change something, what's the process for making a suggestion or request?



Knowing the answers to these starter questions will help you begin to align with the church's expectations of you as a teacher. Then you can move on to the really important stuff: building relationships with children and helping kids grow closer to Jesus!



Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- How do you think fully understanding your church's expectations of you can positively affect the children in your class?
- What are the next steps for you to take to know what's expected of you as a teacher?
- How can you pray for your ministry's leaders—the people who set expectations of teachers?

▼ Journal

My thoughts of what my church expects of me...

Lord, help me to follow your will as I...

Lord, thank you for letting me serve you, my church, and my students. Help me be faithful in meeting my church's expectations of me as a teacher. Even more important, help me meet your expectations. In Jesus' name, amen.

▼ Application

Meet with your leader and discuss the church's expectations in person. Bring your list of questions, suggestions, and concerns, and share your desire to make your classroom a success. Also, be sure to express your willingness to meet reasonable expectations.