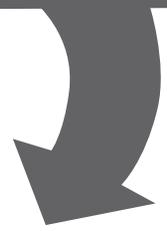




The Taste of Success



“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).

• Did you succeed last time you taught? How?

• Who sets the standard of success in your class? Who else?



▼ Training Session

What's success? For a bricklayer it's a finished wall that stands up. For a mechanic it's a car that runs. For a pilot it's a safe flight. For a fashion designer it's a line of clothing that sells. For a teacher...

How do you know when you've succeeded?

A teacher's succeeded when a child's life is transformed, right?

Certainly! But you may not always see that transformation. What about some immediate results that show success? Who can wait around 20 years to see if that 3-year-old really grew into a Christ-like adult? You *can* have immediate evidence of success, and here's what to look for.

- **You succeed as a teacher when you compare who you are today with who you were last year!** Or even who you were last week! Did you grow yourself? Are you a better teacher? Did you learn from a mistake—even a success?
- **You succeed as a teacher when you develop new styles and approaches in working with children!** Are you staying on top of your game? Knowing that the goal is transformed lives, what's the best way to get kids there? Try new things. Step out of your comfort zone. Just trying is a great measure of success!
- **You succeed as a teacher if you see your students' behavior improve.** Is your classroom a laboratory of learning? When you teach kids, give them the opportunity to apply what they learn—right then and there. You know you're successful when you see them put into practice what they learn!
- **You succeed as a teacher when you pace yourself for the long haul.** If you were to teach only four lessons over and over again, you'd become incredibly good at it, wouldn't you? But at what cost? You'd lose your mind—and your students—with boredom! Don't try to become perfect. But practice those things that'll result in you wanting to *remain* a teacher. Love the role you're in, and you'll succeed.
- **You succeed as a teacher when you learn from succeeding.** What components worked to make you succeed? What will you keep? Many churches—and people—fail right after they succeed. They get caught up in the feeling of success and don't learn from what went right.

Succeed well.



Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What are your strengths?
- How can you use your strengths to continue to grow?
- When was the last time you felt success? What did it feel like? What did you learn from it?

▼ Journal

*Chess or checkers? One way to succeed in your class is to treat teaching children like a game of chess (everyone is unique) rather than checkers (everyone is the same).
How are your children like a game of chess?*

Ultimate success is found in heaven's words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

▼ Application

Spend some extra time this week preparing your heart by reading the teacher's devotion that comes with your lesson. If your lesson doesn't have a devotion, use the lesson itself to allow God to speak to you! You can't impart what you don't possess.