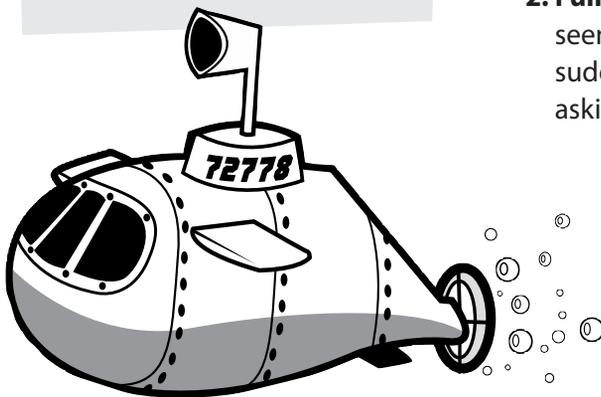


Sub Power: A Stealth Mission

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed” (Proverbs 16:3).

- What are you willing to commit to the Lord right now?
- How do you commit what you do to the Lord?



▼ Training Session

Whether you have a week to prepare or just a few minutes, substitute teaching is a vital ministry. If you're a substitute, you're not second string—you're a *real* teacher, an above-average hero.

When you're dispatched to teach on short notice or with kids you don't know, here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Setting sail. How you begin sets the tone for the rest of the session.

Arrive before the children do, and have something for them to do as soon as they walk in the door. If you're not quite prepared when the first child arrives, let kids help you get ready. Kids love to help the teacher!

2. Full speed ahead! Discussion times can sink subs. Long silences seem deadly, don't they? They seem to bring a strong lesson to a sudden halt. You're tempted to answer the questions yourself or avoid asking them altogether!

- First, keep in mind that wait time is OK.
- Keep discussions lively by asking easy, open-ended questions:
 - ① “How did you feel during that activity?”
- Let kids vote on answers: “Of these choices, what do you think will happen to Jonah when he goes to Nineveh?” As kids warm up, lead in to tougher questions.
- Have kids form pairs and talk to partners. Pair-shares lower kids' defenses and encourage them to dig deeper.

3. Bringing it back to port. Amazingly, the most challenging time for a sub may be the *end* of the lesson. Running out of fuel sends subs to the bottom.

- Take a sub survival kit with you. Fill a box with games and extra activity ideas to keep kids engaged and actively learning.

Success in subbing is connected to prayer and to focus. By staying focused on the essentials, your lesson will naturally fall into place as you go. Prepare for subbing even further by doing the following:

- Find the class list, allergy list, and emergency information.
- Visit classes before you teach to observe routines and meet the children.
- Know before class how you'll respond to sick, unruly, or timid children. This reduces stress when these problems, especially disciplinary ones, arise.
- Pray for God's gift of joy as you embark on your new adventure!



Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What blessings has God given you through substitute teaching?
- How can you improve and grow as you teach each class?

▼ Journal

God, give me courage as I . . .

Lord, help me when I'm uncertain about . . .

What a blessing to be a substitute teacher! Not only do you get the opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes, you get to step in and change lives. God appreciates your stealth work. Although you may feel like you're sailing under the radar, your service is so very powerful. Thank you for being an unsinkable sub!

▼ Application

Bring a written goal to class along with a personal item that you can place prominently in the room as a focal point. You may choose to bring a box, Bible, paperweight, or picture. This item is for you—to remind you why you're teaching. Don't forget to wear a name tag, and proudly add the title "Sub" to it!