



INTRO: We're All on the Same Bus!

When we're teaching kids, we want to do what it takes to help them feel that the people at church love them—especially safe, caring teachers.

We want teach so that kids have lots of "aha" moments in which they "get" a Bible truth or connect God and His love with situations in their own lives.

We're all headed in the same direction—but how will we all get there? How can we do this completely and well?

"We're all on the same bus! But we stop at different places."

I asked a Sunday School teacher, a young guy who's thought a lot about teaching, how he might prepare people to teach kids at church.

He said, "I would do an overview. Then I'd break it out by age levels. After all, we're all on the same bus! But we stop at different places."

I really liked his analogy. We ALL want to be on the bus that takes us to where we can really help kids know Jesus!

But like our days of riding the school bus, everyone on board is different—different backgrounds, skills, and abilities.

I'm pretty sure no one comes into a Sunday School or kidmin class WANTING to be "that guy," the one who loses his temper or yells at kids or manipulates through guilt or fear. But we've all seen it.

Teachers who are like "that guy" usually have great hearts but NOT great training. That means that they're not prepared for a crisis—and crises happen a LOT with kids! When they don't have the resources to respond in a way that shows God's love, they do whatever their upbringing or reflexes tell them!

So this Fall, let's decide to all get on the same bus. This first level of "basic training" is something we all need, even seasoned vets. It renews our passion and refocuses us on what's important.

Jesus. Kids. Showing God's love in ways that have meaning for the kids you teach.

Let's get on the bus to great training so that we can get off at the right stop and do the thing that brings kids to Jesus!