



# Managing Your Multi-Age Classroom

## Teaching Broadly Graded Groups



### Four (4) Reasons for a multi-age classroom

1. Limited Budget — consider purchasing one set of curriculum and separate it throughout your teaching team
2. Limited Church Space — consider recreating space: divide a room into sections with tape or using white boards to create new areas?
3. Limited Volunteers — consider starting with a rotation of a few workers if the group is small
4. Limited Ministry — always ask God to enlarge your ministry and provide the workers for the increase!

### Tips for a multi-age classroom

#### Bible Study

- ◆ No matter what the ages of the group, work with a middle ground curriculum and adjust for the ages in your group
- ◆ Target your audience — use the oldest boy in class and engage the oldest boys
- ◆ Remember that younger children tend to mirror/mimic/model older children
- ◆ Use older students as junior teachers — give them responsibilities and allow them to help with the younger children
- ◆ Pair older students with younger students — this is a great opportunity to start building and developing the next generation of leaders in your church
- ◆ Avoid embarrassing younger children — try to save the answer or give them hints; it should be your desire to see every child succeed
- ◆ Provide activities for a large range of ages; perhaps give your class options and utilize your helpers and older kids to supervise and direct those activities
- ◆ Always have a Plan B or know of other activities you will do if the one planned does not fit the class or situation

#### Recreation

- ◆ Use relay activities. Make teams of equal sizes placing body sizes equally among teams
- ◆ Be fair with the abilities of your students
- ◆ Be sure your recreation is intentional and is used either as a natural break or fits into the teaching element

#### Crafts

- ◆ This is a great opportunity to pair younger students with older students
- ◆ Older child would complete an entire craft from start to finish, while a younger student would complete a partially assembled craft
- ◆ Plan for additional activities for when older students might finish their craft early
- ◆ Remember not all kids like crafts and this could turn into a behavior issue. Plan for other activities (puzzles, building projects, reflective journal writing, prayer cards, etc) that will give additional choices to your students.

#### Music

- ◆ Use the older boys in the class to help out assist with music time
- ◆ Rotate student leaders - be sensitive as to whom or how frequently
- ◆ Involve all students
- ◆ Remind kids it is all for fun — have each group make up their own choreography
- ◆ Focus is to be on God
- ◆ Push (fraction of second) motions
- ◆ Mirror practice of leader

**Be Prepared ♦ Be Flexible ♦ Show Grace ♦ Have Fun**



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