

Character Education in the Christian Classroom

by Stephenie Hovland

Young Christians in our classrooms sometimes have a very hard time overcoming bad behaviors. As a teacher, you need to remind them what a person of good character is like.

You, of course, are their strongest model in the classroom. You need to model all the good character traits you would like them to exhibit. Slowly, with your guidance and the Holy Spirit working in their hearts, you will see a class full of solid character.

Try these tips to help you promote Christian Character Education:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help each student become a “new creation.”
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” **2 Corinthians 5:17**
2. Survey students about what makes strong character. Keep them focused on themselves at this point, so they don't judge each other.
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **Romans 3:23**
3. List each trait on the board. Next to each one, see if students can think of anyone that has shown that trait. The person doesn't have to be the perfect portrayal of that trait, but they should be able to see the trait clearly.
4. Follow the list of traits with one or more of these activities:
 - a) Students find Bible verses that address each trait.
 - b) List people from Bible history that fit traits.
 - c) Look through hymn or songbooks for songs of faith that address each trait.
 - d) Develop skits for each trait. They can be based on modern-day experiences or biblical accounts.

If you want your classroom to develop better character, keep reminding students of their good qualities, the ones that you discussed in class. Remember they are saints and sinners, so don't always expect them to be perfect. Give them encouragement more often than correction, and you will see more positive traits than negative ones very soon.

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Galatians 5:13-14**