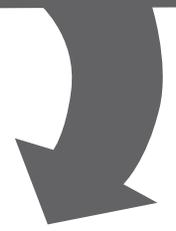




# Open-Door Policy



“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

• How do you share your life with your students?

• Does this verse apply to your current methods of teaching? If not, how can you put this verse into action?

## ▼ Training Session

Remember seeing one of your teachers in the grocery store when you were a child? You may have been shocked. Teachers eat? They have a life outside of school?

The teachers who were distant or mysterious you’ve probably forgotten. You remember the ones who had a relationship with you and gave you a glimpse into their lives. They were real!

Squeeze into the shoes of a child for a moment. What are some of the things children wonder about their teachers?

What time does she go to bed?

What’s his favorite food?

What makes her scared? happy? frustrated?

What does his house look like?

How does she spend her time when she’s not at church?

Kids love to know the nitty-gritty, quirky details of the people they meet. It’s a way for them to connect.

Open the door into your life. Let kids see who you are.

- Perhaps you could tell your students what life was like when you were growing up and how you noticed God working in your everyday life.
- Listen to children’s stories and experiences, and tell kids about similar situations in your life.
- Tell children your favorite color, food, movie, music, hobby, or a funny story from your childhood.
- Talk about where you work and a highlight from your week.
- Share your goals and dreams.
- Tell kids what God’s doing in your life and what you’ve been praying about lately.

God has revealed himself to us through his Word and through Christ. God wants us to know him. For us to have a relationship with God, we *have* to know him. Your kids need to know you, too. When they do, you’ll help create a safe, loving, and more relaxed environment for your students. And you’ll encourage kids to grow closer to the creator of relationships!





## Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What do you know about your students' lives? Do they currently know as much about your life?
- What are some specific stories you could share with your class about
  - ▣ your childhood?
  - ▣ how Jesus was revealed to you?
  - ▣ struggles you have now or had when you were a child?
- What can you share with your students about your faith?

### ▼ Journal

*Lord, humble me to be comfortable to share my life with my students and give me strength to be open and honest with them as I . . .*

*Lord, bless me with some ideas of how I can share my life with my students, particularly . . .*

**There's no higher calling than that of sharing Christ with another, especially when the *another* is a child!**

### ▼ Application

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Do you remember how exciting Show and Tell was when you were a child? Play a little Show and Tell in your classroom.

Bring in some photos of your childhood family and show them to your class. As you share your pictures, talk about them and tell some stories about them. Also, tell kids about how and when you became a Christian. Share with them how Jesus has changed your life.