

## Tools for Catechists:

### Preparing Your Classroom

**Preparing your classroom can help you set the tone for your class. Here are some simple things to consider:**

- Display a prayer space using a Bible, electric candle, flowers, Advent wreath, etc. (if the classroom already has one, just make sure you leave it as you found it). A prayer space tells students that prayer is important.
- Rearrange the seating arrangement into small groups, pairs, etc. Just remember to put the desks back where they belong in the order they were found. Sometimes sitting on the floor or even going to the church or chapel (if Mass is not taking place) can be appropriate.
- Make sure you have all the supplies you need prior to your lesson. If something is needed, see an assistant to help you locate the supplies.
- Music can set a tone. Consider using music to create a peaceful classroom climate.
- Display the children's work. This can be difficult in the classroom, but if you have a special project you want displayed, talk with the directors. We might be able to find a space in display cases, hallways, etc. to show your students' work.
- Ask for help! Invite parents to help you if you have a project that needs extra hands, or talk with a director to arrange for extra help. This will save your sanity in some situations!
- Remember that our children are in school for the majority of their waking hours. Do we really want to make our sessions feel like "school?" Consider presenting a lesson with movie clips, field trips to the church (if Mass is not taking place), art projects, etc. Reading from the book can be useful...At TIMES. However, we can help you find other ways to explore our faith. Please ask a director, if you would like ideas.
- The most important thing in your classroom is your attitude. When you show patience, warmth, and excitement about your faith, it will be contagious!