

Prayer for Religion Teachers

Gracious God,

As I enter this classroom, I find myself wondering what I am doing here. I certainly do not always consider myself a role model of faith. But for some reason that I'll never understand, I said yes, and here I am. I am willing, Lord, but I need your help.

I ask for knowledge to understand the content of what I teach and the words to teach it well.

Give me patience when the teens are restless and I am out of sorts. Help me to know how to keep order while still understanding that teenagers are teenagers.

Give me prudence to say what needs to be said, and do what needs to be done. Help me to find the words to be gentle when that is needed and firm when that is best.

Give me kindness to treat each teen with that extra measure of sensitivity. Let me be aware of how I can help to heal the wounds that I discover or that I know are there.

Give me wisdom to know what to say to reach each young person before me. Help me to know the stories to use, the thoughts to share, so that each person comes to know you and your abundant love.

Give me vision to look deep into the hearts of my students to see in them what you see, Lord, and help me to help them become more.

Give me inspiration when my classes don't seem to be going anywhere and when I'm frustrated with myself. Help me to be creative when I'm boring; innovative when I'm feeling dull; energized when I'm tired; joyful when I'm successful; and encouraged when I feel I'm not up to the task.

Give me courage, Lord, to keep returning time after time, when it is so hard and I have so many other things to do. Help me to see that what I do here is worthwhile - and help others to see that too.

Give me humor to laugh with the teens and sometimes even at myself. And help me to enjoy to the fullest the days that go well, the classes that work, the young people who discover the wonder that You are.

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord, that when I speak you truly are the one who comes through to them. For that is what I want most of all - for these teenagers in my care to come to know and to love you. Strengthen in me my ability and my faith.

I promise you, Lord, I will always do the very best I can, but please let me feel you there beside me. Be with me in this endeavor, as I prepare and as I teach. I do it for You.

AMEN