

Leader's Notes

CKC Coaching Sheet: Engaging Students in Large Group

1. Start with a **Captivating** Opening.

Once you call students' attention, you have a few critical seconds to *engage* them. It's not enough to get them to be physically attentive (seated, eyes on you, quiet). You want to get them to connect emotionally. You only need 1-3 minutes to do this. It can be an interesting object, a photo, a song, a funny joke or story, a question, etc. By engaging them with something that connects to their own world or piques their curiosity, you have a smoother transition into your lesson time; students will be more likely to give you their focus for an extended period of time.

2. Keep it **Short!**

Large Group is not the time to get into a detailed background of the biblical story, or an explanation of a deep theological truth. The purpose of Large Group is to set the groundwork for the deeper learning to happen in Small Groups. Limit yourself to **10 minutes** for presenting the Bible story and introducing the key teaching point or verse. (Your opening activities such as music, birthday recognitions, or Student of the Week should be an additional 5-10 minutes before the story. So, the absolute maximum amount of time students should be seated in Large Group is 20 minutes). Since most behavior issues occur during Large Group time, keeping it short also decreases disruptions (and leader stress!).

3. Incorporate **Interactive** Learning.

Find ways to get students to interact with the lesson as much as possible in an organized, meaningful way. Some examples of interactive learning include:

- Guiding students to act out roles in a skit/drama
- Involving physical movement
- Incorporating music
- Using "Call and Response"
- Asking students to answer a question by "Turning to tell your neighbor (or leader)"

Interactive learning is most effective when you teach students their movements or parts beforehand. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to spend extra time with students outside the lesson time. It can be as simple as saying, "Before I tell this story today, I need all of you to practice making (x movement) every time I say the word (insert cue word)."

As your team discusses the Action Steps listed on their sheet, encourage them by pointing out the positives you observe each week during the Large Group Lesson. Direct them to name two or three specific things that they would like to implement to try and engage students more effectively.