

Great Classroom Idea



Grade level: 7-8

Subject (if applicable): Bible/Science

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lesson plan | <input type="checkbox"/> project-based teaching/activity idea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> technology integration idea | <input type="checkbox"/> graphic organizer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> integration of faith and learning idea | <input type="checkbox"/> webquest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> classroom management technique | <input type="checkbox"/> virtual field trip |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> devotional | <input type="checkbox"/> bulletin board idea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> science demo or experiment | <input type="checkbox"/> critical thinking strategy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assessment tool | <input type="checkbox"/> original classroom game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> relationship-building idea | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Description: (attach supplementary materials if needed)

This lesson is better used with live plants!

Prep: Must be time of year to prune; use plants that require pruning

Day 1: Read John 15:1-6 where Jesus talks about pruning and abiding, and discuss what the meaning of the verses are. Specifically, lead students to discuss what kind of things God would prune from their lives. Kids would tend to choose things that are naturally bad. Show a tree (handout) that needs pruning. Ask them what objective the pruner has: to get more fruit, balance tree, guide growth, etc. Some things pruned were good; give a couple of examples. Use the handout and colour the limbs that would stay; this requires the teacher to demonstrate which limbs need removing and the thought processes used to determine which good branches should be removed. (This might require novice teachers to google info 😊) Share handouts with each other; variety is O.K.!

Day 2: Review by having kids name all types of limbs that should be removed and the why of going through this work. Then take them to an orchard or give them a small plant to prune. (I gave them stern warnings of damage/death that could result from willy-nilly clipping!)

Day 3 (or farther in the future): Fruits of Spirit. Show the results of their pruning. Review why pruning (even some good branches) are required. Take a photo. They gain ownership of their work.

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