

Computer Ants

The Principle to Learn	In God's Word
The value of time and goal setting.	Proverbs 6:6-11

Preclass



- Review the goals of ComputiVerse
- Review the Class Tips
- Review the Gospel Message

Process

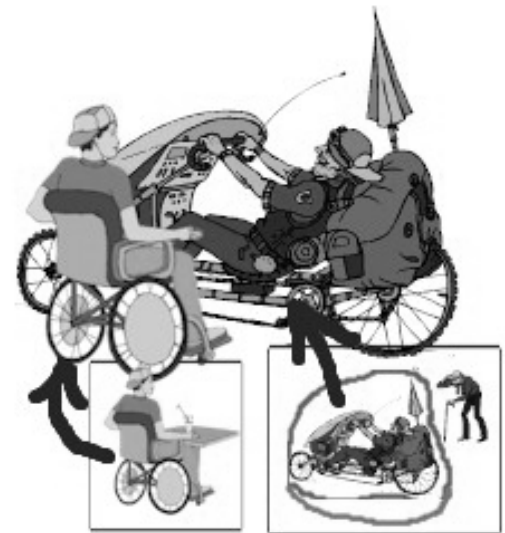
Include the steps of the gospel throughout the lesson; so while student attention is fresh, the real lesson is being planted.

Begin with prayer.

Fact: You can't go to school in your swimming suit!!

“Mom! Oh Mom! I don't have any clean clothes to wear to school today. What are we gonna do?” you say. Your mom replies, “Well...Hmmm.... There was this terrific yard sale... and we've needed a different coffee table... and ... well, I'll get to it...soon.”

Never do we want a mom that procrastinates. (That means to “drag your feet”, “don't do it now, do it later”.) Nor do we want a fireman standing next to your burning house just now getting around to reading the operating manual for the new whiz-banger water pump on his fire truck. We don't want *others* to procrastinate, but a careful inward look will show us that *we* do it a lot. Part of the reason we put things off is because we take too much time or effort to get some things done. We need to find more efficient ways to make these happen. One neat thing to do is find things that can be done together... For example: Instead of calling a friend to ask what the F12 function key on your computer does, and then later calling again because you want to know how to underline a word, make a list of questions you need to ask your friend. When you've got a few questions, then make one call that 'asks it all'.



When you create a picture for

school that might include things like a car, kangaroo, kite, kissing bug¹, or a kid, print it out and keep it on file. Then, when you need a picture of a kite, all you need to do is to load up the picture with all the things listed above and cut out the kite. Computer programmers save lots of time by doing this with their programs. They call these files, “library files”.

Because the old saying, “The early bird catches the worm,” is very true, we need to get things done quickly, before someone else does. When Mr. Bell patented the telephone, he did it only two hours before Elisha Gray made application for a similar patent. If he had taken the day off and gone to a ball game, he would not be recognized as the inventor of the telephone.

Goal Setting:

Here are some good ideas to help you guard against being a time waster, or sluggard:

- Ask God throughout each day, “What I should be doing now?” or, “In what way should I do this?”
- Decide when you want to be done with the task. Set a goal and think of it as a target. Always set your sights on this. It can be changed, or the date can be changed. But the important thing is to have a definite goal or target.

If we are to succeed and be respected by others, we must be “busy beavers” or what might be thought of as a computer ant. Your Bible will make this clearer.

ComputiVerse

In the following verse, the word “sluggard” can be translated as “Slowpoke”:

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”



Proverbs 6:6-11

¹ Also called the assassin bug, that inflicts a painful bite on a sleeping person, often on the lips.

It's not hard to find an ant, or a group of them, to watch. They're always busy no matter whether they are alone or part of a group. God has given them the drive to be busy. It seems they're always working for the good of the colony, rather than for themselves.

Whether they're army ants, farmer ants or something else, they stay busy. When I get done with a task at work, I find something else to work on, without waiting for my boss to find something for me. He says I'm a **self-starter**. God likes self-starters too. Can you be a busy computer ant, or will you be a time waster and end in poverty? ☺

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Challenged Charlies – Friends Fun

[Theme: A willing heart in God's hands always produces beauty and purpose.]

The sounds of the kids singing "At the Cross" was replaced with the summer camp breeze through the pine branches. The occasional sounds of the grazing horses in the sunny meadow kept wooing the children's attention away from the wheelchairs most sat in, and the body braces a few wore.

Becky stood at a poster board in front of the small group and drew a large cross with 2 straight lines. "Ok, Charlies! What's that remind you of?" Tom wasn't able to raise his arms easily so piped up with, "a Cross. But it's too long on the right side." With plenty of eye contact, Becky said clearly that some very exciting things are learned when starting with a cross. She didn't dwell on the point but connected the ends of the lines to form a kite, though lopsided it was. Terry had to have his pencil retaped to his hand and was then able to follow with the rest of the Challenged Charlies, in drawing what Becky did.

Jenny said she'd flown a kite some, before the accident, but was sure the lopsided one the group was drawing, wouldn't fly... "It doesn't look like a real kite -- it's worthless." Mitch heard Jenny's evaluation of the kite, as he looked down at feet that'd never again touch a diving board and a left hand that made archery impossible. His long face whispered to him, "Yeah... worthless."

Becky ached deep inside. She'd volunteered to help with the Challenged Charlies at camp this year. The majority of the year found her in front of a history classroom in a small North Carolina town. But her willing spirit leaped with a "Yes" when invited to share her moderate art talent with the campers.

As Becky chose words straight from her heart, she'd have given anything to change places with any one of the Charlies for a day to get them to see God gives wings to all sorts of things that don't look ordinary; lopsided kites, arms, or broken spirits.

The history teacher led her outdoor art class in adding lines and boxes on the face of the kite; not understood by any of the students. Donna's comment about the added lines not making any sense was countered with Becky's "Just trust me for now. Stick with me, you'll enjoy the outcome." Barbara's mental motor came to a stop hearing Becky's word "trust". She could only figure it was because the word was never used at home and therefore not clearly understood.

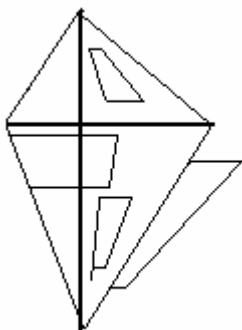
In a moment, a gesture or two from the able-bodied helpers queued Becky to make her move.

"Now class take your kite picture and lay it on its side so the big side of the kite is pointing up." It was a real effort for some of the artists but mission accomplished.

It took no real effort at all to recognize this worthless kite had become a storefront. As Becky continued to add a few dressup lines and erase parts of others, she explained about "two-vanishing-point perspective drawing. The art teacher compared the 2 perspectives with human perspective and God's way of looking at things.

The teacher's heart pounded within her as she saw Larry's face start to make a smile; tough thing to do for him. "Inside" smiles had been burned away by a heartless gas furnace a painful eternity ago.

The kite's final metamorphous became a graphic of an evangelistic mission in an inner city of most any large city. Becky watched the pairs of eyes drink in the evangelistic message probably shared at one of these missions.



You can teach Becky's lesson with computer or just pencil and paper. The key is to start with a burdened heart for using your talents for God's Will. ☺

More Goodies:

Website: www.wsprog.com

No Good to Nobody

[Theme: Using God's gifts to us, stay busy in spite of limitations.]

The clock was winding down fast with no solution in sight! Or at least in Pastor Debbins' mind, anyhow. He had committed with great pride, to scheduling his church with its new addition, to be the location for the fall Pastor's Seminar. This also required him to provide the program for the event. That's all well and good, BUT PASTOR COULDN'T THINK OF A GOOD THEME!! A cloudy idea having to do with a symphony orchestra kept swimming around in his head but nothing to build on.

That new addition Pastor Debbins liked to show off featured several things that evidenced the good planning by the church building committee. One was a wheelchair ramp making the services of love and forgiveness through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, accessible to everyone. One such ramp-user was Ricky Jepps. How Ricky ached inside. No, not from his birth defects caused from his mother taking Thalidomide. Ricky ached from feeling like a burden, but more importantly, the sickening continual attitude of being *no good to nobody*.

It was like rubbing salt in an open wound every time Ricky would hear Pastor say, "...people should be involved... make this your church...there's something here for everyone to do." Rick would silently add, "Yep! Except if you're in a wheelchair with arms and legs that don't fit any store-bought shirts and pants."

Now Ricky was good at one thing, for sure. He was a good listener. Thank God the Thalidomide hadn't affected his hearing. Actually, for a 13 year old he had a fairly good memory. You'll agree Rick's range of games and entertainment was quite narrow. Probably his favorite was sitting in front of his computer and without looking at the screen, seeing how many of the church member's names he could type. This was a good game 'cause it used up a lot of time; something Ricky had tons of. The progress was very slow, you know, the defects and all.

Not like yours and mine, his computer keyboard had the "S" key missing and a monitor that said, "POWER TOOLS ON SALE" even when the thing wasn't turned on. But he couldn't complain. The hardware store said the thing was just junk, *no good to nobody*, and asked Ricky's father if Ricky'd want to fool with it; probably a 'God-Send' since the family's finances were more than drained by hospital bills and the like.



Ricky was getting pretty good with his list. One time he even started adding a couple words after each name that reminded him of what that person was good at. How Ricky wished he could have added his name to the list with some important couple words of what he was good at. But see, *no good to nobody* equals a blank space.

What happened just before the Pastor's Seminar isn't clear, even now. But the results are still spoken of by the pastors that attended what was the most purposeful seminar they'd been to in years.

The seminar program progressed through all the expected introductory things, then Pastor Debbins walked to the podium. He was clearly not in a comfortable state of mind. You got the feeling there was a mental war going on inside... a war between wanting to bust out with a bone-deep smile of joy or reach for his handkerchief to hide the tears that were about to show.

Sure his message touched on the new addition. Not so much on the wood and plaster, but on the people, their willingness, and their God-given talents. Boy... It's a good thing Ricky wasn't there to hear all this. Pastor likened the whole process to a symphony of different instruments. His text concentrated on the last portion of I Cor 12:18... "as it hath pleased him."

In giving a little background into the choice for the seminar theme, Pastor Debbins related, "I found a crumpled up piece of paper on the floor near one of the Sunday school rooms. Opening it up I found the following list." Pastor walked to the overhead projector and switched it on.

After a final focusing everyone saw the list that was found. He further stated emphatically that God who makes no mistakes (some people say He doesn't make no junk either!) provided that list. A list that became an answer to the theme needed for the seminar.

Now the fruit of that seminar of several years ago is still seen today in church planning seminars. I guess no one will ever figure out why the list Pastor Debbins showed on the overhead didn't have any s's in it.

Now tell me, is there a Ricky in your church?

Is there a Ricky in your shoes?

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