

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS: MAKING EVERY MOMENT COUNT IN THE CLASSROOM

Diana Meadowcroft | dmeadowcroft@cedartreeschool.org

Generally attributed to Gustave Flaubert (1821-80), this statement *le bon Dieu est dans le detail* that God is in the details reminds us that as beloved children of God we can trust him. It also challenges us as beloved children to attend to the details that we have under our purview, imitating Him as the source of all truth, goodness and beauty in our service to others.

I. Begin with the end in mind:

A. What's your school mission statement or Portrait of a Graduate?

B. How do you picture your classroom and students functioning when you are not present?

II. Identify key biblical truths to guide your planning:

A. You are the ongoing lesson and thus are always teaching

B. God blesses His children and we're called to imitate Him

C. God is creative and orderly

D. Redeem the time

E. Consider others as more important than ourselves

F. Honor your father and mother

G. Do everything without complaining or arguing

H. Pray and work before the face of God

III. How do we apply these truths (noted above) to ourselves as the PRIMARY LESSON and disciple maker? (2 Tim 2:2)

A. PLAN your wardrobe: How well are you modeling the principle of considering others more important than your (comfort)? Are you well ordered or wrinkled?

B. PLAN your BEGINNING: Are you on time, materials ready, greeting students as they come in, or are you searching for supplies just before formal instruction begins?

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- C. PLAN and PRAY your countenance: Life can come at you hard, but that is not your students' fault, and you may need to practice smiling.
- D. PLAN and PRAY your blessing: What words and tone do you use to affirm your students' choices and correct when needed?
- IV. How do we apply these truths about God to our CLASSROOM, the space He has entrusted to us? How we organize our classrooms communicates our understanding of God's order and beauty.
 - A. PLAN your SPACE
 - B. PLAN your WALLS: If your school has an aesthetics policy, here's where you apply it
 - C. PLAN your DESK area
- V. How do we apply these truths to our ROUTINES which communicate so much our value of time and order?
 - A. PLAN and PRACTICE. The 3/33 Rule: Define your routine practices and train hard the first three weeks so that you redeem more time the other 33 weeks.
- VI. How do we apply these truths so our routines become soul-shaping LITURGY to our students?
 - A. PLAN to instruct students that God is part of our learning
 - B. PLAN for dealing with sin
- VII. How do we apply these truths in our LESSONS so that students experience effective review, practice the tools of learning, and know what's expected from them?
 - A. PLAN to instruct the HOW we learn as well as the WHAT
- VIII. Conclusion: We begin with the end in mind and pray and work, trusting the Author and Finisher of our Faith to work in us and our students for His good purpose.