

Sparrow Project Teacher Professional Development

Workshop Course Catalogue

Dear School Leader,

These Sparrow Project interactive professional development workshops, built on a foundation of biblical principles, are designed to address the most pressing challenges faced by Christian teachers and schools today. By equipping and empowering your teachers in these areas, your school can become a beacon, transforming students and the broader community.

The workshops cover a broad spectrum of topics that include:

Biblical Worldview: We as school leaders and teachers can develop a worldview, specifically a Biblical Worldview, that then will impact our classrooms and schools, resulting in transformation of our students, families, and ourselves.

Child Development: As we learn that God has miraculously created each one of us and loves our students unconditionally, we explore how children develop cognitively and how the brain processes and learns new information. We also explore how to encourage our students to take risks and embrace new challenges in safe and loving classroom environments.

Classroom Discipleship: As teachers and school leaders, we have an incredible responsibility to use every opportunity to lead our children to the Lord and direct their paths. Our hope is that they will grow into a deeper, more loving relationship with God, honoring Him in all they do. Caring for others and taking responsibility for their actions is a key theme in these workshops.

Teaching Methods: We know that students learn best when they are engaged and active participants in their own learning. These workshops explore a robust number of teaching strategies and hands-on activities that teachers can use in the classroom to make learning exciting and help students take ownership over their own learning.

Classroom Assessment: We know that assessment drives instruction. Teachers will explore what this means and how to actively assess students using creative and low stress tools before instruction begins, during instruction, and at the end of a unit of study.

Lesson Planning: To deliver quality instruction to our students, it is a necessity to be organized and prepared. Rooted in research as to how students learn best, teachers will learn how to set goals for lessons based on national standards, how to create their own lesson plans, and how to utilize helpful tools on how to create a welcoming and interactive classroom.

Our prayer is that as you provide these learning opportunities for your teachers, that God will richly transform their hearts, creating in them a desire to share what God has done for them. May the love of God spill out from each one of them, transforming your students, school, and community.

Sparrow Project Team



1. BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1.1 How Stories Shape our Interpretation of the World

Teachers will learn how stories shape the way we understand and interpret the world. The stories we learned as children, and continue to learn as adults, frame our understanding of the world and our response to it.

1.2 How Worldview Influences Our Behavior

Teachers will learn how our worldview allows us to find meaning in our lives. A worldview is a set of beliefs that significantly influence our attitudes, behaviors, biases, perspectives, and values. It serves as a lens through which we interpret the world.

1.3 How Worldview Affects Our Relationships

Teachers will learn how worldview affects our relationships with God, others, self, and nature. You will also learn that a Biblical worldview is the solid foundation for understanding the world.

1.4 How Worldview Shapes Our Teaching

Teachers will learn how worldview shapes our teaching. You will learn how it determines why we teach (motivation), what we teach (values and content), and how we teach (quality).

1.5 How a Biblical Worldview is Reflected in Schools

Teachers will learn the key characteristics that make a school different when its foundation is a Biblical worldview. Transformed leaders and teachers reflect Godly values and in turn allow these values to influence everything they do in and out of the classroom.

2. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

2.1 How God Sees a Child

Teachers will learn how God sees a child, and how they have always been a part of God's plan for the earth. He treasures each child and has a plan for their lives. The Bible provides specific examples on how to care for children.

2.2 How a Child Develops Cognitively

Teachers will learn how a child develops cognitively and which teaching strategies are developmentally appropriate.

2.3 How to Develop Higher Level Thinking Skills

Teachers will learn about Bloom's taxonomy and how teachers use it to align learning objectives, teaching strategies, and assessment activities. Teachers will learn different ways that the levels can be integrated when teaching any age and subject.

2.4 How the Brain Processes Information

Teachers will learn how we process information and how it follows a series of steps that involves our senses. The goal is to transfer new knowledge to our long-term memory by utilizing background knowledge to make connections, in turn enhancing students' ability to learn.

2.5 How to Promote a Growth Mindset

Teachers will learn about mindset. Teachers need to create a class culture where students are not afraid to make mistakes, nurture a growth mindset by admitting that we are not perfect, that we do not know everything, and demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

2.6 How Learning Styles Apply to Instruction

Teachers will be introduced to learning styles and the way students prefer to absorb, process, and remember information. Teachers should adapt their instruction for the three key learning styles which include visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

3. CLASSROOM DISCIPLESHIP

3.1 How to Manage a Classroom

Teachers will learn how to manage a classroom in a way that guides students and develops positive behavior with positive consequences. It emphasizes the importance of approaching discipline as discipleship.

3.1 How to Approach Discipline as Discipleship

Teachers will learn how to approach discipline as discipleship. A friendly, warm, calm, and orderly classroom environment promotes high engagement. Both teaching and discipline should be a response to our knowledge of students' social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

3.3 How to Establish Classroom Rules and Routines

Teachers will learn how to establish rules and routines to manage classroom time and space in ways that allow students to focus on learning. When students are invited into the process of creating rules, they feel like their opinions matter and are more likely to take ownership. It also reduces the power struggle between teacher and student because the rules become a set of shared expectations.

3.4 How to Practice Classroom Discipleship

Teachers will learn how to practice classroom discipleship by asking who was harmed, how were they harmed, and what needs to happen to repair the relationship. A discipleship approach is not about letting students get away with wrongdoing. Student accountability, responsibility and consequences are still present, but shame and punitive punishment are not.

3.5 How to Handle Challenging Behavior

Teachers will learn about challenging behavior and how to handle students who appear to be defiant. When students demonstrate undesirable behaviors, it has little to do with teachers and more to do with root issues. These students need support and direction.

4. TEACHING METHODS

4.1 How to Facilitate Active Learning

Teachers will learn how to teach students to think critically, work together, and make connections between what they are learning to what they have already learned and experienced. The more teachers can encourage active learning, the easier it will be for students to retain information and apply it in new situations.

4.2 How to Engage Students Using the Lecture Method

Teachers will learn about the lecture method and how it is typically a passive form of teaching used for providing large amounts of content. Teachers will learn about the advantages and disadvantages to the lecture method, and how to make lectures more engaging for students.

4.3 How to Engage Students Using the Collaborative Method

Teachers will learn about the collaborative learning method and how today's employers are looking for people who can work together as a team, share thoughts, respect their colleagues, be patient with each other, and be flexible in their thinking. While students still need time to independently reflect and process the new information, this teaching method promotes higher student engagement and provides opportunities for students to practice soft skills that they can bring to the workplace.

4.4 How to Engage Students Using the Inquiry Based Method

Teachers will learn about the inquiry-based method. This method provides strategies that teachers can use to inspire curiosity, encourage exploration, and promote problem solving.



5. CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT

5.1 How Teachers Measure Learning

Teachers will learn how students can measure learning in an encouraging and loving way, and how assessment is much more than giving a grade to students. Teachers assess students to guide and inform instruction, provide feedback, measure progress, demonstrate achievement, and report student learning.

5.2 How Students Measure Their Own Learning

Teachers will learn how to involve students in the assessment process. This includes how to measure their own progress, so they are motivated to become lifelong learners.

5.3 How to Help Students Study for a Test

Teachers will learn how to prepare students for an upcoming assessment. There are many strategies they can use depending on the type of assessment and the content the student is learning.

5.4 How Teachers Use Diagnostic Assessment

Teachers will learn about the cycle of assessment. Before we teach, we identify students' pre-existing knowledge and ability (diagnostic). This lesson focuses on the diagnostic phase in the cycle of assessment.

5.5 How Teachers Use Formative Assessment

Teachers will learn about the cycle of assessment. As we teach, we check students' understanding and growth (formative). This lesson focuses on the formative phase in the cycle of assessment.

5.6 How Teachers Use Summative Assessment

Teachers will learn about the cycle of assessment. After we teach, we determine what students have mastered or achieved (summative). This lesson focuses on the summative phase in the cycle of assessment.

6. LESSON PLANNING

6.1 How to Prepare for Teaching a Lesson

Teachers will learn how to design lesson plans that follow the basic pattern that has been modeled for you throughout this course. This pattern includes six parts: Materials Needed, Lesson Objectives, Learning Hook, Key Vocabulary, Lesson Instruction, and Lesson Closure. Each of these parts serve an important purpose and are supported by theories of learning.

6.2 How to Write a Learning Objective

Teachers will learn how to write learning objectives, which are the goals that teachers would like students to achieve. Learning objectives are aligned with varied levels of thinking (Bloom's taxonomy) and used to determine which teaching strategies and assessment activities to use during the lesson.

6.3 How to Integrate Faith Throughout a Lesson

Teachers will learn how to integrate faith throughout a lesson. Deciding in advance which Biblical principles to emphasize in a lesson helps students form habits of living that transform God's world around them.

6.4 How to Deliver a Lesson Plan

Teachers will learn how teachers deliver their lesson plans, and how it can have an impact on their students' level of engagement and the overall effectiveness of the lesson. Dynamic teachers are enthusiastic about their work, and this lesson focuses on verbal and nonverbal communication skills for an engaging classroom presence.

6.5 How to Design a Complete Lesson Plan

Teachers will design a complete lesson plan with a faith focus and align it with national or school curriculum standards. This lesson is in a workshop format and provides an opportunity for teachers to apply all that they have learned.

