



God Always Has a Plan

By Melodee Simmons, Preschool/Early Childhood Representative

I have always wanted to be a teacher. I practiced that role with my little sister before she was old enough to go to school. She could read and write before she went to kindergarten. As I matured, I felt God wanted me to be a teacher. I was asked to teach a first-grade Sunday school class when I was 14. That was it; teaching was for me.

My Plan Goes Awry

At college, I decided to concentrate on the field of special education. I enjoyed all the classes, well most of them, and I was excited when it was time to do my student teaching. I soon realized that I was not meant to be a teacher in special education. It takes unique people to teach these students, and I regret that I was not one of them.

Then I began to question if God wanted me to be a teacher. How could I know for sure? It took time for God to reveal His plan for me. I spent time working in retail. I married and had two sons. Through it all, I continued to teach Sunday school. So I was still teaching, but just not the way I had thought I would teach.

A Special Offer

One day the director at the preschool at my church called and asked me to teach the class for 2-year-old children for the rest of the school year. At first, I said no, but the school offered work hours that still allowed me to be with my boys when they were not in school. I thought it was only for a few months; I could do that to help them.

I loved it! I could watch the children grow and learn and know that I had helped them. This was my desire. God knew what I needed to prepare for teaching in early childhood education. When I look back, I can see experiences I had that helped me teach the toddlers, like having had two toddlers of my own.

I taught for several years, and then I was offered a position in management. I was not sure if this was right for me. With the opportunities that came my way, I felt that it was God's leading. My husband was always supportive and encouraged me in what I was doing. I became an assistant director and then a director. I love to help teachers solve problems they may have in their class. I love to share a new idea with them. I also enjoy working with the parents. We all know it is not easy being a parent, and some do not have extended family to help them. Sometimes they want advice; sometimes they just want to have a conversation.

Did I Waste My Special Education Training?

What about all the special education training I had in college? One of my own sons had a slight learning disability. I recognized it early, so he received the help he needed. It also helps me at work when I recognize a child who needs to be referred for evaluation.

It has been over 30 years now. I have received a national director credential. I work in a multicultural preschool. I cannot wait to see what God has waiting for me in the next 30 years!

Melodee Simmons lives in Houston, Texas. She has worked in private and corporate-owned centers, in Christian and secular preschools. She currently is the preschool director of Giraffe Kids Learning Center and Development Academy. She has received a national director credential. She attends the Living Word Church of the Nazarene. You may contact Melodee at melodee.simmons@yahoo.com.