

Revitalizing Sunday School

Part 1: Re-Envisioning Sunday School

Participant's Handout

Purpose:

See Sunday School effectively making disciples

Objectives:

- Focus on outreach to lost people (inviting);
- Understand the magnetism of fellowship evangelism (including);
- Embrace a variety of teaching opportunities as legitimate expressions of Sunday School (instructing).

The church needs Sunday School to:

1. _____ pastoral care
 - 1/4 to 1/2 of the Sunday School class time should be spent _____ (praying, sharing, fellowship) for each other.
2. _____ evangelistic opportunities
 - Sunday School draws the attention of Christians toward the world.
 - Sunday School is itself an evangelistic ministry; it gives people a chance to accept Christ. It reaches out to people through caring relationships, and it incorporates them into comfortable settings where the Bible is taught and Christian care is offered.
3. _____ fellowship and acceptance
 - Sunday School places the emphasis on _____.
 - Small group settings permit us to become involved in the lives of a particular individual. Sunday School provides a natural social _____ by age and interest.
 - Sunday School gives a place for people to _____. In addition to the leadership tasks of the Sunday School, there needs to be a variety of meaningful tasks in each class through which individuals can minister (outreach leader, fellowship leader, secretary, prayer leader, care group leader, etc).
4. _____ people to serve
 - A primary purpose is to _____ people out of adult classes into ministry. As new classes are formed, some of the leaders who have been part of a healthy, growing class become the core for the new class.
5. _____ an organizational framework and administrative supervision.
 - The Sunday School gives all the organization needed for most churches. It is the basic structure for reaching, teaching, and leadership development. The church grows by expanding the Sunday School.
6. Enable leaders to _____ on tasks to be accomplished

- When there is a clearly defined approach to accomplishing the mission of the church, more energy is applied.
7. _____ pastor and laity together by a mutual mission
 8. _____ people God's Word.
 9. _____ people's needs, thoughts and visions
 - The small group (class) setting, coupled with the Sunday School structure, permits an effective flow of information up and down throughout the entire church.

Jesus instructed His followers to _____ disciples. Let's review how Jesus said we are to make disciples:

1. By _____ contact with the world
 - a. Jesus told his followers to become _____.
 - i. Go into all the world. (Matt. 25:19)
 - ii. If you greet those who greet you, what have you done more than the pagans? (Matt. 5:47)
 - b. Sunday School attempts to _____ unchurched people.
 - i. _____ the biblical directive to minister. Our motivation for reaching out to the unchurched is rooted in scripture.
 - ii. _____ often for unreached people.
 - iii. Plan events that will entice the unchurched to _____.
2. By _____
 - a. Jesus taught His disciples to _____ people.
 - i. Baptism symbolizes _____ into church fellowship.
 - ii. By participating in the ceremony of baptism, the new Christian is _____ with believers.
 - iii. Church people _____ new believers into friendship.
 - iv. An alive church _____ people.
 - ii. Sunday School _____ new people into the friendship circle.
 - i. While membership requires spiritual growth, _____ can belong to the Sunday School.
 - ii. _____ prospects on the responsibility list. Develop a plan to contact prospects in some kind of intentional way.
 - iii. _____ people if they would like to become a part of a Bible study. People today want to study the Bible as a guide for living, but most have never been invited to become part of a Bible study group.

iv. _____ them if they give a positive response.

3. By _____

a. Jesus commanded us to _____ people.

i. The Great Commission is both an evangelistic and _____ directive.

ii. We are never to separate evangelism from _____. To do so is to change the nature of each.

iii. Evangelism is an educational task. A knowledge base is necessary for responsiveness.

iv. _____ are made through an educational process.

b. Sunday School _____ people's need to become Christ-like.

ii. Teaching influences behavioral _____ in people.

iii. Teaching _____ the values people hold.

iv. Teaching _____ thinking patterns.

Summarize the lecture with the following points:

1. The Sunday School is to _____ on the Great Commission.

2. We make disciples by inviting, including, and _____ people.

Small Group Exercise

1. How do we presently seek to reach people?

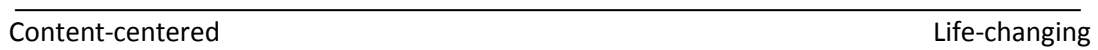
2. What other methods might be effective?

3. How do we initially greet and treat newcomers?

4. How do we help people feel accepted, needed and wanted?

5. How relevant are the teaching/learning experiences in your Sunday School classes?

6. Where do you presently see the focus of Sunday School lessons? Mark an 'X' on the continuum.



7. How do people best learn? Hearing, seeing or doing?

8. Where might these learning experiences be multiplied? Who might benefit from knowing this information?

Action Planning/Reporting

Complete the following Class/Group Leadership Team assessment for each youth/adult Sunday School class. Work with the Sunday School teachers and the classes' leadership teams to recruit class members for the available positions. Focus on recruiting for the Outreach Leader and Care Leader positions first.

Class/Group Leadership Team

Teacher/Leader

Assistant Teacher/Leader

Outreach Leader

Fellowship Leader

Secretary

Prayer Leader

Hospitality Leader

Care Leader

Care Group Members

Care Leader

Care Group Members

Care Leader

Care Group Members

