



Sunday School Teachers Training

Revolutionizing Sunday School

CONGRATULATIONS! You are the key to the future growth and health of your church

Thank you for all you do as a Sunday School teacher. You may have been a Sunday School teacher for years but you are about to be introduced to a revolutionary thought: YOU ARE THE KEY TO THE FUTURE GROWTH AND HEALTH OF YOUR CHURCH. Yes, we know that God is in control and He is the real key. However, without your willingness to use your God-given spiritual gifts then the church will never grow. God does His work of getting the gospel to the world through His church, and that means YOU. In this training session we will discuss the following:

- Why your pastor is a 'Sunday School Pastor'
- Sunday School and small groups are the key to church growth
- Open Enrollment
- Sunday School class organization
- Suggestions to drastically improve the growth of your Sunday School class

We highly encourage you to seriously consider the things that we will discuss. Ask God to give you an open mind. Put aside all of your preconceived notions and let your Sunday School class be revolutionized!

Why your pastor is a Sunday School pastor

- I. Sunday School is the glue that keeps people coming to church
- II. Sunday School is the road that leads to greater Christian service
- III. A healthy and growing Sunday School = a healthy and growing church
- IV. Sunday School meets people's needs
- V. A healthy Sunday School lightens the pastor's load

Sunday School and Small Groups are the keys to Church Growth

Everyone wants the church to grow, right? At least no one will admit it if they don't want the church to grow. Numbers is not something that we should overemphasize but numbers are something that we should pay close attention to. You see, numbers equals souls. The more people you reach the more people that are saved. The more people that are saved, the more people that will not spend an eternity in hell. So, how can we not be concerned with numbers? If we really care about reaching our community with the gospel, then we should be very concerned with how many people are coming to church.

Have you ever wondered why people come and go? Why is it that new people come in one door and out the other? Is it because of poor facilities? Is it because of poor preaching from the pastor? Is it because we are not speaking today's language? All of those things and more can be factors but the number one reason that people do not stay in church is because they do not get involved in Sunday School. Sunday School and Small Groups are the keys to church growth and here is why:

- I. Sunday School and Small Groups **CONNECTS** people
- II. Sunday School and Small Groups **MEETS** people's **NEEDS**
- III. Sunday School and Small Groups **INVOLVES** people in the ministry
- IV. Sunday School and Small Groups **MAKES DISCIPLES**

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment? What in the world is that? Open Enrollment is a concept developed by the Georgia Baptist Convention. Now, don't count it out because it originated with a certain denomination. However, this concept of open enrollment is worth looking at. This could very well be what we need in order to revolutionize our Sunday School ministry.

Open Enrollment is very simple. It is enrolling as many people as possible in Sunday School. Every person that attends Spruce Head Community Church should be enrolled in a Sunday School class whether they have ever been to Sunday School or not. Here is a simple formula that explains why open enrollment is so important: In the average church 50% of those who attend the worship service attends Sunday School and 50% of those who are enrolled in Sunday School actually attend Sunday School regularly. Usually there is double the amount in the worship service as there is in Sunday School. Therefore, 100 enrolled in Sunday School = 50 attending Sunday School = 100 in the worship service. Simple math tells you that the more people enrolled in Sunday School, the more people you have in church. Now, of course, you can't just have numbers. You have to work the numbers. Here is what open enrollment does:

- I. Open Enrollment provides a place of belonging to everyone
- II. Open Enrollment allows each class to have prospects to reach
- III. Open Enrollment provides opportunity to pray for people

Sunday School Class Organization

Everything that we do as a church should have well thought out and proper organization. This also applies to the Sunday School class. Do you think that a Sunday School class will grow if all it does is meet on Sunday mornings for Bible study? What if the only time the teacher is in contact with his or her students is during class? Does the class involve others in the work or does the teacher do everything? Each Sunday School class (especially pre-teens through adults) should have various class leaders. Here is an example of how a healthy and growing Sunday School class is set up:

TEACHER: This is the person that leads the class. He or She teaches the lesson most weeks and organizes others to serve. The teacher should work themselves out of the position so they can start a new class.

TEACHER APPRENTICE: Every teacher should have an apprentice. This is someone who is being trained to become the lead teacher. They will assist the teacher as needed and at times teach the lesson. When the right time comes, the apprentice will become the teacher as the teacher goes and starts a new class with new people.

CARE GROUP LEADERS: Each class should be divided into smaller groups based on the size of the class. The care group leaders are those who lead their group in caring for one another. This may include sending cards, phone calls, and the occasional visit.

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR: This person organizes class functions such as picnics, game nights, movie nights, etc.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR: It is imperative that the Sunday School class is involved in reaching out to its community. The outreach coordinator would organize special events and projects that the class can do for the purpose of reaching people for Christ.

SECRETARY: The secretary has the responsibility to keep track with attendance, care group reports, and any other clerical needs for the class.

Notice how that having such an organized class provides something for everyone to do. This helps us to constantly train new teachers and produce new classes. It also helps to make sure everyone is ministered to as we also apply the open enrollment concept.

NOTE: The teacher and teacher apprentices for the children classes would need to be a little more creative in their class organization. However, it is good for every child in Sunday School to have some type of job to do that would contribute to the class. This teaches them responsibility and commitment.

IF EVERY CLASS IS ORGANIZED THIS WAY, WE WILL BE WELL ON OUR WAY TO REVOLUTIONIZING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OF SPRUCE HEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Suggestions to drastically improve the growth of your Sunday School Class:

Put yourself in the shoes of the visitor. If you came to the class for the first time, how would you feel?

- I. Use multiple teaching methods. Keep it fresh. Do not teach the same way every week.
- II. Consider not sitting around a table.
 - A. Sitting around a table suggest a closed group. Consider the visitor coming into the room and everyone is huddle around a table with their backs turn toward the visitor.
 - B. Sitting around a table says, 'we have no room for you.' The visitor comes in and there is no room. Everyone has to adjust their sitting to make room.
- III. Do not ask a visitor to read or to speak to the whole group. Be friendly but not overly friendly as to embarrass the visitor.
- IV. Divide your class time appropriately. Teacher, it is not all about you. (see suggestion on the following page)

Suggestion for class time (pre-teens through adults):

10:00 – Check-In & Fellowship (during this time the secretary takes attendance and enrolls new members)

10:05 - Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer (this should be done by the teacher apprentice)

10:10 – Bible Lesson (be creative with various teaching methods)

10:30 – Care Groups (discuss lesson for the day and have a time for prayer and accountability) Note: this is just as important as the Bible lesson, do not neglect this time.

10:40 – Wrap-up (gather the class together for conclusion, challenge, announcements, etc.)

Suggestion for class time (children):

10:00 – Check-In & Activity (have something for the children to do as soon as they walk in the room – ex. game, puzzle, snacks, video, etc. the activity should reflect the lesson for the day) (during this time the teacher or teacher apprentice will take attendance and enroll new members)

10:10 – Song & Prayer (begin the class with a song that includes motions and also lead the children in prayer)

10:15 – Bible Lesson (have a corner of the room designated as the ‘Bible or Story Corner’) (teach the lesson using various visual aids- DO NOT use the same method every Sunday- visual aid suggestions: flannel board, picture book, dress up as Bible character, video, power point, puppets, etc.)

10:30 – Craft (the craft should reflect the Bible lesson) (there is no need to do a craft every week)

10:40 – Wrap-Up (sum up what was learned for the day and review memory verses, etc.)

Notes: Keep your lessons short and creative. Children will remember what they do more so than what they hear. Get them involved in the lesson. If you use snacks in your class, please use healthy snacks and do not give out hard candy or gum.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Imagine what God will do if we commit to doing our part to revolutionize the Sunday School. However, you are the key. You must get on board. If you are not fully committed, the ideas shared today will not work. You must be sold on it. Pray. Ask God how you can revolutionize your Sunday School class. Remember: **YOU ARE THE KEY TO THE FUTURE GROWTH AND HEALTH OF YOUR CHURCH.**