

LEADERSHIP LESSON 10: CORE VALUES OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

OUTLINE BY TOPPER REID

Introduction

‘A **core value** may be defined as the “essential and enduring tenets of an organization” that lead to the guiding principles that impact how everyone in the organization thinks and acts.’ These values define what an organization stands for. **Core** values seldom change. Even though an organization may experience new leaders, fads, change its name, employ new strategies, restructure, or undergo technological change, the core values are the **glue** that hold the organization true to its purpose over time.

The **Great Commission** is the foundation from which the core values of Sunday School are drawn and hold us true to the purpose of Sunday School in the past, the present and the future. Even the name **Sunday School** may change, but the core values of Sunday School will always remain. Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) give us the basis to define our core values: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost: . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” It is upon this scripture that our core values for Sunday School are laid. ²*The definition for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools is stated as: Sunday School is the foundational strategy in a local church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for building on-mission Christians through open Bible study groups that engage people in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship.* Our core values may simply be stated under the following five areas: **Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry and Worship**. Let’s look at each one of these separately and define each one.

The Five Core Values of Sunday School

Evangelism: we will seek to **reach** people for Christ.

- **Build relationships** with people outside the class in order to reach them.
- Share our **personal stories** about how Christ makes a difference in our lives.
- Intentionally grow our class to the point we must **start new classes**.
- Develop and maintain a **file** of information about potential class members.
- Follow a weekly plan to **enlist** new class members.
- Implement an on-going “**open group**” strategy.
- Be committed to a **strategy** to implement the Great Commission

Discipleship: we will teach the Bible to **transform** human lives.

- Learners will be **engaged** in thirty minutes of weekly **interactive** Bible study.
- Class members will be challenged to develop weekly personal **study** times.
- The Bible is used as the **textbook** for study.
- A well-balanced, doctrinally sound **curriculum** is used as a guide for study.

Fellowship: we will provide opportunities to develop **relationships**.

- We will be **receptive** to guests that join us in our class.

¹The CEO Refresher; Back to the Beginning-Core Values by Rick Sidorowicz

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- A **warm caring** environment is the goal for each class session.
- A social event will be planned every **4-6 weeks** throughout the year.
- Each social event will include **relationship-building** activities.
- All members, in-service members, and **guests** will be invited to socials.

Ministry: we will **minister** to the **needs** of each class member.

- Each member will be placed in a **Care Group** and contacted systematically.
- A concerted effort will be made to know each person's **life needs**.
- Our class will have a **plan** for crises that occur in the lives of members.
- Class members will be encouraged to find their place of **ministry**.
- The class will be organized by **giftedness** so that the class functions properly.
- The class will plan regular **ministry projects** to meet needs in their community.

Worship: we will encourage each person to be **involved** in worship.

- Each member will be challenged to have a **daily** quiet time.
- All members will be encouraged to **attend** corporate worship.
- Each member will be challenged to observe weekly **family** devotions.

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A _____ may be defined as the "essential and enduring tenets of an organization" that lead to the guiding principles that impact how everyone in the organization thinks and acts.

_____ values seldom change.

Core values are the _____ that hold the organization true to its purpose over time.

The _____ is the foundation from which the core values of Sunday School are drawn.

The name _____ may change, but the core values of Sunday School will always remain.

The core values for Sunday School may be broken down into five broad areas of ministry:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____.

Implementing the Five Core Values of Sunday School

Evangelism: we will seek to _____ people for Christ.

- _____ with people outside the class in order to reach them.
- Share our _____ about how Christ makes a difference in our lives.
- Intentionally grow our class to the point we must _____.
- Develop and maintain a _____ of information about potential class members.
- Follow a weekly plan to _____ new class members.
- Implement an ongoing " _____ " strategy.
- Be committed to a _____ to implement the Great Commission.

Discipleship: we will teach the Bible to _____ human lives.

- Learners will be _____ in thirty minutes of weekly _____ Bible study.
- Class members will be challenged to develop weekly personal _____ times.
- The Bible is used as the _____ for study.
- A well-balanced, doctrinally sound _____ is used as a guide for study.

Fellowship: we will provide opportunities to develop _____.

- We will be _____ to guests that join us in our class.
- A _____ environment is the goal for each class session.
- A social event will be planned every _____ throughout the year.
- Each social event will include _____ activities.
- All members, in-service members, and _____ will be invited to socials.

Ministry: we will _____ to the _____ of each class member.

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- Each member will be placed in a _____ and contacted systematically.
- A concerted effort will be made to know each person's _____.
- Our class will have a _____ for crises that occur in the lives of members.
- Class members will be encouraged to find their place of _____.
- The class will be organized by _____ so that the class functions properly.
- The class will plan regular _____ to meet needs in their community.

Worship: we will encourage each person to be _____ in worship.

- Each member will be challenged to have a _____ quiet time.
- All members will be encouraged to _____ corporate worship.
- Each member will be challenged to observe weekly _____ devotions.