

LEADERSHIP LESSON 14: SUNDAY SCHOOL ALIVE*

OUTLINE BY DANIEL EDMONDS

The signs of life in Sunday School are waning. More and more it has drifted from the overall mission of the church and the call of Christ to “Go and teach!” Sunday School ALIVE is an acrostic to represent five strategic moves the Sunday School can make in strengthening the work of the church and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Affirm the Mission of the Church

Individual classes should develop goals, action plans, and projects that are tied directly to the achievement of the mission of the church. Additionally, Sunday School should operate as a catalyst and a conduit to move people through a life development process by engaging them in training and missions beyond the Sunday School hour.

Leadership Development

Leaders can be discovered and developed; however, most often they are designated as a leader with little knowledge of the task and no formal training. Churches tend to designate leaders because of the desperate need to “fill slots” in the organization. The biblical way to resolve the problem is for each current leader to be developing leaders for the future in much the same manner as Paul described to Timothy in II Timothy 2:2. Each leader should always invest what they have learned into potential leaders.

Involve Every Person

Another major element of putting life back into the church through Sunday School is allowing more people to be involved. Typically, we enlist teachers and a class secretary. Each class should aim at giving every person an outlet for meaningful ministry. Some of those ministries could be serving as a greeter, care group leader, host, fellowship leader, prayer coordinator, missions project leader, outreach leader, extended care worker, or in a short-term mission project role. There should be endless opportunities for people to get involved in through the Sunday School class. People who get involved begin to grow spiritually and participate more frequently.

Values Visible

What we value tends to show up in our lives. If you walk into a Sunday School classroom during the week and examine the contents of the room, you will quickly discover what the class values the most: good teaching, fellowship, and “creature comforts.” The same can be said for what is visible during the actual meeting time of the class. How much class time is devoted to prospect discovery and meeting ministry needs?

Evangelism As the Priority

Evangelism is the priority of the Sunday School. Some would argue that teaching is the true priority. The hidden reason this is often stated is that most teachers were given a class to teach rather than being asked to start a class to reach new people. It stands to reason that if we do not make reaching people a priority, then the day will eventually come when there are no longer people to teach. Finally, why should any organization of the church have a priority other than Christ’s priority of “seeking to save?”

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_____ **the Mission of the Church**

_____ **Development**

_____ **Every Person**

_____ **As the Priority**