

Developing Your Own Sunday School Leadership Training Event

Step 1: Secure Resources

Numerous resources for age-graded training are available to the local church for low or no cost to the church. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Mission's Office of Sunday School & Discipleship has developed on-line, DVD, and written resources for the use of local churches. The on-line resources are free, while a full set of age-graded DVD's can be purchased for \$5.00. You may obtain these DVD's through your local Association Office to use or reproduce.

The Sunday School & Discipleship Office web pages may be located through the Alabama Baptist State Board website: www.alsbom.org or by the direct link: www.alsbom.org/ss

The direct link for on-line, age-graded Sunday School training is www.alsbom.org/sundayschooltrainingvideos

In addition to these resources, in 2005, a partnership was formed with LifeWay during the development of the Directing Sunday School with SKILL resource (www.alsbom.org/skill) that has resulted in LifeWay producing on-line, age-graded Sunday School training resources each year. These resources include study guide, teaching plan, PowerPoint and more. The best way to access them is www.lifeway.com/davidfrancis

The selection of resources will impact how you schedule and develop your training event. Also, it will determine the approach of the individual you will use in leadership. The Office of Sunday School & Discipleship material will enable the person to utilize either a conference leader or conference facilitator role. The LifeWay material is designed for someone who is comfortable with a conference leader role. Either material can be used in self-study or ongoing training.

Step 2: Secure Leadership

The resources previously listed should enable a church to secure leadership from among their membership. However, adequate preparation time and leader development time should be factored in to the selection of the training date. After the selected leaders have time to review the resource, they should help determine the amount of time they believe will be needed for preparation. Sending them to a State sponsored training event for their own personal development might be wise. For events visit

<http://www.alsbom.org/sundayschoolupcomingevents>

The church may want to invite outside leadership to assist in conducting the training event. In that case, the church will need to provide for honoraria and expenses. Suggestions for leadership may be obtained by contacting the Office of Sunday School & Discipleship at 1-800-264-1225 ext. 307. State Missionaries may be scheduled to assist in conducting the event, depending on their availability for the desired training date.

Step 3: Schedule event date(s) and time

The majority of churches utilize a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon/evening for their training event. Allowing for a general session led by the Pastor, Minister of Education, or Sunday School Director is suggested. This time should be used to give encouragement, to express appreciation, to establish vision/mission, to interpret annual theme/emphasis, to establish the annual calendar of events, and/or to provide general leadership training. The general session may be followed by a brief transition and/or snack break before going to age-group training. The break-out sessions should be a minimum of an hour and a maximum of ninety minutes. Numerous churches will 'kick-off' their training event with a Sunday School banquet on the evening prior to the event.

Sample Saturday morning schedule:

8:00 a.m. – Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. – General session (additional age-group session could be substituted)

9:45 a.m. – Break

10:00 a.m. – Break-out Groups (age-graded sessions)

11:30 a.m. – Dismiss

Sample Sunday afternoon schedule:

12:00 p.m. – Lunch (light lunch of soup/salad and sandwich)

12:45 p.m. – General Session (additional age-group session could be substituted)

1:45 p.m. – Transition break

2:00 p.m. – Break-out Groups (age-graded sessions)

3:30 p.m. – Dismiss

Step 4: Start Promotion of Event

One can never over-communicate a training event. Use all forms of communication, such as bulletins, calendars, newsletters, e-mails, and personal contacts/enlistment. Invite leaders and potential leaders to the training event.

For additional suggestions or assistance, contact State Missionaries, Daniel Edmonds or Jamie Baldwin at 1-800-264-1225. E-mail: dedmonds@alsbom.org or jbaldwin@alsbom.org