

LEADERSHIP LESSON 16: SUNDAY SCHOOL ALIVE: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT*

OUTLINE BY DANIEL EDMONDS

The church has fallen into the bad habit of designating leaders rather than discovering and developing them. Jesus gave the proper pattern of leadership development when he said, “Follow me and I will make you to become . . .” Today, we will discover seven steps to developing leaders.

Mobilize

Many people are never asked to do anything. It is important to utilize the Sunday School to provide “entry level” opportunities for every person (members and prospects). By mobilizing people in simple tasks a channel is provided for engaging them in increasingly meaningful ministries.

Motivate

The Holy Spirit motivates people as they get involved in their God-gifted ministry. The church enables this by leading people through a process of gift discovery and ministry matching. When people work in ministries they are gifted for and passionate about, they are genuinely motivated.

Mold

When a person ministers in an area where they are gifted, the Holy Spirit molds them into an effective leader. The church should provide training for each leader in areas of prayer, Bible study, stewardship, skill development, and witnessing in order to position individuals to be molded by the Spirit.

Model

The best training most people can receive involves seeing someone in action. Many leaders are able to accomplish tasks and creatively improve themselves through the observation of different, qualified leaders. It is not always enough to hear how something is accomplished; many times observation is a key to learning.

Mentor

Mentors should share from their knowledge, experience, and from their personal spiritual journey. Mentors should hold students accountable for spending time with the Lord, studying the Word, sharing their faith, stewardship, and service.¹

Measure

Goals are a key component in leadership development. People need to know where they are going and when it is to be accomplished.

Multiply

As leaders are released to serve, multiplication takes place. Also, the church should commission these new leaders to “be fruitful and multiply.”

¹ Lawrence Phipps and Daniel Edmonds, Growing Sunday School TEAMS: A 5 Step Practical Guide to Growing the Church Through the Sunday School (Montgomery: Vaughn Forest Baptist Church, For LIFE Ministries, 2001), p. 19. Available at www.forlifeministries.org

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