

LEADERSHIP LESSON 24

GOING BEYOND THE LIMITS

YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

1. **Read Psalm 126.**

2. **What does it mean to “connect” with our community?**

TheFreeDictionary defines “outreach” as “the act or process of **reaching out**, a systematic attempt to provide services beyond **conventional limits**, as to particular segments of a community¹”. We can connect with our community by providing services or ministries that go beyond the expectations of the **unchurched**. Just as the Psalmist suggests, we must have a **dream** for our community, a **joyful testimony** of the goodness of God, and a **passion** for sowing the seed of the Gospel. When we have these three things, we can connect with our community!

3. **Why should we make efforts to connect with our community?**

There are many good reasons to connect with our community, but one GREAT REASON:

Jesus commands it!

Read Acts 1:8.

Jesus told His followers to be witnesses in **every level** of community: local, regional, national and international. It is not an option! Jesus also told us that we would do this “**as we go**” about our everyday life. Since the Sunday School is the “**outreach arm** of the church,” we should and can make a difference in our community. After all, one of the functions of Sunday School is “**reaching** people.” We cannot do that without going outside of the walls of the church building.

4. **What are some specific ways our Sunday School can connect with the community?**

- Host a **block party**. People love to eat, play games and listen to music!
- Provide **random acts** of **kindness**. This is more than the community expects!
- Begin a **benevolence** ministry. Meet physical needs and then share the gospel.
- Use “**Knowsie Neighbors**” to identify and introduce new neighbors to your Sunday School and church. (KN’s notify church office of new movers.)
- Hold a monthly new **resident open house** at your church so new residents can tour your facilities, meet the pastor and staff and enjoy the fellowship of church members. Invite them to enroll in your Sunday School class.
- Hold a **Fall Festival**. This can be done by the church or in a specific neighborhood by your Sunday School class.
- Use **public information** to send congratulations to new parents, condolences to families of those listed in obituaries, and well wishes to newlyweds.
- Use **real estate sales** records to deliver welcome baskets to new homeowners. These baskets can contain information about your church as well as breads, coffee, etc.
- Provide free **bottled water** at community and civic events including parades, festivals, car shows, ball tournaments, etc. Private labels can provide information about your church and the plan of salvation.

¹<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/dict.asp?Word=outreach>

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2. **What does it mean to “connect” with our community?**

TheFreeDictionary defines “outreach” as “the act or process of _____, a systematic attempt to provide services beyond _____, as to particular segments of a community.”¹ We can connect with our community by providing services or ministries that go beyond the expectations of the _____. Just as the Psalmist suggests, we must have a _____ for our community, a _____ of the goodness of God, and a _____ for sowing the seed of the Gospel. When we have these three things, we can connect with our community!

3. **Why should we make efforts to connect with our community?**

There are many good reasons to connect with our community, but one GREAT REASON:

_____!

Read Acts 1:8.

Jesus told His followers to be witnesses in _____ of community: local, regional, national and international. It is not an option! Jesus also told us that we would do this “_____” about our everyday life. Since the Sunday School is the “_____ of the church,” we should and can make a difference in our community. After all, one of the functions of Sunday School is “_____ people.” We cannot do that without going outside of the walls of the church building.

4. **What are some specific ways our Sunday School can connect with the community?**

- Host a _____. People love to eat, play games and listen to music!
- Provide _____ of _____. This is more than the community expects!
- Begin a _____ ministry. Meet physical needs and then share the gospel.
- Use “_____” to identify and introduce new neighbors to your Sunday School and church. (KN’s notify church office of new movers.)
- Hold a monthly new _____ at your church so new residents can tour your facilities, meet the pastor and staff and enjoy the fellowship of church members. Invite them to enroll in your Sunday School class.
- Hold a _____. This can be done by the church or in a specific neighborhood by your Sunday School class.
- Use _____ to send congratulations to new parents, condolences to families of those listed in obituaries, and well wishes to newlyweds.
- Use _____ records to deliver welcome baskets to new homeowners. These baskets can contain information about your church as well as breads, coffee, etc.
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