

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 84: CHECKLIST FOR STARTING NEW CLASSES

OUTLINE BY RANDY LAMON

Starting new classes is the lifeblood of the Sunday School organization! New birth always brings excitement to a family and that holds true for the Sunday School ministry. Effective church leaders are always looking for opportunities to start new classes, realizing that new classes are usually the fastest growing classes. Here are a few items to have on your checklist before starting a new class:

1. You can't improve on **Flake's Formula**. In the early 1900's, Arthur Flake developed a five-step formula for building and growing a Sunday School. Remember the acrostic KEEPGO and you have Flake's Formula: Know the possibilities, Enlarge the organization, Enlist and train the workers, Provide the space, GO after the people. David Francis, Director of Sunday School for Lifeway, has produced a booklet titled, "*The 5 Step Formula for Sunday School Growth*" and it is available through Lifeway and online.
2. Establish or identify the **need** for a new class. There are several ways to do this, including current classes which have grown too large, age or gender groups in your current structure that don't have a class, and classes you can begin based on a topic of interest.
3. Train the **leadership**. A potential leader's class is a great idea for doing this. Ask your current teachers for class members they would recommend for teaching positions. Invite each of those to a class designed to train them in the basics of teaching. Also, encourage your current teachers to be mentoring one or more of their class members in teaching. Having a trained teacher and class leadership established up front is a big advantage in starting a new class.
4. Recruit a **core** group of members to begin the class. Ask for volunteers from established classes or other members that will help to begin this class. A committed group of 6-10 people will help to lay a foundation for the class to both begin and grow.
5. Provide a **prospect list**. Provide this to your teacher and outreach leader and let them contact those on the list who would be prospects for the class.
6. Provide the **space**. Identify an empty room or other space in your buildings for the class to meet.
7. Choose your **curriculum**. If your Sunday School organization uses the same curriculum, then this decision is already made. If not, then choose one that will best meet the spiritual needs of the class.
8. Choose the **starting** date. Be sure to promote this date church-wide and consider using local media outlets to promote the new class.
9. Make it a **big deal**. On the date the class begins, make it a real celebration. Consider having a birthday party to celebrate the birth of a new class, complete with cake and decorations. Let your church family know that a new class has been started.

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2. Establish or identify the _____ for a new class. There are several ways to do this, including current classes which have grown too large, age or gender groups in your current structure that don't have a class, and classes you can begin based on a topic of interest.
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