LEADERSHIP LESSON 22
ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
OUTLINE BY RANDY LAMON

1. Recognize your call and gifts.
   Sunday School teachers should have a sense of call from the Lord to teach and be gifted by the Holy Spirit. Many churches recruit church members to fill a “slot” rather than recruit teachers who feel led to teach and are gifted to teach.

2. Be passionate and enthusiastic about the Sunday School ministry and teaching.
   As teachers, we set the tone for our class. A teacher who models passion and enthusiasm will have a class that will soon share those same traits. Being excited about Sunday School and fulfilling the purposes of the Sunday School is caught as much as taught.

3. Realize your need for training.
   Take advantage of as many training opportunities as you possibly can that are offered by your church, local association, state convention, and LifeWay. Also, take advantage of the many books and video resources that have been written regarding Sunday School and teaching.

4. Depend on the Holy Spirit as you teach.
   The Holy Spirit is the true teacher. If not, then true teaching and spiritual transformation will not occur. Prepare effectively each week and allow the Holy Spirit freedom to lead as you teach.

5. Teach for spiritual transformation.
   The goal for us as teachers is for what is taught and learned on Sunday to make a difference on Monday in the lives of those who heard us teach. We must teach on a “doing” level rather than a “knowledge” level. God’s Word clearly teaches us that we are to put our faith into action. Most Christians already know far more than what they are putting into everyday practice in regards to God’s Word.

6. Teach the Bible.
   Our ultimate goal is to teach God’s Word, not to teach content or knowledge from a quarterly or lesson. Our teacher’s guides are excellent resources to use in planning a lesson; however, they are not the focus of what we are to teach. The Bible is our textbook. Let your class members see you using the Bible each and every week as you teach.

7. Understand the age-appropriate ways in which your class members learn.
   People of different ages learn in different ways and with different teaching methods. Understanding how they learn is a key to effective teaching. Our class members also learn in different ways. Don’t be guilty of using the same teaching method each week.

8. Be a fellow learner.
   Some of the greatest learning experiences of my Christian journey have come from the times I was teaching each week. Let your class members know that you are a fellow learner with them and what God has done in your life through the preparation for the lesson. A teacher that has effectively prepared each week will be able to teach from the outflow and overflow of what God has already done in your life. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the true teacher.
LEADERSHIP LESSON 22 CONTINUED

9. Understand the purpose of the Sunday School.
   There are several tasks that make up the overall purpose; however, evangelism and outreach
   are the primary task of the Sunday School. The Sunday School is the primary organization
   in our churches which can help the church fulfill the Great Commission. We must be
   intentional in reaching people. Give time each week during your class time to accomplish
   this task and the overall purpose of the Sunday School. Be a visionary and leader to your
   class.

10. Be a mentor and a trainer.
    One of the most effective ways that a church can develop new teachers and leaders is to have
    current teachers mentor and train members from within their class. Recruit those that you
    feel are gifted in the area of teaching and allow them to teach your class periodically. Train
    other class members in the roles that your Sunday School has leadership.

11. Commit to prayer.
    As much as possible, pray for your class members by name. Pray for your church, church
    staff, and overall ministry of your church.

12. Set an example.
    As teachers and leaders we should set an example for our class members to follow in our
    faithfulness to Christ and the church. Our churches need godly role models for others to
    emulate and follow.
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2. Be _____________ and ________________ about the Sunday School ministry and teaching.
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