

LEADERSHIP LESSON 12: ATTITUDES OF A WINNING SUNDAY SCHOOL

OUTLINE BY RANDY LAMON

Assimilation is Essential

Each Sunday School class should provide an open, caring environment where members, attendees, and guests feel they belong, are known, know others, and feel loved. Newcomers to your class must find a way to connect with others. Your class should be like a **LEGO** toy, providing a place for people to “**snap-on**” and build relationships. In today’s society, people are looking for genuine **relationships**, not just a friendly place. There are two essential ministries that will help your church properly assimilate new members:

1. **Greeters/First Impression Ministry** – Make people feel welcome from the time they first pull on your property. Have friendly members show each family member to a class or small group, children first.
2. **New Members Class** – Teach basic Christian doctrine and church information. This is the best time to ask for their commitment and to communicate expectations for church membership.

Training is Vital

Take advantage of every **training opportunity** that is offered. Your church may offer in-house training. Other opportunities include Sunday School training by your local association, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and on a national level by LifeWay. There are many excellent books written on Sunday School and video courses to help shape you as a teacher.

Teach for Transformation

Allan Taylor, Minister of Education at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia, says that “each Sunday we handle two important things: God’s **Word** and God’s **people**.” We owe it to our Lord and to our people to give our best as a teacher. There is no substitute for effective **preparation** each week. We should teach God’s Word in a way that is **relevant** to the lives of those who hear us teach. Remember, the **Holy Spirit** is the real teacher. If lives aren’t being changed, then God’s Word is not being taught effectively.

Involve New People

Your class should have a “**revolving door**” policy. Your goal as a teacher should be to move people out of their seats into ministry and then reach another person to fill that seat. Sunday School is the largest organization in the church and provides the most opportunities for people to be involved in ministry. Each class should involve their members in ministry such as Care Group Leaders, Outreach Leaders, and other functions that are deemed appropriate for your Sunday School.

Teaching Should Not Be Boring

Being a boring Sunday School teacher should be a **sin!** Use different **teaching methods** to communicate God’s Word. Don’t be afraid to change the set-up of your **room** periodically and use the walls, floors, and ceilings for **creative** displays. Use visual tools such as audio, video, and other methods to enhance your teaching. Use the art of asking **questions** to promote healthy discussion. Last, know your class members well and how they respond to different methods of teaching.

Uncompromised Commitment

The best time to communicate expectations and ask for commitment with prospective workers is **up front**. You usually will not get commitment if you don't ask for it. Many of our Sunday Schools are staffed with people who were recruited to fill a slot, never understanding what their role is or what is expected of them. Consider using a Sunday School workers covenant that lets prospective workers know what is involved in being a successful worker or teacher.

Develop New Units

Consider challenging each of your classes or groups to create a new unit within a certain **time frame**. To create a new unit, train a leadership team within your current class that will begin the new unit. When the time comes, cut them loose and let them go for it! Creating **new units** remains one of the most effective ways to grow a Sunday School.

Evangelism Must be the Heartbeat

The mindset that we should have as a Sunday School organization is that we exist for those that are **not** here, not just the ones that are. **Outreach** and **evangelism** should not be an option! Many times we talk a good game when it comes to outreach, but do little to actually accomplish it. We must have a specific strategy for outreach and be intentional in doing it. Devote some time in class for the specific purpose of outreach.

Strategy Communicates Vision

Many view Sunday School as just a **one-hour** event on Sunday morning. Sunday School involves many components, including reaching, teaching, ministry, assimilation, and involving people. Have a specific Sunday School strategy on how you will accomplish each of these important tasks and communicate it clearly to your leadership. It has been well said that you usually hit what you aim for. If you aim for nothing, that is what you will hit.

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FILL IN THE BLANK PAGE

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- 1.
- 2.

T _____ is Vital

Take advantage of every _____ that is offered.

T _____ for Transformation

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We should teach God's Word in a way that is _____ to the lives of those who hear us teach.

The _____ is the real teacher.

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Change the set-up of your _____ and use _____ tools to enhance your teaching.

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_____ and _____ should not be an option!

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Sunday School is not just a _____ event on Sunday morning.