

BEING A PERSON OF GRACE



**Teacher's Guide**

***A Christian Growth Study***  
**For**  
**Sunday School Leaders**

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State Board of Missions  
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Developed by Rick Ellison for use in the local church.  
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## **PREPARATION**

Plan to seat your Sunday School leaders at tables where they can write. Provide a copy of the fill-in-the-blank guide and a pencil for each person present. Provide a gospel tract for each person to use during the session.

## **INTRODUCTION**

You are part of an exciting journey. It is our journey through life with the Lord Jesus Christ. As a part of your journey, Christ has opened the door of opportunity for you to be a Sunday School worker for Him. God has equipped you with spiritual gifts, abilities, and life experiences to serve Him on this journey.

## **TEACHERS**

Share a 3-minute testimony of how you began your journey with Christ. Share about when you became a Christian and something good that God has done for you on your journey with Him.

## **SHARING EXPERIENCE**

In groups of 5 people, give each person an opportunity to share how they began their journey with Christ (when they became a Christian) and something good that God has done for them on their journey. Explain that each person will have 3 minutes to share.

This time of sharing reminds us of how good God has been to us (John 1:16). Our motivation for serving God through the Sunday School is our thankfulness, love and devotion to God. Simply, we serve God in Sunday School because He loves us and we love Him. This love continually motivates us even in times when our service demands much of us.

There is a common denominator of churches that are alive, healthy and fulfilling Christ's mission in their communities. If you were to study churches where people view what is happening and say, "Only God could do that", you would find in those churches leaders who are committed to being fully devoted to Christ and growing in their faith. You would discover a strong commitment to personal spiritual growth among leaders and an undying love for Jesus Christ.

## *OUR SPECIAL STUDY TODAY IS - **BEING A PERSON OF GRACE***

The Bible commands us.... *“But grow in GRACE, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (II Peter 3:18) (KJV)

Each letter in the word “GRACE” in our study today represents an important part of our being fully devoted to Christ as Christians and Sunday School leaders.



rowing closer to God through WORSHIP.

eaching the world through EVANGELISM.

pplying God’s word for SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

reating an atmosphere of caring and FELLOWSHIP.

xperiencing a lifestyle of MINISTRY.

These five elements of GRACE are a picture from the New Testament of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Christ (worshipping God – sharing our faith – applying God’s word through Bible study – caring for other believers and ministering in our church and world). God calls us as His followers to practice these five areas in our lives. Being a person of GRACE is a key to being an effective and God-pleasing Sunday School leader.

### **Being a Person of Grace**



rowing closer to God through worship.

- Fellowship with us is so important to God that Jesus DIED on the cross so that we might have the most intimate fellowship with Him.
- JESUS himself gives us a great example. He spent time alone with the father. Jesus received strength from his time with the father to do His will.
- Every Sunday School leader should be faithful in worshipping God at church worship services. God is WORTHY of our worship. He is to be praised. Our worship delights God. His presence should fill us with joy. Worship is a key to being a healthy and happy Christian and Sunday School leader. God answers our prayers in worship. As God’s word is proclaimed in worship, we receive direction for living. Most of all, God deserves our worship.

As a Sunday School leader we also set an example to others by our presence in worship. There may be a time that we can't be in worship because of our jobs or other circumstances. We should be consistent in worship.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

God desires that we have a lifestyle of worship. This involves worshipping Him in a QUIET TIME or time alone with Him each day. This is a special time set aside for God each day to grow closer to Him. This can be a brief period of time or a long period of time. As I spend time with Christ, I grow to love Him more.

It is important to decide on a specific TIME and PLACE where you will not be disturbed. MORNINGS are a good time to have a quiet time. Our minds are usually more rested.

### **RESOURCES**

- **BIBLE**
- **JOURNAL** – Something to write down what God speaks to us about and our prayer requests.

### **WHAT TO DO IN YOUR QUIET TIME**

As we read the scriptures, God SPEAKS TO US from His word. As we pray we SPEAK TO GOD.

There may be a day when you miss your quiet time. Don't give up. Our prayer and quiet time is the key to growing in our love for God and being effective for Him.

1. PRAISE God for who He is and what He has done. Thank Him for blessings.
2. Commit yourself to GOD'S WILL.
3. Ask God to supply your NEEDS. (Phil. 4:19)
4. Ask God to FORGIVE your sins. (A time to forgive others)
5. Pray for other PEOPLE.

When we worship God together in our quiet time He feels our love. He loves us and answers our prayers.

### **ACTIVITY**

You may want to enlist someone to share a 2-minute testimony about what their quiet time has meant to them, or ask if anyone in the group would like to share.



eaching the world through evangelism.

Every Sunday School class is a MISSION POINT to reach people for Christ. (Acts 1:8)

## WAYS TO REACH OUR MISSION FIELD

- Share your TESTIMONY with others. People enjoy hearing what has happened to other people. Share briefly your life before Christ, how you trusted Christ as Lord and Savior, and what God has done for you since then.
- Be EQUIPPED to clearly share the gospel. Provide a tract such as “The Four Spiritual Laws” and review with the class how to use this tool.
- ENROLL people in Sunday School. Thousands of people have become Christians after enrolling in Sunday School. Enroll ANYONE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE if they agree. You don’t have to be a member of the church to enroll in Sunday School. You can enroll people even before they attend and begin to minister to them.
- Develop FRIENDSHIPS with unchurched people and witness to them.
- RELATIONSHIPS – Reach out to family, friends, work associates, neighbors and others.
- Participate in the church’s OUTREACH.

## ACTIVITY

Provide a tract such as “The Four Spiritual Laws”. Equip your leaders to use this tool.



pply God’s word for spiritual growth.

There may be well over one billion copies of the Bible in the world today. These millions of Bibles have been printed in over two thousand languages. Surveys estimate that most of the homes in America have at least one Bible.

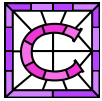
We are fortunate today that the Bible is so accessible to us. God’s perfect truth has the answers that we need for every day of our lives. Ours is a day of golden opportunity to study, understand, and apply the wisdom of the Bible. When we love God and put His Word into practice, something special happens. Spiritual growth and maturity are experienced. When God’s truth is applied it results in life change or transformation.

**II Timothy 3:16**

## Group Discussion Questions

In James 1:22 we are commanded: “*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.*”

- Do you think most Christians have a passion to apply the wisdom of the Bible in everyday decisions?
- What competes in our busy schedules with taking the time to study and apply God’s word?



reating an atmosphere of caring and fellowship. (Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 10:24)

Jesus prayed a wonderful prayer for all believers (John 17:20-21).

Through the Sunday School, God gives us many opportunities to care, fellowship and minister to one another. We can...

- ENCOURAGE one another.
- Hold each other ACCOUNTABLE to grow and live a moral life.
- PRAY together.
- WITNESS to the world by the testimony of our love for one another.
- MINISTER together using our spiritual gifts and abilities.
- BEAR each others’ burdens.
- TEACH each other spiritual truths.
- SERVE each other.
- FORGIVE each other.
- CARE for those who don’t attend.

There are times when people are removed from the Sunday School roll simply because they do not attend. We need to see these names on our Sunday School rolls as faces of people who need our care and ministry. No one should be dropped from the Sunday School rolls because they are not attending. They are people to pray for and care about, even if they don’t attend.



xperiencing a lifestyle of ministry.

Through our service in the Sunday School we have an opportunity to use our SPIRITUAL GIFTS, PASSION FOR CERTAIN MINISTRIES, ABILITIES, UNIQUE PERSONALITY, as well as past experiences and EXPERTISE. It is God’s plan for our lives to be more fulfilled as we serve Him. Serving God in our church, Sunday School and in the world is important to Him.

We also serve God through the use of our financial resources (Malachi 3:10). A tithe is giving 10% of our income. An offering is anything we give in ADDITION to our tithe.

As we keep our commitments to God, He will bless us and give us satisfaction.

# **BEING A PERSON OF GRACE**

## **OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AS SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS**

- 1. Am I growing closer to God through worship at church and in my daily quiet time?**
- 2. Am I seeking to reach others for Christ?**
- 3. Am I applying God's word to my life for spiritual growth?**
- 4. Am I caring for and fellowshiping with other believers?**
- 5. Am I serving God through my time, talents and financial resources?**

**Philippians 2:13**

**God blesses those churches and  
Sunday Schools where His leaders are  
fully devoted to Him.**



## *Overheads*

# *A Christian Growth Study*

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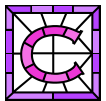
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- Develop FRIENDSHIPS with unchurched people and witness to them.
- RELATIONSHIPS – Reach out to family, friends, work associates, neighbors and others.
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## Creating an atmosphere of caring and fellowship.

- ENCOURAGE one another.
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