

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 101: AM I HALLUCINATING?

RE-DREAMING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CLASS

OUTLINE BY MIKE WILLIAMS

A Brief Story:

Imagine if you will a Sunday School leader taking their class through a desert. Eventually, the group and the leader get thirsty and desire something to drink. However, time goes by and there is still no relief from the heat and dehydration. Then, from top of a desert dune, the leader sees what looks like an oasis in the valley below. The oasis is lush filled with palm trees, fruit, and a beautiful water fall. The leader runs ahead of the group motioning the others to follow. The leader arrives at the oasis, jumps in the water, and splashes around like a child. Finally, the leader realizes that he is alone in paradise. He looks up to the hill and the group he was leading is still standing lifelessly unmoved by the leader's find. He motions to them to join him in the oasis, but the group does not budge. Finally, one of the people in the group asks the others, "What is our leader doing playing in the sand below?" You see, a leader's purpose is only a hallucination unless someone else is following.

What is the purpose of a Sunday School class?

- ◆ The purpose of the Sunday School answers the questions "who?", "what?", "why?", "how?", and "where?"
- ◆ Who is leading? Who is following? Who is receiving the glory? Who are we to be? Who are we to become?
- ◆ What are we learning? What are we doing? What are we to do?
- ◆ Why are we doing what we are doing? Why this? Why now?
- ◆ How will we do what God commands? How will we become what God calls us to become? How will we accomplish the goals of this class?
- ◆ Where are we going now? Where will we be in 5 years?

Re-dreaming the purpose of a Sunday School class is like building a house. In order to build a house, you must be able to envision what you are building. You must have a plan or a blueprint. There are many questions to answer while building a house like "who is going to build the house?", "what materials will be used?", "why do we need a house at this location at this time?", "how will the house be built?", and "where are we going to build the house?"

Foundation: Each class needs to begin with a firm foundation. Without a strong foundation, the house will not stand the test of time. A great foundation for Sunday School is found in God alone and His Words as written in Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 22:37-39. Basically, we are to love God and love others as ourselves. This foundation can answer the questions "who?", "what?", and "why?" Without this foundation of love then a strong edifice cannot be built (I Cor. 13:1-3)! It is impossible to know this type of love apart from a relationship to God through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Walls: A strong house has walls. Therefore, each Sunday School class needs at least the following four walls! However, these four walls are constructed with two materials: Evangelism and Disciple-Making. The four walls are belonging (fellowship), growing (disciple-making), serving (ministry), and sharing (evangelism). These walls can answer the questions "what?" and "how?"

Roof: The roof is supported by the walls and a strong foundation. Without sturdy walls the roof collapses. Without a firm foundation the walls buckle and the roof collapses. Most roofs in a traditional southern home are shaped like triangles with the angle pointing upward. This is the image I want you to see. The roof looks almost like an arrow to symbolize that it is God who receives the glory for all we do and all that we are in Sunday School. The roof symbolizes our response to who God is and what He has done. The roof symbolizes our worship to God. It is God who shows us where to go. It is through God's power alone that lives are changed. God is the purpose of our Sunday School class! God answers all of our questions! However, without a solid foundation and firm walls, then we might find it impossible to have a roof to shelter, protect, and point our way.

Are you hallucinating or are you leading to re-dream the purpose of your class?

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A Brief Story:

What is the _____ of a Sunday School class?

- ◆ The purpose of the Sunday School answers the questions _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- ◆ _____ is leading? _____ is following? _____ is receiving the glory? _____ are we to be? _____ are we to become?
- ◆ _____ are we learning? _____ are we doing? _____ are we to do?
- ◆ _____ are we doing what we are doing? _____ this? _____ now?
- ◆ _____ will we do what God commands? _____ will we become what God calls us to become? _____ will we accomplish the goals of this class?
- ◆ _____ are we going now? _____ will we be in 5 years?

Re-dreaming the _____ of a Sunday School class is like building a _____.

Foundation:

Walls:

Roof:

Are you _____ or are you _____ to re-dream the purpose of your class?