

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 102: REMEMBER ME? CARING FOR YOUR IN-SERVICE MISSIONARIES

OUTLINE BY MIKE WILLIAMS

What is an in-service missionary?

An in-service missionary is a person who willingly follows Jesus Christ to serve Him in another capacity during the same time that your Sunday School group meets. This missionary may serve in preschool, children, youth, singles, adult, senior adult, greeting, and/or security ministries during the Sunday School time frame. This means that this missionary is no longer a participant in your group during the regularly scheduled time frame because they are serving the Lord in another capacity. I believe the two highest goals of any class are to send in-service missionaries and to start new groups.

Do you remember the in-service missionaries from your Sunday School group?

Many times, it is far too easy to forget to care for our leaders that leave the comfort of our Sunday School group in order to lead or serve another Sunday School group during the same time frame. We must not let this happen. We do not want to forget our missionaries that serve in other parts of our world. Also, we do not want to forget our missionaries that are serving in our church as well!

What are some ideas to care for our in-service missionaries?

- ◆ Creating a Prayer Card: Simply take a picture of the missionary. Then hang the picture in a prominent place to remind the class to pray for the missionary. You may also want to put where the missionary is serving on the card as well.
- ◆ Learn the missionary's "favorites": Use a "Basics of..." sheet (attached) to learn more information about your missionary. Therefore, the Sunday School group can encourage their missionary by giving them their favorite snack, favorite drink, or a card with their favorite verse on it. Also, you can ask for the missionary's birthday and/or anniversary. Finally, you can place some of the missionary's favorites and important dates on the prayer card under their place of service.
- ◆ Meet with the missionary annually: Take time at least one time per year to meet with the missionary that your class sent to serve the Lord elsewhere to simply hear their story. Take the missionary to lunch or sit down with them over dinner with your class to hear what the Lord is doing. This may also encourage other leaders in your class to become missionaries as well!
- ◆ Monthly Encouragement: Encourage the missionary at least once per month with gifts, cards, prayer, verses, etc. The "Basics" sheet will help you. Also, work with the department/division director of the area where your missionary is serving in order to learn more ways to encourage your missionary.
- ◆ Get your missionary a copy of the book you are using in Sunday School: Whatever you use, please remember to give a copy to your missionary. This will help the missionary feel more connected to your group as they study God's Word with you.
- ◆ Invite your Sunday School in-service missionary to all class functions: If you have a monthly fellowship with your Sunday School group, then remember to invite the missionary. Introduce the missionary to your group and give a couple of minutes for the missionary to share what the Lord is doing through their place of service.
- ◆ Be there: This may be the simplest way to encourage a missionary. Just be there. Let the missionary know how much you appreciate their service to the church and the difference their service makes. Assure the in-service missionary that they will not be forgotten.

The Basics of _____

Date: _____

Favorite Snack:

Favorite Cold Drink:

Favorite Warm Drink:

Favorite Bible Verse:

Favorite Bible Story:

Favorite Vacation Spot:

Favorite Quote:

Favorite Color:

Favorite Song:

Favorite Restaurant (under \$10):

Favorite Restaurant (over \$10):

Favorite Place to Shop:

Favorite TV Show/Movie:

Hobbies:

Collectables:

Birthday:

Anniversary (If Applicable):

Other Fun Facts:

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- ◆ Creating a Prayer Card:

- ◆ Learn the missionary's "favorites":

- ◆ Meet with the missionary annually:

- ◆ Monthly Encouragement:

- ◆ Get your missionary a copy of the book you are using in Sunday School:

- ◆ Invite your Sunday School in-service missionary to all class functions:

- ◆ Be there: