

LEADERSHIP LESSON 18: SUNDAY SCHOOL ALIVE: VALUES VISIBLE*

OUTLINE BY DANIEL EDMONDS

Sunday School classes display their values in how they adorn the room and conduct the class. A good question for each leader to ask would be, “Is what we claim of importance visible in all that we say and do?” The truth is, what we value is visible!

The typical classroom says, “We do Sunday School to take care of us, in a room designed by us, at an hour selected by us, with teaching that is pleasing to us, surrounded by people who are like us, and in a manner that pleases us.” It is rare that a classroom indicates the value of reaching people.

The average Sunday School class spends the balance of its time in fellowship, prayer, and teaching. Is this all that is valuable to the class?

What can be done to restore the proper values to Sunday School? Be forewarned: the following can be difficult and unpleasant, but it will be glorifying to Christ.

Clarify what is of value

Each class should emphasize evangelism, service, and ministry, as much as, Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. Teaching will be allocated the majority of the time; however, all things of value will be visible during the hour.

Clear out conflicting messages

One of the more difficult things is the removal of treasures that communicate an attitude of “this is about us,” rather than “this is about Jesus.” The idea of “my classroom” needs to be replaced with a meeting place for Sunday School.

Clean up the class

It is amazing how we will leave outdated material on the tables, walls, chairs, and floors. All out of date photos of fellowships and announcements should be removed. Finally, each room should have a neat and clean appearance.

Conduct the class on a schedule

It is easy to let valuable time slip away in fellowship and prayer requests. Prayer request cards can be completed during the fellowship time in order to make optimum use of available time.

Create a platform and space for each valued ministry

Care Group, Outreach, Fellowship, and Service leaders should be given time to report, request help, or recruit people into the ministry. Also, designate wall space for appropriate promotion and announcements by these leaders.

Control the time

Appoint a class leader who will move the class between the various time periods. It may seem awkward at first, but it will begin to flow with practice and patience.

Celebrate what you value

Celebrate new members, guests present, leaders developed, salvation, prospects discovered, and new classes being started. Celebrate setting and accomplishing goals.

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