

LEADERSHIP LESSON 22

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

OUTLINE BY RANDY LAMON

1. Recognize your **call** and **gifts**.

Sunday School teachers should have a sense of call from the Lord to teach and be gifted by the Holy Spirit. Many churches recruit church members to fill a “slot” rather than recruit teachers who feel led to teach and are gifted to teach.

2. Be **passionate** and **enthusiastic** about the Sunday School ministry and teaching.

As teachers, we set the tone for our class. A teacher who models passion and enthusiasm will have a class that will soon share those same traits. Being excited about Sunday School and fulfilling the purposes of the Sunday School is caught as much as taught.

3. Realize your need for **training**.

Take advantage of as many training opportunities as you possibly can that are offered by your church, local association, state convention, and LifeWay. Also, take advantage of the many books and video resources that have been written regarding Sunday School and teaching.

4. Depend on the **Holy Spirit** as you teach.

The Holy Spirit is the true teacher. If not, then true teaching and spiritual transformation will not occur. Prepare effectively each week and allow the Holy Spirit freedom to lead as you teach.

5. Teach for **spiritual transformation**.

The goal for us as teachers is for what is taught and learned on Sunday to make a difference on Monday in the lives of those who heard us teach. We must teach on a “doing” level rather than a “knowledge” level. God’s Word clearly teaches us that we are to put our faith into action. Most Christians already know far more than what they are putting into everyday practice in regards to God’s Word.

6. Teach the **Bible**.

Our ultimate goal is to teach God’s Word, not to teach content or knowledge from a quarterly or lesson. Our teacher’s guides are excellent resources to use in planning a lesson; however, they are not the focus of what we are to teach. The Bible is our textbook. Let your class members see you using the Bible each and every week as you teach.

7. Understand the **age-appropriate** ways in which your class members learn.

People of different ages learn in different ways and with different teaching methods. Understanding how they learn is a key to effective teaching. Our class members also learn in different ways. Don’t be guilty of using the same teaching method each week.

8. Be a fellow **learner**.

Some of the greatest learning experiences of my Christian journey have come from the times I was teaching each week. Let your class members know that you are a fellow learner with them and what God has done in your life through the preparation for the lesson. A teacher that has effectively prepared each week will be able to teach from the outflow and overflow of what God has already done in your life. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the true teacher.

LEADERSHIP LESSON 22 CONTINUED

9. Understand the **purpose** of the Sunday School.

There are several tasks that make up the overall purpose; however, evangelism and outreach are the primary task of the Sunday School. The Sunday School is the primary organization in our churches which can help the church fulfill the Great Commission. We must be intentional in reaching people. Give time each week during your class time to accomplish this task and the overall purpose of the Sunday School. Be a visionary and leader to your class.

10. Be a **mentor** and a **trainer**.

One of the most effective ways that a church can develop new teachers and leaders is to have current teachers mentor and train members from within their class. Recruit those that you feel are gifted in the area of teaching and allow them to teach your class periodically. Train other class members in the roles that your Sunday School has leadership.

11. Commit to **prayer**.

As much as possible, pray for your class members by name. Pray for your church, church staff, and overall ministry of your church.

12. Set an **example**.

As teachers and leaders we should set an example for our class members to follow in our faithfulness to Christ and the church. Our churches need godly role models for others to emulate and follow.

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