LEADERSHIP LESSON 24
GOING BEYOND THE LIMITS
YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

1. Read Psalm 126.

2. What does it mean to “connect” with our community?
TheFreeDictionary defines “outreach” as “the act or process of reaching out, a systematic attempt to provide services beyond conventional limits, as to particular segments of a community.” We can connect with our community by providing services or ministries that go beyond the expectations of the unchurched. Just as the Psalmist suggests, we must have a dream for our community, a joyful testimony of the goodness of God, and a passion for sowing the seed of the Gospel. When we have these three things, we can connect with our community!

3. Why should we make efforts to connect with our community?
There are many good reasons to connect with our community, but one GREAT REASON: Jesus commands it!
Read Acts 1:8.
Jesus told His followers to be witnesses in every level of community: local, regional, national and international. It is not an option! Jesus also told us that we would do this “as we go” about our everyday life. Since the Sunday School is the outreach arm of the church,” we should and can make a difference in our community. After all, one of the functions of Sunday School is reaching people.” We cannot do that without going outside of the walls of the church building.

4. What are some specific ways our Sunday School can connect with the community?
   • Host a block party. People love to eat, play games and listen to music!
   • Provide random acts of kindness. This is more than the community expects!
   • Begin a benevolence ministry. Meet physical needs and then share the gospel.
   • Use “Knowsie Neighbors” to identify and introduce new neighbors to your Sunday School and church. (KN’s notify church office of new movers.)
   • Hold a monthly new resident open house at your church so new residents can tour your facilities, meet the pastor and staff and enjoy the fellowship of church members. Invite them to enroll in your Sunday School class.
   • Hold a Fall Festival. This can be done by the church or in a specific neighborhood by your Sunday School class.
   • Use public information to send congratulations to new parents, condolences to families of those listed in obituaries, and well wishes to newlyweds.
   • Use real estate sales records to deliver welcome baskets to new homeowners. These baskets can contain information about your church as well as breads, coffee, etc.
   • Provide free bottled water at community and civic events including parades, festivals, car shows, ball tournaments, etc. Private labels can provide information about your church and the plan of salvation.

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1. **Read Psalm 126.**

2. **What does it mean to “connect” with our community?**
   
   TheFreeDictionary defines “outreach” as “the act or process of _________, a systematic attempt to provide services beyond _________, as to particular segments of a community.”
   
   We can connect with our community by providing services or ministries that go beyond the expectations of the _________. Just as the Psalmist suggests, we must have a ________ for our community, a ________ of the goodness of God, and a ________ for sowing the seed of the Gospel. When we have these three things, we can connect with our community!

3. **Why should we make efforts to connect with our community?**
   
   There are many good reasons to connect with our community, but one GREAT REASON: ________ ________ ________!
   
   **Read Acts 1:8.**
   
   Jesus told His followers to be witnesses in ________ ________ of community: local, regional, national and international. It is not an option! Jesus also told us that we would do this “______ ________” about our everyday life. Since the Sunday School is the “______ ________ of the church,” we should and can make a difference in our community. After all, one of the functions of Sunday School is “________ people.” We cannot do that without going outside of the walls of the church building.

4. **What are some specific ways our Sunday School can connect with the community?**
   
   - Host a ________ ________. People love to eat, play games and listen to music!
   - Provide ________ of ________. This is more than the community expects!
   - Begin a ________ ministry. Meet physical needs and then share the gospel.
   - Use “________ ________” to identify and introduce new neighbors to your Sunday School and church. (KN’s notify church office of new movers.)
   - Hold a monthly ________ ________ ________ at your church so new residents can tour your facilities, meet the pastor and staff and enjoy the fellowship of church members. Invite them to enroll in your Sunday School class.
   - Hold a ________ _________. This can be done by the church or in a specific neighborhood by your Sunday School class.
   - Use ________ ________ to send congratulations to new parents, condolences to families of those listed in obituaries, and well wishes to newlyweds.
   - Use ________ ________ ________ records to deliver welcome baskets to new homeowners. These baskets can contain information about your church as well as breads, coffee, etc.
   - Provide free ________ ________ at community and civic events including parades, festivals, car shows, ball tournaments, etc. Private labels can provide information about your church and the plan of salvation.

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