

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON #45: TWELVE THINGS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CAN DO TO MINISTER TO THE COMMUNITY**

OUTLINE BY ALAN QUEEN

READ JOHN 20:21

Recently I planted a new “FiftySomethings” coed SS class. While the class is still young and excited, I am saturating members with the concept that yes, it is *normal and even preferable* for the body of Christ to be intentionally active in the community, going outside the walls to do ministry. We hope to plant a satellite class in a local multi-family housing complex this year. In anticipation of that ministry, we are brainstorming ways to attract the attention and favor of the residents, building relationships in the process, so that it will be easier to bring them together for informal Bible study in the community room or a resident’s apartment. Following are some strategies we are developing so that we may minister to the complex residents.

- 1) **Specific** prayer in class gatherings for **leaders**, **need issues**, and even **names** from **mail boxes** in the community.
- 2) Pray for **families** while walking or driving in a “target” area, asking God to:
  - a. make Himself **known** to the families in each home
  - b. **do something** only He can do in the families in each home
  - c. impress them about **going to church**
  - d. send some of them to **our class**
  - e. help us be **ready** when they come

-The prayer requests in #2 are from the “I-6 Sunday School Book”: To help churches, Sunday School classes, and individual Christians, develop a culture of invitation that will help them work together as a team to fulfill the Great Commission through healthy, vibrant churches and classes. Books and related teaching plans also provide material for annual training events in state conventions, associations, and local churches. Cost is \$1.00 per book at [www.Lifeway.com](http://www.Lifeway.com).

- 3) Plant Bible studies in residents’ **apartments**, **community rooms**, or even around **swimming pools**! Always get apartment managers’ **permission** and work around his/her **schedule** when utilizing apartment facilities.

-We are currently using Purpose Driven’s “The Invitation” CD. A modern-day evangelistic tract on CD, “The Invitation” features spoken Biblical truth delivered by Rick Warren supported with songs of faith from today’s best-selling Christian artists. Cost is \$20.00 per case of 20 CDs plus shipping, and can be ordered at [www.purposedriven.com/en-US/Resources/ProductDetail.htm?SKU=PC396920](http://www.purposedriven.com/en-US/Resources/ProductDetail.htm?SKU=PC396920).

- 4) Prepare fun “back to school” or holiday **goodie bags** for kids in multi housing.
- 5) Help community residents **celebrate** their **indigenous holidays**. Not just “our” American holidays, but those of the other cultures represented in your community.

- 6) Go to **community** events and provide a **practical service** (bottled water, music CDs, etc.) which points to the **Lord Jesus**. BE SURE to attach your **contact information** to the giveaway!
- 7) **Parent's day out** Bible studies. While some of your members **tend the children**, lead a Bible study for the parents. Keep the study **short-term** and "**open.**"  
-The Church Growth Institute has Bible studies by Charles Brock designed for a facilitator to lead unchurched individuals by a "fill-in-the-blank" method.
- 8) **Block parties** for the neighborhood children are a great way to "break in" to a neighborhood and **make friends**.  
-They're simple, fun, and can be done relatively inexpensively. Fun music, good food, VBS games, face painting, limbo contests, your church's praise band or drama/signing/interpretive movement group will attract a lot of attention. Always include either one-on-one witnessing or a brief gospel presentation (5 minutes or so). Be sure to keep ALL names and contact information so that your outreach ministries can follow up!
- 9) Ask the local apartment managers if there are any **needs** your class could help **meet**. **Painting, cleanup, vacuuming** the **pool** are three good ways to point him or her to **Christ** and invest in your neighbors' **lives**.
- 10) Take the local **apartment manager** out to **lunch**. Be friendly and let them get to know you—many are unchurched and will be amazed that you're really a "normal" kind of guy/gal.
- 11) After doing a high visibility service project, **hang out** around the complex and hang out around **John 3:16**. **Relationship**-building is **key** in community **ministry**.  
-The old adage, "They won't care how much you know until they know how much you care" is entirely true in this case.
- 12) Be sure to **train** your class members for the **ministry activities** in which they'll be participating. Training **heightens ministry** and **lessens anxiety**. Soak the neighborhood in **prayer** before you go.

Thanks for participating in this discussion. Now, go get 'em!

**LEADERSHIP LESSON #45: TWELVE THINGS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CAN DO TO MINISTER TO THE COMMUNITY**

OUTLINE BY ALAN QUEEN

READ JOHN 20:21

Recently I planted a new “FiftySomethings” coed SS class. While the class is still young and excited, I am saturating members with the concept that yes, it is *normal and even preferable* for the body of Christ to be intentionally active in the community, going outside the walls to do ministry. We hope to plant a satellite class in a local multi-family housing complex this year. In anticipation of that ministry, we are brainstorming ways to attract the attention and favor of the residents, building relationships in the process, so that it will be easier to bring them together for informal Bible study in the community room or a resident’s apartment. Following are some strategies we are developing so that we may minister to the complex residents.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ prayer in class gatherings for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and even \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ in the community.
- 2) Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ while walking or driving in a “target” area, asking God to:
  - a. make Himself \_\_\_\_\_ to the families in each home
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ only He can do in the families in each home
  - c. impress them about \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. send some of them to \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. help us be \_\_\_\_\_ when they come
- 3) Plant Bible studies in residents’ \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or even around \_\_\_\_\_! Always get apartment managers’ \_\_\_\_\_ and work around his/her \_\_\_\_\_ when utilizing apartment facilities.
- 4) Prepare fun “back to school” or holiday \_\_\_\_\_ for kids in multi housing.
- 5) Help community residents \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) Go to \_\_\_\_\_ events and provide a \_\_\_\_\_ (bottled water, music CDs, etc.) which points to the \_\_\_\_\_. BE SURE to attach your \_\_\_\_\_ to the giveaway!
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ Bible studies. While some of your members \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, lead a Bible study for the parents. Keep the study \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ for the neighborhood children are a great way to “break in” to a neighborhood and \_\_\_\_\_.

- 9) Ask the local apartment managers if there are any \_\_\_\_\_ your class could help \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ are three good ways to point him or her to \_\_\_\_\_ and invest in your neighbors' \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) Take the local \_\_\_\_\_ out to \_\_\_\_\_. Be friendly and let them get to know you—many are unchurched and will be amazed that you're really a "normal" kind of guy/gal.
- 11) After doing a high visibility service project, \_\_\_\_\_ around the complex and hang out around \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_-building is \_\_\_\_\_ in community \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12) Be sure to \_\_\_\_\_ your class members for the \_\_\_\_\_ in which they'll be participating. Training \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . Soak the neighborhood in \_\_\_\_\_ before you go.

Now, go get 'em! (John 20:21)