

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 61: CONTACT IDEAS

OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

The dictionary defines contact as *“the act or state of **touching**; a touching or meeting, as of two things or people.”*¹ Jesus spent much of his time touching people, either **physically** or **emotionally**. In order to build a healthy, growing class or Sunday School, members must practice the art of touch.

How can Sunday School workers and members touch the lives of other members and prospects? Here are My Personal Top 10 Touches:

1. It all starts on **Sunday morning**! Provide for a positive first touch for every member and guest every Sunday. Assign someone to serve as class greeter.
2. Encourage your class members to **escort** guests to worship. Maximize the first visit of guests by sitting in worship with them.
3. Invite guests to **lunch** after worship! Everyone loves a free lunch.
4. Request **email addresses** on your guest registration card. Then have a class member email all guests on Sunday afternoon. Thank your guests for attending your class and invite them to other activities such as Wednesday supper or a class social event.
5. **Home visits** are still effective in most communities! Schedule a time for class outreach. Even if your church does not offer an organized outreach time, your class can gather to contact prospects, absentees and members in need of ministry. Don't forget to take something with you to leave behind with those you are contacting. Magazines, cookies or bread are good gifts. They provide a “reason” for some shy members to visit in the homes of prospects and class members.
6. Practice **literature** visitation. At the beginning of each new quarter or unit of study, deliver Bible study guides to those who have been absent or prospects assigned to your class. Preview the study during the visit and encourage attendance.
7. Utilize **social networking sites**. Every class has at least one computer geek! Facebook and Twitter have become household words and everyday reality for most Americans. Create a class group and encourage members and prospects to join. Search for friends and then view the friends of friends. Send friend requests to prospects and encourage them to connect with your class members. A lot of “touching” happens by way of Facebook everyday. Take advantage of the human need to connect!
8. Create a class **blog**. Refer to it every week in class. Post the blog address on all communications with members and prospects. Post thought provoking questions and topics related to weekly lessons and everyday life.
9. **Prayer** brings people together, so create a class email prayer chain. Then, use it daily! Encourage members to list prayer requests each week in class. As their comfort level grows, guests and absentees will share their prayer needs with the class.
10. Everyone loves to **eat**! Encourage class members to invite prospect and absentee families to informal evenings in their home. Play games, watch movies and swap life stories. Spending time together cements relationships.

¹ contact. (n.d.). *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*. Retrieved January 13, 2010, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/contact>

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