LEADERSHIP LESSON #63: KEYS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH

OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

Sunday School as we know it has been around for over 200 years! In that time, many Sunday Schools have come and gone. Some have been successful and others have floundered and declined. Just what does it take to grow a Sunday School? An old saying reminds us, “There is nothing new under the sun!” The key element to growing a Sunday School is hard work. Arthur Flake encapsulated the biblical principles necessary to grow a Sunday School. His principles have not changed but the language has been updated!

1. Know what is possible.
   - Do you have any prospects? If so, who are they? You need a lot more!
   - Do you have any members? If so, who are they? Have they attended lately? If not, why not? What are you going to do about it?
   - Do you have up-to-date records? You can’t minister to those you don’t know!

2. Add something new!
   - Have you started any new classes lately? If so, how many? If not, why not?
   - Typically, new units (classes) grow faster than old ones. They assimilate more new people and put more people to work.
   - It is easier to add more people to your Sunday School through new classes than by adding them to existing classes.

3. Identify and equip your team.
   - Do you train your workers? If so, how often? If not, why not? Everyone needs training, even experienced workers. The frequency is not the issue! Do it as often as possible: weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or yearly. Just do it!
   - Do you have a system for identifying and enlisting new potential workers? If so, is it effective? Do you provide on-the-job training? Why not? Allow workers in training to practice on a monthly basis.

4. Give them room to grow.
   - Do you have enough space? Are your rooms too crowded? You can only put so many people in one space!
   - Do you need to reassign rooms? Can you better use your space?
   - Have you made an audit of available, useable space? How many spaces do you have?
   - If you are out of useable space on campus, identify options off campus, such as nearby homes, schools, businesses willing to let you use their space.
   - Maybe you need to build!
   - Remember, continued growth is not an option; it is the mandate!

5. Beat the bushes!
   - Jesus commanded the disciples to “go out into the highways and hedges” and find people! He hasn’t changed his mind about that!
   - Practice “open enrollment!” Offer class membership to any one, any where, any time as long as they agree to be enrolled. Then, follow-up with ministry.
   - Follow-up is the key to Sunday School effectiveness. Even those who attend weekly like to know you care about them. Absentees and prospects also need follow-up contacts regularly.
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Sunday School as we know it has been around for over ______ years! In that time, many Sunday Schools have come and gone. Some have been successful and others have floundered and declined. Just what does it take to grow a Sunday School? An old saying reminds us, “There is nothing ______ under the sun!” The key element to growing a Sunday School is _______. Arthur Flake encapsulated the biblical principles necessary to grow a Sunday School. His principles have not changed but the language has been updated!

1. Know what is ________________.
   • Do you have any prospects? If so, who are they? You need a lot more!
   • Do you have any members? If so, who are they? Have they attended lately? If not, why not? What are you going to do about it?
   • Do you have up-to-date records? You can’t minister to those you don’t know!

2. Add something ________!
   • Have you started any new classes lately? If so, how many? If not, why not?
   • Typically, new units (classes) grow faster than old ones. They assimilate more new people and put more people to work.
   • It is easier to add more people to your Sunday School through new classes than by adding them to existing classes.

3. ___________ and ___________ your team.
   • Do you train your workers? If so, how often? If not, why not? Everyone needs training, even experienced workers. The _______________ is not the issue! Do it as often as possible: weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or yearly. Just do it!
   • Do you have a system for identifying and enlisting new potential workers? If so, is it effective? Do you provide on-the-job training? Why not? Allow workers in training to practice on a __________ basis.

4. Give them ______________ to _________.
   • Do you have enough space? Are your rooms too crowded? You can only put so many people in one space!
   • Do you need to reassign rooms? Can you better use your space?
   • Have you made an audit of available, useable space? How many spaces do you have?
   • If you are out of useable space on campus, identify options off campus, such as nearby homes, schools, businesses willing to let you use their space.
   • Maybe you need to _________!
   • Remember, continued growth is not an option; it is the mandate!

5. Beat the _______________!
   • Jesus commanded the disciples to “go out into the highways and hedges” and find people! He hasn’t changed his mind about that!
   • Practice “open enrollment!” Offer class membership to any one, any where, any time as long as they agree to be enrolled. Then, ___________—______ with ministry.
   • Follow-up is the key to Sunday School effectiveness. Even those who attend weekly like to know you care about them. Absentees and prospects also need follow-up contacts regularly.