

## **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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