

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 64: WAYS TO GROW AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER**

OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

The work of the Sunday School leader involves more than just showing up on Sunday morning! Being a Sunday School worker, of any kind, is a **24/7** responsibility. Sunday School workers must grow spiritually as well as in their leadership skills.

1. Spiritual Growth. Attention must be given to the following spiritual disciplines for a Sunday School leader to grow spiritually:
  - a. **Prayer** – Focus on prayer for your class/group, your church, pastor and staff, and your own personal spiritual needs.
  - b. **Bible Study** – Read more than just your lesson material each week. Read the Bible through in 90 days or once a year. Join a study group. Develop a growth group from your class.
  - c. Worship – **Personal** worship is important. Devote time each day to personal worship. However, **corporate** worship is important too. Be regular in public worship and share its results with your class. Encourage your members to participate in worship each week with you.
  - d. Service – Don't let Sunday School be "**your thing!**" Get involved in other avenues of service such as missions, evangelism, hospitality, etc. Encourage your class members to serve outside of Sunday School.
  - e. **Other** Spiritual Disciplines – Learn to practice some of the "other" spiritual disciplines:
    - i. Fasting – Skip a meal one day a week and focus on your personal challenges as a leader. Fasting will help you discover your spiritual "**weakest links.**"
    - ii. Journaling – As you read the Bible each day, record your personal spiritual thoughts and reactions to the Word of God in a journal. Your journal will become a **history** of the **work** of **God** in your life.
    - iii. **Silence** – This is one of the most difficult disciples to practice! Set aside five minutes each day to just be quiet...and listen to what God is saying to you!
2. Every leader should also focus on their leadership skills in the three practices of Sunday School:
  - a. **Connecting** – Spend time developing your connecting skills. Read a book a month. Amazon.com is a good source of books to help you develop your people skills. Focus on learning how to move people into relationships with each other.
  - b. **Changing** – Develop your teaching skills. Focus on transformational teaching. If you are not a teacher, develop your administrative or hospitality skills. Transformation is the goal of Sunday School and is not just the teacher's responsibility.
  - c. **Cultivating** – Practice your outreach skills. Everyone is responsible for cultivating new relationships with the lost and the unchurched. Read books on personal evangelism or relationship evangelism. Use social networking to identify people who need to be in your group. If you do not know how to network, attend a seminar or class to learn how to use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Plaxo, etc.

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