

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 82: WAYS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CAN SUPPORT YOUR PASTOR

OUTLINE BY JOHN P. JOHNSTON

One of the greatest ministry opportunities for the Sunday School is providing loving encouragement and support for the pastor. Just like any church member, your pastor and his family need ministry. Because of his responsibilities he may not be able to attend a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings – all the more reason to be proactive in supporting him. Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Pray** for your pastor. That means pray for specific things such as his health, his family, wisdom and strength to serve as the shepherd of your church. **Ask** him for specific ways you can pray for him.
2. **Encourage** your pastor. It's easy to find fault and criticize, and you can be sure that someone in every church probably does so on a regular basis. As a class, send **uplifting** cards, letters, e-mails and phone calls just to let him know you love him.
3. **Remember** his birthday, anniversary as pastor and other meaningful times.
4. **Invite** your pastor to class fellowships and functions. However, don't **expect** him to attend every event. He's on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Sometimes he needs time just to be with his family. Still, he'll appreciate you remembering him, and chances are he'll be glad to join with you from time to time.
5. Show **appreciation** to your pastor. October is pastor/staff appreciation month. A class may wish to purchase a gift (gift cards are always nice!) or participate in a church-wide appreciation emphasis.
6. **Minister** to your pastor and family when they have a **need**. Pastors get sick and suffer through crises like every other church member. Do the things you would do for a member of your class – take a meal, visit (as appropriate), pray and send cards. Chances are, your pastor will recover more quickly when he receives an out-pouring of love and concern.
7. **Speak kindly** about your pastor. There will be times when you will disagree with your pastor. It will happen sooner or later in any church. Even if you have a disagreement, show due honor and respect to him. Usually, **disagreements pass**. How we deal with them determines how well our relationships last.
8. One of the best ways to support your pastor is to **be faithful** to the Lord's church. Be faithful in your attendance, in your service to the church body and to your witness and ministry to the community. **Follow** your pastor's leadership as he seeks to reach out to your community for Christ! Remember – it is the job of your pastor to equip **you** for the work of ministry.

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1. _____ for your pastor. That means pray for specific things such as his health, his family, wisdom and strength to serve as the shepherd of your church. _____ him for specific ways you can pray for him.
2. _____ your pastor. It's easy to find fault and criticize, and you can be sure that someone in every church probably does so on a regular basis. As a class, send _____ cards, letters, e-mails and phone calls just to let him know you love him.
3. _____ his birthday, anniversary as pastor and other meaningful times.
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7. _____ about your pastor. There will be times when you will disagree with your pastor. It will happen sooner or later in any church. Even if you have a disagreement, show due honor and respect to him. Usually, _____. How we deal with them determines how well our relationships last.
8. One of the best ways to support your pastor is to _____ to the Lord's church. Be faithful in your attendance, in your service to the church body and to your witness and ministry to the community. _____ your pastor's leadership as he seeks to reach out to your community for Christ! Remember – it is the job of your pastor to equip _____ for the work of ministry.