

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 83: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEST SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

OUTLINE BY RANDY LAMON

The best Sunday School teachers realize that Sunday School is much more than a one hour event on Sunday morning. Here are some characteristics of teachers that will help to define them as the “best.”

1. Know the **purpose** of the Sunday School ministry. Every organization needs a distinct purpose and a ministry blueprint on how to accomplish that purpose. Your class should be mission driven, not maintenance driven, seeking to accomplish the purpose of your church’s Sunday School ministry.
2. Teach the **Bible**. We teach God’s Word, not a lesson or a quarterly. There are several tools that a teacher can use in preparation and teaching, but we must remember what we are teaching. Let your class members see you using your Bible during the lesson.
3. Always looking to create **community**. In many cases, those who attend or join your class are looking to connect with other believers and to make friends. Always be looking for ways during class time and outside of class time to provide opportunities for class members to fellowship together. This can be done as part of an effective lesson and through class fellowships, projects, and events.
4. Involve their members in **ministry**. Class members that are involved in ministry are usually more faithful with their attendance and more “plugged in” to your church. Organize your class in such a way to involve class members in the work and ministry of the class. The best teachers realize they can’t do it all themselves! As a teacher, you need to focus on preparing and teaching.
5. Are always well **prepared**. When it comes to teaching an effective lesson, there is simply no substitute for effective preparation. If possible, devote some time from each day of your week to this. Use every available tool that you have in preparing, including a wealth of things you can find online. A combination of a well prepared teacher and the power of the Holy Spirit is a powerful combination!
6. Can sometimes teach **more** by teaching **less**. Don’t feel like you must finish each lesson. Be sensitive to your class members and how the Holy Spirit is working. Sometimes “staying put” on one point or Bible verse can be just what is needed for God to work.
7. Are **relevant** in their teaching. The best teachers know the learning styles of their class members and are always looking for ways to both motivate them to participate and to engage them with God’s Word. As you prepare, use news events or cultural trends that are current and find ways to apply God’s Word in a practical way that connects with your class members. Jesus, in the parables, gives us a great example to follow in being relevant.
8. Have an eye to the **future**. This can be done in two ways. First, be willing to release your class members into other areas of ministry. A class member who occupies the same seat in your class year after year is not being a doer of the word! Second, be open to lead your class to birth a new class. The best teachers are always training class members as they involve them in ministry and preparing the way for a new class to be birthed. Outreach is the number one task of the Sunday School. As we release our members into ministry and birth new classes, we are helping to accomplish that purpose.
9. Are **prayed** up. Never forget to pray as you prepare and to pray for your class members.
10. Teach for **transformation**. The end goal of our teaching is not for content or biblical knowledge, but for God’s Word to make a difference in the lives of those we teach. Always be looking for practical ways to apply biblical truths from God’s Word to the lives of your class members.

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