

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 97: TEENS NEED A PLACE THEY BELONG **WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT FOR TEENS**

OUTLINE BY CYNTHIA WATTS

1. Sunday School is vital to teens to **build relationships**:
 - a. With **God**
 - b. With other **Christian youth**
 - c. With **leaders** who are committed, **faithful role models**, who make time for the youth and genuinely care about them
2. Sunday School is also the place for **discipleship** to deepen their faith.
3. Sunday School is important because they are our **future adults**.
4. Sunday School is another opportunity to **connect with parents** through Sunday School gatherings, information sent home, and outreach events.
5. Sunday School is the **outreach** and **evangelism** arm of the church and the vehicle for youth to learn to **share their faith**. An effective youth Sunday School leader helps youth involve other youth in love and caring activities and plans regular **visitation** times. In a thriving youth Sunday School, leaders and youth use all sorts of opportunities to witness to unsaved youth, trying to involve them in Youth Sunday School and in the church.
6. Youth need a Sunday School where they are involved and excited about studying the Bible and **applying it in their daily lives**.
7. Meaningful Youth Sunday Schools have leaders who teach youth to support the entire **church's ministry** and **missions programs**.
8. Youth need an area that is **friendly, accepting, fun, exciting**, and **inviting**, especially when the youth can help plan how to decorate and use their space.
9. Sunday School is important because it can provide youth leaders who are enthusiastic and are constantly growing spiritually. Youth need leaders who are committed to a **daily quiet time**, and attend **training** to improve their methods of teaching and understanding of youth.
10. Youth want and desire to engage in **creative experiences**. Youth leaders need to provide their students with firsthand experiences of God's love. Discover ways to give them **face-to-face encounters** with God. Provide arenas in which they can explore their faith and **discover why they believe what they do**, not what their parents believe.

Josh McDowell states: "Our kids are no longer asking which faith is true or most credible, but which faith works for them. So to take our students beyond subjective beliefs, we must not only show that Christianity works, but we must also show that it actively works because it is true."¹

¹ Key Traits of Middle Schoolers, Pam Culbertson, LifeWay.com. Beyond Belief to Convictions, Josh McDowell.

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1. Sunday School is vital to teens to _____:
 - a. With _____
 - b. With other _____
 - c. With _____ who are committed, _____, _____, who make time for the youth and genuinely care about them
2. Sunday School is also the place for _____ to deepen their faith.
3. Sunday School is important because they are our _____.
4. Sunday School is another opportunity to _____ through Sunday School gatherings, information sent home, and outreach events.
5. Sunday School is the _____ and _____ arm of the church and the vehicle for youth to learn to _____. An effective youth Sunday School leader helps youth involve other youth in love and caring activities and plans regular _____ times. In a thriving youth Sunday School, leaders and youth use all sorts of opportunities to witness to unsaved youth, trying to involve them in Youth Sunday School and in the church.
6. Youth need a Sunday School where they are involved and excited about studying the Bible and _____.
7. Meaningful Youth Sunday Schools have leaders who teach youth to support the entire _____ and _____.
8. Youth need an area that is _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____, especially when the youth can help plan how to decorate and use their space.
9. Sunday School is important because it can provide youth leaders who are enthusiastic and are constantly growing spiritually. Youth need leaders who are committed to a _____, and attend _____ to improve their methods of teaching and understanding of youth.
10. Youth want and desire to engage in _____. Youth leaders need to provide their students with firsthand experiences of God's love. Discover ways to give them _____ - _____ - _____ with God. Provide arenas in which they can explore their faith and _____, not what their parents believe.

Josh McDowell states: "Our kids are no longer asking which faith is true or most credible, but which faith works for them. So to take our students beyond subjective beliefs, we must not only show that Christianity works, but we must also show that it actively works because it is true."¹

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