

Revitalizing Sunday School

Part 3: Re-Selling

Sunday School



Instructor's Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Make copies of the participant booklet for each participant
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

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The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Module Introduction	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce module, objectives, and outline.
II. Lecture	25 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator presents information that will help participants see Sunday School as an effective method for making disciples.
III. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants work in teams to reflect on the information presented in the lecture and begin applying the concepts.
IV. Discussion	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how the information will assist in their leadership. Two possible questions to start the discussion in addition to the questions answered during the exercise are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new ideas or thoughts did God reveal to you? What new techniques will you begin using as you think about others in your church?
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	20 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants begin preparing for their homework assignment: Based on the responses to the questions in the Small Group Exercise, develop a plan implementing at least two of the six tasks. In preparing for these activities, participants discuss how, who, when, and expected results.
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 75 mins.			

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For more information go to :

I. Module Introduction

(5 Minutes)

Notes

Distribute Participant Material

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.

The participant material includes:

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

The purpose of this module is to:

See Sunday School effectively making disciples.

The objectives for this module are:

- *Develop ways to get people to consider Sunday School as a desirable method of spiritual growth*
- *Make Sunday School “user-friendly”*
- *Prepare leadership to promote Sunday School*

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II. Lecture

(25 Minutes)

Notes

Robert Raikes started the Sunday School in the 1770's, first to minister to prisoners. They were not receptive. Raikes still hoped to bring moral change to his society, so he started a school for children. The only time available for these working children was on Sunday.

In 1780 John Wesley adapted the Sunday School to fit the Methodist movement. In the next four years, the number of Methodists jumped from 50,000 to 250,000.

Here is the point:

1. Sunday School has always changed to meet needs.
2. Sunday School can be adapted to our culture and times.
3. Here are some marketable adaptations of Sunday School.

The Sunday School is **FAMILY** fellowship around God's Word.

- In your mind's eye yank Sunday School out of the typical classroom and place people in a living room.
 - The class **FOSTERS** fellowship.
 - The classroom setting is to be **RELAXED** and inviting.
 - Imagine soft chairs, sofas, and lamps instead of chairs and tables.
 - Sunday School **INVITES** people to enjoy the learning experience in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Families **ADOPT** the Father's values and behavior
 - Christian education cannot stop with merely learning **IDEAS**.
 - Christian education results in **VALUING** what is important to God.
 - Education through Sunday School **CHANGES** behavior.

The Sunday School is an **EVANGELISM** task force.

- The successful Sunday School class will be **OUTREACH** oriented.
- Sunday School classes will **MOBILIZE** adults to become inclusive.
- An evangelistic Sunday School class will **TRAIN** people to develop

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For more information go to :

II. Lecture (cont.)

friends among sinners.

- Sunday School will **OFFER** hospitality as a priority service.

The Sunday School is a pastoral **CARE** unit.

- Sunday School classes will assure its members are **NURTURED** spiritually.
- Classes will **PRAY** for emotional and physical healing.

Classes will **EMPOWER** people to relate well socially.

Sunday School can be **EXPLAINED** in new ways (as suggested above).

The important question is: How do we **COMMUNICATE** these ideas to people?

III. Small Group Exercise

(15 Minutes)

The small group exercise portion of the module provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

Turn to the Small Group Exercise portion of your participant handout. Work with the team members from your church to complete the questions. You will have 15 minutes to complete the questions.

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions. Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

IV. Discussion

(5 Minutes)

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about the purpose and importance of Sunday School.

If you're ahead of schedule, the discussion can go a few extra minutes.

IV. Discussion (cont.)

However, it's easy to lose track of time so watch the clock.

Call the group back together and open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, start with one of the questions they discussed during the exercise.

Questions from Small Group Exercise

1. Add to the following ways to communicating the values of Sunday School:
 - a. Pulpit announcements
 - b. Personal explanations
 - c. Descriptions in the newsletter
 - d. Listing of classes in bulletin
 - e. Invitations mailed to non-attenders
 - f. Retraining the leadership team
 - g. Running all programs of the church through the Sunday School classes
 - h. Plan a high-visibility event through the Sunday School
 - i. Honor teachers and/or class officers publicly
 - j. Give testimonies of Sunday School's successes
2. Which four ways will best communicate the new Sunday School?
3. Which of the following facts most impress you?
 - a. The religious consciousness of America was shaped by Sunday School.
 - b. America's language and symbolism is heavily influenced by the Bible.
 - c. Twenty-four percent (24%) of America is in Sunday School every week. — The Gallop Poll
 - d. "Sunday School is the small group method of choice for large and fast growing churches." — John Vaughn, Church Growth Today
 - e. "As goes the Sunday School, so goes the church" — Bill M.

IV. Discussion (cont.)

Sullivan

- f. “Sunday School Christianized America.” — Bill M. Sullivan
- g. Growing churches usually have growing Sunday Schools.
— Nazarene Church Growth Research Center
- h. America wants to study the Bible. — Princeton Religion Research Center, The Unchurched American
- i. Eighty-six (86%) percent of America want their children to receive religious instruction. — Princeton Religion Research Center, The Unchurched American
- j. “Sunday School can live again if we are willing to love again.” — Bill M. Sullivan

How can these facts be used to heighten the importance of Sunday School?

V. Action Planning/Reporting

(20 Minutes)

This section gives the participants an opportunity to discuss their plans for using this information when they return to their churches, as well as how they will share the information with others.

The homework assignment for this module is:

Based on the responses to the questions in the Small Group Exercise, develop an action plan for communicating the value of Sunday School. Also, develop a plan for two teaching opportunities where the material from Revitalizing Sunday School is taught.

Let’s take about 20 minutes to discuss how you will use begin impacting your Sunday School when you return to your church. In your material you have an Action Planning/Reporting page with your homework assignment. In your teams discuss and document how you will complete this assignment before we meet again. You will probably need to continue this discussion when you return home.

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V. Action Planning/Reporting (cont.)

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions that are not focused on developing a plan and guide them into developing a plan. Let the groups know when there are five minutes remaining and ask them to begin to conclude their discussions.

VI. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.

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