

Sunday School Ministry - Teaching God's Word

Why we need Sunday School Ministry?

Teaching is the fundamental ministry of the church. In Mt 28:19-20, "baptizing" and "teaching (all that I have commanded you)" are put together side by side to fill out the mandate of disciple-making as well as to demonstrate that "teaching God's word" is the "extension" of "evangelism leading to baptism." To fulfill this Great Commission, Paul reminds his churches that Christ has gifted the church with 5 special spiritual leaders, including "evangelist" and "pastor and teacher" (Eph 4:11). They, together with apostles and prophets, have the responsibility to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry. Teaching God's word is thus essential for the spiritual health of a church and its members.

Characteristics and attributes of Sunday School Teachers

1) A heart for God

This is where all ministry begins, whether we are teaching Sunday School or leading the entire church. In fact, this is where our ministry should flow from – a deep, sincere, committed heart for God.

2) A love for people

Scripture teaches that the two greatest commands are to love God and to love . . . people (Mark 12:30-31)! Our motivation for teaching originates from our love of God and also our love of people. This means we are committed to understanding and building relationships with the people we are teaching.

3) A passion for God's Word

The content of our teaching needs to be solidly based on Biblical truth. A Sunday School teacher has the passion for digging into God's Word not just for teaching, but to understand it fully and allow it to permeate every part of his life (Ez 7:10). Teaching Sunday school is based on a life saturated with the Word.

4) A habit of praying

Oswald Chambers, the author of *My Utmost For His Highest*, said "Prayer does not equip us for greater works, prayer is the greater work." A Sunday School teacher knows that only the power of God can bring about any transformation in the human heart, so a deep dependence on God, exhibited through the habit of praying, is essential for a Sunday School teacher.

5) A commitment to personal growth

A Sunday School teacher continues to grow spiritually. Luke 2:52 says that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all the people." Basically, he grew mentally, spiritually and socially. A great example for any Sunday School teacher.

6) The gift of teaching

While some may have the aptitude of teaching in a general sense, teaching God's Word is a spiritual ministry; as such, one cannot teach unless he is gifted by the Holy Spirit to do so. The gift is observed and confirmed by the community of faith and authorized by the leadership.

7) An ability to teach

A Sunday School Teacher must have a level of competence or ability in rhetorics, presentation, leading discussions, answering questions and objections, lesson preparation, etc.

8) A willingness to prepare

It really doesn't matter if you have the ability to teach if you're not willing to prepare. Although an experienced teacher can sometimes "wing it" in a pinch, they know that is not effective. On the other hand, a great teacher always spends time preparing so students can get the best out of each class. Preparation takes time and effort, and Sunday School teachers are willing to do both faithfully.