

A Franchising Sunday School

Introduction

Fast food companies made a profound decision one day – they wanted to sell more hamburgers! They realized that one restaurant could only sell so many hamburgers, so the best way to increase hamburger sales was to increase the number of restaurants. The result – franchising! Now, *they're everywhere!* You find them on street corners not only in America, but all over the world.

Our Sunday Schools need to learn the principle of franchising. We have something to franchise that is better than a hamburger! We want to franchise the kingdom work of the Sunday School - reaching people, teaching people, and ministering to people. That is why we ought to “*expect classes to reproduce.*”

Benefits of a Franchising Sunday School *A Franchising Sunday School will...*

1. Bring new and more life to the Sunday School organism.
2. Establish more classes in which to assimilate more people.
3. Put more people to work in the ministry.
4. Employ more people in the work of the Great Commission.

WHY Start New Classes?

1. Question: Should a Christian reproduce himself by leading others to become Christians? Should a church reproduce herself and plant other daughter churches? Then does it not stand to reason that a class should reproduce herself and birth daughter classes?
2. Question: Will it help us accomplish the Great Commission? Will it help us accomplish the tasks of Sunday School?
 - Most classes reach a saturation point after two years.
 - New Classes = New Workers = New Growth
3. Question: Does God want us to start new classes?
 - God gave the church a Stimulus Plan.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

- New Classes = New Workers = New People = New Growth

Why Don't We Start New Classes?

1. The class has worked hard to grow to her current status.
2. The class is reluctant to give up her best class members.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

3. Ultimate Question: Whose Kingdom are you building?

WHEN Do We Start New Classes?

1. Question: Have we developed new leaders for the new class?
2. Question: Have we discovered new prospects for the new class?
3. Question: Is it the right time of the year to start a new class?

HOW Do We Start New Classes?

1. Birthing – developing new leadership for the daughter class and send them out.
2. Trailblazing – current teacher leaves existing class with seed members and the associate teacher takes over the mother class.
3. Relationally – birthing a new class by taking a Care Group as seed members for the new class.
4. Topically – starting a new class around a subject of study.
5. New Members – start a new class from your new members' class.

Barriers to Starting New Classes

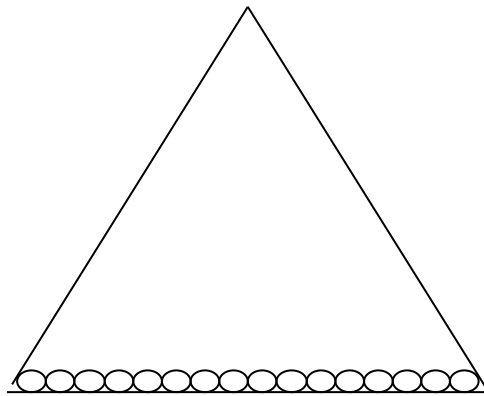
1. The focus of the class is turned inward.
2. An unwillingness to pay the price for growth.
3. Poor leadership.
4. Possessing a “hiker's attitude” rather than a “trailblazer's attitude.”

“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation.” (Romans 15:20)

5. Over-attachment to one particular teacher, one particular room, or one particular class.

Pyramid Principle of Sunday School Growth

Operating Principle: The broader the base, the higher the pyramid (more classes create more potential for reaching, teaching, and ministering to people).



**Let's franchise our Sunday School so that we can say about our classes...
“They're Everywhere!”**