

Sunday School as a Strategy

strategy: a careful plan or method for achieving a particular goal usually over a long period of time

Two Critical Questions

Critical Question #1: What?

What is our purpose? *What* does God have our church here to accomplish?

- The *What* question gives the church her mission.

Critical Question #2: How?

How are we going to do the *What*? *How* are we going to accomplish our purpose?

- The *How* question gives the church her strategy.

Observations About Being Strategic

1. Most churches are missional, but not strategic!
2. Our failure to accomplish the Great Commission is mostly a breakdown of not having and implementing a strategy.
3. Every mission needs a strategy!
4. Churches have Sunday School, but they do not use their Sunday School.

Strategic Questions for Every Church

1. Does your church have a strategy to fulfill the Great Commission?
2. Is your church program-driven or strategy-driven? Do programs drive your church or does strategy drive your programs?
 - “Strategy is simply resource allocation.” (Jack Welch)
3. Is your church very busy but going nowhere?
 - “The essence of strategy is choosing what not to do.” (Michael Porter)
4. Does your church need a strategy?

12 Reasons Why Sunday School Should Be Your Strategy

1. Sunday School focuses on the teaching/learning of the Word of God!

2. Sunday School is for all ages.
3. Sunday School meets during prime time – Sunday morning.
4. Sunday School is attended more than any other ministry.
5. Sunday School is tasked with the responsibility to reach lost and unchurched persons.
6. Sunday School is an open group.
7. Sunday School assimilates people into the church.
8. Sunday School is the people's ministry.
9. Sunday School affords more opportunity for people to exercise their spiritual gifts.
10. Sunday School equips more people for the work of the ministry.
11. Sunday School is the church's foundational discipleship venue.
12. Sunday School is how we "do" church! It is our strategy!

What Is Sunday School's Biblical Strategy
Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 28:18-20

1. Reaching People
2. Teaching People
3. Ministering to People

Reaching People

1. Are we organized to reach people? Are we properly age-graded? Do Adult Groups have too broad age spans?
 - The Mission is everything so everything should move toward the Mission!
2. Are we evangelistic? When is the last time lost people attended your class? Did your class lead anyone to Jesus last year? Is your class expanding the Kingdom? Is outreach ever discussed with your class? Does your class intentionally reach out to lost and unchurched people?
3. Do we expect our Sunday School classes to reach lost and unchurched persons?

- Historically, churches that have *used* Sunday School as their outreach/evangelistic arm have been effective.
4. Do we have an intentional outreach strategy?
 - Strategically, churches that have *used* Sunday School as their outreach/evangelistic arm have been effective.
 5. Sunday School is not a destination but a base of operation!
2 Kings 7:3: “Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said one to another, ‘Why sit we here until we die?’”
 6. Are we more culturally driven or biblically driven?
 - We should be biblically driven and culturally aware instead of culturally driven and biblically aware.
 7. What disturbs God the most...iniquity in the streets or indifference in the saints?
 - We act like we’ve arrived instead of acting like we’re sent!

Teaching People

1. Do we have an intentional scope and sequence approach to studying the Scripture?
 - Do we have a holistic approach to Scripture? (Matthew 4:3-4)
2. Are we enlisting teachers appropriately?
 - Do we have an enlistment plan? (James 3:1)
3. Are we providing on-going training for our teachers and leaders?
4. Are we raising up new teachers? (2 Timothy 2:2)
5. Are we producing disciples? Are we seeing transformation in the lives of our Sunday School members? A Disciple of Jesus...
 - Denies self, takes up his cross daily, and follows Jesus. (Luke 9:23)
 - Is continually in the Word. (John 8:31-32)
 - Serves others. (John 13:13-15)
 - Loves others. (John 13:34-35)
 - Obeys God. (John 14:15, 21, 23)
 - Produces spiritual fruit. (John 15:1-8)

Ministering to People

1. Ministry best takes place in the context of relationships.
And relationships best take place in the context of small groups.
For Sunday School & Leadership Resources from Allan Taylor
www.embertoblaze.org or (770) 354-5909

Therefore, ministry best takes place in the context of small groups.

2. If God sends people our way, He expects us to take care of them!
 - Your Sunday School roll is actually your ministry list. That is, it represents the people to whom your class is to minister. (Proverbs 27:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
3. The early church took care of each other. (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37) Paul collected from the churches to help the church at Jerusalem.
4. In the book of Acts, the early believers prioritized their church community over all other communities. (Acts 2:44-46; 5:42)

Sunday School as a Practical Strategy

1. Sunday School as your church strategy allows you to funnel everything through Sunday School.
 - Local Outreach
 - Teaching the Bible
 - Ministering to People
 - Global Missions
 - Fellowship
 - Community Projects
 - Financial Benevolence
 - Discipleship Groups
2. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates church silos.
3. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates ministry competition.
4. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates multiple announcements and promotions.
5. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates multiple ministries all vying for the same leadership talent.
6. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates a lot of meetings.
7. Sunday School as your church strategy eliminates church complexity.
8. Sunday School as your church strategy makes the church simple!