

Sunday School as a Strategy

Allan Taylor

Sunday School as a Strategy

- strat-e-gy: a careful plan or method for achieving a particular goal usually over a long period of time

Sunday School as a Strategy

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.



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Two Critical Critical Questions

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.



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Observations About Being Strategic

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Observations About Being Strategic

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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 most do not use their Sunday School.



Sunday School as a Strategy

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?
3. Is your church very busy but going nowhere?
4. Does your church need a strategy?



Sunday School as a Strategy

12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

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2. SS is for all ages.
3. SS meets during prime-time – Sunday morning.
4. SS is attended more than any other ministry.



Sunday School as a Strategy

12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

5. SS is tasked with the responsibility to reach lost and unchurched persons.

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

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6. SS is an open group.
7. SS assimilates people into the church.

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

8. SS is the people's ministry.

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

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9. SS affords more opportunity for people to exercise their spiritual gifts.

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

8. SS is the people's ministry.
9. SS affords more opportunity for people to exercise their spiritual gifts.
10. SS equips more people for the work of the ministry.



Sunday School as a Strategy

12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

11. SS is the church's foundational discipleship venue.

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12 Reasons Why SS Should Be Your Strategy

11. SS is the church's foundational discipleship venue.

12. SS is how we “do” church! It is our strategy!



Sunday School as a Strategy

What Is Sunday's School's Biblical Strategy?

Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 28:18-20

1. Reach People
2. Teach People
3. Minister to People



Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

1. Are we organized to reach people? Are we properly age-graded? Do Adult Groups have too broad age spans?

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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!



Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

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?



Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

3. Do we expect our SS classes to reach lost and unchurched persons?
- Historically, churches that have *used* Sunday School as their outreach/evangelistic arm have been effective.

Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

4. Do we have an intentional outreach strategy?
 - Strategically, churches that have *used* Sunday School as their outreach/evangelistic arm have been effective.

Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

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?’”



Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

6. Are we more culturally-driven or biblically-driven?
 - We should be biblically-driven and culturally aware instead of culturally-driven and biblically-aware.

Sunday School as a Strategy

Reaching People

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!

Sunday School as a Strategy

Teaching People

1. Do we have an intentional scope and sequence study/approach to Scripture?
- Do we have a holistic approach to Scripture?
(Matthew 4:3-4)

Sunday School as a Strategy

Teaching People

2. Are we enlisting teachers appropriately?
- Do we have an enlistment plan? (James 3:1)

Sunday School as a Strategy

Teaching People

3. Are we providing on-going training for our teachers and leaders?

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4. Are we raising up new teachers? (2 Timothy 2:2)

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5. Are we producing disciples? Are we seeing transformation in the lives of our SS members?

Sunday School as a Strategy

Minister to People

1. Ministry best takes place in the context of relationships.

And relationships best take place in the context of small groups.

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



Sunday School as a Strategy

Minister to People

2. If God sends people our way, He expects us to take care of them!
- Your SS 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)

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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.

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4. In the book of Acts, the early church prioritized their church community over all other communities. (Acts 2:44-46; 5:42)

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Sunday School as a Practical Strategy

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Sunday School as a Practical Strategy

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2. SS as your church strategy eliminates church silos.
3. SS as your church strategy eliminates ministry competition.
4. SS as your church strategy eliminates multiple announcements and promotions.



Sunday School as a Strategy

Sunday School as a Practical Strategy

5. SS as your church strategy eliminates multiple ministries all vying for the same leadership talent.

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Sunday School as a Practical Strategy

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6. SS as your church strategy eliminates a lot of meetings.
7. SS as your church strategy eliminates church complexity.
8. SS as your church strategy makes the church simple!

