

Teaching with Results



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MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

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Description

The most strategic place to serve the Lord is in the Sunday school or in a similar place where you can reach children and young people. It has been said that 75 percent of all people who come to know Christ are saved before they are twenty-five years old. Also about 90 percent of those who are called to full-time Christian work respond to the call before they are twenty-five. You can see then why teaching children and youth is not a task to take lightly. Some teachers are born, but most teachers are made. All Sunday school and Bible class teachers must be called.

Having responded to the call of God to teach a class, you will want to become the very best teacher you possibly can, and this is where this course will help you. It is not only written to train new teachers, it is written to help experienced teachers become even more effective for God. You will find the text material helpful and stimulating, and the tests and exams are designed to help you make practical use of the principles and suggestions unfolded in the lessons. May this course be a blessing to you, and you, in turn, become an increased blessing to others.

Course Components

Your course consists of two components – this study guide and an envelope containing four color-coded answer sheets.

The Study Guide

- The study guide contains all of the lessons and exams for this course. There is a self-check quiz after every lesson (true and false questions and/or multiple choice). An exam follows Lesson 3, 6, 9, and 12.

The Scantron Answer Sheets

- The color-coded Scantron answer sheets come with your course. These correspond to the exams in your study guide. Please use these sheets to mark your answers for each exam. **Use only a #2 lead pencil** to mark your answers. (Because these tests are electronically graded, ink or harder leads are not acceptable.)

Requirements and Procedures

Requirements

In order to receive credit, the four exams must be completed with an overall average grade of 70% or better. A Grade Record Sheet is provided at the beginning of your study guide to help you keep track of your standing in this course.

Procedures

Please follow the procedures listed for completing the lessons and exams in this course. As you complete each exam, mail the answer sheet to Moody Distance Learning, 820 N. LaSalle Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60610-3284, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your graded answer sheet. If you prefer, you may send multiple exams in one envelope. We request that you use the envelopes provided for this purpose.

The Lessons

- Read the study guide at a time when you can concentrate. Pick a time of the day you are most likely to be alert and relatively uninterrupted.
- Read with a pencil or pen in hand. You will want to underline words or phrases, even sentences, for later reference.

The Exams

- When you have completed all of the lessons that an exam covers, go back and review the material in the study guide. You may want to prepare by writing out your own outline of the material covered. The outlines will help you focus on the major truths discussed in each lesson.
- All exams are objective in nature and utilize the special answer sheets, or Scantron forms, provided with this course.

When taking the exam, please follow these instructions:

- It is important that you select the proper answer sheet for each exam. The answer sheet are as follows:

Exam 1 is blue

Exam 2 is green

Exam 3 is red

Exam 4 is tan

- Fill in the blanks at the top of your answer sheet. Please write legibly.
- We encourage you not to refer to your textbook or notes of any kind while taking the exam.
- Please use a #2 lead pencil to mark your answers. Fill in the spaces darkly and completely – be sure to erase any mistakes thoroughly.
- Mail your answer sheet to Moody Distance Learning along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your graded answer sheet. If you prefer, you may send multiple exams of the same course in the same envelope. Please use the envelope provided with the course, for this purpose. Please do not send the pages of the exam from the study guide.
- When you receive your graded answer sheet from Moody Distance Learning, record your grade in the appropriate box on the Grade Record Sheet. Please mail in the Grade Record Card with your last exam(s). Keep your exams for future reference.

Lesson 1

Finding Your Place in God's Plan

SQ3R: Survey, Questions, Read Recite, Review

- 1. What is God's plan for the church?*
- 2. What is the place of the Sunday school in the church?*
- 3. How important is your calling to teach?*
- 4. What place should you occupy in the lives of your students?*

See instructions on how to use these questions to improve your learning ability.

Those given the privilege of teaching Sunday school have entered a life of ministry, and will produce results that will be impossible to measure.

Who can determine the value of Edward Kimball leading one of his class members to Christ during Sunday school visitation? We never would have heard of the incident except that the young convert was D. L. Moody. One writer estimates that “in his rage to save souls he traveled more than a million miles, addressed more than 100,000,000 people, and personally prayed and pleaded with 750,000 sinners. Altogether ... it is probable that he reduced the population of hell by 1,000,000 souls.”

Or who can measure the contribution made by the teacher on his deathbed, who laid his hand on a young boy's head and said, “Make religion the everyday business of your life and not just a thing of fits and starts”? The humble ministry of this teacher gave impetus to one of the most dynamic of all missionary careers—that of David Livingstone. Doors of missionary endeavor are still being opened because of Livingstone's poured-out life.

Or who can measure the impact resulting from the faithful labors of a Sunday school teacher in helping to establish even one Christian home? A pastor recently described his great joy in welcoming two young couples, won to Christ by the teacher of the young adult Sunday school class, into church membership.

It is impossible to comprehend the importance and effectiveness of the teaching ministry in God's plan. And yet every teacher should attempt to know his or her role. Let us consider it this way:

- I. What is God's plan for the church?
- II. What is the place of the Sunday school in the plan of the church?
- III. What is my place in this plan?

God's Plan for the Church

Christ is the heart of Christianity, the heart of the church, and the heart of the Sunday school. True evangelism is not limited to an occasional revival meeting, but is an aggressive, continuous, ever-widening task, born out of compassion for a lost world. God so loved that He gave. The Father sent His Son that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Jesus knew that His mission, His compassion, His plan for the redemption of a lost world must be given to His followers. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). The last words Jesus left ringing in the ears of His disciples were, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ... and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The mission Christ gave to His church is for every Christian to take part in the discipleship process, going to the very limit of his or her ability to bring children, teenagers, and adults into a vital and personal relationship with God through Christ.

The church can accomplish this plan for a lost world only when it is mobilized by the call of God and energized by the power of the Spirit. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

The Place of the Sunday School in the Plan of the Church

To understand clearly the place of Sunday school in the plan of the church, we must first have a clear understanding of the word *church*. In casual conversation we talk about going to church, or we may urge someone to go to church. We speak of church services. How accurate is our terminology?

According to the New Testament, the local church is a visible body of believers who have heard the call of God and are united to Him by faith

in Jesus Christ. Such a local group is part of the universal church, which is a spiritual body made up of believers of all ages from all times.

The church is God's vital instrument, energized by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of carrying out the commission given by Jesus Christ: to make disciples of all nations.

But where does the Sunday school fit in?

The Sunday school movement began in the 1780s, when Robert Raikes, an English printer, took interest in the poor children of his town and founded a school to teach them the Bible one day a week. The school became successful in a short time, and news spread around the country. At first, churches opposed Raikes, feeling little good could ever come out of "Bobby Wildgoose and his ragged regiment." But before Raikes died in 1811, he saw his schools grow to a quarter of a million and the movement reached America. In the words of George R. Merrill, "He gave to the nineteenth century and to the world the most potent instrument for moral and religious advancement to be passed on to the twentieth century."

1. The Twenty-First Century

We have not witnessed the end of this powerful movement! Denominations that recognize the value of Sunday school are proving it is a potent instrument for strengthening the church.

Let us examine the most outstanding developments that characterize today's Sunday school.

- a. The Sunday school is neither an orphan nor an end in itself. Its aims are the aims of the church. It is vitally identified with the church. The church and Sunday school are inseparable because they are one. The Sunday school exists to further the work of the church—to make disciples of all nations. The Sunday school is not part of the church; it is the church functioning in a specific teaching ministry.

And so the Sunday school of the twenty-first century finds its unique place in God's plan, and as a distinct church ministry continues to help the church develop and grow.

b. The Sunday school is no longer the “ragged regiment.” Although its strength still remains in its appeal to youth, those who are using it as a church-building tool have long since ceased to refer to it as a “Sunday school for the children.”

- Since the study of the Word is food for the soul as long as we live and breathe, it is imperative that the church provide a teaching ministry for all ages. The Sunday school can accomplish this task, ministering to the entire family.

2. First-Century Methods

If the church desires its Sunday school to be “a potent instrument for moral and religious advancement,” it must follow a first-century pattern. The early church started the pattern of *individual witnessing* in obedience to Christ’s command. It was a commission to every member of the church; every follower of Christ considered it his or her personal responsibility to witness for Christ. The Sunday school is a “potent instrument,” because it is a personal ministry.

a. The church that utilizes the ministry of Sunday school offers unlimited witnessing opportunities for individual members. Many Christians desire to be a witness, but are fearful and uncertain of where to start. The Sunday school furnishes opportunities for them to obey the great commission, offering a place of service for every willing member.

b. The church that utilizes the ministry of Sunday school reaches the community. The commission to every member is simple: “Go!” In fact, it is impossible for the church to fulfill its teaching ministry without “going.” Here the church, through the Sunday school, has the unique opportunity to imitate first-century methods. The Sunday school has the potential to minister to every home in the community, reaching past obstacles, prejudices, coldness and indifference. With the compassion of Christ and the perseverance of the Good Shepherd, it wins the affection of the parents through the children and unlocks doors that would be otherwise barred to the church.

c. The church that utilizes the ministry of Sunday school is a strong soul-winning church because of its personal ministry to

individuals. Christ taught His disciples to work with individuals. They marveled that He would spend so much time with one person, but Jesus knew the value of the soul. He told His disciples they were to take the gospel to every creature. The church has an opportunity to faithfully teach individuals of all ages through the Sunday school.

These characteristics mark the church that has taken up the torch from the nineteenth century and proved “that the Sunday school offers to the world a potent instrument for moral and religious advancement.”

If you, too, will commit to the ministry of Sunday school, it can strengthen your church far beyond your highest expectations. You can be an instrument in helping your church understand the value of the Sunday school in fulfilling the great commission.

3. Apostolic Results

Steady growth is a part of God’s plan for the church. Sunday school has a place in this plan, because it is recognized today as one of the greatest contributing factors to church growth.

Occasionally we hear statements such as, “I’d rather have a good Sunday school than a big one,” or “God never called us to be big.” A careful analysis may reveal an honest heart attitude, but too often such statements come from the deception of the enemy, from a heart of indifference, or because a church is seeking to cover failure with pious excuses. We know that God desires the church to grow, and that the devil will fight every movement that strives to bring people to Christ.

Steady growth was a result of the plan of the apostolic church. “More and more men and women believed in the LORD and were added to their number” (Acts 5:14). “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7). “The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord” (Acts 11:21). Reaching people was not a question of convenience but of divine compulsion.

A truly successful Sunday school will channel its growth into every phase of church work. A growing Sunday school should mean an increase in attendance at worship services, prayer meetings, and

training groups. Tithes and offerings should be on the constant increase. Missionary giving will mean new life and growth to the missionary plan; new recruits will be enlisted and trained for work on the home base. Growth means more candidates for missionary service. Growth is healthy. Growth is life.

At this point you may be looking at the Sunday school in a new light, with a new determination to reach your community through this church-building tool. May God grant that desire. At the same time may it never be said that you are among those who pigeonhole the work of God or who extol the work of an individual plan while neglecting others. When you become involved in the ministry of Sunday school, you enlist in a mighty army united to one common task—that of adding members to the church of Jesus Christ.

Your Place in This Plan

1. Your Calling

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:27, 28).

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16).

As you teach Sunday school, you are filling a God-ordained position among your co-laborers in the gospel. God has called individuals in the church to the responsibility of building and edifying the church. To you He has given the specific calling of the teacher.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul exalts the teacher to the third highest position in God’s plan for the church: “And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers” (1 Corinthians 12:28). The office of the apostle and of the prophet are exalted today,

and rightly so, for they are God’s ordained ministers to preach the message of reconciliation. But what has happened to the teacher?

Many of us have heard the expression, “Oh, I just teach Sunday school.” What prophet ever declared, “I’m just a prophet”? John the Baptist, though certainly humble, was “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the LORD’ ” (Matthew 3:3). You are the voice of God to a selected group of people.

Could it be that the work of Sunday school teachers has been held in such low esteem because we have expected too little? All we have asked (and recruited) has been willingness. Undoubtedly, lowered standards, little training, little time, little effort, and little prayer leave us with a staff of those who “just teach Sunday school.”

Teacher, you have a high and holy calling! You are laboring with the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:12). You are obeying the great commission. You are investing your talent for eternal dividends. Walk worthy of your calling.

2. Your Place in the Lives of Your Students

As you look at your class and see only five naughty, squirming boys, you may be tempted to feel that this is a small task indeed. Five doesn’t seem like many compared to a congregation of hundreds. Your class is small because it is your privilege and opportunity to specialize in meeting the particular needs deep in the heart of each student.

As a teacher, your first task is to open the Word of God to your students in such a way that they will discover how to live by its instructions. It is unlikely that you will succeed in such an endeavor unless you have won your way into the heart of each individual. Socrates once sent a boy home, saying, “I can teach him nothing, he doesn’t love me.” If you are a friend to the lonely, a counselor to the misunderstood, an evangelist to the sinner, and a shepherd to the straying, you will be a teacher indeed. The task of the teacher is big, because it is a personal ministry to each individual.

Teaching is not the transmission of a creed, but the transmission of a life—Christ’s and yours. Whether your lips utter it or not, you are saying: “Follow me.” Your students will copy all that you are, the bad and the good. How important it is that your life says, “Follow my

example, as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). You will have a unique closeness to your students, and as a result, they may become a reflection of you. How will your students turn out?

Your place in God’s plan is of utmost importance; perhaps its very importance may cause you to doubt your ability. Enter into it with joy and anticipation. There are ready resources to meet your every need. May “the God of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the glorious Father . . . give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength” (Ephesians 1:17-19).

The prophet Daniel gives an apt description of the personal ministry of the teacher under the miracle-working power of God: “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

SQ3R

Don’t forget to apply this learning formula to your study of this lesson. Did you *survey* it in light of the *questions*? If you did, you will see already how it helps as you *read* the lesson. Now follow through and *recite* and *review* as explained in the instructions.

Self-Check Quiz 1

This self-check test will help you evaluate what you have learned in the preceding lesson and will also help you prepare for upcoming exam. Indicate your answer to each of the following questions.

1. True or False: Edward Kimball led David Livingstone to Christ in Sunday school.
2. True or False: Every teacher needs to know where he or she fits into God's plan.
3. True or False: Believers need to have a clear understanding of what is meant in the New Testament by "the church."
4. True or False: The Sunday school may be regarded as an end in it self.
5. True or False: A growing Sunday school is a healthy thing for every local church to have.
6. True or False: The New Testament ranks "teachers" high on the list of those important in the church.
7. True or False: Teachers should win the hearts of the children entrusted to them in their Sunday school class.
8. True or False: Every teacher should live so that he or she can say to the students, "follow me".
9. True or False: Every person called to teach a Sunday school class should do so with joy and anticipation.
10. True or False: "I just teach a Sunday school class" reflects the proper humility one should have toward this ministry.

Refer to the answer key at the end of this study guide. Please do not send your answers to Moody Distance Learning.