

Suggested Resources

"I Love Sundays" A five-week campaign designed to lead members and prospects to life transformation by making Sunday the best day of their week!

Week One: Sundays Can Surprise You

Week Two: Good Sundays Make Better Mondays

Week Three: Better Sundays Make Better Families

Week Four: Sundays Can Change Your Eternity

Week Five: How Sundays Changed the World

Also: "Back to Church Sunday!" and "Reset: #Jesus Changes Everything!" www.outreach.com

The 3151 Challenge is a plan for every church member to engage lost friends and neighbors with the Gospel. The challenge is for you to focus on the following during the next month: 3> Pray for three lost friends. 1> Learn one Gospel presentation. 5> Invite five people to your group. 1> Share the Gospel with one person. www.LouisianaBaptists.org/ChurchGrowth

Are You Praying for Your Neighbors? What might God do if: every household in America were prayed for by name? People loving neighbors. Churches loving neighborhoods. Praying for entire households to believe in Jesus. www.Pray4EveryHome.com

"Come to the Lord's Table: A 28-Day Devotional Guide" to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Lead on the four Wednesday nights prior to the Lord's Supper. Claude King, LifeWay.

Brochures: Available at LouisianaBaptists.org/Adults

- "Becoming: A Church-Tested Strategy for Developing Adult Disciples who Make Disciples."
- "Staying Connected: How can you keep members from dropping out?"
- "Adults + Bible Study = Changed Lives: How to focus on what your members will learn and not on what you teach."

Pastor's Sunday School Class: Most churches have members and prospects who come to worship only. Since the worship center is in their comfort zone, start a pastor-led class in the sanctuary- perhaps only thirty minutes long; mostly lecture format, assuring attenders they will not be asked to read scripture, pray, or answer questions aloud. Goal is to get them in the habit of coming a few minutes early and experiencing the benefits of a Sunday School class. After a few months, encourage attenders to attend a new class formed from the Pastor's Sunday School class.

High Attendance Day in Sunday School: Classes set goals two weeks prior to the actual High Attendance Day, giving two weeks to make multiple contacts to everyone on their rolls, plus prospects, and inactive members. Set challenging, but realistic goals. Total class goals for a churchwide goal. Celebrate whatever happens! We cannot control attendance, but we can control how many contacts we make. Enroll new people in appropriate class for continued follow-up ministry.

What's your strategy this year?

7 KEY REASONS YOUR CHURCH ATTENDANCE MAY BE DECLINING

by Thom Rainer

1. "Cultural Christians" no longer see the need to attend church.
2. Church members are attending less frequently. Three decades ago, a very active church member attended three times a week. Today we call those who attend three times a month an active church member.
3. Expectations are lower for church members. One of the reasons church members attend less frequently is that very little is expected of them in many churches.
4. Insufficient emphasis on groups. This reality may be one of the most neglected areas of church life. Groups of all kinds – home groups, small groups, Sunday School classes, life groups, and others – are key to assimilation and greater commitment. The importance of groups must begin with the pastor and all other key leaders in the church.
5. Inward focus. In too many churches, the emphasis is on "me, myself, and I." ... rather than the eternal destinations of their neighbors.
6. No clearly defined process of discipleship. Growing churches are much more likely to have a clearly grasped and implemented process of discipleship than declining churches.
7. No strategic plans for multi-venues or multi-campus.

(FactsandTrends.net/2015/08/31; accessed 9/2/2015.)



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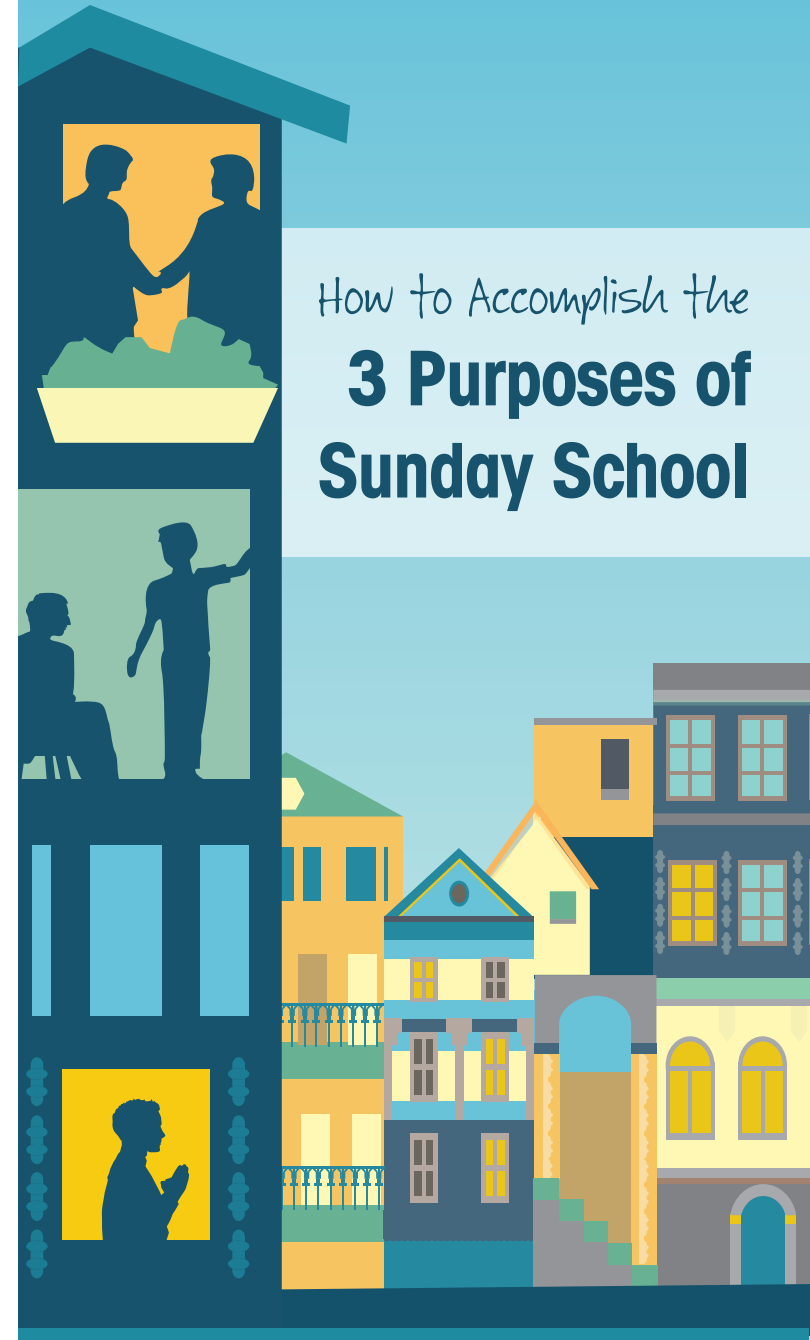
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How to Accomplish the 3 Purposes of Sunday School

REACHING
TEACHING
MINISTERING

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Clue: See the front cover of this brochure.

The larger question is how do you go about fulfilling those purposes?

This brochure contains specific steps and resources you can implement to fulfill the 3 purposes Jesus models in Matthew 9:35-38.

So...what is your Sunday School or small group doing to:

Reach people?

Teach people?

Minister to people?

Check out the 2 six-month strategies listed on the next panels to get you started.

TWO 6-MONTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STRATEGIES

MATTHEW 9:35-38

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)

THE THREE PURPOSES OF A CHURCH'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Reach people

"preaching the gospel of the kingdom"

Teach people

"teaching in their synagogues"

Minister to people

"healing every sickness and every disease"

JAN

- Church-wide Outreach/In-reach Night
- Sunday School High Attendance Day
- Offer a training event for workers

FEB

- Church-wide Outreach/Inreach Night
- Start a Pastor's Sunday School Class
- The 3151 Challenge

MAR

- Vacation Bible School Planning Team
- Host a Block Party
- Prayer Walk

APR

- Easter: Invite prospects and inactive members to special services and/or musicals
- 28-Day Dev. Guide for Lord's Supper

MAY

- Neighborhood prayer walk and flyer distribution for VBS
- Invite in-active members and prospects to baby dedication

JUN

- Vacation Bible School
- Follow-up Night with decisions and prospects

JUL

- Follow-up, Follow-up, Follow-up with VBS prospects and decisions
- Prayer walk your church community and schools

AUG

- "I Love Sundays!" Five-week Attendance Campaign
- Bring pre-teens to PreTeen Invasion
- ReGroup Conference (training)

SEP

- Outreach/In-reach Night (visits, cards, letters, phone calls, text messages, etc.)
- Offer a training event for workers

OCT

- Sunday School High Attendance Day
- Everyone on every roll contacted
- Start a Pastor's Sunday School class

NOV

- Invite prospects and inactive members to Thanksgiving services and activities
- Bring teenagers to Youth Evangelism Celebration

DEC

- Invite prospects and inactive members to all special Christmas musicals and services
- Church-wide mission project