

# Coffee Talk

Conversation Starter Sheet for Children's Bible Study Leaders

## Follow Up

Follow up is essential to the growth of your Sunday School class! There are two main areas where follow up is needed: week to week and after big events.

### Week to Week ...

Remember! Sunday School is built during the week and just meets on Sundays! Contacting your students during the week is a great way to encourage your core kids, reach out to those that haven't been in a while and connect with visitors. Here are a few ways that you can do this!

- ✓ Use your Sunday School roll to make phone calls, send mail, or make personal visits to students who may have missed recently or whose family has just joined the church.
- ✓ If you can get the information from students and parents, make an effort to attend their recitals or ball games throughout the year. We are all busy, but that child will never forget you coming to support them in their element. You don't have to attend every game. Even one visit makes an impact!
- ✓ Mail out birthday cards to students! This is a great way to make them feel special!
- ✓ You can also mail cards to students that have missed a week or two. Try to be genuine and inviting! Be sensitive to students that may have to miss because they are going back and forth between Mom and Dad.
- ✓ Make up personal invites to big church events like VBS or Fall Festival. It's a great reminder to families about the event as well as a way to build a connection.
- ✓ Host a Sunday School party! This is a fun way to see your students outside of Sunday and you'll get to spend a little more time with parents. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just fun!
- ✓ Teach and encourage your core students to write cards and join you on personal visits to students that have missed and visitors. Instill the importance of keeping up with our church family!
- ✓ Recruit help! There may be adults in your church that want to help, but are uncomfortable teaching children's Sunday School. They can help you make phone calls and mail outs!

### **Big Events ... VBS, Fall Festival, Kids Camp, Easter, etc**

Planning follow up is part of the event itself! If you wait till after the event to make a follow up plan you may either never get to it or you may miss the window of opportunity to connect with the student and their family. This is a great way to get adults involved that want to help, but don't know how. If you have a follow up team they can be a great help and you won't burn out volunteers that worked the big event. Here are a few ideas to help you create a follow up plan!

- Registration Cards at the event. You can use these cards to draw for door prizes at the event and to have info on hand in case you need to get in touch with a parent during the event. Then after the event you can use the info on the cards to send cards or make phone calls to those who do not attend your church. Consider giving them an option on the card to ask for more information about your church. Address mail to the child, if possible.
- Plan a non-intrusive follow-up time. Prepare a small gift bag for each child that has never been to your church. Such as, first time visitors to VBS. Then on the Sunday evening following VBS have church members gather and take the bags to the children's homes. Remind them this is just a drop off visit to thank them for coming, not an intensive presentation visit. You are laying groundwork for future relationships with the family. You do not want to appear pushy at this point.
- Already have a follow up event planned to take place 2-3 weeks after your big event. It can be something on a smaller scale, but it's something that you can invite guests to other than regular Sunday morning activities. This may be a good time to have your Sunday School party!
- Spiritual follow up is critical especially after evangelistic events like VBS and camp. Consider having a letter or packet prepared in advance for students that make a decision to take home to parents explaining what happened and how they can help their child take the next step.
- Have a discipleship class already in place to begin 2-3 weeks after the event. Invite parents to attend a baptism class with their child before the baptism takes place. No matter what you choose to do, include parents as much as you can and encourage them to be the primary one to disciple their child!