

Teaching Plan for Preschool Leaders



Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for Sunday School Growth

Prepared by:

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Purpose: The purpose of this conference is to lead preschool Sunday School teachers to see the importance of expecting great things to happen in their Sunday School classes and to be effective in the weekly teaching of preschoolers.

How to use this plan

- For the local church: Use to train Preschool Sunday School leaders during a local church training or kick-off event.
- For regional and state training: Use to train Preschool Sunday School leaders in state or associational training events.

Preparation

1. Gather a few theme items for display such as: seed packets of flowers or other plants for each conferee, various size flowerpots, small window box, small bag of potting soil, gardening gloves, gardening tools, and two small watering cans.
2. Create a focal wall with large pictures of a watering can, flowerpot, gardening gloves, and flowers.
3. Cover the display table in a green accent cloth.
4. Display the following age group curriculum in and around a small window box: *Bible Teaching for Kids for Babies Leader Pack*, *Bible Teaching for Kids 1s & 2s Leader Pack*, *Bible Teaching for Kids Leader Guide*, *Early Bible Steps*, *Music and More for Babies*, *1s & 2s Enhance CD ROM*, *Bible Teaching for Kids 3s – Pre-K Leader Guide*, *Teaching for Kids 3s – Pre-K Leader Pack*, *Music and More for 3s – Pre-K Enhanced CD ROM*, *Bible Teaching for Kids Kindergarten Leader Guide*, *Bible Teaching for Kids Kindergarten Leader Pack*, *Kindergarten Connection*, *Music and More for Kindergarten Enhanced CD ROM* and a *Read-to-Me Bible [HCSB]*.
5. Provide one copy of *Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for Sunday School Growth* by David Francis for each participant. The book is available three ways: 1) Print copies from the file provided on this CD-Rom. 2) Download the file from www.LifeWay.com/SundaySchool and make copies. 3) Order copies for \$1 each at www.LifeWay.com/SundaySchool.

STEP One:

- Place a seed packet in each conferees chair.
- Provide several tear sheets and watercolor markers.
- Write the following questions on two individual large tear sheets; "How does your church greet visitors?" and "How do you greet preschoolers who are visiting for the first time?"
- Prepare a placard for each of the following statements:

- ☐ Greet parents with a smile.
- ☐ Speak to a child on his eye level.
- ☐ Create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors and members.
- ☐ Prepare signage throughout the preschool area that guides parents to the correct classroom.
- ☐ Encourage teachers to arrive early and be ready when the first child arrives.
- ☐ Use a security system that is easy for both the parent and the teacher.
- ☐ Prepare nametags for teachers to wear to identify themselves to the parent.
- ☐ Prepare nametags for each child (make multiple name tags for Babies – 1s that identify their belongings).
- ☐ Hang the appropriate poster for the month's unit on the wall near the door for all parents to see.
- ☐ Always find something encouraging to say about the child and the experiences he had during the session.

Place the 10 statements near a bag of soil.

- Provide three sets of three different color post-it notes.
- Duplicate Handout 1 – Making a First Impression.
- Duplicate Handout 2 – Notes.

STEP Two:

- Prepare two placards: Agree and Disagree.
- Prepare two placards: Identify what goes on in a Sunday School Session.
- Provide two small watering cans and 20 strips of paper, cut to 2 ½ inch x 8 ½ inch lengths.
- Duplicate Handout 3 – What Happens In A Planning Meeting.
- Duplicate Handouts 4 & 5 – LifeSpan Development and Hear Know Do handouts.

STEP Three:

- Prepare these placards: Space, Resources, Leadership, Prayer, and Class Member.
- Place four large colorful sheets over the first four words above, leaving Class Member uncovered.
- Find 4 colors of various ribbons. Cut 2 sets in 3 feet lengths.
- Duplicate Handout 6 – Enlisting Leaders & Enrolling Prospects.

Procedures

STEP One – Expect New People Every Week

1. Greet conferees as they arrive. (Slide 1) Play music from one of the Music and More CD- ROMs. Place a seed packet in each conferee's chair. (Slide 2) [3 minutes]
2. Encourage conferees to answer these questions that you have displayed on tear sheets: How does your church greet visitors? How do you greet preschoolers who a visiting for the first time? (Slides 3-4) Discuss their responses. Emphasize that our greetings often set the pace for the morning. [5 minutes]

3. Ask conferees to find a partner and locate a statement near the bag of soil. Instruct each couple to discuss why this statement is important to the child, parent, or teacher. (Slide 5) Distribute Handout 1 – Making a First Impression. (Slides 6-13) Making a good first impression is important. Discuss how this helps lay the groundwork for reaching as well as ministering to preschoolers and their families. [15 minutes]
4. Form three or four groups depending on the number of conferees. Ask each group to choose the products they use in Sunday School and identify ways the curriculum helps them prepare for a great teaching session. Distribute three different colors of post-it notes to each group. Direct conferees to use post-it notes to label the curriculum in three ways: one color identifies ways the curriculum helps them gather the correct items for the Sunday School session, another color to classify ways the curriculum helps them teaching in Sunday School, and the final color will indicate ways the curriculum helps them discover opportunities for ministry to the child during the week. When conferees have completed the activity ask each group to report their result. (Slides 14-17) Distribute Handout 2 – Notes. [15 minutes]

STEP Two – Expect People to Say Yes

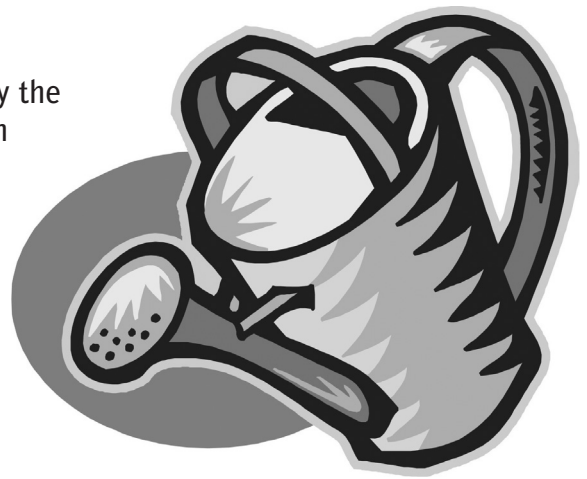
1. Parents notice when you are doing a good job of teaching by the way you respond to their children and the way their children respond to you. People like being part of something that is exciting and they might be open to saying “yes” when you need them.

2. Play a game entitled “Agree or Disagree.” As you read the following statements ask conferees to stand near the sign that expresses their response. (Slides 18-23)

- A. Preschoolers may be enrolled in Sunday School anytime with the permission of their parents.
- B. Children must come three times before they can be enrolled in Sunday School.
- C. Every visitor needs to be placed on a class roll.
- D. Place every visitor on a prospect list.
- E. Contact visitors and members when they are absent.

Discuss each statement to find out why conferees were in agreement or in disagreement. As teachers we want parents to say “yes” to enrollment. [10 minutes]

3. Talk briefly about how teachers can make the room inviting for children. Discuss the value of the room meeting the physical, social, mental, and spiritual needs of the child. Read the following statements and ask them if they meet the physical, social, mental, or spiritual needs of the child: (Slide 24)
 - A. Open the Bible to the scripture reference for the session while the child is building blocks. (Physical/Mental/Spiritual)
 - B. Bring several items of fruit for children to arrange in a basket. Suggest that the children give the basket of fruit to someone who might need it. (Social/Spiritual)
 - C. Write the Bible verse on the back of fish cutouts and attach a paper clip to each fish. Prepare a fishing pole with a magnet. Provide a large blue sheet of paper (represents the lake) and place the fish on the sheet. Encourage children to fish and put the Bible verse together. (Spiritual/Physical/Mental)



- D. Display a large floor puzzle. Take a few puzzle pieces out of the box and place them near the puzzle box. Encourage the children to complete the puzzle and review the story when they are finished. (Mental/Spiritual/Social)

Encourage leaders to see the value of each activity as it meets the individual needs of the children. [15 minutes]

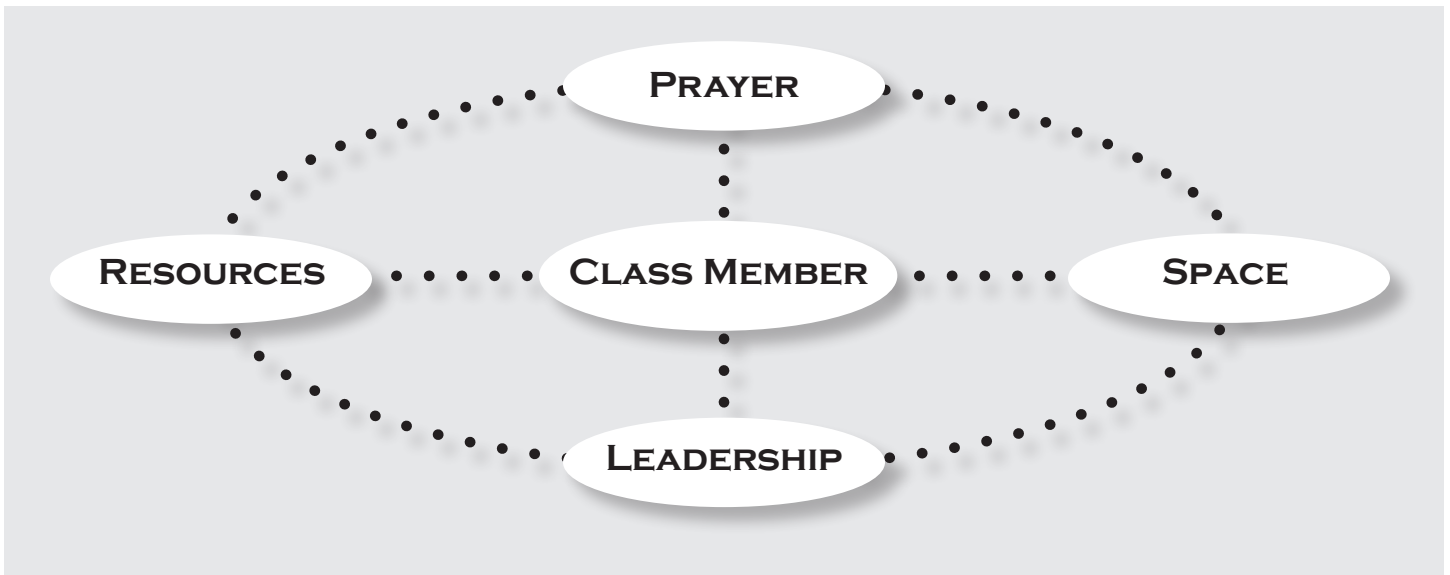
4. Ask groups to form two groups. (Slides 25-30) Encourage a discussion on the value of leadership meetings (teachers meetings). Give each group the same assignment: "Identify what goes on in a Sunday School teaching session." Give each group a watering can and strips of paper. Ask them to write their answers on the strips of paper and place them in the watering can. Think about how planning for a good Sunday morning experience does not just happen. Planning prior to the session insures someone is responsible for setting up activities, organizing resources, and prayer. In addition, encourage teachers to follow-up with ministry throughout the week, including sending birthday cards and other notes. Our job as teachers is to make the best preparation so that children can have a faith foundation that prepares them to one day follow Christ as Savior. Distribute Handout 3 – What Happens In A Planning Meeting. Distribute Handout 4 & 5 – LifeSpan Development Chart and Hear Know Do handouts and discuss the value of preschoolers hearing the truths of the Bible, beginning to understand what the truths mean, and how they can live out those truths daily (hear, know, do). Just as we add nutrients to the soil for better plants, we help the child develop a faith foundation for the rest of life. [25 minutes]

STEP 3 – Expecting Classes to Reproduce

1. Let's look back and see what we have done. We have discussed making good impressions, preparing for a great Sunday morning experience, enrolling children in Sunday School, and laying a faith foundation. Finally, let's think about our preparation for growth.
2. Clearly if we have done those things mentioned, we are on our way to growth. But there is a one more important step to growth. (Slide 31)
 - How do we begin new units?
 - How do we enlist new teachers for the classes that will need leadership?
 - Where do we find prospects?
3. Prior to this step, place the placards you prepared on the wall (see diagram below). Cover the four words in the circle and leave Class Member uncovered. (Slides 32-36)
 - Reveal the word prayer and discuss why prayer is vital in this process. Starting a new unit needs to begin with prayer. Clear and concise preparation always comes after much prayer.
 - Continue the discussion with a brief overview of space, leadership, and resources and why each of these elements is important to the class member.
 - Direct participants to form three groups. Distribute one of these placards to each group: space, leadership, and resources. Ask conferees to come up with their top 5 ways to complete the task on their assigned placard: evaluate space, enlist leadership, and determine the resources needed.



- Call for a discussion. As each group begins their discussion, place their placard back on the wall.
- Connect each one of the placards with a strip of ribbon. Continue connecting the ribbons from the Prayer, Space, Leadership, and Resources to the Class Member placard in the center. The circle will all be connected as shown below.
- Conferees can see that everything is connected to the other and that the Class Member is at the center of everything we do. [20 minutes]



4. Ask conferees to take the seed packet they received at the beginning of the conference and write the name of a prospect on the back of the packet. Distribute Handout 6 – Enlisting Leaders and Enrolling Prospects. Read the scripture passage, 1 Corinthians 3:7-8. (Slide 37) Comment that we all work together, but God gives the growth. Close in prayer for new opportunities to grow the preschool division in the churches represented in the conference.

