



Teaching Plan for Adults

I-6: A Six Lane Strategy Toward An Inviting Sunday School
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PURPOSE: To provide a two hour training experience for Adult Sunday School leaders and members to investigate six strategies designed to help us become a more INVITING Sunday School.

How to Use This Plan

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

PREPARATION:

Provide the following resources for use throughout the training:

- colored paper for name tags
- marking pens
- tape
- index cards, one for each participant
- large sheets of paper.

Gather the following materials:


- large road map
- a suitcase or back pack.

Download the following items

- *I-6: A Six Lane Strategy Toward an Inviting Sunday School*, by David Francis. For ordering information, visit www.lifeway.com or write LifeWay Church Resources Customer Service, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0113 or FAX 1-615-251-5933. Provide one copy for each participant.
- Powerpoint presentation: I-6: A Six Lane Strategy Toward an Inviting Sunday School – Adults.ppt

Make copies of the following worksheets, one for each participant:

- Worksheet 1: Jesus - Our Model for Inviting
- Worksheet 2: I-6 Strategy Great Ideas Sheet
- Worksheet 3A & 3B: We Must Incorporate
- Worksheet 4: Three Strategic Numbers



Attach a large road map as the background for a focal wall.

Prepare home made placards (or print from powerpoint presentation)

INVIGORATE (frame 12)

INCORPORATE (frame 16)

INTERCEDE (frame 25)

INVEST (frame 27)

INVITE (frame 34)

INVOLVE (frame 37)

Prepare the following home made road side “billboards” to be attached to the focal wall. (Statements are prepared as part of the powerpoint presentation.)

- 80% of people say they would probably respond positively to an invitation to attend a church or small group experience.
- You may be dismayed to know how many churches, classes, and Christians are content with the way things are.
- What are you pretending not to know?

Prepare a display of the following resources:

- *3D Sunday School*, by David Francis (ISBN: 1415826048)
- *The Unchurched Next Door*, Thom Rainer (ISBN: 0-310-24860-4)
- *High Expectations*, Thom Rainer (ISBN: 080541266-2)
- *Spiritual Gifts*, David Francis (ISBN: 0-6330-9936-8)

Provide display of selected resources designed to help adults invite and share the gospel with others. These can include the following:

- Share Jesus Without Fear
- GROW
- FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy®

Arrange chairs in a semi circle facing a focal wall. Provide colored paper, marking pens, and tape for participants to prepare their own name tag. Place colored paper for name tags on chairs so no two sheets of the same paper are on adjacent chairs. Provide marker board with markers and eraser. Arrange AV equipment for powerpoint presentation (screen, extension cord with multiple outlets) as well as CD player and selected disk for background music (optional).



PROCEDURES

Step 1: Introduction (5 min.)

As participants arrive, encourage participants to sit down. **(frame 1)** Provide background music on a CD player. Provide colored paper, markers, and tape. Instruct participants to tear a sheet of colored paper into a shape that reminds them of something they see while traveling on a highway; lead participants to print his or her name on his nametag and attach it with tape to his clothing. **(frame 2)**

Invite participants to find one person in the room with a name tag of a different color than their own. Lead partners to interview each other to discover their favorite vacation destination to which they have driven. Lead partners to discover and be prepared to share some of the challenges they faced in arriving at their destination. **(frame 3)**

Call attention to the large road map on the focal wall. State that every journey has a starting place and a destination. Explain that our destination and objective is to become a more inviting Sunday School **(frame 4)**. Place the placard ("Our destination ...") on the right side of the focal wall. Identify that this training will help us move from where we currently are **(frame 5)**. Attach the "You are here" placard on the left side of the focal wall to take actions to strengthen our Sunday School.

Step 2: Jesus: Our Model for Inviting (20 min.)

Distribute worksheet 1, **Jesus – Our Model for Inviting** one copy for each participant. Lead adults in teams of 3-4 to select one passage and answer the first and second question (frame 6). As teams report, lead adults to identify that we are seeking to become an inviting Sunday School, and we are to reach the same kinds of people as Jesus did. **(frame 7)**

Lead in prayer for the opportunities and challenges we will face in becoming a more inviting Sunday School.

Reveal two "Billboards." Attach the first one on the focal wall alongside the "You are Here" sign: You may be dismayed to know how many churches, classes, and Christians are content with the way things are. **(frame 8)**

Attach the other on the focal wall alongside the "Destination" sign: 80% of people say they would probably respond positively to an invitation to attend a church or small group experience. **(frame 9)** Be prepared to explain the significance of these concepts particularly as they relate to our Sunday School.



Reveal a suitcase or back pack. Invite participants to brainstorm top priorities to pack on a journey toward becoming a more inviting Sunday School. **(frame 10)** Distribute colored paper and markers to each team. Assign each team one of the priorities, and lead them to create a visual to represent their priority. Attach the visuals to the side of the suitcase or back pack. Emphasize the importance of keeping these priorities before us throughout our journey.

Explain that our destination will move us from where we are through a six lane strategy to becoming more an inviting Sunday School. **(frame 11)** Distribute copies of I-6 Strategy booklet, one for each participant.

Distribute worksheet 2: **I-6 Strategy Great Ideas Note Taking Sheet** on which the six-lane strategy is provided. Invite adults to record ideas throughout the session as we deal with each strategy that will help them focus on strengths and challenges for their Sunday School. Explain that we will report these ideas as we conclude the training.

Step 3: Lane 1: Invigorate (15 min.)


Display the INVIGORATE placard **(frame 12)** on the focal wall. Define “invigorate” by explaining that we need to create an environment where people will want to invite others.

Call attention to the fact that groups of people who feel good about what they are experiencing – and the environment in which they are experiencing it – will be more likely to invite others to experience it with them! **(frame 13)**

Explain that we need to identify strengths and challenges regarding our attitude for an invigorating Sunday School class. Call attention to the need to look at our class ministry “self-esteem.” Emphasize that we also need to look at our class from our perspective as well as how others view our class.

Assign participants into one of two teams. Provide two assignments: Lead one team to put themselves in the place of a typical Adult Sunday School class. Identify challenges and opportunities for including new people into the class. **(frame 14)** As persons completing this assignment report, be prepared to include the following after the team reports:

- We have a room where we can meet
- We all have a job to do
- We have a starting and ending time
- We want people to come and be part of our group



Lead a second team to put themselves in the place of someone who has never attended an Adult Sunday School class. Identify challenges and opportunities from their perspective for becoming part of the class. **(frame 14)** Be prepared to include the following after the team reports:

- Where is the room?
- I do not know anyone
- I am not certain what they are studying – or why
- This is a scary place to go for the first time

Invite participants to overview some of the issues that are oftentimes overlooked until a class develops a culture of invitation. These can include but are not limited to the following:

- first impressions
- parking
- greeters
- we know who we are seeking to reach
- and so forth.

Reveal a poster/powerpoint with the question: What are you pretending not to know? **(frame 15)** Lead in a discussion of things we will need to examine in order to become a more inviting Sunday School.


Step 4: Incorporate (15 min.)

Reveal INCORPORATE placard **(frame 16)** and attach it to the focal wall. Explain that we need to incorporate principles that we learn from Christ honoring businesses. These principles will help us focus in a new and fresh way to our work in Sunday School.

Review some of the significant concepts provided through 3-D Sunday School that we need to incorporate into our strategy. Call attention to the 3-D Sunday School resource. Distribute worksheet 3A and 3B: **“We Must Incorporate”**, and lead participants to take notes regarding the following: **(frame 17)**

DISCOVER

1. The teacher leads the members to discover truths from the Bible and the faith stories of the people in the class.
2. The spiritual gift of shepherding best describes a balance between effective Bible teaching and caring for the “sheep” in the flock. **(frame 18)**

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3. The entire class can work to help communicate: "We're getting ready to enjoy fellowship with one another around the open Word of God!" **(frame 19)**
 4. We focus on allowing God to invigorate me! We want to be part of a Great Commission Team. **(frame 20)**

INVITE (frame 21)

Call attention to some of the principles from 1-6 mentioned by David Francis:

1. Practice good missiology. Tailor your outreach and discipleship efforts based on the characteristics of the "people group(s)" you are trying to reach.
2. Practice "The Harvest Principle" You reach all the people you can from the people group or groups God has made you good at reaching; and then you get them to help you reach out to another group.
3. Generate traffic: Get people on the property and in the building.
4. Increase your visibility.
5. Get the names! The most valuable asset a Sunday School class has is "customer information."
6. Create awareness with good advertising and signage. **(frame 20)**

CONNECT (frame 23)

Each Sunday School intentionally needs to:


1. Connect people to Christ
2. Connect people to feel part of the group
3. Connect people to be part of a ministry (where they receive ministry and where they minister to others)
4. Connect people to individuals who will help them grow to love and follow Christ

Emphasize that a class can strengthen how we incorporate these principles by having one or more persons help the class implement these actions.

(frame 24) These actions could also include identifying names and information about FRANs (Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors), providing name tags for participants each session, etc.).

Step 5. Intercede (10 min.)

Reveal the INTERCEDE placard, **(frame 25)** and attach it to the focal wall.



Ask, *"What would prayer requests look like in an inviting class? From the perspective of the teacher, the members? From those we are trying to reach?"* **(frame 26)** Lead adults to take their own name tag and record 4-5 specific prayer concerns they would want others to pray for them as they seek to build an inviting Sunday School class culture.

Distribute index cards, one for each participant. Invite one half the group to put themselves in the place of members of their Sunday School class. Lead this group to record at least one thing on their index ("Prayer request") cards they would want people to pray for to strengthen the culture of the class. Invite the other half of the group put themselves in the place of people the class is responsible for reaching. Lead this group to record at least one thing on their index ("Prayer request") cards that these people would want you to pray for on their behalf.

Lead participants to come to the focal wall and attach their "prayer request cards." Lead participants to discuss how we can strengthen our focus on interceding.

Step 6 Invest (25 min.)

Reveal the INVEST placard, **(frame 27)** and attach it to the focal wall. Emphasize that this part of our journey moves us as a class to discover a need and meet it.

Reveal and lead participants to discuss the following statement:

"The church of the Lord Jesus is in the business of meeting needs. Jesus invested in the lives of others – inviting them to something higher and greater than themselves – to invest in the grand agenda of the Kingdom of God." **(frame 28)**

Call attention to two sets of questions. One question can get us focused on ourselves: *"How can we get more people to come to our church?"* The other questions move us more toward a Kingdom conspiracy: *"What can our church/class do to make our community, our city, our ministry area a better place to live? What unmet needs are there that we can point people to Christ? How might we invest some of our resources to meet one or more of those needs?"* **(frame 29)**

Call attention Worksheet 1: **Jesus: Our Model for Inviting**. Review some of the individuals Jesus encountered. Lead in a brief discussion of ac-



tions Jesus took to help individuals become part of a Kingdom conspiracy?

Be prepared to share some brief stories of how classes have invested time and resources to meet needs as they are creating a more “inviting” ministry. **(frame 30)**

Examine one of the important cautions David Francis highlights as we seek to discover a need and meet it: *People don’t want to be your project!* **(frame 31)** In addition, be prepared to tell the following story that is provided in the INVEST segment of Francis’ book:

“Someone shared recently about their visit with a FAITH (FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy®) team in the home of a man who had recently visited their church. As they began the conversation, he said, “I’ve got one question before we start. Do you really care about me, or is this just some church obligation you’re fulfilling?” **(frame 32)**

Write the following on the INVEST placard: *“Great Commandment and Great Commission.”* Explain that you can help people in your class be part of the Great Commandment and Great Commission support group. Distribute worksheet 4: **Three Strategic Numbers**. Explain that there are three significant numbers each class needs to focus on in order to strengthen its investments: **(frame 33)**

Three Strategic Numbers

3 – each class needs a minimum of **three** workers. One person is to lead the class to discover God’s Word. One person is to lead the class for focus on inviting people to be part of the group. One person is to lead the class to help connect persons (through hospitality, ministry, and relationships).

5 – each worker is also responsible for building relationships with and seeking to minister to up to **five** persons who are members of the class.

10 – each time a new class is started with a healthy “DNA” the class will influence the overall attendance in the church by around **ten** people.

Lead participants to examine the numbers and how they will affect the way the class invests its time and resources. Likewise, lead the participants to brainstorm actions they can take to strengthen their “inviting” Sunday School.



Step 7 Invite (10 min.)

Display the INVITE placard, **(frame 34)** and attach it to the focal wall. Call attention to worksheet 1: **Jesus: Our Model for Invite**. Lead adults to focus on the same passage they read in step 2 and provide responses to the third question. Lead participants to list and discuss ways we can strengthen our inviting opportunities. **(frame 35)**

As participants report, emphasize some of the actions (stories and examples they have experienced) that identify how classes and individuals can invite people.

Ask, *What specific tools are we effectively using to invite people to Sunday School/to Christ?* Be prepared to overview some of the most significant resources and strategies available to help adults invite others and share the gospel with them. Be prepared to overview resources from the display. **(frame 36)**

Step 8 Involve (10 min.)

Reveal INVOLVE placard, **(frame 37)** and attach it to the focal wall. Write the following on the placard: *"Requires a team effort."*

Lead participants to overview some of the significant factors that each class needs to consider in order to involve more people in Kingdom work. **(frame 38)** Make certain the following are included:

- Spiritual gifts of members
- Train persons regarding evangelism
- Involve people through new member events and classes
- Involve the work of the Holy Spirit
- Enrollment and attendance are two key metrics
- We must understand "churn"

Ask the following questions: *Who is on the Great Commission team? What is each team member's job?* Review the three strategic numbers (worksheet 4) and six-lane strategy (focal wall; worksheet 2). Lead participants to discuss who in the class becomes responsible for each of the "six-lane" strategies? **(frame 39)**



Step 9 Challenge to Become More Inviting Sunday School

(10 min.)

Review the focal wall with the “You are Here” and “Destination ...” placards. Review some of the road and journey imageries (road map, road signs, cautions and detours, and billboards) that help focus on a journey for strengthening an inviting Sunday School . **(frame 40)** Invite participants to use Worksheet 2: **I-6 Strategy Great Ideas Sheet** to report ideas they gleaned from the session that will help them strengthen their class culture for inviting.

To extend the amount of time for the training, divide the group into teams so that each group focuses on one of the specific I-6 Strategies. Give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. Lead the team to summarize what concept they consider as most important from that chapter and prepare a “billboard” that communicates that concept. **(frame 41)** Teams will display their “Billboard” and briefly explain one highlight for them that focuses on that chapter or concept. As each team reports, invite adults to record and report great ideas using worksheet 2: **I-6 Strategy Great Ideas Sheet**.

Call attention to the statement: *We accomplish the Great Commission most effectively when we do it together.* **(frame 42)**

Lead in prayer to commit our Sunday School to be more INVITING.