



# I-6: Children's Teaching Plans

**Purpose:** To lead children's Sunday School teachers to a deeper understanding of and commitment to inviting children and their families to Sunday School.

**Preparation:**

1. Prepare a focal wall. Copy the I-6 "highway" sign (Item 1) on to heavy weight paper and place in the center of the wall above a skirted table. Use road maps on each side of the I-6 sign to encourage the theme. On the table, prepare a display of LifeWay's Bible Teaching for Kids Sunday School curriculum samples and copies of The 3D Sunday School Series: Invite 1-6 books.
2. Prepare enlarged copies of each "vanity plate" from handout 1. These will be added to the focal wall throughout the conference.
3. Prepare copies of handout 1 and place one in the chair of each expected conferee (used during procedure step 1).
4. Write the following statements on index cards. Place the cards in a small gift bag. (A themed gift bag would be great!) (These are used in procedure step 2):

**ON RAMPS to an Inviting Sunday School:**

- Guest parking is provided close to the main entrance.
- Walls are clean and/or freshly painted.
- Interior signage is clear and prominent.
- Hallways are clean and clutter free.
- Consideration has been given to a 1:6 teacher/child ratio.
- Obvious preparation has been made for first time guests.
- Worship is "kid/family friendly."
- Teachers are obviously prepared and excited about the Bible teaching opportunity.
- Sunday School classes are organized to do ministry.
- Measures have been taken to insure the safety of children.
- Teachers can easily be identified by children and parents.

**OFF RAMPS from an Inviting Sunday School**

- Exterior building and grounds have not been maintained.
- No one welcomes children or parents at the classroom door.
- There are no signs outside the building to the visitor welcome center.



- Carpet is worn and in need of replacing.
  - Restrooms are not maintained and need cleaning.
  - Children's classrooms are small and overcrowded.
  - Adult tables and chairs are used in children's classrooms.
  - No one greets first time guest with information about classroom locations.
  - Classrooms are cluttered with un-necessary furniture and outdated resources.
  - First time guest are singled out in the worship service.
5. Gather chenille stems to be used by conferees to create a class brand/logo. Prepare a brand/logo that represents the Sunday School class you teach (used in procedure step 3).
  6. Make copies of item 2 on to heavy weight paper. Cut out the "merge" sign and print the following instructions on the back: "List ideas used by successful corporations to increase business." You will need one sign for every 5-6 conferees expected. Provide tear sheets and markers for each small group (used in procedure step 3).
  7. Prepare copies of handout 2, "Reduced Speed Ahead: Slow Down to Pray."
  8. Gather 3"x3" sticky notes (one for each conferee). Create an "Attractions" sign by rounding off the edges of a piece of blue poster board. Across the top of the poster write "Attractions". Use black poster board to make the "legs" for the sign. (These items will be used in procedure step 6.)
  9. Make seven copies of item 3 on to heavy weight paper. Cut out the "detour" signs and print one of the following statements on the back of each sign. Attach these detour signs randomly around the focal wall (used in procedure step 7).
    - Failure to capitalize on new residents in your community.
    - Not using "E-invitations" as a viable reaching method.
    - Failing to invite prospects to class fellowships.
    - Not enrolling guest to our "ministry lists."
    - Making newcomers feel embarrassed.
    - Missing opportunities to invite others to Christ.
    - ???
  10. Gather two rolls of masking tape, two markers, and two 12" rulers (to be used in procedure step 8)
  11. Enlarge a copy of item 4 (to be used in procedure step 9)
  12. Make copies of item 5 on to heavy weight paper. Cut out these vanity plates and attach a magnet strip to the back (to be used in procedure step 9).



## Procedures:

1. **5 minutes. Introductory Activity:** As conferees enter the room, direct them to begin work on handout 1 (I-6 License Plate Decode) that has been placed in each chair. When most of the attendees have completed the assignment, review the answers. Use information in the introduction of *The 3D Sunday School Series: Invite I-6* to introduce the importance of the "Invite" dimension of a 3D Sunday School. Explain that the group will be looking at the six lanes of I-6 for a greater understanding of "Invite." (Correct answers are 1) Invigorate; 2) Incorporate; 3) Intercede; 4) Invest; 5) Invite; 6) Involve)
2. **15 minutes. Invigorate:** Add the "NVIGR8" vanity plate to the focal wall. Show the prepared gift bag with positive and negative environment statements enclosed. Allow conferees to draw one statement from the bag, read the statement and determine if that statement is an "On Ramp" statement (helps to create an environment for inviting) or an "Off Ramp" statement (hinders an environment for inviting). Allow brief discussion/clarification as necessary for each statement.
3. **10 minutes. Incorporate.** Add the "NKORPR8" vanity plate to the focal wall. Distribute chenille stems to the conferees and instruct them to use the stems to create a "brand" or "logo" that represents their children's Sunday School class. After 3 minutes, share your prepared "brand" (prep step 5) and ask for volunteers to share their creation.
4. **20 minutes. Incorporate** continued. Ask the group the following questions: "Why do you shop at your favorite retail store?" "What causes you to continually return to that store?" Allow time for responses. Share that the group will consider lessons learned from corporate retailers that might be used to create an inviting atmosphere in our Sunday School departments.

Form smaller groups of 6 or less conferees. Give each group a "merge" instruction sign, a tear sheet, and marker. Encourage the groups to complete the assignment. After 3 minutes ask each group to choose one idea on their tear sheet and "merge" that idea into a Sunday School philosophy for reaching/inviting boys and girls and their families. Encourage groups to complete the assignment and be prepared to share their work with the entire group. Remind conferees that lessons learned from corporations can help us to create an atmosphere/attitude of "invite." Encourage the group to review tips given in Lane 2: Incorporate of *The 3D Sunday School Series: Invite I-6*.

5. **15 minutes. Intercede.** Attach the "NTERCD" vanity plate to the focal wall. Ask conferees if any of them feel their lives are "too busy." State that we live in a very fast paced society that rarely allows us time for slower paced activities. Distribute copies of handout 2 to each conferee. Encourage conferees to work in pairs to list ways they can pray for kids



using the acrostic **P-R-A-Y-I-N-G F-O-R K-I-D-S**. State that it is not necessary that these ideas start with these letters, but simply have these letters somewhere in the idea word. Allow 3 minutes for conferees to record their work. Review suggestions and add others. (Suggestions for the acrostic include: **P**arents, **R**emember special needs, for their **sA**lvation, to **Y**ield to God's will, **F**amily, **O**n their birthday, **pR**ospects, prayer walk, with **I**ntentionally, **D**aily, **S**chool.)

6. **15 minutes. Invest.** Attach the "NVST" vanity plate to the focal wall. Ask the group to form trios for the next activity. Direct the attention of the conferees to the prepared "Attractions" poster. Distribute three sticky notes to each trio and instruct them to identify three community needs, write one need on each sticky note, and then add their three community needs to the "Attractions" sign. Explain that within our communities there are many needs. These needs can become ministry opportunity for a church that is serious about inviting. These met needs can attract people to our churches and serve as entry points into Sunday School. Read the community needs attached to the "Attraction" poster. Encourage conversation regarding moving these community needs to ministries within a local church that might encourage un-churched people to attend that church.
7. **15 minutes. Invite.** Attach the "NVYT" vanity plate to the focal wall. Ask the conferees to name things that "detour" us from being active evangelist in our communities. (Some detours might be: fear; lack of training; past experiences). Call attention to the "Detour" signs that are attached around the room. Invite conferees to retrieve these signs and return to their seats. One by one, ask conferees to share the "detour" written on the back of the sign they retrieved. Each point is discussed in *The 3D Sunday School Series: Invite 1-6 Lane 5: Invite*. Use this material to guide conversation as each point is read. Make sure the last sign is the "???" sign. Allow the group to add additional detours that may have occurred to them during the discussion.
8. **15 minutes. Involve.** Attach the "NVALV" vanity plate to the focal wall. Form two teams. Provide a roll of masking tape and a marker for each group. Explain that the teams will compete to see which team will "go the extra mile." Each team will need to appoint a "Navigator" (the person who will dispense the tape) and a "Driver" (the scribe who will write the ideas created by the team on to the tape) and a "Back Seat Driver" (the person who will report the team's ideas to the large group). At "go" each team will begin to **brainstorm people or groups of people that can be involved in inviting children and their families to Sunday School (who)**. The "Navigator" will dispense masking tape on to the floor in a straight line; the "Driver" will list the ideas on the tape. (*Ideas might include Sunday School teachers, parents, children, staff members, the Holy Spirit*) After 2 minutes call, "stop." Now instruct the teams to **brainstorm ways that we can involve people in inviting children and their families to Sunday School (how)**. (*Ideas might include neighborhood block parties, canvassing sub-divisions, providing organized outreach*



opportunities, creating brochures and pamphlets to be used in everyday opportunities, involving people according to their spiritual gifts, create opportunities for “easy” inviting). After 2 minutes call, “stop.” Ask each “Back Seat Driver” to share the ideas their team listed on their masking tape line. Use a ruler to see which teams list is the longest. Affirm both teams and congratulate them for going the “extra” mile. Make sure that ideas listed in Lane 6 of *The 3D Sunday School Series: Invite I-6* are included.

9. **5 minutes. Close with prayer.** Attach the “GITM2SS” vanity plate. Ask conferees if they can decode the plate. (*Get them to Sunday School*). Share that Acts 1:8 commands us to be witnesses. State that one of the best ways to be a witness is to care enough about the people around us to *invite* them to a place that is designed to help them *discover* God’s love and be *connected* to a caring group of Christians. Encourage the conferees to accept the challenge to invite boys and girls and their families to Sunday School. Distribute the prepared reminder vanity plates (ILUVSS). Share that this vanity plate can serve as a reminder to create an environment that will foster a deep love of Sunday School in the hearts and lives of the boys and girls we teach.

