



ONE HUNDRED

Charting a Course Past 100 in Sunday School

Conversation Points

Using Conversation Points

Purpose: To facilitate informal conversations with leaders about concepts and ideas included in *One Hundred: Charting a Course Past 100 in Sunday School* by David Francis and Michael Kelley

Where?

- **Informal Settings :** Invite a few leaders (3 at the most) to visit over coffee, a meal, or even while playing a sport. Provide them with the Conversation Point and let them know you want to get their response to the suggested question(s).
- **Chat Room:** Create a chat room for your Bible study leaders and use the Conversation Points as the basis for these chats.
- **Regular Ongoing Training Meetings:** Use the Conversation Points idea as a starting point for your regular ongoing leader meetings. Supplement from your own experience and other resources (see lifeway.com/DavidFrancis for additional books by David).

Note: The Conversation Points are organized by chapters in *One Hundred*.

Forward

It was my privilege to edit *One Hundred: Charting a Course Past 100 in Sunday School* by David Francis and Michael Kelley. After the book was released, requests for a discussion guide were expressed. We went to work and created this discussion guide with the smaller church in mind. Our goal was to create something that would build upon the relationships and conversations that are the strength of the smaller church.

G. Dwayne McCrary
LifeWay Christian Resources

One...Hundred (begins on page 4)

Conversation Point 1

Read “Good News for Smaller Churches” on page 4 of *One Hundred*. What might draw someone to our church? What can we provide that no one else in our community provides? What advantages can we build upon?

Conversation Point 2

Examine the chart on page 6 of *One Hundred*. Determine which column best describes us as a church. What does this chart reveal about actions we may need to consider to move into the next category on the chart?

Conversation Point 3

Read “Excellence One Class at a Time” on page 8 of *One Hundred*. Develop a one sentence summary of that the authors are saying in that paragraph. What sentence in that section caught your attention the most? Explain.

Understand the Numbers (begins on page 9)

Conversation Point 4

Review pages 9-12 of *One Hundred*. Identify the number section you believe to be the most significant. Explain your reasons for selected that section.

Conversation Point 5

Focus on “80 to 100 plus 8 of 50” on pages 9 and 10 of *One Hundred*. The authors concluded by asking: How do these dynamics impact the way you view the importance of getting people into Sunday School? Let’s compare our responses to this question.

Conversation Point 6

The authors pointed to what they called “churn” as one factor that impacts every church (page 8, *One Hundred*). How does “churn” impact our church and your class? What percentage would you guess to be the rate of churn in our church? Explain.

Acknowledge the Power of One (beginning on page 13)

Conversation Point 7

Read “One Antagonist” on page 19 of *One Hundred*. How can a single person impact the future of our church, both positively and negatively? What could be pointed to that would define the difference between being a positive influence and a negative influence? How can a person’s desire for power get in the way of a church reaching their community for Christ?

Encourage Four Great Expectations (begins on page 15)

Conversation Point 8

The authors of *One Hundred* presented several actions a church could take to communicate that they expect new people every week (see pages 15-19). Which actions listed do we need to begin to do or improve? What other things might we do to communicate that we expect new people every week?

Conversation Point 9

The authors of *One Hundred* suggested three things that could be done to put guests at ease (see page 21). Review “Expect a Great Bible Study Every Week” on pages 20-22 to identify other actions that could be taken to help guests feel at ease. What actions could we add to the list?

Conversation Point 10

The authors of *One Hundred* emphasize the importance of making a face-to-face visit (see “Expect to Follow-up Aggressively” on pages 22 and 23 and “And Maybe a Few Old Ones!” on pages 27 and 28). Do you agree or disagree with their assertion? Explain. How would having something to deliver to a guest make a face-to-face visit more natural?

Conversation Point 11

Review “Expect People to Say Yes” on pages 24-28 in *One Hundred*. Which of the expectations listed is the hardest for a person to say yes to? What makes it the hardest? What can we do to remove some of the roadblocks that might keep a person from saying yes?

Develop Six Dynamics of a Culture of Invitation (begins on page 29)

Conversation Point 12

Read “The Psychology of Invitation” and “Anyone is Welcome Any Week” on pages 29-30 of *One Hundred*. How can we incorporate or strengthen these dynamics in our church? What role should our Sunday School classes play in reinforcing these dynamics?

Conversation Point 13

The authors of *One Hundred* identify six steps for developing a culture for invitation (see pages 30-35). Do you think the order of these six steps is important? Explain. Where should we start to strengthen our culture of invitation—what steps and in what order?

Act on Five Proven Steps of Growth (begins on page 36)

Conversation Point 14

The authors of *One Hundred* listed three types of churches under “Momentum” on page 37. They also asked a series of questions for us to consider: What do you think might be the challenges of each? The advantages? Which one best describes your church? Do those challenges and advantages apply to you?

Conversation Point 15

Review “1. Dream: Imagine the Possibilities” on pages 36 and 37 and “2. Declare: Enlarge the Organization” on page 37 of *One Hundred*. What groups are we not reaching for Christ in our community? What keeps us from reaching these groups? What group on your list should be given priority? Explain.

Conversation Point 16

Read “3. Enlist and Train the Leader” on pages 37 and 38 of *One Hundred*. Reflect on how you were recruited and trained. What do you wish you had known before you began to lead a group? How can we more effectively enlist and train leaders in the future?

Conversation Point 17

The authors of *One Hundred* explain that “even if you’ve declared a new class and enlisted a new leader, you still must provide a place, furnishings, equipment, and study materials” (page 38, *One Hundred*). What could we adjust so we could more effectively use the space we have available? What other space could be used for a Bible study group?

Conversation Point 18

The authors of *One Hundred* challenge their readers to go after the people (page 38, *One Hundred*). How can we help others in our church understand the need for us to go after people not involved in a Bible study? What support could we give to a new group that deploys?

Embrace Four Foundational Principles (begins on page 39)

Conversation Point 19

Review “Act on Five Proven Steps of Growth” and “Embrace Four Foundational Principles” on pages 36-50 in *One Hundred*. Look for ways these two chapters connect. How do the Four Principles support the Five Steps of Growth?

Conversation Point 20

Read “Care for Every Person” on pages 39 and 40 in *One Hundred*. How would you rate your class when it comes to caring for every person? What actions can you lead your class to take to strengthen our care of every person?

Conversation Point 21

The authors suggest using an empty chair to help communicate that the group is an open group (see page 41, *One Hundred*). What would happen if we adopted this practice as a church? What else can we do to reinforce the concept of open groups?

Conversation Point 22

Review what the authors of *One Hundred* share about open enrollment (see pages 42-45, *One Hundred*). How could we help other leaders understand the importance of open enrollment? What obstacles stand in the way that we need to address when talking about open enrollment?

Conversation Point 23

Read “4. The Irreducible Law of Kingdom Growth” on pages 45-49 of *One Hundred*. Highlight key ideas presented by the authors. What excuses have you heard given for not starting a new group? How can those excuses be addressed? What steps would you recommend for starting a new group?

Divide the Work around the Four Age Groups (begins on page 51)

Conversation Point 24

Review “Divide the Work around the Four Age Groups” on pages 51 and 52 of *One Hundred*. Why is it important for each age-group to be involved in the growth plan for the church? What happens if one group is left out or chooses to ignore their role? What image could be used to explain the importance of everyone doing their part?

Balance Three Dimensions (begins on page 53)

Conversation Point 25

Review “Balance Three Dimensions” on pages 53-55 of *One Hundred*, paying particular attention to the chart on page 53. In your class, which of these dimensions is the strongest? The weakest? What can be done to better balance these three dimensions in our classes? In our church?

Take It to the Next Level (begins on page 56)

Conversation Point 26

Review “Take It to the Next Level” on pages 56-60 of *One Hundred*. Would you consider your group to be more of a class, a community, or on commission? Explain. When might a group need to be focused more on being a class, a community, and on commission? How could we use the charts on pages 53 and 56 to better evaluate our classes?

“One” Revisited (begins on page 61)

Conversation Point 27

Review “One Revisited” on pages 61 and 62 of *One Hundred*, focusing on the role or roles you play in your class and church. What impact does your faithfulness in fulfilling that role play in your church reaching your community for Christ? How does each role work together to enable your church to grow?

Conversation Point 28

The authors of *One Hundred* closed the book with these questions: What if 20,000 churches reached 100 ones each week? What if one did?

What would it take for us to be that one church that reached one new person every week this year?

What would happen if we were to enroll 52 new people in our Sunday School this year (one new person a week)? What if we were able to enroll one every other week (26)? What if we started one new class this year—what group would we start? Why can’t we be that church?