

Leadership Meeting Agenda

Being a Missionary Sunday School—All Leaders Together

Prepared by:

Wayne Poling, Senior Lead Sunday School Specialist, Leadership and Evangelism Training and Events, LifeWay Christian Resources

PREPARE:

Provide the following resources:

- Nametags, markers, large sheets of paper
- CD Player and appropriate Christian praise CD
- Markerboard and markers
- Picture of a fort and a picture of a bridge

Read:

- *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis. Pay careful attention to how the material in the book applies specifically to your Sunday School. Be prepared to tell the story of Stephen Paxson found on pages 6-7, 13-15.

Display the following resources:

- *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis

Prepare the room for learning:

- Develop the handout called for in Step 3.
- Arrange chairs in a semicircle.
- Place nametags and markers on a table near where people will enter the room.
- Play an appropriate Christian music CD in the background.

PRESENT:

1. INTRODUCTION (10 min.)

Ask each person to complete a nametag as they enter the room.

Tell the story of Stephen Paxson. State that he is one of many examples of the missionary heritage of Sunday School leaders. Give emphasis to how he was reached for Christ through the Sunday School's ministry to his daughter. Point out how his excitement about Christ and teaching the Bible led him to plant hundreds of Sunday Schools that reached thousands of people.

State that this session is going to explore how your Sunday School can become a missionary Sunday School and how that can be a focus of each of the Sunday School classes.

2. DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Ask the participants to name some of the things a missionary does to prepare to go to the mission field. Write the items on the markerboard as they are shared.

State that there are many things a missionary does before and as he begins in a mission field. Some of those actions include:

- Accepting responsibility and a burden for the people group he is called to reach.
- Knowing the lives, language, background, and needs of the people he is called to reach.
- Developing and carrying out a strategy to connect with the people he is called to reach.
- Seeking to lead people to not only hear God's Word but have their lives changed in such a way that they are seeking to live it out and touch the lives of other people.

Ask the participants to share with someone else the best example of a Missionary Sunday School teacher that they've had. After a brief time of sharing ask for a couple of volunteers to share with the entire group.

3. ACTIVITY (35 min.)

Distribute copies of the handout you developed to each participant. Ask each of the participants to complete the questions on their own.

- Who are the people group my class is called to reach? (i.e. young adults, kindergarteners and their families, middle school students, etc.)
- Have I accepted responsibility, and am I burdened for the group of people for whom our class is called to reach? How do my actions verify my answer?
- Has my class accepted responsibility, and are they burdened for the group of people for whom our class is called to reach? How do our actions as a class verify my answer?
- How much does our class know about the lives and needs of the people we are called to reach? Record what you know.
- What plans (strategy) does your class have to connect with and minister to the people you are called to reach?
- Does our Bible study take our members beyond just knowing to action? In what ways are the members of the class seeking to live out what we are studying and touch the lives of those our class is called to reach?

After the participants have finished answering their questions individually, review each of the questions with the whole group, discussing their implications for your Sunday School as a whole. Point out how the Sunday School is a marvelous strategy. The Sunday School enables the church to divide up the Great Commission so that everyone within the reach of the church is the responsibility of a specific Sunday School class. What a wonderful missionary strategy!

Ask the participants to name actions classes can take to better fulfill each of the principles surfaced by the questions above. As they name actions list them on the markerboard.

4. CONCLUSION (5 min.)

Gather the participants by age groups.

Read Matthew 28:19-20.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples (of baptizing (them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Point out Christ's instructions that we are to teach all people, and that we are to teach them in a way that they observe or obey His Word.

Ask them to pray together as a group that God would burden their hearts for the group they are called to reach and that He would guide them as they make plans to be Missionary Sunday School classes.

Leadership Meeting Agenda

Being a Missionary Sunday School—Adults

Prepared by:

David Apple, Adult Ministry Specialist, Leadership and Evangelism Training and Events,
LifeWay Christian Resources

PREPARE:

Provide the following resources:

- Nametags, markers, pencils
- Provide one copy of *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis for each participant. The book is available as a free download or you can order copies for \$1.50 each at www.lifeway.com/davidfrancis. The book can also be purchased at the Apple iStore.
- Provide projector/screen to show pictures (optional).
- Samples of Sunday School Leader and Learner resources for upcoming lesson
- Enlist someone to take pictures of people and sights within a ten-mile radius of the church. Be prepared to project or display these pictures.
- Prepare large sheets of paper with the three questions from Step 3.

Prepare the room for learning:

- Display a copy of *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis.
- Arrange chairs in circle or semicircle facing a focal wall.
- Place nametags and marker pens on small table by room entrance, or place nametags on each chair.
- Provide large sheets of paper and markers for discussion questions.
- Provide snack items and drinks (optional).

PRESENT:

1. INTRODUCTION (10 min.)

Thank participants for attending the Leadership Meeting. Encourage participants to prepare a nametag. Provide snacks and drinks for a brief time of fellowship (optional).

Reveal pictures depicting people and places within a ten-mile radius of the church. Give these instructions: *Describe the kinds of people, businesses, recreation, etc. who live and/or spend large amounts of time around where the church is housed.* Invite participants to brainstorm and record words and phrases on a large sheet of paper.

Explain that this experience will help us consider how our Sunday School can intentionally be a missionary Sunday School. Lead in prayer.

2. WE'RE ASSIGNED AS MISSIONARIES TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD (10 min.)

Invite participants to imagine they were all new to the area and that they were assigned as missionaries. Call attention to the question at the top of page 5 in *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis. "What might our Sunday School look like if we saw ourselves as a missionary enterprise: thinking and acting out of a missionary mindset?" Invite participants to discuss challenges and opportunities we face by seeking to strengthen a missionary mindset. Record responses on a large sheet of paper.

3. STRENGTHEN OUR MISSIONARY MINDSET (20 min.)

Invite participants to review the pictures or descriptions of the ten-mile radius around the church. Enlist someone to read aloud the short paragraph in Francis' book, page 23 (A Class for Missionaries?).

Reveal sheets of paper with the following three questions. Depending on the size of the group, either assign one question to each of three groups or ask all participants to discuss responses to each question:

- How would Bible study in our class change if we were to strengthen our missionary mindset?
- How would ministry in and through our class change if we were to intentionally see ourselves as missionaries?
- How would our class emphasize outreach if we acted as missionaries in our community?

Invite participants to overview an upcoming Sunday School lesson and identify ways they can strengthen Bible study, ministry, and outreach through that experience.

4. TESTIMONIES AND IDEAS (15 min.)

Enlist one or two persons to share testimony (from their class or from examples they have learned from) of actions Sunday School classes can take to demonstrate missionary mindset.

Explain the importance and opportunity for every Adult Sunday School class to strengthen missionary mindset both in our own community as well as in other areas. Be prepared to review some of the local as well as international ministries supported by the church. Ask participants to brainstorm their responses to the following:

- If our class were to adopt one local ministry opportunity (including but not limited to school, fire department, company, neighborhood, non-profit agency, etc.), what are actions we could take to strengthen our mindset as missionaries?
- If our class were to identify an international missions opportunity, what are actions we could take to strengthen our mindset as missionaries?

5. CONCLUSION (5 min.)

Invite participants to pray together for God to encourage and open opportunities for leaders and members to intentionally strengthen missionary mindset.

Thank participants for being part of the strategy of Sunday School.

Leadership Meeting Agenda

Being a Missionary Sunday School—Student

Prepared by:

G. Dwayne McCrary, Editorial Project Leader, Church Resources Division, LifeWay Christian Resources

PREPARE:

Provide the following resources:

- Nametags, markers, paper, pencils
- Large sheets of paper
- Prepare a list of potential mission action projects that could be adopted by a student Bible study group.

Display the following resources:

- *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis

Prepare the room for learning:

- Arrange chairs in a semi circle facing a focal wall. Make sure the entrance to the room is opposite of the focal wall if possible. Place a nametag on each chair.
- Display on a focal wall the following statements which you have written on placards or sentence strips (for Step 1):
 - We believe that every teenager ought to have the opportunity to respond to the gospel.
 - We believe every teenager believer ought to be able to share the gospel with a friend.
 - We believe that teaching about Jesus is always followed by actions that honor Him.
 - We believe that teenagers can make a difference for God in this world.
 - We believe that God is honored when teenagers are involved in the mission of the church.
- Write this question from *Missionary Sunday School* on a large sheet of paper: *What might a Sunday School look like if it saw itself as a missionary enterprise: thinking and acting out of a missionary mindset?* Prepare to display it when called for in Step 3.
- Write each of these four actions on a large sheet of paper in preparation for Step 4: *Start new groups, Select mission action projects, Offer opportunities to respond to the gospel when teaching, and Mentor students to share their faith.*

PRESENT:

1. INTRODUCTION (10 min.)

As student leaders arrive, welcome them and call attention to the placards displayed on the wall. Encourage them to review the placards and discuss how they might respond to a person who wanted to argue against any of the statements.

Direct leaders to create a nametag as they continue discussing their responses to any objectors.

After most have arrived, thank them for taking the time to be a part of the meeting. Promise to do all you can to make this meeting worth their time.

2. WE BELIEVE? (10 min.)

Review the statements on the placards attached to the focal wall. Ask: *On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being rarely and 10 being always, how well do we demonstrate our belief in each of the statements?* Guide the leaders to rate each statement on a sheet of paper (1 to 10). Invite each leader to share his or her rating, adding each response and dividing the total sum by the total number of people who shared a rating to get an average score. Record the average rating on each statement.

Invite volunteers to share specific examples that support or contradict the rating of each statement. Affirm the positive examples shared. Use this as a time to reinforce hoped for outcomes from the Bible study groups.

3. WHAT IF? (10 min.)

Display the large sheet of paper with the question from *Missionary Sunday School*.

Invite leaders to respond to the question. Use information from *Missionary Sunday School* to clarify as needed. Remind leaders that the next generation of missionaries and church leaders are the individuals sitting in their Bible study groups. Help them understand that they as leaders have a stewardship of the group they lead.

4. GETTING PRACTICAL (25 min.)

Display the four actions you wrote on large sheets of paper. Suggest that these four actions are ways of creating a missionary Sunday School for students.

Using information from *Missionary Sunday School* and other sources, lead the group in outlining the steps needed to complete each action. Focus on how the people present can lead their class to accomplish each action. When discussing starting new groups, be sure to include an opportunity for leaders to suggest groups of teenagers in your community that are not currently being reached for Bible study. When discussing mission action projects, allow leaders to share projects they have led their class to participate in. Provide a list of potential mission projects that could be adopted by different student Bible study groups. When discussing opportunities to respond to the gospel when teaching, highlight natural points in the upcoming lessons for presenting the gospel. When discussing mentoring students to share, identify how teenagers can participate in your church's strategy for witness training. Record insights gained and suggestions shared on the large sheets of paper.

5. CONCLUSION (5 min.)

Guide the leaders in a time of evaluation of their class. Lead them to select the action in Step 4 that most needs to be implemented in their class. Challenge them to seek to move their class closer to being a missionary enterprise. Offer to be available after the meeting or by appointment to help each leader outline the steps he or she will specifically need to take with his or her class.

Close with prayer, asking God to help each leader be responsible stewards of the students in their Bible study groups.

Leadership Meeting Agenda

Being a Missionary Sunday School—Childhood

Prepared by:

Klista Storts, Childhood Ministry Specialist, Childhood Ministry Training and Events, LifeWay Christian Resources

PREPARE:

Provide the following resources:

- Nametags, markers, pencils, large sheets of paper
- Write the following phrases on 11 different index cards:
 - Focuses on discipleship
 - Focuses on new member assimilation
 - Focuses on reaching “church” kids
 - Teaches with a focus toward deeper knowledge of the Bible
 - Throws old curriculum away
 - Attends sporting events to chat with parents of church kids
 - Focuses on reaching “those” kids
 - Expects new people each week
 - Creates systems for outreach and ministry
 - Attends sporting events to connect with kids
 - Teaches with a focus on training missionaries to share His story
 - Reuses curriculum at Bible studies outside the church
- Gather several copies of the local newspaper (preferably from different days).

Display the following resources:

- *Missionary Sunday School* by David Francis
(Note to leader: Please take the time to read this book. It will help you immensely in understanding the “Why” of being a Missionary Sunday School and will help you prepare to teach this conference.)

Prepare the room for learning:

- Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the front of the room.
- Place nametags near the door or on the chairs.
- Secure two large sheets of paper on the wall. Draw an oval with a face on both of them to make them look like a mirror. Label one with the words “Sunday School Teacher.” Label the other “Sunday School Missionary.”
- Take the index cards prepared above and place each one underneath various chairs in the classroom.

PRESENT:

1. INTRODUCTION (5 min.)

Ask the following questions:

When was the last time...

- *you felt your teaching was helping to transform someone’s life?*
- *read the Bible not just for knowledge but also with the intent of sharing it with someone else?*
- *you had a child in your class that you knew had seldom or maybe never been to church?*
- *you invited a child to class who had never been to church?*

Comment: Today we're going to talk about what it means to be a Missionary Sunday School. David Francis' book by this name focuses on these three things: One Mission—transformation of lives; His Story—the Bible; and Every Person—whoever and wherever studying His Story!

2. WHAT DOES YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL REFLECT? (20 min.)

Draw attention to the index cards placed underneath the chairs. Ask all of the conferees with cards under their chairs to read their cards aloud. Discuss each statement with the group and decide if it reflects a Sunday School Teacher or a Sunday School Missionary. Invite the conferee to place tape on the back of the card and adhere it to the large sheet of paper labeled with the class' decision.

Comment that the statements that reflect a Sunday School Teacher are not bad, but that if we want our Sunday School to be a Missionary Sunday School, then we have to step out and do some things that may be out of our comfort zone. You may also note that some of the statements can be applied to both sheets.

Ask the group to suggest other actions that would reflect a Sunday School Missionary. Add them to the large sheet of paper as well.

3. WHERE CAN WE FIND “THOSE” KIDS? (15 min.)

Share: To be a Missionary Sunday School, we can't wait for “those” kids and families to come to us; we have to go out and find them.

Separate the conferees into three groups. Distribute copies of the local newspaper to the groups. (If you have enough, give each group multiple copies.) Instruct the groups to circle local places and events where they might find unchurched families to minister to and invite to Sunday School.

Discuss shared answers.

4. HOW DO I HELP KIDS HAVE A MISSIONARY MINDSET? (15 min.)

Share: One of our tasks as Missionary Sunday School Teachers is to help our kids develop that same mindset. We can help our kids by encouraging them to focus on others. Typically as churches, we're pretty good at holding events on our own turf, but we can do better at thinking outside the walls. So, let's find some ways to do that.

Assign a four-month period of the year (January – April) (May – August) (September – December) to each of the three groups and ask them to create an event for each of the four months that would help kids connect with kids outside the church. (Possible locations: public library, sports fields, schools...but encourage the groups be creative about the types of events.)

Invite the groups to share their ideas with the large group.

5. CONCLUSION (5 min.)

Close in prayer asking God to help open our minds to reaching those outside the walls of the church.