

Five Steps for Renewing Your Sunday School Program

1. Create a Mission Statement

Bring teachers together and envision a future for your Sunday School. Establish clear goals and promote unity of purpose. Here are a few springboard ideas for crafting your own Sunday School mission statement:

- Help children see the application of the Word in their own lives.
- Build the habit of reading the Word and worshipping the Lord.
- Learn how the Word connects people with the Lord, heaven and other people.

Take advantage of the Mission Statement Worksheet (see enclosed) to craft your own mission statement. Share your mission statement during meetings, use it as part of your email signature and display it in classrooms.

2. Focus What You Teach

Get the most out of each year by planning for the life-long learning picture. Structure a curriculum using existing Sunday School lessons, the pastor's weekly message, important themes, Jacob's Ladder religion lessons, or multi-level lessons for family groupings....

3. Create an Inviting Space

Whether you teach in a room that is permanently set up or create your own space each week, look for simple ways to appeal to children. Collect colorful rocks, shells, stones or wood and create a natural altar for children to decorate or rearrange. Paint walls or furniture with your theme for the year. Create displays that teach such as a time line of the Word featuring pictures of key people, stories, the life of Jesus or books of the Word. Share the children's artwork and projects.

4. Welcome and Mentor New Teachers

Invite people to try teaching Sunday School and support them along the way. Check in with them to find out how things are going. Celebrate successes and be ready to listen if they have a challenging lesson.

5. Communicate!

Share your enthusiasm by staying in touch. Communicate teaching dates for the entire year, send lesson materials in time for teachers to prepare a great lesson, distribute a list of anticipated students and other helpful information, e.g. food allergy alerts. Email or text teaching reminders. Meet face-to-face at least once a year—if not in person, using Skype or Google+.