



IDEA SHEET

Sunday School Ministry

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Five Symptoms of Ineffective Sunday School Teaching

- **Saturday Night Fever.** Do you often find yourself scrambling to prepare a Sunday school lesson the night before? This is one symptom of ineffective Sunday school teaching. While it's understandable that life has many demands, this ministry is one that deserves your time and best preparation. Sunday school lesson preparation should begin at least a week in advance.
- **Double Vision.** Do you find yourself looking for pedagogical shortcuts, instead of sticking to the main plan or theme of your lessons? Before long, this kind of behavior will give you "double vision." You'll have two or three competing lesson plans, unrelated to the original subject or text. Stick to a central focus or teaching aim so as to avoid the confusion of double vision.
- **Lethargy.** Are you a teacher that arrives to Sunday school late, and never has the energy to fully involve yourself in the lesson? Do you read the Scriptures with a tired, uninspired voice? You might be suffering from lethargy—another symptom of ineffective Sunday school teaching. Arrive early, alive, alert, and excited about teaching the Word of God to cure this symptom. The last thing a teacher should do is make God's Word boring.
- **Sore Throat.** Are your lessons longer than five points each? Are you constantly using the lecture method to instruct your students? If you talk too long during your Sunday school lessons, you'll begin to suffer from a sore throat. Combat this symptom by incorporating different teaching methods into your lessons. Allow for class discussion, role play, and other forms of learning.
- **Frequent Headaches.** Are you passionate about teaching, while at the same time, annoyed by the concerns of the children you are teaching? This is the final symptom of ineffective Sunday school teaching. Add personal attention to your students as individuals to careful lesson preparation. That means listening to and visiting with them, as well as continuing personal contacts.

Sunday School Ministry Calendar:

- **November:** Prepare a Thanksgiving lesson in which students make turkeys out of construction paper (with help) and write what they are thankful for on each feather of the turkey.



Refresh Yourself. It is so common to see overwhelmed Sunday school teachers lose their passion for doing their ministry over time. Do not let this happen to you! Just like it takes time to recover from an illness, it is absolutely appropriate for you and your other Sunday school teachers to take time and refresh your vision for the Sunday school department. If you have a mission statement, remind yourself of what your specific goals are. Ask the Lord in prayer to refresh your passion for teaching young souls. You might also plan semi-annual Sunday school department retreats for this purpose.

Resource Files for You

SSPL03.txt

"The Art of Lesson Preparation"
Important tips to be prepared.

SSPL02.txt

"How Do I Prepare My Bible Lesson?"
More tips on preparation.

IBC Perspectives Magazine

If you are in ministry leadership, be sure not to miss out on an excellent publication written just for church leaders. The IBC Perspectives magazine is a 20-page color publication published monthly by Indiana Bible College. It features interviews with growing revival churches and explores the methods and programs that make them successful. It also features articles devoted to: Feature Ministry Opinions, Plainly Speaking, Columnists, World News, Apostolic News, News You Can Use, Guest Pulpit and more. To receive a free copy and subscription form, call 1-800-800-0247 or write Perspectives, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247, or e-mail: Perspectives@apostolic.edu or visit our web page at www.apostolic.edu. Subscription cost is just \$20 per year for 12 issues.