

BUILDING AN ALTAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Prayer for personal needs.

- Use the REACH program to gather prayer needs.
- Allow class members to share personal concerns like health, employment, relationships, etc.
- Allow at least 10 minutes per class to intercede for one another.

Prayer to accept the Biblical challenges of the lesson.

- At the end of class to help students make life changing decisions in obedience to Christ's Word.
- Sharing spiritual needs is acceptable.
- Include praise, confession, and petition.
- The "Session Goals" and "Scripture Highlights" from the Adult Bible Fellowship Leader can provide ideas to include in a closing prayer.

Prayer to accept Christ as Savior.

- Goal: to see individuals receive salvation by faith in Jesus Christ
- Purpose:
 - 1) to promote Sunday School as an evangelistic center rather than only a training and maintenance center
 - 2) to provide accountability to the district increasing the frequency of evangelistic presentations
- Program:
 - 1) The Sunday School Board, teachers, class officers, and prayer warriors pray for God to prepare the hearts of students to accept Christ. Begin 4 weeks in advance.
 - 2) Provide training to those who will present the gospel.
 - 3) Present the gospel in all Sunday School classes (Bible Fellowship classes) and give an invitation to receive Christ as one's personal Savior.
 - 4) Target these presentations bi-annually on Reformation Sunday and Palm Sunday. Other weeks may be substituted by each Sunday School. And since our denominational lessons will set the stage for an invitation several times each year, each Sunday School is not limited to just two weeks.
 - 5) Follow-up on each new Christian with a BASIC BIBLE STUDY. There is a children's version and a Spanish version.
 - 6) Report whether your Sunday School attempted a gospel presentation and gave an invitation to receive Christ in classes and the number of converts to your zone Sunday School chair.
 - 7) Celebrate publicly the new converts with your congregation!!!
- Reasons for implementing this:
 - 1) It works!!! 579 people in four years on the Dallas District have received Jesus!
 - 2) There are people who will receive Christ in the loving, trusting environment of a small group because of the love they have experienced from classmates. This does not mean we discontinue altar calls in worship services by no means.
 - 3) Lay people presenting the gospel in class models to other students how to share

their faith. Thus evangelism training takes place among people who would never attend an evangelism class.

- 4) Class handouts of the gospel presentation go home with the class members with the potential to be used again in a one-on-one gospel encounter.
 - 5) Classes that realize that everyone in their class is already saved will be reminded and hopefully burdened to reach beyond the walls of their class.
 - 6) Christ will send people to churches and Sunday Schools who are evangelistic.
 - 7) The Great Commission commands us to do more than teach the Word.
 - 8) The already converted are reminded when they hear the gospel of the miracle of God's grace in their own lives.
 - 9) People who attend a Bible Fellowship class (Sunday School) but do not attend Sunday morning worship will have an opportunity to accept Christ as their Savior.
- Ideas:
- 1) When the lesson already adequately presents the gospel, close the class with an invitation to receive Christ. Present the ABC plan: Admit you have sinned against God and others; Believe Jesus forgives you now; and Confess Christ as Lord and Savior through testimony and obedience.
 - 2) Use evangelism plans. Distributing a tract or type-written plan can help other Christians learn how to present the gospel and give them something to take with them to share with others.
 - a) Evangelism Explosion
 - Heaven is a free gift - it is not earned or deserved
 - Man is a sinner and cannot save himself
 - God is merciful and does not want to punish us but
 - God is also just and must punish sin
 - Christ is the infinite God-man who paid for our sins and purchased the gift of heaven for us
 - Faith is not intellectual assent but trusting Christ alone for our salvationDoes this make sense to you?
Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life?
 - b) Other Plans
 - "The Four Spiritual Laws," "Life Can Have Meaning," "The Roman Road to Salvation," "Really Living" for children from NPH
 - 3) Use the EvangeCube to walk each student through the gospel presentation.
www.evangelcube.org - 1-888-354-9411
 - 4) Have a student give their testimony of what life was like before Jesus, how they came to receive salvation in Christ, and what life has been like after their salvation. This has the further benefit of preparing them to present their testimony one-on-one in a non-church environment.
 - 5) There are some wonderful large picture story books that a teacher can use to present the gospel to children. An example is the "Little Red Hen" from Living Stories, Inc., Milford, KS 66514.
 - 6) Use colored construction paper: black for sin, red for the blood of Jesus, white for forgiveness, green for Christian growth, and gold for heaven.