

# A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER

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## I. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

### S A V E D

#### 1. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER MUST BE SAVED IN ORDER TO KNOW THEIR BIBLE.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

No teacher or worker can know the Bible without the aid of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our guide in to all truth. John 16:13

#### 2. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER MUST BE SAVED IN ORDER TO HAVE THE RIGHT INFLUENCE.

No man can be called a good man who has shut Christ out of his life, either by positive rejection or by negligence and indifference. It is Christ in the life which gives to men a radiant, telling influence. Without Christ in the life, the influence will be warped and misleading. Every Sunday School worker must reckon carefully with this matter of influence. Others are following us. ***For none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. Romans 14:7***

Let Christ shine through your life for the blessing of others and the glory of God.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:15*

#### 3. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER MUST BE SAVED TO HARMONIZE WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Sunday School is for the teaching of the Word of God. It is not an organization for social enjoyment. It is for the teaching of the bible and enlightening of darkened souls. Unsaved teachers may think that the purpose of the Sunday School is simply to entertain boys and girls, men and women, for forty five minutes and to send them to their homes. **THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS FOR THE TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD.** This can be accomplished only by save and consecrated teachers.

#### 4. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER MUST BE SAVED IN ORDER TO WIN SOULS.

Knowledge of your own salvation is necessary if you are to aid another to be saved. D. L. Moody often said, "No man can wind souls unless he is saved and knows it." You must be able to say, "Christ is my Saviour; the Lord is my shepherd, My Lord, and my God," if you are to lead others to a knowledge of Christ.

Missionary C.T. Studd, said to a lady in England, "Salvation is like smallpox; when you have it, you give it to others." The lady was offended at first, but was led of the Holy Spirit to recognize her spiritual condition and need. Some time later Studd received a telegram that read, "Have a bad case of small pox. Praise God! Dolly."

Spurgeon said, "God will not use dead tools for working living miracles."

An experience of redeeming grace is necessary if you are to lead others to Christ.

## II. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

### SEPARATED

Too few people know the Bible definition of separation. Some think that it refers entirely to our attitude toward the world – if we refrain from engaging in certain worldly practices, we are living the “separated life”. This is only half of the meaning of separation.

Separation means SEPARATION **FROM** THE WORLD, AND SEPARATION **TO** THE LORD AND HIS WORK. Separation implies a dedication to the full purpose of God in one’s life.

Perhaps the best verse to picture the positive and negative of this matter are Romans 12:1, 2.

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Paul here represents the positive call first. This is right, for when we give ourselves wholly to God; it isn’t difficult to say, “No” to the world.

Consider the following:

**1. SEPARATION IS A BIBLE DOCTRINE.** It is taught from the first of Genesis to the last of Revelation. It is illustrated in the obedient life of Abraham. It is pictured in the separation of Israel from other nations.

**2. SEPARATION IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF ONE IS TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.** The Holy Spirit will not fill and empower the life which is entangled with the affairs of this world. Nor will the Holy Spirit fill the life of an unsundered individual. The Lord will not use an unclean, unsundered vessel. Therefore, if one is not separated from the world, he disobeys the command, “Be filled with the Spirit”; he lives beneath the standard God has for him; he fails to be an instrument in the hand of God for good. (2 Timothy 2:19-26)

**3. SEPARATION CALLS FOR THE BEST.** It requires a definite stand. It brings forth the opposition of the world, but it also brings the peace of God into our hearts. (1 Peter 4:12-16)

**4. SEPARATION FITS ONE FOR THE GREATEST WORK – SOUL WINNING.** Without separation, positive and negative, you will have little concern for souls. Without separation, you will have no power for the task. Without separation, the lost world will be able to point a finger at you and say, “Hypocrite”. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

The call of God is: “Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separated, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...”

(Study carefully II Corinthians 6:11-18)

### III. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

#### PRAYS

**“Pray without ceasing.”** I Thessalonians 5:17

A good Sunday School worker will obey this command of the Scriptures. He will realize that only through prayer can he accomplish the work given to him.

As Sunday School workers, for what should we pray?

1. We should pray for an understanding of the Bible. We should never approach a study of the Word of God without a prayer in our hearts. The deeper meaning of the Word is revealed to those who approach the Book prayerfully. In the study of the Sunday School lesson, pray for an understanding of each word of the lesson.

2. We should pray for the salvation of the lost. The Sunday School worker who is not interested in the winning of the lost souls will be a dry matter of fact worker, who soon loses the interest of those who are saved. If every member of your class is a Christian, then your class should go out after those who are unsaved. In every class, prayer should be offered for those who are out of the “ark of safety”.

3. We should pray for the building up of professing Christians. The admonition of the Scripture is ... **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** (2 Peter 3:18) It is not enough to lead people to an acceptance of Jesus Christ. We must lead them to grow. The Sunday School worker must pray for the stabilizing of the members of the class or department.

4. We should pray for the solution of class and department problems. No Sunday School organization will ever be free from problems and difficulties. As long as we are working with people, we will have problems. The solution to every problem can be found in fervent prayer. Are you perplexed and troubled now about some problem in your class or department? Pray about it. “take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.”

5. As Sunday School workers we should pray for the strengthening of our own lives. The task of teaching a class of young children is too great for anyone of us. We must have the help of God in this work. We are doomed to failure if we endeavour to work in our own strength. Paul said, **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”** (Phil. 4:13)

“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.” The best trained worker is a failure if he fails to pray.

“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.” The finest, best organized class is dead without prayer.

“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.” The most efficient class officer or department leader is a miserable failure without prayers.

#### IV. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER ...

### **PLANS**

To plan is to organize your efforts for future work. This is what the architect does, also the artist, and the farmer. This is what the successful Christian worker does.

**Joseph** worked by a God-given plan in the days of Egypt's plenty and famine. **Nehemiah** worked by a definite plan in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah has been called "a model organizer". In the rebuilding of the city he used three grand principles: First, division of labour. Second, cooperation. Third, concentration.

**The Apostle Paul** made plans in his spiritual work. He wrote ahead to the churches and revealed his plans.

**Our Heavenly Father** has a definite plan for the future. This plan includes the second coming of Christ, the Millennial kingdom, and finally, the new heavens and the new earth.

For successful work we must plan ahead. But, our plans must be made in light of God's plan and will. We must always say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do that or this." James 4:15. Also, our plans must be made in light of the return of Jesus Christ. He may come at any moment. We should eagerly look for His coming and gladly forsake our plans to be in His presence.

We should pray about our plans. Seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Be sure that all plans are harmonious with the Word of God. May we not be guilty of planning ahead as the rich fool of Luke 12 - - he left God out of His plans.

#### **1. MAKE PLANS TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

Whatever we do, we should seek to please our heavenly Father, and to honour His holy name. Selfish plans will not glorify Him; neither will small, stingy, fearful plans.

#### **2. MAKE PLANS SO THAT YOU CAN BETTER UTILIZE YOUR LIFE.**

Without plans, time is wasted, opportunities are lost, and talents are neglected. Life is short - -we must avail ourselves of every moment. Careful planning will enable us to accomplish far more.

#### **3. MAKE PLANS FOR THE BLESSING OF OTHERS.**

As Christian workers, we should keep before us the main goal - the reaching of the lost and the strengthening of the saved. With this two-fold goal, we should make careful plans.

Finally, if God be in your plans, make them **B I G**!! "All things are possible to him that believeth."

Hold to your plans. Hold to them until you see their fulfillment. When your plans have accomplished their purpose, then you can let them go -- AND **MAKE OTHERS**.

## V. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

### **FAITHFUL**

What is faithfulness? It is doing your best in the task which God has given you. It matters not whether the task is great or small – faithfulness is a prerequisite for best work. Good Sunday School workers are faithful whether they be teachers, officers, secretaries, song leaders, group captains, or in any other work.

Doing your best means faithfulness in attendance, rain or shine, summer or winter. Faithfulness is essential.

Doing your best means faithfulness in preparation. There is so much slouchy preparation for Christian work. The world believes in preparation, whether it is in politics, business, the professions, or the arts. Years are spent preparing for a given work. Too often unprepared people are given positions of great responsibility in the church and Sunday School. This is not as sad as the fact that the unprepared person makes no effort to improve his knowledge or technique of work. Surely ours in the greatest work in the world. The need is for faithful, skilled prepared labourers.

Please remember the following:

#### GOD DEMANDS FAITHFULNESS:

**1Co 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

#### GOD BLESSED FAITHFULNESS:

Observe how He blessed Abraham, Joshua, Paul and Job. The Word indicates that blessings are given here and hereafter to the faithful. Please note the great loss suffered by the unfaithful.  
Matt. 25:14-30

#### GOD DELIGHTS IN FAITHFULNESS:

It should be the desire of every Christian to please God. Nothing pleases Him more than faith and faithfulness in life and in work. Study carefully the life of Abraham and you will see why he was called the “Father of the faithful”.

#### FAITHFULNESS PRODUCES RESULTS:

Whether a man’s talents are one or five, in the end he will do a worthy work if he is faithful. Will the Lord say to you? “Well done, thou good and faithful servant?”

## VI. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER ...

### STUDIES

Seneca said, "If you devote your time to study, you will avoid all irksomeness of life; nor will you long for the approach of night, being tired of the day; nor will you be a burden to yourself, nor your society insupportable to others."

May we adapt this thought to the Sunday School worker. If the Sunday School worker devotes himself to study of the Word, the following will be true:

- 1. HE WILL BE ALERT.** The mind will be active. The heart will be stirred. Intellectual and spiritual drowsiness will disappear.
- 2. HE WILL GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE.** The Apostle Peter exhorts us, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18
- 3. HE WILL BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS.** When the Word of God is taken into the life, there will be an overflow into the lives of others. Devoted Bible teachers shed abroad an influence which tells for eternity.

The main purpose of the Sunday School is the study of the Bible. This purpose is realized only when the leaders of classes and departments give themselves to the study of the Word.

#### **BIBLE STUDY DEMANDS THE FOLLOWING;**

- 1. A LOVE OF THE WORD.** No one should engage in Sunday School work who cannot honestly say that he loves the Word of God. The curse of a Sunday School is a teacher who likes the spotlights prominence of teaching, but has no love for the Bible. If a genuine love for the Word is lacking in your life, give yourself to prayer until this situation is corrected.
- 2. PRAYER.** If we are to know our Bibles, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds. This Book is inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the Sword of the Spirit; therefore, the Holy Spirit can help us to an understanding of the Word. Prayer and study go together.
- 3. CONCENTRATION.** We must literally force ourselves to concentrate upon the study of the Word. The devil will seek to turn us away. The treasures of the Word are revealed to those who give themselves unstintingly and devotedly to concentrated study.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PREPARING SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS:**

1. Start in time. Too many teachers put off the study of the lesson until the last minute.
2. Read the lesson many times. Study what comes before and after the selected Scripture lesson.
3. Outline the lesson so that the truth can be grasped and retained.

## VII. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER ...

### VISITS

This is a new and difficult day in Sunday School work. Many things clamour for the interest of young and old. The radio, television, good highways, fast cars, and high tension living - - all seek to lead people away from God, the church and the Sunday School. But there is victory through prayer, consistent living and hard work.

VISITATION IS W-O-R-K ! Yes, there is a pleasure in visiting, but it will often be the hardest of work. To win people to Christ and establish them in the faith in the prime objective of the Sunday School Satan desires to defeat this purpose; therefore, he will oppose visitation.

The Lord Jesus practiced and taught visitation. Observe Christ in the homes of the sick, the sorrowing, and sinful. He taught visitation when He sent out His disciples and gave them directions regarding their visitation work. The Apostle Paul believed in and practiced visitation. He said regarding his ministry in Ephesus, *“and have taught our publicly from house to house.”*

#### WHAT VISITATION DOES –

1. It warms the teacher's (worker's) heart. The heart of the teacher becomes cold when there is no contact with the pupil. Visitation makes better Sunday School teachers. It provides illustrations and reveals the needs of others.
2. It shows the interest of the teacher in the pupil. All people are the same. They like to know that somebody cares. When the teacher or worker makes the time to visit, the pupil is strengthened and helped. Indifference is the enemy which robs Sunday Schools and dwarfs the souls of many. Good, sane, visitation stirs the indifferent and brings them back to the house of God.
3. It solves problems. Quite often problems arise in a Sunday School department or class ... feelings are hurt, entire families are affected. Sensible, kindly visitation will help to solve problems and bring people together in the spirit of the Lord. The visitor should pray much both before and during a visit. Prayer changes people and things.
4. It brings souls to Christ. Public preaching is important, but visitation for the sake of winning souls is equally important. At least eighty percent of all who respond to the public invitation in our churches have been dealt with in personal interviews by our workers. What years of preaching cannot do, a few minutes of visitation will accomplish. All Sunday School workers should study carefully the art of soul winning.
5. It increases the enrolment and attendance, both in Sunday School and Church. Any class or department can grow when visitation is consistently done. The world's greatest Sunday Schools have been built through visitation.
6. It makes use of the only tried and true method for building a Sunday School and winning souls. Newspaper advertising is good. Radio announcements accomplish much, but visitation has proved to be the one successful way to grow a Sunday School.
7. It brings the greatest dividends. One hour of visitation may result in the salvation of lost souls, strengthening of weak Christians, the uniting of a home and changing of a score of lives.

## VIII. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

### ENTHUSIASTIC

There is no success without enthusiasm! Webster tells us that enthusiasm is ardent zeal or interest; fervour.

David Livingstone, the pioneer missionary, said, “Nothing good or great has ever been accomplished in this world without enthusiasm. Clarence McCartney comments, “Without enthusiasm, no battles have been won, no cathedrals built, no empires founded, no religions propagated. The secret of success is enthusiasm. The men of victory have been the men who kept the fires burning on the altars of enthusiasm when other flames had sunk into cold gray ashes of despair.”

The world knows the value of enthusiasm. Success comes to men in business, professions, and politics when they are enthusiastic and wholehearted. Campaigns of Hitler and Mussolini were characterized by great enthusiasm. Today communists are enthusiastic in the spread of their hellish teachings.

But, what about Christians? So many are lukewarm, indifferent, and half dead. We have the greatest message in the world. Too often we present it in such a half-hearted way the people do not listen. False religionists are always enthusiastic, but the followers of Christ too often lack this necessary characteristic.

#### WHAT DOES ENTHUSIASM DO?

- 1. Enthusiasm generates confidence.** When you are enthusiastically sold out to your work, it brings the confidence of others.
- 2. Enthusiasm brushes aside opposition.** When a surging fervour possesses the soul, opposition will receive little recognition.
- 3. Enthusiasm is contagious.** An enthusiastic Sunday School worker can stir and inspire all of the people around him.

Enthusiasm builds Sunday School classes, Sunday School departments... entire Sunday Schools! Pray for a holy enthusiasm. The Apostle Paul had it, and he exhorts us in Romans 12:11 to be “*Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.*”

## IX. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER ...

### **ATTENDS THE WEEKLY TEACHERS' AND OFFICERS'S MEETING**

In a big business the heads of the departments meet together for consultation.

In the army the officers meet often for staff meetings.

In a school the faculty is brought together frequently for discussion of the work.

In the successful operation of a great Sunday School the weekly meeting of the teachers and officers is indispensable. Because of the importance of this meeting, no teacher or elected officer of the Sunday School is allowed to hold office without faithful attendance.

The weekly teachers' and officers' meeting supplies the following:

**1. Methods for successful Sunday School building.** We can always improve our way of doing things. We need to know the best methods for arousing interest and increasing attendance in our individual classes.

**2. An opportunity for team work.** Paul says we are workers together with Him." We are co-labourers. To build a successful Sunday School, we must pull in the same direction. It is by cooperation and team work that buildings are erected, wars are won, and the wheels of progress kept turning.

**3. Inspiration for the task.** The work of the teacher is often discouraging. The unfaithfulness of pupils, the indifference of parents, carelessness of youth, all blend together to present a difficult task. Satan opposes the work of a consecrated Sunday School teacher. A time is needed each week to give and receive inspiration.

**4. Instruction in the Word.** Every teacher's meeting supplies some guidance in the problem of presenting the Word of god. Difficulties are ironed out. The point of emphasis for the next Sunday's lesson is specified.

Is the weekly teachers' and officers' meeting important? To assist you in answering this may I suggest two other questions. Can you name two successful Sunday schools who do not have such a meeting? Can you name a successful Sunday School class, directed by teachers and officers, who ignore the importance of weekly teachers' and officers' meeting?

## X. A GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER IS ...

### **FRIENDLY**

Will Rogers, the famous humorist, one said, "I never met a man that I didn't like." This was his philosophy of life... and a good one so far as it went. Our attitude should be, "I never met a person that I didn't love and covet his should for Christ." This concern of ours will cause us to be friendly with every person we meet.

Friendliness describes all the ways that, taken together, enable us to let our love for others show. One of the highest compliments ever paid a person is to say of him that he is friendly. The friendly person is able to get on common ground with others regardless of their age, station vocation, race or language.

Somehow, the friendly person always seems to receive a great deal of help in return. His interest in others and treatment of them evoke a naturally friendly response. No one will deny that people enjoy the association with people they like. Those who are friendly are the best loved among us.

It is impossible to be friendly with some and not with others. The feeling for others that friendliness implies can't be turned on and off like an electric light. The attempt to ration friendliness is doomed to failure. A friendly person feels right toward all those he meets and he is free to devote his energies to the important matters of associating with others.

All of the energy put forth in promoting the Sunday School, no matter how carefully planned will come to naught if our workers fail to be friendly. Many hundreds of invitations are given each week to prospects and visitors to attend our Sunday School. Dare we be less than friendly when people accept them?

When the sun is shining brightly and the thermometer is registering 72, you don't call the weather bureau to find out if it is going to be a nice day. You can feel it. It's the same way with people who attend our classes. When they are greeted by friendliness wherever they turn, they know they are in the right place. They can feel it.

How shall we demonstrate the friendliness we feel? A good evidence of it is a smile. A close second is the voice with a smile. Next comes a warm handclasp followed by interested attention. Helpful service shows we are sincere. Are you friendly? Do you really love people?

No applause meter can answer the question. You alone can. Next to visitation, friendliness on the part of our workers pays the biggest dividends.