

Assessment Tool: Is Our Sunday School *Really* Great?

Directions

To assess where your Sunday school program is right now, thoughtfully and prayerfully rate the statements related to each of the seven tasks of leadership outlined in this book. Use this scale to rank each item from 1 to 5:

- 1—This element is missing in our Sunday school program.
- 2—This is a weak part of our program.
- 3—This is part of our program, but it needs improvement.
- 4—This is an important part of our program.
- 5—This is a very strong element of our Sunday school program.

Add the totals together under each task and divide by the number of questions to get the average score for each task. The tasks scoring an average of three or below are the ones on which you may need to focus most.



1. Developing a Vision for Ministry

- _____ a. Our core ministry values tell who we are and why we behave as we do.
- _____ b. Our purpose (mission) statement tells why we have a Sunday school program.
- _____ c. Our vision statement tells what we pray we will accomplish through our ministry.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 3, equals average score for task 1



2. Passing on a Faith Tradition

- _____ a. We know and value the faith tradition of our church and denomination.
- _____ b. We teach our beliefs to those who will be teaching them to our children.
- _____ c. We select curriculum materials that adhere to our faith tradition.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 3, equals average score for task 2



3. Nurturing the Faith of Children

- _____ a. Teachers understand how children develop intellectually and spiritually.
- _____ b. Teachers understand that children learn in a variety of ways.
- _____ c. We ensure the safety and security of children through written and implemented abuse prevention policies.
- _____ d. We consciously affirm the diversity of the human race in our actions and attitudes.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 4, equals average score for task 3



4. Organizing Your Sunday School Program

- _____ a. We have written goals and strategies to guide us in carrying out our mission and vision.
 - _____ b. We have written policies regarding expected behavior/discipline and safety standards for evacuation procedures, field trips, toys and equipment, health of children, emergency information.
 - _____ c. We have written job descriptions for every position in our Sunday school program.
 - _____ d. We have carefully evaluated and selected a curriculum that supports, encourages, and facilitates learning within a growing community of faith.
 - _____ e. Responsibility for dealing with the details (budgeting, supplies, equipment, environment, special events, records, evaluation) is assigned and effectively carried out.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 5, equals average score for task 4



5. Recruiting Volunteers

- _____ a. Members of our church family understand that volunteering is a privilege, not just a task.
 - _____ b. Volunteers are encouraged to use their gifts in a way that helps them to grow and that most benefits the program.
 - _____ c. Leaders are respectful of the needs of volunteers and what motivates people to serve.
 - _____ d. Recruitment is an ongoing process, not a last-minute filling of slots.
 - _____ e. Recruitment strategies have been successful both in terms of the number of volunteers and their satisfaction with the positions they have filled.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 5, equals average score for task 5



6. Training and Supporting Volunteers

- _____ a. Leaders and teachers understand the value of training.
 - _____ b. A variety of training options are offered to teachers.
 - _____ c. Teacher's meetings are well planned and attended, offer helpful information, and foster a sense of community.
 - _____ d. Leaders intentionally offer volunteers instructional, spiritual, one-on-one, and organizational support and express appreciation and encouragement.
 - _____ e. Teachers feel appreciated and valued.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 5, equals average score for task 6



7. Promoting the Program

- _____ a. Our Sunday school name, logo, slogan, and so on are clearly visible to the church and community.
 - _____ b. We use specific strategies (newsletter, annual reports, parent handbook, commissioning service, and so on) to promote our program.
- _____ total score of items above, divided by 2, equals average score for task 7