

Basic Training for Sunday School Teachers—Session 1

Opening Thoughts:

- Sunday School is vital to the ministry of the church
- Something happens in Sunday School that does not happen in worship or many other ministries
- Think about a spiritual leader who influenced you...

- Positive Teaching Qualities that Influence Others:
 - Spiritual Character
 - Biblical Accuracy
 - Communication Skills
 - People Skills

Developing Spiritual Character

1. Spend Quality Time Alone with God

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed... Mark 1:35

Jesus spent time alone with the Father because He needed:

- Wisdom for Strategic Decisions
- Strength for Spiritual Battles
- Guidance for Ministry to People

Why Sunday School Teachers need to have a Daily Quiet Time with God:

- Wisdom for Strategic Decisions
- Strength for Spiritual Battles
- Guidance for Ministry to People

Keys to a Successful QT:

- Schedule a *Quiet Time*
- Choose a *Quiet Place*
- Decide on a *Plan*
- Aim for *Consistency*
- Prepare for *Invading Thoughts* and *Insights*

P-R-A-Y Formula:

P=Praise

Praise His character, His name, use Psalms, sing to Him, worship Him, bring thanksgiving to Him

R=Repentance

Clear your conscience with God, examine yourself, agree with God, confess sin, remove spiritual “road blocks,” give thanks for His cleansing

Spiritual Road Blocks:

- Unbelief
- Sin
- Selfishness

A=Ask

- For others
- For myself

How to pray for a long list? Divide by 7!

Y=Yield

Waiting on the Lord, memorization, be filled with the Spirit, put on spiritual armor

Noah Waited for God to say, “It’s time.”

Nothing is more critical to a teacher’s success than having a daily, personal quiet time with God

- Other Thoughts on having a Good QT:
 - Use of a prayer journal
 - Sing aloud His praises
 - Use a pen and paper
 - Memorize and meditate on Scripture

2. Personal Surrender to the Holy Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

- Personal Surrender is:
 - A decision
 - A process
 - Surrender is always tested

Surrender each “Room”—Romans 12:1-2

3. Grow through the Trials of Life

- Character is more important than comfort
- Times of Pain serve God's Purposes
 - Pain brought on by rejection
 - Pain brought by others
 - Pain that doesn't make sense
 - Pain I brought on myself
- All things work for our good—Roman 8:28-29a
- They prepare us for special ministry opportunities

4. Deliberately Set Out to Study and Develop Character Qualities in our Lives

- Deference
Being courteous to the desires and wishes of others. Limiting my freedom in order to not offend others
- Flexibility
Cheerfully changing your plans when unexpected conditions require it
- Dependability
Fulfilling what I agreed to do even if it requires personal sacrifice
- Initiative
Recognizing what needs to be done and getting it done without being asked
- Discretion
Avoiding words and actions that needlessly offend others
- Faith
Visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it
- Love
Giving of myself to meet the basic needs of others without personal reward as my motivation
- Loyalty
Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to God and those He has called me serve
- Punctuality
Showing high esteem for other people and their time
- Humility
Living in the awareness that everything that I have and all that I am is a direct result of what God and others have done for me
- Meekness
Yielding my personal rights, agenda and expectations to God and His plan for my life

John C. Maxwell: Efficiency -Ethics =Emptiness