

How to Connect Families with your Sunday School Program

Presented by Kathlyn Mickel

CTK Arrows Out Conference

February 28, 2009

The traditional (nice) model of Sunday school lacks connections with families

To achieve a connection with your families, emotionally invest in children and adults

Investing in your families will

1. Grow your program
2. Retain volunteers
3. Make management easier

Note: Don't forget about your core principal: You must teach one concept: that Jesus Christ was sent to this earth to die on a cross as a sacrifice for our sins so that we can have a relationship with God who loves us.

To invest in your families begin with the concept of love. From the Bible:

I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands, as you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. 2 John 4-6

Whoever lives in love lives in God. 1 John 4:16

We love because he loved us first. 1 John 4:19.

Above all, love one another deeply because love covers a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling, each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in various forms. 1 Peter 4:8

Core principle #1: Every word and action by every volunteer and leader should be motivated by love every time. I call this a "Love Lens"

For kids: love them first, teach them second

For parents: tell them that you love their children

Core Principle #2: Never negative- always positive; let that guide your communication

For kids: Unconditional love regardless of the situation

For Parents: Regardless of the situation, you let them know you want their child in your program- keep it positive at all times

Core Principal #3: Make Connection points with families

Ideas that work:

- Know everyone's name- and use that every time
- Notice kids- their hair, clothes, and capabilities
- Take notes- tell parents about their kids- what they did, how they are
- Birthday cards
- Find out who is in your program- get their information, if they miss more than three Sundays, call or email
- Create family small groups
- Parenting classes
- Events- once a month

Sum Up:

- Use your "Love Lens" in every interaction
- Keep all communication positive
- Make connections outside of church

No reserves, no regrets- love like that.