

52 ATTENDANCE *Boosters*

52 SURE-FIRE STRATEGIES TO PACK YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

1. DESIGN A TANGIBLE PROJECT FOR EACH LESSON

One of the most important ways you can increase attendance at Sunday school is to create lesson plans that include a moral as well as a project. It is important to start the lesson sitting down together, reading from the Bible or starting with a short story. After you explain the reason for the session, kids should immediately be able to put their ideas into practice and move around. To keep them interested, plan an art project or a writing assignment that lets them put into practice the new concepts. And as we all know, interested kids come back to Sunday school!

2. INCLUDE GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Let your students have fun with learning through the use of games that reflect your teaching. The game Telephone works well with a lesson on gossiping and the problems it can cause. Have your students sit in a circle. Come up with a short sentence in your head and whisper it in the ear of a student sitting next to you. They repeat the message they heard from you to the person sitting next to them, and the message goes around the circle. The last person to receive the message says it aloud. It is almost never the same message you started with. This is an excellent way to show how passing on second-hand information can get you in trouble, because you never really know if it is the truth. Games like these will help the lesson stick in your students' heads and make them want to come back for more!

3. GIVE SIMPLE, BUT IMPORTANT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Give your students a small task to complete before the next session and offer a reward for those students who do their homework. Examples might include asking students to do one random act of kindness for a friend or family member during the week that you discuss the Golden Rule, or ask students to remember to pray before bedtime during the week that you introduce personal prayer and its importance in the life of a Christian. Give the students a slip of paper with the homework assignment that they can give to their parents, and ask the parents to sign when the homework is completed. At the

beginning of each lesson, ask for students to hand in the signed papers, and offer a small reward for those who have remembered to bring it back. Those who completed it but forgot to return the paper may be allowed to turn it in the next week for a smaller reward. Rewards can include being chosen as the teacher's helper for the day, getting first pick of supplies or lining up first for an activity, or a small treat such as a bite-size chocolate or a sucker.

4. INCORPORATE MOVEMENT

Check with the church's spiritual leader before beginning this project. Around a major church holiday, work with your students to create a song or short skit that can be performed at one of the church services. Explain the first week the importance of being in attendance each week until the performance, because the group will need to practice and learn more each week. Have children prepare a classical Christmas song or act out the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. This will give students the confidence to know they can perform in front of a group and the determination to attend class each week so as not to be behind.

5. CREATE AN INVITING ENVIRONMENT

If your students don't feel comfortable in your classroom, they will be much less likely to return each week! Create a safe space for your students by kid-proofing the room and removing any dangerous objects. Though candles can add ambience and have special religious meaning, take care when incorporating them into your classroom, especially when they are lit. Teach children to look at and admire the candles but not touch them. Bring materials for the kids to use, including paper, coloring supplies, scissors, tape, glue, glitter, and anything else your students might need to create the projects you design.

6. MAKE EVERYONE AN EQUAL

Your students want to feel important, and the best way to do that is to ensure that no one is more important than anyone else! While it is encouraged to honor students for excellent work or behavior, do your best to keep all students as equals, regardless of age, gender, or economic status. Your kids will be likely to try to exclude one member or another of a group because of perceived differences, so set a good example of treating your class as one. One good way of doing this is arranging the seating so that all are equals; everyone sits at the same level and has equal access to you and their peers.

7. GIVE THEM A CLIFF-HANGER!

At the end of a Sunday school session, hint at an exciting surprise in store for the next lesson, and make sure to follow through! The surprise can be anything, from giving the kids time to express themselves through coloring to bringing a snack of donuts and milk. Make sure to keep things mysterious, and keep in mind that the surprise has to be truly exciting for the kids, or the game won't work more than a week or two. Students figure out pretty quickly whether or not your idea of a "surprise" matches up with their own, so the surprise must be something of value to the students.

8. AN AWARD IS A GREAT MOTIVATOR!

When a student reaches the minimum number of attendances or completes so many homework assignments in a row, let them know their reward will come the following week. Students can sit in a place of honor or get to bring in treats for the class, or they can even get to pick the activity of the day, depending on how flexible your schedule as a teacher is. Withholding a reward until the following week ensures that kids will be anxious to get back to class, even when it is not their reward, because it will remind them that the more times they are at Sunday School, the sooner they will receive a similar award.

9. KEEP TRACK OF ATTENDANCE AND GIVE REWARDS

Give students a ticket for each week they are in attendance, as well as any time a student did something exceptionally well or is behaving just as you asked. When students accumulate a certain number of tickets, they are able to trade them in for a prize, which can consist of a short book, a set of markers or crayons, or any other small, inexpensive and appropriate gift you come up with. Keep the tickets with you in the classroom so none get lost, and make attendance worth more tickets than anything else.

10. RESERVE SOME DAYS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

No student wants to learn all the time, so throwing in a few unannounced "fun" days can make students want to come back, just to see if it's a relaxing day. Let students listen to Christian music or watch Christian videos, including full-length G or PG rated movies. They should, of course, have a message of some sort. Discuss the film or the show with the class afterward and see what they learned. Before putting it on, you can ask them to keep track of the people who treat others with kindness and those who

are mean, or you can ask them to look for the moral in the movie. That way, the kids will be having fun but learning at the same time. But shhh! Don't let them know they're learning!

11. DISPLAY STUDENTS' WORK IN A PROMINENT PLACE

When your class has finished their activity for the day, if it is a visible object, display it for the next week in a prominent place in the church, with the child's name displayed near it. At the next class, take down the objects so students may take them home to keep or display. Students will want to come each week so their work will be admired by all the church-goers, and so there isn't a blank spot next to their name. Let them know that when they don't come, they have no work to show!

12. HAVE A VOTE!

Ask church members to view the projects created each week and have slips of paper and a box for members to vote on their favorite project. Tally the votes before the next class period and offer a prize for the winner. Since the church is already involved, it will be especially exciting if the spiritual leader can award the prize in front of the congregation at one of the services. This can become a weekly occurrence, engaging the students, spiritual leaders, and church members all at once!

13. KEEP LESSONS FAST-PACED!

No one has a shorter attention span than a child, so plan lessons that are short, focused, and that can include an activity each time. Students will sit and listen only for a short time before they need to move and create and let out energy, so explain the lesson to the students briefly and show them how they can turn that into a project of some sort. Then begin a hands-on activity that supplements the lesson. You may need to plan different lessons depending on the age groups you teach; for example, if you teach very young kids and older youth in different classes, the lesson can be the same but the execution must be tweaked for each group. Older students have a longer attention span than do young children, so expand the discussion to include their thoughts and experiences before jumping into a project. With younger kids, they will learn through doing something much better than through talk.

14. PLAN A FIELD TRIP

Tell students and parents at least a month in advance that your class will be taking a field trip, and teach a little more each week about what you will be doing. For example, plan a visit to a nursing home for

students to visit with the elderly, and talk to them each week about what to expect and the importance of respecting the elderly. This project will take significant work, because you will have to get permission slips signed by all parents before students can be allowed to participate. You will also have to contact the site you wish to visit before you introduce the project to the parents and students to make the necessary contacts and see how your students can help enrich the lives of the people they visit.

15. CREATE UNIQUE AWARDS FOR EACH STUDENT

One of the best ways to keep students involved is to give them friendly competition. Create as many different awards as students that you have, and challenge them to see how many awards they can accumulate during the Sunday school sessions. Examples of awards include "Most enthusiastic student," "Most artistic," "Best memory," "Most helpful," "Best listener," etc. Make sure that all students can win awards, so no one feels left out, but not everyone has to get an award every week. Of course, to win an award, a student has to be in attendance at Sunday school, so you give them personal motivation to show up.

16. CREATE A STORY, ADDING A PARAGRAPH EACH WEEK

During one session early in the year, create characters and give them personalities, making sure to incorporate anything that the students suggest. Each week, add a paragraph onto the story that incorporates the lesson for that week, making sure that the story still makes sense. Review what you have already written before adding on, and remind the students that if they are not in class, they will miss you on creating the next part of the story! Each student should get a piece of construction paper and copy down the paragraph written that day. They can decorate the page as they wish, and each week, you can add their pages together. At the end of the year, or set of sessions, the story should be finished, and the students can take home their pages. Together, you can bind them with string or staples, and the kids will have a lasting example of their creativity.

17. SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & PARENTS

At the beginning of the year, set up a meeting with the parents of all your students. Introduce yourself and explain your plan for the year, assuring parents that you plan to teach their kids valuable lessons while still letting them have fun. List the major themes you wish to cover during the year, such as the 10 Commandments, the Golden Rule, what prayer is and why it is important, how to use the Bible, the

importance of going to church, etc. Ask for their suggestions and take their questions, making yourself available for consultation if they have any questions or concerns. Pass out your contact information and encourage parents to raise any and all issues with you. Ask parents for their help in teaching and their cooperation with homework assignments and sign-in sheets. Reiterate to them the importance of bringing their kids each week to maintain a schedule and keep Sunday School a focus of their week.

18. 1 ON 1 PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

During the first general meeting you have between parents and teachers, ask them to sign up for slots to talk with you personally. During this time, ask parents about the role of church and God in their homes and what they hope their children will receive from Sunday school. Ask about any family issues or problems of which you should be aware, and encourage parents to stay involved in their children's experience.

19. GIVE PARENTAL HOMEWORK

When you meet individually with parents, challenge them to stay involved in their children's experience by asking questions, checking up on assignments, and participating when requested. Including parents is one of the best ways to get your students to class each week, because without parental commitment, student commitment means nothing! Explain to the parents the types of homework you will be sending home and the importance of their signature each week, as it means rewards for their student.

20. SEND HOME A PARENT NEWSLETTER

Once a month, send your students home with a short newsletter explaining the upcoming events in Sunday school and the focus of the lessons. By informing parents of activities and goals, they will be more likely to believe in the power of Sunday school and commit to taking their child each week. This also helps you connect with parents and show that you are interested and involved in their children's lives. With a connection comes trust, the best mechanism for increasing attendance.

21. CONTACT YOUR STUDENTS PERSONALLY

Get parental permission to contact students outside of class time. They will be delighted to get their own telephone calls or emails, and you can keep Sunday school an important part of their lives. Send them

special birthday messages or remind them of homework assignments throughout the week. This will help them remember to complete their assignments on time and encourage them to come back to class.

22. IMPLEMENT A PEN PAL SYSTEM

Start a pen pal system between your class and a class in another town or another state. Contact friends or family in other cities also involved in Sunday schools, and have students write to each other about what they are learning each week and what other activities are happening in their lives. Send the letters together as one, to ensure all the letters are sent and received together. When your letters come in, distribute them to the class and read them. Ask students to share what is happening with their pen pals, and respond to the letters. Remind students that if they do not attend class, they cannot write to their pals, and that person will not receive a letter that week.

23. SEND KIDS ON A SCAVENGER HUNT

When you explain the difference between the real meaning of church holidays and the image we see in society, ask kids to keep track of the number of times they encounter certain things. For example, tell kids to keep track of the number of times they see Easter eggs on display during the week, and have them report back to you. You can also ask them to pay attention when they watch TV to how many times they see Santa Claus, and what he is doing each time. Asking the students to report back a number will remind them throughout the week that Sunday School is coming up again and make them excited to see who reports the most sightings.

24. PLAN MULTI-DAY PROJECTS

Plan activities that take more than class period to complete so that students want to return. Projects that take more than one day help you repeat the lesson from the previous week and keep kids involved. Around Christmas time, help your students create a snow angel scene from heavy cardboard, paint, glitter, and cotton balls. They can make the angel one class session, and let it dry during the week. When they return, they can create the scene around it, making snow drifts and clouds of cotton balls and decorating the scene with glitter, paint, feathers, and anything else your students may want to include.

25. IMPLEMENT A SHOW-AND-TELL

Similar to having kids bring something in when they help teach, asking kids to bring in something special to them will encourage attendance, since students love to talk about what is most important to them. Have different themes that students can follow, such as “an important relic from your baptism,” or “a Christian kids book or Bible” that can be shared. Ask students to share their items and give all students time to explain its importance.

26. USE TECHNOLOGY

Students stay engaged and involved when you use things they are familiar with, such as technology! Research interactive Christian websites that your students can browse and learn from, or bring in Christian DVDs or CDs. While you might not feel technologically qualified enough to lead a group of young people, they will have no problem showing you how it should be done. For older kids, the video game Peacemaker is an excellent way to fuse learning with fun. It is a strategy video game with the goal of bringing peace to Israel and Palestine. This would work well with a lesson on war and peace, the consequences, and the solutions. Power Point is another great way to use technology. It also helps students practice reading. This keeps their interest and allows you to both read aloud and have them read silently, increasing the number of senses they engage and the possibility of the lesson sinking in.

27. MAKE YOUR STUDENTS THE TEACHERS

Assign a small task to a student each week that will help you teach the upcoming lesson. Making students co-teachers encourages them to make Sunday school their own project and makes them want to come back! For example, give a student three or four Bible passages to read through that are relevant to the next week’s topic. Ask them to read through the passages with their parents and pick their favorite. Students should be asked to bring in something that the passage describes or depict the passage in artwork. When the student arrives the following week, the teacher can ask the student to read the passage aloud to the group and explain what they brought in and why. Asking students to help teach makes them feel important and accomplished, especially when you encourage other students to pay attention to the speaker. Making it an honor will make teaching desirable to the kids, to the point that they can’t wait to come back, and those who are listening will be excited for their own turn at teaching the class.

28. IMPLEMENT A BUDDY SYSTEM

Giving your students a buddy in the class will promote accountability and give them a great example of how to interact with a partner, a useful tool later on for things like prayer partners. Pair students up and tell them that their job is to make sure that their buddy remembers the homework assignment and follows the rules. This should not turn into a tattletale system, where you hear a constant stream of “he didn’t do this right!” The partners should gently remind each other when they are doing something wrong, such as forgetting to clean up the work area at the end of class.

29. GIVE YOUR STUDENTS A PRAYER PARTNER

As with the buddy system, prayer partners are Sunday school students accountable to each other. This works best with older students who understand the idea of prayer and its importance in daily life. Ask your students to pair up and explain to them the purpose of a prayer partner. The partner should ask the other about their prayer habits during the week, and ask for prayers for themselves or friends or family who may be having a hard time. Prayer partners make everyone feel involved because your students are counting on each other as much as they are being counted on. Prayer partners helps develop lasting relationships between students and encourages their participation and attendance in class each week.

30. START EACH CLASS WITH AN ICE-BREAKER GAME

Students love to talk about themselves and their lives, so pick an ice-breaker that will let kids talk about their experiences and get ready to learn more about God. A good example is Good Day-Bad Day, where you go around in a circle and say the best and worst thing that happened to you that week or that day, depending on how far back your students can remember. This often fuels good discussion or a great way for you to impart wisdom, because many of the bad experiences come from friend relationships, submission to parents, or an obligation to follow rules. Another good game is the Thankful game, where everyone goes around and says at least one thing they are thankful for. While this game is especially appropriate around Thanksgiving time, it helps students remember their blessings all throughout the year.

31. RESPECT YOUR STUDENTS

At an age where everyone considers them a subordinate, children love feeling like an equal to an adult. Respect the feelings, actions, and personalities of your students by allowing them to express themselves in your activities. Listen to their input in discussion and make it clear how valuable their opinions are. Respecting your students teaches them to respect themselves and creates a feeling of self-confidence, which will drive them to return to your class week after week.

32. GIVE STUDENTS INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

When students work individually on projects or activities, wander the room and chat with each student. Complement them on the work that they are doing and offer suggestions for making things better. Question them about their motivation or interpretation, and make it clear that you value their presence in your class.

33. GIVE YOUR STUDENTS CHOICES

Let your students express their interests by allowing them to choose between different activities that you have planned. All activities should have the same outcome of driving home the lesson you are focusing on for that week, but letting students choose makes them feel like participation in Sunday school is their choice and not the choice of their parents. Even if you plan on doing all the activities you have planned, ask students which they would rather do first. You still have control over what your class is doing, but they feel empowered and connected to the activity.

34. SET UP A YOUTH SERVICE OUTSIDE OF REGULAR SERVICE

Involve your students in the routine of church services by working with the church's spiritual leader to design a service with kids in mind. Your students can perform the roles adults usually play, including reading passages from the Bible, greeting and seating church members, providing the music for the service, and any other aspect necessary for the service. For several weeks ahead of time, you can prepare your classes by reviewing what roles need to be filled and picking people. Help them practice their lines or their actions so that they do not get scared and forget during the actual service. Invite parents personally and extend an invitation to the entire church community. Work with the spiritual leader to

ensure that the message of the service is geared toward children with words and concepts they will understand and be interested in.

35. HONOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS WITH GIFTS

When Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparents' Day are near, work with your students to create a Christian-themed gift all will cherish. Talk to your students about the importance of respecting their father and mother and the wisdom their grandparents can share. Ask them about their grandparents. Prepare ahead of time your response to a child who has had a grandparent pass away. Help your students make cards, picture frames, jewelry, key chains, or any other small token your students' parents will appreciate. This may be a multi-day project, which will also encourage students to return. Add an element of mystery by telling your students that this is a surprise that they should not tell their parents about.

36. CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN....THE CHRISTIAN WAY!

Explain to your students the purpose of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, November 1 and 2 respectively. Ask them if they know the reason behind our famous trick-or-treating and teach them about the custom of asking for food to be presented symbolically to their deceased family members, as a way to honor them and show that living family members had not forgotten their ancestors. Talk to your students about the importance of honoring the dead. Make the day more fun by giving them Halloween candy, some of which they can symbolically offer to their deceased family members and the rest which they can eat themselves. In anticipation of the day, ask students the week before to come dressed up for Halloween in honor of the celebration.

37. TEACH STUDENTS THE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING

This project will take two class periods, and should be done just before Thanksgiving. The first day, talk to your students about the importance of giving thanks to God for our blessings, and tell them the meaning of the cornucopia. Help them make the outside of the cornucopia by giving each a funnel-shaped paper cup. You can determine the size by buying pre-made paper cups or creating your own with construction paper. Students should then "weave" construction paper around the cornucopia base to cover it and make it look authentic. The second week, students should fill their cornucopia with cut-outs of their favorite foods, games, hobbies, and names of the most important people in their lives. Ask students to take the cornucopias home and display them on Thanksgiving for the family to see and admire.

38. HOLD A CHURCH SOCIAL

When Sunday school enrollment is near, hold an ice cream social (or some other food-centered social) where parents and children can come and experience a typical Sunday school session. As with all sessions, there should be a lesson, a way to tie it back to the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, a way to make it relevant to the students and the parents, and an activity to keep everyone involved. This is a great way to prove to parents the organization, structure, and message of Sunday school and convince them that it is a worthwhile investment of their own and their children's time.

39. CONNECT LESSONS TO REAL-LIFE EVENTS

Ask your students to bring in a newspaper article that they pick with the help of their parents. Students should be familiar with the article so that they can share what they have brought. Bring in an extra newspaper yourself in case any student forgets, and ask them to pick an article at the beginning of class. Talk through the articles and ask students what they think God would think of the event and if what happened was bad or good. Draw Biblical teachings in to explain a Christian's perspective on the issue before moving on to the next article. This will help your students see God in their everyday lives and view the world from a Christian's point of view.

40. HOLD A CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Just like adults, children need a way to socialize with their Christian peers without an actual, structured class! Hold a children's fellowship night sponsored by the Sunday school once a month where children can come relax, eat, watch movies, play games, and socialize in a safe, Christian environment with responsible adult chaperones. This is an excellent way for Sunday school students to make friends in class, which will motivate them to attend classes and pay attention while they are there. If your students need real motivation, make attendance at the fellowship night a reward they earn if they have accumulated enough points or tickets, as discussed earlier. However, the fellowship night should be a welcome place for all children to come and "hang out" without their parents.

41. FOLLOW-UP ON SUCCESSIVE ABSENCES

Many times, parents and students lose motivation to attend Sunday school when they think no one cares, or if a student has missed class more than twice in a row, make a sincere effort to get in touch with the

family and ask if there is anything you can do to ensure that your student makes it to class. Extend a personal invitation to the student asking that he or she return and probe into the real reason for the absences. Reiterate your commitment to the program and your interest in your student's well-being. Sometimes, all students need is a little personal attention!

42. MAINTAIN AN ENVIRONMENT OF CONTROL

There will always be problem students in your class, and managing them is essential to maintaining your attendance numbers. If you allow a student to continually act up or be disrespectful to you, him/herself, or others, the other students will perceive the class as a joke and be less excited about attending. Students get tired of having the lesson stopped so that a student can be disciplined, so establish your authority early with clear rules and punishments. Then, make sure to enforce them!

43. DRAW UP A SET OF RULES WITH YOUR STUDENTS

At the beginning of Sunday school, explain to your students the importance of having rules for everyone's safety and ability to learn. Ask for their input in the creation of rules, and craft several simple guidelines that your students can take credit for. When they have taken part in the drafting of rules and consequences, they will be more likely to respect those rules and hold other students accountable as well. This helps you maintain a controlled environment and increase the amount everyone can learn from each session.

44. DROP BY THE HOME OF NEW STUDENTS

Making students feel welcome is one of the best ways to keep them coming back for more. When a new family registers with the church and enrolls their student in Sunday school, stop by their house sometime between the first and second classes to tell them how excited you were to see them in class and how you hope they return. Thank the parents for their involvement in their children's spiritual lives and encourage them to contact you with questions or concerns. Make your visit short and unannounced, and do not try to pray with the family or turn the time into a lesson. This is simply a chance for you to personally welcome the new family to the church and encourage them to continue coming each week.

45. REWARD THE STUDENT WHO FINDS IT FIRST

Start the Find it First game by telling your student that whoever finds a hidden item first in the room wins a prize each week. This encourages students to show up on time for school and even arrive early! Make sure you hide the object well so that several students will have to look hard to find it. When the student finds the object, they can either keep that object or trade it for points or tickets, whatever you decide is best for your class. Prizes can include a poster, bookmark, Christian trading cards, or another small Christian token.

46. MAKE VISITORS FEEL AT HOME WITH A WELCOME PACK

Encourage your students to bring a friend to Sunday school by offering Welcome Packs to new students in attendance. Inside the pack can be a short note welcoming the student and inviting them to return, a small amount of candy, a map of important places in the church, a list of upcoming activities, and a list of contact information in case the student or parent wants more information. Introduce the visitor to the class and ask them to say a little about themselves. Have the class greet the student and include him or her in all class activities for the day. This will encourage students to attend Sunday school even when they have a friend staying the night, and it can help you gain new students to share Christ with!

47. CREATE WEEKLY LESSON CHAINS WITH YOUR STUDENTS

At the end of each class period, hand students a strip of construction paper. Have them write the lesson of the day, such as “God can help us make good decisions” on one side of the paper and fold it into a ring, with the words on the outside. Each week, they tape or staple the ring to the previous one, making a chain with each week’s topic prominently displayed. The student with the longest chain at the end of all the sessions receives a prize, because that is the student with the best attendance. Also, students take the chain home at the end of the sessions and can tell their parents what they have done as well as jog their memory about the point of each lesson.

48. ENCOURAGE EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

While much of the class should be light-hearted and focused on fun, an element of learning and growing must be included as well. When you read from the Bible or teach a specific lesson, give your students a chance to reflect on the ideas before responding. Then, ask specific, thought-provoking questions that

will require them to think and apply the ideas to their own lives. Of course, this must be tailored for your age group, so some groups will have quite general questions while others will require significant application to life events.

49. PRAY WITH YOUR CLASS EACH WEEK

The saying “the family that prays together, stays together” holds true for Sunday school classes as well! Engage your students in group prayer each week, asking for special intentions for friends or family who are sick or have just died, or for any other issues or problems a student might wish to address. Listening to each other’s problems and tying them into prayer will draw your students closer together and create a bond that will keep your students wanting more. Go around the circle and let anyone pray aloud that wants to, beginning and ending with yourself. Set a good example by showing your students how to pray aloud and what to say.

50. SEND HOME LESSON PLANS PARENTS CAN FOLLOW

In an effort to stay involved, many parents want to help reinforce what their children are learning in Sunday school, but don’t know where to start. Each week or each month, send home quick lesson plan ideas, preferably with materials, to help parents teach the same message you covered in class. They will be delighted to help their kids grow in Christ, and you will find that your students retain much more information if they have received it from different sources at different times.

51. MAKE T-SHIRTS WITH YOUR STUDENTS

An excellent source of free advertising and a fun project for any age, T-shirts will give your students a “uniform” to wear for field trips, church socials, and youth ministry events. Bring fabric paint, stencils, fabric markers, and design books and let the students design their own unique Sunday school shirt! They should include the name of the Sunday school, the child’s name, and any other picture or phrase that the child chooses. Examples can include a cross, a sun, a dove, or any other religious symbol. These shirts will need to dry overnight, so the kids should leave them in class and pick them up the next week. Then, encourage kids to wear them proudly!

52. RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Students often feel disinterested if they do not receive constant attention, which a teacher cannot always give. Help your students feel important and help yourself stay organized by recruiting volunteers to assist with Sunday school teaching. Volunteers can be teenage church members or adult volunteers, and they should be an assistant to the teacher however they are needed. This will often mean watching half the group or demonstrating activity instructions. They may need to take over the class when the regular teacher is not available, or they may need to single out a student for discipline. Volunteers should be responsible, committed, and energetic church members with the same love of Christ that you have!