

Sunday School Teachers Video – *How to Create a Lesson Plan*

Jackie Hendrickson

Troy Fredrickson

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INTRODUCTION - Adrian Pirness

LLC's Christian Education work supports the formal, identified forms of education that happen in congregations. The work supports homes and families, where God has placed the primary duty of rearing the coming generations, according to His Word.

The forms of instruction include Sunday school, Day Circle, Bible class, Confirmation school, and a variety of camps serving children and adults. Christian Education efforts include developing curriculum and resource material for teachers use.

The Sunday school teachers are a very important part of the work. The LLC Christian Education staff work to provide curriculum, resources, and training. The teachers interact with the students and help them learn the material. Think of your calling to serve in this way – as a parent we pray that the congregation will help us rear our children and instruct them according to God's Word. How would you as a parent hope that your child is being taught the ABC's of faith at Sunday school?

Consider the hopes and expectations of the students. They want to learn and they find it interesting to learn. Freely serve! God provides His Word and the gifts to teach.

Last June, Rod Nikula and I sent out a survey to the Sunday School Director in each congregation. Several congregations sent in responses, and we thank you! In addition, we met with the Rockford congregation Sunday school heads to learn more about the needs through face-to-face discussion. This video – *How to Create a Lesson Plan*, is an attempt to respond to some of the needs expressed in the survey responses and our face-to-face meeting.

Instead of an evening webcast workshop for Sunday school teachers this year, we are trying a new concept using videos about certain aspects of teaching. We plan to issue two additional videos during this Sunday school year. Our hope is that each congregation could arrange its schedule to allow the Sunday school teachers time to watch these videos on a regularly scheduled Sunday school Sunday.

One suggestion is to have a local minister or Bible class teacher do a group lesson while the Sunday school teachers watch this video. Perhaps teacher's assistants (or older youth) could watch each grade's students during the group lesson. Sunday school teachers could join their class at the conclusion of the video.

The videos will be posted on the LLC Sunday school documents portal, along with this “Notes” page for later reference and use by teachers.

Finally, we continue to seek your input and guidance on supporting your needs and assisting your teaching work. Please send us suggestions for topics and/or ways to present the material or make other improvements. We welcome local congregations to work with us to produce future videos.

Thank you Jackie Hendrickson and Troy Fredrickson for your work to develop the following basic information on creating a lesson plan. Jackie is a teacher by profession and Troy is studying to be a teacher. Both are involved in Sunday school teaching activities in the Rockford congregation. We hope that you find this information useful as a starting point for your lesson planning. Over time, we will go deeper into the lesson planning topic as well as other topics.

Our thanks also to Mary Ann Wikman from the Minneapolis congregation for recording, editing, and publishing this video.

HOW TO CREATE A LESSON PLAN

This video includes some interactive ways to teach a lesson, hoping that students can learn something about faith, the most precious matter in our life. It is intended as a support to lesson planning material that is already provided in the LESSON PLANNING OUTLINE, June 2004 in the Sunday School Curriculum.



These notes are additional thoughts and comments to support a video presentation called *How to Create a Lesson Plan*, prepared by Jackie Hendrickson and Troy Fredrickson at the request of the LLC Christian Education Director.

The presentation is available in PDF format in the Sunday School folder on the LLC website documents portal. (www.llchurch.org/documents)

For a short time, the video can also be viewed by going to www.llchurch.org and selecting *Sunday School Teacher Resources* from the Quick Links.

Note: The original presentation was done on Prezi software. On the PDF version, the Title slide is duplicated. It seems to be a characteristic of the software. The SLIDE numbers in the following notes are based off the PDF version.

Slide 4 - Warm up

Introductions are important in beginning to build relationships with students. Say your name and provide a little information about you – especially in the first two or three Sunday school lessons.

The reasons for doing the warm-up:

1. Transition the student's mind to the material that is about to be taught
2. To gauge what your students already know about the topic
3. Opportunity to pre-teach concepts or vocabulary

Slide 6 – Goal Today

The suggested lesson outline follows the format that students typically experience in most schools today. Most students should be used to this format.

The time frames for the grade levels are flexible, students in 1st grade will be able to pay attention better for an 8 to 10-minute lesson rather than a full 15 minutes...

8th & 9th grades can have a longer lesson. ≈25 minutes, but still include an activity.

Slide 7 – When creating a Lesson Plan, Work Backwards

Begin your planning with the “end in mind”. Instead of starting with gathering the materials you want your students to use:

1. **Start** with thinking about **what you want your students to learn.**
2. **Then,** what activity you can use to reinforce material.
3. **Then,** how you are going to present it?

Slide 8 – Lesson.

Studies have shown that two essential ingredients for teaching are to have discipline and knowledge/grasp of what is being taught. Therefore, the objectives, resources, and Bible

references in the Sunday school curriculum are to help the teacher prepare themselves to teach the lesson. Some references and scripture portions can be used in the lesson. Discipline refers to self-discipline to study and prepare one's self to teach.

Teach to what your students don't know!!!

It is not a requirement to teach to all the objectives given to you in the Sunday school Curriculum. It never hurts for you as the teacher to be familiar with ALL the objectives. During the warm-up for the lessons you teach, listen closely to understand what the students already know. *On the fly* – be prepared to spend the most time teaching the objectives that the students haven't learned.

Pick 2 or maybe 3 objectives depending on the grade level and proficiency of the students.

Slide 9 – How do I want to present my lesson?

Don't be afraid to use technology. ***Download it on your iPad or computer before you get to the church*** so you don't have to rely on an Internet connection during the lesson.

Slide 10 & 11 – Bible Illustrations

There are excellent Bible illustrations that have been developed for use in teaching.

Many illustrations or pictures on the Internet are not accurate with scripture and teachers have been timid to use these. Illustrations can help students learn. We are fortunate now to have a set of illustrations and coloring sheets that teachers can use in their lessons.

Raimo Österberg's illustrations depict 210 Old and New Testament stories. These illustrations are intended for teaching children and youth, and are closely tied to the scripture. Presently the album is available on CD and thumb drive formats for only \$39.00, and can be purchased through the LLC website.

Note that this is copyrighted material and the illustrations you use from your purchased CD/thumb drive should not be copied and used by others.

Slide 12 – Activities that help solidify learning

Student teaching is a great way to solidify comprehension of the material.

For example, in one 9th grade Sunday school year the students were assigned a parable they would teach to the rest of the Sunday school class. To this day, one student said they still remember the parable that they had to teach. The same student doesn't remember many other lessons that they sat through during that year. When teaching something, you are more involved with the learning... teachers know and understand this from having to prepare a lesson.

Interactive learning is beneficial for a deeper level of understanding.

Slide 13 – Example Plan layout

Lesson outline.

Slide 14 – Now it's your turn.

Using the fourth grade lesson #22 outline: *Daniel and the Lion's Den*

Create a lesson with a: Warm-up, lesson, activity, wrap-up

Slide 15 – Wrap up

Looking back to your notes from the *Warm-Up*, Slide 4, did anything change? We hope this presentation helped, even if it was a review of what you already know. Be encouraged to continue in the important work of teaching the children and youth in God's Kingdom. God has called you to serve. It doesn't matter if God has given one or ten talents to you, the important point is that you don't hide the gifts – rather use what God has provided.

Slide 16 – Provide feedback

Was this presentation beneficial? Please call or email your thoughts to the LLC Christian Education Director. Your feedback is very much appreciated!

Suggestions for other presentation topics and delivery methods are very welcome! We would like to see many congregations involved in the work. Please contact the LLC Christian Education Director to discuss topics and ideas for creating additional videos.