

Nothing Less: Leading with Excellence in your Sunday School Class or Small Group

PURPOSE

This session will challenge participants to accept nothing less than their best in the work they do with youth in and through Sunday school and small groups.

PREPARE

1. If using the PowerPoint presentation, download to your computer.
2. Bring nametags and markers if not provided.
3. Print copies (front & back) of the "Listening Sheet" to give to each participant. (Handout)
4. Study this Leader Guide carefully.
5. Prepare the room you will have to present your conference.
Suggestions:
 - a. Arrange chairs in a horseshoe if possible.
 - b. Select a "focal wall" that is opposite the door. This allows late-arrivers to enter the room without distracting other participants.
 - c. Place the listening sheet for the conference in the chairs. (Handout)
6. Plan the amount of time you have to teach this seminar. Teach at an appropriate pace.
7. It is all right if you do not finish the seminar. Simply point participants to their listening sheet for further learning and do share contact information so that the participants can contact you.

PRESENT

Slide #1 Title

Welcome!

PRAY to open

INTRO one another (name, church, how they serve with students)

ASK

-What are your questions you came to have answered?

Take answers on white board or paper. Attempt to work in answers to these questions or address throughout.

Slide #2 A Theology of Excellence

It is important to understand scripturally why we need to strive for excellence. The answer is simple.

Slide #3 Colossians 3:17



Slide #4 **Why Excellence?**

Let's look at some of the reasons we need to do our work with students with excellence and give nothing less than our best to the Lord.

Slide #5 **Who are you?**

As a teacher of youth, have understanding, knowledge and wisdom about the subject you teach. That means, by teaching about the Lord, you have understanding, knowledge, and wisdom about life in Christ, spiritual growth and maturity, life in the Kingdom, etc...

Group Discuss: What makes you uncomfortable with that thought? What encourages you about it?

Slide #6 **Knowing Christ**

The thing that allows us to teach/ be spiritual teachers is our own life in Christ. Our experiencing, living with, and daily pursuing Jesus is the thing we have to give to students. They need to catch our experience with Jesus from us. **THE BEST THING WE CAN GIVE TO THE STUDENT WE WORK WITH IS OUR INTIMATE WALK WITH JESUS!**

Slide #7 **TEACH**

We teach from our own experience with and growth in Jesus. Although that thought might be overwhelming, this leads us to a place of surrender. Because of this, we teach from a place of humility. We too are living out our faith while, at the same time, passing along the faith to the students with which we work. So,

Slide #8 **Discuss: How's Your Experiencing"? Are youth catching influence from you?**

Slide #9 **Where Excellence Comes From**

Having looked at the spiritual well that feeds our effective ministry with students, let's now look at where excellence, giving nothing less, comes from

Slide #10 **NEW POSITION**

Slide #11 **Colossians 3:3**

Slide #12 **abide.**

When we come into relationship with Jesus, we should be driven to a place of abiding. This isn't always the case. *Pair share: Why is this not always the case? Then take some answers from the pairs.*

Slide #13 **John 15:5**

Slide #14 **Eval: ARE YOU RIGHTLY POSITIONED IN CHRIST? ARE YOU ABIDING?**

Slide #15 **NEW PERSONA**

When we have new position in Jesus, we take on a new persona. The believer begins to live and look like Jesus.

Slide #16 **Colossians 3:5**

Slide #17 **Colossians 3:7**

Slide #18 **Eval: ARE YOU WALKING IN YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST (your new persona)? Is your faith showing?**



Slide #19 NEW PRODUCTION

A life that is aligned with Jesus produces fruit according to the Spirit alive and active in them.

Slide #20 Colossians 3:17

Slide #21 Colossians 3:23

Slide #22 John 15:8

The fruit of God's goodness to us and growing in us is excellence out of us. So,

Slide #23 How Can I Serve with Excellence?

Slide #24 What is Success to You?

Slide #25 Success according to the Lord

Slide #26 Which do you find easiest? Hardest?

Slide #27 Success: Who you are Becoming v. What you are Doing

Slide #28 In our becoming, we address the doing.

Slide #29 Eval: ARE YOU WORKING TO HONOR THE LORD? ARE YOU "SUCCESSFUL"?

Slide #30 Why not be better?

Slide #31 How can I be better?

Let's look at the areas of picture of success according to the Lord & determine ways we can get "better."

Slide #32 How Do I Accept Nothing Less?

Here are four areas we can be better as those who work with youth, no matter the role we play.

COMMUNICATES WITH THE LORD, WITH STUDENTS, WITH FAMILIES, WITH LEADERSHIP

CONTACTS REGULARLY. DEVELOP A PLAN TO CONTACT

CONNECTS DEVELOP A CALENDAR TO RELATIONALLY CONNECT WITH STUDENTS ON A REGULAR, ROTATING BASIS

CONTINUES FUELED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHILD OF GOD SERVES WITH LONGEVITY, MEANING, & IMPACT

Slide #33 A Great Trust

God gave us a great trust. Let's look at some more ways we can steward that trust well. One main area is relational connection with youth. This is one of the main reasons we do many of the things we do in youth ministry. Let's not lose sight of the main reason behind the connection.

Slide #34-35 The Transitive Property of Connection

The main reason God has given us entrance into the lives of these students is to connect them in relationship to God and see them grow in Him. How are we doing at that main task?

Slide #36 How do you relate?

What other groups can you identify, other than those listed, you connect with in and through your group? (agricultural, angry, awkward, aloof, damaged/hurt, lonely, loners, skaters, etc...). As a



homework exercise, with just you or with your team (or even your leadership kids) list them out, all of them. To a kid, how might you best connect with each?

Connection is vital in youth ministry. Engagement in your group is also important. How might you be better in your group time to maximize youth engagement? Let's look...

Slide #37 Building a Better Group

Slide #38 Better Group Brainstorm

Walk through certain elements on the brainstorm slide. What's missing? How can you encourage one another in those listed? Answer questions related to those mentioned or added.

Slide #39 Will you be better?

Slide #40 Will you give nothing less than your best to the Lord?

Remind participants to use the following resources:

skopos.org

DiscipleMe

Allow for follow-up discussion

Thank and dismiss the participants.



DiscipleMe: Closing the Loop on Discipleship

PURPOSE

This session aims to help participants understand the why and how of disciple making and to introduce them to the DiscipleMe resource.

PREPARE

1. If using the PowerPoint presentation, download to your computer.
2. Bring nametags and markers if not provided.
3. Print copies (front & back) of the “Listening Sheet” to give to each participant. (Handout)
4. Study this Leader Guide carefully.
5. Prepare the room you will have to present your conference.
Suggestions:
 - a. Arrange chairs in a horseshoe if possible.
 - b. Select a “focal wall” that is opposite the door. This allows late-arrivers to enter the room without distracting other participants.
 - c. Place the listening sheet for the conference in the chairs. (Handout)
6. Plan the amount of time you have to teach this seminar. Teach at an appropriate pace.
7. It is all right if you do not finish the seminar. Simply point participants to their listening sheet for further learning and do share contact information so that the participants can contact you.

PRESENT

Slide #1 Title

Welcome!

PRAY to open

INTRO one another (name, church, how they serve with students)

ASK

-What are your questions you came to have answered?

Take answers on white board or paper. Attempt to work in answers to these questions or address throughout.

Slide #2 What's the Goal?

What is the ultimate goal of our walk with Christ and for the church?

Slide #3 The Mess of Success in Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth can be messy. We envision a clear process. It never is clear. It never is easy.



Slide #4 **Why?**

So, why do we do what we do? Why do we go through the effort to make disciples?

Slide #5 **What's the Command?**

Slide #6 **"I've Got a Tough Assignment for You!"**

The *Action Team Commander*, the classic GI Joe toy, when the cord was pulled on his neck, would repeat phrases. One of those was, "I've got a tough assignment for you!" A kid did not even have to know what it was or how tough it was. If the commander gave it to you, you wanted to do it. God has given us a mission God has given us.

Slide #7 **Make Disciples.**

The command Jesus gives us, in Matthew 28:19, is to make disciples. To start, what is a disciple?

Slide #8 **Definition of a Disciple**

A DISCIPLE is a follower of Christ, committed to: LEAD people to Jesus, GROW in His Truth, BELONG in biblical community, and LIVE on MISSION with the local church to MAKE MORE DISCIPLES.

Slide #9 **Light Bulb GIF**

Our life in the light is meant to be passed on to others. How do we do that? Let us look at the Lord's commission to us in Matthew 28:19-20. What are the aspects of the process of making disciples?

Slide #10 **GOING v. 19**

Jesus points to an intentional emphasis on our ultimate goal, making disciples. When we go somewhere, we go intentionally. Without intention, going becomes wandering.

Slide #11 **Nacho Libre GIF**

Slide #12 **BAPTIZING v. 19**

Baptizing reveals the relational aspect of discipleship. Not only are we identified in relationship with Jesus through baptism, we are also identified as a part of the

Slide #13 **DWIGHT GIF**

Slide #14 **TEACHING**

Discipleship is instructional. We must pass along the tenants of the faith and instruct others how to live. Disciple making must involve instruction.

Slide #15 **HE-MAN GIF**

Slide #16 **POWER & PRESENCE OF JESUS**

We must be careful to recognize and rely upon the authority and power of Christ because of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. This is what makes the work possible. This is what brings worth to our effort.

Slide #17 **Dilbeck Quote**

Discuss: What do you think about this quote? How might we rely on the power of God in order to accomplish the work of making disciples?

Slide #18-21 **System Questions**

Slide #20 FALLON GIF



Slide #22 How good is your multiplication?

God's norm is multiplication. We do better with addition. How might we do better multiplication?

Slide #23 The Ground Game

Slide #24 ACTS 6

We see in Acts 6 the selection of the first deacons. They were selected to serve widows more effectively. The goal of the church, and believers, should be to spread the work to advance the Kingdom.

v. 3-4 Through those "full of the Spirit and wisdom" the work was spread to advance the Kingdom

v. 7 The result? The word of God spread, "multiplied (increased) greatly (rapidly)."

The picture of our lives should be:

Come to faith in Christ. Grow (be discipled) into maturity. Go on mission.

This is what we see modeled for us in Acts 6. So, how can live this out?

Slide #25-29 The Game Plan

"The movement of God grows out of control when ordinary believers grow into their supernatural significance." S. Kindig

F.I.G.S. // The New Testament disciple-making process: Friendship. Influence. Growth. Sending.

This is the mark of a committed disciple. Be a disciple-making disciples. As leaders, we are to make disciple-making disciples. God wants reach several spheres of influence through you and those you lead through disciple making. (School space. Work space. Play space.)

Spheres diagram

WHICH GENERATION ARE YOU? WHERE/ WHO IS YOUR NEXT GENERATION OF SPHERES?

Commented [ST1]:

Commented [ST2R1]:

Commented [ST3R1]:

Slide #30 How are you getting there?

Without a strategy, the best intentions are unfulfilled. You need a plan.

Slide #31 DiscipleMe Logo

Slide #32-43 DiscipleMe Description

These slides highlight the basics of the DiscipleMe resource available for download from skopos.org/discipleme

Slide #44 Don't Just Sit There

Do something to begin making disciple-making disciples

Remind participants to use the following resources:

skopos.org

DiscipleMe

Allow for follow-up discussion

Thank and dismiss the participants.



Teach Good: Engaging Youth for Impact in Sunday School and Small Groups

PURPOSE

This session is designed to lead participants to improve their skills and impact as a teacher of their Sunday school class or small group.

PREPARE

1. If using the PowerPoint presentation, download to your computer.
2. Bring nametags and markers if not provided.
3. Print copies (front & back) of the “Listening Sheet” to give to each participant. (Handout)
4. Study this Leader Guide carefully.
5. Prepare the room you will have to present your conference.
Suggestions:
 - a. Arrange chairs in a horseshoe if possible.
 - b. Select a “focal wall” that is opposite the door. This allows late-arrivers to enter the room without distracting other participants.
 - c. Place the listening sheet for the conference in the chairs. (Handout)
6. Plan the amount of time you have to teach this seminar. Teach at an appropriate pace.
7. It is all right if you do not finish the seminar. Simply point participants to their listening sheet for further learning and do share contact information so that the participants can contact you.

PRESENT

Slide #1	Title
	Welcome!
	PRAY to open
	INTRO one another (name, church, how they serve with students)
	ASK
	-What are your questions you came to have answered?

Take answers on white board or paper. Attempt to work in answers to these questions or address throughout.



Slide #2 Start with the **QUOTE SLIDE**. Ask participants to respond to the quote...

Slide #3 **Do the Math.**

How important is our time teaching youth? Look at the amount of time we have teaching youth the Bible compared to the rest of the influence they receive in the rest of their week. 'Teaching Good' is vital. Clarity is important. With the limited amount of time we get on a weekly/ yearly basis, we must take our role as guide seriously.

There are 52 wks/year. Assume, in Sunday school or small groups, you get 30 min of quality teaching/wk That is 26 hrs per year in Bible study. Let's assume even the average, most faithful student misses some. Subtract 3 hours for absences. That means the average, most faithful student, through Sunday school or small group, gets 23 hrs of Bible study in a YEAR! Now consider, the rest of the story. There are 7 days in a week x 24 hrs each day which equals 168 hours in one week. Even with sleeping considered. WHICH INFLUENCE IS WINNING? WHAT YOU DO IS VITAL!

Sometimes that is difficult due to interference.

Slide #4 **Interference**

What interferes with our teaching time weekly? (ask for responses)

What interferes with our effectiveness in our group, our class, or youth ministry in general?

How can we work to eliminate interference? Let's look at a few things...

Slide #5 **Plan Good.**

Slide #6 **How to Plan Good**

Pray.

Know your students.

Use a simple student profile to get to know them. Maybe provide one to them for you.

Care for your students.

Contact your students. Show them you care. Pray for them and with them.

Remove distraction.

How are you behaving as a teacher and in your group? How are you removing barriers to learning during the time you have with them? Are you starting and finishing on time? Are you arranging the room in a way conducive to learning?

Create a pleasing and safe environment.

Create an expectation.

Raise the level of expectation youth have about your group. Let them know they will get something out of coming. Make sure they know that it matters. Give them something to anticipate. So much of effective teaching begins before and extends beyond the time in class or group.



Slide #7 **Prepare Good.**

Slide #8 **How to Prepare Good:**
Prepare for teaching.
Prepare for discussion.
Prepare for application & follow up.

Discuss. Evaluate your prep time. How much do you prepare each week for your time in class or group?

Would you say you feel good about the amount of prep, or do you need to focus more energy here?

Discuss in pairs or threes then take some answers from the group.

Slide #9 **Get 'em Interested.**

Slide #10 **Motivate Good.**

What are some good ways to motivate your students to learn?

Motivate Early.

Advertise. Call. Use social media. Ask "leading" questions. Provide scripture early. Ask them to bring something with them.

Start from the moment they arrive.

Decorate. Use music. Create atmosphere. Theme out a series (unit) or emphasis.

Be creative.

Think: What can we do that they won't expect?

How can you raise the bar or go above and beyond in this area? What have you done before? (have the group share ideas)

Slide #11 **Explain Good**

This is the most important part of your teaching role each week. We must communicate God's word clearly or we have been irresponsible with the task we have been given.

Slide #12 **Study Good**

To be prepared to present your content, begin your study early. Spread through the week.

Anticipate

Anticipate ways to present the content creatively and to help students learn on their own.

Involve Good

What are some creative ways you can engage students in presenting the content

Slide #13 **How to Involve:**

Less of You
Involve Youth

Find ways to involve youth in leading within your class or group.



What positions/ outlets do you currently have students can get involved in?
What are some other ways you might create/ provide for youth to engage in this way?

Help Youth Discover

What are some exercises or learning activities you can add to the list included on your handout that will help students discover truth on their own in your class or group?

Discuss & Guide

Slide #14 Look Who's Talking

Take inventory. Maybe have someone sit in and listen. If your voice is the only voice you hear, you are not giving students a chance to interact, involve, and engage in discovery learning.

Slide #15 Leave Room

Prepare in a way that allows for discussion between members of your class or group. Leave room for life happen and for lightbulb moments.

Slide #16 Facilitate Don't Dominate

Don't always insert your opinion, but

Slide #17 Illustrate Good: Simply Illustrate

This is a danger area for some. Many get lost in the void of illustration, especially with youth, and forget the more important parts of tracing youth the Bible. Be creative. Have fun, but don't be too elaborate or waste time on this element of your teaching task.

Slides #18 Give Them Feet: Apply & Follow Up

Bible study is not complete for a believer without application. Help students see the significance of the Bible to their everyday lives and walk in it. Also, develop a plan to follow up with them throughout the week. Check in with them a couple of times. This is also a great way to tie each week together as you motivate them for the upcoming week. The process has come full circle.

Slide #19 Title

Remind participants to use the following resources:

skopos.org

DiscipleMe

Allow for follow-up discussion

Thank and dismiss the participants.

Contact Todd Sanders, BGCO Youth Education, for questions, consultation, training, or youth ministry catalysts.

