



## 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.
4. Study this Leader Guide carefully.
5. Prepare the room you will have to present the 7 Core Competencies.  
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 7 Core Competencies in the chairs.
6. Plan the amount of time you have to teach this seminar. Teach at an appropriate pace. Remember this is an introduction to the 7 Core Competencies. Future seminars will focus on individual competencies.
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 Display this slide while participants enter the room. Wear a nametag and greet participants.

Slide #2 The 7 Core Competencies are displayed in the left column. Ask participants to match the MOST appropriate descriptor in the right column to the competency in the left column.

Allow for discussion.

Slide #3 Recommended matches. Ask participants to agree/disagree.

Slide #4 What are Core Competencies?

Discuss the information on this slide. Ask participants the purpose of their Sunday School overall and their class in particular.

Share that the purpose of this seminar is to help a teacher excel as the leader of his or her group, and ultimately make disciples.

Slide #5 Transformational Teaching

Discuss the information on the slide. Focus on the second point. Why does information not necessarily lead to transformation?

What do many people seem to think the Bible is? (self-help book, book of morality and ethics, inspirational stories similar to Aesop's fables).

Slide #6 Must teach in a way that encourages participants to engage the Bible. How?

- Bring their Bible to class.
- Read study passages from the Bible, not the leader or student guide.
- Ask for volunteers to read the passage aloud.
- Point to next week's study and encourage daily reading.

Ask why the above suggestions might be a good start to encourage Sunday School members to read the Bible.

Slide #7 Transformational Teaching – Teach for transformation...

- Context. What is the context of the passage when it was written?  
To who? When was it written? What were the circumstances?

- Truth. What truth is there about God?
- Today. What eternal truth applies to us today?

Slide #8 Apply the Bible personally

- Avoid applying the Bible to “others”. (“Bankshot” application that implies the passage does not apply to me, but to others. Shows pride, not humility)
- Truth. What truth does the passage teach?
- Today. How does this truth apply to us today?

Slide #9 5 Ways to Hear God speak through Scripture

- Hear (sermons, group Bible study, CD or online)
- Read (personal reading, devotional. LifeWay research reveals that daily Bible reading is the most common practice among growing Christians)
- Study (studying Scripture personally and in Small Groups)
- Memorize (memorizing verses, and especially passages, helps believers hide God’s Word in their heart and mind)
- Meditate (focusing the mind throughout the day on Bible verses from daily devotion, memorization, or from a sermon)

Slide #10 Leadership Matters

Discuss the quotes and Bible verse

- “Lead with diligence.” Romans 12:8
- People model the leader, so leadership matters.
- “Your leadership is perfectly designed to achieve the results you are getting.”  
Allan Taylor, LifeWay
- So if you want different results...

Slide #11 Share the 3 circles of Leadership by Eric Geiger

Is the leader centered in biblical truth?

Is the leader an example of biblical, servant leadership?

What is the leader’s posture?

Ask: What does a proud posture look like?

Ask: What does a humble posture look like?

- Slide #12      Growing Leaders
- Submit to godly leadership (submit to the leadership of the pastor, church, Sunday School Director, and other leaders)
- Apply truth to their own life. (Does the teacher teach truth to his or her self first?)
- Have a posture of humility, not pride. (Confess sin, seek healthy relationships, submits to authority)
- Slide #13      Groups/Sunday School classes grow spiritually when...
- Godly group leaders apply
  - The truth to the hearts
  - Of people that are in a teachable posture (humility puts us in position to receive and apply truth)
- Discuss circumstances when Jesus applied the truth to people He was with...
- Did all respond to Him and the truth He taught? (use John 6:60, 65-69)
- Why did some of Jesus' disciples turn away?
- Slide #14      Mission Support
- Discuss the first statement on the slide
- The church is the body of Christ on earth, with a mission to fulfill.
- Slide #15      Discuss the second statement
- How could the individual small groups of the church carry out the church's mission? Ask for specific examples.
- Slide #16      Use this slide to further discussion about how Sunday School is the primary church strategy to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Slide #17      Soul Care – Ask a volunteer to read the passage from Acts 2:44-46.
- What does this passage tell us about personal ministry in the early church?
- Slide #18      Ask participants to share how their group ministers to the needs:
- Physical
  - Emotional

## Spiritual

- Slide #19 Ask participants to share examples of how their group ministers to group members.
- Talk about the importance of contacting and ministering to absent, and sometimes chronic absentees.
- Ask participants to share some adjustments they might need to make in order to deliver soul care to EVERY member of their group? This will ultimately lead into a discussion of organized Care Groups.
- Slide #20 Gospel Advance
- Ask: What should be the outcome of following Jesus according to Mark 1:17?
- Slide #21 Ask: Why is Sunday School a perfect place to both evangelize the lost and develop new evangelists? (group evangelism, the ability for a lost person to experience Christianity in a small group of believers, exposing the lost to God's Word in the group Bible study)
- Slide #22 Share the plan for weekly evangelism in the small group by using the 4 week/monthly plan.,
- Week #1 – Pray for lost friends.  
Week #2 – One or two group members share their testimony.  
Week #3 – Plan a group fellowship for group members to bring a lost friend.  
Week #4 – Evangelism training (how to use a tract, memorize an evangelistic verse, testimony, etc.)
- Slide #23 Spiritual Growth
- Briefly discuss Philippians 1:27.
- Slide #24 Research from LifeWay (*The Shape of Things to Come*, by Brad Waggoner, *Transformational Church*, by Ed Stetzer and Eric Geiger, *Read the Bible for Life*, by George Guthrie) reveals personal spiritual growth happens best with these three practices:
1. Daily Bible reading
  2. Prayer
  3. Biblical community

- Slide #25
1. Daily Bible reading (immersion in God's Word).
  2. Prayer (communing with God through the Spirit).
  3. Biblical community (a group of four people for accountability).

Slide #26 Disciple-Making

The Great Commission: Go, therefore, and make disciples...

How can we be more effective in making disciples through Sunday School?

What limits our ability to make disciples through Sunday School?

What could we offer our group members?

Slide #27 Ask the group to define a disciple.

Slide #28 Lead the participants to discuss the ReConnect Sunday School definition of a disciple.

A disciple is a follower of Christ that:

- Shares the Gospel (Mark 1:17)
- Grows in Bible study and prayer (2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- Lives in biblical community (Acts 2:46)
- Is on mission through the local church to make more disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)

Slide #29 Ask the group to identify the four generations of discipleship in 2 Timothy 2:2

And what you have heard (you = Timothy)  
from me in the presence of many witnesses (me = Paul)  
commit to faithful men (faithful men)  
who will be able to teach others also. (others)

Point out the use of the phrase "more disciples" in the definition on Slide 28 and the progression of "more disciples" in 2 Timothy 2:2.

Slide #30 Disciple-Making

Lead the participants to discuss the bullet points in this slide, generally by asking "why" to each point.

- You can't disciple everyone. But you can disciple a few who can then disciple others.
- Making disciples involves purpose and intentionality. It rarely happens by accident.
- A Navigator quote: "Discipleship is a process that needs to be done as quickly as possible, but as long as necessary."
- Start with 3-4 people from your Sunday School class. Use this meeting agenda:
  - Start with scripture memory. Do not ask, inspect. Lead by quoting the memory verse yourself, then call on another group member to share the verse. That member calls on another; and so on...
  - Reflect on the Bible passage your group is studying. Try memorizing verses from the Bible passage.
  - End by asking members to share prayer needs.
  - Pray
- Have both a start and end time for group meetings, and a start and end date.
- Model how to lead a D-Group so that group members can start other groups.

Slide #31 Which Core Competency is your strongest? Why?

Which Core Competency needs improvement? How?

Who in your group could help you become a better leader?

Closure Ask participants to reflect back on the seminar

What thought or comment really stood out?

Ask participants to share a vision of what their group could become from what they have learned from this seminar.