

# Core of the Matter for a Great Adult Sunday School class



If all you knew about our opportunities in Sunday School was based on Acts 4:29-37, what are most important priorities?

29 And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness, 30 while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God’s message with boldness.

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. 34 For there was not a needy person among them, because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles’ feet. This was then distributed to each person as anyone had a need. 36 Joseph, a Levite and a Cypriot by birth, whom the apostles named Barnabas, which is translated Son of Encouragement, 37 sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

## Acts 4:29-37 (HCSB)

Consider Five Priorities:

Implications for us:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (29-30)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (31)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (32-33)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (34-35)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (36-37)

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**Handout 1: Core of the Matter**  
For use with Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for  
Sunday School Growth – Adult Teaching Plan

# Evaluate from Different Perspectives.

The first expectation is for new people to connect each week with Bible study through your class. Select at least one item from the left column and evaluate it from the three perspectives listed across the top of the chart.

	From perspective of attending members	From perspective of non-attending members or prospects	From perspective of Jesus
We expect new people each week.			
Leaders and workers arrive prepared and early.			
People want to come back and be part of the class.			
People discover and apply God's Word.			
These tools are available and used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles</li> <li>• List of names</li> <li>• Resources for Bible study</li> <li>• Resources for ministry</li> </ul>			

**Handout 2: Evaluate from different perspectives.**  
 For use with: Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for Sunday School Growth – Adult Teaching Plan

# Strengthen Three Steps for Bible Study

There are three significant steps for each Bible study experience:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Learn to use at least these significant teaching and learning methods:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Read at least one of these examples where Jesus was the teacher. What are ways Jesus involved His learners in each of the three steps of a Bible study experience? What are ways Jesus incorporated teaching methods as He taught in these examples?

Mark 4:13-20

Mark 4:26-32

Consider looking at an upcoming Sunday School lesson and identifying what you can do to strengthen the three significant steps (as a teacher or learner) and how you can lead or participate in significant teaching and learning methods.

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**Handout 3: Strengthen Three Steps for Bible study.**  
For use with Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for  
Sunday School Growth – Adult Teaching Plan

# We Expect People to Say "Yes"

Review the checklist from items identified by Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for Sunday School Growth. Rate your class (or your own self) 1-10. "1" would indicate "we rarely if ever do this." "10" would indicate "we do this all the time."



<b>We invite non-members to attend.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We invite non-members to enroll.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We prepare for class.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We participate in class.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We serve within the class.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We engage care group leaders to respond to members' needs.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We engage associate members/missionaries from the class.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We pray for unsaved persons.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We participate in training.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We distribute literature to members and prospects.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>
<b>We visit (face-to-face) with prospects.</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</b>

After you have evaluated your class (or yourself) select any three statements from the list. For those statements evaluated low, identify ideas to start or strengthen these actions. For those statements evaluated high, identify ideas/actions taken that help make these a success.

Handout 4: We expect people to say "Yes"  
For use with Great Expectations: Planting Seeds for  
Sunday School Growth – Adult Teaching Plan



# We Expect to Reproduce

If you don't have these, then "that's part of your problem."

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

There are significant factors that are in a Sunday School class that provide opportunities for new classes to be started.

\* At least \_\_\_\_\_ (someone who will lead the class to discover God's Word, someone to invite persons to be part of the class, and someone to help the class with hospitality)

\* \_\_\_\_\_ — At least three persons who are not members but would relate in some way to the life stage or interests of the class

\* \_\_\_\_\_

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\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_