

Teaching Teams Group Responsibilities

We are very intentional about building teams of adults who will work together each week providing a small group time where children are known, loved, and guided towards deepening their trust and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our Sunday morning small group time, known as Sunday School, serves as an incubator for growing faith so the environment, culture, interactions, and Scripture all work together, empowered as a community by the Holy Spirit.

In our small group model, there are at least 3 or 4 adults with every small group of children seeking a ratio of 1 adult per 5 children.

Each team member will read the Scripture, the lesson, and spend time in prayer prior to arriving to lead the children on Sunday. The person your team has chosen to serve as Team Initiator communicates with all of the adults so that everyone on the team knows the general plan and Scripture theme for the lesson. This way each component of the lesson – ABCD – is in harmony and each adult has a meaningful role to play so that the children can hear how God may be speaking to them.

For teaching teams to function most effectively, there are certain responsibilities that different team members assume, based on their gifts and talents. This shared leadership and responsibilities models community for the children, living together God's way.

Team Initiator

Purpose: To keep the team organized and on a schedule.

Description: This person will make weekly contact with teaching team about the upcoming lesson assignments, reminders, etc.

Gifts: organization, administration, time to phone or e-mail, understanding of parts of the lesson and gifts and interests of leaders.

Supports: At a glance, web resources

Welcome/Greeter

Purpose: to make each child feel a valued part of the Sunday School community

Description: It is important that our children feel welcome and learn to welcome others. Your role is to **intentionally greet** each child by name as they arrive, take attendance, arrange for **nametags** and ensure that new children are added to the **worship cloth**. Engage other children with the gift of hospitality to be ready to greet, sit with, and befriend visitors and new children. Be actively introducing children to each other helping to build friendship bridges.

Here are several approaches to help build the Sunday School community.

- stand at the door and greet each child by name
- direct another team member to greet at the door while the you engage each child who enters the room into the group – it may be a conversation, discussion, or an activity that relates to the day's lesson.

Remember that our **Sunday School teaching starts as the first child walks into the room.**

Gifts: hospitality

Hospitality Advocate

Purpose: to build a community “where everyone knows each other by name” with this group of children.

Description: Ensure **one intentional group-building activity** happens each week during the group meeting. This might come from the lesson or from resources available to you. Group building is non-competitive and helps children know, accept, and support each other. Our goal is for children to make friends with their Sunday School classmates who will support them and be connected during the week as well as on Sunday. *Examples* of group building include the “*Wows and Pows*” prayer format; a game about “favorites,” like ice cream, books, heroes, etc.

Gifts: Enjoy helping people get acquainted, gift of hospitality

Supports: Community building games on web site.

Worship/Prayer Leader

Purpose: to transition into sacred time and holy space for the coming hour gathered together and to encourage the children to grow in their life of prayer.

Description: Lead children in the ritual of prayer and worship, recognizing the need for ritual by children and balancing that with changes that create freshness in your worship experiences.

- Ensure the **worship cloth, Christ candle, and song**, are incorporated into the weekly group meeting.
- **Receive offering** each week emphasizing “Generosity” in attitude and action. Offering includes money, material gifts for *Serving Together* clients, and gifts of self that can be expressed in written prayers..

Gifts: Enjoy helping children express themselves in prayer, worship and song.

Support: Worship kits, web resources.

Serving Together Advocate 1st-5th grades only

Purpose: to give children and their families opportunities to put their faith into action in the local community.

Description: Educate your class about the work of the agency assigned to your grade level;

- Interpreting the human need the agency is addressing.
- Interpreting the act of service as a generous response to God’s Love and a growth in discipleship
- Actively connect the weekly Scripture with our responsibility to our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Keep before the class the agency and its constituents during prayer time.

Gifts: Passion for mission work; possible Spiritual gifts of mercy and service;

Supports: Serving Together coordinator who will provide you wall display and take homes about upcoming serving opportunities for families

Technology Guru 5th Grade ONLY

Each lesson has a Power Point worship service. Some lessons use other technology; i.e. movie clips from DVD and use of CD for musical presentations. Your role will be to open the correct presentation and run it during worship and have other technology ready to use as teacher is ready.

Communicator

Purpose: to build a bridge and partnership between home and church

Description: Share stories from your group time with parents and general church on our website. These stories can reflect a "Spirit sighting," an "aha" moment the group had, a learning that occurred, an activity the children enjoyed, or a way your team has helped the children move a step closer to one of the age level targeted learning.

Gifts: likes to write, storyteller, interest in blogging

Supports: Find writing difficult but can share the story? Tell a staff member the story and they will write it for you. Don't want to learn new software? Send the story to a staff member and we will put it on the church website.

Photographer

Purpose: to use the power of pictures to share group highlights

Description: Take pictures of individual class members for a photo directory for your team to use. Take candid photos during lessons that can be used by our communicator to tell the story of your group growing visually. Will also be used in a weekly slideshow on the website.

Gifts: enjoy photography; visual learner

Supports: Dropbox for ease of uploading photos.

Care and Concern/Card writer

Purpose: to help children and team members show care for members of class.

Description: send cards or notes to children to recognize birthdays, joys and sadness in family.

Gifts: Good listener, organized, gift of hospitality. This person may be the worship leader, assemble leader or depart leader.

Supports: Parish News e-mail announces births and deaths; Church will provide cards and postage; address and Birthday information will be given to you through the year with updates.

Suggested ways to do this: Ask children to sign a group of cards at one time so the child received a birthday card from their peers. Ask all teachers to sign a thinking of you card

Liaison with Weekday leader (s) with whom you share space

Purpose: to negotiate a plan for room layout and usage that meets the needs of all parties and to manage on-going adjustments as needed.

Description: Serve as your class's liaison with the weekday teachers with whom you share space. In the first two weeks of Sunday School, e-mail or call these leaders to let them know your contact information. Putting a personal face with a name will help when a need for cooperation in sharing space occurs. Make contact as needed to request changes or to work out special arrangements you might need.

Suggestion: encourage your group to be generous with "random acts of kindness" that can be done for the weekday teacher(s) you share the room with.