**Is Sunday School Important**

Sunday school is important in the spiritual development of Christians because it provides a *forum for learning*. This forum is comprised of students and teachers. Sunday School encourages spiritual interaction between the students and the teachers, as well as providing a comprehensive way of learning as a group. Ephesians 4:11, includes teachers within the five-fold ministry of the church. *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”.* Sunday School/Christian Education is a vital part of the anointing of this office and God's plan for the church. While the pastor is called to preach the Word unto Salvation, the teacher is called to bring further understanding of God's Word.

Sunday School sets the stage for better understanding. It is a comprehensive way of learning from one another and to receive encouragement to live by God's Word. Sunday School literature is usually designed to meet the needs of each specific age group, including singles, college/career and novice Christians. The curriculum completes the link between the teacher, the commentary writer and students. Curriculum may be formatted to meet specific topics or themes, relative to Christian faith. Sunday School attendance also provides an effective opportunity for Christian growth. Study materials can assist students and teachers in gaining revelation and understanding of the scripture text.

Sunday School is important because it provides additional opportunities in the *fellowship for learning*. Visitors, new attendees and other church members can get to know one another better in this setting. People in the community are looking for a real church with real people who care about them. Sunday School provides a great opportunity of developing friendships and trust, which tends to make attendees more committed to the church and its vision.

In conclusion, local pastors rely on the Christian Education Department to “fill the gap” to build strong support groups to effectively reach the community. Each class member has an opportunity to ask questions or express their viewpoints. The teachers have the opportunity to teach the word and explain the direction and vision of the church. Each class is an extension of the church as a whole and is committed to developing a strong body through spiritual growth. It is no surprise that most church problems are usually caused by those who are not connected to Sunday School or any other educational programs in the church.

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