

The Joy of Sunday Schooling



Jim Harper and Contributors

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CHAPTER 1 – SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE HOME

A Cooperative Venture

The home is the child's first Sunday School. In many respects, it is also his or her most important one. All Bible truths can be taught in the home, and, conversely, all spiritual values can be undermined there. By itself, the ecclesial Sunday School has only limited power to affect either course.

Public school educators know that the home is the single most important factor in the success formula for any child. The values of the home and the active involvement of parents in the education process have a significant impact on the child's achievement in school.

Here are the kinds of things that professional educators say on the subject:

"If school improvement efforts are judged successful when they raise student achievement, the research strongly suggests that involving parents can make a crucial difference.

"Parents who help their children learn at home nurture (in themselves and in their children) attitudes that are crucial to achievement. Children who are failing in school improve dramatically when parents are called in to help.

"Some of the major benefits of parent involvement include ... positive attitudes and behavior, more successful programs, and more effective schools."¹

The same things hold true for the spiritual education of our children. The home can make or break the success of any Sunday School program. A strong partnership between the home and the Sunday School is vital if the Sunday School is to be effective.

Case in point

Many years ago, the New England Christadelphian Sunday School Association ran a questionnaire for Sunday School parents and teachers. Twenty-one replies came from parents of 12- to 14-year olds. Of these, 12 parents were directly involved in Sunday School work, primarily as teachers, and nine were not. On a question that asked the parents if their children regularly did Sunday School homework, the children of involved parents came out well ahead in terms of performance.²

In this case, the involved parents were almost certainly role models for their children. Sunday School was important for the parents. It was also important for their children. Of course, not all parents can be Sunday School teachers. And they don't have to be.

¹ Anne T. Henderson, "Parents Are a School's Best Friends," *The Kappan*, October 1988, p.149.

² Report on Questions #1-#11 of NECSSA Evaluation Questionnaire, February 1974.

Case in point

Just living in a home where Sunday School is valued can have a huge impact on children. In a more recent survey, baptized Christadelphians were asked about their Sunday School backgrounds.³ Thirty-one of 54 respondents said they were raised in a Christadelphian home (at least one parent in the ecclesia) and attended a Christadelphian Sunday School while they were growing up.⁴ They also said that, on the average, their Sunday School attendance lasted *more than 12 years*, starting as small children. Today, these dedicated Sunday School students are active members of ecclesias in the United States and Canada.

Interestingly, many of the same respondents identified a range of things that they wish they had learned more about in Sunday School.⁵ In other words, their Sunday School educations could have been better. But they obviously persisted, and their parents persisted. It became clear that quite apart from the curriculum itself, attending Sunday School year after year fosters relationships with teachers and peers who care about God and the Bible. It also promotes a culture of belonging in an ecclesial environment. For many children, when they get older, these things translate into belonging to the ecclesia itself and serving as baptized brothers and sisters in Christ.

The message for parents is unmistakable. Support the Sunday School in every possible way. Start when the children are young and don't stop.

There are specific ways that parents can actively support the Sunday School and have a positive impact on the spiritual welfare of their children. We will look at several of these in a moment, but first ...

A pitfall to avoid

One of the drawbacks of free public education is that we can let the schools do too much for us. As parents, it is easy to slip into the mindset that the education of our children rests entirely with the schools. It is not our job to be involved.

But the schools cannot do it alone. In some places, schools have started training parents how to be parents again in order to get the support of the home that is critical for the success of education.

Do we need to learn the same lessons as far as Sunday Schooling is concerned? Our children simply cannot receive an adequate spiritual education in one hour a week – or less – at Sunday School. The home has got to help.

³ Sunday School Survey circulated in advance of the 2018 New England Brothers' Weekend, March 2018.

⁴ Op. cit., Questions #1-#3. Two respondents were not raised in Christadelphian homes but attended a Christadelphian Sunday School. Two others grew up in Christadelphian homes and received Christadelphian Isolation League Sunday Schooling.

⁵ Op. cit., Question #4.

In God's arrangement of things, families existed long before Sunday Schools. The spiritual education of the children is, therefore, the primary responsibility of the home. There can be little doubt about this, scripturally. Have a look at these passages: Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:4-9, and 11:18-21; Psalms 78:1-8; Proverbs 22:6 and 15, and 29:17; Ephesians 6:1-4, and 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:15. Fathers rose up to tell their children about the things of God. Grandmothers nurtured faith in mothers, and mothers did the same with their children.

As valuable as they are, Sunday Schools are a relatively late arrival on the scene.⁶

It's a cooperative venture

For Christadelphian families and Sunday Schools to fulfill their potential before God, teaching the children has to be done in active partnership. Ongoing cooperation between the Sunday School and the home must be the rule rather than the exception. Parents need to have the interests of the Sunday School at heart, and Sunday Schools need to see their role as one that complements the spiritual guidance of the home.

Let the home and Sunday School join forces, then, to carry out the vital responsibility God has given us: the spiritual upbringing of our children.

It's a Partnership: Things Parents Can Do

The Sunday School simply cannot succeed without the active support of its parents. But what can Sunday School parents do? Here are several things. Most of them are obvious, and all of them are worth doing. Go through the list and commit – or recommit – to a few things that you know will help your children.

- Select one or two areas where you can make real improvements in your family and get started.
- Keep going, and ask for God's help on a regular basis.

As a general rule, the earlier parents commit to the spiritual welfare of their families and the longer they stick with it, the greater the benefits will be for everyone.

As parents, you can ...

1 – Read the Bible as a family. The daily Bible readings according to *The Bible Companion* is the time-honored way of doing this in our community, but, whether you use this method or not, adopt a comprehensive Bible reading plan and follow it.

2 – Pray with your child. Make everyday happenings and problems a matter of family prayer.

⁶ The Sunday School movement began in England in the 1780s. The Christadelphian brotherhood has had a strong Sunday School tradition since the 1860s.

3 – Talk with your child about world events in the light of Bible teaching. For example, talk about moral issues and prophecy.

4 – Give your child Truth-centered responsibilities and be a role model for them. Demonstrate self-sacrifice and responsibility in ecclesial and family life.

5 – Read Bible-related books and stories together, parent to child and child to parent. As children get older, help them identify good books to read. Read good books yourself.

6 – If your Sunday School has a lending library, help your child select things to borrow. Promote their use at home.

7 – Play Bible games together: *Bible Jeopardy*, *Bible Pictionary*, *Bible Pursuit* and *Outburst*, *Bible Edition*, are possibilities. Bible word puzzles and jigsaw puzzles are also fun to do as a family.

8 – Give spiritual focus to family outings and vacations. Take Bibles on family picnics and do the daily readings together, make Bible School a family affair, etc.

9 – Encourage your child to role-play family and ecclesial functions. For example, let him or her play-act a memorial service, a baptism, a Sunday School class, mealtime, and family prayer.

10 – Monitor your child's use of television and electronic devices. Become familiar with age-appropriate programs and sites that promote biblical values. Encourage their use. Talk with your child's Sunday School teacher about online activities that complement Sunday School goals and lessons.

Aside. Teach and practice the respectful use of electronics. There is something fundamentally – and biblically – wrong when we are more devoted to our devices than we are to the people we are with. Teach your child to rise above this self-serving escape from life.

11 – Cultivate interests that are alternatives to television, text, and tablet. For example, arts and crafts projects, reading, music, creative writing. Find ways to relate these to the Bible or your child's Sunday School lessons.

12 – Value the Sunday School program in your ecclesia and consistently communicate this to your child.

13 – Demonstrate interest in your child's Sunday School work. Attend Sunday School functions and outings with your child, support his or her Sunday School work in every possible way, and show appreciation for your child's Sunday School efforts.

14 – Be sure your child attends Sunday School regularly and gets there on time. Go out of your way to find out about missed lessons and assignments when your child is absent.

15 – If you are not a Sunday School teacher, attend the adult Sunday School class and become actively involved in it. Set the example that you want your child to follow.

16 – Supervise your child’s Sunday School homework. Some specific suggestions are:

- Make a point of always knowing what your child’s Sunday School homework assignment is.
- Have a regular place where your child can do his or her Sunday School homework. Be sure the necessary supplies are available: pencil, paper, and project materials.
- Have a set time during the week for doing Sunday School homework. Make it family time and do your own Sunday School homework or Bible study at the same time.
- Do Sunday School readings together and talk about them.
- Review memory verses with your child. Memorize the verses yourself.
- Review homework questions together. Take time to help with the questions, if necessary.

17 – Talk with your child’s Sunday School teacher and discuss how you can work together for the spiritual development of your child.

18 – Share constructive ideas for Sunday School improvements with the superintendent or teacher. Be ready to help out in any way you can.

19 – Take your child to every possible ecclesial, interecclesial, and youth function. Value and talk positively about these events with your child.

20 – Invite other Sunday School children to your home, and allow your child to visit their homes. Encourage your child to cultivate friendships with his or her Sunday School peers.

21 – Show concern for others in the ecclesia: the elderly, isolated, sick, and shut-ins. Involve your child in these concerns. Help him or her know the members of your ecclesia and bridge the differences between members and generations.

22 – Live by the same standards that you set for your child. Be genuine.

23 – Provide your child with godly behaviors to imitate. Children are great imitators. They pick up on the behaviors of their parents.

24 – Make the sacrifices necessary to put God first.

It's a Partnership: Sunday School Initiatives

If parents have responsibilities, so does the Sunday School. There are things that the Sunday School can do to establish strong ties with the home. Sunday School superintendents and staff need one vital thing to forge this partnership and keep it going: commitment. If, as ecclesial servants, you wear a hat, let it be a hard hat. There is work to do!

The following list of Sunday School initiatives is extensive. Sit down as a Sunday School staff and consider it, point by point. If it looks like some of the initiatives could make a positive difference in your Sunday School, then do this:

- Focus on one or two things that will be particularly helpful.
- Think through how you will carry them out.
- Ask God to help, get started, and keep going.

Don't take on more than you can do, but don't back away from hard work, either. Sunday Schooling is serving. It's more than just a once-a-week event.

Sunday Schools can ...

1 – Inform and encourage families. Communicate directly with the home

- in person.
- by phone.
- by e-mail or text.
- with a personal note or letter.

2 – Set up a Sunday School telephone tree, e-mail group, or text group for sending information to all the families.

3 – Talk with Sunday School families, especially the ones that are less ecclesially involved, to

- explain the Sunday School program.
- win parental support.
- give parents tips on things they can do to promote spiritual growth in their children. See "It's a Partnership: Things Parents Can Do" above.
- seek parental input and listen to parents.

4 – Hold a parent-student-teacher meeting at the beginning of the Sunday School year to explain the program, define expectations, and listen to each other. This might be done at an opening Sunday School breakfast or over lunch on a Sunday afternoon.

5 – Send out a Sunday School newsletter from time to time. This can feature

- a calendar of Sunday School events and outings.
- curriculum and class highlights.

- recognition of student or class achievements.
- tips for parents and students.
- promotion of Bible Schools and CYC functions.
- lots of pictures of the children and their Sunday School activities.
- student birthdates.
- recognition of Sunday School student baptisms.

Aside. Smartphones, digital cameras, and computers make it faster and easier than ever to create a Sunday School newsletter that includes great color pictures. The newsletter can be electronically produced and distributed at practically no cost.

6 – Seek specific feedback from parents regarding the Sunday School program. An occasional questionnaire or evaluation form can work.

7 – Promptly mail, e-mail, or deliver Sunday School work and assignments to a child's home whenever he or she misses a Sunday. Send "missing you" cards to children that are absent for an extended time.

8 – Run a Sunday School extension service for isolated or less active families. Take Sunday School to the home once or twice a month, perhaps on a midweek evening or Sunday afternoon, much as one would conduct a home Bible class with an interested contact. Encourage the entire family to participate.⁷

9 – Run an active adult Sunday School class and promote it among all the ecclesial families. It is easier to sustain a good Sunday School program for the children when parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are involved in a thriving adult Sunday School class at the same time.

10 – Build regular praying and concern for others into all levels of the curriculum, and enlist family help to meet these life goals for the children and the ecclesia.

11 – Design part of the child's Sunday School homework to be family oriented. Include something for children and parents to do together as part of the assignment. For example, include a question that requires the children to talk with their parents; suggest something for children and parents to pray about at home, or suggest a family activity that uses something from the Sunday School lending library.

12 – Develop a Sunday School lending library. Grow an inventory of children's books, games, puzzles, and electronic media.

- Provide families with a list of things they can borrow.
- Give out Sunday School library cards and provide incentives to encourage the use of the library.
- Make up thematic Bible bags containing library items. Lend these to your Sunday School families for a couple of weeks at a time. Include a small Sunday School gift for the family to keep when the other things are returned.

⁷ Also see the point re. Christadelphian Isolation League Sunday School services in [Chapter 1 Afterwords](#).

13 – Give pre-school learning materials to families with tots not yet old enough for Sunday School. This can help establish a positive connection with the Sunday School from the earliest age.

- Give a “Future Sunday Schooler” gift to the moms and dads of newborns in the ecclesial family.
- Give a Bible toy, picture book, book of verses, song CD, etc. to pre-Sunday Schoolers at birthday times.

14 – Involve parents in the Sunday School program

- as helpers in one of the classes.
- as guest presenters.
- to help organize or run a Sunday School outing.
- to share special talents or hobbies at a Sunday School family night.

15 – Plan a Sunday School family night.

- Encourage entire families to attend and participate.
- Plan activities that focus on families doing spiritual things together.

16 – Recommit to the annual Sunday School program, play, or open house. Encourage families to attend and support their children.

17 – Run a calendar of Sunday School family outings and special events. For example, hayride, ballgame, picnic, skating, camping, museum trip, a play, a concert, a pancake breakfast.

18 – Get together socially. Teachers and superintendents can make a point of inviting Sunday School families to their homes for a visit or a meal. Forge bonds. Develop good relationships. Look out for families on the fringe.

19 – Do things with the children outside of the normal Sunday School setting. For example, open your home to the children for a sleepover, pitch in to do an ecclesial car wash together, etc. Strengthen rapport.

20 – Remember birthdays. Give every child a card or some memento from the Sunday School at birthday time.

21 – Give perks to your Sunday School families. For example, present certificates of appreciation to families at any time for exemplary effort, support of the Sunday School, special service. Computer-generated certificates are easy to make and personalize. Use the good old-fashioned thank you note, too. Let families know that the Sunday School appreciates them.

Chapter 1 Afterwords –

Re. "Things Parents Can Do," pp.11-13, also see:

- ["Know Questions and More"](#) in [Chapter 18](#) for family Bible reading helps.
- ["Living It!"](#) in Chapter 3 and ["Life Applications"](#) in [Chapter 32](#) for ways that children can put Sunday School lessons into practice at home and in daily life. Parents can do a lot to make these activities work.
- ["Bible Cards"](#) in [Chapter 41](#) for Bible games that are educational and fun to play as a family. Print them directly from <https://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Bible-Cards.html>.
- ["Bible Word Puzzles"](#) in Chapter 43. These can be fun to do as a family. Print them directly from <https://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Word-Puzzles.html>.

Re. "Sunday School Initiatives," pp.14-16, also see:

- ["Christadelphian Isolation League Sunday Schools in North America"](#) in Chapter 2. An ecclesia can encourage the use of CILSS services when it has families in isolation.
- More about Sunday School lending libraries:
 - ["Sunday School Resources"](#) in [Chapter 7](#).
 - ["The Use of Sunday School Resource Centers"](#) in [Chapter 25](#).
- ["Sunday School Outreach"](#) in [Chapter 13](#) for additional perspectives on the role of Sunday Schools in our ecclesias.
- ["Getting Off to a Good Start"](#) in [Chapter 17](#) for ways one Sunday School superintendent wins family support and participation in his opening Sunday School activities every week.
- More things that Sunday Schools do described in these sections of Chapter 26:
 - ["Building Relationships"](#)
 - ["Enrichment Activities"](#)
 - ["Things That Make Belonging Special"](#)

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CHAPTER 26 – HAVE YOU TRIED THIS?

This chapter is packed with ideas. It is all about things that teachers and students have done over the years to enjoy learning, serve others, and enrich ecclesial life. There is a lot to consider. Perhaps one or two of the ideas will get you thinking about something you would like to try.

Building Relationships

Sunday Schooling is more than just imparting Bible knowledge to our children. It is also about building Christlike relationships with others. Here are several ideas that address this goal.

Serving others

1 – Once a year, say at Thanksgiving time, have the Sunday School children bring in items for “Sunshine Baskets” for the elderly, sick, isolated, or shut-ins. Involve the children in the preparation and delivery of the baskets. Consider including neighbors as well as ecclesial members among the recipients.

2 – *“Love one another with brotherly affection”* – Romans 12:10. Each week a different member of the CYC identifies someone in the ecclesia who has a birthday, an anniversary, is sick, or just needs a cheerful hello. They are responsible for bringing an appropriate card to class. Afterward, the card is circulated for everyone to sign and then delivered.

Dan Wilkinson

3 – Adopt a grandparent! Bridge the generation gaps in the ecclesia. One way to do this is to pair the Sunday School children with older members of the ecclesia. Have the children prepare something – a card, a small craft item, a plant or bouquet, an edible treat – to give to their “adopted grandparent” after Sunday School. Doing this once is nice; doing it more than once is even nicer. Work on building and preserving relationships within the ecclesia that might not otherwise exist.

4 – Here is a variation on the same idea. An older Sunday School student might be encouraged to “adopt” an elderly member of the ecclesia or a neighbor and visit them in their home. Have a chat, do a Bible reading together, share an interest, run an errand, wash some windows, or do something around the house for them. It should be understood, of course, that the point is not to get paid, but to show kindness to someone. *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* – Acts 20:35.



Church Clip Art Mega Pack, Gospel Light, Ventura, CA.

Letting the Kids be Creative

Creative activities go beyond the routine acquisition of Bible knowledge. They let the children show us what they can do with their Bible knowledge. Creative activities let the children put special interests and abilities to work in God-centered ways.

The following ideas come from many teachers who have found ways to let their children be creative in Sunday School.

Visual creations

- Make Styrofoam mosaics. Buy a package of Styrofoam trays or plates at a grocery store, spray them different colors, and cut them into small squares with an X-Acto® knife or razor blade. In Sunday School, the children glue the colorful squares onto foam board to create a Bible picture or saying.

Peter Dixon

- Get your students thinking about the topographic features of Bible lands. Have them make homemade modeling clay and use it to create a relief map of Israel or some other Bible region. Find clay recipes online. A simple clay made of flour, salt, and water can be painted when it is dry. Stick flags on the map to identify key places. Then have your students use the map to retell the story of important events that happened at these places.

Carol Link

To go along with a map project like this, get a copy of *Where It Happened*, by Islip Collyer. In this little book, Bro. Collyer connects Bible events with the geography of the land. The book was published in 1946, but some brothers and sisters or ecclesias may still have a copy in their libraries. The Christadelphian Office may also have a copy or two available in its secondhand book supply.

Illustrated storytelling

- Do you have students who like to draw? How about students who like to write? And do you have any would-be orators in your Sunday School class? Let them combine their talents to create an illustrated Bible story. Then let them present the story to the rest of the Sunday School or the ecclesia. An older Sunday School class in British Columbia did this as a culminating activity after studying the life of the Apostle Paul. They presented the story, complete with thirty colorful pencil drawings and maps projected on a screen, full narration, and background music. The students did everything from start to finish and recorded the presentation.

June Cawston

Bible Games

Bible games can be educational and fun, and when education and fun are combined, positive attitudes develop. Bible games also give children an opportunity to put life lessons into practice: teamwork, fair play, rejoicing in the success of others. These and other life skills are part of a game that is well played.

Seek and Find

Small children like this game. Prepare a set of Bible cutouts for each child: a harp, a sheep, a boat, a fish, a rainbow, etc. Put each child's name on his or her cutouts. Hide the cutouts around the Sunday School area and let the children find them. The children will all want to find theirs first, but encourage them to help each other, too. When this happens, everyone is a winner.

The game can be related to the children's Sunday School lesson. For example, if the lesson is on David and Goliath, hide a set of cutouts that include a sling, a stone, a spear, a helmet, a shield, and a sword. After the children find these, let them tell how the objects relate to the Bible story.

How well do you know ...?

How well do you know *Genesis*? How well do you know *Jesus*? How well do you know *the Acts*? How well do you know *the books of the Bible*? This game has many possibilities and is easy to prepare. Develop a set of questions on any Bible subject and write each question on a file card. Include a reference where the answer can be found.

*What was Jacob's name
changed to when he
wrestled with an angel?*

Genesis 32:28

Place the cards face down in a pile. The children take turns drawing a card and reading the question that is on it. The others take turns trying to answer the question. The player who knows the answer gets the card. If no one knows the answer, look it up in the Bible and then return the card to the pile. At the end of the game, the number of cards each player has collected determines his or her score. As an added incentive, let the children exchange their cards for treats or a small prize when the game is over.

Variation. Use the cards to play a game of "Memory" (also called "Concentration"). Spread the cards, face down, on a table. The children take turns picking up a card and trying to answer the question that is on it. They keep the card if they answer the question correctly. Otherwise, they must return the card, face down, to its original place. Another child who knows the answer and remembers where the card is placed can pick it up again when his or her turn comes around.

These games are especially good for lesson review purposes.

A Vernon BC Sunday School Teacher

Chapter 26 Afterwords –

- Look again at the [educational goal grid](#) on p.30. Notice how many ideas in Chapter 26 address transformation goals that go beyond just the acquisition of Bible knowledge.

Re. "Building Relationships" etc., pp.183-191, also see:

- ["Sunday School Initiatives"](#) in Chapter 1.
- ["Living It!"](#) in Chapter 3.
- ["Personal life practices"](#) in Chapter 4.
- ["A center for serving others"](#) in Chapter 6.
- ["Supporting the Sunday School"](#) and ["Forging relationships in the Truth"](#) in Chapter 13.
- ["Vacation Bible School"](#) in Chapter 14.
- ["Getting Off to a Good Start"](#) in Chapter 17.
- ["Living the Lessons"](#) in Chapter 27.
- ["Life Applications"](#) in Chapter 32.

Re. "Letting the Kids be Creative," pp. 191-194, also see:

- ["Building, Writing, Serving, Solving ..."](#) in Chapter 6.
- ["Student Creativity"](#) in Chapter 10.
- ["Drama and Music"](#) in Chapter 11.
- ["The Baltimore Kids Become Teachers"](#) in Chapter 19.
- ["My Sunday School Project ... Sixth Year and Counting"](#) in Chapter 20.
- ["Teaching the Scriptures through Creative Activities"](#) in Chapter 21.
- ["Things I Love to do with the Kids"](#) in Chapter 22.
- ["Using Bible Learning Centers"](#) in Chapter 24.
- ["Bible Projects"](#) in Chapter 40.

Re. "Bible Games" and "Lesson Review Games," pp.195-199, also see:

- ["Bible Cards for Matching and Sequencing"](#) in Chapter 6.
- ["Know Questions and More"](#) in Chapter 18 for ready-to-use questions based on *The Bible Companion* daily reading calendar.
- ["Bible Cards"](#) in Chapter 41.
- ["Bible Games"](#) in Chapter 42.

CHAPTER 27 – LINKS AND DOWNLOADABLES

I have a “Sunday School” folder on the bookmarks bar of my Internet browser. It is where I keep links to all kinds of Sunday School sites. Many of the sites have things that can be downloaded and used for free. Others offer activities and games to do online. Some sell lesson books and educational materials. Here are the links, grouped into categories, with a brief description of what each site has to offer. NC in front of a description means that the site is *not Christadelphian*.

Sunday School Lessons & Bible Courses

- Australian Christadelphian Sunday School Union (ACSSU)
<http://acssu.org.au>

Go to “LESSON NOTES” on the menu bar to find lesson books for all ages. Order from the website. Some ACSSU Kindergarten and Senior lessons are available for download and use subject to copyright terms.

- Birmingham Central Sunday School Scheme (BCSSS)
<http://www.thechristadelphian.com>

Lesson books (teacher guides) are available from the Christadelphian Office. Go to the Office website and search “sunday school” for a complete list of books and ordering information. No material is available for download.

- Christadelphian Bible Mission Courses
<http://www.cbm.org.uk/cbm4cc.htm>

The link takes you to a complete menu of English-language CBM correspondence courses. The list is extensive, and much of the material is downloadable. The courses are posted for CBM tutors, but Sunday School teachers may also find them useful, especially for older students.

- Christadelphian Sunday School Association (CSSA)
<https://www.cssa.asn.au>

Click on “Online Ordering” for an overview of the CSSA program. Click on “Downloads” to access a wide range of free materials, including lesson activity sheets, plays, projects, and teacher handbooks. Use of the material is subject to copyright terms. Lesson books for all ages can be ordered from the website.

- Christadelphian Sunday School Union (CSSU)
<http://www.cssu.org.uk>

Register an e-mail address and password with CSSU to log in for the first time. After that, log-in is automatic. Click the “download” button on the menu bar to see the lessons. The CSSU syllabus is divided into four age levels, each with four years of lessons. Lessons may be downloaded and used subject to copyright terms. Lesson books can also be ordered from the website.

Life Challenges

- Christadelphian Sunday School Union Lessons
<https://cssu.org.uk>

Click “download” on the main menu bar and go to “The Way of Life” lessons for age 14+. Titles and contents of all lessons are easily viewed. Many lessons address difficult life issues and can be downloaded for class use.

- Christadelphian Youth Summit
<http://christadelphianyouthsummit.org/ys2018/resources>

Christadelphian Youth Summit (subheading: “The Blessings of Godly Relationships”) provides resources that address critical life issues affecting young people and families. Links to Christadelphian and non-Christadelphian resources are posted on the website.

- The Christadelphian Office
<https://thechristadelphian.com/voices-of-conscience>

Download and listen to MP3 recordings of personal stories of conscience. Open the above link or go to the Office website (<https://thechristadelphian.com>) and click on “Resources” on the main menu bar. Most recordings are less than 10-minutes in length.

- Life’s Big Questions
<http://www.lifes-big-questions.org>

Starting with challenging questions about God, life, the Bible, and science, students can view videos and download reading material. Get help with answers and grow in faith.

- On-Demand WCF Videos (Williamsburg Christadelphian Foundation)
<https://wcfoundation.org/videos>

Scroll down to the “Faith in the Face of Adversity” series. Interviews with several Christadelphians tell stories of struggles and faith during times of personal suffering and loss. Videos are about five- to 25-minutes in length. Watch online on any device.

- Focus On The Family
<https://store.focusonthefamily.com/topics-issues>

NC. Find resources that provide biblical guidance on many challenging life issues.

- TalkSheets, David Lynn
<https://www.christianbook.com>

NC. Search “talksheets” on the Christian Book Distributor (CBD) website. *Junior High and Middle School TalkSheets* are for ages 11-14; *High School TalkSheets* are for ages 14-18. *TalkSheets* are one-page worksheets that address a wide range of critical life issues affecting young people today. Each book covers 50 topics. It is easy to be selective. Worksheets are reproducible. Bible passages and teaching tips are included with each topic. Also see *More TalkSheets*.

Songs & Hymns

- Christadelphian Music
<http://christadelphianmusic.co.uk>

Choose from a range of music and music CDs for children and young people.

- Christadelphian Music
<http://christadelphianmusic.org>

Piano accompaniment for all hymns in the *2002 Christadelphian Hymn Book* available in regular (\approx 2 MB per hymn) and high (\approx 6 MB per hymn) audio quality. Any hymn can be easily selected from the main menu. Listen online or download and save to play anytime.

- Christadelphian *Sing to the Lord* Song Books
www.thechristadelphian.com

This is the Christadelphian Office website. Search "sing to the lord." The song book has 133 hymns and songs for Christadelphian Sunday Schools and youth groups.

- CSSA *Bible Songs for Young Children*
<https://www.cssa.asn.au/product/bible-songs-for-young-children-vol-1>
<https://cssa.asn.au/shop/miscellaneous/?v=7516fd43adaa>

Over 120 songs. Many relate to the CSSA lessons. Songbook and CDs available. Ordering details on the website.

CSSA also offers dramatized stories for audio download for each of the five stages of Sunday School lessons. Ordering details on the website.

- CSSU *Sing a Bible Story Songs*
<http://www.cssu.org.uk>

Click "download" on the main menu bar and select any year under "for age 3-6." A highlighted S next to a lesson means that a song is available. Click on the S to hear an MP3 recording of the song. Click on the T (teachers' notes) and scroll down to find the words and music. More than 70 Sunday School songs available with well-known melodies. Songs can be downloaded. Songbooks and CDs can be ordered separately under "age 3-6" material.

- Hoddesdon *Praise the Lord* Song Books
<http://www.hoddesdon.info/ptl-2>

Praise the Lord contains 300 songs for worship and praise. Many from the old *Sing Hosanna* songbooks. CDs and a *Praise the Lord* app are available. Ordering information on the website.

Chapter 27 Afterwords –

- Most of the sites described in this chapter have been online for several years, but all websites are subject to change, and some go away after a while. With this in mind, the Sunday School links in this chapter are also posted and periodically updated on a Teacher Resource page at <http://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Teacher-Resource-Links.html>. Access updated links from this location at any time.

*If you have found other helpful Sunday School sites, please share them.
Copy and paste the web addresses in an e-mail to sundayschool@tidings.org.
New sites will be added to the Teacher Resource page as they are identified and reviewed.
Thank you!*

- Also see Pinterest.
www.pinterest.com

NC. Enter what you are looking for in the Pinterest search bar to find all kinds of Sunday School resources. For example:

- Bible coloring pages (e.g., "bible coloring page daniel")
- Bible crafts (e.g., "bible craft burning bush")
- Bible games (e.g., "bible baseball")
- Bible jigsaw puzzles
- Bible mazes (e.g., "bible maze jonah")
- Bible object lessons
- Bible pictures (e.g., "bible picture esther")
- Bible play scripts
- Bible quizzes (e.g., "bible quiz apostles")
- Bible word puzzles (e.g., "bible word search acts")

And more! For example, the recipe for [homemade watercolor paints](#) described in Chapter 22 and formulas for [homemade modeling clay](#) like the one described in Chapter 26 can be found on Pinterest.

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CHAPTER 28 – DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Life is full of decisions: big ones, little ones, and all kinds in between. Making reasoned decisions is a characteristic of being human. The Bible records the most important decisions in human history, from Adam’s decision to disobey God to Christ’s unflinching decisions to obey Him. In addition, many other people do things that show us what good and bad decisions are like and how they affect a person’s eternal destiny.

The importance of decision-making activities in Sunday School cannot be overemphasized, and almost any Bible story can be used to get students thinking about the nature and consequences of day-to-day decisions. May God help our children learn how to make good – that is, *godly* – decisions in their lives.

What’s the goal?

T R A N S F O R M A T I O N

	Bible knowledge	Effective thinking	Attitudes	Relationship to God, Christ	Relationship to others	Personal life practices
Decisions in the Bible	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- ✓ = goals that receive emphasis and practice in these decision-making activities.
- ✓ = goals that are identifiable but not directly practiced.

Activities in this chapter

Two activities look at the sequence of decisions people make as a Bible story unfolds:

- 1 – “Naaman the Syrian ... and His Friends.” Based on 2 Kings 5:1-15. Pages 219-222.
- 2 – “The Prodigal Son ... and His Family.” Based on Luke 15:11-32. Pages 223-226.

Several shorter activities focus on single decisions that individuals make. Students are asked to evaluate each decision and its outcome. These activities are designed to promote discussion of what is meant by “faithful” and “unfaithful” decisions and what is meant by “good” and “bad” outcomes:

- 3 – “Joseph.” Based on Genesis 37:5-8. Page 227.
- 4 – “Joseph’s Brothers.” Based on Genesis 37:25-28. Page 228.
- 5 – “David and Bathsheba.” Based on 2 Samuel 11:1-5. Pages 229-230.
- 6 – “Jesus in Gethsemane.” Based on Matthew 26:37-39. Page 231.
- 7 – “Gamaliel.” Based on Acts 5:29-32. Page 232.
- 8 – “John Mark.” Based on Acts 13:13. Page 233.

The page or pages for each activity can be printed directly from the book.

3 Decisions & Outcomes – Joseph

Genesis 37:5-8.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

- What decision does Joseph make in this situation?

- Rate his decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decision this rating?

- What is the immediate outcome of his decision?

- Rate the outcome of his decision:

BAD	NEUTRAL	GOOD		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?

- Can bad things happen to us regardless of the decisions we make? If so, what can we do about it?

4 Decisions & Outcomes – Joseph’s Brothers

Genesis 37:25-28.

²⁵ ... And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

- What decision do Joseph’s brothers make?

- Rate their decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give their decision this rating?

- Read Genesis 50:20. What is the ultimate outcome of their decision?

- Rate this outcome:

BAD	NEUTRAL	GOOD		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?

- Is it alright to do bad things as long as something good happens as a result? Explain.

Chapter 28 Afterwords –

- See the section on “[Decision making in the Bible](#)” in Chapter 3 for more about the use of Bible stories to teach decision-making principles in Sunday School.
- Decision-making activities are available online at <http://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Decision-Making.html>.
- Putting the goals to work. When considering the use of a decision-making activity in Sunday School, the transformation goals can serve as an *evaluation* tool. The goals enable the teacher to think about the activity ahead of time and answer these important questions:
 - What aspects of discipleship will the activity allow the students to practice?
 - What other aspects of discipleship, if any, are identifiable in the activity but will not be directly practiced by the students?

Answering these questions beforehand helps the teacher know what to emphasize and watch for as the students carry out the activity in class.

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CHAPTER 43 – BIBLE WORD PUZZLES

A Word Puzzle Sampler

Bible word puzzles can be found or created for any Sunday School lesson, and kids of all ages enjoy doing them. Word puzzles come in many forms; they can have general or specific themes, and they can be easy or challenging to solve. Bible word puzzles make good Bible learning center activities. They can also be fun to do anytime a few minutes are available.

What's the goal?

A well-designed Bible word puzzle targets a Bible message and promotes Bible knowledge.

T R A N S F O R M A T I O N

	Bible knowledge	Effective thinking	Attitudes	Relationship to God, Christ	Relationship to others	Personal life practices
Solving Bible word puzzles	✓					

Word puzzles in this chapter

Samples of twelve kinds of Bible word puzzles are included in this chapter. Each is on a separate page, ready to print. Many more are available online at <https://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Word-Puzzles.html>.

- 1 – "Acrostics." Page 456.
- 2 – "Coded Messages." Page 457.
- 3 – "Crossword Puzzles." Page 458.
- 4 – "Cryptograms." Page 459.
- 5 – "Double Jumbles." Page 460.
- 6 – "Hidden Verses." Page 461.
- 7 – "Jigsaw Quotes." Page 462.
- 8 – "Jumbled Texts." Page 463.
- 9 – "Jumbled Words." Page 464.
- 10 – "Word Links." Page 465.
- 11 – "Word Mazes." Page 466.
- 12 – "Word Searches." Page 467.

Coded Messages

OUR GOD WILL SAVE US

A Coded ESV Word Puzzle

Use the code key to start unlocking the Bible message (19 = T, 23 = I, 44 = 6, etc.).
The missing letters (?) complete the Puzzle Bonus.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	L	F	8	O	C	Q	W	3	T
2	S	D	I	1	4	A	G	J	7
3	0	5	N	V	E	P	9	Y	M
4	X	K	B	6	Z	2	R	H	U

12 ? 26 47 33 14 19 ' 21 19 26 33 22 12 23 47 ? '

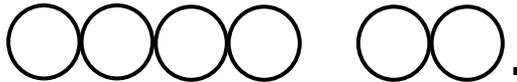
? 33 22 21 35 35 19 4 35
8

21 26 11 ? 26 19 23 14 33 14 12 19 48 ? 11 14 47 22 '

35 41 14 22 49 ? 24 25 : 24 18

Puzzle Bonus

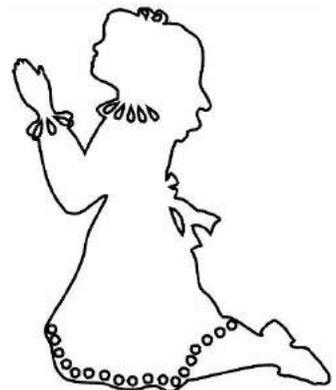
*I call to God,
and the LORD will*



Check your answer in Psalm 55:16.



YesColoring.com



YesColoring.com

Crossword Puzzles

DAVID & GOLIATH

5 down ↓

2 across →

1 down ↓

40

6 down ↓

10 across →

DAVID

FIVE

FORTY

GOLIATH

HELMET

SHIELD

SLING

8

10

9 across →

10

3 down ↓

5

6 across →

4 across →

4 down ↓

7 down ↓

8 down ↓

SPEAR

STAFF

STONES

SWORD

TEN

Chapter 43 Afterwords –

- Putting the goals to work. The transformation goals can help the teacher identify good Bible word puzzles to use in Sunday School. The goals invite useful questions:
 - What Bible knowledge does the puzzle target?
 - Can the puzzle be used to address any other discipleship goals?
 - Will the students find the puzzle engaging and manageable or tedious and frustrating?

These are important questions to think about beforehand.

Christadelphian Bible word puzzles:

- Dozens of ready-to-use Bible word puzzles can be printed directly from <http://www.meridenchristadelphians.com/Word-Puzzles.html>. Puzzles include:

Acrostics	Jigsaw Quotes
Coded Messages	Jumbled Texts
Crossword Puzzles	Jumbled Words
Cryptograms	Manuscript Verses
Double Jumbles	Word Links
Elliptical Verses	Word Mazes
Hidden Verses	Word Searches

Puzzles posted on the website are listed in biblical order. New puzzles are added as they are developed.

*Ideas for new Bible puzzles / puzzle themes are welcome.
Contact sundayschool@tidings.org.*

- Create Bible word puzzles and mazes online. See "[Make Your Own Bible Puzzles](#)" in Chapter 27.

Other word puzzle sources:

- See NC (*not Christadelphian*) vendors under "[Games, Puzzles & Word Puzzles](#)" in Chapter 27.