

Choosing a Sunday School Teacher

A candidate for a Sunday School teacher position should be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Christian
- Good Heart (Pure Intentions)
- Gift of Teaching (And of Working with Children)
- Maturity necessary to maintain a safe and orderly classroom, without being heavy-handed
- Bright and insightful enough to stay one step ahead of the class

Christian – This one seems self-explanatory. If the person is not a Christian, it is impossible for that person to lead others to Christ. Do not ask a non-Christian to lead a Sunday School class.

Good Heart (Pure Intentions) – The only really good reason for wanting to be a Sunday School teacher is to want to help others know more about Jesus. If there are any other intentions (such as a selfish desire for a popular position) the candidate for the position should be excluded from consideration, if possible. **All volunteers who work with children** should successfully pass a background check before being allowed to interact with children or teens. NOTE: *When working with children, it is necessary to make sure that teacher candidates have pure intentions toward their potential students. If there is any question of an abusive situation occurring, it would be best to redirect the teaching candidate to a different place of service in the church.*

Gift of Teaching – “Are all teachers?” No they are not. Teaching is a spiritual gift, given by the Holy Spirit. Without it, classes will not thrive and students will not move forward in their walk with Christ. Be very careful when choosing teachers for children. Make sure that they not only have the gift of teaching, but that they also work well with children. If candidates do not have experience working with children, consider trying them out as classroom assistants with established teachers. They may need a supportive environment like this for you to be able to see how well they can do. Many classroom techniques can be learned by observation, and your teacher candidates may blossom before your eyes into the wonderful teachers they can be.

Maturity to Maintain A Safe and Orderly Classroom – It is necessary for teachers to be mature enough to ensure that their classrooms are run in an orderly fashion and that children left in their care are safe. If the maturity of the candidate is in question, or if they do not seem to have the wisdom necessary to prevent foreseeable problems from occurring, wait for a while.

Bright and Insightful – Every teacher must have the mental ability and insight necessary to be able to understand the lessons they will teach and to present them to their classes. If there is a question that the candidate is not gifted in this way, perhaps the candidate could be asked to volunteer as a teaching assistant first, so that his/her abilities may be more easily evaluated. NOTE: *The Holy Spirit is able to help us use our abilities to their highest level. No candidate should be turned away just because they may not have a lot of education or other training.*