

Starting a Sunday School (or Children's Ministry) in a Very Small Church

You know who you are! Perhaps there has never been a Sunday School at your church, and now there is one because you decided to start a group with the children. Great! Then this is for you! *(By the way... I am proud of you!)*

- One Adult to All of the Kids
 - Probably you are all by yourself with all of the kids of various ages in a class
 - First things first, you need someone to help you
 - I know... I know... you don't HAVE anyone to help you
 - But you still need someone. It's better for you and it's better for the kids.
 - Invite parents to help/participate
 - They will learn too!
 - Get some parents/ helpers to be in there with you, even if you do everything else!
 - They can help prepare/serve snacks
 - Take kids to the bathroom
 - Help supervise kids
 - Help you if you need something (and one day you will)
 - Besides, in this day and time, there must be more than one adult in a room
- Start by teaching the curriculum you have
- Work closely with the Pastor and Staff at your church
 - Discuss ideas for curricula, classroom space, materials needed, and other workers
 - Make sure you get your pastor to review your curriculum choices with you
- As more children begin coming to class
 - Train more teachers
 - Divide students into more than one group, based upon age
- Support and encourage other teachers
 - Discuss lessons among teachers ahead of time
 - You can meet together to do this
 - Make sure the teachers have the lessons, materials, and space they need to meet
 - Plan activities for special days/ holidays together (like for Easter & Christmas)
- Gradually begin to bring in other adults who have special gifts or talents to help out
 - They can come in from time to time, or on a regular basis – It's up to you!
 - Music person
 - Arts and Crafts person
 - People with special jobs/interests (policeman, fireman, doctor, pastor, artist)
 - People with great stories (missions, conversion, someone whom God has helped)
 - These folks can come in for short periods of time to interact with the children

- If there is a Youth Group (teenagers) in your church, speak with the leader of the Youth
 - Arrange “Big Buddy Days” where teens come to visit/ play games/ sing songs/ and hear stories with the young children in your group
 - This encourages Christian Fellowship in the church among the young people
 - Provides mentors for the young children, and a sense of service for the youth
- If there is no Youth Group, then the teens are probably already available to you!
- Involve the Teens in your group as teachers and helpers
- First teach the lesson to the teens (maybe as the little ones play or do activities)
 - Teach them the major points of the story
 - Teach them about the main Bible characters
- Then, involve the teens in telling the story to the younger children
 - Have them act out parts of the Bible story as you read it or tell it to everyone
 - They can be funny or serious
 - Ask them to pray (out loud) for the group
 - Ask them to lead games and activities
 - Ask them to learn how to do the craft and then show the children
 - After some practice, ask them to help teach the lesson one week! ☺
- There are many advantages to having the teens involved in your class in this way
 - The teens will learn the Bible lessons and the truths in them
 - The teens will learn the joy and importance of service to others
 - By taking on these roles, and being successful at them, the teens will begin to be looked upon as an important and integral part of the adult portion of the church. This will help them become more confident as they mature into adults.
 - Both the teens and the children will learn the joy of Christian fellowship.
 - The children will enjoy learning from the older kids (teens)
 - Everyone will have more fun!