

FATAL ERRORS SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS MAKE AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

ERROR 1 - Failing to Lead

1. Leadership is influencing people.
2. Resources - *Developing the Leader Within You* by John Maxwell, *Eight Laws of Leadership* by Elmer Towns
3. Four steps to be an effective leader: (Elmer Towns)
 - a. You must dream dreams which give focus to your leadership.
 - b. Set specific goals
 - c. There must be plans to help reach those goals.
 - d. There must be methods or tactics to those goals.
4. Goals are dreams with deadlines.
5. You must have dreams and then communicate these goals.
6. Eight principles of leadership: (Elmer Towns)
 - a. Dreams - The leader gives vision to his followers
 - b. Rewards - The leader must reward those who follow.
 - c. Credibility - The leader gives confidence to his followers.
 - d. Communication - The leader must give clear direction of where they are going.
 - e. Accountability - Involve your followers in your dreams.
 - f. Motivation - Give your followers compelling reasons why they should follow you.
 - g. Problem solving - The leader gives solutions to his followers.
 - h. Decision making - The leader helps his followers give decisive answers.
7. Focus of leadership: Create Positive Change - the leader must change first. When you change the leader you change the organization.
8. Profile of a leader in trouble: (John Maxwell)

Leaders in trouble have a poor understanding of the people they lead, they lack imagination, have personal problems, pass the buck, feel secure and satisfied, fly into rages, will not take risks, have no team spirit, they are defensive, inflexible, and fight change.

ERROR 2 - Failing to Develop Leaders

1. Jesus began by developing potential leaders.
2. With prayer and careful selection he chose his leaders.
3. What is your greatest potential for growth in your Sunday School? Begin to develop leaders in that area. Ways to develop them: Pray with them, give them tapes, books, and ideas, take them to conferences etc.
4. Spend time with all your teachers but concentrate on the few key leaders.

ERROR 3 - Failing to Develop Vision

1. Resource - *The Power of Vision* by George Barna
2. What is God's vision for your Sunday School?
3. The one place to best find vision is from God. Hebrews 11:6-8

ERROR 4 - Failing to Focus on Opportunities Rather Than Obstacles

1. Learn to do without and still accomplish.
2. God is the God who moves obstacles out of our way. Matthew 17:20

ERROR 5 - Failing to Expect Commitment

1. Develop expectations of your workers.
2. Some expectations: commitment, involved in outreach, tither, team player, etc.
3. Let the teacher help develop the expectations.

ERROR 6 - Failing to Train Your Leaders

1. Bring in outside help.
2. Meet regularly with your teachers and give them practical leadership pointers.
3. Use videos, books, and cassette tapes.

ERROR 7 - Failing to Develop a Team Spirit

1. "Whatever it takes" attitude must be developed.
2. Ways to develop a team spirit: Use team logos, appreciation meals, plan campaigns that will develop a team spirit, etc.
3. Give people goals and a vision bigger than yourself.

ERROR 8 - Failure to Plan Ahead

1. Ways to plan ahead:
 - a. Have classes set individual goals.
 - b. Plan your high attendance, outreach emphasis, etc., well ahead.
2. A two year plan: Sunday School Growth Spiral
3. Use a yearly calendar.

ERROR 9 - A Failure to Set Goals Correctly

1. Goals give direction and challenge.
2. Goals are the tracks upon which the train runs.
3. Types of Goals:
 - a. Numerical, spiritual, organizational
 - b. **S** Goals must be specific.
 - M** Goals must be measurable.
 - A** Goals must be attainable.
 - R** Goals must be realistic.
 - T** Goals must be time related. Deadlines are important.

ERROR 10 - Failure to Follow Through

1. Do a countdown calendar
 - a. Who is responsible?
 - b. What date?
2. It's not what you expect but what you inspect.
3. What is the event?
What are the goals?
Who is responsible?
What is the deadline?
How were they achieved?