

# PREPARING FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS

## Before You Begin...

As you begin your preparation for the upcoming Sunday School Emphasis, keep these important guidelines in mind!



### REMEMBER THE FUNDAMENTALS

#### ■ Start with Prayer!

Make a commitment to surround this special time in prayer. Enlist the prayer support of your Sunday School leaders and any prayer cells existing in your church. During these weeks, list this emphasis as a prayer concern in your worship bulletin, church newsletter, and any other prayer lists.

#### ■ Be Creative!

The recommendations provided along with these resources are just that: suggestions to help you begin thinking about what could be done in your local church. You are surrounded by a tremendous source of alternative or supplemental ideas in your local Sunday School leaders and workers. Take advantage of their creativity!

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### ■ Present the Vision

**Communicate** - Sometime during the weeks leading up to this emphasis, schedule a "Vision Meeting" with all of your Sunday School leaders, teachers, and workers in order to explain the upcoming emphasis and its purpose.

**Delegate** - Clarify the roles each class, and each individual, will have during the coming weeks. Encourage teachers to begin thinking about how to share this same vision with their classes.

**Brainstorm** - Spend some time thinking of your own **Goals** (what you want to see accomplished in your church and in your Sunday School at the end of this emphasis) and **Strategies** (what you can do to help achieve these goals).

#### ■ Promote the Emphasis

**Create** promotional displays or bulletin boards and place them in strategic locations throughout your church. Include publicity in the church newsletter, in the announcement section of the worship bulletin, as a pre-service PowerPoint graphic, etc.

**Schedule** a personal interview or testimony during a worship service with a long-time Sunday School teacher or a person whose introduction to your church was through Sunday School.

### BASIC PREP

- 1 Read through the supplied material thoroughly so that you begin to gain a perspective on the overall scope of this emphasis.
- 2 Meet with your appropriate church leaders to get these important dates calendared ahead of time.
- 3 Visit the SSM website ([www.nazarenesundayschool.org](http://www.nazarenesundayschool.org)) for additional resources to supplement this emphasis. From time to time, camera-ready templates are provided to assist you in preparing handouts to accompany your emphasis planning. You may also wish to order some "giveaway items" to help promote the emphasis in your church and/or community!
- 4 Pastors, suggested sermon outlines based on the weekly scriptural text—as well as some complete manuscripts—have been provided for you. You may download these guides from the SSM website or request a copy via e-mail at [ssm@nazarene.org](mailto:ssm@nazarene.org).

#### ■ Prepare for Results

**Start** a new Sunday School class. Be prepared for new attendees.

**Introduce** new prospects to your church with an informational packet of items such as:

- ministries offered for children (nursery, Caravan, quizzing, children's church, etc.)
- ministries available for youth and adults (midweek activities, small groups, etc.)
- a listing of your Sunday School classes, locations, ages, and teachers
- a calendar of church activities, service times, pastor/staff/church office contact information

**Confirm** that your greeters and anyone else who may interact with visitors and/or new attendees are aware of these packets and where they're located.

#### ■ Plan Your Follow-Up

To ensure the long-range effectiveness of the emphasis, make sure each Sunday School teacher and worker knows what to do in the weeks after the emphasis has ended. Follow-up on new prospects and class members should include continual communication via mail, e-mail, phone calls, invitations to class activities, and/or home visits. Each Sunday School class should make every effort to involve new people into their ongoing fellowship.