

*(Should the Sunday School Mission lack an adequate instrument or accompanist, there are numerous sing-a-long CDs available of both hymn and chorus collections that can be used to facilitate vibrant congregational singing.)*

**EVANGELISTIC EMPHASIS** - The 4th Sunday can provide for a clear, monthly presentation of the Gospel message. In Sunday School Missions a weekly evangelistic **invitation** may not always be feasible. Use of the 4th Sunday in the cycle for evangelism will mean that at least monthly, the “net will be thrown”!

This further means that those involved in your Sunday School Mission will know that the 4th week of each month is an ideal week to bring those they are cultivating for Christ.

Those coordinating these services will want to plan to present a clear invitation to receive Christ. This might be a great opportunity to have (1) individuals from within the group or guests share a testimony, or (2) to use an evangelistic film or video, or (3) to plan musical presentations which will present an unmistakable salvation message and call for a response.

As with the other emphases, this emphasis should be developed to reinforce that day’s Bible lesson as much as is feasible.

### **DEVOTIONAL CYCLES** -

Some Sunday School Missions prefer a weekly devotional message to be presented. In this case, those groups normally prepare a **cycle** of individuals or families that will assume responsibility for one week’s message. The frequency of the cycle’s recurrence is based on the number of willing workers available.

In this type of cycle, those in leadership present a devotion that leads to application and commitment of the Biblical truth presented in the Sunday School lesson. They will select hymns, choruses and Scripture readings that reinforce the lesson aim. They will attempt to involve others in reading the Scriptures chosen and participating in prayer.

The devotional message itself should **not** be an expository message or sermon, as the Bible passage is thoroughly studied in the age-graded Sunday School class context. This type of devotion should be composed of short, simple sharing of illustrative materials, story-telling (or reading), and personal life lessons that emphasize commitment to the challenge presented in that day’s Bible lesson. The purpose is **not** informational instruction, but a call to life application. Because this is not **preaching** in the traditional sense, almost anyone is capable of making a devotional presentation.

Consider involving older children and teens as much as feasible and remember that a **Worship Assembly** led by a **family** can be extremely effective.

As Joshua led God’s people across the Jordan into their promised land, he cautioned them to “... observe to DO according to all the law, which Moses commanded...” (Joshua 1:7-8). Joshua repeated that it was not the studying or knowing, but the **doing** that would make the difference. A worship experience where all the elements of the service are built upon the Bible truths already discovered in the Sunday School class will facilitate **growth, commitment, and evangelism**.

### **GOD IS CALLING LABORERS**

The methods and approaches presented in this brochure make possible the beginning and sustaining of **Sunday School Missions** as well as other forms of church, by providing the simple tools necessary to equip capable workers for leadership.

Potential leaders often remain “out” of service and ministry due to (1) a lack of time available for preparation, (2) a lack of adequate resources or (3) a lack of prior experience. It is the intention of this approach, the **lay-led, Sunday School Mission**, to eliminate these obstacles and to mobilize willing, lay workers for the ministry to which they are being called by God.



*Further training in preparing for Worship Assemblies in a Sunday School Mission can be acquired through the Bible Teaching and Discipling Department of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, 5410 S.W. 7th St., Topeka, KS., 66606, (800)/984-9092.*

# How Sunday School Missions WORSHIP



In *Sunday School Missions* there is an obvious, single, unified focus each week. That focus is the life application found in the Bible passage studied by all ages.

When the focus of the Bible truths taught provide the basis for planning *Worship*, then every chorus and hymn sung, every Scripture passage read, every devotion or testimony shared calls us to a decision to live out that focus as individuals and as families in our daily lives.

The *Sunday School Assembly* provides the entire body with uncomplicated, interactive worship opportunities in which all ages can participate. That which was encountered in the Sunday School Class is now integrated into a commitment.

Thus, the Sunday School Mission, with age-appropriate Worship and Bible Study, coupled with outreach, evangelism, prayer, ministry, accountability and growth becomes a vibrant 21st Century expression of the *New Testament Church*.

## WORSHIP CYCLES -

In lay-led Sunday School Missions, various individuals, families, or classes normally share the responsibilities for planning and presenting weekly worship.

A "cycle" or regular plan of *worship emphases* makes it possible to have variety in worship and the broadest personal involvement, while not placing the entire leadership responsibility on one individual.



A *worship cycle*, such as the one presented herein, makes it possible to delegate leadership to capable people who will function in their area of interest and expertise - usually on a *monthly* basis. These individuals (or families or classes) will then have an entire month between their presentations to plan and prepare a quality worship experience.

This *worship cycle approach* stimulates the congregation to maximum involvement in both worship and worship leadership. This, in turn, produces broad *ownership* in the Sunday School Mission itself. It means more thorough preparation and less of a burden to any one leader. Remember that each week, those responsible for the *worship assembly* must strive to creatively combine the focus of that week's Scripture passage with the form of the *worship emphasis* being observed that day. Keep life application of the Bible lesson primary.

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP CYCLE -

1st Sunday - Lord's Supper  
2nd Sunday - Missions Emphasis  
3rd Sunday - Hymn of the Month  
4th Sunday - Evangelistic Emphasis  
*(On month's with a 5th Sunday, consider  
a musical service or hymn sing.)*

LORD'S SUPPER - The sharing of the Ordinances on the 1st Sunday of each month facilitates planning and coordination. The celebration of the Lord's Supper can stay fresh and meaningful, especially if a variety of participants can be involved and if they coordinate their devotional presentation to align with the Sunday School lesson's focus for that day.

*(If the Sunday School Mission is sponsored by another church, the presentation of the ordinances should be discussed with the sponsoring partners.)*

MISSIONS EMPHASIS - It may be wise to choose a "Missions Coordinator" who will assume responsibility for correspondence with missionaries and mission boards. This person would strive to stay informed by reading missions periodicals, as well as personal missionary correspondence and share their gleanings with the Sunday School Mission on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The mission boards (International Mission Board and North American Mission Board) continuously provide excellent video resources of missionary work and people needs. The coordinator may wish to use these videos when appropriate in the Worship Assembly.

Normally the International Missions emphasis and the North American Missions emphasis (*weeks of prayer*) coincide with the first week of a month and climax on the 2nd Sunday of that month. This makes promotion through the cycle very appropriate. State Convention, Associational and direct missions projects can also be featured in this way.

The idea of an on-going "coordinator" (either an individual, or interested family or class) will add to the effectiveness of building relationships via correspondence and consistent reading of missions resources.

Creative leaders will discover ways to coordinate this monthly presentation in the Worship Assembly with the lesson and unit themes being studied in Sunday School. Knowing the lesson passage ahead, provides them with an entire month to prepare and coordinate effectively.



HYMN OF THE MONTH - Each month a traditional hymn can be chosen as the "Hymn-of-the-Month". The predominate theme of the hymn should be identical to or supportive of the Scriptural focus of the lessons for that month. Hymns chosen should be old enough to be beyond copyright, thus allowing for reproduction in any manner appropriate to your setting. Typically, these hymns will have been sung by the Church long enough to provide for interesting anecdotes concerning their use and effects in people's lives. Also of interest will be the biographies of the *hymn writer*, and the *composer* and the *history of the writing* of the hymn when it is known. This data can be found in devotional books about hymns readily available from Christian bookstores.

An individual can share this type of monthly presentation or it can be easily adapted for use by a class or family. Biographical and devotional content are normally introduced with the verse of the hymn most appropriate. This means that various verses can be sung (one at a time) throughout the devotional presentation with the comments preceding or following the singing of that verse. In addition to better congregational involvement, this approach facilitates several people being involved in offering the devotional comments for the various verses. There is a definite revival today in the use of spiritual teaching through Church music.

In planning for a monthly hymn presentation on the 3rd Sunday, it may be beneficial to choose an individual or family with musical abilities to coordinate the hymn-related worship programs on an on-going basis.