

I'VE CASUALLY SURVEYED THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

I traveled almost fulltime for 7 years living in a motorhome, conducting workshops for Bible teachers in 30 states. I asked lots of personal questions, received lots of honest answers, and challenged each teacher to invest his/her life in the lives of those students, beyond the classroom.

Granted, this survey was rather informal, but the results are real and some answers are quite disturbing.

- a. What group of teachers is the least receptive to any kind of training?
#1 youth leaders, especially paid staff, they stayed away in droves
#2 teachers of adults, minimal attendance
- b. What age groups have the lowest attendance in Sunday School?
#1 youth #2 adults
- c. When asking high school kids throughout America why they drop out of Sunday School, they replied:
It is boring.
It is irrelevant.
Teachers are nice but don't live in my world or care about me.
- d. Sunday School teachers fall into the category of "the average American Christian."
- e. The average American SS teacher [*adult classes, teens, children*]
 - Is married, has one year of college, has taught for several years, likes the age group he/she teaches, feels liked by the students, feels as though he has made no significant spiritual impact on the lives of those in class.
 - Is very sporadic about personal Bible reading and minimally prayerful.
 - Has no idea of the spiritual terrain of his students outside the class, though he/she feels he could guess what is going on. Assumes the students are very much like himself at that age.
 - Spends less than 30 minutes per week preparing a lesson which lasts about 40 minutes.
 - Does not regularly pray for the students by name. Prayers are generic, "God bless this class."
 - Has never been in the homes of any of his/her students.
 - The average American Christian watches TV 4.5 hours per day, but can't find more than 30 minutes prep time for Sunday School.
 - Knows the names of most of the regulars, but not all.
 - Does not follow up new comers.
 - Has not spoken to every member individually about his/her salvation. Most teachers have never engaged even one student in a one-on-one conversation about eternal life.
 - Has never led any person to faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Could not explain salvation using 5 verses to explain what someone needs to believe to be saved.
 - Does not explain salvation during class even when he/she knows there are unchurched people in his class.
 - Loves the Lord and is fairly committed to his local church. Attends Sunday morning but no other time in the week.
 - Misses 10 Sundays each year [20%]. That's like having a fulltime job and not ever showing up for work on Mondays—ever.
 - Prepares on Saturday night and often Sunday morning.
 - Is late. Walks in just before the bell. Myers' Mantra- "*Anything later than 10 minutes early—is late!*"
 - When asked what change he/she expects might take place in the lives of his students, his response is most often, "What kind of changes are you talking about?" or "Not particularly."
 - Only 4 out of 100 Church members tell me that they ever had a single teacher who knew anything about them personally: home life, school, sports, likes or dislikes, favorite anything, plans for college, job [*except generically*], favorite subject at college, etc. See blog: *100 Perceptive Questions to Ask Almost Anybody*.
 - The average teacher feels he/she cannot expect to make any radical changes in their lives **and makes no attempt to do so.**