



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEYOND CHURCH WALLS STRATEGY GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

As our world faces unprecedented challenges, church leaders can take courage in knowing God has a sovereign plan to advance His kingdom. With faith in Him and a commitment to persevere, we will not only survive this difficult season, but minister in innovative new ways to keep the church connected and moving forward in spiritual growth.

This guide provides strategies for teaching the children, youth, and adults of local churches in new methods that will take Sunday school beyond the church building. Use these ideas as a launching point, adapting them to work in your unique church context.

THREE PRACTICAL STEPS

Each church typically develops a routine for teaching the Word of God. In some churches that includes dividing into narrow age groups and meeting at specific times; other churches may meet in broadly graded groups. Likely these approaches vary based on ages. While each church has to craft a unique plan based on the vision of the pastor, the culture of the local church, and the capabilities of the available staff, God equips every church with the means to teach His Word systematically. Difficult times may require more of us to continue the teaching ministry, but it may also help us step into new innovative methods that could help us expand our ministry.

While the needs of each community and the specific age levels may require varied approaches, the following practical steps give the general strategy for moving Sunday school beyond the walls of the church:



Video Lessons - For each class or group, create a video that covers the main teaching points of each week's lesson. (Videos are provided from Pentecostal Publishing House if you do not have the means to create your own video lessons.)



Student Guides - Mail or email the student versions of the lesson (activity papers, student workbooks, personal discipleship guides, and so on) to prompt the class in personal engagement.



Social Engagement - Use social media or video conferencing tools to follow up with your group and have social interaction. Curriculum resources provide material to prompt conversation about spiritual health.

FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

Weekly Lessons

Just because you can't meet physically in your building doesn't mean you can't continue your teaching ministry. Curriculum resources from PPH equip you to maintain a systematic plan for studying God's Word. These tools will help you continue weekly lessons for consistent Bible study:

- Use the Teacher Manual lessons as a springboard to develop an online lesson for your students. The CORE section of each lesson gives you the basics for a powerful twenty- to thirty-minute Bible lesson. Coupled with your creativity, webcams and smartphones make it easier than ever to put together an unforgettably fun video lesson your students will never forget.
- Need inspiration? Go to the following Facebook groups to adopt ideas from teachers across the continent who are making interactive online lessons for their students:
 - Word Aflame Toddler Curriculum Teachers
 - Word Aflame Kindergarten Curriculum Teachers
 - Word Aflame Beginner Curriculum Teachers
 - Word Aflame Primary Curriculum Teachers
 - Word Aflame Preteen Curriculum Teachers



FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

Connecting to Students

Children are affected by the uncertainty and stress engulfing families who face strains surrounding their health, jobs, and finances. Your connection to them during this tough time can be a lifeline of encouragement to remind them you love them and, more important, God loves them.

- Use the postcards provided in the curriculum (in physical form in the Teacher’s Resource Packet or digitally in the downloadable resources) to stay in touch with students. With the help of parents, schedule video chats with students to read and discuss portions of the lesson and enjoy valuable face-to-face interaction.
- Send students the unit digital Memory Work handouts, along with special memorization challenges. Ask students to record themselves reciting the verse and send it to you.
- Send students the digital New Birth handout, and invite them to record a short commercial or draw an advertisement about being born again.



FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

Partnering with Parents

While the COVID-19 pandemic has radically affected the way we have church, more Apostolic families than ever are using this time to draw closer to God. Take advantage of this opportunity to team up with parents to bring their children into deeper relationship with the living God.

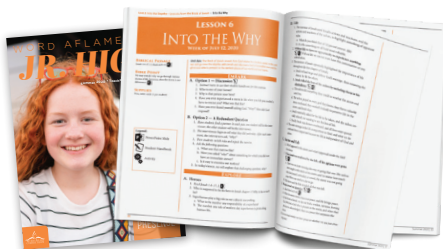
- As a new feature to meet the unique needs of COVID-19 crisis, a digital version of the Activity Papers is provided (with purchase). E-mail each week's activity paper to parents so students can do the activity along with you from home.
- Each lesson comes with a complimentary digital family devotional to send to parents to reinforce the lesson. Families will enjoy the twenty- to thirty-minute devotion that guides them in reading a story from the Bible and then prayerfully do some fun at-home activities to apply the lesson.
- Send families the digital Junior Bible Quizzing verses and quizzes available in the Teacher's Resource Packet. Challenge families to dig deeper into God's Word through in-depth memorization.
- Send parents the Spiritual IEP (Individualized Education Program) from the digital resources included with the curriculum. Schedule a time to discuss their child's physical and spiritual development using the form so you can better minister to the child now and when regularly scheduled teaching resumes.

Sharing these resources with parents to partner in teaching children isn't just a means of coping during the crisis but a powerful method to incorporate into your long-term strategy for equipping families for lifelong Apostolic discipleship.

FOR TEACHING YOUTH

Youth may be facing a number of challenges from the sense of loss surrounding school and social routines to the changes in family dynamics. These strategies can help you encourage students' spiritual growth through consistent study of Scripture.

- Use the outline format of the teacher manual to record a video version of the weekly lesson for distribution to the class.
- If you've not yet developed a social media presence for a class, consider doing so now. The following material from the curriculum can help you provide engaging content that will prompt students to think about the lesson later in the week:
 - Post the bolded major teaching points from the Teacher Manual.
 - Post discussion questions from the Senior High Teacher Manual.
 - Post Explore questions from the Student Handbook to create a conversation with the class that builds on their thoughts on the lesson.
- With parental permission, ask students to video a devotional based on the lesson each week. You can easily email the lesson from the digital teacher's manual to a student for them to read and then share an idea based on the point of the lesson. They'll be prompted to dig into Scripture for themselves, and students will pay close attention to their peers for greater lesson retention.



FOR TEACHING ADULTS

Encourage biblical learning and daily discipleship for the adults of your congregation during this difficult time. Curriculum resources can help.

Biblical Learning Strategies

- Provide your adult learners with a link to a video of the lesson so they are able to continue weekly study. Visit pentecostalpublishing.com/response for video options or you may use the Lesson Manual as a guide to film an abbreviated version of the lesson.
- Provide your adult learners with either the Lesson Manual (for the complete lesson content, as the teacher would have), or the Student Workbook (containing abridged lesson content, along with reflections questions) and encourage weekly study.
- Take advantage of video conference technology to set up small group discussions of the weekly lesson. The discussion questions provided in the Lesson Manual and Student workbook enable an interactive approach to studying God's Word.

Daily Discipleship and Growth Strategies

- Provide your adult learners with the podcast link from PPH (pentecostalpublishing.com/response) so they are encouraged to think deeper about the main lesson ideas and biblical text.
- Provide your adult learners with the Student Workbook, so they can better interact with the podcast, meditate daily on God's Word, consider areas of their lives needing growth, and make a greater personal commitment to the purpose and plan of God for their lives.

FOR TEACHING ADULTS

As churches minister remotely and prepare for returning to their buildings, it's important to leverage digital technology but not lose the dynamics of personal relationships. Small groups have long been an effective means of learning for adults due to their interactive nature. Even with the logistics of not meeting within the church building, congregations can still carry on existing small groups or launch new ones.

Strategies for Small Groups

- During stay-at-home orders that preclude in-person meetings, provide a video for families to view independently. (Discipleship Central offers a wealth of Apostolic videos designed for this purpose.) Then small groups can meet via video conferencing technology to discuss the themes and related spiritual applications.
- Lead the group meeting by checking on the participants and asking for their prayer requests. After prayer, discuss an ice breaker question to open up the group to conversation. Then transition the discussion to the lesson content from the video or shared Bible lesson. (Discipleship Central provides Facilitator Guides with discussion questions to shepherd group conversation.) A maximum of five questions is typically ideal for keeping group meetings in the range of forty-five minutes.
- As restrictions lift, some states and counties may face crowd size limitations. Meeting with multiple small groups may be an optimal way for the church congregation to come back together. Curriculum for small groups is available through discipleshipcentral.com as well as within the adult digital resources of The Discipleship Project, a curriculum available from Pentecostal Publishing House.

RESOURCES



Word Aflame Curriculum has a trusted legacy of providing Apostolic teaching tools for over fifty years. With resources for children, youth, and adults, it provides easy-to-use material, ensuring Apostolic truth is passed down from generation to generation.



The Discipleship Project is an exciting whole-church curriculum that brings together all ages of a congregation to study a single topic each week and places intentional emphasis on integrating the home and the church.



LINK247 is a digital library of Apostolic curriculum for youth and Hyphen groups. Written by leading student workers who understand the pressures today's students face, each series reinforces Apostolic doctrine and the timeless truths of God's Word.



Discipleship Central is a digital streaming platform that offers unlimited access to teaching video series, archives of past conferences, a classic preaching library, podcasts, and more. For more information, visit discipleshipcentral.com.

For a complete list of resources available to help during the COVID-19 crisis, visit the PPH response page:
www.pentecostalpublishing.com/response

For the latest videos and updates, follow PPH on Facebook
[@PentecostalPublishingHouse](https://www.facebook.com/PentecostalPublishingHouse)