

ADVANCED SUNDAY SCHOOL

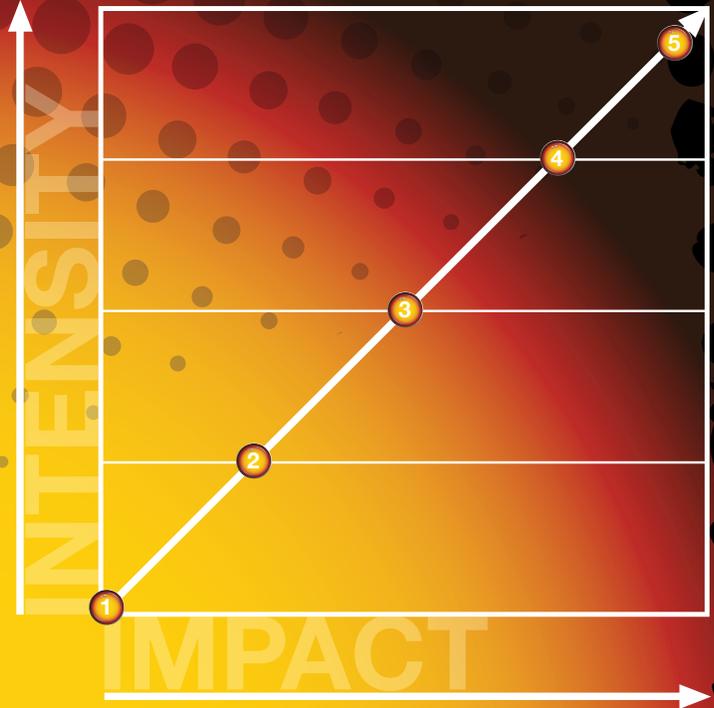
Level 1: Connect People
Already Present

Level 2: Know the Purpose of
Your Groups

Level 3: Emphasize Starting
New Groups

Level 4: Equipping New Leaders

Level 5: Creating and Communicating



In study after study of church growth and health, the impact of adults meeting in some form of small group emerges as a key catalyst for transformational impact. Growing, healthy churches are intentional about creating opportunities for people of all ages to meet together for Bible study, to grow closer together as a community of faith, to meet ministry needs, and to be mobilized for ministry. Whether these groups meet during a traditional Sunday School, in homes, or in other locations, the potential impact is the same.

Through this design guide, you will:

- Learn to create an environment that expects and connects new people.
- Understand the different purposes fulfilled by groups.
- Learn ways to start new groups – an essential action for growing churches.
- Find keys to identifying, recruiting, and equipping new leaders.
- Develop a plan for an ongoing, growing Sunday School ministry in your church.

Level 1: Connect People Already Present

- Create an environment that expects Guests.
- Identify guests and get good information.
- Use the appropriate small group to make the initial contact with guests.
- Have a system in place for ministry care and relationship building.

Level 2: Know the Purpose of Your Groups

- Understand the four kinds of groups and learn to recognize them in your church.
- Identify which types of groups you need and which ones are currently absent from your ministry plan.

Level 3: Emphasize Starting New Groups

- Identify gaps in your current SS organization.
- Use community demographics, worship service only attendees, and thorough SS/ Group roll evaluations to identify unreached and under served people groups within your church and community.
- Identify a method for starting new groups that will work well in your context.

Level 4: Equipping New Leaders

- Identify the roles for leaders to fill within each group's ministry (teaching, reaching, ministering).

- Personally and prayerfully recruit leaders.
- Provide training and resources.
- Be a source of ongoing encouragement.

Level 5: Creating and Communicating

- Take time to create a clear purpose for what you want to accomplish through your groups ministry.
- Motivate people and implement the plan.
- Maintain openness and flexibility.

Recommended Resources

- *Sunday School Done Right* (Allan Taylor)
- *Sunday School in HD* (Allan Taylor)
- *Becoming a Church of Small Groups* (Bill Donahue)
- *Transformational Groups* (Ed Stetzer and Eric Geiger)
- *Transformational Church* (Ed Stetzer and Thom S. Rainer)
- *Transformational Discipleship* (Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley, Philip Nation)

For specific information about implementing the recommendations listed here, download the complete version of the "Advanced Sunday School" Design Guide at www.revitalizearkansas.com.