

How to Know It's Time to Start a New Sunday School Class

Take this simple quiz. Choose the best option to this question: What is the best way to handle a growing Adult Sunday School class?

1. Add a wing to your room.
2. Steal a larger room regardless of whether someone already meets there.
3. Build a balcony in your class.
4. Put a sign on the door that says: No More New Members
5. Start your own church down the street.
6. Start new classes.

Hopefully you chose the last answer. Yet too often we fail to see just how important starting new classes can be to growth. If your class has grown significantly this year, or if your class growth has been level or declining, consider the question, "Do you need to start a new class?"

The decision to start new classes can be based on several other factors. The following checklist may help you determine whether a new class is needed.

Does your class:

- have too wide an age span?
- have too many members enrolled for effective teaching and ministry?
- meet in a room often filled to capacity?
- have young adults meeting with their parents or grandparents?
- have senior adults meeting in places that are difficult for them to physically get to easily?
- have a large number of adults who are chronic absentees? (*or have a large number who have been purged from the roll for lack of attendance in previous years?*)
- have members who feel God wants to do something through them, but they have not been given an opportunity to follow through? (*under-utilized spiritual gifts*)

Do you need a class:

- for single adults?
- for college students?
- for baby boomers?
- for new parents? for single parents?
- for people who are new in town or new to your church?
- for people who do not speak English?
- for members who are not enrolled in Sunday School?
- for adults who met for special study such as Vacation Bible School or January Bible Study who want to continue studying together?
- for people who could be reached by a short-term group study?
- for people with specific needs for which a separate class is needed?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, **you have identified a place where a new class is needed.**

Adult classes do not start themselves. Leaders always must work with Sunday School and church leaders and the pastor and/or other staff members to start new classes. But class leaders can approach other leaders to offer to help start new units.

Ask yourself the question, "Are we a sowing class or a hoarding class?" The members of your class are seeds over which you've been given stewardship. Are you building a protected silo to keep them in? Or are you preparing the seeds and a field into which you can sow them to see them multiply and prosper? As a leader, you are called to sow and multiply. What's YOUR next step?