



The Restoration Project

A plan to find and recover lost or overlooked members and/or prospects from your Sunday School.

The basics:

Week 1 – Pray, *by name*, for every member who has not been present for x number of weeks in the last year.

(Use your judgment in determining just who to contact...)

Week 2 – Send a letter to every absent member, detailing all the exciting new things going on at your church and inviting them.

Week 3 – Make phone calls to every absent member, setting up a personal face-to-face contact of some kind.

Week 4 – Make face-to-face contact, inviting them to attend. Give them a printed invitation to an upcoming fellowship event.

Week 5

- **Super Sunday** – Invite them to attend Sunday School on this day.
- **Super Sunday Parties – P.M.** – **Make sure each individual receives a personal invitation to attend a Super Sunday party on this night!** Every class needs to plan some kind of event(s)! Plan some with another class if you need to, but this is the culmination of this entire Restoration process, so plan ***SOMETHING!*** These events need to be ***OUTREACH*** events, as well! So have several SS parties in multiple homes, if necessary. Invite your ***neighbors***, invite your ***prospects*** and ***guests!*** ***This is critical!*** ***Make it FUN!*** You don't have to make it hard or huge, just enjoy yourselves, and make sure we don't leave anyone out!
- **Monday – Outreach Night** – Follow-up outreach night to make contact with all those we've discovered &/or re-discovered.

The Three R's of Restoration

1. **Renewal** – Through Prayer
 - Renew our commitment
 1. To each other
 2. To our church
 3. To the Lord
2. **Relationships** – established and re-established
 - Relationships refreshed with one another
 - Relationships renewed with prospects
 - Relationships restored with absentees
3. **Rejoicing** – in outreach and ministry
 - Rejoicing over those reached and saved
 - Rejoicing over those restored to fellowship
 - Rejoicing over God's renewal through the process

Suggestions for prayers, letters, calls, and visits.

Prayer – Give every member present a complete enrollment list of your class with the attendance percentages marked. Talk to teacher and fellow members and try to learn more about chronic absentees. ***Don't assume!*** Remember that Jesus and others are praying with you and for you as you pray. ***Pray DAILY for the persons on your list.*** Pray ***specifically*** if you know of specifics. Pray for specific outcomes. Set a specific ***TIME*** to pray and stick by it. Use your church directory and visualize the person you're praying for as you pray. Read or call each name out to God out loud. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and renew your personal concern for and commitment to reaching the lost and uncommitted. Pray that God will open doors to reach these. ***Pray that we will become a more loving, caring, reaching, ministering, fellowship of believers.***

Letters – *Divide the list* up so each person only has to write 3 or 4 letters to missing members and to prospects. Letters should be **hand written**, as these are *MUCH* more likely to be read. Introduce yourself, and include that you are a member of ____BC and a member of ____ class. If you know the person or some specific need, express your concern. Say a positive word about our Sunday School and your church. Tell some positive thing that has happened in the class or to you personally. Tell about some of the exciting things happening at ____BC such as new classes, new worship experiences, new Sunday afternoon classes, etc. You may wish, at this point, to briefly relate your salvation experience. Encourage them to join you in SS or worship this very next Sunday. Invite them to call you with any questions and give them ways to get in touch.

Calls – Make calls to the same people to whom you wrote letters. Introduce yourself again. Refer to your letter. Discuss any concern or situation you're aware of. Relate a recent **positive occurrence** or situation from SS or church in your life. Share some of the exciting new things happening, and invite them to come experience them. **Ask if there is anything you can pray with them about** or any way you can lead your church to minister to them. If they give you any prayer concern(s), pray with them right then over the phone. Close with an invitation to join you this week in Sunday School and worship. Ask them if you can expect them. **Tell them you're praying for them weekly, by name. Let them know they're missed!**

Visits – You decide whether or not to make an appointment. I usually make an appointment if I'm planning to make a longer visit or try to go in the house. For "drop by" visits, I rarely do. On the occasion of *these* restoration visits, an appointment might be best. Let the Holy Spirit lead you. Pray before going. The main thing is, **GO!** Don't let the deceiver keep you from this most important part of the campaign... **GO!** Make *SOME* kind of face-to-face contact! *Anywhere!*

You may wish to invite them to your home or to meet you at a restaurant or Starbucks or some other neutral location. You, or you and another person or couple may wish to make a dinner date or some similar arrangement. Coffee at Starbucks is a great way to meet face-to-face.

The main point of the activity is to **make personal contact with these people and RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS!** Keep the conversations positive. Listen. Discuss items of mutual concern. Try to avoid being dragged into *negative* issues from the past. Tell them about all the positive things happening **TODAY** at your church and ask them to come and **EXPERIENCE** these things for themselves! Be optimistic, smile, and let them see how much you love them and your church.

Note: At any time during the month long process, if you discover that any of your members or prospects have moved away from the city, died, or joined another church, please send a note to the church office with their name, class name, & phone number as it was listed. Write **DROP** and a full report why. Forms for this purpose are available. Thanks for your help!

Also, keep on the lookout for **NEW** folks along the way! As you talk with your re-discovered members, ask them about family members, friends, neighbors, and see who else you may discover in the process that may also be looking for a church home.



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