

The Mission of the Sunday School

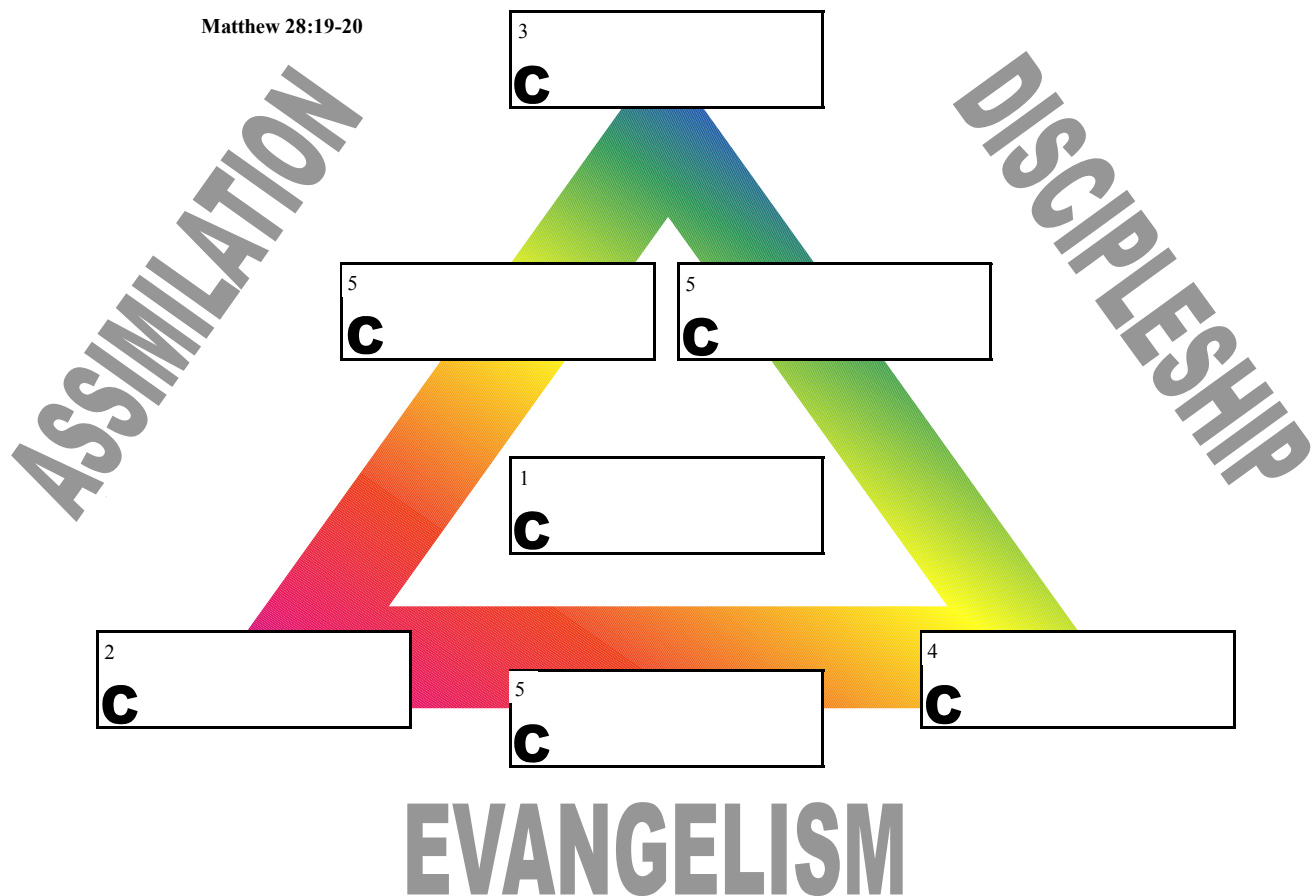
What is our Mission?

- _____ *disciples* = **evangelism** – continual process of helping others begin a new life with Jesus and join His family
- _____ *them* = **assimilation** – continual process of helping family members fit in and take on responsibilities
- _____ *them* = **discipleship** – continual process of helping family members adopt our values and share them with others

source: *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*, Ken Hemphill

Why Sunday School (or small groups)?

Sunday School is *the foundational* _____ *in a local church for building on-mission Christians through* _____ *Bible study groups that* _____ *people in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship.*



CELEBRATE (worship)

All that we do revolves around our celebration of who God is and what He has done for us. When Jesus said that He had all authority, that was a call to worship, love, trust, and obey Him.

CONNECT (fellowship)

People come to church looking for relationships, friends. They need a relationship with God and a relationship with God's family. If they find this, they will probably come back.

CARE (minister)

People need to be cared for. When someone comes to your church, they are more likely to continue their involvement if they are being cared for. This involves earning their trust to allow you into their life. It is important not only to minister to them, but to involve them also in ministry. If someone has a job, it is very difficult to lose them.

CHANGE (evangelize)

People need to be spiritually transformed; changed. This begins with a personal relationship with Jesus. We have a responsibility to help them change. Jesus also expects His family to change and become life-long witnesses for Him.

COACH (disciple)

People are not all the same. Discipleship is not a one-time event. Jesus takes individuals where they are and moves them closer to Him. We need to develop a plan to help individuals grow from where they are to where they need to be.

OBSERVATIONS

1. Potential new members can become involved in our family at any point: looking for something (relationships), having been ministered to, or having accepted Christ.
2. Potential new members do not follow a set pattern. They can come because someone ministered to them and then either accept Christ or just begin new relationships that will eventually result in accepting Christ.

PRINCIPLES @ the 3-part Process

1. Evangelism begins when we share the good news of Jesus with individuals.
Evangelism is complete when a new believer is connected with God's family.
2. Assimilation begins when a new believer/member connects with God and His family.
Assimilation is complete when a new believer/member is cared for and begins serving.
3. Discipleship begins when a new believer/member begins serving.
Discipleship is complete when a new believer/member is reproducing.

Actually this process is never complete!