



## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### Introduction

Welcome to the **R.E.A.C.H.** Sunday School Emphasis!

Is your church reaching out and growing? If the answer is yes, praise the Lord!

Unfortunately, too many of our churches have become lethargic and inwardly focused. We need a new spiritual "heartset" based on scriptural principles and practical experience in the local church. I have had the privilege over the last year to train over 1500 churches and over 6,000 people in the R.E.A.C.H. church growth strategy.

**R.E.A.C.H.** (Reaching Every Available Community Household) has been used by God in a variety of cultural contexts and churches of various sizes.

By combining the teaching of God's Word, intentional prayer for the lost and for the church, and a church-wide prayer and outreach strategy, **R.E.A.C.H.** presents a tool worth examining and implementing. The resulting discipleship and evangelistic opportunities can transform your church and community.

**R.E.A.C.H.** includes a church growth strategy that delegates church-wide prayer and outreach responsibilities to the Sunday School or to the open small group ministries. It leads members to be involved in outreach, Bible study, fellowship, ministry, and discipleship.

If you believe that God wants your church to grow and you are seeking a plan that is biblical, proven, and can fit into your regular weekly church programming schedule, consider **R.E.A.C.H.** The unsaved of your community are waiting!

During this Sunday School emphasis you will have the opportunity to reach people for Jesus Christ and your church. If you have implemented the R.E.A.C.H. strategy, these weeks will help to refocus and reenergize all age groups. If you have not implemented R.E.A.C.H. you can still organize your church for effective outreach and intercessory prayer during the emphasis.

May God bless you as you lead your people to reach lost people for Jesus Christ.

David W. Graves  
Director, Sunday School Ministries





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### Preparing for Your Sunday School Emphasis

As you begin your preparation for the upcoming Sunday School Emphasis, keep these important guidelines in mind:

#### Prayer

- Surround this special time in prayer. Enlist prayer support of Sunday School leaders and prayer cells existing in your church.
- In the weeks preceding the emphasis, list the Sunday School emphasis as a prayer concern in the worship bulletin, church newsletter, and other prayer lists.
- Have class members begin to pray about whom to REACH out to during the emphasis.

#### Present the Vision

- Meet with Sunday School and church leaders to explain the emphasis, think through goals, schedule important dates, and clarify roles of teachers, greeters, classes, and individuals.
- Read through the Sunday School Ministries website to gain a full perspective of the emphasis.
- Familiarize yourself with each week's theme. Brainstorm with other church leaders about how your Sunday School can implement each week's theme.

#### Plan Ahead

- Schedule events related to the emphasis.
- Order promotional giveaways, gifts, and supplies.
- Create a follow-up plan.

#### Promote the Emphasis

- Create promotional displays or bulletin boards.
- Highlight the emphasis in the church newsletter, calendar, bulletin, and website.
- Announce the emphasis during worship services.
- Display signs on the church property announcing the emphasis.



**Use the following resources when planning your Sunday School emphasis** (available at [www.nazarene.org/ssm](http://www.nazarene.org/ssm)):

#### **Before You Begin...**

As you begin your preparation for the upcoming Sunday School emphasis, keep these important guidelines in mind!

#### **Connecting Points**

Consider incorporating some of the ideas in this library into the life of your church and Sunday School classes.



## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### Weekly Themes

Week 1: September 24, 2006  
Preparing to Reach Out

Week 2: October 1, 2006  
*Reaching*  
Reaching Out to Students

Week 3: October 8, 2006  
*Every*  
Reaching Out to the Church

Week 4: October 15, 2006  
*Available*  
Reaching Out to Friends

Week 5: October 22, 2006  
*Community*  
Reaching Out to the Community

Week 6: October 29, 2006  
*Household*  
Reaching Out to Family



## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

**Week 1: September 24  
Preparing to REACH Out  
Preparation Sunday**

### ***Is your church prepared to REACH Out?***

*A successful Sunday School emphasis must begin with careful planning several weeks in advance of Preparation Sunday. By the time the emphasis begins, Sunday School and church leaders should have spent time in prayer, reviewed the weekly materials for this emphasis, set goals for growth, planned events, and ordered supplies.*

*Have you met with Sunday School class teachers of all ages, informing them of the emphasis and giving them the responsibility of introducing the theme in their classes? Have you planned events for the next several weeks, publicized them to Sunday School classes, and posted them on your church calendar and website?*

- Take pictures of each person in Sunday School to create a bulletin board collage. You may want to begin taking informal pictures several weeks before the emphasis begins. Include those who participate in Sunday School in unconventional ways, such as the home department, nursing home ministry, and prison ministry. As new persons are enrolled in the Sunday School during the coming weeks, add their pictures to the bulletin board. In the center of the bulletin board, display a R.E.A.C.H. Sunday School Emphasis poster. This poster is available to each church upon request by calling 800.221.6317 or by E-mailing [ssm@nazarene.org](mailto:ssm@nazarene.org). Please remember to include your mailing address if making your request via E-mail.
- Introduce the emphasis theme "R.E.A.C.H." to your congregation during Sunday School classes and morning worship.
- Distribute "People I want to REACH" cards to all Sunday School class members. Encourage class members of all ages to list 5 people they know who are not currently involved in Sunday School. List one person for each week of the emphasis, including a student, a church attendee (either someone who attends worship services but is not involved in a Sunday School class, or those who formerly attended but no longer attend church), a friend, a neighbor, and a family member (either immediate or extended family). These cards will serve as a prayer reminder in the weeks ahead, as well as a reminder to look for opportunities to invite these persons to Sunday School.





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

**Week 2: October 1**

***REACHING***

**Reaching Out to Students**

### ***Is your church reaching out to students?***

*Do you provide opportunities to shape and mold children, youth, and young adults in the Christian values they may or may not be taught in their schools? Do you provide leadership roles for students within the church? The goal for this week is to reach out to students of all ages, especially children, teens, and young adults.*

- Encourage students to invite their classmates on this Sunday. Sponsor a competition to see which grade in school (or which school district, if there are more than one represented among your church's members) has the most in Sunday School this day.
- If your church sponsors a daycare or school, invite students who do not regularly attend Sunday School to come this week with their families.
- Encourage Sunday School classes to write cards to college students who are away from home. If there are several students away at college, assign each class a student to pray for and encourage throughout the remainder of the school year. Send a small "care package" of goodies to each student.
- Prior to this Sunday, create a list of college students who attend your church and do not have family in the area. Encourage adult class members to host one or several students for Sunday dinner and to be available to host students at other times throughout the school year.
- Host a talent show on Sunday evening and incorporate the talents of students of all ages. Promote it as a fun event for students already in the church as well as an outreach event for students to invite their unchurched friends and classmates. During the evening's events, be sure to extend an invitation to Sunday School.





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### Week 3: October 8 **EVERY** Reaching Out to the Church

*How many people on your Sunday School responsibility list have not attended class in the past 6 months? How many people attend your worship services but have not yet become involved in a Sunday School class? The aim of this week is to incorporate into the Sunday School those persons who are associated in some way with the local church, but who are not currently involved in a Sunday School class.*

- Work to have a Sunday School attendance equal to the current Sunday School responsibility list on this day.
- In preparation for this week, have each class review the names on their responsibility list, making sure contact information is correct. Be certain not to remove names carelessly or without the approval of the pastor. Names should only be removed if persons have moved out of town, passed away, or joined another Sunday School. Review Sunday School Responsibility List Guidelines.
- Request from the church office a list of people who are currently involved in worship services and outreach ministries of the local church, but who are not currently involved in Sunday School. Add these persons to Sunday School class lists as prospects.
- Ask the teachers of the nursery through high school Sunday School classes for a list of children whose parents do not attend Sunday School. Have the adult classes invite these parents to Sunday School on this Sunday.
- A few weeks before this Sunday, make a list of infrequent attendees and prospects for each class. Assign each regular Sunday School attendee a handful of infrequent attendees to contact and invite to Sunday School on this Sunday. (Suggestion: on Preparation Sunday, have the class members write cards inviting prospects to Sunday School on October 9.)
- Once new attendees indicate a willingness to attend, add them to the active Responsibility List. Follow up on that initial commitment! Contact them weekly and invite them to Sunday School and other activities.
- Check with the pastor for names and addresses of homebound or hospitalized persons. Have classes of all ages schedule visits to these persons over the next several weeks. Ask for volunteers to go grocery shopping for shut-ins during this week.
- Schedule a progressive dinner in the homes of shut-ins. Have the Sunday School class visit several homebound persons, sharing a portion of the meal with each person, before moving on to the next person's home for the next course. Class members share the responsibility for providing the food. Be sure to provide a full meal for each person being visited. While visiting, share the Sunday School lesson.





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

**Week 4: October 15**

**AVAILABLE**

**Reaching Out to Friends**

*How do church members relate to unchurched friends and work associates? Do they extend an invitation to church? The aim of this week is to provide an opportunity for Sunday School members to invite friends and co-workers to attend Sunday School.*

- Encourage each person to contact as many unchurched friends as possible to attend on this Sunday.
- Suggest that Sunday School members call several friends during the week, asking them if there are specific things for which they would like prayer and inviting them to Sunday School.
- Suggest that each person invite a new friend (someone they have recently met) and an old friend (someone they have known for a while) to come with them to Sunday School.
- Encourage every Sunday School class to schedule an informal social gathering this week to which class members can invite their friends.
- When planning class lessons and the worship service, be aware that some visitors may not be familiar with Bible passages and your church's traditions. Help visitors feel welcome by explaining your traditions and where passages can be found.
- Be sure to have greeters at all church entrances to direct visitors to the proper classes.
- For additional ideas and planning, order a "Friendship Day" notebook from the Nazarene Publishing House.





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

**Week 5: October 22**

**COMMUNITY**

**Reaching Out to Community**

*How does your community perceive your church? Do people know that your church is concerned with the whole range of needs represented in the community – emotional, physical, and spiritual? Are people from the community open to approaching your church members with needs? Your goals for this Sunday should be to increase community awareness of your church and to begin cultivating a relationship between your church and the surrounding community.*

- Encourage people to invite their neighbors – including children and teens – to attend church on this special Sunday and then to share lunch with them.
- Contact neighbors of the church (those who live in the area) and offer them one or two hours of service from the church, such as yard work or home repairs. This weekend, have Sunday School class members give some time to the church's neighbors. Invite them to Sunday School and upcoming outreach events if they don't already have a church home.
- Encourage classes to volunteer regularly at the local rescue mission or soup kitchen. Schedule classes to volunteer on a rotating basis, allowing each class the opportunity to volunteer every few weeks. Include children and youth.
- Examine the ways your Sunday School interacts with and ministers to the various types of people in your community. View USA/Canada community demographics at [www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org). Use this information to learn what age, economic, and ethnic groups are in your church's community. Then determine if there are groups of people in your community to which your church needs to minister.
- Use this as an opportunity to reach neighbors by starting new small group Bible studies in various neighborhoods.
- Sponsor a harvest party or hayride this week, and advertise it to the community. Place banners on the church property, hang flyers in neighborhood stores, and advertise with local newspapers or radio stations. At the party, distribute invitations and information about the opportunities that await them at Sunday School.
- Launch a new outreach Sunday School class in a different language or begin a new ESL (English as a Second Language) outreach program to minister to immigrants in the community. If there is interest, sponsor Spanish (or another language) classes, so English speakers can learn to communicate in the native language of others.





## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### **Week 6: October 29** **HOUSEHOLD** **Reaching Out to Family**

*Are there members of your Sunday School who come from non-Christian homes? Are there families you know who do not know Christ? The aim of this week is for each person to reach an unsaved member of their family or, if they have no family members in the area, to reach another family for Christ.*

- The unchurched members of the families in your church are important prospects for your Sunday School. Encourage each person to invite unchurched members of their family to Sunday School this Sunday.
- Encourage each family to invite an unchurched family to come with them to Sunday School and then to Sunday dinner.
- Conduct a "Name that Family" Contest. Describe little-known facts about the members of several church families while others guess the family.
- Honor special family groups, such as the largest family, the family that traveled the farthest to attend Sunday School, the family with most generations present, the newest family (either newlyweds or the ones with the newest baby), and families who started attending in the past year.
- Begin dinner meeting groups which consist of 3-4 families meeting together in their homes once a month for a meal and fellowship. Family members who are hesitant to attend Sunday School may be more open to sharing a meal with others in a home. Don't forget to include single and senior families.





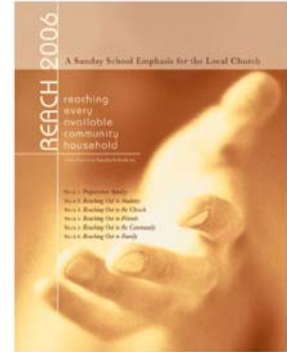
# Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

## Resources

Use these online resources to promote your Sunday School emphasis.

### REACH Poster

To request your FREE copy of this 17"x22" poster, e-mail [ssm@nazarene.org](mailto:ssm@nazarene.org) or call 800.221.6317. Be sure to include your mailing address. Supplies are limited.



### REACH cards

Print and distribute these cards to each class member as a reminder to REACH out during this emphasis.

### How to Invite Someone to Sunday School

[www.nazarene.org/ssm](http://www.nazarene.org/ssm)

### Make the Connection logo

[www.nazarene.org/ssm](http://www.nazarene.org/ssm)

### SSM Merchandise

[www.nazarene.org/ssm](http://www.nazarene.org/ssm)

### Nazarene Publishing House

[www.nph.com](http://www.nph.com)



For more information about the R.E.A.C.H. strategy, visit [www.nazarene.org/ssm](http://www.nazarene.org/ssm).



## Reaching Every Available Community Household Fall 2006 Sunday School Emphasis

### Continuing to REACH Follow-up to the Sunday School Emphasis

*According to the calendar, your Sunday School emphasis has just ended. However, the most important work is just beginning – following up with visitors.*

*During the past six weeks, Sunday School class members have been encouraged to REACH out to those they know who are not involved in Sunday School and/or church. In the coming weeks, encourage class members to continue looking for ways to connect those they invited during this emphasis with the Sunday School class.*

Use the following ideas to stay connected with your visitors:

1. **REACH** by visiting.
  - Have each class develop a visitation schedule so more than one person shares this responsibility.
  - Before you go, pray that God will bless the visit.
  - During the visit, thank the person for visiting your church and invite them to visit again.
  - Make your visit short to respect their time.
2. **REACH** by staying in contact with visitors.
  - Use the contact information gathered from visitors. Send a follow-up letter from the pastor to every guest, thanking them for their visit during the Sunday School emphasis.
  - Create a REACH newsletter as follow-up to this emphasis and send it to each person who attended Sunday School during the emphasis. Highlight the special events of the emphasis and promote upcoming events.
  - Be in continual communication with visitors via postal mail, e-mail, and phone calls.
3. **REACH** by praying for visitors.
  - Add the visitors to the Sunday School Prospect List. Have each class prayerfully work toward reaching the members on their class's prospect list.
  - Regularly contact visitors, asking if there is a need their class can pray for.
4. **REACH** through inviting them.
  - Invite those who visited during this Sunday School emphasis to return for special events throughout the year, such as Thanksgiving service, Christmas programs, and Valentine's dinner. Also invite them to Sunday School social events.
  - Send visitors personalized postcards of upcoming church events.
5. **REACH** through connecting the visitors.
  - When a visitor begins attending Sunday School regularly, enroll them on the Active Responsibility List.
  - Provide information to new class members and guests about how they can become involved in the church's ministry opportunities.

