

Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How: Our Sunday School in 2018

Good morning—and welcome to Our Sunday School.

Introduction

1. First, some definitions

- Purpose: why we exist
- Vision: what we want to be
- Mission: how we get there

2. Second, putting those definitions into practice at Stuart Heights:

Stuart Heights Baptist Church purpose statement: to experience, know, and enjoy God so we can make Him known with our words and with our works. (Note: this is my starting point because it's a known quantity.)

Sunday school purpose statement: to experience, know, and enjoy God so we can make Him known with our words and with our works. (Note: this is the same purpose statement . . . because if there is deviation in purpose there is misalignment—which always results in disunity.)

Sunday school vision statement: a group who experience, know, and enjoy God and make Him known with our words and with our works. (Note: this is simply a smaller set of individuals (a group) who are attempting to be the result of the purpose statement)

Aside: if I think about what 'experience, know, and enjoy God' means, I think of improving or building my relationship with God. If I think about what 'and make Him known with our words and with our works' means, I think of improving or building my relationship with man. This is likely a bit of an oversimplification, but I think it's also clearer.

Sunday school mission statement: we build relationships with God and relationships with man by providing (1) substantive interaction with truth (engaging the head/doctrine—orthodoxy), (2) meaningful connection with believers (engaging the heart/passion—orthopathy), and (3) ministry training with opportunities (engaging the hands/behavior—orthopraxy).

3. And now for the summary/simplified mission statement:

Sunday school is for building relationships with God and with man using our heads, our hearts, and our hands.

Why do we do Sunday school? (our purpose)

To experience, know, and enjoy God so we can make Him known with our words and with our works

What do we do in Sunday school? (our mission)

Sunday school is for building relationships with God and with man using our heads, our hearts, and our hands.

- Study the Bible (substantive interaction with truth) → engaging the head/doctrine (orthodoxy)
- Pray for others (meaningful connection with believers) → engaging the heart/passion (orthopathy)
- Serve others (ministry training with opportunities) → engaging the hands/behavior (orthopraxy)

Who is “we”? Anyone who wants to attend (all ages are welcome—but we don’t skip material in the text—no matter how mature it is)

How do we prepare each week? (our pre-class work)

1. Head (orthodoxy)

Be ready to **study**

- Rested
- Read the text

2. Heart (orthopathy)

Be ready to **pray**

- Passionate participation
- Prayer

3. Hands (orthopraxy)

Be ready to **serve**

- On time

- Open eyes

	Head	Heart	Hands
1	problem solving	missing	
2	missing	daydreaming	missing
3	missing		bureaucracy
4	missing	reckless enthusiasm	
5	strategy without legs		missing
6	disjointed	missing	action
7	relationship building		

Adapted from consultantsmind.com

What do we believe in Sunday school? (our theology)

- We believe in the authority, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency of Scripture
- **1 Corinthians 14:40: Let all things be done decently and in order.**
- We align to the *Baptist Faith & Message (2000)*
- **1 Corinthians 16:14: Let all that you do be done with love.**

What are our expectations? (our minimum requirements)

- From the student's perspective:
 - weekly opportunities to study, pray, and serve
 - daily prayer
 - ad hoc help
- From the teacher's perspective:
 - attend
 - prepare
 - pray
 - serve

When and where do we do Sunday school? (our logistics)

Sunday mornings at 9:07 (except April 1, December 23, and December 30) in the Multi-Purpose Room at 1505 Cloverdale Drive, Hixson, TN 37343.

Who does what in Sunday school? (our assignments)

Set up

- Justin & Karrie Harness – sets up the tables and chairs
- Dave Barber – sets up the sound, recording, and video equipment
- Anna Grace Fleming – stocks the tables

Breakfast

- Jessica Miller leads this group: Week 1: Shannon Miller; week 2: **TBD**; week 3: Jessica Miller; week 4: Julie Fleming; week 5: Jessica Miller

Teaching

- Jim Fleming leads the class and is the primary teacher (~80%)
- At least six others will teach in 2018 (~20%)

Praying

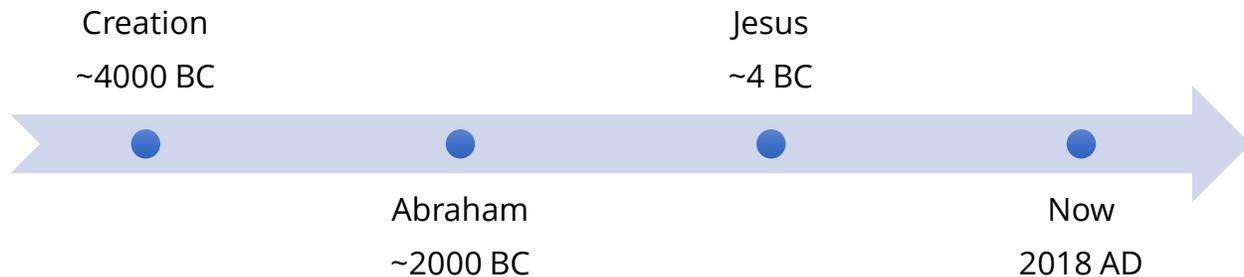
- Darla Skinner leads by collecting and distributing prayer requests for the weekly update and for our private Facebook group at bit.ly/FlemingSS

Partying

- Julie Fleming leads lunches (February 4, April 1, August 5, and October 21)

What are we studying this year? (our texts)

“old” + “small” → small books of the Bible



Obadiah (3)

2 Thessalonians (7)

Nahum (5)

3 John (4)

Jude (6)

2 Peter (10)

Zephaniah (8)

What are our resources for 2018? (our helps)

1. Holy Spirit
2. The Bible (NKJV)
3. For members only: bit.ly/FlemingSS (prayer requests, family stuff, ad hoc needs)
4. For everyone: fb.com/OurSundaySchool (study dialogue/questions, inviting)
5. For everyone: OurSundaySchool.com (teacher notes, student handouts, PowerPoints, audio recordings, subscribe to all resources)

How do we prepare each week? (our post-class work)

1. **Ask** the Holy Spirit for help
2. **Read** next week's text (multiple times in multiple ways) (**Obadiah 1:1-9**)
3. **Talk** to someone about the text (fb.com/OurSundaySchool or in person)
4. **Share** (fb.com/OurSundaySchool) insights and questions by Thursday
5. **Invite** a member or non-member