A Teacher’s Prayer

Lord,

Enable me to teach with WISDOM,
For I help to shape the mind.
Equip me to teach with TRUTH,
For I help to shape the conscience.
Encourage me to teach with VISION,
For I help to shape the future.
Empower me to teach with LOVE,
For I help to shape the world.

AMEN

http://www.esd.k12.ca.us/evpages/teacher.html

Teaching has eternal results!
Thank you for your teaching ministry.
You can make a difference!
God bless you.
A Teacher’s Prayer

There’s a time and a place that’s special each week, where we’re eager to learn of the Word that we seek.

The lessons are studied and Scripture is read but let us go back a few days, instead.

Your week is so busy and filled with “to do’s” like everyone else not a minute to lose.

Your family, your business, work never ending your precious few moments you’re ever still lending.

But you make the time to prepare for Sunday when you know someone will listen to the words that you say.

So with God’s special guidance, with prayer and with time you prepare for each Sunday, the Word we can find.

Thank you for giving us an hour each week knowing it is the Word of the Lord that we seek.

And today we are blessed and grow more each day because you dedicate your love to the Lord in this way.

We wouldn’t have Sunday School if it weren’t for you. So today we say thank you for all that you do.

Dania Hann-Lachapelle

Used with permission.
Thank God for teachers who teach the…

Truth of God’s Word with
Everlasting patience, an
Attitude of selflessness, a
Christ-like model of
Humility and love.
Encourage us always by
Reminding us of Your promises.
Thank you, Lord, for these very
Special people!

You Are God’s Servant
He is the love that is expressed through your heart,
The compassion that is revealed through your spirit,
The kindness that is demonstrated through your actions,
The encouragement that is provided through your service,
The blessing that is received through your life.
Thank you and God’s blessings on you!

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” Henry B. Adams
Celebrate Your Sunday School Teachers

Ask teachers for their prayer requests. Pray a prayer of dedication. Have the congregation pray for the Sunday School and the teachers.

Take advantage of any opportunities you can to verbally praise volunteers. Say thank you often!

The corps officer and Sunday School superintendent should actually visit classrooms and praise what they see and offer their support.

Bring in a special drink and attached note (7Up™: “Here are 7 reasons (list them) why we are up on you!”) or a special snack and note (Life Savers™: “You are a lifesaver to your students.”)

Feature a different teacher or two each month on a bulletin board and provide paper for folks to jot down their thanks and notes of encouragement.

This holiday falls on the 3rd Sunday in October.

If you have a great Sunday School teacher, honor them by nominating them for the Gospel Light Sunday School Teacher of the Year Award. This is a yearly recognition, and the applications are due by the end of August. Visit www.mysundayschoolteacher.com for more information, a form, and other ideas for honoring Sunday School teachers.

Within the corps, create a Teacher of the Year Award. Present the selected teacher with a special award for their outstanding commitment and dedication to Sunday School.
Have all the teachers wear a special badge on a specific Sunday. Alert the congregation through pulpit and bulletin announcements that the many VIPs in their midst are Sunday School teachers and allow some time in the morning service to go and personally thank them.

While everyone may not admit it, most people like to see their name in print!

Send teachers birthday cards and provide a substitute teacher to teach on a Sunday close to their birthday.

Throw a surprise "We Love You" party for teachers in their classrooms, complete with cake, party hats, balloons, and cards.

Identify a specific month as “We Love Our Teachers” month. Encourage classes to express their appreciation through gifts, cards, meals, or acts of service. Be sure no teacher is left out.

Such a special dinner (or brunch, dessert, picnic, etc.) can honor those who contribute to Sunday School ministries. (Some helps have been included.) Don’t forget your nursery workers! Invite a divisional officer to attend and present certificates to teachers. (A sample has been included.)

Be sure to honor teachers and other workers in the corps bulletin and in public meetings.

- Have an annual “commissioning” service with the teachers signing their “Sunday School Teachers’ Covenant.” (A sample has been included.)
- Present teachers with a special certificate or gift during a meeting.
- Have several individuals of various age groups share with the congregation why they appreciate their Sunday School teacher.
- Have a special congregational prayer time for your committed teachers.
Give teachers a gift of baked goods with a note thanking them for “nourishing” the hearts, souls and minds of their students through their words and examples.

- Have a class make a book of their own drawings with a special cover to present to their teacher.

Distribute blank note cards to your members and encourage them to write a quick note of appreciation to their teacher. Encourage parents to help their kids write a special note. Collect these cards and present them to your teachers during a special recognition time.

- Free thank you and encouragement e-cards can be sent from www.dayspring.com
- Have a class make a “Thank you for Teaching Sunday School” banner and let everyone sign it. Display the banner in a prominent place.
- Hand out mirrors and thank each teacher for reflecting God’s love.

Ask teachers how their class is going and offer your assistance.

Provide opportunities to help teachers to improve their teaching skills and network with each other.

**Sunday School teachers have an important ministry and often may not see the fruits of their labor. We need to do all we can to provide tangible expressions of gratitude for a job well done.**
“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up…”
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Keeping your volunteers involves two important areas:

- **TRAINING**
  If you provide training, your volunteers will try to do their best.

- **APPRECIATION**
  If you show appreciation, your volunteers will try to do their best.

After you have rallied people around your goals for the importance of Sunday School, keeping those volunteers is important! The more consistent your Sunday School team, the more effective your Sunday School ministry will be. Be sure your Sunday School teachers know that they are appreciated!

Teaching Sunday School is not an “easy” ministry. Sometimes teachers will prepare, and then no one attends the class. Or perhaps the activity they spent so much time preparing does not have the expected reaction or results from the class. Like everyone else, teachers’ lives are busy and complicated, so finding time to study and prepare requires sacrifice and dedication.

Teachers do not need simply one more teacher training opportunity in order to be effective in their ministry.

- Teachers need to be affirmed, encouraged, and loved!
- Teachers need to feel that they are part of a team.
  This can be accomplished, in part, through Sunday School staff meetings, brainstorming sessions, problem-solving meetings, team prayer meetings, and an avenue to give feedback to the top leaders.
- Teachers need to know that the corps officer and other local leaders are aware of what they are doing. It is easy to feel forgotten and isolated from the rest of the adult fellowship when you are a Sunday School teacher.

Some ideas can be found in Chapter 7 of, *How to Have a Great Sunday School*, which is included in the emphasis material.

**Sunday School teachers have an important ministry and often may not see the fruits of their labor. We need to do all we can to provide tangible expressions of gratitude for a job well done.**
Have a teacher appreciation dinner at some time during the year to thank your volunteer staff. Here is a planning timeline and some ideas for themes:

- Select a date and get it on the corps calendar.
- Recruit non-teacher parents to help promote and coordinate the event.
- Inform teachers and begin to promote so corps families can plan to attend.
- Enlist someone to take pictures of the Sunday School classes and teachers in action and put together a slide show presentation. Ray Boltz’s song, “Thank You,” has been used a lot, but its message is always appropriate.
- Decide on the theme, program, devotional and if gifts will need to be secured.
- Continue to promote.
- Have kids make posters advertising the dinner and display around the corps.
- If holding a planned potluck, be sure families know the theme for the main dish and have families whose last name begins "A - I" bring rolls or breadsticks, "J - Q" bring salad or veggies and "R - Z" bring desserts.
- Be sure to have a clean-up committee.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One month before the dinner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Have coordinators help promote and secure RSVPs to aid in planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plan and gather the decorations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ask specific people to participate in the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Invite families and teachers to the dinner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have coordinators continue to promote and check on RSVPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meet with coordinators to discuss details and schedule for the dinner and clean up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Follow up with people involved in the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Begin shopping for the food if necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One to two days before dinner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Have coordinators help decorate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Set up tables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Begin food preparation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have everything in place and ready to go.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule for day of dinner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Arrive early to start cooking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Start with the dinner - serve teachers &amp; their families first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have a great time!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Send thank you notes to all involved in coordinating and participating in the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Put a thank you in the bulletin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POSSIBLE THEMES FOR A TEACHER APPRECIATION DINNERS:

**Apple for the Teacher**

“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”

*Proverbs 25:1*

Pick up “apple for the teacher” gifts after they go on sale in the fall, have a red and white or silver and gold color scheme, a basket of apples for each table (spray artificial apples with silver and gold if that is your color scheme), a centerpiece made from classroom supplies to be given to the teacher, red flowers, placemats decorated by students, red and white balloon bouquets, print programs on apple shapes, let representative students present “apples” (testimonies of thanks) to the teachers.

**Angels**

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands.”

*Psalm 91:11-12a*

Give each guest half of an angel picture and instruct them to find the other half to be their dinner partner. Find angel themed gifts (look in the after Christmas sales!) such as a guardian angel pin or pen. Serve angel food cake for dessert. Write a thank you teacher verse to the tune of “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

**You’re a Star**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

*1 Peter 4:10*

Have a red carpet, decorate with stars with teachers names, have a lot of silver and glitz decorations, have an academy awards presentation for the teachers.

**Lighthouses**

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

*Matthew 5:16*

Have a water/lighthouse theme, serve shell shaped chocolates, and give each teacher a flashlight with an attached card, “Thank you for being a guiding light for our Sunday School.”
Sunday School Teachers’ Covenant

Having received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, and now living in fellowship with Him, I realize that sharing Christ with others is a high calling. Relying on the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I agree to the following covenant:

1. I subscribe to the doctrines of The Salvation Army and all my teaching will be in harmony with them.

2. I will consistently set aside time for communion with my Lord in prayer and Bible study.

3. I will do all in my power to lead each student in my class to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as personal Savior from sin and to encourage their spiritual growth.

4. I will carefully prepare each lesson and will strive to live a life that is consistent with the Bible truths I teach.

5. I will plan all activity in my class to focus on the Bible and its principles for daily living, encouraging the total participation of each student.

6. I will visit the home of each student in my class as often as possible and will contact all absentees weekly.

7. I will faithfully attend the services of my corps, give willingly to support the corps financially and pray regularly for its ministry.

8. I will strive to attend each Sunday School teachers’ meeting held in my corps.

9. I will endeavor to improve my teaching ability by enrolling in the approved territorial training programs, participating in divisionally planned training events, attending Sunday School conventions and by reading on the subject of teaching.

10. I will renew my covenant yearly and will surrender my class after consultation with my leaders if I am no longer able to fulfill my responsibilities.

Signed___________________________________   Date________________
**Teacher Appreciation Resources**

**Websites**

- [http://www.betterbudgeting.com](http://www.betterbudgeting.com)
  You can put in a search for teacher appreciation ideas.

- [http://www.gospelpublishing.com](http://www.gospelpublishing.com)
  A variety of Sunday School teacher appreciation items are shown for purchase.

- [http://www.childrensministry.com](http://www.childrensministry.com)
  You will find many ideas for affirming teachers under the heading of volunteer leadership.

- [http://www.CTAinc.com](http://www.CTAinc.com)
  This site has an extensive selection of affordably priced teacher appreciation items and other resources for teachers.

**Books**

This clever book has 70 reproducible pages that when added with a little treat are a creative way to express appreciation to teachers and volunteers.

This is an encouraging book that reminds Sunday School teachers of the eternal significance of what they do every Sunday.

Teaching is a difficult job, and this collection of inspiring devotions can help to restore the energy and passion that being an excellent Sunday School teacher requires.

In this special book, Sunday School teachers share their real-life experiences and the suggested devotional activities encourage and challenge teachers in their spiritual walk.