

General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department

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Director



A light gray world map is centered in the background, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. The map is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

The Amazing Influence of Sabbath School for Discipleship and Growth

“The influence growing **out of
Sabbath school work should
improve and
enlarge the church.”**

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 9



Sabbath School

Alive!



Bible Study & Prayer

Sabbath School

Alive!

Mission

Fellowship



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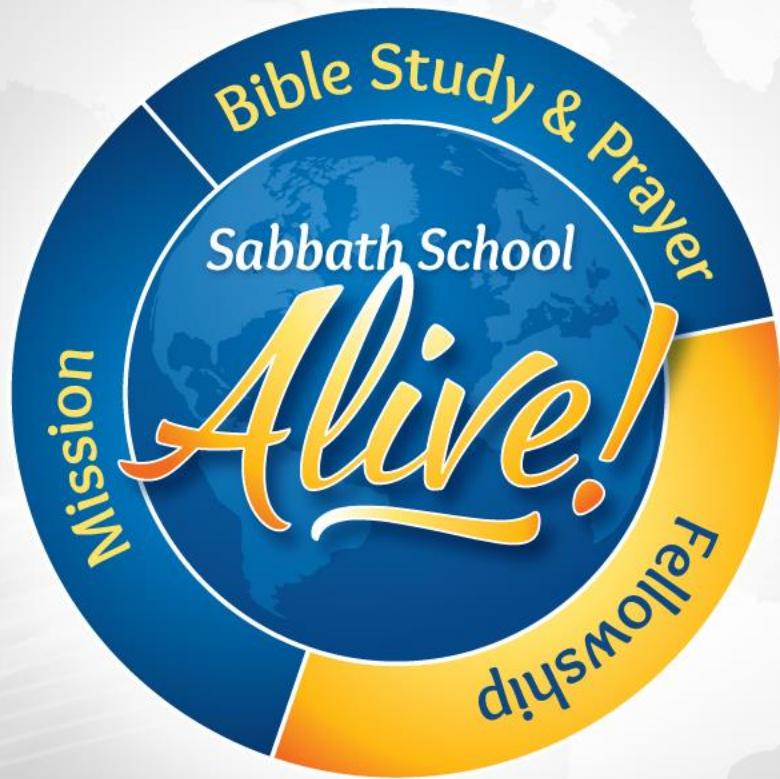
Bible Study & Prayer

The **Foundation** of
Sabbath School

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 115

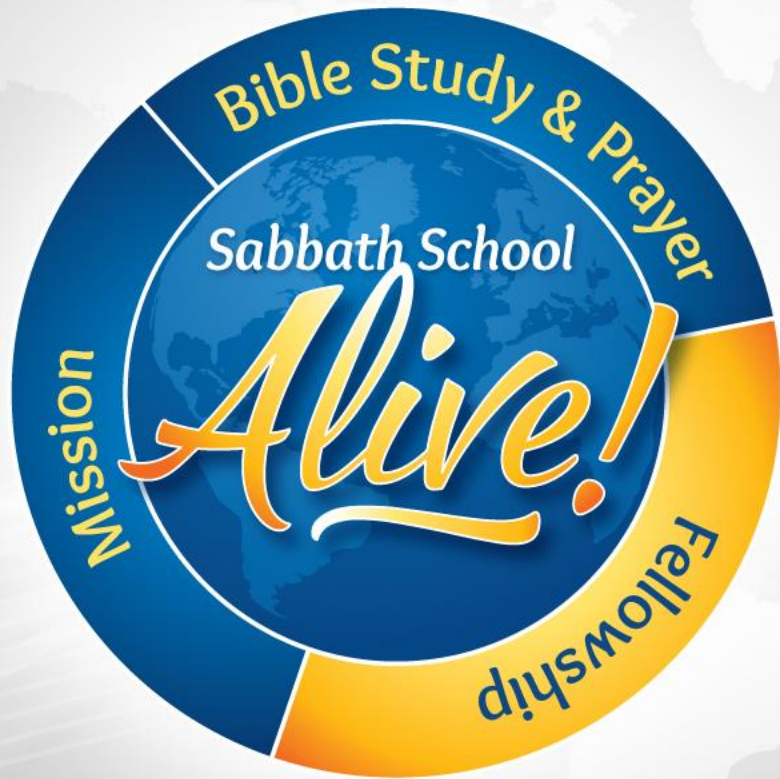


“It is not the best plan for teachers to do **all the talking**, but they should **draw out the class** to tell what they know.”



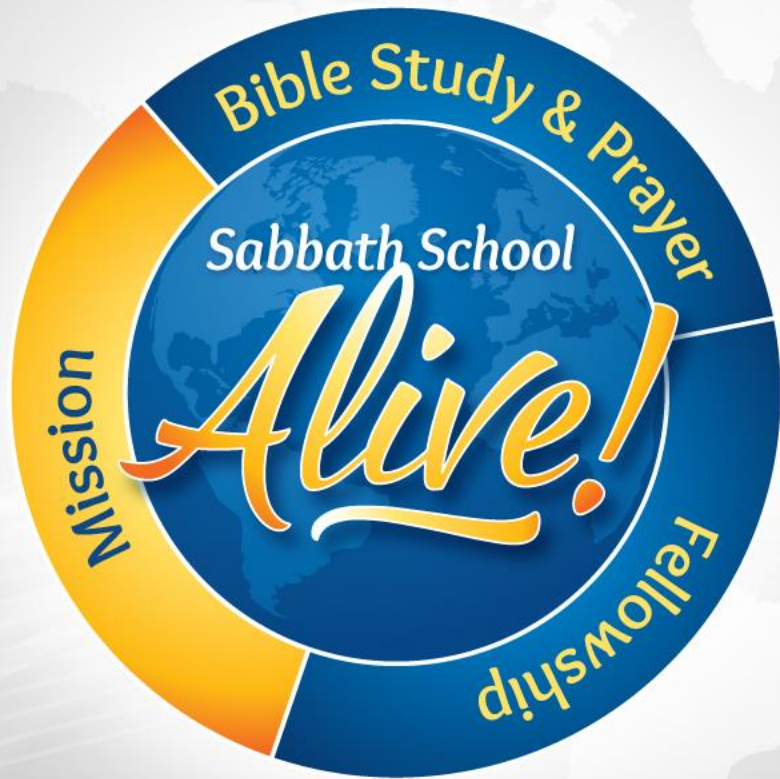
Fellowship

The **Format** of
Sabbath School



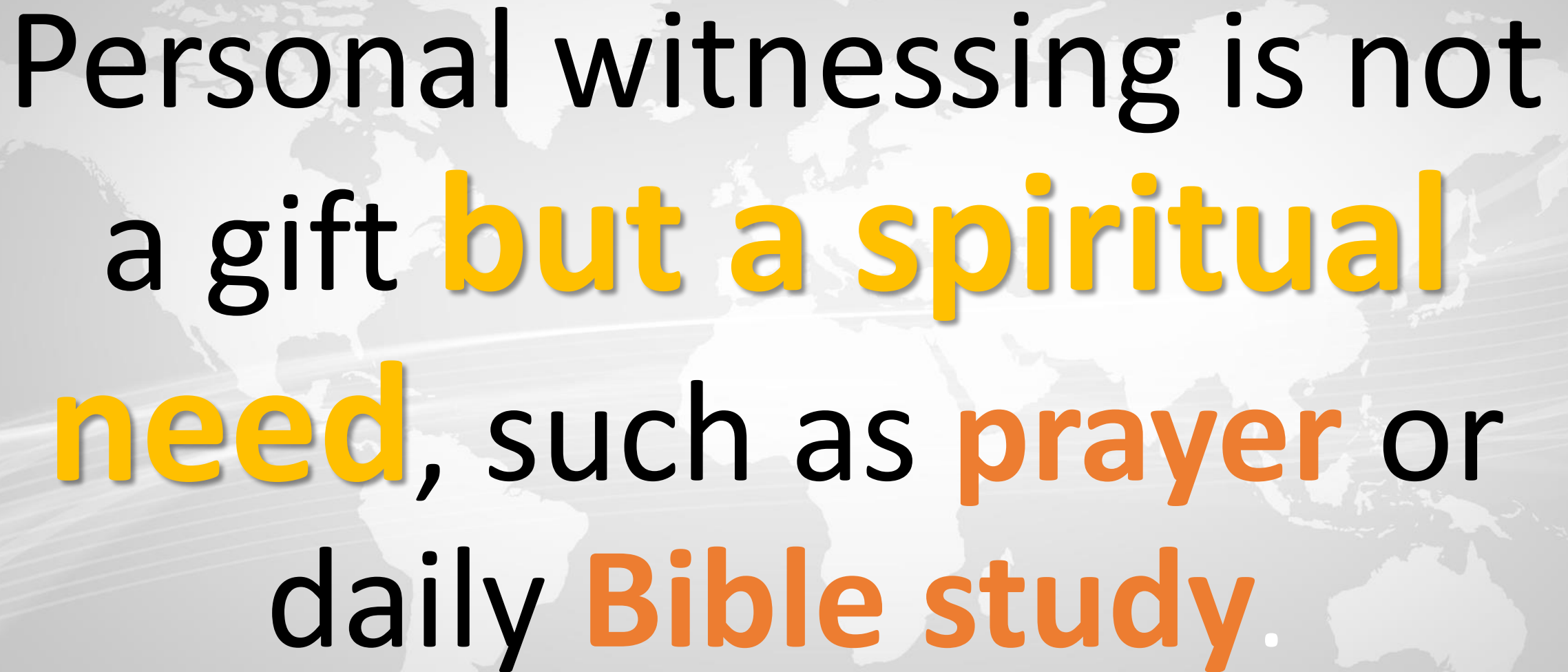
Fellowship Format

- Small class setting
- Group discussion
- Group outreach projects
- Group social interaction
- Reclaiming ministry



Mission

The **Focus** of
Sabbath School

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Personal witnessing is not
a gift **but a spiritual**
need, such as **prayer** or
daily **Bible study**.

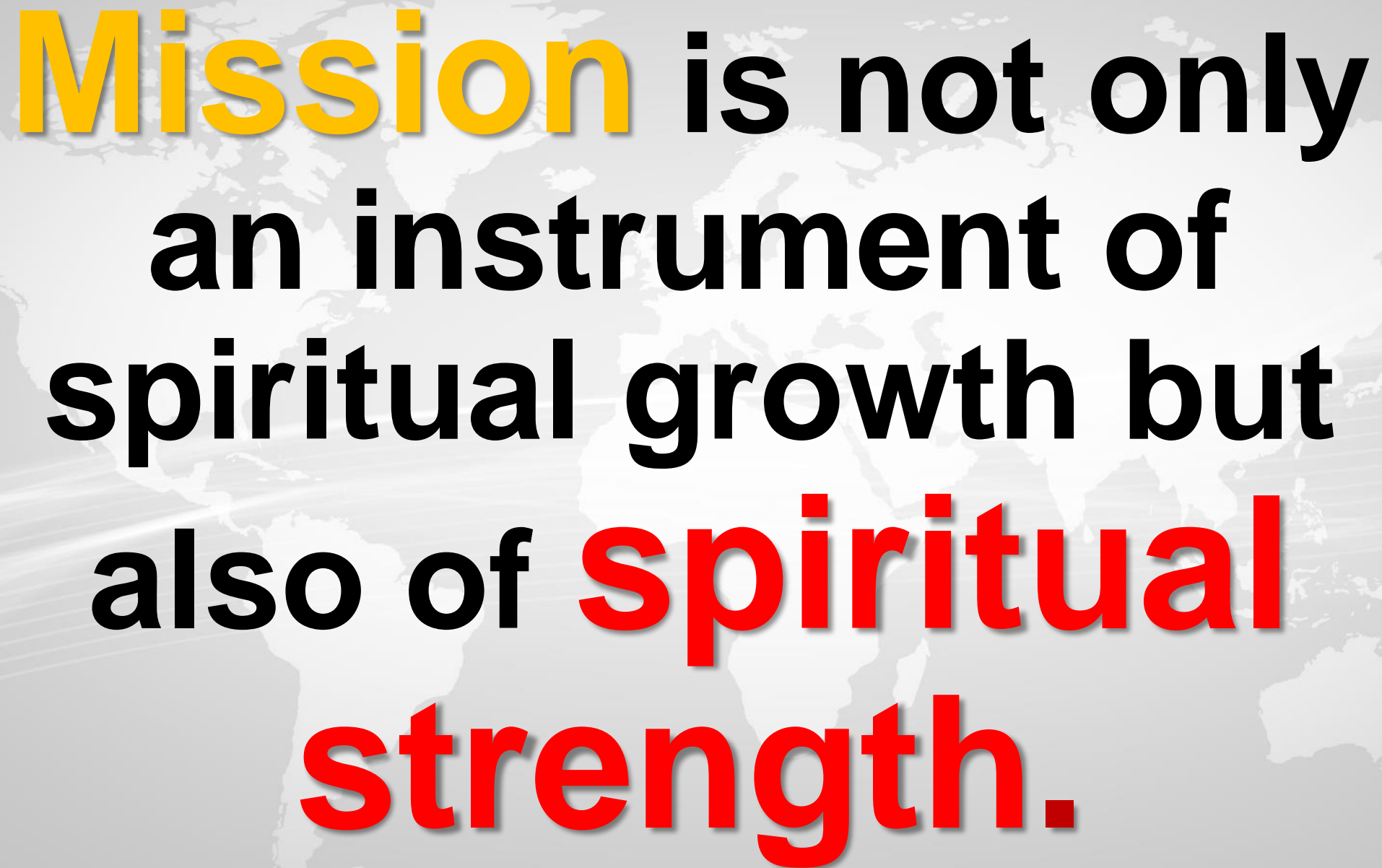
A light gray world map is centered in the background of the slide. The map shows the continents and is overlaid with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The text is positioned in front of the map.

Components of Spiritual Growth

1. Bible study

2. Prayer

3. Preaching the gospel

A light gray world map is centered in the background. Overlaid on the map are several white, curved light rays that sweep across the frame from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a sense of global connectivity and movement.

Mission is not only
an instrument of
spiritual growth but
also of **spiritual
strength.**

Sabbath School:

*“An Opportunity for
R&R.”*



A light gray world map is centered in the background. Overlaid on the map are several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the globe from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a sense of motion or global connectivity.

Revival & Reformation



A light gray world map is centered in the background. Overlaid on the map are several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the globe, suggesting global connectivity or data flow. The text is centered over the map.

Reclaiming & Retaining



Sabbath School:

*“An Opportunity for
Discipleship.”*



A light gray world map is centered in the background, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. The map is overlaid with a grid of thin white lines representing latitude and longitude. The text is overlaid on the map in a dark blue color.

1. Relationship with God

2. Relationship with one another

3. Relationship with the community



Jesus' Model

Jesus started His ministry
by calling a **small group** of
twelve disciples.

-Matthew 4:18-22



God's Plan for the Church

“The formation of **small companies** as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented to me by One who cannot err.”

—Evangelism p.115



Experience God



Encouragement

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **But encourage one another daily,** as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness”
(Hebrews 3:12-13).



Fellowship



Responsibility

The small-group setting can help members overcome struggles with sin through the encouragement of sharing experiences. **“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ”** (Ephesians 5:21).



Discipleship

A small Sabbath School class can facilitate **discipleship** more effectively than the large church (Matthew 28:18-20). Small groups help fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples by offering a place to worship, pray, study the Bible, and grow.



Service

The small Sabbath School class can develop **projects to impact their community.** “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 5:42).



Support

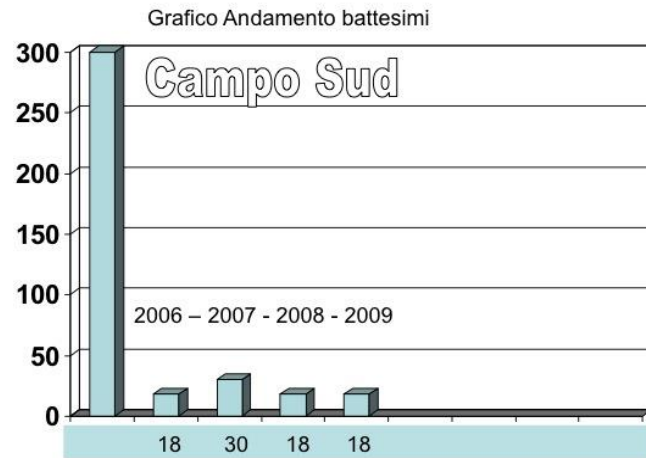
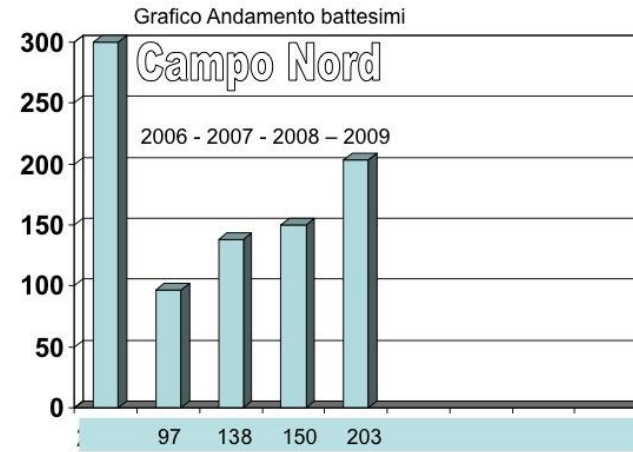
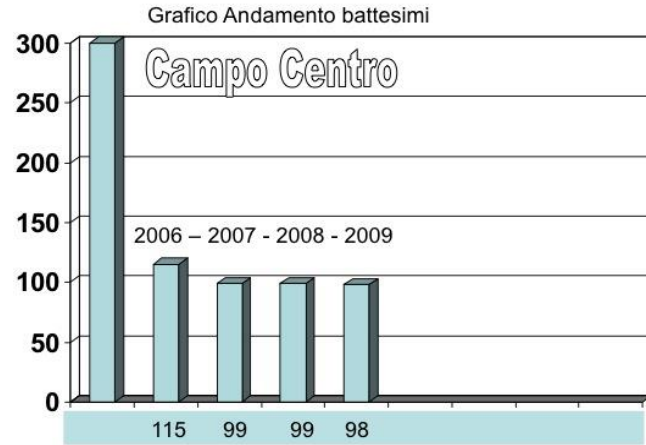
The small Sabbath School class is effective in caring for and loving one another. Small groups are an intimate place where love and care are given and received. **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”** (Ephesians 4:32).



Success



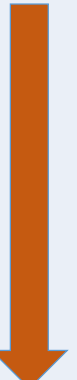

The small Sabbath School class **focused on Bible study, prayer, and soul-winning** is resulting in church growth wherever it is implemented (Acts 2:41-47). Wherever this methodology is carefully followed it yields fruit! It is successful in making disciples!





2013
report
19
churches

General Average

Church Attendance	Number of members engaged in church	Number of members engaged in outreach	Number of members engaged in small group
			
34%	26%	17%	12%

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Methodology for Growth



A light gray world map is centered in the background, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. The map is overlaid with a grid of thin white lines representing latitude and longitude. The text is superimposed on the map.

1. Improve the Church

2. Enlarge the Church

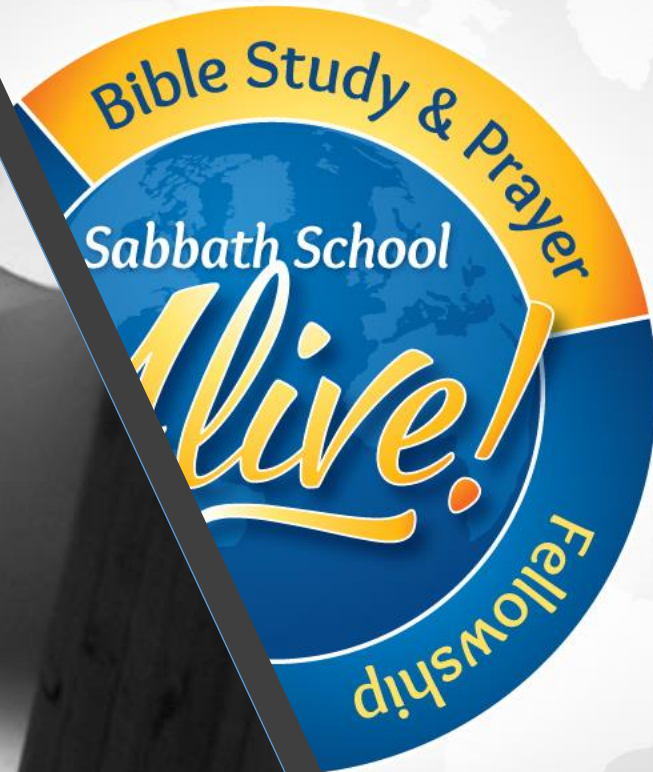
A world map in light gray is centered on a dark gray background. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Overlaid on the map are several curved, light gray lines that sweep across the globe from the bottom left towards the top right, creating a sense of motion or global connectivity. The text "Improve the Church" is prominently displayed in the upper center of the image.

Improve the Church

**I. Sabbath School
Helps your
Church Grow
Spiritually**



“The beauty and **riches** of the word have a **transforming influence** on mind and character” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 132).



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Enlarge the Church

**II. Sabbath School
Helps your
Church Grow
Numerically**



Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 61



“The object of Sabbath school work should be the **ingathering of souls.**”



Read Acts 2:42-47.

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”.



✓
Read Acts 2:42-47.

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers”.



**Praising God and having
favor with all the people.**

**And the Lord added to the
church daily those who were
being saved.”** Acts 2:47. (NKJV)

**III. Sabbath School
Keeps your
Church United
Theologically**





Sample Sabbath School Program



1. Mission Program (20 minutes)

- Welcome and Opening Song (5 min)
- World Mission Report (5 min)
- Local Testimony or Ministry Highlight (5 min)
- Personal Ministries Training (5 min)

2. Study Classes (55 minutes)

- Class Outreach Planning - TMI (10-15 min)
- Prayer and Bible Study (40-45 min)

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“The church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth.” --Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 29.



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**Make Sabbath
School Attractive
and Engaging**

PRAYER SESSIONS:

- ✓ Include **prayer sessions** as part of Sabbath School; perhaps a special prayer session 15- to 30-minutes before Sabbath School begins. Make it meaningful and exciting.



MAKE IT SIMPLE:

- ✓ **Keep the Sabbath School program simple, spiritual, and relevant. Each Sabbath could be like an evangelistic meeting with an attractive, well-planned program. This approach will definitely improve Sabbath School attendance.**



TMI—GROUPS:

- ✓ Establish **TMI—Total Member Involvement**—Sabbath School groups. These groups will meet during the week in addition to Sabbath morning.



MISSION EMPHASIS:

- ✓ Develop a **strong mission emphasis**. One way to do this is through the ***Mission Spotlight*** program. These free videos can be downloaded from <https://am.adventistmission.org/mission-spotlight>. The inspiring stories will help promote mission offerings which are so needed throughout the world.



FRIENDS DAY:

- ✓ Declare **One Day Each Quarter** as **“Friends Day.”**
Set a goal of 10-50 friends attending, the number depending on church size. Some churches can aim for 100 friends.



FRIENDS DAY:

- ✓ Every friend who comes to church that Sabbath will get a **gift**—a **book**, a **magazine**, etc.—and a **meal**.



FRIENDS DAY:

- ✓ Offer one-day seminars on several relevant topics: **family, finances, fitness, friendship.** Sabbath School must be important to you as a pastor if it is going to be important to your members.



- ✓ As you **pray, plan, and implement these ideas** you will discover the Holy Spirit breathing **new life** into your Sabbath School and into your church, and empowering you to guide your congregation in the process of spiritual and numerical growth.



TMI	Time	Explanation
Fellowship Outreach World Mission	15 min.*	Pray, plan, organize for action. Care for missing members. Schedule outreach. Mission story. Mission offering.
Lesson Study	45 min.*	Involve everyone in the study of the lesson. Ask questions. Highlight key texts.
Lunch		Plan lunch for the class after worship. THEN GO OUT AND REACH SOMEONE!

