

The purpose of the Sabbath School is to make disciples for Christ. It includes the nurture of spiritual growth in members and prospective members through fellowship, study, sharing and service.

The Sabbath School exists not only to minister to its members but to train those members to minister to others. It is a school of Christian living, not just an event on Sabbath mornings. (It can include Bible study groups that meet at other times.) Its purpose is evangelistic, not ritualistic.

In Acts 2:42-47, the Bible gives us a blueprint for the Sabbath School. The goals of Sabbath School are “teaching and fellowship” and “breaking bread and prayer.” The passage illustrates a strong sense of togetherness, caring and support that creates an atmosphere for learning and growth in either church buildings or home study groups.

Planning

Regular planning sessions for Sabbath School leaders are effective in establishing new methods to reach members. Planning sessions can take place as often as the Sabbath School council decides.

Yearly

The agenda includes a plan for the whole year. Suggestions: training workshops, visitors’ days, Homecoming Sabbaths for missing members, organization of new classes, branch Sabbath Schools, appointment of teachers and helpers, goals for attendance, mission offerings and decisions for Christ.

Quarterly

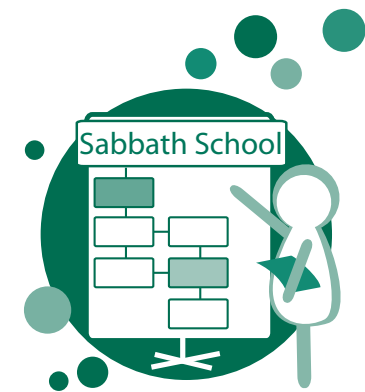
These planning sessions will deal with the whole quarter’s programs. Suggestions: mission emphasis for the quarter, 13th Sabbath program, evangelistic projects and reporting on attendance)

Monthly

A review of programs/projects and an opportunity to encourage, brainstorm and pray.

Mission Resources

- Adult and children’s *mission quarterlies* provide a weekly mission focus and Thirteenth Sabbath programs to raise the level of world mission awareness in the church.
- *Mission Spotlight* is a monthly DVD feature on world mission.



THE MINISTRY OF THE **Sabbath School Coordinator**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as Sabbath School coordinator? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what the Sabbath School coordinator is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand the role of the Sabbath School coordinator within your local church.

The Role of Coordinating Sabbath School

The Sabbath School Coordinator is responsible for:

- develop leadership by providing training, support and resources
- recruiting volunteers to contribute to the Sabbath School experience
- coordinating all general Sabbath School activities from cradle roll through to adults
- planning a strong world mission program
- visiting and observing the various Sabbath School age groups to ensure that the needs of the members are being met
- planning and promoting evangelism such as visitor's days
- assisting with a plan to contact missing and new members
- supporting and assisting teachers with problem solving when needs arise
- checking Sabbath School records to ensure they are kept accurately
- organising branch Sabbath Schools or small groups to reach out and involve members in the ministry of making disciples
- forming new adult classes relevant to needs at church (growing numbers, new members, members who speak another language)
- safeguarding the lesson time and ensuring that a minimum of 35 minutes is provided
- finding ways to be creative and ensure that church architecture doesn't limit the vision for growth

- encouraging activities outside of Sabbath School time such as pot lucks, picnics, nature walks and parties.

Responsible to

The Church Board. The Sabbath School Coordinator is a member of the board.

Chairing the Sabbath School Council

This group includes the superintendent, assistants, secretary, division leaders, investment secretary, adult class leaders and an elder (the Personal Ministries leader and Youth leader may be included). The Sabbath School Coordinator may also be the Sabbath School Superintendent in a small church.

Term of Office

Two years.

Time Commitment

- The coordinator or an assistant are on duty at least a half hour before Sabbath School begins to ensure all division classes are functioning.
- One to two hours per month for the Sabbath School Council.
- Church Board meetings.
- The amount of time spent each week will depend on the size of the church, the number of assistants and how responsibility is delegated.

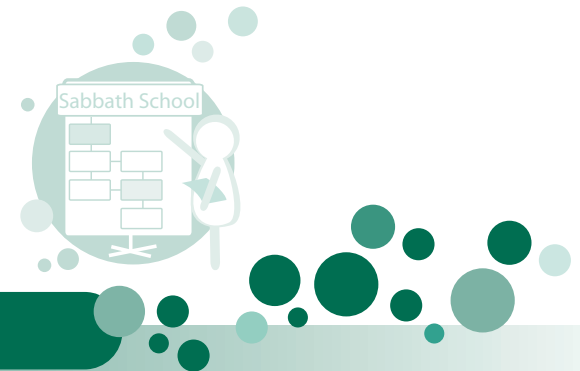


Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Sabbath School Coordinator.

- **Faith:** The ability to recognize opportunities for God to work. Planning and trusting for God's leading.
- **Administration:** The ability to organize and manage details while working with others to achieve goals.
- **Discernment:** The capacity to analyse and discern how circumstances can impact groups and individuals.

The gift of administration is especially important in this role. Some people do not possess all these gifts, so build a team that covers the gifts mentioned above.



Sabbath School Coordinator