

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day

Suggested Schedule of Events:

Welcome

Opening with Prayer

Introductions

Special Music

Skit

Presentation of Teacher Appreciation Certificates

Special Recognition

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Teachers, Students, and the Year

Closing Thoughts and Invitation to Reception

Benediction

Reception in Honor of Teachers and Others

This is a suggested schedule of events for a separate evening program honoring teachers, with a reception to follow. If possible, ask the Pastor to lead the Prayer and give the Benediction.

If you have a shorter amount of time (for example, 10 minutes during a Worship Service) then simply shorten the list to fit your needs. You might choose to have the following items:

Shortened Suggested Schedule of Events:

Welcome

Introductions

Presentation of Teacher Appreciation Certificates

Special Recognition

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving for Teachers, Students and the Year

Welcome

The emcee welcomes everyone, states the name of the function you are all attending, the purpose for which you are all gathered, and says what a great pleasure it is to have everyone present.

Opening with Prayer

Open with a prayer given by the Pastor, or by one of the leaders in Sunday School or Church.

Introductions

The emcee introduces key people at the church who help do the administrative work of the Sunday School. These may be Pastors, Staff, Board Members, Sunday School leadership etc. Recognize parents of students. (Introductions of Sunday School teachers will happen later.)

Special Music

If special music has been arranged, it could be presented at this time, or at any other time during the program. Music by students from the Sunday School could be particularly meaningful.

Skit

Consider performing a skit. "A Day in the Life of a Superhero... (Or of an Ordinary Children's Staff Person)" is a nice skit for complementing those who work in your program, especially a key administrative worker. Adapt the skit for your particular workers, as you like.

Presentation of Teacher Appreciation Certificates

Print off a Teacher Appreciation Certificate for each one of your teachers in the various departments represented. Sign and date the certificates after they have the teachers' names on them. Small gifts or notes may be handed out along with the certificates. Introduce all of the teachers by department and have them stand in front of the group to be recognized.

Special Recognition

Consider giving special recognition for special anniversaries, extraordinary service or dedication. "Love gifts" of money, gift cards, or other small gifts of appreciation may be appropriate.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Teachers, Students, and the Year

Ask the Pastor to give a Prayer of Thanksgiving to God for His providence in the previous year. Thank God for service rendered by the teachers and administrators, for the spiritual growth of the students, and for His provision throughout the entire year.

Closing Thoughts and Invitation to Reception

The emcee thanks everyone for coming to the program, and invites them to attend the reception. Give any instructions or make any announcements at this time. Use this opportunity to invite parents and students to be involved with summer activities (For example: VBS.)

Benediction

Ask the Pastor to offer a short benediction and a blessing for the food at the reception

Reception in Honor of Teachers and Others

Punch and cookies are always appropriate!

How Do You Thank a Sunday School Teacher?

Hello there! Are you planning a Teachers Appreciation Day for Sunday School? Whether you are having a separate program with a reception to follow, or you've been given a short portion of the Sunday Service, this handout should offer you some good ideas.

I think that the usual way of doing things for Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day is to take a little chunk of time during the Sunday Worship Service to recognize the teachers and other workers. Unfortunately, it always seems to be something that churches do by “tacking it on” to something else. As if the Christian Education board met one night and said “Uh, oh... it's the end of the year! What are we doing for Sunday School Teacher Appreciation?” And then someone (*probably YOU*) is put in charge of planning some sort of suitable recognition.

As if it was possible to plan a suitable recognition ceremony for Sunday School Teachers! Just exactly HOW do you do that?

What is it you are going to do for people, who come to church every single solitary Sunday, with a lesson prepared, to sit in a room full of students and lead them through the intricacies of the Bible, teach them, raise them up, pray for them, and ultimately lead many of them to saving faith in Christ? I tell you right now; whatever you are planning to do... it is not enough!

The only way these people will ever get the reward they deserve is when they get to heaven and our Lord, Jesus Christ, tells each of them ‘*Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.*’ Matthew 25:34

But...(Good news for you)... They probably KNOW that already!

So, in the meantime, they will smile happily and be genuinely grateful for the lovely Christian bookmark or refrigerator magnet that you give to each of them. They will appreciate the card you took time to write, or the plant you tied the bow around. They will most likely kick their toe in the dirt or study the intricate weave of the carpet, as you have them stand in front of the congregation while you extol their virtues. And all the time they will blush and think about how grateful they are that Teacher Appreciation Day only comes around once a year!

In the end, all they really want to do is get back to their classrooms and to their students, because that is where God speaks to them and feeds their soul. These are the teachers you want. They are the ones who sign up every year, and who volunteer to substitute, and to teach VBS. They are the ones you can't ever pay back for their time, treasure, and talent they have given away. And don't worry... you don't have to! Like I said, their true reward is coming later!

For now, break out the refrigerator magnets, and get the bookmarks all lined up. Print up those Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Certificates, and write all those Thank You notes. Because right now, this is the best we can do for these dedicated saints... at least on this side of heaven!

- Sharon

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SUPERHERO...
(Or of a Children's Ministry Staff Person)

TYPE: SKIT to recognize Children's (or Youth) Ministry Staff Person

LENGTH: 6-8 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Lisa is your typical Children's Ministry staff person. She is having a typical day, except that things aren't going well. One disappointing thing after another happens. Finally, when alone, she prays and asks God to help encourage her... just a little... to help her get through the day. Suddenly everything turns around. People start volunteering to help, parents call to encourage, and she finds out that a letter she was handed at the beginning of the skit holds a note from a child who has just accepted Christ as her Savior. The Pastor enters to sum up the spiritual realities, and everyone goes out for coffee. Just your typical day in the life of a superhero... or in this case, of a Children's Ministry staff person.

CHARACTERS:

LISA - A typical Children's Ministry Staff member
PASTOR - The Pastor at the church
BEN & JERRY - Youth Workers who go everywhere together (they dress very casually and talk like "Surfer Dudes")
HELPER - A church member who helps out during the week in the office
1st Female Voice - A frustrating "parent-type" who is only heard over the sound system
2nd Female Voice - A helpful "parent-type" who is only heard over the sound system
Child's Voice - A young child who reads a letter she has written to LISA

SETTING: A typical church office. Lisa is seen in her private office, which has a door leading to a hallway with other offices. (The door can be imagined.)

PROPS: There is a desk, chair, and phone in Lisa's office. Any other items to show it is the church office. The Pastor will carry in several envelopes, one of which contains a letter written to Lisa by a child at church.

SOUND: A phone rings at different times.
A microphone will be needed offstage so that three characters may say their lines without being seen by the audience

VISUAL: (Optional) A slide with the text of the child's letter to show on screen.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Your folks on the microphones may be seen by the audience if you wish (especially if a sound system is not available for them to be offstage.) But the other actors should not look at them onstage. Also, Ben and Jerry are fun characters! Have a good time depicting them!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SUPERHERO...
(Or of an Ordinary Children's Ministry Staff Person)

[SETTING: Office. Chair, desk, and phone on desk.
Door is to STAGE LEFT. PASTOR will carry some mail,
one piece of which is a personal letter from a child.]

[LISA is seated in her private office at church. PASTOR ENTERS.]

PASTOR Oh, hi, Lisa! How are you doing? Say, I've got your mail here.

[PASTOR hands LISA the mail. LISA holds the letters.]

Also, I wanted to remind you that we're going to talk about the upcoming kids' program tomorrow night at the meeting, so be sure to bring all your good ideas.

LISA Oh, yes. Sure, Pastor. You know, I...

PASTOR *(interrupting)* Oh, I hear my phone ringing... excuse me, I'll be right back.

[PASTOR EXITS. BEN & JERRY ENTER. They divide up the following lines.]

BEN & JERRY Hey, Lisa. You know that thing we were gonna do for you?

Yeah, the thing.

Well we were gonna do it, but now we're not gonna do it.

Yeah, we changed our minds.

Dude, we didn't change our minds, it's just NOT going to work out.

Yeah, that's it. It's not going to work out.

We have a conflict.

Yeah, dude, a MAJOR conflict.

LISA Well, that's ok. I mean, if you really have a conflict. We can always make it for another day.

BEN & JERRY Ah... Dude... I have a conflict that day too.

LISA What day?

BEN & JERRY The day you're changing it to.
Yeah, a major conflict... for all those days.

LISA Oh, OK. Well, whatever.

BEN & JERRY Yeah, sorry, Dudette.

[HELPER ENTERS]

HELPER Lisa, there's a paper jam in the copier, could you help me?

LISA Oh, sure. Excuse me...

[LISA and HELPER EXIT.]

BEN & JERRY Dude, she even has to help her helper!

[phone rings]

Dude, answer it. It might be the Pentagon.

[BEN or JERRY answers phone]

Dude, can we help you? Oh, yes ma'am, she'll be right back. Just a moment please.

[LISA ENTERS]

BEN & JERRY Oh, hey, Dudette. We answered your phone... it was like... ringing.

[LISA takes phone. BEN & JERRY EXIT]

LISA Yes, this is Lisa, may I help you?

[1st FEMALE VOICE is heard over sound system. She is not seen. Her voice doesn't seem harsh or angry, in fact she may seem like she is being very positive. Once she starts speaking, she just rambles on to the end of her line.]

1st VOICE

Hi, Lisa. I'm an anonymous parent. And I'm calling to make your life a little more difficult today. You know that event you have scheduled soon? Well my child can't come on that day, and I was wondering if you would mind changing the date of the event. Because if my child can't be there, then I don't think that anybody else should be allowed to attend. Oh, and by the way, you know how I signed up to volunteer this coming weekend... Well, I can't be there... so you'd better just find a replacement for me. Gotta go! Goodbye!

LISA

Hello? Hello? Are you still there? *(frustrated)* She hung up! Argghhh!

[LISA hangs up phone. Then STANDS UP and shuts her door.]

(Praying) Dear Lord Jesus, You know that I'm yours. And I want to follow you. And honestly, God, I would do this job even if there was never any reward or positive feedback. But if you could give me just a little encouragement... just any... just... some... It would really help get me through this day. Amen.

[PASTOR knocks on door and opens the door slightly.]

PASTOR

Knock, knock.

Lisa, can I come in? I'm sorry I had to leave. I wanted to mention to you that you did a really great job at the Youth Party last night. I heard that they all went home alive... and that's always good.

Also, I wanted to say that we really appreciate all you do here. You have such good ideas and such a willing spirit. It's a true blessing to have you here. Thank you.

LISA

Thank you, Pastor... uh... just, thank you.

PASTOR

Anytime.

[PASTOR EXITS.]

[Phone rings]

[LISA answers phone. 2nd FEMALE VOICE is heard.]

LISA Hello. This is Lisa.

2nd Voice Hi, Lisa! You know how you asked me a few weeks ago if I'd like to work with the children's program? Well, I've been praying about it for the past day or so. And I'd like to start working. I've already filled out my paperwork. Is there a time when I could start helping?

LISA Well, yeah, sure! This is great! It just so happens that someone else had to cancel for this coming weekend. Would you like to start then? I could mail you the lesson.

2nd VOICE Oh, don't bother. I'll just pick it up when I come in today to drop off my paperwork.

LISA Oh, that would be really great! Thanks!

2nd VOICE You're welcome. And thanks for all you do for the children. Good bye!

LISA Good-bye!

[BEN & JERRY ENTER]

BEN & JERRY Hey, like, Dudette. You know the conflict we had...

Yeah, dude the major conflict...

It like disappeared, man.

Yeah, dude, it was so cool. One minute it was just there... and the next minute it was just... gone! It was like, "cosmic."

Yeah, "cosmico".

BEN & JERRY (cont.)

It was a whole “God thing,” Dudette. So like, we’re free... you know, any day you want.

Yeah. So, just have your people call, like, our people...

Yeah, and we’ll do lunch!

Yeah! See ya!

[BEN & JERRY EXIT. Finally alone, LISA prays again.]

LISA Thanks Jesus, You really came through for me. Thank you!

[LISA finally gets to look through the mail she has been holding. She opens the one personal looking letter.]

[SLIDE WITH LETTER UP ON SCREEN]

[A CHILD’S VOICE is heard reading the letter, which is also shown on the screen, if possible.]

CHILD’S VOICE Dear Miss Lisa,

I wanted to tell you something big.

Last Sunday in Sunday School I asked Jesus to be my Savior. And guess what? He said “Yes”. Now one day, when I die, I will get to go to heaven, where Grandma is right now.

Thank you for teaching me that Jesus loves me. He is so BIG that He loves me lots!

Thanks, Miss Lisa. I hope you like my letter. It’s ‘posed to make you happy.

Sincerely,
Anne Marie

[SLIDE OFF SCREEN]

[LISA starts to weep gently as PASTOR ENTERS]

PASTOR Hey, Lisa... some of us are thinking of going for coffee and we...
Lisa, are you crying? Is everything OK?

[LISA hands PASTOR the letter. He reads it quickly.]

PASTOR Lisa, this letter "is 'posed to make you happy." And you're crying.

LISA It made me happy. God is really, really BIG.

PASTOR I think at a moment like this God would say something like "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Come on, let's go get that coffee.

[PASTOR and LISA EXIT. BEN & JERRY tag along behind. As they cross the stage they first holler ahead to the others, and then speak to each other.]

BEN & JERRY *(Hollering ahead)* Hey, Dudette... Wait up!

Yeah, we're comin'!

(Speaking to each other) Dude, I could seriously use some coffee!

Yeah, or some ice cream!

Wait a minute!... What about... coffee flavored ice cream?!!

Dude... you're a genius! Come on!

All in a day's work, dude! All in a day's work...

[BEN & JERRY EXIT.]

THE END