

Standards for Quality SS Ministry

Standards for Quality Adult SS Ministry	Why This Is Important	How Well My Class Does This 1=Poor, 10=Great	What My Class Needs to Do to Improve
Class has the following team positions: teacher, co-teacher, secretary, assistant secretary, fellowship leader, outreach leader, and care group leaders.	The teacher cannot meet all class needs. A team approach builds class effectiveness and develops the community of faith.		
Class has organized care groups (5-7 members per group) that minister to class members.	People want to be cared for and feel needed. Absences can lead to unhealthy attendance habits if the class does not seem to care. We need to say in touch with and minister to one another.		
Literature is chosen based on member needs and what church needs to make disciples (baseline).	Relevant literature stimulates participation and balance is needed to ensure quality disciple-making.		
Class leaders and members are on time for Sunday School (meaning in classroom and socializing at 9:45 am).	Sufficient time is necessary for socializing, praying for members, class administration, and Bible study. We do not want to escort guests into empty classrooms.		
Members are regular in their attendance.	It is hard to build community with sporadic attenders.		
Class is friendly and sensitive to the needs of guests (Guests greeted warmly, class members share names with guests, name tags are worn, guests are invited to socials, guests are contacted during week).	First impressions of friendliness are crucial to SS growth. People go where they feel cared for and are given attention.		
Bible study lessons begin no later than 10:00 am.	45 minutes for Bible study is necessary for effective teaching and learning. It is poor stewardship to purchase expensive literature and not provide adequate time to use it.		
Members come to class prepared (have read lesson, scripture, reflected on topic, etc.).	Learning is enhanced if members have reflected on the topic prior to the session.		
More than one style of teaching is used.	People learn in various ways. One style of teaching will not meet the needs of all members.		
Members are given opportunities to participate and open dialogue is encouraged.	The greater the level of participation, the greater the learning.		
Members are regularly encouraged to take part in other aspects of church life—especially worship.	Faith formation requires exposure to many contexts and worship is essential for community building.		
Classroom is clean, up-to-date, and educationally stimulating.	A cared-for environment enhances learning.		
Class has periodic fellowship socials.	It takes time to build relationships. People need time to interact with one another.		