

Sunday School News

*Connecting People to Christ - Growing in Faith
Serving Others!*

What You Must Know About DUAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS



ABC : Connecting People to Christ and One Another

Dual Sunday Schools is a new concept to many—but this approach to Sunday School and Worship has been in existence for many years. Dual Sunday School and Dual Worship (simplified by just saying “Duals”) allows any church to nearly double their space and create an all new organization which grows at a faster rate than one established Sunday School.

There are many pressing reasons to do this at ABC, but the greatest reason is that we as a church exist for those who are not yet here!!! We are the only organization on earth that operates in this fashion. God has ordained our ministry to care more for others than ourselves. When we understand that, we begin to ask truly relevant questions. How

can we make an impact on the lost world? How can we include more people in Bible Study? How can we enable more people to worship together in our community? Are we doing all we can to reach our community?

Once understanding that we must have towards church growth is that you never wait on “something” in order to grow. We are going to build

something over the next couple of years. If we decide to “wait” on a building, we will not only fail to grow, we will lose people! **Obedience delayed is disobedience!!!!!!**

Currently we are close to maxing out normally useable space. We can add a few more folks in hallways etc.—but that is not ideal. However, through Duals we can imme-

diately double our opportunity.

Duals really creates two new Sunday Schools, not one. The entire structure is changed and nearly all of the classes change some. This creates the time tested reality of new Bible Study units, which grow much faster.

This approach helps us fulfill our Biblical Mission.

Sunday Schools on the Move

Anticipated Schedule:
Implementation on Sept. 9

Education efforts throughout July & August.

Surveys and class creation during July.

Choir Creation during July & August

Enlisting teachers during July and August

**KICK OFF DOUBLE DAY
ON SEPTEMBER 9**

Q & A Continued.....

7. What about the choir?

The choir is a challenge, but not an impossibility. The choir has to be willing to be assigned by the music leadership to a certain hour of worship. Balance is sought in musical parts etc. to have a balanced choir. The choir rehearses together on Wednesday nights as they do now. Before they leave, the first choir and then the second sing the song. On worship day, there is a choir in each service. The reality: both worship choirs will grow and the total choir will double in size. Then—on occasional Sunday nights, the combined choir will sing and of course will present any musical dramas, etc.. IT TAKES COOPERATION!

8. Can we actually pull this off?

Churches do it all the time—there is just one overwhelming requirement. Our people have to care more for the unchurched than themselves. If everything about church is all about us—our comfort, our schedule, our room, and our class, we cannot effectively do Dual Sunday Schools and worship.

9. What will happen to my class?

We don't know yet. There are many possibilities. Some classes may look very similar to their current composition. Your class could end up in the same room or a different room. You could be in the first or second hour. In some classes, half the people may prefer the second hour and half the first hour (ideal situation) There will be teachers for both hours and the Sunday School will grow.

10. Will we have the same classes and just repeat them?

No, not exactly. The classes may be similar in age groupings but we will have new teachers along with existing teachers.

11. Do we know how many new teachers we will need?

Not yet. We will probably need at least 10 more—but we are not to the stage yet of knowing which hour each class teacher will be in.

12. What is the process for moving forward?

Bro. Mark and Bro. Tommy will begin contacting teachers first. We are working with our consultant in this. We will ask our current teachers to willingly teach in the first or second hour. Once we have clear answers from teachers as to which hour they are willing to work in, we will then survey the entire church for their hour of preference. Our hope is that each family will allow us to assign them where needed in order to achieve balance. **THE CRITICAL component** of this is the teachers. The teachers must understand that we need their cooperation as to which hour they teach. We are not looking for teachers to poll their classes. We will do that through a church-wide survey.

13. When would this start? September 9th, 2007

14. How Can I Help?

We need cooperation and vision. This is a huge moment in the life of the church. It requires us to be willing to change. It requires us to relinquish ownership of rooms and people. It requires us to trust our leadership. We need commitment, cooperation, and an expectation to see God's mighty work in our community.

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"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities."

Isaiah 54:2-3

Prayer Needs:

- Cooperation
- Additional Workers
- Understanding
- A Kingdom Focus
- Patience
- A Mind-set of Excellence

DUAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS INFORMATION

SURVEY PERIOD	TOTAL SS ENROLLMENT	SS AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
2007	713	335 (to 6-24)
2006	677	309
2005	703	281
2004	590	255
2003	576	241
2002	547	263
2001	609	303
2000	574	310
1999	552	322
1998	596	350
1997	598	359
1996	509	322
1995	257	-
1994	257	195
1993	316	185
1992	304	170
1991	303	160
1990	479	234
1989	449	224
1988	420	194
1987	425	194
1986	481	205

Note: The average attendance increased after the new worship center was built. (96-98)

Average attendance took a sharp downturn during the difficulties of 2003.

The last half of 2004 saw a significant turn around in SS.

In averaging 335 currently, we are getting ready for a huge fall.

In order to continue growth, we must enable an immediate increase of space.

Dual Sunday Schools enable us to do that.

PROVEN FACTS ABOUT NEW UNITS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!

1. New units grow more quickly than established units. Most growth in any Sunday School class occurs in the first two years of existence. Duals actually create almost all new units in both hours.
2. New units tend to be more evangelistic. Leaders and members are more focused on building the class and are paying more attention to who they are trying to reach.
3. The creation of new units engages more people in leadership. New workers are enlisted and more gifts are discovered.
4. New units are easier for newcomers to penetrate. Once a class has been established for more than 3 years, it becomes increasingly closed to new people.
5. New Bible Study units exist to help the church enlarge the possibilities for reaching more people.

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Q & A ON DUAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS

1. Why do we need Dual Sunday Schools ?

We need Duals to continue the orderly growth of church and provide the space to do it. The two Sunday Schools enable us to wisely use our space and create space for new units. With two Sunday Schools, more space in both hours is immediately available. The highest average attendance the church has ever maintained with current space is 359. That attendance had every available space, both good and bad space, maxed out. People will not endure that. We are currently at 80% of comfortable space. We cannot grow much beyond the current numbers without more space.

2. I thought we were going to build soon? Why not just wait until then?

Great question! We are going to build (Lord willing) but the reality before us is the planning and building process will take at least two years. In the meantime, our church cannot just idle and hover at the current number. We will lose our growth momentum. We cannot wait for a building to grow. We are growing now and need to continue that growth.

3. Why do we need Dual Worship Services? Don't we have a large enough worship center?

Another great question. The answer to the second question is "NO!" We hear claims of 650 for seating capacity. That would be with every seat filled in the building—and crammed in the pews. People do not do that. We had 315 students and adults on the bottom floor in the pews during DiscipleNow. The kids were sitting packed in the pews. Adults will not and do not do that. Our worship center seats about 450–500 comfortably (the 80% rule). As our Sunday School continues to grow, worship continues to grow.

4. What happens when you do Duals?

Everything is new—and grows more rapidly. There are two new Sunday Schools. Some of the classes are familiar because we have many of the same teachers—but all the classes in both hours essentially become new—and are exciting to unchurched folk, and members who have not been in Sunday School. In two hours or worship, each worship service grows. Yes, initially the worship center will be less crowded—but you will see those crowds continue to grow. Many people will enjoy early worship and late Sunday School—you get home faster on that schedule!!!

5. What will the schedule look like?

Tentatively, we are looking into this schedule—

9:15 am Sunday School and Worship
10:45 am Sunday School and Worship

Another way of seeing this same schedule:

9:15 AM First Sunday School First Worship 9:15 AM
10:45 AM Second Sunday School Second Worship 10:45 AM

People who attend First SS attend Second Worship
People who attend Second SS Attend First Worship

This is called the flip flop plan.

6. What will the worship services be like?

They will be identical in every respect!!!!!!

Dual Sunday Schools work well in helping a church reach people.

They do not work at all without a spirit of cooperation and a love