I WILL GO

Sharing Hope

Sabbath School

New Jersey Conference of SDA

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Sabbath School Resources Materials

North American Division (NAD)

https://nadadultministries.org/sabbath-school/

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CG)

https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/sabbathschool

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

Growing Churches Through Sabbath School Classes: A Relational Approach

J. Alfred Johnson, II
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www.nadadultministries.org
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What Is Sabbath School?

Relational,
Small Group -Driven,
Seventh-day Adventist
Local Church
Educational Fellowship…

What Is Sabbath School?

. . . that Builds

Faith* and *Practice

In The Context of

The Three Goals of Sabbath School.

THE
Three GOALS
OF
SABBATH SCHOOL

BIBLE STUDY

SABBATH SCHOOL

LOCAL & WORLD MISSION

FELLOWSHIP & NURTURE

Balanced Sabbath School

<u>Must</u> Include These Elements:

- **Bible Study**
- **Local & World Mission**

Balanced Sabbath School

- **Fellowship and Nurture**

Faith and Practice

Practice = Application Of “Faith” In The Context Of Living and Witnessing *With* Jesus (“Do”)

Relational Approach?

"Focus On Being Responsive To People and Their Needs"

Relational Impact

People Will Tend To Be Enthusiastically *and* Beneficially
Active In Sabbath School
To The Degree That Their *Needs* Are Being Met

What If?

- We Structured Sabbath School To Address The *Baseline* Evangelism and Nurture Agenda Of The Congregation – Focusing On *Needs* Of People?

What If?

- We Formatted Time Usage In Sabbath School To Accomplish This?

What If?

- We Made Sabbath School So Meaningful -- That People Would *Rush* To The Experience?

What If?

- The *Spirit* Of Positive, Joyful, Sabbath School Lasted *All Week*?

Are You Willing?

To Prayerfully Advocate
For Adjustments
If
The Adjustments Will
Be Beneficial?

We Are Dedicated To Facilitating Sabbath School Classes As *Holistic, Relational: "SMALL GROUP FAMILIES"*

"Fundamentals of Soul-Saving Sabbath Schools"

Presented By

Joyce Johnson, Ph.D.

Spirit of Prophecy

Sabbath School: Effectual Soul-winning Agency

The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ.—

Counsels on Sabbath School Work (1938), page 10, paragraph 2

Sabbath School Attendance Shortfalls Not to be Overlooked

- Worldwide, Sabbath School attendance is higher than church attendance.
- In most **North American Division SDA churches**, less than 50% of the members attend Sabbath School.
- More than half of the NAD Sabbath School Attendees are women (62% of NAD membership represented by women - 2007).
- The majority of NAD attendees do not arrive to Sabbath School on time.

Possible Reasons for Low Sabbath School Attendance

1. Lack of spiritual commitment
2. Apathetic church response
3. Participants anticipate hearing two sermons (Sermon/lecture from SS teacher; sermon from pastor)
4. Undeveloped relationships among members
5. Routine and boring Sabbath School Programs
6. Limited attendee participation

Suggested Ways to Increase Sabbath School Attendance

1. Pray earnestly for increased Sabbath School Attendance.
2. Center Sabbath School programs around the elements of **Bible Study, Fellowship, Community Outreach and Missions.**
2. Proactively plan Sabbath School Programs, ensuring organization that meets heaven's approval.
3. Call missing and regularly attending members.
4. Arrive early as an example to others.
6. Invite select members to present special programs, i.e., seniors, youth, or children.
7. Plan and promote special music well in advance.
8. Regularly show appreciation for early arrivers and other SS participants.
9. Heavily involve parents in children's divisions.
10. Engage the Pastor and Church leaders in a Sabbath School revival campaign.

Make Sabbath School Interesting

Bring Life to Sabbath School Programs

- Know your Sabbath School base

  "You can't manage what you don' t measure."

- Eliminate the Routine

- Employ continuous training and development for Sabbath School teachers and leaders.

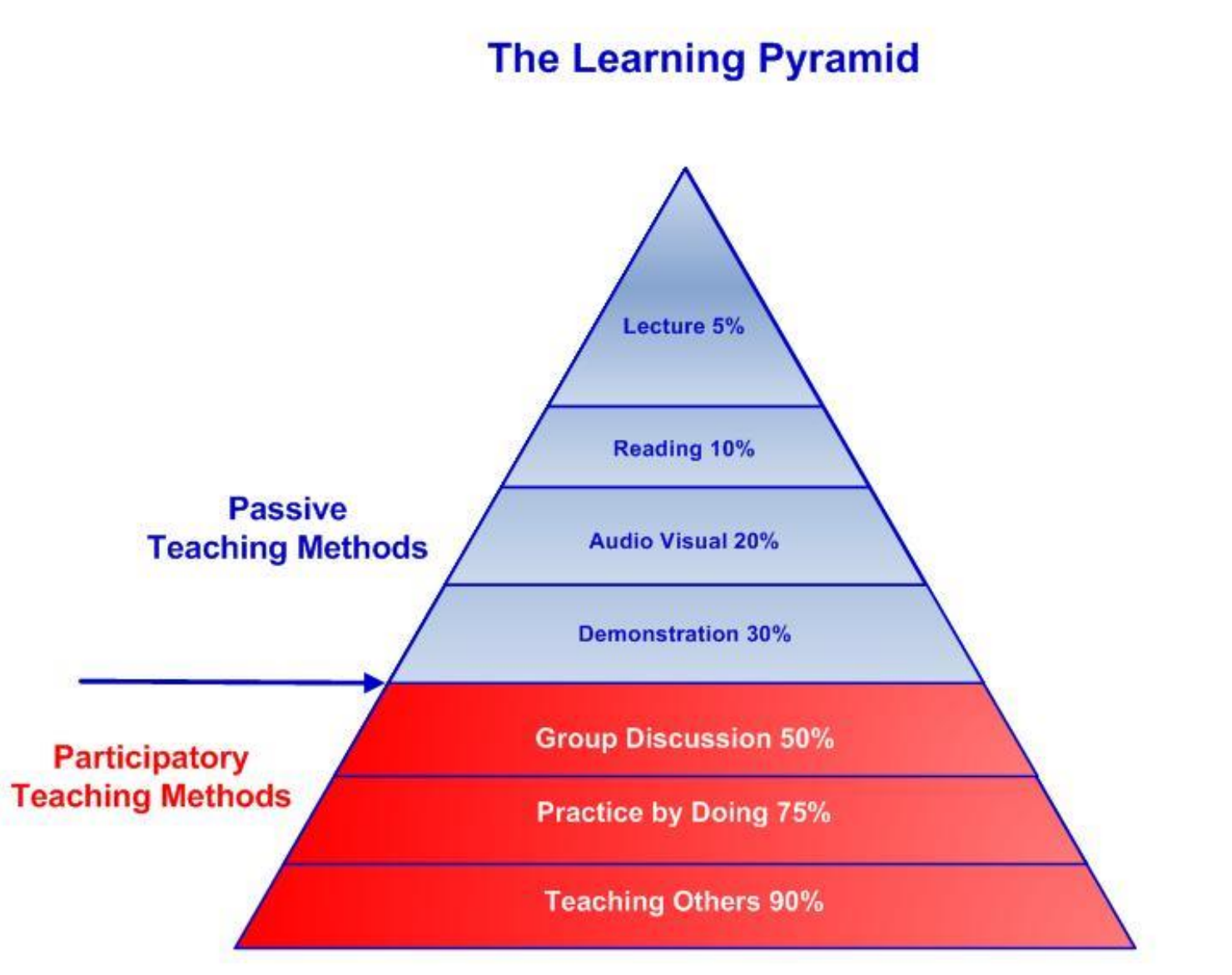
Eliminate the Routine

- Change the seating arrangement of SS classes where possible, i.e., roundtables, panels.
- Break routine and traditional programs with creative interactive activities, i.e., concerts, dramas, real-life mission stories, etc…
- Implement a variety of SS classes.

The Great Commission
Matthew 28: 16 – 20 (NIV)

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

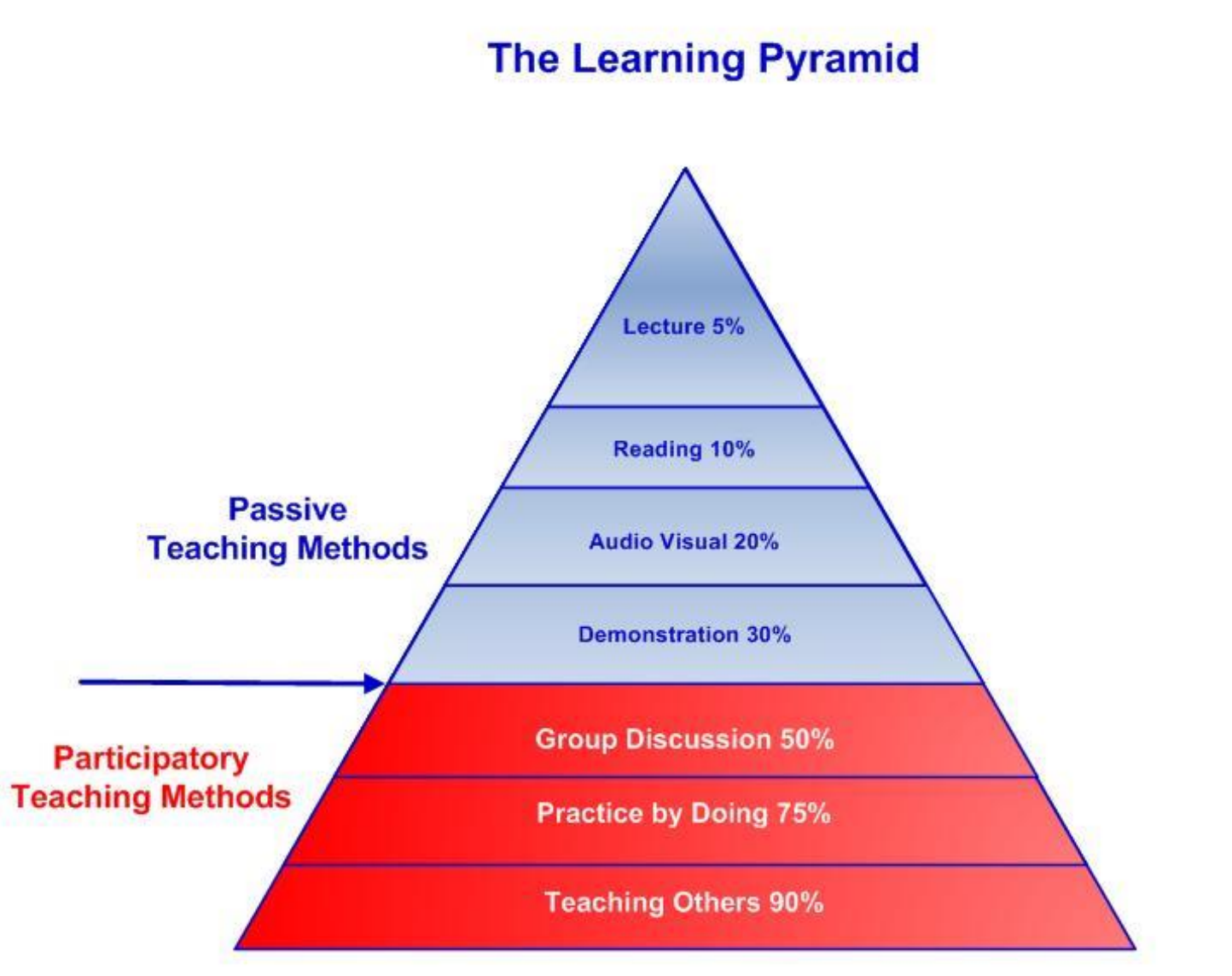
Teaching and Learning Research



Intentional Disciple Makers

Spectator – Disciple – Disciple Maker

Teaching and Learning Based on Research



General Conference Strategic Focus 2020 - 2025

I WILL GO Sharing Hope

OBJECTIVE 5: To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives

Key Performance Indication (KPI) 5.1

Significant increase in numbers of church members regularly praying, studying the Bible, using the Sabbath School Bible Study Guides, reading the writings of Ellen White and engaging in other personal devotions

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General Conference Strategic Focus 2020 - 2025

OBJECTIVE 5: To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives

KPI 5.2

Significant increase in numbers of church members and unbaptized children and youth regularly attending divine service and Sabbath School

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The Great Commission
Matthew 28: 16 – 20 (NIV)

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Sharing Hope

Questions
Prayer
Thank you for all you do!

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