

Blessing Sunday Calendar

Most Texas schools begin Monday, August 24. Local churches are encouraged to select a “Blessing Sunday” date that best meets their needs.

Four Sundays before Blessing Sunday

- General Chairperson shares about “Bring a Friend Sunday” during worship”
- Prayer cards are passed out during worship service
- Pastor asks congregation to pray for “Bring a Friend Sunday”

During the week:

- All committees meet
- Members identify friends/relatives they intend to invite
- Run in Church Newsletter clip art and story #1 (see Resources)
- Secure church members comments for Church Newsletter
- Place posters in every classroom, hallway, foyer and church office

Three Sundays before Blessing Sunday

- Pastor addresses REACHING AND RECEIVING during worship

During the week:

- Administrative Board/Council members and other key leaders begin visiting in **the homes of all church families** in order to communicate with them about “Blessing Sunday” (stress the need to invite real prospective members, not persons who regularly attend other churches. Make arrangements with each family for a **specific time** about three to five days from now when you can telephone them back and make reservations for **them and their guests** to the “Blessing Sunday” worship and fellowship luncheon.
- Members invite friend/relative to attend “Blessing Sunday”.
- Follow Up Committee meeting
- Check all materials
- Run in Church Newsletter clip art and pastor’s endorsement of “Blessing Sunday”.

Two Sundays before Blessing Sunday

- Lay leadership share in Sunday School and worship services about inviting a friend (see Resources for “Are You Inviting?”)
- Each Sunday School class discusses their REACHING AND RECEIVING process

During the week:

- Members invite friend/relative to attend “Blessing Sunday”

- Each caller telephones back to each family on whom they have called in order to get the names of the guests they will bring to “Blessing Sunday” worship and lunch (get total for both members and guests who will eat lunch). The phone call is made at a **specific time** agreed upon during earlier personal visit.
- Final meeting of the Task Force is to review all plans
- Members pray for “Blessing Sunday”.
- Run in Church Newsletter clip art and story #2 (see Bring A Friend Resources).

One Sunday before Blessing Sunday

- At least one person in each Sunday School classes shares about inviting a friend
- Explain key features for next week’s Sunday School Classes and Worship Services (prepare people for name tag procedures)

During the week:

- Members pray for “Blessing Sunday”
- Members invite friend/relative to attend next Sunday
- Callers must have all reservations turned into the Calling Coordinator by Thursday noon, three days before “Blessing Sunday”, who then telephones any unaccounted for members to confirm all luncheon reservations.
- Luncheon Committee and participants make final preparations
- All facilities given special cleaning
- All committees meet for final arrangements
- Radio Public Service Announcement runs on local stations (see Resources)
- Run in Church Newsletter clip art and comments secured from laity regarding “Blessing Sunday”

Blessing Sunday

Ushers and Greeters welcome and register guests (plan for extra ushers and nursery help to handle the large crowd).

- Sunday School and Worship focuses on “Friends”
- Use special bulletin cover (see Resources)
- Members introduce guests to others
- Guests escorted to catered All-Church Luncheon

During the week:

Follow Up Committee

- **Reach Out Calling Team** follow up on each visitor
- Encourage members to telephone guests inviting to Palm Sunday/Easter Services
- Mail hand written “Thank you” note to committee members

Hold celebration events for members:

- Challenge members to continue disciple-making plans
- Encourage all church groups to serve as support teams for prayer and sharing

Newspaper ads and stories run in local media