**Great Day Sunday
October 26, 2025**

*Psalm 122:1, I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”*

The focus of this strategy is to provide churches with 125 or less in attendance with a tool that will help them reach the unchurched. The simplicity of the plan makes it possible for a multi-vocational pastor, who has limited time, to implement the strategy and see positive results. The first church to implement the strategy experienced a twenty percent increase in weekly attendance and on Great Day Sunday, an unexpected ninety percent increase in attendance.

This strategy is for the church to set aside a day, called Great Day Sunday, which will become the day the entire church will unify around to build attendance. The pastor will teach and motivate through scripture and sermons for Christians to pray for and invite non-attenders to church on Great Day Sunday.

Great Day Sunday will provide a church not only with a framework to engage the body with a plan for outreach but also establishes a rally point (last Sunday in September) that can bring encouragement during a discouraging and challenging season of church life. The effects of the COVID pandemic and other cultural issues have taken a toll on many congregations. The Great Day Sunday strategy can be a tool to breathe life back into the church.

Great Day Sunday strategy brings together both Sunday School and Worship. These two ministries work together in evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and celebrates who God is and what He has done. This strategy encourages the church to celebrate victories experienced during Great Day Sunday as opposed to setting goals that may or may not be reached.

Although focused on smaller-sized churches, this strategy could be adapted to fit any timeline with any size congregation. The heart behind it seeks to give the pastor the lead on the vision and bring others around him to help bring it to life.

Promotional materials and training tips will be accessible online through the Oklahoma Baptists website.

**OVERVIEW OF GREAT DAY SUNDAY**

1. Set a date for Great Day Sunday (the last Sunday in September is encouraged).
2. Teach and encourage Sunday school and church members to commit to inviting people to church. The pastor is to take the lead in promoting outreach to the church (use the Come and See approach of inviting people to church).
3. Every Sunday school member/attendee develops a prayer list of people who do not attend church and begins praying for them.
4. Plan these events on Great Day Sunday: (1) High attendance in Sunday school, (2) special events in the worship service like children’s choir, etc., and (3) dinner after the worship service. Any variation of these events that best fit your church may be used. The purpose of these activities is to encourage the unchurched to attend.
5. Every week from the pulpit, the pastor encourages the people to pray and invite unchurched people. Hopefully, this will create both excitement and an expectation within the church.
6. Conduct Great Day Sunday (make it a day of Celebration).
7. Follow-up with efforts to visit and invite all attendees to continue attending.
8. Optional: For those churches wanting to start a new class or group to attract new attendees, you might start a short-term class and teach an overview of the Bible.
9. Make plans to conduct another outreach effort called “Come, Sit with Me!” on Easter the following spring.

**Phase One – Planning & Recruiting, Two-Three Months Before Great Day Sunday**

1. Decide to join the Great Day Sunday Strategy
	* By vote of the church or by what other means your church makes decisions
2. Recruit Great Day Sunday Planning Team
	* Who are 3-5 key church members who can help plan and promote the Great Day Sunday? Examples: Sunday school director, deacons, Sunday school teacher
	* Your church may have a couple of classes or several, but recruiting a planning team helps get key leaders involved in the process which strengthens church-wide involvement in Great Day Sunday
3. Meet with Great Day Sunday Planning Team Regularly
	* Meet to discuss the Great Day strategy and how it could benefit the church
	* Get feedback from team members and discuss objectives and needs for the church
	* Select a Sunday for the Great Day Sunday
		+ This will be the Sunday set aside for the Sunday school high attendance day
	* Assign each team member an area of Great Day Sunday to oversee
		+ Recruiting Sunday school classes to participate (get a commitment from each teacher and class to pray for and invite non-attenders
		+ Plan a Fellowship Meal on the special day (this could be a covered dish lunch served after the worship service)
		+ Obtaining and Distributing Promotional Materials (available online from Oklahoma Baptists)
		+ Plan to follow-up on new guests and inactive members
		+ Plan the Worship and any special emphasis in the worship service
		+ Promote through social media, newspaper, etc.
4. Plan the Great Day Sunday
	* + Sunday School – What will make this a cause to celebrate on Great Day Sunday?
		+ Plan for a High Attendance in Sunday school. (However, setting goals are not recommended for this program. Setting goals can lead to disappointment if they are not reached)
		+ Breakfast in class – optional
		+ Put up promotional posters as quick as you can to promote Great Day Sunday
		+ Planning a fellowship to welcome guests for a month after Great Day Sunday – optional
	* Worship
		+ Sermon focus – Be evangelistic and provide an opportunity for response
		+ Special music: consider a children’s choir to build attendance Parents and grandparents love to see their children sing
		+ Use guest cards in the pews or worship brochures to receive contact information from first-time guest
		+ Materials will be available for download through the Oklahoma Baptists MVP website
	* Fellowship Meal – if the meal is after the worship service consider these things
		+ Menu
		+ Who will prepare
		+ Location
		+ Servers
		+ Other materials needed
	* Follow-up – How to have several points of contact with guests. (

<https://churchleaderinsights.org/the-laws-of-3-hearings-7-touches/>

* + - Every guest receives a letter from the pastor
		- Every guest receives a note card from a Sunday school leader or member
		- Follow-up home visits
		- Small gifts on Great Day Sunday delivered to the homes on Sunday afternoon
		- Invitation to Sunday School fellowships taking place after Great Day Sunday
1. Pastor Announces Great Day Sunday during all worship services two months before target date (can be earlier)
	* Announce Great Day Sunday date
	* Give brief strategy overview. Write a paragraph for promotional purposes
	* Ask church to start praying now for that date
	* Announce planning team and the different ways church members can be involved in making a Great Day Sunday (come and see outreach method)
2. Sunday school classes begin to pray for those they will invite to Great Day Sunday (<https://www.whosyourone.com/>) (Each class should make a list of both members and prospects that they will invite)
3. Download and/or print resources from the Oklahoma Baptists website

[www.oklahomabaptists.org/mvp](http://www.oklahomabaptists.org/mvp)

**Phase Two – Engaging, One Month Before Great Day Sunday**

1. First Sunday
	* Prayer Cards for Great Day Sunday in pews or bulletins
	* Testimony from church member/family about meeting Jesus and the value of Sunday School in his or her life – optional
	* Reminder about Great Day Sunday and Fellowship Meal
	* Brief meeting after church or that evening with Sunday school teachers to discuss the strategy and follow up
2. Second Sunday
	* Posters up around building for Great Day Sunday (download from website)
	* Special prayer time for Sunday school/small group leaders during service
	* Meeting of Fellowship Meal team to finalize menu and what is needed
3. Third Sunday
	* Reminder again of the Great Day Sunday activities and purpose of the day
	* Discuss any special details about the Great Day Sunday that will take place
	* Special prayer time for all those who will be invited to attend Great Day Sunday
4. Fourth/Fifth Sunday – Great Day Sunday!
	* Have greeters at each door ready to receive guests and show them to classes
	* Sunday School classes ready with special events as decided
	* Great Day Sunday sermon
	* Special music
	* Reminder about guest cards for connection to those who visit
	* Invite all guests to Fellowship Meal
	* In all aspects of the day, highlight the goodness of God and the Gospel

**Phase Three – Connecting**

1. Letter from Pastor
	* A brief note or letter from the pastor to each family/guest saying “thank you” for attending
	* Could also include an invitation to a luncheon – connection luncheon, where the pastor could introduce himself, his family, and the church
2. Note from Sunday School Class
	* Each guest receives a note inviting him or her back to class
	* Note could include upcoming Sunday school fellowship
	* Note could also include the Bible study topics for the next quarter
3. Home Visit
	* From pastor, Sunday school leader, deacons, or other members
4. Send or give information about the church
5. Follow-up meeting with planning team to discuss next steps and celebrate the work of the Lord
6. Start a new group and teach an overview of the Bible. This would be a short-term class of 8 to 12 weeks.

**Appendix**

**Come and See**