



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

## A Scope for Children and Youth Service

This document contains only some ideas to help serve our Sunday school children more effectively, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

Sunday school service requires more than a lesson given on Sunday by a servant. It requires working together as a church to have our children grow in the fear of God.

### **Sunday School Activities:**

Other than a well prepared lesson with visual aids and discussion points, there are other necessary additions such as:

**Bible Reading:** Using the diocese Bible Study questions, each week the class can read at home a certain number of chapters per week, depending on age. A reward system can help encourage them to bring answers back the week after. For older youth, electronic methods can be used for questions/answers and an outing/bible trivia game upon completion of a book can be a way to interest them.

**Memorization Parts:** Servants can refer to the new diocese's Memorization Curriculum of prayers and lesson verses planned for each grade. A good way to memorize parts is to pray them at the beginning and/or end of each Sunday class.

**Individual Service:** In order to have a personal interactions with each child so they each feel special to Christ, involves many aspects. It is important to find the most effective way to communicate to each one in the class on a regular basis as well as visiting them or taking them out individually. It is important to send the lesson or a summary by email, or any other way, to those who were absent or to their parents (if too young to have email).

**Field Trips:** Fun trip days for each class, is a great way for the children to befriend each other and for the servants to get to know them more. It is a chance to show Christ's love by regular interactions and to allow them to enjoy each other's presence during pleasant activities they

like. These days should have a positive impact, which will be reflected in better class attendance.

**Service Trips:** Other than fun days, there should also be days where we meet to serve others. Children and youth should be learning to serve when they are young and not only wait till they reach Pre-servants. Class servants can organize little trips where youth can do something for the church or the community. Examples of such are: Visiting the elderly, visiting hospitals to chant Christmas Carols, food or clothes drives for Children's Homes, helping sort clothes for charities, preparing toys for needy children for Christmas, cleaning the church, etc....

**Parent Involvement:** A meeting between the servants and the parents of each grade is an effective way to have the parents involved in the Children's spiritual development. Servants can lay out the class' objectives and activities such as Bible readings, trips, communication methods, prayer memorizations, etc. to get the parents' support needed at home. A quarterly schedule of the planned lessons can be given to the parents so they can follow up with their children on what they've learned.

Also, general parent meetings for each age group (Elementary, Middle, and High School) should be organized and held by a group of servants. In these meetings professional guest speakers would come present and discuss topics involved in children's growth such as physical, social, psychological and spiritual developments, or issues that may arise for different ages.

### **Other Services/Activities:**

Servants should encourage all children or youth in their Sunday School class to also participate in all other diocese or church activities for their age, as the examples listed below. These will help them develop more spiritual, physical and social aspects as young church members.

- **Hymns Classes/ Hymns Camps**
- **Summer and Winter Camps / Conventions**
- **Summer Day Camps**
- **Bible Study**
- **Mahragan El Kiraza**
- **Sports Teams / Tournaments**
- **Spiritual Days (older youth)**
- **Serving/ Learning to serve opportunities**
- **Any other activities**