

# *Guiding Principles*

## For the Bible Study Ministry of Westwood Baptist Church



**Change Principle** - The highest goal of Bible Study is to produce change in the lives of people, from lost to saved, from apathetic to excited, from uninvolved to involved, from depressed to encouraged, from unfaithful to faithful, from broken relationships to healthy relationships, from stagnant to growing in Christ. One cannot stay the same and grow in Christ. Change is mandatory.

**Enrollment Principle** - Enrollment shall be considered the place where ministry to an individual begins. Class roll sheets are considered ministry and prayer lists. Classes will never be recognized or reprimanded for percentage of enrollment in attendance as this discourages enrollment. Enrollment of individuals is always encouraged, even from a guest's first visit.

**Flexibility Principle** - Class room space will be used for the overall good of the church as determined by the Bible Study Ministry Team. Therefore, no room shall be viewed as "owned" by a particular Bible Study class. Classroom space is subject to reassignment as needed.

**Enlistment Principle** - Bible Study leaders and directors will be enlisted by the division director to which the class is accountable.

**Choice Principle** – We will strive to maintain a Bible Study class structure that allows individuals in any adult age group to have a choice about where they attend. We will seek to meet the needs of all adults.

**Size Principle** – Class size will be allowed to grow as long as space is available, balance is maintained, prospects are sought, fellowships are frequent, guests feel welcomed, and ministry needs are met.

**Prospect Principle** - It is impossible for a church to grow without valid prospects who are assigned to the appropriate Sunday School unit.

**New Unit Principle:** New Sunday School units experience more growth than existing units. Therefore starting new units will be a priority for the church.

**Preference in Location:** Assignment of rooms will be based so as to give preference to the handicapped, senior adults, parents with preschoolers, and new units.

**Worker Principle:** Growing Sunday Schools are constantly praying for, looking for, enlisting, and training new workers. Current leaders will assist in the discovery, development, and recruitment of new leaders.

**Planning Principle:** Regular planning helps motivate and direct workers so that the Sunday School functions as a team. Leaders are expected to take part in scheduled leadership meetings.

**Training Principle:** Sunday School will never grow consistently without trained leadership. Leaders are encouraged to take part in at least one training event each year other than monthly meetings..

**Space Principle:** In order to grow, a Sunday School must have more available space than it is presently using.

**Ministry Principle:** Weekly contact with all Sunday School members helps the Sunday School meet people's needs.

**Visitation Principle:** Personal visits are the best way to minister to and evangelize members and prospects. Each class shall have one team involved in weekly outreach.