



# Leaders Guide

## Church Growth through Coloring

Dwight Moody founder of Moody Bible Institute started a Sunday School class in the Chicago slums in 1858. He drew the children of the German and Scandinavian immigrant underclass to his mission with candy and pony rides, and he drew the adults through evening prayer meetings and English classes. He was convinced, "If you can really make a man (or child) believe you love him, you have won him." The response was so great that in just three year's time the building he began in was too small for the number of children.

His idea of growing a church through growing the Sunday School is a good one. If you or your church has enough love the first step to bringing in the children is INVITING them.

One way is printing invitations on the back of coloring pages and putting them out in Laundromats, Hospitals, Jails, tire dealerships etc. Hundreds of coloring pages are available free at [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com). Following this leaders guide are two invitations, one for Sunday School, one for VBS.

**The added value** of putting these coloring pages in boxes and out in the community is that it gives the children in your class/family something to do...a way to contribute...a way to feel that they belong. Each child makes a box and finds a place to put it, somewhere they think Other children will find them.

**The GREATEST BLESSING** is that the activity allows the teacher/leader to focus the class on *making the newcomers and each other feel loved*. Nothing will grow your class or church more quickly than spending as much time on loving as on teaching.

**Adding in Pony Rides and Other attractions:** Jesus said he would draw all men to him. He used multiple miracles and frequent healings. Personally I have experienced both in my own life. I believe also that Jesus knew the power of showmanship...of making people... especially children stop and take a closer look at God and his word. Like Dwight Moody I believe in Pony Rides. The Sunday School that offered Pony Rides would get on TV and in the news. Other ideas for show stopping attractions: are making ice cream...you can bring your parents if you like, a Bible Golf or Marble Tournament with real prizes maybe even a Bicycle (rules found at <https://bibleparent.com/crafts.html>, a Christmas Ornament making Party (also found at <https://bibleparent.com/holidays.html> something as *out of the ordinary and appealing* as possible.

One key to these Church growth ideas is Promoting them...something so inviting that local media will cover it or so appealing that the children will invite their friends. We pray that your Sunday School class will seek to grow by putting invitations on the back of some of our coloring pages. We pray too that your church will LOOK for things to make at least one Sunday Afternoon a month **an event** for children. (You could even offer prizes to the child who brought the most guests.) Just six EVENTS a year could bring in more families than an entire week of VBS **Keeping the children in the church is largely a matter of making them feel loved.**

Our church would like to invite  
your family to visit our Sunday School.

Call us \_\_\_\_\_

Email us at \_\_\_\_\_

Or visit us at the address below for enough free  
coloring pages to give your home a complete  
“Bible Makeover.”



Our church would like to invite  
your family to visit our  
Vacation Bible School.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Call us \_\_\_\_\_

Email us at \_\_\_\_\_

Or visit us at the address below for enough free  
coloring pages to give your home a complete  
“Bible Makeover.”

