

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2014

WEEK STARTING MARCH 10

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 4 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Genesis 40-42 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 41:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Do the Rest of the Dead Come to Life on Earth?—*rs* p. 338 ¶2—p. 339 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abihu—Prominence Does Not Excuse Disobedience—*it*-1 p. 22 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 88

15 min: Family Worship That Refreshes. Interview a family regarding their family worship. Of what does their program consist? How do they determine what to discuss? What tools available on jw.org have they used? How has their program helped them in the ministry? How do they prevent other activities from disrupting their schedule? How have they benefited from their program of family worship?

15 min: “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers.” Discussion. Consider two or three potential conversation stoppers that publishers may encounter, and invite comments on how we might respond. Remind publishers that they will have an opportunity to relate experiences during the week of April 7.

Song 97 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers

Why Important: Imagine that you know that a natural disaster is imminent. People will die unless they flee to safety. You go to a neighbor's home to warn him, but he interrupts you, saying that he is busy. Surely, you would not quickly abandon your efforts to help him! Many in our territory turn us away, not realizing the life-saving value

of our message. At the time of our visit, perhaps they are preoccupied. (Matt. 24:37-39) Or maybe they have been prejudiced by untrue rumors. (Matt. 11:18, 19) They might assume that we are no different from the religions that have produced bad fruitage. (2 Pet. 2:1, 2) If the householder initially is not interested, we should not be quick to give up.

How to Do It:

- Before preaching from house to house, take a few moments to think about potential conversation stoppers that you may encounter and consider how to respond.
- If the householder presents an objection, gently try to continue the conversation. Perhaps you can do that by commending him. For example, if he says that he has his own religion, you might reply, “I was hoping to find someone like you who has an interest in spiritual things.” Sometimes acknowledging the householder's feelings or circumstances will enable you to continue giving a witness. For instance, if he says that he is busy, you might say: “I understand. But before I leave, I would like to give you this.” Another option is to ask a question if the householder says that he is not interested. You could say, “Do you mean that you are not interested in the Bible, or is it religion in general that does not interest you?”
- Use good judgment. Remember that Jehovah does not force people to listen. (Deut. 30:19) Everyone must carry his own load of spiritual responsibility. (Gal. 6:5) If the householder is adamant, it is best to take our leave. By demonstrating respect for his feelings, we may open the door for another publisher to give a witness in the future.—1 Pet. 3:15.

Try This During the Month:

- When you encounter a potential conversation stopper, after leaving the householder, discuss with your partner how you might have responded in a better way.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 17

Song 113 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 4 ¶10-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Genesis 43-46 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 44:18-34 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Who Will Be Included in the Earthly Resurrection?—*rs* p. 339 ¶3—p. 340 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abijah—Do Not Stop Leaning Upon Jehovah—*it-1* p. 23, Abijah No. 5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 61

15 min: Demonstrate Tactfulness When Preaching. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 197, paragraph 1, to page 199, paragraph 4. Have a realistic demonstration showing a publisher responding to a common objection without using tact. Then have another demonstration showing the publisher replying to the same objection in a tactful manner.

15 min: “Will You Seize the Opportunity?” Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate how they plan to consider the special Memorial Bible reading. Outline local arrangements for the Memorial.

Song 8 and Prayer

Will You Seize the Opportunity? Upcoming Memorial Enables Us to Show Gratitude

¹ The Memorial on April 14 presents a unique opportunity to cultivate and demonstrate gratitude for Jehovah’s goodness. The account at Luke 17:11-18 indicates how Jehovah and Jesus view gratitude. Sadly, only one of the ten cured lepers seized the opportunity to express thanks. In the future, the gift of the ransom will bring about a complete healing

1. What special opportunity does the Memorial present?

of all maladies, making everlasting life a reality! No doubt, we will then thank Jehovah daily for such blessings. But how can we show our gratitude during the coming weeks?

² **Cultivate Gratitude:** Feelings of gratitude are generated by thoughts. To help us build our appreciation for the ransom, a schedule for the special Memorial Bible reading can be found in a number of places, such as in appendix B12 of the revised *New World Translation*, the calendar, and *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. Why not consider this information as a family? Doing so will heighten our appreciation for the ransom. This, in turn, will have a positive effect on our conduct.—2 Cor. 5:14, 15; 1 John 4:11.

³ **Demonstrate Gratitude:** Gratitude is proved by action. (Col. 3:15) The grateful leper made the effort to find Jesus and thank him. Doubtless, he also spoke enthusiastically about his miraculous healing to others. (Luke 6:45) Will gratitude for the ransom move us to share zealously in the campaign to publicize the Memorial? Auxiliary pioneering or increasing our share in the ministry during the Memorial season is another fine way to demonstrate thankfulness. On the evening of the Memorial, an appreciative heart will motivate us to welcome visitors and to make ourselves available to answer their questions.

⁴ Will this Memorial be our last? (1 Cor. 11:26) We do not know. But we do know that once it passes, gone will be a unique opportunity to show gratitude. Will you seize it? May the appreciative words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart bring pleasure to Jehovah, the generous Provider of the ransom.—Ps. 19:14.

2. How may we cultivate gratitude for the ransom?

3. In what ways can we demonstrate our gratitude during the Memorial season?

4. How can we make this Memorial one without regrets?

WEEK STARTING MARCH 24

Song 104 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 4 ¶19-23, box on p. 45 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Genesis 47-50 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 48:17–49:7 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: The Events Associated With Christ's Presence Take Place Over a Period of Years—*rs* p. 341 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abimelech—Presumptuousness Ends in Personal Disaster—*it-1* p. 24, Abimelech No. 4 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 56

10 min: Imitate the Example of Nehemiah. Discussion. Invite comments from the audience on how Nehemiah's example can help us as evangelizers.

10 min: Use Questions to Teach Effectively —**Part 1.** Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 236, to page 237, paragraph 2. Briefly demonstrate at least one of the points from the material.

10 min: Jehovah's Ears Listen to the Supplication of the Righteous. (1 Pet. 3:12) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 66, paragraphs 1-3; and pages 104-105. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 6 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING MARCH 31

Song 105 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 5 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Exodus 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Exodus 2:1-14 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Christ's Return Is Invisible—*rs* p. 341 ¶3–p. 342 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abiram—Opposing God-Appointed Authority Is Tantamount to Opposing Jehovah —*it-1* p. 25, Abiram No. 1 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 63

10 min: "Make Good Use of Older Magazines." Discussion. Inform the congregation of older issues in stock that publishers can obtain for the ministry. Invite audience to relate experiences they have had using older magazines. Before concluding, invite the service overseer to report on the congregation's progress in distributing the Memorial invitations.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 28:20 and 2 Timothy 4:17 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.

Song 135 and Prayer

Make Good Use of Older Magazines

Since older magazines do not benefit anyone when they are stored or thrown away, we should try to place them. A single magazine can spark a person's interest in the truth and move him to begin calling on the name of Jehovah. (Rom. 10:13, 14) The following are some suggestions for putting older magazines to good use.

- When preaching in territories that are not worked frequently, perhaps you can leave one out of sight at not-at-homes.
- When engaging in public witnessing where people are waiting, such as at bus stops or train stations, ask individuals if they would like something to read, show them several older issues of the magazines, and let them choose.

- When visiting laundromats, nursing homes, clinics, or similar places that are within your congregation's territory, leave a few older issues in the waiting area. It is usually good to obtain permission first from the person in charge if he or she is present. If you see a supply of magazines already there, do not leave more.
- When preparing for return visits, consider the interests of each person you plan to visit. Does he have a family? Does he like to travel? Does he enjoy gardening? Look through older issues of the magazines to see if there is an article that he may enjoy reading, and show it to him when you return.
- When you find an interested person at home again after making repeated attempts to contact him, show him some of the older magazines that he missed.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 7

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

c/ chap. 5 ¶¶9-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Exodus 7-10 (10 min.)

No. 1: Exodus 9:20-35 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: In What Manner Will Jesus Return, and How Will Every Eye See Him?—rs p. 342 ¶¶4-p. 343 ¶¶5 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abishai—Be Loyal and Ready to Help Your Brothers—it-1 p. 26 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 124

10 min: Offer the Magazines During April. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end. Conclude by briefly encouraging all to become well-acquainted with the magazines and to share enthusiastically in offering them.

10 min: Do Not Forget Hospitality. (Heb. 13: 1, 2) Talk by an elder. Review local arrangements for the Memorial. Suggest ways that all can show hospitality to visitors and inactive publishers who will be in attendance. Have a brief two-part demonstration. First, show a publisher before the program begins welcoming someone who received an invitation during the campaign. Then, show the publisher after the program concludes making arrangements to follow up on the interest shown by the visitor.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers.” Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 20 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the six new tracts that is appropriate to the needs of the householder.

■ The Memorial will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014. If your congregation normally has a meeting on Monday, it should be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall

is available. If the Service Meeting must be canceled, the coordinator of the body of elders may make adjustments to the schedule so that parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation are considered during the month.

■ The title of the public talk to be given by the circuit overseer during the second half of the 2014 service year is “Rescue From World Distress.”

Sample Presentations

For the Memorial Invitation Campaign

“We’re distributing an invitation to a very important event. On April 14, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and hear a free Bible discourse about how his death benefits us. This invitation shows the location and time of the meeting being held in our community.”

THE  **WATCHTOWER® April 1**
ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

“We’re visiting briefly to discuss something that most people have in common. Almost everyone, regardless of his religion, has prayed. Do you think that prayers are answered by God, or do you think they just make us feel better about our problems? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says about prayer. [Read 1 John 5:14.] This magazine explains how prayer benefits us.”

Awake!® April

“We’re here to provide help for a problem that is becoming all too common. Some people feel so overwhelmed by their situation in life that they have considered suicide. When a person is that distressed, do you think he really wishes to die, or do you think he just wants relief from his suffering? [Allow for response.] Here’s a Bible promise that has helped many to maintain a positive viewpoint. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This magazine outlines three good reasons for a person to keep on living despite his present problems.”

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that in October both Britain and Ireland enjoyed further all-time peaks in regular pioneers. Britain reported 11,947 and Ireland 724. Britain also reported 59,498 home Bible studies and Ireland 3,447.

