

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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For United States of America

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Keep the Kingdom First

¹ Putting God's Kingdom first in life and keeping it there is not easy when we are faced with economic pressures or other problems. How do we keep the Kingdom first when difficulties arise? What if we are offered a job that requires us to miss the meetings or that interferes with our field service? Must the Kingdom then take second place in life?

² Strong Faith Is Necessary: When our faith is tested under such circumstances, we must not lose sight of Jehovah's promise and Jesus' assurance of divine support if we seek first the Kingdom. (Ps. 37:25; Matt. 6:31-34) Worldly influences and pressures could cloud our view and prevent us from keeping the Kingdom paramount. Some have allowed

prospects for prominence on the job or for financial gain to become the main thing in life. However, like Paul, we need to appraise accurately what really counts in life.—Phil. 3:7, 8.

³ Are Adjustments Needed? A publisher said: "My heart was in my business—it was my greatest love. I felt I could still be a Witness while dedicating most of my time to business interests." But she had a nagging feeling that she could do more to serve Jehovah. In time, she gave up the business that was an obstacle to her spiritual progress. Once she wholly devoted herself to the Kingdom work, she was able to say: "Now I feel my life is successful in Jehovah's eyes, which is what really matters."

⁴ commendably, many have given up secular careers and prospects for greater financial returns, simplified their lives, and entered the full-time service. Young, single ministerial servants and elders attending the Ministerial Training School have done this and are enjoying fine privileges of service. Imitating the sterling example of Paul, they are genuinely content with basic material provisions.—1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5.

⁵ While our view of life may be ridiculed by the world, we have Jehovah's blessing. (1 Cor. 1:26-31) Is it not encouraging to know that he will use us as fully as possible and will help us to accomplish his work? Our present opportunity to proclaim God's established Kingdom will never be repeated. So now is the time to keep the Kingdom first in our lives.

'How Will They Hear?'

¹ Jesus emphatically stated: "In all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10) Despite our diligent efforts, there are yet hundreds of millions of people who have not received a personal witness. Some governments restrict our work. Many lands have vast populations that keep growing at a fast pace. Hence, 'how will they hear?'—Rom. 10:14.

² Have Confidence in Jehovah: We must remember that Jehovah knows the heart condition of all people. No matter what a person's situation is, if he sincerely searches for the truth about God, he will find it.—1 Chron. 28:9.

³ Abraham was anxious about the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. But God assured him that Sodom would not be destroyed even if only ten righteous people were found there. (Gen. 18:20, 23, 25, 32) Jehovah has never destroyed the righteous along with the wicked, as was shown by the deliverance of Lot and his daughters.—2 Pet. 2: 6-9.

⁴ Elijah once thought that he was totally alone in serving the true God. However, Jehovah assured him that he was far from being alone and that the work he had begun would be completed. (1 Ki. 19:14-18) What about the situation in our day?

⁵ Stay Busy in God's Service: On how much greater a scale the witness work is yet to be done, we do not know. Jehovah is responsible for this work and is using his angels to oversee it. (Rev. 14:6, 7) He is the one to determine to what extent the witness is to be given to all the nations. If Jehovah chooses, he can see that the Kingdom message is spread in ways that we cannot yet imagine so that many more people may "hear the word of the good news and believe." (Acts 15:7) What Jehovah does will be in full harmony with who he is—a loving, wise, and just God.

⁶ It is our privilege to work in harmony with Jehovah's will, doing our best to let everyone hear the good news.—1 Cor. 9:16.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 14

Song 3

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Discuss the box "New Corporations Formed."

25 min: Benefiting From Kind Provisions. Talk by a qualified elder, based on the December 1, 2001, outline from the branch office. The congregation should have a sufficient quantity of the following items on hand for distribution: Advance Medical Directive/Release card, Identity Card, the health-care durable power of attorney (DPA) form, and the Advance Directive Guide. These documents will be made available to baptized publishers after tonight's meeting, but they should NOT be filled out tonight. Signing, witnessing, and dating of cards will be done at the next Congregation Book Study, with assistance where necessary from the book study conductor. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the individual sign the document. The Advance Directive Guide should be carefully considered before completing the DPA. If you have already executed a DPA, it will not be necessary to complete another one unless your current one is dated prior to 2001 or does not express your present wishes. If a publisher has moved to another state, he should execute a new DPA form for that state. Unbaptized publishers may write out their own directive for themselves and their children by adapting language from these documents to their own circumstances and convictions.

10 min: "What to Say About the Magazines." Demonstrations of how to present the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January 22 *Awake!* Encourage all publishers to support Magazine Day.

Song 55 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 21

Song 104

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss the box "Set Something Aside."

13 min: Are You Examining the Scriptures Daily? A family discussion. To increase the benefits of their daily text discussion, they consider the De-

cember 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, page 18, paragraphs 13-14. Briefly review two or three day texts covered recently, and explain how the information proved to be especially beneficial. Emphasize that this provision should be one part of a program of regular family Bible study designed to keep them spiritually active.

22 min: "Keep the Kingdom First."* Include a few questions on the main points from the September 1, 1998, *Watchtower*, pages 19-21.

Song 168 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 28

Song 196

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Using suggestions on page 8, demonstrate two brief magazine presentations, one using the February 1 *Watchtower* and the other using the February 8 *Awake!* Mention the literature offer for February, highlighting the books that the congregation has in stock.

20 min: "Parents—Train Your Children From Infancy."* Include comments on April 15, 1998, *Watchtower*, page 32. Invite parents to relate good results they have achieved by starting the spiritual training of their children in infancy.

15 min: Local needs. Invite publishers to relate experiences they have had using the *Reasoning* book, offering specific brochures to answer people's questions, or giving Scriptural comfort from the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies*. Perhaps reenact one or two experiences.

Song 202 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 4

Song 212

8 min: Local announcements.

17 min: "How Will They Hear?"* Draw comments from the audience on how the scriptures apply. Include questions for paragraphs 17-18 on page 20 in the August 15, 1998, *Watchtower*.

20 min: "Suggested Field Service Presentations." Audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. This insert contains suggested presentations that have appeared in past

issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, along with some that are new. The blank lines may be used to write in other suggestions that appear in the future and that prove effective in the local territory. Invite audience to tell which presentations they especially like and why. Demonstrate one or two that can be used with the literature offer for February. Encourage all publishers to save this insert and refer to it often when preparing for the ministry.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

"Set Something Aside"

In the early Christian congregation, there were material needs that required attention. As each person prospered, he was urged to "set something aside" as a contribution to meet those needs. (1 Cor. 16:1-3) As a result of their generosity, all rejoiced at giving "many expressions of thanks to God."—2 Cor. 9:11, 12.

Today the worldwide work of Jehovah's people keeps expanding, requiring ever-increasing financial support. It is appropriate that we too "set something aside" regularly to help fill the need. (2 Cor. 8:3, 4) Material giving can be done in a variety of ways. (See the November 1, 2001, *Watchtower*, pages 28-9.) We rightly view this as a privilege that brings real happiness.

—Acts 20:35.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Avg. Hrs.	Avg. Mags.	Avg. R.V.	Avg. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	131	122.1	117.8	57.4 5.2
Pios.	90,200	69.6	51.3	22.2 1.8
Aux. Pios.	26,658	50.8	40.7	13.7 0.9
Pubs.	845,578	9.7	9.0	3.6 0.3
TOTAL	962,567			Baptized: 2,635

Save Suggested Field Service Presentations

How to Use This Insert

Most of the following presentations appeared in past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Try as many as you wish in your witnessing activity, and see what results you obtain. Save this insert, and refer to it when preparing for the ministry.

You may arouse a person's interest in God's Word if you get to the point quickly. Raise a specific question, then read the brief Scriptural answer. You might try these suggestions:

"As you contemplate the future, do you feel hopeful or doubtful? [Allow for response.] The Bible predicted the unsettling events we see today and their outcome."—2 Tim. 3:1, 2, 5; Prov. 2:21, 22.

"There is much concern today about health care. Did you know that God promises that he will permanently solve all health problems?"—Isa. 33:24; Rev. 21:3, 4.

"Did you know that the Bible foretells that eventually there will be only one government ruling the whole world?"—Dan. 2:44; Matt. 6:9, 10.

"What do you think conditions would be like if Jesus Christ ruled the earth?"—Ps. 72:7, 8.

"Many people suffer discrimination because of their gender, religion, or race. How do you think God feels about such prejudice?"—Acts 10:34, 35.

"We know that Jesus Christ performed many miracles in his day. If you could ask him to perform one more miracle, what would it be?"—Ps. 72:12-14, 16.

"Most people are tired of hearing about problems. They want to hear about solutions. But where can we find real solutions to our problems?"—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

"Can you identify the Kingdom that you pray for in the Lord's (or, Our Father) Prayer?"—Rev. 11:15.

Conversation Starters

The list of questions below, compiled from topics in the *Reasoning* book, shows the page number in the book where each answer is found:

Why do we grow old and die? (98)

What is the condition of the dead? (100)

Are there sound reasons for believing in God? (145)

Does God really care what happens to us humans? (147)

Is God a real person? (147)

Do all good people go to heaven? (162)

Must a person go to heaven to have a truly happy future? (163)

Why is it important to know and use God's personal name? (196)

Is Jesus Christ actually God? (212)

What will God's Kingdom accomplish? (227)

What is the purpose of human life? (243)

What can help to improve a marriage? (253)

Are all religions acceptable to God? (322)

How can a person know which religion is right? (328)

How powerful a figure is Satan in today's world? (364)

Why does God permit suffering? (393)

Why is there so much wickedness? (427)

Who rules this world—God or Satan? (436)

Suggestions for Presenting the *Require* Brochure

"No doubt you would agree that many people believe in God. All who do believe in him agree that God requires something from us. What people cannot agree on is, What does God require of us?" Then present the *Require* brochure, turn to lesson 1, and discuss it.

"With so many problems in family life today, have you ever wondered what is the secret for achieving family happiness?" After a response, explain that in the Bible, God reveals the real secret of family happiness. Read Isaiah 48:17. Then turn to lesson 8 in the *Require* brochure, and point to some of the cited Bible verses that provide reliable guidance for each member of the family. Read the list of questions at the beginning of the lesson. Ask if the person would like to read the answers.

"This brochure contains a well-rounded-out study course covering the basic teachings of the Bible. On each page, you will find answers to questions that have troubled people for centuries. For example, What is God's purpose for the earth?" Turn to lesson 5, and read the questions at the start of the lesson. Ask the householder which one interests him the most, and then read the corresponding paragraph(s), looking up appropriate scriptures. Explain that satisfying answers to the other questions can be found just as easily as this one. Suggest that you return again to discuss another question.

"What do you think is the reason for all the violence in public schools? Does it result from a lack of parental training? Or could it be something else, such as the influence of the Devil?" Allow for a response. If the person says that it is because of the Devil's influence, read Revelation 12:9, 12. Point out the Devil's role in promoting turmoil in the world. Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 4, and ask if the person ever wondered where the Devil came from. Proceed to read and discuss the first two paragraphs. If the person chooses "a lack of parental training" as the reason for violence in the schools, read 2 Timothy 3:1-3 and point out the traits that evidently contribute to this problem. Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 8, read paragraph 5, and continue the discussion.

"Do you think it is reasonable to expect that the Creator would give us the knowledge we need to build a successful family life?" After a response, introduce the *Require* brochure. Turn to lesson 8, and explain that it contains principles from the Bible for every member of the family. Offer to demonstrate how to use the brochure with the Bible to get the greatest benefit.

"With all the challenges we face in modern-day life, do you feel that prayer can be of real help to us? [Allow for response.] Many say that prayer gives them inner strength. [Read Philippians 4:6, 7.] Even so, a person may feel that his prayers go unanswered. [Open the *Require* brochure to lesson 7.] This brochure explains how prayer can be of the most benefit to us."

"We have been talking to our neighbors about why there are so many different religions in the world. Yet, there is only one Bible. In your opinion, why does this confusion of religions exist? [Allow for response. Open the *Require* brochure to lesson 13, and read the opening questions.] You will receive satisfying answers to those questions by reading this lesson."

After placing the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines with a person, ask if you might read to him one short paragraph. If allowed to do so, open the *Require* brochure to lesson 5. Point out the questions listed at the start of the lesson, and ask him to listen for the answer to the first question as you read the opening paragraph. After reading the paragraph, ask the question and get his response. Offer the brochure, and if it is accepted, arrange to return to get his responses to the next two questions in the list.

Suggestions for Presenting the Knowledge Book

With the Bible in hand, begin by saying: "We are sharing a scripture with everyone on your street today. It states . . ." Read John 17:3, and then ask: "Did you notice what is promised if we have the right kind of knowledge? [Allow for response.] Where would a person find such knowledge?" After a response, show the *Knowledge* book, and say: "This book points to the knowledge that leads to everlasting life. It does so by answering the most common questions that people have about the Bible." Show the table of contents, and ask the person if he has ever wondered about any of those subjects.

"Have you ever wondered if God is really concerned about the injustice and suffering that we see around us or even experience ourselves? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God loves us and that he will help us through times of distress." Read portions of Psalm 72:12-17. Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 8, and point out that it gives a comforting answer to a question that millions have asked, Why does God permit suffering? If possible, discuss some of the Scriptural thoughts covered in paragraphs 3 to 5, or do so on the return visit.

"Most of us have lost loved ones in death. Have you ever wondered whether we will see them again? [Allow for response.] Jesus proved that our loved ones can be rescued from death. [Read John 11:11, 25, 44.] Even though this took place centuries ago, it demonstrates what God has promised to do for us." Open the *Knowledge* book to the picture on page 85, and read the caption. Then show the picture on page 86, and comment on it. Lay the groundwork for the next visit by asking: "Would you like to know the reason why humans grow old and die?" Return to discuss chapter 6.

"Have you ever thought about why humans yearn for a longer life?" After a response, open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 6, and read paragraph 3. Reason on the cited scriptures. Referring to the two questions at the end of the paragraph, ask the person if he would like to see the answers for himself. If the response is favorable, discuss the next few paragraphs.

"We are asking people if they believe this . . ." Read Genesis 1:1, and then ask: "Do you agree with that statement?" If the person agrees, then say: "I do too. However, do you think that if God created all things, he is also responsible for wickedness?" After acknowledging the person's response, read Ecclesiastes 7:29. Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 8, and read paragraph 2. If he does not agree with Genesis 1:1, urge him to examine the evidence that the Creator exists.—See *Reasoning* book, pages 84-6.

"Would you agree that with today's moral values changing so rapidly, we need a reliable guide in life? [Allow for response.] Although it is the oldest of books, the Bible gives practical counsel for modern living and happy family life." Then turn to chapter 2 in the *Knowledge* book, and read paragraph 10 and the first sentence of paragraph 11, including 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

"Would you like to know what the future holds for us and for the earth? [Allow for response.] The Bible sums up the future in one word—Paradise! That is where God put the first human couple when he created them. Notice this description of what it must have been like." Open the *Knowledge* book to page 8, and read paragraph 9, under the subheading "Life in Paradise." Then discuss the points in paragraph 10, and read the cited scripture, Isaiah 55:10, 11. Offer to continue the discussion of what life in the restored Paradise will be like, covering paragraphs 11-16.

When making return visits on those with whom you placed the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, you might say this:

"The last time I called, I was pleased to leave with you a copy of the *Watchtower* magazine. Perhaps you noticed that the full title of the journal is *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*. Today I would like to explain what this Kingdom is and what it can mean for you and your family." Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 6, and read and discuss as much as the person has time for.

"I visited you recently and left copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. These journals build respect for the Bible and its moral guidance. Because I feel it is essential for everyone to understand God's Word, I came back to show you something that will help you to do that." Introduce the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book, and offer a Bible study.

When featuring any of the older 192-page books, you might try this presentation:

"Much emphasis has been placed on the need for quality education. In your opinion, what kind of education should a person pursue to ensure the greatest happiness and success in life? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 9:10, 11.] This handbook [give the title of the book you are offering] is based on the Bible. It points to the only source of knowledge that can lead to everlasting life." Show a specific example in the book, and encourage the person to read it.

Other Publications

Suggested presentations for additional books and brochures can be found in the *Watch Tower Publications Index* under:

Presentations

List by Publication

If you have found an effective presentation that gets results in cultivating interest, by all means continue to use it! Simply adapt it to the literature offer for the current month.

The Direct Approach

To start a Bible study, try using one of these direct approaches:

"Did you know that in just a few minutes, you can find the answer to an important Bible question? For example, . . ." Then, pose a question that appears at the beginning of one of the lessons in the *Require* brochure and that you think would appeal to the individual.

"I stopped by to show you our free Bible study program. It takes about five minutes to demonstrate. Do you have five minutes?" If the answer is yes, use lesson 1 in the *Require* brochure to demonstrate the study, reading only one or two selected scriptures. Afterward, ask: "When would you have about 15 minutes so that we can cover the next lesson?"

"Many people have a Bible, but they do not realize that it holds the answers to the important questions we all have about our future. Using this study aid [the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book] for an hour or so a week, you can gain a basic understanding of the Bible in just a few months. I would be happy to show you how the program works."

"I'm calling to offer you a free home Bible course. If I may, I'd like to take just a few minutes to demonstrate how people in some 200 lands discuss the Bible at home as family groups. We can use any of these topics as a basis for discussion. [Show the table of contents in the *Knowledge* book.] Which one especially interests you?" Wait for the person to make a selection. Turn to the chapter that is chosen, and start the study in the first paragraph.

"I give Bible lessons free of charge and have openings in my schedule for additional students. This Bible study aid is what we use. [Show the *Knowledge* book.] The course lasts only a few months and provides answers to such questions as: Why does God permit suffering? Why do we grow old and die? What happens to our dead loved ones? And how can we draw close to God? May I demonstrate a lesson?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **January**: Any 192-page book published prior to 1987 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February**: *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any older 192-page book that the congregation has in stock.
- **March**: *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies.
- **April**: The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Offer the *Require* brochure, with a view to starting Bible studies.
- All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 14 may obtain the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.
- Starting in February, and no later than March 3, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Finding Security in a Dangerous World."
- As announced at the 2001 district convention, the new book *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* will be made available beginning early in 2002. Starting January 1, 2002, literature requests for this book in English, Korean, and Spanish can be submitted through the congregations. Until it is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Additional languages will be announced later.
- Congregations should make convenient arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Thursday, March 28, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown*. Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial observance, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion, allowing time to meet visitors and encourage newly interested ones. Consideration should be given to traffic

conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

- Researchers and others have contacted a number of brothers, seeking information about Jehovah's Witnesses and our organization. They have requested that survey forms be completed, supplying answers to questions related to our beliefs and teachings. If such individuals approach a congregation publisher, he should provide the name of the presiding overseer. The elders can handle such inquiries and make an appropriate response based on a letter addressed to all bodies of elders, dated April 25, 2001.
- When the presiding overseer receives the New York Corporation Statement each month, he should see that all acknowledgments of contributions for the Society Kingdom Hall Fund and for the worldwide work are read to the congregation with the next accounts report.
- *Awake!* in Chinese and Simplified Chinese is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.
- *Awake!* in Cibemba is being changed from a monthly to a quarterly edition.
- *The Watchtower* in Armenian is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.

- Beginning with the January 2002 issues, *The Watchtower* (semimonthly) and *Awake!* (monthly) will be available in both Papiamento (Curaçao) and Papiamento (Aruba).
- Beginning with the January 2002 issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Mauritian Creole as a monthly edition.
- Beginning with the January 1, 2002, issue, a large-print edition of *The Watchtower* will be available in Croatian and in Norwegian.
- *Awake!* in Zulu is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.

- New Publications Available:
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I —Indonesian, Macedonian
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I—Large Print —Chinese Simplified (Pinyin), French, Greek, Polish

- *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* —Afrikaans, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified)
- New Videocassettes Available:
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 4—American Sign Language

New Corporations Formed

The January 15, 2001, issue of *The Watchtower* reported on the organized way in which Jehovah's Witnesses are continuing to move forward with the Kingdom work in all the earth. It also explained how various legal entities are used as instruments to facilitate the spreading of the good news. Such entities or corporations are necessary to conform to local and national laws, as required by God's Word. (Rom. 13:1) Because of the diversity and scope of our work, the Governing Body has approved the formation of additional corporations to care for certain needs of Jehovah's Witnesses here in the United States. The new corporations are as follows:

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Religious Order of Jehovah's Witnesses

Kingdom Support Services, Inc.

These will operate along with Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. Congregations and publishers may receive correspondence from any of these corporations. Your co-operation with these adjustments made by the Governing Body in fulfilling its assignment to care for all the Master's belongings will be greatly appreciated.

—Matt. 24:45-47.

Parents —Train Your Children From Infancy

¹ “Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it.” (Prov. 22:6) Parents, if you do not want your children to “turn aside from” the way of the truth, when should such training begin? Early in life!

² When Paul said that Timothy’s spiritual education was “from infancy,” evidently he meant from babyhood. (2 Tim. 3: 14, 15) As a result, Timothy developed into an excellent spiritual man. (Phil. 2:19-22) Parents, you too must start “from infancy” to give your children the training they need to ‘grow up with Jehovah.’—1 Sam. 2:21.

³ **Supply the Water They Need to Grow:** Just as saplings need a constant supply of water to grow into stately trees, children of all ages need to be saturated with the water of Bible truth to grow into mature servants of God. The primary way to teach children the truth and to help them gain an intimacy with Jehovah is by means of a regular, family Bible study. But parents, consider each child’s attention span. For young children, likely frequent abbreviated sessions of instruction would be more effective than a few long ones.—Deut. 11:18, 19.

⁴ Never underestimate your children’s potential to learn. Tell them stories about Bible characters. Let them draw pictures of Bible scenes or act out Bible events. Make good use of our videos and audiocassettes, including the Bible dramas. Adapt the family study to the ages and learning abilities of your children. Initial training will be elementary, in small amounts; but as a child grows older, his training should be-

come more expansive and progressive. Make Bible instruction lively and varied. You want your children to “form a longing” for the Word, so make the study as tasty as you can.—1 Pet. 2:2.

⁵ **Involve Them in the Congregation:** Set progressive goals for your children so that they become fully involved in the congregation. What might be their first goal? The parents of two young children said: “Both started to receive training to sit quietly in the Kingdom Hall.” Later, help children to comment at the meetings in their own words and to make it their goal to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School. In the field service, good goals to be achieved would be to offer a tract at the door, to read a scripture, to give a magazine presentation, and to engage householders in meaningful conversations.

⁶ **Provide an Enthusiastic Example:** Do your children daily hear you speak about Jehovah and pray to him? Do they see you study his Word, attend meetings, share in the field ministry, and find delight in doing God’s will? (Ps. 40:8) It is vital that they do and that you do these things together. A grown daughter said of her mother, who had reared six children to become faithful Witnesses: “What impressed us the most was Mother’s own example—it spoke louder than words.” A parent of four stated: “‘Jehovah comes first’ was not just a common phrase but the way we lived our lives.”

⁷ Parents, start early to train your children, teaching them the truth from God’s Word, setting progressive goals, and providing the best possible example. You will be happy you did!

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Jan. 15 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Many people use images in their worship. Do you think that such objects have saving powers? [Allow for response.] Please note what the true God will do for us. [Read Revelation 21: 3, 4.] Only a God who is real can accomplish that. This magazine shows who he is and how we can benefit from putting our trust in him.”

Awake!® Jan. 22

“We may take it for granted that we have a place to call home. But millions of refugees the world over wander helplessly, never finding the security they seek. *Awake!* examines why this problem exists as well as the Bible’s promise that someday everyone will have a home to call his own.”

THE WATCHTOWER Feb. 1 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“There is much concern about pollution of the environment. But have you ever thought about pollution of the mind? [Allow for response.] The Bible emphasizes the importance of being clean both physically and spiritually. [Read 2 Corinthians 7:1.] I am sure you will find this information helpful and practical.”

Awake!® Feb. 8

“No doubt you’ve seen that while marriages usually get off to a joyful start, many break up. I’d like to leave this issue of *Awake!* with you, as it discusses the Bible’s view on how to make a marriage lasting and happy.”