

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2014

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 10

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

c/ chap. 15 ¶20-23, box on p. 157 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 19-22 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 22:20-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Sin's Effect on Our Relationship With God—rs p. 374 ¶2–p. 375 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adoption—Jehovah Adopts Spiritual Sons by Means of Christ Jesus—*it-1* p. 51 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 12

10 min: Interview the Service Overseer. What does caring for your assignment involve? When visiting a field service group, what do you try to accomplish? How can those in the group gain the most benefit from your visit? How do you assist individual publishers who approach you to receive help with a particular aspect of the ministry?

20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Showing Personal Interest." Discussion. After discussing the article, have a two-part demonstration. First, have a publisher present the offer for the month without showing personal interest. Then, demonstrate the situation again, this time with the publisher showing personal interest.

Song 84 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Showing Personal Interest

Why Important: Jesus viewed people as individuals, and he showed loving personal interest in them. For example, on one occasion Jesus may have sensed some uneasiness in a deaf man, so when he healed him, he did so privately, away from the stares of the crowd. (Mark 7:31-35) He showed consideration for his disciples by recognizing their limitations and not overwhelming them with too

much information. (John 16:12) Even in his heavenly position, Jesus shows personal interest. (2 Tim. 4:17) As followers of Christ, we want to imitate him. (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 3:16, 18) Furthermore, we will be more effective in our ministry if we show consideration for the householder and take note of his unique circumstances, his interests, and his concerns. He will be more likely to listen if he senses that we are not just on a mission to deliver a message or to leave literature; rather, we are interested in him personally.

How to Do It:

- Be well-prepared. Relax, smile, and be friendly.
- Be observant. Do you see indications that the person has children? that he enjoys gardening or has pets? that he has certain religious beliefs? Perhaps you can tailor your introduction to fit his circumstances.
- Ask for his opinion, and listen carefully without needlessly interrupting. Maintain eye contact to show that you are listening. Acknowledge his comments, and commend him if you can do so sincerely. Avoid being argumentative.
- Be adaptable. If necessary, adjust your presentation to address the person's concerns. This may be easier than you think, since our tracts, brochures, and magazines discuss a wide variety of subjects. If you have called at an inopportune time, such as when he is busy, acknowledge that and shorten your presentation.

Try This During the Month:

- Have practice sessions during family worship, or perhaps while in the ministry, in which the publisher must adapt his presentation to address something the householder says.
- During some meetings for field service, the brother conducting could discuss or demonstrate ways to show personal interest.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 17

Song 26 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

c/ chap. 16 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 23-27 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 25:17–26:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What the Bible Says About the Soul—*rs* p. 375 ¶4—p. 376 ¶4 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Adornment as Described in the Scriptures—*it-1* p. 51 ¶4-7 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 118

10 min: What's a Real Friend? Discussion based on the whiteboard animation *What's a Real Friend?* (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS.) Begin by playing the video for the audience. Afterward, use these questions as the basis for the discussion: (1) What is a real friend? (2) What should you look for in a potential friend? (3) How can you find a good friend? (4) What kind of effort do you need to put forth to make your friendships grow?

10 min: Love Identifies Us. (John 13:35) Discussion based on the 2014 Yearbook, page 48, paragraph 1, to page 49, paragraph 3; and page 69, paragraph 1, to page 70, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: "An Exciting and Fresh Approach to Public Witnessing." Questions and answers. If the congregation has areas of high pedestrian traffic, interview the service overseer regarding local arrangements for public witnessing and invite the audience to relate experiences.

Song 92 and Prayer

An Exciting and Fresh Approach to Public Witnessing

¹ Congregations that have areas of high pedestrian traffic have been encouraged to organize public witnessing, using tables or mobile displays.

1. What have congregations with areas of high pedestrian traffic been encouraged to do?

If a mobile display is used, at least one publisher stands or sits next to the display. However, two publishers should man a table display. Those stationed at the displays endeavor to be warm, friendly, and inviting. If a person gives his attention to the display, one of the publishers can start a conversation, perhaps by saying, "Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about that subject?" Another publisher or two can be within eyesight of the display while engaging in informal witnessing.

² This approach has resulted in many new Bible studies. One college student chose to write a research paper on Jehovah's Witnesses, but she was unable to find a Kingdom Hall. The next week she saw a table display on the campus. A Bible study was started, and now that student is a baptized publisher and participates in this form of witnessing herself.

³ One sister who has enjoyed this form of public witnessing commented: "Some stop at the display to pick up the current magazines. Others have never heard of Jehovah's Witnesses before. I can see that with this approach, many can be reached." Another sister remarked, "This is an exciting, fresh method of witnessing because the people *come to you* and, at the very least, they are curious."

⁴ It is beneficial to set up the display at the same location, on the same days, and at the same times each week. As a result, people get used to seeing the displays and eventually feel comfortable enough to approach and ask questions or obtain literature. Has your congregation organized public witnessing? If so, perhaps you can participate in this enjoyable and fruitful way to "declare abroad the Kingdom of God."—Luke 9:60.

2. Relate an experience that illustrates the value of public witnessing with a literature display.

3. How do some feel about this avenue of public witnessing?

4. Why is it beneficial to set up a literature display at the same times and location each week?

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 24

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

c/ chap. 16 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-31 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 30:15–31:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Animals Are Souls—*rs* p. 376 ¶5–p. 377 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Christian Counsel on Personal Adornment—*it-1* p. 51 ¶8–p. 52 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 47

10 min: “Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —‘Bible Questions Answered.’” Discussion. Relate some of the questions that are answered in this section of our Web site. (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.) Briefly demonstrate one of the suggestions from the article. Invite the audience to suggest other ways to use this feature in the ministry.

10 min: “I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!” Discussion. Consider why it is important to persevere when it is difficult to find a person at home again.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 3:6.

10 min: “A New Research Tool.” Talk. Review the instructions on “How to Start Your Search,” located in the introduction of the *Research Guide*. Highlight the various features of this new tool. Include a brief soliloquy of a publisher using the *Research Guide*.

Song 69 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —“Bible Questions Answered”

The “Bible Teachings” section of jw.org has a feature called “Bible Questions Answered.” If we are familiar with these frequently asked questions, we can direct inquiring householders to our Web site for Scriptural answers. These questions can also be used to start conversations in the ministry. We could pick a question that is of interest to people in our territory, ask the householder for his opinion, and then tell him what the Bible says, using the reasoning from jw.org. Afterward,

we can explain or show him where we found our information. Another option is to let him read the answer directly from the Web site. The wife of a traveling overseer has had good success by saying: “Many people wonder, ‘Is God to blame for our suffering?’ Would you like to know the answer in just 51 seconds?” She then plays the audio version of the answer that she has downloaded to her mobile device. She concludes by introducing chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book.

“I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!”

Have you ever said that about someone who showed interest? Even though you have repeatedly tried to visit the person, you are unable to water the seed of truth you planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) At times, experienced publishers write a letter to someone they have not been able to find at home, or they leave a note in the person’s door. Some publishers anticipate the challenge of finding the person at home again and request his phone number, perhaps by asking, “Do you text?” A return visit may be counted when we visit the person or witness to him by means of a letter, an e-mail, a text, a note left in his door, or a telephone call. Even if he is seldom at home, it is possible for us to further his interest.

A New Research Tool

Millions of publishers earth wide have made good use of the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to do research. However, because it is very detailed, it is available in only a limited number of languages. Therefore, the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses* has been prepared in some 170 languages. The publications referenced in the *Research Guide* are primarily from the year 2000 onward. The *Research Guide* has not been printed in languages that already have the *Index* but is included in electronic format in *Watchtower Library* and *Watchtower—ONLINE LIBRARY*. The *Research Guide* will help you search for answers to Bible questions, find information regarding personal concerns, and prepare for congregation meetings and family worship.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 1

Song 48 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

c/ chap. 16 ¶18-22, box on p. 167 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 32-34 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 32:22-35 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: At Death, Neither Soul Nor Spirit Continues Living—*rs* p. 377 ¶4—p. 379 ¶6 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adultery—To Commit Adultery Is to Sin Against God—*it-1* p. 53 ¶4—p. 54 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 128

10 min: Offer the Magazines During December. Discussion. Demonstrate the three sample presentations on this page. After each presentation, invite comments from the audience on why the subject being featured may appeal to some in the territory.

10 min: Local needs.

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—Showing Personal Interest.” Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 119 and Prayer

Announcements

■ **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February:** *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?*

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to “Watchtower.” The branch office’s financial address is Watchtower, c/o Accounting Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. If you would like to donate electronically, ask your congregation secretary about the July 8, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in December

“We are here as a public service to families. Many parents want their children to love God. Do you think this is something that parents can teach their children, or must children learn to love God on their own?” Allow for response. Show the back of the December 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® December 1 ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

“We are making brief visits to talk about God. We know that everyone has his own opinion about God. Do you think that most people view him as an impersonal force of nature or as a friend who cares about them personally? [Allow for response.] This Bible verse tells us what kind of relationship God wants us to have with him. [Read James 4:8a.] This magazine outlines three things that we can do to feel closer to God.”

Awake!® December

“We are visiting briefly because of concern over a common health problem. According to the World Health Organization, mental disorders, such as depression, will affect one in four people at some point in their lives. Do you think that mental disorders are becoming more common? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives us hope that in the future, life on earth will be free of illness and pain. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This magazine outlines a few things that everyone should know about mental disorders.”

Field Service Highlights

From January through May 2014, publishers sharing in the special metropolitan public witnessing program have started 3,598 Bible studies and placed 70,698 books and 149,507 magazines. As of May 2014 this program was active in the following 13 cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Juan (Puerto Rico), Seattle, Spanish Town (Jamaica), and Washington, D.C. May we individually take advantage of every opportunity to preach the good news.—Rom. 10:14.

