



“Fully
Accomplish
Your Ministry”

—2 Timothy 4:5



In the Pioneer Service School course, you will be helped to . . .

- strengthen your relationship with our Grand Instructor, Jehovah God, and with the Head of the congregation, Christ Jesus.
- abound in love for the whole association of brothers.
- become more effective in all aspects of your ministry.
- be more aware of Bible principles and better equipped to apply them.



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“Fully Accomplish Your Ministry”

—2 Timothy 4:5

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“Fully Accomplish Your Ministry”—2 Timothy 4:5
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Table of Contents

		Page
Unit 1 (a)	Explanation of Pioneer Service School Course.....	3
Unit 1 (b)	Fortify Your Relationship With Jehovah.....	6
Unit 2 (a)	Using the <i>New World Translation</i> —Part 1.....	11
Unit 2 (b)	Using the <i>New World Translation</i> —Part 2.....	16
Unit 3 (a)	Keep Pace With Spiritual Enlightenment.....	20
Unit 3 (b)	Pioneer Service School Review—Day 1.....	26
Unit 4 (a)	Uphold Jehovah’s Sovereignty.....	30
Unit 4 (b)	Show Personal Interest in Others.....	35
Unit 5 (a)	From House to House—Our Principal Way of Preaching.....	41
Unit 5 (b)	Workshop 1: From House to House—Our Principal Way of Preaching.....	45
Unit 6 (a)	Women Who Make Jehovah’s Heart Rejoice.....	47
Unit 6 (b)	Pioneer Service School Review—Day 2.....	53
Unit 7 (a)	Benefit From Counsel and Direction.....	56
Unit 7 (b)	Resist “the Spirit of the World”.....	62
Unit 8 (a)	Walk in the Way of Integrity.....	67
Unit 8 (b)	Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry.....	72
Unit 9 (a)	Workshop 2: Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry.....	79
Unit 9 (b)	Pioneer Service School Review—Day 3.....	80
Unit 10 (a)	Appreciate Jesus’ Role.....	84
Unit 10 (b)	Think in Terms of Bible Principles.....	88
Unit 11 (a)	Examine Your Spiritual Progress.....	93
Unit 11 (b)	Make Effective Return Visits.....	100
Unit 12 (a)	Workshop 3: Make Effective Return Visits.....	108
Unit 12 (b)	Pioneer Service School Review—Day 4.....	109
Unit 13 (a)	Learn From the Master.....	112
Unit 13 (b)	Conduct Progressive Bible Studies—Part 1.....	116
Unit 14 (a)	Conduct Progressive Bible Studies—Part 2.....	121
Unit 14 (b)	Workshop 4: Conduct Progressive Bible Studies.....	126
Unit 15 (a)	Help Others “Press On to Maturity”.....	128
Unit 15 (b)	Pioneer Service School Review—Day 5.....	133
Unit 16 (a)	The Joy of Jehovah Is Your Stronghold.....	136
Unit 16 (b)	Jehovah Blesses Those Trusting in Him.....	141
Unit 17 (a)	Persevere in Prayer.....	146
Unit 17 (b)	Endurance Leads to an Approved Condition.....	151
Unit 18	Students’ Comments and Concluding Lectures.....	157
	Instructor B Lecture	
	Instructor A Lecture	
	Conclusion	

Explanation of Pioneer Service School Course

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jehovah is the “Grand Instructor.” (Isa. 30:20) He began teaching after he created his firstborn Son. (John 8:28) Following Adam’s rebellion, Jehovah did not stop teaching, but He lovingly provided instruction for imperfect humans. He wanted people to be educated. (Isa. 48:17, 18; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15) He commanded family heads to instruct their households in his Law. Arrangements were made for joyous conventions that included a public reading of God’s Law. (Deut. 4:10; 6:4-9) During the first century C.E., Christians likewise met together and made good use of God’s inspired Word. (1 Cor. 14:23-31) In modern times, “the faithful and discreet slave” has made available an abundance of spiritual food to educate God’s people. (Matt. 24:45-47) This has included congregation meetings, assemblies, conventions, and various schools, such as the Pioneer Service School.

During this course, you will be helped to . . .

- strengthen your relationship with our Grand Instructor, Jehovah God, and with the Head of the Christian congregation, Christ Jesus. (John 17:3)
- abound in love for the whole association of brothers. (1 Pet. 2:17)
- become more effective in all aspects of your ministry. (2 Tim. 3:17)

- be more aware of Bible principles and better equipped to apply them. (Col. 1:9, 10)

This course includes 40 hours of classroom discussions, demonstrations, and workshops designed to help you sharpen your skills as a pioneer. The workshops will present practical application of what is discussed in class. You may receive an assignment for a demonstration, an interview, or a soliloquy for one of the designated units. The instructor will assign these in advance, so that they can be well prepared and rehearsed. You will receive additional information if you are asked to participate.

You have received your personal copy of the Pioneer Service School textbook in advance of your scheduled week of instruction. Use this time to become familiar with the textbook. Space is provided in the margins for your personal notes.

Study and meditate on the lessons, the questions, and the Scriptures before they are considered in class. The questions will help you cultivate thinking ability. Analyze the scriptures carefully. Endeavor to understand the Bible principles involved. Get sufficient rest during the week of school. This will help you to be alert for class discussions each day.

◆ *Read Luke 6:38b.*

To a large degree, what you get out of this Pioneer Service School will depend on what you put into it.—*w80 6/15 p. 12 pars. 5-6.*

We encourage your participation in classroom sessions. The other pioneers will benefit from your ex-

pressions and experiences, just as you will benefit from theirs. In this way, the course will prove to be a genuine “interchange of encouragement.” (Rom. 1:11, 12) There is no reason for you to be fearful of or apprehensive about attending the school. There are no written tests. You will benefit from the school by doing your best and not comparing yourself with others.—Gal. 6:4.

Throughout the entire course of the school, you should have in mind making personal application of the information being considered. You would do well to ask yourself such questions as: ‘How does this information apply to me personally? What Bible principles are involved, and how can I apply them? How can I use what I am learning to make my service more effective? How can this help me in my dealings with my brothers and sisters in the congregation? How will it enrich my relationship with Jehovah?’—Prov. 9:9.

We are certain that you will highly esteem the privilege you have of attending the Pioneer Service School. With Jehovah’s blessing, the school will provide lasting encouragement and much practical assistance. As a result, may you be equipped to do the work of a skilled “evangelizer” and “fully accomplish your ministry.”—2 Tim. 4:5.

Fortify Your Relationship With Jehovah

OPENING DISCUSSION

Nothing in life is more important than our relationship with Jehovah. King David, expressing appreciation for his close friendship with God, said: “Because your loyal love is better than life, my own lips will glorify you.” (Ps. 63:3) What did David mean by saying that God’s loyal love was “better than life?” David appreciated that intimacy with the Giver of life is what makes living truly meaningful.

Is that how you feel? Think back to the moment you first came to understand God’s love. What effect did it have on your life? Do you remember the first time you realized that life does have a purpose? How grateful you were to Jehovah! The apostle John wrote: “We love, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) Your deep love for Jehovah motivated you to make a dedication to him and symbolize it by water immersion. You realize that nothing has been more satisfying than ‘glorifying God with your own lips.’

The love of God in our heart can be likened to a living thing. Like a beautiful plant, love needs to be nourished and cared for if it is to grow and to thrive. When neglected or deprived of nourishment, love weakens and dies. Our Exemplar, Jesus, did not take his love for Jehovah for granted. He kept it strong throughout his earthly sojourn. (*cf* p. 132 par. 11) How can we continue to strengthen our relationship with Jehovah?

QUESTION OUTLINE

Study and Meditation

How does Isaiah's prophecy reveal the role of divine education in forging a close relationship between Jehovah and his only-begotten Son? (Isa. 50:4, 5)

What should be our goal when engaging in personal study? (Matt. 22:37)

What did Jehovah require of Israel's kings? (Deut. 17:18-20)

In these verses, what beneficial reasons are given for daily Bible reading?

How can we cultivate a desire for Bible reading and personal study? (1 Pet. 2:2)

Why does daily Bible reading draw you closer to God? (Josh. 1:8; 2 Chron. 15:2)

How would you define meditation, and on what should profitable meditation be focused? (Ps. 19:14; 77:12; 1 Tim. 4:13-15; *it-2* p. 363)

Why is "coming to know" God more than just an academic or intellectual study? (John 17:3; *w13* 10/15 p. 27 par. 7)

How does the example of Samuel illustrate what it means to "come to know" Jehovah? (1 Sam. 3:7; *w10* 10/1 pp. 14-18)

What benefits come from investigating deep Bible truths? (Acts 4:13; Heb. 5:12-14)

What should be our attitude about deeper Scriptural teachings? (Ps. 25:4)

Why is dependence on “the faithful and discreet slave” so important in our grasping deeper Bible truths? (Matt. 24:45; Acts 8:26-31; *w13* 7/15 pp. 15-19)

How did Jesus demonstrate exemplary appreciation for God’s Word? (Matt. 4:4; Heb. 12:2)

How can reflecting on creation fortify our relationship with God? (Rom. 1:20; *w13* 8/1 p. 11)

- ◆ Pondering Jehovah’s actions, qualities, and expressions of his will does more than help you retain facts. The habit of such meditative thinking will impress spiritual truths on your heart. It will mold the sort of person you are inside and help you fortify your relationship with God.

Showing Our Love for Jehovah

What is the connection between knowledge and love? (Phil. 1:9, 10)

What indicates that our love for Jehovah is shown not only by the intensity of our feelings but also through our actions? (1 John 2:5; 5:3)

Use scriptures from the following list to explain how we show that our love for God is genuine.

Romans 10:10

2 Corinthians 7:1

Ephesians 4:15

1 Timothy 1:5

Hebrews 10:23-25

1 John 3:17, 18

How do we benefit from Jesus' example of love and obedience?

How can we express heartfelt love for Jehovah in the way we use his name? (John 17:6-8, 26)

How can we apply Jesus' counsel about maintaining intense love for Jehovah? (Rev. 2:1-5)

What does our obedience reveal about our relationship with Jehovah?

- ◆ Godly devotion pertains to how you feel about Jehovah. If you cultivate the kind of feeling for Jehovah that you would have for a beloved father, then deeds of godly devotion will follow.

Draw Close to God Through Prayer

Why should we view prayer as a precious privilege? (Ps. 145:18, 19; Phil. 4:6, 7)

How important was prayer to Jesus? (Mark 14:36; *cf* p. 134 pars. 14-15)

How does regular prayer to Jehovah help us strengthen our relationship with him? (Jas. 4:8; *w14* 2/15 p. 25 pars. 18-21)

Why is it good to be alert to Jehovah's answers to our prayers? (*w02* 10/15 p. 17 par. 16)

What shows that Jesus did not rely on his own strength to endure trials? (Matt. 4:7, 10; *w12* 2/15 p. 7 pars. 16-17; *cf* p. 72 pars. 15-16)

When we pray, how can we show confidence in Jehovah, as Jesus did? (John 11:41, 42; Heb. 11:6)

- ◆ True friends are interested in each other. As they freely express their thoughts, concerns, and feelings, their friendship becomes stronger. Prayer gives you the opportunity to express your thoughts and innermost feelings to your loving heavenly Father, Jehovah.

Continue Fortifying Your Relationship With Jehovah

Read Romans 11:33-36.

As a pioneer, you have countless opportunities to search through Jehovah’s wonderful ways. May this Pioneer Service School assist you in your ongoing efforts to fortify your relationship with Jehovah.

Using the *New World Translation*—Part 1

OPENING DISCUSSION

Are you using the *New World Translation* effectively in your ministry? Are you recommending it to others and helping them to benefit from its many features? The discussion that follows will deepen your appreciation for this wonderful tool and encourage you to utilize it thoroughly in the field and in your personal study. —2 Tim. 2:15.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Superiority of the Translation

Why was there a need for a new translation? (*ju* p. 608 par. 1)

What steps were taken to produce the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures*? (*ju* p. 607 par. 5)

When and where was this new translation released? (*si* p. 324 pars. 18-19)

What was involved in translating the Hebrew Scriptures, and when were the volumes released? How long did it take to produce the entire *New World Translation*? (*ju* p. 609 pars. 2-3)

Why was there a need for a revised edition of the *New World Translation*? What was the goal of the New World Bible Translation Committee? (*nwt* p. 39)

APPENDIX A

A1 Principles of Bible Translation

What are some of the reasons given as to why a strict, word-for-word translation is not always the most accurate translation? (*nwt* p. 1718)

Give some examples of how a word-for-word translation can be misunderstood. (*nwt* pp. 1718-1720)

How might doctrinal bias affect a translator’s work? (*nwt* p. 1720)

What liberties have some translators taken regarding Jehovah’s name? (*nwt* p. 1721)

Should the revised English *New World Translation* be considered a paraphrased edition? (*nwt* p. 1721)

What must a reliable translation accomplish? (*nwt* p. 1721)

A2 Features of This Revision

Why have a number of style and vocabulary changes been made in the revised edition? (*nwt* p. 1722)

Give examples of the following adjustments:

- Use of modern, understandable language (*nwt* p. 1722)
- Biblical expressions clarified (*nwt* pp. 1723-1724)
- Enhanced readability (*nwt* p. 1724)

- Conveying the correct idea of words involving gender (*nwt* p. 1724)
- Omission of indicators for second person plural (*nwt* pp. 1724-1725)

A3 How the Bible Came to Us

What is one reason why manuscripts needed to be copied? (*nwt* p. 1726 ftn.)

Who were the Sopherim and Masoretes, and how did they share in the preservation of the Bible? (*nwt* p. 1726)

What is the Leningrad Codex? (*nwt* p. 1726)

What does a comparison of the Dead Sea Scrolls with the Leningrad Codex confirm? (*nwt* pp. 1726-1727)

Not all copies of ancient Bible manuscripts contain identical wording. How might this variation be illustrated? (*nwt* p. 1727) Why is that not a problem for students of the Bible?

Which source text was the basis for the first edition of the *New World Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures* (1953-1960)? (*nwt* p. 1729)

What additional texts and manuscripts have been used to produce the Hebrew portion of the revised *New World Translation*? (*nwt* p. 1729)

What Greek master text did the New World Bible Translation Committee originally use in the

mid-20th century to produce the translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures? (*nwt* p. 1729)

What Greek master texts and other sources did the New World Bible Translation Committee use to produce the Christian Greek Scriptures for the *New World Translation* in 2013? (*nwt* p. 1729)

Why have some verses found in the *King James Version* been omitted in the revised *New World Translation*? How were footnotes used in connection with these spurious verses? (*nwt* p. 1729)

Why have the long conclusion for Mark 16 (verses 9-20), the short conclusion for Mark 16, and the wording found at John 7:53–8:11 not been included in the revised English *New World Translation*? (*nwt* pp. 1729-1730)

A4 The Divine Name in the Hebrew Scriptures

Why is Jehovah’s name missing from many Bible translations? (*nwt* p. 1731)

On what basis have some translators chosen to omit Jehovah’s name? Why do their reasons lack merit? (*nwt* pp. 1731-1733)

Why does the revised English *New World Translation* use the form “Jehovah”? (*nwt* pp. 1733-1735)

What is the meaning of the name Jehovah? (*nwt* p. 1735)

Why is the meaning of Jehovah’s name not limited to the words at Exodus 3:14? (*nwt* p. 1735)



Further research based on ancient manuscripts reveals six additional occurrences of the divine name as follows: Judges 19:18; 1 Samuel 2:25, 6:3, 10:26, 23:14, 16

A5 The Divine Name in the Christian Greek Scriptures

When translating quotations from the Hebrew Scriptures in which the Tetragrammaton appears, what do most translators do? (*nwt* p. 1736)

How many times does the name Jehovah appear in the Christian Greek Scriptures of the *New World Translation*? (*nwt* p. 1736)

What two important factors did the New World Bible Translation Committee take into consideration when deciding to use Jehovah's name in the Christian Greek Scriptures? (*nwt* p. 1736)

As time allows, give examples of compelling evidence that the Tetragrammaton did appear in the original Greek manuscripts. (*nwt* pp. 1736-1743)

How can you help your students and others to benefit from the above information in connection with the use of Jehovah's name in the Bible?

How do you feel about the *New World Translation*?

Using the *New World Translation*—Part 2

OPENING DISCUSSION

In this lesson, we will briefly review a few key points in Appendix A of the revised English *New World Translation*. Other helpful features of this revision will also be discussed.—Ps. 119:97.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Footnotes (Appendix A2)

Using the scriptures below, explain the value of the four categories of footnotes: (*nwt* p. 1725)

- “Or” (Job 21:13; Ps. 51:5; Luke 14:26)
- “Or possibly” (Eccl. 7:9; Gal. 5:14)
- “Lit.” (John 2:4)
- Meaning and background information (Gen. 24:32; 25:8; Josh. 3:4; Judg. 7:19)

When a footnote on the same word appears more than once on the same page, the footnotes are combined. Example, Acts 15:20, 29.

What is the value of “See Glossary,” which appears in some footnotes? (Matt. 24:3; Mark 8:34; *nwt* p. 1723)

Explain the benefit of footnotes that include references to the appendixes, as in John 12:38 and 1 Corinthians

7:17. How do the footnotes contribute to a better understanding of these verses?

Marginal References

Give examples of how we can make use of the information contained in the marginal references.

- Parallel thoughts (Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1)
- Fulfilled prophecy (Ps. 22:1; Matt. 27:46)
- Direct quotes of phrases, expressions, and entire verses (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4)
- Law covenant patterns and fulfillments in the Greek Scriptures (Ex. 23:19; 1 Cor. 15:20)

The most relevant marginal references from previous editions are included in the revised English *New World Translation*. Point out examples as time allows.

Bible Words Index

How can we make efficient use of the “Bible Words Index”? (*nwt* pp. 1664-1691)

How might the entry “Comfort” in the index be used on a shepherding visit?

Glossary of Bible Terms

Why is the glossary helpful to us? How might it be useful during Family Worship or while doing personal study? Give examples. (*nwt* pp. 1692-1716)

A6 Chart: Prophets and Kings of Judah and of Israel

Demonstrate how the chart “Prophets and Kings of Judah and of Israel” can help us to understand Bible accounts accurately. (*nwt* pp. 1744-1747)

A7 Main Events of Jesus’ Earthly Life

Explain the value of “The Four Gospels Set in Chronological Order.” (*nwt* pp. 1748-1763)

What information does the “Key to Maps” provide? (*nwt* p. 1749)

How do the various maps and accompanying explanations assist us to understand Bible accounts?

Note to Instructor: Share further points of interest from Appendix A7.

Appendix B

What helpful information do we find under the “Key to Maps”? (*nwt* p. 1765)

How might you use the section “The Message of the Bible”? (*nwt* pp. 1766-1767)

Give examples of how the following features of Appendix B can be used in personal study, for meeting preparation, or with your Bible student.

- Maps
- Diagrams

- Time
- Measurements

An Introduction to God's Word

Explain how you can make use of the 32-page section "An Introduction to God's Word" . . .

- in the house-to-house work.
- in making return visits.
- while on a Bible study.
- while conducting meetings for field service.
- as a basis for practice sessions.
- when training your Bible student in the ministry.

How is the outline feature at the beginning of each Bible book helpful? (*nwt* p. 1725)

Keep Pace With Spiritual Enlightenment

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jesus taught his disciples many truths that were new to them. However, they still had much to learn. For example, there were questions about the new covenant that had gone into effect at Pentecost 33 C.E. Was the new covenant limited to Jews and Jewish proselytes? Could those uncircumcised also be accepted into this covenant and be anointed with holy spirit? (Acts 10:45) Holy spirit was needed to search into these doctrinal issues. (Luke 12:12) Indeed, Jesus had indicated that such deep spiritual truths as these would be revealed progressively.—John 16:12, 13.

Jehovah God continues to shed light on his people today. This illuminates our path and refines us doctrinally, morally, and organizationally. (Prov. 4:18) As we personally make a search into “the deep things of God,” are we keeping pace with such refinements? How can we continue to build appreciation for “the things that God has prepared for those who love him”? (1 Cor. 2:9, 10) Let us see.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Explain how Jehovah is the Source of all spiritual enlightenment. (Ps. 43:3; Isa. 42:6, 7)

What does the fact that Jehovah reveals his purpose progressively reveal about him? (w00 3/15 p. 10 par. 1)

What was Jesus' role in illuminating Jehovah's purposes? (John 9:5; 12:35; 2 Cor. 4:6)

True Worshipers in the First Century

How did responsible brothers in the first century respond to progressive spiritual enlightenment? (Acts 15:7-12)

After considering the evidence, the governing body made decisions on what basis?

How were these decisions communicated to the congregations? (Acts 16:4)

How could first-century Christians show their willingness to walk by spirit? (Acts 15:25-31; 16:4, 5)

True Worshipers Today

Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his sheep during the last days? How does this arrangement benefit us? (*w14* 1/15 p. 13 par. 6; *w13* 7/15 p. 22 par. 10)

Why is the study of Bible prophecy important in building faith? (1 Pet. 1:10-12)

When it comes to **doctrinal** refinement, explain how truths regarding Jehovah's great spiritual temple were progressively clarified. (*w10* 7/15 p. 22 box)

How has clearer understanding of the following scriptures benefited us?

- Luke 21:26 (*w94* 2/15 pp. 19-20 pars. 14-18)

- Romans 13:1, 2 (*w95* 5/15 pp. 21-22 pars. 4-5)
- Matthew 6:9 (*w95* 5/15 p. 25 par. 17)

How does our refined understanding of the faithful slave affect you personally? (*w13* 7/15 pp. 20-25)

How do doctrinal refinements build your faith and confidence in Jehovah and his organization?

What refinements with regard to **morality** have helped Jehovah’s people to glorify God’s name in word and deed? (*jv* pp. 172-175)

How does a clear understanding of the following scriptures benefit us?

- 1 Corinthians 5:13 (*w95* 5/15 p. 13 par. 15; *km* 8/02 pp. 3-4)
- Ephesians 4:19 (*w12* 3/15 pp. 30-31; *w06* 7/15 pp. 30-31; *g* 11/13 pp. 4-5)
- Romans 12:9 (*w97* 1/1 pp. 26-29)

What **organizational** developments in modern times fulfill Isaiah 60:17? (*w06* 2/15 pp. 26-28 pars. 1-12; *w95* 5/15 pp. 22-23 pars. 6-8)

How do features of jw.org give evidence of the faith and discretion of the slave? (*g* 1/14 pp. 2-6; *km* 10/13 p. 2; *km* 12/12 pp. 3-6)

How have you been able to use our Web site in strengthening . . .

- your family?

- your service partners?
- your own faith?

Personally Keeping Pace

What personal adjustments have you made in order to keep pace with spiritual enlightenment and what impact have they had on your pioneer ministry? How have peace and righteousness been the results? (Isa. 48:17, 18)

What do we learn from the way that Israel regarded “the pillar of fire and cloud”? (Ex. 14:24; *w11* 4/15 pp. 3-5)

How can we show that we appreciate God’s guidance regarding . . .

- conducting Bible studies?
- preaching to those who speak a foreign language?
- sharing regularly in Family Worship?
- cooperating with Hospital Liaison Committees?
- conducting ourselves properly at conventions?

How are you reassured by the descriptions of Jehovah’s heavenly arrangement found in the writings of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John? (Isa. 6:1-4; Ezek. 1: 4-14, 22-24; Dan. 7:9-14; Rev. 4:1-11; *w13* 4/15 pp. 23-25 pars. 5-8)

Note to Instructor: Using *Watchtower Library*, *Watchtower Online Library*, or a printed copy of the *Index*, demonstrate how the pioneers can ensure that they have the current understanding of Bible truths by searching under the topic “Beliefs Clarified.” If using

the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses*, go to the subject “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” then to the subheading “Views and Beliefs.” Recent adjustments to our understanding of Bible truths are cited under “Clarification of Our Beliefs.” Entertain comments on the advantages of making use of available research tools.

What attitude will help us go on walking in the path of increasing light? (w11 9/15 p. 14 pars. 14-15)

How will this attitude help us respond favorably when faced with an adjustment regarding a cherished custom or tradition? (w98 10/1 pp. 19-23)

EXPERIENCE: One longtime elder admits: “Accepting a change when it comes and adapting to it can be difficult.” What has helped him accept the many refinements he has witnessed in the 48 years that he has been a Kingdom proclaimer? He answers: “Having the right attitude is the key. Refusing to accept a refinement means being left behind as the organization moves ahead. If I find myself in a situation where changes seem hard to accept, I reflect on Peter’s words to Jesus: ‘Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life.’ Then I ask myself, ‘Where shall I go away to—out there into the darkness of the world?’ This helps me to hold firmly to God’s organization.”—John 6:68.

How can we show continued appreciation for flashes of spiritual light? (Ps. 97:11)

How will such refinements affect your methods of Bible study? (2 Pet. 1:19-21)

How do we let our light shine? (Matt. 5:14-16;
Mark 13:10; w08 5/15 p. 5 par. 12)

Why do you want to keep on walking in the path of
increasing light?

Pioneer Service School Review

—Day 1

Note to Instructor: Additional questions may be used to cover local needs.

Unit 1(b) Fortify Your Relationship With Jehovah

“I will meditate on all your activity.”
—Psalm 77:12.

- Why, despite our busy routine as pioneers, do we make time for study, meditation, and prayer?
- How does meditation result in a more intimate relationship with Jehovah?
- In what ways do we benefit when we reflect on Jehovah’s answers to our prayers?

Unit 2(a) Using the *New World Translation*—Part 1

“Handling the word of the truth aright.”
—2 Timothy 2:15.

- In what ways is the *New World Translation* a superior translation of the Bible?
- What translation principles guided the New World Bible Translation Committee?
- What information covered in class today has built your confidence in the accuracy of the *New World Translation*?

- What does the name Jehovah mean? (*nwt* p. 1735) Why can we be certain that the divine name belongs in the Bible?

Unit 2(b) Using the *New World Translation*—Part 2

“How I do love your law!”

—Psalm 119:97.

- Name some appendix features of the revised *New World Translation*. How do you plan to use these?
- How are the maps and charts helpful to you?
- What can you recall about marginal references and footnotes that will be helpful to you when reading the *New World Translation*?
- In your ministry and in the congregation, how can you build enthusiasm for the *New World Translation*?

Unit 3(a) Keep Pace With Spiritual Enlightenment

“The holy spirit will teach you.”

—Luke 12:12.

- How did Jehovah’s true servants respond to spiritual enlightenment in the first century?
- How do Jehovah’s true servants respond to spiritual enlightenment today?
- Why is it important for pioneers to stay up-to-date with advancing spiritual light? How do you plan to accomplish this? (*be* p. 38 par. 2)

- How have we benefited from doctrinal, moral, and organizational adjustments?
- What recent flashes of light have you personally appreciated?

Uphold Jehovah's Sovereignty

OPENING DISCUSSION

The majority of mankind today follow a course of self-determination. Personal freedom and doing what is right in one's own eyes are valued above all else. This course of independence has resulted in confusion, rebellion, and moral breakdown.

In sharp contrast, you chose to love and respect Jehovah and to uphold his rightful sovereignty. This is evidence of your spirituality, and it is most pleasing to our heavenly Father. Additionally, you are happy and are truly blessed as a result of 'walking in the law of Jehovah.'—Ps. 119:1.

As a pioneer, you have special opportunities to uphold Jehovah's sovereignty in your ministry. Your work and example teach others that Jehovah's rule is not a burden, that submitting to it offers rich rewards, and that it is worthy of your complete support.—Rev. 4:11, *it-2* pp. 1008-1009.

Each one should ask himself: 'Am I fully subjecting myself to Jehovah and to his spirit-directed organization? Am I really submissive in everything so as not to be directing my own steps? Am I loyally attached to Jehovah, to his congregation, to my marriage mate, and to my Christian brothers and sisters? Am I living my entire life in full recognition of Jehovah's sovereignty?'

QUESTION OUTLINE

All Mankind Is Fully Dependent on Jehovah

Define “sovereignty.” (*it-2* p. 1008)

Give reasons why Jehovah is the rightful Universal Sovereign. (Job 41:11; Ps. 24:1; *it-2* p. 1008)

Why is Jehovah’s sovereignty not dependent on our keeping integrity? (*it-2* p. 1011 pars. 3-4)

According to Acts 17:25, 28, to what extent are all people dependent on Jehovah?

What evidence of independent thinking do you observe in the world around you today?

What does the independent person fail to realize about his standing before Jehovah, as indicated at Romans 1:24, 26, 28 and Colossians 1:21?

As suggested at 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15, what deception overtakes such a person?

As readily admitted by Jeremiah, why is man unable to direct his own step successfully? (Jer. 10:23) How can you show that you really want to subject yourself to Jehovah’s sovereignty? (Ps. 119:105; 143:10; Isa. 54:13)

Subjection to Jehovah Requires Loyalty

Describe “loyalty” as used in the Bible. (*it-2* p. 280)

How has Jehovah demonstrated that he is loyal? (Jer. 3:12; Rev. 15:4; *it-2* pp. 280-281)

How can we gain strength from reflecting on God’s acts of loyalty? (*w13* 6/15 pp. 17-18 pars. 4-6)

How do we manifest loyalty when we apply the following scriptures?

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 3:18

Hebrews 13:17

How can you show yourself to be loyal when others speak against Jehovah, his Word, the congregation, or your Christian brothers?

How does the principle recorded at Acts 10:34, 35 help you to be loyal when confronted with expressions of racism, nationalism, and so forth?

In times of persecution, how can we show that we are truly loyal? (John 15:13; Acts 9:23-25; Rev. 2:10)

Godly Subjection Must Be From the Heart

Discuss the principle found at 1 Peter 1:22, and apply it to the following situations: (w93 10/15 pp. 12-16)

- A brother avoids associating with a member of the congregation because he is of another race, nationality, or social standing.
- At the Kingdom Hall, a sister sits on the side opposite someone whom she does not personally like, or for a similar reason, she switches to a different congregation.

How would you show proper subjection to Jehovah’s sovereignty from the heart when . . .

- reading books or magazines?

- selecting entertainment, including TV programs and movies?
- using electronic devices or the Internet?
- in the privacy of your own home with your mate and family?
- caring for duties and assignments in the congregation?

How are we affected when we cultivate love for Jehovah's ways and obey him because this is truly what is in our heart? (Prov. 4:4, 10-13)

- ◆ Showing godly subjection should never depend on what others see or on a fear of being discovered.

Jehovah's Sovereignty Expressed Through the Congregation

What opportunities do you have to demonstrate your recognition of Jehovah's sovereignty, as suggested by the following texts?

Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20

Matthew 24:45-47

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

1 Corinthians 7:39

1 Timothy 5:17

Hebrews 10:23-25

How do you personally benefit from recognizing Jehovah’s sovereignty as expressed through the congregation?

How does your attitude toward people you meet in the ministry reflect your attitude toward Jehovah’s sovereignty? (Rom. 5:8)

Uphold Jehovah’s Sovereignty Forever

What qualities do we need that we should cultivate now? (*w06* 8/15 pp. 21-22 par. 9)

At the end of Christ’s Thousand Year Reign, what test will come upon all humankind? (Rev. 20:7-9)

Why will the issue of universal sovereignty never need to be settled again? (1 Cor. 15:24-28; *it-2* p. 170 par. 6)

Show Personal Interest in Others

OPENING DISCUSSION

Showing interest in others is not just a technique to be mastered, it is a quality of the heart. (*be* p. 189 par. 3) It involves how we listen and what we say. It is manifested by the kindness and consideration that we extend to others as well as our demeanor, our attitude, and even our facial expressions. If we truly care about others, this heartfelt concern will show.

Could you be more alert to show personal interest in others? Successful pioneers genuinely care about others and are observant of their needs. People in every part of the earth respond to a warm smile, a listening ear, sincere concern, and acts of kindness, both small and large.

So be vigilant to display personal interest in others and attract them to the good news. Members of our family and congregation also need our love and attention. You can be sure that Jehovah will richly reward your efforts.—Gal. 6:10; Heb. 6:10.

- ◆ How to show genuine interest: Encourage expression. Really listen. Ask appropriate questions. Commend generously. Think about the individual's needs and prepare accordingly.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Getting to Know People and Their Background

What shows that the apostle Paul took the background

and thinking of his listeners into consideration when he preached? (Acts 26:2, 3; 1 Cor. 9:20-23)

As you approach individuals, what clues might reveal their culture, interests, or family situation? What surroundings might you observe? What evidence might you see that indicates their religious beliefs?

What current events are on the minds of people in your territory? Give examples. How can events that are publicized in the media serve as a basis for conversation? (*km* 9/00 p. 4)

- ◆ Politely acknowledge the activity a householder is engaged in when you make contact and be respectful of his time. When householders see that you are aware of their circumstances, they may be more willing to engage in a friendly conversation.—John 4:7, 10, 28, 29.

How can giving advance thought to how you will approach people in your territory make your presentation more appealing? (*km* 5/13 p. 2)

If some have moved to your area from a foreign land, what have you found to be an effective way to witness to them?

Why use the booklet *Good News for People of All Nations*? What do you appreciate about the format of this booklet? What experiences have you had using it?

How could you use jw.org when meeting someone

who speaks another language? What experiences have you had using it?

How do we follow up on any interest shown?

Note to Instructor: Explain the function of the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form and explain how foreign language groups and congregations in your locality can be supported. (*km* 5/11 p. 3)

How should our observations and what we learn about others affect our presentations? (Rom. 12:14-16)

Listen Attentively to the Observations and Concerns of Others (Jas. 1:19)

How can we use questions effectively? (*be* pp. 236-239)
How does the use of questions show personal interest?

Without being intrusive, how might we encourage someone to express his opinion on a matter? (Col. 4:6)
Why must we avoid the appearance of conducting an interrogation? (*w05* 6/1 p. 32)

EXPERIENCE: In an open letter published in the newspaper *Le Progrès*, of Saint-Étienne, France, a woman described the visit of two people who knocked on her door shortly after she suffered the tragic loss of her three-month-old daughter in death. “I immediately recognized them as Jehovah’s Witnesses,” she wrote. “I was ready to dismiss them politely, but then I noticed a brochure they were offering. It was about why God permits suffering. So I decided to invite them in with the intention of demolishing their arguments. . . . The Witnesses stayed a little over an hour. They

listened to me with great compassion, and when they were leaving, I felt so much better that I agreed to another visit.” In time, this woman accepted a Bible study. It is revealing that what she remembered about that first visit was, not what the Witnesses said, but how they listened.

How does listening to others honor them? (Rom. 12: 10) Why does listening attentively give evidence that we value their thoughts and feelings? (*be* p. 187)

When speaking to others, what advantages are there to making appropriate eye contact? (*be* pp. 124-125)

Why is it good to commend a householder if you can do so sincerely?

- ◆ Acknowledge the expressions of others graciously, even if you do not agree with their point of view. Avoid controversy.

Be Adaptable When Presenting Bible Truths (1 Cor. 9:19-22)

When in the ministry, what might you say to show your consideration for the following people?

- Elderly person
- Child, teenager, college student
- Father, mother
- Someone ill; someone you awakened from sleep
- Grieving person
- Person with a fine home or a beautiful yard

- ◆ When we focus on the needs of others, we will be less nervous and more inclined to speak from the heart.

To what extent should you adapt or change your presentation to appeal to the person who comes to the door? How? (*km* 6/13 p. 1 par. 3)

If the householder mentions a matter of personal concern, why should you center your discussion on what matters to him?

Under what circumstances might it be most appropriate to end a discussion? (*km* 9/09 p. 1 par. 4)

What notes will help you to remember the interest found? How is this an indication of the depth of your concern for others?

- ✍ Keep written records: Your records should be accurate and complete. Write down the name and address of the householder as soon as you leave the call. Do not guess at the house number or the street name—check the information to be sure that it is accurate. Write a brief description of the individual. Make note of the topic you discussed, the scriptures you read, any literature you left, and the question you will answer when you return. Include the day and time of the initial call and when you said you would call back. Now that your record is complete, don't lose it! Keep thinking about the individual and how you will handle the call the next time.—*km* 2/14 p. 1.

The most important reason for showing sincere interest in others is that by doing so, we imitate the love

and mercy of our heavenly Father. This helps to draw our listeners to Jehovah and to the message he has given us to spread. As you share the good news, strive to “look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.”—Phil. 2:4.

From House to House—Our Principal Way of Preaching

OPENING DISCUSSION

The method of preaching from house to house is well-founded in the Bible. When Jesus sent forth the apostles to preach, he instructed them: “Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving.” (Matt. 10:11) How were they to search for deserving ones? Jesus continued: “When you enter *the house*, greet the household. If the house is deserving, let the peace you wish it come upon it.” (Matt. 10:12, 13) Were they to visit without a prior invitation? Note Jesus’ further words: “Wherever anyone does not receive you or listen to your words, on going out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.” (Matt. 10:14) These instructions make clear that as the apostles “went through the territory from village to village, declaring the good news,” they were to take the initiative to visit people in their homes.—Luke 9:6; *bt* p. 41 par. 16.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Jesus’ Attitude Toward His Preaching Assignment

How do Luke 4:43 and John 4:34 epitomize Jesus’ life-work?

What motivated Jesus to preach? (John 14:31; *cf* pp. 76-81)

Discuss three significant ways Jesus showed his love for the preaching work. (*cf* pp. 84-86)

How does meditating on Jesus’ zeal affect our attitude toward the house-to-house ministry? (John 18:36, 37; *w13* 5/15 p. 9 par. 4)

By what authority have we been commissioned to do this work, and what does this commission involve? (Matt. 28:18-20; *cf* pp. 94-96)

Jesus Expressed His Love and Compassion Through His Preaching

How did Jesus view people to whom he preached? (Matt. 9:36; Luke 5:29-32)

How will imitating Jesus’ balanced view enable us to be more loving and tolerant of those who might reject our message?

What does Jesus’ positive view of people teach us? (John 1:47) If we find it difficult to view people in a positive way, what can we do? (Isa. 63:9; Jonah 4:11; *w07* 11/15 pp. 15-17)

- ◆ Jesus took a sincere interest in people. He cared about the thoughts and attitudes that drove them; he was concerned about the burdens that weighed them down and the obstacles that hindered them from grasping the truth.—Ps. 72:13; Matt. 11:28; 16:13; 23:13, 15.

Boldness in the House-to-House Work

What does it mean to speak the word of God with boldness? (Acts 4:31; 1 Thess. 2:2; *bt* pp. 32-35 pars. 13-17)

To avoid offending others, how do we maintain a balance between boldness and tact? (Rom. 12:18; Col. 4:6)

Use the following scriptures to explain what the house-to-house work accomplishes.

Proverbs 27:11

Acts 20:26, 27

2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9

2 Peter 3:11-14

- ◆ If we find the house-to-house ministry challenging, we can pray to Jehovah asking him to help us speak the good news with boldness.—Luke 11:13; 1 Thess. 5:17; *w08* 7/15 p. 8 pars. 4-5.

The Joys of House-to-House Preaching

Why is the house-to-house ministry still our principal way of preaching? (*km* 9/06 p. 8)

Why does the house-to-house ministry bring us joy? (Luke 10:17; *km* 7/94 p. 1)

How do the following scriptures highlight ways we benefit from engaging in the ministry? Feature two or three for discussion.

Matthew 6:21; 9:36

Galatians 5:22, 23

2 Timothy 2:15

Hebrews 6:9-11

1 Peter 3:13-15

Imitate Jesus in Your Ministry

How might our prayers and actions show that we grasp the urgency of the ministry? (Matt. 9:35-38)

If we find that our zeal for the ministry is cooling off, how might reflecting on Jesus’ attitude spur us on? (Mark 1:35-39)

As we preach, how should we view people who are lowly, oppressed, or rejected by others? Why should we feel this way? (Luke 18:35–19:10)

Why should we never let a hostile response to our preaching dampen our zeal? (Matt. 10:22)

Workshop 1

From House to House—Our Principal Way of Preaching

In this workshop we will consider how to

- ✓ prepare for the house-to-house ministry
- ✓ show personal interest and initiate conversations
- ✓ maintain a positive attitude toward the ministry

OPENING DISCUSSION

Instructions on how to fulfill our ministry have their basis in Scripture. For example, Jesus gave clear instructions to his followers on how to carry out the preaching work, and this proved to be a real blessing to them after his death.—Luke 10:1-12.

The Bible says of Jesus' followers: "Every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news." (Acts 5:42) The apostle Paul also zealously taught from house to house. (Acts 20:20) This method of spreading the good news remains our principal way of preaching.

In this workshop, the instructor will briefly review some of the key lessons of the preceding two units and will focus attention on the practical application of these lessons.

During each workshop period, observe the teaching methods used. Participate fully, and use the opportunity to recognize your own strengths and weaknesses. Listen carefully to the observations of the instructors as well as the expressions of your fellow students. Be receptive to any new suggestions and ideas that are presented. Doing so will help you to have greater confidence and to be more effective in this vital aspect of our ministry.—*km 2/09 p. 2.*

In preparation for this unit, please review some current issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry* and be prepared to highlight introductions that work well in your territory.

Women Who Make Jehovah's Heart Rejoice

OPENING DISCUSSION

Fear of God impelled two women to defy a Pharaoh. Faith moved a prostitute to risk her life in order to protect two Israelite spies. Sensibleness and humility in a crisis helped a woman to save many lives and to prevent the anointed of Jehovah from incurring bloodguilt. These are just some of the many Scriptural examples of women who made Jehovah's heart rejoice.—Rom. 16: 12; *w03* 11/1 pp. 8-13.

Jehovah's attitude toward such women and the blessings he bestowed upon them demonstrate that what pleases him above all else is spirituality, which transcends gender. In today's world, obsessed as it is with the physical, giving priority to one's spirituality is a challenge. But that challenge can be met. This is being demonstrated by millions of God-fearing women among God's people today.

In many lands, there are more women than men proclaiming the Kingdom message, and multitudes more are responding to the good news. (Ps. 68:11) These Christian women imitate the faith, discretion, hospitality, and other fine qualities demonstrated by God-fearing women mentioned in the Bible. (Luke 1:46-49; Acts 16: 14, 15; Rom. 15:4) It is important for all of us to understand and to appreciate fully the role of women in the Christian congregation.

QUESTION OUTLINE

A Favored Position of Dignity and Respect

Though created as a helper to man, why are women not inferior creatures? (Gen. 2:18, 23; w95 7/15 pp. 10-11 pars. 4-6)

How do statements at Galatians 3:26-28; 4:26, and Revelation 12:1; 19:7, indicate that Jehovah dignifies the position of women in his arrangement? (*it-2* p. 1196 par. 6)

How did Jesus show respect for the dignity of women? (*w12* 9/1 pp. 8-11)

- ◆ Jesus took time to teach women. He used respectful and kind expressions when addressing women. Jesus chose to have women bear witness to his resurrection.—Matt. 28:1, 8-10; Luke 10:38-42; 13:10-16.

How is the prophecy at Psalm 68:11 being fulfilled today?

Regarding the honorable relationship between man and woman as established in the beginning, what do you learn from Genesis 2:20-24?

How does Ephesians 5:28-31 show that God’s view of the husband-and-wife relationship has not changed?

What does it mean to “assign them honor as to a weaker vessel,” and how does this direction at 1 Peter 3:7 benefit and protect women? (*g94* 10/8 pp. 19-21)

What can a wife do to make herself “a crown to her husband”? (Prov. 12:4)

An Orderly Arrangement

Explain how the headship arrangement originated and for what reason? (1 Cor. 11:3; 14:40)

How did Jesus feel about submitting to Jehovah's headship? (John 5:30; 8:38, 39; Phil. 2:5-8)

How does Galatians 3:26-28 show that the headship arrangement does not stem from some bias on the part of God? Why is the assigning of headship to men not demeaning to women?

Why does wifely subjection not bring hardship on a woman in the Christian household? (Rom. 12:10)

What is the meaning of Paul's words found at 1 Corinthians 14:33-35? (1 Tim. 2:12; w12 9/1 p. 9 box; g 7/10 p. 29 pars. 2-4)

EXPERIENCE: A husband who formerly treated his Christian wife badly said: "She was very respectful of me. She never once put me down. She didn't try to force her beliefs on me. She cared for me in a loving way. When she went to an assembly, she worked hard to prepare my meals ahead of time and to get the housework done. Her attitude started to arouse my interest in the Bible. And, well, here I am!" Yes, he had, in effect, been "won without a word" by his wife's conduct.

What good may result when the Christian woman is in subjection to an unbelieving husband? (1 Pet. 3:1, 2)

Even when there is no favorable outcome, why can a wife find satisfaction in showing respect for headship? (Col. 3:18, 23)

What headship is the Christian woman to recognize besides the headship of her husband? (1 Cor. 14:35; 1 Tim. 2:11-14)

How would a woman show that she recognizes the headship principle when caring for matters pertaining to worship that would ordinarily be handled by her husband or by a baptized brother? (1 Cor. 11:4, 5)

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16.

Explain why a Christian woman would or would not need to wear a head covering in the following situations.

- She prays in behalf of herself and her unbaptized children in the presence of her unbelieving husband.

Needed because the husband is present. (w02 7/15 p. 26 par. 2; lv p. 209 par. 3)

- She conducts a Bible study with her baptized son while her husband is absent.

Needed because the son is baptized and should be taught by baptized males. (w02 7/15 p. 27 par. 1; lv p. 209 par. 3)

- She conducts a meeting for field service arranged by the congregation.

Needed because the meeting is a congregation arrangement. (w02 7/15 p. 27 par. 2; lv p. 210 par. 1)

- She orally interprets a Bible discourse or publicly reads paragraphs from a Bible study aid used at a congregation meeting.

Not needed since she is not presiding. (*w02 7/15 p. 27 par. 3*)

- She interprets Bible discourses into sign language at Christian meetings, assemblies, or conventions.

It would be appropriate in view of the interpreter's magnified role. (*w09 11/15 pp. 12-13*)

- She interprets into sign language the midweek meeting, the *Watchtower* Study, and Kingdom songs.

“It may be more practical to wear a head covering during the entire meeting.” (*w09 11/15 p. 13*)

- She is accompanied by a baptized brother while going from house to house and making return visits.

Not needed, since both men and women have the responsibility to preach and teach outsiders. (*w02 7/15 p. 27 par. 4; lv p. 210 par. 2*)

- She conducts a prearranged Bible study, and a baptized brother is present.

Needed because the baptized brother is present. The baptized brother should offer the prayer. (*w02 7/15 p. 27 par. 5; lv p. 210 par. 1*)

Why may a sister prefer to wear a head covering under certain circumstances that do not really require her to do so? (1 Tim. 1:5)

- ◆ Appropriate head coverings for sisters would include a hat, scarf, head veil, and so forth.—*w77 2/15 p. 126.*

How would you harmonize the principle of subjection to one's husband with the principle found at Acts 5:29? (*ia* p. 80 par. 16)

Privileges and Responsibilities of Christian Women

Based on Proverbs 31:1, what important responsibility is given to Christian women?

What constructive work can the discerning woman do according to Titus 2:3-5?

With regard to dress and grooming, what balance does the Christian woman need to show? (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4) Why is this important?

What lesson can Christian women learn from Luke 10:42?

In what vast field of service have women shared effectively? (Acts 2:17, 18; 18:26; *g* 7/10 pp. 28-29)

Why is this a vital service for them to perform? (Rom. 10:13, 14; 1 Cor. 9:16)

What arrangements can be made when there are no qualified brothers available to conduct midweek meetings for field service? What specific instructions might be provided? (1 Cor. 14:40; *km* 9/01 p. 3)

What rewards do Christian women receive for their faithfully walking with God?

Pioneer Service School Review

—Day 2

Unit 4(a) Uphold Jehovah’s Sovereignty

“Teach me to do your will.”

—Psalm 143:10.

- How can pioneers uphold Jehovah’s sovereignty?
- How can you help others to cultivate love for Jehovah’s sovereignty?

Unit 4(b) Show Personal Interest in Others

“Look out . . . for the interests of others.”

—Philippians 2:4.

- How will you show genuine interest in others?
- Why is listening an essential part of showing personal interest?
- What is the most important reason to show personal interest in others?

Unit 5(a) From House to House

—Our Principal Way of Preaching

“Make disciples of people of all the nations.”

—Matthew 28:19.

- How will meditating on Jesus’ example increase our zeal for preaching?
- How can you motivate others to be zealous for the house-to-house ministry?

Unit 5(b) Workshop 1
From House to House
—Our Principal Way of Preaching

“Every day . . . from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news.”

—Acts 5:42.

- What practical things will you do to start conversations?
- How can you be adaptable in the house-to-house ministry?
- How can you help others in the congregation to have joy in the house-to-house ministry?

Unit 6(a) Women Who Make Jehovah’s
Heart Rejoice

“The women proclaiming the good news are a large army.”

—Psalm 68:11.

- What do you appreciate about the way Jehovah and Jesus dignify women?
- How does the headship arrangement dignify women?
- How can sisters expand their ministry in the last days?

Benefit From Counsel and Direction

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jesus has given a precious gift to his congregation on earth. “When he ascended on high he carried away captives; he gave gifts in men.” (Eph. 4:8) These “gifts in men” are overseers, or elders, appointed by Jehovah and his Son to shepherd the congregation with tenderness. (Gal. 6:1) In this time of the end, with the number of anointed overseers dwindling, the vast majority of Christian elders are of the other sheep. (John 10:16) Since they are appointed by holy spirit, these elders too are in the right hand, or under the direction, of the Fine Shepherd, Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:16, 20) These godly men submit to Christ, the Head of all the congregations, and thus deserve your full cooperation.

Ephesians 4:11-13 enumerates ways that God’s people are assisted by these precious overseers. Can pioneers work along with the elders to build up the congregation? Can pioneers set the example in their willingness to be readjusted and unified? (*w99* 6/1 pp. 9-14) How may we “show respect” for the elders and their counsel and direction?—1 Thess. 5:12, 13.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Development of the Christian Congregation

To whom did Jesus delegate oversight of the congregation? (Matt. 10:1; John 21:1, 2, 15-17; Acts 2:41, 42; *w13* 7/15 p. 16 pars. 7-8)

What does Jesus' illustration of the wheat and the weeds indicate regarding the congregation? (Matt. 13:24-30; *w13* 7/15 pp. 18-19 pars. 13-14 and endnote)

How would you answer the question, "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave?" (Matt. 24:45-47; *w13* 7/15 pp. 21-23)

How do you personally view information published by the faithful slave? (Isa. 54:13)

Working Submissively With "Gifts in Men"

What four outstanding reasons are given at Hebrews 13:7, 17 for pioneers to be obedient and submissive to Christian overseers? (*w07* 4/1 pp. 28-30 pars. 10-14)

Why were "gifts in men" given to the congregation? (Eph. 4:11-14)

How does Jesus guide Christians by means of faithful undershepherds? (1 Cor. 16:15-18; 2 Tim. 2:2; Tit. 1:5)

How might pioneers receive counsel and direction from the faithful slave through . . .

- Branch Committees?
- traveling overseers?
- congregation elders?

How do we demonstrate submission to those appointed to shepherd the congregation? (1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17)

Christian Shepherds Keep Watch Over You

How do loving shepherds protect and keep watch over the flock? (Gal. 6:1; Heb. 13:17a; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3)

Have you seen evidence of this in your congregation? Relate how elders have extended themselves to be of assistance to you or your family members.

- ◆ The Greek word translated “keeping watch” literally means “abstaining from sleep.” According to one Bible scholar, it “implies the unflagging vigilance of the shepherd.” Since elders may even lose sleep out of concern for our spiritual well-being, should we not cooperate with such loving undershepherds, who strive to imitate the tender care given by Jesus Christ?—*w07 4/1 p. 28 par. 12.*

Shepherds Serve With Joy

To whom and in what ways are overseers accountable? (Ezek. 34:22-24)

How should appointed overseers treat Jehovah’s flock? (Acts 20:28, 29)

Why are all of us answerable to Jehovah for the way we respond to his direction? (Rom. 14:10-12)

How does our obedience to the appointed elders and cooperation with the direction received from the faithful slave give evidence of our submission to Christ, the Head of the congregation? (Col. 2:19)

- ◆ Elders have weighty responsibilities of teaching, shepherding, taking the lead in the preaching

work, raising their families, and handling problems in the congregation.

Why do we all need counsel and discipline? (Jas. 3:2)

How might our reaction to counsel from a loving shepherd diminish his joy? (Heb. 13:17b)

How can Proverbs 19:20 help us when we receive personal counsel?

How did King Saul react to counsel, and with what result? (1 Sam. 15:20, 24-28)

- ◆ When someone brings a specific failing to our attention, we might tend to justify ourselves, minimize the problem, question the motive of the counselor, or object to the way the counsel was given. (2 Ki. 5:11) In contrast, if we respond favorably, we will become even more desirable in God's sight.

How can you show that you desire to work closely with the elders and to set a good example for others? (Phil. 2:20-22)

How can your joy contribute to the joy of the elders? (2 Cor. 1:24)

Ways to Support Traveling Overseers' Visits

How do visits of traveling overseers provide opportunities for an interchange of encouragement? (Rom. 1:11, 12)

Note to Instructor: Describe the schedule and duties of the circuit overseer and his wife. (*jl* Lesson 17)

How might you apply the principle found at Proverbs 27:17 when the circuit overseer visits?

If you would like to work in the ministry with the traveling overseer or his wife, whom could you check with prior to the visit?

How can you prepare a Bible student to benefit fully from the circuit overseer’s visit?

How can you arrange your schedule to have the circuit overseer or his wife join you on a Bible study? (*km* 8/86 p. 1 par. 4)

Why should you not hesitate to support field service arrangements during the week of the circuit overseer’s visit? How have you supported these special weeks of activity? (Rom. 1:12; *km* 6/89 p. 3)

How could the principle of ‘choosing the good portion’ be applied during the visit of the circuit overseer? (Luke 10:38-42)

Assistance for Pioneers

How can pioneers derive the most benefit from the following spiritual provisions?

- Pioneer meeting during the week of the circuit overseer’s visit
- Annual pioneer meeting with congregation elders, usually held in December

- Meeting with pioneers in conjunction with the circuit assembly program
- Pioneer Service School

Resist “the Spirit of the World”

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jehovah’s people are engaged in a battle! Our enemy is powerful, cunning, and experienced. He has at his disposal a weapon so effective that it has been used to conquer the majority of humankind. However, we are not powerless, nor are we doomed to defeat. We have a mighty defense that is unbeatable when we avail ourselves of it.

The war we are fighting is not physical; it is spiritual. Our enemy is Satan the Devil, and one of the weapons he uses is “the spirit of the world.” (1 Cor. 2:12) The key to defending ourselves against his attacks is God’s holy spirit. We must seize every opportunity to avail ourselves of God’s spirit and display its fruitage in our lives.—Gal. 5:22, 23.

What is the spirit of the world, and how did it become so pervasive? How can we determine whether the spirit of the world is influencing us? What steps can we take to receive God’s spirit and thereby resist the spirit of the world?

QUESTION OUTLINE

What contrasting use of the word “spirit” is found at 1 Corinthians 2:12?

Read Ephesians 2:2, 3.

How would you describe the spirit of the world? (*lv* p. 54 par. 8)

How does it exercise “authority”?

How is that spirit “now at work” in some people? (John 8:44; Acts 13:10; 1 John 3:8, 10; *lv* p. 54 par. 8)

In what ways can the spirit of the world take root in a person’s mind and heart? How does this happen? (Prov. 4:23)

Questions to Ponder

Read Psalm 26:4; 119:37; 1 Corinthians 15:33.

How do those we associate with have an effect on our attitude and actions?

Why should we avoid close contact with anyone or anything that is infected by the spirit of the world?

How could social networking or the use of Internet forums affect the way you carry out your privileges in the congregation? (Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 10:1; Eph. 5: 15, 16)

Read James 3:14-18.

What does our choice of entertainment reveal about us?

How can Satan use literature, movies, music, and electronic games to ensnare pioneers? (Ps. 97:10; *w13* 1/15 pp. 14-15 pars. 11-15)

Why would viewing or listening to unclean entertainment prove to be hypocritical? (Isa. 52:11)

Read 1 Timothy 6:8-10.

What does our attitude toward material things reveal about us?

When it comes to material things, why do pioneers need to be constantly alert in order to maintain balance?

How could the desire for many material things affect the life of a pioneer?

Read 1 Timothy 2:9, 10.

How might our dress, grooming, and hygiene reflect the spirit that exercises authority over us?

How could a pioneer’s choice of dress and grooming affect others?

How might a person indicate that he views his “rights” in these areas to be more important than qualifying for service privileges in the congregation? (Ps. 68:6; Phil. 4:5; 1 Pet. 5:6)

Your Part in Keeping the Congregation Clean

Wrongdoing is increasingly prevalent and depraved. Such can infiltrate the Christian congregation. (2 Tim. 3:1-5, 13; Jude 3, 4, 11-13)

What confidence can we have, as indicated at Revelation 2:1?

Note to Instructor: In reviewing the following, help the pioneers understand their role in maintaining the cleanness of the congregation.

What is Jehovah's view of the following things?

- Sexual immorality (Lev. 20:10, 13, 15, 16; Rom. 1: 24, 26, 27, 32; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; *nwt* p. 1711)
- Apostasy (Deut. 13:13, 15; 2 Cor. 6:14, 15, 17, 18; 2 John 7, 9, 10; Rev. 18:4)
- Abortion (Ex. 21:22-25; Ps. 127:3; 139:14-16)
- Deliberate, malicious lying; bearing false witness (Prov. 6:16, 19; Col. 3:9; Rev. 22:15; *it-2* p. 245 par. 4)
- Reviling; slander (Lev. 19:16; 1 Cor. 6:10; *lv* pp. 137-138 pars. 11-14)
- Uncleaness; brazen conduct (2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:18, 19; 2 Pet. 2:7; *nwt* p. 1694; *w12* 3/15 pp. 30-31)
- Drunkenness (1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9, 10)

If you have seen or come to know of serious wrongdoing among Jehovah's people, why should you not close your eyes to it? (Lev. 5:1 and ftn.; 1 Cor. 5:1, 2)

Why would it be a kindness to encourage a wrongdoer to approach the elders about the matter? (Jas. 5:14)

If he does not, how would bringing serious matters to the attention of the elders show love for Jehovah, the congregation, as well as for the person who committed the wrong? (1 Cor. 1:11; 5:6; 1 Tim. 5:22)

If you are disturbed in your mind and heart because of some past serious wrongdoing, why should you approach the elders? (Jas. 5:14-16)

How can you show that you take God’s warnings seriously? (Gal. 5:16, 17, 19-21)

Why should you keep up the fight to resist the spirit of the world? (John 16:33; Jude 3)

Walk in the Way of Integrity

OPENING DISCUSSION

When Satan rebelled in the garden of Eden, he raised the universal issue of the rightfulness of God's sovereignty over all His creatures. At a later time, he challenged that humans would serve God only as long as doing so was to their selfish advantage. (Job 1:9-11; 2:4) Thus, man's integrity has become an important part of the issue of Jehovah's universal sovereignty.

While God's sovereignty is not dependent on the integrity of his creatures, humans and spirit sons of God can demonstrate where they stand on this issue. How? By choosing to follow a course of integrity or not. An individual's integrity, then, is a solid basis on which he or she can be judged.

Walking in integrity requires loyal attachment to God, even in unfavorable circumstances. When we bear up under trials, remain firm despite adversities, or resist temptations from this ungodly world, our integrity becomes evident. We 'make Jehovah's heart rejoice' in that he is able to make a reply to the one who taunts him. (Prov. 27:11) With good reason then, we can resolve as Job did: "Until I die, I will not renounce my integrity!"—Job 27:5.

QUESTION OUTLINE

What It Means to Walk in the Way of Integrity

What does the word "integrity" mean?
(w04 12/1 p. 13 par. 4)

How does Psalm 119:1-3 describe a person who is walking in the way of integrity? What will help us to stay on the course of integrity?

Maintaining Our Integrity and Neutrality Under Trial

Christian neutrality is inseparably linked to our acceptance of Jehovah as both the Universal Sovereign and the Sovereign of our lives. Our uncompromising stand does not just happen by accident. We must take a stand for Jehovah and his established Kingdom and then remain loyal to him.—*Read Matthew 22:21.*

What does Christian neutrality involve? In what ways have Christians always maintained neutrality?

(*lv* p. 51 pars. 3-4; p. 52 box)

What are some ways that true Christians have taken a neutral position in the following areas?

- Wars (*it-1* p. 175 pars. 5-6)
- Politics, voting (*lv* p. 213 par. 3)
- Flags, national symbols, anthems
(*lv* p. 212 par. 1–p. 213 par. 2)

What test of integrity may Christians face? What questions might a Christian ask himself? (John 15:17-21; 17:14, 16; 18:36; *lv* p. 55 box)

Why is close cooperation among the brothers especially important when we are threatened by our enemies? (1 Cor. 12:25, 26; *yb04* pp. 219-220 box)

What attitude should we display regarding the preaching work during times of persecution and bans? (Acts 5:29; *km* 2/94 p. 4 pars. 11-12)

Why is complete reliance on Jehovah vital when we are facing persecution? (Phil. 1:27-30; 4:6, 7; *w11* 1/15 p. 29 par. 15)

Why can we be confident of Jehovah's support? (1 Chron. 29:17; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9; *w10* 11/15 p. 32 par. 20)

Integrity Under Trial

What quality is often enhanced as a result of opposition and persecution, and with what result? (Matt. 5:10; Jas. 1:2-4; *w03* 10/1 p. 13 par. 18)

What preparations should each of us make now in order to endure future persecution? (*w85* 11/15 pp. 11-15 pars. 6-26)

Despite bans and persecution, what assurance do we have that those who oppose us will never prevail? (Isa. 54:17; Jer. 1:19; Acts 5:40, 41; 1 Pet. 3:13, 14; *w00* 4/1 p. 22 par. 17)

Applying Bible Principles—The Key to Integrity

Answer the following questions based on Romans 13: 1-7 and the cited references.

- Why does subjection to the superior authorities not mean subjection to Satan? (*w96* 5/1 p. 10 par. 3)

- What was Jesus’ attitude toward the politics of his day? (w96 5/1 p. 12 par. 9)
- What counsel did Jesus give his followers as to their dealings with Caesar? (w96 5/1 p. 12 par. 9)
- How did Paul counsel Christians to deal with the rulers of the nations? (w96 5/1 p. 12 par. 11)
- In balancing his relationship with Caesar and with Jehovah, what is a Christian’s first concern? (w96 5/1 p. 15 par. 2)
- What do we owe Jehovah that we can never give to Caesar? (w96 5/1 p. 16 par. 6)
- What Scriptures help us make a correct decision in the matter of compulsory military service? (w96 5/1 p. 19 par. 15)
- What are some things to keep in mind if we are called for nonmilitary national civilian service? (w96 5/1 p. 20 par. 20)
- What are some things that we properly give back to Caesar? (w96 5/1 pp. 16-17 pars. 7-8)
- Regarding Jehovah and Caesar, what do we keep on doing? (w96 5/1 p. 20 par. 22)

Based on this discussion of Bible principles, how could you reason on the following situations that may be raised by the secular authorities?

You are forbidden to . . .

- preach the good news.
- go from house to house.

- distribute literature from house to house.
- hold Christian meetings.

You are required by law to . . .

- register and vote in a local or national election.
- register for a national census.
- obtain legal documents before crossing political boundaries.
- acquire a license to get married.
- register the birth of your child.

Relate other situations that you face locally.

How do you benefit personally from obeying God first and then Caesar? (2 Pet. 2:9)

Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jesus foretold a grand preaching work that would take place during the time of the end. (Mark 13:10) This worldwide preaching activity would constitute part of the sign of Jesus' presence in Kingdom power. (Matt. 24: 3, 14) Today we see the Kingdom-preaching work speeding up, with pioneers at the very forefront. This message of truth that we declare opens the way for lovers of righteousness to come into a proper relationship with Jehovah. (Isa. 60:22) The Kingdom message also serves to warn the wicked concerning Jehovah God's judgments soon to come upon the face of all the earth.

In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult in some lands to find people at home. Challenging economic conditions have forced many to work, resulting in few being at home during the day. Given these circumstances, how can we continue to reach people with the good news? Examining the effective preaching methods of the apostles and other Christian ministers in the first century will help. They zealously took advantage of every opportunity to speak about the Kingdom—publicly, informally, and from house to house. (Matt. 10:7; Acts 20:20, 21) These first-century evangelizers focused on people, not houses. May we do the same and 'fully accomplish our ministry.'—2 Tim. 4:5.

QUESTION OUTLINE

**Share the Good News at Every Opportunity
—Informal Witnessing**

Informal witnessing does not require that we begin the conversation with a formal introduction or a scripture. We may find it helpful to have the goal of simply starting conversations without feeling that we must give a witness at the outset. This may give us confidence to introduce the good news later in the conversation. —*km* 8/10 pp. 3-4.

How did Jesus share the good news informally with a Samaritan woman?

Read and discuss John 4:7-26.

Note to Instructor: Isolate key lessons to be learned from Jesus' informal witnessing. Explore his opening words, his attitude, the way he maintained common ground, as well as the way he developed the conversation.

What is the natural result when the truth fills our heart? (Luke 6:45)

How will we be motivated to speak up if we meditate on the following?

- Jehovah's goodness (Ps. 40:5)
- The spiritual treasures Jehovah has given his servants (Matt. 13:52)
- The dire condition of people in the world (Jonah 4:11)

What circumstances have provided opportunities for you to share the good news with others informally?

EXAMPLES: While visiting relatives, traveling or on vacation, or having daily contact with neighbors, workmates, business associates, and others

How did you take advantage of the situation?

How can wearing our badge cards for conventions, keeping our literature visible when traveling, and dressing neatly lead to a witness?

What do the following scriptures teach us regarding appropriate occasions for witnessing to others?

Luke 19:1-10

Acts 13:14-16

What principles stated in the following scriptures will enhance our Kingdom preaching?

Galatians 6:10

Titus 2:1-10

How will having empathy help you make your sacrifice of praise more appealing? (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

What does Colossians 4:6 teach us about the way we should converse?

How can we be tactful when we converse with people? (*km* 1/06 p. 1; *km* 2/01 p. 1; *km* 6/96 p. 7)

EXPERIENCE: A sister who learned the truth through informal witnessing considers her spe-

cial territory to be the people she meets through her three children. Her territory includes neighbors and parents she meets at school and at meetings for parents. Whenever she introduces herself, she makes a simple but heartfelt statement that the Bible is a valuable aid to her in rearing her children, and then she moves on to some other topic. But having broken the ice, she finds it much easier to bring the Bible into subsequent discussions. By using this method, she has helped 12 persons to baptism.

How do you determine if an opportunity to witness is appropriate or not?

What have you found to be an effective way to start informal Bible discussions? (*km* 8/10 pp. 3-6; *km* 12/95 pp. 3-4)

How did you introduce the good news?

What have you learned from printed experiences of informal witnessing?

SUGGESTIONS: Read the Bible or Bible literature while using public transportation or during rest or lunch periods at work. Mention a recent news item.

How can we perceive that a person does not wish to continue speaking about a Scriptural theme?

What do you do in such circumstances?

Why should we try to leave a person with a favorable impression? (*km* 6/96 p. 7 par. 6)

- ◆ One must learn not only how to start but also when to stop speaking on a Scriptural subject.

What have you done to obtain contact details from interested ones?

What could you do if a person feels hesitant about giving you his phone number or e-mail address?

How have you arranged to meet again if you do not have the person’s address?

Why do we not call this avenue of service “incidental”? (*km* 6/03 pp. 3-4)

What publications do you carry with you in order to be prepared for opportunities to witness?

How have you used handbills and tracts in informal witnessing? (*km* 10/12 p. 3 par. 7)

Share the Good News on Appropriate Occasions —Public Witnessing

Why do we not label this type of preaching “alternative”? (*km* 12/11 p. 1 par. 3)

What do Acts 16:13 and Acts 17:17 teach us regarding appropriate occasions for witnessing to others?

How do the principles in the following scriptures apply to our preaching work?

Matthew 7:12

Hebrews 13:16

Note to Instructor: Develop the following material in a way that addresses local needs. Be prepared to communicate branch guidelines regarding public preaching in your area. Help the pioneers to consider new ways to preach publicly.

Why are the preaching methods listed below particularly effective?

What suggestions would you offer to make these activities productive?

- Special Metropolitan Public Witnessing (*km* 7/13 pp. 4-6)
- Using public transportation (*km* 7/97 p. 1; *km* 9/96 p. 4 pars. 14-15)
- Witnessing in parks or parking lots (*km* 7/13 pp. 4-6; *km* 9/96 pp. 4-5 pars. 16-17)
- Street witnessing (*km* 6/11 p. 2; *km* 2/91 p. 8)
- Preaching in marketplaces or shopping malls (*w08* 9/15 pp. 25-26; *km* 9/96 p. 5 pars. 18-20)
- Working business territory (*km* 3/12 p. 2; *km* 7/04 p. 4; *km* 9/96 p. 5 pars. 21-26)
- Telephone witnessing, if appropriate in your area (*km* 1/10 pp. 4-6; *km* 8/93 pp. 3-4; *yb06* p. 52 par. 1-p. 53 par. 4)

What experiences have you had witnessing in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, ports, to street vendors, in open-air markets, or to taxi drivers? In what other settings have you preached publicly?

Maintain Boldness in Various Forms of Our Ministry

What role should prayer play in preparing for all types of witnessing? Why? (Eph. 6:19)

What can you do to work in harmony with your prayers?

EXPERIENCE: A shy seven-year-old girl heard at a meeting how important it is for all to preach. So when going shopping with her mother, she put two brochures in her bag. While her mother was busy at the counter, the girl offered a brochure to a lady, who graciously accepted it. When asked how she got the courage to approach the lady, this shy girl replied: “I just said, Ready, Set, Go! And I went!”

Students may share encouraging experiences they have had in various forms of witnessing. Highlight such qualities as reliance on Jehovah, preparation, and personal interest.

Workshop 2

Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry

In this workshop we will consider how to

- ✓ be prepared for a variety of preaching methods
- ✓ prepare your heart to speak out on appropriate occasions
- ✓ develop the skills needed to engage people in conversation

OPENING DISCUSSION

In the first workshop, we discussed the importance of declaring our faith in the house-to-house ministry. This time-tested method proves to be a valuable means of searching out those who are hungering for the truth. This workshop will help you develop effectiveness in other forms of your ministry. In this way, we imitate the example of our first-century counterparts, who took advantage of every opportunity to declare the good news. (Acts 20:20, 21) We are confident that this training session will motivate you to take every appropriate opportunity to spread God's Kingdom message.—Heb. 13:15.

Pioneer Service School Review

—Day 3

Unit 7(a) Benefit From Counsel and Direction

“Try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness.”

—Galatians 6:1.

- How does the way we accept counsel reflect our spirituality?
- How can pioneers cooperate with (a) the congregation elders? (b) the traveling overseers?
- How can you help others to view counsel in a positive way?
- What arrangements to assist pioneers do you enjoy?

Unit 7(b) Resist “the Spirit of the World”

*“We received, not the spirit of the world,
but the spirit that is from God.”*

—1 Corinthians 2:12.

- Why should Bible principles guide us in our choice of (a) entertainment? (b) dress and grooming?
- How can you keep your life simple?
- How can you encourage others to resist the spirit of the world?

Unit 8(a) Walk in the Way of Integrity

*“You take pleasure in integrity.”
—1 Chronicles 29:17.*

- What does it mean to walk in integrity?
- What is the connection between Bible principles and integrity?
- What may our keeping integrity require?

Unit 8(b) Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry

*“I do all things for the sake of the good news.”
—1 Corinthians 9:23.*

- How can you create opportunities to preach during your daily activities?
- How can you increase your share in various forms of our ministry?
- How can you encourage others to participate in various forms of our ministry?

Unit 9(a) Workshop 2**Participate in Various Forms of Our Ministry**

*“Let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise.”
—Hebrews 13:15.*

- How can you build your confidence for informal witnessing?
- Why can participating in various forms of our ministry increase your joy?

- What suggestions covered in today’s workshop did you find especially helpful? Which suggestions would you like to try?

Appreciate Jesus' Role

OPENING DISCUSSION

Jesus told his apostles: "You will be witnesses of me . . . to the most distant part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Today, pioneers are having a large share in the fulfillment of that prophecy. When you speak about God's loving provisions for life, you are bearing witness to Jehovah and to Jesus.

Why should the role of God's firstborn Son interest us? Because our very relationship with our heavenly Father, Jehovah, is involved. Jesus himself said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Understanding this pivotal role will build our appreciation for God's purpose. In addition, we will be moved to help sincere individuals of all backgrounds come to know the one "through whom all things are"—Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 8:6.

QUESTION OUTLINE

The Person

How do we know that Jesus is God's "firstborn" Son? (Col. 1:15)

Why does the Bible refer to Jesus as God's "only-begotten" Son? (John 1:3, 14; Heb. 11:17; *it-2* p. 53 par. 2)

How would you explain Jesus' role in creation as described at Colossians 1:16? Why is this not referring to him as a co-Creator? (Matt. 19:4-6; *it-2* p. 52)

In what sense is Jesus spoken of as wisdom personified? (Prov. 8:12, 30; 1 Cor. 1:24; *it-2* p. 52)

In what way is Jesus “the Word”? (John 1:1, 14; 12:50; *w08* 12/15 pp. 12-13 pars. 6-7; *w98* 6/15 p. 22 par. 8–p. 23 par. 3)

How can we imitate the humility of Jesus in accepting his role as “the Word”?

How would you help someone to understand Jesus’ prehuman position and the need to put faith in Him? (John 8:23, 42, 58)

How does knowing the facts about Jesus’ prehuman position benefit you personally?

“The Way”

What is the only way for sinful humans to become reconciled to God? (Rom. 5:11; *it-2* pp. 760-762)

How is an approved standing before Jehovah possible by means of Jesus? (Rom. 5:18; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:22-26)

To whom are the benefits of this provision available? (Acts 10:43; Eph. 2:18; 1 John 2:2)

What will the final outcome be for those who avail themselves of this loving provision? (Heb. 7:25)

How is Jesus “the way” regarding our approach to God in prayer? (John 16:23, 24)

How is Jesus “the way” in the example he set? (1 Pet. 2:21)

How can we show that we accept Jesus’ role as “the way”?

Why must a person come to understand Jesus’ vital role in the outworking of God’s purpose?

“The Truth”

How did Jesus “bear witness to the truth” by his entire life course? (John 18:37; Luke 24:44)

How is it that “truth came to be through Jesus”? (John 1:17; *it-2* p. 60 par. 2; p. 62 pars. 1-5; p. 692 par. 2)

- ◆ Jesus acted as God’s Spokesman. He performed miraculous works and fulfilled many prophecies. By means of his flawless life course on earth, including his sacrificial death, he confirmed and made “yes” all the promises of God.—2 Cor. 1:20; Rom. 15:8; Col. 2:17.

How is Jesus’ role a key element in the following prophecies? (Rev. 19:10; *it-2* p. 60)

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 22:16-18

Daniel 7:13, 14

What demonstrates that Jesus did not hold back from speaking the truth? (Luke 8:1)

How should you imitate Jesus’ zeal in making the truth known?

How does the witness concerning Jesus inspire prophecy? (Rev. 19:10; *it-2* p. 691 par. 4)

How should you view “the work of witnessing concerning Jesus”?

“The Life”

For what reason did Jesus come to earth? (Matt. 20:28)

What is the ransom price that Jesus paid to release us from sin and death? (1 Pet. 1:18, 19)

Explain what is meant by Jesus’ being “the Chief Agent of life.” (Acts 3:15; 10:42; John 6:39, 40; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 8:1-3; *it-2* p. 61 pars. 1-3)

How does understanding Jesus’ role as “the life” affect our ministry?

How are we already benefiting from the sin-atonement value of Jesus’ sacrifice? (Rev. 7:9, 10)

If you are to receive the blessings of eternal life, in what must you have faith? (Acts 4:10, 12)

Additional Biblical Titles Applied to Jesus

- “The Amen” (2 Cor. 1:19, 20)
- “Eternal Father” (Isa. 9:6)
- “High Priest” (Heb. 3:1; 9:13, 14, 25, 26)
- “King of kings” (Rev. 17:14)
- “Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6)
- “Wonderful Counselor” (Isa. 9:6; John 6:68)

Think in Terms of Bible Principles

OPENING DISCUSSION

Principles are fundamental truths that never change, regardless of time or circumstance. They provide the basis on which specific laws are founded. The Universal Sovereign established many principles before creation. Therefore, everything in heaven and on earth, animate or inanimate, has been designed to function according to Jehovah's unchangeable principles. When all things function within the framework of his principles, there is harmony that reflects his glory, and Jehovah can bestow his blessing.

Principles are living, essential truths, and a wise Christian learns to love them. Understanding Bible principles is the key to our making sound decisions that reflect godly wisdom.—Prov. 3:6, 21-23; 4:7; *w02* 4/15 pp. 18-23; *w02* 2/15 pp. 4-7.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Recognizing Principles and How They Work

What are principles, and how do they differ from laws? Give examples. (*w09* 6/1 p. 7; *w02* 4/15 p. 19 pars. 4-6)

How would you illustrate to a Bible student the difference between principles and laws?

SPECIFIC LAW: You must not eat blood. (Lev. 17:14)

PRINCIPLE: Life is in the blood. (Lev. 17:11)

Life belongs to God. (Ps. 36:9; Ezek. 18:4; Eph. 4:18)

The Creator has authority over creation. (Isa. 29:16; Rev. 4:11)

Why is our discerning and applying Bible principles not as easy as following a set of laws? (*w02* 4/15 p. 20 par. 9)

Why is it beneficial for us to think and act on the basis of principles? (Heb. 6:1)

Give examples of the principles behind . . .

- Bible directives. (*w06* 6/15 pp. 21-22; *w02* 4/15 p. 22 par. 16; *it-1* p. 344)
- Bible doctrines, such as the ransom and everlasting life on a paradise earth.

How are false teachings, such as the Trinity and the immortality of the soul, refuted by focusing on principles?

Though the Mosaic Law ended, how do we see its underlying principles carried over and embodied in Christian law? Give examples. (*w12* 1/15 pp. 16-20; *w97* 10/15 pp. 29-30)

Of what value is it to study the laws and events in the Hebrew Scriptures? (1 Cor. 10:11)

Becoming a Person of Godly Principles

How did Jesus apply principles when being tempted by the Devil? (Matt. 4:1-10)

How did Jesus help his listeners to think on the basis of principles? (Matt. 5:17-48)

How did this approach dignify his listeners?

How did the following individuals show that they could “distinguish both right and wrong”? (Heb. 5:14; w02 2/15 p. 5; w97 10/15 pp. 28-29)

- Abel (Gen. 3:15; 4:3-5)
- Noah (Gen. 6:8, 9; 2 Pet. 2:5)
- Esther (Esther 4:14; 7:3)
- ◆ *Searching* for Bible principles allows us to ‘perceive what the will of Jehovah is’ and reveals what is in our heart.—Eph. 5:17; Rom. 12:2.

Applying Bible principles gives us an opportunity to show Jehovah that we are more concerned with pleasing Him than with satisfying ourselves.—Ps. 40:8.

Use Bible Principles to Make Wise Choices

What should be our goal when searching for Bible principles on which to base decisions? (Eph. 5:1)

What role will godly fear play when seeking direction from God’s Word? (Neh. 5:15)

How does reasoning on principles help us to train our conscience? (Prov. 2:3-5; Eph. 4:15; Heb. 5:14)

Why will a principled person not look for loopholes in God’s laws?

Note to Instructor: Use two or three of the questions in the following list for discussion. Do not indicate what the decision should be.

What Bible principles would help you to decide if you should . . .

- confront a brother in your congregation about his annoying mannerism?
- attend your Bible student's wedding?
- use social networking sites?
- pursue an opportunity to relocate?
- accept a particular type of employment?
- pursue additional secular education?
- accept a job promotion?
- adopt a certain style of dress and grooming?
- attend a social gathering?
- stop pioneering?

Although a mature Christian might help you to locate Bible principles that apply, why must you personally make proper application of them? (Gal. 6:5)

Guide Your Steps by Godly Principles

Why does it take trust in Jehovah to apply Bible principles?

SITUATION: You have a disagreement with one of your service partners. Why is faith needed to apply

the Bible’s direction to apologize and forgive?—Luke 17:1-5.

Does forgiving others imply that we condone offenses? By forgiving, are we letting others take advantage of us? Explain.

Why will thorough grounding in Bible principles help us enjoy a superior way of life? (Ps. 32:8)

How does the fact that Jehovah has not made laws to govern every aspect of life give us the opportunity to show the depth of our love for him and his will? (2 Cor. 9:7)

Examine Your Spiritual Progress

OPENING DISCUSSION

What is a spiritual person? He is God-oriented. He endeavors to learn how Jehovah thinks so that he can bring all his ways into harmony with those of his Creator. The Bible speaks highly of such a person—one who follows God’s ways, is in accord with the spirit, and has “the mind of Christ.”—1 Cor. 2:12-16.

What is needed to become a spiritual person and to continue to make progress as one? It is vital that we know the answer, for the course we choose is more than just a matter of personal inclination.—Rom. 7:21-23; 8:6; 1 Cor. 3:1; *w07* 8/1 pp. 4-5.

QUESTION OUTLINE

What Is Needed to Become a Spiritual Person?

Why is Bible reading essential in developing spirituality? (Ps. 119:105; John 17:17)

In order to view things as God does, what should we watch for when we read the Bible? (Ps. 139:17; Mark 8:33; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23, 24)

According to 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, how does a spiritual man contrast with a physical man? (*it-2* p. 305)

How can our giving attention to Jesus’ words, thoughts, and actions help us to deepen our understanding of Jehovah and His thoughts? (John 5:19, 30; 14:9, 10)

What is the mind, or attitude, of Christ toward his Father and the doing of his Father’s will? (John 4:34)

What does Philippians 2:5-8 indicate will be necessary if we are to develop the mind of Christ? (*w12* 11/15 pp. 10-14)

- ◆ Do not view your progress simply in terms of privileges of service that are granted to you. Your advancement is seen, not by the assignment, but by what you do with it.—*be* p. 76.

Why does it take humility to apply Romans 12:2?

Examining Our Spiritual Progress

According to James 1:22-25, what tendency hinders spiritual progress?

How will the following assist us in evaluating ourselves spiritually?

- Prayerful self-analysis (Ps. 26:2; 2 Cor. 13:5)

Ask yourself: What motivates me? What are my weaknesses?

- Regularly feeding on the Bible and Bible-based publications (Ps. 1:2, 3)

Why is meditation needed?

How can meditation help us to avoid repeating past mistakes?

- Listening to experienced Christians (Jas. 1:19)

How can observing the speech and conduct of

spiritually strong brothers and sisters help us to develop as spiritual people?

How can our paying close attention to what is said at meetings help us to grow as spiritual people?

A Spiritual Person or a Physical Person —What Does the Fruitage Reveal?

As we develop our spirituality, what will be the result? (Gal. 5:16; *w11* 12/15 p. 16)

What does the expression “the fruitage of the spirit” imply? (Gal. 5:22, 23)

How is this fruitage cultivated? (*w01* 8/1 pp. 15-16)

What is involved in opening our hearts to the influence of God’s spirit?

What will be the result?

According to Galatians 5:19-21, what would hinder our spiritual development?

What effect would envy have on our spiritual progress? (Gal. 6:3, 4)

Contrast the attitude of the physical man and the spiritual man in the following instances.

Prayer

How might a person’s prayers reveal whether he is a spiritual man or a physical man?

Why is Jehovah—his greatness, name, and honor—of primary concern to a spiritual man? (Dan. 9:4; John 17:4, 6)

What are some subjects that a spiritual man might pray about? (Ps. 51:10-12; 122:6, 8; Luke 11:4, 13; Jas. 1:5)

Why is it proper to pray for our physical needs? (Matt. 6:11)

Other than at mealtimes and at meetings, when does a spiritual person pray? (1 Thess. 5:17)

Study Habits

When it comes to study habits, how does a physical man show that he is dominated by the flesh?

How can sticking to a good schedule for study help us to control fleshly desires?

Field Ministry

With regard to the field ministry, what are some things that concern a spiritual person? (Ezek. 33:11; John 17:6; 1 Tim. 4:16)

What does a spiritual person think and talk about while engaging in field service? (Phil. 4:8)

Christian Meetings

What conduct or attitude at Christian meetings might reveal the traits of a physical man?

How does a spiritual person view participation at the meetings?

Dress and Grooming

Why are dress and grooming important to a spiritual person at all times, whether engaged in spiritual activities or not? (1 Cor. 10:31; Titus 2:10)

What Bible principles can help you decide what is appropriate dress and grooming for field service? (*be* pp. 131-133)

What is the meaning of (a) “appropriate dress”? (b) “modesty”? (c) “soundness of mind”? (1 Tim. 2:9, 10)

Why should the equipment that we use in the field ministry be neat and clean? (1 Cor. 14:33; *be* p. 134 pars. 1-4)

Family

How can a spiritual person show that he is thinking God’s thoughts when it comes to his dealings with members of his family? (Eph. 5:21, 24, 25, 28; 6:1, 4; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:1, 2)

How can pioneers show that they honor the headship arrangement within the family?

Conversation

What kind of conversation marks a spiritual person? (Eph. 4:29)

What is a subject that you like to discuss with others?

How could you turn the conversation to spiritual things if such a change should become necessary?

How can you maintain a balanced view of matters when conversing with others? (Eccl. 7:16)

Disputes

When disputes arise over personal or other matters, how will the reaction of a spiritual person differ from that of a physical person? (Prov. 29:11; Gal. 5:19, 20, 22, 23)

What is God's counsel to a spiritual person on such matters? (Rom. 12:14, 17-21)

Counsel

How will a spiritual person respond when given counsel? (Eccl. 7:9; Rom. 12:16)

What if you feel that the counsel does not apply?

Immoral Temptations

When exposed to immoral temptations, how would a physical person react? How would a spiritual person react?

Read and discuss Proverbs 7:6-10, 21, 22.

What did the young man do that showed he was a physical man? What warnings are given here so that a spiritual person can avoid immorality?

Continue to Examine Your Spiritual Progress
(1 Cor. 9:24)

How do the following scriptures show that the apostles needed to continue growing as spiritual men?

Matthew 20:20, 21, 24-28

Luke 22:24-27

How does Matthew 16:16, 17 show that the apostle Peter was a spiritual man? (*ia* p. 191 par. 13)

How do we know that Peter needed to continue to make progress? Why is this reassuring? (*ia* pp. 188-194)

How can we maintain the joy that characterizes a spiritual person? (1 Pet. 1:6, 7; 3:14; 4:13, 14)

Make Effective Return Visits

OPENING DISCUSSION

Many of us are in the truth today because someone patiently made effective return visits on us. We appreciate the personal attention we received. Jesus showed that this is an important part of our work, for he instructed his followers not only to preach but also to “make disciples . . . teaching them.”—Matt. 28:19, 20.

Teaching differs from preaching in that the teacher does more than proclaim; he instructs, explains, and offers proofs. Therefore, while salvation is still available to interested ones, we must return again and again to cultivate the interest shown.—*w03* 11/15 pp. 13-18.

Return visits can be one of the most enjoyable parts of your ministry. Why? Because having had contact with the householder, you know some of the subjects that interest him. You have also had time to choose scriptures that you would like to feature, and the householder knows that you are there to discuss the Bible.

What do you think makes for an effective return visit? Have you wondered what other pioneers do? Many have found that three things are needed: (1) showing sincere personal interest, (2) preparing an appealing Bible subject to discuss, and (3) laying the basis for each successive conversation. This unit, along with the accompanying workshop, will bolster your enthusiasm and improve your skills in furthering the interest of those you call back on.—*km* 7/08 p. 4; *km* 4/98 pp. 3-4 pars. 6-8; *km* 3/97 p. 3 pars. 1-9.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Have a Positive Attitude

What is your attitude toward making return visits?

Why are some hesitant about making return visits?

What effect may our attitude have on others? (1 Thess. 1:6, 7)

Why is it important to return when we have promised to do so? (Luke 16:10; w12 10/15 p. 31 par. 15)

Read and discuss Acts 9:10-17.

Initially, what was Ananias' attitude about calling on Saul (Paul)? (Acts 9:13, 14)

What was Jesus' direction? (Acts 9:15)

What was Ananias' approach on the call? (Acts 9:17)
How did he show personal interest?

Why would his visit have been appealing to Saul?

From this account, what can we learn about the proper attitude when making return visits?

Laying the Groundwork

Why is it good to teach the householder a Bible truth that will benefit him personally? (*be* p. 159 par. 1)

What groundwork for a return visit should we lay in the initial conversation? How can we do so?

EXAMPLE: We can easily bring up a subject or raise a question to be considered on the next visit. Perhaps

after describing the Paradise, you could say: “How can we be sure it will really come in our lifetime? Maybe I could stop by in a few days when the rest of the family is at home and show you the answer the Bible gives to that question.”


What other questions could you raise for consideration in the next conversation?

What is the advantage of building anticipation by leaving some questions unanswered until the next discussion?

What do you say to prepare the householder for the next visit?

After the Initial Conversation

How would you determine which scriptures and publications to use in the next conversation?

 In your house-to-house record, include the content of the conversation and the subject to be discussed when you return. Note the relevant pages of the publication(s) you will use. This specific information will help you to stay enthusiastic about the call and to prepare for future conversations.—*km* 4/00 p. 8 pars. 2-4.

How does our researching a subject show sincere personal interest? How will sharing this research affect the householder? (*be* pp. 33-38)

How will thinking positively about the person motivate you to return?

Why might we call back even when no literature has been placed? (Matt. 10:13; Luke 10:5, 6; *km* 12/06 p. 1 par. 2)

Have you had good results making a return visit on someone even though you did not place literature?

How do you determine the best time to make a return visit?

Why is it often wise to make the return visit within a day or two?

Relate experiences you have had when making return visits a day or two after locating the interest.

EXPERIENCE: One sister makes arrangements to call back on interested persons as soon as possible. But a day or two prior to the appointment, she stops at the home to give the householder a magazine on the subject they discussed. Then the sister explains: "I saw this article and thought you would like to read it. I can't talk now, but I'll be back on . . . as we planned. Is that time still all right with you?"

Why might this be a good approach?

What can you do when a person cannot be found at home after repeated calls? (*km* 11/11 p. 1 par. 4)

Determine Your Objective

Our primary objective is to help people become baptized disciples of Christ Jesus. In modern times, the

Bible study arrangement has been the most effective way of reaching this objective. In working toward that goal, be sure to discuss a Scriptural subject on each return visit. This will increase the householder’s interest in accepting a Bible study and it will make the purpose of our conversations clear.

How might we accomplish our primary objective by setting the following incremental, or short-term, goals?

- Answering a question with the Bible
- Offering literature relevant to specific interests
- Developing a magazine route
- Considering a paragraph from one of our study aids
- Offering a Bible study

The Return Visit

How do you introduce yourself on the return visit? (*km* 12/13 p. 1; *km* 1/92 p. 8 pars. 1-5)

Why is it important to avoid asking questions that bring a negative response or that put the householder in an awkward position? (*km* 1/92 p. 8 par. 6)

Why do some hesitate to talk with us when we return?

How will warm personal interest in others help to lessen their apprehension?

What do you say to put a person at ease and build his confidence in the Bible’s message?

Why should we do the following? (*km* 9/96 p. 1)

- Remember that we are guests
- Show appreciation for hospitality
- Be properly dressed and groomed
- Be punctual (*jr* p. 38 pars. 13-14)
- Respect the person and his property (Phil. 1:27)

What role does our enthusiasm play when we are making return visits?

Why might a short review of the last discussion be helpful?

Why are the following essential in making return visits?

- Showing a sincere personal interest in people
- Selecting an appealing Bible subject to discuss
- Laying the groundwork for each successive visit
- Continuing to think about the person after you leave
- Returning in a day or two to follow up the interest
- Keeping in mind that your objective is to start a Bible study

Be Bible-Study Conscious

Some pioneers find it better to make a formal offer of a Bible study rather than having an informal discussion. Others consider scriptures on a subject without

mentioning the matter of a study. Which method do you prefer, and why?

Relate experiences you have had conducting a door-step Bible study.

What is the advantage of inviting the householder to use his own Bible? (*bt* p. 90 par. 13)

Why is it important to discuss subjects and questions that interest the householder?

Why keep these discussions simple and Scriptural?

Why is it essential to listen attentively when the householder expresses himself?

Why should you be careful not to condemn wrong views or bad habits before the householder has cultivated appreciation for spiritual matters? (*w03* 11/15 p. 14 par. 9)

How long should you stay on the first few visits? Why?

Challenges in the Return Visit Work

What can you do if the householder is too busy to talk with you?

What advantage is there in sharing a brief Scriptural point even with busy people?

SUGGESTION: Some pioneers write down scriptures for the person to read later.

Although the householder may be busy, what do you say to prepare him for your next visit?

What do you say if you find that the householder shows his lack of interest by being rude or abrupt? Why do you handle it that way? (*be* p. 222 par. 2)

How might you still leave a favorable impression?
(Matt. 10:12, 13; Rom. 12:17, 18)

What should you do if someone comes into the home when you are talking with the householder? Why would you do so?

If making return visits is difficult for you, why might you accompany someone who does well in this work?

How will a prayerful attitude regarding return visits help you fully accomplish your ministry? (1 Cor. 3:6)

Workshop 3

Make Effective Return Visits

In this workshop we will consider how to

- ✓ maintain a positive attitude towards return visit work
- ✓ have a reasonable objective in mind for the return visit
- ✓ prepare the groundwork for the next conversation

OPENING DISCUSSION

Previous workshops have highlighted ways in which we can show personal interest and ways we can start conversations, as well as the variety of people and places we may encounter as we ‘fully accomplish our ministry.’ (2 Tim. 4:5; Acts 9:11) Building on this foundation, we will now examine how we can make successful return visits with the goal of starting Bible studies.—1 Cor. 3:6.

Pioneer Service School Review

—Day 4

Unit 10(a) Appreciate Jesus' Role

*"The witness concerning Jesus is what inspires prophecy."
—Revelation 19:10.*

- How does knowing Jesus' role in God's purpose motivate us to preach zealously?
- How can we help others cultivate appreciation for Jesus' role in God's purpose?

Unit 10(b) Think in Terms of Bible Principles

*"Wisdom is the most important thing."
—Proverbs 4:7.*

- How can thinking in terms of Bible principles make you a better pioneer?
- How do Bible principles help us to perceive the will of Jehovah?
- Give examples of Bible principles that have improved your life.

Unit 11(a) Examine Your Spiritual Progress

*"Run in such a way that you may win it."
—1 Corinthians 9:24.*

- What are some characteristics of a spiritually-minded Christian?

- How has prayerful self-analysis helped you to grow spiritually?
- How can we avoid comparing ourselves with others?

Unit 11(b) Make Effective Return Visits

*“I planted, Apollos watered,
but God kept making it grow.”
—1 Corinthians 3:6.*

- Why are good preparation and a positive attitude essential when making return visits?
- How can you lay the groundwork for (a) successive conversations? (b) starting a Bible study?
- How can you help others to make effective return visits?

Unit 12(a) Workshop 3 Make Effective Return Visits

*“Go to the street called Straight,
and look for a man named Saul.”
—Acts 9:11.*

- What goals might you set when you make a return visit?
- Why is it always good to feature a scripture when making return visits?
- Highlight suggestions from today’s workshop that you would like to implement.

Learn From the Master

OPENING DISCUSSION

In referring to Jesus, the apostle Peter wrote: “Though you never saw him, you love him.” (1 Pet. 1:8) Why do we agree with that sentiment? It is because Jesus displayed mildness and refreshed others. (Matt. 11: 28-30) He showed empathy, was interested in others, and was approachable. He made wise choices in life and was a hard worker. How did Jesus acquire these qualities? Simply put, Jesus learned from his Father, Jehovah. Yes, Jesus perfectly reflected his Father’s divine qualities and, as a result, we are drawn to him.

Jesus, having been taught by Jehovah, likewise teaches us. How do we show that we are truly learning from the Master, Jesus? (Col. 3:23, 24) Can we prove to be a real friend to others, demonstrating empathy as well as courage? (Mark 10:13-16; John 15:11-15) Like Jesus, can we be industrious and keep material things in their proper place? Are we determined to attract others to our way of life by the qualities we display?—John 13:13; *it-2* p. 266 par. 1.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Imitate the Kind of Person Jesus Was

In what ways is Jesus qualified to be our Master? (Isa. 11:2, 3; John 10:14, 15; 1 Pet. 2:21; Rev. 7:16, 17)

How did Jesus show good judgment when choosing his life course? (Matt. 6:22)

How do we know that love is the dominant quality of Jesus' personality? (John 15:13, 14)

What is always highlighted in Jesus' love? (John 8:29; 1 John 5:3)

Why is it important to imitate the way that Jesus demonstrated love for his disciples? (John 13:34, 35)

How can you display such love toward your Christian brothers and sisters? (*cf* pp. 163-171)

"The love the Christ has compels us" to do what? (2 Cor. 5:14, 15)

Describe the love that should be shown toward . . .

- fellow believers. (Col. 3:12-17)
- the world of mankind. (Col. 4:5, 6)

SELF-EXAMINATION: Do I think about what I can do for those in unfortunate circumstances or those who might be lonely? Do I make others feel that they are really appreciated? Am I inclined to give of myself in behalf of others with no thought of receiving anything in return? Do I display love without partiality? (Luke 14:12-14) Do I reflect love and concern for the welfare of those in my territory? Am I aware of the spiritual danger they are in, and do I make every effort to reach their hearts? When some manifest an unloving spirit, am I motivated to try another approach?—Rom. 12:20; *w09* 9/15 pp. 9-20.

How did Jesus show warmth and deep feeling toward those with whom he lived and worked? (Matt. 9:10-13; Luke 7:36-50)

What balanced view of nonbelievers did Jesus have?

How did Jesus prove to be approachable even when his privacy was interrupted, and how might we follow his example? (Mark 6:31-34)

How can you imitate Jesus’ example of empathy? (John 11:33-44)

Why could following Jesus’ example of humility, kindness, and love contribute to your being a real friend and true companion of others? (Luke 22:24-27; John 15:11-15)

What can be accomplished when we show ourselves understanding and discerning in dealing with people? (Luke 19:2-10)

What evidence do we have that Jesus was impartial and respectful toward those he came in contact with?

What do you learn from the fact that Jesus did not hold back from giving commendation? (Rev. 2:2, 13, 19; 3:4)

Work Hard, as Jesus Did

What is Jesus’ attitude toward work, and how can you imitate him in this regard? (John 9:4; 17:4; *it-2* p. 68 par. 5)

How can you show that you feel as Jesus did when he said: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work”? (John 4:6, 8, 32-35)

Jesus had a schedule of activity, as noted at Luke 21:37, 38. How does knowing this help you to fulfill your assignment?

Have a Balanced View of Material Things

According to Jesus, what should be our attitude toward material things? (Matt. 6:24-33; *it-2* p. 68 par. 6)

What will help you to develop and maintain a balanced view of material things? (Luke 12:15)

What example did Jesus set for you to follow regarding recreation and work? (Mark 6:31; Luke 5:29; John 2:1-10; 12:2-8)

How can you imitate Jesus in showing appreciation for the things others do to help you in your pioneer ministry? (Luke 10:38-42)

“Follow His Steps Closely”

According to 1 Peter 2:21-23, in what way is Jesus a model for you when you experience challenging times?

Following the pattern of Jesus, how do Christians handle opposition and persecution? (*w05* 1/1 pp. 10-11 pars. 16-19)

Why is it your resolve to continue learning from the Master? (John 14:21, 23)

Conduct Progressive Bible Studies—Part 1

OPENING DISCUSSION

Pioneers can take a lesson from the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ. (Luke 6:40) Whether Jesus was speaking to a crowd on a mountainside or to just a few people as they walked on the road, what he said and the way he said it made a lasting impression. Jesus stimulated the minds and hearts of his listeners, and he made practical application that they could understand. Can you accomplish similar things?—Luke 24:32.

In order to fulfill our commission to make disciples, we should have a strong desire to improve in our teaching ability. (Matt. 28:20) The apostle Paul emphasized the importance of this skill when he said: “Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching.”—1 Tim. 4:16.

The work of teaching others has brought joy to thousands of Jehovah’s people who have had the privilege of conducting progressive Bible studies. As an effective teacher, you are able to reach the hearts of your listeners and to help them progressively to understand, appreciate, and act on what they learn. 1 Timothy 4:16 assures us that our teaching results in the saving of lives—all to Jehovah’s praise. What greater motivation could we have?

QUESTION OUTLINE

Our Grand Instructor

What is involved in teaching? (*it-2* p. 1070)

Why is Jehovah called the Grand Instructor? By what means do we “see” and “hear” our Grand Instructor? How are we taught by Jehovah? (Job 36:22; Isa. 30:20, 21)

From the following examples, what do we learn from Jehovah about effective teaching?

Genesis 18:20-32

Job 38:4, 8, 31

Isaiah 40:26

Isaiah 44:14-17

Jonah 4:9-11

How does God’s spirit function as a teacher for us today? (John 14:26)

Jesus, the Master Teacher (John 13:13)

On what did Jesus base his teaching? (Matt. 4:7, 10; John 7:16)

What does John 7:18 reveal about Jesus’ motive in teaching, and what example does he set for you?

What are some of the ways that we might inadvertently draw too much attention to ourselves when we are teaching? How might this become a snare to us and our student? (*be* p. 57 pars. 1-2)

Why did the officers who were sent to lay hold of Jesus return empty-handed? (John 7:45, 46) According to

Matthew 7:28, 29, why were the crowds astounded at his teaching?

- ◆ Why was Jesus such an outstanding teacher? He loved the truths he conveyed and the people he taught. Jesus had a masterful grasp of teaching methods.

Preparing to Conduct Progressive Bible Studies

What four things made Ezra an effective teacher? (Ezra 7:10)

As described at 2 Samuel 12:1-7, what shows that the prophet Nathan had David in mind when he prepared his approach?

As you prepare a lesson with the needs of a student in mind, what might this include? (*km* 8/04 p. 1 pars. 2-4)

Ask yourself: What does the student need to work on to make spiritual progress? What points might he have difficulty in understanding or accepting? How can I reach his heart?

Begin your preparation by praying to Jehovah about your student and his needs. Ask Jehovah to help you reach the student’s heart. (Acts 16:14; Col. 1:9, 10)

- ◆ Teaching effectively involves more than just discussing the material and looking up the cited scriptures. We need to present the information in a way that touches the student’s heart. This requires thorough preparation with each student in mind.—Prov. 15:28.

While preparing to conduct a study in the *Bible Teach* book, why should you give attention to the . . .

- chapter title?
- introductory questions?
- subheadings and visual aids?
- review box at the end of the chapter?

How will this overview of the information help you to focus on the main points as you prepare to conduct the study?

As you prepare, mark key words and phrases that answer the printed question in a paragraph. How will this be beneficial to you? How will this help your student?

Why do you find it helpful to analyze how the cited scriptures relate to the main point of the paragraph? How do you decide which scriptures to read during the study?

How will making brief notes in the margins of the publication be helpful to you?

Help Your Student Prepare for the Study

How can showing a student your studied copy of the publication under consideration be helpful? (Luke 6:40)

How can you encourage your student to follow your example in marking what is needed in the paragraph to help him recall the answer? Why will encouraging him to answer in his own words be of benefit?

Encourage your student to look up the scriptures as he prepares for the study. What help may your student need when using the Bible? How could you assist him?

- ◆ Once a regular study has been established, prepare a lesson together to show the student how this is done. With most students, it will be helpful to prepare an entire chapter together.

A student who reads the lesson beforehand, marks the answers, and thinks of how to express them in his own words is on the road to spiritual progress.

How can your own preparedness and regularity at a study session help your student to see the value in this routine?

Conduct Progressive Bible Studies—Part 2

OPENING DISCUSSION

Why was Jesus so effective when teaching others? Jesus instructed by example, stimulated thinking ability through skillful use of questions, and used appropriate illustrations. (Matt. 17:24-26; Mark 1:22) He also taught his disciples to develop faith and build a close relationship with Jehovah.

Today, pioneers continue the work of disciple-making by directing people to the Christian congregation and helping them to develop a strong love for Jehovah. Let us explore Jesus' methods of teaching so that we can improve. (Luke 6:40) We will focus on Jesus' use of questions and illustrations.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Jesus Employed Questions in His Teaching

Jesus made remarkable use of questions in his teaching. He patiently took the time to do so, and it was effective. Jesus asked questions to convey truths, to determine what was on the minds and hearts of his listeners, and to stimulate and train the thinking of his disciples.

How did Jesus effectively use questions in the following situations?

Matthew 16:13, 15

Matthew 17:24-27

John 11:26

How might we use auxiliary questions when conducting a Bible study? How could the use of such questions draw out the thoughts and feelings of our student? (Prov. 20:5)

- ◆ A student’s answers may indicate that he *understands* what the Bible teaches, but does he *agree* with what he is learning?

What questions might be used to determine what is in the student’s heart? For example:

- Does God’s view of such matters seem reasonable to you?
- What benefit do you see in applying such counsel?
- How can you apply this information in your life?
- ◆ Questions require your student to think. Be patient and avoid rushing the student after asking a question.—*be* p. 259 pars. 1-2.

What should you do if your student answers incorrectly? How could you lead him to the appropriate conclusion?

How does Proverbs 12:18 help us in using auxiliary questions with tact?

- ◆ CAUTION: Use auxiliary questions as needed, but be careful that such questions do not needlessly sidetrack the student.

Why Jesus' Illustrations Helped People

How can using illustrations as Jesus did simplify and clarify your teaching and add support to it? (Matt. 7: 24-27; 16:1-4; *be* p. 242 par. 4)

Why was it said about Jesus that “without an illustration he would not speak to them”? (Matt. 13: 10-15, 34, 35; *it-1* p. 1175)

When properly used, how can illustrations and examples be powerful teaching tools to accomplish the following?

- Arresting attention
- Stimulating thinking
- Stirring emotions, affecting the conscience and the heart
- Serving as memory aids
- Overcoming prejudice (*be* p. 240 par. 1)

EXAMPLE: A person who is studying is hesitant about sharing with others the things he is learning. You could illustrate the need to try by asking: ‘If you were to see a person drowning, what would compassion move you to do? How do you think Jehovah will feel toward us if we do something to assist those who face death at Armageddon?’

Why is it more effective to use questions that appeal to a person's loving qualities than to use questions that foster guilt? (*be* p. 260 par. 1–p. 261 par. 1)

What kind of illustrations are most effective? (*be* pp. 240-246) What simple illustrations have you used?

Conduct Effective Bible Studies

- ◆ The Sermon on the Mount contains profound truths, and yet Jesus taught with simplicity, brevity, and clarity.

How can the format of the *Watchtower* Study be used as a pattern for our Bible studies?

- Read the paragraph
- Ask the printed question
- Allow the student to answer
- Read and consider appropriate scriptures
- Ask auxiliary questions and use illustrations

Why should we focus on the main points when conducting a Bible study? Why could it be counterproductive to bring unnecessary material into the discussion? (*be* p. 162 par. 4)

What should we do when our student raises a question? (*km* 2/05 p. 6 pars. 1-4)

Why should we allow the student sufficient time to read, grasp, and accept truths presented in the lesson?

How do we decide how much material we will cover? How can we keep the Bible study moving at a progressive pace? (Col. 2:6, 7; *km* 1/05 p. 1 pars. 1-6)

How can we take the limitations of our students into consideration? (John 16:12)

Directing Students to the Christian Congregation

Which of the following methods have you found helpful in encouraging a student to begin attending meetings?

- Inviting him from the initial study
- Describing the meetings
- Building anticipation for special events (such as the Memorial, the circuit overseer's visit, and assemblies)
- When praying at the study, mentioning the congregation meetings and the benefits of attending

How can you use jw.org to direct your students to the organization?

- ◆ *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* This brochure contains one-page lessons that can easily be covered in just five to ten minutes at the end of each study.—*km* 3/13 p. 3.

Its purpose is to (1) familiarize Bible students with us as a people, (2) help them learn about our activities, and (3) show them our organization in action.

As your student progresses, how can you help him to establish goals such as: praying to Jehovah each day, reading the Bible daily, preparing for his lesson each week, regularly reading *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, attending meetings and assemblies, as well as sharing what he is learning informally? (*w01* 8/1 pp. 19-22)

Workshop 4

Conduct Progressive Bible Studies

In this workshop we will consider how to

- ✓ find and cultivate Bible studies
- ✓ improve your teaching skills
- ✓ direct your Bible students to the Christian congregation

OPENING DISCUSSION

Worldwide, millions of Bible studies are being conducted by God's people each month. Is our interest merely to improve people's lives or is our commission much more involved? Matthew 28:19, 20 gives clear direction as to our goal. What joy we have when, over time, individuals build a relationship with Jehovah, make changes, and become true footstep followers of Jesus Christ!

In this final workshop, we will explore our role, as well as the role of the congregation, in the progress of our Bible students. The Bible likens the work of making a Christian disciple to building a structure upon Jesus Christ as the foundation.—1 Cor. 3:10-13; 3 John 4; *be* p. 278 pars. 1-4.

We encourage you once again to take full advantage of the workshop session. Determine where you can grow as a teacher. Take special note of ways to direct your students to God's organization. May many more come to know and serve Jehovah and actually be 'saved through an accurate knowledge of truth.'—1 Tim. 2:4.

Help Others “Press On to Maturity”

OPENING DISCUSSION

The birth of a child, a graduation, a marriage—all are milestones. However, in each instance there is still much work to do for those involved to achieve success.

What about your Bible students? Are they able to track their spiritual progress? Have they become unbaptized publishers? Are they baptized? These are truly milestones that bring much joy. However, your students still need your assistance and training. They have just begun a course that we hope will be a lifetime of service to Jehovah. How can we assist them to “press on to maturity”?—Heb. 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:10-13.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Trained to Give a Witness

How do you help your Bible students from the beginning of their studies to understand the importance of speaking to others about what they are learning?

SUGGESTION: Some pioneers give their Bible students tracts to share with friends and relatives. Others practice informal witnessing with their students.
—*bh* p. 177 par. 9.

If your student expresses a desire to share in the preaching work, how do you help him to see what changes

he needs to make before he can do so? (Ps. 24:3-6; 50:16; Rom. 2:21-24; *bh* p. 154 par. 2; pp. 177-178 pars. 10-11)

Why would it be good to encourage your student to sign up for student assignments on the midweek meeting?

What are the qualifications to sign up for student assignments? (*be* p. 282 par. 6)

When you believe that a student is qualified to share in field service, what steps should you take in order for him to be approved? (*w96* 1/15 p. 16; *km* 2/02 p. 5)

What is involved in preparing your student for his first day in field service? (*lv* p. 57 par. 14; *km* 6/96 p. 5 par. 19)

Why are special campaigns useful in training new publishers?

Why is it vital to give our Bible students ongoing training in the witnessing work? Why is it vital to train them in various avenues of service?

Discuss the following steps by which you can help a new publisher develop witnessing skills. (Judg. 7:17; *w96* 1/15 p. 16 par. 8; *km* 6/05 p. 1; *km* 7/05 p. 1; *km* 8/05 p. 1)

- Providing a brief explanation and showing the student where he can find suggested presentations
- Demonstrating how various features of the ministry are done
- Allowing him to try what you have demonstrated
- Giving heartfelt commendation and reassurance

How would you stress to your student the importance of regular participation in the ministry? (*km* 8/94 pp. 3-4)

Assisting Students to Dedication and Baptism

How can a consideration of the following steps help us in gauging the progress of a Bible student? What can be done if we determine that the student is at a stand-still when it comes to one or more of these steps?

- An interested person starts by “coming to *know*” Jehovah and his Son, Jesus Christ (John 17:3)
- His *faith* increases as his knowledge grows (John 3:16)
- He regularly calls on Jehovah in *prayer* (Acts 2:21)
- He appreciates the need to *associate* regularly with others of like faith (Heb. 10:24, 25)
- He *repents* of his sins (Acts 17:30)
- He *turns around*, rejecting bad practices (Acts 3:19)
- His faith moves him to *speak* publicly to others (2 Cor. 4:13)
- He *dedicates* himself to Jehovah in order to follow Jesus properly (1 Pet. 4:2)
- He symbolizes his dedication by water *baptism* (Matt 16:24; 1 Pet. 3:21)

Before a student makes a dedication to Jehovah God, how should he feel about Jehovah and His people? (Ps. 40:8; 104:33; Zech. 8:23)

How do you progressively help the student to develop these feelings? (*jl* Lessons 1, 2, 5, 6; *km* 9/05 p. 3)

How can you discern the progress a student is making toward having a proper view of his own position in relation to God? (*w05* 2/1 pp. 28-31)

Why is it vital that your student understand what dedication really means? How does one make a dedication to Jehovah? (*w10* 1/15 pp. 3-7)

How can you help your student to reflect on his true motivations for getting baptized, and why is this so important? (Matt. 24:13; 28:19, 20)

Press On to Maturity

In what way does our Christian obligation as pioneers extend far beyond a student's baptism? (Acts 14:22; Gal. 6:10; 1 Pet. 4:10)

For how long and in what ways should you continue helping newly baptized ones? (Col. 2:6, 7; *km* 3/09 p. 2; *km* 6/00 p. 4 pars. 7-8)

- ◆ It is best to continue studying with a progressive Bible student until he has completed two publications—*What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and *Keep Yourselves in God's Love.* This is true even if the student gets baptized before finishing both books. After his baptism, we may continue to report the time, the return visits, and the Bible study. If a publisher accompanies us and participates in the study, he may also count the time. —*km* 4/11 p. 2.

During their development, have your students been encouraged to . . .

- make decisions based on Bible principles?
- have a regular routine for prayer, personal study, and meditation?
- get along with others at the Kingdom Hall and work for peace? (Matt. 5:23, 24; 18:21, 22; Rom. 12:18)
- support their local Kingdom Hall financially as well as when cleaning and maintenance are needed?
- set such goals in their ministry as: working with the circuit overseer or his wife, auxiliary pioneering, conducting their own Bible studies, being regular in the ministry even during times of hardship?

Why is it important for new ones to have a good foundation in Christian living before we feel our assignment as a teacher is complete? (Col. 2:6, 7; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9)

Pioneer Service School Review

—Day 5

Unit 13(a) Learn From the Master

“If anyone loves me, he will observe my word.”
—John 14:23.

- Why can we rightly refer to Jesus as our Master?
- In what ways can you imitate the kind of person Jesus was?
- How did Jesus set the example for pioneers in regard to (a) his work ethic? (b) his view of material things?

Unit 13(b) Conduct Progressive Bible Studies

—Part 1

“[Teach] them to observe all the things I have commanded you.”
—Matthew 28:20.

- What effective teaching methods did Jesus learn from Jehovah?
- How do you prepare to conduct a Bible study with the needs of your student in mind?
- How can you assist your student to get the most benefit from his Bible study?

Unit 14(a) Conduct Progressive Bible Studies

—Part 2

“Everyone who is perfectly instructed will be like his teacher.”
—Luke 6:40.

- How can you imitate Jesus in his use of (a) questions? (b) illustrations?

- How can profound truths be presented in a clear and simple manner?
- How can you direct Bible students to the Christian congregation?

Unit 14(b) Workshop 4 **Conduct Progressive Bible Studies**

*“I should hear that my children go
on walking in the truth.”
—3 John 4.*

- What can you do to reach the heart of your Bible student?
- What can you do to help your Bible student overcome difficulties?
- How can you help your Bible student make progress toward baptism?

Unit 15(a) Help Others “Press On to Maturity”

*“Now that we have moved beyond the primary doctrine
about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.”
—Hebrews 6:1.*

- What steps are needed for students to qualify to join us in the ministry? What training can you provide for a new publisher?
- How can you explain the meaning of dedication to your progressive student?
- How do we continue to help our students even after their baptism?

The Joy of Jehovah Is Your Stronghold

OPENING DISCUSSION

The joy that Jehovah gives is an unfailing stronghold for those walking in his way as integrity keepers. (Prov. 2:6-8; 10:29) To have God-given joy, of course, people must do the divine will. In this regard, consider what happened in Jerusalem in Ezra's day. The copyist Ezra and others imparted understanding through a meaningful reading of the Law. Then the people were urged: "Go, eat the choice things and drink what is sweet, and send portions of food to those who have nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not feel sad, for the joy of Jehovah is your stronghold." The Jews applied the knowledge they had gained and held a joyous Festival of Booths, which resulted in "great rejoicing." (Neh. 8:1-12) Those who had 'the joy of Jehovah as their stronghold' gathered strength for his worship and service. God's people today should be joyful as well. What are some of our present-day reasons for joy?

QUESTION OUTLINE

"Nothing but Joyful" (Deut. 16:15)

What is the definition of joy? (*it-2* p. 119)

What is the source of true joy, and how is God's holy spirit involved? (Deut. 28:47; Prov. 15:13; 17:22; Gal. 5:22)

Why should our close relationship with Jehovah make us the most joyful people on earth? (John 6:44; Eph. 4:18)

How has Jesus' role contributed to our joyful state? (Rom. 5:8, 18, 19; Col. 1:21-23)

What aspects of our pure worship bring us joy? (John 8:32; 1 Cor. 2:9, 10; Rev. 18:1-8)

- ◆ Of all the people living on the earth, only those exclusively devoted to Jehovah have his holy spirit and the blessed comprehension of his Word and will. We can be both grateful and joyous that we are granted the progressive understanding indicated in the words of Proverbs 4:18: "The path of the righteous is like the bright morning light that grows brighter and brighter until full daylight."

Why can it be said that joy is not optional? (Deut. 16:13-15; w95 1/15 p. 11 pars. 4-6)

A Life of Purpose

What hope brings great joy, and what are Christians encouraged to do in regard to this hope? (Matt. 6:9, 10; Phil. 4:4; 1 Tim. 1:11)

EXPERIENCE: A pioneer named Janeen says: "Each time I have an opportunity to teach the truth to others, I feel that a deeper impression of these truths is engraved on my mind and heart. As a result, my faith is not stagnant but continues to grow."

Why is the ministry of Jehovah’s Witnesses the most important work being done on earth today? (Isa. 55:6)

How does Jehovah feel about his work, and how do we know that Jehovah wants us to enjoy our work? (Eccl. 5:19; *it-2* p. 119)

How did the apostle Paul voice a similar thought about rejoicing? (Phil. 4:4; *it-2* p. 119)

To whom does your work bring joy, and why? (Isa. 52:7; Luke 15:10; Acts 20:35; Rom. 10:15)

How might your pioneering bring joy to your family members?

EXPERIENCE: A pioneer with school-age children scheduled her field service activities so that two afternoons a week she could share with her children in the field service after school. She would also encourage them to pioneer during school vacations. All five of her children entered pioneer service after they finished school.

Note to Instructor: Using the latest *Yearbook*, discuss highlights of the ministry during the past service year worldwide and locally, and remind the pioneers of the important role they played in these good reports. —1 Cor. 3:5-9.

A Blessed Brotherhood

In what ways does our international brotherhood bring you joy? (Hag. 2:7; 1 Pet. 5:5-11)

How has the joy of our brotherhood personally affected your life? (Ps. 133:1; Mark 10:29, 30; 1 Pet. 2:17)

- ◆ Pioneers help to stabilize the congregation. They assist in caring for midweek meetings for field service and working with those needing assistance. Their conversations, comments, and experiences stimulate others. Pioneers are an example to younger ones. They encourage them to put Kingdom interests first and to set theocratic goals for themselves such as pioneering, Bethel service, and serving where there is a greater need. Pioneers often make time to encourage infirm ones in the congregation. Because of their tact and discernment in dealing with people at the doors, householders become familiar with our message and more receptive to it.—Phil. 2:17.

How can pioneers contribute to the joy of others while increasing their own joy? (Prov. 11:25)

An Unfailing Stronghold

Since joy does not eliminate our difficulties, why is a positive spirit important? (Ps. 59:16, 17; 100:2; Heb. 12:2; Jas. 1:2)

Read and discuss Colossians 1:9-11.

Why may we need to show “patience and joy?” (Matt. 5:10; 1 Pet. 4:13, 14)

How does being assured of Jehovah’s love contribute to our joy? (Ps. 34:18; 1 John 3:19, 20)

How is the joy of Jehovah an unfailing stronghold? (Ps. 18:1, 2, superscription; Rom. 10:10)

Does it not fill you with joy and gratitude to know what Jehovah has done, is doing, and will do for his servants? Indeed, such grand prospects contribute to our joy! Moreover, our blessed hope makes us look to our happy, loving, generous God with sentiments like these: “Look! This is our God! We have hoped in him, and he will save us. This is Jehovah! We have hoped in him. Let us be joyful and rejoice in the salvation by him.” (Isa. 25:9) With our splendid hope firmly fixed in mind, let us put forth every effort to serve Jehovah with joy of heart.

Jehovah Blesses Those Trusting in Him

OPENING DISCUSSION

God's Word urges us: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he will make your paths straight." (Prov. 3:5, 6) No one in the universe is more trustworthy than our heavenly Father. Nevertheless, it is easier to read these words in Proverbs than to put them into practice.

- ◆ Trust is defined as "assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something."—*Webster's Eleventh New Collegiate Dictionary*.

Proverbs 3:5 contrasts trusting in Jehovah with leaning on our own understanding, suggesting that we cannot do both. Jehovah gives us powers of understanding, and he expects us to use these in serving him. (Rom. 12:1) Do we trust Jehovah's wisdom for what it is—infinately superior to our own? (Isa. 55:8, 9) To "trust in Jehovah" means to let his thinking guide our thought processes. We take notice of him in 'all our ways,' not just when we face difficult circumstances. Jehovah blesses those who put their complete trust in him.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Jehovah—A Trustworthy God

What is meant by the expression "loyal love" as used in the Bible? (*nwt* p. 1703; *w04* 4/15 p. 14 pars. 10-11) How

is Jehovah’s trustworthiness and strength of character firmly anchored in his loyal love? (Ex. 34:6, 7; Deut. 7:7-9, 12; Ps. 136:1-26)

Explain why the meaning or definition of Jehovah’s name is a significant reason for putting trust in him? (Ex. 3:14; ftn.; 6:2-8)


Why is Jehovah the epitome of truth? Give examples of Jehovah’s reliability and integrity. (1 Ki. 8:56; Ps. 31:5; Heb. 6:18)

How did Jehovah demonstrate that he trusted his Son, and what was this confidence based on? (Isa. 53:3-7, 10-12; John 8:29; Acts 8:32-35)

How did Jesus demonstrate that he trusted in Jehovah under challenging circumstances? (Matt. 26:52, 53)

- ◆ Jehovah takes pleasure in those who trust in him, and he becomes whatever is necessary to bless and protect his people.—Zeph. 3:12, 13.

Jesus Trusted in His Father

 *Dramatic Bible reading of Luke 4:1-13.* This account will highlight the trust that Jesus placed in his heavenly Father. Once the dramatic Bible reading has concluded, the class will discuss principles and identify lessons from the dramatization. Be prepared to follow along in Luke 4:1-13.

What three enticements identified by the apostle John does Satan use to challenge our loyalty and trust in Jehovah? (1 John 2:15, 16)

How did Satan use each of these enticements to tempt Jesus in the wilderness?


How do Jesus' responses help us when we are faced with similar challenges to our faith and trust in God? (w13 8/15 p. 25 pars. 8-10)

How did Jesus' knowledge of the Scriptures enable him to trust in Jehovah and resist temptations?

How does Jesus' example help us to remain trustworthy in the face of temptation? (Ps. 1:1-3; Jer. 17:5-7)

- ◆ If we are well-acquainted with the Bible, this will enable us to bring principles and verses to mind that can help us to keep our thinking straight in the face of temptation. Each time Jesus answered Satan, he gave a Scriptural reply, saying "It is written" or, "It is said."—Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:12; Ps. 119:42.

Imitate a Widow's Trust

 *Dramatic Bible reading of 1 Kings 17:8-24.* This account will help us to appreciate the confidence and trust that was displayed by the widow of Zarephath. Her situation was critical. Would she trust in Jehovah to save her and her son, or would she put her material needs ahead of gaining God's approval and friendship? Be prepared to follow along in 1 Kings 17:8-24.

What request did Elijah make of the widow of Zarephath, and what assurance did he give her? (1 Ki. 17: 13, 14)

How did the widow put her complete trust in the God of salvation, and how did Jehovah bless and reward her for this? (1 Ki. 17:15, 16)

What does the account of the widow of Zarephath teach us about trusting in Jehovah when we face financial and other difficulties? (Ps. 22:4, 5)

How can meditating on such accounts increase our trust in the resurrection hope? (1 Ki. 17:17-24; 2 Cor. 1:3)

Trust Jehovah’s Promises

How can meditating on past acts of deliverance fortify us for what lies ahead? (Hab. 3:18)

How do the following Scriptural accounts strengthen your faith in Jehovah’s ability to deliver his people?

Genesis 7:1-5, 11

Exodus 14:1-4

2 Kings 19:32-35

Matthew 24:15-18, 22

Read Joshua 23:14.

What evidences are recorded in the Scriptures that verify the words of Joshua to be factual? Compare the following Scriptural promises:

Genesis 12:7

Exodus 3:8; 12:29-32; 16:4, 13-15

Deuteronomy 8:3, 4

Joshua 11:23

Blessings Overtake Those Who Trust in Jehovah

What does Genesis 22:18 imply about God's blessing? (Gal. 3:16, 29; Rev. 7:4; 14:1)

What do we learn from the promise made at Deuteronomy 28:1, 2?

- ◆ We can have complete faith in everything Jehovah God says, including his promises for the future. He is the very essence and personification of truth. Jehovah also has the almighty power to protect his trusting ones and to bring all of his grand purposes to glorious success.—Ps. 91:1, 2; Isa. 55:8-11.

Persevere in Prayer

OPENING DISCUSSION

Prayer is unique among the loving provisions of Jehovah God. Opposers may confiscate your Bible or prevent you from meeting with fellow worshippers, but no one can rob you of prayer. To overstate the value of prayer is impossible. How important it is, then, for each one of us to cherish and take full advantage of this privilege.

The Bible is not a prayer book. Yet, it could be described as mankind's greatest textbook on prayer. The Hebrew Scriptures alone contain over 150 prayers. Some are short; others are long. They were uttered in public and in private, by kings and by captives, in triumph and in tribulation. At Psalm 65:2, we read David's song: "O Hearer of prayer, to you people of all sorts will come."

You pioneers may need strength and wisdom in special ways because of your own particular circumstances. Your full reliance on Jehovah by means of prayer will help you to deal with life's challenges. Therefore, this discussion should enhance your understanding of the privilege of prayer and your appreciation for it.

QUESTION OUTLINE

Coming to the "Hearer of Prayer"

What convinces you that Jehovah hears your prayers? (1 Ki. 18:36-38; Acts 12:5-11; Heb. 5:7)

Why did King David say that his prayer should be prepared “as incense”? (Ps. 141:2; Ex. 30:34-38; Rev. 5:8)

Why should we give thought to improving the quality and quantity of our prayers? (Ps. 92:1, 2; 119:147, 164; Eph. 6:18)

We Can Learn From Notable Prayers in the Bible

What shows that although Jesus was a perfect man, he did not rely on his own strength to endure? What confidence did Jesus have in his Father, and why? (Heb. 5:7)

What do you especially appreciate about Jesus’ prayers at Matthew 26:39, 42, 44?

In the account at Luke 6:12, 13, Jesus prayed all night. What can we learn from this?

What is supplication, and concerning what may we supplicate Jehovah? (Phil. 4:6; w13 11/15 p. 4 pars. 6-7)

Why should we look to Jehovah to cope with pressures in this system, and how may we do so? (Matt. 7:7; Phil. 4:13)

What two major problems did Hannah face, and why did each present a challenge? (1 Sam. 1:2) Why did Peninnah want Hannah to suffer, and how did she hurt Hannah? (1 Sam. 1:5-7)

When you face petty meanness or injustice, why is it comforting to remember that Jehovah is the God of justice? Why do we not allow what others do to cause us to stumble? (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 119:165)

How did Hannah pour out her heart to her heavenly Father in prayer? (1 Sam. 1:9, 10)

Rather than speak in generalities, how was Hannah specific in her prayer? What comfort did this bring to her? How can our specific prayers help to unburden our hearts and minds? (1 Sam. 1:11; Ps. 51)

- ◆ When you are faced with adversity, be specific in your prayers. Regardless of what your problem is, whether it is your domestic situation, loneliness, or ill health, pray to Jehovah about it. Describe to him the exact nature of your difficulty and how you feel.

EXPERIENCE: “Every evening I entrust all my troubles to Jehovah,” says a widow named Louise. “Sometimes there are quite a few, but I clearly mention each one.” (w95 3/15 p. 4)

As Hannah’s example illustrates, what should we keep in mind while praying to God? (Ps. 62:8; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:7) Why should this build our confidence in Jehovah?

What comfort did Hannah receive by opening her heart to Jehovah? How might we benefit from Hannah’s example when we struggle with negative feelings? (1 Sam. 1:18; Ps. 55:22)

How did Hannah’s second recorded prayer to Jehovah reflect the depth of her faith? When you examine Hannah’s prayer recorded at 1 Samuel 2:1-10, what do you learn about the need to have an intimate relationship with Jehovah? How does her prayer strengthen your faith?

Jehovah's servants offered notable prayers under a multitude of circumstances. Which of the following situations have you experienced?

- You need guidance from God in carrying out an assignment, as did Eliezer. (Gen. 24:12-14)
- You face opposition from your family, as did Jacob. (Gen. 32:9-12)
- You want to know God better, as did Moses. (Ex. 33:12-17)
- You are confronted with opponents, as was Elijah. (1 Ki. 18:36, 37)
- You find some aspects of the preaching work difficult, as did Jeremiah. (Jer. 20:7-12)
- You feel the need to approach Jehovah to seek his forgiveness, as expressed by Solomon. (1 Ki. 8:38, 39)
- You face persecution, as did Jesus' disciples. (Acts 4:24-31)



Future study project: About 180 prayers are recorded in the Bible. Why not research these by means of *Watchtower Library*, the Index, or the *Research Guide for Jehovah's Witnesses*. Analyzing the content of the prayers of other faithful servants will be a source of encouragement to you.—*w11* 2/15 p. 19.

Work in Harmony With Your Prayers

What did David do when he learned that his life was in jeopardy? (1 Sam. 19:11, 12; Ps. 59:1, 2)

How did Nehemiah show that he appreciated the principle that prayers require works? (Neh. 4:9, 16)

What accounts in Jesus’ life show that he acted in harmony with his prayer that his Father’s name be glorified? (Luke 5:23-26; 17:12-15; John 17:4)

How did Jesus work in accord with his prayer for more harvest workers? (Matt. 9:37, 38; 10:1-10; Luke 10:1-9)

How do we apply the principle of working in harmony with our prayers? (Jas. 1:5; w87 7/15 p. 19 par. 14)

Why must we accompany our prayers with a sense of confidence in Jehovah?

Psalm 86:7

Hebrews 11:6

1 Peter 3:12

1 John 5:14

How thankful we can be that the Creator of this vast universe is close to all who call on him properly in prayer! (Ps. 145:18) All of us want to take full advantage of the precious privilege of prayer. If we do, we will have the joyous prospect of drawing ever closer to Jehovah, the Hearer of prayer.

Endurance Leads to an Approved Condition

OPENING DISCUSSION

“You need endurance,” wrote the apostle Paul to the first-century Christians living in Judea. (Heb. 10:36) Emphasizing the importance of this quality, the apostle Peter likewise urged Christians: “Supply to your faith . . . endurance.” (2 Pet. 1:5, 6) What exactly is endurance?

A Greek-English lexicon defines the Greek verb for “endure” as “remain instead of fleeing . . . stand one’s ground, hold out.” Concerning the Greek noun for “endurance,” one reference work says: “It is the spirit which can bear things, not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope . . . It is the quality which keeps a man on his feet with his face to the wind. It is the virtue which can transmute the hardest trial into glory because beyond the pain it sees the goal.”

As Christians, we must endure not only when experiencing severe difficulties or persecution but also when coping with situations in everyday life. Some of you may be dealing with health problems, opposition from family members, or financial difficulties. Perhaps your territory is not as productive as others’ are. Or you may be downhearted because of a constant battle with your own shortcomings. How do you react to such circumstances that call for endurance? Can you maintain your joy while enduring?

QUESTION OUTLINE

Learning From Examples of Endurance

Why did God include examples of the endurance of faithful servants of old in the Bible? (Heb. 12:1; Jas. 5: 10, 11)

How are these accounts beneficial to us today? (Rom. 15:4)

The Bible urges us to “consider closely the one who has endured.” (Heb. 12:3) What does Hebrews 5:7-9 tell us about Jesus’ endurance? How do we benefit from his faithful course? (Rom. 5:19)

What did Job learn through his endurance? (Job 42: 2, 12; Jas. 5:10, 11)

What was “the outcome” for Job that James referred to? How did Job learn about Jehovah’s qualities while undergoing trials? (Job 42:5)

Endurance Accomplishes a Great Work

Why does God permit trials to come upon his servants? (Jas. 1:2-4)

Why does God permit wickedness that results in severe persecution of his servants? (2 Pet. 3:9, 15)

In what way do trials bring us joy?

How are personal weaknesses brought to the surface by means of trials? Why is this an advantage?

James says that endurance has a “work” that it is accomplishing. What is that “work”? How does endurance make us “complete and sound in all respects”?

“You Need Endurance” (Heb. 10:36)

Why should we not be hasty about evading situations or assignments that require special endurance? (Rom. 5:3, 4; Jas. 1:4)

When we endure, what does that reveal as to our heart? (Luke 8:15)

Why is it not wise to be in morbid fear of what future persecution might include? (1 Cor. 10:13)

What can help a person to endure persecution and maintain his integrity? (Prov. 27:11; Acts 5:41; Heb. 12:1, 2)

How may endurance be involved in the following situations, and what could be of help?

- Getting an early start in service
- Experiencing very hot or very cold weather
- Having a personality conflict with your pioneer partner or another brother or sister
- Indifference or apathy in the territory

What can help you to endure the following situations?

- Family opposition (Ps. 27:10; Matt. 10:34-37; Mark 10:29, 30)
- Discipline (Prov. 1:8; Heb. 12:11)
- Poor health or periods of depression (Ps. 41:3; Matt. 11:28-30; Rom. 12:12)

- Temptations, such as promises of a prominent position or a job promotion with higher pay but less time for spiritual things (Ps. 37:25; Matt. 5:3; 6:33)
- Pressures at work, such as ridicule because of your adherence to godly principles (Ps. 55:22; John 16:33)

EXPERIENCE: Many years ago, a man harassed a brother at work because of his faith. The workmate ridiculed the brother and criticized his religion for months. The brother felt that he could no longer cope with it, so he prayed to Jehovah to help him endure the difficult situation in a Christlike way without returning evil for evil. To the brother’s surprise, the workmate apologized and assured the brother that he would never again speak badly of God in front of him. A short time later, the workmate left the company.

Twenty-four years passed before the brother met his former workmate again. The workmate told him that he had studied the Bible and had become a baptized Witness. He further explained that though many years had gone by, he had never forgotten “that Witness who with so much patience endured constant ridicule of him and his God.”—*yb01* p. 60.

How will the following help you to endure so that you can maintain a good relationship with Jehovah?

- Personal study, including meditation (Prov. 15:28; 2 Tim. 2:15)

EXAMPLE: A brother who had been incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps wrote: “When I was arrested, I was thankful that I had not neglected personal Bible study, as it helped me to have the faith to endure.”—w72 p. 525.

- Christian association (1 Cor. 15:33; Heb. 10:24, 25)
- Field service (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20)
- Prayer (Prov. 15:29)
- A good conscience (1 Tim. 1:18, 19; 1 Pet. 3:16)

“Let Endurance Complete Its Work”

While we are awaiting final realization of our hope, our endurance serves to bring out fine qualities in us. (Jas. 1:3, 4; w97 11/15 pp. 8-9)

How do we allow endurance to “complete” us?

In what sense can we become “perfect” in God’s service? (Matt. 5:48)

- ◆ By enduring trial after trial, we repeatedly exercise godly qualities and, at the same time, new qualities are awakened. As a result of this, we will not be lacking or defective in faith or in any of the other qualities we should have as Christians.
—1 John 2:5.

How Has the Pioneer Service School Fortified You to Endure?

What have you learned that will help you to *stay* in the pioneer service?

What have you learned that will equip you to encourage others to endure?

Why is love an important factor in enduring? (Rom. 8: 38, 39; 1 Cor. 13:7, 8)

What trials have you personally faced and overcome with Jehovah’s spirit? How have you benefited?

Reward for Endurance

What did Paul say to commend the Thessalonian brothers for their endurance? (1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 1:4, 5)

What is the grand reward promised by God to those who endure? (Luke 21:19; Jas. 1:12)

Students' Comments and Concluding Lectures

Students' Comments

You may wish to express yourself as to the training received at the Pioneer Service School. Your thoughts may involve the school's effect on you as a person, on the way you view pioneer service, or on your plans for the future. The instructor will allow time now for you to express your heartfelt thoughts and feelings.

Concluding Lectures by Instructors

Each instructor will take 20 minutes to give personal encouragement and Scriptural admonition for the benefit of the students. There may be a few final announcements to make, along with direction for concluding the school course. All of this should be included within the final 40-minute period.

Conclusion

