

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2014

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 8

Song 133 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 12 ¶¶16-21, box on p. 127 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Numbers 22-25 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 22:36–23:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Satan Is Not Just the Evil Within People
—*rs* p. 362 ¶¶3–p. 363 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adam—In What Way Was Adam Made in the Likeness of God?—*it-1* pp. 44-45 ¶¶6 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 94

15 min: Display Good Manners When Preaching. (2 Cor. 6:3) Discussion based on the following questions: (1) Why is it important that we display good manners while preaching? (2) How may we show good manners when (a) our group arrives in the territory? (b) we are walking from house to house in residential territory or driving from house to house in rural territory? (c) we are standing at a door? (d) our companion is giving a witness? (e) the householder is speaking? (f) the householder is busy or the weather is inclement? (g) the householder is rude?

15 min: “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit.” Discussion. Include a soliloquy of a publisher preparing for the ministry and formulating a follow-up question to ask if the householder accepts the magazines.

Song 68 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit

Why Important: When we find someone who shows interest, we want to return when he will be home so that we can water the seed of truth that we planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) This often requires that before we leave, we lay the groundwork for the return visit by finding out when we may come back. In addition, it is good to leave a question that we will dis-

cuss the next time we visit. This will build the householder’s anticipation for the visit, and if the question is answered in the publication we left with him, he will be more likely to read it. Laying the groundwork for the next conversation also makes it easier to call back because the subject for the discussion has already been chosen, and the householder will know what to expect. When we see him again, we can explain that we returned to answer the question that we raised on the last visit and then proceed.

How to Do It:

- When preparing your house-to-house presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to be answered on the next visit. It could be based on a topic that is discussed in the literature you are offering that day, or it could be a question that is answered in one of our study publications, which you can introduce when you return.
- When concluding your conversation with a person who shows interest, let him know of your desire to talk to him again and then share the follow-up question you prepared. In some territories people are very busy and tend to be reluctant to make an appointment for you to visit them again. In those circumstances, you might say: “Is this usually a good time to find you at home? [Allow for response.] Next week, I’d like to stop by briefly and answer this question . . . If you are too busy when I come, you can just let me know.”
- If you tell the householder that you will return at a specific time, keep your appointment. (Matt. 5:37) At the conclusion of the return visit, lay the groundwork for the next one.

Try This During the Month:

- When preparing your presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to answer next time. Share it with other publishers with whom you are working.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 15

Song 105 and Prayer

□ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 13 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

□ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Numbers 26-29 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 27:15–28:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **God Did Not Create the Devil**—rs p. 363 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Adam—The Terrible Consequences of Sin**—it-1 p. 45 ¶7–p. 46 ¶1 (5 min.)

□ **Service Meeting:**

Song 11

15 min: What Have We Accomplished? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year, including the special campaign in August. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Invite the audience to relate any good experiences they had during August, and interview a publisher who expanded his ministry. Conclude by mentioning one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming year, and offer practical suggestions for improvement.

15 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets—Nahum." Questions and answers.

Song 46 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets—Nahum

¹ The ruins of ancient Nineveh give evidence that just as Nahum prophesied, Jehovah takes vengeance against His enemies and that even the fiercest of rivals is unable to take a stand against Him. (Nah. 1:2, 6) A closer look at Nahum's prophecy provides lessons for us in our ministry.

² **Offer Comfort and Hope:** At first glance, the book of Nahum appears to be only a pronouncement of doom against Nineveh, the

1. What do we learn from the book of Nahum?
2. How can we keep our message positive?

proud capital of ancient Assyria. (Nah. 1:1; 3:7) However, this pronouncement came as welcome news to Jehovah's people. Nahum, whose name means "Comforter," reassured fellow Jews that their enemy would soon be no more! Nahum further confirmed that Jehovah is "a stronghold in the day of distress." (Nah. 1:7) As we preach, we too share good news and encourage others to seek refuge in Jehovah.—Nah. 1:15.

³ **Use Examples and Illustrations:** Jehovah inspired Nahum to compare Nineveh's end to that of the Egyptian city of Thebes (No-amon), which was previously destroyed by Assyria itself. (Nah. 3:8-10) As we speak to individuals about the end of this wicked system of things, we can highlight Bible prophecies that prove that Jehovah fulfills his word down to the very last detail. For example, when the Babylonians and the Medes came against the city of Nineveh in 632 B.C.E., heavy rains caused the Tigris River to overflow, collapsing a portion of the city's impenetrable walls. Nineveh was then quickly captured, just as Jehovah foretold.—Nah. 1:8; 2:6.

⁴ **Be Clear and Understandable:** Nahum's writing style was descriptive and dramatic. His points were clear. (Nah. 1:14; 3:1) Similarly, we want to use language that is easily understood. (1 Cor. 14:9) On the initial call, clearly explain the reason for your visit. As you study the Bible with individuals, help them to develop faith in Jehovah and his Word and to appreciate how the information applies to them personally.—Rom. 10:14.

⁵ Nahum's trust in the undeniable fulfillment of Jehovah's word shines through clearly in the Bible book bearing his name. As the end of Satan's system approaches, we find comfort in the divine decree: "Distress will not arise a second time."—Nah. 1:9.

3. How can we imitate Nahum in using examples or illustrations?
4. How can we be clear and understandable in the ministry?
5. What assurance do we find in Nahum's prophecy?

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 22

Song 9 and Prayer

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 13 ¶¶11-18 (30 min.)

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Numbers 30-32 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 32:16-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why God Did Not Destroy Satan Promptly After He Rebelled—*rs* p. 363 ¶¶3–p. 364 ¶¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Administration—Human Administrations From Adam to the First Century—*it-1* p. 48 ¶¶3-8 (5 min.)

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 93

15 min: The Rich Life of a Missionary. (Prov. 10:22) Discussion based on the *2014 Yearbook*, page 123, paragraph 2, to page 127, paragraph 4; and page 169. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

15 min: “Use jw.org in Your Ministry.” Discussion. Demonstrate the presentation in paragraph 2. Then ask the audience: What advantages are there to having the video downloaded to our portable device? Why is it often best to play the video for the householder without a long introduction or without asking for permission? What experiences have you had using this video in the ministry? Conclude by encouraging publishers to become familiar with the various features of jw.org and to make use of the Web site in their ministry.

Song 84 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 29

Song 69 and Prayer

☐ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 13 ¶¶19-23, box on p. 137 (30 min.)

☐ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Numbers 33-36 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 33:24-49 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Do Not Underestimate the Devil’s Power—*rs* p. 364 ¶¶2–p. 365 ¶¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Administration—The “Administration” That God Has Had in Operation Since 33 C.E.—*it-1* p. 48 ¶¶9 (5 min.)

☐ Service Meeting:

Song 108

10 min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday. Discussion. Demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in October, using the sample presentation on page 4. Encourage all to have a share.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 4:13 and 2 Corinthians 4:1, 7 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.

10 min: Interview the Coordinator of the Body of Elders. What does caring for your assignment involve? What factors do you consider when assigning Service Meeting parts? Why is the coordinator not to be considered in charge of the body of elders or the congregation?

Song 4 and Prayer

Use jw.org in Your Ministry

Our Web site is a valuable tool to help us spread the good news “to the most distant part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) Most householders do not find jw.org on their own. Rather, they learn about it only after a publisher directs them to it.

A traveling overseer has downloaded the video *Why Study the Bible?* to his phone and shows it every chance he gets. For example, when going from house to house, he says: “I’m making brief visits to help people find answers to three important questions: Why does the world have so many problems? How will God fix them? And how can we cope in the meantime? This short video addresses

those questions.” He then presses the play button and watches the householder’s reaction. The video is so captivating that most people do not take their eyes off the screen until the end. Then the traveling overseer says: “You just heard that you can request a Bible study online. Since I’m here, I could give you a quick demonstration now.” If the householder agrees, he demonstrates the study using the *Good News* brochure. If the householder does not have time, he makes arrangements to do so on the next visit. When he goes to a coffee shop to take a break, he says something similar to someone sitting nearby after striking up a friendly conversation. Are you using jw.org in your ministry?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 6

Song 18 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

c/ chap. 14 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1-3 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 2:16-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Relief From Satan's Wicked Influence Is Near—rs p. 365 ¶4—p. 366 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Does the Bible Teach That Sexual Relations Are Sinful?—rs p. 367 ¶1—p. 368 ¶2 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 24

10 min: Offer the Magazines During October. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 83 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2015 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 6. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 6.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Godly Wisdom Benefits Us."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors to talk about good government. Do you think that any government has the ability to eliminate difficult problems, such as violence and injustice?" Allow for response. Remind the householder that in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his followers to pray for such a government, God's Kingdom, to come. Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower*, and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® October 1 ANNOUNCING JERUSALEM'S KINGDOM

"We are having brief conversations with our neighbors about these words of a familiar prayer that Jesus taught his followers. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Have you ever heard a good explanation of what God's Kingdom is and why Jesus emphasized it so much in his teaching? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about God's Kingdom as well as some of the marvelous benefits it will bring to the earth."

Awake!® October

"We are visiting briefly to help people find the answer to this question. [Show the cover of the magazine.] Do you think that a person must be wealthy in order to be truly successful? [Allow for response.] The Bible presents a balanced view of material possessions. [Read Luke 12:15.] According to the Bible, true success is within the grasp of anyone. This magazine explains."

Field Service Highlights

It is impressive to note the following positive trend in the number of regular pioneers during the first seven months of the 2014 service year. There were increases of 6.4 percent in the Bahamas, 7.9 percent in Bermuda, 23.8 percent in the Cayman Islands, 2.6 percent in Jamaica, 5.6 percent in Puerto Rico, 3.8 percent in the Turks & Caicos Islands, 13.8 percent in the British Virgin Islands, 4.3 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 4.6 percent in the United States. A grand total of 163,100 reported as regular pioneers in March. Are you able to join them?—Ps. 96:2.



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