

ELDERS MEET WITH REGULAR PIONEERS, SPECIAL PIONEERS, AND FIELD MISSIONARIES

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 2018 THROUGH JANUARY 2019

Note to the elders:

This meeting is to be conducted in December or January by two elders selected by the body of elders. Other elders may attend. Encourage pioneers to be discerning in helping genuinely interested Bible students toward baptism. The meeting should be positive, practical, and encouraging. This meeting includes a video. If the video is not available in the language of the congregation, it may be played in another language that the majority of the pioneers understand or the video may be omitted

Theme: Lead Rightly Disposed Ones to Baptism (Ac 8:12)

HELP RIGHTLY DISPOSED ONES BELIEVE AND GET BAPTIZED (3 min.)

Those who truly believe the good news of the Kingdom are willing to make life-changing decisions and get baptized [**Read Acts 8:12**]

Given the limited time left for the disciple-making work, we want to focus our efforts on helping those “rightly disposed” (Ac 13:48; Mt 28:19, 20)

[Warmly commend the pioneers’ efforts in teaching “rightly disposed” ones]

We will discuss four areas: (1) What is an effective Bible study? (2) How can you determine if a student is making spiritual progress? (3) What can be done if a student faces obstacles to spiritual growth? (4) Why is it vital for a student to observe your joy?

WHAT IS AN EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY? (10 min.)

A Bible study is a program for imparting knowledge of the truth with the goal of making a disciple [**Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13**]

Question: When one is convinced that the Bible is the word of God, how should the truths they learn from the Bible affect them? (*w16.09* 13)

Do not be satisfied with simply imparting information. Rather, try to reach the heart and motivate the student to cultivate a relationship with Jehovah (*be* 259-260)

Question: What tools or methods have you found effective in reaching a student’s heart? [Each of the publications in the Teaching Toolbox has been carefully prepared and selected for this purpose]

Changes take time, but it should not take long to see if a student truly appreciates what he is learning (Jas 2:19, 20)

Paul first wrote to the Thessalonians around 50 C.E., apparently less than a year after he began preaching there (Ac 17:2, 4)

HOW TO DETERMINE AND ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS (20 min.)

As Bible students grow in knowledge and understanding, they should give evidence of spiritual progress [**Read James 1:22, 25**]

Their spiritual growth should become evident by (1) producing the works of faith, (2) putting off the old personality, and (3) demonstrating the new personality

Works of faith include prayer, daily Bible reading, preparing in advance for their Bible study, sharing Bible truths with others, and attending congregation meetings

Questions: How can you encourage your student to approach Jehovah in prayer? [Allow the student to hear your heartfelt expressions to Jehovah. Discuss prayers recorded in the Scriptures. (1Sa 1:11; Jon 2:1-9; Mt 6:9-13)] How can your student become familiar with the Bible and develop a daily Bible reading program? (*nwt* 34-35; *w09* 8/1 13-18) [Mention how

pioneers can show students how to use the video introductions to Bible books to become familiar with the Bible]

Questions: How do you motivate your student to share what he is learning? How do you prepare the student to do so? (Ps 9:1, 2) [Pioneers can help students have the goal of remembering one scripture per chapter or section of the study publication to share with a family member or friend. (w07 1/15 29-30 ¶16; km 5/05 1)] How do you encourage meeting attendance? [Highlight that meeting attendance is a form of worship. Share outstanding points from a recent meeting and create anticipation for upcoming ones. Bring other publishers on the Bible study]

When a student develops appreciation for Jehovah's requirements, he should desire to put off the old personality and its works [**Read Ephesians 4:22**]

Questions: How can you help your student overcome negative personality traits? (w08 11/15 5) How can you help your student overcome unclean practices? (Ps 97:10; 1Jo 5:3; w17.08 19-21 ¶8-16)

Stripping off the old personality is not done with one's strength only, but requires opening the mind and heart to the power of God's Word and the holy spirit (Lu 11:13)

Spiritual progress continues by demonstrating the new personality [**Read Ephesians 4:23, 24**]

This means changing our thinking and personality to reflect Jehovah's beautiful qualities

Questions: How have you helped your Bible students to be more patient, kind, and humble? (w17.08 22-26) Why is association at Christian meetings beneficial in developing the new personality? (1Co 6:11) Why is it necessary to give ongoing assistance even after baptism?

True spiritual progress is evident by a close relationship with Jehovah and a life course that is pleasing to him (Ga 5:22, 23; Eph 4:28-30a)

HOW TO DEAL WITH IMPEDIMENTS TO SPIRITUAL PROGRESS (20 min.)

If a student is not progressing after a reasonable amount of time, seek to discern the reason

For example, does the student really understand the material and its application in his life?

Questions: What can you do if your student does not understand what he is learning? [Perhaps adjust the pace of the study or change to a simpler publication. Inquire if he would be more comfortable studying in another language. Show how to prepare using a dictionary.] If the student is losing enthusiasm, what adjustments might be made? [Use real-life examples to help him see the practical value of the material]

To reach the heart, imitate Jesus' clear, simple teaching methods. Avoid talking too much or too long (Mt 7:28, 29; Joh 16:12; w07 1/15 28 ¶11)

[Play the video *Do the Work That Jesus Did—Teach*. (4 min.) On JW Broadcasting, go to Video on Demand>Our Meetings and Ministry>Preaching Methods]

Questions: In the first demonstration, what mistake did the brother make? Why was the second demonstration better?

If a subject is difficult for the student to understand, do research with him and make use of teaching tools provided in our publications

A student may also be hindered by emotional distress or personal problems

Questions: Without prying, how might a teacher determine if a student is distracted by personal or family problems? How have you helped students to deal with such problems?

Our ministry does not include medical or social work, so be cautious about becoming overly involved in your student's personal affairs

Provide spiritual comfort and relief, focusing on God's Kingdom as the permanent solution to mankind's problems (Mt 6:9, 10; 2Co 1:3-7; Re 21:4)

If the student is rightly disposed, he will delight in spiritual words (1Co 2:11-13)

If you cannot determine what is hindering the student's progress, make it a matter of prayer

It may also be helpful to bring an experienced publisher, an elder, or the circuit overseer on the Bible study for his observations

In spite of our best efforts, Jesus realistically acknowledged that not all those who heard the message would be fine soil (Lu 8:11-15; *w03* 2/1 9-13)

Question: If, after a reasonable period of time, the “soil” of your students’ heart is not yet receptive, what can be done? (1Co 3:6, 7)

You may share with him Luke 8:11-15 and have a frank discussion about his goals

The student may agree it is best to discontinue the study until he is ready to progress

[Share with the pioneers points from paragraph 4 of the article “Conduct Progressive Bible Studies,” in the October 1988 *Our Kingdom Ministry*]

Continue searching for those rightly disposed for everlasting life

CONDUCT BIBLE STUDIES JOYFULLY (5 min.)

You are living, compelling evidence that worshipping Jehovah leads to joy and the best life possible (Ne 8:10)

Let your genuine joy shine through in your tone of voice and facial expressions

When appropriate, share your experiences of how Jehovah has loyally supported you, as well as similar experiences from JW Broadcasting and our publications (Ps 63:3; 100:5)

When students witness the joy we feel, it can be a powerful motivation to make spiritual progress

BLESSINGS FOR HELPING ONES TO DEDICATION AND BAPTISM (2 min.)

We experience indescribable joy when we help others draw close to Jehovah

All who come under Jehovah’s wings of protection will forever endure and rejoice (Ps 23:1, 3; 36:7)

Treasure your privilege as a pioneer and fellow worker with God (1Co 3:9)

Continually pray for Jehovah’s blessing to lead rightly disposed ones to baptism