

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CIRCUIT OVERSEER'S MEETING WITH THE PIONEERS AND FIELD MISSIONARIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY

1. The meeting should be held during the week of the circuit assembly served by a branch representative. If the assembly is held on Saturday, it may be practical to hold the special meeting on Sunday. If the assembly is held on Sunday, the meeting may be held in the morning or afternoon of the Friday or Saturday prior to the circuit assembly. In other cases, it may be advantageous to hold the meeting on two weeknights during the week preceding the assembly. The decision should be based on the circumstances of the majority who will attend. To the extent possible, the meeting should be held at a time when the ministry of the pioneers would not be severely impacted. Instructions on how to arrange this meeting are found in *Traveling Overseer Guidelines*. The circuit overseer should notify all pioneers of the time and place of the meeting and remind them that no food or drink will be served. This year, he should also instruct them to bring the following publications:

- *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*
- *Sing to Jehovah* and new song “Teach Them to Stand Firm” (Song No. 139)

2. A pioneer elder should be assigned to open the meeting with prayer. The circuit overseer should conclude the meeting with prayer. Each speaker should introduce the next one. When an outline refers to participants in interviews and demonstrations, male pronouns are used. Unless an outline specifically states otherwise, either brothers or sisters may be used for interviews and demonstrations. The circuit overseer should rehearse all interviews and demonstrations. Local pioneer elders who are good teachers may be assigned more than one part. If sufficient qualified pioneer elders are not available, a qualified elder with experience in the pioneer or missionary work may be used. Assignments should be made far enough in advance to allow participants ample time to prepare well. Please inform the assigned speakers that it is not necessary to develop all the points in the reference material—only the points appropriate for the outline. Emphasize to participants the importance of adhering closely to the timing of each part.

3. Copies of the entire program should not be made for others. Individual outlines should be provided to those who are assigned parts on the program.

Program for the 2016 Service Year

Theme: ‘Teach Them to Observe All the Things I Have Commanded’—Matt. 28:20.

Song No. 69 and Prayer (5 min.)

‘Teach Them to Observe All the Things I Have Commanded’ (15 min.)

Do We Appreciate How We Are Being Taught? (15 min.)

Symposium: Pioneers, Teach . . . (45 min.)

- Yourself (15 min.)
- Your Children (15 min.)
- Your Bible Students (15 min.)

Giving Attention to the Needs of the Pioneers (15 min.)

Intermission (20 min.)

Symposium: Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (45 min.)

- By Maintaining a Balanced Ministry (15 min.)
- When Making Return Visits (15 min.)
- With Bible Students (15 min.)

Teach With Humility (15 min.)

You Can Teach Like Jesus! (20 min.)

Song No. 139 and Prayer (5 min.)

No. 1 **‘Teach Them to Observe All the Things I Have Commanded’** (Circuit overseer)

Note to the speaker:

Introduce song number 69, then invite a pioneer elder to open with prayer. In highlighting the theme of this meeting, draw attention to the fact that we need to *teach* others with the goal of making disciples. Make all feel welcome and appreciated. Build anticipation for the program

OPENING COMMENTS (2 min.)

We extend a warm welcome to all!

Every year, pioneers eagerly anticipate being taught at this special meeting

We commend each of you for your efforts to attend the program, to fulfill your ministry, and to care for your varied responsibilities within your family and within your congregation

Caring for all these matters in a balanced way while also focusing on being a good teacher can present challenges

This program will highlight practical ways that pioneers can teach effectively in imitation of Christ

‘TEACH THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THE THINGS I HAVE COMMANDED’ (10 min.)

Jesus instructed his disciples to teach others to observe all the things he commanded [**Read Matthew 28:20**]

Although Jesus was sent to earth to “declare the good news of the Kingdom of God,” he was not known as the Great Preacher, but rather, as the Great Teacher (Lu 4:43)

His disciples were well-aware of his role as a teacher (Joh 13:13)

Despite the wonderful works of healing that Jesus performed during his earthly ministry, he was primarily known, not as a healer or a miracle worker, but as a teacher

Fully carrying out Jesus’ command to make disciples requires that we be teachers in imitation of him (*w04 7/1 14-15 pars. 3-4*)

What is a teacher?

A teacher is one who imparts information or skill to others by word or by example; an effective teacher helps others to accept and remember what they hear (*it-2 1070*)

Jesus certainly helped others to accept the truth of God’s Word, which resulted in their becoming disciples, or ‘taught ones’ (*cf 95 par. 17*)

Jesus was the Great Teacher because he (1) was taught by Jehovah, (2) loved people, and (3) loved what he taught (*lr 10-15*)

Jesus demonstrated good, effective teaching methods

[Highlight some of Jesus’ teaching methods, using the article “Never Has Another Man Spoken Like This,” which appeared in the September 1, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 8-13]

First-century Christians understood the importance of becoming teachers (1Ti 4:13)

Jesus’ disciples continued in the work he had taught them and made disciples throughout the Roman Empire, in Asia, Europe, and Africa, before the close of the first century (*it-1 628*)

What about us today? How are we doing in our teaching?

‘I AM WITH YOU’ (3 min.)

The work of making disciples involves both preaching and teaching, yet some who are commendable preachers find it difficult to teach people effectively (*w07 11/15 26 par. 2*)

If you feel that you are not as skilled at teaching as you would like to be, take heart. Jehovah and Jesus are supervising the educational program that is being carried out worldwide today (Ac 1:8; Re 14:6; *w08 1/15 11 par. 16*)

No. 1 ‘Teach Them to Observe All the Things I Have Commanded’—Page 2

Jesus assured us that he would be with us down to this day [**Read Matthew 28:20b**]

As today’s program develops, identify areas where you may need to make adjustments
[Highlight some key points of the program that should be especially beneficial]

With full confidence in Jehovah, our Grand Instructor, we can be effective teachers as we observe
Jesus’ command to make disciples [**Read Isaiah 30:20**]

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TO BE COVERED IN 15 MINUTES

No. 2 Do We Appreciate How We Are Being Taught? (Pioneer elder)

Note to the speaker:

This talk includes audience participation and the presentation of a brief video. Emphasize the importance of using the methods and tools provided by Jehovah's organization

REASONS FOR GRATITUDE (1 min.)

We have good reason to be grateful for our assignment to make disciples

Jehovah dignifies us with this assignment despite our imperfections (1Ti 1:12)

He equips us with the tools we need to accomplish the work (Heb 13:20, 21)

ENHANCED TEACHING METHODS AND TOOLS (11 min.)

In recent years, the spiritual instruction provided by Jehovah's organization has reflected an increased emphasis on teaching with simplicity and clarity

A number of different Bible study aids have been instrumental in helping millions get on the road to life. These include *The Harp of God* (published in 1921), "*Let God Be True*" (published in 1946), *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* (published in 1968), *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (published in 1982), *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* (published in 1995), and *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* (published in 2005)

Our tools also include a number of well-illustrated brochures, such as *Good News From God!*, *Listen to God and Live Forever*, *Listen to God* (for those who have limited reading ability or who are learning to read), *The Pathway to Peace and Happiness* (for Buddhists), *How Can You Have a Happy Life?* (for Jews), and *Real Faith—Your Key to a Happy Life* (for Muslims)

Questions: Why should we draw out the student's comments on illustrations, artwork, and teaching and review boxes that are included in the publication being studied? What two Bible study aids should be studied in their entirety by each progressive Bible student? Why is it important to complete the study of the "*God's Love*" book even after the student dedicates his life to Jehovah and gets baptized? (*km* 4/11 2)

The videos provided on jw.org are also excellent teaching tools. [Comment on videos that are especially useful for pioneers in their ministry, such as the *Become Jehovah's Friend* series for those with children. Show a brief video, such as *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?*, located in the "About Us" section of jw.org. After playing the video, comment on its effectiveness]

JW Broadcasting has been operating since October 2014

Are we being spiritually edified by taking full advantage of all its content? What a faith-strengthening provision from our loving Father!

Questions: How have reviewing and meditating on the various videos produced by the organization been of encouragement to you personally? What videos have you used effectively when conducting Bible studies? What tools besides videos have you used effectively?

We have what we need to be effective teachers

SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THE WAY WE ARE BEING TAUGHT (3 min.)

Do you appreciate the tools and the progressive training that the King, Jesus Christ, has given us? Do you make time to read the literature provided by God's organization, and do you use it to help others?

If so, you will relate to the comments of Sister Opal Betler, who was baptized on October 4, 1914. Opal said: "Through the years, my husband [Edward] and I used the phonograph and the testimony cards. We witnessed from house to house with books, booklets, and magazines. We went on campaigns and marches and distributed printed proclamations. Later we were trained to make back-calls [now referred to as return visits] and hold Bible studies in the homes of interested persons. It has been a busy and happy life" (*kr* 86 par. 17)

No. 2 Do We Appreciate How We Are Being Taught?—Page 2

Jesus promised that his subjects would be busy sowing, reaping, and rejoicing together. Millions like Sister Betler can testify to the truthfulness of that promise [**Read John 4:35, 36**]

We commend all of you for your efforts to keep up with and apply the enhanced ways we are being taught through Jehovah's organization

Your following through in these ways is evidence of your appreciation (Col 3:15)

**No. 3 Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)
 Yourselves (Pioneer elder)**

Note to the speaker:

This is the first part of a three-part symposium and includes audience participation. The talks following this one consider how to train our children in the ministry and how to teach our Bible students. Highlight the need to continue teaching ourselves so as to teach others more effectively

THE ONE TEACHING OTHERS MUST FIRST TEACH HIMSELF (3 min.)

The apostle Paul stressed the great responsibility that we have as teachers [**Read Romans 2:21**]

The principle is: If we are going to teach others, we must first teach ourselves

Question: What is our goal when teaching a Bible student?

It is not just for him to become a publisher or even get baptized. Our goal is to help him build strong faith so as to become an active, fruitful member of the congregation

Applying the principle in Romans 2:21, before we teach our students how to build strong faith, we must first teach ourselves and build our own faith

THE BIBLE SHOWS HOW WE CAN BUILD OUR FAITH (7 min.)

The Bible teaches us how we can build strong faith and remain active and fruitful in the congregation [**Read 2 Peter 1:5-8**]

“Supply to your faith **virtue,**”

To have God’s favor, we must think about righteous, good, and virtuous things. Virtuous thoughts lead to upright speech and conduct (Php 4:8; w93 7/15 18-23)

“ . . . to your virtue **knowledge,**”

Through Bible study and through experience in applying God’s Word in our daily life, we grow in knowledge, which helps us to maintain our faith and virtue when under trial (Pr 2:6, 7; w93 8/15 12-17)

“ . . . to your knowledge **self-control,**”

This aspect of the fruitage of God’s spirit helps us to show restraint in thought, word, and conduct. It can prevent us from causing or taking offense (Ec 7:9; 1Co 9:25; w93 8/15 17-22)

“ . . . to your self-control **endurance,**”

Endurance bolsters our faith and helps us to rejoice in tribulation, resist temptation, and avoid compromise when persecuted (Php 4:13; Heb 12:2; w93 9/15 9-14)

“ . . . to your endurance **godly devotion,**”

Godly devotion is a loyal, personal attachment to Jehovah that moves us to live our life as he wants us to live it, even in the face of trials (1Ti 2:1, 2; 4:7; w93 9/15 14-19)

“ . . . to your godly devotion **brotherly affection,**”

Brotherly affection is a warm, heartfelt feeling of closeness that moves us to show true fondness for other servants of Jehovah, seeking their welfare at all times (Ro 12:10; 1Pe 1:22; 1Jo 4:20; w93 10/15 12-16)

“ . . . to your brotherly affection **love**”

The love being referred to here is *a-ga’pe*, love that is based on righteous principles that must be shown for all mankind, primarily by helping them spiritually. It is an identifying mark of true Christianity (Mr 12:29-31; Joh 13:35; w93 10/15 17-22)

[Inform the audience that 2 Peter 1:5-8 was discussed in a series of *Watchtower* study articles beginning in July 1993. After citing the articles, encourage the audience to make them a subject for their personal study or family worship]

EARNEST EFFORT BRINGS RICH REWARDS (5 min.)

No. 3 Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)
Yourselves—Page 2

Second Peter 1:5 tells us to “put forth all earnest effort” to supply these vital elements to our faith. We must focus our personal study on these points and then apply them in our thinking and conduct

For example, because we live amidst Satan’s immoral world, it takes determined effort to maintain virtuous thinking (Pr 14:23)

Jehovah assures us at 2 Peter 1:8 that if we think and act in harmony with the counsel in verses 5 through 7, we will remain faithful, active members of the congregation. We will then be in the best position to teach our Bible students to do the same

This talk has considered just one example of a field of study that directly impacts our Christian life and ministry

Our personal study habits directly impact our ability to effectively teach our Bible students. To teach others, we must first teach ourselves

We will now consider another area in which we can give attention to our teaching. Brother _____ will discuss the second part of our symposium, “Pioneers, Teach . . . Your Children”

**No. 4 Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)
Your Children (Pioneer elder)**

Note to the speaker:

This is the second part of a three-part symposium and includes two videos and audience participation. The first talk encourages pioneers to teach themselves. The third talk considers how pioneers can teach their Bible students more effectively. Highlight the need for parents to train their children in the ministry starting from infancy and continuing through their teenage years

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN BY TRAINING THEM IN THE MINISTRY “FROM INFANCY” (2 min.)

Parents have the God-given responsibility to teach their children. (Eph 6:4) This includes training them in the ministry, encouraging them to speak from the heart about Jehovah and the Kingdom

The most important Bible studies you will ever have are those you conduct with your children

Timothy was taught “from infancy” [**Read 2 Timothy 3:14, 15**] (*km 1/01 4*)

The earlier the training starts, the greater the likelihood your children will develop a solid foundation in the truth and make the ministry their career (Pr 22:6)

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN PROGRESSIVELY (12 min.)

Before going in service, prepare your children to participate in a meaningful way

Very young children can ring the doorbell, hand the householder a tract, or read a scripture. This will add to their enjoyment and help them to gain confidence in their ability to share the good news. If possible, let each child have his own witnessing case, and teach him to keep it neat and presentable (*w01 5/15 25 par. 14; km 5/07 4 par. 4; km 6/97 3*)

Speak to the elders as soon as you feel that your child is qualified to become an unbaptized publisher (*w95 3/15 30; pars. 4-6 od 79-82*)

Now we are going to watch the video “*Preach the Word*” (Song 92) from the “Become Jehovah’s Friend” series. Look for examples of how parents can teach their children in the ministry

<<**PLAY VIDEO [2 min. 25 sec.]**>>

Question: What were some ways that you noted the parents were teaching their children in the ministry?

As children reach their teenage years, parents need to continue working with them in the ministry regularly

Not only does this allow your children to learn from watching you but it also enables you to observe their attitude, manners, and ability to share the Kingdom message (De 6:7; *km 5/07 4 pars. 2-3*)

Only by working with them in the ministry can parents make sure that their children get the training needed to become ministers “with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright” (2Ti 2:15)

Now we are going to watch the video *Witnessing in Isolated Territory—Australia*. Look for examples of how the parents help their teenage son to progress in the ministry

<<**PLAY VIDEO [3 min. 19 sec.]**>>

Question: What were some ways that you noted the parents were helping their son to progress in his ministry?

[Encourage parents to review the articles that discuss training children and teenagers to serve Jehovah in the November 15, 2015, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 3-12, and also to make good use of the online study guide series “What Does the Bible Teach?,” which is designed to help young people examine what they believe, why they believe it, and how they can explain it to others]

No. 4 Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)
Your Children—Page 2

NO GREATER JOY (1 min.)

Jehovah is pleased when our children tell about his wonderful works (Ps 148:12, 13)

Teaching children to praise Jehovah from the heart requires work. However, few things give parents greater joy than seeing their children make spiritual progress [**Read 3 John 4**]

We will now consider another area in which we can give attention to our teaching. In the last part of this symposium, Brother _____ will discuss the subject “Pioneers, Teach . . . Your Bible Students”

No. 5 **Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)**
Your Bible Students (Pioneer elder)

Note to the speaker:

This is the third part of a three-part symposium and includes audience participation, a demonstration, and an interview. The first talk encourages pioneers to teach themselves. The second talk considers how to teach our children progressively. This talk highlights three specific areas in which pioneers can hone their teaching skills so as to teach their Bible students more effectively

OUR TEACHING CAN HAVE LASTING EFFECTS (2 min.)

Our teaching methods can have lasting effects on our Bible students and even on their future Bible students

If we use poor teaching methods with our Bible students, these poor techniques might be passed from one spiritual generation to the next

The apostle Paul warmly commended Timothy for imitating Paul's own teaching methods. Paul could do this because he himself imitated Jesus' teaching methods [**Read 2 Timothy 3:10**] (1Co 11:1)

IMITATE JESUS' TEACHING METHODS (12 min.)

Jesus' teaching was marked by simplicity and clarity (Mt 6:19, 20; 7:6; 11:19; 22:21)

Careful preparation is the key to simplicity and clarity

Often, an unprepared teacher talks too much, drowning the main points

In contrast, a well-prepared teacher thinks about the student, considers how much the student already knows, and presents just what is needed (Pr 15:28; 1Co 2:1, 2)

Clarity comes from pruning away unnecessary explanation; only points that are not understood well or accepted fully should be more thoroughly explained

Reports from the field indicate that we may need to continue improving our teaching skills by careful preparation

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. Effective pioneers do the same

Question: What questions might be used to determine what is in your student's heart? ["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* 259 pars. 1-2)

[Two-part demonstration: (4 min.) A pioneer and a Bible student are discussing paragraph 8 in chapter 15 of the *Bible Teach* book. In the first demonstration, the pioneer talks too much. In the second, the pioneer asks viewpoint questions in order to discern the student's thinking]

Just as Jesus directed his listeners to God's Kingdom, good teachers direct their students to the Christian congregation from the initial study (Mt 24:14; Heb 10:24, 25)

[Interview: (2 min.) Interview a pioneer who is successful in directing his Bible students to the meetings. How does he do it? What tools provided by Jehovah's organization does he use? What does he feel are the benefits of getting his Bible students to the meetings as soon as possible?]

[Highlight the following points if they are not mentioned by the interviewee: inviting the student directly; describing the meetings to him; taking other publishers with us on the study on a regular basis; building anticipation for special events, such as the Memorial, the circuit overseer's visit, and the yearly conventions and assemblies; taking the student to the Kingdom Hall when a meeting is not being conducted; praying at the study regarding congregation meetings and the benefits of attending them; using the brochure *Who Are Doing Jeho-*

No. 5 Pioneers, Teach . . . (Symposium)
Your Bible Students—Page 2

vah's Will Today?; showing available videos and JW Broadcasting programs that teach the student valuable lessons about the organization]

The entire congregation helps bring a person into the truth; that is where Jehovah's spirit is (Re 2:29)

TEACHING—A WORK THAT BRINGS GREAT REWARDS (1 min.)

If, like Paul, we imitate Jesus' methods of teaching, then it will be a praiseworthy thing when our Bible students imitate us by copying our teaching methods (1Co 11:1; 2Ti 3:10)

This symposium has helped us to see the need to examine and improve our teaching skills

As pioneers, to be effective teachers, we first need to teach ourselves. We also need to teach our children progressively. And finally, we need to continue honing our skills so we can teach our Bible students more effectively

Our way of life as pioneers involves hard work, but we must never forget the reward [**Read 1 Timothy 4:16**]

No. 6 Giving Attention to the Needs of the Pioneers (Circuit overseer)

[Consider some positive statistics about the circuit's activity. For example, there might be a significant number of new pioneers in the circuit, or there may be new special pioneers who formerly served at Bethel or in the circuit work. Offer sincere commendation, highlighting a number of positive points. Then discuss one or two areas where you have observed that additional attention is needed. As needed and as time allows, consider one or more of the subjects noted below. At the end of the part, the pioneers should be dismissed for a 20-minute intermission]

Difficulty meeting the hour requirement

[For those having difficulty meeting the hour requirement with consistency, outline practical steps one can take before deciding to discontinue pioneer service. Encourage them to discuss matters with the elders and perhaps with experienced pioneers. Remind the audience to express appreciation to all those who serve Jehovah whole-souled, whether they are currently able to serve as pioneers or not (*w13* 9/15 30-31 pars. 12-15)]

Studying with the children of active, baptized parents

[It has been observed that a number of publishers, including pioneers, are studying with the children of baptized parents who are active in the ministry. In harmony with Ephesians 6:4 and 1 Timothy 5:8, Christian parents are responsible for the spiritual well-being of their children. Hence, it would be a very rare instance when another publisher would properly conduct a Bible study with the unbaptized son or daughter of a Christian family. In such cases, the elders should be consulted first (*w14* 4/15 18-19 par. 7; *km* 11/03 3; *w98* 6/1 22-23)]

Thorough territory coverage

[Some territories are worked on a regular basis, yet they are not covered thoroughly. For example, some neglect to take note of and return to not-at-homes. This may be due to a lack of training or due to the publishers not feeling personally responsible to reach every person in an assigned territory]

Pioneers' support of meetings for field service

[Emphasize the reasonable direction outlined in the March 2015 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3, paragraph 4. There may be good reasons why a pioneer cannot join the meeting for field service on a certain day. At the same time, the presence of pioneers at meetings for field service strengthens the arrangement and is encouraging to others]

**No. 7 Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (Symposium)
By Maintaining a Balanced Ministry (Pioneer elder)**

Note to the speaker:

This part includes a soliloquy. This is the first part of a symposium. The second part discusses how to make effective return visits, and the third part discusses conducting progressive Bible studies. Emphasize the need to engage in various features of the ministry

DISCERNMENT LEADS TO A BALANCED MINISTRY (4 min.)

[Define discernment (*it-2* 182; *lv* 200-201 pars. 11-13)]

Discernment helps you understand that you must be thorough and organized so that you can “fully accomplish your ministry.” Thus, balance is needed [**Read 2 Timothy 4:5**]

Discern how to schedule your time so as to have a balanced ministry

Schedule time to participate in various features of the ministry (*jl* Lesson 12 pars. 2-3)

Since life is constantly changing, periodically review your schedule

DISCERN WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A BALANCED MINISTRY (9 min.)

Regularly engage in various features of the ministry that are effective in your territory (*km* 6/13 1 par. 2)

House-to-house ministry (*od* 92-95)

The house-to-house ministry is not outdated. It should be a regular feature of your ministry (Mt 10:11, 12; Lu 9:6; *bt* 41 par. 16)

To find people, participate in house-to-house work at different times (*Ac* 28:23; *jr* 38 par. 12)

Do not let apathy deter you (Php 4:13)

Return visits (*od* 97-98)

Schedule time to follow up on interest

Bible studies (*od* 98-99)

Do not shy away from conducting Bible studies because of the time involved (*Ac* 20:35)

Public witnessing (*km* 7/13 5-6 pars. 6-9)

Business territory (*km* 9/15 1; *km* 3/12 2)

Self-examination is needed to maintain balance (2Co 13:5)

[Soliloquy: (3 min.) A pioneer is thinking about his ministry. He realizes that it has become unbalanced. His attitude toward certain features of the ministry has changed. He has started to view the house-to-house work as outdated and is not as zealous in this aspect of the ministry as he once was. He decides to take to heart the encouragement he received at the special meeting with the pioneers and field missionaries and determines to make the house-to-house work a regular feature of his ministry. He decides to change the times he engages in the house-to-house ministry so as to find more people at home]

DISCERNMENT HELPS US TEACH AS JESUS DID (2 min.)

What a marvelous privilege we have to be part of an organization that is known worldwide for its teaching in imitation of Jesus! (1Pe 2:21)

Maintain a balanced ministry, as Jesus did (Joh 4:7; 18:20)

Pray for discernment before reviewing your schedule (Pr 2:6)

May Jehovah continue to bless your efforts

We will now consider another area in which we can use discernment. In the second part of our symposium, Brother _____ will develop the theme “Teachers, Use Discernment . . . When Making Return Visits”

**No. 8 Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (Symposium)
When Making Return Visits (Pioneer elder)**

Note to the speaker:

This part includes audience participation. This is the second part in the symposium. The first part discusses having a balanced ministry, and the third part discusses the need to conduct progressive Bible studies. Emphasize the need to prepare for return visits and to make them on anyone who shows interest

DISCERN THE NEED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE RETURN VISITS REGULARLY (2 min.)

Making effective return visits helps us ‘fully accomplish our ministry’ (2Ti 4:5; Pr 19:8)

Doing so serves to “water” the interest, which can lead to growth **[Read 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7]**

Make return visits a regular feature of your ministry

Schedule time to make return visits (*km* 11/09 1)

Visit when the person is most likely to be at home

USE DISCERNMENT IN PREPARING TO MAKE RETURN VISITS (5 min.)

Being well prepared increases our effectiveness and joy. Why? **[Read 2 Timothy 2:21]**

We are less preoccupied with our presentation and can give greater attention to showing personal interest

We are less nervous and can speak more from the heart

Take the needed time to prepare for return visits. How? (*km* 7/08 4)

Seek Jehovah’s blessing in prayer (Ac 4:29, 31)

Take a few minutes to review your records to determine

What you know about the person

What you want to accomplish

What you plan to say

If you raised a question on the initial call, your objective should be to answer it

Use the Scriptures, and endeavor to have the householder read directly from his own Bible

Determine the question to be raised at the conclusion of your visit

If the person is not at home, you may choose to leave a brief note or send a text message to him

Make it your aim to add to the person’s knowledge of God with each successive visit

USE DISCERNMENT WHEN MAKING RETURN VISITS (7 min.)

On whom might we make a return visit?

Those who showed interest but took no literature (*km* 3/97 6 pars. 31-32; *km* 7/91 1 par. 4; *km* 6/86 4 pars. 6-8)

Those who accepted a publication

Those who attended a theocratic event (*km* 4/15 4 box “It Gets Results”)

Question: What motivates us to make return visits on those who manifest interest in the variety of ways just mentioned? [Making disciples involves calling back on anyone who indicates a willingness to learn of Jehovah’s Kingdom arrangement] **[Read 1 Timothy 2:4]**

Former Bible students

Have in mind why the student is no longer studying and what his present circumstances are

Remember your objective of helping him to make spiritual progress

Do not pressure him to resume the study

Show tact by not asking too many questions and by not asking questions that may embarrass him (2Ti 2:24, ftn.; *be* 197-200)

If you discontinued the study because of a lack of progress, stay in touch with the person

**No. 8 Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (Symposium)
When Making Return Visits—Page 2**

Include him on a magazine route (*km* 1/14 3 pars. 2-4)
Share interesting points from congregation meetings with him
Invite him to a meeting
Encourage him by showing genuine personal interest in him

DISCERNMENT NEEDED TO FULLY ACCOMPLISH YOUR MINISTRY (1 min.)

A discerning teacher realizes that preparation is a key to making effective return visits

Schedule time to make return visits (1Co 9:26)

Do not give up in your efforts to follow up on all interest, remembering that Jehovah wants “all sorts of people” to be saved

By so doing, you will be fully accomplishing your ministry [**Read Galatians 6:9**]

We will now consider another area in which we can use discernment. In the final part of this symposium, Brother _____ will develop the theme “Teachers, Use Discernment . . . With Bible Students”

**No. 9 Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (Symposium)
With Bible Students (Pioneer elder)**

Note to the speaker:

This part includes a demonstration. This is the third part in the symposium. The other two parts discuss having a balanced ministry and making effective return visits. Emphasize the need to conduct progressive Bible studies and how to discern when it may be necessary to discontinue a Bible study

DISCERNING TEACHERS CONDUCT PROGRESSIVE BIBLE STUDIES (2 min.)

Discernment is needed to attain our objective of helping honesthearted ones to become dedicated and baptized servants of Jehovah (Mt 28:19, 20; *km* 4/06 3 par. 6)

We have just heard how important it is for us to take the time to “water” interest found so that God can ‘make it grow’ (1Co 3:6, 7)

While brief doorstep studies are effective to a point, more is needed to make a disciple. A Bible student needs a formal study in order to develop into a mature servant of God (Heb 5:13, 14)

It is usually preferable to conduct the study in a private setting or in another suitable location that is conducive to learning. This will help the student to ‘get the sense’ of God’s Word (Mt 13:23)

Having a longer study period allows for a more thorough, faith-strengthening consideration of God’s Word (Ro 10:17)

HELP BIBLE STUDENTS APPLY WHAT THEY ARE TAUGHT (4 min.)

Help Bible students discern that true worship involves more than just being hearers of God’s Word. They must apply what they learn [**Read James 1:22, 25**]

Help your students develop love for Jehovah and for Jesus, making them real to the student (*km* 3/06 4)

From the outset, teach your student God’s name from the Bible, look for opportunities to emphasize Jehovah’s marvelous qualities, and highlight Jesus’ excellent example (Joh 1:14; 14:9)

Discern the needs of the student, and be willing to take the time necessary to help him get the sense of what he is being taught

If points are not understood or accepted, help the student see the need to make adjustments in his thinking [**Read Acts 17:2, 3**]

Continue to look for ways to tailor the study to the changing needs of the student

DISCERNMENT NEEDED WHEN EVALUATING PROGRESS (8 min.)

A student who hears God’s Word and applies it is making progress (Joh 13:17)

Consider the following, keeping in mind that the evidence and rate of progress is different for each student (*km* 9/05 3-6)

Is he preparing in advance for the study?

Is he commenting in his own words?

Is he making adjustments in his life?

Is he attending meetings?

Is he witnessing to others?

Consider the student

Is he truly interested in making progress? [**Read Ezekiel 33:32**]

Some who study the Bible may be like the Jewish exiles in Ezekiel’s day. They enjoy the sound of the Kingdom message but do not embrace it. To them, it is like a pleasant love song, but they do not act on it and make a dedication to Jehovah

It may be that many nonprogressive Bible studies are being conducted

**No. 9 Teachers, Use Discernment . . . (Symposium)
With Bible Students—Page 2**

It is not wise to continue to conduct a regular Bible study with someone who is not interested in applying Scriptural direction in his life at this time

Carefully examine how you conduct the study

Are your methods up-to-date and effective?

If the student does not make progress after a reasonable amount of time and despite your patient efforts, it may be time to consider discontinuing the study [**Read Matthew 10:11**]

[Demonstration: (3 min.) A group overseer is talking with a pioneer. The pioneer asks for suggestions on discontinuing a Bible study with a student who is not making progress. The group overseer explains how this may be done: First, genuinely commend the student for his progress thus far. Next, point out that when Bible truths are learned, they should be applied. Then use points from Jesus' parable of the sower and the four kinds of soil mentioned in Matthew 13 to show the student the need to respond positively to the Kingdom message. Be kind, straightforward, and clear. (1Co 14:8, 9) Finally, let the student know that the study may be resumed when the needed adjustments have been made. (Jas 1:22) The pioneer thanks the group overseer and says that he agrees and sees the need to apply these suggestions (*km* 10/88 8 par. 4)]

CONTINUE TO USE DISCERNMENT IN THE BIBLE STUDY WORK (1 min.)

Evaluate each student to discern if progress is being made

Carefully examine your own teaching methods on a regular basis

If a student is not progressing, carefully consider the reasons why and determine if the study should be discontinued

By putting these points into practice, you will be skilled teachers of God's Word (Mt 10:11-13)

No. 10 Teach With Humility (Pioneer elder)

Note to the speaker:

This talk includes an interview. Help pioneers to appreciate that cultivating humility is essential to becoming an effective teacher. The humble teacher glorifies God and not himself

“I SET THE PATTERN FOR YOU” (6 min.)

Why was Jesus such an effective teacher?

He imitated the humility of his heavenly Father [**Read Psalm 18:35**] (*w12* 11/15 10-14)

During his final night on earth, Jesus demonstrated extraordinary humility [**Read John 13:12-15**]

By displaying the willingness to perform such a lowly task, Jesus gave his apostles an object lesson that would be deeply engraved on their minds and would encourage them to be humble in the days ahead

Jesus’ life course of humility proved to be beneficial to all those around him

Common people benefited from Jesus’ humility because they became recipients of his help, his teachings, and his encouragement

First-century Christians benefited by imitating Jesus’ example of humility (1Co 11:1)

In what areas must pioneers demonstrate humility today?

HUMBLE TEACHERS ACCEPT COUNSEL (6 min.)

Apollos humbly accepted the assistance of Aquila and Priscilla [**Read and discuss Acts 18:24-28**]

As a result, he became a more effective teacher. Verses 27 and 28 say that “he greatly helped” the disciples and “thoroughly proved the Jews to be wrong”

How can pioneers demonstrate a similar humble attitude?

By humbly recognizing that they can learn from others (*km* 1/15 2)

Some publishers have a lot of experience but are not able to pioneer because of their individual circumstances

[Interview: (2 min.) Interview a pioneer. Ask him how he benefits from preaching with various pioneers and publishers in the congregation]

Peter humbly accepted Paul’s counsel [**Read and discuss Galatians 2:11-14**]

Although Peter became a disciple before Paul, he showed humility by accepting Paul’s counsel; he did not resent it. Peter later referred to Paul as his “beloved brother” (2Pe 3:15; *w14* 3/15 10-11 par. 15)

How should you react if you are offered loving counsel either by a fellow pioneer or by the elders?

Imitate Apollos and Peter by humbly accepting the counsel. This will help you to continue being an effective teacher

HUMILITY IS ESSENTIAL IN GLORIFYING GOD (3 min.)

Jesus learned much from his Father, having spent aeons with him in heaven during his prehuman existence. Jesus became the “master worker” (Pr 8:30)

When he got baptized and became the Messiah, he likely was then able to recall all that he had learned from Jehovah (*it-2* 59)

Yet, when he taught others, he displayed humility by directing all attention to his Father (Joh 7:16; 8:28)

His motive was the glorification of Jehovah’s name, not his own

Pioneers today should imitate Jesus’ humility. Their motive should be to bring praise, not to themselves as teachers, but to Jehovah as the Author of what they are teaching

Their students thus become God’s servants, not disciples of some human (Ac 20:30)

No. 10 Teach With Humility—Page 2

We are confident that it is your goal to teach with humility, all to God's praise!

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TO BE COVERED IN 15 MINUTES

No. 11 You Can Teach Like Jesus! (Circuit overseer)

Note to the speaker:

Instill confidence that pioneers can be effective teachers in imitation of Jesus. Keep the tone of the talk positive and warm, providing commendation for the fine spirit of all the pioneers. At the conclusion of the talk, invite all to sing song number 139 together, and then conclude with prayer

JESUS GAVE PRIORITY TO TEACHING (4 min.)

Jesus did much to help people. He expelled demons, healed the disabled, cured the sick, fed multitudes, and raised the dead (Mt 14:14-21; Mr 1:34; Lu 7:22)

However, he knew that such efforts would bring only temporary benefits

He helped people permanently by teaching them the lifesaving knowledge of God (Joh 17:3)

By coming to know Jehovah and by imitating and obeying him, the disciples improved their lives and secured the hope of eternal life

No wonder Jesus focused primarily on teaching, becoming the greatest Teacher ever to walk the earth! (Joh 7:46)

[Read and discuss Luke 6:40]

Jesus taught his disciples to engage in the same work he did—preaching and teaching the good news of the Kingdom

History attests to the effectiveness of their teaching (Ac 1:8; Col 1:23)

YOU CAN TEACH LIKE JESUS! (13 min.)

Following Jesus' steps closely requires that we give high priority not just to preaching but, as emphasized during this program, to making disciples by effectively teaching others

How can we teach like Jesus today?

Imitate the personal qualities he showed that made his teaching powerful

Strive to bring glory to Jehovah—not to ourselves (Joh 8:50)

Teach by example—practice what we preach (Joh 13:15)

Use questions as an effective teaching tool (*be* 236-239)

The skillful use of questions gets the student actively involved in the learning process

Asking viewpoint questions enables the teacher to discern the thinking of the student (Pr 20:5)

Use illustrations that reach the heart (*be* 240-243)

Illustrations cause the mind to think in pictures

Build up a file of effective illustrations and examples

Use the Bible to motivate your students and to add weight to your teaching

God's Word can exert tremendous power on its hearers (Heb 4:12)

It can move honesthearted ones to make great changes in their lives (1Co 6:9-11)

CONTINUE TEACHING LIKE JESUS (3 min.)

It is so encouraging to observe the efforts you pioneers put forth to teach like Jesus (1Pe 2:21)

[Provide specific commendation by highlighting the positive things you have observed as you have spent time with the pioneers week after week]

May Jehovah continue to bless your efforts as you go on 'teaching others to observe all the things Jesus commanded us!' (Mt 28:20)