

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH PIONEERS AND FIELD MISSIONARIES PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2016

Note to the circuit overseer:

The meeting should be upbuilding and encouraging. Where appropriate, include positive comments from the elders about the pioneers' impact on the territory and on the spirit of the congregation. Allow the pioneers to comment freely on the questions posed, and help them to make personal application where appropriate. Those auxiliary pioneering during the month that the circuit overseer visits the congregation are invited to be present for the entire meeting

Theme: Imitate Jesus by Effectively Teaching From God's Word (Joh 7:16)

INTRODUCTION (3 min.)

Jesus' ability as a teacher was beyond compare, not just because of his perfection, but because of *what* he taught and *how* he taught (Joh 7:46)

We strive to imitate Jesus closely in our ministry (Joh 13:15; 1Pe 2:21)

One of the most important ways we can do this is by teaching from God's Word

Teaching involves more than just reading, quoting, or citing Bible texts

We will consider various ways that we can imitate Jesus in effectively teaching from God's Word

CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR JEHOVAH AND HIS WORD (8 min.)

The most basic requirement for any good teacher to imitate Jesus successfully is a deep love for Jehovah and for his Word (Ps 40:8; 119:97; Mt 22:37)

Jesus thoroughly acquainted himself with God's written Word, being known to have quoted or referenced nearly half of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures during his ministry (*it-2* 1071)

[Read Matthew 4:4, 7, 10]

Question: What does Jesus' use of the Scriptures in this situation demonstrate? [He showed the highest respect for God's Word as the ultimate authority and source of guidance]

Jesus recognized that God's Word was more powerful than any man's and that it was capable of stirring emotions, shaping thinking, refining motives, adjusting beliefs, refuting false teachings, and producing everlasting benefits (2Ti 3:16, 17; Heb 4:12; *w12* 6/15 27 par. 7; *w03* 2/1 9-10 par. 8)

Through skillful use of the Scriptures, Jesus was able to teach and to explain Jehovah's thinking and feelings on matters (Mt 11:27; Joh 1:18)

Prayerful and regular study of God's Word, along with meditation, will build up our love and respect for the Bible and for its Author, our Grand Instructor

READ AND EXPLAIN (15 min.)

Comprehension and understanding are a must if the Scriptures are to touch people's hearts and motivate them to action

Jesus not only read and referenced the Scriptures; he *explained* them (Lu 10:25-37)

[Read Luke 24:25-27, 31, 32]

Questions: Even *before* the disciples realized this was Jesus, what effect did his "fully opening up the Scriptures" have on them? What does this teach us? [Jesus' ability to reach hearts and to motivate was not based on his name, reputation, or title. His skillful use and explanation of God's Word was what had a powerful effect on his listeners]

The apostle Paul, who closely imitated Jesus, 'explained and proved by references' the things he taught (Ac 17:3; 1Co 11:1)

We can cultivate the same ability

Direct attention to God's Word as the authority. By doing so, we reveal God's thinking, not our own

Bible passages often include more than one idea or lesson; learn to isolate key words or expressions so as to ensure that your listener grasps the essential teaching point

Identify main points by restating thought-conveying key words or by posing leading questions to help the householder recognize the key lesson

[Read Luke 10:25, 26, 36, 37]

Question: How did Jesus skillfully use questions? [Jesus used questions to direct attention to God's 'written Law' as the authority *and* to lead his listener to the right conclusion]

The more we develop our skills in using and explaining the Scriptures, the more effective our teaching will be

ILLUSTRATE AND APPLY (15 min.)

Effective teachers of God's Word make good use of illustrations **[Read Matthew 13:34]**

Simple illustrations can help others to understand profound truths

Illustrations stimulate thinking, stir emotions, and aid memory

Questions: How did Jesus effectively use *simple* illustrations to teach others? (Mt 7:3-5; 18:2-4; 21:28-31) In what ways can we incorporate illustrations in our teaching? Where can we find fitting illustrations?

Jesus saw what others saw, but he thought of things that never occurred to them. His illustrations enabled his listeners not only to hear what was being taught but also to *see* it

When we use an illustration, we should make sure that the application is clear; if the comparison is strained or if the illustration is cluttered with unnecessary details, the illustration may only distract the listener (*w02 9/1 22 par. 17*)

Question: How can a skillful use of questions help us to make correct application of an illustration? (Pr 20:5)

Consider your listener when choosing illustrations and when making appropriate application

Imitate Jesus by effectively using illustrations to reinforce God's Word and to make clear application, which will motivate and stir to action

TEACH OTHERS TO IMITATE JESUS' USE OF GOD'S WORD (7 min.)

Jesus made good use of the training given to him by his Father and, in turn, trained others (Lu 10:1-16; Joh 8:28)

From heaven, Jesus has made sure that his followers have continued to receive training on how to preach outside the congregation and how to fulfill special responsibilities within it (*kr 183 par. 7*)

In imitation of Jesus' example, pioneers play a key role in teaching others to use God's Word effectively

Questions: Who might benefit from further training in skillful use of God's Word to teach others? What effective method of training can we use? (Jg 7:17)

Using the Bible to teach effectively will enhance the impact of our message and improve the quality of our teaching

Teaching others to use God's Word skillfully shows humility and glorifies Jehovah (Joh 7:16, 18)

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

CONCLUSION (2 min.)

Jesus' deep love for Jehovah and for His inspired Word moved him to use and view God's Word as the ultimate authority

He skillfully taught others by reading, explaining, illustrating, and applying the Scriptures

The results were that rightly disposed listeners were empowered and motivated to act

We are drawing closer to the end of this wicked system of things; time is running out (Hab 2:3; Zep 3:8; Mt 24:42)

It is of utmost importance that we imitate Jesus' methods of skillfully teaching from God's Word

In doing so, we can experience similar results as we teach precious truths that bring eternal, lifesaving blessings to us and to those who listen (1Ti 4:16)