

**CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH REGULAR PIONEERS, SPECIAL PIONEERS,
AND FIELD MISSIONARIES**
PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017

Note to the circuit overseer:

Help the pioneers to appreciate the benefits of diligent personal study. (1Pe 1:10, 11) It will help them to cultivate deeper love for Jehovah and greater zeal for the ministry and to be better equipped to assist others. Be warm and encouraging in your comments. Look for ways to commend the pioneers. You will then motivate them to action. Those auxiliary pioneering during the month that the circuit overseer visits the congregation are invited to be present for the entire meeting

Theme: Continue to Be “Nourished With the Words of the Faith” (1Ti 4:6)

WHY WE MUST BE “NOURISHED WITH THE WORDS OF THE FAITH” (5 min.)

Paul wrote Timothy: “I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, . . . preach the word; be at it urgently . . . Do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry” (2Ti 4:1, 2, 5)

To fulfill this charge, Timothy had to be “nourished with the words of the faith” [**Read 1 Timothy 4:6**]

Such nourishment would strengthen his love for Jehovah and infuse him with greater zeal for the disciple-making work

Similarly, you hard-working pioneers need to regularly take in spiritual nourishment

As your love for Jehovah deepens, you will be better equipped to fully accomplish your ministry (1Jo 5:3)

In this connection, we will consider

- (1) The benefits of taking in spiritual nourishment
- (2) Why it is important to maintain a good personal study program
- (3) How to use what you learn to help others

HOW WE BENEFIT FROM SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT (12 min.)

Jehovah is providing his sheep with spiritual food in great abundance (Ps 23:1, 2, 5)

[Briefly mention examples of the quality, quantity, and variety of spiritual food available today]

The Bible is the primary ingredient in the food that Jehovah provides (*wI4* 8/15 4)

Jesus said: “Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every word that comes from Jehovah’s mouth” (Mt 4:4)

Questions: With your busy schedule, how do you maintain a daily routine of Bible reading? What good effect has this had on your love for Jehovah?

Bible-based publications help us to gain an accurate knowledge of the truth (*wI4* 8/15 4)

[**Read Acts 8:30, 31, 35**]

Questions: How are our publications like Philip? [Philip helped the eunuch to gain accurate knowledge. The eunuch was so moved by what he learned that he got baptized. In the same way, our publications help us understand Bible truths. They touch our emotions and motivate us to apply what we have learned.] What recent article, publication, or video clip was especially helpful to you in enhancing your love and appreciation for the field ministry?

Sharing in this rich spiritual banquet gives us every reason to shout joyfully! (Isa 25:5, 6; 65:13, 14)

MAINTAIN A GOOD SPIRITUAL FEEDING PROGRAM (16 min.)

A diligent study program will help pioneers to maintain strong faith and avoid spiritual malnutrition (*wO1* 7/1 19-20)

How can you benefit more fully from your spiritual feeding program?

Make personal study a *priority* [**Read 2 Timothy 4:13**] (*w11* 6/15 18-19)

Questions: What does this scripture teach us about Paul's attitude towards personal study? How can we imitate his example?

Study so as to *deepen your knowledge and understanding* of the Bible [**Read Ephesians 3:18**]

Questions: Why would it be dangerous to be content with knowing only basic Bible truths? (Heb 5:12-14; *w09* 10/15 26) How has the "Treasures From God's Word" section in the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook* helped you to deepen your Bible knowledge? What other Bible study aids have you appreciated?

Make every effort to imitate Jehovah and Jesus by *putting into practice* what you learn [**Read Ephesians 3:19**]

Questions: Why did Paul encourage his anointed brothers and sisters "to know the love of the Christ"? [The Greek word translated "know" refers to coming to know through experience. Paul wanted them to come to truly understand Jesus by imitating him. (*cl* 299 ¶21)] How might we evaluate the quality of our personal study program? [It should open our mind and heart to the influence of holy spirit, producing changes in us (1Ti 1:12-16; *w15* 9/15 5-6 ¶10)]

HELP OTHERS TO BENEFIT FROM SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT (16 min.)

By nourishing ourselves spiritually, we become more effective in strengthening others

Those of you who are parents are particularly interested in providing spiritual food for your children, your most important Bible students (Pr 20:7)

Questions: Why is it a protection for children to advance quickly to spiritual maturity? How can they be helped to become unbaptized publishers? (*od* 72 ¶13) Besides material specifically designed for young people, what publications should they study? [Children should study the *Bible Teach* (or *Teach Us*) and "God's Love" books. The study guides published on jw.org can help them to reason on Bible topics (*w16.03* 3-12; *od* 213 ¶2; *km* 5/14 3)]

Help your students to progress to spiritual maturity (Col 1:28; Heb 6:1)

Questions: How can you train Bible students to develop good study habits? (*km* 10/15 1) How do you help them understand key scriptures in our Bible study publications? (*km* 11/04 4 ¶3-5) In what ways are you including videos when conducting Bible studies? Why is it important for Bible students to finish studying the "God's Love" book, even if they have already been baptized? (*km* 3/09 2) What have you found to be useful when assisting Bible students to prepare for the Life and Ministry Meeting?

Jesus did not send his disciples unprepared into the ministry, neither did he want them to follow him without having a clear understanding of what this meant (Mt 16:24, 25; Lu 10:4-12)

Questions: What would be the result of pressuring a Bible student to become an unbaptized publisher before he is truly prepared to do so? How can we train a student to participate in the ministry? (*km* 1/08 1)

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

NEVER NEGLECT YOUR SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT (1 min.)

Be determined to keep "nourished with the words of the faith and of the fine teaching" (1Ti 4:6)

Remember the benefits of spiritual nourishment

Maintain a good personal study program

Help others to benefit from spiritual nourishment

You will then be well-equipped to fully accomplish your ministry!