

No. 20      Helping Others to Become Loyal to Jehovah (Symposium)  
              -Former Bible Students

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes an interview. Follow instructions in assignment letter]

GREAT POTENTIAL (1 min.)

Our territory likely contains many who previously studied with Jehovah's Witnesses

Perhaps a study was discontinued by the student because of family opposition or a busy schedule or by the teacher because the student was not making progress (Mt 13:20-22; km 12/15 3)

Former students likely understand and agree with many Bible truths and therefore have great potential to become loyal servants of Jehovah  
Jehovah has not lost interest in them (2Pe 3:9)

HOW TO HELP (4 min.)

We cannot pressure former Bible students to make progress, but we can continue to water the seeds of truth planted in their heart  
(1Co 3:6, 8)

Regular, brief visits will convey our ongoing desire to help them spiritually

We might bring them a recent magazine, relate an encouraging point we recently heard or read, or invite them to an upcoming spiritual program

Depending on the circumstances, it may be beneficial to have a frank but kind discussion about overcoming the obstacles that are interfering with their spiritual progress (w76 220-222)

Their heart may be touched by something that they hear or read  
Be alert to discern changes in their circumstances or attitude that would allow for resuming the study

If we meet someone in the territory who tells us that he studied in the past, asking why the study was discontinued will help us to know the best way to help him (1Co 9:26)

If he asks that his study be resumed, it is beneficial to speak with the service overseer first, as well as with the one who conducted the study, if possible or advisable

Some have studied with many different publishers over the years without making real progress

Before resuming a Bible study, there should be evidence that the former student has a genuine desire to act on what he is learning

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview a baptized publisher whose study was discontinued in the past. Ask: Why was your study discontinued? How did a publisher help you to overcome obstacles so that your study could be resumed?]

KEEP THE DOOR OPEN (1 min.)

Former Bible students are like houses that are partially constructed (Ac 26:28, 29; 1Co 3:10)

Much effort has already gone into building their faith

Our regular visits will keep the opportunity open for them to "join themselves to Jehovah" (Isa 56:6)

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will now discuss how we can help inactive ones become loyal to Jehovah

TO BE COVERED IN 8 MINUTES