

WITNESSING 08

HOW TO GIVE A SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY

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Welcome again to our witnessing workshop. I want to talk to you now on the subject of how to prepare a simple Bible study. Listen to what the Spirit of Prophecy says as Mrs. White saw our day. "In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the Word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise, and there seemed to be a reformation such as we witnessed in 1844." 9 Testimonies, page 126.

That's a tremendous statement, isn't it? And I believe that that is going to be fulfilled. Ellen White saw it. And what we want to do is to encourage the quick fulfillment of that statement.

So in giving Bible studies we get down to the very nitty gritty of actually leading a person into the truth of God. And giving Bible studies is not very difficult if we would follow the basic rules, then we would be very successful in giving Bible studies. It is not difficult as we'll point out. But there are some basic things that we must share together.

The first thing that we must remember is that when we have an appointment, that we be on time. For example, in our last discussion together we were talking on how to get the people interested in the Bible. Remember how we suggested simply by conversation of world events or something that interests you. And you can then suggest that they have a video or a magazine or that you have a tape or something like that, that you can get the spark going. Now I'm presuming that you have leant them the tape and now the home is opened up for you to start Bible studies. They have become interested in listening to the video or the tape that you gave them or the magazine that you leant them and they want to know a little more. Now you won't find every person like this, but you'll find a large percentage who are interested in going on and learning a little more.

So you make an appointment to go round to their home. It is very important that, when you make that appointment that you meet it and be on time because if you're late, what does that indicate to the person? That you're slack and that you don't have very much interest. But if you're on time, it shows that you regard the visit to this particular person as being very important, and psychologically you're off to a good start.

You're on time, in other words. It's probably far better to arrive five minutes early and just sit in the car waiting for the very moment and then to ring the door bell, just about as the clock is chiming the o'clock. And you've made an appointment at 7 o'clock and you're on the door at 7 o'clock. It's good to arrive a few minutes early. I don't park my car right outside the front gate when I'm visiting folk especially if I don't know them too well. I'm going to get to know this family, and I'll probably eventually drive my car into their drive when I get to know them. But I don't do that on the first day that I go there. Perhaps I will park my car up a house. And especially if I'm a little early, I will stop up so that they can't see me. And perhaps I'll sit in my car. I'll have a little prayer and ask God to bless and guide. Then I will get out of my car and walk up to the place and be right on time.

Now the first visit is very important because you are going to set the pattern of what is going to happen to the rest of the studies. So it's very important that whatever ideals you have, that they're set forth in the very first study. If you operate a very slack kind of program, you will never really get down to tin-tacks when

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you go there because the person will not have been taught. It's like child training. If you don't get in early, it's too late. So it's important on the first visit that you are creating the right impression and the impression that you want to make.

Now when I visit the first time I explain to the person how the plan operates. Now if I'm taking along a video I will have my gear with me and I would have told them. They know I'm bringing a video along. And if they've got a video machine, I've just got the video under my arm. That's all I've got probably. I maybe might not take a Bible the first night. Just take the video in my hand. If it's a machine I've got to carry, I'll have a fair amount of gear. But I'm not going to have a big Bible prominent. Not the first time. If I'm taking a tape along, the same thing. If I've arranged to study the Bible with someone, well, that's a different matter entirely. So a little depends upon the ground work that you've made in your first initial approach to the person as to how you will arrive the first time. But generally speaking, if you're just edging along, taking a video along, I wouldn't suggest that you arrive with a big Bible. It looks a bit ponderous and it looks as if you might be down for a long time, and that might frighten the person. Get them interested, whet their appetite, and get them asking questions, and then it will be a very easy thing to bring your Bible along, and open it up night by night.

Now even if you are showing them the videos and the cassettes, I'm still going to recommend that you get the person on the gift Bible plan. Now the gift Bible plan is a plan that's been with us for many years, and it's a very, very good plan. I believe that even if you are showing the videos week by week that the person ought to be doing some study on their own while you're not there. And that's where the gift Bible sheets come into focus, so that the person will be getting more than one study per week. You see, the more that you can get into their hands, the more that you can get them doing during the week, the faster they're going to move, and the less that they're going to be distracted by other people's literature. So I aim to keep them as busy as I possibly can without making them so busy that they don't have time for something else. But I plan to keep their every moment occupied.

So even if I'm taking the video along and the cassette along I have still. got the gift Bible plan, either- out in the car or in my machine somewhere hidden away. So that when the opportunity is presented, maybe not the first night with the video especially if you're showing archaeology, but very soon in the early stages within the first few weeks I will bring out the idea of the gift Bible plan, and I'll explain to them how it works. So we are giving the person at least two exposures per week to the Bible. You're giving them the exposure of the video or the cassette and then you are giving them the reading material as well for them to fill in during the week.

Now when you have introduced them to the gift Bible plan, and it's very simple, you just explain how it works. You take the first one out and explain how it works and give them the Bible. And by the way, and this is another advantage of us using the Bible with the videos and with the cassette, that the same Bible will fit in with everything. You've got the gift Bible and it will fit this program. And that's one of the reasons why I think it's best to stick to the gift Bible plan because it is all centered around this Bible, and we're working with exactly the same Bible. You haven't give the Good News Bible or given them some other modern translation. So you can leave them the Bible.

I think it's a good idea initially that you're not giving them the Bible, that you're just loaning them the Bible. Because later on you can give them the Bible, but you're just loaning it to them at the moment. And when a person is loaned something they will much more readily study it properly and take an interest in it than if you give it to them. Because if you give it to them, they'll say, "Thank you very much. It was very nice of you," and they'll put it on their shelf and there it stays, it's theirs. But this is not theirs, it's yours, and you have loaned it to them. So that's a great psychological help.

Now when you come along the next week after you have presented the gift Bible sheet, you have given them the first lesson, you come along and you say, "How did you get along this week with your answer sheet?" And you'll generally find that most folk have studied it during the week. Occasionally you'll meet some folk who have not filled it in during the week. Now don't whatever you do criticize them if they haven't done it. They may have been too busy or you haven't yet motivated them enough to get them interested yet, you see. So you've got to resell the whole program again. Don't think that they're not

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interested because they haven't done it. That may not be the case at all. It just maybe that they're not motivated enough yet and you haven't sold it well enough, in other words. So the problem probably lies with you, not so much with them. So you have to resell the idea. You'll have to be enthusiastic and say how much it's helped you.

Before you start your video program, especially once you got in on a spiritual note with the person, always open with prayer. Have a little prayer with the person, and pray particularly that the Lord will bless them. The following wording for the prayer is suggested: "Our Father, We pray that You will send Your Holy Spirit to be with us today as we study Your Word. Help us that we will understand Your plan for this world and for our lives. In Jesus name. Amen." The reasons why I suggest that you learn this prayer is because there are some cliques and some of the things that some of us say which ought not to be said in the Bible study. Some of us are so used to saying the same cliques. The danger is that when you go into the home that that's the very wording that you'll use when you pray with the person, your Adventist cliques. So it's a good idea to learn a new prayer. And this will be totally different to what most of you have prayed. Learn a similar prayer to that. You don't have to learn it word for word, but the same thoughts and about as short as that.

I want to concentrate now on how to operate the gift Bible plan because that's what you'll have to do yourself because the video and cassette will be very easy to present. So as you are ready to begin your study on the first lesson, please make sure that before you go along to the study that you are familiar with the text of the sheet. Don't go along there if you haven't studied it yourself as you won't know what's on the sheet because it will be a disaster. It will be a failure in the study. You've got to come forth and put a little bit of life into it. Because after all, the gift Bible sheet is only just a bit of paper with a bit of writing on it. You've got to make it come alive. And you might like to talk of an experience that has happened in your own life that relates particularly in the introduction of the gift Bible sheet. On the gift Bible there's a little introduction which is introduced before the questions and answers are given. What I would do is to either use that as an illustration or that illustration may spark off a thought in your own mind that you can relate to the introduction of the program. So introduce it yourself with a live illustration if you can. Don't make it too long. But you can introduce the subject. And then you can ask the first question.

Now I suggest that if the student has studied it through himself during the week that you go over it again with him. On the first study, in order to teach him how to do it, I would go through the whole program word for word and show him how to do it and fill it in. In fact, I would have one myself and it would be giving him one too so that we would both be doing it together. So in other words, you're coming across, not as the teacher with the student, but you're coming across as student with student. "I'm very interested in this subject myself and I want to learn about the Bible. And so could we study this together and we'll help one another to find out about this subject?" Perhaps get him to read the question. "John, you might like to read the first question." Alright! Then you look it up. And so you say, "Let's look it up together." And then you read the text together and you are emphasizing, you've gone through it and you have certain key questions that you're going to make sure that he underlines and he gets clearly because they're important to the subject. So you can encourage him.

Then after you've gone right through the program and you're about finished, then I would suggest that you encourage him to leave two lessons for him to do through the week. And so every week you won't be going through the lessons from A to Z. You'll be there merely to see how he got along, correct what he's done, and helping him to do what he has done during the week. In other words, you're trying to encourage that person to study themselves during the week. So when you bring the video along or the cassette along, you're spending the time on that, then going with the lesson that he's done during the week. So all in all, your time ought to be no longer than perhaps an hour and a quarter. If you take a video, say that a video is an hour, some videos are less than that. So you'll get out in less time. But even if the video goes a full hour you should still be able to get out in a about an hour and twenty minutes, an hour and a half at the most. That's not too long when you're breaking it up. That would be far too long if all you were doing were studying the gift Bible plan. But you're not just doing that. You've got an entertaining of a video presentation which is interesting, captivating. Then you've got a slightly different program with the gift Bible plan, you see. So you're varying your visit, and I would say, it must not be longer than an hour and a

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half. You've definitely got another appointment after an hour and a half. You must be out. That gives you enough time to do the gift Bible plan.

I think you should show the video first. And anyway, that was the reason in the first place why you came along, to show the video. So that must be primary. And if it was on archaeology, I wouldn't introduce the gift Bible on the first night. I would just, like we do in the mission, we would take it step by step. And after the person shows a little interest now in the Bible I would then give out the gift Bible plan like we're doing in the mission, we bring out the Bibles. Only in the home we would give out the gift Bible plan. And the advantage is that it's geared around the same Bible, whether you're watching the video, the cassettes, or the gift Bible plan which all fits in.

Now let the student himself answer. Even if his answers are wrong sometimes, don't worry about that, you let him give his answer. And it also gives you opportunity to become acquainted with the person. Now here we'll have some helpful suggestions for various situations during the Bible study.

1. Don't pose as an authority on the Bible.

Don't go along and be a "know-all." Now if you come across as a "know-all" I'll guarantee that you won't last very long in the home. They'll finish up the studies. But if you come across as a learner, and if he makes a point, sometimes you're grateful for the point that he makes, "That has been very helpful to me that you have expressed it that way." If you're coming across as a learner, too, you'll find that the person will warm to you pretty quickly. You're not coming across to hit them on the head, but you're coming as a learner yourself. And when you're watching a video, you'll say, "That was very helpful that point that he made here, wasn't it? That was interesting. I really appreciated it. It has really helped me." This is showing that you're learning, too.

It will take the load off your shoulder if he asks you a question and you don't know it, and you can say, "Well, I'll have to look it up because I'm not sure of the answer. But next week I'll try and get the answer for you." And no matter what questions he asks, if you don't know the answer, you have no problem because he doesn't expect you to know everything. But he does learn when you do come, that when you answer that you give a good Bible answer. He is appreciating that. But he doesn't expect you to be a walking encyclopedia.

2. Don't let the study get too complicated or involved.

I don't think that this is going to be a problem with too many of us. But do not use too big words or too complicated words. Use simple words. Have you ever noticed that when Jesus talked that He used very, very simple illustrations with simple words? Not big words at all.

"Jesus did not use long and difficult words in His discourses. He used plain language adapted to the minds of the common people. He went no farther into the subject He was expounding than they were able to follow Him." Gospel Workers, page 169.

"The greatest Teacher the world has ever known was the most definite, simple, and practical in His instruction." Gospel Workers, page 50.

There are some people who like to air their supposed knowledge by using big words. They will never make a successful winner of souls. Don't use the most complicated words. You use the simplest words. And if you find that you needed to use a difficult word, then rephrase it again and use a simpler word which explains that difficult word. Because remember that the average person is not highly educated. You have got to meet the level of about early teenage years. That's what everything is geared to. Television, radio, newspaper, are all geared about that level. And that's where most people will be. The common people will be in that vicinity. So don't make it too complicated.

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Don't make it too lengthy either. If you make the study too lengthy, the student may feel he just doesn't have the time to study with you. You should be able to study the two lessons and be on your way in one hour.

3. If the student has a wrong answer.

You know, when you have been going through the lesson that you find he's done something wrong, what do you say? "We seem to have different thoughts on that question. Let's read that text again to be sure what the Bible says." You see, you've already filled yours in and you've done yours at home, too, during the week. So that when you come you're comparing answers. You say, "I'll study mine during the week, and you study yours during the week. And we come together next week, and we'll compare our answers and we'll see if we arrive at the same answers. And when you're going through and reading his and you find that your answer differs with his, don't say, "You've got it wrong." Let the person read the text himself. Because after all, if he's got it wrong, he needs to see that he's got it wrong himself. He doesn't want you to tell him. That's always an embarrassment. Let him find out. "O, I made a mistake here, haven't I? That's wrong.

I must have been in the wrong chapter or something." And then he corrects it. You see, he sees it himself. Then you read together, and you haven't embarrassed him. You have allowed him to get out without any loss of faith at all.

4. If the student asks a question that you cannot answer.

Don't be embarrassed by that. Just say, "That's such a good question. I'll have to look up the answer to that." If you find that someone asks a question that's related to the text of the lesson, what I suggest is that you write down on your master sheets the question and put in the answer. So that if any one ever asks you that question again, you don't get caught out the second time. Because generally speaking you'll find that people tend to ask the same question.

What if he asks you a question that the Bible doesn't give an answer to, what are you going to do then? For example, here is a question that people have asked me from time to time. We have been studying about heaven together. There will be no death. Nothing will die. A person says, "Well, in heaven what will happen if we pick a flower?" Now, suddenly there's no answer in the Bible for that. There's no text that I can turn up that would give a satisfactory answer. But I would simply say to the person, "Well, I thought about that myself. I don't know the answer to that. You know, there are some questions that we will have to wait until we get up to heaven. I'll tell you what you can do. You can start making a list of them now, and when we get home to heaven we'll go to Christ and we'll ask Him the answer because I want to know the answer to that one, too." And there are some questions that they will ask that you will not be able to give an answer to. There's no Biblical answer to it because the Bible hasn't concerned itself with that point. Don't do it on speculation because your speculation in the ultimate is not worth anything. And you'll say that there's no satisfactory answer to that. Just say that the hidden things belong to God. That makes us get more excited about getting there to find the answer to some of these questions. At least we know that there's going to be no death.

In answering a question, don't ever quote Mrs. White in the early stages of your Bible study as its authority because that is not accepted by the person, and she said that that is not the way her books are to be used. Now I love the Spirit of Prophecy and I use her thoughts in my preaching in evangelism right from the word, go. But I don't acknowledge the fact that I got my thoughts from her. Whatever subjects we're presenting we ought to absorb ourselves on anything she says on that subject. But make it your own when you're presenting it. When you're explaining the Bible don't keep quoting Mrs. White, just expand it yourself. And the folk will say, "My! Where did you get all those wonderful thoughts from?" Well, you can tell them a bit later on what's been the source and the inspiration of many of the wonderful insights that you got from the Bible has been through these red books.

At the appropriate time, maybe if I was studying on the life of Christ and I saw The Desire of Ages on the mantel piece, I would wait until I got to that subject. Then one night when I'm studying the subject I might

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say to the person, “You’ve got a wonderful book in your library that I’ve got in mine that I found it very, very helpful in describing this particular point. Let me just read you a passage from the book. It’s an absolutely thrilling subject of Christ coming down to this earth.” And I might pick up the book, and just read a statement from it, to encourage them to read it. I wouldn’t make any statement about her being inspired. I would just say, “I found this book so wonderful. In fact, next to the Bible I love studying this book the most on this subject. It’s helped me more to understand the Bible on this subject than any other book I’ve ever read. I’d encourage you to read it.” So be careful what you say and don’t say that she’s inspired and she’s a prophetess. That’s too early for that kind of talk.

5. Study the lessons in the order that they’re given.

Now this brings up another subject. Some may think in their wisdom that the order that we’re presenting then is not the best order. I would suggest, in all due respects to us that until you have the experience that the presenter has had, don’t change the order. For you to come in and change them round is not the best and wisest thing. The same with the gift Bible sheet. They have been planned by soul winners who understand and have had experience more than most of us have had. I would suggest in most cases that they be kept in the order that they are. Because you may feel personally that it’s best to put a thing in here or a chapter in here and a presentation here or there. But it’s best to get that from experience.

In presenting truth it’s better to use someone’s material that you know is successful before you start venturing out on your own because there are lots of reasons that we say that may not always be obvious, but become obvious once you become involved yourself. You can use that as a platform, and later on there can be no question that you probably can improve on lots of the things that we’ve done here. But I would suggest that until you get that experience that you follow precisely what we’re suggesting. Because I’m giving you what I have found to be absolutely successful. And to suggest that we ought to change things around, I think is being a little bit foolhardy when you haven’t had much experience yourself.

If someone asked you to study with them on the state of the dead, you probably wouldn’t study on the state of the dead because you would first have to lead them up to give them the background. Then there would be no problem in putting the video on if you feel that the background is right. But there are some subjects which I think would be foolish as a beginner to bring in no matter how many times the people ask me about it. The Sabbath, the state of the dead, I don’t care how many times they ask me and impress me to talk on that subject, I won’t present it until they’re prepared for it. I will be able to convince them. No question about that. But their faith is not able to stand it. As Jesus said, I’ve got many things to tell you, but you’re not able to receive them yet. So be very careful in presenting odd subjects. Make sure that they’ve got the background to be able to cope with that. Not the intellect to be able to understand it, but the faith to be able to cope with the truth when they get it. That’s the important thing. And that sometimes takes quite a time.

That’s why we have presented the state of the dead, for example, way down after the Sabbath. I believe that the State of the Dead should be presented after the Sabbath, because the State of the Dead is an emotional thing and will cause more divisions than the Sabbath will in many, many lines. Better to present the Sabbath first.

The State of the Dead in the Bible is not as clear as the Sabbath is in the Bible. Now I’m not saying that the State of the Dead is not clear. Don’t leave me as saying that. But I’m saying that the Sabbath is the clearest. There are texts in the Bible on the State of the Dead that I just wish that Paul hadn’t said the way he said. Peter himself found some things difficult to understand in the writings of Paul. I’m not saying that Paul is saying bad things. But it would have been helpful for those of us living in these days that he didn’t quite say it the way he did. It would have saved us a lot of problems. In fact, all the problems that we have on the Sabbath and the State of the Dead all originate pretty well in Paul’s writings.

6. Don’t let the student get you side-tracked.

This is very, very important. Something that maybe some of us won’t learn until we’ve made a few mistakes along this line. You know, you’re studying with a person and suddenly they bring up the subject of jewelry or the Sabbath or prawns. And you feel that suddenly the Spirit is working upon your heart to

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straighten them out on this. That's not the Spirit working upon your heart. That's your own urge. Don't do it. It is a law, as much as it is a law of gravity, do not get involved on those subjects until you have laid the foundation, the platform. You'll destroy the person and you'll lose the study.

Another reason is that if you got side-tracked on those things, it will weaken the study that you're giving, and you'll go out from the home. And the person won't remember the reason why you went there in the first place. Just keep on putting it off and say, No study on that yet until it's coming up. We'll deal with that question a little bit later.

7. Compliment the person that you're studying with.

Look for reasons to compliment. Don't overdo it, of course. If you overdo it they will feel that you're being false. There's nothing worse. But learn to compliment the person. For example, you can say, "You've done such a find job with these lessons this week. You're doing so well." You've probably seen me doing it at the mission. What did I say at the mission. "You're looking up these texts so well. You're finding it as quickly as I am. You're doing so wonderfully well." Compliment the person. Encourage them. And learn to do it in every study. This will help to build their interest and it helps them to keep studying.

8. Never preach or sermonize or moralize or condemn.

Never give the impression that you are "holier than thou." Now you won't say it that way. But we must never give that impression. If someone says to you that they've been doing some things that are very bad and You get such a shocked look on your face, and you give the impression, "Fancy doing a thing like that," you may not say it that way, but that's the impression that you're giving. Never do that. A person can tell me anything they like and I just sit there unemotional. I just listen. And at the end I would simply say, "Well, the Lord can still save us." I never show that I'm shocked even though some things maybe rather shocking. Never reveal your surprise and never give the impression that you're perfect. You know, when a person tells me that they've made a mistake. I get along their level and I can say, "I've made some mistakes, too, that I'm ashamed of." I don't let them think that I'm here and they're there. But that we come down on the level together. In that way we build a bond together. And the person will feel that they can pour out their heart to me and that I will never betray that confidence. Never ever use as an illustration someone's personal affairs.

Notice what Ellen White said, "Our Savior's power was not in a strong array of sharp words that would pierce through the very soul; it was His gentleness and His plain unassuming manners that made Him a conqueror of hearts." 3 Testimonies, page 477.

"It was a continual pain to Christ to be brought into contact with enmity, depravity, and impurity; but never did He utter one expression to show that His sensibilities were shocked or His refined tastes offended. Whatever the evil habits, the strong prejudices, or the overbearing passions of human beings, He met them all with pitying tenderness. As we partake of His Spirit we shall regard all man as struggling to rise again, battling with discouragements and difficulties, craving sympathy and help. Then we shall meet them in such a way as not to discourage or repel them, but to awaken hope in their hearts. It is always humiliating to have one's errors pointed out. None should make the experience more bitter by needless censure. No one was ever reclaimed by reproach; but many have thus been repelled, and have been led to steal their hearts against conviction. A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the erring, and hide a multitude of sins." Ministry of Healing, pages 165, 166.

9. Take a friend with you on your Bible studies. I have set out here some reasons why.

(a) If there are small children in the home that will interfere with the study, the friend can entertain the children while you have an uninterrupted study. Read them a Bible story or bed time stories, and the kids will look forward to it. "O, the story man is coming again tonight." They'll be eager and anxious for you to come. You'll win their hearts. Therefore you can keep the children occupied while the other person is showing them the video. Because it's vital that those people have uninterrupted concentration on what I'm saying. You see, if their concentration is interrupted and I'm making an important point, they'll miss that

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point, and the truth is not making impact upon their hearts as it should make. So you must get uninterrupted concentration.

(b) If you take along a friend with you, you can teach that person how to give Bible studies. You're teaching another person.

(c) By taking a friend along with you, you are making sure that if you are sick or you can't go along for some reason that the study is uninterrupted, rather you have someone else to do it. And they'll know. When you come along to church, naturally they'll have a friend.

You can bring a friend with you on the first night. But sometimes you may not if they're sensitive because they may think that you're ganging up. So I might not do it the first time. But I might suggest to them for the next time, you may say, "Look! Do you mind if I bring a friend along with me who usually comes with me on Bible studies? He loves to come and study with us. Do you mind if I bring a friend along?" And they'll say, "O no, I don't mind." So next time I'll have my friend. I usually don't surprise them. I let them know about it, and they won't object. Most folk won't mind and they might say, "All the more, the merrier." Often a person will want to bring in their friends. I've had many, many people say to me, "Would you mind if I bring my neighbors in or my sister come over for the study or my brother?" I say, "That's alright. Bring as many as you like. It will be fine. To study with the families together, the more there is, the better it is, isn't it?" Encourage them. You've brought a friend along and encourage them to bring their friends along. Generally speaking, it's a good idea to introduce them to your family. People like to know who your wife is and they like to see your children. They like to see that you're a real person. And that you're not just only interested in the Bible.

We must never give them the impression that we are chasing the person, and that we're trying to get them converted. We must act casually. Play that down all the time. Never ask them to become an Adventist.

The successful soul winner is a man who has a lot of nouse. You know, who can sum up a situation and do a certain thing here, but they wouldn't do it in this case. You've got to be able to be tuned to the needs of people and to be very sensitive to the needs of people.

If a person popped in to see them that was a friend of theirs, I would gracefully leave, and I'll say, "We'll catch up next week," if I felt that that was the best situation. If the telephone rings, I turn the video off and just wait for them to come back. It's a curse, I know. And if the televisions on when I go into a home, and there are some people who are not very sensitive to turning their television off when you go to visit them the first time. So what should you do in a situation like that? I'd just simply say, "Look! I'm finding it a bit hard to compete with this television. Would you mind if we sort of turned it down a little bit or turned it off?" Just say it gently and kindly, and they'll say, "Oh, sorry," and the person will get up and turn it off. They have hardly realized what they're doing. And you need to get it off because you'll never be able to study the Bible while that thing is flashing away at the corner of your eye all the time because your eye will go over to it and their eye will go over to it. You've got to get it off. If it's on in another room and it's blaring out, I would sort of make indications that would try and draw their attention to it. If they still haven't got the thought I would make it obvious and I would say, "Look! I'm having trouble and finding it hard to compete with that. Do you mind shutting the door or turning it down a wee bit so that I don't have to talk too loud? I won't have to shout then." And they'll get the picture. If you do it kindly and nicely, you won't have any problems at all.

10. Invite your student to visit church with you.

If you have not invited your student to attend church with you before you study the Sabbath with them, do so after your study. Invite them home for lunch. This is the easiest way to get them to attend church. Usually the student feels honored to have you invite him to church and then to lunch. This is a good way to help the student see how you celebrate the Sabbath. Make it a joyous experience.

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11. Keep your pastor posted on the progress of your student.

Be certain that you keep your pastor posted on the progress of your student. Make certain you introduce your pastor to the student when you bring him to church. Invite the student to attend the Pastor's Bible Class. This is very important. This is the best way to get the student into the church program.

12. What if the student doesn't have the lessons completed?

There are several reasons why the student may not do the lessons:

- (a) He may have forgotten about them or has been too busy.
- (b) He may not have been sufficiently motivated.
- (c) He may have not really understood how to do the lessons.

Whatever the reason you will need to do some "selling." You might say, "Oh, that's too bad. I know you will really enjoy these lessons when you get into them - they are very interesting. Well, I'll tell you what we can do - since I have already set aside this time just for you, why don't I just step in and we can do one of the lessons together, and you can see how quick and easy it is, and then next time we can get both of the lessons done." Then leave one other lesson with the student so she will have two to do that week.

How to succeed in giving Bible studies.

1. Be optimistic. Never talk or think failure. There are enough negative things in the world today to be negative if you want to be. But as workers for God we are not interested in being negative. After all, God is responsible for the results.

"When we give ourselves wholly to God, and in our work follow His directions. He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to cooperate with One who knows no failure." Christ Object Lessons, page 363.

"Workers for Christ are never to think, much less speak, of failure in their work. The Lord Jesus is our efficiency in all things; His Spirit is to be our inspiration; and as we place ourselves in His hands, to be channels of light, our means of doing good will never be exhausted. We may draw His fullness, and receive of that grace which has no limit." Gospel Workers, page 19.

Then as we think of our rewards. We can get our rewards now because one of the great thrills in giving Bible studies is to see the progress in the person. Doesn't your heart warm as you see the response that is taking place in a person's heart? Now that is what will take place as you give the Bible study and videos. You get the same results in the home. So this will thrill your heart. You'll get a tremendous reward for the effort that you put in now. And then think of the rewards in heaven.

You know, one of the things that I'm looking forward to in heaven is to meet the folk that we have been able to help lead into the truth of God. I think it's going to be a wonderful day. And I guess you've seen the picture in the book Colporteur Ministry where the artist has painted the man coming up to the colporteur who sold him the books that led him into the truth and into heaven above. I think that that is the greatest thing that can ever happen to a person is to meet people in heaven that you've had a little part in helping to lead to the truth of God. That will far outweigh any little inconvenience and any effort and sweat that has gone into the program that has been going on in this earth. And it is a good thing to keep that continually in your minds is the rewards, the rewards on the earth in the friendships and the closeness that develops between you and the individual, and the wonderful rewards that are going to take place in heaven above.

"The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Savior. What blessed converse they will have with these souls. 'I was a sinner,' it will be said, without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Savior as my only

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hope.... You read to me the precious promises of God's Word. You inspired in me faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me." Gospel Workers, page 518.

"What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet those who have had a burden in their behalf! How their hearts will thrill with satisfaction." Gospel Workers, page 519.

Folk have often said to me, "I look forward to my holidays." I believe that in principle, too, and it's a good idea, and we all ought to aim at that. I tell them that we're going to have a long holiday in heaven. So work now while we have the opportunity and holidays will come then. Now I'm not against taking breaks and holidays, but that ought not to be the dominating thing to think about that we look forward to at the time. The important thing is that we work, and every moment we should take an opportunity to help lead people to Christ.

Christ said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. In order to have success in this work we must have the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. We can only have this as we spend time in studying the Scriptures and communing with God.

"Without a living faith in Christ as a personal Savior, it is impossible to make your faith felt in a skeptical world. If you would draw sinners out of the swift-running current, your own feet must not stand on slippery places." Gospel Workers, page 274.

"It is a sin for those who attempt to teach the Word to others to be themselves neglectful of its study." Gospel Workers, page 249.

If you follow the methods that are outlined in these pages, any person can give a Bible study because it doesn't have to depend upon your knowledge. If you have the gift Bible plan, as an illustration, you don't have to remember a lot of texts. They're all written down for you. And I'll guarantee that if any person listens to a series of lectures like we have been going through, we'll remember enough texts, when a person asks a question, you will remember to be able to bring up the texts every now and again, just to expand a point or two. Giving a Bible study is so simple. It doesn't require a lot of education. And you'll have an opportunity to come close to the people.

"Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way in the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse.

"The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches." Gospel Workers, page 193.

It's not your knowledge that's important. It's your empathy and warmth that you will be able to manifest to the person.

The student learns to study the Scriptures on his own by himself. By using the pagination system, the student can quickly and easily find the answers from the Bible itself, comparing scripture with scripture. As he reads the answers from the Bible, the Holy Spirit works on his mind and heart. His faith is strengthened and confidence in our message is increased.

"God designs that man shall not decide from impulse, but from weight of evidence, carefully comparing scripture with scripture." Desire of Ages, page 458.

The student, if he follows this method of Bible study, he actually retains more by using this method of Bible study because he goes over the material three times. What are these three times?

1. He reads the answers to the questions from the Bible.

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2. He writes the answers to each question.
3. He repeats the answers to you as you go over the questions together so hears himself give the answers.

Thus we have used the avenue of learning recommended by many psychologists who believe that we retain 10% of what we hear; 30% of what we see and hear; and 90% of what we see and hear and repeat. The percentage of retention is greatly increased by this method of study.

And when I want to hear an illustration I just tell someone. I tell my wife about it that indelibly fixes it upon my mind. I've got it in my mind and repeating it. Hear it, see it, repeating it. That's what you're doing with the person. They're seeing it, they're hearing it, and then they're repeating it.

Finally, our job is not completed when we lead a person into baptism and put them in the church. Our job then is to encourage that person to get out and to win their friends. As the person goes along with the gift Bible plan and you find that they're developing well, I would give them another set of lessons. They've got a friend or neighbor that they want to start studying the Bible with, I give them a set of lessons and they can start studying with the person themselves. And it's so simple that they can do it. So you've begun to teach them and they've got to be a Bible worker for God, too.

Encourage your student to share. Tell your student that everyone who is born into God's kingdom is a missionary. Encourage him to start studying with friends and loved ones as soon as he becomes a part of God's family.

"He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what He knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the Word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have." Counsels on Stewardship, page 100.

If you go through this material that's outlined here it's so simple that any of us can operate this gift Bible plan. When you use it in conjunction with the video and with the cassettes, you will be a winner, and you'll be surprised I would be almost willing to say that you will win a very large percentage of the people that start on this plan if you'll go along. In quite a few weeks you will find that you will win them to the truth.

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