

# FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

## (APPENDIX 6)

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### **What Responsibility Does an Evangelist Have?**

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Ephesians 4:11-16 tells us, *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the*

*edifying of itself in love."* One responsibility is to reveal truth so that we can be firmly grounded in the Word, the Rock, of which these lessons have strived to accomplish. But the second responsibility, which completes the work, is *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry."* This is probably one of the more important studies. To leave you without preparing you for the work of the ministry would be to leave my part undone. So, in this final lesson, we are going to cover how to conduct a Bible study.

But is this an issue that all need to hear seeing not all are comfortable with giving Bible studies? Quoting from Ellen White's writings, *"It has been shown me that our camp-meetings are to increase in interest and success. As we approach nearer the end, I have seen that in these meetings there will be less preaching, and more Bible study. There will be little groups all over the ground with their Bibles in their hands, and different ones leading out in a free, conversational study of the Scriptures."* -- Testimonies,

volume 6, page 87. {*Christian Service*, page 196}

You see, when laws enacting Sunday worship comes about, which it is believed that we will be under a crisis situation, which can happen any time now, evangelists and pastors will not be able to conduct public meetings revealing the United States in prophecy. We are already seeing the storm approaching in that denouncing the Antichrist no longer will be tolerated under freedom of speech. In fact, there will even come a time when meeting in our churches will not be feasible and small groups will become necessary to teach the unlearned.

Also, we see a swelling cry towards a solution for Climate Change. The solution from the papacy is Sunday keeping (*Laudato Si* – Papal encyclical). Further, many are calling for the death penalty upon the deniers of Climate Change. The stage is set.

With that in mind, let us address the elements involved in putting

together a good, sound Bible study.

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### **When Is One Ready to Share “the Message”?**

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Mark 5:18-20 tells us, “*And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all [men] did marvel.*” The answer is – Immediately.

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### **What Are the Steps from Beginning To the End?**

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*~ How are Bible Studies Obtained? ~*

#### **1. Pray for God to send you someone to study with.**

Along with praying for someone to study with, pray for more time to dedicate because when the Lord answers the first request, you will find that all other things will be in the way of your Bible studies.

#### **2. Listen to conversations.**

If there is any time that God permits us to listen in on the conversations of others, it is during an attempt to share His Word. Listen for key phrases and then excuse yourself into the conversation if it will not come across too obtrusive or

talk to the individuals privately saying something along the lines, “By the way, I overheard you mention... Would you like to see what the Bible really does say about...?”

#### **3. Advertise.**

Hang little posters in stores that permit such, on telephone poles, etc. Take out an ad in the newspaper, magazine, or other publication. If you are savvy on the Internet, there are places to post your availability online. Even send letters to strangers using whatever means possible to create a mailing list.

#### **4. Check with your pastor.**

Your pastor should be aware of someone in the area wanting a Bible study. If not, he should be able to assist in generating one.

*~ How Is a Lesson Constructed? ~*

#### **1. Pray for enlightenment.**

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:13). Besides, this is not your Bible study. This is God’s. So, construct a Bible study involving God as much as possible through prayer.

#### **2. Evaluate the student.**

You do not want to bore a person by studying subjects that they are clearly aware of nor speak over them with assumptions. Do not assume they know God. If it is hard to tell, ask some questions. For example, “There seems to be a big controversy between evolution and creation. What is your opinion?” “There is a lot of talk about the New World Order, what is your opinion?” If they give the wrong answer, ask

them if they would like to see what the Bible says.

#### **3. Choose a topic.**

Choice of a topic is determined again by evaluating the student. In some cases, evaluation may not be possible and so for the first meeting at least, you may have to be prepared with a topic. Choose an exciting topic but not controversial.

#### **4. Gather all the verses on the topic.**

If you have a computer with an electronic Bible or access to the Internet for Bibles on-line, this may be as simple as copying the verses into a word processor, otherwise, you should write each verse on an index card for the next step.

#### **5. Categorize them.**

Read each verse again and determine to focus of the verse. For instance, if you looked up all forms of BAPTIZE in the Bible, is it revealing NECESSITY, TIMING, METHOD, etc.? In this process, arrange the verses into the appropriate categories.

#### **6. Turn the categories into questions.**

Using the above example, change NECESSITY into “Is it necessary to be baptized?” Change TIMING into “At what age should one be baptized?” And change METHOD into “How is one to be baptized?”

#### **7. Eliminate redundant verses on simple issues but make note of them in case what looks to be simple is actually difficult.**

An easy way to bore someone is to read fifteen verses proving something that one already agrees with, however, to

assume they agree with you on all simple items is also a way to have someone look upon your study as your opinion backed by only one verse of the Bible. So read the simple concept from the most powerful verse you can find on the subject and ask if they agree with the conclusion. If they reply, "Oh yeah. I've always believed that," case closed. Move onto the next question. If they reply with, "That's not what I've been taught," then reply with, "Well, let's see what else the Bible has to say on this." If they reply with, "I think that's right" in other words they are hesitant, go to your next strongest verse and read that one to get them secure in the conclusion. If they are not, it will come back to cause trouble later.

~ *How Is the Study Conducted?* ~

**1. Pray before going to the study.**

Remember, all we are commanded to do is share the gospel. We are not to try to convert people. Pray that the words spoken will bring glory to God and for the Holy Spirit to convert the heart.

**2. Small talk should last no more than about five minutes.**

To walk into a house and immediately jump into the Bible and then leave after the Bible is closed gives the impression that you are not interested in them as a person. They may be convinced of the truth but if they did not sense that you shared these things because you care about them, it will all be for naught.

However, watch out for those who just dump burdens but do

not want solutions. Keep them focused on the study, and if need be, taper off the studies, for they are not seeking the truth, but rather seeking someone to dump on.

**3. Open with prayer.**

Even though you had a private prayer earlier, praying with them shows that you are dependent upon God and will create a proper spiritual atmosphere. Keep in mind that prayer is never for show. The real purpose at this point is to draw both souls into the right spirit.

**4. Ask them the first question.**

To open up the study, ask the first question. This will draw the attention that the Bible study has begun.

**5. Turn to the Bible texts.**

Avoid getting into conversations with them and quoting scriptures from memory. Most people quote what they think is scripture and really, it is an altered version. For instance, some preachers state, "Money is the root of all evil." What does the Bible say? 1 Timothy 6:10 tells us, "*For the love of money is the root of all evil.*" This one may be minor, but on heavier subjects, it will be important.

**6. Confirm that they understand the answer before moving on.**

Each question should be a building process in learning. If they hesitate at an earlier question, the last question may not be as powerfully understood. So, make sure the question is fully understood by the right Biblical answers.

**7. Ask the next question and repeat the prior two steps until the study is complete.**

In asking the remaining questions, do not forbid them to go back and restudy a previous question. It may be necessary.

**8. Keep the meeting to an hour leaving them to be hungry for more.**

Answering all their questions in one night will hinder digestion of what was covered; it will destroy the appetite for more studies, and it may even end the studies entirely. If they start asking questions beyond the scope of the current topic, tell them that you will write it down, doing it in their presence, and tell them that you will cover that in a future lesson.

**9. Close with prayer.**

In the closing prayer, pray for some of their personal problems revealing that you care for them as a person as well. Again, prayer is not for show. The primary purpose of this prayer is to draw the soul of the student to submission of the truth just learned.

**10. Confirm the next meeting.**

Leaving without a date for the next meeting provides a way for them to make excuses for not meeting again.

**11. Pray after you leave.**

This prayer should include that what has been studied will be retained, that you have grown from the experience, and a request to make the studies better citing any mistakes you may have made. Also thank God for the experience and the great things He provided during the study.

~ *What concerns are there?* ~

### 1. Too fearful?

Remember Matthew 10:28, which says, “*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*”

Applying this spiritually and to the Bible study experience, to disobey God’s command of go and preach because of any human excuse, we are then fearing man or situations more than God.

Also consider the following verses: Revelation 21:8 states, “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” Exodus 4:10-11 tells us, “*And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I [am] not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I [am] slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?*”

There are things that are unpleasant, and we do them any ways because we love to see the soul we are studying with in heaven.

### 2. Should we go alone?

Luke 10:1 reveals, “*After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*” We should always go with someone for there is strength in numbers, a

witness in trying situations, and a prayer partner is essential just to name a few reasons. When there are two, only one should be the voice, the other should be in prayer, though not outwardly visible.

However, there are times when alone is necessary such as to not raise suspicion in delicate situations, to reach relatives, and when a study breaks out instantaneously.

### 3. When all the lessons are done, then what?

You ask them to become a member of the church.

If they are not ready to make a decision and there are no other people to study with, study other subjects related to decision making without coming out with it blatantly. Also reduce the frequency of the studies. God’s time is precious and if we continue to share the same truths with the same person from different angles for years, we are not using His time wisely. Further, there are others who might be more receptive and Satan knows it, so he may cause this person to drag their feet so as to prevent you from reaching out to more receptive people.

### 4. Should I provide materials?

A sheet with the questions is probably the most that would be necessary. A sheet with all the answers would be nice for follow-up but not necessary. Difficult topics may require a diagram especially if dates are involved. But nothing must be professionally typeset, computerized, etc.

### 5. What if they ask something I do not know?

Do not get distracted, but reassure them that you will address it at another time and even write it down in their presence. It is OK to say “I don’t know, but I’ll get the answer for next time” or “We’ll be looking at that in a future lesson.”

### 6. What if I encounter someone trying to convert me?

If the person is not open to studying truth, end it and move on. Satan is just using that person to put a roadblock in the path of you contacting the people who truly are open to Bible studies.

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## **What Blessings Are There?**

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1. First and foremost, knowing you saved one from the ranks of the devil should thrill your heart.

2. Knowing you now have another laborer in the field.

3. 1 Timothy 4:16 reveals that in doing studies, not only is that soul saved but our own as well. The reason is as we share the gospel, the truths we know will not gather moss but remain alive. We will also grow in knowledge of the Word and in the faith.

4. But if they do not accept, just remember you are to preach the message and when all have had the opportunity to hear the truth, the end shall come (Matthew 24:14). In other words, you are fulfilling Bible prophecy.

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## ***What Should We Think About as We Depart?***

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As we depart, think on these things.

Matthew 28:19-20 tells us, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Mark 16:15 says, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Revelation 14:6 teaches, *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”*

Matthew 24:14 states, *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

Revelation 7:9-10 reveals, *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”*