

**CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH REGULAR PIONEERS, SPECIAL PIONEERS,
AND FIELD MISSIONARIES**
PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019

Note to the circuit overseer:

Encourage the pioneers to keep their focus on making disciples so as to make the best use of the reduced time. (1Co 7:29) Commend them for the good work they are doing. 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 When Teaching Those Rightly Disposed (Ac 13:48)

TEACH THOSE WHO ARE RIGHTLY DISPOSED (3 min.)

Jesus and his disciples focused on teaching those “who were rightly disposed” **[Read Acts 13:48]**

We want to teach Scriptural truth to those with appreciative hearts who are sighing over the bad conditions in the earth (Eze 9:4; Mt 5:4)

We will consider how we can make the best use of the time left by imitating Jesus in (1) his qualities, (2) his use of the Scriptures, and (3) the focus of his ministry

CULTIVATE JESUS’ QUALITIES (8 min.)

Jesus showed love and compassion, which helped him maintain a proper view of his ministry **[Read Mark 6:31-34]**

Question: What moved Jesus to teach the crowd? (*cl* 292-293 ¶9-10) [He saw that they were spiritually neglected and without hope. He was moved with pity for the people even before seeing their reaction to what he taught]

Even if most people in your territory do not initially respond favorably, see them as Jesus did—neglected by the shepherds of false religions, starving and thirsting spiritually, and without a real hope for the future

We have what they need—nourishing spiritual food and refreshing waters of truth from God’s Word (Isa 55:1, 2)

Soil that is hard-packed requires more work to make it productive

Regardless of how people respond, a witness is given and we share in fulfilling Bible prophecy (Isa 52:7; Re 14:6, 7)

Jesus displayed deep personal interest in people

He engaged people in conversation, listening carefully and encouraging them to express their views (Joh 4:7-15)

Show your personal interest by listening carefully to those you meet in the ministry and to your Bible students

USE THE BIBLE TO SATISFY THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF DESERVING ONES (20 min.)

Jesus satisfied the spiritual need of his listeners by regularly referring to the Scriptures and explaining them **[Read Matthew 5:3]** (*cf* 100-101 ¶6)

Our aim should be to start conversations in which we skillfully use the Bible to satisfy the spiritual need of deserving ones we meet in the ministry (*w17.09* 25-26 ¶7-10)

Success in the ministry does not depend on the amount of literature we place

[Read Luke 24:27]

Questions: How is it evident that Jesus was thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures? What has helped you to learn more scriptures that you can use in the ministry? (*be* 143-144) [Explain the benefits of keeping a personal library of effective presentations, such as the sample

conversations from the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*. Highlight how the personal study features of the *JW Library* app can be helpful in this regard]

[Read Luke 24:32]

Question: Why is simply reading a scripture to a householder usually not enough? [Many have little or no understanding of the Bible, so we should not assume they will immediately grasp the point. Briefly illustrate how to isolate key portions of a scripture and explain their meaning using one of the current sample conversations]

We also want to help our Bible students think, reason, and make their own decisions based on the Bible **[Read Matthew 17:24-27]**

Questions: Why was Jesus' use of questions an effective way to teach Peter? (*cf* 111-113 ¶9-11) How can we imitate Jesus' example when conducting Bible studies? [Rather than dictating what students should do, use questions to help them think, reason, and apply what they learn. (Heb 5:14) After a scripture is read, allow them to explain it. Guide them when necessary]

Help your students not just to accumulate Bible knowledge but to become spiritually-minded (Ps 119:33)

The Bible is the most important tool in our Teaching Toolbox, so we want to improve our ability to teach directly from it

STAY FOCUSED, SINCE THE TEACHING WORK IS URGENT (20 min.)

Since time was limited, Jesus focused his teaching efforts on those with appreciative hearts **[Read John 17:4, 6-8]**

Because we are in the final part of the last days, we want to make sure our blows count by concentrating our efforts on those who show appreciation for Bible truth **[Read Acts 13:44-48]** (1Co 9:26; *bt* 90-92 ¶15-19)

Questions: What identified those "rightly disposed for everlasting life"? [The way they responded to God's Word] How can you detect if a person may have an appreciative heart? [Pay careful attention to their reaction to Bible truths. Use questions to encourage them to express themselves about the scriptures you read (*w07* 11/15 29 ¶11-13)]

Since our focus is to help Bible students become disciples, be willing to discontinue unproductive studies

We humbly admit we have no control over the spiritual growth of a Bible student (Mr 4:26-29)

Question: What are signs of an unproductive Bible study? [Is the person making changes in harmony with Bible principles? Has he attended some congregation meetings? Does he share with others what he is learning? If none of these factors are present, perhaps it would be best to discontinue the study]

Do not fall into the trap of continuing a study because it is convenient for your schedule or out of sentimentality (Lu 4:42-44)

If a student's heart is not rightly disposed at this time, use your time to look for someone who is ready to demonstrate his appreciation for Bible truth

Question: How can you be balanced when deciding whether to discontinue a Bible study? [Make allowance for age, abilities, culture, and experiences in life, recognizing that each person progresses at a different rate. A student may need ongoing assistance to put away the old personality (Eph 4:22-24)]

Some who are not ready to progress at this time may respond to the truth in the future

Question: How can you discontinue a Bible study while leaving the door open for the person to resume the study in the future? (*km* 10/88 8 ¶4-6)

It is a better use of our time to have a few productive studies than to conduct many with ones who are not rightly disposed at this time

LOCAL NEEDS (7 min.)

KEEP ON IMITATING THE GREAT TEACHER (2 min.)

We want to imitate Jesus' example of making the best use of the time left by displaying his qualities, using the Bible to satisfy people's spiritual need, and maintaining our focus on making disciples of honesthearted ones

Jesus found great joy in his ministry (Lu 10:21; Joh 4:34)

As you strive to imitate him, you will also be rewarded with joy, satisfaction, and a productive ministry