

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FROM MARCH 2011 THROUGH AUGUST 2011

Note to the circuit overseer:

Make a special effort to be encouraging to the appointed brothers. Give specific, warm commendation for the work they do. Any counsel needed should be offered lovingly. Assure them they have Jehovah's approval and the support of the branch office

Theme: Enhance Your 'Appreciation for Sacred Things' (Heb 12:16)

INTRODUCTION (3 min.)

Appreciation for sacred things is enhanced by maintaining a positive attitude and cultivating the fruitage of the spirit (Ga 5:22, 23)

Because of his deep appreciation for sacred things, the aged Jacob was willing to "grapple" all night with an angel in order to receive Jehovah's blessing (Ge 32:24-26)

Hebrews 12:16 warns against developing a negative attitude like Esau who did not appreciate sacred things [Read Hebrews 12:16]

Be on guard not to allow a similar attitude to develop because of sinful inclinations, anxieties of life, or concluding that the end of this system is in the distant future

KEEP BUILDING UP YOUR SPIRITUALITY (10 min.)

Another way to enhance appreciation for sacred things is by continuing to develop "the mind of Christ." (1Co 2:16) The more your mind resembles that of Christ, the closer your relationship will be with Jehovah

Having "the mind of Christ" is an example to your family and the congregation (1Pe 5:2, 3) [Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, 15. Briefly mention a local example or one from the publications contrasting the attitude of a spiritual man and a physical man (w07 8/1 4-7; yb78 9 par. 1)]

As a spiritual man, what can you do to continue to build up your spirituality?

Become more familiar with Jesus' pattern of thinking and imitate it (w08 7/15 27 par. 7; w07 8/1 4 pars. 3-4)

Maintaining a regular program of Bible study along with meditation will draw you closer to Jehovah (De 17:18-20; w00 10/1 8-9 pars. 1-5)

Set a good example in reading the Bible every day (Ps 1:1, 2)

Heartfelt prayer will strengthen your personal relationship with Jehovah, which is essential to "fight the fine fight of the faith" (1Ti 6:12; Eph 6:18; w92 5/15 23 pars. 3-6)

Continuing to attend and participate at the meetings will fortify you spiritually (Heb 10:24, 25)

Maintaining a meaningful share in the ministry will help you stay awake spiritually and see people the way Jehovah does (Mr 13:35-37; 2Pe 3:9)

FORTIFY YOUR FAMILY SPIRITUALLY (14 min.)

Help your household appreciate sacred things (w95 10/1 14 pars. 6-7; w94 7/15 17-18 pars. 6-11) The 2011 *Calendar* states the following: "The family arrangement is a special gift from God. We show our appreciation for that gift by giving the spirituality of our family high priority. One practical way we do that is by having a Family Worship evening each week" (De 6:4-7)

Regular family worship is the key to success

'Choose the good portion' and do not neglect regular family worship (Lu 10:38-42)

Situation: The Family Worship session is interrupted by an unexpected telephone call or visit

Question: How can a family head who appreciates sacred things show that the spirituality of his family is a high priority? [If the interruption is due to a theocratic responsibility or if an

unexpected matter requires immediate attention, he will reschedule Family Worship on another evening during that week instead of canceling it]

Situation: An appointed man comments often at meetings and shares regularly in the field ministry. However, it is noticed that his wife and children are not as involved

Question: What suggestions could you offer him to address this challenging situation?

Work hard for the salvation of your household by caring for family members' spiritual needs

This may require rescheduling or reducing the time devoted to other matters, which may include declining certain privileges on occasion (*w96* 10/15 22-24 pars. 10-15)

Your good example will help your family members increase their appreciation for sacred things, thus benefiting the entire congregation

REJECT WORTHLESS THINGS (12 min.)

What is seen with the eyes can intensify ambitions and desires of the heart (Ge 3:6; 6:2; Jos 7:20, 21; *lv* 65-66 pars. 10-11)

Appointed men are not immune to losing appreciation for sacred things by giving in to fleshly desires

Situation: At his secular work an appointed man finds that a woman is attracted to his Christian demeanor and begins to flirt with him

Questions: How would his view of sacred things protect him? (Ge 39:9; 1Co 6:18) What could happen if he does not take steps to avoid her advances? (2Sa 11:2, 3; Mt 5:28)

Another challenge is presented through this world's so-called entertainment. Sadly, some have secretly viewed pornography in magazines, on television, or on the Internet and have become addicted (Eph 5:12; *w10* 4/15 22 par. 11)

This has resulted in a guilty conscience, marriage problems, and loss of privileges

Appreciation for sacred things will fortify our resolve to look away from what is worthless [Read Psalm 119:37]

Situation: An appointed man is away from his family and congregation on a business trip and encounters immoral entertainment in the privacy of his hotel room [Read Job 31:1]

Questions: How could Job's example help him avoid viewing what is worthless? (*w00* 11/11 par 15) Why and how should an appointed man seek help if he has become involved in such entertainment? (Mt 5:29, 30)

Appointed men are accountable before Jehovah in being selective regarding entertainment

There is also a need to monitor what is viewed in the home (Eph 5:15, 16; Php 1:9, 10)

LOCAL NEEDS (6 min.)

[After carefully reviewing the congregation records on Tuesday afternoon and having worked with various publishers in the ministry earlier in the week, consider matters that you feel need further attention]

AS APPOINTED MEN, TRUST "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE" (10 min.)

Your appreciation for sacred things is enhanced by having confidence in those appointed to look after the Master's "belongings" (Mt 24:45-47)

Appointed men respect and cooperate with the direction given by 'the faithful slave' and its Governing Body, whether received in writing or through its representatives

How do appointed servants demonstrate trust in "the faithful and discreet slave"? (*od* 20) [Read and discuss Acts 16:4, 5]

As Satan intensifies his efforts to break our integrity, God's people must close ranks and unitedly 'stand firm against his machinations' and resist the influence of this world (Eph 6:11-13)

[At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed, and the following section should be discussed with the body of elders only. Thereafter, consider with the elders other necessary matters needing attention]

INFORMATION FOR THE ELDERS ONLY (5 min.)

Reports received indicate that some elders have allowed months to go by before meeting with disfellowshipped persons who have submitted a plea for reinstatement. Requests for reinstatement should be handled promptly [Read chapter 11, paragraph 1, of the *Shepherding* textbook]

Elders should manifest the same attitude as the father in Jesus' illustration of the prodigal son when meeting with those who have made pleas for reinstatement (Lu 15:17-24)

[Remind the elders that each time a judicial committee is formed, each elder who serves on the committee should review chapters 5-7 of the *Shepherding* textbook. (*ks10* 6:3) Also share with the elders the direction given in chapter 2, paragraph 4, of the *Shepherding* textbook in connection with calling the branch office]

Elders should help the publishers find answers to their questions instead of suggesting they call the branch office