



SOULWINNING 201 SESSION 2

# HOW TO GET A BIBLE STUDY

## 1. IN OUR LAST SESSION...

- A. We learned that evangelism doesn't work when we don't work!
- B. We learned that God has called each of us to lead souls into the truth

## 2. THE BIBLE STUDY REFORMATION

- A. A great reformatory movement

Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them,—the burden of leading souls into the truth. Those who are not fulfilling their responsibility should be visited, prayed with, labored for. ChS 69.6

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.... 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. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. ChS 42.4

- B. You can do this!

In this work, as in every other, skill is gained in the work itself.... It is in the water, not on the land, that men learn to swim. Ed 268.3

It is even more excusable to make a wrong decision sometimes than to be continually in a wavering position; to be hesitating, sometimes inclined in one direction, then in another. More perplexity and wretchedness result from thus hesitating and doubting than from sometimes moving too hastily. GW 133.4

### 3. FINDING SOMEONE TO STUDY WITH

#### A. Where should I look?

- i. Family, friends, co-workers and neighbors
  1. *Studies have shown that 75-90% of Christians come to Christ because of the influence of a friend or relative, and that 57% of all new members in the Seventh-day Adventist Church were invited to evangelistic meetings or church by friends or relatives.*
- ii. Missing members
- iii. Church Visitors
- iv. Church Interests
- v. Door-to-door/ Ingathering / Literature distribution
- vi. Mailings
- vii. Social contacts
  1. *Sports activities, community events, church socials, etc.*
- viii. Divine appointments

#### B. Determining a Person's Interest Level

- i. People are at different stages in their spiritual interest and understanding. In the parable of the Sower, notice that Jesus put His listeners into different categories - beaten path hearers, stony ground hearers, thorny ground hearers, and finally, good ground hearers.
- ii. In the same way, it is essential to our soulwinning success for us to identify the spiritual interest level of those we are witnessing to.
  1. *Paul perceived the lame man had faith to be healed (Ac. 14:9).*
  2. *Jude wrote "And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh..." (Jude 22-25).*

[Jude 20-25 quoted]. This scripture brings to view the fact that there is most earnest work to be done, and we need divine intuition that we may know how to work for souls ready to perish. There are souls to be plucked out of the fire. There are souls who are to be treated with the tenderest compassion. Workers are needed who have learned in the school of Christ His method of saving souls. 19MR 107

#### C. Testing the soil

- i. When Jesus told the parable of the sower, He made a point we can't afford to miss – the success of the harvest was dependent on the type of soil the seed was planted in. It was not the farmer, the type of seed, or the method of planting that determined success! If the soil wasn't ready for the seed, there was no lasting harvest.

- ii. Because we don't know the heart, it is impossible for us to determine with absolute certainty when a person is ready for the truth. However, there are ways we can "test the soil" that can help us to be relatively sure.
  1. *Try planting some "test seeds" by throwing out something spiritual in conversation, or by responding to something someone says to you in a spiritual way.*
    - a. *Let's say a person brings up something about the crazy weather we're having, or a difficulty with their teenager, or a struggle with feeling depressed, or how they can't believe how rude other drivers are. You can respond with something like*
      - b. *"You know, I was just reading something in the Bible about that..."*
      - c. *"Our pastor was talking about that last week in prayer meeting..."*
      - d. *"I was just watching a video..."*
  2. *For example, If they comment about the weather, like "What crazy weather we are having!", then you can respond with something like*
    - a. *"I know! It reminds of something I read in the Bible about weather going crazy in the last days."*
  3. *In any instance, they will respond one of two ways -*
    - a. *They will express an interest in your response, like "Really? What church do you go to?" OR*
    - b. *They will change the subject - "Well, I'm really late for an appointment. Talk to you later!"*
  4. *In either case, this will help you determine where their interest level is in spiritual things at a particular point in time. Keep in mind that things can change quickly, so don't write them off. Keep praying and trying!*

#### D. Awakening an interest

- i. There are times when the Holy Spirit may impress you to appeal to someone spiritually to awaken an interest where there may not be one.
  1. *Kirk and Kerry*

You are in need of vital energy from heaven. We must in our work not only strike the iron when it is hot but make the iron hot by striking. Ev 647.

I want to say, brethren and sisters, that we must labor for the wandering where they are. You need not expect those who have the chilling influence of the world upon them to manifest anxiety for their own souls. We must manifest it for them. MR 18 284

## 5. "JUST ASK"

### A. There are 3 ways to get a Bible study –

- i. ASK in the morning
- ii. ASK in the afternoon
- iii. ASK in the evening

### B. Pr. Tony's "sure-fire method"

- i. "You do not have because you do not ask" (Jas. 4:3)
- ii. Don't be afraid to be spiritual
  1. *It is strangely ironic that people of the world have no problem telling Christians all kinds of things we would rather not know! They tell us in great detail of their exploits over the weekend, movies they watched that we have no real desire to hear about, etc., all without the slightest concern that we might be offended. While we shouldn't seek to offend them, we should be as enthusiastic about telling them what's important to us as they are about telling us what's important to them.*
  2. *Penn Jillette, a well know atheist magician/illusionist, has been very clear about his disbelief in God. It is interesting, then, that in a YouTube video, he shares a story about the time a gracious Christian businessman gave him a Bible as a gift, using the story as an opportunity to point out that Christians who don't evangelize must really hate people. He said*
    - a. *"I don't respect people who do not proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that... it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize them? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond the shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming to hit you, and you didn't believe it, and that truck was bearing down on you, there's a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that."*  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4a4AU9FYyc>, "Penn Jillette Gets a Bible").

### C. Biblestudyoffer.com

- i. "Have you heard about our Bible school?"

### D. So what are you waiting for? Ask someone today!