

**The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.**

The last words of Christ before His departure from this world to those whom He had trained to carry on His work are of utmost importance to the church today. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" Acts 1:8 KJV.

This command was given not only to all those who heard Him speak but also to all who would accept Him in the ages to come. They were to make known to the world the story of the Father's love and salvation.

Revival and church renewal take place when members use their Bibles to witness for Christ. "Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments as upon your ability to find your way to the heart."

Gospel Workers, 193

## Bible Studies

### Helpful Ideas

#### *Two Bible Study Principals*

1. Bible studies are given to share Christ with others, not to share theological information or argue with someone who believes differently. Jesus said the Scriptures are "they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Christ must be lifted up so He can draw men and women to Himself.
2. Find ways to establish friendships with a Bible student. "Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments as upon your ability to find your way to the heart" (Ellen G White, Gospel Workers, page 193). A bond of confidence and friendship will keep the student from dropping out and make them willing to discuss topics which they fear. Listen carefully and witness by sharing your own relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### *Potential Bible Study Contacts*

- Family and friends
- Names provided by the Pastor
- Literature Evangelists who require follow-up
- Church prospects (names from events such as Vacation Bible Schools, Community Services and Health Seminars)
- Direct mail cards for letter boxing available from Adventist Media



THE MINISTRY OF

## Bible Studies

You may be reading this because you have been asked to serve your local church by teaching the Bible. Or perhaps you serve on the Church Board and are wondering what the ministry of Bible studies involves. This guide will help you understand the role that the ministry of Bible studies fills within the local church.

## The Role of the Elder

No other role in the church is more important than the work assigned to one in the ministry of Bible studies.

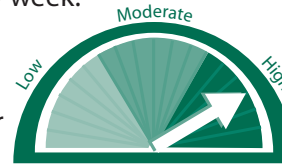
The Bible teacher is responsible for:

- working with prospective members leading them to accept Christ and teaching them the truth found in the Bible
- assisting the pastor in reaching those who show an interest in the message God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- encouraging and nurturing students through relationship building, prayer, listening and sharing
- connecting with other teachers to pray for one another, share experiences, learn from each other and coordinate studies
- assisting with the Discovery class or Pastor's Bible study class on Sabbath morning by bringing students along and teaching when required
- visiting missing members at home (sometimes at the Pastor's request) and building relationships which may lead to Bible study
- supporting existing church members who need nurture, support and wisdom from the Bible
- looking out for potential Bible students who are looking for answers to life's questions

**Supervised by** the Personal Ministries Committee. In smaller churches, it may be the pastor or an elder.

## Time Commitment

- A committed person will set aside a one to two hours each week for a Bible study. Once a Bible study is started, it is necessary to meet with the students on a regular basis, usually every week.
- Allow time to prepare for your studies with prayer and meditation.



## Tools for Bible Study

Various methods for study are used.

**Open Bible Method:** Read texts from the Bible and explain their meaning.

**Correspondence Courses:** available through Adventist Media and online.

**Delivery Method:** printed lessons are delivered to the student who fills in answers and you return with two more lessons and pick up the completed lessons to be corrected and returned at the next delivery.

**Small Group Bible studies:** 6 to 12 individuals gather to study the Bible. They study the lesson in advance and discuss the conclusions they have reached at the weekly sessions.

**Self-study Sharing Method:** the student studies a printed lesson on their own. Then they meet with you to go through the lesson.

## Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Bible teacher.

- **Teaching:** It is the capacity to communicate the love of Jesus in a practical, meaningful way.
- **Exhortation:** The special ability to encourage and comfort others. It involves helping and healing, particularly for those who are bereaved, lonely or discouraged.
- **Pastor/shepherd:** To be able to carry a personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a believer, overseeing, protecting and guiding. (This gift is not limited to church pastors)
- **Evangelism:** This gift enables a person to present the gospel in a convincing manner which convicts those hearing the message and leads them to make a decision to be part of the kingdom of God.

## Training

The best kind of training is on-the-job training with your pastor or other experienced person. Ask your pastor to set up a time for you to assist him in his work of giving Bible studies. Most local conferences offer training programs at camp meeting and during Personal Ministries training weekends.