

Desert Rain

An Evangelism
Interest Development Program



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Desert Rain

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“Desert Rain” Overview

- The Spirit told Philip, “Go to the desert... to that chariot.” ... Philip ran up to the chariot... he met an Ethiopian... and told him the good news about Jesus... and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:29-38
- “Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. An angel showed Philip where to find the Ethiopian, who was so ready to receive the truth, and to-day angels will guide and direct the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues, and refine and ennoble their hearts.” RH 3/2/11
- “God is the great Master Worker, and by His providence He prepares the way for His work to be accomplished. He provides opportunities, opens up lines of influence, and channels of working. If His people are watching the indications of His providence, and stand ready to cooperate with Him, they will see a great work accomplished.” 6T 24

The world is the desert filled with people like the Ethiopian, searching for Jesus. We are Philip. Our mandate is to go into the desert empowered by the latter rain of His Spirit and lead people searching for Jesus to Him.

Purpose: To create awareness that God is about to do something big and be ready to act. God is opening opportunities to win souls and we must prepare to act appropriately. Desert Rain is simply a plan to mobilize our membership to watch for opportunities that God provides for inviting as many as possible to the meetings so they can find Jesus.

It is not a plan to give Bible studies. Bible studies should be given along with Desert Rain. Everyone can be involved in “Desert Rain.”

Rationale:

The best interests in any evangelistic meetings are those (especially former SDAs) who have been personally invited by a church member.

Our highest calling is to be like Philip, and bring people to Jesus. Evangelistic meetings provide an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Prayer alone is not enough, and action without prayer can be detrimental to the work. Our plan is to combine prayer with action. Pray for God to do something. Watch for him to do it. Act appropriately when he does.

- *Many are longing to grow in grace... and are surprised that their prayers are not answered. The Master has given them a work to do whereby they shall grow. Of what value is it to pray when there is need of work? YI, 2/3/1898 par. 2*
“Should we give our lives up to prayerful meditation, our lights would grow dim, for light is given to us that we may impart it to others, and the more we impart light,, the brighter our own light will become.” RH 6 Feb 1894

God constantly works to provide opportunities to bring people to Jesus.

If we pray that we will see these opportunities and ask for wisdom and power to act appropriately, God will work mightily among us.

"If we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will that when obeying Him, we shall be but carrying out our own impulses." DA 668

The Sabbath School class is the best place to organize our efforts and provide the training and encouragement and to equip us for action.

Great things happen when the entire church moves toward a common goal.

"The time has come for us to expect the Lord to do great things for us." 1 SM 111

Strategy:

- 1) Divide the Sabbath School classes into small VIP action groups. They must be 4-6 people, no larger.
- 2) These groups will devote 15-20 minutes to VIP time each Sabbath for 8 weeks before meetings. This VIP time comes at the beginning of Sabbath School lesson time, not the end.
- 3) The classes are provided with 8 lesson guides for the 8 weeks prior to the meetings. They are coordinated with the pastor's sermons (also provided) to reinforce the lessons.
- 4) Have a weekly meeting with the VIP facilitators - usually 15 minutes before Sabbath School begins. They go over the lesson for the day, pass out supplies, encourage one another and have prayer.
- 5) Each class collects as many names as possible on the prayer list beginning 2-3 months before the meetings.
- 6) Each class is also given the names of inactive members.
- 7) Each class prays for the names as a group. Pray for God to open opportunities to nurture relationships and invite them to the meetings.
- 8) The names are compiled into a master list that is kept before the church. The whole church prays for this list.
 - a) *To compile the names:* One idea is to issue each VIP group a small spiral or looseleaf notebook. Each Sabbath they add their new prayer names to it, on a new page with that date on it. Then those notebooks are turned in to the coordinator who sees that the new names are added to the master prayer list. The coordinator in turn makes sure that the groups get the notebooks again the following Sabbath.
 - b) *To display the names before the church:* Find a creative way that fits your church. Ideas from former churches:
 - i) A nice large guestbook-type book kept on a table up front - "The Book of Life"
 - ii) Cutout construction paper fruit with names on them, tied to artificial "tree of life"
 - iii) A large scroll with the names written on it in calligraphy

- iv) A decorative bowl with the names written on small pieces of paper, tied into little scrolls, and put into the bowl.
 - v) A large Styrofoam cross with the names stuck on flags on toothpicks, and inserted into the cross.
 - vi) Names written on yellow post-it notes, and stuck on the outside of a baptistry.
- 9) Plan ways to demonstrate Christian love to the people on our list.
- 10) This basic concept can be carried into youth and children's classes all the way down to the Primary, depending upon the teachers and the children themselves. Some Primary and Junior classes are quite spiritually serious (not to be confused with quietness and a lack of creative energy!) and missionary minded. Other times, it may not be possible. It is a good idea to at least give the teacher's the option to take the material and make it fit their classes.
- 11) Also, some churches have attempted to include the teachers of the children's divisions by creating a special VIP class for them which meets at a special time - such as during a sack lunch after church for those 8 weeks, or perhaps by agreement on a mid-week evening.
- 12) Each inactive member should be visited before the meetings.
- 13) Three weeks before the meetings, invite them to attend with you.
- a) If they say yes, ask if they know someone else who may be interested.
- 14) There is wonderful power in testimony. Let those who are having exciting experiences share those stories with the entire church.

Important Statistics

- One out of ten on your prayer list will attend
- We usually baptize 50% of the Desert Rain guests who attend.
- Twenty names on your list should result in 2 people attending and 1 person baptized!

VIP Fellowship Time

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also." Ev 115

This is the single most crucial part of the program. The success of Desert Rain depends on how well we function at the small group level. Fifteen to twenty minutes of each Sabbath School class time should be spent in the following three activities.

Vision (5 min.)

- Review the Desert Rain concept
(Use information provided in the Desert Rain manual.)
- Encourage them to believe God is about to do great things.
- Encourage them to set high Goals and believe God will help them achieve it.

Implementation (5 min.)

- Share skills to be more effective
- Share witnessing questions and problems for mutual problem solving.
- Plan projects to nurture relationships with those on the prayer list.
- Report what God is doing in the lives of the people on your list?
- Report the number of names on prayer list.

Prayer (5 min.)

- Prayer for the success of the meetings.
- Prayer for specific people on your lists.
- Celebrate what God is doing. Remember He is the one!

Sabbath School: The Heart of Desert Rain

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into *small companies*, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also." Ev 115

We have an ideal organizational set up for our meetings. Why not mobilize the Sabbath School for Desert Rain? Each week, a portion of the class time can be spent in a special VIP Time (explained later) devoted to prayer and training for Desert Rain.

1. Each class should have a VIP Action Group Facilitator to lead out during the VIP time.
2. Classes that have more than 4-6 people should divide into smaller groups, "small companies," each with a VIP Action Group Facilitator.
3. Group Facilitators spend 15-20 minutes - during the Sabbath school class in the following:
 - Encourage faithful attendance at all of the meetings.
 - Compile a prayer list of people they will pray for and try to bring to the meetings.
 - Pray together for the meetings and the prayer list.
 - Get progress reports from the members and make suggestions, while the members share their successes with one another. (Instructions begin on pg. 22)
 - Provide instructions found in the manual to the group.
4. Each **member** will have their own prayer objective for bringing visitors to the meetings.
5. Each action unit and the church as a whole, should have a goal for the number of names on the "Class Prayer List" and the Master Prayer List. They should also have a goal for the number of people that will be attending opening night as guests who have been personally prayed for and invited to the meeting. As a rule of thumb, it generally takes about 10 names on the prayer list to get one person to attend.
6. The class facilitators present the complete class prayer list to the class each Sabbath for prayer, and give a copy of full class prayer list to the Superintendent. Someone should collect these class lists and compile a master list of all names for the church.
7. The superintendent gives a general progress report and promotion each week.
8. It is suggested that at least 5 minutes be devoted to the promotion of the Prayer List between Sabbath School and church.
9. This same plan can be followed in the Youth and Junior departments.

Job Description for the Desert Rain Coordinator

The Coordinator should be an organized person who is not afraid to delegate and build a team that will make Desert Rain a success. It is more important that the coordinator do all of the following items, but make sure they get done.

1. Faithfully attend all Steering Committee meetings.
2. Attend the Desert Rain Orientation Meeting on Friday night of the Rally Day weekend.
3. Thoroughly read and understand the Desert Rain Manual.
4. Follow the checklist found on page 13 of this manual.
5. Help select VIP Action Group Facilitators for each Sabbath School Class.
6. Review the "Key Factors to Success" page (17) in the manual each week to make sure the program is tracking properly.
7. Develop a plan to gather the names from each Sabbath School class and put them on the Master Prayer List for the Church.
8. Insure that the VIP Action Group Facilitators understand the Desert Rain concept.
9. Insure that the VIP Action Group Facilitator in each Sabbath School class is gathering names for the class prayer list.
10. Insure that there are no more than 8 people in each Desert Rain group during VIP time.
If a Sabbath School class has more than 8 members, the coordinator should help the class divide into two groups for VIP time and select a second Action Group Facilitator for the new group.
11. Insure that VIP Action Group Facilitators have the materials they need for VIP time.
12. Work with the pastor and Sabbath School superintendents to insure that Desert Rain is being promoted during Sabbath School and Worship time.
13. Help the pastor line up people who are having good experiences to share a testimony during church time.

The Desert Rain VIP Action Group Facilitator

Even though we are using the Sabbath School class to organize our church for action, the VIP Action Group Facilitator does not necessarily have to be the teacher. In fact many times, some one other than the teacher is better qualified for the job of VIP Action Group Facilitator. Following is a description of the VIP Action Group Facilitators responsibilities.

Qualifications

The group facilitator should:

1. Be an active church member
2. Faithfully attend Sabbath School
3. Have a passion to see souls saved for the kingdom.
4. Support public evangelism
5. Be a good organizer and can encourage others

Job Description

1. Be committed to attend the planning meetings faithfully.
2. Lead the VIP meetings as a facilitator
3. Visit the members in the group to help them build a prayer list. This visit can be made at home or privately at church, but a visit in the home is much more powerful. Helpful information can be found on page 44.
4. Lead out in prayer for the names on the lists of the members and faithfully manage the prayer list.
5. Encourage members to invite their friends to the meetings.
6. Encourage the members to attend the meetings every night.

The VIP Leader as a Facilitator

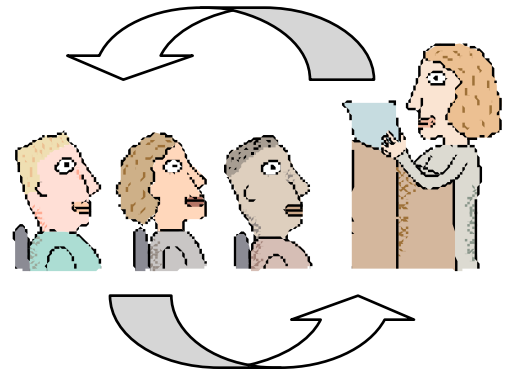


No!

This is not the best way to conduct the group. The leader is not a lecturer or a teacher.

No!

This way is not any better. We do not want everyone in the group to be talking to the leader.



Yes!

This is the ideal way to conduct a VIP meeting. Each person is free to talk and respond to each other. The leader facilitates the conversation

For example, if someone asks the group leader a question, instead of answering, the leader should reply, "What do you think group?"

Making VIP Time Effective

The VIP Leader is a Facilitator Not a Teacher

1. Your goal is to provide an environment for people to be involved in the discussion.
2. Do not monopolize the discussion.
3. Your primary task is not to talk but to allow others to talk.
4. This may be difficult for some who are accustomed to being teachers. Perhaps it would help to make yourself accountable to the group. Say, "I have a habit of talking too much, remind me if I do."

The Importance of Sharing

1. Discussion leads to action.
2. Gives the opportunity to articulate their fears.
3. Testimony generates enthusiasm
4. Builds bonds with the group.
5. Inspires creativity and learning.
6. Helps build a determination to be obedient to God.
7. Builds self esteem

How to Facilitate Participation

1. Have someone read the Scripture for the Lesson
2. Read the first question and have everyone explain their choice and why?
3. Read the next question and go around again until you work through all of the questions.
4. Start with a different person for each question.
5. **If someone asks you a question always reply with: "What do you think group?"**

Dynamic Principles for Maintaining Healthy VIP Groups

1. **Be Tuned Spiritually**
The Holy Spirit will be hindered if the leader is spiritually indifferent or troubled with unconfessed sin. A person not free to the workings of the Holy Spirit in their own life can hardly be a channel for His workings in the group.
2. **Do Not Allow Anyone to do All of the Talking**
Do not look at them. Wait until they take a breath, look in the opposite direction and quickly say, "Thank you for your comments, does anyone else have anything to say?"
3. **Maintain a Relaxed Spirit.**
 - a. Do not feel threatened by being challenged.
 - b. Be shock proof, do not criticize or be judgmental or harsh.
 - c. Keep a good sense of humor
4. **Begin and End on Time**
A good way to Kill Desert Rain is to extend the meeting past the scheduled quitting time. Do not let VIP time crowd out the Bible Study time and visa-versa.

Operation Desert Rain Checklist

Organizing for Action (4-6 months before the meetings)

1. Present the program to the church board for approval.
2. Appoint a coordinator to oversee the entire project.
3. Prepare a sermon schedule to introduce the church to the concepts involved in Desert Rain.
4. Organize each Sabbath School class into VIP Units of 6-8 in each group.
Target Date: _____
5. Assign a VIP Action Group Facilitator to each group. (see page 11)
6. Get approval from Superintendents and teachers for evangelistic team to use entire Sab. School time on the Rally Weekend
7. The evangelistic team will provide training for the VIP Action Group Facilitators on the Rally Day weekend.
8. Divide the names of inactive members among each group and develop a plan to visit every inactive member before the meetings begins.

Preparation for Rally Weekend

1. Notify SS Superintendents, Teachers, Personal Ministries leaders and VIP Action Group Facilitators about Friday evening training on Rally weekend.
2. Notify all SS personnel that the entire Sab. School time on Rally Sabbath will be used to present Desert Rain to the church.
3. Notify VIP facilitators to expect to lead a VIP group meeting Sabbath morning. Evangelists will guide the meeting from up front. It will be very simple, but they should know in advance what will be expected. We don't like to surprise them on Friday night. All necessary training will be provided Friday evening prior to that Sabbath School.

Rally Day for the Meetings: (2 months before start date)

1. Friday evening Desert Rain training meeting by the evangelistic team for all church leaders involved with Desert Rain. Include all VIP Action Group Facilitators along with the Sabbath School Superintendent and the Personal Ministries Leader.
2. Desert Rain workshop and demonstration by the evangelistic team during Sabbath School. They will model the VIP format of the class meeting for the entire church.
3. Rally sermon on Sabbath morning by the evangelist, and 'dena will sing.
4. Sabbath afternoon there are two short meetings. One is a general informational meeting for the entire church. Then the steering committee will meet to go over all the plans for meeting. The whole time will be about two hours.

Launch Desert Rain, Collecting the Names

1. The Pastor and elders or church leadership should be prepared to hold up their list of names on Desert Rain kick-off day to show that they are leading the way.
2. Each class member should complete the card with names of those they would like to see attend the meetings. The VIP Action Group Facilitator will facilitate this process.
3. Each group sets a goal for the number of names on their prayer lists. These goals are added together to give the church goal.
4. Develop a procedure to insure that the names are collected from the group facilitators and entered into a Master List. This will be one of the most challenging steps.
 - A. Appoint someone to be responsible for making sure all of the names are entered into this Master List.
 - B. Have this Master List in a central location. For example, you could make a big scroll to put in front of the church, or a golden book, to write names in. One group even made a tree of life, and hung the names of those who they wanted to see at the meetings on the tree.

Praying for the Names

1. Each person prays for the names on their cards at home.
2. The class prays together for the names on their class list .
3. The church prays for all the names on the master list every time there is a meeting in church. You can have one person pray, or even let the congregation pair up and pray together for all of the names.
 - Pray that God will provide opportunities to demonstrate Christian love.
 - Pray that God will open their hearts to be receptive to the invitation.
 - Pray that God will be lifted up and glorified in our meetings.
 - Pray that they will accept a more meaningful relationship with Jesus.

The Invitation to the Meetings (Begins 3 Weeks before the meetings)

1. Encourage each member to agree to attend opening night. Let's not overlook the important part of getting our members out.
2. The pastor and church leadership should be prepared to share from the pulpit stories of invitation, and announce those who have agreed to attend opening night, on the day you begin "The Invitation." It is important to lead the way by example and to start building up the momentum.
3. Encourage the members to invite the people they have been praying for to the meetings during the three weeks before they start. Pages 35 and 36 should be copied and passed out on week 6. See page 46 for more ideas. You can even role play the invitation with a skit from up front.
4. Each week some time should be spent focusing on the progress you are making towards your goal.
5. It is vital to focus on the invitation during this time. Do some role-play and have some testimonials up front during Sabbath School and worship.
6. Each person on the list should receive a letter inviting them and a phone call on the last two days to make the arrangements to pick them up.

The Key Factors to Success

1. Keep Jesus at the center. Everything we are doing should be a step in the process that leads people to Jesus.
2. Constantly review this page along with the Desert Rain Checklist on page 13. Put an entry for each item in your appointment book.
3. Be sure you have small groups (4-6 per group) for each VIP group.
4. Set goals for the number of names and keep the goals as well as the progress before the people at all times. Be enthusiastic and maintain an attitude of positive expectation that God will help you reach your goal.
5. When building the prayer list, emphasize the point these are names of people who you would like to see there, not necessarily names of people you think will attend.
6. Emphasize that we are expecting God to do great things and work on the hearts of these people. Let's not be limited by our own capabilities.
7. Leadership by example is the only kind of leadership that works. So the Pastor and church leadership (elders) must be prepared -
 - A. to hold up their list of names on the kick-off day, and to
 - B. talk about those they have successfully invited on the day you begin "The Invitation."
8. Follow the VIP format during part of the Sabbath School class time. This is the most important link in the process and the most difficult step. The program will rise or fall at this point. The Desert Rain coordinator and Sabbath School Superintendent should do everything possible to insure this is happening in each Sabbath School class.
9. To assist in number 7, the churches who have made it go have had weekly meetings with the VIP facilitators - usually 15 minutes before Sabbath School begins. They go over the lesson for the day, pass out supplies, encourage one another and have prayer.
10. Always keep the master scroll or list in front of the church and visible, and pray for those names on the master list every time the church meets.
11. Beginning with week six add the concept of "putting feet on your prayers" to everything said. Strongly encourage and train the people to invite their friends.
12. When people have a good experience, let them share it during Sabbath School or worship. Testimonials are powerful motivators
13. Publicly show the number of names on the list as well as the number of people that have accepted invitations.

*Desert Rain
Group
Facilitator
Guide*

Rally Day VIP Lesson

Purpose: To acquaint the members with VIP format, encourage group building, and start the thoughts of preparation for the meetings.

Vision:

What causes you to skip a meal unknowingly? **[Facilitator-pull answers from each in group if possible, then read the following excerpt - or whole Bible verses if desired]**

“Jesus said ‘but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water’ . . . Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ . . . Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest’ . . . Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony,” John 4:14,15,28,29,31-35,39
[Facilitator-then discuss next question👉]

More questions to help us learn from this passage:

- In this story, the disciples didn’t understand why Jesus forgot his hunger. What distracted the disciples? Could we be similarly distracted? How can we be more like Jesus... noticing spiritual needs around us?
- The woman suddenly forgot her physical thirst and ran back to tell the town about spiritual water. Are we excited to tell about spiritual water, if not - why not? **[Facilitator-then read & discuss👉]**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matt. 5:6

Let’s resolve to eagerly seek the living water these next few weeks, so our cup can run over on our friends!

Implementation:

Still drawing lessons from this same story in John 4, answer this:

When you were growing up, who were the people you were told not to associate with? What did your parents teach you about relating to strangers? **[Facilitator-Again pull answers around circle, then discuss👉]**

What does this teach us about our reluctance to talk with people we don’t know very well?

(After discussion of above) - **This is why we want to spend time in Desert Rain learning to reach out to people around us.** What can we do to overcome our reluctance, in order to be able to be a good witness?

Think of a specific name, the first person you’d like to put on your personal prayer list to invite to the meetings.

Prayer:

- Share your prayer names with each other
- Pray for them, especially that they will become thirsty for living water in the next few weeks.
- Pray for each other, that our own thirst will be satisfied with our precious Lord.
- Pray for the evangelistic meetings, that God will work through each member to grow your church.

Desert Rain: Focus

"God is the great Master Worker, and by His providence He prepares the way for His work to be accomplished. He provides opportunities, opens up lines of influence, and channels of working. If His people are watching the indications of His providence, and stand ready to cooperate with Him, they will see a great work accomplished."--6T 24



1. Pray

Gather as many names as you can of people you would like to see attend, and pray for God to provide opportunities for you to invite them to the meetings. Focus on what God can do.

Spend 8 weeks before the meetings gathering names and praying for them. *"The time has come for us to expect the Lord to do great things for us." 1 SM 111*

2. Watch

Be spiritually aware. Watch and pray for God to provide opportunities to do kind deeds, to show that you care, and to invite them to the meetings. Be aware of what God is doing.

3. Act

Prayer alone is not enough. The secret to success is human effort combined with Divine Power. We must act on the opportunities that we have been asking God to provide. Three weeks before the meetings, *invite them* to opening night.

4. Tell

Encourage your group by telling how God has provided opportunities to invite someone to the meetings.

Desert Rain VIP Action Group Lessons

*Note: These guides are intended to be just that: Guides. Please thoroughly read each one, personalizing it, and improving it for your group. **Facilitate** the discussion. Get your group to talk. If someone has a problem or question, say "What do you think, group?"*

Lesson 1 - "Desert Rain" Introduction

Purpose: to create an attitude of expectation that God is about to do something big in our church.

Vision

Review the story of Philip, from Acts 8:29-38, then have two people read the following quotes:

- "Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. An angel showed Philip where to find the Ethiopian, who was so ready to receive the truth, and to-day angels will guide and direct the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues, and refine and ennoble their hearts." RH 3/2/11
- "God is the great Master Worker, and by His providence He prepares the way for His work to be accomplished. He provides opportunities, opens up lines of influence, and channels of working. If His people are watching the indications of His providence, and stand ready to cooperate with Him, they will see a great work accomplished." 6T 24

Then discuss:

Have any of you had experiences like Philips? - If these quotes are true, what might be some reasons why we don't see it happening more today?

Implementation

- You have a prayer card with a place to write the names of people that you would like to see at the meetings. Each week we are going to be asking for names to write on your lists.
- **Urgent to emphasize this point:** These names are not necessarily people who you think will attend, but who you would *like to see* attend. We are going to pray for them that God will work a miracle and bring them out to the meetings.
- **Emphasize the importance of writing the names and your plans on paper.**
 1. Successful businesses have a written plan called a "Business Plan." Most successful people write their plans down on paper.
 2. Writing down your plans will help you to crystallize them and be more specific. It motivates you to carry them out.
 3. For now we are simply writing down the names of the people for our prayer lists, but in a few more lessons, we will begin to make plans to reach those people.
 4. Get a small note book to write your plans in each day, and record the things you observe God doing in your life.

Action Step

1. Pray first and ask God to give them the names of people He wants you to put on your list.
2. Have them begin to fill out their cards now.

Prayer

- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Lesson 2 - Spiritual Awareness

Purpose: to create an attitude of watching for the leading of God to people who are open to Him.

Vision

Open with the "How Many Squares do you see? Point: the more you look the more you see.

*"God is the great Master Worker, He prepares the way for His work to be accomplished. **He provides opportunities**, opens up lines of influence, and channels of working. If His people are watching the indications of His providence, and stand ready to cooperate with Him, they will see a great work accomplished."--6T 24*

Spiritual Skill: Awareness to recognize the opportunities that God Provides for us to Witness

- A Fundamental Sales Principle: "A Master Prospector is prospecting every time he writes a letter, every time he shakes a hand, every time he makes a phone call. With every personal encounter, he is asking himself the question, 'Does this person have any Needs that I may satisfy with the benefits of my program?'" Paul J. Meyer, President, Success Motivation Institute. Should we have the same awareness?
- "Jesus saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom." DA 151
- "There are many who are sincerely seeking for light, who know not what they must do to be saved." CM 42
- "All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. AA 109

Discussion: How should these quotes affect the way we see people?

Implement: How to Recognize God's Opportunities

Examples: (these are very brief and rough to save space)

1. Wow! That Tsunami was scary! What is going on?
Response: I was just reading about end time prophecies in the Bible. There is a seminar coming to our church on these very topics. We are going, think you might be interested?
2. "I am so discouraged." Response: "I felt the same way. I found this little book that really helped me, would you like to borrow it?" Give them a Steps to Christ.

Discussion: Brainstorm some other examples and how might you respond?

Prayer

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.

(May need to quickly total this number on the spot)

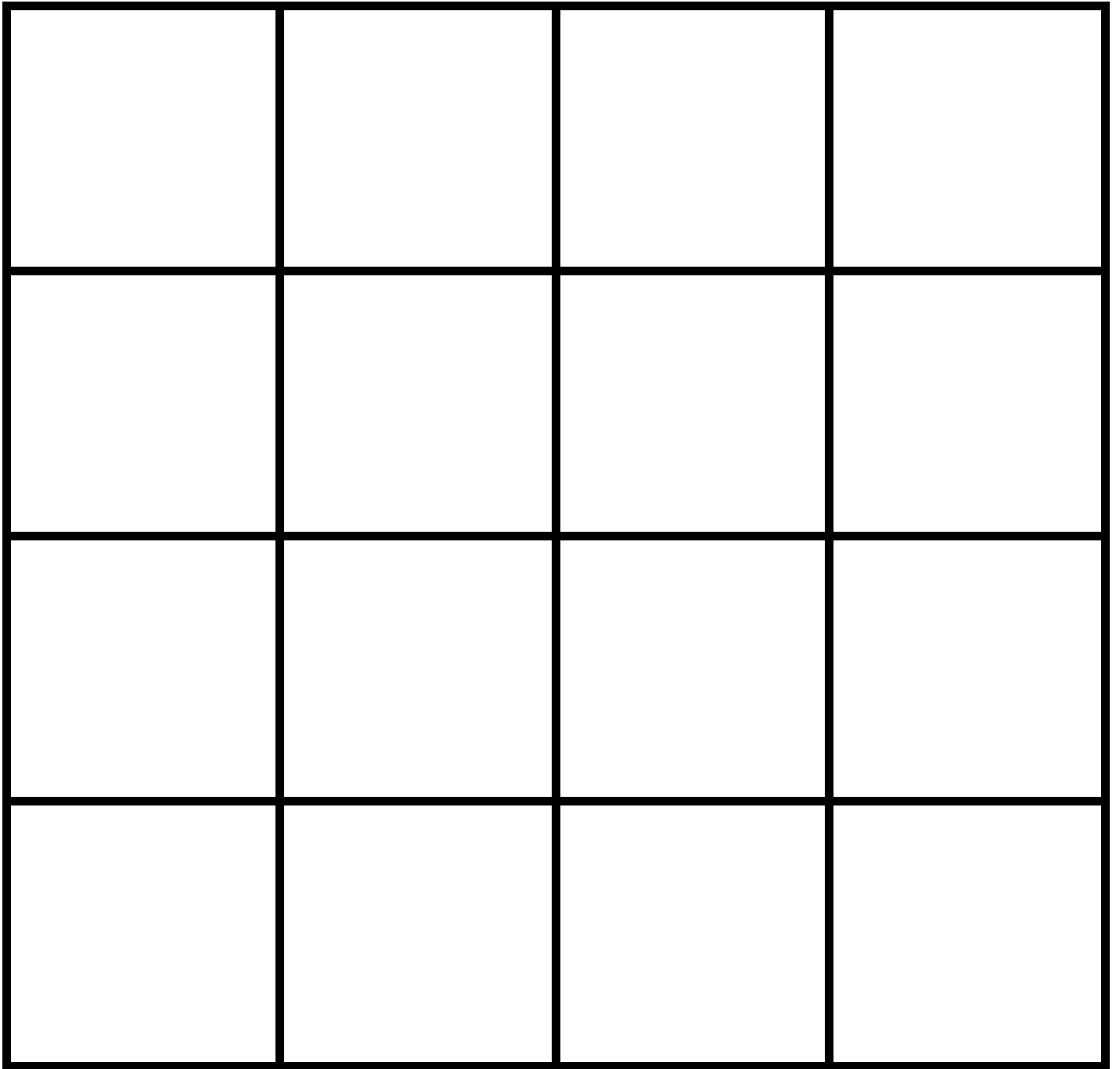
Does anyone have a story to tell about witnessing this week?

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Hint to teacher for next week - you will need to do some pre-planning, and maybe some reading, so check the outline today!

The Square Game



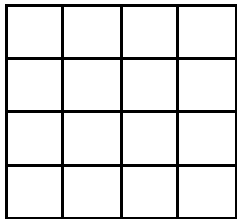
The Square Game - Explained

After admonishing those who know the answer to not say, Ask:

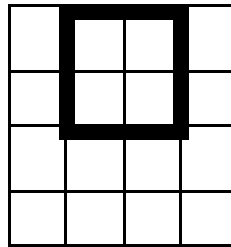
1. "How many squares do you see?"
2. Continue to encourage more response - "Is that all?"
(Until someone hits 30, or it has gone long enough.)
3. "What's the purpose of this game? Why did we do this?"

Answer: The longer you look the more you find. This also applies to people longing for Jesus! The more aware we are that they are there, the more we will see them.

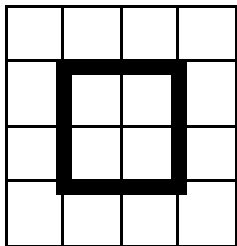
Below are the answers for the game:



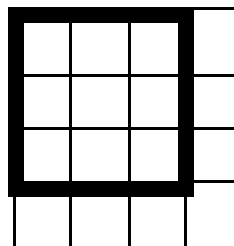
Each
individual box
= 16
+ outside
border = 17



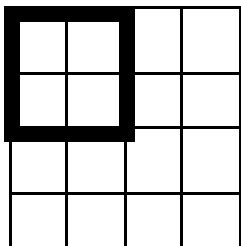
+ four of
these = 26



+ middle
set = 18



+ four of
these = 30



+ four of
these = 22

Lesson 3 - The Power of Prayer

Purpose: to create a desire for a strong prayer life, and to see its results.

Vision

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim 2:1-4

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ." SC 70

Share a story of your own answered prayers, or *tell* (not read) one from one of the following books.

- "The Incredible Power of Prayer" by Roger Morneau (In fact, this inexpensive "witnessing book" would be great to give to each of your class members on this day! The story on pg. 52-55 is great.)
- "God Answers Prayer - Stories of Faith, Hope, Change, and Healing" with foreword by William G. Johnsson

Further quotes and information available in the Resources section of Desert Rain Manual.

Implementation

Who has tried the Desert Rain personal devotion plan that the pastor spoke about last week?

Does anyone have stories of answered prayers that you can share briefly?

- ***What can we learn about witnessing from these stories?***

Urge the reading of Morneau's small book on prayer. It is powerful, practical, and inspirational.

On a blank sheet of paper (teacher should have some ready) write the answers to these questions - say "this will be between you and God alone."

- How much time am I willing to set aside each day to pray for others to be saved?
- When during the day will I dedicate time to a better prayer life?

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.
(May need to quickly total this number on the spot)

Does anyone have a story to tell about witnessing this week?

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

Prayer

- Pray for God to give us a passion to see souls saved.
- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Powerful Personal Devotions for Desert Rain

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ." SC70

- Make a Desert Rain prayer list using the card provided from the church and pray for these names every day that God will help you show acts of kindness and that they will attend the meetings.
- Remember, our prayers must be combined with action. A good way to do this is to:
 - a. Select one or more names from your Desert Rain prayer list to especially focus on each day.
 - b. Write your plans for those people in a small notebook and record events and answers to prayer.
 - c. For example, you could make an entry like this:

Monday, June 15,
John Smith- Let him know that I have been praying for his daughter who has the flu.
Alice Wright- Give her a copy of Roger Morneau's book.
Mary Jones- Show her a handbill and invite her to the meetings.
 - d. At the end of each day, check off each item accomplished and write down what God did during those activities you had planned.
- Try the following Outline for praying the Lord's Prayer.

A Practical Guide for Personal Prayer from the Outline of the Lord's Prayer

I. Praise - the Tuning-In Step

"Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name."

- A. Who He is.
- B. What He has done in scripture and in our lives (James 1:17)

II. Cooperation - Connection Step

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

- A. Pray for God's kingdom to come soon, and that your city, church and family will be ready.
- B. Ask for the meetings to be a part of His grand plan. (Matthew 6:33)
- C. Submit to God's will and leadership in your life. (Romans 12:1)
- D. **Pray for God to help you carry out the plans that you have written in your notebook.**
- E. Ask for God's guidance and for His will to be done. (2 Peter 3:9)

III. Petition - the Receiving Step

"Give us this day our daily bread."

- A. Concerns (Philippians 4:4-7)
- B. Intercession (James 5:9)
- C. Asking for wisdom (James 1:5)
- D. Praying for and receiving good health (III John 2)
- E. Be specific. Detail in steps what you are asking for.

IV. Forgiveness - The Healing Step

"And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us."

- A. Confession and cleansing (1Jn 1:9)
- B. Forgiving and blessing those who wronged you. (Hb 12:15; Jm 3)

V. Victory - the Can-Do Step

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory-forever."

- A. Ask for and claim victory over temptation (James 4:7-8)
- B. In Jesus' name claim deliverance and protection from Satan's attacks. (1Jn 4:4)

C. Be glorified in my life (Ph 4:8,13)

Lesson 4: Secret to Success— Human Effort Combined with Divine Power

Purpose: to create a determination to act with God's power, and to set definite goals.

Vision

Prayer alone is not enough. "Should we give our lives up to prayerful meditation, our lights would grow dim, for light is given to us that we may impart it to others, and the more we impart light, the brighter our own light will become." RH 6 Feb1894

- We need to develop courage to act on our beliefs. We have a wonderful Savior, friend, and head of our Church. How can we *not* act to bring people to him?

God desires us to lay wise plans.

"In their work, let them have a definite aim. Decide how long a time is required for a given task and then bend every effort toward accomplishing the work in a given time. The exercise of the will power will make the hands move deftly." COL:344

"You should also have an aim, a purpose in life. Where there is no purpose, there is a disposition to indolence; but where there is a sufficiently important object in view, all the powers of the mind will come into spontaneous activity. In order to make life a success the thoughts must be steadily fixed upon the object of life and not left to wander off and be occupied with unimportant things, or to be satisfied with idle musing, which is the fruit of shunning responsibility." MCP:442

Implementation

Encourage discussion from the following questions:

- What are some common deadlines in your life? (An example might be April 15)
- How do they affect you?
- *How does this principle of procrastination apply to us inviting our friends to the meetings?*
- Men, Tell what it was like to ask a girl for a date when you were young.
- *What can we learn about asking our friends for a "date" to the meetings from this?*

Important question:

"How many people do we as a Sabbath School Class want to set as a goal to bring to the meetings?"

Try to get a specific answer to this question, and place it before the class weekly as "our goal."

<p>We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings. (May need to quickly total this number on the spot) Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?</p>
--

Prayer

- Pray that God will help us reach our aim, and that we can act as His co-worker.

- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Lesson 5 - Opening Doors to Share Christ

Purpose: To brainstorm ideas for methods of reaching out to people.

Vision

"Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives.

"The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but...they may start waves of blessing that will widen and deepen, and the blessed results they may never know until the day of final reward." SC 83

Are you searching for ways to work for Christ? Pray for God to open opportunities to do acts of kindness for the people on your list.

Implementation

1. (If time) Brainstorm ideas for acts of kindness to the people on your prayer lists. How can we, this week, reach out to our prayer list people?
2. Be sure to pass out copies of "56 Ways to Share Christ" found on the next 2 pages.
3. Have each person look over the list and select an idea from it, or from the previous brainstorming that they think would fit for at least one person on their prayer list. (One exciting idea is to share Roger Morneau's book "The Incredible Power of Prayer". People are visiting church as a result of reading this book!)
4. Write it down in their prayer notebooks, or on the page you distributed to them.
5. Let each person share what they plan to do.

This is a vital step. It will virtually insure success.

"Next week plan to share what you did with the class."

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.

(You may need to quickly total this number on the spot)

Does anyone have a story to tell about witnessing this week?

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

Prayer

- Pray for God to give us a passion to see souls saved.
- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

56 Ways to Share Christ

A. In Cultivating the Soil of the Heart of your Neighbor, or Co-worker

1. Smile and speak kindly to your neighbor
2. Make friendly visits and get acquainted
3. Compliment your neighbor's yard, flowers, house, etc.
4. Develop the habit of praising people's good qualities
5. Share a loaf of bread or vegetables (or flowers) from your garden
6. Take time to listen to problems
7. Periodically express personal interest in your neighbor's welfare
8. Go on errands for others who can't
9. Offer to baby-sit
10. Assist someone with a project
11. Send your neighbor a card while you are on vacation
12. Visit those in the hospital
13. Remember other's birthdays and anniversaries
14. Invite a friendless family on an outing
15. Invite others to your home for social visits, read Scripture, offer prayer, and/or share testimony of what God has done for you.
16. Invite others to church socials or special programs
17. Offer Bible study guides and/or videos as soon as possible (at your home, your neighbor's, or elsewhere)
18. Invite those interested in vegetarian cooking into your home for a basic beginners' class on vegetarian cooking. then branch out and teach other classes.
19. Share tapes with neighbors and friends. Subjects could be Bible topics, health, music
20. Volunteer to take neighborhood children to Sabbath School with you. It will give parents three hours of free time—they will love you for that!

B. In your Territorial Assignment

21. Watch the newspaper for those in need and do what you can to help
22. Visit the parents of children from your territory who attended the Vacation Bible School
23. Write a congratulatory letter to the new parents in your territory. Watch local newspaper for announcements
24. Lend audio cassette tapes or video tapes with recorded Bible studies and sermons
25. Invite people in your territory to attend nutrition or health classes conducted by your church.
26. Write a note to newly married couples in your territory, expressing your best wishes and suggesting that they begin each day with family worship. Provide a guide.
27. Blanket your territory with brochures or cards inviting people to study the Bible.
28. Deliver a missionary journal, such as *Listen*, *Vibrant Life*, *Signs of the Times*, to each home each month in your territory.
29. Have a weekly children's story hour in your home and invite the neighborhood children.

C. With Literature

30. Hand out tracts wherever you go.
31. Keep up a literature rack at a Laundromat, bus station, courthouse, nursing home, etc.
32. Maintain a supply of *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Happiness Digest*, *The Great Controversy*, or other literature.
33. Prepare literature packets to use on vacation.
34. Loan full message books to friends and neighbors.
35. Place *Your Bible and You*, or *Open Secrets*, or other appropriate books, in motels.
36. Send *Signs of the Times*, *Message* or *Listen* magazines to relatives, friends, business and professional leaders.
37. Keep tracts in your car to give away.
38. Enclose a tract with each of your bill payments
39. Contact people at the shopping plaza or malls in your city with tracts or other literature.
40. Keep appropriate literature by your front door to give to everyone who comes.
41. Pray for the Lord to guide you as you step out in faith that you might meet just the person He has for you to talk to this day.
42. Start a lending library for those in your territory, for both children and adults.
43. If you spend time in airports and on airplanes, take small books and *Signs of the Times* to leave on seats. Travelers in airports and on planes are always looking for something to read.
44. Leave literature wherever you go: doctor and dental offices, grocery and Laundromats, bulletin boards, etc.
45. Send your local library a subscription to *Signs of the Times*.
46. Send subscriptions to *Signs of the Times* to your neighbors and friends at work. Pray each month for the Holy Spirit to work as they receive their copy.

D. In the Broader Spectrum

47. Start an early morning prayer group. Join the 6:15 am world-wide circle, praying for unity of your church, the Holy Spirit, and a willingness to work for Jesus.
48. Start a Mens' (or Ladies') Bible Study Group in your neighborhood or at work.
49. Begin a telephone ministry to the shut-ins or the discouraged.
50. Begin an intercessory prayer ministry. Pray for special projects in the church.
51. Begin visitation ministry on a regular basis to shut-ins or the ill.
52. Send cards at holidays and birthdays to academy and college students.
53. Send a "love" package to academy and college students. They Love receiving homemade cookies with a newsy letter.
54. Invite singles (young and old) to your home for fellowship
55. Invite a newly baptized member to visit shut-ins with you.
56. "Shepherd" new members during their first year of church membership. Show them by example how to witness, visit, and have Christian hospitality.

Adapted from "Church Growth Through Sabbath School Action Units" by Calvin Smith

Lesson 6 - Inviting Friends

Purpose: to give courage and suggestions for inviting people to the meetings. Be sure to copy and give out the suggestions on the following page.

Vision

The Invitation is the last thing to happen in a long sequence of events.

1) You have first put their names on your prayer list.

You have been praying for them for several weeks, asking God to open opportunities to demonstrate true Christian love.

You have been doing all that you can to nurture a real friendship with that person.

Now is the time to invite them to the meetings. You can simply say something like:

Have you received one of these invitations in the mail? (Show them a Handbill)

We are going to go to this seminar. We know the speaker, he is really interesting. I think you would like it. Do you think you would be interested in going with us?

It may seem a little awkward to be asking a question like that, but sometimes God puts us into positions that are uncomfortable for us in order to help us grow. Just remember that you are God's special messenger to that person. God has unlimited treasures that he wants to give them, and you are the one He chose to use to reach them. What could be more exciting than that?

If they say yes:

- Be sure to set a time and offer to take them to the meeting.

Ask: "I was wondering if you know someone else that may be interested in going. It would be fun if we could go as a group, wouldn't it?" This is powerful!

Implementation

This may feel awkward, but let's practice it right here.

- Pair up in groups of two (if you have to, one group can be three)
- Each person pretend to be one of the people on your prayer list, and let your practice partner ask you to come to the meetings.
- Then swap roles, and let the other person do the asking.

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.

(May need to quickly total this number on the spot)

Who has already invited your people to the meetings? (If you know that someone has done it, and that they have a good story to tell - ask them first! Their story will encourage others.)

Urge all to begin asking their friends.

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

Prayer

- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Ideas for Invitations

Putting Feet on Your Prayers

Fifty percent (50%) of those who attend Revelation Now as a result of an invitation by you will join the church. *That's an exciting statistic!!* But not everyone who is *invited* will *attend*. So how can you increase the possibility that those you ask will be someone who responds positively, and actually *attends*? Here are some proven thoughts and techniques to help.

1. Always remember that your own positive attitude will be "catching." If you look down, shuffle your feet and say "You wouldn't like to come to my church's meetings, would you?" You are setting yourself up for disappointment. Decide ahead of time, using the suggestions on this page, just how you want to invite someone, and then practice it out loud in front of a mirror. Smile! You have something great to share - act like it! Notice the following amazing quotes:

"When we have an assurance which is bright and clear of our own salvation, we shall exhibit cheerfulness, and joyfulness,But a harsh denunciatory life spirit, if manifested, will turn many souls away from the truth into the ranks of the enemy. Solemn thought!" Letter 1a 1894

"His blessings He presents in the most alluring terms. He is not content merely to announce these blessings; He presents them in the most attractive way, to excite a desire to possess them. So His servants are to present the riches of the glory of the unspeakable Gift." DA:826

2. Though our purpose in inviting people is to help them know Jesus better, most people don't want to admit that this is an interest of theirs. They may not even realize that they are interested in it! But they are interested in, (and don't mind admitting it) prophecies concerning the end times, and a Biblical perspective on the new millenium. You can also say that this speaker is known for making Bible prophecies easy to understand. *Talk about these things when inviting friends.*
3. If those you are inviting already know a bit about the church (for example, family and former members), they will be reluctant to admit they are interested in listening to the messages at all. With this type of person, you may get farther by talking about the good music, or the fact that this speaker has done this series in Cuba and the former Soviet Union.
4. A third thing you can try is to frankly say that you are trying to reach a personal goal of bringing _____ (a certain number) of people to the meetings, and "will you please help me reach that goal?"
5. *Always offer to pick them up.* Especially if you are getting "I may come" type answers, try to solidify it by saying "Well, I could pick you up at 6:45 on opening night, would that be Okay?"

It is our prayer that these ideas will help you as you "put feet on your prayers," inviting your prayer list people to come to the meetings.

Lesson 7 - The Andrew Story

Purpose: to create an attitude of willingness to be used in the simplest of ways.

Vision

The evangelist has assured us that he is going to lift up Jesus first and foremost in the meetings. That means that if we invite people to attend the meetings, we will be bringing them to meet Jesus because Jesus promised that where two or three are gathered together in His name, he will be present.

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." John 1:41-42

Implementation

Encourage discussion with the following questions:

- As a kid, what would it take to get you to believe something your brother or sister told you? Can we learn anything from that kind of childhood experience?
- **Fact! Most people do not invite their friends to the meetings.** Why? What make you reluctant? What stands in the way?
- **Why** should we invite?

Combining today's thoughts with last week:

- *Can you think of any ways that God has worked in the lives of people on your list, that might provide an opening for you to invite them to the meetings?*

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.

(You may need to quickly total this number on the spot)

Who has invited your people to the meetings with a handbill? (If you know that someone has done it, and that they have a good story to tell - ask them first! Their story will encourage others.)

Urge all to begin asking their friends.

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

Prayer

- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to prepare the way for us to invite them to the meetings.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Lesson 8 – Ordinary People and God

Purpose: To encourage to action.

Vision

"As the time comes for the message of the third angel to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified by the unction of His Spirit rather than the training of literary institutions." GC 606

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses." Acts 1:8

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." Eph. 6:19

If you have invited the people on your prayer list, this week is the time to follow up on your appointment, setting the details of when you will pick them up, and etc. If you have not yet invited the people on your prayer list, do it this week.

Implementation

We have _____ names on our prayer list for the meetings.

(May need to quickly total this number on the spot)

Who has invited your people to the meetings with a handbill? (If you know that someone has done it, and that they have a good story to tell - ask them first! Their story will encourage others.)

Urge all to begin asking their friends.

Are there any more names we can add to our prayer lists?

"I brought with me some blank paper, and we're going to all take the time to write to someone, encouraging them to come to the meetings. Remember to include a handbill when you mail it.

- If you have some people already committed, then drop them a note saying that you're looking forward to picking them up and going to the meetings with them.
- If no one has yet agreed to come, write to some who were gave "maybe" answers and encourage them to come, inviting them to call you for a ride.
- If you haven't even asked anyone yet, then write a note inviting them, and you can hand deliver it this week.

Let's do it now."

Prayer

- Pray that God will help us reach our aim, and that we can act as His co-worker.
- Pray Specifically for the names they have written on their lists. Pray for them by name. Ask God to clear the way for them to attend this Friday night.
- Ask God for more names to put on the lists

Lesson for Opening Weekend

Purpose: To encourage attendance at the meetings, and bringing friends.

Vision:

- Share stories and comments from opening night (last night).
- Did anyone have a chance to bring a friend?
- Did anyone get to talk with a guest at the meeting?

Implementation:

- Who on our prayer lists said they would come, but didn't?
Can we as a class do anything to encourage their attendance?
- Did anyone on our prayer lists not get invited?
Who can invite them? Does anyone want help with inviting a friend?
- There is still time to invite people to the meetings all throughout this week. The sooner the better!

Prayer:

- Pray for all on the prayer lists
- Pray for a love for those who are now coming to the meetings
- Pray for the evangelists, and all attending, for health and the Holy Spirit

Promote the meetings for the next week. Continue to encourage the members to come throughout the entire series of meetings! The last week is usually when it seems easiest to skip some nights - yet it is the most crucial of all weeks.

All Following Lessons

If your class continues in the same format, continue to save 15-25 minutes for VIP time, following the same general concepts of class action for reaching out to friends and neighbors.

Vision:

- Share inspirational Bible stories, quotes, and practical methods of soul-winning.
- Begin talking about how to help new members feel like they belong.

Implementation:

- Actually practice soul-winning skills.
- Share witnessing questions and problems for mutual problem solving. After any witnessing story is shared, always ask some form of the question:
What can we learn about witnessing from this?
- Plan projects to nurture relationships with those on your prayer list, and those coming to the meetings.

Prayer

- During the meetings, prayer for the people coming to the meetings.
- Prayer for specific people on your lists.

Additional Resources for Desert Rain

Schedule of Handouts and Materials to be Copied for Desert Rain

Week One: "Desert Rain Introduction"

- Have ready: Prayer lists cards.*
- Be ready to handout copies of page5, one per member.*
- "Pray for Revelation Now" tent-cards for people to take home.*

Week Two: "Spiritual Awareness"

- Have ready: extra prayer cards (This stands true for each week)*

Week Three: "The Power of Prayer"

- Have ready: Roger Morneau's "Incredible Power of Prayer" 1 per member*
- Copy "Powerful Personal Devotions for Desert Rain" (page29), 1 per member*

Week Four: "Secret to Success - Human Effort and Divine Power"

Week Five: "Opening Doors to Share Christ"

- Copy back to back "56 Ways to Share Christ" (page33), 1 per member*
- Have ready a blank paper for members to write ideas on, or -*
- Optional: small spiral bound notebooks, to call "prayer notebooks", one per member.*

Week Six: "Inviting Friends"

- Have handbills on hand. (This does depend on printer)*
- Have copies of the "Ideas for Invitation" sheet ready to give to every member – even during church service.*

Week Seven: "The Andrew Story"

- Have handbills on hand*

Week Eight: "Ordinary People and God"

Same as last week

How to Build the Names List

When the time comes to gather names for the evangelistic meetings, experience has shown that most members have a difficult time coming up with names to put on their lists. Personal attention is usually very helpful. The Group Facilitators should visit each member in their group. This visit can be in the church, but is much more effective in their homes.

How to make the Visit

- Remember that the purpose of your visit is to give them the prayer card and help them to think of names to write on the card, as well as recruit them to be prayer warriors for the Meetings.
- It is a mistake to assume that everyone will be flowing over with names to pray for and to invite to the meetings. You must be prepared to prime the pump.

Opening Comments

"As you know, we are going to be hosting a series of evangelistic meetings this February in our church and we are visiting everyone of our members in order to talk about the meetings coming up and to pray together for them. That is the reason we had these cards made up. I would like for you to keep this one as a reminder to be praying for the meetings.

Create Interest and Excitement

"We have discovered that the most important thing we can do in preparing for an evangelistic meetings is to pray for God to bless it and to pray for our friends and love ones to attend. What do you think would happen to our church if every member had two or three people present opening night?

(That last statement is vital in order to get them to begin visualizing great things that God can do.)

The Appeal

"We have also discovered that the very best interests that attend the evangelistic meetings are the ones who attend with a friend, and have some kind of prior contact with an SDA. I am certain that you have some friends or relatives that you would like to see at the meetings, is that right?

(Pause and let them answer.)

"The back of this card has a place for you to write the names of the people that you want to pray for, that they might come to a fuller understanding of God's love. I want you to know that, not only will you be praying for them but I will too, as well as other church leaders and members. Who do you know that you can put on the back of your card that we can pray for?

*(You must ask that last question!
Let them say the name and then write it down on the card.)*

"Who else can you think of?"

(Keep asking until you get at least 5 names from each person. Try for ten if possible.)

The Close

"Thank you so much for your time. I really enjoyed visiting with you. And I am looking forward to praying for your friends and hopefully to meeting them at Revelation Now. I would like to leave these cards with you so you can give us their name and phone numbers and we can put them on our prayer list at church."

(Remember to have prayer and pray for those people by name before you leave.)

If they can't think of any names:

You will probably have to thoroughly probe the member for names.

"Surely you must know some one. Do you know anyone who is not a Christian, or maybe a Christian that does not understand the Sabbath Blessing."

Any relatives, family members?

What about your neighbors, or co-workers?

Wives or husbands not yet with us.

Young children not yet baptized.

Older children who have drifted away.

Other inactive members.

If they say they don't know anyone that would be interested:

Remember, at this stage we are not asking you to visit them or even mention anything to them, Right now we just want to begin praying for them that God will open a door make them interested. Then later God will provide a way to invite them to the meetings.

(Many times it helps to simply stop and pray that God will put some names of people on their heart now.)

How to Make the Invitation

The Invitation should be the last thing to happen in a long sequence of events.

1. You have been praying for them for several weeks, asking God to open opportunities to demonstrate true Christian love.
2. You have first put their names on your prayer list.
3. You have been doing all that you can to nurture a real friendship with that person.
4. Now is the time to invite them to the meetings. You can simply say something like:
Have you received one of these invitations in the mail?
(Show them a Handbill)
We are going to go to this seminar. We know the speaker, he is really interesting. I think you would like it. Do you think you would be interested in going with us?
5. It may seem a little awkward to be asking a question like that, but sometimes God puts us into positions that are uncomfortable for us in order to help us grow. Just remember that you are God's special messenger to that person. God has unlimited treasures that he wants to give them, and you are the one He chose to use to reach them. What could be more exciting than that?
6. If they say yes:
 - Be sure to set a time and offer to take them to the meeting.
7. **Ask; "I was wondering if you know someone else that may be interested in going. It would be fun if we could go as a group, wouldn't it?" Do not overlook this point, it is powerful! Here is where multiplication can go to work.**
8. Follow up with a letter and a phone call the week before the meetings begin.

A Suggested Skit to Role Play the Invitation in Church

Bev: Hi Mary, did you get one of these in the mail? (Show a handbill)

Mary: Yes I did, why?

Bev: Well, we are planning to go. We know the speaker, he really is interesting. I think you would enjoy it too, do you think you might be interested in going?

Mary: Well, we were thinking about it, I think so.

Bev: Great, why don't we stop by and pick you up?

Mary: Sure, that will be fine.

Bev: Say, do you know anyone else that might be interested in going? It would be fun if we could go as a group, wouldn't it?

Mary: Well, my neighbors seem to be interested in those things, I can ask them.

Bev: Great! Let me know what they say, we have enough room in our van.

Mary: Ok. And thanks for inviting us.

Desert Rain Group Facilitator Tracking Sheet

Group Goals

Total Names on Prayer List _____ Total Inactive Names _____

Total Invitations Accepted _____ Total Inactive Visits _____

Total group members who have agreed to attend opening night. _____

Week 8

Pass out name cards _____

Begin entering names on cards _____

Week 7

Goal for names on the class list: _____

Names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Week 6

New names on the class list: _____

Total Names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Week 5

New names on the class list: _____

Total Names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Week 4

New names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Total Names on the class list: _____

Week 3

New names on the class list: _____

Total names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Invitations accepted: _____

Goal for invitations accepted: _____

Week 2

New names on the class list: _____

Total names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Invitations accepted: _____

Week 1

New names on the class list: _____

Total names on the class list: _____

Inactive visits made: _____

Invitations accepted: _____

Week 0

Total Invitations accepted: _____

VIP Group Coordinators Record Sheet

"The Spirit told Philip, "Go to the desert... to that chariot." ... Philip ran up to the chariot... he met an Ethiopian eunuch... and told him the good news about Jesus... and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:29-38"

VIP Action Group Coordinator: _____

Goal to complete visitation by : _____ Goal for number of names on prayer list: _____
date

	VIP Action Group Member's Name	Date Visited	Number of Names on Prayer List	Goal for Opening Night	Commitments to Attend Opening Night
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Bible and EGW Support

“When human hearts are susceptible to the influences of the Holy Spirit of God the Lord can do a mighty work through his servants. He can bring them into association with men and women who need help and encouragement. Everywhere we can find souls longing for the help that we might give them; and in arranging our work so as to meet this need, we must not lose sight of the neglected parts of the vineyard.” PH113-8

“Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. An angel showed Philip where to find the Ethiopian, who was so ready to receive the truth, and to-day angels will guide and direct the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues, and refine and ennoble their hearts. The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God's way of working. It is his plan that men are to work for their fellow men.” RH 3/2/11

“This experience shows the Lord's care for His people. It was the Spirit of God that led this man's mind to the Scriptures. But he could not interpret their meaning. Then the Lord sent one of His servants to enlighten his mind, and to make him understand.” UL130

“ This Ethiopian represented a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip--men who will hear the voice of God and go where He sends them. There are many that are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.” AA109

“Notice how much effort was put forth for just one man, an Ethiopian” 8T57

“While angels from heaven are doing their work, evil angels are seeking to draw the mind to something else. Satan is interposing obstacles, so that the mind that would understand the word of God shall become confused. Thus he worked with Christ in the wilderness of temptation. Had Philip left the eunuch with his case hanging in the balance, he might never have accepted the Savior. Evil angels were waiting for an opportunity to press in their falsehoods, and divert the Ethiopian from seeking after truth. The Lord's agencies must be wholly consecrated to his service, that they may be quick to understand their work. As wise stewards, they must take advantage of every circumstance to draw men to Christ.” YI 12/14/01

Diligent guard should be kept during the day, watching for the providence of God and acting on those doors that He opens. (EV 703)

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also." Ev 115

“The very *simplest* modes of work should be devised and set in operation among the churches. If the members will *unitedly accept* such plans, and *perseveringly carry them out*, they will reap a rich reward; for their experience will grow brighter, their ability will increase, and through their efforts *souls will be saved.*” 6T 433, italics supplied

“When church members put forth earnest efforts to advance the message, they will live in the joy of the Lord and will meet with success. Triumph always follows decided effort.” 7T 30