

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2013

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 9

Song 84 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

jl Lessons 17-19 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 1 John 1–Jude (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 John 5:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Should Jesus Christ Be Remembered?—Luke 1:32, 33; John 17:3 (5 min.)

No. 3: The Right Religion Demonstrates True Faith in Jesus Christ—*rs* p. 329 ¶11 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 5

15 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2014. Talk by the school overseer. Using the Theocratic Ministry School instructions for 2014, discuss points needing emphasis locally. Explain that if the Bible reading consists of the opening chapters of a book, the brother caring for the highlights will no longer develop material from the “*All Scripture*” book. In addition, when Assignments No. 2 and No. 3 refer to paragraphs in the *Reasoning or Insight* books, only paragraphs that are *indented* are to be counted. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating during the Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from the *Ministry School* book.

15 min: “How to Prepare Effective Introductions.” Questions and answers. Demonstrate two introductions for offering the *Bible Teach* book, one that is not effective and afterward, one that is.

Song 60 and Prayer

How to Prepare Effective Introductions

¹ Just as a flavorful appetizer builds anticipation for the meal that follows, a good introduction opens the door to a positive Scriptural discussion. Effective introductions may vary

1. How important is it to have a good introduction?

in their length and content, but just like tasty food, they always require advance thought and preparation. (Prov. 15:28) What makes an introduction effective?

² **Choose Topics of Interest:** Our introduction must arouse interest, or the householder may end the conversation. So when preparing, think about local interests. Are people in the community interested in good government, happy family life, or an end to war? People generally like to give their opinion, so prepare a thought-provoking viewpoint question. Could you use one of the sample introductions from *Our Kingdom Ministry* and adapt it to your territory? Why not occasionally practice some introductions during your Family Worship evening?

³ **Consider Culture and Background:** In some places, we are expected to state the reason for our visit right away. In other places, it is considered impolite if a visitor does not first inquire about the welfare of the householder and perhaps share some personal information. In some areas, the religious background of people allows us to refer freely to the Bible in our introduction. (Acts 2:14-17) However, where people belong to a non-Christian religion, or to no religion at all, it may be better to mention the Bible on a return visit, rather than at the outset.—Acts 17:22-31.

⁴ **The Opening Words:** Prepare your opening words carefully. Short, simple sentences are usually best. The way we deliver our opening words is also vital. Be enthusiastic. Have a sincere, friendly smile that reflects personal interest in the householder. Following these suggestions will help us to prepare appetizing introductions that will encourage people in our territory to feed at “the table of Jehovah.” —1 Cor. 10:21.

2. How may we prepare an introduction that is interesting?

3. How may we tailor our introduction to the culture and background of those in our territory?

4. What attention should we give to the opening words of our introduction?

1. Oh, what love God's Son for us showed
When he left his Father's abode
That with men he might live,
God's truth he could give;
This truth from his lips ever flowed.
Greatly he did comfort mankind,
Healed those who were sick, lame, and blind.
To his royal commission he proved true
And lovingly said: "I want to."

2. Oh, what help Jehovah God gave
When he sent the faithful wise slave,
With whom we serve with joy,
Our powers employ,
That meek ones we might help to save.
Those in need can easily tell
When we love them ever so well.
So if widows and orphans should ask you,
Then readily say: "I want to."

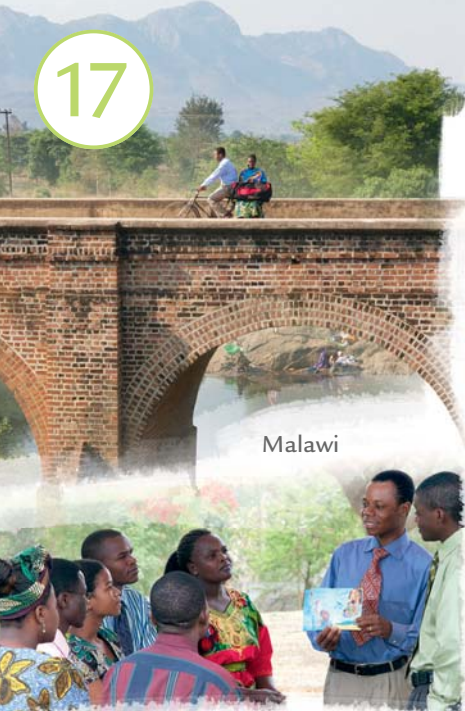
How Do Traveling Overseers Help Us?

The Christian Greek Scriptures make frequent mention of Barnabas and the apostle Paul. These men served as traveling overseers, visiting the early congregations. Why? They were genuinely concerned about the welfare of their spiritual brothers. Paul said that he wanted to “return and visit the brothers” to see how they were. He was willing to cover hundreds of miles (km) in order to go and strengthen them. (Acts 15:36) That is the desire that our traveling overseers have today.

They come to encourage us. A *circuit overseer* makes the rounds of 20 or so congregations, spending a week with each one twice a year. A *district overseer* travels to ten or so circuits, visiting congregations and serving as chairman of each circuit assembly once a year. We can benefit greatly from the experience of these brothers and if they are married, that of their wives. They endeavor to get to know young and old alike, and they are eager to accompany us in the field ministry and on our Bible studies. These overseers make shepherding calls with the elders, and to strengthen us, they give encouraging talks at meetings and assemblies.—Acts 15:35.

They show an interest in all. Traveling overseers are keenly interested in the spiritual condition of the congregations. They meet with the elders and ministerial servants to review the progress made and to give them practical advice in handling their responsibilities. They help the pioneers to make a success of their ministry, and they enjoy getting to know newly associated ones and hearing about their spiritual progress. Each of these brothers freely gives of himself as “a fellow worker for [our] interests.” (2 Corinthians 8:23) We should imitate their faith and devotion to God.—Hebrews 13:7.

- For what purpose do traveling overseers visit the congregations?
- How can you benefit from their visits?



Malawi



Service group



Field ministry



Elders' meeting

FIND OUT MORE

Mark on your calendar the dates of the circuit overseer's next visit to the congregation so that you will not miss his talks at the Kingdom Hall. If you would like him or his wife to attend your Bible study that week so that you can get acquainted, let your teacher know.



How Do We Help Our Brothers in Distress?

When a disaster strikes, Jehovah’s Witnesses immediately organize assistance to bring relief to their brothers who are affected. Such efforts demonstrate the genuineness of our love for one another. (John 13:34, 35; 1 John 3:17, 18) In what ways do we help?

We donate funds. When a great famine occurred in Judea, early Christians in Antioch sent financial help to their spiritual brothers. (Acts 11:27-30) Similarly, when we learn that our brothers in some part of the world are facing hardship, we send donations through our local congregation to supply material aid to those in critical need. —2 Corinthians 8:13-15.

We provide practical assistance. The elders who are at the scene of a disaster locate each congregation member to ensure that everyone is accounted for and safe. A relief committee may coordinate the supplying of food, clean drinking water, clothing, shelter, and medical help. Many Witnesses with the needed skills volunteer to go at their own expense and participate in the relief work or to repair damaged homes and Kingdom Halls. The unity that we enjoy as an organization and the experience we have gained in working together enable us to mobilize quickly in times of need. Although we extend our hand to “those related to us in the faith,” we assist others too when possible, whatever their religion.—Galatians 6:10.

We offer spiritual and emotional support. Victims of a disaster especially need comfort. At such times, we draw strength from Jehovah, “the God of all comfort.” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) We gladly share the Bible’s promises with those in despair, offering the assurance that soon God’s Kingdom will bring an end to all the tragedies that cause pain and suffering.—Revelation 21:4.

- Why are the Witnesses able to respond quickly during disasters?
- What spiritual comfort can we share with the survivors?



Dominican Republic



Japan



Haiti



Who Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?

Shortly before his death, Jesus had a private conversation with four of his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew. As Jesus was foretelling the sign of his presence in the last days, he raised a vital question: “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?” (Matthew 24:3, 45; Mark 13:3, 4) Jesus was assuring his disciples that as their “master,” he would appoint those who would provide a steady supply of spiritual food for his followers during the time of the end. Who would make up this slave?



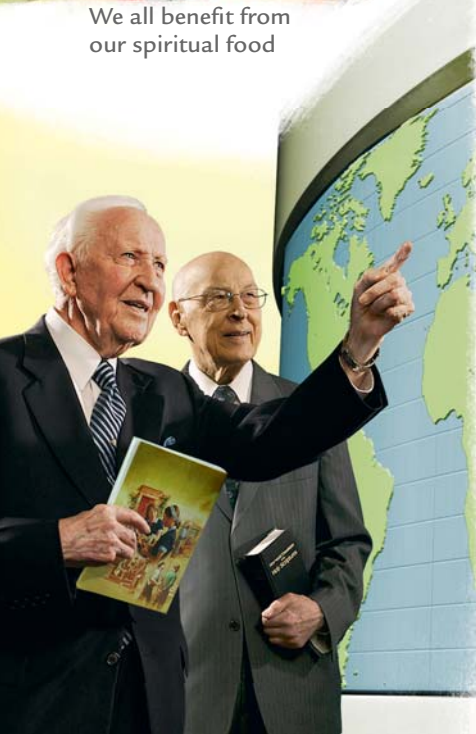
We all benefit from our spiritual food

They are genuine spirit-anointed followers of Jesus. The “slave” dispenses timely spiritual food to fellow worshippers of Jehovah. We are dependent upon this faithful slave to keep giving us our “measure of food supplies at the proper time.”—Luke 12:42.

They manage the household of God. (1 Timothy 3:15) Jesus gave the slave the weighty responsibility of managing the work of the earthly part of Jehovah’s organization—looking after its material assets, directing the preaching activity, and teaching us through our congregations. Thus, to provide us with what we need when we need it, “the faithful and discreet slave” is distributing spiritual food by means of the publications we use in our ministry, as well as through the programs that are presented at our meetings and assemblies.

The slave is *faithful* to Bible truths and to its commission to preach the good news, and it is *discreet* about how it wisely cares for Christ’s interests on earth. (Acts 10:42) Jehovah is blessing its work with increase and abundant spiritual provisions.—Isaiah 60:22; 65:13.

- Who was appointed by Jesus to feed his disciples spiritually?
- In what ways is the slave faithful and discreet?



THE FIRST OF JOHN

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Word of life (1-4) Walking in the light (5-7) Need for confessing sins (8-10)</p> <p>2 Jesus, a propitiatory sacrifice (1, 2) Observing God's commandments (3-11) Old and new commandment (7, 8) Reasons for writing (12-14) Do not love the world (15-17) Warning against the antichrist (18-19)</p> <p>3 We are God's children (1-3) God's children versus the Devil's (4-12) Jesus to destroy the Devil's works (8)</p> | <p>Love one another (13-18) God is greater than our hearts (19-24)</p> <p>4 Testing inspired statements (1-6) Knowing and loving God (7-21) "God is love" (8, 16) No fear in love (18)</p> <p>5 Faith in Jesus conquers the world (1-12) What love of God means (3) Confidence in the power of prayer (13-17) Be on guard in a wicked world (18-21) Whole world in power of the wicked one (19)</p> |
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1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have felt, concerning the word of life,^a **2** (yes, the life was made manifest, and we have seen and are bearing witness^b and reporting to you the everlasting life^c that was with the Father and was made manifest to us), **3** that which we have seen and heard we are reporting also to you,^d so that you too may have fellowship* with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.^e **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message that we heard from him and are announcing to you: God is light,^f and there is no darkness at all in him.* **6** If we make the statement, "We are having fellowship with him," and yet we go on

1:3 *Or "a sharing." 1:5 *Or "in union with him."

CHAP. 1

- a Joh 1:4
Joh 6:68
b Joh 21:24
Ac 2:32
c Joh 17:3
d Joh 15:26, 27
Ac 4:20
e Joh 17:20, 21
f Jas 1:17

Second Col.

- a 2Co 6:14
Eph 5:8
Tit 1:16
1Jo 2:4
b Ro 3:25
Eph 1:7
Heb 9:14
Heb 10:22
Re 1:5
c 1Ki 8:46
Ec 7:20
d Ps 32:5
Pr 28:13
Jas 5:16

CHAP. 2

- e Ro 8:34
Heb 7:25
f 1Ti 2:5
g 1Co 5:7
h Isa 53:5
Ro 3:25
1Ti 1:15
Heb 2:17
1Pe 2:24
1Jo 4:10

walking in the darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth.^a **7** However, if we are walking in the light as he himself is in the light, we do have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.^b

8 If we make the statement, "We have no sin," we are misleading ourselves^c and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous so as to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.^d **10** If we make the statement, "We have not sinned," we are making him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper* with the Father, Jesus Christ,^e a righteous one.^f **2** And he is a propitiatory sacrifice*^g for our sins,^h yet

2:1 *Or "an advocate." 2:2 *Or "an atoning sacrifice; a means of appeasement."

not for ours only but also for the whole world's.^a **3** And by this we realize that we have come to know him, namely, if we continue observing his commandments. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet does not observe his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in this person. **5** But whoever does observe his word, in this person the love of God has truly been made perfect.^b By this we know that we are in union with him.^c **6** The one who says he remains in union with him is himself under obligation to go on walking just as that one walked.^d

7 Beloved ones, I am writing you, not a new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning.^e This old commandment is the word that you heard. **8** Again, I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in his case and in yours, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.^f

9 The one who says that he is in the light and yet hates^g his brother is still in the darkness.^h **10** The one who loves his brother remains in the light,ⁱ and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11** But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and is walking in the darkness,^j and he does not know where he is going,^k because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12 I am writing you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for the sake of his name.^l **13** I am writing you, fathers, because you have come to know him who is from the beginning. I am writing you, young men, because you have conquered the wicked one.^m I write you, young children, because you have come to know the Fa-

CHAP. 2

- a Mt 20:28
- Joh 1:29
- b 1Jo 4:18
- c Joh 14:20
- Joh 17:21
- d Joh 13:15
- 1Pe 2:21
- e Joh 13:34
- 2Jo 5
- f Joh 1:9
- Joh 8:12
- g Eph 4:31
- Col 3:8
- h 1Co 13:2
- 1Jo 3:15
- i Eph 5:8
- j 1Jo 4:20
- k Joh 12:35
- l Lu 24:47
- Ac 4:12
- Ac 10:43
- m Jas 4:7
- 1Jo 5:19
- Re 12:10, 11

Second Col.

- a Joh 17:25
- b Eph 6:10
- c 3Jo 3
- d Ro 8:37
- e Ro 12:2
- 1Co 7:31
- Tit 2:11, 12
- f Mt 6:24
- Jas 4:4
- g Mt 5:28
- Ro 13:14
- h Ge 3:6
- Pr 27:20
- Mt 4:8
- i 1Co 7:31
- 1Pe 1:24
- j Ps 37:29
- Mt 7:21
- Joh 6:40
- k 2Th 2:3
- 2Pe 2:1
- l 2Th 2:7
- 2Jo 7
- Jude 4
- m Ac 20:30
- n 1Co 11:19
- o 2Co 1:21
- 1Jo 2:27
- p Joh 8:31, 32
- q Joh 8:44
- r 1Jo 4:3
- 2Jo 7
- s 1Jo 2:18
- t Joh 5:23
- 2Jo 9
- u Ro 10:9, 10
- v 1Jo 4:15

ther.^a **14** I write you, fathers, because you have come to know him who is from the beginning. I write you, young men, because you are strong^b and the word of God remains in you^c and you have conquered the wicked one.^d

15 Do not love either the world or the things in the world.^e If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him;^f **16** because everything in the world—the desire of the flesh^g and the desire of the eyes^h and the showy display of one's means of life*—does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. **17** Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire,ⁱ but the one who does the will of God remains forever.^j

18 Young children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming,^k even now many antichrists have appeared,^l from which fact we know that it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they were not of our sort;^m for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us. But they went out so that it might be shown that not all are of our sort.ⁿ **20** And you have an anointing from the holy one,^o and all of you have knowledge. **21** I write you, not because you do not know the truth,^p but because you know it, and because no lie originates with the truth.^q

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?^r This is the antichrist,^s the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either.^t But whoever acknowledges the Son^u has the Father also.^v **24** As for you, what you have heard from the

2:16 *Or "the bragging about one's possessions." **2:19** *Or "they did not belong to us."

beginning must remain in you.^a If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in union with the Son and in union with the Father. **25** Furthermore, this is what he himself promised us—the life everlasting.^b

26 I write you these things about those who are trying to mislead you. **27** And as for you, the anointing that you received from him^c remains in you, and you do not need anyone to be teaching you; but the anointing from him is teaching you about all things^d and is true and is no lie. Just as it has taught you, remain in union with him.^e **28** So now, little children, remain in union with him, so that when he is made manifest we may have freeness of speech^f and not shrink away from him in shame at his presence. **29** If you know that he is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born from him.^g

3 See what sort of love the Father has given us,^h that we should be called children of God!ⁱ And that is what we are. That is why the world does not know us,^j because it has not come to know him.^k **2** Beloved ones, we are now children of God,^l but it has not yet been made manifest what we will be.^m We do know that when he is made manifest we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself,ⁿ just as that one is pure.

4 Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. **5** You know, too, that he was made manifest to take away our sins,^o and there is no sin in him. **6** Everyone remaining in union with him does not practice sin;^p

CHAP. 2

- a Joh 14:23
- 2Jo 6
- b Joh 17:3
- 1Jo 1:2
- c 2Co 1:21
- 1Jo 2:20
- d Joh 14:26
- Joh 16:13
- e Joh 17:21
- f 1Jo 4:17
- g 1Pe 1:23
- 1Jo 4:7

CHAP. 3

- h Joh 3:16
- i Joh 1:12, 13
- j Joh 15:19
- k Joh 17:25
- l Ro 8:15, 16
- Eph 1:5
- m 1Co 15:49
- Php 3:20, 21
- n 2Co 7:1
- o Le 16:21, 22
- Isa 53:11
- Joh 1:29
- p Ro 6:12

Second Col.

- a Ge 3:14
- Joh 8:44
- b Joh 16:33
- Heb 2:14
- c 1Jo 5:18
- d 1Pe 1:23
- e 1Jo 4:8
- f Joh 13:34
- 1Jo 2:7
- 2Jo 5
- g Ge 4:8
- h Ge 4:5
- i Ge 4:4
- Heb 11:4
- j Mt 5:11
- Joh 15:18
- 2Ti 3:12
- k Joh 5:24
- Ro 8:2
- l 1Jo 2:10
- m Joh 3:36
- n Mt 5:21, 22
- Eph 4:31
- o Ge 9:6
- Nu 35:31
- Re 21:8
- p Joh 3:16
- Joh 13:1
- Joh 15:13

no one who practices sin has either seen him or come to know him. **7** Little children, let no one mislead you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as that one is righteous. **8** The one who practices sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning.^{*a} For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, to break up[#] the works of the Devil.^b

9 Everyone who has been born from God does not practice sin,^c for His seed^{*} remains in such one, and he cannot practice sin, for he has been born from God.^d **10** The children of God and the children of the Devil are evident by this fact: Whoever does not practice righteousness does not originate with God, nor does the one who does not love his brother.^e **11** For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;^f **12** not like Cain, who originated with the wicked one and slaughtered his brother.^g And for what reason did he slaughter him? Because his own works were wicked,^h but those of his brother were righteous.ⁱ

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.^j **14** We know that we have passed over from death to life,^k because we love the brothers.^l The one who does not love remains in death.^m **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,^{*n} and you know that no murderer has everlasting life remaining in him.^o **16** By this we have come to know love, because that one surrendered his life^{*} for us,^p and we are un-

3:8 *Or "from when he began." #Or "destroy." **3:9** *That is, seed capable of reproducing, or bearing fruit. **3:15** *Or "manslayer." **3:16** *Or "soul."

der obligation to surrender our lives* for our brothers.^a **17** But whoever has the material possessions of this world and sees his brother in need and yet refuses to show him compassion, in what way does the love of God remain in him?^b **18** Little children, we should love, not in word or with the tongue,^c but in deed^d and truth.^e

19 By this we will know that we originate with the truth, and we will assure* our hearts before him **20** regarding whatever our hearts may condemn us in, because God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.^f **21** Beloved ones, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have freeness of speech toward God;^g **22** and whatever we ask we receive from him,^h because we are observing his commandments and doing what is pleasing in his eyes. **23** Indeed, this is his commandment: that we have faith in the name of his Son Jesus Christⁱ and love one another,^j just as he gave us a commandment. **24** Moreover, the one who observes his commandments remains in union with him, and he in union with such one.^k And by the spirit that he gave us, we know that he remains in union with us.^l

4 Beloved ones, do not believe every inspired statement,^{*m} but test the inspired statementsⁿ to see whether they originate with God,ⁿ for many false prophets have gone out into the world.^o

2 This is how you know that the inspired statement is from God: Every inspired statement that acknowledges Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh originates with God.^p **3** But every

3:16 *Or "souls." 3:19 *Or "persuade; convince." 4:1 *Lit., "every spirit." "Lit., "the spirits."

CHAP. 3

- a Joh 13:15
Ro 16:3, 4
1Th 2:8
b De 15:7, 8
Lu 3:11
Ro 12:13
Jas 2:15, 16
1Jo 4:20
c Ro 12:9
d Jas 1:22
Jas 2:17
e 1Pe 1:22
f Heb 4:13
g Heb 4:16
1Jo 5:14
h Ps 34:15
Mt 7:8
1Pe 3:12
i Joh 6:29
j Joh 13:34
k 1Jo 2:24
l Joh 14:23

CHAP. 4

- m 2Th 2:1, 2
1Ti 4:1
n Re 22:6
o 2Pe 2:1
p Joh 1:14
1Co 12:3
Re 19:10

Second Col.

- a 1Jo 2:22
b 2Th 2:7
1Jo 2:18
c Ac 20:29, 30
d 1Jo 5:4
e Joh 17:21
f Eph 2:2
g 1Jo 5:19
h Joh 15:19
i Joh 10:27
j Joh 8:47
k 1Jo 4:1
l 1Pe 1:22
m 1Jo 4:16
n Ex 34:6
Mic 7:18
1Jo 4:19
o Joh 1:14
p Joh 3:16
Ro 5:8
Ro 8:32
1Jo 5:11
q 1Co 5:7
r Ro 3:25
Heb 2:17
Heb 9:26
1Jo 2:1, 2
s Mt 18:33
Joh 15:12
Ro 13:8
1Jo 3:16
t Ex 33:20
Joh 1:18
Joh 4:24
Joh 6:46
u 1Jo 2:5

inspired statement that does not acknowledge Jesus does not originate with God.^a Furthermore, this is the antichrist's inspired statement that you have heard was coming,^b and now it is already in the world.^c

4 You originate with God, little children, and you have conquered them,^d because the one who is in union with you^e is greater than the one who is in union with the world.^f **5** They originate with the world;^g that is why they speak what originates with the world and the world listens to them.^h **6** We originate with God. Whoever comes to know God listens to us;ⁱ whoever does not originate with God does not listen to us.^j By this we distinguish the inspired statement of truth from the inspired statement of error.^k

7 Beloved ones, let us continue loving one another,^l because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born from God and knows God.^m **8** Whoever does not love has not come to know God, because God is love.ⁿ **9** By this the love of God was revealed in our case, that God sent his only-begotten Son^o into the world so that we might gain life through him.^p **10** The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice^{*q} for our sins.^r

11 Beloved ones, if this is how God loved us, then we are also under obligation to love one another.^s **12** No one has seen God at any time.^t If we continue loving one another, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.^u **13** By this we know that we are remaining in union with him and he in union with us,

4:10 *Or "an atoning sacrifice; a means of appeasement."

because he has given his spirit to us. **14** In addition, we ourselves have seen and are bearing witness that the Father has sent his Son as Savior of the world.^a **15** Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is God's Son,^b God remains in union with such one and he in union with God.^c **16** And we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us.^d

God is love,^e and the one who remains in love remains in union with God and God remains in union with him.^f **17** In this way love has been made perfect in us, so that we may have freeness of speech*^g in the day of judgment, because just as that one is, so are we ourselves in this world. **18** There is no fear in love,^h but perfect love casts* fear out, because fear restrains us. Indeed, the one who is fearful has not been made perfect in love.ⁱ **19** We love, because he first loved us.^j

20 If anyone says, "I love God," and yet is hating his brother, he is a liar.^k For the one who does not love his brother,^l whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.^m **21** And we have this commandment from him, that whoever loves God must also love his brother.ⁿ

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God,^o and everyone who loves the one who caused to be born loves him who has been born from that one. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God,^p when we love God and carry out his commandments. **3** For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments;^q and yet his commandments are not burdensome,^r **4** because everyone who* has been born from

4:17 *Or "have confidence." 4:18 *Or "drives." 5:4 *Lit., "everything that."

CHAP. 4

- a Mt 1:21
- Joh 3:17
- Joh 12:47
- Ac 5:31
- b Ro 10:9
- c 1 Jo 2:23, 24
- d Joh 3:16
- e 1 Jo 4:8
- f Joh 17:21
- g Heb 4:16
- 1 Jo 2:28
- h Ro 8:15
- i 1 Jo 2:5
- j 1 Jo 4:10
- k 1 Jo 2:4
- l 1 Jo 3:17
- m 1 Jo 4:12
- n Mt 22:37, 39
- Joh 13:34
- Joh 15:12

CHAP. 5

- o Joh 3:3
- 1 Pe 1:3, 23
- 1 Jo 3:9
- p Joh 1:12, 13
- Ro 8:14
- q Joh 14:23
- r De 30:11
- Mic 6:8

Second Col.

- a Joh 16:33
- 1 Jo 5:18
- b Eph 6:16
- 2 Ti 4:7
- Re 12:10, 11
- c 1 Jo 4:4
- d Joh 20:31
- e Mt 3:13
- f Ac 20:28
- Eph 1:7
- 1 Pe 1:19
- g Mt 3:16
- Joh 1:32, 33
- h Lu 3:22
- Lu 4:18
- i Lu 3:21
- j Heb 9:14
- k Joh 3:33
- l Joh 17:3
- m Joh 5:26
- n Joh 3:36
- o 1 Jo 1:2
- p Joh 20:31
- q Heb 4:16
- 1 Jo 3:21
- r Pr 15:29
- s Lu 11:13
- Joh 14:13

God conquers the world.^a And this is the conquest that has conquered the world, our faith.^b

5 Who can conquer the world?^c Is it not the one who has faith that Jesus is the Son of God?^d **6** This is the one who came by means of water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only,^e but with the water and with the blood.^f And the spirit is bearing witness,^g because the spirit is the truth. **7** For there are three witness bearers: **8** the spirit^h and the waterⁱ and the blood;^j and the three are in agreement.

9 If we accept the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. Because this is the witness God gives, the witness that he has given about his Son. **10** The person putting his faith in the Son of God has the witness within himself. The person not having faith in God has made him a liar,^k because he has not put his faith in the witness given by God concerning his Son. **11** And this is the witness, that God gave us everlasting life,^l and this life is in his Son.^m **12** The one who has the Son has this life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this life.ⁿ

13 I write you these things so that you may know that you have life everlasting,^o you who put your faith in the name of the Son of God.^p **14** And this is the confidence* that we have toward him,^q that no matter what we ask according to his will, he hears us.^r **15** And if we know that he hears us concerning whatever we are asking, we know that we are to have the things we ask for, since we have asked them of him.^s

16 If anyone catches sight of his brother committing a sin that

5:14 *Or "freeness of speech."

does not incur death, he will ask, and God will give life to him,^a yes, to those not committing sin that incurs death. There is a sin that does incur death.^b It is concerning that sin that I do not tell him to make request. **17** All unrighteousness is sin,^c and yet there is a sin that does not incur death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born from God does not practice sin, but the one born from God* watches him, and the wicked one cannot

5:18 *That is, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

CHAP. 5

- a Jas 5:15
- 1Jo 1:9
- b Mt 12:31
- Mr 3:29
- Lu 12:10
- Heb 6:4-6
- Heb 10:26
- c 1Jo 3:4

Second Col.

- a Joh 17:15
- b Mt 13:19
- Lu 4:6
- Joh 12:31
- c 1Ti 3:16
- d Joh 17:20, 21
- e Joh 17:3
- f 1Co 10:14

take hold of him.*^a **19** We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.^b

20 But we know that the Son of God has come,^c and he has given us insight* so that we may gain the knowledge of the one who is true. And we are in union with the one who is true,^d by means of his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and life everlasting.^e **21** Little children, guard yourselves from idols.^f

5:18 *Or "does not fasten his hold on him." **5:20** *Lit., "mental perception; intellectual capacity."

THE SECOND OF JOHN

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

Greetings (1-3)

Keep walking in the truth (4-6)

Look out for deceivers (7-11)

Do not say a greeting (10, 11)

Plans to visit and greetings (12, 13)

1 The older man* to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I truly love, and not only I but also all those who have come to know the truth, **2** because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever. **3** There will be with us undeserved kindness, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, with truth and love.

4 I rejoice very much because I have found some of your children walking in the truth,^a just as we received commandment

1 *Or "The elder."

- a 2Co 4:2
- 3Jo 3

Second Col.

- a Joh 13:34
- Joh 15:12
- 1Pe 4:8
- 1Jo 2:7
- b Joh 14:21
- 1Jo 2:5
- c Mt 7:15
- Ac 20:29, 30
- 2Th 2:3, 7
- 2Pe 2:1
- Re 2:2
- d 1Jo 4:2
- e 1Jo 2:18, 22
- 1Jo 4:3
- Jude 4

from the Father. **5** So now I request you, lady, that we love one another. (I am writing you, not a new commandment, but one that we had from the beginning.)^a

6 And this is what love means, that we go on walking according to his commandments.^b This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should go on walking in it. **7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world,^c those not acknowledging Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.^d This is the deceiver and the antichrist.^e

8 Look out for yourselves, so that you do not lose the things

we have worked to produce, but that you may obtain a full reward.^a **9** Everyone who pushes ahead and does not remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God.^b The one who does remain in this teaching is the one who has both the Father and the Son.^c **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes^d or say a greeting to him. **11** For

^a Heb 10:35

^b Joh 14:6
Joh 15:6
3Jo 9

^c Heb 3:14
1Jo 2:23

^d De 17:2-5
Ro 16:17
1Co 5:11

the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.

12 Although I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I am hoping to come to you and to speak with you face-to-face, so that your joy may be in full measure.

13 The children of your sister, the chosen one, send you their greetings.

THE THIRD OF JOHN

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

Greeting and prayer (1-4)
Commendation to Gaius (5-8)
Ambitious Diotrephes (9, 10)

Demetrius well-reported-on (11, 12)
Plans to visit and greetings (13, 14)

1 The older man* to Ga'ius, the beloved, whom I truly love.

2 Beloved one, I pray that in all things you continue to prosper and enjoy good health, just as you are* now prospering. **3** For I rejoiced very much when brothers came and bore witness about the truth you hold, as you go on walking in the truth.^a **4** No greater joy* do I have than this: that I should hear that my children go on walking in the truth.^b

5 Beloved one, you show your faithfulness in what you do for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you.^c **6** They have given a witness about

1 *Or "The elder." **2** *Or "your soul is."
4 *Or possibly, "cause for thankfulness."

^a 2Jo 4

^b 1Co 4:15
2Ti 1:2
Tit 1:4
Phm 10

^c Heb 13:2

Second Col.

^a Tit 3:13

^b 1Co 9:11, 12

^c Mt 10:41
Phm 22
1Pe 4:9

^d Ro 12:13

^e Ac 20:29, 30

^f Ro 12:10
Php 2:3
Heb 13:17

^g Ps 101:5
Pr 6:16, 19

your love before the congregation. Please send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.^a **7** For it was in behalf of his name that they went out, not taking anything^b from the people of the nations. **8** So we are under obligation to show hospitality to such ones,^c so that we may become fellow workers in the truth.^d

9 I wrote something to the congregation, but Di-ot're-phen, who likes to have the first place among them,^e does not accept anything from us with respect.^f **10** That is why if I come, I will call attention to the works he is doing in spreading malicious talk about us.^g Not being con-

10 *Lit., "chattering about us with wicked words."

tent with this, he refuses to welcome the brothers^a with respect; and those who want to welcome them, he tries to hinder and to throw out of the congregation.

11 Beloved one, do not imitate what is bad, but imitate what is good.^b The one who does good originates with God.^c The one who does bad has not seen God.^d **12** De-me'tri-us has been well-reported-on by them all and by the truth itself. In fact, we too

a Ac 15:25, 27
Eph 6:21
Php 2:19
Col 4:7
Tit 1:5

b Ro 12:9
1Pe 3:11

c 1Jo 3:9

d 1Jo 3:6, 10

are bearing witness about him, and you know that the witness we give is true.

13 I had many things to write you, but I do not wish to go on writing you with pen and ink. **14** However, I am hoping to see you soon, and we will speak face-to-face.

May you have peace.

The friends send you their greetings. Give my greetings to the friends by name.

THE LETTER OF JUDE

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

Greetings (1, 2)

Judgment of false teachers certain (3-16)

Michael's dispute with the Devil (9)

Enoch's prophecy (14, 15)

Keep yourselves in God's love (17-23)

Ascribing glory to God (24, 25)

1 Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, but a brother of James,^a to the called ones^b who are loved by God the Father and preserved for Jesus Christ:^c

2 May mercy and peace and love be increased to you.

3 Beloved ones, although I was making every effort to write you about the salvation we hold in common,^d I found it necessary to write you to urge you to put up a hard fight for the faith^e that was once for all time delivered to the holy ones. **4** My reason is that certain men have slipped in among you who were long ago appointed to this judgment by the Scriptures; they are ungodly men who turn the undeserved kindness of our God into an ex-

a Mt 13:55
Mr 6:3
Ga 2:9
Jas 1:1

b Heb 3:1

c Joh 17:15
1Pe 1:5

d Heb 2:3

e Eph 6:11
1Ti 1:18, 19
1Ti 6:12

Second Col.

a Ga 5:19

b Ac 20:29, 30
2Pe 2:1

c Ex 12:41

d Nu 14:35
1Co 10:1, 5
Heb 3:16, 19

e Ge 6:1-4
1Pe 3:19, 20

f Lu 8:30, 31
2Pe 2:4
Re 20:1, 2

cuse for brazen conduct^{*a} and who prove false to our only owner[#] and Lord, Jesus Christ.^b

5 Although you are fully aware of all of this, I want to remind you that Jehovah,^{*} having saved a people out of the land of Egypt,^c afterward destroyed those not showing faith.^d

6 And the angels who did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place,^e he has reserved with eternal bonds in dense darkness for the judgment of the great day.^f **7** In the same manner, Sod'om and Go-mor'rah and the cities around them also gave

4 *Or "shameless conduct." Greek, *a-sel/gei-a*. See Glossary. #Or "master." **5** *See App. A5.

themselves over to gross sexual immorality* and pursued unnatural fleshly desires;^a they are placed before us as a warning example by undergoing the judicial punishment of everlasting fire.^b

8 Despite this, these men too are indulging in dreams, defiling the flesh, despising authority, and speaking abusively of glorious ones.^c **9** But when Mi'cha-el^d the archangel^e had a difference with the Devil and was disputing about Moses' body,^f he did not dare to bring a judgment against him in abusive terms,^g but said: "May Jehovah* rebuke you."^h **10** But these men are speaking abusively about all the things they really do not understand.ⁱ And in all the things that they do understand by instinct like unreasoning animals,^j they go on corrupting themselves.

11 Too bad for them, for they have followed the path of Cain^k and have rushed into the erroneous course of Ba'laam^l for reward, and they have perished in the rebellious talk^m of Kor'ah!ⁿ **12** These are the rocks hidden below water at your love feasts^o while they feast with you, shepherds who feed themselves without fear;^p waterless clouds carried here and there by the wind;^q fruitless trees in late autumn, having died twice* and having been uprooted; **13** wild waves of the sea that cast up the foam of their own shame;^r stars with no set course, for which the blackest darkness stands reserved forever.^s

14 Yes, the seventh one in line from Adam, E'noch,^t also prophesied about them when he said: "Look! Jehovah* came with his holy myriads^u **15** to execute judgment against all,^v and to

a Ge 19:4, 5
Le 18:22
b Ge 19:24
2Pe 2:6
c Ex 22:28
2Pe 2:10
3Jo 9, 10
d Da 10:21
Da 12:1
e 1Th 4:16
f De 34:5, 6
g 2Pe 2:11
h Zec 3:2
i Jude 19
j 2Pe 2:12
k Ge 4:5, 8
1Jo 3:12
l Nu 22:32
2Pe 2:15, 16
Re 2:14
m 1Ti 1:20
n Nu 16:3, 32
o 2Pe 2:13
p Eze 34:8
q 2Pe 2:17
r Isa 57:20
s Heb 6:4-6
Re 21:8
t Ge 5:21, 22
u De 33:2
Da 7:10
Zec 14:5
v 2Th 1:6

Second Col.

a Mt 12:36
b 1Co 10:10
Php 2:14
c 2Pe 2:18
d Jas 2:9
e Ac 20:29, 30
1Ti 4:1
2Pe 2:1
2Pe 3:2, 3
f Ro 16:17
3Jo 9, 10
g Ro 8:26
Eph 6:18
h Joh 15:10
Ro 8:38, 39
i Tit 3:7
1Jo 1:2
1Jo 2:25
j Mt 5:7
Mt 9:13
Jas 2:13
k Jas 1:6
l Ga 6:1
Jas 5:19, 20
m Ga 5:19-21
n Ro 8:33
Eph 1:4
Col 1:22

convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him."^a

16 These men are murmurers,^b complainers about their lot in life, following their own desires,^c and their mouths make grandiose boasts, while they are flattering others* for their own benefit.^d

17 As for you, beloved ones, call to mind the sayings that have been previously spoken* by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, **18** how they used to say to you: "In the last time there will be ridiculers, following their own desires for ungodly things."^e **19** These are the ones who cause divisions,^f animalistic men,* not having spirituality.^g

20 But you, beloved ones, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, and pray with holy spirit,^g

21 in order to keep yourselves in God's love,^h while you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ with everlasting life in view.ⁱ **22** Also, continue showing mercy^j to some who have doubts;^k **23** save them^l by snatching them out of the fire. But continue showing mercy to others, doing so with fear, while you hate even the garment that has been stained by the flesh.^m

24 Now to the one who is able to guard you from stumbling and to make you stand unblemishedⁿ in the sight of his glory* with great joy, **25** to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority for all past eternity and now and into all eternity. Amen.

16 *Or "admiring personalities." **17** *Or "the things foretold." **19** *Or "physical men." #Lit., "the spirit." **24** *Or "in his glorious presence."

7 *See Glossary. **9, 14** *See App. A5. **12** *Or "being completely dead." **14** #Or "tens of thousands."

render sacred service.” (Matt. 4:10) Has your religion taught you that ‘it is Jehovah you must worship’? Have you come to know the Person identified by that name—his purposes, his activities, his qualities—so that you feel you can confidently draw close to him?

(3) Is true faith in Jesus Christ being demonstrated? This involves appreciation of the value of the sacrifice of Jesus’ human life and of his position today as heavenly King. (John 3:36; Ps. 2:6-8) Such appreciation is shown by obeying Jesus—sharing personally and zealously in the work that he assigned to his followers. True religion has such faith that is accompanied by works.—Jas. 2:26.

(4) Is it largely ritualistic, a formality, or is it a way of life? God strongly disapproves of religion that is merely a formalism. (Isa. 1:15-17) True religion upholds the Bible’s standard of morality and clean speech instead of weakly going along with popular trends. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Eph. 5:3-5) Its members reflect the fruits of God’s spirit in their lives. (Gal. 5:22, 23) So, those who adhere to true worship can be identified because they sincerely endeavor to apply Bible standards in their lives not only at their places of meeting but in their family life, at their secular work, in school, and in recreation.

(5) Do its members truly love one another? Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:35) Such love reaches across racial, social, and national boundaries, drawing people together in genuine brotherhood. So strong is this love that it sets them apart as being truly different. When the nations go to war, who have enough love for their Christian brothers in other lands that they refuse to take up arms and kill them? That is what early Christians did.

(6) Is it truly separate from the world? Jesus said that his true followers would be “no part of the world.” (John 15:19) To worship God in a manner that he approves requires that we keep ourselves “without spot from the world.” (Jas. 1:27) Can that be said of those whose clergy and other members are involved in politics, or whose lives are largely built around materialistic and fleshly desires?—1 John 2:15-17.

5 *Christ, Our Exemplar* (Romans 5:8)

1. What love Jehovah showed,
 What blessings from him flowed,
 When for all mankind he gave his dear Son.
Christ then became our bread,
 That we might all be fed,
 And life eternal in peace might be won.
2. Christ taught us ev'ry day
 For God's great name to pray,
 The name Jehovah to be sanctified.
Pray that his Kingdom come
 And that his will be done.
Pray that he daily our bread will provide.
3. God's truth Christ Jesus taught
 And tender comfort brought
 To those who followed as his faithful sheep.
May seeds of Kingdom praise
 Be sown through all our days.
Then satisfaction and joy we will reap.

(See also Matt. 6:9-11; John 3:16; 6:31-51; Eph. 5:2.)

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2014

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2014 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [bi12], *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 1 [it-1], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [rs]. When Assignments No. 2 and No. 3 refer to paragraphs in the *Reasoning* and *Insight* books, only paragraphs that are indented are to be counted.

The school should begin with remarks of welcome and then proceed as outlined below. After each part, the school overseer will introduce the next part. If the school overseer wishes and if there is sufficient space, he may sit at a table and make his comments from a seated position on the platform. On the other hand, if he prefers, he may sit in the audience near the platform but make his comments from the speaker's stand.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first *four minutes*, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should consider Scriptural points from the weekly Bible reading. The speaker should focus on selected verses and should not try to cover too many points. It is better to cover a few verses and to do it well. Also, whenever possible, the speaker should make local application, and emphasis should be placed on how the material affects us today. (*be* 47 par. 2–48 par. 1) The speaker should be careful not to exceed the four minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that six minutes are set aside for the audience to offer *brief* comments of 30 seconds or less on what they have appreciated in the weekly Bible reading. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 4 minutes or less. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with accuracy, understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The student will either be given a setting or may select one from the list appearing on page 82 of *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*. The assigned theme should be used and should be applied to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the local territory. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the assistant to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This may be assigned to a brother or a sister. The subject for this assignment will be based on a Bible character or term found in *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 1. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the subject. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of considering a Bible character is to show what can be learned from his or her example. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; acts demonstrating a lack of faith as well as undesirable traits stand as strong warnings to turn Christians away from an improper course. The purpose for considering a Bible term is to show how it is used in the Scriptures and to broaden our understanding of God's Word. When

assigned to a brother, this part should be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When assigned to a sister, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 2. Additionally, whenever the theme for Assignment No. 3 is preceded by an asterisk (*), the talk should be assigned to a brother.

COUNSEL: 1-2 minutes. The school overseer will not announce the speech quality that a student is working on. After Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, the school overseer will offer positive observations on an aspect of the presentation that was commendable, drawing attention to specific reasons why it was effective and referring to the *Ministry School* textbook. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

TIMING: No part should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 30 minutes.

COUNSEL FORM: In *Ministry School* textbook.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: Whenever possible, it is good to use an elder who is an experienced speaker for this privilege of service. The auxiliary counselor's responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to elders or ministerial servants regarding any speaking assignment they may handle, including Bible highlights, Service Meeting parts, public talks, and conducting and reading at the *Watchtower* Study and the Congregation Bible Study. If there are a number of elders in the congregation who are capable speakers and teachers, then a different qualified elder may serve as auxiliary counselor each year. It is not necessary for the auxiliary counselor to offer counsel after each assignment by elders and ministerial servants but only when he sees that a word of encouragement or a practical suggestion would help the brothers to make progress.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW: 20 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct a review. It will be preceded by highlights from the Bible reading. The review will be based on material considered in the school during the preceding two months, including the current week. If the congregation has a circuit assembly or the visit of the circuit overseer during the week of the Theocratic Ministry School Review, the review should be postponed one week and Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 of the following week's schedule should be used. No changes should be made in the schedule of the weekly Bible reading or the presentation of Bible highlights.

He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

1. There was a reason why
 God brought the truth to you
 And called you from the darkness to the light.
Within your heart, he saw
 the yearning you then had
 To search for him and practice what is right.
You promised him in prayer to do his will;
 He helped you then, and he will help you still.

(CHORUS)

*With Jesus' blood He bought you,
 to God you now belong.
So he will make you firm,
 and he will make you strong.
He'll guide you and protect you,
 as he has all along.
Yes, he will make you firm,
 and he will make you strong.*

2. God gave his own beloved Son in your behalf;
 On this account, He wants you to succeed.
If He did not withhold the gift of His dear Son,
 Then never doubt He'll give the strength you need.
He won't forget the faith and love you've shown;
 He will not fail to care for all His own.

(Chorus)