



**REACH THE WORLD: PERSONAL OUTREACH
(Sabbath School Program)**

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Scripture Focus: Luke 10:1–21

Suggested Hymns:

- No. 358 “Far and Near the Fields are Teeming”
- No. 362 “Lift High the Cross”
- No. 365 “O Zion, Haste”
- No. 369 “Bringing in the Sheaves”

Opening Hymn: No. 373 “Seeking the Lost”

In 1880 Ellen White wrote, “Satan is busy . . . scattering literature which is debasing the morals and poisoning the minds of the young. Infidel publications are scattered broadcast throughout the land” (*Christian Service*, p. 146). Today, not only are there print resources that are extensions of Satan’s agenda, but there are also video, audio, and online resources that almost make his influence ubiquitous.

This presents a tremendous challenge to the Adventist church today. No strategy or campaign can turn this tide unless God’s people are united and convinced on doing personal outreach. Not everyone can speak publically, or work with computers, or write, or sing, or cook, or heal, or even walk. But what nearly everyone can do is give out a tract for someone else to read. It’s not the human strategy of the distribution alone, but when humanity cooperates with divinity, amazing things can happen.

Watch this video testimony on someone doing something:

[Select any video of about five minutes from: <https://vimeo.com/glowonline>]

Everyone can do something. Everyone should do something. This is where GLOW tracts can get everyone involved in some personal form of outreach. These tracts are aesthetic and catch the eye. They are also contemporary, where some tracts address current events that are relevant. From sporting events to the death of celebrities, they seek to use the momentum of the public news for the gospel.

Started in 2007, two young adults sought to distribute artfully designed tracts with a variety of topics. This simple yet powerful resource today has 41 titles in 60 languages for 45 countries with about 85 million printed copies.

[Show <http://sdaglow.org/> on the screen.]

How can we be part of this movement to stem the tide against secular literature? By each person giving away three tracts a day, more than 1,000 tracts can be distributed in one year. With about 200 members, one church can scatter 200,000 tracts a year! In five years, a million tracts can be disseminated in our local communities.

This is the power of personal outreach. It capitalizes on the power of synergy. Synergy is the creation of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. In other words, if A makes 1 and B makes 2. Then adding A and B should make 3. But sometimes adding A and B together results in 5! What's this extra 2? It's called synergy!

By each of us doing something for the Lord Jesus, also known as Total Member Involvement, a synergistic result can happen! With each of us doing something, tracts can be as numerous as "the leaves of autumn."

[At this time, the teachers of each of the Sabbath School classes should come and receive a large packet of GLOW tracts to distribute to their students. Secondly, under the pastor's guidance, the personal ministries leader should assign territories in their local communities to pray for and to distribute GLOW tracts. An organized process should also allow for interest names to flow into the church for Bible study information.]

Some may say we are now living in a digital age where no one reads papers. While this may be true for some segments of society, there will always be print resources around. Especially with informal settings, having paper tracts can be wonderful divine appointments for God's people. "Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message of this time continually before the people" (*Christian Service*, p. 145).

Some suggestions on how to distribute include giving:

- To someone directly – Ashley had a GLOW tract in her pocket one day as she was riding the bus. Soon she felt convicted to give a tract to the man sitting next to her. She hesitated until the bus came to a stop and the man began to get up to leave. Mustering her courage, she gave

- him one. As he took it he said, “You know, I was just praying that God would give me a sign if He didn’t want me to commit suicide. I think this is it.”
- To cashiers, hairdressers, bankers, toll collectors, hotel workers, taxi drivers, mailmen
 - To the homeless
 - Door to door –

Liz was working at home when she heard a knock at the door. But when she opened it, there was no one there. David was swiftly walking to the next house. She called out to let him know she was home. Back on her porch, he handed Liz a GLOW tract. “Is this from Jehovah’s Witnesses?” David assured her that it was Christian tract. “I have chills right now! Not too long ago I had a dream. I saw two ministers of the gospel coming to my house sharing literature. And I knew that they were not Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

David was thrilled to hear about her dream but he was the only person there. Just then, Taylor, his ministry partner, arrived. He had run out of GLOW tracts and found David for more. Now there were two ministers of the gospel at her door.

- Liz looked at David and Taylor. “I believe that this is from God. In my dream, I saw two ministers at my door bringing me hope. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘This is your last chance. I’m coming back soon!’” “Please pray for me. I need Jesus in my life.”
- At work –

A man received a “Death’s Silent Truth” GLOW tract at the doctor’s office. “This pamphlet explained step-by-step the process of life and death to immortality, something of my 83 years of life of being a Christian I never understood. I feel like I am a complete Christian now.” He wanted to know how to subscribe to GLOW so he could share with others. “Most everyone I know has died, but there are people in the community I could share with until I die.”

Some introverts may be thinking that this work is only for outgoing extroverts. But there is even a larger work for introverts, too! Here are some suggestions that people have already been doing around the world:

- On car door handles, gas pumps
- Mailing them with your bill payments or other correspondence
- In grocery store carts
- In department stores – One man mentioned that he found his tract in a barbecue grill in a store!
- In public bathrooms – A man found a stack of tracts in a truck stop bathroom. He called for Bible studies and a Bible. Now, he hands out tracts door to door with an international ministry.
- In computer labs, internet cafes, and classrooms
- On buses and at bus stop benches
- In laundromats – A woman adopted a local laundromat as an outreach center and started stocking it with GLOW tracts. She noticed that the tracts would disappear quickly. Thinking that someone was throwing them away, she watched for the potential culprits. One day she noticed a mail man put stacks in his bag. She asked him what he was doing.

He told her how much he enjoyed the tracts and gave them out to people as he delivered mail!

Be creative! There are many ways to incorporate personal outreach into different aspects of your social life, too. For example, attend large events and distribute tracts to crowds of people who may already be receptive to these things. For example, when Pope Francis visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in September 2015, some volunteers spent ten days handing out one million tracts! A volunteer from Florida shares an experience:”

“I was blanketing a parking lot at a strip mall and handed a man a set of three tracts and was telling him I was giving out a free gift today. ‘If you check out the website on the back, there is a link to a free video.’ As I turned to leave, he stopped me and asked, ‘Where is the other man?’ Shocked I asked, ‘What man?’ Then he told me about his dream. Two months earlier, he dreamed a man came to him and said that I would bring him the truth. The man was well over six feet, very muscular, and very handsome. Definitely not me! He also said I would give him three tracts and named them: ‘Why I Go to Church on Saturday,’ ‘Where is God When I Am Hurting?’ and ‘Promise of Peace’ – the very tracts I gave him. He asked for two others he had seen – ‘Myths about Hell’ and ‘Secrets of Mental Health.’ Praying that I had them, I opened my bag and found one of each. He wasn’t surprised, thanked me, and assured me he would definitely read them. Then he walked back into the crowd.”

How many of you want to start making a difference for the kingdom of heaven? How many of you want to tackle this tremendous challenge? Not one person can do it. Not one Sabbath School class can do it. Not one entire church can do it. But when the faithful unite with the Creator, God can do amazing things.

Closing Hymn: No. 367 “Rescue the Perishing”