



TELL THE WORLD: PERSONAL OUTREACH

February 1, 2014

Sabbath School Program: Nails or Spices?

Organize the Sabbath School class or group into pairs, preferably in such a way that pairs will be comprised of two people who are not closely acquainted. Give each pair two minutes to share their conversion stories. For those who have been raised in an Adventist home, have them share when and how God became a reality in their lives.

When this exercise is complete, have each pair identify the central element of their stories (media evangelism, Bible correspondence course, influence of a friend or co-worker, personal study or meditation, parental guidance, evangelistic meetings, etc.). Write the responses on a chalkboard or flipchart. Don't list items mentioned more than once; instead just put a check mark next to it each time it's mentioned.

Discuss the merits of each of these influences.

Invite a builder, carpenter, or contractor to bring to Sabbath School a variety of construction nails that are made for various and specific purposes. Have him or her describe what each nail is designed to do.

Or invite an experienced cook or chef to bring to Sabbath School a variety of spices and describe what each spice is used for in certain kinds of cooking or baking. Possibly allow Sabbath School members to taste each of the spices.

After one of these presentations, share the following ideas: Christians are like nails—or spices. Certain kinds of nails (or spices) are used to create certain kinds of construction (or certain kinds of recipes). Each Christian disciple has a responsibility that only we can personally fulfill in the task that Christ has given us to do.

The apostle Paul described the same kind of thinking by likening the Christian church to a human body. Call on a volunteer to read aloud Romans 12:4, 5: "Just as each of us as one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (NIV).

No one is as favorably situated to reach those around you—the Bible calls them your neighbors—as you are. And our Sabbath School has neighbors too. We cannot presume upon others to do our task for us. Service and witness are to be an important part of Sabbath School.

Introduce the concept that Sabbath School is to be a place for instruction and practice in the skills of service and witness by reading aloud the following two quotations from the writings of Ellen G. White:

● "The Sabbath-school should be a good training-school" (*Sabbath School Worker*, January 1, 1891).

● "This is a great and important missionary effort,—the training and disciplining workers to go forth into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature" (*Sabbath School Worker*, October 1, 1886).

Cover a wall with butcher paper or provide some other form of note-taking material to the class. Tell the group that you are going to give them two minutes to think before they respond to your question. Here's the two-part question:

● What do those around us in our community think they need?

- What do those around us in our community need, though they may not realize it?

After the two minutes, repeat the two questions and have participants list their answer(s) to the two questions. Based on these responses, discuss the similarities and differences between personal and group outreach.

To expand this further, follow the same procedure, but this time the two-part question is:

- What do you consider your community's three greatest needs?
- What changes do you think God wants to make in your community?

Discuss the implications of these questions to the development of outreach ideas for a local Sabbath School class.

- What do I have to offer others outside our church?
- What do we have to offer others outside of our church?

Close with this challenge: Spend some time this week to consider the following question: What can our Sabbath School do to provide winsome and practical help in our community?

Musical Selections

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal

573—"I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go"

578—"So Send I You"

Church Hymnal

183—"Let Every Lamp Be Burning"

354—"Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus"

Note: This program focuses specifically on outreach, only one of the four essential elements of Sabbath School, also to include fellowship, Bible study and world mission. Be sure that this program fits into a balance of all four in your Sabbath School.