



## **SIMPLE WITNESSING ACTIVITIES (Sabbath School Program)**

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*Community outreach is a primary function of Sabbath School. The focus of this program is to present some ideas Sabbath School members can use to present the gospel to friends, neighbors, work associates, etc.*

### **Suggested Songs**

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal No. 369 “Bringing in the Sheaves”*

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal No. 367 “Rescue the Perishing”*

### **Morning Scripture Reading: Romans 1:16**

Community outreach takes many forms. Personal contact with friends, relatives, work associates, and people in general is an important one. A secret to success in this kind of witnessing is to keep it simple.

The tendency is to think of witnessing as giving a series of Bible studies, debating with someone about doctrinal understandings, or trying to convince someone about a particular Adventist belief. All these things happen and are important, but they are not the simple starting point of witnessing.

Ellen G. White has some important counsel regarding the simplicity of witnessing:

“Thousands of hearts can be reached in the most simple way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon and praised as the world’s great and gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the most humble, simple words spoken by one who loves God, who can speak of that love as naturally as worldlings can speak of those things which their minds contemplate and feed upon. Words, even if well prepared and studied, have little influence; but the true, honest work of a son or a daughter of God in words, or in a service of little things, done in natural simplicity, will unbolt the door, which has long been locked, to many souls” — *Evangelism*, p. 443; “What you need is a living experience in the things of God and simplicity in presenting the love of Christ to the lost” — *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 266.

### **The Method of Jesus**

Jesus left us a model of simple witnessing. Ellen White G. White counsels that “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people” — *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

His model consists of five activities that can be used one at a time or in any combination. The final step is chronological — it happens after the first four have been applied.

**Method 1:** *He mingled with people as One who desired their good.* “Mingling” means doing things together. It’s more or less what young people call “hanging out.” This may be visiting, working, playing, or just talking and sitting together. By mingling you discover people’s needs. Believe it or not, but there is a hotel pub (a bar) in Ireland with this motto above the entrance: “Everyone here is a friend — they just haven’t met yet.” Not bad!

**Method 2:** *He showed sympathy.* Sympathy is an attitude of personal concern. Sympathy does not wait until the person asks for help, but it is always expressed by some kind of action that communicates an honest, unselfish concern for someone who has a need.

**Method 3:** *He ministered to their needs.* Ministering to their needs means meeting the needs of people whether they be physical, mental, or spiritual. This is done by serving, waiting on, or attending to someone’s immediate needs.

**Method 4:** *He won their confidence.* This will be the result of meeting people’s needs, showing sympathy, and just hanging out making friends. Once you win someone’s confidence, talking about the Lord and discussing biblical beliefs is easy.

**Final result:** *He bade them, “Follow Me.”* “Follow Me” was the appeal to follow Christ — accept Him as a personal Savior and begin a Christian lifestyle. The appeal came after He met people’s needs and won their confidence.

What do you talk about if you are just hanging out and “mingling?” If you are already with a group of friends or acquaintances, you can steer the conversation into religious ideas. For instance, if the conversation has to do with getting along with some really complicated personalities, you can say something like, “I remember that the Bible says that we are supposed to get along with people even if they seem like enemies. How would we make that work?” That kind of simple comment opens the door to further conversations about religious topics.

You can then move the conversation to mingling and showing sympathy at the same time. For instance, a conversation might go like this: “What if we invite them to go with us to . . . Maybe that would give us a chance to get better acquainted? Could slow down those nasty things they say sometimes.”

That opens the door to finding and dealing with personal needs. Someone might say: “Maybe they just need some friends. I remember this guy who was really a pain, but when we invited him to hang out, he turned out to be OK. Just needed some friends.”

Once these problematic people start to hang out and you start to “mingle,” they will probably develop a sense of personal confidence in their new group of friends. So, one day, this former “pain” says, “How come you guys go to church all the time?”

That's the cue to apply "Follow Me." Invite them to church, give a personal testimony, have a prayer, say something like: "OK, it's that Jesus is the hero of the day. You follow Him and you will be amazed at what happens. This is where it's at!"

Simple witnessing is always effective. It's natural, spontaneous, and for the most part unrehearsed. You will be amazed at how it works.

Give it a try and see what happens!