

Southern Asia Division 5

Stewardship Certification *Handout*



Nurturing Faithfulness Through Home Visitations

Aim: Presenting home visitation as the key strategy to grow members in faithfulness.

Introduction

Stewardship education requires a personal approach.

Part I: The One Who Visits

The God of the Bible is both Elohim and Yahweh.

As Elohim, He stands as the Creator of all _____ and of all living creatures.

As Yahweh, He is the God of the covenant and _____ relationship with His creatures.

Deuteronomy 4:7 speaks about the closeness of God.

The privilege of being visited by God: *“They were visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between.”*

Patriarchs and Prophets, P.50

After they disobeyed to God’s instruction, they did not receive a convocation but a visit, Genesis 3:8.

The climax of the redemption plan happened through a visitation, _____, God with us!

The redemption plan end by a final visitation, the _____ among men (Rev 21:3)

Part II: The Task of the Under-Shepherds

The Bible is clear about the primary role of the minister; he/she is called to serve as a shepherd.

Read Acts 20:28 and 2 Peter 5:2

The prophet Ezekiel warns about neglecting the responsibility of shepherding, Ezekiel 34: 1-2.

Shepherding and Visitation

Paul’s approach to ministry. Read Acts 20:20

He was mixing public teaching and home visitations to nurture God’s people.

E. G. White associates shepherding with home visitations:

Elder H used to live here and preach to the people, but he was not a _____ of the

flock. *He would tell the poor sheep that he would rather be horse-whipped than visit.*

E.G. White, Manuscript Releases 9: 342,344

The pastor is a shepherd of the sheep, guarding them, feeding them, warning them, reproving them, or encouraging them, as the case may require. There is _____ to be done...

The Adventist Review, October 20, 1896

The flock of God have a right to expect to be _____ by their pastor, to be instructed, advised, counseled, in their own homes. And if a man fails to do this part of the work, he cannot be a minister after God's order. (EGW Appeal and Suggestions to Conference Officers (Ph 2)17, 18.)

A minister may enjoy sermonizing, for it is the pleasant part of the work and is comparatively easy; but no minister should be measured by his ability as a speaker. The harder part comes after he leaves the desk, in watering the seed sown. The interest awakened should be followed up by personal labour,—visiting, holding Bible readings, teaching how to search the Scriptures, praying with families and interested ones, seeking to deepen the impression made upon hearts and consciences. {5T 255.1}

Part II: The Value of Home Visitations

Among the many benefits of home visitation, one has a direct incidence on faithfulness; it creates the conviction that one is _____.

Ellen White speaks about the motivating factors that lead people to discipleship:

It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. (Desire of Ages, p. 479)

The principal motivating factor for sustainable faithfulness cannot be fear of punishment or the expectation of rewards.

God uses love as the first motivating factor to lead His people to faithfulness: Read 2 Cor 5:14; Jer 31:3; Hosea 11:4

People come to realize God's love for them through "human kindness."

"As they see the evidence of your unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ."

Christ's Object Lesson, P.87

Visitation is one of the foremost means to build relationships and express love:

There is no quicker way of bridging the _____ between preacher and people than meeting them in their homes and in our home. The effective preacher is always a diligent _____ Only if he makes time each week both for visiting people and for interviewing

them, will he be in rapport with them as he preaches." John R. Stott, *The Preacher's Portrait*, P. 88.

The Gospel of Luke talks about the transformation of Zacchaeus, Jericho's greediest man into the city's most generous man. Read Luke 19: 5, 8.

The turning point of Zacchaeus' life: _____

Part III: THE PRACTICE OF HOME VISITATIONS

There are some basic practicalities for effective home visitations:

- It is not a social call
- Never visit a single person alone.
- Have a plan for your visit.
- The congregation needs to be instructed on the benefit of home visitation.
- Enlist and train the elders and deacons in this work.

Group Activity

Study Genesis 3 and find out the elements of God's visitation.

The Purposes of God's Visitations

- To provide a word of _____ (Gen. 3: 16-19)
- To provide an opportunity for humans to _____ out (Gen. 3:9-10)
- To attend to human's _____ (Gen. 3:21)
- To provide a word of _____ (Gen. 3:15)

Ellen White comments on the nature and purpose of home visitations:

There is visiting to be done, not to have a pleasant chat, but to do the work required of a watchman. There should be _____ conversation and _____ with these souls. This is the kind of work that gains valuable experience in the up building of Christ's kingdom.

The Review and Herald, October 20, 1896

Think of some subjects that could be addressed during visits:

Elements of an Effective Home Visitation Program:

- i. Recruiting a team of Church leaders.
- ii. Train the members of the visitation team.
- iii. Organize the teams responsible for visitations.
- iv. Create a calendar of visitations.
- v. Keep a record of the information gathered during visitation.

Each local church should have a plan for the systematic visitation of all families/members with the involvement of the pastor, church elders, deacons/deaconesses and other church’s leaders.

3 Major Types of Pastoral Visitations:

- _____ Visitation
- Emergency Visitation
- Specific _____ Visitation

General Visitation (Systematic Visitation)

Target Group: Every member of the church
Who Visits? Everyone involves in-home visitation.
Purpose: Nurturing members _____, including stewardship.

Emergency Visitation

Target Group: Members going through a punctual challenge.
Who Visits: It depends on the nature of the challenge.
Purpose: Listening, assessing the situation, and providing a service or referral.

Specific Stewardship Visitation

Target Group: Members struggling with the issue of _____
Who: Only those who have access to information pertaining to members’ fidelity.
Purpose: Nurturing members in this specific area of faithfulness in _____

Guiding Questions for Specific Stewardship Visitation:

- Assess _____
- Invite to _____
- Appeal for a _____
- Encourage seeking for God’s help.

Excuses	Biblical Reminders
• Scarcity of Resources	• The One Who Provides
• The Delay of God	• The One Who is Never Late
• Threat, Fear and Panic	• The One Who Cares
• Human Logic and Good Sense	• The Source of All Wisdom
• The Power of Circumstances	• The One Who Controls Circumstances

Participants’ involvement

List some obstacles to the practice of systematic visitations and discuss how they could be overcome.

Conclusion

Blessed are those who do home visitations in the name and in like manner as God. They will be known as kingdom builders.

Watch videos on visitation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiO8-nC_j8s;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJlXfM7DRYA>