

Points to Review:

1. The remnant church, including the identifying marks of commandment keeping and having the spirit of prophecy.
2. The fact that God is leading a movement today to prepare people for the coming of the Lord.

The Purpose of This Lesson:

This lesson is an attempt to further encourage people to make a decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Many people are hesitant to make a decision to join the church because they do not believe church membership is necessary. Therefore, this lesson deals with the necessity of church membership and the need of mutual support of the church through tithes and offerings.

The link that puts this together in this lesson is the command that Jesus left us to witness. Therefore, the underlying theme is that if a person is really going to be effective in witnessing to the whole world with this message, he will need to be united with the church body and will need to financially support the church.

Make certain that you keep this theme constantly before your people as you study this important lesson.

Question 2

Emphasize to your students the fact that this Prophecy Seminar is part of the fulfilment of this message.

The message of the book of Daniel especially is to go to the world before the end of time. Therefore the message of these prophecies, and more importantly the sanctuary message (which is the heart of the book of Daniel), must be given to the entire world before Jesus comes.

You're trying to make the point here that it's not just any message that is to be shared, but the special message about the book of Daniel that

offerings. Be sure to stress through this whole section the blessings of faithful stewardship.

This is not something that Christians do because they have to, but because they have a love relationship with Christ.

During this section you will want to share some of your own personal blessings of stewardship. Share how God has blessed you as you have returned a faithful tithe and given offerings to God.

It may be well to allow the students time to share some of their experiences if they have already begun the practice of paying tithe and giving offerings.

Faith-building stories are helpful at this point to enable people to see that God blesses faithful stewardship.

Make clear that this is not an insurance policy or a get-rich-quick scheme. It simply means that God honours those who put Him first.

Question 22

You will want to end this lesson with a strong note to put God first in our finances and in our lives. God is simply asking that He be given top priority. Since He is our Creator and our Redeemer, He has demonstrated that He should be first in our lives.

Response Questions:

1. If it is clear to you from Scripture that God desires us to be a part of an organized church on earth, put a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to return a faithful tithe and give offerings to God as He has blessed and prospered you, put a check in Box #2.
3. If it is your desire to be a part of God's remnant people who are carrying the message of Daniel to the world today, put a check in Box #3.

Sin demands a Saviour. Thus if a person has not been returning a faithful tithe to God, he needs to confess that sin to God and ask Jesus to come into his heart, remove selfishness from him, and forgive his sin of failing to pay tithe. Then he needs to begin to pay a faithful tithe.

Questions 13 & 14

These two questions deal with the purpose of the tithe. The Biblical principle is that the tithe is to be used for the support of the ministry. Just as the tithe was used for the support of the priest in the Old Testament, so it is to be used for the support of Christian ministry today.

Take the time to share with the students in your seminar how the Seventh-day Adventist Church uses the tithe. A brief summary is given in the lesson; you will want to expand that.

Question 15

When a person has returned a faithful tithe to God he has not given God anything, for the tithe is His already. When a person gives God some of the nine-tenths that is left, then he starts giving God something. These are offerings. While tithe is to be used for the support of the ministry, our offerings are to support the rest of the work of the church. Make certain that you take time to go over the tithe and offering envelope used by your church and explain it to the seminar participants.

It would be well to have an envelope for each of them so that they may follow clearly how to mark their envelope.

Make sure they understand that the tithe is marked under tithe and that the rest of the items are offerings. God gives them the wisdom and judgment to decide how to distribute their offerings.

Question 16 to 21

These questions all give various promises from the Scriptures on

prepares people for the coming of the Lord. Only Seventh-day Adventists are proclaiming that message.

Question 4

Give strong emphasis to the fact that it's the Holy Spirit that motivates and empowers God's people to witness. In human strength they cannot witness, but by depending upon divine power each of them will be able to give adequate witness for their Lord.

You will want to build a strong commitment to Christian witnessing among your new converts. However, make sure that you caution them that as they witness, they share first of all what Jesus Christ has done for them.

Stress the importance of not prematurely sharing the mark of the beast and some of the more testing truths. Instead let them see the great necessity of witnessing to what Jesus has done for them. Then as people ask questions and they gain their confidence, they will be able to share the more testing truths.

Remind these people that if someone had shared with them the Sabbath, the state of the dead, or the mark of the beast in the beginning, it might have turned them off. They needed to be led step by step to freely understand truth. Likewise, their friends will need to be led slowly as well.

It is very important to make this clear to people, or they will spoil a lot of their witnessing opportunities. People they might have reached will become unreachable if they don't begin with a Christ-centered witness.

Question 6

God has made different members. They don't all have the same gifts and abilities, but they are all part of the body. Nowhere does Scripture speak of people moving independently of each other, but throughout Scripture the church moves as a unified body—diversified but unified. Each one does his part, but under the central control of the church.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul gives many examples of this. He talks about a diversity of gifts in the church, but one body. In fact, it would be well to read various portions of 1 Corinthians 12 to your students. Paul likens the church to a human body.

Some are the arms, the head, the eyes, the legs, etc. Paul's point is: what good is a hand if it's detached from the body? The hand only functions when it is part of the body. Likewise, the feet, the heart or the lungs. The same holds true for the individual Christian. He only functions as a Christian when he is a part of the body; he does not function independently of the body. The gifts that God has given him are to be used as a part of the body of Christ.

Be sure to stress throughout this whole section the great need of the unity of the church and the fact that God wants all His members in the body. God is not leading independent atoms; He is leading a whole body.

Question 7

New Testament believers became a part of the body of Christ at the very beginning of their Christian experience. Nowhere in the New Testament do we read of people being baptized and not becoming a part of the body. All believers were united in one body—the church.

Question 8

This text indicates that there was church order in the New Testament church. Paul didn't just establish churches and then leave them. He organized them. The New Testament church was an organized body. This is an important point, because many people feel there is not need of organization today. However, this text points out clearly that the apostle Paul believed in church organization.

Question 9

The incident of the council at Jerusalem helps us to understand that the

early church not only had organization, but that it had a central governing body that had authority.

The early church was not a congregational style of organization, where each local congregation made decisions independent and contrary to the action of the general body. The general body made decisions with representatives from all the churches present, and those decisions were binding upon all believers.

This clearly indicates strong central organization with some local autonomy in the early church. The Biblical example that we have been given is not one of loose organization, but of strong organization.

Question 10

Take time to explain clearly how the Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized around the world. It is briefly summarized in the lesson, but you may want to elaborate and localize it by telling about the operation of your local conference, union and division.

Question 11

This section stresses the importance of stewardship. If church organization is as essential as the New Testament indicates, then the church must be properly financed in order to function in the world as God intended it to. The means that God has ordained for the financing of the church is that of tithes and offerings. There is no other Scriptural means of support except through tithes and offerings.

Question 12

To fail to pay tithe is called robbery. One of the Ten Commandments says, "Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15. To fail to pay tithe is to rob God, to steal from God. It is to break one of the Ten Commandments. Breaking the Ten Commandments is sin (1 John 3:4).