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Train & Multiply™

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Let's go Visiting



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

48

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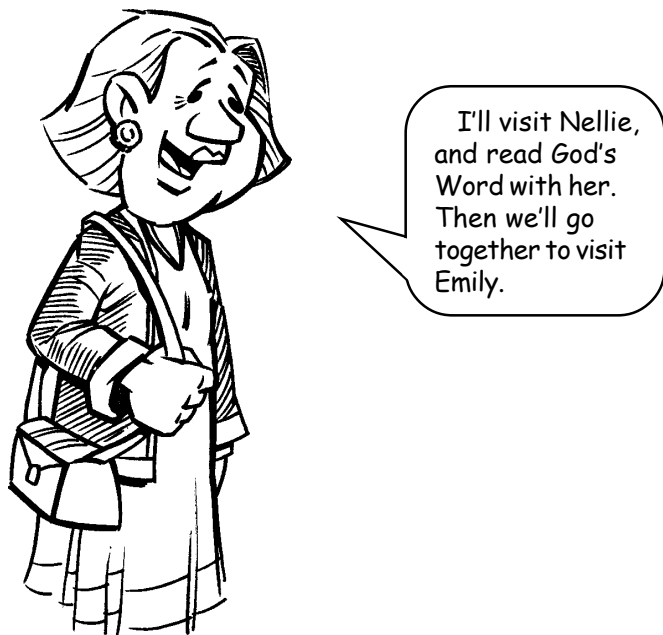


T&M™

Ask God’s help so your church will visit the needy, and those who do not know Christ.

James 1:27 says: *“Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

Visiting others for fellowship, to meet needs or to do evangelism is a vital ministry of every obedient church. We often need to drop other entertaining activities in order to make time to visit.



Visitation coordinators can be named, and could use forms similar to the following example:

Coordinator: _____

RECORD OF VISITS

Visitors:	Persons to Visit:	Date:

PRACTICAL WORK

- Teach and organize your congregation in their responsibility for:
 - a. visiting and helping the needy,
 - b. praying for and with the fallen, and counseling them with the Scriptures,
 - c. evangelizing and teaching new believers to obey the Lord's commands:
 - repent and believe (be sure of their own salvation),
 - be baptized,
 - love, and help in practical ways (according to their gifts),
 - share in the Lord's Supper,
 - pray, alone and with the family,
 - give generously,
 - win their family for Christ. They can use the courses "The Best News" and "Following the Lord Jesus Christ" (First Level).
- Together with the other leaders of the church, plan and coordinate visiting teams, and pray for them.

WHOM SHOULD WE VISIT?

We Visit the Needy

Read James 1:27 and 5:14. The Christian life is not only knowing doctrine and keeping away from evil. It is showing practical love towards all. (James 1:27) We visit those who suffer, such as orphans, widows, the sick and prisoners.

I'll take these eggs to Jane; she's a widow and lacks proper food.



We Visit Unbelievers

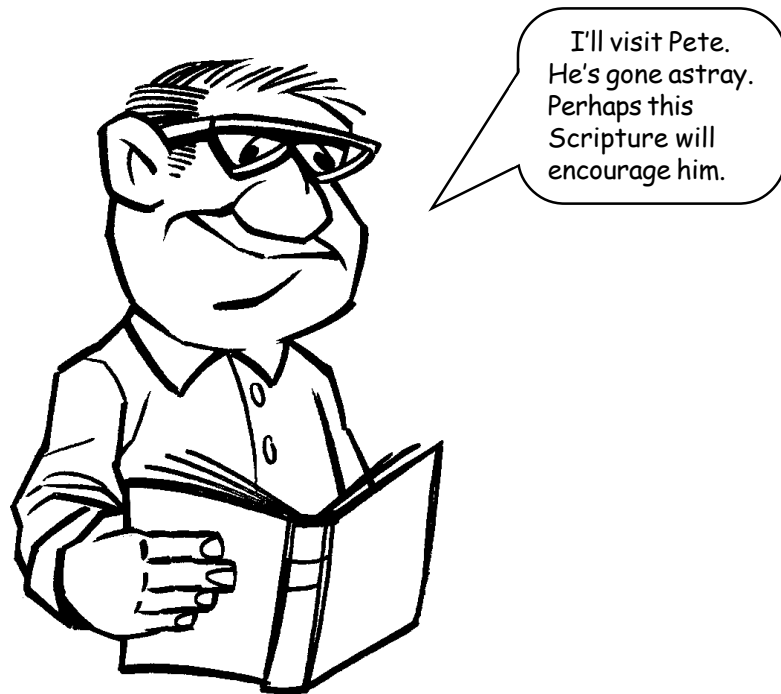
Read Mark 16:15. There are spiritual orphans (who do not have a Heavenly Father). They can be adopted into God's family, if we visit them with the Gospel. Visiting and personal conversation is the best way to win people for Jesus Christ.

John Michael came to the service for the first time last night. I'll go back and visit him, to share the Gospel again.



We Visit Those who Have Fallen Away

Read James 5:19-20. We restore those who have fallen away. They have known the truth, but for some reason have gone astray. We do not abandon them. We visit them to help them restore their faith and their walk with God.



4. Through visiting, we build up fellowship. Christians who have fallen away need us:

- ☐ to abandon them to their sins.
- ☐ to visit them in love.
- ☐ to scold them when we see them.

Those who have
fallen away
need our love.
We visit them
patiently.

SUMMARY TEST

1. The Apostle James told us to keep from being contaminated by the world, and:
 - ☐ not to talk to unbelievers.
 - ☐ to visit the needy.

2. To fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, we win the unconverted to Christ. Then we make disciples of them, by:
 - ☐ teaching them to obey Christ's commands.
 - ☐ scolding them when they seem weak.

3. We teach the commandments to new believers, but the older, faithful members also need our visits. In this way, we put into practice:
 - ☐ preaching.
 - ☐ fellowship with each other.

We Visit New Believers

Read Matthew 28:19-20. New believers need advice and encouragement. Christ's Great Commission, in these verses, orders us to make disciples, teaching them to keep all His commands. The best way is to visit them.



We Visit Faithful Believers

Read Acts 2:42.

The early church in Jerusalem persevered in four activities:

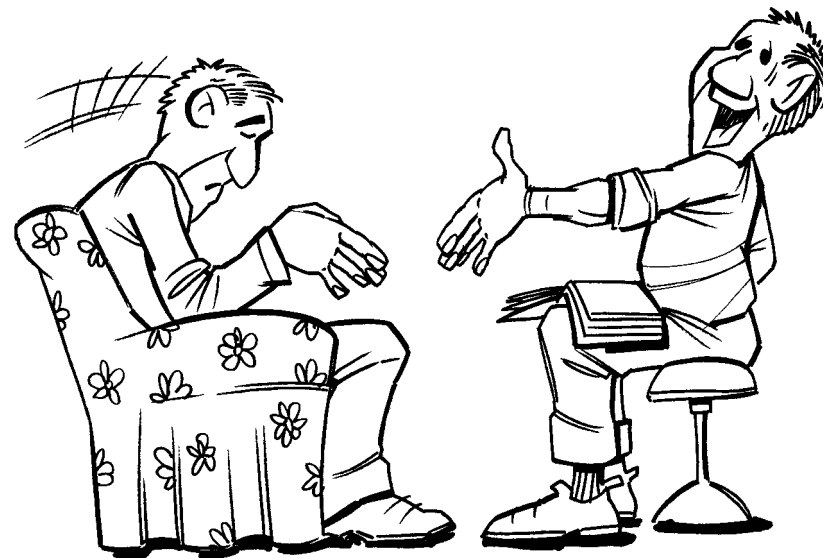
- 1) doctrine (teaching),
- 2) prayer,
- 3) breaking bread (the Lord's Supper),
- 4) fellowship with each other.

We enjoy fellowship when we go to the services and visit each other, helping in practical ways. We visit long-standing, faithful members. This way, we encourage each other.



Teach new Christians by your example.

- Be sensible, and do not be a nuisance by staying too long. This way a second visit will be welcome.



- If possible, leave something that they can read later, with your address so they can contact you.
- Be faithful about visiting, and do not abandon your contacts.

- Be very careful about your personal hygiene and tidiness, especially your breath. You yourself would not like a visitor who was untidy and smelled badly; neither would the people you visit.

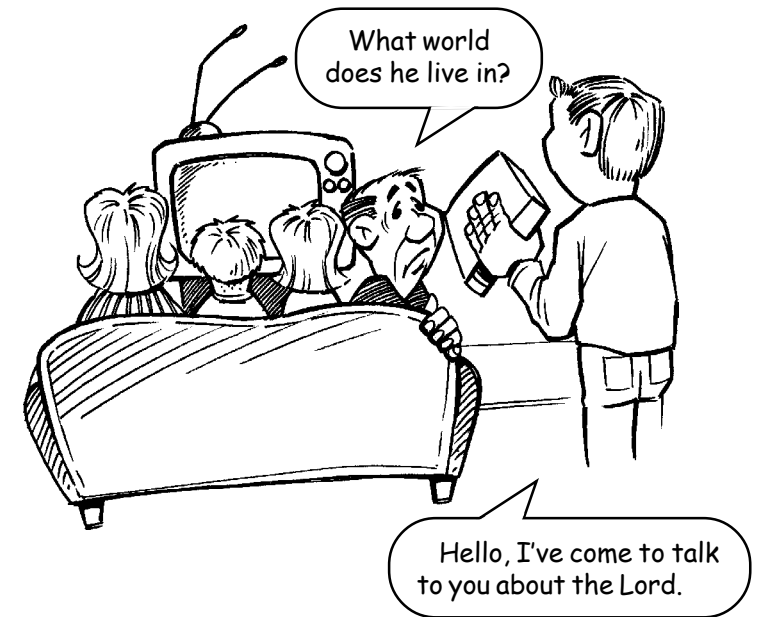
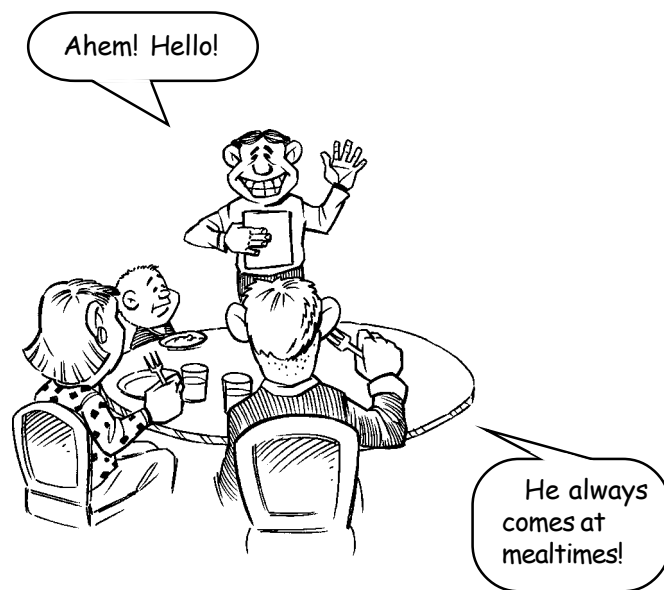


- If your visit is not welcome, do not show annoyance, but leave politely; as Jesus recommends, do not waste more time there.

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR EFFECTIVE VISITING

- Many homes are now closed to house-to-house visitation, due to the visiting done by Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. Therefore, we recommend you first visit your acquaintances and natural contacts. This way, you will be sure of a welcome and of being listened to. Also, one contact will lead to another, and so on.
- Effective visiting must be planned, coordinated, and upheld with prayer. Keep track of whom you have visited, and the results. Return where people show interest.
- Train those who visit. Show them:
 - how to start a conversation, and take it naturally towards spiritual things.
 - how to give a personal testimony.
 - how to lead others to Christ.
 - how to pray for sick folks.

- When a visit is not strictly personal, it is advisable to visit in pairs, just as our Lord taught His disciples. While one speaks, the other can pray, and so they help each other.
- As a general rule, it is better that men visit men, women visit women, young people visit their own age group, and married couples visit couples.
- Be careful to visit when it is convenient for those at home; if possible fix the time of the visit beforehand. For example, avoid mealtimes, or times when you know people will be busy with other things.



- Do not frighten your hosts by arriving with an enormous Bible under your arm, and do not use evangelical jargon. Be natural, polite and amiable. Do not sermonize; rather, start your conversation with what is real to those you visit.

