

Our Kingdom Ministry 2014

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2014

WEEK STARTING MARCH 10

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cf chap. 4 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Genesis 40-42 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 41:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Do the Rest of the Dead Come to Life on Earth?—*rs* p. 338 ¶2—p. 339 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abihu—Prominence Does Not Excuse Disobedience—*it-1* p. 22 (5 min.)

❑ Service Meeting:

Song 88

15 min: Family Worship That Refreshes. Interview a family regarding their family worship. Of what does their program consist? How do they determine what to discuss? What tools available on *jw.org* have they used? How has their program helped them in the ministry? How do they prevent other activities from disrupting their schedule? How have they benefited from their program of family worship?

15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers." Discussion. Consider two or three potential conversation stoppers that publishers may encounter, and invite comments on how we might respond. Remind publishers that they will have an opportunity to relate experiences during the week of April 7.

Song 97 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers

Why Important: Imagine that you know that a natural disaster is imminent. People will die unless they flee to safety. You go to a neighbor's home to warn him, but he interrupts you, saying that he is busy. Surely, you would not quickly abandon your efforts to help him! Many in our territory turn us away, not realizing the life-saving value

of our message. At the time of our visit, perhaps they are preoccupied. (Matt. 24:37-39) Or maybe they have been prejudiced by untrue rumors. (Matt. 11:18, 19) They might assume that we are no different from the religions that have produced bad fruitage. (2 Pet. 2:1, 2) If the householder initially is not interested, we should not be quick to give up.

How to Do It:

- Before preaching from house to house, take a few moments to think about potential conversation stoppers that you may encounter and consider how to respond.
- If the householder presents an objection, gently try to continue the conversation. Perhaps you can do that by commending him. For example, if he says that he has his own religion, you might reply, "I was hoping to find someone like you who has an interest in spiritual things." Sometimes acknowledging the householder's feelings or circumstances will enable you to continue giving a witness. For instance, if he says that he is busy, you might say: "I understand. But before I leave, I would like to give you this." Another option is to ask a question if the householder says that he is not interested. You could say, "Do you mean that you are not interested in the Bible, or is it religion in general that does not interest you?"
- Use good judgment. Remember that Jehovah does not force people to listen. (Deut. 30:19) Everyone must carry his own load of spiritual responsibility. (Gal. 6:5) If the householder is adamant, it is best to take our leave. By demonstrating respect for his feelings, we may open the door for another publisher to give a witness in the future.—1 Pet. 3:15.

Try This During the Month:

- When you encounter a potential conversation stopper, after leaving the householder, discuss with your partner how you might have responded in a better way.

For United States of America

km14 03-E Us Vol. 57, No. 3

Our Kingdom Ministry 2014 was a significant year for individuals and congregations involved in the preaching and teaching work of Jehovah's Witnesses. This period marked a continuation of the organization's mission to spread the message of the Kingdom of God, focusing on spiritual growth, community outreach, and the implementation of new teaching methods. The emphasis was on strengthening faith and encouraging participation in the ministry, which is central to the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Overview of Our Kingdom Ministry

The program of Our Kingdom Ministry is designed to provide practical

assistance and guidance for members of Jehovah's Witnesses in their efforts to share their faith. It serves as a resource for congregations and individuals, outlining key themes, goals, and strategies for effective ministry work.

In 2014, the focus was on the following key objectives:

1. Enhancing Personal Evangelism: Encouraging members to take initiative in sharing their beliefs.
2. Building Congregational Unity: Promoting teamwork and collaboration among congregants.
3. Utilizing Modern Technology: Leveraging digital tools to spread the message more efficiently.
4. Encouraging Bible Study: Fostering a deeper understanding of the Scriptures within the community.

Key Themes of Our Kingdom Ministry 2014

Each year, the Our Kingdom Ministry publication highlights specific themes that guide the ministry's efforts. In 2014, several themes emerged that resonated with congregations worldwide.

1. The Importance of the Kingdom Message

At the heart of Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs is the message of God's Kingdom. In 2014, the ministry focused on reinforcing the importance of this message in the lives of both the preacher and the listener. The teachings emphasized:

- The Sovereignty of Jehovah: Understanding God's authority and His purpose for humanity.
- The Role of Jesus Christ: Recognizing Jesus as King and His role in God's plan.
- Hope for the Future: Sharing the message of everlasting life and hope through the Kingdom.

2. Training and Development

To ensure that all members were well-equipped to share their faith, special emphasis was placed on training and development. This included:

- Workshops and Seminars: Local congregations organized events aimed at improving public speaking and teaching skills.
- Group Study Sessions: Encouraging members to engage in collective Bible study to deepen their understanding.
- Mentorship Programs: Experienced members were encouraged to mentor newer

ones, fostering a sense of community and support.

3. Utilizing Technology in Ministry

Recognizing the rapid advancements in technology, the 2014 kingdom ministry encouraged congregations to:

- Use Digital Tools: Employing social media platforms and websites to reach a wider audience.
- Online Resources: Accessing study materials and publications online to enhance biblical education.
- Mobile Applications: Utilizing apps developed by the organization to aid in personal study and evangelism.

Community Outreach Initiatives

In addition to personal evangelism, Our Kingdom Ministry 2014 highlighted the importance of community outreach. Effective outreach fosters goodwill and helps to establish positive relationships with the community at large.

1. Local Community Events

Congregations were encouraged to participate in or host community events, such as:

- Public Talks: Open invitations to the public for discussions on biblical themes.
- Community Service Projects: Engaging in local service initiatives, such as cleanup drives or charity events.
- Family Days: Organizing events that promote family bonding and interaction with the community.

2. Educational Programs

The ministry also focused on providing educational programs that would benefit both members and non-members, including:

- Bible Study Classes: Offering free classes that introduce the Bible and its teachings to newcomers.
- Workshops on Life Skills: Teaching skills that are beneficial for everyday life, such as financial management or parenting.

Encouraging Personal Participation

A major theme of Our Kingdom Ministry 2014 was to encourage personal participation in the ministry. Activating the individual potential of each member was seen as crucial for the overall success of the ministry.

1. Setting Personal Goals

Members were encouraged to set personal goals for their ministry work. This could include:

- Regular Field Service: Committing to a specific number of hours in field service each month.
- Personal Study: Dedicating time for personal Bible study and reflection.
- Involvement in Congregational Activities: Actively participating in meetings, discussions, and events.

2. Sharing Personal Experiences

One powerful method of encouraging participation was the sharing of personal experiences. Members were motivated to:

- Testify to Their Faith: Share how their beliefs have positively impacted their lives.
- Encourage Others: Provide support and encouragement to fellow members in their ministry efforts.

The Role of Family in Our Kingdom Ministry

Family plays a significant role in the ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses, and in 2014, special attention was given to how families can work together in their spiritual activities.

1. Family Worship

Families were urged to engage in regular family worship, which includes:

- Studying Together: Dedicating time each week to study the Bible as a family.
- Praying Together: Encouraging unity through collective prayer.
- Sharing Responsibilities: Involving children in ministry tasks, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

2. Supporting Each Other's Ministry Efforts

Families were reminded of the importance of mutual support in ministry work, which can include:

- Encouragement: Motivating each other to stay active in the ministry.
- Joint Participation: Going out in service together as a family unit.

Conclusion

In summary, Our Kingdom Ministry 2014 represented a pivotal year for Jehovah's Witnesses as they sought to enhance their ministry through personal evangelism, community outreach, and the use of modern technology. By focusing on key themes, encouraging participation, and fostering family involvement, the organization aimed to create a supportive and beneficial environment for all members. This collective effort not only strengthened individual faith but also contributed to the overall mission of spreading the message of God's Kingdom to the world. Through these initiatives, Jehovah's Witnesses continued to build a robust and vibrant community dedicated to their spiritual goals.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary focus of 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014'?

The primary focus of 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' is to strengthen the preaching work and enhance the spiritual education of Jehovah's Witnesses through practical tools and resources.

How does 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' support local congregations?

'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' provides congregations with monthly publications that include articles, meeting outlines, and suggestions for effective ministry, thereby aiding in local congregation activities.

What type of materials are included in 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014'?

'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' includes a variety of materials such as teaching outlines, Bible study aids, and articles focused on current topics relevant to the faith and practice of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Can you explain the significance of the 'meetings' emphasized in 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014'?

Meetings emphasized in 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' are designed to foster spiritual growth, encourage fellowship among members, and provide training for effective preaching and teaching.

What role does 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' play in personal evangelism?

'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' plays a crucial role in personal evangelism by offering tools and strategies for Witnesses to engage with the public and share their beliefs more effectively.

How does 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' address the use of technology in ministry?

'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' encourages the use of technology by providing guidance on utilizing digital resources, social media, and online platforms to reach a broader audience.

What was the impact of 'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' on community outreach initiatives?

'Our Kingdom Ministry 2014' significantly impacted community outreach initiatives by promoting organized events and activities that allow congregations to actively engage and support their local communities.

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