

## Topic Five

### READING AND TRUTH PURSUIT PROGRAMS

#### Reading Programs

##### **I. Purpose of the Programs (2 min):**

- A. To build up an atmosphere of reading in the churches
- B. To have the saints build up a habit to read at least thirty minutes per day

##### **II. Workshop in Two Groups:**

- A. Group 1—Church reading (8 mins)
  - 1. Bible reading
  - 2. Corporate reading of ministry book
    - a. Book service and elders can create plans for the saints to read:
      - (1) Foundational books
      - (2) Life-study messages
      - (3) God-ordained way books
      - (4) High-peak books
    - b. Get the whole church involved in reading the same book at an easy pace, perhaps two pages a day
  - 3. Individual reading of ministry books:
    - a. Book service saints can suggest a reading list and reading plans for different needs and interests
    - b. Read based on Lord's leading according each saint's burden and interest
  - 4. Encourage overflow from the saints' reading in group meetings, at the end of the prayer meeting, and in Lord's Day meetings to create an atmosphere of reading among the saints
  - 5. Testimonies, questions, and answers (10 mins)
- B. Group 2—Home and Group Pursuit and Internet Reading:
  - 1. Home and group truth pursuit (10 mins)  
Testimonies and Q&A
  - 2. Internet reading and pursuit (8 mins)  
Testimonies and Q&A

## Topic Five—Reading Lists

### READING AND TRUTH PURSUIT PROGRAMS

#### Sample Lists for Shepherding and for Loaning Books

##### I. Booklets:

###### A. Salvation:

1. The Mystery of Human Life
2. What is Regeneration?
3. The Assurance, Security, and Joy of Salvation
4. Christ's Redemption and Salvation
5. The Precious Blood of Christ
6. God Is Willing
7. The Sinners' Friend
8. A Sure Salvation
9. A Righteous Forgiveness
10. The Worship That Draws Near
11. Separated unto the Lord
12. The Bible
13. There Is God
14. Christ Is God
15. Christ's Redemption and Salvation
16. The Meaning of Human Life

###### B. Life:

1. Christ is Spirit and Life
2. The Key to Experiencing Christ—the Human Spirit
3. Two Principles of Living
4. Man and the Two Trees
5. Deep calls unto Deep

###### C. Christian Practice:

1. Calling on the Name of the Lord
2. A Time with the Lord
3. A Simple Way to Touch the Lord
4. Pray-Reading the Word
5. The Life of the Altar and the Tent
6. Praising
7. Tell Him

###### D. Church:

1. What are We?
2. A Genuine Church
3. The Ground of the Church
4. God's Purpose for the Church
5. Satan's Strategy against the Church
6. The Way to Build Up the Church

## **II. Beginner Level:**

- A. Bible:
  - 1. Recovery Version of the New Testament
  - 2. On Knowing the Bible (4 chapters)
  - 3. Search Ye the Scriptures (2 chapters)
  - 4. Life-study of John (softbound volumes)
- B. Life:
  - 1. Life Lessons
  - 2. Basic Lessons on Life
  - 3. Normal Christian Faith (15 chapters)
  - 4. The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ (8 chapters)
  - 5. A Young Man in God's Plan (4 chapters)
  - 6. Watchman Nee's Testimony (4 chapters)
  - 7. Hymnal
- C. Truth:
  - 1. The Parts of Man (3 chapters)
  - 2. The Four Major Steps of Christ (4 chapters)
  - 3. A Brief Presentation of the Lord's Recovery (2 chapters)
  - 4. The Glorious Church (5 chapters)
  - 5. The World Situation and God's Move (4 chapters)
- D. Christian Practice:
  - 1. Basic Lessons on Service
  - 2. The Prayer Ministry of the Church (5 chapters)
  - 3. The Organic Practice of the New Way (6 chapters)
  - 4. Character (7 chapters)
  - 5. The Speciality, Generality, and Practicality of the Church Life

## **III. Advanced Level:**

- A. Bible:
  - 1. Recovery Version Holy Bible with footnotes
  - 2. How to Study the Bible
  - 3. Life-study of the Bible (softbound volumes)
- B. Life:
  - 1. Our Human Spirit (10 chapters)
  - 2. The Crucial Revelation of Life in the Scriptures (16 chapters)
  - 3. Basic Lessons on Life (20 chapters)
  - 4. Love Not the World (11 chapters)
  - 5. Watchman Nee: Seer of the Divine Revelation (33 chapters)
  - 6. Hymnal
- C. Truth:
  - 1. A Blessed Human Life (8 chapters)
  - 2. The Economy of God (chapter 24)
  - 3. The All-Inclusive Christ (16 chapters)
  - 4. The History of the Church and Local Churches (10 chapters)
- D. Christian Practice:
  - 1. The Normal Christian Life (14 chapters)
  - 2. The Normal Christian Worker (10 chapters)
  - 3. The Genuine Ground of Oneness

Topic Five—Reading Lists (cont.)

**READING AND TRUTH PURSUIT PROGRAMS**

**Possible One-year Ministry Reading Schedules**

**7<sup>th</sup> grade—28 chapters**

Calling on the Name of the Lord (booklet)  
A Time with the Lord (booklet)  
Pray-Reading the Word (booklet)  
A Simple Way to Touch the Lord (booklet)  
The Key to Experiencing Christ—Our Human Spirit (booklet)  
Consecration (booklet)  
The Principle of the Nazarite (booklet)  
The Precious Blood of Christ (booklet)  
The Mystery of Human Life (booklet)  
The Bible (booklet)  
Christ is God (booklet)  
Christ is Spirit and Life (booklet)  
Christ's Redemption and Salvation (booklet)  
The Meaning of Human Life (booklet)  
There is Cod (booklet)  
The Assurance, Security, and Joy of Salvation (booklet)  
Life Lessons, Volume 1 (12 lessons)

**8<sup>th</sup> grade—36 chapters**

Life Lessons, Volume 2 (12 chapters)  
Fellowship with the Young People (3 chapters)  
What Is Regeneration? (1 chapter)  
Our Human Spirit (10 chapters)  
Watchman Nee's Testimony (3 chapters)  
Men who Turn the Age (2 chapters)  
The Parts of Man (3 chapters)  
Finding Christ by the Living Star (2 chapters)

**9<sup>th</sup> grade—44 chapters**

Life Lessons, Volume 3 (12 chapters)  
A Young Man in God's Plan (4 chapters)  
The Four Major Steps of Christ (4 chapters)  
The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ (8 chapters)  
The Crucial Revelation of Life in the Scriptures (16 chapters)

**10<sup>th</sup> grade—50 chapters**

Life Lessons, Volume 4 (12 chapters)  
The All-Inclusive Christ (16 chapters)  
Love Not the World (11 chapters)  
The History of the Church and the Local Churches (10 chapters)  
Two Principles of Conduct (1 chapter)

**11<sup>th</sup> grade—49 chapters**

The Kingdom and the Church (4 chapters)  
The Recovery of Cod's House and Cod's City (8 chapters)  
The Knowledge of Life (14 chapters)  
On Knowing the Bible (4 chapters)  
The Glorious Church (10 chapters)  
Character (7 chapters)  
Glad Tidings to Fallen Man (1 chapter)  
The Divine Stream (1 chapter)

**12<sup>th</sup> grade—70 chapters**

The Economy of God (24 chapters)  
The Life for the Preaching of the High Gospel (7 chapters)  
The Secret of Experiencing Christ (11 chapters)  
Christ and the Church in the Psalms (24 chapters)  
The Passover (3 chapters)  
Satan's Strategy against the Church (1 chapter)

**Additional books:**

The Normal Christian Faith (17 chapters)  
The Normal Christian Life (14 chapters)  
The World Situation and God's Move (7 chapters)  
The Vision of God's Building (19 chapters)  
The Experience of Life (chapters 1-8)  
Watchman Nee's Basic Lesson series  
Authority and Submission (11 chapters)  
Truth Lessons, Level One, Volume One (12 chapters)  
Truth Lessons, Level One, Volume Two (12 chapters)  
The Character of God's Workman (10 chapters)  
Life and Building in the Song of Songs (16 chapters)

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**T**HE SAINTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED to experience and enjoy a crucial point day by day and hour after hour during the week. Their assignment for the week would be to study, to learn, and to experience and enjoy this crucial point. When the saints come back to the next meeting a number of them will have the experience of this crucial point. Many times in the past the saints gave testimonies merely of their experiences with seemingly nothing related to the Word. By experiencing, enjoying, and laboring on a crucial point of the truth for an entire week, the saints will give testimonies not merely of their experiences, but of their experiences wrapped up with the divine revelation. Their testimonies will be a mingling of the divine Word with their experiences.

Everybody wants to speak, but no one has anything to speak about. By laboring in a crucial point of the truth, you create something for the saints to speak about. This is why I say again—do not take the easy, short-cut way. We all need to take the way of labor for the long run. If you practice like this week after week, month after month, and year after year, consider what the issue will be in your locality after four years. The issue will be something marvelous.

I assure you that this is the best way not just to use the Bible in the way of knowledge but in the way of life. We can use the notes of the Recovery Version plus the Life-study Messages in order to dive into the crucial points of the Scriptures. The notes of the Recovery Version and the Life-studies are a mine that requires much digging on your part. Going to these two sources will save you much time. If you get into these mines you will see something more and something higher. Take the way of laboring on the crucial points of the truth.

*Elder's Training, Book 6, ch.1*

## READING TIPS:

1. Use online resources such as: [readhisword.com](http://readhisword.com), [ministrybooks.org/reading](http://ministrybooks.org/reading), [excellentbeliever.com](http://excellentbeliever.com), and [biblechallenges.com](http://biblechallenges.com) to set up a schedule.
2. Join a reading group for greater accountability.
3. Purchase your own hard copy of the book so that you can highlight, underline, and take notes.
4. Review your highlighted notes weekly and transfer key insights to your personal Bible.
5. Set aside a definite time each day for reading; be regulated in keeping this time. In addition, practice the principle of reading "here a little, there a little" (cf. Isa. 28) whenever time avails.
6. When coming across prayers found in your reading, do not rush through them but exercise to prayerfully make those your own before the Lord.
7. Ministry reading should not replace Bible reading; maintain your normal Bible reading.
8. Continue reading even if you do not understand all that you've read; do not be discouraged if you forget most of what you've read.
9. If you have lost your appetite, continue reading until your appetite returns.
10. The tortoise wins the race.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2018 Plan: \_\_\_\_\_



2018

# MINISTRY READING PLANS

This is an example of what one church has produced to help the saints read the ministry.

# 100: BREAD OF LIFE

New Testament and/or Old Testament  
OT: 39 Books, 929 chs, 3 ch/day (15 min)  
NT: 27 Books, 260 chs, 1 ch/day (5 min)  
**Objective: Complete either or both OT and NT by the end of 2017**

# 101: THE CLASSICS

*The All-Inclusive Christ; The Economy of God;*  
*The Glorious Church; The Knowledge of Life;*  
*The Experience of Life; The Normal Christian Life;*  
*The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*  
Total: 105 chs  
1 ch/3 days (15 min/day)  
**Objective: Complete any three of these books by the end of 2017**

# 102: FOUNDATION SEEDS

*Life-study of Genesis*  
Total: 120 msgsg  
1 msg/2 days (15 min/day)  
**Objective: Complete the entire Life-study of Genesis by the end of 2017**

# 201: CRUCIAL NT L-S

*Life-study of Matthew; Life-study of John;*  
*Life-study of Romans; Life-study of Hebrews;*  
*Life-study of Ephesians*  
Matthew: 72 msgsg, John: 51 msgsg, Romans: 69 msgsg, Hebrews: 69 msgsg, Ephesians: 97 msgsg  
1 msg/2 days (15 min/day)  
**Objective: Complete any two (out of 5) Life-studies by the end of 2017**

For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your **steadfastness in the truth**, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are **walking in the truth**.  
**3 JOHN 3-4**

And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be **competent to teach others also**.  
**2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and base of the truth**.  
**1 TIMOTHY 3:15**

# 202: CRUCIAL OT L-S

*Life-study of Exodus*  
• Total: 180 msgsg  
• 4 msg/wk (20 min/day)  
**Objective: Complete the entire Life-study of Exodus by the end of 2017**

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES:

# 301: L-S MESSAGES

• Complete all of the Life-study volumes  
• Total: 1984 msgsg  
• Self-paced (5 yrs program)  
**Objective: Complete all of the Life-study volumes in approximately 5 years**

# 302: CONCLUSION OF NT

• Complete all Conclusion volumes  
• Total: 436 msgsg  
• Self-paced (18-24 mo program)  
**Objective: Complete all of the Conclusion volumes in approximately 18-24 months**

# 400: HIGH PEAK BOOKS

• Complete all High Peak books  
• Total: 204 msgsg  
• Self-paced (18-24 mo program)  
**Objective: Complete all of the High Peak books in approximately 18-24 months**

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