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# Spirit-Empowered Witnessing



#### SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week's Study:** *John 15:26, 27; Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 8:4; Heb. 4:12; Acts 17:33, 34; Acts 18:8.* 

**Memory Text:** "And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31, NKJV).

Their resources were limited. They were a largely uneducated band of ordinary believers. But they had an extraordinary God who would empower them for their extraordinary mission.

But Jesus declared, "'You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth' "(Acts 1:8, NKJV). The empowering of the Holy Spirit would enable the believers to share the message of the Cross with life-changing, world-changing power. The Holy Spirit made their witness effective. In a few short decades, the gospel impacted the entire world. Acts declares that these early believers "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6, NKJV). The apostle Paul adds that the gospel was "preached to every creature under heaven" (Col. 1:23, NKJV). In this week's lesson, we will especially focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering our witness for Christ.

<sup>\*</sup> Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, August 1.

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## Jesus and the Promise of the Holy Spirit

With the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus met the disciples' concern about His leaving them and returning to heaven. "'It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you' " (John 16:7, NKJV). The Greek word for "helper" is parakletos. It refers to "one who comes alongside of" for the purpose of helping. One of the prime functions of the Holy Spirit is to come alongside of all believers to empower and to guide them in their witnessing activities. When we witness for Jesus, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is beside us to guide us to those honest-hearted seekers. He prepares their hearts before we ever meet them. He guides our words, brings conviction to the seekers' minds, and strengthens them to respond to His promptings.

	5:26, 27 and pirit's role		these vers	es tell us abou

The Holy Spirit testifies, or witnesses, of Jesus. His ultimate goal is to lead as many people to Jesus as possible. His mission is to glorify Jesus. In this role, He convicts all believers of their responsibility to witness. He opens our eyes to see the possibilities in people all around us and works behind the scenes to create a receptivity to the gospel message.

The Gospel of John states it clearly. He "'will convict the world of sin' " (John 16:8, NKJV). In other words, He moves upon hearts to bring a deepening sense of alienation from God and the need of repentance. He also convicts the world "of righteousness." Not only does the Holy Spirit reveal sin, but He also instructs us in righteousness. He reveals the magnificence of Jesus' righteousness in contrast to our own filthiness. The Holy Spirit's role is not merely to point out how bad we are; it is to reveal how good, how kind, how compassionate, and how loving Jesus is and to mold us into His image.

Witnessing is simply cooperating with the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus. In the Spirit's power and under His guidance, we testify of this amazing Christ who has transformed our lives.

In our desire to work for souls, why must we always remember that only the Holy Spirit, not us, can do the converting?

## An Empowered Church

The book of Acts rightly has been called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." It is an exciting adventure in witnessing, evangelistic proclamation, and church growth. Acts is the story of consecrated believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, impacting the world for Christ. They were totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to accomplish miraculous results. Theirs is an example of what the Holy Spirit can accomplish through men and women who are totally consecrated to Him.

Rea	Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 4:4, 31; Acts 5:14, 42; Acts 6:7; and Acts 16:5. What impresses you most about these passages? What is the mes-
	sage that Luke, the author of Acts, desires to share by recording such rapid growth?

Luke's intent in writing the book of Acts is to share with each reader the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the early church.

Notice, too, that he is not hesitant to use numbers to measure the movement of the Spirit in the first century. That is, he was counting baptisms. In Acts 2:41, he highlights the fact that 3,000 were baptized in a single day at a single place. In Acts 4:4, he speaks of 5,000 men who were baptized. In Acts 5:14, multitudes come to the Lord and are baptized.

Whether it is a single individual such as Lydia, the Philippian jailer, a demon-possessed slave girl, or the Ethiopian eunuch, Luke takes notice and records the moving of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of these people. The important point here is that behind each of the large numbers are individual human beings, each one a child of God for whom Jesus Christ died. Yes, we like the big numbers, but in the end, witnessing is often a one-to-one endeavor.

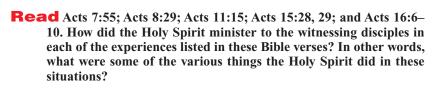
To facilitate the rapid growth of the New Testament church, new churches were planted. One of the reasons that the early church grew so rapidly is because the church was constantly renewed through planting new churches. What an important message for us today.

The prime focus of the New Testament church was mission. How can we make sure that at the core of all that we do in our local church, mission is always at the center?

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## The Holy Spirit and Witnessing

Throughout the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit was powerfully present. He ministered to and through the believers as they witnessed for their Lord in a variety of ways. He strengthened them to face the trials and challenges of witnessing in a hostile culture. He led them to honest-hearted truth seekers. He prepared the hearts of people in whole cities before the believers ever came to those cities. He opened doors of opportunity that they never dreamed of and empowered their words and actions.



The Holy Spirit's varied ministry in the first century was truly amazing. The experiences above are just a sampling of His activity. He strengthened Stephen to witness for his Lord in the face of a ruthless and out-of-control mob stoning him to death. He miraculously guided Philip to an influential, truth-seeking Ethiopian to open up the continent of Africa for the gospel. He gave Peter a confirmatory sign when the Gentile believers also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. He brought the church together in unity at a time when it could easily have split over the issue of circumcision, and He opened up the entire continent of Europe to the preaching of the gospel through the apostle Paul. The Holy Spirit was active in the New Testament church and is active in the life of the church today. He longs to empower us, strengthen us, teach us, guide us, unify us, and send us out on the most important mission in the world, which is leading men and women to Jesus and His truth. The point we have to remember is that He is still active and working today, just as He was in the time of the apostles and the early church.

What can we do, day by day, to make ourselves more open and amenable to the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What are the right kinds of choices that will enable Him to work in and through us?

## The Holy Spirit, the Word, and Witnessing

The Word of God was at the very heart of the witness of the New Testament church. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost drew largely from the Old Testament to prove that Christ was the Messiah. Stephen's dying testimony reviewed Israel's history in the Old Testament. Peter referred to the "word which God sent to the children of Israel" (Acts 10:36, NKJV) and then shared the Resurrection story with Cornelius. The apostle Paul referred again and again to the great Old Testament predictions regarding the coming of the Messiah, and Philip carefully explained to a seeking Ethiopian the significance of the Messianic prediction in Isaiah 53. In each instance, the disciples proclaimed God's Word, not their own. The Spirit-inspired Word was the basis of their authority.

<b>Read</b> Acts 4:4, 31; A	Acts 8:4	; Acts	13:48,	49; A	cts	17:2; and	d Ac	ts 1	8:24
25. What do thes	e passa	ges tea	ch us a	about	the	relations	ship	bet	ween
the Holy Spirit,	the W	ord of	God,	and	the	witness	of t	the	New
Testament churc	h?								

The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Word of God works through the Word to change lives. There is life-giving power in the Word of God because, through the Spirit, it is Christ's living Word.

**Read** 2 Peter 1:21 and Hebrews 4:12. Why is the Word of God so powerful in changing lives?

"The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 126.

The reason the Bible has such power to transform lives is because the same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible in the first place inspires and changes us as we read it. As we share God's Word with others, the Holy Spirit works to change their lives through the Word He inspired. God has promised to bless His Word, not our words. The power is in the Word of God, not human speculation.

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## The Life-Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

A careful study of the book of Acts reveals God, through His Spirit, working miracles in human lives. Acts is a case study on the gospel's triumphing over cultural biases, transforming lifelong, deeply ingrained habits, and teaching all humanity Christ's grace and truth. The Holy Spirit meets people where they are, but He does not leave them there. In His presence, they are changed. Their lives are transformed.

**Read** Acts 16:11–15, 23–34; Acts 17:33, 34; and Acts 18:8. These are just a few of the conversion stories in the Bible. What do the various accounts teach us about the power of God to change the lives of all sorts of people from various backgrounds?

What an amazing variety of people. Lydia was a prosperous Jewish businesswoman, and the Philippian jailer was a middle-class Roman civil servant. The Holy Spirit can reach all spectrums of society. His power to transform reaches both men and women, rich and poor, educated and uneducated.

The last two characters on our list are equally as remarkable. Acts 17:34 refers to the conversion of Dionysius the Areopagite. In Bible times, the Athenian Areopagites were part of the legal counsel of judges who tried court cases. They were prominent, well-respected members of Greek society.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the ministry of the apostle Paul reached even the upper echelon of society. Crispus (Acts 18:8) was a ruler of the Jewish synagogue. He was a religious leader steeped in Jewish Old Testament thought, and the Holy Spirit broke through and changed his life. These case histories reveal that as we witness for Christ and share His Word with others, the Holy Spirit will do remarkable things in the lives of all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds, cultures, education, and beliefs. We cannot and must not make assumptions about who can or cannot be reached. Our job is to witness to anyone and everyone brought into our lives. The Lord will do the rest.

Christ's death was universal; that is, it was for every human being, ever. What should this crucial truth teach us about how we should never assume that anyone is beyond the hope of salvation?

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Further Thought: Read Ellen G. White, "The Gift of the Spirit," pp. 47–56, in The Acts of the Apostles; "'Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled," pp. 667–672, in The Desire of Ages.

The Holy Spirit cooperates with the Father and the Son in the redemptive process. In all of our witnessing activities, we are joining Him in His work of saving people. He convicts hearts. He opens doors of opportunity. Through His Word, He enlightens minds and reveals truth. He breaks the bonds of prejudice that enslave us, triumphs over cultural biases that obscure our vision of truth, and delivers us from the chains of evil habits that shackle us.

As we witness for Jesus, it is crucial to remember that we are cooperating with the Holy Spirit. He is there before us, preparing hearts to receive the message of the gospel. He is there with us, moving upon minds as we perform an act of random kindness, share our testimony. conduct a Bible study, give away a piece of truth-filled literature, or participate in an evangelistic outreach. He will continue working upon the heart of the individual long after we leave, doing whatever it takes to lead that person to a knowledge of salvation.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- Share with the members of your Sabbath School group a time when you sensed the Holy Spirit's working powerfully through your witness.
- 2 Have you ever felt apprehensive or fearful about sharing your faith? How does a knowledge of the ministry of the Holy Spirit reduce that fear and give you assurance as you witness?
- **3** In this week's lesson, we talked about the "activity" of the Holy Spirit in our witnessing. Discuss some different ways the Holy Spirit works with us in our witnessing endeavors. How does the Holy Spirit equip us to witness and work in the lives of others as we witness?
- **1** The lesson talked about the centrality of the Bible in witnessing. Why is the Bible such a crucial component of our faith and witness? How can we avoid the traps of those who, even while claiming to believe in the Bible, subtly diminish its authority and witness?

## INSIDE Story

## Four Dreams in a Row

By Andrew McChesney

The first dream occurred after Abraham Keita got up at 3:00 A.M. for customary prayers on his prayer mat in Bufa, a village in Guinea in West Africa.

"I am more than 40, and I don't have a wife or children or work or money," Abraham prayed. "Please help me. I want You to turn me into a prophet who can talk to other people through You."

As he prayed, a wind began to blow. He felt weak and fell asleep on the mat. Suddenly, someone nudged him and said, "My son, go inside and sleep in your bed."

Minutes later, he was sleeping in his bed, and he had a dream. In the dream, Someone with eyes that looked like fire approached him. Abraham thought he was about to be attacked. Terrified, Abraham asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Jesus Christ," the Man said.

In the morning, Abraham wondered what would happen next.

The next night, he had another dream. He saw the Man again. This time, the two walked along the trail of a tall mountain.

On the third night, Abraham dreamed that he was looking for work, and Jesus was hiring workers. Abraham saw Jesus sitting at a table, taking people's names and writing them down.

On the fourth night, Abraham saw Jesus chest-deep in the water of the Atlantic Ocean. Jesus looked at him, and he looked at Jesus.

Three years passed. Abraham moved to Guinea's capital, Conakry, and was hired as a construction worker. Walking home from work, he met a Global Mission pioneer, Tranqulle Fassinadouno, on the road.

"How are you?" Tranqulle asked. "I'm a Christian. Would you like to visit my church?"

"How can I?" Abraham replied. "I belong to another religion. I don't even understand what you are talking about."

At home, however, he remembered his dreams about Jesus. He decided to go to the Global Mission pioneer's church to see what it was about.

At the church, he was welcomed warmly, and he liked what he heard.

He returned every Sabbath after that and gave his heart to Jesus.



Today, Abraham Keita, 48, is the watchman for the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guinea and custodian for the adjacent school. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand an affiliated school in Conakry. "My dreams led me to Jesus," Abraham said. "I am walking with Him now, just like in one of my dreams. I am on a journey with Jesus."

Key Text: Acts 4:31

**Study Focus:** John 15:26, 27; John 16:8; 2 Peter 1:21; Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 16:6–33; Acts 17:33, 34.

#### Part I: Overview

Mission is God's work first. We cooperate with Him in witnessing to lost people as we unite with and are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Without the empowerment and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our witnessing efforts are powerless. We may be able to convince someone of certain Bible truths, but without the deep working of the Holy Spirit in their lives, little change will take place. They may change their beliefs but not their hearts. There may be an external conformity to truth, but there will not be the life-changing transformation into the likeness of Christ that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

In this week's lesson, we will study the role of the Holy Spirit in witness and His mighty power to change our lives. Our study will especially analyze examples recorded in the book of Acts that reveal the remarkable work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of unbelievers. These unbelievers came from various cultural backgrounds. Their life experiences were different. Some were educated and others uneducated. Some were wealthy and others poverty stricken. Some were Jews and others Gentiles. They came from different continents and viewed life differently; yet, all were impacted by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is no respecter of persons. He can transform any individual who is open to His influence. The main purpose of this week's lesson is to reveal that as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we will see the miracle-working power of His grace.

## Part II: Commentary

The primary chapters on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament recount Jesus' discourse in John 14–16. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, the *paraclete*, who comes alongside us, empowering our witness, guiding our words, and empowering our service for Christ. Witnessing is never about us. It is always all about Jesus. The purpose of the Holy Spirit's ministry is to "testify" of Jesus. Our Lord stated it clearly: "But when the Helper [Greek: *paraclete*] comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify

of Me. And you also will bear witness' " (John 15:26, 27, NKJV).

Notice carefully that the Holy Spirit bears witness and testifies, and we also bear witness. The Bible commentator Matthew Henry states, "The Spirit's working is not to supersede, but to engage and encourage ours."—*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC, 1991), vol. 5, p. 915. Our work is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in leading people to Jesus and His truth. It is the Holy Spirit's work to convince and convert. It is the Holy Spirit's work to reveal truth and righteousness. It is the Holy Spirit's work to place within the heart a desire to do right and place within the mind the power to choose right.

#### A Church Growth Explosion in Acts

When Jesus told His disciples that the power of the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would be witnesses to "the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NKJV), they must have wondered how this ever could be possible. How could this little band of believers ever impact the world? How could they ever fulfill Christ's command to "'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature' "(Mark 16:15, NKJV)? They were a small, largely uneducated, insignificant band of believers. They had little means and a huge task—some would say an impossible task. Yet, they understood that with God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, "'nothing will be impossible' "(Luke 1:37, NKJV).

They prayed. They sought God. They confessed their sins. They repented of their selfish attitudes. Barriers between them were broken down. They were drawn closer to God and to one another. During the 10 days in the upper room, their lives were changed. They were now ready for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and on Pentecost God poured out His Spirit in abundant measure. Three thousand were converted in a day. In Acts 4, thousands more believed. In a relatively very short time, the New Testament church exploded in growth.

In Acts 4:31–33, we get a brief glimpse in one short verse of the continuing spiritual experience of these early believers and the ongoing ministry of the church. "And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31, NKJV). Notice three facts here. They prayed. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke the Word of God with a confidence birthed in the crucible of prayer. Acts 4:33 adds, "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all" (NKJV). The Greek verb "gave" in this passage is apodidomi, which literally can be translated

as "to deliver that which is due." Redeemed by His grace, transformed by His love, the disciples felt an inner compulsion to share their faith. They could not keep silent.

Commenting on Acts 4:33, *The SDA Bible Commentary* states, "The witness of the apostles was presented, not in their own strength, but in a power they could never have engendered within themselves. Theirs was the energizing of the Divine Spirit."—Volume 6, p. 173. It is the Holy Spirit who always empowers genuine, authentic witness and makes it effectual in the hearts of unbelievers. The witness of the New Testament believers bridged cultural barriers. It compelled them to cross continents. It led them into cities and villages, across barren deserts, through stormy seas, and up steep mountain pathways.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, these New Testament believers planted churches (Acts 9:31), broke social mores and cultural customs (Acts 10–15), and planted the gospel message throughout the Mediterranean world. The Holy Spirit led them on a remarkable journey of faith that resulted in tens of thousands accepting Jesus.

#### The Holy Spirit Opens and Shuts Doors

There are times when the Holy Spirit shuts one door, only to open another. This truth is illustrated in the life of the apostle Paul. On his second missionary journey, Paul was "forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia" (Acts 16:6, NKJV).

Perplexed and wondering where God was leading, Paul and his evangelistic team traveled through Asia, determined to preach the gospel in Bithynia, but "the Spirit did not permit them" (Acts 16:7, NKJV). Paul's motive was only to serve Christ and preach the gospel, but on every hand, doors were shut in his face. Then miraculously in a dream "a man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us' "(Acts 16:9, NKJV). At that time, God shut the door to certain geographical regions in Asia, because the door of an entire continent was open to the gospel. When the Holy Spirit shuts one door, He opens another.

God is the God of the open door. One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to open hearts to the gospel. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The same Holy Spirit who opened the hearts of Lydia, a slave girl, the Roman jailer, a Roman judge, Crispus (the ruler of a synagogue), and Dionysius is still opening hearts and minds to the gospel today. The same Holy Spirit who prepared a Roman retirement community, Philippi, for Paul's witness is preparing communities today. The same Holy Spirit who went before Paul

to Thessalonica, a blue-collar working community, has gone before us to prepare the way for major public evangelistic meetings today. The same Holy Spirit who worked in sophisticated Athens and decadent Corinth is still working in the cities of our world to create a receptivity to the gospel.

The same Holy Spirit who worked in ages past is still working today. There is still power in the Word of God to transform lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. According to the apostle Peter, the Bible was written as "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:21, NKJV). The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible works through the Word of God to change minds and transform lives as we share the Word. The power of New Testament witnessing was the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God to change lives. The apostles shared the Word. They were students of the Word. The Holy Spirit worked through Spirit-filled men and women whose minds were filled with the Word of God.

## Part III: Life Application

#### Illustration

The story is told of a couple that ordered a new refrigerator. Everything seemed to be working fine as the deliveryman set up their new appliance. They filled their refrigerator with food and then left the house for a two-week vacation. When they returned and opened the refrigerator door, they were greeted with a horrible smell. The fruit had spoiled, the vegetables were rotten, and the rest of the food was putrid. They discovered there was a power outage while they were gone. Their food had to be tossed out. When the power supply is cut off, food spoils. Likewise, when the power of the Holy Spirit no longer flows through our lives to others, not only is our witness ineffective but it also spoils. We cannot facilitate the production of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives of unbelievers if the fruits of the Spirit are not manifest in our lives because we are "unplugged" from God, and the power is shut off.

Reflect on the following questions:

1.	Are you connected to the Source of all power? What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

#### TEACHERS COMMENTS

	2.	Is there any barrier between you and someone else that would hinder your effectiveness in witness?
	3.	Have you ever attempted to witness in your own strength rather than in the strength of the Holy Spirit?
	4.	What is your attitude toward witnessing? Do you believe that the Holy Spirit is opening doors of opportunity in your community? Is He regularly opening doors of opportunity for you in the lives of the people you meet every day?
	5.	Let's pause and silently pray for opportunities to share God's love and truth with specific people around us.
Notes		





A 14-year-old boy leads two people to Christ by singing in Gabon. A 29-year-old mother is beaten daily after she accepts Jesus in Guinea. A 59-year-old former politician opens an Adventist university in Liberia. What do they have in common? They are united by mission in the West-Central Africa Division, which will receive this quarter's Thirteen Sabbath Offering.

Read more in the youth and adult Mission magazine (bit.ly/adultmission) and the Children's Mission magazine (bit.ly/childrensmission).

Thank you for supporting Adventist Mission with your prayers and Sabbath School mission offerings.

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#### TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT TIME

#### What is Total Member Involvement?

- ▶ Total Member Involvement (TMI) is a full-scale, world-church evangelistic thrust that involves every member, every church, every administrative entity, every type of public outreach ministry, as well as personal and institutional outreach.
- ▶ It is a calendar-driven, intentional soul-winning plan that discovers the needs of families, friends, and neighbors. Then it shares how God fulfills every need, resulting in church planting and church growth, with a focus on retaining, preaching, sharing, and discipling.

#### HOW TO IMPLEMENT THI TIME IN SABBATH SCHOOL

Dedicate the first 15 minutes\* of each lesson to plan, pray and share:

- ▶ TMI IN-REACH: Plan to visit, pray, care for missing or hurting members, and distribute territory assignments. Pray and discuss ways to minister to the needs of church families, inactive members, youth, women and men, and various ways to get the church family involved.
- ▶ **TMI OUT-REACH:** Pray and discuss ways of reaching your community, city, and world, fulfilling the Gospel Commission by sowing, reaping, and keeping. Involve all ministries in the church as you plan short-term and long-term soul-winning projects. TMI is about intentional acts of kindness. Here are some practical ways to become personally involved: 1. Develop the habit of finding needs in your community. 2. Make plans to address those needs. 3. Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **TMI UP-REACH:** Lesson Study. Encourage members to engage in individual Bible study—make study of the Bible in Sabbath School participatory. Study for transformation, not information.

TMI	Time	Explanation			
Fellowship Outreach World Mission	15 min.*	Pray, plan, organize for action. Care for missing members. Schedule outreach.			
Lesson Study	45 min.*	Involve everyone in the study of the lesson. Ask questions. Highlight key texts.			
Lunch		Plan lunch for the class after worship.  THEN GO OUT AND REACH SOMEONE!			

<sup>\*</sup>Adjust times as necessary.