

How to Lend Books

- I. Having the Proper Vision
 - A. You Must be Burdened by Two Things
 1. The spiritual health of individual saints
 2. The ministry publications and their effect on people
 - B. Not the Work of a Librarian
 1. Not merely performing the mechanical act of checking out books
 2. Lending books is an active act of seeking out saints who the Lord gives you to shepherd.
 3. Recommending books that you think will benefit them
 4. Lending books is a way to motivate, monitor, and train the saints to read.
- II. Carrying out the Burden to Lend Books
 - A. Know the Books
 1. Unlike a librarian who does not have to read the books they check out, you must read through the titles that you plan to recommend to others.
 2. The collection of books that you plan to recommend must be titles you have read through, even if casually.
 - B. Know Your Readers
 1. Identify the saints one by one through prayer and fellowship.
 2. You cannot just wait for them to come to you. You have to go to them.
 3. You cannot merely make an announcement in a meeting and say you are offering books for saints to borrow, expecting them to come to you.
 4. If the saints want a book already, they would most likely buy it themselves.
 5. They need lending because they are not motivated to read a book.
 6. You are there to motivate them as well as monitor (shepherd) them to read the books.
 - C. Follow-up Your Readers
 1. You are there not only to motivate them to read, but also to train and monitor their reading.
 2. You need to follow-up your lending by checking on them periodically to see if they are reading the book.
 3. If they are reading, find out what they have enjoyed out of the reading.
 4. If they are not reading, help them to develop a reading habit.
 - D. You may want to ask your readers to write down something
 1. Br. Lee asked the trainees in 1953 to read through *The Spirit of Christ*, by Andrew Murray, and write down what they received in a book report and submit it for him to review.

2. Howard Higashi helped the leading brothers in Long Beach, in the early '90s, to read through the Life-studies and make outlines.

E. Provide Incentives

1. Provide some incentives such as some kind of "reward" to the saints, especially the young people for reading through an entire book.
2. This matches Brother Lee's charge to the elders to give the saints "direction, encouragement, and incentives" to read.
3. Note 1: See *Journey Through the Bible* for reading lists for young people by grade level.
4. Note 2: Visit <http://ftta.org/prospective-trainees/prepare.html> for a recommended book list for college students.
5. There are other book lists suited for new believers and new ones.

F. Pray Much

1. Pray much about the persons to whom you lent books.
2. Ask the Lord to bless them and enlighten them through their reading.

G. Conclusion

1. Lending books is an excellent way to shepherd people to beget them, to cherish and nourish them, to perfect them, and to help them prophesy for the building up the church.
2. The following excerpts can be applied in principle to lending books:
 - a. "If you use the 'gold bar' (the Recovery Version), the rainbow booklets, and all the Life-studies, and present them to the believers and unbelievers all the time, within three months you will get one person. I believe you may even get one person every week." (*Elders' Training Book 8, The Life-Pulse for the Lord's Present Move*, p. 126)
 - b. "If we enter into the riches of the Recovery Version and the Life-studies, within a few years the outcome will be astonishing. Our entering into the riches of the truth will be a great help to the success of the new way, because the success of the new way depends upon speaking the Lord's word. In order to speak the Lord's word properly, we need the proper materials, preparation, foundation, and base." (*Crucial Words of Leading, Book 2, Chapter 10, "Learning the Truth for Prophecy,"* pp. 146)