

A FAMILY SERVICE SYLLABUS

We started the Family Service a couple of years ago. It begins at 11 o'clock each Sunday and runs for three-quarters of an hour. Its aim is twofold: (i) to convey the Christian message to outsiders at a time judged to be convenient to them; and (ii) to provide a planned substitute for the traditional ministry after the Lord's Supper, which we celebrate from 10 to 10.45 in an adjoining hall.

The short service includes a five-minute children's talk and a message to the adults lasting a quarter of an hour or so. The theme of the latter is planned by a committee of seven, including one lady and a chairman elder. The committee has proved an invaluable source of stimulating and varied ideas and a practical check on the hobby horses and high-faluting notions of individuals. We aim to provide a balanced and wholesome diet, marked by both continuity and variety. The Bible is studied at the level of verse, paragraph, chapter, book and character study. The doctrines of the faith are presented. Ample room is made for personal testimony, to show the outworking of faith in individual lives (very popular). We exploit the traditional church calendar of Easter, Whitsun, etc. Remembrance Sunday in 1967 provided a theme for the whole month. But there is need to guard against stereotyped repetition: so in 1968 we thought it wise to break entirely away from the theme. For a fortnight in the summer we receive help from a CSSM team during their campaign in the district. One month in the year is left open and no subject is specified. This gives scope to those of our gifted brethren who prefer not to be committed to a subject they have not chosen. Generally there is a different speaker each week, appropriately 'primed', if need be, and frequently provided from resources within the assembly. In November 1968 it was deemed wise for one person to take responsibility for the whole month to preserve homogeneity in the treatment of a complex subject.

Advance publicity is achieved by the judicious distribution of attractively printed cards and folders. Much thought is therefore given to appealing titles, although one has to beware of false series in which ill-matched material is pushed together under related headings. In this and other respects we are learning as we go along in this rewarding venture.

R. MORRIS, *Chairman, Family Service Committee*

1967

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Message
- 8 I am the Way
- 15 I am the Truth
- 22 I am the Life
- 29 Peace

FEBRUARY**FAMILY PROBLEMS**

- 5 The Delinquent Son
- 12 The Troublesome Twins
- 19 A Misguided Mother
- 26 An Indulgent Father

MARCH**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

- 5 The Boyhood of Christ
- 12 The Manhood of Christ
- 19 The Death of Christ
- 26 The Resurrection of Christ

APRIL**FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

- 2 Peter the Impulsive
- 9 Mary the Devoted
- 16 Stephen the Martyr
- 23 Lydia the Hostess
- 30 Thomas the Doubter

MAY**MY FAITH AND MY JOB**

- 7 A Police Inspector
- 14 A Bank Manager
- 21 A Scientist
- 28 A Company Accountant

JUNE**WALKS WITH JESUS**

- 4 By the Sea
- 11 Through the Fields
- 18 Up the Hill
- 25 Along the Road

JULY**BIBLE WEATHER**

- 2 Morning Dew
- 9 Mid-day Sun
- 16 A Storm at Sea
- 23 Red Sky at Night
- 30 Service taken by CSSM team

AUGUST**CAN WE ASK GOD?**

- 6 Service taken by CSSM team
- 13 For Help
- 20 For Guidance
- 27 For Forgiveness

SEPTEMBER**PARABLES OF THE FIELDS**

- 3 A Field Furrowed
- 10 A Seed Sown
- 17 A Plant Produced
- 24 A Harvest Home

OCTOBER

STUDIES IN I TIMOTHY

- 1 A Faithful Saying
- 8 One God and One Mediator
- 15 The Mystery of Godliness
- 22 The Saviour of all Men
- 29 Godliness with Contentment

NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCES

- 5 A Book of Remembrance
- 12 Remembrance Day Service
- 19 Have These Things always in Remembrance
- 26 This do in Remembrance of Me

DECEMBER

GUEST SPEAKERS

- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24
- 31

1968

JANUARY

ALL THINGS NEW

- 7 A New Birth
- 14 A New Life
- 21 A New Command
- 28 A New Purpose

FEBRUARY

- 4 For Doctrine
- 11 For Reproof
- 18 For Correction
- 25 For Righteousness

MARCH

A LIFETIME WITH THE SAVIOUR

- 3
- 10
- 17 Guest Speakers
- 24
- 31

APRIL

EASTERTIDE

- 7 The Triumphal Entry
- 14 The Empty Tomb
- 21 The Lord Revealed
- 28 The Emmaus Road

MAY**SONGS OF FAITH**

- 5 Psalm 2 The King
- 12 Psalm 3 The Refugee
- 19 Psalm 23 The Shepherd
- 26 Psalm 121 The Pilgrim

JUNE**THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 2 The Gift of the Spirit
- 9 The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace
- 16 Patience, Kindness
- 23 Goodness, Faithfulness
- 30 Gentleness, Self-control

JULY**HYMNS AND THEIR MESSAGE**

- 7 Rock of Ages
- 14 When Peace like a River
- 21 Now thank we all our God
- 28 Service taken by CSSM Team

AUGUST

- 4 Service taken by CSSM Team
- 11 Guest Speaker
- 18 Guest Speaker
- 25 Guest Speaker

SEPTEMBER**SOLDIERS OF THE LORD**

- 1 Joshua
- 8 King Saul
- 15 Naaman
- 22 Cornelius
- 29 Harvest Thanksgiving

OCTOBER**MY FAITH AND MY JOB**

- 6 A Research Scientist
- 13 A Medical Practitioner
- 20 A Solicitor
- 27 A Bible College Lecturer

NOVEMBER**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN**

- 3 The Promise
- 10 The Purpose
- 17 The Problem
- 24 The Preparation

DECEMBER**JESUS**

- 1 Mary's Secret
- 8 Joseph's Care
- 15 Herod's Rival
- 22 God's Gift
- 29 My Saviour