*Outline for Sabbath School Teachers with ideas for group discussion inspired by the Teachers’ Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.*

Lesson n. 09 24-30 August 2019

Title: Ministry (Service) in the New Testament Church

*Key texts: James 1:27; Deuteronomy 15:1-4; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 9:36; Romans 12; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; James 2:1-9*

A. Themes to Explore:

1. A clear characteristic of the first Christians was care for the poor. This was the will of God, already revealed in the Old Testament.
2. A special tithe was institued in the Old Testament (as well as the principle tithe), which was reserved for the poor, (cf Deut 14:28-29).
3. In Romans 12 we find a foundational maxim for the practice of caring for our neighbour, read verses 9-13.

**B. Teaching Suggestions**

1. Guide the group to reflect on how to develop a vision for the church and habits that would render it similar to that described in the book of Acts and Romans 12.

**C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. Why is there such attention to the poor in the Old and New Testament? Why has this been lost both then and now?
2. Read Romans 12:9-13 and share in the group and read these strong guidelines for care of each other and for the poor.
3. What do these texts very clearly highlight about the attention we should give to the poor? What do you think YOU should do now?
4. How can we bring into being a way to live, both personal and collective, that will make us like the New Testament church?

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Standard Questions to Help Facilitate Group Discussion:

1. Why is this lesson important to me? What new things have I discovered?

2. What is not clear to me and what else is there still to learn from God’s Word?

3. Where and how can I practice what I’ve learned from God’s Word?

4. How can I begin to apply what I have learned from God’s Word and communicate it to others?