

# State Fair Presentation

(Make eye contact with person before he gets to the booth. You are standing in front of the booth, handing out tracts. When he gets close enough, hold out a tract and speak to him.)

Are you a Christian? (If he stops, ask him to come closer up to the booth so that both of you can hear better and so that you are not standing out in the aisle.) What's your name? Nice to meet you, Bill. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Bill, first of all, a lot of people ask us who we are and what we're doing here. As you can see (point), the name of our group is Chicago Bible Students. We're a non-denominational, non-profit religious organization. We don't make any money on any of the literature that is sold here at the booth, and all of the people who work here volunteer their time. Our only purpose in being here at the Fair is to promote deeper Bible study.

We are promoting this book (pick up a Volume, let the person see the title) called THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES. As the title suggests, Bill, we believe that God has a plan for man's salvation. Or in other words, God is not working haphazardly or on the spur of the moment—"I'll do this, and if that doesn't work, I'll try something else"—but His plan was designed before the world was even created, and has never changed.

This book, THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES, is one of the best books that has ever been written as an aid to Bible study. It was written over a hundred years ago, and since that time, it has sold over ten million copies.

Now in the back of the book (open the chart out for the person), there's a chart. This chart, Bill, is the Bible in picture form. It takes you step by step through the Bible, from Genesis, where it talks about the creation of Adam (point to the little pyramid), all the way through the Bible (trace on the chart with your finger) to the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, where it talks about the Millennium, or the thousand year Kingdom of Christ (point to the big pyramid).

Now on page 219 of this book there's a chapter entitled, "Explanation of Chart Representing the Plan of the Ages" (open up to the chapter) where it gives you a complete explanation of the chart. You'll notice that on the chart there are little letters (point). You'll see that these same letters are referred to in the chapter (point). As you read through the chapter, corresponding the letters in the paragraph to the letters on the chart, it will give you a complete explanation of the chart.

Now, Bill, how does this help you in your Bible study? Well, for the first time, you'll see the Bible as a whole instead of in little bits and pieces. As you read through the chapter, comparing it to the chart, the Scriptures will begin to fall into place—like putting the pieces of a puzzle together. When you work on a puzzle, at first all you see is a bunch of pieces—you don't see the picture until you put the pieces in their proper places. The Bible is like that, too. You have to put the Scriptures together, or harmonize them with one another, and when you do that, you then see the whole picture.

This book goes into lots of other interesting Bible subjects (turn to Table of Contents and point). For instance, Chapter 7, on "The Permission of Evil." Bill, do you believe that God is all loving? ("Yes.") Do you believe that He is all powerful? ("Yes.") Well, then, if God is all loving and all powerful, and we know that He is, why does He permit all this evil that we see in the world? What do you say to a parent whose child has died of leukemia? Or a person who asks why his wife was killed in an automobile accident? Our hospitals are filled with people who are suffering and dying. Millions of people today are starving, and being killed in wars. This chapter explains why God is allowing mankind to have all these experiences with evil, and how He is using these experiences to teach certain lessons. It also shows that in the end all evil will be destroyed, and there will be no more pain, suffering or death in the world.

Here's a chapter on "The Day of Judgment" (point). Is the Day of Judgment a 24-hour day where Jesus calls all the good people back from heaven and all the bad people back from hell, and then tells them to go back to where they were in the first place, or is it something else?

Here's another good chapter on "The Kingdom of God." We pray, "Thy kingdom come." What is that kingdom? This chapter goes into all the Scriptures on that.

(If the person is still hesitating, you can also point out all the Scriptures that are listed in the back of the book and explain that the Volume will go into them in detail.)

Now, Bill, as I mentioned, we are a non-profit organization, and our only purpose in being here is to promote Bible study. We publish this book for 75c, and that's exactly what we sell it for. Our purpose is not to make money, but to aid you in your Bible study. Would you like to have it? (Hold the book out to him.)

## **A Couple of Helpful Hints...**

If the person reaches in his pocket, or you can otherwise tell that he is going to buy the Volume, stop talking at that point. Wait for him to give you the money. As you are making change, you can ask him to fill out the card for the mailing list. The reason for this is that if you keep talking past this point, the person will often reconsider, withdraw his hand from his pocket, and just move on without taking the book.

As he is taking the Volume, emphasize to him that it is meant to be read along with his Bible, and that it is very important for him to look up all the Scriptures.