

RETOURNER À L'AUTEL

What STEPS adds to « Retourner à l'Autel » (Back to the Altar)

Source: STEPS SHIFT FR v2 · Leader's guide · FACSAR / FEAR · Réunion, Mauritius, Seychelles.

retour-a-lautel.pages.dev/animateur

« Un seul autel. Beaucoup de chemins pour y revenir. »

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Source: STEPS SHIFT FR v2 · Leader's guide · FACSAR / FEAR · Réunion, Mauritius, Seychelles. 31 lessons + 3 junction sheets, organized into **6 Christ-centered Acts**. Its corpus explicitly cites *Retourner à l'Autel* by MacLafferty (IADPA, 2023). **It is the same ecosystem as yours.**

[Note: STEPS SHIFT FR is a French-language material, and every STEPS quotation in this document is translated from the French. The video series has an English audio track on YouTube (settings, audio track). The sheets do not. An English equivalent is not yet available.]

The STEPS resources

The video series (the source): Étude biblique | STEPS, YouTube playlist

The paper sheets: STEPS SHIFT FR v2, leader's guide (the document you sent me).

Why the video changes something, and not just a little

The guide says so itself: the SHIFT FR sheets are **a French adaptation of the YouTube playlist**. **The video is therefore the source, not the accessory.**

And it solves a problem I had flagged for you **without being able to give you a solution**: in your congregation, some people **read poorly**, or the language of the material is not the language of their heart. A literal version is a wall for them. A plain-English version helps, but it still requires reading.

The video asks only that you listen.

Three concrete uses: - **For the man who reads poorly:** he watches the video, he comes and talks. The sheet becomes optional. - **For the man who has missed a session:** he catches up on video, without having to justify himself. **It is your door of return**, the one my track was missing. - **For the leader:** the 3-day rule becomes sustainable. He watches the video on the commute.

To be put on your Vitamines page, together with the sheets. It is from your conference, it is free, it is in French, it is made for your island.

[Note: the STEPS video series IS available in English. On YouTube, open the settings and switch the audio track to English. The paper sheets, however, are French only. Check whether the English track is human-dubbed or auto-generated by YouTube before you rely on it for doctrinal wording.]

1. THE ARGUMENT THAT CLOSES THE DEBATE ON YOUR BAPTISM IN WEEK 5

STEPS puts baptism at lesson 10. The Sabbath at lesson 15.

In other words: **the youth material of your own conference baptizes BEFORE teaching the Sabbath**, and before the whole of Act 3 (Creation, Law, Sabbath, Lord's Supper).

And it writes it in black and white:

"Main issue of Act 3: to present the distinctive Adventist truths as **consequences of the Gospel, not as conditions of salvation. The order — Acts 1-2 first, Act 3 afterwards — is intentional and non-negotiable.**"

The day an elder tells you "he did not do the 28 lessons before being baptized", **you lay this document on the table.** Your conference has already settled it. You are only applying it.

2. What I am taking, and where it goes in your track

A. The leader's 10 reflexes (to be copied as they stand)

1. **I only facilitate what I have personally been through.**
2. I prepare a **2-to-3-minute personal testimony** for every session.
3. I message every participant **midweek**.
4. **I leave the silences. Two minutes of silence is not a failure.**
5. I do not skip the foundations to get to the doctrines.
6. I know the 7 steps to assurance of salvation by heart.
7. I do not forget the consolidation pauses.
8. I name, myself, the person I want to walk with.
9. I keep a simple follow-up sheet.
10. **I am myself a disciple in training, not an expert who teaches.**

The first reflex is the hardest, and STEPS pushes it all the way. Its FAQ says:

"**Q: I did not ask for the Holy Spirit myself this week. Can I still lead this lesson?** → **NO.** Go back to it alone first. **What you have not been through, you cannot facilitate.**"

I am putting it into your group guide. It is the rule that was missing.

B. The 3-day rule

"The leader studies the sheet **three days before** the session, **not the night before.**"

Simple, verifiable, and it changes everything. **To be integrated.**

C. The leader's testimony (2 to 3 minutes)

Prepared, short, inserted **between the content and the questions**. STEPS specifies: *"It does not replace the content. It anchors it in the real."* And it gives the question to prepare it: *"When did I actually experience this, not as doctrine, but concretely?"*

Your track had nothing of the kind. I am adding it to every study, between "Discover" and "Practice".

D. The 5 participant profiles, and the strategy for each

Profile	STEPS strategy
The silent doubter	Never put him in a position to speak in front of everyone. Pairs. A message after the session with a simple question.
The skeptical intellectual	Take his questions seriously. Say "I don't know, I'm looking into it" if that's true.
The nominal believer	He knows the answers and is not touched. Ask him application questions, not knowledge questions.
The seeker from outside the church	Always start with the foundation. Skip nothing. Let him answer without correcting him.
The one wounded by the Church	Do not mention church membership before the end. The review pauses are his pressure-free spaces.

That last profile is worth gold to you, and it was missing from your setup. **I am adding your own two to it:** the one fighting an addiction, and the person in danger at home.

E. The midweek contact, and its golden rule

"The message **does not ask** 'did you do your homework?'. It takes up **one truth** from the lesson and asks **one personal question**."

Examples from STEPS: *"Did you take two minutes to ask for the Holy Spirit this week? What happened?"*

That is exactly my remote partner, but made operational. I am reinforcing it in your individual workbook and in your guide.

F. The 4 universal follow-up questions

They work with **any** study. Memorize them.

"Which truth touches you most, **and why that one?**" **"If all of this is true, what changes concretely tomorrow morning?"** "Does one of these objections sound like anything you hear around you?" **"Who is the person you could say this to again?"**

G. "The conversation sentence"

Every STEPS sheet contains **one sentence** that the participant can say again to someone during the week. **It is a multiplication tool of formidable simplicity**, and your track does not have one. **To be created for each of your 12 studies.**

H. "This week as a family"

A block present in **every** STEPS sheet. **It is your family altar, already made operational.** To be taken up.

I. The duration formats

STEPS offers four formats depending on the setting: **20 min** (front page only, personal study), **30 min** (pair or small group), **45 min** (group, with the blocks), **60-90 min** (the full sheet). **Your track always assumes a long session.** That is not realistic. **To be taken up.**

J. The junction sheets

Three pauses of **consolidation, with no new doctrine**: a review of what has been received, then inward preparation for what comes next. The rule: *"Do not move on to the next Act without having run the junction."* **That is the mechanism my 12 weeks were missing**, and it answers my own criticism about people dropping out mid-track. **Two junctions to insert: after week 5 (before the Spirit) and after week 8 (before discipleship).**

3. The two tools I am taking whole

The 7 steps to assurance of salvation

From MacLafferty. To be known by heart. To be used one-on-one with the one who doubts, and in your **procedure of the yes.**

1	Nothing separates you from the love of God	Romans 5:8; 8:38-39
2	You have sinned and you need a Savior	Romans 3:23; 6:23a
3	Salvation is a free gift	Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:8-9
4	Jesus is Savior the moment you believe in him	John 3:16
5	Jesus wants to live in your heart by faith	Revelation 3:20
6	Jesus cleanses your heart when you confess	1 John 1:9
7	Jesus gives you eternal life, and you can KNOW it	1 John 5:13

And the STEPS answer to the one who doubts, which is the right one:

"Do not reassure him straight away. Ask him the question: 'What is stopping you from believing that 1 John 5:13 is speaking to you?'"

That goes into your study 1 (variant B) and into your procedure of the yes, relapse section.

The mission compass, Nehemiah's 4 questions

(Nehemiah 1:4; 2:1-8)

1. **What brokenness do you see** that brings you to tears, as it did Nehemiah?
2. **Which people would you like to help?**
3. **What gifts do you have** that match that need?
4. **Which trusted adult** can walk with you?

The format, and it is wise: silent, individual writing. In a group, you share **only question 1**. *"Do not push on questions 2 to 4, those are private answers."*

It is better than my toolbox. I am replacing the "Connect" of your study 11. Discovering your gift does not start with "what am I good at", but with **"what breaks my heart"**. Nehemiah wept before he built.

4. What I am NOT taking, and why

STEPS is made for young people, not for your congregation. Its five profiles know nothing of the man fighting alcohol, nor of the woman in danger at home, nor of the man who reads poorly. You must keep your own guardrails: they are not in STEPS.

Its follow-up sheet verges on a dashboard. "Assurance of salvation: yes / no / in progress" in a column is useful for the leader and **dangerous if it becomes an indicator**. Keep the sheet, but remember your own rule: the day a man becomes a line in a report, you have stopped loving him.

Its "5 objections" assume a debate. They are excellent for the skeptical intellectual. But your rule remains the right one: **"if doctrine turns into a debate, stop and come back to the person."** Never answer objections nobody has raised.

5. The hole in your track that STEPS reveals

You have no treatment of objections at all. Zero. And your congregation will have them: "the Bible has been altered", "why does God allow suffering", "all religions are the same", "the Church is full of hypocrites". Your leader will be speechless, and he will improvise.

STEPS has five objections per lesson, with the answer and the verse. It is an enormous piece of work, already done, in your own conference, in French, for your island.

[Note: the STEPS objection sheets are French only. The video series has an English audio track on YouTube, but no English sheets exist. You will have to make your own.]

Do not redo it. Use it. When an objection comes up in one of your 12 studies, you open the matching STEPS sheet and you have the answer. It is your backup library.