

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2014

**MONTHLY THEME: Send out “good things” out of the good treasure entrusted to us.—Matt. 12:35a.**

## WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 8

Song 6 and Prayer

### ❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 17 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

### ❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

**Bible reading:** Joshua 1-5 (10 min.)

**No. 1:** Joshua 1:1-18 (4 min. or less)

**No. 2:** What Holy Spirit Is—rs p. 380 ¶2—p. 381 ¶1 (5 min.)

**No. 3:** Adultery—How Could One Become Guilty of Spiritual Adultery?—it-1 p. 54 ¶2 (5 min.)

### ❑ Service Meeting:

Song 94

**10 min:** “Good Things” in Store for Us This Month. Talk. Highlight monthly theme. (Matt. 12:35a) We received spiritual treasures from someone who taught us the truth. (See *The Watchtower*, April 1, 2002, p. 16, pars. 5-7.) In turn, we should share our “good things” with others. (Gal. 6:6) Arouse interest in the “good things” we will receive this month at upcoming Service Meetings. We will be helped to develop our teaching skills as well as learn to sing new songs.

**20 min:** “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book.” Discussion. Have a well-qualified publisher or a pioneer demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book.

Song 96 and Prayer

## Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book

**Why Important:** Many people may not understand what we mean when we say that we offer free home Bible studies. They may think that they have to join a study group or take some sort of correspondence course. Instead of simply *offering* a study, why not *demon-*

*strate* a study? In just a few minutes, even on the doorstep, you can *show* a person what an easy and enlightening experience it can be to study the Bible.

### How to Do It:

- After introducing yourself, ask the householder if he is concerned about the future.
- Mention that many people have similar concerns, and show him the table of contents in the *Bible Teach* book. Explain that this book has easy-to-understand lessons that show what the Bible teaches about the future and other subjects, and ask him which chapter he is interested in.
- Hand him a copy of the book, and direct him to the chapter that he selected. Explain that the questions at the beginning of the chapter are answered in the paragraphs that follow.
- Ask the householder to read the first paragraph if he feels comfortable doing so. Then read the question for that paragraph, and consider the answer together. Look up and discuss scriptures cited in support of the answer. Show him how you have highlighted the answer in your book.
- Consider the next paragraph, but this time ask the householder to try answering the question in his own words.
- Commend him, and make arrangements to return to complete the lesson.
- If appropriate, direct attention to the video on [jw.org](http://jw.org) entitled *What Happens at a Bible Study?*

### Try This During the Month:

- Pray for Jehovah to bless your efforts to start a new Bible study.—Phil. 2:13.
- Try to demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or show the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* at least once while engaging in the ministry.

# 6 *The Prayer of God's Servant* (Ephesians 6:18)

1. Heavenly Father, Sovereign Lord,  
    May your great name forever be adored.  
Your tender mercies long will endure,  
    Ever so faithful, ever so sure.  
Ever faithful, ever sure,  
    All your mercies will endure.
2. Love for the truth within us instill.  
    Help us, O God, to carry out your will.  
All your commandments we want to keep,  
    Finding and feeding your precious sheep.  
Finding, feeding your dear sheep,  
    Your commands we want to keep.
3. Wisdom we seek from heaven above.  
    Please grant this gift, and fill our hearts with love.  
Help us our love and mercy to show,  
    Helping all men our great God to know.  
Helping all our God to know,  
    May our love and mercy show.

## **“WISE IN HEART”**

*Genuine wisdom is one of the most precious treasures you can seek. Jehovah alone is its source. In this section we will take a closer look at the limitless wisdom of Jehovah God, the one of whom the faithful man Job said: “He is wise in heart.”*

*—Job 9:4.*

## “O the Depth of God’s . . . Wisdom!”

RUINED! Mankind, the crowning glory of the sixth creative day, suddenly plummeted from the heights to the depths. Jehovah had pronounced “everything he had made,” including humankind, “very good.” (Genesis 1:31) But at the start of the seventh day, Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan into rebellion. They plunged into sin, imperfection, and death.

<sup>2</sup> It might have appeared that Jehovah’s purpose for the seventh day had been thrown hopelessly off track. That day, like the six that preceded it, was to be thousands of years long. Jehovah had pronounced it sacred, and it would ultimately see the whole earth made into a paradise filled with a perfect family of mankind. (Genesis 1:28; 2:3) But after the catastrophic rebellion, how could such a thing ever come about? What would God do? Here was a dramatic test of Jehovah’s wisdom—perhaps the ultimate test.

<sup>3</sup> Jehovah responded immediately. He pronounced sentence on the rebels in Eden, and at the same time, he provided a glimpse of something wondrous: his purpose to remedy the ills they had just set in motion. (Genesis 3:15) Jehovah’s farsighted purpose extends from Eden through all the thousands of years of human history and onward, far into the future. It is elegantly simple yet so profound

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1, 2. What was Jehovah’s purpose for the seventh day, and how was divine wisdom put to the test at the start of this day?

3, 4. (a) Why is Jehovah’s response to the rebellion in Eden an awe-inspiring example of his wisdom? (b) Humility should move us to keep what truth in mind as we study Jehovah’s wisdom?

that a Bible reader could spend a rewarding lifetime in studying and contemplating it. Furthermore, Jehovah's purpose is absolutely sure of success. It will put an end to all wickedness, sin, and death. It will bring faithful mankind to perfection. All of this will come about *before* the seventh day ends, so that, despite everything, Jehovah will have fulfilled his purpose for the earth and mankind right on schedule!

<sup>4</sup> Such wisdom inspires awe, does it not? The apostle Paul was moved to write: "O the depth of God's . . . wisdom!" (Romans 11:33) As we undertake a study of various aspects of this divine quality, humility should move us to keep a vital truth in mind—that, at best, we can only scratch the surface of Jehovah's vast wisdom. (Job 26:14) First, let us define this awe-inspiring quality.

### What Is Divine Wisdom?

<sup>5</sup> Wisdom is not the same as knowledge. Computers can store enormous amounts of knowledge, but it is hard to imagine anyone calling such machines wise. Nonetheless, knowledge and wisdom are related. (Proverbs 10:14) For instance, if you needed wise counsel on treating a serious health problem, would you consult someone with little or no knowledge of medicine? Hardly! So accurate knowledge is essential to true wisdom.

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah has a boundless store of knowledge. As the "King of eternity," he alone has been alive forever. (Revelation 15:3) And during all those untold ages, he has been aware of everything. The Bible says: "There is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom

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5, 6. What is the relationship between knowledge and wisdom, and how extensive is Jehovah's knowledge?

we have an accounting." (Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 15:3) As the Creator, Jehovah has full understanding of what he has made, and he has observed all human activity from the start. He examines each human heart, missing nothing. (1 Chronicles 28:9) Having created us as free moral agents, he is pleased when he sees that we are making wise choices in life. As the "Hearer of prayer," he listens to countless expressions at once! (Psalm 65:2) And needless to say, Jehovah has a perfect memory.

<sup>7</sup> Jehovah has more than knowledge. He also sees how facts interrelate and discerns the overall picture that is created by myriad details. He evaluates and judges, distinguishing between good and bad, important and trivial. Moreover, he looks beyond the surface and peers right into the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7) Thus, Jehovah has understanding and discernment, qualities that are superior to knowledge. But wisdom is of a still higher order.

<sup>8</sup> Wisdom brings knowledge, discernment, and understanding together and puts them to work. In fact, some of the original Bible words translated "wisdom" literally mean "effectual working" or "practical wisdom." So Jehovah's wisdom is not merely theoretical. It is practical, and it works. Drawing upon his breadth of knowledge and his depth of understanding, Jehovah always makes the best decisions possible, carrying them out by means of the best course of action conceivable. That is true wisdom! Jehovah demonstrates the truth of Jesus' statement: "Wisdom is proved righteous by its works." (Matthew 11:19) Jehovah's works throughout the universe give powerful testimony to his wisdom.

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7, 8. How does Jehovah display understanding, discernment, and wisdom?

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| <p>15 Judah's inheritance (1-12)<br/>Caleb's daughter gets land (13-19)<br/>Cities of Judah (20-63)</p> <p>16 Inheritance of Joseph's sons (1-4)<br/>Ephraim's inheritance (5-10)</p> <p>17 Manasseh's inheritance in the west (1-13)<br/>Additional land for Joseph's sons (14-18)</p> <p>18 Rest of the land distributed at Shiloh (1-10)<br/>Benjamin's inheritance (11-28)</p> <p>19 Simeon's inheritance (1-9)<br/>Zebulun's inheritance (10-16)<br/>Issachar's inheritance (17-23)<br/>Asher's inheritance (24-31)<br/>Naphtali's inheritance (32-39)<br/>Dan's inheritance (40-48)<br/>Joshua's inheritance (49-51)</p> <p>20 Cities of refuge (1-9)</p> <p>21 Cities for the Levites (1-42)<br/>For Aaron's descendants (9-19)</p> | <p>For the rest of the Kohathites (20-26)<br/>For the Gershonites (27-33)<br/>For the Merarites (34-40)<br/>Jehovah's promises fulfilled (43-45)</p> <p>22 Eastern tribes return home (1-8)<br/>Altar built at the Jordan (9-12)<br/>Meaning of the altar explained (13-29)<br/>Conflict settled (30-34)</p> <p>23 Joshua's farewell to Israel's leaders (1-16)<br/>None of Jehovah's words failed (14)</p> <p>24 Joshua reviews Israel's history (1-13)<br/>Exhortation to serve Jehovah (14-24)<br/>"As for me and my household, we will serve Jehovah" (15)<br/>Joshua's covenant with Israel (25-28)<br/>Joshua's death and burial (29-31)<br/>Joseph's bones buried at Shechem (32)<br/>Eleazar's death and burial (33)</p> |
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**1** After the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah said to Joshua<sup>a</sup> the son of Nun, the minister<sup>b</sup> of Moses: **2** "Moses my servant is dead.<sup>c</sup> Now get up, cross the Jordan, you and all this people, and go into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.<sup>d</sup> **3** I will give you every place on which you set your foot, just as I promised Moses.<sup>e</sup> **4** Your territory will extend from the wilderness up to Leb'a-non and to the great river, the Eu-phra'tes—all the land of the Hit'tites<sup>f</sup>—and to the Great Sea\* on the west.<sup>g</sup> **5** No one will be able to take a stand against you as long as you live.<sup>h</sup> Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.<sup>i</sup> I will neither desert you nor abandon you.<sup>j</sup> **6** Be courageous

1:1 \*Or "Jehoshua," meaning "Jehovah Is Salvation." 1:4 \*That is, the Mediterranean. <sup>a</sup>Or "toward the sunset."

#### CHAP. 1

- a De 31:14  
b Ex 24:13  
Nu 11:28  
c De 34:5  
d De 3:28  
e De 11:24  
f Nu 13:29  
g Ex 15:18  
Ex 23:31  
Nu 34:2, 3  
De 1:7  
Jos 15:1, 4  
h De 7:24  
De 11:25  
i Ex 3:12  
Jos 3:7  
j De 31:6

#### Second Col.

- a De 31:23  
b Ge 12:7  
Ge 15:18  
Ge 26:3  
c De 5:32  
d De 29:9  
1Ki 2:3  
e De 6:6  
De 30:14  
f De 17:18, 19  
Ps 1:1, 2  
1Ti 4:15  
Jas 1:25  
g 1Ch 22:13  
h Ex 23:27  
De 31:7, 8

and strong,<sup>a</sup> for you are the one who will cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their forefathers I would give to them.<sup>b</sup>

**7** "Only be courageous and very strong, and observe carefully the entire Law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not deviate from it either to the right or to the left,<sup>c</sup> so that you may act wisely wherever you go.<sup>d</sup> **8** This book of the Law should not depart from your mouth,<sup>e</sup> and you must read it in an undertone\* day and night, in order to observe carefully all that is written in it;<sup>f</sup> for then your way will be successful and then you will act wisely.<sup>g</sup> **9** Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and strong. Do not be struck with terror or fear, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go."<sup>h</sup>

1:8 \*Or "meditate on it."

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people: 11 "Pass throughout the camp and give this command to the people, 'Get provisions ready, because in three days you will cross the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land that Jehovah your God is giving you to possess.'"<sup>a</sup>

12 And to the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh, Joshua said: 13 "Remember what Moses the servant of Jehovah commanded you:<sup>b</sup> 'Jehovah your God is giving you rest and has given you this land. 14 Your wives, your children, and your livestock will dwell in the land that Moses has given you on this side\* of the Jordan,<sup>c</sup> but all you mighty warriors<sup>d</sup> should cross over in battle formation ahead of your brothers.<sup>e</sup> You must help them 15 until Jehovah gives your brothers rest, just as he has given you, and they also take possession of the land that Jehovah your God is giving them. Then return to the land you were given to occupy and take possession of it, the land that Moses the servant of Jehovah gave you on the east side of the Jordan.'"<sup>f</sup>

16 They answered Joshua: "We will do all that you have commanded, and we will go wherever you send us.<sup>g</sup> 17 Just as we listened to everything Moses said, so we will listen to you. Only may Jehovah your God be with you just as he was with Moses.<sup>h</sup> 18 Any man who rebels against your order and does not obey every command you give him will be put to death.<sup>i</sup> Only be courageous and strong."<sup>j</sup>

2 Then Joshua the son of Nun secretly sent two men out from Shit'tim<sup>k</sup> as spies. He told them: "Go and inspect the land,

1:14; 2:10 \*That is, the east side.

CHAP. 1

- a De 9:1  
Jos 3:2, 3
- b Nu 32:20-22  
Jos 22:1-4
- c De 3:19, 20  
De 29:8  
Jos 13:8
- d Nu 1:3  
Nu 26:2
- e De 3:18
- f Nu 32:33  
Jos 22:4, 9
- g Nu 32:17, 25
- h Nu 27:18, 20  
De 34:9
- i De 17:12
- j De 31:7  
Jos 1:6, 9

CHAP. 2

- k Nu 25:1  
Nu 33:49
- Second Col.
- a Jos 6:17  
Mt 1:5  
Heb 11:31  
Jas 2:25
  - b Jg 3:28  
Jg 12:5
  - c Ex 3:8
  - d Ex 23:27  
De 2:25  
De 11:25
  - e Ex 15:15  
Jos 5:1
  - f Ex 14:21  
Ex 15:13, 14
  - g Nu 21:21-24
  - h Nu 21:33, 34  
De 3:3  
Jos 9:9, 10

especially Jer'i-cho." So they went and came to the house of a prostitute named Ra'hab,<sup>a</sup> and they stayed there. 2 The king of Jer'i-cho was told: "Look! Israelite men have come in here tonight to spy out the land." 3 At that the king of Jer'i-cho sent word to Ra'hab: "Bring out the men who came and are staying in your house, for they have come to spy out the entire land."

4 But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said: "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 And at dark when the city gate was about to be closed, the men went out. I do not know where the men went, but if you quickly chase after them, you will catch up with them." 6 (However, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among stalks of flax laid in rows on the roof.) 7 So the men chased after them in the direction of the Jordan at the fords,<sup>b</sup> and the city gate was shut once the pursuers had gone out.

8 Before the men lay down to sleep, she came up to them on the roof. 9 She said to the men: "I do know that Jehovah will give you the land<sup>c</sup> and that the fear of you has fallen upon us.<sup>d</sup> All the inhabitants of the land are disheartened because of you,<sup>e</sup> 10 for we heard how Jehovah dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt<sup>f</sup> and what you did to the two kings of the Am'or-ites, Si'hon<sup>g</sup> and Og,<sup>h</sup> whom you devoted to destruction on the other side\* of the Jordan. 11 When we heard about it, we lost heart,<sup>i</sup> and no one has any courage<sup>j</sup> because of you, for Jehovah your God is

2:11 \*Lit., "our hearts melted." <sup>a</sup>Lit., "and spirit no longer arose in a man."



God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.<sup>a</sup> **12** Now, please, swear to me by Jehovah that, because I showed loyal love to you, you will also show loyal love to my father's household; and you must give me a sign of good faith.\* **13** You must spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and you must save us\* from death."<sup>b</sup>

**14** At that the men said to her: "We will give our lives for yours!\* If you do not tell about our mission, then we will show loyal love and faithfulness toward you when Jehovah gives us the land." **15** After that she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on a side of the city wall. In fact, she was dwelling on the wall.<sup>c</sup> **16** Then she said to them: "Go to the mountainous region and hide there for three days, so that those pursuing you may not find you. Then, after your pursuers have come back, you can go on your way."

**17** The men said to her: "We will be free from guilt respecting this oath that you made us swear<sup>d</sup> **18** unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window by which you let us down. You should gather your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household with you into the house.<sup>e</sup> **19** Then if anyone goes out the doors of your house into the open, his blood will be on his own head, and we will be free from guilt. But if harm comes to\* anyone who remains with you in the house, his blood will be on our heads. **20** But if you report our mission,<sup>f</sup> we will be free from

2:12 \*Or "a reliable sign." 2:13 \*Or "our souls." 2:14 \*Or "Our souls will die instead of you!" 2:19 \*Or "if a hand is laid on."

## CHAP. 2

a De 4:39  
2Ch 20:6  
Da 4:35

b Jos 6:23

c Heb 11:31

d Nu 30:2

e Jos 6:23

f Jos 2:14

## Second Col.

a Ex 23:31  
Jos 6:2  
Jos 21:44

b Ex 15:14-16  
Jos 2:9-11  
Jos 5:1

## CHAP. 3

c Nu 25:1  
Jos 2:1

d De 1:15  
Jos 1:10, 11

e Nu 4:15  
1Ch 15:2

f Ex 19:10  
Le 20:7

g Ex 34:10

h Ex 25:10  
Nu 4:15

guilt respecting your oath that you made us swear." **21** She replied: "Let it be according to your words."

With that she sent them off, and they went their way. Afterward, she tied the scarlet cord in the window. **22** So they left and went to the mountainous region and stayed there for three days, until the pursuers returned. The pursuers had been looking for them on every road but did not find them. **23** The two men then descended from the mountainous region and crossed the river and came to Joshua the son of Nun. They related to him all the things that had happened to them. **24** Then they said to Joshua: "Jehovah has handed over the entire land to us.<sup>a</sup> In fact, all the inhabitants of the land are disheartened because of us."<sup>b</sup>

**3** Then Joshua got up early in the morning, and he and all the Israelites\* departed from Shit'tim<sup>c</sup> and came to the Jordan. They spent the night there before crossing over.

**2** After three days, the officers<sup>d</sup> passed throughout the camp **3** and commanded the people: "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of Jehovah your God being carried by the Levitical priests,<sup>e</sup> you should depart from your place and follow it. **4** But keep a distance of about 2,000 cubits\* from it; do not come any nearer to it, so that you may know which is the way to go, for you have not traveled on this way before."

**5** Joshua now said to the people: "Sanctify yourselves,<sup>f</sup> for tomorrow Jehovah will do wonderful things among you."<sup>g</sup>

**6** Then Joshua said to the priests: "Take up the ark<sup>h</sup> of the

3:1 \*Lit., "sons of Israel." 3:4 \*About 890 m (2,920 ft). See App. B14.

covenant and pass ahead of the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.

**7** Then Jehovah said to Joshua: "This day I will start to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel,<sup>a</sup> so that they may know that I will be with you<sup>b</sup> just as I was with Moses.<sup>c</sup> **8** You should give this command to the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you should stand still in the Jordan.'"<sup>d</sup>

**9** And Joshua said to the Israelites: "Come here and listen to the words of Jehovah your God." **10** Joshua then said: "By this you will know that a living God is among you,<sup>e</sup> and that he will without fail drive away from before you the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Hi'vites, the Per'iz-zites, the Gir'ga-shites, the Am'or-ites, and the Jeb'u-sites.<sup>f</sup> **11** Look! The ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth is passing ahead of you into the Jordan. **12** Now take 12 men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe,<sup>g</sup> **13** and as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of Jehovah, the Lord of the whole earth, touch\* the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from upstream will be halted and they will stand still like a dam."<sup>h</sup>

**14** So when the people departed from their tents just before crossing the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark<sup>i</sup> of the covenant went ahead of the people. **15** As soon as the carriers of the Ark reached the Jordan and the priests carrying the Ark dipped their feet into the edge of the waters (now the Jordan overflows its banks<sup>j</sup> all the days of harvest), **16** the waters

3:13 \*Lit., "rest in." 3:13, 16 #Or "wall."

**CHAP. 3**

a Jos 4:14

b Jos 1:5, 17

c Ex 3:12  
Ex 14:31

d Jos 3:17

e De 7:21

f Ex 3:8  
De 7:1  
Ps 44:2

g Jos 4:2, 3

h Ps 114:1, 3

i Ex 25:10  
Jos 3:6  
Ac 7:44, 45

j Jos 4:18  
1Ch 12:15

**Second Col.**

a Jos 4:3

b Ps 66:6

**CHAP. 4**

c Jos 3:12, 13

d Jos 3:17

e Jos 4:19, 20

f Ex 13:14  
De 6:20, 21  
Ps 78:3, 4

g Jos 3:13, 16

h De 4:9

flowing from upstream stood still. They rose up like a dam<sup>#</sup> very far away at Adam, the city near Zar'e-than, while the waters descending toward the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, the Salt Sea,<sup>\*</sup> drained away. They were halted, and the people crossed over opposite Jer'i-cho. **17** While the priests carrying the ark of Jehovah's covenant kept standing still on dry ground<sup>o</sup> in the middle of the Jordan, all Israel crossed over on dry ground<sup>b</sup> until the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

**4** As soon as the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, Jehovah said to Joshua: **2** "Take 12 men from the people, one man from each tribe,<sup>c</sup> **3** and give them this command: 'Take up 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood still,<sup>d</sup> and carry them over with you and set them down in the place where you will spend the night.'<sup>e</sup>

**4** So Joshua called the 12 men whom he had appointed from the Israelites, one man from each tribe, **5** and Joshua said to them: "Pass ahead of the Ark of Jehovah your God to the middle of the Jordan, and each of you should lift up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, **6** to serve as a sign among you. If your children<sup>\*</sup> should later ask you, 'Why do you have these stones?'<sup>f</sup> **7** you must tell them: 'Because the waters of the Jordan were halted from before the ark<sup>g</sup> of Jehovah's covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were halted. These stones will serve as a lasting memorial\* to the people of Israel.'<sup>h</sup>

3:16 \*That is, the Dead Sea. 4:6 \*Lit., "sons." 4:7 \*Or "reminder."

8 So the Israelites did just as Joshua had commanded. They took up 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as Jehovah had instructed Joshua, to correspond to the number of the tribes of the Israelites. They took them over to the place where they would spend the night and set them down there.

9 Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood,<sup>a</sup> and the stones are there to this day.

10 The priests carrying the Ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything that Jehovah had ordered Joshua to tell the people to do was completed, in harmony with all that Moses had commanded Joshua. All the while, the people hurried across. 11 As soon as all the people had finished crossing over, the Ark of Jehovah and the priests crossed over in the sight of the people.<sup>b</sup> 12 And the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh crossed over in battle formation<sup>c</sup> ahead of the other Israelites, just as Moses had instructed them.<sup>d</sup> 13 About 40,000 soldiers armed for battle crossed over before Jehovah onto the desert plains of Jer'i-cho.

14 On that day Jehovah exalted Joshua in the eyes of Israel,<sup>e</sup> and they deeply respected\* him all the days of his life, just as they had deeply respected Moses.<sup>f</sup>

15 Then Jehovah said to Joshua: 16 "Command the priests carrying the ark<sup>g</sup> of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan." 17 So Joshua commanded the priests: "Come up out of the Jordan." 18 When the priests carrying the ark<sup>h</sup> of

4:14 \*Lit., "they feared."

#### CHAP. 4

- a Jos 3:17  
b Jos 3:8, 17  
c Jos 1:12, 14  
d Nu 32:20-22  
Nu 32:25-29  
e Jos 3:7  
f Ex 14:31  
g Ex 25:22  
h Nu 4:15

#### Second Col.

- a Jos 3:13, 15  
b Jos 4:3  
Jos 5:8, 9  
Jos 10:6  
c Jos 4:8  
d Ps 44:1  
e Jos 3:17  
Ps 66:6  
f Ex 14:21  
Isa 63:12  
Heb 11:29  
g Ex 9:16  
Ex 15:6  
De 28:10  
1Sa 17:46  
2Ki 19:19  
Ps 106:8

#### CHAP. 5

- h Ge 10:15, 16  
i Nu 13:29  
j Ex 15:15  
Jos 2:24  
k Jos 2:9-11  
l Ge 17:9-11

the covenant of Jehovah came up from the middle of the Jordan and the soles of the feet of the priests stepped onto dry ground, the waters of the Jordan resumed their course and overflowed the banks<sup>a</sup> as before.

19 The people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped at Gil'gal<sup>b</sup> on the eastern border of Jer'i-cho.

20 As for the 12 stones that they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set these up at Gil'gal.<sup>c</sup> 21 Then he said to the Israelites: "In the future when your children ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?'"<sup>d</sup>

22 you must explain to your children: 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land<sup>e</sup> 23 when Jehovah your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before them until they had crossed it, just as Jehovah your God did to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we crossed it.'<sup>f</sup> 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth may know how mighty Jehovah's hand is<sup>g</sup> and so that you may always fear Jehovah your God."<sup>h</sup>

5 As soon as all the kings of the Am'or-ites<sup>h</sup> who were on the west side\* of the Jordan and all the kings of the Ca'naan-ites/ who were by the sea heard that Jehovah had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, they lost heart,<sup>i</sup> and they lost all courage<sup>a</sup> because of the Israelites.<sup>k</sup>

2 At that time Jehovah said to Joshua: "Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise<sup>l</sup> the men of Israel again, a second time."

3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the men of

5:1 \*Lit., "the side toward the sea."  
#Lit., "their hearts melted." <sup>a</sup>Lit., "and there was no spirit in them any longer."

Israel at Gib'e-ath-ha-ar'a-loth.\*<sup>a</sup>  
**4** This is why Joshua circumcised them: All the males of the people who left Egypt, all the men of war,\* had died in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt.<sup>b</sup> **5** All the people who left Egypt were circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt were not circumcised. **6** The Israelites had walked for 40 years<sup>c</sup> in the wilderness until the entire nation had died off, that is, the men of war who left Egypt who did not obey the voice of Jehovah.<sup>d</sup> Jehovah swore to them that he would never let them see the land<sup>e</sup> that Jehovah had sworn to their forefathers to give to us,<sup>f</sup> a land flowing with milk and honey.<sup>g</sup> **7** So he raised up their sons instead of them.<sup>h</sup> These Joshua circumcised; they were uncircumcised because they had not circumcised them during the journey.

**8** When they finished circumcising the entire nation, they remained where they were in the camp until they recovered.

**9** Then Jehovah said to Joshua: "Today I have rolled away from you the reproach of Egypt." So that place has been called Gil'gal<sup>i</sup> until this day.

**10** The Israelites continued to camp at Gil'gal, and they observed the Passover on the 14th day of the month,<sup>j</sup> in the evening, on the desert plains of Jer'i-cho. **11** And they began to eat the produce of the land the day after the Passover, unleavened bread<sup>k</sup> and roasted grains, on this same day. **12** Then the manna stopped on the day following when they had eaten some of the produce of the land; there was no longer manna for

5:3 \*Meaning "Hill of the Foreskins."  
 5:4 \*Or "the men of military age." 5:9  
 \*Meaning "Rolling; Rolling Away."

- CHAP. 5  
 a Jos 5:8, 9  
 b Nu 14:29  
 Nu 26:65  
 De 2:14  
 c Nu 14:33  
 De 1:3  
 d Nu 14:22, 23  
 e De 1:35  
 f Ge 13:14, 15  
 Ex 33:1  
 g Ex 3:8  
 Nu 13:26, 27  
 Eze 20:6  
 h Nu 14:31  
 i Jos 4:19  
 Jos 5:3  
 j Ex 12:24, 25  
 Nu 9:5  
 k Ex 12:18

- Second Col.  
 a Ex 16:35  
 b De 6:10-12  
 De 8:10  
 c Ge 18:2  
 Jg 13:6  
 Ac 1:10  
 d Ex 23:23  
 Nu 22:23  
 1Ch 21:16  
 e Ex 23:20  
 1Ki 22:19  
 Da 10:13  
 f Ex 3:4, 5

- CHAP. 6  
 g Jos 2:9  
 h Nu 14:9  
 De 7:24  
 Ne 9:24  
 i Jg 7:22  
 j Heb 11:30

the Israelites,<sup>a</sup> but they began to eat the produce of the land of Ca'naan in that year.<sup>b</sup>

**13** When Joshua was near Jer'i-cho, he looked up and saw a man<sup>c</sup> standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.<sup>d</sup> Joshua walked up to him and asked: "Are you on our side or on the side of our adversaries?"

**14** To this he said: "No, but I have come as prince\* of Jehovah's army."<sup>e</sup> With that Joshua fell with his face to the ground and prostrated himself and said to him: "What does my lord have to say to his servant?" **15** The prince of Jehovah's army replied to Joshua: "Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy." At once Joshua did so.<sup>f</sup>

**6** Now Jer'i-cho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites; no one was leaving and no one was entering.<sup>g</sup>

**2** Jehovah then said to Joshua: "See, I have handed over to you Jer'i-cho and its king and its mighty warriors.<sup>h</sup> **3** All you fighting men should march around the city, going around the city once. That is what you should do for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry seven ram's horns before the Ark. But on the seventh day, you should march around the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns.<sup>i</sup> **5** When the ram's horn is sounded—as soon as you hear the sound\* of the horn—all the people should shout a great war cry. Then the wall of the city will fall down flat,<sup>j</sup> and the people must go up, each one straight ahead."

**6** So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests together and told them: "Take up the ark of the covenant, and seven priests should carry seven ram's horns

5:14 \*Or "chief." 6:5 \*Or "long blast."

leaders of religious thought ever faced the possibility of the total annihilation of what once was called into existence. Death was a passage to another kind of life.”—*The Religion of Babylonia and Assyria* (Boston, 1898), M. Jastrow, Jr., p. 556.

See also pages 100-102, under the heading “Death.”

## Spirit

**Definition:** The Hebrew word *ru'ach* and the Greek *pneu'ma*, which are often translated “spirit,” have a number of meanings. All of them refer to that which is invisible to human sight and which gives evidence of force in motion. The Hebrew and Greek words are used with reference to (1) wind, (2) the active life-force in earthly creatures, (3) the impelling force that issues from a person’s figurative heart and that causes him to say and do things in a certain way, (4) inspired utterances originating with an invisible source, (5) spirit persons, and (6) God’s active force, or holy spirit. Several of these usages are here discussed in relation to topics that may arise in the field ministry.

### What is the holy spirit?

A comparison of Bible texts that refer to the holy spirit shows that it is spoken of as ‘filling’ people; they can be ‘baptized’ with it; and they can be “anointed” with it. (Luke 1:41; Matt. 3:11; Acts 10:38) None of these expressions would be appropriate if the holy spirit were a person.

Jesus also referred to the holy spirit as a “helper” (Greek, *pa-ra'kle-tos*), and he said that this helper would “teach,” “bear witness,” “speak,” and ‘hear.’ (John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:13) It is not unusual in the Scriptures for something to be personified. For example, wisdom is said to have “children.” (Luke 7:35) Sin and death are spoken of as being kings. (Rom. 5:14, 21) While some texts say that the spirit “spoke,” other passages make clear that this was done through angels or humans. (Acts 4:24, 25; 28:25; Matt. 10:19, 20; compare Acts 20:23 with 21:10, 11.) At 1 John 5:6-8, not only the spirit but also “the water and the blood” are said to ‘bear witness.’ So, none of the

expressions found in these texts in themselves prove that the holy spirit is a person.

The correct identification of the holy spirit must fit *all the scriptures* that refer to that spirit. With this viewpoint, it is logical to conclude that the holy spirit is the active force of God. It is not a person but is a powerful force that God causes to emanate from himself to accomplish his holy will.—Ps. 104:30; 2 Pet. 1:21; Acts 4:31.

See also pages 406, 407, under the heading “Trinity.”

### **What gives evidence that a person really has the holy spirit, or “the Holy Ghost” (KJ)?**

Luke 4:18, 31-35: “[Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah:] ‘Jehovah’s spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare good news’ . . . And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the sabbath; and they were astounded at his way of teaching, because his speech was with authority. Now in the synagogue there was a man with a spirit, an unclean demon, and he shouted with a loud voice . . . But Jesus rebuked it, saying: ‘Be silent, and come out of him.’ So, after throwing the man down in their midst, the demon came out of him without hurting him.” (What gave evidence that Jesus had God’s spirit? The account does not say that he trembled or shouted or moved about in a fervor. Rather, it says he spoke with authority. It is noteworthy, however, that on that occasion a *demonic* spirit did move a man to shout and fall onto the floor.)

Acts 1:8 says that when Jesus’ followers received holy spirit they would be witnesses about him. According to Acts 2:1-11, when they did receive that spirit, observers were impressed by the fact that, although the ones speaking were all Galileans, they were speaking about the magnificent things of God in languages that were familiar to the many foreigners who were present. But the record does not say that there were any emotional outbursts on the part of those who received the spirit.

It is noteworthy that when Elizabeth received the holy spirit and then gave voice to “a loud cry” she was not in a meeting for worship

a single man who took such a divorced woman as his wife would be guilty of adultery.—Mt 5:32; 19:9; Mr 10:11, 12; Lu 16:18; Ro 7:2, 3.

Adultery is "actually sin against God." (Ge 39:9) Jehovah will judge those guilty of adultery, and none who persist in such a course "will inherit God's kingdom." (Mal 3:5; 1Co 6:9, 10; Heb 13:4) How true the proverb: "Anyone committing adultery with a woman is in want of heart; he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin."—Pr 6:32-35.

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### ***How could one become guilty of spiritual adultery?***

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In a spiritual sense, adultery denotes unfaithfulness to Jehovah on the part of those who are joined to him in a covenant. Natural Israel in the Law covenant was, therefore, guilty of spiritual adultery because of false religious practices, some of which included sex-worship rites and disregard for the seventh commandment. (Jer 3:8, 9; 5:7, 8; 9:2; 13:27; 23:10; Ho 7:4) For similar reasons Jesus denounced as adulterous the generation of Jews in his day. (Mt 12:39; Mr 8:38) Likewise today, if Christians who are dedicated to Jehovah and who are in the new covenant defile themselves with the present system of things, they commit spiritual adultery.—Jas 4:4.

**ADUMMIM** (A-dum'mim) [from a root meaning "red"; possibly, Red Rocks]. The ascent of Adummim is a steep pass about 12 km (7.5 mi) ENE of Jerusalem and midway between the cities of Jericho and Jerusalem. It leads up from the low Jordan Valley to the mountainous region of Judah. From ancient times till the present the road between the two cities has gone through this pass. It is mentioned in the Bible record, however, only as a boundary mark between the territories of Judah and Benjamin.—Jos 15:7; 18:17.

In Arabic the pass is called Tal'at ed-Damm (meaning "Ascent of Blood") and in Hebrew Ma'ale Adummim (meaning "Ascent of Adummim"). While some ancient writers have ascribed the name's origin to the spilling of blood by robbers and highwaymen, the more likely explanation is the reddish color of the soil due to exposed patches of ocher. The route was always a dangerous one because of the desolateness of the region and the prevalence of thievery, and from early times a fort was maintained there to protect travelers. Because of this, the site has been suggested as the scene of the attack on the traveler 'on his way down to Jericho,' as mentioned in Jesus' illustration of the neighboring Samaritan.—Lu 10:30-37.

"The torrent valley" mentioned at Joshua 15:7, in relation to which the ascent of Adummim lay to the S, is evidently the Wadi el Qilt, which runs fairly parallel to the road and passes just to the S of Jericho on its way to the Jordan River.

**ADVERSARY.** An enemy that contends with or resists; an antagonist or opponent. The Hebrew word for "adversary" (*tsar*) comes from a root meaning "harass; show hostility to." (Nu 25:18; Ps 129:1) The Greek word *anti'dikos* primarily refers to an "adversary at law" in a legal case (Lu 12:58; 18:3), but it can refer to others who are adversaries, or enemies, as in 1 Peter 5:8.

The most wicked Adversary, Satan the Devil, caused men and angels (see DEMON) to join his opposition to God and man. Satan first showed his opposition in the garden of Eden, where, through cruel and underhanded action, he led Eve and then Adam into a course of rebellion that brought sin and death upon all mankind. In the courts of heaven Satan displayed his antagonism, charging Jehovah with bribing Job for his loyalty, a charge which became an issue of universal importance.—Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5; see SATAN.

Worshippers of Jehovah in all ages have endured similar opposition from the Adversary by means of his agents. For example, when the remnant of God's people returned from Babylon, there were those who tried to prevent rebuilding the temple and the city wall. (Ezr 4:1; Ne 4:11) Hateful Haman, having the spirit of the Devil, proved to be a wicked adversary of the Jews in the days of Queen Esther. (Es 7:6) Christians today must be alert, watchful, on guard, and must put up a hard fight for the faith against the Adversary's machinations. (Eph 6:11, 12; Jude 3) Peter counsels: "Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone. But take your stand against him, solid in the faith." (1Pe 5:8, 9) Eventually Jehovah's power will triumph over all opposers.—Jer 30:16; Mic 5:9.

When God's people were unfaithful he allowed their adversaries to plunder and defeat them. (Ps 89:42; La 1:5, 7, 10, 17; 2:17; 4:12) The enemy, however, drew wrong conclusions from these victories, taking credit for themselves and praising their gods or feeling that they would not be called to account for the way they treated Jehovah's people. (De 32:27; Jer 50:7) Jehovah was therefore obliged to humble these proud and boasting adversaries (Isa 1:24; 26:11; 59:18; Na 1:2); and this he did for his holy name's sake.—Isa 64:2; Eze 36:21-24.

# 94 *Content With God's Good Gifts* (James 1:17)

1. All perfect presents, each good gift,  
The things we're fondest of,  
The truly worthy things in life,  
Come down from God above.  
With him there is no wavering,  
No change, however slight.  
Jehovah is our Grand Provider,  
The Source of life and light.
2. We have no cause for anxious care  
Concerning daily needs;  
We know the loving care by him  
Who birds of heaven feeds.  
We give no place to worthless things,  
No years to hurtful strife.  
But satisfied with God's provisions,  
We lead a simple life.
3. The lofty things in human eyes,  
To God are merely vain.  
Let's use the days we're granted now  
For things of lasting gain.  
The riches that we store with God  
Are safe, though we may die.  
We prize the gift of true contentment  
And keep a simple eye.

(See also Jer. 45:5; Matt. 6:25-34; 1 Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5.)



## Continue Your Quest for Accurate Knowledge

<sup>5</sup> To live up to our dedication to God, we must continue to gain faith-building Scriptural knowledge. What a delight it was to take in spiritual food when we first became acquainted with God's truth! (Matthew 24:45-47) Those "meals" were delicious—and they nourished us well spiritually. Now it is essential to keep on taking in rich spiritual food so that we maintain a steadfast heart as Jehovah's dedicated servants.

<sup>6</sup> Effort is needed to acquire further knowledge of the Scriptures. It is like searching for hidden treasures—something that calls for exertion. But how rewarding it is to find "the very knowledge of God"! (Proverbs 2:1-6) When a Kingdom publisher first studied the Bible with you, he or she may have used the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Considerable time may have been taken to cover each chapter, perhaps in more than one session. You benefited when cited scriptures were read and discussed. If a point was hard to grasp, it was explained. The one conducting your Bible study prepared well, prayed for God's spirit, and helped you to develop heartfelt gratitude for the truth.

<sup>7</sup> This effort was appropriate, for Paul wrote: "Let anyone who is being orally taught the word share in all good things with the one who gives such oral teaching." (Galatians 6:6) Here the Greek text indicates that the teachings of God's Word were sounded down into the mind and heart of the one "being orally taught." Your being taught that way qualifies you to be a teacher of still others. (Acts 18:25) To be faithful to your dedication, you must maintain your spiritual health and steadfastness by continual study of God's Word.—1 Timothy 4:13; Titus 1:13; 2:2.

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2014

**MONTHLY THEME: Send out “good things” out of the good treasure entrusted to us.—Matt. 12:35a.**

## WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 8

Song 6 and Prayer

### ❑ Congregation Bible Study:

cl chap. 17 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

### ❑ Theocratic Ministry School:

**Bible reading:** Joshua 1-5 (10 min.)

**No. 1:** Joshua 1:1-18 (4 min. or less)

**No. 2:** What Holy Spirit Is—rs p. 380 ¶2—p. 381 ¶1 (5 min.)

**No. 3:** Adultery—How Could One Become Guilty of Spiritual Adultery?—it-1 p. 54 ¶2 (5 min.)

### ❑ Service Meeting:

Song 94

**10 min:** “Good Things” in Store for Us This Month. Talk. Highlight monthly theme. (Matt. 12:35a) We received spiritual treasures from someone who taught us the truth. (See *The Watchtower*, April 1, 2002, p. 16, pars. 5-7.) In turn, we should share our “good things” with others. (Gal. 6:6) Arouse interest in the “good things” we will receive this month at upcoming Service Meetings. We will be helped to develop our teaching skills as well as learn to sing new songs.

**20 min:** “Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book.” Discussion. Have a well-qualified publisher or a pioneer demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book.

Song 96 and Prayer

## Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book

**Why Important:** Many people may not understand what we mean when we say that we offer free home Bible studies. They may think that they have to join a study group or take some sort of correspondence course. Instead of simply *offering* a study, why not *demon-*

*strate* a study? In just a few minutes, even on the doorstep, you can *show* a person what an easy and enlightening experience it can be to study the Bible.

### How to Do It:

- After introducing yourself, ask the householder if he is concerned about the future.
- Mention that many people have similar concerns, and show him the table of contents in the *Bible Teach* book. Explain that this book has easy-to-understand lessons that show what the Bible teaches about the future and other subjects, and ask him which chapter he is interested in.
- Hand him a copy of the book, and direct him to the chapter that he selected. Explain that the questions at the beginning of the chapter are answered in the paragraphs that follow.
- Ask the householder to read the first paragraph if he feels comfortable doing so. Then read the question for that paragraph, and consider the answer together. Look up and discuss scriptures cited in support of the answer. Show him how you have highlighted the answer in your book.
- Consider the next paragraph, but this time ask the householder to try answering the question in his own words.
- Commend him, and make arrangements to return to complete the lesson.
- If appropriate, direct attention to the video on [jw.org](http://jw.org) entitled *What Happens at a Bible Study?*

### Try This During the Month:

- Pray for Jehovah to bless your efforts to start a new Bible study.—Phil. 2:13.
- Try to demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or show the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* at least once while engaging in the ministry.

## *Seek Out Deserving Ones*

(Matthew 10:11-15)

1. In preaching the Kingdom, our Lord showed the way,  
Instructing us how to proceed:  
'Wherever you go, seek in earnest to find  
Those aware of their spiritual need.  
By greeting the household and wishing it peace,  
To deserving ones peace you'll impart.  
If others should spurn you or turn you away,  
Shake the dust from your feet and depart.'
2. All those who receive you receive him as well.  
Their heart God will open up wide.  
Their right disposition for unending life  
Will impel them to serve at your side.  
And never be anxious about what to say,  
For Jehovah will help you to speak.  
Your answer when gracious and seasoned with salt  
Will appeal to the humble and meek.