

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“True Worship Requires Hard Work”:** (10 min.)
2Ch 29:10-17—Hezekiah restores true worship with determination
2Ch 30:5, 6, 10-12—Hezekiah invites all righteous ones to assemble for worship
2Ch 32:25, 26—Hezekiah corrects his haughtiness with humility (w05 10/15 25 ¶20)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
2Ch 29:11—How did Hezekiah set a good example regarding priorities? (w13 11/15 17 ¶6-7)

2Ch 32:7, 8—What is the most practical step we can take to prepare for future difficulties? (w13 11/15 20 ¶17)

What does this week's Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week's Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** 2Ch 31:1-10 (4 min. or less)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month's Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the first *Sample Watchtower Presentation* video, and then discuss the highlights. Emphasize how the publisher laid the groundwork for a return visit. Do the same for the second sample *Watchtower* presentation and then for the *Good News* brochure. Refer to “How to Conduct a Study Using the *Good News Brochure*.” Encourage publishers to build their own presentations.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 127
- **“Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Invite those who have participated in Kingdom Hall construction to comment on the joy they have experienced. Briefly interview the brother who coordinates cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall regarding the local congregation's arrangements.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** *ia* chap. 6 ¶1-14 (30 min.)
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 142 and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship

Constructing Israel's temple required much work and expense. However, the Israelites supported the project with zeal. (1Ch 29:2-9; 2Ch 6:7, 8) After the temple was completed, the maintenance done by the Israelites reflected their spirituality or lack thereof. (2Ki 22:3-6; 2Ch 28:24; 29:3) Today, Christians put much time and effort into building, cleaning, and maintaining Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. However, working along with Jehovah in this way is a grand privilege and is part of our sacred service.—Ps 127:1; Re 7:15.



WE CAN HAVE A SHARE BY . . .

- Tidying up after every meeting. If circumstances limit you, kindly pick up around your seat.
- Participating in the regular cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall. Many hands make the work joyful and light.—*lv* 92-93 ¶18.
- Giving financial support. Even a contribution of ‘two coins of little value’ given from the heart pleases Jehovah.—*Mr* 12:41-44.
- Volunteering to help build and renovate theocratic facilities if your circumstances allow. Construction experience is not a requirement to participate.

(Proverbs 2:1)

Ab Gb2/Bb Ab7/C Db Ab/C Bbm Bbm/Ab Ab/Gb Gb

There is a book that by its man - y pag - es,
They wrote a rec - ord true of God's cre - a - tions,
To - day we live in times of joy un - bound - ed.

Bb Ab2/C Bb7/D Ebm9 Ebm Ebm/Db Ebm/C

Brings peace and joy and hope to hu - man - kind.
How by his might this u - ni - verse ap - peared.
God's King - dom now is here with Christ as Lord.

Ebm/F F7 Bbm9 Bbm Bbm/Ab Gbm7 Ebm/Gb

Its won - drous thoughts are charged with such great pow - er;
They al - so told how man at first was sin - less
This is the day Je - ho - vah grants sal - va - tion

Db/F Bbm7 Eb7 Ebm11

It brings life to the "dead," sight to the "blind."
But how his Par - a - dise then dis - ap - peared.
To all who come to him in full ac - cord.

God's Own Book—A Treasure

Ab7 Gb2/Bb Ab7/C Db Ab/C Bbm Ebm/Ab Ab/Gb Gb

That pre - cious book is God's own Ho - ly Bi - ble.
 They fur - ther told a - bout a cer - tain an - gel
 With - in his book are found these cheer - ful tid - ings;

Bb Ab2/C Bb7/D Ebm9 Ebm EbmDb Ebm/C

Its words were penned by men whom God in - spired,
 Who chal - langed God and spurned his sov - 'reign - ty.
 A sa - cred ban - quet feast on which to feed.

F7 Eb/G F7/A Bbm Fm/Ab Gb Db/F Ebm9 Ebm

By men who tru - ly loved their God Je - ho - vah,
 That chal - lenge led to sin and man's great sor - row,
 It of - fers peace be - yond all hu - man think - ing;

Gbm Gbm(ma7) Gbm6 Db/F Ab/Eb D° Gb/Db Ab7/C Gb2/Bb Ab7/C Db

And by his ho - ly spir - it they were fired.
 But soon will come Je - ho - vah's vic - to - ry.
 This Liv - ing Trea - sure beck - ons all to read.

the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the burial places of the kings of Israel.^a And his son Hez-e-ki'ah became king in his place.

29 Hez-e-ki'ah^b became king at the age of 25, and he reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was A-bi'jah the daughter of Zech-a-ri'ah.^c **2** He kept doing what was right in Jehovah's eyes,^d just as David his forefather had done.^e **3** In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of Jehovah and repaired them.^f **4** Then he brought the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square to the east. **5** He said to them: "Listen to me, you Levites. Now sanctify yourselves^g and sanctify the house of Jehovah the God of your forefathers, and remove what is impure from the holy place.^h **6** For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was bad in the eyes of Jehovah our God.ⁱ They abandoned him and turned their faces away from the tabernacle of Jehovah and turned their back on him.^j **7** They also closed the doors of the porch^k and extinguished the lamps.^l They stopped burning incense^m and offering up burnt sacrificesⁿ in the holy place to the God of Israel. **8** Therefore, Jehovah's indignation came against Judah and Jerusalem,^o so that he made them an object of horror and astonishment and a cause for whistling,^p as you can see with your own eyes.^q **9** Here our forefathers fell by the sword,^r and our sons, our daughters, and our wives went into captivity for this.^s **10** Now it is my heart's desire to make a covenant with Jehovah the God of Israel,^t so that his burning an-

29:8 *Or "mocking."

CHAP. 28

a 2Ch 21:16, 20
2Ch 33:20

CHAP. 29

b Isa 1:1
Ho 1:1
Mt 1:10
c 2Ki 18:1, 2
d 2Ch 31:20
e 1Ki 15:5
2Ki 18:3
f 1Ki 6:33, 34
2Ch 28:24
g 1Ch 15:11, 12
h 2Ki 18:4
i 2Ch 28:22, 23
Jer 44:21
j Jer 2:27
Eze 8:16
k 1Ki 6:33, 34
l Le 24:2
m Ex 30:8
n Ex 29:38
o 2Ch 24:18
p Le 26:32
De 28:15, 25
q Le 26:14, 17
r 2Ch 28:5-8
s 2Ch 15:10-13

Second Col.

a Nu 3:6
De 10:8
b 1Ch 23:13
c Nu 4:2, 3
1Ch 23:12
d 1Ch 23:21
e 1Ch 23:7
f 1Ch 15:16, 17
1Ch 25:1, 2
g 1Ch 25:5
h 1Ch 25:1
i 2Ch 29:5
j 1Ki 6:36
k 2Ki 23:4, 6
2Ch 15:16
Joh 18:1
l 1Ki 6:3
1Ch 28:11
m 2Ch 4:1
n 1Ki 7:40
o 1Ki 7:48

ger may turn away from us. **11** My sons, now is not the time to be negligent,* for Jehovah has chosen you to stand before him, to serve as his ministers,^a and to make his sacrifices smoke."^b

12 At that the Levites rose up: Ma'hath the son of A-ma'sai and Joel the son of Az-a-ri'ah of the Ko'hath-ites;^c from the Mer-ar'ites,^d Kish the son of Ab'di and Az-a-ri'ah the son of Je-hal'-le-lel; from the Ger'shon-ites,^e Jo'ah the son of Zim'mah and E'den the son of Jo'ah; **13** from the sons of E-li-za'phan, Shim'-ri and Je-u'el; from the sons of A'saph,^f Zech-a-ri'ah and Mat-ta-ni'ah; **14** from the sons of He'-man,^g Je-hi'el and Shim'e-i; from the sons of Je-du'thun,^h She-ma'ah and Uz'zi-el. **15** Then they gathered their brothers together and sanctified themselves and came, as the king had commanded by the words of Jehovah, to cleanse the house of Jehovah.ⁱ **16** The priests then went inside the house of Jehovah to do the cleansing and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of Jehovah and took it to the courtyard^j of the house of Jehovah. In turn the Levites took it and carried it outside to the Kid'ron Valley.^k **17** Thus they began the sanctification on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they reached the porch of Jehovah.^l They sanctified the house of Jehovah for eight days, and on the 16th day of the first month they finished.

18 After that they went in to King Hez-e-ki'ah and said: "We have cleansed the whole house of Jehovah, the altar of burnt offering^m and all its utensils,ⁿ and the table of the layer bread^o

29:11 *Or "to rest." 29:18 *That is, the showbread.

and all its utensils. **19** And all the utensils that King A'haz cast aside during his reign when he acted unfaithfully^a we have made ready and sanctified,^b and they are before the altar of Jehovah."

20 And King Hez-e-ki'ah got up early and gathered the princes of the city together, and they went up to the house of Jehovah. **21** They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs, and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah.^c So he told the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer them up on the altar of Jehovah. **22** Then they slaughtered the cattle,^d and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar;^e next they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar, and they slaughtered the male lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar. **23** Then they brought the male goats of the sin offering before the king and the congregation and laid their hands on them. **24** The priests slaughtered them and made a sin offering with their blood on the altar, to make atonement for all Israel, because the king said that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be for all Israel.

25 Meanwhile, he had the Levites stationed at the house of Jehovah with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps,^f by the commandment of David^g and of Gad^h the king's visionary and of Nathanⁱ the prophet, for the commandment was from Jehovah through his prophets. **26** So the Levites were standing with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.^j

27 Then Hez-e-ki'ah ordered that the burnt sacrifice be offered on the altar.^k When the

CHAP. 29

a 2Ch 28:1, 2
2Ch 28:24

b 2Ch 29:5

c Le 4:3
Le 4:13, 14
Nu 15:22-24

d Le 4:4

e Le 4:7, 18

f 1Ch 25:1, 6
2Ch 9:11

g 1Ch 28:12, 13
2Ch 8:12, 14

h 2Sa 24:11, 12
1Ch 29:29

i 2Sa 7:2
2Sa 12:1

j Nu 10:8
1Ch 15:24

k Le 1:3, 4

Second Col.

a 2Sa 23:1

b 1Ch 16:7

c Le 1:3

d 1Ki 3:4
1Ki 8:63
1Ch 29:21, 22

e Nu 8:19
2Ch 30:17
2Ch 35:10, 11

f 2Ch 30:2, 3

g 2Ch 29:32

h Le 3:1
Le 3:14-16

burnt offering started, the song of Jehovah started and also the trumpets, following the direction of the instruments of King David of Israel. **28** And the whole congregation bowed down while the song was sung and the trumpets were sounding—all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. **29** And as soon as they finished making the offering, the king and all those with him bowed low and prostrated themselves. **30** King Hez-e-ki'ah and the princes now told the Levites to praise Jehovah with the words of David^a and of A'saph^b the visionary. So they offered praise with great rejoicing, and they bowed down and prostrated themselves.

31 Then Hez-e-ki'ah said: "Now that you have been set apart* for Jehovah, come and bring sacrifices and thanksgiving offerings to the house of Jehovah." So the congregation began to bring sacrifices and thanksgiving offerings, and everyone with a willing heart brought burnt offerings.^c **32** The number of burnt offerings that the congregation brought was 70 cattle, 100 rams, 200 male lambs—all of these as a burnt offering to Jehovah.^d **33** and the holy offerings were 600 cattle and 3,000 of the flock. **34** But there were not enough priests to skin all the burnt offerings, so their brothers the Levites helped them out^e until the work was finished and until the priests could sanctify themselves,^f for the Levites were more conscientious* about sanctifying themselves than the priests were. **35** Also, there were many burnt offerings,^g as well as the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices^h and the drink

29:31 *Lit., "Now you have filled your hand." **29:34** *Lit., "upright of heart."

offerings for the burnt offerings.^a Thus the service of the house of Jehovah was restored.* **36** So Hez·e·ki'ah and all the people rejoiced over what the true God had established for the people,^b for this had all happened so suddenly.

30 Hez·e·ki'ah sent word to all Israel^c and Judah, and even wrote letters to E'phraim and Ma·nas'seh,^d to come to the house of Jehovah in Jerusalem to observe the Passover to Jehovah the God of Israel.^e **2** However, the king, his princes, and the whole congregation in Jerusalem decided to observe the Passover in the second month,^f **3** for they had not been able to observe it at the regular time,^g because not enough priests had sanctified themselves^h nor had the people gathered in Jerusalem. **4** This arrangement seemed right in the eyes of the king and the entire congregation. **5** So they decided to make an announcement throughout Israel, from Be'er-she'ba to Dan,ⁱ that the people should come and observe the Passover to Jehovah the God of Israel at Jerusalem, for as a group they had not observed it according to what is written.^j

6 Then the couriers* went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying: "People of Israel, return to Jehovah the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he may return to the remnant who escaped out of the hand of the kings of As-syr'i-a.^k **7** Do not be like your forefathers and your brothers who acted unfaithfully toward Jehovah the God of their forefathers,

29:35 *Or "prepared." 30:6, 10 *Lit., "runners."

CHAP. 29

a Nu 15:5

b 2Ch 30:12

CHAP. 30

c 2Ch 11:14, 16

d 2Ch 34:1, 6, 7

e Ex 12:43
Le 23:5
De 16:2
2Ch 35:1

f Nu 9:10, 11

g Ex 12:18

h 2Ch 29:34

i Jg 18:29

j 2Ch 35:18

k 2Ki 15:29
1Ch 5:26
2Ch 28:20, 21

Second Col.

a 2Ch 29:8, 9

b Ex 32:9

c De 12:5, 6
Ps 132:13

d 2Ch 29:10

e 1Ki 8:49, 50

f De 30:1-3

g Ex 34:6
Ps 86:5
Mic 7:18

h 2Ch 15:2
Isa 55:7
Jas 4:8

i 2Ch 30:1

j 2Ch 36:15, 16

k 2Ch 11:14, 16

l Le 23:6

m Nu 9:10, 11

n 2Ki 18:22

o 2Ch 28:24

so that he made them an object of horror, just as you are seeing.^a **8** Now do not be obstinate like your forefathers.^b Submit to Jehovah and come to his sanctuary^c that he has sanctified forever and serve Jehovah your God, so that his burning anger may turn away from you.^d **9** For when you return to Jehovah, your brothers and your sons will be shown mercy by their captors^e and will be allowed to return to this land,^f for Jehovah your God is compassionate* and merciful,^g and he will not turn his face away from you if you return to him."^h

10 So the couriers* went from city to city throughout the land of E'phraim and Ma·nas'seh,ⁱ even to Zeb'u-lun, but the people were making fun of them and mocking them.^j **11** However, some individuals from Ash'er, Ma·nas'seh, and Zeb'u-lun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.^k **12** The hand of the true God was also in Judah to unite them* to carry out what the king and the princes had commanded by the word of Jehovah.

13 A multitude of people gathered together at Jerusalem to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread^l in the second month;^m it was a very large congregation. **14** They rose up and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem,ⁿ and they removed all the incense altars^o and threw them into the Kid'ron Valley. **15** Then they slaughtered the Passover sacrifice on the 14th day of the second month. The priests and the Levites felt ashamed, so they sanctified themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of Jehovah. **16** They took their

30:9 *Or "gracious." 30:12 *Lit., "to give them one heart."

customary places, according to the Law of Moses the man of the true God; then the priests sprinkled the blood^a received from the hand of the Levites. **17** There were many in the congregation who had not sanctified themselves, and the Levites were in charge of slaughtering the Passover sacrifices for all who were not clean,^b to sanctify them to Jehovah. **18** For a great number of the people, especially those from E'phra-im, Ma-nas'seh,^c Is-sa-char, and Zeb'u-lun, had not cleansed themselves, but they still ate the Passover, contrary to what is written. But Hez-e-ki'ah prayed for them, saying: "May Jehovah, who is good,^d make allowance for **19** everyone who has prepared his heart to search for the true God,^e Jehovah, the God of his forefathers, although he has not been purified according to the standard of holiness."^f **20** And Jehovah listened to Hez-e-ki'ah and pardoned* the people.

21 So the Israelites who were in Jerusalem observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread^g for seven days with great rejoicing,^h and the Levites and the priests were praising Jehovah day by day, loudly playing their instruments to Jehovah.ⁱ **22** Moreover, Hez-e-ki'ah spoke to and encouraged* all the Levites who served Jehovah with discretion. And they ate throughout the festival for seven days,^j sacrificing communion sacrifices^k and giving thanks to Jehovah the God of their forefathers.

23 Then all the congregation decided to observe it for seven more days, so they observed it for seven more days with rejoicing.^l **24** And King Hez-e-ki'

CHAP. 30

- a Le 1:5
- b 2Ch 29:34
- c 2Ch 30:1
- d Ps 86:5
- e 2Ch 19:2, 3
Ezr 7:10
- f Nu 9:6, 10
- g Le 23:6
- h De 12:5, 7
Ne 8:10
- i 2Ch 29:25
- j Le 23:6
- k Le 3:1
- l 1Ki 8:65

Second Col.

- a 2Ch 35:7, 8
- b 2Ch 29:34
- c 2Ch 30:11, 18
- d Ex 12:49
- e 1Ki 8:65, 66
- f Nu 6:23-26
De 10:8

CHAP. 31

- g Ex 23:24
- h De 7:5
2Ki 18:1, 4
2Ch 14:2, 3
2Ch 34:1, 3
- i De 12:2
- j 2Ch 23:16, 17
- k 2Ch 30:1, 18
- l 1Ch 24:1
- m 1Ch 23:6
- n 2Ch 8:14
- o 1Ch 23:13
1Ch 23:27-30
- p 2Ch 30:24

ah of Judah contributed for the congregation 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep, and the princes contributed for the congregation 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep;^a and priests were sanctifying themselves in great number.^b **25** And all the congregation of Judah, the priests, the Levites, all the congregation that came from Israel,^c and the foreign residents^d who came from the land of Israel and those living in Judah continued rejoicing. **26** And there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for from the days of Sol'o-mon the son of David the king of Israel, nothing like this had happened in Jerusalem.^e **27** Finally the Levite priests stood up and blessed the people;^f and God heard their voice, and their prayer reached his holy dwelling, the heavens.

31 As soon as they had finished all of this, all the Israelites who were present went out to the cities of Judah, and they smashed the sacred pillars,^g cut down the sacred poles,^h and tore down the high placesⁱ and the altars^j throughout Judah and Benjamin, as well as in E'phra-im and Ma-nas'seh,^k until they had destroyed them completely, after which all the Israelites returned to their cities, each one to his own possession.

2 Then Hez-e-ki'ah appointed the priests in their divisions^l and the Levites in their divisions,^m each of the priests and Levites for their service,ⁿ for the burnt offerings and the communion sacrifices, to minister and to give thanks and praise in the gates of the courtyards* of Jehovah.^o **3** A portion of the king's own goods was given for the burnt offerings,^p including the

30:20 *Lit., "healed." 30:22 *Lit., "spoke to the heart of."

31:1 *See Glossary. 31:2 *Lit., "camps."

morning and evening offerings,^a as well as the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths,^b the new moons,^c and the festivals,^d according to what is written in the Law of Jehovah.

4 Furthermore, he commanded the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and the Levites,^e so that they might adhere strictly* to the law of Jehovah. **5** As soon as the order was issued, the Israelites gave in great quantities the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, oil,^f and honey, and of all the produce of the field;^g they brought in abundantly the tenth of everything.^h **6** And the people of Israel and of Judah living in the cities of Judah also brought in the tenth of cattle and sheep and the tenth of the holy thingsⁱ that were sanctified to Jehovah their God. They brought it in and put it in many heaps. **7** In the third month^j they began laying their contributions in heaps; and in the seventh month^k they finished. **8** When Hez-e-ki'ah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they praised Jehovah and blessed his people Israel.

9 Hez-e-ki'ah asked the priests and the Levites about the heaps, **10** and Az-a-ri'ah the chief priest of the house of Zadok said to him: "From the time they started bringing the contributions into the house of Jehovah,^l the people have been eating to satisfaction and there is still an abundant surplus, for Jehovah has blessed his people, and this great plenty is left over."^m

11 At this Hez-e-ki'ah told them to prepare storerooms*ⁿ in the house of Jehovah, so they prepared them. **12** They kept

31:4 *Or "devote themselves fully."
31:11 *Or "dining rooms."

CHAP. 31

a Ex 29:39

b Nu 28:9

c Nu 10:10

d De 16:16

e Nu 18:21
Ne 10:38, 39

f Nu 18:12

g Ex 22:29
Ex 23:19
Ne 10:37

h Pr 3:9

i Le 27:30
De 14:28

j Le 23:16

k Le 23:24

l Nu 18:8

m Mal 3:10

n Ne 10:38, 39
Ne 12:44

Second Col.

a Le 27:30
De 14:28

b 1Ch 26:17, 19

c De 12:5, 6
De 16:10

d Nu 18:8

e Le 2:10
Le 7:1

f Jos 21:19

g 1Ch 24:1

h 1Ch 24:4

i Nu 4:2, 3
Nu 8:24
1Ch 23:24

j 1Ch 23:6

faithfully bringing in the contributions, tenth parts,^{*a} and the holy things; Con-a-ni'ah the Levite was put in charge of all of this as supervisor, and his brother Shim'e-i was second. **13** Jehi'el, Az-a-zi'ah, Na'hath, As'ahel, Jer'i-moth, Jo'za-bad, E'li-el, Is-ma-chi'ah, Ma'hath, and Ben-a'ah were commissioners assisting Con-a-ni'ah and his brother Shim'e-i, by the order of King Hez-e-ki'ah, and Az-a-ri'ah was supervisor of the house of the true God. **14** And Ko're the son of Im'nah, the Levite gatekeeper on the east side,^b was in charge of the voluntary offerings^c of the true God, and he distributed the contribution made to Jehovah^d and the most holy things.^e **15** And under his direction were E'den, Mi-ni'a-min, Jesh'u-a, She-mai'ah, Am-a-ri'ah, and Shec-a-ni'ah, in the cities of the priests,^f in their office of trust, to distribute equally to their brothers in the divisions,^g to great and small alike. **16** This was in addition to the distribution made to the males from three years old and up who were listed in the genealogical enrollment, who came daily to serve in the house of Jehovah and to carry out the duties of their divisions.

17 The genealogical enrollment of the priests was by their paternal house,^h as was that of the Levites who were 20 years old and up,ⁱ by the duties of their divisions.^j **18** The genealogical enrollment included all their children, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, their entire congregation—for they kept themselves sanctified for what was holy because of their office of trust— **19** as well as the descendants of Aaron, the priests who were living in the fields of

31:12 *Or "tithes."

the pastures surrounding their cities.^a In all the cities, men had been designated by name to give portions to every male among the priests and to everyone included in the genealogical enrollment of the Levites.

20 Hez-e-ki'ah did this throughout Judah, and he continued to do what was good and right and faithful before Jehovah his God. **21** And every work that he undertook to search for his God, whether in connection with the service of the house of the true God^b or in the Law and the commandment, he did wholeheartedly, and he was successful.

32 After these things and these acts of faithfulness,^c King Sen-nach'er-ib of As-syr'i-a came and invaded Judah. He besieged the fortified cities, intent on breaking through and capturing them.^d

2 When Hez-e-ki'ah saw that Sen-nach'er-ib had come and intended to wage war against Jerusalem, **3** he decided, after consulting with his princes and his warriors, to stop up the waters of the springs outside the city,^e and they gave him their support. **4** Many people were gathered together, and they stopped up all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land, saying: "Why should the kings of As-syr'i-a come and find plenty of water?"

5 Furthermore, with determination he rebuilt the entire broken-down wall and raised towers on it, and outside he made another wall. He also repaired the Mound^{*f} of the City of David, and he made a large number of weapons[#] and shields. **6** He then appointed military chiefs over the people and as-

32:5 *Or "Millo." A Hebrew term meaning "fill." *Or "missiles."

CHAP. 31

a Le 25:33, 34
Nu 35:2
Jos 21:13

b 2Ch 29:35

CHAP. 32

c 2Ch 31:20

d 2Ki 18:7, 13
Isa 36:1

e 2Ki 20:20

f 2Sa 5:9
1Ki 9:24
1Ki 11:27
2Ki 12:20

Second Col.

a 2Ki 19:6

b De 31:6, 8
Jos 1:6, 9
2Ki 6:16, 17
2Ch 20:15

c Nu 14:9
De 20:1, 4
Jos 10:42
Jer 17:5

d 2Ch 20:20

e Isa 37:8

f 2Ki 18:17
Isa 36:2

g 2Ki 18:19
Isa 36:4

h 2Ki 18:29, 30
2Ki 19:10

i 2Ki 18:1, 4

j 2Ch 31:1

k 2Ki 18:22
Isa 36:7

l 2Ki 15:29
2Ki 17:5
Isa 37:12

m 2Ki 18:33, 34
2Ki 19:17, 18

sembled them at the public square of the city gate and encouraged them,* saying: **7** "Be courageous and strong. Do not be afraid or be terrified because of the king of As-syr'i-a^a and all the multitude with him, for there are more with us than there are with him.^b **8** With him is an arm of flesh,* but with us is Jehovah our God to help us and to fight our battles."^c And the people were strengthened by the words of King Hez-e-ki'ah of Judah.^d

9 After this, while King Sen-nach'er-ib of As-syr'i-a was at La'chish^e with all his imperial might,* he sent his servants to Jerusalem, to King Hez-e-ki'ah of Judah and to all the Ju-de'ans in Jerusalem,^f saying:

10 "This is what King Sen-nach'er-ib of As-syr'i-a says, 'In what are you trusting that you remain in Jerusalem while it is besieged?'^g **11** Is not Hez-e-ki'ah misleading you and handing you over to die by famine and thirst, saying: "Jehovah our God will rescue us from the hand of the king of As-syr'i-a"^{?h} **12** Is this not the same Hez-e-ki'ah who removed your God's* high placesⁱ and His altars^j and then said to Judah and Jerusalem: "You should bow down before one altar and on it you should make your sacrifices smoke"^{?k} **13** Do you not know what I and my forefathers did to all the peoples of the lands?^l Were the gods of the nations of the lands able to rescue their land from my hand?^m **14** Who among all the gods of these nations that my forefathers devoted to destruction was able to rescue his people from my hand, so that your

32:6 *Lit., "spoke to their heart." 32:8 *Or "is human strength." 32:9 *Or "all his military might and splendor." 32:12 *Lit., "his."

God should be able to rescue you from my hand?^a **15** Now do not let Hez-e-ki'ah deceive you or mislead you like this!^b Do not put faith in him, for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to rescue his people from my hand and from the hand of my forefathers. How much less, then, will your own God rescue you from my hand!"^c

16 His servants said even more against Jehovah the true God and against Hez-e-ki'ah his servant. **17** He also wrote letters^d to insult Jehovah the God of Israel^e and to speak against him, saying: "Like the gods of the nations of the lands who could not rescue their people from my hand,^f so the God of Hez-e-ki'ah will not rescue his people from my hand." **18** They kept calling loudly in the language of the Jews to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to make them afraid and to terrify them, in order to capture the city.^g **19** They spoke against the God of Jerusalem the same way as against the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of man's hands. **20** But King Hez-e-ki'ah and the prophet Isaiah^h the son of A'moz kept praying about this and crying out to the heavens for help.ⁱ

21 Then Jehovah sent an angel and wiped out every mighty warrior,^j leader, and chief in the camp of the king of As-syr'i-a, so that he went back to his own land in disgrace. He later entered the house^{*} of his god, and there some of his own sons struck him down with the sword.^k **22** So Jehovah saved Hez-e-ki'ah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of King Sen-nach'er-ib of As-syr'i-a and from the hand of all others and gave them rest

32:21 *Or "temple."

CHAP. 32

- a Ex 14:3
Ex 15:9
b 2Ki 18:29
c Ex 5:2
De 32:27
Da 3:14, 15
d 2Ki 19:14
e Isa 37:29
f 2Ki 17:6
2Ki 19:12
g 2Ki 18:26, 28
Isa 36:11, 13
h 2Ki 19:2, 20
Isa 37:2
i 2Ki 19:14, 15
2Ch 14:11
j Ps 76:5
k 2Ki 19:35-37
Isa 37:37, 38

Second Col.

- a 1Ki 4:21
2Ch 17:1, 5
b 2Ki 20:1, 2
Isa 38:1, 2
c 2Ki 20:5, 9
2Ch 32:31
Isa 38:8
d Jer 26:18, 19
e 2Ki 20:19
f 2Ch 1:11, 12
2Ch 17:1, 5
g 1Ki 9:17-19
h 2Ch 32:4
i 1Ki 1:33, 45
j 2Sa 5:9
k 2Ki 20:8-11
Isa 38:8
l 2Ki 20:12
Isa 39:1
m Ge 22:1
n De 8:2
Ps 7:9
Ps 139:23

on every side. **23** And many brought gifts to Jehovah at Jerusalem and choice things to King Hez-e-ki'ah of Judah,^a and he was greatly respected by all the nations after that.

24 In those days Hez-e-ki'ah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to Jehovah,^b who answered him and gave him a sign.^{*c} **25** But Hez-e-ki'ah did not respond appreciatively to the good done to him, for his heart became haughty, bringing indignation against him and against Judah and Jerusalem. **26** However, Hez-e-ki'ah humbled himself for the haughtiness of his heart,^d he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and Jehovah's indignation did not come upon them in the days of Hez-e-ki'ah.^e

27 And Hez-e-ki'ah came to have vast riches and glory;^f and he made storehouses^g for himself for silver, gold, precious stones, balsam oil, shields, and for all the desirable articles.

28 He also made storage places for the produce of grain and new wine and oil, as well as stalls for all the different kinds of livestock and stalls for the flocks.

29 He also acquired cities for himself, and an abundance of livestock, flocks, and herds, for God gave him very many possessions. **30** It was Hez-e-ki'ah who stopped up the upper source of the waters^h of Gi'honⁱ and directed them straight down to the west to the City of David,^j and Hez-e-ki'ah was successful in every work of his. **31** However, when the spokesmen of the princes of Babylon were sent to ask him about the sign^{*k} that had occurred in the land,^l the true God left him alone to put him to the test,^m to get to know all that was in his heart.ⁿ

32:24, 31 *Or "portent."

32 As for the rest of the history of Hez-e-ki'ah and his acts of loyal love,^a they are written in the vision of Isaiah^b the prophet, the son of A'moz, in the Book of the Kings of Judah and of Israel.^c **33** Then Hez-e-ki'ah was laid to rest with his forefathers, and they buried him in the ascent to the burial places of the sons of David;^d and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. And his son Ma-nas'seh became king in his place.

33 Ma-nas'seh^e was 12 years old when he became king, and he reigned for 55 years in Jerusalem.^f

2 He did what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, following the detestable practices of the nations that Jehovah had driven out from before the people of Israel.^g **3** He rebuilt the high places that his father Hez-e-ki'ah had torn down,^h he set up altars to the Ba'als and made sacred poles,^{*} and he bowed down to all the army of the heavens and served them.ⁱ **4** He also built altars in the house of Jehovah,^j about which Jehovah had said: "In Jerusalem my name will be forever."^k **5** And he built altars to all the army of the heavens in two courtyards of the house of Jehovah.^l **6** And he made his own sons pass through the fire^m in the Valley of the Son of Hin'nom;ⁿ he practiced magic,^o used divination, practiced sorcery, and appointed spirit mediums and fortune-tellers.^p He did on a grand scale what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, to offend him.

7 He put the carved image that he made into the house of the true God^q about which God had said to David and to his son Sol'o-mon: "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have cho-

CHAP. 32

a 2Ch 31:20, 21

b Isa 1:1

c 2Ki 20:20

d 1Ki 11:43

CHAP. 33

e Mt 1:10

f 2Ki 21:1

g 2Ki 21:2-6

h 2Ki 18:1, 4

i De 4:19

2Ki 23:5

j 2Ki 16:10, 11

k De 12:11

2Ch 6:6

l 1Ki 6:36

1Ki 7:12

m 2Ki 16:1, 3

n Jos 15:8, 12

2Ki 23:10

o Le 19:26

p Le 20:6

De 18:10, 11

q 2Ki 23:6

Second Col.

a 2Ki 21:7-9

2Ki 23:27

2Ch 7:16

b Le 18:24

Jos 24:8

2Ki 21:11, 16

c 2Ch 36:15, 16

d Isa 1:18

e Da 4:25

f 2Sa 5:9

2Ch 32:2, 5

g 2Ch 32:30

h Ne 3:3

i 2Ch 27:1, 3

j 2Ki 21:1, 7

k 2Ki 21:1, 4, 5

sen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will permanently put my name.^a **8** And I will never again remove the feet of Israel from the land that I assigned to their forefathers, provided they carefully observe all that I have commanded them, the entire Law, the regulations and the judicial decisions given through Moses."^b **9** Ma-nas'seh kept leading Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, causing them to do worse than the nations that Jehovah had annihilated from before the Israelites.^b

10 Jehovah kept speaking to Ma-nas'seh and his people, but they paid no attention.^c **11** So Jehovah brought against them the army chiefs of the king of As-syr'i-a, and they captured Ma-nas'seh with hooks^{*} and bound him with two copper fetters and took him to Babylon. **12** In his distress, he begged Jehovah his God for favor^{*} and kept humbling himself greatly before the God of his forefathers. **13** He kept praying to Him, and He was moved by his entreaty and heard his request for favor, and He restored him to Jerusalem to his kingship.^d Then Ma-nas'seh came to know that Jehovah is the true God.^e

14 After this he built an outer wall for the City of David^f west of Gi'hon^g in the valley^{*} and as far as the Fish Gate,^h and he continued it around to O'phel,ⁱ and he made it very high. Further, he appointed army chiefs in all the fortified cities in Judah. **15** He then removed the foreign gods and the idol image from the house of Jehovah^j and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of the house of Jehovah^k and in Jerusalem, and

33:11 *Or possibly, "in the hollows."

33:12 *Or "softened the face of Jehovah his God." **33:14** *Or "wadi."

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“True Worship Requires Hard Work”:** (10 min.)
 - 2Ch 29:10-17—Hezekiah restores true worship with determination
 - 2Ch 30:5, 6, 10-12—Hezekiah invites all righteous ones to assemble for worship
 - 2Ch 32:25, 26—Hezekiah corrects his haughtiness with humility (w05 10/15 25 ¶20)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 - 2Ch 29:11—How did Hezekiah set a good example regarding priorities? (w13 11/15 17 ¶6-7)
 - 2Ch 32:7, 8—What is the most practical step we can take to prepare for future difficulties? (w13 11/15 20 ¶17)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** 2Ch 31:1-10 (4 min. or less)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the first *Sample Watchtower Presentation* video, and then discuss the highlights. Emphasize how the publisher laid the groundwork for a return visit. Do the same for the second sample *Watchtower* presentation and then for the *Good News* brochure. Refer to “How to Conduct a Study Using the *Good News Brochure*.” Encourage publishers to build their own presentations.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 127
- **“Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Invite those who have participated in Kingdom Hall construction to comment on the joy they have experienced. Briefly interview the brother who coordinates cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall regarding the local congregation’s arrangements.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** *ia* chap. 6 ¶1-14 (30 min.)
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 142 and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship

Constructing Israel’s temple required much work and expense. However, the Israelites supported the project with zeal. (1Ch 29:2-9; 2Ch 6:7, 8) After the temple was completed, the maintenance done by the Israelites reflected their spirituality or lack thereof. (2Ki 22:3-6; 2Ch 28:24; 29:3) Today, Christians put much time and effort into building, cleaning, and maintaining Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. However, working along with Jehovah in this way is a grand privilege and is part of our sacred service.—Ps 127:1; Re 7:15.



WE CAN HAVE A SHARE BY . . .

- Tidying up after every meeting. If circumstances limit you, kindly pick up around your seat.
- Participating in the regular cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall. Many hands make the work joyful and light.—*lv* 92-93 ¶18.
- Giving financial support. Even a contribution of ‘two coins of little value’ given from the heart pleases Jehovah.—*Mr* 12:41-44.
- Volunteering to help build and renovate theocratic facilities if your circumstances allow. Construction experience is not a requirement to participate.

2 CHRONICLES 29-32 | True Worship Requires Hard Work

Hezekiah's Reign 746-716 B.C.E.

740 B.C.E. Fall of Samaria

29:10-17 Hezekiah restores true worship with determination

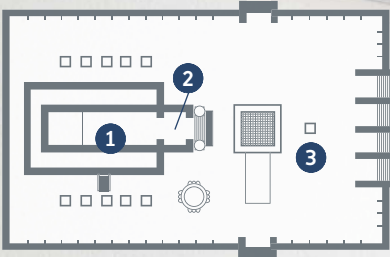
NISAN 746 B.C.E.

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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

- Days 1-8: Cleansed inner courtyard
- Days 9-16: Cleansed Jehovah's house
- Atonement for all Israel and restoration of true worship began



TEMPLE



- 1** House of Jehovah
- 2** Porch
- 3** Inner courtyard

→ **30:5, 6, 10-12**

Hezekiah invites all righthearthed ones to assemble for worship

- Couriers were dispatched to distribute letters, announcing the Passover throughout the land, from Beer-sheba to Dan
- While some mocked, many responded favorably



ISRAEL

JUDAH

→ 2Ch 32:25, 26—Hezekiah corrects his haughtiness with humility (w05 10/15 25 _20)

²⁰You can contrast that with the example of King Hezekiah. On one occasion, that king's excellent record was in danger of being spoiled because "his heart became haughty." Happily, "Hezekiah humbled himself for the haughtiness of his heart" and regained God's favor. ([2 Chronicles 32:25, 26](#)) Notice that the cure for Hezekiah's haughtiness was humility. Yes, humility is the opposite of haughtiness. Therefore, in the next article, we will consider how we can cultivate and maintain Christian humility.

- [2 Chronicles 32:25, 26 New World Translation](#)

[25](#) But Hez·e·ki'ah did not respond appreciatively to the good done to him, for his heart became haughty, bringing indignation against him and against Judah and Jerusalem. [26](#) However, Hez·e·ki'ah humbled himself for the haughtiness of his heart,± he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and Jehovah's indignation did not come upon them in the days of Hez·e·ki'ah.±



⁴ Soon after Isaiah made that remarkable announcement, his wife became pregnant and bore him a son named Maher-shalal-hash-baz. One possibility is that this child was the “Immanuel” referred to by Isaiah.* In Bible times, an infant might be given one name at birth, perhaps to commemorate a special event, but be known by his parents and relatives by another name. (2 Sam. 12:24, 25) There is no evidence that Jesus was ever addressed by the name Immanuel. —*Read Isaiah 7:14; 8:3, 4.*

⁵ While Israel and Syria were focusing on Judah, another nation, a militaristic one, had ambitions toward the region. It was the rising world power of Assyria. According to Isaiah 8:3, 4, Assyria would carry off “the resources of Damascus” and “the spoil of Samaria” before attacking the southern kingdom of Judah. Instead of trusting in God’s word through Isaiah, faithless Ahaz entered into a disastrous pact with the Assyrians, which ultimately led to Judah’s being oppressed by them. (2 Ki. 16:7-10) What a disappointment Ahaz was as a shepherd of Judah! We might ask ourselves, ‘When I have important decisions to make, do I put my trust in God or in men?’—Prov. 3:5, 6.

A NEW SHEPHERD TAKES A DIFFERENT APPROACH

⁶ Ahaz died in 746 B.C.E., and his son Hezekiah inherited the materially impoverished and spiritually bankrupt kingdom of Judah. As the young king ascended the throne, what would his prior-

* The Hebrew word translated “maiden” at Isaiah 7:14 can mean either a married woman or a virgin. Thus, the same word could be applied both to Isaiah’s wife and to the Jewish virgin Mary.

5. What foolish decision did King Ahaz make?
6. Compare the reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah.

ity be? To shore up Judah’s ailing economy? No. Hezekiah was a spiritual man, a worthy shepherd of his national flock. His first act was to reestablish pure worship and to reinforce the wayward nation’s frayed relationship with Jehovah. When he understood God’s will for him, Hezekiah acted decisively. What a fine example for us!—2 Chron. 29:1-19.

⁷ The Levites would play a vital role in the important task of restoring pure worship. Therefore, Hezekiah met with them to assure them of his support. Picture the faithful Levites who were present at that meeting, tears of joy streaming down their faces as they heard their king declare: “You are the ones whom Jehovah has chosen to stand before him to minister to him.” (2 Chron. 29:11) Yes, the Levites had a clear mandate to promote pure worship!

⁸ Hezekiah invited all of Judah and Israel to a great Passover celebration, followed by the seven-day Festival of Unfermented Cakes. The people enjoyed the festival so much that it was extended for seven days more. The Bible reports: “There came to be great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for from the days of Solomon the son of David the king of Israel there was none like this in Jerusalem.” (2 Chron. 30:25, 26) What an inspiration that spiritual feast proved to be for all the people! From 2 Chronicles 31:1, we learn: “As soon as they finished all this, . . . they proceeded to break up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles and pull down the high places and the altars.” In a mighty way, Judah thus began to turn back to Jehovah. This spiritual cleansing

7. Why was it important for the Levites to be assured of the new king’s support?

8. What further steps did Hezekiah take to shore up the spirituality of the nation, and with what result?



a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians.” (2 Ki. 19: 35) Judah’s salvation came, not by Hezekiah’s stopping up the fountains of waters of the city nor by his building up its walls, but by divine intervention.

LESSONS FOR TODAY

¹⁶ The prophecy about seven shepherds and eight dukes has its major fulfillment in our day. The citizens of ancient Jerusalem were attacked by the Assyrians. In the near future, Jehovah’s apparently vulnerable people will come under attack from the modern-day “Assyrian,” whose intent will be to wipe them out. The Scriptures refer to that attack as well as the attack of ‘Gog of Magog,’ the attack of “the king of the north,” and the attack of “the kings of the earth.” (Ezek. 38:2, 10-13; Dan. 11:40, 44, 45; Rev. 17:14; 19:19) Do these represent separate attacks? Not necessarily. The Bible could be referring to the same attack under different names. What ‘secret weapon’ does Micah’s prophecy indicate Jehovah would raise up against that implacable foe—“the Assyrian”? A very unlikely one—“seven shepherds, yes, eight dukes”! (Mic. 5:5) The shepherds and dukes (or, “princes,” *NEB*) in this implausible army are the congregation elders. (1 Pet. 5:2) Today, Jehovah certainly has provided an abundance of spiritual men to shepherd his precious sheep, to strengthen his people for the future attack of the modern-day “Assyrian.”* Micah’s prophecy states that they

* The number seven is used frequently in the Scriptures to signify completion. The number eight (one more than seven) sometimes represents an abundance.

16. Who today are represented by (a) Jerusalem’s citizens (b) “the Assyrian” (c) the seven shepherds and eight dukes?

will “shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword.” (Mic. 5:6) Yes, among ‘the weapons of their warfare,’ you will find “the sword of the spirit,” God’s Word. —2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:17.

¹⁷ Elders who are reading this article can draw some useful conclusions from the account we have just considered: (1) The most practical step that we can take to prepare for the coming attack of “the Assyrian” is that of strengthening our faith in God and helping our brothers to do the same. (2) When “the Assyrian” attacks, the elders must be absolutely convinced that Jehovah will deliver us. (3) At that time, the life-saving direction that we receive from Jehovah’s organization may not appear practical from a human standpoint. All of us must be ready to obey any instructions we may receive, whether these appear sound from a strategic or human standpoint or not. (4) Now is the time for any who may be putting their trust in secular education, material things, or human institutions to adjust their thinking. The elders must stand ready to help any who may now be wavering in their faith.

¹⁸ The time will come when God’s modern-day servants will appear to be just as vulnerable as the Jews trapped inside Jerusalem in Hezekiah’s day. At that time, may all of us draw strength from Hezekiah’s words. Let us remember that with our enemies “there is an arm of flesh, but with us there is Jehovah our God to help us and to fight our battles”—2 Chron. 32:8.

17. What four conclusions can the elders draw from the account we have considered?

18. How might reflecting on this account benefit us in the future?

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Question: Do you think that the world would be a better place if everyone lived by this principle?

Scripture: Heb 13:18

Offer: The Bible encourages us to be honest in all things. So honesty touches every aspect of our life. That's the topic of this issue of *The Watchtower*.

THE WATCHTOWER (back page)

Question: I'd like to hear your opinion on this question. [Read the first question.] Some people believe that after we die we live on in another form, while others feel that death is the end of everything. What do you believe?

Scripture: Ec 9:5

Offer: This article explains more about what the Bible says on this topic. Why not read it over? Then we can discuss this at another time.



GOOD NEWS FROM GOD!

Offer: I stopped by to tell you about our free Bible study course. This brochure shows where in your Bible you can find answers to important questions.

Question: Have you ever read the Bible? Let me show you how easy the lessons are in this brochure. [Consider question 1 in lesson 2.]

Scripture: Re 4:11

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

A Place Bearing Your Name

(1 Chronicles 29:16)

B \flat Dm7/A Gm7 B \flat /F E \flat F7sus4

How great is the hon - or, Je - ho - vah, To build you a place for your
And now may we hon - or you, Fa - ther, By fill - ing this place with your

B \flat B \flat /A Gm B \flat /F F/E \flat E \flat Gm7/D

name! We of - fer it now with re - joic - ing To
praise. May glo - ry as - cend with the in - crease Of

Cm11 Cm7 B \flat sus4/D E \flat ma7 Fsus4 F B \flat Dm7/A

add to your glo - ry and fame. What - ev - er the things we may
those who are learn - ing your ways. Com - mit - ting this place to your

Gm7 B \flat /F E \flat E \flat /D Cm Cm/B \flat

give you, They right - ly were yours from the start. Our
wor - ship, We give it our gen - er - ous care. And

A Place Bearing Your Name

Cm6/A D7sus4 D7 Gm9 Gm Ebm6/Gb Bb/F F13sus4 F7

la - bor, our skill, our pos - ses - sions, We joy - ful - ly give from the
 long may it stand as a wit - ness, Sup - port - ing the mes - sage we

Bb Bb/A **Chorus** Gm Dm7/F Eb Gm/D

heart.
 bear. May we pre - sent this place to you, And

Cm7 F7sus4 F7 Bb Bb/A Gm Bbma7/F

here may your name be known. We ded - i - cate this place to

Ebma7 Ebm6/Gb Bb/F F13sus4 F7 Bb

you; Please ac - cept it as your own.

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What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** 2Ch 31:1-10 (4 min. or less)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the first *Sample Watchtower Presentation* video, and then discuss the highlights. Emphasize how the publisher laid the groundwork for a return visit. Do the same for the second sample *Watchtower* presentation and then for the *Good News* brochure. Refer to “How to Conduct a Study Using the *Good News Brochure*.” Encourage publishers to build their own presentations.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 127
- **“Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Invite those who have participated in Kingdom Hall construction to comment on the joy they have experienced. Briefly interview the brother who coordinates cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall regarding the local congregation’s arrangements.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** *ia* chap. 6 ¶1-14 (30 min.)
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 142 and Prayer
Reminder: Please play the music through once, and then the congregation should sing the new song.

Our Privilege to Build and Maintain Places of True Worship

Constructing Israel’s temple required much work and expense. However, the Israelites supported the project with zeal. (1Ch 29:2-9; 2Ch 6:7, 8) After the temple was completed, the maintenance done by the Israelites reflected their spirituality or lack thereof. (2Ki 22:3-6; 2Ch 28:24; 29:3) Today, Christians put much time and effort into building, cleaning, and maintaining Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. However, working along with Jehovah in this way is a grand privilege and is part of our sacred service.—Ps 127:1; Re 7:15.



WE CAN HAVE A SHARE BY . . .

- Tidying up after every meeting. If circumstances limit you, kindly pick up around your seat.
- Participating in the regular cleaning and maintenance of the Kingdom Hall. Many hands make the work joyful and light.—*v* 92-93 ¶18.
- Giving financial support. Even a contribution of ‘two coins of little value’ given from the heart pleases Jehovah.—Mr 12:41-44.
- Volunteering to help build and renovate theocratic facilities if your circumstances allow. Construction experience is not a requirement to participate.

spread of harmful viruses and bacteria, thus helping people avoid diarrhetic diseases. In lands where houses are not commonly connected to a sewage system, wastes can perhaps be disposed of by burying, as was done in ancient Israel.—Deuteronomy 23:12, 13.

¹⁶ Our clothing too requires regular washing to be clean and presentable. A Christian's clothing need not be expensive or the latest fashion, but it should be neat, clean, and modest. (1 Timothy 2:9, 10) No matter where we are, we want our appearance to "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God."—Titus 2:10.

¹⁷ *Our home and surroundings.* Our home may not be fancy or luxurious, but it should be as clean and presentable as circumstances permit. Likewise, if we use an automobile for transportation to meetings and in the field ministry, we can do our best to keep it reasonably clean, inside and out. Let us not forget that a clean home and surroundings are a witness in themselves. After all, we teach people that Jehovah is a clean God, that he will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth," and that his Kingdom will soon transform our earthly home into a paradise. (Revelation 11:18; Luke 23:43) Surely we want the appearance of our home and belongings to show others that even now we are developing clean habits that will fit in with the coming new world.

→ ¹⁸ *Our place of worship.* Our love for Jehovah moves us to show respect for our Kingdom Hall, a center of true worship in the area. When new ones come to the hall, we want them to have a favorable impression of our meeting place. Regular cleaning and maintenance are needed in order to ensure that the hall remains appealing and at-

17. Why should our home and surroundings be clean and presentable?

18. How can we show respect for our Kingdom Hall?

tractive. We show respect for our Kingdom Hall by doing what we can to keep it in good condition. It is a privilege to volunteer our time to assist in cleaning and “mending and repairing” our place of worship. (2 Chronicles 34:10) The same principles apply when we meet at an Assembly Hall or another facility for assemblies or conventions.

CLEANSING OURSELVES OF DEFILING HABITS AND PRACTICES

¹⁹ To keep ourselves physically clean, we need to avoid defiling habits and practices, such as smoking, abusing alcohol, and the nonmedical use of addictive or mind-altering substances. The Bible does not specifically name all the unclean and disgusting habits and practices that are prevalent today, but it does contain principles that enable us to perceive how Jehovah must feel about such things. Because we know Jehovah’s view of matters, our love for him moves us to take the course that brings his approval. Let us consider five Scriptural principles.

²⁰ *“Since we have these promises, beloved ones, let us cleanse ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in God’s fear.”* (2 Corinthians 7:1) Jehovah wants us to be free of practices that pollute our fleshly body and damage our spirit, or dominant mental inclination. We must therefore avoid addictive behaviors that are known to be harmful to physical and mental health.

²¹ The Bible gives a powerful reason for us to “cleanse ourselves of every defilement.” Notice that 2 Corinthians 7:1 begins by saying: “Since we have these promises.” What promises? As mentioned in the preceding verses, Jehovah promises: “I will take you in. And I shall be a

19. To keep ourselves physically clean, what do we need to avoid, and how does the Bible help us in this regard?

20, 21. Jehovah wants us to be free of what type of practices, and what powerful reason do we have to comply?

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“True Worship Requires Hard Work”:** (10 min.)
2Ch 29:10-17—Hezekiah restores true worship with determination
2Ch 30:5, 6, 10-12—Hezekiah invites all righteous ones to assemble for worship
2Ch 32:25, 26—Hezekiah corrects his haughtiness with humility (w05 10/15 25 ¶20)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
2Ch 29:11—How did Hezekiah set a good example regarding priorities? (w13 11/15 17 ¶6-7)

2Ch 32:7, 8—What is the most practical step we can take to prepare for future difficulties? (w13 11/15 20 ¶17)

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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She Opened Her Heart to God in Prayer

HANNAH busied herself with preparations for the trip, trying to keep her mind occupied. It should have been a happy time; Elkanah, her husband, customarily took the whole family on these annual journeys to worship at the tabernacle in Shiloh. Jehovah meant for such occasions to be joyful. (*Read Deuteronomy 16: 15.*) And no doubt Hannah, from her childhood on, had delighted in those festivals. But things had changed for her in recent years.

² She was blessed to have a husband who loved her. However, Elkanah had another wife. Her name was Peninnah, and she seemed intent on making Hannah's life miserable. Peninnah had figured out a way to make even these annual occasions a source of acute pain for Hannah. How? More to the point, how did Hannah's faith in Jehovah help her to cope with what often seemed like an impossible situation? If you face challenges that sap you of joy in life, you may find Hannah's story particularly moving.

“Why Does Your Heart Feel Bad?”

³ The Bible reveals two big problems in Hannah's life. She had little control over the first and none at all over the second. In the first place, she was in a polygamous marriage, with a rival wife who hated her. In the second place, she was barren. That condition is difficult for any wife who longs to bear children; but in Hannah's time and culture, it was a source of intense grief. Each family counted on offspring to carry on the family name. Barrenness seemed a bitter reproach and shame.

⁴ Hannah might have borne her burden with fortitude had it not been for Peninnah. Polygamy was never an ideal situation. Rivalry, strife, and heartache were all too common. The practice

1, 2. (a) Why was Hannah unhappy when preparing for a trip? (b) What can we learn from Hannah's story?

3, 4. What two big problems did Hannah face, and why did each present a challenge?

was far from the standard of monogamy that God had set in the garden of Eden. (Gen. 2:24) The Bible thus paints a grim portrait of polygamy, and the poignant depiction of life within Elkanah’s household is one of the telling brushstrokes in that picture.

⁵ Elkanah loved Hannah the most. Jewish tradition has it that he married Hannah first and that Peninnah came along some years later. At any rate, Peninnah, who was deeply jealous of Hannah, found many ways to make her rival suffer. Peninnah’s great advantage over Hannah had to do with fertility. Peninnah produced one offspring after another, and her self-importance grew with each new child. Instead of feeling sorry for Hannah and comforting her in her disappointment, Peninnah played on that sensitive point. The Bible says that Peninnah vexed Hannah sorely “for the sake of making her feel disconcerted.” (1 Sam. 1:6) Peninnah’s actions were deliberate. She wanted to hurt Hannah, and she succeeded.

⁶ Peninnah’s favorite opportunity, it seems, came at the time of the annual pilgrimage to Shiloh. To each of Peninnah’s many children—“all her sons and her daughters”—Elkanah gave portions of the sacrifices offered to Jehovah. Childless Hannah, though, received only her own portion. Peninnah then so lorded it over Hannah and reminded her of her barrenness that the poor woman gave way to weeping and even lost her appetite. Elkanah could not help but notice that his beloved Hannah was distressed and was not eating, so he attempted to comfort her. “Hannah,” he asked, “why do you weep, and why do you not eat, and why does your heart feel bad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”—1 Sam. 1:4-8.

⁷ To his credit, Elkanah discerned that Hannah’s distress had to do with her barrenness. And Hannah surely treasured his kind assurances of love.* But Elkanah did not mention Peninnah’s malice; nor does the Bible record suggest

* Although the Bible record says that Jehovah had ‘closed up Hannah’s womb,’ there is no evidence that God was displeased with this humble and faithful woman. (1 Sam. 1:5) The Bible at times attributes to God events that he simply allowed to take place for a time.

In the face of unkind
treatment at home,
Hannah turned to
Jehovah for comfort

5. Why did Peninnah want Hannah to suffer, and how did she hurt Hannah?
6, 7. (a) Despite Elkanah’s attempts to comfort Hannah, why might she have held back from telling him the whole story? (b) Did Hannah’s barrenness mean that Jehovah was displeased with her? Explain. (See footnote.)



Hannah was deeply troubled by her barrenness, and Peninnah did everything she could to make Hannah feel worse

that Hannah told him of it. Perhaps she saw that exposing Peninnah would only make her own situation worse. Would Elkanah really change things? Might not Peninnah's contempt for Hannah only deepen, and would not the children and the servants of that spiteful woman follow suit? Hannah would only feel more and more like an outcast in her own household.

⁸ Whether Elkanah knew the full scope of Peninnah's petty meanness or not, Jehovah God saw it all. His Word reveals the whole picture, thus providing a solemn warning to any who indulge in seemingly minor jealous and hateful acts. On the other hand, the innocent and the peaceable, like Hannah, can find comfort in knowing that the God of justice sets all matters right in his own time and in his own way. (*Read Deuteronomy 32:4.*) Perhaps Hannah knew as much, for it was to Jehovah that she turned for help.

“Self-Concerned No More”

⁹ In the early hours, the household was bustling. Everyone was getting ready for the trip, even the children. The journey to Shiloh would take the large family across more than 20 miles of the hilly country of Ephraim.* The trek would last a day or two on foot. Hannah knew how her rival wife would act. However, Hannah did not stay at home. She thus set a worthy example for worshippers of God to this day. It is never wise to let the misconduct of others interfere with our worship of God. Were we to do so, we would miss out on the very blessings that strengthen us to endure.

¹⁰ After a long day of walking on winding mountain roads, the large family at last approached Shiloh. There it sat, on a hill nearly ringed by higher hills. As they approached, Hannah likely thought a great deal about what she would say in prayer to Jehovah. Once they arrived, the family shared a meal. Hannah pulled away from the group as soon as she could and made her way to the tabernacle of Jehovah. High Priest Eli was there, sitting near the doorpost. But Hannah's focus was on her God. Here at the

* The distance is based on the likelihood that Elkanah's hometown, Ramah, was the same place that came to be known as Arimathea in Jesus' day.

8. When you face petty meanness or injustice, why is it comforting to remember that Jehovah is the God of justice?

9. What lesson can we learn from Hannah's willingness to make the trip to Shiloh despite knowing how her rival would act?

10, 11. (a) Why did Hannah make her way to the tabernacle as soon as she could? (b) How did Hannah pour out her heart to her heavenly Father in prayer?

tabernacle, she felt confident that she would be heard. If no one else could fully understand her plight, her Father in heaven could. Her bitterness welled up within her, and she began to weep.

¹¹ As the sobs racked her body, Hannah spoke within herself to Jehovah. Her lips quivered as she mentally formed the words to express her pain. And she prayed at length, pouring out her heart to her Father. She did more, though, than just ask God to fulfill her desperate urge to bear offspring. Hannah was keen not only to receive blessings from God but also to give him what she could. So she made a vow, saying that if she had a son, she would dedicate the child to a life of service to Jehovah.—1 Sam. 1:9-11.

¹² Hannah thus set an example for all of God's servants when it comes to prayer. Jehovah kindly invites his people to speak to him openly, without reservation, pouring out their concerns before him as a trusting child would to a loving parent. (**Read Psalm 62:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.**) The apostle Peter was inspired to write these comforting words about prayer to Jehovah: "Throw all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you."—1 Pet. 5:7.

¹³ Humans, however, are not as understanding and empathetic as Jehovah is. As Hannah wept and prayed, she was startled by a voice. It was Eli, the high priest, who had been observing her. He said: "How long will you behave drunk? Put away your wine from upon you." Eli had noticed Hannah's quivering lips, her sobs, and her emotional demeanor. Instead of inquiring what was wrong, he jumped to the conclusion that she was drunk.—1 Sam. 1:12-14.

¹⁴ How hurtful for Hannah, in that moment of anguish, to have to face such a baseless accusation—and that from a man who held such an honored position! Nevertheless, she again set a praiseworthy example of faith. She did not let a man's imperfections get in the way of her worship of Jehovah. She answered Eli respectfully and explained her situation. He replied, perhaps in a chastened and softer tone: "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of him."—1 Sam. 1:15-17.

¹⁵ What was the effect on Hannah of opening her heart to

12. As Hannah's example illustrates, what should we keep in mind when it comes to prayer?

13, 14. (a) How did Eli jump to a wrong conclusion about Hannah? (b) How did Hannah's response to Eli set a remarkable example of faith?

15, 16. (a) How was Hannah affected by opening her heart to Jehovah and worshipping him at the tabernacle? (b) How might we follow Hannah's example when we struggle with negative feelings?



- Song 35 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah Values Genuine Repentance”:** (10 min.)
 2Ch 33:2-9, 12-16—On the basis of genuine repentance, Manasseh was shown mercy (w05 12/1 21 ¶15)
 2Ch 34:18, 30, 33—Reading the Bible and meditating on it can affect us profoundly (w05 12/1 21 ¶10)
 2Ch 36:15-17—Jehovah’s compassion and patience must not be taken for granted (w05 12/1 21 ¶7)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 2Ch 33:11—What prophecy was fulfilled when Manasseh was taken to Babylon? (it-1 62 ¶12)

2Ch 34:1-3—What encouragement can we draw from Josiah’s example? (w05 12/1 21 ¶6)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** 2Ch 34:22-33 (4 min. or less)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Present the cover subject of the current *Watchtower*. Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Demonstrate how to make a return visit on someone who responded well to the presentation that featured the cover article of the current *Watchtower*. Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) Demonstrate a Bible study. (bh 9-10 ¶6-7)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 77
- **Repentance Makes a Difference:** (10 min.) Talk by an elder. (w06 11/15 27-28 ¶7-9)
- **Forgive Freely:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Forgive Freely*. (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Afterward, invite comments from children on the lessons they learned.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** ia chap. 6 ¶15-23, box on p. 57, review on p. 58 (30 min.)
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 6 and Prayer



2 CHRONICLES 33-36 | Jehovah Values Genuine Repentance

MANASSEH



Jehovah allowed him to be captured by Assyria and taken to Babylon in fetters

REIGN BEFORE CAPTURE

- Built altars to false gods
- Offered own sons as sacrifices
- Shed innocent blood
- Promoted spiritistic practices throughout the nation

REIGN AFTER RELEASE

- Humbled himself greatly
- Prayed to Jehovah; offered sacrifices
- Removed altars to false gods
- Urged nation to serve Jehovah

JOSIAH



THROUGHOUT REIGN

- Searched for Jehovah
- Cleansed Judah and Jerusalem
- Repaired the house of Jehovah; found the book of the Law

Capo fret 2



We real - ly want to im - i - tate our God, To be im -
 It does - n't mat - ter where they may be found Or what at
 Je - ho - vah wel - comes all who make the choice To leave the



par - tial, as we know he is. To save all
 first they might ap - pear to be. What real - ly
 world and all its ways be - hind. This we have



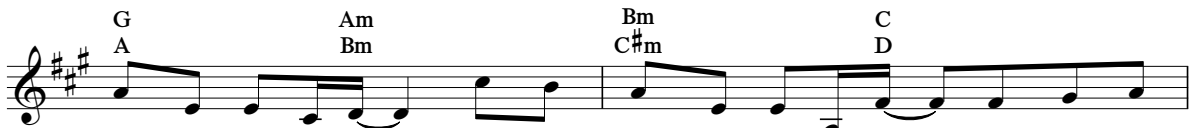
sorts of peo - ple is his will; He wel - comes
 counts is what they are at heart— The in - ner
 learned, and this we want to share, And so we



all to come and to be his.
 self, the one Je - ho - vah sees. It's the per - son, not the place; It's the
 preach to peo - ple of all kinds.



heart and not the face. God's mes - sage to all peo - ple we ex - tend. So be -



cause we real - ly care, We keep preach - ing ev - 'ry - where: "All sorts of



peo - ple can be - come God's friend."

41

Worship Jehovah During Youth

(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

C/G F/G G C F G7/F C/E

Pre - cious to God are you daugh - ters and sons;
 Hon - or your par - ents who care for your life,
 Al - ways re - mem - ber your God in your youth;

F C/E D7 G

Great his af - fec - tion for you, our dear ones.
 Giv - ing no cause for con - ten - tion or strife.
 Grow ev - er stron - ger in love of the truth.

G/F F G/F C/E F C/E

Lov - ing at - ten - tion to you he ex - tends
 If you gain fa - vor with God and with men,
 By your de - vo - tion to God you will bring

Fma7 F6 C/G Dm7/G Env/G G7 C

Through us, your par - ents, your fam - 'ly, and friends.
 Days of your youth will be hap - pi - est then.
 Joy to the heart of Je - ho - vah, our King.



Train Your Teenager to Serve Jehovah

“Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men.”—LUKE 2:52.

SONGS: 41, 89

HOW CAN YOU IMITATE JESUS BY . . .

showing love for your teenager?

demonstrating humility as a parent?

showing insight in your dealings with your teenage son or daughter?

CHRISTIAN parents have few joys like that of watching their child get baptized. “It was a highly emotional experience for us. We were, of course, grateful that our children wanted to serve Jehovah,” says Berenice, whose four children were baptized before they turned 14. “But,” she adds, “we also knew that as teenagers our children would face many challenges.” You may understand Berenice’s concern if your child is a teenager or is approaching adolescence.

² While acknowledging that adolescence can be challenging for parents and teenagers alike, one expert on child development states: “Adolescence is not a period of being ‘crazy’ or ‘immature.’ It is an essential time of emotional intensity, social engagement, and creativity.” While they are teenagers, your children can develop a more meaningful friendship with Jehovah, set and pursue goals in the ministry, and use more initiative as they make their dedication and live up to it. They may find adolescence to be a rewarding time of spiritual

1, 2. (a) What concerns do some parents have when their children become teenagers? (b) In what ways can Christian youths thrive during adolescence?

growth, even as Jesus did when he was young. **(Read Luke 2:52.)** What role do you as a parent play during those crucial years? Consider how Jesus, after he grew into adulthood, manifested love, humility, and insight. How can these qualities help you to train your teenager to serve Jehovah?

LOVE YOUR TEENAGER

³ Jesus was a loving and loyal friend. **(Read John 15:15.)** In Bible times, a master did not normally share his private thoughts and feelings with his slaves. However, Jesus proved to be both master and friend to his faithful apostles. He spent time with them, shared his feelings with them, and carefully listened when they poured out their hearts to him. (Mark 6:30-32) Such loving communication created a warm bond between Jesus and his apostles and prepared them for future responsibilities in God's service.

⁴ "While we as parents can't be our children's peers," says Michael, a father of two, "we can be their friends." Friends spend time together. Prayerfully consider whether you can adjust your secular work or other pursuits to spend more time with your children. Friends also share common interests. Therefore, make an effort to enjoy things that your teenager enjoys—his favorite music, films, or sports. Ilaria, who lives in Italy, says: "My parents took an interest in the music I listened to. In fact, my dad became my best friend, and I felt free to talk to him about even delicate matters."

3. Why could Jesus call his apostles his friends?

4. How can you be a friend to your child while still maintaining your parental authority? (See opening image.)

When you are a friend to your teenage children and help them to enjoy "close friendship with Jehovah," you do not relinquish your authority as a parent. (Ps. 25:14) On the contrary, you show that you love and respect them, and you become more approachable. In turn, they are more likely to share their concerns with you.

⁵ Jesus wanted his beloved disciples and friends to experience the joy that comes from a busy life in Jehovah's service. Therefore, he desired that they zealously participate in spiritual activities. Indeed, Jesus wanted them to be ardent disciple-makers! And he lovingly assured his disciples that he would help them to succeed.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

⁶ You want your teenage children to remain spiritually healthy. And God wants you to bring your children up "in the discipline and admonition of Jehovah." (Eph. 6:4) So use your God-given responsibility to establish and maintain a spiritual routine. To illustrate: You insist that your children be educated because their education is important and you hope to instill in them a love for learning. Loving parents likewise insist that their children benefit from the "admonition of Jehovah" at congregation meetings and through other spiritual programs. Because divine education is vital, you try to instill in your children love for spiritual things and appreciation for wisdom. (Prov. 24:14) As Jesus helped his disciples, you seek to help

5. How did Jesus help his disciples to experience the joy that comes from a busy life in Jehovah's service?

6, 7. Why is it loving for parents to establish and maintain a spiritual routine for their children?

your teenage children to succeed in the ministry by developing in them a love of teaching God’s Word and by helping them stick to a good field service routine.

⁷ How can a consistent spiritual routine help teenagers? Erin, who lives in South Africa, admits: “We children often whined and complained about Bible study, meetings, and field service. Sometimes we deliberately disrupted our family study to try to get out of it. But our parents didn’t give in.” She adds: “That training helped me to develop perseverance. If my spiritual routine gets disrupted now, I have a longing to return to it as quickly as possible. I don’t think I would have developed that longing had our parents not been firm in maintaining a spiritual routine. Had they given in, I am quite sure I would now find it much easier to miss meetings or other spiritual activities.”

TEACH HUMILITY BY YOUR EXAMPLE

⁸ Though Jesus was a perfect man, he humbly acknowledged his limitations and reliance on Jehovah. **(Read John 5: 19.)** Did Jesus’ humility weaken his disciples’ respect for him? Not at all. In fact, the more he relied on Jehovah, the more his disciples trusted him. Later, they imitated Jesus’ humility.—Acts 3: 12, 13, 16.

⁹ We have many limitations, and unlike Jesus, we are imperfect and make mistakes. Humbly acknowledge your

8. (a) How did Jesus acknowledge his limitations? (b) How did Jesus’ humility affect his disciples?

9. When you humbly apologize and acknowledge your limitations, how may this affect your teenage children?

limitations and admit your mistakes. (1 John 1:8) After all, whom do you respect more? A boss who admits when he is wrong or one who does not apologize? When your teenager hears you apologize for your mistakes, his respect for you is likely increased. He may also learn to admit his own errors. “We admitted our mistakes, and that moved our children to open up to us when they had a problem,” says Rosemary, a mother of three grown children. “We realized our limitations, so we taught our children where to find the best solutions to their problems. When they needed help, we always referred them to our Bible-based literature, and we prayed together.”

¹⁰ Jesus had the authority to issue commands to his followers. Humbly, though, he often gave *reasons* for a command. For example, he did not just tell his followers to seek first the Kingdom and God’s righteousness but said: “And all these other things will be added to you.” After saying, “Stop judging,” Jesus gave this reason: “That you may not be judged; for with the judgment you are judging, you will be judged.”—Matt. 6:31–7:2.

¹¹ When appropriate, explain the reasons behind a rule or a decision you make. If a teenager understands your thinking on the matter, he is more likely to obey you from a willing heart. “Giving reasons helps teenagers to trust you because they see that your decisions are not arbitrary or capricious but reasonable,” says Barry, who raised four children. A teenager is also maturing into an

10. How did Jesus show humility when commanding his followers?

11. When appropriate, why is it wise to explain the reasons for a parental rule or decision?

adult with his own “power of reason.” (Rom. 12:1) Barry explains: “Teenagers need to learn to make sensible decisions based on reason rather than emotion.” (Ps. 119:34) When you humbly give reasons for your decisions, your adolescent can sense that you recognize that he is progressing toward maturity, and he learns to make his own decisions with his “power of reason.”

SHOW INSIGHT, AND UNDERSTAND YOUR TEENAGER

¹² Jesus showed insight and understood where his disciples needed help. For instance, the apostle Peter meant well when he urged Jesus to be kind to himself in order not to be killed. Jesus, however, knew that Peter’s comment reflected faulty thinking. To help him and the other disciples, Jesus gave frank counsel, stated the consequences of a self-sparing attitude, and outlined the blessings of a self-sacrificing spirit. (Matt. 16:21-27) Peter learned the lesson.—1 Pet. 2:20, 21.

12. How did Jesus use insight to help Peter?

¹³ Pray to Jehovah to give you insight so that you can understand where your teenager needs help. (Ps. 32:8) For example, what might indicate that your child’s faith is wavering? Perhaps his joy is waning, he is speaking critically of fellow believers, or he has become secretive. Do not hastily conclude that these are signs of a double life involving serious sin.* On the other hand, do not ignore such signs or dismiss your teenager’s isolation as a mere phase.

¹⁴ Like Jesus, ask questions kindly and respectfully. As drawing a bucket of water out of a well too quickly will cause you to lose some of the water, confronting your teen too forcefully may make you squander a valuable opportunity to learn his thoughts and intentions. **(Read Proverbs 20:5.)** Ilaria,

* Parents may wish to consult *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Vol. 1, p. 317, and Vol. 2, pp. 136-141.

13, 14. (a) What may indicate that your teen’s faith is wavering? (b) How can you use insight to understand and really help your son or daughter?



Create opportunities with your children to form friendships within the Christian congregation
(See paragraph 14)

quoted earlier, states: “During my adolescence, I became torn between walking in the truth and spending more time with my classmates. This inward battle affected my mood, and my parents detected that. One evening, they simply mentioned that they had noticed that I was a bit down, and they asked me what the problem was. I burst into tears, explained the situation, and asked for help. They hugged me, told me that they understood, and promised to help me.” Ilaria’s parents immediately began assisting her to forge new and better friendships in the congregation.

¹⁵ Jesus also showed insight by seeing where his disciples needed help and where they excelled. For instance, when a man named Nathanael heard that Jesus had come from Nazareth, he said: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46) Based on that comment, how might you have labeled Nathanael? Critical? Prejudiced? Faithless? Jesus exercised insight and looked for the good in Nathanael. Jesus called him “truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” (John 1:47) Jesus could read hearts, and he used that ability to look for the good in others.

¹⁶ You cannot read hearts, but with God’s help you can exercise insight. Will you use that ability to look for the good in your teenager? No one wants to be labeled a “troublemaker.” In thought or word, never label your son or daughter a “rebellious teenager” or a “problem child.” Even if your teen is struggling, let

15. Explain how Jesus showed insight when dealing with others.

16. How can you help your teenager to develop good qualities?

him know that you see his potential and heartfelt desire to do what is right. Note any signs of growth and progress, and commend him. Help him to develop his good qualities by giving him increased responsibility when possible. Jesus did that with his disciples. About a year and a half after meeting Nathanael (also called Bartholomew), Jesus selected him as an apostle, and Nathanael proved to be a zealous Christian. (Luke 6:13, 14; Acts 1:13, 14) Your commendation and encouragement will help your child to feel that he is, not someone who always fails to measure up, but a capable Christian whom Jehovah can use.

TRAINING THAT REAPS INDESCRIBABLE JOY

¹⁷ As you raise your children, you may sometimes feel as did the apostle Paul, who became a spiritual father to many. He experienced “tribulation and anguish of heart” because of “the depth of love” he had for his spiritual children in Corinth. (2 Cor. 2:4; 1 Cor. 4:15) Victor, who raised two sons and a daughter, says: “The teenage years were not easy. Yet, the good times outweighed the challenges we faced. With Jehovah’s help, we enjoyed a close friendship with our children.”

¹⁸ Keep working tirelessly to train your children to serve Jehovah. As you show the depth of your love for them, may you experience the indescribable joy of seeing them come into the truth and remain in the ranks of spiritual children who “go on walking in the truth.” —3 John 4.

17, 18. Your persistent efforts to help your teenager to serve Jehovah can lead to what outcome?

89 Jehovah's Warm Appeal: "Be Wise, My Son"

(Proverbs 27:11)

E B/D# E E/G# F#m11 E B/D# A2/C# B/D#

Young man and young wom - an, do give your heart to
 Re - jice and take plea - sure in giv - ing me your

E G#m C#m C#m9/B C#m/B B/A A

me. My foe who now taunts me will then be made to
 all, And though you may stum - ble, I'll raise you if you

E/G# F#m7 C#m Ama7 B/A

see. Your youth and de - vo - tion to me you free - ly
 fall. No mat - ter who fails you or proves to be un -

G#m7 E/G# C#m G#m/B Ama7 E/G#

give; You show all the world that for me you real - ly
 true, Take com - fort in know - ing I'll al - ways cher - ish

Jehovah's Warm Appeal: "Be Wise, My Son"

live. you. Be - lov - ed son and pre - cious

Chorus

The first system of music features a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with accompaniment. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody starts with a half note G#4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G#2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F#m7, A/B, B7, E, and B/D#. The lyrics are: "live. you. Be - lov - ed son and pre - cious".

daugh - ter, Be wise and make my heart re - joice.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody has notes G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The bass staff has notes G#2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, and F#3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: A/C#, E/B, A, C#m7/G#, and F#m. The lyrics are: "daugh - ter, Be wise and make my heart re - joice."

That out of your own heart you serve me,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody has notes G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The bass staff has notes G#2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, and F#3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F#m/E, F#m/D#, G#7sus4, G#7, C#m9, and C#m. The lyrics are: "That out of your own heart you serve me,"

And fur - nish praise by your own choice.

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody has notes G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The bass staff has notes G#2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, and F#3. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: Am6/C, Esus4/B, E/B, B7sus4, B7, Esus4, and E. The lyrics are: "And fur - nish praise by your own choice."