

- Song 148 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Daniel.*] Da 3:16-20—Daniel’s companions withstood the intense pressure to be disloyal to Jehovah (w15 7/15 25 ¶15-16) Da 3:26-29—Their loyalty resulted in praise to Jehovah and blessings to them (w13 1/15 10 ¶13)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Da 1:5, 8—Why did Daniel and his three companions conclude that their eating of the king’s delicacies would defile them? (it-2 382)

Da 2:44—Why will God’s Kingdom have to crush the earthly rulerships depicted in the image? (w12 6/15 17, box; w01 10/15 6 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 2:31-43

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Isa 40:22—Teach the Truth—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ro 15:4—Teach the Truth—Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w17.02 29-30—Theme: Does Jehovah Assess in Advance How Much Pressure We Can Bear and Then Choose the Trials We Will Face?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 124
- **“Be Loyal When Tempted”:** (8 min.) Discussion.
- **“Be Loyal When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped”:** (7 min.) Discussion.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr pp. 192-193, chap. 18 ¶1-8
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 72 and Prayer

DANIEL 1-3 | Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards

3:16-20, 26-29

The account of the three Hebrews can strengthen our determination to be loyal to Jehovah



 According to the following scriptures, what does loyalty to Jehovah involve?

Mt 24:14

Joh 17:16

1Co 6:9, 10

1. The living God, Jehovah, you have proved to be;
Your mighty works abound
in earth and sky and sea.
No rival god can equal what you have done
—there is none.
Our foes will be consumed.

(CHORUS)

*Jehovah provides escape for the loyal.
His servants will see what a mighty Crag is he.
So with courage and faith in our God,
we spread the fame
Of Jehovah, our Source of escape,
and praise his name.*

2. Though ropes of death encircle me, I call to you,
“Jehovah, give me strength,
and give me courage too.”
From your own temple dwelling, you hear my plea,
“Shelter me;
Rescue me, O my God.”

(Chorus)

3. From heaven you will thunder
and give forth your voice.
Your enemies will quake;
your servants will rejoice.
You prove to be whatever you need to be;
all will see
How you provide escape.

(Chorus)

Daniel 1-3

1 In the third year of the kingship of King Je·hoi'a·kim of Judah, King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** In time Jehovah gave King Je·hoi'a·kim of Judah into his hand, along with some of the utensils of the house of the true God, and he brought them to the land of Shi'nar to the house of his god. He placed the utensils in the treasury of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ash'pe·naz his chief court official to bring some of the Israelites, including those of royal and noble descent. **4** They were to be youths without any defect, of good appearance, endowed with wisdom, knowledge, and discernment, and capable of serving in the king's palace. He was to teach them the writing and the language of the Chal·de'ans.

5 Furthermore, the king assigned to them a daily ration from the king's delicacies and from the wine he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end of that time they were to enter the king's service.

6 Now among them were some from the tribe of Judah: Daniel, Han·a·ni'ah, Mish'a·el, and Az·a·ri'ah.

7 And the principal court official assigned names to them; he gave to Daniel the name Bel·te·shaz'zar, to Han·a·ni'ah the name Sha'drach, to Mish'a·el the name Me'shach, and to Az·a·ri'ah the name A·bed'ne·go.

⁸ But Daniel resolved in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's delicacies or with the wine he drank. So he asked the principal court official for permission not to defile himself in this way. ⁹ And the true God caused the principal court official to show Daniel favor and mercy. ¹⁰ But the principal court official said to Daniel: "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. What if he should see you looking worse in appearance than the other youths of your age? You would make me guilty before the king." ¹¹ But Daniel said to the guardian whom the principal court official had appointed over Daniel, Han·a·ni'ah, Mish'a·el, and Az·a·ri'ah:

¹² "Please, test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink; ¹³ then compare our appearance with the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's delicacies, and deal with your servants according to what you see."

¹⁴ So he agreed to their proposal and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days their appearance was better and healthier than all the youths who were eating the king's delicacies. ¹⁶ So the guardian would take away their delicacies and their wine and give them vegetables. ¹⁷ And the true God gave these four youths knowledge and insight into every kind of writing and wisdom; and Daniel was given understanding in all sorts of visions and dreams.

¹⁸ At the end of the time that the king had specified to bring them in, the principal court official brought them in before Neb·u·chad·nez'zar. ¹⁹ When the king spoke with them, no one in the entire group was found to be like Daniel, Han·a·ni'ah, Mish'a·el, and Az·a·ri'ah; and they continued to serve before the king. ²⁰ In every matter requiring wisdom and understanding that the king would ask them about, he found them ten times better than all the magic-practicing priests and the conjurers in his entire realm. ²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

2 In the second year of his kingship, Neb·u·chad·nez'zar had a number of dreams, and he was so agitated that he could not sleep. ² So the king gave the order to summon the magic-practicing priests, the conjurers, the sorcerers, and the Chal·de'ans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³ Then the king said to them: “I have had a dream, and I am agitated because I want to know what I dreamed.” ⁴ The Chal·de'ans replied to the king in the Ar·a·ma'ic language: “O king, may you live on forever. Relate the dream to your servants, and we will tell the interpretation.”

⁵ The king answered the Chal·de'ans: “This is my final word: If you do not make the dream known to me, along with its interpretation, you will be dismembered, and your houses will be turned into public latrines.

⁶ But if you do tell the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor. So tell me the dream and its interpretation.”

⁷ They answered a second time: “Let the king relate the dream to his servants, and we will tell its interpretation.”

⁸ The king replied: “I am well-aware that you are trying to gain time, for you realize what my final word is. ⁹ If you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one penalty for all of you. But you have agreed to tell me something false and deceitful until the situation changes. So tell me the dream, and I will know that you can explain its interpretation.”

¹⁰ The Chal-de'ans answered the king: “There is not a man on earth who is able to do what the king demands, for no great king or governor has asked such a thing of any magic-practicing priest or conjurer or Chal-de'an.

¹¹ What the king is asking is difficult, and no one exists who could tell the king this except the gods, who do not dwell among mortals.”

¹² At this the king flew into a violent rage and gave the order to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

¹³ When the order was issued and the wise men were about to be killed, they also looked for Daniel and his companions to put them to death.

¹⁴ At that time Daniel discreetly and cautiously spoke to Ar'i-och the chief of the king's bodyguard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵ He asked Ar'i-och the officer of the king: "Why is there such a harsh order from the king?" Then Ar'i-och informed Daniel about the matter. ¹⁶ So Daniel went in and asked the king to grant him time to tell the interpretation to the king.

¹⁷ Daniel then went to his house and informed his companions Han-a-ni'ah, Mish'a-el, and Az-a-ri'ah of the matter. ¹⁸ He asked them to pray for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed along with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

¹⁹ Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision at night. So Daniel praised the God of heaven.

²⁰ Daniel declared:

"Let the name of God be praised for all eternity,
For wisdom and mightiness are his alone.

²¹ He changes times and seasons,
Removes kings and sets up kings,
Gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to
those with discernment.

²² He reveals the deep things and the hidden things,
He knows what is in the darkness,
And with him the light dwells.

²³ To you, O God of my forefathers, I offer thanks and praise,
Because you have given me wisdom and power.
And now you have made known to me what we requested of you;
You have made known to us the concern of the king.”

²⁴ Daniel then went in to Ar'i-och, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon, and he said to him: “Do not destroy any wise men of Babylon. Take me in before the king, and I will tell the interpretation to the king.”

²⁵ Ar'i-och quickly took Daniel in before the king and said to him: “I have found a man of the exiles of Judah who can make known the interpretation to the king.”

²⁶ The king said to Daniel, whose name was Bel-te-shaz'zar: “Can you really make known to me the dream that I saw, and its interpretation?” ²⁷ Daniel replied to the king: “None of the wise men, conjurers, magic-practicing priests, or astrologers are able to tell the king the secret that he is asking. ²⁸ But there is a God in the heavens who is a Revealer of secrets, and he has made known to King Neb-u-chad-nez'zar what is to happen in the final part of the days. This is your dream, and these are the visions of your head as you lay on your bed:

²⁹ “As for you, O king, on your bed your thoughts turned to what is to take place in the future, and the Revealer of secrets has made known to you what is to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this secret was not revealed to me because I have greater wisdom than anyone living; rather, it was to make the interpretation known to the king so that you may know the thoughts in your heart.

³¹ “You, O king, were watching, and you saw an immense image. That image, which was huge and extremely bright, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was terrifying. ³² The head of that image was of fine gold, its chest and its arms were of silver, its abdomen and its thighs were of copper, ³³ its legs were of iron, and its feet were partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You looked on until a stone was cut out, not by hands, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and of clay and crushed them. ³⁵ At that time the iron, the clay, the copper, the silver, and the gold were, all together, crushed and became like the chaff from the summer threshing floor, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a large mountain, and it filled the whole earth.

³⁶ “This is the dream, and we will now tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷ You, O king—the king of kings to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the might, the strength, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose

hand he has given men wherever they may dwell, as well as the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and whom he has made ruler over all of them—you yourself are the head of gold.

³⁹ “But after you another kingdom will rise, inferior to you; then another kingdom, a third one, of copper, that will rule over the whole earth.

⁴⁰ “As for the fourth kingdom, it will be strong like iron. For just as iron crushes and pulverizes everything else, yes, like iron that shatters, it will crush and shatter all of these.

⁴¹ “And just as you saw the feet and the toes to be partly of clay of a potter and partly of iron, the kingdom will be divided, but some of the hardness of iron will be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with soft clay.

⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom will be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ Just as you saw iron mixed with soft clay, they will be mixed with the people; but they will not stick together, one to the other, just as iron does not mix with clay.

⁴⁴ “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. And this kingdom will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it alone will stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that out of

the mountain a stone was cut not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the copper, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The Grand God has made known to the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

⁴⁶ Then King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar fell down with his face to the ground before Daniel and paid homage to him. And he gave the order to offer a present and incense to him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel: “Truly your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a Revealer of secrets, because you were able to reveal this secret.” ⁴⁸ The king then elevated Daniel and gave him many fine gifts, and he made him the ruler over all the province of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ And at Daniel's request, the king appointed Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go over the administration of the province of Babylon, but Daniel served in the king's court.

3 Neb·u·chad·nez'zar the king made an image of gold that was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. He set it up on the plain of Du'ra in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar sent word to assemble the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the administrators of the provinces to come to the inauguration of the image that King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar had set up.

³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the administrators of the provinces assembled for the inauguration of the image that King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar had set up. And they stood in front of the image that Neb·u·chad·nez'zar had set up. ⁴ The herald loudly proclaimed: “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and language groups, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, triangular harp, stringed instrument, bagpipe, and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar has set up.

⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.”

⁷ So when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, triangular harp, stringed instrument, and all the other musical instruments, all the peoples, nations, and language groups fell down and worshipped the image of gold that King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar had set up.

⁸ Now at that time some of the Chal·de'ans came forward and accused the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar: “O king, may you live on forever.

¹⁰ You, O king, gave the command that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, triangular harp, stringed instrument, bagpipe, and all the other musical instruments should fall down and worship the image of gold; ¹¹ and that whoever would not fall down

and worship should be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ¹² But there are certain Jews whom you appointed to administer the province of Babylon: Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A-bed'ne-go. These men have paid no regard to you, O king. They are not serving your gods, and they refuse to worship the image of gold that you have set up.”

¹³ Then Neb-u-chad-nez'zar, in a furious rage, ordered Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A-bed'ne-go to be brought in. So these men were brought in before the king. ¹⁴ Neb-u-chad-nez'zar said to them: “Is it really true, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A-bed'ne-go, that you are not serving my gods and that you refuse to worship the image of gold that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe, and all the other musical instruments, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image that I have made, fine. But if you refuse to worship, you will immediately be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who can rescue you out of my hands?”

¹⁶ Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A-bed'ne-go answered the king: “O Neb-u-chad-nez'zar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If it must be, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the burning fiery furnace, O king, and to rescue us from your hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, let it be known to you, O

king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold that you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Neb·u·chad·nez'zar became so furious with Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go that the expression of his face changed toward them, and he gave orders to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰ He ordered some of the mighty men from his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go and to throw them into the burning fiery furnace.

²¹ So these men were tied up while still wearing their cloaks, garments, caps, and all their other clothing, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

²² Because the king's command was so harsh and the furnace was exceptionally hot, the men who took up Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go were the ones killed by the flames of the fire. ²³ But these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar then became frightened and quickly rose up and said to his high officials: “Did we not tie up three men and throw them into the fire?” They answered the king: “Yes, O king.” ²⁵ He said: “Look! I see four men walking about free in the midst of the fire, and they are unharmed, and the fourth one looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Neb·u·chad·nez'zar approached the door of the burning fiery furnace and said: “Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go, you servants of the Most High God, step out and come here!” Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go stepped out from the midst of the fire.

²⁷ And the satraps, prefects, governors, and the high officials of the king who were assembled there saw that the fire had had no effect on the bodies of these men; not a hair of their heads had been singed, their cloaks looked no different, and there was not even the smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Neb·u·chad·nez'zar then declared: “Praised be the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go, who sent his angel and rescued his servants. They trusted in him and went against the command of the king and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ I am therefore issuing an order that any people, nation, or language group that says anything against the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go should be dismembered, and their houses should be turned into public latrines; for there is no other god who is able to rescue like this one.”

³⁰ The king then promoted Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne·go in the province of Babylon.

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Daniel.*] Da 3:16-20—Daniel’s companions withstood the intense pressure to be disloyal to Jehovah (w15 7/15 25 ¶15-16) Da 3:26-29—Their loyalty resulted in praise to Jehovah and blessings to them (w13 1/15 10 ¶13)
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DANIEL 1-3 | Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards

3:16-20, 26-29

The account of the three Hebrews can strengthen our determination to be loyal to Jehovah



 According to the following scriptures, what does loyalty to Jehovah involve?

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1Co 6:9, 10

September 18-24

Treasures From God's Word

Daniel 3:16-20—Daniel's companions withstood the intense pressure to be disloyal to Jehovah

Reference: w15 7/15 25 paragraphs 15-16.

15 Sooner or later, all of Jehovah's servants will find themselves in situations in which their conscience obliges them to stand out as different from those around them—whether colleagues, classmates, neighbors, relatives, or others. (1 Peter 2:19) Yet, stand out we must! We should not be surprised if the world hates us for our stand; Jesus warned us that it would. Most opposers do not appreciate the importance of the issues involved in Christian neutrality. For us, though, these are matters of utmost importance.

16 Loyalty to Jehovah requires that we be steadfast in the face of threats. (Daniel 3:16-18) Fear of man can affect people of all ages, but young people may find it especially difficult to go against the flow, so to speak. If your children are facing such issues as the flag salute or nationalistic celebrations, do not hesitate to assist them. Use Family Worship sessions to help your children understand the issues involved so that they can meet those challenges courageously. Help them to express their personal

convictions clearly and respectfully. (**Romans 1:16**) To back up your children, take the initiative to speak with their teachers about these matters if necessary.

Daniel 3:26-29—Their loyalty resulted in praise to Jehovah and blessings to them

Reference: w13 1/15 10 **paragraph 13**.

In the seventh century B.C.E., three Hebrew servants of Jehovah were given clear evidence that God rewards faith and courage. King Nebuchadnezzar assembled Babylon's dignitaries and demanded that they worship a towering image of gold. Any who would not do so were to die in a fiery furnace. The three Hebrews respectfully told Nebuchadnezzar: "Our God whom we are serving is able to rescue us. Out of the burning fiery furnace and out of your hand, O king, he will rescue us. But if not, let it become known to you, O king, that your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship." (**Daniel 3:16-18**) The thrilling rescue of the three Hebrews is vividly described at Daniel 3:19-30. Although we are not likely to be threatened with death in a fiery furnace, we do face tests of integrity and can be sure that God will bless us for our faith and courage.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Daniel 1:5, 8—Why did Daniel and his three companions conclude that their eating of the king’s delicacies would defile them?

Reference: *it-2* 382.

There are three probable reasons why they considered the king’s delicacies ‘polluting’: (1) The Babylonians ate animals declared unclean by the Mosaic Law; (2) they would not be careful to see that the animals were properly bled, some perhaps being strangled; (3) the pagans often first sacrificed the animals to their gods, considering the eating of such meat as a part of worship of these gods.—**Daniel 1:8**; compare **1 Corinthians 10:18-20, 28**.

Daniel 2:44—Why will God’s Kingdom have to crush the earthly rulerships depicted in the image?

Reference: *w12* 6/15 17, box.

[Box.] Who Make Up “All These Kingdoms”?

The prophecy at Daniel 2:44 states that God’s Kingdom “will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms.” That prophecy refers only to the kingdoms pictured by the various parts of the image.

What about all other human governments? The parallel prophecy in Revelation reveals the larger picture. It shows that “the kings of the entire inhabited earth” will be gathered against Jehovah on “the great day of God the Almighty.” (Revelation 16:14; 19:19-21) Hence, not only the kingdoms of the image but also all other human governments will be destroyed at Armageddon. [End of Box.]

Reference: w01 10/15 6 paragraph 4.

The answer is found at Daniel 2:44: “In the days of those kings [ruling at the end of the present system] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. *It will crush and put an end to all these [man-made] kingdoms*, and it itself will stand to times indefinite.” Why will God’s Kingdom have to “crush” earthly rulerships? Because these insist on perpetuating the God-defying spirit of self-determination promoted by Satan back in the garden of Eden. In addition to working against mankind’s best interests, those who strive to perpetuate that spirit put themselves on a collision course with the Creator. (Psalm 2:6-12; Revelation 16:14, 16) Hence, we must ask ourselves, ‘Are we for or against rule by God?’

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Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Talk: Does Jehovah Assess in Advance How Much Pressure We Can Bear and Then Choose the Trials We Will Face?

Reference: w17.02 29-30.

Questions From Readers

The apostle Paul wrote that Jehovah “will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.” (1 Corinthians 10:13) Does this mean that Jehovah assesses in advance what we can bear and then chooses the trials we will face?

[Inserted scripture.] 1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has come upon you except what is common to men. But God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but along with the temptation he will also make the way out so that you may be able to endure it. [End of inserted scripture.]

- Consider the implications of such a view. One brother whose son committed suicide asked: ‘Did Jehovah assess in advance that my wife and I would be capable of enduring our son’s suicide? Did it happen because God had

determined that we could endure it?’ Is there sound reason to believe that Jehovah maneuvers the events of our lives in such specific ways?

A further consideration of Paul’s words recorded at 1 Corinthians 10:13 leads us to this conclusion: There is no Scriptural reason to believe that Jehovah assesses in advance what we can bear and then, based on such an assessment, chooses which trials will befall us. Let us consider four reasons why we may draw that conclusion.

First, Jehovah gave humans the gift of free will. He wants us to choose our own course in life. (**Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Joshua 24:15**) If we choose the right course, we can look to Jehovah to guide our steps. (**Proverbs 16:9**) But if we choose a wrong course, we will have to face the consequences. (**Galatians 6:7**) Were Jehovah to choose which trials would come upon us, would he not, in effect, be diminishing the gift of free will?

Second, Jehovah does not shield us from “time and unexpected events.” (**Ecclesiastes 9:11**) Tragic accidents—perhaps with dire consequences—may occur because we are in the wrong place at the wrong time. Jesus spoke of a tragedy involving 18 people who were killed when a tower fell on them, and he indicated that those fatalities were not as a result of God’s will. (Luke 13:1-5) Is it not unreasonable

to think that God would determine in advance who lives and who dies as a result of random events?

Third, each one of us is personally involved in the issue of integrity. Recall that Satan has challenged the integrity of all those serving Jehovah, claiming that we would not remain loyal to Jehovah when exposed to trials. (Job 1:9-11; 2:4; **Revelation 12:10**) If Jehovah prevented us from facing certain trials because he deemed them to be more than we could bear, would that not add weight to Satan's charge that we serve God out of self-interest?

Fourth, Jehovah does not have to foreknow everything that happens to us. The idea that God chooses beforehand which trials we will face implies that he must know everything about our future. But such a view is not Scriptural. God certainly can foreknow the future. (**Isaiah 46:10**) But the Bible shows that he is selective when it comes to foreknowing future events. (**Genesis 18:20, 21; 22:12**) He thus balances his power of foreknowledge with his respect for our free will. Is that not what we would expect from the God who values our freedom and who always exercises his attributes in perfect balance?—**Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Corinthians 3:17.**

How, then, are we to understand Paul's words: "God . . . will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear"?

Paul here describes what Jehovah does, not *before*, but *during* trials. *

[Footnote.] * The Greek word rendered “temptation” may denote “test, trial.” [End of Footnote.]

The apostle’s words assure us that no matter what trials may arise in our life, Jehovah will sustain us if we trust in him. (**Psalm 55:22**) Paul’s comforting words are based on two fundamental truths.

First, *the trials we face are “common to men.”* Our trials, then, are common to human experience. Such trials are not beyond our capacity to bear—provided we rely on God. (**1 Peter 5:8, 9**) In the context of 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul refers to the tests that Israel faced in the wilderness. (**1 Corinthians 10:6-11**) None of those trials were beyond human experience or above the ability of faithful Israelites to bear. Paul four times says that “some of them” disobeyed. Sadly, some Israelites gave in to wrong desires because they failed to rely on God.

Second, *“God is faithful.”* The record of God’s dealings with his people demonstrates that he gives his loyal love to “those who love him and keep his commandments.” (**Deuteronomy 7:9**) That record also shows that God always keeps his promises. (**Joshua 23:14**) In view of his past record of faithfulness, those who love him and obey him

can trust that he will keep this twofold promise regarding trials they may face: (1) He will not allow any trial to develop to a point that would make it impossible to bear, and (2) “he will . . . make the way out” for them.

How does Jehovah make the way out for those who rely on him in the face of trials? Of course, if it be his will, he can simply remove a trial. But recall Paul’s words: “He [Jehovah] will also make the way out *so that you may be able to endure it.*” Hence, in many cases, he makes “the way out” by providing what we need so that we can endure trials successfully. Consider some of the ways that Jehovah may make the way out for us:

- He “comforts us in all our trials.” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Jehovah can soothe our mind, our heart, and our emotions by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and the spiritual food dispensed by the faithful slave.—Matthew 24:45; John 14:16, footnote, Romans 15:4.
- He may guide us by means of holy spirit. (John 14:26) When trials arise, the spirit can help us to remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.
- He can use his angels in our behalf.—Hebrews 1:14.
- He can help us through fellow worshippers who by

their words and deeds can be “a strengthening aid” to us.—**Colossians 4:11, footnote**

What, then, may we conclude about the meaning of Paul’s words recorded at 1 Corinthians 10:13? Jehovah does not pick and choose the trials we face. But when trials do arise in our life, we can be certain of this: If we fully trust in Jehovah, he will never allow our trials to go beyond the limit of human endurance; he will always make a way out so that we can endure them. What a comforting thought that is!

Ever Loyal (Psalm 18:25)

1. Ever loyal to Jehovah,
Loyal love we wish to show.
As a people, dedicated,
His commands we want to know.
His advice will never fail us,
And his counsel we obey.
He is loyal; we can trust him.
From his side we'll never stray.
2. Ever loyal to our brothers,
Sticking close in times of need.
Ever caring, always trusting,
Ever kind in word and deed.
We show honor to our brothers
And respect them from the heart.
Ever loyal, ever closer,
From their side we'll never part.
3. Ever loyal to their guidance
When our brothers lead the way.
When they give us clear direction,
May we loyally obey.
Then the blessing from Jehovah
Will be ours to make us strong.
When we're loyal, ever faithful,
To Jehovah we'll belong.

- Song 148 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Daniel.*] Da 3:16-20—Daniel’s companions withstood the intense pressure to be disloyal to Jehovah (w15 7/15 25 ¶15-16) Da 3:26-29—Their loyalty resulted in praise to Jehovah and blessings to them (w13 1/15 10 ¶13)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Da 1:5, 8—Why did Daniel and his three companions conclude that their eating of the king’s delicacies would defile them? (it-2 382)

Da 2:44—Why will God’s Kingdom have to crush the earthly rulerships depicted in the image? (w12 6/15 17, box; w01 10/15 6 ¶4)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Da 2:31-43

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Isa 40:22—Teach the Truth—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Ro 15:4—Teach the Truth—Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Talk:** (6 min. or less) w17.02 29-30—Theme: Does Jehovah Assess in Advance How Much Pressure We Can Bear and Then Choose the Trials We Will Face?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 124
- **“Be Loyal When Tempted”:** (8 min.) Discussion.
- **“Be Loyal When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped”:** (7 min.) Discussion.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr pp. 192-193, chap. 18 ¶1-8
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 72 and Prayer

DANIEL 1-3 | Loyalty to Jehovah Brings Rewards

3:16-20, 26-29

The account of the three Hebrews can strengthen our determination to be loyal to Jehovah



 According to the following scriptures, what does loyalty to Jehovah involve?

Mt 24:14

Joh 17:16

1Co 6:9, 10

Be Loyal When Tempted

Watch the video *Be Loyal, as Jesus Was—When Tempted* (video category THE BIBLE), and then answer the following questions:

- How was Sergei pressured to be disloyal to God?

- What helped Sergei to remain loyal?

- How did his loyalty bring praise to Jehovah?



Be Loyal When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped



Watch the video *Loyally Uphold Jehovah's Judgments—Shun Unrepentant Wrongdoers* (video category THE BIBLE), and then answer the following questions:

- What situation tested the loyalty of Sonja's parents?

- What helped them to remain loyal?

- How did their loyalty to Jehovah benefit Sonja?



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SECTION 6

KINGDOM SUPPORT

Building for Worship and Providing Relief

YOU walk into your Kingdom Hall and hardly recognize the place. You have always been proud of this building. You may even have happy memories of helping in its construction some years ago. But in a way you are even prouder now, for the Kingdom Hall has been transformed temporarily into a relief center. After a recent storm brought floods and devastation to your region, the Branch Committee quickly organized a way for the victims of the disaster to get food, clothing, clean water, and other help. Donated relief supplies are neatly arranged. Brothers and sisters are filing in, getting what they need and, in many cases, wiping tears of joy from their eyes.

Jesus said that the outstanding mark of his people would be their love for one another. (John 13:34, 35) In this section, we will consider how Christian love is being shown in the building projects and the relief efforts undertaken by Jehovah's Witnesses. All such love is powerful evidence that we live under Jesus' Kingdom rule.

18 How Kingdom Activities Are Financed

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Why and how Jehovah's people support Kingdom work financially

ON ONE occasion, Brother Charles T. Russell was approached by a minister of the Reformed Church who wanted to know how the activities of the Bible Students were managed.

“We never take up a collection,” explained Brother Russell.

“How do you get the money?” asked the minister.

“If I tell you what is the simplest truth you will hardly be able to believe it,” replied Russell. “When people get interested in this way, they find no basket placed under their nose. But they see there are expenses. They say to themselves, ‘This hall costs something . . . How can I get a little money into this thing?’”

1, 2. (a) How did Brother Russell answer a minister who wanted to know how the activities of the Bible Students were managed? (b) What will we consider in this chapter?

The minister looked at Brother Russell in disbelief.

“I am telling you the plain truth,” continued Russell. “They do ask me this very question, ‘How can I get a little money into this cause?’ When one gets a blessing and has any means, he wants to use it for the Lord. If he has no means, why should we prod him for it?”*[1]

² Brother Russell was indeed telling “the plain truth.” God’s people have a long history of making voluntary contributions to support true worship. In this chapter, we will examine some Scriptural examples of this along with our modern-day history. As we consider how Kingdom activities are being financed today, each of us would do well to ask, ‘How can I show my support for the Kingdom?’

“Let Everyone With a Willing Heart Bring a Contribution”

³ Jehovah has confidence in his true worshippers. He knows that if they are given the opportunity, they

*[1] *The Watch Tower*, July 15, 1915, pages 218-219.

3, 4. (a) What confidence does Jehovah have in his worshippers? (b) How did the Israelites show their support for the building of the tabernacle?

will gladly show their devotion by their voluntary giving. Consider two examples from Israel's history.

⁴ After leading the Israelites out of Egypt, Jehovah told them to build a portable tent, or tabernacle, for worship. The structure and its furnishings would require considerable resources. Jehovah instructed Moses to give the people the opportunity to support the project, saying: "Let everyone with a willing heart bring a contribution for Jehovah." (Ex. 35:5) How did the people, who not long before had toiled "in harsh conditions in every form of slavery," respond? (Ex. 1:14) They showed unqualified support, willingly parting with gold, silver, and other valuables—most of which they had likely obtained from their former masters, the Egyptians. (Ex. 12:35, 36) The Israelites gave more than was needed and had to be "restrained from bringing in anything else."—Ex. 36:4-7.

⁵ Some 475 years later, David contributed out of his "private treasure" to finance the building of the

5. How did the Israelites respond when David gave them the opportunity to contribute to the building of the temple?

temple, the first permanent center of true worship on earth. Then he gave his fellow Israelites the opportunity to give, asking: “Who volunteers to come forward today with a gift in hand for Jehovah?” In response, the people made “voluntary offerings to Jehovah with a complete heart.” (1 Chron. 29:3-9) Recognizing the true source of the contributions, David said in prayer to Jehovah: “Everything is from you, and we have given to you what comes from your own hand.”—1 Chron. 29:14.

6 Neither Moses nor David had to pressure God’s people to give. Rather, the people gave with willing hearts. What about today? We are well-aware that the work God’s Kingdom is doing requires money. It takes considerable resources to publish and distribute Bibles and Bible literature, to build and maintain meeting places and branch facilities, and to provide emergency relief aid to fellow believers in times of disaster. Therefore, important questions arise: How are the necessary funds obtained? Do the King’s followers need to be prodded to give?

6. Why is money needed to carry out Kingdom work today, and what questions arise?

“It Will Never Beg nor Petition Men for Support”

⁷ Brother Russell and his associates refused to imitate the money-raising schemes so common in the churches of Christendom. In the second issue of the *Watch Tower*, under the heading “Do You Want ‘Zion’s Watch Tower?’” Russell stated: “‘Zion’s Watch Tower’ has, we believe, JEHOVAH for its backer, and while this is the case it will never *beg* nor *petition* men for support. When He who says: ‘All the gold and silver of the mountains are mine,’ fails to provide necessary funds, we will understand it to be time to suspend the publication.” (Hag. 2:7-9) Over 130 years later, *The Watchtower* and the organization that publishes it are still going strong!

⁸ Jehovah’s people do not beg for money. They do not pass collection plates or send out letters of solicitation. Neither do they use bingo, bazaars, or raffles to raise money. They hold to what the *Watch Tower* long ago said: “We have never considered it proper to solicit money for the Lord’s cause, after the common custom . . . It is our judgment that money raised by the various begging devices in the name

7, 8. Why do Jehovah’s people not beg or petition others for money?

of our Lord is offensive, unacceptable to him, and does not bring his blessing either upon the givers or the work accomplished.”*[2]

“Let Each One Do Just as He Has Resolved in His Heart”

⁹ As Kingdom subjects today, we do not need to be coerced into giving. Quite the contrary, we gladly use our money and other resources to support Kingdom activities. Why are we so willing to give? Consider three reasons.

¹⁰ First, we make voluntary contributions because we love Jehovah and want to do “what is pleasing in his eyes.” (1 John 3:22) Jehovah is indeed pleased with a worshipper who gives freely from his heart. Let us examine the apostle Paul’s words about Christian giving. (**Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.**) A true Christian is not a reluctant or forced giver. Rather, he gives because he has “resolved in his heart” to do so.^{#[3]} That is, he gives after he has considered a need and

*[2] The *Watch Tower*, August 1, 1899, page 201.

#[3] One scholar says that the Greek term rendered “resolved” “has the idea of predetermination.” He adds: “Though there is spontaneous joy in giving, it is still to be planned and systematic.” —1 Cor. 16:2.

9, 10. What is one reason why we make voluntary contributions?

72 *Making Known the Kingdom Truth* (Acts 20:20, 21)

1. There was a time we did not know
 The way a Christian ought to go.
 Then Jehovah sent the light,
 His Kingdom truth so clear and bright.
Our Father's will we then could see
 To serve the grand Theocracy,
 To declare Jehovah's fame,
 And help to glorify his holy name.
We witness now to all we meet,
 From door to door and on the street.
We take the time to help them see;
 We teach the truth that sets us free.
And as we strive in ev'ry land
 Jehovah's worship to expand,
May we serve our God as one
 Until Jehovah says the work is done.

JULY 2017

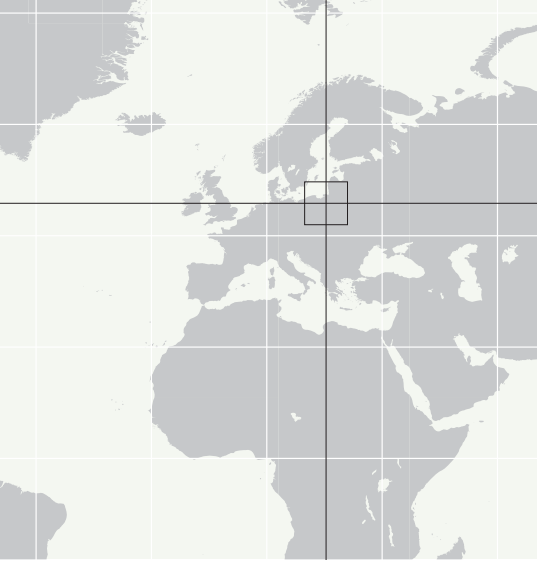
THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

LARGE
PRINT
EDITION



COVER IMAGE:
POLAND

In an apple orchard in Grójec,
a publisher shares the Bible's
message with one of the workers

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Seeking Riches That Are True

This article examines how we can use our material possessions to “make friends” in heaven. (Luke 16:9) It also discusses how we can avoid becoming enslaved to the greedy commercial world and how we can serve Jehovah as fully as possible.

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“Weep With Those Who Weep”

How can a Christian deal with the shock of losing a loved one in death? Jehovah provides much-needed consolation by means of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures, and the Christian congregation. This article will show us how to gain comfort, both for ourselves and for others who are grieving.

PUBLISHERS

119,932

BIBLE STUDIES

50,479

MEMORIAL
ATTENDANCE (2016)

190,613

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 11 July 2017 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2017 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

This publication is not for sale.
It is provided as part of a worldwide
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Unless otherwise indicated,
Scripture quotations are
from the modern-language
New World Translation
of the Holy Scriptures.

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“Praise Jah!”—Why?

Psalm 147 repeatedly encourages God’s people to praise Jehovah. What was it about Jehovah that impressed the psalmist so much that he wanted God to be praised? This article explains, and it shows why we should have a like desire to praise our God.

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Many young brothers and sisters are zealously entering the full-time service. Is that your desire? This article provides sound advice from the Scriptures that will help you to plan a happy and successful future.

51 Winning the Battle for Your Mind

60 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

Jehovah's Warm Appeal:
"Be Wise, My Son"
(Proverbs 27:11)

1. Young man and young woman,
do give your heart to me.
My foe who now taunts me
will then be made to see.
Your youth and devotion
to me you freely give;
You show all the world
that for me you really live.

(CHORUS)

*Beloved son and precious daughter,
Be wise and make my heart rejoice,
That out of your own heart you serve me,
And offer praise by your own choice.*

2. Rejoice and take pleasure
in giving me your all,
And though you may stumble,
I'll raise you if you fall.
No matter who fails you
or proves to be untrue,
Take comfort in knowing
I'll always cherish you.

(Chorus)



SONGS:
135, 81

**WHAT DO YOU
THINK?**

What plans can lead to a happy future for you?

What does sharing in full-time service teach a young person?

What could a life in the pioneer service lead to?

“May He . . . Give Success to All Your Plans”

“Find exquisite delight in Jehovah, and he will grant you the desires of your heart.”—PS. 37:4.

YOU young ones will probably agree that before starting a journey, it is wise to plan where you will go. Life is like a journey, and the time to plan where you want

1. What must a young person decide about the future, but why is there no need to be overly anxious? (See opening picture.)

to go is when you are young. Of course, making plans can be challenging. A girl named Heather says: “It’s scary. You have to decide what to do with the rest of your life.” But take courage. Jehovah says to his people: “Do not be anxious, for I am your God. I will fortify you, yes, I will help you.”—Isa. 41:10.

² Jehovah urges you to plan wisely for your future. (Eccl. 12:1; Matt. 6:20) He wants you to be happy. The delightful sights, sounds, and tastes of creation tell you that. Consider, too, how he cares for us and teaches us the best way of life. To those who reject his advice, Jehovah says: “You chose what displeased me. . . . Look! My servants will rejoice, but you will suffer shame. Look! My servants will shout joyfully because of the good condition of the heart.” (Isa. 65:12-14) Jehovah is glorified when his people make wise choices in life.—Prov. 27:11.

PLANS THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY

³ What plans does Jehovah recommend for you? He created humans to find happiness by knowing him and by serving him faithfully. (Ps. 128:1; Matt. 5:3) This is in sharp contrast with the animals he

2. How do you know that Jehovah wants you to plan for a happy future?

3. What does Jehovah recommend for you?

created, which are content merely to eat, drink, and produce offspring. God wants you to find happiness by planning for things other than those that satisfy animals. Your Creator is “the God of love,” “the happy God,” who made humans “in his image.” (2 Cor. 13:11; 1 Tim. 1:11; Gen. 1:27) You will be happy when you imitate our loving God. Have you ever experienced the truth of the scripture that says: “There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving”? (Acts 20:35) That is a basic truth about human life. Therefore, Jehovah desires that your plans focus on demonstrating love for others and for God.—Read Matthew 22:36-39.

⁴ Jesus Christ set the perfect example for you young ones. As a child, he no doubt played and had fun. God’s Word says that there is “a time to laugh . . . and a time to dance.” (Eccl. 3:4) Jesus also drew close to Jehovah by studying the Scriptures. When he was 12 years old, the teachers at the temple were amazed at “his understanding and his answers” regarding spiritual matters.—Luke 2:42, 46, 47.

⁵ Jesus grew up to be a happy adult. What made him happy? He knew that, among other things, God wanted him “to declare good news to the poor . . .

4, 5. What made Jesus happy?

and a recovery of sight to the blind.” (Luke 4:18) Doing what God asked him to do made Jesus happy. Psalm 40:8 expresses his feelings: “To do your will, O my God, is my delight.” Jesus enjoyed teaching people about his heavenly Father. (Read Luke 10:21.) Once, after teaching a woman about true worship, Jesus said to his disciples: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” (John 4:31-34) Showing love for God and for others made Jesus happy. It can make you happy too.

⁶ Many Christians experienced happiness in their youth by serving as pioneers. Why not discuss your plans with some of them? “Plans fail when there is no consultation, but there is accomplishment through many advisers.” (Prov. 15:22) Such spiritual people may tell you that the full-time ministry provides an education that benefits you throughout life. After having been instructed by his Father in heaven, Jesus continued to learn during his earthly ministry. For example, he learned the joy of reaching hearts with the good news and also the joy of keeping integrity under test. (Read Isaiah 50:4; Heb. 5:8; 12:2) Let us consider some aspects of full-time service that could make you very happy.

6. Why is it worth discussing your plans for the future with experienced Christians?

WHY DISCIPLE-MAKERS ARE SUCCESSFUL

⁷ Jesus said: “Go . . . make disciples of people . . . teaching them.” (Matt. 28:19, 20) If you plan to be a disciple-maker, you will be choosing a most satisfying career, one that glorifies God. As with any career, you need time to become skilled. Recently, a brother named Timothy who started pioneering as a teenager said: “I like serving Jehovah full-time because it’s the way I express my love for him. At first, I couldn’t start any Bible studies, but later I moved to another territory, and within a month I started several studies. One student began coming to the Kingdom Hall. After I attended the two-month Bible School for Single Brothers,* I received a new assignment where I have started four studies. I love teaching people, as I can see that holy spirit is changing them.”—1 Thess. 2:19.

⁸ Some young Christians have learned another language. For example, Jacob, from North America, writes: “When I was seven, many of my classmates were Vietnamese. I wanted to tell them about Jeho-

* Replaced by the School for Kingdom Evangelizers.

7. Why do many young people enjoy making disciples?

8. How have some young Christians shared more fully in making disciples?

vah, so after a while I made plans to learn their language. For the most part, I learned by comparing the English and Vietnamese editions of *The Watchtower*. I also made friends in a nearby Vietnamese-language congregation. When I was 18, I started pioneering. Later, I attended the Bible School for Single Brothers. This helped me with my present pioneer assignment, where I am the only elder in a Vietnamese-language group. Many Vietnamese people are amazed that I have learned their language. They invite me in, and often I can study the Bible with them. Some have progressed to baptism.”
—Compare Acts 2:7, 8.

⁹ Disciple-making is an educational experience that teaches you good work habits, communication skills, confidence, and tact. (Prov. 21:5; 2 Tim. 2:24, ftn.) But making disciples is especially joyful because it helps you to become more familiar with the Scriptural basis for your faith. You also learn how to work closely with Jehovah.—1 Cor. 3:9.

¹⁰ You can enjoy making disciples even if few people in your territory respond to the good news.

9. How does the disciple-making work provide a fine education?

10. How can you share in the joy of making disciples even in a challenging territory?

Making disciples is teamwork. The whole congregation searches for sincere ones. Although only one brother or sister may find the person who eventually becomes a disciple, all shared in the search and all can share in the joy. For example, Brandon spent nine years pioneering in unresponsive territory. He says: “I like preaching the good news because it is what Jehovah asks us to do. I started pioneering soon after finishing school. I enjoy encouraging the young brothers in our congregation and seeing their spiritual progress. After I attended the Bible School for Single Brothers, I received a new pioneer assignment. It’s true that I have never found anyone in the territory who progressed to baptism, but others have. I’m glad I planned to share fully in the disciple-making work.”—Eccl. 11:6.

WHERE YOUR PLANS MAY LEAD YOU

¹¹ There are many opportunities to serve Jehovah. For example, many young people share in volunteer construction work. Hundreds of new Kingdom Halls are needed. Building them is sacred service that glorifies God and can make you happy. As in other forms of sacred service, the association with fellow

11. What form of sacred service have many young people enjoyed?



Many blessings await those who enter the full-time service
(See paragraphs 11-13)

workers is a joy. Theocratic construction work is also educational, as it teaches you to be safety conscious, to be a diligent worker, and to cooperate with those in oversight.

¹² A brother named Kevin says: “Ever since I was a little boy, I have wanted to serve Jehovah full-time someday. Finally, I started pioneering when I was 19. I supported myself working part-time for a brother who was a builder. I learned to install roofs, windows, and doors. Later, I spent two years with a

12. How may pioneer service lead to other opportunities?

hurricane relief team, rebuilding Kingdom Halls and homes for the brothers. When I heard about the construction needs in South Africa, I applied and was invited to go. Here in Africa, I move from one Kingdom Hall project to another every few weeks. My construction group is like a family. We live together, study the Bible together, and work together. I also enjoy preaching with the local brothers each week. The plans I made as a boy have made me happy in ways I did not foresee.”

¹³ Some who acted on their plans to serve Jehovah full-time are now at Bethel. Bethel service is a happy way of life because everything you do there is for Jehovah. The Bethel family helps to provide spiritual food. A Bethelite named Dustin reports: “I made full-time service my goal when I was nine years old, and I started pioneering when I finished school. After a year and a half, I was invited to Bethel, where I learned to operate printing presses and later to do computer programming. At Bethel, I enjoy hearing firsthand about the progress of the disciple-making activity worldwide. I love serving here because what we do helps people to draw close to Jehovah.”

13. How does Bethel service make young ones happy?

WHAT PLANS WILL YOU MAKE FOR YOUR FUTURE?

¹⁴ How can you plan to be a full-time Christian minister? More than anything, spiritual qualities will help you to be successful in serving Jehovah fully. So be diligent in your study of God’s Word, meditate deeply on its meaning, and look for ways to express your faith at congregation meetings. During your school years, you can acquire experience and skill as a preacher of the good news. Learn to be interested in people by tactfully asking their opinion and listening to their response. Also, you can offer to do things in the congregation, such as helping to clean and maintain the Kingdom Hall. Jehovah is pleased to use those who have a humble, willing spirit. (Read Psalm 110:3; Acts 6:1-3) The apostle Paul invited Timothy into missionary service because “he was well-reported-on by the brothers.”—Acts 16:1-5.

¹⁵ Full-time ministers generally need to earn a living. (Acts 18:2, 3) Perhaps a short school course will qualify you for part-time work that is in demand locally. As you make plans, consult your circuit overseer and the pioneers in your circuit. Ask them what work is practical for pioneers. And, as the Bible

14. How can you make plans to enter the full-time ministry?

15. How can you prepare to earn a living?

says, “commit to Jehovah whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”—Prov. 16:3; 20:18.

¹⁶ You can be sure that Jehovah wants you to “get a firm hold” on a happy future. (Read 1 Timothy 6: 18, 19.) Full-time service brings you into contact with fellow full-time servants and helps you to mature as a Christian. Many have found that serving Jehovah fully during youth also helped them to have a more successful marriage. Often, those who pioneered before marriage have been able to continue in that service together as a married couple.—Rom 16:3, 4.

¹⁷ Planning involves your heart. Psalm 20:4 says of Jehovah: “May he grant you the desires of your heart and give success to all your plans.” So think about what you want to do with your life. Consider what Jehovah is doing in our time and how you can have a share in his service. Then plan to do what is pleasing to him.

¹⁸ Serving Jehovah fully will bring you deep satisfaction because it is the way of life that honors God. Yes, “find exquisite delight in Jehovah, and he will grant you the desires of your heart.”—Ps. 37:4.

16. How can serving Jehovah fully in your youth prepare you for other responsibilities in the future?

17, 18. How does making plans involve your heart?

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The Life of a Pioneer

(Ecclesiastes 11:6)

1. At the start of the day, with the sun yet to rise,
We are making our way
with the sleep in our eyes, and we pray.
We are there with a smile for the people we meet.
Some may stop for a while,
some pass by on the street, but we stay.

(CHORUS)

It's the life that we choose;

For Jehovah we live.

And whatever he asks, we will do.

In the work we endure,

Whether sunshine or rain.

It's a way we can say ev'ry day: "I love you."

2. At the end of the day, with the sun sinking low,
Feeling happy and tired,
in our heart there's a glow, and we pray.
It's a life that we love, always giving our best.
And Jehovah we thank,
for by him we are blessed ev'ry day.

(Chorus)

KINGDOM MINISTRY

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOVEMBER 1968

"Also, in all the nations the good news has to be preached first."—Mark 13:10.

VOL. XI NO. 11

NEW SERVICE YEAR OFF TO A THRILLING START! All-Time Peak in Publishers!

¹ What a delight it is to tell you about the thrilling start to our new service year! Do you know what was accomplished in the field in September? A new all-time peak in publishers was reached, yes, even excelling the peak of last April! And this is just the first month of the new service year! There were 335,448 who shared in the field ministry, which is 1,776 over last April. Truly this shows that you feel the urgency of the times, that you are working hard to aid others to become praisers of Jehovah and that your efforts are being richly blessed.

² With more workers we naturally expect that more work would be done, and that is what happened. Total hours were 5,085,956—well over the past service year's monthly average of 4,769,281. What a fine evidence of the devotion of Jehovah's people! Book placements, too, were remarkable. Especially is this so when we consider that most of the congregations had only a limited supply of *Truth* books. Yet look what happened: You placed a total of 747,141 bound books! Up until

May we had never placed this many books in one month. Isn't that grand for the first month of the new service year? What would the report have been if all the congregations had had an ample supply of *Truth* books? Well, for November all the congregations should have enough. We here at Bethel have two shifts working, and we are putting in overtime besides, to see to it that you are well supplied. We are thrilled at what we see taking place in the Kingdom-preaching work, and we are grateful that, along with all of you, we can have a share in it.

³ There is something else that is encouraging to us all. This is the splendid increase in meeting attendance. The *Watchtower* study attendance during 1968 averaged 95 percent of all the publishers! This is up 10.3 percent this past year! There has been a continual increase, rising from around 75 percent a few years ago. It is fine to see this keen appreciation for the instruction that Jehovah is providing. Likewise with regard to the service meeting: Attendance increased from 75.4 percent

to 81.3 percent—a 5.9-percent increase. The Theocratic Ministry School attendance rose 5.8 percent, to 81.9 percent; and the congregation book study attendance was up 4.4 percent, to 87.2 percent. This is fine and reflects a wholesome appreciation of spiritual things on your part.

⁴ September's thrilling report also makes it obvious that you are doing fine teaching with the aid of the *Truth* book. Of course, our purpose in placing it is to conduct home Bible studies, to help people get started on the way to eternal life. The report shows that, during September, Bible studies totaled 291,063. This means that you conducted nearly 40,000 more studies than in September 1967, when the figure was 251,414. Now, with the November campaign with the *Truth* book, the prospect for more of us to conduct Bible studies steadily improves, doesn't it?

Can All Conduct Bible Studies?

⁵ Has the new book now made it possible for you to conduct a home Bible study where you were not successful in doing so before? Many brothers believe that it has! Without a doubt, many faithful and devoted publishers who were not including a home Bible study in their witnessing activity in the past will now find it possible to do so. Why do we say this?

⁶ Primarily, it has to do with the simplicity of the material in the *Truth* book. The arguments are not complicated or involved. The illustrations are simple and easily understood. Then there is the simplicity of the language.

⁷ There are other features that are built into the book that will aid us in conducting Bible studies. In the past, in preparing our students for opposition, it was necessary for us to gather this material ourselves

Dear Publishers:

As you know, we have had a night shift operating at the factory since mid-September. Would you like to know of the results? Well, every morning at breakfast time we Bethelites hear a report on the previous day's production, and it is amazing what is happening! Why, it seems that almost every 17-hour day, combining the day and night shifts, we have a production of over 100,000 bound books and 500- to 600,000 magazines. In fact, production for the first six weeks of the new service year has reached over 2,800,000 bound books—over one third as many as were produced during the entire 1967 service year!

With a serious dock strike threat-

ening, a special effort was made to get supplies of literature out to foreign branches before the strike deadline. How did that go? Well, from one of the brothers in the shipping department we heard that 280 tons of literature were shipped abroad in the first 27 days of September. That is an average of over 13 tons every working day. And on one outstanding day the total was 60 tons. Now nearly everything produced is being shipped to you brothers here in the United States. We are, on the average, sending out to you from the Brooklyn factory 15 to 20 tons of literature a day. Isn't that a tremendous outgo of precious, life-giving truth?

But that is not all. The demand
(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

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★ Remember our Creator now, whether old or young. ★