

- Song 29 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“You Must Be Holy”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 1 Peter.*]
1Pe 1:14, 15—Our desires and conduct must be holy (w17.02 9 ¶5)
1Pe 1:16—We strive to imitate our holy God (lvs 77 ¶6)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Pe 1:10-12—How can we be diligent like the prophets and angels? (w08 11/15 21 ¶10)

1Pe 2:25—Who is the Supreme Overseer? (it-2 565 ¶3)

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 1Pe 1:1-16 (10)

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- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 28
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1:14-16 

We must be holy, or clean, for Jehovah to accept our worship. What does it mean to be clean . . .



• spiritually?



• morally?



• physically?

29

Living Up to Our Name

(Isaiah 43:10-12)

1. Glorious Jehovah, almighty, eternal,
Perfect in justice, in power, in love.
Source of all truth and of infinite wisdom,
You rule as Sov'reign in heaven above.
We as your people delight in your service;
Your Kingdom truth we delight to proclaim.

(CHORUS)

*Being your Witnesses, great is our priv'lege.
Oh, may we ever live up to our name!*

2. Working together in your sacred service
Binds us as brothers in love and in peace.
Teaching the truth and reflecting your glory
Fill us with joy as your praises increase.
Known by your name, O Jehovah, our Father,
We have the honor to add to your fame.

(Chorus)

Peter 1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pon'tus, Ga-la'ti-a, Cap-pa-do'ci-a, Asia, and Bi-thyn'i-a, to those chosen **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, with sanctification by the spirit, for the purpose of being obedient and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ:

May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you.

3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you, **5** who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last period of time. **6** Because of this you are greatly rejoicing, though for a short time, if it must be, you have been distressed by various trials, **7** in order that the tested quality of your faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being tested by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you never saw him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet you exercise faith in him and are greatly rejoicing with an indescribable and glorious joy, **9** as you attain the goal of your faith, your salvation.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you made a diligent inquiry and a careful search. **11** They kept on investigating what particular time or what season the spirit within them was indicating concerning Christ as it testified beforehand about the sufferings meant for Christ and about the glory that would follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were ministering, not to themselves, but to you, regarding what has now been announced to you by those who

declared the good news to you with holy spirit sent from heaven. Into these very things, angels are desiring to peer.

¹³ So brace up your minds for activity; keep your senses completely; set your hope on the undeserved kindness that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, stop being molded by the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct, ¹⁶ for it is written: “You must be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷ And if you are calling on the Father who judges impartially according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves with fear during the time of your temporary residence. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were set free from your futile way of life handed down to you by your forefathers. ¹⁹ But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, that of Christ. ²⁰ True, he was foreknown before the founding of the world, but he was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you are believers in God, the one who raised him up from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth with unhypocritical brotherly affection as the result, love one another intensely from the heart. ²³ For you have been given a new birth, not by corruptible, but by incorruptible seed, through the word of the living and enduring God. ²⁴ For “all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like a blossom of the field; the grass withers, and the flower falls off, ²⁵ but the saying of Jehovah endures forever.” And this “saying” is the good news that was declared to you.

2 So rid yourselves of all badness and deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all backbiting. ² As newborn infants, form a longing for the

unadulterated milk of the word, so that by means of it you may grow to salvation, ³ provided you have tasted that the Lord is kind.

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen, precious to God, ⁵ you yourselves as living stones are being built up into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it says in Scripture: “Look! I am laying in Zion a chosen stone, a precious foundation cornerstone, and no one exercising faith in it will ever be disappointed.”

⁷ It is to you, therefore, that he is precious, because you are believers; but to those not believing, “the stone that the builders rejected, this has become the chief cornerstone” ⁸ and “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were appointed. ⁹ But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies” of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ For you were once not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not been shown mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents to keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which wage war against you.

¹² Maintain your conduct fine among the nations, so that when they accuse you of being wrongdoers, they may be eyewitnesses of your fine works and, as a result, glorify God in the day of his inspection.

¹³ For the Lord’s sake subject yourselves to every human creation, whether to a king as being superior ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish wrongdoers but to praise those who do good.

¹⁵ For it is the will of God that by doing good you may silence the ignorant talk of unreasonable men. ¹⁶ Be as free people, using your

freedom, not as a cover for doing wrong, but as slaves of God.

¹⁷ Honor men of all sorts, have love for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, honor the king.

¹⁸ Let servants be in subjection to their masters with all due fear, not only to the good and reasonable but also to those hard to please. ¹⁹ For it is agreeable when someone endures hardship and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God. ²⁰ For what merit is there if you are beaten for sinning and you endure it? But if you endure suffering because of doing good, this is an agreeable thing to God.

²¹ In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you, leaving a model for you to follow his steps closely.

²² He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth.

²³ When he was being insulted, he did not insult in return. When he was suffering, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the One who judges righteously. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his own body on the stake, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness. And “by his wounds you were healed.” ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

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• spiritually?



• morally?



• physically?

October 14-20 / 1 Peter 1-2

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Treasures From God's Word

“You Must Be Holy”: (10 minutes)

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What does it mean to be clean . . .

- spiritually?
- morally?
- physically?

1 Peter 1:14, 15—Our desires and conduct must be holy

1 Peter 1:14, 15: As obedient children, stop being molded by the desires you formerly had in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all your conduct,

w17.02 9 paragraph 5

How can we show that we love Jehovah's name? By our conduct. Jehovah requires that we be holy. (Read 1 Peter 1:15, 16.) This means that we worship only Jehovah and that we obey him with our

whole heart. Even when we are persecuted, we do our best to live according to his righteous principles and laws. By performing righteous deeds, we let our light shine and thus bring glory to Jehovah's name. (Matthew 5:14-16) As holy people, we prove by the way we live our lives that Jehovah's laws are good and that Satan's accusations are false. When we make mistakes, as we all do, we genuinely repent and turn away from practices that dishonor Jehovah.—Psalms 79:9.

1 Peter 1:16—We strive to imitate our holy God

1 Peter 1:16: for it is written: “You must be holy, because I am holy.”

lvs 77 paragraph 6

Jehovah tells us: “You must be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Peter 3:11) Jehovah will accept our worship only if it is holy, or clean. (Deuteronomy 15:21) Our worship cannot be clean if we do things Jehovah hates, such as things that are immoral, violent, or connected with demonism. (Romans 6:12-14; 8:13) But it would also displease Jehovah if we allowed ourselves to be entertained by such things. This could make our worship unclean and unacceptable to Jehovah and could seriously damage our relationship with him.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

1 Peter 1:10-12—How can we be diligent like the prophets and angels?

1 Peter 1:10-12: Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you made a diligent inquiry and a careful search. They kept on investigating what particular time or what season the spirit within them was indicating concerning Christ as it testified beforehand about the sufferings meant for Christ and about the glory that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were ministering, not to themselves, but to you, regarding what has now been announced to you by those who declared the good news to you with holy spirit sent from heaven. Into these very things, angels are desiring to peer.

w08 11/15 21 paragraph 10

Angels desired to peer into and understand the deep spiritual truths that God's prophets of old times wrote concerning the anointed Christian congregation. However, these things became clear only when Jehovah began dealing with the congregation. (Ephesians 3:10) Should we not follow the example of the angels and strive to search into "the deep things of God"?—1 Corinthians 2:10.

1 Peter 2:25—Who is the Supreme Overseer?

1 Peter 2:25: For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

***it-2* 565 paragraph 3**

The Supreme Overseer. First Peter 2:25 evidently quotes Isaiah 53:6 as to those who ‘like sheep went astray,’ and Peter then says: “But now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.” The reference must be to Jehovah God, since those to whom Peter wrote had not gone astray from Christ Jesus but, rather, *through him* had been led back to Jehovah God, who is the Grand Shepherd of his people. (Psalm 23:1; 80:1; Jeremiah 23:3; Ezekiel 34:12) Jehovah is also an overseer, the one who makes inspection. (Psalm 17:3) The inspection (Greek, *episkope*) could be associated with expression of adverse judgment by him, as in the first century C.E. in the case of Jerusalem, which did not discern the time of her “being inspected [Greek, *episkopes*].” (Luke 19:44) Or it could bring favorable effect and benefits, as in the case of those glorifying God in the day “for his inspection [Greek, *episkopes*].”—1 Peter 2:12.

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• spiritually?



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Sample Conversation

Initial Call

Francisco (Publisher 1): Good morning. My name is Francisco and this is Shane. May I ask your name?

Ian (Householder): Ian.

Francisco (Publisher 1): It's nice to meet you, Ian. We're discussing a question that many people ask about God.

Ian (Householder): God, I don't think I believe in God.

Francisco (Publisher 1): (thinking to himself) How should I handle this? It seems like he may have believe in God at one time. I remember the washer has pointed out that some may find it difficult to believe in God when faced with tragedies. So rather than assume why he doesn't believe in God, let me try to dry him out a bit.

Francisco (Publisher 1): You're certainly not alone in question whether God exists. But may I ask, have you always felt that way?

Ian (Householder): Well, I used to believe in God. I was raised that way. But then everything fell apart. My mother got sick and my father left us. It was just me and my brother trying to take care of mom until she died.

Francisco (Publisher 1): I'm very sorry to hear that, Ian.

Shane (Publisher 2): Me too, I can relate in some ways. My family went through a similar situation.

Ian (Householder): I just don't understand why God would do that to us. We're good people. We went to church every Sunday. We never hurt anyone.

Francisco (Publisher 1): Let me assure you, you're certainly not the first to feel that way. Many people have struggled to understand why bad things happened. The Bible's answer may surprise you. In fact, that's one of the reasons we're here today. The question we've been discussing from the Bible is how do we know that are suffering is not punishment from God.

Ian (Householder): Really?

Francisco (Publisher 1): Yes, Please notice what we read here at James 1:13:

13 When under trial, let no one say: 'I am being tried by God.' For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone.

Francisco (Publisher 1): Notice the first part of this verse, when we face trials, we may feel like we're being tried or tested by God, but is that really the case? Notice a second part of the verse, Would you agree that if God exists, he cannot be tested by evil?

Ian (Householder): Of course, that would be impossible.

Francisco (Publisher 1): We agree, And what a confident assurance do we find in the end of the verse?

Ian (Householder): That God does not try us with evil?

Francisco (Publisher 1): Exactly, Of course, a logical question is if God isn't the cause of her suffering. Who or what is? Next time we hear. Let's discuss the principal reason why we suffer.

Ian (Householder): Okay.

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Ian (Householder): Okay.

28 *Gaining Jehovah's Friendship* (Psalm 15)

1. Who is your friend, O God?

Who in your tent may dwell?

Who gains your friendship? Who gains your trust?

Who really knows you well?

All who embrace your Word,

All who have faith in you,

All who are loyal, all who are just,

Living the truth for you.

2. Who is your friend, O God?

Who may approach your throne?

Who brings delight and makes you rejoice?

Whose name to you is known?

All who exalt your name,

All who your Word obey,

All who are faithful, honest in heart,

Truthful in all they say.

3. Throwing our cares on you,

Baring our hearts in prayer,

Drawing us closer, bonding in love,

Feeling your daily care,

We yearn to be your friend.

Long may our friendship grow.

No greater Friend could we ever gain,

No greater Friend we'll know.

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God Loves Clean People

(Soliloquy young man)

I graduated from high school that summer and wanted to start regular pioneering. That's my dad, Grayson.

Dad was having car trouble that morning and needed a ride to work, so I gave him one.

(Father gets into son's very dirty car)

OK, my car was a little messy and smelly.

I mean, it was winter, and my car is pretty old anyway. So why bother? When I get a new car, then I'll keep it clean. But he was making a big deal out of nothing.

(The father is seen pointing out the mess in the car's interior)

That morning was not good.

(Later, at home)

I thought it was over. But later that evening, Dad brought it up again. But this time, it went better. He showed me a picture of his first car. It looked pretty old too. He said that while our home or car may not be fancy or luxurious, it should be as clean and presentable as circumstances allow.

I still didn't see what the big deal was. Then, he explained that Jehovah is a clean God, and from ancient times, he has always required that his people be a clean people. Under the Mosaic Law

that Jehovah gave to Israel, cleanness and worship were inseparable.

It specified that priests were required to wash their hands and feet before offering sacrifices to Jehovah. While in an unclean state, an Israelite could not have any part in worship, or it could mean death.

I said, “I’m not an Israelite, and we’re not under the Mosaic Law anymore.” He said, “True, but it gives us insight into Jehovah’s thinking.” The Law emphasized that cleanness was required of all those who worshipped him. And as Malachi 3:6 tells us, ‘Jehovah has not changed.’

Then, he said something that really stuck with me, “Besides, it’s not all about us.” Then, he gave me a scripture to look up. It was 2 Corinthians 6:3, 4:

“In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling, so that no fault may be found with our ministry; but in every way we recommend ourselves as God’s ministers.”

I realized that things like our appearance, our homes, and our cars—these can all be a silent witness to Jehovah in themselves. It made sense to me now. It’s not all about us. I knew what I had to do.

Not only did I clean my car, but later that year, I was able to turn in my application for pioneering.

And I’m glad for the lesson I learned from my dad. It’s not all about us. Even in little ways, we can reflect favorably on the God we love.

PLAN AHEAD—USE PRACTICAL WISDOM

LUKE 16:1-13

-
- ILLUSTRATION OF THE UNRIGHTEOUS STEWARD
 - “MAKE FRIENDS” BY MEANS OF YOUR RICHES
-

The illustration of the lost son, which Jesus just related, should have impressed on listening tax collectors, scribes, and Pharisees that God is willing to forgive repentant sinners. (Luke 15:1-7, 11) Now Jesus addresses his disciples. He uses another illustration, this time about a rich man who learns that his house manager, or steward, has not acted properly.

Jesus relates that the steward has been accused of mishandling his master’s goods. So the master says that the steward will be dismissed. “What am I to do,” the steward wonders, “seeing that my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.” To deal with what lies ahead, he concludes: “I know what I will do, so that when I am removed



from the stewardship, people will welcome me into their homes.” He immediately calls those who are in debt, asking them: “How much do you owe my master?”—Luke 16:3-5.

The first one answers: “A hundred measures of olive oil.” That is some 580 gallons of oil. The debtor might have had an extensive olive grove or been a merchant who sold oil. The steward tells him: “Take back your written agreement and sit down and quickly write 50 [290 gallons].”—Luke 16:6.

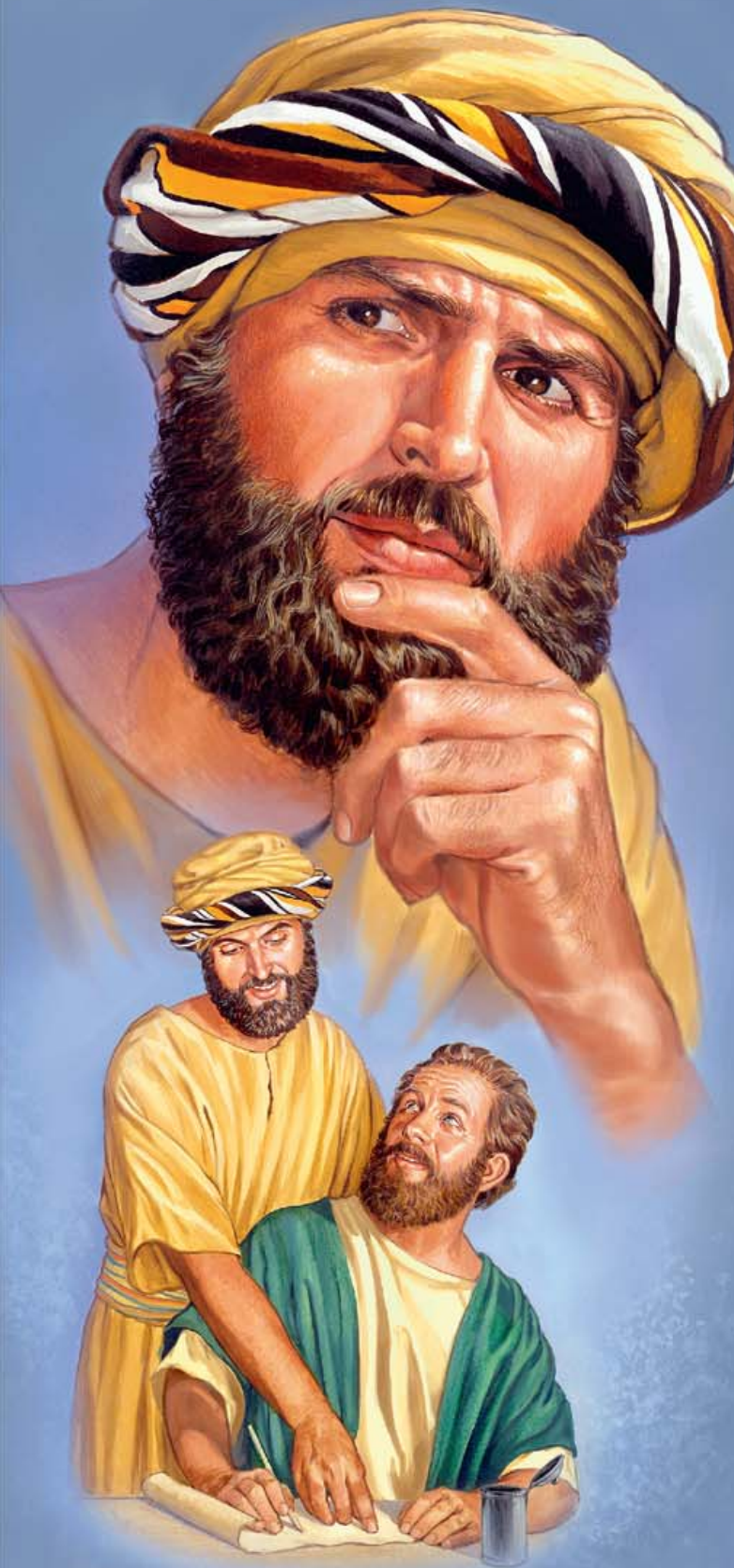
The steward asks another one: “Now you, how much do you owe?” The reply is: “A hundred large measures of wheat.” That is some 20,000 dry quarts. The steward tells this debtor: “Take back your written agreement and write 80.” He thus reduces the debt by 20 percent.—Luke 16:7.

The steward is still in charge of his master’s financial affairs, so in a sense he does have jurisdiction over reducing what others owe the master. By reducing the amounts owed, the steward is making friends of those who may do him favors after he loses his job.

At some point the master learns what has happened. Though what was done means a loss to him, he is impressed with the steward and commends him because “though unrighteous,” he “acted with practical wisdom.” Jesus adds: “The sons of this system of things are wiser in a practical way toward their own generation than the sons of the light are.” —Luke 16:8.

Jesus is not condoning the steward’s methods, nor is he encouraging crafty business dealings. What, then, is his point? He urges the disciples: “Make friends for yourselves by means of the unrighteous riches, so that when such fail, they may receive you into the everlasting dwelling places.” (Luke 16:9) Yes, there is a lesson here about being farsighted and using practical wisdom. God’s servants, “the sons of the light,” need to use their material assets in a wise way, with the everlasting future in mind.

Only Jehovah God and his Son can receive someone into the heavenly Kingdom or the Paradise on earth under that Kingdom. We should diligently cultivate friendship with them by using what



material riches we have in supporting Kingdom interests. Our everlasting future will thus be assured when gold, silver, and other material riches fail or perish.

Jesus also says that those who are faithful in caring for and using whatever riches or material things they have will be faithful in caring for matters of greater importance. “Therefore,” Jesus points out, “if you have not proved yourselves faithful in connection with the unrighteous riches, who will entrust you with what is true [such as Kingdom interests]?”—Luke 16:11.

Jesus is showing his disciples that much will be asked of them if they are to be received “into the everlasting dwelling places.” One cannot be a true servant of God and at the same time be a slave to unrighteous, material riches. Jesus concludes: “No servant can be a slave to two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stick to the one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves to God and to Riches.”—Luke 16:9, 13.

- ◇ In Jesus' illustration, how does the steward make friends of those who can help him later?
- ◇ What are "unrighteous riches," and how can a Christian "make friends" by means of them?
- ◇ Who can receive us "into the everlasting dwelling places" if we are faithful in using whatever "unrighteous riches" we have?

39 *Make a Good Name With God* (Ecclesiastes 7:1)

1. Throughout our lifetime, We want to use each day
 To make a good name And all God's laws obey.
If in Jehovah's sight We strive to do what's right,
 Then we will please him, To his delight.
2. This world may cause us To try to make a name,
 To seek its favor, To bask in its acclaim.
But that is vanity, For if its friend we'll be,
 Jehovah's favor, We will not see.
3. In God's remembrance, We want our name to be
 And have a good name For all eternity.
On him we can depend, So we his truth defend
 And keep our good name Down to the end.

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THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 27, 2019

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COVER PICTURE:

While under house arrest in Rome, Paul writes his letter to the congregation in Philippi. During that time, Paul also makes good use of opportunities to preach to his guards and to visitors (See study article 32, paragraph 16)

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1. God has commanded us this day;
He has given us a charge to obey.
At all times, be ready to impart
The reason for the hope within your heart.

(CHORUS)

*So preach the word
So that ev'ryone can hear!
Preach the word,
For we know the end is near.
Preach the word,
Help the meek to understand.
Preach the word
Throughout the land!*

2. Seasons of trouble we will face;
Opposition may bring shame and disgrace.
Though preaching may out of season seem,
Our trust is in our God, who is supreme.

(Chorus)

3. Seasons of favor we will see,
And the need for us to teach, there will be.
The way to salvation we proclaim
And help to sanctify Jehovah's name.

(Chorus)

“Those Who Listen to You” Will Be Saved

“Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Persevere in these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”—1 TIM. 4:16.

SONG 67

“Preach the Word”

PREVIEW

We would like our relatives to come to know Jehovah, but they must decide if they will serve him or not. This article will consider what we can do to make it easier for our relatives to listen to us.

“FROM the moment I learned the truth, I’ve wanted everyone in my family to be with me in Paradise,” says a sister named Pauline.* “I especially wanted my husband, Wayne, and our young son to join me in serving Jehovah.” Do you have relatives who have not yet come to know and love Jehovah? You likely feel the same way about them as Pauline felt about her family.

² We cannot force our relatives to accept the good news, but we can encourage them to open their minds and hearts to the Bible’s message. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15) Why should we witness to our relatives? Why do we need to show empathy? What can we do to help our relatives to come to love Jehovah as we do? And how can all in our local congregation help us?

WHY WITNESS TO OUR RELATIVES?

³ Soon, Jehovah will bring this system to an end. Only those who are “rightly disposed for

* Some names have been changed. In this article the term “relatives” is used to refer to family members who are not yet serving Jehovah.

1. What do all of us desire for our relatives?
2. What questions will we discuss in this article?
3. According to 2 Peter 3:9, why should we witness to our relatives?

everlasting life” will survive. (Acts 13:48) We spend much time and energy preaching to strangers in our community, so it is natural that we would also want our relatives to serve Jehovah with us. Our loving Father, Jehovah, “does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.”—Read **2 Peter 3:9**.

⁴ We need to keep in mind that there is a right way and a wrong way to share the message of salvation. Although we may be tactful when witnessing to a stranger, we may be too blunt when talking with our relatives.

⁵ Many of us may look back with regret on our initial attempt to witness to our relatives and wish we had dealt with them differently. The apostle Paul counseled Christians: “Let your words *always* be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person.” (Col. 4:5, 6) It is good to remember this advice when we approach our relatives. Otherwise, we might end up alienating them rather than persuading them.

-
4. What mistake might we make when witnessing to our relatives?
 5. What should we keep in mind before trying to share the truth with our relatives?

USE OUR WEBSITE TO TEACH

We can help draw our relatives to Jehovah by what we say and do and also by sharing our Bible-based publications. In the past, people liked reading printed books, magazines, and tracts. However, many now enjoy reading material online. And a large number like to watch videos. To help your relatives learn about Jehovah's people at their own pace and at a time convenient for them, invite them to visit jw.org[®] or watch some of the monthly programs presented on JW Broadcasting[®].



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP OUR RELATIVES?

⁶ *Show empathy.* Pauline, mentioned earlier, says: “At first, I wanted to talk to my husband only about spiritual things. We had no ‘normal’ conversation.” However, Pauline’s husband, Wayne, had little Bible knowledge and did not understand what Pauline was talking about. To him, it seemed that all she thought about was her religion. He worried that she was joining a dangerous sect and was being deceived.

⁷ Pauline admits that for a while she spent a great deal of time during her evenings and weekends with her spiritual brothers and sisters—at meetings, in preaching, and at social gatherings. “Wayne sometimes came home to an empty house and felt lonely,” says Pauline. Understandably, Wayne missed his wife and son. He did not know the people they were with, and it seemed that his wife’s new friends had become more important to Pauline than he was. Wayne reacted by threatening to divorce Pauline. Can you see ways

6-7. Give an example that illustrates the need to show empathy to an unbelieving mate.



Your empathy and conduct
can be the greatest witness
you give
(See paragraphs 6-8)

in which Pauline could have been more empathetic?

⁸ *Let your conduct speak for you.* Often, what we *do* makes a bigger impression on our relatives than what we *say*. (Read 1 Peter 3:1, 2.) Pauline eventually realized that fact. “I knew that Wayne loved us and didn’t really want a divorce,” she says. “But his threat made me realize that I had to

8. According to 1 Peter 3:1, 2, what is likely to make the biggest impression on our relatives?

start doing things Jehovah's way. Instead of talking so much, I needed to set a good example through my conduct." Pauline stopped pressuring Wayne to talk about the Bible, and she began conversing with him about everyday matters. Wayne saw her become more peaceable, and he saw their son become better behaved. (Prov. 31:18, 27, 28) When Wayne observed the good effect the Bible's message was having on his family, he opened his mind and heart to the message from God's Word. —1 Cor. 7:12-14, 16.

⁹ *Persevere in trying to help your relatives.* Jehovah sets the example for us. "Again and again" he gives people the opportunity to respond to the good news and gain life. (Jer. 44:4) And the apostle Paul told Timothy to persevere in helping others. Why? Because by doing so, he would save himself and those who listened to him. (1 Tim. 4:16) We love our relatives, so we want them to know the truths found in God's Word. Pauline's words and actions eventually had a good influence on her family. She now has the joy of serving Jehovah along with her husband. Both of them are pioneers, and Wayne serves as an elder.

9. Why must we persevere?

¹⁰ ***Be patient.*** When we conform our life to God’s standards, our relatives may find it difficult to adjust to our new beliefs and lifestyle. Often, the first thing they notice is that we no longer join with them in celebrating religious festivals and no longer engage in political activities. Some relatives might initially be angry with us. (Matt. 10: 35, 36) But we should not give up on them. If we stop trying to help them understand our beliefs, we have, in effect, judged them as being unworthy of gaining everlasting life. Jehovah has not given us the job of judging—he has assigned that task to Jesus. (John 5:22) If we are patient, our relatives may eventually be willing to listen to our message.—See the box “Use Our Website to Teach.”

¹¹ ***Be firm but tactful.*** (Prov. 15:2) Consider the example of Alice. She learned about Jehovah when she was living far away from her parents, who were politically active atheists. She realized that as soon as possible, she needed to tell them about the good things she was learning. “If you wait until later to announce changes in your be-

10. Why do we need to be patient?

11-13. What do you learn from the way Alice dealt with her parents?

liefs and practices,” says Alice, “the shock to your family will be greater.” She wrote letters to her parents, asking what they thought of the Bible’s teachings on topics she hoped would interest them, such as love. (1 Cor. 13:1-13) She thanked her parents for raising her and taking care of her, and she sent them gifts. During visits to her parents’ home, she went out of her way to help her mother around the house. At first, her parents did not respond favorably when Alice told them about her new beliefs.

¹² When Alice was at home with her parents, she stuck to her schedule of Bible reading. “This helped my mother to understand how important the Bible was to me,” says Alice. Meanwhile, Alice’s father decided to learn something about the Bible in order to understand his daughter’s changed thinking, and he wanted to find fault with the Bible. “I gave him a Bible,” says Alice, “and I inscribed it with a personal note.” What was the result? Rather than finding fault, Alice’s father was deeply moved by what he read in God’s Word.

¹³ We need to be firm but tactful, even if we must endure trials. (1 Cor. 4:12b) Alice, for

example, had to endure opposition from her mother. “When I got baptized, Mom called me a ‘bad daughter.’” How did Alice respond? “Rather than avoiding the issue, I respectfully explained that I had made up my mind to be one of Jehovah’s Witnesses and would stick to that decision. I tried to reassure my mother that I really loved her. We both cried, and I cooked her a nice meal. From then on, my mother began to acknowledge that the Bible was making me a better person.”

¹⁴ It may take time before our relatives fully understand just how serious we are about serving Jehovah. For instance, when Alice decided to pioneer rather than to pursue the career her parents had chosen for her, her mother cried again. But Alice remained firm. “If you give in to pressure in one area,” says Alice, “your family will likely pressure you on other matters. But if you are kind yet firm with your family, some of them may listen to you.” That is what happened in Alice’s case. Both of her parents are now pioneers, and her father is an elder.

14. Why must we never give in to pressure to compromise?

HOW CAN ALL IN THE CONGREGATION HELP?

15 Jehovah draws people to him by means of the “fine works” of the Christian congregation. (Read Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:12.) If your mate is not one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, has he or she met members of your congregation? Pauline, mentioned earlier, invited brothers and sisters to her home so that her husband, Wayne, could get to

15. According to Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 2:12, how may the “fine works” of others help our relatives?



How can the congregation help our unbelieving family members?
(See paragraphs 15-16)

know them. Wayne recalls how one brother helped to break down barriers of misunderstanding: “He took a day off from work just to watch a ball game with me. And I thought, ‘He’s normal!’”

¹⁶ One excellent way to help our relatives is to invite them to attend congregation meetings with us. (1 Cor. 14:24, 25) Wayne attended his first meeting—the Memorial—because it was after work and the program was relatively short. “I did not understand what the talk was all about,” he says, “but I remembered the people. They came up and welcomed me and shook my hand firmly. I could tell they were sincere.” One couple had already been especially kind to Pauline, helping her with her son at meetings and in the ministry. So when Wayne eventually decided that he needed to understand more about Pauline’s new beliefs, he asked the husband to study the Bible with him.

¹⁷ We hope that all our relatives will join us in serving Jehovah. However, despite all our efforts to help our relatives to become God’s servants, they may not come into the truth. If that is the

16. Why should we invite our relatives to attend meetings?

17. For what should we not blame ourselves, but why must we never give up on our relatives?

case, we should not blame ourselves for their decision. After all, we cannot force anyone to accept our beliefs. Even so, do not underestimate the influence you can have on your relatives as they see how happy you are serving Jehovah. Pray for them. Tactfully speak to them. Do not hold back! (Acts 20:20) Be confident that Jehovah will bless your efforts. And if your relatives choose to listen to you, they will be saved!

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 32 (box): A young brother is helping his unbelieving father work on his car. At an appropriate time, he shows him a video on jw.org®. **Page 34:** A sister listens attentively as her unbelieving husband talks about his busy day. Later, she enjoys recreation with her family. **Page 39:** The sister has invited members of her congregation to her home. They take a sincere interest in getting to know her husband. Later, the husband attends the Memorial with his wife.

HOW CAN YOU SHOW THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES WHEN DEALING WITH YOUR RELATIVES?

- Empathy
- Patience
- Tact

57 *Preaching to All Sorts of People*

(1 Timothy 2:4)

1. We really want to imitate our God,
To be impartial, as we know he is.
To save all sorts of people is his will;
He welcomes all to come and to be his.

(CHORUS)

*It's the person, not the place;
It's the heart and not the face.
God's message to all people we extend.
So because we really care,
We keep preaching ev'rywhere:
"All sorts of people can become God's friend."*

2. It doesn't matter where they may be found
Or what at first they might appear to be.
What really counts is what they are at heart—
The inner self, the one Jehovah sees.

(Chorus)

3. Jehovah welcomes all who make the choice
To leave the world and all its ways behind.
This we have learned, and this we want to share,
And so we preach to people of all kinds.

(Chorus)

