

Song 114 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Nu 20:23-27—What lessons can we learn from the way that Aaron reacted to discipline and from the way that Jehovah viewed him despite his mistakes? (w14 6/15 26 ¶12)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) Nu 20:1-13 (2)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (12)

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer a publication from the Teaching Toolbox. (3)

Talk: (5 min.) g 1/15 9—Theme: How Can I Control My Temper? (16)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 90

Speak “What Is Good for Building Up” Others: (7 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category FAMILY). Then ask the audience: How does negative or complaining speech affect others? What helped the brother in the dramatization to make adjustments?

Stand Up to Peer Pressure!: (8 min.) Discussion. Play the whiteboard animation (video category TEENAGERS). Then ask the audience: What pressure do many experience? What advice is found at Exodus 23:2? What four steps can help us to deal with peer pressure?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 7 ¶16-23



## Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure

Moses’ meekness was put to the test when he experienced pressure and stress (Nu 20:2-5; w19.02 12 ¶19)

Moses temporarily lost his meekness (Nu 20:10; w19.02 13 ¶20-21)

Jehovah disciplined Moses and Aaron for their serious mistake (Nu 20:12; w09 9/1 19 ¶5)

Meekness is a mildness of temper, without haughtiness or vanity. It enables one to endure injury with patience and without irritation, resentment, or retaliation.



1. Our Sov'reign Lord Jehovah  
Is zealous for his holy name.  
He fervently desires  
To clear it from unrighteous blame.  
Through many generations,  
Great endurance he has shown;  
In loving, kindly patience,  
Not weary has he grown.  
His will is that salvation  
All sorts of people might attain.  
Long-lasting, loving patience  
By God will not have been in vain.
  
2. The quality of patience  
Will help us on our godly path.  
It lets our heart be tranquil,  
Protects us from unrighteous wrath.  
It finds the good in others,  
Always hoping for the best.  
It helps us keep our balance  
In times when we're distressed.  
Along with other virtues  
That holy spirit can bestow,  
Our patience will assist us  
To imitate the God we know.

## Numbers 20-21

**20** In the first month, the entire assembly of the Israelites came into the wilderness of Zin, and the people began dwelling in Ka'desh. It was there that Mir'i-am died and was buried.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was no water for the assembly, and they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> The people were quarreling with Moses, saying: "If only we had died when our brothers died before Jehovah! <sup>4</sup> Why have you brought Jehovah's congregation into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? <sup>5</sup> And why have you led us up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? It is no place for seed and figs and vines and pomegranates, and there is no water to drink." <sup>6</sup> Then Moses and Aaron came from before the congregation to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell with their faces to the ground, and Jehovah's glory began to appear to them.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses: <sup>8</sup> "Take the rod and call the assembly together, you and Aaron your brother, and speak to the crag before their eyes that it may give its water, and you will bring out water for them from the crag and give the assembly and their livestock something to drink."

<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the rod from before Jehovah, just as He had commanded him. <sup>10</sup> Then Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he said to them: "Hear, now, you rebels! Must we bring out water for you from this crag?" <sup>11</sup> With that Moses lifted his hand up and struck the

crag twice with his rod, and much water began to pour out, and the assembly and their livestock began to drink.

<sup>12</sup> Jehovah later said to Moses and Aaron: “Because you did not show faith in me and sanctify me before the eyes of the people of Israel, you will not bring this congregation into the land that I will give them.” <sup>13</sup> These are the waters of Mer'i-bah, where the Israelites quarreled with Jehovah, so that he was sanctified among them.

<sup>14</sup> Then Moses sent messengers from Ka'desh to the king of E'dom: “This is what your brother Israel says, ‘You well know all the hardship that we have experienced. <sup>15</sup> Our fathers went to Egypt, and we dwelled in Egypt many years, and the Egyptians mistreated us and our fathers. <sup>16</sup> Finally we cried out to Jehovah, and he heard us and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt, and here we are in Ka'desh, a city on the border of your territory. <sup>17</sup> Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through any field or vineyard, and we will not drink the water of any well. We will march on the King’s Road without turning to the right or the left until we pass through your territory.’”

<sup>18</sup> However, E'dom said to him: “You may not pass through our territory. If you do, I will come out with the sword to meet you.” <sup>19</sup> In turn the Israelites said to him: “By the highway we will go up, and if we and our livestock drink your water, we will pay for it. We want nothing more than to pass through on foot.” <sup>20</sup> Still he said: “You may not pass through.” With that E'dom came out to encounter him with many people and a strong army. <sup>21</sup> So E'dom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; therefore, Israel turned away from him.

<sup>22</sup> The people of Israel, the entire assembly, departed from Ka'desh and came to Mount Hor. <sup>23</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of E'dom: <sup>24</sup> "Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land that I will give to the Israelites, because you both rebelled against my order regarding the waters of Mer'i-bah. <sup>25</sup> Take Aaron and his son El-e-a'zar and bring them up into Mount Hor. <sup>26</sup> Remove Aaron's garments and clothe El-e-a'zar his son with them, and Aaron will die there."

<sup>27</sup> So Moses did just as Jehovah had commanded, and they climbed Mount Hor before the eyes of all the assembly. <sup>28</sup> Then Moses removed Aaron's garments and clothed El-e-a'zar his son with them. After that Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. And Moses and El-e-a'zar came down from the mountain. <sup>29</sup> When all the assembly saw that Aaron had died, the entire house of Israel wept for Aaron for 30 days.

**21** When the Ca'naan-ite king of A'rad, who dwelled in the Neg'eb, heard that Israel had come by the way of Ath'a-rim, he attacked Israel and carried away some of them as captives. <sup>2</sup> So Israel made this vow to Jehovah: "If you give this people into my hand, I will without fail devote their cities to destruction." <sup>3</sup> So Jehovah listened to Israel's voice and gave the Ca'naan-ites over to them, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. Therefore, they named the place Hor'mah.

<sup>4</sup> As they continued their journey from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea in order to go around the land of E'dom, the people became weary of the journey. <sup>5</sup> And the people kept speaking against God and Moses, saying: "Why have you

brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no food and no water, and we have come to hate this contemptible bread.”<sup>6</sup> So Jehovah sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they kept biting the people, so that many Israelites died.

<sup>7</sup> So the people came to Moses and said: “We have sinned by speaking against Jehovah and against you. Intercede with Jehovah so that he may remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded on behalf of the people.<sup>8</sup> Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Make a replica of a poisonous snake and put it on a pole. Then when anyone has been bitten, he will have to look at it in order to keep alive.”<sup>9</sup> Moses at once made a serpent of copper and put it on the pole, and whenever a serpent had bitten a man and he looked at the copper serpent, he survived.

<sup>10</sup> After that the Israelites departed and camped in O'both.  
<sup>11</sup> Then they departed from O'both and camped in I'ye-ab'a-rim, in the wilderness that faces Mo'ab, toward the east.  
<sup>12</sup> From there they departed and camped by the Valley of Ze'red.  
<sup>13</sup> From there they departed and camped in the region of the Ar'non, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Am'or-ites, for the Ar'non is the boundary of Mo'ab, between Mo'ab and the Am'or-ites.  
<sup>14</sup> That is why the book of the Wars of Jehovah speaks of “Va'heb in Su'phah and the valleys of Ar'non,<sup>15</sup> and the descent of the valleys, which extends toward the settlement of Ar and adjoins the border of Mo'ab.”

<sup>16</sup> Next they went on to Be'er. This is the well about which Jehovah said to Moses: "Gather the people, and let me give them water."

<sup>17</sup> At that time, Israel sang this song:  
"Spring up, O well!—Respond to it!

<sup>18</sup> The well that princes dug, that nobles of the people excavated,  
With a commander's staff and with their own staffs."

Then they went from the wilderness on to Mat'ta-nah, <sup>19</sup> from Mat'ta-nah on to Na-hal'i-el, and from Na-hal'i-el on to Ba'moth. <sup>20</sup> They went from Ba'moth on to the valley that is in the territory of Mo'ab, on top of Pis'gah, which overlooks Je-shi'mon.

<sup>21</sup> Israel now sent messengers to Si'hon, the king of the Am'or-ites, saying: <sup>22</sup> "Let us pass through your land. We will not turn aside into a field or a vineyard. We will not drink water from any well. We will march on the King's Road until we pass through your territory." <sup>23</sup> But Si'hon did not allow Israel to pass through his territory. Instead, Si'hon gathered all his people and went out against Israel in the wilderness and came to Ja'haz and began fighting with Israel. <sup>24</sup> But Israel defeated him with the sword and took possession of his land from the Ar'non to the Jab'bok, near the Am'mon-ites, because Ja'zer borders the territory of the Am'mon-ites.

<sup>25</sup> So Israel took all these cities, and they began dwelling in all the cities of the Am'or-ites, in Hesh'bon and all its dependent towns. <sup>26</sup> For Hesh'bon was the city of Si'hon, the king of the Am'or-ites, who had fought with the king of Mo'ab

and taken all his land from him as far as the Ar'non. <sup>27</sup> That is what gave rise to the taunting proverbial saying:

“Come to Hesh'bon.

Let the city of Si'hon be built and firmly established.

<sup>28</sup> For a fire came out of Hesh'bon, a flame from the town of Si'hon.

It has consumed Ar of Mo'ab, the lords of the high places of the Ar'non.

<sup>29</sup> Woe to you, Mo'ab! You will be destroyed, O people of Che'mosh!

He makes his sons fugitives and his daughters captives of Si'hon, the king of the Am'or-ites.

<sup>30</sup> Let us shoot at them;

Hesh'bon will be destroyed as far as Di'bon;

Let us desolate it as far as No'phah;

Fire will spread as far as Med'e-ba.”

<sup>31</sup> So Israel began to dwell in the land of the Am'or-ites.

<sup>32</sup> Moses then sent some men to spy on Ja'zer. They captured its dependent towns and drove out the Am'or-ites who were there. <sup>33</sup> After that they turned and went up by the Way of

Ba'shan. And Og the king of Ba'shan came out with all his people to meet them in battle at Ed're-i. <sup>34</sup> Jehovah said to Moses: “Do not be afraid of him, for I will give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you will do to him just as you did to Si'hon the king of the Am'or-ites, who lived in Hesh'bon.” <sup>35</sup> So they kept striking him down, along with his sons and all his people, until none of his people survived, and they took possession of his land.

Song 114 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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“Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Nu 20:23-27—What lessons can we learn from the way that Aaron reacted to discipline and from the way that Jehovah viewed him despite his mistakes? (w14 6/15 26 ¶12)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

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Song 90

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Stand Up to Peer Pressure!: (8 min.) Discussion. Play the whiteboard animation (video category TEENAGERS). Then ask the audience: What pressure do many experience? What advice is found at Exodus 23:2? What four steps can help us to deal with peer pressure?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 7 ¶16-23



## Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure

Moses’ meekness was put to the test when he experienced pressure and stress (Nu 20:2-5; w19.02 12 ¶19)

Moses temporarily lost his meekness (Nu 20:10; w19.02 13 ¶20-21)

Jehovah disciplined Moses and Aaron for their serious mistake (Nu 20:12; w09 9/1 19 ¶5)

Meekness is a mildness of temper, without haughtiness or vanity. It enables one to endure injury with patience and without irritation, resentment, or retaliation.



**April 12-18 / Numbers 20-21**

## **Song 114 and Prayer**

**Opening Comments** (1 minute)

### **Treasures From God's Word**

**"Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure":** (10 minutes)

**Moses' meekness was put to the test when he experienced pressure and stress**

**Numbers 20:2-5:** Now there was no water for the assembly, and they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. The people were quarreling with Moses, saying: "If only we had died when our brothers died before Jehovah! Why have you brought Jehovah's congregation into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? And why have you led us up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? It is no place for seed and figs and vines and pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."

## **w19.02 12 paragraph 19**

*We will avoid making mistakes.* Think again about Moses. For decades he remained meek and pleased Jehovah. Then, toward the end of the difficult 40 year journey in the wilderness, Moses failed to display meekness. His sister, most likely the one who helped save his life in Egypt, had just died and was buried at Kadesh. And now once again the Israelites were insisting that they were not being cared for properly. This time they were “quarreling with Moses” over a lack of water. Despite all the miracles that Jehovah had performed through Moses and despite Moses’ long record of unselfish leadership, the people complained. They complained not only about the lack of water but also about Moses, as if it were his fault that they were thirsty.—Numbers 20:1-5, 9-11.

### **Moses temporarily lost his meekness**

**Numbers 20:10:** Then Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he said to them: “Hear, now, you rebels! Must we bring out water for you from this crag?”

## **w19.02 13 paragraphs 20-21**

20 In the heat of anger, Moses lost his mild disposition. Rather than speak in faith to the rock, as Jehovah had commanded, Moses spoke in bitterness to the people and gave credit to himself. Then, he struck the rock twice and much water gushed out. Pride and anger caused him to make a painful mistake. (Psalm 106:32, 33) For his temporary lack of meekness, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.—Numbers 20:12.

21 From this incident, we learn valuable lessons. First, we must constantly work at maintaining our meek attitude. If we neglect it for a moment, pride may reassert itself and cause us to speak and act foolishly. Second, stress can weaken us, so we must strive to be meek, even when we are under pressure.

## **Jehovah disciplined Moses and Aaron for their serious mistake**

**Numbers 20:12:** Jehovah later said to Moses and Aaron:

“Because you did not show faith in me and sanctify me before the eyes of the people of Israel, you will not bring this congregation into the land that I will give them.”

### **w09 9/1 19 paragraph 5**

First, God had not directed Moses to speak to the people, let alone adjudge them rebels. Second, Moses and Aaron failed to glorify God. “You did not . . . sanctify me,” God said. (Verse 12) By saying “we shall bring out water,” Moses spoke as if he and Aaron—not God—were the providers of miraculous water. Third, the sentence was consistent with past judgments. God had denied the earlier generation of rebels entrance into Canaan, so he did the same with Moses and Aaron. (Numbers 14:22, 23) Fourth, Moses and Aaron were Israel’s leaders. Those with much responsibility have greater accountability to God.—Luke 12:48.

Meekness is a mildness of temper, without haughtiness or vanity. It enables one to endure injury with patience and without irritation, resentment, or retaliation.

[Image:] A young brother leaving for a Christian meeting. He remains calm while his non-Witness father yells at him. The house is decorated with religious icons and a Christmas tree.

## **Spiritual Gems**

**Numbers 20:23-27—What lessons can we learn from the way that Aaron reacted to discipline and from the way that Jehovah viewed him despite his mistakes?**

**Numbers 20:23-27:** Then Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom: “Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land that I will give to the Israelites, because you both rebelled against my order regarding the waters of Meribah. Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up into Mount Hor. Remove Aaron’s garments and clothe Eleazar his son with them, and Aaron will die there.” So Moses did just as Jehovah had commanded, and they climbed Mount Hor before the eyes of all the assembly.

**w14 6/15 26 paragraph 12**

In each of these situations, Jehovah could have punished

Aaron on the spot. But He discerned that Aaron was not a bad person or gravely at fault. It seems that Aaron allowed circumstances or the influence of others to turn him away from the right course. Yet, when he was confronted with his own mistakes, he readily admitted them and supported Jehovah's judgments. (Exodus 32:26; Numbers 12:11; 20:23-27) Jehovah chose to focus on Aaron's faith and repentant attitude. Centuries later, Aaron and his descendants were still remembered as fearers of Jehovah.—Psalm 115:10-12; 135:19, 20.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

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Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 7 ¶16-23



## Maintain Your Meekness When Under Pressure

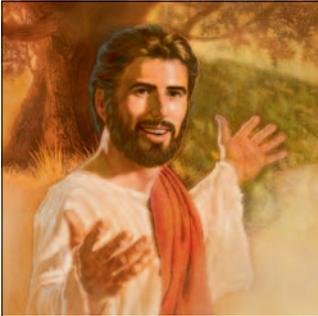
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**You Are  
Welcome  
to Attend!**

## Memorial Invitation Campaign

(February 27–March 27)

“We’re here [or calling or writing] to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Hand [or text or mail] the person an invitation. “This invitation shows the time and location of the event in our area [or how you can attend online]. We also invite you to a special talk the weekend before.”

**When Interest Is Shown:** Play [or text or e-mail] the video *Remember Jesus’ Death*.

**Link:** Why did Jesus die?

## Initial Call

**Question:** Who was Jesus?

**Scripture:** **Mt 16:16**

**Link:** Why did Jesus die?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 41 ¶5

## Return Visit

**Question:** Why did Jesus die?

**Scripture:** **Mt 20:28**

**Link:** How can we show our appreciation for Jesus’ ransom sacrifice?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 52 ¶2



**Talk:** (5 min.) g 1/15 9—Theme: How Can I Control My Temper? (*th* study 16)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Make a goal.** Instead of saying, “That’s just the way I am,” strive to improve within a specified time period—perhaps six months. During that period, keep a record of your progress. Each time you lose your temper, write down (1) what happened, (2) how you reacted, and (3) how you could have reacted better—and why. Then make it your goal to use that better reaction the next time you are provoked. Tip: Keep track of your successes too! Write about how *good* you feel after showing self-control.—*Bible principle: Colossians 3:8.*

**Wait before reacting.** When someone or something angers you, do not say the first thing that comes to your mind. Instead, wait. Take a deep breath if necessary. “When I breathe,” says 15-year-old Erik, “it gives me time to think before I do or say something I will later regret.”—*Bible principle: Proverbs 21:23.*

**Expand your view.** Sometimes you might become angry because you see only one aspect of the issue—the part that affects *you*. Try to consider the other side of the story. “Even when people are

downright rude,” says a young woman named Jessica, “there’s usually an explanation that can help me show a little understanding.”—*Bible principle: Proverbs 19:11.*

**If necessary, walk away.** The Bible says: “Before the quarrel breaks out, take your leave.” (Proverbs 17:14) As that scripture indicates, sometimes it is best simply to walk away from a volatile situation. Then, rather than stewing over the matter and letting your anger build even more, get active. “I find that exercise can relieve my stress and keep me from losing my temper,” says a young woman named Danielle.

**Learn to let go.** The Bible says: “Be agitated, but do not sin. Have your say in your heart, . . . and keep silent.” (Psalm 4:4) Note that there is nothing wrong with *feeling* agitated. The question is, What will happen next? “If you allow others to provoke you,” says a young man named Richard, “it gives them power over you. Why not try to be mature and overlook the matter?” If you do, you will be controlling your anger rather than letting your anger control *you*.

## *Encourage One Another*

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. As we encourage one another  
    To serve Jehovah faithfully,  
We find the bonds of love are strengthened;  
    Fine works bring peace and unity.  
The love we find among God's people  
    Gives each the courage to endure.  
Our congregation is a refuge,  
    A place where we can feel secure.
  
2. A word when spoken at the right time  
    Is, oh, how comforting to hear!  
We hear these words of consolation  
    From friends so faithful and so dear.  
How good it is to work together  
    With those whose hopes and goals we share!  
We seek to strengthen one another  
    And help each one his burden bear.
  
3. As we with eyes of faith are seeing  
    The nearness of Jehovah's day,  
We need our gathering together  
    To keep us walking in the way.  
United with Jehovah's people,  
    We hope to serve eternally.  
So we encourage one another  
    To hold to our integrity.

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## **Speak “What Is Good for Building Up” Others**

### Raw Transcript

I embarrassed my wife tonight. I knew when it happened, and I didn't want to talk about it. But I knew in my heart that Yoomi was right. I had become unkind. There were lots of examples. I'd complained about the way one brother conducted meetings for field service. I was jealous of a ministerial servant who received new privileges. And I was pretty blunt about how frustrated I got with Yoomi's parents. I thought I'd gotten rid of my old personality, but it still lurked inside of me. Some of my friends were OK with and even encouraged these bad qualities. The change was so gradual that I didn't even realize how far I'd fallen. What do you think I need to do to change? How about we search for “good for building up” from the ONLINE LIBRARY? Sounds good. Let's take a look. We considered Ephesians 4:29, which says: “Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth, “but only what is good for building up . . . , to impart what is beneficial to the hearers.” I was struck by this powerful word picture. Rotten words are as

disgusting as rotten food. I didn't want the things coming out of my mouth to disgust my wife or anyone else. But to change, I needed a plan. Now I really try to think before I speak. And I have a goal to give someone real commendation at every meeting. I have a goal for my conversations too. I want to keep them wholesome, true, and kind. It's amazing how speaking kindly to others can make you feel so good inside. I shouldn't be surprised, because it's just another way of showing God's love.

video source: [https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODBiblePrinciples/pub-jwb\\_201910\\_3\\_VIDEO](https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODBiblePrinciples/pub-jwb_201910_3_VIDEO)

## **Stand Up to Peer Pressure!**

Whether you're in school or not, you're probably under a lot of pressure. Not just from all the studying and those piles of homework. But pressure from other kids. Pressure to have sex. Or cheat. Or maybe it's to smoke or take drugs.

Of course, you know what they want you to do is bad, but at times you may feel like you're missing out if you don't join them.

You're not alone. Since the world began, young people have been dealing with peer pressure. But it doesn't mean you have to give in. The Bible has some good advice. Exodus 23:2 tells us not to just follow after the crowd. In other words, don't do something just because everyone else is doing it. Instead, be your own person.

How do you get the strength to stand up to peer pressure? Here are four steps that can help.

- 1)** First, keep on the lookout for moral dangers, and identify any situations where you might be pressured to do something wrong. If you see trouble coming your way, don't walk right into it! Find another route, and avoid the problem.

**2)** The second step: Stop and take the time to think. Think about the consequences before you give in to peer pressure. In Proverbs 14:15, the Bible says: ‘Smart people watch their step.’ So don’t just jump in and do what others say.

That may be hard to do if you’re trying to fit in. But that’s the time to use your imagination.

- How will I feel later if I give in?
- What might be the outcome?
- How might my actions affect others who care about me the most?

**3)** Step three: You need to plan ahead. Proverbs 24:5 says that a person who has knowledge “increases his power.” If you know exactly why you’re saying no to something, why something is bad, it can give you the strength to say no.

**4)** Now, the fourth step: Take action. No, you don’t have to give your peers a lecture. Just say no, clearly and confidently. You may be surprised at their reaction. Each time take a stand for what you know is right, you get stronger and stronger. And that makes it easier to resist the pressure the next time. You don’t need to be rude, but

you could give a reason why you wouldn't want to join in. And if they do keep pressuring you, just remember this:

Giving in to peer pressure is kind of like being turned into a puppet—with your peers pulling the strings.

You can't hide from peer pressure, but you can stand up to it.

- 1) Remember to keep on the lookout.**
- 2) Think about the consequences.**
- 3) Plan ahead.**
- 4) Take action.**

Facing up to peer pressure can be scary at times. But when you do, you show the decisions you make really are your own.

video source: <https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/teenagers/whiteboard-animations/stand-up-to-peer-pressure>

cued them. He raised up such men as Samson, Saul, and David to deliver His people. (Judg. 13:5, 24; 1 Sam. 9:15-17; 18:6, 7) And as foretold by Ezekiel, the Philistines experienced “furious punishments” when the Babylonians and later the Greeks invaded their land.—Ezek. 25:15-17.

<sup>16</sup> What *lessons* can we learn from Israel’s dealings with the Philistines? Jehovah’s modern-day people have faced opposition from some of the most powerful nations ever to dominate mankind. Unlike Israel, we have maintained a record of steadfast loyalty to Jehovah. Even so, the enemies of pure worship may at times seem to prevail. For instance, at the beginning of the 20th century, the government of the United States attempted to stop the work of Jehovah’s people by sentencing those who took the lead in the organization to decades in prison. During the second world war, the Nazi party in Germany tried to wipe out God’s people, imprisoning thousands and killing hundreds. After that war, the Soviet Union waged a sustained campaign against Jehovah’s Witnesses, 16, 17. **What lessons can we learn from Israel’s dealings with the Philistines?**

sending our brothers to labor camps or exiling them to remote regions of the land.

<sup>17</sup> Governments may continue to ban the preaching work, imprison God’s people, and even execute some of us. Should these events cause us to give in to fear or to lose faith? No! Jehovah will preserve his loyal people. **(Read Matthew 10:28-31.)** We have already seen powerful, repressive governments disappear, while Jehovah’s people have continued to flourish. Soon, all human governments will share an outcome similar to that of the Philistines—they will be forced to know Jehovah. And like the Philistines, they will cease to exist!

### **“Abundant Wealth” Gave No Lasting Protection**

<sup>18</sup> The ancient city of *Tyre*<sup>\*[2]</sup> sat at the center of one of the great commercial empires in the ancient world. To the west, her ships spun a web of trade routes that stretched across the Mediterranean Sea. To the east, Tyre’s web extended along the overland

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\*[2] The original city of Tyre seems to have been built on a rocky outcrop located just off the coast, about 30 miles north of Mount Carmel. Later, an extension of the city was constructed on the mainland. The Semitic name for the city, Sur, means “Rock.”

### **18. What kind of empire did Tyre control?**

routes that linked her to distant empires. For centuries, she added to her vast stockpile of wealth from these far-flung locations. Her merchants and tradesmen became so rich that they viewed themselves as princes.—Isa. 23:8.

<sup>19</sup> Under Kings David and Solomon, Israel had close ties with the inhabitants of Tyre, who supplied material and craftsmen to help build David's palace and later Solomon's temple. (2 Chron. 2:1, 3, 7-16) Tyre saw the nation of Israel at its best. (1 Ki. 3:10-12; 10:4-9) Just think of the opportunity that thousands of Tyrians had to learn about pure worship, to get to know Jehovah, and to observe firsthand the benefits that come from serving the true God!

<sup>20</sup> Despite that opportunity, however, the inhabitants of Tyre remained steadfastly materialistic in their outlook. They did not follow the example of the powerful Canaanite city of Gibeon, whose inhabitants merely heard about Jehovah's great works and were moved to become his servants. (Josh. 9:2, 3, 22-10:2) In fact, the inhabitants of Tyre ended up oppos-

**19, 20. What contrast is there between the inhabitants of Tyre and those of Gibeon?**

ing God's people and even sold some of them into slavery.—Ps. 83:2, 7; Joel 3:4, 6; Amos 1:9.

<sup>21</sup> Through Ezekiel, Jehovah said to those opposers: “Here I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, just as the sea brings up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down her towers, and I will scrape away soil and make her a shining, bare rock.” (Ezek. 26:1-5) For protection, the inhabitants of Tyre trusted in their riches, which they felt provided them with the same security as the island-city's 150-foot-high walls. They would have done well to pay attention to Solomon's warning: “The wealth of the rich is his fortified city; it is like a protective wall in his imagination.” —Prov. 18:11.

<sup>22</sup> When the Babylonians and then the Greeks fulfilled Ezekiel's prophecy, the inhabitants of Tyre discovered that the security offered both by the city's wealth and by her literal walls was imaginary. After destroying Jerusalem, the Babylonians waged a campaign against Tyre for 13 years. (Ezek. 29:17, 18) Then, in 332 B.C.E., Alexander the Great fulfilled a

**21, 22. What happened to Tyre, and why?**

remarkable aspect of prophecies conveyed by Ezekiel.\*<sup>[3]</sup> His army scraped together the ruins of the mainland city of Tyre and threw the stones, woodwork, and soil into the water, building a path to reach the island-city. (Ezek. 26:4, 12) Alexander breached the walls, plundered the city, killed thousands of soldiers and citizens, and sold tens of thousands more into slavery. The inhabitants of Tyre were forced to know Jehovah when they learned the hard way that “abundant wealth” gives no lasting protection.—Ezek. 27:33, 34.

<sup>23</sup> What *lesson* can we learn from the inhabitants of Tyre? Never would we want to allow “the deceptive power of riches” to cause us to trust in material things, viewing them as a protective wall. (Matt. 13:22) We cannot “slave for God and for Riches.” (**Read Matthew 6:24.**) Only those who serve Jehovah whole-souled are truly secure. (Matt. 6:31-33; John 10:27-29) Prophecies about the end of this present system will be fulfilled in every detail just as surely as the proph-

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\*<sup>[3]</sup> Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Amos, and Zechariah also uttered prophecies against Tyre that were fulfilled in every detail.—Isa. 23:1-8; Jer. 25:15, 22, 27; Joel 3:4; Amos 1:10; Zech. 9:3, 4.

### **23. What lesson can we learn from the inhabitants of Tyre?**

ecies against Tyre came true. At that time, those who trust in wealth will be forced to know Jehovah when he destroys this world's greedy, self-centered commercial system.

### **Political Power Was “a Piece of Straw”**

<sup>24</sup> From before the days of Joseph to the time when the Babylonians marched on Jerusalem, *Egypt* wielded considerable political influence in the region of the Promised Land. Her ancient roots may have made her appear to be stable, like an old-growth tree. But when compared with Jehovah, she was feeble—no stronger than “a piece of straw.”—Ezek. 29:6.

<sup>25</sup> Apostate King Zedekiah did not recognize that about Egypt. Through the prophet Jeremiah, Jehovah had urged Zedekiah to submit to the king of Babylon. (Jer. 27:12) Zedekiah even took an oath in Jehovah's name not to rebel against Nebuchadnezzar. But then he ignored Jehovah's direction, broke his oath to Nebuchadnezzar, and appealed to Egypt for help in his fight against the Babylonians. (2 Chron. 36:13; Ezek. 17:12-20)

**24-26. (a) Why did Jehovah call Egypt “a piece of straw”? (b) How did King Zedekiah ignore Jehovah's direction, and with what result?**

# *We Will Keep Enduring*

(Matthew 24:13)

## 1. How can we endure

When trials come, as Jesus said?  
Through his pain he saw  
The joy of better things ahead.  
God's promise, God's justice,  
Were thoughts on which he fed.

### *(CHORUS)*

*We need to have endurance.  
Our faith we must defend.  
His love is our assurance.  
So we will keep enduring to the end.*

## 2. Though the passing years

May bring us sorrow, bring us pain;  
There beyond the tears,  
We see the life that we can gain.  
To be there, feel free there,  
Determined we remain.

### *(Chorus)*

## 3. We will not give up

Nor see the need for doubt or fear.  
Faithfully we'll serve  
Until Jehovah's day is here.  
Let's keep on enduring.  
That time is very near.

### *(Chorus)*

FEBRUARY 2021

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
APRIL 5–MAY 2, 2021

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Study Article 5: April 5-11	2
“The Head of Every Man Is the Christ”	
<hr/>	
Study Article 6: April 12-18	15
“The Head of a Woman Is the Man”	
<hr/>	
Study Article 7: April 19-25	28
Understanding Headship in the Congregation	
<hr/>	
Study Article 8: April 26–May 2	41
How to Maintain Joy When Enduring Trials	
<hr/>	
LIFE STORY	53
Jehovah Has ‘Made My Paths Straight’	

### COVER PICTURE:

After sending food to David and his men, Abigail approaches David. Then she bows down to the ground and urges him not to bring bloodguilt on himself by taking revenge (See study article 6, paragraph 16)

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## *Christ, Our Model*

(1 Peter 2:21)

1. What love Jehovah showed,  
    What goodness from him flowed,  
    When for all mankind he offered his Firstborn.  
Christ took on human form—  
    The Son of man was born—  
    By his example, God's name he adorned.
2. Jehovah's Word, he said,  
    Sustained his life like bread.  
    It gave him wisdom and knowledge and insight.  
His Father's willing slave,  
    A model Jesus gave;  
    To please his Father would bring him delight.
3. Like Jesus, may our days  
    Provide Jehovah praise,  
    And may his footsteps become our own roadway.  
Let Jesus' model be  
    Our path eternally,  
    And then God's favor we'll know day by day.

# “The Head of a Woman Is the Man”

*“The head of a woman is the man.”*—1 COR. 11:3.

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## SONG 13

Christ, Our Model

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## PREVIEW

Jehovah has arranged for a married woman to be subject to her husband. Just what does that involve? Christian husbands and wives can learn a great deal about submission from the example set by Jesus and by women whose experiences are recorded in the Bible.

ALL Christians come under the perfect headship of Jesus Christ. However, when a Christian woman gets married, she comes under the headship of an imperfect man. That can present a challenge. So when considering a potential marriage mate, she would do well to ask herself: ‘What indication do I have that this brother will be a good family head? Do spiritual activities play an important role in his life? If not, what makes me think that he will be a good spiritual head after we get married?’ Of course, a sister also does well to ask herself: ‘What qualities will I bring to the marriage? Am I patient and generous? Do I have a strong relationship with Jehovah?’ (Eccl. 4:9, 12) The level of happiness a wife will experience in her marriage will depend to some extent on the decisions she makes before getting married.

<sup>2</sup> Millions of our Christian sisters set an excellent example in being submissive to their husband. They are to be commended! We are delighted to serve Jehovah alongside these loyal women! In this article, we will consider the answers to three questions: (1) What are some of the challenges that wives have

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1. When considering a marriage mate, what are some questions a single sister should ask?
  2. What will we consider in this article?

to deal with? (2) Why does a wife choose to be subject to her husband? (3) What can Christian husbands and wives learn about subjection from the examples of Jesus, Abigail, and Mary, the wife of Joseph and the mother of Jesus?

## WHAT CHALLENGES DO CHRISTIAN WIVES FACE?

<sup>3</sup> Marriage is a perfect gift from God, but people are imperfect. (1 John 1:8) That is why God’s Word warns married couples that they will face challenges that are described as “tribulation in their flesh.” (1 Cor. 7:28) Note just some of the challenges that a wife might face.

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps because of her background, a wife might feel that being in subjection to her husband is demeaning. “Where I grew up,” says Marisol, who lives in the United States, “women were constantly told that they must be equal to men in everything. I know that Jehovah has made the headship arrangement and that he has given women a humble yet respectable role to play. But it is a challenge to keep a balanced view of headship.”

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3. Why is there no such thing as a perfect marriage?

4. Why might a wife feel that it is demeaning to be in subjection to her husband?

<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, a woman might be married to a man who thinks that women are second-class citizens. “In our area,” says a sister named Ivon, who lives in South America, “men eat first and women second. Little girls are expected to cook and clean, but little boys are served by their mother and sisters, and they are told that they are ‘king of the house.’” A sister named Yingling, who lives in Asia, says: “In my language there is a saying that implies that women do not need to be intelligent or to have abilities. Their role is to do all the housework, but they are not allowed to express any opinions to their husband.” A husband who is influenced by such unloving and unscriptural attitudes makes life difficult for his wife, fails to imitate Jesus, and displeases Jehovah.—Eph. 5:28, 29; 1 Pet. 3:7.

<sup>6</sup> As mentioned in the preceding article, Jehovah expects Christian husbands to care for the spiritual, emotional, and material needs of their family. (1 Tim. 5:8) However, married sisters have to take time from their busy schedule each day to read God’s Word and meditate on it and to turn to Jeho-

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5. What unscriptural attitudes do some have about the role of women?

6. What do wives need to do in order to strengthen their personal relationship with Jehovah?

vah in earnest prayer. This can be a challenge. Wives are busy, so they may feel that they do not have the time or the energy to do those things, but it is vital that they take the time. Why? Because Jehovah wants each one of us to develop and maintain a personal relationship with him.—Acts 17:27.

<sup>7</sup> Understandably, a wife may have to work hard to be submissive to her imperfect husband. However, she will find it easier to fulfill the assignment Jehovah has given her if she understands and accepts the Scriptural reasons why she should be submissive.

### **WHY CHOOSE TO BE IN SUBJECTION?**

<sup>8</sup> A Christian wife chooses to be in subjection to her husband because that is what Jehovah asks of her. (Read Ephesians 5:22-24.) She trusts her heavenly Father, knowing that he is always motivated by love and only asks her to do something if it is in her best interests.—Deut. 6:24; 1 John 5:3.

<sup>9</sup> The world encourages women to ignore Jehovah's standards and to view subjection as demeaning.

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7. What will make it easier for a wife to fulfill her assignment?

8. As indicated at Ephesians 5:22-24, why does a Christian wife choose to be in subjection to her husband?

9. What happens when a Christian sister respects her husband's authority?

Of course, those who promote such ideas do not know our loving God. Jehovah would never give his precious daughters a command that would demean them. A sister who works hard at fulfilling the role Jehovah has assigned her promotes peace in her household. (Ps. 119:165) Her husband benefits, she benefits, and the children benefit.

<sup>10</sup> A wife who is submissive to her imperfect husband proves that she loves and respects Jehovah, the one who established headship. “I know that my husband will make mistakes,” says Carol, who lives in South America. “I also know that the way that I respond to those mistakes reveals how much I value my friendship with Jehovah. So I try to remain submissive because I want to please my heavenly Father.”

<sup>11</sup> It can be a challenge for a wife to be respectful and submissive if she feels that her husband does not take her feelings and concerns into account. But note how a married sister named Aneese responds when that happens. She says: “I try not to become resentful. I remember that all of us make mistakes. My goal is to forgive freely, as Jehovah does. When

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10. What lessons can we learn from the comments made by Carol?

11. What helps a sister named Aneese to be forgiving, and what can we learn from her comments?

I do forgive, I regain my peace of mind.” (Ps. 86:5)  
A wife who is forgiving is likely to find it easier to be submissive.

## WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EXAMPLES RECORDED IN THE BIBLE?

<sup>12</sup> Some may feel that a submissive person is weak. But that view is far from the truth. The Bible contains many examples of submissive individuals who had great strength of character. Consider what we can learn from Jesus, Abigail, and Mary.

<sup>13</sup> *Jesus* is subject to Jehovah, but certainly not because he lacks intelligence or skill. Only a highly intelligent person could teach as simply and clearly as Jesus did. (John 7:45, 46) Jehovah respected Jesus’ ability so much that He allowed Jesus to work beside Him when Jehovah created the universe. (Prov. 8:30; Heb. 1:2-4) And since Jesus’ resurrection, Jehovah has entrusted him with ‘all authority in heaven and on earth.’ (Matt. 28:18) Even though Jesus is talented, he still looks to Jehovah for guidance. Why? Because he loves his Father.—John 14:31.

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12. What examples does the Bible contain?

13. Why is Jesus in subjection to Jehovah? Explain.

**14 *What husbands can learn.*** Jehovah did not make a wife subject to her husband because He views women as inferior to men. Jehovah himself has made that evident by choosing women as well as men to be corulers with Jesus. (Gal. 3:26-29) Jehovah has shown confidence in his Son by entrusting him with authority. Similarly, a wise husband will entrust his wife with a measure of authority. Describing the role of a capable wife, God's Word says that she can oversee a household, buy and manage property, and negotiate financial transactions. (Read Proverbs 31:15, 16, 18.) She is not a slave who has no right to voice her opinion. Rather, her husband trusts her and listens to her ideas. (Read Proverbs 31:11, 26, 27.) When a man treats his wife with that kind of respect, she will find pleasure in being subject to him.

**15 *What wives can learn.*** Despite his accomplishments, Jesus does not feel that it is demeaning to subject himself to Jehovah's headship. (1 Cor. 15:28; Phil. 2:5, 6) Likewise, a capable woman who follows Jesus' example will not feel diminished by submitting to her husband. She will support her husband

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**14.** What can husbands learn from (a) the way Jehovah views women? (b) the thoughts recorded in Proverbs 31?

**15.** What can wives learn from Jesus' example?



What can capable wives learn from Jesus' subjection to Jehovah?  
(See paragraph 15)

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not only because she loves him but primarily because she loves and respects Jehovah.

<sup>16</sup> *Abigail* had a husband named Nabal. He was a selfish, proud, and ungrateful man. Even so, Abigail did not take the easy way out of her marriage. She could have kept quiet and allowed David and his men to kill her husband. Instead, she took practical steps to protect Nabal along with their large household. Imagine the courage it took for Abigail to approach 400 armed men and respectfully reason with David. She was even willing to take the blame for her husband's actions. (Read 1 Samuel 25:3, 23-28.) David readily acknowledged that Jehovah had used this strong woman to give him needed advice that prevented him from committing a serious mistake.

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16. According to 1 Samuel 25:3, 23-28, what challenges did Abigail face? (See cover picture.)

**17 *What husbands can learn.*** Abigail was a sensible woman. Wisely, David listened to her advice. As a result, he avoided a course that would have made him bloodguilty. Similarly, a wise husband will carefully consider his wife's views when important decisions are to be made. Perhaps her viewpoint will help him avoid making an unwise decision.

**18 *What wives can learn.*** A wife who loves and respects Jehovah can have a good impact on her family, even if her husband does not serve Jehovah or live by His standards. She will not look for an unscriptural way out of her marriage. Instead, by being respectful and submissive, she will try to motivate her husband to learn about Jehovah. (1 Pet. 3: 1, 2) But even if he does not respond to her good example, Jehovah appreciates the loyalty that a submissive wife shows to Him.

**19** A submissive Christian wife, however, will not support her husband if he asks her to violate Bible laws or principles. Suppose, for example, that a sister's unbelieving mate tells her to lie, to steal, or to engage in some other unscriptural conduct. All

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17. What can husbands learn from the account of David and Abigail?

18. What can wives learn from Abigail's example?

19. In what circumstances will a wife not obey her husband?

Christians, including married sisters, owe their first allegiance to Jehovah God. If a sister is asked to violate Bible principles, she should refuse, explaining in a kind but firm way why she cannot do what he is asking.—Acts 5:29.

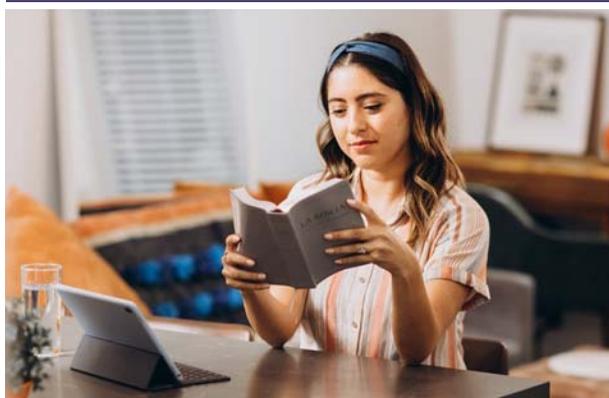
<sup>20</sup> *Mary* had a close, personal relationship with Jehovah. She obviously knew the Scriptures well. In a conversation with Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, Mary made more than 20 references to the Hebrew Scriptures. (Luke 1:46-55) And consider this fact: Even though Mary was engaged to Joseph, Jehovah’s angel did not initially appear to him. The

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**20.** How do we know that Mary had a close, personal relationship with Jehovah?



What lessons about study and meditation can wives learn from Mary, the mother of Jesus?  
(See paragraphs 20, 22)



angel first spoke directly to Mary and announced that she would give birth to the Son of God. (Luke 1:26-33) Jehovah knew Mary well and was confident that she would love and care for his Son. And Mary undoubtedly continued to have a good relationship with Jehovah even after Jesus died and was raised to heaven.—Acts 1:14.

<sup>21</sup> *What husbands can learn.* A wise husband is happy when his wife knows the Scriptures well. He does not feel intimidated or threatened by his wife. He realizes that a sister with a sound knowledge of the Bible and Bible principles can be a real asset to her family. Of course, even if the wife is better educated than her husband, it is his responsibility to take the lead in family worship and in other theocratic activities.—Eph. 6:4.

<sup>22</sup> *What wives can learn.* A woman must be submissive to her husband, but she is still responsible for her own spiritual health. (Gal. 6:5) To that end, she must allocate some time for her own personal study and meditation. That will help her to maintain her love and respect for Jehovah and to find joy in being submissive to her husband.

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21. What can husbands learn from what the Bible records about Mary?

22. What can wives learn from Mary?

**23** Wives who remain subject to their husband out of love for Jehovah will find more joy and contentment than those who reject Jehovah’s headship arrangement. They set a good example for both young men and young women. And they help to create a warm atmosphere not only in the family but also in the congregation. (Titus 2:3-5) Today, women make up a large part of those who are loyally serving Jehovah. (Ps. 68:11) All of us, whether male or female, have an important role to play in the congregation. The next article will discuss how each of us can fulfill that role.

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**23.** How do submissive wives benefit themselves, their family, and the congregation?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 25:** While conversing with Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, Mary was able to cite passages from the Hebrew Scriptures by heart. A Christian wife sets aside time to study the Bible to maintain her spiritual health.

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**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT SUBJECTION FROM THE EXAMPLE SET BY . . .**

■ Jesus?

■ Abigail?

■ Mary?

**SONG 131**

“What God Has Yoked Together”

# 131 “What God Has Yoked Together”

(Matthew 19:5, 6)

1. With dignity and joy,  
A threefold cord is bound.  
With God and men to witness,  
These sacred vows resound.

## *(CHORUS 1)*

*He vowed before Jehovah  
To love her from the heart.  
“What God has yoked together,  
Let no man put apart.”*

2. They both have searched God’s Word  
To learn to do his will,  
And now they seek his blessing,  
Their promise to fulfill.

## *(CHORUS 2)*

*She vowed before Jehovah  
To love him from the heart.  
“What God has yoked together,  
Let no man put apart.”*