

Song 106 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Imitate Jehovah’s Impartiality”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Nu 28:7, 14—What were drink offerings? (it-2 528 ¶5)

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 28:11-31 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Initial Call: God’s Purpose* —Ge 1:28 (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (4)

Talk: (5 min.) w07 4/1 17-18—Theme: What Makes Offerings and Sacrifices Acceptable to Jehovah? (16)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 82

Become Jehovah’s Friend—Love Your Neighbor: (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why did kids at school treat Priya differently? How did Sophia show love to Priya? How can you show love to people who are different from you?

What’s a Real Friend?: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the whiteboard animation (video category TEENAGERS). Then ask the audience: What should you look for in a friend? Where can you find a good friend? How can you develop a good friendship?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 8 ¶8-15, box 8A

 Imitate Jehovah’s Impartiality

Zelophehad’s five daughters sought to preserve the inheritance of their father (Nu 27:1-4; w13 6/15 10 ¶14; see cover picture)

Jehovah made an impartial decision (Nu 27:5-7; w13 6/15 11 ¶15)

We too must act impartially (Nu 27:8-11; w13 6/15 11 ¶16)

We imitate Jehovah’s impartiality by treating fellow believers with dignity and loyal love and by preaching to people of all backgrounds.



106 *Cultivating the Quality of Love*

(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

1. We humbly bow to our God in prayer,
That all his qualities we may share.
But most important of all those things
Is love, which having his spirit brings.
We may be talented, wise, or bold,
But we are nothing if love grows cold.
We pray for love that is warm and true,
Revealed in all that we say and do.
2. Love looks for ways to give graciously
And thinks of others unselfishly.
Love never harbors a hateful thought,
Forgives our brothers, as Jesus taught.
Love helps us patiently suffer wrong,
Bears heavy loads when it's really strong.
Through ev'ry trial let love prevail;
It bears all things; it will never fail.

Numbers 27-29

27 Then the daughters of Ze-lo'phe·had, the son of He'pher, the son of Gil'e·ad, the son of Ma'chir, the son of Ma·nas'seh, of the families of Ma·nas'seh the son of Joseph, approached. The names of his daughters were Mah'lah, Noah, Hog'lah, Mil'cah, and Tir'zah. ² They stood before Moses, El·e·a'zar the priest, the chieftains, and all the assembly at the entrance of the tent of meeting and said: ³ “Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not among the group who banded together against Jehovah, the supporters of Kor'ah, but he died for his own sin and he did not have any sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father be lost from his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers.” ⁵ So Moses presented their case before Jehovah.

⁶ Jehovah then said this to Moses: ⁷ “The daughters of Ze-lo'phe·had are correct. You should by all means give them the possession as an inheritance among their father's brothers and transfer their father's inheritance to them. ⁸ And tell the Israelites, ‘If a man dies without having a son, you must then cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter. ⁹ And if he has no daughter, you will give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ And if he has no brothers, you will give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ¹¹ And if his father has no brothers, you will give his inheritance to the closest blood relative in his family, and he will take possession of it. This will serve as a statute by judicial decision for the Israelites, just as Jehovah has commanded Moses.’”

¹² Then Jehovah said to Moses: “Go up into this mountain of Ab'a-rim, and view the land that I will give the Israelites.

¹³ When you have seen it, you will also be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother was, ¹⁴ because when the assembly was quarreling with me in the wilderness of Zin, you rebelled against my order to sanctify me before them by means of the waters. These are the waters of Mer'i-bah at Ka'desh in the wilderness of Zin.”

¹⁵ Then Moses said to Jehovah: ¹⁶ “Let Jehovah, the God of the spirit of all people, appoint over the assembly a man ¹⁷ who will go out and come in before them and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that Jehovah's assembly may not become like sheep that have no shepherd.” ¹⁸ So Jehovah said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom there is spirit, and lay your hand on him. ¹⁹ Then stand him before El-e-a'zar the priest and before all the assembly, and you must commission him before their eyes. ²⁰ You are to confer some of your authority on him, so that all the assembly of the Israelites may listen to him. ²¹ He will stand before El-e-a'zar the priest, who will inquire in his behalf by the judgment of the U'rim before Jehovah. At his order they will go out and at his order they will come in, he and all the Israelites with him and all the assembly.”

²² So Moses did just as Jehovah had commanded him. He took Joshua and stood him before El-e-a'zar the priest and before all the assembly, ²³ and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as Jehovah had spoken through Moses.

28 Jehovah next said to Moses: ² “Command the Israelites and tell them, ‘You should take care that you present to me my offering, my bread. My offerings by fire as a pleasing aroma to me must be made at their appointed times.’

³ “And say to them, ‘This is the offering made by fire that you will present to Jehovah: two sound year-old male lambs a day as a burnt offering regularly. ⁴ The one male lamb you will offer in the morning, and the other male lamb you will offer at twilight, ⁵ together with a tenth of an e'phah of fine flour mixed with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil as a grain offering. ⁶ It is a regular burnt offering, which was established at Mount Si'nai as a pleasing aroma, an offering made by fire to Jehovah, ⁷ along with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin for each male lamb. Pour out the alcoholic drink in the holy place as a drink offering to Jehovah. ⁸ And you will offer the other male lamb at twilight. With the same grain offering as that made in the morning and with its same drink offering, you will present it as an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah.

⁹ ““However, on the Sabbath day, the offering should be two sound year-old male lambs and two tenths of an e'phah measure of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, together with its drink offering. ¹⁰ This is the burnt offering for the Sabbath, along with the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹¹ ““At the start of each month you will present as a burnt offering to Jehovah two young bulls, one ram, and seven sound male lambs each a year old, ¹² and three tenth

measures of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for each bull and two tenth measures of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for the one ram, ¹³ and a tenth measure of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for each male lamb, as a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, an offering made by fire to Jehovah. ¹⁴ And their drink offerings should be half a hin of wine for a bull and a third of a hin for the ram and a fourth of a hin for a male lamb. This is the monthly burnt offering each month throughout the year. ¹⁵ Also, one young goat should be offered as a sin offering to Jehovah in addition to the regular burnt offering together with its drink offering.

¹⁶ “In the first month, on the 14th day of the month, will be Jehovah’s Passover. ¹⁷ And on the 15th day of this month, there will be a festival. Unleavened bread will be eaten for seven days. ¹⁸ On the first day there will be a holy convention. You must not do any hard work. ¹⁹ And you will present as a burnt offering made by fire to Jehovah two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs each a year old. You should offer sound animals. ²⁰ You should offer them with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenth measures for a bull and two tenth measures for the ram. ²¹ You will offer a tenth measure respectively for each male lamb of the seven male lambs, ²² as well as one goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. ²³ Aside from the morning burnt offering, which is for the regular burnt offering, you will offer these. ²⁴ You will offer these in the same manner each day for seven days as food, an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah. It should be

offered along with the regular burnt offering and its drink offering. ²⁵ On the seventh day you should hold a holy convention. You must not do any hard work.

²⁶ ““On the day of the first ripe fruits, when you present a new grain offering to Jehovah, you should hold a holy convention in your feast of weeks. You must not do any hard work. ²⁷ You will present as a burnt offering for a pleasing aroma to Jehovah two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs each a year old, ²⁸ and as their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenth measures for each bull, two tenth measures for the one ram, ²⁹ a tenth measure respectively for each male lamb of the seven male lambs, ³⁰ as well as one young goat to make atonement for you. ³¹ You will offer them in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain offering. They should be sound animals, along with their drink offerings.

29 ““And in the seventh month, on the first of the month, you should hold a holy convention. You must not do any hard work. It is a day on which you should sound the trumpet. ² You will offer as a burnt offering for a pleasing aroma to Jehovah one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ³ and their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an e'phah measure for the bull, two tenth measures for the ram, ⁴ and one tenth measure for each male lamb of the seven male lambs, ⁵ and one young male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. ⁶ This is in addition to the monthly burnt offering and its grain offering and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, together with their drink offerings,

according to the regular procedure for them, as a pleasing aroma, an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

⁷ ““And on the tenth of this seventh month, you should hold a holy convention, and you must afflict yourselves. You must not do any work. ⁸ And you will present as a burnt offering to Jehovah, as a pleasing aroma, one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs each a year old, all of them sound. ⁹ And as their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenth measures for the bull, two tenth measures for the one ram, ¹⁰ a tenth measure respectively for each male lamb of the seven male lambs, ¹¹ as well as one young goat as a sin offering, aside from the sin offering of atonement and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, together with their drink offerings.

¹² ““And on the 15th day of the seventh month, you should hold a holy convention. You must not do any hard work, and you must celebrate a festival to Jehovah seven days. ¹³ And you will present as a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah, 13 young bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound. ¹⁴ And as their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenth measures for each bull of the 13 bulls, two tenth measures for each ram of the 2 rams, ¹⁵ and a tenth measure for each male lamb of the 14 male lambs, ¹⁶ as well as one young goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

¹⁷ ““And on the second day, 12 young bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ¹⁸ and their

grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ¹⁹ as well as one young goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, together with their drink offerings.

²⁰ ““And on the third day, 11 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ²¹ and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ²² as well as one goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

²³ ““And on the fourth day, 10 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ²⁴ their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ²⁵ as well as one young goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²⁶ ““And on the fifth day, 9 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ²⁷ and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ²⁸ as well as one goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

²⁹ ““And on the sixth day, 8 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ³⁰ and their grain

offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ³¹ as well as one goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offerings.

³² “And on the seventh day, 7 bulls, 2 rams, and 14 male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ³³ and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, the rams, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure for them, ³⁴ as well as one goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁵ “On the eighth day, you should hold a solemn assembly. You should not do any hard work. ³⁶ You will present as a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah, one bull, one ram, and seven male lambs each a year old, all of them sound, ³⁷ and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, the ram, and the male lambs by their number according to the regular procedure, ³⁸ as well as one goat as a sin offering, aside from the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

³⁹ “These you will offer to Jehovah at your seasonal festivals, in addition to your vow offerings and your voluntary offerings as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings and your drink offerings and your communion sacrifices.”

⁴⁰ Moses told the Israelites everything that Jehovah had commanded him.



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“Imitate Jehovah’s Impartiality”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion.

Play the video *Initial Call: God’s Purpose* —Ge 1:28 (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 82

Become Jehovah’s Friend—Love Your Neighbor: (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why did kids at school treat Priya differently? How did Sophia show love to Priya? How can you show love to people who are different from you?

What’s a Real Friend?: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the whiteboard animation (video category TEENAGERS). Then ask the audience: What should you look for in a friend? Where can you find a good friend? How can you develop a good friendship?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 8 ¶8-15, box 8A



Imitate Jehovah’s Impartiality

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Jehovah made an impartial decision (Nu 27:5-7; w13 6/15 11 ¶15)

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MAY-JUNE 2021

Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK



May 3-9 / Numbers 27-29

Song 106 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Imitate Jehovah's Impartiality"': (10 minutes)

Zelophehad's five daughters sought to preserve the inheritance of their father

Numbers 27:1-4: Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, approached. The names of his daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the chieftains, and all the assembly at the entrance of the tent of meeting and said: "Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not among the group who banded together against Jehovah, the supporters of Korah, but he died for his own sin and he did not have any sons. Why should the name of our father be lost from his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."

w13 6/15 10 paragraph 14

The five sisters approached Moses and asked him: "Why should the name of our father be taken away from the midst of his family because he had no son?" They pleaded: "O give us a possession in the midst of our father's brothers." Did Moses react by saying, 'There are no exceptions to the rule'? No, he "presented their case before Jehovah." (Numbers 27:2-5) What was the response? Jehovah told Moses: "The daughters of Zelophehad are speaking right. By all means you should give them the possession of an inheritance in the midst of their father's brothers, and you must cause their father's inheritance to pass to them." Jehovah went further. He turned the exception into a rule, instructing Moses: "In case any man should die without his having a son, you must then cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter." (Numbers 27:6-8; Joshua 17:1-6) From then on, all Israelite women who faced the same plight would be protected.

Cover picture: The five daughters of Zelophehad pleading their case before Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Caption: Zelophehad's daughters request their father's inheritance

Jehovah made an impartial decision

Numbers 27:5-7: So Moses presented their case before Jehovah. Jehovah then said this to Moses: "The daughters of Zelophehad are correct. You should by all means give them the possession as an inheritance among their father's brothers and transfer their father's inheritance to them.

w13 6/15 11 paragraph 15

What a kind and impartial decision that was! Jehovah treated these women, who were in a vulnerable position, with dignity, as he did Israelites who had more favorable circumstances. (Psalm 68:5) This is just one of many Bible accounts that illustrate this heartwarming truth: Jehovah treats all of his servants with impartiality.—1 Samuel 16:1-13; Acts 10:30-35, 44-48.

We too must act impartially

Numbers 27:8-11: And tell the Israelites, 'If a man dies without having a son, you must then cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter. And if he has no daughter, you will give his inheritance to his brothers. And if he has no brothers, you will give his inheritance to his father's brothers. And if his father has no brothers, you will give his inheritance to the closest blood relative in his family, and he will take possession of it. This will serve as a statute by judicial decision for the Israelites, just as Jehovah has commanded Moses.'"

w13 6/15 11 paragraph 16

How can we imitate Jehovah's impartiality? Remember, impartiality has two aspects. Only if we *are* impartial will we *treat* others without partiality. True, all of us like to think of ourselves as being open-minded and impartial. You will likely agree, though, that it is not always easy to evaluate our own feelings objectively. So, what could we do to find out if we are known as being unbiased? Well, when Jesus was interested in knowing what people were saying about him, he asked his trusted friends: "Who are men saying the Son of

man is?" (Matthew 16:13, 14) Why not follow Jesus in that? You could ask some friend whom you can count on for candor whether you have a reputation for being impartial. If he or she concedes that there seem to be some lingering traces of racial, social, or economic partiality, what should you do? Pray earnestly to Jehovah about your feelings, begging him to help you adjust your attitude so that it will reflect his impartiality to a fuller degree.—Matthew 7:7; Colossians 3:10, 11.

We imitate Jehovah's impartiality by treating fellow believers with dignity and loyal love and by preaching to people of all backgrounds.

Pictures: Collage: Ways to show impartiality. 1. Five friends of different ages and races enjoy a meal and association in a home. 2. A couple preaches to a man of a different race near a refugee camp.

Spiritual Gems

Numbers 28:7, 14—What were drink offerings?

Numbers 28:7: along with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin for each male lamb. Pour out the alcoholic drink in the holy place as a drink offering to Jehovah.

Numbers 28:14: And their drink offerings should be half a hin of wine for a bull and a third of a hin for the ram and a fourth of a hin for a male lamb. This is the monthly burnt offering each month throughout the year.

***it-2* 528 paragraph 5**

Drink offerings. Drink offerings were presented along with most of the other offerings, especially after the Israelites had settled in the Promised Land. (Numbers 15:2, 5, 8-10) This consisted of wine (“intoxicating liquor”) and was poured out on the altar. (Numbers 28:7, 14; compare Exodus 30:9; Numbers 15:10.) The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi: “If I am being poured out like a drink offering upon the sacrifice and public service to which faith has led you, I am glad.” Here he used the figure of a drink offering, expressing his willingness to expend himself in behalf of

fellow Christians. (Philippians 2:17) Shortly before his death, he wrote to Timothy: "I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the due time for my releasing is imminent."—2 Timothy 4:6.

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 minutes) Numbers 28:11-31 (*th* study 5)



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Song 82

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Make Wise Decisions Regarding Alcoholic Beverages



All Christians need to exercise self-control regarding alcoholic beverages. (Pr 23:20, 29-35; 1Co 6:9, 10) If a Christian chooses to drink, he should do so in moderation. He must also avoid dependence on alcohol and avoid stumbling others. (1Co 10:23, 24; 1Ti 5:23) Certainly, no one, especially young ones, should be pressured to consume alcoholic beverages.

WATCH THE WHITEBOARD ANIMATION *THINK PAST THE DRINK*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why must all Christians obey laws regarding drinking alcohol?—Ro 13:1-4

- Why should we avoid letting others pressure us to drink alcohol?—Ro 6:16

- How can we avoid pitfalls related to alcoholic beverages?



SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

Initial Call

Question: What is God’s purpose for humans?

Scripture: **Ge 1:28**

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs 29 ¶1*

Return Visit

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: **Isa 55:11**

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

► FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs 29 ¶2*



Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

Talk: (5 minutes) **w07 4/1 17-18**—Theme: What Makes Offerings and Sacrifices Acceptable to Jehovah? (*th* study 16)

Offerings and Sacrifices in True Worship

When the nation of Israel was formed, Jehovah gave explicit instructions about the way he wanted the Israelites to worship him, and this included offerings and sacrifices. (Numbers, chapters 28 and 29) Some of the offerings were of the fruit of the earth; others involved sacrificing such animals as bulls, sheep, goats, pigeons, and turtledoves. (Leviticus 1:3, 5, 10, 14; 23:10-18; Numbers 15:1-7; 28:7) There were whole burnt offerings that were to be entirely consumed in fire. (Exodus 29:38-42) There were also communion sacrifices, in which those who offered them participated by eating from that which was sacrificed to God.—Leviticus 19:5-8.

All the offerings and sacrifices that were made to God under the Mosaic Law were a way of worshipping God and recognizing him as the Sovereign of the universe. Through such sacrifices, the Israelites expressed their gratitude to Jehovah for his blessing and protection as well as gained

forgiveness for their sins. As long as they were faithful in observing Jehovah's requirements for worship, they were greatly blessed.—Proverbs 3:9, 10.

To Jehovah, the most important thing was the attitude of those who offered the sacrifices. By means of his prophet Hosea, Jehovah said: "In loving-kindness I have taken delight, and not in sacrifice; and in the knowledge of God rather than in whole burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6) Thus, when the people turned away from true worship and practiced loose conduct and shed innocent blood, the sacrifices that they were presenting on Jehovah's altar had no value. That is why, through Isaiah, Jehovah told the nation of Israel: "Of what benefit to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? . . . I have had enough of whole burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed animals; and in the blood of young bulls and male lambs and he-goats I have taken no delight."—Isaiah 1:11.

“Let Your Light Shine”

(Matthew 5:16)

1. Jesus has commanded
That we shine our light,
Like the sun, impartial,
Comforting and bright.
Through the Holy Scriptures,
Thoughts of peace are heard.
May we now reflect his light
As we teach God’s Word.
2. Let God’s Kingdom message
Speak to ev’ry heart;
Let it shine before us
As we play our part.
Light from Scripture guides us
As we bring good news.
Sharing truth with ev’ryone;
Truth is theirs to choose.
3. Light from acts of kindness
Brightens up this world,
To our words adds beauty
Like a priceless pearl.
May our light keep shining
As we do what’s right,
Then our works will always be
Pleasing in God’s sight.



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Become Jehovah’s Friend—Love Your Neighbor: (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why did kids at school treat Priya differently? How did Sophia show love to Priya? How can you show love to people who are different from you?

What’s a Real Friend?: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the whiteboard animation (video category TEENAGERS). Then ask the audience: What should you look for in a friend? Where can you find a good friend? How can you develop a good friendship?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 8 ¶8-15, box 8A



Imitate Jehovah’s Impartiality

Zelophehad’s five daughters sought to preserve the inheritance of their father (Nu 27:1-4; w13 6/15 10 ¶14; see cover picture)

Jehovah made an impartial decision (Nu 27:5-7; w13 6/15 11 ¶15)

We too must act impartially (Nu 27:8-11; w13 6/15 11 ¶16)

We imitate Jehovah’s impartiality by treating fellow believers with dignity and loyal love and by preaching to people of all backgrounds.



Become Jehovah's Friend

Lesson 38: Love Your Neighbor

Raw Transcript

Who is that? Does she go to our school? Good morning, everyone. We have a new classmate. Her name is Priya, from India. She's from where? I dunno. I've never heard of it. OK, so let's work in pairs again. Who needs a partner and can team up with Priya? Hey, Sophia. We're a team, right? Um, yeah. OK. OK, great! So for the first page, I'm thinking we can do this and then that. This is taken. So, what did Jesus teach us to do to be a real neighbor like the Samaritan? Sophia? He taught us to show love and kindness when somebody needs help. Priya! Over here! Hi! I'm Sophia. Hello. I like your outfit. Where did you get it? My mom made it. It's from my country. They call it a shalwar kameez. This one is my favorite color. What's it like where you lived?

What's a Real Friend?

Raw Transcript

What's a real friend? Someone who brings out the best in you. Someone who's always there for you, even when times are tough. Proverbs 18:24 says that they can even stick closer than a brother. Now, that's a real friend. Friends like that are hard to find. And if you worry too much about being liked by everyone, you just may settle for less. So what should you look for? Well, don't judge a book by its cover. Look for what's on the inside. Look for a friend you can trust, a friend who forgives, someone who doesn't hold your mistakes against you. When it comes to friends, one good friend is better than a hundred fake ones. To find a real friend, you may have to look outside your comfort zone. They may be where you least expect. So be open-minded. Branch out. Don't just settle for a clone of yourself. Potential friends could have hobbies or talents that you don't have. They could be older, or younger. They could be of a different background or culture. So don't limit yourself. But remember, real friends need to have good standards. Have you ever had a friend who took advantage of you, or talked behind your back, or spread lies about you? You deserve better than that! So watch out for toxic friends. Toxic friends care only about what they can get out of you. They tear you down

because of the way you talk, the way you look, or even for your beliefs. Real friends aren't like that. They let you be yourself. So you need to choose smart friends. Not just book-smart, but smart in life. They are the kind that stand for something, and they show it. Proverbs 27:17 says that true friends learn from each other, just as iron sharpens iron. They even make you a better person. So how do you get a friend like that? You can't always expect people to reach out to you. You need to take the initiative. Take the first step, and start a conversation. Wait! You do need to talk—but not just about yourself. Ask them questions. Then listen. Really listen. You see, listening is one of the best gifts you can give a friend. Now what? Now it's time to put in some work. That's right—work. You have to work to make this friendship grow. So be the kind of friend that's loyal, who doesn't hold a grudge. Be there for them, even when times get tough. When you do this, your friendship will really grow. Philippians 2:4 says to keep an eye not just on yourself but to take an interest in others. Taking an interest in others is what friendship is all about. You know, you're going to meet a lot of people in life. It will be up to you to choose your friends. So choose wisely. Choose real friends!

testifying in a court of law—we view such an oath as a serious matter. Second, we must guard against misplaced confidence. The Bible warns us: “Do not put your trust in princes nor in a son of man, who cannot bring salvation.”—Ps. 146:3.

⁸ There is, however, a ruler who is fully worthy of our confidence and trust. After presenting the prophetic riddle about the transplanted shoot, Jehovah drew on the same poetic imagery to describe the future Messianic Ruler.

⁹ *What the prophecy says. (Read Ezekiel 17:22-24.)* Now it is not great eagles but Jehovah himself who will take action. He will pluck a tender shoot “from the top of the lofty cedar and plant it . . . on a high and lofty mountain.” This shoot will flourish, becoming “a majestic cedar” providing lodging for “every kind of bird.” Then “all the trees of the field” will know that it is Jehovah himself who has made this majestic tree flourish.

¹⁰ *How the prophecy is fulfilled.* Jehovah plucked his
8-10. How did Jehovah describe the future Messianic Ruler, and how is the prophecy fulfilled? (See also the box “Messianic Prophecy—The Majestic Cedar Tree.”)

Son, Jesus Christ, from the kingly line of David (“the lofty cedar”) and planted him on heavenly Mount Zion (“a high and lofty mountain”). (Ps. 2:6; Jer. 23:5; Rev. 14:1) Jehovah thus took his Son, who was considered “the lowliest of men” by his enemies, and exalted him by giving him “the throne of David his father.” (Dan. 4:17; Luke 1:32, 33) Like a majestic cedar, the Messianic King, Jesus Christ, will tower over the entire earth and be a source of blessing for all his subjects. Here, indeed, is the Ruler worthy of our trust. In the shade of Jesus’ Kingdom rule, obedient humans earth wide will “dwell in security and be undisturbed by the dread of calamity.”—Prov. 1:33.

¹¹ *What we can learn from the prophecy.* The thrilling prophecy about the “tender shoot” that becomes “a majestic cedar” enables us to answer an all-important question: In whom will we place our trust? It is foolish to trust in human governments and their military might. To find real security, we are wise to place our full confidence and trust in the Messianic King,

11. What important lesson can we learn from the prophecy about the “tender shoot” that becomes “a majestic cedar”?

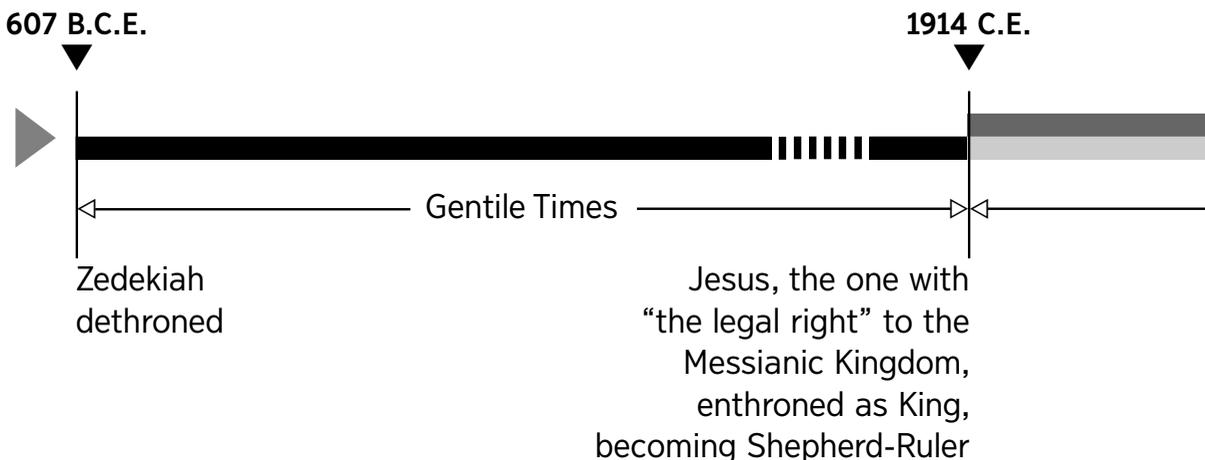
THREE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

1

“The One Who Has the Legal Right”

EZEKIEL 21:25-27

SEE PARAGRAPHS 12-15



Jesus Christ. The heavenly government in his capable hands is mankind’s only hope.—Rev. 11:15.

“The One Who Has the Legal Right”

¹² From the divine explanation of the prophetic riddle about the two eagles, Ezekiel understood that Zedekiah, an unfaithful king in the royal line of David, would be dethroned and taken captive to Babylon. Perhaps the prophet wondered, ‘What about 12. How did Jehovah make clear that he had not abandoned his covenant with David?’

2

“My Servant . . . Will Feed Them and Become Their Shepherd”

EZEKIEL 34:22-24

SEE PARAGRAPHS 18-22

3

“One King Will Rule Over All of Them” Forever

EZEKIEL 37:22, 24-28

SEE PARAGRAPHS 23-26

1919 C.E.



AFTER ARMAGEDDON



Last Days

The faithful and discreet slave appointed to shepherd God's sheep

Faithful anointed ones brought together under the Messianic King; later united with a great crowd

The blessings of the King's rule will last forever

God's covenant with David, which promised that a king from David's family line would rule forever? (2 Sam. 7:12, 16) If Ezekiel did ponder such a question, he did not have to wait long for an answer. About 611 B.C.E., in the seventh year of the exile, while Zedekiah was still ruling in Judah, “the word of Jehovah came” to Ezekiel. (Ezek. 20:2) Jehovah had him relate another Messianic prophecy, one that made clear that God had not abandoned his covenant

“I WILL RAISE UP ONE SHEPHERD”

137

with David. On the contrary, the prophecy indicated that *the future Messianic Ruler would have the legal right to rule as the heir of David.*

¹³ *What the prophecy says. (Read Ezekiel 21:25-27.)* In no uncertain terms, Jehovah through Ezekiel addresses the “wicked chieftain of Israel,” whose time of punishment has arrived. Jehovah tells this wicked ruler that his “turban” and “crown,” or diadem, (symbols of royal power) would be taken from him. Then, ruling powers that had been “low” would be raised up, and those that had been “high” would be brought low. The ruling powers raised up hold sway, but only until “the one who has the legal right comes,” and then Jehovah gives that one the Kingdom.

¹⁴ *How the prophecy is fulfilled.* In 607 B.C.E., with the destruction of Jerusalem, the “high” kingdom of Judah centered in Jerusalem was brought low when the Babylonians destroyed that city and took captive the dethroned King Zedekiah. Then, with no king in David’s royal line ruling in Jerusalem, the “low” Gentile powers were raised up, leaving them in control of

13, 14. What is the gist of the prophecy recorded at Ezekiel 21:25-27, and how is the prophecy fulfilled?

the earth—but only for a limited period of time. The Gentile Times, or “the appointed times of the nations,” ended in 1914 when Jehovah conferred kingship on Jesus Christ. (Luke 21:24) As a descendant of King David, Jesus indeed had “the legal right” to the Messianic Kingdom.*^[2] (Gen. 49:10) Hence, in Jesus, Jehovah fulfilled his solemn promise to give David a permanent heir to an everlasting Kingdom.—Luke 1:32, 33.

¹⁵ *What we can learn from the prophecy.* We can have the utmost confidence in the King, Jesus Christ. Why? Because unlike worldly rulers who may be elected by humans or may usurp ruling authority, Jesus was chosen by Jehovah and “given . . . a kingdom” to which he has the legal right. (Dan. 7:13, 14) Surely the King whom Jehovah himself has appointed deserves our confidence!

“My Servant David” Will “Become Their Shepherd”

¹⁶ Jehovah, the Supreme Shepherd, deeply cares

*^[2] Jesus’ line of descent from David is well-documented in the inspired Gospels.—Matt. 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-31.

15. Why can we have the utmost confidence in the King, Jesus Christ?

16. How does Jehovah feel about his sheep, and how were “the shepherds of Israel” in Ezekiel’s day treating the flock?

Messianic Prophecy
THE MAJESTIC CEDAR TREE

EZEKIEL 17:3-24

SEE PARAGRAPHS 4-11

- 1** Nebuchadnezzar takes Jehoiachin to Babylon
- 2** Nebuchadnezzar places Zedekiah on the throne in Jerusalem
- 3** Zedekiah rebels against Jehovah and turns to Egypt for military help
- 4** Jehovah plants his Son on heavenly Mount Zion
- 5** In the shade of Jesus' Kingdom rule, obedient humans will dwell in security

A “great eagle” plucks off the topmost shoot of a cedar tree and sets it down “in a city of traders.” The eagle then takes “some of the seed of the land” and plants it in a fertile field “by abundant waters.” The seed flourishes, growing into a “sprawling vine.” Next, a second “great eagle” appears. The roots of the vine reach “eagerly toward” the second eagle, seeking to be transplanted by it to another well-watered spot. Jehovah condemns the vine’s actions, indicating that its roots would be torn out and that it would “dry up completely.”

Messianic Prophecy
**THE MAJESTIC
 CEDAR TREE**

EZEKIEL 17:3-24

SEE PARAGRAPHS 4-11



5 In the shade of Jesus' Kingdom rule, obedient humans will dwell in security



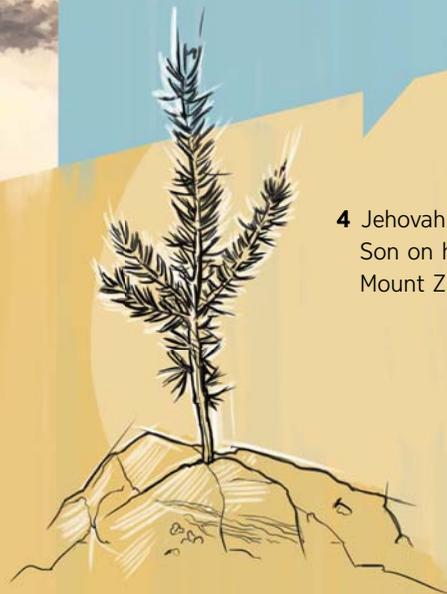
1 Nebuchadnezzar takes Jehoiachin to Babylon



2 Nebuchadnezzar places Zedekiah on the throne in Jerusalem



3 Zedekiah rebels against Jehovah and turns to Egypt for military help



4 Jehovah plants his Son on heavenly Mount Zion

16 Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

(Revelation 21:2)

1. Jehovah anointed his Son
To rule over ev'ryone.
His throne is established on justice,
That God's will on earth may be done.

(CHORUS)

*Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed.
Praise Jesus, O you faithful sheep,
Who loyally follow day after day
and all his commandments keep.
Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed,
the Ruler of heavenly fame,
Anointed with exultation and might
to honor God's holy name.*

2. Christ's brothers are chosen and called.
God gives them their own new birth.
This bride class will share in the Kingdom
And bring Paradise to this earth.

(Chorus)

MARCH 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

David was responsible and reliable when caring for his father's flock, even protecting the sheep from an attacking bear (See study article 9, paragraph 4)

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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.

Young Men—How Can You Gain the Trust of Others?

“You have your company of young men just like dewdrops.”

—PS. 110:3.

SONG 39

Make a Good Name With God

PREVIEW

As young brothers mature spiritually, they want to serve Jehovah in additional ways. To qualify as ministerial servants, they need to earn and maintain the respect of those in their congregation. What steps can young brothers take?

YOUNG brothers, you have a lot to offer. Many of you are strong and full of energy. (Prov. 20:29) You are a real asset to your congregation. You may look forward to the time when you are appointed as a ministerial servant. However, you may feel that others view you as being too young or too inexperienced to be entrusted with important work. Even though you may be young, there are things you can do right now to earn the trust and respect of those in your congregation.

² In this article, we will focus on the life of King David. We will also briefly review incidents in the lives of Asa and Jehoshaphat—two kings of Judah. We will examine the types of challenges these three men faced, how they reacted, and what young brothers can learn from their examples.

LEARN FROM KING DAVID

³ While young, David developed skills that others valued. He was clearly a spiritual person, and he cultivated his skill as a musician and used that talent to benefit Saul, God’s appointed king. (1 Sam.

-
1. What is true about our young brothers?
 2. What will we consider in this article?
 3. What is one way that younger ones can help older ones in the congregation?

16:16, 23) Do you young men have a skill that could benefit others in the congregation? Many of you do. For example, you may notice that some older ones appreciate being shown how to make the best use of their tablets and other electronic devices for personal study and for meetings. Your knowledge of these devices can be of great benefit to such older ones.

⁴ In his daily life, David proved to be responsible and reliable. For example, as a young man, he diligently looked after his father's sheep. That turned out to be a dangerous assignment. David later explained to King Saul: "Your servant became a shepherd of his father's flock, and a lion came, also a bear, and each carried off a sheep from the flock. I went out after it and struck it down and rescued it from its mouth." (1 Sam. 17:34, 35) David felt responsible for the welfare of the sheep, and he courageously fought for them. Young brothers can imitate David by diligently fulfilling any assignment they are given.

⁵ Young David developed a close, personal rela-

4. Like David, what qualities must young brothers develop? (See cover picture.)

5. According to Psalm 25:14, what is the most important thing that young brothers can do?

tionship with Jehovah. That relationship was more important than David's courage or his skill with a stringed instrument. Jehovah was not only David's God but also his Friend—his close Friend. (Read Psalm 25:14.) Young brothers, the most important thing that you can do is to strengthen your relationship with your heavenly Father, and that may result in your receiving additional privileges.

⁶ David had to overcome the negative views that others had of him. For example, when David volunteered to fight Goliath, King Saul tried to dissuade him, saying: "You are but a boy." (1 Sam. 17:31-33) Earlier, David's own brother accused him of being irresponsible. (1 Sam. 17:26-30) However, Jehovah did not view David as being either immature or irresponsible. He knew the young man. And by relying on his Friend, Jehovah, for strength, David struck down Goliath.—1 Sam. 17:45, 48-51.

⁷ What can you learn from David's experience? We learn that we need to be patient. It may take time for those who have known you as a child to start viewing you as a young adult. You can be sure, however, that Jehovah sees beyond your outward

6. What negative views did some have of David?

7. What can you learn from one account about David?

appearance. He knows who you are and what you are capable of doing. (1 Sam. 16:7) Strengthen your relationship with God. David did that by looking closely at Jehovah's creative works. David considered what such works reveal about the Creator. (Ps. 8:3, 4; 139:14; Rom. 1:20) Another thing you can do is to look to Jehovah for strength. For example, do some of your schoolmates make fun of you because you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses? If so, pray for Jehovah to help you deal with this challenge. And apply the practical advice you find in his Word and in our Bible-based publications and videos. Each time you see Jehovah help you deal with a challenge, your confidence in him will grow. Furthermore, as others see that you rely on Jehovah, you will gain their trust.

⁸ Consider another challenge that David faced. After he was anointed to be king, David had to wait many years before he was officially enthroned as king of Judah. (1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 2:3, 4) During that interval, what helped him to wait patiently? Instead of becoming paralyzed by discouragement, David focused on what he could do. For example, while living as a fugitive in Philistine territory, Da-

8-9. What helped David to wait patiently until he became king, and what can young brothers learn from his example?

vid seized the opportunity to fight against Israel's enemies. In doing so, he protected the boundaries of the territory of Judah.—1 Sam. 27:1-12.

⁹ What can young brothers learn from David's example? Use the opportunities open to you to serve your brothers. Consider the experience of a brother named Ricardo.* From his early teens, he dreamed of serving as a regular pioneer. But he was not ready. Instead of giving up or becoming bitter, Ricardo increased his share in the ministry. He says: "Looking back, I can see that it was good for me to make needed progress. I focused on following

* Some names have been changed.

Young brothers can humbly assist others in many ways
(See paragraphs 8-9)



up on any interest I found and on having productive return visits. I even conducted my first Bible study. As I gained experience, my confidence grew.” Ricardo now serves as an effective regular pioneer and as a ministerial servant.

¹⁰ Consider another account in David’s life. During the time when he and his men were fugitives, they had left their families to go on a mission. While the men were away, an enemy force raided their homes and took their families captive. David could have concluded that with all the experience he had as a warrior, he could surely devise an effective strategy for rescuing the captives. Instead, David looked to Jehovah for guidance. With the help of a priest named Abiathar, David inquired of Jehovah: “Should I chase after this marauder band?” Jehovah indicated that David should do so and assured him that he would be successful. (1 Sam. 30:7-10) What can you learn from this incident?

¹¹ Seek advice before you make decisions. Consult your parents. You can also get good advice by talking to experienced elders. Jehovah trusts these ap-

10. On one occasion, what did David do before he made an important decision?

11. What can you do before making decisions?



Young brothers should seek the advice of elders
(See paragraph 11)

pointed men, and you can too. Jehovah views them as “gifts” to the congregation. (Eph. 4:8) You will benefit by imitating their faith and by listening to the wise suggestions they give. Now let us consider what we can learn from King Asa.

LEARN FROM KING ASA

¹² As a young man, King Asa was humble and courageous. For example, when he succeeded his father, Abijah, he launched a campaign against idolatry. He also “told Judah to search for Jehovah

12. What qualities did King Asa have when he began to rule?

the God of their forefathers and to observe the Law and the commandment.” (2 Chron. 14:1-7) And when Zerah the Ethiopian invaded Judah with 1,000,000 soldiers, Asa wisely turned to Jehovah for help, saying: “O Jehovah, it does not matter to you whether those you help are many or have no power. Help us, O Jehovah our God, for we are relying on you.” This beautiful expression shows how much confidence Asa had in Jehovah’s ability to save him and his people. Asa trusted in his heavenly Father, and “Jehovah defeated the Ethiopians.” —2 Chron. 14:8-12.

¹³ You would no doubt agree that facing an army of 1,000,000 soldiers was a huge challenge, and it was one that Asa met successfully. Sadly, however, when a less daunting challenge presented itself, Asa did not consult Jehovah. On being threatened by wicked King Baasha of Israel, Asa turned to the king of Syria for help. That decision led to disaster! Through his prophet Hanani, Jehovah told Asa: “Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Jehovah your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand.” In fact, from then on, Asa was constantly at war. (2 Chron. 16: 7, 9; 1 Ki. 15:32) What is the lesson?

13. What later happened to Asa, and why?

14 Remain humble and continue to rely on Jehovah. When you got baptized, you showed great faith and trust in Jehovah. And Jehovah happily entrusted you with the privilege of becoming a member of his family. The key now is to continue to rely on Jehovah. It may seem that it is easy to rely on Jehovah when you must make life-altering decisions, but what about at other times? How important it is that you trust in Jehovah when making decisions, including those regarding entertainment, secular work, and life goals! Do not rely on your own wisdom. Instead, look for Bible principles that apply to your circumstances, and then act in harmony with that direction. (Prov. 3:5, 6) If you do so, you will make Jehovah happy and you will earn the respect of those in your congregation.—Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

LEARN FROM KING JEHOSHAPHAT

15 Of course, like all of us, you are imperfect, and at times you will make mistakes. However, this should not prevent you from doing all you

14. How can you rely on Jehovah, and according to 1 Timothy 4:12, what will you become if you do so?

15. As recorded at 2 Chronicles 18:1-3; 19:2, what mistakes did King Jehoshaphat make?



Young brothers who are industrious
and reliable acquire a fine reputation
(See paragraph 16)

can in Jehovah's service. Consider the example of King Jehoshaphat. He had many fine qualities. As a young man, "he searched for the God of his father and followed his commandment." Furthermore, he sent princes to travel throughout the cities of Judah to teach the people about Jehovah. (2 Chron. 17:4, 7) As sincere as he was, though, Jehoshaphat sometimes made bad decisions. As a result of one such decision, Jehoshaphat was censured by one of Jehovah's representatives. (Read 2 Chronicles 18: 1-3; 19:2.) What lesson can you learn from that account?

¹⁶ Accept and apply counsel. Perhaps, like many young men, you struggle to set proper priorities for yourself. Do not be discouraged. Note the experience of a young brother named Rajeev. Referring to his teenage years, he says: “I sometimes felt lost during those years. Like many other young ones, I was more interested in sports and having fun than in going to the meetings or out in the ministry.” What helped Rajeev? A concerned elder gave him some counsel. Rajeev relates: “He helped me to reason on the principle found at 1 Timothy 4:8.” Rajeev responded humbly to the counsel and reevaluated his priorities in life. He says: “I decided to make spiritual goals a priority.” The result? “A few years after receiving that counsel,” explains Rajeev, “I qualified to serve as a ministerial servant.”

MAKE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER PROUD OF YOU

¹⁷ Older ones deeply appreciate you young men who serve Jehovah “shoulder to shoulder” with them! (Zeph. 3:9) They love your zealous spirit and the energetic, enthusiastic way you do the work

16. What can you learn from Rajeev’s experience?

17. How do older ones feel about the young men who serve Jehovah?

you are given. You have found favor in their eyes.
—1 John 2:14.

¹⁸ Young brothers, never forget that Jehovah loves and trusts you. He foretold that during the last days, there would be an army of young men who would offer themselves willingly. (Ps. 110:1-3) He knows that you love him and want to serve him to the best of your ability. So be patient with others, and be patient with yourself. When you make mistakes, accept the training and discipline that you receive, viewing it as coming from Jehovah. (Heb. 12:6) Diligently care for any assignments you are given. And above all, in everything you do, make your heavenly Father proud of you.—Read **Proverbs 27:11**.

18. As indicated at Proverbs 27:11, how does Jehovah feel about the young men who serve him?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF . . .

■ David?

■ Asa?

■ Jehoshaphat?

SONG 135

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

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

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)