

Monday, March 7

*The one who has endured to the end will be saved.—
Matthew 24:13.*

The contestants in a long-distance race keep an eye on the road immediately in front of them so that they do not stumble. If they do fall down, they get back up and keep on running. They focus primarily, not on what made them stumble, but on the finish line and the prize they hope to win. In our race, we may stumble many times, making mistakes in what we say or do. Or our fellow runners may make mistakes that hurt us. That is to be expected. We are all imperfect, and we are all running on the same cramped road to life. So we are bound to “bump” against one another at times and arouse a “cause for complaint.” (Colossians 3:13) But rather than focus on what made us stumble, let us focus on the prize ahead and keep on running. If we become bitter and resentful and refuse to get back up, we will not cross the finish line and receive the prize. In addition, we are likely to become an obstacle for others who are trying to run on the cramped road to life. w20.04 26 paragraph 1; 28 paragraphs 8-9

Tuesday, March 8

This kingdom . . . will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms.—Daniel 2:44.

The prophet Daniel describes a series of human governments that have had an impact on God's people. They are described as the various parts of a giant metal image. The last human government in that series is depicted as the feet of the image that are made of iron mixed with clay. The feet represent the Anglo-American World Power. That prophecy indicates that it will still be functioning when God's Kingdom strikes and destroys human governments. The apostle John also describes a series of world powers that have had an effect on Jehovah's people. John depicts these governments as being like a seven-headed wild beast. The seventh head of that beast represents the Anglo-American World Power. This is significant because the beast is not shown as growing any other heads. The seventh head of this beast is still dominant when Christ and his heavenly forces destroy it along with the rest of the beast.—Revelation 13:1, 2; 17:13, 14. w20.05 14 paragraphs 11-12

Wednesday, March 9

God is love.—1 John 4:8.

That simple statement reminds us of a fundamental truth: God, the Source of life, is also the Source of love. Jehovah loves us! His love makes us feel secure, happy, and satisfied. For Christians, showing love is not optional. It is a commandment. (Matthew 22:37-40) When we come to know Jehovah well, we may find it easy to obey the first commandment. After all, Jehovah is perfect; he is thoughtful and gentle in the way he treats us. But we may have difficulty obeying the second commandment. Why? Because our brothers and sisters—who are among our closest neighbors—are imperfect. At times, they may say and do things that we feel are uncaring and unkind. Jehovah knew that we would face this challenge, so he inspired some of the writers of the Bible to include specific counsel on why and how we should show love to one another. One of those writers was the apostle John.—1 John 3:11, 12. *w21.01* 8 paragraphs 1-2

Thursday, March 10

[Do] not be overreached by Satan.—2 Corinthians 2:11.

Whether we have recently begun to serve Jehovah or have done so for many years, we need to ask ourselves, ‘Am I resisting Satan’s attempts to divide my heart?’ For instance, if you see an image on TV or the Internet that could arouse sensual desires, how do you respond? It might be easy to rationalize that the picture or movie is not exactly pornographic. But might it represent an effort by Satan to divide your heart? That image can be like a little metal wedge that a man uses to split a big log. At first he drives the thin, sharp edge of the wedge into the log. Then as he drives the wedge deeper, the log splits apart. Could suggestive imagery in the media be like the thin part of that wedge? What may start off as small and seemingly harmless can quickly lead a person to commit sins that divide his heart and break his integrity. So refuse to give anything improper entry into your heart! Keep it unified to fear Jehovah’s name!

w20.06 11-12 paragraphs 14-15

Friday, March 11

Bear the weaknesses of those not strong.—Romans 15:1.

Inactive ones need consistent support from us. Like the lost son in Jesus' illustration, they may be emotionally scarred. (Luke 15:17-24) And they are likely weak spiritually because of what they experienced in Satan's world. We need to help them rebuild their faith in Jehovah. In the illustration of the lost sheep, Jesus describes how the shepherd puts the sheep on his shoulders and carries it back to the flock. The shepherd has already spent time and energy finding the lost sheep. But he realizes that he will need to carry it back to the fold because it will not have the strength to return on its own. (Luke 15:4, 5) We may need to invest time and energy in helping some inactive ones to overcome their weaknesses. But with Jehovah's spirit, his Word, and the publications provided through the congregation, we can help them to become spiritually strong again. So if you are asked to study with an inactive person, why not welcome the privilege? w20.06 28 paragraphs 14-15

Saturday, March 12

By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves.—John 13:35.

Each one of us should show love—the identifying mark of true Christians. But we also need “accurate knowledge and full discernment.” (Philippians 1:9) Otherwise, we could be influenced “by every wind of teaching by means of the trickery of men,” including apostates. (Ephesians 4:14) When many disciples in the first century C.E. stopped following Jesus, the apostle Peter expressed his firm conviction that Jesus had “sayings of everlasting life.” (John 6:67, 68) Even though Peter at that time did not understand all the details of those sayings, he remained loyal because he had discerned the truth about Christ. You too can strengthen your conviction in what the Bible teaches. If you do, your faith will stand the test of time, and you will help to build strong faith in others.—2 John 1, 2. w20.07 8 paragraph 2; 13 paragraph 18

Sunday, March 13

Little children, we should love, not in word or with the tongue, but in deed and truth.—1 John 3:18.

To help our brothers and sisters to remain in the truth, we must show compassion. (1 John 3:10, 11, 16, 17) We need to love one another not only when things are going well but also when problems arise. For example, do you know someone who has lost a loved one in death and needs to be comforted or helped in practical ways? Or have you heard that fellow believers suffered loss from a natural disaster and need help to rebuild their Kingdom Halls or homes? We show the depth of our love and compassion for our brothers and sisters not only by what we say but, more important, by what we do. We imitate our loving heavenly Father when we show love for one another. (1 John 4:7, 8) An important way that we show love is by forgiving one another. For example, someone might hurt us but then apologize. We show love by forgiving him and putting his error behind us.—Colossians 3:13. w20.07 24 paragraphs 14-15

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 12:21—How could the people have been following “empty things” (or, “unrealities,” ftn.)? (w11 7/15 13 ¶15)

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.) 1Sa 12:1-11 (2)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion.

Play the video *Initial Call: Jesus—Mt 16:16* (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.) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to an objection common in your territory. (1)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 04 intro and points 1-2 (13)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 46

Organizational Accomplishments: (5 min.)

Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for March.

Local Needs: (10 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 21 ¶13-18



Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor

King Saul felt that he was in a desperate situation (1Sa 13:5-7)

Rather than modestly following Jehovah’s instructions, Saul acted presumptuously (1Sa 13:8, 9; w00 8/1 13 ¶17)

Jehovah disciplined Saul (1Sa 13:13, 14; w07 6/15 27 ¶8)

Someone acts presumptuously when he rashly or foolishly does something that he is not authorized to do. Presumptuousness is contrasted with modesty. What situations could tempt someone to be presumptuous?



4 “Jehovah Is My Shepherd”

(Psalm 23)

1. Jehovah God is my Shepherd;
I'll follow where he will lead.
He knows my hopes and my heart's desire;
He knows what I truly need.
To watered pastures he leads me,
To places secure and blessed.
And he guides me always with loyal love
To where I find peace and rest.
He guides me always with loyal love
To where I find peace and rest.
2. Refreshing are all your pathways,
The ways of your righteousness.
For your name's sake never let me stray
From walking in faithfulness.
In valleys deep in the shadows,
Assured by your staff and rod,
I will fear no danger of lasting harm,
For you are my Friend and God.
I fear no danger of lasting harm,
For you are my Friend and God.
3. Jehovah, you are my Shepherd;
I follow where you will lead.
You strengthen me, and you give me rest;
You give all I truly need.
As you most surely are living,
So sure is my hope in you.
May your loyal love and your care for me
Pursue me my whole life through.
Your loyal love and your care for me
Pursue me my whole life through.

1 SAMUEL 12-13

12 Finally Samuel said to all Israel: “Here I have done all that you asked of me, and I appointed a king to reign over you. ² Now here is the king who is leading you! As for me, I have grown old and gray, and my sons are here with you, and I have led you from my youth until this day. ³ Here I am. Testify against me before Jehovah and before his anointed one: Whose bull or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded or crushed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me look the other way? If I have, I will restore it to you.” ⁴ To this they said: “You have not defrauded us or crushed us or accepted anything at all from anyone’s hand.” ⁵ So he said to them: “Jehovah is a witness against you, and his anointed one is a witness this day that you have found nothing to accuse me of.” To this they said: “He is a witness.”

⁶ So Samuel said to the people: “Jehovah, who used Moses and Aaron and who brought your forefathers up out of the land of Egypt, is a witness. ⁷ And now take your positions, and I will judge you before Jehovah in view of all the righteous acts that Jehovah has done for you and for your forefathers.

⁸ “As soon as Jacob had come into Egypt and your forefathers began calling to Jehovah for help, Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron to lead your forefathers out of Egypt and to cause them to dwell in this place. ⁹ But they forgot Jehovah their God, and he sold them into the hand of Sis'e-ra the chief of the army of Ha'zor and into the hand of

the Phi-lis'tines and into the hand of the king of Mo'ab, and they fought against them. ¹⁰ And they called to Jehovah for help and said, 'We have sinned, for we have left Jehovah to serve the Ba'als and the Ash'to-reth images; now rescue us out of the hand of our enemies so that we may serve you.'
¹¹ Then Jehovah sent Jer-ub-ba'al and Be'dan and Jeph'thah and Samuel and rescued you from the hand of the enemies all around you, so that you could live in security. ¹² When you saw that Na'hash, the king of the Am'mon-ites, had come against you, you kept saying to me, 'No, we are determined to have a king over us!' even though Jehovah your God is your King. ¹³ Now here is the king whom you have chosen, the one you asked for. Look! Jehovah has appointed a king over you. ¹⁴ If you fear Jehovah and serve him and obey his voice and you do not rebel against the order of Jehovah, and both you and the king who reigns over you follow Jehovah your God, fine. ¹⁵ But if you do not obey the voice of Jehovah and you rebel against the order of Jehovah, the hand of Jehovah will be against you and your fathers. ¹⁶ Now take your positions and see this great thing that Jehovah is doing before your eyes. ¹⁷ Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call on Jehovah to make it thunder and rain; then know and understand what an evil thing you have done in the eyes of Jehovah in asking for a king for yourselves."

¹⁸ At that Samuel called to Jehovah, and Jehovah made it thunder and rain on that day, so that all the people were greatly in fear of Jehovah and of Samuel. ¹⁹ And all the people said to Samuel: "Pray to Jehovah your God for your

servants, as we do not want to die, for we have added to all our sins another evil by asking for a king.”

²⁰ So Samuel said to the people: “Do not be afraid. You have indeed done all this evil. Only do not turn away from following Jehovah, and serve Jehovah with all your heart.

²¹ Do not turn away to follow the empty things, which are of no benefit and cannot rescue, because they are empty.

²² For the sake of his great name, Jehovah will not abandon his people, for Jehovah has taken it upon himself to make you his people. ²³ As for me, it is unthinkable for me to sin against Jehovah by ceasing to pray in your behalf, and I will continue to instruct you in the good and right way. ²⁴ Only fear Jehovah, and serve him faithfully with all your heart, for see what great things he has done for you. ²⁵ But if you flagrantly do what is bad, you will be swept away, both you and your king.”

13 Saul was . . . years old when he became king, and for two years he reigned over Israel. ² Saul chose 3,000 men out of Israel; 2,000 of these were with Saul at Mich'mash and in the mountainous region of Beth'el and 1,000 were with Jon'a·than at Gib'e·ah of Benjamin. He sent the rest of the people away, each one to his tent. ³ Then Jon'a·than struck down the garrison of the Phi·lis'tines that was in Ge'ba, and the Phi·lis'tines heard about it. And Saul had the horn blown throughout all the land, saying: “Let the Hebrews hear!” ⁴ All Israel heard the news: “Saul has struck down a garrison of the Phi·lis'tines, and now Israel has become a stench among the Phi·lis'tines.” So the people were summoned to follow Saul at Gil'gal.

⁵ The Phi-lis'tines also gathered together to fight against Israel, with 30,000 war chariots and 6,000 horsemen and troops as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore; and they went up and camped in Mich'mash to the east of Beth-a'ven. ⁶ And the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble, because they were hard-pressed; so the people hid in the caves, the hollows, the crags, the cellars, and the cisterns. ⁷ Some of the Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gil'e-ad. But Saul was still in Gil'gal, and all the people following him were trembling. ⁸ He continued waiting for seven days until the designated time that Samuel had set, but Samuel did not come to Gil'gal, and the people were scattering from him. ⁹ Finally Saul said: "Bring to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices." And he offered up the burnt sacrifice.

¹⁰ But as soon as he had finished offering up the burnt sacrifice, Samuel arrived. So Saul went out to meet him and bless him. ¹¹ Then Samuel said: "What have you done?" Saul replied: "I saw that the people were deserting me, and you did not come within the designated time, and the Phi-lis'tines were gathering together at Mich'mash. ¹² So I said to myself, 'Now the Phi-lis'tines will come down against me at Gil'gal, and I have not sought the favor of Jehovah.' So I felt obligated to offer up the burnt sacrifice."

¹³ At this Samuel said to Saul: "You have acted foolishly. You have not obeyed the commandment that Jehovah your God gave you. If you had, Jehovah would have made your kingdom firm over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not last. Jehovah will find a man agreeable to his heart,

and Jehovah will commission him as a leader over his people, because you did not obey what Jehovah commanded you.”

¹⁵ Then Samuel rose and went his way up from Gil'gal to Gib'e-ah of Benjamin, and Saul took the count of the people; those still with him were about 600 men. ¹⁶ Saul, his son Jon'a-than, and the people still with them were dwelling in Ge'ba of Benjamin, and the Phi-lis'tines had encamped at Mich'mash. ¹⁷ And the raiding parties would go out from the camp of the Phi-lis'tines in three bands. One band would turn toward the road to Oph'rah, to the land of Shu'al; ¹⁸ another band would turn toward the road of Beth-ho'ron; and the third band would turn toward the road leading to the boundary that overlooks the valley of Ze-bo'im, toward the wilderness.

¹⁹ Now there was not a metalworker to be found in all the land of Israel, because the Phi-lis'tines had said: “So that the Hebrews may not make a sword or a spear.” ²⁰ And all the Israelites had to go down to the Phi-lis'tines to get their plowshares, mattocks, axes, or sickles sharpened. ²¹ The price for sharpening was a pim for the plowshares, for the mattocks, for the three-toothed instruments, for the axes, and for fixing fast the oxgoad. ²² And on the day of battle, not a sword or a spear was found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jon'a-than; only Saul and his son Jon'a-than had weapons.

²³ Now a garrison of the Phi-lis'tines had gone out to the ravine pass of Mich'mash.

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 12:21—How could the people have been following “empty things” (or, “unrealities,” ftn.)? (w11 7/15 13 ¶15)

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rr chap. 21 ¶13-18

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March 7-13 / 1 Samuel 12-13

Song 4 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor": (10 minutes)

King Saul felt that he was in a desperate situation

1 Samuel 13:5-7: The Philistines also gathered together to fight against Israel, with 30,000 war chariots and 6,000 horsemen and troops as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore; and they went up and camped in Michmash to the east of Beth-aven. And the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble, because they were hard-pressed; so the people hid in the caves, the hollows, the crags, the cellars, and the cisterns. Some of the Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. But Saul was still in Gilgal, and all the people following him were trembling.

Rather than modestly following Jehovah's instructions, Saul acted presumptuously

1 Samuel 13:8, 9: He continued waiting for seven days until the designated time that Samuel had set, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. Finally Saul said: "Bring to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices." And he offered up the burnt sacrifice.

w00 8/1 13 paragraph 17

At first glance, Saul's actions might seem justifiable. After all, God's people were "in sore straits," "hard pressed," and trembling because of their desperate situation. (1 Samuel 13:6, 7) Certainly, it is not wrong to take the initiative when circumstances warrant it. Remember, though, that Jehovah can read hearts and perceive our innermost motives. (1 Samuel 16:7) Hence, he must have seen some factors about Saul that are not directly stated in the Bible account. For example, Jehovah may have seen that Saul's impatience was stirred by pride. Perhaps Saul was deeply irritated that he—the king of all Israel—had to wait for someone he viewed as an old, procrastinating prophet! In any event, Saul felt that Samuel's tardiness gave him the right to take

matters into his own hands and to disregard the explicit instructions he had been given. The result? Samuel did not praise Saul's initiative. On the contrary, he chastised Saul, saying: "Your kingdom will not last . . . because you did not keep what Jehovah commanded you." (1 Samuel 13:13, 14) Once again, presumptuousness led to dishonor.

Jehovah disciplined Saul

1 Samuel 13:13, 14: At this Samuel said to Saul: "You have acted foolishly. You have not obeyed the commandment that Jehovah your God gave you. If you had, Jehovah would have made your kingdom firm over Israel forever. But now your kingdom will not last. Jehovah will find a man agreeable to his heart, and Jehovah will commission him as a leader over his people, because you did not obey what Jehovah commanded you."

w07 6/15 27 paragraph 8

The Bible record of King Saul underlines the vital importance of obedience. Saul started off as a humble and modest ruler, 'little in his own eyes.' In time, though, pride and false

reasoning began to govern his decisions. (1 Samuel 10:21, 22; 15:17) On one occasion, Saul was to face the Philistines in battle. Samuel told the king to wait for him to come to offer sacrifices to Jehovah and to provide further direction.

However, Samuel did not come as soon as he was expected, and the people began to disperse. Seeing that, Saul "went offering up the burnt sacrifice." This was displeasing to Jehovah. When Samuel finally arrived, the king excused his own disobedience, saying that because Samuel was late, he 'compelled himself' to offer up the burnt sacrifice to soften Jehovah's face. To King Saul, offering that sacrifice was more important than obeying the direction he had received to wait for Samuel to make that sacrifice. Samuel told him: "You have acted foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Jehovah your God that he commanded you."

Disobedience to Jehovah cost Saul his kingship.—1 Samuel 10:8; 13:5-13.

[Image:] King Saul presumptuously offering a burnt sacrifice on an altar.

Someone acts presumptuously when he rashly or foolishly does something that he is not authorized to do.

Presumptuousness is contrasted with modesty. What situations could tempt someone to be presumptuous?

Spiritual Gems

1 Samuel 12:21—How could the people have been following “empty things” (or, “unrealities,” footnote.)?

1 Samuel 12:21: Do not turn away to follow the empty things, which are of no benefit and cannot rescue, because they are empty.

w11 7/15 13 paragraph 15

Did those people think that a human king would somehow be more real, more dependable, than Jehovah? If so, they were truly pursuing an unreality! And they were in danger of pursuing many other satanic illusions. Human kings would easily lead them into idolatry. Idolaters make the mistake of thinking that physical objects—gods made of wood or stone—are somehow more real, more reliable, than the invisible God, Jehovah, who created all things. But as the apostle Paul noted, idols are “nothing.” (1 Corinthians 8:4) They cannot see, hear, speak, or act. You might be able to see them and touch them, but if you were to worship one,

you would, indeed, be pursuing an unreality—an empty illusion that would bring only disaster.—Psalm 115:4-8.

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) 1 Samuel 12:1-11 (*th* study 2)

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Memorial Invitation Campaign (March 19–April 15)

“We’re happy to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Provide a printed or electronic 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 email] the video *Remember Jesus’ Death*.

Link: Why did Jesus die?

Initial Call* (March 1-18, April 16-30)

Question: Who is Jesus?

Scripture: **Mt 16:16**

Link: Why did Jesus die?

Return Visit*

Question: Why did Jesus die?

Scripture: **Mt 20:28**

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

* You may adjust the question, link, and setting according to local circumstances.



We Thank You, Jehovah

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

1. We thank you, Jehovah, each day and each night,
That you shed upon us your precious light.
We thank you that we have the priv'lege of prayer,
That we can approach you with ev'ry care.
2. We thank you, Jehovah, for your loving Son,
Who conquered the world; by his faith he won.
We thank you for guidance in doing your will.
You lovingly help us our vows fulfill.
3. We thank you, our God, for the honor to preach
About your great name and the truth to teach.
We thank you that soon all earth's woes will be past,
While your Kingdom blessings forever last.

Song 4 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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privileges, that he himself has given to his servants, including the “lowly” ones.—Prov. 19:17; Ezek. 46:18; 48:29.

¹² What is yet another remarkable feature of the city “Jehovah Is There”? While ancient cities had walls for protection with as few gates as possible, this city has 12 gates! (Ezek. 48:30-34) This large number of gates (three on each side of the square city) illustrates that the administrators of this city are approachable and available to all of God’s servants. Further, the city’s having 12 gates emphasizes that it is open to everyone, “*all* the house of Israel.” (Ezek. 45:6) The open character of the city serves as an important reminder to Christian overseers. Jehovah wants them to be approachable and to be readily available to all those living in the spiritual paradise.

God’s People “Come in to Worship” and “Are Serving the City”

¹³ Let us go back to the time of Ezekiel and find

12. (a) What is a remarkable feature of this city, and what does this illustrate? (b) This aspect of the vision provides Christian overseers with what important reminder?

13. What did Jehovah mention about the various services people would perform?

out what further details he records in this extensive vision of the allotment of the land. Jehovah mentions people sharing in various forms of service. Priests —“ministers of the sanctuary”—were to offer sacrifices and approach Jehovah to minister to him. And Levites—“ministers of the temple”—were to “take care of its service and all the things that should be done in it.” (Ezek. 44:14-16; 45:4, 5) Further, workers would be active near the city. Who are these workers?

¹⁴ The workers near the city come from among “*all* the tribes of Israel.” They have a supportive role. Their task is to grow crops that “will provide food for those serving the city.” (Ezek. 48:18, 19) Does this arrangement remind us of an opportunity that we have today? Yes. Today *all* inhabitants of the spiritual paradise have the opportunity to support the service of Christ’s anointed brothers and the service of those among the “great crowd” whom Jehovah has appointed to take the lead. (Rev. 7:9, 10) A main way that we provide this support is by willingly cooperating with direction from the faithful slave.

14. The workers near the city remind us of what?

¹⁵ Ezekiel’s vision contains yet another detail from which we can derive a lesson regarding our ministry. What detail? Jehovah mentions that members of the 12 non-Levite tribes would be active in *two* locations: in the temple courtyard and on the city’s pastureland. What is their activity in each location? In the courtyard of the temple, all tribes “come in to *worship*” by offering *sacrifices* to Jehovah. (Ezek. 46:9, 24) On the land of the city, members of all tribes come to *support* the city by *cultivating* its land. What can we learn from the example of these workers?

¹⁶ Today, members of the great crowd have the opportunity to engage in activities similar to those carried out in Ezekiel’s vision. They *worship* Jehovah “in his *temple*” by offering *sacrifices* of praise. (Rev. 7:9-15) They do so by sharing in the preaching work and by expressing their faith aloud at Christian meetings. They view the rendering of direct worship to Jehovah as their foremost responsibility. (1 Chron. 16:29) In addition, many among God’s people are able to *support* God’s organization in numerous practical ways.

15, 16. (a) What other detail can we glean from Ezekiel’s vision? (b) We have the opportunity to engage in what similar activities?

For instance, they help in constructing and maintaining Kingdom Halls and branch facilities, and they assist in many other projects initiated by Jehovah's organization. Others support these projects with their financial contributions. They do all such *cultivating* of the land, so to speak, "for God's glory." (1 Cor. 10:31) They carry out their work zealously and joyfully because they know that Jehovah is "well-pleased with such sacrifices." (Heb. 13:16) Are you taking full advantage of these opportunities?

**“There Are New Heavens and a New Earth
That We Are Awaiting”**

¹⁷ In the future, will we see a larger fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision of the contribution? Yes! Consider this: Ezekiel saw that the land portion named "the holy contribution" was the center of the land. (Ezek. 48:10) Similarly, after Armageddon, no matter where we may live on earth, Jehovah will be dwelling with us. (Rev. 21:3) During the Millennium, the citylike administration—that is, those on earth who will be appointed to care for the interests of God's peo-

17. (a) What larger fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision will we see in the future? (b) During the Millennium, who will benefit from the citylike administration?

ple—will expand its influence around the globe by giving loving guidance and direction to all those who make up the “new earth,” a new human society. —2 Pet. 3:13.

¹⁸ Why can we be sure that the citylike administration will remain in complete harmony with God’s rulership? Because God’s Word makes clear that the earthly city with 12 gates reflects the heavenly city with 12 gates, New Jerusalem, which is made up of Christ’s 144,000 corulers. (Rev. 21:2, 12, 21-27) This indicates that the earthly administration will mirror all decisions made by God’s Kingdom in heaven and will carefully carry them out. Yes, the name of the city “Jehovah Is There” assures each one of us that pure worship will remain and will flourish forever in Paradise. What a beautiful future awaits us!

18. (a) Why can we be sure that the citylike administration will be in harmony with God’s rulership? (b) The name of the city gives us what firm assurance?

YOUR PLACE IN PURE WORSHIP

- 1** What lesson about setting priorities can you draw from the vision about the contribution to Jehovah?
- 2** How can you support the activities of the faithful slave?
- 3** What do you view as your foremost responsibility?

You Did It for Me

(Matthew 25:34-40)

1. Other sheep Jesus has, and they serve alongside those anointed to be Christ's heavenly bride.
All the things that are done
for their comfort and aid
Are things he considers that must be repaid.

(CHORUS)

*"If you comforted them, you comforted me.
If you did it for them, you did it for me.
Your labors for them were your labors for me.
You did it for them; you did it for me.
If you did it for them, you did it for me."*

2. "Yes, you comforted me in my hunger and thirst,
and whatever my need, you came to me first."
"Tell us, when did we do this?"
these ones will reply.
The King will then answer them, telling them why:

(Chorus)

3. "You've been loyal to me, doing works that are fine,
as you preach alongside these brothers of mine."
So the King will then say
to the sheep on his right:
"Inherit the earth and perfection of life."

(Chorus)

JANUARY 2022

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



OUR YEARTEXT FOR 2022:

“Those seeking Jehovah will
lack nothing good.”—PS. 34:10



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COVER PICTURE:

During the great tribulation, Gog of Magog’s forces may try to assault us in our homes. But we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus and his angels are aware of what is happening and will defend us (See study article 1, paragraph 13)

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Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

1. We're gathered together, Jehovah our God,
Accepting your warm invitation.
Your Word is a lamp that lights up our pathway,
The source of divine education.

(CHORUS)

*Teach me your ways, and make me understand;
Incline my ear to hear your wise command.
Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right,
And make your law my principal delight.*

2. Unreachably high is your wisdom, O God;
Your judgments we find reassuring.
Your Word is a source of unending wonder;
Your sayings of truth are enduring.

(Chorus)

Learn From Jesus' Younger Brother

“James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

—JAS. 1:1.

SONG 88

Make Me Know Your Ways

PREVIEW

James grew up in the same household as Jesus did. James knew the perfect Son of God better than most people at that time. In this article, we will examine what we can learn from the life and teachings of Jesus' younger brother who became a pillar in the first-century Christian congregation.

JAMES, the brother of Jesus, was raised in a spiritually strong family.* His parents, Joseph and Mary, loved Jehovah very much and did their best to serve Him. James had an added blessing—his older brother would grow up to be the promised Messiah. What a fine privilege James had to be part of that family!

² James had many reasons to look up to his older brother. (Matt. 13:55) For example, Jesus knew the Scriptures so well that by the age of 12, he amazed the well-educated elders in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:46, 47) James may have worked in the carpentry trade with Jesus. In that case, he would have come to know his brother very well. Nathan H. Knorr often said, “You learn a lot about a person when you work with him.”# James could also not help but notice how “Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52) So we might assume that James would have been among the first to become a disciple of Jesus. But that is not what happened.

* For the sake of simplicity, we will refer to James as Jesus’ brother. He was actually Jesus’ half brother and evidently the one who wrote the letter bearing his name.

Nathan H. Knorr was a member of the Governing Body. He finished his earthly course in 1977.

-
- 1. How would you describe James’ family?**
 - 2. What reasons did James have to look up to his older brother?**

³ During Jesus' ministry on earth, James did not become one of his disciples. (John 7:3-5) In fact, James may have been one of the relatives who thought that Jesus had "gone out of his mind." (Mark 3:21) And there is no indication that James was with their mother, Mary, when Jesus was put to death on the torture stake.—John 19:25-27.

⁴ Later, James put faith in Jesus and became a respected member of the Christian congregation. In this article, we will consider two lessons that we can learn from James: (1) why we must remain humble and (2) how we can be effective teachers.

REMAIN HUMBLE LIKE JAMES

⁵ When did James become a loyal follower of Jesus? After Jesus was raised from the dead, "he appeared to James, then to all the apostles." (1 Cor. 15:7) That meeting with Jesus marked a turning point in James' life. He was present when the apostles awaited the promised holy spirit in an upper room in Jerusalem. (Acts 1:13, 14) Later, James had the joy of serving as a member of the first-century governing body. (Acts 15:6, 13-22; Gal. 2:9) And sometime

-
3. How did James respond when Jesus began his ministry?
 4. What lessons will we consider?
 5. How did James respond when the resurrected Jesus appeared to him?



During the time that he spent growing up with Jesus, James got to know his older brother very well (See paragraph 2)

before 62 C.E., he was inspired to write a letter to anointed Christians. That letter is of benefit to us today, whether our hope is heavenly or earthly. (Jas. 1:1) According to the first-century historian Josephus, James was executed at the order of the Jewish High Priest Ananias the Younger. James remained faithful to Jehovah until he finished his earthly course.

⁶ *James was humble.* Why can we say that? Consider the contrast between the way James eventually responded to Jesus and the way that many of the religious leaders reacted. When James was confronted by irrefutable evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, he humbly accepted it. That was not the case with the chief priests in Jerusalem. For example,

6. In what way was James different from the religious leaders of his day?

they could not deny that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Instead of acknowledging that Jesus was Jehovah's representative, they endeavored to kill both Jesus and Lazarus. (John 11:53; 12:9-11) Later when Jesus himself was resurrected from the dead, they conspired to hide that fact from the people. (Matt. 28:11-15) The pride of those religious leaders caused them to reject the Messiah.

⁷ The lesson: Avoid pride, and remain teachable. Just as disease can harden the arteries of a literal heart and restrict its ability to beat, pride can harden our figurative heart and prevent us from responding to Jehovah's direction. The Pharisees allowed their heart to become so hard that they refused to recognize the clear evidence being presented to them by God's spir-

7. Why must we avoid pride?

James humbled himself when Jesus appeared to him, and from then on he faithfully served as Christ's disciple
(See paragraphs 5-7)



it. (John 12:37-40) That was a dangerous course because it affected their everlasting future. (Matt. 23:13, 33) How important it is that we continue to allow God’s Word and spirit to mold our personality and influence our thinking and our decisions! (Jas. 3:17) Because James was humble, he allowed himself to be taught by Jehovah. And, as we will see, it was because of his humility that he became a skillful teacher.

TEACH EFFECTIVELY LIKE JAMES

⁸ James did not have an impressive secular education. The religious leaders of his day no doubt viewed him in the same way they viewed the apostles Peter and John—as “uneducated and ordinary.” (Acts 4:13) But James learned to be an effective teacher, as is evident when we read the book that bears his name. Like James, we may have limited secular education. Even so, with the help of Jehovah’s spirit and practical training from his organization, we too can become good teachers. Let us consider the example James set as a teacher and see what lessons we can learn.

⁹ *James did not use big words or complicated reasoning.* As a result, his audience knew what they needed to do and how to do it. Consider, for example, the

8. What will help us to become good teachers?

9. How would you describe James’ way of teaching?

simple way James taught that Christians must be willing to suffer injustice without becoming resentful. He wrote: “We consider happy those who have endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome Jehovah gave, that Jehovah is very tender in affection and merciful.” (Jas. 5:11) Note that James relied on the Scriptures as his authority. He used God’s Word to help his audience to see that Jehovah always rewards those who, like Job, are loyal to Him. James got his point across by using simple words and logic. In that way, he drew attention, not to himself, but to Jehovah.

¹⁰ *The lesson: Keep your message simple, and teach from God’s Word.* Our goal should be, not to impress others with how much we know, but to impress them with how much Jehovah knows and how much he cares about them. (Rom. 11:33) We can reach that goal by always basing what we say on the Scriptures. For example, rather than tell our Bible students what we would do in their place, we should help *them* to reason on Bible examples and to perceive Jehovah’s thinking and feelings. Then they will be motivated by a desire to please Jehovah, not us.

¹¹ *James was realistic.* From his letter, it is obvious

10. What is one way that we can imitate James when teaching?

11. What challenges were some Christians dealing with in James’ day, and what counsel did he give them? (James 5:13-15)

that James was aware of the challenges his fellow believers were struggling with, and he gave them clear direction on how to overcome these. For example, some Christians were slow to apply counsel. (Jas. 1: 22) Others showed partiality toward the rich. (Jas. 2: 1-3) Still others had a hard time controlling their tongue. (Jas. 3:8-10) Those Christians had serious problems, but James did not give up on them. He presented his counsel in a kind but straightforward way and encouraged those who were struggling spiritually to seek additional help from the elders.—**Read James 5:13-15.**

¹² *The lesson: Be realistic, but keep a positive view of others.* Many with whom we study the Bible may struggle to apply its counsel. (Jas. 4:1-4) It may take them some time to root out bad traits and replace them with Christlike qualities. In imitation of James, we must have the courage to tell our students where they need to improve. We also need to remain positive, trusting that Jehovah will draw humble people to him and will give them the strength to make changes in their life.—Jas. 4:10.

¹³ *James kept the right view of himself.* James did not feel that his family background or his privileged

12. How can we remain positive when helping our Bible students?

13. As indicated at James 3:2 and footnote, what did James recognize?

assignments made him special or placed him above his brothers and sisters. He referred to his fellow worshippers as “my beloved brothers.” (Jas. 1:16, 19; 2:5) He did not give the impression that he was perfect. Rather, he included himself in the statement: “We all make mistakes many times.”—Read James 3:2 and footnote.

¹⁴ *The lesson: Remember that we are all sinners.* We must not think that we are somehow superior to those whom we teach. Why not? If we give our student the impression that we are flawless, he may conclude that he could never measure up to God’s requirements. But when we honestly admit that it has not always been easy for us to follow Scriptural principles and we explain how Jehovah has helped us to overcome our challenges, we will help our student to see that he too can serve Jehovah.

¹⁵ *James used illustrations that reached the heart.* No doubt he was helped by holy spirit, but he likely also learned a great deal about how to teach by studying the illustrations that his older brother, Jesus, had used. The illustrations James used in his letter are simple, and the application is clear.—Read James 3:2-6, 10-12.

14. Why must we be willing to admit our mistakes?

15. How would you describe the illustrations James used? (James 3:2-6, 10-12)



James' illustrations were simple, clear, and effective
(See paragraphs 15-16)

16 *The lesson: Use effective illustrations.* When you use appropriate illustrations, you turn ears into eyes. You paint pictures in the minds of people. These pictures help your audience to remember key Bible truths. Jesus was a master at using effective illustrations, and his brother James followed his example. Let us examine one of James' illustrations and consider why it is so effective.

17 **Read James 1:22-25.** James' illustration of the mirror is effective for a number of reasons. He had a specific point in mind, namely, that to benefit from God's Word, we must do more than read it; we must act on what we read. James chose an illustration that

16. Why should we use effective illustrations?

17. Why is the illustration recorded at James 1:22-25 so effective?

his audience could quickly relate to—a man looking in a mirror. His point? It would be foolish if a man were to look in a mirror, see a flaw he can correct, and do nothing about it. Similarly, it would be foolish if we were to read God’s Word, see something that we need to change about our personality, and do nothing about it.

¹⁸ When using an illustration, you can imitate James’ example by doing three things: (1) Make sure that the illustration is appropriate to the point you are discussing. (2) Use an illustration that your audience can easily relate to. (3) Make the application of the illustration clear. If you find it difficult to think of appropriate illustrations, consult the *Watch Tower Publications Index*. Under the heading “Illustrations,” you will find dozens of examples that you can use. Remember, though, that illustrations are like a microphone—they will amplify the point you are making. So be sure to illustrate only the key points that you want to teach. Of course, our ultimate reason for wanting to improve our teaching skills is, not to draw attention to ourselves, but to help as many as possible to be part of Jehovah’s happy family.

¹⁹ We have not had the privilege of growing up with

18. What three things must we do when using an illustration?

19. How do we show that we appreciate our spiritual family?

a perfect older brother, but we have had the honor of serving Jehovah along with a large family of Christian brothers and sisters. We show our love for them by associating with them, by learning from them, and by loyally serving side by side with them in the preaching and teaching work. When we strive to imitate James' example in our attitude, conduct, and method of teaching, we bring honor to Jehovah and we help honesthearted people to draw close to our loving heavenly Father.

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 23: James used the example of a small fire—something people could easily understand—to illustrate the danger of misusing the tongue.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Why must we remain humble?
- Why should we keep our teaching simple?
- Why should we use effective illustrations?

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.