

Monday, April 25

Let us continue loving one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born from God and knows God.

—1 John 4:7.

The apostle John felt a deep, loving concern for the spiritual welfare of his brothers, and that feeling is clearly reflected in the counsel he gave in his three inspired letters. How encouraging it is to know that men and women, like him, are anointed to be corulers with Christ! (1 John 2:27) May we take to heart the counsel he gave. Let us be determined to walk in the truth, obeying Jehovah in all aspects of our life. Study his Word, and put your trust in it. Build strong faith in Jesus. Reject human philosophies and apostate teachings. Resist the pressure to live a double life and to give in to sin. Live by Jehovah's high moral standards. And let us help our brothers remain strong by forgiving those who hurt us and helping those in need. Then, despite the struggles we face, we will keep walking in the truth. w20.07 24-25 ¶15-17

Tuesday, April 26

God has arranged each of the body members just as he pleased.

—1 Cor. 12:18.

Jehovah has lovingly given each of his faithful servants a place in his congregation. Although our roles are different, we are all valuable and we all need one another. The apostle Paul emphasized that none of us can look at another servant of Jehovah and say "I do not need you." (1 Cor. 12:21) If the congregation is to function peacefully, we must value one another and work together. (Eph. 4:

16) When we work together in unity, the congregation thrives and is built up in love. All elders in the congregation are appointed by Jehovah's holy spirit. Yet, each one has different gifts and abilities. (1 Cor. 12:17) Some may be newly appointed and relatively inexperienced. Others may be limited because of age and health. Yet, no elder should look at any of his fellow elders and, in effect, say "I do not need you." Instead, each elder should follow the counsel of Paul as recorded at Romans 12:10. w20.08 26 ¶1-2; 27 ¶4

Wednesday, April 27

The scene of this world is changing.—1 Cor. 7:31.

Jehovah guides us on the road to life by means of the earthly part of his organization. No doubt, we readily follow the Bible-based direction we receive regarding doctrinal or moral matters. But how do we react when God's organization makes a change that affects other aspects of our life, such as selling the Kingdom Hall we attend? We will maintain our joy if we remember that we are working for Jehovah and that he is directing his organization. (Col. 3:23, 24) King David set a good example when donating funds to build the temple. He said: "Who am I and who are my people that we should be in a position to make voluntary offerings like this? For everything is from you, and we have given to you what comes from your own hand." (1 Chron. 29:14) When we donate funds, we too are giving to Jehovah what has come from his own hand. Even so, Jehovah appreciates the time, energy, and resources that we donate to support the work he wants done. —2 Cor. 9:7. w20.11 22-23 ¶14-16

Thursday, April 28

The one who looks at the clouds will not reap.—Eccl. 11:4.

As Witnesses of Jehovah, we do not judge our success by the number of people we bring into God's organization. (Luke 8:11-15) As long as we endure in preaching the good news and teaching others, Jehovah will view us as being successful. Why? Because we are being obedient to him and his Son. (Mark 13:10; Acts 5:28, 29) We have this additional incentive to preach now: The end of this system is fast approaching! The time left to share in this lifesaving work is greatly reduced. Do not delay or feel that you have to wait for the perfect circumstances to take part in this vital activity. Act now to strengthen your motivation, deepen your knowledge of the Bible, build your courage, and cultivate self-discipline. Join the more than eight million fishers of men, and you will experience the joy of Jehovah. (Neh. 8:10; Luke 5:10) Be determined to have a full share in this work and to see it through to completion. *w20.09 7 ¶18-20*

Friday, April 29

Guard what has been entrusted to you.—1 Tim. 6:20.

We cannot afford to become distracted by a desire for more material things. "The deceptive power of riches" could choke our love for Jehovah, our appreciation for God's Word, and our desire to share it with others. (Matt. 13:22) If we are to safeguard the things that Jehovah has entrusted to us, we need to act quickly when we see danger. We can rehearse beforehand what we will do if we suddenly encoun-

ter an immoral scene, graphic violence, or apostate material while using the Internet or while watching a movie or TV program. If we prepare for what might happen, we can act quickly to escape spiritual harm and remain clean in Jehovah's eyes. (Ps. 101:3; 1 Tim. 4:12) We must guard the valuable things that Jehovah has given to us—precious Bible truths and the privilege of teaching them to others. When we do, we will have a clean conscience, a life that has real meaning, and the joy of helping others come to know Jehovah. *w20.09 30 ¶16-19*

Saturday, April 30

You will see your Grand Instructor with your own eyes.—Isa. 30:20.

Are you baptized? If so, you have publicly expressed your faith in Jehovah and your willingness to serve with his organization. Today, Jehovah directs his organization in a way that reflects his personality, purpose, and standards. Note three of Jehovah's attributes that are reflected in his organization. First, "God is not partial." (Acts 10:34) Love moved Jehovah to give his Son as a "ransom for all." (1 Tim. 2:6; John 3:16) Jehovah uses his people to preach the good news to all who will listen, thereby helping as many as possible to benefit from the ransom. Second, Jehovah is a God of order and peace. (1 Cor. 14:33, 40) Therefore, we should expect that his worshippers serve him as an orderly, peaceful group. Third, Jehovah is the "Grand Instructor." (Isa. 30:21) Thus, his organization focuses on teaching his inspired Word, both in the congregation and in the public ministry. *w20.10 20 ¶1-3*

Sunday, May 1

He continued subject to them.

—*Luke 2:51.*

Early in his human life, Jesus chose to be submissive to his parents. He never rejected his parents' direction, reasoning that he knew more than they did. Jesus no doubt took his responsibility as the oldest son seriously. He surely worked hard to learn a trade from his adoptive father so that he could help support his family. Jesus' parents likely told him about his miraculous birth and what God's messengers had said about him. (Luke 2: 8-19, 25-38) Jesus was not satisfied with what he was told; he also studied the Scriptures for himself. How do we know that Jesus was a good student of God's Word? Because while he was still a boy, the teachers in Jerusalem were "in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:46, 47) And at only 12 years of age, Jesus had already proved to himself that Jehovah was his Father.—Luke 2:42, 43, 49. *w20.10* 29-30 ¶13-14

Monday, May 2

Christ has been raised from the dead.—1 Cor. 15:12.

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is central to our Christian hope. Early in the apostle Paul's discussion of the resurrection, he brought up three realities. They are (1) "Christ died for our sins." (2) He "was buried." (3) He "was raised up on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3, 4) What do Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection mean for us? The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Messi-

ah would be "cut off from the land of the living" and be "given a burial place with the wicked." More was involved, though. Isaiah added that the Messiah would carry "the sin of many people." Jesus did this by providing the ransom. (Isa. 53:8, 9, 12; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:8) So the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus provide a solid basis for our hope of being set free from sin and death and being reunited with our loved ones who have died. *w20.12* 2-3 ¶4-6; 5 ¶11

Tuesday, May 3

I, if anyone, do have grounds for confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more.—Phil. 3:4.

The apostle Paul preached often in Jewish synagogues. In the synagogue in Thessalonica, for example, "for three sabbaths he reasoned with [the Jews] from the Scriptures." (Acts 17:1, 2) Paul likely felt comfortable in the synagogue. He was raised as a Jew. (Acts 26:4, 5) Paul could relate to the Jews, so he was able to preach to them with confidence. (Phil. 3:5) After Paul was forced by persecutors to flee Thessalonica and then Beroea, he arrived in Athens. Once again, "he began to reason in the synagogue with the Jews and the other people who worshipped God." (Acts 17:17) While preaching in the marketplace, however, Paul now had a different audience. Among his listeners were philosophers and other Gentiles who viewed Paul's message as a "new teaching." They said to him: "You are introducing some things that are strange to our ears."—Acts 17:18-20. *w20.04* 9 ¶5-6

Song 130 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**"Do You Act on Impulse?":** (10 min.)**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

1Sa 25:18, 19—Why can we say that Abigail did not rebel against her husband's rightful headship? (*ia* 80 ¶16)

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 25:1-13 (2)APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**"Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Help Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah":** (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Help Your Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 04 point 4 (9)LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**Song 126****Local Needs:** (15 min.)**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)*Iff* lesson 01

Do You Act on Impulse?

David's reasonable request was met with insults (1Sa 25:7-11; *ia* 78 ¶10-12)

David's impulse was to kill the men of Nabal's household (1Sa 25:13, 21, 22)

Abigail helped David to avoid bloodguilt (1Sa 25:25, 26, 32, 33; *ia* 80 ¶18)

ASK YOURSELF: 'Do I tend to act on impulse when I am angry, when I am shopping, or when I am discouraged? Or do I pause to consider the consequences before I act?'—Pr 15:28; 22:3.



Be Forgiving

(Psalm 86:5)

B \flat F/A Gm Dm/F E \flat

Lov - ing - ly Je - ho - vah Made pro - vi - sion through his Son
 We re - ceive such mer - cy When we act like God a - bove
 Mer - cy is a vir - tue That we all should cul - ti - vate.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat /D E \flat F7sus4

For our sins to be for - giv - en And for death to be un - done.
 And for - give each oth - er free - ly, Show - ing em - pa - thy and love.
 It will keep us from re - sent - ment, From the bit - ter - ness of hate.

F7 B \flat Cm7 B \flat /D F/E \flat E \flat Cm Dm7 Cm/E \flat Cm7 F

If we tru - ly are re - pen - tant, His for - give - ness we can claim
 Put - ting up with one an - oth - er, Put - ting hurt - ful - ness a - way;
 When we im - i - tate Je - ho - vah, Who is un - sur - passed in love,

D7sus4 D7 Gm9 Gm E \flat m/G \flat B \flat /F F7sus4 F7 B \flat

On the ba - sis of Christ's ran - som, Ask - ing par - don in his name.
 Show - ing hon - or to our broth - er, Show - ing love's sur - pass - ing way.
 We will tru - ly be for - giv - ing; We will be like God a - bove.

16 At the moment that David finished speaking these words to him, Saul said: "Is this your voice, my son David?"^a And Saul began to weep loudly. **17** He said to David: "You are more righteous than I am, for you have treated me well and I have repaid you with evil."^b **18** Yes, today you have told me of the good you did by not killing me when Jehovah surrendered me into your hand.^c **19** For what man finds his enemy and sends him on his way unharmed? Jehovah will reward you with good^d because of what you have done for me today. **20** And now look! I know that you will surely rule as king^e and that in your hand the kingdom of Israel will endure. **21** Now swear to me by Jehovah^f that you will not wipe out my descendants* after me and that you will not annihilate my name out of my father's house."^g **22** So David swore to Saul, after which Saul went home.^h But David and his men went up to the stronghold.ⁱ

25 In time Samuel^j died; and all Israel gathered together to mourn for him and to bury him at his house in Ra'mah.^k Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Pa'ran.

2 Now there was a man in Ma'on^l whose work was in Car'mel.^m The man was very wealthy; he had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and he was then shearing his sheep at Car'mel. **3** The man's name was Na'bal,ⁿ and his wife's name was Ab'i-gail.^o The wife was discerning and beautiful, but the husband, a Ca'leb-ite,^p was harsh, and he behaved badly.^q **4** David heard in the wilderness that Na'bal was shearing his sheep. **5** So David sent ten young men to

CHAP. 24

- a 1Sa 26:17
- b 1Sa 26:21
- c 1Sa 24:4, 10
- d 1Sa 26:25
Ps 18:20
- e 1Sa 13:14
1Sa 15:28
1Sa 18:8
1Sa 20:31
1Sa 23:17
- f Le 19:12
De 6:13
- g 2Sa 9:1
2Sa 21:7
- h 1Sa 15:34
- i 1Sa 23:29

CHAP. 25

- j 1Sa 1:20
1Sa 2:18
1Sa 3:20
Ps 99:6
- k 1Sa 7:15, 17
- l 1Sa 23:24
- m Jos 15:20, 55
- n 1Sa 25:25
- o 1Sa 27:3
- p Nu 13:6
Nu 32:11, 12
- q 1Sa 25:17, 21

Second Col.

- a 1Sa 25:14-16
- b De 15:7
- c 1Sa 22:2
- d Ps 37:8
Pr 15:1
Ec 7:9

e 1Sa 25:10

him, and David told the young men: "Go up to Car'mel, and when you come to Na'bal, ask him in my name about his welfare. **6** Then say, 'May you live long and may you be well* and may your household be well and may all that you have be well. **7** Now I hear that you are doing your shearing. When your shepherds were with us, we did not harm them,^a and they found nothing missing the whole time they were in Car'mel. **8** Ask your young men, and they will tell you. May my young men find favor in your eyes, because we have come at a joyous time.* Please give to your servants and to your son David whatever you can spare.'"^b

9 So David's young men went and told all of this to Na'bal in David's name. When they finished, **10** Na'bal answered David's servants: "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? Nowadays many servants are breaking away from their masters.^c **11** Do I have to take my bread and my water and the meat that I butchered for my shearers and give it to men who come from who knows where?"

12 At that David's young men returned and reported all these words to him. **13** David immediately said to his men: "Every-one strap on your sword!"^d So they all strapped on their swords, and David also strapped on his own sword, and about 400 men went up with David, while 200 men stayed with the baggage.

14 Meanwhile, one of the servants reported to Ab'i-gail, Na'bal's wife: "Look! David sent messengers from the wilderness to wish our master well, but he screamed insults at them."^e **15** Those men were

24:21 *Lit., "seed." **25:2** *A city in Judah; not the same as Mount Carmel.

25:6 *Or "may you have peace." **25:8** *Lit., "a good day."

very good to us. They never harmed us, and we did not miss a single thing the whole time we were together with them in the fields.^a **16** They were like a protective wall around us, both by night and by day, the whole time we were with them shepherding the flock. **17** Now decide what you are going to do, for disaster has been determined against our master and against all his house,^b and he is such a worthless* man^c that no one can speak to him."

18 So Ab'i-gail^d quickly took 200 loaves of bread, two large jars of wine, five dressed sheep, five seah measures* of roasted grain, 100 cakes of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs and put all of it on the donkeys.^e **19** Then she said to her servants: "Go on ahead of me; I will follow you." But she said nothing to her husband Na'bal.

20 While she was riding on the donkey and going down under cover of the mountain, just then David and his men were coming down toward her, and she met them. **21** Now David had been saying: "It was for nothing that I guarded everything that belongs to this fellow in the wilderness. Not a single thing belonging to him went missing,^f and yet he repays me evil for good.^g **22** May God do the same and more to the enemies of David* if I allow a single male^h of his to survive until the morning."

23 When Ab'i-gail caught sight of David, she hurried down off the donkey and threw herself facedown before David, bowing to the ground. **24** She then fell

25:17 *Or "good-for-nothing." **25:18** *A seah equaled 7.33 L (6.66 dry qt). See App. B14. **25:22** *Or possibly, "to David." *Lit., "anyone urinating against a wall." A Hebrew expression of contempt referring to males.

CHAP. 25

a 1Sa 25:7

b 1Sa 25:13

c 1Sa 25:3

d 1Sa 25:3

e 2Sa 16:1
2Sa 17:27-29

f 1Sa 25:7

g 1Sa 25:10
Ps 35:12

Second Col.

a 1Sa 25:17

b Ge 20:6

c Ge 9:6

d 1Sa 25:18

e 1Sa 22:2
1Sa 25:13

f 1Sa 15:28
2Sa 7:8, 11
1Ki 9:5

g 1Sa 17:45
1Sa 18:17

h 1Sa 24:11
1Ki 15:5

i 1Sa 13:13, 14
1Sa 23:17
2Sa 6:21
2Sa 7:8
Ps 89:20

j De 32:35
1Sa 24:15

at his feet and said: "My lord, let the blame be on me; let your servant girl speak to you, and listen to the words of your servant girl. **25** Please, do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless Na'bal,^a for he is just like his name. Na'bal* is his name, and senselessness is with him. But I, your servant girl, did not see my lord's young men whom you sent. **26** And now, my lord, as surely as Jehovah is living and as you are* living, it is Jehovah who has held you back^b from incurring bloodguilt^c and from taking revenge^d with your own hand. May your enemies and those seeking injury to my lord become like Na'bal. **27** Now let this gift^e that your servant girl has brought to my lord be given to the young men who are following my lord.^e **28** Pardon, please, the transgression of your servant girl, for Jehovah will without fail make for my lord a lasting house,^f because my lord is fighting the wars of Jehovah,^g and no evil has been found in you all your days.^h **29** When someone rises up to pursue you and seeks your life,* the life* of my lord will be wrapped securely in the bag of life with Jehovah your God, but the livesⁱ of your enemies he will hurl away like stones from a sling.^a **30** And when Jehovah has done for my lord all the good things he has promised and he appoints you as leader over Israel,ⁱ **31** you will have no remorse or regret* in your heart for shedding blood without cause and for letting the hand of my lord take revenge.^j When Jehovah confers

25:25 *Meaning "Senseless; Stupid." **25:26** *Or "your soul is." *Or "bringing salvation." **25:27** *Lit., "blessing." **25:29** *Or "soul." *Or "souls." *Or "as from the hollow of a sling." **25:31** *Lit., "staggering or stumbling." *Or "bring salvation."

good upon my lord, remember your servant girl."

32 At this David said to Ab'i-gail: "Praise Jehovah the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! **33** And blessed be your good sense! May you be blessed for restraining me this day from incurring bloodguilt^a and from taking revenge^a with my own hands. **34** Otherwise, as surely as Jehovah the God of Israel who held me back from harming you^b is living, if you had not come quickly to meet me,^c by morning there would not have remained a single male* belonging to Na'bal."^d **35** With that David accepted from her what she had brought him and said to her: "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have listened to you, and I will grant your request."

36 Ab'i-gail later went back to Na'bal, who was feasting like a king in his house, and Na'bal* was in a good mood and was as drunk as could be. She did not tell him a single thing until the morning light. **37** In the morning, when Na'bal was sober, his wife told him these things. And his heart became like a dead man's, and he lay paralyzed like a stone. **38** About ten days later, Jehovah struck Na'bal, and he died.

39 When David heard that Na'bal had died, he said: "Praise Jehovah, who has pleaded my case^e of reproach from Na'bal^f and has kept his servant from doing anything bad,^g and Jehovah has brought the badness of Na'bal back on his own head!" Then David sent word to propose to Ab'i-gail to take her as his wife. **40** So David's ser-

CHAP. 25

a De 19:10
1Sa 25:26

b 1Sa 25:24

c 1Sa 25:18

d 1Sa 25:22

e 1Sa 24:15
Ps 35:1

f 1Sa 25:10, 14

g 1Sa 25:34

Second Col.

a Ge 18:3, 4
Lu 7:44

b 1Sa 25:3

c 1Sa 27:3
2Sa 3:2
1Ch 3:1

d Jos 15:20, 56

e 1Sa 30:5
2Sa 5:13

f 1Sa 18:20

g 2Sa 3:14, 15

CHAP. 26

h Jos 15:20, 55

i Jg 19:14
1Sa 10:26

j 1Sa 23:14
1Sa 23:19, 24
Ps 54:Sup

k 1Sa 24:2

l 1Sa 14:50
1Sa 17:55
2Sa 2:8
2Sa 3:27

m Ge 10:15

n 2Sa 16:9
2Sa 18:5
2Sa 23:18

o 2Sa 2:18
1Ch 2:15, 16

vants came to Ab'i-gail at Car'mel and said to her: "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." **41** She immediately rose up and bowed with her face to the ground and said: "Here is your slave as a servant to wash the feet^a of the servants of my lord." **42** Then Ab'i-gail^b quickly rose up and rode on her donkey with five of her female servants walking behind her; she accompanied the messengers of David and became his wife.

43 David had also married A-hin'o-am^c from Jez're-el,^d and both women became his wives.^e

44 But Saul had given his daughter Mi'chal,^f David's wife, to Pal'ti^g the son of La'ish, who was from Gal'lim.

26 In time the men of Ziph^h came to Saul at Gib'e-ah,ⁱ saying: "Is David not hiding on the hill of Hach-i'lah facing Je-shi'mon?"^{*j} **2** So Saul rose up and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with 3,000 chosen men of Israel to look for David in the wilderness of Ziph.^k **3** Saul camped on the hill of Hach-i'lah, which faces Je-shi'mon, by the road. David was then living in the wilderness, and he learned that Saul had come into the wilderness after him. **4** So David sent spies to verify that Saul had indeed come. **5** David later went to the place where Saul had encamped, and David saw the place where Saul and Ab'ner^l the son of Ner, the chief of his army, were lying asleep; Saul lay asleep in the camp enclosure with the troops camping all around him. **6** Then David said to A-him'e-lech the Hit'tite^m and A-bish'aiⁿ the son of Ze-ru'iah,^o the brother of Jo'ab: "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" A-bish'ai replied: "I will

26:1 *Or possibly, "the desert; the wilderness."

25:33 *Or "bringing salvation." **25:34** *Lit., "anyone urinating against a wall." A Hebrew expression of contempt referring to males. **25:36** *Lit., "Nabal's heart."

go down with you.” **7** So David and A-bish'ai made their way to the troops by night, and they found Saul lying asleep in the camp enclosure with his spear stuck into the ground next to his head; Ab'ner and the troops were lying all around him.

8 A-bish'ai now said to David: “Today God has surrendered your enemy into your hand.^a And now, please, let me pin him to the ground with the spear just once, and I will not need to do it twice.” **9** However, David said to A-bish'ai: “Do not harm him, for who can lift his hand against the anointed of Jehovah^b and remain innocent?”^c **10** David continued: “As surely as Jehovah is living, Jehovah himself will strike him down,^d or his day will come^e and he will die, or he will go down into battle and perish.^f **11** It is unthinkable from Jehovah's standpoint for me to lift my hand against the anointed of Jehovah!^g So now take, please, the spear next to his head and the water jug, and let us be on our way.” **12** So David took the spear and the water jug from next to Saul's head, and they went away. No one saw^h or noticed them or woke up, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from Jehovah had fallen upon them. **13** Then David crossed to the other side and stood on the top of the mountain some distance away, with a considerable space between them.

14 David called out to the troops and to Ab'nerⁱ the son of Ner, saying: “Ab'ner, will you not answer?” Ab'ner answered: “Who are you who calls to the king?” **15** David said to Ab'ner: “Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? So why did you not keep watch over your lord the king? For one of the soldiers came in to do away with your lord the king.^j **16** What you

CHAP. 26

a 1Sa 24:4
1Sa 26:23

b 1Sa 10:1

c 1Sa 24:6
2Sa 1:14
1Ch 16:22
Ps 20:6d De 32:35
1Sa 24:12
1Sa 25:38
Ps 94:1, 23

e Ps 37:12, 13

f 1Sa 31:3, 6

g Le 19:18
1Sa 24:6
1Ch 16:22
Ps 105:15

h 1Sa 24:4

i 1Sa 14:50
1Sa 17:55
2Sa 2:8
2Sa 3:8

j 1Sa 26:8

Second Col.

a 1Sa 9:16, 17
1Sa 10:1

b 1Sa 26:11

c 1Sa 24:8, 16

d Ps 35:7

e 1Sa 24:9, 11

f 1Sa 24:9

g Ex 19:5
De 26:18

h 1Sa 24:14

i 1Sa 24:17

j 1Sa 24:10
1Sa 26:11k Ps 7:8
Ps 18:20l 1Sa 24:6
1Sa 26:9

have done is not good. As surely as Jehovah is living, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the anointed of Jehovah.^a Now look around! Where are the king's spear and the water jug^b that were next to his head?”

17 Then Saul recognized the voice of David and said: “Is this your voice, my son David?”^c David replied: “It is my voice, my lord the king.” **18** He added: “Why is my lord chasing after his servant,^d for what have I done, and what am I guilty of?” **19** My lord the king, please, listen to the words of his servant: If it is Jehovah who incited you against me, let him accept* my grain offering. But if men have incited you,^f they are cursed before Jehovah, because they have driven me away today from being united with Jehovah's inheritance,^g saying, ‘Go, serve other gods!’ **20** And now do not let my blood fall to the ground away from the presence of Jehovah, for the king of Israel has gone out to look for a single flea,^h as if he were chasing a partridge on the mountains.”

21 In turn Saul said: “I have sinned.ⁱ Come back, my son David, for I will do you no more harm, because you regarded my life* as precious^j this day. Yes, I have acted foolishly and have made a terrible mistake.”

22 David answered: “Here is the spear of the king. Let one of the young men come over and take it. **23** It is Jehovah who will repay each one for his own righteousness^k and his own faithfulness, for today Jehovah gave you into my hand, but I was unwilling to lift my hand against the anointed of Jehovah.^l **24** Look! Just as your life* was

26:19 *Lit., “smell.” **26:21, 24** *Or “soul.”

precious to me this day, so may my life* be precious in the eyes of Jehovah, and may he rescue me out of all distress.”^a **25** Saul replied to David: “May you be blessed, my son David. You will surely do great things, and you will surely prevail.”^b Then David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.^c

27 However, David said in his heart: “One day I will perish by Saul’s hand. The best thing for me is to escape^d to the land of the Phi-lis’tines; then Saul will give up looking for me in all the territory of Israel,^e and I will escape from his hand.”

2 So David rose up with the 600 men^f who were with him and went over to A’chish^g the son of Ma’och, the king of Gath. **3** David stayed with A’chish in Gath, he and his men, each man with his household. With David were his two wives, A-hin’o-am^h of Jez’re-el and Ab’i-gailⁱ the Car’-mel-ite, Na’bal’s widow. **4** When report was made to Saul that David had run away to Gath, he stopped searching for him.^j

5 Then David said to A’chish: “If I have found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in one of the cities of the countryside, so that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?” **6** So A’chish gave him Zik’lag^k on that day. That is why Zik’lag belongs to the kings of Judah down to this day.

7 The length of time* that David lived in the countryside of the Phi-lis’tines was a year and four months.^l **8** David would go up with his men to raid the Gesh’ur-ites,^m the Gir’zites, and the A-mal’ek-ites,ⁿ for they were inhabiting the land that extended from Te’lam as far as

26:24 *Or “soul.” 27:7 *Lit., “number of days.”

CHAP. 26

- a Ps 34:19
b 1Sa 24:19
c 1Sa 24:22
1Sa 27:4

CHAP. 27

- d 1Sa 19:18
1Sa 22:1, 5
e 1Sa 18:29
1Sa 23:23
f 1Sa 25:13
1Sa 30:9
g 1Sa 21:10, 14
1Sa 27:12
h 1Sa 25:43
i 1Sa 25:39, 42
j 1Sa 23:14
1Sa 26:25
k Jos 19:1, 5
1Sa 30:1
2Sa 1:1
1Ch 12:1, 20
l 1Sa 29:3
m Jos 13:1, 2
n Ge 36:12
Ex 17:8, 14
Nu 13:29
1Sa 15:2
2Sa 1:1

Second Col.

- a Ge 25:17, 18
Ex 15:22
1Sa 15:7
b De 25:19
1Sa 15:3
c Jos 15:1, 2
d 1Ch 2:9
e Nu 24:21
1Sa 15:6

CHAP. 28

- f 1Sa 14:52
g 1Sa 27:12
1Sa 29:3
h 1Sa 29:2
i 1Sa 25:1
j Ex 22:18
Le 19:31
Le 20:6, 27
De 18:10, 11
Re 21:8
k Jos 19:17, 18
2Ki 4:8
l 1Sa 31:1
2Sa 1:21
2Sa 21:12

Shur^a and down to the land of Egypt. **9** When David would attack the land, he preserved neither man nor woman alive,^b but he took the flocks, herds, donkeys, camels, and clothing, after which he would return to A’chish. **10** Then A’chish would ask: “Where did you make a raid today?” David would reply: “Against the south* of Judah”^c or “Against the south of the Je-rah-me-el-ites”^d or “Against the south of the Ken’ites.”^e **11** David did not spare alive any man or woman to be brought to Gath, saying: “That they may not tell them about us and say, ‘This is what David did.’” (And that was his practice the whole time he lived in the countryside of the Phi-lis’tines.) **12** So A’chish believed David, saying to himself: ‘He has certainly become a stench among his people Israel, so he will always be my servant.’

28 In those days the Phi-lis’tines assembled their armies for war against Israel.^f So A’chish said to David: “You know, of course, that you and your men will go out into battle with me.”^g **2** At that David said to A’chish: “You surely know what your servant will do.” A’chish said to David: “That is why I will appoint you as my permanent bodyguard.”^h

3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned him and had buried him in Ra’mah, his own city.ⁱ And Saul had removed the spirit mediums and the fortune-tellers from the land.^j

4 The Phi-lis’tines assembled and went and set up camp in Shu’nem.^k So Saul assembled all Israel, and they set up camp in Gil-bo’a.^l **5** When Saul saw the camp of the Phi-lis’tines,

27:10 *Or “the Negeb.” 28:2 *Lit., “as guardian of my head all the days.”

Song 130 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)



TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD

“Do You Act on Impulse?”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 25:18, 19—Why can we say that Abigail did not rebel against her husband's rightful headship? (*ia* 80 ¶16)

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 25:1-13 (2)



APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Help Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Help Your Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 04 point 4 (9)



LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS

Song 126

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 01



Do You Act on Impulse?

David's reasonable request was met with insults (1Sa 25:7-11; *ia* 78 ¶10-12)

David's impulse was to kill the men of Nabal's household (1Sa 25:13, 21, 22)

Abigail helped David to avoid bloodguilt (1Sa 25:25, 26, 32, 33; *ia* 80 ¶18)

ASK YOURSELF: ‘Do I tend to act on impulse when I am angry, when I am shopping, or when I am discouraged? Or do I pause to consider the consequences before I act?’—Pr 15:28; 22:3.



April 25–May 1 / 1 Samuel 25-26

Song 130 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Do You Act on Impulse?": (10 minutes)

David's reasonable request was met with insults

1 Samuel 25:7-11: Now I hear that you are doing your shearing. When your shepherds were with us, we did not harm them, and they found nothing missing the whole time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. May my young men find favor in your eyes, because we have come at a joyous time. Please give to your servants and to your son David whatever you can spare.'" So David's young men went and told all of this to Nabal in David's name. When they finished, Nabal answered David's servants: "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? Nowadays many servants are breaking away from their masters. Do I have to take my bread and my water and the meat that I butchered for my shearers and give it to men who come from who knows where?"

ia 78 paragraphs 10-12

10 How did those hardworking soldiers treat the shepherds? It would have been easy for them to help themselves to a sheep now and then, but they did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, they were like a protective wall around Nabal's flocks and servants. (*Read 1 Samuel 25:15, 16.*) Sheep and shepherds faced plenty of dangers. Predators abounded, and Israel's southern border was so close that bands of foreign marauders and thieves frequently attacked.

11 It must have been quite an undertaking to keep all those men fed in the wilderness. So one day David sent ten messengers to Nabal to ask for help. David chose the moment wisely. It was the festive time of sheepshearing, when generosity and feasting were customary. David also chose his words with care, using polite terms and forms of address. He even referred to himself as "your son David," perhaps a respectful acknowledgment of Nabal's greater age. How did Nabal respond?—1 Samuel 25:5-8.

12 He was outraged! "He screamed rebukes at them" is how the young man mentioned at the outset described the scene to Abigail. Miserly Nabal complained loudly about his precious bread, water, and slaughtered meat. He ridiculed David as inconsequential and compared him to a runaway servant.

Nabal's view may have been similar to that of Saul, who hated David. Neither man had Jehovah's view. God loved David and saw him, not as a rebellious slave, but as the future king of Israel.—1 Samuel 25:10, 11, 14.

David's impulse was to kill the men of Nabal's household

1 Samuel 25:13: David immediately said to his men: "Everyone strap on your sword!" So they all strapped on their swords, and David also strapped on his own sword, and about 400 men went up with David, while 200 men stayed with the baggage.

1 Samuel 25:21, 22: Now David had been saying: "It was for nothing that I guarded everything that belongs to this fellow in the wilderness. Not a single thing belonging to him went missing, and yet he repays me evil for good. May God do the same and more to the enemies of David if I allow a single male of his to survive until the morning."

Abigail helped David to avoid bloodguilt

1 Samuel 25:25, 26: Please, do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless Nabal, for he is just like his name. Nabal is his name, and senselessness is with him. But I, your servant girl, did not see my lord's young men whom you sent. And now, my lord, as surely as Jehovah is living and as you are living, it is Jehovah who has held you back from incurring bloodguilt and from taking revenge with your own hand. May your enemies and those seeking injury to my lord become like Nabal.

1 Samuel 25:32, 33: At this David said to Abigail: "Praise Jehovah the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed be your good sense! May you be blessed for restraining me this day from incurring bloodguilt and from taking revenge with my own hands.

ia 80 paragraph 18

She took responsibility for the problem and asked David to forgive her personally. She realistically acknowledged that her husband was as senseless as his name implied, perhaps suggesting that it would be beneath David's dignity to chastise such a man. She expressed her trust in David as Jehovah's representative, recognizing that he was fighting "the wars of Jehovah." She also indicated that she knew of Jehovah's promise regarding David and the kingship, for she said: "Jehovah . . . certainly will commission you as leader over Israel." Further, she urged David not to take any action

that might bring bloodguilt upon him or that might later become “a cause for staggering”—evidently referring to a troubled conscience. (*Read 1 Samuel 25:24-31.*) Kind, moving words!

[Image:] Collage: 1. David stops his armed men when they meet Abigail and her servants with food provisions. 2. Abigail humbly kneels before David as she pleads with him.

Ask Yourself: ‘Do I tend to act on impulse when I am angry, when I am shopping, or when I am discouraged? Or do I pause to consider the consequences before I act?’—**Proverbs 15:28; 22:3.**

Proverbs 15:28: The heart of the righteous one meditates before answering, But the mouth of the wicked blurts out bad things.

Proverbs 22:3: The shrewd one sees the danger and conceals himself, But the inexperienced keep right on going and suffer the consequences.

Spiritual Gems

1 Samuel 25:18, 19—Why can we say that Abigail did not rebel against her husband’s rightful headship?

1 Samuel 25:18, 19: So Abigail quickly took 200 loaves of bread, two large jars of wine, five dressed sheep, five seah measures of roasted grain, 100 cakes of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs and put all of it on the donkeys. Then she said to her servants: “Go on ahead of me; I will follow you.” But she said nothing to her husband Nabal.

ia 80 paragraph 16

Does this mean that Abigail was rebelling against her husband’s rightful headship? No; keep in mind that Nabal had acted wickedly against an anointed servant of Jehovah, an action that could well result in death for many innocent members of Nabal’s household. If Abigail failed to act, might she become a sharer in her husband’s guilt? In this case, she had to put submission to her God ahead of submission to her husband.

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 25:1-13 (*th study 2*)

Song 130 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)



**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“Do You Act on Impulse?”: (10 min.)

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**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Help Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah”: (10 min.)

Discussion. Play the video *Help Your Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah*.

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 04 point 4 (9)



**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 126

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 01



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ASK YOURSELF: ‘Do I tend to act on impulse when I am angry, when I am shopping, or when I am discouraged? Or do I pause to consider the consequences before I act?’—Pr 15:28; 22:3.





INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY

Help Bible Students to Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah

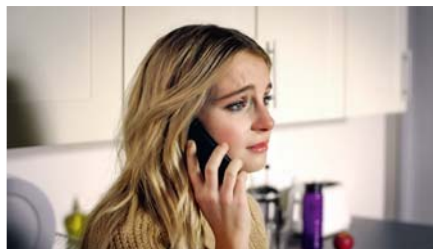
Jehovah wants us to serve him out of love. (Mt 22:37, 38) It is love for God that will empower Bible students to make needed changes and stand firm under trial. (1Jo 5:3) It is their love for God that will motivate them to get baptized.

Help your students to see God’s love for them. Ask such questions as: “What does this teach you about Jehovah?” or “How does this show

God’s love for you?” Help them to perceive how Jehovah is helping them personally. (2Ch 16:9) Share examples of how Jehovah has answered your specific prayers, and encourage them to notice how Jehovah answers theirs. Great joy results from seeing Bible students respond to Jehovah’s love and demonstrate their strong attachment to him.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION *HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JEHOVAH*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What obstacle did Jade encounter?



- How did Neeta help Jade?



- How was Jade able to overcome the obstacle?



Help Your Bible Students to . . .

Develop a Personal Relationship With Jehovah

By Geoffrey W. Jackson, Governing Body Member

Bro Jackson:

How does a father feel when he receives an unexpected gift from his child? Of course, his heart is warmed. Why? Because he sees this as an expression of the child's love for him. Well, in a similar way, our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah, does not want to force us to serve him. He's interested in our motives, and he wants us to serve him out of love.

Why? Because Jehovah realizes that love has power. It gives us the power to make changes in our life. And also, it helps us to be able to overcome temptations and opposition. But that presents a challenge for us when we're conducting Bible studies. How so? Well, how can we develop within the hearts of the Bible students a love for Jehovah without forcing them or trying to put pressure on them?

Well, that's something that we need to think about. During these talks, we've certainly enjoyed this series of videos—haven't we?— that have helped us to see how Jade has made progress with her Bible study and how Neeta has helped her all along. When we think about this, we see that Jade has made good progress and she's up to a point now where she has a love for Jehovah.

In this final video, let's watch how Jade faces a very difficult problem and we'll see how her love for Jehovah helps her to overcome this problem.

Jade: But, Mum, listen.

Jade's Mom: No, Jade, you listen! Isn't this just another one of your phases? It's time to move on, Love. The holidays are our time. It's all I get from you. Promise me you'll be here. Promise!

Jade (crying): I really don't want to disappoint her, but I can't disappoint Jehovah.

Neeta: Of course! You love them both. Don't you think he can help you? Talk to him.

Jade: I spent a long time pouring out my heart to him. And I remembered something from one of the Psalms: "I will walk in your truth. Unify my heart to fear your name."

Jade: (praying and reflections of many things she's overcome, even getting baptized)

Neeta: Yo, so tell me. I remember someone once claiming to be "all about the promises." Made any good ones lately?

Jade: Absolutely.

Bro Jackson:

Well, that certainly was a difficult problem, wasn't it? Her mother wanted to force her to join her in a worldly holiday. But what helped Jade? As she said, it's true that she loves her mother but she didn't want to disappoint Jehovah. And notice, Neeta didn't try to go through all the pros and cons with her.

She realized that Jade had a love for Jehovah, and she just simply said, 'Ask him for help.' And Jehovah did help her.

So how can we make sure that our Bible students come to a similar point in their life, where they love Jehovah? Well, we find some help with regard to that question if we turn to the first book of John. So, please, turn with me to 1 John chapter 4, and we're going to read verse 8: "Whoever does not love has not come to know God, because God is love."

What is this telling us? See, basically, it is saying that if our Bible student doesn't love God, that's because they haven't really come to know God yet. And if we turn the page to verse 19, there's a secondary point that's mentioned. It says: "We love, because he first loved us." What does this highlight?

Well, for our Bible student to love Jehovah, they need to come to know him but also they need to see his love in their lives. So, that puts a responsibility on us to help them to identify Jehovah's love and then have this love for Jehovah build in their hearts. We can do that by asking questions, such as: "How have you seen Jehovah's love in your life?" or "What does this Bible account teach us about Jehovah's love?"

In other words, although we are interested in explaining what Jehovah has done by highlighting what he does, how he does it, and when he does it, we would never want to forget the vital question: Why does he do something? The answer is, because of his love. And we help our Bible student to see that. You see, Jehovah's power enables him to do things. His wisdom helps him and guides him, along with justice, to do things the right way. But what is it that motivates Jehovah? It's his love, isn't it? And asking the question why Jehovah does things helps to highlight that point.

So, as we're teaching our Bible students, we need them to see that Jehovah really does love them and he wants them to succeed in their life. Also, we could perhaps share with them some of the times when we personally have experienced Jehovah's love —perhaps in the way that Jehovah has answered our prayers. But in connection with this, there's another scripture that can help us. If you turn with me, please, to the book of Isaiah —Isaiah chapter 48, and we're going to look at verses 17 and 18. Isaiah 48:17, 18: "This is what Jehovah says, your Repurchaser, "the Holy One of Israel: 'I, Jehovah, am your God, "the One teaching you to benefit yourself, "the One guiding you in the way you should walk. "If only you would pay attention to my commandments! "Then your peace would become just like a river and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.'"

Do you see the point that's being made here? We need to help our Bible students to understand that Jehovah really wants the best for them and he's helping and guiding them in the way that they should go. And the end result —we notice there in verse 18— is that peace and righteousness will be their reward.

Well, this truly is something that can help the Bible student. In fact, when they start to face the changes that they need to make in life if they have this love for Jehovah, they won't just view it as something they have to do in order to attain everlasting life. No, they'll view these things as opportunities for them to prove their love of Jehovah. Well, what has this symposium shown?

As we've listened to the various talks and watched the videos, it's helped us to see various ways that we can help our Bible students to make progress. We realize that conducting a Bible study and helping someone to become a disciple is not just a matter of reading certain paragraphs in a book or using certain techniques; a lot more is involved.

What else? Well, remember that the apostle Paul was an experienced disciple-maker. And let's turn our Bibles to the first book of Thessalonians, and we'll notice here that under inspiration, the apostle Paul tells us what else is involved. First Thessalonians chapter 2 and we're going to read verses 7 and 8: "On the contrary, we became gentle in your midst, "as when a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. "So having tender affection for you, "we were determined to impart to you, not only the good news of God "but also our very selves, because you became so beloved to us."

Yes, we really need to care for these ones. We need to nurture them (help them) with the problems and obstacles they face along the way. And, yes, we need to become their friends. Well, becoming a disciple-maker is a challenging work.

There's a lot involved with it, but don't feel overwhelmed. You can do it with Jehovah's help and the help of Jesus Christ.

Remember when Jesus gave us a commission to go and make disciples, what else did he say? "Look! I am with you."

Yes, with Jehovah's help and with the help of Jesus, we can experience a wonderful joy. What is that joy? The joy of seeing a new disciple learn to love Jehovah.

source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/2020Convention/pub-co-r20_135_VIDEO



VIDEO: *Does God Have a Name?—Excerpt (3:11)*



4. Jehovah wants you to know and use his name

What shows that Jehovah wants you to know his name? **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Do you think Jehovah wants his name to be known? Why?

Jehovah wants people to use his name. **Read Romans 10:13**, and then discuss these questions:

- How important is it to use God’s name, Jehovah?
- How do you feel when someone remembers your name and uses it?
- How do you think Jehovah feels when you use his name?

5. Jehovah wants you to get closer to him

A woman from Cambodia named Soten said that learning God’s name helped her to enjoy “the best feeling on earth.”

Play the VIDEO, and then discuss the question that follows.

- In the video, how did learning God’s name affect Soten?

Before you become someone’s friend, you usually learn his or her name. **Read James 4:8a**, and then discuss these questions:

- What does Jehovah invite you to do?
- How might knowing and using God’s name help you to feel closer to him?



VIDEO: *My Search for the True God (8:18)*



SOME PEOPLE SAY: “There’s only one God, so it doesn’t matter what you call him.”

- Do you believe that Jehovah is God’s name?
- How would you explain that God wants us to use his name?

126 Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

Bb/C C7 F C7/G F/A Bb Gm7 Bb/C C7

Stay a - wake, stand firm, grow might - y, Be de -
 Stay a - wake, and keep your sens - es, Al - ways
 Stay a - wake, re - main u - nit - ed As the

F Cm/A D+5 D/C Gm/Bb D7/A Gm C/D D7

ter - mined to en - dure. Car - ry
 read - y to o - bey. Stay a -
 good news we de - fend. Though our

Gm D7/A Gm/Bb G/B Bb/C C7 C/Bb F/A

on with man - ly cour - age, For the
 lert to Christ's di - rec - tion Through his
 en - e - mies will fight it, We will

Gm Gm7 Am/C C7 F Cm6/Eb

vic - to - ry is sure. We o -
 faith - ful slave to - day. Heed the
 preach un - til the end. Join the

Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. Chords are indicated above the treble staff, and lyrics are placed below the bass staff.

System 1:

- Chords: D7, C/E, D7/F#, D7, Gm, D7/A, Gm/Bb
- Lyrics: bey coun - sel of shout Christ Je - sus' clear com - mand; Un - der Who pro -

System 2:

- Chords: E7/B, E7, D6/F#, E7/G#, Am, F#°, Gm7, Chorus Bb/C, C7
- Lyrics: him tect ho - vah's we firm - ly and is take truth soon our stand. de - fend. Stay a -

System 3:

- Chords: F, F/Eb, Bb/D, Db7
- Lyrics: wake, stand firm, and grow might - y! Car - ry

System 4:

- Chords: F/C, Dm7, Gm7, C7, F
- Lyrics: on right to the end!

Song 130 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 min.)



TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD

“Do You Act on Impulse?”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

1Sa 25:18, 19—Why can we say that Abigail did not rebel against her husband's rightful headship? (*ia* 80 ¶16)

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

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LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS

Song 126

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 01



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David's impulse was to kill the men of Nabal's household (1Sa 25:13, 21, 22)

Abigail helped David to avoid bloodguilt (1Sa 25:25, 26, 32, 33; *ia* 80 ¶18)

ASK YOURSELF: ‘Do I tend to act on impulse when I am angry, when I am shopping, or when I am discouraged? Or do I pause to consider the consequences before I act?’—Pr 15:28; 22:3.





How Can the Bible Help You?

Nearly all of us have questions about life, suffering, death, and the future. We are also concerned about day-to-day matters, such as making a living or having a happy family. Many people find that the Bible not only helps them answer life's big questions but also gives them practical advice for daily living. Do you think that the Bible can help anyone you know?

1. What are some questions that the Bible answers?

The Bible answers these important questions: How did life begin? Why are we here? Why do innocent people suffer? What happens when a person dies? If everyone wants peace, why is there so much war? What will happen to the earth in the future? The Bible encourages us to seek answers to such questions, and millions have found its answers very satisfying.

2. How can the Bible help us to enjoy our daily life?

The Bible gives us good advice. For example, it teaches families how to be truly happy. It offers advice on how to deal with stress and how to enjoy our work. You will learn what the Bible teaches about these topics and much more as we discuss this material together. You may come to agree that **“all Scripture [everything in the Bible] is . . . beneficial.”**—2 Timothy 3:16.

This publication does not replace the Bible. Rather, it encourages you to examine the Bible for yourself. Therefore, we urge you to read the scriptures that are listed in these lessons and compare them with what you are learning.

DIG DEEPER

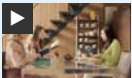
Consider how the Bible has helped people, how you can enjoy reading it, and why it is good to get help to understand it.

3. The Bible can guide us

The Bible is like a powerful light. We can use the Bible to show us how to make good decisions and to help us see what lies ahead.

Read Psalm 119:105, and then discuss these questions:

- How did the writer of this psalm view the Bible?
- How do you view the Bible?



VIDEO: *Never Give Up Hope!*
(1:48)

4. The Bible can answer our questions

One woman found that the Bible provided answers to questions that had troubled her for many years. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, what sort of questions did this woman have?
- How did studying the Bible help her?

The Bible encourages us to ask questions. **Read Matthew 7:7**, and then discuss the following:

- What questions do you have that the Bible may be able to answer?



VIDEO: *Bible Reading* (2:05)

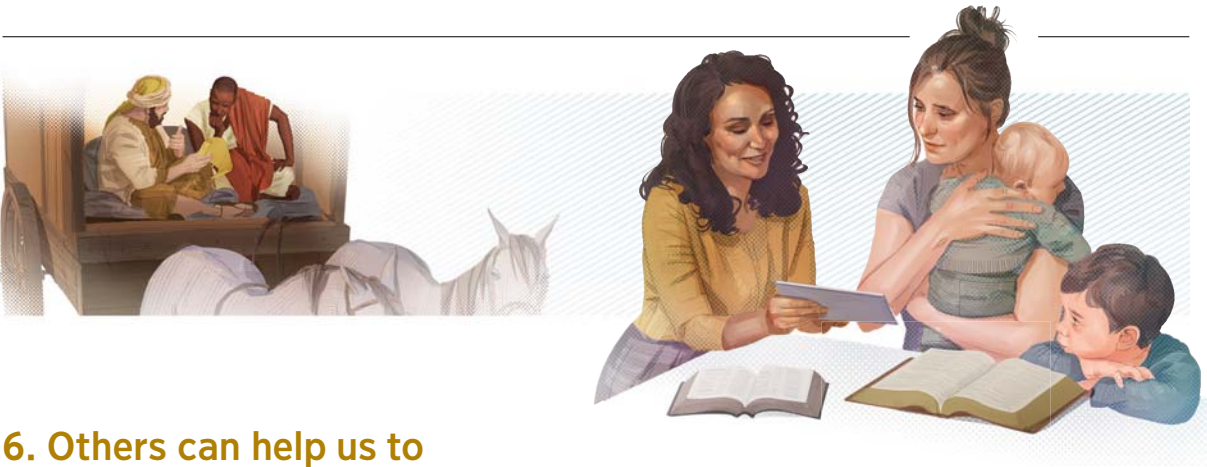
5. You can enjoy reading the Bible

Many people enjoy reading the Bible and are benefiting from it. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, how did the young people feel about reading in general?
- Why do they now feel differently about reading the Bible?

The Bible says it can give us instruction that comforts us and gives us hope. **Read Romans 15:4**, and then discuss this question:

- Does the Bible's promise of comfort and hope interest you?



6. Others can help us to understand the Bible

In addition to reading the Bible on their own, many have found that discussing it with others is helpful. **Read Acts 8:26-31**, and then discuss this question:

- How can we understand the Bible?—See verses 30 and 31.

The Ethiopian man needed help to understand the Scriptures. Many people today find it helpful to discuss the Bible with others

SOME PEOPLE SAY: “Studying the Bible is a waste of time.”

- What would you say? Why?

SUMMARY

The Bible offers advice for daily life, answers important questions, and gives people comfort and hope.

Review

- What kind of advice can we find in the Bible?
- What are some questions that the Bible answers?
- What would you like to learn from the Bible?

Lesson completed on

Goal

- Read the first part of the next lesson.
- Other:



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EXPLORE



Consider how the Bible's advice is practical today.

**“Bible Teachings
—Timeless Wisdom”**
(*The Watchtower* No. 1 2018)



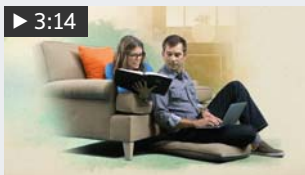
See how the Bible helped a man who had struggled with his emotions since childhood.

***How My Happy New
Life Began***



Examine the Bible's practical advice for family life.

**“12 Secrets of Successful
Families”** (*Awake!* No. 2 2018)



Learn how the Bible clears up a common misconception about who really rules the world.

Why Study the Bible?
—Full Length

The Scriptures—Inspired of God

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

Chords: Eb Eb/G Gb^o Fm7 Ab Bb9/Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb

God's Word shines like a bril - liant light,
 He pro - vides us with words in - spired,
 By these words from our God a - bove,

Chords: Ab C7/G Fm Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G F7sus4 F7 Bb7sus4 Bb7

Guides our feet through earth's dark night.
 Helps us learn what is know re quired.
 We have come to know his love.

Chords: Eb Bbm6/D^b C Fm Fm7 Bb Bb/Ab

If we fol - low it faith - ful - ly,
 Ho - ly writ - ings can mo - ti - vate,
 As we read in it ev - 'ry day,

Chords: Eb/G Eb Bb7/F Gm7 Eb/G B7/F[#] Fm7 Bb7 Eb

Sure - ly its truth will set us free.
 Show how to teach and set things straight.
 God's Word will keep us on the way.

FEBRUARY 2022

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) February 2022 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2021 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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COVER PICTURE:

Christians from Judea fled across the Jordan River to the city of Pella. Those who had reached the city earlier are distributing food supplies to fellow Christians who have just arrived (See study article 9, paragraph 13)

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211007

"I Want To"

(Luke 5:13)

Chords: F Bb/D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

Kind and pa - tient, per - fect in love, Was
We now try to fol - low his way In

Chords: Dm C/E F F/A Bb Dm C Am/C C7/Bb

Christ, who came down from a - bove. He took
all of our deal - ings each day. We are

Chords: F/A Fma7/A Bb C Am/C C7 Dm Gm

care of our and needs With words and by deeds; He
lov - ing and kind To all whom we find; We

Chords: C/E F Dm C/E C Am Bb

gave of his time and his love.
help them to learn and o - bey.

"I Want To"

F B \flat /D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

He would keep the low - ly in mind By
We re - spond to friends when in need;

Dm C/E F F/A B \flat Dm C Am/C C/B \flat

heal - ing the sick, deaf, and blind. To his
love them in word and in deed. So if

F/A Fma7/A B \flat C/B \flat B \flat C C7 Dm Gm

roy - al com - mis - sion he proved true And
wid - ows and or - phans should ask you, Then

F/A Gm/B \flat Dm C C7 C7/F F

will - ing - ly said: "I want to."
read - i - ly say: "I want to."

SONG 17

“I Want To”

PREVIEW

Jesus always put the welfare of others ahead of his own. In this article, we will consider ways in which we can imitate his example. We will also consider how imitating Jesus' self-sacrificing attitude will bring us long-lasting benefits.

Imitate Jesus by Serving Others

“There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.”—ACTS 20:35.

LONG ago, the Bible foretold that God's people would “offer themselves willingly” in Jehovah's service under the direction of his Son. (Ps. 110:3) That prophecy is certainly being fulfilled today. Each year, Jehovah's zealous servants devote hundreds of millions of hours to the preaching work. They do so voluntarily and at their own expense. They also take time to support their fellow believers physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Appointed brothers spend countless hours preparing meeting parts and shepherding fellow believers. What is the motivation behind all this work? It is love—love for Jehovah and love for neighbor.—Matt. 22:37-39.

² Jesus set an outstanding example in putting the interests of others ahead of his own. We are trying our best to follow his footsteps. **(Read Romans 15:1-3.)** Those who imitate him will reap benefits. Jesus said: “There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.”—Acts 20:35.

³ In this article, we will review some of the sacrifices that Jesus made to serve others and we will consider how we can imitate his example. We will also discuss how we can increase our desire to serve others.

1. What fine spirit do we see among Jehovah's people?
2. As described at Romans 15:1-3, what example did Jesus set?
3. What will we consider in this article?

IMITATE JESUS' EXAMPLE

4 *Jesus gave of himself even when he was tired.* Think of Jesus' reaction when a multitude of people went to meet him on a mountainside, likely near Capernaum. Jesus had spent the whole night in prayer. He must have been very tired, but when he saw the crowds, his heart went out to the poor and the sick among them. He not only healed them but also delivered one of the most motivating public discourses of all time—the Sermon on the Mount.—Luke 6:12-20.

5 *How family heads are imitating Jesus.* Imagine this scenario: At the end of a long day's work, a family head arrives home exhausted. Although he is tempted to cancel the Family Worship session scheduled for that evening, he begs Jehovah for the strength to conduct the study. Jehovah answers his prayer, and

4. How did Jesus put the needs of others ahead of his own?

5. How are family heads imitating Jesus' self-sacrificing attitude when they are tired?

the study is held as usual. The children learn an important lesson that evening, namely, that for their parents, spiritual things take priority over everything else.

6 *Jesus was generous with his personal time.* Can you imagine how Jesus felt when he learned that his friend John the Baptizer had been beheaded? Jesus must have been deeply saddened. The Bible says: "At hearing [about the death of John], Jesus departed from there by boat into an isolated place to be alone." (Matt. 14:10-13) We can understand why he wanted to be by himself. Many of us prefer to grieve in private. But for Jesus, that was not to be. A large crowd arrived at that isolated place before he did. How did Jesus react? He thought about the needs of the crowd, and he "was moved with pity" for them. He could see that they desperately needed spiritual refreshment, and he was quick to fill that need. In fact, "he started to

6. Give an example of how Jesus sacrificed his personal time to help others.

Despite being tired,
how did Jesus react
when a crowd came
to him?

(See paragraph 4)





In what ways can we imitate Jesus' self-sacrificing spirit in our life?

(See paragraph 5)

teach them [not a few things, but] many things.”—Mark 6:31-34; Luke 9:10, 11.

⁷ **How loving elders imitate Jesus.** We deeply appreciate the work that our self-sacrificing elders do in our behalf! Much of that work is unseen by the congregation in general. For example, when there is a medical emergency, members of the Hospital Liaison Committee rush to the aid of their fellow believers. Often such emergencies arise in the middle of the night! But moved with compassion for their brother or sister in distress, those dear elders, along with their families, put the interests of their fellow believers ahead of their own.

⁸ Elders also share in the construction

7-8. Give an example that shows how loving elders imitate Jesus when a need arises.

of Kingdom Halls and other facilities as well as in disaster relief. And much could be said about the countless hours elders in our own congregation spend on instructing, encouraging, and supporting us. All these brothers and their families deserve our sincere commendation. May Jehovah be with the spirit they show! Of course, like everyone else, elders need to be balanced. They should not spend so much time in such theocratic activities that the well-being of their family suffers.

HOW TO CULTIVATE A SELF-SACRIFICING SPIRIT

⁹ **Read Philippians 2:4, 5.** Granted, not all of us are elders, but all of us can

9. According to Philippians 2:4, 5, what mental attitude should all Christians develop?

learn to imitate Jesus' self-sacrificing spirit. The Bible says that he "took a slave's form." (Phil. 2:7) Think of the significance of that statement. A valued slave, or servant, would look for opportunities to please his master. As a slave of Jehovah and a servant to your brothers, no doubt you desire to become even more useful to Jehovah and to your fellow believers. You can do so by considering the following suggestions.

¹⁰ **Analyze your attitude.** Ask yourself such questions as these: 'How willing am I to make personal sacrifices to help others? For example, how do I respond if I am asked to visit an elderly brother in a nursing home or to take an older sister to the meetings? Am I quick to offer my help when there is a need for volunteers to clean a convention site or to maintain the Kingdom Hall?' Jehovah is pleased when we unselfishly give of our time and resources—all of which are dedicated to him—to assist others. If we see the need to improve, what can we do?

¹¹ **Pray earnestly to Jehovah.** Suppose you discern that you need to improve in some aspect, but you lack the motivation to make the necessary changes. In that case, turn to Jehovah in earnest prayer. Be honest. Tell Jehovah how you feel, and ask him to give you "both the desire and the power to act."—Phil. 2:13.

10. What questions can we ask ourselves?

11. How can prayer help us to cultivate a self-sacrificing spirit?

¹² If you are a young, baptized brother, ask Jehovah to help you cultivate the desire to be of greater service to the congregation. In some countries, there are more elders than there are ministerial servants, and many of those ministerial servants are middle-aged or older. As the organization keeps growing in size, we need more young brothers to help us look after Jehovah's people. If you are willing to serve wherever you are needed, you will be happy. Why? Because you will please Jehovah, you will gain a good reputation, and you will have the satisfaction that comes from helping others.

¹³ **Be alert to the needs of others.** The apostle Paul admonished the Hebrews: "Do not forget to do good and to share what you have with others, for God is well-pleased with such sacrifices." (Heb. 13:16) That was practical advice! Not long after receiving this letter, Christians in Judea had to leave their homes, their businesses, and their unbelieving relatives and had to "begin fleeing to the mountains." (Matt. 24:16) At that time, there was no doubt an urgent need for them to help one another. If prior to this they had been applying Paul's advice to share what they had with one another, they would have found it easier to adapt to their new way of life.

¹⁴ Our brothers and sisters may not always let us know about their needs. For

12. What need could a young, baptized brother fill?

13-14. What practical steps can we take to help our brothers and sisters? (See cover picture.)



example, a sister falls asleep in death, leaving behind her grieving husband. Does our brother need help with meals, transportation, or household chores? He may not say anything for fear of imposing on us. But he may deeply appreciate it if we take the initiative and offer to provide the needed assistance. We should not assume that somehow everything will be taken care of or that the one who is in need will always let us know how we can help. Ask yourself, ‘If I were in such a situation, what help would I appreciate receiving?’

¹⁵ **Be approachable.** No doubt you know brothers and sisters in your congregation who are always ready to help others. They never make us feel that we are imposing on them. We know that we can count on them when a need arises, and we would love to be just like them! Alan, an elder in his 40’s, wants to be approachable. Reflecting on Jesus’ example, Alan says: “Jesus was busy, but people of all ages were drawn to him and felt comfortable asking him for help. They saw him as a man who really cared about them. I wholeheartedly want to reflect Jesus’ attitude and be known as someone who is approachable, warm, and caring.”

¹⁶ We should not be discouraged if we fail to imitate Jesus perfectly. (Jas. 3:2) A student artist cannot perfectly imitate the work of a master artist. But as the student learns from his mistakes

15. To be self-sacrificing, what must we be resolved to do?

16. How can applying Psalm 119:59, 60 help us to follow Jesus’ example closely?

By imitating Jesus’ self-sacrificing attitude, elders set an example for young ones to follow
(See paragraph 17)

and strives to follow the example of the master artist as closely as possible, he will keep improving. Similarly, if we act on what we have learned through personal Bible study, doing our best to correct any flaws we may have, we can successfully follow the model that Jesus left for us.—**Read Psalm 119:59, 60.**

BENEFITS OF BEING SELF-SACRIFICING

¹⁷ Our self-sacrificing attitude can be contagious. An elder named Tim says: “We have young brothers who have progressed and have been appointed as ministerial servants—some at a very young age—in part because they imitated the willing-to-serve attitude that they saw in others. Their unselfish efforts help our congregation and provide more support to the elders.”

17-18. As we imitate Jesus’ self-sacrificing attitude, what benefits will result?

¹⁸ We live in a world that is dominated by selfishness. But Jehovah’s people stand out as different. We have been touched by the self-sacrificing spirit of Jesus, and we are determined to follow his example. No, we cannot follow his steps perfectly, but we can “follow his steps closely.” (1 Pet. 2:21) As we do our best to imitate Jesus’ self-sacrificing attitude, we too will experience the joy of gaining Jehovah’s approval.

PICTURE DESCRIPTION **Page 24:** A young brother, Dan, observes how two elders visit his father in the hospital. Dan is influenced by the loving example that the elders set. He is also moved to be alert to the needs of others in the congregation. Another young brother, Ben, observes the concern that Dan shows. Dan’s example encourages Ben to help with cleaning the Kingdom Hall.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- In what ways did Jesus serve others?
- How can we imitate Jesus’ example?
- What steps can we take to cultivate a self-sacrificing spirit?

Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

C/E C/G C G7sus4 C C/B F/A G/B
 What love Je - ho - vah showed, What good - ness from him flowed,
 Je - ho - vah's Word, he said, Sus - tained his life like bread.
 Like Je - sus, may our days Pro - vide Je - ho - vah praise,

G G/F C/E F C/G F6/A G/B F/C C
 When for all man - kind he of - fered his First - born.
 It gave him wis - dom and knowl - edge and in - sight.
 And may his foot - steps be - come our own road - way.

C/E Dm11 C Bm11 E7 Am Cma7/G Fma7 C/E Dm7
 Christ took on hu - man form— The Son of man was born—
 His Fa - ther's will - ing slave, A mod - el Je - sus gave;
 Let Je - sus' mod - el be Our path e - ter - nal - ly,

G7 G/D G/F Em7 C/E F C/G G13sus4 G7 C
 By his ex - am - ple, God's name he a - dorned.
 To please his Fa - ther would bring him de - light.
 And then God's fa - vor we'll know day by day.