

## Saturday, May 7

*No man can come to me unless the Father . . . draws him.—John 6:44.*

We have the unseen treasure of “working together” with Jehovah and the heavenly part of his organization. (2 Cor. 6:1) We do so whenever we share in the disciple-making work. Paul said of himself and those who share in this work: “We are God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) When we participate in the Christian ministry, we are also Jesus’ fellow workers. Recall that after commanding his followers to “make disciples of people of all the nations,” Jesus said: “I am with you.” (Matt. 28:19, 20) And what about the angels? What a blessing it is to be directed by angels as we declare “everlasting good news . . . to those who dwell on the earth”! (Rev. 14:6) With such heavenly support, what is being accomplished? As we sow the Kingdom message, some seeds fall on receptive hearts and grow. (Matt. 13:18, 23) Who causes those seeds of truth to grow and become fruitful? Jesus explains that in today’s text. *w20.05 30 ¶14-15*

## Sunday, May 8

*Stop being molded by this system of things.—Rom. 12:2.*

Millions of families today have been divided by divorce. Even families who stay in the same house may become virtual strangers. “Mom, dad, and the kids are all disconnected from each other and connected to a computer screen, tablet, smartphone, or video game console,” says one family counselor. “Although these families live under the same roof, they barely know each other.” We do not want to be molded by the world’s loveless spirit. Instead, we

need to cultivate tender affection not only for our family members but also for those who are related to us in the faith. (Rom. 12:10) What is tender affection? It is a term that specifically describes the warm friendship between close family members. That is the kind of love we should cultivate for our spiritual family, our Christian brothers and sisters. When we show tender affection, we help maintain the unity that is a vital part of true worship.—Mic. 2:12. *w21.01 20 ¶1-2*

## Monday, May 9

*Unify my heart to fear your name.—Ps. 86:11.*

A sports team that is united is more likely to have success than one that is not. Your heart can be like that successful team if your thoughts, desires, and emotions are united in serving Jehovah. Remember, Satan would love to divide your heart. He wants your thoughts, desires, and emotions to be at odds and in conflict with Jehovah’s standards. You, however, need your heart to be whole in order for you to serve Jehovah. (Matt. 22:36-38) Never let Satan divide your heart! Pray to Jehovah as did David: “Unify my heart to fear your name.” Make it your aim to live up to that prayer. Each day, be determined that your decisions, from small to great, show that you hold Jehovah’s holy name in profound awe. In so doing, as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, you will reflect well on that name. (Prov. 27:11) And all of us will be able to say, along with the prophet Micah: “We will walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever.”—Mic. 4:5. *w20.06 13 ¶17-18*

## Tuesday, May 10

*He will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction.—Dan. 11:44.*

This attack by the king of the north, acting along with the rest of the world's governments, provokes the Almighty and brings on the war of Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14, 16) At that time, the king of the north, along with the rest of the nations that make up Gog of Magog, comes to his end, and there will be “no helper for him.” (Dan. 11:45) The very next verse in Daniel’s account gives more details about how the king of the north and his allies will come to their end and how we will be saved. (Dan. 12:1) What does this verse mean? Michael is another name for our ruling King, Christ Jesus. He has been “standing in behalf” of God’s people since 1914 when his Kingdom was established in the heavens. In the near future, he will “stand up,” or take significant action, at the war of Armageddon. That battle will be the final event in what Daniel calls the greatest “time of distress” in history.—Rev. 6:2; 7:14. *w20.05 15-16 ¶15-17*

## Wednesday, May 11

*Joseph was taken down to Egypt.  
—Gen. 39:1.*

While a slave and later in prison, Joseph had limited options and freedom of movement. How did he keep his balance? Instead of focusing on what he was no longer able to do, he diligently applied himself to the work he was assigned to do. Joseph kept Jehovah as the most important Person in his life. In turn, Jehovah blessed everything Joseph did. (Gen. 39:21-23) We are reminded that this world is cruel and that peo-

ple will treat us unjustly. Even a fellow believer may hurt us. But if we view Jehovah as our Rock, or Refuge, we will not lose heart or stop serving him. (Ps. 62:6, 7; 1 Pet. 5:10) Recall, too, that Joseph may have been about 17 when Jehovah dealt with him in a special way. Obviously, Jehovah has confidence in young servants of his. Today, many young ones are like Joseph. They too have faith in Jehovah. Some of them have even been unjustly imprisoned because they would not compromise their loyalty to God.—Ps. 110:3. *w20.12 16 ¶3; 17 ¶5, 7*

## Thursday, May 12

*They summoned the apostles, flogged them, and ordered them to stop speaking on the basis of Jesus’ name.—Acts 5:40.*

The apostles Peter and John viewed it as an honor to be persecuted for following Jesus and sharing his teachings. (Acts 4:18-21; 5:27-29, 41, 42) The disciples had no reason to feel ashamed. In the long run, those humble first-century Christians did more good for mankind than any of their opposers did. For example, the inspired books written by some of those Christians continue to give help and hope to millions of people. And the Kingdom they promoted not only is now in existence but will soon rule all of mankind. (Matt. 24:14) By comparison, the great political power that persecuted the Christians has collapsed into the ash heaps of history, whereas those loyal disciples are now kings in heaven. Their opposers, however, are dead; and if they are ever resurrected, they will be subjects of the Kingdom that was promoted by the Christians whom they hated.—Rev. 5:10. *w20.07 15 ¶4*

## Friday, May 13

*[Abraham] was awaiting the city having real foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

—Heb. 11:10.

Abraham had such strong faith in God's promises that it was as if he could see the Anointed One, or Messiah, who would be King of God's Kingdom. For this reason, Jesus could tell the Jews in his day: "Abraham your father rejoiced greatly at the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced." (John 8: 56) Clearly, Abraham knew that his descendants would form a Kingdom that had Jehovah's backing, and he was willing to wait for Jehovah to fulfill that promise. How did Abraham show that he was waiting for the city, or Kingdom, designed by God? First, Abraham did not join himself to any earthly kingdom. He remained a nomad, choosing not to settle down and give his support to a human king. In addition, Abraham did not try to set up his own kingdom. Instead, he kept obeying Jehovah and waited for Him to fulfill His promise. In doing so, Abraham showed extraordinary faith in Jehovah. *w20.08 3 ¶4-5*

## Saturday, May 14

*The one who has died has been acquitted from his sin.—Rom. 6:7.*

Jehovah promises that no one living under Christ's rule will say: "I am sick." (Isa. 33:24) Thus, those who are raised from the dead will be re-created with healthy bodies. However, they will not immediately be perfect. If they were, they might seem unfamiliar to their loved ones. It seems that all mankind will gradually grow to perfection during the Thousand Year Reign of Christ. It

is only at the end of the thousand years that Jesus will hand the Kingdom back to his Father. Then the Kingdom will have accomplished its work completely, including the raising of mankind to a perfect state. (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 20:1-3) Imagine what it will be like to greet your loved ones again. Will the joy you feel make you laugh or cry? Will you fill the air with songs of praise to Jehovah? One thing is certain, you will feel intense love for your caring Father and his unselfish Son because of the wonderful gift of the resurrection. *w20.08 16-17 ¶9-10*

## Sunday, May 15

*Each one has his own gift from God, one in this way, another in that way.—1 Cor. 7:7.*

The apostle Paul encouraged Christians to consider whether they could serve Jehovah as single people. (1 Cor. 7:8, 9) Certainly Paul did not look down on single Christians. In fact, he chose young Timothy, a single brother, to care for weighty assignments. (Phil. 2:19-22) Obviously, then, it would be wrong to think that a brother is more qualified or less qualified based solely on whether he is married or not. (1 Cor. 7:32-35, 38) Neither Jesus nor Paul taught that Christians must marry or that they must remain single. What, then, can we say about marriage and singleness? *The Watchtower* of October 1, 2012, stated it nicely when it said: "Really, both [marriage and singleness] can be described as gifts from God. . . . Jehovah does not view [singleness] as a cause for shame or grief." With this in mind, we need to respect the place of single brothers and sisters in the congregation. *w20.08 28 ¶8-9*

## Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:**  
(10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

1Sa 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account? (w05 3/15 24 ¶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 min.) 1Sa 30:1-10 (2)


**APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the

audience the questions that appear in the video.

**Return Visit:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (8)

**Return Visit:** (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study in lesson 01. (16)


**LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS**
**Song 43**

**Become Jehovah’s Friend—Pray Anytime:**  
(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why should you pray to Jehovah? When are some good times to pray to him? What can you say to him in prayer?

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*lff* lesson 03



## Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

**FOR MEDITATION:** When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



# Jehovah Is Our Refuge

(Psalm 91)

C7 F F/A Dm

Je - ho - vah is our ref - uge, Our  
Though thou - sands will have fall - en And  
He'll keep us and pro - tect us From

Bb C7/G Gm C C7 F F/A

God in whom we trust. His shad - ow is our  
man - y at our side, The righ - teous and the  
snares a - long our way, From ter - rors in the

Dm Gm/Bb Gm D/A Gm/Bb C7 C13

shel - ter; Re - main in it we must. His  
meek ones Will nev - er be de - nied. So  
night - time, And ar - rows by the day. Yes,

F F/A Ab°

faith - ful ones he will de - fend, On  
in our hearts we need not fear; Ca -  
there will be no cause for dread, No

# Jehovah Is Our Refuge

Gm D7/A Gm/Bb G7/B C G C7

this we know we can de - pend. Je -  
lam - i - ty we will not come near. From  
place where we will fear to tread. Je -

F Dm Gm/Bb D/A

ho - vah is a strong - hold, Ev - er  
dan - ger he will shield us, For be -  
ho - vah is our ref - uge, Ev - er

Gm Eb7/G C7/G Am/C C7 F

faith - ful, loy - al, and just.  
neath God's wings - we'll re - side.  
guard - ing us on our way.

eat.” However, his servants and also the woman kept urging him. Finally he listened to them and got up from the ground and sat on the bed. **24** The woman had a fattened calf in the house, so she quickly slaughtered\* it and took flour and kneaded dough and baked it into unleavened bread. **25** She served them to Saul and his servants, and they ate. After that they rose up and left during the night.<sup>a</sup>

**29** The Phi-lis'tines<sup>b</sup> assembled all their armies at A'phek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring in Jez're-el.<sup>c</sup> **2** And the lords of the Phi-lis'tines were passing by with their hundreds and their thousands, and David and his men were marching at the rear with A'chish.<sup>d</sup> **3** But the princes of the Phi-lis'tines said: “Why are these Hebrews here?” A'chish replied to the princes of the Phi-lis'tines: “This is David, the servant of King Saul of Israel, who has been with me for a year or more.<sup>e</sup> I have not found any fault in him from the day he deserted to me until today.” **4** But the princes of the Phi-lis'tines became indignant at him, and they said to him: “Make the man go back.<sup>f</sup> Let him return to the place where you assigned him. Do not let him go down with us into the battle, so that he will not turn against us during the battle.<sup>g</sup> For what better way to put himself in favor with his lord than with the heads of our men? **5** Is this not the David about whom they sang when they danced, saying:

‘Saul has struck down his thousands,  
And David his tens of thousands?’<sup>h</sup>

**6** So A'chish<sup>i</sup> summoned David and said to him: “As surely

CHAP. 28

a 1Sa 28:8

CHAP. 29

b 1Sa 28:1

c Jos 19:17, 18  
1Sa 29:11

d 1Sa 28:2

e 1Sa 27:7, 12

f 1Ch 12:19

g 1Sa 14:21

h 1Sa 18:7  
1Sa 21:11

i 1Sa 21:10  
1Sa 27:2

Second Col.

a 1Sa 28:2

b 1Sa 27:11, 12

c 1Sa 29:3, 9

d 1Sa 27:12

e Jos 19:17, 18  
1Sa 29:1

CHAP. 30

f Jos 15:21, 31  
1Sa 27:5, 6

g Ge 36:12  
Ex 17:14  
1Sa 15:2  
1Sa 27:8

h 1Sa 27:3

as Jehovah is living, you are upright, and I am pleased to have you go on the campaign with my army,<sup>a</sup> for I have not found any fault with you from the day you came to me until today.<sup>b</sup> But the lords do not trust you.<sup>c</sup> **7** So return in peace, and do not do anything to displease the lords of the Phi-lis'tines.” **8** However, David said to A'chish: “Why, what have I done? What fault have you found in your servant from the day that I came to you until today? Why should I not come with you and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?” **9** A'chish answered David: “From my standpoint, you have been as good as an angel of God.<sup>d</sup> But the princes of the Phi-lis'tines have said, ‘Do not let him go up with us into the battle.’ **10** Now get up early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came with you; rise up and leave early in the morning as soon as it is light.”

**11** So David and his men rose up early in the morning to return to the land of the Phi-lis'tines, and the Phi-lis'tines went up to Jez're-el.<sup>e</sup>

**30** When David and his men came to Zik'lag<sup>f</sup> on the third day, the A-mal'ek-ites<sup>g</sup> had made a raid on the south\* and on Zik'lag, and they had attacked Zik'lag and burned it with fire. **2** They had taken captive the women<sup>h</sup> and all who were in it, from the smallest to the greatest. They had not killed anyone, but they had carried them off and gone on their way. **3** When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been carried off captive. **4** So David and the men with him began

**30:1** \*Or “the Negeb.”

**28:24** \*Or “sacrificed.”

weeping loudly until they had no strength left to weep. **5** David's two wives had also been carried off captive, A-hin'o-am of Jez're-el and Ab'i-gail the widow of Na'bal the Car'mel-ite.<sup>a</sup> **6** David was very distressed, because the men were talking of stoning him, for all the men\* had become very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself by Jehovah his God.<sup>b</sup>

**7** David then said to A-bi'a-thar<sup>c</sup> the priest, the son of A-him'e-lech: "Please bring the eph'od here."<sup>d</sup> So A-bi'a-thar brought the eph'od to David. **8** David inquired of Jehovah:<sup>e</sup> "Should I chase after this marauder band? Will I overtake them?" At this He said to him: "Go in pursuit, for you will certainly overtake them, and you will make the rescue."<sup>f</sup>

**9** David immediately set out with the 600 men<sup>g</sup> who were with him, and they went on as far as the Wadi\* Be'sor, where some of the men stayed behind. **10** David kept up the chase with 400 men, but the 200 men who were too tired to cross the Wadi Be'sor stayed behind.<sup>h</sup>

**11** They found an Egyptian man in the field and took him to David. They gave him food to eat and water to drink, **12** as well as a slice of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. After he ate, he regained his strength,\* for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. **13** David now asked him: "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" to which he said: "I am an Egyptian attendant, a slave of an A-mal'ek-ite man, but my master left me because I got

**30:6** \*Or "for the souls of all the people." **30:9** \*See Glossary. **30:12** \*Lit., "his spirit returned to him."

## CHAP. 30

a 1Sa 25:42  
1Sa 25:43

b Ps 18:6  
Ps 31:1,9  
Ps 34:19  
Ps 143:5

c 1Sa 22:20  
1Ki 2:26

d 1Sa 23:9

e Nu 27:21  
Jg 20:28  
1Sa 23:2,11  
1Sa 28:6

f 1Sa 30:18  
Ps 34:19

g 1Sa 23:13  
1Sa 27:2

h 1Sa 30:21

## Second Col.

a 2Sa 8:18  
1Ki 1:38  
1Ch 18:17  
Eze 25:16  
Zep 2:5

b Jos 14:13

c Ex 17:14

d 1Sa 30:3

e 1Sa 30:8  
Ps 34:19

f 1Sa 30:10

sick three days ago. **14** We made a raid on the south\* of the Cher'e-thites<sup>a</sup> and on the territory of Judah and on the south\* of Ca'leb,<sup>b</sup> and Zik'lag we burned with fire." **15** At this David said to him: "Will you lead me down to this marauder band?" He replied: "If you swear to me by God that you will not put me to death and that you will not hand me over to my master, I will lead you down to this marauder band."

**16** So he led him down to where they were spread out all over the land, eating and drinking and celebrating because of all the great spoil that they had taken from the land of the Philis'tines and the land of Judah. **17** Then David struck them down from the morning darkness until the following evening; not a man escaped<sup>c</sup> except 400 men who fled on camels. **18** David recovered all that the A-mal'ek-ites had taken,<sup>d</sup> and David rescued his two wives. **19** Nothing of theirs was missing, from the smallest to the greatest. They recovered their sons and daughters and the spoil;<sup>e</sup> David recovered everything that they had taken. **20** So David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before their own livestock. They said: "This is David's spoil."

**21** Then David came to the 200 men who had been too tired to go along with David and who had stayed behind by the Wadi Be'sor,<sup>f</sup> and they came out to meet David and the people with him. When David came near to the men, he asked them how they were. **22** However, every bad and worthless man among those who had gone with David said: "Since they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that

**30:14** \*Or "the Negeb."



we recovered except that each one may take his wife and his sons and go away." **23** But David said: "You must not do this, my brothers, with what Jehovah has given us. He protected us and gave into our hand the marauder band that came against us.<sup>a</sup> **24** Who would agree with you on this? The share of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the share of the one who sat by the baggage.<sup>b</sup> All will have a share together."<sup>c</sup> **25** And from that day forward, he kept it set as a regulation and a rule for Israel down to this day.

**26** When David returned to Zik'lag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah who were his friends, saying: "Here is a gift\* for you from the spoil of Jehovah's enemies." **27** He sent it to those who were in Beth'el,<sup>d</sup> to those in Ra'moth of the Neg'eb,<sup>e</sup> to those in Jat'tir,<sup>e</sup> **28** to those in A-ro'er, to those in Siph'moth, to those in Esh-te-mo'a,<sup>f</sup> **29** to those in Ra'cal, to those in the cities of the Je-rah'me-el-ites,<sup>g</sup> to those in the cities of the Ken'ites,<sup>h</sup> **30** to those in Hor'mah,<sup>i</sup> to those in Bor'a-shan, to those in A'thach, **31** to those in Heb'ron,<sup>j</sup> and to all the places that David and his men had frequented.

**31** Now the Phi-lis'tines were fighting against Israel.<sup>k</sup> And the men of Israel fled from before the Phi-lis'tines, and many fell slain on Mount Gil-bo'a.<sup>l</sup> **2** The Phi-lis'tines kept in close range of Saul and his sons, and the Phi-lis'tines struck down Jon'a-than,<sup>m</sup> A-bin'a-dab, and Mal'chi-shu'a, Saul's sons.<sup>n</sup> **3** The fighting grew fierce against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.<sup>o</sup>

30:26 \*Lit., "blessing." 30:27 \*Or "the south."

## CHAP. 30

- a 1Sa 30:8  
b 1Sa 30:10  
c Nu 31:27  
Jos 22:8  
Ps 68:12  
d Jos 19:4, 8  
e Jos 15:20, 48  
Jos 21:8, 14  
f Jos 15:20, 50  
Jos 21:8, 14  
g 1Sa 27:10  
1Ch 2:9  
h Jg 1:16  
1Sa 15:6  
i Nu 21:3  
Jos 19:1, 4  
Jg 1:17  
j Jos 14:13  
2Sa 2:1

## CHAP. 31

- k 1Sa 14:52  
1Sa 29:1  
l 1Sa 28:4  
2Sa 1:21  
1Ch 10:1-5  
m 1Sa 13:2  
n 1Ch 8:33  
o 2Sa 1:4, 6

## Second Col.

- a 1Sa 17:26  
2Sa 1:20  
b 1Ch 10:4  
c 1Sa 26:10  
1Ch 10:13  
d 1Sa 28:19  
1Ch 10:6, 7  
e 1Sa 13:6  
f 1Sa 28:4  
1Sa 31:1  
2Sa 1:6  
1Ch 10:8-12  
g 2Sa 1:20  
h Jg 16:23  
i Jos 17:11  
Jg 1:27  
j 1Sa 11:1, 9-11  
k 2Sa 21:12  
l 2Sa 2:4, 5

**4** Then Saul said to his armor-bearer: "Draw your sword and run me through with it, so that these uncircumcised men<sup>a</sup> may not come and run me through and deal ruthlessly\* with me." But his armor-bearer was unwilling, because he was very much afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell on it.<sup>b</sup> **5** When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead,<sup>c</sup> he too fell on his own sword and died with him. **6** Thus Saul, his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men died together on that day.<sup>d</sup> **7** When the people of Israel who were in the region of the valley\* and in the region of the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they began to abandon the cities and flee;<sup>e</sup> the Phi-lis'tines then came and occupied them.

**8** The next day, when the Phi-lis'tines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gil-bo'a.<sup>f</sup> **9** So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent word throughout the land of the Phi-lis'tines to spread the news<sup>g</sup> in the houses\* of their idols<sup>h</sup> and among the people. **10** Then they put his armor in the house of the Ash'to-reth images and fastened his corpse to the wall of Beth-shan.<sup>i</sup> **11** When the inhabitants of Ja'bish-gil'e-ad/ heard what the Phi-lis'tines had done to Saul, **12** all the warriors rose and traveled all night and took the bodies of Saul and his sons off the wall of Beth-shan. They returned to Ja'bish and burned them there. **13** Then they took their bones<sup>k</sup> and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Ja'bish,<sup>l</sup> and they fasted for seven days.

31:4 \*Or "abusively." 31:7 \*Or "low plain." 31:9 \*Or "temples."

## Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:**  
(10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

1Sa 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account? (w05 3/15 24 ¶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 min.) 1Sa 30:1-10 (2)


**APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the

audience the questions that appear in the video.

**Return Visit:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (8)

**Return Visit:** (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study in lesson 01. (16)


**LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS**
**Song 43**

**Become Jehovah’s Friend—Pray Anytime:**  
(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why should you pray to Jehovah? When are some good times to pray to him? What can you say to him in prayer?

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*lff* lesson 03



## Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

**FOR MEDITATION:** When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



**May 9-15 /** 1 Samuel 30-31

**Song 8 and Prayer**

**Opening Comments** (1 minute)

**Treasures From God's Word**

**"Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God":** (10 minutes)

**The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives**

**1 Samuel 30:1, 2:** When David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid on the south and on Ziklag, and they had attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire. They had taken captive the women and all who were in it, from the smallest to the greatest. They had not killed anyone, but they had carried them off and gone on their way.

**David and his men were bitterly distressed**

**1 Samuel 30:3-5:** When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down, and their wives and their sons and their daughters had been carried off captive. So David and the men with him began weeping loudly until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had also been carried off captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

**w06 8/1 28 paragraph 12**

David's fear of Jehovah did more than just restrain him from doing wrong. It strengthened him to act decisively and wisely under difficult circumstances. For a year and four months, David and his men took refuge from Saul at Ziklag in the Philistine countryside. (1 Samuel 27:5-7) Once while the men were away, marauding Amalekites burned the city and carried off all the men's wives, children, and flocks. Upon returning and seeing what had happened, David and his men wept. Grief quickly turned to bitterness, and David's men spoke of stoning him. Though distressed, David did not despair. (Proverbs 24:10) His fear of God moved him to turn to Jehovah, and he "took to strengthening himself by Jehovah." With God's help, David and his men overtook the Amalekites and recovered everything.—1 Samuel 30:1-20.

## David found strength in Jehovah

**1 Samuel 30:6:** David was very distressed, because the men were talking of stoning him, for all the men had become very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself by Jehovah his God.

### w12 4/15 30 paragraph 14

David faced many distressing circumstances in his life. (1 Samuel 30:3-6) His inspired words reveal that Jehovah knew his feelings. (Read Psalm 34:18; 56:8.) God knows our feelings as well. When we are “broken at heart” or “crushed in spirit,” he draws near to us. This in itself may give us a measure of comfort, as it did David, who sang: “I will be joyful and rejoice in your loving-kindness, in that you have seen my affliction; you have known about the distresses of my soul.” (Psalm 31:7) But Jehovah does more than just notice our distress. He sustains us by providing comfort and encouragement. One way he does this is by means of Christian meetings.

For Meditation: When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?

[Image:] A distressed brother holding to his chest a framed picture.

## Spiritual Gems

### 1 Samuel 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account?

**1 Samuel 30:23, 24:** But David said: “You must not do this, my brothers, with what Jehovah has given us. He protected us and gave into our hand the marauder band that came against us. Who would agree with you on this? The share of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the share of the one who sat by the baggage. All will have a share together.”

### w05 3/15 24 paragraph 8

This decision, based on Numbers 31:27, shows that Jehovah values those who serve in supportive roles in the congregation. Whatever we are doing, then, let us “work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men.”—Colossians 3:23.

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 30:1-10 (*th* study 2)

## Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:**  
(10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

1Sa 30:23, 24—What do we learn from this account? (w05 3/15 24 ¶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 min.) 1Sa 30:1-10 (2)


**APPLY YOURSELF  
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). Stop the video at each pause, and ask the

audience the questions that appear in the video.

**Return Visit:** (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. (8)

**Return Visit:** (5 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and start a Bible study in lesson 01. (16)


**LIVING  
AS CHRISTIANS**
**Song 43**

**Become Jehovah’s Friend—Pray Anytime:**  
(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why should you pray to Jehovah? When are some good times to pray to him? What can you say to him in prayer?

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*lff* lesson 03



## Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

**FOR MEDITATION:** When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



## **Return Visit: Suffering—1Jo 5:19**

Hi, Ian, it's good to find you home. In case you don't recall, my name is Francisco. And I'm Shane. Hello. Good to see you. You too, Ian. The last time we were here, we left the question, Why do we suffer? Notice the answer that the Bible gives here at 1 John 5:19. Shane, would you please read that? Sure. It says: "We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one." Thank you. So according to this verse, who controls the world? Is it God or someone else? Hmm. It says "the wicked one." Does that mean the Devil? Yes. He's the real ruler of the world. Do you think we're seeing evidence of his rule in the world around us? For sure, all of the crime and hatred that exists. Exactly. And in other parts of the Bible, it shows that Satan's influence has led to sin and death for all mankind. I've never heard that before, but it makes a lot of sense. You're right; it does. So God doesn't cause our suffering, but he does care about it. Maybe next time we can discuss how God feels about our suffering. You may find that the answer addresses some of those nagging questions you've had about God.



## Use Current Events in Your Ministry

In his ministry, Jesus drew lessons from current events. (Lu 13:1-5) You too can use current events to stir people's interest in the Kingdom message. After mentioning the high cost of living, a natural disaster, civil unrest, drug addiction, or something similar, ask a thought-provoking question. You might ask: "Do you think we'll ever see an end to . . . ?" or "What do you think is the solution to . . . ?" Then, share a Bible verse related to the topic. If the person shows interest, direct his attention to a video or a publication in our Teaching Toolbox. As we strive to touch the hearts of people in our territory, may we "do all things for the sake of the good news." —1Co 9:22, 23.

What topics may appeal to people in *your* territory?

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## SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

### Initial Call\*

**Question:** How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

**Scripture:** **Jas 1:13**

**Link:** Why do we suffer?

### Return Visit\*

**Question:** Why do we suffer?

**Scripture:** **1Jo 5:19**

**Link:** How does God feel about our suffering?

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



# A Prayer of Thanks

(Psalm 95:2)

C Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F/A G7/B Csus4 C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, we praise you and thank you.  
 Grate - ful we are that you show love and kind - ness.

C/B Gm6/Bb Asus4 A A7/G D7/F# Bm/D D7 G G7/F

Fa - ther, we make these ex - pres - sions in prayer.  
 Thank you for draw - ing us clos - er to you.

R.H.

C/E Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F/A G7/B Csus4 C

Trust - ing in you, we will serve you com - plete - ly,  
 Teach us to know you, and help us to serve you.

C/B C7/Bb F/A Fm6/Ab C/G G7 C

Know - ing we thrive un - der your ten - der care.  
 Show us the way to be loy - al and true.



# A Prayer of Thanks

Cm G7+5 G7 Fm/D G7 Csus4 Cm



Dai - ly our er - rors re - veal im - per - fec - tion.  
Thank - ful we are for your pow - er - ful spir - it.

Cm/Eb Fm/D G7/D G7 Ab7 G7sus4 G7



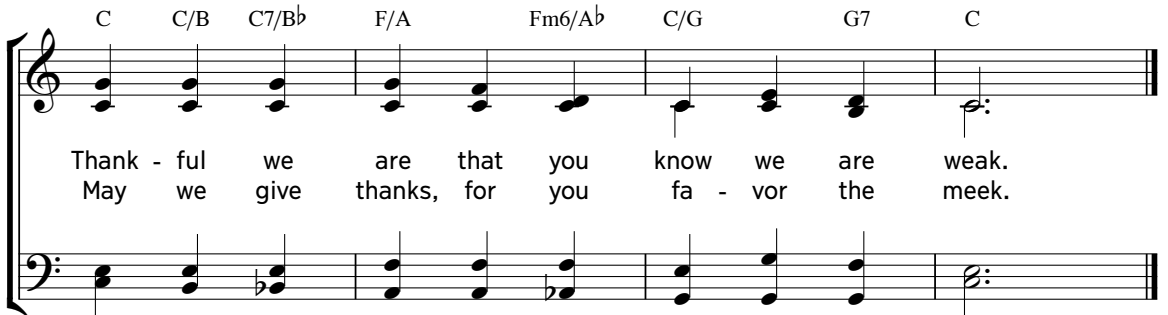
For our trans - gres - sions for - give - ness we seek.  
Grate - ful we are for the cour - age to speak.

C Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F/A G7/B Csus4 C



Thank - ful we are that our lives have been ran - somed.  
May we be hum - ble and hap - py to serve you;

C C/B C7/Bb F/A Fm6/Ab C/G G7 C



Thank - ful we are that you know we are weak.  
May we give thanks, for you fa - vor the meek.

## Song 8 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)


**TREASURES  
FROM GOD'S WORD**

**“Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God”:**  
(10 min.)

**Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)

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AS CHRISTIANS**
**Song 43**

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(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, ask selected young children: Why should you pray to Jehovah? When are some good times to pray to him? What can you say to him in prayer?

**Local Needs:** (10 min.)

**Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
*lff* lesson 03



## Strengthen Yourself by Jehovah Your God

The Amalekites burned Ziklag and took captives (1Sa 30:1, 2)

David and his men were bitterly distressed (1Sa 30:3-5; w06 8/1 28 ¶12)

David found strength in Jehovah (1Sa 30:6; w12 4/15 30 ¶14)

**FOR MEDITATION:** When I am distressed, whom do I look to for strength?



## **Become Jehovah's Friend**

### **Lesson 3: Pray Anytime**

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray, And Jehovah will hear what I say.

When each morning I wake, I remember to take, Just a moment to thank him for this day.

For the wonders I find on the way, In my mind, in my heart, I can pray.

Even when there's a crowd, And I can't pray out loud, Still Jehovah will hear me anyway.

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray, And Jehovah will hear what I say.

In the night, he will hear; When I call, he is near.

Anytime, anywhere, I can pray.

# Can You Trust the Bible?

The Bible makes many promises and offers much advice. Likely you are curious about what it teaches, but perhaps you are also cautious. Should you trust promises and advice from such an old book? Can you really believe what the Bible says about enjoying life now and in the future? Millions of people do. Let us see whether you can too.

## 1. Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?

The Bible claims to be a record of **“accurate words of truth.”** (Ecclesiastes 12:10) It relates real events that involved real people. (Read Luke 1:3; 3: 1, 2.) Many historians and archaeologists have confirmed the accuracy of important dates, people, places, and events described in the Bible.

## 2. Why can we say that the Bible is not out-of-date?

In many ways, the Bible has proved to be ahead of its time. For example, it touches on scientific subjects. Much of what it says on those subjects was controversial when it was written. However, modern science confirms that what the Bible says is accurate. It is **“always reliable, now and forever.”**  
—Psalm 111:8.

## 3. Why can we trust what the Bible says about the future?

The Bible contains prophecies\* that foretell **“the things that have not yet been done.”** (Isaiah 46:10) It accurately foretold numerous historical events long before they occurred. It also described today’s world conditions in striking detail. In this lesson, we will examine some of the Bible’s prophecies. Their accuracy is amazing!

---

\* Prophecies include messages from God about future events.

# DIG DEEPER

Examine how modern science agrees with the Bible, and investigate a few impressive Bible prophecies.

## 4. Science agrees with the Bible

In ancient times, most people believed that the earth rested upon something. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO:** *The Earth Hangs Upon Nothing* (1:13)

Notice what was recorded in the book of Job some 3,500 years ago. **Read Job 26:7**, and then discuss this question:

- Why is the statement that the earth is suspended “upon nothing” surprising?

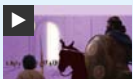
It was not until the 1800’s that the earth’s water cycle was well understood. Yet, notice what the Bible stated thousands of years ago.

**Read Job 36:27, 28**, and then discuss these questions:

- Why is this simple description of the water cycle remarkable?
- Do the scriptures you just read strengthen your trust in the Bible?



The Bible describes earth's water cycle



**VIDEO:** *The Bible Foretold the Fall of Babylon* (0:58)

## 5. The Bible foretold important events

**Read Isaiah 44:27–45:2**, and then discuss this question:

- What details did the Bible foretell 200 years before the fall of Babylon?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

History confirms that King Cyrus of Persia and his army conquered the city of Babylon in 539 B.C.E.\* They diverted the river that protected the city. After entering the city through gates that had been left open, they captured it without a battle. Today, over 2,500 years later, Babylon lies in ruins. Note what the Bible foretold.

Read **Isaiah 13:19, 20**, and then discuss this question:

- How does what happened to Babylon confirm the fulfillment of this prophecy?

\* B.C.E. means “Before the Common Era,” and C.E. means “Common Era.”



Babylon’s ruins in modern-day Iraq

## 6. The Bible foretold things we see today

The Bible refers to our time as “the last days.” (2 Timothy 3:1) Notice what the Bible foretold about this time period.

Read **Matthew 24:6, 7**, and then discuss this question:

- What significant conditions did the Bible say would exist during the last days?

Read **2 Timothy 3:1-5**, and then discuss these questions:

- What common attitudes of people during the last days did the Bible describe?
- Which of these attitudes have you observed?



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “The Bible is a book of myths and legends.”

- In your opinion, what is the strongest evidence that the Bible is trustworthy?

## SUMMARY

History, science, and prophecy all indicate that you can trust the Bible.

## Review

- Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?
- What are some areas where science agrees with the Bible?
- Do you think that the Bible foretells the future? Why, or why not?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- To strengthen your trust in the Bible, read or watch one of the items in the Explore section.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Are there scientific errors in the Bible?

**“Does Science Agree With the Bible?”** (Web article)



What are the facts about “the last days”?

**“6 Bible Prophecies You Are Seeing Fulfilled”**  
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2011)



Learn how Bible prophecies about the Greek Empire came true.

**Fortified by**  
**“the Prophetic Word”**



Discover how Bible prophecies changed one man’s view of the Bible.

**“For Me, God Did Not Exist”**  
(*The Watchtower* No. 5 2017)



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# The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

B $\flat$  Cm9/B $\flat$  Cm/B $\flat$

The proph - ets of old sought to learn of the Christ, The  
Our Lord has ap - point - ed a trust - wor - thy slave, Through

B $\flat$ ma7 Cm Dm/B $\flat$  Cm/B $\flat$  E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$ ma7 Cm Dm

hope of all groan - ing cre - a - tion. God's spir - it re - vealed that Mes -  
whom He gives food in due sea - son. The light of the truth has grown

Cm/B $\flat$  Dm/B $\flat$  Cm Dm Cm/B $\flat$  Cm

si - ah would come, Pro - vid - ing the means of sal - va - tion. The  
bright - er with time, Ap - peal - ing to heart and to rea - son. Our

Dm Cm/E $\flat$  Dm Cm/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ m/F C $\flat$ /G $\flat$

time has ar - rived, the Mes - si - ah now reigns, The proof of his pres - ence is  
path ev - er clear - er, our steps ev - er firm, We walk in the bright - ness of



# The Light Gets Brighter

Db/Ab      Cb/Gb   Bb/F      Cm/F      Dm/F      Cm/F

clear.                      How great is the fa - vor of learn - ing such things; In - to  
day.                      All thanks to Je - ho - vah, the Source of all truth, We most

Dm/F      Eb/F      F      *Chorus*  
Eb/F      Bb      F/A

these e - ven an - gels would peer!  
grate - ful - ly walk in his way.      Our path now be - comes ev - er

Gm7      Bb/F      Eb      Bb/D      C7sus4      F      F#°

bright - er;      We walk in the full light of day.      Be -

Gm      Bb/F      Ebma7      Cm/Eb      C7/E      Bb/F      Cm7/F      F7      Bb

hold what our God is re - veal - ing;      He guides us each step of the way.

MARCH 2022

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 2–JUNE 5, 2022

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Zechariah saw a vision of two olive trees supplying oil to a lampstand that had seven lamps (See study article 12, paragraph 6)

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211103

# Making Jehovah's Heart Glad

(Proverbs 27:11)

F F#° Gm C7 F

Great God, we've vowed to do your will;  
Your slave, your stew - ard here on earth,  
Im - part to us your ac - tive force,

F Fma7 Gm/E A7 Dm

In wis - dom your work we'll ful - fill,  
De - clares your great - ness and your worth  
That we may keep a faith - ful course

F7/C Bb Bb/D Db7b5 Db7 F/C

For then we know we'll have a part  
And feeds us nour - ish - ment when due,  
And bring forth fruit - age to your praise.

F#° Gm Bb/C C7 F

In mak - ing glad your lov - ing heart.  
To strength - en us your will to do.  
May we make glad your heart each day.

**SONG 49**

Making Jehovah's  
Heart Glad

**PREVIEW**

No matter what our background is, we can put on “the new personality.” To do so, we must continue to adjust our way of thinking and strive to be like Jesus. This article will consider examples of Jesus' thinking and actions. It will also show how we can continue to imitate him after we get baptized.

## Continue Putting On “the New Personality” After Baptism

*“Clothe yourselves with the new personality.”—COL. 3:10.*

WHETHER we have been baptized for just a few days or for many decades, all of us want to have the kind of personality that Jehovah loves. To be that type of person, we need to control our thinking. Why? Because our personality is largely shaped by our thoughts. If we regularly think about what appeals to our fleshly desires, we will say and do bad things. (Eph. 4:17-19) On the other hand, if we fill our mind with good thoughts, we will more likely speak and act in a way that pleases our Father, Jehovah.—Gal. 5:16.

<sup>2</sup> As mentioned in the preceding article, we cannot stop all bad thoughts from entering our mind. But we can choose not to act on such thoughts. Before we get baptized, we need to stop speaking and acting in a way that Jehovah hates. That is the first and most important step in stripping off the old personality. To please Jehovah fully, however, we must also obey the command: “Clothe yourselves with the new personality.” (Col. 3:10) In this article, we will answer the following questions: What is “the new personality”? How can we put on the new personality and keep it on?

### WHAT IS “THE NEW PERSONALITY”?

<sup>3</sup> “The new personality” is a way of thinking and acting that reflects Jehovah's personality. A person clothes

1. What primarily shapes our personality?
2. What questions will we consider in this article?
3. Based on Galatians 5:22, 23, what is “the new personality,” and how does a person clothe himself with it?



The more we learn to think like Jesus, the more successful we will be in reflecting his personality (See paragraphs 5, 8, 10, 12, 14)

himself with the new personality by manifesting the fruitage of God's spirit, allowing holy spirit to influence his thoughts, feelings, and actions. (**Read Galatians 5:22, 23.**) For example, he loves Jehovah and His people. (Matt. 22:36-39) Such a person maintains his joy even when coping with trials. (Jas. 1:2-4) He is a peacemaker. (Matt. 5:9) He is patient and kind when dealing with others. (Col. 3:13) He loves what is good and does it. (Luke 6:35) He proves by his actions that he has strong faith in his heavenly Father. (Jas. 2:18) He remains mild when provoked and exercises self-control when tempted.—1 Cor. 9:25, 27; Titus 3:2.

<sup>4</sup> To put on the new personality, we need to develop all the qualities mentioned at Galatians 5:22, 23 and in other Bible passages.\* These qualities are not like individual pieces of clothing that we

\* Galatians 5:22, 23 does not provide a complete list of the fine qualities that God's spirit can help us develop. For a discussion of this, see "Questions From Readers" in the June 2020 issue of *The Watchtower*.

4. To put on the new personality, can we develop the qualities mentioned at Galatians 5:22, 23 just one at a time? Explain.

put on one at a time. In fact, aspects of these qualities can be found in other qualities. For instance, if you truly love your neighbor, you will be patient with him and kind to him. And to be genuinely good, you must be mild and use self-control.

#### HOW CAN WE PUT ON THE NEW PERSONALITY?

<sup>5</sup> **Read 1 Corinthians 2:16.** To put on the new personality, we need to "have the mind of Christ." In other words, we must learn how Jesus thinks and then imitate him. Jesus displays the fruitage of God's spirit perfectly. Like a flawless mirror, he reflects Jehovah's qualities just as they are. (Heb. 1:3) The more we think like Jesus, the more we will act like him and the more successful we will be in reflecting his personality.—Phil. 2:5.

<sup>6</sup> Is it really possible for us to follow Jesus' example? We may think: 'Jesus is perfect. I will never be completely like

5. What does it mean to "have the mind of Christ," and why should we study Jesus' life? (1 Corinthians 2:16)

6. What facts should we keep in mind when trying to put on the new personality?

him!’ If you feel that way, remember these facts. First, you were designed to be like Jehovah and Jesus. So you can choose to imitate them, and you can succeed at least to some degree. (Gen. 1:26) Second, God’s holy spirit is the most powerful force in the universe. With its help, you can accomplish things that you could never do on your own. Third, Jehovah does not expect you to display the fruitage of the spirit perfectly now. In fact, our loving Father has set aside 1,000 years for those with an earthly hope to become perfect. (Rev. 20:1-3) What Jehovah requires of us now is to try our best and to rely on him for help.

<sup>7</sup> How, specifically, can we imitate Jesus? We will briefly examine four aspects of the fruitage of God’s spirit. In each case, we will see what we can learn from the way Jesus displayed those qualities. As we do, we will consider some questions that can help us analyze how well we have done with putting on the new personality.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus’ deep love for Jehovah moved him to make sacrifices for his Father and for us. (John 14:31; 15:13) Jesus proved the depth of his love for people by the way he lived his earthly life. Each day, he was loving and compassionate, even when some opposed him. A key way he showed his love for people was by teaching them about God’s Kingdom. (Luke 4:43, 44) Jesus also proved his self-sacrificing love for God and for men by willingly suffering an agonizing death

at the hands of sinners. He thus opened the way for all of us to gain everlasting life.

<sup>9</sup> We dedicated ourselves to Jehovah and got baptized because we love our heavenly Father. So, like Jesus, we should show love for Jehovah by how we treat people. The apostle John wrote: “The one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20) We can ask ourselves: ‘Have I developed a deep love for people? Am I compassionate when dealing with others, even if they are rude to me? Does love move me to use my time and resources to help others learn about Jehovah? Am I willing to do this even when most people do not appreciate my efforts or when they oppose me? Can I find ways to spend more time in the disciple-making work?’—Eph. 5:15, 16.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus was a peaceable man. When people treated him badly, he did not return evil for evil. But he did more than that. He took the initiative to make peace and encouraged others to settle their disputes. For example, he taught them that they must make peace with their brother if they wanted Jehovah to accept their worship. (Matt. 5:9, 23, 24) And he repeatedly helped the apostles to settle their dispute over which one among them was the greatest.—Luke 9:46-48; 22:24-27.

<sup>11</sup> To be a peacemaker, we need to do more than just avoid causing conflicts.

- 
7. What will we now consider?
  8. How did Jesus show love?

9. How can we imitate Jesus in showing love?
10. How was Jesus a peacemaker?
11. How can we be a peacemaker?

We need to take the initiative to make peace with others and to encourage our brothers and sisters to settle their differences. (Phil. 4:2, 3; Jas. 3:17, 18) We can ask ourselves these questions: ‘What am I willing to sacrifice in order to make peace with others? When a brother or a sister hurts my feelings, do I hold a grudge? Do I wait for the other person to take the initiative to restore peace, or do I take the first step, even if the other person seems to have caused the problem? When appropriate, do I encourage those who have a dispute to make peace with each other?’

<sup>12</sup> Jesus was kind. (Matt. 11:28-30) He showed kindness by being gentle and yielding, even under difficult circumstances. For instance, when a Phoenician woman begged him to heal her child, he declined her request at first, but when she showed great faith, he kindly healed her child. (Matt. 15:22-28) Although he was kind, Jesus was not overly sentimental. Sometimes he showed kindness by being firm with those he loved. For instance, when Peter tried to discourage Jesus from doing Jehovah’s will, Jesus rebuked him in front of the other disciples. (Mark 8:32, 33) He did this, not to humiliate Peter, but to train him and to warn the other disciples not to be presumptuous. No doubt Peter felt some embarrassment, but he benefited from the discipline.

<sup>13</sup> To be genuinely kind to those you love, at times you may have to speak frankly to them. When you do so, imi-

tate Jesus by basing your counsel on principles found in God’s Word. Be gentle. Assume the best about them, trusting that those who love Jehovah and love you will respond well to your caring counsel. Ask yourself these questions: ‘Do I have the courage to speak up when I see someone I love doing something wrong? If I do need to give counsel, do I speak kindly, or do I speak harshly? What is my motive for giving counsel? Do I offer it because I am irritated by the person, or am I acting in his best interests?’

<sup>14</sup> Jesus not only knows what is good but also does it. Jesus loves his Father, so he always does the right thing with the right motive. The quality of goodness becomes evident by the effect it has on others. It is an active quality that we can manifest by doing helpful deeds. It is not enough to know what is the right thing to do; we must do the right thing and with the right motive. Someone might ask, ‘Is it possible to do the right thing with the wrong motive?’ Yes, it is. For instance, Jesus spoke about those who gave alms to the poor but made sure that others knew about their gifts. Those seemingly good works were of little value to Jehovah.—Matt. 6:1-4.

<sup>15</sup> We can be genuinely good only if we do the right thing for unselfish reasons. So you might ask yourself: ‘Do I not only know what is the right thing to do but also follow through and actually do it? What is my motive for doing good things?’

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12. How did Jesus show kindness?

13. How can we be genuinely kind?

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14. How did Jesus display goodness?

15. How can we be genuinely good?



## HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR NEW PERSONALITY IN GOOD CONDITION?

<sup>16</sup> Let us not conclude that the work involved in putting on the new personality ends at baptism. We need to keep our beautiful “new garment” in good condition. In part, we can do that by looking for ways each day to display the fruitage of God’s spirit. Why? Because Jehovah is a God of action, and his spirit is an active force. (Gen. 1:2) So every aspect of the fruitage of the spirit can and must move us to action. For example, the disciple James wrote: “Faith without works is dead.” (Jas. 2:26) The same could be said of all the other aspects of the fruitage of God’s spirit. Each time we display them, we give evidence that God’s spirit is active in us.

<sup>17</sup> Even Christians who have been baptized for many years at times fail to display the fruitage of the spirit. The important thing, though, is not to give up. Consider this illustration. If you tore your favorite garment, would you immediately throw it out? No. Most likely

16. What should we do each day, and why?

17. How should we react when we fail to display the fruitage of the spirit?

you would carefully repair the damage if that is possible. And you would be more careful thereafter. Likewise, if on occasion you fail to act in a kind, patient, or loving way toward someone, do not become discouraged. A heartfelt apology can repair the damage, so to speak, and put you on the path to restoring your good relationship with the person. Be determined to do better in the future.

<sup>18</sup> How thankful we are to have the example set by Jesus! The more we imitate his thinking and attitude, the easier it will be for us to act like him. The more we act like Jesus, the better we will be at clothing ourselves with the new personality. In this study, we have looked at only four aspects of the fruitage of God’s spirit. Why not spend some time reviewing other aspects of the fruitage of the spirit and reflecting on how well you are displaying those qualities? You will find a list of articles on this topic in the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses* under the subject “Christian Life” and then “Fruitage of the Spirit.” You can be certain that if you do your part, Jehovah will help you to put on the new personality and keep it on.

18. Of what can we be certain?

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### DO YOU REMEMBER?

- What is “the new personality”?
- How can we put on the new personality?
- How can we keep the new personality in good condition?

# The Sort of Person I Should Be

(2 Peter 3:11)

Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

How can I re-pay you, what gift can I give To

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

thank you, Je-ho - vah, for the life that I live? I

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

look in my heart with your Word as my mir - ror; The

Bridge

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

per - son I see, may you help me see clear - er. My

# The Sort of Person I Should Be

Chords: Gbma7, Ab/Gb, Gbma7, Ab/Gb, Fm7, Cb/Db

life I have prom - ised in ser - vice to you, But

Chords: Gbma7, Ab/Gb, Gbma7, Bbm/G, C7sus4, C7, Fm

not from mere du - ty will I do what I do. Whole -

Chords: D°, Ebm11, Ebm, Gbm/A

souled and whole - heart - ed I serve you by

Chords: Db/Ab, Bbm/G, Gb/Ab, Fm/Ab

choice; May I be one more who makes you re - joice.

# The Sort of Person I Should Be

Ebm7/Ab Ab7 Db Bbm7 Gb Ebm7

Help me to ex-am-ine, and help me to see Just

Gb/Ab Ab/Gb Db/F F7b9b13/A Bbm7 Eb13sus4 Eb7

what sort of per-son you de-sire me to be. Those

Ebm Ab7/Eb Db/F Gb Ab Bbm9/11 Bbm

loy-al to you, you will loy-al-ly trea-sure; May

Gb Db/F Ebm11 Gb/Ab Ab7 Dbsus4 Db

I be a-mong those who bring your heart plea-sure.