

Monday, June 6

O Jehovah, your name endures forever.—Ps. 135:13.

Adam and Eve knew Jehovah's name, as well as vital truths about the One bearing that name. They knew him as the Creator, the One who gave them life, their lovely Paradise home, and a perfect mate. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18) However, would they continue to use their perfect minds to meditate on all that Jehovah had done for them? Would they keep building up their love and appreciation for the Person represented by that name? The answers became clear when God's enemy tested them. Using a serpent as his mouthpiece, Satan asked Eve a question: "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1) That question contained a subtle lie that was like hidden poison. What God had actually said was that they could eat from every tree, with one exception. (Gen. 2:9) Satan made it seem as if God were not generous. Eve may have wondered, 'Is God withholding something good?' *w20.06 3-4 ¶8-9*

Tuesday, June 7

Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely.—Col. 3:13.

Some of Jehovah's servants have felt hurt by a fellow believer. The apostle Paul recognized that at times we might have a valid "cause for complaint against" a brother or a sister. We may even have been treated unjustly. If we are not careful, we could become resentful. Bitterness may eventually cause a person to drift away from Jehovah's people. Pablo, a brother in South America, was falsely accused of wrongdoing

and, as a result, lost a privilege of service in the congregation. How did he react? "I got angry," says Pablo, "and I gradually drifted away from the congregation." Or a guilty conscience may torment a person who has broken God's law in the past, making him feel unworthy of God's love. Even if he was repentant and was shown mercy, he might feel that he is no longer good enough to be one of God's people. How do you feel about brothers and sisters who face situations like those just discussed? *w20.06 19 ¶6-7*

Wednesday, June 8

The shrewd one sees the danger and conceals himself.—Prov. 22:3.

We must learn to recognize situations that could harm us and then act to avoid the danger. (Heb. 5:14) For instance, we need to choose our recreation and entertainment wisely. Television shows and movies often portray immoral conduct. Such conduct offends God and will inevitably bring about harm. Accordingly, we avoid entertainment that could gradually undermine our love for God. (Eph. 5:5, 6) We must also discern the danger of false information spread by apostates, as they try to raise doubts about our brothers and Jehovah's organization. (1 Tim. 4:1, 7; 2 Tim. 2:16) Such misinformation could undermine our faith. We must avoid being fooled by this propaganda. Why? Because these types of stories are spread "by men who are corrupted in mind and deprived of the truth." Their goal is to start "arguments and debates." (1 Tim. 6:4, 5) They want us to believe their slander and develop wicked suspicions about our brothers. *w20.09 29 ¶13, 15*

Thursday, June 9

[Seek], not [your] own advantage, but that of the other person.
—1 Cor. 10:24.

A husband and a wife should treat each other with love and respect. (Eph. 5:33) The Bible teaches us to focus on giving rather than on receiving. (Acts 20:35) What quality will help a married couple to show love and respect? The answer is humility. Humility has helped many Christian couples find greater happiness in their marriage. For example, a husband named Steven says: "If you are a team, you will work together, especially when there are problems. Instead of thinking 'what is best for me?' you will think 'what is best for us?'" His wife, Stephanie, feels similarly. "Nobody wants to live with an opponent," she says. "When a conflict arises, we identify the problem. We then pray, do research, and talk it out. We attack the problem, not each other." Husbands and wives truly benefit when they do not think more of themselves than is necessary. *w20.07 3-4 ¶5-6*

Friday, June 10

I was making greater progress in Judaism than many of my own age in my nation.—Gal. 1:14.

Do not rely on your own strength or abilities when serving Jehovah. The apostle Paul was well-educated—he was taught by one of the most respected Jewish leaders of his day, a man named Gamaliel. (Acts 5:34; 22:3) And at one point, Paul had some influence in the Jewish community. (Acts 26:4) But Paul did not rely on himself. Paul gladly gave up the things that made him powerful by the world's standards. (Phil. 3:8; ftn.) Paul paid a price for be-

coming a follower of Christ. He was hated by his own nation. (Acts 23:12-14) And he was beaten and imprisoned by his fellow citizens, the Romans. (Acts 16:19-24, 37) In addition, Paul became painfully aware of his own limitations. (Rom. 7:21-25) But rather than allow his opponents or his own shortcomings to cripple him, he took "pleasure in weaknesses." Why? Because it was when he was weak that he saw God's power at work in his life.—2 Cor. 4:7; 12:10. *w20.07 16 ¶7-8*

Saturday, June 11

Whoever exercises faith in me . . . will do works greater than these.
—John 14:12.

The work of Kingdom preaching deserves our careful attention today. Jesus foretold that this work would expand in scope and continue long after his death. Following his resurrection, Jesus gave some of his disciples a miraculous catch of fish. He used that occasion to confirm that their assignment to be fishers of men was more important than any other endeavor. (John 21:15-17) Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, he informed his disciples that the witnessing work he had started would expand far beyond the borders of Israel. (Acts 1:6-8) Years later, Jesus gave a vision to the apostle John to show him what would take place "in the Lord's day." In it John saw this awe-inspiring event: Under angelic direction, "everlasting good news" was being preached to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people." (Rev. 1:10; 14:6) Clearly, Jehovah's will for us today is to share in this grand witnessing work until it is finished. *w20.09 9 ¶5*

Sunday, June 12

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac.—Heb. 11:17.

Abraham's family life was difficult. His beloved wife, Sarah, could not have children. For decades they had to deal with that bitter disappointment. Eventually, Sarah gave her servant girl, Hagar, to Abraham so that she could bear children for Abraham and Sarah. But when Hagar became pregnant with Ishmael, she began to despise Sarah. The situation became so difficult that Sarah chased Hagar away from home. (Gen. 16:1-6) Sarah finally became pregnant and gave Abraham a son whom he named Isaac. Abraham loved both of his sons, Ishmael and Isaac. But because of the bad way that Ishmael treated Isaac, Abraham was forced to send Ishmael and Hagar away. (Gen. 21:9-14) Later, Jehovah asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. (Gen. 22:1, 2; Heb. 11:17-19) In both cases, Abraham had to trust that Jehovah would eventually make things turn out well for his sons. *w20.08 4 ¶9-10*

Monday, June 13

Put on the new personality that was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty.—Eph. 4:24.

Imagine the joy that those who are resurrected will feel as they strip off their old personality and live according to God's righteous standards. Those who make these changes will experience a resurrection of life. On the other hand, those who rebel against God will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Par-

adise. (Isa. 65:20; John 5:28, 29) Under Kingdom rule, all of God's people will experience the truthfulness of what Proverbs 10:22 says: "It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, and He adds no pain with it." With Jehovah's spirit at work on them, God's people will become spiritually rich, that is, they will become more and more like Christ and will grow toward perfection. (John 13:15-17; Eph. 4:23) Each day they will become stronger, better people. What a joy life will be then!—Job 33:25. *w20.08 17 ¶11-12*

Tuesday, June 14

Make it your aim . . . to mind your own business.—1 Thess. 4:11.

We do well to keep in mind that some single Christians have made it a personal goal to remain unmarried. Other single Christians would like to marry, but they simply have not found the right person. Still others may have lost their mate in death. In any case, should those in the congregation feel the need to ask single Christians why they are not married or to offer to help them find a mate? If help is not requested, how might such offers make our single brothers and sisters feel? (1 Tim. 5:13) Our single brothers and sisters will be grateful if we value them based on their fine qualities and not on their marital status. Instead of feeling sorry for them, we do well to appreciate their faithfulness. As a result, our single brothers and sisters will never feel that we are saying to them: "I do not need you." (1 Cor. 12:21) Instead, they will know that we respect them and value their place in the congregation. *w20.08 29 ¶10, 14*



**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“David Showed Loyal Love”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

2Sa 10:4, 5—Why were Hanun’s actions such an insult to Israelite men? (*it-1* 266)

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.) 2Sa 9:1-13 (12)



**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (17)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 05 point 4 (13)



**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 116

Remember How Love Behaves—Is Kind:

(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then, ask the audience: How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? How can we show kindness and loyal love to others?

Organizational Accomplishments: (10 min.)

Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for June.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 07



David Showed Loyal Love

David searched for someone to whom he could show loyal love (2Sa 9:1; *w06* 6/15 14 ¶6)

David acted immediately to help Mephibosheth (1Sa 20:15, 42; 2Sa 9:5-7; *w05* 5/15 17 ¶12)

David assigned Ziba to care for Mephibosheth’s inheritance (2Sa 9:9, 10; *w02* 2/15 14 ¶10)

David did not forget his promise to Jonathan. We should show loyal love to fellow believers. —Ps 41:1, 2; Pr 19:17.



Ever Loyal

(Psalm 18:25)

Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb Fm11 Bb7/F Eb/G Ab

Ev - er loy - al to Je - ho - vah, Loy - al
 Ev - er loy - al to our broth - ers, Stick - ing
 Ev - er loy - al to their guid - ance When our

R.H.

Eb/Bb Gm Gm7 Ab C7sus4 C7

love we wish to show. As a
 close in times of need. Ev - er
 broth - ers lead the way. When they

Fm Gm11 C7/G Fm/Ab Bb/C C7

peo - ple, ded - i - cat - ed, His com -
 car - ing, al - ways trust - ing, Ev - er
 give us clear di - rec - tion, May we

R.H.

Fm Ab/Eb Dm11 G7

mands we want to know. His ad -
 kind in word and deed. We show
 loy - al - ly o - bey. Then the

Ever Loyal

Cm Ab Eb/G G7

vice will nev - er fail us, And his
hon - or to our broth - ers And re -
bless - ing from Je - ho - vah Will be

R.H.

Cm Eb/F F9 Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G

coun - sel we o - bey. He is
spect - them from the us heart. Ev - er
ours to make us strong. When we're

Fm7 Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G Cm9 Cm

loy - al; we can trust him. From his
loy - al, ev - er clos - er, From their
loy - al, ev - er faith - ful, To Je -

R.H. R.H.

Fm7 Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb

side we'll nev - er stray.
side we'll nev - er part.
ho - vah we'll be - long.

R.H.

and defeated Had-ad-e'zer (for Had-ad-e'zer had often fought against To'i), and he brought articles of silver, gold, and copper. **11** King David sanctified these to Jehovah, along with the silver and the gold that he had sanctified from all the nations that he had subdued.^a **12** from Syria and Mo'ab,^b from the Am-mon-ites, the Phi-lis'tines,^c the A-mal'ek-ites,^d and from the spoil of Had-ad-e'zer^e the son of Re'hob the king of Zo'bah. **13** David also made a name for himself when he came back from striking down 18,000 E'dom-ites in the Valley of Salt.^f **14** He established garrisons in E'dom. In all E'dom he established garrisons, and all the E'dom-ites became David's servants.^g Jehovah gave David victory* wherever he went.^h

15 David kept reigning over all Israel,^j and David was administering justice and righteousness^k for all his people.^k **16** Jo-ab^l the son of Ze-ru'iah was over the army, and Je-hosh'a-phat^m the son of A-hi'lud was recorder. **17** Za'dokⁿ the son of A-hi'tub and A-him'e-lech the son of A-bi'a-thar were priests, and Se-rai'ah was secretary. **18** Be-nai'ah^o the son of Je-hoi'a-da was over the Cher'e-thites and the Pel'e-thites.^p And David's sons became chief ministers.*

9 David then said: "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I may show loyal love for the sake of Jon'a-than?"^q **2** Now there was a servant of the house of Saul named Zi'ba.^r So they called him to David, and the king asked him: "Are you Zi'ba?" He replied: "I am your servant." **3** The king continued: "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may extend God's loyal love?" Zi'

8:14 *Or "salvation." 8:18 *Lit., "became priests."

CHAP. 8

- a Jos 6:19
1Ki 7:51
1Ch 22:14
1Ch 26:27
b 2Sa 8:2
c 2Sa 8:1
d 1Sa 30:18
e 2Sa 8:7
f 1Ch 18:12, 13
Ps 60:Sup
g Ge 25:23, 26
Ge 27:29, 37
Nu 24:18
h Ps 60:12
i 2Sa 5:3, 5
j 1Ki 3:6
k 1Ch 18:14-17
l 2Sa 20:23
1Ch 11:6
m 2Sa 20:24
1Ki 4:3
n 2Sa 15:27
1Ch 6:8
1Ch 24:3
o 2Sa 23:20
1Ki 1:44
1Ki 2:35
p 2Sa 15:18
2Sa 20:7

CHAP. 9

- q 1Sa 18:1, 3
1Sa 20:15, 42
r 2Sa 16:1
2Sa 19:17

Second Col.

- a 2Sa 4:4
2Sa 9:13
2Sa 19:26
b 2Sa 17:27-29
c Pr 11:17
d 2Sa 19:28
Pr 11:25
e 1Sa 24:14
f 2Sa 9:1
2Sa 16:4
2Sa 19:29
g 2Sa 19:28
h 2Sa 19:17

ba replied to the king: "There is still one son of Jon'a-than; he is crippled* in both feet."^a **4** The king asked him: "Where is he?" Zi'ba replied to the king: "He is in the house of Ma'chir^b the son of Am'mi-el at Lo-de'bar."

5 King David immediately sent for him and took him from the house of Ma'chir the son of Am'mi-el at Lo-de'bar. **6** When Me-phen'o-sheth the son of Jon'a-than the son of Saul came in to David, he at once fell facedown and prostrated himself. Then David said: "Me-phen'o-sheth!" to which he replied: "Here is your servant." **7** David said to him: "Do not be afraid, for I will certainly show loyal love^c to you for the sake of your father Jon'a-than, and I will return to you all the land of Saul your grandfather, and you will always dine* at my table."^d

8 At that he prostrated himself and said: "What is your servant, that you have turned your attention* to a dead dog^e like me?" **9** The king now sent for Zi'ba, Saul's attendant, and said to him: "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I give to the grandson of your master.^f **10** You will cultivate the land for him—you and your sons and your servants—and you will gather its produce to provide food for those who belong to the grandson of your master to eat. But Me-phen'o-sheth, the grandson of your master, will always dine at my table."^g

Now Zi'ba had 15 sons and 20 servants.^h **11** Then Zi'ba said to the king: "Your servant will do all that my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Me-phen'o-sheth ate at David's* table like one of the sons of the king.

9:3 *Or "lame." 9:7 *Lit., "eat bread." 9:8 *Lit., "face." 9:11 *Or possibly, "my."

12 Now Me-phib'o-sheth also had a young son named Mi'ca;^a and all those who lived in Zi'ba's house became servants of Me-phib'o-sheth. **13** And Me-phib'o-sheth lived in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the table of the king;^b and he was crippled in both feet.^c

10 Later the king of the Am'mon-ites^d died, and his son Ha'nun became king in his place.^e **2** At that David said: "I will show loyal love toward Ha'nun the son of Na'hash as his father showed loyal love toward me." So David sent his servants to offer him comfort over the loss of his father. But when David's servants came into the land of the Am'mon-ites, **3** the princes of the Am'mon-ites said to Ha'nun their lord: "Do you think that David is honoring your father by sending comforters to you? Is it not to search through the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it that David has sent his servants to you?" **4** So Ha'nun took the servants of David and shaved off half their beards^f and cut their garments in half at their buttocks and sent them away. **5** When David was told, he at once sent men to meet them, because the men had been deeply humiliated; and the king told them: "Stay in Jer'i-cho^g until your beards grow back, and then return."

6 In time the Am'mon-ites saw that they had become a stench to David, so the Am'mon-ites sent and hired Syrians of Beth-re'hob^h and Syrians of Zo'bah,ⁱ 20,000 foot soldiers; and the king of Ma'a-cah,^j with 1,000 men; and from Ish'tob,^k 12,000 men.^k **7** When David heard about it, he sent Jo'ab and the entire army, including his mightiest warriors.^l **8** And the Am'

CHAP. 9

a 1Ch 8:34

1Ch 9:40

b 2Sa 9:7

2Sa 19:28

c 2Sa 4:4

CHAP. 10

d Ge 19:36, 38

Jg 10:7

Jg 11:12, 33

1Sa 11:1

e 1Ch 19:1-5

f Le 19:27

g Jos 18:21

h Nu 13:21

i 2Sa 8:5

j Jos 13:13

k 1Ch 19:6, 7

l 2Sa 23:8

1Ch 19:8, 9

Second Col.

a 1Ch 19:10-13

b 1Sa 26:6

2Sa 2:18

2Sa 23:18

1Ch 2:15, 16

c Nu 21:24

d De 31:6

e Ps 37:5

Ps 44:5

Pr 29:25

f 1Ch 19:14, 15

g 1Ch 19:16

h 2Sa 8:3-5

i Ge 15:18

Ex 23:31

mon-ites went out and drew up in battle formation at the entrance of the city gate while the Syrians of Zo'bah and of Re'hob, along with Ish'tob* and Ma'a-cah, were by themselves in the open field.

9 When Jo'ab saw that the battle charges were coming against him from the front and the rear, he chose some of the best troops in Israel and drew them up in battle formation to meet the Syrians.^a **10** He put the rest of the men under the command* of his brother A-bish'ai,^b in order to draw them up in battle formation to meet the Am'mon-ites.^c **11** Then he said: "If the Syrians become too strong for me, then you must come to my rescue; but if the Am'mon-ites become too strong for you, I will come to your rescue. **12** We must be strong and courageous^d for our people and for the cities of our God, and Jehovah will do what is good in his eyes."^e

13 Then Jo'ab and his men advanced to meet the Syrians in battle, and they fled from before him.^f **14** When the Am'mon-ites saw that the Syrians had fled, they fled from A-bish'ai and went into the city. After that Jo'ab returned from the Am'mon-ites and came to Jerusalem.

15 When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they regrouped.^g **16** So Had-ad-e'zer^h sent for the Syrians in the region of the River,ⁱ and then they came to He'lam, with Sho'bach the chief of the army of Had-ad-e'zer leading them.

17 When the report was made to David, he immediately gathered all Israel and crossed the Jordan and came to He'lam. The

10:10 *Lit., "in the hand." **10:16** *That is, the Euphrates.

Syrians then drew up in battle formation to meet David and fought against him.^a **18** But the Syrians fled from Israel; and David killed 700 charioteers and 40,000 horsemen of the Syrians, and he struck down Sho'bach the chief of their army, who died there.^b **19** When all the kings, the servants of Had-ad-e'zer, saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they promptly made peace with Israel and became their subjects;^c and the Syrians were afraid to help the Am'monites anymore.

11 At the start of the year,^{*} at the time when kings go on campaigns, David sent Jo'ab and his servants and the entire army of Israel to bring the Am'monites to ruin, and they besieged Rab'bah,^d while David stayed in Jerusalem.^e

2 One evening^{*} David got up from his bed and walked around on the rooftop of the king's house.^f From the rooftop he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful. **3** David sent someone to inquire about the woman, and he reported: "Is this not Bath-she'ba^g the daughter of E-li'am^g and the wife of U-ri'ah^h the Hit'tite?"ⁱ **4** Then David sent messengers to bring her.^j So she came in to him, and he lay down with her.^k (This happened while she was purifying herself from her uncleanness.^{*})^j Afterward, she returned to her house.

5 The woman became pregnant, and she sent a message to David: "I am pregnant." **6** At this David sent a message to Jo'ab: "Send to me U-ri'ah the Hit'tite." So Jo'ab sent U-ri'ah to David. **7** When U-ri'ah came to him, David asked him how Jo'ab

11:1 *That is, in the spring. **11:2** *Or "Late one afternoon." [#]Or "palace."
11:4 *Possibly her menstrual uncleanness.

CHAP. 10

a 1Ch 19:17-19

b De 20:1
Ps 18:37, 38c Ge 15:18
De 20:10, 11

CHAP. 11

d 2Sa 12:26

e 1Ch 20:1

f 2Sa 12:24
1Ki 1:11

g 1Ch 3:5, 9

h 2Sa 23:8, 39
1Ki 15:5i Ge 10:15
De 20:17

j Ex 20:14, 17

k Le 18:20
Le 20:10
Pr 6:32
Heb 13:4l Le 12:2
Le 15:19
Le 18:19

Second Col.

a 2Sa 6:17
2Sa 7:2b Le 15:16
1Sa 21:5c Ps 51:14
Pr 3:29

was getting along, how the troops were getting along, and how the war was going. **8** David then said to U-ri'ah: "Go down to your house and relax."^{*} When U-ri'ah left the king's house, the king's courtesy gift[#] was sent after him. **9** However, U-ri'ah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the other servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his own house. **10** So David was told: "U-ri'ah did not go down to his own house." At that David said to U-ri'ah: "Have you not just returned from a journey? Why did you not go down to your own house?" **11** U-ri'ah replied to David: "The Ark^a and Israel and Judah are dwelling in temporary shelters, and my lord Jo'ab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. So should I go into my own house to eat and drink and lie down with my wife?^b As surely as you live and are alive,^{*} I will not do this thing!"

12 Then David said to U-ri'ah: "Stay here also today, and tomorrow I will send you away." So U-ri'ah stayed in Jerusalem on that day and the following day. **13** David then sent for him to come and eat and drink with him, and he got him drunk. But in the evening, he went out to sleep on his bed with the servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his house. **14** In the morning David wrote a letter to Jo'ab and sent it by the hand of U-ri'ah. **15** He wrote in the letter: "Put U-ri'ah in the front lines where the fighting is fiercest. Then retreat from behind him, so that he will be struck down and die."^c

11:8 *Lit., "wash your feet." [#]Or "the king's portion," that is, the portion sent by the host to the honored guest. **11:11** *Or "and as your soul is living."



**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“David Showed Loyal Love”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

2Sa 10:4, 5—Why were Hanun’s actions such an insult to Israelite men? (*it-1* 266)

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.) 2Sa 9:1-13 (12)



**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (17)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 05 point 4 (13)



**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 116

Remember How Love Behaves—Is Kind:

(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then, ask the audience: How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? How can we show kindness and loyal love to others?

Organizational Accomplishments: (10 min.)

Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for June.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 07



David Showed Loyal Love

David searched for someone to whom he could show loyal love (2Sa 9:1; *w06* 6/15 14 ¶6)

David acted immediately to help Mephibosheth (1Sa 20:15, 42; 2Sa 9:5-7; *w05* 5/15 17 ¶12)

David assigned Ziba to care for Mephibosheth’s inheritance (2Sa 9:9, 10; *w02* 2/15 14 ¶10)

David did not forget his promise to Jonathan. We should show loyal love to fellow believers. —Ps 41:1, 2; Pr 19:17.



June 6-12 / 2 Samuel 9-10

Song 124 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"David Showed Loyal Love": (10 minutes)

David searched for someone to whom he could show loyal love

2 Samuel 9:1: David then said: "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I may show loyal love for the sake of Jonathan?"

w06 6/15 14 paragraph 6

"Happy is anyone acting with consideration toward the lowly one," David wrote. He continued: "In the day of calamity Jehovah will provide escape for him. Jehovah himself will guard him and preserve him alive. He will be pronounced happy." (Psalm 41:1, 2) The loving consideration that David showed toward Mephibosheth, the lame son of David's beloved friend Jonathan, is an example of the right attitude toward the lowly one.—2 Samuel 9:1-13.

David acted immediately to help Mephibosheth

1 Samuel 20:15: Never withdraw your loyal love from my household, even when Jehovah wipes out all the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

1 Samuel 20:42: Jonathan said to David: "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of Jehovah, saying, 'May Jehovah be between you and me and between your offspring and my offspring forever.'" Then David rose up and left, and Jonathan went back to the city.

2 Samuel 9:5-7: King David immediately sent for him and took him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel at Lo-debar. When Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan the son of Saul came in to David, he at once fell facedown and prostrated himself. Then David said: "Mephibosheth!" to which he replied: "Here is your servant." David said to him: "Do not be afraid, for I will certainly show loyal love to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will return to you all the land of Saul your grandfather, and you will always dine at my table."

w05 5/15 17 paragraph 12

2 Samuel 9:1, 6, 7. David kept his promise. We too must endeavor to keep our word.

David assigned Ziba to care for Mephibosheth's inheritance

2 Samuel 9:9, 10: The king now sent for Ziba, Saul's attendant, and said to him: "Everything that belonged to Saul and to all his house I give to the grandson of your master. You will cultivate the land for him—you and your sons and your servants—and you will gather its produce to provide food for those who belong to the grandson of your master to eat. But Mephibosheth, the grandson of your master, will always dine at my table." Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.

w02 2/15 14 paragraph 10

Some years later King David, out of his great love for Jonathan, expressed loving-kindness to Mephibosheth. David turned over all of Saul's property to him and assigned Saul's attendant Ziba as caretaker of this land. David also told Mephibosheth: 'You will eat bread at my table constantly.' (2 Samuel 9:6-10) No doubt David's loving-kindness was comforting to Mephibosheth and helped to blunt the pain of his disability. What a fine lesson! We too should show kindness to those contending with a thorn in the flesh.

David did not forget his promise to Jonathan. We should show loyal love to fellow believers.

Psalm 41:1, 2: Happy is anyone who shows consideration to the lowly one; Jehovah will rescue him in the day of calamity. Jehovah will guard him and keep him alive. He will be pronounced happy in the earth; You will never turn him over to the will of his enemies.

Proverbs 19:17: The one showing favor to the lowly is lending to Jehovah, And He will repay him for what he does.

An older sister embracing and comforting a younger sister.

Spiritual Gems

2 Samuel 10:4, 5—Why were Hanun’s actions such an insult to Israelite men?

2 Samuel 10:4, 5: So Hanun took the servants of David and shaved off half their beards and cut their garments in half at their buttocks and sent them away. When David was told, he at once sent men to meet them, because the men had been deeply humiliated; and the king told them: “Stay in Jericho until your beards grow back, and then return.”

***it-1* 266**

Among many ancient peoples of the East, including the Israelites, a beard was cherished as an evidence of manly dignity. God’s law to Israel prohibited the cutting off of the “sidelocks,” the hair between the ear and the eye, and the extremity of the beard. (Leviticus 19:27; 21:5) This was doubtless because among some pagans it was a religious practice.

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) 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (*th study 12*)



**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“David Showed Loyal Love”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

2Sa 10:4, 5—Why were Hanun’s actions such an insult to Israelite men? (*it-1* 266)

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.) 2Sa 9:1-13 (12)



**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (17)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 05 point 4 (13)



**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 116

Remember How Love Behaves—Is Kind:

(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then, ask the audience: How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? How can we show kindness and loyal love to others?

Organizational Accomplishments: (10 min.)

Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for June.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 07



David Showed Loyal Love

David searched for someone to whom he could show loyal love (2Sa 9:1; *w06* 6/15 14 ¶6)

David acted immediately to help Mephibosheth (1Sa 20:15, 42; 2Sa 9:5-7; *w05* 5/15 17 ¶12)

David assigned Ziba to care for Mephibosheth’s inheritance (2Sa 9:9, 10; *w02* 2/15 14 ¶10)

David did not forget his promise to Jonathan. We should show loyal love to fellow believers. —Ps 41:1, 2; Pr 19:17.

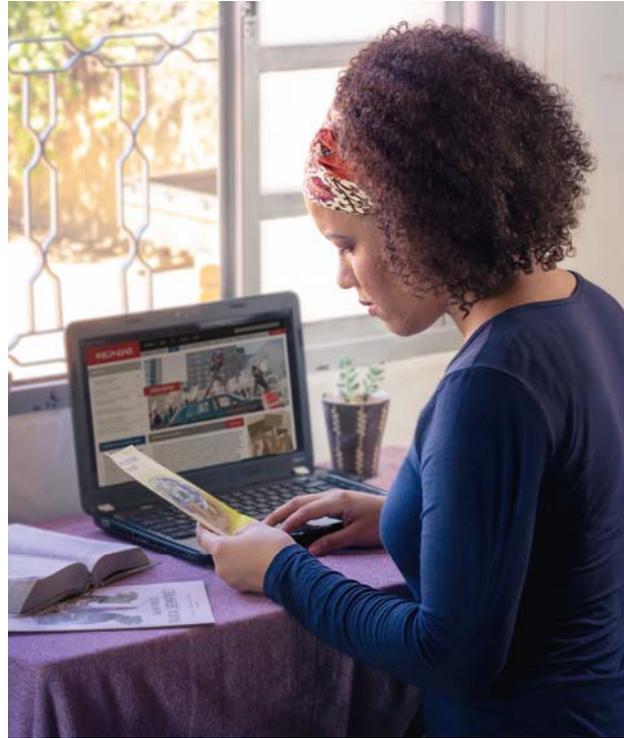




Use Current Events in Your Ministry

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?



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.



DIG DEEPER

Learn more about how God inspired men to write the Bible, how he preserved it, and how he made it available to humankind.



A secretary may write the letter, but its message came from the person who dictated it. Likewise, humans wrote the Bible, but its message came from God

4. The Bible reveals its Author

Play the VIDEO. Then read **2 Timothy 3:16**, and discuss the questions that follow.



VIDEO: *Who Is the Author of the Bible?—Excerpt (2:48)*

- If men wrote the Bible, why is it called the Word of God?
- Do you think it is reasonable to believe that God could transmit his thoughts to human writers?



VIDEO: *They Valued the Bible—Excerpt (William Tyndale) (6:17)*

5. The Bible survived attacks

If the Bible is from God, we would expect him to preserve it. Throughout history, powerful men have tried to destroy the Bible. Religious leaders have tried to hide it. But despite opposition and the threat of death, many people have risked their lives to protect the Bible. To learn about one such man, **play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Does knowing that so much was done to preserve the Bible make you want to read it? Why?

Read Psalm 119:97, and then discuss this question:

- What has motivated many people to risk their lives to translate and distribute the Bible?

The Power of Kindness

(Ephesians 4:32)

F Am Dm Bb

We praise you, Je - ho - vah, deep from our hearts, For
Your Son still in - vites those bruised by the world To
We see in our God and Je - sus our Lord, The

F/A Dm7 Bb/D Gm7 C7

in leave per - your their sons we Word cares we should we find be - hind. be. Your How The

F F+5 Bb G7/B

pow - er su - preme, your wis - dom so great, And
kind - ly his yoke, how ten - der his heart, He's
pow - er of kind - ness we can pos - sess. With

F/C C7sus4 Am/C C7 Bb/F F Gm/F F

yet you are lov - ing and kind.
al - ways re - fresh - ing and kind.
kind - ness, how strong we can be!



**TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD**

“David Showed Loyal Love”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

2Sa 10:4, 5—Why were Hanun’s actions such an insult to Israelite men? (*it-1* 266)

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.) 2Sa 9:1-13 (12)



**APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure, and briefly consider “How to Get the Most Out of These Bible Lessons.” (17)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 05 point 4 (13)



**LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 116

Remember How Love Behaves—Is Kind:

(5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then, ask the audience: How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? How can we show kindness and loyal love to others?

Organizational Accomplishments: (10 min.)

Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for June.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 07



David Showed Loyal Love

David searched for someone to whom he could show loyal love (2Sa 9:1; *w06* 6/15 14 ¶6)

David acted immediately to help Mephibosheth (1Sa 20:15, 42; 2Sa 9:5-7; *w05* 5/15 17 ¶12)

David assigned Ziba to care for Mephibosheth’s inheritance (2Sa 9:9, 10; *w02* 2/15 14 ¶10)

David did not forget his promise to Jonathan. We should show loyal love to fellow believers. —Ps 41:1, 2; Pr 19:17.



Remember How Love Behaves—Is Kind

Mephibosheth—his grandfather had tried to kill David. When David became king and asked Mephibosheth to the palace, he must have wondered why. Here is your servant. Mephibosheth, do not be afraid, for I will certainly show loyal love to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will return to you all of the land of Saul your grandfather. And you will always dine at my table. What is your servant, that you have turned your attention to a dead dog like me? Come.

source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODBiblePrinciples/pub-mwbv_202205_6_VIDEO



What Is Jehovah Like?

When you think of Jehovah God, what comes to your mind? Is he awe-inspiring but far away from you, like the stars of a distant galaxy? Or do you imagine him to be powerful but without a personality, like a thunderstorm? What is Jehovah really like? Through his Word, the Bible, Jehovah reveals some of his qualities, as well as his interest in you.

1. Why are we unable to see God?

“God is a Spirit.” (John 4:24) Jehovah does not have a physical body. He is a Spirit who lives in heaven, a place that we cannot see.

2. What are some aspects of Jehovah’s personality?

Although Jehovah is invisible, he is a real Person with qualities that endear him to those who know him. The Bible says: “Jehovah loves justice, and he will not abandon his loyal ones.” (Psalm 37:28) He is also **“very tender in affection and merciful,”** especially toward people who are suffering. (James 5:11) “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are discouraged.” (Psalm 34:18, footnote) And did you know that Jehovah is affected by the way we act? A person who chooses to do bad things disappoints him and makes him sad. (Psalm 78:40, 41) But a person who does what is right makes him happy.—Read Proverbs 27:11.

3. How does Jehovah show that he loves us?

Jehovah’s most outstanding quality is love. In fact, **“God is love.”** (1 John 4:8) Jehovah reveals his love, not only through the Bible but also through the things he created. (Read Acts 14:17.) Consider, for example, how he made us. He has given us the ability to see beautiful colors, hear delightful music, and taste delicious food. He wants us to enjoy life.

DIG DEEPER

Learn what Jehovah uses to accomplish amazing things. Then see how Jehovah reveals and expresses his appealing qualities.

4. Holy spirit—God’s active force

Just as we use our hands to do work, Jehovah uses his holy spirit. The Bible reveals that holy spirit is, not a person, but the force God uses to get things done.

Read Luke 11:13 and Acts 2:17, and then discuss these questions:

- God will “pour out” his holy spirit on those who ask for it. So do you think holy spirit is a person, or is it God’s active force? Why do you say that?

Jehovah uses his holy spirit to accomplish amazing things. **Read Psalm 33:6 and 2 Peter 1:20, 21**, and then discuss this question:

- What are some ways in which Jehovah has used his holy spirit?

5. Jehovah has an appealing personality

Moses was a faithful worshipper of God, but he wanted to know his Creator better. So Moses said to him: “Make me know your ways, so that I may know you.” (Exodus 33:13) In reply, Jehovah revealed to Moses some aspects of His personality. **Read Exodus 34:4-6**, and then discuss these questions:

- What aspects of Jehovah’s personality did he reveal to Moses?
- Which of Jehovah’s qualities especially appeal to you?





6. Jehovah cares about people

God's people, the Hebrews, were slaves in Egypt. How did their suffering affect Jehovah? **Play the AUDIO** and follow along, or **read Exodus 3:1-10**. Then discuss the questions that follow.



AUDIO: *Jehovah Cared About Their Suffering* (2:45)

- What does this account tell you as to how Jehovah feels about human suffering?—See verses 7 and 8.
- Do you think that Jehovah really wants to help humans and that he is able to do so? Why, or why not?

7. The natural world reveals Jehovah's qualities

Jehovah reveals his qualities through the things he created. **Play the VIDEO**. Then **read Romans 1:20**, and discuss the question that follows.



VIDEO: *Creation Reveals Jehovah's Love—The Human Body* (1:57)

- What qualities of Jehovah do you see in the things he has made?

SOME PEOPLE SAY: "God is not a person, he's just a force that is everywhere."

- What do you think?
- Why do you feel that way?

SUMMARY

Jehovah is an invisible Spirit with many appealing qualities, especially love.

Review

- Why are we unable to see Jehovah?
- What is the holy spirit?
- What are some of Jehovah's qualities?

Lesson completed on

Goal

- After reading Psalm 23, try to discern what it reveals about God's personality.
- Other:

EXPLORE



Deepen your understanding of Jehovah by learning about four of his outstanding qualities.

“What Is God Like?”
(*The Watchtower* No. 1 2019)



Consider evidence that Jehovah is not present in all things.

“Is God Everywhere, Omnipresent?” (Web article)



See why the Bible refers to the holy spirit as God's hands.

“What Is the Holy Spirit?”
(Web article)



A blind man struggled to believe that God cared about him. Find out what changed his mind.

“I Now Feel That I Can Help Others” (*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2015)



To find all media for LESSON 07,
scan code or go to the publication
Enjoy Life Forever! on jw.org

1

Jehovah's Attributes

(Revelation 4:11)

F C/E Dm Fma7/A Bb C/Bb Bb Am7 F/A Bb

Je - ho - vah our God, ex - alt - ed in might,
 Your heav - en - ly throne, on jus - tice it stands.
 The great - est of all is your per - fect love.

C F C/E Dm Dm/C Bb Dm/B Csus4 C

Cre - a - tor of life and Pro - vid - er of light.
 To us you make known all your righ - teous com - mands.
 Be - yond all com - pare are your gifts from a - bove.

Bb C/Bb Fadd9/A F/A C/G F Bb/C Csus4/Bb C/Bb A7sus4 A7

Cre - a - tion speaks of your pow - er so grand;
 And as we turn to your Word, we can see
 Your at - tri - butes and your glo - ri - ous name,

Dm Fma7/C Bbma7 F/A Gm7 C7sus4 C7 Bb/C F

The heav - ens and earth for - ev - er stand.
 Your wis - dom re - vealed so bril - liant - ly.
 With joy and with zeal, we will pro - claim.

(See also Ps. 36:9; 145:6-13; Eccl. 3:14; Jas. 1:17.)

APRIL 2022

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JUNE 6–JULY 3, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

How to Cope Successfully With Anxiety 2

Study Article 15: June 6-12 4

Are You “an Example . . . in Speaking”?

Study Article 16: June 13-19 10

Find Joy in Giving Jehovah Your Personal Best

Biscuits for the Terriers 15

Study Article 17: June 20-26 16

Mothers—Learn From the Example of Eunice

Study Article 18: June 27–July 3 22

How to Set and Reach Spiritual Goals

QUESTIONS FROM READERS 28

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit donate.jw.org.

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) April 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. © 2022 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

FEATURED CONTENT IN
JW LIBRARY AND ON [JW.ORG](https://www.jw.org)

EXPERIENCES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

They Offered Themselves Willingly —In Bulgaria

What are some challenges of making the move to preach in a foreign land?

YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

What Should I Know About Multitasking?

Can you really combine activities without losing focus?

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

A JW Satellite Channel Reaches Where Internet Does Not

How do brothers in many parts of Africa watch JW Broadcasting[®] if they do not have Internet access?

COVER PICTURE:

Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother Lois beam with pride as they witness his baptism as a Christian (See study article 17, paragraph 1)

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org) website, or scan code



Encourage One Another

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

D Bm G D6/F#

As we en - cour - age one an - oth - er To
 A word when spo - ken at the right time Is,
 As we with eyes of faith are see - ing The

Em11 A7sus4 A7 D D/C# Gma7/B A13

serve Je - ho - vah faith - ful - ly, We
 oh, how com - fort - ing to hear! We
 near - ness of Je - ho - vah's day, We

D Bm G G#°

find the bonds of love are strength - ened; Fine
 hear these words of con - so - la - tion From
 need our gath - er - ing to - geth - er To

D/A D#° Em7 G/A A7 Dsus4 D

works bring peace and u - ni - ty. The
 friends so faith - ful and so dear. How
 keep us walk - ing in the way. U -

R.H.

Encourage One Another

G Gma7 G6 F#m Bm D7/A

love we find a - mong God's peo - ple Gives
 good it is to work to - geth - er With
 nit - ed with Je - ho - vah's peo - ple, We

Gma7 A9/G F#m7 Bm7 E13sus4 E7 G/A A13

each the cour - age to en - dure. Our
 those whose hopes and goals we share! We
 hope to serve e - ter - nal - ly. So

D Bm G G#o

con - gre - ga - tion is a ref - uge, A
 seek to strength - en one an - oth - er And
 we en - cour - age one an - oth - er To

D/A D#o Em7 G/A A7 D

place where we can feel se - cure.
 help each one his bur - den bear.
 hold to our in - teg - ri - ty.

(See also Luke 22:32; Acts 14:21, 22; Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:14.)

SONG 90

Encourage One Another

PREVIEW

Jehovah has given us a wonderful gift—the gift of speech. Sadly, most people do not use this gift as Jehovah intended. What can help us keep our speech clean and up-building in a world where standards are deteriorating? How can we please Jehovah with our speech when engaging in the ministry, attending congregation meetings, and sharing in conversation with others? This article will discuss the answers to those questions.

Are You “an Example . . . in Speaking”?

“Become an example to the faithful ones in speaking.”

—1 TIM. 4:12.

OUR ability to speak is a gift from our loving God. As soon as the first human, Adam, was created, he could use words to communicate with his heavenly Father. He could also expand his vocabulary by coining new words. Adam used that ability to carry out his assignment of naming all the animals. (Gen. 2:19) And how thrilled he must have been when he spoke for the first time to another human—his beautiful wife, Eve!—Gen. 2:22, 23.

² The gift of speech was soon misused. Satan the Devil lied to Eve, and that lie led to human sin and imperfection. (Gen. 3:1-4) Adam misused his tongue when he blamed Eve—and even Jehovah—for his own mistakes. (Gen. 3:12) Cain lied to Jehovah after he killed his brother Abel. (Gen. 4:9) Later, a descendant of Cain named Lamech composed a poem that reflected the violence of the times in which he lived. (Gen. 4:23, 24) What is the situation today? We observe political leaders who freely use profanity in public. And it is difficult to find a motion picture that does not contain some bad language. Students hear profanity at school, and adults are exposed to it in the workplace. Sadly, the use of foul language is only a reflection of the deterioration in moral standards and in speech that we see in the world around us.

³ If not careful, we might get so used to hearing bad language that we begin to use it ourselves. Of course, as

1. Where did our ability to speak come from?
2. How has speech been misused in the past and at present?
3. What danger do we need to be aware of, and what will we consider in this article?

Christians, we want to please Jehovah, and that involves more than avoiding obscene speech. We want to use the remarkable gift of speech in a positive way—to praise our God. In this article, we will consider how we can do so (1) in the ministry, (2) at congregation meetings, and (3) in our daily conversations. But first, let us consider why our speech matters to Jehovah.

OUR SPEECH MATTERS TO JEHOVAH

4 Read Malachi 3:16. Can you think of a reason why Jehovah would record in his “book of remembrance” the names of those whose speech shows that they fear him and meditate on his name? Our speech reveals what is in our heart. Jesus said: “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matt. 12:34) What we choose to talk about reflects how much we love Jehovah. And Jeho-

4. According to Malachi 3:16, why does our speech matter to Jehovah?

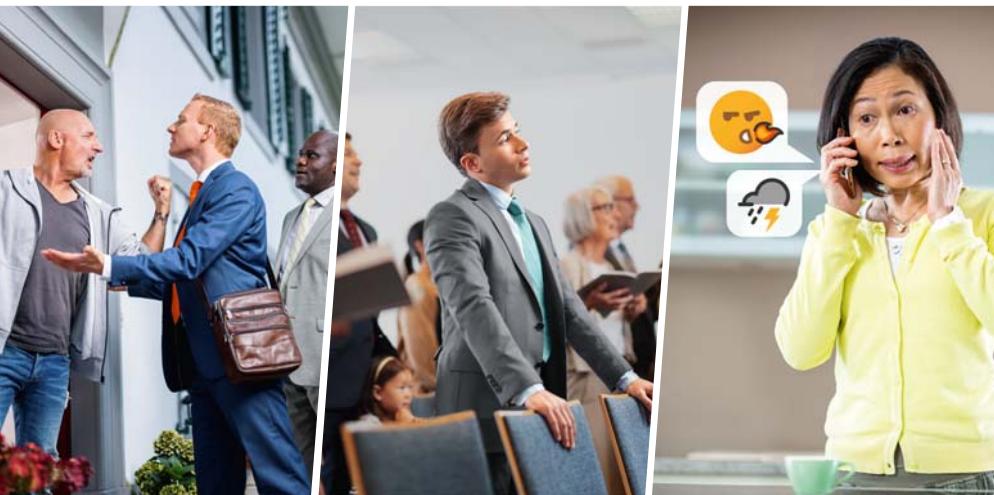
vah wants those who love him to enjoy life forever in the new world.

5 The way we speak can determine whether Jehovah will accept our worship. (Jas. 1:26) Some of those who do not love God speak in an aggressive, harsh, and proud way. (2 Tim. 3:1-5) We certainly do not want to be like them. We are eager to please Jehovah with our speech. But could Jehovah be pleased with us if we used gracious and kind speech at our Christian meetings or in the ministry but spoke in a harsh and unloving way to family members behind closed doors?—1 Pet. 3:7.

6 When we use the gift of speech well, we identify ourselves as worshippers of Jehovah. We help those around us to see clearly the difference “between one serving God and one not serving him.”

5. (a) How is our worship connected with what we say? (b) As shown in the picture, what must we be aware of regarding our speech?

6. What good resulted from Kimberly’s fine speech?



What does your speech reveal about what is in your heart?
(See paragraphs 4-5)



Speaking kindly to people in the ministry pleases Jehovah (See paragraphs 8-9)

(Mal. 3:18) Consider how this proved to be true for a sister named Kimberly.* She was assigned to work with a classmate on a high-school project. After working together, the classmate noticed that Kimberly was different from other students. She did not criticize people behind their back, she spoke in a positive way, and she did not use profanity. Kimberly's classmate was intrigued and eventually agreed to a Bible study. How pleased Jehovah is when we speak in a way that attracts people to the truth!

⁷ We all want to speak in a way that brings honor to Jehovah and draws us closer to our brothers. So let us now consider some practical ways in which we can continue to be “an example . . . in speaking.”

BECOME AN EXAMPLE IN THE MINISTRY

⁸ *Speak with kindness and respect when provoked.* During his ministry, Jesus was falsely accused of being a man who was a drunkard, a glutton, an agent of the

* Some names have been changed.

7. What are you motivated to do with your God-given gift of speech?

8. What example did Jesus set for us in how he used his speech in the ministry?

Devil, a Sabbath breaker, and even a blasphemer of God. (Matt. 11:19; 26:65; Luke 11:15; John 9:16) Yet, Jesus did not retaliate with angry words. Like Jesus, we should never retaliate even if spoken to harshly. (1 Pet. 2:21-23) Of course, showing such restraint is not easy. (Jas. 3:2) What can help?

⁹ Try to look beyond the response of a householder who speaks negatively. A brother named Sam says, “I try to focus on the householder’s need to hear the truth and his potential to change.” Sometimes a householder is angry simply because we came at a bad time. When we are confronted by someone who is upset, we can do what a sister named Lucia does. We can say a brief prayer, asking Jehovah to help us remain calm and hold back from saying anything unkind or disrespectful.

¹⁰ *Become a more effective teacher.* Timothy was an experienced Christian minister, but even he needed to continue to make spiritual improvement. **(Read 1 Timothy 4:13.)** How can we become more effective teachers in the min-

9. What can help us control our speech when we are in the preaching work?

10. According to 1 Timothy 4:13, what goal should we have?

istry? We must prepare well. Thankfully, we have a variety of tools that can help us become better teachers. You will find it useful to consult the brochure *Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching* and the “Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry” section of the *Our Christian Life and Ministry—Meeting Workbook*. Are you taking advantage of these resources? When we prepare well, we feel less nervous and speak with more confidence.

¹¹ We can also become better teachers by observing others in the congregation and learning from them. Sam, quoted previously, asks himself what it is that makes some Christians good teachers. He studies their methods and then tries to imitate them. A sister named Talia pays close attention to the way experienced speakers develop public talks. By doing so, she has learned how to speak about and reason on subjects that often come up in the ministry.

BECOME AN EXAMPLE AT THE MEETINGS

¹² We can all contribute to the success of our congregation meetings by raising

11. How have some Christians become better teachers?

12. What challenges do some face?

our voices in song and by giving well-prepared comments. (Ps. 22:22) Some find it a challenge to sing or to give a comment in public. Do you? If so, you will be interested to know what has helped others overcome their fears.

¹³ **Sing wholeheartedly.** When we sing our Kingdom songs, our primary focus should be on our desire to praise Jehovah. A sister named Sara does not consider herself to be a very good singer. Yet, she wants to praise Jehovah in song. To that end, she finds it helpful to prepare for the songs at home, just as she would prepare for other parts on the meeting. She rehearses the songs and tries to identify how the lyrics tie in with the subject being discussed. “This helps me to focus more on the words and less on my singing ability,” she says.

¹⁴ **Comment regularly.** Admittedly, this can be a real challenge for some. “I have social anxiety, even though others don’t notice it because my voice is generally calm,” explains Talia, quoted earlier. “So commenting is very difficult for me.” Yet, Talia does not hold back from

13. What might help you sing wholeheartedly at the meetings?

14. If you are timid, what can help you comment at meetings?



Singing wholeheartedly at meetings praises Jehovah
(See paragraphs 12-13)



Changing a negative conversation into positive speech gains us Jehovah's favor
(See paragraph 19)

giving comments. As she prepares for the meeting, she keeps in mind that the first comment on a subject should be a brief and direct answer to the question. She says: "This means that it is OK if my answer is short, simple, and to the point because that is the kind of answer the conductor is looking for anyway."

¹⁵ Even Christians who are not particularly shy or timid may at times hold back from commenting. Why? A sister named Juliet explains, "Sometimes I hesitate to comment because I fear that my comment is too simple and not good enough." Remember, though, that Jehovah wants us to give the best comments we can give.* He greatly appreciates our determination to praise him at congregation meetings and not to allow our fears to hold us back.

BECOME AN EXAMPLE IN DAILY CONVERSATIONS

¹⁶ **Avoid all forms of "abusive speech."** (Eph. 4:31) As mentioned earlier, pro-

* For more information about commenting, see the article "Praise Jehovah in the Congregation" in the January 2019 issue of *The Watchtower*.

15. What should we remember about our comments?
16. What kind of speech must we avoid?

fanity has no place on a Christian's lips. But there are subtle forms of abusive speech that we also need to be on guard against. For example, we need to be careful not to make unfavorable comparisons when talking about people of other cultures, tribes, or nationalities. Further, we never want to hurt others with cutting remarks. One brother admits: "At times, I have made cutting, sarcastic remarks that I thought were funny and innocent but in reality were made at the expense of someone's feelings. Over the years, my wife has helped me immensely by pointing out in private when my speech was tasteless and hurtful to her and others."

¹⁷ **Speak in a way that builds others up.** Be quick to commend rather than to criticize or complain. (Read **Ephesians 4:29**.) The Israelites had much to be thankful for, yet they routinely complained. A complaining spirit can be contagious. You will recall that a negative report from ten spies caused "all the Israelites . . . to murmur against Moses." (Num. 13:31-14:4) On the other hand, commendation can be a power-

17. In harmony with Ephesians 4:29, how can we build others up?

ful force for good. We can be sure that the commendation Jephthah's daughter received from her female companions greatly encouraged her to stick to her assignment. (Judg. 11:40) Sara, quoted previously, says, "When we offer commendation, we make others feel that they are loved by Jehovah and that they have a place in his organization." So look for opportunities to offer sincere commendation.

¹⁸ **Speak truthfully.** We cannot please Jehovah if we are untruthful. He hates all forms of lying. (Prov. 6:16, 17) Although many people today consider lying to be a normal part of speech, we stick to Jehovah's view on the matter. **(Read Psalm 15:1, 2.)** Of course, we avoid telling outright lies, but we also avoid deliberately giving the wrong impression to others.

¹⁹ **Avoid spreading harmful gossip.** (Prov. 25:23; 2 Thess. 3:11) Juliet, quoted above, explains how negative gossip affects her. She says: "Listening to negative gossip is discouraging, and it causes

18. Based on Psalm 15:1, 2, why must we speak truthfully, and what does this include?

19. What further caution should we keep in mind?

me to lose trust in the person who is gossiping. After all, how do I know that he or she will not gossip about me to someone else?" If you see that a conversation is turning into harmful gossip, steer the discussion toward something positive.—Col. 4:6.

²⁰ Since we live in a world where bad speech is rampant, we must work hard to ensure that our speech pleases Jehovah. Remember, speech is a gift from Jehovah, and he cares how we use it. He will bless our sincere efforts to use our speech in a positive way in the ministry, at the meetings, and in our daily conversations. When the influence of this ungodly system of things finally comes to an end, it will be much easier to honor Jehovah with our speech. (Jude 15) In the meantime, be determined to please Jehovah with "the words of [your] mouth."—Ps. 19:14.

20. What are you determined to do with your speech?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 5: A brother reacts harshly to an angry householder; a brother holds back from singing in the congregation; and a sister engages in harmful gossip.

HOW CAN WE BECOME EXAMPLES IN SPEAKING . . .

■ in the ministry?

■ at the meetings?

■ in our daily conversations?

We Need Self-Control

(Romans 7:14-25)

E^b Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/B^b A^b B^b Ab/B^b

We love Je - ho - vah with heart, mind, and soul; But
 Sa - tan's temp - ta - tions con - front us each day, And
 Each word and ac - tion re - flects on God's name, So

R.H.

E^b Eb/D Cm9 Cm Eb/B^b A^b Ab/B^b B^b

since we are sin - ful, we need self - con - trol.
 sin's law with - in us can lead us a - stray.
 we must en - deav - or to keep free from blame.

G G7/B Cm B^b B^b/D E^b Eb/B^b

Flesh - ly de - sires bring trou - ble and strife;
 Pow - er of truth is great - er than sin.
 In all we do, we make this our goal:

A^b Ab/G Fm7 Fm/Ab Ab/B^b B^b7 E^b

Liv - ing by spir - it brings peace and life.
 Thanks to Je - ho - vah, our minds can win.
 Al - ways main - tain - ing our self - con - trol.

R.H. R.H.

(1 Corinthians 15:6, 7) After that he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still with us, though some have fallen asleep in death. ⁷ After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

(Matthew 28:16-20) However, the 11 disciples went to Gal'i-lee to the mountain where Jesus had arranged for them to meet. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they did obeisance, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying: "All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(Acts 1:1-8) The first account, O The·oph'i-lus, I composed about all the things Jesus started to do and to teach ² until the day that he was taken up, after he had given instructions through holy spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After he had suffered, he showed himself alive to them by many convincing proofs. He was seen by them throughout 40 days, and he was speaking about the Kingdom of God. ⁴ While he was meeting with them, he ordered them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but keep waiting for what the Father has promised, about which you heard from me; ⁵ for John, indeed, baptized with water, but you will be baptized with holy spirit not many days after this." ⁶ So when they had assembled, they asked him: "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?" ⁷ He said to them: "It does not belong to you to know the times or seasons that the Father has placed in his own jurisdiction. ⁸ But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Ju·de'a and Sa·mar'i·a, and to the most distant part of the earth."

(1 Corinthians 12:4-31) Now there are different gifts, but there is the same spirit; ⁵ and there are different ministries, and yet there is the same Lord; ⁶ and there are different activities, and yet it is the same God who performs them all in everyone. ⁷ But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each one for a beneficial purpose. ⁸ For to one is given speech of wisdom through the spirit, to another speech of knowledge according to the same spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one spirit, ¹⁰ to yet another operations of powerful works, to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired expressions, to another different tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But all these operations are performed by the very same spirit, distributing to each one respectively just as it wills.

¹² For just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although many, are one body, so too is the Christ. ¹³ For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit.

¹⁴ For, indeed, the body is made up not of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If it were all hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has arranged each of the body members just as he pleased.

¹⁹ If they were all the same member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now they are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," or again, the head cannot say to the feet, "I do not need you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary, ²³ and the parts of the body that we think to be less honorable we surround with greater honor, so our unseemly parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ whereas our attractive parts do not need anything. Nevertheless, God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that had a lack, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but its members should have mutual concern for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all the other members suffer with it; or if a member is glorified, all the other members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and each of you individually is a member. ²⁸ And God has assigned the **respective** ones in the congregation: first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then powerful works; then gifts of healings; helpful services; abilities to direct; different tongues. ²⁹ Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all perform powerful works, do they? ³⁰ Not all have gifts of healings, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all are interpreters, are they? ³¹ But keep striving for the greater gifts. And yet I will show you a surpassing way.

(Ephesians 4:4-16) One body there is, and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ Now undeserved kindness was given to each one of us according to how the Christ measured out the free gift. ⁸ For it says: "When he ascended on high he carried away captives; he gave gifts in men." ⁹ Now what does the expression "he ascended" mean but that he also descended into the lower regions, that is, the earth? ¹⁰ The very one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might give fullness to all things.

¹¹ And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, **some** as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers, ¹² with a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, to build up the body of the Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the oneness of the faith and of the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to being a full-grown man, attaining the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ. ¹⁴ So we should no longer be children, tossed about as by waves and carried here and there by every wind of teaching by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in deceptive schemes. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. ¹⁶ From him all the body is harmoniously joined together and made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed. When each **respective** member functions properly, this contributes to the growth of the body as it builds itself up in love.

(Revelation 19:10) "Be careful! Do not do that! I am only a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing concerning Jesus. (see also Re 22:9)

(Revelation 12:17) So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her offspring, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness concerning Jesus.

(Revelation 22:17) And the spirit and the bride keep on saying, “Come!” and let anyone hearing say, “Come!” and let anyone thirsting come; let anyone who wishes take life’s water free.

=====

[w13 5/15 p. 7 par. 19] So let all of us show appreciation for that treasure by doing our best to fulfill our role as evangelizers.

(1 Corinthians 12:19) If they were all the same member, where would the body be?

(Ephesians 4:11) And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers,

(2 Timothy 1:2; 4:5) ²to Timothy.... ⁵You, though, keep your senses in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.

(Acts 21:8) The next day we left and came to Caes·a·re’a, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelizer, who was one of the seven men, and we stayed with him.

(Colossians 1:25) I became a minister of this congregation in accord with the stewardship from God that was given to me in your behalf to preach the word of God fully,

(Romans 10:8-10) But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart”; that is, “the word” of faith, which we are preaching. ⁹ For if you publicly declare (**Greek homologēsēs = you confess**) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration (**Greek homologeitai = confesses**) for salvation.

(Matthew 10:32) “Everyone, then, who acknowledges (**Greek homologēsei = will confess**) me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father who is in the heavens.

(1 John 2:23) Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. But whoever acknowledges (**Greek homologōn = confessing**) the Son has the Father also.

(1 John 4:15) Whoever acknowledges (**Greek homologēsē = will confess**) that Jesus is God’s Son, God remains in union with such one and he in union with God.

(John 1:19, 20) “**Who are you?**” ²⁰ And he admitted (**Greek hōmologēsen = confessed / made a public declaration**) it and did not deny it, saying: “I am not the Christ.”

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone who demands of you a reason for the hope you have, but doing so with a mild temper and deep respect.