

- Song 71 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God”: (10 min.)

6:11-17

- (Ephesians 6:11-17) Put on the complete suit of armor from God so that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil; 12 because we have a struggle, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. 13 For this reason take up the complete suit of armor from God, so that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have accomplished everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace. 16 Besides all of this, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one's burning arrows. 17 Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word,

The apostle Paul compared Christians to soldiers engaged in combat. Our enemies are “wicked spirit forces.” Although we may appear weak and vulnerable, we can win the battle with Jehovah's help if we “put on the complete suit of armor from God.”



[Picture on page

Identify each piece of armor and what it represents

- _____
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FOR MEDITATION: Is my suit of armor complete?

Eph 6:11-13—We need protection from Satan and his demons (w18.05 27 ¶1)

(Ephesians 6:11-13) 11 Put on the complete suit of armor from God so that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil; 12 because we have a struggle, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. 13 For this reason take up the complete suit of armor from God, so that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have accomplished everything, to stand firm.

*** w18 May p. 27 par. 1 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

THE apostle Paul likened our life as Christians to that of soldiers engaged in hand-to-hand combat. Of course, the war we fight is spiritual, not literal. Even so, our enemies are real. Satan and the demons are skilled warriors with vast experience. At first glance, our prospects may seem bleak. Young Christians in particular may appear to be vulnerable. How can they hope to win against superhuman, wicked spirit forces? The fact is, young ones can win, and they are winning! Why? Because they “go on acquiring power in the Lord.” But they do more than draw on God’s power. They are dressed for battle. Like well-trained soldiers, they have “put on the complete suit of armor from God.”—Read Ephesians 6:10-12.

Eph 6:14, 15—Protect yourself with truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace (w18.05 28-29 ¶4, 7, 10)

(Ephesians 6:14, 15) 14 Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace.

*** w18 May p. 28 par. 4 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

4 Similarly, the truths we learn from God’s Word protect us from the spiritual harm that false teachings cause. (John 8:31, 32; 1 John 4:1) And the more we love divine truths, the easier it is to carry our “breastplate,” that is, to live by God’s righteous standards. (Ps. 111:7, 8; 1 John 5:3) In addition, when we have a clear understanding of the truths from God’s Word, we can confidently stand our ground and defend them against opposers.—1 Pet. 3:15.

- (John 8:31, 32) Then Jesus went on to say to the Jews who had believed him: “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- (1 John 4:1) Beloved ones, do not believe every inspired statement, but test the inspired statements to see whether they originate with God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- (Psalm 111:7, 8) The works of his hands are truth and justice; Trustworthy are all his orders. 8 They are always reliable, now and forever; They are made in truth and righteousness.
- (1 John 5:3) For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome,
- (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.

*** w18 May pp. 28-29 par. 7 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

7 What an appropriate symbol of how Jehovah’s righteous standards can protect our

figurative heart! (Prov. 4:23) Just as a soldier would not swap a breastplate of iron for one made of an inferior metal, we would never want to exchange Jehovah's standards of what is right for our own. Our judgment is just too flawed to offer us the protection that we need. (Prov. 3:5, 6) Instead, we regularly check that the 'iron plates' Jehovah has given us are firmly fixed over our heart.

- (Proverbs 4:23) Above all the things that you guard, safeguard your heart, For out of it are the sources of life.
- (Proverbs 3:5, 6) Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And do not rely on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways take notice of him, And he will make your paths straight.

*** w18 May p. 29 par. 10 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

10 While the literal boots worn by Roman soldiers carried them into war, the symbolic footwear worn by Christians helps them deliver a message of peace. (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15) Even so, it takes courage to speak up when the opportunity arises. "I was afraid to witness to my classmates," says 20-year-old Bo. "I think I was embarrassed. Looking back, I don't know why I should have been. Now I'm happy to witness to my peers."

- (Isaiah 52:7) How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, The one proclaiming peace, The one bringing good news of something better, The one proclaiming salvation, The one saying to Zion: "Your God has become King!"
- (Romans 10:15) How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent out? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!"

Eph 6:16, 17—Protect yourself with faith, the hope of salvation, and God's Word (w18.05 29-31 ¶13, 16, 20)

(Ephesians 6:16, 17) 16 Besides all of this, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one's burning arrows. 17 Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word,

*** w18 May pp. 29-30 par. 13 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

13 Some of the "burning arrows" that Satan might fire at you are lies about Jehovah—that He does not care about you and that you are unlovable. Nineteen-year-old Ida struggles with feelings of unworthiness. She says, "I have often felt that Jehovah isn't close to me and that he doesn't want to be my Friend." How does she deal with this attack? "The meetings are a giant boost to my faith," says Ida. "I used to sit there and never comment, thinking that nobody would want to hear what I had to say. Now, though, I prepare for the meetings and try to answer two or three times. It's difficult, but I feel much better when I do. And the brothers and sisters are so encouraging. I always come away from the meetings knowing that Jehovah loves me."

*** w18 May pp. 30-31 par. 16 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

16 Just as a helmet protects a soldier's brain, our "hope of salvation" protects our mind, our thinking ability. (1 Thess. 5:8; Prov. 3:21) Hope keeps us focused on God's promises and helps us see problems in the right perspective. (Ps. 27:1, 14; Acts 24:15) But if we want our "helmet" to be effective, we must wear it on our head, not carry it in our hand.

- (1 Thessalonians 5:8) But as for us who belong to the day, let us keep our

senses and put on the breastplate of faith and love and the hope of salvation as a helmet

- (Proverbs 3:21) My son, do not lose sight of them. Safeguard practical wisdom and thinking ability;
- (Psalm 27:1) Jehovah is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear? Jehovah is the stronghold of my life. Whom should I dread?
- (Psalm 27:14) Hope in Jehovah; Be courageous and strong of heart. Yes, hope in Jehovah.
- (Acts 24:15) And I have hope toward God, which hope these men also look forward to, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.

*** w18 May p. 31 par. 20 Young Ones—Stand Firm Against the Devil ***

20 Paul likens God's Word to a sword that Jehovah has given us. But we must learn to use it skillfully when defending our beliefs—or when adjusting our own thinking. (2 Cor. 10:4, 5; 2 Tim. 2:15) How can you improve your skills? Sebastian, aged 21, says: "I've been writing down one verse from every chapter in my Bible reading. I'm compiling a list of my favorite verses. That way, I feel more in tune with Jehovah's thinking." Daniel, quoted earlier, says: "As I do my Bible reading, I pick verses that I think will help people I meet in the ministry. I've found that people respond well when they see that you are passionate about the Bible and are doing your best to help them."

- (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5) For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful by God for overturning strongly entrenched things. 5 For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of

God, and we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ;

- (2 Timothy 2:15) Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Eph 4:30—How can a person grieve God's holy spirit? (it-1 1128 ¶3)

(Ephesians 4:30) 30 Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

*** it-1 p. 1128 Holiness ***

Holy spirit. Jehovah's active force, or spirit, is subject to his control and always accomplishes his purpose. It is clean, pure, sacred, and set apart for God's good use. Therefore it is called "holy spirit" and "the spirit of holiness." (Ps 51:11; Lu 11:13; Ro 1:4; Eph 1:13) The holy spirit operating on a person is a force for holiness or cleanness. Any unclean or wrong practice constitutes a resisting or "grieving" of that spirit. (Eph 4:30) Though impersonal in itself, the holy spirit is expressive of God's holy personality and therefore can be 'grieved.' The practice of any wrongdoing tends to "put out the fire of the spirit." (1Th 5:19) If such practice is continued, God's holy spirit is, in effect, made to "feel hurt," and this may result in God's changing into an enemy of the rebellious one. (Isa 63:10) A person grieving the holy spirit may go so far as to blaspheme against it, which sin Jesus Christ said will not be forgiven in the present system of things nor in that to come.—Mt 12:31, 32; Mr 3:28-30; see SPIRIT.

- (Psalm 51:11) Do not cast me out from your presence; And do not take your holy spirit away from me.

- (Luke 11:13) Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!"
- (Romans 1:4) but who with power was declared God's Son according to the spirit of holiness by means of resurrection from the dead—yes, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- (Ephesians 1:13) But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed by means of him with the promised holy spirit,
- (Ephesians 4:30) Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:19) Do not put out the fire of the spirit.
- (Isaiah 63:10) But they rebelled and grieved his holy spirit. He then turned into their enemy, And he fought against them.
- (Matthew 12:31, 32) "For this reason I say to you, every sort of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven. 32 For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come.
- (Mark 3:28-30) Truly I say to you that all things will be forgiven the sons of men, no matter what sins they commit and what blasphemies they speak. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the holy spirit has no forgiveness forever but is guilty of everlasting sin." 30 He said this

because they were saying: "He has an unclean spirit."

Eph 5:5—How is a greedy person an idolater? (it-1 1006 ¶2)

(Ephesians 5:5) 5 For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no sexually immoral person or unclean person or greedy person, which means being an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Christ and of God.

*** it-1 p. 1006 Greed ***

Becomes Manifest in Actions. Greediness will manifest itself in some overt act that will reveal the individual's wrong and inordinate desire. The Bible writer James tells us that wrong desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin. (Jas 1:14, 15) The greedy person can therefore be detected by his actions. The apostle Paul states that being a greedy person means being an idolater. (Eph 5:5) In his greedy desire such a one makes the thing desired his god, putting it above the service and worship of the Creator.—Ro 1:24, 25.

- (James 1:14, 15) But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin; in turn sin, when it has been carried out, brings forth death.
- (Ephesians 5:5) For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no sexually immoral person or unclean person or greedy person, which means being an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Christ and of God.
- (Romans 1:24, 25) Therefore, God, in keeping with the desires of their hearts, gave them up to uncleanness, so that their bodies might be dishonored among them. 25 They exchanged the truth of

God for the lie and venerated and rendered sacred service to the creation rather than the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

What has this week's Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?

Bible Reading:) Eph 4:17-32 (th study 10)
(4 min. or less) •

(Ephesians 4:17-32) 17 So this is what I say and bear witness to in the Lord, that you should no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are in darkness mentally and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensitivity of their hearts. 19 Having gone past all moral sense, they gave themselves

over to brazen conduct to practice every sort of uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you did not learn the Christ to be like this, 21 if, indeed, you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. 22 You were taught to put away the old personality that conforms to your former course of conduct and that is being corrupted according to its deceptive desires. 23 And you should continue to be made new in your dominant mental attitude, 24 and should put on the new personality that was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty.

25 Therefore, now that you have put away deceit, each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, because we are members belonging to one another. 26 Be wrathful, but do not sin; do not let the sun set while you are still angry; 27 do not give the Devil an opportunity. 28 Let the one who steals steal no more; rather, let him do hard work, doing good work with his hands, so that he may have something to share with someone in need. 29 Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth, but only what is good for building up as the need may be, to impart what is beneficial to the hearers. 30 Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

31 Put away from yourselves every kind of malicious bitterness, anger, wrath, screaming, and abusive speech, as well as everything injurious. 32 But become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.**

- **First Return Visit: (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 6)**

○○○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What will happen after the last days?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

Link: How can we enjoy the future God has promised?

(Revelation 21:3, 4) 3 With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

- **First Return Visit: (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video Why Study the Bible? (th study 8)**

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 135

- **"What Would Jehovah Think?": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Keep Perceiving Jehovah's Will (Le 19:18).**

*** mwb19 June p. 4 What Would Jehovah Think? ***

Before making big or small decisions, do we ask ourselves, 'What would Jehovah think?' Although we will never know everything about Jehovah's mind, he does reveal enough in his Word to equip us for "every good work." (2Ti 3:16, 17; Ro 11:33, 34) Jesus clearly perceived Jehovah's will and made it his priority in life. (Joh 4:34) In imitation of Jesus, may we do our best to make decisions that please Jehovah.—Joh 8:28, 29; Eph 5:15-17.

WATCH THE VIDEO KEEP PERCEIVING JEHOVAH'S WILL (LE 19:18), AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why must we apply Bible principles in our life?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of music?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of dress and grooming?

- In what other areas of life must we apply Bible principles?

- How can we improve our ability to perceive Jehovah's will?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

CHAPTER 71

Pharisees Confront the Man Who Was Blind

(John 9:19-41) And they asked them: "Is this your son who you say was born blind? How, then, does he now see?" 20 His parents answered: "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how it is that he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him. He is of age. He must speak for himself." 22 His parents said these things because they were in fear of the Jews, for the Jews had already come to an agreement that if anyone acknowledged him as Christ, that person should be expelled from the synagogue. 23 This is why his parents said: "He is of age. Question him." 24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him: "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered: "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that I was blind, but now I can see." 26 Then they said to him: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them: "I told you already, and yet you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become his disciples also, do you?" 28 At this they scornfully told him: "You are a disciple of that man, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he is from." 30 The man answered them: "This is certainly amazing, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to this one. 32 From of old it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing at all." 34 In answer they said to him: "You were altogether born in sin, and yet are you teaching us?" And they

threw him out! 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and on finding him, he said: "Are you putting faith in the Son of man?" 36 The man answered: "And who is he, sir, so that I may put faith in him?" 37 Jesus said to him: "You have seen him, and in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 He said: "I do put faith in him, Lord." And he did obeisance to him. 39 Jesus then said: "For this judgment I came into this world, that those not seeing might see and those seeing might become blind." 40 Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and they said to him: "We are not blind also, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them: "If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say, 'We see.' Your sin remains."

Paragraph 1 on Page 168

(John 9:22) His parents said these things because they were in fear of the Jews, for the Jews had already come to an agreement that if anyone acknowledged him as Christ, that person should be expelled from the synagogue.

Paragraph 2 on Page 168

(John 9:19-21) And they asked them: "Is this your son who you say was born blind? How, then, does he now see?" 20 His parents answered: "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how it is that he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him. He is of age. He must speak for himself."

Paragraph 3 on Page 168

(John 9:24, 25) So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him: "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered: "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that I was blind, but now I can see."

Paragraph 4 on Page 168

(John 9:26-29) Then they said to him: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them: "I told you already, and yet you did not listen. Why do you want to hear

it again? You do not want to become his disciples also, do you?" 28 At this they scornfully told him: "You are a disciple of that man, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he is from."

Paragraph 5 on Page 168

(John 9:30-33) The man answered them: "This is certainly amazing, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to this one. 32 From of old it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing at all."

Paragraph 6 on Page 168

(John 9:34) In answer they said to him: "You were altogether born in sin, and yet are you teaching us?" And they threw him out!

Paragraph 7 on Page 168

(John 9:35-37) Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and on finding him, he said: "Are you putting faith in the Son of man?" 36 The man answered: "And who is he, sir, so that I may put faith in him?" 37 Jesus said to him: "You have seen him, and in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Paragraph 8 on Page 168

(John 9:38, 39) He said: "I do put faith in him, Lord." And he did obeisance to him. 39 Jesus then said: "For this judgment I came into this world, that those not seeing might see and those seeing might become blind."

Paragraph 9 on Page 168

(John 9:40, 41) Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and they said to him: "We are not blind also, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them: "If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say, 'We see.' Your sin remains."

◇ Why are the parents of the once blind beggar afraid when they are called before the Pharisees, and how do they answer?

◇ The Pharisees become enraged at what logical argument?

◇ Why do the Pharisees have no excuse for opposing Jesus?

· Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 34 and Prayer