

- Song 127 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

### TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

**“Jephthah—A Spiritual Man”:** (10 min.)

#### Jephthah set aside personal differences with others (Jg 11:5-9; w16.04 7 ¶9)

(Judges 11:5-9) And when the Am'mon-ites fought against Israel, the elders of Gil'e-ad immediately went to bring Jeph'thah back from the land of Tob. 6 They said to Jeph'thah: “Come and serve as our commander, so that we can fight against the Am'mon-ites.” 7 But Jeph'thah said to the elders of Gil'e-ad: “Was it not you who hated me so much that you drove me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?” 8 At this the elders of Gil'e-ad said to Jeph'thah: “That is why now we have returned to you. If you go with us and fight against the Am'mon-ites, you will become our leader over all the inhabitants of Gil'e-ad.” 9 So Jeph'thah said to the elders of Gil'e-ad: “If you bring me back to fight against the Am'mon-ites and Jehovah defeats them for me, then I will indeed become your leader!”

\*\*\* w16 April p. 7 par. 9 Being Faithful Leads to God's Approval \*\*\*

9 Examples of faithful ones like Joseph, who showed mercy to his brothers—even though “they began to hate him”—may also have influenced Jephthah's response. (Gen. 37:4; 45:4, 5) Meditating on such examples would have helped Jephthah to choose a course of action that was pleasing to Jehovah. The conduct of his brothers no doubt hurt him deeply, but he would not hold back from serving Jehovah and His people. (Judg. 11:9) The fight to defend Jehovah's name was more important to Jephthah than any personal conflicts. He was determined to be faithful to Jehovah, resulting in good for himself and for others.—Heb. 11:32, 33.

- (Genesis 37:4) When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him, and they could not speak peaceably to him.
- (Genesis 45:4, 5) So Joseph said to his brothers: “Come close to me, please.” With that they came close to him. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now do not be upset and do not reproach one another because you sold me here; because God has sent me ahead of you for the preservation of life.
- (Judges 11:9) So Jeph'thah said to the elders of Gil'e-ad: “If you bring me back to fight against the Am'mon-ites and Jehovah defeats them for me, then I will indeed become your leader!”
- (Hebrews 11:32, 33) And what more will I say? For time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gid'e-on, Ba'rak, Samson, Jeph'thah, David, as well as Samuel and the other prophets. 33 Through faith they defeated kingdoms, brought about righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

#### Jephthah was a student of Jehovah's dealings with His people (Jg 11:12-15; it-2 27 ¶2)

(Judges 11:12-15) Jeph'thah then sent messengers to the king of the Am'mon-ites, saying: “What do you have against me that you have come to attack my land?” 13 So the king of the Am'mon-ites said to the messengers of Jeph'thah: “It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Ar'non to the Jab'bok and as far as the Jordan. Now return it peaceably.” 14 But Jeph'thah sent messengers back to the king of the Am'mon-ites 15 to say to him: “This is what Jeph'thah says: ‘Israel did not take the land of the Mo'ab-ites and the land of the Am'mon-ites,

\*\*\* it-2 p. 27 Jephthah \*\*\*

Jephthah, a man of action, lost no time in exercising vigorous leadership. He sent a message to the king of Ammon, pointing out that Ammon was the aggressor in invading Israel's land. The king replied that it was land Israel had taken from Ammon. (Jg 11:12, 13) Here Jephthah showed himself to be, not a mere rough, uncultured warrior, but a student of history and particularly of God's dealings with his people. He refuted the Ammonite argument, showing that (1) Israel did not molest Ammon, Moab, or Edom (Jg 11:14-18; De 2:9, 19, 37; 2Ch 20:10, 11); (2) Ammon had not possessed the disputed land at the time of the Israelite conquest, because it was in the hands of the Canaanite Amorites and God had given their king, Sihon, and his land into Israel's hand; (3) Ammon had not disputed Israel's occupation for the past 300 years; therefore, on what valid basis could they do so now?—Jg 11:19-27.

- (Judges 11:12, 13) Jeph'thah then sent messengers to the king of the Am'mon-ites, saying: "What do you have against me that you have come to attack my land?" 13 So the king of the Am'mon-ites said to the messengers of Jeph'thah: "It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Ar'non to the Jab'bok and as far as the Jordan. Now return it peaceably."
- (Judges 11:14-18) But Jeph'thah sent messengers back to the king of the Am'mon-ites 15 to say to him: "This is what Jeph'thah says: 'Israel did not take the land of the Mo'ab-ites and the land of the Am'mon-ites, 16 for when they came up out of Egypt, Israel walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Ka'desh. 17 Then Israel sent messengers to the king of E'dom, saying: "Please let us pass through your land," but the king of E'dom did not listen. Also to the king of Mo'ab they sent word, but he did not

consent. So Israel kept dwelling in Ka'desh. 18 When they walked through the wilderness, they bypassed the land of E'dom and the land of Mo'ab. They traveled east of the land of Mo'ab and camped in the region of the Ar'non; they did not come within the boundary of Mo'ab, for the Ar'non was the boundary of Mo'ab.

- (Deuteronomy 2:9) Jehovah then said to me, 'Do not engage in hostilities or in war with Mo'ab, for I will not give you any of his land as a possession because I have given Ar as a possession to the descendants of Lot.
- (Deuteronomy 2:19) When you come near to the Am'mon-ites, do not harass or provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the Am'mon-ites as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as their possession.
- (Deuteronomy 2:37) However, you did not approach the land of the Am'mon-ites, the whole bank of the Valley of Jab'bok and the cities of the mountainous region, or any other place forbidden by Jehovah our God.
- (2 Chronicles 20:10, 11) Now here are the men of Am'mon, Mo'ab, and the mountainous region of Se'ir, whom you did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt. They turned away from them and did not annihilate them. 11 Now they are repaying us by coming in to drive us out from your possession that you gave us as an inheritance.
- (Judges 11:19-27) "After that Israel sent messengers to Si'hon king of the Am'or-ites, king of Hesh'bon, and Israel said to him: "Please let us pass through your land to our own place." 20 But Si'hon did not trust Israel to cross through his territory, so Si'hon gathered

all his people together and encamped in Ja'haz and fought against Israel. 21 At this Jehovah the God of Israel gave Si'hon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they defeated them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Am'or-ites, the inhabitants of that land. 22 Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Am'or-ites from the Ar'non to the Jab'bok and from the wilderness to the Jordan. 23 "It was Jehovah the God of Israel who drove out the Am'or-ites from before his people Israel, and now would you drive them out? 24 Do you not possess whatever your god Che'mosh gives you to possess? So everyone whom Jehovah our God has driven out from before us is the one we will drive out. 25 Now are you any better than Ba'lak the son of Zip'por, the king of Mo'ab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? 26 While Israel was dwelling in Hesh'bon and its dependent towns and in A-ro'er and its dependent towns and in all the cities that are by the banks of the Ar'non for 300 years, why did you never try to take them back during that time? 27 I have not sinned against you, but you are wrong to attack me. Let Jehovah the Judge be judge today between the people of Israel and the people of Am'mon."

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**Jephthah kept his focus on the central issue  
—Jehovah's Godship (Jg 11:23, 24, 27; it-2 27 ¶3)**



(Judges 11:23, 24) "It was Jehovah the God of Israel who drove out the Am'or-ites from before his people Israel, and now would you drive them out? 24 Do you not possess whatever your god Che'mosh gives you to possess? So everyone whom Jehovah our God has driven out from before us is the one we will drive out.

(Judges 11:27) I have not sinned against you, but you are wrong to attack me. Let Jehovah the Judge be judge today between the people of Israel and the people of Am'mon."

\*\*\* it-2 p. 27 Jephthah \*\*\*

Jephthah got at the heart of the matter when he showed that the issue revolved around the matter of worship. He declared that Jehovah God had given Israel the land and that for this reason they would not give an inch of it to worshipers of a false god. He called Chemosh the god of Ammon. Some have thought this to be an error. But, although Ammon had the god Milcom, and though Chemosh was a god of Moab, those related nations worshiped many gods. Solomon even wrongly brought the worship of Chemosh into Israel because of his foreign wives. (Jg 11:24; 1Ki 11:1, 7, 8, 33; 2Ki 23:13) Furthermore, "Chemosh" may mean "Subduer, Conqueror," according to some scholars. (See Gesenius's Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon, translated by S. Tregelles,

1901, p. 401.) Jephthah may have called attention to this god as being given credit by the Ammonites for 'subduing' or 'conquering' others and giving them land.

- (Judges 11:24) Do you not possess whatever your god Che'mosh gives you to possess? So everyone whom Jehovah our God has driven out from before us is the one we will drive out.
- (1 Kings 11:1) But King Sol'o·mon loved many foreign women besides the daughter of Phar'aoh: Mo'ab·ite, Am'mon·ite, E'dom·ite, Si·do'ni·an, and Hit'tite women.
- (1 Kings 11:7, 8) It was then that Sol'o·mon built a high place to Che'mosh, the disgusting god of Mo'ab, on the mountain in front of Jerusalem and to Mo'lech, the disgusting god of the Am'mon·ites. 8 That was what he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods.
- (1 Kings 11:33) I will do this because they have left me and are bowing down to Ash'to·reth the goddess of the Si·do'ni·ans, to Che'mosh the god of Mo'ab, and to Mil'com the god of the Am'mon·ites, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and observing my statutes and my judgments as his father David did.
- (2 Kings 23:13) And the king made unfit for worship the high places in front of Jerusalem that were to the south of the Mount of Ruination, which Sol'o·mon the king of Israel had built to Ash'to·reth the disgusting goddess of the Si·do'ni·ans; and to Che'mosh the disgusting god of

Mo'ab; and to Mil'com the detestable god of the Am'mon·ites.

In what specific ways am I demonstrating that I am a spiritual person?

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### Spiritual Gems:

**Jg 11:1—How do we know that Jephthah was not an illegitimate son? (it-2 26)**

(Judges 11:1) 11 Now Jeph'thah the Gil'e·ad·ite was a mighty warrior; he was the son of a prostitute, and Gil'e·ad was Jeph'thah's father.

\*\*\* it-2 p. 26 Jephthah \*\*\*

Jephthah a Legitimate Son. The mother of Jephthah was "a prostitute woman," not meaning, however, that Jephthah was born of prostitution or was illegitimate. His mother had been a prostitute prior to her marriage as a secondary wife to Gilead, just as Rahab had once been a prostitute but later married Salmon. (Jg 11:1; Jos 2:1; Mt 1:5) That Jephthah was not illegitimate is proved by the fact that his half brothers by Gilead's primary wife drove him out so that he would not share in the inheritance. (Jg 11:2) Additionally, Jephthah later became the accepted leader of the men of Gilead (of whom Jephthah's half brothers seemed to be foremost). (Jg 11:11) Moreover, he offered a sacrifice to God at the tabernacle. (Jg 11:30, 31) None of these things would have been possible for an illegitimate son, for the Law specifically stated: "No illegitimate son may come into the congregation of Jehovah. Even to the tenth generation none of his may come into the congregation of Jehovah."—De 23:2.

- (Judges 11:1) Now Jeph'thah the Gil'e-ad-ite was a mighty warrior; he was the son of a prostitute, and Gil'e-ad was Jeph'thah's father.
- (Joshua 2:1) Then Joshua the son of Nun secretly sent two men out from Shit'tim as spies. He told them: "Go and inspect the land, especially Jer'i-cho." So they went and came to the house of a prostitute named Ra'hab, and they stayed there.
- (Matthew 1:5) Sal'mon became father to Bo'az by Ra'hab; Bo'az became father to O'bed by Ruth; O'bed became father to Jes'se;
- (Judges 11:2) But Gil'e-ad's wife also bore him sons. When the sons of his wife grew up, they drove Jeph'thah out and said to him: "You will have no inheritance in our father's household, for you are the son of another woman."
- (Judges 11:11) So Jeph'thah went with the elders of Gil'e-ad, and the people made him their leader and commander. And Jeph'thah repeated all his words before Jehovah in Miz'pah.
- (Judges 11:30, 31) Then Jeph'thah made a vow to Jehovah and said: "If you give the Am'mon-ites into my hand, 31 then whoever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Am'mon-ites will become Jehovah's, and I will offer that one up as a burnt offering."
- (Deuteronomy 23:2) "No illegitimate son may come into the congregation of Jehovah. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may come into the congregation of Jehovah."

**Bible Reading: ) (4 min.)  
 Jg 10:1-18 (th study 5)**

(Judges 10:1-18) 10 After A·bim'e-lech, To'la the son of Pu'ah, the son of Do'do, a man of Is'sa-char, rose up to save Israel. He lived in Sha'mir in the mountainous region of E'phra-im. 2 He judged Israel for 23 years. Then he died and was buried in Sha'mir. 3 After him Ja'ir the Gil'e-ad-ite rose up and judged Israel for 22 years. 4 He had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys, and they had 30 cities, which to this day are called Hav'voth-ja'ir; they are in the land of Gil'e-ad. 5 After that Ja'ir died and was buried in Ka'mon. 6 Again the Israelites did what was bad in the eyes of Jehovah, and they began to serve the Ba'als, the Ash'to-reth images, the gods of A'ram, the gods of Si'don, the gods of Mo'ab, the gods of the Am'mon-ites, and the gods of the Phi-lis'tines. They abandoned Jehovah and did not serve him. 7 Then Jehovah's anger blazed against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Phi-lis'tines and the Am'mon-ites. 8 So they crushed and greatly oppressed the Israelites in that year—for 18 years they oppressed all the Israelites on the side of the Jordan that had been the land of the Am'or-ites in Gil'e-ad. 9 The Am'mon-ites would also cross the Jordan to fight against Judah and Benjamin and the house of E'phra-im; and Israel was greatly distressed. 10 Then the Israelites called to Jehovah for help, saying: "We have sinned against you, for we abandoned our God and served the Ba'als." 11 But Jehovah said to the Israelites: "Did I not save you from Egypt and from the Am'or-ites, the Am'mon-ites, the Phi-lis'tines, 12 the Si-do'ni-ans, Am'a-lek, and Mid'i-an when they oppressed you? When you cried out to me, I saved you out of their hand. 13 But you abandoned me and served other gods. That is why I will not save you again. 14 Go to the gods whom you have chosen and call for help. Let them save you in your time of distress." 15 But the Israelites said to Jehovah: "We have sinned. Do to us whatever is good in your eyes. Only save us, please, this day." 16 And they removed the foreign gods from

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



their midst and served Jehovah, so that he could no longer tolerate Israel's suffering. 17 In time the Am'mon-ites were called together, and they pitched camp in Gil'e-ad. So the Israelites gathered together and pitched camp in Miz'pah. 18 The people and the princes of Gil'e-ad said to one another: "Who will take the lead in fighting against the Am'mon-ites? Let him become the chief over all the inhabitants of Gil'e-ad."

### APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the tract How Do You View the Bible? to start the sample conversation. (th study 1)**

Initial Call December

Question: How do you view the Bible?

Scripture: Ro 15:4

- (Romans 15:4) 4 For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.

Link: What Bible promise gives us hope?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- Iffi lesson 01 point 5

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**Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer the Enjoy Life Forever! brochure. (th study 4)**

Return Visit

Question: What Bible promise gives us hope?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

- (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."

Link: How can we understand the Bible?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

Iffi lesson 02 point 2; wp21.2 14

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**Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 02 point 5 (th study 3)**

\*\*\* Iffi lesson 2 point 5 \*\*\*

5. The Bible's hope can make a difference

Many people are discouraged or even angered by the problems they see around them. Some fight to try to change things for the better. See how the Bible's promise that things will get better helps people now. Play the VIDEO, and then discuss the questions that follow.

VIDEO: I Wanted to Fight Injustice (4:07)

- In the video, what injustice troubled Rafika?

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- Although the injustice that she saw did not go away, how did the Bible help her?

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The hope that the Bible offers for the future can help us to battle discouragement and cope with our problems successfully. Read Proverbs 17:22 and Romans 12:12, and then discuss these questions:

- (Proverbs 17:22) A joyful heart is good medicine, But a crushed spirit saps one's strength.
- (Romans 12:12) Rejoice in the hope. Endure under tribulation. Persevere in prayer.
- Do you think that the message of hope found in the Bible could make a difference in your life now? Why?

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## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 138

**From Youth, a Life Dedicated to Jehovah: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the following questions: What did the video teach you about the value of training? making a dedication early in life? making yourself available to be used by Jehovah's organization?**

What did the video teach you about the value of training?

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making a dedication early in life?

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making yourself available to be used by Jehovah's organization?

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**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

rr chap. 17 ¶15-21

**Paragraph 16**

(Ezekiel 38:8) ““You will be given attention after will invade the land whose people have been restored from the ravages of the sword, collected together out of many peoples onto the mountains of Israel, which had long been lying devastated. The inhabitants of this land were restored from the peoples, and all of them dwell in security.

**Paragraph 18**

(Ezekiel 38:4) I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in splendor, a vast assembly with large shields and bucklers, all of them wielding swords;

(Ezekiel 38:16) Like clouds covering the land, you will come against my people Israel. In the final part of the days I will bring you against my land so that the nations may know me when I sanctify myself through you before their eyes, O Gog.”

(Job 34:12) For a certainty, God does not act wickedly; The Almighty does not pervert justice.

(1 John 3:13) Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

(Ezekiel 38:23) And I will certainly magnify myself and sanctify myself and make myself known before the eyes of many nations; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.’

**Paragraph 19**

(Ezekiel 38:10-12) 10 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘In that day thoughts will come into your heart, and you will devise an evil plan. 11 You will say: “I will invade the land of unprotected settlements. I will come against those living in security,

without disturbance, all of them living in settlements unprotected by walls, bars, or gates.” 12 It will be to take much spoil and plunder, to attack the devastated places that are now inhabited and a people regathered from the nations, who are accumulating wealth and property, those who are living in the center of the earth..

• Concluding Comments (3 min.)

• Song 55 and Prayer