

- Song 121 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Saul Started Out Humble and Modest”: (10 min.)

Saul was modest and hesitated to accept the kingship (1Sa 9:21; 10:20-22; w20.08 10 ¶11)

(1 Samuel 9:21) At this Saul answered: “Am I not a Ben'ja·min·ite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the most insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? So why have you spoken to me in this way?”

(1 Samuel 10:20-22) So Samuel had all the tribes of Israel draw near, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected. 21 Then he had the tribe of Benjamin draw near by its families, and the family of the Mat'rites was selected. Finally Saul the son of Kish was selected. But when they went to look for him, he was nowhere to be found. 22 So they inquired of Jehovah: “Has the man come here yet?” Jehovah answered: “There he is hiding himself among the luggage.”

*** w20 August pp. 10-11 pars. 11-12 Walk Humbly and Modestly With Your God ***

11 Reflect on what happened to King Saul. He started out as a modest young man. He was aware of his limitations and even hesitated to take on more responsibility. (1 Sam. 9:21; 10:20-22) Yet, in time Saul became presumptuous. He revealed this bad trait soon after he became king. On one occasion, he lost patience while waiting for the prophet Samuel. Instead of modestly trusting in Jehovah to act in behalf of the people, Saul offered up a burnt sacrifice even though he was not authorized to do so. As a result, Saul lost Jehovah's favor and eventually the kingship. (1 Sam. 13:8-14) We are wise if we learn from this warning example and avoid acting presumptuously.

- (1 Samuel 9:21) At this Saul answered: “Am I not a Ben'ja·min·ite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the most insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? So why have you spoken to me in this way?”
- (1 Samuel 10:20-22) So Samuel had all the tribes of Israel draw near, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected. 21 Then he had the tribe of Benjamin draw near by its families, and the family of the Mat'rites was selected. Finally Saul the son of Kish was selected. But when they went to look for him, he was nowhere to be found. 22 So they inquired of Jehovah: “Has the man come here yet?” Jehovah answered: “There he is hiding himself among the luggage.”
- (1 Samuel 13:8-14) He continued waiting for seven days until the designated time that Samuel had set, but Samuel did not come to Gil'gal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 Finally Saul said: “Bring to me the burnt sacrifice and the communion sacrifices.” And he offered up the burnt sacrifice. 10 But as soon as he had finished offering up the burnt sacrifice, Samuel arrived. So Saul went out to meet him and bless him. 11 Then Samuel said: “What have you done?” Saul replied: “I saw that the people were deserting me, and you did not come within the designated time, and the Phi-lis'tines were gathering together at Mich'mash. 12 So I said to myself, ‘Now the Phi-lis'tines will come down against me at Gil'gal, and I have not sought the favor of Jehovah.’ So I felt obligated to offer up the burnt sacrifice.” 13 At this Samuel said to Saul: “You have acted foolishly. You have not obeyed the commandment that Jehovah your God gave you. If you had, Jehovah would have made your kingdom firm over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom will not last. Jehovah will find a man

agreeable to his heart, and Jehovah will commission him as a leader over his people, because you did not obey what Jehovah commanded you.”

Saul did not act rashly when others spoke negatively of him (1Sa 10:27; 11:12, 13; w14 3/15 9 ¶8)

(1 Samuel 10:27) But some worthless men said: “How will this one save us?” So they despised him, and they did not bring any gift to him. But he said nothing about it.

(1 Samuel 11:12, 13) Then the people said to Samuel: “Who was saying, ‘Is Saul to be king over us?’ Hand the men over, and we will put them to death.” 13 However, Saul said: “Not a man should be put to death on this day, for today Jehovah has rescued Israel.”

*** w14 3/15 p. 9 par. 8 How to Maintain the Spirit of Self-Sacrifice ***

8 King Saul of Israel serves as a warning for us about how selfishness can eat away at our spirit of self-sacrifice. Saul began his kingship with a modest and humble view of himself. (1 Sam. 9:21) He refused to punish Israelites who spoke out against his kingship, even though he could have felt justified in defending his God-given position. (1 Sam. 10:27) King Saul accepted the guidance of God’s spirit by leading Israel in a successful battle against the Ammonites. Afterward, he humbly gave Jehovah the credit for the victory.—1 Sam. 11:6, 11-13.

- (1 Samuel 9:21) At this Saul answered: “Am I not a Ben’ja·min·ite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the most insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? So why have you spoken to me in this way?”
- (1 Samuel 10:27) But some worthless men said: “How will this one save us?” So they despised him, and they did not

bring any gift to him. But he said nothing about it.

- (1 Samuel 11:6) The spirit of God empowered Saul when he heard these words, and he burned with anger.
- (1 Samuel 11:11-13) On the next day, Saul divided the people into three bands, and they made their way into the middle of the camp during the morning watch and struck down the Am'mon-ites until the day grew hot. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together. 12 Then the people said to Samuel: “Who was saying, ‘Is Saul to be king over us?’ Hand the men over, and we will put them to death.” 13 However, Saul said: “Not a man should be put to death on this day, for today Jehovah has rescued Israel.”

Saul responded to the leadings of Jehovah’s holy spirit (1Sa 11:5-7; w95 12/15 10 ¶1)

(1 Samuel 11:5-7) But Saul was coming from the field behind the herd, and Saul said: “What is the matter with the people? Why are they weeping?” So they related to him the words of the men of Ja'besh. 6 The spirit of God empowered Saul when he heard these words, and he burned with anger. 7 So he took a pair of bulls and cut them into pieces, and he sent these into all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, who said: “Whoever does not follow Saul and Samuel should expect this to be done to his cattle!” And the fear of Jehovah fell upon the people, so that they came out with one accord.

*** w95 12/15 p. 10 The Ammonites—A People That Repaid Kindness With Hostility ***

Again the Ammonites had repaid Jehovah's kindness with hostility. Jehovah did not ignore this vicious threat. "The spirit of God became operative upon Saul on his hearing these words [of Nahash], and his anger got very hot." Under the direction of God's spirit, Saul mustered a force of 330,000 fighting men that so thoroughly routed the Ammonites that "there were not left over among them two together."—1 Samuel 11:6, 11.

- (1 Samuel 11:6) The spirit of God empowered Saul when he heard these words, and he burned with anger.
- (1 Samuel 11:11) On the next day, Saul divided the people into three bands, and they made their way into the middle of the camp during the morning watch and struck down the Am'mon-ites until the day grew hot. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.



Humility will help us to view our privileges and abilities as gifts from Jehovah. (Ro 12:3, 16; 1Co 4:7) Also, if we are humble, we will continue to rely on Jehovah for guidance.

- (Romans 12:3) For through the undeserved kindness given to me, I tell everyone there among you not to think more of himself than it is necessary to think, but to think so as to have a sound

mind, each one as God has given to him a measure of faith.

- (Romans 12:16) Have the same attitude toward others as toward yourselves; do not set your mind on lofty things, but be led along with the lowly things. Do not become wise in your own eyes.
- (1 Corinthians 4:7) For who makes you different from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive? If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it?

Spiritual Gems:

1Sa 9:9—What might these words have signified? (w05 3/15 22 ¶8)

(1 Samuel 9:9) 9 (In former times in Israel, this was what a man would say when going to seek God: "Come, and let us go to the seer." For the prophet of today used to be called a seer in former times.)

*** w05 3/15 p. 22 par. 8 Highlights From the Book of First Samuel ***

9:9—What is significant about the expression "the prophet of today used to be called a seer in former times"? These words may indicate that as the prophets became more prominent in the days of Samuel and during the era of the kings in Israel, the word "seer" came to be replaced by the term "prophet." Samuel is considered the first of the line of the prophets.—Acts 3:24.

- (1 Samuel 9:9) (In former times in Israel, this was what a man would say when

going to seek God: “Come, and let us go to the seer.” For the prophet of today used to be called a seer in former times.)

- (Acts 3:24) And all the prophets from Samuel and those who followed him, as many as have spoken, have also plainly declared these days.

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

Bible Reading:) (4 min.)

1Sa 9:1-10 (th study 5)

(1 Samuel 9:1-10) 9 There was a man of Benjamin named Kish, the son of A·bi’el, the son of Ze’ror son of Be·co’rath son of A·phi’ah, a Ben’ja·min·ite and a very wealthy man. 2 He had a son named Saul, who was young and handsome—there was no man among the Israelites more handsome than he—and he stood head and shoulders taller than all the people.

3 When the donkeys belonging to Saul’s father Kish got lost, Kish said to his son Saul: “Please take with you one of the attendants and go look for the donkeys.” 4 They passed through the mountainous region of E’phra·im and through the land of Shal’i·shah, and they did not find them. They traveled through the land of Sha’a·lim, but the donkeys were not there. They passed through the entire land of the Ben’ja·min·ites, and they did not find them.

5 They came into the land of Zuph, and Saul said to his attendant who was with him: “Come, let us return, so that my father does not start worrying about us rather than the donkeys.”

6 But the attendant replied: “Look, there is a man of God in this city, a man who is held in honor. All that he says is sure to come true. Let us go there now. Perhaps he can tell us which way to go.” 7 At this Saul said to his attendant: “If we go, what can we take to the man? There is no bread in our bags; there is nothing to take as a gift to the man of the true God. What do we have?” 8 So the attendant answered Saul again: “Look! There is a quarter of a shekel of silver in my hand. I will give it to the man of the true God, and he will tell us which way to go.” 9 (In former times in Israel, this was what a man would say when going to seek God: “Come, and let us go to the seer.” For the prophet of today used to be called a seer in former times.) 10 Then Saul said to his attendant: “What you said is good. Let us go.” So they went to the city where the man of the true God was.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Help Bible Students to Avoid Bad Associations”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video Help Your Bible Students to Avoid Bad Associations.

To gain Jehovah’s friendship, Bible students must select good associates. (Ps 15:1, 4) Good associates will influence them to do what is right.—Pr 13:20; lff lesson 48.

When helping your Bible students to avoid bad associations, be empathetic. They may struggle to give up friends in the world. Therefore, show genuine personal interest in them between Bible studies. This may involve a text message, a phone call, or a short visit. As your students progress, you can include them in association with God’s people. Then they will clearly see that they are gaining far more than they are losing. (Mr 10:29, 30) You too will find joy as you see Jehovah’s family increase.

- (Psalm 15:1) O Jehovah, who may be a guest in your tent? Who may reside in your holy mountain?
- (Psalm 15:4) He rejects anyone who is contemptible, But he honors those fearing Jehovah. He does not go back on his promise, even when it is bad for him.
- (Proverbs 13:20) The one walking with the wise will become wise, But the one who has dealings with the stupid will fare badly.
- (Mark 10:29, 30) Jesus said: “Truly I say to you, no one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news 30 who will not get 100 times more now in this period of time—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the coming system of things, everlasting life.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENTS TO AVOID BAD ASSOCIATIONS, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What are bad associations?—1Co 15:33

- How did Jade imagine what a Christian gathering would be like?

- How did Neeta help Jade to replace bad associations?

Talk: (5 min.) w15 4/15 6-7 ¶16-20—Theme: Keys to Training Others With Success. (th study 19)

*** w15 4/15 pp. 6-7 Elders, How Do You Feel About Training Others? ***

WILLING TEACHERS AND TRUE FRIENDS

16 Be willing, not reluctant. When Samuel first heard that the Israelites wanted a human king, he felt disappointed and rejected by his people. (1 Sam. 8:4-8) In fact, he was so reluctant to do what the people demanded that Jehovah three times saw the need to tell him to listen to them. (1 Sam. 8:7, 9, 22) Even so, Samuel did not allow bitterness or resentment against the man who would replace him to take root in his heart. When Jehovah told him to anoint Saul, the prophet obeyed, not reluctantly out of mere duty, but willingly out of love.

17 Like Samuel, experienced elders today show a kind disposition toward those whom they train. (1 Pet. 5:2) Such elders do not hold back from training others for fear of having to relinquish certain congregation privileges to the learners. Bighearted teachers view willing learners, not as competitors, but as “fellow workers”—as precious gifts to the congregation. (2 Cor. 1:24; Heb. 13:16) And what satisfaction such unselfish teachers experience as they observe how the learners use their abilities to benefit the congregation!—Acts 20:35.

18 Be a friend, not just a teacher. The day Samuel met Saul, the prophet could have

pulled out a flask of oil, hurriedly poured it on Saul's head, and sent the new king on his way—fully anointed but totally unprepared. Instead, Samuel kindly took the time to prepare Saul's heart step-by-step. Only after they had a fine meal, a pleasant stroll, a long talk, and a good rest did the prophet feel that the right moment had arrived to anoint Saul.

19 Likewise, a teacher today should start his training by taking time to develop a relaxed atmosphere and a bond of friendship with the learner. The specific steps an elder takes to create such a warm relationship will differ somewhat from land to land, depending on local circumstances and customs. Yet, no matter where you live, if you as a busy elder set aside time to spend with a learner, you are telling him, in effect, "You are important to me." (Read Romans 12:10.) That unspoken message will be clearly understood and deeply valued by willing learners everywhere.

20 Elders, remember: A successful teacher is someone who not only loves to train another person but also loves the person he is training. (Compare John 5:20.) That crucial aspect of a teacher's disposition is quickly discerned by a learner and greatly affects the way he responds to the training he receives. Therefore, dear elders, as you give training, be more than a teacher—be a friend.—Prov. 17:17; John 15:15.

- Paragraph 16
- (1 Samuel 8:4-8) In time all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ra'mah. 5 They said to him: "Look! You have grown old, but your sons are not walking in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the other nations." 6 But it displeased Samuel when they said: "Give us a king to judge us." Then Samuel prayed to Jehovah, 7 and Jehovah said to Samuel: "Listen to everything the people say to you; for it is not you whom they have rejected, but it is I whom they have

rejected as their king. 8 They are doing just as they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day; they keep forsaking me and serving other gods, and that is what they are doing to you.

- (1 Samuel 8:7) and Jehovah said to Samuel: "Listen to everything the people say to you; for it is not you whom they have rejected, but it is I whom they have rejected as their king.
- (1 Samuel 8:9) Now listen to them. However, you should solemnly warn them; tell them what the king who rules over them will have the right to demand."
- (1 Samuel 8:22) Jehovah said to Samuel: "Listen to them, and appoint a king to reign over them." Samuel then said to the men of Israel: "Each of you should return to his city."
- Paragraph 17
- (1 Peter 5:2) Shepherd the flock of God under your care, serving as overseers, not under compulsion, but willingly before God; not for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly;
- (2 Corinthians 1:24) Not that we are the masters over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy, for it is by your faith that you are standing.
- (Hebrews 13:16) Moreover, do not forget to do good and to share what you have with others, for God is well-pleased with such sacrifices.
- (Acts 20:35) I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way, you must assist those who are weak and must keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said: 'There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.'

- Paragraph 19
- (Romans 12:10) In brotherly love have tender affection for one another. In showing honor to one another, take the lead.
- Paragraph 20
- (John 5:20) For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, so that you may marvel.
- (Proverbs 17:17) A true friend shows love at all times And is a brother who is born for times of distress.
- (John 15:15) I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, because I have made known to you all the things I have heard from my Father.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 37

Annual Service Report: (15 min.) Talk by an elder. After reading the announcement from the branch office regarding the annual service report, interview publishers, selected in advance, who had encouraging experiences in the ministry during the past year.

[illegible]

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

rr chap. 21 ¶7-12

Paragraph 7

(Ezekiel 40:2) By means of visions from God, he brought me to the land of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain, on which there was a structure like a city to the south.

(Ezekiel 45:1) “When you allot the land as an inheritance, you should offer as a contribution to Jehovah a holy portion out of the land. Its length should be 25,000 cubits, and its width, 10,000 cubits. Its entire area will be a holy portion.

(Ezekiel 45:6) “You should give as the possession of the city an area that is 25,000 cubits long (corresponding to the holy contribution) and 5,000 cubits wide. It will belong to all the house of Israel.

Paragraph 9

(Ezekiel 45:7) “And for the chieftain there will be land on both sides of the holy contribution and of the area allotted to the city. It will be next to the holy contribution and the possession of the city. It will be on the west side and on the east side. Its length from the western boundary to the eastern boundary will correspond to one of the tribal portions.

(John 10:16) “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those too I must bring in, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.

(Psalm 45:16) Your sons will take the place of your forefathers. You will appoint them as princes in all the earth.

Paragraph 10

(Ezekiel 48:35) “The perimeter will be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that day on will be Jehovah Is There.”

Paragraph 11

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

(Ezekiel 46:18) The chieftain should not take any of the inheritance of the people by forcing them off their property. He should give his sons an inheritance from his own property, so that no one among my people may be driven from his property.”

(Ezekiel 48:29) “This is the land that you should distribute as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel, and these will be their portions,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.

Paragraph 12

(Ezekiel 48:30-34) “These will be the exits of the city: The northern side will measure 4,500 cubits. 31 “The gates of the city will be named according to the tribes of Israel. Of the three gates on the north, there is one gate for Reu'ben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Le'vi. 32 “The eastern side will be 4,500 cubits long, and there are three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan. 33 “The southern side will measure 4,500 cubits, with three gates: one gate for Sim'e-on, one gate for Is'sa·char, and one gate for Zeb'u·lun. 34 “The western side will be 4,500 cubits long, with three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Ash'er, and one gate for Naph'ta·li.

(Ezekiel 45:6) “You should give as the possession of the city an area that is 25,000 cubits long (corresponding to the holy contribution) and 5,000 cubits wide. It will belong to all the house of Israel.

• Concluding Comments (3 min.)

• Song 123 and Prayer