

- Song 4 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

"Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor":
(10 min.)



King Saul felt that he was in a desperate situation (1Sa 13:5-7)

(1 Samuel 13:5-7) The Phi-lis'tines also gathered together to fight against Israel, with 30,000 war chariots and 6,000 horsemen and troops as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore; and they went up and camped in Mich'mash to the east of Beth-a'ven. 6 And the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble, because they were hard-pressed; so the people hid in the caves, the hollows, the crags, the cellars, and the cisterns. 7 Some of the Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gil'e-ad. But Saul was still in Gil'gal, and all the people following him were trembling.

Rather than modestly following Jehovah's instructions, Saul acted presumptuously (1Sa 13:8, 9; w00 8/1 13 ¶17)

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(1 Samuel 13:8, 9) 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.

*** w00 8/1 p. 13 par. 17 Presumptuousness Leads to Dishonor ***

17 At first glance, Saul's actions might seem justifiable. After all, God's people were "in sore straits," "hard pressed," and trembling because of their desperate situation. (1 Samuel 13:6, 7) Certainly, it is not wrong to take the initiative when circumstances warrant it. Remember, though, that Jehovah can read hearts and perceive our innermost motives. (1 Samuel 16:7) Hence, he must have seen some factors about Saul that are not directly stated in the Bible account. For example, Jehovah may have seen that Saul's impatience was stirred by pride. Perhaps Saul was deeply irritated that he—the king of all Israel—had to wait for someone he viewed as an old, procrastinating prophet! In any event, Saul felt that Samuel's tardiness gave him the right to take matters into his own hands and to disregard the explicit instructions he had been given. The result? Samuel did not praise Saul's initiative. On the contrary, he chastised Saul, saying: "Your kingdom will not last . . . because you did not keep what Jehovah commanded you." (1 Samuel 13:13, 14) Once again, presumptuousness led to dishonor.

- (1 Samuel 13:6, 7) And the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble, because they were hard-pressed; so the people hid in the caves, the hollows, the crags, the cellars, and the cisterns. 7 Some of the Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gil'e-ad. But Saul was still in Gil'gal, and all the people following him were trembling.
- (1 Samuel 16:7) But Jehovah said to Samuel: "Do not pay attention to his appearance and how tall he is, for I have rejected him. For the way man sees is not the way God sees, because

mere man sees what appears to the eyes, but Jehovah sees into the heart.”

- (1 Samuel 13:13, 14) 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.”

Jehovah disciplined Saul (1Sa 13:13, 14; w07 6/15 27 ¶8)

(1 Samuel 13:13, 14) 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.”

- (1 Samuel 10:21, 22) 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 15:17) Samuel continued: “Were you not insignificant in your own eyes when you were made head of the tribes of Israel and when Jehovah anointed you as king over Israel?”
- (1 Samuel 10:8) Then go down ahead of me to Gil'gal, and I will go down to you there to offer up burnt sacrifices and

communion sacrifices. You should wait for seven days until I come to you. Then I will let you know what you should do.”

- (1 Samuel 13:5-13) The Phi-lis'tines also gathered together to fight against Israel, with 30,000 war chariots and 6,000 horsemen and troops as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore; and they went up and camped in Mich'mash to the east of Beth-a'ven. 6 And the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble, because they were hard-pressed; so the people hid in the caves, the hollows, the crags, the cellars, and the cisterns. 7 Some of the Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gil'e·ad. But Saul was still in Gil'gal, and all the people following him were trembling. 8 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.

Someone acts presumptuously when he rashly or foolishly does something that he is not

authorized to do. Presumptuousness is contrasted with modesty. What situations could tempt someone to be presumptuous?

Spiritual Gems:

1Sa 12:21—How could the people have been following “empty things” (or, “unrealities,” ftn.)? (w11 7/15 13 ¶15)

(1 Samuel 12:21) 21 Do not turn away to follow the empty things, which are of no benefit and cannot rescue, because they are empty.

*** w11 7/15 pp. 13-14 par. 15 Will You Follow Jehovah’s Loving Guidance? ***

15 Did those people think that a human king would somehow be more real, more dependable, than Jehovah? If so, they were truly pursuing an unreality! And they were in danger of pursuing many other satanic illusions. Human kings would easily lead them into idolatry. Idolaters make the mistake of thinking that physical objects—gods made of wood or stone—are somehow more real, more reliable, than the invisible God, Jehovah, who created all things. But as the apostle Paul noted, idols are “nothing.” (1 Cor. 8:4) They cannot see, hear, speak, or act. You might be able to see them and touch them, but if you were to worship one, you would, indeed, be pursuing an unreality—an empty illusion that would bring only disaster.—Ps. 115:4-8.

- (1 Corinthians 8:4) Now concerning the eating of food offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world and that there is no God but one.

- (Psalm 115:4-8) Their idols are silver and gold, The work of human hands. 5 A mouth they have, but they cannot speak; Eyes, but they cannot see; 6 Ears they have, but they cannot hear; A nose, but they cannot smell; 7 Hands they have, but they cannot feel; Feet, but they cannot walk; They make no sound with their throat. 8 The people who make them will become just like them, As will all those who trust in them.

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 12:1-11 (th study 2)

(1 Samuel 12:1-11) 12 Finally Samuel said to all Israel: “Here I have done all that you asked of me, and I appointed a king to reign over you. 2 Now here is the king who is leading you! As for me, I have grown old and gray, and my sons are here with you, and I have led you from my youth until this day. 3 Here I am. Testify against me before Jehovah and before his anointed one: Whose bull or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded or crushed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me look the other way? If I have, I will restore it to you.” 4 To this they said: “You have not defrauded us or crushed us or accepted anything at all from anyone’s hand.” 5 So he said to them: “Jehovah is a witness against you, and his anointed one is a witness this day that you have found nothing to accuse me of.” To this they said: “He is a witness.” 6 So Samuel said to the people: “Jehovah, who

used Moses and Aaron and who brought your forefathers up out of the land of Egypt, is a witness. 7 And now take your positions, and I will judge you before Jehovah in view of all the righteous acts that Jehovah has done for you and for your forefathers. 8 “As soon as Jacob had come into Egypt and your forefathers began calling to Jehovah for help, Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron to lead your forefathers out of Egypt and to cause them to dwell in this place. 9 But they forgot Jehovah their God, and he sold them into the hand of Sis'e-ra the chief of the army of Ha'zor and into the hand of the Phi-lis'tines and into the hand of the king of Mo'ab, and they fought against them. 10 And they called to Jehovah for help and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have left Jehovah to serve the Ba'als and the Ash'to-reth images; now rescue us out of the hand of our enemies so that we may serve you.’ 11 Then Jehovah sent Jer-ub-ba'al and Be'dan and Jeph'thah and Samuel and rescued you from the hand of the enemies all around you, so that you could live in security.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion.
Play the video Initial Call: Jesus—Mt 16:16. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

(Matthew 16:16) 16 Simon Peter answered: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to an objection common in your territory. (th study 1)

Question: Who is Jesus?

Scripture: Mt 16:16

- (Matthew 16:16) 16 Simon Peter answered: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Link: Why did Jesus die?

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iff lesson 04 intro and points 1-2 (th study 13)

Who Is God?

Nearly as long as humans have existed, they have worshipped many gods and goddesses. Yet, the Bible refers to one God who “is greater than all the other gods.” (2 Chronicles 2:5) Who is that? And what makes him greater than all the other gods that people worship? In this lesson, learn how this God introduces himself to you.

1. What is God’s name, and how can we be sure that he wants us to know it?

In the Bible, God introduces himself to us. He says: “I am Jehovah. That is my name.” (Read Isaiah 42:5, 8.) “Jehovah” is the translation of a Hebrew name that evidently means “He Causes to Become.” Jehovah wants us to know his name. (Exodus 3:15) How can we be sure of that? In the Bible he included his name over 7,000 times! The name Jehovah belongs to “the true God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.”—Deuteronomy 4:39.

2. What does the Bible reveal about Jehovah?

The Bible says that among all the gods worshipped by humans, Jehovah is the only true God. Why? There are several reasons. Jehovah has supreme authority, and he alone is “the Most High over all the earth.” (Read

Psalm 83:18.) He is “the Almighty,” which means he has the power to do whatever he chooses to do. He “created all things”—the universe and all life on earth. (Revelation 4:8, 11) Unlike anyone else, Jehovah has always existed, and he will exist forever.—Psalm 90:2.

- (2 Chronicles 2:5) The house that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than all the other gods.
- (Isaiah 42:5) This is what the true God, Jehovah, says, The Creator of the heavens and the Grand One who stretched them out, The One who spread out the earth and its produce, The One who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk on it:
- (Isaiah 42:8) I am Jehovah. That is my name; I give my glory to no one else, Nor my praise to graven images.
- (Exodus 3:15) Then God said once more to Moses: "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'Jehovah the God of your forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.
- (Deuteronomy 4:39) Know, therefore, on this day, and take it to heart that Jehovah is the true God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. There is no other.
- (Psalm 83:18) May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah, You alone are the Most High over all the earth.
- (Revelation 4:8) As for the four living creatures, each one of them had six wings; they were full of eyes all around and underneath. And continuously, day and night, they say: "Holy, holy, holy is

Jehovah God, the Almighty, who was
and who is and who is coming.”

- (Revelation 4:11) “You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they came into existence and were created.”
- (Psalm 90:2) Before the mountains were born Or you brought forth the earth and the productive land, From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 46

Organizational Accomplishments: (5 min.)
Play the Organizational Accomplishments
video for March.

[illegible]

Local Needs: (10 min.)

cubits wide, and they will have 20 dining rooms as a possession.

Paragraph 14

(Ezekiel 48:18, 19) "The length of the remaining portion will correspond to the holy contribution, 10,000 cubits to the east and 10,000 to the west. It will correspond to the holy contribution, and its produce will provide food for those serving the city. 19 Those who are serving the city from all the tribes of Israel will cultivate it.

(Revelation 7:9, 10) After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. 10 And they keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Paragraph 15

(Ezekiel 46:9) And when the people of the land come in before Jehovah during the festivals, those who come in to worship through the north gate should go out through the south gate, and those who come in through the south gate should go out through the north gate. No one should go back by way of the gate through which he entered, for they should exit through the gate that is opposite them.

(Ezekiel 46:24) Then he said to me: "These are the houses where the ministers of the temple boil the sacrifice of the people."

Paragraph 16

(Revelation 7:9-15) After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. 10 And they keep shouting with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Paragraph 13

(Ezekiel 44:14-16) But I will make them caretakers of the responsibilities of the temple, to take care of its service and all the things that should be done in it.' 15 "As for the Levitical priests, the sons of Za'dok, who took care of the responsibilities of my sanctuary when the Israelites strayed from me, they will approach me to minister to me, and they will stand before me to offer me the fat and the blood," declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 16 "They are the ones who will enter my sanctuary, and they will approach my table to minister to me, and they will take care of their responsibilities to me.

(Ezekiel 45:4, 5) It will be a holy portion of the land for the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary, who approach to minister to Jehovah. It will be a place for their houses and a sacred place for the sanctuary. 5 "For the Levites, the ministers of the temple, there will be a portion 25,000 cubits long and 10,000

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

rr chap. 21 ¶13-18

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Let the praise and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 In response one of the elders said to me: "These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from?" 14 So right away I said to him: "My lord, you are the one who knows." And he said to me: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them.

(1 Chronicles 16:29) Give Jehovah the glory due his name; Bring a gift and come in before him. Bow down to Jehovah in holy adornment.

(1 Corinthians 10:31) Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory.

(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.

Paragraph 17

(Ezekiel 48:10) This will be the holy contribution for the priests. It will be 25,000 cubits on the north side, 10,000 on the west, 10,000 on the east, and 25,000 on the south. The sanctuary of Jehovah will be in the middle of it.

(Revelation 21:3) 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.

(2 Peter 3:13) But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to

his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

Paragraph 18

(Revelation 21:2) I also saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(Revelation 21:12) It had a great and lofty wall and had 12 gates with 12 angels at the gates, and on the gates were inscribed the names of the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel.

(Revelation 21:21-27) Also, the 12 gates were 12 pearls; each one of the gates was made of one pearl. And the main street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I did not see a temple in it, for Jehovah God the Almighty is its temple, also the Lamb is. 23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp was the Lamb. 24 And the nations will walk by means of its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will not be closed at all by day, for night will not exist there. 26 And they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But anything defiled and anyone who does what is disgusting and deceitful will in no way enter into it; only those written in the Lamb's scroll of life will enter.

• Concluding Comments (3 min.)

• Song 26 and Prayer