

- Song 133 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“A Father’s Loving Admonition to His Son”:
(10 min.)

Get to know Jehovah for yourself (1Ch 28:9; w05 2/15 19 ¶9)

(1 Chronicles 28:9) “And you, Sol'o-mon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for Jehovah searches through all hearts, and he discerns every inclination of the thoughts. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will reject you forever.

***** w05 2/15 p. 19 par. 9 Safeguarding Our Christian Identity *****

⁹ *Prove Bible truth to yourself.* Our sense of identity as servants of Jehovah can weaken if it is not solidly based on knowledge of the Scriptures. (Philippians 1:9, 10) Every Christian—young or old—needs to prove to his own satisfaction that what he believes is indeed the truth as found in the Bible. Paul urged fellow believers: “Make sure of all things; hold fast to what is fine.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Young Christians who belong to God-fearing families must realize that they cannot live off the faith of their parents. Solomon’s own father, David, exhorted him to “*know* the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart.” (1 Chronicles 28:9) It would not be enough for young Solomon to watch how his own father built faith in Jehovah. He had to get to know Jehovah for himself, and he did. He beseeched God: “Give me now wisdom and knowledge that I may go out before this people and that I may come in.”—2 Chronicles 1:10.

- **(Philippians 1:9, 10)** And this is what I continue praying, that your love may abound still more and more with accurate knowledge and full discernment; ¹⁰ that you may make sure of the more important things, so that you may be flawless and not stumbling others up to the day of Christ;
- **(1 Thessalonians 5:21)** Make sure of all things; hold fast to what is fine.
- **(1 Chronicles 28:9)** “And you, Sol'o-mon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for Jehovah searches through all hearts, and he discerns every inclination of the thoughts. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will reject you forever.
- **(2 Chronicles 1:10)** Give me now wisdom and knowledge to lead this people, for who can possibly judge this great people of yours?”

Serve Jehovah with a complete heart (1Ch 28:9; w12 4/15 16 ¶13)

(1 Chronicles 28:9) “And you, Sol'o-mon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for Jehovah searches through all hearts, and he discerns every inclination of the thoughts. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will reject you forever.

***** w12 4/15 p. 16 par. 13 Maintain a Complete Heart Toward Jehovah *****

¹³ The lesson is obvious. It is commendable if we share regularly in such wholesome and satisfying activities as attending congregation meetings and participating in field service. But serving Jehovah with a complete heart involves

more. (2 Chron. 25:1, 2, 27) If deep down in his heart a Christian continues to love “the things behind”—that is, certain aspects of the world’s way of life—he is in danger of losing his good standing with God. (Luke 17:32) Only if we truly “abhor what is wicked [and] cling to what is good” will we be “well fitted for the kingdom of God.” (Rom. 12:9; Luke 9:62) All of us, therefore, need to make sure that nothing in Satan’s world, no matter how useful or pleasant it may seem to be, holds us back from being wholehearted in caring for Kingdom interests.—2 Cor. 11:14; **read *Philippians 3:13, 14***.

- **(2 Chronicles 25:1, 2)** Am·a·zi’ah was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Je·ho·ad’dan of Jerusalem. ² He continued to do what was right in Jehovah’s eyes, but not with a complete heart.
- **(2 Chronicles 25:27)** From the time that Am·a·zi’ah turned away from following Jehovah, they formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to La’chish, but they sent men after him to La’chish and put him to death there.
- **(Luke 17:32)** Remember the wife of Lot.
- **(Romans 12:9)** Let your love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is wicked; cling to what is good.
- **(Luke 9:62)** Jesus said to him: “No man who has put his hand to a plow and looks at the things behind is well-suited for the Kingdom of God.”
- **(2 Corinthians 11:14)** And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps disguising himself as an angel of light.
- **(Philippians 3:13, 14)** Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having taken hold of it; but one thing is certain: Forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead,

¹⁴ I am pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God by means of Christ Jesus.

**Rely on Jehovah, and do not be afraid
(1Ch 28:20; w17.09 32 ¶20-21)**

(1 Chronicles 28:20) Then David said to his son Sol’o·mon: “Be courageous and strong and go to work. Do not be afraid or be terrified, for Jehovah God, my God, is with you. He will not desert you or abandon you, but he will be with you until all the work for the service of Jehovah’s house is finished.

***** w17 September p. 32 pars. 20-21 “Be Courageous . . . and Go to Work” *****

“JEHOVAH . . . IS WITH YOU”

²⁰ King David reminded Solomon that Jehovah would be with him until the work of building the temple was finished. (1 Chron. 28:20) With his father’s words impressed on his mind and heart, Solomon did not allow his youth and inexperience to become an obstacle. He showed great courage, went to work, and with Jehovah’s help completed the magnificent temple in seven and a half years.

²¹ As Jehovah helped Solomon, he can help us to be courageous and to accomplish our work, both in our family and in the congregation. (Isa. 41:10, 13) When we show courage in our worship of Jehovah, we can be confident of his blessing now and in the future. Therefore, “be courageous . . . and go to work.”

- **(1 Chronicles 28:20)** Then David said to his son Sol’o·mon: “Be courageous and strong and go to work. Do not be afraid or be terrified, for Jehovah God, my God, is with you. He will not desert you or abandon you, but he will be with you until all the work for the service of Jehovah’s house is finished.

- **(Isaiah 41:10)** Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be anxious, for I am your God. I will fortify you, yes, I will help you, I will really hold on to you with my right hand of righteousness.'
- **(Isaiah 41:13)** For I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, The One saying to you, 'Do not be afraid. I will help you.'

Aged King David gave this admonition before his young and inexperienced son Solomon began the important task of building the temple. Why is this advice valuable for all, but especially for young Christians?

Spiritual Gems:

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)
 1Ch 27:33—How is Hushai a good example of a loyal friend? (w17.03 29 ¶6-7)

(1 Chronicles 27:33) ³³ A·hith'o·phel was an adviser to the king, and Hu'shai the Ar'chite was the king's friend.

*** w17 March p. 29 Being a Friend When Friendship Is in Danger ***

WHEN A FRIEND IS IN TROUBLE

David had other associates who loyally stood by him in difficult times. One such associate was Hushai, whom the Bible refers to as "David's friend." (2 Sam. 16:16; 1 Chron. 27:33) He may have been a court official who was a personal friend and companion to the king, one who at times carried out confidential orders.

When David's son Absalom usurped the throne, many Israelites took Absalom's side, but not Hushai. While David was fleeing, Hushai went to him. David felt deeply hurt because of being betrayed by his own son and by some whom he had trusted. However, Hushai remained loyal, as one who was willing to risk his life and accomplish a mission that would thwart the conspiracy. Hushai did not simply do so out of a sense of duty as a court official. He proved to be a loyal friend.—2 Sam. 15:13-17, 32-37; 16:15–17:16.

- **(2 Samuel 16:16)** When Hu'shai the Ar'chite, David's friend, came in to Ab'sa·lom, Hu'shai said to Ab'sa·lom: "Long live the king! Long live the king!"
- **(1 Chronicles 27:33)** A·hith'o·phel was an adviser to the king, and Hu'shai the Ar'chite was the king's friend.
- **(2 Samuel 15:13-17)** In time an informer came to David, saying: "The heart of the men of Israel has turned to Ab'sa·lom." ¹⁴ At once David said to all his servants with him in Jerusalem: "Get up, and let us run away, for none of us will escape from Ab'sa·lom! Hurry, for fear he may quickly overtake us and bring disaster on us and strike the city with the sword!" ¹⁵ The king's servants replied to the king: "Whatever my lord the king decides, your servants are ready to do." ¹⁶ So the king went out with all his household following him, but the king left ten concubines to take care of the house. ¹⁷ And the king continued on his way out with all the people following, and they stopped at Beth·mer'hak.
- **(2 Samuel 15:32-37)** When David came to the summit where people used to bow down to God, Hu'shai the Ar'chite was there to meet him, with his robe ripped apart and dirt on his head. ³³ However, David said to him: "If you go across with me, you will be a load on me. ³⁴ But if you return to the city and you say to

Ab'sa·lom, 'I am your servant, O King. I was the servant of your father in the past, but now I am your servant,' you can then frustrate the advice of A·hith'o·phel for me. ³⁵ Are not Za'dok and A·bi'a·thar the priests there with you? You must tell Za'dok and A·bi'a·thar the priests everything that you hear from the house of the king. ³⁶ Look! There with them are their two sons, A·him'a·az the son of Za'dok and Jon'a·than the son of A·bi'a·thar, and through them send to me everything that you hear." ³⁷ So Hu'shai, David's friend, went into the city as Ab'sa·lom was entering into Jerusalem.

- **(2 Samuel 16:15-17:16)** Meanwhile, Ab'sa·lom and all the men of Israel arrived in Jerusalem, and A·hith'o·phel was with him. ¹⁶ When Hu'shai the Ar'chite, David's friend, came in to Ab'sa·lom, Hu'shai said to Ab'sa·lom: "Long live the king! Long live the king!" ¹⁷ At this Ab'sa·lom said to Hu'shai: "Is this your loyal love toward your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" ¹⁸ So Hu'shai said to Ab'sa·lom: "No, I am on the side of the one who has been chosen by Jehovah, this people, and all the men of Israel. I will stay with him. ¹⁹ And again I say, Whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? Just as I served your father, so I will serve you." ²⁰ Ab'sa·lom then said to A·hith'o·phel: "Give me your advice. What should we do?" ²¹ At that A·hith'o·phel said to Ab'sa·lom: "Have relations with your father's concubines, those whom he left behind to take care of the house. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and those who support you will be strengthened." ²² So they pitched a tent for Ab'sa·lom on the roof, and Ab'sa·lom had relations with the concubines of his father before the eyes of all Israel. ²³ In those days the advice that A·hith'o·phel gave was considered as the word of the

true God. That was how all the advice of A·hith'o·phel was esteemed, both by David and by Ab'sa·lom.

- **17** A·hith'o·phel then said to Ab'sa·lom: "Please let me choose 12,000 men and rise up and chase after David tonight. ² I will come upon him when he is weary and powerless, and I will throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike down only the king. ³ Then I will bring all the people back to you. The return of all the people depends on what happens with the man you are seeking. Then all the people will be at peace." ⁴ The proposal was just right in the eyes of Ab'sa·lom and all the elders of Israel. ⁵ However, Ab'sa·lom said: "Please call Hu'shai the Ar'chite as well, and let us hear what he has to say." ⁶ So Hu'shai came in to Ab'sa·lom. Then Ab'sa·lom said to him: "This is the advice A·hith'o·phel gave. Should we act on his advice? If not, you tell us." ⁷ At this Hu'shai said to Ab'sa·lom: "The advice that A·hith'o·phel gave is not good in this instance!" ⁸ Hu'shai continued: "You well know that your father and his men are mighty, and they are desperate, like a bear that has lost her cubs in the field. Moreover, your father is a warrior, and he will not spend the night with the people. ⁹ At this very moment he is hiding in one of the caves or in some other place; and if he attacks first, those hearing of it will say, 'The people following Ab'sa·lom have been defeated!' ¹⁰ Even the courageous man whose heart is like that of a lion will surely melt in fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and that the men with him are courageous. ¹¹ I give this advice: Let all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Be'er-she'ba, as many as the grains of sand by the sea, and you should lead them into the fight. ¹² We will come against him wherever he is found, and we will come upon him just like the dew that

falls on the ground; and not one of them will survive, not he nor any of the men with him. ¹³ If he retreats into a city, all Israel will carry ropes to that city, and we will drag it down into the valley until not even a pebble is left.” ¹⁴ Then Ab'sa·lom and all the men of Israel said: “The advice of Hu'shai the Ar'chite is better than the advice of A·hith'o·phel!” For Jehovah had determined to frustrate the sound advice of A·hith'o·phel, so that Jehovah could bring disaster on Ab'sa·lom. ¹⁵ Hu'shai later said to Za'dok and A·bi'a·thar the priests: “This is what A·hith'o·phel has advised Ab'sa·lom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I have advised. ¹⁶ Now quickly send word to David and warn him: ‘Do not stay at the fords of the wilderness tonight, but cross over without fail, or the king and all the people with him may be wiped out.’”

of the first month was Ja·sho'be·am the son of Zab'di·el, and 24,000 were in his division. ³ Of the sons of Pe'rez, he was the head of all the chiefs of the groups assigned to serve during the first month. ⁴ Over the division of the second month was Do'dai the A·ho'hite with his division, and Mik'loth was the leader, and 24,000 were in his division. ⁵ The chief of the third group assigned to serve during the third month was Be·nai'ah the son of Je·hoi'a·da the chief priest, and 24,000 were in his division. ⁶ This Be·nai'ah was a mighty warrior of the thirty and in charge of the thirty, and over his division was his son Am·miz'a·bad. ⁷ The fourth for the fourth month was As'a·hel, Jo'ab's brother, and his son Zeb·a·di'ah after him, and 24,000 were in his division. ⁸ The fifth chief for the fifth month was Sham'huth the Iz'rah·ite, and 24,000 were in his division. ⁹ The sixth for the sixth month was I'ra the son of Ik'kesh the Te·ko'ite, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹⁰ The seventh for the seventh month was He'lez the Pel'o·nite of the E'phra·im·ites, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹¹ The eighth for the eighth month was Sib'be·cai the Hu'shath·ite of the Ze'rah·ites, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹² The ninth for the ninth month was Abi·e·zer the An'a·thoth·ite of the Ben'ja·min·ites, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹³ The tenth for the tenth month was Ma'ha·rai the Ne·toph'a·thite of the Ze'rah·ites, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹⁴ The 11th for the 11th month was Be·nai'ah the Pir'a·thon·ite of the sons of E'phra·im, and 24,000 were in his division. ¹⁵ The 12th for the 12th month was Hel'dai the Ne·toph'a·thite, of Oth'ni·el, and 24,000 were in his division.

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.)
1Ch 27:1-15

(1 Chronicles 27:1-15) 27 This is the number of Israelites, the heads of the paternal houses, the chiefs of the thousands and of the hundreds, and their officers who ministered to the king in every matter of the divisions that would come in and go out month by month during all the months of the year; there were 24,000 in each division. ² Over the first division

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Return Visit: Jesus—Mt 20:28*. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Return Visit: (4 min.) Make a return visit on someone who accepted the Memorial invitation and showed interest. Introduce and discuss (but do not play) *Why Did Jesus Die?* (th study 9)

Return Visit: (4 min.) Make a return visit on someone who accepted the Memorial invitation and showed interest. Start a Bible study in the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure. (th study 6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS
Song 4

Local Needs: (5 min.)

Organizational Accomplishments: (10 min.) Play the *Organizational Accomplishments* video for March.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
Iff lesson 40

(1 Peter 1:16) for it is written: "You must be holy, because I am holy."

(2 Corinthians 6:3, 4) In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling, so that no fault may be found with our ministry; ⁴ but in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by times of need, by difficulties,

(2 Corinthians 7:1) Therefore, since we have these promises, beloved ones, let us cleanse ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(Psalm 104:34) Let my thoughts be pleasing to him. I will rejoice in Jehovah.

(Colossians 3:8) But now you must put them all away from you: wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk out of your mouth.

(Psalm 119:37) Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless; Preserve me alive in your way.

(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.

(Isaiah 41:13) For I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, The One saying to you, 'Do not be afraid. I will help you.'

(Exodus 19:10) Then Jehovah said to Moses: "Go to the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and they must wash their clothing.

(Exodus 30:17-19) Jehovah spoke further to Moses, saying: ¹⁸ "Make a copper basin and its stand for washing; then place it between the

tent of meeting and the altar and put water into it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and their feet there.

(Matthew 22:37-39) He said to him: “You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ The second, like it, is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’

(Philippians 4:13) For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power.

(Colossians 3:5) Deaden, therefore, your body members that are on the earth as respects sexual immorality, uncleanness, uncontrolled sexual passion, hurtful desire, and greediness, which is idolatry.

(Matthew 5:29, 30) If, now, your right eye is making you stumble, tear it out and throw it away from you. For it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be pitched into Ge·hen'na. ³⁰ Also, if your right hand is making you stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. For it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to land in Ge·hen'na.

(Psalm 103:13, 14) As a father shows mercy to his sons, Jehovah has shown mercy to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he well knows how we are formed, Remembering that we are dust.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 45 and Prayer