2

Being a Blessing

Key References: Luke 2:51, 52; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 7, pp. 68-74; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 85-90; Our Beliefs, nos. 21, 11, 22








power**text**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

When was the last time someone thanked you? It felt good, didn't it? It probably made you smile to know that something you said or did blessed someone else.

Being a blessing to others is one of the best ways to share Jesus. Being a blessing to others is letting your light shine before others so that when they see your good deeds, they will glorify your Father in heaven. In order to be a blessing to others, though, we must be faithful with our efforts, making good use of our time, talents, skills, money, and any other possessions.

The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a little village called Nazareth. He could have been born into a wealthy and famous family, into a palace of royalty and power. Yet He chose to make His home in the obscure town of Nazareth. He fulfilled the promise that God would become a man and that He would be like you and me—in every way.

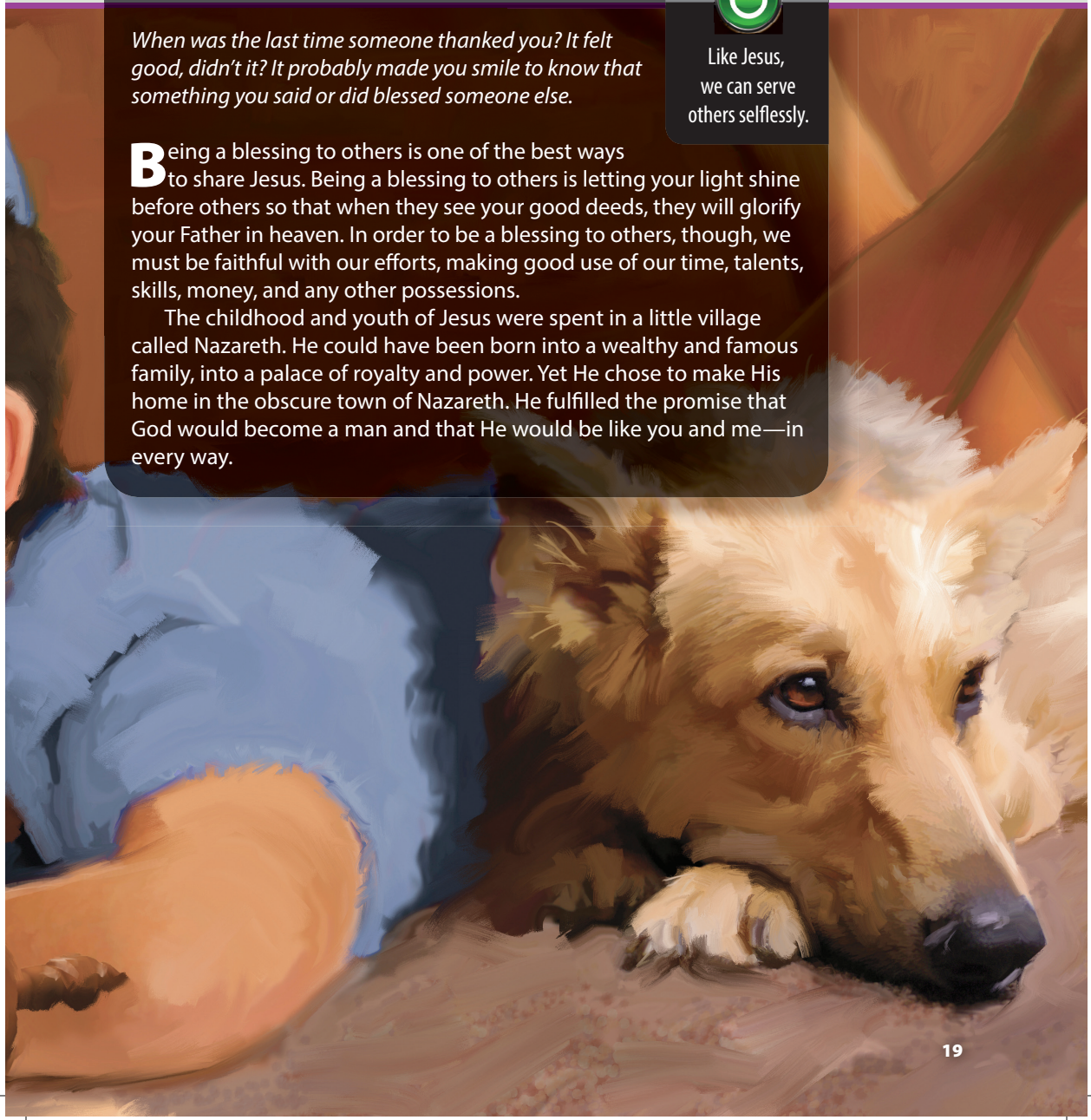
power**point**

Like Jesus, we can serve others selflessly.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 25.

LEARN Begin learning the power text.



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Sunday

READ Read Luke 2:51 and this week's story, "Being a Blessing."

REVIEW Review the power text, Mark 10:45.

CALL Call your pastor, youth pastor, or Sabbath School leader and ask how you might become more actively involved in service by helping in some department or ministry of your home church.

PRAY Thank God for the example of Jesus' youth.

Monday

READ Read Luke 2:52.

THINK In what ways did Jesus bless the people and animals around Him when He was a young man?

DO Today, do something nice for someone.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for everything He does for us each day and ask Him to help you to be a blessing to others.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-4; 9:7.

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* make a list of ways you could be a "giver" as a way of blessing others around you. Remember that giving does not have to be money.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to impress you about which way of giving you can put into practice right away.



*Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your *PowerPoints* Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps you gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

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The Bible says, in Luke 2:51, 52, "And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them. . . . And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Those words are very similar to another text found in the Old Testament about another young boy. In 1 Samuel 2:26 we read, "And the child Samuel grew in stature, and was in favor both with the Lord and men." Isn't it interesting that the Bible would say the same thing about two young men?

There's more, though. The Bible says that Samuel spent the night in the tabernacle of the Lord, where the ark of God was, to make sure the lamp of God did not go out.

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). So young Samuel, who grew up living in the tabernacle, specifically in charge of the seven-branched candlestick, became a "light" to Israel during his life, a powerful witness to his people, and the Lord was with him.

If this was written about young Samuel, it's no surprise that we would find similarities between his life and the life of Jesus. Even at a young age, Samuel's life of ministry blessed others. Similarly, Jesus' life of ministry, even at a young age, blessed others.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus was like as a boy? Remember, the Bible says that He "was subject" to His parents and "increased in wisdom and stature" as well as "favor with God and men" (Luke 2:51, 52). While Jesus was a child, He thought, acted, and spoke as a child. Yet, He lived in harmony with God. Although He was tempted and His character was tested, yet Jesus resisted temptation and was without sin. Through the guidance of His

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Wednesday

READ Read John 13:1-17.

EXPLAIN In a single sentence, explain in your own words the lesson that Jesus, the adult, was teaching the disciples by washing their feet.

COMPARE Which of the acts of blessing and service that Jesus did as a young man might you be able to compare to the foot washing He did as an adult?

SERVE Do something to serve others today.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for the courage to serve in any situation.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 5:23, 24 and 18:21, 22.

THINK How could a forgiving spirit on your part be a blessing to your parents?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about how a forgiving spirit can be a blessing to others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with Him and those around you.

Friday

READ Read Proverbs 15:1, 18; Romans 12:18; and 14:19.

CREATE Using whatever materials you wish (clay, plaster, wire hangers, papier mâché, etc.), sculpt an object that for you best illustrates Christian service and being a blessing to others.

SING Sing your favorite praise song for worship tonight with your family.

SAY Repeat the power text by memory.

PRAY Pray together, asking God to enable your family to be a blessing to those around you.

parents, Jesus learned to observe nature and comprehend the object lessons for life. He read the Scriptures and understood their deeper meaning, astonishing those who heard Him even when He was yet a child.

Jesus' parents depended upon their daily work for their livelihood. So He was accustomed to hard work, self-denial, and privation. While living in His parents' humble home, He faithfully and patiently helped them by sharing in the daily responsibilities of life. He was a loving, respectful, and obedient son who willingly served others. He set an example for us by demonstrating that we are to be happy, industrious, careful, thorough, and exact in our efforts. Like Jesus, we are to manage wisely our time, money, talents, and skills.

Jesus showed Himself capable of sympathizing with anyone. An atmosphere of hope and courage surrounded Him and made Him a blessing in every home. Thus, as He grew, He increased in favor with God and with others.

Jesus is our perfect example in character and habit. In His use of time and resources, in His work habits, emotions, thoughts, skills, and service, Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience to God. His example shows us how closely we may walk with God. If you are willing to follow Jesus' example, you too will one day hear, "And the child grew, and was in favor both with the Lord and men."

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PUZZLE 2

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Instructions: Use the letter patterns and trial and error to help you figure out this puzzle. Each letter is substituted for another; can you decipher this message?

Hints:

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