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Giving God the Credit

Key References: Nehemiah 9; 13:1-22; *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 56, pp. 661-668; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 125-128; Our Beliefs, nos. 22, 17, 12



powertext

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts" (1 Chronicles 16:8, 9).

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 74.

powerpoint

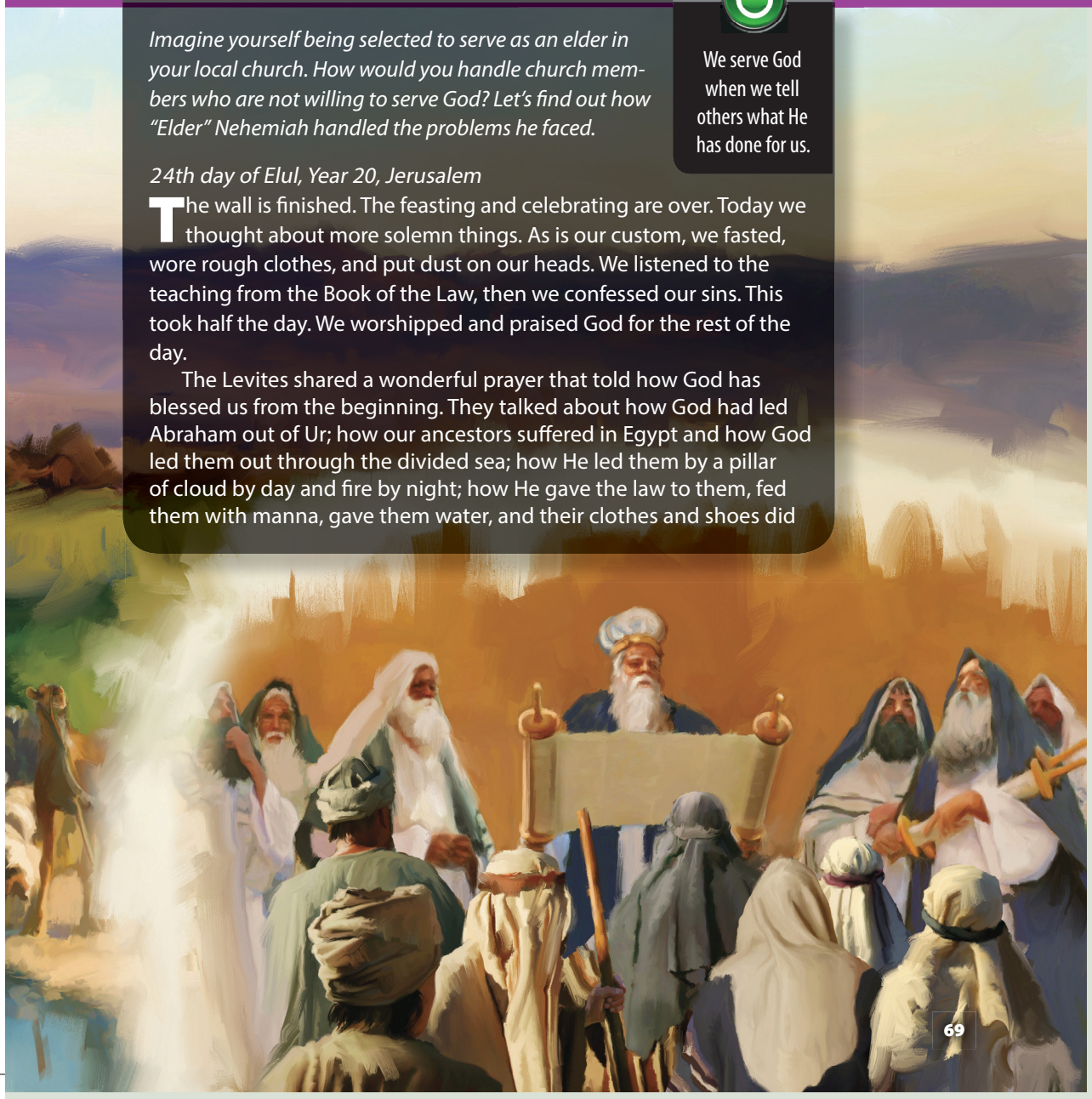
We serve God when we tell others what He has done for us.

Imagine yourself being selected to serve as an elder in your local church. How would you handle church members who are not willing to serve God? Let's find out how "Elder" Nehemiah handled the problems he faced.

24th day of Elul, Year 20, Jerusalem

The wall is finished. The feasting and celebrating are over. Today we thought about more solemn things. As is our custom, we fasted, wore rough clothes, and put dust on our heads. We listened to the teaching from the Book of the Law, then we confessed our sins. This took half the day. We worshipped and praised God for the rest of the day.

The Levites shared a wonderful prayer that told how God has blessed us from the beginning. They talked about how God had led Abraham out of Ur; how our ancestors suffered in Egypt and how God led them out through the divided sea; how He led them by a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night; how He gave the law to them, fed them with manna, gave them water, and their clothes and shoes did



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Sunday

LIST Each day this week, begin worship by listing the top five things for which you want to praise God.

READ Read 1 Chronicles 16:8, 9 and this week's story, "Giving God the Credit."

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text, 1 Chronicles 16:8, 9.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand how He has worked in your life so that you can tell others about it.

Monday

READ Read Nehemiah 9:1-8.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list your top five things for which you wish to praise God.

SHARE Share them with someone else.

PRAY Thank God and praise Him for His goodness and the many blessings He pours out in your life.

Tuesday

READ Read Nehemiah 9:9-21.

REFLECT What great things has God done in your life?

LIST In your Bible study journal, list five things for which you want to praise God today.

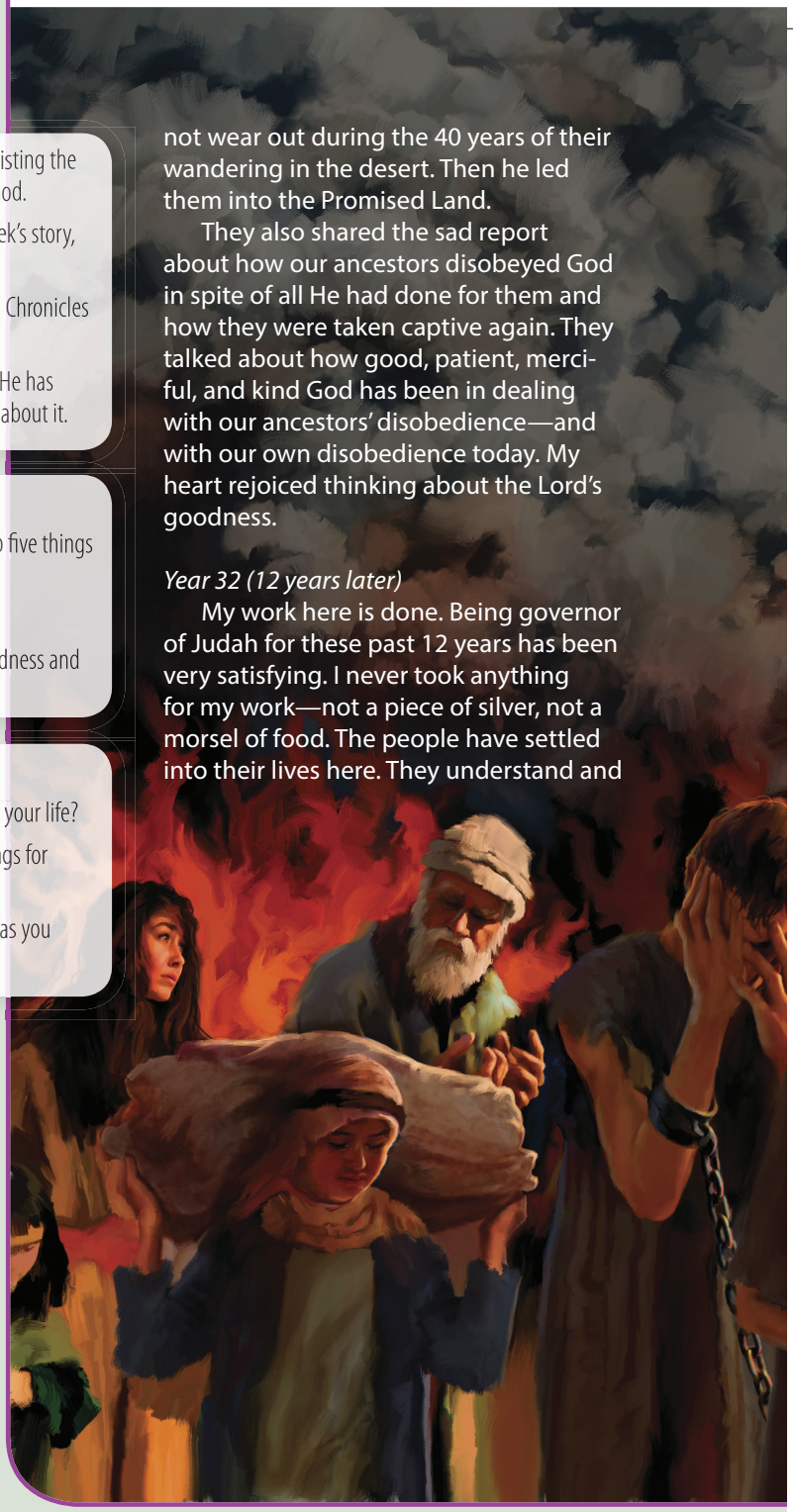
PRAY Ask God for the courage to share Him as you serve others.

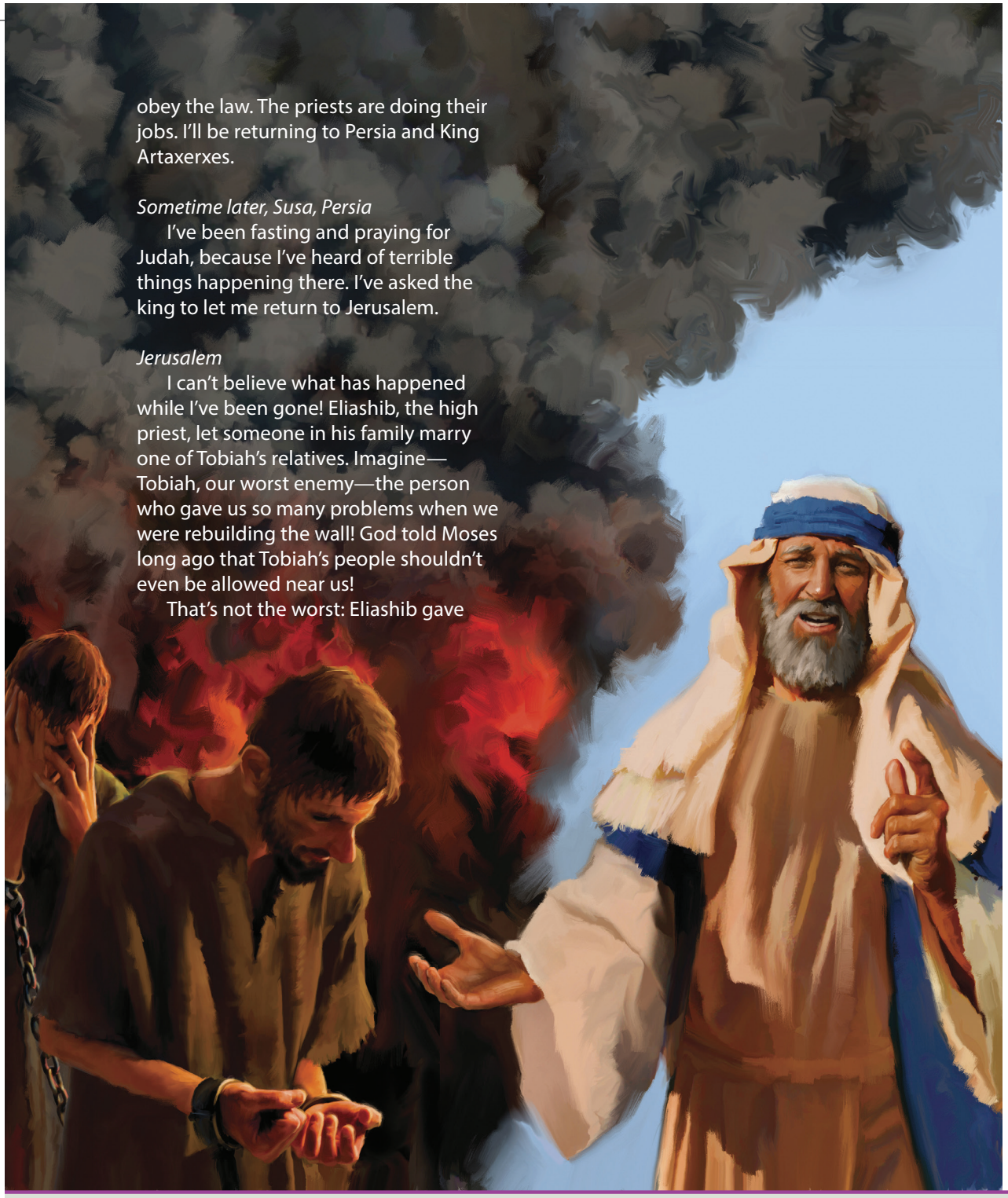
not wear out during the 40 years of their wandering in the desert. Then he led them into the Promised Land.

They also shared the sad report about how our ancestors disobeyed God in spite of all He had done for them and how they were taken captive again. They talked about how good, patient, merciful, and kind God has been in dealing with our ancestors' disobedience—and with our own disobedience today. My heart rejoiced thinking about the Lord's goodness.

Year 32 (12 years later)

My work here is done. Being governor of Judah for these past 12 years has been very satisfying. I never took anything for my work—not a piece of silver, not a morsel of food. The people have settled into their lives here. They understand and





obey the law. The priests are doing their jobs. I'll be returning to Persia and King Artaxerxes.

Sometime later, Susa, Persia

I've been fasting and praying for Judah, because I've heard of terrible things happening there. I've asked the king to let me return to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem

I can't believe what has happened while I've been gone! Eliashib, the high priest, let someone in his family marry one of Tobiah's relatives. Imagine—Tobiah, our worst enemy—the person who gave us so many problems when we were rebuilding the wall! God told Moses long ago that Tobiah's people shouldn't even be allowed near us!

That's not the worst: Eliashib gave

Wednesday

READ Read Nehemiah 9:22-27.

FIND Skim Nehemiah 13 and identify two or three ways in which the Israelites shared God's gifts with others.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list five ways you could share with others the blessings for which you are praising God.

PRAY Ask God to show you ways to serve and share.

Thursday

READ Read Nehemiah 9:28-33.

REFLECT Why did God abandon the children of Israel in the hands of their enemies? Why is it important to live in harmony with God's will?

LIST List five of God's blessings that prompt you to praise Him. Do some acts of kindness for others that will inspire them to praise God.

PRAY Thank God for His provisions.

Friday

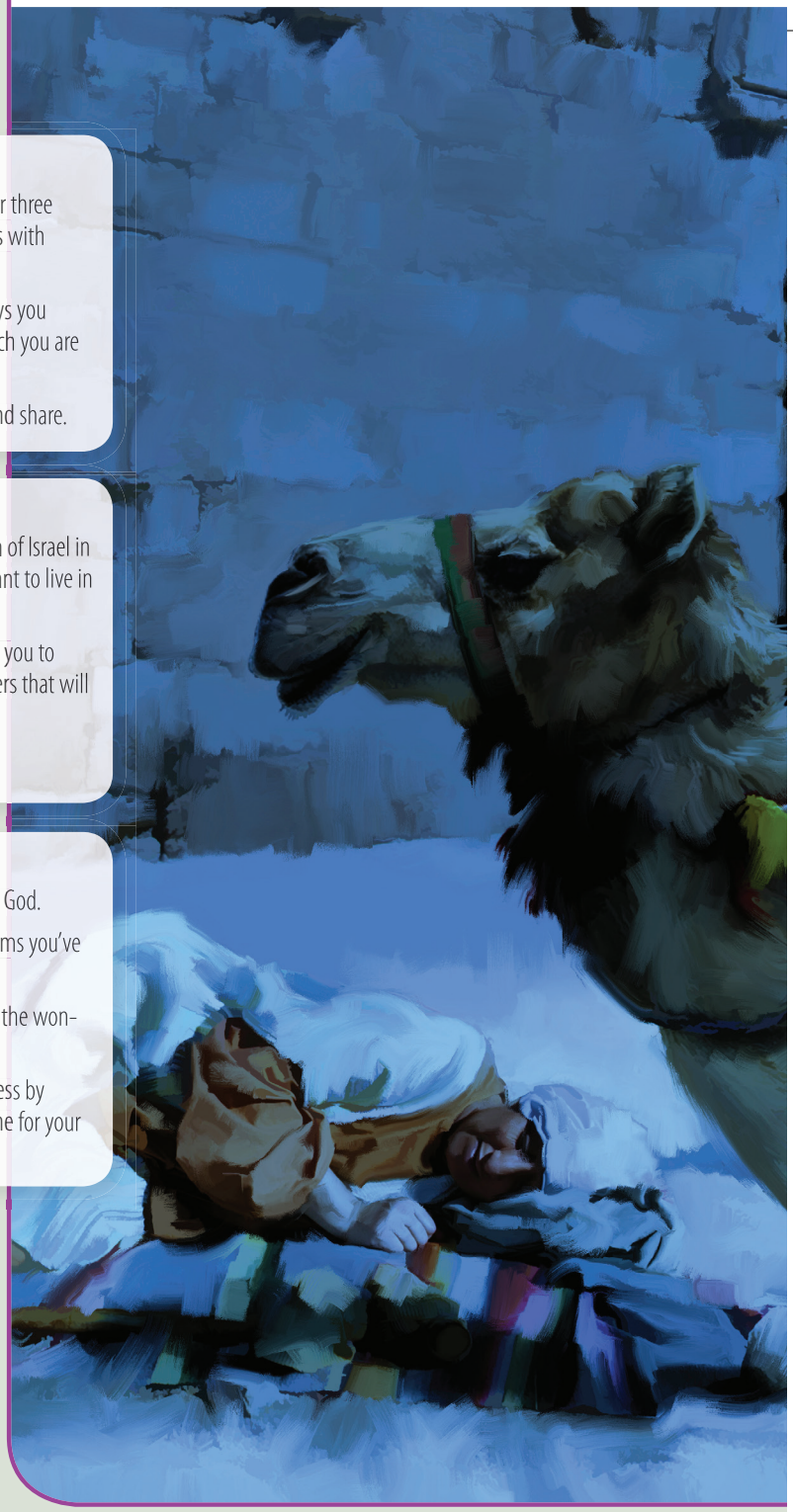
READ Read Nehemiah 9:34-38.

SING With your family, sing a praise song to God.

REVIEW Go over the list of top five praise items you've been creating each day.

LIST Together, spend five minutes listing all the wonderful things God has done for your family.

PRAY Take turns praising God for His goodness by thanking Him in prayer for all that He has done for your family.



him a room in the Temple! And not just any room, but the room for the tithes and offerings that belong to the Levites, musicians, and gatekeepers.

I was very upset about this. I threw out all of Tobiah's things and ordered the rooms to be purified. Next I brought back the things that belonged there, such as the grain offerings and the incense.

Then I found out that the Levites and musicians had gone back to farming because the people weren't supporting them. So I went and brought back the Levites and musicians.



Then the people brought their tithes, and I put them in the storerooms. I put the priest Shelemiah, the teacher Zadok, and the Levite Pedaiah in charge. Hanan, Zaccur's son, will assist them. They are honest men. I know they can be trusted to do their work well.

To my great disappointment I saw people working on the Sabbath! They were making wine, loading grain on donkeys, and bringing grain, wine, grapes, figs, and fish to sell. So I asked the rulers, "What is this wicked thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day? Didn't your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city?" I couldn't believe they hadn't learned their lesson!

So I ordered that the city gates be closed from before sunset on Friday until the Sabbath ended. I even put my servants at the gates. Once or twice a few merchants spent the night outside Jerusalem. I warned them that if they did it again, they would never trade in the city on any day of the week! After that they never came back on Sabbath.

Then I ordered the Levites to purify themselves and to guard the city gates to make sure the Sabbath was kept holy.

None of this was easy, but it had to be done. I had to remind the people to live God's way. I think everyone is on the right path again. Thank God for His patience and mercy toward Israel.

PUZZLE

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SPREAD THE WORD

Instructions: Can you find the Bible verse that invites us to tell others what God has done for us? Find the starting point and go either clockwise or counterclockwise either every second, third, fourth, or fifth word. The verse you are looking for is found in Psalm 66.

