

No. 79 Whose Friendship Will You Choose?

PLEASE NOTE: Motivate listeners to reject friendship with the world. Highlight the blessings of friendship with God. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

WILL YOU BE A FRIEND OF GOD OR A FRIEND OF THE WORLD? (5 min.)

Choosing good friends can greatly benefit us (Pr 17:17; Ec 4:9)

Jehovah God is the best Friend we could ever have, and he invites us to draw close to him (Jas 4:8)

Jehovah is perfect and holy; yet, he has made it possible for imperfect humans to become his friends (1Jo 4:10)

We must choose between being a friend of God and being a friend of the world [Read James 4:4]

Those who are friends with the world are under the influence of Satan, the ruler of the world (1Jo 5:19)

HOW CAN WE BECOME GOD'S FRIEND? (10 min.)

To become Jehovah's friend, we must first come to know him (Joh 17:3)

We need to learn about his qualities and his standards

By studying the life pattern of Jesus, we can come to know his Father better (Joh 12:45; 1Jo 5:20)

Jehovah's friends live according to his righteous standards [Read Psalm 15:1, 2]

They treat others according to Jehovah's requirements (Ps 15:3-5; w14 2/15 23 ¶10-13)

We can learn from Bible examples of those who were God's friends

Abraham had a close friendship with Jehovah (Isa 41:8; Jas 2:23)

Abraham showed faith in God and obeyed him (Heb 11:8-10) [Image 1]

Moses had an exceptionally close relationship with Jehovah (Ex 33:11; De 34:10)

Moses chose to serve Jehovah rather than to live a prominent and comfortable life in Egypt (Heb 11:24-27) [Images 2 and 3]

HOW CAN WE REJECT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD? (10 min.)

Satan uses "the spirit of the world" to influence people (1Co 2:12; lvs 63-64 ¶7-10)

Those who are dominated by the world's spirit disregard God's counsel and standards (Eph 2:1, 2)

We are wise to avoid close association with them (1Co 5:9, 10)

Show that you are led by God's spirit, not by the world's (Ro 12:2; Ga 5:22, 23, 25)

Reject immoral conduct and lifestyles (1Co 6:9, 10)

Refuse to be entertained by things that Jehovah hates; do not idolize celebrities

Do not strive for wealth or prominence in this world (Mt 6:24; 1Jo 2:15, 16)

Trust in God, not in humans, to solve mankind's problems (Ps 146:3)

Imitate Jesus, who refused to get involved in politics (Joh 17:15, 16; 18:36)

FRIENDSHIP WITH JEHOVAH LEADS TO BLESSINGS (5 min.)

Friendship with God leads to blessings now and in the future

Jehovah promises to care for those who love him (Mt 6:31-34)

God's friends have joy, peace of mind, and security (Ps 4:8; Isa 57:20, 21)

"The world is passing away," but God's friends will live forever [Read 1 John 2:17]

Our friendship with Jehovah can last forever, growing ever stronger throughout eternity

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.
Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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