THINK

There are many responsibilities that are expected of a Christian. Just as the kings and priests had God-given responsibilities concerning His Word, we as Christians also bear the same responsibility concerning His Word. The emphasis of the Great Commission was first to go and teach all nations. It then goes on to command us to teach them "to observe all things" (Matthew 28:19-20). How is that possible, if they do not have the Word to study and observe for themselves (I Thessalonians 5:27)? The publishing and distribution of the Word of God is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Just as God had a specific plan for the kings and priests, God has a specific plan for you. If God asked you to go to a foreign country and translate His Word into another language, would you go? If God asked you to study to be a preacher or a teacher, would you be obedient? If God wanted you to use your talents to be a pressman and print his Word for the world, would you surrender? Are you willing to follow His will for your life, no matter what it may be?

LESSON DEFINITIONS

Church: Christians assembled for worship in a particular place.

Levities: The descendants of Levi that were dedicated to the office of the priesthood.

Priest: Jewish religious official or holy representative.

Priesthood: The office of a priest; priests collectively.

Sanctified: Set apart for service to God.

Specific: Relating to a particular thing.

Serving: Yielding obedience to; worshipping; performing duties.

TEACHER NOTES:

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE 3

God's People

FOR PROVIDING HIS WORD TO EVERY GENERATION

LESSON **THREE**

God's People For Providing His Word to Every Generation

TEACHER NOTE: A resumé is a document used by a person applying for a job. It usually contains information such as name, date of birth, address, educational background, and job history. A resumé helps an employer place the right people in the right job. God desires every believer to serve Him, but there are some jobs God only wants certain people to do.

DISCUSSION TIME

Two weeks ago, we considered the possession you value above all else. Last week, you were asked to what extreme would you go to protect that possession. If you had to entrust someone to take care of the thing you treasure most, who would it be? You probably wouldn't entrust it to your younger siblings, or someone whom you know to be irresponsible. Would the person you choose need to meet any criteria? What kind of character qualities would they need to have? If God values His Word above His very name, do you think He would entrust just anyone to take care of it? What requirements do you think He has for those who handle and care for the Bible?

THINK

We have already discussed in Lesson One that God had a desire to reveal Himself to mankind. That ultimately resulted in Him giving us His written Word. In Lesson Two, we saw that once He gave His Word to mankind, there was a specific place and procedure that man was to implement to care for it. In this lesson, we will see that if God's Word was going to be cared for properly, then there was a specific group of people to be involved in the process, in order to maintain its purity.

It is amazing how God has used mankind to be vessels to impact the world. He uses us to preach His glorious Gospel. He uses us to impact the lives of others. He gives us so many opportunities to serve Him; He promises to bless us if we are obedient, and He then rewards us for simply obeying what He said to do. This approach by God is not something new. It did not just start this century. God has included certain men to be involved with His heavenly work on earth for thousands of years. The handling of His Word is no exception. God was very specific about who was to be involved with the heavenly work on earth of handling and caring for the Word of God. These groups are going to be discussed in this lesson.

READ

Numbers 18:1-7, 3:29, 4:4, 31

ANSWER

Priests were only to come through Levi and his descendants. This is where we get what is called the Levitical priesthood. He had three sons: Gershon, Merari, and Kohath. Who was responsible to take care of the most holy things, including the Ark and its contents? **KOHATH**

The priests that God chose were:

A **SPECIFIC** people (Numbers 3:27-32 — Kohath and his descendants).

A **SANCTIFIED** people (Numbers 18:1-7 — only the tribe of Levi).

A **SERVING** people (Numbers 4:4 — "This shall be the service...").

According to Numbers 18:6-7, what would happen to the non-Levite (a "stranger") who touched the holy things of the Tabernacle? **HE WOULD BE PUT TO DEATH.**

THINK

God always used His people to protect His Word! Later, God also entrusted another group of people with the copying of His Word as well, and that group was made up of the kings that ruled Israel. Desiring a king was a result of Israel looking at the world around them and wanting to function as much like them as possible. They wanted to look as much like the world as they could and still have God bless them. God's desire was always for them to look to Him for direction, protection, counsel, and provision. They desired to have a man they could see to sit in that position. God said "yes" to Israel's request, but said He would set the job requirements and qualifications for that role.

READ

Deuteronomy 17:14, 18-20

ANSWER

In verse 18, what did God command the king to do when he became king? **WRITE A COPY OF THE LAW IN A BOOK.**

According to verse 19, what was the king supposed to do with the copy that he made? **READ IT ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE.**

What would happen to the king who failed to follow God's command? (vs. 20) **HE WOULD TURN ASIDE FROM THE COMMANDMENT.**

The kings that God chose were:

A **SPECIFIC** people (17:15 — "...whom the Lord thy God shall choose;").

A **SANCTIFIED** people (17:19 — "...all the days of his life;").

A **SERVING** people (17:19-20 — "...to do them;").

THINK

Who does God use to protect His Word now? Just as God entrusted the copying of His Word to the kings and priests of Israel in the Old Testament, The task now belongs to those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Saviour! Salvation brings certain results, rights, and responsibilities. The results include cleansing from our sin and promised companionship with God (See 1 John 1:7, 3:1; Ephesians 2:13).

READ

Revelation 1:1-6

ANSWER

According to verse 6, what has Jesus made Christians to be? **KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD**

Christians (the Church) are:

A **SPECIFIC** people (I Peter 2:9 — "...peculiar people...").

A **SANCTIFIED** people (Titus 2:14 — "...from all iniquity, and purify unto himself...").

A **SERVING** people (I Peter 2:5 — "...to offer up spiritual sacrifices...").