

## No. 9 Fulfilling the Law of Christ at School (Local elder)

### *Note to speaker:*

This talk includes a scripted demonstration. Commend young ones and express confidence that they can succeed in fulfilling the law of Christ at school despite challenges

### **SUCCESSFULLY FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST AT SCHOOL (2 min.)**

Young ones, we warmly commend you for wanting to do what is right

You recognize that the world has nothing of lasting value to offer compared with what Jehovah holds in store for you (Jas 4:4)

We know that you face tremendous pressures to give in to wrongdoing and to pursue secular goals ahead of spiritual goals

If you follow the wise principles set forth in the Bible and the sound guidance from Jehovah's organization, you can successfully handle these tests

You *can* fulfill the law of Christ, even though this is not the *popular* course [Read John 17:14]

### **FULFILLING THE LAW OF CHRIST REQUIRES GROWING IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY (5 min.)**

As you mature spiritually, you will no longer need a parental rule for everything; instead, you will learn to reason on Bible principles

By taking your stand on Jehovah's side, you demonstrate that you are growing as a spiritual person (2Ti 1:7, 8)

If you follow the path of your peers, you make yourself their puppet [Read 2 Peter 2:19]

Make a genuine effort every day to build your personal relationship with Jehovah (Jas 4:8)

Feed yourself spiritually by reading the Bible daily and meditating on what you read

Make good use of our publications for young ones; use the features for youths found on jw.org (*w16.03* 9-10 ¶7-8)

Pray to Jehovah regularly, and speak to him openly (Ps 62:8; *w14* 2/15 25 ¶18-19)

Prepare to face peer pressure by engaging in practice sessions (*yp2* 128-135)

[Relate specific challenges that youths in your area may be facing]

Study and imitate the example that Jesus set as a spiritual youth (Lu 2:41-50)

Although you are not perfect, you can show similar courage (*cf* 36-39 ¶7-13)

As you grow spiritually, you will be able to reject temptations decisively, as Jesus did (Mt 4:1-11)

Despite being young in years, you can take a stand for Bible principles

By doing so, you endear yourself to Jehovah (Lu 2:52)

In the following demonstration, note the value of preparing in advance to face peer pressure

### **DEMONSTRATION (3 min.)**

[Note: Please adhere closely to the script. Both participants should be exemplary in defending their faith. Participants may use their real names if preferred]

**\*\*[A Witness teenager named Sarah and a non-Witness classmate named Olivia are standing and talking after school. The speaker explains that Sarah has just received a text with a picture from a boy at school. It is a provocative picture of him at the gym]\*\***

**\*\*[Sarah looks shocked, and Olivia catches a glimpse of what is on the screen]\*\***

**Olivia:** **\*\*[Teasing]\*\*** Oooo! What's that? Is that John?

**Sarah:** Oh, c'mon. It's nothing.

**Olivia:** It sure doesn't look like "nothing." He really is cute, though, isn't he? And you know he likes you. If I were you, I'd send him a picture right back. Don't let someone that good looking get away!

**Sarah:** What? No!

**Olivia:** Why not?

**Sarah:** Well . . . I don't know . . . I just . . . The only reason he even has my number is that we worked on a school project together.

**Olivia:** Look, it's just a picture, right?

**Sarah:** Well . . . I guess. Maybe there's no harm in sending him just one picture.

**Olivia:** Of course, there's no harm. What better way to show that you love your neighbor! **\*\*[Sarcastically]\*\*** That's what you are always talking about, isn't it? Hey! Send him a picture of you in your swimsuit. That will really keep him interested!

**\*\*[The two girls freeze onstage at this point while the speaker comments]\*\***

**Speaker:** Does our sister seem to be handling this situation well? Is there anything she could do to prepare herself in advance for something like this? What tools could she use? Let's see another version

**\*\*[Sarah looks shocked, and Olivia catches a glimpse of what is on the screen]\*\***

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**Olivia:** *\*\*[Teasing]\*\** Oooo! What's that? Is that John?

**Sarah:** Yeah, it sure is.

**Olivia:** He really is cute! And you know he likes you. If I were you, I'd send him a picture right back. Don't let someone that good looking get away!

**Sarah:** What? No!

**Olivia:** Why not?

**Sarah:** First of all, the only reason he even has my number is that we worked on a school project together.

**Olivia:** Look, it's just a picture, right?

**Sarah:** No, it's not "just a picture." *\*\*[Recalling the article "What Should I Know About Sexting?" from jw.org]\*\** I read that 'once you send a photo, you no longer own it, nor can you control how it might be used—or how it will affect your reputation.' I am not willing to put myself or my reputation at risk. It's not going to happen! And I am going to delete his text and picture and block his number. Done!

**Olivia:** Really? Wow. It's your loss, . . . but you really seem to know what you are doing.

**Sarah:** If you seriously want to know why I feel so strongly about this, I am more than willing to let you know what is behind my convictions.

**Olivia:** Yeah, . . . that might be good.

**Sarah:** First let me show you this article about sexting. It's on jw.org.

*\*\*[The two girls walk off the stage together, looking at jw.org on Sarah's phone]\*\**

### APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES LEADS TO TRUE SUCCESS (4 min.)

Preparation is vital; think ahead about how you will apply Bible principles when confronted with tests of your integrity [**Read Proverbs 22:3**]

Classmates may pressure you to date, to have sex, or to experiment with homosexuality

Educators may pressure you to adopt the goals of the world and to seek "success" in this old system

Apply Bible principles when making decisions about education and employment, and you will truly be successful [**Read Psalm 1:1-3**] (*w08 4/15 14 ¶10-12*)

[Mention forms of full-time service and various theocratic schools that youths can qualify for]

**Review question: How can you fulfill the law of Christ at school?**

**Answer: Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:14; feed yourself spiritually, pray regularly, and prepare to face tests of your integrity. Imitate Jesus by courageously rejecting temptation and remaining no part of the world**

Again, we commend you young ones and pray for your success (Joh 17:15)

We are behind you, we love you, and we are confident that you can conquer the challenges you face in school

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)