

Scriptural References

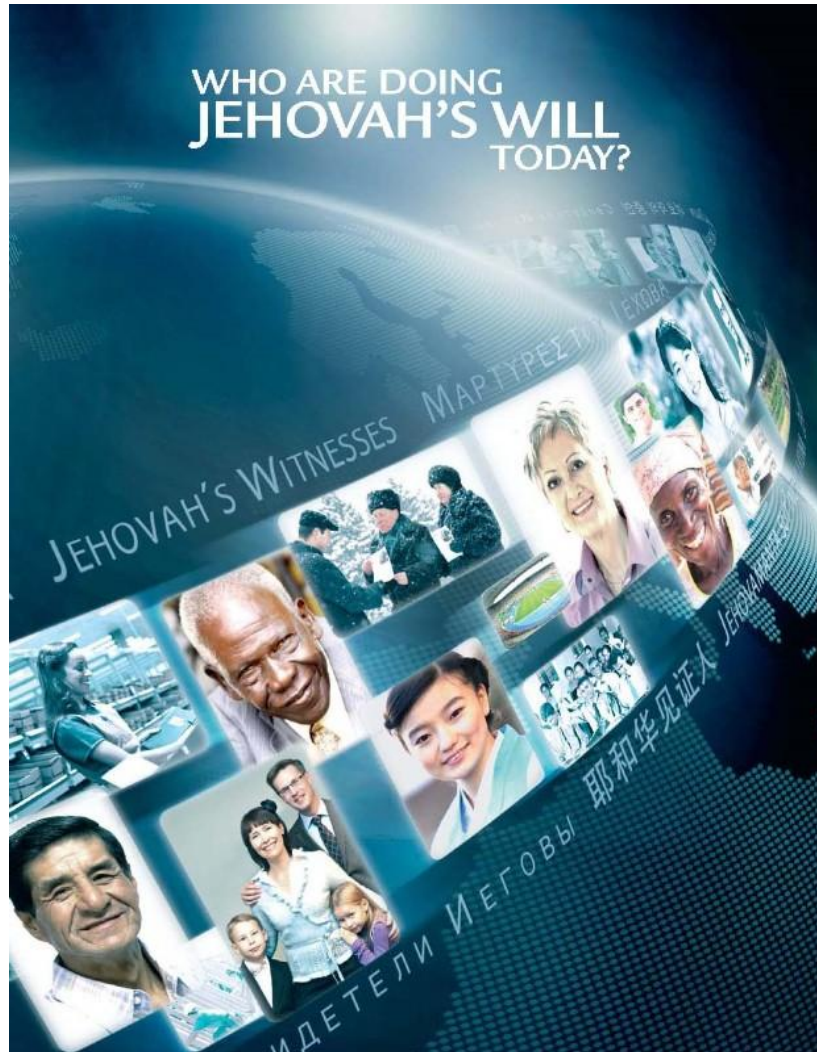


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OUR ACTIVITIES **Lessons 5-14**

Our preaching work is well-known. We also meet together at our

Kingdom Halls to study the Bible and to worship. What are the meetings like, and who may attend?

OUR ORGANIZATION **Lessons 15-28**

This is an international, nonprofit religious organization of people who willingly serve God. How is it structured, directed, and funded? Is it truly doing Jehovah's will today?

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

God wants us to live in peace and happiness on a paradise earth forever!

(Psalm 37:11) But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, And they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous themselves will possess the earth, And they will reside forever upon it.

(Isaiah 9:7) To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

God wants us to benefit ourselves.

(Isaiah 48:17, 18) This is what Jehovah has said, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel: "I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit [yourself], the One causing you to tread in the way in which you should walk. ¹⁸ O if only you would actually pay attention to my

commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

(1 John 2:17) Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever.

God wants us to walk in his paths.

(Isaiah 2:2, 3) And it must occur in the final part of the days [that] the mountain of

the house of Jehovah will become firmly established above the top of the mountains, and it will certainly be lifted up above the

hills; and to it all the nations must stream.
³ And many peoples will certainly go and say: "Come, YOU people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his

paths." For out of Zion law will go forth, and the word of Jehovah out of Jerusalem.

(Acts 15:14) Sym'e'on has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name.

God wants us to unite in worship of him.

(John 13:35) By this all will know that YOU are my disciples, if YOU have love among yourselves."

THE PEOPLE Lessons 1-4

Lesson 1

What Sort of People Are Jehovah's Witnesses?

(Acts 17:11) Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in Thes'sa'lo'ni'ca, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so.

(Psalm 128:1, 2) Happy is everyone fearing Jehovah, Who is walking in his ways. ² For you will eat the toil of your own hands. Happy you will be and it will be well with you.

(Acts 4:13) Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus;

(Acts 10:34, 35) At this Peter opened his mouth and said: "For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial, ³⁵ but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

Lesson 2

Why Are We Called Jehovah's Witnesses?

(Isaiah 43:10-12) "YOU are my witnesses," is the utterance of Jehovah, "even my servant whom I have chosen, in order that YOU may know and have faith in me, and that YOU may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. ¹¹ I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior." ¹² "I myself have told forth and have saved and have caused [it] to be heard, when there was among YOU no strange [god]. So YOU are

my witnesses," is the utterance of Jehovah, "and I am God.

(Exodus 3:15) Then God said once more to Moses: "This is what you are to say to the sons of Israel, 'Jehovah the God of YOUR forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to YOU.' This is my name to time indefinite, and this is the memorial of me to generation after generation.

(Hebrews 11:4-12:1) By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than Cain, through which [faith] he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness respecting his gifts; and through it he, although he died, yet speaks.

⁵ By faith E'noch was transferred so as not to see death, and he was nowhere to be found because God had transferred him; for before his transference he had the witness that he had pleased God well. ⁶ Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please [him] well, for he that approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

⁷ By faith Noah, after being given divine warning of things not yet beheld, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; and through this [faith] he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed in going out into a place he was destined to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, although not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he resided as an alien in the land of the promise as in a foreign land, and dwelt in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the very same promise. ¹⁰ For he was awaiting the city having real foundations, the builder and maker of which [city] is God.

¹¹ By faith also Sarah herself received power to conceive seed, even when she was past the age limit, since she esteemed him faithful who had promised. ¹² Hence also from one [man], and him as good as dead, there were born [children] just as the stars of heaven for multitude and as the sands that are by the seaside, innumerable.

¹³ In faith all these died, although they did not get the [fulfillment of the] promises, but they saw them afar off and welcomed them and publicly declared that they were

strangers and temporary residents in the land. ¹⁴ For those who say such things give evidence that they are earnestly seeking a place of their own. ¹⁵ And yet, if they had indeed kept remembering that [place] from which they had gone forth, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they are reaching out for a better [place], that is, one belonging to heaven. Hence God is not ashamed of them, to be called upon as their God, for he has made a city ready for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac, and the man that had gladly received the promises attempted to offer up [his] only-begotten [son], ¹⁸ although it had been said to him: "What will be called 'your seed' will be through Isaac." ¹⁹ But he reckoned that God was able to raise him up even from the dead; and from there he did receive him also in an illustrative way.

²⁰ By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and E'sau concerning things to come.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when about to die, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped leaning upon the top of his staff.

²² By faith Joseph, nearing his end, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel; and he gave a command concerning his bones.

²³ By faith Moses was hid for three months by his parents after his birth, because they saw the young child was beautiful and they did not fear the order of the king. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of the daughter of Phar'aoh, ²⁵ choosing to be ill-treated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin, ²⁶ because he esteemed the reproach of the Christ as riches greater than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked intently toward the payment of the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, but not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is

invisible. ²⁸ By faith he had celebrated the passover and the splashing of the blood, that the destroyer might not touch their firstborn ones.

²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but on venturing out upon it the Egyptians were swallowed up.

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jer'i·cho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Ra'hab the harlot did not perish with those who acted disobediently, because she received the spies in a peaceable way.

³² And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gid'e'on, Ba'rak, Samson, Jeph'thah, David as well as Samuel and the [other] prophets, ³³ who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ stayed the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became valiant in war, routed the armies of foreigners. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection; but other [men] were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order that they might attain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Yes, others received their trial by mockings and scourgings, indeed, more than that, by bonds and prisons. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were tried, they were sawn asunder, they died by slaughter with the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, while they were in

want, in tribulation, under ill-treatment; ³⁸ and the world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and mountains and caves and dens of the earth.

³⁹ And yet all these, although they had witness borne to them through their faith, did not get the [fulfillment of the] promise, ⁴⁰ as God foresaw something better for us, in order that they might not be made perfect apart from us.

12 So, then, because we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put off every weight and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Revelation 3:14) "And to the angel of the congregation in La'o·di·ce'a write: These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God,

(John 17:26) And I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them."

(John 18:37) Therefore Pilate said to him: "Well, then, are you a king?" Jesus answered: "You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice."

Lesson 3

How Was Bible Truth Rediscovered?

(Acts 20:29, 30) I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among YOU and will not treat the flock with tenderness, ³⁰ and from among YOU yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.

(2 Timothy 4:3, 4) For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, whereas they will be turned aside to false stories.

(Daniel 12:4) "And as for you, O Daniel, make secret the words and seal up the book, until the time of [the] end. Many will rove about, and the [true] knowledge will become abundant."

(John 8:31, 32) And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him: "If YOU remain in my word, YOU are really my disciples, ³² and YOU will know the truth, and the truth will set YOU free."

Lesson 4

Why Have We Produced the *New World Translation*?

(1 Timothy 2:3, 4) This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God, ⁴ whose will is that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

(2 Samuel 23:2) The spirit of Jehovah it was that spoke by me, And his word was upon my tongue.

(Psalm 83:18) That people may know that you, whose name is Jehovah, You alone are the Most High over all the earth.

(Joshua 1:8) This book of the law should not depart from your mouth, and you must in an undertone read in it day and night, in order that you may take care to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way successful and then you will act wisely.

(Psalm 1:2, 3) But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, And in his law he reads in an undertone day and night. ³ And he will certainly become like a tree planted by streams of water, That gives its own fruit in its season And the foliage of which does not wither, And everything he does will succeed.

(Psalm 69:31) This will also be more pleasing to Jehovah than a bull, Than a

young bull displaying horns, splitting the hoof.

(Genesis 25:29) Once Jacob was boiling up some stew, when E'sau came along from the field and he was tired.

(Isaiah 14:23) "And I will make her a possession of porcupines and reedy pools of water, and I will sweep her with the broom of annihilation," is the utterance of Jehovah of armies.

(Matthew 5:3) "Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.

(Matthew 11:12) But from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of the heavens is the goal toward which men press, and those pressing forward are seizing it.

(1 Corinthians 10:24, 25) Let each one keep seeking, not his own [advantage], but that of the other person. ²⁵ Everything that is sold in a meat market keep eating, making no inquiry on account of YOUR conscience;

(Philippians 1:8) For God is my witness of how I am yearning for all of YOU in such tender affection as Christ Jesus has.

OUR ACTIVITIES Lessons 5-14

Lesson 5

What Will You Experience at Our Christian Meetings?

(Hebrews 10:24, 25) And let us consider one another to incite to love and fine

works, ²⁵ not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the

custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as YOU behold the day drawing near.

(2 Thessalonians 1:3) We are obligated to give God thanks always for YOU, brothers, as it is fitting, because YOUR faith is growing exceedingly and the love of each and all of YOU is increasing one toward the other.

(3 John 14) But I am hoping to see you directly, and we shall speak face to face. May you have peace. The friends send you their greetings. Give my greetings to the friends by name.

(Deuteronomy 31:12) Congregate the people, the men and the women and the little ones and your alien resident who is within your gates, in order that they may listen and in order that they may learn, as

they must fear Jehovah YOUR God and take care to carry out all the words of this law.

(Nehemiah 8:8) And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the law of the [true] God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning [into it]; and they continued giving understanding in the reading.

(Hebrews 10:23) Let us hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering, for he is faithful that promised.

(Romans 1:11, 12) For I am longing to see YOU, that I may impart some spiritual gift to YOU in order for YOU to be made firm; ¹² or, rather, that there may be an interchange of encouragement among YOU, by each one through the other's faith, both YOURS and mine.

Lesson 6

How Does Association With Fellow Christians Benefit Us?

(Hebrews 10:24) And let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works,

(Proverbs 17:17) A true companion is loving all the time, and is a brother that is born for when there is distress.

(1 Corinthians 12:25, 26) so that there should be no division in the body, but that its members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the other members suffer with it; or if a member is glorified, all the other members rejoice with it.

Lesson 7

What Are Our Meetings Like?

(1 Corinthians 14:26) What is to be done, then, brothers? When YOU come together, one has a psalm, another has a teaching, another has a revelation, another has a tongue, another has an interpretation. Let all things take place for upbuilding.

(1 Timothy 4:13) While I am coming, continue applying yourself to public reading, to exhortation, to teaching.

(Isaiah 54:13) And all your sons will be persons taught by Jehovah, and the peace of your sons will be abundant.

Lesson 8

Why Do We Dress Up for Our Meetings?

(1 Samuel 16:7) But Jehovah said to Samuel: "Do not look at his appearance and

at the height of his stature, for I have rejected him. For not the way man sees [is

the way God sees], because mere man sees what appears to the eyes; but as for Jehovah, he sees what the heart is.”

(Genesis 18:25) It is unthinkable of you that you are acting in this manner to put to death the righteous man with the wicked one so that it has to occur with the righteous man as it does with the wicked! It is unthinkable of you. Is the Judge of all the earth not going to do what is right?”

(1 Timothy 2:9, 10) Likewise I desire the women to adorn themselves in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind, not with styles of hair

braiding and gold or pearls or very expensive garb, ¹⁰ but in the way that befits women professing to reverence God, namely, through good works.

(Titus 2:10) not committing theft, but exhibiting good fidelity to the full, so that they may adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things.

(1 Peter 2:12) Maintain YOUR conduct fine among the nations, that, in the thing in which they are speaking against YOU as evildoers, they may as a result of YOUR fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify God in the day for [his] inspection.

Lesson 9

How Can We Best Prepare for the Meetings?

(Philippians 4:6, 7) Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let YOUR petitions be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God that excels all thought will guard YOUR hearts and YOUR mental powers by means of Christ Jesus.

(Acts 17:11) Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in Thes·sa·lo·ni·ca, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind,

carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so.

(Matthew 13:51, 52) “Did YOU get the sense of all these things?” They said to him: “Yes.” ⁵² Then he said to them: “That being the case, every public instructor, when taught respecting the kingdom of the heavens, is like a man, a householder, who brings out of his treasure store things new and old.”

Lesson 10

What Is Family Worship?

(Deuteronomy 6:6, 7) And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart; ⁷ and you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.

(James 4:8) Draw close to God, and he will draw close to YOU. Cleanse YOUR hands, YOU sinners, and purify YOUR hearts, YOU indecisive ones.

(Psalm 1:1-3) Happy is the man that has not walked in the counsel of the wicked ones, And in the way of sinners has not stood, And in the seat of ridiculers has not sat. ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, And in his law he reads in an undertone day and night. ³ And he will certainly become like a tree planted by streams of water, That gives its own fruit in its season And the foliage of which does not wither, And everything he does will succeed.

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Lesson 11

Why Do We Attend Large Assemblies?

(Deuteronomy 16:16) "Three times in the year every male of yours should appear before Jehovah your God in the place that he will choose: in the festival of the unfermented cakes and in the festival of weeks and in the festival of booths, and none should appear before Jehovah empty-handed.

(Psalm 26:12) My own foot will certainly stand on a level place; Among the congregated throngs I shall bless Jehovah.

(Psalm 111:1) Praise Jah, YOU people! I shall laud Jehovah with all [my] heart In the intimate group of upright ones and the assembly.

(Acts 2:42) And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles

and to sharing [with one another], to taking of meals and to prayers.

(1 Peter 2:17) Honor [men] of all sorts, have love for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, have honor for the king.

(Nehemiah 8:8) And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the law of the [true] God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning [into it]; and they continued giving understanding in the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:12) So all the people went away to eat and drink and to send out portions and to carry on a great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that had been made known to them.

Lesson 12

How Is Our Kingdom-Preaching Work Organized?

(Matthew 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

(Luke 8:1) Shortly afterwards he went journeying from city to city and from village to village, preaching and declaring the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,

(Matthew 10:11-13) "Into whatever city or village YOU enter, search out who in it is deserving, and stay there until YOU leave. ¹² When YOU are entering into the house, greet the household; ¹³ and if the house is deserving, let the peace YOU wish it come upon it; but if it is not deserving, let the peace from YOU return upon YOU.

(Acts 5:42) And every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus.

(Acts 20:20) while I did not hold back from telling YOU any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching YOU publicly and from house to house.

(Matthew 10:5, 6) These twelve Jesus sent forth, giving them these orders: "Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter into a Sa'mar'i'tan city; ⁶ but, instead, go continually to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

(2 Corinthians 10:13) For our part we will boast, not outside our assigned boundaries, but according to the boundary of the territory that God apportioned to us by measure, making it reach even as far as YOU.

(Acts 10:42) Also, he ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

(Mark 4:1) And he again started teaching beside the sea. And a very great crowd gathered near him, so that he went aboard a boat and sat out on the sea, but all the crowd beside the sea were on the shore.

(John 4:5-15) Accordingly he came to a city of Sa'mar'i'a called Sy'char near the field that Jacob gave to Joseph his son. ⁶ In fact, Jacob's fountain was there. Now Jesus, tired out from the journey, was sitting at the fountain just as he was. The hour was about the sixth.

⁷ A woman of Sa'mar'i'a came to draw water. Jesus said to her: "Give me a drink."
⁸ (For his disciples had gone off into the city to buy foodstuffs.) ⁹ Therefore the Sa'mar'i'tan woman said to him: "How is it that you, despite being a Jew, ask me for a drink, when I am a Sa'mar'i'tan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Sa'mar'i'tans.) ¹⁰ In answer Jesus said to her: "If you had known the free gift of God and who it is that says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."
¹¹ She said to him: "Sir, you have not even a bucket for drawing water, and the well is deep. From what source, therefore, do you have this living water?" ¹² You are not greater than our forefather Jacob, who gave us the well and who himself together with his sons and his cattle drank out of it, are you?" ¹³ In answer Jesus said to her: "Everyone drinking from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ Whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty at all, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water bubbling up to impart everlasting life."
¹⁵ The woman said to him: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may neither thirst nor keep coming over to this place to draw water."

(Psalm 96:2) Sing to Jehovah, bless his name. From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him.

Lesson 13

What Is a Pioneer?

(Matthew 20:28) Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many."

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded YOU. And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(Matthew 6:31-33) So never be anxious and say, 'What are we to eat?' or, 'What are we to drink?' or, 'What are we to put on?'³² For all these are the things the nations are eagerly pursuing. For YOUR heavenly Father knows YOU need all these things.³³ "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these [other] things will be added to YOU.

(1 Timothy 6:6-8) To be sure, it is a means of great gain, [this] godly devotion along with self-sufficiency.⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out.⁸ So, having

sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things.

(Mark 6:34) Well, on getting out, he saw a great crowd, but he was moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. And he started to teach them many things.

(Matthew 22:39) The second, like it, is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.'

(1 Thessalonians 2:8) So, having a tender affection for YOU, we were well pleased to impart to YOU, not only the good news of God, but also our own souls, because YOU became beloved to us.

(Acts 20:35) I have exhibited to YOU in all things that by thus laboring YOU must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said, 'There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.'"

(2 Timothy 4:5) You, though, keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do [the] work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.

Lesson 14

What Is Missionary Service?

(Isaiah 6:8) And I began to hear the voice of Jehovah saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I proceeded to say: "Here I am! Send me."

(John 7:29) I know him, because I am a representative from him, and that One sent me forth."

(Luke 4:43) But he said to them: "Also to other cities I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth."

(Proverbs 3:5, 6) Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding.⁶ In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight.

(Acts 1:8) but YOU will receive power when the holy spirit arrives upon YOU, and YOU will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Ju'de'a and Sa'mar'i'a and to the most distant part of the earth."

OUR ORGANIZATION Lessons 15-28

Lesson 15

How Do the Elders Serve the Congregation?

(Acts 20:28) Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed YOU overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son].

(1 Peter 5:1-3) Therefore, to the older men among YOU I give this exhortation, for I too am an older man with [them] and a witness of the sufferings of the Christ, a sharer even of the glory that is to be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God in YOUR care, not under compulsion, but willingly; neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly; ³ neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock.

(2 Corinthians 1:24) Not that we are the masters over YOUR faith, but we are fellow workers for YOUR joy, for it is by [YOUR] faith that YOU are standing.

(Proverbs 27:23) You ought to know positively the appearance of your flock. Set your heart to your droves;

(Acts 15:32) And Judas and Silas, since they themselves were also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many a discourse and strengthened them.

(James 5:14, 15) Is there anyone sick among YOU? Let him call the older men of the congregation to [him], and let them pray over him, greasing [him] with oil in the name of Jehovah. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him.

(1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13) Now we request YOU, brothers, to have regard for those who are working hard among YOU

and presiding over YOU in [the] Lord and admonishing YOU; ¹³ and to give them more than extraordinary consideration in love because of their work. Be peaceable with one another.

(1 Timothy 3:1-10) That statement is faithful. If any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a fine work. ² The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach, ³ not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money, ⁴ a man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness; ⁵ (if indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation?) ⁶ not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up [with pride] and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. ⁷ Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from people on the outside, in order that he might not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil.

⁸ Ministerial servants should likewise be serious, not double-tongued, not giving themselves to a lot of wine, not greedy of dishonest gain, ⁹ holding the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience.

¹⁰ Also, let these be tested as to fitness first, then let them serve as ministers, as they are free from accusation.

(1 Timothy 3:12) Let ministerial servants be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over children and their own households.

(Titus 1:5-9) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of older men in city after city, as I gave you orders; ⁶ if there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. ⁷ For an overseer must be free from accusation as God's steward, not self-

willed, not prone to wrath, not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, not greedy of dishonest gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of goodness, sound in mind, righteous, loyal, self-controlled, ⁹ holding firmly to the faithful word as respects his [art of] teaching, that he may be able both to exhort by the teaching that is healthful and to reprove those who contradict.

Lesson 16

What Is the Role of the Ministerial Servants?

(Philippians 1:1) Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Phi-lip'pi, along with overseers and ministerial servants:

(1 Timothy 3:13) For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 4:16) From him all the body, by being harmoniously joined together and being made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed, according to the functioning of each respective member in due measure, makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Lesson 17

How Do Traveling Overseers Help Us?

(Acts 15:36) Now after some days Paul said to Bar'na·bas: "Above all things, let us return and visit the brothers in every one of the cities in which we published the word of Jehovah to see how they are."

(Acts 15:35) However, Paul and Bar'na·bas continued spending time in Antioch teaching and declaring, with many others also, the good news of the word of Jehovah.

(2 Corinthians 8:23) If, though, there is any question about Titus, he is a sharer with me and a fellow worker for YOUR interests; or if about our brothers, they are apostles of congregations and a glory of Christ.

(Hebrews 13:7) Remember those who are taking the lead among YOU, who have spoken the word of God to YOU, and as YOU contemplate how [their] conduct turns out imitate [their] faith.

Lesson 18

How Do We Help Our Brothers in Distress?

(John 13:34, 35) I am giving YOU a new commandment, that YOU love one another; just as I have loved YOU, that YOU also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know

that YOU are my disciples, if YOU have love among yourselves."

(1 John 3:17, 18) But whoever has this world's means for supporting life and

beholds his brother having need and yet shuts the door of his tender compassions upon him, in what way does the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, neither in word nor with the tongue, but in deed and truth.

(Acts 11:27-30) Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Ag'a·bus rose and proceeded to indicate through the spirit that a great famine was about to come upon the entire inhabited earth; which, for that matter, did take place in the time of Claudius. ²⁹ So those of the disciples determined, each of them according as anyone could afford it, to send a relief ministrations to the brothers dwelling in Ju·de'a; ³⁰ and this they did, dispatching it to the older men by the hand of Bar'na·bas and Saul.

(2 Corinthians 8:13-15) For I do not mean for it to be easy for others, but hard on YOU; ¹⁴ but that by means of an equalizing YOUR surplus just now might

offset their deficiency, in order that their surplus might also come to offset YOUR deficiency, that an equalizing might take place. ¹⁵ Just as it is written: "The person with much did not have too much, and the person with little did not have too little."

(Galatians 6:10) Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to [us] in the faith.

(2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those in any sort of tribulation through the comfort with which we ourselves are being comforted by God.

(Revelation 21:4) And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

Lesson 19

Who Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave Class?

(Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

(Matthew 24:45) "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?"

(Mark 13:3, 4) And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives with the temple in view, Peter and James and John and Andrew began to ask him privately: ⁴ "Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are destined to come to a conclusion?"

(Luke 12:42) And the Lord said: "Who really is the faithful steward, the discreet one, whom his master will appoint over his body of attendants to keep giving them their measure of food supplies at the proper time?"

(1 Timothy 3:15) but in case I am delayed, that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of [the] living God, a pillar and support of the truth.

(Acts 10:42) Also, he ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

(Isaiah 60:22) The little one himself will become a thousand, and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time."

(Isaiah 65:13) Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has said: "Look!

My own servants will eat, but YOU yourselves will go hungry. Look! My own servants will drink, but YOU yourselves will go thirsty. Look! My own servants will rejoice, but YOU yourselves will suffer shame.

Lesson 20

How Does the Governing Body Function Today?

(Acts 15:2) But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Bar'na'bas with them, they arranged for Paul and Bar'na'bas and some others of them to go up to the apostles and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute.

(Acts 15:25) we have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to YOU together with our loved ones, Bar'na'bas and Paul,

(Acts 16:4, 5) Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day.

(1 Corinthians 11:3) But I want YOU to know that the head of every man is the Christ; in turn the head of a woman is the man; in turn the head of the Christ is God.

(Ephesians 5:23) because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of [this] body.

(Revelation 14:4) These are the ones that did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones that keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb,

(Acts 15:1-35) And certain men came down from Ju'de'a and began to teach the

brothers: "Unless YOU get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, YOU cannot be saved." ² But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Bar'na'bas with them, they arranged for Paul and Bar'na'bas and some others of them to go up to the apostles and older men in Jerusalem regarding this dispute.

³ Accordingly, after being conducted partway by the congregation, these men continued on their way through both Phoe'ni'cia and Sa'mar'i'a, relating in detail the conversion of people of the nations, and they were causing great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ On arriving in Jerusalem they were kindly received by the congregation and the apostles and the older men, and they recounted the many things God had done by means of them. ⁵ Yet, some of those of the sect of the Pharisees that had believed rose up from their seats and said: "It is necessary to circumcise them and charge them to observe the law of Moses."

⁶ And the apostles and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. ⁷ Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them: "Men, brothers, YOU well know that from early days God made the choice among YOU that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the good news and believe; ⁸ and God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the holy spirit, just as he did to us also. ⁹ And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now,

therefore, why are YOU making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? ¹¹ On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also."

¹² At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Bar'na·bas and Paul relate the many signs and portents that God did through them among the nations. ¹³ After they quit speaking, James answered, saying: "Men, brothers, hear me. ¹⁴ Sym'e·on has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, ¹⁶ 'After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down; and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again, ¹⁷ in order that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Jehovah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Jehovah, who is doing these things, ¹⁸ known from of old.' ¹⁹ Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God, ²⁰ but to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

²¹ For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every sabbath." ²² Then the apostles and the older men together with the whole congregation favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch along with Paul and Bar'na·bas, namely, Judas who was called Bar'sab·bas and Silas, leading

men among the brothers; ²³ and by their hand they wrote:

"The apostles and the older men, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Ci·li'cia who are from the nations: Greetings! ²⁴ Since we have heard that some from among us have caused YOU trouble with speeches, trying to subvert YOUR souls, although we did not give them any instructions, ²⁵ we have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to YOU together with our loved ones, Bar'na·bas and Paul, ²⁶ men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. ²⁸ For the holy spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to YOU, except these necessary things, ²⁹ to keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If YOU carefully keep yourselves from these things, YOU will prosper. Good health to YOU!"

³⁰ Accordingly, when these men were let go, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the multitude together and handed them the letter. ³¹ After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. ³² And Judas and Silas, since they themselves were also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many a discourse and strengthened them. ³³ So, when they had passed some time, they were let go in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them out. ³⁴ — ³⁵ However, Paul and Bar'na·bas continued spending time in Antioch teaching and declaring, with many others also, the good news of the word of Jehovah.

Lesson 21

What Is Bethel?

(Genesis 28:17) And he grew fearful and added: "How fear-inspiring this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God and this is the gate of the heavens."

(Genesis 28:19) Further, he called the name of that place Beth'el; but the fact is, Luz was the city's name formerly.

(Psalm 133:1) Look! How good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

(Matthew 6:33) "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these [other] things will be added to YOU.

(Mark 13:10) Also, in all the nations the good news has to be preached first.

Lesson 22

What Is Done at a Branch Office?

(Proverbs 11:14) When there is no skillful direction, the people fall; but there is salvation in the multitude of counselors.

(1 Corinthians 14:33) For God is [a God], not of disorder, but of peace. As in all the congregations of the holy ones,

(1 Corinthians 14:40) But let all things take place decently and by arrangement.

Lesson 23

How Is Our Literature Written and Translated?

(Revelation 14:6) And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, and he had everlasting good news to declare as glad tidings to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people,

(Ecclesiastes 12:10) The congregator sought to find the delightful words and the writing of correct words of truth.

(1 Timothy 2:3, 4) This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God,⁴ whose will is that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

Lesson 24

How Is Our Worldwide Work Financed?

(Matthew 10:8) Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel demons. YOU received free, give free.

(1 Chronicles 29:9) And the people gave way to rejoicing over their making voluntary

offerings, for it was with a complete heart that they made voluntary offerings to Jehovah; and even David the king himself rejoiced with great joy.

(Luke 21:1-4) Now as he looked up he saw the rich dropping their gifts into the treasury chests. ² Then he saw a certain needy widow drop two small coins of very little value there, ³ and he said: "I tell YOU truthfully, This widow, although poor, dropped in more than they all did. ⁴ For all these dropped in gifts out of their surplus, but this [woman] out of her want dropped in all the means of living she had."

(1 Corinthians 16:2) Every first day of the week let each of YOU at his own house

set something aside in store as he may be prospering, so that when I arrive collections will not take place then.

(2 Corinthians 9:7) Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(Proverbs 3:9) Honor Jehovah with your valuable things and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

Lesson 25

Kingdom Halls—Why and How Are They Built?

(Luke 8:1) Shortly afterwards he went journeying from city to city and from village to village, preaching and declaring the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,

(Matthew 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

(Matthew 19:26) Looking them in the face, Jesus said to them: "With men this is

impossible, but with God all things are possible."

(Psalm 127:1) Unless Jehovah himself builds the house, It is to no avail that its builders have worked hard on it. Unless Jehovah himself guards the city, It is to no avail that the guard has kept awake.

(Colossians 3:23) Whatever YOU are doing, work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, and not to men,

Lesson 26

How Can We Help Maintain Our Kingdom Hall?

(Ecclesiastes 5:1) Guard your feet whenever you go to the house of the [true] God; and let there be a drawing near to hear, rather than to give a sacrifice as the stupid ones do, for they are not aware of doing what is bad.

(2 Chronicles 24:13) And the doers of the work began operations, and the repair work kept advancing by their hand, and finally they made the house of the [true] God stand as it structurally should and made it strong.

(2 Chronicles 34:10) Then they put [it] into the hand of the doers of the work that were appointed over the house of Jehovah. In turn the doers of the work who were active in the house of Jehovah applied it to mending and repairing the house.

(Psalm 122:1) I rejoiced when they were saying to me: "To the house of Jehovah let us go."

(2 Corinthians 6:3) In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling, that our ministry might not be found fault with;

Lesson 27

How Can the Kingdom Hall Library Benefit Us?

(Proverbs 2:1-5) My son, if you will receive my sayings and treasure up my own commandments with yourself, ² so as to pay attention to wisdom with your ear, that you may incline your heart to discernment; ³ if, moreover, you call out for understanding itself and you give forth your

voice for discernment itself, ⁴ if you keep seeking for it as for silver, and as for hid treasures you keep searching for it, ⁵ in that case you will understand the fear of Jehovah, and you will find the very knowledge of God.

Lesson 28

What Can Be Found on Our Web Site?

(Matthew 5:16) Likewise let YOUR light shine before men, that they may see YOUR fine works and give glory to YOUR Father who is in the heavens.

(2 Thessalonians 3:1) Finally, brothers, carry on prayer for us, that the word of Jehovah may keep moving speedily and being glorified just as it is in fact with YOU;

(Psalm 1:1) Happy is the man that has not walked in the counsel of the wicked ones, And in the way of sinners has not

stood, And in the seat of ridiculers has not sat.

(Psalm 26:4) I have not sat with men of untruth; And with those who hide what they are I do not come in.

(Romans 16:17) Now I exhort YOU, brothers, to keep your eye on those who cause divisions and occasions for stumbling contrary to the teaching that YOU have learned, and avoid them.

Will You Do Jehovah's Will?

(Hebrews 10:23-25) Let us hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering, for he is faithful that promised. ²⁴ And let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works, ²⁵ not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as YOU behold the day drawing near.

(1 John 4:8-10) He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was made manifest in our case, because God sent

forth his only-begotten Son into the world that we might gain life through him. ¹⁰ The love is in this respect, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent forth his Son as a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins.

(1 John 4:19) As for us, we love, because he first loved us.

(Jude 21) keep yourselves in God's love, while YOU are waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ with everlasting life in view.