

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 15

Song 1 and Prayer

□ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 17 ¶19-16 (30 min.)

□ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 6-8 (10 min.)

No. 1: Joshua 8:18-29 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Gives Evidence That a Person Has Holy Spirit?—rs p. 381 ¶3—p. 382 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adversary—The Most Wicked Adversary of All Is Satan the Devil—it-1 p. 54 (5 min.)

□ **Service Meeting:**

Song 101

15 min: “Conducting Effective Bible Studies.” Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a two-part demonstration showing a publisher and a Bible student discussing paragraph 8 in chapter 15 of the *Bible Teach* book. In the first demonstration, the publisher talks too much. In the second, the publisher asks viewpoint questions to help him discern the student’s thinking.

15 min: A Tool to Help You Prepare to Conduct Bible Studies. Discussion. Draw the attention of the audience to the section of *jw.org* entitled “What Does the Bible Teach?” (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS.) Discuss how this material can be used to help us conduct effective Bible studies with young people as well as with older ones. How can the questions raised on these work sheets help us reach the student’s heart? Include a soliloquy of a publisher using one of these work sheets to help him think about the needs of his student and prepare effective questions. Conclude by encouraging the audience to become better teachers by endeavoring to reach their students’ hearts by using the good things we have to help others.—Prov. 20:5.
Song 99 and Prayer

Conducting Effective Bible Studies

¹ No one can serve God unless Jehovah “draws him.” (John 6:44) Even so, publishers who conduct Bible studies must do their part in helping people to draw close to their heavenly Father. (Jas. 4:8) This requires preparation. Simply reading each paragraph and asking the printed question is not enough to help our students grasp the message and make progress.

² To conduct effective studies, publishers must help their students to (1) understand what the Bible teaches, (2) accept what the Bible teaches, and (3) put into practice what the Bible teaches. (John 3:16; 17:3; Jas. 2:26) It can take months to guide an individual through these steps. Yet, each step represents a stage in his developing a relationship with Jehovah and making a dedication to him.

³ **What Is the Bible Student Thinking?:** To discern if our Bible student understands and accepts what he is learning, avoid doing all the talking and encourage the student to express himself. (Jas. 1:19) Does he understand what the Bible says on the subject being considered? Can he explain the subject in his own words? How does he feel about what he has learned? Does he believe that what the Bible teaches is reasonable? (1 Thess. 2:13) Does he understand that what he is learning should make a difference in the way he lives his life? (Col. 3:10) In order to get answers to such questions, we need to ask

1. What responsibility do publishers who conduct Bible studies have?
2. What will an effective Bible study accomplish?
3. Why do effective teachers ask viewpoint questions?

1 *Jehovah's Attributes* (Revelation 4:11)

1. Jehovah God, exalted in might,
 Source of all life and Provider of light.
 Creation speaks of your power so great;
 More your great day will still relate.

2. Your lofty throne, on justice it stands.
 Thus you make known
 all your righteous commands.
 And as we turn to your Word, we can see
 Your wisdom shine so brilliantly.

3. Greatest of all is your perfect love.
 None can repay all your gifts from above.
 Your attributes and your glorious name,
 Exultingly we will proclaim.

Evidences of Divine Wisdom

⁹ Have you ever marveled at the ingenuity of a craftsman who makes beautiful things that work well? That is an impressive type of wisdom. (Exodus 31:1-3) Jehovah himself is the source of and the ultimate possessor of such wisdom. King David said of Jehovah: “I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, as my soul is very well aware.” (Psalm 139:14) Indeed, the more we learn about the human body, the more we find ourselves awed by Jehovah’s wisdom.

¹⁰ To illustrate: You started as a single cell—an egg cell from your mother, fertilized by a sperm from your father. Soon, that cell started to divide. You, the end product, are made of some 100 trillion cells. They are tiny. About 10,000 average-sized cells would fit on the head of a pin. Yet, each one is a creation of mind-boggling complexity. The cell is far more intricate than any man-made machine or factory. Scientists say that a cell is like a walled city—one with controlled entrances and exits, a transportation system, a communications network, power plants, production plants, waste disposal and recycling facilities, defense agencies, and even a sort of central government in its nucleus. Furthermore, the cell can make a complete replica of itself within just a few hours!

¹¹ Not all cells are the same, of course. As the cells of an embryo continue to divide, they assume very different functions. Some will be nerve cells; others bone, muscle,

9, 10. (a) Jehovah demonstrates what type of wisdom, and how has he displayed it? (b) How does the cell give evidence of Jehovah’s wisdom?

11, 12. (a) What causes the cells in a developing embryo to differentiate, and how does this harmonize with Psalm 139:16? (b) In what ways does the human brain show that we are “wonderfully made”?

blood, or eye cells. All such differentiation is programmed into the cell's "library" of genetic blueprints, the DNA. Interestingly, David was inspired to say to Jehovah: "Your eyes saw even the embryo of me, and in your book all its parts were down in writing."—Psalm 139:16.

¹² Some body parts are immensely complex. Consider, for example, the human brain. Some have called it the most complex object yet discovered in the universe. It contains some 100 billion nerve cells—about as many as the number of stars in our galaxy. Each of those cells branches off into thousands of connections with other cells. Scientists say that a human brain could contain all the information in all the world's libraries and that its storage capacity may, in fact, be unfathomable. Despite decades of studying this "wonderfully made" organ, scientists admit that they may never fully understand how it works.

¹³ Humans, however, are just one example of Jehovah's creative wisdom. Psalm 104:24 says: "How many your works are, O Jehovah! All of them in wisdom you have made. The earth is full of your productions." Jehovah's wisdom is apparent in every creation around us. The ant, for example, is "instinctively wise." (Proverbs 30:24) Indeed, ant colonies are superbly organized. Some ant colonies tend, shelter, and draw nourishment from insects called aphids as if these were livestock. Other ants act as farmers, raising and cultivating "crops" of fungus. Many other creatures have been programmed to do remarkable things by instinct. A common fly performs aerobic feats that the most advanced of man's aircraft cannot duplicate. Migrating birds navigate by the stars, by the orientation

13, 14. (a) How do ants and other creatures show that they are "instinctively wise," and what does that teach us about their Creator? (b) Why might we say that such creations as the spiderweb are made "in wisdom"?



of the earth’s magnetic field, or by some form of internal map. Biologists spend years studying the sophisticated behaviors that have been programmed into these creatures. How wise, then, the divine Programmer must be!

¹⁴ Scientists have learned much from Jehovah’s creative wisdom. There is even a field of engineering, called biomimetics, that seeks to mimic designs found in nature. For instance, you may have gazed in wonder at the beauty of a spiderweb. But an engineer sees it as a marvel of design. Some frail-looking strands are proportionately stronger than steel, tougher than the fibers in a bulletproof vest. Just how strong? Imagine a spiderweb enlarged in scale until it is the size of a net used on a fishing boat. Such a web could catch a passenger plane in mid-flight! Yes, Jehovah has made all such things “in wisdom.”

Wisdom Beyond the Earth

¹⁵ Jehovah’s wisdom is evident in his works throughout the universe. The starry heavens, which we discussed at some length in Chapter 5, are not scattered haphazardly throughout space. Thanks to the wisdom of Jehovah’s “celestial laws,” the heavens are beautifully organized into structured galaxies that, in turn, are grouped into clusters that, in turn, combine to form superclusters. (Job 38:33, *The New Jerusalem Bible*) No wonder that Jehovah refers to the heavenly bodies as an “army”! (Isaiah 40:26) There is another army, though, that even more vividly demonstrates Jehovah’s wisdom.

15, 16. (a) The starry heavens give what evidence of Jehovah’s wisdom? (b) How does Jehovah’s position as Supreme Commander over vast numbers of angels testify to the wisdom of this Administrator?

Who programmed earth’s creatures to be “instinctively wise”?

¹⁶ As we noted in Chapter 4, God bears the title “Jehovah of armies” because of his position as Supreme Commander of a vast army of hundreds of millions of spirit creatures. This is proof of Jehovah’s power. How, though, is his wisdom involved? Consider: Jehovah and Jesus are never idle. (John 5:17) It stands to reason, then, that the angelic ministers of the Most High are likewise always busy. And remember, they are higher than man, superintelligent and superpowerful. (Hebrews 1:7; 2:7) Yet, Jehovah has kept all those angels busy, happily engaged in fulfilling work—“carrying out his word” and “doing his will”—for billions of years. (Psalm 103:20, 21) How awesome the wisdom of this Administrator must be!

Jehovah Is “Wise Alone”

¹⁷ In view of such evidence, is it any wonder that the Bible shows Jehovah’s wisdom to be superlative? For example, it says that Jehovah is “wise alone.” (Romans 16:27) Jehovah alone possesses wisdom in the absolute sense. He is the source of all true wisdom. (Proverbs 2:6) That is why Jesus, though the wisest of Jehovah’s creatures, did not rely on his own wisdom but spoke as his Father directed him.—John 12:48-50.

¹⁸ Notice how the apostle Paul expressed the uniqueness of Jehovah’s wisdom: “O the depth of God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments are and past tracing out his ways are!” (Romans 11:33) By opening the verse with the exclamation “O,” Paul showed strong emotion—in this case, profound awe. The Greek word he chose for “depth” is closely related to the word for “abyss.” Hence, his words evoke a vivid mental picture. When we contemplate Jehovah’s wisdom, it is as if

17, 18. Why does the Bible say that Jehovah is “wise alone,” and why should his wisdom leave us awestruck?

Israel at Gib'e-ath-ha-ar'a-loth.*^a
4 This is why Joshua circumcised them: All the males of the people who left Egypt, all the men of war,* had died in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt.^b **5** All the people who left Egypt were circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness on the journey after they left Egypt were not circumcised. **6** The Israelites had walked for 40 years^c in the wilderness until the entire nation had died off, that is, the men of war who left Egypt who did not obey the voice of Jehovah.^d Jehovah swore to them that he would never let them see the land^e that Jehovah had sworn to their forefathers to give to us,^f a land flowing with milk and honey.^g **7** So he raised up their sons instead of them.^h These Joshua circumcised; they were uncircumcised because they had not circumcised them during the journey.

8 When they finished circumcising the entire nation, they remained where they were in the camp until they recovered.

9 Then Jehovah said to Joshua: "Today I have rolled away from you the reproach of Egypt." So that place has been called Gil'galⁱ until this day.

10 The Israelites continued to camp at Gil'gal, and they observed the Passover on the 14th day of the month,^j in the evening, on the desert plains of Jer'i-cho. **11** And they began to eat the produce of the land the day after the Passover, unleavened bread^k and roasted grains, on this same day. **12** Then the manna stopped on the day following when they had eaten some of the produce of the land; there was no longer manna for

5:3 *Meaning "Hill of the Foreskins."
 5:4 *Or "the men of military age." 5:9
 *Meaning "Rolling; Rolling Away."

CHAP. 5

- a Jos 5:8, 9
- b Nu 14:29
Nu 26:65
De 2:14
- c Nu 14:33
De 1:3
- d Nu 14:22, 23
- e De 1:35
- f Ge 13:14, 15
Ex 33:1
- g Ex 3:8
Nu 13:26, 27
Eze 20:6
- h Nu 14:31
- i Jos 4:19
Jos 5:3
- j Ex 12:24, 25
Nu 9:5
- k Ex 12:18

Second Col.

- a Ex 16:35
- b De 6:10-12
De 8:10
- c Ge 18:2
Jg 13:6
Ac 1:10
- d Ex 23:23
Nu 22:23
1Ch 21:16
- e Ex 23:20
1Ki 22:19
Da 10:13
- f Ex 3:4, 5

CHAP. 6

- g Jos 2:9
- h Nu 14:9
De 7:24
Ne 9:24
- i Jg 7:22
- j Heb 11:30

the Israelites,^a but they began to eat the produce of the land of Ca'naan in that year.^b

13 When Joshua was near Jer'i-cho, he looked up and saw a man^c standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.^d Joshua walked up to him and asked: "Are you on our side or on the side of our adversaries?"

14 To this he said: "No, but I have come as prince* of Jehovah's army."^e With that Joshua fell with his face to the ground and prostrated himself and said to him: "What does my lord have to say to his servant?" **15** The prince of Jehovah's army replied to Joshua: "Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy." At once Joshua did so.^f

6 Now Jer'i-cho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites; no one was leaving and no one was entering.^g

2 Jehovah then said to Joshua: "See, I have handed over to you Jer'i-cho and its king and its mighty warriors.^h **3** All you fighting men should march around the city, going around the city once. That is what you should do for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry seven ram's horns before the Ark. But on the seventh day, you should march around the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns.ⁱ **5** When the ram's horn is sounded—as soon as you hear the sound* of the horn—all the people should shout a great war cry. Then the wall of the city will fall down flat,^j and the people must go up, each one straight ahead."

6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests together and told them: "Take up the ark of the covenant, and seven priests should carry seven ram's horns

5:14 *Or "chief." 6:5 *Or "long blast."

before the Ark of Jehovah.^a **7** Then he told the people: "Move on and march around the city, and the armed troops^b should go ahead of the Ark of Jehovah." **8** And just as Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying seven ram's horns before Jehovah went forward and blew the horns, and the ark of the covenant of Jehovah was following them. **9** And the armed troops went ahead of the priests who were blowing the horns, and the rear guard followed the Ark as the horns were blown continuously.

10 Now Joshua had commanded the people: "Do not shout nor let your voices be heard. Not a word should come out of your mouths until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then shout." **11** He had the Ark of Jehovah go around the city, going around it once, after which they returned to the camp and spent the night there.

12 The next morning Joshua got up early, and the priests took up the Ark^c of Jehovah, **13** and seven priests carrying seven ram's horns walked before the Ark of Jehovah, continuously blowing the horns. The armed troops were walking ahead of them while the rear guard was following the Ark of Jehovah as the horns were blown continuously. **14** They marched around the city on the second day once, after which they returned to the camp. That was what they did for six days.^d

15 On the seventh day they got up early, as soon as the dawn broke, and they marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.^e **16** And on the seventh time, the priests blew the horns, and Joshua told

CHAP. 6

a Nu 4:15

b Nu 10:14,
18, 22
Jos 1:12, 14

c 1Ch 15:2

d Jos 6:3

e Jos 6:4

Second Col.

a Jos 6:5, 10

b Le 27:29
De 7:2
De 20:16

c Jos 2:1
Mt 1:5
Heb 11:31

d Ge 12:3
Jos 2:4, 6
Jas 2:25

e De 7:26

f De 13:17
Jos 7:11, 21

g Jos 7:25

h Nu 31:22, 23

i Jos 6:24
1Ki 7:51
1Ch 18:11

j Jos 6:4, 16

k Jos 6:5
Heb 11:30

l De 7:2
De 20:16

m Jos 2:14
Heb 11:31

n Jos 2:12, 13
Jos 2:17-19

the people: "Shout,^a for Jehovah has given you the city! **17** The city and everything in it is to be devoted to destruction;^b it all belongs to Jehovah. Only Ra'hab^c the prostitute may keep living, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers we sent out.^d **18** But keep away from what is devoted to destruction,^e so that you do not desire something devoted to destruction and take it,^f making the camp of Israel something devoted to destruction by bringing disaster* on it.^g **19** But all the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron are holy to Jehovah.^h They should go into the treasury of Jehovah."ⁱ

20 Then the people shouted when the horns were blown.^j As soon as the people heard the sound of the horn and shouted a great war cry, the wall fell down flat.^k After that the people went up into the city, each one straight ahead, and they captured the city. **21** They devoted all that was in the city to destruction by the sword, man and woman, young and old, bull, sheep, and donkey.^l

22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land: "Go into the house of the prostitute and bring out the woman and all who belong to her, just as you swore to her."^m **23** So the young spies went in and brought out Ra'hab, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her; yes, they brought out her whole family,ⁿ and they brought them safely to a place outside the camp of Israel.

24 Then they burned the city and everything in it with fire. But the silver, the gold, and the articles of copper and iron,

6:18 *Or "trouble; ostracism."

they gave to the treasury of Jehovah's house.^a **25** Only Ra'hab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her were spared by Joshua;^b and she lives in Israel to this day,^c because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent out to spy on Jer'i-cho.^d

26 At that time Joshua pronounced this oath:^e "Cursed be the man before Jehovah who undertakes to rebuild this city of Jer'i-cho. At the cost of his first-born he will lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest he will put up its doors."^e

27 So Jehovah was with Joshua,^f and his fame spread through all the earth.^g

7 But the Israelites were unfaithful with regard to what had been devoted to destruction, for A'chan^h son of Car'mi, son of Zab'di, son of Ze'rah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was devoted to destruction.ⁱ At this Jehovah's anger blazed against the Israelites.^j

2 Then Joshua sent men out from Jer'i-cho to A'i,^k which is close by Beth-a'ven and east of Beth'el,^l telling them: "Go up and spy on the land." So the men went up and spied on A'i.

3 When they returned to Joshua, they told him: "Not all the people need to go up. About two or three thousand men are enough to defeat A'i. Do not tire out all the people by making them go, for there are only a few of them."^m

4 So about 3,000 men went up there, but they had to flee from the men of A'i.ⁿ **5** The men of A'i struck down 36 men, and they pursued them from outside the city gate as far as Sheb'a-rim,^o and they continued striking

6:26 *Or possibly, "made the people swear this oath." 7:5 *Meaning "Quarries."

CHAP. 6

- a Jos 6:19
- b Jos 2:14
Jos 6:17, 22
- c Mt 1:5
- d Heb 6:10
Jas 2:25
- e 1Ki 16:34
- f De 31:6
Jos 1:5
- g Jos 9:1, 2
Jos 9:9, 10

CHAP. 7

- h Jos 22:20
1Ch 2:7
- i De 7:26
- j Jos 6:17, 18
- k Ge 12:8
- l Ge 28:19
- m Le 26:14, 17
De 28:15, 25
De 32:30

Second Col.

- a De 32:26, 27
Ps 106:8
Ps 143:11
Eze 20:9
- b Ex 24:7
- c Jos 6:17
- d Ex 20:15
- e Jos 7:21
- f De 7:26
Jos 6:18
Isa 59:2
- g Ex 19:10

them down on the descent. So the courage* of the people melted and flowed away like water.

6 At this Joshua ripped his garments and fell with his face to the ground before the Ark of Jehovah until the evening, he and the elders of Israel, and they kept throwing dust on their heads. **7** Joshua said: "Alas, Sovereign Lord Jehovah, why did you bring this people all the way across the Jordan just to hand us over to the Am'or-ites to be destroyed? If only we had been satisfied to remain on the other side* of the Jordan! **8** Pardon me, O Jehovah, what can I say now that Israel has retreated* before his enemies? **9** When the Ca'naan-ites and all the inhabitants of the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe out our very name from the earth, and what will you do about your great name?"^a

10 Jehovah replied to Joshua: "Get up! Why are you lying on your face? **11** Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant^b that I commanded them to keep. They took some of what was devoted to destruction,^c stealing^d it and secretly putting it among their own possessions.^e **12** Therefore, the Israelites will not be able to stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and flee from their enemies, because they have become something devoted to destruction. I will not be with you again unless you annihilate from your midst what was devoted to destruction.^f **13** Get up and sanctify the people!^g Tell them, 'Sanctify yourselves tomorrow, for this is what Jehovah the God of Israel says: "What is devoted to destruction is among you, O Israel. You will not be

7:5 *Lit., "heart." 7:7 *That is, the east side. 7:8 *Or "turned his back."

able to stand against your enemies until you remove from your midst the thing devoted to destruction. **14** You are to present yourselves in the morning, tribe by tribe, and the tribe that Jehovah selects^a will come near, family by family, and the family that Jehovah selects will come near, household by household, and the household that Jehovah selects will come near, man by man. **15** And the one who is caught with the thing devoted to destruction will be burned with fire,^b he and all that belongs to him, because he has violated the covenant^c of Jehovah and because he has committed a disgraceful act in Israel.””

16 So Joshua rose early the next morning and had Israel come near, tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected. **17** He had the families of Judah come near and the family of the Ze'rah-ites^d was selected, after which he had the family of the Ze'rah-ites come near, man by man, and Zab'di was selected. **18** Finally he had the household of Zab'di come near, man by man, and A'chan son of Car'mi, son of Zab'di, son of Ze'rah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.^e **19** Then Joshua said to A'chan: “My son, please, honor Jehovah the God of Israel and make confession to him. Tell me, please, what you have done. Do not hide it from me.”

20 A'chan answered Joshua: “For a fact I am the one who sinned against Jehovah the God of Israel, and this is what I have done. **21** When I saw among the spoil a good-looking official garment from Shi'nar^f and 200 shekels* of silver and one gold bar weighing 50 shekels, I desired them, so I took them. They are now hidden in the

7:21 *A shekel equaled 11.4 g (0.367 oz t). See App. B14.

CHAP. 7

a Pr 16:33

b Jos 1:18
Jos 7:25

c Ex 24:7

d Ge 38:30
Nu 26:20
1Ch 2:4, 6e Pr 16:33
Ac 5:3

f Ge 10:10

Second Col.

a Jos 22:20

b Jos 6:19

c Jos 15:7, 12
Isa 65:10
Ho 2:15d Jos 6:18
1Ch 2:7e Le 24:14
Jos 1:18

f Jos 7:15

g De 13:17

CHAP. 8

h De 7:18
De 31:8
Jos 1:9
Isa 12:2
Ro 8:31

i Ps 44:3

j Jos 6:2, 21

ground inside my tent, with the money underneath.”

22 At once Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there the garment was hidden in his tent, with the money underneath it. **23** So they took the things out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and placed them before Jehovah. **24** Joshua and all Israel with him then took A'chan^a the son of Ze'rah, the silver, the official garment, and the bar of gold,^b along with his sons, his daughters, his bull, his donkey, his flock, his tent, and everything that was his, and they brought them up to the Valley* of A'chor.^c **25** Joshua said: “Why have you brought disaster* upon us?^d Jehovah will bring disaster upon you on this day.” With that all Israel stoned him,^e after which they burned them with fire.^f Thus they stoned all of them. **26** And they raised a huge pile of stones over him that remains to this day. At this Jehovah's hot anger subsided.^g That is why the name of that place is Valley of A'chor* to this day.

8 Then Jehovah said to Joshua: “Do not be afraid or be terrified.^h Take with you all the fighting men and go up against A'i. See, I have handed over to you the king of A'i, his people, his city, and his land.ⁱ **2** Do to A'i and to its king just as you did to Jer'i-cho and its king,^j except you may plunder its spoil and its livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city.”

3 So Joshua and all the fighting men went up against A'i. Joshua chose 30,000 mighty warriors and sent them off by night. **4** He gave them this command: “See, you are to lie in

7:24 *Or “Low Plain.” 7:25 *Or “trouble; ostracism.” 7:26 *Meaning “Disaster; Ostracism.”

ambush behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, and all of you be ready. **5** I and all the people with me will approach the city, and when they come out against us as before,^a we will retreat from them. **6** When they come out after us, we will draw them away from the city, for they will say, "They are retreating from us just as before."^b And we will retreat from them. **7** Then you should rise up from the ambush and capture the city; Jehovah your God will hand it over to you. **8** As soon as you have seized the city, you should set it on fire.^c You should do according to Jehovah's word. See, I have given you your orders."

9 Then Joshua sent them out, and they marched to the place of ambush; they took a position between Beth'el and A'i, to the west of A'i, while Joshua spent that night with the people.

10 After Joshua rose up early in the morning and gathered* the troops, he and the elders of Israel led them to A'i. **11** All the fighting men^d who were with him marched up and advanced to the front of the city. They camped to the north of A'i, with the valley between them and A'i. **12** In the meantime, he had taken about 5,000 men and had set them as an ambush^e between Beth'el^f and A'i, to the west of the city. **13** So the people set the main camp to the north of the city^g and the rear guard west of the city,^h and Joshua went that night into the middle of the valley.*

14 And as soon as the king of A'i saw this, he and the men of the city hurried out early in the morning to meet Israel in battle at a certain place overlooking the desert plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush

8:10 *Or "mustered." 8:13 *Or "low plain."

CHAP. 8

a Jos 7:5

b Jos 8:16

c Jos 8:19, 28

d Jos 8:1, 3

e Jos 8:2

f Ge 28:19

g Jos 8:5

h Jos 8:4

Second Col.

a Jos 8:6

b Ex 17:11
Jos 8:26

c De 7:24

d Jos 8:8, 28

e Le 27:29
De 7:2

f Jos 8:29
Jos 12:7, 9

set against him to the rear of the city. **15** When the men of A'i attacked, Joshua and all Israel fled along the road in the direction of the wilderness.^a **16** Then all the people who were in the city were summoned to pursue them; and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. **17** Not a man was remaining in A'i and Beth'el who did not go out after Israel. They left the city wide open and pursued Israel.

18 Jehovah now said to Joshua: "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward A'i,^b for into your hand I will give it."^c So Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. **19** The moment he stretched out his hand, the ambush rose up quickly from its place and ran into the city and captured it. They immediately set the city on fire.^d

20 When the men of A'i turned around, they saw the smoke of the city rising to the sky, and they had no strength to flee in any direction. Then the people who had been fleeing toward the wilderness turned on their pursuers. **21** When Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city and saw the smoke of the city rising, they turned around and attacked the men of A'i. **22** And the others came out of the city to meet them, so that the men of A'i were trapped in the middle, with some Israelites on this side and some on that side, and they struck them down until there was not one survivor or escapee remaining.^e **23** But they caught the king of A'i alive and brought him before Joshua.

24 After Israel finished killing all the inhabitants of A'i in the field, in the wilderness where they had pursued them, and every last one of them had fallen by the sword, then all Isra-

el returned to A'i and struck it with the sword. **25** All those who fell on that day, from man to woman, amounted to 12,000, all the people of A'i. **26** Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he had stretched out the javelin^a until he had devoted all the inhabitants of A'i to destruction.^b **27** However, Israel took the livestock and the spoil of that city for themselves, according to the orders that Jehovah had given to Joshua.^c

28 Then Joshua burned A'i and reduced it to a permanent mound of ruins,^d as it remains to this day. **29** He hung the king of A'i on a stake* until the evening, and as the sun was about to set, Joshua gave the order to take his dead body down from the stake.^e Then they pitched it at the entrance of the city gate and raised up a great pile of stones over him, which is there to this day.

30 It was then that Joshua built an altar on Mount E'bal^f to Jehovah the God of Israel, **31** just as Moses the servant of Jehovah had commanded the Israelites and as it is written in the book of the Law^g of Moses: "An altar of whole stones on which no iron tool has been wielded."^h On it they offered up burnt offerings to Jehovah as well as communion sacrifices.ⁱ

32 Then he wrote there on the stones a copy of the Law^j that Moses had written before the Israelites.^k **33** All Israel, their elders, the officers, and their judges were standing on both sides of the Ark in front of the Levitical priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant of Jehovah. The foreign residents were there as well as the natives.^l Half of them stood in front of Mount Ger'i-zim, and the other half in front of

CHAP. 8

- a Ex 17:11
 Jos 8:18
 b Le 27:29
 c Jos 8:2
 d Jos 8:8
 e De 21:22, 23
 f De 11:29
 De 27:4, 5
 g De 31:9
 Jos 1:8
 h Ex 20:25
 i De 27:6, 7
 j De 27:2, 3
 k Ex 24:4
 Ex 34:27
 l Le 24:22
 Nu 15:16

Second Col.

- a De 27:12, 13
 b De 11:29
 c De 31:9
 Ne 8:3
 d De 28:2
 e De 27:15
 De 28:15
 f De 4:2
 De 12:32
 g Le 24:22
 Nu 15:16
 h De 29:10, 11
 De 31:12
 Ne 8:2

CHAP. 9

- i Jos 12:7, 8
 j Nu 34:2, 6
 k Ge 15:18-21
 Ex 3:17
 Ex 23:23
 De 7:1
 l Jos 24:11
 m Jos 10:2
 Jos 11:19
 n Jos 6:20
 o Jos 8:24
 p Jos 5:10
 Jos 10:43
 q Ge 10:15, 17
 Ge 34:2
 Ex 3:8
 r Ex 34:12
 De 7:2
 De 20:16-18

Mount E'bal^a (just as Moses the servant of Jehovah had previously commanded),^b to bless the people of Israel. **34** After this he read aloud all the words of the Law,^c the blessings^d and the curses,^e according to all that is written in the book of the Law. **35** There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel,^f including the women and children and the foreign residents^g who were living* among them.^h

9 When all the kings who were on the west side of the Jordanⁱ heard what had happened, those in the mountainous region, in the She-phe'lah, along the entire coast of the Great Sea,^j and in front of Leb'a-non—the Hit'tites, the Am'or-ites, the Ca'naan-ites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites^k—**2** they formed an alliance to fight against Joshua and Israel.^l

3 The inhabitants of Gib'e-on^m also heard what Joshua had done to Jer'i-choⁿ and A'i.^o **4** So they acted shrewdly and put provisions into worn-out sacks on their donkeys, along with worn-out wineskins that had burst and had been mended; **5** they also had worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and they were wearing worn-out garments. All the bread of their provisions was dry and crumbly. **6** Then they went to Joshua at the camp at Gil'gal^p and said to him and the men of Israel: "We have come from a distant land. Now make a covenant with us." **7** But the men of Israel said to the Hi'vites:^q "Perhaps you are living near us. So how can we make a covenant with you?"^r **8** They replied to Joshua: "We are your servants."^s

8:35 *Lit., "walking." 9:1 *That is, the Mediterranean. 9:8 *Or "slaves."

8:29 *Or "tree."

expressions found in these texts in themselves prove that the holy spirit is a person.

The correct identification of the holy spirit must fit *all the scriptures* that refer to that spirit. With this viewpoint, it is logical to conclude that the holy spirit is the active force of God. It is not a person but is a powerful force that God causes to emanate from himself to accomplish his holy will.—Ps. 104:30; 2 Pet. 1:21; Acts 4:31.

See also pages 406, 407, under the heading “Trinity.”

What gives evidence that a person really has the holy spirit, or “the Holy Ghost” (KJ)?

Luke 4:18, 31-35: “[Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah:] ‘Jehovah’s spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare good news’ . . . And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the sabbath; and they were astounded at his way of teaching, because his speech was with authority. Now in the synagogue there was a man with a spirit, an unclean demon, and he shouted with a loud voice . . . But Jesus rebuked it, saying: ‘Be silent, and come out of him.’ So, after throwing the man down in their midst, the demon came out of him without hurting him.” (What gave evidence that Jesus had God’s spirit? The account does not say that he trembled or shouted or moved about in a fervor. Rather, it says he spoke with authority. It is noteworthy, however, that on that occasion a *demonic* spirit did move a man to shout and fall onto the floor.)

Acts 1:8 says that when Jesus’ followers received holy spirit they would be witnesses about him. According to Acts 2:1-11, when they did receive that spirit, observers were impressed by the fact that, although the ones speaking were all Galileans, they were speaking about the magnificent things of God in languages that were familiar to the many foreigners who were present. But the record does not say that there were any emotional outbursts on the part of those who received the spirit.

It is noteworthy that when Elizabeth received the holy spirit and then gave voice to “a loud cry” she was not in a meeting for worship

but was greeting a visiting relative. (Luke 1:41, 42) When, as reported at Acts 4:31, holy spirit came upon an assembly of disciples, *the place* was shaken, but the effect of that spirit on the disciples was, not that they trembled or rolled about, but that they ‘spoke the word of God with boldness.’ Likewise today, boldness in speaking the word of God, zealously engaging in the work of witnessing—these are what give evidence that a person has holy spirit.

Gal. 5:22, 23: “The fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, self-control.” (It is this fruitage, rather than outbursts of religious fervor, that one should look for when seeking to find people who truly have God’s spirit.)

Does ability to speak with great emotion in a tongue that a person never studied prove that he has God’s spirit?

See the main heading “Tongues, Speaking in.”

Is miraculous healing being done in our day by means of the spirit of God?

See the main heading “Healing.”

Who is baptized with holy spirit?

See page 56, under “Baptism,” also the main heading “Born Again.”

Is there a spirit part of man that survives the death of the body?

Ezek. 18:4: “The soul that is sinning—it itself will die.” (*RS, NE, KJ, and Dy* all render the Hebrew word *ne’phesh* in this verse as “soul,” thus saying that it is *the soul* that dies. Some translations that render *ne’phesh* as “soul” in other passages use the expression “the man” or “the one” in this verse. So, the *ne’phesh*, the soul, is the person, not an immaterial part of him that survives when his body dies.) (See the main heading “Soul” for further details.)

Ps. 146:4: “His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; in that

a single man who took such a divorced woman as his wife would be guilty of adultery.—Mt 5:32; 19:9; Mr 10:11, 12; Lu 16:18; Ro 7:2, 3.

Adultery is "actually sin against God." (Ge 39:9) Jehovah will judge those guilty of adultery, and none who persist in such a course "will inherit God's kingdom." (Mal 3:5; 1Co 6:9, 10; Heb 13:4) How true the proverb: "Anyone committing adultery with a woman is in want of heart; he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin."—Pr 6:32-35.

How could one become guilty of spiritual adultery?

In a spiritual sense, adultery denotes unfaithfulness to Jehovah on the part of those who are joined to him in a covenant. Natural Israel in the Law covenant was, therefore, guilty of spiritual adultery because of false religious practices, some of which included sex-worship rites and disregard for the seventh commandment. (Jer 3:8, 9; 5:7, 8; 9:2; 13:27; 23:10; Ho 7:4) For similar reasons Jesus denounced as adulterous the generation of Jews in his day. (Mt 12:39; Mr 8:38) Likewise today, if Christians who are dedicated to Jehovah and who are in the new covenant defile themselves with the present system of things, they commit spiritual adultery.—Jas 4:4.

ADUMMIM (A-dum'mim) [from a root meaning "red"; possibly, Red Rocks]. The ascent of Adummim is a steep pass about 12 km (7.5 mi) ENE of Jerusalem and midway between the cities of Jericho and Jerusalem. It leads up from the low Jordan Valley to the mountainous region of Judah. From ancient times till the present the road between the two cities has gone through this pass. It is mentioned in the Bible record, however, only as a boundary mark between the territories of Judah and Benjamin.—Jos 15:7; 18:17.

In Arabic the pass is called Tal'at ed-Damm (meaning "Ascent of Blood") and in Hebrew Ma'ale Adummim (meaning "Ascent of Adummim"). While some ancient writers have ascribed the name's origin to the spilling of blood by robbers and highwaymen, the more likely explanation is the reddish color of the soil due to exposed patches of ocher. The route was always a dangerous one because of the desolateness of the region and the prevalence of thievery, and from early times a fort was maintained there to protect travelers. Because of this, the site has been suggested as the scene of the attack on the traveler 'on his way down to Jericho,' as mentioned in Jesus' illustration of the neighboring Samaritan.—Lu 10:30-37.

"The torrent valley" mentioned at Joshua 15:7, in relation to which the ascent of Adummim lay to the S, is evidently the Wadi el Qilt, which runs fairly parallel to the road and passes just to the S of Jericho on its way to the Jordan River.

ADVERSARY. An enemy that contends with or resists; an antagonist or opponent. The Hebrew word for "adversary" (*tsar*) comes from a root meaning "harass; show hostility to." (Nu 25:18; Ps 129:1) The Greek word *anti'dikos* primarily refers to an "adversary at law" in a legal case (Lu 12:58; 18:3), but it can refer to others who are adversaries, or enemies, as in 1 Peter 5:8.

The most wicked Adversary, Satan the Devil, caused men and angels (see DEMON) to join his opposition to God and man. Satan first showed his opposition in the garden of Eden, where, through cruel and underhanded action, he led Eve and then Adam into a course of rebellion that brought sin and death upon all mankind. In the courts of heaven Satan displayed his antagonism, charging Jehovah with bribing Job for his loyalty, a charge which became an issue of universal importance.—Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5; see SATAN.

Worshippers of Jehovah in all ages have endured similar opposition from the Adversary by means of his agents. For example, when the remnant of God's people returned from Babylon, there were those who tried to prevent rebuilding the temple and the city wall. (Ezr 4:1; Ne 4:11) Hateful Haman, having the spirit of the Devil, proved to be a wicked adversary of the Jews in the days of Queen Esther. (Es 7:6) Christians today must be alert, watchful, on guard, and must put up a hard fight for the faith against the Adversary's machinations. (Eph 6:11, 12; Jude 3) Peter counsels: "Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone. But take your stand against him, solid in the faith." (1Pe 5:8, 9) Eventually Jehovah's power will triumph over all opposers.—Jer 30:16; Mic 5:9.

When God's people were unfaithful he allowed their adversaries to plunder and defeat them. (Ps 89:42; La 1:5, 7, 10, 17; 2:17; 4:12) The enemy, however, drew wrong conclusions from these victories, taking credit for themselves and praising their gods or feeling that they would not be called to account for the way they treated Jehovah's people. (De 32:27; Jer 50:7) Jehovah was therefore obliged to humble these proud and boasting adversaries (Isa 1:24; 26:11; 59:18; Na 1:2); and this he did for his holy name's sake.—Isa 64:2; Eze 36:21-24.

101 Making Known the Kingdom Truth **(Acts 20:20, 21)**

1. There was a time we did not know
The way a Christian ought to go.
Then Jehovah sent the light,
His Kingdom truth so clear and bright.
Our Father's will we then could see
To serve the grand Theocracy,
To declare Jehovah's fame,
And help to glorify his holy name.
We witness now to all we meet,
From door to door and on the street.
We take the time to help them see;
We teach the truth that sets men free.
And as we strive in ev'ry land
Jehovah's worship to expand,
May we serve our God as one
Until Jehovah says the work is done.

(See also Josh. 9:9; Isa. 24:15; John 8:12, 32.)

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 15

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 17 ¶19-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 6-8 (10 min.)

No. 1: Joshua 8:18-29 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Gives Evidence That a Person Has Holy Spirit?—*rs* p. 381 ¶3–p. 382 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adversary—The Most Wicked Adversary of All Is Satan the Devil—*it-1* p. 54 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 101

15 min: “Conducting Effective Bible Studies.” Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a two-part demonstration showing a publisher and a Bible student discussing paragraph 8 in chapter 15 of the *Bible Teach* book. In the first demonstration, the publisher talks too much. In the second, the publisher asks viewpoint questions to help him discern the student’s thinking.

15 min: A Tool to Help You Prepare to Conduct Bible Studies. Discussion. Draw the attention of the audience to the section of *jw.org* entitled “What Does the Bible Teach?” (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS.) Discuss how this material can be used to help us conduct effective Bible studies with young people as well as with older ones. How can the questions raised on these work sheets help us reach the student’s heart? Include a soliloquy of a publisher using one of these work sheets to help him think about the needs of his student and prepare effective questions. Conclude by encouraging the audience to become better teachers by endeavoring to reach their students’ hearts by using the good things we have to help others.—Prov. 20:5.
Song 99 and Prayer

Conducting Effective Bible Studies

¹ No one can serve God unless Jehovah “draws him.” (John 6:44) Even so, publishers who conduct Bible studies must do their part in helping people to draw close to their heavenly Father. (Jas. 4:8) This requires preparation. Simply reading each paragraph and asking the printed question is not enough to help our students grasp the message and make progress.

² To conduct effective studies, publishers must help their students to (1) understand what the Bible teaches, (2) accept what the Bible teaches, and (3) put into practice what the Bible teaches. (John 3:16; 17:3; Jas. 2:26) It can take months to guide an individual through these steps. Yet, each step represents a stage in his developing a relationship with Jehovah and making a dedication to him.

³ **What Is the Bible Student Thinking?:** To discern if our Bible student understands and accepts what he is learning, avoid doing all the talking and encourage the student to express himself. (Jas. 1:19) Does he understand what the Bible says on the subject being considered? Can he explain the subject in his own words? How does he feel about what he has learned? Does he believe that what the Bible teaches is reasonable? (1 Thess. 2:13) Does he understand that what he is learning should make a difference in the way he lives his life? (Col. 3:10) In order to get answers to such questions, we need to ask

1. What responsibility do publishers who conduct Bible studies have?
2. What will an effective Bible study accomplish?
3. Why do effective teachers ask viewpoint questions?

tactful viewpoint questions and then *listen*.—Matt. 16:13-16.

⁴ Habits and thought patterns are often deeply entrenched and take time to unlearn. (2 Cor. 10:5) What if our student does not accept or put into practice what he is being taught? Patience is required

4. What should be done if a student has difficulty understanding or applying what he is being taught from the Bible?

to allow a reasonable amount of time for God's Word and holy spirit to work on the student's heart. (1 Cor. 3:6, 7; Heb. 4:12) Rather than pressuring him, it is often better to move on to another subject if the student is having difficulty understanding or applying a Bible teaching. As we continue to teach him patiently and lovingly from the Bible, he may in time be moved to make the needed adjustments.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 22

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 17 ¶17-23, box on p. 177 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 9-11 (10 min.)

No. 1: Joshua 9:16-27 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: **There Is No Spirit Part of Man That Survives Death**—*rs* p. 382 ¶5—p. 383 ¶12 (5 min.)

No. 3: **Affection—Maintain a Warm Personal Attachment to Jehovah and to Those Who Love Him**—*it-1* p. 55 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 119

5 min: Local needs.

25 min: “2015 Theocratic Ministry School Helps Us Improve Our Teaching.” Discussion by the Theocratic Ministry School overseer. The school overseer may choose to have certain paragraphs read before considering them. Emphasize the changes to Assignment No. 1, the timing for the Bible Highlights, and the counsel by the school overseer. Have paragraph 7 read, and after discussing it, have a model demonstration of an elder conducting a family study with his wife and child, using the material on page 18 of the *New World Translation*. Encourage all to take full advantage of the excellent theocratic training provided in the school and to make good use of the textbook *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*.

Song 117 and Prayer

2015 Theocratic Ministry School Helps Us Improve Our Teaching

¹ The psalmist David wrote: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Jehovah, my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Ps. 19:14) We too want our words to be pleasing to Jehovah because we treasure our privilege of speaking the truth in the congregation and in the ministry. The Theocratic Ministry School is one of the ways that Jehovah trains us for the ministry. This training takes place each week in the more than 111,000 congregations worldwide. It has helped brothers and sisters around the globe and from all walks of life to become adequately qualified as ministers of the good news, capable of teaching with persuasion, tact, and boldness.—Acts 19:8; Col. 4:6.

² The school schedule for 2015 will include subjects considered in “An Introduction to God's Word” and the “Glossary of Bible Terms” found in the *New World Translation*, as well as material from *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 1. Additionally, adjustments have been made in the time allotted for Bible highlights

teenagers

READ THE BIBLE ONLINE

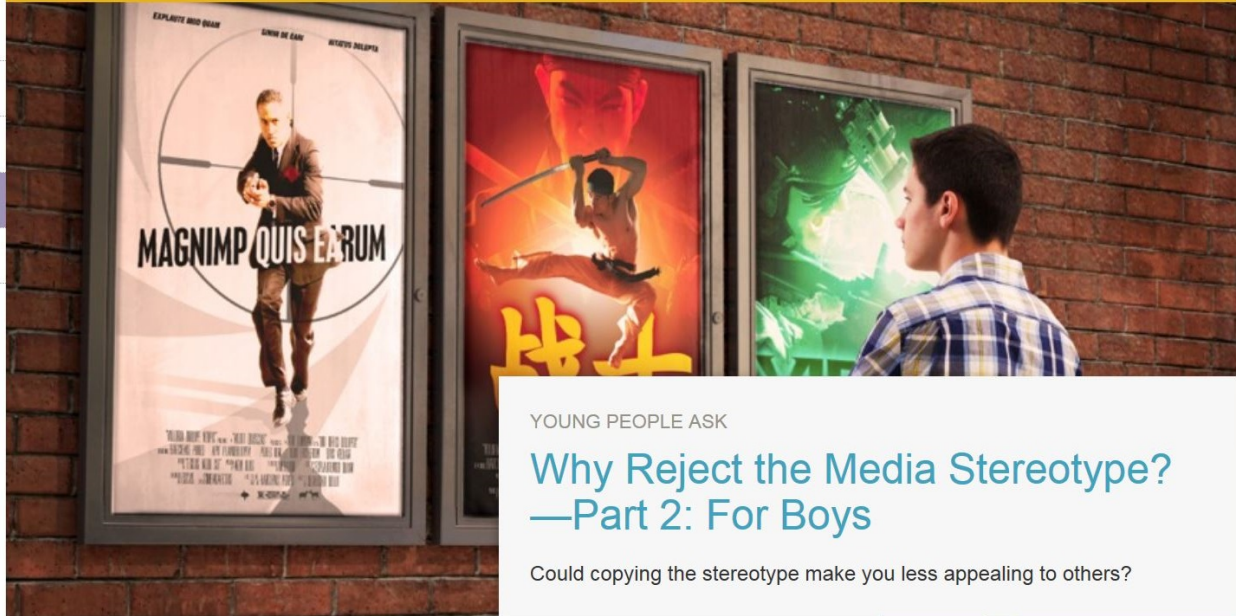
BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HELP FOR THE FAMILY

COUPLES & PARENTS

TEENAGERS

CHILDREN



YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

Why Reject the Media Stereotype? —Part 2: For Boys

Could copying the stereotype make you less appealing to others?



WHITEBOARD ANIMATIONS

Stand Up to Peer Pressure!

Four simple steps can help you to gain the strength to be your own person.

MORE QUESTIONS YOUNG PEOPLE ASK...

- Sex, Morals, and Love <
- Friends <
- Family <
- School <
- Health <
- Identity <
- Recreation <



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

What Is God's Purpose for the Earth? (Part 1)



WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY

Cell Phones



YOUNG PEOPLE ASK



WORKSHEETS



WHITEBOARD ANIMATIONS



WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



BIBLE STUDY ACTIVITIES

Featured in Our Magazines



WHITEBOARD ANIMATIONS

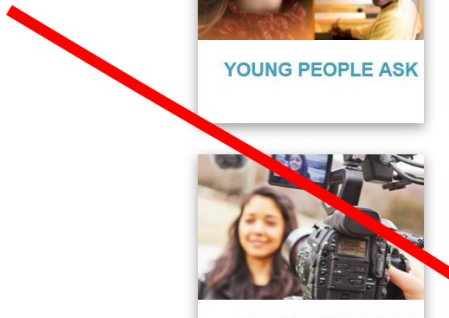
Be Social-Network Smart



YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

Why Reject Pornography?

SEE MORE



BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HELP FOR THE FAMILY

COUPLES & PARENTS

TEENAGERS

CHILDREN

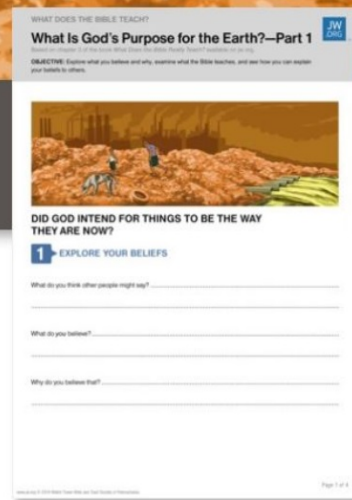
WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?



What Is God's Purpose for the Earth? (Part 1)

Consider how the world's present condition differs from God's purpose. Print the PDF, and answer the questions.

Download



MORE FROM THIS COLLECTION

These study guides will help you to understand and explain Bible teachings.



What Is God's Purpose for the Earth? (Part 1)



The Bible—A Book From God (Part 2)



The Bible—A Book From God (Part 1)



What Is the Truth About God? (Part 2)



What Is the Truth About God? (Part 1)

What Is God’s Purpose for the Earth?—Part 1

Based on chapter 3 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* available on jw.org.

OBJECTIVE: Explore what you believe and why, examine what the Bible teaches, and see how you can explain your beliefs to others.



DID GOD INTEND FOR THINGS TO BE THE WAY THEY ARE NOW?

1 EXPLORE YOUR BELIEFS

What do you think other people might say?

.....

What do *you* believe?

.....

Why do you believe that?

.....

2

EXAMINE WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

The problems that we see today are not what God intended.

(See chapter 3 of the *Bible Teach* book, paragraph 1.)

Read Genesis 2:8, 9.

How do we know that God intended for humans to enjoy life on earth?

.....

.....

.....

Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15.

How do those verses show that God purposed for humans to take care of the earth and the animals?

.....

.....

.....



If you encounter a roadblock while driving a car, you don't give up; you simply find another route. Likewise, God has not abandoned his purpose for the earth—he *will* accomplish it!

God *will* accomplish his purpose for the earth.

(See chapter 3 of the *Bible Teach* book, paragraphs 2, 3.)

Read Isaiah 55:11.

Even though things are presently not as God intended, why can we be sure that God's purpose for the earth has not changed?

.....

.....

.....

Read Psalm 37:29 and Revelation 21:3, 4.

What will life be like when God accomplishes his purpose for the earth?

.....

.....

.....

Which of God's promises for the future do you look forward to the most, and why?

.....

.....

.....

3

EXPLAIN YOUR BELIEFS

IF SOMEONE SAYS...

God created evil so that we would appreciate what is good.

YOU MIGHT REPLY...

A lot of people probably feel that way. But I believe differently because...
.....
.....

What scripture could you share with the person?

.....

How would you explain that scripture in a way that addresses the person's concern?

.....

.....

IF SOMEONE SAYS...

Things have always been bad, and they always will be.

YOU MIGHT REPLY...

It's true that things have been bad for a long time. But I believe that life will not always be like this because...
.....
.....

What scripture could you share with the person?

.....

How would you explain that scripture in a way that addresses the person's concern?

.....

Praising Earth's New King (Revelation 7:9)

1. A multitude is gathering
from ev'ry tribe and nation,
Collected by the Christ and his
anointed congregation.
God's Kingdom has been brought to birth;
His will shall soon be done on earth.
This hope is a gift of priceless worth,
giving joy and consolation.

(CHORUS)

*Praise our God, Jehovah;
Praise his Son, Christ Jesus,
Who through the ransom have set us free.
Now we have the hope to live on the earth
And serve God eternally.*

2. We hail the Christ, our reigning King,
with sounds of jubilation.
This Prince of Peace shall do God's will
and bring about salvation.
We see the joys that lie ahead:
An earth released from fear and dread,
The grand resurrection of the dead.
What a time for exultation!

(Chorus)