

- Song 66 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Ecclesiastes.*] Ec 3:12, 13—The ability to enjoy hard work is a gift from God (w15 2/1 4-6)
Ec 4:6—Cultivate a balanced view of work (w15 2/1 6 ¶3-5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Ec 2:10, 11—What did Solomon discover regarding wealth? (w08 4/15 22 ¶9-10)

Ec 3:16, 17—How should we view injustices in this world? (w06 11/1 14 ¶9)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ec 1:1-18

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

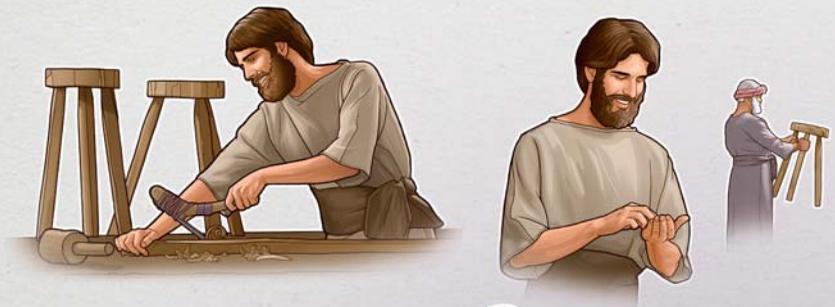
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Read scriptures from a mobile device.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 22-23 ¶11-12 —Invite the person to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 140
- **“What Can the Bible Teach Us?—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study using Truth 4 on page 115 of the *Teach Us* book.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶1-6, box on p. 43
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 112 and Prayer

ECCLESIASTES 1-6 | Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work

Jehovah wants us to enjoy our work and teaches us how to do so. A person can learn to enjoy work if he approaches it with the right attitude.



3:13; 4:6

You can find enjoyment in your work when you . . .

- cultivate a positive attitude
- think about how your work helps others
- do your best at work, but when you leave your job, you focus on your family and your worship



Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

(Matthew 22:37)

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6 C7 F/A Dm G7/B G7 C7sus4 C7

O Je-ho-vah, Sov-'reign Rul-er, You are the one I love and o - bey.
Fa-ther, all your works ex - alt you. Earth, moon, and stars your glo - ry pro-claim.

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6 C7 A/C# Dm Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

You de-serve my full de-vo-tion; Your trust in me I shall not be - tray.
I do give my life to serve you; With all my strength I'll make known your name.

Am E7/G# E/D Am/C E7/B Am9 Am C/G Dm/G G7 Gm11 Gm/Bb C7sus4 C7

Your com-mands I loy - al - ly fol - low; All you wish I glad - ly will do.
To my pledge of full ded - i - ca - tion, I will ev - er strive to be true.

Chorus
F Gm7 C7/Bb Am7 F/A Bb/D Bbm/Db F/C F#o C7/G C7 Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

O Je-ho-vah, you are wor - thy; Whole-souled de-vo-tion I give to you.

ECCLESIASTES

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Everything is futile (1-11)
Earth remains forever (4)
Natural cycles continue (5-7)
Nothing new under the sun (9)
Human wisdom limited (12-18)
A chasing after the wind (14)</p> <p>2 Solomon's pursuits evaluated (1-11)
Relative value of human wisdom (12-16)
The futility of hard work (17-23)
Eat, drink, and enjoy work (24-26)</p> <p>3 An appointed time for everything (1-8)
Enjoying life a gift from God (9-15)
Eternity is in man's heart (11)
God judges all with justice (16, 17)
Men and animals all eventually die (18-22)
All will return to dust (20)</p> <p>4 Oppression worse than death (1-3)
A balanced view of work (4-6)
The value of a friend (7-12)
Two are better than one (9)
A ruler's life can be futile (13-16)</p> <p>5 Approach God with proper fear (1-7)
Lower ones watched by higher ones (8, 9)
The futility of wealth (10-20)
Money lovers never satisfied (10)
Worker's sleep is sweet (12)</p> <p>6 Possessions without enjoyment (1-6)
Enjoy what you have now (7-12)</p> <p>7 A good name and the day of death (1-4)
A wise man's rebuke (5-7)</p> | <p>Better the end than the beginning (8-10)
Advantage of wisdom (11, 12)
Good days and bad days (13-15)
Avoid going to extremes (16-22)
Observations by the congregator (23-29)</p> <p>8 Under imperfect human rule (1-17)
Obey the king's orders (2-4)
Man's domination harmful (9)
When sentence not executed speedily (11)
Eat, drink, and rejoice (15)</p> <p>9 All have the same outcome (1-3)
Enjoy life despite death (4-12)
The dead know nothing (5)
No activity in the Grave (10)
Time and unexpected events (11)
Wisdom not always appreciated (13-18)</p> <p>10 A little foolishness outweighs wisdom (1)
Dangers of incompetence (2-11)
The sad plight of the foolish (12-15)
Foolishness among rulers (16-20)
A bird may repeat your words (20)</p> <p>11 Seize the opportunity (1-8)
Cast your bread on the waters (1)
Sow seed from morning till evening (6)
Enjoy youth responsibly (9, 10)</p> <p>12 Remember the Creator before old age sets in (1-8)
The congregator's conclusion (9-14)
Wise words like oxgoads (11)
Fear the true God (13)</p> |
|---|--|

1 The words of the congregator,^a the son of David, the king in Jerusalem.^b

2 "The greatest futility!"^a says the congregator, "The greatest futility! Everything is futile!"^c

1:1 *Or "assembler; convener." **1:2** *Or "vanity."

CHAP. 1

- a 1KI 8:1, 22
b 1KI 2:12
2Ch 9:30
c Ps 39:5
Ro 8:20

Second Col.

- a Ec 2:11
Mt 16:26
Joh 6:27
b Ps 78:69
Ps 104:5
Ps 119:90

3 What does a person gain from all his hard work At which he toils under the sun?^a

4 A generation is going, and a generation is coming, But the earth remains* forever.^b

1:4 *Lit., "is standing."

- 5** The sun rises,* and the sun sets;
Then it hurries back[#] to the place where it rises again.^a
- 6** The wind goes south and circles around to the north;
Round and round it continuously circles; the wind keeps making its rounds.
- 7** All the streams* flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full.^b
To the place from which the streams flow, there they return so as to flow again.^c
- 8** All things are wearisome;
No one can even speak of it.
The eye is not satisfied at seeing;
Nor is the ear filled from hearing.
- 9** What has been is what will be,
And what has been done will be done again;
There is nothing new under the sun.^d
- 10** Is there anything of which one may say, "Look at this—it is new"?
It already existed from long ago;
It already existed before our time.
- 11** No one remembers people of former times;
Nor will anyone remember those who come later;
Nor will they be remembered by those who come still later.^e
- 12** I, the congregator, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.^f **13** I set my heart to study and explore with wisdom^g everything that has been done under the heavens^h—the miserable occupation that God has given to the sons of men that keeps them occupied.

1:5 *Or "shines forth." [#]Or "returns panting." 1:7 *Or "winter streams; seasonal streams."

CHAP. 1

- a Ge 8:22
Ps 19:6
- b Job 38:8, 10
- c Job 36:27, 28
Isa 55:10
Am 5:8
- d Ge 8:22
Ec 1:4
- e Ec 2:16
Ec 9:5
Isa 40:6
- f 1Ki 11:42
Ec 1:1
- g 1Ki 4:29, 30
- h Ec 8:16

Second Col.

- a Ps 39:5, 6
Ec 2:11, 18
Ec 2:26
Lu 12:15
- b Ec 2:9
- c 1Ki 3:28
1Ki 4:29-31
2Ch 1:10-12
- d Ec 2:2, 3
Ec 2:12
Ec 7:25
- e Ec 2:15
Ec 12:12

CHAP. 2

- f Ps 104:15
Ec 10:19
- g 1Ki 9:17-19
2Ch 9:15, 16
- h 1Ki 7:1, 8
- i 1Ki 4:25
Ca 8:11
- j 1Sa 8:10, 13
1Ki 9:22

- 14** I saw all the works that were done under the sun,
And look! everything was futile, a chasing after the wind.^a
- 15** What is crooked cannot be made straight,
And what is lacking cannot possibly be counted.
- 16** Then I said in my heart: "Look! I have acquired great wisdom, more than anyone who was before me in Jerusalem,^b and my heart gained a great deal of wisdom and knowledge."^c **17** I applied my heart to knowing wisdom and to knowing madness* and to knowing folly,^d and this too is a chasing after the wind.
- 18** For an abundance of wisdom brings an abundance of frustration,
So that whoever increases knowledge increases pain.^e
- 2** Then I said in my heart: "Come and let me try out pleasure* and see what good comes." But look! that too was futility.
- 2** I said about laughter, "It is madness!"
And about pleasure,* "What use is it?"
- 3** I explored with my heart by indulging myself with wine,^f all the while maintaining my own wisdom; I even embraced foolishness to find out what was the best thing for humans to do during their few days of life under the heavens. **4** I undertook great works,^g I built houses for myself;^h I planted vineyards for myself.ⁱ **5** I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted in them all sorts of fruit trees. **6** I made pools of water for myself, to irrigate a grove* of flourishing trees. **7** I acquired male and female servants,^j and I had
- 1:17 *Or "extreme foolishness." 2:1, 2 *Or "rejoicing." 2:6 *Or "forest."

servants born in my household.* I also acquired much livestock—cattle and flocks^a—more than any of my predecessors in Jerusalem. **8** I accumulated silver and gold for myself,^b the treasures of* kings and of provinces.^c I gathered male and female singers for myself, as well as what brings great pleasure to the sons of men—a woman, yes, many women.^d **9** So I grew great and surpassed anyone prior to me in Jerusalem.^d And my wisdom remained with me.

10 I did not deny myself anything that I desired.^e I did not withhold from my heart any sort of pleasure,^f for my heart was joyful because of all my hard work, and this was my reward^g for all my hard work.^f **11** But when I reflected on all the works that my own hands had done and on all the hard work that I had toiled to accomplish,^g I saw that everything was futile, a chasing after the wind;^h there was nothing of real value* under the sun.ⁱ

12 Then I turned my attention to wisdom and madness and folly.^j (For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done.) **13** And I saw that there is an advantage to wisdom over folly,^k just as there is an advantage to light over darkness.

14 The wise one has his eyes in his head;^l but the stupid one is walking in darkness.^m I have also come to realize that there is one outcomeⁿ that befalls all of them.ⁿ **15** Then I said in my heart: "What happens to the stupid one will also happen to me."^o

2:7 *Lit., "sons of the house." 2:8 *Or "property peculiar to." #Or "a lady, yes, ladies." 2:10 *Lit., "that my eyes asked for." #Or "rejoicing." ^Or "portion." 2:11 *Or "of advantage." 2:14 *Or "has his eyes open." #Or "eventuality."

CHAP. 2

- a 1Ki 4:22, 23
b 1Ki 9:14, 28
1Ki 10:10
2Ch 1:15
c 1Ki 10:14, 15
2Ch 9:13, 14
d 1Ki 3:13
1Ki 10:23
e Ec 11:9
f Ec 3:22
Ec 5:18
Ec 9:9
g 1Ki 7:1
h Ps 49:10
Ec 1:14
Ec 2:16
1Ti 6:7
i Ec 1:3
Ec 2:17
j Ec 1:17
Ec 7:25
k Pr 4:7
Ec 7:11, 12
l Pr 4:25
m Pr 14:8
Pr 17:24
Joh 3:19
1Jo 2:11
n Ec 3:19, 20
Ec 9:2, 3
Ec 9:11
o Ps 49:10

Second Col.

- a Ex 1:8
Ec 1:11
b Ec 6:8
Ro 5:12
c 1Ki 19:2, 4
Jer 20:17, 18
d Job 7:6
Ec 2:21
Ro 8:20
e Ec 1:14
Ec 5:16
f Ec 2:4-8
g Ps 39:6
Lu 12:20
h 1Ki 12:6, 8
2Ch 12:1, 9
i Ec 2:18
Ec 5:15, 16
j Ec 1:3
Ec 3:9
k Job 14:1, 2
Lu 12:29
l Ge 31:40, 41
m De 12:18
Ec 3:22
Ec 8:15
Ac 14:17
n Ec 3:12, 13
Ec 5:18, 19
o 1Ki 4:7
1Ki 4:22, 23
1Ki 10:4, 5
1Ki 10:21

What, then, did I gain by becoming excessively wise? So I said in my heart: "This too is futility." **16** For there is no lasting memory either of the wise one or of the stupid one.^a In the days to come, everyone will be forgotten. And how will the wise one die? Along with the stupid one.^b

17 So I came to hate life,^c because everything being done under the sun seemed distressing to me, for everything was futile,^d a chasing after the wind.^e **18** I came to hate all that I had worked so hard for under the sun,^f because I must leave it behind for the man coming after me.^g **19** And who knows whether he will be wise or foolish?^h Yet he will take control over all the things I spent great effort and wisdom to acquire under the sun. This too is futility. **20** So I began to despair in my heart over all the hard work at which I had toiled under the sun. **21** For a man may work hard, guided by wisdom and knowledge and skill, but he must hand over his portion* to a man who did not work for it.ⁱ This too is futility and a great tragedy.^h

22 What does a man really gain from all his hard work and ambition that drives him* to work hard under the sun?^j **23** For during all his days, his occupation brings pain and frustration,^k and even at night his heart does not rest.^l This too is futility.

24 There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and find enjoyment* in his hard work.^m This too, I have realized, is from the hand of the true God,ⁿ **25** for who eats and who drinks better than I do?^o

2:21 *Or "hand over everything." #Or "calamity." 2:22 *Lit., "and the striving of his heart." 2:24 *Or "cause his soul to see good."

26 To the man who pleases him he gives wisdom and knowledge and rejoicing,^a but to the sinner he gives the occupation of gathering and merely collecting to give to the one who pleases the true God.^b This too is futility, a chasing after the wind.

3 There is an appointed time for everything,

A time for every activity under the heavens:

2 A time for birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what was planted;

3 A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to wail and a time to dance;*

5 A time to throw stones away and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away;

7 A time to rip apart^c and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent^d and a time to speak;^e

8 A time to love and a time to hate;^f

A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What does the worker gain from all his efforts?^g **10** I have seen the occupation that God has given to the sons of men to keep them occupied. **11** He has made everything beautiful* in its time.^h He has even put eternity in their heart; yet mankind will

3:4 *Lit., "leap; skip about." 3:11 *Or "well-arranged; proper; appropriate."

CHAP. 2

a 1Sa 18:14
Pr 3:32, 33
Isa 3:10

b De 6:10, 11
Pr 13:22
Pr 28:8

CHAP. 3

c 2Sa 3:31

d Ps 39:1

e 1Sa 19:4
1Sa 25:23, 24
Es 4:13, 14
Ps 145:11
Pr 9:8

f Ps 139:21
Ro 12:9

g Ec 1:3
Ec 5:15, 16

h Ge 1:31
Ro 1:20

Second Col.

a Ps 37:3
1Th 5:15

b Ec 5:18, 19
Isa 65:21, 22

c Jer 10:7
Re 15:4

d Ec 1:9

e Ps 82:2
Ps 94:16, 21

f Ec 12:14
Ac 17:31
Ro 2:5, 6

g Job 14:10
Ps 39:5
Ps 89:48

h Ge 7:22
Ps 104:29
Ec 12:7

i Ec 9:10

j Ge 2:7, 19

k Ge 3:19
Job 10:9

l Ps 146:3, 4
Ec 3:19
Ec 9:10

never find out the work that the true God has made from start to finish.

12 I have concluded that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good during their life,^a **13** also that everyone should eat and drink and find enjoyment for all his hard work. It is the gift of God.^b

14 I have come to know that everything the true God makes will endure forever. There is nothing to add to it and nothing to subtract from it. The true God has made it this way, so that people will fear him.^c

15 Whatever happens has already happened, and what is to come has already been;^d but the true God seeks what has been pursued.*

16 I have also seen this under the sun: In the place of justice there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness there was wickedness.^e **17** So I said in my heart: "The true God will judge both the righteous and the wicked,^f for there is a time for every activity and every action."

18 I also said in my heart about the sons of men that the true God will test them and show them that they are like animals, **19** for there is an outcome* for humans and an outcome for animals; they all have the same outcome.^g As the one dies, so the other dies; and they all have but one spirit.^h So man has no superiority over animals, for everything is futile. **20** All are going to the same place.ⁱ They all come from the dust,^j and they all are returning to the dust.^k **21** Who really knows whether the spirit of humans ascends upward, and whether the spirit of animals descends down to the earth?^l **22** And I saw that there is nothing

3:15 *Or possibly, "what has passed away." 3:19 *Or "eventuality."

ing better than for a man to find enjoyment in his work,^a because that is his reward;* for who can enable him to see what will happen after he is gone?^b

4 Again I turned my attention to all the acts of oppression that go on under the sun. I saw the tears of the oppressed, and there was no one to comfort them.^c And their oppressors had the power, and there was no one to comfort them. **2** And I congratulated the dead who had already died rather than the living who were still alive.^d **3** And better off than both of them is the one who has not yet been born,^e who has not seen the distressing deeds that are done under the sun.^f

4 And I have seen how much effort* and skillful work spring from rivalry between people;^g this too is futility, a chasing after the wind.

5 The stupid one folds his hands while his flesh wastes away.^h

6 Better is a handful of rest than two handfuls of hard work and chasing after the wind.ⁱ

7 I turned my attention to another example of futility under the sun: **8** There is a man who is all alone, without any companion; he has no son or brother, but there is no end to all his hard work. His eyes are never satisfied with riches.^j But does he ask himself, 'For whom am I working hard and depriving myself* of good things?'^k This too is futility and a miserable occupation.^l

9 Two are better than one^m because they have a good reward* for their hard work. **10** For if one of them falls, the other can help his partner up.

3:22 *Or "portion." 4:4 *Or "hard work." 4:5 *Lit., "and is eating his own flesh." 4:8 *Or "my soul." 4:9 *Or "greater benefit."

CHAP. 3

- a De 12:7
Ec 5:18
b Job 14:21
Ec 6:12

CHAP. 4

- c Ps 69:20
Ps 142:4
d Job 3:17
Ec 2:17
e Jer 20:18
f Ec 1:14
g Ga 5:26
h Pr 6:10, 11
Pr 20:4
i Ps 37:16
Pr 15:16
Pr 16:8
Pr 17:1
j Pr 27:20
Ec 5:10
k Ps 39:6
Lu 12:18-20
l Ec 2:22, 23
m Ge 2:18
Pr 27:17

Second Col.

- a Pr 19:1
Pr 28:6, 16
b 1Ki 22:8
2Ch 25:15, 16
c Ge 41:14, 40
d 2Sa 7:8
Job 5:11
e 2Sa 20:1

CHAP. 5

- f Ps 15:1, 2
g De 31:12
Ac 17:11
h 1Sa 13:12, 13
1Sa 15:22
Pr 21:27
Isa 1:13
Ho 6:6
i Nu 30:2
1Sa 14:24
j Pr 10:19
k Mt 6:25, 34
Lu 12:18-20
l Pr 10:19
Pr 15:2
m De 23:21
Ps 76:11
Mt 5:33
n Ec 10:12
o Nu 30:2
Ps 66:13

But what will happen to the one who falls with no one to help him up?

11 Moreover, if two lie down together, they will stay warm, but how can just one keep warm?

12 And someone may overpower one alone, but two together can take a stand against him. And a threefold cord cannot quickly* be torn apart.

13 Better is a poor but wise child than an old but stupid king,^a who no longer has enough sense to heed a warning.^b **14** For he* went out from prison to become king,^c although in that one's kingship he was born poor.^d **15** I considered all those alive who walk about under the sun, as well as how it goes with the young successor who stands up in the other's place. **16** Although there is no end to all his supporters, those who come later will not be happy with him.^e This too is futility, a chasing after the wind.

5 Watch your step whenever you go to the house of the true God;^f it is better to draw near to listen^g than to give a sacrifice as the stupid ones do,^h for they are not aware that what they are doing is bad.

2 Do not be quick with your mouth, nor let your heart speak rashly before the true God,ⁱ for the true God is in the heavens but you are on the earth. That is why your words should be few.^j

3 For a dream comes from too many preoccupations,^{*k} and the chatter of the stupid one comes from too many words.^l **4** Whenever you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it,^m for he finds no pleasure in the stupid ones.ⁿ What you vow, pay.^o **5** Better for you not to vow than to vow

4:12 *Or "easily." 4:14 *Perhaps referring to the wise child. 5:3 *Or "too many cares."

and not pay.^a **6** Do not allow your mouth to cause you* to sin,^b and do not say before the angel[#] that it was a mistake.^c Why make the true God indignant over what you say so that he has to destroy the work of your hands?^d **7** For just as many preoccupations lead to dreams,^e so, too, many words lead to futility. But fear the true God.^f

8 If you see any oppression of the poor and a violation of justice and righteousness in your district, do not be surprised about the matter.^g For that high official is being watched by one who is higher than he is, and there are others who are still higher than them.

9 Also, the profit of the land is divided among them all; even the king is served by the field.^h

10 A lover of silver will never be satisfied with silver, nor a lover of wealth with income.ⁱ This too is futility.^j

11 When good things increase, those consuming them increase.^k And what advantage is it to the owner, except to look at them with his eyes?^l

12 Sweet is the sleep of the one serving, whether he eats little or much, but the plenty belonging to the rich one does not permit him to sleep.

13 There is a great tragedy* that I have seen under the sun: riches that were hoarded by their owner to his own harm.

14 Those riches were lost because of a disastrous venture,^m and when he becomes a father to a son, he has nothing left in his possession.^m

15 Just as one came from his mother's womb, naked he will go away, just as he came.ⁿ And he

5:6 *Lit., "your flesh." #Or "messenger." 5:13, 16; 6:1 *Or "calamity." 5:14 *Or "occupation."

CHAP. 5

a De 23:22

Pr 20:25

b Jg 11:35

c Le 5:4

d Ps 127:1

Hag 1:11

e Ec 5:3

f Ec 12:13

g Ec 3:16

h 1Sa 8:11, 12

1Ki 4:7

2Ch 26:9, 10

Ca 8:11

i Ec 4:8

j Mt 6:24

Lu 12:15

1Ti 6:10

k 1Ki 4:22, 23

l Pr 23:4, 5

1Jo 2:16

m Pr 23:4, 5

Mt 6:19

n Job 1:21

Second Col.

a Ps 49:17

Lu 12:20

1Ti 6:7

b Mt 16:26

Joh 6:27

c 1Ti 6:10

d 1Ki 4:20

e Ec 2:24

Ec 3:22

Isa 65:21, 22

f 1Ki 3:12, 13

Job 42:12

g De 8:10

Ec 3:12, 13

1Ti 6:17

Jas 1:17

h De 28:8

Ps 4:7

CHAP. 6

i Ec 4:2, 3

cannot carry away anything for all his hard work.^a

16 This too is a great tragedy:* Exactly as he came, so he will go away; and what profit is there to the one who keeps working hard for the wind?^b

17 Also, every day he eats in darkness, with a great deal of frustration and sickness and anger.^c

18 This is what I have seen to be good and proper: that one should eat and drink and find enjoyment for all the hard work^d at which he toils under the sun during the few days of life that the true God has given him, for that is his reward.*^e **19** Also, when the true God gives a man riches and material possessions^f along with the ability to enjoy them, he should take his reward* and rejoice in his hard work. This is the gift of God.^g **20** For he will hardly notice* the passing days of his life, because the true God keeps him preoccupied with the rejoicing of his heart.^h

6 There is another tragedy* that I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: **2** The true God gives a man riches and material possessions and glory, so that he lacks nothing that he desires;* yet the true God does not enable him to enjoy them, although a stranger may enjoy them. This is futility and a severe affliction. **3** If a man should become a father a hundred times and live for many years and reach old age, yet he* does not enjoy his good things before he reaches the grave,[#] I must say that a stillborn child is better off than he is.ⁱ **4** For this one came in vain and went away

5:18, 19 *Or "portion." 5:20 *Or "remember." 6:2 *Or "lacks nothing for his soul." 6:3 *Or "his soul." #Or "and even the grave has not become his."

in darkness, and his name is shrouded in darkness. **5** Even though he never saw the sun or knew anything, he is still better off* than the former one.^a **6** What is the benefit of living a thousand years twice over but not experiencing enjoyment? Do not all go to the same place?^b

7 All the hard work of a man is to fill his mouth;^c yet his appetite* is never satisfied. **8** For what advantage does the wise one have over the stupid one,^d or of what benefit is it that the poor man knows how to survive?^e **9** Better to enjoy what the eyes see than to wander after one's desires.* This too is futility, a chasing after the wind.

10 Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is; and he is not able to dispute* with the one more powerful than he. **11** The more words,* the more futility; and what advantage do they bring to man? **12** Who knows what is best for a man to do in life during the few days of his futile life, which he spends like a shadow?^e For who can tell man what will happen under the sun after he is gone?

7 A good name* is better than good oil,^f and the day of death is better than the day of birth. **2** Better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting,^g for that is the end of every man, and the living should take it to heart. **3** Better is distress than laughter,^h for the sadness of the face makes the heart better.ⁱ **4** The heart of the wise is in the house of

6:5 *Lit., "has more rest." 6:7 *Or "soul." 6:8 *Lit., "to walk in front of the living." 6:9 *Or "than the walking about of the soul." 6:10 *Or "plead his cause." 6:11 *Or possibly, "things." 7:1 *Or "A good reputation." Lit., "A name."

CHAP. 6

- a Job 3:11, 13
Job 14:1
b Job 30:23
Ec 3:20
Ro 5:12
c Ge 3:19
Pr 16:26
d Ps 49:10
Ec 2:15, 16
e 1Ch 29:15
Job 8:9
Job 14:1, 2
Ps 102:11

CHAP. 7

- f Pr 10:7
Pr 22:1
Isa 56:5
Lu 10:20
g Isa 5:11, 12
h Ps 119:71
Lu 6:21
i 2Co 7:10
Heb 12:11

Second Col.

- a 1Sa 25:36
Pr 21:17
b Ps 141:5
Pr 15:31
c Ec 2:2
d Ex 23:8
De 16:19
1Sa 8:1-3
Pr 17:23
e Pr 13:10
Jas 5:10
1Pe 5:5
f Pr 16:32
Jas 1:19
g Ge 4:5
Es 5:9
Pr 14:17, 29
Pr 29:11
h Lu 9:62
i Pr 4:5, 6
j Pr 10:15
k Pr 3:13, 18
Pr 8:35
Pr 9:11
l Job 9:12
Isa 14:27
m Jas 5:13
n Job 2:10
Isa 45:7
o Pr 27:1
Ec 9:11
Jas 4:13, 14
p Ps 39:5
q Ge 4:8
1Sa 22:18
r Job 21:7
Ps 73:12

mourning, but the heart of the stupid is in the house of rejoicing.*^a

5 Better to listen to a wise man's rebuke^b than to listen to the song of fools. **6** For as the crackling of thorns burning under the pot, so is the laughter of the fool;^c and this too is futility. **7** But oppression can drive the wise one into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.^d

8 Better is the end of a matter than its beginning. Better to be patient than to be haughty in spirit.^e **9** Do not be quick* to take offense,^f for the taking of offense lodges in the bosom of fools.^g

10 Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" for it is not out of wisdom that you ask this.^h

11 Wisdom together with an inheritance is a good thing and an advantage to those who see the light of day.* **12** For wisdom is a protectionⁱ just as money is a protection,^j but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves the life of its owner.^k

13 Consider the work of the true God, for who can straighten out what he has made crooked?^l **14** On a good day, reflect this goodness,^m but on the day of adversity,* consider that God made the one as well as the other,ⁿ so that men cannot be certain of^o anything that will happen to them in the future.^o

15 During my futile life^p I have seen everything—from the righteous one who perishes in his righteousness^q to the wicked one who lives long despite his badness.^r

7:4 *Or "amusement." 7:9 *Lit., "hurry in your spirit." ^aOr possibly, "is the mark of a fool." 7:11 *That is, those alive. 7:14 *Or "calamity." ^bOr "discover."

- Song 66 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Ecclesiastes.*] Ec 3:12, 13—The ability to enjoy hard work is a gift from God (w15 2/1 4-6) Ec 4:6—Cultivate a balanced view of work (w15 2/1 6 ¶3-5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Ec 2:10, 11—What did Solomon discover regarding wealth? (w08 4/15 22 ¶9-10)

Ec 3:16, 17—How should we view injustices in this world? (w06 11/1 14 ¶9)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ec 1:1-18

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

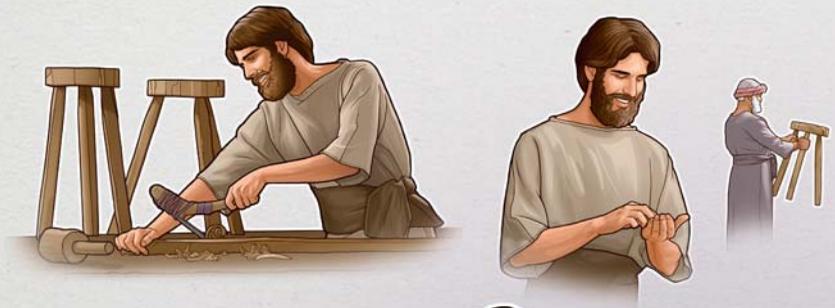
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Read scriptures from a mobile device.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 22-23 ¶11-12 —Invite the person to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 140
- **“What Can the Bible Teach Us?—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study using Truth 4 on page 115 of the *Teach Us* book.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶1-6, box on p. 43
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 112 and Prayer

ECCLESIASTES 1-6 | Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work

Jehovah wants us to enjoy our work and teaches us how to do so. A person can learn to enjoy work if he approaches it with the right attitude.



3:13; 4:6

You can find enjoyment in your work when you . . .

- cultivate a positive attitude
- think about how your work helps others
- do your best at work, but when you leave your job, you focus on your family and your worship



November 14-20

Treasures From God's Word

Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work

Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13—The ability to enjoy hard work is a gift from God

Reference: *w15 2/1* 4-6.

How to Enjoy Hard Work

“Everyone should eat and drink and find enjoyment for all his hard work. It is the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 3:13) If God wanted us to enjoy our work, is it not logical that he would show us *how* to find such joy? (Isaiah 48:17) Thankfully, he does—through the pages of his Word, the Bible. Consider the following Bible-based advice for finding satisfaction in your work.

Cultivate a Positive View of Work

Whether your work is mostly mental, mostly physical, or somewhere in between, recognize that “there is benefit in every kind of hard work.” (Proverbs 14:23) What sort of benefit? For one thing, hard work helps us to care for our material needs. True, God promises to provide for the needs of those who sincerely worship him. (**Matthew 6:31, 32**) But he also expects us to do our part by diligently trying to earn an honest living. —2 Thessalonians 3:10.

Thus, we can view our work as a means to an end. Work is an honorable way to care for our responsibilities. “Providing for yourself is an accomplishment,” says 25 **year** old Joshua. “If you are able to pay for what you need, then your work is doing what it is supposed to do.”

Moreover, hard work contributes to our self-respect. After all, hard work is just that—hard. When we discipline ourselves to stick with our work—even if it seems boring or difficult—we can have the satisfaction of knowing that we held ourselves to a high standard. We have won a victory over the inclination to take the easy way out. (Proverbs 26:14) In that sense, work brings an intense feeling of satisfaction. “I love the feeling I have after a long day of work,” says Aaron, quoted in the preceding article. “I may be exhausted—and my work might have even gone unnoticed by others—but I know that I’ve accomplished something.”

Apply Yourself to Your Work

The Bible speaks highly of the man who is “skillful at his work” and the woman who “delights to work with her hands.” (Proverbs 22:29; 31:13) Of course, a person does not become skillful automatically. And few of us enjoy doing things that we are not good at. Perhaps that is why many do not enjoy their work; they simply have not put forth enough effort to become good at it.

In reality, a person can learn to enjoy almost any kind of work if he approaches it with the right mind-set—that is, if he focuses on learning how to do the job well. “When you put your best into a task and see the results, it’s very satisfying,” says 24 **year** old William. “You never get that feeling from cutting corners or doing only the minimum.”

Focus on How Your Work Benefits Others

Avoid the trap of thinking only about how much money you are earning. Rather, ask yourself such questions as these: ‘Why is this job necessary? What would happen if it wasn’t done—or it wasn’t done right? How does my work benefit others?’

That last question is especially good to think about, for work is most satisfying when we see how it benefits other people. Jesus himself said: “There is more happiness in giving than there is in

receiving.” (Acts 20:35) In addition to those who benefit directly from our services—such as customers and employers—there are others who benefit from our hard work. These include members of our household and those in need.

Members of our household. When a family head works hard to provide for members of his household, he benefits them in at least two ways. First, he makes sure that they have the physical necessities of life—food, clothing, and shelter. He thus fulfills his God-given responsibility to “provide for those who are his own.” (1 Timothy 5:8) Second, a diligent breadwinner teaches by example the importance of hard work. “My father is a great example of someone who has a good work ethic,” says Shane, quoted in the preceding article. “He is an honest man who has worked hard his whole life, the majority of it as a carpenter. From his example, I’ve learned the value of working with your hands, building things that will have practical use for other people.”

Those in need. The apostle Paul advised Christians to “do hard work ... so that [they] may have something to share with someone in need.” (Ephesians 4:28) Indeed, when we work hard to provide for ourselves and our family, we may also be in a position to help those who are less fortunate. (Proverbs 3:27) So hard work can enable us to experience the greater happiness of giving.

Go the Extra Mile

In his famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: “If someone in authority compels you into service for a mile, go with him two miles.” (Matthew 5:41) How might you apply the principle behind those words to your own work? Rather than simply doing the minimum, look for ways to do *more* than is required. Set personal goals; challenge yourself to do your work better or faster than expected. Take pride in even the small details of your work.

When you go the extra mile, you are more likely to enjoy your work. Why? Because *you* are in control of your actions. You are giving more because you want to, not because someone forced you to. (Philemon 14) In this regard, we might recall the principle recorded at Proverbs 12:24: “The hand of the diligent ones will rule, but idle hands will be put to forced labor.” True, few of us will be put under literal slavery or forced labor. However, a person who does only the bare minimum may feel that he is enslaved, always under the yoke of the demands of others. But the person who goes the extra mile—doing more because he *chooses* to—feels in control of his life. He remains master over his actions.

Box on page 5

[Box.] How They View Hard Work

“When I’m tired at the end of the day, I feel a real sense of accomplishment and joy. I know I really *worked* that day.”—Nick.

“Working hard is the best way to work. If you’re going to do something worthwhile, do it right.”—Christian.

“The human body can do extraordinary things. I like to show my appreciation for the gift of life by using it to work hard and help other people.”—David. [End of Box.]

Ecclesiastes 4:6—Cultivate a balanced view of work

Reference: w15 2/1 6 paragraphs 3-5.

Keep Work in Its Proper Place

Hard work is admirable, yet we do well to remember that there is more to life than work. True, the Bible encourages diligence. (Proverbs 13:4) But it does not encourage becoming a workaholic. “Better is a handful of rest than two handfuls of hard work and chasing after the wind,” says Ecclesiastes 4:6. The point? A workaholic may never enjoy the fruitage of his labor if his work consumes all his time and energy. In effect, his work becomes as pointless as “chasing after the wind.”

The Bible can help us to cultivate a balanced view of work. Although it says we should apply ourselves to our work, it also advises us to “make sure of the more important things.” (Philippians 1:10) What are the more important things? These include spending time with family and friends. Even more important are spiritual activities, such as reading God’s Word and meditating on it.

Those who keep their life balanced are likely to enjoy their work even more. “One of my former employers is a great example of someone with a balanced work ethic,” says William, quoted earlier. “He works hard, and he has a good rapport with his clients because of the quality of his work. But at the end of the day, when the job is done, he knows how to leave his work behind and focus on his family and his worship. And you know what? He’s one of the happiest people I know!”

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Ecclesiastes 2:10, 11—What did Solomon discover regarding wealth?

Reference: w08 4/15 22 paragraphs 9-10.

Will Material Possessions Give Us Satisfaction?

9 Solomon was one of the richest men on earth when he wrote Ecclesiastes. (2 Chronicles 9:22) He had the means to acquire anything he wanted. “Anything that my eyes asked for I did not keep away from them,” he wrote. (Ecclesiastes 2:10) Nevertheless, he discovered that possessions do not in themselves bring satisfaction. “A mere lover of silver will not be satisfied with silver, neither any lover of wealth with income,” he concluded. —Ecclesiastes 5:10.

10 Despite the fleeting value of possessions, wealth can still exert a powerful attraction. In a recent survey in the United States, 75 percent of all first year university students described their principal goal in life as being “financially very well off.” Even if they reached their goal, would they be truly happy? Not necessarily. Researchers have noted that an emphasis on materialism is, in fact, a hindrance to happiness and satisfaction. A long time ago, Solomon had already reached that same conclusion. He wrote: “I accumulated also silver and gold for myself, and property peculiar to kings . . . And, look! everything was vanity and a striving after wind.” (Ecclesiastes 2:8, 11) In contrast, if we use our life to serve Jehovah wholeheartedly and thus receive his blessing, we will obtain true riches. —Read Proverbs 10:22.

Ecclesiastes 3:16, 17—How should we view injustices in this world?

Reference: w06 11/1 14 paragraph 9.

To expect justice in every case is unrealistic. Rather than feel anxious about what is happening in the world today, we should wait on Jehovah to set matters straight.

- Song 66 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Ecclesiastes.*] Ec 3:12, 13—The ability to enjoy hard work is a gift from God (w15 2/1 4-6) Ec 4:6—Cultivate a balanced view of work (w15 2/1 6 ¶3-5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Ec 2:10, 11—What did Solomon discover regarding wealth? (w08 4/15 22 ¶9-10)

Ec 3:16, 17—How should we view injustices in this world? (w06 11/1 14 ¶9)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ec 1:1-18

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

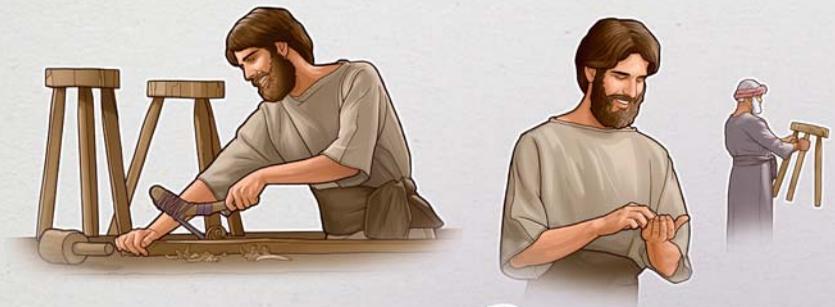
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Read scriptures from a mobile device.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 22-23 ¶11-12 —Invite the person to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 140
- **“What Can the Bible Teach Us?—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study using Truth 4 on page 115 of the *Teach Us* book.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶1-6, box on p. 43
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 112 and Prayer

ECCLESIASTES 1-6 | Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work

Jehovah wants us to enjoy our work and teaches us how to do so. A person can learn to enjoy work if he approaches it with the right attitude.



3:13; 4:6

You can find enjoyment in your work when you . . .

- cultivate a positive attitude
- think about how your work helps others
- do your best at work, but when you leave your job, you focus on your family and your worship



THE **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



Enlightening
Visions of the
Spirit Realm

THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, honors Jehovah God, the Ruler of the universe. It comforts people with the good news that God's heavenly Kingdom will soon end all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God's Kingdom. This magazine has been published continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit www.jw.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study?

Visit www.jw.org or send your request to one of the addresses below.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 16 November 2016 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If someone asked you what heaven is like, how would you answer?

We can learn from Jesus because he said: **“I am from the realms above.”**
—John 8:23.

This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses what Jesus and his Father have revealed about heaven.

Enlightening Visions of the Spirit Realm

Questions About Those in the Spirit Realm 3

Visions of Those in the Invisible Heavens 4

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Lessons From the Birds of the Heavens 8

Lefèvre d'Étaples—He Wanted the Common People to Know God's Word 10

Life Story

Embracing Bible Truth Without Hands and Arms 13

What Does the Bible Say? 16



READ MORE ONLINE



OTHER BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

[Did God Create the Devil?](#)

(Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE IN THE SPIRIT REALM

Have you ever wondered about the spirit realm and those who live there? If so, you are not alone. For millenniums, people have speculated on that subject. Some believe that the spirit world is inhabited by ancestors who must be honored. Others envision a place of blissful tranquillity called heaven, populated by angels and good people who have died. Still others see the spirit world as a home for hundreds of millions of deities.

Many people argue that we cannot know anything about the spirit realm because no eyewitness has come from there to tell us about it. That line of reasoning, however, is incorrect. Jesus Christ existed in heaven, in the spirit realm, before he came to the earth. He said so quite openly to the religious leaders in the first century: “I have come down from heaven to do, not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.” So Jesus was sharing firsthand information when he told his apostles: “In the house of my Father are many dwelling places.”—John 6:38; 14:2.

Jesus’ Father, of course, is God, whose name is Jehovah, and Jehovah’s “house” is in the heavens. (Psalm 83:18) Thus, no one could describe the invisible world better than Jehovah God and

Jesus Christ could. They have revealed much information about the spirit realm by means of spectacular visions that they gave to faithful ones.

The following article discusses portions of the Bible that describe what men saw in a number of visions. As you consider these visions, remember that the spirit realm is not *material*, with things that we can touch or see. Thus, rather than choosing to explain matters to us in spiritual terms, which would be incomprehensible to us, God fashioned the visions to depict spiritual realities in terms that we can comprehend. The visions will help you to understand those who inhabit the spirit realm’s “many dwelling places.”

VISIONS OF THOSE IN THE INVISIBLE HEAVENS

The Bible presents a number of fascinating visions that permit us to peer, as it were, into the invisible heavenly realm. We invite you to take a careful look at them. Although not everything described in the visions is to be taken literally, the visions can help you not only to visualize those who dwell in the spirit realm but also to understand how they can affect you.

JEHOVAH IS THE SUPREME ONE

“A throne was in its position in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne. And the One seated had the appearance of a jasper stone and a sardius stone, and all around the throne was a rainbow like an emerald in appearance.”—Revelation 4:2, 3.

“There was a brilliance all around him like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. That was how the surrounding brilliant light appeared. It was like the appearance of the glory of Jehovah.”—Ezekiel 1:27, 28.

These visions, given to the apostle John and the prophet Ezekiel, depict the splendor of the Most High God, Jehovah, with things we can readily envision—dazzling gemstones, a rainbow, and the majesty of a throne. They tell us that Jehovah’s presence is one of awe-inspiring beauty, pleasantness, and serenity.

These depictions of God harmonize with the words of the psalmist who wrote: “Jehovah is great and most worthy of praise. He is more awe-

inspiring than all other gods. All the gods of the peoples are worthless gods, but Jehovah is the one who made the heavens. In his presence are majesty and splendor; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.”—Psalm 96:4-6.

Though Jehovah is the Supreme One, he invites us to approach him in prayer and assures us that he listens to us. (Psalm 65:2) God loves and cares for us so much that the apostle John could truthfully write: “God is love.”—1 John 4:8.

JESUS IS WITH GOD

“[The Christian disciple Stephen], being full of holy spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God’s glory and of Jesus standing at God’s right hand, and he said: ‘Look! I see the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God’s right hand.’” —Acts 7:55, 56.

Shortly before Stephen had this vision, Jesus was put to death at the instigation of the very ones whom Stephen was addressing—the Jewish leaders. The vision confirmed that Jesus was alive and



that he had been resurrected and honored. About this, the apostle Paul wrote: “[Jehovah] raised [Jesus] up from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above every government and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named, not only in this system of things but also in that to come.” —Ephesians 1:20, 21.

In addition to describing his lofty position, the Scriptures show that Jesus, like Jehovah, cares deeply for humans. During his ministry on earth, Jesus healed the sick, cured the infirm, and raised the dead. By his sacrificial death, he demonstrated his deep love for God and for mankind. (Ephesians 2:4, 5) Standing at God’s right hand, Jesus will soon exercise his authority and bring great blessings to obedient humans everywhere.

ANGELS MINISTER TO GOD

“I [the prophet Daniel] kept watching until thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days [Jehovah] sat down. . . . A thousand thousands kept ministering to him, and

ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.”—Daniel 7:9, 10.

In this vision of heaven, Daniel saw not just one angel but multitudes. What an awe-inspiring vision that must have been! Angels are glorious spirit persons, intelligent and powerful. Their ranks include seraphs and cherubs. The Bible mentions angels more than 250 times.

Angels are not former humans who had lived on earth. God created angels long before man’s appearance. At the founding of the earth, the angels were on hand to observe and to shout in applause. —Job 38:4-7.

One way faithful angels minister to God is by being involved in the most important work being done on earth today—the proclamation of the good news of God’s Kingdom. (Matthew 24:14) Their involvement in this work was revealed in a vision to the apostle John, who wrote: “I saw another angel flying in midheaven, and he had everlasting good news to declare to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.” (Revelation 14:6) Though angels do

not speak to people today as they did on occasion in times past, they do help guide those preaching the good news to honesthearted ones.

SATAN MISLEADS MILLIONS

“War broke out in heaven: Michael [Jesus Christ] and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them any longer in heaven. So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.”—Revelation 12:7-9.

Heaven has not always been peaceful. At the very dawn of human history, one of the angels, consumed by a desire to be worshipped, rebelled against Jehovah, becoming Satan, meaning “Resister.” Other angels later joined in the rebellion and became known as demons. Thoroughly evil, they bitterly oppose Jehovah and have led most humans on a course contrary to Jehovah’s loving direction.

Satan and his demons are depraved and cruel. They are enemies of mankind and have contribut-

ed to much of the suffering on earth. For example, Satan killed the livestock and the servants of the faithful man Job. Next, he killed all ten of Job’s children by causing “a great wind” to crush the house they were in. After that, Satan struck Job with “painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”—Job 1:7-19; 2:7.

Soon, though, Satan will be done away with. Since being hurled to the vicinity of the earth, he knows that “he has a short period of time.” (Revelation 12:12) Satan is doomed, and that certainly is good news!

THOSE WHO COME FROM THE EARTH

“You [Jesus] bought people for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.”—Revelation 5:9, 10.

Just as Jesus was resurrected from earth to life in heaven, others will be too. Jesus said to his faithful apostles: “I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, . . . I will come again and will receive you home to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”—John 14:2, 3.

Those who go to heaven go there for a purpose.

YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE DEMONS

Like prisoners in chains, millions of people are shackled by superstition and the dread of evil spirits. They look to charms, amulets, and magic potions to protect themselves. There is no need for you to do so. The Bible gives this comforting assurance: “The eyes of Jehovah are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward

him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9) The true God, Jehovah, who is far more powerful than Satan, will protect you if you trust in Him.

To gain Jehovah’s protection, you need to learn what is pleasing to him and then do it. For example, in the first century, Christians in the city of Ephesus collected all their books on magic and burned them. (Acts 19:19, 20) Similarly, to have God’s protection, you must

dispose of charms, amulets, fetishes, magic books, “protective” strings, and anything else connected with demonistic practices.

The Bible says: “Subject yourselves to God; but oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) If you subject yourself to Jehovah by obeying and serving him, you can be sure that Satan and the demons can have no hold on you.



Along with Jesus, they will make up a Kingdom government that will eventually rule over the inhabitants of all the earth and bring blessings to them. This is the Kingdom that Jesus told his followers to pray for in the model prayer: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also on earth.”—Matthew 6:9, 10.

WHAT THOSE IN HEAVEN WILL DO

“I [the apostle John] heard a loud voice from the throne say: ‘Look! The tent of God is with mankind, . . . 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.’”—Revelation 21:3, 4.

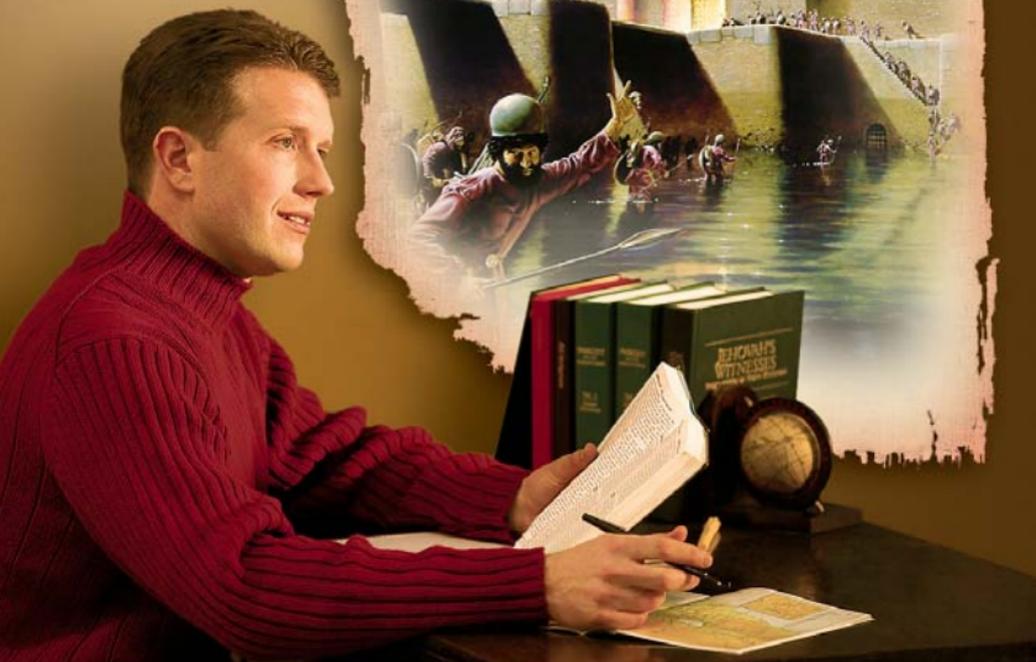
This prophetic vision points to the time when God’s Kingdom, made up of Jesus and those res-

urrected from the earth, will bring an end to Satan’s rule and make the earth a paradise. Things that have caused so much pain and sorrow to humankind will be no more. Even death will pass away.

What, though, of the billions who have died and will not be resurrected to heaven? At a future time, they will be restored to life with the prospect of living forever in that Paradise on earth.—Luke 23:43. ■

These visions assure us that Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ, as well as the faithful angels and those who have been bought from the earth, all deeply care about us and seek our welfare. To learn more about what they will do, we invite you to contact Jehovah’s Witnesses or go to our website, www.jw.org, and download the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

*The Bible writer
Isaiah foretold the
fall of Babylon*



¹¹ Consider Jesus' speech called the Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew chapters 5 to 7. In this masterpiece of teaching, Jesus spoke on a number of topics, including the way to find true happiness, how to settle disputes, how to pray, and how to have the proper view

11, 12. (a) What topics did Jesus discuss in his Sermon on the Mount? (b) What other practical matters are considered in the Bible, and why is its counsel timeless?

of material things. Jesus' words are just as powerful and practical today as they were when he spoke them.

¹² Some Bible principles deal with family life, work habits, and relationships with others. The Bible's principles apply to all people, and its counsel is always beneficial. The wisdom found in the Bible is summarized by God's words through the prophet Isaiah: "I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself."—Isaiah 48:17.

A BOOK OF PROPHECY

¹³ The Bible contains numerous prophecies, many of which have already been fulfilled. Consider an example. Through the prophet Isaiah, who lived in the eighth century B.C.E., Jehovah foretold that the city of Babylon would be destroyed. (Isaiah 13:19; 14:22, 23) Details were given to show just *how* this would happen. Invading armies would dry up Babylon's river and march into the city without a battle. That is not all. Isaiah's prophecy even named the king who would conquer Babylon—Cyrus.—Isaiah 44:27–45:2.

¹⁴ Some 200 years later—on the night of October 5/6, 539 B.C.E.—an army encamped near Babylon. Who was its commander? A Persian king named Cyrus. The stage was thus set for the fulfillment of an amazing prophecy. But would the army of Cyrus invade Babylon without a battle, as foretold?

¹⁵ The Babylonians were holding a festival that night and felt secure behind their massive city walls. Meanwhile, Cyrus cleverly diverted the water of the river that

13. What details did Jehovah inspire the prophet Isaiah to record regarding Babylon?

14, 15. How were some details of Isaiah's prophecy about Babylon fulfilled?

The Life of a Pioneer

(Ecclesiastes 11:6)

Capo fret 2

G A Am Bm G A Am Bm

At the start of the day, with the sun yet to rise, We are
At the end of the day, with the sun sink - ing low, Feel - ing

G A Em F#m C D

mak - ing our way with the sleep in our eyes, and we pray. We are
hap - py and tired, in our heart there's a glow, and we pray. It's a

Am Bm D E Bm C#m

there with a smile for the peo - ple we meet. Some may
life that we love, al - ways giv - ing our best. And Je -

Em F#m D E C G Am Bm

stop for a while, some pass by on the street, but we stay.
ho - vah we thank, for by him we are blessed ev - 'ry day.

D7 E7 Chorus G A D E Em F#m G A

It's the life that we choose; For Je - ho - vah we live. And what -

C D Em F#m Am Bm D E G A

ev - er he asks we will do. In the work we en -

D E Em F#m G C Em F#m

dure, Wheth - er sun - shine or rain. It's a way we can say ev - 'ry

Am Bm D E 1. G C G D 2. G A A D A E A

day: "I love you." you."

(See also Josh. 24:15; Ps. 92:2; Rom. 14:8.)

- Song 66 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work”:** (10 min.) [Play the video *Introduction to Ecclesiastes.*] Ec 3:12, 13—The ability to enjoy hard work is a gift from God (w15 2/1 4-6) Ec 4:6—Cultivate a balanced view of work (w15 2/1 6 ¶3-5)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.) Ec 2:10, 11—What did Solomon discover regarding wealth? (w08 4/15 22 ¶9-10)

Ec 3:16, 17—How should we view injustices in this world? (w06 11/1 14 ¶9)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ec 1:1-18

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

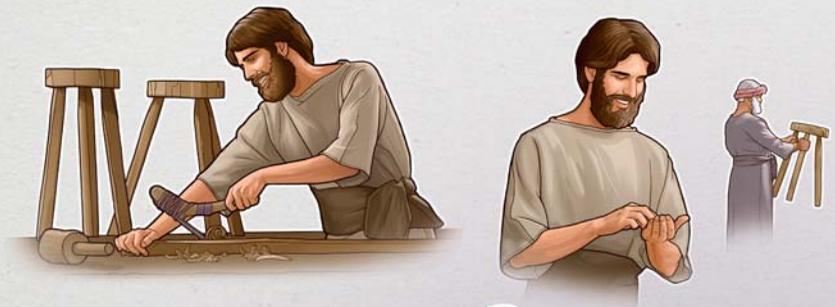
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Leave a JW.ORG contact card.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) wp16.6 cover —Read scriptures from a mobile device.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 22-23 ¶11-12 —Invite the person to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 140
- **“What Can the Bible Teach Us?—How to Use It”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Afterward, play and discuss the video that shows a portion of a Bible study using Truth 4 on page 115 of the *Teach Us* book.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶1-6, box on p. 43
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 112 and Prayer

ECCLESIASTES 1-6 | Find Enjoyment in All Your Hard Work

Jehovah wants us to enjoy our work and teaches us how to do so. A person can learn to enjoy work if he approaches it with the right attitude.



3:13; 4:6

You can find enjoyment in your work when you . . .

- cultivate a positive attitude
- think about how your work helps others
- do your best at work, but when you leave your job, you focus on your family and your worship



What Can the Bible Teach Us?—How to Use It

The *Teach Us* book and the *Bible Teach* book are similar. Both of these tools from our teaching toolbox present the same truths and in the same order. However, the *Teach Us* book uses simplified wording and logic. It is designed for those who may have difficulty understanding the *Bible Teach* book. Instead of an appendix, the *Teach Us* book has endnotes that provide simple explanations of some terms and concepts found in the main text. The chapters do not have introductory questions or a review box. Instead, they conclude with a summary of Bible truths that were explained in the main text. Just as with the *Bible Teach* book, the *Teach Us* book may be offered at any time, even if it is not being featured during the month. How may we use the unique features of the *Teach Us* book when conducting a Bible study?



115

TRUTH 3 WICKED ANGELS TRY TO HARM US

“We may not be overreached by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs.”—2 Corinthians 2:11

Who are the demons, and why are they harmful?

Revelation 12:9

An angel rebelled against Jehovah. He is called Satan.

Genesis 6:2

In Noah’s time, some angels rebelled and came to the earth.

Matthew 9:34

Those angels joined Satan’s rebellion and became demons.

Deuteronomy 18:10, 11

The demons try to trick people and harm them any way they can.

TRUTH 4 YOU CAN RESIST SATAN AND THE DEMONS

“Oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you.”
—James 4:7

How can you have Jehovah’s help in resisting Satan and the demons?

Acts 19:19

Get rid of all items connected with demonism that make magic, demons, or the supernatural seem harmless or exciting.

Ephesians 6:16, 18

Build your faith by studying the Bible, and pray for God’s protection.

Proverbs 18:10

Use Jehovah’s name.

SUMMARY: For most people, our usual method of conducting a study by reading the paragraph in the *Bible Teach* book and then asking the question will serve quite well. Suppose, however, that the student is not very familiar with the language or does not read well. In that case, you may choose to use the *Teach Us* book. Then, the chapter summaries may be used as the basis for the study and the student may be encouraged to read the main text on his own. Each Bible truth can often be taught in a study session that lasts about 15 minutes. Since the summaries do not include details found in the main text, the teacher must prepare well, keeping in mind the needs of the student. If the teacher conducts the study from the main text, the summaries can be used as a review.

ENDNOTES

221

25 RESURRECTION

When God brings a person who has died back to life, it is called a resurrection. Nine resurrections are mentioned in the Bible. Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, Peter, and Paul all performed resurrections. These miracles were possible only because of God’s power. Jehovah promises to resurrect “both the righteous and the unrighteous” to life on earth. (Acts 24:15) The Bible also mentions a resurrection to heaven. This takes place when those who are chosen, or anointed, by God are resurrected to live in heaven with Jesus.—John 5:28, 29; 11:25; Philipians 3:11; Revelation 20:5, 6.

► Chap. 9, par. 13

26 DEMONISM (SPIRITISM)

Demonism or spiritism is the bad practice of trying to communicate with spirits, either directly or through someone else, such as a witch doctor, a medium, or a psychic. People who practice spiritism do this because they believe the false teaching that spirits of humans survive death and become powerful ghosts. The demons also try to influence humans to disobey God. Astrology, divination, magic, witchcraft, superstitions, the occult, and the supernatural are also part of demonism. Many books, magazines, horoscopes, movies, posters, and even songs make the demons, magic, and the supernatural seem harmless or exciting. Many funeral customs, such as sacrifices for the dead, funeral celebrations, funeral anniversaries, widowhood rites, and some wake rituals, also include contact with the demons. People often use drugs when trying to use the power of the demons.—Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8.

► Chap. 10, par. 10; Chap. 16, par. 4

ENDNOTES: The terms and concepts in the endnotes are in the order that they appear in the main text. The teacher may decide whether to discuss the endnotes in the *Teach Us* book during the study.

TRUTH 3**WICKED ANGELS
TRY TO HARM US**

“We may not be overreached by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs.”—2 Corinthians 2:11

Who are the demons, and why are they harmful?

Revelation 12:9

An angel rebelled against Jehovah. He is called Satan.

Genesis 6:2

In Noah’s time, some angels rebelled and came to the earth.

Matthew 9:34

Those angels joined Satan’s rebellion and became demons.

Deuteronomy 18:10, 11

The demons try to trick people and harm them any way they can.

TRUTH 4**YOU CAN RESIST SATAN
AND THE DEMONS**

“Oppose the Devil, and he will flee from you.”
—James 4:7

How can you have Jehovah’s help in resisting Satan and the demons?

Acts 19:19

Get rid of all items connected with demonism that make magic, demons, or the supernatural seem harmless or exciting.

Ephesians 6:16, 18

Build your faith by studying the Bible, and pray for God’s protection.

Proverbs 18:10

Use Jehovah’s name.

Jehovah Exalts His Name

4

ON A cool but sunny Tuesday morning, December 2, 1947, a small group of anointed brothers from Bethel in Brooklyn, New York, set out to accomplish a huge task. The work was exacting, but for the next 12 years, they kept at it. At long last, on Sunday, March 13, 1960, they completed the final text for a new Bible translation. Three months later, on June 18, 1960, Brother Nathan Knorr released the final volume of the complete *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* to a thrilled convention audience in Manchester, England. The speaker well expressed the feelings of all in attendance when he exclaimed: ‘Today is a day for rejoicing on the part of Jehovah’s Witnesses the wide world over!’ One outstanding feature of that new translation was a special cause for joy—the frequent use of God’s personal name.

² Many translations of the Bible leave out God’s name. But Jehovah’s anointed servants took a stand against Satan’s scheme to blot the name of God out of human memory. The introduction of the *New World Translation* released that day stated: “The foremost feature of this translation is the restoration of the divine name to its rightful place.” Indeed, the *New World Translation* uses God’s personal name, Jehovah, more than 7,000 times. How outstandingly this translation has exalted the name of our heavenly Father—Jehovah!

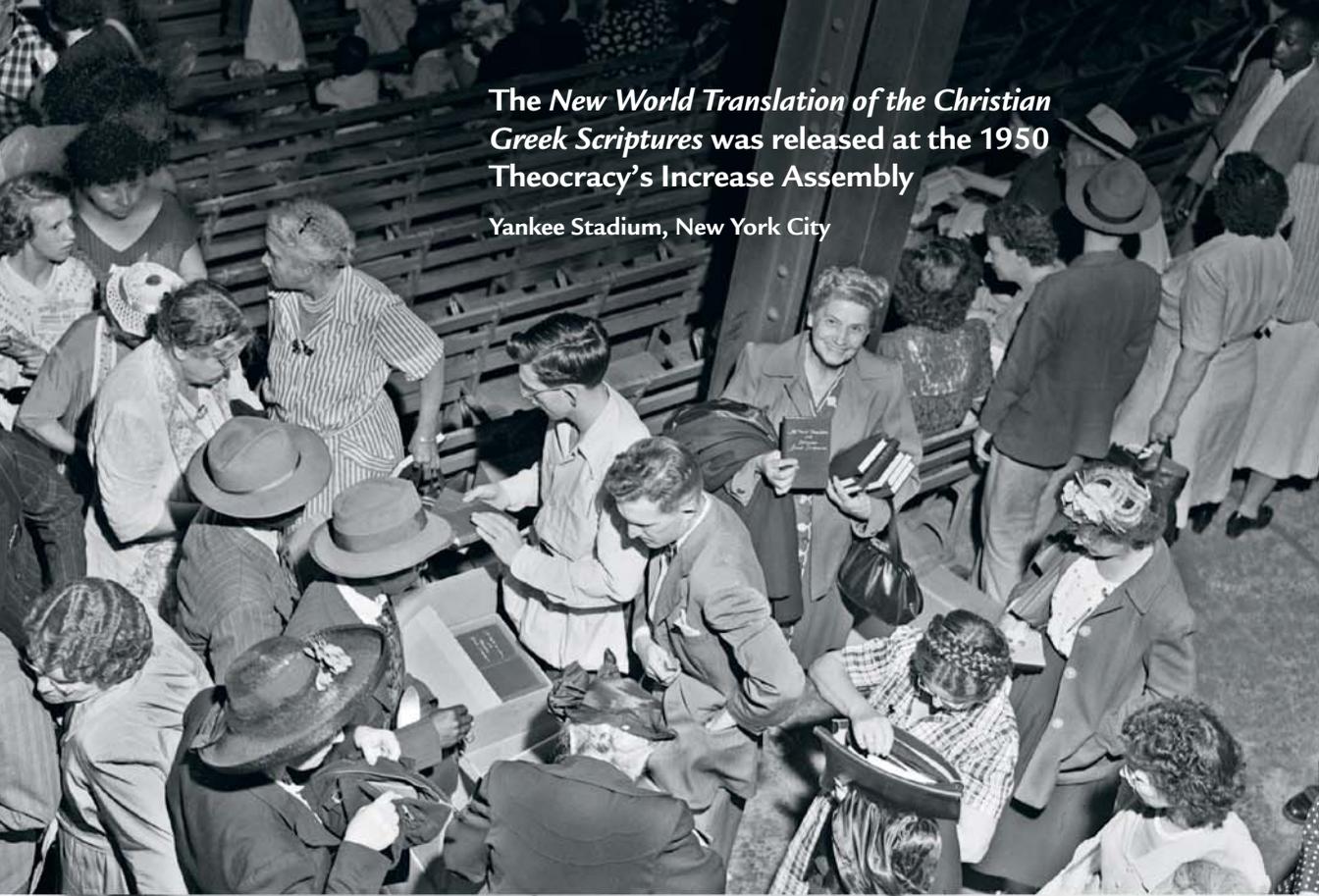
³ In earlier years, the Bible Students understood God’s name to mean “I am that I am.” (Ex. 3:14, *King James Version*) Thus, *The Watch Tower* of January 1, 1926, noted: “The name Jehovah signifies the self-existing One, . . . the One who had no beginning and no end.” However, by the time the translators of the *New World Translation* began their work, Jehovah had helped his people to discern that his

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

God’s people give due prominence to the divine name

- 1, 2. How does the *New World Translation* exalt God’s name?
3. (a) What did our brothers discern about the meaning of God’s name?
(b) How should we understand Exodus 3:13, 14?
(See the box “The Meaning of God’s Name.”)

The New World Translation of the Christian
Greek Scriptures was released at the 1950
Theocracy's Increase Assembly
Yankee Stadium, New York City



Ghana



name signifies not merely that he is self-existent but foremost that he is a God of purpose and activity. They learned that the name Jehovah literally means “He Causes to Become.” Yes, he caused the universe and intelligent beings to come into existence, and he continues to cause his will and purpose to become a reality. Why, though, is it so important that God’s name be exalted, and how can we have a share in exalting it?

The Sanctification of God’s Name

⁴ Jehovah wants his name to be exalted. In fact, his primary purpose is to sanctify his name, as is evident in Jesus’ first request in his model prayer: “Let your name be sanctified.” (Matt. 6:9) When making that petition, for what are we praying?

⁵ As we learned in Chapter 1 of this publication, the request “Let your name be sanctified” is one of three petitions in Jesus’ model prayer that have to do with Jehovah’s purpose. The other two are: “Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place.” (Matt. 6:10) Hence, just as we ask for Jehovah to take action to cause his Kingdom to come and his will to take place, so we ask for Jehovah to take action to sanctify his name. In other words, we are asking Jehovah to act to clear his name of all the reproach that has been heaped upon it since the rebellion in Eden. How will Jehovah respond to such a prayer? He states: “I will certainly sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations.” (Ezek. 36:23; 38:23) At Armageddon, when he removes wickedness, Jehovah will sanctify his name before the eyes of all creation.

⁶ Throughout history, Jehovah has allowed his servants to share in sanctifying his name. Of course, we cannot make God’s name more sacred. It is already sacred, or holy, in the absolute sense. So how can we sanctify it? Isaiah states: “Jehovah of armies—he is the One you should *regard* as holy.” And Jehovah himself said concerning his people: “They will sanctify my name . . . , and they will *stand in awe* of the God of Israel.” (Isa. 8:13; 29:23) Thus, we sanctify God’s name by regarding it as separate from and higher than all other names, by respecting what it represents, and by helping others to regard it as holy. We especially demonstrate our awe and reverence for God’s name when we recognize Jehovah as our Ruler and obey him with all our heart.—Prov. 3:1; Rev. 4:11.

4, 5. (a) For what do we ask when we pray: “Let your name be sanctified”?
(b) How and when will God sanctify his name?

6. How can we share in sanctifying God’s name?



יהוה

THE MEANING OF GOD'S NAME

THE name Jehovah comes from a Hebrew verb that means “to become.” Some scholars feel that in this instance the verb is used in its causative form. God’s name is thus understood by many to mean “He Causes to Become.” This definition well fits Jehovah’s role as the Creator. He caused the universe and intelligent beings to come into existence and continues to cause his will and purpose to become a reality.

How, then, should we understand Jehovah’s answer to Moses’ question recorded at Exodus 3:13, 14? Moses asked: “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is his name?’ What should I say to them?” Jehovah answered: “I Will Become What I Choose to Become.”

Note that Moses was not asking Jehovah to reveal his name. Moses and the Israelites already knew God’s name well. Moses wanted Jehovah to reveal

something faith-strengthening about the kind of God he is, something that may also be reflected in the meaning of his name. Hence, by responding, “I Will Become What I Choose to Become,” Jehovah was revealing a thrilling aspect of his own nature: In each situation, he becomes whatever is necessary to fulfill his purpose. For example, for Moses and the Israelites, Jehovah became a Rescuer, a Lawgiver, a Provider—and much more. Thus, Jehovah himself *chooses to become* whatever is necessary to fulfill his promises to his people. However, while the name Jehovah may include this idea, it is not limited to what he himself chooses to become. It also includes what he causes his creation to become in the accomplishment of his purpose.^[1]

FOOTNOTE

[1] See appendix A4 in the revised *New World Translation*.

Great God, Jehovah

(Exodus 34:6, 7)

C Cma7 C6 Cma7 F/C Cma7 Dm/C G7 C

Great God, Je - ho - vah, you are de - serv - ing,
Par - don - ing er - ror, sin, and trans - gres - sion,
Let men and an - gels join in your prais - es;

Dm7/F A/E Dm Dm9/C Dm/B F/A G7 Dm7/F C/E Dm7 Dm7/G G7

Wor - thy of the high - est praise, Good and just in all your ways.
Mer - ci - ful to those like you, Those who prac - tice mer - cy too.
Let your name be sanc - ti - fied, Nev - er more to be de - nied.

C Cma7 C6 Cma7 F/C Cma7 Dm/C G7 C

Your throne is found - ed firm - ly on jus - tice;
Your king - ly jus - tice, your lov - ing - kind - ness,
Soon may your King - dom, rul - ing in heav - en,

Dm7/F C/E Dm7 Dm7/G G7 C G7sus4 C

You are God to end - less days.
You have shown in all you do.
Make your will be done earth wide.

R.H.

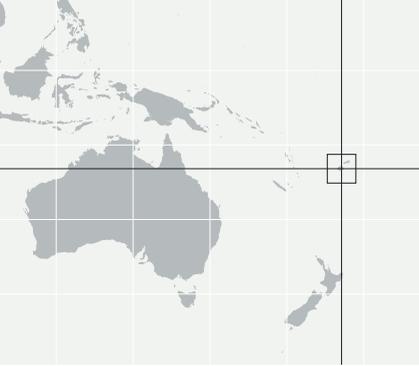
SEPTEMBER 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
OCTOBER 24–NOVEMBER 27, 2016



COVER IMAGE:

FIJI

Brothers and sisters in rural areas outside of Suva, the capital of Fiji, happily share the good news with all whom they encounter

POPULATION

887,027

PUBLISHERS

3,097

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)

11,845

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 24-30**
“Do Not Let Your Hands Drop Down”

8 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 6**
**Keep Contending
for Jehovah’s Blessing**

Pressures and anxieties can weigh on our mind and cause our hands to drop down figuratively. Consider how Jehovah’s mighty hand can give us the strength and courage to endure. And see what you can do to “wrestle,” or contend, for Jehovah’s blessing.

13 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

14 **Defending the Good News
Before High Officials**

17 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 7-13**
Does Your Style of Dress Glorify God?

God’s servants around the globe want their dress and grooming to be neat, clean, and locally acceptable, thus conforming to Scriptural principles. How can you make sure that your manner of dress will bring glory to God?

22 **Benefit From
Jehovah’s Guidance Today**

23 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 14-20**
Young Ones, Strengthen Your Faith

28 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 21-27**
Parents, Help Your Children Build Faith

In these two articles, we will see how young ones can learn to use their thinking ability to strengthen their faith and to defend it. We will also see how Christian parents can make it more interesting for their children to develop faith in God and in his Word.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

To make a donation, please visit www.jw.org.


THE WATCHTOWER®
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 14 September 2016 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

September 2016

Vol. 137, No. 14 ENGLISH

Worship Jehovah During Youth

(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

C/G F/G G C F G7/F C/E

Pre - cious to God are you daugh - ters and sons;
 Hon - or your par - ents who care for your life,
 Al - ways re - mem - ber your God in your youth;

F C/E D7 G

Great his af - fec - tion for you, our dear ones.
 Giv - ing no cause for con - ten - tion or strife.
 Grow ev - er stron - ger in love of the truth.

G/F F G/F C/E F C/E

Lov - ing at - ten - tion to you he ex - tends
 If you gain fa - vor with God and with men,
 By your de - vo - tion to God you will bring

Fma7 F6 C/G Dm7/G Em/G G7 C

Through us, your par - ents, your fam - 'ly, and friends.
 Days of your youth will be hap - pi - est then.
 Joy to the heart of Je - ho - vah, our King.



Young Ones, Strengthen Your Faith

“Faith is . . . the evident demonstration of realities that are not seen.”—HEB. 11:1.

“YOU seem to be too clever to believe in God,” said a fellow student to a young sister in Britain. A brother in Germany wrote: “My teachers view the Bible account of creation as a myth. And they take it for granted that the students believe in evolution.” A young sister in France said: “Teachers in my school are quite astonished that there are students who still believe in the Bible.”

² As a young servant of Jehovah or as someone learning about Him, do you feel under pressure to conform to popular beliefs, such as evolution, rather than believe in a Creator? If so, there are steps you can take to strengthen your faith and keep it strong. One step is for you to use your God-given thinking ability, which “will keep watch over you.” It will protect you from secular philosophies that could destroy your faith.—**Read Proverbs 2:10-12.**

³ Genuine faith is based on accurate knowledge about God. (1 Tim. 2:4) So as you study God’s Word and our

1, 2. What pressure may young ones today feel, and what steps can they take to deal with this?

3. What will we discuss in this article?

SONGS: 41, 69

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What are some tools that you can use to strengthen your faith?

Why is reading the entire Bible an excellent goal?

What outlook will help you when you discuss God and creation with others?

Christian publications, do not just skim over the material. Use your thinking ability so that you ‘get the sense’ of what you read. (Matt. 13:23) Let us see how doing so can help you to strengthen your faith in God as the Creator and in the Bible—topics on which there is no shortage of “convincing evidence.” —Heb. 11:1, ftn.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

⁴ Have people said to you that they believe in evolution because it is based on science whereas belief in God is based on faith? Many hold this view. But it is good for us to keep this in mind: No matter what someone believes about God or about evolution, some type of faith is involved. How so? None of us have seen God or observed something being created. (John 1:18) And no human—whether he is a scientist or not—has observed one kind of life evolve into another kind. No one has watched a reptile evolve into

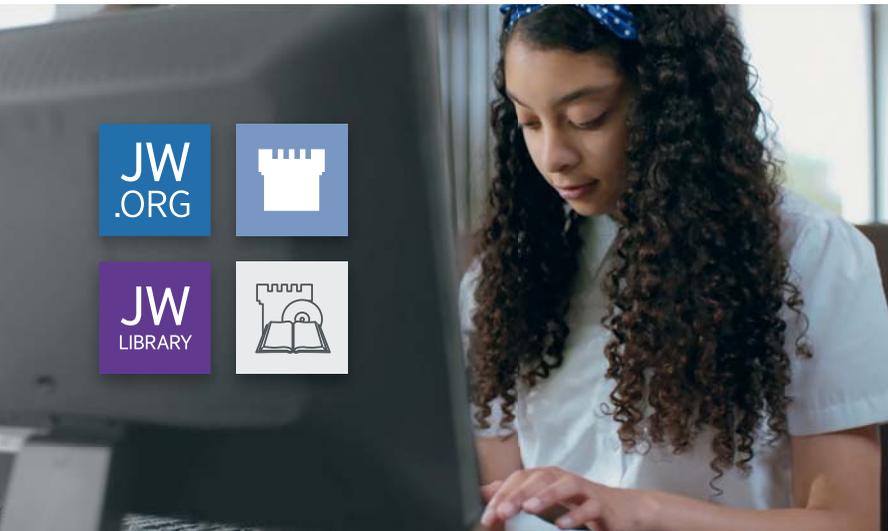
4. Why do beliefs about God and the origin of life always involve some type of faith, and what sound approach should we take?

a mammal, for example. (Job 38:1, 4) Hence, all of us must examine the evidence and use our thinking ability to reach sound conclusions. Regarding creation, the apostle Paul wrote: “[God’s] invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world’s creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable.”—Rom. 1:20.

⁵ “To perceive” means to recognize something that may not be immediately visible or obvious. (Heb. 11:3) Perceptive people, therefore, use their mind, not just their eyes and ears. Jehovah’s organization has supplied many well-researched aids to help us. These can enable us ‘to see’ our Creator through our eyes of faith. (Heb. 11:27) These aids include the video *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God’s Glory*, the brochures *Was Life Created?* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*, and the book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About*

5. How have we as God’s people been equipped to use our perceptive powers?

As you reason with others,
make good use of the tools
available in your language
(See paragraph 5)



You? We also receive excellent food for thought in our magazines. *Awake!* has often presented interviews with scientists and others who have explained why they now believe in God. The series of articles called “Was It Designed?” has highlighted examples of the amazing design that we see in nature. Scientists often strive to imitate those wonderful designs.

⁶ About the two brochures just mentioned, a 19-year-old brother in the United States said: “These have been invaluable to me. I’ve studied those brochures about a dozen times.” A sister in France wrote: “The ‘Was It Designed?’ articles amaze me! They show that the greatest engineers may imitate but will never equal the complex designs in nature.” The parents of a 15-year-old in South Africa said: “The first thing that our daughter usually reads in *Awake!* is the ‘Interview’ article.” What about you? Do you take full advantage of these provisions? They can help your faith to become like a tree with deep roots. In that way your faith will enable you to withstand what might be like the winds of false teachings.—Jer. 17:5-8.

YOUR FAITH IN THE BIBLE

⁷ Is it wrong to ask sincere questions about the Bible? By no means! Jehovah wants you to use “your power of reason” to prove the truth to yourself. He does not want you to believe just because others do. So use your thinking ability to gain accurate knowledge. That knowledge can then become the firm founda-

6. What are some benefits from using the tools that are available, and how have you benefited?

7. Why does God want you to use your power of reason?

tion for genuine faith. (**Read Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Timothy 2:4.**) One way to gain such knowledge is through the study projects that you choose to pursue.

⁸ Some have chosen study projects that involved studying Bible prophecy or the Bible’s historical, archaeological, and scientific accuracy. One fascinating prophecy to consider is Genesis 3:15. That verse introduces the Bible’s primary theme, which is the vindication of God’s sovereignty and the sanctification of his name by means of the Kingdom. That one verse, using figurative language, sets out how Jehovah will solve all the suffering that humans have experienced since Eden. How might you study Genesis 3:15? One way would be to prepare a time line. It could list key scriptures that show how God bit by bit shed light on the individuals and arrangement referred to in this verse and that prove that the prophecy will be fulfilled. As you see the scriptures form a harmonious unit, you will surely conclude that the Bible prophets and writers must have been “moved by holy spirit.”—2 Pet. 1:21.

⁹ A brother in Germany wrote: “The Kingdom theme runs through the Bible like a golden thread. That is so, even though about 40 men wrote the Bible. And many of them lived at different times and did not know one another personally.” An Australian sister was moved by a *Watchtower* study article in the issue of December 15, 2013, that dealt with the meaning of the Passover. That special observance is closely connected to Genesis 3:15 and the coming of the

8, 9. (a) What sort of study projects might some enjoy? (b) How have some benefited from meditating on what they study?

Messiah. “That study opened my eyes to how wonderful Jehovah is,” she wrote. “For someone to have thought of this arrangement for the Israelites and for it to be fulfilled in Jesus really impressed me. I literally had to stop and contemplate how incredible that prophetic Passover meal was!” Why did this sister feel that way? She *thought deeply* about what she read and got “the sense of it.” This helped to strengthen her faith and drew her closer to Jehovah.—Matt. 13:23.

¹⁰ Another faith-strengthening aspect to consider is the courage and honesty of the men who wrote the Bible. Many ancient writers flattered their leaders and glorified their kingdoms. Jehovah’s prophets, however, always spoke the truth. They were willing to point out the shortcomings of their own people, even their kings. (2 Chron. 16:9, 10; 24:18-22) And they made plain their own failings and those of other servants of God. (2 Sam. 12:1-14; Mark 14:50) “Honesty like that is rare,” said a young brother in Britain. “This adds to our confidence that the Bible truly is from Jehovah.”

¹¹ Because of its guiding principles, many are convinced that the Bible was inspired by God. (**Read Psalm 19:7-11.**) A young sister in Japan wrote: “When my family applied Bible teachings, we were truly happy. We experienced peace, unity, and love.” Bible principles protect us from sharing in false worship and from superstitions that enslave many people. (Ps. 115:3-8) Do philosophies that say that there is no God affect peo-

ple? Such teachings as evolution tend to make nature into a sort of god, giving it powers that belong only to Jehovah. Those who say that there is no God claim that our future is entirely in our own hands. They, however, offer no sure hope for a better future.—Ps. 146:3, 4.

REASONING WITH OTHERS

¹² How can you be effective when you reason with others about creation and the Bible? First, do not be quick to assume you know what others believe. Some people say that they believe in evolution, but they also feel that God exists. They think that God used evolution to create different forms of life. Others say that they believe in evolution because they feel that it would not be taught at school were it not a fact. And some stop believing in God because they are disappointed with religion. So when you discuss the origin of life with someone, it is usually wise to ask questions first. Find out what that person believes. If you are reasonable and willing to listen, he may be inclined to listen to you.—Titus 3:2.

¹³ If someone seems to be attacking your belief in creation, you may tactfully shift the responsibility to him. You might ask him to explain how life could have begun without a Creator. For the first life-form to continue, it had to be able to reproduce, to make copies of itself. One professor of chemistry said that among the things needed would be (1) a protective membrane, (2) the ability to get and process energy, (3) information in the genes, and (4) the abil-

10. How does the honesty of Bible writers strengthen our faith in their writings?

11. How can young ones grow in appreciation for the value of Bible principles?

12, 13. What is an effective way to discuss creation or the Bible with fellow students, teachers, or others?

ity to make copies of that information. He added: “One is struck by the complexity of even the simplest form of life.”

¹⁴ If you feel unprepared to discuss evolution or creation, you can try using the basic reasoning that Paul used. He wrote: “Every house is constructed by someone, but the one who constructed all things is God.” (Heb. 3:4) Such logic is very reasonable and effective! Yes, complex designs are the product of an intelligent mind. You might also use a suitable publication. One sister used the two brochures mentioned earlier with a young man who said that he did not believe that there is a God and that he accepted evolution. A week or so later, the young man acknowledged, “Now I believe in God.” This led to a Bible study, and this young man became one of our brothers.

¹⁵ You can use the same basic principles when you talk with someone who has doubts about the Bible. Find out what he actually believes and what topics may interest him. (Prov. 18:13) If he is interested in scientific things, he might respond when you mention points that show the Bible’s scientific accuracy. Other people might be moved by examples showing that the Bible contains accurate prophecies and accurate history. Or you might point out the Bible’s guiding principles, such as those found in the Sermon on the Mount.

¹⁶ Remember, your goal should be to win hearts, not arguments. So be a good listener. Ask sincere questions, and express yourself with mildness and re-

14. What can you do if you feel that you are not equipped to discuss evolution or creation?
15, 16. How might you adjust the way you discuss the Bible, and with what goal?

spect, especially when you talk with older ones. They will likely be more inclined to respect your views. They will also see that you have given much thought to your basic beliefs. That is something many young people have not done. Of course, it is good to bear in mind that you are not obligated to answer those who are not reasonable or who just want to make fun of what you believe. —Prov. 26:4.

MAKE THE TRUTH YOUR OWN

¹⁷ Strong faith rests on more than just basic knowledge of the Bible. So dig deeply into God’s Word, as if you were looking for hidden treasures. (Prov. 2:3-6) Make good use of other tools that may be available in your language, such as *Watchtower Library* on DVD, *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*, as well as *Watch Tower Publications Index* or the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses*. Also, make it your goal to read the entire Bible. You might try to do that over a period of 12 months. Few things build our faith as much as reading God’s Word. Thinking back on his youth, a circuit overseer said: “One thing that helped me to appreciate that the Bible is the Word of God was reading it right through. The Bible stories that I had learned from when I was very young finally made sense to me. This was a turning point in my spiritual growth.”

¹⁸ Parents—you play a major role in the spiritual development of your children. How can you help them to build a strong faith? The next article will address this matter.

17, 18. (a) What can help you to make the truth your own? (b) What question will we consider in the following article?

Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

A F#m C#m G/A A7

We're gath - ered to - geth - er Je - ho - vah, our God, Ac -
Un - reach - a - bly high is your wis - dom, O God; Your

D F#7+5 Bm Bm/A

cept - ing your warm in - vi - ta - tion. Your
judg - ments we find re - as - sur - ing. Your

Bm/G# C#7 F#m F#m

Word is a lamp that lights up our road - way, The
Word is a source of un - end - ing won - der; Your

A/B B13 Bm7 E13sus4 E7

source of di - vine ed - u - ca - tion.
say - ings of truth are en - dur - ing.

Make Me Know Your Ways

Chorus

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The chords are indicated above the vocal line.

System 1: Chorus. Chords: A, C#5, D, Bm7. Lyrics: Teach me your ways, and make me un - der - stand; In -

System 2: Chords: E7sus4, E/D, A2/C#, Bm1, E7. Lyrics: cline my ear to hear your wise com - mand.

System 3: Chords: G/A, A13, Dma7, G13sus4, Dm6/F. Lyrics: Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right, And

System 4: Chords: A/E, D/E, E7, A. Lyrics: make your law my prin - ci - pal de - light.