

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”:** (10 min.)
 Ec 12:1—Youths should use their time and energy in God’s service (w14 1/15 18 ¶3; 22 ¶1)
 Ec 12:2-7—Youths are not limited by “the days of distress” that come with old age (w08 11/15 23 ¶2; w06 11/1 16 ¶9)
 Ec 12:13, 14—Serving Jehovah is the best way to give your life meaning (w11 11/1 21 ¶1-6)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Ec 10:1—How is it that “a little foolishness outweighs wisdom”? (w06 11/1 16 ¶5)

 Ec 11:1—What does it mean to “cast your bread on the waters”? (w06 11/1 16 ¶7)

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 10:12–11:10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 2Ti 3:1-5
 —Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Isa 44:27–45:2
 —Teach the Truth.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 25-26 ¶18-20
 —Invite the student to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 95
- **“Youths—Do Not Delay Going Through the ‘Large Door’”:** (15 min.) Play the video *Young Ones—You Are Loved by Jehovah* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY), and then discuss the article.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶7-15, boxes on pp. 44, 46
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 148 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing the new song.

ECCLESIASTES 7-12 | “Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”

12:2-7

Solomon used poetic language to describe the challenges of old age

12:1, 13

Remember your Grand Creator by using your abilities to serve him while you are young

- Many youths have the health and vigor to tackle exciting and challenging assignments
- Youths should use their time and energy in God’s service before old age limits them



Verse 3: “The ladies looking out the windows find it dark”

Diminished vision



Verse 4: “The daughters of song grow faint”

Diminished hearing

Verse 5: “The caper berry bursts”

Diminished appetite



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 Env/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.

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."

16 Do not be overly righteous,^a nor show yourself excessively wise.^b Why should you bring ruin to yourself?^c 17 Do not be excessively wicked, nor be foolish.^d Why should you die before your time?^e 18 It is best to grasp one warning without letting go of the other;^f for the one who fears God will heed them both.

19 Wisdom makes a wise man more powerful than ten strong men in a city.^g 20 For there is no righteous man on earth who always does good and never sins.^h

21 Also, do not take to heart every word that people say;ⁱ otherwise, you may hear your servant calling down evil on* you; 22 for you well know in your heart that many times you yourself have called down evil on others.^j

23 All of this I tested with wisdom, and I said: "I will become wise." But it was beyond me. 24 What has come to be is out of reach and exceedingly deep. Who can understand it?^k

25 I directed my heart to know and to explore and to search for wisdom and the reason behind things, and to understand the wickedness of stupidity and the folly of madness.^l 26 Then I discovered this: More bitter than death is the woman who is like a hunter's net, whose heart is like dragnets, and whose hands are like prison chains. The one who pleases the true God will escape her,^m but the sinner is captured by her.ⁿ

27 "See, this is what I found," says the congregator.^o "I investigated one thing after another to reach my conclusion, 28 but what I* continually sought, I have not found. One man^p out of

7:21 *Lit., "cursing." 7:28 *Or "my soul." #Or "upright man."

CHAP. 7

a Isa 65:5
Mt 6:1
Ro 10:3
Ro 14:10

b Pr 3:7
Ro 12:3

c Pr 16:18

d Ps 14:1
Pr 14:9

e Ps 55:23
Pr 10:27

f Php 4:5

g Pr 21:22
Pr 24:5

h 2Ch 6:36
Ps 51:5
Ro 3:23
1Jo 1:8

i 1Sa 24:9

j Jas 3:2, 8, 9

k Ps 36:6
Ps 139:6
Isa 55:9
Ro 11:33

l Ec 1:17
Ec 2:12

m Ge 39:7-9

n Pr 5:3, 14
Pr 7:22, 23
Pr 22:14

o Ec 1:1

Second Col.

a Ge 1:26, 31

b Ge 3:6
Ge 6:12
De 32:5

CHAP. 8

c Pr 24:21, 22

Ro 13:1
Tit 3:1
1Pe 2:13

d 2Sa 5:3

e Ec 10:4

f 1KI 1:5, 7
Pr 20:2

g 1KI 2:24, 25

h Ro 13:5
1Pe 3:13

i 1Sa 24:12, 13
1Sa 26:8-10
Ps 37:7

j Ec 3:17

k Ps 89:48

l Ex 1:13, 14
Mic 7:3

a thousand I found, but a woman among them I have not found. 29 This alone I have found: The true God made mankind upright,^a but they have sought out many schemes."^b

8 Who is like the wise man? Who knows the solution to a problem?^{*} A man's wisdom lights up his face and softens his stern appearance.

2 I say: "Obey the king's orders^c out of regard for the oath to God.^d 3 Do not rush to depart from his presence.^e Do not take a stand for anything bad;^f for he can do whatever he pleases, 4 because the word of the king is absolute;^g who can say to him, 'What are you doing?'"

5 The one who observes the commandment will not experience harm,^h and the wise heart will know the right time and procedure.^{*i} 6 For every matter there is a time and procedure,^{*j} because the troubles of mankind are so abundant. 7 Since no one knows what will happen, who can tell him how it will happen?

8 Just as no man has power over the spirit^{*} or can restrain the spirit, so no one has power over the day of death.^k Just as no one is discharged during a war, so wickedness will not allow those who practice it to escape.[#]

9 All of this I have seen, and I applied my heart to every work that has been done under the sun, during the time that man has dominated man to his harm.^{*l} 10 And I saw the wicked being buried, those who used to go in and out of the holy place, but they were soon forgot-

8:1 *Or "the interpretation of a matter?" 8:5, 6 *Or "judgment." 8:8 *Or "breath; wind." #Or possibly, "their wickedness cannot rescue the wicked." 8:9 *Or "injury; detriment."

ten in the city where they acted that way.^a This too is futility.

11 Because sentence against a bad deed has not been executed speedily,^b the heart of men becomes emboldened to do bad.^c

12 Although a sinner may do bad a hundred times and still live a long time, yet I am aware that it will turn out well for those who fear the true God, because they fear him.^d **13** But it will not turn out well for the wicked one,^e nor will he prolong his days that are like a shadow,^f because he does not fear God.

14 There is something futile* that takes place on the earth: There are righteous people who are treated as if they had acted wickedly,^g and there are wicked people who are treated as if they had acted righteously.^h I say that this too is futility.

15 So I recommended rejoicing,ⁱ because there is nothing better for man under the sun than to eat and drink and rejoice; this should accompany him as he works hard during the days of his life,^j which the true God gives him under the sun.

16 I applied my heart to acquire wisdom and to see all the activity* happening on the earth,^k even going without sleep day and night.^l **17** Then I considered all the work of the true God, and I realized that mankind cannot comprehend what happens under the sun.^m No matter how hard men try, they cannot comprehend it. Even if they claim that they are wise enough to know, they cannot really comprehend it.^m

9 So I took all of this to heart and concluded that the righteous and the wise, as well as

8:14 *Or "frustrating." **8:16** *Or "occupation." ^aOr possibly, "that people do not see sleep either by day or by night."

CHAP. 8

- a Pr 10:7
b Ps 10:4, 6
c 1Sa 2:22, 23
d Ps 34:9
Ps 103:13
Ps 112:1
Isa 3:10
2Pe 2:9
e Ps 37:10
Isa 57:21
f Job 24:24
g Ec 7:15
h Ps 37:7
Ps 37:12
i Ps 100:2
j Ec 2:24
Ec 3:12, 13
k Ec 1:13
Ec 7:25
l Ec 3:11
Ro 11:33
m Job 28:12
Ec 7:24
Ec 11:5

Second Col.

CHAP. 9

- a De 33:3
1Sa 2:9
Ps 37:5
b Ec 5:15
c Ec 8:10
d Job 3:17-19
Ec 2:15
e Isa 38:19
f Ge 3:19
Ro 5:12
g Ps 88:10
Ps 115:17
Ps 146:4
Isa 38:18
Joh 11:11
h Job 7:9, 10
Ec 2:16
i Ec 9:10
j Ec 12:7
Ps 104:15
Ec 2:24
k De 16:15
Ac 14:17
l Da 10:2, 3
m Pr 5:18
n Ec 5:18

their works, are in the hands of the true God.^a Men are not aware of the love and the hate that took place prior to them.

2 All have the very same outcome,^{*b} the righteous and the wicked,^c the good and the clean and the unclean, those sacrificing and those not sacrificing. The good one is the same as the sinner; the one who swears an oath is the same as the one who is cautious about swearing an oath. **3** This is a distressing thing that happens under the sun: Because all have the same outcome,^{*d} the heart of humans is also full of bad; and there is madness in their heart during their life, and then they die!^e

4 There is hope for whoever is among the living, because a live dog is better off than a dead lion.^e **5** For the living know* that they will die,^f but the dead know nothing at all,^g nor do they have any more reward,^h because all memory of them is forgotten.^h

6 Also, their love and their hate and their jealousy have already perished, and they no longer have any share in what is done under the sun.ⁱ

7 Go, eat your food with rejoicing, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart,^j for already the true God has found pleasure in your works.^k **8** May your clothing always be white,^{*} and do not fail to put oil on your head.^l

9 Enjoy life with your beloved wife^m all the days of your futile life, which He has given you under the sun, all the days of your futility, for that is your lot* in life and in your hard work at which you toil under the sun.ⁿ

10 Whatever your hand finds to

9:2, 3 *Or "eventuality." **9:3** *Lit., "and after it—to the dead ones!" **9:5** *Or "are conscious." ^aOr "wages." **9:8** *That is, bright clothing reflecting a joyful mood, not clothing of mourning. **9:9** *Or "portion."

do, do with all your might, for there is no work nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in the Grave,*^a where you are going.

11 I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle,^b nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches,^c nor do those with knowledge always have success,^d because time and unexpected events* overtake them all. **12** For man does not know his time.^e Just as fish are caught in an evil net and birds are caught in a trap, so the sons of men are ensnared in a time of disaster,* when it suddenly overtakes them.

13 I also observed this about wisdom under the sun—and it impressed me: **14** There was a small city with a few men in it; and a mighty king came against it and surrounded it and built great siegeworks against it. **15** In it was found a poor but wise man, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But no one remembered that poor man.^f **16** And I said to myself: ‘Wisdom is better than mightiness;^g yet a poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are not heeded.’^h

17 Better to heed the calm words of the wise than the shouts of the one ruling among fools.

18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but just one sinner can destroy much good.ⁱ

10 As dead flies cause the perfumer’s oil to stink and bubble, so a little foolishness outweighs wisdom and glory.^j

9:10 *Or “Sheol,” that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. **9:11** *Or “unforeseen occurrence.” **9:12** *Or “calamity.”

CHAP. 9

a Ps 115:17
Ps 146:3, 4
Isa 38:18

b 1Sa 17:50
Ps 33:16

c Ec 2:15

d 2Sa 17:23

e Ec 8:8
Jas 4:13, 14

f Ec 9:11

g Pr 21:22
Pr 24:5
Ec 7:12, 19
Ec 9:18

h Mr 6:3
1Co 2:8

i Jos 22:20
1Co 5:6
Heb 12:15

CHAP. 10

j Nu 20:10, 12
2Sa 12:9-11

Second Col.

a Pr 14:8
Pr 17:16

b Pr 10:23

c Pr 13:16
Pr 18:7

d Ec 8:2, 3

e 1Sa 25:23, 24
Pr 25:15

f 1Sa 26:21
1Ki 12:13, 14

g Pr 30:21-23

h Pr 26:27

i 1Ki 10:6, 8
Ps 37:30
Lu 4:22
Eph 4:29

j Ps 64:2, 8
Pr 10:14, 21
Pr 14:3

k 1Sa 25:10, 11

l Pr 10:19
Pr 15:2

2 The heart of the wise one leads him in the right way,* but the heart of the stupid one leads him in the wrong way.^a **3** In whatever way the fool walks, he is lacking good sense,^b and he lets everyone know that he is a fool.^c

4 If the anger* of a ruler should flare up against you, do not leave your place,^d for calmness allays great sins.^e

5 There is something distressing that I have seen under the sun, the sort of mistake made by those in power:^f

6 Foolishness is put in many high positions, but the rich* remain in low positions.

7 I have seen servants on horseback but princes walking on foot just like servants.^g

8 The one who digs a pit may fall into it;^h and the one who breaks through a stone wall may be bitten by a snake.

9 The one who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and the one who splits logs may be endangered by them.*

10 If an iron tool is dull and one does not sharpen its edge, he will need to exert much effort. But wisdom helps to achieve success.

11 If the snake bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage to the skilled charmer.*

12 The words from the mouth of the wise one bring favor,ⁱ but the lips of the stupid one are his ruin.^j **13** The first words out of his mouth are foolishness,^k and his last words are disastrous madness. **14** But the fool keeps on speaking.^l

10:2 *Lit., “is at his right hand.” *Lit., “is at his left hand.” **10:3** *Lit., “his heart is lacking.” **10:4** *Lit., “spirit; breath.” **10:6** *Or “the capable.” **10:9** *Or possibly, “should be careful with them.” **10:11** *Lit., “the master of the tongue.”

A man does not know what will happen; who can tell him what will come after him?^a

15 The hard work of the stupid one wears him out, for he does not even know how to find his way to the city.

16 How terrible for a land when the king is a boy^b and the princes start their feasting in the morning! **17** How happy for the land when the king is the son of nobles and the princes eat at the proper time for strength, not for drunkenness!^c

18 Because of extreme laziness the roof beams sag, and because of idle hands the house leaks.^d

19 Bread* is made for laughter, and wine makes life enjoyable;^e but money answers every need.^f

20 Even in your thoughts,* do not curse^g the king,^g and do not curse the rich in your bedroom; for a bird^h may convey the sound,^h or a creature with wings may repeat what was said.

11 Cast* your bread on the waters,^h for after many days you will find it again.ⁱ
2 Give a share to seven or even to eight,^j for you do not know what disaster* will occur on the earth.

3 If the clouds are filled with water, they will pour down rain on the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, the place where the tree falls is where it will lie.

4 The one who watches the wind will not sow seed, and the one who looks at the clouds will not reap.^k

5 Just as you do not know how the spirit operates in the

10:19 *Or "Food." **10:20** *Or possibly, "on your bed." ^aOr "call down evil upon." ^hLit., "flying creature of the heavens." ^hOr "message." **11:1** *Or "Send out." **11:2** *Or "calamity."

CHAP. 10

- a Pr 27:1
Ec 6:12
Jas 4:13, 14
b 2Ch 13:7
2Ch 36:9
c Pr 31:4, 5
d Pr 21:25
Pr 24:33, 34
e Ps 104:15
Ec 9:7
f Ec 7:12
g Ex 22:28

CHAP. 11

- h Pr 22:9
i De 15:10, 11
Pr 19:17
Lu 14:13, 14
Heb 6:10
j Ps 37:21
Lu 6:38
2Co 9:7
1Ti 6:18
k Pr 20:4

Second Col.

- a Ps 139:15
b Job 26:14
Ps 40:5
Ec 8:17
Ro 11:33
c Ec 9:10
2Co 9:6
Col 3:23
d Ec 5:18
Ec 8:15
e Ec 12:1
f Ec 3:17
Ec 12:14
Ro 2:6
g Ps 25:7
2Ti 2:22

CHAP. 12

- h Ps 71:17
Ps 148:7, 12
Lu 2:48, 49
2Ti 3:15
i Ps 90:10
j 1Sa 4:15
k Ge 48:10

bones of the child inside* a pregnant woman,^a so you do not know the work of the true God, who does all things.^b

6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not let your hand rest until the evening;^c for you do not know which will have success, whether this one or that one, or whether they will both do well.

7 Light is sweet, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun.

8 For if a man should live many years, let him enjoy them all.^d But he should remember that the days of darkness may be many; all that is to come is futility.^e

9 Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and go where your eyes lead you; but know that the true God will bring you into judgment* for all these things.^f **10** So remove troublesome things from your heart, and ward off harmful things from your body,* for youth and the prime of life are futility.^g

12 Remember, then, your Grand Creator in the days of your youth,^h before the days of distress* comeⁱ and the years arrive when you will say: "I have no pleasure in them"; **2** before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark,^j and the clouds return after* the downpour; **3** in the day when the guards* of the house become shaky,^g and the strong men stoop over, and the women quit grinding because they have become few, and the ladies looking out the windows find it dark;^k **4** when the doors to the street have been closed, when

11:5 *Lit., "bones in the womb of." **11:9** *Or "call you to account." **11:10** *Lit., "flesh." **12:1** *Or "the calamitous days." **12:2** *Or possibly, "with." **12:3** *Or "keepers." ^gOr "tremble."

the sound of the grinding mill becomes low, when one gets up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song grow faint.^a **5** Also, one is afraid of heights, and there are terrors in the street. And the almond tree blossoms,^b and the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper berry bursts, because man is walking to his lasting house^c and the mourners walk about in the street;^d **6** before the silver cord is removed, and the golden bowl is crushed, and the jar at the spring is broken, and the waterwheel for the cistern is crushed. **7** Then the dust returns to the earth,^e just as it was, and the spirit* returns to the true God who gave it.^f

8 "The greatest futility!"* says the congregator.^g "Everything is futile."^h

9 Not only had the congregator become wise but he con-

12:7 *Or "life force." 12:8 *Or "vanity."

CHAP. 12

- a 2Sa 19:34, 35
b Pr 16:31
c Job 30:23
Ec 9:10
d Ge 50:7, 10
e Ge 3:19
Ps 146:4
f Ge 2:7
Job 27:3
Job 34:14, 15
Ps 104:29
Isa 42:5
g 1Ki 8:1
h Ec 1:2, 14

Second Col.

- a 1Ki 10:1, 3
1Ki 10:6, 8
b 1Ki 4:29, 32
Pr 1:1
c Pr 16:24
Pr 25:11
d Ac 2:37
Heb 4:12
e Ec 1:18
f Job 28:28
Ps 111:10
Pr 1:7
g 1Jo 5:3
h De 6:1, 2
De 10:12
i Ps 62:12
Ec 11:9
Mt 12:36, 37
Ac 17:31
2Co 5:10
1Ti 5:24

tinually taught the people what he knew,^a and he pondered and made a thorough search in order to compile* many proverbs.^b **10** The congregator sought to find delightful words^c and to record accurate words of truth.

11 The words of the wise are like oxgoads,^d and their collected sayings are like firmly embedded nails; they have been given from one shepherd. **12** As for anything besides these, my son, be warned: To the making of many books there is no end, and much devotion to them is wearisome to the flesh.^e

13 The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God^f and keep his commandments,^g for this is the whole obligation of man.^h **14** For the true God will judge every deed, including every hidden thing, as to whether it is good or bad.ⁱ

12:9 *Or "arrange in order."

THE SONG OF SOLOMON

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

THE SHULAMMITE GIRL IN KING SOLOMON'S CAMP (1:1-3:5)

- 1 Song of songs (1)
 - Young woman (2-7)
 - Daughters of Jerusalem (8)
 - King (9-11)
 - "We will make for you gold ornaments" (11)
 - Young woman (12-14)
 - "My dear one is like a fragrant bag of myrrh" (13)
 - Shepherd (15)
 - "You are beautiful, my beloved"
 - Young woman (16, 17)
 - "You are beautiful, my dear one" (16)

- 2 Young woman (1)
 - "I am but a saffron"
- Shepherd (2)
 - "My beloved is like a lily"
- Young woman (3-14)
 - "Do not arouse love until it feels inclined" (7)
 - Shepherd quoted (10b-14)
 - "My beautiful one, come away with me" (10b, 13)
 - Young woman's brothers (15)
 - "Catch the foxes for us"
 - Young woman (16, 17)
 - "My dear one is mine and I am his" (16)

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”:** (10 min.)
 Ec 12:1—Youths should use their time and energy in God’s service (w14 1/15 18 ¶3; 22 ¶1)
 Ec 12:2-7—Youths are not limited by “the days of distress” that come with old age (w08 11/15 23 ¶2; w06 11/1 16 ¶9)
 Ec 12:13, 14—Serving Jehovah is the best way to give your life meaning (w11 11/1 21 ¶1-6)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Ec 10:1—How is it that “a little foolishness outweighs wisdom”? (w06 11/1 16 ¶5)

 Ec 11:1—What does it mean to “cast your bread on the waters”? (w06 11/1 16 ¶7)

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 10:12–11:10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 2Ti 3:1-5
 —Teach the Truth.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Isa 44:27–45:2
 —Teach the Truth.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) bh 25-26 ¶18-20
 —Invite the student to the meetings.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 95
- **“Youths—Do Not Delay Going Through the ‘Large Door’”:** (15 min.) Play the video *Young Ones—You Are Loved by Jehovah* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY), and then discuss the article.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶7-15, boxes on pp. 44, 46
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 148 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing the new song.

ECCLESIASTES 7-12 | “Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”

12:2-7

Solomon used poetic language to describe the challenges of old age

12:1, 13

Remember your Grand Creator by using your abilities to serve him while you are young

- Many youths have the health and vigor to tackle exciting and challenging assignments
- Youths should use their time and energy in God’s service before old age limits them



Verse 3: “The ladies looking out the windows find it dark”

Diminished vision



Verse 4: “The daughters of song grow faint”

Diminished hearing

Verse 5: “The caper berry bursts”

Diminished appetite



November 21-27

Treasures From God's Word

“Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”

Ecclesiastes 12:1—Youths should use their time and energy in God's service

Reference: *w14 1/15 18* paragraph 3.

Youth is a time for making important choices. But one choice is more important than all others—your decision to serve Jehovah. When is the best time to make that choice? Jehovah says: “Remember . . . your Grand Creator in the days of your youth.” (**Ecclesiastes 12:1**) The only acceptable way to “remember” Jehovah is to serve him fully. (**Deuteronomy 10:12**) Your decision to serve God with all your heart is the most important choice you will ever make. It will shape your entire future. —**Psalm 71:5**.

Reference: *w14 1/15 22* paragraph 1.

King Solomon was inspired to address young people with the words: “Remember . . . your Grand Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of distress come.” What are “the days of distress”? Solomon used intriguing poetic language to describe the calamitous days of old age—trembling hands, unsteady legs, loss of teeth, dim vision, poor hearing, white hair, and a bent frame. No one should plan on waiting until he arrives at that stage in life before starting to serve Jehovah. —**Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-5**.

Ecclesiastes 12:2-7—Youths are not limited by “the days of distress” that come with old age

Reference: *w08 11/15 23* paragraph 2.

Ecclesiastes chapter 12 paints a vivid picture of “the calamitous days” that accompany old age in the case of imperfect humans. (*Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7*.) White hair is compared to the blossom of “the almond tree.” Legs are likened to “men of vital energy” that now bend and totter. Ladies who go to a window in search of light and find only darkness are a fitting illustration of dimming eyesight. Since some teeth are missing, “the grinding women have quit working because they have become few.”

Reference: *w06 11/1 16* paragraph 9.

Young people are accountable to Jehovah. Therefore, they should use their time and energy in God's service before old age robs them of their vigor.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14—Serving Jehovah is the best way to give your life meaning

Reference: *w11 11/1 21* paragraphs 1-6.

Draw Close to God—Fulfilling Our Obligation to God

Have you ever wondered, ‘What is the purpose of life?’ Jehovah endowed us with not only the capacity to ask such a question but also the deep, inner need to know the answer. Thankfully, our loving God has not left us in the dark. The answer we yearn for is in his Word, the Bible. Consider the

words of King Solomon found at Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Solomon was in a unique position. He could well comment on how to find happiness and meaning in life. Blessed with extraordinary wisdom, enormous wealth, and kingly authority, he was able to make a careful search of human pursuits, including the quest for riches and prominence. (Ecclesiastes 2:4-9; 4:4) Then, under divine inspiration, he summed up his findings, saying: “The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God and keep his commandments. For this is the whole obligation of man.” Those words outline the most rewarding and noble human endeavor.

“Fear the true God.” The idea of fearing God might not seem appealing at first. But this fear is a healthy disposition of heart. We might think not of a slave who is terrified of enraging a harsh master but of a child who is eager to please a loving father. One reference work says that fear of God is the “attitude of reverence and awe that His people show to Him because they love Him and respect His power and His greatness.” Such an attitude moves us to submit to God’s will because we love him and we know that he loves us. This wholesome fear is not just a feeling; it is manifested by actions. How so?

“Keep his commandments.” Fear of God moves us to obey him. It makes sense to give Jehovah our obedience. As our Maker, he knows the best way for us to live, just as a manufacturer knows the best way to use its product. In addition, Jehovah has our best interests at heart. He wants us to be happy, and his requirements are designed to promote our well-being. (Isaiah 48:17) The apostle John put it this way: “This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3) Our obedience demonstrates our love for God, and his commandments reflect his love for us.

“This is the whole obligation of man.” These words highlight an important reason to fear God and obey him. Doing so is our obligation, our duty. Jehovah is our Creator, so we owe our very life to him. (Psalm 36:9) We also owe him our obedience. When we live as he wants us to live, we are fulfilling our obligation.

What, then, is the purpose of life? Put simply, it is this: We are here to do God’s will. There is no better way to fill your life with meaning. Why not find out more about Jehovah’s will and how you can bring your life into harmony with it? Jehovah’s Witnesses would be pleased to assist you.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Ecclesiastes 10:1—How is it that “a little foolishness outweighs wisdom”?

Reference: *w06 11/1 16* **paragraph 5**.

We must be careful about our speech and actions. Just one indiscretion, such as an angry outburst, one act of the misuse of alcohol, or an incident involving unchaste sexual behavior, is enough to ruin the good reputation of a respected person.

Ecclesiastes 11:1—What does it mean to “cast your bread on the waters”?

Reference: *w06 11/1 16* **paragraph 7**.

We should practice wholehearted generosity. It begets generosity. —Luke 6:38.

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”:** (10 min.)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 95
- **“Youths—Do Not Delay Going Through the ‘Large Door’”:** (15 min.) Play the video *Young Ones—You Are Loved by Jehovah* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY), and then discuss the article.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) kr chap. 4 ¶7-15, boxes on pp. 44, 46
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 148 and Prayer
Reminder: Play the music through once before singing the new song.

ECCLESIASTES 7-12 | “Remember . . . Your Grand Creator in the Days of Your Youth”

12:2-7

Solomon used poetic language to describe the challenges of old age

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Verse 3: “The ladies looking out the windows find it dark”

Diminished vision



Verse 4: “The daughters of song grow faint”

Diminished hearing

Verse 5: “The caper berry bursts”

Diminished appetite



¹⁷ Considering how the Bible is a book of reliable prophecy is faith strengthening, is it not? After all, if Jehovah God has fulfilled his past promises, we have every reason to be confident that he will also fulfill his promise of a paradise earth. (Numbers 23:19) Indeed, we have “hope of the everlasting life which God, who cannot lie, promised before times long lasting.”—Titus 1:2.*

“THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE”

¹⁸ From what we have considered in this chapter, it is clear that the Bible is truly a unique book. Yet, its value extends far beyond its internal harmony, scientific and

* The destruction of Babylon is just one example of fulfilled Bible prophecy. Other examples include the destruction of Tyre and Nineveh. (Ezekiel 26:1-5; Zephaniah 2:13-15) Also, Daniel’s prophecy foretold a succession of world empires that would come into power after Babylon. These included Medo-Persia and Greece. (Daniel 8:5-7, 20-22) See the Appendix, pages 199-201, for a discussion of the many Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

17. How is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy faith strengthening?

18. What powerful statement does the Christian apostle Paul make about “the word of God”?

Ruins of Babylon



historical accuracy, practical wisdom, and reliable prophecy. The Christian apostle Paul wrote: “The word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and their marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart.” —Hebrews 4:12.

¹⁹ Reading God’s “word,” or message, in the Bible can change our life. It can help us to examine ourselves as never before. We may claim to love God, but how we react to what his inspired Word, the Bible, teaches will reveal our true thoughts, even the very intentions of the heart.

²⁰ The Bible truly is a book from God. It is a book that is to be read, studied, and loved. Show your gratitude for this divine gift by continuing to peer into its contents. As you do so, you will gain a deep appreciation of God’s purpose for mankind. Just what that purpose is and how it will be realized will be discussed in the following chapter.

19, 20. (a) How can the Bible help you to examine yourself? (b) How can you show your gratitude for God’s unique gift, the Bible?

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

- The Bible is inspired of God and thus is accurate and reliable.—2 Timothy 3:16.
- The information found in God’s Word is practical for everyday life.—Isaiah 48:17.
- God’s promises found in the Bible are certain to be fulfilled.—Numbers 23:19.

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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Diminished vision



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Diminished appetite



95 "Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good"

(Psalm 34:8)

D F#m7 Gma7 G6 G/A A7

Our ser - vice to God we cher - ish; We
For those in the full - time ser - vice, Rich

D F#m7 G G/A A9

val - ue our priv - 'lege to preach. We
bles - sings and trea - sures a - bound. By

F#m7 G F#m7 G

buy out the time and give God our best, For
trust - ing in God to give care for their needs, In

F#m7 Bm7 Em7 A7 Dsus4 D

ma - ny we still need to reach.
all things con - tent - ment is found.

"Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good"

Chorus

G D/F# Em7 A7 D

God's Word in - vites us: 'Come taste and see—

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of the chorus. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, E2, F#2, G2. Chord symbols G, D/F#, Em7, A7, and D are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics "God's Word in - vites us: 'Come taste and see—" are written below the treble staff.

G A/G D/F# E/G# Asus4 A

See that Je - ho - vah is good.'

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of the chorus. The treble staff melody continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass line continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, E2, F#2, G2. Chord symbols G, A/G, D/F#, E/G#, Asus4, and A are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics "See that Je - ho - vah is good.'" are written below the treble staff.

G D/F# A#° F#7+5 F#7 Bm D/Bm/A

God - ly de - vo - tion brings great - est gain,

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of the chorus. The treble staff melody continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass line continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, E2, F#2, G2. Chord symbols G, D/F#, A#°, F#7+5, F#7, Bm, and D/Bm/A are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics "God - ly de - vo - tion brings great - est gain," are written below the treble staff.

G Asus4 A7 Dsus4 D

We know we've done all we could.

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth line of the chorus. The treble staff melody continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The bass line continues with quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, E2, F#2, G2. Chord symbols G, Asus4, A7, Dsus4, and D are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics "We know we've done all we could." are written below the treble staff.

Youths—Do Not Delay Going Through the “Large Door”

It can be easy to think that the days of our youth will continue indefinitely and that we will never experience “the days of distress” that accompany old age in Satan’s world. (Ec 12:1) If you are a youth, can you assume that you have plenty of time to pursue spiritual goals such as the full-time ministry?

“Unexpected events overtake” us all, including those who are young. (Ec 9:11) “You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.” (Jas 4:14) Therefore, do not put spiritual pursuits on hold unnecessarily. Go through the “large door that leads to activity” while it is still open to you. (1Co 16:9) You will not regret it.



Some possible spiritual goals:

- Preaching in another language
- Pioneer service
- Attending theocratic schools
- Construction service
- Bethel service
- Circuit work

MY GOALS:

7, 8. (a) Why did it take time before God's people could bear his name?

(b) What will we now consider?

9, 10. (a) Why did early *Watch Tower* articles focus on Jesus? (b) What change occurred from 1919 onward, and with what results? (See also the box "How *The Watchtower* Has Exalted God's Name.")

11, 12. (a) In what way did our publications change soon after 1919? (b) To what was Jehovah drawing the attention of his servants, and why?

Prepared to Bear and Exalt God's Name

7 God's servants in modern times have used God's name in their publications since the 1870's. For instance, *Zion's Watch Tower* of August 1879 and *Songs of the Bride*, a song-book published that same year, mention the name Jehovah. Still, it seems that before Jehovah allowed his people to call themselves publicly by his sacred name, he saw to it that they met the requirements for that grand privilege. How did Jehovah prepare those early Bible Students to become bearers of his name?

8 In looking back at the late 1800's and early 1900's, we see how Jehovah gave his people a clearer understanding of important truths related to his name. Let us consider three of these truths.

9 First, Jehovah's servants came to have **the proper view of the importance of God's name**. Faithful early Bible Students viewed the ransom arrangement as the Bible's main teaching. That explains why the *Watch Tower* often focused on Jesus. For example, in its first year of publication, the magazine mentioned the name Jesus ten times more than the name Jehovah. Regarding the Bible Students' early years, *The Watchtower* of March 15, 1976, noted that they gave "overbalanced importance" to Jesus. In time, though, Jehovah helped them to discern the prominence that the Bible gives to God's personal name. How did that affect the Bible Students? Especially from 1919 onward, says the same *Watchtower* article, "they began showing more appreciation for Messiah's heavenly Father, Jehovah." In fact, during the decade following 1919, *The Watch Tower* mentioned God's name over 6,500 times!

10 By giving the name Jehovah proper recognition, our brothers showed their love for God's name. Like Moses of old, they set out to "declare the name of Jehovah." (Deut. 32:3; Ps. 34:3) In turn, as promised in the Scriptures, Jehovah took note of their love for his name and showed them favor.—Ps. 119:132; Heb. 6:10.

11 Second, true Christians acquired **the right understanding of the work assigned by God**. Shortly after 1919, the anointed brothers taking the lead were moved to examine the prophecy of Isaiah. Thereafter, the contents of our publications underwent a change in focus. Why did that adjustment prove to be "food at the proper time"?—Matt. 24:45.

12 Before 1919, *The Watch Tower* had never discussed in any detail Isaiah's statement: "'You are my witnesses,'

declares Jehovah, ‘yes, my servant whom I have chosen.’” **(Read Isaiah 43:10-12.)** But soon after 1919, our publications began to pay attention to that Bible passage, encouraging all anointed ones to share in the work Jehovah had assigned to them—that of *witnessing* about him. In fact, from 1925 to 1931 alone, Isaiah chapter 43 was considered in 57 different issues of *The Watch Tower*, and each issue applied Isaiah’s words to true Christians. Clearly, during those years, Jehovah was drawing the attention of his servants to the *work* they had to do. Why so? In a way, so that they could be “tested as to fitness first.” (1 Tim. 3:10) Before they could rightly bear God’s name, the Bible Students had to prove to Jehovah by their works that they truly were his witnesses.—Luke 24:47, 48.

13 Third, Jehovah’s people came to appreciate **the importance of the sanctification of God’s name**. During the 1920’s, they discerned that the sanctification of God’s name is the most important issue to be settled. How does God’s Word reveal that weighty truth? Consider two examples. What was the principal reason why God rescued Israel from Egypt? Jehovah stated: “To have my name declared in all the earth.” (Ex. 9:16) And why did Jehovah show mercy to Israel when they rebelled against him? Again, Jehovah said: “I acted for the sake of my name so that it would not be profaned before the nations.” (Ezek. 20:8-10) What did the Bible Students learn from those and other Bible accounts?

14 By the late 1920’s, God’s people discerned the significance of what Isaiah had stated some 2,700 years earlier. Regarding Jehovah he said: “This is how you led your people, *to make a majestic name for yourself*.” (Isa. 63:14) The Bible Students understood that the primary issue was, not personal salvation, but the sanctifying of God’s name. (Isa. 37:20; Ezek. 38:23) In 1929, the book *Prophecy* summed up that truth, stating: “Jehovah’s name is the most vital issue before all creation.” This adjusted understanding further motivated God’s servants to witness about Jehovah and to clear his name of slander.

15 By the dawn of the 1930’s, our brothers had acquired a proper view of the importance of God’s name, a clearer understanding of the work God had assigned them to do, and a deeper insight into the main issue to be settled. Now, Jehovah’s time had come to give his servants the honor of publicly bearing his name. To see how that came about, let us consider some past events.

13. How does God’s Word reveal the most important issue to be settled?

14. (a) By the late 1920’s, what did God’s people discern? (b) What effect did the deeper understanding acquired by the Bible Students have on the preaching work? (See also the box “A Powerful Reason to Preach.”)

15. (a) By the 1930’s, what had our brothers acquired? (b) What time had come?



Convention program, 1931

16. (a) In what outstanding way does Jehovah exalt his name? (b) In the past, who first served as a people for God’s name?

Jehovah Takes “a People for His Name”

16 An outstanding way in which Jehovah exalts his name is by having a people on earth who bear his name. From 1513 B.C.E. onward, the nation of Israel represented Jehovah as his people. (Isa. 43:12) However, they failed to keep their part of the covenant with God, and in 33 C.E., they lost their special relationship with him. Shortly thereafter, Jehovah “turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name.” (Acts 15:14) That newly chosen people became known as “the Israel of God,” which consists of anointed followers of Christ from various nations.—Gal. 6:16.

A POWERFUL REASON TO PREACH

HOW did having a clearer understanding of the issue involving the sanctification of God’s name affect the Bible Students’ view of the preaching work? In 1930, *The Watch Tower* stated: “When this truth [about the sanctification of God’s name] becomes thoroughly entrenched in the mind of the Christian he begins to realize what a marvelous privilege is his to be a witness to the word and name of Jehovah God.” Indeed, understanding that the sanctification of God’s name was the main issue gave our brothers and sisters a powerful reason to preach. (Ps. 8:1) Take Helen Borchert as an example. She started pioneering on April 1, 1930, and remained a faithful Witness until she finished her earthly course in July 2003 at the age of 96. What moved her to keep on preaching for decades? Many years later she said: “From that day until this moment, my most urgent desire has been . . . to clear from slander the name and Word of Jehovah God.” For us today, having a share in sanctifying God’s name is still a powerful reason to preach.



Helen Borchert

You Gave Your Only-Begotten Son

(John 15:13)

Capo fret 3
D
F

A
C

Bm7
Dm7



Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, There seemed no
Your kind - ness, your mer - cy, They draw us

F#m
Am

G
Bb

D
F

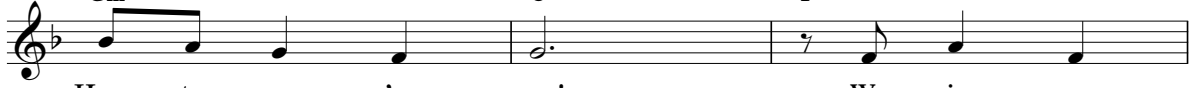


hope for us. The ran - som has giv - en
close to you. Your great name, your friend - ship,

Em
Gm

A
C

D
F



Hope to ev - 'ry - one! We give our
These we've come to love. But some - thing

A
C

Bm
Dm

F#m
Am



lives to you, Our best in all we do.
more than this Is your most pre - cious gift.

G
Bb

D
F

Em
Gm



And we'll tell oth - ers too, That your will might be
He died that we might live. You sent him from a -

A
C

Chorus

D
F

G
Bb

A
C

Bm
Dm



done. You gave your on - ly Son, And
bove.

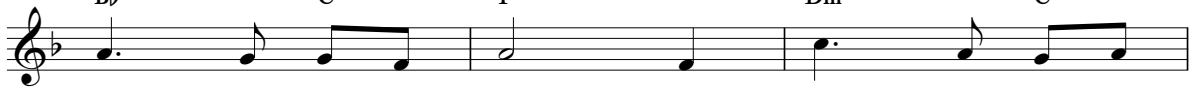
G
Bb

A
C

D
F

Bm
Dm

A
C



now we sing as one, A song we'll sing for -

G
Bb

Em7
Gm7

G
Bb

A7
C7



ev - er, for giv - ing us your on - ly

You Gave Your Only-Begotten Son

1.2. Ending

D D D
F F F

Son. Je - ho - vah,

A C Bm7 Dm7 F#m Am
C

dear Fa - ther, we pray in grat - i - tude.

G D Em7 Gm7
Bb F

We of - fer our thanks, for giv - ing us your

A7 D
C7 F

on - ly Son.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a first ending bracket over two measures, followed by an ending section. The lyrics are: 'Son. Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, we pray in grat - i - tude. We of - fer our thanks, for giv - ing us your on - ly Son.' The score includes various chords such as D, F, A, C, Bm7, Dm7, F#m, Am, G, Bb, Em7, Gm7, A7, and C7. The melody is simple and suitable for a hymn.

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.

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THE WATCHTOWER®
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

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Children Are a Trust From God

(Psalm 127:3-5)

C Am Em G7/D C Am

When a man be - comes a fa - ther And a wom - an has a child of her
All the words God has com - mand - ed— They must al - ways prove to be on your

F F/G G7 C Dm11 G7/D C/E Fma7 F6

own, They share a trust, they must re - mem - ber, That is not
heart. These words you'll speak to sons and daugh - ters; This is your

Dm Dm/C G/B F/A E/G# Am Cma7/G F

theirs, not theirs a - lone. The gift they share is from Je -
trust, this is your part. To them you'll speak a - long your

Em Dm11 G7 C C/E F

ho - vah; Of life and love he is the one true Source. To par - ents
road - way, When you rise up and when you are at rest. In years to

Children Are a Trust From God

C/E F6 C/E Dm7 C/G G7 F/G

he gives sure di - rec - tion That they may fol - low the wis - est
come, may they re - mem - ber, May they be faith - ful, may they be

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: C/E, F6, C/E, Dm7, C/G, G7, F/G. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Chorus
C Cma7/E F G7 C Am

course.
blessed. A sa - cred trust you have been giv - en; A pre - cious

Detailed description: This system contains the chorus. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: C, Cma7/E, F, G7, C, Am. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Dm7 F/G G7 C C/E F G7

life is in your hands. You can be - stow the great - est

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: Dm7, F/G, G7, C, C/E, F, G7. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

C/E Am Dm7 F/G C

fa - vor; In - struct your child in God's com - mands.

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff has a bass line with notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: C/E, Am, Dm7, F/G, C. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.



Parents, Help Your Children Build Faith

“Young men and young women . . . Let them praise the name of Jehovah.”—PS. 148:12, 13.

SONGS: 88, 115

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why is it so important to know your children well?

How might you use illustrations effectively in teaching?

Why do you need to be faithful, patient, and prayerful?

“WE BELIEVE in Jehovah, but that does not necessarily mean that our children will believe,” said a married couple in France. They commented: “Faith is not something you inherit. Our children acquire it little by little.” An Australian brother wrote: “Helping to build faith in your child’s heart is probably the greatest challenge you will ever face. You need to draw on every available resource. You may feel that you have dealt with a question to your child’s satisfaction. Then you find that he raises the same question again later! The answers that satisfy your child’s curious mind today may not be enough for him tomorrow. You may need to revisit some subjects regularly.”

² If you are a parent, do you at times feel unequal to the responsibility of teaching and molding your children to become men and women who have faith? Really, in our own wisdom, none of us are up to the task! (Jer. 10:23) But we can succeed when we look to God for guidance. Consider four things that can assist you in helping your children to build

1, 2. (a) What challenge do parents face, and how can they meet that challenge? (b) What four points will we now examine?

faith: (1) Get to know them well. (2) Put your heart into your teaching. (3) Use good illustrations. (4) Be patient and prayerful.

KNOW YOUR CHILDREN WELL

³ Jesus was not afraid to ask his followers what they believed. (Matt. 16:13-15) Imitate his example. It is best, in a relaxed setting, to invite your children to express their feelings. That includes talking about any uncertainties, or doubts, they may have. A 15-year-old brother in Australia wrote: “Dad often talks with me about my faith and helps me to reason. He asks: ‘What does the Bible say?’ ‘Do you believe what it says?’ ‘Why do you believe it?’ He wants me to answer in my own words and not simply repeat his or Mum’s words. As I got older, I had to expand on my answers.”

⁴ If a child is unsure about some teaching, try not to react too strongly or to respond as if you were on the defensive. Patiently help him to reason on the matter. “Take your child’s questions seriously,” said one father. “Do not dismiss them as of little importance, and do not avoid a subject simply because it may make you feel uncomfortable.” Actually, it is helpful to view your child’s sincere questions as an indication that he cares and wants to understand. Even at 12 years of age, Jesus asked serious questions. **(Read Luke 2:46.)** “When I said that I wondered if we had the true religion,” recalls a 15-year-old in Denmark, “my parents took it calmly—even though they may have been worried

3. How can parents imitate Jesus’ example in teaching?

4. Why is it important to take a child’s questions seriously? Give an example.

about me. They answered all my questions, using the Bible.”

⁵ Get to know your children well—their thinking, their feelings, their concerns. Never assume that they have faith simply because they attend Christian meetings and share in the field service with you. Include spiritual discussions in your daily activities. Pray with and for your children. Try to be aware of any tests to their faith, and help them to deal with these.

PUT YOUR HEART INTO YOUR TEACHING

⁶ As a teacher, Jesus reached hearts because he loved Jehovah, God’s Word, and people. (Luke 24:32; John 7:46) Similar love will help parents reach the hearts of their children. **(Read Deuteronomy 6:5-8; Luke 6:45.)** So parents, be good students of the Bible and of our study aids. Take an interest in creation and in articles in our publications that discuss this topic. (Matt. 6:26, 28) Your doing so will broaden your knowledge, deepen your appreciation for Jehovah, and better equip you to teach your young ones.—Luke 6:40.

⁷ When your heart is filled with Bible truth, you will want to discuss it with your family. Do this not only when preparing for Christian meetings or during family worship but at any time. Moreover, such discussions should not be forced but should be natural and

5. How can parents show that they do not take their child’s faith for granted?

6. When parents inculcate Bible truth in their own heart, how does this help them as teachers?

7, 8. When a parent’s heart is filled with Bible truth, what will be the result? Illustrate.

spontaneous—a part of your everyday conversation. A couple in the United States reflect on Jehovah when the family enjoy an aspect of nature or certain foods. “We remind our children of the love and forethought that Jehovah put into everything he provided for us,” the parents state. When gardening with their two girls, a couple in South Africa point to aspects such as the marvels of how seeds germinate and then plants grow. “We try to develop in our daughters a great respect for life and its wonderful complexity,” say the parents.

⁸ When his son was about ten years old, a father in Australia took advantage of a visit to a museum to help his son to strengthen his faith in God and in creation. “We saw a display of ancient sea creatures called ammonoids and trilobites,” says the father. “It struck us that these extinct animals were beautiful, complex, and complete—no less so than what we can see today. So if life evolved from simple to more complex forms, why were these ancient creatures already so complex? It was a lesson that deeply impressed me and that I shared with my son.”

USE EFFECTIVE ILLUSTRATIONS

⁹ Jesus often used illustrations, which stimulate thinking, appeal to the heart, and aid the memory. (Matt. 13:34, 35) Children tend to have a vivid imagination. So parents, try to use illustrations liberally in your teaching. A mother in Japan did just that. When her two boys were eight and ten respectively, she taught them about earth’s atmosphere and the care Jehovah showed in making

9. Why are illustrations effective, and how did one mother demonstrate this?

it. To do that, she gave the boys milk, sugar, and coffee. Then she asked each of the boys to make her a cup of coffee. “They took great care,” she explained. “When I asked them why they were so careful, they said that they wanted the coffee to be just the way I like it. I explained that God mixed the gases in the atmosphere with similar care—just right for us.” That illustration was fitting for their age, and it engaged them in a way that passive learning might not have. No doubt they long remembered the lesson!

¹⁰ You might even use a recipe to help your child build faith in God. How? After you bake a cake or a batch of cookies, explain the role of the recipe. Then hand your child a piece of fruit, perhaps an apple, and ask: “Did you know that this apple started off with a ‘recipe’?” Then cut the apple in two, and give him a seed. You could discuss that the recipe was “written” in the seed but

10, 11. (a) What illustration could you use to help your child build faith in God? (See opening picture.) (b) What illustrations have you found to be effective?

You can use common objects to build faith in God and in creation
(See paragraph 10)



in a language far more complex than the words in a recipe book. You might ask: “If the recipe for the cake had a writer, who wrote the much more complex recipe for the apple?” For an older child, you could explain that the recipe for the apple—in fact, for the entire tree on which it grew—was part of the code in the DNA. Together, you might even look at some of the illustrations on pages 10 to 20 of our brochure *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*.

¹¹ Many parents enjoy discussing articles in the *Awake!* series “Was It Designed?” with their children. Or they use this feature as a basis for teaching simple ideas to very young children. For instance, a couple in Denmark compared airplanes to birds. “Airplanes look just like birds,” they said. “But can airplanes lay eggs and hatch small airplanes? Do birds need special landing strips? And how would you compare the sound of an airplane to the singing of a bird? So who is more intelligent—the maker of airplanes or the Creator of birds?” Such comments, along with good questions, can help a child to develop “thinking ability” and to build faith in God.—Prov. 2:10-12.

¹² Effective illustrations can also strengthen a child’s faith in the accuracy of the Bible. For example, consider **Job 26:7. (Read.)** How might you show that this scripture was inspired? You could just state facts. Instead, why not stimulate your child’s imagination? Bring up the fact that Job lived long before telescopes and spaceships. Your child’s job could be to show how dif-

ficult it might be for some to believe that a very large object, such as the earth, could sit on nothing. The child could use a ball or a stone to illustrate the point by showing that objects with mass have to rest on something. Such a lesson would impress on your child that Jehovah had facts recorded in the Bible long before humans could prove them.—Neh. 9:6.

ILLUSTRATE THE VALUE OF BIBLE PRINCIPLES

¹³ It is particularly important that you impress on your children the value of Bible principles. **(Read Psalm 1:1-3.)** There are many ways to do this. For example, you could ask your children to imagine that they are going to live on a remote island and will have to choose a number of people to live there with them. Then ask, “What qualities must each person have if all in the group are to live in peace and get along well?” You could also talk with them about the wise directions found at Galatians 5:19-23.

¹⁴ That exercise could teach two important lessons. First, God’s standards promote genuine peace and harmony. Second, by educating us now, Jehovah is preparing us for life in the new world. (Isa. 54:13; John 17:3) You could drive these points home by selecting an experience from our publications. It might be from the series “The Bible Changes Lives,” published in *The Watchtower*. Or if someone in your congregation has made major changes in order to please Jehovah, you could invite him to join you and share his story. Such

12. How can illustrations help children to build faith in the Bible?

13, 14. How might parents impress on their children the value of Bible principles?

examples bring Bible principles to life! —Heb. 4:12.

¹⁵ The point is this: When teaching your children, do not get into a rut. Try to use your imagination. Stimulate their thinking, keeping their age in mind. Make learning exciting, faith strengthening. “Never tire of experimenting with new ways to approach old subjects,” said one father.

BE FAITHFUL, PATIENT, PRAYERFUL

¹⁶ God’s spirit is needed to produce strong faith. (Gal. 5:22, 23) Like literal fruit, faith takes time to grow. Thus you will need to manifest patience and perseverance in teaching your children. “My wife and I simply gave our children a lot of attention,” said a father of two in Japan. “From the time they were very young, I studied with them for 15 minutes every day, except on days when we had Christian meetings. Fifteen minutes was not too hard for us or for them.” A circuit overseer wrote: “As a teenager, I had many more questions or doubts than I ever put into words. Over time, many of these were addressed at meetings or during family or personal study. That’s why it’s important for parents just to keep teaching.”

¹⁷ Something that is very important, of course, is *your* example of faith. Your

15. What should you have as a primary goal when teaching your children?

16. When teaching children, why is patience vital? Illustrate.

17. Why is good parental example important, and how has one couple set such an example for their girls?



If you are going to be an effective teacher, God’s Word must first be in *your* heart (See paragraph 17)

children will observe what you do, and it certainly will affect them for the good. So as parents, keep building your own faith. Let your children see how real Jehovah is to you. When a couple in Bermuda have anxious moments, they pray with their children that Jehovah guide them, and they encourage their children to pray on their own. “We also tell our older daughter, ‘Have complete trust in Jehovah, keep busy in Kingdom service, and do not worry too much.’ When she sees the outcome, she knows that Jehovah is helping us. This has done wonders for her faith in God and in the Bible.”

¹⁸ In the end, of course, children have to develop their own faith. As parents, you can plant and water. Only God can make it grow. (1 Cor. 3:6) So pray for his spirit, and work hard to teach your precious children, for by doing so, you give Jehovah much to bless.—Eph. 6:4.

18. What important fact must parents recognize?



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Making Our Way Successful

(Joshua 1:8)

Eb Bb/D Ab/C Bb7 Eb Cm7
 We de - light in Je - ho - vah's Word. May we
 When the kings ruled in Is - ra - el, They re -
 As we feed on God's Word each day, Hope and

F9 Bb7sus4 Bb7 Bb7b5 Ab/C Dbm6
 read it each day. Sound each thought in an
 ceived this com - mand: 'Ev - 'ry king for him -
 com - fort we find. Calm de - scends on our

Bb7/D Bb7sus4 Bb7 Ab2/C Bb7/D Ab/Eb Bb7/F Eb
 un - der - tone; Med - i - tate and o - bey.
 self must write God's Law in his own hand.
 trou - bled hearts; Faith in Him is re - fined.

Bb7/D Ab/C Bb7 Eb
 May it guide ev - 'ry step we take,
 He must read in it all his days,
 When we tru - ly em - brace his Word,

Making Our Way Successful

Chorus
 Eb Ebma7 Eb7 Bbm7/F Eb7/G Ab C/G Csus4/F C/E Fm Fm7

Ev - 'ry thought we ex - press.
 That he may not trans - gress.
 We ma - ture and prog - ress.

Read and

Abm6/F Eb G/B Cm9 Cm Cm/Bb Fm/Ab Fm7 Bb7 Bb7/Ab

med - i - tate, then o - bey. This Je - ho - vah will

Bbm/G C7 Bb/D C7/E Fm Fm7 Abm6/F Eb G/B

bless. Walk with him each and ev - 'ry

Cm9 Cm Cm7/Bb Fm/Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb

day. Find the way to suc - cess.