

- Song 36 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?”:** (10 min.)  
 Eze 11:17, 18—Jehovah promised a restoration of true worship (w07 7/1 11 ¶4)  
 Eze 11:19—Jehovah can give us a heart that is sensitive to his guidance (w16.05 15 ¶9)  
 Eze 11:20—Jehovah wants us to apply what we learn
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Eze 12:26-28—What responsibility do these verses place on Jehovah’s servants? (w07 7/1 13 ¶8)

Eze 14:13, 14—What lessons do we learn from the mention of these individuals? (w16.05 26 ¶13; w07 7/1 13 ¶9)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Eze 12:1-10





**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 129
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (yb17 41-43)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 14 ¶15-23, review box on p. 156
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 126 and Prayer

EZEKIEL 11-14 | Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?

 Write your answers in the spaces provided.	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Entertainment</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dress &amp; Grooming</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Love &amp; Forgiveness</b></p>
<p><b>11:19</b></p> <p>What is Jehovah’s guidance?</p>			
<p><b>11:20</b></p> <p>How can I follow God’s guidance more fully?</p>			

1. We guard our hearts, it means our life;  
    We shun the path of sin.  
    God reads the heart, and there he finds  
    The person deep within.  
    Sometimes the heart deceives the mind,  
    And we begin to stray.  
    So may our mind direct our heart  
    And keep Jehovah's way.
2. Prepared in heart, we search for God  
    By means of earnest prayer.  
    Each day we give him praise and thanks,  
    Revealing ev'ry care.  
    The things Jehovah teaches us,  
    We gladly will obey.  
    We cultivate a loyal heart,  
    To please him ev'ry day.
3. Our hearts we shield from harmful thoughts,  
    We dwell on what is true.  
    We love God's Word to touch our hearts,  
    To strengthen and renew.  
    Jehovah loves his loyal ones;  
    On this we can depend.  
    We'll worship him wholeheartedly  
    Forever as his friend.

## Ezekiel 11-14

**11** And a spirit lifted me up and brought me to the eastern gate of the house of Jehovah, the gate that faces east. There at the entrance of the gate I saw 25 men, and among them were Ja·az·a·ni'ah the son of Az'zur and Pel·a·ti'ah the son of Be·nai'ah, princes of the people. <sup>2</sup> Then He said to me: “Son of man, these are the men who are scheming evil and giving wicked advice in this city. <sup>3</sup> They are saying, ‘Is it not the time for building houses? The city is the cooking pot, and we are the flesh.’

<sup>4</sup> “So prophesy against them. Prophecy, son of man.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the spirit of Jehovah came upon me, and he said to me: “Say, ‘This is what Jehovah says: “What you have said is correct, O house of Israel, and I know what you are thinking. <sup>6</sup> You have caused many to die in this city, and you have filled her streets with the dead.”’” <sup>7</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘The dead bodies that you have strewn about the city are the flesh, and the city is the cooking pot. But you yourselves will be taken out of it.’”

<sup>8</sup> “‘A sword you have feared, and a sword I will bring against you,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. <sup>9</sup> ‘I will bring you out of her and give you into the hand of foreigners and execute judgment on you. <sup>10</sup> You will fall

by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel, and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. <sup>11</sup> The city will not be a cooking pot for you, and you will not be the flesh within it; I will judge you at the border of Israel, <sup>12</sup> and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. For you did not walk in my regulations and carry out my judgments, but you have acted in harmony with the judgments of the nations around you.”

<sup>13</sup> As soon as I prophesied, Pel-a-ti'ah the son of Be-nai'ah died, and I fell facedown and cried with a loud voice: “Alas, O Sovereign Lord Jehovah! Are you going to exterminate the remaining ones of Israel?”

<sup>14</sup> The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:  
<sup>15</sup> “Son of man, your brothers, those of your brothers with the right of repurchase, along with the entire house of Israel, have been told by the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ‘Keep far away from Jehovah. The land is ours; it has been given to us as a possession.’

<sup>16</sup> Therefore say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Although I have removed them far away among the nations and I have scattered them among the lands, for a little while I will become a sanctuary for them in the lands to which they have gone.”’

<sup>17</sup> “Therefore say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will also collect you from the peoples and gather you from the lands to which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. <sup>18</sup> And they will return there and remove from it all its disgusting things and detestable practices. <sup>19</sup> And I will give them a unified heart, and I will put a new spirit in them; and I will remove the heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> in order that they may walk in my statutes and observe my judgments and obey them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God.””

<sup>21</sup> “““But as for those whose hearts are set to continue in their disgusting things and their detestable practices, I will bring the consequences of their way upon their head,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.””

<sup>22</sup> The cherubs now lifted up their wings, and the wheels were close to them, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. <sup>23</sup> Then the glory of Jehovah ascended from the city and stopped over the mountain to the east of the city. <sup>24</sup> A spirit then lifted me up—through a vision by the spirit of God—and brought me to the exiled people in Chal-de'a. Then the vision that I had seen left me. <sup>25</sup> And I began to tell the exiled people all the things that Jehovah had shown me.

**12** The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:  
<sup>2</sup> “Son of man, you are living in a rebellious house. They have eyes to see, but they do not see, and ears to hear, but they do not hear, for they are a rebellious house. <sup>3</sup> As for you, son of man, prepare for yourself luggage for going into exile. Then, during the day while they are watching, you must go into exile. Go into exile from your home to another place while they are watching. Perhaps they will take notice, even though they are a rebellious house. <sup>4</sup> Bring out your luggage packed for going into exile during the day while they are watching, and then in the evening while they are watching, you should leave like someone being taken into exile.

<sup>5</sup> “While they are watching, bore a hole in the wall, and carry your belongings out through it. <sup>6</sup> While they are watching, put your belongings on your shoulder and carry them out in the darkness. Cover your face so that you cannot see the ground, for I am making you a sign to the house of Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> I did just as I was commanded. During the day I brought out my luggage as luggage for going into exile, and in the evening I bored a hole through the wall by hand. And when it was dark, I took out my belongings, carrying them on my shoulder right before their eyes.

<sup>8</sup> In the morning the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: <sup>9</sup> “Son of man, did not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, ask you, ‘What are you doing?’

<sup>10</sup> Tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “This pronouncement concerns the chieftain in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel within the city.”’

<sup>11</sup> “Say, ‘I am a sign for you. Just as I have done, that is what will be done to them. They will go into exile, into captivity. <sup>12</sup> The chieftain who is among them will carry his belongings on his shoulder and leave in the darkness. He will bore a hole in the wall and carry his belongings out through it. He will cover his face so that he cannot see the ground.’ <sup>13</sup> I will cast my net over him, and he will be caught in my hunting net. Then I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chal-de'ans, but he will not see it; and there he will die. <sup>14</sup> And all those around him, his helpers and his troops, I will scatter in every direction; and I will draw out a sword to chase after them. <sup>15</sup> And they will have to know that I am Jehovah when I disperse them among the nations and I scatter them among the lands. <sup>16</sup> But I will spare a few of them from the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, so that they may tell about all their detestable practices among the nations where they will go; and they will have to know that I am Jehovah.”

<sup>17</sup> And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: <sup>18</sup> “Son of man, you should eat your bread with trembling and drink your water with agitation and anxiety. <sup>19</sup> Say to the people of the land, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of Israel: “They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water with horror, for their land will become completely desolate because of the violence of all those dwelling in it. <sup>20</sup> The inhabited cities will be devastated, and the land will become a wasteland; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.”””

<sup>21</sup> And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: <sup>22</sup> “Son of man, what is this proverb that you have in Israel that says, ‘The days go by, and every vision comes to nothing’? <sup>23</sup> Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will cause this saying to cease, and they will no more use it as a proverb in Israel.”’ But tell them, ‘The days are near, and every vision will take place.’ <sup>24</sup> For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. <sup>25</sup> “For I, Jehovah, will speak. Whatever word I speak will be done without any more delay. In your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and carry it out,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.””



<sup>26</sup> The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying:  
<sup>27</sup> “Son of man, this is what the people of Israel are saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for a long time from now, and he is prophesying about the distant future.’  
<sup>28</sup> Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “None of my words will be delayed; whatever I say will be done,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.””

**13** And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, and say to those who fabricate their own prophecies, ‘Hear the word of Jehovah. <sup>3</sup> This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Woe to the stupid prophets, who follow their own spirit, when they have seen nothing! <sup>4</sup> O Israel, your prophets have become like foxes among the ruins. <sup>5</sup> You will not go to the broken places in the stone walls to rebuild them for the house of Israel, so that Israel may keep standing in the battle in the day of Jehovah.” <sup>6</sup> “They have seen false visions and foretold a lie, those who are saying, ‘The word of Jehovah is,’ when Jehovah himself has not sent them, and they have waited for their word to come true. <sup>7</sup> Is it not a false vision that you have seen and a lie that you have foretold when you say, ‘The word of Jehovah is,’ when I have not said anything?””

<sup>8</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Because you have spoken what is false and your visions are a lie, I am against you,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.” <sup>9</sup> My hand is against the prophets whose visions are false and who foretell a lie. They will not be among the people with whom I confide; nor will they be written in the registry of the house of Israel; nor will they return to the land of Israel; and you will have to know that I am the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. <sup>10</sup> All of this is because they have led my people astray by saying, “There is peace!” when there is no peace. When a flimsy partition wall is built, they are plastering it with whitewash.’

<sup>11</sup> “Tell those plastering with whitewash that it will fall. A torrential downpour will come, hailstones will fall, and powerful windstorms will break it down. <sup>12</sup> And when the wall falls you will be asked, ‘Where is your coating of plaster?’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘I will cause powerful windstorms to burst forth in my wrath, and a torrential downpour in my anger, and hailstones in destructive fury. <sup>14</sup> I will tear down the wall that you plastered with whitewash and bring it down to the earth, and its foundation will be exposed. When the city falls, you will perish within her; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.’

<sup>15</sup> “When I fully unleash my wrath upon the wall and upon those who plastered it with whitewash, I will say to you: “The wall is no more, and those plastering it are no more. <sup>16</sup> The prophets of Israel are gone, those who prophesy to Jerusalem and who see visions of peace for her, when there is no peace,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.

<sup>17</sup> “As for you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who fabricate their own prophecies, and prophesy against them. <sup>18</sup> Tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Woe to the women who sew together bands for all arms and make veils for heads of every size in order to hunt down people’s lives! Are you hunting for the lives of my people and trying to preserve your own lives? <sup>19</sup> Will you profane me among my people for handfuls of barley and for scraps of bread, putting to death those who should not die and keeping alive those who should not live, doing so by your lies to my people, who listen to your lies?”’”

<sup>20</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘Here I am against your bands, O women, which you use to hunt down people as though they were birds, and I will rip them from your arms and release those whom you are hunting down like birds. <sup>21</sup> I will rip away your veils and rescue my people out of your

hand, and they will no longer be something for you to catch in the hunt; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. <sup>22</sup> For you have disheartened the righteous one with your falsehood when I was not causing him distress, and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked one, so that he does not turn back from his bad way and stay alive. <sup>23</sup> Therefore, you women will no longer see false visions and practice divination; and I will rescue my people from your hand, and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.”

**14** And some of the elders of Israel came and sat down before me. <sup>2</sup> Then the word of Jehovah came to me, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Son of man, these men are determined to follow their disgusting idols, and they have set up a stumbling block that causes people to sin. Should I let them inquire of me? <sup>4</sup> Now speak with them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “If an Israelite is determined to follow his disgusting idols and sets up a stumbling block causing people to sin and he then comes to inquire of a prophet, I, Jehovah, will answer him appropriately according to his many disgusting idols. <sup>5</sup> For I will cause terror in the hearts of the house of Israel because they have all withdrawn from me and have gone after their disgusting idols.”’”

<sup>6</sup> “So tell the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “Come back and turn away from your disgusting idols and turn your faces away from all your detestable practices. <sup>7</sup> For if any Israelite or foreign resident living in Israel separates himself from me and is determined to follow his disgusting idols and sets up a stumbling block that causes people to sin and then comes to inquire of my prophet, I, Jehovah, I will personally answer him. <sup>8</sup> I will set my face against that man and make him a warning sign and a proverbial saying, and I will cut him off from my people; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.””

<sup>9</sup> ““But if the prophet is fooled and gives a response, it is I, Jehovah, who have fooled that prophet. I will then stretch out my hand against him and annihilate him from my people Israel. <sup>10</sup> They will have to bear their guilt; the guilt of the inquirer will be the same as the guilt of the prophet, <sup>11</sup> so that the house of Israel may stop wandering away from me and stop defiling themselves by all their transgressions. And they will be my people, and I will be their God,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

<sup>12</sup> And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: <sup>13</sup> “Son of man, if a land sins against me by acting unfaithfully, I will stretch out my hand against it

and destroy its food supply, and I will send famine upon it and cut off man and animal from it.”<sup>14</sup> ““Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were within it, they would be able to save only themselves because of their righteousness,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

<sup>15</sup> ““Or suppose I make vicious wild animals pass through the land and they depopulate it and make it a wasteland without anyone passing through because of the wild animals.<sup>16</sup> As surely as I am alive,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘even if these three men were in it, they would save neither their sons nor their daughters; they would save only themselves, and the land would become desolate.’”

<sup>17</sup> ““Or suppose I bring a sword against that land and say: “Let a sword pass through the land,” and cut off from it both man and animal,<sup>18</sup> even if these three men were in it, as surely as I am alive,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘they would save neither their sons nor their daughters; they would save only themselves.’”

<sup>19</sup> ““Or suppose I send a pestilence into that land and pour out my rage on it with bloodshed to cut off from it man and animal,<sup>20</sup> even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as surely as I am alive,’ declares the Sovereign

Lord Jehovah, ‘they would save neither their sons nor their daughters; they would save only themselves because of their righteousness.’”

<sup>21</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: ‘So it will be when I send my four punishments—sword, famine, vicious wild animal, and pestilence—against Jerusalem to cut off man and animal from it.

<sup>22</sup> However, some left in it will escape and be brought out, both sons and daughters. They are coming to you, and when you see their ways and their deeds, you will certainly be comforted over the calamity that I brought on Jerusalem, over everything that I did to it.’”

<sup>23</sup> “‘They will comfort you when you see their ways and their deeds, and you will know that it was not without cause that I did what I had to do to it,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

- Song 36 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?”:** (10 min.)  
 Eze 11:17, 18—Jehovah promised a restoration of true worship (w07 7/1 11 ¶4)  
 Eze 11:19—Jehovah can give us a heart that is sensitive to his guidance (w16.05 15 ¶9)  
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
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 Eze 14:13, 14—What lessons do we learn from the mention of these individuals? (w16.05 26 ¶13; w07 7/1 13 ¶9)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Eze 12:1-10





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- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 129
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (yb17 41-43)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 14 ¶15-23, review box on p. 156
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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EZEKIEL 11-14 | Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?

 Write your answers in the spaces provided.	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Entertainment</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dress &amp; Grooming</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Love &amp; Forgiveness</b></p>
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**July 3-9**

## **Treasures From God's Word**

**Ezekiel 11:17, 18**—Jehovah promised a restoration of true worship

Reference: *w07 7/1 11* **paragraph 4.**

In 612 B.C.E., a vision transports Ezekiel to Jerusalem. What detestable things he sees happening in God's temple! When Jehovah sends his heavenly executional forces (represented by "six men") to express his anger at the apostates, only those who have received 'a mark on the forehead' will be spared. (Ezekiel 9:2-6) First, though, "coals of fire"—God's fiery message of destruction—must be tossed over the city. (Ezekiel 10:2) While 'Jehovah will bring upon the head of the wicked their own way,' he promises to regather the scattered ones of Israel.—Ezekiel 11:17-21.

**Ezekiel 11:19**—Jehovah can give us a heart that is sensitive to his guidance

Reference: *w16.05 15* **paragraph 9.**

If we are to make wise decisions, as Jesus did, we must rely on Jehovah for guidance. We need to act in accord with these wise words: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he will make your paths straight. Do

not become wise in your own eyes. Fear Jehovah and turn away from bad.” (**Proverbs 3:5-7**) Getting to know Jehovah’s thinking through Bible study can help us to perceive what God would want us to do in a particular situation. The more familiar we are with Jehovah’s thoughts, the more our heart will become sensitive to his guidance.—**Ezekiel 11:19**, **footnote**

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Ezekiel 12:26-28**—What responsibility do these verses place on Jehovah’s servants?

Reference: w07 7/1 13 **paragraph 8**.

Even to those scoffing at his message, Ezekiel was to say: “There will be no postponement anymore as to any words of [Jehovah].” We must do all we can to help others put their confidence in Jehovah before he brings an end to this system of things.

**Ezekiel 14:13, 14**—What lessons do we learn from the mention of these individuals?

Reference: w16.05 26 **paragraph 13**.

For example, consider **Ezekiel 14:13, 14**, where we read: “If a land sins against me by acting unfaithfully, I will stretch out my hand against it and destroy its food supply, and I will

send famine upon it and cut off man and animal from it. ‘Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were within it, they would be able to save only themselves because of their righteousness,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.” By doing some research, we learn that this portion of Ezekiel was written in about the year 612 B.C.E. By that time, Noah and Job had been dead for centuries, and their record of faithfulness was in God’s memory. But Daniel was still alive. In fact, he may have been in his late teens or early 20’s when Jehovah said that he was just as righteous as Noah and Job. The lesson? Jehovah notices and values the integrity of all his faithful worshippers, including those who are relatively young.—[Psalm 148:12-14](#).

Reference: [w07 7/1 13 paragraph 9](#).

Gaining salvation is our personal responsibility. No one can do it for us.—[Romans 14:12](#).

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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Presentations



#### THE WATCHTOWER

**Question:** Is death part of God's will for us?

**Scripture:** Re 21:4

**Offer:** This issue of *The Watchtower* examines what the Bible says about life and death.



#### TEACH THE TRUTH

**Question:** Why is there so much suffering?

**Scripture:** 1Jo 5:19

**Truth:** Satan the Devil is the ruler of the world.



#### WHAT HAPPENS AT A BIBLE STUDY?

**Offer:** Jehovah's Witnesses offer free Bible lessons that answer such questions as: Why is there so much suffering? How can my family be happy? This brief video explains how our Bible lessons are conducted. [Play the video.] We can use this publication for our discussions. [Show one of our study publications, and if possible, demonstrate a Bible study.]

#### BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

**Question:**

**Scripture:**

**Offer:**

# *We Will Keep Enduring*

(Matthew 24:13)

## 1. How can we endure

When trials come, as Jesus said?  
Through his pain he saw  
The joy of better things ahead.  
God's promise, God's justice,  
Were thoughts on which he fed.

*(CHORUS)*

*We need to have endurance.  
Our faith we must defend.  
His love is our assurance.  
So we will keep enduring to the end.*

## 2. Though the passing years

May bring us sorrow, bring us pain;  
There beyond the tears,  
We see the life that we can gain.  
To be there, feel free there,  
Determined we remain.

*(Chorus)*

## 3. We will not give up

Nor see the need for doubt or fear.  
Faithfully we'll serve  
Until Jehovah's day is here.  
Let's keep on enduring.  
That time is very near.

*(Chorus)*



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**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?”:** (10 min.)  
 Eze 11:17, 18—Jehovah promised a restoration of true worship (w07 7/1 11 ¶4)  
 Eze 11:19—Jehovah can give us a heart that is sensitive to his guidance (w16.05 15 ¶9)  
 Eze 11:20—Jehovah wants us to apply what we learn
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Eze 12:26-28—What responsibility do these verses place on Jehovah’s servants? (w07 7/1 13 ¶8)

Eze 14:13, 14—What lessons do we learn from the mention of these individuals? (w16.05 26 ¶13; w07 7/1 13 ¶9)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Eze 12:1-10





**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion based on “Sample Presentations.” Play each presentation video, and then discuss the highlights.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 129
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (yb17 41-43)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 14 ¶15-23, review box on p. 156
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 126 and Prayer

EZEKIEL 11-14 | Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?

 Write your answers in the spaces provided.	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Entertainment</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dress &amp; Grooming</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Love &amp; Forgiveness</b></p>
<p><b>11:19</b></p> <p>What is Jehovah’s guidance?</p>			
<p><b>11:20</b></p> <p>How can I follow God’s guidance more fully?</p>			

*yb17 41-43*

## **The Music Stopped**

On the day before the Memorial in 2016, the brothers in a small isolated group in **Nepal** were distressed to learn that there was going to be a big music concert at the school next to the hall they had rented.

Such concerts are very loud. As the brothers were cleaning the hall the morning of the Memorial, an organizer of the concert told them, “You won’t hear a thing except our music.”

The concert started at noon, and it was as loud as expected. Though the brothers rented a loudspeaker much larger than the one they originally planned to use, they could not even hear the microphone test. The brothers were devastated but prayed earnestly about the matter. Then, 30 minutes before the Memorial, when many of the brothers were arriving, the music suddenly stopped. A fight had broken out among some people at the concert who had been drinking, and the police had shut down the event. The brothers were able to observe the Memorial in a very quiet, peaceful, and respectful atmosphere.

## **Praise for [jw.org](http://jw.org)**

Giuseppe is a regular pioneer in **Italy**. He works from his home for an Internet consulting firm. Last May he



attended a meeting with about 70 colleagues to discuss new ideas that could be implemented by the company. The company's chief executive officer (CEO) began by saying that some websites could be taken as practical models of what their company was aspiring to. He then showed an example on a display screen. Giuseppe was astonished to see the home page of [jw.org](http://jw.org) appear on the screen. The CEO said, "This is the best website in the world!" Then he started analyzing technical aspects of [jw.org](http://jw.org). He spoke positively about the easy-to-find links and the captivating graphics.

"My colleagues were amazed to learn how many languages the website supports," said Giuseppe. "At the end of the presentation, my supervisor told the audience and the CEO: 'Giuseppe is one of Jehovah's Witnesses.' At that, the CEO told me: 'Your organization is to be praised. You have designed a Web portal that any company, firm, or organization in the world would envy. I can only imagine the effort it takes to keep it updated and user-friendly and the amount of attention that must be given to details and content.' I was a bit embarrassed to receive so much praise for something that I had not done. But I was overjoyed that a witness was given to many who knew nothing about Jehovah's Witnesses. Now I have regular conversations with some colleagues and have

even started a Bible study with three of them.” The company Giuseppe works for continues to “study” the jw.org website, while Giuseppe continues to discuss the Bible with his colleagues.

### **He Said No to Soccer**

Jorge is a youth who lives in **Argentina**. At the beginning of 2010, Jorge first learned of the good news through a classmate. Subsequently, he began to study the Bible using the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* During this time, he played soccer. He excelled at the sport and qualified for a place in the lower division of a major soccer club. In April 2014, he received the tempting offer to play on a team in Germany. He was excited at the thought of becoming a professional soccer player, and he accepted the offer. A few days before Jorge was to leave for Europe, his coach said to him: “You are one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, aren’t you? Don’t ruin your life going abroad. When I was young, I was also a Witness. I was invited to join a team in an Asian country. They promised me many things, and I was fascinated by it all. I traveled there with my family, but we came back very disappointed.” Jorge says: “His comment made quite an impact on me, and I decided not to go to Europe. In 2015, I became a publisher of the good news and was baptized.”

army or to perform noncombatant duties directed by the military. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison but appealed the decision, based on his right as a conscientious objector. His case was eventually referred to the ECHR. In 2001, before the case could be heard, a friendly settlement was reached with Brother Stefanov. The Bulgarian government not only granted amnesty to Brother Stefanov but also to all Bulgarian citizens who were willing to perform alternative civilian service.\*<sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> **Armenia.** Vahan Bayatyan became eligible for compulsory military service in 2001.<sup>#<sup>[4]</sup></sup> He conscientiously objected to serving in the military but lost every appeal in the domestic courts. In September 2002, he began serving a two-and-a-half-year sentence but was released after serving ten and a half months. During that time, he appealed to the

**“Before entering the courtroom, I prayed fervently to Jehovah, and then I felt how he gave me calmness.”**

—Ivailo Stefanov  
(See paragraph 13)

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\*<sup>[3]</sup> The settlement also required the Bulgarian government to offer alternative civilian service under civilian administration to all conscientious objectors.

<sup>#<sup>[4]</sup></sup> For a more complete account, see the November 1, 2012, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 29-31.

ECHR, which heard his case. However, on October 27, 2009, that Court also ruled against him. The verdict seemed to be a crushing blow to the brothers in Armenia who faced this issue. However, the Grand Chamber of the ECHR reviewed the ruling. On July 7, 2011, the Court ruled in favor of Vahan Bayatyan. This was the first time that the ECHR recognized that conscientious objection to military service based on one's religious beliefs should be protected under the right of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. That ruling protects the rights not only of Jehovah's Witnesses but of hundreds of millions of people in countries that are members of the Council of Europe.\*<sup>[5]</sup>

### **The Issue of Nationalistic Ceremonies**

<sup>15</sup> Jehovah's people remain loyal to the Messianic Kingdom not only by refusing military service but also by respectfully declining to join in nationalistic ceremonies. Especially since the outbreak of World

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\*<sup>[5]</sup> Over a 20-year span, the government of Armenia had imprisoned more than 450 young Witnesses. In November 2013, the last of these men were released from prison.

**15. Why do Jehovah's people refuse to join in nationalistic ceremonies?**

War II, a wave of nationalistic fervor has swept the globe. Citizens of many countries have been required to vow allegiance to their homeland by reciting a pledge, singing a national anthem, or saluting a country's flag. However, we give our exclusive devotion to Jehovah. (Ex. 20:4, 5) As a result, we have experienced a flood of persecution. Even so, Jehovah has again used "the earth" to swallow up some of this opposition. Note just a few of the remarkable victories that Jehovah through Christ has granted us in this matter.—Ps. 3:8.

**16 United States.** In 1940, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8 to 1 against Jehovah's Witnesses in the case known as *Minersville School District v. Gobitis*. Lillian Gobitas,\*<sup>[6]</sup> aged 12, and her brother William, aged 10, wanted to remain loyal to Jehovah, so they refused to salute the flag or recite the pledge. As a result, they were expelled from school. Their case came before the Supreme Court, and the Court concluded that the school's actions were constitutional because they were in the interest of "national unity."

<sup>[6]</sup> The family name was misspelled in the court records.

**16, 17. What issue did Lillian and William Gobitas face, and what have you learned from their case?**

That ruling ignited a firestorm of persecution. More Witness children were expelled from school, adult Witnesses lost their jobs, and a number of Witnesses suffered vicious attacks from mobs. The book *The Lustre of Our Country* states that the “persecution of Witnesses from 1941 to 1943 was the greatest outbreak of religious intolerance in twentieth-century America.”

<sup>17</sup> The victory for God’s enemies was short-lived. In 1943, the Supreme Court considered another case similar to the *Gobitis* case. It is known as *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*. This time, the Supreme Court granted victory to Jehovah’s Witnesses. It was the first time in U.S. history that the Supreme Court had reversed itself in such a short period of time. After that ruling, the overt persecution of Jehovah’s people in the United States drastically decreased. In the process, the rights of all citizens of the United States were strengthened.

<sup>18</sup> **Argentina.** Pablo and Hugo Barros, ages eight and seven respectively, were expelled from school in 18, 19. **What did Pablo Barros say helped him to remain strong, and how can other servants of Jehovah imitate his example?**

1976 for not participating in a flag-raising ceremony. On one occasion, the headmistress shoved Pablo and hit him on the head. She made both boys stay after school for an hour, trying to force them to participate in patriotic ceremonies. Recalling the ordeal, Pablo said: “Without Jehovah’s help, I would not have been able to withstand the pressure to break my integrity.”

<sup>19</sup> When the case came to court, the judge upheld the school’s decision to expel Pablo and Hugo. However, their case was appealed to the Supreme Court of Argentina. In 1979, that Court reversed the lower court’s decision, stating: “Said punishment [expulsion] contradicts the constitutional right to learn (Article 14) and the duty of the State to ensure primary education (Article 5).” That victory benefited approximately 1,000 Witness children. Some had their expulsions stopped and others, like young Pablo and Hugo, were readmitted to public schools.

<sup>20</sup> **Philippines.** In 1990, Roel Embralinag,<sup>\*[7]</sup> aged 9,

<sup>\*[7]</sup> The family name was misspelled as Ebralinag in the court records.

**20, 21. How does the case involving Roel and Emily Embralinag strengthen your faith?**

and his sister Emily, aged 10, along with approximately 66 other Witness students, were expelled from school for not saluting the flag. Roel and Emily's father, Leonardo, tried to reason with the school authorities, but to no avail. As matters intensified, Leonardo filed a petition to the Supreme Court. Leonardo had no money and no lawyer to represent him. The family prayed fervently to Jehovah for direction. All the while, the children were being ridiculed and taunted. Leonardo felt he had no chance of winning the case because he had no legal training.

<sup>21</sup> As events turned out, the family was represented by Felino Ganal, an attorney who had previously been employed by one of the most reputable law firms in the country. At the time of the case, Brother Ganal had left his corporate work and become one of Jehovah's Witnesses. When the case came before the Supreme Court, the Court unanimously decided in favor of the Witnesses and annulled the expulsion orders. Again, those who tried to break the integrity of God's people failed.



## Neutrality Leads to Unity

<sup>22</sup> Why have Jehovah's people won so many landmark legal victories? We have no political influence. Yet, in country after country and court after court, fair-minded judges have protected us from the onslaught of tenacious opposers and, in the process, have set precedents in constitutional law. Without a doubt, Christ has backed our efforts to gain those victories. **(Read Revelation 6:2.)** Why do we fight such legal battles? Our intent is not to reform the legal system. Rather, our goal is to ensure that we can continue to serve our King, Jesus Christ, without hindrance.—Acts 4:29.

<sup>23</sup> Amid a world divided by political strife and warped by ingrained hatred, our reigning King, Jesus Christ, has blessed the efforts of his followers worldwide to maintain their neutral stand. Satan has failed in his efforts to divide and conquer us. The Kingdom has gathered millions who refuse to “learn war anymore.” The very existence of our global, peaceful brotherhood is a miracle—it provides irrefutable proof that God's Kingdom rules!—Isa. 2:4.

**22, 23. (a) Why have we won so many landmark legal victories? (b) Our global, peaceful brotherhood is evidence of what?**

## **How Real Is the Kingdom to You?**

- How would you explain why Jehovah's people remain politically neutral?
- What do court victories teach you about God's Kingdom?
- How can you show that you support God's Kingdom and no other?

# 126 *Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty*

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

1. Stay awake, stand firm, grow mighty,  
    Be determined to endure.  
    Carry on with manly courage,  
    For the victory is sure.  
We obey Christ Jesus' clear command;  
    Under him we firmly take our stand.

*(CHORUS)*

*Stay awake, stand firm, and grow mighty!  
Carry on right to the end!*

2. Stay awake, and keep your senses,  
    Always ready to obey.  
    Stay alert to Christ's direction  
    Through his faithful slave today.  
Heed the counsel of the older men,  
    Who protect his sheep and truth defend.

*(Chorus)*

3. Stay awake, remain united  
    As the good news we defend.  
    Though our enemies will fight it,  
    We will preach until the end.  
Join the shout of praise throughout the land.  
    Look! Jehovah's day is soon at hand!

*(Chorus)*

MAY 2017

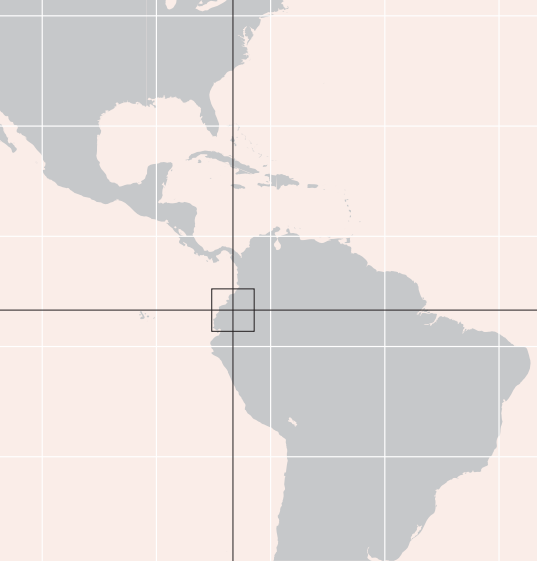
# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
JULY 3-30, 2017

LARGE  
PRINT  
EDITION



COVER IMAGE:

# ECUADOR

A regular pioneer shares the Bible’s message in the Quichua (Imbabura) language with a vendor at a crafts market in the city of Otavalo in northern Ecuador.

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### **4 WEEK OF JULY 3-9**

Helping “Foreign Residents”  
to “Serve Jehovah With Rejoicing”

### **16 WEEK OF JULY 10-16**

Helping the Children of “Foreign Residents”

The first of these articles discusses the difficult situation of our brothers and sisters who have become refugees, and it provides practical suggestions on how we can best help them. The second article considers how applying Bible principles will help immigrant parents to make decisions that will benefit their children.

1. Kind and patient, perfect in love,  
Was Christ, who came down from above.  
He took care of our needs  
With words and by deeds;  
He gave of his time and his love.  
He would keep the lowly in mind  
By healing the sick, deaf, and blind.  
To his royal commission he proved true  
And willingly said: “I want to.”
  
2. We now try to follow his way  
In all of our dealings each day.  
We are loving and kind  
To all whom we find;  
We help them to learn and obey.  
We respond to friends when in need;  
We love them in word and in deed.  
So if widows and orphans should ask you,  
Then readily say: “I want to.”





**SONGS:**

17, 109

**HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?**

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What trials have many refugees experienced?

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How can we help to fill the greatest needs of refugees?

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What should we keep in mind when preaching to refugees?

## Helping “Foreign Residents” to “Serve Jehovah With Rejoicing”

*“Jehovah is protecting the foreign residents.”—PS. 146:9.*

**“WHEN** civil war started in Burundi, our family was at an assembly,” relates a brother named Lije. “We could see people running,

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**1, 2.** (a) What trials do some of our brothers and sisters face? (b) What questions arise?

shooting. My parents and 11 of us siblings fled for our lives with only the clothes on our backs. Some of my family finally made it to a refugee camp in Malawi, a journey of over 1,000 miles (1,600 km). The rest of us were scattered.”

<sup>2</sup> Worldwide, refugees who have fled their homes because of war or persecution now number over 65,000,000—the highest ever recorded.\* Among these are thousands of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Many have lost loved ones and nearly all their possessions. What further challenges have some faced? How can we help these brothers and sisters to “serve Jehovah with rejoicing” despite their trials? (Ps. 100:2) And how can we effectively share the good news with refugees who do not yet know Jehovah?

## THE LIFE OF A REFUGEE

<sup>3</sup> After Jehovah’s angel warned Joseph that King Herod intended to kill Jesus, young Jesus

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\* In this article, we use the term “refugees” to denote those who have been displaced—whether across national borders or within their own country—by armed conflict, persecution, or disaster. According to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), today “1 in every 113 people” worldwide is “forcibly displaced.”

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**3.** How did Jesus and many of his disciples become refugees?



and his parents became refugees in Egypt. They remained there until Herod died. (Matt. 2:13, 14, 19-21) Decades later, Jesus' early disciples "were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria" because of persecution. (Acts 8:1) Jesus had foreseen that many of his followers would be forced from their homes. He said: "When they persecute you in one city, flee to another." (Matt. 10:23) Fleeing for any reason is seldom easy.

<sup>4</sup> Refugees may face danger when fleeing or when living in a refugee camp. "We walked for weeks, passing hundreds of dead bodies," recalls Gad, Lije's younger brother. "I was 12 years old. My feet were so swollen that I told my family to go on without me. My father—not about to abandon me to the rebel forces—carried me. We survived day by day, praying to Jehovah and trusting in him, sometimes eating only mangoes that were growing along the way." —Phil. 4:12, 13.

<sup>5</sup> Most of Lije's family eventually spent years in United Nations refugee camps. Yet, they were not safe there. Lije, now a circuit overseer, comments: "Most people had no work. They gossiped, drank, gambled, stole, and were immoral." To resist the

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4, 5. What dangers exist when refugees (a) are fleeing? (b) are living in a camp?

bad influences, Witnesses in the camps needed to stay fully involved in congregation activities. (Heb. 6:11, 12; 10:24, 25) To stay spiritually healthy, they used their time productively, many by pioneering. They kept a positive attitude by recalling that, like Israel's trek in the wilderness, their stay in the camp would eventually come to an end.—2 Cor. 4:18.

## SHOWING LOVE TO REFUGEES

<sup>6</sup> “The love of God” compels us to show love to one another, especially in dire situations. (Read 1 John 3:17, 18.) When famine threatened Judean Christians in the first century, the congregation organized help for them. (Acts 11:28, 29) The apostles Paul and Peter also exhorted Christians to be hospitable to one another. (Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9) If Christians are to welcome visiting brothers, how much more should they welcome fellow believers whose lives are in danger or who have been persecuted for their faith!—Read Proverbs 3:27.\*

<sup>7</sup> Recently, thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses—men, women, and children—had to flee conflict

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\* See the article “Do Not Forget Kindness to Strangers” in *The Watchtower* of October 2016, pp. 8-12.

6, 7. (a) How does “the love of God” move Christians to act toward brothers in need? (b) Cite an example.

and persecution in eastern Ukraine. Tragically, some were killed. But most of them were taken in by their spiritual brothers elsewhere in Ukraine, and many others were accommodated by fellow Witnesses in Russia. In both countries, they remain politically neutral, being “no part of the world,” and continue zealously “declaring the good news of the word.”—John 15:19; Acts 8:4.

## HELPING REFUGEES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH

<sup>8</sup> While some people are displaced within their own country, many others are thrust into a totally unfamiliar environment in a new land. Governments may provide some food, clothing, and shelter, but familiar foods may be unavailable. Refugees from warm lands may encounter cold weather for the first time and may not know how to dress for it. If they come from a rural area, they may be at a loss about how to use modern household appliances.

<sup>9</sup> Some governments have programs to help refugees adjust to their new circumstances. However, often within months, refugees may be expected to

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8, 9. (a) What challenges may refugees face in a new land?  
(b) Why do they need our patient help?

support themselves. The transition can be overwhelming. Imagine trying to learn a new language and to adapt to new laws and expectations regarding manners, punctuality, taxes, bill paying, school attendance, and child discipline—all at once! Can you patiently and respectfully help brothers and sisters who face such challenges?—Phil. 2:3, 4.

<sup>10</sup> Further, authorities have at times made it difficult for our brothers who are refugees to contact the congregation. Some agencies have threatened to cut off assistance or deny our brothers asylum if they refuse to accept employment that requires them to miss meetings. Frightened and vulnerable, a few brothers have given in to such pressures. Therefore, it is urgent to meet our refugee brothers as soon as possible after their arrival. They need to see that we care about them. Our compassion and practical help can strengthen their faith.—Prov. 12:25; 17:17.

## **GIVING REFUGEES PRACTICAL HELP**

<sup>11</sup> At first, we may need to supplement our

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**10.** How can we strengthen the faith of arriving refugees? (See opening picture.)

**11.** (a) What do refugees initially need? (b) How can refugees show gratitude?

brothers' food, clothing, or other basic needs.\* Even small gestures, like giving a brother a necktie, mean a lot. And when refugees show gratitude, never demanding anything, they help their hosts to experience the joy of giving. Granted, living indefinitely on others' generosity may erode the self-respect of the refugees and may damage their relationships with other brothers. (2 Thess. 3:7-10) But they do need practical help.

<sup>12</sup> Giving refugees practical help requires, not a lot of money, but mainly our time and concern. It may be as simple as showing them how to use public transportation, how to shop for healthful but inexpensive foods, or how to obtain tools or equipment—such as a sewing machine or a lawn mower—in order to earn some income. More important, you can help them to become fully involved in their new congregation. If possible, offer them rides to meetings. Also explain how they might approach

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\* As soon as possible after a refugee arrives, elders should follow the direction in *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, chapter 8, paragraph 30. Elders can contact congregations in other lands by sending correspondence to their own branch using jw.org. In the meantime, they can ask discreet questions about a refugee's congregation and ministry to discern his spiritual condition.

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**12, 13.** (a) How can we give refugees practical help? (b) Cite an example.



How can we help our brothers and sisters who are refugees?  
(See paragraphs 11-13)

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people with the Kingdom message in your territory. Take the refugee brothers and sisters along with you in the ministry.

<sup>13</sup> When four adolescent refugees arrived in one congregation, various elders taught them to drive, type, and write résumés, as well as to schedule their time to serve Jehovah fully. (Gal. 6:10) Soon, all

four became pioneers. That guidance, along with their own efforts to pursue spiritual goals, helped them to blossom and to avoid being swallowed up by Satan’s system.

<sup>14</sup> Like all other Christians, refugees need to resist the temptation and pressure to compromise their relationship with Jehovah in order to obtain material things.\* Lije, quoted earlier, and his siblings remember the lessons of faith their father taught them even as they were fleeing. “One by one, he threw away the few nonessential belongings we carried. Finally, he held up the empty bag and said with a smile: ‘You see? This is all you need!’”—Read 1 Timothy 6:8.

## **CARING FOR THE GREATEST NEEDS OF REFUGEES**

<sup>15</sup> More than material assistance, refugees need spiritual and emotional support. (Matt. 4:4) Elders can help by obtaining literature in the language of

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\* See the articles “No One Can Serve Two Masters” and “Be of Good Courage—Jehovah Is Your Helper!” in *The Watchtower* of April 15, 2014, pp. 17-26.

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**14.** (a) What temptation do refugees need to resist? (b) Cite an example.

**15, 16.** How can we support refugees (a) spiritually? (b) emotionally?

the refugees and by helping them contact brothers who speak their language. Many refugees have been torn away from their tight-knit extended families, communities, and congregations. They need to sense Jehovah's love and compassion among their fellow Christians. Otherwise, they may be drawn to unbelieving relatives or compatriots who can relate to their culture and experiences. (1 Cor. 15:33) By making them feel fully accepted in the congregation, we have the privilege to share with Jehovah in "protecting the foreign residents."—Ps. 146:9.

<sup>16</sup> As with young Jesus and his family, refugees may not have the option of returning to their homeland as long as their oppressors remain in power. Further, as notes Lije, "many parents who saw family members raped and murdered cannot bear to bring their children back to where those tragedies occurred." To help those who have experienced such trauma, brothers in lands receiving refugees need to have "fellow feeling, brotherly affection, tender compassion, and humility." (1 Pet. 3:8) Persecution has caused some refugees to become withdrawn, and they may feel ashamed to talk about their suffering, especially in the presence of their children. Ask yourself, 'If I were in their position, how would I like to be treated?'—Matt. 7:12.



## PREACHING TO NON-WITNESS REFUGEES

<sup>17</sup> Many of today’s refugees come from countries where our preaching work is restricted. Thanks to zealous Witnesses in the lands receiving refugees, thousands of refugees are hearing “the word of the Kingdom” for the first time. (Matt. 13:19, 23) Many who are “loaded down” are finding spiritual refreshment at our meetings and quickly acknowledge: “God is really among you.”—Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 14:25.

<sup>18</sup> Those who preach to refugees need to be “cautious” and even “shrewd.” (Matt. 10:16; Prov. 22:3) Listen patiently to their concerns, but do not discuss politics. Follow directions from the branch office and from local authorities; never put yourself or others at risk. Learn and respect refugees’ religious and cultural sensitivities. For instance, people from some lands have strong feelings about proper dress for women. Therefore, when preaching to refugees, dress so as not to cause needless offense.

<sup>19</sup> Like the neighborly Samaritan in Jesus’ illustration, we want to help suffering people, including those who are not Witnesses. (Luke 10:33-37) The

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17. How does preaching to refugees bring them relief?

18, 19. How can we show wisdom when preaching to refugees?

best way to do so is by sharing the good news with them. “It is important to make clear right away that we are Jehovah’s Witnesses and that our primary mission is to help them spiritually, not materially,” notes an elder who has helped many refugees. “Otherwise, some may associate with us only for personal advantage.”

## JOYFUL RESULTS

<sup>20</sup> Showing Christian love to “foreign residents” brings good results. When her husband died, a sister named Alganesh fled the persecution in Eritrea with her six young children. After an exhausting eight-day journey across the desert, they arrived in Sudan. “The brothers there treated us like close relatives, providing food, clothes, shelter, and transportation,” she relates. “Who else would welcome strangers into their home just because they worship the same God? Only Jehovah’s Witnesses!”—**Read John 13:35.**

<sup>21</sup> What about the many children who arrive with their parents, both refugees and other immigrants? In the following article, we will consider how all of us can help them to serve Jehovah joyfully.

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**20, 21.** (a) What good comes from showing refugees Christian love? (b) What will we consider in the following article?

# **109**    *Love Intensely From the Heart*

(1 Peter 1:22)

1. When our love is pure and intense,

    We make Jehovah's heart rejoice.

Love is his greatest quality,

    Something that we hold dear.

Warm affection glows in our hearts,

    Making a loyal friendship grow.

Love always acts unselfishly,

    Proving our love sincere.

When we see a friend in need,

    We'll be there to lend a helping hand.

Truly we can be a friend,

    Someone who can understand.

Jesus showed what love really means,

    Helping us see Jehovah's love,

Touching our hearts and moving us.

    Tender feelings are a start.

Love intensely from the heart.

