

- 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;">Entertainment</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Dress & Grooming</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Love & Forgiveness</p>
<p>11:19</p> <p>What is Jehovah’s guidance?</p>			
<p>11:20</p> <p>How can I follow God’s guidance more fully?</p>			

We Guard Our Hearts

(Proverbs 4:23)

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

We guard our hearts, it means our life;
 Pre - pared hearts in heart, we search for God
 Our hearts we shield from harm - ful thoughts,

F#°
Bb7/F

We shun the path of sin.
 By means of on ear - nest prayer.
 We dwell on what is true.

Fm
Ab/Bb
Bb7
Bb7/D
Fm7
Bb7

God reads the heart, and there he finds
 Each day we give him to praise and our thanks,
 We love God's Word to touch our hearts,

Eb/G
B7/F#
Fm7
Bb7
Eb

The per - son deep with - in.
 Re - veal - ing ev - 'ry care.
 To strength - en and re - new.

We Guard Our Hearts

Eb
Ebma7
Eb
F#°
B7/F#
Eb/G

Some - times the heart de - ceives the mind,
 The things Je - ho - vah teach - es us,
 Je - ho - vah loves his loy - al ones;

Eb
Eb/G
Bb7/F
Eb7
Ab
C7/G
Fm

And we be - gin to stray.
 We glad - ly will o - bey.
 On this we can de - pend.

Fm/Ab
A°
Eb6/Bb
Eb/G
Bbm/G
Bbm6/Db
C7

So may our mind di - rect our heart
 We cul - ti - vate a loy - al heart,
 We'll wor - ship him whole - heart - ed - ly

Fm
Fm7
Gm/Bb
Bb7
Eb

And keep Je - ho - vah's way.
 To please him ev - 'ry day.
 For - ev - er as his friend.

(See also Ps. 34:1; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 3:4.)

and the courtyard was full of the brightness of the glory of Jehovah. **5** And the sound of the wings of the cherubs could be heard in the outer courtyard, like the sound of God Almighty when he speaks.^a

6 Then he commanded the man clothed in linen: "Take fire from between the wheelwork, from between the cherubs," and he entered and stood beside the wheel. **7** Then one of the cherubs stretched his hand out toward the fire that was between the cherubs.^b He took some and put it into both hands of the one clothed in linen,^c who now took it and went out. **8** The cherubs had what looked like the form of human hands under their wings.^d

9 As I was watching, I saw four wheels beside the cherubs, one wheel beside each cherub, and the wheels appeared to glow like chryso-lite stone.^e

10 As for their appearance, the four of them were alike, looking as though a wheel were within a wheel. **11** When they moved, they could go in any of the four directions without turning, because they would go to the place where the head would face without turning. **12** Their entire bodies, their backs, their hands, their wings, and the wheels, the wheels of all four of them, were full of eyes all around.^f **13** As regards the wheels, I heard a voice that called to them, "Wheel-work!"

14 Each one* had four faces. The first face was the face of the cherub, the second face was the face of a man,^g the third was the face of a lion, and the fourth was the face of an eagle.^g

15 And the cherubs would rise—they were the same living

10:14 *That is, each of the cherubs. ^hOr "human."

CHAP. 10

a Ps 29:3, 4
Eze 1:24
Joh 12:28, 29

b Eze 1:13

c Eze 9:2

d Eze 1:8

e Eze 1:15-18

f Re 4:6, 8

g Eze 1:6, 10
Re 4:7

Second Col.

a Eze 1:3

b Eze 1:19-21

c Eze 1:27, 28

d Eze 9:3
Eze 10:4

e Eze 11:22

f Eze 1:1, 22

g Eze 1:8

h Eze 1:10

i Eze 1:12
Eze 10:11

CHAP. 11

j Eze 10:19

k Isa 1:23
Eze 22:27

creatures* that I had seen at the river Che'bar^a— **16** and when the cherubs moved, the wheels would move alongside them; and when the cherubs lifted up their wings to be high above the earth, the wheels would not turn or move from their side.^b **17** When these stood still, they would stand still; and when these rose, they would rise with them, for the spirit operating on the living creatures^c was in them.

18 Then the glory of Jehovah^c departed from over the threshold of the doorway of the house and stood still over the cherubs.^d **19** The cherubs now lifted up their wings and rose from the earth as I watched. The wheels were also alongside them when they departed. They stopped at the entrance of the eastern gate of the house of Jehovah, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.^e

20 These were the living creatures* that I had seen under the God of Israel at the river Che'bar,^f so I came to know that they were cherubs. **21** All four had four faces, four wings, and what appeared to be human hands under their wings.^g **22** And the appearances of their faces were like the faces I had seen by the river Che'bar.^h They would each go straight forward.ⁱ

11 And a spirit lifted me up and brought me to the eastern gate of the house of Jehovah, the gate that faces east.^j 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 Benai'ah, princes of the people.^k

10:15 *Lit., "it was the living creature."

10:17 *Lit., "the spirit of the living creature."

10:20 *Lit., "This is the living creature."

2 Then He said to me: "Son of man, these are the men who are scheming evil and giving wicked advice in* this city. 3 They are saying, 'Is it not the time for building houses?^a The city* is the cooking pot,^{#b} and we are the flesh.'

4 "So prophesy against them. Prophesy, son of man."^c

5 Then the spirit of Jehovah came upon me,^d 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.*

6 You have caused many to die in this city, and you have filled her streets with the dead.'"^e

7 "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.^f But you yourselves will be taken out of it.'"

8 "A sword you have feared,^g and a sword I will bring against you,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. 9 'I will bring you out of her and give you into the hand of foreigners and execute judgment on you.^h 10 You will fall by the sword.ⁱ I will judge you at the border of Israel,^j and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.^k 11 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, 12 and you will have to know that I am Jehovah. For you did not walk in my regulations and carry out my judgments,^l but you have acted in harmony with the judgments of the nations around you."^m

11:2 *Or "against." 11:3 *Lit., "She," the city of Jerusalem, where the Jews thought they would be protected. #Or "wide-mouthed cooking pot." 11:5 *Or "the things that come up in your spirit."

CHAP. 11

a Eze 12:27

b Eze 24:3

c Eze 3:17
Eze 20:46
Eze 21:2

d 2Pe 1:21

e Eze 7:23
Eze 22:3, 4

f Eze 24:6

g Jer 38:19

h Jer 39:6, 7
Jer 52:24-27

i 2Ki 25:18-21
2Ch 36:17

j 2Ki 14:25
Jer 52:27

k Eze 6:13

l Eze 9:7
Ne 9:34

m De 12:29-31
2Ch 28:1, 3
Ps 106:34-36

Second Col.

a Eze 9:8

b 2Ki 24:14, 15
Jer 24:5

c Le 26:44

d Isa 11:11, 12
Jer 30:10, 11
Eze 34:13, 14
Am 9:14, 15

e Eze 37:23

f Jer 24:7
Jer 31:33
Jer 32:39

g Ps 51:10
Eze 36:31

h Zec 7:12

i Eze 36:26

13 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?"^a

14 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: 15 "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.'

16 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,^b for a little while I will become a sanctuary for them in the lands to which they have gone."^c

17 "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.^d 18 And they will return there and remove from it all its disgusting things and detestable practices.^e 19 And I will give them a unified heart,^{#f} and I will put a new spirit in them;^g and I will remove the heart of stone from their bodies^h and give them a heart of flesh,^{#i} 20 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."

21 "“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

11:19 *Lit., "one heart." #That is, one sensitive to God's guidance.

upon their head," declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."

22 The cherubs now lifted up their wings, and the wheels were close to them,^a and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.^b **23** Then the glory of Jehovah^c ascended from the city and stopped over the mountain to the east of the city.^d **24** 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. **25** 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: **2** "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,^e for they are a rebellious house.^f **3** 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. **4** 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.^g

5 "While they are watching, bore a hole in the wall, and carry your belongings out through it.^h **6** 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."ⁱ

7 I did just as I was commanded. During the day I brought out

CHAP. 11

a Eze 1:19

b Eze 10:18, 19

c Eze 9:3
Eze 10:4

d Zec 14:4

CHAP. 12

e Isa 6:9, 10
Jer 5:21
Ro 11:8

f Eze 2:3, 5

g 2Ch 36:20
Jer 52:10, 11

h 2Ki 25:4

i Isa 8:18
Eze 4:3
Eze 24:24

Second Col.

a Jer 21:7
Eze 21:25

b Eze 24:24

c Jer 52:15

d 2Ki 25:4
Jer 39:4

e Jer 52:9
Eze 17:20, 21

f 2Ki 25:6, 7
Jer 34:3
Jer 52:11
Eze 17:16

g 2Ki 25:5

h Le 26:33
Jer 42:15, 16

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.

8 In the morning the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **9** "Son of man, did not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, ask you, 'What are you doing?' **10** Tell them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "This pronouncement concerns the chieftain^a in Jerusalem and all the house of Israel within the city."^b

11 "Say, 'I am a sign for you.^b Just as I have done, that is what will be done to them. They will go into exile, into captivity.^c

12 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.^d He will cover his face so that he cannot see the ground.' **13** I will cast my net over him, and he will be caught in my hunting net.^e 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.^f **14** And all those around him, his helpers and his troops, I will scatter in every direction;^g and I will draw out a sword to chase after them.^h **15** And they will have to know that I am Jehovah when I disperse them among the nations and I scatter them among the lands. **16** 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."ⁱ

17 And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **18** "Son of man, you should eat

your bread with trembling and drink your water with agitation and anxiety.^a **19** 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^b because of the violence of all those dwelling in it."^c **20** The inhabited cities will be devastated, and the land will become a wasteland;^d and you will have to know that I am Jehovah."^e

21 And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **22** "Son of man, what is this proverb that you have in Israel that says, 'The days go by, and every vision comes to nothing?'" **23** 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."^f But tell them, 'The days are near,^g and every vision will take place.' **24** For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering^{*} divination within the house of Israel.^h **25** "For I, Jehovah, will speak. Whatever word I speak will be done without any more delay.ⁱ In your days,^j O rebellious house, I will say the word and carry it out," declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."^k

26 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **27** "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.'^k **28** Therefore say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "None of my words will be de-

12:24 *Or "deceitful." 12:27 *Lit., "the house."

CHAP. 12

a Le 26:26

b Isa 6:11
Zec 7:14c Ps 107:33, 34
Jer 6:7d Isa 64:10
Jer 25:9

e Eze 6:13

f Isa 5:19
Am 6:3
2Pe 3:3, 4g Joe 2:1
Zep 1:14h Jer 14:14
La 2:14
Eze 13:23i La 2:17
Zec 1:6j Jer 16:9
Hab 1:5k Isa 5:19
Isa 28:15
2Pe 3:3, 4

Second Col.

CHAP. 13

a Mic 3:5
Zep 3:4b Jer 14:14
Jer 23:16

c Jer 23:32

d Eze 22:30

e Isa 2:12
Joe 1:15

f Jer 29:31, 32

g Eze 22:28

h Jer 14:14
Jer 28:15, 16
Jer 29:8, 9i Eze 6:13
Eze 11:10

laid; whatever I say will be done,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."^m

13 And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **2** "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel,^a and say to those who fabricate their own prophecies,^b 'Hear the word of Jehovah. **3** This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Woe to the stupid prophets, who follow their own spirit, when they have seen nothing!^c **4** O Israel, your prophets have become like foxes among the ruins. **5** You will not go to the broken places in the stone walls to rebuild them for the house of Israel,^d so that Israel may keep standing in the battle in the day of Jehovah."^e **6** "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.'^f **7** 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?"^g

8 "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."^g **9** My hand is against the prophets whose visions are false and who foretell a lie.^h 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.ⁱ **10** All of this is because they have led my people astray by saying, "There

13:2 *Or "who prophesy out of their own heart."

is peace!" when there is no peace.^a When a flimsy partition wall is built, they are plastering it with whitewash.*^b

11 "Tell those plastering with whitewash that it will fall. A torrential downpour will come, hailstones* will fall, and powerful windstorms will break it down.^c

12 And when the wall falls you will be asked, 'Where is your coating of plaster?'^d

13 "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. **14** 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.'

15 "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.'^e

16 The prophets of Israel are gone, those who prophesy to Jerusalem and who see visions of peace for her, when there is no peace,"^f declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.

17 "As for you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who fabricate their own prophecies, and prophesy against them. **18** 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

13:10 *That is, building a weak interior wall and with whitewash trying to make it look strong. **13:11** *Lit., "and you, O hailstones." **13:18** *That is, magic bands worn around elbows or wrists.

CHAP. 13

a Jer 6:13, 14

b Isa 30:10
Eze 22:28

c Isa 27:8

d Jer 37:19

e Isa 30:12, 13

f Jer 6:13, 14
Jer 28:1-4

Second Col.

a Mic 3:11

b Jer 23:14

c Eze 6:13

d Jer 27:14

e Jer 23:14

f Jer 23:16, 17

g De 18:10, 14
Jer 27:9
Mic 3:6

CHAP. 14

h Eze 33:30, 31

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?*" **19** Will you profane me among my people for handfuls of barley and for scraps of bread,^a 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?"^b

20 "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. **21** 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.'^c **22** For you have disheartened the righteous one with your falsehood^d when I was not causing him distress,* and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked one,^e so that he does not turn back from his bad way and stay alive.^f **23** Therefore, you women will no longer see false visions and practice divination;^g 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.^h **2** Then the word of Jehovah came to me, saying: **3** "Son of man, these men are determined to follow their disgusting idols,* and they have set up a stumbling block that causes

13:18, 20 *Or "souls." **13:19** *Or "the souls." **13:22** *Or "pain." **14:3** *The Hebrew term may be related to a word for "dung" and is used as an expression of contempt.

people to sin. Should I let them inquire of me?^a **4** 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. **5** 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."^b

6 "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.^c **7** 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,^d I, Jehovah, I will personally answer him. **8** 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;^e and you will have to know that I am Jehovah."

9 "But if the prophet is fooled and gives a response, it is I, Jehovah, who have fooled that prophet.^f I will then stretch out my hand against him and annihilate him from my people Israel. **10** They will have to bear their guilt; the guilt of the inquirer will be the same as the guilt of the prophet, **11** so that the house of Israel may stop wandering away from me and stop defiling themselves by all their

14:5 *Lit., "seize the house of Israel in their heart."

CHAP. 14

a 2Kl 3:13
Isa 1:15
Jer 11:11

b Jer 2:5

c Isa 55:7

d Jer 21:1, 2
Eze 33:31

e Le 20:2, 3

f 1Kl 22:21, 22
Jer 4:10
2Th 2:10, 11

Second Col.

a Jer 24:7
Eze 11:19, 20

b Le 26:26

c Isa 3:1
Jer 15:2

d Jer 7:20

e Ge 6:8, 9
Heb 11:7

f Da 10:11

g Job 1:8
Job 42:8

h Pr 11:4
Jer 15:1
2Pe 2:9

i Le 26:22
Jer 15:3

j Le 26:25
Jer 25:9
Eze 21:3

k Zep 1:3

l De 28:21, 22

m Ge 7:1

n Da 10:11

transgressions. And they will be my people, and I will be their God,^a declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."

12 And the word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **13** "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,^b and I will send famine upon it^c and cut off man and animal from it."^d **14** "Even if these three men—Noah,^e Daniel,^f and Job^g—were within it, they would be able to save only themselves* because of their righteousness,^h declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."

15 "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.ⁱ **16** 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."^j

17 "Or suppose I bring a sword against that land^k and say: "Let a sword pass through the land," and cut off from it both man and animal,^k **18** 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."^l

19 "Or suppose I send a pestilence into that land^l and pour out my rage on it with bloodshed to cut off from it man and animal, **20** even if Noah,^m Daniel,ⁿ

14:13 *Lit., "break its bread rods." Possibly referring to rods used for storing bread. **14:14** *Or "their soul." **14:15** *Or "bereave it of children."

and Job^a 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.'"^b

21 "For this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: 'So it will be when I send my four punishments*^c—sword, famine, vicious wild animal, and pestilence^d—against Jerusalem to cut off man and animal from it.^e **22** However, some left in it will escape and be brought out,^f 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."

23 "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;^g declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."

15 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **2** "Son of man, how does the wood of the vine compare with that of any other tree or branch from the trees of the forest? **3** Can a pole from it be used to do work? Or do people make a peg from it to hang utensils on? **4** Look! It is thrown into the fire for fuel, and the fire consumes both ends and scorches the middle. Is it now fit for any work? **5** Even when it was whole, it could not be used for anything. How much less useful it will be when the fire has consumed and scorched it!"

6 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: 'Just like the wood of the vine

14:20 *Or "their soul." 14:21 *Or "my four injurious acts of judgment."

CHAP. 14

a Job 1:8
Job 42:8

b Eze 18:20
Zep 2:3

c Jer 15:2

d Eze 5:17
Eze 33:27

e Jer 32:43

f De 4:31
2Ch 36:20
Eze 6:8
Mic 5:7

g Ne 9:33
Jer 22:8,9
Eze 9:9
Da 9:7

Second Col.

CHAP. 15

a Ps 80:14-16
Isa 5:24
Jer 7:20
Eze 20:47

b Eze 6:7
Eze 7:4

c Isa 6:11
Jer 25:11
Eze 6:14

d 2Ch 36:14

CHAP. 16

e Eze 8:10
Eze 20:4

f Jos 10:5
1KI 21:25, 26
2KI 21:11

g 1Ch 1:13, 14

among the trees of the forest, which I have given as fuel for the fire, so I will deal with the inhabitants of Jerusalem.^a **7** I have set my face against them. They have escaped from the fire, but fire will consume them. And you will have to know that I am Jehovah when I set my face against them."^b

8 "And I will make the land desolate^c because they have acted unfaithfully;^d declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah."

16 The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: **2** "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her detestable practices.^e **3** You must say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to Jerusalem: "Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Ca'naan-ite. Your father was an Am'or-ite,^f and your mother was a Hit'tite.^g **4** As for your birth, on the day you were born, your umbilical cord was not cut, you were not washed in water to make you clean, you were not rubbed with salt, and you were not wrapped in cloths. **5** No one pitied you enough to do any of these things. No one had compassion for you. Instead, you were thrown into the open field because you were* hated on the day you were born.

6 "When I was passing by, I saw you kicking about in your own blood, and as you lay there in your blood, I said: 'Keep living!' Yes, I said to you lying there in your blood: 'Keep living!' **7** I made you a very great multitude, like plants sprouting in the field, and you grew up and developed and wore the finest ornaments. Your breasts became firm, and your hair grew; but you were still naked and exposed."

16:5 *Or "your soul was."

- 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;">Entertainment</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Dress & Grooming</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Love & Forgiveness</p>
<p>11:19</p> <p>What is Jehovah’s guidance?</p>			
<p>11:20</p> <p>How can I follow God’s guidance more fully?</p>			

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 executorial 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.—**Psalms 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**.

- 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?

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<p>11:19</p> <p>What is Jehovah’s guidance?</p>			
<p>11:20</p> <p>How can I follow God’s guidance more fully?</p>			



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)

G C/G Gma7 C/G G/D Bm7

How can we en - dure When tri - als come, as Je - sus
 Though the pass - ing years May bring us sor - row, bring us
 We will not give up Nor see the need for doubt or

C G6/B Am Bm11 Am/C Am/G

said?
 pain;
 fear.

Through his pain he saw The joy of
 There be - yond the tears, We see the
 Faith - ful - ly we'll serve Un - til Je -

Am/F# Am/B B7 Cadd9 C

bet - ter things a - head. God's prom - ise, God's
 life that we can gain. To be there, feel
 ho - vah's day is here. Let's keep on en -

Am11 Am7 C/D D7sus4 D7 Chorus

jus - tice, Were thoughts on which he fed.
 free there, De - ter - mined we re - main. We
 dur - ing. That time is ver - y near.

We Will Keep Enduring

need to have en - dur - ance. Our faith we must de -

Chords: G, D/F#, Em7, Bm/D, Em/D, C, D7sus4

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The bass line is primarily composed of chords. The lyrics are positioned below the treble staff.

fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So

Chords: G, D/F#, Em, D, Cadd9, G/B

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So' are placed under the treble staff. The chord progression includes G, D/F#, Em, D, Cadd9, and G/B.

we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.

Chords: Am7, G6/B, C, C/D, G

The third system concludes the piece. The melody ends with a quarter note on G, and the bass line features sustained chords. The lyrics 'we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.' are under the treble staff. The final chord is G.

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

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Do You Have a Heart of Flesh?”:** (10 min.)
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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

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<p>11:19</p> <p>What is Jehovah's guidance?</p>			
<p>11:20</p> <p>How can I follow God's guidance more fully?</p>			

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

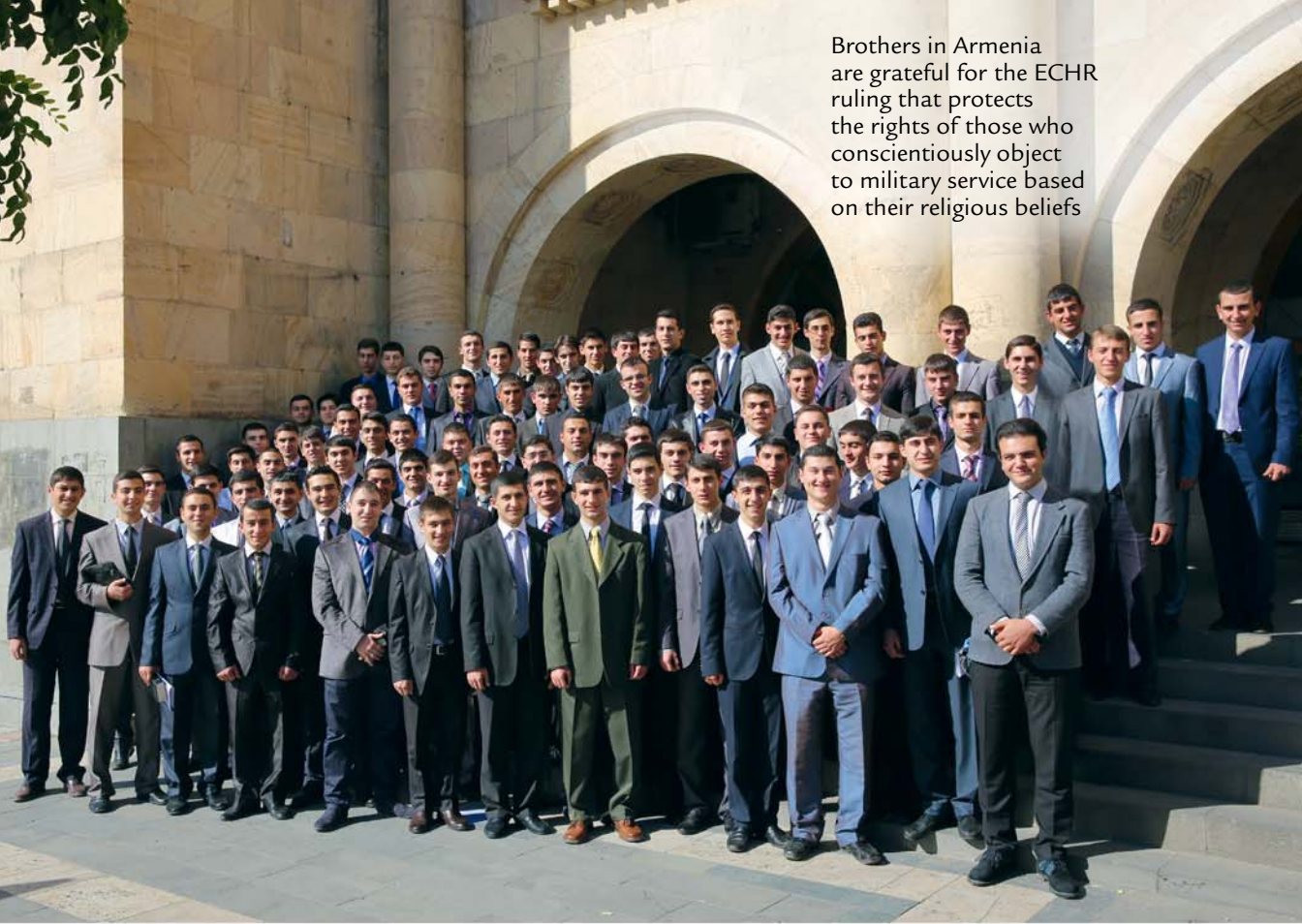
Giuseppe is a regular pioneer in **Italy**. He works from his home for an Internet consulting firm. Last May he attended a meeting with about 70 colleagues to discuss new ideas that could be implemented by the company. The company’s chief executive officer (CEO) began by saying that some websites could 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 appear on the screen. The CEO said, “This is the best website in the world!” Then he started analyzing technical aspects of 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.”

Brothers in Armenia are grateful for the ECHR ruling that protects the rights of those who conscientiously object to military service based on their religious beliefs



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.^[5]

The Issue of Nationalistic Ceremonies

¹⁵ 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 War II, a wave of nationalistic fervor has swept the globe. Citizens of many countries have been required to vow allegiance to their

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

FOOTNOTE

[5] 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.

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

18, 19. What did Pablo Barros say helped him to remain strong, and how can other servants of Jehovah imitate his example?

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,^[6] 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." 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."

17 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.

18 Argentina. Pablo and Hugo Barros, ages eight and seven respectively, were expelled from school in 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."

19 When the case came to court, the judge upheld the school's decision to expel Pablo and Hugo. However, their

FOOTNOTE

[6] The family name was misspelled in the court records.



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.

20 Philippines. In 1990, Roel Embralinag,^[7] aged 9, 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.

Many young Witnesses have proved faithful under test

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

FOOTNOTE

[7] The family name was misspelled as Ebralinag in the court records.

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

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.

21 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

22 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.

23 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.

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)

B \flat /C C7 F C7/G F/A B \flat Gm7 B \flat /C C7

Stay a - wake, stand firm, grow might - y, Be de -
 Stay a - wake, and keep your sens - es, Al - ways
 Stay a - wake, re - main u - nit - ed As the

F Cm/A D+5 D/C Gm/B \flat D7/A Gm C/D D7

ter - mined to en - dure. Car - ry
 read - y to o - bey. Stay a -
 good news we de - fend. Though our

Gm D7/A Gm/B \flat G/B B \flat /C C7 C/B \flat F/A

on with man - ly cour - age, For the
 lert to Christ's di - rec - tion Through his
 en - e - mies will fight it, We will

Gm Gm7 Am/C C7 F Cm6/E \flat

vic - to - ry is sure. We o -
 faith - ful slave to - day. Heed the
 preach un - til the end. Join the

Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty

D7 C/E D7/F# D7 Gm D7/A Gm/Bb

bey coun - sel shout Christ of praise Je - sus' the through clear old - er men, Who pro - der Un - der Look! Je -

E7/B E7 D6/F# E7/G# Am F#o Gm7 Chorus Bb/C C7

him tect ho - vah's we his day firm sheep day - ly and is take truth soon our de - fend. Stand. Stay a -

F F/Eb Bb/D Db7

wake, stand firm, and grow might - y! Car - ry

F/C Dm7 Gm7 C7 F

on right to the end!

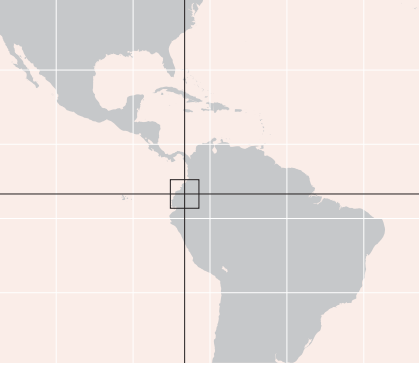
MAY 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JULY 3-30, 2017



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.

PUBLISHERS
90,110

BIBLE STUDIES
148,637

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2016)
274,593

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3 WEEK OF **JULY 3-9**
**Helping “Foreign Residents”
to “Serve Jehovah With Rejoicing”**

8 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.

13 LIFE STORY
**Being Deaf Has Not Held Me Back
From Teaching Others**

17 WEEK OF **JULY 17-23**
Do Not Let Your Love Grow Cold

22 WEEK OF **JULY 24-30**
“Do You Love Me More Than These?”

Living in this system of things is not easy for any of Jehovah's servants. These articles show how we can fight against the selfish spirit of the world by preserving our love for Jehovah, for Bible truth, and for our brothers. The articles also discuss how we can have affection for Christ rather than for the things of this world.

27 **How Gaius Helped His Brothers**

30 **The Joy of Leading a Simple Life**

31 **FROM OUR ARCHIVES**

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

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

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May 2017

Vol. 138, No. 8 ENGLISH

"I Want To"

(Luke 5:13)

F B \flat /D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

Kind and pa - tient, per - fect in love, Was
We now try to fol - low his way In

Dm C/E F F/A B \flat Dm C Am/C C7/B \flat

Christ, who came down from a - bove. He took
all of our deal - ings each day. We are

F/A Fma7/A B \flat C Am/C C7 Dm Gm

care of our needs With words and by deeds; He
lov - ing and kind To all whom we find; We

C/E F Dm C/E C Am B \flat

gave of his time and his love.
help them to learn and o - bey.

"I Want To"

F Bb/D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

He would keep the low - ly in mind By
 We re - spond to friends when in need; We

Dm C/E F F/A Bb Dm C Am/C C/Bb

heal - ing the sick, deaf, and blind. To his
 love them in word, and in deed. So if

F/A Fma7/A Bb C/Bb Bb C C7 Dm Gm

roy - al com - mis - sion he proved true And
 wid - ows and or - phans should ask you, Then

F/A Gm/Bb Dm C C7 C7/F F

will - ing - ly said: "I want to."
 read - i - ly say: "I want to."



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, 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.”

² 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

* 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.”

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

SONGS: 17, 109

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What trials have many refugees experienced?

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

What should we keep in mind when preaching to refugees?

can we effectively share the good news with refugees who do not yet know Jehovah?

THE LIFE OF A REFUGEE

³ After Jehovah's angel warned Joseph that King Herod intended to kill Jesus, young Jesus 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 bad influences, Witnesses in the camps needed to stay

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

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

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

⁶ "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.***

⁷ Recently, thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses—men, women, and children—had to flee conflict 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.

* 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.

HELPING REFUGEES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH

⁸ 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.

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

¹⁰ 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 af-

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

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

ter 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

¹¹ At first, we may need to supplement our 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.

¹² 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 people with the Kingdom message in your territory. Take the refugee

* 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.

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

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)

brothers and sisters along with you in the ministry.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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

* 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.

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

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

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

¹⁶ As with young Jesus and his family, refugees may not have the op-

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

tion 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

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

17. How does preaching to refugees bring them relief?

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

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.

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

²⁰ 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.**

²¹ 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.

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

Love Intensely From the Heart

(1 Peter 1:22)

C G/B Gm/B \flat A7 \flat 5 A7 Gm/A A7

When our love is pure and in - tense, We make Je - ho - vah's heart re - joice.

Fma7/A Fm6/A \flat G7 \flat 5 G7 F/G G7 Dm7 G9/F Em7 E \flat 6 Dm11 G7

Love is his great - est qual - i - ty, Some - thing that we hold dear.

C G/B Gm/B \flat A7 \flat 5 A7 Gm/A A7

Warm af - fec - tion glows in our hearts, Mak - ing a loy - al friend - ship grow.

Fma7/A Fm6/A \flat G7 \flat 5 G7 F/G G7 Dm/F Fm/G G7 \flat 9

Love al - ways acts un - self - ish - ly, Prov - ing our love sin -

C Dm7/G C D \flat ma7 D \flat ma7 \flat 5 D \flat ma7 D \flat m D \flat $^\circ$

cere. When we see a friend in need,

Love Intensely From the Heart

Ab/C B° Bbm11 Eb7sus4 Eb7 Dbma7 Dbm7b5 Dbma7

We'll be there to lend a help - ing hand. Tru - ly we can

Bbm9/G C7b5/E C7/E Fm9 Fm Fm/D G7sus4 G7

be a friend, Some - one who can un - der - stand.

C G/B Gm/Bb

Je - sus showed what love real - ly means, Help - ing us see Je -

A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7 Fma7/A Fm6/Ab C/G Cma7/G Am C/G

ho - vah's love, Touch - ing our hearts and mov - ing us.

G/F F Dm/B Bb7b5 G/A Cm/A A7 Dm9 Dm F/G Fm/G G7b5 C Dm7/G C

Ten - der feel - ings are a start. Love in - tense - ly from the heart.

R.H.

(See also 1 Pet. 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:11.)

