

- Song 77 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Joel.*]
Joe 2:28, 29—Anointed Christians serve as spokesmen for Jehovah (*w02 8/1 15 ¶4-5; jd 167 ¶4*)
Joe 2:30-32—Only those who call on the name of Jehovah will be saved during his awe-inspiring day (*w07 10/1 13 ¶2*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Joe 2:12, 13—What do these verses teach us about true repentance? (*w07 10/1 13 ¶5*)

Joe 3:14—What is “the valley of the decision”? (*w07 10/1 13 ¶3*)

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) Joe 2:28–3:8

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) JW.ORG contact card
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) JW.ORG contact card —The card was placed on the preceding visit. Continue the conversation, and conclude by introducing a video from *jw.org*.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *lv 196-197 ¶3-5*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 30
- **Jehovah Helps Us to Endure Trials:** (9 min.) Play the video *Jehovah Is a Strong Tower for Me* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience: What trials did the Henschel family face? What impact can the faith and integrity of parents have on their children? How can Jehovah strengthen you as he did Brother Henschel?
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Jehovah’s Name:** (6 min.) Play the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend —Jehovah’s Name* (video category CHILDREN). Then invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What does Jehovah’s name mean? What did Jehovah create? How can Jehovah help you?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr chap. 20 ¶17-19; boxes on pp. 216, 218-219; review box on p. 217*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 106 and Prayer

JOEL 1-3 | “Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy”


2:28, 29

Anointed Christians share in the work of prophesying. They speak about “the magnificent things of God” and proclaim the “good news of the Kingdom.” (Ac 2:11, 17-21; Mt 24:14) The other sheep support them by participating in this work

2:32

What does it mean to ‘call on the name of Jehovah’?

- To know the name
- To respect the name
- To rely on and trust in the One who bears that name

 Ask yourself, ‘How can I support the anointed in their work of prophesying?’



Light in a Darkened World

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

Bb/C Ab/C Bb/C Ab/C Gm/C Fm/C

In these days, dark and law-less days,
Those who sleep need a - wak - en - ing

Bb/C Ab/C Gm/C Eb/C F/C Bb/D

Shines a light we can see.
As the time ebbs a - way.

Ab/Eb Bb/Eb Ab/Eb Bb/Eb Ab/Eb Bb/Eb

Like the dawn of an - oth - er day
We give hope and en - cour - age - ment.

D9ma7 Eb/Db Bbm7 Eb/Bb Cm7

That will soon come to be.
For their fu - ture we'll pray.

Light in a Darkened World

Chorus
Fm D♭ma7 Ab

Shin - ing through the dark - ness, Ours is a

B♭ Fm Eb/G Ab E♭sus4

mes - sage so bright. It of - fers hope and light-

B♭ Fm D♭ma7 Ab

Spar - kling like the day - light, Bring - ing to -

B♭ Fm Eb/G Ab E♭sus4 B♭

mor - row in sight- So ends the night.

(See also John 3:19; 8:12; Rom. 13:11, 12; 1 Pet. 2:9.)

- For it is by you that the fatherless child is shown mercy.^a
- 4** I will heal their unfaithfulness.^b
I will love them of my own free will,^c
Because my anger has turned away from him.^d
- 5** I will become like the dew to Israel;
He will blossom like the lily
And will send down his roots like the trees of Leb'a-non.
- 6** His twigs will spread,
His splendor will be like that of the olive tree,
And his fragrance like that of Leb'a-non.
- 7** They will again dwell in his shadow.
They will grow grain and will bud like the vine.^e
- CHAP. 14
a De 10:17, 18
b Ps 103:3
Isa 57:18
c Zep 3:17
d Isa 12:1
e Zec 8:12
- Second Col.
a Ho 14:3
b Jer 31:18
c De 32:4

- His fame* will be like the wine of Leb'a-non.
- 8** E'phra-im will say, 'What more do I have to do with idols?'^a
I will answer and watch over him.^b
I will be like a thriving juniper tree.
From me your fruit will be found."
- 9** Who is wise? Let him understand these things.
Who is discreet? Let him know them.
For the ways of Jehovah are upright,^c
And the righteous will walk in them;
But the transgressors will stumble in them.

14:7 *Lit., "memorial."

JOEL

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 A severe insect plague (1-14)
"The day of Jehovah is near" (15-20)
The prophet calls to Jehovah (19, 20)</p> <p>2 Jehovah's day and his great army (1-11)
A call to return to Jehovah (12-17)
"Rip apart your hearts" (13)
Jehovah's response to his people (18-32)
"I will pour out my spirit" (28)</p> | <p>3 Jehovah judges all the nations (1-17)
Valley of Jehoshaphat (2, 12)
Valley of decision (14)
Jehovah, a fortress for Israel (16)
Jehovah blesses his people (18-21)</p> |
|---|--|

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Joel* the son of Pe-thu'el:

- 2** "Hear this, you elders,
And pay attention, all you inhabitants of the land.*

1:1 *Meaning "Jehovah Is God." 1:2 *Or "earth."

Second Col.

CHAP. 1

a Joe 2:2

Has anything like this happened in your days
Or in the days of your forefathers?^a

- 3** Tell about it to your sons,
And let your sons tell about it to their sons,
And their sons to the next generation.

- 4** What was left by the devouring locust, the swarming locust has eaten;^a
And what was left by the swarming locust, the unwinged locust has eaten;
And what the unwinged locust has left, the voracious locust has eaten.^b
- 5** Wake up, you drunkards,^c and weep!
Wail, all you wine drinkers,
Because the sweet wine has been taken from your mouths.^d
- 6** For a nation has come up into my land, mighty and without number.^e
Its teeth are the teeth of a lion,^f and its jaws are those of a lion.
- 7** It has devastated my vine and turned my fig tree into a stump,
Stripping them completely bare and tossing them aside,
Leaving their twigs white.
- 8** Wail as a virgin* wearing sackcloth does
For the bridegroom# of her youth.
- 9** Grain offering^g and drink offering^h have ceased from the house of Jehovah;
The priests, the ministers of Jehovah, are in mourning.
- 10** The field has been devastated, the ground mourns;ⁱ
For the grain has been devastated, the new wine has dried up, the oil has failed.^j
- 11** Farmers are dismayed, vinedressers wail,
Because of the wheat and the barley;
For the harvest of the field has perished.

1:8 *Or "young woman." #Or "husband."

CHAP. 1

a Ex 10:14, 15

b Joe 2:25

c Isa 28:1
Am 6:6

d De 28:39

e Joe 2:2

f Re 9:7, 8

g Le 2:1

h Ex 29:40

i Le 26:20

j De 28:39, 40

Second Col.

a Le 26:20

b Ex 30:19, 20

c Le 2:1

d Ex 29:40

e Joe 2:15

f 2Ch 20:3, 13

g Joe 2:1
Zep 1:7, 14
Zep 2:2
2Pe 3:10
Re 6:16, 17

- 12** The vine has dried up,
The fig tree has withered.
The pomegranate, the palm,
and the apple,
All the trees of the field have dried up;^a
For joy has turned to shame among the people.
- 13** Put on sackcloth* and mourn,[#] you priests;
Wail, you ministers of the altar.^b
Come in and spend the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God;
For grain offering^c and drink offering^d have been withheld from the house of your God.
- 14** Proclaim* a fast; call for a solemn assembly.^e
Gather the elders together, with all the inhabitants of the land,
To the house of Jehovah your God,^f and cry to Jehovah for help.
- 15** Woe because of the day!
For the day of Jehovah is near,^g
And it will come like a destruction from the Almighty!
- 16** Has not food been taken from before our very eyes,
And rejoicing and joy from the house of our God?
- 17** The seeds* have shriveled under their shovels.
Storehouses are desolate.
Granaries have been torn down, for the grain has dried up.
- 18** Even the livestock groan!
The herds of cattle wander in confusion, for they have no pasture!
And the flocks of sheep bear the punishment.

1:13 *Lit., "Gird yourselves." #Or "beat your chest." 1:14 *Lit., "Sanctify." 1:17 *Or possibly, "dried figs."

- 19** To you, O Jehovah, I will call;^a
For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness,
And a flame has consumed all the trees of the field.
- 20** Even the wild beasts long for you,
Because the streams of water have dried up
And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”
- 2** “Blow a horn in Zion!^b
Shout a war cry in my holy mountain.
Let all the inhabitants of the land* tremble,
For the day of Jehovah is coming!^c It is near!
- 2** It is a day of darkness and gloom,^d
A day of clouds and thick gloom,^e
Like light of dawn spreading out on the mountains.
There is a people numerous and mighty;^f
Never before has there been one like it,
And never again will there be another
Through the years of all generations.
- 3** Ahead of it a fire devours,
And behind it a flame consumes.^g
The land ahead of it is like the garden of E'den,^h
But behind it is a desolate wilderness,
And nothing can escape.
- 4** Its appearance is like the appearance of horses,
And they run like warhorses.ⁱ
- 5** The sound is like that of chariots as they leap on the mountaintops,^j

2:1 *Or “earth.”

CHAP. 1

a Mic 7:7
Hab 3:18

CHAP. 2

b Eze 33:2, 3
Am 3:6c Zep 1:14, 16
Mal 4:1

d Am 5:18, 20

e Zep 1:15

f Joe 1:6

g Joe 1:19

h Ge 2:8

i Re 9:7

j Re 9:9

Second Col.

a Pr 30:27

b Joe 2:31
Mt 24:29
Lu 21:25
Re 9:2

c Joe 2:25

d Joe 2:2

e Jer 30:7
Am 5:18
Zep 1:15

f Re 6:16, 17

g Jer 4:1
Ho 12:6
Ho 14:1, 2h 1Sa 7:6
2Ch 20:3

Like the crackling of a blazing fire that consumes stubble.

It is like a mighty people drawn up in battle formation.^a

- 6** Because of them, peoples will be in anguish.
Every face will grow flushed.
- 7** They charge like warriors,
They scale a wall like soldiers,
Each keeps to his own course,
And they do not swerve from their paths.
- 8** They do not shove one another;
Each man advances in his course.
If the weapons* cause some to fall,
The others do not break ranks.
- 9** Into the city they rush, on the wall they run.
Onto the houses they climb,
through the windows they enter like a thief.
- 10** Before them the land trembles and the heavens rock.
Sun and moon have become dark,^b
And the stars have lost their brightness.
- 11** Jehovah will raise his voice before his army,^c for his camp is very numerous.^d
For the one carrying out His word is mighty;
For the day of Jehovah is great and very awe-inspiring.^e
Who can endure it?^f
- 12** “Yet even now,” declares Jehovah, “return to me with all your hearts,^g
With fasting^h and weeping and wailing.

2:8 *Or “missiles.”

- 13** Rip apart your hearts,^a
and not your garments,^b
And return to Jehovah
your God,
For he is compassionate*
and merciful, slow to
anger^c and abundant in
loyal love,^d
And he will reconsider^e
the calamity.
- 14** Who knows whether he will
turn back and reconsider^{e*}
And leave behind a blessing,
A grain offering and a drink
offering for Jehovah your
God?
- 15** Blow a horn in Zion!
Proclaim* a fast; call for a
solemn assembly.^f
- 16** Gather the people; sanctify
the congregation.^g
Collect the old men;* gather
the children and nursing
infants.^h
Let the bridegroom go out
from his inner chamber,
and the bride from her
bridal chamber.
- 17** Between the porch and the
altarⁱ
Let the priests, the ministers
of Jehovah, weep and say:
'Do feel pity, O Jehovah,
for your people;
Do not make your
inheritance an object
of scorn,
Letting the nations rule over
them.
Why should the peoples say,
"Where is their God?"'^j
- 18** Then Jehovah will be zealous
for his land
And show compassion on his
people.^k
- 19** Jehovah will answer his
people:

2:13 *Or "gracious." ^eOr "feel regret over." 2:14 *Or "feel regret." 2:15 *Lit., "Sanctify." 2:16 *Or "the elders."

CHAP. 2

a 2Ki 22:18, 19
Ps 51:17
Isa 57:15

b 2Sa 1:11, 12

c Isa 48:9

d Ex 34:6
Nu 14:18
Ne 9:17
Ps 106:44, 45
Mic 7:18, 19

e 2Ch 30:8, 9
Jer 18:7, 8
Zep 2:2, 3

f Joe 1:14

g Ex 19:10

h De 31:12
2Ch 20:3, 13

i 2Ch 8:12

j De 32:26, 27
Ps 79:9, 10
Mic 7:10

k De 32:36
Isa 60:10
La 3:22
Ho 11:8

Second Col.

a Isa 62:8, 9
Am 9:13
Mal 3:10

b Eze 34:29
Eze 36:15

c Isa 34:2, 3

d Isa 30:23
Isa 51:3

e Eze 34:27

f Am 9:14
Zec 8:12

g Isa 12:6
Zec 10:7

h Le 26:4
De 11:14

i Le 26:10
Am 9:13
Mal 3:10

'Here I am sending to you
grain and new wine and oil,
And you will be fully
satisfied;^a

I will no longer make you
a reproach among the
nations.^b

20 I will drive the northerner
far away from you;

I will disperse him to a dry
and desolate wasteland,
With his vanguard* toward
the eastern sea^e

And his rear guard toward
the western sea.^Δ

The foul smell from him will
ascend,

The stench from him will
keep ascending;^c

For He will do great things.^f

21 Do not be afraid, O land.
Be joyful and rejoice, for
Jehovah will do great
things.

22 Do not be afraid, you beasts
of the field,

For the pastures of the
wilderness will become
green,^d

And the trees will bear fruit;^e

The fig tree and the vine
must give their full yield.^f

23 You sons of Zion, be joyful
and rejoice in Jehovah
your God;^g

For he will give you the
autumn rain in the right
amount,

And he will send upon you
a downpour,

The autumn rain and the
spring rain, as before.^h

24 The threshing floors will be
full of pure grain,

And the presses will
overflow with new wine
and oil.ⁱ

25 And I will make compensa-
tion to you for the years

2:20 *Lit., "face." ^eThat is, the Dead
Sea. ^ΔThat is, the Mediterranean Sea.

That the swarming locust,
the unwinged locust,
the voracious locust, and
the devouring locust have
eaten,

My great army that I sent
among you.^a

26 You will surely eat to
satisfaction,^b

And you will praise the name
of Jehovah your God,^c

Who has done wonders in
your behalf;

My people will never again
be put to shame.^d

27 And you will have to know
that I am in the midst of
Israel^e

And that I am Jehovah your
God^f—there is no other!

My people will never again
be put to shame.

28 After that I will pour out
my spirit^g on every sort of
flesh,

And your sons and your
daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream
dreams,

And your young men will
see visions.^h

29 And even on my male slaves
and female slaves
I will pour out my spirit in
those days.

30 And I will give wonders*
in the heavens and on the
earth,

Blood and fire and columns
of smoke.ⁱ

31 The sun will be turned into
darkness and the moon
into blood^j

Before the coming of the
great and awe-inspiring
day of Jehovah.^k

32 And everyone who calls on
the name of Jehovah will
be saved;^l

2:30 *Or “portents.”

CHAP. 2

a Joe 1:4

b Le 26:5

c De 26:10, 11

d Zep 3:11

e Ps 46:5

f Le 26:11, 12
Eze 37:26, 27

g Isa 32:15
Isa 44:3
Eze 39:29

h Ac 2:16-18

i Ac 2:19, 20

j Mt 24:29
Mr 13:24, 25
Lu 21:25
Re 6:12

k Zep 1:14, 15
Mal 4:5

l Ac 2:21
Ro 10:13

Second Col.

a Ob 17

CHAP. 3

b De 30:3
Jer 30:3
Eze 39:28
Am 9:14
Zep 3:20

c Eze 38:22
Joe 3:12
Zep 3:8
Zec 14:3
Re 16:14, 16

d Eze 35:10, 11
Zep 2:8, 9

e Ob 11

f Isa 23:12
Jer 47:4
Eze 25:15-17
Am 1:9, 10
Zec 9:1, 2

g 2Ch 21:16, 17

h De 28:32
Eze 27:8, 13

For on Mount Zion and in
Jerusalem there will be
those who escape,^a just
as Jehovah has said,
The survivors whom
Jehovah calls.”

3 “For look! in those days and
in that time,

When I bring back the
captives of Judah and
Jerusalem,^b

2 I will also gather together all
the nations

And bring them down to the
Valley* of Je-hosh'a-phat.[#]

I will enter into judgment
with them there^c

In behalf of my people and
my inheritance Israel,

For they scattered them
among the nations,

And they divided up my land
among themselves.^d

3 For my people they cast
lots;^e

They would trade a boy to
hire a prostitute

And sell a girl for wine to
drink.

4 Also, what do you have
against me,

O Tyre and Si'don and all
the regions of Phi-lis'ti-a?

Are you repaying me for
something?

If you are repaying me,

I will swiftly, speedily bring
your repayment on your
heads.^f

5 Because you have taken my
silver and gold,^g

And you have brought my
finest treasures into your
temples;

6 And the people of Judah and
Jerusalem you have sold
to the Greeks,^h

In order to remove them far
from their territory;

3:2 *Or “Low Plain.” #Meaning “Jehovah Is Judge.”

- 7 Here I am rousing them to come from the place where you sold them,^a
And I will bring your repayment on your heads.
- 8 I will sell your sons and daughters into the hand of the people of Judah,^b
And they will sell them to the men of She'ba, to a nation far away;
For Jehovah himself has spoken it.
- 9 Proclaim this among the nations:^c
'Prepare for* war! Stir up the mighty men!
Let all the soldiers draw near, let them advance!^d
- 10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning shears into spears.*
Let the weak one say:
"I am powerful."
- 11 Come and help, all you surrounding nations, assemble together!"^e
To that place, O Jehovah, bring down your powerful ones.*
- 12 "Let the nations be roused and come up to the Valley* of Je-hosh'a-phat;
For there I will sit in order to judge all the surrounding nations.^f
- 13 Thrust in a sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come down and tread, for the winepress is full.^g
The vats overflow, for their badness is abundant.
- 14 Crowds, crowds are in the valley* of the decision,
For the day of Jehovah is near in the valley* of the decision.^h

3:9 *Lit., "Sanctify." 3:10 *Or "lances." 3:11 *Or "your warriors." 3:12 *Or "Low Plain." 3:14 *Or "low plain."

CHAP. 3

- a Isa 11:11, 12
Isa 43:5, 6
Isa 49:12
Jer 23:7, 8
Eze 34:12
- b Ob 19, 20
- c Isa 34:1, 2
- d Eze 38:7
- e Eze 38:9
Zep 3:8
Re 16:14
- f Ps 76:8, 9
Joe 3:2
- g Isa 63:3
Re 14:18-20
- h Isa 34:2
Zep 1:14

Second Col.

- a Ps 50:15
- b Zec 8:3
- c Isa 4:3
- d Isa 60:18
Na 1:15
Zec 14:21
- e Am 9:13
Zec 9:17
- f Eze 47:1
Re 22:1
- g Isa 19:1
- h Jer 49:17
- i Eze 25:12, 13
- j Am 1:11
Ob 10
- k Ps 48:8
Isa 33:20
Isa 60:15
Am 9:15
- l Isa 4:4
Eze 36:25
Mic 7:18, 19

m Isa 24:23
Mic 4:7

- 15 Sun and moon will become dark,
And the stars will lose their brightness.
- 16 And Jehovah will roar out of Zion,
Out of Jerusalem he will raise his voice.
And heaven and earth will rock;
But Jehovah will be a refuge for his people,^a
A fortress for the people of Israel.
- 17 And you will have to know that I am Jehovah your God, residing in Zion, my holy mountain.^b
Jerusalem will become a holy place,^c
And strangers* will pass through her no more.^d
- 18 In that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine,^e
The hills will flow with milk,
And the streams of Judah will all flow with water.
Out of the house of Jehovah a spring will flow,^f
And it will irrigate the Valley* of the Acacia Trees.
- 19 But Egypt will become desolate,^g
And E'dom will be a desolate wilderness,^h
Because of the violence done to the people of Judah,ⁱ
In whose land they shed innocent blood.^j
- 20 But Judah will always be inhabited,
And Jerusalem to generation after generation.^k
- 21 I will consider innocent their blood* that I had not considered innocent;^l
And Jehovah will reside in Zion.^m

3:17 *Or "foreigners." 3:18 *Or "Wadi." 3:21 *Or "bloodguilt."

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October 30–November 5

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Joel 2:28, 29—Anointed Christians serve as spokesmen for Jehovah

Reference: w02 8/1 15 paragraphs 4-5

4 Having received the holy spirit, the disciples in Jerusalem lost no time in sharing the good news of salvation with others, beginning with the crowd who had gathered that morning. Their preaching fulfilled a remarkable prophecy, recorded eight centuries earlier by Joel, the son of Pethuel: “I shall pour out my spirit on every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will certainly prophesy. As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see. And even on the menservants and on the maidservants in those days I shall pour out my spirit . . . before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Jehovah.”—**Joel 1:1; 2:28, 29, 31; Acts 2:17, 18, 20.**

5 Did this mean that God was going to raise up a whole generation of prophets, both male and female, in the manner of David, Joel, and Deborah, and use them to foretell future events? No. Christian ‘sons and daughters, menservants and maidservants’ would prophesy in the sense that they would be impelled by Jehovah’s spirit to declare “the magnificent things” that Jehovah had done and would still do. So they would serve as spokesmen for the Most High. How, though, did the crowd react?—**Hebrews 1:1, 2.**

Reference: jd 167 paragraph 4.

Look at the matter from another standpoint. Jehovah God told the prophet Joel of a time when people of every sort would prophesy, so to speak: “After that it must occur that I shall pour out my spirit on every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will certainly prophesy. As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see.” (Joel 2:28-32) On the day of Pentecost 33 C.E., the apostle Peter applied this passage to the pouring out of holy spirit upon those who were gathered in an upper chamber in Jerusalem and to their subsequent preaching of “the magnificent things of God.” (**Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-4, 11, 14-21**) Now consider our time. Joel’s prophecy has been undergoing its major fulfillment since early in the 20th century. Spirit-anointed Christians—male and female, old and young—began to “prophesy,” that is, to declare “the magnificent things of God,” including the good news of the Kingdom, now established in the heavens.

Joel 2:30-32—Only those who call on the name of Jehovah will be saved during his awe-inspiring day

Reference: w07 10/1 13 paragraph 2.

What does it mean to ‘call on the name of Jehovah’? To call on God’s name means to know that name, to respect it deeply, and to rely upon and trust in the bearer of that name.—**Romans 10:13, 14.**

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Joel 2:12, 13—What do these verses teach us about true repentance?

Reference: w07 10/1 13 paragraph 5.

Genuine repentance is heartfelt. It involves an inward ‘ripping apart of our hearts,’ not an outward ‘ripping apart of garments.’

Joel 3:14—What is “the valley of the decision”?

Reference: w07 10/1 13 paragraph 3.

It is a symbolic place for meting out God’s judgment. In the days of Judean King Jehoshaphat, whose name means “Jehovah Is Judge,” God delivered Judah from surrounding nations by confusing their military forces. Hence, the place is also called “the low plain of Jehoshaphat.” (Joel 3:2, 12) In our day, it represents a symbolic location in which nations will be crushed like grapes in a winepress.—Revelation 19:15.

- Song 77 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Joel.*]
Joe 2:28, 29—Anointed Christians serve as spokesmen for Jehovah (*w02 8/1 15 ¶4-5; jd 167 ¶4*)
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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) Joe 2:28–3:8

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) JW.ORG contact card
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- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *lv 196-197 ¶3-5*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 30
- **Jehovah Helps Us to Endure Trials:** (9 min.) Play the video *Jehovah Is a Strong Tower for Me* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES). Then ask the audience: What trials did the Henschel family face? What impact can the faith and integrity of parents have on their children? How can Jehovah strengthen you as he did Brother Henschel?
- **Become Jehovah’s Friend—Jehovah’s Name:** (6 min.) Play the video *Become Jehovah’s Friend —Jehovah’s Name* (video category CHILDREN). Then invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What does Jehovah’s name mean? What did Jehovah create? How can Jehovah help you?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr chap. 20 ¶17-19; boxes on pp. 216, 218-219; review box on p. 217*
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 106 and Prayer

JOEL 1-3 | “Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy”


2:28, 29

Anointed Christians share in the work of prophesying. They speak about “the magnificent things of God” and proclaim the “good news of the Kingdom.” (Ac 2:11, 17-21; Mt 24:14) The other sheep support them by participating in this work

2:32

What does it mean to ‘call on the name of Jehovah’?

- To know the name
- To respect the name
- To rely on and trust in the One who bears that name

 Ask yourself, ‘How can I support the anointed in their work of prophesying?’



Are You Making Good Use of JW.ORG Contact Cards?

In view of the approaching great tribulation, our preaching work is urgent. (Pr 24:11, 12, 20) To help people, we can use contact cards to direct their attention to God’s Word and to our website. The card contains a code that leads to the video *Why Study the Bible?* and an invitation to request more information or a Bible study. Some people are not inclined to accept literature but are willing to visit our website. Do not hesitate to give them a contact card. However, do not leave contact cards with those who show no interest.

As you go about your daily activities, you could generate someone’s interest simply by saying: “I have something I would like to give you. This card directs you to a website that has free information and videos on a variety of subjects.” (Joh 4:7) Because the contact cards are small, you can likely keep a few with you to share with others at every opportunity.



OFFER A CONTACT CARD . . .


- when witnessing informally
- when witnessing in business territory
- when someone listens to our message but is not inclined to accept literature



Learn more about the Bible

“Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need.”
—MATTHEW 5:3

Would you welcome a free personal Bible study or more information?
www.jw.org



Printed in U.S.A.



“Building Up Yourself on Your Most Holy Faith”

“By building up yourselves on your most holy faith, . . . keep yourselves in God’s love.”—JUDE 20, 21.

YOU are hard at work on a building project. The construction has been going on for some time and will continue well into the future. So far, the work has been challenging yet fulfilling. Come what may, you are determined never to give up or slack off, for the quality of your work will affect your life, even your future. Why? Because the building under construction is you!

² The disciple Jude stressed the building work that we do on ourselves. When he urged Christians to “keep yourselves in God’s love,” he also revealed in the same passage the key to doing so: “By building up yourselves on your most holy faith.” (Jude 20, 21) What are some ways that you can build yourself up, making your faith stronger so that you will remain in God’s love? Let us focus on three aspects of the spiritual building project before you.

KEEP BUILDING FAITH IN JEHOVAH’S RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS

³ First of all, we need to strengthen our faith in divine

1, 2. What building project are you involved in, and why is the quality of your work so important?

3-5. (a) Satan would like to mislead you into having what view of Jehovah’s requirements? (b) What should be our viewpoint of God’s requirements, and what effect should it have on how we feel? Illustrate.

law. In the course of studying this book, you have considered a number of Jehovah’s righteous requirements regarding conduct. What is your view of them? Satan would like to mislead you into viewing Jehovah’s laws, principles, and standards as restrictive, even oppressive. He has been using this tactic ever since it proved so effective way back in Eden. (Genesis 3:1-6) Will his tactic work on you? Much will depend on your point of view.

⁴ To illustrate: As you walk along in a pleasant park, you notice a sturdy high fence blocking off part of the grounds. The landscape beyond the fence looks inviting. At first, you might view the fence as a needless restriction of your freedom. As you look through it, though, you notice a ferocious lion stalking prey on the other side! Now you see the fence for what it is—a protection. Is there a dangerous predator stalking you right now? God’s Word warns: “Keep your senses, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.”—1 Peter 5:8.

⁵ Satan is a vicious predator. Because Jehovah does not want us to become Satan’s prey, He has instituted laws to protect us from the many “crafty acts” of that wicked one. (Ephesians 6:11, footnote) So whenever we meditate on God’s laws, we should see in them the love of our heavenly Father. Viewed in that light, God’s laws are a source of security and joy. The disciple James wrote: “He who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it . . . will be happy in his doing it.”—James 1:25.

⁶ Living by God’s commandments is the best way to build up our faith in the Lawgiver and in the wisdom of

6. What is the best way to build faith in God’s righteous laws and principles? Give an example.

My Father, My God and Friend

(Hebrews 6:10)

C Fma7/C G7/C C Am Em/G

Life in this world can be hard. Life in this world can bring
Gone are the days of my youth; Days of ca - lam - i - ty

F Dm Dm/C Dm/B E7

tears and pain. Still ev - 'ry day I will say, "My
now are here. Still through the eyes of my faith, My

Am7 D9 F/G Chorus G7 C

life is not in vain." For God is not un -
hope is bright and clear.

Em F Am

right - teous, And he re - mem - bers the love I've shown. So

My Father, My God and Friend

Dm7 Em F

he is ev - er near me; With Je - ho - vah, I'm not a -

G7 C Em

lone. Yes, God is my pro - vid - er and my pro -

F Fm/D

tec - tor down to the end. Yes, Je -

C/G G7sus4 G7 G7/C C

ho - vah is my Fa - ther, My God and Friend.

- Song 77 and Prayer
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IT SHAPED THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE

WHAT impact may taking part in relief work have on young ones? Consider what happened to **Peter Johnson**, who did so for the first time at age 18. He recalls: “Seeing the gratefulness of the brothers and feeling the joy that comes from giving touched me deeply. It reinforced my desire to use my life to serve Jehovah to the fullest extent.” Thereafter, Peter started pioneering. He also worked at Bethel and later began serving as a member of a Regional Building Committee. “Doing relief work that first time back in 1974,” says Peter today, “shaped the course of my life.” Are you young? Could you follow Peter’s example? Who knows how relief work may shape the course of *your* life in Jehovah’s service!



15, 16. (a) What benefit would Christians in Corinth and elsewhere receive from supporting relief efforts? (b) How do we similarly benefit from relief work today?

attended after a disaster occurred, another sister stated: “They were my lifeline!”—Rom. 1:11, 12; 12:12.

The Ministry of Relief Brings Lasting Benefits

15 In his consideration of the ministry of relief, Paul also explained to the Corinthians the benefits that they and other Christians would receive from sharing in this work. He stated: “With *supplication for you*, they [the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem who received the assistance] express *affection for you* because of the surpassing undeserved kindness of God upon you.” (2 Cor. 9:14) Yes, the generosity of the Corinthians would move the Jewish Christians to pray in behalf of their brothers in Corinth, including Gentiles, and would deepen their affection for them.

16 Applying Paul’s words about the benefits of relief work to our day, *The Watchtower* of December 1, 1945, stated: “When one section of God’s consecrated people contributes to the needs of another group of them, think of the unifying effect it has!” That is exactly what relief workers today experience. “Doing relief work made me feel closer to my brothers than ever before,” says an elder who helped in flood relief. One grateful sister who received relief aid put it this way, “Our brotherhood is the closest thing we have to Paradise on earth.”—**Read Proverbs 17:17.**

17 When relief workers arrive at the scene of a disaster, our afflicted brothers experience in a special way the truth of God’s promise: “I, Jehovah your God, am grasping your right hand, the One saying to you, ‘Do not be afraid. I will help you.’” (Isa. 41:13) After surviving a disaster, a sister said: “I felt hopeless seeing the damage, but Jehovah extended his hand. The help I received from the brothers is indescribable.” After a disaster devastated their area, two elders wrote in behalf of the congregations where they serve: “The earthquake caused great pain, but we experienced the help that Jehovah provides through our brothers. We had read about relief work, but now we saw it carried out in front of our eyes.”

Can You Have a Part?

18 Would you like to taste the joy that relief work provides? If so, keep in mind that relief workers are often selected from those who work on Kingdom Hall construction projects. So mention to your elders that you would like to fill out an application form. An elder with much experience in relief work gives this reminder: “Travel to a disaster area only after you have received an official invitation from a Disaster Relief Committee to do so.” In that way, our relief work will proceed in an orderly manner.

19 Relief work is indeed an outstanding way in which we obey Christ’s command to “love one another.” By showing such love, we demonstrate that we are truly Christ’s disciples. (John 13:34, 35) What a blessing it is for us today to have so many willing workers who bring glory to Jehovah as they provide needed relief to those who loyally support God’s Kingdom!

17. (a) How do the words found at Isaiah 41:13 apply to relief work? (b) Mention some examples of how relief work honors Jehovah and strengthens our bond of union. (See also the box “Volunteers Around the World Bring Relief.”)

18. What can you do if you want to share in relief work? (See also the box “It Shaped the Course of His Life.”)

19. How do relief workers help greatly in demonstrating that we are truly Christ’s disciples?

How Real Is the Kingdom to You?

- How do we know that relief work is part of our sacred service to Jehovah?
- What are three main objectives of our relief efforts?
- Relief work brings what lasting benefits?
- How does relief work relate to Jesus’ command found at John 13:34?

VOLUNTEERS AROUND THE WORLD BRING RELIEF

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

In 1994, some 800,000 or more people in Rwanda were killed in tribal genocide. In the aftermath of that massacre, unrest spread to other lands in Central Africa, resulting in overcrowded refugee camps. To help their afflicted fellow believers, Jehovah's Witnesses in Belgium, France, and Switzerland airlifted some 300 tons of clothing, medicine, tents, food, and other supplies. Within weeks, those supplies reached our needy brothers.

Also in Africa, a team of ten Witness doctors and nurses from France have been providing relief to our brothers to alleviate their suffering caused by civil war, famine, and disease. In the past two

years alone, the team handled over 10,000 medical consultations. Their work brings praise to Jehovah and his organization. "When we arrive in an area to help our brothers and sisters," relates one of the nurses, "people say with respect: 'These are Jehovah's Witnesses. They have come to help their brothers.'" After receiving help from a nurse, one Witness exclaimed: "Thank you, my sister. Thank you, Jehovah!"

At times, relief work may also be needed when severe accidents occur. In 2012, a road accident in Nigeria killed 13 Witnesses, all belonging to one small congregation, and left 54 others seriously injured. A relief committee organized around-the-clock personal care for each victim. When a hospital patient ob-

served the outpouring of support that the injured brothers and sisters received, she telephoned her pastor, saying: "No one from our church has visited me. Come to the hospital and see love in action among Jehovah's Witnesses!"

Though our dear brothers in that small congregation suffered a painful loss, they felt comforted by the expressions of love they received from their fellow believers. Furthermore, after observing the loving care that the relief workers showered on the afflicted brothers, several individuals in that congregation were moved to intensify their ministry. Before the accident, the congregation had 35 publishers. Within a year, that number had grown to 60.

AUSTRALIA

In 2013, parts of Queensland's coast were hit by a flood that left 70 Witnesses homeless. Mark and Rhonda and their daughter fled their flooded home and ended up in an evacuation center. The place was packed. "It was basically standing room only," relates Rhonda. The deafening noise from the helicopters that were landing and departing close-by added to the tense atmosphere in the center. Worried, she asked her husband, "What are we going to do?" Mark fervently prayed to Jehovah, asking for help. "About 30 minutes later," says Rhon-

da, "a car arrived at the center, and three brothers got out. When we met, they said: 'We're taking you with us. You will stay at a brother's house.'" Adds Rhonda: "It's hard to describe the overwhelming emotion we felt at that moment for the loving care of Jehovah's organization."

Over 250 volunteers rushed to that same disaster area to help their brothers. Says an elderly brother: "A group of Witnesses came out of nowhere and toiled like ants to clear up the mess in my home. My wife and I will never forget how they came to our aid."

BRAZIL

In 2008, mudslides and floods in the state of Santa Catarina forced some 80,000 people out of their homes. It was like a “tsunami of clay, mud and trees,” said a resident. Some brothers found shelter in an Assembly Hall. “They escaped with only the clothes they were wearing, all soaked with mud,” relates Márcio, the hall’s caretaker. Says one sister: “Our house collapsed. It was painful to see it disappear in seconds, but I will never forget how our brothers and sisters comforted us. We received so many expressions of love! The experience taught me how wise it is to treasure spiritual things.”

Mudslides have devastated entire neighborhoods on the mountain slopes near the city of Rio de Janeiro. To respond effectively to such recurring disasters, the brothers formed a per-

manent Disaster Relief Committee. When there is a threat of imminent mudslides, monitors (assigned brothers living in the affected area) alert the committee. Quickly, volunteers arrive in trucks marked with the sign “Jehovah’s Witnesses—Humanitarian Aid.” All members of the well-equipped rescue crews have pre-assigned tasks. The workers wear vests that clearly identify them as Jehovah’s Witnesses. Together with brothers of the Hospital Liaison Committees, they provide aid to injured brothers and sisters. Relief workers bring in food, water, medical supplies, clothing, and cleaning products. Cleaning mud from houses is a huge task. After one recent mudslide, it took 60 volunteers to remove four truckloads of mud from just one home!

An Assembly Hall in Santa Catarina, Brazil, is turned into a relief center filled with donated supplies, 2009



Cultivating the Quality of Love

(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

C7 F C/E F C/Bb Bb D7/A

We hum - bly bow to our God in prayer, That
Love looks for ways to give gra - cious - ly And

Gm D/F# Gm Gm7/C Am/C C7

all his qual - i - ties we may share. But
thinks of oth - ers un - self - ish - ly. Love

F/A Gm/Bb D7/A Gm

most im - por - tant of all those things is
nev - er har - bors a hate - ful thought, For -

C7 Gm7 C Bb/F C7/F F

love, which hav - ing his spir - it brings. We
gives our broth - ers, as Je - sus taught. Love

Cultivating the Quality of Love

B \flat F/A B \flat /F C C/B \flat B \flat D7/A

may helps be us tal - ent - ed, wise, or bold, But
pa - tient - ly suf - fer wrong, Bears

Gm6 Gm7 C7 B \flat /C C7 E $^{\circ}$ F

we are noth - ing if love grows cold. We
heav - y loads when it's real - ly strong. Through

F/E \flat B \flat /D F/C B \flat B $^{\circ}$ E7/B

pray for love that is warm and true, Re -
ev - 'ry tri - al let love pre - vail; It

F/C C7 B \flat /F C7 B \flat m6/F F

vealed in all that we say and do.
bears all things; it will nev - er fail.

(See also John 21:17; 1 Cor. 13:13; Gal. 6:2.)

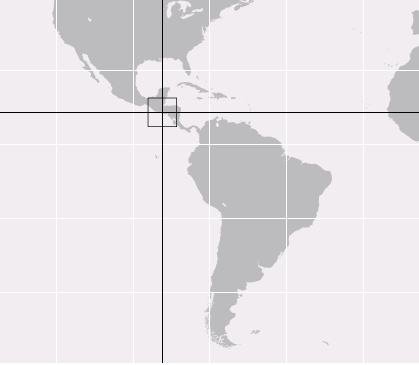
SEPTEMBER 2017

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 26, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
EL SALVADOR

Two couples share in public witnessing, using carts in front of one of the biggest malls in San Salvador

PUBLISHERS
41,084

BIBLE STUDIES
42,813

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2016)
92,606

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 23-29** **Cultivate Self-Control**

Jehovah is the supreme example of self-control. How can humans imitate him in exercising this quality? And what practical steps can you take to strengthen your self-control?

8 WEEK OF **OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 5** **Imitate Jehovah’s Compassion**

What does it mean to be compassionate? Both Jehovah and Jesus have set perfect examples of exercising this quality. In what practical ways, though, can we imitate their examples? And what good results can we obtain from doing so?

13 LIFE STORY **I Have Been Blessed to Work With Spiritual Men**

18 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 6-12** **“The Word of Our God Endures Forever”**

23 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 13-19** **“The Word of God . . . Exerts Power”**

Why is it significant that the Bible continues to be available in more and more languages? And how can we show our appreciation for having access to God’s Word in a language we can understand? These articles will deepen our gratitude for the Bible as well as our love for its Author.

28 WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 20-26** **“Be Courageous . . . and Go to Work”**

Courage is essential for Christians. How can we benefit from the example of those who in the past displayed this quality? How can young ones, parents, older sisters, and baptized brothers show that they are courageous and ready to perform good works?

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



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Preaching to All Sorts of People

(1 Timothy 2:4)

A Bm/A A A Bm A/C#

We real - ly want to im - i - tate our God, To be im -
 It does - n't mat - ter where they may be found Or what at
 Je - ho - vah wel - comes all who make the choice To leave the

D F#m7 E D E/D

par - tial, as we know he is. To save all
 first they might ap - pear to be. What real - ly
 world and all its ways be - hind. This we have

C#m7 F#m

sorts of peo - ple is his will; He wel - comes
 counts is what they are at heart - The in - ner
 learned, and this we want to share, And so we

D Bm D/E Chorus E

all to come and to be his.
 self, the one Je - ho - vah sees. It's the
 preach to peo - ple of all kinds.

Preaching to All Sorts of People

A D/A E A D/A

per - son, not the place; It's the heart and not the face. God's

Musical notation for the first system, including guitar chords and lyrics.

A D Esus4 E

mes - sage to all peo - ple we ex - tend. So be -

Musical notation for the second system, including guitar chords and lyrics.

A Bm7 A/C# D

cause we real - ly care, We keep preach - ing ev - 'ry - where: "All sorts of

Musical notation for the third system, including guitar chords and lyrics.

A/E Bm/E C#m/E A

peo - ple can be - come God's friend."

R.H.

Musical notation for the fourth system, including guitar chords and lyrics.



Imitate Jehovah's Compassion

“Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and compassionate.”

—EX. 34:6.

SONGS: 57, 147

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why can it sometimes
be a challenge to show
compassion?

How does Jehovah teach
his people to manifest
compassion?

In what circumstances can
you exercise the godly quality
of compassion?

ON ONE occasion, God revealed himself to Moses by declaring His own name and qualities. The first ones that he listed were mercy and compassion. **(Read Exodus 34:5-7.)** Jehovah could have stressed his power or his wisdom. Yet, to Moses, who was seeking reassurance of God's backing, Jehovah emphasized instead qualities that underscore his willingness to help his servants. (Ex. 33:13) Do you not find it heartwarming that God mentioned these endearing traits ahead of any others? This article will focus on the quality of compassion, a sympathetic awareness of another's suffering or adversity coupled with a desire to lessen it.

² Humans were made in God's image. Accordingly, because Jehovah is compassionate, interest in others' well-being is rooted in human nature. Even those who do not know the true God often show compassion. (Gen. 1:27) We find many

1. In what special way did Jehovah reveal himself to Moses, and why is this significant?

2, 3. (a) What shows that compassion is part of human nature? (b) Why should you be interested in what the Bible says about compassion?

accounts in the Bible where a sense of compassion shines through. Recall the account of the two prostitutes who argued before Solomon over which one of them was the actual mother of a child. When Solomon put them to the test by ordering that the baby be cut in half, the real mother's compassion was stirred. That moved her to act, even at the cost of giving the child up to the other woman. (1 Ki. 3:23-27) Or recall Pharaoh's daughter who saved baby Moses' life. Though she realized that the infant she had found was a child of the Hebrews and should not be kept alive, "she felt compassion for him" and decided to raise the child as her own.—Ex. 2:5, 6.

³ Why should the topic of compassion interest you? Because the Bible urges you to imitate Jehovah. (Eph. 5:1) Yet, while humans were created to be compassionate, our imperfection as descendants of Adam inclines us toward self-interest. Sometimes we may find that it is not easy to decide whether we will help others or concentrate on ourselves. For some, this is an ongoing conflict, or a balancing act. What can help you to develop and maintain your interest in others? First, take time to examine how Jehovah has shown compassion and how others have shown it. Second, consider how you can imitate God's example and how your doing so is truly beneficial.

JEHOVAH—THE PERFECT MODEL OF COMPASSION

⁴ We find many instances where Jehovah's compassion must have been involved. Think of what God did for Lot. That righteous man was "greatly dis-

4. (a) Why did Jehovah send angels to Sodom? (b) What does the account about Lot and his daughters teach us?

tressed" by the brazen conduct of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. Indeed, God determined that those immoral people deserved to die. (2 Pet. 2:7, 8) God sent angels to rescue Lot. They urged him and his family to flee from the doomed cities. "When he kept lingering, then because of Jehovah's compassion for him, the [angels] seized hold of his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, and they brought him out and stationed him outside the city." (Gen. 19:16) Does that example not indicate that Jehovah is fully aware of the difficult situations in which his faithful people sometimes find themselves?—Isa. 63:7-9; Jas. 5:11, *ftn.*; 2 Pet. 2:9.

⁵ Not only has Jehovah shown compassion but he has also taught his people the need to display that quality. Consider the law given to Israel regarding the seizing of a man's garment as security for a loan. (**Read Exodus 22:26, 27.**) A hard-hearted lender might have been tempted to seize the debtor's garment, leaving him without a covering in which to sleep. Yet, Jehovah taught his people to avoid such an unfeeling attitude and course. His people were to be compassionate. Does not the principle reflected in that particular law move us to action? Would we want to leave our brothers out in the cold, so to speak, if there is something that we can do to relieve their suffering?—Col. 3:12; Jas. 2:15, 16; **read 1 John 3:17.**

⁶ Jehovah felt compassion for his people Israel even when they sinned. We

5. How does God's Word, such as at 1 John 3:17, help us learn to show compassion?

6. What lesson can we draw from Jehovah's persistent efforts to reform the sinful Israelites?

read: “Jehovah the God of their forefathers kept warning them by means of his messengers, warning them again and again, because he felt compassion for his people and for his dwelling place.” (2 Chron. 36:15) Should we not feel similar compassion for people who could potentially repent over a sinful life course and gain God’s favor? Jehovah does not want any to be destroyed in the coming judgment. (2 Pet. 3:9) So until God acts to destroy the wicked, let us continue to proclaim his compassionate warning message.

⁷ Many experiences could be used to illustrate God’s acts of compassion. Consider what happened to the family of a 12-year-old lad whom we will call Milan. It was during a time of ethnic strife in the early 1990’s. Milan, his brother, his parents, and a number of other Witnesses were riding on a bus from Bosnia to Serbia. They were on their way to a convention at which Milan’s parents intended to get baptized. But at the border, soldiers pulled the family off the bus because of their ethnicity; yet, they allowed the other brothers to proceed. After holding the family for two days, the officer in charge radioed his superior to ask what should be done with them. The officer was standing right in front of the family, so all heard the response, “Just take them out and shoot them!”

⁸ As the officer spoke to his men, two strangers came up to the family and quietly identified themselves as Witnesses. They had heard of the crisis from others on the bus. The two told Milan and his brother to get into their car to cross the border, as the children’s papers were

7, 8. Why did one family believe that Jehovah had exercised compassion toward them?

not being checked. The newcomers then told the parents to walk around the back of the border post and meet them on the other side. Milan did not know whether to laugh or to cry at this suggestion. “Do you think they are just going to let us walk off?” his parents asked. Yet, as they walked away, it seemed as if the soldiers were staring right through them. The parents and children were reunited on the other side of the border. They proceeded to the convention city, convinced that Jehovah had answered their desperate prayers for help. We know from the Bible that there have been times when Jehovah did not directly intervene to protect his servants. (Acts 7: 58-60) Yet, Milan shares how he felt. He says, “It seemed to me that the angels blinded the soldiers and that Jehovah rescued us.”—Ps. 97:10.

⁹ We can learn a lesson from Jesus. He felt compassion for the crowds he met, for “they were skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd.” How did he react to their pitiful state? “He started to teach them many things.” (Matt. 9:36; **read Mark 6:34.**) His attitude was in stark contrast to that of the Pharisees, who had no desire to help the common people. (Matt. 12:9-14; 23:4; John 7:49) Do you not feel a yearning, similar to what Jesus had, to feed spiritually famished people?

¹⁰ That is not to say that compassion is to be shown in every situation. God’s compassion was appropriate in the Bible examples mentioned above. How

9. How did Jesus respond to the condition of the crowds who followed him? (See opening picture.)

10, 11. Is compassion always appropriate? Explain.

ever, King Saul was disobedient when he showed what he may have felt was compassion. He spared the life of Agag, an enemy of God's people, and he also spared the best of the flock. Consequently, Jehovah rejected Saul from being king over Israel. (1 Sam. 15:3, 9, 15, ftn.) Jehovah, of course, is the righteous Judge. He can read people's hearts, and he knows when compassion is not warranted. (Lam. 2:17; Ezek. 5:11) The time is coming when he will execute judgment on all those who refuse to obey him. (2 Thess. 1:6-10) That will not be the time for him to show compassion for those whom he has judged to be wicked. Rather, executing them will be an appropriate expression of God's compassion for the righteous, whom he will preserve.

¹¹ Clearly, it is not our role to judge whether people should be executed or preserved alive. Instead, we need to do all we can now to *help* people. So how can we manifest fitting compassion for our fellow man in practical ways? Consider a number of suggestions.

CULTIVATING AND SHOWING APPROPRIATE COMPASSION

¹² *Be helpful in everyday life.* Showing compassion for one's neighbor and Christian brothers is a basic requirement of those who strive to imitate Jesus. (John 13:34, 35; 1 Pet. 3:8) One meaning of compassion is "to suffer together." A person who shows compassion is moved to relieve others' suffering, perhaps by helping them out of their difficulties. Seek opportunities to do so! For example, could you help someone by offering to perform a necessary chore, maybe running an errand for him?—Matt. 7:12.

¹³ *Share in relief work.* The sufferings of those struck by disasters move many to manifest compassion. Jehovah's people are known for coming forward to help in such times of need. (1 Pet. 2:17) One Japanese sister lived in an area that was seriously damaged by the

12. How can you show a compassionate attitude in your dealings with others?

13. What qualities of God's people become particularly evident in the aftermath of disasters?

Show your compassion for others
by offering practical help
(See paragraph 12)



earthquake and tsunami of 2011. She says that she was “very encouraged and comforted” by the efforts of the many volunteers from elsewhere in Japan and from overseas to repair property damage. She writes: “This experience helped me to realize that Jehovah cares. And fellow Witnesses care about one another. Many brothers and sisters all over the world are praying for us.”

¹⁴ *Assist the sick and the elderly.* When we see others experiencing the effects of Adamic sin, we are rightly moved to show compassion. We long to see sickness and aging brought to an end. So we pray for God’s Kingdom to come. In the meantime, we do what we can to assist those in need. Consider what one author wrote about his elderly mother, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. One day, she soiled her clothes. As she was trying to clean up, the doorbell rang. The visitors turned out to be two Witnesses who regularly called on the woman. The sisters asked if there was anything they could do to help. “It is embarrassing but yes,” the woman replied. The visitors helped her to clean up. Then they made her a cup of tea and stayed for a chat. The son was most grateful. “Hats off to these Witnesses,” he wrote. “They practice what they preach.” Does your compassion for the sick and the elderly move you to do all you can to lessen their suffering?—Phil. 2:3, 4.

¹⁵ *Help people spiritually.* People’s problems and worries move us to want to help them spiritually. The best way we can do that is by teaching them about God and

about what his Kingdom will do for mankind. Another way is by helping them to see the wisdom of living by godly standards. (Isa. 48:17, 18) Could you increase the share you are having in the ministry, a work that truly honors Jehovah and manifests your compassion for others?—1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

COMPASSION IS GOOD FOR YOU TOO!

¹⁶ Mental-health experts say that practicing compassion can improve your health, well-being, and relationships. When you relieve the suffering of others, you will feel happier, more optimistic, less lonely, and less inclined to think negative thoughts. Yes, your showing compassion will benefit you. (Eph. 4:31, 32) Christians who lovingly seek to help others are rewarded with a good conscience, knowing that they are acting in harmony with godly principles. Having such a disposition makes for a more caring parent, a better spouse, and a better friend. Those who are quick to show compassion are, in turn, more likely to receive help and support when they need it.—**Read Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:38.**

¹⁷ Knowing that compassion is good for you should not be your main reason for wanting to cultivate it. The principal reason should be your desire to imitate and glorify the Source of love and compassion, Jehovah God. (Prov. 14:31) He sets the perfect example for us. May we do all we can, then, to imitate him—to promote warm affection among our brothers and good relations with our neighbors by showing compassion.—Gal. 6:10; 1 John 4:16.

14. How can you assist the sick and the elderly?

15. What important opportunities does our preaching work offer?

16. How does a compassionate person benefit himself?

17. Why do you want to cultivate and show compassion?

Life Everlasting Is Promised

(Psalm 37:29)

C/G G9sus4 G9

Life ev - er - last - ing is prom - ised.
 Par - a - dise brought to per - fec - tion;
 Soon in the grand res - ur - rec - tion,

Dm/G G7 C/G

Our earth - ly home will en - dure.
 All of God's chil - dren set free.
 Sor - row will all dis - ap - pear.

C G7/D C/E Cm/Eb G/D G#°

'Meek ones will thrive,' said the psalm - ist.
 Un - der Je - ho - vah's di - rec - tion,
 Show - er - ing ten - der af - fec - tion,

Am7 D9 Dm7 G9

This grand fu - ture is sure.
 Peace on earth we will see.
 God will dry ev - 'ry tear.

Life Everlasting Is Promised

Chorus

C C#° Dm7 G7

We can live for - ev - er.

Dm G13 Dm/G G13 C6

It's worth all en - deav - or.

Ab9 C/G Am

God's prom - ise is faith - ful.

Dm7 G7 C

His Word will come true.

