

- Song 123 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“A Little Leaven Ferments the Whole Batch of Dough”:** (10 min.)
 1Co 5:1, 2—The congregation in Corinth was tolerating an unrepentant wrongdoer
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What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 1Co 6:1-14 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
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- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *Ivs* 44 (3)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
- **“Use Videos to Teach Your Bible Students”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play and discuss the video that shows a publisher using the video from lesson 4 of the *Good News* brochure to teach a Bible student.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *iy* chap. 60
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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1 CORINTHIANS 4-6 | “A Little Leaven Ferments the Whole Batch of Dough”




5:1, 2, 5-11, 13

How can it be said that disfellowshipping is a loving provision when it causes so much pain?

Disfellowshipping shows love for . . .

- Jehovah by honoring his holy name.—1Pe 1:15, 16
- the congregation by protecting it from corrupting influences.—1Co 5:6
- the wrongdoer by helping him come to his senses.—Heb 12:11

 How can you give support to Christian family members of a disfellowshipped one?

Loyally Submitting to Theocratic Order

(1 Corinthians 14:33)

1. As Jehovah's people sound throughout the earth
Truths about the Kingdom and its priceless worth,
Theocratic order they must all obey
And remain united, loyalty display.

(CHORUS)

*Loyal submission in recognition,
This to our God we owe.
He gives protection, tender affection,
Loyalty to him we show.*

2. God provides his steward and his active force.
These will ever guide us in our Christian course.
So may we be steadfast, seeking God to please,
Loyally proclaiming all his wise decrees!

(Chorus)

1 Corinthians 4-6

⁴ A man should regard us as attendants of Christ and stewards of God's sacred secrets. ² In this regard, what is expected of stewards is that they be found faithful. ³ Now to me it is of very little importance to be examined by you or by a human tribunal. In fact, I do not even examine myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself. But by this I am not proved righteous; the one who examines me is Jehovah. ⁵ Therefore, do not judge anything before the due time, until the Lord comes. He will bring the secret things of darkness to light and make known the intentions of the hearts, and then each one will receive his praise from God.

⁶ Now, brothers, these things I have applied to myself and A-pol'los for your good, that through us you may learn the rule: "Do not go beyond the things that are written," so that you may not be puffed up with pride, favoring one against the other. ⁷ For who makes you different from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive? If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it?

⁸ Are you already satisfied? Are you already rich? Have you begun ruling as kings without us? I really wish that you had begun ruling as kings, so that we also might rule with you as kings. ⁹ For it seems to me that God has put us the apostles last on exhibition as men condemned to death, because we have become a theatrical spectacle to the world, and to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools because of Christ, but you are discreet in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in dishonor. ¹¹ Down to this very hour we continue to hunger and thirst and to be poorly clothed and to be beaten and to be homeless ¹² and to toil, working with our own hands. When insulted, we bless; when persecuted, we patiently endure; ¹³ when slandered, we answer mildly; we have

become as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things, until now.

¹⁴ I am writing these things, not to put you to shame, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you may have 10,000 guardians in Christ, you certainly do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus, I have become your father through the good news. ¹⁶ I urge you, therefore, become imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I am sending Timothy to you, because he is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my methods in connection with Christ Jesus, just as I am teaching everywhere in every congregation.

¹⁸ Some are puffed up with pride, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if Jehovah wills, and I will get to know, not the speech of those who are puffed up with pride, but their power. ²⁰ For the Kingdom of God is a matter not of speech but of power. ²¹ Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and mildness of spirit?

5 Actually sexual immorality is reported among you, and such immorality as is not even found among the nations—of a man living with his father's wife. ² And are you proud of it? Should you not rather mourn, so that the man who committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? ³ Although absent in body, I am present in spirit, and I have already judged the man who has done this, as if I were actually with you. ⁴ When you are gathered together in the name of our Lord Jesus, and knowing that I am with you in spirit along with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you must hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven ferments the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Clear away the old leaven so that you may be a new batch, inasmuch as you are free from

ferment. For, indeed, Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.⁸ So, then, let us keep the festival, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of badness and wickedness, but with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ In my letter I wrote you to stop keeping company with sexually immoral people,¹⁰ not meaning entirely with the sexually immoral people of this world or the greedy people or extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world.¹¹ But now I am writing you to stop keeping company with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man.¹² For what do I have to do with judging those outside? Do you not judge those inside,¹³ while God judges those outside? “Remove the wicked person from among yourselves.”

6 Does any one of you who has a dispute with another dare to go to court before unrighteous men, and not before the holy ones?² Or do you not know that the holy ones will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to try very trivial matters?³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? Then why not matters of this life?⁴ If, then, you do have matters of this life to be tried, is it the men looked down on in the congregation whom you assign as judges?⁵ I am speaking to move you to shame. Is there not one wise man among you who is able to judge between his brothers?⁶ Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and before unbelievers at that!

⁷ Really, it is already a defeat for you when you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather let yourselves be wronged? Why do you not rather let yourselves be defrauded?⁸ Instead, you wrong and defraud, and your brothers at that!

⁹ Or do you not know that unrighteous people will not inherit God's Kingdom? Do not be misled. Those who are sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, men who submit to homosexual acts, men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners will not inherit God's Kingdom. ¹¹ And yet that is what some of you were. But you have been washed clean; you have been sanctified; you have been declared righteous in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and with the spirit of our God.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are advantageous. All things are lawful for me, but I will not let myself be controlled by anything. ¹³ Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will bring both of them to nothing. The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴ But God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up out of death through his power.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I, then, take the members of the Christ away and join them to a prostitute? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that anyone who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For "the two," says he, "will be one flesh." ¹⁷ But whoever is joined to the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality! Every other sin that a man may commit is outside his body, but whoever practices sexual immorality is sinning against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is the temple of the holy spirit within you, which you have from God? Also, you do not belong to yourselves, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. By all means, glorify God in your body.

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1 Corinthians 5:1, 2—The congregation in Corinth was tolerating an unrepentant wrongdoer

1 Corinthians 5:1, 2: Actually sexual immorality is reported among you, and such immorality as is not even found among the nations—of a man living with his father’s wife. And are you proud of it? Should you not rather mourn, so that the man who committed this deed should be taken away from your midst?

1 Corinthians 5:5-8, 13—Paul told the congregation to remove the “leaven” from their midst and hand the wrongdoer over to Satan

1 Corinthians 5:5-8: you must hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven ferments the whole batch of dough? Clear away the old leaven so that you may be a new batch, inasmuch as you are free from ferment. For, indeed, Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. So, then, let us keep the festival, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of badness and wickedness, but with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:13: while God judges those outside? “Remove the wicked person from among yourselves.”

***it-2* 230**

The apostle Paul employed the same symbolism when he

commanded the Christian congregation in Corinth to expel an immoral man from the congregation, stating: “Do you not know that a little leaven ferments the whole lump? Clear away the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, according as you are free from ferment. For, indeed, Christ our passover has been sacrificed.” He then clearly showed what he meant by “leaven”: “Consequently let us keep the festival, not with old leaven, neither with leaven of badness and wickedness, but with unfermented cakes of sincerity and truth.” (1 Corinthians 5:6-8) Paul here was drawing on the pictorial meaning of the Jewish Festival of Unfermented Cakes, which immediately followed the Passover celebration. Just as a bit of sourdough soon causes the whole lump, or batch, of bread to be leavened, so the congregation as a body would become unclean in Jehovah’s eyes if they did not clear out this corrupting influence of the immoral man. They must act to get the “leaven” out of their midst, just as the Israelites could have no leaven in their houses during the festival.

it-2 869-870

What is meant by ‘handing a person over to Satan for destruction of the flesh’?

In instructing the congregation at Corinth as to the action to take toward a member of the congregation who had wickedly been committing incest with the wife of his father, the apostle Paul wrote: “Hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.” (1 Corinthians 5:5) This was a command to expel the man from the congregation, cutting off all fellowship with him. (1 Corinthians 5:13) Turning him over to Satan would put him out of the congregation and into the world over which Satan is the god and ruler. Like “a little leaven” in “the whole lump” of dough, this man was “the flesh,” or fleshly element inside the congregation; and by removing this incestuous man, the spiritually minded congregation would destroy

“the flesh” from the midst of it. (1 Corinthians 5:6, 7) Similarly, Paul handed Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan, because they had thrust aside faith and a good conscience and had experienced shipwreck concerning their faith.—1 Timothy 1:20.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11—The congregation should not keep company with unrepentant wrongdoers

1 Corinthians 5:9-11: In my letter I wrote you to stop keeping company with sexually immoral people, not meaning entirely with the sexually immoral people of this world or the greedy people or extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world. But now I am writing you to stop keeping company with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man.

Ivs 241, endnote “Disfellowshipping”

When someone who has seriously sinned does not repent and refuses to follow Jehovah’s standards, he can no longer be a member of the congregation. He needs to be disfellowshipped. When someone is disfellowshipped, we have no more dealings with that person and we stop talking to him. (1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 John 9-11) The disfellowshipping arrangement protects Jehovah’s name and the congregation. (1 Corinthians 5:6) Disfellowshipping is also discipline that can help someone to repent so that he can return to Jehovah.—Luke 15:17.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

1 Corinthians 4:9—How are God’s human servants “a theatrical spectacle” to angels?

1 Corinthians 4:9: For it seems to me that God has put us the apostles last on exhibition as men condemned to death, because we have become a theatrical spectacle to the world, and to angels and to men.

w09 5/15 24 paragraph 16

Christians under trial are ‘a theatrical spectacle to angels.’ (1 Corinthians 4:9) With great satisfaction, the angels observe our acts of faithfulness and even rejoice over the repentance of a sinner. (Luke 15:10) The godly conduct of Christian women is noted by the angels. The Bible shows that “the woman ought to have a sign of authority upon her head because of the angels.” (1 Corinthians 11:3, 10) Yes, angels are pleased to see Christian women and all other earthly servants of God comply with theocratic order and headship. Such obedience is a fitting reminder for these heavenly sons of God.

1 Corinthians 6:3—What was Paul evidently referring to when he wrote: “We will judge angels”?

1 Corinthians 6:3: Do you not know that we will judge angels? Then why not matters of this life?

it-2 211

Law to Angels. Angels, higher than man, are subject to the law and commandments of God. (Hebrews 1:7, 14; Psalm 104:4)

Jehovah even commanded and restricted his adversary Satan. (Job 1:12; 2:6) Michael the archangel recognized and respected Jehovah's position as Supreme Judge when he said, in dispute with the Devil: "May Jehovah rebuke you." (Jude 9; compare Zechariah 3:2.) The glorified Jesus Christ has all the angels placed under his authority by Jehovah God. (Hebrews 1:6; 1 Peter 3:22; Matthew 13:41; 25:31; Philippians 2:9-11) Thus, by Jesus' command, an angelic messenger was sent to John. (Revelation 1:1) Yet, at 1 Corinthians 6:3 the apostle Paul speaks of the spiritual brothers of Christ as designated to judge angels, evidently because they are to share in some way in executing judgment upon wicked spirits.

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

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Sample Conversations – March 2019

Second Return Visit

Question: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

Scripture: Ps 37:10, 11

Link: What must we do to benefit from God's promises?

Elise (Publisher 1): Hi Tina.

Tina (Householder): Hello Elise. Hi Morgan.

Morgan (Publisher2): How are you doing?

Tina (Householder): Things are good. Thanks.

Elise (Publisher 1): Glad to hear it. Last time we talked, we left off with the question: "What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose for humans?"

Tina (Householder): Yeah, I've been curious about what you'll show me.

Elise (Publisher 1): Great. Notice with the Bible promises here at Psalm 37:10,11. Morgan, would you please read those verses for us?

Morgan (Publisher2): Sure. "Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; you will look at where they were, and they will not be there. But the meek will possess the earth, and they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace."

Elise (Publisher 1): Thank you. So what kind of future does God have in mind for us?

Tina (Householder): Seems like a good one.

Elise (Publisher 1): For sure. Is there anything in these verses that especially appeals to you?

Tina (Householder): Yeah, when it talks about peace.

Morgan (Publisher 2): Yes, an abundance of peace.

Elise (Publisher 1): That's the kind of life that God wants for you, Tina, and for all of us. He wants us to enjoy life in peace, right here on earth. In fact, I have something to show you. [Elise shows Tina illustrations from the Bible Teach book] Notice some of the amazing things that God will do for us.

Elise (Publisher 1): So those are some of the things that God promises, but what do we need to do to enjoy them? We can use this book to explore the Bible's answer.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations



INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's purpose for humans?

Scripture: **Ge 1:28**

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?



FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: **Isa 55:11**

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?



SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

Scripture: **Ps 37:10, 11**

Link: What must we do to benefit from God's promises?

MEMORIAL INVITATION CAMPAIGN (March 23–April 19):

We want to invite you to a very important event. Here is your personal invitation. On Friday, April 19, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ. This invitation shows the time and location of the

meeting being held in our area. We also invite you to a talk the week before entitled "Reach Out for the Real Life!"

Link When Interest Is Shown: Why did Jesus die?

4 OUR STRONGEST LOYALTY IS OUR LOYALTY TO JEHOVAH

“True, no discipline seems for the present to be joyous, . . . yet afterward, it yields . . . righteousness.”—Hebrews 12:11

What should we do if a friend chooses to reject Jehovah?

1 Corinthians 5:11-13;

2 John 9-11

If a friend chooses to keep doing bad things and rejects help, he shows that he no longer wants to be part of the congregation.

1 Peter 1:15, 16

The disfellowshipping arrangement shows love for Jehovah, his name, and his standards.

78 *“Teaching the Word of God”*

(Acts 18:11)

1. For those who teach the Word of God,
 There is a joyful share.
 The benefits that we receive
 Are far beyond compare.
 We imitate the Son of God
 And how he taught with love.
 And as we teach, the ones we’re helping
 Draw close to God above.
2. As teachers of Jehovah’s Word,
 We strive to do what’s right,
 So all may see sincerity
 As we reflect God’s light.
 With diligence we search God’s Word,
 For it has news to tell.
 So we can share our heart’s good treasure
 And teach ourselves as well.
3. Jehovah gives us all we need
 To teach his precious Word.
 So if we pray to ask for help,
 We know that we’ll be heard.
 We love what’s in the Word of God;
 What’s more, we know it’s true.
 And as we love the ones we’re teaching,
 They’ll soon be teachers too!

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 minutes) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 minutes or less) Use the sample conversation. (*th* study 11)
- **Bible Study:** (5 minutes or less) *lvs* 44 (*th* study 3)

Living as Christians

- Song 78
- **“Use Videos to Teach Your Bible Students”:** (15 minutes) Discussion. Play and discuss the video that shows a publisher using the video from lesson 4 of the *Good News* brochure to teach a Bible student.

Use Videos to Teach Your Bible Students

Visual aids capture the attention of the viewer and help him to understand and remember what he learned. Our Grand Instructor, Jehovah, used visual aids to teach important lessons. (Genesis 15:5; Jeremiah 18:1-6) So did the Great Teacher, Jesus. (Matthew 18:2-6; 22:19-21) One form of visual aid that has proved to be very beneficial in recent years is video. Are you making good use of videos when teaching your Bible students?

Ten videos have been prepared to help us teach the lessons in the brochure *Good News From God!* Generally, each video title corresponds to one of the questions in bold font found in the

brochure. The digital version includes links that remind us when to show each of the videos. In addition, other videos supplement material in the various study publications in our Teaching Toolbox.

Are you discussing a Bible topic that may be difficult for your student to understand? Or is your student dealing with a particular trial? Search through the videos on jw.org (Registered) and JW Broadcasting (Registered) to find one that would benefit him. Perhaps you and your student could watch one of them together and then discuss it.

Each month, new videos are released. As you watch them, think about how you could use them when teaching others.

Box on page 7

[Box.] Videos That Supplement Material Found in the *Good News Brochure*

Lesson 2

Does God Have a Name?

Lesson 3

Who Is the Author of the Bible?

How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?

Lesson 4

Why Did Jesus Die?

Lesson 5

Why Did God Create the Earth?

Lesson 6

What Is the Condition of the Dead?

Lesson 7

What Is God's Kingdom?

Lesson 8

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Lesson 10

Does God Accept All Forms of Worship?

Lesson 12

Does God Listen to All Prayers? [End of Box.]

- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 minutes) *fy* chapter 60
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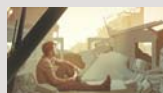
Lesson 5
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Lesson 8
Why Does God Allow Suffering?



Lesson 10
Does God Accept All Forms of Worship?



Lesson 12
Does God Listen to All Prayers?

Use Videos to Teach Your Bible Students

Publisher: OK. So, question number four in Lesson Four is: Why did Jesus die? Would you like to read the paragraph?

Student: Sure. “Unlike us, Jesus was perfect. So he did not need to die for his sins—he never committed any. Instead, Jesus died for the sins of others. God expressed extraordinary love for mankind by sending his Son to die for us. Jesus also showed love for us by obeying his Father and giving his life for our sins.”

Publisher: Thanks. OK, now let's read and discuss these two scripturesHere's a short video that may help you understand this point even better. Let's watch it and then talk about it.

Student: Okay.

Video – “Why Did Jesus Die?”: *“Billions of people have died throughout history. But the death of one person stands alone —that of Jesus Christ.*

Why did he die? Did his death have a purpose? To find the answer, we need to go back to the beginning of human history.

The Bible explains that God created the man Adam perfect, without sin. He was free to eat from all the trees in the garden of Eden —except one.

God gave the simple command not to eat from that particular tree. This tree symbolized God's right to set the standards of good and bad.

As long as Adam remained obedient to Jehovah, he had the prospect of living forever on a paradise earth. But Adam did not appreciate all the good things God had done for him.

He chose to disobey God. As a result, he lost the opportunity to live forever.

But he was not the only one affected. All of his descendants have inherited the fatal effects of sin.

By themselves, humans could not break free from sin and death.

Use Videos to Teach Your Bible Students

They needed someone to rescue them.

For this reason, Jehovah miraculously caused one of his perfect spirit sons to come to earth as a human. Jesus was a perfect man, just as Adam had been.

However, unlike Adam, Jesus remained obedient.

This allowed him “to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many.” But how could the death of one man benefit all of mankind? Well, imagine that the manager of a large factory steals money from the company.

His actions plunge the company into debt, forcing it to shut down. The workers lose their jobs and cannot pay their bills. Many suffer because of that one man’s corruption.

Now suppose a kind and generous man feels sorry for all those who are suffering. He is moved to pay off the debt and reopen the company. By cancelling that one debt, he brings relief to all the employees and their families.

Adam is like that corrupt manager. When he rebelled, he incurred a large debt of sin and passed it on to his children.

Jesus is like the generous man. When he gave up his perfect human life, he paid off the debt of sin and reopened the prospect of living forever for each of us.

You may wonder: ‘What is Jesus doing now? And how can you benefit from what he will do in the future?’ Those questions and others are answered in lesson 4 of the brochure Good News from God!”

Publisher: What did you think?

Student: Makes sense.

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Publisher: Good. So, when Adam disobeyed God, how did his choice affect all of us?

Student: We inherited sin and death from him.

Publisher: That's right. But the scriptures tell us that one man, Jesus, gave his life as a ransom for many. Do you remember how that was illustrated in the video?

Student: Yes. It compared Adam to a corrupt factory manager who stole from the company causing it to shut down, so all the employees suffered. Jesus was like the kind man who paid off the debt and reopened the company.

Publisher: Good. So, how would you answer question four here in the brochure? Why did Jesus die?

Student: Because Jesus was perfect, he didn't have to die for his sins. He died for our sins. He gave his life to pay the debt caused by Adam.


4

Who Is Jesus Christ?




1. How did Jesus' life begin?

Unlike any other human, Jesus lived in heaven as a spirit person before he was born on earth. (John 8:23) He was God's first creation, and he helped in the creation of all other things. He is the only one created directly by Jehovah and is therefore appropriately called God's "only-begotten" Son. (John 1:14) Jesus served as God's Spokesman, so he is also called "the Word."

 *Read Proverbs 8:22, 23, 30; Colossians 1:15, 16.*

2. Why did Jesus come to the earth?

God sent his Son to earth by transferring his life from heaven to the womb of a virgin Jewess named Mary. So Jesus did not have a human father. (Luke 1:30-35) Jesus came to the earth (1) to teach the truth about God, (2) to set us an example in how to do God's will even when we are in difficulties, and (3) to give his perfect life as "a ransom."  *Read Matthew 20:28.*

3. Why do we need a ransom?

A ransom is the price paid to release a person from the threat of death. (Exodus 21:29, 30) Death and old age were not part of God's original purpose for mankind. How do we know that? God told the first man, Adam, that if he committed what the Bible calls "sin," he would die. So if

Adam had not sinned, he would never have died. (Genesis 2:16, 17; 5:5) According to the Bible, death "entered" the world of mankind through Adam. Thus, Adam passed on

What qualities made Jesus approachable?

—MATTHEW 11:29;
MARK 10:13-16.

to all his descendants sin and its penalty, death. We need a ransom to release us from the penalty of death that we inherited from Adam. 📖 *Read Romans 5:12; 6:23.*

Who could pay the ransom to free us from death? When we die, we pay the penalty only for our own sins. No imperfect man can pay for the sins of others. 📖 *Read Psalm 49:7-9.*

4. Why did Jesus die?

Unlike us, Jesus was perfect. So he did not need to die for his sins—he never committed any. Instead, Jesus died for the sins of others. God expressed extraordinary love for mankind by sending his Son to die for us. Jesus also showed love for us by obeying his Father and giving his life for our sins. 📖 *Read John 3:16; Romans 5:18, 19.*

5. What is Jesus doing now?

When on earth, Jesus cured the sick, raised the dead, and rescued people in peril. He thereby demonstrated what he will do in the future for all obedient mankind. (Matthew 15:30, 31; John 5:28) After Jesus died, God restored him to life as a spirit person. (1 Peter 3:18) Jesus then waited at God's right hand until Jehovah gave him power to rule as King over all the earth. (Hebrews 10:12, 13) Now Jesus is ruling as King in heaven, and his followers are announcing that good news worldwide. 📖 *Read Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 24:14.*

Soon, Jesus will use his power as King to bring an end to all suffering and to those who cause it. All who exercise faith in Jesus by obeying him will enjoy life in a paradise on earth. 📖 *Read Psalm 37:9-11.*



60 THE TRANSFIGURATION—A VIEW OF CHRIST IN GLORY

MATTHEW 16:28–17:13 MARK 9:1-13
LUKE 9:27-36

- TRANSFIGURATION VISION
 - APOSTLES HEAR GOD’S VOICE
-

While Jesus is teaching the people in the region of Caesarea Philippi, which is about 15 miles from Mount Hermon, he makes a startling announcement to his apostles: “Truly I say to you that there are some of those standing here who will not taste death at all until first they see the Son of man coming in his Kingdom.”—Matthew 16:28.

The disciples must wonder what Jesus means. About a week later, he takes three of the apostles—Peter, James, and John—with him up to a lofty mountain. It may well be nighttime, for the three men are sleepy. While Jesus is praying, he is transfigured before them. The apostles see his face shine as the sun and see his garments become brilliant as light, glitteringly white.



Then, two figures, identified as “Moses and Elijah,” appear. They start talking to Jesus about his ‘departure that is to occur at Jerusalem.’ (Luke 9: 30, 31) His departure evidently refers to Jesus’ death and subsequent resurrection, which he recently spoke of. (Matthew 16:21) This conversation proves that contrary to what Peter urged, Jesus’ humiliating death is not something to be avoided.

Fully awake now, the three apostles watch and listen in amazement. This is a vision, yet it appears so real that Peter begins to get personally involved in the scene, saying: “Rabbi, it is fine for us to be here. So let us erect three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Mark 9:5) Does Peter want the tents set up so that the vision will be prolonged for some time?

While Peter is speaking, a bright cloud covers them and a voice from the cloud says: “This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved. Listen to him.” At hearing God’s voice, the frightened apostles fall on their faces, but Jesus urges them: “Get up. Have no fear.” (Matthew 17:5-7) When they do,

the three apostles see no one except Jesus. The vision has ended. When it is day and they are descending from the mountain, Jesus commands: “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of man is raised up from the dead.”—Matthew 17:9.

Elijah’s appearance in the vision raises a question. “Why,” the apostles ask, “do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus replies: “Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him.” (Matthew 17:10-12) Jesus is speaking about John the Baptist, who fulfilled a role similar to Elijah’s. Elijah prepared the way for Elisha, and John did so for Christ.

How strengthening this vision is to Jesus and to the apostles! It is a preview of Christ’s Kingdom glory. Thus the disciples saw “the Son of man coming in his Kingdom,” as Jesus had promised. (Matthew 16:28) While on the mountain, they were “eyewitnesses of his magnificence.” Though the Pharisees wanted a sign to prove that Jesus was to be God’s chosen King, he would not give them one. But Jesus’ close disciples were allowed to

see Jesus' transfiguration, which confirms Kingdom prophecies. Thus, Peter could later write: "We have the prophetic word made more sure."—2 Peter 1:16-19.

- ◇ Before their death, how do some see Jesus coming in his Kingdom?
- ◇ In the vision, what do Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus?
- ◇ Why is the transfiguration vision strengthening to Christ's followers?

Jehovah Begins His Rule

(Revelation 11:15)

1. God's Kingdom rules from above.

All praise his Son, the beloved.

Christ reigns in Zion, the chief cornerstone.

Let us all lift up our voice.

Sing to our God, and rejoice.

Christ, Lord and Savior,

has been placed upon His throne.

(CHORUS)

What will you bring, Jehovah's Kingdom?

Triumph of truth and righteousness.

And bring what else, Jehovah's Kingdom?

Eternal life and happiness.

Praise the Universal Sov'reign

For his love and faithfulness.

2. Christ now in power is here,

And Armageddon is near.

Satan's old system will soon pass away.

Now is the season to preach.

Many there are yet to reach;

Time for the meek

to take their stand for Him today.

(Chorus)

3. God's reigning Ruler we prize.

Wondrous he is in our eyes.

He comes in God's name; we bow to our King.

Enter the grand temple gate;

God's favor now supplicate.

Soon dawns that day

when he rules over ev'rything.

(Chorus)

JANUARY 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE: Millions of people around the world are welcomed to the Lord’s Evening Meal (See study article 5, paragraphs 1-2)

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16 Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

(Revelation 21:2)

1. Jehovah anointed his Son
To rule over ev'ryone.
His throne is established on justice,
That God's will on earth may be done.

(CHORUS)

*Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed.
Praise Jesus, O you faithful sheep,
Who loyally follow day after day
and all his commandments keep.
Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed,
the Ruler of heavenly fame,
Anointed with exultation and might
to honor God's holy name.*

2. Christ's brothers are chosen and called.
God gives them their own new birth.
This bride class will share in the Kingdom
And bring Paradise to this earth.

(Chorus)

What a Simple Meal Teaches Us About a Heavenly King

*“This means my body. . . . This means
my ‘blood of the covenant.’”*—MATT. 26:26-28.

SONG 16

Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed

PREVIEW

We will soon be attending the Lord’s Evening Meal to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ. This simple meal teaches us much about Jesus’ humility, courage, and love. In this article, we will discuss how we can imitate the precious qualities he displayed.

CAN you describe what takes place at the annual Memorial of Christ's death? No doubt most of us can recall the basic details of the Lord's Evening Meal. Why? Because the meal is so uncomplicated. However, this is a significant event. So we might ask, 'Why is the meal so simple?'

² During his earthly ministry, Jesus was known for teaching important truths in a way that was simple, clear, and easy to understand. (Matt. 7:28, 29) In the same way, he provided us with a simple yet meaningful way to commemorate* his death. Let us consider closely this Memorial meal and some of the things Jesus said and did. We will appreciate even more just how humble, courageous, and loving Jesus really is, and we will learn how we can imitate him more closely.

JESUS IS HUMBLE

³ Jesus introduced the Memorial of his death in the

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** To **commemorate** means to do something special in order to remember and honor an important event or person.

1-2. (a) Why can we expect that Jesus would provide us with a simple way to commemorate his death? (b) What qualities of Jesus will we consider?

3. As reported at Matthew 26:26-28, how simple was the Memorial meal that Jesus introduced, and what did the two basic items symbolize?



The Memorial emblems of bread and wine remind us that Jesus gave his life for us and that he is now our reigning King in heaven (See paragraphs 3-5)

presence of his 11 faithful apostles. He took what was at hand from the Passover meal and made this simple commemoration. **(Read Matthew 26:26-28.)** He used only the unleavened bread and the wine that were already on hand. Jesus told his apostles that those two basic items symbolized his perfect body and blood, which he would soon offer up in their behalf. The apostles may not have been surprised at the simplicity of this important new meal. Why not?

⁴ Consider what happened months earlier, during the third year of Jesus' ministry, when he visited the home of his close friends—Lazarus, Martha, and

4. How does the advice that Jesus gave earlier to Martha help us to understand why Jesus kept the Memorial meal simple?

Mary. In that relaxed setting, Jesus began teaching. Martha was present, but she was distracted with preparing a large meal for her honored guest. Observing this, Jesus kindly corrected Martha, helping her to see that an elaborate meal was not always necessary. (Luke 10:40-42) Later, with just hours remaining before his sacrificial death, Jesus applied his own counsel. He kept the Memorial meal simple. What does this tell us about Jesus?

⁵ In everything that Jesus said and did, he was humble. So it is not surprising that he showed great humility on that last night of his life on earth. (Matt. 11:29) He knew that he was about to offer the greatest sacrifice in human history and that Jehovah would resurrect him to a glorious position in heaven. Even so, he did not draw undue attention to himself by requiring an elaborate observance of his death. Instead, he told his disciples that once a year they should remember him by means of this simple meal. (John 13:15; 1 Cor. 11:23-25) The simple but appropriate meal shows that Jesus was not a proud person. We can be happy that humility is one of the outstanding qualities of our heavenly King.—Read **Philippians 2:5-8**.

⁶ How can we imitate Jesus' humility? By putting

5. What does the simplicity of this meal show about Jesus, and how does this harmonize with Philippians 2:5-8?

6. How can we imitate Jesus' humility when we face trials?

the interests of others ahead of our own. (Phil. 2:3, 4) Think back to the final night of Jesus' earthly life. Jesus knew that he would soon experience a painful death; yet, he was deeply concerned about his faithful apostles, who would soon be grieving for him. So he spent the last night instructing, encouraging, and reassuring them. (John 14:25-31) Jesus humbly showed more concern for the welfare of others than for himself. What an excellent example he set for us!

JESUS IS COURAGEOUS

⁷ Just after Jesus introduced the Lord's Evening Meal, he demonstrated tremendous courage. How so? Jesus accepted his Father's will for him, even though he knew that doing so meant that he would be executed for the shameful crime of blasphemy. (Matt. 26:65, 66; Luke 22:41, 42) Jesus maintained perfect integrity so as to honor Jehovah's name, uphold God's sovereignty, and open the way to endless life for repentant humans. At the same time, Jesus prepared his followers for what they would soon face.

⁸ Jesus also showed courage by setting aside any

7. How did Jesus show great courage just after he introduced the Lord's Evening Meal?

8. (a) What did Jesus tell his faithful apostles? (b) In the years following his death, how did Jesus' disciples follow his example of courage?

anxiety he may have had and by focusing attention on the needs of his faithful apostles. The simple meal, which he introduced after dismissing Judas, would remind those who would become his anointed followers of the benefits of Jesus' shed blood and of sharing in the new covenant. (1 Cor. 10:16, 17) To help them prove worthy of their heavenly calling, Jesus told his followers what he and his Father expected of them. (John 15:12-15) Jesus also told the apostles of the trials that lay ahead of them. Then, pointing to his own example, he urged them to "take courage!" (John 16:1-4a, 33) Many years later, Jesus' disciples were still following his self-sacrificing course and displaying courage. At great cost to themselves, they supported one another in their various trials.—Heb. 10:33, 34.

⁹ Likewise today, we follow Jesus' example of showing courage. For instance, it takes courage to assist our brothers who are persecuted because of their faith. At times, our brothers may be unjustly imprisoned. When that happens, we must do all that we can for them, including speaking up in their behalf. (Phil. 1:14; Heb. 13:19) Another way we show courage is by continuing to preach "with boldness." (Acts 14:3) Like Jesus, we are determined to preach the Kingdom message, even though people may oppose and perse-

9. How can we imitate Jesus in showing courage?

cute us. At times, however, we may find that we lack courage. What can we do?

¹⁰ We can strengthen our courage by thinking about the hope that the ransom sacrifice of Christ makes possible for us. (John 3:16; Eph. 1:7) In the weeks leading up to the Memorial, we have a special opportunity to build our appreciation for the ransom. During that time, keep up with the Memorial Bible reading and prayerfully meditate on the events surrounding Jesus' death. Then when we gather for the Lord's Evening Meal, we will understand more fully the significance of the Memorial emblems and the matchless sacrifice that they represent. When we appreciate what Jesus and Jehovah have done for us and understand how it benefits us and our loved ones, our hope grows stronger, and we are motivated to endure courageously to the end.—Heb. 12:3.

¹¹ So far we have learned that the Lord's Evening Meal reminds us not only of the precious ransom but also of Jesus' outstanding qualities of humility and courage. How grateful we can be that Jesus continues to display these qualities as our heavenly High Priest, who pleads in our behalf! (Heb. 7:24, 25) To show our heartfelt appreciation, we must loyally commemorate

10. In the weeks leading up to the Memorial, what should we do, and why?

11-12. What have we learned so far?

Jesus' death, just as he commanded. (Luke 22:19, 20) We do this on the day that corresponds to Nisan 14, the most important date of the year.

¹² We can discern from the simple features of the Lord's Evening Meal another quality that moved Jesus to die for us. As a man on earth, he was known for this quality. What was it?

JESUS IS LOVING

¹³ Jesus perfectly reflected Jehovah's intense love for us in everything that he did. (Read **John 15:9; 1 John 4:8-10.**) Above all, Jesus was moved from the heart to give his life in our behalf. Whether we are of the anointed or of the "other sheep," we benefit from the love that Jehovah and his Son have shown to us by means of that sacrifice. (John 10:16; 1 John 2:2) Think, too, about the very nature of the Memorial meal; it reveals Jesus' love and consideration for his disciples. How so?

¹⁴ Jesus showed love for his spirit-begotten followers by instituting, not a complicated ritual, but a simple meal for them to observe. As time passed, those anointed disciples needed to observe the Memorial

13. How do John 15:9 and 1 John 4:8-10 describe the love that Jehovah and Jesus have shown, and who benefit from their love?

14. In what way did Jesus show love for his disciples?

each year, doing so under various circumstances, including imprisonment. (Rev. 2:10) Were they able to obey Jesus? Yes, they were!

¹⁵ Down to modern times, true Christians have sought to commemorate Jesus' death. They followed the procedure for the Lord's Evening Meal as best they could, sometimes under difficult conditions. Note the following examples. While in solitary confinement in a Chinese prison, Brother Harold King had to be innovative. He discreetly prepared the Memorial emblems, using what he had on hand. He also calculated the date for the Memorial as carefully as he could. When the time came for the commemoration, he—alone in his cell—sang, prayed, and gave a Scriptural talk.

¹⁶ Here is another example. A group of sisters imprisoned in a concentration camp during World War II risked their lives to commemorate the Lord's Evening Meal. However, because of the meal's simple nature, they were able to observe the Memorial discreetly. They reported: "We stood close together in a circle, in the midst a footstool with a white cloth bearing the emblems. A candle lit the room, as electric light might have betrayed us. . . . We expressed anew our fervent vows to our Father to use all our strength for the vindication of His holy name." What

15-16. How have some been able to observe the Lord's Evening Meal under difficult conditions?



First century C.E.



19th century

Jesus lovingly instituted a Memorial ceremony that was simple enough to be observed over many centuries and under various circumstances
(See paragraphs 14-16)

outstanding faith they showed! And what love Jesus displayed when he made it possible for us to observe the Memorial even under difficult circumstances!

¹⁷ As the Memorial approaches, we do well to ask ourselves the following questions: ‘How can I imitate Jesus more closely in showing love? Do I think more about the needs of my fellow worshippers than about my own? Do I expect more from my brothers and sisters than they can give, or am I aware of their limita-

17. What questions might we ask ourselves?



Nazi concentration camp



Present-day Kingdom Hall

tions?’ May we always imitate Jesus and show “fellow feeling.”—1 Pet. 3:8.

KEEP THESE LESSONS IN FRONT OF YOU

¹⁸ The requirement to observe the Memorial of Christ’s death will not last much longer. When Jesus “comes” during the great tribulation, he will gather his remaining “chosen ones” to heaven, and the Memorial will cease to be commemorated.—1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 24:31.

¹⁹ Even after the Memorial meal is no longer

18-19. (a) Of what can we be sure? (b) What are you determined to do?

observed, we can be sure that Jehovah's people will fondly remember this simple meal as a symbol of the greatest humility, courage, and love ever shown by a human. At that time, those who observed this extraordinary meal will no doubt tell about it for the good of all then living. But to benefit right now from this meal, we must be determined to imitate Jesus' humility, courage, and love. If we do, we can be confident that we will receive our reward from Jehovah.—2 Pet. 1:10, 11.

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Pages 48-49: Reenactments of faithful servants observing the Memorial in the first-century congregation; in the late 1800's; in a Nazi concentration camp; and in our day in a modest, open-sided Kingdom Hall in a South American country with a warm climate.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What does the Memorial meal teach us about Jesus' outstanding **humility**?
- How did Jesus display immense **courage** just after instituting the Lord's Evening Meal?
- In what way did Jesus show exceptional **love** by this simple arrangement?

Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

1. What love Jehovah showed,
 What goodness from him flowed,
 When for all mankind he offered his Firstborn.
Christ took on human form—
 The Son of man was born—
 By his example, God's name he adorned.
2. Jehovah's Word, he said,
 Sustained his life like bread.
 It gave him wisdom and knowledge and insight.
His Father's willing slave,
 A model Jesus gave;
 To please his Father would bring him delight.
3. Like Jesus, may our days
 Provide Jehovah praise,
 And may his footsteps become our own roadway.
Let Jesus' model be
 Our path eternally,
 And then God's favor we'll know day by day.

