

- Song 30 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Is Faithful”:** (10 min.)
1Co 10:13—Jehovah does not choose the trials we face (w17.02 29-30)
1Co 10:13—Trials we face are “common to men”
1Co 10:13—Jehovah will help us to endure any trial if we trust in him
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Co 10:8—Why does this verse say that 23,000 Israelites died in one day for committing sexual immorality, whereas Numbers 25:9 says that 24,000 died? (w04 4/1 29)

1Co 11:5, 6, 10—Does a female Kingdom publisher need to wear a head covering if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher? (w15 2/15 30)

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) 1Co 10:1-17 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (1)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (3)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 25
- **“The Members . . . Are Necessary” (1Co 12:22):** (10 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **“How Will You Prepare for the Memorial?”:** (5 min.) Talk. Encourage all to use the Memorial season as a time for meditation and to grow in appreciation for the love Jehovah and Jesus have shown us.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 62
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 31 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 10-13 | Jehovah Is Faithful

10:13

Jehovah might choose to remove a trial; however, he often makes “the way out” by providing what we need so that we can endure the trial successfully.

- He can soothe our mind, our heart, and our emotions by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and the spiritual food he provides.—Mt 24:45; Joh 14:16, ftn.; Ro 15:4
- He may guide us by means of holy spirit, which can help us remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.—Joh 14:26
- He can use his angels in our behalf.—Heb 1:14
- He can help us through fellow worshippers.—Col 4:11



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.

ing in a contest* exercises self-control in all things. Of course, they do it to receive a crown that can perish,^a but we, one that does not perish.^b **26** Therefore, the way I am running is not aimlessly;^c the way I am aiming my blows is so as not to be striking the air; **27** but I pummel* my body^d and lead it as a slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved^e somehow.

10 Now I want you to know, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud^e and all passed through the sea^f **2** and all got baptized into Moses by means of the cloud and of the sea, **3** and all ate the same spiritual food^g **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink.^h For they used to drink from the spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock meant* the Christ.ⁱ **5** Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.^j

6 Now these things became examples for us, in order for us not to desire injurious things, as they desired them.^k **7** Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; just as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to have a good time."^l **8** Neither let us practice sexual immorality,* as some of them committed sexual immorality,* only to fall, **23,000** of them in one day.^m **9** Neither let us put Jehovah* to the test,ⁿ as some of them put him to the test, only to perish by the serpents.^o **10** Neither be murmurers, as some of them murmured,^p only to perish by the destroyer.^q **11** Now these things happened to them as examples, and they

9:25 *Or "every athlete." 9:27 *Or "punish; strictly discipline." #Or "disqualified." 10:4 *Or "was." 10:8 *See Glossary. 10:9, 21, 22 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 9

a 2Ti 2:5
b Jas 1:12
c Ga 2:2
Php 2:16
Heb 12:1
d Ro 8:13
Col 3:5

CHAP. 10

e Ex 13:21
f Ex 14:21, 22
g Ex 16:14, 15
h Ex 17:6
i Nu 20:11
Joh 4:10, 25
j Nu 14:29
Nu 14:35
k Nu 11:4, 34
l Ex 32:4, 6
m Nu 25:1, 9
n De 6:16
o Nu 21:5, 6
Mt 4:7
p Nu 14:2
q Nu 14:36, 37

Second Col.

a Ro 15:4
b Pr 28:14
Lu 22:33, 34
Ga 6:1
c 1Pe 5:8, 9
d Lu 22:31, 32
2Pe 2:9
e Isa 40:29
Php 4:13
f De 4:25, 26
2Co 6:17
1Jo 5:21
g Mt 26:27, 28
h Mt 26:26
Lu 22:19
1Co 12:18
i Ro 12:5
j Le 7:15
k De 32:17
l Jude 6
m Eze 41:22
Mal 1:12
n Ex 34:14
De 32:21
o Ro 14:19
Ro 15:2
p 1Co 10:32, 33
1Co 13:4, 5
Php 2:4

were written for a warning to us^a upon whom the ends of the systems of things have come.

12 So let the one who thinks he is standing beware that he does not fall.^b **13** No temptation has come upon you except what is common to men.^c But God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear,^d but along with the temptation he will also make the way out so that you may be able to endure it.^e

14 Therefore, my beloved ones, flee from idolatry.^f **15** I speak as to men with discernment; judge for yourselves what I say. **16** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of the Christ?^g The loaf that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of the Christ?^h **17** Because there is one loaf, we, although many, are one body,ⁱ for we are all partaking of that one loaf.

18 Look at Israel in the fleshly sense: Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers with the altar?^j **19** What, then, am I saying? That what is sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? **20** No; but I say that what the nations sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God;^k and I do not want you to become sharers with the demons.^l **21** You cannot be drinking the cup of Jehovah* and the cup of demons; you cannot be partaking of "the table of Jehovah"*^m and the table of demons. **22** Or "are we inciting Jehovah* to jealousy?"ⁿ We are not stronger than he is, are we?

23 All things are lawful,* but not all things are advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things build up.^o **24** Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person.^p

10:23 *Or "permissible."

25 Eat whatever is sold in a meat market, making no inquiry because of your conscience, **26** for "to Jehovah* belong the earth and everything in it."^a **27** If an unbeliever invites you and you want to go, eat whatever is set before you, making no inquiry on account of your conscience. **28** But if anyone says to you, "This is something offered in sacrifice," do not eat because of the one who told you and because of conscience.^b **29** I do not mean your own conscience, but that of the other person. For why should my freedom be judged by another person's conscience?^c **30** If I am partaking with thanks, why am I to be spoken of abusively over that for which I give thanks?^d

31 Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory.^e **32** Keep from becoming causes for stumbling to Jews as well as Greeks and to the congregation of God,^f **33** just as I am trying to please all people in all things, not seeking my own advantage,^g but that of the many, so that they may be saved.^h

11 Become imitators of me, just as I am of Christ.ⁱ

2 I commend you because in all things you remember me and you are holding fast the traditions just as I handed them on to you. **3** But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ;^j in turn, the head of a woman is the man;^k in turn, the head of the Christ is God.^l **4** Every man who prays or prophesies with something on his head shames his head; **5** but every woman who prays or prophesies^m with her head uncovered shames her head, for it is one and the same as if she were a woman with a

CHAP. 10

a Ps 24:1
1Ti 4:4

b 1Co 8:7,10

c Ro 14:15,16
1Co 8:12

d Ro 14:6
1Ti 4:3

e Mt 5:16
Col 3:17

f Ro 14:13
1Co 8:13
2Co 6:3

g Ro 15:2
Php 2:4

h 1Co 9:22

CHAP. 11

i Php 3:17
2Th 3:9

j Ro 14:9
Eph 4:15
Col 2:10

k Eph 5:23
1Pe 3:1

l 1Co 15:27,28

m Joe 2:28
Ac 21:8,9

Second Col.

a Ge 1:27

b Ge 2:22,23

c Ge 2:18

d 1Co 4:9

e Ge 2:21,22

f 1Co 8:6

g Ac 20:29,30
1Co 1:12
1Ti 4:1
2Pe 2:1

shaved head. **6** For if a woman does not cover herself, she should have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or shaved, she should be covered.

7 For a man should not have his head covered, as he is God's image^a and glory, but the woman is man's glory. **8** For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man.^b **9** And what is more, man was not created for the sake of the woman, but woman for the sake of the man.^c **10** That is why the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.^d

11 Besides, in connection with the Lord, neither is woman separate from man nor is man separate from woman. **12** For just as the woman is from the man,^e so also the man is through the woman; but all things are from God.^f **13** Judge for yourselves: Is it fitting for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? **14** Does not nature itself teach you that long hair is a dishonor to a man, **15** but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her instead of a covering. **16** However, if anyone wants to argue in favor of some other custom, we have no other, nor do the congregations of God.

17 But while giving these instructions, I do not commend you, because it is, not for the better, but for the worse that you meet together. **18** For first of all, I hear that when you come together in a congregation, divisions exist among you; and to an extent I believe it. **19** For there will certainly also be sects among you,^g so that those of you who are approved may also become evident.

20 When you come together in one place, it is not really

to eat the Lord's Evening Meal.^a **21** For when you eat it, each one takes his own evening meal beforehand, so that one is hungry but another is intoxicated. **22** Do you not have houses for eating and drinking? Or do you despise the congregation of God and make those who have nothing feel ashamed? What can I say to you? Should I commend you? In this I do not commend you.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night^b on which he was going to be betrayed took a loaf, **24** and after giving thanks, he broke it and said: "This means my body,^c which is in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me."^d **25** He did the same with the cup^e also, after they had the evening meal, saying: "This cup means the new covenant^f by virtue of my blood.^g Keep doing this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."^h **26** For whenever you eat this loaf and drink this cup, you keep proclaiming the death of the Lord, until he comes.

27 Therefore, whoever eats the loaf or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty respecting the body and the blood of the Lord. **28** First let a man approve himself after scrutiny,ⁱ and only then let him eat of the loaf and drink of the cup. **29** For the one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment against himself. **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and quite a few are sleeping in death.^{*j} **31** But if we would discern what we ourselves are, we would not be judged. **32** However, when we are judged, we are disciplined by Jehovah,^{*k} so that we may

11:30 *Evidently referring to spiritual death. 11:32 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 11

a Lu 22:19, 20

b Mt 26:20
Lu 22:14c Mt 26:26
Mr 14:22
Ro 7:4
1Co 10:17

d Lu 22:19

e Mt 26:27
Mr 14:23
1Co 10:16f Jer 31:31
Heb 8:8
Heb 9:15g Lu 22:20
Heb 9:13, 14
1Pe 1:18, 19

h Ex 12:14

i 2Co 13:5

j 1Th 5:6

k Heb 12:5

Second Col.

a 2Pe 2:20
2Pe 3:7

b 1Co 11:29

CHAP. 12

c 1Co 14:1

d Ps 115:5
Hab 2:18
1Co 8:4
Ga 4:8
1Th 1:9

e 1Jo 4:2, 3

f Eph 4:4

g Eph 4:11

h 1Pe 4:11

i 1Co 14:26

j 1Co 13:2

k Ac 3:5-8
Ac 28:8, 9

l Heb 2:3, 4

m 1Jo 4:1

n Ac 10:45, 46
1Co 14:18

o 1Co 14:26

not become condemned with the world.^a **33** Consequently, my brothers, when you come together to eat it, wait for one another. **34** If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you come together it is not for judgment.^b But as for the remaining matters, I will put them in order when I get there.

12 Now concerning the spiritual gifts,^c brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. **2** You know that when you were people of the nations,^{*} you were influenced and led astray to those voiceless idols,^d following wherever they might lead you. **3** Now I would have you know that nobody when speaking by God's spirit says: "Jesus is accursed!" and nobody can say: "Jesus is Lord!" except by holy spirit.^e

4 Now there are different gifts, but there is the same spirit;^f **5** and there are different ministries,^g and yet there is the same Lord; **6** and there are different activities,^{*} and yet it is the same God who performs them all in everyone.^h **7** But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each one for a beneficial purpose.ⁱ **8** For to one is given speech^{*j} of wisdom through the spirit, to another speech of knowledge according to the same spirit, **9** to another faithⁱ by the same spirit, to another gifts of healing^k by that one spirit, **10** to yet another operations of powerful works,^l to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired expressions,^m to another different tongues,^{*n} and to another interpretation of tongues.^o **11** But all these operations are performed by the very same

12:2 *That is, unbelievers. 12:6 *Or "operations." 12:8 *Or "a message." 12:10 *Or "languages."

spirit, distributing to each one respectively just as it wills.

12 For just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although many, are one body,^a so too is the Christ. **13** For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit.

14 For, indeed, the body is made up not of one member but of many.^b **15** If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am no part of the body," that does not make it no part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If it were all hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But now God has arranged each of the body members just as he pleased.

19 If they were all the same member, where would the body be? **20** But now they are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," or again, the head cannot say to the feet, "I do not need you." **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary, **23** and the parts of the body that we think to be less honorable we surround with greater honor,^c so our unseemly parts are treated with greater modesty, **24** whereas our attractive parts do not need anything. Nevertheless, God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that had a lack, **25** so that there should be no division in the body, but its members should have mutual concern for one another.^d **26** If one member suf-

CHAP. 12

- a Ro 12:4, 5
- b Eph 4:16
- c Ge 3:7, 21
- d Ro 12:10
- Ga 6:2
- Eph 4:25

Second Col.

- a Heb 13:3
- b Ro 12:15
- c Eph 1:22, 23
- d Ro 12:4, 5
- e Eph 2:20
- f Ac 13:1
- g Eph 4:11
- h Ga 3:5
- i Ac 5:16
- j Heb 13:17
- k Ac 2:6, 7
- l 1Co 14:4
- m 1Co 14:5
- n 1Co 14:1
- o 1Co 13:8

CHAP. 13

- p 1Co 12:8
- q 1Jo 4:20
- r Mt 6:2
- s 2Co 9:7
- t 1Jo 4:8
- u 1Th 5:14
- v Ro 13:10
- Eph 4:32
- w Ga 5:26
- x 1Pe 5:5
- y Ro 13:13
- 1Co 14:40
- z 1Co 10:24
- Php 2:4
- a Mt 5:39
- Jas 1:19
- b Eph 4:32
- Col 3:13
- c Ro 12:9

fers, all the other members suffer with it;^a or if a member is glorified, all the other members rejoice with it.^b

27 Now you are Christ's body,^c and each of you individually is a member.^d **28** And God has assigned the respective ones in the congregation: first, apostles;^e second, prophets;^f third, teachers;^g then powerful works;^h then gifts of healings;ⁱ helpful services; abilities to direct;^j different tongues.^k **29** Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all perform powerful works, do they? **30** Not all have gifts of healings, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all are interpreters,^{*} are they?^m **31** But keep striving for^{*} the greater gifts.ⁿ And yet I will show you a surpassing way.^o

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. **2** And if I have the gift of prophecy and understand all the sacred secrets and all knowledge,^p and if I have all the faith so as to move^{*} mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.^q **3** And if I give all my belongings to feed others,^r and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love,^s I do not benefit at all.

4 Love^t is patient^{*u} and kind.^v Love is not jealous.^w It does not brag, does not get puffed up,^x does not behave indecently,^{*y} does not look for its own interests,^z does not become provoked.^a It does not keep account of the injury.^{#b} **6** It does not rejoice over unrighteousness,^c but

12:30 *Or "translators." **12:31** *Or "keep zealously seeking." **13:2** *Or "transplant." #Or "useless." **13:4** *Or "long-suffering." **13:5** *Or "is not rude." #Or "of wrongs."

rejoices with the truth. **7** It bears all things,^a believes all things,^b hopes all things,^c endures all things.^d

8 Love never fails. But if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues,^e they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with.

9 For we have partial knowledge^e and we prophesy partially, **10** but when what is complete comes, what is partial will be done away with. **11** When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, to think as a child, to reason as a child; but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a child.

12 For now we see in hazy outline* by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face-to-face. At present I know partially, but then I will know accurately,^f just as I am accurately known. **13** Now, however, these three remain: faith, hope, love; but the greatest of these is love.^f

14 Pursue love, yet keep striving for* the spiritual gifts, but preferably that you may prophesy.^g **2** For the one who speaks in a tongue speaks, not to men, but to God, for no one listens,^h but he speaks sacred secretsⁱ by the spirit. **3** However, the one who prophesies builds up and encourages and consoles men by his speech. **4** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up a congregation. **5** Now I would like for all of you to speak in tongues,^j but I prefer that you prophesy.^k Indeed, the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets,*

13:8 *That is, miraculous speaking in other languages. **13:12** *Or "indistinctly." [#]Or "fully." **14:1** *Or "keep zealously seeking." **14:5** *Or "translates."

CHAP. 13

a 1Pe 4:8

b Ac 17:11

c Ro 8:25
Ro 12:12

d 1Th 1:3

e Pr 4:18

f Mt 22:37
Ro 13:10

CHAP. 14

g 1Th 5:20

h 1Co 14:5

i 1Co 13:2

j 1Co 12:30

k Joe 2:28
Ac 2:17
Ac 21:8, 9

Second Col.

a Ga 1:11, 12
Ga 2:2

b 1Co 12:8

c 1Co 12:7
1Co 14:4, 26

d 1Co 12:8, 10
1Co 14:5

so that the congregation may be built up. **6** But at this time, brothers, if I should come speaking to you in tongues, what good would I do you unless I spoke to you either with a revelation^a or with knowledge^b or with a prophecy or with a teaching?

7 It is the same with the inanimate things that produce sound, whether a flute or a harp. Unless there is an interval to the tones, how can what is being played on the flute or on the harp be recognized? **8** For if the trumpet sounds an indistinct call, who will get ready for battle? **9** In the same way, unless you with the tongue use speech that is easily understood, how will anyone know what is being said? You will, in fact, be speaking into the air. **10** It may be that there are many kinds of speech in the world, and yet no kind is without meaning. **11** For if I do not understand the sense of the speech, I will be a foreigner to the one speaking, and the one speaking will be a foreigner to me. **12** So also with you, since you eagerly desire the gifts of the spirit, seek to abound in gifts that will build up the congregation.^c

13 Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.^d **14** For if I am praying in a tongue, it is my gift of the spirit that is praying, but my mind is unproductive. **15** What is to be done, then? I will pray with the gift of the spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing praise with the gift of the spirit, but I will also sing praise with my mind. **16** Otherwise, if you offer praise with a gift of the spirit, how will the ordinary person in your midst say "Amen" to your giving of thanks, since

14:13 *Or "translate."

- Song 30 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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1Co 10:13—Jehovah does not choose the trials we face (w17.02 29-30)
1Co 10:13—Trials we face are “common to men”
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Co 10:8—Why does this verse say that 23,000 Israelites died in one day for committing sexual immorality, whereas Numbers 25:9 says that 24,000 died? (w04 4/1 29)

1Co 11:5, 6, 10—Does a female Kingdom publisher need to wear a head covering if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher? (w15 2/15 30)

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

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

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
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- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (3)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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- **“The Members . . . Are Necessary” (1Co 12:22):** (10 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **“How Will You Prepare for the Memorial?”:** (5 min.) Talk. Encourage all to use the Memorial season as a time for meditation and to grow in appreciation for the love Jehovah and Jesus have shown us.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 62
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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1 CORINTHIANS 10-13 | Jehovah Is Faithful

10:13

Jehovah might choose to remove a trial; however, he often makes “the way out” by providing what we need so that we can endure the trial successfully.

- He can soothe our mind, our heart, and our emotions by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and the spiritual food he provides.—Mt 24:45; Joh 14:16, *ftn.*; Ro 15:4
- He may guide us by means of holy spirit, which can help us remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.—Joh 14:26
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April 8-14

Treasures From God's Word

1 Corinthians 10:13—Jehovah does not choose the trials we face

1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has come upon you except what is common to men. But God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but along with the temptation he will also make the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

w17.02 29-30

Questions From Readers

The apostle Paul wrote that Jehovah “will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.” (1 Corinthians 10:13) Does this mean that Jehovah assesses in advance what we can bear and then chooses the trials we will face?

Consider the implications of such a view. One brother whose son committed suicide asked: ‘Did Jehovah assess in advance that my wife and I would be capable of enduring our son’s suicide? Did it happen because God had determined that we could endure it?’ Is there sound reason to believe that Jehovah maneuvers the events of our lives in such specific ways?

A further consideration of Paul’s words recorded at 1 Corinthians 10:13 leads us to this conclusion: There is no Scriptural reason to believe that Jehovah assesses in advance what we can bear and then, based on such an assessment, chooses which trials will befall us. Let us consider four reasons why we may draw that conclusion.

First, Jehovah gave humans the gift of free will. He wants us to choose our own course in life. (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Joshua 24:15) If we choose the right course, we can look to Jehovah to guide our steps. (Proverbs 16:9) But if we choose a wrong course, we will have to face the consequences. (Galatians 6:7) Were Jehovah to choose which trials would come upon us, would he not, in effect, be diminishing the gift of free will?

Second, Jehovah does not shield us from “time and unexpected events.” (Ecclesiastes 9:11) Tragic accidents—perhaps with dire consequences—may occur because we are in the wrong place at the wrong time. Jesus spoke of a tragedy involving 18 people who were killed when a tower fell on them, and he indicated that those fatalities were not as a result of God’s will. (Luke 13:1-5) Is it not unreasonable to think that God would determine in advance who lives and who dies as a result of random events?

Third, each one of us is personally involved in the issue of integrity. Recall that Satan has challenged the integrity of all those serving Jehovah, claiming that we would not remain loyal to Jehovah when exposed to trials. (Job 1:9-11; 2:4; Revelation 12:10) If Jehovah prevented us from facing certain trials because he deemed them to be more than we could bear, would that not add weight to Satan’s charge that we serve God out of self-interest?

Fourth, Jehovah does not have to foreknow everything that happens to us. The idea that God chooses beforehand which trials we will face implies that he must know everything about our future. But such a view is not Scriptural. God certainly *can* foreknow the future. (Isaiah 46:10) But the Bible shows that he is selective when it comes to foreknowing future events. (Genesis 18:20, 21; 22:12) He

thus balances his power of foreknowledge with his respect for our free will. Is that not what we would expect from the God who values our freedom and who always exercises his attributes in perfect balance?—Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

How, then, are we to understand Paul's words: "God ... will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear"? Paul here describes what Jehovah does, not *before*, but *during* trials. The apostle's words assure us that no matter what trials may arise in our life, Jehovah will sustain us if we trust in him. (Psalm 55:22) Paul's comforting words are based on two fundamental truths.

First, *the trials we face are "common to men."* Our trials, then, are common to human experience. Such trials are not beyond our capacity to bear—provided we rely on God. (1 Peter 5:8, 9) In the context of 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul refers to the tests that Israel faced in the wilderness. (1 Corinthians 10:6-11) None of those trials were beyond human experience or above the ability of faithful Israelites to bear. Paul four times says that "some of them" disobeyed. Sadly, some Israelites gave in to wrong desires because they failed to rely on God.

Second, *"God is faithful."* The record of God's dealings with his people demonstrates that he gives his loyal love to "those who love him and keep his commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:9) That record also shows that God always keeps his promises. (Joshua 23:14) In view of his past record of faithfulness, those who love him and obey him can trust that he will keep this twofold promise regarding trials they may face: (1) He will not allow any trial to develop to a point that would make it impossible to bear, and (2) "he will ... make the way out" for them.

How does Jehovah make the way out for those who rely on him in the face of trials? Of course, if it be his will, he can simply remove a trial. But recall Paul's words: "He [Jehovah] will also make the way out *so that you may be able to endure it.*" Hence, in many cases, he makes "the way out" by providing what we need so that we can endure trials successfully. Consider some of the ways that Jehovah may make the way out for us:

- He "comforts us in all our trials." (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Jehovah can soothe our mind, our heart, and our emotions by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and the spiritual food dispensed by the faithful slave.—Matthew 24:45; John 14:16, footnote., Romans 15:4.
- He may guide us by means of holy spirit. (John 14:26) When trials arise, the spirit can help us to remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.
- He can use his angels in our behalf.—Hebrews 1:14.
- He can help us through fellow worshippers who by their words and deeds can be "a strengthening aid" to us.—Colossians 4:11, footnote.

What, then, may we conclude about the meaning of Paul's words recorded at 1 Corinthians 10:13? Jehovah does not pick and choose the trials we face. But when trials do arise in our life, we can be certain of this: If we fully trust in Jehovah, he will never allow our trials to go beyond the limit of human endurance; he will always make a way out so that we can endure them. What a comforting thought that is!

1 Corinthians 10:13—Trials we face are “common to men”

1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has come upon you except what is common to men. But God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but along with the temptation he will also make the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13—Jehovah will help us to endure any trial if we trust in him

1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has come upon you except what is common to men. But God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but along with the temptation he will also make the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

1 Corinthians 10:8—Why does this verse say that 23,000 Israelites died in one day for committing sexual immorality, whereas Numbers 25:9 says that 24,000 died?

1 Corinthians 10:8: Neither let us practice sexual immorality, as some of them committed sexual immorality, only to fall, 23,000 of them in one day.

w04 4/1 29

There are several factors that may account for the difference in the figures given in these two verses. The simplest one could be that the actual number is somewhere between 23,000 and 24,000, thus allowing it to be rounded off in either direction.

Consider another possibility. The apostle Paul cited the account of the Israelites at Shittim as a warning example to Christians in ancient Corinth, a city notorious for its licentious way of life. He wrote: “Neither let us practice fornication, as some of them committed fornication, only to fall, twenty-three thousand of them in one day.” Singling out those who were put to death by Jehovah because they committed fornication, Paul gave the number as 23,000.—1 Corinthians 10:8.

Numbers chapter 25, however, tells us that “Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor; and the anger of Jehovah began to blaze against Israel.” Then, Jehovah commanded Moses to execute “all the head ones of the people.” Moses, in turn, ordered the judges to carry out that command. Finally, when Phinehas acted quickly to put to death the Israelite who brought a Midianite woman into the camp, “the scourge was halted.” The account ends with the statement: “Those who died from the scourge amounted to twenty-four thousand.”—Numbers 25:1-9.

The figure given in Numbers evidently included “the head ones of the people” executed by the judges and those executed directly by Jehovah. There might well have been a thousand of those head ones who died at the hands of the judges, bringing the number to 24,000. Whether these head ones, or ringleaders, committed fornication, participated in the festivities, or gave consent to those who did, they were guilty of having “an attachment with the Baal of Peor.”

Regarding the word “attachment,” one Bible reference work explains that it can mean “to bind one’s self to a person.” The Israelites were a people dedicated to Jehovah, but when they formed “an

attachment with the Baal of Peor,” they broke their dedicated relationship with God. Some 700 years later, through the prophet Hosea, Jehovah said of the Israelites: “They themselves went in to Baal of Peor, and they proceeded to dedicate themselves to the shameful thing, and they came to be disgusting like the thing of their love.” (Hosea 9:10) All those who did so were deserving of adverse divine judgment. Thus, Moses reminded the sons of Israel: “Your own eyes are the ones that saw what Jehovah did in the case of the Baal of Peor, that every man who walked after the Baal of Peor was the one whom Jehovah your God annihilated from your midst.”—Deuteronomy 4:3.

1 Corinthians 11:5, 6, 10—Does a female Kingdom publisher need to wear a head covering if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher?

1 Corinthians 11:5, 6: but every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered shames her head, for it is one and the same as if she were a woman with a shaved head. For if a woman does not cover herself, she should have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or shaved, she should be covered.

1 Corinthians 11:10: That is why the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

w15 2/15 30

In a “Questions From Readers” item published in The Watchtower of July 15, 2002, it was stated that a sister should cover her head if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher, whether he is baptized or not. Further consideration of the matter suggests that a modification to this direction is appropriate.

If the male publisher who accompanies the sister while she conducts an established Bible study is baptized, the sister would certainly want to wear a head covering. She thus shows respect for Jehovah’s arrangement of headship within the Christian congregation because she is fulfilling a role that would normally be the responsibility of the brother. (1 Corinthians 11:5, 6, 10) Alternatively, she could ask the brother to conduct the study if he is qualified and able to do so.

On the other hand, if a sister is accompanied on an established Bible study by an unbaptized male publisher who is not her husband, she would not Scripturally be required to wear a head covering. Nevertheless, the conscience of some sisters may move them to wear a head covering even in such circumstances.

- Song 30 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Is Faithful”:** (10 min.)
1Co 10:13—Jehovah does not choose the trials we face (w17.02 29-30)
1Co 10:13—Trials we face are “common to men”
1Co 10:13—Jehovah will help us to endure any trial if we trust in him
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
1Co 10:8—Why does this verse say that 23,000 Israelites died in one day for committing sexual immorality, whereas Numbers 25:9 says that 24,000 died? (w04 4/1 29)

1Co 11:5, 6, 10—Does a female Kingdom publisher need to wear a head covering if she conducts a Bible study in the presence of a male publisher? (w15 2/15 30)

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) 1Co 10:1-17 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (1)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (3)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 25
- **“The Members . . . Are Necessary” (1Co 12:22):** (10 min.) Play the video (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **“How Will You Prepare for the Memorial?”:** (5 min.) Talk. Encourage all to use the Memorial season as a time for meditation and to grow in appreciation for the love Jehovah and Jesus have shown us.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 62
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 31 and Prayer

1 CORINTHIANS 10-13 | Jehovah Is Faithful

10:13

Jehovah might choose to remove a trial; however, he often makes “the way out” by providing what we need so that we can endure the trial successfully.

- He can soothe our mind, our heart, and our emotions by means of his Word, his holy spirit, and the spiritual food he provides.—Mt 24:45; Joh 14:16, fn.; Ro 15:4
- He may guide us by means of holy spirit, which can help us remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.—Joh 14:26
- He can use his angels in our behalf.—Heb 1:14
- He can help us through fellow worshippers.—Col 4:11





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

<p>●○○</p> <p>INITIAL CALL</p> <p>→</p>	<p>○○○</p> <p>FIRST RETURN VISIT</p> <p>→</p>	<p>○○●</p> <p>SECOND RETURN VISIT</p>
<p>Question: Who was Jesus?</p> <p>Scripture: Mt 16:16</p> <p>Link: Why did Jesus die?</p>	<p>Question: Why did Jesus die?</p> <p>Scripture: Mt 20:28</p> <p>Link: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?</p>	<p>Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?</p> <p>Scripture: Joh 17:3</p> <p>Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?</p>

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?

A Special Possession

(1 Peter 2:9)

F Fsus4

God has a new cre - a - tion, His
 They are a ho - ly na - tion, Who
 Faith - ful to their com - mis - sion, They

C/E F

spir - it - a - noint - ed sons. He has
 han - dle the truth a - right. God has
 gath - er the oth - er sheep. To the

Dm7 Gm7

bought them from man - kind; His ap -
 called them from dark - ness To his
 Lamb they are loy - al. His com -

E_b C/E Chorus

prov - al they've won.
 won - der - ful light. A
 mand - ments they keep.

A Special Possession

spe - cial pos - ses - sion, They're a peo - ple for your

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Bb/F, and C/E. The lyrics are: "spe - cial pos - ses - sion, They're a peo - ple for your".

name. They love you. They praise you. As

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, Dm/C, Bb, Gm/Bb, and F/A. The lyrics are: "name. They love you. They praise you. As".

one they de - clare a - broad your fame.

The third system of music concludes the piece. Chords are indicated above the staff: Gm7, C7sus4, and F. The lyrics are: "one they de - clare a - broad your fame.".

- Song 30 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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- He may guide us by means of holy spirit, which can help us remember Bible accounts and principles and then discern the wise steps to take.—Joh 14:26
- He can use his angels in our behalf.—Heb 1:14
- He can help us through fellow worshippers.—Col 4:11







How Will You Prepare for the Memorial?

Beginning this year, we will have more time to prepare for the Memorial of Christ's death. When the Memorial falls on a weekday, the Life and Ministry Meeting will not be held that week. When the Memorial falls on a weekend, the public talk and *Watchtower* Study will not be held. Will you make the best use of the additional time in your schedule? Just as in the first century, physical arrangements must be made for this special occasion. (Lu 22:7-13; km 3/15 1) But all of us should prepare our hearts. How can we do so?

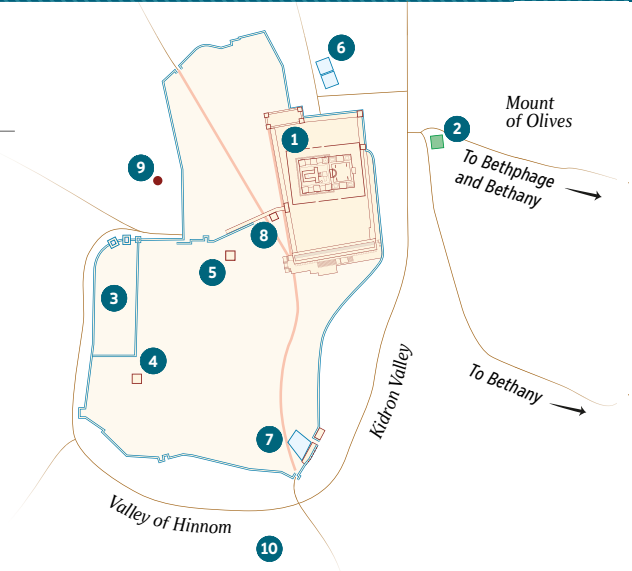
- Reflect on the importance of attending.—1Co 11:23-26
- Prayerfully examine your personal relationship with Jehovah.—1Co 11:27-29; 2Co 13:5
- Read and meditate on Scriptural material that discusses the meaning of the Memorial.—Joh 3:16; 15:13






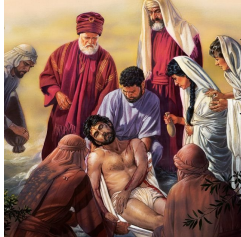
Some publishers read and meditate on the Memorial Bible reading found in *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. Others read the Bible verses that appear in the accompanying chart. Still others review *Watchtower* articles that discuss the Memorial and the love that Jehovah and Jesus have shown for us. Whatever study project you choose, may it draw you ever closer to Jehovah and his Son.

	NISAN 8 (Sabbath)	NISAN 9	NISAN 10	NISAN 11	NISAN 12
	April 13-14, 2019	April 14-15, 2019	April 15-16, 2019	April 16-17, 2019	April 17-18, 2019
SUNSET ▶ Jewish days start and end at sunset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrives in Bethany six days before the Passover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dines with Simon the leper • Mary anoints Jesus with nard • Jews come to visit Jesus and Lazarus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spends the night in Bethany 		
		Matthew 26:6-13 Mark 14:3-9			
	John 11:55–12:1	John 12:2-11			
SUNRISE ▶		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triumphal entry into Jerusalem • Teaches in the temple ① 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early trip into Jerusalem • Cleanses the temple • Jehovah speaks from heaven 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches in the temple, using illustrations • Condemns Pharisees • Notes widow's contribution • On Mount of Olives, foretells Jerusalem's fall and gives sign of future presence 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet day with disciples • Judas arranges betrayal
		Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17 Mark 11:1-11 Luke 19:29-44 John 12:12-19	Matthew 21:18, 19; 21:12, 13 Mark 11:12-19 Luke 19:45-48 John 12:20-50	Matthew 21:19–25:46 Mark 11:20–13:37 Luke 20:1–21:38	Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16 Mark 14:1, 2, 10, 11 Luke 22:1-6
SUNSET ▶					

Jerusalem and Surrounding Area

- 1 Temple
- 2 Garden of Gethsemane (?)
- 3 Governor's Palace
- 4 House of Caiaphas (?)
- 5 Palace Used by Herod Antipas (?)
- 6 Pool of Bethzatha
- 7 Pool of Siloam
- 8 Sanhedrin Hall (?)
- 9 Golgotha (?)
- 10 Akeldama (?)



NISAN 13	NISAN 14	NISAN 15 (Sabbath)	NISAN 16
April 18-19, 2019	April 19-20, 2019	April 20-21, 2019	April 21-22, 2019
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats the Passover with the apostles Washes the feet of the apostles Dismisses Judas Institutes the Lord's Evening Meal Betrayed and arrested in the garden of Gethsemane 2 Apostles flee Tried by the Sanhedrin at the house of Caiaphas 4 Peter denies Jesus 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional burial spices are purchased
	 <p>Matthew 26:20-75 Mark 14:17-72 Luke 22:14-65 John 13:1-18:27</p>		<p>Mark 16:1</p>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter and John prepare for the Passover Jesus and other apostles arrive in late afternoon 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stands before the Sanhedrin again 8 Taken to Pilate, 9 then to Herod, 5 then back to Pilate 3 Sentenced to death and executed at Golgotha 9 Dies about three o'clock in the afternoon Body removed and buried 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilate approves posting guards at Jesus' grave 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurrected Appears to disciples
<p>Matthew 26:17-19 Mark 14:12-16 Luke 22:7-13</p>	 <p>Matthew 27:1-61 Mark 15:1-47 Luke 22:66-23:56 John 18:28-19:42</p>	<p>Matthew 27:62-66</p>	<p>Matthew 28:1-15 Mark 16:2-8 Luke 24:1-49 John 20:1-25</p>

AN IMPORTANT LESSON IN HUMILITY

MATTHEW 17:22-18:5 MARK 9:30-37 LUKE 9:43-48

After the transfiguration and the healing of a demon-possessed boy in the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus heads toward Capernaum. He travels privately, just with his disciples, so that the crowds do not “get to know about it.” (Mark 9:30) This gives him further opportunity to prepare his disciples for his death and for the work they will then do. “The Son of man is going to be betrayed into men’s hands,” he explains, “and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised up.”—Matthew 17:22, 23.

That idea should not strike his disciples as new. Jesus spoke earlier about his being killed, though Peter refused to believe that this would happen. (Matthew 16:21, 22) And three apostles saw the transfiguration and heard the discussion about Jesus’ “departure.” (Luke 9:31) His followers now become “very much grieved” over what Jesus is saying, even though they do not understand the full impact of his words. (Matthew 17:23) Still, they are afraid to question him further about it.

In time they come into Capernaum, Jesus’ base of activity and the hometown of a number of the apostles. There, men who collect the temple tax approach Peter. Perhaps attempting to accuse Jesus of failing to pay taxes, they ask: “Does your teacher not pay the two drachmas [temple] tax?”—Matthew 17:24.

“Yes,” Peter replies. Back at the house, Jesus is already aware of what has occurred. So rather than wait for Peter to bring the matter up, Jesus asks: “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth receive duties or head tax? From their sons or from the strangers?” Peter answers: “From the strangers.” Thereupon Jesus observes: “Real-

ly, then, the sons are tax-free.”—Matthew 17:25, 26.

Jesus’ Father is the King of the universe and the One who is worshipped at the temple. Hence, God’s Son is not legally required to pay the temple tax. “But that we do not cause them to stumble,” Jesus says, “go to the sea, cast a fish-hook, and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth, you will find a silver coin [a stater, or tetradrachma]. Take that and give it to them for me and you.”—Matthew 17:27.



Soon the disciples are together, and they have a question for Jesus about who would be greatest in the Kingdom. These same men were recently afraid to question Jesus about his coming death, yet now they are not afraid to approach him about their future. Jesus knows what they are thinking. It is something they had already been arguing about as they trailed behind him on their trip back to Capernaum. So he asks: “What were you arguing about on the road?” (Mark 9:33) Embarrassed, the disciples keep silent, because they were arguing among themselves about who is greatest. Finally, the apostles present to Jesus the question that they have been discussing: “Who really is greatest in the Kingdom of the heavens?”—Matthew 18:1.

It seems incredible that the disciples would have such an argument after nearly three years of observing and hearing Jesus. However, they are imperfect. And they have grown up in a religious climate where position and

rank are stressed. Moreover, Peter had recently heard Jesus promise him certain “keys” of the Kingdom. Might he thus feel superior? James and John may feel similarly, having been eyewitnesses of Jesus’ transfiguration.

Whatever the case, Jesus acts to correct their attitude. He calls a child, stands him in their midst, and tells the disciples: “Unless you turn around and become as young children, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of the heavens. Therefore, whoever will humble himself like this young child is the one who is the greatest in the Kingdom of the heavens; and whoever receives one such young child on the basis of my name receives me also.”—Matthew 18:3-5.

What a marvelous method of teaching! Jesus does not become angry with his disciples and call them greedy or ambitious. Rather, he uses an object lesson. Young children do not have high status or prominence at all. Jesus thus shows that his disciples need to develop this view of themselves. Then Jesus concludes the lesson for his followers, saying: “The one who conducts himself as a lesser one among all of you is the one who is great.”—Luke 9:48.



-
- ◇ On returning to Capernaum, Jesus repeats what important fact, and how do his disciples receive this?
 - ◇ Why is Jesus not under obligation to pay the temple tax, but why does he do so?
 - ◇ What might contribute to the disciples’ concern about position, and how does Jesus correct them?

Oh, Walk With God!

(Micah 6:8)

C C° C C6 C#° G7/D Dm7 G7

Oh, walk with God in mod - es - ty;
 Oh, walk with God in ho - li - ness;
 Oh, walk with God in hap - pi - ness;

Dm7 G7 C/G G7 C

Show loy - al love, and be true.
 Con - sid - er things that are pure.
 Re - joice that he is your Friend.

F C/E G7/D C

Stay close to Je - ho - vah, lean - ing on him,
 No mat - ter how great temp - ta - tions may be,
 Be thank - ful for all the gifts that he gives

D7/A Bm/D D7 C/G G7

And let his strength sus - tain you.
 He'll help you to en - dure them.
 And bless - ings that are end - less.

Oh, Walk With God!

G7+5 C G7/D C#° G7/D C/E Eb°

Keep hold - ing tight to his faith - ful Word;
 What - ev - er praise - wor - thy things there are,
 Oh, walk with God, let your heart be glad;

C/E D7 Bm/D D7 G G7/F

You'll nev - er drift a - way,
 What - ev - er things are true,
 Ex - press your joy in song.

C/E C G7/B C Fm7/A Dm/F F#° //

So let God lead you by the hand
 Con - tin - ue to show, you con - sid - er them,
 Your joy will show, and all will know, //

C/G G7 C

As you lis - ten and o - bey.
 And our God will be with you.
 To Je - ho - vah you be - long.

FEBRUARY 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
APRIL 8–MAY 5, 2019

Walking in Integrity

(Psalm 26)

Eb/F F7 Bb Eb/F F7

Please I judge me, Lord, ob - serve my
do not sit with wick - ed
For I have loved the dwell - ing

Bbma7 Bb6 Bbma7 Bb6 B° Cm

loy - al - ty; Ob - serve my trust in you
men of lies. I hate the com - pa - ny
of your house. Your wor - ship, oh, so pure,

F7 F7/Eb Bb/D C#° Cm7 F9 F7/Eb

and my in - teg ri - ty. Ex - am - ine
of those who truth de - spise. Je - ho - vah,
I dai - ly will es - pouse. And I will

Bbma7/D C#° Cm7 F7 Bb6

me, and put me to the test; My
please, don't take a - way my life With
march a - round your al - tar grand, To

R.H.

Walking in Integrity

Cm/A D7 Fm/D G7 Bb/C C7

mind and heart re - fine, that my soul might be
 men who take de - light in brib - er - y and
 make thanks - giv - ing heard a - loud through - out the

F7 Eb/G F/A *Chorus*
 F Bb/D Bbma7 C#°

blessed.
 strife.
 land. But as for me, De - ter - mined

Bb/D Fm/Ab G7 Ebm/C

I will be to walk e - ter - nal - ly

Ebm/F F7sus4 F7 Bb

In my in - teg - ri - ty.

SONG 34

Walking in Integrity

PREVIEW

What is integrity? Why does Jehovah value that quality in his servants? Why is integrity important to each of us? This article will help us find the Bible's answers to those questions. It will also help us see clearly how we can strengthen ourselves to maintain integrity from day to day. Doing so will bring us great blessings.

Keep Your Integrity!

“Until I die, I will not renounce my integrity!”—JOB 27:5.

IMAGINE the following three scenes involving Jehovah's Witnesses. (1) A young girl is at school one day when the teacher asks all the students in class to take part in a holiday celebration. The girl knows that this holiday does not please God, so she respectfully refuses to join in. (2) A shy young man is preaching from door to door. He realizes that someone from his school lives at the next house—a fellow student who has made fun of Jehovah's Witnesses before. But the young man goes to the house and knocks on the door anyway. (3) A man is working hard to provide for his family, and one day his boss asks him to do something dishonest or illegal. Though he could lose his job, the man explains that he must be honest and obey the law because God requires that of his servants.—Rom. 13:1-4; Heb. 13:18.

² What quality do you see in those three individuals? You may notice several, such as courage and honesty. But one quality stands out as especially precious—integrity. Each of the three shows loyalty to Jehovah. Each one refuses to compromise on God's standards. Integrity moves those individuals to act as they do. Jehovah would surely feel proud of each one of them for showing that quality. We likewise want to make our Father in heaven proud. So let us discuss these questions: What is integrity? Why do we need integrity? And how can we strengthen our determination to maintain integrity in these difficult times?

1. How did the three Witnesses of Jehovah described in this paragraph take a stand for Jehovah?
2. What questions will we consider, and why?

WHAT IS INTEGRITY?

³ When applied to us as servants of God, integrity means wholehearted love for and unbreakable devotion to Jehovah as a Person, so that his will comes first in all our decisions. Consider some background. One basic meaning of the Bible word for “integrity” is this: complete, sound, or whole. For example, the Israelites offered up animals in sacrifice to Jehovah, and the Law said that the animals had to be sound.* (Lev. 22:21, 22) God’s people were not allowed to offer up an animal that was missing a leg, an ear, or an eye; nor could they offer one full of disease. It was important to Jehovah that the animal be complete, sound, or whole. (Mal. 1:6-9) We can understand why Jehovah cares about soundness or completeness. When we purchase something, whether a piece of fruit, a book, or a tool, we do not want one that has gaping holes or parts missing. We want one that is complete, sound, or whole. Jehovah feels similarly when it comes to our love for him, our loyalty. It must be complete, sound, or whole.

⁴ Should we conclude that we must be perfect in order to have integrity? After all, we may feel that we are less than sound, or even very flawed. Consider two reasons why we need not fear. First, Jehovah does not focus on our flaws.

* The Hebrew word rendered “sound” regarding an animal is related to the word for “integrity” used regarding humans.

3. (a) What does integrity mean for us? (b) What examples show that completeness, soundness, or wholeness matter to us?

4. (a) Why can an imperfect person have integrity? (b) According to Psalm 103:12-14, what does Jehovah expect of us?

His Word tells us: “If errors were what you watch, O Jah, then who, O Jehovah, could stand?” (Ps. 130:3) He knows that we are imperfect, sinful humans, and he forgives us generously. (Ps. 86:5) Second, Jehovah knows our limitations, and he does not expect more of us than we can do. **(Read Psalm 103:12-14.)** In what sense, then, can we be complete, sound, or whole in his eyes?

⁵ For servants of Jehovah, the key to integrity is love. Our love for God, our loyal devotion to him as our heavenly Father, must remain complete, sound, or whole. If our love remains like that even when we are tested, then we have integrity. (1 Chron. 28:9; Matt. 22:37) Consider again the three Witnesses we described at the outset. Why do they act as they do? Does the young girl hate having fun at school, or does the young man hope to be embarrassed at a door, or does the family man want to lose his job? Of course not. Rather, they know that Jehovah has righteous standards, and their minds are focused on what pleases their heavenly Father. Their love for him moves them to put him first in the decisions they make. They thus put their integrity into action.

WHY WE NEED INTEGRITY

⁶ What makes integrity so vital that each of us needs it? You need integrity because Satan has challenged Jehovah, and he has challenged you. That rebellious angel made himself Satan, or

5. For servants of Jehovah, how is love the key to integrity?

6. (a) Why do you need integrity? (b) How did Adam and Eve fail to show integrity?

“Resister,” back in the garden of Eden. He smeared Jehovah’s good name by implying that God is a bad, selfish, and dishonest Ruler. Sadly, Adam and Eve sided with Satan, rebelling against Jehovah. (Gen. 3:1-6) Life in Eden had given them countless opportunities to strengthen their love for Jehovah. But at the time of Satan’s challenge, their love was not complete, sound, or whole. Another question arose: Would any humans remain loyal to Jehovah God out of love for him? In other words, are humans capable of showing integrity? That question came to the fore in the case of Job.

⁷ Job lived in the days when the Isra-

7. As revealed at Job 1:8-11, how did Jehovah and Satan feel about Job’s integrity?

elites were in Egypt. His integrity was unique. Like us, the man was imperfect. He made mistakes. However, Jehovah loved Job for his integrity. It seems likely that Satan had already taunted Jehovah about human integrity. So Jehovah called Satan’s attention to Job. That man’s life course exposed Satan as a liar! Satan demanded that Job’s integrity be put to the test. Jehovah trusted his friend Job, and He allowed Satan to test him.—**Read Job 1:8-11.**

⁸ Satan is cruel, and he is a murderer. He attacked Job’s belongings, robbing him of his wealth, his servants, and his reputation in the community. He attacked Job’s family, robbing him of his ten beloved children. Then he attacked

8. How did Satan attack Job?

What are some ways in which we strengthen ourselves to keep our integrity?

(See paragraph 12)



Job's body, robbing him of his health by afflicting him with painful boils that covered him from head to foot. Job's wife was distraught and overwhelmed with grief; she urged him to give up, to curse God and die. Job himself wished for death, but still he kept his integrity. Then Satan tried a different method of attack. He used three men who were companions of Job. The men visited Job for days, but they offered no comfort. Instead they heartlessly lectured and scolded him. They claimed that God was behind his troubles and cared nothing about his integrity. They even suggested that Job was a wicked man who deserved the terrible things that were happening to him!—Job 1:13-22; 2:7-11; 15:4, 5; 22:3-6; 25:4-6.

⁹ How did Job handle all that adversity? He was not perfect. He angrily rebuked his false comforters, and he uttered what he admitted was wild talk. He defended his own righteousness more than he did God's. (Job 6:3; 13:4, 5; 32:2; 34:5) However, even in his worst moments, Job refused to turn against Jehovah God. He refused to believe the lies of those false friends. He said: "It is unthinkable for me to declare you men righteous! Until I die, I will not renounce my integrity!" (Job 27:5) That is a statement of vital importance. Job refused to give in; we can do the same.

¹⁰ Satan makes the same charges about each of us. How are you involved? In effect, he says that you do not really love

Jehovah God, that you will stop serving him to save yourself, and that any integrity you have is false! (Job 2:4, 5; Rev. 12:10) How does that make you feel? It is hurtful, is it not? However, think about this: Jehovah trusts you enough to offer you a marvelous opportunity. Jehovah is allowing Satan to test your integrity. Jehovah is confident that you can keep your integrity and help to prove Satan a liar. And He promises to help you do that. (Heb. 13:6) What a privilege to be trusted by the Sovereign of the universe! Do you see why integrity is so important? It enables us to refute Satan's lies and to uphold our Father's good name and support his way of ruling. How can we build up this vital quality?

HOW WE CAN KEEP OUR INTEGRITY AT THIS TIME

¹¹ Satan has intensified his attacks in these troubled "last days." (2 Tim. 3:1) In such dark times, how can we strengthen ourselves to maintain our integrity? Again, we can learn a lot from Job. Long before his tests arose, Job had already built up a record of integrity. Consider three lessons we can learn from him about strengthening ourselves to keep our integrity.

¹² **Job strengthened his love for God by developing awe for Jehovah.** Job spent time contemplating the marvels of Jehovah's creation. (**Read Job 26:7, 8, 14.**) He was awestruck when he thought about the earth, the sky, the clouds, and the thunder, yet he recognized that he

9. In the face of his trials, what did Job refuse to do?

10. How are you involved in the issue that Satan raised regarding Job?

11. What can we learn from Job?

12. (a) As mentioned at Job 26:7, 8, 14, how did Job develop awe and respect for Jehovah? (b) How might we fill our heart with awe for God?



We strengthen ourselves to keep our integrity by rejecting pornography, having a balanced view of material things, and keeping our hope alive
(See paragraphs 13-15)

knew very little about the vastness of creation. He also felt awe for Jehovah's expressions. "I have treasured up his sayings," Job said of God's words. (Job 23:12) Job's awe and respect for Jehovah moved him. He loved his Father and wanted to please him. Job's determination to keep his integrity thus grew stronger. We need to do as Job did. We know far more about the marvels of creation than did people of Job's time. And we have the entire inspired Bible to help us to know Jehovah as he really is. All that we learn can help to fill our heart with awe. Our awe and respect for Jehovah will, in turn, move us to love and obey him and to build up our deep desire to keep our integrity.—Job 28:28.

13 Job strengthened himself to keep

13-14. (a) As noted at Job 31:1, how did Job prove to be obedient? (b) How might we follow Job's example?

his integrity through acts of obedience. Job knew that integrity calls for obedience. In fact, each act of obedience strengthens our determination to keep our integrity. Job worked hard to obey God in his daily life. For example, he was careful about his behavior with those of the opposite sex. **(Read Job 31:1.)** As a married man, he knew that it was improper to pay romantic attention to any woman other than his wife. Today, we live in a world that bombards us with sexual temptation. Like Job, will we refuse to pay improper attention to anyone to whom we are not married? Will we also refuse to look at lewd or pornographic images in any form? (Matt. 5:28) If we exert such self-control daily, we will strengthen ourselves to keep our integrity.

14 Job also obeyed Jehovah in the way he viewed material things. Job saw that

if he put his trust in his possessions, he would commit a grave error deserving of punishment. (Job 31:24, 25, 28) Today, we live in a very materialistic world. If we develop a balanced view of money and possessions, as the Bible admonishes us to do, we will strengthen our determination to keep our integrity.—Prov. 30:8, 9; Matt. 6:19-21.

15 Job kept his integrity by focusing on the hope that God would reward him. He believed that God did care about his integrity. (Job 31:6) Despite his trials, Job was confident that Jehovah would finally reward him. This confidence surely helped him cling to his integrity. Jehovah was so delighted with Job's integrity that He rewarded him richly while he was still an imperfect man! (Job 42:12-17; Jas. 5:11) And even greater rewards lie ahead for Job. Do you have strong hope that Jehovah will reward your integrity? Our God has not changed. (Mal. 3:6) If we remember

15. (a) The prospect of what reward helped Job keep his integrity? (b) Why might it help us to keep in mind the hope that Jehovah offers?

that he values our integrity, we can keep our hope for a bright future alive in our heart.—1 Thess. 5:8, 9.

16 Be resolved, then, never to let go of your integrity! At times, you may feel lonely in such a course, but you will never be alone. You will be among millions of faithful integrity-keepers around the world. You will also join the ranks of men and women of faith who kept their integrity in the past, even under the threat of death. (Heb. 11:36-38; 12:1) May all of us be determined to live by Job's words: "I will not renounce my integrity!" And may our integrity glorify Jehovah forever!

16. What should we be resolved to do?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 4: We see Job as a young father teaching some of his children about the marvels of Jehovah's creation. **Page 6:** A brother refuses to join his workmates in viewing pornography; he resists the urge to buy a large and expensive television that he does not need and cannot afford; and he takes time to meditate prayerfully on the Paradise hope.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What is integrity?
- Why do you need integrity?
- How can you strengthen yourself to keep your integrity?

Ever Loyal

(Psalm 18:25)

Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb Fm11 Bb7/F Eb/G Ab

Ev - er loy - al to Je - ho - vah, Loy - al
 Ev - er loy - al to our broth - ers, Stick - ing
 Ev - er loy - al to their guid - ance When our

R.H.

Eb/Bb Gm Gm7 Ab C7sus4 C7

love we wish to show. As a
 close in times of need. Ev - er
 broth - ers lead the way. When they

Fm Gm11 C7/G Fm/Ab Bb/C C7

peo - ple, ded - i - cat - ed, His com -
 car - ing, al - ways trust - ing, Ev - er
 give us clear di - rec - tion, May we

R.H.

Fm Ab/Eb Dm11 G7

mands we want to know. His ad -
 kind in word and deed. We show
 loy - al - ly o - bey. Then the

Ever Loyal

Cm Ab Eb/G G7

vice will nev - er fail us, And his
hon - or to our broth - ers And re -
bless - ing from Je - ho - vah Will be

R.H.

Cm Eb/F F9 Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G

coun - sel we o - bey. He is
spect - them from the us heart. Ev - er
ours to make us strong. When we're

Fm7 Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G Cm9 Cm

loy - al; we can trust him. From his
loy - al, ev - er clos - er, From their
loy - al, ev - er faith - ful, To Je -

R.H. R.H.

Fm7 Bb7sus4 Bb7 Eb

side we'll nev - er stray.
side we'll nev - er part.
ho - vah we'll be - long.

R.H.

