

- Song 44 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah—‘The God of All Comfort’”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Corinthians*.]
2Co 1:3—Jehovah is “the Father of tender mercies” (*w17.07 13 ¶4*)
2Co 1:4—We comfort others with the comfort Jehovah provides (*w17.07 15 ¶14*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
2Co 1:22—What are “the token” and the “seal” that each anointed Christian receives from God? (*w16.04 32*)

2Co 2:14-16—What might the apostle Paul have had in mind when he spoke of “a triumphal procession”? (*w10 8/1 23*)

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) 2Co 3:1-18 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 52-53 ¶3-4 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 86
- **“Pursue Divine Education”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Spiritually Rich by Jehovah’s Teaching* (video category OUR ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jc* chap. 64
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 130 and Prayer

2 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Jehovah—“The God of All Comfort”



One source of comfort that Jehovah provides is the Christian congregation. What are some ways we can console grieving ones?

- Listen to them without interrupting
- “Weep with those who weep.”—Ro 12:15
- Send an encouraging card, an e-mail, or a text message. —*w17.07 15, box*
- Pray with them and for them

Many have found comfort from the following scriptures:

- “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are crushed in spirit.”—Ps 34:18, 19
- “When anxieties overwhelmed me, you [Jehovah] comforted and soothed me.”—Ps 94:19
- “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave everlasting comfort and good hope by means of undeserved kindness, comfort your hearts and make you firm.”—2Th 2:16, 17



A Prayer of the Lowly One

(Psalm 4:1)

Gm Am11 D7 Gm9/Bb Gm/Bb Am7#5 D7#9/A

Je - ho - vah God, I call to you and ask you: "Hear my prayer." My
Your Word has been my com - fort and a ref - uge when I'm weak, Ex -

Gm Dm/F Ebma7 Cm6/Eb Dm7 Bb/D

wounds are deep and slow to heal; my load is hard to bear. De -
press - ing feel - ings dear to me in words I can - not speak. Please

Cm Cm/Bb Cm/A A° Gm9/Bb Gm/Bb

spont - ent thoughts and dis - ap - point - ed hopes have left me weak. O
build in me the faith and trust that your Word does im - part. And

Ebma7 F9/Eb Dm7 Bb/D Cm Eb/F

God of com - fort, care for me; your fa - vor I do seek.
help me al - ways know your love is great - er than my heart.

A Prayer of the Lowly One

Chorus F7 Bb Fm/Ab G7sus4 G7

Do raise me up; help me en - dure. When I'm in

Cm Cm/Bb Cm6/A D7 C/E D7/F#

doubt, make my hope sure. From deep de -

Gm Gm/F Cm/Eb Ebm/Gb

spair, I turn to you. Je - ho - vah

Bb/F F13sus4 F7 Bb

God, my strength re - new.

(See also Ps. 42:6; 119:28; Rom. 8:26; 2 Cor. 4:16; 1 John 3:20.)

THE SECOND TO THE CORINTHIANS

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Change in Paul's travel plans (12-24)</p> <p>2 Paul's intention to bring joy (1-4)
A sinner forgiven and reinstated (5-11)
Paul in Troas and Macedonia (12, 13)
The ministry, a triumphal procession (14-17)
Not peddlers of God's word (17)</p> <p>3 Letters of recommendation (1-3)
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Be readjusted; think in agreement (11)</p> |
|--|---|

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy^a our brother, to the congregation of God that is in Corinth, including all the holy ones who are in all A-cha'ia:^b

2 May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,^c the Father of tender mercies^d and the God of all comfort,^e

4 who comforts^f us in all our trials^g so that we may be able

1:4 *Or "encourages." 1:4, 6 #Or "tribulation."

CHAP. 1

- a Ac 16:1, 2
Php 2:19, 20
b 1Th 1:8
c Joh 20:17
d Ex 34:6
Ps 86:5
Mic 7:18
e Isa 51:3
Ro 15:5
f Ps 23:4
2Co 7:6

Second Col.

- a Eph 6:21, 22
1Th 4:18
b Ro 15:4
2Th 2:16, 17
c 1Co 4:11-13
Col 1:24
d Ro 8:18
2Ti 2:11, 12

to comfort others^a in any sort of trial^g with the comfort that we receive from God.^b **5** For just as the sufferings for the Christ abound in us,^c so the comfort we receive through the Christ also abounds. **6** Now if we face trials,^g it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are being comforted, it is for your comfort, which acts to help you to endure the same sufferings that we also suffer. **7** And our hope for you is unwavering, knowing as we do that just as you share in the sufferings, so you will also share in the comfort.^d

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the

tribulation we experienced in the province of Asia.^a We were under extreme pressure beyond our own strength, so that we were very uncertain even of our lives.^b **9** In fact, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. This was so that we would trust, not in ourselves, but in the God^c who raises up the dead. **10** From such a great risk of death he did rescue us and will rescue us, and our hope is in him that he will also continue to rescue us.^d **11** You also can help us by your supplication for us,^e in order that many may give thanks in our behalf for the favor we receive in answer to the prayers of many.^{*f}

12 For the thing we boast of is this, our conscience bears witness that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with holiness and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom,^g but with God's undeserved kindness. **13** For we are really not writing you about anything except what you can read^{*} and understand, and I hope you will continue to understand these things fully.[#] **14** just as you have also understood to an extent that we are a cause for you to boast, just as you will also be for us in the day of our Lord Jesus.

15 So with this confidence, I was intending to come first to you, so that you might have a second occasion for joy;^{*} **16** for I intended to visit you on my way to Mac-e-do'ni-a, to return to you from Mac-e-do'ni-a, and then to have you send me off to Ju-de'a.^h **17** Well, when I had such an intention, I did not view the matter lightly, did I? Or

1:11 *Or "because of many prayerful faces." **1:13** *Or possibly, "what you already well know." [#]Lit., "to the end." **1:15** *Or possibly, "so that you might benefit twice."

CHAP. 1

a Ac 20:18, 19

b 1Co 15:32

c 2Co 12:10

d Ps 34:7, 19
2Ti 4:18
2Pe 2:9e Php 1:19
Phm 22f Ac 12:5
Ro 15:30-32

g 1Co 2:4, 5

h 1Co 16:5, 6

Second Col.

a Ac 18:5

b Ro 15:8

c Re 3:14

d 1Jo 2:20, 27

e Eph 4:30

f Ro 8:23
2Co 5:5
Eph 1:13, 14g Heb 13:17
1Pe 5:2, 3

CHAP. 2

h 2Co 7:8, 9

do I purpose things in a fleshly way, so that I am saying "Yes, yes" and then "No, no"? **18** But God can be relied on that what we say to you is not "yes" and yet "no." **19** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you through us, that is, through me and Sil-va'nus* and Timothy,^a did not become "yes" and yet "no," but "yes" has become "yes" in his case. **20** For no matter how many the promises of God are, they have become "yes" by means of him.^b Therefore, also through him is the "Amen" said to God,^c which brings him glory through us. **21** But the one who guarantees that you and we belong to Christ and the one who anointed us is God.^d **22** He has also put his seal on us^e and has given us the token of what is to come,^{*} that is, the spirit,^f in our hearts.

23 Now I call on God as a witness against me* that it is to spare you that I have not yet come to Corinth. **24** Not that we are the masters over your faith,^g but we are fellow workers for your joy, for it is by your faith that you are standing.

2 For I have made up my mind not to come to you again in sadness. **2** For if I make you sad, who will be there to cheer me up except the one I saddened? **3** I wrote what I did, so that when I come I may not be saddened by those over whom I ought to rejoice, because I have confidence that what brings me joy brings all of you the same joy. **4** For out of much tribulation and anguish of heart I wrote you with many tears, not to sadden you,^h but to let you know the depth of love I have for you.

1:19 *Also called Silas. **1:22** *Or "the down payment (earnest money); the guarantee (pledge) of what is to come." **1:23** *Or "my soul."

5 Now if anyone has caused sadness,^a he has saddened, not me, but all of you to an extent—not to be too harsh in what I say. 6 This rebuke given by the majority is sufficient for such a man; 7 now you should instead kindly forgive and comfort him,^b so that he may not be overwhelmed* by excessive sadness.^c 8 I therefore exhort you to confirm your love for him.^d 9 For this is also why I wrote to you: to determine whether you would give proof of your obedience in all things. 10 If you forgive anyone for anything, I do also. In fact, whatever I have forgiven (if I have forgiven anything) has been for your sake in Christ's sight, 11 so that we may not be overreached* by Satan,^e for we are not ignorant of his designs.^{#f}

12 Now when I arrived in Tro'as^g to declare the good news about the Christ and a door was opened to me in the Lord, 13 my spirit felt no relief because of not finding Titus^h my brother. So I said good-bye to them and departed for Mac-e-do'ni-a.ⁱ

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and through us spreads* the fragrance of the knowledge of him in every place! 15 For to God we are a sweet fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the latter ones an odor* of death leading to death,^j to the former ones a fragrance of life leading to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things? 17 We are, for we are not peddlers of* the word

2:7 *Or "swallowed up." 2:11 *Or "outwitted." #Or "intentions; schemes." 2:14 *Or "makes perceptible." 2:16 *Or "fragrance." 2:17 *Or "not commercializing; not making profit from."

CHAP. 2

- a 1Co 5:1
b Lu 15:23, 24
c Heb 12:12
d Ro 12:10
e Lu 22:31
2Ti 2:26
f Eph 6:11, 12
1Pe 5:8
g Ac 16:8
h Ga 2:3
Tit 1:4
i 2Co 7:5
j Joh 15:19
2Co 4:3
1Pe 2:7, 8

Second Col.

- a 2Co 4:2

CHAP. 3

- b 1Co 9:2
c 1Co 3:5
d Ex 31:18
Ex 34:1
e Pr 3:3
Pr 7:3
f Ex 4:12, 15
Php 2:13
g Heb 8:6
h Ro 13:9
i Ga 3:10
j Joh 6:63
k Ex 31:18
Ex 32:16
l Ex 34:29, 30
m Ac 2:1, 4
n 1Pe 4:14
o De 27:26
p Ex 34:35
q Ro 3:21, 22
r Col 2:16, 17
s Ex 19:16
Ex 24:17
t Heb 12:22-24

of God^a as many men are, but we speak in all sincerity as sent from God, yes, in the sight of God and in company with Christ.

3 Are we starting to recommend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some men, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter,^b inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. 3 For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers,^c inscribed not with ink but with the spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets^d but on fleshly tablets, on hearts.^e

4 We have this sort of confidence toward God through the Christ. 5 Not that we of ourselves are adequately qualified to consider that anything comes from us, but our being adequately qualified comes from God,^f 6 who has indeed adequately qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant,^g not of a written code,^h but of spirit; for the written code condemns to death,ⁱ but the spirit makes alive.^j

7 Now if the code that administers death and that was engraved in letters on stones^k came with such glory that the sons of Israel could not gaze at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face,^l a glory that was to be done away with, 8 why should the administering of the spirit^m not be with even greater glory?ⁿ 9 For if the code administering condemnation^o was glorious,^p how much more glorious would be the administering of righteousness!^q 10 In fact, even what had once been made glorious has been stripped of glory because of the glory that excels it.^r 11 For if what was to be done away with was brought in with glory,^s how much greater would be the glory of what remains!^t

12 Since we have such a hope,^a we are using great freedom of speech, 13 and not doing what Moses did when he would put a veil over his face^b so that the sons of Israel might not gaze intently at the end of what was to be done away with. 14 But their minds were dulled,^c For to this present day, the same veil remains unlifted when the old covenant is read,^d because it is taken away only by means of Christ.^e 15 In fact, to this day whenever Moses is read,^f a veil lies upon their hearts.^g 16 But when one turns to Jehovah,^h the veil is taken away.ⁱ 17 Now Jehovah* is the Spirit,^j and where the spirit of Jehovah* is, there is freedom.^k 18 And all of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah,* are transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another,^l exactly as it is done by Jehovah* the Spirit.^{ak}

4 Therefore, since we have this ministry through the mercy that was shown us, we do not give up. 2 But we have renounced the shameful, underhanded things, not walking with cunning or adulterating the word of God;^l but by making the truth manifest, we recommend ourselves to every human conscience in the sight of God.^m 3 If, in fact, the good news we declare is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing, 4 among whom the god of this system of thingsⁿ has blinded the minds of the unbelievers,^o so that the illumination^p of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God,^p might not shine through.^q 5 For we are preaching, not about ourselves, but about Jesus

3:16-18 *See App. A5. 3:18 ^aLit., "from glory to glory." ^ΔOr possibly, "by the spirit of Jehovah." 4:4 *Or "this age." See Glossary. ^ΔOr "light."

CHAP. 3

- a 1Pe 1:3, 4
b Ex 34:33-35
c Ro 11:7
d Joh 12:40
e Ro 7:6
Eph 2:15
f Ac 15:21
g Ro 11:8
h Ex 34:34
i Joh 4:24
j Isa 61:1
Ro 6:14
Ro 8:15
Ga 5:1, 13
k 2Co 4:6
Eph 4:23, 24
Eph 5:1

CHAP. 4

- l 2Co 2:17
Ga 1:9
m 2Co 6:3, 4
n Joh 14:30
Eph 2:2
1Jo 5:19
o 2Co 11:14
p Col 1:15
Heb 1:3
q Isa 60:2
Joh 8:12

Second Col.

- a Ge 1:3
b 1Pe 2:9
c 2Co 4:1
d Isa 64:8
Ac 9:15
1Co 15:47
e 2Co 12:9, 10
Php 4:13
f 1Co 10:13
g Heb 13:5
h Re 2:10
i Php 3:10
1Pe 4:13
j Ro 8:36
1Co 4:9
1Co 15:31
k Ps 116:10
l 1Co 6:14
m 2Ti 2:10

Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 6 For God is the one who said: "Let the light shine out of darkness,"^a and he has shone on our hearts to illuminate them^b with the glorious knowledge of God by the face of Christ.

7 However, we have this treasure^c in earthen vessels,^{Δd} so that the power beyond what is normal may be God's and not from us.^e 8 We are hard-pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement; we are perplexed, but not absolutely with no way out;^{Δf} 9 we are persecuted, but not abandoned;^g we are knocked down, but not destroyed.^h 10 Always we endure in our body the death-dealing treatment that Jesus suffered,ⁱ that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our body. 11 For we who live are ever being brought face-to-face with death^j for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 Now because we have the same spirit of faith as that of which it is written: "I exercised faith, therefore I spoke";^k we too exercise faith and therefore we speak, 14 knowing that the One who raised Jesus up will raise us up also with Jesus and will present us together with you.^l 15 For all these things are for your sake, so that the increase of the undeserved kindness should abound even more because many more are offering thanksgiving to the glory of God.^m

16 Therefore, we do not give up, but even if the man we are outside is wasting away, certainly the man we are inside is

4:7 *Or "in jars of clay." 4:8 *Or possibly, "not left in despair."

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2 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Jehovah—“The God of All Comfort”



1:3, 4

One source of comfort that Jehovah provides is the Christian congregation. What are some ways we can console grieving ones?

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Many have found comfort from the following scriptures:

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April 29–May 5 / 2 Corinthians 1-3

2 Corinthians 1:3—Jehovah is “the Father of tender mercies”

2 Corinthians 1:3: Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort,

w17.07 13 paragraph 4

Our Father of tender mercies has himself experienced the loss of loved ones, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and King David. (Numbers 12:6-8; Matthew 22:31, 32; Acts 13:22) God’s Word assures us that Jehovah has eagerly anticipated—has had an earnest longing for—the time when he will bring them back to life. (Job 14:14, 15) They will be happy and in vibrant health. Consider, too, that God’s dearly beloved Son—“the one he was especially fond of”—died an agonizing death. (Proverbs 8:22, 30) Words cannot express the pain Jehovah must have suffered.—John 5:20; 10:17.

2 Corinthians 1:4—We comfort others with the comfort Jehovah provides

2 Corinthians 1:4: who comforts us in all our trials so that we may be able to comfort others in any sort of trial with the comfort that we receive from God.

w17.07 15 paragraph 14

Understandably, then, it can be difficult to know what to say to someone who is overwhelmed by grief. Nevertheless, the Bible states that “the tongue of the wise is a healing.” (Proverbs 12:18) Many have found comforting thoughts to share from the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies*. Often, though, the most helpful thing you can do is to “weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15) “Tears have become the language of my heart,” admits Gaby, whose husband died. “That is why I get some comfort when friends cry with me. At that moment, I don’t feel quite so alone in my grief.”

Digging for Spiritual Gems

2 Corinthians 1:22—What are “the token” and the “seal” that each anointed Christian receives from God?

2 Corinthians 1:22: He has also put his seal on us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.

w16.04 32

Token: According to one reference work, the Greek term translated “token” at 2 Corinthians 1:22 was “a legal and commercial technical term” meaning “first instalment, deposit, down payment, pledge, that pays a part of

the purchase price in advance, and so secures a legal claim to the article in question, or makes a contract valid." In the case of anointed ones, the full payment, or reward, is described at 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 as involving the putting on of an incorruptible heavenly body. The reward also includes receiving the gift of immortality.—1 Corinthians 15:48-54.

In modern Greek, a related expression is used for an engagement ring. This is a fitting illustration for those who will become part of Christ's figurative wife.—2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 21:2, 9.

Seal: In the past, a seal was used as a signature to prove ownership, authenticity, or agreement. In the case of the anointed, they are "sealed," or branded, figuratively by holy spirit as God's possession. (Ephesians 1:13, 14) This seal is not made permanent, though, until either sometime before the person dies faithful or sometime before the outbreak of the great tribulation.—Ephesians 4:30; Revelation 7:2-4.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16—What might the apostle Paul have had in mind when he spoke of "a triumphal procession"?

2 Corinthians 2:14-16: But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him in every place! For to God we are a sweet fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the latter ones an odor of death leading to death, to the former ones a fragrance of life leading to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things?

w10 8/1 23

Paul wrote: "God . . . leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and makes the odor of the knowledge of him perceptible through us in every place! For to God we are a sweet odor of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the latter ones an odor issuing from death to death, to the former ones an odor issuing from life to life."—2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

The apostle was referring to the Roman practice of holding a celebratory procession to honor a general for his victory over enemies of the State. At such events, both the spoils and the prisoners of war were put on display and bulls were led to the sacrifice while the victorious general and his army received public acclaim. At the end of the procession, the bulls were sacrificed and many of the prisoners were likely executed.

The metaphor of the "sweet odor of Christ" signifying life for some and death for others is "probably drawn from the Roman practice of burning incense along the way of the procession," says The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. "The fragrance that signified triumph to the victors reminded the captives of the execution that likely awaited them."*

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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 130 and Prayer

2 CORINTHIANS 1-3 | Jehovah—“The God of All Comfort”



1:3, 4

One source of comfort that Jehovah provides is the Christian congregation. What are some ways we can console grieving ones?

- Listen to them without interrupting
- “Weep with those who weep.”—Ro 12:15
- Send an encouraging card, an e-mail, or a text message.—*w17.07 15, box*
- Pray with them and for them

Many have found comfort from the following scriptures:

- “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are crushed in spirit.”—Ps 34:18, 19
- “When anxieties overwhelmed me, you [Jehovah] comforted and soothed me.”—Ps 94:19
- “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave everlasting comfort and good hope by means of undeserved kindness, comfort your hearts and make you firm.”—2Th 2:16, 17



Second Return Visit

Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?

Scripture: Joh 17:3

Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?

Jim (Publisher): So, how can we show our appreciation for Jesus sacrificial death?

George (Householder): I guess by thanking God for it.

Jim (Publisher): That's an excellent way. And Jesus taught us another thing we should do. In fact, he taught that this is essential if we were to gain life through his sacrifice. It's found here at John chapter 17 verse 3. Notice what he said in prayer to his heavenly father: "This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." According to this, if we want to gain everlasting life what must we do?

George (Householder): Learn about God.

Jim (Publisher): Yes, and learn about his son Jesus Christ. One way that I really enjoy doing that is by attending meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses. Have you ever been to one of our meetings?

George (Householder): No, I haven't.

Jim (Publisher): This short video will give you a glimpse into what our meetings are like

Video: "All around the world, people come together every week at places of worship called Kingdom Halls.

Have you ever wondered what happens inside a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses? It's a place where Bible study programs and lectures are held each week.

The first time I attended a meeting, I felt very happy.

The atmosphere was so good; I've never seen anything like it anywhere else.

The people are loving, orderly, and show an interest in people.

Every meeting is open to the public.

Sample Conversations – April 2019

Seats are free and no collections are ever taken.

Families are invited to attend and learn together.

All meetings begin and end with song and prayer.

One meeting, usually held on the weekend, includes a 30-minute Bible discourse especially designed for the general public.

After that, there's a question-and-answer discussion based on an article in the study edition of the Watchtower magazine.

Participation is always voluntary.

At one of the meetings during the week, we not only study the Bible but also receive training in public speaking.

Everyone is invited to the Christian meetings, including those who are not Jehovah's Witnesses.

You can go into any Kingdom Hall and receive the same program of Bible instruction.

Bible education, upbuilding association, and the opportunity to praise God await you at Christian meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses.

To find a Kingdom Hall near you, please visit the About Us section and fill in the congregation meeting search."

George (Householder): Hmm. No collections are ever taken. That's different than the churches I've attended in the past. Where do you meet?

Jim (Publisher): Here's the address a meeting's scheduled. Would you like to come to our next meeting?



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>

▲ Welcoming a new one to the Memorial

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?

THE RANSOM —GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

WHAT is the best gift you have ever received? A gift doesn't have to be expensive to be valuable to you. When a gift makes you happy or is something you really need, you feel grateful for it.

² Of all the gifts that God has given us, there is one gift that we need more than anything else. It is God's greatest gift to humans. In this chapter, we will learn that Jehovah sent his Son, Jesus Christ, so that we can live forever. (**Read Matthew 20:28.**) By sending Jesus to the earth as a ransom, Jehovah has proved that he really loves us.

WHAT IS THE RANSOM?

³ The ransom is Jehovah's way of freeing humans from sin and death. (Ephesians 1:7) To understand why the ransom was needed, we have to know what happened thousands of years ago in the garden of Eden. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned. Because they sinned, they died. We also die because we inherited sin from Adam and Eve.—See End-note 9.

⁴ When Jehovah created the first man, Adam, He

1, 2. (a) What makes a gift valuable to you? (b) Why is the ransom God's greatest gift?

3. Why do humans die?

4. Who was Adam, and what did he have?

gave him something very precious. He gave Adam perfect human life. He had a perfect mind and a perfect body. He would never get sick, would never grow old, and would never die. Because Jehovah created Adam, He was like a father to him. (Luke 3: 38) Jehovah regularly talked to him. God clearly explained to Adam what he expected from him and gave him enjoyable work to do.—Genesis 1:28-30; 2: 16, 17.

⁵ Adam was created “in God’s image.” (Genesis 1: 27) Jehovah gave him qualities like His own, including love, wisdom, justice, and power. He gave Adam free will. Adam was not a robot. God created him so that he could choose to do right or wrong. If Adam had chosen to obey God, he could have lived forever in Paradise.

⁶ When he disobeyed God and was sentenced to death, Adam paid a very high price. He lost his special friendship with Jehovah, his perfect life, and his Paradise home. (Genesis 3:17-19) Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, so there was no hope for them. Because of what Adam did, “sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because they had all sinned.” (Romans 5:12) When Adam sinned, he “sold” himself and us into slavery to sin and death. (Romans 7:14) Is there any hope for us? Yes, there is.

5. What does it mean when the Bible says that Adam was made “in God’s image”?

6. When Adam disobeyed God, what did he lose? How does this affect us?

We Must Be Taught

(Isaiah 50:4; 54:13)

C G/B Am7 Em/G Fma7 F6 Dm9 G13sus4 G7

Come with re - joic - ing, and learn a - bout Je - ho - vah.
 Nev - er for - sak - ing our gath - er - ing to - geth - er,
 Lips that sing praise, how en - cour - ag - ing to hear them!

C D/C G/B Em7 Am11 Am7 D7 Gsus4 G

"Come drink life's wa - ter," the spir - it has said.
 We must be taught; we must learn what is right.
 Tongues of the taught ones, how sweet is their sound!

G#° E/G# G#° Am9 Am C#° Bbm/C# C#° Dm9 Dm

Health - ful in - struc - tion, God has pro - vid - ed.
 Here with God's spir - it, here with our broth - ers,
 Oh, may we al - ways meet with God's peo - ple!

D#° B/D# D#° C/E Am Am7 Dm Dm7 G7 C

All those who hun - ger for truth will be fed.
 Here we are strength - ened to walk in the light.
 Oh, may we al - ways a - mong them be found!

- Song 44 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah—‘The God of All Comfort’”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to 2 Corinthians*.]
2Co 1:3—Jehovah is “the Father of tender mercies” (*w17.07 13 ¶4*)
2Co 1:4—We comfort others with the comfort Jehovah provides (*w17.07 15 ¶14*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
2Co 1:22—What are “the token” and the “seal” that each anointed Christian receives from God? (*w16.04 32*)

2Co 2:14-16—What might the apostle Paul have had in mind when he spoke of “a triumphal procession”? (*w10 8/1 23*)

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) 2Co 3:1-18 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *bhs* 52-53 ¶3-4 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 86
- **“Pursue Divine Education”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Spiritually Rich by Jehovah’s Teaching* (video category OUR ACTIVITIES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jc* chap. 64
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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Pursue Divine Education

WHY IMPORTANT: The Grand Instructor, Jehovah, offers us the best education possible. He teaches us how to improve our life and prepares us for a marvelous future—all free of charge! (Isa 11:6-9; 30:20, 21; Re 22:17) By means of divine education, Jehovah also equips us to share with others a lifesaving message.—2Co 3:5.

HOW TO DO IT:

- Cultivate the qualities of humility and meekness.—Ps 25:8, 9
- Accept training within your reach right now, such as student assignments on the midweek meeting
- Set spiritual goals for yourself.—Php 3:13
- Make sacrifices to qualify for further training.—Php 3:8

WATCH THE VIDEO *SPIRITUALLY RICH BY JEHOVAH'S TEACHING*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What obstacles did some publishers overcome to attend the School for Kingdom Evangelizers?

- What training does the School for Kingdom Evangelizers provide?

- How have congregation members helped graduates in their new assignments?

- What are the enrollment requirements to attend the School for Kingdom Evangelizers? (*kr* 189)

- What other training can you pursue in Jehovah's organization?

What blessings will you gain from pursuing divine education?



THEOCRATIC TRAINING I HAVE BENEFITED FROM

- Our Christian Life and Ministry
- Pioneer Service School
- Kingdom Ministry School
- School for Congregation Elders
- School for Kingdom Evangelizers
-
-

THEOCRATIC TRAINING I AM REACHING OUT FOR

- _____
- _____
- _____



Spiritually Rich by Jehovah's Teaching

Live Jacobsen - Norway: I have an illness that affects my level of energy, so I didn't feel that I could accept just any kind of assignment.

Miyuki Ikeda - Japan: Since the end of this system is near, I want to do whatever I can that Jehovah wants, down to the very end. So I applied.

Bianca Kaese - Namibia: Before attending SKE, when I received my invitation, all of a sudden I had challenges or worries about myself. I felt unworthy, even unqualified.

Bridgett Harris – United States: Being a single sister, going into the class with so many couples, I thought I would be out of place.

Sadao Ikeda - Japan: I used all my abilities. I felt like my head was swelling up. Even so, I felt that I was really being refined and ended each day feeling fulfilled.

Bianca Kaese - Namibia: Something that I really enjoyed about SKE was Friday afternoons. That's when we had a talk from one of the Governing Body members. That was special.

David Jacobsen - Norway: During the eight weeks of school, such an emphasis was placed on serving where the need is greater. So this way of thinking became more important to us.

Live Jacobsen - Norway: After eight weeks attending the school, you are even ready to be sent to the moon.

Bridgett Harris – United States: When I was told that my next assignment would be in Mesa, Arizona, I thought, "Where is that?" And then I thought, "Oh, no, scorpions!" And then I thought, "Okay. This is where Jehovah thinks I should be, so I'm ready to go."

Bianca Kaese - Namibia: One of the challenges in my new assignment was finding suitable accommodation. There was a couple in the congregation. They had two rooms that they rented in the back of their property, but it needed some renovations. So the brothers very quickly came together,

Spiritually Rich by Jehovah's Teaching

helped sort it out, and even built an extra little kitchenette, lounge. So now we have a beautiful little home to go back to after a long, hot day in the ministry.

Bridgett Harris – United States: I always thought that I'd do much better in the cold than I would in the heat. So the brothers and sisters were very helpful in making sure that I stayed hydrated, making sure I knew how to handle myself in the heat, giving me pointers of things to carry, and they made sure that I had an extra-large water bottle with me.

Miyuki Ikeda - Japan: We really felt supported by the congregation because they found us an apartment. This meant that we could concentrate on our ministry.

Live Jacobsen - Norway: One of the things that really helped me was an experienced brother who gave an encouraging comment about whether my health would permit me to attend the school. He said, "If she can pioneer, then it's also possible for her to attend the school."

Bianca Kaese - Namibia: The education that we received at SKE especially it helped us with our qualities, our personality, putting on a new personality. That really will help us not only now in our assignment but right through into the new world.

Sadao Ikeda - Japan: I think there are many who could meet the qualifications with just a little more effort. Please know that there is a wonderful education program, and we were able to experience it in our 60's. We could get through it. So, if others are thinking of applying, I want to tell them that we were able to do it, and by all means, I want them to taste the same joy that we experienced.

Live Jacobsen - Norway: You could be nervous and have performance anxiety and worry about, "How will I handle answering, and how about all of the student assignments, and the tests?" Worries like that. But for my own part, it was two months with an incredible amount of joy. And you have to focus on that. It is a gift. It is a wonderful gift from Jehovah.

Bridgett Harris – United States: I wasn't sure if I was going to put in the application because it thought maybe I wanted to do it as a couple rather than as a single person. But I prayed to Jehovah about it, and I put my application

E&OE

Spiritually Rich by Jehovah's Teaching

in. I wouldn't be experiencing the happiness that I have now if I had waited. So, I'm happy that i just put my application in and let Jehovah do the rest. And now, sometimes I'm driving down the freeway, and I think, "Wow, Jehovah, I am so happy! Thank you!"

THE NEED TO FORGIVE

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter has heard Jesus' advice on how to handle a difficulty between brothers by trying to settle it one-on-one. Yet, Peter seems to want to quantify the number of times one should make such an effort.

Peter asks: "Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?" Some religious leaders teach that one should grant forgiveness up to three times. So Peter may feel that he would be very generous if he forgave a brother "up to seven times."—Matthew 18:21.

However, the idea of keeping such a record of wrongs is not in the spirit of Jesus' teaching. So he corrects Peter: "I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times." (Matthew 18:22) That, in other words, means indefinitely. There should be no limit to the number of times Peter forgives his brother.

Jesus then tells Peter and the others an illustration to impress on them their obligation to be forgiving. It is about a slave who fails to imitate his merciful master. The king wants to settle accounts with his slaves. One slave who owes the enormous debt of 10,000 talents [60,000,000 denarii] is brought to him. There is no possible way he can pay that debt. So the king orders that the slave, his wife, and his children be sold and payment be made. At that, the slave falls down at his master's feet and begs: "Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you."—Matthew 18:26.

The king is moved with pity and mercifully cancels the slave's huge debt. Once the king has done so, this slave goes and finds a fellow slave who owes him 100 denarii. He grabs the other slave and begins choking him, saying: "Pay back whatever you owe." But that fellow slave





you in the same way if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”—Matthew 18:32-35.

What a lesson that should teach us about forgiveness! God has forgiven us a large debt of sin. Whatever transgression a Christian brother commits against us is small in comparison. And Jehovah forgives us not once but thousands of times. Can we not forgive our brother a number of times, even if we have a cause for complaint? As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, God will “forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”—Matthew 6:12.

falls at the feet of the slave to whom he is in debt, begging: “Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.” (Matthew 18:28, 29) However, the slave whose debt the king forgave does not imitate his master. He has his fellow slave, who owes much less, thrown into prison until he can pay what he owes.

Jesus then relates that other slaves who see this unmerciful treatment go and tell the master, who angrily summons the slave and says: “Wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you when you pleaded with me. Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you?” The angry king delivers the unmerciful slave over to the jailers until he repays all that he owes. Jesus concludes: “My heavenly Father will also deal with



-
- ◇ What prompts Peter to ask about forgiving his brother, and why may he consider it generous to forgive someone seven times?
 - ◇ How does the king’s response to his slave’s plea for mercy differ from the way that slave deals with his fellow slave?
 - ◇ What lesson should we learn from Jesus’ illustration?

Be Forgiving

(Psalm 86:5)

B \flat F/A Gm Dm/F E \flat

Lov - ing - ly Je - ho - vah Made pro - vi - sion through his Son
 We re - ceive such mer - cy When we act like God a - bove
 Mer - cy is a vir - tue That we all should cul - ti - vate.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat /D E \flat F7sus4

For our sins to be for - giv - en And for death to be un - done.
 And for - give each oth - er free - ly, Show - ing em - pa - thy and love.
 It will keep us from re - sent - ment, From the bit - ter - ness of hate.

F7 B \flat Cm7 B \flat /D F/E \flat E \flat Cm Dm7 Cm/E \flat Cm7 F

If we tru - ly are re - pen - tant, His for - give - ness we can claim
 Put - ting up with one an - oth - er, Put - ting hurt - ful - ness a - way;
 When we im - i - tate Je - ho - vah, Who is un - sur - passed in love,

D7sus4 D7 Gm9 Gm E \flat m/G \flat B \flat /F F7sus4 F7 B \flat

On the ba - sis of Christ's ran - som, Ask - ing par - don in his name.
 Show - ing hon - or to our broth - er, Show - ing love's sur - pass - ing way.
 We will tru - ly be for - giv - ing; We will be like God a - bove.

FEBRUARY 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
APRIL 8–MAY 5, 2019

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FEATURED CONTENT ON JW.ORG

IMITATE THEIR FAITH

Elijah—He Endured to the End

Elijah's example of faithful endurance can help us to strengthen our own faith during troubled times.

(Go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > FAITH IN GOD.)

THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

I Had an Explosive Temper

A former gang member believes that the person he is today testifies to the transforming power of the Bible. He now enjoys a close relationship with God.

(Go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > PEACE & HAPPINESS.)

COVER PICTURE:

Jehovah wanted children to feel safe and secure as they were lovingly raised and taught by their parents (See article 9, paragraphs 7-8)

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org)® website, or scan code



3 Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

(Proverbs 14:26)

C F G C G/B

O Je - ho - vah, you have giv - en us a
So Je - ho - vah, please in - still in us a

Am F Gsus4 G

hope that we hold dear. It's a
heart that won't for - get, For you've

C F G Am Am/G

hope we find so thrill - ing we
al - ways been our com - fort when

F Dm7 Gsus4 G

want the world to hear. But at
trou - bled times we've met. And these

Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

C F G C C/B

times thoughts this that life's lift anx and i - e - ties strength - en us are the can re -

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support with chords and some moving lines. The lyrics are: "times thoughts this that life's lift anx and i - e - ties strength - en us are the can re -".

Am F Gsus4 G G7/F

cause of fears with - in, And the
vive that dy - ing flame, For they

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff features a 7th fret barre on the first string. The lyrics are: "cause of fears with - in, And the / vive that dy - ing flame, For they".

C/E F G Am

hope fill that our hearts burned so with bright - ly cour - age has to

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff has a 7th fret barre on the first string. The lyrics are: "hope fill that our hearts burned so with bright - ly cour - age has to".

F Dm7 E7sus4 E7 Chorus

sud speak - den - ly a - bout grown your dim. name. You're our

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth line of music, which is the start of the chorus. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff has a 7th fret barre on the first string. The lyrics are: "sud speak - den - ly a - bout grown your dim. name. You're our".

Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence

Am Am/G G/F F C/E

strength, you're our hope, you're our con - fi - dence. What -

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody of eighth and quarter notes with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Am, Am/G, G/F, F, and C/E.

Dm7 Am/C Bb Fadd9 G7sus4 G7

ev - er we lack, you sup - ply. When we

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble staff continues the melody with lyrics. The bass staff has a more active accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Dm7, Am/C, Bb, Fadd9, G7sus4, and G7.

Am Am/G G/F F Dm7

preach, when we teach, we have con - fi - dence be -

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble staff continues the melody with lyrics. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Am, Am/G, G/F, F, and Dm7.

C/E F6 F/G G13 C

cause it's on you we re - ly.

Detailed description: This system contains the final line of music. The treble staff continues the melody with lyrics. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: C/E, F6, F/G, G13, and C. The final chord, C, is held for a longer duration, indicated by a horizontal line below the notes.

(See also Ps. 72:13, 14; Prov. 3:5, 6, 26; Jer. 17:7.)

SONG 3

Our Strength, Our Hope,
Our Confidence

PREVIEW

This article is the first in a series of four that will discuss why we can be sure that Jehovah cares about us. The remaining three articles will appear in the May 2019 issue of *The Watchtower*. The titles of those articles are “Love and Justice in the Christian Congregation,” “Love and Justice in the Face of Wickedness,” and “Providing Comfort for Victims of Abuse.”

PART 1 OF 4

Love and Justice in Ancient Israel

“He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is filled with Jehovah’s loyal love.”—PS. 33:5.

ALL of us want to be loved. And all of us want to be treated fairly. If we are repeatedly denied love and justice, we may feel worthless and hopeless.

² Jehovah knows that we long for love and yearn for justice. (Ps. 33:5) We can be sure that our God loves us dearly and wants us to be treated fairly. This becomes evident when we look closely at the Law that Jehovah gave to the nation of Israel through Moses. If you have a heart starved for affection or a spirit crushed by injustice, please consider how the Mosaic Law* reveals Jehovah’s concern for his people.

³ When we study the Mosaic Law, we discover the warm feelings of our loving God, Jehovah. **(Read Romans 13:8-10.)** In this article, we will examine just a few of the laws given to Israel and answer these questions: Why can we say that the Law was built on love? Why can we say that the Law promoted justice? How were those with authority required to administer the Law? And whom did the Law specifically protect? The answers to those questions can bring us comfort, give us hope, and draw us closer to our loving Father.—Acts 17:27; Rom. 15:4.

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The 600 and more laws that Jehovah gave to the Israelites through Moses are referred to as “the Law,” “the Law of Moses,” “**the Mosaic Law**,” and “the commandments.” In addition, the first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy) are often referred to as the Law. Sometimes this term is used with reference to the entire inspired Hebrew Scriptures.

1-2. (a) What do all of us want? (b) Of what can we be sure?

3. (a) As explained at Romans 13:8-10, what do we discover when we study the Mosaic Law? (b) What questions will this article answer?

A LAW CODE BUILT ON LOVE

⁴ We can say that the Mosaic Law was built on love because love motivates all that Jehovah does. (1 John 4:8) Jehovah founded that entire code of laws on two basic commands—love God, and love your neighbor. (Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5; **read Matthew 22:36-40.**) So we can expect that each of the 600 and more commandments that make up the Law reveals a facet of Jehovah’s love. Let us look at some examples.

⁵ **Be loyal to your marriage mate, and care for your children.** Jehovah wants married couples to develop a love so strong that it lasts for life. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-6) Adultery is one of the most unloving crimes a person can commit. With good reason, the seventh of the Ten Commandments prohibited adultery. (Deut. 5:18) It is a sin “against God” and a cruel blow to a marriage mate. (Gen. 39:7-9) A victim of adultery might feel the pain of betrayal for decades.

⁶ Jehovah is keenly aware of how marriage mates treat each other. He particularly wanted Israelite wives to be treated well. A husband who respected the Law would love his wife and would not divorce her for trivial reasons. (Deut. 24:1-4; Matt. 19:3, 8) But if a serious problem arose and he did divorce her, he had to give her a certificate of divorce. This certificate protected a woman from false accusations of immorality. In addition,

before the husband could give his wife the certificate of divorce, he apparently had to consult the city elders. In this way, the elders would have the opportunity to try to help the couple save their marriage. When an Israelite man divorced his wife for selfish reasons, Jehovah did not always intervene. Nevertheless, he saw the tears that the wife shed, and he felt her pain.—Mal. 2:13-16.

⁷ The Law also reveals that Jehovah cares deeply about the welfare of children. Jehovah commanded parents to provide not only for their children’s physical needs but also for their spiritual needs. Parents were to take every opportunity to help their children appreciate Jehovah’s Law and learn to love him. (Deut. 6:6-9; 7:13) One of the reasons the Israelites were punished by Jehovah was that they mistreated some of their children in a shocking way. (Jer. 7:31, 33) Parents were to view their children, not as mere property that they could neglect or mistreat, but as an inheritance, a gift from Jehovah to be cherished.—Ps. 127:3.

⁸ **Lessons:** Jehovah pays close attention to how marriage mates treat each other. He wants parents to love their children, and he holds parents accountable for the way they treat them.

⁹ **Do not covet.** The last of the Ten Commandments prohibited coveting, or developing a wrong desire for what belongs to another. (Deut. 5:21; Rom. 7:7)

4. (a) Why can we say that the Mosaic Law was built on love? (b) As recorded at Matthew 22:36-40, what commandments did Jesus highlight?

5-6. What does Jehovah want married couples to do, and of what is Jehovah aware? Give an example.

7-8. (a) What did Jehovah command parents to do? (See cover picture.) (b) What lessons do we learn?

9-11. Why did Jehovah give the law prohibiting coveting?

Jehovah gave this law to teach a valuable lesson—his people must guard their heart, that is, their thoughts, feelings, and reasonings. He knows that wicked acts begin as wicked thoughts and feelings. (Prov. 4:23) If an Israelite allowed wrong desires to grow in his heart, he would likely treat others in an unloving way. King David, for example, fell into that trap. Normally, he was a good man. But on one occasion, he coveted another man's wife. His desire led to sin. (Jas. 1:14, 15) David committed adultery, tried to deceive the woman's husband, and then had him killed.—2 Sam. 11:2-4; 12:7-11.

¹⁰ Jehovah knew when an Israelite broke the law about coveting—He can read hearts. (1 Chron. 28:9) The law against coveting told his people that they should avoid thoughts that lead to bad behavior. What a wise and loving Father Jehovah is!

¹¹ **Lessons:** Jehovah sees beyond a person's outward appearance. He sees what we really are inside, in our heart. (1 Sam. 16:7) No thought, no feeling, no action can be kept secret from him. He looks for and encourages the good in us. But he wants us to identify and control wrong thoughts before they become wrong actions.—2 Chron. 16:9; Matt. 5:27-30.

A LAW CODE THAT PROMOTED JUSTICE

¹² The Mosaic Law also emphasizes that Jehovah loves justice. (Ps. 37:28; Isa. 61:8) He set the perfect example of how to treat others fairly. When the Israelites obeyed the laws that Jehovah gave, he blessed them. When they ignored his just

12. What does the Mosaic Law emphasize?

and righteous standards, they suffered. Consider two more laws from the Ten Commandments.

¹³ **Worship Jehovah exclusively.** The first two of the Ten Commandments required that the Israelites devote themselves exclusively to Jehovah and warned against the worship of idols. (Ex. 20:3-6) Those commandments were not for Jehovah's benefit. Rather, they were for the benefit of his people. When his people remained loyal to him, they prospered. When they worshipped the gods of other nations, they suffered.

¹⁴ Think about the Canaanites. They worshipped lifeless idols rather than the true and living God. As a result, they degraded themselves. (Ps. 115:4-8) As part of their worship, they engaged in defiling sexual acts and horrifying child sacrifices. Likewise, when the Israelites ignored Jehovah and chose to worship idols, they degraded themselves and hurt their families. (2 Chron. 28:1-4) Those in authority abandoned Jehovah's standards of justice. They abused their power and oppressed weak and vulnerable ones. (Ezek. 34:1-4) Jehovah warned the Israelites that he would execute judgment on those who victimized defenseless women and children. (Deut. 10:17, 18; 27:19) By contrast, Jehovah blessed his people when they were loyal to him and treated one another justly.—1 Ki. 10:4-9.

¹⁵ **Lessons:** Jehovah is not to blame when those who claim to serve him ig-

13-14. What did the first two of the Ten Commandments require, and how would obeying those laws have benefited the Israelites?

15. What lessons do we learn about Jehovah?

nore his standards and harm his people. However, Jehovah loves us and knows when we suffer injustice. He feels our pain more keenly than a mother feels the suffering of her baby. (Isa. 49:15) Although he may not intervene immediately, in due time he will hold unrepentant wrongdoers to account for the way they have treated others.

HOW WAS THE LAW TO BE ADMINISTERED?

¹⁶ The Mosaic Law covered many aspects of an Israelite's life, so it was vital that the appointed older men judge Jehovah's people with righteous judgment. They were responsible for handling not only spiritual matters but also civil and criminal cases. Note the following examples.

¹⁷ If an Israelite killed someone, he was not arbitrarily executed. The elders of his city would investigate the circumstances before deciding if the death penalty was appropriate. (Deut. 19:2-7, 11-13) The elders also judged numerous aspects of daily life—from resolving public controversies over property to settling private marital disputes. (Ex. 21:35; Deut. 22:13-19) When the elders were fair and the Israelites obeyed the Law, everyone benefited, and the nation brought honor to Jehovah.—Lev. 20:7, 8; Isa. 48:17, 18.

¹⁸ **Lessons:** Every aspect of our life is important to Jehovah. He wants us to be just and loving when dealing with others. And he takes notice of what we say and do, even in the privacy of our home.—Heb. 4:13.

16-18. What was the scope of the Mosaic Law, and what lessons do we learn?



Jehovah loves us and knows
when we suffer injustice
(See paragraph 15)

¹⁹ Jehovah wanted to save his people from the corrupting influence of neighboring nations. So he required that the elders and judges enforce the Law impartially. However, those doing the judging were not to treat his people in a harsh or rigid manner. Instead, they were to love justice.—Deut. 1:13-17; 16:18-20.

²⁰ Jehovah has compassion for his people, so he put safeguards in place to prevent individuals from being treated unfairly. For example, the Law limited the possibility that a person would be falsely accused of a crime. A defendant had the right to know who was accusing him. (Deut. 19:16-19; 25:1) And before he could be convicted, at least two witnesses had to give evidence. (Deut. 17:6; 19:15) What about an Israelite who committed a crime that was seen by only one witness? He could not

19-21. (a) How were elders and judges to treat God's people? (b) What safeguards did Jehovah put in place, and what lessons do we learn?

assume that he would get away with his wrongdoing. Jehovah saw what he did. In the family, fathers were given authority, but that authority had limits. In some family disputes, the elders of the city had the responsibility to become involved and render a final judgment.—Deut. 21:18-21.

²¹ **Lessons:** Jehovah sets the perfect example; nothing he does is unfair. (Ps. 9:7) He rewards those who loyally uphold his standards, but he punishes those who abuse their power. (2 Sam. 22:21-23; Ezek. 9:9, 10) Some may act wickedly and seem to escape punishment, but when Jehovah determines that the time is right, he brings them to justice. (Prov. 28:13) And if they do not re-

pent, they soon learn that “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”—Heb. 10:30, 31.

WHOM DID THE LAW SPECIFICALLY PROTECT?

²² The Law specifically protected those who could not protect themselves, such as orphans, widows, and foreign residents. The judges in Israel were told: “You must not pervert the judgment of the foreign resident or of the fatherless child, and you must not seize the garment of a widow as security for a loan.” (Deut. 24:17) Jehovah showed tender

22-24. (a) Whom did the Law specifically protect, and what do we learn about Jehovah? (b) What warning is found at Exodus 22:22-24?

When settling disputes, elders were to reflect Jehovah’s love of people and of justice

(See paragraph 22)



personal interest in the most vulnerable in the community. And he held those who mistreated them to account.—**Read Exodus 22:22-24.**

²³ The Law also protected family members from sex crimes by forbidding all forms of incest. (Lev. 18:6-30) Unlike the people of the nations surrounding Israel, who tolerated or even condoned this practice, Jehovah’s people were to view this type of crime as Jehovah did—as a detestable act.

²⁴ **Lessons:** Jehovah wants those he places in positions of responsibility to take a loving interest in all whom they oversee. He hates sex crimes and wants to ensure that all, especially the most vulnerable, receive protection and justice.

THE LAW, “A SHADOW OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME”

²⁵ Love and justice are like breath and life; on earth, one does not exist without

25-26. (a) Why can we say that love and justice are like breath and life? (b) What will we discuss in the next article in this series?

the other. When we are convinced that Jehovah is treating us justly, our love for him grows. And when we love God and love his righteous standards, we feel impelled to love others and treat them justly.

²⁶ The Mosaic Law covenant breathed life into the relationship between Jehovah and the Israelites. However, the Law was done away with after Jesus fulfilled the Law, and it was replaced with something even better. (Rom. 10:4) The apostle Paul described the Law as “a shadow of the good things to come.” (Heb. 10:1) The next article in this series will discuss some of those good things and the role that love and justice play in the Christian congregation.

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Cover: While preparing a meal, an Israelite mother enjoys a lively conversation with her daughters. In the background, the father is training his son to care for the sheep.

Page 24: Elders at the city gate lovingly help a widow and her child who have been mistreated by a local merchant.

HOW DOES THE MOSAIC LAW REVEAL:

- Jehovah’s love for his people?
- Jehovah’s love of justice?
- Jehovah’s view of vulnerable ones?

Love Intensely From the Heart

(1 Peter 1:22)

C G/B Gm/Bb A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7

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

Fma7/A Fm6/Ab G7b5 G7 F/G G7 Dm7 G9/F Em7 Eb6 Dm11 G7

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

C G/B Gm/Bb A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7

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

Fma7/A Fm6/Ab G7b5 G7 F/G G7 Dm/F Fm/G G7b9

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

C Dm7/G C Dbma7 Dbma7b5 Dbma7 Dbm Db°

cere. When we see a friend in need,

Love Intensely From the Heart

Ab/C B° Bbm11 Eb7sus4 Eb7 Dbma7 Dbm7b5 Dbma7

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

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

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

C G/B Gm/Bb

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

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

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

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

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

R.H.

