

- Song 71 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God”:** (10 min.)

Eph 6:11-13—We need protection from Satan and his demons (w18.05 27 ¶1)

Eph 6:14, 15—Protect yourself with truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace (w18.05 28-29 ¶4, 7, 10)

Eph 6:16, 17—Protect yourself with faith, the hope of salvation, and God’s Word (w18.05 29-31 ¶13, 16, 20)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)

Eph 4:30—How can a person grieve God’s holy spirit? (it-1 1128 ¶3)

Eph 5:5—How is a greedy person an idolater? (it-1 1006 ¶2)

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) Eph 4:17-32 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **“What Would Jehovah Think?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Keep Perceiving Jehovah’s Will* (Le 19:18) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 71
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 34 and Prayer

What Would Jehovah Think?

Before making big or small decisions, do we ask ourselves, ‘What would Jehovah think?’ Although we will never know everything about Jehovah’s mind, he does reveal enough in his Word to equip us for “every good work.” (2Ti 3:16, 17; Ro 11:33, 34) Jesus clearly perceived Jehovah’s will and made it his priority in life. (Joh 4:34) In imitation of Jesus, may we do our best to make decisions that please Jehovah.—Joh 8:28, 29; Eph 5:15-17.



What do my decisions reveal about my relationship with Jehovah?

WATCH THE VIDEO *KEEP PERCEIVING JEHOVAH’S WILL* (LE 19:18), AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why must we apply Bible principles in our life?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of music?

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- In what other areas of life must we apply Bible principles?

- How can we improve our ability to perceive Jehovah’s will?

We Are Jehovah's Army!

(Joel 2:7)

1. We are Jehovah's army,
Under Christ, his Son.
Though we're opposed by Satan,
We are marching as one.
We keep serving faithfully,
Preaching far and near;
We remain determined
With no hint of fear.

(CHORUS)

*We are Jehovah's army;
With his Christ we're one,
Joyfully declaring,
"God's rule has begun."*

2. We are Jehovah's servants,
Searching for his sheep,
Those who are lost and scattered,
Those who sigh and who weep.
These we try to find and feed
With repeated calls;
These we keep inviting
To our Kingdom Halls.

(Chorus)

3. We are Jehovah's army,
Under Christ's command,
Fully equipped for battle,
Each one firmly will stand.
Cautious though we need to be,
Upright we remain.
In the face of danger,
Truth we will maintain.

(Chorus)

Ephesians 4-6

⁴ Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, appeal to you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, ² with all humility and mildness, with patience, putting up with one another in love, ³ earnestly endeavoring to maintain the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace. ⁴ One body there is, and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ Now undeserved kindness was given to each one of us according to how the Christ measured out the free gift. ⁸ For it says: "When he ascended on high he carried away captives; he gave gifts in men." ⁹ Now what does the expression "he ascended" mean but that he also descended into the lower regions, that is, the earth? ¹⁰ The very one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might give fullness to all things.

¹¹ And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers, ¹² with a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, to build up the body of the Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the oneness of the faith and of the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to being a full-grown man, attaining the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ. ¹⁴ So we should no longer be children, tossed about as by waves and carried here and there by every wind of teaching by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in deceptive schemes. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. ¹⁶ From him all the body is harmoniously joined together and made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed. When each

respective member functions properly, this contributes to the growth of the body as it builds itself up in love.

¹⁷ So this is what I say and bear witness to in the Lord, that you should no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are in darkness mentally and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensitivity of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having gone past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to brazen conduct to practice every sort of uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But you did not learn the Christ to be like this, ²¹ if, indeed, you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. ²² You were taught to put away the old personality that conforms to your former course of conduct and that is being corrupted according to its deceptive desires. ²³ And you should continue to be made new in your dominant mental attitude, ²⁴ and should put on the new personality that was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty.

²⁵ Therefore, now that you have put away deceit, each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, because we are members belonging to one another. ²⁶ Be wrathful, but do not sin; do not let the sun set while you are still angry; ²⁷ do not give the Devil an opportunity. ²⁸ Let the one who steals steal no more; rather, let him do hard work, doing good work with his hands, so that he may have something to share with someone in need. ²⁹ Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth, but only what is good for building up as the need may be, to impart what is beneficial to the hearers. ³⁰ Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

³¹ Put away from yourselves every kind of malicious bitterness, anger, wrath, screaming, and abusive speech, as well as everything injurious. ³² But become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you.

5 Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and go on walking in love, just as the Christ also loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice, a sweet fragrance to God.

³ Let sexual immorality and every sort of uncleanness or greediness not even be mentioned among you, just as is proper for holy people; ⁴ neither shameful conduct nor foolish talking nor obscene jesting—things that are not befitting—but rather the giving of thanks. ⁵ For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no sexually immoral person or unclean person or greedy person, which means being an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Christ and of God.

⁶ Let no man deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore, do not be sharers with them; ⁸ for you were once darkness, but you are now light in connection with the Lord. Go on walking as children of light, ⁹ for the fruitage of the light consists of every sort of goodness and righteousness and truth. ¹⁰ Keep on making sure of what is acceptable to the Lord; ¹¹ and stop sharing in the unfruitful works that belong to the darkness; rather, expose them for what they are. ¹² For the things they do in secret are shameful even to mention. ¹³ Now all the things that are being exposed are made evident by the light, for everything that is being made evident is light. ¹⁴ Therefore, it is said: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and the Christ will shine upon you.”

¹⁵ So keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, ¹⁶ making the best use of your time, because the days are wicked. ¹⁷ On this account stop being unreasonable, but keep perceiving what the will of Jehovah is. ¹⁸ Also, do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but keep getting filled with spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, praises to God, and spiritual songs, singing and accompanying yourselves with music in your hearts to Jehovah, ²⁰ always giving thanks to our God and Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Be in subjection to one another in fear of Christ. ²² Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because a husband is head of his wife just as the Christ is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. ²⁴ In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, wives should also be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and gave himself up for it, ²⁶ in order that he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, without a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things, but holy and without blemish.

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself, ²⁹ for no man ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cherishes it, just as the Christ does the congregation, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.” ³² This sacred secret is great. Now I am speaking about Christ and the congregation. ³³ Nevertheless, each one of you must love his wife as he does himself; on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband.

6 Children, be obedient to your parents in union with the Lord, for this is righteous. ² “Honor your father and your mother” is the first command with a promise: ³ “That it may go well with you and you may remain a long time on the earth.” ⁴ And fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and admonition of Jehovah.

⁵ Slaves, be obedient to your human masters, with fear and trembling in the sincerity of your hearts, as to the Christ, ⁶ not only when being watched, just to please men, but as Christ’s slaves doing the will of God whole-souled. ⁷ Slave with a good attitude, as to Jehovah and not to men, ⁸ for you know that whatever good each one does, he will receive this back from Jehovah, whether he is a slave or a freeman. ⁹ Also, you masters, keep treating them in the same way, not threatening, for you know that both their Master and yours is in the heavens, and there is no partiality with him.

¹⁰ Finally, go on acquiring power in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength. ¹¹ Put on the complete suit of armor from God so that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil; ¹² because we have a struggle, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. ¹³ For this reason take up the complete suit of armor from God, so that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have accomplished everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace. ¹⁶ Besides all of this, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one’s burning arrows. ¹⁷ Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God’s word, ¹⁸ while with every form of prayer and

supplication you carry on prayer on every occasion in spirit. And to that end stay awake, constantly making supplication in behalf of all the holy ones. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that the words may be given to me when I open my mouth, so that I may be able to speak boldly in making known the sacred secret of the good news, ²⁰ for which I am acting as an ambassador in chains, and that I may speak about it with boldness, as I ought to speak.

²¹ Now so that you may also know about me and how I am doing, Tych'i-cus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may comfort your hearts.

²³ May the brothers have peace and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptness.

- Song 71 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God”:** (10 min.)

Eph 6:11-13—We need protection from Satan and his demons (w18.05 27 ¶1)

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What do my decisions reveal about my relationship with Jehovah?

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EPHESIANS 4-6 | “Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God”



6:11-17

The apostle Paul compared Christians to soldiers engaged in combat. Our enemies are “wicked spirit forces.” Although we may appear weak and vulnerable, we can win the battle with Jehovah’s help if we “put on the complete suit of armor from God.”



 Identify each piece of armor and what it represents

1.

3.

5.

2.

4.

6.

FOR MEDITATION: Is my suit of armor complete?

June 17-23 / Ephesians 4-6

- Song 71 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

- **"Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God":** (10 minutes)

"Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God"

Ephesians 6:11-17

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Identify each piece of armor and what it represents

Pictures:

- 1. Helmet**
- 2. Belt**
- 3. Sandallike boots**
- 4. Breast plate**
- 5. Sword**
- 6. Large shield**

For meditation: Is my suit of armor complete?

Ephesians 6:11-13—We need protection from Satan and his demons

Ephesians 6:11-13: Put on the complete suit of armor from God so that you may be able to stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil; because we have a struggle, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. For this reason take up the complete suit of armor from God, so that you may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after you have accomplished everything, to stand firm.

w18.05 27 paragraph 1

The apostle Paul likened our life as Christians to that of soldiers engaged in hand-to-hand combat. Of course, the war we fight is spiritual, not literal. Even so, our enemies are real. Satan and the demons are skilled warriors with vast experience. At first glance, our prospects may seem bleak. Young Christians in particular may appear to be vulnerable. How can they hope to win against superhuman, wicked spirit forces? The fact is, young ones can win, and they are winning! Why? Because they “go on acquiring power in the Lord.” But they do more than draw on God’s power. They are dressed for battle. Like well-trained soldiers, they have “put on the complete suit of armor from God.”—Read Ephesians 6:10-12.

Ephesians 6:14, 15—Protect yourself with truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace

Ephesians 6:14, 15: Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace.

w18.05 28-29 paragraph 4, 7, 10

4 Similarly, the truths we learn from God’s Word protect us from the spiritual harm that false teachings cause. (John 8:31, 32; 1 John 4:1) And the more we love divine truths, the easier it is to carry our “breastplate,” that is, to live by God’s righteous standards. (Psalm 111:7, 8; 1 John 5:3) In addition, when we have a clear understanding of the truths from God’s Word, we can confidently stand our ground and defend them against opposers.—1 Peter 3:15.

7 What an appropriate symbol of how Jehovah’s righteous standards can protect our figurative heart! (Proverbs 4:23) Just as a soldier would not swap a breastplate of iron for one made of an inferior metal, we would never want to exchange Jehovah’s standards of what is right for our own. Our judgment is just too flawed to offer us the protection that we need. (Proverbs 3:5, 6) Instead, we regularly check that the ‘iron plates’ Jehovah has given us are firmly fixed over our heart.

10 While the literal boots worn by Roman soldiers carried them into war, the symbolic footwear worn by Christians helps them deliver a message of peace. (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15) Even so, it takes

courage to speak up when the opportunity arises. “I was afraid to witness to my classmates,” says 20 year old Bo. “I think I was embarrassed. Looking back, I don’t know why I should have been. Now I’m happy to witness to my peers.”

Ephesians 6:16, 17—Protect yourself with faith, the hope of salvation, and God’s Word

Ephesians 6:16, 17: Besides all of this, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one’s burning arrows. Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God’s word,

w18.05 29-31 paragraph 13, 16, 20

13 Some of the “burning arrows” that Satan might fire at you are lies about Jehovah—that He does not care about you and that you are unlovable. Nineteen year old Ida struggles with feelings of unworthiness. She says, “I have often felt that Jehovah isn’t close to me and that he doesn’t want to be my Friend.” How does she deal with this attack? “The meetings are a giant boost to my faith,” says Ida. “I used to sit there and never comment, thinking that nobody would want to hear what I had to say. Now, though, I prepare for the meetings and try to answer two or three times. It’s difficult, but I feel much better when I do. And the brothers and sisters are so encouraging. I always come away from the meetings knowing that Jehovah loves me.”

16 Just as a helmet protects a soldier’s brain, our “hope of

salvation” protects our mind, our thinking ability. (1 Thessalonians 5:8; Proverbs 3:21) Hope keeps us focused on God’s promises and helps us see problems in the right perspective. (Psalm 27:1, 14; Acts 24:15) But if we want our “helmet” to be effective, we must wear it on our head, not carry it in our hand.

20 Paul likens God’s Word to a sword that Jehovah has given us. But we must learn to use it skillfully when defending our beliefs—or when adjusting our own thinking. (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5; 2 Timothy 2:15) How can you improve your skills? Sebastian, aged 21, says: “I’ve been writing down one verse from every chapter in my Bible reading. I’m compiling a list of my favorite verses. That way, I feel more in tune with Jehovah’s thinking.” Daniel, quoted earlier, says: “As I do my Bible reading, I pick verses that I think will help people I meet in the ministry. I’ve found that people respond well when they see that you are passionate about the Bible and are doing your best to help them.”

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Ephesians 4:30—How can a person grieve God’s holy spirit?

Ephesians 4:30: Also, do not be grieving God’s holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

***it-1* 1128 paragraph 3**

Holy spirit. Jehovah’s active force, or spirit, is subject to his control and always accomplishes his purpose. It is clean, pure, sacred, and set apart for God’s good use. Therefore it is called “holy spirit” and “the spirit of holiness.” (Psalm 51:11; Luke 11:13; Romans 1:4;

Ephesians 1:13) The holy spirit operating on a person is a force for holiness or cleanness. Any unclean or wrong practice constitutes a resisting or “grieving” of that spirit. (Ephesians 4:30) Though impersonal in itself, the holy spirit is expressive of God’s holy personality and therefore can be ‘grieved.’ The practice of any wrongdoing tends to “put out the fire of the spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19) If such practice is continued, God’s holy spirit is, in effect, made to “feel hurt,” and this may result in God’s changing into an enemy of the rebellious one. (Isaiah 63:10) A person grieving the holy spirit may go so far as to blaspheme against it, which sin Jesus Christ said will not be forgiven in the present system of things nor in that to come.—Matthew 12:31, 32; Mark 3:28-30; see SPIRIT.

Ephesians 5:5—How is a greedy person an idolater?

Ephesians 5:5: For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no sexually immoral person or unclean person or greedy person, which means being an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Christ and of God.

***it-1* 1006 paragraph 2**

Becomes Manifest in Actions. Greediness will manifest itself in some overt act that will reveal the individual’s wrong and inordinate desire. The Bible writer James tells us that wrong desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin. (James 1:14, 15) The greedy person can therefore be detected by his actions. The apostle Paul states that being a greedy person means being an idolater.

(Ephesians 5:5) In his greedy desire such a one makes the thing desired his god, putting it above the service and worship of the Creator.—Romans 1:24, 25.

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

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Ephesians 4:17-32 (*th* study 10)

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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- Why must we apply Bible principles in our life?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of music?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of dress and grooming?

- In what other areas of life must we apply Bible principles?

- How can we improve our ability to perceive Jehovah’s will?

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

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- **First Return Visit:** (3 minutes or less) Use the sample conversation. (*th* study 6)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 minutes or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (*th* study 8)

Living as Christians

- Song 135
- **“What Would Jehovah Think?”:** (15 minutes) Discussion. Play the video *Keep Perceiving Jehovah’s Will* (Leviticus 19:18) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).

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Picture: What do my decisions reveal about my relationship with Jehovah?

- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 minutes) *jy* chapter 71
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 minutes)
- Song 34 and Prayer



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations



INITIAL CALL

Question: Are we living in the last days?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What will happen after the last days?



FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What will happen after the last days?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

Link: How can we enjoy the future God has promised?



SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How can we enjoy the future God has promised?

Scripture: Joh 3:16

Link: What does it mean to exercise faith?



Jehovah's Warm Appeal:
"Be Wise, My Son"
(Proverbs 27:11)

1. Young man and young woman,
do give your heart to me.
My foe who now taunts me
will then be made to see.
Your youth and devotion
to me you freely give;
You show all the world
that for me you really live.

(CHORUS)

*Beloved son and precious daughter,
Be wise and make my heart rejoice,
That out of your own heart you serve me,
And offer praise by your own choice.*

2. Rejoice and take pleasure
in giving me your all,
And though you may stumble,
I'll raise you if you fall.
No matter who fails you
or proves to be untrue,
Take comfort in knowing
I'll always cherish you.

(Chorus)

- Song 71 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Put On the Complete Suit of Armor From God”:** (10 min.)

Eph 6:11-13—We need protection from Satan and his demons (w18.05 27 ¶1)

Eph 6:14, 15—Protect yourself with truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace (w18.05 28-29 ¶4, 7, 10)

Eph 6:16, 17—Protect yourself with faith, the hope of salvation, and God’s Word (w18.05 29-31 ¶13, 16, 20)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)

Eph 4:30—How can a person grieve God’s holy spirit? (it-1 1128 ¶3)

Eph 5:5—How is a greedy person an idolater? (it-1 1006 ¶2)

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) Eph 4:17-32 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video *Why Study the Bible?* (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 135
- **“What Would Jehovah Think?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Keep Perceiving Jehovah’s Will* (Le 19:18) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 71
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 34 and Prayer

What Would Jehovah Think?

Before making big or small decisions, do we ask ourselves, ‘What would Jehovah think?’ Although we will never know everything about Jehovah’s mind, he does reveal enough in his Word to equip us for “every good work.” (2Ti 3:16, 17; Ro 11:33, 34) Jesus clearly perceived Jehovah’s will and made it his priority in life. (Joh 4:34) In imitation of Jesus, may we do our best to make decisions that please Jehovah.—Joh 8:28, 29; Eph 5:15-17.



What do my decisions reveal about my relationship with Jehovah?

WATCH THE VIDEO *KEEP PERCEIVING JEHOVAH’S WILL* (LE 19:18), AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why must we apply Bible principles in our life?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of music?

- What Bible principles should affect our choice of dress and grooming?

- In what other areas of life must we apply Bible principles?

- How can we improve our ability to perceive Jehovah’s will?

Living as Christians

- Song 135
- **“What Would Jehovah Think?”**: (15 minutes) Discussion. Play the video *Keep Perceiving Jehovah’s Will* (Leviticus 19:18) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).

What Would Jehovah Think?

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Watch the video *Keep Perceiving Jehovah’s Will* (Leviticus 19:18), and then answer the following questions:

- Why must we apply Bible principles in our life?
- What Bible principles should affect our choice of music?
- What Bible principles should affect our choice of dress and grooming?
- In what other areas of life must we apply Bible principles?

- How can we improve our ability to perceive Jehovah's will?

Picture: What do my decisions reveal about my relationship with Jehovah?

- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 minutes) *jy* chapter 71
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 minutes)
- Song 34 and Prayer

71

PHARISEES CONFRONT THE MAN WHO WAS BLIND

JOHN 9:19-41

- PHARISEES CONFRONT THE ONCE BLIND MAN
 - RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE “BLIND”
-

The Pharisees cannot accept that Jesus gave sight to the man who was born blind, so they call in his parents. The parents know that they face the possibility of being “expelled from the synagogue.” (John 9:22) Such cutting off of fellowship from other Jews would have severe social and economic consequences for the family.

The Pharisees ask two questions: “Is this your son who you say was born blind? How, then, does he now see?” The parents reply: “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how it is that he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know.” Even if their son had told them what had happened, the parents are cautious as to how they respond and say: “Ask him. He



is of age. He must speak for himself.”—John 9:19-21.

Hence, the Pharisees call the man back and intimidate him by claiming that they have evidence against Jesus. “Give glory to God,” they demand. “We know that this man is a sinner.” Deflecting their charge, the man who was blind says: “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know.” Yet he states: “One thing I do know, that I was blind, but now I can see.”—John 9:24, 25.

Unwilling to leave the matter at that, the Pharisees continue: “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” The man shows some courage in replying: “I told you already, and yet you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become his disciples also, do you?” Enraged, the Pharisees charge: “You are a disciple of that man, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he is from.”—John 9:26-29.

Expressing wonderment, the beggar comments: “This is certainly amazing, that you do not know

where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes.” The man then makes a logical argument as to whom God hears and approves: “We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to this one. From of old it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind.” This leads to the conclusion: “If this man were not from God, he could do nothing at all.”—John 9:30-33.

Unable to refute the beggar’s reasoning, the Pharisees revile him, saying: “You were altogether born in sin, and yet are you teaching us?” They throw him out.—John 9:34.

When Jesus hears what happened, he finds the man and asks: “Are you putting faith in the Son of man?” The healed man responds: “And who is he, sir, so that I may put faith in him?” Leaving no doubt, Jesus says: “You have seen him, and in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”—John 9:35-37.

The man replies: “I do put faith in him, Lord.” Showing faith and respect, the man bows down before Jesus, who makes a profound statement: “For

this judgment I came into this world, that those not seeing might see and those seeing might become blind.”—John 9:38, 39.

The Pharisees, who happen to be there, know that they are not sightless. But what of their presumed role as spiritual guides? They ask defensively: “We are not blind also, are we?” Jesus says: “If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say, ‘We see.’ Your sin remains.” (John 9:40, 41) Had they not been teachers in Israel, rejecting Jesus as the Messiah might be understandable. But with their knowledge of the Law, their rejection of him is a serious sin.

- ◇ Why are the parents of the once blind beggar afraid when they are called before the Pharisees, and how do they answer?
- ◇ The Pharisees become enraged at what logical argument?
- ◇ Why do the Pharisees have no excuse for opposing Jesus?

Walking in Integrity

(Psalm 26)

1. Please judge me, Lord, observe my loyalty;
Observe my trust in you and my integrity.
Examine me, and put me to the test;
My mind and heart refine, that my soul might be blessed.

(CHORUS)

*But as for me, Determined I will be
to walk eternally In my integrity.*

2. I do not sit with wicked men of lies.
I hate the company of those who truth despise.
Jehovah, please, don't take away my life
With men who take delight in bribery and strife.

(Chorus)

3. For I have loved the dwelling of your house.
Your worship, oh, so pure, I daily will espouse.
And I will march around your altar grand,
To make thanksgiving heard aloud throughout the land.

(Chorus)

APRIL 2019

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

After his resurrection, Jesus met with his disciples and instructed them to "go, . . . and make disciples" (See study article 14, paragraph 1)

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Grant Us Boldness

(Acts 4:29)

1. As we tell about the Kingdom,
 As we witness for your name,
 There are many who oppose us
 And who try to bring us shame.
 But instead of fearing men,
 It's really you we must obey.
 So we beg you now for your spirit;
 O Jehovah, hear what we pray.

(CHORUS)

*Grant us boldness as we witness;
 Help us overcome our fear.
 Give us confidence and courage
 So that all the world may hear.
 Armageddon draws ever near,
 But until that great day is here,
 Grant us boldness as we witness.
 This is our prayer.*

2. Even though we may be fearful,
 You remember we are dust.
 Your assurance to support us
 Is a promise we can trust.
 Give attention to the threats
 Of those who persecute and blame.
 May you help us all to continue
 As we boldly speak in your name.

(Chorus)

Uphold the Truth About Death

“We distinguish the inspired statement of truth from the inspired statement of error.”—1 JOHN 4:6.

SONG 73

Grant Us Boldness

PREVIEW

Satan and his demons have deceived people with lies about the condition of the dead. These lies have led to many unscriptural customs. This article will help you remain faithful to Jehovah when others try to pressure you to engage in such customs.

SATAN, “the father of the lie,” has deceived people since the start of human history. (John 8:44) Some of his lies include false teachings about death and about life after death. Those teachings form the basis for many popular customs and superstitions. As a result, a number of our brothers and sisters have had to “put up a hard fight for the faith” when someone in their family or community has died.—Jude 3.

² If you face such tests, what can help you to stand firm for what the Bible teaches about death? (Eph. 6:11) How can you comfort and strengthen a fellow Christian who may be under pressure to engage in customs that displease God? This article will discuss the guidance that Jehovah has given us. First, let us consider what the Bible says about death.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE DEAD

³ God did not intend for humans to die. But in order to live forever, Adam and Eve had to obey Jehovah, who gave them a simple command: “As for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will

1-2. (a) In what ways has Satan deceived people? (b) What will we consider in this article?

3. What resulted from the first lie?

certainly die.” (Gen. 2:16, 17) Then Satan came on the scene. Speaking through a serpent, he said to Eve: “You certainly will not die.” Sadly, she believed the lie and ate the fruit. Later, her husband too ate the fruit. (Gen. 3:4, 6) In this way, sin and death entered the human family.—Rom. 5:12.

⁴ Adam and Eve died, just as God had said they would. But Satan did not stop lying about death. At some point in time, he began to introduce other lies. One of those lies is the teaching that the physical body dies but that some part of the person lives on, perhaps in the spirit realm. Variations of that lie

4-5. How has Satan continued to deceive humans?

Instead of sharing in customs that displease God,
comfort your relatives who have lost a loved one in death
(See paragraphs 1-2)



have deceived countless humans right down to our day.—1 Tim. 4:1.

⁵ Why are so many humans deceived? Satan's lies about death exploit the way we naturally feel about death. Because we were created to live forever, we do not want to die. (Eccl. 3:11) We consider death an enemy.—1 Cor. 15:26.

⁶ Despite Satan's efforts, the truth about death has not been kept hidden. In fact, more people than ever now know and proclaim what the Bible teaches about the condition of the dead and the hope for the dead. (Eccl. 9:5, 10; Acts 24:15) These truths comfort us, sparing us needless fear and uncertainty. For example, we do not fear the dead; nor do we fear for them. We know that they are not alive and cannot harm anyone. It is as if they were in a deep sleep. (John 11:11-14) We also know that the dead are not aware of the passing of time. So in the resurrection, even those who have been dead for centuries will view the time that elapsed as momentary, like a snap of the fingers.

⁷ Do you not agree that the truth about the condition of the dead is clear, simple, and logical? What a contrast to Satan's confusing lies! In addition to

6-7. (a) Has Satan succeeded in keeping the truth about the dead hidden? Explain. (b) How does Bible truth spare us needless fear?

misleading people, those lies also slander our Creator. To help us appreciate more fully the harm that Satan has caused, we will consider these questions: How have Satan's lies slandered Jehovah? How have they undermined belief in Christ's ransom sacrifice? How have they added to mankind's grief and suffering?

SATAN'S LIES HAVE CAUSED MUCH HARM

⁸ Satan's lies about the dead slander Jehovah. Those lies include the false teaching that the dead suffer fiery torment. Such teachings slander God! How so? In effect, they attribute to him, the God of love, the personality of the Devil. (1 John 4:8) How does that make you feel? More important, how does it make Jehovah feel? After all, he hates all forms of cruelty.—Read Jeremiah 19:5.

⁹ Satan's lies about death undermine belief in Christ's ransom sacrifice. (Matt. 20:28) Another satanic lie is that humans have an immortal soul. If that were true, everyone would live forever. Christ would not have had to give his life as a ransom

8. As shown at Jeremiah 19:5, how do Satan's lies about the dead slander Jehovah?

9. How do Satan's lies affect belief in Christ's ransom sacrifice that is described at John 3:16 and 15:13?

for us to gain everlasting life. Keep in mind that Christ's sacrifice is the greatest expression of love ever shown to the human family. (Read John 3:16; 15:13.) Imagine how Jehovah and his Son must feel about teachings that undermine that precious gift!

¹⁰ *Satan's lies add grief and suffering to mankind.* Parents who are grieving the death of a child may be told that God has taken the child, perhaps to be an angel in heaven. Does this satanic lie lessen their pain or add to it? The false teaching of hellfire has been used to justify torture, including the burning at the stake of those who opposed church teachings. According to a book on the Spanish Inquisition, some of those responsible for this cruelty may have believed that they were only giving heretics "a taste of what perpetual hellfire would be like" so that they would repent before dying and be saved from hellfire. In a number of lands, people feel compelled to pay homage to their dead ancestors, to honor them, or to seek a blessing from them. Others want to appease their ancestors in order to avoid some form of punishment. Sadly, beliefs based on satanic lies do not bring genuine comfort. Instead, they cause needless anxiety or even fear.

10. How have Satan's lies about death added grief and suffering to mankind?

HOW WE CAN UPHOLD BIBLE TRUTH

¹¹ Love for God and his Word strengthens us to obey Jehovah even when well-meaning relatives or friends try to pressure us to share in unscriptural practices regarding the dead. They may try to shame us, perhaps by saying that we did not love or respect the deceased. Or they might say that our behavior will cause the dead person to harm the living in some way. How can we uphold Bible truth? Consider how you can apply the following Bible principles.

¹² *Be resolved to “separate yourselves” from unscriptural beliefs and customs.* (2 Cor. 6:17) In a Caribbean nation, many believe that after a person dies, his “ghost” may stay around and punish those who mistreated him. The “ghost” may even “wreak havoc on a community,” says one reference. It is a custom in Africa to cover mirrors in the home of the deceased and turn pictures to face the wall. The reason? Some claim that the dead must not see themselves! As Jehovah’s servants, we certainly do not believe any myths or take part in any practices that promote Satan’s lies!—1 Cor. 10:21, 22.

11. How may well-meaning relatives or friends try to pressure us to go against God’s Word?

12. What customs regarding the dead are clearly unscriptural?



Careful Bible-based research and good communication with relatives who are not Witnesses can help you avoid problems (See paragraphs 13-14)

13 If you are unsure about a certain custom or practice, go to Jehovah in prayer, asking in faith for godly wisdom. (Read James 1:5.) Then follow up by doing research in our publications. If necessary, consult the elders in your congregation. They will not tell you what to do, but they can point you to relevant Bible principles, such as those discussed here. As you take these steps, you train your “powers of discernment,” and these powers will help you to “distinguish both right and wrong.”—Heb. 5:14.

13. If you are unsure about a certain custom, what should you do, as stated at James 1:5?

¹⁴ ***“Do all things for God’s glory. Keep from becoming causes for stumbling.”*** (1 Cor. 10:31, 32) When deciding whether to share in a custom or tradition, we should also think about how our decision may affect the consciences of others, especially fellow Christians. Never would we want to stumble someone! (Mark 9:42) Also, we want to avoid needlessly offending those who are not Witnesses. Love will move us to speak to them in a respectful way, which glorifies Jehovah. We certainly would not quarrel with people or ridicule their traditions. Remember, love is powerful! When we reflect it in a considerate and respectful manner, we may even soften the hearts of opposers.

¹⁵ ***Make it known in your community that you are one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.*** (Isa. 43:10) You will likely find it easier to handle emotionally charged situations if your relatives and neighbors know that you worship Jehovah God. Francisco, who lives in Mozambique, writes: “When my wife, Carolina, and I learned the truth, we told our family that we would no longer worship the dead. Our decision was tested when Carolina’s sister died. The local custom is

14. In what ways can we avoid stumbling people?

15-16. (a) Why is it wise to let others know what you believe? Give an example. (b) How do Paul’s words recorded at Romans 1:16 apply to us?

to bathe a corpse ceremonially. Then the closest relative must sleep for three days at the place where the bathwater was poured out. These customs are supposed to appease the spirit of the deceased. Carolina's family expected her to carry out the sleep duty."

¹⁶ How did Francisco and his wife respond? Francisco explains: "Because we love Jehovah and want to please him, we refused to participate in the custom. Carolina's family became very angry. They accused us of disrespecting the dead and said that the family would no longer visit or help us. Since we had earlier explained our beliefs to them, we did not discuss the matter with them while they were angry. Some relatives even defended us, saying that we had already explained our position. In time, Carolina's relatives calmed down, and we were able to make peace. In fact, some have even come to our house to ask for Bible literature." May we never be ashamed of the stand that we take in defense of the truth about death.—Read Romans 1:16.

COMFORT AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO GRIEVE

¹⁷ When a fellow Christian loses a loved one in

17. What can help us to be a true friend to a grieving fellow Christian?

death, we should try hard to be “a true friend . . . , a brother who is born for times of distress.” (Prov. 17:17) How can we be “a true friend,” especially if a grieving brother or sister is being pressured to engage in unscriptural practices? Consider two Bible principles that can help us to comfort the bereaved.

¹⁸ ***“Weep with those who weep.”*** (Rom. 12:15) We may find it hard to know what to say to someone who is overcome by grief. Sometimes our tears say more than our words. When Jesus’ friend Lazarus died, Mary, Martha, and others wept for their beloved brother and friend. Four days later when Jesus arrived, he too “gave way to tears,” even though he knew that he was about to resurrect Lazarus. (John 11:17, 33-35) Jesus’ tears reflected the feelings of his Father. They also confirmed Jesus’ love for the family, which no doubt comforted Mary and Martha. Similarly, when our brothers sense our love and concern, they know that they are not alone but are surrounded by caring and supportive friends.

¹⁹ ***“A time to be silent and a time to speak.”*** (Eccl. 3:7) Another way to comfort a grieving fellow

18. What moved Jesus to tears, and what can we learn from his example?

19. When comforting a grieving fellow Christian, in what ways can we apply Ecclesiastes 3:7?



**True friends comfort and support those
who have lost loved ones in death**
(See paragraphs 17-19)

Christian is simply to be a good listener. Allow your brother to pour out his heart, and do not be offended by “wild talk.” (Job 6:2, 3) He may be under added emotional stress because of pressure from relatives who are not Witnesses. So pray with him. Beg the “Hearer of prayer” to give him strength and clarity of mind. (Ps. 65:2) If circumstances permit, read the Bible together. Or read an appropriate article from our publications, such as an encouraging life story.

²⁰ What a privilege we have to know the truth about the dead and the wonderful future that awaits those in the memorial tombs! (John 5:28, 29) Thus, in word and deed, let us courageously uphold Bible truth and share it with others at every appropriate opportunity. The next article will look at another way that Satan tries to keep people in spiritual darkness—spiritism. We will see why we need to avoid practices and entertainment associated with that demonic trap.

20. What will we discuss in the following article?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 29: While a relative mourns the loss of her loved one, family members who are Witnesses give her comfort.

Page 34: After researching funeral customs, a Witness family member kindly explains his belief to his relatives. **Page 38:** Elders in the Christian congregation give comfort and support to a Witness who has lost a loved one in death.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- How does knowing the truth about the dead comfort us?
- What harm has resulted from Satan's lies about death?
- How may we uphold the truth about death?

24 *Come to Jehovah's Mountain*

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

1. Raise your eyes up and see,
Far above the highest hill.
There stands Jehovah's mountain
Lifted up in this day.

People come from afar,
Ev'rywhere from sea to sea,
Calling to one another,
'Come serve God and obey.'

Now the time has arrived
For the small, a great nation to be.
As we grow and we thrive,
God's direction and blessing we see.

Millions now come to God
And accept his sov'reignty.
Loyal they vow to be
And from his side never stray.

2. Jesus gave the command
 To go forth and preach the word.
Good news about the Kingdom
 Reaches all men today.

Christ now rules from above,
 Urging all to take his side.
Meek ones who hear his voice
 Let God's Word show them the way.

 It brings joy to the heart,
 As the great crowd continues to grow.
And we all have a part,
 As we strive to let ev'ryone know.

Let us lift up the voice,
 Calling out for all to hear,
'Come to Jehovah's mountain,
 Here forever to stay.'

(See also Ps. 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 60:22; Acts 16:5.)

