

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“We Must Fight to Stay in the Truth”:** (10 min.)
 [Play the video *Introduction to 2 John.*]
 [Play the video *Introduction to 3 John.*]
 [Play the video *Introduction to Jude.*]
 Jude 3—“Put up a hard fight for the faith” (w04 9/15 11-12 ¶8-9)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Jude 4, 12—Why were the ungodly men who had slipped into the congregation likened to “the rocks hidden below water at . . . love feasts”? (it-2 279, 816)

Jude 14, 15—Why did Enoch speak of a future event in the past tense, and what is the fulfillment of his prophecy? (wp17.1 12 ¶1, 3)

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

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) 2Jo 1-13 (12)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 87
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 90
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 147 and Prayer

2 JOHN 1–JUDE | We Must Fight to Stay in the Truth

Jude 3

Jesus admonished: “Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door.” (Lu 13:24) Jesus’ words imply struggling, extending ourselves in order to be approved by God. Jude, Jesus’ half brother, was inspired to write something similar: “Put up a hard fight for the faith.” Diligent effort is needed to do the following:

- Resist sexual immorality.—Jude 6, 7
- Respect those in positions of authority.—Jude 8, 9
- Strengthen our belief in the “most holy faith,” Christian teachings.—Jude 20, 21



1. God's Word and all its promises
Give reason to endure.
The things you've learned and come to love
Are all well-founded and sure.

Be stabilized in holy faith,
Keeping God's day close in mind.
Stand firm in your integrity;
By tests you will be refined.
2. Maintain the love you had at first,
Which somehow could be lost.
Despite the trials you will meet,
Endure no matter the cost.

Whatever test may come your way,
Never yield to doubt or fear.
Jehovah will provide escape,
Our God ever will be near.
3. All those enduring to the end
Are those who will be saved.
The book of life will list their names,
A record clearly engraved.

So let endurance be your aim;
Let it have its work complete.
Jehovah's favor you will know;
With joy you will be replete.

2 John

¹ The older man to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I truly love, and not only I but also all those who have come to know the truth, ² because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever. ³ There will be with us undeserved kindness, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, with truth and love.

⁴ I rejoice very much because I have found some of your children walking in the truth, just as we received commandment from the Father. ⁵ So now I request you, lady, that we love one another. (I am writing you, not a new commandment, but one that we had from the beginning.) ⁶ And this is what love means, that we go on walking according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should go on walking in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those not acknowledging Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

⁸ Look out for yourselves, so that you do not lose the things we have worked to produce, but that you may obtain a full reward. ⁹ Everyone who pushes ahead and does not remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God. The one who does remain in this teaching is the one who has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. ¹¹ For the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.

¹² Although I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I am hoping to come to you and to speak with you face-to-face, so that your joy may be in full measure.

¹³ The children of your sister, the chosen one, send you their greetings.

3 John

¹ The older man to Ga'ius, the beloved, whom I truly love.

² Beloved one, I pray that in all things you continue to prosper and enjoy good health, just as you are now prospering. ³ For I rejoiced very much when brothers came and bore witness about the truth you hold, as you go on walking in the truth. ⁴ No greater joy do I have than this: that I should hear that my children go on walking in the truth.

⁵ Beloved one, you show your faithfulness in what you do for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. ⁶ They have given a witness about your love before the congregation. Please send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For it was in behalf of his name that they went out, not taking anything from the people of the nations. ⁸ So we are under obligation to show hospitality to such ones, so that we may become fellow workers in the truth.

⁹ I wrote something to the congregation, but Di-ot're-phas, who likes to have the first place among them, does not accept anything from us with respect. ¹⁰ That is why if I come, I will call attention to the works he is doing in spreading malicious talk about us. Not being content with this, he refuses to welcome the brothers with respect; and those who want to welcome them, he tries to hinder and to throw out of the congregation.

¹¹ Beloved one, do not imitate what is bad, but imitate what is good. The one who does good originates with God. The one who does bad has not seen God. ¹² De-me'tri-us has been well-reported-on by them all and by the truth itself. In fact, we too are bearing witness about him, and you know that the witness we give is true.

¹³ I had many things to write you, but I do not wish to go on writing you with pen and ink. ¹⁴ However, I am hoping to see you soon, and we will speak face-to-face.

May you have peace.

The friends send you their greetings. Give my greetings to the friends by name.

Jude

¹ Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, but a brother of James, to the called ones who are loved by God the Father and preserved for Jesus Christ:

² May mercy and peace and love be increased to you.

³ Beloved ones, although I was making every effort to write you about the salvation we hold in common, I found it necessary to write you to urge you to put up a hard fight for the faith that was once for all time delivered to the holy ones. ⁴ My reason is that certain men have slipped in among you who were long ago appointed to this judgment by the Scriptures; they are ungodly men who turn the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for brazen conduct and who prove false to our only owner and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Although you are fully aware of all of this, I want to remind you that Jehovah, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those not showing faith. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place, he has reserved with eternal bonds in dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. ⁷ In the same manner,

Sod'om and Go-mor'rah and the cities around them also gave themselves over to gross sexual immorality and pursued unnatural fleshly desires; they are placed before us as a warning example by undergoing the judicial punishment of everlasting fire.

⁸ Despite this, these men too are indulging in dreams, defiling the flesh, despising authority, and speaking abusively of glorious ones. ⁹ But when Mi'cha-el the archangel had a difference with the Devil and was disputing about Moses' body, he did not dare to bring a judgment against him in abusive terms, but said: "May Jehovah rebuke you." ¹⁰ But these men are speaking abusively about all the things they really do not understand. And in all the things that they do understand by instinct like unreasoning animals, they go on corrupting themselves.

¹¹ Too bad for them, for they have followed the path of Cain and have rushed into the erroneous course of Ba'laam for reward, and they have perished in the rebellious talk of Kor'ah! ¹² These are the rocks hidden below water at your love feasts while they feast with you, shepherds who feed themselves without fear; waterless clouds carried here and there by the wind; fruitless trees in late autumn, having died twice and having been uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea that cast up the foam of their own shame; stars with no set course, for which the blackest darkness stands reserved forever.

¹⁴ Yes, the seventh one in line from Adam, E'noch, also prophesied about them when he said: "Look! Jehovah came with his holy myriads ¹⁵ to execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him."

¹⁶ These men are murmurers, complainers about their lot in life, following their own desires, and their mouths make grandiose boasts, while they are flattering others for their own benefit.

¹⁷ As for you, beloved ones, call to mind the sayings that have been previously spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸ how they used to say to you: “In the last time there will be ridiculers, following their own desires for ungodly things.” ¹⁹ These are the ones who cause divisions, animalistic men, not having spirituality. ²⁰ But you, beloved ones, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, and pray with holy spirit, ²¹ in order to keep yourselves in God’s love, while you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ with everlasting life in view. ²² Also, continue showing mercy to some who have doubts; ²³ save them by snatching them out of the fire. But continue showing mercy to others, doing so with fear, while you hate even the garment that has been stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to the one who is able to guard you from stumbling and to make you stand unblemished in the sight of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority for all past eternity and now and into all eternity. Amen.

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November 11-17 / 2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-14–Jude 1-25

- Song 128 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

Treasures From God's Word

"We Must Fight to Stay in the Truth": (10 minutes)

[Play the video *Introduction to 2 John.*]

[Play the video *Introduction to 3 John.*]

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We Must Fight to Stay in the Truth

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Jude 3—“Put up a hard fight for the faith”

Jude 3: Beloved ones, although I was making every effort to write you about the salvation we hold in common, I found it necessary to write you to urge you to put up a hard fight for the faith that was once for all time delivered to the holy ones.

w04 9/15 11-12 paragraphs 8-9

8 We are not ignorant of Satan’s designs because the Scriptures reveal his basic tactics. (2 Corinthians 2:11) Against the righteous man Job, the Devil used severe economic problems, the death of loved ones, family opposition, physical suffering, and unfounded criticism from false friends. Job became depressed and felt that God had abandoned him. (Job 10:1, 2) Although Satan may not directly cause these problems today, such hardships do affect many Christians, and the Devil can use them to his advantage.

9 Spiritual dangers have proliferated in this time of the end. We live in a world where material pursuits override spiritual goals. The media constantly portray illicit sex as a source of happiness rather than heartache. And the majority have become “lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5) This way of thinking can threaten our spiritual balance unless we “put up a hard fight for the faith.”—Jude 3.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Jude 4, 12—Why were the ungodly men who had slipped into the congregation likened to “the rocks hidden below water at ... love feasts”?

Jude 4: My reason is that certain men have slipped in among you who were long ago appointed to this judgment by the Scriptures; they are ungodly men who turn the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for brazen conduct and who prove false to our only owner and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 12: These are the rocks hidden below water at your love feasts while they feast with you, shepherds who feed themselves without fear; waterless clouds carried here and there by the wind; fruitless trees in late autumn, having died twice and having been uprooted;

it-2 279

Love Feasts. The Bible does not describe these love feasts nor does it indicate how often they were held. (Jude 12) They were not commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ or his apostles, and it is apparent that they are not to be considered mandatory or permanent. Some say they were occasions when materially prosperous Christians held banquets to which their poor fellow believers were invited. Together, the fatherless, the widows, the rich, and the less fortunate shared a bountiful table in a spirit of

brotherhood.

Tertullian, a writer of the second and third centuries, gives a description of the love feasts, recounting that the participants, before reclining to eat, offered prayer to God. They would eat and drink with moderation, only enough to satisfy hunger and thirst, remembering that even during the night they must worship God. Their conversation was as those who knew that the Lord was listening. Each sang a song, and the feast closed with prayer.—*Apology*, XXXIX, 16-18.

That these feasts were originally held with good intent is indicated by the word used to describe them—*aga'pe*. *Aga'pe* is the Greek word used for the highest form of love, love based on principle. It is the kind of love that the Bible says "God is." (1 John 4:8) It is listed as a fruit of the spirit at Galatians 5:22 and is described at length in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

it-2 816

Another Greek word, *spilas'*, evidently has reference to a rock or reef that is hidden beneath the water. It is used by Jude to illustrate certain men who had slipped into the Christian congregation with corrupt motives. As hidden rocks were a menace to ships, so these men constituted a real danger to others in the congregation. He says of such men: "These are the rocks hidden below water in your love feasts while they feast with you."—Jude 12.

Jude 14, 15—Why did Enoch speak of a future event in the past tense, and what is the fulfillment of his prophecy?

Jude 14, 15: Yes, the seventh one in line from Adam, Enoch, also prophesied about them when he said: “Look! Jehovah came with his holy myriads to execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him.”

wp17.1 12 paragraph 1

What was Enoch’s prophecy? It went as follows: “Look! Jehovah came with his holy myriads to execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that ungodly sinners spoke against him.” (Jude 14, 15) Now, the first thing you may notice is that Enoch spoke in the past tense, as if God had already done what the prophecy describes. That is a pattern that many prophecies thereafter followed. The idea is this: The prophet is speaking of something that is so certain to occur that it may be described as if it has already happened!—Isaiah 46:10.

wp17.1 12 paragraph 3

Enoch's faith may move us to ask ourselves whether we see the world in which we live as God sees it. The judgment that Enoch bravely proclaimed still stands; it applies to today's world just as it did to the world of Enoch's day. In harmony with Enoch's warning, Jehovah brought the great Deluge against that ungodly world in Noah's day. But that destruction set the pattern for a greater destruction yet to come. (Matthew 24:38, 39; 2 Peter 2:4-6) Today, as then, God stands poised with his holy myriads to bring a righteous judgment against an ungodly world. Each of us needs to take Enoch's warning to heart and share it with others. Our family and friends might stand apart from us. We may feel alone at times. But Jehovah never abandoned Enoch; neither will he abandon his faithful servants today!

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 minutes or less) 2 John 1-13 (*th* study 12)

An Introduction To 2 John

John wrote his second letter along with his other two letters about 98 C.E. At the time, he was likely in or near Ephesus and he may have been up to 100 years of age.

John introduces his letter with the words, the older man to The Chosen lady and to her children.

Some think that the chosen lady may have been a Christian congregation or a spiritual sister named Korea, which is Greek for lady.

Many points in John's second letter summarize thoughts from his first letter.

For example, John again mentions the need for Christ followers to love one another. He also States this is what love means that we go on walking according to God's Commandments.

The Apostle then warns that many deceivers have gone out into the world. These antichrists claimed that the Christ did not come in the flesh.

Did you know At 2nd John 10 and 11 John adds to the instruction in his first letter concerning anyone who pushes ahead of Christ's teaching, John states do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him.

John second letter glows with his love for his anointed Brothers. He wants them to obtain a full reward which

An Introduction To 2 John

includes the privilege of ruling with Christ in his kingdom.

As you read second John note, How the elderly Apostle expressed love for his brothers?, How he desired that they go on walking according to God's Commandments?, And how those who stand firm against apostasy will have the privilege of inheriting God's Kingdom?

An Introduction To 3 John

John wrote his third letter in or near Ephesus about 98 C.E. John addressed his third letter to a beloved Gaius a common Roman name at the time.

3 John has 14 verses, Gaius had a fine reputation for enduring in the truth and for welcoming brothers who were strangers to him and the Apostle John commends him for his hospitable spirit.

Diot'rephes attitude contrast sharply with that of Gaius. Diot'rephes is disrespectful of apostolic authority and once the first place among the brothers. Diot'rephes refuses to welcome visiting brothers. He even tries to hinder and expel from the congregation those who show hospitality.

However Demetrius a Christian and dear friend of John is spoken of favorably. Demetrius may have been the one who delivered John's third letter.

Did you know: At 3rd John says, Gaius is advised to send the traveling Brothers on their way in a manner worthy of God. This would mean carefully supplying the brothers with what they need for their trip Gaius evidently did this.

At the end of his second and third letters, John explains that his letters are short because he hopes to see his brothers soon and speak with them face to face.

As you read third John note how it stresses the importance of Christian hospitality?, see how it contrasts the attitude of proud biographies with that of beloved Gaius?, and observe how the depth of John's love is expressed for his fellow Kingdom Heirs.

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SAMPLE CONVERSATION

(November 2019)

Initial Call

Ryan (Publisher): Good morning, my name is Ryan, may I ask yours?

Ben (Householder): Ben

Ryan (Publisher): Good to meet you Ben, I've been talking to people this morning about the purpose of life with bad things happening all around the world many people wonder if life has any purpose. What's your opinion?

Ben (Householder): I think life on Earth is just a test. We have to make the best of it until we get to heaven.

Ryan (Publisher): Thank you, for expressing your view many people feel the same way. Does this mean that you were a religious person?

Ben (Householder): Oh, yes. I read my Bible daily.

Ryan (Publisher): That's excellent. Have you ever thought about what the Bible says about God's purpose for humans here at Genesis 1:27-28. It says:

27 And God went on to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them. **28** Further, God blessed them, and God said to them: "Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving on the earth."

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

(November 2019)

Ryan (Publisher): So according to verse 28, what did God want for the Earth and humans on it?

Ben (Householder): I says they should fill the Earth and subdue it.

Ryan (Publisher): Exactly, So God wanted Adam and Eve to expand their home the Garden of Eden until it filled the whole Earth. Of course Earth isn't exactly a paradise today?, Does that mean that God's purpose failed?

Ben (Householder): Hmm.

Ryan (Publisher): The next time I stopped by I'd like to consider why we can trust of God will fulfill his purpose for the Earth and humans? Are you usually home around this time on Saturday?

Ben (Householder): Oh yeah, I'm usually here.

Ryan (Publisher): Great, I'll come by this time next week.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK


Sample Conversations

●○○
INITIAL CALL →

Question: What is the purpose of life?

Scripture: Ge 1:27, 28

Link: Why can we trust that God will fulfill his purpose?




○○●
FIRST RETURN VISIT →

Question: Why can we trust that God will fulfill his purpose?

Scripture: Jos 21:45

Link: What has God promised for the future?




○○●
SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What has God promised for the future?

Scripture: Re 21:4

Link: How can we experience the blessings that God has promised?



1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;
The way of our God is not known.
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;
We cannot succeed on our own.

Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;
They help us build faith in our God.
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,
They give us the strength to go on.

We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;
His will is what we want to do.
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;
Our love for the truth they renew.
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;
His counsel by us should be heard.
To buy out the time for occasions to meet
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.

By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,
We learn how our faith can be shown.
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,
We know that we're never alone.

So as we look forward to much better times,
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live
With wisdom that comes from above.

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“THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”

JOHN 11:17-37

- AFTER LAZARUS’ DEATH, JESUS ARRIVES
 - “THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”
-

Coming from Perea, Jesus arrives at the outskirts of Bethany, a village about two miles east of Jerusalem. Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, are mourning his recent death. Many have come to console them.

Then someone tells Martha that Jesus is approaching, and she hurries to meet him. Martha tells Jesus what she and her sister have likely been thinking for four days: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” However, it is not that she has no hope. “I know that whatever you ask God for, God will give you,” Martha says. (John 11:21, 22) She feels that Jesus might yet help her brother.

Jesus responds: “Your brother will rise.” Martha concludes that he is referring to a future resurrec-



tion on earth, the hope that Abraham and others had. And she expresses her belief that this will surely occur: “I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”—John 11:23, 24.

Yet, could it be that Jesus can provide immediate relief in this case? He reminds Martha that he has God-given power over death, saying: “The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; and everyone who is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all.”—John 11:25, 26.

Jesus is not suggesting that his disciples then alive will never die. Even he must die, as he has told his apostles. (Matthew 16:21; 17:22, 23) Jesus is stressing that exercising faith in him can lead to everlasting life. For many, such life will be gained through a resurrection. However, faithful ones alive at the end of this system may never have to die at all. In either case, everyone who exercises faith in him can be sure of never facing permanent death.

But can Jesus, who just said, “I am the resurrection and the life,” help Lazarus, now dead for days? Jesus asks Martha: “Do you believe this?” She



answers: “Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” With faith that Jesus can do something that very day, Martha hurries home and tells her sister privately: “The Teacher is here and is calling you.” (John 11:25-28) At that, Mary leaves the house, soon to be followed by others, who assume that she is going to Lazarus’ tomb.

Instead, Mary goes to Jesus, falls at his feet weeping, and repeats the sentiments her sister expressed: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Moved at seeing Mary and the crowds weeping, Jesus groans, becomes troubled, and even gives way to tears. That touches the onlookers. But some ask: ‘If Jesus could heal a man born blind, could he not prevent this one from dying?’—John 11:32, 37.

- ◇ When Jesus arrives near Bethany, what is the situation?
- ◇ What basis does Martha have for belief in a resurrection?
- ◇ How does Jesus indicate that he can do something about Lazarus’ death?

147 *Life Everlasting Is Promised*

(Psalm 37:29)

1. Life everlasting is promised.
Our earthly home will endure.
'Meek ones will thrive,' said the psalmist.
This grand future is sure.

(CHORUS)

*We can live forever.
It's worth all endeavor.
God's promise is faithful.
His Word will come true.*

2. Paradise brought to perfection;
All of God's children set free.
Under Jehovah's direction,
Peace on earth we will see.

(Chorus)

3. Soon in the grand resurrection,
Sorrow will all disappear.
Showering tender affection,
God will dry ev'ry tear.

(Chorus)

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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OCTOBER 28–DECEMBER 1, 2019

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COVER PICTURE:

The apostle John saw “a great crowd” dressed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands (See study article 39, paragraph 2)

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9

Jehovah Is Our King!

(Psalm 97:1)

1. Rejoice, give glory to Jehovah,
For the heavens proclaim all his righteousness.
Let us sing to our God joyful songs to his praise;
Let us speak to all of his great acts.

(CHORUS)

*Let the heavens rejoice, Let the earth joyful be,
For Jehovah has become our King!
Let the heavens rejoice, Let the earth joyful be,
For Jehovah has become our King!*

2. His glory tell among the nations;
For Jehovah to us is a God who saves.
Yes, Jehovah is King; he deserves all the praise.
So we bow before his mighty throne.

(Chorus)

3. His righteous rule is now established.
On his throne, he has placed his anointed Son.
Let the gods of this world
be brought down and be shamed,
For the praise belongs to God alone.

(Chorus)

Readily Submit to Jehovah—Why and How?

*“Should we not more readily submit ourselves
to the Father?”—HEB. 12:9.*

SONG 9

Jehovah Is Our King!

PREVIEW

This article will discuss why we should submit to Jehovah. It will also consider what elders, fathers, and mothers—all of whom have some authority—can learn from the examples of Governor Nehemiah; King David; and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

WE SHOULD submit* to Jehovah because he is our Creator. As such, he has the right to set standards for his creation. (Rev. 4:11) But we have another compelling reason to obey him—his way of ruling is the best. Throughout history, many human rulers have had a measure of power and authority over others. In comparison to them, Jehovah is the wisest and the most loving, merciful, and compassionate Ruler of all.—Ex. 34:6; Rom. 16:27; 1 John 4:8.

² Jehovah wants us to obey him, not primarily because we fear him, but because we love him and we view him as our loving Father. In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul explains that we should “readily submit ourselves to the Father” because he trains us “for our benefit.” —Read Hebrews 12:9-11.

³ We submit to Jehovah by doing our best to obey him in all things and by resisting the urge to rely on our own understanding. (Prov. 3:5) We find it easier to submit to Jehovah as we come to know his beautiful qual-

*** EXPRESSIONS EXPLAINED:** The words **submit** and **submission** have a negative meaning for those who are forced to obey someone. However, God’s people choose to obey him, so they do not view the concept of submission in a negative way.

-
- 1. Why should we submit to Jehovah?**
 - 2. What reasons does Hebrews 12:9-11 give us for submitting to Jehovah?**
 - 3. (a) How do we show that we submit to Jehovah? (b) What questions will we answer?**

ities. Why? Because these qualities are reflected in all that he does. (Ps. 145:9) The more we learn about Jehovah, the more we will love him. And when we love Jehovah, we do not need a long list of rules telling us what to do and what not to do. We work to bring our thinking and emotions into harmony with what is good and to avoid what is bad. (Ps. 97:10) At times, however, we may struggle to obey Jehovah. Why is that? And what can elders, fathers, and mothers learn from the examples set by Governor Nehemiah; King David; and Mary, the mother of Jesus? This article will provide answers to these questions.

WHY SUBMITTING TO JEHOVAH CAN BE A CHALLENGE

⁴ One reason why we might find it a challenge to submit to Jehovah is that we all inherited sin and are imperfect. So we have rebellious tendencies. After Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate the forbidden fruit, they set their own standards. (Gen. 3:22) Today, most of mankind still prefer to ignore Jehovah and decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong.

⁵ Even those who know and love Jehovah may struggle to submit fully to him. The apostle Paul faced this challenge. (Read Romans 7:21-23.) Like Paul, we want

4-5. According to Romans 7:21-23, why can it be a challenge to submit to Jehovah?

to do what is right in Jehovah's eyes. But we must constantly fight the tendency to do wrong things.

⁶ Another reason why it can be a challenge to submit to Jehovah is that we are influenced by the culture in which we were raised. Many human ideas are in conflict with Jehovah's will, and it can be a constant struggle to free ourselves from common ways of thinking. Consider just one example.

⁷ It is common in some places to pressure young ones to devote their lives to earning a lot of money. A sister named Mary* faced that challenge. Before learning about Jehovah, she attended one of the most prestigious schools in her country. Mary felt pressure from her family to get a high-paying job in a respected profession. She too wanted that. However, after she learned about Jehovah and came to love him, she changed her goals. Even so, she says: "Sometimes I see attractive business opportunities that could allow me to earn a lot of money but would disrupt my spiritual routine. Because of the way I was raised, I still struggle to say no. I have to beg Jehovah to help me resist the temptation to accept work that could take me away from my service to him."—Matt. 6:24.

* Some names in this article have been changed.

6-7. What is a second reason why it can be a challenge to submit to Jehovah? Give an example.

⁸ We benefit ourselves by being submissive to Jehovah. But those who have a measure of authority, such as elders, fathers, and mothers, have an additional reason to follow God's direction; they have the opportunity to benefit other people. Let us consider some examples from the Bible that teach us how to handle authority in a way that pleases Jehovah.

WHAT ELDERS CAN LEARN FROM NEHEMIAH

⁹ Jehovah has entrusted elders with the important responsibility to shepherd his people. (1 Pet. 5:2) Elders can learn much from examining how Nehemiah dealt with Jehovah's people. As governor of Judah, Nehemiah had considerable authority. (Neh. 1:11; 2:7, 8; 5:14) Imagine some of the challenges that Nehemiah faced. He had learned that the people had defiled the temple and were not supporting the Levites financially as the Law directed. The Jews were violating the Sabbath law, and some of the men had married foreign women. Governor Nehemiah would have to handle this difficult situation.—Neh. 13:4-30.

¹⁰ Nehemiah did not abuse his authority by imposing his own standards on God's people. Instead, he sought Jehovah's guidance in earnest prayer, and he taught the

8. What will we now consider?

9. What challenges did Nehemiah face?

10. How did Nehemiah respond to the challenges he faced?



Elders share in work done at the Kingdom Hall, just as Nehemiah got personally involved in rebuilding Jerusalem
(See paragraphs 9-11)

people Jehovah's Law. (Neh. 1:4-10; 13:1-3) Nehemiah also humbly worked alongside his brothers, even helping them to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.—Neh. 4:15.

¹¹ Elders may not have to deal with the same problems that Nehemiah did, but they can imitate him in a number of ways. For example, they work hard for the benefit of their brothers and sisters. And they do not let their authority make them unduly proud. Instead, they treat the congregation tenderly. (Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8.) Their deep love and humble attitude affect how they speak to others. Andrew, an experienced

11. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 8, how should elders treat those in the congregation?

elder, says: “I have found that the brothers and sisters generally respond well to an elder’s kindness and genuine warmth. These qualities motivate the congregation to cooperate with the elders.” Another longtime elder, named Tony, comments: “I try to apply the counsel found at Philippians 2:3 and constantly work at viewing others as superior to me. This helps me to avoid acting like a dictator.”

¹² Elders must be humble, just as Jehovah is humble. Although Jehovah is the Sovereign of the universe, he “stoops down” to raise “the lowly from the dust.” (Ps. 18:35; 113:6, 7) In fact, Jehovah detests those who are proud and arrogant.—Prov. 16:5.

¹³ An elder who submits to Jehovah needs to “keep a tight rein on his tongue.” Otherwise, he may speak unkindly if someone is disrespectful to him. (Jas. 1:26; Gal. 5:14, 15) Andrew, quoted earlier, says: “At times, I have felt like responding unkindly to a brother or sister who seemed to be disrespectful. However, I have meditated on examples of faithful men in the Bible, and that has helped me learn the importance of being humble and meek.” Elders show their submission to Jehovah by being loving and gracious when talking with those in the congregation, including their fellow elders.—Col. 4:6.

12. Why is it important for elders to be humble?

13. Why does an elder need to “keep a tight rein on his tongue”?

WHAT FATHERS CAN LEARN FROM KING DAVID

¹⁴ Jehovah has assigned the father as head of the family, and God expects him to train and discipline his children. (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:4) But a father's authority is limited—he must answer to Jehovah, the one to whom every family owes its name. (Eph. 3:14, 15) Fathers show their submission to Jehovah by using their authority in a way that pleases God. They can learn much by studying the life of King David.

¹⁵ Jehovah appointed David as head not only of his family but also of the entire nation of Israel. As king, David had a lot of power. At times, he misused that power and made serious mistakes. (2 Sam. 11:14, 15) But he showed his submission to Jehovah by accept-

14. What role has Jehovah assigned to fathers, and what does he expect of them?

15. Why is King David a good example for fathers to consider?



A Christian father's prayers should give evidence of his humility
(See paragraphs 15-16)

ing discipline. He poured out his heart to Jehovah in prayer. And he tried his best to obey Jehovah's counsel. (Ps. 51:1-4) In addition, he was humble enough to accept good advice not only from men but also from women. (1 Sam. 19:11, 12; 25:32, 33) David learned from his mistakes and centered his life on serving Jehovah.

¹⁶ Consider just some of the lessons that fathers can learn from King David: Do not abuse the authority that Jehovah has given you. Admit your mistakes, and accept Bible-based counsel from others. If you do, your family will respect you for your humility. When praying with your family, pour your heart out to Jehovah—let them hear how much you depend on him. And above all, build your life around your service to Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6-9) Your good example is one of the most valuable gifts that you can give to your family.

WHAT MOTHERS CAN LEARN FROM MARY

¹⁷ Jehovah has assigned the mother an honorable role in the family, and he has given her a measure of authority over her children. (Prov. 6:20) In fact, a mother's influence on her children can be profound and lifelong. (Prov. 22:6) Note what mothers can learn from Mary, the mother of Jesus.

16. What lessons can fathers learn from David?

17. What role has Jehovah assigned to mothers?



If a mother is tired or exasperated, she may need to put forth greater effort to express love for family members
(See paragraph 19)

18 Mary knew the Scriptures very well. She had developed a deep respect for Jehovah and had formed a strong personal friendship with him. She was willing to submit to Jehovah’s direction, even though it involved changing her entire life course.—Luke 1:35-38, 46-55.

19 Mothers, you can imitate Mary in a number of ways. How? First, by maintaining your own friendship with Jehovah through personal Bible study and private prayers. Second, by being willing to make changes in your life to please Jehovah. For example, you may have been raised by parents who easily lost their temper and spoke harshly to their children. So you may have grown up thinking that this was a normal way to raise a family. Even after learning Jehovah’s standards, you might find it a challenge to remain calm and patient with your children, especially if they misbehave when you are

18-19. What can mothers learn from Mary’s example?

tired. (Eph. 4:31) At such times, you need more than ever to rely on Jehovah in prayer. A mother named Lydia says: “Sometimes, I have had to pray intensely so that I did not speak angrily when my son disobeyed me. I have even stopped myself mid-sentence and silently prayed for Jehovah’s help. Prayer keeps me calm.”—Ps. 37:5.

²⁰ Some mothers may face a related challenge—they find it difficult to express their love for their children. (Titus 2:3, 4) Some women have been raised in a household where their parents did not have a warm relationship with their children. If that is how you were raised, you do not have to repeat your parents’ mistakes. A mother who submits to Jehovah’s will may have to learn how to express love for her children. It may be difficult for her to change her way of thinking, feeling, and acting. But it can be done, and those changes will benefit both her and her family.

CONTINUE SUBMITTING TO JEHOVAH

²¹ King David knew the benefits of submitting to Jehovah. He wrote: “The orders from Jehovah are righteous, causing the heart to rejoice; the commandment of Jehovah is clean, making the eyes shine. By them

20. What challenge do some mothers face, and how can that challenge be overcome?

21-22. According to Isaiah 65:13, 14, what benefits do we receive from submitting to Jehovah?

your servant has been warned; in keeping them, there is a large reward.” (Ps. 19:8, 11) Today, we can see the contrast between those who submit to Jehovah and those who reject his loving counsel. Those who do submit to Jehovah “shout joyfully because of the good condition of the heart.”—Read Isaiah 65:13, 14.

²² When elders, fathers, and mothers readily submit to Jehovah, their lives improve, their families are happier, and the entire congregation is more united. Most important of all, they make Jehovah’s heart rejoice. (Prov. 27:11) What greater reward could there be?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 32: An elder works along with his son in Kingdom Hall maintenance, just as Nehemiah personally assisted with rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls. **Page 34:** A father represents his family in earnest prayer to Jehovah. **Page 36:** A boy spent hours playing video games and has not completed his chores or schoolwork. His mother, tired from work, disciplines him without losing her temper or using harsh language.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ■ Why might it be a challenge to submit to Jehovah? | ■ In what ways can elders, fathers, and mothers submit to Jehovah? | ■ What will be the result if we continue to submit to Jehovah? |
|---|--|--|

*Loyally Submitting
to Theocratic Order*
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

(Chorus)

