

- Song 11 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Creates Life on Earth”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Genesis.*]
Ge 1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11—Creative days one through three (*it-1* 527-528)
Ge 1:14, 20, 24, 27—Creative days four through six (*it-1* 528 ¶5-8)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 1:1—What does the Bible say about the age of the earth? (*w15* 6/1 5)

Ge 1:26—Was Jesus a co-Creator? (*it-2* 52)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 1:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Practical Value Made Clear*, and then discuss study 13 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *w08* 2/1 5—Theme: Peace of Mind Results From Knowing That We Were Created. (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 73
- **“Can You Explain Your Faith?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the videos *An Orthopedic Surgeon Explains Her Faith* and *A Zoologist Explains His Faith* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 98
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 18 and Prayer

GENESIS 1-2 | Jehovah Creates Life on Earth

1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27 

Write a description of what Jehovah did on each creative day.

- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6



1. Your glory, God, your mighty works abound,
In skies above, their praise for you resounds.
Creation speaks without a voice or word;
In all the earth, its message can be heard.
Creation speaks without a voice or word;
In all the earth, its message can be heard.
2. True wisdom starts with wholesome fear of you
And guards our way in all we say and do.
Your wise commands enlighten young and old—
A treasure far exceeding finest gold.
Your wise commands enlighten young and old—
A treasure far exceeding finest gold.
3. By knowing you, our life is not in vain,
And by your word, our life will be sustained.
The greatest honor anyone can gain
Will come to all who sanctify your name.
The greatest honor anyone can gain
Will come to all who sanctify your name.

Genesis 1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and desolate, and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep, and God's active force was moving about over the surface of the waters.

3 And God said: "Let there be light." Then there was light.

4 After that God saw that the light was good, and God began to divide the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, but the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

6 Then God said: "Let there be an expanse between the waters, and let there be a division between the waters and the waters." **7** Then God went on to make the expanse and divided the waters beneath the expanse from the waters above the expanse. And it was so. **8** God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

9 Then God said: "Let the waters under the heavens be collected together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, but the collecting of the waters, he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said: "Let the earth cause grass to sprout, seed-bearing plants and fruit trees according to their kinds, yielding fruit along with seed on the earth." And it was so. **12** And the earth began to produce grass,

seed-bearing plants and trees yielding fruit along with seed, according to their kinds. Then God saw that it was good.

¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

¹⁴ Then God said: “Let there be luminaries in the expanse of the heavens to make a division between the day and the night, and they will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will serve as luminaries in the expanse of the heavens to shine upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God went on to make the two great luminaries, the greater luminary for dominating the day and the lesser luminary for dominating the night, and also the stars. ¹⁷ Thus God put them in the expanse of the heavens to shine upon the earth ¹⁸ and to dominate by day and by night and to make a division between the light and the darkness. Then God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said: “Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let flying creatures fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ And God created the great sea creatures and all living creatures that move and swarm in the waters according to their kinds and every winged flying creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² With that God blessed them, saying: “Be fruitful and become many and fill the waters of the sea, and let the flying creatures become many in the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said: “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds, domestic animals and creeping animals and wild animals of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God went on to make the wild animals of the earth according to their kinds and the domestic animals according to their kinds and all the creeping animals of the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every creeping animal that is moving on the earth.” 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.”

²⁹ Then God said: “Here I have given to you every seed-bearing plant that is on the entire earth and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. Let them serve as food for you. ³⁰ And to every wild animal of the earth and to every flying creature of the heavens and to everything moving on the earth in which there is life, I have given all green vegetation for food.” And it was so.

³¹ After that God saw everything he had made, and look! it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² And by the seventh day, God had completed the work that he had been doing, and he began to rest on the seventh day from all his work that he had been doing. ³ And God went on to bless the seventh day and to declare it sacred, for on it God has been resting from all the work that he has created, all that he purposed to make.

⁴ This is a history of the heavens and the earth in the time they were created, in the day that Jehovah God made earth and heaven.

⁵ No bush of the field was yet on the earth and no vegetation of the field had begun sprouting, because Jehovah God had not made it rain on the earth and there was no man to cultivate the ground. ⁶ But a mist would go up from the earth, and it watered the entire surface of the ground.

⁷ And Jehovah God went on to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living person. ⁸ Further, Jehovah God planted a garden in E'den, toward the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Thus Jehovah God made to grow out of the ground every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food and also the tree of life in the

middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad.

¹⁰ Now there was a river flowing out of E'den to water the garden, and from there it divided into four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pi'shon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Hav'i-lah, where there is gold. ¹² The gold of that land is good. Bdellium gum and onyx stone are also there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gi'hon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Hid'de-kel; it is the one going to the east of As-syr'i-a. And the fourth river is the Eu-phra'tes.

¹⁵ Jehovah God took the man and settled him in the garden of E'den to cultivate it and to take care of it.

¹⁶ Jehovah God also gave this command to the man: "From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. ¹⁷ But 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 certainly die."

¹⁸ Then Jehovah God said: "It is not good for the man to continue to be alone. I am going to make a helper for him, as a complement of him." ¹⁹ Now Jehovah God had been forming from the ground every wild animal of the field and every flying creature of the heavens, and he began bringing them to the man to see what he would call each one; and whatever the man would call each living creature, that became its name. ²⁰ So the man named all the domestic animals and the flying creatures of the heavens and every

wild animal of the field, but for man there was no helper as a complement of him. ²¹ So Jehovah God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took one of his ribs and then closed up the flesh over its place.

²² And Jehovah God built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman, and he brought her to the man.

²³ Then the man said:

“This is at last bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh.
This one will be called Woman,
Because from man she was taken.”

²⁴ That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ And both of them continued to be naked, the man and his wife; yet they were not ashamed.

- Song 11 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Jehovah Creates Life on Earth”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Genesis.*]
Ge 1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11—Creative days one through three (it-1 527-528)
Ge 1:14, 20, 24, 27—Creative days four through six (it-1 528 ¶5-8)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 1:1—What does the Bible say about the age of the earth? (w15 6/1 5)

Ge 1:26—Was Jesus a co-Creator? (it-2 52)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 1:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Practical Value Made Clear*, and then discuss study 13 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w08 2/1 5—Theme: Peace of Mind Results From Knowing That We Were Created. (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 73
- **“Can You Explain Your Faith?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the videos *An Orthopedic Surgeon Explains Her Faith* and *A Zoologist Explains His Faith* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).
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- Song 18 and Prayer

GENESIS 1-2 | Jehovah Creates Life on Earth

1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27 

Write a description of what Jehovah did on each creative day.

- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6



January 6-12 / Genesis 1-2

- Song 11 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minutes)

Treasures From God's Word

- **"Jehovah Creates Life on Earth":** (10 minutes)

[Play the video *Introduction to Genesis*.]

Genesis 1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11,14,20,24,27

Write a description of what Jehovah did on each creative day.

Genesis 1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11—Creative days one through three

Genesis 1:3, 4: And God said: "Let there be light." Then there was light. After that God saw that the light was good, and God began to divide the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:6: Then God said: "Let there be an expanse between the waters, and let there be a division between the waters and the waters."

Genesis 1:9: Then God said: "Let the waters under the heavens be collected together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

Genesis 1:11: Then God said: "Let the earth cause grass to sprout, seed-bearing plants and fruit trees according to their kinds, yielding fruit along with seed on the earth." And it was so.

it-1 527-528

When God said on Day One, "Let light come to be," diffused light evidently penetrated the cloud layers even though the sources of that light could not yet be discerned from the earth's surface. It seems that this was a gradual process, as is indicated by translator J. W. Watts: "And gradually light came into existence." (Genesis 1:3, *A Distinctive Translation of Genesis*) God brought about a division between the light and the darkness, calling the light Day and the darkness Night. This indicates that the earth was rotating on its axis as it revolved around the sun, so that its hemispheres, eastern and western, could enjoy periods of light and darkness.—Genesis 1:3, 4.

On Day Two God made an expanse by causing a division to occur "between the waters and the waters." Some waters remained on the earth, but a great amount of water was raised high above the surface of the earth, and in between these two there came to be an expanse. God called the expanse Heaven, but this was with relation to the earth, as the waters suspended above the expanse are not said to have enclosed stars or other bodies of the outer heavens.—Genesis 1:6-8; see EXPANSE.

On Day Three by God's miracle-working power the waters on the earth were brought together and dry land appeared, God calling it Earth. It was also on this day that, through no chance factors or evolutionary processes, God acted to superimpose the life principle upon atoms of matter, so that grass, vegetation, and fruit trees were brought into existence. Each of these three general divisions was capable of reproducing according to its "kind."—Genesis 1:9-13.

Genesis 1:14, 20, 24, 27—Creative days four through six

Genesis 1:14: Then God said: "Let there be luminaries in the expanse of the heavens to make a division between the day and the night, and they will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years.

Genesis 1:20: Then God said: "Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let flying creatures fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

Genesis 1:24: Then God said: "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds, domestic animals and creeping animals and wild animals of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

Genesis 1:27: And God went on to create the man in his image, in

God's image he created him; male and female he created them.

it-1 528 paragraphs 5-8

It is also noteworthy that at Genesis 1:16 the Hebrew verb *bara'*, meaning "create," is not used. Instead, the Hebrew verb *'asah'*, meaning "make," is employed. Since the sun, moon, and stars are included in "the heavens" mentioned in Genesis 1:1, they were created long before Day Four. On the fourth day God proceeded to "make" these celestial bodies occupy a new relationship toward earth's surface and the expanse above it. When it is said, "God put them in the expanse of the heavens to shine upon the earth," this would indicate that they now became discernible from the surface of the earth, as though they were in the expanse. Also, the luminaries were to "serve as signs and for seasons and for days and years," thus later providing guidance for man in various ways.— Genesis 1:14.

Day Five was marked by the creation of the first nonhuman souls on earth. Not just *one* creature purposed by God to evolve into other forms, but literally *swarms* of living souls were then brought forth by divine power. It is stated: "God proceeded to create the great sea monsters and every living soul that moves about, which the waters swarmed forth according to their kinds, and every winged flying creature according to its kind." Pleased with what He had produced, God blessed them and, in effect, told them to "become many,"

which was possible, for these creatures of many different family kinds were divinely endowed with the ability to reproduce “according to their kinds.”—Genesis 1:20-23.

On Day Six “God proceeded to make the wild beast of the earth according to its kind and the domestic animal according to its kind and every moving animal of the ground according to its kind,” such work being good, as were all of God’s previous creative works.—Genesis 1:24, 25.

Toward the end of the sixth day of creative activity, God brought into existence an entirely new kind of creature, superior to the animals even though lower than the angels. This was man, created in God’s image and after his likeness. While Genesis 1:27 briefly states concerning humankind “male and female he [God] created them,” the parallel account at Genesis 2:7-9 shows that Jehovah God formed man out of the dust of the ground, blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul, for whom a paradise home and food were provided. In this case Jehovah used the elements of the earth in creative work and then, having formed man, He created the female of humankind using one of Adam’s ribs as a base. (Genesis 2:18-25) With the creation of the woman, man was complete as a “kind.”—Genesis 5:1, 2.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 1:1—What does the Bible say about the age of the earth?

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

w15 6/1 5

Age of the earth and the universe

Scientists estimate that the earth is about 4 billion years old and that the universe was born some 13 to 14 billion years ago. The Bible sets no date for the creation of the universe. In no place does it affirm that the earth is only a few thousand years old. The very first verse in the Bible reads: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) That general statement allows scientists to determine the age of the physical world according to sound scientific principles.

Genesis 1:26—Was Jesus a co-Creator?

Genesis 1:26: Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every creeping animal that is moving

on the earth.”

it-2 52

Not a co-Creator. The Son’s share in the creative works, however, did not make him a co-Creator with his Father. The power for creation came from God through his holy spirit, or active force. (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 33:6) And since Jehovah is the Source of all life, all animate creation, visible and invisible, owes its life to him. (Psalm 36:9) Rather than a co-Creator, then, the Son was the agent or instrumentality through whom Jehovah, the Creator, worked. Jesus himself credited God with the creation, as do all the Scriptures.— Matthew 19:4-6; see CREATION.

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Genesis 1:1-19 (*th* study 5)

- Song 11 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Practical Value Made Clear*, and then discuss study 13 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w08 2/1 5—Theme: Peace of Mind Results From Knowing That We Were Created. (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

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Study 13—Practical Value Made Clear

"I'm not interested."

Have you ever had someone tell you that in the ministry? Some people may simply want us to go away. Others, however, may end the conversation if they can't see how our message affects them personally. So we need to present information that will help our listeners, and then show them how to apply what they just heard.

For instance, imagine that a natural disaster has recently affected part of your territory. How might you include this in your presentation? Let's watch an example:

Hello. It's good to meet you. I'm glad to see that this neighborhood wasn't affected by the recent heavy rains and mudslide.

Yeah, it wasn't too bad here. But we did have a few trees fall behind the house.

Well I don't want to take a lot of your time. We're calling to talk about hope for loved ones who've died. Do you think we'll ever see them again?

Thanks, but I'm not really interested.

What just happened? Would you say that the publisher made clear the practical value of his information? Although he mentioned the recent storm, he failed to notice its effect on the householder. And when he learned how the householder felt, he didn't tailor his

presentation to the man's needs. True, all of the good news of the kingdom is valuable, but some aspects may appeal to people more at specific times in their life. Moreover, if we ignore topics that are on people's minds they might think we're inconsiderate, or rude.

In the example we just watched what Bible account might have made the person think? Let's watch again:

My heart goes out to those who've lost their homes in the recent heavy rains and mudslide.

Me too. We've been helping a family member try to recover some personal belongings. We're just happy that no one was hurt.

Well that's a relief for sure! And it's nice to see the community coming together to help one another. Did you know that the Bible promises a time when we'll no longer experience devastation from so-called natural disasters.

Really? What do you mean?

Well think about the power Jesus displayed when he lived on the earth. Notice what it says here at Mark chapter 4 verse 39. "With that he got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea: Hush! Be quiet! And the wind abated,"

The publisher used a local topic of interest, and the Bible account that the householder could relate to. We can also make practical application of our material when giving a talk. However, when teaching an audience what to do, be careful not to burden them

with guilt. Instead, strengthen their love and faith, and express confidence in their good motives.

If you're preparing a public talk, consider the needs of newly interested ones. Ask yourself: "How can I help this audience to draw close to Jehovah and overcome obstacles that could hinder them from making progress?" Let's watch a brief excerpt from a public talk:

Hebrews 10:24 and 25 says: "And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, not **forsaking** our meeting together, as some **have the custom**, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you see the day drawing near."

So if it's your custom to miss meetings here at the kingdom hall you need to change. Jehovah knows when you're here, and when you're not. Armageddon's coming, and you don't want to miss out on everlasting life.

Was that encouraging? Was it motivating to those attending their first congregation meeting? Although the speaker clearly showed what the audience needed to do, how might you have strengthened their motivation?

Hebrews 10:24 and 25 says: "And let us consider one another so as to **incite** to *love and fine works*, not forsaking our meeting together, as some have the custom, but **encouraging** one another, and *all the more* so as you see the day drawing near."

Within these verses we find important reasons to attend congregation meetings regularly. For instance; we receive

encouragement. Who doesn't need that? This is true all the more so since we're living in *critical* times, and Jehovah's day *is* drawing near. Moreover, attending congregation meetings gives us the opportunity to *incite* others, to love and find works. Yes, even your presence here is motivating. How so? Because you've shown that no matter what else is happening in your life, there is nothing more important to you than praising and honoring Jehovah *here, with* the congregation. So just seeing you here fills us with strength.

By making the practical value of our message clear to our listeners, we help them to understand how the information affects their lives. And we motivate them to action.

Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 minutes)

Discussion. Play the video *Practical Value Made Clear*, and then discuss study 13 of the *Teaching* brochure.

- **Talk:** (5 minutes or less) *w08 2/1 5*—Theme: Peace of Mind Results From Knowing That We Were Created. (*th* study 11)

w08 2/1 5

Knowing that “every family . . . on earth owes its name” to God alters the way we view other people. (Ephesians 3:15) Having such knowledge also influences how we view ourselves and our problems. Our thinking will be affected in the following ways.

When faced with difficult decisions, we will not become unduly worried about man’s conflicting opinions. Instead, we will confidently rely on the Bible’s counsel. Why? Because “all Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.”—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

True, applying the Bible’s counsel involves effort and self-discipline. Sometimes its guidance may even require that we act in ways that seem contrary to our inclinations. (Genesis 8:21) However, if we accept that we were created by a loving heavenly Father, it is only

logical to conclude that he knows the best course for us to take. (Isaiah 55:9) His Word thus assures us: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5, 6) If we apply that counsel, much of the anxiety we experience when facing challenges and decisions will be removed.

When confronted by prejudice, we will not be burdened by feelings of inferiority, thinking that we are somehow less valuable than people of a different race or another cultural background. Instead, we will develop a healthy sense of self-respect. Why? Because our Father, Jehovah God, "is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him."—Acts 10:34, 35.

This realization will also prevent us from allowing prejudice to warp our attitude toward others. We will appreciate that there is no legitimate basis for feeling superior to people of another race, since God "made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth."—Acts 17:26.

Certainly, knowing that we were created and that our Creator cares for us lays the foundation for gaining real peace of mind. But more is needed if we are to maintain inner peace.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

Noah and his family prepare to enter the ark

INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's name?

Scripture: **Ps 83:18**

Link: What is Jehovah's main quality?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 12 ¶14
- *fg* lesson 2

FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What is Jehovah's main quality?

Scripture: **1Jo 4:8**

Link: How can you become God's friend?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 11 ¶13
- *ll* 29

SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How can you become God's friend?

Scripture: **Joh 17:3**

Link: Does Jehovah reveal what the future holds?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 15 ¶19
- *fg* lesson 3

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)

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 1:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Practical Value Made Clear*, and then discuss study 13 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) *w08* 2/1 5—Theme: Peace of Mind Results From Knowing That We Were Created. (11)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 73
- **“Can You Explain Your Faith?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the videos *An Orthopedic Surgeon Explains Her Faith* and *A Zoologist Explains His Faith* (video category INTERVIEWS AND EXPERIENCES).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 98
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 18 and Prayer

GENESIS 1-2 | Jehovah Creates Life on Earth

1:3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 27 

Write a description of what Jehovah did on each creative day.

- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6



Can You Explain Your Faith?

If someone asked you why you believe in creation, what would you say? In order to answer confidently, you must do two things: First, you need to prove to *yourself* that creation is true. (Ro 12:1, 2) Then, you must think about how to explain your faith to someone else.—Pr 15:28.



WATCH THE VIDEOS *AN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON EXPLAINS HER FAITH* AND *A ZOOLOGIST EXPLAINS HIS FAITH* TO SEE THE REASONS OTHERS HAVE FOR BELIEVING IN CREATION, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- Why does Irène Hof Laurenceau believe in creation rather than in evolution?



- Why does Yaroslav Dovhanych believe in creation rather than in evolution?

- How would you explain to someone why you believe in creation?

- What resources from Jehovah’s organization are available in your language to help you prove to yourself and others that God created all things?

Knee: © CLIPAREA/Custom media/Shutterstock.com

Irene Hof Laurenceau:

An Orthopedic Surgeon Explains Her Faith

My name is Irene Hof Laurenceau. I studied medicine at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. And afterward, I specialized in orthopedic surgery.

I didn't believe in a creator because I believed that the species came into existence through evolution. By comparing the anatomies of various organisms we recognized similarities. To me it was logical that there was a link between these similarities, that it indicated that we descend from a common ancestor.

After my studies in medicine I worked in hospitals in surgical departments. In orthopedics a large part of orthopedics involves the insertion of prosthetics to replace joints that are sick or no longer work. Because the knee not only bends and straightens, there is also a sliding movement, a small rotation. With a prosthetic knee, we cannot achieve the complete mobility of a normal healthy knee.

If we see someone skating or dancing we have to believe that there is a designer who is superior to us. For a foot to function properly, there has to be harmony between the joints, the tendons, the muscles, and the nervous system. It's difficult to imagine that it could be the result of evolution.

When someone came to my home to speak about the Bible, I found the arguments in favor of creation more logical. Also I learned there renowned scientists who have doubts themselves about the theory of evolution. By studying the Bible, I came to better know who God is. It's like food. You have to taste it to know if it's good. Likewise, you have to study the Bible to realize that what it says *is* true.

Yaroslav Dovhanych: A Zoologist Explains His Faith

My name is Yaroslav Dovhanych. I received my degree from the biology department of the Uzhgorod State University and specialized in zoology. I love nature very much and want to protect it.

The evolutionary theory, and my opinion, quite reasonably argued that there is no creator—that everything was shaped by a series of random changes and combinations. I was unable to prove this, but I believed it. And that is why I was an evolutionist. I was a staunch evolutionist.

While working in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and studying how ecological systems function, I studied nature through the lens of the evolution theory. When I studied nature through this lens, I began to notice things that contradicted the theory of evolution. I found things that couldn't have been formed by natural selection.

As I started to wonder about this—whether there is a Creator—I began to discover more facts contradicting the theory of evolution. Can anyone say that some computer programs appeared simply by chance? In contrast, evolutionists would like us to believe that DNA was formed by evolution.

To illustrate: say you take some letter blocks, pour them on to the table, and the Encyclopedia Britannica is formed. There is an even smaller probability that DNA originated by evolution.

When I started to seriously consider the possibility that the world might have been created, I began to meditate about the following: I knew that religion explains that the world was created by God. So I decided to examine different religious teachings, including what the Bible says about how God created the world. The Bible is very old, thousands of years old, and yet its contents are accurate and authentic to this day. And the Bible contains many prophecies; these are the foretelling of events. They were to occur in the distant future, sometimes many centuries in the future. History confirms that they have been fulfilled exactly as the Bible foretold.

So these predictions must have been made by someone whose abilities are far greater than man's. This proves that the author of the Bible is not man, but someone who is far wiser and has abilities which man lacks.

98 THE APOSTLES AGAIN SEEK PROMINENCE

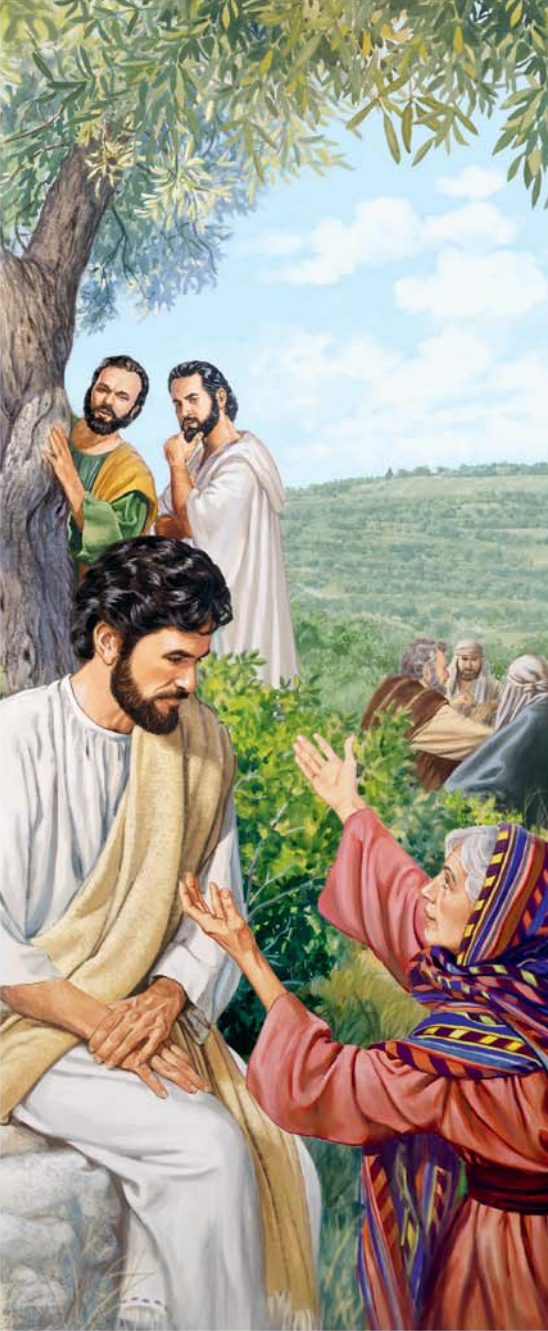
MATTHEW 20:17-28 MARK 10:32-45
LUKE 18:31-34

- JESUS AGAIN FORETELLS HIS DEATH
 - DEALING WITH THE APOSTLES' DESIRE FOR PROMINENCE
-

As Jesus and his disciples complete their journey southward in Perea toward Jerusalem, they cross the Jordan River near Jericho. Others are traveling with them for the Passover of 33 C.E.

Jesus is walking on ahead of the disciples, determined to be in the city on time for the Passover. But the disciples are afraid. Earlier, when Lazarus died and Jesus was about to go from Perea into Judea, Thomas told the others: “Let us also go, so that we may die with him.” (John 11:16, 47-53) So going to Jerusalem is risky, and the disciples’ fear is understandable.

To prepare them for what lies ahead, Jesus takes the apostles aside and tells them: “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn



him to death and hand him over to men of the nations to be mocked and scourged and executed on a stake; and on the third day he will be raised up.”—Matthew 20:18, 19.

This is the third time that Jesus has told his disciples about his death and resurrection. (Matthew 16:21; 17:22, 23) However, this time he says that he will be executed on a stake. They listen to him, yet they do not comprehend the meaning. Perhaps they are expecting the restoration on earth of the kingdom of Israel, wanting to enjoy glory and honor in an earthly kingdom with Christ.

The mother of the apostles James and John, who is apparently Salome, is among the travelers. Jesus has given these two apostles a name meaning “Sons of Thunder,” no doubt because of their fiery disposition. (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:54) For some time, these two have had the ambition of being prominent in Christ’s Kingdom. Their mother is aware of that. She now approaches Jesus in their behalf, bows before him, and asks for a favor. Jesus replies: “What do you want?” She says: “Give the word that these two sons of mine may sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your Kingdom.”—Matthew 20:20, 21.

The request is really coming from James and John. Having just outlined the shame and humiliation he will experience, Jesus says to them: “You do not know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They reply: “We can.” (Matthew 20:22) Still, they likely do not really comprehend what this means for them.

Nevertheless, Jesus tells them: “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit down at my right hand and at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”—Matthew 20:23.

On learning about James and John’s request, the other ten apostles are indignant. Might James and John have been outspoken in the earlier argument among the apostles about who is the greatest? (Luke 9:46-48) Regardless, the present request reveals that the Twelve have not applied the counsel Jesus has given about conducting oneself as a lesser one. Their desire for prominence persists.

Jesus decides to deal with this latest controversy and the ill will it is creating. He calls the Twelve together and counsels them lovingly, saying: “You know that

those who appear to be ruling the nations lord it over them and their great ones wield authority over them. This must not be the way among you; but whoever wants to become great among you must be your minister, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all.”—Mark 10:42-44.

Jesus brings up the example they should imitate—his example. He explains: “The Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many.” (Matthew 20:28) For some three years, Jesus has been ministering in behalf of others. And he will yet do so to the extent of dying for mankind! The disciples need that same Christlike disposition of desiring to serve rather than to be served, to be a lesser one rather than to be in a position of prominence.

- ◇ What does Jesus do to prepare his disciples for what lies ahead?
- ◇ Two apostles make what request of Jesus, and how do the other apostles react?
- ◇ How does Jesus deal with his apostles’ interest in being prominent?

18

Grateful for the Ransom

(Luke 22:20)

1. Today, Jehovah God,
we stand before your throne,
For you showed the greatest love
that could ever be shown.
You gave the gift of your dear Son,
that we might live.
No greater sacrifice than this
could you ever give.

(CHORUS)

*He gave his life to set us free.
His precious blood provides the key.
With all our hearts,
we'll go on thanking you eternally.*

2. It was a willing sacrifice
that Jesus made.
Out of love, his perfect life
was the price that he paid.
We had no hope until he came
to save mankind.
But now our hope is finding life,
leaving death behind.

(Chorus)

NOVEMBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

On Atonement Day, the Israelite high priest entered the Most Holy with incense and fiery coals to fill the room with a sweet-smelling aroma. Later, he reentered the Most Holy with the blood of the sin offerings (See study article 47, paragraph 4)

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104 *God's Gift of Holy Spirit*

(Luke 11:13)

1. Sov'reign, Jehovah, merciful Father,
 Greater you are than our sinful hearts.
 Lighten our burden, soften our anguish,
 Give us the comfort your spirit imparts.
2. Father, we all fall short of your glory;
 Times there have been when we've lost our way.
 God, we implore you: Hear our petition.
 Give us your spirit to guide us each day.
3. When we are weary, weak, or discouraged,
 Your active force will our hearts renew.
 Give us the strength to soar like the eagles;
 May we receive holy spirit from you.

How Holy Spirit Helps Us

“For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power.”—PHIL. 4:13.

SONG 104

God’s Gift of Holy Spirit

PREVIEW

This article highlights how God’s holy spirit can help us to endure. It also considers what we can do to benefit fully from holy spirit.

“WHEN I think about the trial I have gone through, I know that I could not have faced it on my own.” Have you ever said something like that? Many of us have. Perhaps you said it after reflecting on how you were able to cope with a serious illness or the death of a loved one. Looking back, you feel that you were able to go on from day to day only because Jehovah’s holy spirit provided you with “power beyond what is normal.”—2 Cor. 4:7-9.

² We also rely on holy spirit to deal with the influence of this wicked world. (1 John 5:19) In addition, we have to struggle against “wicked spirit forces.” (Eph. 6:12) With all these pressures in mind, we will consider two ways in which holy spirit helps us. Then we will discuss what we can do to benefit fully from holy spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER

³ Jehovah’s holy spirit helps us by giving us the power, or strength, to fulfill our responsibilities despite trials. The apostle Paul felt that he was able to keep working despite his trials because he relied on “the power of the Christ.” (2 Cor. 12:9) During his second missionary tour, Paul not only worked hard

1-2. (a) What helps us to go on from day to day? Explain. (b) What will we consider in this article?

3. What is one way in which Jehovah helps us to endure trials?

in preaching but also supported himself financially. He stayed in Corinth in the home of Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers. Since Paul practiced the same trade, he worked with them part-time. (Acts 18: 1-4) Holy spirit gave Paul the power both to work secularly and to accomplish his ministry.

4 Read **2 Corinthians 12:7b-9**. In this passage, what did Paul mean when he said that he struggled with “a thorn in the flesh”? If you had a thorn stuck in your body, you would be in a lot of pain. So Paul was saying that he faced a painful personal trial of some sort. He called this trial “an angel of Satan” that kept “slapping” (“beating,” ftn.) him. Satan or his demon angels may not directly have caused Paul’s trials, as if driving a thorn into his flesh. But when those wicked spirits noticed the “thorn,” they may have been eager to push it in deeper, so to speak, to increase Paul’s pain. What did Paul do?

5 At first, Paul wanted to be rid of the “thorn.” He admits: “Three times I begged the Lord [Jehovah] . . . that it would depart from me.” Yet, despite Paul’s prayers, the thorn in the flesh remained. Does this mean that Jehovah did not answer Paul’s

4. According to 2 Corinthians 12:7b-9, what struggle did Paul have?

5. How did Jehovah respond to Paul’s prayers?

prayers? Not at all. He did answer them. Jehovah did not remove the problem, but he did give Paul the strength to endure it. Jehovah said: “My power is being made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:8, 9) And with God’s help, Paul was able to maintain his joy and inner peace!—Phil. 4:4-7.

⁶ Like Paul, have you ever begged Jehovah to deliver you from a trial? If despite your earnest pleadings the problem persisted—or even got worse—did you worry that perhaps Jehovah was displeased with you? If so, remember Paul’s example. Just as Jehovah answered his prayers, He will certainly respond to your prayers! Jehovah may not remove the problem. But by means of holy spirit, he will give you the strength you need to endure the trial. (Ps. 61:3, 4) You may be “knocked down,” but Jehovah will not abandon you.—2 Cor. 4:8, 9; Phil. 4:13.

HOLY SPIRIT MOVES US FORWARD

⁷ What is yet another way in which holy spirit helps us? Like a favorable wind on a stormy sea, holy spirit moves us forward through stormy trials to the haven of God’s promised new world.

6. (a) How may Jehovah respond to our prayers? (b) What assurances found in the cited scriptures give you strength?

7-8. (a) In what way is holy spirit like the wind? (b) How did Peter describe the working of holy spirit?

⁸ As a fisherman, the apostle Peter was accustomed to sailing. So it is worth noting that he described the working of holy spirit by using an expression that apparently is related to sailing. He wrote: “Prophecy was at no time brought by man’s will, but men spoke from God as they were moved by holy spirit.” The Greek word translated “moved” literally means “carried along; borne along.”—2 Pet. 1: 21; ftn.

⁹ What word picture did Peter draw with the expression “borne along”? A similar form of the same Greek word was used by Luke, the writer of Acts, to describe a ship that is “driven along” by the wind. (Acts 27:15) So when Peter wrote that Bible writers were “borne along,” he used “a fascinating maritime metaphor,” as one Bible scholar put it. Peter said, in effect, that just as a ship is carried along by the wind to accomplish its journey, so Bible prophets and writers were borne along by holy spirit to accomplish their task. The same scholar said: “The prophets raised their sails, so to speak.” Jehovah did his part. He provided “the wind,” or holy spirit. The Bible writers did their part. They worked in harmony with the direction of that spirit.

9. What word picture did Peter draw by using the expression “borne along”?

¹⁰ Of course, the time for recording inspired writings has passed for now. However, holy spirit is still exerting power on God's people. Jehovah is still doing his part. How can we benefit from God's holy spirit? We need to make sure that we keep doing our part. How do we do that?

¹¹ Think of this comparison. To benefit from the wind, a sailor must do two things. First, he has to put his boat in the path of the wind. After all, his boat will not move forward if the sailor remains in a harbor far away from where the wind is blowing. Second, he needs to raise and unfurl his sails as fully as possible. Obviously, even with the wind blowing, his boat will move forward only if the sails catch the wind. Similarly, we will endure in Jehovah's service only if we have the help of holy spirit. To benefit from that spirit, we must take two steps. First, we must put ourselves squarely in the path of God's spirit by sharing in activities that bring us under its influence. Second, we need to "raise our sails" as fully as possible by being fully engaged in these activities to the best of our ability. (Ps. 119:32) When we take these steps, holy spirit will push us forward through waves of opposition and trials and will help us to endure faithfully on the course to God's new world.

10-11. What two steps do we need to take to ensure that we are moved by holy spirit? Illustrate.



STEP 1:
Share in spiritual
activities on a
regular basis
(See paragraph 11)



STEP 2:
Be fully engaged
in those spiritual
activities to the best
of your ability
(See paragraph 11)



12 So far we have discussed two ways in which holy spirit helps us. Holy spirit gives us power and helps us to stay faithful while facing trials. Holy spirit also moves us forward and helps us to remain on the path to life everlasting. Now we will consider four things we must do to benefit fully from holy spirit.

HOW TO BENEFIT FULLY FROM HOLY SPIRIT

13 *First, study God's Word.* (Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.) The Greek word translated "inspired of God"

12. What will we now consider?

13. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, what can the Scriptures do for us, but what must we do?

literally means “God-breathed.” God used his spirit to “breathe” his thoughts into the minds of Bible writers. When we read the Bible and meditate on what we read, God’s instructions enter our mind and heart. Those inspired thoughts move us to bring our life in line with God’s will. (Heb. 4:12) But to benefit fully from holy spirit, we must set aside time to study the Bible regularly and to think deeply about what we read. Then God’s Word will influence all that we say and do.

¹⁴ *Second, worship God together.* (Ps. 22:22) In a sense, our Christian meetings are events where “the wind is blowing.” Jehovah’s spirit is present at meetings. (Rev. 2:29) Why can we say that? Because when we meet for worship with fellow Christians, we pray for holy spirit, we sing Kingdom songs based on God’s Word, and we listen to Bible-based instruction presented by brothers who have been appointed by holy spirit. And that same holy spirit helps sisters prepare and deliver their parts. To benefit fully from holy spirit, however, we need to come prepared to participate in the meetings. That way, we attend the meetings with “unfurled sails.”

¹⁵ *Third, share in the preaching work.* When we use

14. (a) Why can we say that “the wind is blowing” at our Christian meetings? (b) How can we attend meetings with “unfurled sails”?

15. How is holy spirit involved in the preaching work?

the Bible in the preaching and teaching work, we allow holy spirit to be involved in our ministry. (Rom. 15:18, 19) To benefit fully from God's spirit, though, you must have a regular share in the preaching work and use the Bible whenever possible. One way you can make your ministry more meaningful is by using the sample conversations from the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*.

¹⁶ *Fourth, pray to Jehovah.* (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:13) The most direct way to obtain holy spirit is to ask Jehovah for it in prayer. Nothing can stop our prayers from reaching Jehovah or block the good gift of God's spirit from reaching us—not any prison wall and not even Satan. (Jas. 1:17) How should we pray so that we benefit fully from holy spirit? To answer, let us examine the subject of prayer in more detail by considering an illustration found only in Luke's Gospel.*

PRAY WITH PERSISTENCE

¹⁷ **Read Luke 11:5-9, 13.** Jesus' illustration shows

* Luke, more than any other Gospel writer, highlights that prayer was a prominent part of Jesus' life.—Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28, 29; 18:1; 22:41, 44.

16. What is the most direct way to obtain holy spirit?

17. What lesson about prayer can we learn from Jesus' illustration recorded at Luke 11:5-9, 13?

Benefit Fully From Holy Spirit

We need holy spirit to push us forward through waves of opposition and trials. Here are four essential activities that put us in the path of God's spirit

(See paragraphs 13-16)



**STUDY
GOD'S
WORD**

**ATTEND
MEETINGS**

**SHARE IN
PREACHING**

**PRAY TO
JEHOVAH**

how we should pray for holy spirit. In the illustration, the man received what he needed “because of his bold persistence.” He was not afraid to ask his friend for help even though it was late at night. (See study note on Luke 11:8.) How did Jesus apply this illustration to prayer? He said: “Keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you.” So, what is the lesson for us? To receive the help of holy spirit, we must *pray for it with persistence.*

¹⁸ Jesus’ illustration also helps us to see *why Jehovah will give us holy spirit.* The man in the illustration wanted to be a good host. He felt compelled to serve food to his late-night visitor but had nothing to offer him. Jesus said that the neighbor responded because of the man’s bold persistence in asking for bread. What was Jesus’ point? If an imperfect human is willing to help a persistent neighbor, how much more so will our kind heavenly Father help those who persistently ask him for holy spirit! Therefore, we can pray with confidence that Jehovah will respond to our urgent request for holy spirit.—Ps. 10:17; 66:19.

18. According to Jesus’ illustration, why can we be confident that Jehovah will give us his holy spirit?

19 We can be sure that in spite of Satan’s relentless efforts to defeat us, we will be victorious. Why? Because holy spirit helps us in two ways. First, it gives us the power we need to overcome trials. Second, it is the force that “fills our sails,” helping us to move forward in serving Jehovah with life in God’s new world in view. Let us be determined to benefit fully from the help of holy spirit!

19. Why can we be sure that we will be victorious?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 21: STEP 1: A brother and sister arrive at the Kingdom Hall. By meeting together with fellow believers, they share in an event where Jehovah’s spirit is present. STEP 2: They are prepared to participate in the meeting. The same two-step approach holds true for the other activities considered in this article: studying God’s Word, sharing in the preaching work, and praying to Jehovah.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What are two ways in which holy spirit helps us?
- By taking what steps can we benefit fully from holy spirit?
- How should we pray for holy spirit?

Please Hear My Prayer

(Psalm 54)

1. Heavenly Father, please hear my song.
You are my God; to you I belong.
Great is your name, beyond all compare.

(CHORUS)

Gracious Jehovah, please hear my prayer.

2. Thank you, O God, for granting this day,
Giving me life, and showing the way.
How I delight in your tender care.

(Chorus)

3. Oh, how I long to do what is right!
Help me, O Lord, to walk in the light.
Give me the strength all burdens to bear.

(Chorus)

