

- Song 72 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 3:1-5—The Devil slandered God (*w17.02 5 ¶9*)
 Ge 3:6—Adam and Eve disobeyed God (*w00 11/15 25-26*)
 Ge 3:15-19—God condemned the rebels (*w12 9/1 4 ¶2; w04 1/1 29 ¶2; it-2 186*)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 4:23, 24—Why did Lamech compose this poem? (*it-2 192 ¶5*)
- Ge 4:26—In what way apparently did people in Enosh’s day begin “calling on the name of Jehovah”? (*it-1 338 ¶2*)

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 4:17–5:8 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: What did you like about the introduction? What can we learn from when the publishers scheduled the return visit?
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (1)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to an objection common in your territory. (3)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 63
- **“How to Start Conversations With Tracts”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play and discuss the video that shows how a conversation can be started using a tract.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 99
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 85 and Prayer

GENESIS 3-5 | The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie

3:1-6, 15-19

Satan has been misleading humans ever since he lied to Eve. (Re 12:9) How do the following lies that are promoted by Satan hinder people from drawing close to Jehovah?

- There is no all-powerful divine being
- God is a mysterious Trinity
- God does not have a name
- God torments people forever in a burning hell
- Everything that happens is God’s will
- God does not care about humans

 **How do these lies about God make you feel?**

How can you help to clear God’s name?



72 *Making Known the Kingdom Truth* (Acts 20:20, 21)

1. There was a time we did not know
 The way a Christian ought to go.
 Then Jehovah sent the light,
 His Kingdom truth so clear and bright.
Our Father's will we then could see
 To serve the grand Theocracy,
 To declare Jehovah's fame,
 And help to glorify his holy name.
We witness now to all we meet,
 From door to door and on the street.
We take the time to help them see;
 We teach the truth that sets us free.
And as we strive in ev'ry land
 Jehovah's worship to expand,
May we serve our God as one
 Until Jehovah says the work is done.

Genesis 3-5

3 Now the serpent was the most cautious of all the wild animals of the field that Jehovah God had made. So it said to the woman: “Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?” ² At this the woman said to the serpent: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. ³ But God has said about the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden: ‘You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it; otherwise you will die.’” ⁴ At this the serpent said to the woman: “You certainly will not die. ⁵ For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad.”

⁶ Consequently, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something desirable to the eyes, yes, the tree was pleasing to look at. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward, she also gave some to her husband when he was with her, and he began eating it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made loin coverings for themselves.

⁸ Later they heard the voice of Jehovah God as he was walking in the garden about the breezy part of the day, and the man and his wife hid from the face of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ And Jehovah God kept calling to the man and saying to him: “Where are you?” ¹⁰ Finally he said: “I heard your voice in the garden, but I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself.” ¹¹ At that he

said: “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹² The man said: “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate.” ¹³ Jehovah God then said to the woman: “What is this you have done?” The woman replied: “The serpent deceived me, so I ate.”

¹⁴ Then Jehovah God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic animals and out of all the wild animals of the field. On your belly you will go, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said: “I will greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in pain you will give birth to children, and your longing will be for your husband, and he will dominate you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said: “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, ‘You must not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ After this Adam named his wife Eve, because she was to become the mother of everyone living. ²¹ And Jehovah God made long garments from skins for Adam and for his wife, to clothe them. ²² Jehovah God then said: “Here the man has become like one of us in knowing good and bad. Now in order that he may not put his hand out and take fruit also from the tree of life and eat and live forever,—” ²³ With that Jehovah God expelled him from the garden of E'den to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ So he drove the man out, and he posted at the east of the garden of E'den the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning continuously to guard the way to the tree of life.

4 Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said: “I have produced a male child with the help of Jehovah.” ² Later she again gave birth, to his brother Abel.

Abel became a shepherd of the flock, but Cain became a cultivator of the ground. ³ After some time, Cain brought some fruits of the land as an offering to Jehovah. ⁴ But Abel brought some firstlings of his flock, including their fat. While Jehovah looked with favor on Abel and on his offering, ⁵ he did not look with any favor on Cain and on his offering. So Cain grew hot with anger and was dejected. ⁶ Then Jehovah said to Cain: “Why are you so angry and dejected? ⁷ If you turn to doing good, will you not be restored to favor? But if you do not turn to doing good, sin is crouching at the door, and its craving is to dominate you; but will you get the mastery over it?”

⁸ After that Cain said to his brother Abel: "Let us go over into the field." So while they were in the field, Cain assaulted his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Later on, Jehovah said to Cain: "Where is your brother Abel?" and he said: "I do not know. Am I my brother's guardian?" ¹⁰ At this He said: "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed in banishment from the ground that has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will not give you back its produce. You will become a wanderer and a fugitive in the earth." ¹³ At this Cain said to Jehovah: "The punishment for my error is too great to bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your face; and I will become a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth, and anyone who finds me will certainly kill me." ¹⁵ So Jehovah said to him: "For that reason, anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times."

So Jehovah set up a sign for Cain in order that no one finding him would strike him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from before Jehovah and took up residence in the land of Exile, to the east of E'den.

¹⁷ Afterward Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to E'noch. Then he engaged in building a city and named the city after his son E'noch. ¹⁸ Later I'rad was born to E'noch. And I'rad became father to Me-hu'ja-el, and Me-hu'ja-el became father to Me-thu'sha-el, and Me-thu'sha-el became father to La'mech.

¹⁹ La'mech took two wives for himself. The name of the first was A'dah, and the name of the second was Zil'lah.

²⁰ A'dah gave birth to Ja'bal. He was the founder of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Ju'bal. He was the founder of all those who play the harp and the pipe. ²² Also, Zil'lah gave birth to Tu'bal-cain, who forged every sort of tool of copper and iron. And the sister of Tu'bal-cain was Na'a-mah. ²³ Then La'mech composed these words for his wives A'dah and Zil'lah:

“Hear my voice, you wives of La'mech;
Give ear to my saying:
A man I have killed for wounding me,
Yes, a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If 7 times Cain is to be avenged,
Then La'mech 77 times.”

²⁵ Adam again had sexual relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a son. She named him Seth because, as she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring in place of Abel, because Cain killed him.” ²⁶ There was also born to Seth a son, and he named him E'nosh. At that time people began calling on the name of Jehovah.

5 This is the book of Adam's history. In the day that God created Adam, he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them. On the day they were created, he blessed them and named them Man.

³ Adam lived for 130 years and then became father to a son in his likeness, in his image, and he named him Seth.

⁴ After becoming father to Seth, Adam lived for 800 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ⁵ So all the days of Adam's life amounted to 930 years, and then he died.

⁶ Seth lived for 105 years and then became father to E'nosh. ⁷ After becoming father to E'nosh, Seth lived for 807 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ⁸ So all the days of Seth amounted to 912 years, and then he died.

⁹ E'nosh lived for 90 years and then became father to Ke'nan. ¹⁰ After becoming father to Ke'nan, E'nosh lived for 815 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ¹¹ So all the days of E'nosh amounted to 905 years, and then he died.

¹² Ke'nan lived for 70 years and then became father to Ma-hal'a-lel. ¹³ After becoming father to Ma-hal'a-lel, Ke'nan lived for 840 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So all the days of Ke'nan amounted to 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵ Ma-hal'a-lel lived for 65 years and then became father to Ja'red. ¹⁶ After becoming father to Ja'red, Ma-hal'a-lel lived for 830 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So all the days of Ma-hal'a-lel amounted to 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸ Ja'red lived for 162 years and then became father to E'noch. ¹⁹ After becoming father to E'noch, Ja'red lived for 800 years. And he became father to sons and daughters.

²⁰ So all the days of Ja'red amounted to 962 years, and then he died.

²¹ E'noch lived for 65 years and then became father to Me·thu'se·lah. ²² After becoming father to Me·thu'se·lah, E'noch continued to walk with the true God for 300 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of E'noch amounted to 365 years. ²⁴ E'noch kept walking with the true God. Then he was no more, for God took him.

²⁵ Me·thu'se·lah lived for 187 years and then became father to La'mech. ²⁶ After becoming father to La'mech, Me·thu'se·lah lived for 782 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ²⁷ So all the days of Me·thu'se·lah amounted to 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸ La'mech lived for 182 years and then became father to a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah, saying: "This one will bring us comfort from our labor and from the painful toil of our hands because of the ground that Jehovah has cursed." ³⁰ After becoming father to Noah, La'mech lived for 595 years. And he became father to sons and daughters. ³¹ So all the days of La'mech amounted to 777 years, and then he died.

³² After Noah reached 500 years of age, he became father to Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

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- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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GENESIS 3-5 | The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie

3:1-6, 15-19

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January 13-19 / Genesis 3-5

- Song 72 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minutes)

Treasures From God's Word

"The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie": (10 minutes)

Genesis 3:1-6, 15-19

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Genesis 3:1-5—The Devil slandered God

Genesis 3:1-5: Now the serpent was the most cautious of all the wild animals of the field that Jehovah God had made. So it said to the woman: "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" At this the woman said to the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But God has said about the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden: 'You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it; otherwise you will die.'" At this the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die. For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad."

w17.02 5 paragraph 9

Satan the Devil, using a serpent, fooled Eve into disobeying her Father, Jehovah. (Read Genesis 3:1-5; Revelation 12:9) Satan made an issue of the fact that God's human children were not allowed to eat "from every tree of the garden." It was as if he were saying: "You mean you cannot do what you want?" Next, he told a blatant lie: "You certainly will not die." Then he tried to convince Eve that she need not listen to God, saying: "God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened." Satan implied that Jehovah did not want them to eat the fruit because doing so would enlighten them. Further, Satan made this false promise: "You will be like God, knowing good and bad."

Genesis 3:6—Adam and Eve disobeyed God

Genesis 3:6: Consequently, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something desirable to the eyes, yes, the tree was pleasing to look at. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward, she also gave some to her husband when he was with her, and he began eating it.

w00 11/15 25-26

Was Eve's sin inevitable? By no means! Put yourself in her place. The serpent's claim completely distorted what God and Adam had said. How would you feel if a stranger charged someone you love and trust with dishonesty? Eve should have reacted differently, showing disgust and indignation, even refusing to listen. After all, who was the serpent to question God's righteousness and her husband's word? Out of respect for the principle of headship, Eve should have sought advice before making any decision. So should we if we are ever presented with information contrary to God-given instructions. Yet, Eve trusted the Tempter's words, desiring to be her own judge of what was good and what was bad. The more she toyed with the idea, the more it appealed to her. What an error she made by entertaining a wrong desire, instead of dismissing it from her mind or discussing matters with her family head!—1 Corinthians 11:3; James 1:14, 15.

Adam Listens to His Wife's Voice

Eve soon induced Adam to join her in sin. How are we to explain his limp acquiescence? (Genesis 3:6, 17) Adam faced a conflict of loyalties. Would he obey his Creator, who had given him everything, including his beloved mate, Eve? Would Adam seek God's direction on what he was to do now? Or would the man throw in his lot with his wife? Adam knew very well that what she hoped to gain by eating the forbidden fruit was illusory. The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression." (1 Timothy 2:14) So Adam deliberately chose to defy Jehovah. His fear of being separated from his wife was evidently greater than his faith in God's ability to remedy the situation.

Genesis 3:15-19—God condemned the rebels

Genesis 3:15-19: And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel." To the woman he said: "I will greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in pain you will give birth to children, and your longing will be for your husband, and he will dominate you." And to Adam he said: "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree

concerning which I gave you this command, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return."

w12 9/1 4 paragraph 2

- Have women been cursed by God?

No. Instead, it is "the original serpent, the one called Devil," who has been "cursed" by God. (Revelation 12:9; Genesis 3:14) When God said that Adam would "dominate" his wife, God was not indicating his approval of the subjugation of woman by man. (Genesis 3:16) He was simply foretelling the sad consequences of sin on the first couple.

w04 1/1 29 paragraph 2

Genesis 3:17—In what way was the ground cursed, and for how long? The curse pronounced on the ground meant that cultivating it would now become very difficult. The effects of the cursed ground, with its thorns and thistles, were so keenly felt by Adam's descendants that Noah's father, Lamech, spoke of "the pain of our hands resulting from the ground which Jehovah has cursed."

(Genesis 5:29) After the Flood, Jehovah blessed Noah and his sons,

stating His purpose that they fill the earth. (Genesis 9:1) God's curse on the ground was apparently lifted.—Genesis 13:10.

***it-2* 186**

The tribulation associated with giving birth. God expressed to the first woman, Eve, after she had sinned, what the result would be as to childbearing. If she had remained obedient, God's blessing would have continued upon her and childbearing would have been an unmixed joy, for, "the blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it." (Proverbs 10:22) But now, as a general rule, the imperfect functioning of the body would bring pain. Accordingly, God said (as often the things that he *permits* are said to be *done* by him): "I shall greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in birth pangs you will bring forth children."—Genesis 3:16.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 4:23, 24—Why did Lamech compose this poem?

Genesis 4:23, 24: Then Lamech composed these words for his wives Adah and Zillah: "Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech; Give ear to my saying: A man I have killed for wounding me, Yes, a young man for striking me. If 7 times Cain is to be avenged, Then Lamech 77 times."

***it-2* 192 paragraph 5**

The poem that Lamech composed for his wives (Genesis 4:23, 24) reflects the violent spirit of that day. Lamech's poem ran: "Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech; give ear to my saying: A man I have killed for wounding me, yes, a young man for giving me a blow. If seven times Cain is to be avenged, then Lamech seventy times and seven." Evidently Lamech was presenting a case of self-defense, pleading that his act was not one of deliberate murder, like that of Cain. Lamech claimed that, in defending himself, he had killed the man who struck and wounded him. Therefore, his poem stood as a plea for immunity against anyone desiring to get revenge against him for killing his attacker.

Genesis 4:26—In what way apparently did people in Enosh's day begin "calling on the name of Jehovah"?

Genesis 4:26: There was also born to Seth a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began calling on the name of Jehovah.

***it-1* 338 paragraph 2**

The "calling on the name of Jehovah" that started in the time of Enosh during the pre-Flood period must not have been of an

upright and proper nature, for Abel long before that had undoubtedly been directing himself to God by the divine name. (Genesis 4:26; Hebrews 11:4) If, as some scholars hold, this calling on God's name was in the sense of misusing it and improperly applying Jehovah's name to humans or to idolatrous objects, then this would constitute a blasphemous act.—See ENOSH, ENOS.

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APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

● 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

VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

Jeff (Publisher 1): Good evening.

Lisa (Householder): Good evening.

Jeff (Publisher 1): It's nice to find you at home. We're here because many people would like to feel closer to God. You'd probably agree that before we can form a relationship with someone, we need to know the person's name, but what about God? What's his name? What have you heard?

Lisa (Householder): I've just heard him called God.

Kim (Publisher 2): We've heard that too.

Jeff (Publisher 1): Thankfully, the Bible reveals God's personal name. Kim, would you read Psalm 83:18 for us?

Kim (Publisher 2): Sure, it says:

¹⁸ “May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”



Jeff (Publisher 1): Thanks, so according to this, what's God's name?

Lisa (Householder): It says, Jehovah.

Kim (Publisher 2): Yeah, have you seen that name in the Bible before?

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

Jeff (Publisher 1): The Bible also tells us that of all of Jehovah's qualities, one is dominant and stands out above the others. If it's okay, maybe we can talk about that next time.

Lisa (Householder): Okay, I'd like that.

Jeff (Publisher 1): By the way, my name is Jeff and this is my wife Kim.

Lisa (Householder): I'm Lisa.

Kim (Publisher 2): Will you be home at this time tomorrow? Lisa?

video source:

https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODSampleConversations/pub-mwbv_202001_1_VIDEO



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?

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- *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*

63 *We're Jehovah's Witnesses!*

(Isaiah 43:10-12)

1. Men make gods of wood and stone,
 But the true God they've not known.
He is God Almighty,
 As he's often shown.
Other gods just cannot see
 What in future days will be.
For witnesses they look all in vain,
 Since none their godship can maintain.

(CHORUS)

We're Jehovah's Witnesses.

We speak out in fearlessness.

Ours is the God of true prophecy;

What he foretells comes to be.

2. Proudly we declare God's name,
 Bearing witness to his fame.
News about his Kingdom,
 Boldly we proclaim.
We help others come to see
 How the truth can set them free.
As they grow strong, their voices they'll raise,
 Singing to God this song of praise.

(Chorus)

3. Witnessing exalts God's name,
Lifts therefrom reproach and shame.
And it warns the wicked,
Who God's name defame.
Pardon it holds out to men,
If they turn to God again.
Whole-souled devotion brings joy and peace;
Promise of life that will not cease.

(CHORUS)

*We're Jehovah's Witnesses.
We speak out in fearlessness.
Ours is the God of true prophecy;
What he foretells comes to be.*

- Song 72 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 3:1-5—The Devil slandered God (*w17.02 5 ¶9*)
 Ge 3:6—Adam and Eve disobeyed God (*w00 11/15 25-26*)
 Ge 3:15-19—God condemned the rebels (*w12 9/1 4 ¶2; w04 1/1 29 ¶2; it-2 186*)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 4:23, 24—Why did Lamech compose this poem? (*it-2 192 ¶5*)
- Ge 4:26—In what way apparently did people in Enosh’s day begin “calling on the name of Jehovah”? (*it-1 338 ¶2*)

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 4:17–5:8 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: What did you like about the introduction? What can we learn from when the publishers scheduled the return visit?
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (1)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to an objection common in your territory. (3)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then leave a recent magazine to address a topic raised by the householder. (2)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 63
- **“How to Start Conversations With Tracts”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play and discuss the video that shows how a conversation can be started using a tract.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 99
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 85 and Prayer

GENESIS 3-5 | The Devastating Consequences of the First Lie

3:1-6, 15-19

Satan has been misleading humans ever since he lied to Eve. (Re 12:9) How do the following lies that are promoted by Satan hinder people from drawing close to Jehovah?

- There is no all-powerful divine being
- God is a mysterious Trinity
- God does not have a name
- God torments people forever in a burning hell
- Everything that happens is God’s will
- God does not care about humans

 **How do these lies about God make you feel?**

How can you help to clear God’s name?



Living as Christians

- Song 63

“How to Start Conversations With Tracts”: (15 minutes)

Discussion. Play and discuss the video that shows how a conversation can be started using a tract.

How to Start Conversations With Tracts

Since January 2018, the cover of the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook* has featured sample conversations. We have been encouraged to focus on conversing with people rather than simply presenting literature to them. To help publishers adjust their approach, the sample conversation videos have shown how to start a conversation using only the Bible. Does this mean, however, that we should not use literature when preaching from house to house? Not at all! For example, tracts can be an effective way to start a conversation. We can use the following formula when using any of the tracts:

1. Ask the multiple-choice question on the front.
2. Show the Bible’s answer found in the scripture(s) at the top of the second page. If time allows, read and discuss some information from the inside of the tract.
3. Give the tract to the householder, and encourage him to read the

rest of it at his convenience.

4. Before leaving, show the “To Think About” question and arrange to discuss the Bible’s answer next time.

When you return, discuss the answer and leave another question to be discussed next time. You might choose a question from our website or from the publication referred to on the back page. At an appropriate time, introduce the brochure *Good News From God!* or another study publication from the Teaching Toolbox.

- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 minutes) *jy* chapter 99
- Concluding Comments (3 minutes or less)
- Song 85 and Prayer



“How To Start Conversations With Tracts”

VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

Conversation With A Tract

(Publisher 1): Hello, We're here because many people are concerned about the future. How do you view the future? Do you think our world will stay the same, get worse, or get better?

(Householder): I don't know. The world seems worse today than it was a few years ago, so I'll say that it'll get worse.



(Publisher 1): Many people feel that way. These verses show how the Bible answers that question. Amy, would you please read Revelation 21:3, 4

(Publisher 2): Sure

³ “With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: ‘Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry, nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.’”

(Publisher 1): Thanks, according to the Bible, what can we look forward to in the future?

(Householder): Hmm, no death, no pain, I don't know, that seems too good to be true.

(Publisher 2): It's hard to imagine.

(Publisher 1): We have at least two reasons to believe the Bible is promise. Notice here, When you have time, please read what it says.

(Householder): Okay, thank you.

(Publisher 1): Before I go, I'd like to point out an interesting question here for you to think about, How will God change our world for the better? In other words, How will God end death and pain? I'd like to



come back with my husband and discuss the subject further and answered that question, Are you usually home at this time?

(In short time, later Publishers return visits)

(Publisher 1 – Sister): Hi, I'm glad to find you at home again, this is my husband, David.

(Householder): Hi, David.

(Publisher 2 – Brother): Hi.

(Publisher 1 – Sister): I said that I'd return and discuss this question. How will God change our world for the better?

(Householder): Oh yeah, that's a good question, I wish I knew the answer.

(Publisher 2 – Brother): Notice the two scriptures here that give the Bible's answer. The first is from Matthew 6:9, 10 that's where we find the Lord's prayer, Have you ever prayed that prayer?

(Minutes later)

(Publisher 2 – Brother): So it's God's kingdom that will bring God's will to the earth and end death and pain, but what is God's kingdom? We'd like to answer that next time.

99

JESUS HEALS BLIND MEN AND HELPS ZACCHAEUS

MATTHEW 20:29-34 MARK 10:46-52
LUKE 18:35-19:10

- JESUS HEALS BLIND MEN AT JERICHO
 - TAX COLLECTOR ZACCHAEUS REPENTS
-

Jesus and those traveling with him arrive at Jericho, which is about a day's journey from Jerusalem. In a sense, Jericho is a double city, the older city being about a mile from the newer Roman city. As Jesus and the crowds make their way out of one of these cities and approach the other, two blind beggars hear the commotion. One of them is named Bartimaeus.

On hearing that Jesus is passing by, Bartimaeus and his companion begin shouting: "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Matthew 20:30) Some in the crowd sternly tell them to be quiet, but the two cry out even louder. Hearing the disturbance, Jesus stops. He asks those with him to call whoever is shouting. They go to the beggars and say to one of them: "Take courage! Get up; he is calling you."



(Mark 10:49) Excitedly, the blind man throws off his outer garment, leaps to his feet, and goes to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asks. Both blind men plead: “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” (Matthew 20:32, 33) Moved with pity, Jesus touches their eyes and, particularly to one of them, says: “Go. Your faith has made you well.” (Mark 10:52) The two blind beggars receive sight, and doubtless both begin glorifying God. Seeing what has happened, the people also give praise to God. The formerly blind men now begin to follow Jesus.

There are tremendous crowds around Jesus as he passes through Jericho. Everyone wants to see the one who has healed the blind men. The people press in on Jesus from every direction; hence, some cannot even get a glimpse of him. That is true of Zacchaeus. He is chief over the tax collectors in and around Jericho. Because he is short, he cannot see what is going on. So Zacchaeus runs ahead and climbs a sycamore (or, fig-mulberry) tree along the route that Jesus is taking. From up there, Zacchaeus gets a good view of everything. As Jesus draws near and sees Zacchaeus up in the tree, he says: “Zacchaeus,



hurry and get down, for today I must stay in your house.” (Luke 19:5) Zacchaeus climbs down and hurries home to welcome his distinguished visitor.

When the people see what is happening, they begin to grumble. They feel that it is not right for Jesus to be the guest of a man whom they view as a sinner. Zacchaeus has become rich by dishonestly extorting money while he is collecting taxes.

As Jesus enters Zacchaeus’ home, the people complain: “He went as a guest to the house of a man who is a sinner.” However, Jesus sees in Zacchaeus the potential for repentance. And Jesus is not disappointed. Zacchaeus stands up and tells him: “Look! The half of my belongings, Lord, I am giving to the poor, and whatever I extorted from anyone, I am restoring four times over.”—Luke 19:7, 8.

What a fine way for Zacchaeus to prove that his repentance is genuine! He can likely calculate from his tax records just how much he had received from various Jews, and he vows to make a fourfold restoration. That is even more than God’s law requires. (Exodus 22:1; Leviticus 6:2-5) Moreover, Zacchaeus

promises to take half of his belongings and give them to the poor.

Jesus is pleased with this evidence of Zacchaeus' repentance and tells him: "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save what was lost."—Luke 19:9, 10.

Recently, Jesus has focused on the situation of 'the lost' with his illustration about the lost son. (Luke 15:11-24) Now he has provided a real-life example of someone who was as good as lost but who has been found. The religious leaders and their followers may complain about Jesus and criticize him for giving attention to ones like Zacchaeus. Still, Jesus continues to look for and restore these lost sons of Abraham.

- ◇ Where, apparently, does Jesus meet two blind beggars, and what does he do for them?
- ◇ Who is Zacchaeus, and how does he prove his repentance?
- ◇ What lesson can be learned from Jesus' treatment of Zacchaeus?

Welcome One Another

(Romans 15:7)

1. Welcome to all who gather here this day
To hear God's Word and to learn his way.
Life-giving truth he offers to us all;
With thankfulness of heart, we respond to his call.
2. Thanks to our God for brothers such as these,
Who welcome us and who seek to please.
May we keep holding men of that sort dear,
And now we welcome others who meet with us here.
3. God's invitation reaches all mankind,
That all sincere ones the truth may find.
God by his Son has drawn us to His side.
So welcome one another with hearts opened wide.

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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1. On many occasions God spoke to men
By means of his prophets of old.
Today he is saying, 'Let all repent,'
By God's own Son we are told.

(CHORUS)

*Do we have strong faith? Is it real?
We must build such faith to survive.
Is our faith proved true by our works?
By means of faith, we'll be preserved alive.*

2. We gladly obey Christ Jesus' command
To share Kingdom truth far and wide.
We boldly declare God's message of hope;
His promise we'll never hide.

(Chorus)

3. Our faith is an anchor firm and secure;
We never will shrink back in fear.
Our trust in Jehovah helps us endure;
We know salvation is near.

(Chorus)

Are You Maintaining Your “Large Shield of Faith”?

“Take up the large shield of faith.”—EPH. 6:16.

SONG 119

We Must Have Faith

PREVIEW

Soldiers relied on their shield to protect them from harm. Our faith acts like a shield. And like a literal shield, our faith needs to be maintained. This article discusses what we can do to make sure that our “large shield of faith” is in good condition.

DO YOU have a “large shield of faith”? (Read Ephesians 6:16.) No doubt you do. Like a large shield that protects most of the body, your faith protects you from the immoral, violent, and godless influences of this corrupt system of things.

² However, we are living in “the last days,” and our faith will continue to be tested. (2 Tim. 3:1) How can you inspect your shield of faith to make sure that it is strong? And how can you keep a firm hold on your shield? Let us consider the answers to those questions.

CAREFULLY INSPECT YOUR SHIELD

³ In Bible times, soldiers often had shields that were covered with leather. The soldiers oiled the shields to preserve the leather and to keep the metal parts free from rust. If a soldier discovered that his shield was damaged, he made sure that it was repaired so that he was always ready for the next battle. How does that example apply to your faith?

⁴ Like soldiers of ancient times, you must regular-

1-2. (a) According to Ephesians 6:16, why do we need a “large shield of faith”? (b) What questions will we consider?

3. What did soldiers do to their shields, and why?

4. Why must you inspect your shield of faith, and how should you do that?

ly inspect and maintain your shield of faith so that you are always prepared for battle. As Christians, we wage a spiritual battle and our enemies include wicked spirits. (Eph. 6:10-12) No one else can maintain your shield of faith for you. How can you be sure that you are ready to face tests? First, you must pray for God's help. Then, you need to use God's Word to help you see yourself as God sees you. (Heb. 4:12) The Bible states: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding." (Prov. 3:5, 6) With that in mind, why not review some of the decisions you have made recently? For example, have you faced a serious financial problem? Did Jehovah's promise recorded at Hebrews 13:5 come to mind: "I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you"? Did that promise give you confidence that Jehovah would help you? If so, that indicates that you are keeping your shield of faith in good condition.

⁵ You might be surprised at what you find when you carefully examine your faith. You may discover weaknesses that have gone unnoticed for some time. For example, you may realize that undue anxiety, lies, and discouragement have damaged your faith. If this has happened to you, how can you protect your faith from further harm?

5. What might you find when you examine your faith?

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM UNDUE ANXIETY, LIES, AND DISCOURAGEMENT

⁶ Some types of anxiety are good. For example, we are properly concerned about pleasing Jehovah and Jesus. (1 Cor. 7:32) If we commit a serious sin, we are anxious to restore our friendship with God. (Ps. 38:18) We are also anxious to please our marriage mate and to care for the welfare of our family members and fellow believers.—1 Cor. 7:33; 2 Cor. 11:28.

⁷ On the other hand, *undue anxiety* could damage our faith. For example, we may constantly worry about having enough food and clothing. (Matt. 6:31, 32) To ease that worry, we might focus on gaining material possessions. We could even develop a love of money. If we allow that to happen, our faith in Jehovah will become weak and we will suffer serious spiritual harm. (Mark 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:10) Or we might fall victim to another type of undue anxiety—becoming overly concerned about gaining the approval of others. We may then fear being ridiculed or persecuted by men more than we fear displeasing Jehovah. To protect ourselves from that danger, we must beg Jehovah to give us the faith and courage

6. What are some examples of good anxiety?

7. According to Proverbs 29:25, why do we not need to fear man?

we need to face the challenge.—Read Proverbs 29:25; Luke 17:5.

⁸ Satan, “the father of the lie,” uses those under his control to spread *lies* about Jehovah and about our brothers and sisters. (John 8:44) For instance, apostates publish lies and distort facts about Jehovah’s organization on websites and through television and other media. Those lies are among Satan’s “burning arrows.” (Eph. 6:16) How should we respond if someone confronts us with such lies? We reject them! Why? Because we have faith in Jehovah and we trust our brothers. In fact, we avoid all contact with apostates. We do not allow anyone or anything, including curiosity, to draw us into arguing with them.

⁹ *Discouragement* can weaken our faith. We cannot ignore our personal problems. In fact, it would be irresponsible of us to try to do so. And at times we may feel discouraged. But we must not allow our problems to dominate our thinking. If we do, we might lose sight of the marvelous hope that Jehovah has given us. (Rev. 21:3, 4) Feelings of discouragement could then drain our strength and cause us to give up. (Prov. 24:10) But that does not have to happen to us.

8. How should we respond to lies?

9. How can discouragement affect us?



After a battle, soldiers made sure that their shields were repaired
(See paragraph 3)

¹⁰ Consider how a sister in the United States is maintaining her faith while caring for her seriously ill husband. In a letter to headquarters, she wrote: “Our situation has been stressful and discouraging at times, but our hope is strong. I am so very impressed with the information we have been getting to strengthen our faith and lift our spirits. We really need this counsel and encouragement. It keeps us going and helps us to endure the trials that Satan hurls at us.” We learn from this sister’s comments that we can overcome discouragement! How? View

10. What do you learn from a letter written by one sister?



Are you maintaining your
“large shield of faith”?
(See paragraphs 8, 11)

your trials as being a test from Satan. Recognize Jehovah as being the Source of comfort. And appreciate the spiritual food he provides.

¹¹ Do you see any areas in your shield of faith that need maintenance? During the past few months, have you been able to avoid giving in to undue anxiety? Have you resisted the urge to listen to and argue with apostates about the lies they spread? And have you been able to cope with discouragement? If so, then your faith is in good condition. But we must

11. To test the condition of our faith, what questions should we ask ourselves?

remain on guard because Satan has other weapons that he tries to use against us. Let us now consider one of them.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MATERIALISM

¹² *Materialism* can cause us to become distracted and neglect our shield of faith. The apostle Paul said: “No man serving as a soldier involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order to gain the approval of the one who enrolled him.” (2 Tim. 2:4) In fact, Roman soldiers were not allowed to get involved in any trade. What might happen if a soldier ignored that requirement?

¹³ Imagine the scene. A group of soldiers spend the morning training with their swords, but one of their company is missing. That soldier is in town setting up a food shop. In the evening, the soldiers spend time inspecting their armor and sharpening their swords. But the one who owns the shop spends his time preparing food to sell the next day. The next morning, however, an enemy launches a surprise attack. Which soldier is more likely to act appropriately and earn the approval of his commanding officer?

12. What can materialism cause us to do?

13. Why would a soldier not become involved in commercial business?

And whom would you want standing beside you—a soldier who focused on being prepared or the one who was distracted?

¹⁴ Like good soldiers, we do not become distracted from our primary goal—gaining the approval of our Commanders, Jehovah and Christ. We view that as being more valuable than gaining anything Satan’s world has to offer. We make sure that we have the time and energy we need to serve Jehovah and to keep our shield of faith and the rest of our spiritual armor in good condition.

¹⁵ We must never let down our guard! Why? The apostle Paul warned that “those who are determined to be rich” will be “led astray from the faith.” (1 Tim. 6:9, 10) The expression “led astray” indicates that we could become distracted by trying to acquire unnecessary possessions. We could then expose our heart to “many senseless and harmful desires.” Rather than allowing those desires into our heart, we must see them for what they are—weapons that can harm us.

¹⁶ Suppose we have the financial means to buy

14. As soldiers of Christ, what do we value?

15. What warning did Paul give us, and why?

16. The account recorded at Mark 10:17-22 should move us to reflect on what questions?

many material things. Are we doing something wrong if we purchase things that we want but do not actually need? Not necessarily. But reflect on these questions: Even if we can afford to buy something, do we really have the time and energy to use and maintain the item? Also, might we become overly attached to our possessions? Could our attachment to material things cause us to act like the young man

A Christian sister keeps a firm hold on her large shield of faith by prayerfully reading God's Word, regularly attending meetings, and having a full share in the ministry

(See paragraph 19)



who turned down Jesus' invitation to expand his service to God? (Read Mark 10:17-22.) How much better it is for us to lead a simple life and spend our precious time and strength in doing God's will!

KEEP A FIRM HOLD ON YOUR SHIELD OF FAITH

¹⁷ We must never forget that we are at war and must be ready to fight the battle each day. (Rev. 12: 17) Our brothers and sisters cannot carry our shield of faith for us. We personally must keep a firm hold on it.

¹⁸ In ancient times, a soldier gained honor because of his bravery in warfare. But he would feel humiliated if he returned home without his shield. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote: "To have abandoned one's shield is the height of disgrace." That is one reason why soldiers made sure to keep a firm hold on their shields.

¹⁹ We keep a firm hold on our shield of faith by regularly attending Christian meetings and by speaking about Jehovah's name and his Kingdom to

17. What should we never forget?

18. Why did soldiers in ancient times keep a firm hold on their shields?

19. How can we keep a firm hold on our shield of faith?

others. (Heb. 10:23-25) In addition, we prayerfully read God’s Word every day and apply its counsel and direction in all that we do. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Then, no weapon that Satan uses against us will cause us any lasting harm. (Isa. 54:17) Our “large shield of faith” will protect us. We will stand firm, shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters. And we will do more than win our daily battles—we will have the honor of being on Jesus’ side when he wins the war against Satan and his followers.—Rev. 17:14; 20:10.

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 33: When a report appears on TV about apostates who spread lies about Jehovah’s Witnesses, a Witness family right away turns off the TV. Later, during family worship, the father uses a Bible passage to strengthen the faith of the family.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES FROM . . .

- undue anxiety?
- lies and discouragement?
- materialism?

1. Because we are imperfect, O Jehovah,
The inclination of our heart is flawed.
There is a sin that easily ensnares us—
A lack of faith in you, the living God.

(CHORUS)

*Give us more faith, we beg of you, Jehovah.
Please help us out according to our need.
Give us more faith, according to your mercy,
That we may honor you in word and deed.*

2. Apart from faith, no one can fully please you.
We must believe our faith will be repaid.
And as a shield, our faith provides a refuge.
We face the future firm and unafraid.

(Chorus)