

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

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- “‘The Judge of All the Earth’ Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah”: (10 min.)

Ge 18:23-25—Abraham was confident that Jehovah always renders righteous judgments (w17.04 18 ¶1)

Ge 18:32—Jehovah affirmed that he would not destroy Sodom if ten righteous men were found there (w18.08 30 ¶4)

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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)  
Ge 18:1, 22—How was it that “Jehovah appeared to” Abraham and “remained with” him? (w88 5/15 23 ¶4-5)

Ge 19:26—Why did Lot’s wife become “a pillar of salt”? (w19.06 20 ¶3)

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 18:1-19 (12)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience the following questions: How did the publisher properly introduce the scripture? How did he make clear the application of the scripture?
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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 35
- “**Are You Benefiting From Examining the Scriptures Daily?**”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Do Not Love the World* (1Jo 2:15) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 104
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 2 and Prayer

GENESIS 18-19 | “The Judge of All the Earth” Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah

**18:23-25, 32; 19:24, 25**

**What do we learn from Jehovah’s actions regarding Sodom and Gomorrah?**

- Jehovah will not indefinitely tolerate wickedness
- Those who survive the coming judgment will be those who pay attention to God’s will and do it.—Lu 17:28-30

**ASK YOURSELF:** ‘Does the brazen conduct of this wicked world distress me?’ (2Pe 2:7) ‘Does my daily life show that doing Jehovah’s will is most important to me?’



# 1

## *Jehovah's Attributes*

(Revelation 4:11)

1. Jehovah our God, exalted in might,  
Creator of life and Provider of light.  
Creation speaks of your power so grand;  
The heavens and earth forever stand.
2. Your heavenly throne, on justice it stands.  
To us you make known all your righteous commands.  
And as we turn to your Word, we can see  
Your wisdom revealed so brilliantly.
3. The greatest of all is your perfect love.  
Beyond all compare are your gifts from above.  
Your attributes and your glorious name,  
With joy and with zeal, we will proclaim.

## Genesis 18-19

**18** Afterward, Jehovah appeared to him among the big trees of Mam're while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing some distance from him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> Then he said: "Jehovah, if I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Please, let a little water be brought and have your feet washed; then recline under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Seeing that you have come here to your servant, let me bring a piece of bread so that you may refresh yourselves. Then you may go on your way." At this they said: "All right. You may do as you have spoken."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried to the tent to Sarah and said: "Quick! Get three measures of fine flour, knead the dough, and make loaves of bread." <sup>7</sup> Next Abraham ran to the herd and chose a tender and good young bull. He gave it to the attendant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then took butter and milk and the young bull that he had prepared and set the food before them. Then he stood by them under the tree as they were eating.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him: "Where is your wife Sarah?" He replied: "Here in the tent." <sup>10</sup> So one of them continued: "I will surely return to you next year at this time, and look! your wife Sarah will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the tent entrance, which was behind the man. <sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah

were old, being advanced in years. Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah began to laugh to herself, saying: “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I really have this pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> Then Jehovah said to Abraham: “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Am I really going to give birth even though I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too extraordinary for Jehovah? I will return to you next year at this appointed time, and Sarah will have a son.” <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh!” for she was afraid. At this he said: “Yes! You did laugh.”

<sup>16</sup> When the men got up to leave and looked down toward Sod'om, Abraham was walking with them to escort them.

<sup>17</sup> Jehovah said: “Am I keeping hidden from Abraham what I am going to do? <sup>18</sup> Why, Abraham is surely going to become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by means of him. <sup>19</sup> For I have come to know him in order that he may command his sons and his household after him to keep Jehovah’s way by doing what is right and just, so that Jehovah may bring about what he has promised concerning Abraham.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Jehovah said: “The outcry against Sod'om and Go-mor'rah is indeed great, and their sin is very heavy. <sup>21</sup> I will go down to see whether they are acting according to the outcry that has reached me. And if not, I can get to know it.”

<sup>22</sup> Then the men left from there and went toward Sod'om, but Jehovah remained with Abraham. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham approached and said: “Will you really sweep away the

righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it? <sup>25</sup> It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?"

<sup>26</sup> Then Jehovah said: "If I find in Sod'om 50 righteous men in the city, I will pardon the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> But Abraham again responded: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah, whereas I am dust and ashes.

<sup>28</sup> Suppose the 50 righteous should lack five. Because of the five will you destroy the whole city?" To this he said: "I will not destroy it if I find there 45."

<sup>29</sup> But yet again he spoke to him and said: "Suppose 40 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it for the sake of the 40." <sup>30</sup> But he continued: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me go on speaking: Suppose only 30 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it if I find 30 there." <sup>31</sup> But he continued: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah: Suppose only 20 are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20." <sup>32</sup> Finally he said: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten." <sup>33</sup> When Jehovah finished speaking to

Abraham, he went his way and Abraham returned to his place.

**19** The two angels arrived at Sod'om by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sod'om. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. <sup>2</sup> And he said: "Please, my lords, turn aside, please, into the house of your servant and stay overnight and have your feet washed. Then you may get up early and travel on your way." To this they said: "No, we will stay overnight in the public square." <sup>3</sup> But he was so insistent with them that they went with him to his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

<sup>4</sup> Before they could lie down to sleep, the men of the city—the men of Sod'om from boy to old man, all of them—surrounded the house in one mob. <sup>5</sup> And they kept calling out to Lot and saying to him: "Where are the men who came in to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we may have sex with them."

<sup>6</sup> Then Lot went out to them to the doorway, and he shut the door behind him. <sup>7</sup> He said: "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. <sup>8</sup> Please, here I have two daughters who have never had sexual relations with a man. Please, let me bring them out to you for you to do to them whatever seems good to you. But do not do anything to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." <sup>9</sup> At this they said: "Stand back!" And they added: "This lone foreigner came to live here, and yet he dares to judge us! Now we are going to

do worse to you than to them.” And they crowded in on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. <sup>10</sup> So the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and they shut the door. <sup>11</sup> But they struck the men who were at the entrance of the house with blindness, from the least to the greatest, so that they wore themselves out trying to find the doorway.

<sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot: “Do you have anyone else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and all your people in the city, bring out of this place! <sup>13</sup> For we are going to destroy this place, because the outcry against them has indeed grown great before Jehovah, so that Jehovah sent us to destroy the city.” <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and began to speak to his sons-in-law who were to marry his daughters, and he kept saying: “Get up! Get out of this place, because Jehovah will destroy the city!” But to his sons-in-law, he seemed to be joking.

<sup>15</sup> As dawn was breaking, the angels became urgent with Lot, saying: “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here with you, so that you will not be swept away in the error of the city!” <sup>16</sup> When he kept lingering, then because of Jehovah’s compassion for him, the men seized hold of his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, and they brought him out and stationed him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> As soon as they had brought them to the outskirts, he said: “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you and do not stand still in any part of the district!

Escape to the mountainous region so that you may not be swept away!”

<sup>18</sup> Then Lot said to them: “Not there, please, Jehovah!  
<sup>19</sup> Please, now, your servant has found favor in your eyes and you are showing great kindness to me by preserving me alive, but I am not able to flee to the mountainous region because I am afraid that disaster may overtake me and I will die. <sup>20</sup> Please, now, this town is nearby and I can flee there; it is only a small place. May I, please, escape there? It is only a small place. Then I will survive.” <sup>21</sup> So he said to him: “Very well, I will also show you consideration by not overthrowing the town you speak of. <sup>22</sup> Hurry! Escape there, because I cannot do anything until you arrive there!” That is why he named the town Zo'ar.

<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen over the land when Lot arrived at Zo'ar. <sup>24</sup> Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sod'om and Go-mor'rah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, who was behind him, began to look back, and she became a pillar of salt.

<sup>27</sup> Now Abraham got up early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before Jehovah. <sup>28</sup> When he looked down toward Sod'om and Go-mor'rah and all the land of the district, he saw quite a sight. There was dense smoke rising from the land like the dense smoke of a kiln! <sup>29</sup> So when God destroyed the cities of the district, God kept



Abraham in mind by sending Lot out from the cities he overthrew, the cities where Lot had been dwelling.

<sup>30</sup> Later Lot went up from Zo'ar with his two daughters and began living in the mountainous region, because he was afraid to live in Zo'ar. So he began living in a cave with his two daughters. <sup>31</sup> And the firstborn said to the younger: "Our father is old, and there is not a man in the land to have relations with us according to the custom of the whole earth. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us give our father wine to drink, and let us lie down with him and preserve offspring from our father."

<sup>33</sup> So that night they kept giving their father wine to drink; then the firstborn went in and lay down with her father, but he did not know when she lay down and when she got up. <sup>34</sup> Then on the next day, the firstborn said to the younger: "Here I lay down with my father last night. Let us give him wine to drink tonight also. Then you go in and lie down with him, and let us preserve offspring from our father." <sup>35</sup> So that night also, they repeatedly gave their father wine to drink; then the younger went and lay down with him, but he did not know when she lay down and when she got up. <sup>36</sup> So both daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn gave birth to a son and named him Mo'ab. He is the father of the Mo'ab-ites of today. <sup>38</sup> The younger also gave birth to a son, and she named him Ben-am'mi. He is the father of the Am'mon-ites of today.

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

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Ge 18:23-25—Abraham was confident that Jehovah always renders righteous judgments (w17.04 18 ¶1)

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GENESIS 18-19 | “The Judge of All the Earth” Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah

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## **February 17-23 / Genesis 18-19**

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

### **Treasures From God's Word**

**“The Judge of All the Earth’ Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah”:** (10 minutes)

Genesis 18:23-25, 32; 19:24, 25

What do we learn from Jehovah's actions regarding Sodom and Gomorrah?

- Jehovah will not indefinitely tolerate wickedness
- Those who survive the coming judgment will be those who pay attention to God's will and do it.—Luke 17:28-30

Ask Yourself: 'Does the brazen conduct of this wicked world distress me?' (2 Peter 2:7) 'Does my daily life show that doing Jehovah's will is most important to me?'

## **Genesis 18:23-25—Abraham was confident that Jehovah always renders righteous judgments**

**Genesis 18:23-25:** Then Abraham approached and said: “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it? It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?”

### **w17.04 18 paragraph 1**

“Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?” (Genesis 18:25) With that question, Abraham expressed confidence that Jehovah would render perfect justice in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham was convinced that Jehovah would never act unjustly by “putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one.” Such an act was “unthinkable” to Abraham. Some 400 years later, Jehovah

said of himself: "The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness who is never unjust; righteous and upright is he."—Deuteronomy 31:19; 32:4.

### **Genesis 18:32—Jehovah affirmed that he would not destroy Sodom if ten righteous men were found there**

**Genesis 18:32:** Finally he said: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

#### **w18.08 30 paragraph 4**

Of course, when it comes to exercising patience, Jehovah is the most outstanding example for us to follow. (2 Peter 3:15) There are many accounts in God's Word of times when Jehovah displayed great patience. (Nehemiah 9:30; Isaiah 30:18) For instance, how did Jehovah react when Abraham questioned His decision to destroy Sodom? First of all, Jehovah did not interrupt as Abraham spoke. Instead, Jehovah listened patiently to each of Abraham's questions

and concerns. Then, Jehovah showed that he had listened as he repeated Abraham's concerns and assured him that He would not destroy Sodom even if just ten righteous men were found in that city. (Genesis 18:22-33) What a fine example of patient listening and of not overreacting!

### **Genesis 19:24, 25—Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness of their inhabitants**

**Genesis 19:24, 25:** Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground.

### **w10 11/15 26 paragraph 12**

We can be certain that Jehovah will soon assert his sovereignty. He will not endlessly tolerate wickedness, and we know that we are living in the last days. Jehovah took action against the wicked during the Flood. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and Pharaoh and his forces. Sisera

and his army and Sennacherib and his Assyrian troops were no match for the Most High. (Genesis 7:1, 23; 19:24, 25; Exodus 14:30, 31; Judges 4:15, 16; 2 Kings 19:35,36) We can therefore be confident that Jehovah God will not indefinitely put up with disrespect for his name and mistreatment of his Witnesses. Furthermore, we now see evidence of the sign of Jesus' presence and of the conclusion of this wicked system of things.—Matthew 24:3.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Genesis 18:1, 22—How was it that “Jehovah appeared to” Abraham and “remained with” him?**

**Genesis 18:1:** Afterward, Jehovah appeared to him among the big trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day.

**Genesis 18:22:** Then the men left from there and went toward Sodom, but Jehovah remained with Abraham.

**w88 5/15 23 paragraphs 4-5**

Now it is possible to understand why Abraham addressed the materialized angelic spokesman of God as if he were

talking to Jehovah God himself. Since this angel spoke precisely what God wanted to have said to Abraham and was there personally representing Him, the Biblical record could say that “Jehovah appeared to him.”—Genesis 18:1.

Remember that an angelic spokesman for God could transmit His messages just as precisely as a telephone or a radio can transmit our words to another person. Hence, it can be understood how Abraham, Moses, Manoah, and others could speak with a materialized angel as if they were talking to God. While such individuals were able to see these angels and the glory of Jehovah reflected by them, they were not able to see God. Therefore, this in no way contradicts the apostle John’s statement: “No man has seen God at any time.” (John 1:18) What these men saw were angelic representatives and not God himself.

### **Genesis 19:26—Why did Lot’s wife become “a pillar of salt”?**

**Genesis 19:26:** But Lot’s wife, who was behind him, began to look back, and she became a pillar of salt.



### **w19.06 20 paragraph 3**

Lot made a bad decision when he chose to live among the grossly immoral people of Sodom. (Read 2 Peter 2:7, 8.) The region was prosperous, but Lot paid a high price for moving to Sodom. (Genesis 13:8-13; 14:12) His wife apparently became so attached to the city or to some of the people living there that she disobeyed Jehovah. She lost her life when God rained fire and sulfur on the region. And think of Lot's two daughters. They were engaged to men who died in Sodom. Lot lost his home, his possessions and, most painful of all, his wife. (Genesis 19:12-14, 17, 26) During this stressful period, did Jehovah lose patience with Lot? No.

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

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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations

Abraham teaches young Isaac about Jehovah

#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** How can we know the future?

**Scripture:** Isa 46:10

**Link:** What Bible prophecies are we seeing fulfilled?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 29 ¶2
- *fg* lesson 3 ¶2

#### FIRST RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What Bible prophecies are we seeing fulfilled?

**Scripture:** 2Ti 3:1-5

**Link:** What blessings will people enjoy in the future that God promises?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 98 ¶10
- *fg* lesson 1 ¶3

#### SECOND RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What blessings will people enjoy in the future that God promises?

**Scripture:** Isa 65:21-23

**Link:** What role will God's Son play in bringing about these blessings?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



- *bhs* 35 ¶20

## WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE LIKE IN THE LAST DAYS

<sup>10</sup> At 2 Timothy 3:1-5, the Bible says: “In the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here.” The apostle Paul described how many people would behave during the last days. He said people would

- be selfish
- love money
- disobey their parents
- not be loyal
- lack affection for their family
- have no self-control
- be violent and aggressive
- love pleasures more than God
- pretend to love God but refuse to obey him

<sup>11</sup> Do many people behave like this where you live? All over the world, many do. But God will soon do something about it. He promises: “When the wicked sprout like weeds and all the wrongdoers flourish, it is that

10. How is 2 Timothy 3:1-5 coming true today?

11. According to Psalm 92:7, what will happen to wicked people?



*“Make Sure of the  
More Important Things”*  
(Philippians 1:10)

1. How great our need today for discernment,  
To know the things that are true,  
To know which things have greater importance,  
To know which things we must do!

*(CHORUS)*

*Love what is good; Hate what is bad.  
Make God’s heart glad;  
Oh, what rich blessings it brings when we learn,  
When we discern,  
And when we do the important things!*

2. And what could be of greater importance  
Than sharing Kingdom good news,  
To search for those who hunger for truth  
And to help them God’s way to choose?

*(Chorus)*

3. If we take care to do what’s important,  
Then true contentment we’ll find.  
The peace surpassing all understanding  
Will guard our heart and our mind.

*(Chorus)*

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- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience the following questions: How did the publisher properly introduce the scripture? How did he make clear the application of the scripture?
- **First Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **First Return Visit:** (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Teach Us* book, and discuss the artwork on page 98. (9)

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 35
- “Are You Benefiting From Examining the Scriptures Daily?": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Do Not Love the World* (1Jo 2:15) (video category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 104
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 2 and Prayer

GENESIS 18-19 | “The Judge of All the Earth” Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah

**18:23-25, 32; 19:24, 25**

**What do we learn from Jehovah’s actions regarding Sodom and Gomorrah?**

- Jehovah will not indefinitely tolerate wickedness
- Those who survive the coming judgment will be those who pay attention to God’s will and do it.—Lu 17:28-30

**ASK YOURSELF:** ‘Does the brazen conduct of this wicked world distress me?’ (2Pe 2:7) ‘Does my daily life show that doing Jehovah’s will is most important to me?’



## Are You Benefiting From *Examining the Scriptures Daily*?

Does your spiritual routine include reading the Bible text and comments for the day from *Examining the Scriptures Daily*? If not, can you make it part of your routine? Many consider the text early in the day so that they can reflect on those thoughts as they go about their daily activities. (Jos 1:8; Ps 119:97) How might you benefit even more from the Scripture text? Read the context of the Bible verse to determine the background. Try to think of a Bible account that illustrates the principle highlighted in the text. Then apply the principle to your own life. When God’s Word affects your decisions, it will direct your life and truly benefit you. —Ps 119:105.

Bethel families around the world consider *Examining the Scriptures Daily* at breakfast time. In recent years, many of these discussions have been posted on JW Broadcasting® under the category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS. When was the last time you reviewed one or more of them? Perhaps some of the material is exactly what you need. For instance, how might the account of Lot influence your decisions?

**WATCH THE VIDEO *DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD* (1JO 2:15), AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- What Bible principle was the foundation for this Morning Worship discussion?

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- How does the account of Lot illustrate the danger of loving the world or the things in it?—Ge 13:12; 14:12; 19:3, 12, 13, 24-26

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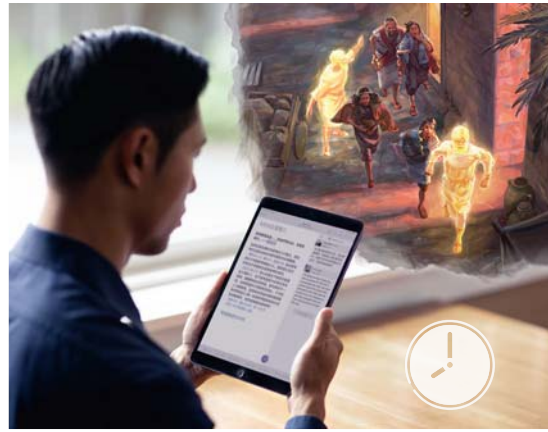
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- How do we show that we love Jehovah and not the world or the things in it?

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**How can I show throughout the day that I value Jehovah’s Word?**

# THE JEWS HEAR GOD'S VOICE—WILL THEY SHOW FAITH?

JOHN 12:28-50

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- MANY HEAR GOD'S VOICE
  - THE BASIS FOR JUDGMENT
- 

At the temple on Monday, Nisan 10, Jesus is speaking about his approaching death. Concerned about how God's reputation will be affected, Jesus says: "Father, glorify your name." A mighty voice from the heavens responds: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."—John 12:27, 28.

The people nearby are bewildered. Some think that they heard thunder. Others say: "An angel has spoken to him." (John 12:29) However, it is Jehovah whom they just heard speaking! And this is not the first time that humans have heard God's voice in connection with Jesus.

Three and a half years earlier, at Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist heard God say of Jesus: "This is





my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.” Later, after the Passover of 32 C.E., Jesus was transfigured before James, John, and Peter. Those three men heard God declare: “This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved. Listen to him.” (Matthew 3:17; 17:5) But now, this third time, Jehovah is speaking in a way that many can hear!

Jesus says: “This voice has occurred, not for my sake, but for your sakes.” (John 12:30) It is proof that he truly is God’s Son, the foretold Messiah.

Moreover, Jesus’ faithful life course both exemplifies the way humans should live and confirms that Satan the Devil, the ruler of the world, deserves to be executed. Jesus says: “Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” Rather than being a defeat, Jesus’ approaching death will be a victory. How so? He explains: “Yet I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all sorts of men to myself.” (John 12:31, 32) By means of his death on a stake, Jesus will draw others to himself, opening the way to everlasting life.

In response to Jesus' comment about being "lifted up," the crowd says: "We heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?" (John 12:34) Despite all the evidence, including hearing God's own voice, most of them do not accept Jesus as the *true* Son of man, the promised Messiah.

As he has done before, Jesus speaks of himself as "the light." (John 8:12; 9:5) He urges the crowd: "The light will be among you a little while longer. Walk while you still have the light, so that darkness does not overpower you . . . While you have the light, exercise faith in the light, so that you may become sons of light." (John 12:35, 36) Then Jesus withdraws, because Nisan 10 is not the day for him to die. Passover Nisan 14 is when he is to be "lifted up"—nailed to a stake.—Galatians 3:13.

Looking back on Jesus' ministry, it is clear that prophecy was being fulfilled when the Jews did not put faith in him. Isaiah foretold that the eyes of people would be blinded and their hearts would be

hard so that they would not turn around to be healed. (Isaiah 6:10; John 12:40) Yes, most of the Jews stubbornly reject the evidence that Jesus is their promised Deliverer, the way to life.

Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and many other rulers “actually put faith” in Jesus. But will they act in faith, or will they hold back, either because they fear being expelled from the synagogue or because they ‘love the glory of men’?—John 12:42, 43.

Jesus himself explains what putting faith in him involves: “Whoever puts faith in me puts faith not only in me but also in him who sent me; and whoever sees me sees also the One who sent me.” The truths that God instructed Jesus to teach and that Jesus continues to proclaim are vital, so much so that he can say: “Whoever disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him on the last day.”—John 12:44, 45, 48.

Jesus then concludes: “I have not spoken of my own initiative, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say

and what to speak. And I know that his commandment means everlasting life.” (John 12:49, 50) Jesus knows that shortly he will pour out his own life-blood in sacrifice for humans who exercise faith in him.—Romans 5:8, 9.

- ◇ With regard to Jesus, on what three occasions has God’s voice been heard?
- ◇ What rulers put faith in Jesus, but why might they not confess him openly?
- ◇ On what basis will people be judged “on the last day”?

# *Jehovah Is Your Name*

(Psalm 83:18)

1. The living and true God—  
 The God of all creation  
 In ev'ry generation—  
 Jehovah is your name.  
 We're honored and we're proud  
 To be your congregation.  
 In ev'ry tribe and nation,  
 Your glory we proclaim.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah, Jehovah,  
 There is no God like you.  
 There's no other in the heavens  
 Or on the earth below.  
 You alone are God Almighty,  
 And this all men must know.  
 Jehovah, Jehovah,  
 We have no other God but you.*

2. You cause us to become  
 Whatever you desire,  
 To do as you require—  
 Jehovah is your name.  
 And Witnesses for you  
 Is what you've kindly named us.  
 We're honored you have claimed us—  
 A people for your name.

*(Chorus)*

DECEMBER 2019

THE  **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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FEBRUARY 3–MARCH 1, 2020

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### COVER PICTURE:

In the new world, we will enjoy doing useful and satisfying work  
(See study article 50, paragraph 17)

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# 56

## *Make the Truth Your Own*

(Proverbs 3:1, 2)

1. The way of the truth is the best way of living,  
But no one can live your life for you.  
So take the advice that Jehovah is giving;  
Believe what he tells you is true.

*(CHORUS)*

*Make the truth your own.*

*Make it live, yes, make it real.*

*And then feel the joy*

*Jehovah gives you*

*When you make the truth your own.*

2. The effort you make and the time you are spending  
In service to God and his Kingdom  
Will yield rich results and a life that's unending,  
A life full of good things to come.

*(Chorus)*

3. Compared with our God, we are all little children  
And need his direction and counsel.  
So walk ev'ry day with our Father in heaven;  
Receive his rich blessing in full.

*(Chorus)*

# How Well Do You Know Jehovah?

*“Those knowing your name will trust in you; you will never abandon those seeking you, O Jehovah.”—PS. 9:10.*

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## SONG 56

Make the Truth Your Own

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## PREVIEW

Many people believe that God exists, but they do not really know him. What does it mean to know Jehovah, and what can we learn from Moses and King David about how to build a strong relationship with Him? This article will answer those questions.

**ARE** you being raised by parents who are Jehovah's Witnesses? If so, bear in mind that you cannot inherit a personal relationship with Jehovah from them. Whether our parents serve God or not, each of us must build his own friendship with Jehovah.

<sup>2</sup> Consider the experience of a brother named Angelito. He was raised in a Witness family. However, when he was younger, he did not feel particularly close to God. He admits, "I was serving Jehovah simply because I wanted to do what my family was doing." However, Angelito decided to invest time in reading God's Word and meditating on it, and he began praying to Jehovah more frequently. The result? Angelito says, "I learned that the only way to be close to my dear Father, Jehovah, is to get to know him myself." Angelito's experience raises some important questions: What is the difference between being acquainted with Jehovah and knowing him well? And how do we come to know Jehovah?

<sup>3</sup> We can say that a person knows about Jehovah if he is aware of God's name or is familiar with some of the things that He has said or done. But to know

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1-2. As illustrated by Angelito's experience, what must each of us do?

3. What is the difference between knowing about Jehovah and knowing him well?

Jehovah well involves more. We need to spend time learning about Jehovah and his wonderful qualities. Only then can we begin to understand what motivates him to speak and to act. That will help us to discern whether he approves of our opinions, decisions, and actions. Once we have discerned Jehovah's will for us, we need to act on what we have learned.

<sup>4</sup> Some people may ridicule us for wanting to serve Jehovah, and they may oppose us even more when we start to associate with his people. Yet, if we trust in Jehovah, he will never let us down. We will be laying a foundation for friendship with God that will last a lifetime. Can we really know Jehovah that well? Yes, we can! The examples set by imperfect men, such as Moses and King David, prove that it is possible. As we consider their actions, we will answer two questions: How did they come to know Jehovah? And what lessons can we learn from their examples?

### **MOSES SAW "THE ONE WHO IS INVISIBLE"**

<sup>5</sup> *Moses acted on what he learned.* When he was about 40 years old, Moses chose to associate with

- 
4. How will considering examples in the Bible help us?
  5. What did Moses choose to do?

## Show That You Know Jehovah

Spend time learning about Jehovah.  
Then let your actions show that you know him.

- 1-2.** Help others to learn about Jehovah.
- 3.** Pray to him regularly.
- 4.** Promote peace even in challenging situations.
- 5.** Courageously defend the truth about God.
- 6.** Continue to admire Jehovah's handiwork, and draw closer to him.

God's people, the Hebrews, rather than to be known as "the son of Pharaoh's daughter." (Heb. 11:24) Moses gave up a prominent position. By siding with the Hebrews, who were slaves in Egypt, he risked the wrath of Pharaoh, a powerful ruler who was viewed as a god. What an outstanding act of faith! Moses trusted in Jehovah. Such trust is a foundation stone of a lasting relationship.—Prov. 3:5.



**6** What is the lesson for us? Like Moses, all of us have a decision to make: Will we choose to serve God and associate with his people? We may have to make sacrifices to serve God, and we risk being opposed by those who do not know Jehovah. But if we trust in our heavenly Father, we can count on his support!

**6.** What can we learn from Moses' example?

<sup>7</sup> *Moses continued to learn about Jehovah's qualities and to do His will.* For example, when Moses was asked to lead the nation of Israel out of captivity, he lacked confidence and repeatedly told Jehovah that he felt unqualified. God responded with real *compassion*, providing help for Moses. (Ex. 4:10-16) As a result, Moses was able to deliver powerful judgment messages to Pharaoh. Moses then saw Jehovah use His *power* as He saved the Israelites but destroyed Pharaoh and his forces in the Red Sea.—Ex. 14:26-31; Ps. 136:15.

<sup>8</sup> After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they constantly found things to complain about. Even so, Moses observed Jehovah's great *patience* in dealing with the people He had freed from slavery. (Ps. 78:40-43) Moses also saw Jehovah show remarkable *humility* when He changed His mind after Moses asked Him to do so.—Ex. 32:9-14.

<sup>9</sup> After the Exodus, Moses' relationship with Jehovah became so close that it was as if he could see his heavenly Father. (Read Hebrews 11:27.) Indicating how intimate that relationship was, the Bible says: "Jehovah spoke to Moses face-to-face,

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7-8. What did Moses continue to learn?

9. According to Hebrews 11:27, how close was Moses' relationship with Jehovah?

just as one man would speak to another man.”—Ex. 33:11.

<sup>10</sup> What is the lesson for us? To know Jehovah well, we not only have to learn about his qualities but also have to do his will. Jehovah’s will today is that “all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.” (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) One way we do God’s will is by teaching others about Jehovah.

<sup>11</sup> It is often when we are teaching others about Jehovah that we ourselves come to know him better. For example, we see direct evidence of Jehovah’s *compassion* when he guides us to those who have the right heart condition. (John 6:44; Acts 13:48) We see the *power* of God’s Word at work as we watch those with whom we study break free from bad habits and begin to put on the new personality. (Col. 3:9, 10) And we see proof of God’s *patience* as he gives many in our territory numerous opportunities to learn about him and be saved.—Rom. 10:13-15.

<sup>12</sup> *Moses did not take his relationship with Jehovah for granted.* Even after performing powerful works

---

10. To know Jehovah well, what do we have to do?

11. As we teach others about Jehovah, how do we come to know him better?

12. As shown at Exodus 33:13, what did Moses ask for, and why?



in God's name, Moses respectfully asked that he be allowed to know Jehovah better. (Read Exodus 33:13.) Moses was in his 80's when he made that request, but he knew that he still had much to learn about his loving heavenly Father.

<sup>13</sup> What is the lesson for us? No matter how long we have been serving Jehovah, we should never take our relationship with him for granted. One of the most obvious ways we can prove that we value our friendship with God is by talking to him in prayer.

<sup>14</sup> Good communication is the lifeblood of a strong relationship. So draw close to God by praying often, never being afraid to express your innermost thoughts to him. (Eph. 6:18) Krista, who lives in Turkey, says: "My love for Jehovah and my trust in him grow each time I express my thoughts to him in prayer and then see him help me. Seeing how Jehovah answers my prayers has helped me to view Jehovah as a Father and Friend."

## **A MAN AGREEABLE TO JEHOVAH'S HEART**

<sup>15</sup> King David was born into a nation that was ded-

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13. What is one way we can prove that we value our friendship with God?

14. Why is prayer a key to learning more about God?

15. How did Jehovah describe King David?

icated to Jehovah God. But David did more than just follow his family's religious traditions. He built his own relationship with God, and Jehovah had special affection for him. Jehovah himself described David as "a man agreeable to [His] heart." (Acts 13:22) How did David come to be so close to Jehovah?

<sup>16</sup> *David learned about Jehovah from creation.* When David was young, he spent many hours outdoors, caring for his father's sheep. Perhaps it was then that he began to meditate on the things Jehovah had made. For example, as David gazed up at night, not only would he have seen a canopy of stars but he would also have discerned the qualities of the One who made them. David was moved to write: "The heavens are declaring the glory of God; the skies above proclaim the work of his hands." (Ps. 19: 1, 2) When David reflected on the way humans were made, he saw Jehovah's wonderful wisdom at work. (Ps. 139:14) As David tried to comprehend Jehovah's works, he felt humbled.—Ps. 139:6.

<sup>17</sup> What is the lesson for us? Be interested in creation. Do more than just exist in this beautiful world that Jehovah has created; be amazed by it! In your daily life, meditate on what the creation around

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16. What did David learn about Jehovah by looking at creation?

17. What can we learn if we meditate on creation?

you—the plants, animals, and people—teaches you about Jehovah. Then each new day will be full of lessons about your loving Father. (Rom. 1:20) And each day you will see your love for him grow more intense.

<sup>18</sup> *David recognized that Jehovah was helping him.* For example, when David defended his father's sheep from a lion and from a bear, he recognized that it was Jehovah who was helping him overcome those powerful predators. When he defeated the giant warrior Goliath, David saw clearly that it was Jehovah who was guiding him. (1 Sam. 17:37) And when he escaped from jealous King Saul, David acknowledged that it was Jehovah who had saved him. (Ps. 18, superscription) A proud man might have taken credit for those accomplishments. But David was humble, so he was able to recognize Jehovah's hand in his life.—Ps. 138:6.

<sup>19</sup> What is the lesson for us? We need to do more than just ask for Jehovah's help. We must also try to recognize when and how he gives us help. If we humbly acknowledge our limitations, we will clearly see that Jehovah makes up for what we lack. And each time we see Jehovah help us, our relationship with him will grow stronger. Isaac, a brother in Fiji who

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18. As shown in Psalm 18, what did David acknowledge?

19. What can we learn from David's example?

has served Jehovah for many years, found this to be true. He says: “Looking back on my life, I can see how Jehovah has helped me from the time I began to study the Bible until today. As a result, Jehovah is very real to me.”

<sup>20</sup> *David imitated Jehovah’s qualities.* Jehovah created us with the ability to imitate his qualities. (Gen. 1:26) The more we learn about the qualities that make up Jehovah’s personality, the better we will be able to imitate him. David came to know his heavenly Father well, so he was able to imitate Him when dealing with others. Consider just one example. David sinned against Jehovah when he committed adultery with Bath-sheba and then had her husband killed. (2 Sam. 11:1-4, 15) But Jehovah chose to show mercy to David, a man who had shown mercy to others. Because David had such a good relationship with Jehovah, he became one of Israel’s most beloved kings and the standard by which Jehovah measured other kings of Israel.—1 Ki. 15:11; 2 Ki. 14:1-3.

<sup>21</sup> What is the lesson for us? We need to be “imitators of God.” Doing so not only benefits us but

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20. What can we learn from David’s relationship with God?

21. In line with Ephesians 4:24 and 5:1, what are the results of our being “imitators of God”?

also helps us to get to know him. When we model our personality after his, we prove that we are his children.—Read Ephesians 4:24; 5:1.

## SEEKING TO KNOW JEHOVAH BETTER

<sup>22</sup> As we have seen, Jehovah reveals himself to us through creation and through his Word, the Bible. That unique book is full of examples of faithful servants of God whom we can imitate, such as Moses and David. Jehovah has done his part. It is up to us to keep our eyes, ears, and heart open to him.

<sup>23</sup> We will never stop learning about Jehovah. (Eccl. 3:11) The important thing is, not how much we know about him, but what we do with what we know. If we apply what we learn and try to imitate our loving Father, he will continue to draw close to us. (Jas. 4:8) Through his Word, he assures us that he will never abandon those seeking him.

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22-23. What will happen if we apply what we learn about Jehovah?

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WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT KNOWING JEHOVAH FROM . . .

■ Moses?                      ■ King David?                      ■ creation?

# *“Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good”*

(Psalm 34:8)

1. Our service to God we cherish;  
We value our priv’lege to preach.  
We buy out the time and give God our best,  
For many we still need to reach.

*(CHORUS)*

*God’s Word invites us: ‘Come taste and see—  
See that Jehovah is good.’  
Godly devotion brings greatest gain,  
We know we’ve done all we could.*

2. For those in the full-time service,  
Rich blessings and treasures abound.  
By trusting in God to care for our needs,  
In all things contentment is found.

*(Chorus)*