

- Song 18 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Esau Sells His Birthright”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 25:27, 28—Twins Esau and Jacob differed in temperament and in their choice of activities (*it-1* 1242)
 Ge 25:29, 30—Esau allowed hunger and exhaustion to control him
 Ge 25:31-34—Ungrateful Esau rashly sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal (*w19.02* 16 ¶11; *it-1* 835)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 25:31-34—Why does this account not prove that the line leading to the Messiah was tied to the right of firstborn? (*Heb* 12:16; *w17.12* 15 ¶5-7)
- Ge 26:7—Why did Isaac not tell the whole truth in this instance? (*it-2* 245 ¶16)

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 26:1-18 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: How can we avoid embarrassing a householder if he does not know the answer to a question? How did the publisher reason effectively on Matthew 20:28?
- **First Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (3)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
- **Use Videos When Studying *Good News From God! With People:*** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the videos *What Is the Condition of the Dead?* and *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). After each video is played, ask the following questions: How can you use this video when studying the *Good News* brochure? (*mwb19.03* 7) What points from the video have you found helpful in your teaching? Remind all that the digital version of the *Good News* brochure includes links to videos.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 108
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 107 and Prayer

GENESIS 25-26 | Esau Sells His Birthright

25:27-34

Esau did “not appreciate sacred things.” (*Heb* 12:16) As a result, he sold his birthright. He also married two pagan women.—Ge 26:34, 35.

ASK YOURSELF: ‘How can I show greater appreciation for the following sacred things?’

- My relationship with Jehovah
- Holy spirit
- Bearing the holy name, Jehovah
- The field ministry
- Christian meetings
- Marriage



18

Grateful for the Ransom

(Luke 22:20)

Eb
Abadd9
Cm
Cm/Bb
Gm/Bb

To - day, Je - ho - vah God, we stand be - fore your
 It was a will - ing sac - ri - fice that Je - sus

Ab
Ebadd9/G
Fm
Db
Ab
Fm7

throne, For you showed the great - est love that could ev - er be
 made. Out of love, his per - fect life was the price that he

Bbsus4
Bb
Ab/Bb
Bb7sus4
Bb
Eb
Ab

shown. You gave the gift of your dear
 paid. We had no hope un - til he

Cm
Cm/Bb
Gm/Bb
Ab
Fm7
Bb
Cm
Gm

Son, that we might live. No great - er sac - ri - fice than
 came to save man - kind. But now our hope is find - ing

Grateful for the Ransom

Chorus

Ab6 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb Ebma7/G

this could you ev - er give. He gave his
life, leav - ing death be - hind.

Ab Fm7 Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/G Ab Fm7

life to set us free. His pre - cious blood pro - vides the

Bbsus4 Bb Cm Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G

key. With all our hearts, we'll go on thank - ing

Fm7 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus4 Eb

you e - ter - nal - ly.

"Will you go with this man?" She replied: "I am willing to go."

59 So they sent off their sister Re-bek'ah^a and her nurse^{*b} and Abraham's servant and his men. **60** And they blessed Re-bek'ah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become thousands times ten thousand,* and let your offspring[†] take possession of the gate^Δ of those who hate them."^c **61** Then Re-bek'ah and her female attendants rose, got on the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Re-bek'ah and went on his way.

62 Now Isaac had come from the direction of Be'er-la'hai-roi,^d for he was dwelling in the land of the Neg'eb.^e **63** And Isaac was out walking in the field about nightfall to meditate.^f When he looked up, why, he saw that camels were coming! **64** When Re-bek'ah looked up, she caught sight of Isaac, and she quickly got down from the camel. **65** Then she asked the servant: "Who is that man there walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said: "It is my master." So she took her veil to cover herself. **66** And the servant told Isaac all the things he had done. **67** After that Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother.^g Thus he took Re-bek'ah as his wife; and he fell in love with her,^h and Isaac found comfort after the loss of his mother.ⁱ

25 Now Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Ke-tu'rah. **2** In time she bore him Zim'ran, Jok'shan, Me'dan, Mid'i-an,^j Ish'bak, and Shu'ah.^k

3 Jok'shan became father to She'ba and De'dan.

24:59 *That is, her nurse who now served as an attendant. 24:60 *Or "become the mother of thousands of myriads." †Lit., "seed." ΔOr "the cities."

CHAP. 24

a Ge 28:5

b Ge 35:8

c Ge 22:15, 17

d Ge 16:14
Ge 25:11

e Ge 12:9
Ge 20:1
Nu 13:22
Jg 1:9

f Ps 77:12
Ps 143:5

g Heb 11:9

h Ge 26:8

i Ge 23:2, 19

CHAP. 25

j Ge 37:28
Ex 2:15
Nu 31:2
Jg 6:2

k 1Ch 1:32, 33

Second Col.

a Ge 24:36

b Ge 21:14

c Ge 23:8, 9
Ge 49:29, 30

d Ge 23:2, 19

e Ge 17:19
Ge 26:12-14

f Ge 16:14

g Ge 16:10, 11

h Ga 4:24

i Ge 36:2, 3
Isa 60:7

j Ps 120:5
Jer 49:28
Eze 27:21

k 1Ch 1:29-31

l Ge 17:20

The sons of De'dan were As-shu'rim, Le-tu'shim, and Lem'um'mim.

4 The sons of Mid'i-an were E'phah, E'pher, Ha'noch, A-bi'da, and El-da'ah.

All of these were the sons of Ke-tu'rah.

5 Later on Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac,^a but Abraham gave gifts to his sons by his concubines. Then while he was still alive, he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son,^b to the land of the East.

7 The years of Abraham's life were 175 years. **8** Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, old and satisfied, and was gathered to his people.* **9** His sons Isaac and Ish'ma-el buried him in the cave of Mach-pe'lah in the field of E'phron the son of Zo'har the Hit'tite that is in front of Mam're,^c **10** the field that Abraham had purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, with his wife Sarah.^d **11** After Abraham's death, God continued to bless his son Isaac,^e and Isaac was dwelling near Be'er-la'hai-roi.^f

12 This is the history of Ish'ma-el^g the son of Abraham whom Ha'gar^h the Egyptian, the servant of Sarah, bore to Abraham.

13 Now these are the names of the sons of Ish'ma-el, by their names according to their family origins: Ish'ma-el's firstborn Neba'ioth,ⁱ then Ke'dar,^j Ad'be-el, Mib'sam,^k **14** Mish'ma, Du'mah, Mas'sa, **15** Ha'dad, Te'ma, Je'tur, Na'phish, and Ked'e-mah. **16** These are the sons of Ish'ma-el, and these are their names by their settlements,* **12** chieftains according to their clans.^l **17** And Ish'ma-el lived for 137 years.

25:8 *This is a poetic expression for death. 25:16 *Or "walled camps."

Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people.* **18** And they took up dwelling from Hav'i-lah^a near Shur,^b which is close to Egypt, as far as As-syr'i-a. He settled near all his brothers.*^c

19 And this is the history of Isaac the son of Abraham.^d

Abraham became father to Isaac. **20** Isaac was 40 years old when he married Re-bek'-ah, the daughter of Be-thu'el^e the A-ra-mae'an of Pad'dan-a'ram, the sister of La'ban the A-ra-mae'an. **21** And Isaac kept pleading with Jehovah regarding his wife, because she was barren; so Jehovah responded to his plea, and his wife Re-bek'-ah became pregnant. **22** And the sons within her began to struggle with each other,^f so that she said: "If this is the way it is, why should I go on living?" So she inquired of Jehovah. **23** And Jehovah said to her: "Two nations are in your womb,^g and two peoples will be separated from within you;^h and the one nation will be stronger than the other nation,ⁱ and the older will serve the younger."^j

24 When the time came for her to give birth, look! twins were in her womb. **25** Then the first came out red all over and was like a garment of hair,^k so they named him E'sau.*^l **26** After that his brother came out and his hand was holding onto the heel of E'sau,^m so he named him Jacob.*ⁿ Isaac was 60 years old when she gave birth to them.

27 As the boys got bigger, E'sau became a skilled hunter,^o a man of the field, but Jacob was a blameless man, dwell-

25:17 *This is a poetic expression for death. 25:18 *Or possibly, "He lived in hostility to all his brothers." 25:25 *Meaning "Hairy." 25:26 *Meaning "One Seizing the Heel; Supplanter."

CHAP. 25

a 1Sa 15:7

b Ge 16:7, 8

c Ge 16:11, 12

d Ge 22:2
Mt 1:1, 2

e Ge 22:23

f Ro 9:10

g Ps 139:15

h Ge 36:31
Nu 20:14

i Ge 27:29, 30
De 2:4

j 2Sa 8:14
Mal 1:2, 3
Ro 9:10-13

k Ge 27:11

l Ge 27:32
Ge 36:9
Mal 1:3

m Ho 12:3

n Ge 27:36

o Ge 27:3, 5

Second Col.

a Heb 11:9

b Ge 27:6, 7, 46

c Ge 36:1

d De 21:16, 17

e Heb 12:16

CHAP. 26

f Ge 12:10

g Ge 20:1
Heb 11:8, 9

h Ge 12:7
Ge 15:18

i Ge 22:16-18
Ps 105:9-11
Heb 6:13, 14

j Ge 15:1, 5
Heb 11:12

k De 34:4

l Ge 12:1-3
Ac 3:25
Ga 3:8

ing in tents.^a **28** And Isaac loved E'sau because it meant game in his mouth, whereas Re-bek'ah loved Jacob.^b **29** On one occasion Jacob was boiling some stew when E'sau returned from the field exhausted. **30** So E'sau said to Jacob: "Quick, please, give me some* of the red stew that you have there,^c for I am exhausted!"^d That is why his name was E'dom.^e **31** To this Jacob said: "First sell me your right as firstborn!"^f **32** And E'sau continued: "Here I am about to die! What use is a birth-right to me?" **33** And Jacob added: "Swear to me first!" So he swore to him and sold his right as firstborn to Jacob.^g **34** Then Jacob gave E'sau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and he got up and went away. Thus E'sau despised the birth-right.

26 Now there was a famine in the land, in addition to the first famine that occurred in the days of Abraham,^f so that Isaac went to A-bim'e-lech king of the Phi-lis'tines, in Ge'rar. **2** Then Jehovah appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt. Dwell in the land that I designate to you. **3** Reside as a foreigner in this land,^g and I will continue with you and bless you because to you and to your offspring* I will give all these lands,^h and I will carry out the oath that I swore to your father Abraham:ⁱ **4** 'I will multiply your offspring* like the stars of the heavens;^j and I will give to your offspring* all these lands;^k and by means of your offspring,* all nations of the earth will obtain a blessing for themselves,^l **5** on account of the fact that Abraham listened to my voice and continued

25:30 *Or "give me a swallow." ^fLit., "the red, this the red." ^gOr "famished."
^hMeaning "Red." 26:3, 4 *Lit., "seed."

to keep my requirements, my commands, my statutes, and my laws.”^a **6** So Isaac continued to dwell in Ge’rar.^b

7 When the men of the place kept asking about his wife, he would say: “She is my sister.”^c He was afraid to say, “She is my wife,” for he said, “The men of the place might kill me because of Re-bek’ah,” for she was beautiful in appearance.^d **8** After some time had passed, A-bim’e-lech king of the Phi-lis’tines was looking out of the window, and he saw Isaac displaying affection for* Re-bek’ah his wife.^e **9** At once A-bim’e-lech called Isaac and said: “She is actually your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister?’” At this Isaac said to him: “I said it for fear I should die because of her.”^f **10** But A-bim’e-lech continued: “What have you done to us?^g One of the people could easily have lain down with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us!”^h **11** Then A-bim’e-lech commanded all the people, saying: “Anybody touching this man and his wife will surely be put to death!”

12 And Isaac began to sow seed in that land, and in that year he reaped 100 times what he sowed, for Jehovah was blessing him.ⁱ **13** The man became wealthy, and he continued to prosper until he became very wealthy. **14** He acquired flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and a large body of servants,^j and the Phi-lis’tines began to envy him.

15 So the Phi-lis’tines took soil and stopped up all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham.^k **16** A-bim’e-lech then said to Isaac: “Move from our neighborhood, for you have grown far stronger than we are.” **17** So Isaac moved from there and en-

26:8 *Or “embracing.”

CHAP. 26

a Ge 17:10, 23
Ge 22:3, 12
Heb 11:8
Jas 2:21

b Ge 26:17

c Ge 12:11-13

d Ge 24:16

e Ge 24:67

f Ge 20:11

g Ge 12:18

h Ge 20:9

i Ge 24:34, 35

j Ge 12:16

k Ge 21:27, 30

Second Col.

a Ge 10:19
Ge 20:1

b Ge 21:25

c Ge 21:31

d Ge 17:5, 6
Ge 28:1, 3

e Ge 21:31

f Ge 17:1
Ge 28:13

g Ge 15:1

h Ge 17:19
Ps 105:9-11

i Ge 12:8, 9

j Heb 11:9

k Ge 21:32

camped in the valley* of Ge’rar^a and began dwelling there. **18** And Isaac again dug the wells that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham but that the Phi-lis’tines had stopped up after Abraham’s death,^b and he called them by the names that his father had given them.^c

19 When the servants of Isaac were digging in the valley,* they found a well of fresh water. **20** And the shepherds of Ge’rar began quarreling with the shepherds of Isaac, saying: “The water is ours!” So he named the well E’sek,* because they had quarreled with him. **21** And they started digging another well, and they began quarreling over it also. So he named it Sit’nah.* **22** Later he moved away from there and dug another well, but they did not quarrel over it. So he named it Re-ho’both* and said: “It is because now Jehovah has given us ample room and has made us fruitful in the land.”^d

23 Then he went up from there to Be’er-she’ba.^e **24** That night Jehovah appeared to him and said: “I am the God of your father Abraham.^f Do not be afraid,^g for I am with you, and I will bless you and multiply your offspring* on account of Abraham my servant.”^h **25** So he built an altar there and called on the name of Jehovah.ⁱ And Isaac pitched his tent there,^j and his servants dug a well there.

26 Later A-bim’e-lech came to him from Ge’rar with A-huz’zath his personal adviser and Phi-col the chief of his army.^k **27** At this Isaac said to them: “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hated me and sent me

26:17, 19 *Or “wadi.” 26:20 *Meaning “Contention.” 26:21 *Meaning “Accusation.” 26:22 *Meaning “Broad Places.” 26:24 *Lit., “seed.”

away from your neighborhood?"

28 To this they said: "We have clearly seen that Jehovah has been with you.^a So we said, 'Let there, please, be an oath of obligation between us and you, and let us make a covenant with you'^b **29** that you will do nothing bad to us just as we have not harmed you, seeing that we have done only good to you in that we sent you away in peace. You now are the blessed of Jehovah."^c **30** Then he made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. **31** In the morning they got up early and swore an oath to each other.^c After that Isaac sent them away, and they went from him in peace.

32 On that day the servants of Isaac came and reported to him about the well that they had dug,^d and they told him: "We have found water!" **33** So he named it Shi'bah. That is why the name of the city is Be'er-she'ba^e to this day.

34 When E'sau was 40 years old, he took as wife Ju'dith the daughter of Be-e'ri the Hit'tite and also Bas'e-math the daughter of E'lon the Hit'tite.^f **35** They were a source of great grief^g to Isaac and Re-bek'ah.^g

27 Now when Isaac was old and his eyes were too weak to see, he called E'sau^h his older son to him and said: "My son!" He replied: "Here I am!" **2** And he went on to say: "I have now grown old. I do not know the day of my death. **3** So at this time take, please, your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt some wild game for me.ⁱ **4** Then make the kind of tasty dish that I am fond of and bring it to me. Then I will eat it so that I* may bless you before I die."

26:35 *Lit., "bitterness of spirit." **27:4**

*Or "my soul."

CHAP. 26

a Ge 21:22

b Ge 21:27

c Ge 21:22-24

d Ge 26:18

e Jg 20:1

f Ge 36:2, 3

g Ge 27:46
Ge 28:8

CHAP. 27

h Ge 25:28

i Ge 25:27

Second Col.

a Ge 27:30

b Ge 25:28

c Ge 27:30, 31

d Ge 27:13, 43

e Ge 25:25
Ge 27:23

f Ge 27:21

g Ge 27:8, 43

h Ge 25:23, 26

i Ge 25:25
Ge 27:11

j Ge 27:9

5 However, Re-bek'ah was listening while Isaac spoke to E'sau his son. And E'sau went out into the field to hunt game and to bring it in.^a **6** And Re-bek'ah said to Jacob her son:^b "I just heard your father speaking to your brother E'sau, saying, **7** 'Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish. Then let me eat so that I may bless you before Jehovah before my death.'^c **8** And now, my son, listen carefully and do what I am instructing you.^d **9** Go, please, to the herd and get me two of the best young goats from there so that I may prepare from them a tasty dish for your father, just the way he likes it. **10** Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before his death."

11 Jacob said to his mother Re-bek'ah: "But E'sau my brother is a hairy man,^e and my skin is smooth. **12** What if my father feels me?^f Then I will certainly appear to be mocking him, and I will bring upon myself a curse rather than a blessing." **13** At this his mother said to him: "Upon me be the curse meant for you, my son. Just do as I say and go, get them for me."^g **14** So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made a tasty dish, just the way his father liked it. **15** After that Re-bek'ah took her older son E'sau's finest garments, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob.^h **16** She also put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the hairless part of his neck.ⁱ **17** Then she handed the tasty dish and the bread that she had made to her son Jacob.^j

18 So he went in to his father and said: "My father!" to which he said: "Here I am! Who are you, my son?" **19** Jacob said to

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March 16-22 / Genesis 25-26

Treasures From God's Word

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Genesis 25:27,28—Twins Esau and Jacob differed in temperament and in their choice of activities

Genesis 25:27,28: As the boys got bigger, Esau became a skilled hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a blameless man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau because it meant game in his mouth, whereas Rebekah loved Jacob.

***it-1* 1242**

In contrast to his father's favorite son Esau, who was a wild, restless, wandering type of huntsman, Jacob is described as "a blameless [Hebrew, *tam*] man, dwelling in tents," one who led a quiet pastoral life and was dependable to look after domestic affairs, one who was especially loved by his mother. (Genesis 25:27,28) This Hebrew word *tam* is used elsewhere to describe those approved of God. For example, "bloodthirsty men hate anyone blameless," yet Jehovah gives assurance that "the future of [the blameless] man will be peaceful." (Proverbs 29:10; Psalm 37:37) The integrity keeper Job "proved to be blameless [Hebrew, *tam*] and upright."—Job 1:1,8; 2:3.

Genesis 25:29,30—Esau allowed hunger and exhaustion to control him

Genesis 25:29,30: On one occasion Jacob was boiling some stew when Esau returned from the field exhausted. So Esau said to Jacob: "Quick, please, give me some of the red stew that you have there, for I am exhausted!" That is why his name was Edom.

Genesis 25:31-34—Ungrateful Esau rashly sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal

Genesis 25:31-34: To this Jacob said: "First sell me your right as firstborn!" And Esau continued: "Here I am about to die! What use is a birthright to me?" And Jacob added: "Swear to me first!" So he swore to him and sold his right as firstborn to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and he got up and went away. Thus Esau despised the birthright.

w19.02 16 paragraph 11

Sadly, some Bible characters displayed a lack of appreciation. For example, although **Esau** was raised by parents who loved and respected Jehovah, he lacked appreciation for sacred things. (Read Hebrews 12:16.) How did his ungrateful attitude become evident? Esau rashly sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob, for a mere bowl of stew. (Genesis 25:30-34) Later, Esau bitterly regretted the choice he had made. But he had been ungrateful for what he had, so he had no basis for complaining when he did not receive the birthright blessing.

it-1 835

From earliest times the firstborn son held an honored position in the family and was the one who succeeded to the headship of the household. He inherited a double portion of the father's property. (Deuteronomy 21:17) Reuben was seated by Joseph at a meal according to his right as firstborn. (Genesis 43:33) But the Bible does not always honor the firstborn by listing sons according to birth. The first place is often given to the most prominent or faithful of the sons rather than to the firstborn.—Genesis 6:10; 1 Chronicles 1:28; compare Genesis 11:26,32; 12:4; see BIRTHRIGHT; INHERITANCE.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 25:31-34—Why does this account not prove that the line leading to the Messiah was tied to the right of firstborn?

Genesis 25:31-34: To this Jacob said: "First sell me your right as firstborn!" And Esau continued: "Here I am about to die! What use is a birthright to me?" And Jacob added: "Swear to me first!" So he swore to him and sold his right as firstborn to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and he got up and went away. Thus Esau despised the birthright.

Hebrews 12:16

and watch that among you there is no one who is sexually immoral nor anyone who does not appreciate sacred things, like Esau, who gave up his rights as firstborn in exchange for one meal.

w17.12 15 paragraphs 5-7

Now let us return to Hebrews 12:16, which reads: "Watch that among you there is no one who is sexually immoral nor anyone who does not appreciate sacred things, like Esau, who gave up his rights as firstborn in exchange for one meal." What point was being made?

The apostle Paul was not here discussing the ancestry of the Messiah. He had just urged Christians to 'make straight paths for their feet.' Thus they would not 'fail to obtain the undeserved kindness of God,' which sadly could happen if they engaged in sexual immorality. (Hebrews 12:12-16) If they did that, they would be like Esau. He failed to "appreciate sacred things," and he literally gave in to what was profane.

Esau lived in patriarchal times, and he may even occasionally have had the privilege of offering sacrifices. (Genesis 8:20,21; 12:7,8; Job 1:4,5) But with his fleshly bent of mind, Esau gave away all such privileges for a bowl of stew. He may have wanted to avoid the suffering foretold to come on Abraham's offspring. (Genesis 15:13) Esau also showed himself inclined toward the profane, lacking appreciation for sacred things, by marrying two pagan women, to his parents' grief. (Genesis 26:34,35) What a contrast he was to Jacob, who made sure to marry a worshipper of the true God!—Genesis 28:6,7; 29:10-12,18.

Genesis 26:7—Why did Isaac not tell the whole truth in this instance?

Genesis 26:7: When the men of the place kept asking about his wife, he would say: "She is my sister." He was afraid to say, "She is my wife," for he said, "The men of the place might kill me because of Rebekah," for she was beautiful in appearance.

***it-2* 245 paragraph 6**

While malicious lying is definitely condemned in the Bible, this does not mean that a person is under obligation to divulge truthful information to people who are not entitled to it. Jesus Christ counseled: "Do not give what is holy to dogs, neither throw your pearls before swine, that they may never trample them under their feet and turn around and rip you open." (Matthew 7:6) That is why Jesus on certain occasions refrained from giving full information or direct answers to certain questions when doing so could have brought unnecessary harm. (Matthew 15:1-6; 21:23-27; John 7:3-10) Evidently the course of Abraham, Isaac, Rahab, and Elisha in misdirecting or in withholding full facts from nonworshippers of Jehovah must be viewed in the same light.—Genesis 12:10-19; chap 20; 26:1-10; Joshua 2:1-6; James 2:25; 2 Kings 6:11-23.

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

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Genesis 26:1-18 (*th* study 5)

- Song 18 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Esau Sells His Birthright”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 25:27, 28—Twins Esau and Jacob differed in temperament and in their choice of activities (*it-1* 1242)
 Ge 25:29, 30—Esau allowed hunger and exhaustion to control him
 Ge 25:31-34—Ungrateful Esau rashly sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal (*w19.02* 16 ¶11; *it-1* 835)
 - **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 25:31-34—Why does this account not prove that the line leading to the Messiah was tied to the right of firstborn? (*Heb* 12:16; *w17.12* 15 ¶5-7)
- Ge 26:7—Why did Isaac not tell the whole truth in this instance? (*it-2* 245 ¶16)

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ge 26:1-18 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **First Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience the following questions: How can we avoid embarrassing a householder if he does not know the answer to a question? How did the publisher reason effectively on Matthew 20:28?
- **First Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (3)
- **First Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the *Teach Us* book. (15)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 78
- **Use Videos When Studying *Good News From God! With People:*** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the videos *What Is the Condition of the Dead?* and *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* (video category OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY). After each video is played, ask the following questions: How can you use this video when studying the *Good News* brochure? (*mwb19.03* 7) What points from the video have you found helpful in your teaching? Remind all that the digital version of the *Good News* brochure includes links to videos.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy* chap. 108
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 107 and Prayer

GENESIS 25-26 | Esau Sells His Birthright

25:27-34

Esau did “not appreciate sacred things.” (*Heb* 12:16) As a result, he sold his birthright. He also married two pagan women.—Ge 26:34, 35.

ASK YOURSELF: ‘How can I show greater appreciation for the following sacred things?’

- My relationship with Jehovah
- Holy spirit
- Bearing the holy name, Jehovah
- The field ministry
- Christian meetings
- Marriage





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

INITIAL CALL

- Question: Who was Jesus?
- Scripture: **Mt 16:16**
- Link: Why did Jesus die?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 41 ¶5

FIRST RETURN VISIT

- Question: Why did Jesus die?
- Scripture: **Mt 20:28**
- Link: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 52 ¶2

SECOND RETURN VISIT

- Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?
- Scripture: **Joh 17:3**
- Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *bhs* 58 ¶19

MEMORIAL INVITATION CAMPAIGN

(March 14–April 7):

“We’re here to invite you to a special event that will be attended by millions of people. It’s the anniversary of Jesus’ death.” Hand the person an invitation. “This invitation shows the time and location of the event in our area. We also invite you to a special talk the weekend before.”

Link When Interest Is Shown: Why did Jesus die?

“Teaching the Word of God”

(Acts 18:11)

C G6/B G7/B Gm/Bb A7

For those who teach the Word of God, There
 As teach - ers of Je - ho - vah's Word, We
 Je - ho - vah gives us all we need To

Dm A7+5 Dm7 F/G G13

is a joy - ful share. The
 strive to do what's right, So
 teach his pre - cious Word. So

Cma7 C B7/D# C/E F° F A7/E

ben - e - fits that we re - ceive Are
 all may see sin - cer - i - ty As
 if we pray to ask for help, We

C+5/D C6/D D7 Fm/Ab G7sus4 G7

far be - yond com - pare. We
 we re - flect God's light. With
 know that we'll be heard. We

“Teaching the Word of God”

C G6/B G7/B Gm/Bb A7

im - i - tate the Son of God And
 dil - i - gence we search God's Word, For
 love what's in the Word of God; What's

Dm A7+5 Dm7 F/G G13

how he taught with love. And
 it has news to tell. So
 more, we know it's true. And

Cma7 C B7/D# C/E G/F F C#° Dm

as we teach, the ones we're help - ing Draw
 we can share our heart's good trea - sure And
 as we love the ones we're teach - ing, They'll

Ab7+5 F/G G7 C

close to God a - bove.
 teach our - selves teach as well.
 soon be teach - ers too!

- Song 18 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Esau Sells His Birthright”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 25:27, 28—Twins Esau and Jacob differed in temperament and in their choice of activities (*it-1 1242*)
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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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25:27-34

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ASK YOURSELF: ‘How can I show greater appreciation for the following sacred things?’

- My relationship with Jehovah
- Holy spirit
- Bearing the holy name, Jehovah
- The field ministry
- Christian meetings
- Marriage



What is the Condition of the Dead?

Nearly all religions teach that part of a person survives death.

But what does the Bible teach?

God created the first man, Adam, from the dust. He had the opportunity to live forever. But when he deliberately disobeyed God, he was told that he would return to the dust —ceasing to exist.

What about others who died after Adam?

When Jesus was told that his friend Lazarus died, Jesus did not say that Lazarus had gone to heaven. Rather, he said: “Our friend has fallen asleep.”

What did he mean?

Just as someone in a deep sleep is inactive and unaware of his surroundings, the dead are not conscious of anything at all. Further, just as a person can be awakened from a deep sleep, the Bible shows that it is possible to be awakened from death.

Jesus did just that for his friend Lazarus. Lazarus had been dead for four days.

If some part of Lazarus had survived his death and gone to heaven, would Jesus take him out of heaven and force him to live on earth again? No. Lazarus was asleep in the grave. Jesus gave him back his life and reunited him with his family.

The Bible promises a time when many people will be resurrected from the dead, just as Lazarus was.

Jesus spoke of this wonderful hope when he said: “The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.”

You may wonder: ‘Who will return to life? And what does the resurrection tell us about Jehovah God?’ Those questions are answered in lesson 6 of the brochure Good News from God! You can download a copy from jw.org.

Jehovah’s Witnesses would be happy to study the Bible with you.

Fill in the online request for a Bible study, and a Witness in your area will call to discuss the Bible at a time and place convenient for you.

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

(video transcript)

Why does God allow suffering?

Jehovah God didn't intend for humans to suffer. On the contrary, He gave the first human couple a wonderful start.

But Satan, a rebel angel, called God a liar and influenced the first humans to reject God's Authority.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they chose to follow Satan. They rebelled against Jehovah and decided for themselves what was right and wrong.

Was Satan correct? Could humans rule themselves successfully without help from God? Time would be needed to settle the crucial issues raised by the rebels.

To illustrate: A rebellious student claims that the teachers method of instruction is wrong. He insists that he knows a much better way. Some students think that he is right, and they also become rebellious.

What should the teacher do? He has the authority to reprimand the rebellious students, but what effect would that choice have on the other students? They may lose respect for the teacher, thinking that he is afraid of being proved wrong.

But suppose the teacher allows the student to show the class his method. Then it would be proved to all present who is qualified to teach.

Jehovah has done something similar to what the teacher does. When Satan challenged Jehovah, millions of angels were watching. How Jehovah handled the rebellion would greatly affect all those angels, and eventually all intelligent creation.

Knowing this, Jehovah allowed Satan to rule this world for a time. Satan's rule has caused untold pain and suffering. However, once Jehovah's right and ability to rule is established beyond any doubt, Jehovah will undo all the damage caused by Satan's rebellion.

At that time, only people who choose to follow God's standards will inhabit the earth. Until then, what does God's patience allow us to do? And how can we show that we choose God as our ruler?

Those questions and others are answered in lesson 8 of the brochure *Good News From God!*

You can download a copy from jw.org. Jehovah's Witnesses would be happy to study the Bible with you. Fill in the online request for a Bible study, and a witness in your area will call to discuss the Bible at a time and place convenient for you.

JESUS THWARTS ATTEMPTS TO ENTRAP HIM

MATTHEW 22:15-40 MARK 12:13-34 LUKE 20:20-40

Jesus' religious enemies are upset. He has just related illustrations that expose their wickedness. The Pharisees now conspire to ensnare him. They try to get him to say something for which he can be turned over to the Roman governor, and they pay some of their disciples to entrap him.—Luke 6:7.

“Teacher,” these say, “we know you speak and teach correctly and show no partiality, but you teach the way of God in line with truth: Is it lawful for us to pay head tax to Caesar or not?” (Luke 20:21, 22) Jesus is not fooled by their flattery, for behind it is hypocrisy and cunning. If he says, ‘No, it is not right to pay this tax,’ he can be accused of sedition

against Rome. But if he says, ‘Yes, pay this tax,’ the people, chafing at being subject to Rome, may misunderstand and turn on him. So how does he answer?

Jesus responds: “Why do you put me to the test, hypocrites? Show me the tax coin.” They bring a denarius, whereupon he asks: “Whose image and inscription is this?” “Caesar’s,” they reply. Then Jesus gives the masterful direction: “Pay back, therefore, Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God.”—Matthew 22:18-21.

The men are amazed at Jesus' words. Silenced by his skillful reply, they leave. But the day is not over, nor are the efforts to entrap



him. After the Pharisees' failed attempt, leaders of another religious group approach Jesus.

Sadducees, who say that there is no resurrection, bring up a question involving the resurrection and brother-in-law marriage. They ask: "Teacher, Moses said: 'If any man dies without having children, his brother must marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers with us. The first married and died, and having no offspring, he left his wife for his brother. The same thing happened with the second and the third, through all seven. Last of all, the woman died. So in the resurrection, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her as a wife."—Matthew 22: 24-28.

Drawing on the writings of Moses, which the Sadducees accept, Jesus replies: "Is not this why you are mistaken, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, neither do men marry nor are women given in marriage, but they are as angels in the heavens. But concerning the dead being raised up, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account about the thornbush, that God said to him: 'I am the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob'? He is a God, not of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken." (Mark 12: 24-27; Exodus 3:1-6) The crowds are astounded by that answer.

Jesus has silenced both the Pharisees and the Sadducees, so now a coalition of these religious opposers comes to test him further. One scribe asks: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"—Matthew 22:36.

Jesus answers: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah, and you must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.' The second is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."—Mark 12:29-31.

At hearing the answer, the scribe responds: "Teacher, you spoke well, in line with truth, 'He is One, and there is no other besides him'; and to love him with one's whole heart, with one's whole understanding, and with one's whole strength and to love one's neighbor as oneself is worth far more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Seeing that the scribe has answered intelligently, Jesus tells him: "You are not far from the Kingdom of God."—Mark 12: 32-34.

For three days (Nisan 9, 10, and 11) Jesus has been teaching in the temple. Some people, such as this scribe, have listened to him with pleasure. But not the religious leaders, who now lack "the courage to question him anymore."

-
- ◇ The Pharisees make what attempt to entrap Jesus, and with what result?
 - ◇ When the Sadducees try to ensnare him, how does Jesus foil their attempt?
 - ◇ In answering a scribe's question, what does Jesus stress as very important?

The Divine Pattern of Love

(1 John 4:19)

B \flat 7 E \flat Cm7 A \flat Fm7 B \flat 7/F

The pat - tern of love, we learn from Je - ho - vah Shows the
 When we walk his way, our love for each oth - er Will be
 The pat - tern of love, the bond that u - nites us Lets us

E \flat /G A \flat ma7 A \flat 6 B \flat 9sus4 B \flat 7

way, guides our way. In all he has
 true, warm and true, Will move us to
 be fam - i - ly. Our Fa - ther a -

Fm C+5/E Fm/E \flat A \flat /B \flat B \flat 7

done, his deal - ings have shown us How to dis -
 care for all of our broth - ers, Old ones and
 bove now warm - ly in - vites us: "Come taste and

E \flat 6 Fm/B \flat A \flat /B \flat E \flat ma7 E \flat 6

play his lov - ing way. He gave us his
 new, not just a few. True love for our
 see real u - ni - ty." Come share in the

JANUARY 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



OUR YEARETEXT FOR 2020:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples . . . ,
baptizing them.”—MATT. 28:19.



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MARCH 2–APRIL 5, 2020

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We Will Go With You

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THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

My Life Was Spiraling Out of Control

Solomone moved to the United States, hoping to find a better life. Instead, he began abusing drugs and ended up in prison. What helped him to straighten out his life?

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES.

On jw.org, go to ABOUT US > EXPERIENCES > THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES.

YOUNG PEOPLE ASK

What if I Don't Fit In?

Is it more important to fit in with people who have questionable values or to stay true to who you are?

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > YOUNG PEOPLE ASK.

On jw.org, go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS > YOUNG PEOPLE ASK.

COVER PICTURE:

When Jesus met with the apostles and others in Galilee after his resurrection, he instructed them to “go . . . and make disciples” (See study article 1, paragraphs 3-4)

Visit the jw.org® website, or scan code



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Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

(Psalm 55)

Eb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Ebsus4 Eb
 "Lis - ten to my prayer," Je - ho - vah.
 Had I wings just as a dove has,
 Com - fort from our God, Je - ho - vah,

Ab Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm/Bb Bb Ab/Eb Bb7/Eb Eb
 Let your - self be found by me.
 Far from dan - ger I would fly,
 Al - ways brings us peace of mind.

Eb Fm/D G7 Cm G7/B Eb/Bb F/A
 Feel the an - guish deep in - side me;
 Safe from those who seek to hurt me,
 He will help us bear our bur - den.

Eb/Bb Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Ebsus4 Eb
 Help me un - a - fraid to be.
 Shel - tered from their hate - ful cry.
 He is lov - ing; he is kind.

Throw Your Burden on Jehovah

Chorus

B B[°] C#m7 F# B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 E/B B C#m/B B

Throw your bur - den on Je - ho - vah;

Ema7 F#9/E B/D# F#7sus4 F#7 Bsus4 B Bb7sus4 Bb7

Trust in him to sus - tain and save you.

Eb Abma7 Bb/Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Fm7 Fm6

He will al - ways give pro - tec - tion.

Eb/G Abma7 Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

He is loy - al; he is true.

SONG 33

Throw Your Burden
on Jehovah

PREVIEW

Have you faced situations that made you feel worthless? This article will remind you of just how much Jehovah values you. It will discuss how you can keep your self-respect no matter what happens in your life.

Jehovah Your God Values You!

“He remembered us when we were low.”—PS. 136:23.

CONSIDER the following three scenarios: A young brother is diagnosed with a debilitating disease. A hard-working middle-aged brother loses his job and, despite his earnest efforts, cannot find another. A faithful elderly sister becomes increasingly limited in what she is able to do in Jehovah’s service.

² If you are experiencing something like one of the scenarios just described, you may feel that you are not useful anymore. Those situations can rob you of joy, destroy your self-respect, and interfere with your relationships with other people.

³ This world reflects Satan’s view of human life. Satan has always treated humans as if they were of little value. He heartlessly offered Eve a path to freedom, knowing full well that the penalty for disobeying God was death. Satan has always controlled the commercial, political, and religious systems of this world. So it is not surprising that many businessmen, politicians, and religious leaders reflect his lack of respect for human life and dignity.

⁴ Jehovah, on the other hand, wants us to feel good

1-2. What situations do many of Jehovah’s people face, and what effect could that have on them?

3. How do Satan and those influenced by him regard human life?

4. What will we discuss in this article?

about ourselves, and he supports us when we face situations that could make us feel worthless. (Ps. 136:23; Rom. 12:3) This article will discuss how Jehovah helps us in the following situations: (1) When we suffer illness, (2) when we experience economic hardship, and (3) when old age makes us feel as though we had nothing useful to offer in Jehovah's service. First, however, let us see why we can be confident that each of us is valuable to Jehovah.

JEHOVAH VALUES US

⁵ Even though we are made from the dust of the earth, we are worth far more than a handful of dirt. (Gen. 2:7) Consider just some of the reasons why we know that we are valuable to Jehovah. He created humans with the ability to reflect his qualities. (Gen. 1:27) In doing so, he elevated us above the rest of physical creation, putting us in charge of the earth and the animals.—Ps. 8:4-8.

⁶ Even after Adam sinned, Jehovah continued to value humans. He values us so highly that he gave his beloved Son, Jesus, as a ransom for our sins. (1 John 4:9, 10) Applying the benefits of the ransom, Jehovah will resurrect those who have died as a result of Adam's sin, "both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) His Word shows that we are precious to him no matter what our health condition, financial situation, or age may be.—Acts 10:34, 35.

5. What proves to you that humans are valuable to Jehovah?

6. What other proof do we have that Jehovah values imperfect humans?

⁷ We have added reasons for believing that Jehovah values us. He has drawn us to him and taken notice of how we responded to the good news. (John 6:44) As we began to draw close to Jehovah, he drew closer to us. (Jas. 4:8) Jehovah also invests time and effort in educating us, showing that we are precious to him. He knows the kind of individuals we are now and the kind we can become. And he disciplines us because he loves us. (Prov. 3:11, 12) What powerful evidence that Jehovah values us!

⁸ Some considered King David to be worthless, but he knew that Jehovah loved and supported him. That thought affected David's view of his situation. (2 Sam. 16:5-7) When we feel low or face challenges, Jehovah can help us see things differently and he can help us climb over any obstacle. **(Read Psalm 18:27-29.)** When we have Jehovah's backing, nothing can stop us from serving him with joy. (Rom. 8:31) Let us now consider those three specific situations when we especially need to remember that Jehovah loves and values us.

WHEN DEALING WITH ILLNESS

⁹ Illness can take an emotional toll on us, making us feel as if we were no longer useful to anyone. We may feel embarrassed when people notice our limitations or when we must rely on others for help. Even when others are not aware

7. What added reasons do God's servants have for believing that Jehovah values them?

8. How can the words recorded at Psalm 18:27-29 affect the way we view our challenges?

9. How might illness affect the way we view ourselves?



Reading Jehovah's inspired words will help us deal with the negative emotions that an illness brings
(See paragraphs 9-12)

of our illness, we may fight feelings of shame because of how limited we have become. At such distressing times, Jehovah lifts us up. How?

¹⁰ When we are sick, “a good word” can lift our spirits. **(Read Proverbs 12: 25.)** In the Bible, Jehovah has stored up good words that remind us that we matter to him despite our sickness. (Ps. 31: 19; 41:3) If we read and even reread those inspired words, Jehovah will help us to deal with the negative emotions that our illness brings.

¹¹ Consider Jorge's experience. As a young man, Jorge contracted a debilitating disease that progressed rapidly and made him feel worthless. “I was not prepared for how my illness made me feel or the shame I felt because of the attention it attracted,” says Jorge. “As my condition declined, I thought of how my life would change. I was devastated, and I pleaded with Jehovah for help.” How did Jehovah sustain him? “Because I had trouble concentrating, I was encouraged to read short passages from Psalms that express Jehovah's care for his servants. I reread those few scriptures each day, and I found them to be comforting and reassuring. In time, other people began to see that I was smiling more. They even said that my positive attitude encouraged them. I realized that Jehovah had answered my prayers! He had helped me to change the way I looked at myself. I began to focus

10. According to Proverbs 12:25, what can help us when we are sick?

11. How did one brother experience Jehovah's help?

on what his Word says about how he views me despite my illness.”

¹² If you are dealing with an illness, be assured that Jehovah knows what you are going through. Beg him for help so that you can develop a wholesome view of your situation. Then use the Bible to retrieve the good words Jehovah has stored up for you. Focus on passages that show how much Jehovah values his servants. As you do, you will see that Jehovah is good to all those who serve him faithfully.—Ps. 84:11.

WHEN DEALING WITH ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

¹³ Every family head wants to be able to provide the necessities of life for his family. But suppose that, through no fault of his own, a brother loses his job. He diligently tries to find another one but has no success. Faced with those circumstances, he may feel worthless. How can focusing on Jehovah’s promises help him?

¹⁴ Jehovah always keeps his promises. (Josh. 21:45; 23:14) He does so for a number of reasons. First, his name, or reputation, is at stake. Jehovah has given his word that he will care for his loyal servants, and he feels obligated to fulfill that promise. (Ps. 31:1-3) In addition, Jehovah knows that we would be devastated if he did not care for those who are part of his family. He promises to provide

12. When dealing with an illness, how can you experience Jehovah’s support?

13. How could the loss of a job make a family head feel?

14. For what reasons does Jehovah keep his promises?



Remembering that Jehovah promises to provide for us will help us when we have difficulty finding a job
(See paragraphs 13-15)



Focusing on what we can do, even in old age, will assure us that Jehovah values us and our faithful service

(See paragraphs 16-18)

for us both materially and spiritually, and nothing will stop him from fulfilling that promise!—Matt. 6:30-33; 24:45.

¹⁵ When we remember why Jehovah keeps his promises, we can face economic challenges with confidence. Consider the example of the first-century Christians. When great persecution arose against the congregation in Jerusalem, “all except the apostles were scattered.” (Acts 8:1) Think what that would have meant. Economic hardship! Christians likely lost their homes and businesses. Yet, Jehovah did not abandon them; neither did they lose their joy. (Acts 8:4; Heb. 13:5, 6; Jas. 1:2, 3) Jehovah supported those faithful Christians, and he will support us.—**Read Psalm 37: 18, 19.**

WHEN COPING WITH THE LIMITATIONS OF OLD AGE

¹⁶ As we get older, we might begin to feel that we have little to give to Jehovah. King David may have been plagued by similar feelings as he grew older. (Ps. 71:9) How can Jehovah help us?

¹⁷ Consider the experience of a sister named Jheri. She was invited to attend a maintenance training session at the Kingdom Hall, but she did not want to go. She said: “I’m old, I’m a widow, and I don’t have a single skill Jehovah can use. I’m useless.” The night before the

15. (a) What challenge did the first-century Christians face? (b) What confidence does Psalm 37:18, 19 provide?

16. What circumstance could make us wonder if Jehovah values our worship?

17. What can we learn from the experience of a sister named Jheri?

training session, she poured her heart out to Jehovah in prayer. When she arrived at the Kingdom Hall the next day, she still wondered whether she should really be there. During the program, one of the speakers emphasized that our most important skill is our willingness to be taught by Jehovah. Jheri recalls: “I thought, ‘I have that skill!’ I started crying as I realized that Jehovah was answering my prayer. He was assuring me that I do have something of value to give and that he was willing to teach me!” Looking back, Jheri says: “I walked into that session feeling nervous, discouraged, and low. But I walked out of it feeling confident, encouraged, and valued!”

¹⁸ As we get older, we can be certain that Jehovah still has work for us to do. (Ps. 92:12-15) Jesus taught us that no matter how limited our abilities or how

18. How does the Bible show that Jehovah continues to value our worship as we get older?

small our efforts seem to us, Jehovah treasures whatever we can do in his service. (Luke 21:2-4) So focus on what you can do. You can, for example, speak about Jehovah, pray for your brothers, and encourage others to stay faithful. Jehovah considers you to be his fellow worker, not because of what you accomplish, but because of your willing obedience to him.—1 Cor. 3:5-9.

¹⁹ How grateful we are to worship Jehovah, a God who truly values those who serve him! He created us to do his will, and it is true worship that adds real meaning to our lives. (Rev. 4:11) Though the world may view us as worthless, Jehovah is not ashamed of us. (Heb. 11:16, 38) When we feel weighed down by illness, economic hardship, or old age, let us remember that nothing can separate us from the love of our heavenly Father. —**Read Romans 8:38, 39.**

19. What assurance does Romans 8:38, 39 give us?

HOW DOES JEHOVAH SHOW THAT HE VALUES US WHEN WE . . .

- deal with illness?
- endure economic hardship?
- feel limited by old age?

My Father, My God and Friend

(Hebrews 6:10)

C Fma7/C G7/C C Am Em/G

Life in this world can be hard. Life in this world can bring
Gone are the days of my youth; Days of ca - lam - i - ty

F Dm Dm/C Dm/B E7

tears and pain. Still ev - 'ry day I will say, "My
now are here. Still through the eyes of my faith, My

Am7 D9 F/G Chorus G7 C

life is not in vain." For God is not un -
hope is bright and clear.

Em F Am

right - teous, And he re - mem - bers the love I've shown. So

My Father, My God and Friend

Dm7 Em F

he is ev - er near me; With Je - ho - vah, I'm not a -

G7 C Em

lone. Yes, God is my pro - vid - er and my pro -

F Fm/D

tec - tor down to the end. Yes, Je -

C/G G7sus4 G7 G7/C C

ho - vah is my Fa - ther, My God and Friend.

(See also Ps. 71:17, 18.)