

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 37:3, 4—Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was their father’s favorite son (w14 8/1 12-13)
 Ge 37:5-9, 11—Joseph’s dreams gave his brothers further reasons to be jealous (w14 8/1 13 ¶2-4)
 Ge 37:23, 24, 28—The jealousy of Joseph’s brothers impelled them to treat their brother cruelly
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 36:1—Why was Esau given the secondary name Edom? (it-1 678)

Ge 37:29-32—Why did Joseph’s brothers show Joseph’s torn, bloodstained robe to Jacob? (it-1 561-562)

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 36:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Understandable to Others*, and then discuss study 17 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 10/15 30-31—Theme: Why Should Christians Have Godly Jealousy? (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 126
- **“Are You Prepared?”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 113
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 84 and Prayer

GENESIS 36-37 | Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy

37:3-9, 11, 23, 24, 28 

Joseph’s experience illustrates the harmful effects of improper jealousy. Match the scriptures to the reasons why we should stamp down any feelings we may have of improper jealousy.



SCRIPTURE	REASON
• 1Sa 18:8, 9	• Jealous people will not inherit God’s Kingdom
• Pr 14:30	• Jealousy disrupts the peace and unity of the congregation
• 2Co 12:20	• Jealousy harms us physically
• Ga 5:19-21	• Jealousy blinds us from seeing the good in others

What situations might cause us to become jealous?

“Exercise Patience”

(James 5:8)

B \flat B $^{\circ}$ Cm Eb/F F7

Our Sov - 'reign Lord Je - ho - vah Is zeal - ous for his ho - ly
The qual - i - ty of pa - tience Will help us on our god - ly

B \flat Gm

name. He fer - vent - ly de - si - res To
path. It lets our heart be tran - quil, Pro -

Cm7 Eb/F F7 B \flat Gm

clear it from un - righ - teous blame. Through man - y gen - er -
fects us from un - righ - teous wrath. It finds the good in

Cm7 Dm7 F/G G7/F

a - tions, Great en - dur - ance he has shown; In
oth - ers, Al - ways hop - ing for the best. It

“Exercise Patience”

Cm/E \flat Gm7/D C7

lov - ing, kind - ly pa - tience, Not wea - ry has he
helps us keep our bal - ance In times when we're dis -

F13 B \flat G7/B

grown. His will is that sal - va - tion All
tressed. A - long with oth - er vir - tues That

Cm A7/C \sharp B \flat /D E \flat 6 A7/E

sorts of peo - ple might at - tain. Long - last - ing, lov - ing
ho - ly spir - it can be - stow, Our pa - tience will as -

B \flat /F Fm/A \flat G7 Cm7 E \flat /F F7 B \flat

pa - tience By God will not have been in vain.
sist us To im - i - tate the God we know.

(See also Ex. 34:14; Isa. 40:28; 1 Cor. 13:4, 7; 1 Tim. 2:4.)

give it, and to your offspring* after you I will give the land."^a **13** Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him.

14 So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.^b **15** And Jacob continued to call the place where God had spoken with him Beth'el.^c

16 Then they pulled away from Beth'el. And while they were still some distance from Eph'rath, Rachel began to give birth, and her labor was very difficult. **17** But while she was struggling to deliver the child, the midwife said to her: "Do not be afraid, for you will have this son also."^d **18** Just as her life was slipping away* (for she was dying), she named him Ben-o'ni,^e but his father called him Benjamin.^{ae} **19** So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Eph'rath, that is, Beth'le-hem.^f **20** Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; it is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

21 After that Israel pulled away and pitched his tent a distance beyond the tower of E'der. **22** Once while Israel was dwelling in that land, Reu'ben went and lay down with Bil'hah his father's concubine, and Israel heard about it.^g

So there were 12 sons of Jacob. **23** The sons by Le'ah were Jacob's firstborn Reu'ben,^h then Sim'e-on, Le'vi, Judah, Is-sa-char, and Zeb'u-lun. **24** The sons by Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin. **25** And the sons by Bil'hah, Rachel's servant, were Dan and Naph'ta-li. **26** And the

35:12 *Lit., "seed." 35:18 *Or "her soul was going out." ^aMeaning "Son of My Mourning." ^{ae}Meaning "Son of the Right Hand."

CHAP. 35

a Ge 15:18
De 34:4

b Ge 28:18

c Ge 28:19

d Ge 30:22-24

e Ge 46:21
Ge 49:27
De 33:12

f Ge 48:7
Mic 5:2
Mt 2:6

g Ge 49:3, 4
1Ch 5:1

h Ge 49:3

Second Col.

a Ge 31:17, 18

b Ge 15:13
Heb 11:9

c Ge 25:20, 26

d Ge 49:30, 31

CHAP. 36

e Ge 25:30
Eze 25:12, 13
Ro 9:13

f Ge 36:10

g Ge 26:34

h Ge 36:18

i Ge 36:17

j Ge 25:13
Ge 28:9

k 1Ch 1:35

l Ge 33:9

m Ge 27:39
Ge 32:3

sons by Zil'pah, Le'ah's servant, were Gad and Ash'er. These are Jacob's sons, who were born to him in Pad'dan-a'ram.

27 Jacob eventually came to where his father Isaac was at Mam're,^a to Kir'i-ath-ar'ba, that is, Heb'ron, where Abraham and also Isaac had resided as foreigners.^b **28** Isaac lived to be 180 years old.^c **29** Then Isaac breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people,* after a long and satisfying life;^d and his sons E'sau and Jacob buried him.^d

36 This is the history of E'sau, that is, E'dom.^e

2 E'sau took his wives from the daughters of Ca'naan: A'dah^f the daughter of E'lon the Hit'tite;^g and O-hol-i-ba'mah^h the daughter of A'nah, the granddaughter of Zib'e-on the Hi'vite; **3** and Bas'e-math,ⁱ Ish'ma-el's daughter, the sister of Ne-ba'ioth.^j

4 And A'dah bore El'i-phaz to E'sau, and Bas'e-math bore Reu'el,

5 and O-hol-i-ba'mah bore Je'ush, Ja'l'am, and Kor'ah.^k

These are the sons of E'sau, who were born to him in the land of Ca'naan. **6** After that E'sau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, all the members* of his household, his herd and all his other beasts, and all the wealth he had accumulated^l in the land of Ca'naan and he went to another land some distance away from Jacob his brother.^m **7** For their goods had become too many for them to dwell together, and the land where they were residing* was not able to sustain them because of their herds. **8** So E'sau took up

35:29 *This is a poetic expression for death. ^aLit., "old and full of days." 36:6 *Or "souls." 36:7 *Or "living as foreigners."

dwelling in the mountainous region of Se'ir.^a E'sau is E'dom.^b

9 And this is the history of E'sau the father of E'dom in the mountainous region of Se'ir.^c

10 These are the names of the sons of E'sau: El'i-phaz the son of A'dah, E'sau's wife; Reu'el the son of Bas'e-math, E'sau's wife.^d

11 The sons of El'i-phaz were Te'man,^e O'mar, Ze'pho, Ga'tam, and Ke'naz.^f 12 Tim'na became the concubine of El'i-phaz, E'sau's son. In time she bore to El'i-phaz, Am'a-lek.^g These are the sons of A'dah, E'sau's wife.

13 These are the sons of Reu'el: Na'hath, Ze'rah, Sham'mah, and Miz'zah. These were the sons of Bas'e-math,^h E'sau's wife.

14 These were the sons of O-hol-i-ba'mah the daughter of A'nah, the granddaughter of Zib'e-on, E'sau's wife, whom she bore to E'sau: Je'ush, Ja'lam, and Kor'ah.

15 These are the sheikhs* of the sons of E'sau:ⁱ The sons of El'i-phaz, E'sau's firstborn: Sheikh Te'man, Sheikh O'mar, Sheikh Ze'pho, Sheikh Ke'naz,^j 16 Sheikh Kor'ah, Sheikh Ga'tam, and Sheikh Am'a-lek. These are the sheikhs of El'i-phaz^k in the land of E'dom. These are the sons by A'dah.

17 These are the sons of Reu'el, E'sau's son: Sheikh Na'hath, Sheikh Ze'rah, Sheikh Sham'mah, and Sheikh Miz'zah. These are the sheikhs of Reu'el in the land of E'dom.^l These are the sons by Bas'e-math, E'sau's wife.

18 Finally these are the sons of O-hol-i-ba'mah, E'sau's wife: Sheikh Je'ush, Sheikh Ja'lam, and Sheikh Kor'ah. These are the sheikhs of O-hol-i-ba'mah the daughter of A'nah, E'sau's wife.

36:15 *A sheikh was a tribal chief.

CHAP. 36

- a Ge 14:6
De 2:5
- b Ge 25:30
- c De 2:12
- d 1Ch 1:35
- e Ge 36:34
- f Ge 36:40, 42
1Ch 1:36
- g Ex 17:8
Nu 13:29
Nu 24:20
De 25:19
1Sa 15:8
1Sa 30:1
- h Ge 26:34
- i Ex 15:15
- j 1Ch 1:53, 54
- k 1Ch 1:36
- l Nu 20:23
1Ki 9:26

Second Col.

- a Ge 25:30
Ge 32:3
- b Ge 14:6
De 2:12, 22
- c 1Ch 1:40
- d 1Ch 1:38
- e 1Ch 1:39
- f Ge 36:2
- g 1Ch 1:41
- h 1Ch 1:42
- i 1Ch 1:38
- j Nu 20:14
- k De 17:14, 15
1Sa 10:19
1Ch 1:43-50

19 These are the sons of E'sau, and these are their sheikhs. He is E'dom.^a

20 These are the sons of Se'ir the Hor'ite, the inhabitants of the land:^b Lo'tan, Sho'bal, Zib'e-on, A'nah,^c 21 Di'shon, E'zer, and Di'shan.^d These are the sheikhs of the Hor'ites, the sons of Se'ir, in the land of E'dom.

22 The sons of Lo'tan were Ho'ri and He'mam, and Lo'tan's sister was Tim'na.^e

23 These are the sons of Sho'bal: Al'van, Man'a-hath, E'bal, She'pho, and O'nam.

24 These are the sons of Zib'e-on:^f A'iah and A'nah. This is the A'nah who found the hot springs in the wilderness while he was tending the donkeys for Zib'e-on his father.

25 These are the children of A'nah: Di'shon and O-hol-i-ba'mah the daughter of A'nah.

26 These are the sons of Di'shon: Hem'dan, Esh'ban, Ith'ran, and Che'ran.^g

27 These are the sons of E'zer: Bil'han, Za'a-van, and A'kan.

28 These are the sons of Di'shan: Uz and A'ran.^h

29 These are the sheikhs of the Hor'ites: Sheikh Lo'tan, Sheikh Sho'bal, Sheikh Zib'e-on, Sheikh A'nah, 30 Sheikh Di'shon, Sheikh E'zer, and Sheikh Di'shan.ⁱ These are the sheikhs of the Hor'ites according to their sheikhs in the land of Se'ir.

31 Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of E'dom^j before any king reigned over the Israelites.*^k 32 Be'la son of Be'or reigned in E'dom, and the name of his city was Din'ha-bah. 33 When Be'la died, Jo'bab son of Ze'rah from Boz'rah began to reign

36:31 *Lit., "the sons of Israel."

in his place. **34** When Jo'bab died, Hu'sham from the land of the Te'man-ites began to reign in his place. **35** When Hu'sham died, Ha'dad son of Be'dad, who defeated the Mid'i-an-ites^a in the territory* of Mo'ab, began to reign in his place, and the name of his city was A'vith. **36** When Ha'dad died, Sam'lah from Mas-re'kah began to reign in his place. **37** When Sam'lah died, Sha'ul from Re-ho'both by the River began to reign in his place. **38** When Sha'ul died, Ba'al-ha'nan the son of Ach'bor began to reign in his place. **39** When Ba'al-ha'nan the son of Ach'bor died, Ha'dar began to reign in his place. The name of his city was Pa'u, and the name of his wife was Me-het'a-bel the daughter of Ma'tred the daughter of Me'za-hab.

40 So these are the names of the sheikhs of E'sau according to their families, according to their places, by their names: Sheikh Tim'na, Sheikh Al'vah, Sheikh Je'theth,^b **41** Sheikh O-hol-iba'mah, Sheikh E'lah, Sheikh Pi'non, **42** Sheikh Ke'naz, Sheikh Te'man, Sheikh Mib'zar, **43** Sheikh Mag'di-el, and Sheikh I'ram. These are the sheikhs of E'dom according to their settlements in the land of their possession.^c This is E'sau the father of E'dom.^d

37 Jacob continued to dwell in the land of Ca'naan, where his father had lived as a foreigner.^e

2 This is the history of Jacob.

When Joseph^f was 17 years old, the young man was tending the flock^g with the sons of Bil'hah^h and the sons of Zil'pah,ⁱ the wives of his father. And Joseph brought a bad report about them to their father. **3** Now Is-

CHAP. 36

a Ge 25:1, 2
Ex 2:15
Nu 31:2

b 1Ch 1:51-54

c De 2:5

d Ge 25:30
Ge 36:8

CHAP. 37

e Ge 23:3, 4
Ge 28:1, 4
Heb 11:8, 9

f Ge 30:25
Ge 46:19

g Ge 47:3

h Ge 35:25

i Ge 35:26

Second Col.

a 1Ch 2:1, 2

b Ge 37:19

c Ge 42:6, 9

d Ge 45:8
Ge 49:26

e Ge 44:14
Ge 45:9

f Ac 7:9

g Ge 33:18

rael loved Joseph more than all his other sons^a because he was the son of his old age, and he had a special robe* made for him. **4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him, and they could not speak peaceably to him.

5 Later Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers,^b and they found further reason to hate him. **6** He said to them: "Please listen to this dream that I had. **7** There we were binding sheaves in the middle of the field when my sheaf got up and stood erect and your sheaves encircled and bowed down to my sheaf."^c **8** His brothers said to him: "Are you really going to make yourself king over us and dominate us?"^d So they found another reason to hate him, because of his dreams and what he said.

9 After that he had still another dream, and he related it to his brothers: "I have had another dream. This time the sun and the moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me."^e **10** Then he related it to his father as well as his brothers, and his father rebuked him and said to him: "What is the meaning of this dream of yours? Am I as well as your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the earth to you?" **11** And his brothers grew jealous of him,^f but his father kept the saying in mind.

12 His brothers now went to pasture their father's flock near She'chem.^g **13** Israel later said to Joseph: "Your brothers are tending flocks near She'chem, are they not? Come, and let me send you to them." At this he said to him: "I am ready!" **14** So he said to him: "Go, please, and see whether your brothers are well. See how the flock is, and bring word back to me." With that

36:35 *Lit., "field."

37:3 *Or "a beautiful long garment."

he sent him away from the valley* of Heb'ron,^a and he went on toward She'chem. **15** Later a man found him as he was wandering in a field. The man asked him: "What are you looking for?" **16** To this he said: "I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me, where are they tending flocks?" **17** The man continued: "They have pulled away from here, for I heard them saying, 'Let us go to Do'than.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Do'than.

18 Now they caught sight of him from a distance, and before he reached them, they began plotting against him to put him to death. **19** So they said to one another: "Look! Here comes that dreamer.^b **20** Come, now, let us kill him and pitch him into one of the waterpits, and we will say that a vicious wild animal devoured him. Then let us see what will become of his dreams." **21** When Reu'ben^c heard this, he tried to rescue him from them. So he said: "Let us not take his life."^d **22** Reu'ben said to them: "Do not shed blood.^e Throw him into this waterpit in the wilderness, but do not harm* him."^f His purpose was to rescue him from them in order to return him to his father.

23 So as soon as Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his robe, the special robe that he wore,^g **24** and they took him and threw him into the waterpit. At the time the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat. When they looked up, there was a caravan of Ish'ma-el-ites^h coming from Gil'e-ad. Their camels were carrying labdanum gum, balsam, and resinous bark,ⁱ and

37:14 *Or "low plain." 37:21 *Or "strike his soul." 37:22 *Or "lay a hand on."

CHAP. 37

- a Ge 23:19
Ge 35:27
- b Ge 37:5
- c Ge 49:3
- d Ge 9:5
Ex 20:13
- e Ge 4:8, 10
Ge 42:22
- f Ge 42:21
- g Ge 37:3
- h Ge 25:12
- i Ge 43:11

Second Col.

- a Ge 4:8, 10
- b Ac 7:9
- c Ge 25:1, 2
- d Ge 40:15
Ge 45:4
Ps 105:17
- e Ge 37:3
- f Ge 42:38
Ge 44:29
Ps 89:48
Ec 9:10
Ho 13:14
Ac 2:27
Re 20:13
- g Ge 39:1

h Ge 40:2, 3

they were on their way down to Egypt. **26** At this Judah said to his brothers: "What profit would there be if we killed our brother and covered over his blood?"^a **27** Come, now, let us sell him^b to the Ish'ma-el-ites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh." So they listened to their brother. **28** And when the Mid'i-an-ite^c merchants were passing by, they lifted Joseph up out of the waterpit and sold him to the Ish'ma-el-ites for 20 pieces of silver.^d These men took Joseph into Egypt.

29 Later when Reu'ben returned to the waterpit and saw that Joseph was not in the waterpit, he ripped his garments apart. **30** When he returned to his brothers, he exclaimed: "The child is gone! And I—what am I going to do?"

31 So they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the robe in the blood. **32** After that they sent the special robe to their father and said: "This is what we found. Please examine whether this is your son's robe or not."^e **33** Then he examined it and exclaimed: "It is my son's robe! A vicious wild animal must have devoured him! Joseph is surely torn to pieces!" **34** With that Jacob ripped his garments apart and put sackcloth around his waist and mourned his son for many days. **35** And all his sons and all his daughters kept trying to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort, saying: "I will go down into the Grave^{*f} mourning my son!" And his father continued weeping for him.

36 Now the Mid'i-an-ites sold him in Egypt to Pot'i-phar, a court official of Phar'aoh^g and the chief of the guard.^h

37:35 *Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary.

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 37:3, 4—Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was their father’s favorite son (w14 8/1 12-13)
 Ge 37:5-9, 11—Joseph’s dreams gave his brothers further reasons to be jealous (w14 8/1 13 ¶2-4)
 Ge 37:23, 24, 28—The jealousy of Joseph’s brothers impelled them to treat their brother cruelly
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 36:1—Why was Esau given the secondary name Edom? (it-1 678)

Ge 37:29-32—Why did Joseph’s brothers show Joseph’s torn, bloodstained robe to Jacob? (it-1 561-562)

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 36:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Understandable to Others*, and then discuss study 17 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 10/15 30-31—Theme: Why Should Christians Have Godly Jealousy? (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 126
- **“Are You Prepared?”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 113
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 84 and Prayer

GENESIS 36-37 | Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy

37:3-9, 11, 23, 24, 28 

Joseph’s experience illustrates the harmful effects of improper jealousy. Match the scriptures to the reasons why we should stamp down any feelings we may have of improper jealousy.



SCRIPTURE	REASON
• 1Sa 18:8, 9	• Jealous people will not inherit God’s Kingdom
• Pr 14:30	• Jealousy disrupts the peace and unity of the congregation
• 2Co 12:20	• Jealousy harms us physically
• Ga 5:19-21	• Jealousy blinds us from seeing the good in others

What situations might cause us to become jealous?

May 4-10 / Genesis 36-37

Treasures From God's Word

"Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy": (10 minutes)

Genesis 37:3-9, 11, 23, 24, 28

Joseph's experience illustrates the harmful effects of improper jealousy. Match the scriptures to the reasons why we should stamp down any feelings we may have of improper jealousy.

1 Samuel 18:8, 9: Saul became very angry, and this song displeased him, for he said: "They have credited David with tens of thousands, but to me they have credited thousands. The only thing left to give him is the kingship!" From that day on, Saul was always looking at David suspiciously.

Reason • Jealous people will not inherit God's Kingdom

Proverbs 14:30: A calm heart gives life to the body, But jealousy is rottenness to the bones.

Reason • Jealousy disrupts the peace and unity of the congregation

2 Corinthians 12:20: For I am afraid that somehow when I arrive, I may not find you as I wish and I may not be as you wish, but instead, there may be strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, dissension, backbiting, whispering, being puffed up with pride, and disorder.

Reason • Jealousy harms us physically

Galatians 5:19-21: Now the works of the flesh are plainly seen, and they are sexual immorality, uncleanness, brazen conduct, idolatry, spiritism, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, dissensions, divisions, sects, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and things like these. I am forewarning you about these things, the same way I already warned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom.

Reason • Jealousy blinds us from seeing the good in others

What situations might cause us to become jealous?

Genesis 37:3, 4—Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was their father’s favorite son

Genesis 37:3, 4: Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons because he was the son of his old age, and he had a special robe made for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him, and they could not speak peaceably to him.

w14 8/1 12-13

The Bible answers: “When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him, and they could not speak peaceably to him.” (Genesis 37:4) Their jealousy may be understandable, but Joseph’s brothers were unwise to give in to that poisonous emotion. (Proverbs 14:30; 27:4) Have you ever found yourself seething with envy when someone received attention or honor that you wanted? Remember Joseph’s brothers. Their jealousy led them to commit deeds that they would come to regret deeply. Their example serves to remind Christians that it is far wiser to “rejoice with those who rejoice.”—Romans 12:15.

Joseph surely sensed his brothers’ animosity. So did he stash his fancy robe out of sight when his brothers were near? He might have been tempted to do so. Remember, though, that Jacob wanted the robe to be a sign of favor and love. Joseph wanted to live up to his father’s trust in him, so he loyally wore the garment. His example is useful for us. Although our own heavenly Father is never partial, he does at times single out his loyal servants and favor them. Furthermore, he asks them to stand out as different from this corrupt and immoral world. Like Joseph’s special robe, the conduct of true Christians makes them different from those around them. Such conduct sometimes incites jealousy and animosity. (1 Peter 4:4) Should a Christian hide his true identity as a servant of God? No—no more than Joseph should have hidden his robe.—Luke 11:33.

Genesis 37:5-9, 11—Joseph’s dreams gave his brothers further reasons to be jealous

Genesis 37:5-9: Later Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers, and they found further reason to hate him. He said to them: “Please listen to this dream that I had. There we were binding sheaves in the middle of the field when my sheaf got up and stood erect and your sheaves encircled and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him: “Are you really going to make yourself king over us and dominate us?” So they found another reason to hate him, because of his dreams and what he said. After that he had still another dream, and he related it to his brothers: “I have had another dream. This time the sun and the moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me.”

Genesis 37:11: And his brothers grew jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

w14 8/1 13 paragraphs 2-4

The dreams came from Jehovah God. They were prophetic in nature, and God meant for Joseph to pass along the message they contained. In a sense, Joseph was to do what all the later prophets did when they related God's messages and judgments to His wayward people.

Joseph tactfully said to his brothers: "Please listen to this dream that I had." His brothers understood the dream, and they did not like it one bit. They answered: "Are you really going to make yourself king over us and dominate us?" The account adds: "So they found another reason to hate him, because of his dreams and what he said." When Joseph related the second dream to his father as well as his brothers, the reaction was not much better. We read: "His father rebuked him and said to him: 'What is the meaning of this dream of yours? Am I as well as your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the earth to you?'" However, Jacob kept thinking the matter over. Might Jehovah be communicating with the boy?—Genesis 37:6, 8, 10, 11.

Joseph was neither the first nor the last servant of Jehovah to be asked to relay a prophetic message that would prove to be unpopular and even lead to persecution. Jesus was the greatest of such message bearers, and he told his followers: "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20) Christians of all ages may learn much from the faith and courage of young Joseph.

Genesis 37:23, 24, 28—The jealousy of Joseph's brothers impelled them to treat their brother cruelly

Genesis 37:23, 24: So as soon as Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his robe, the special robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into the waterpit. At the time the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:28: And when the Midianite merchants were passing by, they lifted Joseph up out of the waterpit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. These men took Joseph into Egypt.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 36:1—Why was Esau given the secondary name Edom?

Genesis 36:1: This is the history of Esau, that is, Edom.

it-1 678

(E'dom) [Red], Edomites (E'domites).

Edom was the secondary name or byname given to Esau, Jacob's twin brother. (Genesis 36:1) It was applied to him because of his selling his birthright for the *red* stew. (Genesis 25:30-34) Coincidentally, Esau at birth had had a very red color (Genesis 25:25), and a similar color prevailed in parts of the land he and his descendants later inhabited.

Genesis 37:29-32—Why did Joseph's brothers show Joseph's torn, bloodstained robe to Jacob?

Genesis 37:29-32: Later when Reuben returned to the waterpit and saw that Joseph was not in the waterpit, he ripped his garments apart. When he returned to his brothers, he exclaimed: "The child is gone! And I—what am I going to do?" So they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the robe in the blood. After that they sent the special robe to their father and said: "This is what we found. Please examine whether this is your son's robe or not."

it-1 561-562

When a shepherd or herdsman said he would keep or guard a flock or herd, he was indicating legal acceptance of the custody of these animals. He was guaranteeing the owner that they would be fed and not stolen, or else compensation would be paid. However, his responsibility was not absolute, for the above law absolved the guardian of liability in the case of an occurrence beyond normal human control, such as attack by wild beasts. To be relieved of the responsibility of custody, though, he had to submit evidence to the owner, as, for example, the torn carcass. The owner, on examination of such evidence, was bound to return a verdict of innocence on the part of the custodian.

The same principle applied in general to any entrusted property, even in family relationships, for example, the oldest brother was considered the legal guardian of his younger brothers and sisters. Hence, we can understand the concern that Reuben as an eldest son had for Joseph's life, as recorded at Genesis 37:18-30, when the other brothers spoke of killing him. "He said: 'Let us not strike his soul fatally.' . . . 'Do not spill blood. . . do not lay a violent hand upon him.' His purpose was to deliver him out of their hand in order to return him to his father." And when Reuben discovered Joseph's absence,

his anxiety was so extreme that “he ripped his garments apart” and exclaimed: “The child is gone! And I—where am I really to go?” He knew that he could be held accountable for the loss of Joseph. To escape responsibility, the brothers shrewdly fabricated evidence to the effect that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. This they did by soaking Joseph’s striped garment in goat’s blood. They then submitted this evidence to Jacob, their father and patriarchal judge, who absolved Reuben of any responsibility because, on the basis of Joseph’s blood-soaked garment that his brothers presented as evidence, Jacob concluded that Joseph had been killed.—Genesis 37:31-33.

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 36:1-19 (*th* study 5)

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 37:3, 4—Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was their father’s favorite son (w14 8/1 12-13)
 Ge 37:5-9, 11—Joseph’s dreams gave his brothers further reasons to be jealous (w14 8/1 13 ¶2-4)
 Ge 37:23, 24, 28—The jealousy of Joseph’s brothers impelled them to treat their brother cruelly
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 36:1—Why was Esau given the secondary name Edom? (it-1 678)

Ge 37:29-32—Why did Joseph’s brothers show Joseph’s torn, bloodstained robe to Jacob? (it-1 561-562)

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 36:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Understandable to Others*, and then discuss study 17 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 10/15 30-31—Theme: Why Should Christians Have Godly Jealousy? (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 126
- **“Are You Prepared?”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 113
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 84 and Prayer

GENESIS 36-37 | Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy

37:3-9, 11, 23, 24, 28 

Joseph’s experience illustrates the harmful effects of improper jealousy. Match the scriptures to the reasons why we should stamp down any feelings we may have of improper jealousy.



SCRIPTURE	REASON
• 1Sa 18:8, 9	• Jealous people will not inherit God’s Kingdom
• Pr 14:30	• Jealousy disrupts the peace and unity of the congregation
• 2Co 12:20	• Jealousy harms us physically
• Ga 5:19-21	• Jealousy blinds us from seeing the good in others

What situations might cause us to become jealous?

17

Understandable to Others



1 Corinthians 14:9

SUMMARY: Help your listeners to grasp the meaning of your message.

HOW TO DO IT:

- **Study your material thoroughly.** Understand the topic clearly so that you can explain it simply and in your own words.

- **Use short sentences and simple phrases.** Although longer sentences are acceptable, convey key points using concise phrases and sentences.



Eliminate unnecessary details that may confuse and overwhelm your listeners. Favor plain language over complicated speech.

- **Explain unfamiliar terms.** Minimize the use of expressions that are unfamiliar to your listeners. If you must refer to an unfamiliar term, Bible character, or ancient measurement or custom, provide an explanation.



Avoid the snare of misguided jealousy

that became a heavy burden on the people. (Matthew 23:4) Unable or unwilling to recognize that God had now replaced the Mosaic Law with the reality that it had foreshadowed, their jealousy wrongly moved them to vent uncontrolled rage at the followers of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul, who himself was once jealously loyal to the Law in a misguided sense, pointed out that people who were defending the Law had “a zeal [jealousy] for God; but not according to accurate knowledge.”—Romans 10:2; Galatians 1:14.

Even many of the Jews who became Christians had a hard time ridding themselves of this inordinate zeal for the Law. After his third missionary tour, Paul gave a report to the first-century governing body on the conversion of the nations. At that time, thousands of Christian Jews were “all zealous for the Law.” (Acts 21:20) This was years after the governing body had ruled that the Gentile Christians did not have to be circum-

cised. Issues related to observing the Law had been causing strife in the congregation. (Acts 15:1, 2, 28, 29; Galatians 4:9, 10; 5:7-12) Lacking full understanding of how Jehovah now dealt with his people, some Jewish Christians insisted on their own viewpoints, criticizing others.—Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1.

We, then, must avoid the snare of jealously trying to protect our own cherished ideas or ways that are not solidly based on God’s Word. We do well to accept the fresh light shed on the Word of God through the channel that Jehovah is using today.

Be Jealous for Jehovah

Godly jealousy, however, has its place in true worship. When we tend to be unduly concerned with our own reputation or rights, godly jealousy turns our attention to Jehovah. It moves us to seek out avenues to declare the truth about him, defending his ways and his people.

Akiko, a full-time minister of Jehovah’s Witnesses, was sternly rebuffed by a householder who had misconceptions about God’s law on blood. Akiko tactfully defended God’s Word, even mentioning the medical complications and problems associated with blood transfusions. Moved by an ardent desire to talk about Jehovah, she turned the conversation to what she discerned was the real basis for the woman’s objections—her lack of belief in the existence of a Creator. Akiko reasoned with the householder on how creation supported belief in a Creator. Her bold defense led not only to the removing of unfounded prejudices but also to a home Bible study with the woman. Today the formerly irate householder is a praiser of Jehovah.

Proper jealousy, or zeal, for true worship compels us to be alert and to seize opportunities to talk about and defend our faith at work, in school, at the store, and while traveling. Midori, for example, makes it a point to

speak about her faith to her workmates. One colleague who was in her 40's said that she wanted nothing to do with Jehovah's Witnesses. Later, during another conversation, the woman complained of her daughter's developing a personality problem. Midori showed her the book *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*,* and she offered to arrange a study in the book with the daughter. A study was started, but the mother did not sit in on the discussion. Midori decided to show the woman the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*.* This cleared up many of her misimpressions. Moved by what she saw, she said: "I want to be like Jehovah's Witnesses." She joined her daughter in studying the Bible.

* Published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

Godly jealousy moves us to share our faith and cherish our brotherhood

Proper jealousy has its place in the Christian congregation too. It fosters a warm spirit of love and concern and moves us to resist disruptive influences that would harm our spiritual brothers, such as damaging gossip and apostate thinking. Godly jealousy moves us to support the decisions of the elders, who on occasion find it necessary to reprove wrongdoers. (1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 1 Timothy 5:20) Writing about his jealous feelings for fellow believers in the Corinthian congregation, Paul said: "I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a chaste virgin to the Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2) So, too, our jealousy moves us to do all we can to protect the doctrinal, spiritual, and moral purity of all in the congregation.

Yes, properly motivated jealousy—godly jealousy—has a wholesome influence on others. It elicits Jehovah's approval and should be one of the qualities observed in Christians today.—John 2:17.



126 Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

Bb/C C7 F C7/G F/A Bb Gm7 Bb/C C7

Stay a - wake, stand firm, grow might - y, Be de -
 Stay a - wake, and keep your sens - es, Al - ways
 Stay a - wake, re - main u - nit - ed As the

F Cm/A D+5 D/C Gm/Bb D7/A Gm C/D D7

ter - mined to en - dure. Car - ry
 read - y to o - bey. Stay a -
 good news we de - fend. Though our

Gm D7/A Gm/Bb G/B Bb/C C7 C/Bb F/A

on with man - ly cour - age, For the
 lert to Christ's di - rec - tion Through his
 en - e - mies will fight it, We will

Gm Gm7 Am/C C7 F Cm6/Eb

vic - to - ry is sure. We o -
 faith - ful slave to - day. Heed the
 preach un - til the end. Join the

Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty

D7 C/E D7/F# D7 Gm D7/A Gm/Bb

bey coun - shout Christ - sel of Je - sus' the clear - out com - er men, Un - der Who pro - Look! Je -

E7/B E7 D6/F# E7/G# Am F#o Gm7 Chorus Bb/C C7

him tect ho - vah's we his sheep day firm - ly and is take truth soon our de - fend. Stand. Stay a -

F F/Eb Bb/D Db7

wake, stand firm, and grow might - y! Car - ry

F/C Dm7 Gm7 C7 F

on right to the end!

- Song 114 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy”:** (10 min.)
 Ge 37:3, 4—Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was their father’s favorite son (w14 8/1 12-13)
 Ge 37:5-9, 11—Joseph’s dreams gave his brothers further reasons to be jealous (w14 8/1 13 ¶2-4)
 Ge 37:23, 24, 28—The jealousy of Joseph’s brothers impelled them to treat their brother cruelly
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ge 36:1—Why was Esau given the secondary name Edom? (it-1 678)

Ge 37:29-32—Why did Joseph’s brothers show Joseph’s torn, bloodstained robe to Jacob? (it-1 561-562)

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 36:1-19 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Apply Yourself to Reading and Teaching:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Understandable to Others*, and then discuss study 17 of the *Teaching* brochure.
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 10/15 30-31—Theme: Why Should Christians Have Godly Jealousy? (6)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 126
- **“Are You Prepared?”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video *Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?* (video category THE BIBLE). Include reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if provided.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 113
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 84 and Prayer

GENESIS 36-37 | Joseph Becomes a Victim of Jealousy

37:3-9, 11, 23, 24, 28 

Joseph’s experience illustrates the harmful effects of improper jealousy. Match the scriptures to the reasons why we should stamp down any feelings we may have of improper jealousy.



SCRIPTURE	REASON
• 1Sa 18:8, 9	• Jealous people will not inherit God’s Kingdom
• Pr 14:30	• Jealousy disrupts the peace and unity of the congregation
• 2Co 12:20	• Jealousy harms us physically
• Ga 5:19-21	• Jealousy blinds us from seeing the good in others

What situations might cause us to become jealous?

Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

(raw transcript)

Jehovah has warned us that we're living in "critical times hard to deal with."

And Jesus foretold that in the last days there would be great "earthquakes in one place after another" and other "fearful sights."

Many of us either have or will be affected by some form of natural disaster.

If this happens, how can we be prepared?

First, we can prepare spiritually by maintaining a close relationship with Jehovah. He is "the God of all comfort," and he can comfort us in times of tribulation. How does he do this? We do not expect divine intervention. But if we pray during times of distress, his powerful holy spirit can bring Bible passages back to mind to comfort us. Second, we can take practical steps, perhaps preparing an emergency kit. Our kit could contain the following items if possible:

first-aid supplies, bottled water, and nonperishable food.

Also, we shouldn't forget to update the elders with our latest contact information. If we don't do so, valuable time could be lost in a disaster.

Additionally, during a Family Worship evening, our family could review the types of disasters that might happen and what could be done in each situation—such as where we meet, how we contact the elders, and so forth.

And third, we can help others when they're experiencing a disaster, knowing they'd do the same for us. How can we do this?

By offering prayers in their behalf, by volunteering to assist with disaster relief efforts, and by contributing donations to the worldwide work.

No, we can't avoid all natural disasters.

But if we prepare spiritually, practically, and help others currently affected, we can take comfort in knowing that in Jehovah's eyes we are prepared. That was great, practical advice for all of us to take to heart. But there are some things we can do to help our local congregation.

Let's turn briefly to interview Brother Bram Siegel, who's with the Coordinators' Committee Office. Bram, how can all of us cooperate with the congregation

arrangement when a disaster hits? Immediately after a disaster occurs, each field service group overseer will contact everyone in his group to make sure that all are accounted for and to see if anyone needs assistance. So each of us should make sure to give the elders our up-to-date contact information. That way they can reach us when something happens. That's a very important reminder—good point!

But what if my area was not hit by the disaster but an adjacent town or city was? Can I just travel there on my own to help, or what should I do? We really appreciate the beautiful spirit the brotherhood shows when it comes to providing disaster relief. Really, the best time to make yourself available to help is right now, before a disaster occurs. Just ask your local elders for an application. Later, when there's a need to provide disaster relief, the branch office will know that you're willing and ready to assist. Thank you very much, Bram, for those important reminders. Thank you.

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODBiblePrinciples/pub-jwb_201707_6_VIDEO

Are You Prepared?

If a natural disaster strikes your area, are you prepared? Earthquakes, hurricanes, forest fires, and floods can occur suddenly and be very destructive. In addition, terrorist attacks, unrest, and epidemics can occur anywhere and without warning. (Ec 9:11) We should not assume that such events will never occur where we live.

Each of us must take reasonable steps to prepare for a disaster. (Pr 22:3) Although Jehovah's organization provides a measure of assistance in times of disaster, this does not mean that we have no personal responsibility.—Ga 6:5, fn.



WATCH THE VIDEO ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A NATURAL DISASTER? AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



How can we prepare spiritually for a disaster?

Why is it important to . . .

- maintain good communication with the elders before, during, and after a disaster?



- prepare an emergency kit?—g17.5 6



What are three ways we can help others when they experience a disaster?

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

There is an increasing need for help with disaster relief work. If you are willing to volunteer, promptly inform the elders.

A LESSON IN DILIGENCE—THE TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

While still with his four apostles on the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells them another illustration. A few days earlier, while he was at Jericho, he gave the illustration of the minas to show that the Kingdom was yet far off in the future. The illustration he now relates has a number of similar features. It is part of his answer to the question about his presence and the conclusion of the system of things. It highlights that his disciples must be diligent with what he entrusts to them.

Jesus begins: “It is just like a man about to travel abroad who summoned his slaves and entrusted his belongings to them.” (Matthew 25:14) Given that Jesus had already likened himself to a man who traveled abroad “to secure kingly power for himself,” the apostles could easily see that Jesus is the “man” being spoken of now.—Luke 19:12.

Before the man in the illustration travels abroad, he commits to his slaves valuable belongings. During the three and a half years of his ministry, Jesus focused on preaching the good news of God’s Kingdom, and he trained his disciples to do this work. Now he is going away, confident that they will carry on doing what he trained them to do.—Matthew 10:7; Luke 10:1, 8, 9; compare John 4:38; 14:12.

In the illustration, how does the man distribute his belongings? Jesus relates: “He gave five talents to one, two to another, and one to still another, to each according to his own ability, and he went abroad.” (Matthew 25:15) What will these slaves do with what is entrusted to them? Will they be diligent in using them in their master’s interests? Jesus tells the apostles:

“Immediately the one who received the five talents went and did business with them and

gained five more. Likewise, the one who received the two gained two more. But the slave who received just one went off and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.” (Matthew 25:16-18) What will happen when the master returns?

“After a long time,” Jesus continues, “the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.” (Matthew 25:19) The first two did all they could, “each according to his own ability.” Each slave was diligent, hardworking, and productive with what had been entrusted to him. The one who received five talents doubled that, as did the one who received two talents. (Back then, a worker would have to labor about 19 years to earn the equivalent of one talent.) The master has the same commendation for each of them: “Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things. I will appoint you over many



things. Enter into the joy of your master.”—Matthew 25:21.

It is different, though, with the slave who received one talent. He says: “Master, I knew you to be a demanding man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not winnow. So I grew afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.” (Matthew 25:24, 25) He has not even deposited the money with bankers so as to accumulate at least some profit for his master. He has, in effect, worked against his master’s interests.

Fittingly, the master designates him a “wicked and sluggish slave.” What he had is taken away and given to the slave who is willing to apply himself diligently. The master sets out his standard: “To everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”—Matthew 25:26, 29.

Jesus’ disciples have much to think about, even in connection with this one illustration. They can see that what Jesus is entrusting to them—the precious privilege of making disciples—is of great value. And he expects them to be diligent in using this privilege. Jesus does not think that they all must do the same in carrying out the preaching work that he has



charged them to do. As illustrated, each should do all that he can “according to his own ability.” This by no means implies that Jesus will be pleased if one is “sluggish” and fails to do his best in promoting the Master’s belongings.

How pleased the apostles must be, though, with the assurance: “To everyone who has, more will be given”!

-
- ◇ In the illustration of the talents, who is like the master, and who are like the slaves?
 - ◇ What lessons does Jesus teach his disciples?

Reaching Out

(Matthew 9:37, 38)

E_b

Je - ho - vah knows just what we
 There's work to do in ev - 'ry
 And here at home, in towns near -

A_badd9 *C_m7*

need To bring us joy and to suc -
 land. Where there's a need, we lend a
 by, We plan, we build, new skills we

D_badd9 *E_b*

ceed. So he pro - vides so man - y
 hand. By reach - ing out, we show we
 try. We learn to speak a for - eign

A_badd9 *C_m*

ways In which to serve and spend our
 care. We want to help and want to
 tongue And bring good news to ev - 'ry -

Reaching Out

Chorus

Bbsus4 Bb Ab Bb Eb Cm7 Eb/Bb Ab

days.
share.
one.

Reach - ing out, giv - ing all,

Eb/G Ab Fm7 Cm7 Bbsus4 Bb Gm7

for our God a - bove. And where the

Ab Bb Eb Cm7 Eb/Bb Ab

need is great, there we'll be,

Eb/G Ab Fm7 Bb13 Ab Eb

reach - ing out in love.

(See also John 4:35; Acts 2:8; Rom. 10:14.)

MARCH 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
MAY 4-31, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Study Article 10: May 4-10 2

**Love and Appreciation for Jehovah
Lead to Baptism**

Study Article 11: May 11-17 8

Are You Ready to Get Baptized?

LIFE STORY 14

“Here We Are! Send Us!”

Study Article 12: May 18-24 18

When Is the Right Time to Speak?

Study Article 13: May 25-31 24

Love One Another Intensely

DID YOU KNOW? 30

**What evidence exists outside the Bible that
the Israelites were slaves in Egypt?**

QUESTIONS FROM READERS 31

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit donate.jw.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) March 2020 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2019 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

FEATURED CONTENT IN *JW LIBRARY* AND ON *JW.ORG*

IMITATE THEIR FAITH

“I Will Not Renounce My Integrity!”

How can the Bible story of Job help us to face hardship, misfortune, or other tests of our faith?

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > IMITATE THEIR FAITH.

On jw.org, go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > FAITH IN GOD > IMITATE THEIR FAITH.

WAS IT DESIGNED?

The Dog’s Sense of Smell

What is it about a dog’s sense of smell that has inspired scientists to try to copy its capabilities?

In *JW Library*, go to PUBLICATIONS > ARTICLE SERIES > WAS IT DESIGNED?

On jw.org, go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > SCIENCE & THE BIBLE > WAS IT DESIGNED?

COVER PICTURE:

On his last night with his apostles, Jesus emphasized love (See study article 13, paragraphs 1-2)

Visit the jw.org[®] website, or scan code



Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

(Matthew 22:37)

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

O Je - ho - vah, Sov - 'reign Rul - er,
Fa - ther, all your works ex - alt you.

C7 F/A Dm G7/B G7 C7sus4 C7

You are the one I love and o - bey.
Earth, moon, and stars your glo - ry pro - claim.

R.H.

F Gm7 C/Bb Am7 F/A Bbma7 Bb6

You de - serve my full de - vo - tion;
May I al - so be as faith - ful,

C7 A/C# Dm Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

You are my God; I'll serve you each day.
Us - ing my strength to make known your name.

Serving Jehovah Whole-Souled

Am E7/G# E/D Am/C E7/B Am9 Am

Your com - mands I loy - al - ly fol - low;
 May I use my whole life to serve you,

C/G Dm/G G7 Gm11 Gm/Bb C7sus4 C7

How I love re - mind - ers from you!
 Prov - ing to be loy - al and true.

Chorus
 F Gm7 C7/Bb Am7 F/A Bb/D Bbm/Db

O Je - ho - vah, you are wor - thy;

F/C Fma7/C Bb/C C7 Gm/Bb Bb/C C7 F

Whole - souled de - vo - tion I give to you.

SONG 37

Serving Jehovah
Whole-Souled

PREVIEW

Some who love Jehovah are unsure if they are ready to get baptized as one of his Witnesses. If you feel that way, this article will help you to re-view some of the practical things you can do that will lead you to baptism.

Love and Appreciation for Jehovah Lead to Baptism

“What prevents me from getting baptized?”—ACTS 8:36.

DO YOU want to get baptized as a disciple of Christ? Love and appreciation have motivated many to make that choice. Consider the example of an official who served the queen of Ethiopia.

² The Ethiopian acted immediately on what he had learned from the Scriptures. **(Read Acts 8:27-31, 35-38.)** What motivated him? He obviously appreciated God’s Word; he was reading a passage from the book of Isaiah as he rode in a chariot. And when Philip spoke with him, the man developed an appreciation for what Jesus had done for him. But why had the official traveled to Jerusalem? Because he had already developed a love for Jehovah. How do we know? He had just been worshipping Jehovah in Jerusalem. This man had apparently left the religion of his birth and had joined the only nation that was dedicated to the true God. It was this same **love for Jehovah** that motivated him to take yet another vital step, that of getting baptized and becoming a disciple of Christ.—Matt. 28:19.

³ Love for Jehovah can motivate you to get baptized. But love might also **prevent** you from doing so. How? Note just some examples. You may love your unbelieving family and friends deeply, and you may worry that if you get baptized, they will hate you. (Matt. 10:37) Or

1-2. As indicated at Acts 8:27-31, 35-38, what motivated the Ethiopian eunuch to get baptized?

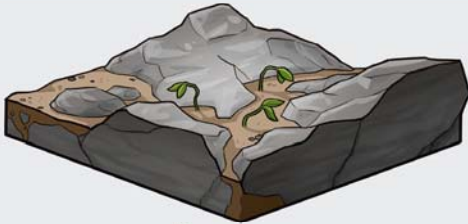
3. What might prevent a person from getting baptized? (See the box “What Is in Your Heart?”)

What Is in Your Heart?

Jesus likened the message found in the Bible to seed and human hearts to different types of soil. (Luke 8:4-8) Perhaps you have been studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses for some time. Why not read Luke 8:11-15 and ask yourself, 'My heart matches which kind of soil?'



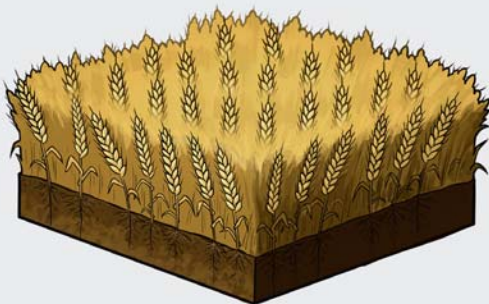
Trampled soil: This person finds little time to prepare for his Bible study session. He often cancels his Bible study or misses meetings because he is busy doing other things.



Rocky soil: This person allows pressure or opposition from his peers or family to prevent him from obeying Jehovah and living by His standards.



Soil with thorns: This person likes what he learns about Jehovah, but he feels that having money and possessions will make him feel happy and secure. He often misses his personal Bible study sessions because he is working or is engaging in some kind of recreation.



Fine soil: This person regularly studies the Bible and tries to apply what he learns. His priority in life is that of pleasing Jehovah. Despite trials and opposition, he persists in telling others what he knows about Jehovah.

You control what is in your heart. Like the different types of soil in Jesus' illustration, your symbolic heart can be softened, weeded, and improved. Remember, you choose the type of soil that you are.

you may love habits that you know God hates, and you may find it difficult to break free from their grip. (Ps. 97:10) Or you may have grown up celebrating customs that are associated with false religion. You may love the good memories associated with those celebrations. As a result, you may find it difficult to stop observing customs that displease Jehovah. (1 Cor. 10:20, 21) The question you face is, “What or whom do I love the most?”

THE MOST IMPORTANT LOVE

⁴ You have many worthwhile things to love and appreciate. For instance, even before studying with Jehovah’s Witnesses, you may have formed a deep appreciation for the Bible. And you may have developed a love for Jesus. Now that you have come to know Jehovah’s Witnesses, you might love to associate with them. But loving those good things will not necessarily make you want to dedicate yourself to Jehovah and get baptized. The primary motivation that will lead you to baptism is love for Jehovah God himself. When you love Jehovah more than all else, you will not let anything or anyone prevent you from serving him. You could view love for Jehovah as both the gateway to baptism and the guardrail that helps you stay on the path of serving God.

⁵ Jesus said that we must love Jehovah with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30) How can you learn to love and respect Jehovah that

deeply? Reflecting on Jehovah’s love for us moves us to love him in return. (1 John 4:19) What other feelings and actions will naturally follow once you develop that most important love?*

⁶ *Learn about Jehovah through his creation.* (Read Romans 1:20; Rev. 4:11) Meditate on the wisdom evident in the designs of plants and animals. Learn a little about the wonderful way your body is made. (Ps. 139:14) And think about the power that Jehovah packed into our sun, realizing that it is just one of billions of stars.[#] (Isa. 40:26) As you do, your respect for Jehovah will deepen. However, knowing that Jehovah is wise and powerful is only part of the foundation of your relationship with him. To build a strong love for Jehovah, you need to know more about him.

⁷ You need to be convinced that Jehovah cares for you personally. Do you find it difficult to believe that the Creator of heaven and earth knows that you exist and that he cares for you? If so, remember that Jehovah is “not far off from each one of us.” (Acts 17:26-28) He “searches through all hearts,” and he promises you that, as David told Solomon, “if you search for him, he will let himself be found by you.” (1 Chron. 28:9) In fact, the reason you are now

* Each person is different, so some may apply the suggestions mentioned in this article in an order different from what is outlined here.

[#] For more examples, see the brochures *Was Life Created?* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*.

6. According to Romans 1:20, what is one way that you can learn about Jehovah?

7. To love Jehovah deeply, of what do you need to be convinced?



The best way to be close to God and know what he wants from us is by studying the Bible (See paragraph 9)

studying the Bible is that, as Jehovah says, “I have drawn you to me.” (Jer. 31:3) The more you appreciate all that Jehovah has done for you, the deeper your love for him will be.

⁸ One way to respond to Jehovah’s love is by talking to him in prayer. Your love for God will grow as you tell him about your concerns and thank him for all that he does for you. And the bond between you and Jehovah will be strengthened as you see how he answers your prayers. (Ps. 116:1) You will become convinced that he understands you. But to grow close to Jehovah, you need to understand his way of thinking. And you need to know what he wants from you. The only way you will gain that knowledge is by studying his Word, the Bible.

⁹ ***Learn to appreciate God’s Word, the***

8. How can you respond to Jehovah’s love?
9. How can you show that you appreciate the Bible?

Bible. Only the Bible contains the truth about Jehovah and his purpose for you. You show that you appreciate the Bible by reading it each day, by preparing for your personal Bible study session, and by applying what you learn. (Ps. 119:97, 99; John 17:17) Do you have a personal Bible reading schedule? Do you follow that schedule, making sure that you read the Bible each day?

¹⁰ One of the unique features of the Bible is that it contains eyewitness accounts about Jesus. It is the only accurate record that explains what Jesus has done for you. As you learn what Jesus said and did, you will likely be moved to form a friendship with him.

¹¹ ***Learn to love Jesus, and your love for Jehovah will grow.*** Why? Because Jesus reflects his Father’s qualities perfectly. (John 14:9) So the more you learn about

10. What is one of the unique features of the Bible?
11. How can you learn to love Jehovah?

Jesus, the better you will understand and appreciate Jehovah. Think of the compassion Jesus showed for those who were looked down on by others—the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable. Think, too, of the practical advice he gives you and how your life improves when you listen to him.—Matt. 5:1-11; 7:24-27.

¹² Your affection for Jesus is likely to become stronger as you think deeply about the sacrifice he made so that our sins can be forgiven. (Matt. 20:28) When you understand that Jesus was willing to die for you, you may feel moved to repent and seek Jehovah's forgiveness. (Acts 3:19, 20; 1 John 1:9) And as you come to love Jesus and Jehovah, you will naturally be drawn to others who feel the same way.

¹³ **Learn to love Jehovah's family.** Your unbelieving family and former friends may not understand why you want to dedicate yourself to Jehovah. They may even oppose you. Jehovah will help you by providing a spiritual family. If you stay close to that spiritual family, you will find the love and support you need. (Mark 10:29, 30; Heb. 10:24, 25) In time, your family members may join you in serving Jehovah and living by his standards.—1 Pet. 2:12.

¹⁴ **Learn to appreciate and apply Jehovah's standards.** Before coming to know Jehovah, you may have set your own standards, but now you see that Je-

hovah's standards are better. (Ps. 1:1-3; **read 1 John 5:3.**) Think about the Bible's counsel for husbands, wives, parents, and children. (Eph. 5:22-6:4) As you apply that counsel, have you seen your family life improve? As you obey Jehovah's directions about choosing your friends wisely, have your personal habits improved? Are you a happier person? (Prov. 13:20; 1 Cor. 15:33) Likely the answer to those questions is yes.

¹⁵ At times, you may find it difficult to know how to apply the Bible principles you are learning. That is why Jehovah uses his organization to provide you with Bible-based material that can help you to discern right from wrong. (Heb. 5:13, 14) When you read and study this material, you will see how practical and specific it is, and you will likely be drawn to Jehovah's organization.

¹⁶ **Learn to love and support Jehovah's organization.** Jehovah has organized his people into congregations; his Son, Jesus, is the head over them all. (Eph. 1:22; 5:23) Jesus has appointed a small group of anointed men to take the lead in organizing the work that he wants done today. Jesus referred to this group of men as "the faithful and discreet slave," and they take seriously their responsibility to feed and protect you spiritually. (Matt. 24:45-47) One of the ways the faithful slave helps to care for you is by ensuring that qualified elders are appointed to shepherd you. (Isa. 32:1, 2; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3) The elders are

12. As you learn about Jesus, what may you be moved to do?

13. What has Jehovah provided for you?

14. As stated at 1 John 5:3, what have you discovered about Jehovah's standards?

15. What can you do if you need help in applying Bible principles?

16. How has Jehovah organized his people?

willing to pour themselves out for you, to comfort you, and to help you grow ever closer to Jehovah. But one of the most important things they can do for you is help you teach others about Jehovah.—Eph. 4:11-13.

17 Help others learn to love Jehovah. Jesus told his followers to teach others about Jehovah. (Matt. 28:19, 20) It is possible to obey that command out of a sense of duty. But as your love for Jehovah grows, you will feel the same way as did the apostles Peter and John, who said: “We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) Few things bring as much happiness as helping someone come to love Jehovah. Imagine how much joy the evangelizer Philip felt when he helped the Ethiopian learn the truth contained in the Scriptures and get bap-

17. According to Romans 10:10, 13, 14, why do we talk to others about Jehovah?

tized! When you imitate Philip and obey Jesus’ command to preach, you prove that you want to be one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. **(Read Romans 10:10, 13, 14.)** At that point, you will likely ask the same question as the Ethiopian did: “What prevents me from getting baptized?”—Acts 8:36.

18 You will take the most important step of your life when you decide to get baptized. Because it is such a serious step, you need to consider carefully what is involved. What do you need to know about baptism? What do you need to do before and after baptism? Those questions will be answered in the next article.

18. What will we consider in the next article?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 5: A sister gives a tract to a young woman whom she meets while shopping.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What should be our primary motive for serving Jehovah, and why do you answer that way?
- How can we learn to love Jehovah?
- How can we benefit from meditating on the illustration found at Luke 8:11-15?

Jehovah Is Your Name

(Psalm 83:18)

F Am Dm Dm/C

The liv - ing and true God— The God of all cre - a - tion
You cause us to be - come What - ev - er you de - si - re,

Bb Bb/C F Am

In ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion— Je -
To do as you re - qui - re— Je -

Dm Dm/C Bb Dm/A Gm

ho - vah is your name. We're hon - ored and we're proud
ho - vah is your name. And Wit - ness - es for you

Gm/F Eb Bb/D

To be your con - gre - ga - tion. In
Is what you've kind - ly named us. We're

Jehovah Is Your Name

Csus4 C/Bb

ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion, Your
hon - ored you have claimed us— A

R.H.

F/A Bb Csus4 C Chorus

glo - ry we pro - claim. Je -
peo - ple for your name.

F C/E Dm Dm/C

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, There is no God like you.

Bb F/A Gm Dm/F

There's no oth - er in the heav - ens Or

Jehovah Is Your Name

F/Eb Eb F/Eb Eb Gm

on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The treble staff features chords F/Eb, Eb, F/Eb, Eb, and Gm. The bass staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "on the earth be - low. You a - lone are God Al -".

Gm/F C/E Dm11 C

might - y, And this all men must know. Je -

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble staff features chords Gm/F, C/E, Dm11, and C. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "might - y, And this all men must know. Je -".

F Am7 Dm7 Gm7

ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The treble staff features chords F, Am7, Dm7, and Gm7. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ho - vah, Je - ho - vah, We have no oth - er".

C9sus4 F

God but you.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music. The treble staff features chords C9sus4 and F. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God but you.".