

- Song 120 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Joseph Shows Great Self-Control”:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:5-7—Joseph kept his composure when he saw his brothers (*w15 5/1 13 ¶5; 14 ¶1*)
Ge 42:14-17—Joseph tested his brothers (*w15 5/1 14 ¶2*)
Ge 42:21, 22—Joseph’s brothers expressed repentance (*it-2 108 ¶4*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:22, 37—What good qualities did Reuben display? (*it-2 795*)

Ge 43:32—Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians? (*w04 1/15 29 ¶1*)

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 42:1-20 (2)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did the brother properly introduce the scripture? Why and how did the brother introduce the *Teach Us* book?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (15)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lv*s 38-39 ¶18 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 94
- **“Try to Get the Whole Picture”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Enhance Your Bible Reading—Excerpt*. Encourage the audience to view the entire video (video category JW BROADCASTING).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 116
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 79 and Prayer

GENESIS 42-43 | Joseph Shows Great Self-Control

42:5-7, 14-17, 21, 22

Can you imagine the strong emotions that Joseph may have felt when he unexpectedly came face-to-face with his brothers? He could have immediately identified himself and then either embraced them or taken revenge. But he did not act on impulse. What will you do if you are the victim of injustice from family members or others? Joseph’s example teaches the value of exercising self-control and remaining calm rather than following our treacherous heart and acting on imperfect impulses.



How can you imitate Joseph in situations that you encounter?

Imitate Christ's Mildness

(Matthew 11:28-30)

C G/B G G/B C F/A G C

The great - est of men was our Lord Je - sus Christ; By
To all who are toil - ing with trou - ble - some cares, He
'We all are just broth - ers,' our Lord Je - sus said. In

F C/E C Fma7/A Dm/F G7

pride or am - bi - tion, he was not en - ticed. God's
of - fers to car - ry the bur - dens they bear. Re -
hum - ble sub - mis - sion, we look to our Head. The

F/A G7/B C C/E F G/F G7/F

pur - pose gave Je - sus the prom - i - nent role; Yet,
fresh - ment they find as the King - dom they seek. With
mild and the meek ones to God have great worth; He

C/E C F/C C F/A Dm/F G7 F/G G7 C

low - ly in heart, he was al - ways whole - souled.
kind - ness and mild - ness, he fa - vors the meek.
prom - is - es they will in - her - it the earth.

my house, and all my people will obey you implicitly.^a Only in my role as king* will I be greater than you.” **41** And Phar’aoth added to Joseph: “See, I am putting you over all the land of Egypt.”^b **42** Then Phar’aoth removed his signet ring from his own hand and put it on Joseph’s hand and clothed him with garments of fine linen and placed a necklace of gold around his neck. **43** Moreover, he had him ride in the second chariot of honor that he had, and they would call out ahead of him, “*A-urékhl!*”^c Thus he put him over all the land of Egypt.

44 Phar’aoth further said to Joseph: “I am Phar’aoth, but without your authorization, no man may do a single thing* in all the land of Egypt.”^c **45** After that Phar’aoth gave Joseph the name Zaph’e-nath-pa-ne’ah and gave him As’e-nath^d the daughter of Pot’i’phe-ra the priest of On* as a wife. And Joseph began to oversee^e the land of Egypt.^e **46** Joseph was 30 years old^f when he stood before* Phar’aoth king of Egypt.

Then Joseph went out from before Phar’aoth and traveled throughout all the land of Egypt. **47** And during the seven years of abundance, the land went on producing plentifully.* **48** And he kept collecting all the food of the seven years from the land of Egypt, and he would stockpile the food in the cities. In each city he would store the food from the fields around it. **49** Joseph continued stockpiling grain in very great quantity, like

41:40 *Or “Only with regard to the throne.” **41:43** *Apparently a term calling for honor and dignity to be shown. **41:44** *Lit., “lift up his hand or his foot.” **41:45** *That is, Heliopolis. ^eOr “travel through.” **41:46** *Or “when he entered the service of.” **41:47** *Lit., “by handfuls.”

CHAP. 41

a Ge 39:6
Ps 105:21
Ac 7:9, 10

b Da 5:7

c Ge 44:18
Ge 45:8
Ac 7:9, 10

d Ge 46:20

e Ps 105:21

f Nu 4:3
2Sa 5:4
Lu 3:23

Second Col.

a Ge 48:5

b Ge 50:23
Nu 1:34, 35

c Ge 48:17
Nu 1:32, 33
De 33:17
Jos 14:4

d Ps 105:17, 18
Ac 7:9, 10

e Ge 41:26

f Ge 41:30
Ac 7:11

g Ge 45:9, 11
Ge 47:17

h Ge 47:13

i Ps 105:21

j Ge 43:1

k Ge 41:48, 49
Ge 47:16

l Ge 47:4

CHAP. 42

m Ge 41:48, 49

the sand of the sea, until finally they gave up measuring it because it could not be measured.

50 Before the year of the famine arrived, two sons were born to Joseph,^a whom As’e-nath the daughter of Pot’i’phe-ra the priest of On* bore to him. **51** Joseph named the firstborn Ma-nas’sseh,^{*b} for he said, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all the house of my father.” **52** And he named the second one E’phra-im,^{*c} for he said, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”^d

53 Then the seven years of abundance in the land of Egypt ended,^e **54** and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said.^f The famine developed in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.^{*g} **55** Eventually, all the land of Egypt suffered from the famine, and the people began to cry to Phar’aoth for bread.^h Then Phar’aoth said to all the Egyptians: “Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you.”ⁱ **56** The famine continued over all the surface of the earth.^j Then Joseph began to open up all the granaries that were among them and to sell to the Egyptians,^k as the famine had a strong grip on the land of Egypt. **57** Moreover, people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy from Joseph, because the famine had a strong grip on all the earth.^l

42 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt,^m he said to his sons: “Why do you just keep looking at one another?” **2** He added: “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may stay alive and

41:50 *That is, Heliopolis. **41:51** *Meaning “One Making Forgetful; One Who Makes Forget.” **41:52** *Meaning “Doubly Fruitful.” **41:54** *Or “food.”

not die.”^a **3** So ten of Joseph’s brothers^b went down to buy grain from Egypt. **4** But Jacob did not send Benjamin,^c Joseph’s brother, with his other brothers, for he said: “Perhaps a fatal accident may befall him.”^d

5 So Israel’s sons came along with the others who were coming to buy, because the famine had extended to the land of Ca’naan.^e **6** Joseph was the man in authority over the land,^f and he was the one who sold grain to all the people of the earth.^g So Joseph’s brothers came and bowed low to him with their faces to the ground.^h **7** When Joseph saw his brothers, he immediately recognized them, but he concealed his identity from them.ⁱ So he spoke harshly with them and said: “Where have you come from?” to which they said: “From the land of Ca’naan to buy food.”^j

8 Thus Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. **9** Joseph immediately remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them,^k and he said to them: “You are spies! You have come to see the vulnerable areas* of the land!” **10** Then they said to him: “No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food. **11** We are all sons of but one man. We are upright men. Your servants do not act as spies.” **12** But he said to them: “Not so! You have come to see the vulnerable areas of the land!” **13** At this they said: “Your servants are 12 brothers.^l We are the sons of but one man^m in the land of Ca’naan, and the youngest is now with our father,ⁿ whereas the other one is no more.”^o

14 However, Joseph said to them: “It is just as I said to you—‘You are spies!’ **15** By this you will be tested: As surely as

CHAP. 42

a Ac 7:12

b 1Ch 2:1, 2

c Ge 35:18, 19
Ge 42:38
Ge 44:20

d Ge 43:14

e Ge 41:57
Ac 7:11

f Ge 41:44
Ge 45:8
Ps 105:21
Ac 7:9, 10

g Ge 47:14

h Ge 37:7, 9

i Ge 42:23

j Ge 37:1
Ac 7:11, 12

k Ge 37:7-9

l 1Ch 2:1, 2

m Ex 1:1-4

n Ge 35:18, 19
Ge 42:38
Ge 43:7

o Ge 37:27, 35
Ge 44:20

Second Col.

a Ge 42:34
Ge 43:29

b Ge 45:21, 23

c Ge 37:18, 28
Ge 50:17
Ac 7:9

d Ge 37:21

e Ge 9:5

f Ge 43:30

g Ge 42:19

h Ge 43:23

Phar’ao^h lives, you will not leave this place until your youngest brother comes here.^a **16** Send one of you to bring your brother while you remain in bondage. In this way, your words may be tested out to see if you are telling the truth. And if not, then, as surely as Phar’ao^h lives, you are spies.” **17** With that he put them together in custody for three days.

18 Joseph said to them on the third day: “Do this and live, for I fear God. **19** If you are upright, let one of your brothers remain in bondage in your house of custody, but the rest of you may go and take grain to alleviate the famine in your households.^b **20** Then bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words will be found trustworthy and you will not die.” And they did so.

21 And they said to one another: “We are surely being punished on account of our brother,^c because we saw his distress* when he begged us to show compassion, but we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” **22** Then Reu’ben answered them: “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not sin against the child,’ but you would not listen?^d Now his blood is certainly being asked back.”^e **23** But they did not know that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. **24** So he turned away from them and began to weep.^f When he returned and spoke to them again, he took Sim’e-on^g from them and bound him before their eyes.^h **25** Joseph then gave the command to fill up their bags* with grain and to return each man’s money to his own sack and to give them

42:21 *Or “the distress of his soul.”

42:25 *Or “receptacles.”

provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

26 So they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left from there. **27** When one of them opened his sack to give fodder to his donkey at the lodging place, he saw his money there in the mouth of his bag. **28** At that he said to his brothers: "My money has been returned, and now here it is in my bag!" Then their hearts sank, and trembling, they turned to one another and said: "What is this that God has done to us?"

29 When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Ca'naan, they told him all the things that had befallen them, saying: **30** "The man who is the lord of the country spoke harshly with us^a and accused us of spying on the country. **31** But we said to him, 'We are upright men. We are not spies.^b **32** We are 12 brothers,^c the sons of our father. One is no more,^d and the youngest is now with our father in the land of Ca'naan.'^e **33** But the man who is the lord of the country said to us, 'By this I will know that you are upright: Leave one of your brothers with me.^f Then take something to alleviate the famine in your households and go.^g **34** And bring your youngest brother to me, so that I may know that you are not spies but upright men. I will then give your brother back to you, and you may carry on trade in the land.'"

35 As they were emptying their sacks, here was each one's bag of money in his sack. When they and their father saw their bags of money, they became afraid. **36** Jacob their father exclaimed to them: "It is I you have bereaved!"^h Joseph is no more,ⁱ and Sim'e-on is no more,^j and you are going to take Benjamin! It is upon me

CHAP. 42
a Ge 42:7, 9
b Ge 42:11
c Ge 42:13
d Ge 37:28, 35
e Ge 35:18, 19
Ge 42:4
f Ge 42:19
g Ge 42:2
h Ge 43:14
i Ge 37:28, 35
j Ge 42:24

Second Col.

a Ge 37:22
Ge 46:9
b Ge 43:8, 9
Ge 44:32
c Ge 37:31-34
Ge 44:20
d Ps 89:48
Ec 9:10
Ho 13:14
Ac 2:27
Re 20:13
e Ge 37:34, 35
Ge 44:29

CHAP. 43

f Ge 41:30
Ac 7:11
g Ge 42:1, 2
h Ge 42:15
i Ge 42:15
j Ge 32:28
k Ge 42:13
l Ge 42:16
m Ge 37:26
Ge 42:38
n Ge 42:1, 2
o Ac 7:14
p Ge 44:32

that all these things have come!" **37** But Reu'ben said to his father: "You may put to death my own two sons if I do not bring him back to you.^a Give him over to my care, and I will return him to you."^b **38** However, he said: "My son will not go down with you, because his brother is dead and he alone is left.^c If a fatal accident should befall him on the journey you would make, then you would certainly bring down my gray hairs to the Grave^{*d} in grief."^e

43 Now the famine was severe in the land.^f **2** So when they had finished eating the grain they had brought from Egypt,^g their father said to them: "Return and buy a little food for us." **3** Then Judah said to him: "The man clearly warned us, 'You must not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'^h **4** If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you. **5** But if you do not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You must not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'ⁱ **6** And Israel^j asked: "Why did you have to bring this trouble on me by telling the man that you had another brother?" **7** They replied: "The man directly inquired concerning us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' and we told him these facts.^k How could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"^l

8 Judah then urged Israel his father: "Send the boy with me,^m and let us go on our way so that we may live and not dieⁿ—we and you and our children.^o **9** I will be a guarantee for his safety.^{*p}

42:38 *Or "Sheol," that is, the common grave of mankind. See Glossary. **43:9** *Or "be surety for him."

You may hold me responsible. If I fail to return him to you and present him to you, I will have sinned against you for all time. **10** But if we had not delayed, we could have been there and back twice by now."

11 So Israel their father said to them: "If it must be so, then do this: Take the finest products of the land in your bags* and carry them down to the man as a gift:^a a little balsam,^b a little honey, labdanum, resinous bark,^c pistachio nuts, and almonds. **12** Take double the money with you; and also take back the money that was returned in the mouth of your bags.^d Maybe it was a mistake. **13** Take your brother and go, return to the man. **14** May God Almighty grant you pity from the man, so that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. But as for me, if I must be bereaved, I will be bereaved!"^e

15 So the men took this gift, and they took double the money in their hand and Benjamin. Then they rose and went on their way down to Egypt and again stood before Joseph.^f **16** When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he at once said to the man who was over his house: "Take the men to the house and slaughter animals and prepare the meal, for the men are to eat with me at noon." **17** Immediately the man did just as Joseph had said,^g and he took them to Joseph's house. **18** But the men became afraid when they were taken to Joseph's house, and they began to say: "It is because of the money that was returned in our bags the last time that we are being brought here. Now they will attack us and make us slaves and take our donkeys!"^h

43:11 *Or "receptacles."

CHAP. 43

a Ge 32:20

b Jer 8:22
Eze 27:17

c Ge 37:25

d Ge 42:25, 35

e Ge 42:36

f Ge 37:7, 9

g Ge 41:39, 40

h Ge 42:25, 35

Second Col.

a Ge 42:3

b Ge 42:27

c Ge 43:12

d Ge 42:23, 24

e Ge 43:11

f Ge 43:16

g Ge 37:7, 9
Ge 42:6

h Ge 43:7

i Ge 37:7, 9

j Ge 35:24

k Ge 42:13

19 So they approached the man who was over Joseph's house and spoke to him at the entrance of the house. **20** They said: "Pardon us, my lord! We did come down the first time to buy food.^a **21** But when we arrived at our lodging place and began opening our bags, why, here was the money of each one in the mouth of his bag, our money in full weight.^b So we would like to return it personally. **22** And we have brought more money to buy food. We do not know who placed our money in our bags."^c **23** Then he said: "It is all right. Do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father put treasure in your bags. Your money came first to me." After that he brought out Sim'e-on to them.^d

24 Then the man brought them into Joseph's house and gave them water for washing their feet, and he gave fodder for their donkeys. **25** And they prepared the gift^e for Joseph's coming at noon, for they had heard that they were going to eat a meal there.^f **26** When Joseph went into the house, they brought their gift to him into the house and prostrated themselves to him to the ground.^g **27** After this he inquired about their welfare and said: "How is your aged father of whom you have spoken? Is he still alive?"^h **28** To this they said: "Your servant our father is well. He is still alive." Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves.ⁱ

29 When he looked up and saw Benjamin his brother, the son of his mother,^j he said: "Is this your brother, the youngest one of whom you have spoken to me?"^k He added: "May God show you his favor, my son." **30** Joseph then hurried out, because he was overcome with emotion for his brother, and he looked for a place to weep. So he went

into a private room and gave way to tears there.^a **31** After that he washed his face and went out, now in control of himself, and he said: "Serve the meal." **32** They served him by himself and them by themselves, and the Egyptians with him ate by themselves, for the Egyptians could not eat a meal with the Hebrews, because that is a detestable thing to the Egyptians.^b

33 The brothers* were seated before him, the firstborn according to his right as firstborn^c and the youngest according to his youth, and they kept looking at one another in amazement. **34** He kept sending portions of food from his table to theirs, but he increased Benjamin's portion five times the size of the portions of all the others.^d So they continued banquetting and drinking with him to the full.

44 Later he commanded the man who was over his house: "Fill the bags of the men with as much food as they can carry, and place the money of each one in the mouth of his bag.^e **2** But you must place my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the bag of the youngest, along with the money for his grain." So he did as Joseph had instructed.

3 In the morning when it had become light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. **4** They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to the man who was over his house: "Get up! Chase after the men! When you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid bad for good?' **5** Is not this what my master drinks from and uses to read omens expertly? It is a wicked thing you have done."

6 So he overtook them and spoke these words to them.

43:33 *Lit., "They."

CHAP. 43

a Ge 42:23, 24

b Ge 46:33, 34
Ex 8:26

c Ge 49:3
De 21:17

d Ge 45:22

CHAP. 44

e Ge 42:25

Second Col.

a Ge 43:12

b Ge 44:2

c Ge 43:8
Ge 44:32

d Ge 37:7, 9

e Ge 44:5

f Ge 37:18, 28
Ge 42:21, 22

g Ge 44:9

7 But they said to him: "Why does my lord say such a thing? It is unthinkable that your servants would do anything like this. **8** Why, the money that we found in the mouth of our bags we brought back to you from the land of Ca'naan.^a How, then, could we steal silver or gold from the house of your master? **9** If it is found with one of your slaves, let him die, and the rest of us will also become slaves to my master." **10** So he said: "Let it be as you say: The one with whom it is found will become my slave, but the rest of you will be innocent." **11** With that each one quickly lowered his bag to the ground and opened it. **12** He searched carefully, starting with the oldest and finishing with the youngest. Finally the cup was found in Benjamin's bag.^b

13 Then they ripped their garments apart, and each of them lifted his load back onto his donkey and returned to the city. **14** When Judah^c and his brothers went into Joseph's house, he was still there; and they fell to the ground before him.^d **15** Joseph said to them: "What is this deed that you have done? Did you not know that a man like me can expertly read omens?"^e **16** At this Judah replied: "What can we say to my master? What can we speak? And how can we prove ourselves righteous? The true God has found out the error of your slaves.^f We are now slaves to my master, both we and the one in whose hand the cup was found!" **17** However, he said: "It is unthinkable for me to do this! The man in whose hand the cup was found is the one who will become a slave to me.^g As for the rest of you, go up in peace to your father."

- Song 120 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Joseph Shows Great Self-Control”:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:5-7—Joseph kept his composure when he saw his brothers (*w15 5/1 13 ¶5; 14 ¶1*)
Ge 42:14-17—Joseph tested his brothers (*w15 5/1 14 ¶2*)
Ge 42:21, 22—Joseph’s brothers expressed repentance (*it-2 108 ¶4*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:22, 37—What good qualities did Reuben display? (*it-2 795*)

Ge 43:32—Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians? (*w04 1/15 29 ¶1*)

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 42:1-20 (2)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did the brother properly introduce the scripture? Why and how did the brother introduce the *Teach Us* book?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (15)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lv*s 38-39 ¶18 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 94
- **“Try to Get the Whole Picture”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Enhance Your Bible Reading—Excerpt*. Encourage the audience to view the entire video (video category JW BROADCASTING).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 116
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 79 and Prayer

GENESIS 42-43 | Joseph Shows Great Self-Control

42:5-7, 14-17, 21, 22

Can you imagine the strong emotions that Joseph may have felt when he unexpectedly came face-to-face with his brothers? He could have immediately identified himself and then either embraced them or taken revenge. But he did not act on impulse. What will you do if you are the victim of injustice from family members or others? Joseph’s example teaches the value of exercising self-control and remaining calm rather than following our treacherous heart and acting on imperfect impulses.



How can you imitate Joseph in situations that you encounter?

May 25-31 / Genesis 42-43

Treasures From God's Word

"Joseph Shows Great Self-Control": (10 minutes)

Genesis 42:5-7, 14-17, 21, 22

Genesis 42:5-7—Joseph kept his composure when he saw his brothers

Genesis 42:5-7: So Israel's sons came along with the others who were coming to buy, because the famine had extended to the land of Canaan. Joseph was the man in authority over the land, and he was the one who sold grain to all the people of the earth. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed low to him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he immediately recognized them, but he concealed his identity from them. So he spoke harshly with them and said: "Where have you come from?" to which they said: "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

w15 5/1 13 paragraph 5

What about Joseph? He recognized his brothers right away! What is more, when he saw them there bowing before him, his thoughts flew back to his boyhood. The account tells us that "Joseph immediately remembered the dreams" that Jehovah had given him when he was but a boy, dreams foretelling a time when his brothers would be bowing low before him—exactly as they now were! (Genesis 37:2, 5-9; 42:7, 9) What would Joseph do? Embrace them? Take revenge?

w15 5/1 14 paragraph 1

You are not likely ever to find yourself in that unusual position. However, strife and division within the family are common in today's world. When we face such challenges, we may tend simply to follow our heart and act on our imperfect impulses. It is much wiser to imitate Joseph and try to discern how God wants us to handle matters. (Proverbs 14:12) Remember, as important as it is to make peace with family members, peace with Jehovah and his Son is even more vital.—Matthew 10:37.

Genesis 42:14-17—Joseph tested his brothers

Genesis 42:14-17: However, Joseph said to them: "It is just as I said to you—'You are spies!' By this you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place until your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you to bring your brother while you remain in bondage. In this way, your words may be tested out to see if you are telling the truth. And if not, then, as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies." With that he put them together in custody for three days.

w15 5/1 14 paragraph 2

Joseph launched into a series of tests designed to reveal who his brothers were at heart. He started by speaking to them harshly, through an interpreter, accusing them of being foreign spies. To defend themselves, they told him about their family—including the key fact that they had a younger brother still at home. Joseph tried to hide his excitement. Was his little brother really alive? Now Joseph knew how to proceed. He said: "By this you will be tested," and then he told them that he must see this youngest brother. In time, he agreed to let them return home to fetch the youngest if one of them would agree to remain behind as a hostage.—Genesis 42:9-20.

Genesis 42:21, 22—Joseph's brothers expressed repentance

Genesis 42:21, 22: And they said to one another: "We are surely being punished on account of our brother, because we saw his distress when he begged us to show compassion, but we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." Then Reuben answered them: "Did I not say to you, 'Do not sin against the child,' but you would not listen? Now his blood is certainly being asked back."

it-2 108 paragraph 4

In view of these developments, Joseph's half brothers began to sense divine retribution on them for having sold him into slavery years earlier. In front of their brother, whom they still did not recognize, they discussed their guilt. On overhearing their words reflecting repentance, Joseph was so emotionally overcome that he had to leave their presence and weep. On returning, he had Simeon bound until such time as they would come back with their youngest brother.—Genesis 42:21-24.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Genesis 42:22, 37—What good qualities did Reuben display?

Genesis 42:22: Then Reuben answered them: "Did I not say to you, 'Do not sin against the child,' but you would not listen? Now his blood is certainly being asked back."

Genesis 42:37: But Reuben said to his father: "You may put to death my own two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Give him over to my care, and I will return him to you."

it-2 795

Some of Reuben's good qualities displayed themselves when he persuaded his nine brothers to throw Joseph into a dry well instead of killing him, Reuben intending to return secretly and deliver Joseph out of the well. (Genesis 37:18-30) More than 20 years later when these same brothers reasoned that the spy charges against them down in Egypt were due to their mistreatment of Joseph, Reuben reminded the others that he had not shared in their plot on Joseph's life. (Genesis 42:9-14, 21, 22) Again, when Jacob refused to let Benjamin accompany his brothers on their second trip to Egypt, it was Reuben who offered his own two sons as surety, saying: "You may put [them] to death if I do not bring [Benjamin] back to you."—Genesis 42:37.

Genesis 43:32—Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians?

Genesis 43:32: They served him by himself and them by themselves, and the Egyptians with him ate by themselves, for the Egyptians could not eat a meal with the Hebrews, because that is a detestable thing to the Egyptians.

w04 1/15 29 paragraph 1

Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians? This may largely have been because of religious prejudice or racial pride. The Egyptians also detested shepherds. (Genesis 46:34) Why? Shepherders may simply have been near the bottom in the Egyptian caste system. Or it could be that since the land available for cultivation was limited, the Egyptians despised those seeking pasture for flocks.

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 42:1-20 (*th* study 2)

- Song 120 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Joseph Shows Great Self-Control”:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:5-7—Joseph kept his composure when he saw his brothers (*w15 5/1 13 ¶5; 14 ¶1*)
Ge 42:14-17—Joseph tested his brothers (*w15 5/1 14 ¶2*)
Ge 42:21, 22—Joseph’s brothers expressed repentance (*it-2 108 ¶4*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:22, 37—What good qualities did Reuben display? (*it-2 795*)

Ge 43:32—Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians? (*w04 1/15 29 ¶1*)

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 42:1-20 (2)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did the brother properly introduce the scripture? Why and how did the brother introduce the *Teach Us* book?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (15)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lv*s 38-39 ¶18 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 94
- **“Try to Get the Whole Picture”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Enhance Your Bible Reading—Excerpt*. Encourage the audience to view the entire video (video category JW BROADCASTING).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 116
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 79 and Prayer

GENESIS 42-43 | Joseph Shows Great Self-Control

42:5-7, 14-17, 21, 22

Can you imagine the strong emotions that Joseph may have felt when he unexpectedly came face-to-face with his brothers? He could have immediately identified himself and then either embraced them or taken revenge. But he did not act on impulse. What will you do if you are the victim of injustice from family members or others? Joseph’s example teaches the value of exercising self-control and remaining calm rather than following our treacherous heart and acting on imperfect impulses.



How can you imitate Joseph in situations that you encounter?

Sample Conversation-May 2020

SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What will life be like when God resurrects our dead loved ones?

Scripture: Isa 32:18 ¹⁸ *“My people will dwell in a peaceful abiding place, In secure dwellings and in tranquil resting-places.”*

Link: How will God bring peace to the earth?

1st Publisher (Ron - Husband): On our last visit, we raised the question ‘what will things be like when God brings our dear loved ones back to life.’

Householder: I’m very interested in you’re going show me on that.

1st Publisher (Ron - Husband): There so many good things the Bible promises about that time. But let’s just take one example. Notice what we read here at Isaiah 32 verse 18. Lisa could you please read that?

2nd Publisher (Lisa - Wife): Sure. (Reads Isaiah 32:18 – ¹⁸“My people will dwell in a peaceful abiding place, In secure dwellings and in tranquil resting-places”).”

1st Publisher (Ron - Husband): So what will it be like for those whom God brings back to life

Householder: They’ll have peace.

2nd Publisher (Lisa - Wife): Yes, peace, security and tranquility. Doesn’t that sound appealing?

Householder: It sure does!

1st Publisher (Ron - Husband): Of course, with so many problems in the world today, we may wonder how God will bring peace to the earth. We can discuss that the next time we’re here. By the way, I wanted to show you this publication that discusses the Bible verses that we read and many more. It’s called “What Can the Bible Teach Us?”



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

Joseph relies on Jehovah while imprisoned in Egypt

● INITIAL CALL

○ Question: What happens when we die?

Scripture: **Ec 9:5a**

Link: Is death the end of it all?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

● *bhs* 63 ¶16



○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

○ Question: Is death the end of it all?

Scripture: **Job 14:14, 15**

Link: What will life be like when God resurrects our dead loved ones?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

● *bhs* 76 ¶14



○ SECOND RETURN VISIT

○ Question: What will life be like when God resurrects our dead loved ones?

Scripture: **Isa 32:18**

Link: How will God bring peace to the earth?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

● *bhs* 35 ¶18



and Ruth was much younger than Naomi. We want to follow the Bible's advice: "Open your hearts wide." (2 Corinthians 6:13; **read 1 Peter 2:17.**) And the more you imitate Jehovah, the more others will want to be your friend.

WHEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS

16 In every family, there are different personalities, opinions, and ways of doing things. This is also true in a congregation. This variety makes life interesting, and we can learn a lot from one another. But sometimes our differences cause us to misunderstand our brothers or sisters and become irritated with them. At times, we may get offended or our feelings may get hurt. (Proverbs 12:18) Should we let such problems discourage us or keep us away from the congregation?

17 No. Even if someone disappoints us in some way, we would not stay away from the congregation. Jehovah is not the one who offended us. He gave us life and all other things. He deserves our love and loyalty. (Revelation 4:11) The congregation is a gift from Jehovah that helps us to keep our faith strong. (Hebrews 13:17) We would never reject his gift just because someone disappointed us. —**Read Psalm 119:165.**

18 We love our brothers and sisters and want to

16, 17. If someone in the congregation upsets us, what should we avoid doing?

18. (a) What can help us to get along with our brothers and sisters? (b) Why should we forgive others?

get along with them. Jehovah does not expect any human to be perfect, and neither should we. (Proverbs 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8) We all make mistakes, but love will help us to keep “forgiving one another freely.” (Colossians 3:13) Love will stop us from turning a small misunderstanding into a huge problem. True, when someone has upset us, it can be difficult to stop thinking about it. It is easy to become angry and hold a grudge against that person. But this will only make us unhappy and bitter. On the other hand, when we forgive someone who offended us, we can have peace of mind, unity in the congregation and, most important, a good relationship with Jehovah.—Matthew 6:14, 15; Luke 17:3, 4; Romans 14:19.

WHEN SOMEONE IS DISFELLOWSHIPED

19 In a loving family, each member does his part to make the others happy. But imagine that one person rebels. Everybody in the family tries again and again to help him, but he rejects the help. He may decide to leave home, or the head of the family may have to ask him to leave. Something similar can happen in the congregation. A person may choose to keep doing things that displease Jehovah and harm the congregation. He rejects help and shows by his actions that he no longer wants

19. When do we need to stop associating with someone in the congregation?

Grateful for God's Word

(Philippians 2:16)

F F/A B \flat C7 B \flat /C C7 F

Je - ho - vah, our Fa - ther, we want to ex - press
Your Word has the pow - er to reach deep in - side.
Your Word, O Je - ho - vah, has hu - man ap - peal.

C7/E Gm/D A7/C \sharp Dm C \sharp 7 \flat 5 F/C Gm9 Gm B \flat ma7 C7

How grate - ful we are that your Word we pos - sess!
Our thoughts and in - ten - tions, it helps to di - vide.
Your proph - ets were like us; they felt what we feel.

F/A C F C/B \flat B \flat D/C Gm/B \flat D/A Gm/B \flat G7/B C

All Scrip - ture is in - spir - ed; its truth has set us free.
Your laws are clear and per - fect, your judg - ments ev - er true.
Please help us build a strong faith that fol - lows what is heard.

F/A C/G F B \flat D7/A Gm Gm/B \flat F/C C7sus4 C7 F

Its light gives us knowl - edge; the truth we can see.
Your prin - ci - ples guide us in all that we do.
We thank you, Je - ho - vah, for your pre - cious Word!

- Song 120 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Joseph Shows Great Self-Control”:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:5-7—Joseph kept his composure when he saw his brothers (*w15 5/1 13 ¶5; 14 ¶1*)
Ge 42:14-17—Joseph tested his brothers (*w15 5/1 14 ¶2*)
Ge 42:21, 22—Joseph’s brothers expressed repentance (*it-2 108 ¶4*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ge 42:22, 37—What good qualities did Reuben display? (*it-2 795*)

Ge 43:32—Why was eating a meal with the Hebrews detestable to the Egyptians? (*w04 1/15 29 ¶1*)

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 42:1-20 (2)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video:** (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did the brother properly introduce the scripture? Why and how did the brother introduce the *Teach Us* book?
- **Second Return Visit:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (15)
- **Bible Study:** (5 min. or less) *lv*s 38-39 ¶18 (8)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 94
- **“Try to Get the Whole Picture”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Enhance Your Bible Reading—Excerpt*. Encourage the audience to view the entire video (video category JW BROADCASTING).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *gy* chap. 116
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 79 and Prayer

GENESIS 42-43 | Joseph Shows Great Self-Control

42:5-7, 14-17, 21, 22

Can you imagine the strong emotions that Joseph may have felt when he unexpectedly came face-to-face with his brothers? He could have immediately identified himself and then either embraced them or taken revenge. But he did not act on impulse. What will you do if you are the victim of injustice from family members or others? Joseph’s example teaches the value of exercising self-control and remaining calm rather than following our treacherous heart and acting on imperfect impulses.



 How can you imitate Joseph in situations that you encounter?

Try to Get the Whole Picture



When reading Bible accounts, try to get the whole picture. Learn about the context, the people involved, and the factors that may have contributed to their actions. Use your imagination to see the sights, hear the sounds, smell the aromas, and feel the characters' emotions.

WATCH THE VIDEO *ENHANCE YOUR BIBLE READING—EXCERPT*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

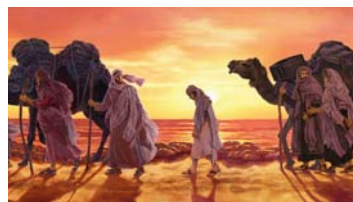
- What factors may have contributed to the tension between Joseph and his brothers?

- What may explain some of the hotheaded reactions of Joseph's brothers?

- What can we discern from the Scriptures about Jacob, Joseph's father?

- What beautiful lesson did Jacob give his sons on how to settle differences?

- How did you benefit from watching this video?



TEACHING HUMILITY AT THE LAST PASSOVER

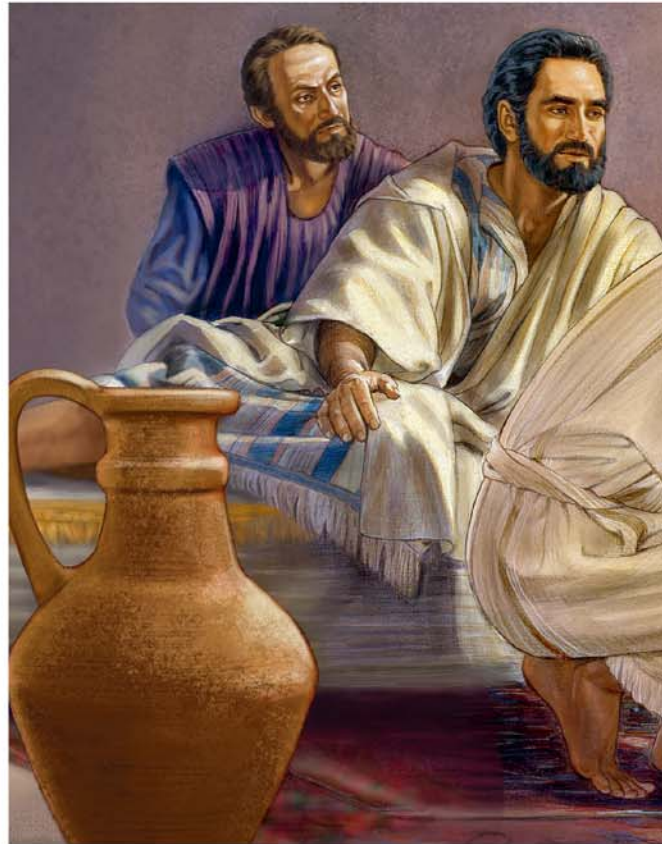
MATTHEW 26:20 MARK 14:17 LUKE 22:14-18 JOHN 13:1-17

At Jesus' direction, Peter and John have already arrived in Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover. Later Jesus and the ten other apostles head there. It is afternoon, and the sun is sinking in the western sky as Jesus and his party descend the Mount of Olives. This is Jesus' last daytime view from here until after his resurrection.

Soon Jesus and his party reach the city and make their way to the home where they will have the Passover meal. They climb the stairs to the large upper room. There they find that all preparations have been made for their private meal. Jesus has looked forward to this occasion, for he says: "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."—Luke 22:15.

Many years earlier, the custom of passing a number of cups of wine among the Passover participants was introduced. Now, after accepting one of the cups, Jesus gives thanks and says: "Take this and pass it from one to the other among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on, I will not drink again from the product of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes." (Luke 22:17, 18) It should be clear that his death is close.

At some point during the Passover meal, something unusual occurs. Jesus gets up, sets aside his outer garments, and picks up a towel. Then he puts water in a basin that is at hand. Ordinarily, a host would see to it that his guests' feet were washed, perhaps by a servant. (Luke 7:44) On this occasion no host is present, so Jesus performs this personal service. Any of the apostles could have taken the opportunity to do it, but not one of them does. Is it because some rivalry still exists among them? Whatever the case, they are embarrassed to have Jesus wash their feet.



When Jesus comes to Peter, he protests: "You will certainly never wash my feet." Jesus replies: "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Peter responds with feeling: "Lord, wash not only my feet but also my hands and my head." How surprised he must be, then, at Jesus' answer: "Whoever has bathed does not need to have more than his feet washed, but is completely clean. And you men are clean, but not all of you."—John 13:8-10.

Jesus washes the feet of all 12, including the feet of Judas Iscariot. After putting his outer garments on and reclining at the table again,





Jesus asks: “Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are correct, for I am such. Therefore, if I, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also should wash the feet of one another. For I set the pattern for you, that just as I did to you, you should also do. Most truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, happy you are if you do them.”—John 13:12-17.

What a beautiful lesson in humble service! Jesus’ followers should not seek the first place,

thinking that they are important and should be served. Rather, they should follow Jesus’ example, not by any ritual of foot washing, but by being willing to serve with humility and without partiality.

-
- ◇ During the Passover meal, what does Jesus tell the apostles that indicates his death is close?
 - ◇ Why is it unusual that Jesus washes the apostles’ feet?
 - ◇ By performing the menial service of washing his apostles’ feet, what lesson is Jesus providing?

Teach Them to Stand Firm

(Matthew 28:19, 20)

Eb/F *Bb* *F/Eb* *Bb/D* *Eb/G*

What a joy to teach Je - ho - vah's sheep And to
 Ev - 'ry day we said a prayer for them, As their
 May they all main - tain their con - fi - dence, Trust in

Bb/F *Gm* *Bb/F* *Cm/Eb* *Cm/F* *Eb/F*

see how they have grown. We have
 faith was un - der test. We made
 God and in his Son. Through en -

Bb *F/Eb* *Bb/D* *Eb*

seen how he has guid - ed them As they've
 time to teach and care for them; They've grown
 dur - ance and o - be - di - ence, May their

Bb/F *F7sus4* *Bb* *Chorus* *F6/A*

made the truth their own.
 strong, and they've been blessed. Je - ho - vah,
 race for life be won.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the next two lines. The fourth system covers the final two lines and includes a 'Chorus' section. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line, and the 'Chorus' section is marked with a 'Chorus' label and a 'F6/A' chord symbol.

Teach Them to Stand Firm

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the lyrics: "may you hear our prayer And keep them in your watch - ful". The second system contains: "care. In Je - sus' name, for them we plead: May they suc -". The third system contains: "ceed; May ev - 'ry one of them stand firm." Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated: Gm9, Bbma7/F, Ebadd9, Dm7, Eb6, Bb, F6/A, Gm9, Bbadd9/F, Ebadd9, Eb, Bb/F, Ebadd9, Bb/D, Eb, F7sus4, Bb, F7sus4, Bb. The bass line includes a "R.H." (Right Hand) marking in the final measure.

may you hear our prayer And keep them in your watch - ful

care. In Je - sus' name, for them we plead: May they suc -

ceed; May ev - 'ry one of them stand firm.

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



w20.03-E
191105

Love Intensely From the Heart

(1 Peter 1:22)

C G/B Gm/B \flat A7 \flat 5 A7 Gm/A A7

When our love is pure and in - tense, We make Je - ho - vah's heart re - joice.

Fma7/A Fm6/A \flat G7 \flat 5 G7 F/G G7 Dm7 G9/F Em7 E \flat 6 Dm11 G7

Love is his great - est qual - i - ty, Some - thing that we hold dear.

C G/B Gm/B \flat A7 \flat 5 A7 Gm/A A7

Warm af - fec - tion glows in our hearts, Mak - ing a loy - al friend - ship grow.

Fma7/A Fm6/A \flat G7 \flat 5 G7 F/G G7 Dm/F Fm/G G7 \flat 9

Love al - ways acts un - self - ish - ly, Prov - ing our love sin -

C Dm7/G C D \flat ma7 D \flat ma7 \flat 5 D \flat ma7 D \flat m D \flat $^\circ$

cere. When we see a friend in need,

Love Intensely From the Heart

Ab/C B° Bbm11 Eb7sus4 Eb7 Dbma7 Dbm7b5 Dbma7

We'll be there to lend a help - ing hand. Tru - ly we can

Bbm9/G C7b5/E C7/E Fm9 Fm Fm/D G7sus4 G7

be a friend, Some - one who can un - der - stand.

C G/B Gm/Bb

Je - sus showed what love real - ly means, Help - ing us see Je -

A7b5 A7 Gm/A A7 Fma7/A Fm6/Ab C/G Cma7/G Am C/G

ho - vah's love, Touch - ing our hearts and mov - ing us.

G/F F Dm/B Bb7b5 G/A Cm/A A7 Dm9 Dm F/G Fm/G G7b5 C Dm7/G C

Ten - der feel - ings are a start. Love in - tense - ly from the heart.

R.H.

SONG 109

Love Intensely From
the Heart

PREVIEW

Jesus said that love is the identifying mark of true Christians. Love for our brothers and sisters moves us to be peacemakers, to be impartial, and to be hospitable. This may not always be easy. This article provides practical suggestions on how to continue loving one another intensely from the heart.

Love One Another Intensely

“Love one another intensely from the heart.”—1 PET. 1:22.

ON THE night before he died, Jesus gave his disciples a specific command. He told them: “Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.” Then he added: “By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves.”—John 13:34, 35.

² Jesus said that his true disciples would be clearly identifiable *if* they showed the same sort of love that he displayed. That statement was true in the first century, and it is true today. How important it is that we overcome any challenges and show love for one another!

³ Human imperfection makes it difficult for us to show intense love for one another. Even so, we must try to imitate Christ. In this article, we will consider how love helps us to be peacemakers, to be impartial, and to be hospitable. As you study the material, ask yourself: ‘What can I learn from brothers and sisters who have continued to show love for one another despite challenges?’

BE A PEACEMAKER

⁴ Jesus taught us the importance of making peace with

1. What specific command did Jesus give his disciples? (See cover picture.)
2. Why is it important to show love for one another?
3. What will we consider in this article?
4. According to Matthew 5:23, 24, why should we make peace with a brother who has something against us?

a brother who has something against us. **(Read Matthew 5:23, 24.)** He emphasized that we need to maintain good relations with others if we are to please God. Jehovah is happy when we do our best to make peace with our brothers. He will not accept our worship if we hang on to resentment and refuse even to try to make peace.—1 John 4:20.

⁵ We may find it difficult to make peace. Why? Consider what happened to Mark.* He felt hurt when a brother criticized him and said bad things about him to others in the congregation. How did Mark react? “I lost control and got angry,” he recalls. Afterward, though, Mark regretted his behavior and tried to apologize to the brother and restore peace with him. But the brother rejected

* Some names in this article have been changed.

5. What made it difficult for one brother to make peace?

Mark’s efforts. Initially, Mark thought, ‘Why should *I* keep trying if he does not want to make peace?’ However, the circuit overseer encouraged him not to give up. What did Mark do?

⁶ When Mark analyzed his thinking, he realized that he lacked humility and tended to be self-righteous. He recognized that he needed to change his attitude. (Col. 3:8, 9, 12) He humbly approached the brother again and apologized for his behavior. Mark also wrote letters to the brother, saying how sorry he was and how much he wanted to make a fresh start. Mark even gave the brother small gifts that he thought the brother would like. Sadly, the brother continued to hold a grudge. Nevertheless, Mark continued to obey Jesus’ command to love his brother and to be forgiving.

6. (a) How did Mark pursue peace? (b) How did Mark apply Colossians 3:13, 14?



More than one kind of approach may be needed to bury bad feelings
(See paragraphs 7-8)





If we have intense “love for the whole association of brothers,” we will avoid being partial (See paragraphs 12-13)

(Read Colossians 3:13, 14.) Even when others do not respond to our efforts to make peace, true Christian love will help us to keep forgiving them and praying for a positive outcome.—Matt. 18:21, 22; Gal. 6:9.

⁷ Jesus urged us to keep treating others the way we want to be treated. He added that we should not limit our love only to those who show love in return. (Luke 6:31-33) Though it would be unusual, what if someone in the congregation avoids you and refuses to greet you? That is what Lara experienced. She explains: “A sister ignored me, and I did not know why. I felt tense and did not enjoy going to the meetings.” At first, Lara reasoned: ‘I am not at fault. After all, others in the congregation also feel that this sister behaves strangely.’

7. (a) What did Jesus urge us to do? (b) What difficult situation did one sister face?

⁸ Lara took steps to make peace. She prayed to Jehovah and decided to talk to the sister. They spoke about the problem, hugged each other, and made peace. Everything seemed fine. Lara relates: “But later, the sister showed the same attitude toward me as she did earlier. I was so discouraged.” Initially, Lara felt that she could be happy only if the other sister changed her attitude. Eventually, though, Lara realized that the best thing she could do was to continue treating the sister with love and “freely forgiving” her. (Eph. 4:32–5:2) Lara remembered that true Christian love “does not keep account of the injury. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Cor. 13:5, 7) Lara regained her peace of mind. In time, the sister was friendlier with her. When you pursue peace with your broth-

8. What did Lara do to make peace, and what can we learn from her experience?

ers and sisters and continue loving them, you can be sure that “the God of love and of peace will be with you.”—2 Cor. 13:11.

BE IMPARTIAL

⁹ Jehovah is not partial. (**Read Acts 10:34, 35.**) When we are impartial, we prove that we are his children. We obey the command to love our neighbor as ourselves, and we maintain the peace of our spiritual family.—Rom. 12:9, 10; Jas. 2:8, 9.

¹⁰ Remaining impartial may not be easy for some. Consider, for example, what happened to a sister named Ruth. When she was a teenager, she had a bad experience with someone who was from a different country. How did it affect her? Ruth admits: “I hated everything about that country. I thought that all people from that place were the same, even the brothers and sisters.” How did Ruth overcome her negative feelings?

¹¹ Ruth recognized that she had to fight her negative thinking. She read experiences and reports from the *Yearbook* about that country. She says: “I made an effort to think positively about the people of that land. I started to notice that the brothers and sisters had zeal for Jehovah. It became clear to me that they too are part of our worldwide brotherhood.” Gradually, Ruth realized that she needed to do more. She explains: “Whenever I met brothers and sisters from that country, I made a spe-

cial effort to be friendly with them. I talked to them and got to know them better.” What was the result? Ruth says: “In time, my negative feelings disappeared.”

¹² Some may be partial without even realizing it. Sarah, for example, thought that she was impartial because she did not judge people based on their race, their financial standing, or their position of responsibility in the organization. But she admits: “I began to realize that I really was partial.” In what way? Sarah came from a well-educated family and preferred to associate with people who had the same background. Once she even told a friend: “I associate with fellow believers who are well-educated. I avoid those who are not.” Clearly, Sarah needed to change her attitude. How?

¹³ A circuit overseer helped Sarah to analyze her attitude. She relates: “He commended me for my faithful service, good comments, and knowledge of the Scriptures. Then he explained that as our knowledge grows, we also need to cultivate such Christian qualities as humility, modesty, and mercy.” Sarah took the circuit overseer’s words to heart. She says: “I realized that what really matters is that we are kind and loving.” As a result, she began to view her brothers and sisters differently. She explains: “I tried to understand what qualities make them precious to Jehovah.” What about us? Never would we want to

9. According to Acts 10:34, 35, why do we need to be impartial?

10-11. How did one sister overcome her negative feelings?

12. What problem did a sister named Sarah have?

13. What can we learn from how Sarah changed her attitude?

“In the past, I was not inclined to show hospitality, but I changed and have received much joy”
(See paragraph 16)



feel superior to others because of our education! If we have intense “love for the whole association of brothers,” we will avoid being partial.—1 Pet. 2:17.

BE HOSPITABLE

¹⁴ Jehovah highly values hospitality. **(Read Hebrews 13:16.)** He considers it part of our worship, especially when we help the needy. (Jas. 1:27; 2:14-17) Therefore, the Scriptures encourage us to “follow the course of hospitality.” (Rom. 12:13) We express genuine fondness, affection, and friendship when we are hospitable. Jehovah is pleased whether we share with others a snack, something to drink, a meal, or our time and loving attention. (1 Pet. 4: 8-10) However, there may be obstacles that can make it difficult for us to be hospitable.

14. According to Hebrews 13:16, how does Jehovah feel when we show hospitality to others?

¹⁵ We may hesitate to show hospitality because of our circumstances. Consider the example of a widow named Edit. Before she became a Witness, she preferred to have little contact with others. Edit felt that others were in a better position to be hospitable.

¹⁶ After she became a Witness, Edit changed her way of thinking. She took steps to be hospitable. She relates: “When our new Kingdom Hall was being built, an elder told me about a married couple who were coming to help with the project, and he asked me if I could offer them accommodations for two weeks. I remembered how Jehovah blessed the widow of Zarephath.” (1 Ki. 17:12-16) Edit agreed to host the couple. Was she blessed? She explains: “Two weeks turned into two months. During

15-16. (a) Why might some hesitate to show hospitality? (b) How did Edit overcome her hesitation to show hospitality?

that time, we developed a close friendship.” Edit has also been blessed with close friends in the congregation. She is now a pioneer and enjoys having those with whom she works in the ministry come to her home for refreshments. She says: “Giving makes me feel good! And the truth is that I receive so many blessings in return.”—Heb. 13:1, 2.

¹⁷ We may already be showing hospitality, but can we improve? For example, Luke and his wife are a hospitable couple. They were in the habit of inviting to their home their parents, relatives, close friends, and the circuit overseer and his wife. However, Luke says, “We realized that we were inviting only those who were close to us.” How did Luke and his wife improve in showing hospitality?

¹⁸ Luke and his wife changed their view after reflecting on Jesus’ words: “If you love those loving you, what reward do you have?” (Matt. 5:45-47) They real-

17. What realization did Luke and his wife come to?

18. How did Luke and his wife improve in showing hospitality?

ized that they needed to imitate Jehovah, who is generous toward all. So they made it a point to invite brothers and sisters whom they had not invited before. Luke says: “All of us now enjoy these occasions so much. Everyone feels encouraged and uplifted.”

¹⁹ We have examined how having intense love for one another can help us to be peacemakers, to be impartial, and to be hospitable. We must overcome any negative feelings and love our brothers and sisters intensely from the heart. If we do, we will be happy and we will prove that we really are Jesus’ disciples.—John 13:17, 35.

19. How do we prove that we are Jesus’ disciples, and what are you determined to do?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS **Page 25:** A sister’s first attempt to resolve a matter is not successful, but she does not give up. Her continued efforts to show love eventually succeed. **Page 26:** An older brother is feeling excluded by others in the congregation. **Page 28:** A sister who initially hesitated to show hospitality changes her thinking, and the change brings her added happiness.

HOW CAN WE SHOW INTENSE LOVE BY . . .

■ being peacemakers?

■ being impartial?

■ being hospitable?

Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

A F#m C#m G/A A7

We're gath - ered to - geth - er, Je - ho - vah our God, Ac -
Un - reach - a - bly high is your wis - dom, O God; Your

D F#7+5 Bm Bm/A

cept - ing your warm in - vi - ta - tion. Your
judg - ments we find re - as - sur - ing. Your

Bm/G# C#7 F° F#m

Word is a lamp that lights up our path - way, The
Word is a source of un - end - ing won - der; Your

A/B B13 Bm7 E13sus4 E7

source of di - vine ed - u - ca - tion.
say - ings of truth are en - dur - ing.

Make Me Know Your Ways

Chorus

A C#+5 D Bm7

Teach me your ways, and make me un - der - stand; In -

E7sus4 E/D A/C# Bm11 E7

cline my ear to hear your wise com - mand.

G/A A13 Dma7 G13sus4 Dm6/F

Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right, And

A/E D/E E7 A

make your law my prin - ci - pal de - light.