

- Song 7 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **"I Will Become What I Choose to Become":** (10 min.)

[Play the video *Introduction to Exodus.*]

Ex 3:13—Moses wanted to know more about the person represented by the name Jehovah (w13 3/15 25 ¶4)

Ex 3:14—Jehovah becomes whatever is needed to accomplish his purpose (kr 43, box)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 2:10—Why is it reasonable to believe that Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses? (g04 4/8 6 ¶5)

Ex 3:1—What kind of priest was Jethro? (w04 3/15 24 ¶4)

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) Ex 2:11-25 (11)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome an objection common in your territory. (16)
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer a recent magazine to address a topic raised by the householder. (12)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 6/15 11 ¶1-4—Theme: Something Greater Than the Treasures of Egypt. (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 2
- **Become Jehovah's Friend—Jehovah's Name:** (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What does Jehovah's name mean? What did Jehovah create? How can Jehovah help you?
- **The Divine Name Is Exalted in Scandinavia:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the audience: Why was the divine name virtually unknown prior to the 16th century? How did the name Jehovah begin to be used in Scandinavia? Why do you appreciate the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 120
- **Concluding Comments** (3 min. or less)
- Song 104 and Prayer

EXODUS 1-3 | "I Will Become What I Choose to Become"



3:13, 14

Jehovah revealed to Moses a thrilling aspect of His own nature. Within the bounds of his perfect standards, Jehovah becomes whatever is needed in each circumstance to accomplish his will. Much like a human parent, Jehovah fills whatever roles are necessary to care for his children.

 **What roles has Jehovah filled in my life?**



Jehovah, Our Strength

(Isaiah 12:2)

C G/B C G7/D C/G G C C° C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, our strength and our might,
 We who now serve you re - joice in your light;
 Glad - ly, O God, we keep do - ing your will.

G7 C/G G C G/B Am G/D C/D D G

You are our Sav - ior, in you we de - light.
 Eyes that are o - pened now see truth and right.
 Though Sa - tan mocks us, we're trust - ing you still.

C G/B C G7/D C/G E7/G# Am E7/G# Am

We are your Wit - ness - es bear - ing your news,
 Search - ing the Scrip - tures, we hear your com - mand;
 Though he may slay us, oh, help us to be

E/B Am/C G/D B7/D# Em A7 D7 G Chorus G7

Wheth - er men hear or they proud - ly re - fuse.
 Mak - ing our choice, for your King - dom we stand. Je -
 Firm to the end for your grand Sov - 'reign - ty.

Jehovah, Our Strength

C F/C C C/E F C/E F C

ho - vah, our Rock, Our strength and our might,

G B° Am/C E7/B Am G/D D7 G

Your name we make known Both day and night.

C G7/F C/E G7/D C G/F C/E G7/D C F

Glo - rious Je - ho - vah, Al - might - y in pow'r,

F#° C/G C#° Dm C/G G C

You are our hid - ing place; You are our Tow'r.

(See also 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 43:12.)

- On seduction (16, 17)
On worship and social justice (18-31)
- 23 Judicial decisions for Israel (1-19)
On honest and just behavior (1-9)
On sabbaths and festivals (10-19)
Angelic guidance for Israel (20-26)
Land acquisition and boundaries (27-33)
- 24 People agree to keep the covenant (1-11)
Moses on Mount Sinai (12-18)
- 25 Contributions for the tabernacle (1-9)
The Ark (10-22)
The table (23-30)
The lampstand (31-40)
- 26 The tabernacle (1-37)
The tent cloths (1-14)
Panel frames and socket pedestals (15-30)
The curtain and the screen (31-37)
- 27 Altar of burnt offering (1-8)
The courtyard (9-19)
Oil for the lampstand (20-21)
- 28 Priestly garments (1-5)
The ephod (6-14)
The breastpiece (15-30)
Urim and Thummim (30)
The sleeveless coat (31-35)
The turban with the golden plate (36-39)
Other priestly garments (40-43)
- 29 Installation of priests (1-37)
The daily offering (38-46)
- 30 Incense altar (1-10)
Census and money for atonement (11-16)
Copper basin for washing (17-21)
Special mixture of anointing oil (22-33)
Holy incense formula (34-38)
- 31 Craftsmen filled with God's spirit (1-11)
Sabbath, a sign between God and Israel (12-17)
The two stone tablets (18)
- 32 Worship of the golden calf (1-35)
Moses hears strange singing (17, 18)
Moses smashes the law tablets (19)
Levites loyal to Jehovah (26-29)
- 33 God's message of reproof (1-6)
Tent of meeting outside the camp (7-11)
Moses asks to see Jehovah's glory (12-23)
- 34 New stone tablets prepared (1-4)
Moses sees Jehovah's glory (5-9)
Details of the covenant repeated (10-28)
Moses' face emits rays (29-35)
- 35 Sabbath instructions (1-3)
Contributions for the tabernacle (4-29)
Bezalel and Oholiab filled with spirit (30-35)
- 36 More than enough contributed (1-7)
Construction of the tabernacle (8-38)
- 37 Making the Ark (1-9)
The table (10-16)
The lampstand (17-24)
The altar of incense (25-29)
- 38 The altar of burnt offering (1-7)
The copper basin (8)
The courtyard (9-20)
Inventory of tabernacle materials (21-31)
- 39 Making the priestly garments (1)
The ephod (2-7)
The breastpiece (8-21)
The sleeveless coat (22-26)
Other priestly garments (27-29)
The golden plate (30, 31)
Moses inspects the tabernacle (32-43)
- 40 Setting up the tabernacle (1-33)
Jehovah's glory fills the tabernacle (34-38)

1 Now these are the names of Israel's sons who came into Egypt with Jacob, each man who came with his household:^a **2** Reu'ben, Sim'e-on, Le'vi, and Judah;^b **3** Is'sa-char, Zeb'u-lun, and Benjamin; **4** Dan

CHAP. 1

a Ge 46:8

b 1Ch 2:3, 4

Second Col.

a Ge 46:17

and Naph'ta-li; Gad and Ash'er.^a **5** And all those* who were born to Jacob[#] were 70 people,^Δ but Joseph was already

1:5 *Or "the souls." [#]Lit., "who came out from the thigh of Jacob." ^ΔOr "souls."

in Egypt.^a **6** Joseph eventually died,^b and also all his brothers and all that generation. **7** And the Israelites^c became fruitful and began to increase greatly, and they kept on multiplying and growing mightier at an extraordinary rate, so that the land became filled with them.^c

8 In time there arose over Egypt a new king, one who did not know Joseph. **9** So he said to his people: "Look! The people of Israel are more numerous and mightier than we are.^d **10** Let us deal shrewdly with them. Otherwise, they will continue to multiply, and if a war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us and leave the country."

11 So they appointed chiefs of forced labor* over them to oppress them with hard labor,^e and they built storage cities for Phar'aoh, namely, Pi'thom and Ra-am'ses.^f **12** But the more they would oppress them, the more they would multiply and the more they kept spreading out, so they felt sick with fear because of the Israelites.^g **13** Consequently, the Egyptians forced the Israelites into harsh slavery.^h **14** They made their life bitter with hard labor, as they worked with clay mortar and bricks and in every form of slavery in the field. Yes, they made them toil in harsh conditions in every form of slavery.ⁱ

15 Later the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives whose names were Shiph'rah and Pu'ah, **16** and he told them: "When you help the Hebrew women to give birth/ and you see them on the stool for childbirth,* you must put the child to death if it is a son;

1:7 *Lit., "sons of Israel." 1:11 *Or "appointed taskmasters." 1:16 *Or "the birth stool."

CHAP. 1

a Ge 46:26
De 10:22
Ac 7:14

b Ge 50:26

c Ge 46:3
De 26:5
Ac 7:17-19

d Ps 105:24, 25

e Ge 15:13
Ex 3:7
Nu 20:15
De 26:6

f Ge 47:11

g Ex 1:7
Ps 105:24, 25

h Ex 2:23
Ac 7:6

i Le 26:13

j Eze 16:4

Second Col.

a Ge 9:5, 6

b Ac 7:18, 19

CHAP. 2

c Ex 6:20
Nu 26:59

d Ac 7:20
Heb 11:23

e Ac 7:18, 19

f Ex 15:20
1Ch 6:3
Mic 6:4

g Ac 7:21

but if it is a daughter, she must live." **17** However, the midwives feared the true God, and they did not do what the king of Egypt told them. Instead, they would keep the male children alive.^a **18** In time the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them: "Why have you kept the male children alive?" **19** The midwives said to Phar'aoh: "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women. They are lively and have already given birth before the midwife can come in to them."

20 So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people kept increasing and becoming very mighty. **21** And because the midwives had feared the true God, he later gave them families. **22** Finally Phar'aoh commanded all his people: "You are to throw every newborn son of the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you are to keep every daughter alive."^b

2 About that time, a certain man of the house of Le'vi married a daughter of Le'vi.^c **2** And the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw how beautiful he was, she kept him concealed for three months.^d **3** When she was no longer able to conceal him,^e she took a papyrus basket* and coated it with bitumen and pitch and put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile River. **4** But his sister^f stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

5 When Phar'aoh's daughter came down to bathe in the Nile, her female attendants were walking by the side of the Nile. And she caught sight of the basket in the middle of the reeds. She immediately sent her slave girl to get it.^g **6** When she

2:3 *Or "ark; chest."

opened it, she saw the child, and the boy was crying. She felt compassion for him, but she said: "This is one of the children of the Hebrews." **7** Then his sister said to Phar'aoh's daughter: "Shall I go and call a nursing woman from the Hebrews to nurse the child for you?" **8** Phar'aoh's daughter said to her: "Go!" At once the girl went and called the child's mother.^a **9** Phar'aoh's daughter then said to her: "Take this child with you and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the child and nursed him. **10** When the child grew older, she brought him to Phar'aoh's daughter, and he became a son to her.^b She named him Moses* and said: "It is because I have drawn him out of the water."^c

11 Now in those days, after Moses had become an adult,* he went out to his brothers to look at the burdens they were bearing,^d and he caught sight of an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. **12** So he looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.^e

13 But he went out on the following day, and there were two Hebrew men fighting with each other. So he said to the one in the wrong: "Why do you strike your companion?"^f **14** At this he said: "Who appointed you as a prince and a judge over us? Are you planning to kill me just as you killed the Egyptian?"^g Moses now was afraid and said: "Surely the matter has become known!"

15 Then Phar'aoh heard about it, and he attempted to kill Moses; but Moses ran away from Phar'aoh and went to dwell

CHAP. 2

a Ex 6:20

b Heb 11:24, 25

c Ac 7:21

d Ex 1:11

Ex 3:7

Ac 7:23

e Ac 7:24

f Ac 7:26

g Ac 7:27, 28

Second Col.

a Ge 25:1, 2

Ex 3:1

Ex 4:19

b Ex 18:12

c Ex 4:18

Ex 18:1

Nu 10:29

d Ac 7:22

e Ex 18:2-4

Nu 12:1

f 1Ch 23:15

g Ac 7:29

h Ex 7:7

Ac 7:30

i Ex 3:7

IKI 8:51

j Ac 7:34

k Ge 15:13, 14

Ex 6:5

Nu 20:15, 16

CHAP. 3

l Ex 2:16

Ex 18:1

in the land of Mid'i-an,^a and he sat down by a well. **16** Now the priest of Mid'i-an^b had seven daughters, and these came to draw water and to fill the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** But as usual, the shepherds came and drove them away. At this Moses got up and helped* the women and watered their flock. **18** When they came home to their father Reu'el,^{*c} he exclaimed: "How is it that you have come home so quickly today?" **19** They replied: "A certain Egyptian^d rescued us from the shepherds, and he even drew water for us and watered the flock." **20** He said to his daughters: "But where is he? Why did you leave the man behind? Call him, so that he may eat with us." **21** After that Moses consented to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zip-po'rah^e to Moses in marriage. **22** Later she bore a son, and he named him Ger'shom,^{*f} for he said, "I have become a foreign resident in a foreign land."^g

23 After a long time,* the king of Egypt died,^h but the Israelites continued to groan because of the slavery and to cry out in complaint, and their cry for help because of the slavery kept going up to the true God.ⁱ **24** In time God heard their groaning,^j and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.^k **25** So God looked on the Israelites; and God took notice.

3 Moses became a shepherd of the flock of his father-in-law Jeth'ro,^l the priest of Mid'i-an. While he was leading the flock to the west side of the wilderness, he eventually came to the mountain of the true God, to

2:10 *Meaning "Drawn Out," that is, saved out of the water. 2:11 *Or "as Moses was becoming strong."

2:17 *Or "defended." 2:18 *That is, Jethro. 2:22 *Meaning "A Foreign Resident There." 2:23 *Lit., "many days."

Ho'reb.^a **2** Then Jehovah's angel appeared to him in a flame of fire in the midst of a thornbush.^b As he kept looking, he saw that the thornbush was on fire, and yet the thornbush was not consumed. **3** So Moses said: "I will go over to inspect this unusual sight to see why the thornbush does not burn up." **4** When Jehovah saw that he went over to look, God called to him out of the thornbush and said: "Moses! Moses!" to which he said: "Here I am." **5** Then he said: "Do not come any nearer. Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy ground."

6 He went on to say: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham,^c the God of Isaac,^d and the God of Jacob."^e Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at the true God. **7** Jehovah added: "I have certainly seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their outcry because of those who force them to work; I well know the pains they suffer.^f **8** I will go down to rescue them out of the hand of the Egyptians^g and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, a land flowing with milk and honey,^h the territory of the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Am'or-ites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites.ⁱ **9** Now look! The outcry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen also the harsh way that the Egyptians are oppressing them.^j **10** Now come, I will send you to Phar'aoh, and you will bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."^k

11 However, Moses said to the true God: "Who am I that I should go to Phar'aoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" **12** To this he said: "I will prove to be with you,^l and this is the

CHAP. 3

- a Ex 24:12, 13
- 1Ki 19:8, 9
- b Ac 7:30-34
- c Ge 17:1, 7
- d Ge 26:24
- e Ge 28:13
- Ge 32:9
- Mt 22:32
- Ac 7:32
- f Ex 1:11
- Isa 63:9
- Ac 7:34
- g Ex 12:51
- h Nu 13:26, 27
- De 27:3
- i Ge 10:15-17
- Ex 33:1, 2
- De 7:1
- Jos 3:10
- Ne 9:7, 8
- j Ex 1:11
- k Ps 105:26, 38
- Ac 7:34
- l De 31:23
- Jos 1:5
- Isa 41:10
- Ro 8:31
- Php 4:13

Second Col.

- a Ex 19:2
- De 4:11, 12
- b Ex 15:3
- Ps 96:8
- Ps 135:13
- Ho 12:5
- Joh 17:26
- Ro 10:13
- c Job 23:13
- Isa 14:27
- Joh 12:28
- d Ex 6:3, 7
- Ro 9:17
- e Ge 17:1, 7
- f Ge 26:24
- g Ge 28:13
- Mt 22:32
- h Ps 135:13
- i Ge 50:24
- Ex 13:19
- j Ge 15:13, 14
- Le 26:13
- k Ge 15:16
- l Ex 23:23
- m Nu 13:27
- De 8:7-9
- n Ex 4:31
- o Ge 14:13

sign for you that it was I who sent you: After you have brought the people out of Egypt, you people will serve* the true God on this mountain."^a

13 But Moses said to the true God: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?'^b What should I say to them?" **14** So God said to Moses: "I Will Become What I Choose* to Become."^c And he added: "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'I Will Become has sent me to you.'"^d **15** Then God said once more to Moses:

"This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'Jehovah the God of your forefathers, the God of Abraham,^e the God of Isaac,^f and the God of Jacob,^g has sent me to you.' This is my name forever,^h and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation. **16** Now go, and gather the elders of Israel and say to them, 'Jehovah the God of your forefathers has appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and he said: "I have certainly taken notice of youⁱ and of what is being done to you in Egypt. **17** So I say, I will take you away from affliction^j at the hands of the Egyptians to the land of the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Am'or-ites,^k the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites,^l to a land flowing with milk and honey."^m

18 "They will certainly listen to your voice,ⁿ and you will go, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you men should say to him: 'Jehovah the God of the Hebrews^o has communicated with us. So,

3:12 *Or "worship." 3:14 *Or "Want."
^aOr "I Will Prove to Be What I Will Prove to Be." See App. A4.

please, let us make a three-day journey into the wilderness so that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.^a **19** But I myself well know that the king of Egypt will not give you permission to go unless a mighty hand compels him.^b **20** So I will have to stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my extraordinary acts that I will do in it, and after that he will send you out.^c **21** And I will give this people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, and when you go, you will by no means go empty-handed.^d **22** Each woman must ask her neighbor and the woman lodging in her house for articles of silver and of gold as well as clothing, and you will put them on your sons and your daughters; and you will plunder the Egyptians.”^e

4 However, Moses answered: “But suppose they do not believe me and do not listen to my voice,^f for they will say, ‘Jehovah did not appear to you.’” **2** Then Jehovah said to him: “What is that in your hand?” He answered: “A rod.” **3** He said: “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent;^g and Moses fled from it. **4** Jehovah now said to Moses: “Reach out your hand and seize it by the tail.” So he reached out and seized it, and it became a rod in his hand. **5** God then said: “This is so that they may believe that Jehovah the God of their forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,^h has appeared to you.”ⁱ

6 Jehovah said to him once more: “Put your hand, please, into the upper fold of your garment.” So he put his hand into the fold of his garment. When he drew it out, why, his hand was stricken with leprosy like snow!^j **7** Then he said: “Return your

CHAP. 3

a Ex 5:3
Ex 10:25, 26b Ex 5:2
Ex 14:8
Ro 9:17c Ex 7:3
Ex 12:33
De 6:22d Ex 11:2
Ex 12:35, 36e Ge 15:13, 14
Ex 12:36

CHAP. 4

f Ex 2:13, 14

g Ex 7:9

h Lu 20:37

i Ex 3:16
Ex 4:31

j Nu 12:10

Second Col.

a Ac 7:36

b Ex 4:30

c Ex 6:12
Nu 12:3
Jer 1:6
Ac 7:22d Isa 50:4
Mr 13:11

e Nu 26:59

f Ex 4:27

g Ex 4:28

h Jer 1:9

i Ex 7:1, 2

hand into the upper fold of your garment.” So he returned his hand into his garment. When he drew it out of the garment, it was restored like the rest of his flesh!^k **8** He said: “If they will not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, then they will certainly heed the next sign.^a **9** Still, even if they will not believe these two signs and refuse to listen to your voice, you will take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry land, and the water that you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry land.”^b

10 Moses now said to Jehovah: “Pardon me, Jehovah, but I have never been a fluent speaker, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech* and slow of tongue.”^c **11** Jehovah said to him: “Who made a mouth for man, or who makes them speechless, deaf, clear-sighted, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah? **12** So go now, and I will be with you as you speak,* and I will teach you what you should say.”^d **13** But he said: “Pardon me, Jehovah, please send anyone whom you want to send.” **14** Then Jehovah's anger blazed against Moses, and he said: “What about your brother Aaron^e the Levite? I know that he can speak very well. And he is now on his way here to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will rejoice.^f **15** So you must speak to him and put the words in his mouth,^g and I will be with you and him as you speak,^h and I will teach you men what to do. **16** He will speak for you to the people, and he will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him.”ⁱ **17** And you

4:10 *Lit., “heavy of mouth.” **4:12** *Lit., “with your mouth.” **4:16** *Or “will be representing God to him.”

- Song 7 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“I Will Become What I Choose to Become”:** (10 min.)

[Play the video *Introduction to Exodus.*]

Ex 3:13—Moses wanted to know more about the person represented by the name Jehovah (w13 3/15 25 ¶4)

Ex 3:14—Jehovah becomes whatever is needed to accomplish his purpose (kr 43, box)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
Ex 2:10—Why is it reasonable to believe that Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses? (g04 4/8 6 ¶5)

Ex 3:1—What kind of priest was Jethro? (w04 3/15 24 ¶4)

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) Ex 2:11-25 (11)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome an objection common in your territory. (16)
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer a recent magazine to address a topic raised by the householder. (12)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 6/15 11 ¶1-4—Theme: Something Greater Than the Treasures of Egypt. (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 2
- **Become Jehovah's Friend—Jehovah's Name:** (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What does Jehovah's name mean? What did Jehovah create? How can Jehovah help you?
- **The Divine Name Is Exalted in Scandinavia:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the audience: Why was the divine name virtually unknown prior to the 16th century? How did the name Jehovah begin to be used in Scandinavia? Why do you appreciate the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 120
- **Concluding Comments** (3 min. or less)
- Song 104 and Prayer

EXODUS 1-3 | “I Will Become What I Choose to Become”



3:13, 14

Jehovah revealed to Moses a thrilling aspect of His own nature. Within the bounds of his perfect standards, Jehovah becomes whatever is needed in each circumstance to accomplish his will. Much like a human parent, Jehovah fills whatever roles are necessary to care for his children.

 **What roles has Jehovah filled in my life?**



June 22-28 / Exodus 1-3

Treasures From God's Word

"I Will Become What I Choose to Become": (10 minutes)

[Play the video *Introduction to Exodus*.]

Exodus 3:13—Moses wanted to know more about the person represented by the name Jehovah

Exodus 3:13: But Moses said to the true God: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?' What should I say to them?"

w13 3/15 25 paragraph 4

Read Exodus 3:10-15. When Moses was 80 years of age, God gave him a weighty command: "You bring my people the sons of Israel out of Egypt." Moses responded respectfully with a question, one of profound significance. In effect, Moses asked: 'What is your name?' Considering that God's name was long known, what was the point of Moses' question? Evidently, he wanted to know more about the person represented by the name—facts that would convince God's people that He really would deliver them. Moses' concern was warranted, for the Israelites had been slaves for some time. They would likely wonder whether the God of their forefathers *could* deliver them. Indeed, some Israelites had even taken up the worship of Egyptian gods!—Ezekiel 20:7, 8.

Exodus 3:14—Jehovah becomes whatever is needed to accomplish his purpose

Exodus 3:14: So God said to Moses: "I Will Become What I Choose to Become." And he added: "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'I Will Become has sent me to you.'"

kr 43, box

The Meaning of God's Name

The name Jehovah comes from a Hebrew verb that means "to become." Some scholars feel that in this instance the verb is used in its causative form. God's name is thus understood by many to mean

"He Causes to Become." This definition well fits Jehovah's role as the Creator. He caused the universe and intelligent beings to come into existence and continues to cause his will and purpose to become a reality.

How, then, should we understand Jehovah's answer to Moses' question recorded at Exodus 3:13, 14? Moses asked: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?' What should I say to them?" Jehovah answered: "I Will Become What I Choose to Become."

Note that Moses was not asking Jehovah to reveal his name. Moses and the Israelites already knew God's name well. Moses wanted Jehovah to reveal something faith-strengthening about the kind of God he is, something that may also be reflected in the meaning of his name. Hence, by responding, "I Will Become What I Choose to Become," Jehovah was revealing a thrilling aspect of his own nature: In each situation, he becomes whatever is necessary to fulfill his purpose. For example, for Moses and the Israelites, Jehovah became a Rescuer, a Lawgiver, a Provider—and much more. Thus, Jehovah himself *chooses to become* whatever is necessary to fulfill his promises to his people. However, while the name Jehovah may include this idea, it is not limited to what he himself chooses to become. It also includes what he causes his creation to become in the accomplishment of his purpose. *

* See appendix A4 in the revised *New World Translation*.

Digging for Spiritual Gems: (10 minutes)

Exodus 2:10—Why is it reasonable to believe that Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses?

Exodus 2:10: When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became a son to her. She named him Moses and said: "It is because I have drawn him out of the water."

g04 4/8 6 paragraph 5

Is it not farfetched, though, to believe that an Egyptian princess would take in such a child? No, for Egyptian religion taught that kind deeds were a requisite for entrance into heaven. As for the adoption itself, archaeologist Joyce Tyldesley observes: "Egyptian women achieved parity with Egyptian men. They enjoyed the same legal and economic rights, at least in theory, and . . . women could make adoptions." The ancient Adoption Papyrus actually documents one Egyptian woman's adoption of her slaves. As for the hiring of Moses' mother as a wet nurse, *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* says: "The payment of Moses' natural mother to nurse him . . . echoes identical arrangements in Mesopotamian adoption contracts."

Exodus 3:1—What kind of priest was Jethro?

Exodus 3:1: Moses became a shepherd of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. While he was leading the flock to the west side of the wilderness, he eventually came to the mountain of the true God, to Horeb.

w04 3/15 24 paragraph 4

In patriarchal times the family head served as a priest for his family. Jethro was evidently the patriarchal head of a tribe of Midianites. Since the Midianites were Abraham's descendants by Keturah, they were perhaps exposed to the worship of Jehovah.—Genesis 25:1, 2.

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

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Exodus 2:11-25 (th study 11)

- Song 7 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“I Will Become What I Choose to Become”:** (10 min.)

[Play the video *Introduction to Exodus.*]

Ex 3:13—Moses wanted to know more about the person represented by the name Jehovah (w13 3/15 25 ¶4)

Ex 3:14—Jehovah becomes whatever is needed to accomplish his purpose (kr 43, box)

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- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome an objection common in your territory. (16)
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer a recent magazine to address a topic raised by the householder. (12)
- **Talk:** (5 min. or less) w02 6/15 11 ¶1-4—Theme: Something Greater Than the Treasures of Egypt. (13)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 2
- **Become Jehovah's Friend—Jehovah's Name:** (6 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category CHILDREN). Then, if possible, invite selected young children to the stage, and ask them: What does Jehovah's name mean? What did Jehovah create? How can Jehovah help you?
- **The Divine Name Is Exalted in Scandinavia:** (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video (video category THE BIBLE). Then ask the audience: Why was the divine name virtually unknown prior to the 16th century? How did the name Jehovah begin to be used in Scandinavia? Why do you appreciate the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) jy chap. 120
- **Concluding Comments** (3 min. or less)
- Song 104 and Prayer

EXODUS 1-3 | “I Will Become What I Choose to Become”



3:13, 14

Jehovah revealed to Moses a thrilling aspect of His own nature. Within the bounds of his perfect standards, Jehovah becomes whatever is needed in each circumstance to accomplish his will. Much like a human parent, Jehovah fills whatever roles are necessary to care for his children.

 **What roles has Jehovah filled in my life?**





Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations*

▲ Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh

INITIAL CALL

Question: Are we living in the last days?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What will happen after the last days?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• bhs 98 ¶10

RETURN VISIT

Question: What will happen after the last days?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

Link: How can we enjoy the life God has promised?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• bhs 100 ¶15

* Beginning this month, the sample conversations will include only the initial call and return visit.

A Momentous Decision

At age 40, by which time Moses could have become thoroughly Egyptian, he 'went out to look at the burdens his brothers were bearing.' His subsequent actions showed that this was no idle curiosity; he yearned to help them. When he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he intervened, killing the oppressor. That act showed that Moses' heart was with his brothers. The dead man was likely an official, killed as he carried out his duties. In the eyes of the Egyptians, Moses had every reason to be loyal to Pharaoh. Yet, what moved Moses was also love of justice, a quality further manifested when the next day he

Wet-Nursing Contracts

Mothers normally suckled their own infants. However, says scholar Brevard Childs in *Journal of Biblical Literature*, "in certain instances among aristocratic [near Eastern] families a wet nurse was hired. This practice was also common where the mother was unable to nourish her child or where the mother was unknown. The nurse assumed responsibility of raising the child as well as suckling it during the stipulated period." Several papyrus wet-nursing contracts have survived from Near Eastern antiquity. These documents attest to what was a widespread practice from the Sumerian period down to the late Hellenistic period in Egypt. Common features of these documents are a statement of the individuals involved, the time covered by the contract, conditions of work, specifications concerning nourishment, fines for breach of contract, wages, and how wages would be paid. Typically, "nursing extended over a period of two to three years," explains Childs. "The wet nurse raised the child in her home, but at times was required to return the child to its owner for inspection."

remonstrated with a Hebrew who was unjustly beating his companion. Moses desired to liberate the Hebrews from bitter slavery, but when Pharaoh learned of his defection and tried to kill him, Moses was forced to flee to Midian.—Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-29.*

Moses' timing in wanting to liberate God's people did not match Jehovah's. Still, his actions revealed faith. Says Hebrews 11:24-26: "By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of the daughter of Pharaoh, choosing to be ill-treated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin." Why? "Because he esteemed the reproach of the Christ as riches greater than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked intently toward the payment of the reward." This exceptional use of the expression "the Christ," meaning "anointed one," fits Moses in the sense that he later received a special commission directly from Jehovah.

Just think! Moses had an upbringing that only an Egyptian aristocrat could receive. His position offered a brilliant career and every pleasure imaginable, yet he rejected it all. He could not reconcile life at the court of Pharaoh, the oppressor, with love for Jehovah and for justice. Knowledge of and meditation on God's promises to his forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob led Moses to prefer divine favor. As a result, Jehovah was able to use Moses in the most privileged of roles to accomplish His purposes.

All of us face choices about what things are most important. Like Moses, perhaps you face a difficult decision. Should you give up certain practices or apparent advantages, no matter what the cost? If that is the choice before you, remember that Moses considered Jehovah's friendship more valuable than all the treasures of Egypt, and he did not regret it.

* That Moses had zeal for justice is further shown by his defending helpless shepherdesses from ill-treatment in Midian, where he was a fugitive.—Exodus 2:16, 17.

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.".

- Song 7 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“I Will Become What I Choose to Become”:** (10 min.)

[Play the video *Introduction to Exodus.*]

Ex 3:13—Moses wanted to know more about the person represented by the name Jehovah (w13 3/15 25 ¶4)

Ex 3:14—Jehovah becomes whatever is needed to accomplish his purpose (kr 43, box)

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Jehovah revealed to Moses a thrilling aspect of His own nature. Within the bounds of his perfect standards, Jehovah becomes whatever is needed in each circumstance to accomplish his will. Much like a human parent, Jehovah fills whatever roles are necessary to care for his children.

 **What roles has Jehovah filled in my life?**



BEARING FRUIT AS BRANCHES AND BEING JESUS' FRIENDS

JOHN 15:1-27

Jesus has been encouraging his faithful apostles in a heart-to-heart talk. It is late, perhaps past midnight. Jesus now presents a motivating illustration:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the cultivator," he begins. (John 15:1) His illustration resembles what had been said centuries earlier about the nation of Israel, which was called Jehovah's vine. (Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 10:1, 2) However, Jehovah is casting off that nation. (Matthew 23:37, 38) So Jesus is introducing a new thought. He is the vine that his Father has been cultivating since anointing Jesus with holy spirit in 29 C.E. But Jesus shows that the vine symbolizes more than just him, saying:

"[My Father] takes away every branch in me not bearing fruit, and he cleans every one bearing fruit, so that it may bear more fruit. . . . Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you unless you remain in union with me. I am the vine; you are the branches."—John 15:2-5.

Jesus has promised his faithful disciples that after he goes away, he would send a helper, the holy spirit. Fifty-one days later, when the apostles and others receive that spirit, they become branches of the vine. And all the "branches" would have to remain united with Jesus. To accomplish what?

He explains: "Whoever remains in union with me and I in union with him, this one bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing at all." These "branches"—his faithful followers—would bear much fruit, imitating Jesus' qualities, actively speaking to others about God's Kingdom, and making more disciples. What if one does not remain in union with Jesus and does not bear fruit? Jesus explains: "If

anyone does not remain in union with me, he is thrown out." On the other hand, Jesus says: "If you remain in union with me and my sayings remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will take place for you."—John 15:5-7.

Now Jesus returns to what he has mentioned twice—keeping his commandments. (John 14:15, 21) He describes a key way for disciples to prove that they are doing so: "If you observe my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have observed the commandments of the Father and remain in his love." However, more is involved than loving Jehovah God and his Son. Jesus says: "This is my commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends. You are my friends if you do what I am commanding you."—John 15:10-14.

In a few hours, Jesus will demonstrate his love by giving his life for all who exercise faith in him. His example should move his followers to have similar self-sacrificing love for one another. This love will identify them, as Jesus stated earlier: "By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves."—John 13:35.

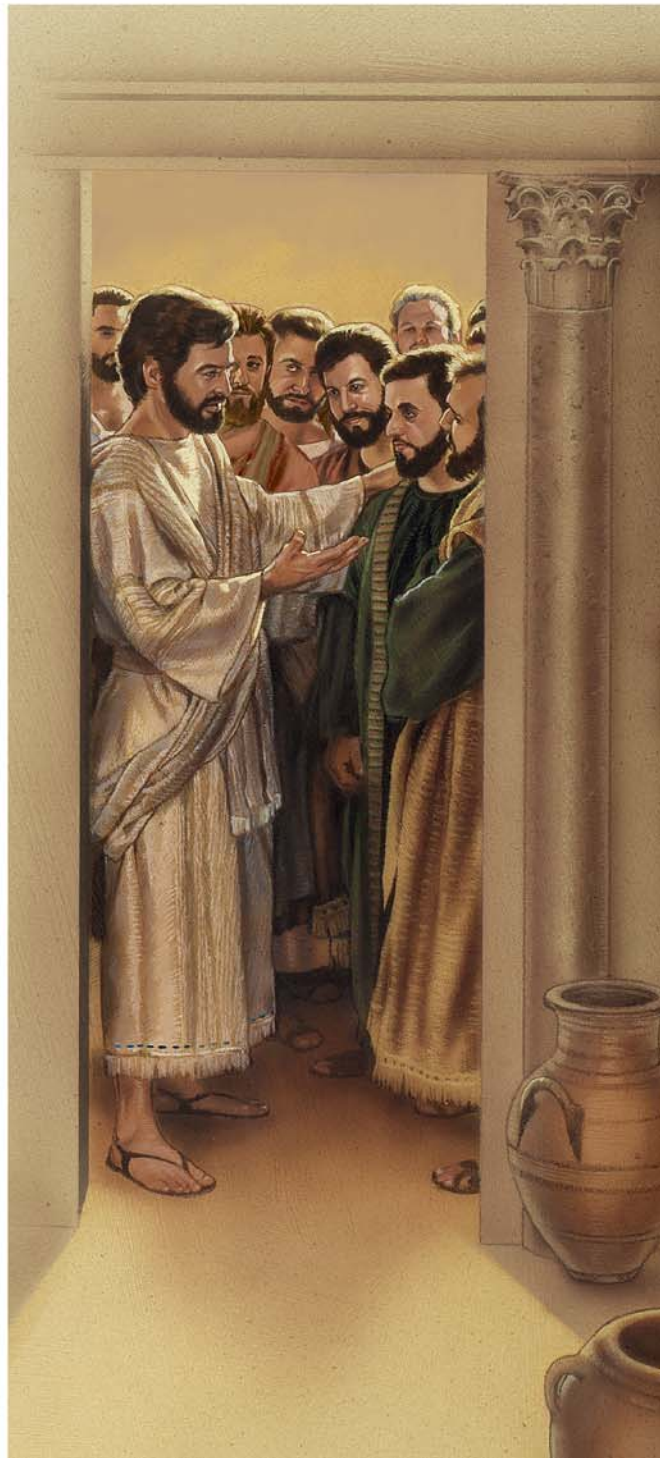
The apostles should take note of Jesus' calling them "friends." He relates why they are such: "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you all the things I have heard from my Father." What a precious relationship to have—to be intimate friends of Jesus and to know what the Father told him! In order to enjoy this relationship, though, they must "keep bearing fruit." If they do, Jesus says, "no matter what you ask the Father in my name he [will] give it to you."—John 15:15, 16.

The love among these “branches,” his disciples, will help them to endure what is to come. He warns them that the world will hate them, yet he offers this comfort: “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are no part of the world, . . . for this reason the world hates you.”—John 15:18, 19.

Explaining further why the world will hate them, Jesus adds: “They will do all these things against you on account of my name, because they do not know the One who sent me.” Jesus says that his miraculous works, in effect, convict those who hate him: “If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have both seen me and hated me as well as my Father.” Actually, their hatred fulfills prophecy.—John 15:21, 24, 25; Psalm 35:19; 69:4.

Again, Jesus promises to send the helper, the holy spirit. That powerful force is available for all his followers and is able to help them to bear fruit, “to bear witness.”—John 15:27.

-
- ◇ Who is the cultivator, who is the vine, and who are the branches in Jesus' illustration?
 - ◇ What fruit does God desire from the branches?
 - ◇ How can Jesus' disciples be his friends, and what will help them to face up to the world's hatred?
-



God's Gift of Holy Spirit

(Luke 11:13)

B \flat F/A Dm7/A Gm Dm/F Dm

Sov - 'reign, Je - ho - vah, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
 Fa - ther, we all fall short of your glo - ry;
 When we are wea - ry, weak, or dis - cour - aged,

E \flat Fsus4 F7 B \flat Gm E \flat ma7 Cm11 F7sus4 F7

Great - er you are than our sin - ful hearts.
 Times there have been when we've lost our way.
 Your ac - tive force will our hearts re - new.

B \flat Dm7 F6 Gm Dm/F Dm

Light - en our bur - den, soft - en our an - guish,
 God, we im - plore you: Hear our pe - ti - tion.
 Give us the strength to soar like the ea - gles;

G \flat 7 B \flat /F Cm7 Dm E \flat 6 E \flat /F F7 B \flat

Give us the com - fort your spir - it im - parts.
 Give us your spir - it to guide us each day.
 May we re - ceive ho - ly spir - it from you.

(See also Ps. 51:11; John 14:26; Acts 9:31.)

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JUNE 1–JULY 5, 2020

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COVER PICTURE:

Brother J. F. Rutherford and other anointed servants who took the lead boldly proclaimed God's judgments against this wicked system of things (See study article 14, paragraph 8)

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Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

C/E C/G C G7sus4 C C/B F/A G/B

What love Je - ho - vah showed, What good - ness from him flowed,
 Je - ho - vah's Word, he said, Sus - tained his life like bread.
 Like Je - sus, may our days Pro - vide Je - ho - vah praise,

G G/F C/E F C/G F6/A G/B F/C C

When for all man - kind he of - fered his First - born.
 It gave him wis - dom and knowl - edge and in - sight.
 And may his foot - steps be - come our own road - way.

C/E Dm11 C Bm11 E7 Am Cma7/G Fma7 C/E Dm7

Christ took on hu - man form— The Son of man was born—
 His Fa - ther's will - ing slave, A mod - el Je - sus gave;
 Let Je - sus' mod - el be Our path e - ter - nal - ly,

G7 G/D G/F Em7 C/E F C/G G13sus4 G7 C

By his ex - am - ple, God's name he a - dorned.
 To please his Fa - ther would bring him de - light.
 And then God's fa - vor we'll know day by day.

SONG 13

Christ, Our Model

PREVIEW

The apostles spent some years talking and working with Jesus, and they became good friends. Jesus also wants us to be his friends, but we face challenges that the apostles did not have to overcome. This article will discuss some of those challenges and provide suggestions on how we can build and maintain a close friendship with Jesus.

“I Have Called You Friends”

“I have called you friends, because I have made known to you all the things I have heard from my Father.”—JOHN 15:15.

USUALLY, the first step in building a close friendship with someone you meet is to spend time with the person. As you talk to each other, sharing thoughts and experiences, you become friends. When it comes to building a close friendship with Jesus, however, we face challenges. What are some of them?

² The first challenge is that ***we have not met Jesus personally***. Many Christians in the first century faced the same challenge. Even so, the apostle Peter observed: “Though you never saw him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet you exercise faith in him.” (1 Pet. 1:8) So it is possible to form a close relationship with Jesus without having met him personally.

³ The second challenge is that ***we are not able to speak to Jesus***. When we pray, we direct our thoughts to Jehovah. True, we do pray in Jesus’ name, but we do not talk directly to him. In fact, Jesus does not want us to pray to him. Why not? Because prayer is a form of worship, and only Jehovah should be worshipped. (Matt. 4:10) Even so, we can express our love for Jesus.

1. How do you build a close friendship with someone?
2. What is the first challenge we face?
3. What is the second challenge we face?

⁴ The third challenge is that *Jesus lives in heaven*, so we cannot literally spend time with him. But we can still get to know a lot about Jesus without being physically near him. We will review four things we can do that will strengthen our friendship with him. First, though, let us examine why it is vital for us to build a close friendship with Christ.

WHY DO WE NEED TO BECOME JESUS' FRIENDS?


⁵ We must be friends with Jesus if we are *to have a good relationship with Jehovah*. Why is that true? Consider just two reasons. First, Jesus told his disciples: “The Father himself has affection for you, *because* you have had affection for me.” (John 16:27) He also said: “No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Trying to be Jehovah’s friend without building a close bond with Jesus is like trying to enter a building without using the door. Jesus used a similar illustration when he described himself as “the door for the sheep.” (John 10:7) A second reason is that Jesus perfectly reflected his Father’s qualities. He said to his disciples: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also.” (John 14:9) So an important way that we come to know Jehovah is by studying the life of Jesus. As we learn about Jesus, our affection for him will grow. And as our friendship with Jesus grows, our love for his Father will deepen.

4. What is the third challenge, and what will we discuss in this article?

5. Why must we be friends with Jesus? (See also the boxes “Friendship With Jesus Leads to Friendship With Jehovah” and “A Balanced View of Jesus’ Role.”)

Friendship With Jesus Leads to Friendship With Jehovah

Because of inherited sin, we could never on our own enjoy friendship with Jehovah. All of us begin life, not as God’s friends, but as his enemies. To become his friends, therefore, we must be reconciled to him. (Rom. 5:6-12) Jehovah has made provision for this reconciliation through the ransom sacrifice of his only-begotten Son. By exercising faith in Jesus and obeying his commands, we can become his friends. (John 3:16, 36; 15:14) More significantly, though, by exercising faith in Jesus, we can become reconciled to God. Thus, friendship with Jesus leads to friendship with Jehovah.



A Balanced View of Jesus’ Role

Like those in Christendom, the early Bible Students mistakenly allowed their love for Jesus to overshadow their relationship with Jehovah. Beginning in 1919, however, they came to see that Jehovah and their relationship with him should be the focus of their worship. We can be thankful that we understand that our affection for Jesus is key to having a relationship with Jehovah. We must attach neither too much nor too little importance to our love for Jesus.—John 16:27.

⁶ We must have a relationship with Jesus *in order for our prayers to be answered*. This calls for doing more than simply adding the phrase “in Jesus’ name” to our prayers as a formality. We must recognize how Jehovah uses Jesus in answering our prayers. Jesus told the apostles: “Whatever you ask in my name, *I will do this*.” (John 14:13) Although Jehovah is the one who hears and answers our prayers, he has given Jesus the authority to carry out His decisions. (Matt. 28:18) Thus, before God answers our prayers, he sees if we have applied the counsel Jesus gave. For example, Jesus said: “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; whereas if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matt. 6:14, 15) How important it is, then, that we treat others in the same kind way that Jehovah and Jesus treat us!

⁷ Only those who have a close friendship with Jesus will *benefit from his ransom sacrifice*. How do we know? Jesus said that he would “surrender his life in behalf of his friends.” (John 15:13) Faithful people who lived before Jesus came to earth will have to learn about him and come to love him. Such men and women as Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and Rahab will be resurrected, but even these righteous servants of Jehovah will need to form a friendship with Jesus in order to gain everlasting life.

6. What is another reason why we must have a relationship with Jesus? Explain.

7. Who benefit from Jesus’ ransom sacrifice?

—John 17:3; Acts 24:15; Heb. 11:8-12, 24-26, 31.

⁸ We have the joy of working along with Jesus in preaching and teaching the good news of the Kingdom. When Jesus was on earth, he was a teacher. And since his return to heaven, Jesus, as head of the congregation, has continued to direct the preaching and teaching work. He sees and appreciates your efforts to help as many as you can to come to know him and his Father. In fact, the only way we can accomplish this work is with the help of Jehovah and Jesus. —**Read John 15:4, 5.**

⁹ God’s Word clearly teaches that we must have and maintain love for Jesus in order to please Jehovah. So let us consider four things we can do to become Jesus’ friends.

HOW TO BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

¹⁰ (1) *Get to know Jesus*. We can do this by reading the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. As we meditate on the Bible accounts of Jesus’ life, we come to love and respect Jesus because of the kind way he dealt with people. For instance, even though he was their Master, he did not treat his disciples as slaves. Instead, he revealed his inner thoughts and feelings to them. (John 15:15) Jesus shared their pain and cried with them. (John 11:32-36) Even his opposers acknowledged that he was a

8-9. As explained at John 15:4, 5, what does our relationship with Jesus enable us to do, and why is that important?

10. What is the first step to our building a friendship with Jesus?

You can become Jesus' friend by (1) getting to know him better, (2) imitating his way of thinking and acting, (3) supporting Christ's brothers, and (4) supporting the arrangements of the congregation
(See paragraphs 10-14)



1

2

3

4

friend of those who responded to his message. (Matt. 11:19) When we imitate Jesus in the way that he dealt with his disciples, our relationships with others improve, we feel more content and happy, and our appreciation for Christ grows.

¹¹ **(2) Imitate Jesus' way of thinking and acting.** The better we know and imitate his way of thinking, the closer our friendship with him will be. (1 Cor. 2:16) How can we imitate Jesus? Note just one example. Jesus thought more about helping others than about pleasing himself. (Matt. 20:28; Rom. 15:1-3) Because he had this mental attitude, he was self-sacrificing and forgiving. He did not easily become offended at what people said about him. (John 1:46, 47) And he did not freeze people in time by holding their past mistakes against them permanently. (1 Tim. 1:12-14) Jesus said: "All will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves." (John 13:35) Why not ask yourself, "Am I following Jesus' example by doing everything in my power to maintain peace with my brothers and sisters?"

¹² **(3) Support Christ's brothers.** Jesus views what we do for his anointed brothers as if we were doing it for him. (Matt. 25:34-40) The primary way that we support the anointed is by sharing fully in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work that Jesus directed his followers to carry out. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 10:42) Only with the help of the

"other sheep" can Christ's brothers accomplish the great worldwide preaching campaign now taking place. (John 10:16) If you are of the other sheep, each time you share in this work, you show your loving attachment not only to the anointed but also to Jesus.

¹³ We also make friends with Jehovah and Jesus by using our financial resources to support the work that they are directing. **(Read Luke 16:9.)** For example, we can contribute toward the worldwide work, which includes financing the preaching of the good news in isolated areas, building and maintaining facilities that support true worship, and providing material relief for those who have suffered loss. We can also support our own congregation financially and help those whom we personally know to be in need. (Prov. 19:17) These are ways that we can support Christ's brothers.

¹⁴ **(4) Support the arrangements of the Christian congregation.** We strengthen our connection to Jesus as the head of the congregation when we cooperate with those who are appointed to care for us. **(Read Ephesians 4:15, 16.)** For example, we are now trying to make sure that all Kingdom Halls are used to full capacity. To that end, some congregations have been merged with other congregations and territory boundaries have been adjusted. This arrangement has resulted in considerable savings of dedicated resources. At the same time, however, it has required that some pub-

11. What is the second step toward becoming Jesus' friend, and why is that step important?

12. What is the third step toward becoming Jesus' friend, and how can we take that step?

13. How can we apply Jesus' counsel recorded at Luke 16:9?

14. As shown at Ephesians 4:15, 16, what is the fourth step toward becoming Jesus' friend?

lishers adjust to the new circumstances. Those faithful publishers may have served with a certain congregation for many years and may have grown close to the brothers and sisters there. But now they are being asked to serve in a different congregation. How pleased Jesus must be to see these loyal disciples cooperate with this arrangement!

FRIENDS OF JESUS FOREVER

¹⁵ Those who are anointed with holy spirit have the hope of being with Jesus forever, serving as joint heirs of God's Kingdom. They will actually be with Christ—see him, speak with him, and spend time in his company. (John 14:2, 3) Those with the earthly hope will also receive Jesus' love and attention. Even though they will not see Jesus, their bond with him will grow ever stronger as they enjoy the life that Jeho-

15. How will our friendship with Jesus improve in the future?

vah and Jesus make possible for them.—Isa. 9:6, 7.

¹⁶ When we accept Jesus' invitation to become his friends, we gain many blessings. For example, we benefit from his love and support right now. We are given the opportunity to live forever. And most important, our friendship with Jesus will lead us to the finest treasure of all—a close, personal relationship with Jesus' Father, Jehovah. What a privilege we have to be called Jesus' friends!

16. What blessings do we gain from our friendship with Jesus?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 23: (1) During family worship, we can study about Jesus' life and ministry. (2) In the congregation, we can pursue peace with our brothers. (3) By engaging fully in the ministry, we can support Christ's brothers. (4) When congregations are merged, we can cooperate with the decisions of the elders.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Why might it be a challenge to be friends with Jesus?
- Why do we need to be friends with Jesus?
- What steps can we take to build our friendship with Jesus?

"I Want To"

(Luke 5:13)

F B \flat /D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

Kind and pa - tient, per - fect in love, Was
We now try to fol - low his way In

Dm C/E F F/A B \flat Dm C Am/C C7/B \flat

Christ, who came down from a - bove. He took
all of our deal - ings each day. We are

F/A Fma7/A B \flat C Am/C C7 Dm Gm

care of our needs With words and by deeds; He
lov - ing and kind To all whom we find; We

C/E F Dm C/E C Am B \flat

gave of his time and his love.
help them to learn and o - bey.

"I Want To"

F Bb/D C/E F Dm C/E C Am

He would keep the low - ly in mind By
 We re - spond to friends when in need; We

Dm C/E F F/A Bb Dm C Am/C C/Bb

heal - ing the sick, deaf, and blind. To his
 love them in word and in deed. So if

F/A Fma7/A Bb C/Bb Bb C C7 Dm Gm

roy - al com - mis - sion he proved true And
 wid - ows and or - phans should ask you, Then

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

will - ing - ly said: "I want to."
 read - i - ly say: "I want to."