

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“The Purpose of Offerings”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Leviticus.*]
Le 1:3; 2:1, 12—The purpose of burnt offerings and grain offerings (*it-2* 525; 528 ¶4)
Le 3:1—The purpose of communion offerings (*it-2* 526 ¶1)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 53
- **“The Value of ‘Two Small Coins’”:** (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video ‘*A Gift in Hand to Jehovah*’ (video category OUR ORGANIZATION). Read the letter from the branch expressing appreciation for the donations received during the past service year.
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LEVITICUS 1-3 | The Purpose of Offerings

1:3; 2:1, 12; 3:1

The offerings, or sacrifices, commanded under the Law covenant pleased Jehovah and pointed to Jesus and the ransom sacrifice or to the benefits from that sacrifice.—*Heb* 8:3-5; 9:9; 10:5-10.

- Just as all animals to be sacrificed were to be sound and unblemished, Jesus sacrificed his perfect, unblemished body.—*1Pe* 1:18, 19; see image on cover
- Just as burnt offerings were presented in their entirety to God, Jesus gave himself wholly to Jehovah
- Just as those who offered an acceptable communion sacrifice were at peace with God, the anointed who share in the Lord’s Evening Meal are at peace with God



20 *You Gave Your Precious Son* (1 John 4:9)

1. Jehovah, dear Father,
 There seemed no hope for us.
The ransom has given
 Hope to ev'ryone!
We give our lives to you,
 Our best in all we do.
And we'll tell others too,
 That your will might be done.

(CHORUS)

*You gave your precious Son,
And now we sing as one,
A song we'll sing forever,
for giving us your precious Son.*

2. Your kindness, your mercy,
 They draw us close to you.
Your great name, your friendship,
 These we've come to love.
But something more than this
 Is your most precious gift.
He died that we might live.
 You sent him from above.

(Chorus)

(ENDING)

Jehovah, dear Father, we pray in gratitude.
 We offer our thanks for giving us your precious Son.

Leviticus 1-3

1 And Jehovah called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying: ² “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘If any one of you would present an offering to Jehovah from the domestic animals, you should present your offering from the herd or from the flock.

³ ““If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he should present a sound male animal. He should present it of his own free will before Jehovah at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted in his behalf to make atonement for him.

⁵ ““Then the young bull must be slaughtered before Jehovah, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, will present the blood and sprinkle the blood on all sides of the altar, which is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁶ The burnt offering should be skinned and cut into pieces. ⁷ The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸ The sons of Aaron, the priests, will arrange the pieces of the offering with the head and the suet over the wood that is on the fire on the altar. ⁹ Its intestines and its shanks will be washed with water, and the priest is to make all of it smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a pleasing aroma to Jehovah.

¹⁰ ““If his offering for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the young rams or the goats, he should present a sound male. ¹¹ It is to be slaughtered at the north side of the altar

before Jehovah, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, will sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar. ¹² He will cut it up into pieces, and with its head and its suet, the priest will arrange them over the wood on the fire on the altar. ¹³ He will wash the intestines and the shanks with water, and the priest will present all of it and make it smoke on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a pleasing aroma to Jehovah.

¹⁴ ““However, if he offers birds as a burnt offering to Jehovah, he will present his offering from the turtledoves or the young pigeons. ¹⁵ The priest will present it at the altar and nip off its head and make it smoke on the altar, but its blood should be drained out on the side of the altar. ¹⁶ He should remove its crop and its feathers and throw them beside the altar, to the east, to the place for the ashes. ¹⁷ He will split it at its wings without dividing it into two parts. Then the priest will make it smoke on the altar over the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire of a pleasing aroma to Jehovah.

2 ““Now if someone presents a grain offering to Jehovah, his offering must be fine flour, and he should pour oil on it and put frankincense on it. ² Then he will bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and the priest will take a handful of the fine flour and oil and all its frankincense, and he will make it smoke as a token offering on the altar, an offering made by fire of a pleasing aroma to Jehovah. ³ Whatever is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons as something most holy from Jehovah’s offerings made by fire.

⁴ ““If you present a grain offering that has been baked in the oven, it should be of fine flour, unleavened ring-shaped loaves mixed with oil or unleavened wafers spread with oil.

⁵ ““If your offering is a grain offering from the griddle, it should be of fine, unleavened flour mixed with oil. ⁶ It should be broken into pieces, and you are to pour oil on it. It is a grain offering.

⁷ ““If your offering is a grain offering prepared in a pan, it should be made of fine flour with oil. ⁸ You should bring the grain offering that was made of these to Jehovah, and it will be presented to the priest, who will bring it near to the altar. ⁹ And the priest will lift off some of the grain offering as a token offering and make it smoke on the altar as an offering made by fire of a pleasing aroma to Jehovah. ¹⁰ What is left of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons as something most holy of Jehovah’s offerings by fire.

¹¹ ““No grain offering that you present to Jehovah should be leavened, for you must not make any sourdough or honey smoke as an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

¹² ““You may present them to Jehovah as an offering of the firstfruits, but they must not be brought to the altar as a pleasing aroma.

¹³ ““Every grain offering you make is to be seasoned with salt; and you must not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be missing from your grain offering. Along with every offering of yours, you will present salt.

¹⁴ “If you present the grain offering of the first ripe fruits to Jehovah, you should present new grain roasted with fire, coarsely crushed new kernels, as the grain offering of your first ripe fruits. ¹⁵ You are to put oil on it and place frankincense on it. It is a grain offering. ¹⁶ The priest will make it smoke as a token offering, that is, some of the coarse grain and oil along with all its frankincense, as an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

3 “If his offering is a communion sacrifice and if he is presenting it from the herd, whether a male or a female, he should present a sound animal before Jehovah. ² He is to lay his hand on the head of his offering, and it will be slaughtered at the entrance of the tent of meeting; and Aaron’s sons, the priests, will sprinkle the blood on all sides of the altar. ³ He will present part of the communion sacrifice as an offering made by fire to Jehovah: the fat that covers the intestines, all the fat that surrounds the intestines, ⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat on them that is near the loins. He will also remove the appendage of the liver along with the kidneys. ⁵ Aaron’s sons will make it smoke on the altar on top of the burnt offering that is placed on the wood that is over the fire; it is an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah.

⁶ “If his offering is from the flock for a communion sacrifice to Jehovah, he will present a sound male or a female animal. ⁷ If he is presenting a young ram as his offering, then he will present it before Jehovah. ⁸ He will lay his hand on the head of his offering, and it will be slaughtered in front of the tent of

meeting. Aaron's sons will sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar. ⁹ He will present the fat from the communion sacrifice as an offering made by fire to Jehovah. He will remove the entire fat tail near the backbone, the fat that covers the intestines, all the fat that surrounds the intestines, ¹⁰ and the two kidneys with the fat on them that is near the loins. He will also remove the appendage of the liver along with the kidneys. ¹¹ And the priest will make it smoke on the altar as food, an offering made by fire to Jehovah.

¹² “If his offering is a goat, then he will present it before Jehovah. ¹³ He will lay his hand on its head, and it will be slaughtered before the tent of meeting, and Aaron's sons must sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar. ¹⁴ The part he will present as his offering made by fire to Jehovah is the fat that covers the intestines, all the fat that surrounds the intestines, ¹⁵ and the two kidneys with the fat on them that is near the loins. He will also remove the appendage of the liver along with the kidneys. ¹⁶ The priest will make them smoke on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a pleasing aroma. All the fat belongs to Jehovah.

¹⁷ “It is a lasting statute for your generations, in all your dwelling places: You must not eat any fat or any blood at all.”

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[Play the video *Introduction to Leviticus.*]
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- Just as burnt offerings were presented in their entirety to God, Jesus gave himself wholly to Jehovah
- Just as those who offered an acceptable communion sacrifice were at peace with God, the anointed who share in the Lord’s Evening Meal are at peace with God



November 9-15

Leviticus 1-3

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"The Purpose of Offerings": (10 minutes)

[Play the video *Introduction to Leviticus*.]

Leviticus 1:3; 2:1, 12; 3:1

The offerings, or sacrifices, commanded under the Law covenant pleased Jehovah and pointed to Jesus and the ransom sacrifice or to the benefits from that sacrifice.—Hebrews 8:3-5; 9:9; 10:5-10.

- Just as all animals to be sacrificed were to be sound and unblemished, Jesus sacrificed his perfect, unblemished body.—1 Peter 1:18, 19; see image on cover

Pictures on page 1: [Image:] Collage: 1. Cattle, sheep, and goats to be offered in sacrifice. 2. Jesus hanging on the torture stake.

Caption: Animal sacrifices prefigured Jesus' perfect sacrifice

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Picture: An anointed brother partaking of the bread during the Lord's Evening Meal.

Leviticus 1:3; 2:1, 12—The purpose of burnt offerings and grain offerings

Leviticus 1:3: "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he should present a sound male animal. He should present it of his own free will before Jehovah at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Leviticus 2:1: "Now if someone presents a grain offering to Jehovah, his offering must be fine flour, and he should pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.

Leviticus 2:12: “You may present them to Jehovah as an offering of the firstfruits, but they must not be brought to the altar as a pleasing aroma. [End of inserted scriptures.]

it-2 525

Burnt offerings. Burnt offerings were presented in their entirety to God; no part of the animal being retained by the worshiper. (Compare Judges 11:30, 31, 39, 40.) They constituted an appeal to Jehovah to accept, or to signify acceptance of, the sin offering that sometimes accompanied them. As a “burnt offering” Jesus Christ gave himself wholly, fully.

it-2 528 paragraph 4

Grain offerings. Grain offerings were made along with communion offerings, burnt offerings, and sin offerings, and also as firstfruits; at other times they were made independently. (Exodus 29:40-42; Leviticus 23:10-13, 15-18; Numbers 15:8, 9, 22-24; 28:9, 10, 20, 26-28; chapter 29) These were in recognition of God’s bounty in supplying blessings and prosperity. They were often accompanied by oil and frankincense. Grain offerings could be in the form of fine

flour, roasted grain, or ring-shaped cakes or wafers that were baked, griddle cooked, or from the deep-fat kettle. Some of the grain offering was put on the altar of burnt offering, some was eaten by the priests, and in communion offerings the worshiper partook. (Leviticus 6:14-23; 7:11-13; Numbers 18:8-11) None of the grain offerings presented on the altar could contain leaven or "honey" (apparently referring to the syrup of figs or juice of fruits) that might ferment.—Leviticus 2:1-16.

Leviticus 3:1—The purpose of communion offerings

Leviticus 3:1: "If his offering is a communion sacrifice and if he is presenting it from the herd, whether a male or a female, he should present a sound animal before Jehovah.

it-2 526 paragraph 1

Communion offerings (or peace offerings). Communion offerings acceptable to Jehovah denoted peace with him. The worshiper and his household partook (in the courtyard of the tabernacle; according to tradition, booths were set up

around the inside of the curtain surrounding the courtyard; in the temple, dining rooms were provided). The officiating priest received a portion, and the priests on duty, another portion. Jehovah, in effect, received the pleasing smoke of the burning fat. The blood, representing the life, was given to God as his. Therefore the priests, the worshipers, and Jehovah were as if together at the meal, signifying peaceful relationships. The person partaking while in a state of uncleanness (any of the uncleannesses mentioned in the Law) or who ate the flesh after it had been kept beyond the prescribed time (in the warm climate it would begin to putrefy) was to be cut off from his people. He defiled or desecrated the meal, because of either being unclean himself or eating that which was foul before Jehovah God, showing disrespect for sacred things.—Leviticus 7:16-21; 19:5-8.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Leviticus 2:13—Why did salt have to be presented with every offering?

Leviticus 2:13: “Every grain offering you make is to be seasoned with salt; and you must not allow the salt of the

covenant of your God to be missing from your grain offering. Along with every offering of yours, you will present salt.

Inserted References

Ezekiel 43:24: You are to present them to Jehovah, and the priests must throw salt on them and offer them up as a whole burnt offering to Jehovah.

w04 5/15 22 paragraph 1

This was not done to enhance the flavor of the sacrifices. Around the world, salt is used as a preservative. It was likely presented with offerings because it represents freedom from corruption and decay.

Leviticus 3:17—Why were the Israelites prohibited from eating fat, and what lesson does this teach?

Leviticus 3:17: “It is a lasting statute for your generations, in all your dwelling places: You must not eat any fat or any blood at all.”

it-1 813

Reason for the law. Under the Law covenant, both the blood and fat were looked upon as exclusively Jehovah's. The blood contains the life, which only Jehovah can give; therefore it belongs to him. (Leviticus 17:11, 14) The fat was viewed as the richest part of the flesh of the animal. The offering of the fat of the animal would evidently be in recognition of the fact that the best parts belong to Jehovah, who provides abundantly, and it would demonstrate the desire of the worshiper to offer the best to God. Because it was symbolic of the Israelites' devotion of their best to Jehovah, it was said to smoke upon the altar as "food" and for "a restful odor" to him. (Leviticus 3:11, 16) To eat fat, therefore, was an illegal appropriation of what was sanctified to God, an invasion of the rights of Jehovah. Eating fat would incur the death penalty. Unlike blood, however, fat could be used for other purposes, at least in the case of an animal that died of itself or was killed by another beast.—Leviticus 7:23-25.

w04 5/15 22 paragraph 2

Since the fat was regarded as the best or the richest part, the prohibition against eating it evidently impressed upon the Israelites that the best part belonged to Jehovah. (Genesis 45:18) This reminds us that we should give our very best to Jehovah.—Proverbs 3:9, 10; Colossians 3:23, 24.

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(th study 10)

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's Kingdom?

Scripture: Mt 6:9, 10 or Isa 9:6, 7

Link: What will God's Kingdom accomplish?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• wp20.2 4, 6

RETURN VISIT

Question: What will God's Kingdom accomplish?

Scripture: Mt 14:19, 20 or Ps 72:16

Link: When will God's Kingdom rule the earth?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• bhs 35 ¶19

1. Morning comes.

Soon we will be

On our way to preach good news.

But it's dark outside,

And the rain starts to fall.

It would be easy to stay inside,
sleepy-eyed.

(CHORUS)

Positive thoughts and preparation,

Praying that we'll succeed;

This can provide the inspiration,

We'll surely need.

We're not alone; the angels guide us.

Jesus commands them all.

And with a loyal friend beside us,

We'll never fall.

2. Soon we'll see

Joy come our way

If these things we keep in mind.

And Jehovah sees

Ev'ry effort we make,

And he remembers the love we show;
this we know.

(Chorus)

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The Value of “Two Small Coins”

The value of the widow’s contribution was hardly enough to buy a simple meal. (See study note on Luke 21:4.) However, her donation demonstrated her deep love and appreciation for Jehovah’s arrangements. For this reason, it had great value in the eyes of her heavenly Father.—Mr 12:43.



WATCH THE VIDEO ‘A GIFT IN HAND TO JEHOVAH,’ AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- What are some of the activities that our donations support?



- Why are our donations valuable even if the amount we contribute seems small?



- How can we learn more about the donation options available where we live?—See the box “Learn More Online”



donate.jw.org

LEARN MORE ONLINE

Click on the “Donations” link at the bottom of the home page on the *JW Library* app. Depending on the country in which you live, there may be an additional link to a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) document that supplies answers to common questions about donations. The video *Tutorial for Making Donations Electronically* also provides helpful information on donation methods that are available (video category OUR ORGANIZATION).



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‘A Gift in Hand to Jehovah’

(The needy widow approaches a temple treasury chest and deposits two small coins of little value)

In ancient times when an Israelite made a heartfelt offering to support the temple that offering was referred to as “a gift in hand to Jehovah”.

(Transitions to the kingdom hall where a mother gives her young daughter a coin to deposit into the contribution box)

Today, in kingdom halls of Jehovah's Witnesses around the world, there are small boxes marked for voluntary contributions.

When we give our valuable things, where does it actually go?

Each year hundreds of thousands become our new brothers and sisters. To accommodate our growing numbers, funds are provided to help construct new places of worship, as well as branch facilities all over the world.

(Construction Volunteer – Sister) “One thing that I really appreciate about being here is to see family heads, fathers and husbands, choose to use their vacation time. So, thank you to the families, and congregations, that support all of this, and us to be here.”

(Construction Volunteer – Brother) “But what’s just as impressive is seeing millions of brothers and sisters voluntarily give of their funds so that we can keep building. Just that in itself is an amazing act of Jehovah’s Holy Spirit.”

Large doors leading to greater activity are being opened by means of theocratic schools. Training is provided to help those enrolled to develop spiritually, and take a zealous lead in the evangelizing work.

(Bro. Malenfant) “When you think of the organization, and the education, the divine education that it provides, there is no government on earth today that educates the citizens like **the kingdom.**”

(SKE Student – Sister) “It has strengthened my relationship with Jehovah in ways I never considered before. The training is wonderful, and motivates spiritual growth.”

Voluntary contributions help support the thousands of special full-time servants worldwide. These include Bethelites.

(Bethel Printery - Brother 1) “While working in the printery it's abundantly clear that none of this could have happened without Jehovah's support, shown by what the friends can give.”

(Bethel Printery -Brother 2) “I love my assignment and serve with the knowledge that my sacrifice wouldn't be possible without the sacrifice of brothers and sisters in the field.”

Also included, our missionaries, traveling overseers, international servants and special pioneers.

(Fulltime Sister 1) “All that support makes it possible, and makes our assignment a great joy and a privilege, something that we look forward to. Each and every week, each and every month, each and every year that were able to devote our full-time efforts and preaching the good news of the kingdom.”

(Fulltime Sister 2) “It allows us to be here so that we can help as many people as possible to want to learn about Jehovah.”

Every year we look forward to receiving rich spiritual gems at our conventions. Funds are provided for equipment, and other needs, to help everything run as smoothly as possible.

(Brother) “It was a delight this year to see how technology was used to promote the unity. Having the different cities involved where video streaming to them for the key talks by governing body members, and their helpers, received

tremendous response from those cities. We've seen more people in their seats during the program because they were afraid to get up, even for a moment, because they might miss something that was special.”

When disaster strikes, your donations help give immediate relief for our brothers and sisters in need. Food, clothing, building materials, and much more, are shipped over as quickly as possible.

(Filipino Brother) “I have come to really appreciate Jehovah's organization. No other organization can compare in how it provides support in such a loving way.”

(USA Sister) “I know now, you know, like Jehovah does look after his people. So, I'm really grateful for that and I've been praying and giving thanks.”

Yes, all our contributions have a meaningful share in supporting Kingdom interest worldwide. Each donation is like “a gift in hand” to our Heavenly Father, Jehovah. When we give from our heart, we are expressing our love for him, and that is the best gift we can give him.

TO IMITATE JESUS, BE. . .

COMPASSIONATE

As a perfect man, Jesus did not experience many of the distresses and concerns that other humans did. Yet he showed deep feeling for people. He was willing to go out of his way for them, to do things beyond what might have seemed necessary. Yes, compassion moved him to help others. Reflect on the examples in Chapters 32, 37, 57, 99.

APPROACHABLE

People of all ages—young and old—felt that they could approach Jesus because he did not have an air of aloofness or superiority. Sensing Jesus' personal interest in them, people felt at ease in his presence. To note this, see Chapters 25, 27, 95.

PRAYERFUL

Jesus regularly turned to his Father in earnest prayer, privately and when with true worshippers. He prayed on many occasions, not only at mealtimes. He prayed to thank his Father, to praise him, and to seek his direction before making serious decisions. Consider the examples found in Chapters 24, 34, 91, 122, 123.

UNSELFISH

At times when he could have benefited from some needed rest and relaxation, Jesus still put himself out for others. He did not have a me-first attitude. In this too, he provided a

model that we can follow closely. Study how that model is reflected in Chapters 19, 41, 52.

FORGIVING

Jesus did more than teach about the need to be forgiving—he demonstrated forgiveness in dealing with his disciples and others. Meditate on examples found in Chapters 26, 40, 64, 85, 131.

ZEALOUS

It was foretold that most Jews would refuse to accept the Messiah and that his enemies would kill him. So Jesus could easily have been self-sparing in what he did for people. Instead, he zealously promoted true worship. He set an example of zeal for all his followers who face indifference or even opposition. See Chapters 16, 72, 103.

HUMBLE

Jesus was superior to imperfect humans in countless ways, such as in knowledge and wisdom. His perfection undoubtedly gave him physical and mental abilities beyond what anyone around him had. Yet he humbly served others. You will find lessons about this in Chapters 10, 62, 66, 94, 116.

PATIENT

Jesus consistently showed patience with his apostles and others when they failed to imitate his example or apply what he said. He patiently repeated lessons that they needed so that they could draw closer to Jehovah. Reflect on examples of Jesus' patience in Chapters 74, 98, 118, 135.

1. The greatest of men was our Lord Jesus Christ;
By pride or ambition, he was not enticed.
God's purpose gave Jesus the prominent role;
Yet, lowly in heart, he was always whole-souled.
2. To all who are toiling with troublesome cares,
He offers to carry the burdens they bear.
Refreshment they find as the Kingdom they seek.
With kindness and mildness, he favors the meek.
3. 'We all are just brothers,' our Lord Jesus said.
In humble submission, we look to our Head.
The mild and the meek ones to God have great worth;
He promises they will inherit the earth.

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
NOVEMBER 2–DECEMBER 6, 2020

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COVER PICTURE:

Our busy, zealous sisters participate at the meetings, share in the ministry, help maintain the Kingdom Hall, and show interest in fellow worshippers (See study article 39, paragraph 1)

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Sowing Kingdom Seed

(Matthew 13:4-8)

1. Come share in the work of our Master;
Respond to his call and obey.
He offers to help and to guide you;
His teaching will show you the way.
The seed of the truth has power to grow
In hearts that are honest and true.
So give of your best as you faithfully share
In the work you've been given to do.

2. How much of your work is successful
May often depend much on you.
Those hearing will need your assistance
To learn and to love what is true.
So help them to deal with pressures and doubts
They're certain to face on their way.
The seed of the truth will bring joy when you see
How it grows in their heart day by day.

“Do Not Let Your Hand Rest”

“Sow your seed in the morning and do not let your hand rest until the evening.”—ECCL. 11:6.

SONG 68

Sowing Kingdom Seed

PREVIEW

The preceding article encouraged progressive Bible students to accept Jesus’ invitation to become fishers of men. This article will discuss three ways that all publishers, both new and experienced, can strengthen their resolve to continue in the Kingdom-preaching work until Jehovah says it is finished.

IN SOME countries, people respond eagerly when they hear the good news. It is just what they have been waiting for! In other lands, people show little interest in God or the Bible. What is the common response where you live? Whatever it is, Jehovah expects us to keep right on preaching until the work is completed to his satisfaction.

² At Jehovah's set time, the preaching work will reach its conclusion and "the end will come." (Matt. 24:14, 36) Meanwhile, how can we obey the words "do not let your hand rest"?*—Read Ecclesiastes 11:6.

³ The preceding article considered four things we need to do in order to become effective "fishers of men." (Matt. 4:19) This article will discuss three ways in which we can strengthen our resolve to preach, no matter what circumstances we face. We will learn why it is important to (1) stay focused, (2) be patient, and (3) maintain strong faith.

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** In this article, the expression "do not let your hand rest" means that we need to be resolved to keep preaching the good news until Jehovah says that the work is finished.

1-2. How does Ecclesiastes 11:6 relate to the preaching of the Kingdom good news?

3. What will we consider in this article?

STAY FOCUSED

⁴ Jesus foretold events and conditions that would mark the last days and that could distract his followers from accomplishing the preaching work. He admonished his disciples to “keep on the watch.” (Matt. 24:42) Today, we face distractions similar to those that prevented the people of Noah’s day from paying attention to the warning proclaimed by Noah. (Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Pet. 2:5) Therefore, we want to stay focused on the work Jehovah has given us to do.

⁵ The work of Kingdom preaching deserves our careful attention today. Jesus foretold that this work would expand in scope and continue long after his death. (John 14:12) After Jesus died, some of his disciples went back to fishing. Following his resurrection, Jesus gave some of his disciples a miraculous catch of fish. He used that occasion to confirm that their assignment to be fishers of men was more important than any other endeavor. (John 21:15-17) Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, he informed his disciples that the witnessing work he had started would expand far beyond the borders of Israel. (Read Acts 1:6-8.) Years later, Jesus gave a vision to the

-
4. Why do we need to stay focused on the work Jehovah has given us to do?
 5. How does Acts 1:6-8 describe the scope of the preaching work?

apostle John to show him what would take place “in the Lord’s day.”* Among other things, John saw this awe-inspiring event: Under angelic direction, “everlasting good news” was being preached to “every nation and tribe and tongue and people.” (Rev. 1:10; 14:6) Clearly, Jehovah’s will for us today is to share in this grand witnessing work until it is finished.

⁶ We can stay focused on the preaching work if we reflect on how much Jehovah is doing to help us. For example, he is providing an abundance of spiritual food in the form of printed and digital publications, audio and video recordings, and Internet broadcasts. Just think: On our official website, information is available in over 1,000 languages! (Matt. 24:45-47) In a world fragmented by political, religious, and economic differences, more than eight million servants of God are truly united in a worldwide brotherhood. For example, on Friday, April 19, 2019, Witnesses around the world were united in a discussion of the daily text. That evening, a crowd of 20,919,041 gathered to observe the Memorial of Jesus’ death. We are moved to stay focused on the Kingdom work

* “The Lord’s day” began when Jesus was enthroned as King in 1914 and runs to the end of his Thousand Year Reign.

6. How can we stay focused on the preaching work?

when we reflect on our privilege to see and to be a part of this modern-day miracle.

⁷ Another way we can stay focused on preaching is by following Jesus' example. He allowed nothing to distract him from bearing witness to the truth. (John 18:37) He was not enticed when Satan offered him "all the kingdoms of the world and their glory"; nor was he tempted when others wanted to make him king. (Matt. 4:8, 9; John 6:15) He was not swayed by a desire for material riches; nor was he deterred by fierce opposition. (Luke 9:58; John 8:59) When we face tests of our faith, we can stay focused if we remember the apostle Paul's counsel. He urged Christians to follow Jesus' example so that they would "not get tired and give up"!—Heb. 12:3.

7. How does Jesus' example help us to stay focused?



Jesus refused
to be distracted
from bearing witness
to the truth
(See paragraph 7)

BE PATIENT

⁸ Patience is the ability to wait calmly for a situation to change. Whether we are looking forward to the end of an unpleasant condition or to the fulfillment of a long-awaited desire, we need patience. The prophet Habakkuk longed for an end to the violent conditions in Judah. (Hab. 1:2) Jesus' disciples hoped that the Kingdom would "appear instantly" and rescue them from Roman oppression. (Luke 19:11) We yearn for the day when God's Kingdom will remove wickedness and usher in the new world of righteousness. (2 Pet. 3:13) However, we need to be patient and wait on Jehovah's appointed time. Consider some ways Jehovah teaches us to be patient.

⁹ Jehovah sets the perfect example of patience. He allowed Noah sufficient time to build the ark and to serve as "a preacher of righteousness." (2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:20) Jehovah listened as Abraham repeatedly questioned him about His decision to destroy the inhabitants of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 18:20-33) For centuries, Jehovah was extraordinarily patient with the unfaithful nation of Israel. (Neh. 9:30, 31) We see evidence of Jehovah's

8. What is patience, and why is it especially needed now?

9. What examples illustrate Jehovah's patience?

patience today as he allows time for all whom he draws “to attain to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9; John 6:44; 1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Jehovah’s example gives us good reason to exercise patience as we continue to preach and teach. He also teaches us patience through an illustration found in his Word.

¹⁰ Read James 5:7, 8. The example of the farmer growing crops teaches us how to be patient. True, some plants grow rapidly. However, most plants, especially those that bear fruit, take much longer to mature. The growing season in Israel was about six months long. The farmer planted his seeds after the early rain in the fall and reaped the grain after the late rain in the spring. (Mark 4:28) May we wisely imitate the farmer’s patience. However, this may not be easy.

¹¹ Imperfect humans tend to want immediate results from their efforts. Yet, if we want our garden to produce, we must give it constant attention—digging, planting, weeding, and watering. The disciple-making work also requires continuous effort. It takes time for us to root out weeds of prejudice and indifference in those whom we teach. Our patience will help us

10. As recorded at James 5:7, 8, what is noteworthy about the example of the farmer?

11. How will patience help us in our ministry?



Like a hardworking but patient farmer, we await results from our efforts
(See paragraphs 10-11)



to avoid becoming discouraged when we encounter difficulties. When we do receive some positive response, we must still be patient. We cannot force a Bible student to grow in faith. At times, even Jesus' disciples were slow to grasp the meaning of what he taught. (John 14:9) Let us remember that we may plant and water, but God makes it grow.—1 Cor. 3:6.

¹² One area in which we may find it difficult to be patient is when witnessing to unbelieving relatives. The principle found at Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7 can help us. It states: “There is . . . a time to be silent and a time

12. How can we exercise patience when witnessing to unbelieving relatives?

to speak.” We can let our good conduct be a silent witness, yet we are always alert to opportunities to speak about the truth. (1 Pet. 3:1, 2) We are patient with all people—including family members—as we preach and teach with zeal.

¹³ We can learn patience from the examples of faithful ones in the Bible as well as in modern times. Habakkuk longed for an end to wickedness, but he confidently declared: “At my guardpost I will keep standing.” (Hab. 2:1) The apostle Paul expressed his heartfelt desire to “finish” his ministry. Yet, he patiently continued “to bear thorough witness to the good news.”—Acts 20:24.

¹⁴ Consider the example of a married couple who graduated from Gilead and were assigned to a country where there are few Witnesses and where the predominant religion is not Christian. Not many people were inclined to study the Bible. In contrast, their Gilead classmates serving in other countries would send them glowing reports of conducting many fruitful Bible studies. Despite the slow progress in their territory, the couple patiently carried out their ministry. After preaching for eight years in what seemed to be an unproductive territory, they finally had the joy of seeing one of their Bible students get baptized.

13-14. What are some examples of patience that we can imitate?

What do these ancient and modern-day examples have in common? These faithful ones did not become sluggish or let their hand rest, and Jehovah rewarded them for their patience. May we “be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”—Heb. 6:10-12.

MAINTAIN STRONG FAITH

¹⁵ We have faith in the message we preach, so we are eager to share it with as many people as possible. We trust the promises found in God’s Word. (Ps. 119:42; Isa. 40:8) We have seen Bible prophecies fulfilled in our day. We have witnessed how people change their lives for the better when they start to apply the Bible’s counsel. This evidence bolsters our confidence that the good news of the Kingdom is a message everyone needs to hear.

¹⁶ We also have faith in Jehovah, the Source of the message we preach, and in the one whom he has enthroned as King of the Kingdom, Jesus. (John 14:1) No matter what circumstances we face, Jehovah will always be our refuge and strength. (Read Psalm 46:1-3.) In addition, we are confident that Jesus is directing the preaching work from heaven, using the

15. What is one way that faith strengthens our resolve to preach?

16. In line with Psalm 46:1-3, how does faith in Jehovah and Jesus strengthen our resolve to preach?

power and authority Jehovah has given him.—Matt. 28:18-20.

¹⁷ Faith builds our confidence that Jehovah will bless our efforts, sometimes in ways we do not expect. (Eccl. 11:6) For example, every day thousands of people walk by our literature displays and carts. Is this preaching method effective? Absolutely! The November 2014 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* reported on a young university student who wanted to write an essay on Jehovah's Witnesses. She was unable to find a Kingdom Hall, but she did find our literature display on campus, and she also found the material for her essay. Eventually, she became a baptized Witness who now serves as a regular pioneer. Such experiences motivate us to keep preaching because they reveal that there are still people who need to find and hear the Kingdom message.

BE DETERMINED NOT TO LET YOUR HAND REST

¹⁸ We can be sure that the Kingdom-preaching work will be completed with no delay. Consider what happened in the days of Noah. Jehovah proved that he is the perfect Timekeeper. Some 120 years in

17. Give an example of why we should keep on preaching.

18. Why are we sure that the Kingdom-preaching work will be completed as Jehovah wants?

advance, Jehovah fixed the time for the Flood to begin. Decades later, Jehovah commissioned Noah to build the ark. For perhaps 40 or 50 years before the Flood began, Noah continued to work hard. Despite facing an unresponsive audience, he kept preaching the warning message until Jehovah said that it was time to bring the animals into the ark. Then, right on time, “Jehovah shut the door.”—Gen. 6:3; 7:1, 2, 16.

¹⁹ Soon Jehovah will bring the Kingdom-preaching work to a conclusion; he will “shut the door” on Satan’s system of things and usher in a righteous new world. Until then, may we imitate Noah, Habakkuk, and others who have not let their hand rest. May we stay focused, be patient, and maintain strong faith in Jehovah and his promises.

19. What can we look forward to if we do not let our hand rest?

HOW CAN THE FOLLOWING HELP US NOT TO LET OUR HAND REST?

- Staying focused
- Being patient
- Maintaining strong faith

SONG 75

“Here I Am! Send Me!”

1. Today men heap reproach and shame
Upon Jehovah’s holy name.
Some show God weak; some paint him cruel.
“There is no God,” so shouts the fool.
Who’ll go Jehovah’s name to clear?
Who’ll sing his praise for all to hear?

(CHORUS 1)

*‘Lord, here I am! Send me, send me!
I’ll sing your praises faithfully.
No greater honor could there be, Lord.
Here I am! Send me, send me!’*

2. Some make the claim that God is slow;
The fear of God they do not know.
Some worship idols made of stone;
Some would put Caesar on God’s throne.
Who’ll tell the wicked what’s in store?
Who’ll warn of God’s great final war?

(CHORUS 2)

*'Lord, here I am! Send me, send me!
I'll sound the warning fearlessly.
No greater honor could there be, Lord.
Here I am! Send me, send me!'*

3. Today the meek ones mourn and sigh
Because the evils multiply.
With honest hearts they seek to find
The truth that gives real peace of mind.
Who'll go with comfort to the meek?
Who'll help them righteousness to seek?

(CHORUS 3)

*'Lord, here I am! Send me, send me!
I'll teach the meek ones patiently.
No greater honor could there be, Lord.
Here I am! Send me, send me!'*