

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Atonement Day and You”:** (10 min.)  
 Le 16:12—The high priest appeared in Jehovah’s presence symbolically (*w19.11 21 ¶4*)  
 Le 16:13—The high priest offered incense to Jehovah (*w19.11 21 ¶5*)  
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 Le 17:10, 11—Why do we refuse to accept a blood transfusion? (*w14 11/15 10 ¶10*)

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

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Le 16:1-17 (5)

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

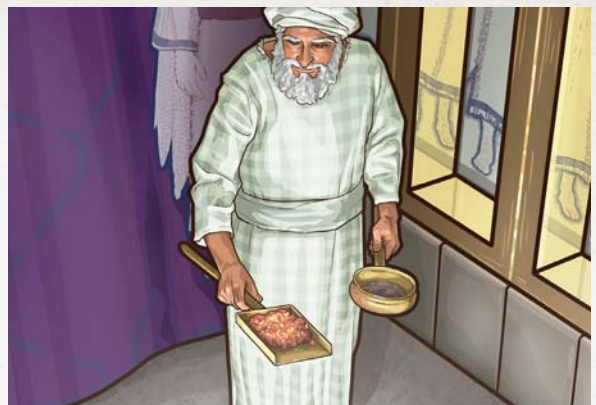
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LEVITICUS 16-17 | Atonement Day and You

**16:12-15**

What can we learn from the use of incense on Atonement Day?

- The acceptable prayers of Jehovah’s faithful servants are like incense. (Ps 141:2) Just as the high priest brought the incense to Jehovah with great respect, we approach Jehovah in prayer with awe and respect
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 **How can I make sure that my sacrifices to Jehovah will be acceptable to him?**



# *Please Hear My Prayer*

(Psalm 54)

1. Heavenly Father, please hear my song.  
You are my God; to you I belong.  
Great is your name, beyond all compare.

*(CHORUS)*

*Gracious Jehovah, please hear my prayer.*

2. Thank you, O God, for granting this day,  
Giving me life, and showing the way.  
How I delight in your tender care.

*(Chorus)*

3. Oh, how I long to do what is right!  
Help me, O Lord, to walk in the light.  
Give me the strength all burdens to bear.

*(Chorus)*

## Leviticus 16-17

**16** Jehovah spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron's two sons who died for approaching Jehovah. <sup>2</sup> Jehovah said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother that he may not come at just any time into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover on the Ark, so that he may not die, for I will appear over the cover in a cloud.

<sup>3</sup> "This is what Aaron should bring when he comes into the holy place: a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup> He should put on the holy linen robe, and the linen shorts should cover his body, and he should wrap himself with the linen sash and his head with the linen turban. They are holy garments. He will bathe himself in water and put them on.

<sup>5</sup> "He should take from the assembly of the Israelites two young male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

<sup>6</sup> "Aaron must then present the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and he will make atonement in behalf of himself and his house.

<sup>7</sup> "He will then take the two goats and make them stand before Jehovah at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

<sup>8</sup> Aaron will draw lots over the two goats, the one lot for Jehovah and the other lot for A-za'zel. <sup>9</sup> Aaron will present the goat that was designated by lot for Jehovah and make it a sin offering. <sup>10</sup> But the goat designated by lot for A-za'zel

should be brought alive to stand before Jehovah in order to perform the atonement upon it, so that it may be sent away for A·za'zel into the wilderness.

<sup>11</sup> “Aaron will present the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement in behalf of himself and his house; afterward he will slaughter the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself.

<sup>12</sup> “He will then take the fire holder full of burning coals from the altar before Jehovah and two handfuls of fine perfumed incense, and he will bring them inside the curtain.

<sup>13</sup> He will also put the incense on the fire before Jehovah, and the cloud of the incense will envelop the Ark cover, which is on the Testimony, so that he may not die.

<sup>14</sup> “He will take some of the bull’s blood and spatter it with his finger in front of the cover on the east side, and he will spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times before the cover.

<sup>15</sup> “He will then slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull’s blood; he is to spatter it toward the cover and before the cover.

<sup>16</sup> “He must make atonement for the holy place concerning the acts of uncleanness of the Israelites and concerning their transgressions and their sins, and that is what he should do for the tent of meeting, which is located among them in the midst of their acts of uncleanness.

<sup>17</sup> “No other man should be in the tent of meeting from the time he goes in to make atonement in the holy place until he comes out. He will make atonement in behalf of himself and his house and in behalf of the entire congregation of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> “He will then come out to the altar, which is before Jehovah, and make atonement for it, and he will take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides. <sup>19</sup> He will also spatter some of the blood on it with his finger seven times and cleanse it and sanctify it from the acts of uncleanness of the Israelites.

<sup>20</sup> “When he has finished making atonement for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he will also present the live goat. <sup>21</sup> Aaron will lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the errors of the Israelites and all their transgressions and all their sins, and he will put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man designated to do this. <sup>22</sup> The goat will carry upon itself all their errors into a desert land, and he will send the goat away into the wilderness.

<sup>23</sup> “Aaron will then enter into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the holy place, and he will lay them down there. <sup>24</sup> He must bathe himself in water in a holy place and put on his garments; then he will come out and offer up his burnt offering and the people’s burnt offering and make atonement

in his own behalf and in behalf of the people. <sup>25</sup> He will make the fat of the sin offering smoke on the altar.

<sup>26</sup> “The man who sent away the goat for A·za'zel should wash his garments and bathe himself in water, and after that he may come into the camp.

<sup>27</sup> “And the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought into the holy place to make atonement, will be taken outside the camp, and their skins and their flesh and their dung will be burned in the fire.

<sup>28</sup> The one who burns them should wash his garments and bathe himself in water, and after that he may come into the camp.

<sup>29</sup> “It will serve as a lasting statute for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you should afflict yourselves, and you must not do any work, whether a native or a foreigner who is residing among you. <sup>30</sup> On this day atonement will be made for you, to declare you clean. You will be clean from all your sins before Jehovah. <sup>31</sup> It is a sabbath of complete rest for you, and you should afflict yourselves. It is a lasting statute.

<sup>32</sup> “The priest who is anointed and installed to serve as priest in place of his father will make atonement and put on the linen garments, the holy garments. <sup>33</sup> He will make atonement for the holy sanctuary, the tent of meeting, and the altar; and he will make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the congregation. <sup>34</sup> This will serve as a

lasting statute for you, to make atonement for the Israelites concerning all their sins once each year.”

So he did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

**17** Jehovah went on to say to Moses: <sup>2</sup> “Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the Israelites and say to them, ‘This is what Jehovah has commanded:

<sup>3</sup> ““If any man of the house of Israel slaughters a bull or a young ram or a goat in the camp or if he slaughters it outside the camp, <sup>4</sup> instead of bringing it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to Jehovah before the tabernacle of Jehovah, bloodguilt will be counted to that man. He has shed blood, and that man must be cut off from among his people. <sup>5</sup> This is so that the Israelites will bring the sacrifices, which they now sacrifice in the open field, to Jehovah, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, to the priest. They are to sacrifice these as communion sacrifices to Jehovah. <sup>6</sup> And the priest will sprinkle the blood on Jehovah’s altar at the entrance of the tent of meeting and make the fat smoke as a pleasing aroma to Jehovah. <sup>7</sup> So they should no longer offer sacrifices to the goatlike demons, with which they are prostituting themselves. This will serve as a lasting statute for you throughout your generations.”

<sup>8</sup> “You should say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or any foreigner who is residing in your midst who offers up a burnt offering or a sacrifice <sup>9</sup> and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it to Jehovah must be cut off from his people.

<sup>10</sup> “If any man of the house of Israel or any foreigner who is residing in your midst eats any sort of blood, I will certainly set my face against the one who is eating the blood, and I will cut him off from among his people. <sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have given it on the altar for you to make atonement for yourselves, because it is the blood that makes atonement by means of the life in it. <sup>12</sup> That is why I have said to the Israelites: “None of you should eat blood, and no foreigner who is residing in your midst should eat blood.”

<sup>13</sup> “If one of the Israelites or some foreigner who is residing in your midst is hunting and catches a wild animal or a bird that may be eaten, he must pour its blood out and cover it with dust. <sup>14</sup> For the life of every sort of flesh is its blood, because the life is in it. Consequently, I said to the Israelites: “You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh because the life of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off.” <sup>15</sup> If anyone, whether a native or a foreigner, eats an animal found dead or one torn by a wild animal, he must then wash his garments and bathe in water and be unclean until the evening; then he will be clean. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not wash them and does not bathe himself, he will answer for his error.”



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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**


- Song 70
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LEVITICUS 16-17 | Atonement Day and You

**16:12-15**

What can we learn from the use of incense on Atonement Day?

- The acceptable prayers of Jehovah’s faithful servants are like incense. (Ps 141:2) Just as the high priest brought the incense to Jehovah with great respect, we approach Jehovah in prayer with awe and respect
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 **How can I make sure that my sacrifices to Jehovah will be acceptable to him?**



## **December 28–January 3 / Leviticus 16-17**

- Song 41 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

### **Treasures From God's Word**

#### **"Atonement Day and You":** (10 minutes)

Leviticus 16:12-15

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Picture: [Image:] The high priest entering the Most Holy, carrying incense and burning coals.

*How can I make sure that my sacrifices to Jehovah will be acceptable to him?*

[Images:] Collage: 1. A couple prays after preparing for field service. 2. The same couple preaches to a taxi driver, using a tablet.

### **Leviticus 16:12—The high priest appeared in Jehovah’s presence symbolically**

**Leviticus 16:12:** “He will then take the fire holder full of burning coals from the altar before Jehovah and two handfuls of fine perfumed incense, and he will bring them inside the curtain.

#### **w19.11 21 paragraph 4**

Read Leviticus 16:12, 13. Visualize the scene on Atonement Day: The high priest enters the tabernacle. This is the first of three times he must enter the Most Holy on that day. In one hand, he holds a container filled with perfumed incense, and in the other, he balances a golden fire holder full of burning coals. He pauses before the curtain that covers the entrance to

the Most Holy. With deep respect, he enters the Most Holy and stands before the ark of the covenant. In a symbolic sense, he is in the very presence of Jehovah God! Now the priest carefully pours the holy incense onto the fiery coals, and the room fills with a sweet-smelling aroma. Later he will reenter the Most Holy with the blood of the sin offerings. Notice that he burns the incense *before* he presents the blood of the sin offerings.

### **Leviticus 16:13—The high priest offered incense to Jehovah**

**Leviticus 16:13:** He will also put the incense on the fire before Jehovah, and the cloud of the incense will envelop the Ark cover, which is on the Testimony, so that he may not die.

### **w19.11 21 paragraph 5**

What can we learn from the use of incense on Atonement Day? The Bible indicates that the acceptable prayers of Jehovah's faithful worshippers are like incense. (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8) Recall that it was with great respect that the high priest brought the incense into the presence of Jehovah.

Similarly, when we approach Jehovah in prayer, we do so with deep respect. We are in awe of him. We deeply appreciate that the Creator of the universe allows us to approach him and draw close to him, as a child to a father. (James 4:8) He accepts us as his friends! (Psalm 25:14) We appreciate this privilege so much that we would never want to disappoint him.

### **Leviticus 16:14, 15—The high priest then made atonement for the sins of the priests and the people**

**Leviticus 16:14, 15:** “He will take some of the bull’s blood and spatter it with his finger in front of the cover on the east side, and he will spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times before the cover. “He will then slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull’s blood; he is to spatter it toward the cover and before the cover.

### **w19.11 21 paragraph 6**

Remember that the high priest had to burn the incense *before* he could offer up the sacrifices. In that way, he made sure that

he would have God's approval when offering up the sacrifices. What can we learn from that? While on earth, Jesus had to do something important—something more important than providing salvation for mankind—before he could offer up his life in sacrifice. What was that? By living a life of integrity and loyalty, Jesus had to prepare the way for Jehovah to accept his sacrifice. In that way, Jesus would prove that doing things Jehovah's way is the right way to live. Jesus would vindicate—or prove right and just—his Father's sovereignty, or way of ruling.

### **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

**Leviticus 16:10—In what ways did the goat for Azazel picture the sacrifice of Jesus?**

**Leviticus 16:10:** But the goat designated by lot for Azazel should be brought alive to stand before Jehovah in order to perform the atonement upon it, so that it may be sent away for Azazel into the wilderness.

### ***it-1* 226 paragraph 3**

As the apostle Paul explained, by Jesus' offering of his own perfect human life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, he

accomplished far more than had been achieved by “the blood of bulls and of goats.” (Hebrews 10:4, 11, 12) He thus served as “the scapegoat,” being the ‘carrier of our sicknesses,’ the one “pierced for our transgression.” (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24) He ‘carried away’ the sins of all who exercise faith in the value of his sacrifice. He demonstrated the provision of God to take sinfulness into complete oblivion. In these ways the goat “for Azazel” pictures the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

### **Leviticus 17:10, 11—Why do we refuse to accept a blood transfusion?**

**Le.17:10, 11:** “If any man of the house of Israel or any foreigner who is residing in your midst eats any sort of blood, I will certainly set my face against the one who is eating the blood, and I will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have given it on the altar for you to make atonement for yourselves, because it is the blood that makes atonement by means of the life in it.

### **w14 11/15 10 paragraph 10**

Read Leviticus 17:10. Jehovah commanded the Israelites not to

eat “any sort of blood.” Abstaining from blood—animal or human—is a Christian requirement as well. (Acts 15:28, 29) We shudder at the very thought of having God ‘set his face against us’ and cut us off from his congregation. We love him and want to obey him. Even when confronted with a life-threatening situation, we are determined not to cave in to the pleas and demands of those who do not know Jehovah and who do not care to obey him. Yes, we expect to be ridiculed for abstaining from blood, but we choose to be obedient to God. (Jude 17, 18) What view on this subject will strengthen us to “be firmly resolved” not to eat blood or accept a blood transfusion?—Deuteronomy 12:23.

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(*th* study 5)



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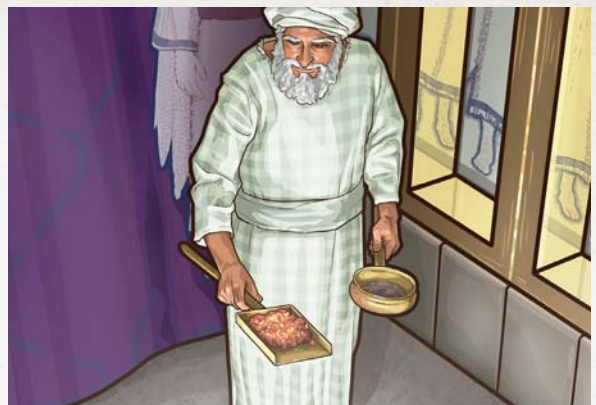
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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations

▲ Priests carry out their duties at the tabernacle

#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** Where can we find advice on how to live a happy life?

**Scripture:** Ps 1:1, 2

**Link:** What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- fg lesson 12 ¶6



#### RETURN VISIT

**Question:** What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

**Scripture:** 1Ti 6:9, 10

**Link:** What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- fg lesson 11 ¶7




# What Is the Good News?


# 1

## 1. What is the news from God?

God wants people to enjoy life on earth. He created the earth and everything on it because he loves mankind. Soon he will act to provide a better future for people in every land. He will relieve mankind of the causes of suffering.

 Read *Jeremiah 29:11*.

No government has ever succeeded in eliminating violence, disease, or death. But there is good news. Shortly, God will replace all human governments with his own government. Its subjects will enjoy peace and good health.

 Read *Isaiah 25:8; 33:24; Daniel 2:44*.


## 2. Why is the good news urgent?

Suffering will end only when God clears the earth of bad people. (Zephaniah 2:3) When will that happen? God's Word foretold the conditions that now threaten mankind. Current events indicate that God's time to act is close.

 Read *2 Timothy 3:1-5*.

## 3. What should we do?

We should learn about God from his Word, the Bible. It is like a letter to us from a loving father. It tells us how to enjoy a better way of life now and how to enjoy everlasting life on earth in the future. True, some may not like it that you are receiving help to understand the Bible. But the opportunity of a better future is too good to miss.

 Read *Proverbs 29:25; Revelation 14:6, 7*.



## *Search Out Deserving Ones*

(Matthew 10:11-15)

1. In preaching the Kingdom and teaching the truth,  
Our Lord showed us how to proceed:  
'Search out those deserving and ready to hear,  
Those aware of their spiritual need.  
By greeting the household and wishing it peace,  
Then it may be that peace you'll impart.  
But when they refuse you or turn you away,  
Shake the dust from your feet and depart.'
2. All those who receive you receive him as well,  
Respond when their heart opens wide.  
Their right disposition for unending life  
Will impel them to serve at your side.  
And never be anxious about what to say,  
For Jehovah will help you to speak.  
Your answer when gracious and seasoned with salt  
Will appeal to the humble and meek.



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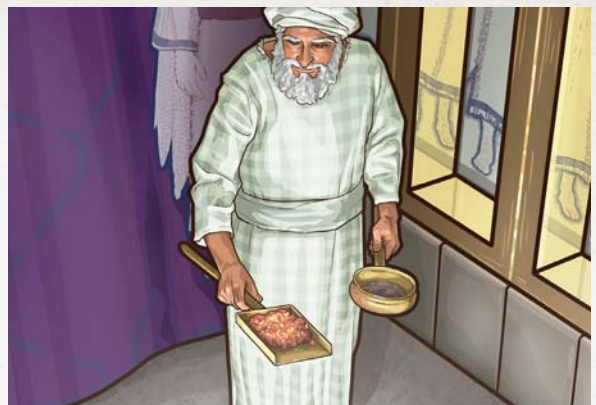
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## Are You Willing to Apply for the School for Kingdom Evangelizers?



Are you between the ages of 23 and 65 and in full-time service? Do you have good health, and are you able to serve wherever there is a greater need? If you answered yes to these questions, have you considered applying for the School for Kingdom Evangelizers? Since the first class, thousands of married couples, single brothers, and single sisters have applied. However, we need more single brothers to apply. Ask Jehovah to increase your desire to please him and to imitate his Son. (Ps 40:8; Mt 20:28; Heb 10:7) Then consider ways to reduce secular or personal obligations in order to qualify.

What avenues of service have opened to graduates after they received this theocratic training? Some graduates have been assigned to serve in areas where other languages are spoken or to share in special metropolitan public witnessing. Other graduates later serve as substitute circuit overseers, as circuit overseers, or as field missionaries. As you ponder prospects in Jehovah’s service, may you echo the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Here I am! Send me!”—Isa 6:8.

**WATCH THE VIDEO *FIELD MISSIONARIES—WORKERS IN THE HARVEST*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- How are field missionaries selected?

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- What good work are field missionaries doing?

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- What are some of the blessings of missionary service?

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Would you like to learn more about the School for Kingdom Evangelizers? Go to “Videos” in the Library section of [jw.org](http://jw.org), and look under OUR ACTIVITIES > THEOCRATIC SCHOOLS AND TRAINING. Watch the videos *Theocratic Schools in the Heart of Africa*, *Spiritually Rich by Jehovah’s Teaching*, and *SKE First Graduation*.

## **Field Missionaries—Workers in the Harvest**

**Seth Hyatt (Helper to the Service Committee):** The Governing Body in analyzing the needs of the world field discerns that there is a need for more missionaries. The process for identifying new field missionaries has changed. Gilead is no longer the pool for which field missionaries are drawn. Graduates of the School for Kingdom Evangelizers are now the ones from whom we draw field missionaries. They'll serve as temporary Special Pioneers and on a yearly basis. The Branch Committee will evaluate their activities, and then those who have the potential are recommend to the service committee as potential field missionaries.

**Christopher Mavor (Helper to the Service Committee):** On April 2015, a new arrangement went into effect affecting the field missionary work. Before missionaries were assigned for an indefinite period of time or perhaps a lifetime in the missionary service.

**Seth Hyatt (Helper to the Service Committee):** The Governing Body approved an adjustment whereby newly appointed field missionaries receive a 3-year assignment. Toward the end of that assignment, if they wish to continue on, the service committee will consider their request and perhaps continue them on in their missionary assignment.

**Hugo & Rosa Flores (Missionaries in Boliva):** The Branch sent us a letter and an application to be candidates for missionary service. (*Hugo*): We didn't go to Gilead. (*Rosa*): When I received the 3-year assignment it made me feel very reassured. (*Hugo*): We knew that in 3 years we'd really know what it was like if we wanted to make this our life's career.

**Gerrit Lösch (Governing Body Member):** When I came into the truth it was with the help of two missionary sisters. In the early days it was primarily through missionaries that work got expanded.

**Mark Sanderson (Governing Body Member):** What we have seen now is that the missionary can have a real powerful effect to strength the organization in areas perhaps where we have enormous growth many people coming into the truth. Now we need these mature ones in the congregations to strengthen the field but at the same time to also spearhead the preaching work helping these new ones to be come established preachers of the good news.

**Andreas Pfeifer (Bolivia Branch Committee):** The missionaries come here with very positive attitude they are willing to work hard and just give their best often in the congregations and in the field.



**Michael and Holly Cárdenas (Missionaries in Bolivia):**

What I love about the missionary work is to spend most of my time with the friends. We can serve our brothers and sisters and our bible students without other distractions.

**Niko and Rhodessa Rabe (Missionaries in Myanmar):**

Many of the deaf ear have been isolated and rejected by society. Serving as a missionary have enabled me to help many of them to get on the and stay on the road to life.

**Andreas Pfeifer (Bolivia Branch Committee):** Many local circuit overseers have been trained in some way by missionaries by their good example and hard work they definitely raise the standards in the entire branch territory.

**Hrioshi Aoki (Myanmar Branch Committee):** Because of the beautiful example of the missionaries, now young ones view fulltime service as the best way of life. Their loving training even by the missionaries has had a tremendous effect on the Kingdom work in Myanmar. They patiently trained the local brothers to take on more responsibilities in Jehovah's organization.

**Christopher Mavor (Helper to the Service Committee):** In the Governing Body, we have three brothers who served in the missionary field, Brother Jackson, Brother Lösch and Brother Splane. So we can see that these brothers have

grown through the missionary service and now serve very effectively on the Governing Body.

**Mark Sanderson (Governing Body Member):** The Governing Body deeply love the missionaries. We take our responsibility to preach the good news very, very seriously. And we know that it can only be done if we have capable, qualified people who are zealous, love Jehovah; and, are able to really love the brothers and love the people in the field so that they can help them to grow spiritually, and help them to follow in their footsteps the good example that they are setting.

**Gerrit Lösch (Governing Body Member):** All of this contributes in fulfilment of the prophecy about the preaching of the good news to all the inhabited earth. And missionaries have faith in that; they glow in that and in the fulfilment of this prophecy.

Video source: [https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODActivitiesTheoSchools/pub-mwbv\\_202012\\_3\\_VIDEO](https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODActivitiesTheoSchools/pub-mwbv_202012_3_VIDEO)

22:1, 2) And Abraham was willing to follow that direction down to the last detail. It was Jehovah who stopped Abraham from actually killing his son. (Gen. 22:9-12) Jehovah accepted Abraham's acts of worship because they were offered by a man whose *motives* were pure. "Abraham put faith in Jehovah," wrote Paul, "and it was counted to him as righteousness." —Rom. 4:3.

<sup>19</sup> **Jacob** spent much of his life in Canaan, the land Jehovah had promised to Abraham and his descendants. (Gen. 17:1, 8) It was a place where people had become engrossed in worship so perverted that Jehovah said that the land would "vomit its inhabitants out." (Lev. 18:24, 25) When he was 77 years old, Jacob left Canaan, married, and later returned with a large household. (Gen. 28:1, 2; 33:18) Some of his family, however, had been influenced by false worship. Even so, when Jehovah invited Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, Jacob acted decisively. He first told his family: "Get rid of the foreign gods that are in your midst, and cleanse yourselves." He then

**19, 20. How did Jacob fulfill the four key requirements of pure worship?**

faithfully followed the instructions he had received.  
—Gen. 35:1-7.

<sup>20</sup> Jacob built a number of altars in the Promised Land, but the *recipient* of his worship was always Jehovah. (Gen. 35:14; 46:1) The *quality* of his sacrifices, the *manner* in which he worshipped God, and his *motive* for doing so were such that the Bible refers to Jacob as “blameless,” an expression that describes those who are approved by God. (Gen. 25:27) By his entire life course, Jacob set an outstanding example for the nation of Israel, which would descend from him.  
—Gen. 35:9-12.

<sup>21</sup> What can we learn about pure worship from the examples set by the patriarchs? Like them, we are surrounded by people, maybe even family members, who could distract us from giving Jehovah exclusive devotion. To resist such pressure, we must develop strong faith in Jehovah and be convinced that his righteous standards are best. We express that faith by obeying Jehovah and by devoting our time, energy, and resources to serving him. (Matt. 22:37-40; 1 Cor.

**21. What can we learn about pure worship from the examples set by the patriarchs?**

10:31) How encouraging it is to know that when we worship Jehovah to the best of our ability, in the way he asks, and with pure motives, he views us as righteous!—**Read James 2:18-24.**

### **A Nation Devoted to Pure Worship**

<sup>22</sup> Jehovah provided Jacob’s descendants with the Law code, leaving them in no doubt about what he required of them. If they obeyed Jehovah, they would become his “special property” and “a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:5, 6) Notice how the Law emphasized the four key elements of pure worship.

<sup>23</sup> Jehovah clearly identified who the *recipient* of the Israelites’ worship should be. “You must not have any other gods besides me,” declared Jehovah. (Ex. 20:3-5) The sacrifices they offered to him had to be of the highest *quality*. For example, animal sacrifices were to be sound, without any defect. (Lev. 1:3; Deut. 15:21; compare Malachi 1:6-8.) The Levites benefited from the gifts given to Jehovah, but they too made personal offerings. What they gave had to come from among “the very best of all the gifts given” to them.

**22-24. How did the Law emphasize the importance of the recipient, the quality, and the manner of Israel’s sacrifices?**



(Num. 18:29) Regarding the *manner* in which they worshipped, the Israelites were given specific direction about what, where, and how sacrifices should be made to Jehovah. In total, they were given more than 600 laws to govern their behavior, and they were told: “Be careful to do just as Jehovah your God has commanded you. You must not turn to the right or to the left.”—Deut. 5:32.

<sup>24</sup> Did it really matter where the Israelites offered their sacrifices? Yes. Jehovah instructed his people to build a tabernacle, and it became the center for pure worship. (Ex. 40:1-3, 29, 34) At that time, if the Israelites wanted their offerings to be approved by God, they had to bring them to the tabernacle.\*<sup>[4]</sup>—Deut. 12:17, 18.

<sup>25</sup> What mattered more, however, was an Israelite’s *motive* for offering his gift! He had to be motivated by heartfelt love for Jehovah and for his standards. (**Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6.**) When the Israelites

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\*<sup>[4]</sup> After the sacred Ark was removed from the tabernacle, it seems that Jehovah approved of sacrifices being offered at locations other than the tabernacle.—1 Sam. 4:3, 11; 7:7-9; 10:8; 11:14, 15; 16:4, 5; 1 Chron. 21:26-30.

**25. Regarding sacrifices, what mattered most? Explain.**

merely went through the motions associated with pure worship, Jehovah rejected their sacrifices. (Isa. 1:10-13) Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah revealed that he is not deceived by an empty show of devotion, saying: “This people . . . honor me with their lips, but their heart is far removed from me.”—Isa. 29:13.

### **Worship at the Temple**

<sup>26</sup> Centuries after Israel settled in the Promised Land, King Solomon built a center for pure worship that was far grander than the tabernacle. (1 Ki. 7:51; 2 Chron. 3:1, 6, 7) At first, Jehovah was the only *recipient* of the sacrifices offered at this temple. Solomon and his subjects offered vast quantities of sacrifices of high *quality* in the *manner* outlined in God’s Law. (1 Ki. 8:63) However, the cost of the building and the number of sacrifices were not what made worship at the temple acceptable to Jehovah. What mattered was the *motive* of those offering the gifts. Solomon emphasized that point at the dedication of the temple. He said: “Let your heart be complete

**26. At first, what role did the temple built by Solomon play in pure worship?**



with Jehovah our God by walking in his regulations and by keeping his commandments as on this day.” —1 Ki. 8:57-61.

<sup>27</sup> Unfortunately, the Israelites did not continue to follow the king’s wise counsel. They failed to fulfill one or more of the key aspects of pure worship. The kings of Israel and their subjects allowed their hearts to be corrupted, they lost faith in Jehovah, and they abandoned his righteous standards. Time and again, Jehovah lovingly sent prophets to correct them and to warn them of the consequences of their actions. (Jer. 7:13-15, 23-26) Noteworthy among those prophets was the faithful man Ezekiel. He lived at a critical time in the history of pure worship.

### **Ezekiel Sees Pure Worship Corrupted**

<sup>28</sup> Ezekiel was intimately acquainted with worship at the temple built by Solomon. His father was a priest and would have taken his turn serving at the temple. (Ezek. 1:3) Ezekiel’s early years likely were happy. His father no doubt taught him about Jehovah

**27. What did the kings of Israel and their subjects do, and how did Jehovah respond?**

**28, 29. What do we know about Ezekiel? (See the box “Ezekiel—His Life and Times.”)**

*My Prayer of Dedication*

(Matthew 22:37)

1. Take my heart and may it love  
Truth and wisdom from above.  
Take my voice and let it sing  
Praises always to my King.
2. Take my feet and take my hands;  
Let them serve your wise commands.  
Take my silver and my gold.  
Nothing, Lord, would I withhold.
3. Take my life and bring it, Lord,  
With your will, in full accord.  
Take myself, may all I do  
Be well-pleasing, Jah, to you.

OCTOBER 2020

THE  **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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### COVER PICTURE:

What could be more thrilling to an entire congregation than seeing a Bible student whom they have grown to love get baptized? (See study article 41, paragraph 1)

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# 134 *Children Are a Trust From God*

(Psalm 127:3-5)

## 1. When a man becomes a father

And a woman has a child of her own,  
They share a trust, they must remember,  
That is not theirs, not theirs alone.  
The gift they share is from Jehovah;  
Of life and love he is the one true Source.  
To parents he gives sure direction  
That they may follow the wisest course.

*(CHORUS)*

*A sacred trust you have been given;  
A precious life is in your hands.  
You can bestow the greatest favor;  
Instruct your child in God's commands.*

## 2. All the words God has commanded—

They must always prove to be on your heart.  
These words you'll speak to sons and daughters;  
This is your trust, this is your part.  
To them you'll speak along your roadway,  
When you rise up and when you are at rest.  
In years to come, may they remember,  
May they be faithful, may they be blessed.

*(Chorus)*

# Will They Grow Up to Serve God?

*“Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men.”—LUKE 2:52.*

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## SONG 134

Children Are a Trust From God

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## PREVIEW

Christian parents want their children to grow up to be happy servants of Jehovah. What choices can parents make that will help their children to reach that goal? What choices do Christian youths need to make to find real success in life? This article will answer those questions.

**OFTEN, the choices that parents make affect their children for a long time. If parents make poor choices, they can cause problems for their children. But if they make wise choices, they give their children the best chance of having a happy, satisfying life. Of course, children must also make good decisions. The best decision anyone can make is to serve our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah.—Ps. 73:28.**

**<sup>2</sup> Jesus' parents were determined to help their children to serve Jehovah, and the choices the parents made proved that this was their main goal in life. (Luke 2:40, 41, 52) Jesus likewise made good choices that helped him to fulfill his role in Jehovah's purpose. (Matt. 4:1-10) Jesus grew up to be a kind, loyal, and courageous man—the type of son who would bring pride and joy to the heart of any God-fearing parent.**

**<sup>3</sup> In this article, we will examine the following questions: What good choices did Jehovah make regarding Jesus? What can Christian parents learn from the choices that Jesus' human parents made? And what can Christian youths learn from the choices that Jesus made?**

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- 1. What is the best decision that anyone could make?**
  - 2. What good choices did Jesus and his parents make?**
  - 3. What questions will we answer in this article?**

## LEARN FROM JEHOVAH

<sup>4</sup> Jehovah chose excellent parents for Jesus. (Matt. 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-38) Mary's heartfelt expressions recorded in the Bible reveal her deep love for Jehovah and his Word. (Luke 1:46-55) And the way that Joseph reacted to Jehovah's direction shows that he feared God and wanted to please him.—Matt. 1:24.

<sup>5</sup> Note that Jehovah did not choose wealthy parents for Jesus. The sacrifice Joseph and Mary offered after Jesus' birth shows that they were poor. (Luke 2:24) Joseph may have had a small shop next to his home in Nazareth where he worked as a carpenter. Their way of living must have been simple, especially as the family grew in size to include at least seven children.—Matt. 13:55, 56.

<sup>6</sup> Jehovah protected Jesus from certain dangers, but He did not shield His Son from all challenges. (Matt. 2:13-15) For example, Jesus had to deal with unbelieving relatives. Imagine how disappointing it must have been for Jesus to have members of his own family who did not initially accept him as the Messiah. (Mark 3:21; John 7:5) Likely, Jesus also

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4. What important choice did Jehovah make regarding his Son?

5-6. What did Jehovah allow his Son to experience?



had to cope with the death of his adoptive father, Joseph. Such a loss may have meant that Jesus, the oldest son, had to take over the family business. (Mark 6:3) As he grew up, Jesus learned to be responsible for the welfare of his family. He likely had to work hard to support them. So he knew firsthand how it felt to be physically tired at the end of the day.

<sup>7</sup> If you are a married couple and would like to have children, ask yourselves: ‘Are we the kind of humble, spiritually-minded people whom Jehovah would choose to care for a precious new life?’ (Ps. 127:3, 4) If you are already a parent, ask yourself: ‘Am I teaching my children the value of hard work?’ (Eccl. 3:12, 13) ‘Do I do my best to protect my children from the physical and moral dangers that they may encounter in Satan’s world?’ (Prov. 22:3) You cannot shield your children from all the challenges they may face. That is an impossible task. But you can progressively and lovingly prepare them for the realities of life by teaching them how to turn to God’s Word for advice. (Read Proverbs 2:1-6.) For example, if a relative chooses to reject true worship, help your children to learn from God’s Word

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7. (a) What questions will help married couples in parenting their children? (b) How can Proverbs 2:1-6 be helpful in training one’s children?

why it is so important to remain loyal to Jehovah. (Ps. 31:23) Or if death claims a loved one, show your children how to use God’s Word to cope with grief and to find peace.—2 Cor. 1:3, 4; 2 Tim. 3:16.

## LEARN FROM JOSEPH AND MARY

<sup>8</sup> Jesus’ earthly parents helped Jesus to grow up to have God’s favor; they followed Jehovah’s directions to parents. (Read Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.) Joseph and Mary had a deep love for Jehovah, and their priority was to encourage their children to develop that same kind of love.

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8. According to Deuteronomy 6:6, 7, what did Joseph and Mary have to do?

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Parents, prepare your children for the realities of life by teaching them how to turn to God’s Word for advice  
(See paragraph 7)



<sup>9</sup> Joseph and Mary chose to maintain a good spiritual routine as a family. No doubt, they attended weekly meetings at the synagogue in Nazareth, as well as the annual Passover in Jerusalem. (Luke 2: 41; 4:16) They may have used those family trips to Jerusalem to teach Jesus and his siblings about the history of Jehovah's people, possibly along the way visiting locations that are mentioned in the Scriptures. As their family grew in number, it must not have been easy for Joseph and Mary to keep a good spiritual routine. But look at the benefits they enjoyed! Because they put worship of Jehovah first, their family was well cared for spiritually.

<sup>10</sup> What can God-fearing parents learn from Joseph and Mary? Most important, teach your children in word and action that you love Jehovah deeply. Realize that the greatest gift that you can give them is the opportunity to love Jehovah. And one of the most valuable lessons that you can teach them is how to keep a good spiritual routine of study, prayer, meetings, and participation in the ministry. (1 Tim. 6:6) Of course, you must give your children the material things they need. (1 Tim.

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9. What important choices did Joseph and Mary make?

10. What lessons can Christian parents learn from Joseph and Mary?



It is heartwarming to see Christian parents making good spiritual choices for their families!

(See paragraph 11)

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5:8) But remember that it will be your children’s close relationship with Jehovah, not their material possessions, that will help them to survive the end of this old system and make it into God’s new world.\*—Ezek. 7:19; 1 Tim. 4:8.

<sup>11</sup> How heartwarming it is to see so many Christian parents who are making good spiritual choices

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\* See *Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!*, pp. 69-70, pars. 17-18.

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11. (a) How will the admonition found at 1 Timothy 6:17-19 help parents to make good choices when they are raising their children? (b) What goals might your family consider, and what blessings could result? (See the box “What Goals Will You Pursue?”)

for their families! They consistently worship together. They attend congregation meetings and conventions. And they share in the field ministry. Some families are even able to preach in seldom-worked territory. Others visit a Bethel home or support theocratic construction projects. Families who choose these activities must make financial sacrifices, and they will likely face some challenges. But the benefits they receive truly make them spiritually rich. (Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.) Children who are raised in such families often continue with the good habits they learned, and they have no regrets!\*—Prov. 10:22.

## LEARN FROM JESUS

<sup>12</sup> Jesus' heavenly Father always makes good choices, and his earthly parents also made wise decisions. However, as Jesus grew up, he had to make his own choices. (Gal. 6:5) Like all of us, he had the gift of free will. He could have chosen to seek his own interests first. Instead, he chose to maintain a

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\* See the box "I Couldn't Imagine Having Better Parents" in *Awake!*, October 2011, p. 20, and the article "A Special Letter to Their Parents" in *Awake!*, March 8, 1999, p. 25.

**12.** What did Jesus have to do as he grew up?

## What Goals Will You Pursue?

- 1 Auxiliary pioneer as a family when the circuit overseer visits
- 2 Spend a week in seldom-worked territory
- 3 Volunteer to work on a Kingdom Hall or at an Assembly Hall
- 4 Visit and tour the local branch office

good relationship with Jehovah. (John 8:29) How might his example help young ones today?

<sup>13</sup> Early in his human life, Jesus chose to be submissive to his parents. He never rejected his parents' direction, reasoning that he knew more than they did. Rather, "he continued subject to them." (Luke 2:51) Jesus no doubt took his responsibility as the oldest son seriously. He surely worked hard to learn a trade from his adoptive father so that he could help support his family.

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13. What important choice did Jesus make while still young?



Youths, never reject your parents' direction  
(See paragraph 13)

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**<sup>14</sup> Jesus' parents likely told him about his miraculous birth and what God's messengers had said about him. (Luke 2:8-19, 25-38) Jesus was not satisfied with what he was told; he also studied the Scriptures for himself. How do we know that Jesus was a good student of God's Word? Because while he was still a boy, the teachers in Jerusalem were "in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:46, 47) And at only 12 years of age, Jesus had already proved to himself that Jehovah was his Father.—Luke 2:42, 43, 49.**

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**14.** How do we know that Jesus was a good student of God's Word?

<sup>15</sup> As Jesus learned about his role in Jehovah's purpose, he chose to accept his assignment. (John 6:38) He knew that he would be hated by many, and that thought must have been sobering for him to contemplate. Yet, he chose to submit himself to Jehovah. When Jesus got baptized in 29 C.E., his main focus in life was that of doing what Jehovah required of him. (Heb. 10:5-7) Even when he was dying on the torture stake, Jesus never wavered in doing his Father's will.—John 19:30.

<sup>16</sup> *Obey your parents.* Like Joseph and Mary, your parents are not perfect. However, your parents have been assigned by Jehovah to protect, train, and guide you. If you value their advice and respect their authority, it will “go well with you.”—Eph. 6:1-4.

<sup>17</sup> *Decide whom you will serve.* You have to prove to yourself who Jehovah is, what his purpose involves, and how his will relates to your life. (Rom. 12:2) Then you will be able to make the most important decision of your life, the decision to serve Jehovah. (Read Joshua 24:15; Eccl. 12:1) If you

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15. How did Jesus show that he chose to do Jehovah's will?

16. What is one lesson that children can learn from Jesus?

17. According to Joshua 24:15, what decision do young ones have to make for themselves?



keep a regular schedule of Bible reading and study, your love for Jehovah will continue to grow and your faith in him will become stronger.

<sup>18</sup> *Choose to put Jehovah's will first in your life.* Satan's world promises that if you use your talents for your own benefit, you will be happy. In truth, those who focus on material goals stab themselves "all over with many pains." (1 Tim. 6:9, 10) On the other hand, if you listen to Jehovah and choose to put his will first in your life, you will be successful and "you will act wisely."—Josh. 1:8.

## WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?

<sup>19</sup> Parents, do your best to help your family serve Jehovah. Rely on him, and he will help you to make wise choices. (Prov. 3:5, 6) Remember that your children will be influenced more by what you do than by what you say. So make decisions that give them the best chance possible of gaining Jehovah's favor.

<sup>20</sup> Young ones, your parents can help you make

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18. What is a choice that young ones must make, and in what will it result?

19. What must parents remember?

20. What blessings will young ones receive if they choose to serve Jehovah?

wise choices in life. But it is up to you to win God's favor. So imitate Jesus and choose to serve your loving heavenly Father. If you do, you will have a busy, rewarding, exciting life now. (1 Tim. 4:16) And in the future, you will enjoy the most satisfying life possible!

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS** Page 47: Mary must have instilled deep love for Jehovah in young Jesus. Mothers today can likewise instill love for Jehovah in their children. Page 49: Joseph must have valued attending the synagogue with his family. Fathers today can value attending congregation meetings with their family. Page 52: Jesus learned practical skills from his father. Youths today can learn skills from their father.

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### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What can Christian parents learn from the choices that Jehovah, Joseph, and Mary made regarding Jesus?
- What can Christian youths learn from the choices that Jesus made?
- What blessings have you seen from putting Jehovah's will first in your life?

# **133**    *Worship Jehovah During Youth* (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

1. Precious to God, we are daughters and sons,  
    Giving our strength as his faithful young ones.  
Loving attention to us he will give,  
    Blessing our days for as long as we live.
2. Honoring parents who care for our lives  
    Helps us express what we're feeling inside.  
Then we find favor with God and with men,  
    Drawing us close to Jehovah, our Friend.
3. May we remember our God in our youth,  
    Growing each day in our love of the truth.  
Giving our best to our God, we will bring  
    Joy to the heart of Jehovah, our King.