

Monday, June 7

The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.—1 Corinthians 3:19.

We can face any challenge—all because Jehovah is our Grand Instructor. (Isaiah 30:20, 21) His Word gives us everything we need to be “fully competent” and “completely equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:17) When we live by Bible teachings, we become wiser than those who promote “the wisdom of this world.” (Psalm 119:97-100) Regrettably, the wisdom of the world often appeals to our fleshly desires. So we might find it difficult to resist thinking and acting like those who are part of the world. For good reason, the Bible says: “Look out that no one takes you captive by means of the philosophy and empty deception according to human tradition.” (Colossians 2:8) As the Bible foretold about the last days, people would to a remarkable degree become “lovers of pleasures.” (2 Timothy 3:4) The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS, is just one indication that the wisdom of the world is foolishness.—2 Peter 2:19. w19.05 21 paragraphs 1-2; 22 paragraphs 4-5

Tuesday, June 8

*Stand firm against the crafty acts of the Devil.—
Ephesians 6:11.*

Satan deceived the Israelites into believing that to prosper, they had to adopt the practices of their pagan neighbors. Those neighbors believed that certain rituals were needed to get their gods to act and bring the needed rain. Those who lacked faith in Jehovah believed that this was the only way to avoid a prolonged drought, so they performed pagan rituals in honor of the false god Baal. Satan also appealed to immoral desires. The pagan nations worshipped their gods by engaging in grossly immoral acts. This perverted form of worship included both female and male temple prostitution. Homosexuality and other forms of sexual immorality not only were tolerated but became normal! (Deuteronomy 23:17, 18; 1 Kings 14:24) The pagans believed that these rituals encouraged their gods to make the land fertile. Many Israelites were attracted by the pagans' sexually immoral rituals and allowed themselves to be lured into serving false gods. w19.06 2 paragraph 3; 4 paragraphs 7-8

Wednesday, June 9

God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name.—Hebrews 6:10.

Thousands of Bethel family members and others have received new assignments. These faithful brothers and sisters may find it challenging to leave a cherished assignment. If you are one of them, what can help you to deal with the change? Remain close to Jehovah by reading the Scriptures daily and pondering on them. Also, continue to be fully involved in preaching the good news in your new congregation. Jehovah remembers those who continue to serve him faithfully, even if they cannot do all they did before. Keep your life simple. Do not let the anxieties of Satan's world "choke" your spiritual activity. (Matthew 13:22) Reject pressure from the world or from well-meaning friends or relatives to seek financial security in Satan's system. (1 John 2:15-17) Trust in Jehovah, who promises to provide for all our spiritual, emotional, and material needs "at the right time."—Hebrews 4:16; 13:5, 6. *w19.08* 20 paragraph 4; 21-22 paragraphs 7-8

Thursday, June 10

Throw your burden on Jehovah, and he will sustain you.—Psalm 55:22.

Are you dealing with a stressful situation? How comforting it is for us to know that Jehovah understands our emotional struggles. He knows our limitations, and he even knows what we are thinking and feeling. (Psalm 103:14; 139:3, 4) By relying on Jehovah, we will receive help to deal with problems that cause us stress. Stress can cause you to think negatively, making you feel discouraged. If that happens, remember that Jehovah will help you deal with stress. How will he help you? He invites you to share your concerns with him. And he will answer your cries for help. (Psalm 5:3; 1 Peter 5:7) So pray to Jehovah often about your problems. He will not speak directly to you, but he will speak to you through his Word, the Bible, and through his organization. The accounts you read in the Bible can comfort you and give you hope. Also, your brothers and sisters can encourage you.—Romans 15:4; Hebrews 10:24, 25. *w19.06*
16 paragraphs 7-8

Friday, June 11

You will be hated by all the nations on account of my name.—Matthew 24:9.

When persecuted, pray to Jehovah, “pour out your heart like water,” and tell your loving Father about all your fears and anxieties. (Lamentations 2:19) The more you pray this way, the closer you will feel to Jehovah. (Romans 8:38, 39) Be convinced that the blessings of God’s Kingdom will come true. (Numbers 23:19) If your faith in such promises is weak, it will be easier for Satan and his agents to terrify you. (Proverbs 24:10; Hebrews 2:15) Make it a study project to examine God’s promises about his Kingdom and the reasons why you can be certain that they will come true. How will that help? Consider the example of Stanley Jones, who was imprisoned for seven years because of his faith. What helped him to endure faithfully? He said: “Being fortified with a knowledge of God’s kingdom, being sure of it, never doubting it for a moment, I couldn’t be moved.” If you have strong faith in God’s promises, you will not give in to fear.—Proverbs 3:25, 26. *w19.07* 2 paragraph 1; 3 paragraphs 6-7

Saturday, June 12

Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving, and stay there until you leave.—Matthew 10:11.

Why is the disciple-making work so important? Because only disciples of Christ can be friends of God. In addition, those who follow Christ improve their lives now and have the hope of enjoying endless life in the future. (John 14:6; 17:3) Certainly, Jesus has entrusted us with an important responsibility, but we do not do this work by ourselves. The apostle Paul wrote about himself and certain close associates: “We are God’s fellow workers.” (1 Corinthians 3:9) What a privilege Jehovah and Christ have given to imperfect humans! Also, the disciple-making work can bring us much joy. We take the first step in making disciples when we “search out” those with the right heart condition. We prove that we truly are Jehovah’s Witnesses by witnessing to all whom we meet. We prove that we are genuine Christians by following Christ’s command to preach. *w19.07 15* paragraphs 3-5

Sunday, June 13

Wisdom is a protection just as money is a protection, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves the life of its owner.—Ecclesiastes 7:12.

Many people are first attracted to the practical wisdom found in the Bible. In New York, a sister who visits Mandarin-speaking people says: “I try to take an interest in people and listen to them. If I learn that they are new immigrants, I might ask: ‘How are you settling in? Have you found work? Are the local people treating you well?’” Sometimes this opens the way to introduce a Bible teaching. When appropriate, the sister may add: “What would you say is the key to getting along with people? May I show you a proverb from the Bible? It says: ‘Beginning a fight is like opening a floodgate; before the quarrel breaks out, take your leave.’ Do you think that this advice could help us to get along with others?” (Proverbs 17:14) Such conversations can help us to identify people who would welcome further visits. w19.07 23
paragraph 13

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition? (w04 9/15 25 ¶3)

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.) De 3:1-13 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach With Enthusiasm”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Teaching With Enthusiasm*.

Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 68

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 9 ¶18-26, boxes 9A and 9B

 Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God’s laws (De 4:6; *it-2* 1140 ¶5)

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God’s laws (De 4:6; w99 11/1 20 ¶6-7)

Jehovah’s people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations (De 4:7, 8; w07 8/1 29 ¶13)

Many people are drawn to Jehovah’s organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God’s laws and principles.

What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah’s wise direction?



98 *The Scriptures—Inspired of God*

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

1. God's Word shines like a brilliant light,
 Guides our feet through earth's dark night.
If we follow it faithfully,
 Surely its truth will set us free.
2. He provides us with words inspired,
 Helps us learn what is required.
Holy writings can motivate,
 Show how to teach and set things straight.
3. By these words from our God above,
 We have come to know his love.
As we read in it ev'ry day,
 God's Word will keep us on the way.

Deuteronomy 3-4

3 “Then we turned and went up by the Way of Ba'shan. And Og, the king of Ba'shan, came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Ed're-i. ² So Jehovah said to me, ‘Do not be afraid of him, for I will give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you will do to him just as you did to Si'hon the king of the Am'or-ites, who lived in Hesh'bon.’ ³ So Jehovah our God also gave King Og of Ba'shan and all his people into our hand, and we kept striking him down until none of his people survived. ⁴ We then captured all his cities. There was no town that we did not take from them—60 cities, all the region of Ar'gob, the kingdom of Og in Ba'shan. ⁵ All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, along with a great number of rural towns. ⁶ However, we devoted them to destruction, just as we had done to King Si'hon of Hesh'bon, in devoting every city to destruction, including men, women, and children. ⁷ And we took all the livestock and the spoil of the cities for ourselves.

⁸ “At that time we seized the land of the two Am'or-ite kings who were in the region of the Jordan, from the Ar'non Valley as far as Mount Her'mon ⁹ (the mountain that the Si-do'ni-ans used to call Sir'i-on and the Am'or-ites used to call Se'nir), ¹⁰ all the cities of the tableland, all Gil'e-ad, and all Ba'shan as far as Sal'e-cah and Ed're-i, the cities of the kingdom that belonged to Og in Ba'shan. ¹¹ For King Og of Ba'shan was the last remaining one of the Reph'a-im. His bier was made of iron, and it is still in Rab'bah of the Am'mon-ites. It is nine cubits long and four cubits wide, by

the standard cubit. ¹² At that time we took possession of this land: from A-ro'er, which is by the Ar'non Valley, and half of the mountainous region of Gil'e-ad, and I have given its cities to the Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites. ¹³ And the rest of Gil'e-ad and all Ba'shan of the kingdom of Og I have given to the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh. All the region of Ar'gob, which belongs to Ba'shan, was known as the land of the Reph'a-im.

¹⁴ “Ja'ir the son of Ma-nas'seh took all the region of Ar'gob as far as the boundary of the Gesh'ur-ites and the Ma-ac'a-thites and named those villages of Bashan after himself, Hav'voth-ja'ir, to this day. ¹⁵ And I have given Gil'e-ad to Ma'chir. ¹⁶ And to the Reu'ben-ites and the Gad'ites, I have given from Gil'e-ad to the Ar'non Valley, with the middle of the valley as a boundary, and as far as Jab'bok, the valley that is the boundary of the Am'mon-ites, ¹⁷ and the Ar'a-bah and the Jordan and the border, from Chin'ne-reth to the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, the Salt Sea, at the base of the slopes of Pis'gah toward the east.

¹⁸ “I then gave you this command: ‘Jehovah your God has given you this land to take possession of it. All your valiant men will take up arms and cross over before your brothers, the Israelites. ¹⁹ Only your wives, your children, and your livestock (I well know that you have a great deal of livestock) will continue dwelling in the cities that I have given you, ²⁰ until Jehovah gives your brothers rest, as he does for you, and they also have taken possession of the land that Jehovah your God will give them across the Jordan. Then

you will come back, each one to his possession that I have given you.'

²¹ "At that time I gave this command to Joshua: 'You have seen with your own eyes what Jehovah your God has done to these two kings. Jehovah will do the same thing to all the kingdoms into which you will cross over. ²² You must not be afraid of them, for Jehovah your God is the one fighting for you.'

²³ "At that time I pleaded with Jehovah, saying, ²⁴ 'O Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you have begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty arm, for what god in the heavens or on the earth performs such mighty deeds as you? ²⁵ Please let me pass over and see the good land that is across the Jordan, this good mountainous region and Leb'a-non.' ²⁶ But Jehovah was still furious with me because of you, and he would not listen to me. Rather, Jehovah said to me, 'Enough from you! Never speak to me again about this matter. ²⁷ Go up to the top of Pis'gah, and look to the west and north and south and east and view the land with your eyes, for you will not cross over this Jordan.

²⁸ Commission Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, because he is the one who will cross over before this people and he is the one who will cause them to inherit the land that you will see.' ²⁹ All this happened while we were dwelling in the valley in front of Beth-pe'or.

4 "Now, O Israel, listen to the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land that Jehovah,

the God of your forefathers, is giving you. ² You must not add to the word that I am commanding you, neither must you take away from it, so as to keep the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you.

³ “Your own eyes have seen what Jehovah did in the case of the Ba'al of Pe'or; Jehovah your God annihilated from your midst every man who walked after the Ba'al of Pe'or.

⁴ But you who are holding fast to Jehovah your God are all alive today. ⁵ See, I have taught you regulations and judicial decisions, just as Jehovah my God has commanded me, so that you may observe them in the land you will take possession of. ⁶ You must carefully follow them, because this will show wisdom and understanding on your part before the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, ‘This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷ For what great nation has gods as near to it as Jehovah our God is to us whenever we call on him? ⁸ And what great nation has righteous regulations and judicial decisions like this entire Law that I am putting before you today?

⁹ “Just be careful and watch yourself closely, so that you may not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that they may not depart from your heart all the days of your life. You must also make them known to your sons and to your grandsons. ¹⁰ On the day that you stood before Jehovah your God in Hor'eb, Jehovah said to me, ‘Congregate the people together to me so that I may let them hear my words, in order that they may learn to fear me all

the days that they are alive on the ground and that they may teach their sons.’

¹¹ “So you came near and stood at the base of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to the very heavens; there was darkness, cloud, and thick gloom. ¹² And Jehovah began to speak to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—there was only a voice. ¹³ And he declared his covenant to you, which he commanded you to observe—the Ten Commandments. Afterward, he wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴ At that time Jehovah commanded me to teach you regulations and judicial decisions, which you are to observe in the land you will enter to take possession of.

¹⁵ “Therefore, watch yourselves closely—since you did not see any form on the day Jehovah spoke to you in Hor'eb out of the middle of the fire— ¹⁶ that you may not act corruptly by making for yourselves any carved image having the form of any symbol, the representation of male or female, ¹⁷ the representation of any animal on the earth or the representation of any bird that flies in the sky, ¹⁸ the representation of anything creeping on the ground or the representation of any fish in the waters under the earth. ¹⁹ And when you raise your eyes to the heavens and see the sun and the moon and the stars—all the army of the heavens—do not get seduced and bow down to them and serve them. Jehovah your God has given them to all the peoples under the whole heavens. ²⁰ But you are the ones Jehovah took and brought out of the iron-smelting furnace,

out of Egypt, to become the people of his personal possession, as you are today.

²¹ “Jehovah became angry with me because of you, and he swore that I should not cross the Jordan or go into the good land that Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.

²² For I am to die in this land; I will not cross the Jordan, but you will cross over and take possession of this good land.

²³ Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of Jehovah your God that he made with you, and do not make for yourselves a carved image, the form of anything forbidden to you by Jehovah your God. ²⁴ For Jehovah your God is a consuming fire, a God who requires exclusive devotion.

²⁵ “If you become father to sons and grandsons and you have lived a long time in the land and you act ruinously and make a carved image of any kind and you do what is evil in the eyes of Jehovah your God so as to offend him, ²⁶ I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today that you will surely and quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of. You will not last long on it, but you will be utterly annihilated.

²⁷ Jehovah will scatter you among the peoples, and just a few of you will survive among the nations to which Jehovah will have driven you. ²⁸ There you will have to serve gods of wood and stone made by human hands, gods that cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

²⁹ “If you search for Jehovah your God from there, you will certainly find him, if you inquire for him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in great distress and

all these things have happened to you in later times, then you will return to Jehovah your God and listen to his voice.

³¹ For Jehovah your God is a merciful God. He will not desert you or bring you to ruin or forget the covenant that he swore to your forefathers.

³² “Ask, now, about the former days before your time, from the day when God created man on the earth; search from one end of the heavens to the other end of the heavens. Has anything so great ever happened or has anything like it ever been heard of? ³³ Have any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of the fire the way you have heard it and kept on living? ³⁴ Or has God ever attempted to take for himself a nation out of the midst of another nation along with judgments, with signs, with miracles, with war, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with terrifying deeds, as Jehovah your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? ³⁵ You yourselves have been shown these things so you will know that Jehovah is the true God; there is no other besides him. ³⁶ He made you hear his voice from the heavens to correct you, and on the earth he made you see his great fire, and his words you heard from out of the fire.

³⁷ “Because he loved your forefathers and has chosen their offspring after them, you were brought out of Egypt in his presence by his great power. ³⁸ From before you he drove away nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in and give you their land as an inheritance, as it is today.

³⁹ Know, therefore, on this day, and take it to heart that Jehovah is the true God in the heavens above and on the

earth beneath. There is no other. ⁴⁰ You must keep his regulations and his commandments that I am commanding you today, in order that it may go well with you and your sons after you, so that you may long remain in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you.”

⁴¹ At that time Moses set apart three cities on the eastern side of the Jordan. ⁴² If any manslayer unintentionally kills his fellow man and he did not previously hate him, he must flee to one of these cities and live. ⁴³ The cities are Be'zer in the wilderness on the tableland for the Reu'ben-ites, Ra'moth in Gil'e-ad for the Gad'ites, and Go'lan in Ba'shan for the Ma-nas'sites.

⁴⁴ Now this is the Law that Moses set before the people of Israel. ⁴⁵ These are the reminders, the regulations, and the judicial decisions that Moses gave to the Israelites after they came out of Egypt, ⁴⁶ in the region of the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth-pe'or, in the land of King Si'hon of the Am'or-ites, who was dwelling in Hesh'bon, whom Moses and the Israelites defeated after coming out of Egypt. ⁴⁷ And they took possession of his land and of the land of King Og of Ba'shan, the two kings of the Am'or-ites who were in the region east of the Jordan, ⁴⁸ from A-ro'er, which is on the rim of the Ar'non Valley, up to Mount Si'on, that is, Her'mon, ⁴⁹ and all the Ar'a-bah in the region east of the Jordan, and as far as the Sea of the Ar'a-bah, at the base of the slopes of Pis'gah.

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

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“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach With Enthusiasm”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Teaching With Enthusiasm*.

Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 68

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 9 ¶18-26, boxes 9A and 9B

 Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God’s laws (De 4:6; *it-2* 1140 ¶5)

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God’s laws (De 4:6; w99 11/1 20 ¶6-7)

Jehovah’s people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations (De 4:7, 8; w07 8/1 29 ¶13)

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What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah’s wise direction?



June 7-13 / Deuteronomy 3-4

Song 98 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

“Jehovah's Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 minutes)

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God's laws

Deuteronomy 4:6: You must carefully follow them, because this will show wisdom and understanding on your part before the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, ‘This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.’

***it-2* 1140 paragraph 5**

Diligence in studying and applying God's Word and commands can enable a person to have greater insight than those set as his teachers and more understanding than those who are older men. (Psalm 119:99, 100, 130; compare Luke 2:46, 47.) This is because wisdom and understanding are, in effect, built into God's pure regulations and judicial decrees; hence Israel's faithful observance of these would cause surrounding nations to view them as “a wise and understanding people.” (Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Psalm 111:7, 8, 10; compare 1 Kings 2:3.) The

understanding person recognizes the inviolability of God's Word, wants to see his own course in relation thereto, and petitions God's aid in this. (Psalm 119:169) He lets God's message sink down deep (Matthew 13:19-23), writes it on the tablet of his heart (Proverbs 3:3-6; 7:1-4), and comes to develop a hatred for "every false path" (Psalm 119:104). God's Son, when on earth, showed understanding in this way, even refusing to seek escape from death on the stake because the fulfillment of the Scriptures called for his dying in that manner.—Matthew 26:51-54.

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God's laws

Deuteronomy 4:6: You must carefully follow them, because this will show wisdom and understanding on your part before the peoples who will hear about all these regulations, and they will say, 'This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.'

w99 11/1 20 paragraphs 6-7

Astounded at what she heard and saw, the queen humbly replied: "Happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly, listening to your wisdom!" (1 Kings 10:4-8) She did not pronounce Solomon's servants happy because they were surrounded by opulence—although they were.

Rather, Solomon's servants were blessed because they could constantly listen to Solomon's God-given wisdom. What a fine example the queen of Sheba is for Jehovah's people today, who bask in the wisdom of the Creator himself and that of his Son, Jesus Christ!

Also noteworthy was the queen's next comment to Solomon: "May Jehovah your God come to be blessed." (1 Kings 10:9) Evidently, she saw Jehovah's hand in Solomon's wisdom and prosperity. This accords with what Jehovah earlier promised to Israel. 'Keeping my regulations,' he said, "is wisdom on your part and understanding on your part before the eyes of the peoples who will hear of all these regulations, and they will certainly say, 'This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people.'"—Deuteronomy 4:5-7.

Jehovah's people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations

Deuteronomy 4:7, 8: For what great nation has gods as near to it as Jehovah our God is to us whenever we call on him? And what great nation has righteous regulations and judicial decisions like this entire Law that I am putting before you today?

w07 8/1 29 paragraph 13

When Jehovah bestows blessings on his people, he always

gives them the best. (James 1:17) For example, when Jehovah gave the Israelites a home, it was “a land flowing with milk and honey.” Although the land of Egypt had also been described that way, the land that Jehovah gave the Israelites was different in at least one vital respect. It was “a land that Jehovah your God is caring for,” Moses told the Israelites. In other words, they would prosper because Jehovah would be looking after them. As long as the Israelites remained faithful to Jehovah, they were richly blessed by him and enjoyed a way of life that was visibly superior to that of all the nations round about. Yes, it is Jehovah’s blessing that “makes rich”—Numbers 16:13; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 11:8-15.

Many people are drawn to Jehovah’s organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God’s laws and principles.

[Image:] A brother at a witnessing cart noticing a man losing his wallet as a woman watches from a nearby café.

[Image:] A brother at a witnessing cart returning a lost wallet to a man as a woman watches from a nearby café.

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Spiritual Gems

Deuteronomy 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition?

Deuteronomy 4:23: Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of Jehovah your God that he made with you, and do not make for yourselves a carved image, the form of anything forbidden to you by Jehovah your God.

w04 9/15 25 paragraph 3

Deuteronomy 4:15-20, 23, 24—*Does the prohibition against making carved images mean that it is wrong to make representations of objects for artistic purposes?* No. The prohibition here was against making images for worship—against ‘bowing down to idols and serving them.’ The Scriptures do not

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 minutes) Deuteronomy 3:1-13 (*th* study 10)

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY Teach With Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is contagious. It can capture the attention of our listeners. It also shows that we value our message. Regardless of our cultural background or personality, we can cultivate enthusiasm. (Ro 12:11) How?

First, think about the importance of your message. You have the privilege to “declare good news of good things!” (Ro 10:15) Second, meditate on the positive effect that the good news can have on your listeners. They really need to hear what you have to say. (Ro 10:13, 14) Finally, speak with zeal, using natural gestures and sincere facial expressions.



WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION *EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING—IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS—TEACHING WITH ENTHUSIASM*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- What dampened Neeta’s enthusiasm for her Bible study with Jade?



- What helped Neeta to rekindle her enthusiasm?



- Why should we focus on the positive qualities of our listeners?

- What effect may our enthusiasm have on our Bible students and others?

Enthusiasm is contagious

LESSON 01

How Can the Bible Help You?

Nearly all of us have questions about life, suffering, death, and the future. We are also concerned about day-to-day matters, such as making a living or having a happy family. Many people find that the Bible not only helps them answer life's big questions but also gives them practical advice for daily living. Do you think that the Bible can help anyone you know?

1. What are some questions that the Bible answers?

The Bible answers these important questions: How did life begin? Why are we here? Why do innocent people suffer? What happens when a person dies? If everyone wants peace, why is there so much war? What will happen to the earth in the future? The Bible encourages us to seek answers to such questions, and millions have found its answers very satisfying.

2. How can the Bible help us to enjoy our daily life?

The Bible gives us good advice. For example, it teaches families how to be truly happy. It offers advice on how to deal with stress and how to enjoy our work. You will learn what the Bible teaches about these topics and much more as we discuss this material together. You may come to agree that “**all Scripture [everything in the Bible] is . . . beneficial.**”—
2 Timothy 3:16.

This publication does not replace the Bible. Rather, it encourages you to examine the Bible for yourself. Therefore, we urge you to read the scriptures that are listed in these lessons and compare them with what you are learning.

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.

Song 98 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 4:23—What was the point of this prohibition? (w04 9/15 25 ¶3)

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.) De 3:1-13 (10)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach With Enthusiasm”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Teaching With Enthusiasm*.

Bible Study: *Iffi* lesson 01 intro and points 1-2 (15)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 68

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 9 ¶18-26, boxes 9A and 9B

 Jehovah’s Laws Are Wise and Just

We show wisdom and understanding when we obey God’s laws (De 4:6; *it-2* 1140 ¶5)

Many who observe our actions recognize the wisdom of God’s laws (De 4:6; w99 11/1 20 ¶6-7)

Jehovah’s people enjoy a way of life far superior to that of the nations (De 4:7, 8; w07 8/1 29 ¶13)

Many people are drawn to Jehovah’s organization when they see the fine conduct of those who live by God’s laws and principles.

What blessings have you enjoyed because of following Jehovah’s wise direction?



Jehovah Keeps His Promises

ANCIENT TIMES

SEE PARAGRAPHS 15-19

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Worship free from idolatry | 4 | Faithful men to take the lead |
| 2 | Return to a fertile homeland | 5 | United in worship at God's temple |
| 3 | Acceptable offerings to Jehovah | | |

with false religious practices, such as idolatry. The people were thus corrupt, alienated from Jehovah. Through Ezekiel, Jehovah foretold that the exiles could look forward to a time when they would once again take part in worship that was clean and undefiled. All other blessings of the restoration would depend on this primary matter: the restoration of God's arrangement for pure worship.

¹⁶ **PROMISE 2.** *A return to their homeland.* "I will give you the land of Israel," Jehovah told the exiles. (Ezek. 11:17) This was a remarkable promise, for the Babylonians, who taunted God's captive people, surely never gave them any hope of returning to their be-

16. Jehovah made what promise regarding his people's homeland?

loved homeland. (Isa. 14:4, 17) Moreover, as long as the returnees remained faithful, the land would prove fertile and productive, supporting them and providing useful work. The disgrace and misery of famine would remain a thing of the past.—**Read Ezekiel 36:30.**

¹⁷ **PROMISE 3.** *The resuming of gift offerings at Jehovah's altar.* As noted in Chapter 2 of this publication, under the Law, sacrifices and offerings formed a vital part of pure worship. As long as the returning exiles remained obedient and spiritually clean, their offerings would be acceptable to Jehovah. The people could thus find atonement for their sins and remain close to their God. Jehovah promised: “The whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve me in the land. I will take pleasure in them there, and I will require your contributions and the firstfruits of your offerings, all your holy things.” (Ezek. 20:40) Pure worship would truly be restored, bringing blessings to God's people.

¹⁸ **PROMISE 4.** *The sifting out of bad shepherds.* A key reason why God's people went so wrong was the

17. What would happen regarding sacrifices to Jehovah?

18. How would Jehovah shepherd his people?

influence of corrupt men who took the lead. Jehovah promised to change that. Regarding such bad shepherds, he promised: “I will dismiss them from feeding my sheep . . . I will rescue my sheep from their mouth.” In contrast, Jehovah assured his faithful people: “I will care for my sheep.” (Ezek. 34:10, 12) How would he do so? He would use faithful, loyal men as shepherds.

¹⁹ **PROMISE 5.** *Unity among worshippers of Jehovah.* Imagine how distressing it was for faithful worshippers to see disunity among God’s people before the exile. Influenced by false prophets and corrupt shepherds, the people rebelled against the faithful prophets who represented Jehovah; the people even broke into opposing factions. Thus, one of the most appealing features of the restoration was this promise through Ezekiel: “I will give them a unified heart, and I will put a new spirit in them.” (Ezek. 11:19) As long as the returning Jews remained at unity with Jehovah God and with one another, no opposer could defeat them. As a nation, they could once again bring glory to Jehovah instead of reproach and dishonor.

19. What did Jehovah promise regarding unity?

²⁰ Were those five promises fulfilled on the Jews who returned from exile? We do well to remember the words of faithful Joshua of old: “Not one word out of all the good promises that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed.” (Josh. 23:14) So it was in Joshua’s day; so it had to be in the days of the exiles who returned to their homeland.

²¹ The Jews gave up idolatry and the other disgusting practices of false religion that had alienated them from Jehovah. Against all likelihood, they resumed living in their homeland, cultivating it and enjoying productive lives there. One of the first things they did was to restore Jehovah’s altar in Jerusalem and make acceptable offerings there. (Ezra 3:2-6) Jehovah blessed them with fine spiritual shepherds, such men as the faithful priest and copyist Ezra, governors Nehemiah and Zerubbabel, High Priest Joshua, and the courageous prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. As long as the people remained responsive to spiritual direction and guidance, they enjoyed a unity

20, 21. How were God’s promises fulfilled on the returning exiles?

WHY 1919?

Why do we say that God’s people were freed from bondage to Babylon the Great in 1919? A combination of Bible prophecy and the facts of history helps us arrive at that conclusion.

Bible prophecy and history show conclusively that Jesus began reigning as King in heaven in 1914, signaling the start of the last days of Satan’s system here on earth. What did Jesus do upon becoming King? Did he immediately free his earthly servants from bondage to Babylon the Great? Did he appoint his “faithful and discreet slave” in 1914 and begin in the great work of the harvest?—Matt. 24:45.

Evidently not. Remember, the apostle Peter was inspired to note that judgment would “start with the house of God.” (1 Pet. 4:17) In a similar vein, the prophet Malachi foretold the time when Jehovah would come to His house of worship accompanied by “the messenger of the covenant,” the Son of God. (Mal. 3:1-5) That time would be a period of refinement and testing. Does history harmonize with those prophetic indications?

It certainly does! The period of 1914 to early 1919 was a difficult time of tests and refinement for the Bible Students, as Jehovah’s Witnesses were then known. In 1914 many of God’s people on earth were disappointed when the end of the system did not arrive as they had hoped. Disappointment deepened in 1916, with the death

of Charles T. Russell, who had been taking a dynamic lead among God's people. Some who were overly attached to Brother Russell actively resisted the efforts of Joseph F. Rutherford, who succeeded Russell in taking the lead. Divisions erupted and almost split the organization in 1917. Then, in 1918, evidently at the instigation of the clergy, Brother Rutherford and seven of his associates were tried, wrongly convicted, and sent to prison. Headquarters in Brooklyn closed down. Clearly, God's people were not yet freed from Babylon the Great!

What happened in 1919, however? Why, things turned around with almost dizzying swiftness! Early in the year, Rutherford and his associates were released from prison. And they got right back to work! Within short order, a landmark convention was planned, and the publication of a new journal, *The Golden Age*, (now *Awake!*) was under way. The new journal was designed for campaigns in the public ministry. Additionally, in each congregation an overseer was appointed to organize and promote the ministry. That same year, the *Bulletin* (now *Our Christian Life and Ministry—Meeting Workbook*) was published to help in organizing the preaching work.

What had happened? Clearly, Christ had freed his people from captivity to Babylon the Great. He had appointed his faithful and discreet slave. The work of harvesting was under way. Ever since that pivotal year of 1919, the work has forged ahead to an astounding degree.

unlike any they had known in a long, long time.—Isa. 61:1-4; **read Jeremiah 3:15.**

²² Without question, the initial fulfillment of Jehovah’s restoration promises was encouraging! Still, that fulfillment was really only a foregleam of something much greater. How do we know that? Well, the promises were conditional; Jehovah would fulfill them only to the extent that the people remained obedient and responsive. In time, the Jews again became disobedient and rebellious. But as Joshua pointed out, Jehovah’s word always comes true. So the promises would see a greater, more lasting fulfillment. Let us see how that came about.

“I Will Take Pleasure in You”

²³ As students of the Bible, we know that this wicked system of things entered its final decline, its last days, in 1914. For servants of Jehovah, though, this is not an era of sad decline. In fact, the Bible indicates that 1914 saw the beginning of a thrilling period —“the times of restoration of all things.” (Acts 3:21)

22. How do we know that the initial fulfillment of the restoration prophecies was only a foregleam of something greater?

23, 24. When and how did “the times of restoration of all things” begin?

Jehovah Keeps His Promises **MODERN TIMES**

SEE PARAGRAPHS 27-31

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Pure worship free from idolatry</p> <p>2 An end to spiritual famine</p> <p>3 Sacrifices of praise offered</p> | <p>4 Faithful men to take the lead</p> <p>5 Global unity of worship</p> |
|---|---|

How do we know that? Well, what happened in heaven in 1914? Jesus Christ was enthroned as the Messianic King! How was that event a restoration? Remember, Jehovah had promised King David that kingship in his family line would endure forever. (1 Chron. 17: 11-14) That kingship was interrupted in 607 B.C.E. when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and ended the rule of the Davidic kings.

²⁴ As “the Son of man,” Jesus was a descendant of David and thus became the legal heir to the Davidic kingship. (Matt. 1:1; 16:13-16; Luke 1:32, 33) In 1914 when Jehovah granted Jesus the heavenly throne, “the times of restoration of all things” began! Now

the way was open for Jehovah to use that perfect King to continue the work of restoration.

²⁵ One of Christ's early actions as King was to join his Father in an inspection of the arrangement for pure worship on the earth. (Mal. 3:1-5) As Jesus had foretold in his illustration of the wheat and the weeds, it had long been impossible to distinguish wheat from weeds, genuine anointed Christians from impostors.*^[2] Now, though, the harvest season arrived in 1914, and the distinction was clear. For decades leading up to 1914, faithful Bible Students had been exposing the gross errors of Christendom and were beginning to separate themselves from that corrupt organization. It was Jehovah's time to restore them fully. So in early 1919, just a few years into "the harvest season," God's people were set completely free from captivity in Babylon the Great. (Matt. 13:30) The exile was over!

²⁶ The restoration prophecies of Ezekiel began to

*^[2] For example, we cannot confirm which of the Reformers of the 16th century may have been anointed Christians.

25, 26. (a) When did the long exile in Babylon the Great come to an end, and how do we know? (See also the box "Why 1919?") (b) What began to see fulfillment from 1919 onward?

see a fulfillment far greater than any that God's people had seen back in ancient times. Let us now consider how the five promises we have already examined have seen a greater fulfillment.

²⁷ **PROMISE 1.** *An end of idolatry and other disgusting religious practices.* At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, faithful Christians were gathering together and were beginning to discard false religious practices. Veneration of a triune God, belief in the immortality of the human soul, and the hellfire doctrine were all cast aside as unscriptural teachings with roots in false religion. The use of images in worship was exposed as outright idolatry. Gradually, God's people also came to see the use of the cross in worship as a form of idolatry.—Ezek. 14:6.

²⁸ **PROMISE 2.** *A restoration to the spiritual land of God's people.* As they left Babylonish religion behind, faithful Christians found themselves in their proper spiritual land, a blessed condition, or environment, where they would never again suffer spiritual famine. **(Read Ezekiel 34:13, 14.)** As we will see further in

27. How did God cleanse his people of idolatry?

28. In what sense were Jehovah's people restored to their land?

“The Joy of Jehovah”

(Nehemiah 8:10)

1. Signs of the times are pointing to the Kingdom.
Good news we tell for all to hear.
Lift up your heads, and look to your salvation;
Time for deliverance is near!

(CHORUS)

The joy of Jehovah is our stronghold.

Sing loud, and raise a joyful cry.

Rejoice in the hope, and show a grateful heart,

All give praise and laud our God on high.

The joy of Jehovah is our stronghold.

His greatness all must come to know.

With constant devotion to our God and King,

Godly joy in service we will show.

2. Look to our God, you lovers of Jehovah.
No need to fear, for he is strong.
Stand up and shout with voices loud as thunder;
Sing to our God a joyful song!

(Chorus)

APRIL 2021

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JUNE 7–JULY 4, 2021

Study Article 14: June 7-13 “Follow His Steps Closely”	2
Study Article 15: June 14-20 Learning From Jesus’ Final Words	14
Study Article 16: June 21-27 Continue Appreciating the Ransom	27
Study Article 17: June 28–July 4 Jehovah Treasures You!	39
LIFE STORY “Now I Love the Ministry!”	52
QUESTIONS FROM READERS	60

COVER PICTURE:

By means of a simple meal, Jesus showed his disciples how to remember his sacrifice (See study article 16, paragraph 16)

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

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) April 2021 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2021 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

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Christ, Our Model

(1 Peter 2:21)

1. What love Jehovah showed,
 What goodness from him flowed,
 When for all mankind he offered his Firstborn.
Christ took on human form—
 The Son of man was born—
 By his example, God's name he adorned.
2. Jehovah's Word, he said,
 Sustained his life like bread.
 It gave him wisdom and knowledge and insight.
His Father's willing slave,
 A model Jesus gave;
 To please his Father would bring him delight.
3. Like Jesus, may our days
 Provide Jehovah praise,
 And may his footsteps become our own roadway.
Let Jesus' model be
 Our path eternally,
 And then God's favor we'll know day by day.

“Follow His Steps Closely”

“Christ suffered for you, leaving a model for you to follow his steps closely.”—1 PET. 2:21.

SONG 13

Christ, Our Model

PREVIEW

As true Christians, we need to “follow [Jesus’] steps closely.” What “steps” did Jesus leave for us to follow? This article will answer that question. It will also discuss why we should follow his steps closely and how we can do it.

IMAGINE that you are part of a group hiking through a dangerous, snow-covered wilderness. An experienced guide is leading you. As he walks, he leaves behind tracks, or footprints, in the soft snow. At some point, you cannot see the guide! But you do not panic. Rather, you and your fellow hikers follow the guide's footprints as closely as you can!

² As true Christians, we are, in a sense, hiking through a dangerous wilderness—this wicked world. Fortunately, Jehovah has provided the perfect Guide—his Son, Jesus Christ, whose steps we can follow closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) According to one Bible reference work, Peter here uses the metaphor of a guide. Like a guide leaving behind tracks, Jesus has left behind footprints, or footsteps, that we can follow. Let us consider three questions about following his footsteps—what? why? and how?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS' FOOTSTEPS?

³ What does it mean to follow someone's footsteps? In the Bible, the words "walk" and "feet" at times refer to a person's course of life. (Gen.

-
- 1-2. How is it possible for us to follow Jesus' steps? Illustrate.
 3. What does it mean to follow someone's footsteps?

6:9; Prov. 4:26) The example a person sets may be compared to footprints, or footsteps, that he leaves behind as he walks. So to follow someone's footsteps means to follow his example, to imitate him.

⁴ What, then, does it mean to follow Jesus' footsteps? Put simply, it means to imitate his example. In our theme text, the apostle Peter is specifically commenting on the fine example Jesus set in the endurance of suffering; however, there are many other ways in which we can imitate Jesus. (1 Pet. 2: 18-25) Really, Jesus' entire life course—everything he said and did—is an example for us to follow.

4. What does it mean to follow Jesus' footsteps?



Jesus has left behind footsteps for us to follow closely
(See paragraphs 1-2)

⁵ As imperfect humans, can we really follow Jesus' example? Yes, we can. Recall that Peter urges us "to follow [Jesus'] steps closely"—not perfectly. If we follow his footsteps carefully, doing the best we can as imperfect humans, we will be heeding the apostle John's words: "Go on walking just as that one [Jesus] walked."—1 John 2:6.

WHY FOLLOW JESUS' FOOTSTEPS?

⁶ *Following Jesus' footsteps will draw us closer to Jehovah.* Why can we say that? First, Jesus set an outstanding example of how to live in a way that pleases God. (John 8:29) So by following Jesus' footsteps, we will please Jehovah. And we can be sure that our heavenly Father will draw close to those who try hard to be his friends.—Jas. 4:8.

⁷ Second, Jesus imitated his Father perfectly. That is why Jesus could say: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9) When we imitate Jesus' qualities and ways of dealing with others—for example, his pity for a leper, his empathy for a woman with a grievous illness, his compassion

5. Can imperfect humans really follow Jesus' perfect example? Explain.

6-7. Why can we say that following Jesus' footsteps will draw us closer to Jehovah?

for the bereaved—we are imitating Jehovah as well. (Mark 1:40, 41; 5:25-34; John 11:33-35) The more we become like Jehovah, the closer we draw to him.

⁸ *Following Jesus' footsteps helps us not to be distracted by this wicked world.* On the final night of his earthly life, Jesus was able to say: "I have conquered the world." (John 16:33) He meant that he had refused to allow himself to be influenced by the thinking, the goals, and the actions of this world. Jesus never allowed himself to lose his focus on the reason he was sent to earth—to vindicate Jehovah. What about us? In this world, there are many things that could distract us. But if, like Jesus, we keep focused on doing Jehovah's will, we too will "conquer" the world.—1 John 5:5.

⁹ *Following Jesus' footsteps leads to everlasting life.* When a rich young man asked what he needed to do to gain everlasting life, Jesus replied: "Come be my follower." (Matt. 19:16-21) To some Jews who did not believe that he was the Christ, Jesus said: "My sheep . . . follow me. I give them everlasting life." (John 10:24-29) To Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin who became interested in Jesus'

8. Explain why following Jesus' footsteps will help us "conquer" the world.

9. What must we do to stay on the road to everlasting life?

teachings, Jesus said that those “exercising faith in him” would “have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) We exercise faith in Jesus by acting on what he taught both by word and by example. If we do that, we will stay on the road to everlasting life.—Matt. 7:14.

HOW CAN WE FOLLOW JESUS’ FOOTSTEPS CLOSELY?

¹⁰ Before we can follow Jesus’ footsteps closely, we must come to know him. (Read John 17:3.) “Coming to know” Jesus is an ongoing process. We must become better and better acquainted with him—learning about his qualities, his thinking, and his standards. No matter how long we have been in the truth, we must keep working at coming to know Jehovah and his Son.

¹¹ To help us come to know his Son, Jehovah lovingly included the four Gospels in his Word. The Gospels contain a historical account of the life and ministry of Jesus. That account tells us what Jesus said, shows us what he did, and reveals to us how he felt. These four books help us to “consider closely” the example of Jesus. (Heb. 12:3) In effect, they contain the footsteps that Jesus left behind. So by

10. What is involved in “coming to know” Jesus better? (John 17:3)

11. What do the four Gospels contain?

examining the Gospels, we can come to know Jesus better and better. As a result, we can follow his steps closely.

¹² To benefit fully from the Gospels, we must do more than just read them. We need to take the time to study them carefully and meditate on them deeply. (Compare Joshua 1:8, footnote.) Let us discuss two suggestions that can help us to meditate on the Gospels and apply what we read in them.

¹³ *First, bring the Gospel accounts to life.* Use your imagination to see, hear, and feel what was happening. To help you do that, do some research in the study aids provided by Jehovah's organization. Examine the context—the events that come before or follow after the passage you are studying. Look for information that explains the background and the circumstances. Compare the account you are studying with a parallel account in another Gospel. Sometimes one Gospel writer includes a meaningful detail that another leaves out.

¹⁴ *Second, apply the Gospel accounts in your life.* (John 13:17) After you have carefully studied a

12. How can we benefit fully from the Gospels?

13. How can you bring the Gospel accounts to life?

14-15. How can we go about applying the Gospel accounts in our life?

Gospel account, ask yourself: ‘Is there a lesson in this account that I can apply in my life? How can I use this account to help someone else?’ Try to think of a specific individual, and then at an appropriate time, lovingly and tactfully share the lesson you learned.

¹⁵ Let us consider an example of how we can apply these two suggestions. We will examine the account of the needy widow whom Jesus observed in the temple.

THE NEEDY WIDOW IN THE TEMPLE

¹⁶ *Bring the account to life.* (Read Mark 12:41.) Picture the scene. It is Nisan 11, 33 C.E.—less than a week before Jesus’ death. Jesus has spent much of the day teaching in the temple. His religious opposers have not made it easy for him. Earlier, some of them questioned his authority. Others tried to corner him with challenging questions. (Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-34) Now Jesus has moved to another part of the temple. Here—likely in the area called the Court of the Women—he can see the treasury chests along the walls of the court. He sits down and begins observing the people as they put

16. Describe the scene recorded at Mark 12:41.

their contributions in the chests. He sees many rich people depositing many coins. Perhaps he is close enough to hear a loud jingling as their coins drop into the chests.

17 Read Mark 12:42. After a while, one woman catches Jesus' attention. She is a poor, "needy widow." (Luke 21:2) Life is very difficult for her; she likely struggles to obtain the basic necessities of life. Yet, she goes to one of the chests and discreetly puts in two small coins, which perhaps hardly make a sound as they are dropped into the chest. Jesus knows what she deposited—two lepta coins, the smallest coins in circulation at the time. That is not even enough money to buy a single sparrow, among the cheapest birds sold for food.

18 Read Mark 12:43, 44. Jesus is deeply impressed by this widow. So he calls his disciples, draws their attention to the widow, and says: "This poor widow put in more than all the others." Then he explains: "They [especially the rich people] all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her want, put in everything she had, all she had to live on." When this faithful widow gave her last bit of mon-

17. What did the poor widow mentioned at Mark 12:42 do?

18. According to Mark 12:43, 44, what did Jesus say about the widow's contribution?



Like Jesus, commend others who
are giving Jehovah their best
(See paragraphs 19-20)

ey that day, she was putting her life in Jehovah's caring hands.—Ps. 26:3.

19 Apply the account in your life. Ask yourself, 'What lesson can I learn from Jesus' words about the poor widow?' Think about that widow. No doubt she wished that she could have given more to Jehovah. Yet, she did what she could; she gave Jehovah her very best. And Jesus knew that her contribution was precious in his Father's eyes. Here, then, is an important lesson for us: Jehovah is pleased when we give him our best—our wholehearted and

19. What important lesson can we learn from Jesus' words about the poor widow?

whole-souled service. (Matt. 22:37; Col. 3:23) Jehovah is happy when he sees us doing all we can! That principle applies to the amount of time and energy we can devote to our worship, including the ministry and the meetings.

²⁰ How can you apply the lesson from the account about the widow? Try to think of specific individuals who may need to be reassured that their efforts are pleasing to Jehovah. For example, do you know of an older sister who perhaps feels guilty or useless because she no longer has the health or energy to do as much as she used to in the ministry? Or can you think of a brother with a chronic, painful illness who gets discouraged because he cannot be at the Kingdom Hall for every meeting? Help such ones by speaking words that are “good for building up.” (Eph. 4:29) Share with them the heartwarming lesson we learned from the account about the poor widow. Your encouraging words can reassure them that Jehovah is pleased when we give him our best. (Prov. 15:23; 1 Thess. 5:11) When you commend others for giving Jehovah their best—no matter how small it may seem—you are following Jesus’ footsteps closely.

20. How can you apply the lesson from the account about the widow? Give an example.

²¹ How thankful we are that the Gospel accounts provide so many details about Jesus' life, enabling us to imitate him, to follow his footsteps closely! Why not have a personal study or Family Worship project that focuses on the Gospels? Let us remember that to benefit fully from such a study, we need to bring the accounts to life and apply them in our life. In addition to imitating what Jesus *did*, we need to listen to what he *said*. In the next article, we will consider what we can learn from Jesus' final words as a human.

21. What are you determined to do?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 11: After meditating on what Jesus said about the poor widow, a sister commends an older sister for her whole-souled service.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What does it mean to follow Jesus' footsteps?
- Why should we follow Jesus' footsteps?
- How can we benefit fully from a study of the Gospels?

SONG 15

Praise Jehovah's Firstborn!

15 *Praise Jehovah's Firstborn!*

(Hebrews 1:6)

1. Praise Jehovah's Firstborn,
 God's duly appointed King.
He reigns for truth and justice;
 Rich blessings his rule will bring.

With dignity and splendor
 And love for God's great name,
He'll vindicate Jehovah,
 His sov'reignty proclaim.

(CHORUS)

*Praise Jehovah's Firstborn!
All praise God's anointed Son.
Installed upon Mount Zion,
His Kingship has now begun!*

2. Praise Jehovah's Firstborn,
 Who died so that we may live.
He humbly paid the ransom;
 Our sins God can now forgive.

The bride of Christ awaits him,
 Adorned for him in white.
This marriage in the heavens
 Will prove God's rule is right.

(Chorus)