



# ENJOY LIFE FOREVER!

AN INTERACTIVE BIBLE COURSE

# Get Started Reading the Bible

You can enjoy reading the Bible! Here are some ideas to help you get started. Choose a topic that interests you, and read the cited scriptures.

## Famous People and Stories

- Noah and the Flood: [Genesis 6:9–9:19](#)
- Moses at the Red Sea: [Exodus 13:17–14:31](#)
- Ruth and Naomi: [Ruth chapters 1–4](#)
- David and Goliath: [1 Samuel chapter 17](#)
- Abigail: [1 Samuel 25:2–35](#)
- Daniel in the lions' den: [Daniel chapter 6](#)
- Elizabeth and Mary: [Luke chapters 1–2](#)

## Wisdom for Daily Living

- Family life: [Ephesians 5:28, 29, 33; 6:1–4](#)
- Friendships: [Proverbs 13:20; 17:17; 27:17](#)
- Prayer: [Psalm 55:22; 62:8; 1 John 5:14](#)
- Sermon on the Mount: [Matthew chapters 5–7](#)
- Work: [Proverbs 14:23; Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13; 4:6](#)

## When You Need Help With . . .

- Discouragement: [Psalm 23; Isaiah 41:10](#)
- Grief: [2 Corinthians 1:3, 4; 1 Peter 5:7](#)
- Guilt: [Psalm 86:5; Ezekiel 18:21, 22](#)

## What the Bible Says About . . .

- The last days: [Matthew 24:3–14;](#)  
[2 Timothy 3:1–5](#)
- Hope for the future: [Psalm 37:10, 11, 29;](#)  
[Revelation 21:3, 4](#)

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**TIP:** To see the context of the scriptures cited above, read the entire chapter(s) that contains those verses. Use the chart “Track Your Bible Reading” at the end of this publication to mark off each chapter as you read it. Make it your goal to read a portion of the Bible each day.



# ENJOY LIFE FOREVER!

AN INTERACTIVE BIBLE COURSE

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“Those seeking Jehovah will praise him. May you enjoy life forever.”

—Psalm 22:26.

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*Enjoy Life Forever!  
—An Interactive Bible Course*

English (If-E)  
July 2024 Printing

© 2021 WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Publishers  
Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., Wallkill, New York, U.S.A.  
Made in U.S.A.

# How to get the most out of this Bible course

First consider this overview, and then [play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO:** Welcome to Your Bible Study (2:45)



To find the **VIDEO**, scan code or go to the publication *Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org

## FIRST PART

To prepare for each lesson, read the first part. Bold questions (**A**) and scriptures (**B**) emphasize the main points. Note that some scriptures are marked to “read.”



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 know that the Bible can help answer your questions?

1. **What does the Bible say?**

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 world? These are just a few of the many questions people ask. 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 money and how to enjoy our work. It gives sound advice about health, safety, and many other things, 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.

5

A

**JOHN 16:33–17:24**

you will have tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world.”

B

**17** Jesus spoke these things, and raising his eyes to heaven, he said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your son so that your son may glorify you, **2** just as you have given him authority over all flesh, so that he may give everlasting life to all those whom you have given to him. **3** This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. **4** I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work which you gave me to do.”

C

## How to find Bible verses

The Bible is a collection of 66 smaller books. It is divided into two sections: the Hebrew-Aramaic Scriptures (“Old Testament”) and the Christian Greek Scriptures (“New Testament”).

When a scripture is cited in this course, it is indicated by the name of the **Bible book (A)**, followed by the **chapter (B)**, and the **verse or verses (C)**.

For example, **John 17:3** refers to the book of John, chapter 17, verse 3.

A

B

## MIDDLE PART

The initial statement (**C**) under *Dig Deeper* explains what follows. Subheadings (**D**) outline the discussion. With a teacher, read the scriptures, answer the questions, and watch the videos. Consider the artwork and captions (**E**), and think of how to answer what *Some People Say* (**F**).

**DIG DEEPER**

Consider how the Bible has helped people, how you can enjoy reading it, and why it is good to get help to understand it.

**D** 3. The Bible can guide us

The Bible is like a powerful light. We can use the Bible to show us how to make good decisions and to help us see what lies ahead. **Read Pages 139-140,** and then discuss these questions:

- How did the writer of this psalm view the Bible?
- How do you view the Bible?

**VIDEO: Never Give Up Hope! (D.4B)**

**4. The Bible can answer our questions**

One man found that reading the Bible provided answers to questions that had troubled him for many years. **Play the VIDEO,** and then discuss the questions that follow:

- How did studying the Bible help her?
- What questions do you have that the Bible may be able to answer?

**VIDEO: Bible Reading (2:05)**

**5. You can enjoy reading the Bible**

Many people enjoy reading the Bible and are benefiting from it. **Play the VIDEO,** and then discuss the questions that follow:

- In the video, how did the young people feel about reading in general?
- Why do they now feel differently about reading the Bible?

The Bible says it can give us instruction that comforts us and gives us hope. **Read Romans 15:4,** and then discuss this question:

- Does the Bible's promise of comfort and hope interest you?

**6. Others can help us to understand the Bible**

In addition to reading the Bible on their own, many have found that discussing it with others is helpful. **Read Acts 8:26-31,** and then discuss the questions that follow:

- How can we understand the Bible?—See verses 30 and 31.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY: "Studying the Bible is a waste of time."**

- What would you say? Why?

**SUMMARY**

The Bible offers advice for daily life, answers important questions, and gives people comfort and hope.

**G**

**Review**

- What kind of advice can we find in the Bible?
- What are some questions that the Bible answers?
- What would you like to learn from the Bible?

**E**

**Lesson completed on**

**Goal**

Read the first part of the next lesson.

**H**

**Other:**

**I**

**Explore**

Consider how the Bible's advice is practical today. **Read Page 140,** "Timesless Wisdom" (The Watchtower No. 1 2018)

**VIDEO: See how the Bible helped one man who had struggled with his anger since childhood. **Read Happy New Life Begins!** (D.14A)**

**VIDEO: Examine the Biblical practical advice for family life. **"12 Secrets of Successful Families"** (Awake! No. 2 2018)**

**VIDEO: Learn how the Bible clears up a common misconception about who really rules the world. **"Paul Urges You to Study the Bible!"** (D.14B)**

To find all media for LESSON D, scan code or go to the publication *Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org

**VIDEO** boxes direct you to multimedia that supplement the text. Some videos present real accounts. Others are dramatizations that do not portray real events or people but depict realistic situations.

## LAST PART

**Summary and Review (G)** wrap up the lesson. Enter the date when the lesson is completed. **Goal (H)** gives you something to work on. **Explore (I)** contains optional information for you to read or watch.

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# SECTION 1

*Focus: Consider how the Bible can help you and how you can get to know its Author*



## LESSONS

- 01** How Can the Bible Help You?
- 02** The Bible Gives Hope
- 03** Can You Trust the Bible?
- 04** Who Is God?
- 05** The Bible Is God's Message to Us
- 06** How Did Life Begin?
- 07** What Is Jehovah Like?
- 08** You Can Be Jehovah's Friend
- 09** Draw Close to God Through Prayer
- 10** How Can the Meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses Benefit You?
- 11** How You Can Get the Most Out of the Bible
- 12** What Will Help You to Keep Studying the Bible?



# 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.*

## DIG DEEPER

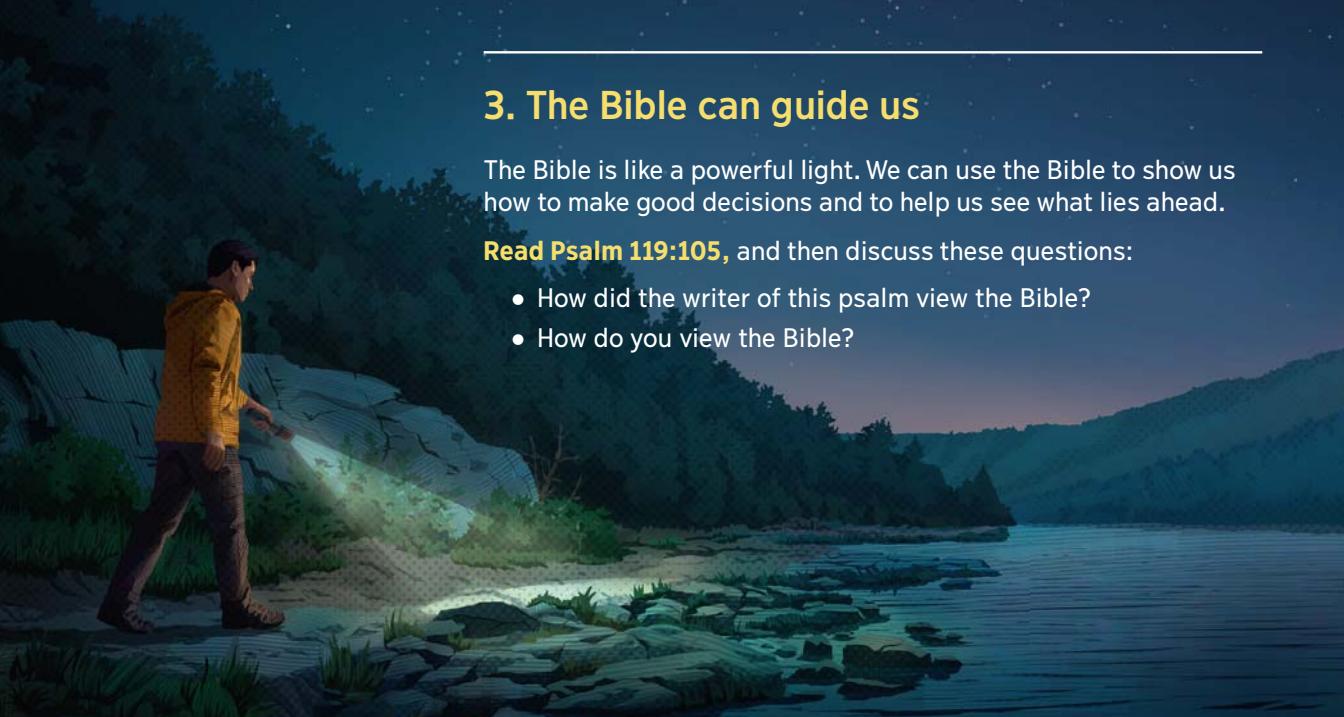
Consider how the Bible has helped people, how you can enjoy reading it, and why it is good to get help to understand it.

### 3. The Bible can guide us

The Bible is like a powerful light. We can use the Bible to show us how to make good decisions and to help us see what lies ahead.

**Read Psalm 119:105**, and then discuss these questions:

- How did the writer of this psalm view the Bible?
- How do you view the Bible?



**VIDEO:** Never Give Up Hope!  
(1:48)

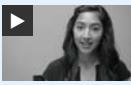
### 4. The Bible can answer our questions

One woman found that the Bible provided answers to questions that had troubled her for many years. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, what sort of questions did this woman have?
- How did studying the Bible help her?

The Bible encourages us to ask questions. **Read Matthew 7:7**, and then discuss the following:

- What questions do you have that the Bible may be able to answer?



**VIDEO:** *Bible Reading (2:05)*

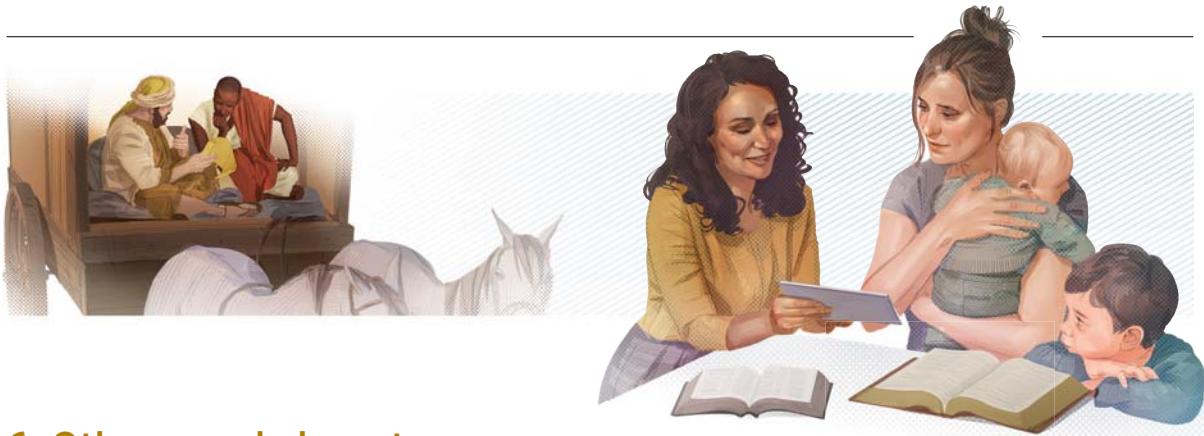
## 5. You can enjoy reading the Bible

Many people enjoy reading the Bible and are benefiting from it. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, how did the young people feel about reading in general?
- Why do they now feel differently about reading the Bible?

The Bible says it can give us instruction that comforts us and gives us hope. [Read Romans 15:4](#), and then discuss this question:

- Does the Bible's promise of comfort and hope interest you?



## 6. Others can help us to understand the Bible

In addition to reading the Bible on their own, many have found that discussing it with others is helpful. [Read Acts 8:26-31](#), and then discuss this question:

- How can we understand the Bible?—See verses 30 and 31.

The Ethiopian man needed help to understand the Scriptures. Many people today find it helpful to discuss the Bible with others

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Studying the Bible is a waste of time.”

- What would you say? Why?

## SUMMARY

The Bible offers advice for daily life, answers important questions, and gives people comfort and hope.

## Review

- What kind of advice can we find in the Bible?
- What are some questions that the Bible answers?
- What would you like to learn from the Bible?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Read the first part of the next lesson.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider how the Bible's advice is practical today.

**"Bible Teachings  
—Timeless Wisdom"**  
(*The Watchtower* No. 1 2018)



See how the Bible helped a man who had struggled with his emotions since childhood.

***How My Happy New Life Began***



Examine the Bible's practical advice for family life.

**"12 Secrets of Successful Families"** (*Awake!* No. 2 2018)



Learn how the Bible clears up a common misconception about who really rules the world.

***Why Study the Bible?  
—Full Length***



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# The Bible Gives Hope

People around the world deal with problems that cause them to feel sadness, anxiety, and even pain. Have you ever faced a situation that made you feel those things? Perhaps you are suffering because of an illness or because someone you love has died. You may ask yourself, ‘Will life ever get better?’ The Bible provides a reassuring answer to that question.

## 1. How does the Bible give hope?

The Bible not only explains why the world is filled with problems but also shares the good news that these problems are temporary and will soon be gone. The Bible’s promises can “**give you a future and a hope.**” (Read Jeremiah 29:11, 12.) Those promises help us to cope with our present problems, to have a positive attitude, and to find lasting happiness.

## 2. What kind of future does the Bible describe?

The Bible describes a future time when “**death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore.**” (Read Revelation 21:4.) The problems that can make life seem hopeless today—such as poverty, injustice, sickness, and death—will no longer exist. The Bible promises that humans will be able to enjoy life forever in Paradise on earth.

## 3. How can you build up your trust in the hope the Bible gives?

Many people hope for good things to happen, but they cannot be sure that their hopes will ever be fulfilled. What the Bible promises is different. We can build up our trust in what it says by “**carefully examining the Scriptures.**” (Acts 17:11) As you study the Bible, you will be able to decide for yourself whether you can believe what it says about the future.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine some of the conditions that the Bible promises for the future. See how the hope the Bible gives is helping people today.



### 4. The Bible offers the hope of everlasting life in perfect conditions

Look at the following list of promises found in the Bible. Which ones especially appeal to you? Why?

**Read the scriptures** cited next to those promises, and consider these questions:

- Do you feel that these scriptures give hope? Could they give hope to your family and friends?

Picture living in a world where

#### NO ONE WILL . . .

- feel pain, weaken with age, or have to die.—Isaiah 25:8.
- get sick or live with a disability.  
—Isaiah 33:24; 35:5, 6.
- experience injustice.  
—Isaiah 32:16, 17.
- suffer as a result of war.  
—Psalm 46:9.
- be plagued by troubling thoughts or memories.—Isaiah 65:17.

#### EVERYONE WILL . . .

- see dead loved ones resurrected, brought back to life on earth.—John 5:28, 29.
- enjoy good health and youthful energy.—Job 33:25.
- have plenty to eat, a comfortable home, and satisfying work.—Psalm 72:16; Isaiah 65:21, 22.
- experience complete peace.—Psalm 37:11.
- live forever in ideal conditions.—Psalm 37:29.



## 5. The Bible's hope can make a difference



**VIDEO: I Wanted to Fight Injustice**  
(4:07)



Many people are discouraged or even angered by the problems they see around them. Some fight to try to change things for the better. See how the Bible's promise that things will get better helps people now. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, what injustice troubled Rafika?
- Although the injustice that she saw did not go away, how did the Bible help her?

The hope that the Bible offers for the future can help us to battle discouragement and cope with our problems successfully. [Read Proverbs 17:22 and Romans 12:12](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think that the message of hope found in the Bible could make a difference in your life now? Why?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "The Bible's promises for the future are too good to be true."

- Why do you think it is important to examine the evidence?

## SUMMARY

The Bible gives us hope and helps us to cope with challenges by promising a future filled with happiness.

## Review

- Why do people need hope?
- What does the Bible say about the future?
- How can having a hope for the future help you now?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Become more familiar with the Bible's promises by reading the verses listed in this lesson.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn more about the power of hope.

**"Hope—Where Can You Find It?"** (*Awake!*, April 22, 2004)



Discover how hope for the future can help those who are living with chronic illness.

**"Living With Chronic Illness—Can the Bible Help?"**  
(Web article)



When you watch this music video, picture yourself and your family enjoying life in the Bible's promised future Paradise.

*Imagine the Time*



Read how a social activist's life changed once he learned the Bible's hope for the future.

**"I No Longer Feel That I Have to Change the World"**  
(*The Watchtower*, July 1, 2013)



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# Can You Trust the Bible?

The Bible makes many promises and offers much advice. Likely you are curious about what it teaches, but perhaps you are also cautious. Should you trust promises and advice from such an old book? Can you really believe what the Bible says about enjoying life now and in the future? Millions of people do. Let us see whether you can too.

## 1. Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?

The Bible claims to be a record of “**accurate words of truth.**” (Ecclesiastes 12:10) It relates real events that involved real people. (Read Luke 1:3; 3: 1, 2.) Many historians and archaeologists have confirmed the accuracy of important dates, people, places, and events described in the Bible.

## 2. Why can we say that the Bible is not out-of-date?

In many ways, the Bible has proved to be ahead of its time. For example, it touches on scientific subjects. Much of what it says on those subjects was controversial when it was written. However, modern science confirms that what the Bible says is accurate. It is “**always reliable, now and forever.**” —Psalm 111:8.

## 3. Why can we trust what the Bible says about the future?

The Bible contains prophecies\* that foretell “**the things that have not yet been done.**” (Isaiah 46:10) It accurately foretold numerous historical events long before they occurred. It also described today’s world conditions in striking detail. In this lesson, we will examine some of the Bible’s prophecies. Their accuracy is amazing!

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\* Prophecies include messages from God about future events.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine how modern science agrees with the Bible, and investigate a few impressive Bible prophecies.

### 4. Science agrees with the Bible

In ancient times, most people believed that the earth rested upon something. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO:** *The Earth Hangs Upon Nothing* (1:13)

Notice what was recorded in the book of Job some 3,500 years ago.

[Read Job 26:7](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why is the statement that the earth is suspended “upon nothing” surprising?

It was not until the 1800’s that the earth’s water cycle was well understood. Yet, notice what the Bible stated thousands of years ago. [Read Job 36:27, 28](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Why is this simple description of the water cycle remarkable?
- Do the scriptures you just read strengthen your trust in the Bible?



**VIDEO:** *The Bible Foretold the Fall of Babylon* (0:58)

### 5. The Bible foretold important events

[Read Isaiah 44:27–45:2](#), and then discuss this question:

- What details did the Bible foretell 200 years before the fall of Babylon?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

History confirms that King Cyrus of Persia and his army conquered the city of Babylon in 539 B.C.E.\* They diverted the river that protected the city. After entering the city through gates that had been left open, they captured it without a battle. Today, over 2,500 years later, Babylon lies in ruins. Note what the Bible foretold.

**Read Isaiah 13:19, 20, and then discuss this question:**

- How does what happened to Babylon confirm the fulfillment of this prophecy?

\* B.C.E. means “Before the Common Era,” and C.E. means “Common Era.”



Babylon's ruins in modern-day Iraq

## 6. The Bible foretold things we see today

The Bible refers to our time as “the last days.”  
(2 Timothy 3:1) Notice what the Bible foretold about this time period.

**Read Matthew 24:6, 7, and then discuss this question:**

- What significant conditions did the Bible say would exist during the last days?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and then discuss these questions:**

- What common attitudes of people during the last days did the Bible describe?
- Which of these attitudes have you observed?



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “The Bible is a book of myths and legends.”

- In your opinion, what is the strongest evidence that the Bible is trustworthy?

## SUMMARY

History, science, and prophecy all indicate that you can trust the Bible.

## Review

- Is the Bible a book of fact or fiction?
- What are some areas where science agrees with the Bible?
- Do you think that the Bible foretells the future? Why, or why not?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- To strengthen your trust in the Bible, read or watch one of the items in the Explore section.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Are there scientific errors in the Bible?

**“Does Science Agree With the Bible?”** (Web article)



What are the facts about “the last days”?

**“6 Bible Prophecies You Are Seeing Fulfilled”**  
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2011)



Learn how Bible prophecies about the Greek Empire came true.

**Fortified by  
“the Prophetic Word”**



Discover how Bible prophecies changed one man’s view of the Bible.

**“For Me, God Did Not Exist”**  
(*The Watchtower* No. 5 2017)



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# Who Is God?

Nearly as long as humans have existed, they have worshipped many gods and goddesses. Yet, the Bible refers to one God who “is greater than all the other gods.” (2 Chronicles 2:5) Who is that? And what makes him greater than all the other gods that people worship? In this lesson, learn how this God introduces himself to you.

## 1. What is God’s name, and how can we be sure that he wants us to know it?

In the Bible, God introduces himself to us. He says: “**I am Jehovah. That is my name.**” (Read Isaiah 42:5, 8.) “Jehovah” is the translation of a Hebrew name that evidently means “He Causes to Become.” Jehovah wants us to know his name. (Exodus 3:15) How can we be sure of that? In the Bible he included his name over 7,000 times!\* The name Jehovah belongs to “the true God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.”—Deuteronomy 4:39.

## 2. What does the Bible reveal about Jehovah?

The Bible says that among all the gods worshipped by humans, Jehovah is the only true God. Why? There are several reasons. Jehovah has supreme authority, and he alone is “**the Most High over all the earth.**” (Read Psalm 83:18.) He is “the Almighty,” which means he has the power to do whatever he chooses to do. He “created all things”—the universe and all life on earth. (Revelation 4:8, 11) Unlike anyone else, Jehovah has always existed, and he will exist forever.—Psalm 90:2.

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\* For more information about the meaning of God’s name and why some Bible translations have removed it, see Appendix A4 in the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine the difference between God's titles and his unique name. Then learn how and why he revealed his name to you.

# JEHOVAH



**VIDEO:** *Many Titles, but One Name* (0:41)

### 3. God has many titles, but one name

To see the difference between a person's title and his name, **play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.

- What is the difference between a title, such as "Lord," and a name?

The Bible acknowledges that people worship many gods and lords. **Read Psalm 136:1-3**, and then discuss this question:

- Who is "the God of gods" and "the Lord of lords"?



### **VIDEO: Does God Have a Name?—Excerpt (3:11)**



## 4. Jehovah wants you to know and use his name

What shows that Jehovah wants you to know his name?  
[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Do you think Jehovah wants his name to be known? Why?

Jehovah wants people to use his name. [Read Romans 10:13](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How important is it to use God's name, Jehovah?
- How do you feel when someone remembers your name and uses it?
- How do you think Jehovah feels when you use his name?

## 5. Jehovah wants you to get closer to him

A woman from Cambodia named Soten said that learning God's name helped her to enjoy "the best feeling on earth."

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- In the video, how did learning God's name affect Soten?

Before you become someone's friend, you usually learn his or her name. [Read James 4:8a](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What does Jehovah invite you to do?
- How might knowing and using God's name help you to feel closer to him?



### **VIDEO: My Search for the True God (8:18)**



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "There's only one God, so it doesn't matter what you call him."

- Do you believe that Jehovah is God's name?
- How would you explain that God wants us to use his name?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah is the name of the only true God. He wants us to know and use that name so that we can draw close to him.

## Review

- How is Jehovah different from all the other gods that people worship?
- Why should we use God's name?
- What shows that Jehovah wants you to draw close to him?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- When talking about God, use his name, Jehovah.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Examine five compelling lines of reasoning that give proof God exists.

**"Does God Exist?"** (Web article)



Consider why believing that God has always existed makes sense.

**"Who Made God?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, August 1, 2014)



Learn why we should use God's name, even if its ancient pronunciation is unknown.

**"Who Is Jehovah?"**  
(Web article)



Does it matter what we call God? See why we can say that he has just one personal name.

**"How Many Names Does God Have?"** (Web article)



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# The Bible Is God's Message to Us

Jehovah has given us a wonderful gift—66 books collected into one volume, the Bible. But you may wonder: ‘Where did the Bible come from? Who is its author?’ To answer these questions, let us discuss how God’s message in the Bible has come to us.

## 1. If men wrote the Bible, how is God its Author?

The Bible was written by some 40 writers over a span of about 1,600 years, from 1513 B.C.E. to about 98 C.E. And the writers came from many backgrounds. Still, all parts of the Bible agree. How is this possible? Because God is the Author of the Bible. (Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.) The writers did not record their own thoughts. Rather, they “**spoke from God as they were moved by holy spirit.”**\* (2 Peter 1:21) God used his holy spirit to inspire, or motivate, men to record his thoughts.—2 Timothy 3:16.

## 2. Who has access to the Bible?

“**Every nation and tribe and tongue and people**” can benefit from the good news found in the Bible. (Read Revelation 14:6.) God made sure that the Bible would be available in more languages than any other book in history. Almost everyone has access to the Bible. This is true no matter where people live or what language they speak.

## 3. How has Jehovah preserved the Bible?

The Bible was written on materials that do not last long, such as leather and papyrus. But men who loved the Bible carefully copied and recopied it by hand. Even though powerful people tried to eliminate the Bible, others were willing to risk their lives to safeguard it. Jehovah has not let anyone or anything stop him from communicating with us. The Bible says: “**The word of our God endures forever.**”—Isaiah 40:8.

\* As will be explained in Lesson 07, the holy spirit is God’s active force.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn more about how God inspired men to write the Bible, how he preserved it, and how he made it available to humankind.



A secretary may write the letter, but its message came from the person who dictated it. Likewise, humans wrote the Bible, but its message came from God.

### 4. The Bible reveals its Author

[Play the VIDEO.](#) Then [read 2 Timothy 3:16](#), and discuss the questions that follow.



[VIDEO: Who Is the Author of the Bible?—Excerpt \(2:48\)](#)

- If men wrote the Bible, why is it called the Word of God?
- Do you think it is reasonable to believe that God could transmit his thoughts to human writers?



[VIDEO: They Valued the Bible—Excerpt \(William Tyndale\) \(6:17\)](#)

### 5. The Bible survived attacks

If the Bible is from God, we would expect him to preserve it. Throughout history, powerful men have tried to destroy the Bible. Religious leaders have tried to hide it. But despite opposition and the threat of death, many people have risked their lives to protect the Bible. To learn about one such man, [play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Does knowing that so much was done to preserve the Bible make you want to read it? Why?

[Read Psalm 119:97](#), and then discuss this question:

- What has motivated many people to risk their lives to translate and distribute the Bible?

## 6. A book for all people

The Bible is the most widely translated and distributed book in history.

**Read Acts 10:34, 35**, and then discuss these questions:

- Why does God want his Word to be so widely translated and distributed?
- What appeals to you about the Bible?

Nearly  
**100%**  
of the world's  
population

have access to the  
Bible in a language they  
understand



Available  
in over  
**3,000**  
languages  
in whole or in part

# 5,000,000,000

The estimated number of copies produced,  
far more than any other book

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “The Bible is just an old book written by humans.”

- What do you think?
- What evidence suggests that the Bible is God’s Word?

## SUMMARY

The Bible is God's Word, and he has made sure that it has become available to all humankind.

## Review

- What does it mean when we say that God inspired men to write the Bible?
- What impresses you about the Bible's survival, translation, and distribution?
- How does knowing that God has made such an effort to communicate with you make you feel?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Begin reading the Bible regularly, using the chart "Get Started Reading the Bible."
- Other:

## EXPLORE



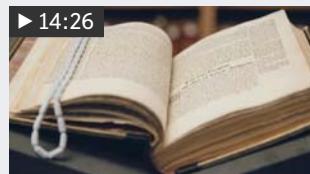
Read about the Bible's history—from the original manuscripts to modern translations.

**"How the Bible Came to Us"**  
(Awake!, November 2007)



Learn how the Bible has survived three major threats to its existence.

**"The Bible—A Story of Survival"** (*The Watchtower* No. 4 2016)



See the risks that people took to translate the Bible.

***They Valued the Bible***



The Bible has been copied and translated many times. How can you be sure its message has been accurately preserved?

**"Has the Bible Been Changed or Tampered With?"**  
(Web article)



To find all media for LESSON 05,  
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# How Did Life Begin?

“With [God] is the source of life.” (Psalm 36:9) Do you believe that? Some people think that life came from random, undirected events. If that is true, then we exist only because of an accident. But if Jehovah God created life, it would have a purpose, would it not?\* Consider the Bible’s account of the origin of life and also why that account is reasonable.

## 1. How did the universe begin?

The Bible states: “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**” (Genesis 1:1) Most scientists agree that the universe had a beginning. How did God create it? He used his “active force”—his holy spirit—to make everything in the universe, including galaxies, stars, and planets. —Genesis 1:2.

## 2. Why did God create the earth?

Jehovah “**did not create [the earth] simply for nothing, but formed it to be inhabited.**” (Isaiah 45:18) He made our planet to be a comfortable and permanent home for humans. (Read Isaiah 40:28; 42:5.) Science reveals that the earth is unique. It is the only known planet that can sustain human life.

## 3. What makes humans unlike the animals?

After he made the earth, Jehovah created life on it. First, he filled the earth with plants and animals. Then, “**God went on to create the man in his image.**” (Read Genesis 1:27.) What makes humans unique? Since we are made in God’s image, we can reflect his qualities, such as love and justice. He also created us with the ability to learn languages, appreciate art, and enjoy music. And unlike any animal, we can worship our Creator.

---

\* Lesson 25 will discuss God’s purpose for humans.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider the evidence that life was designed and that the Bible's creation account is reasonable. Learn what the qualities in humans teach us about God.



**VIDEO:** *Belief in God* (2:43)

### 4. Life was designed

Humans get credit for the designs they copy from nature. So who should get credit for the originals? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- What have human designers copied from nature?

Every house is designed and built by someone. But who designed and built the things in nature? [Read Hebrews 3:4](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What designs in the natural world impress you?
- Is it reasonable to believe that the universe and everything in it were designed? Why?

"Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but the one who constructed all things is God"





### **VIDEO: Was the Universe Created?**

—Excerpt (3:51)



## **5. The Bible's creation account is reasonable**

In Genesis chapter 1, the Bible describes the origin of the earth and life on it. Can you trust that account, or is it just a myth? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Does the Bible teach that the earth and life on it were created in six 24-hour days?
- Do you think that the Bible's account of creation is logical and reasonable? Why, or why not?

[Read Genesis 1:1](#), and then discuss this question:

- Scientists say that the universe had a beginning. How does their conclusion compare with what you just read in the Bible?

Some people wonder if God used evolution to create life.

[Read Genesis 1:21, 25, 27](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Does the Bible teach that God made a simple life-form and then let it evolve into fish, mammals, and humans? Or did he *create* all the basic “kinds” of life?\*

\* In the Bible, the word “kind” refers to a broad group of living things.

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## **6. Humans are a unique creation of God**

We are unlike the animals that Jehovah created. [Read Genesis 1:26](#), and then discuss this question:

- Because we are made in God's image, what does our ability to show love and compassion suggest about God's personality?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “The Bible's account of creation is a myth.”

- What do you think? Why?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah created the universe and all life.

## Review

- What does the Bible teach about the origin of the universe?
- Did God let the different kinds of life evolve from a simple life-form, or did he *create* them all?
- What is unique about humans?

## EXPLORE



Discover the design reflected in nature.

**"What Does Nature Teach?"**  
(Awake!, September 2006)



See how a father can explain the Bible's creation account to his young son.

**"Jehovah . . .  
Created All Things"**



Consider whether evolution is compatible with the Bible.

**"Did God Use Evolution to Create the Different Types of Life?"** (Web article)



Examine whether the fossil record or scientific experiments suggest that life was created or that it originated by chance.

***The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*** (brochure)

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Read an article or watch a video from the series "Was It Designed?" on jw.org.
- Other:



To find all media for LESSON 06,  
scan code or go to the publication  
*Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org



# What Is Jehovah Like?

When you think of Jehovah God, what comes to your mind? Is he awe-inspiring but far away from you, like the stars of a distant galaxy? Or do you imagine him to be powerful but without a personality, like a thunderstorm? What is Jehovah really like? Through his Word, the Bible, Jehovah reveals some of his qualities, as well as his interest in you.

## 1. Why are we unable to see God?

**“God is a Spirit.”** (John 4:24) Jehovah does not have a physical body. He is a Spirit who lives in heaven, a place that we cannot see.

## 2. What are some aspects of Jehovah’s personality?

Although Jehovah is invisible, he is a real Person with qualities that endear him to those who know him. The Bible says: “Jehovah loves justice, and he will not abandon his loyal ones.” (Psalm 37:28) He is also **“very tender in affection and merciful,”** especially toward people who are suffering. (James 5:11) “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are discouraged.” (Psalm 34:18, footnote) And did you know that Jehovah is affected by the way we act? A person who chooses to do bad things disappoints him and makes him sad. (Psalm 78:40, 41) But a person who does what is right makes him happy.—Read Proverbs 27:11.

## 3. How does Jehovah show that he loves us?

Jehovah’s most outstanding quality is love. In fact, **“God is love.”** (1 John 4:8) Jehovah reveals his love, not only through the Bible but also through the things he created. (Read Acts 14:17.) Consider, for example, how he made us. He has given us the ability to see beautiful colors, hear delightful music, and taste delicious food. He wants us to enjoy life.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn what Jehovah uses to accomplish amazing things. Then see how Jehovah reveals and expresses his appealing qualities.

### 4. Holy spirit—God's active force

Just as we use our hands to do work, Jehovah uses his holy spirit. The Bible reveals that holy spirit is, not a person, but the force God uses to get things done. **Read Luke 11:13 and Acts 2:17**, and then discuss these questions:

- God will “pour out” his holy spirit on those who ask for it. So do you think holy spirit is a person, or is it God’s active force? Why do you say that?

Jehovah uses his holy spirit to accomplish amazing things. **Read Psalm 33:6 and 2 Peter 1:20, 21**, and then discuss this question:

- What are some ways in which Jehovah has used his holy spirit?



### 5. Jehovah has an appealing personality

Moses was a faithful worshipper of God, but he wanted to know his Creator better. So Moses said to him: “Make me know your ways, so that I may know you.” (Exodus 33:13) In reply, Jehovah revealed to Moses some aspects of His personality. **Read Exodus 34:4-6**, and then discuss these questions:

- What aspects of Jehovah’s personality did he reveal to Moses?
- Which of Jehovah’s qualities especially appeal to you?



## 6. Jehovah cares about people

God's people, the Hebrews, were slaves in Egypt. How did their suffering affect Jehovah? [Play the AUDIO](#) and follow along, or [read Exodus 3:1-10](#). Then discuss the questions that follow.



**AUDIO:** Jehovah Cared About Their Suffering (2:45)

- What does this account tell you as to how Jehovah feels about human suffering?—See verses 7 and 8.
- Do you think that Jehovah really wants to help humans and that he is able to do so? Why, or why not?

---

## 7. The natural world reveals Jehovah's qualities

Jehovah reveals his qualities through the things he created. [Play the VIDEO](#). Then [read Romans 1:20](#), and discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** Creation Reveals Jehovah's Love—The Human Body (1:57)

- What qualities of Jehovah do you see in the things he has made?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "God is not a person, he's just a force that is everywhere."

- What do you think?
- Why do you feel that way?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah is an invisible Spirit with many appealing qualities, especially love.

## Review

- Why are we unable to see Jehovah?
- What is the holy spirit?
- What are some of Jehovah's qualities?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- After reading Psalm 23, try to discern what it reveals about God's personality.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Deepen your understanding of Jehovah by learning about four of his outstanding qualities.

**"What Is God Like?"**  
(*The Watchtower* No. 1 2019)



Consider evidence that Jehovah is not present in all things.

**"Is God Everywhere, Omnipresent?"** (Web article)



See why the Bible refers to the holy spirit as God's hands.

**"What Is the Holy Spirit?"**  
(Web article)



A blind man struggled to believe that God cared about him. Find out what changed his mind.

**"I Now Feel That I Can Help Others"** (*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2015)



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## You Can Be Jehovah's Friend

Jehovah wants you to know him better. Why? He hopes that the more you learn about his personality, his ways, and his purpose, the more you will want to be his friend. Can you really be God's friend? (Read Psalm 25:14.) What can you do to become his friend? The Bible answers those questions and reveals why friendship with Jehovah is the most important relationship you can have.

### 1. What invitation does Jehovah offer you?

**"Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you."** (James 4:8) What does this mean? Jehovah is inviting you to become his friend. Some may find it difficult to imagine being friends with anyone they cannot see, let alone with God himself. Yet, in his Word, the Bible, Jehovah reveals everything we need to know about his personality in order for us to draw close to him. When we read God's message to us in the Bible, our friendship with Jehovah grows even though we have never seen him.

### 2. Why is Jehovah the best Friend you can have?

No one loves you more than Jehovah does. He wants you to be happy and to turn to him whenever you need help. You can **"throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."** (1 Peter 5:7) Jehovah is always ready to support, comfort, and listen to his friends.—Read Psalm 94:18, 19.

### 3. What does Jehovah expect of his friends?

Jehovah loves people in general, **"but His close friendship is with the upright."** (Proverbs 3:32) Jehovah expects his friends to try to do things that he views as good and to avoid things that he considers bad. Some may feel that they could never live up to Jehovah's standards of good and bad. However, Jehovah is large-hearted. He accepts everyone who truly loves Him and does his best to please Him.—Psalm 147:11; Acts 10:34, 35.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn more about how you can become Jehovah's friend, and discover why he is the best Friend you can have.

### 4. Abraham was Jehovah's friend

The Bible account of Abraham (also called Abram) gives us a glimpse of what it means to be God's friend. [Read about Abraham at Genesis 12:1-4](#). Then discuss these questions:

- What did Jehovah ask Abraham to do?
- What did Jehovah promise him?
- How did Abraham respond to Jehovah's instructions?

### 5. What Jehovah asks of his friends

We usually expect certain things of our friends.

- What are some things that you like your friends to do for you?

[Read 1 John 5:3](#), and then discuss this question:

- What does Jehovah expect of his friends?

In order to obey Jehovah, we may need to change our conduct or our personality traits. [Read Isaiah 48:17, 18](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why does Jehovah ask his friends to make changes?



A good friend would remind us of things that can protect and benefit us. Jehovah does the same for his friends



Close friends give you help when you need it. Jehovah will help you too

## 6. What Jehovah does for his friends

Jehovah helps his friends cope with problems. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** Jehovah Has Done So Much for Me (3:20)

- How has Jehovah helped the woman in the video to deal with her negative thinking and emotions?

**Read Isaiah 41:10, 13,** and then discuss these questions:

- What does Jehovah promise to do for all of his friends?
- Do you think Jehovah would make a good Friend? Why?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “It’s impossible to be close to God.”

- What scripture would you use to show that we can be Jehovah’s friend?

## 7. Friendship with Jehovah involves communication

Communication strengthens bonds of friendship. [Read Psalm 86:6, 11](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How can we communicate with Jehovah?
- How does Jehovah communicate with us?



We speak to Jehovah through prayer; he speaks to us through the Bible

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants to be your Friend, and he will help you draw close to him.

## Review

- How does Jehovah help his friends?
- Why does Jehovah instruct his friends to make changes?
- Do you think Jehovah expects too much of his friends? Why, or why not?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Share with a friend something that you have learned about Jehovah.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



How can friendship with God affect your life?

**“Jehovah—A God Worth Knowing”** (*The Watchtower*, February 15, 2003)



Learn how to cultivate a friendship with God.

**“How Can I Become God’s Friend?”** (*Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 2, chapter 35)



Find out why one woman feels that her friendship with Jehovah saved her.

**“I Did Not Want to Die!”** (*The Watchtower* No. 1 2017)



Listen to teenagers express their feelings about Jehovah.

**What Does It Mean to Be God’s Friend?**



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# Draw Close to God Through Prayer

Do you ever feel that you need guidance in life? Do you have important questions that you want answered? Do you need comfort or reassurance? Would you like to feel closer to Jehovah? Prayer can help you fill all of those needs. But what is the right way to pray? Does God listen to all prayers? What can you do to make sure that he will hear *your* prayers? Let us see.

## 1. To whom should we pray, and what can we pray about?

Jesus taught that we should pray only to our heavenly Father. Jesus himself prayed to Jehovah. He said: “**You must pray, then, this way: ‘Our Father in the heavens . . .’**” (Matthew 6:9) When we pray to Jehovah, we strengthen our friendship with him.

We can pray about practically any matter. Of course, for God to answer our prayers, they must be in harmony with his will. “**No matter what we ask according to [God’s] will, he hears us.**” (1 John 5:14) Jesus gave examples of appropriate things to pray for. (Read Matthew 6:9-13.) In addition to praying about our personal concerns, we must not forget to thank God for what he has done for us and ask him to help others.

## 2. How should we pray?

The Bible encourages us to “**pour out [our] hearts before [God].**” (Psalm 62:8) So our prayers should be sincere and heartfelt. We can pray aloud or silently and in any respectful body position. We can pray at any time and in any location.

## 3. How does God answer our prayers?

He does so in a variety of ways. Jehovah has provided his Word, the Bible, where we often find answers to our questions. Reading God’s Word can “[make] the inexperienced one wise.” (Psalm 19:7; read James 1:5.) He can give us peace of mind when we face challenges. And he can move his worshippers to help us when we really need it.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine how you can offer heartfelt prayers that are pleasing to God, and find out how prayer can benefit you.

### 4. God has requirements for prayer

What factors determine if our prayers are acceptable to God or not?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

Jehovah wants us to pray to him. [Read Psalm 65:2](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think the “Hearer of prayer” wants you to pray to him? Why, or why not?

We must try to live according to God’s standards if we want him to hear our prayers. [Read Micah 3:4 and 1 Peter 3:12](#), and then discuss this question:

- How can we make sure that Jehovah will listen to our prayers?



[VIDEO: Does God Listen to All Prayers?—Excerpt \(2:42\)](#)

During a war, both sides may pray for victory. Is it reasonable to expect God to answer these prayers?



A good father wants his child to speak to him from the heart. Likewise, Jehovah wants us to pray to him from our heart.

### 5. Our prayers should come from the heart

Some people have been taught to repeat certain prayers word for word. But is that how God wants us to pray to him? [Read Matthew 6:7](#), and then discuss this question:

- How can you avoid saying “the same things over and over again” in your prayers?

Each day, you might think of one specific blessing in your life and then thank Jehovah for that blessing. Do this every day for a week, and you will have prayed about seven different topics without repeating yourself.

## 6. Prayer is a gift from God

How can prayer give us strength, both in good times and in bad? [Play the VIDEO.](#)

The Bible promises that prayer can help us to find real peace of mind. [Read Philippians 4:6, 7](#), and then discuss these questions:

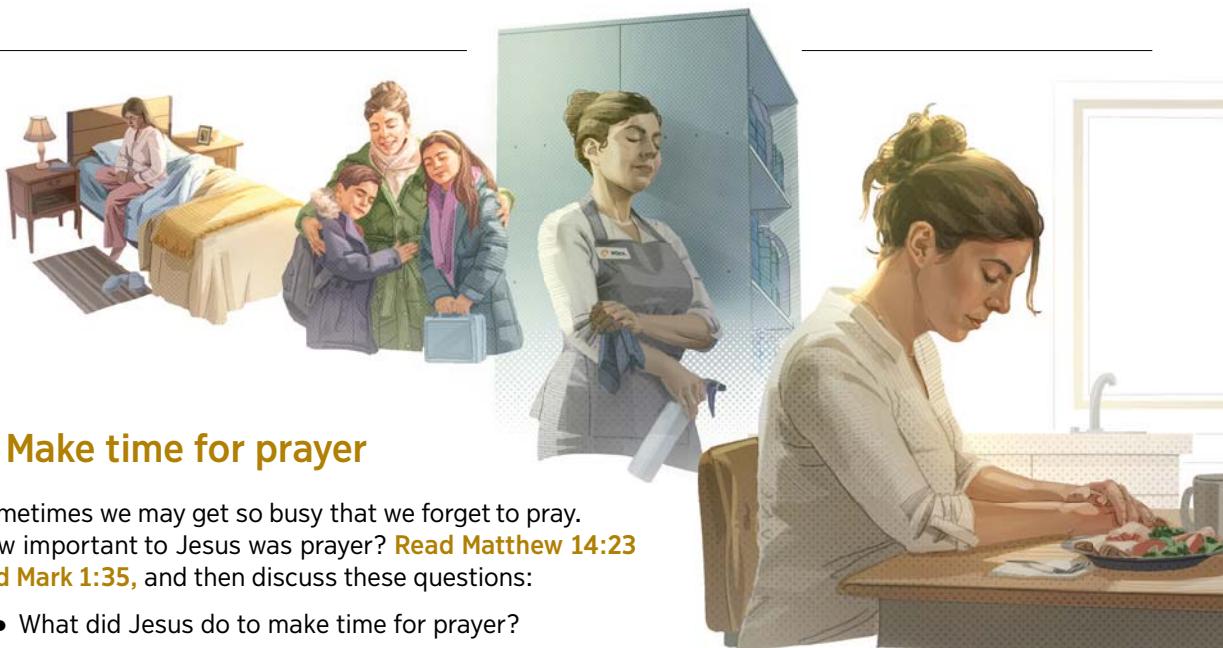
- Although prayer does not always make our problems go away, how does it help?
- What are some things you would like to pray about?



**VIDEO: Prayer Helps Us to Cope (1:32)**

### Did you know?

The word “amen” means “so be it” or “surely.” Since Bible times, “amen” has been said at the end of prayers.  
—1 Chronicles 16:36.



## 7. Make time for prayer

Sometimes we may get so busy that we forget to pray. How important to Jesus was prayer? [Read Matthew 14:23 and Mark 1:35](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What did Jesus do to make time for prayer?
- When could you find time to pray?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Prayer is just a mental crutch.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Sincere prayers draw us closer to God, give us peace of mind, and give us the strength we need to please Jehovah.

## Review

- To whom should we pray?
- How should we pray?
- What are some benefits of prayer?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Pray about something of concern to you, something that you can thank Jehovah for, and something to benefit another person.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Find the answers to commonly asked questions about prayer.

**“Seven Things You Need to Know About Prayer”**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2010)



Learn about important reasons to pray and how to improve the quality of your prayers.

**“Why Should I Pray?”**  
(Web article)



Consider what the Bible teaches about whom we should pray.

**“Should I Pray to Saints?”**  
(Web article)



In this music video, note whether it matters where or when we pray.

***Pray Anytime***



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# How Can the Meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses Benefit You?

Have you been invited to a meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses? If you have not yet attended, you may feel a little nervous about attending for the first time. You may wonder: 'What happens at these meetings? Why are they important? Why should I attend?' In this lesson, you will learn how meeting with others can draw you closer to God and help you personally.

## 1. What is the most important reason for meeting together?

Note how a Bible writer expressed the most important reason for meeting with others: "**In the great congregation, I will praise Jehovah.**" (Psalm 26:12) Likewise, Jehovah's Witnesses find great joy in meeting together. Around the world, they meet each week to praise God, to sing, and to pray. A few times each year, they also attend larger gatherings for worship.

## 2. What will you learn at our meetings?

At the meetings, we focus on God's Word, "**clearly explaining it and putting meaning into it.**" (Read Nehemiah 8:8.) By attending, you will learn about Jehovah and his wonderful qualities. As you get to know more about his love for you, you will draw closer to him. You will also discover how he can help you to have a satisfying life.—Isaiah 48:17, 18.

## 3. How can you benefit from associating with others at our meetings?

Jehovah directs us to "**consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking our meeting together.**" (Hebrews 10:24, 25) At our meetings, you will meet people who truly care about one another and who, like you, are interested in learning more about God. You will hear them share encouraging thoughts from the Bible. (Read Romans 1:11, 12.) You will also be able to talk to others who are dealing successfully with the problems that single and married people face. These are just some reasons why Jehovah wants us to meet together regularly!

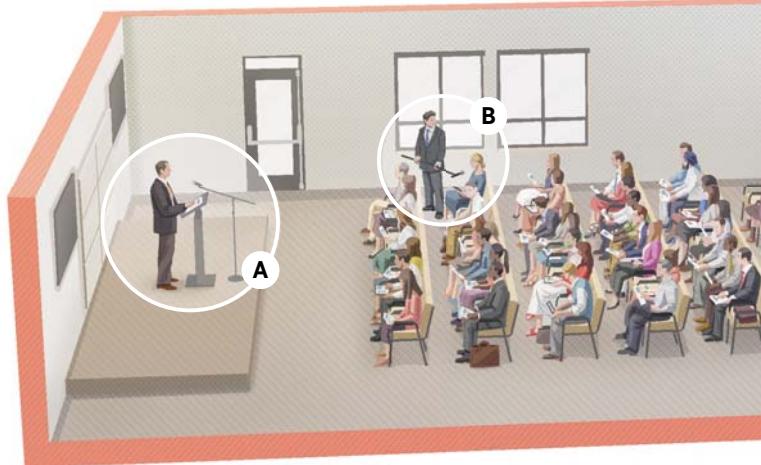
## DIG DEEPER

### During a meeting

Find out what meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses are like and why it is worth the effort to attend these meetings.

(A) Our meetings include talks, demonstrations, and videos. Meetings begin and end with song and prayer

(B) During some parts of the program, the audience is invited to comment



## 4. Meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses

In the first century, Christians regularly met together to worship Jehovah. (Romans 16:3-5) **Read Colossians 3:16**, and then discuss this question:

- How did the early Christians worship Jehovah?

Today, the Witnesses also regularly meet together at their places of worship. To see what their meetings are like, [play the VIDEO](#). Then, look at the picture of a congregation meeting, and discuss the questions that follow.

- What similarities did you notice between what happens at a Kingdom Hall and what you read at Colossians 3:16?
- In the video or in the picture, did you notice anything else about the meetings that appeals to you?

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:7**, and then discuss this question:

- Why are meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses free of charge?

Along with your teacher, look at what will be discussed at one of this week's meetings.

- What part of the meeting sounds most interesting or useful to you?

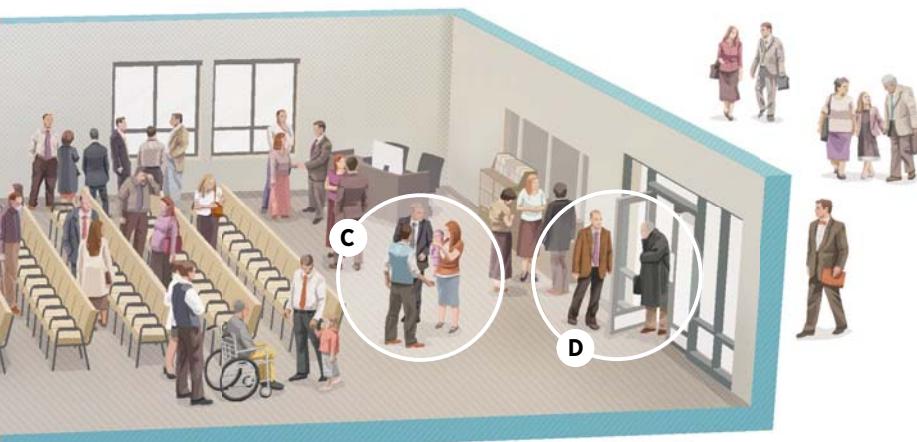


**VIDEO: What Happens at a Kingdom Hall? (2:12)**

### Did you know?

On jw.org, you can find out where and when meetings are held all over the world.

## Before and after a meeting



(C) Everyone is welcome  
—families, single ones,  
the elderly, and children

(D) Our meetings are free.  
Jehovah's Witnesses do  
not charge admission or  
pass a collection plate

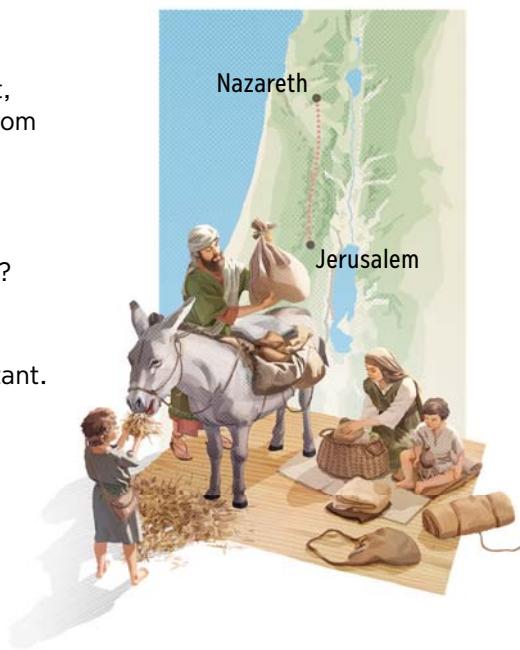
## 5. Effort is required to attend meetings

Consider the example of Jesus' family. To attend a yearly event, they had to walk some 60 miles through mountainous terrain from Nazareth to Jerusalem. **Read Luke 2:39-42**, and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think that this journey to Jerusalem took effort?
- Why might you have to put forth effort to attend meetings?
- Do you think it is worth it? Why?

The Bible says that meeting together for worship is very important. **Read Hebrews 10:24, 25**, and then discuss this question:

- Why should we attend meetings regularly?



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "You don't need to meet with others. It's enough to study the Bible at home."

- What scripture or Bible example reveals what Jehovah wants?

## SUMMARY

Attending meetings will help you to learn more about Jehovah, to deepen your friendship with him, and to worship him with others.

## Review

- Why does Jehovah encourage us to meet together?
- What will you learn at the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?
- How else do you think you could benefit from attending the meetings?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Attend a meeting and get to know some of the people who are there.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What if you are nervous about attending a meeting? See how a man who felt that way came to love the meetings.

**We Will Never Forget the Greeting**



See how a young man enjoyed the meetings and what he did to keep attending.

**I Liked the Meetings So Much!**



Learn how others feel about attending meetings.

**"Why Attend Meetings at the Kingdom Hall?" (Web article)**



Find out how a violent gang member's life changed after attending a meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses.

**"I Never Went Anywhere Without My Gun" (The Watchtower, July 1, 2014)**



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# How You Can Get the Most Out of the Bible

Have you ever felt overwhelmed at the thought of starting a big project? To make it seem less challenging, you might have broken it up into smaller, easier tasks. The same is true when it comes to reading the Bible. You may ask, ‘Where do I start?’ In this lesson, we will consider some simple things you can do that will help you enjoy reading and studying the Bible.

## 1. Why should we read the Bible regularly?

A person who regularly reads the Bible, or “**the law of Jehovah**,” will be both happy and successful. (Read Psalm 1:1-3.) To start with, try reading for just a few minutes each day. The more you get familiar with God’s Word, the more you will enjoy your Bible reading.

## 2. What will help you to benefit from reading the Bible?

To benefit the most from reading the Bible, we need to pause and think about what we are reading. We should both read it and “**meditate on it**.” (Joshua 1:8, footnote) As you read, ask yourself questions such as: ‘What does this tell me about Jehovah God? How can I apply this in my life? How can I use these verses to help others?’

## 3. How can you make time to read the Bible?

Do you struggle to find time for Bible reading? Many of us do. Try to make “**the best use of your time**.” (Ephesians 5:16) You can do this by setting aside a specific time to read the Bible each day. Some people make time to read the Bible early in the morning. Others choose a time later in the day, perhaps during their lunch break. Still others read the Bible in the evening before going to bed. What would be the best time for you?

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how to make your Bible reading more interesting. See how to prepare well so that you get the most out of your Bible study.



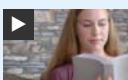
Just as we can learn to like eating different foods, we can learn to enjoy reading the Bible

### 4. Learn to enjoy Bible reading

It may not be easy to begin reading the Bible. However, we can “form a longing” to do so, just as someone can develop a taste for a new food. **Read 1 Peter 2:2**, and then discuss this question:

- Do you think that if you read the Bible every day, it could become something you would enjoy and look forward to doing?

**Play the VIDEO** to see how some people started to enjoy reading the Bible. Then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: Youths Learning to Love God's Word (5:33)**

- In the video, what challenges did the young people overcome?
- What helped them stick to their goal of Bible reading?
- How did they make their Bible reading more interesting?

#### Tips to help you get started:

- **Choose a reliable, modern-language translation.** Try the *New World Translation* if it is available in your language.
- **First read portions that appeal to you the most.** For ideas, see the chart “Get Started Reading the Bible.”
- **Keep track of what you read.** Use the “Track Your Bible Reading” chart in this publication.
- **Use the JW Library® app.** With it, you can read and listen to the Bible anywhere, using a smartphone or other such device.
- **Use the appendixes in the New World Translation.** They include maps, charts, and a glossary that can make your reading more interesting.

## 5. Prepare for your Bible study

**Read Psalm 119:34**, and then discuss this question:

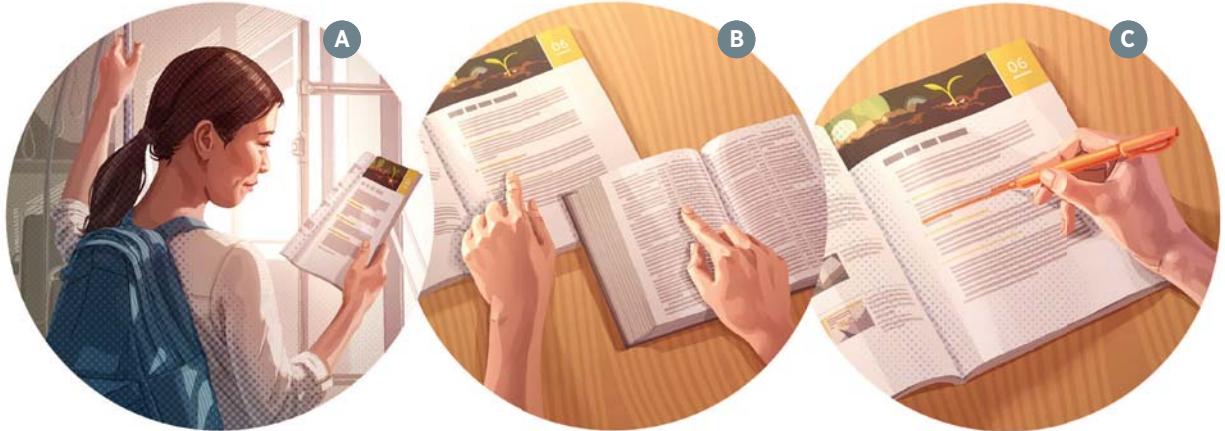
- Why is it good to pray before reading the Bible or preparing for your Bible study?

How can you get the most out of each study session? As you prepare a lesson in this course, try the following method:

- (A) Read the opening paragraphs of the lesson.
- (B) Look up and read the scriptures, and try to understand how they relate to the material.
- (C) Highlight key words or phrases that answer each question; this will help you to discuss the lesson with your teacher.

### Did you know?

Jehovah's Witnesses have used several different Bible translations. However, we especially appreciate the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* because it is accurate, it is clear, and it uses God's name.—See the Web article “[Do Jehovah's Witnesses Have Their Own Bible?](#)”



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Studying the Bible is too much work. I don't have the time or the energy.”

- What do you think?

## SUMMARY

To get the most out of the Bible, schedule time to read it, pray to understand what you read, and prepare for your Bible study sessions.

## Review

- What will help you to get the most out of the Bible?
- When can you set aside time to read and study the Bible?
- Why is it worthwhile to prepare for your Bible study sessions?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Prepare for your next study session using the suggestions in this lesson.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Review some ideas that may help you get more out of your Bible reading.

**“How to Get More From Reading the Bible”**  
(*The Watchtower* No. 1 2017)



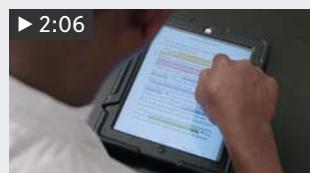
Learn three ways to read the Bible.

**“How Can the Bible Help Me?—Part 1: Exploring Your Bible”** (Web article)



Discover how to enjoy Bible reading.

**“How Can the Bible Help Me?—Part 2: Make Bible Reading Enjoyable”**  
(Web article)



Get some study tips from longtime Bible readers.

***Effective Personal Study***



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# What Will Help You to Keep Studying the Bible?

Studying the Bible is a rewarding journey. However, it may not always be an easy one. At times, you may wonder if you will be able to keep studying the Bible. Why is it worth making an effort to continue? What can help you to persevere despite difficulties?

## 1. Why is Bible study valuable?

“The word of God is alive and exerts power.” (Hebrews 4:12) The Bible is valuable because it reveals God’s thoughts and his feelings toward you. It helps you to gain not only knowledge but also true wisdom and hope. Most important, the Bible helps you to become Jehovah’s friend. When you study the Bible, you allow its power to have a positive effect on your life.

## 2. Why is it important to recognize the value of Bible truth?

The truths in the Bible are like precious treasures. That is why the Bible encourages us to “buy truth and never sell it.” (Proverbs 23:23) When we keep in mind the value of Bible truth, we work hard to keep studying—even when we face obstacles.—Read Proverbs 2:4, 5.

## 3. How can Jehovah help you to keep studying?

As your almighty Creator and Friend, Jehovah wants to help you learn about him. He can give you “both the desire and the power to act.” (Read Philippians 2:13.) Thus, if at times you need additional motivation to study or to apply what you learn, he can help. If you need additional strength to overcome obstacles or opposition, he can provide it. Regularly ask Jehovah in prayer to help you to continue studying the Bible.—1 Thessalonians 5:17.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how you can keep studying the Bible despite a busy schedule or opposition from others. Then consider how Jehovah will help you to persevere.



If you fill a bucket with sand and try to add rocks, the rocks will not fit



If you put the rocks in first, you will have room to add most of the sand. Similarly, if you put “the more important things” first in your life, you will be able to accomplish them and still have time for other things

### 4. Make your Bible study a priority

Sometimes life gets so busy that it seems we do not have enough time to study the Bible. What can help? **Read Philippians 1:10**, and then discuss these questions:

- What do you feel are some of “the more important things” in life?
- How can you make your Bible study a priority?

Studying the Bible satisfies our spiritual need—our need to know and worship God. **Read Matthew 5:3**, and then discuss this question:

- How do we benefit when we make study of the Bible a priority?

## 5. Persevere in the face of opposition

At times, others may try to discourage you from studying the Bible. Note Francesco's example. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, how did Francesco's friends and family react when he told them what he was learning?
- How was he rewarded for persevering?

**Read 2 Timothy 2:24, 25,** and then discuss these questions:

- How do your family and friends feel about what you are learning?
- According to these verses, how should you respond when someone is not happy that you are studying the Bible? Why?



**VIDEO: Rewarded for Persevering (5:22)**



## 6. Rely on Jehovah to help you

As we draw close to Jehovah, our desire to please him increases. Still, we can find it difficult to make adjustments in our life to meet his standards. If you ever feel that way, do not give up. Jehovah will help you. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, what changes did Jim make to please Jehovah?
- What impresses you about his example?

**Read Hebrews 11:6,** and then discuss these questions:

- What will Jehovah do for those "earnestly seeking him"—that is, those who try hard to get to know and please him?
- What does this tell you about how Jehovah feels when he sees your efforts to study the Bible?



**VIDEO: Jehovah Helps Us to Make Changes (3:56)**

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** "Why are you studying the Bible?"

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Although it is not always easy, studying the Bible can help you enjoy life forever. Continue to rely on Jehovah, and he will reward you.

## Review

- Why are Bible truths precious to you?
- How can you “make sure of the more important things”?
- Why should you ask Jehovah to help you to keep studying the Bible?

Section completed on

## Goal

- Continue having your Bible study at least once a week. If your schedule changes, find another time for the study.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider four strategies that have helped many people to use their time wisely.

**“How to Invest Your Time Wisely” (Awake!, February 2014)**



Notice how Jehovah helped one woman whose husband did not understand her efforts to please God.

***Jehovah Strengthens Us to Carry Our Load***



See how one man benefited from his wife’s perseverance.

***I Put the Truth on Trial***



Jehovah’s Witnesses are sometimes accused of breaking up families. But is that true?

***“Do Jehovah’s Witnesses Break Up Families or Build Them Up?” (Web article)***



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# SECTION 1 REVIEW

Discuss the following questions with your teacher:



1. What appeals to you about the Bible's promises for the future?  
*(See Lesson 02.)*
2. Why do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God?  
*(See Lessons 03 and 05.)*
3. Why is it important to use Jehovah's name?  
*(See Lesson 04.)*
4. The Bible says that God is "the source of life." (Psalm 36:9) Do you believe that?  
*(See Lesson 06.)*
5. **Read Proverbs 3:32.**
  - Why is Jehovah the best Friend we can have?
  - What does Jehovah expect of his friends? Do you think this is reasonable?*(See Lessons 07 and 08.)*
6. **Read Psalm 62:8.**
  - What are some things that you have prayed to Jehovah about? What else could you pray about?
  - How does Jehovah answer prayers?*(See Lesson 09.)*
7. **Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.**
  - How can the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses benefit you?
  - Do you think it is worth the effort to attend meetings?*(See Lesson 10.)*
8. Why is it good to read the Bible regularly? What is your daily Bible-reading program?  
*(See Lesson 11.)*
9. What have you enjoyed most about your Bible study so far?
10. Since starting to study the Bible, what challenges, if any, have you faced? What can help you to keep studying?  
*(See Lesson 12.)*

**Your questions:**

# SECTION 2

***Focus: See what God has done  
for us and the kind of worship that  
pleases him***



## LESSONS

- 13** How False Religion Misrepresents God
- 14** How Can Our Worship Be Pleasing to God?
- 15** Who Is Jesus?
- 16** What Did Jesus Do While on Earth?
- 17** What Is Jesus Like?
- 18** How to Identify Real Christians
- 19** Are Jehovah's Witnesses Real Christians?
- 20** How the Congregation Is Organized
- 21** How Is the Good News Being Preached?
- 22** How Can You Share the Good News?
- 23** Baptism—A Worthwhile Goal!
- 24** What Is the Truth About Angels?
- 25** What Is God's Purpose for Us?
- 26** Why Do Evil and Suffering Exist?
- 27** How Can Jesus' Death Save Us?
- 28** Show Appreciation for What Jehovah and Jesus Did for You
- 29** What Happens When We Die?
- 30** Your Loved Ones Can Live Again!
- 31** What Is God's Kingdom?
- 32** God's Kingdom Now Rules!
- 33** What the Kingdom Will Accomplish



# How False Religion Misrepresents God

If God is love, why have so many evil acts been committed by religions that claim to represent him? Put simply, these religions are false; they misrepresent God. How have they misrepresented him? How does he feel about that? And what will he do about it?

## 1. How does false religion misrepresent God by its teachings?

False religion has “**exchanged the truth of God for the lie.**” (Romans 1:25) For example, most religions have not taught their followers God’s name. However, the Bible says that God’s name must be used. (Romans 10:13, 14) Some religious leaders say that when something terrible happens, it is God’s will. But that is a lie. God is never the source of evil. (Read James 1:13.) Sadly, religious lies have pushed people away from God.

## 2. How does false religion misrepresent God by its actions?

False religion does not treat people as Jehovah does. The Bible says that false religion’s “**sins have massed together clear up to heaven.**” (Revelation 18:5) For centuries, religions have meddled in politics, supported wars, and caused or approved the death of countless numbers of people. Some religious leaders enjoy a lavish lifestyle and demand money from their followers to pay for it. These actions prove that they do not even know God, let alone have the right to represent him.—Read 1 John 4:8.

## 3. How does God feel about false religion?

If the things done by false religion make you angry, how do you think Jehovah feels? He loves people, but he is angry with religious leaders who misrepresent him and mistreat their followers. He promises that false religion will be destroyed and “**will never be found again.**” (Revelation 18:21) Soon, God will put an end to all false religion.—Revelation 18:8.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine further how God feels about false religion. Learn more about what it has done, but also learn why this should not stop you from getting to know Jehovah.

### 4. God does not approve of all religions

Many people believe that religions are like different roads that all lead to God. But is that true? **Read Matthew 7:13, 14**, and then discuss this question:

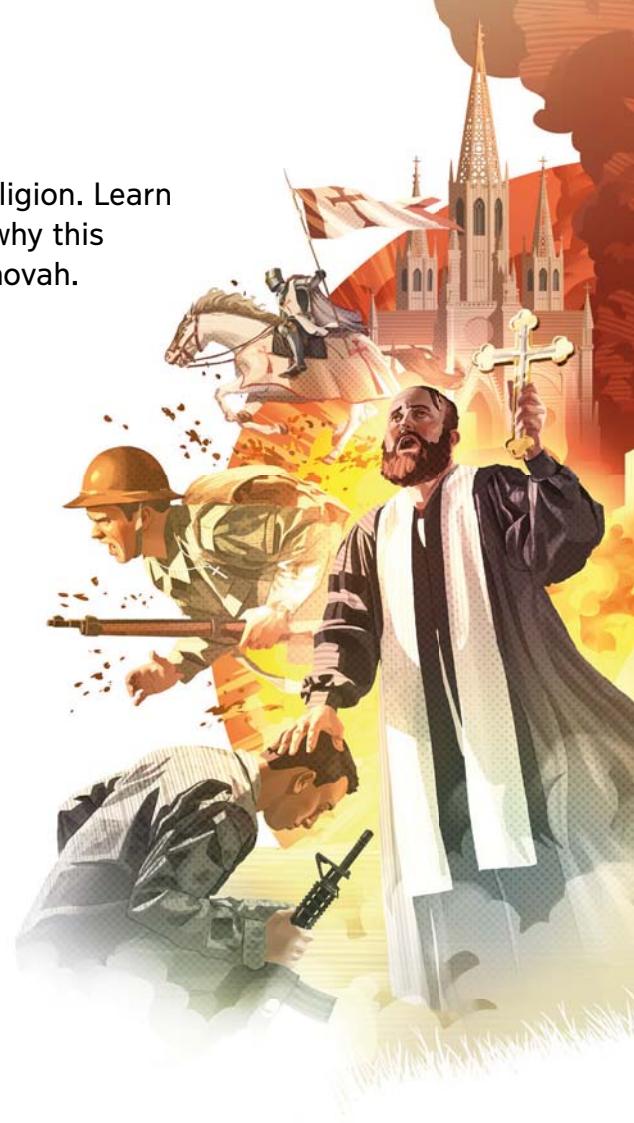
- How does the Bible describe the road that leads to life?

**Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Does God Accept All Forms of Worship?—Excerpt (3:22)**

- Does the Bible say that there are many religions that please God?



### 5. False religion does not reflect God's love

Religions have misrepresented God in many ways. One notorious way has been their involvement in war. To see one example, **play the VIDEO**. Then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: The Churches' Role in World War II (2:22)**

- What position did many churches take during World War II?
- How do you feel about the position they took?

**Read John 13:34, 35 and 17:16.** Then discuss these questions:

- How must Jehovah feel when religions get involved in war?
- False religion is responsible for many bad things. In what ways have you seen religions fail to reflect God's love?



False religion has not reflected God's love

## 6. God wants to free people from false religion

Read Revelation 18:4,\* and then discuss this question:

- How does it make you feel to know that God wants to save individuals who have been misled by false religion?

\* To find out why the book of Revelation describes false religion as a woman named Babylon the Great, see Endnote 1.

## 7. Continue learning about the true God

Should false religion affect your view of God? Imagine a son who rejects the wise direction his father has given him. The son leaves home and leads a corrupt life. The father does not approve of his son's actions. Why would it not be fair to blame the father for the way his rebellious son is living?

- Would it be fair to blame Jehovah and stop learning about him because of the actions of false religion?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I'm not interested in God because religion is the cause of so many problems."

- Do you feel that way?
- Why should the actions of false religion not affect our view of Jehovah?

## SUMMARY

False religion has misrepresented God by means of its false teachings and terrible practices. God will destroy false religion.

## Review

- How do you feel about what false religion has taught and how it has acted?
- How does Jehovah feel about false religion?
- What will God do to false religion?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- At the next congregation meeting, ask someone, “Why did you become one of Jehovah’s Witnesses?”
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn about two ways that most religions displease God.

**“Are All Religions the Same? Do They All Lead to God?”**  
(Web article)



Why does Jehovah want us to worship him along with others?

**“Is It Necessary to Belong to an Organized Religion?”**  
(Web article)



A priest was troubled by his religion. But this did not stop him from learning the truth about God.

**“Why a Priest Left His Church”**  
(Awake!, February 2015)



For generations, religions have told lies that make God seem distant and cruel. Learn the truth about three of those lies.

**“Lies That Make God Seem Unlovable”** (The Watchtower, November 1, 2013)



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# How Can Our Worship Be Pleasing to God?

As discussed in the preceding lesson, not all religions please God. However, we *can* worship our Creator in a way that makes him happy. What is “the form of worship [or, religion]” that pleases him? (James 1:27, footnote) Consider what the Bible teaches.

## 1. On what should our worship be based?

Our worship should be based on the Bible. Jesus said to God: “**Your word is truth.**” (John 17:17) Some religions ignore the truth found in God’s inspired Word, the Bible. They replace it with human teachings and traditions. But Jehovah is not pleased with those who “disregard the commandment of God.” (Read Mark 7:9.) On the other hand, we bring joy to his heart when we stick to the Bible and follow its advice.

## 2. How should we worship Jehovah?

As our Creator, Jehovah deserves our exclusive devotion. (Revelation 4:11) This means that we must love him and worship only him, without the use of any idol, image, or icon.—Read Isaiah 42:8.

Our worship must be “**holy and acceptable**” to Jehovah. (Romans 12:1) This means that we need to live by his moral standards. For example, those who love Jehovah love and follow his standards for marriage. And they avoid harmful practices, such as the use of tobacco or the misuse of drugs or alcohol.\*

## 3. Why should we worship Jehovah with fellow believers?

Our weekly meetings give us the opportunity to “**praise Jehovah . . . in the congregation.**” (Psalm 111:1, 2) One way we do this is by singing praises to God. (Read Psalm 104:33.) Jehovah asks us to attend meetings because he loves us and he knows that they will help us to enjoy life forever. When we meet together for encouragement, we benefit ourselves.

\* These topics will be discussed in later lessons.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine why Jehovah does not approve of the use of images in worship. Learn important ways that we can praise God.



**VIDEO:** Does God Approve the Use of Images in Worship? (3:26)



### 4. We should not use images in our worship

How do we know that doing so would be displeasing to God? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- What happened when some of God's people in Bible times tried to worship him with the help of an idol?

Some people try to feel closer to God by using images in their worship. But could doing so actually push him away? [Read Exodus 20:4-6 and Psalm 106:35, 36](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What objects or images have you seen people use in their worship?
- How does Jehovah feel about the use of images?
- How do you feel about using images?

### 5. Worshipping only Jehovah liberates us from false ideas

See how worshipping Jehovah acceptably can liberate us from false ideas. [Play the VIDEO](#).

[Read Psalm 91:14](#), and then discuss this question:



**VIDEO:** Liberated by Truth (5:16)

- What does Jehovah promise to do for us when we show that we love him by worshipping only him?



## 6. We worship God at congregation meetings

We praise Jehovah and build each other up by singing and giving comments at congregation meetings. **Read Psalm 22:22**, and then discuss these questions:

- Have you enjoyed hearing comments at the meetings?
- Would you like to prepare to give a comment?

## 7. Jehovah is pleased when we share what we learn

There are many ways that we can share Bible truths with others. **Read Psalms 9:1 and 34:1**, and then discuss this question:

- What is something you have learned from the Bible that you would like to tell someone else about?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “It’s impossible to please God.”

- What do you think?

## SUMMARY

We please our Creator when we worship only him, praise him at congregation meetings, and share with others what we have learned.

## Review

- How can we learn how to worship God acceptably?
- Why should we worship only Jehovah?
- Why should we worship with others who want to please God?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Give a comment at a congregation meeting.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



In the story “I No Longer Slave for Idols,” read how one woman broke free from idolatry.

**“The Bible Changes Lives”**  
*(The Watchtower, July 1, 2011)*



Learn what can help you to give comments at congregation meetings.

**“Praise Jehovah in the Congregation”** (*The Watchtower*, January 2019)



See how one young man benefited from congregation meetings even though it was not easy for him to attend.

**Jehovah Cared for Me**



Many people associate the cross with Christianity, but should we use it in our worship?

**“Why Don’t Jehovah’s Witnesses Use the Cross in Their Worship?”** (Web article)



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# Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is one of the most famous people in history. Yet, other than his name, many people do not know much about him, and many have different ideas about who Jesus really is. What does the Bible say about him?

## 1. Who is Jesus?

Jesus is a powerful spirit who lives in heaven. He was created by Jehovah God before everything else. For that reason, he is called “**the firstborn of all creation.**” (Colossians 1:15) The Bible refers to Jesus as God’s “**only-begotten Son**” because Jesus alone was directly created by Jehovah. (John 3:16) Jesus worked closely with his Father, Jehovah, helping Him to create all other things. (Read Proverbs 8:30.) Jesus continues to enjoy a close relationship with Jehovah. He loyally serves as God’s spokesman, “the Word,” delivering His messages and instructions.—John 1:14.

## 2. Why did Jesus come to earth?

About 2,000 years ago, Jehovah miraculously used his holy spirit to transfer Jesus’ life from heaven to the womb of a young virgin woman named Mary. In this way, Jesus was born as a human. (Read Luke 1:34, 35.) Jesus came to earth to be the promised Messiah, or Christ, and to save humankind.\* All the Bible’s prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled in him, enabling people to identify Jesus as “**the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”—Matthew 16:16.

## 3. Where is Jesus now?

After Jesus’ life as a human ended, he was resurrected as a spirit and he returned to heaven. There, “**God exalted him to a superior position.**” (Philippians 2:9) Now, Jesus has a position of great authority—second only to Jehovah himself.

\* Lessons 26 and 27 will consider why humankind needs to be saved and how Jesus saves us.

## DIG DEEPER

Find out more about who Jesus really is and why learning about him is so important.



### 4. Jesus is not Almighty God

The Bible teaches that although Jesus is a powerful spirit creature in heaven, he is subject to his God and Father, Jehovah. Why can we say that?

**Play the VIDEO** to see what the Bible teaches about Jesus' position in relation to the almighty God.



**VIDEO:** Is Jesus Christ God?  
(3:22)

The following scriptures help us to understand the relationship between Jehovah and Jesus. Read each scripture, and then discuss the questions that follow.

**Read Luke 1:30-32.**

- How did the angel describe the relationship between Jesus and Jehovah God, “the Most High”?

**Read Matthew 3:16, 17.**

- At Jesus' baptism, what did the voice from heaven say?
- Whose voice do you think that was?

**Read John 14:28.**

- Who is older and has more authority? A father or a son?
- What did Jesus mean when he called Jehovah his Father?

**Read John 12:49.**

- Does Jesus think that he and his Father are the same person? What do you think?

## 5. Jesus proved to be the Messiah

The Bible contains many prophecies that would help people to identify the Messiah—God's chosen one to save humankind. [Play the VIDEO](#) for a brief introduction to some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled when he came to earth.



**VIDEO: Jesus Fulfills Prophecy**  
(3:03)

Read these Bible prophecies, and then discuss the questions that follow:

**Read Micah 5:2** to learn where the Messiah was to be born.\*

- Did Jesus' birth fulfill this prophecy?  
—Matthew 2:1.

**Read Psalm 34:20 and Zechariah 12:10** to see details that were prophesied about the Messiah's death.

- Were these prophecies fulfilled?  
—John 19:33-37.
- Do you think Jesus could have influenced the fulfillment of any of these prophecies?
- What does this prove to you about Jesus?

\* See Endnote 2 for a prophecy that foretold exactly when Jesus would appear on earth.

## 6. We benefit from learning about Jesus

The Bible stresses the importance of learning about Jesus and his role. [Read John 14:6 and 17:3](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why is it vital to learn about Jesus?



Jesus opened the way to become God's friend. He taught the *truth* about Jehovah, and through him, we can gain everlasting *life*.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "Jehovah's Witnesses don't believe in Jesus."

- How would you reply?

## SUMMARY

Jesus is a powerful spirit. He is God's Son and the Messiah.

## Review

- Why is Jesus called "the firstborn of all creation"?
- Before coming to earth, what did Jesus do?
- How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Watch the drama '*For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ*'—Part I or read Luke chapters 2 and 3 to learn more about Jesus' life on earth.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn more about Jesus' role as the Messiah.

**"Do Messianic Prophecies Prove That Jesus Was the Messiah?"** (Web article)



Find out if the Bible teaches that God literally fathered Jesus in the same way that humans produce children.

**"Why Is Jesus Called the Son of God?"** (Web article)



Consider why the Trinity is not a Bible teaching.

**"Is Jesus God?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, April 1, 2009)



Read how a woman's life changed after she investigated what the Bible says about Jesus.

**"A Jewish Woman Explains Why She Reexamined Her Faith"** (*Awake!*, May 2013)



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# What Did Jesus Do While on Earth?

Many people think of Jesus as a helpless baby, a wise prophet, or a dying man. But can we learn more about him from examining his life on earth? In this lesson, we will consider some of the most important things that Jesus did and how they affect you.

## 1. What was Jesus' main work?

Jesus' main work was to “**declare the good news of the Kingdom of God.**” (Read Luke 4:43.) He preached the good news that God would establish a kingdom, or government, that would solve all of humankind’s problems.\* Jesus tirelessly shared this positive message for three and a half years.  
—Matthew 9:35.

## 2. What was the purpose of Jesus’ miracles?

The Bible describes many “**powerful works and wonders and signs that God did through [Jesus].**” (Acts 2:22) With God’s power, Jesus was able to control the weather, feed thousands, heal the sick, and even bring the dead back to life. (Matthew 8:23-27; 14:15-21; Mark 6:56; Luke 7:11-17) Jesus’ miracles made it clear that God had sent him. They also showed that Jehovah has the power to solve all our problems.

## 3. What can we learn from the way Jesus lived?

Jesus obeyed Jehovah in every situation. (Read John 8:29.) Despite opposition, Jesus faithfully did what his Father asked of him right up until his death. He proved that it is possible for humans to serve God, even under difficult conditions. Thus, Jesus left “**a model for [us] to follow his steps closely.**”—1 Peter 2:21.

---

\* Lessons 31-33 will discuss God’s Kingdom in more detail.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how Jesus shared the good news and performed miracles.



### 4. Jesus shared good news

Jesus walked hundreds of miles on dusty roads, sharing the good news with as many people as possible. [Read Luke 8:1](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Did Jesus preach only to people who gathered to listen to him?
- What effort did Jesus make to find people?

God foretold that the Messiah would share good news. [Read Isaiah 61:1, 2](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
- Do you think people today need to hear this good news?

### 5. Jesus taught valuable truths

In addition to preaching the good news about God's Kingdom, Jesus taught practical lessons. Consider a few examples from his famous Sermon on the Mount.

[Read Matthew 6:14, 34 and 7:12](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What practical advice did Jesus give in these verses?
- Do you think that this advice is still helpful?



## 6. Jesus performed miracles

Jehovah empowered Jesus to perform many miracles. To see one example, [read Mark 5:25–34](#) or [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: A Sick Woman Is Cured (5:10)**

- In the video, of what was the sick woman convinced?
- What impresses you about this miracle?

**Read John 5:36**, and then discuss this question:

- What did Jesus' miracles “bear witness” to, or prove, about him?

### Did you know?

Most of what we know about Jesus comes from the four Bible books called the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each Gospel writer included different details about Jesus. These details all fit together to provide a fascinating picture of his life.

#### MATTHEW

wrote his Gospel first. It emphasizes Jesus’ teachings, especially what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God.

#### MARK

composed the shortest Gospel. It is fast-moving and action-packed.

#### LUKE

gives special attention to prayer and to how Jesus treated women.

#### JOHN

reveals much about Jesus’ personality by relating many conversations that Jesus had with his close friends and others.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Jesus was just a good man, and nothing more.”

- What do you think?

## SUMMARY

Jesus preached about God's Kingdom, performed miracles, and obeyed Jehovah in every situation.

## Review

- What was Jesus' main work while on earth?
- What do Jesus' miracles prove?
- What practical lessons did Jesus teach?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Watch the drama 'For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ'—Part II or read Matthew chapters 5 to 7 to learn more about Jesus' ministry.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What subject did Jesus speak about the most?

**"God's Kingdom  
—What It Means to Jesus"**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2014)



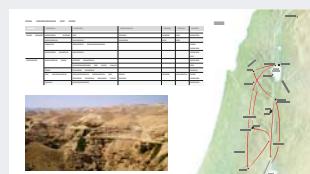
Consider why we can trust that Jesus' miracles really happened.

**"The Miracles of Jesus  
—What Can You Learn?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, July 15, 2004)



Read how Jesus' example of self-sacrifice affected one man.

**"My Life Was All About Me"**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2014)



See the main activities of Jesus' ministry organized chronologically.

**"Main Events of Jesus' Earthly Life"** (*New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, Appendix A7)



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# What Is Jesus Like?

As we learn about the things Jesus said and did on earth, we discover qualities that draw us closer to him and to his Father, Jehovah. What are some of these appealing qualities? And how can we imitate Jesus in our own life?

## 1. In what ways is Jesus like his Father?

In heaven, Jesus has watched his loving Father and learned from him for billions of years. As a result, he thinks, feels, and acts just like him. (Read John 5:19.) In fact, Jesus reflects his Father's personality so perfectly that he said: "**Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also.**" (John 14:9) As you learn about Jesus' personality, you will come to know Jehovah better. For instance, Jesus' compassion for people shows how Jehovah feels about you.

## 2. How has Jesus shown that he loves Jehovah?

Jesus said: "**For the world to know that I love the Father, I am doing just as the Father has commanded me to do.**" (John 14:31) While on earth, Jesus showed his great love for his Father by obeying him even when it was difficult to do so. Jesus also loved to talk about his Father and to help others cultivate a friendship with Him.—John 14:23.

## 3. How has Jesus shown that he loves people?

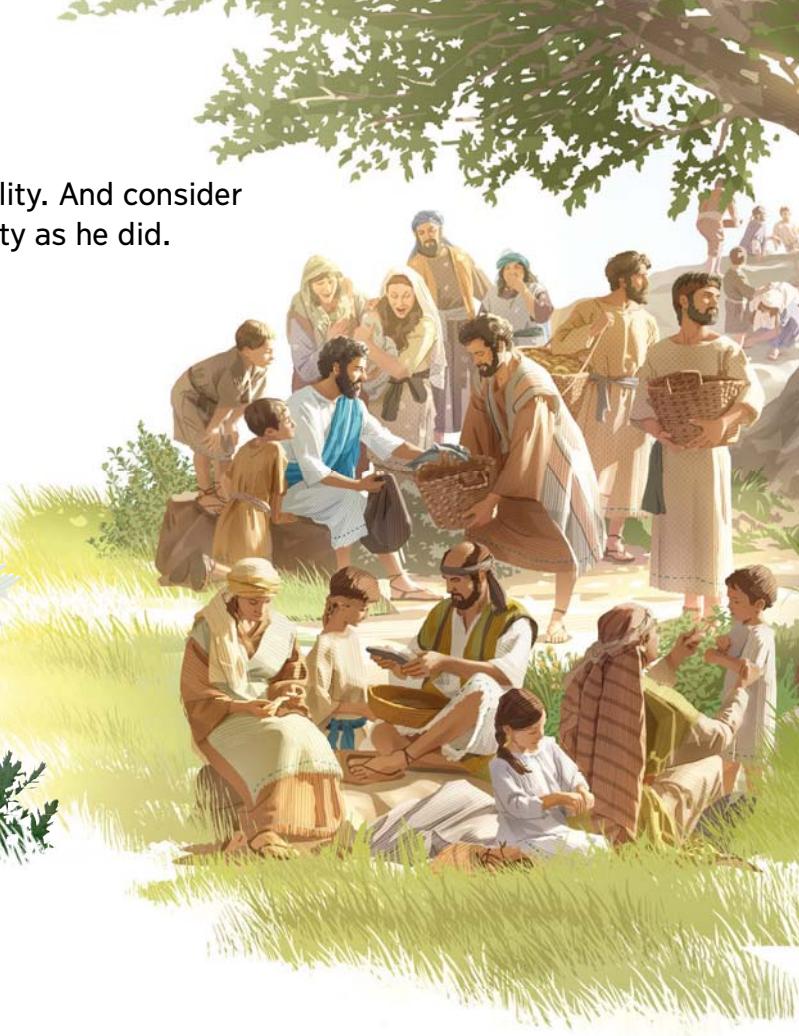
The Bible says that Jesus is "**especially fond of mankind.**" (Proverbs 8:31, footnote) He demonstrated this love by encouraging and selflessly helping people. He performed miracles that showed not only his power but also his compassion. (Mark 1:40-42) He treated people kindly and impartially. His words gave comfort and hope to all honesthearted ones who listened. Jesus was willing to suffer and die because of his love for all mankind. But he especially loves those who follow his teachings.—Read John 15:13, 14.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn more about Jesus' personality. And consider how to express love and generosity as he did.



Jesus loved his heavenly Father and spoke to him often in prayer



### 4. Jesus loves his Father

Jesus' example teaches us how to express our love for God.

**Read Luke 6:12 and John 15:10; 17:26.** After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- In imitation of Jesus, how can we show that we love Jehovah?

### 5. Jesus feels for people in need

Jesus put the needs of other people ahead of his own. Even when he was tired, he used his time and energy to help people. **Read Mark 6:30-44**, and then discuss these questions:

- In this account, what are some ways that Jesus showed concern for others?—See verses 31, 34, 41, and 42.
- What motivated Jesus to help people?—See verse 34.
- Because Jesus reflects Jehovah's personality, what does all of this teach you about Jehovah?
- What are some ways that we can imitate Jesus' concern for others?



## 6. Jesus is generous

Jesus was generous even though he did not have many material things, and he encouraged us to be generous.

**Read Acts 20:35**, and then discuss this question:

- According to Jesus, how can we be happy?

**Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.

- What are some ways that we can give, even if we do not have much materially?



**VIDEO:** “*There Is More Happiness in Giving*”—Excerpt (4:00)

### Did you know?

The Bible teaches us to pray to Jehovah in Jesus' name. (Read John 16:23, 24.) When we pray in that way, we show that we recognize what Jesus has done to help us become Jehovah's friends.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “God doesn't care about our suffering.”

- Since Jesus reflects his Father's personality, how do his actions prove that Jehovah cares about us?

## SUMMARY

Jesus loves Jehovah, and he loves people. Since Jesus is like his Father, the more you come to know Jesus, the more you will come to know Jehovah.

## Review

- How can we show love for Jehovah, as Jesus did?
- How can we show love for people, as Jesus did?
- What do you find most appealing about Jesus' personality?

## EXPLORE



Consider some of Jesus' qualities that we can imitate.

**"To Imitate Jesus, Be . . ."**  
(*Jesus—The Way, the Truth, the Life*, page 317)



Examine the important role that Jesus plays in prayers.

**"Why Pray in Jesus' Name?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, February 1, 2008)



Does the Bible say anything about Jesus' appearance?

**"What Did Jesus Look Like?"**  
(Web article)



What can we learn from the way that Jesus treated women?

**"Respect and Dignity Under God's Care"** (*The Watchtower*, September 1, 2012)

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Choose one of Jesus' qualities, and try to display it this week.
- Other:



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# How to Identify Real Christians

Billions of people claim to be Christian. But they do not all share the same beliefs, nor do they live by the same standards. So how can we identify *real* Christians?

## 1. What is a Christian?

Christians are disciples, or followers, of Jesus Christ. (Read Acts 11:26.) How do they prove that they are Jesus' disciples? He said: "**If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples.**" (John 8:31) This means that real Christians must obey Jesus' teachings. And just as Jesus relied on the Scriptures to support his teachings, real Christians base their beliefs on the Bible.—Read Luke 24:27.

## 2. How do real Christians show love?

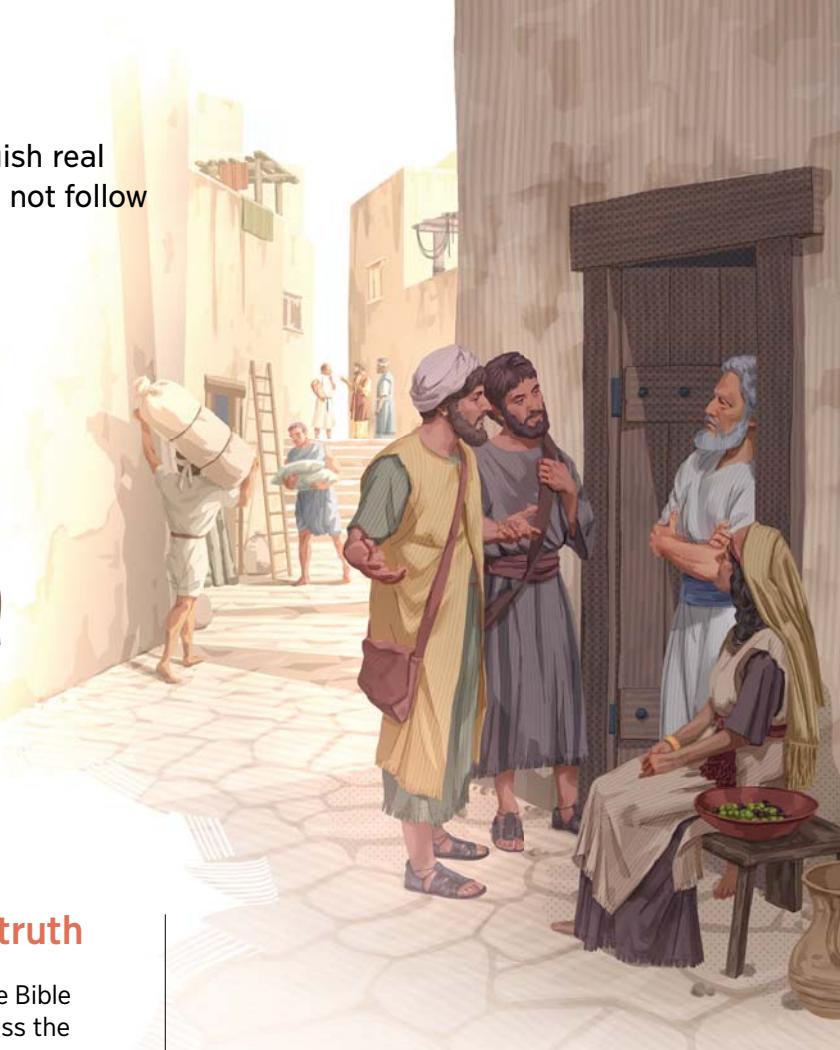
Jesus told his followers: "**Love one another just as I have loved you.**" (John 15:12) How did Jesus show that he loved his disciples? He spent time with them, encouraged them, and helped them. He even gave up his life for them. (1 John 3:16) Similarly, real Christians do more than talk about love. They show by their words and actions that they love one another.

## 3. Real Christians are busy in what activity?

Jesus gave work to his disciples. "**He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God.**" (Luke 9:2) The early Christians preached, not only in their places of worship but also in other public places and at the homes of people. (Read Acts 5:42; 17:17.) Real Christians today likewise preach Bible truth wherever people are. They love their neighbors, so they gladly use their time and energy to share the Bible's message of hope and comfort. —Mark 12:31.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how you can distinguish real Christians from people who do not follow Jesus' teachings and example.



### 4. They search for Bible truth

Not all who claim to be Christian value Bible truth. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



[\*\*VIDEO: How Christianity Was Corrupted \(5:11\)\*\*](#)

- How have some so-called Christian churches failed to teach what Jesus taught?

Jesus taught the truth from God's Word. [Read John 18:37](#), and then discuss this question:

- According to Jesus, how can we identify Christians who are "on the side of the truth"?

The early Christians valued God's Word, preached to others, and loved one another

### 5. They preach Bible truth

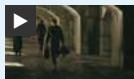
Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave his followers a mission that continues today. [Read Matthew 28:19, 20 and Acts 1:8](#), and then discuss this question:

- To what extent would the preaching work be done?



## 6. They practice what they preach

What convinced a man named Tom that he had found real Christianity? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



[VIDEO: I Gave Up on Religion \(5:20\)](#)

- In the video, what had caused Tom to give up on religion?
- Why is he convinced that he has found the truth?

Actions speak louder than words. [Read Matthew 7:21](#), and then discuss this question:

- What means more to Jesus—what we *claim* to believe or what we *prove* by our actions?

## 7. They love one another

Have Christians really risked their lives for fellow Christians? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



[VIDEO: He Offered to Surrender His Life \(2:55\)](#)

- In the video, what moved Lloyd to risk his life for Brother Johansson?
- Do you think that he acted like a real Christian?

[Read John 13:34, 35](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How would Jesus' disciples (real Christians) treat people of another race or nation?
- How would they do so during wartime?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Christians have done terrible things—how can they have the true religion?”

- What scripture could you share that shows how we can identify real Christians?

## SUMMARY

Real Christians follow Bible teachings, show self-sacrificing love, and preach Bible truth.

## Review

- On what do real Christians base their beliefs?
- What quality identifies real Christians?
- What work do real Christians do?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If possible, tour a branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses near you.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn more about a group that endeavors to follow Jesus Christ's example and teachings.

**Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are We?**



See what led a former nun to find "a true spiritual family."

**"They Used the Bible to Answer Every Question!"**  
(*The Watchtower*, April 1, 2014)



Learn how real Christians show love for fellow worshippers who need relief.

***Helping Our Brothers When Disaster Strikes—Excerpt***



Examine how the early Christians and real Christians today fit the pattern that Jesus said would identify his followers.

**"What Are the Marks of True Christianity?"** (*The Watchtower*, March 1, 2012)



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# Are Jehovah's Witnesses Real Christians?

As Jehovah's Witnesses, we believe that we are real Christians. Why? Consider the basis for our beliefs, the name that sets us apart, and the love we have for one another.

## 1. On what do Jehovah's Witnesses base their beliefs?

Jesus said: “[God’s] word is truth.” (John 17:17) Like Jesus, Jehovah's Witnesses have always based their beliefs on God's Word. Consider our modern-day history. In the late 19th century, a group of Bible students carefully began to examine the Bible. They based their beliefs on what it said, even when those beliefs differed from church doctrines. Then, they began sharing those Bible truths with others.\*

## 2. Why do we call ourselves Jehovah's Witnesses?

Jehovah refers to his worshippers as his witnesses because they tell the truth about him. (Hebrews 11:4–12:1) For example, in ancient times, God told his people: “**You are my witnesses.**” (Read Isaiah 43:10.) Jesus is called “the Faithful Witness.” (Revelation 1:5) Thus, in 1931 we adopted the name Jehovah's Witnesses. We are proud to bear that name.

## 3. How do Jehovah's Witnesses imitate Jesus' love?

Jesus loved his disciples so much that they were like family to him. (Read Mark 3:35.) Similarly, Jehovah's Witnesses are a united, worldwide family. That is why we call each other brother and sister. (Philemon 1, 2) We also obey the command: “**Have love for the whole association of brothers.**” (1 Peter 2:17) Jehovah's Witnesses show this love in many ways, such as by helping our fellow believers around the world in times of need.

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\* Our principal journal, *The Watchtower*, has published Bible truth consistently since 1879.

## DIG DEEPER

Take a closer look at the history of Jehovah's Witnesses, and see further evidence that we are real Christians.



Real Christians base their beliefs on the Bible and share them with others

### 4. We base our beliefs on the Bible

Jehovah foretold that Bible truth would be revealed. [Read Daniel 12:4 and footnote](#), and then discuss this question:

- What would “become abundant” among God’s people as they continued to examine the Bible?

Consider how a group of Bible students, including Charles Russell, studied God’s Word. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- In the video, how did Charles Russell and his fellow Bible Students study the Bible?



**VIDEO:** [Rediscovering Bible Truth](#)  
(7:45)

#### Did you know?

Occasionally, we have adjusted some of our beliefs. Why? Just as the rising sun reveals details of a landscape gradually, God grants an understanding of his Word progressively. (Read Proverbs 4:18.) So although the Bible does not change, we adjust our beliefs as our understanding of the Bible improves.

## 5. We live up to our name

Why did we adopt the name Jehovah's Witnesses? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: A Name That Defines Us (2:40)**

- Why is the name Jehovah's Witnesses appropriate?

Why has Jehovah chosen people to be his witnesses? Because they would identify him as the true God, since many lies have been told about him. Consider just two of those lies.

Some religions teach their members that God wants them to use images in their worship. However, [read Leviticus 26:1](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What is the truth? How does Jehovah feel about idols?

Some religious leaders teach that Jesus is God. However, [read John 20:17](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What is the truth? Are God and Jesus the same person?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jehovah has sent his Witnesses to preach the truth about him and his Son?



Real Christians show love to those in need

## 6. We love one another

The Bible compares Christians to different parts of the human body. [Read 1 Corinthians 12: 25, 26](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How should real Christians react when other Christians suffer?
- What have you observed about the love among Jehovah's Witnesses?

When Jehovah's Witnesses suffer in one part of the earth, fellow Witnesses all over the world respond immediately. To see one example, [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Haiti Endures Hurricane Matthew (5:29)**

- How are the relief efforts of Jehovah's Witnesses evidence of love?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "Jehovah's Witnesses are just a new religion."

- Since when has Jehovah been calling his worshippers witnesses?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah's Witnesses are real Christians. We are a worldwide family of worshippers who base our beliefs on the Bible and who make known the truth about Jehovah.

## Review

- Why did we adopt the name Jehovah's Witnesses?
- How do we treat one another?
- Do you think Jehovah's Witnesses are real Christians?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask one of Jehovah's Witnesses what convinced him that we have the truth.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn more about our history.

***Jehovah's Witnesses  
—Faith in Action,  
Part 1: Out of Darkness***



See an example of how Jehovah's Witnesses have exposed false teachings.

***God's People Glorify  
His Name***



Get answers to questions you may have about Jehovah's Witnesses.

***"Frequently Asked Questions About Jehovah's Witnesses"***  
(web page)



Stephen participated in hate crimes. Find out what he saw among Jehovah's Witnesses that moved him to change.

***"My Life Was Going From Bad to Worse"***  
(*The Watchtower*, July 1, 2015)



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# How the Congregation Is Organized

Jehovah is a God of order. (1 Corinthians 14:33) So we would expect that his people would be organized. How is the Christian congregation organized? How can we contribute to its success?

## 1. Who is the head of the congregation?

**“Christ is head of the congregation.”** (Ephesians 5:23) From heaven, he oversees the activities of Jehovah’s people worldwide. Jesus appointed “the faithful and discreet slave”—a small group of mature elders also known as the Governing Body. (Read Matthew 24:45-47.) Like the first-century apostles and elders in Jerusalem, the Governing Body gives direction to the global congregation. (Acts 15:2) But these men are not the leaders of our organization. They look to Jehovah and his Word for guidance, and they submit to Jesus’ headship.

## 2. What is the role of the elders?

Elders are mature Christian men who teach from the Scriptures and shepherd Jehovah’s people by helping and encouraging them. They are not paid for their work. Rather, they serve **“willingly before God; not for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly.”** (1 Peter 5:1, 2) Elders are assisted by ministerial servants, who, in time, may qualify to serve as elders themselves.

The Governing Body appoints some elders to be circuit overseers. They visit various congregations to give guidance and encouragement. They appoint elders and ministerial servants, who must meet the Scriptural requirements.—1 Timothy 3:1-10, 12; Titus 1:5-9.

## 3. What is the role of each Witness?

All in the congregation **“praise the name of Jehovah”** by participating at congregation meetings and sharing in the ministry according to their circumstances.—Read Psalm 148:12, 13.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn what kind of leader Jesus is, how elders try to imitate his example, and how we can cooperate with Jesus and the elders.



Elders keep themselves and their families spiritually strong



Elders care for all in the congregation

### 4. Jesus is a refreshing leader

Jesus offers us an appealing invitation.

**Read Matthew 11:28-30**, and then discuss this question:

- How does Jesus want us to feel about his leadership?

How do elders imitate Jesus' example?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO: Elders Respond to Nepal Earthquake (4:56)**

The Bible clearly teaches how elders should do their work.

**Read Isaiah 32:2 and 1 Peter 5:1-3**, and then discuss these questions:

- How does it make you feel to know that, like Jesus, the elders endeavor to refresh others?
- What are some other ways in which the elders imitate Jesus?

### 5. Elders teach by example

How does Jesus want elders to view their role?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO: Elders Take the Lead! (7:39)**

Jesus set the standard for those who take the lead in the congregation. **Read Matthew 23:8-12**, and then discuss this question:

- What impresses you about the difference between the Bible's standard for elders and what you have observed in religious leaders?

## 6. We can cooperate with the elders



The Bible gives us an important reason to cooperate with the elders. [Read Hebrews 13:17](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Is it reasonable that the Bible encourages us to be obedient and submissive to those taking the lead? Why, or why not?

[Read Luke 16:10](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why is it important to cooperate with the elders even in seemingly small matters?

Elders preach regularly

Elders are teachers. They also help with cleaning and other tasks



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “You don’t need to belong to an organized religion.”

- What benefits can you think of that come to a person for worshipping God as part of a congregation?

## SUMMARY

Jesus is the head of the congregation. We gladly cooperate with the elders serving under him because they refresh us and teach us by example.

## Review

- Who is the head of the congregation?
- How do the elders help the congregation?
- What is the role of each of Jehovah's worshippers?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- At the next congregation meeting, ask an elder what he enjoys about his work in the congregation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



► 4:22

See evidence of the great concern that the Governing Body and other elders have for Christians today.

***Strengthening the Brothers Under Ban***



► 4:51

Learn about the work that circuit overseers do.

***The Life of a Rural Circuit Overseer***



Read about the role of women in the congregation.

***"Do Jehovah's Witnesses Have Women Ministers?"***  
(*The Watchtower*, September 1, 2012)



Find out how elders work hard to encourage their fellow believers.

***"Christian Elders—'Fellow Workers for Our Joy'"***  
(*The Watchtower*, January 15, 2013)



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# How Is the Good News Being Preached?

By means of his Kingdom, Jehovah will soon eliminate all of our problems. That news is too good to keep to ourselves. Jesus wanted his followers to share this message with everyone! (Matthew 28:19, 20) How have Jehovah's Witnesses responded to Jesus' command?

## 1. How is Matthew 24:14 being fulfilled today?

Jesus foretold: “**This good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth.**” (Matthew 24:14) Jehovah's Witnesses are happy to share in this important work. We are preaching the good news worldwide in over 1,000 languages! This colossal work requires tremendous effort and organization. It could not be done without Jehovah's help.

## 2. What efforts do we make to preach to people?

We preach wherever we can find people. Like first-century Christians, we preach “**from house to house.**” (Acts 5:42) This systematic method allows us to reach millions of people each year. Since people are not always at home, we also preach in many public places. We are always looking for opportunities to tell others about Jehovah and his purposes.

## 3. Who has the responsibility to preach the good news?

All real Christians have the responsibility to share the good news with others. We take our responsibility seriously. We preach as much as our personal circumstances allow because we realize that lives are at stake. (Read 1 Timothy 4:16.) We are not paid to do this work, for the Bible says: “**You received free, give free.**” (Matthew 10:7, 8) Not everyone accepts our message. But we continue because preaching is part of our worship and it makes Jehovah happy.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn more about the efforts of Jehovah's Witnesses to preach worldwide, and see how Jehovah helps us.



Preaching around the world: (A) Costa Rica, (B) United States, (C) Benin, (D) Thailand, (E) Yap, (F) Sweden



**VIDEO:** Preaching in “the Most Distant Part of the Earth”  
(7:33)

### 4. We work hard to reach all people

Jehovah's Witnesses make special efforts to preach the good news to people everywhere. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- What impresses you about the efforts Jehovah's Witnesses make to preach?

**Read Matthew 22:39 and Romans 10:13-15**, and then discuss these questions:

- How does our ministry show that we love our neighbors?
- How does Jehovah feel about those who preach the good news?—See verse 15.

## 5. We are God's fellow workers

Many experiences show that Jehovah is directing our work. For example, in New Zealand a brother named Paul met a woman in the house-to-house work one afternoon. That very morning, the woman had prayed to God, using God's name, Jehovah, and asking that someone call on her. "Three hours later," says Paul, "I arrived at her doorstep."

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:9**, and then discuss this question:

- How do experiences such as the one in New Zealand show that Jehovah is directing the preaching work?

**Read Acts 1:8**, and then discuss this question:

- Why do we need Jehovah's help to accomplish our ministry?

### Did you know?

Each week at our midweek meeting, we receive training to help us preach. If you have attended one of these meetings, what did you think of the training offered?

## 6. We obey God's command to preach

In the first century, opposers tried to stop Jesus' followers from preaching. Early Christians defended their right to preach by "legally establishing . . . the good news." (Philippians 1:7) Jehovah's Witnesses do the same today.\*

**Play the VIDEO.**



**VIDEO: Legally Defending the Good News (2:28)**

**Read Acts 5:27-42**, and then discuss this question:

- Why will we not stop preaching?  
—See verses 29, 38, and 39.

\* God is the one who authorizes our ministry. Thus, Jehovah's Witnesses do not need permission from human authorities to preach the good news.



**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** "Why do Jehovah's Witnesses go from door to door?"

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Jesus instructed his followers to preach the good news to all nations. Jehovah is helping his people to do this work.

## Review

- How is the good news being preached worldwide?
- How does our ministry show that we love our neighbors?
- Do you think that preaching can be a satisfying work? Why?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask some of the friends at the Kingdom Hall what challenges they had to overcome to preach and what blessings they have received.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See how Jehovah's Witnesses preach to people in large cities.

**Special Metropolitan Public Witnessing in Paris**



How have Jehovah's Witnesses reached out to refugees?

**Satisfying Spiritual Thirst Among Refugees**



Hear firsthand how satisfying life can be as a full-time minister.

**Glad I Chose This Career**



Learn about noteworthy court victories that have advanced the preaching of the good news.

**"Kingdom Preachers Take Their Case to Court" (God's Kingdom Rules!, chapter 13)**



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# How Can You Share the Good News?

As you learn Bible truths, you may think, ‘Everyone should know about this!’ True, everyone does need to know it! Yet, you may feel nervous about telling others what you have learned. Let us discuss how you can overcome that nervousness and begin happily sharing the Bible’s good news.

## 1. How can you share what you have learned with people you know?

Jesus’ disciples said: “**We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard.**” (Acts 4:20) They valued the truth so much that they wanted to share it with as many people as possible. Do you feel the same way? If so, look for opportunities when you can respectfully tell your family and friends what you have learned.—Read Colossians 4:6.

### Some ways to get started

- When talking with family, introduce a Bible topic by saying: “I learned something interesting this week.”
- Share an encouraging scripture with a friend who is sick or anxious.
- Tell workmates who ask about your week what you learned at your Bible study or at a congregation meeting.
- Show your friends the jw.org website.
- Invite others to sit in on your Bible study, or show them how to request one on jw.org.

## 2. Why is preaching with the congregation a worthwhile goal?

Jesus’ disciples did more than just share the good news with people they knew. Jesus “**sent them out by twos ahead of him into every city**” to preach. (Luke 10:1) That organized preaching work gave many more people an opportunity to hear the good news. Preaching together also brought much joy to the disciples. (Luke 10:17) Could you likewise make it your goal to preach with the congregation?

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how you can overcome nervousness and experience the joy that comes from sharing the good news.



### 3. Jehovah will be with you

Some who want to preach may feel nervous about the impression they will make or the reaction they may receive.

- Are you nervous about sharing what you have learned? Why, or why not?

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: I Prayed to Jehovah for Courage (4:05)**

- How did these young Witnesses overcome their fears?

[Read Isaiah 41:10](#), and then discuss this question:

- When you feel afraid to preach, how will prayer help you?

#### Did you know?

Many of Jehovah's Witnesses once thought that they could never share the good news with others. Sergey, for example, felt worthless and found it difficult to communicate. But then he studied the Bible. He says: “Despite my fear, I began to talk to others about what I was learning. To my great surprise, telling others about the Bible actually boosted my self-confidence. It also strengthened these new beliefs in my own heart.”



## 4. Be respectful

When sharing the good news, consider not only *what* to say but also *how* to say it. **Read 2 Timothy 2:24 and 1 Peter 3:15**, and then discuss these questions:

- How could you apply these verses when talking to others about the Bible?
- Some family members or friends may not agree with you. What could you do? What should you not do?
- Why might it be better to use tactful questions rather than forceful statements?

## 5. Sharing the good news brings joy

Jehovah gave Jesus the work of sharing the good news. How did Jesus view that work?

**Read John 4:34**, and then discuss these questions:

- Eating good food sustains our life and makes us happy. Why did Jesus compare doing God's will—including sharing the good news—to eating food?
- What joys do you think may come from sharing the good news?

### Tips

- During the midweek meeting, look for ways that you can start conversations.
- Consider enrolling as a student on the midweek meeting. Student assignments can help you feel more prepared to tell others what you are learning.
- Use the "Some People Say" or "Someone May Ask" sections in this course to practice how you could reply to common questions and objections.

### SOMEONE MAY ASK: "What's new with you?"

- How could you use this opportunity to tell the person about what you have learned on your Bible study?

## SUMMARY

Sharing the good news with others brings joy, and getting started may be easier than you think.

## Review

- Why share the good news with others?
- How can you do so in a respectful way?
- How can you overcome any nervousness you may have about preaching?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Think of one person with whom you could share the good news. Think about *what* to say, *how* to say it, and *when* to say it.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



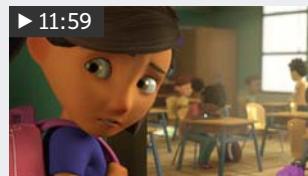
Consider four simple ways you could share the good news using the jw.org contact card.

**Sample JW.ORG Contact Card Presentation**



Learn about four qualities that can help you to share the good news.

**"Are You Ready to Become a Fisher of Men?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, September 2020)



Watch how a Bible example can give us courage to share the good news, even if we are young.

**Jehovah Will Help You Be Bold**



Find out how you can talk about the Bible with family members who have not learned about Jehovah.

**"Reaching the Heart of Unbelieving Relatives"**  
(*The Watchtower*, March 15, 2014)



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# Baptism—A Worthwhile Goal!

Jesus taught that baptism is a requirement for Christians. (Read Matthew 28:19, 20.) But what is baptism? And what must a person do to reach that goal?

## 1. What is baptism?

The word “baptize” comes from a Greek term meaning “to dip” under water. When Jesus was baptized, he was immersed in the Jordan River, and then he came “**up out of the water.**” (Mark 1:9, 10) Similarly, true Christians are baptized by being fully dipped, or immersed, in water.

## 2. What does baptism show?

By getting baptized, a person shows that he has dedicated himself to Jehovah God. How does a person make a dedication? Prior to baptism, in a private prayer, he tells Jehovah that he wants to serve Him forever. He promises to worship only Jehovah and to make the doing of God’s will the most important thing in his life. He chooses to “**disown himself and . . . keep following**” Jesus’ teachings and example. (Matthew 16:24) His dedication and baptism make it possible for him to have a close friendship with Jehovah and with fellow worshippers.

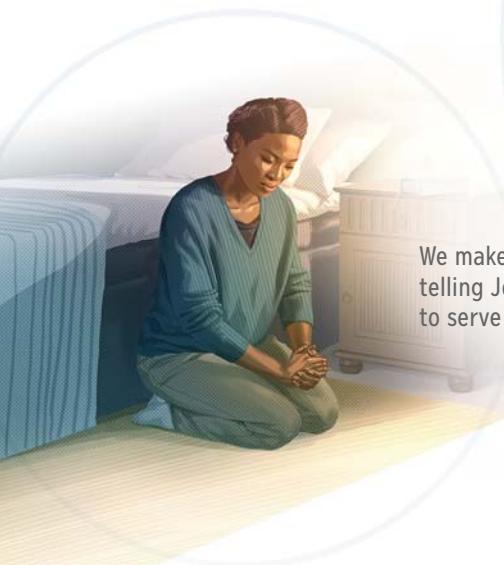
## 3. How can a person progress to baptism?

You can prepare for baptism by learning about Jehovah and building faith in him. (Read Hebrews 11:6.) As your knowledge and faith grow, so will your love for Jehovah. No doubt you will want to preach about him and live by his standards. (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 John 5:3) Once a person is living “**worthy of Jehovah in order to please him fully,**” he may decide to dedicate his life to God and get baptized.—Colossians 1:9, 10.\*

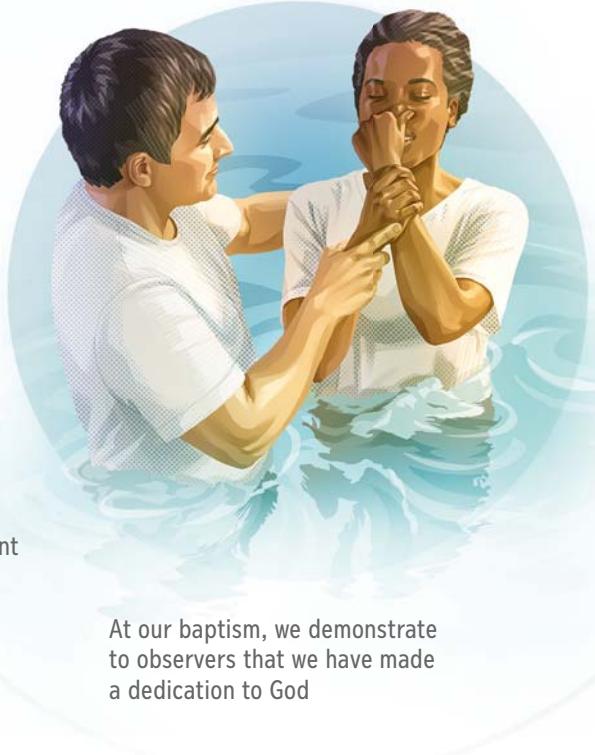
\* If a person was previously baptized in another religion, he would need to get baptized again. Why? Because that religion did not teach the truth from the Bible.—See Acts 19:1-5 and Lesson 13.

## DIG DEEPER

See what we can learn from Jesus' baptism and how someone can prepare for this important step.



We make a dedication by telling Jehovah that we want to serve him forever



At our baptism, we demonstrate to observers that we have made a dedication to God

### 4. We can learn from Jesus' baptism

Read Matthew 3:13-17 to learn more details about Jesus' baptism. Then discuss these questions:

- Was Jesus an infant when he got baptized?
- How was he baptized? Was he just sprinkled with water?

Jesus began his special God-given work on earth when he got baptized. Read Luke 3:21-23 and John 6:38, and then discuss this question:

- After Jesus got baptized, what work did he put first in his life?

### 5. Baptism is a realistic goal

The idea of dedication and baptism could seem overwhelming at first. However, you can progress to a point where you feel confident about making such an important decision. To see some people who did that, [play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO: Building a Relationship With Jehovah (1:11)**

Read John 17:3 and James 1:5, and then discuss this question:

- What can help a person get ready for baptism?



## 6. Baptism means becoming part of Jehovah's family

When we get baptized, we become part of a united worldwide family. Although we come from different places and backgrounds, we all share the same beliefs and live by the same moral standards. [Read Psalm 25:14 and 1 Peter 2:17](#), and then discuss this question:

- How does baptism affect a person's relationship with Jehovah and with others who worship Him?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I'm not ready to get baptized."

- If that is how you feel, do you think baptism is still a worthwhile goal?

## SUMMARY

Jesus taught that Christians need to get baptized. To reach that goal, a person has to build strong faith in Jehovah, live by His standards, and dedicate himself to Him.

## Review

- What is baptism, and why is it important?
- How are dedication and baptism related?
- What steps lead to dedication and baptism?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Consider the checklists at the end of Section 4, “Am I Ready to Preach With the Congregation?” and “Am I Ready to Get Baptized?,” to see how you may qualify in the future.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn what baptism is and what it is not.

**“What Is Baptism?”**  
(Web article)



Review ways that a person can progress to baptism.

**“Love and Appreciation for Jehovah Lead to Baptism”**  
(*The Watchtower*, March 2020)



Read how one man’s decision to get baptized was based on more than emotion.

**“They Wanted Me to Prove the Truth to Myself”**  
(*The Watchtower*, February 1, 2013)



Consider why baptism is a worthwhile goal and how you can prepare for it.

**“Should I Get Baptized?”**  
(*Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 2, chapter 37)



To find all media for LESSON 23,  
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# What Is the Truth About Angels?

Jehovah wants us to learn about his family in heaven. That family includes angels, who are called “sons of God.” (Job 38:7) What does the Bible say about angels? How do they affect people? And are all angels part of God’s family?

## 1. Who are the angels?

Jehovah created angels before he made the earth. Like him, they are invisible spirits who live in heaven. (Hebrews 1:14) There are millions of angels, and each one is unique. (Revelation 5:11) They **“carry out [Jehovah’s] word, obeying his voice.”** (Psalm 103:20) In ancient times, Jehovah sometimes sent angels to deliver messages and to support and rescue his people. Today, angels guide Christians to people who want to learn about God.

## 2. Who are Satan and his demons?

Some angels did not remain faithful to Jehovah. The first angel who rebelled is **“the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth.”** (Revelation 12:9) Satan wanted to rule over others, so he influenced the first humans and later even other angels to join his rebellion. Those rebellious angels are called demons. Jehovah had them expelled from heaven to the earth, and they will be destroyed.—Read Revelation 12:9, 12.

## 3. How do Satan and the demons try to mislead us?

Satan and the demons mislead many people through demonism, or spiritism, which is the bad practice of trying to communicate with spirits. For example, some people consult astrologers, fortune-tellers, psychics, and witch doctors. Others seek forms of medical treatment that involve spiritism. People are also tricked into believing that they can speak to the dead. But Jehovah warns us: **“Do not turn to the spirit mediums, and do not consult fortune-tellers.”** (Leviticus 19:31) He gives us this warning to protect us from Satan and the demons. They are God’s enemies, and they want to harm us.

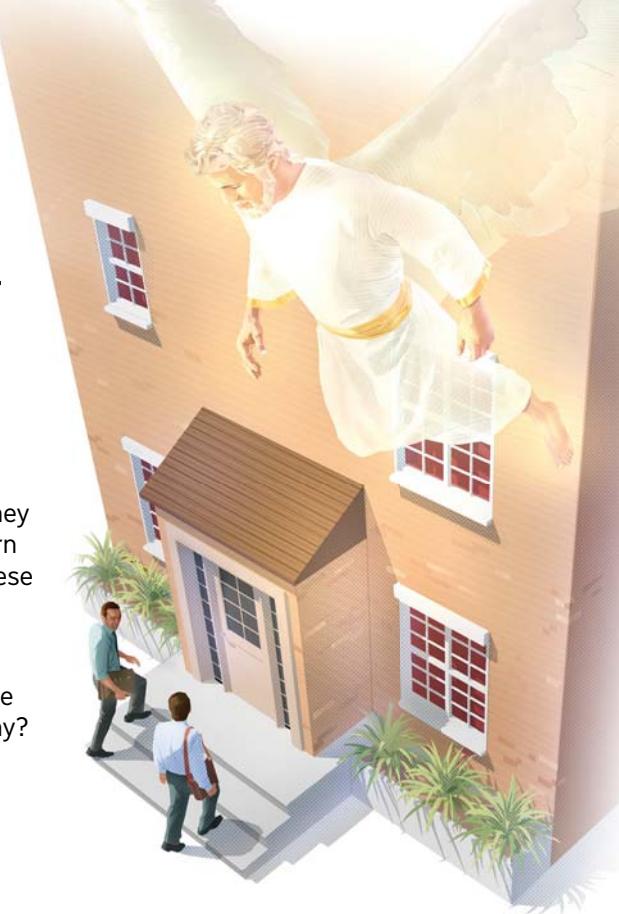
## DIG DEEPER

Learn about the good things that angels do, the dangers of spiritism, and how we can protect ourselves from Satan and the demons.

### 4. Angels help people to learn about Jehovah

God's angels do not preach directly to people. Instead, they may guide God's worshippers to people who want to learn about him. [Read Revelation 14:6, 7](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Why do we need help from the angels to preach?
- Does it encourage you to know that angels can guide you to people who need to hear about the Bible? Why?



### 5. Reject spiritism

Satan and the demons are Jehovah's enemies. They are our enemies too. [Read Luke 9:38-42](#), and then discuss this question:

- How do the demons treat people?

We do not want to invite the demons into our lives. [Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12](#), and then discuss these questions:

- In what ways do the demons try to influence us and communicate with us? What practices are common where you live?
- Does it seem reasonable to you that Jehovah forbids spiritistic practices? Why?



**Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Do you think that the amulet worn by Palesa's daughter was harmful? Why?
- What did Palesa need to do to be protected from the demons?

Real Christians have always opposed the demons. **Read Acts 19:19 and 1 Corinthians 10:21**, and then discuss this question:

- Why is it important to destroy anything you have that is connected with spiritism?



**VIDEO: "Oppose the Devil" (5:02)**

## 6. Win the fight against Satan and his demons

The demons are ruled by Satan. But the faithful angels are directed by the archangel Michael, which is another name for Jesus. How powerful is Michael? **Read Revelation 12:7-9**, and then discuss these questions:

- Who is more powerful? Michael and his angels or Satan and his demons?
- Do you think that Jesus' followers need to be afraid of Satan and his demons?

You can win the fight against Satan and his demons. **Read James 4:7**, and then discuss this question:

- How can you protect yourself from Satan and the demons?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "There's nothing wrong with playing games or watching movies about spiritism. It's just for fun."

- Why is that viewpoint dangerous?

## SUMMARY

Faithful angels help us. Satan and his demons are Jehovah's enemies, and they use spiritism to mislead people.

## Review

- How are Jehovah's angels helping people to learn about him?
- Who are Satan and his demons?
- Why do you want to stay clear of spiritism?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Consider whether any objects you have may be related to spiritism, and pray for wisdom to decide what to do with them.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Look at the evidence that Jesus is the archangel Michael.

**"Who Is the Archangel Michael?"** (Web article)



Consider proof that the Devil is not just a principle or quality of evil inside us.

**"Is the Devil Real?"** (Web article)



See how a woman broke free from demonic influences.

**"She Found a Purpose in Life"** (*The Watchtower*, July 1, 1993)



Learn how Satan uses spiritism to fool people.

**"The Truth About Magic, Sorcery, and Witchcraft"** (*The Road to Everlasting Life*, part 5)



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# What Is God's Purpose for Us?

The Bible acknowledges that for humans, life is ‘short and filled with trouble.’ (Job 14:1) Is this really what God wants for us? If not, what is his purpose for us? Will it ever be fulfilled? Consider the Bible’s comforting answers.

## 1. What kind of life does Jehovah want for us?

Jehovah wants us to have the best life possible. When he created the first humans, Adam and Eve, he placed them in a beautiful paradise, the garden of Eden. Then “**God blessed them, and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it.’**” (Genesis 1:28) Jehovah wanted them to have children, to make the whole earth a paradise, and to take care of the animals. His purpose was for all people to enjoy perfect health and live forever.

Although things did not work out that way,\* God’s purpose has not changed. (Isaiah 46:10, 11) He still wants obedient humans to live forever in perfect conditions.—Read Revelation 21:3, 4.

## 2. How can we enjoy a meaningful life now?

Jehovah created us with a “spiritual need,” that is, a desire to know and worship him. (Read Matthew 5:3-6.) He wants us to have a close friendship with him, “**to walk in all his ways, to love him,**” and to serve him “**with all [our] heart.**” (Deuteronomy 10:12; Psalm 25:14) When we do so, we can be truly happy even though we have problems. Worshipping Jehovah gives our life real meaning and a sense of purpose.

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\* In the next lesson, you will learn what went wrong.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn about the great love Jehovah showed when preparing the earth for us and what his Word teaches about the purpose of life.



### 3. Jehovah has a wonderful purpose for humans

Play the **VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.

- Why did God create our beautiful planet?

Read **Ecclesiastes 3:11**, and then discuss this question:

- What does this teach you about Jehovah?



**VIDEO: Why Did God Create the Earth?—Excerpt (1:41)**



A house that has fallen into disrepair can be restored. Likewise, the earth, which humans in general have neglected, will be restored by God for those who love him



## 4. Jehovah's purpose has not changed

Read Psalm 37:11, 29 and Isaiah 55:11, and then discuss this question:

- How do we know that Jehovah's purpose for us has not changed?

---

## 5. Worshipping Jehovah gives our life real meaning

Knowing the purpose of life can bring us happiness. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- How did Terumi benefit from learning the purpose of life?

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13, and then discuss this question:

- Because Jehovah has done so much for us, what are we obligated to do in return?



**VIDEO: I Learned the Purpose of Life (5:03)**

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** “What is the purpose of life?”

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants us to enjoy life forever in perfect conditions here on earth. When we worship him with all our heart, our lives have real meaning—even now.

## Review

- What was Jehovah's original purpose for Adam and Eve?
- How do we know that God's purpose for humans has not changed?
- How can you find real meaning in life?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Tell someone about Jehovah's wonderful purpose for us.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider the evidence that the garden of Eden really existed.

**"The Garden of Eden—Myth or Fact?"**

(*The Watchtower*, January 1, 2011)



Learn why we can be sure that the earth will remain forever.

**"Will the Earth Be Destroyed?"** (Web article)



Examine what the Bible says about finding meaning in your life.

**"What Is the Meaning of Life?"** (Web article)



See how a man who thought he had everything found what was missing in his life.

***Now I Have a Life of Purpose***



To find all media for LESSON 25,  
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# Why Do Evil and Suffering Exist?

“Why?” is a natural question for a person to ask when tragedy strikes. How happy we are that the Bible offers clear answers to that question!

## 1. How did Satan introduce evil into the world?

Satan the Devil rebelled against God. Satan wanted to rule over others, so he influenced the first humans, Adam and Eve, to join him in his rebellion. Satan did this by telling Eve a lie. (Genesis 3:1-5) He made her think that Jehovah was wrongly withholding something good from her. He implied that humans would be happier if they did not obey God. Satan told the first lie by telling Eve that she would not die. Thus, the Bible calls Satan “**a liar and the father of the lie.**”—John 8:44.

## 2. What did Adam and Eve choose to do?

Jehovah was very generous to Adam and Eve. He said they could eat from every tree in the garden of Eden except one. (Genesis 2:15-17) But they decided to eat the fruit of that tree anyway. Eve “**began taking of its fruit and eating it.**” Later, Adam “**began eating it.**” (Genesis 3:6) They both disobeyed God. Because Adam and Eve were perfect, it was natural for them to do what is right. But by willfully disobeying God, they sinned and rejected his rulership. That decision caused them great suffering.—Genesis 3:16-19.

## 3. How has Adam and Eve’s decision affected us?

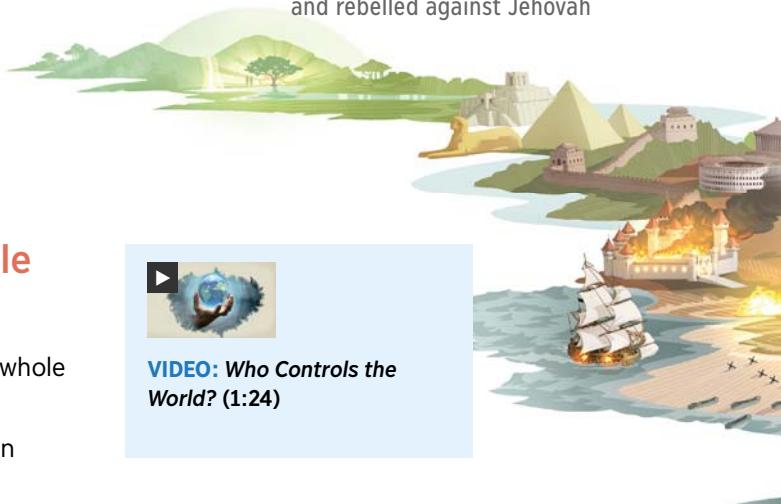
When Adam and Eve sinned, they became imperfect, and they thus passed on imperfection to all of their descendants. Regarding Adam, the Bible says: “**Through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men.**”—Romans 5:12.

We suffer for a variety of reasons. Sometimes we suffer because of bad decisions we make. Sometimes we suffer because of other people’s bad decisions. Sometimes we suffer because we are in the wrong place at the wrong time.—Read Ecclesiastes 9:11.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider why God is not responsible for the evil and suffering in the world today and how he feels when we suffer.

Adam and Eve were perfect and lived in Paradise. But they listened to Satan and rebelled against Jehovah



### 4. The one who is responsible for our suffering

Many people believe that God controls the whole world. Is that true? [Play the VIDEO.](#)

Read [James 1:13](#) and [1 John 5:19](#), and then discuss this question:

- Is God responsible for suffering and evil?



[VIDEO: Who Controls the World? \(1:24\)](#)



[VIDEO: Why Does God Allow Suffering?—Excerpt \(3:07\)](#)

### 5. Consider the results of Satan's rulership

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

Read [Genesis 3:1-6](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What lie did Satan tell?—See verses 4 and 5.
- How did Satan imply that Jehovah was holding back something good from humans?
- According to Satan, do humans need to have Jehovah as their Ruler in order to be happy?

Read [Ecclesiastes 8:9](#), and then discuss this question:

- Without Jehovah as the Ruler of this world, what has happened?

## 6. Jehovah cares about our suffering

Is God indifferent to our suffering? Consider what King David and the apostle Peter wrote. [Read Psalm 31:7 and 1 Peter 5:7](#), and then discuss this question:

- How does it make you feel to know that Jehovah notices and cares about our suffering?



## 7. God will end all human suffering

[Read Isaiah 65:17 and Revelation 21:3, 4](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why is it comforting to know that Jehovah will undo the effects of all the bad things that humans have experienced?

### Did you know?

When Satan told the first lie, he slandered Jehovah. That is, he damaged Jehovah's reputation as a fair and loving Ruler. When Jehovah undoes human suffering in the near future, he will vindicate himself. In other words, he will prove that his rulership really is the best. The vindication of Jehovah's name is a matter of the highest importance in the universe.—Matthew 6:9, 10.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Suffering is part of God’s purpose for us.”

- What would you say?

Jehovah will end sin, suffering, and death. Once again, humans will be perfect and live in Paradise

## SUMMARY

Satan the Devil and the first two humans are mainly responsible for the evil in the world. Jehovah cares deeply about our suffering, and he will soon undo it.

## Review

- What lie did Satan the Devil tell Eve?
- How has Adam and Eve's rebellion affected all of us?
- How do we know that Jehovah cares about our suffering?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Tell someone why God is not responsible for the evil we see around us.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn the Bible's definition of sin.

**"What Is Sin?"** (Web article)



Read more about the issue that Satan the Devil raised in the garden of Eden.

**"Why Does God Allow Suffering?"** (*The Watchtower*, January 1, 2014)



Examine comforting answers to a difficult question.

**"Why Did the Holocaust Happen? Why Didn't God Stop It?"** (Web article)



See what one man learned about the suffering he saw around him.

*I'm Not on My Own Anymore*



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# How Can Jesus' Death Save Us?

We sin, suffer, and die because the first human couple, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God.\* But our situation is not hopeless. Jehovah has provided a way for us to be delivered from the curse of sin and death by means of his Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that by his death, Jesus provided a ransom. A ransom is the price paid to release someone. The price Jesus paid was the value of his perfect human life. (Read Matthew 20:28.) When Jesus willingly surrendered his right to everlasting life on earth, he opened the way for us to regain all that Adam and Eve had lost. Jesus also revealed how much he and Jehovah love us. This lesson will help deepen your appreciation for Jesus' death.

## 1. How can we benefit from Jesus' death today?

Because we are sinners, we do many things that displease Jehovah. However, if we are truly sorry for our sins and ask Jehovah through Jesus Christ to forgive us and if we do our best not to repeat those mistakes, we can enjoy a close bond of friendship with God. (1 John 2:1) The Bible says: “**Christ died once for all time for sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, in order to lead you to God.**”—1 Peter 3:18.

## 2. In the future, how can we benefit from Jesus' death?

Jehovah sent Jesus to offer his perfect human life “so that everyone exercising faith in [Jesus] might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Thanks to what Jesus did, Jehovah will soon undo all the bad things caused by Adam’s disobedience. This means that if we exercise faith in Jesus’ sacrifice, we will have the opportunity to enjoy life forever on a paradise earth!—Isaiah 65:21-23.

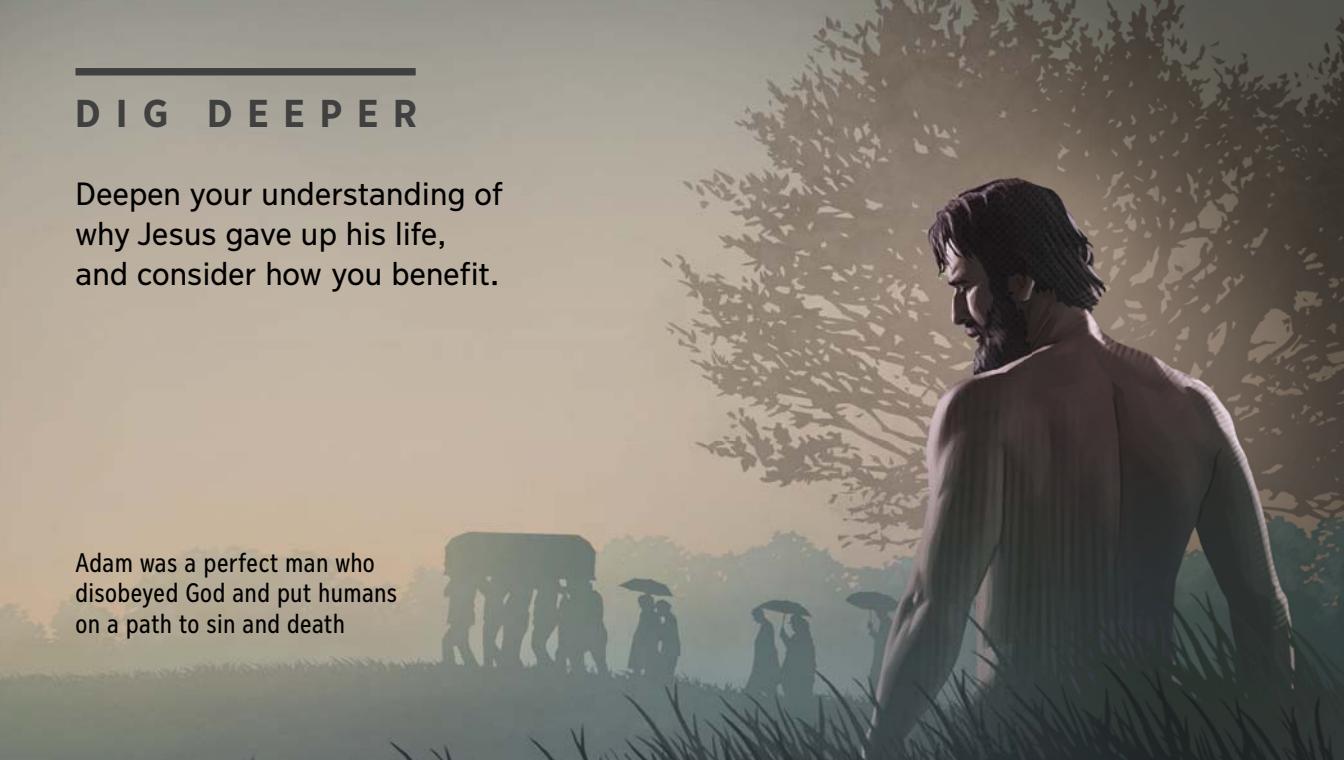
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\* Sin is not just the action of doing something bad. Sin also refers to the damaged condition that we inherited.

## DIG DEEPER

Deepen your understanding of why Jesus gave up his life, and consider how you benefit.

Adam was a perfect man who disobeyed God and put humans on a path to sin and death



### 3. Jesus' death frees us from sin and death

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Why Did Jesus Die?**  
—Part 1 (2:01)

- What opportunity did Adam lose when he disobeyed God?

**Read Romans 5:12**, and then discuss this question:

- How has Adam's sin affected your life?

**Read John 3:16**, and then discuss this question:

- Why did Jehovah send his Son to the earth?

### 4. Jesus' death can benefit all people

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Why Did Jesus Die?**  
—Part 2 (2:00)

- How could the death of one man benefit all people?

**Read 1 Timothy 2:5, 6**, and then discuss this question:

- Adam was a perfect man who put humans on a path to sin and death. Jesus was also a perfect man. In what way did he provide "a corresponding ransom"?



Jesus was a perfect man who obeyed God and put humans on a path to perfection and eternal life

## 5. The ransom is Jehovah's gift to you

Jehovah's friends view the ransom as a personal gift. For example, [read Galatians 2:20](#), and then discuss this question:

- How did the apostle Paul indicate that he viewed the ransom as a personal gift?

When Adam sinned, he and all his descendants were condemned to death. But Jehovah sent his Son to die so that you can have the opportunity to enjoy everlasting life.

As you read the following verses, imagine how Jehovah must have felt while his Son suffered. [Read John 19:1-7, 16-18](#), and then discuss this question:

- How do you feel about what Jehovah and Jesus did for you?

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** "How could one man die for all people?"

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Jesus' death provides the basis for Jehovah to forgive our sins, and it gives us the opportunity to enjoy life forever.

## Review

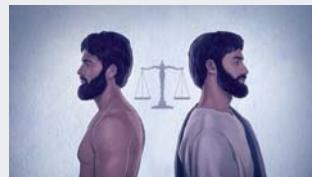
- Why did Jesus die?
- In what way was Jesus' perfect human life a corresponding ransom?
- How can Jesus' death benefit you?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- When you pray, regularly thank Jehovah for the gift of his Son.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn why Jesus' perfect human life is called a ransom.

**"How Is Jesus' Sacrifice 'a Ransom for Many'?"**  
(Web article)



Find out what we need to do to be saved.

**"Jesus Saves—How?"**  
(Web article)



Can Jehovah forgive even serious sins?

**"Bible Questions Answered"**  
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2013)



See how learning about Christ's sacrifice helped a man to transform his personality.

**"I Am No Longer a Slave of Violence"** (Web article)



To find all media for LESSON 27,  
scan code or go to the publication  
*Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org



## Show Appreciation for What Jehovah and Jesus Did for You

How do you feel when a friend gives you a beautiful gift? Likely, it makes you very happy and you want to show your friend that you appreciate the gift. Jehovah and Jesus gave us the greatest gift we could ever receive. What is it, and how can we show that we are grateful for it?

### 1. What is one way to show appreciation for what God and Christ did for us?

The Bible promises that “everyone exercising faith in [Jesus]” can live forever. (John 3:16) What does it mean to exercise faith? It means more than just believing in Jesus. We also need to show our faith by the choices we make and the things we do. (James 2:17) When we show our faith by what we do and what we say, we strengthen our friendship with Jesus and his Father, Jehovah.—Read John 14:21.

### 2. What special event helps us to show our gratitude for what Jehovah and Jesus did?

The evening before he died, Jesus told his followers about another way to show gratitude for his sacrifice. He introduced a special observance that the Bible calls “the Lord’s Evening Meal,” also known as the Memorial of Christ’s death. (1 Corinthians 11:20) Jesus instituted it so that his apostles—and all true Christians after them—would remember that he gave his life for us. Regarding this observance, Jesus commanded: “Keep doing this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19) When you attend the Memorial, you show that you are grateful for the great love that Jehovah and Jesus have for us.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine further ways to show appreciation for the great love shown by Jehovah and Jesus. Consider the importance of the Memorial of Christ's death.

### 3. Gratitude moves us to action

Imagine that someone saved you from drowning. Would you simply forget about what that person did for you? Or would you look for ways to show him that you are grateful for what he did?

We owe our lives to Jehovah. **Read 1 John 4:8-10**, and then discuss these questions:

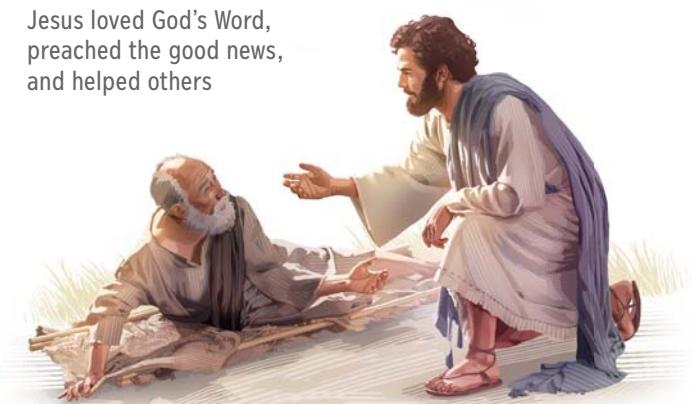
- Why is Jesus' sacrifice a special gift?
- How do you feel about what Jehovah and Jesus did for you?

How can we show our appreciation for what Jehovah and Jesus did for us? **Read 2 Corinthians 5:15 and 1 John 4:11; 5:3**. After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- Based on that scripture, what can we do to show our gratitude?



Jesus loved God's Word, preached the good news, and helped others



### 4. Imitate Jesus

Another way to show our appreciation is by imitating Jesus. **Read 1 Peter 2:21**, and then discuss this question:

- In what ways could you follow Jesus' steps closely?

## 5. Observe the Memorial of Christ's death



**VIDEO:** Remember Jesus' Death (1:41)



The bread and the wine are emblems. The bread represents Jesus' perfect human body that he sacrificed for us. The wine represents his blood.

To see what happened during the first observance of the Lord's Evening Meal, [read Luke 22:14, 19, 20](#). Then discuss these questions:

- What happened at the Lord's Evening Meal?
- What do the bread and the wine represent?
  - See verses 19 and 20.

Jesus intended for his disciples to observe the Lord's Evening Meal once a year on the anniversary of his death. Thus, Jehovah's Witnesses meet together yearly to remember Christ's death in the way that he commanded. To learn about this important meeting, [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the question that follows.

- What happens at the Memorial?



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "All you have to do to be saved is believe in Jesus."

- How could you use John 3:16 and James 2:17 to show that more is needed?

## SUMMARY

We show appreciation for what Jesus did for us by exercising faith in him and by attending the Memorial of his death.

## Review

- What does it mean to exercise faith in Jesus?
- How would you like to show your appreciation for what Jehovah and Jesus did for you?
- Why is it so important to attend the Memorial of Christ's death?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Attend the next Memorial of Christ's death. Ask your Bible teacher when it will be, and mark the date on your calendar.
- Other:

## EXPLORE

▶ 9:28



What does Christ's death motivate us to do?

***He Used His Body to Honor Jehovah***



Learn more about faith and how we can exercise it.

***"Exercise Your Faith in Jehovah's Promises"***

(*The Watchtower*, October 2016)



In the story "I Feel Clean, Alive, and Whole," see the effect that learning about Christ's sacrifice had on one woman's life.

***"The Bible Changes Lives"***

(*The Watchtower*, August 1, 2011)



Consider why few partake at the Memorial.

***"Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Observe the Lord's Supper Differently From the Way Other Religions Do?"***

(Web article)



To find all media for LESSON 28,  
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# What Happens When We Die?

Have you ever lost a loved one in death? At such a painful time, you may wonder: ‘What happens when we die? Is there any hope that we will see our loved ones again?’ In this lesson and the next, consider the Bible’s comforting answers.

## 1. What happens when we die?

Jesus compared death to a deep sleep. A person in a deep sleep is not aware of what is happening around him. How is death similar to sleep? After someone dies, he does not feel pain. He does not feel lonely, no matter how much he loved his friends and family. “**The dead know nothing at all,**” says the Bible.—Read Ecclesiastes 9:5.

## 2. How do we benefit from knowing the truth about death?

Many people are afraid of death—and even of the dead! But you can be comforted by what the Bible says about death. Jesus said: “**The truth will set you free.**” (John 8:32) Contrary to what some religions claim, the Bible does not teach that a person has an immortal soul that lives on after death. Thus, no one suffers after death. Also, since the dead are not aware of anything, they cannot harm us. So there is no need to appease or worship the dead, and there is no need to say prayers for them.

Some people say that they can communicate with the dead. But this is impossible. As we just learned, the dead “know nothing at all.” Those who think that they are communicating with dead loved ones may actually be communicating with demons who pretend to be people who have died. So knowing the truth about death protects us from the demons. Jehovah warns us about trying to communicate with the dead because he knows that contact with the demons will harm us.—Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn more about what the Bible teaches regarding death, and strengthen your faith in a loving God who does not torment those who have died.



### 3. Learn the true condition of the dead

Around the world, people have different beliefs about what happens when we die. Of course, not all of those beliefs can be true.

- What beliefs about the condition of the dead are common in your area?

To see what the Bible teaches, [play the VIDEO](#).

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:20**, and then discuss these questions:

- According to this verse, what happens when a person dies?
- Does any part of a person survive death?

The Bible tells us about the death of Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus. As you [read John 11:11-14](#), notice how Jesus referred to the condition of Lazarus. Then discuss these questions:

- To what did Jesus compare death?
- What does this comparison tell us about the condition of the dead?
- Do you find the Bible's description of death to be reasonable?



**VIDEO: What Is the Condition of the Dead?—Excerpt (1:19)**



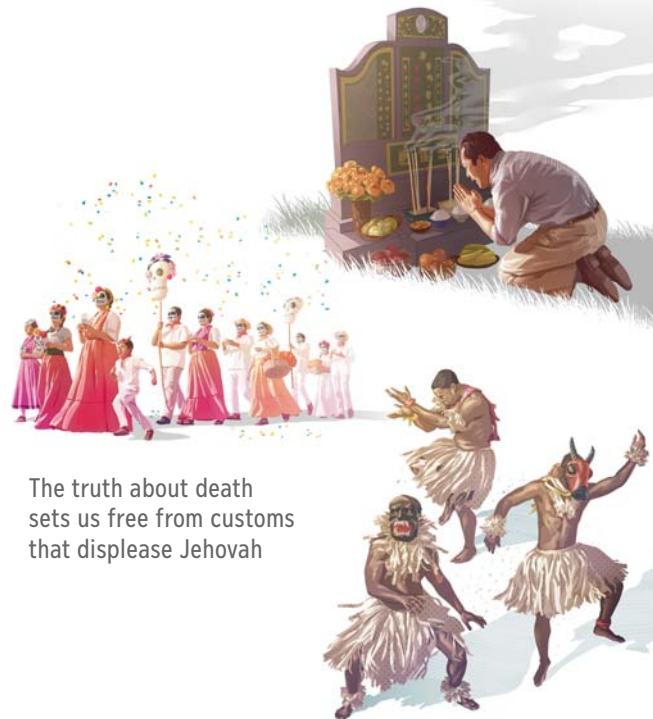
## 4. The truth about death benefits us

Knowing the truth about death frees us from fear of the dead. **Read Ecclesiastes 9:10**, and then discuss this question:

- Can the dead harm us?

Bible truth also protects us from the belief that the dead must be appeased or even worshipped. **Read Isaiah 8:19 and Revelation 4:11**, and then discuss this question:

- How do you think Jehovah feels about a person who worships or seeks the help of someone who has died?



The truth about death sets us free from customs that displease Jehovah

## 5. The truth about death comforts us

Many people have been taught that when they die, they will suffer as a result of their past actions. But it comforts us to know that no one suffers after death—not even someone who has done very bad things. **Read Romans 6:7**, and then discuss this question:

- If, as we read in the Bible, death acquires, or releases, a person from sin, do you think anyone who has died is suffering because of past mistakes?

The more we get to know Jehovah, the more we realize that he would never allow the dead to suffer. **Read Deuteronomy 32:4 and 1 John 4:8**, and then discuss these questions:

- Would a God with the qualities mentioned in these verses ever approve of tormenting those who have died?
- Do you find the truth about death to be comforting? Why?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “I’m afraid of what will happen to me when I die.”

- What comforting Bible verses could you share?

## SUMMARY

When a person dies, his life ends. The dead do not suffer, nor can they harm the living.

## Review

- What happens when we die?
- How does the truth about death benefit us?
- How does the truth about death comfort us?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Try to memorize one scripture from this lesson so that you can explain the condition of the dead.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See what the word “soul” really means in the Bible.

**“What Is the Soul?”**  
(Web article)



Find out if God uses hell to punish the wicked.

***Is Hell a Real Place of Torment?***



Do we ever need to be afraid of the dead?

***Spirits of the Dead —Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?***  
(brochure)



Find out how a man was comforted when he learned the truth about what happens when we die.

***“I Was Impressed by the Bible’s Clear, Logical Answers”*** (*The Watchtower*, February 1, 2015)



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# Your Loved Ones Can Live Again!

Death causes much grief and sadness. That is why the Bible calls death an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:26) In Lesson 27, you learned that Jehovah will defeat that enemy. But what will happen to the people who have *already* died? In this lesson, you will learn more about another wonderful promise of Jehovah—he will bring billions of people back to enjoy life forever. He will resurrect them! Can that really happen? Will they be resurrected to live in heaven or on earth?

## 1. What does Jehovah want to do for our loved ones who have died?

Jehovah longs to bring people who have died back to life. A man of faith named Job was confident that God would not forget him when he died. He said to God: “**You will call, and I will answer you [from the Grave].**”—Read Job 14:13-15.

## 2. How do we know that the dead can be resurrected?

When Jesus was on earth, God gave him the power to resurrect people. Jesus raised a 12-year-old girl and a widow’s son back to life. (Mark 5:41, 42; Luke 7:12-15) Later, Jesus’ friend Lazarus died. Although Lazarus had been dead and buried for four days, Jesus brought him back to life. After praying to God, Jesus simply cried out toward the tomb: “Lazarus, come out!” And “**the man who had been dead came out**”—alive! (John 11:43, 44) Imagine how happy Lazarus’ family and friends were!

## 3. What hope is there for your loved ones who have died?

The Bible promises: “**There is going to be a resurrection.**” (Acts 24:15) Those whom Jesus resurrected in the past had not gone to heaven. (John 3:13) They were happy to be brought back to life right here on earth. Likewise, Jesus will soon resurrect billions to enjoy life forever on a paradise earth. He said that “all those in the memorial tombs”—even those who may seem to be forgotten but are in God’s memory—will be resurrected.—John 5:28, 29.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine the evidence from the Bible that the dead can and will be resurrected. Learn how the resurrection can bring you comfort and give you hope.

### 4. Jesus proved that he can resurrect the dead

Learn more about what Jesus did for his friend Lazarus. [Read John 11:14, 38-44](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How do we know that Lazarus was really dead?  
—See verse 39.
- If Lazarus had gone to heaven, do you think that Jesus would have brought him back to life on earth?

[Play the VIDEO.](#)



[VIDEO: Jesus Resurrects Lazarus  
\(1:16\)](#)

### 5. Many will be resurrected!

[Read Psalm 37:29](#), and then discuss this question:

- Where will the billions who will be resurrected live?

Jesus will resurrect many more than just the ones who worshipped Jehovah. [Read Acts 24:15](#), and then discuss this question:

- Whom would you like to see come back to life?



Think of this: Jesus can resurrect someone as easily as a father can wake his child from sleep



## 6. The resurrection can bring you comfort and give you hope

The Bible account of Jairus' daughter has comforted and encouraged many who grieve. [Read that true story at Luke 8:40-42, 49-56.](#)

Before resurrecting Jairus' daughter, Jesus told her father: "Have no fear, only have faith." (See verse 50.) How might the hope of the resurrection help you . . .

- when a loved one dies?
- when your life is in danger?

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.

- How has the resurrection hope comforted and encouraged Phelicity's parents?



**VIDEO: The Resurrection Hope Imparts Courage—How? (3:21)**



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "The idea of a resurrection sounds too good to be true."

- What do you think?
- What scripture could you use to show that there is going to be a resurrection?

## SUMMARY

The Bible promises that billions who have died will be resurrected. Jehovah wants them to live again, and he has given Jesus the power to resurrect them.

## Review

- How do Jehovah and Jesus feel about bringing the dead back to life?
- Where will billions of resurrected people live—in heaven or on earth? Why do you say so?
- What convinces you that your loved ones can live again?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If you know someone who is grieving, share the hope of the resurrection with him or her at an appropriate time.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn what practical steps you can take to cope with grief.

**“Help for Those Who Grieve”**  
(Awake! No. 3 2018)



Can Bible principles really help someone who is grieving?

**When a Loved One Dies**



How can children cope with the death of a loved one?

**The Ransom**



Will anyone be resurrected to heaven? Who will *not* be resurrected?

**“What Is the Resurrection?”**  
(Web article)



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# What Is God's Kingdom?

The main theme of the Bible has to do with God's Kingdom. Jehovah will use that Kingdom to accomplish his original purpose for the earth. What is the Kingdom? How do we know it is ruling now? What has it already accomplished? And what will it do in the future? This lesson and the next two lessons will answer those questions.

## 1. What is God's Kingdom, and who is its King?

The Kingdom is a government set up by Jehovah God. Its King, Jesus Christ, rules from heaven. (Matthew 4:17; John 18:36) The Bible says of Jesus: “**He will rule as King . . . forever.**” (Luke 1:32, 33) As King of God's Kingdom, Jesus will rule over everyone on the earth.

## 2. Who rule with Jesus?

Jesus does not rule alone. Persons from “**every tribe and tongue and people and nation . . . are to rule as kings over the earth.**” (Revelation 5:9, 10) How many will rule with Christ? Since Jesus came to earth, millions of Christians have become his followers. But only 144,000 of them go to heaven to rule with Jesus. (Read Revelation 14:1-4.) All other Christians on earth will become citizens of the Kingdom.—Psalm 37:29.

## 3. How is God's Kingdom superior to human governments?

Even when human rulers try to do good things, they do not have the power to do everything they want. They are eventually replaced by other rulers who may not have the best interests of their subjects in mind. But the Ruler of God's Kingdom, Jesus, will never be replaced by anyone else. God has “**set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed.**” (Daniel 2:44) Jesus will rule over the whole earth, and he will not show favoritism. He is loving, kind, and just, and he will teach people to treat one another in the same way—with love, kindness, and justice.—Read Isaiah 11:9.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider why God's Kingdom is better than any human government.



### 4. A powerful government will rule over the whole earth

Jesus Christ has more power to govern than any ruler in history. [Read Matthew 28:18](#), and then discuss this question:

- How is Jesus' authority superior to that of any human ruler?

Human governments change often, and each one rules over only a portion of the earth. What about God's Kingdom? [Read Daniel 7:14](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Why is it good that God's Kingdom "will not be destroyed"?
- Why is it good that it will rule over the whole earth?

### 5. Human rule must be replaced

Why must God's Kingdom replace human governments? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: What Is God's Kingdom?—Excerpt (1:41)**

- What has been the result of human rule?

[Read Ecclesiastes 8:9](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think God's Kingdom should replace human governments? Why?



Jehovah has chosen men and women from all backgrounds to rule with Jesus

## 6. God's Kingdom has rulers who understand us

Because our King, Jesus, lived as a human, he can "sympathize with our weaknesses." (Hebrews 4:15) The 144,000 faithful men and women who will rule with Jesus have been chosen by Jehovah "out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."—Revelation 5:9.

- Do you find it reassuring that Jesus and all of his rulers know what it is like to live as a human? Why?

## 7. God's Kingdom has superior laws

Governments make laws that are supposed to benefit and protect their citizens. God's Kingdom too has laws that its citizens must follow. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, and then discuss these questions:

- What do you think the world will be like when everyone follows God's rules of conduct?\*
- Do you think it is reasonable for Jehovah to expect citizens of the Kingdom to respect these rules? Why?
- What shows that people who are not obeying these laws can change?—See verse 11.

\* Some of these rules of conduct will be discussed in Section 3.

Governments enact laws to protect and benefit their citizens. God's Kingdom has superior laws to protect and benefit its citizens



### SOMEONE MAY ASK: "What is God's Kingdom?"

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

God's Kingdom is a real government in heaven that will rule over the whole earth.

## Review

- Who are the rulers of God's Kingdom?
- How is God's Kingdom superior to any human government?
- What are some things that Jehovah expects of citizens of the Kingdom?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Read about Jesus' rulership at Isaiah 11:1-10, and consider how it differs from human rule.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider what Jesus taught about the location of the Kingdom.

**"Is the Kingdom of God in Your Heart?"** (Web article)



Why do Jehovah's Witnesses choose loyalty to God's Kingdom over loyalty to human rule?

**Devoted to God's Kingdom**



Examine what the Bible reveals about the 144,000 whom Jehovah chooses to rule with Jesus.

**"Who Go to Heaven?"** (Web article)



What convinced a woman in prison that only God can bring about a just world?

**"How I Found the Answer to Injustice"**  
(Awake!, November 2011)



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# God's Kingdom Now Rules!

God's Kingdom started ruling in heaven in the year 1914. That is also when the last days of human rule began. How do we know? Consider Bible prophecy and the conditions and attitudes that have been evident since 1914.

## 1. What does Bible prophecy indicate?

The Bible book of Daniel indicated that God's Kingdom would begin ruling at the end of a period called "**seven times.**" (Daniel 4:16, 17) Centuries later, Jesus referred to that same time period as "**the appointed times of the nations,**" and he taught that it had not yet ended. (Luke 21:24) As we will see, the seven times ended in the year 1914.

## 2. What conditions and attitudes have been evident since 1914?

Jesus' disciples asked him: "What will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?" (Matthew 24:3) In answer, Jesus foretold many things that would happen after he began ruling in heaven as King of God's Kingdom. Some of these include war, food shortages, and earthquakes. (Read Matthew 24:7.) The Bible also foretold that people's attitudes in "**the last days**" would make life "**hard to deal with.**" (2 Timothy 3:1-5) These conditions and attitudes have especially been evident since 1914.

## 3. Why have conditions become so bad since God's Kingdom began ruling?

Shortly after Jesus became King of God's Kingdom, he went to war in heaven against Satan and the demons. Satan lost that war. The Bible says that "**he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.**" (Revelation 12:9, 10, 12) Satan is very angry because he knows he will be destroyed. So he causes pain and suffering all over the earth. No wonder world conditions are so bad! God's Kingdom will undo all these problems.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine how we know that the Kingdom started ruling in 1914 and what this should mean for us.

### 4. The Bible's chronology points to 1914

[Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO: God's Kingdom Began Ruling in 1914 (5:02)**

God caused King Nebuchadnezzar of ancient Babylon to have a prophetic dream. That dream and the interpretation Daniel gave indicate that it applies both to Nebuchadnezzar's rulership and to God's Kingdom.—[Read Daniel 4:17](#)\*

**Read Daniel 4:20-26**, and then use the chart to answer the following questions:

- (A) What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream?—See verses 20 and 21.
- (B) What would happen to the tree?—See verse 23.
- (C) What would happen at the end of the “seven times”?—See verse 26.

**In the first fulfillment of this prophecy . . .**

- (D) Whom did the tree represent?—See verse 22.

\* See the last two articles in the Explore section of this lesson.

- (E) How was his rulership interrupted?

—[Read Daniel 4:29-33](#).

- (F) What happened to Nebuchadnezzar at the end of the “seven times”?

—[Read Daniel 4:34-36](#).

**In the second fulfillment of this prophecy . . .**

- (G) Whom did the tree represent?  
—[Read 1 Chronicles 29:23](#).

- (H) How was their rulership interrupted?  
How do we know that it was still interrupted while Jesus was on earth?  
—[Read Luke 21:24](#).

- (I) When and where was this rulership restored?

#### How long are the seven times?

Some portions of the Bible help us to understand other portions. For example, the Bible book of Revelation says that three and a half times equal 1,260 days. (Revelation 12:6, 14) Seven times is double that number, or 2,520 days. Sometimes the Bible uses a day to represent a year. (Ezekiel 4:6) That is the case with the seven times mentioned in the book of Daniel—they represent 2,520 years.

# How the Tree Dream Relates to God's Kingdom

## THE PROPHECY (Daniel 4:20-36)

(A) An enormous tree



(B) "Chop down the tree," and let "seven times pass"



(C) "Your kingdom will be yours again"



Rulership

Rulership interrupted

Rulership restored

## FIRST FULFILLMENT

(D) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon



(E) After 606 B.C.E., Nebuchadnezzar loses his sanity and is unable to rule for seven literal years



(F) Nebuchadnezzar regains his sanity and begins ruling again



## SECOND FULFILLMENT

(G) Israelite kings who represent God's rulership



**607 B.C.E.** ————— 2,520 years —————

(H) Jerusalem is destroyed, interrupting the line of Israelite kings for 2,520 years



**1914 C.E.**

(I) Jesus begins ruling in heaven as King of God's Kingdom





**VIDEO: The World Has Changed Since 1914 (1:10)**

## 5. The world has changed since 1914

### Play the VIDEO.

Jesus foretold world conditions that would be evident after he became King. **Read Luke 21:9-11**, and then discuss this question:

- Which of these conditions have you observed or heard about?

The apostle Paul described what people would be like in the last days of human rule. **Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5**, and then discuss this question:

- Which of these attitudes have you noted in people today?



If you learned something that could help and save others, what would you be moved to do?

## 6. The rule of God's Kingdom should motivate us

**Read Matthew 24:3, 14,** and then discuss these questions:

- What important work shows that God's Kingdom is now ruling?
- How can you have a share in this work?

God's Kingdom is now ruling, and the day when it takes full control of the earth is near. **Read Hebrews 10:24, 25,** and then discuss this question:

- What should each of us do as we "see the day drawing near"?



**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** "Why do Jehovah's Witnesses talk so much about 1914?"

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Bible prophecy, chronology, and world conditions prove that God's Kingdom is now ruling. We show that we believe this by preaching about it and attending congregation meetings.

## Review

- What happened at the end of the seven times foretold in the Bible book of Daniel?
- What convinces you that God's Kingdom began ruling in 1914?
- How can you show that you believe the Kingdom is ruling now?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Qualify to become a publisher of the good news.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider what historians and others say about changes in the world since 1914.

**"When Morals Declined Dramatically"**  
(Awake!, April 2007)



Read how the prophecy found at Matthew 24:14 affected one man's life.

**"I Loved Baseball More Than Anything!"** (*The Watchtower* No. 3 2017)



How do we know that the prophecy recorded in Daniel chapter 4 applies to God's Kingdom?

**"When Did God's Kingdom Begin Ruling? (Part 1)"**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 1, 2014)



What indicates that the "seven times" mentioned in Daniel chapter 4 ended in 1914?

**"When Did God's Kingdom Begin Ruling? (Part 2)"**  
(*The Watchtower*, November 1, 2014)



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# What the Kingdom Will Accomplish

God's Kingdom is already ruling. Soon it will make big changes on the earth. Let us consider some of the good things that you can look forward to under Kingdom rule.

## 1. How will God's Kingdom restore peace and justice to the earth?

Jesus, the King of God's Kingdom, will destroy wicked people and governments at the war of Armageddon. (Revelation 16:14, 16) At that time, the following Bible promise will be completely fulfilled: "**Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more.**" (Psalm 37:10) Through the Kingdom, Jesus will make sure that peace and justice fill the earth.—Read Isaiah 11:4.

## 2. What will life be like when God's will is done on earth?

Under the rule of God's Kingdom, "**the righteous will possess the earth, and they will live forever on it.**" (Psalm 37:29) Imagine living in a world where everyone is righteous and all love Jehovah and each other! No one will get sick, and everyone will live forever.

## 3. What will God's Kingdom accomplish after the wicked are destroyed?

After the wicked are destroyed, Jesus will rule as King for 1,000 years. During that time, he and his 144,000 counselors will help humans on earth to become perfect and sinless. By the end of that period, the earth will be turned into a beautiful paradise, filled with happy people who benefit from obeying Jehovah's laws. Jesus will then hand the rulership back to his Father, Jehovah. As never before, Jehovah's "**name [will] be sanctified.**" (Matthew 6:9, 10) It will have been proved that Jehovah is a good Ruler who cares about his subjects. Jehovah will then destroy Satan, the demons, and any others who choose to rebel against His rulership. (Revelation 20:7-10) The perfect conditions brought about by God's Kingdom will last forever.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider why we can trust that God will use the Kingdom to fulfill all the Bible's promises for our future.

### 4. God's Kingdom will end human governments

"Man has dominated man to his harm."  
(Ecclesiastes 8:9) By means of his Kingdom, Jehovah will reverse this injustice.

**Read Daniel 2:44 and 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8**, and then discuss these questions:

- How will Jehovah and his Son, Jesus, deal with human governments and their supporters?
- How does what you have learned about Jehovah and Jesus assure you that their actions will be just and fair?



**VIDEO: Jesus Showed What the Kingdom Will Accomplish (1:13)**

### 5. Jesus is an ideal King

As King of God's Kingdom, Jesus will do much for the benefit of his earthly subjects. [Play the VIDEO](#) to see how Jesus has already shown that he has both the desire and the God-given power to help people.

While on earth, Jesus gave a preview of what the Kingdom would accomplish. Which blessings listed here do you especially look forward to? [Read the accompanying scriptures](#) that relate to those blessings.

## WHILE ON EARTH, JESUS . . .

- controlled earth's natural forces.  
—Mark 4:36-41.
- miraculously fed thousands.  
—Matthew 14:17-21.
- healed the sicknesses of many.  
—Luke 18:35-43.
- brought people back to life.  
—Luke 8:49-55.

## FROM HEAVEN, JESUS WILL . . .

- solve the earth's environmental problems.  
—Isaiah 35:1, 2.
- eliminate world hunger.—Psalm 72:16.
- ensure perfect health for all.—Isaiah 33:24.
- reverse the effects of death.—Revelation 21:3, 4.



## 6. God's Kingdom will bring a wonderful future

The Kingdom will fully accomplish Jehovah's original purpose for humans. They will live forever on a paradise earth. [Play the VIDEO](#) to see how Jehovah is working through his Son, Jesus, to accomplish His purpose.



[VIDEO: A Glimpse Into a Wonderful Future \(4:38\)](#)

**Read Psalm 145:16**, and then discuss this question:

- How does it make you feel to know that Jehovah will “satisfy the desire of every living thing”?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “If we all work together, we can solve the world’s problems.”

- What problems will God’s Kingdom solve that human governments cannot?

## SUMMARY

God's Kingdom will accomplish its goal. It will transform the earth into a global paradise filled with good people who will worship Jehovah forever.

## Review

- How will God's Kingdom sanctify Jehovah's name?
- Why can we believe that God's Kingdom will fulfill the Bible's promises?
- What accomplishment of the Kingdom do you especially look forward to?

Section completed on

## Goal

- Use the tract *What Is the Kingdom of God?* to start a conversation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



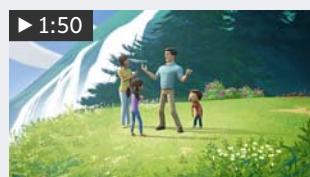
Find out what Armageddon means.

**"What Is the Battle of Armageddon?"**  
(Web article)



Examine the events that will occur during what Jesus called the "great tribulation."  
—Matthew 24:21.

**"What Is the Great Tribulation?"** (Web article)



See how families can meditate together on future Kingdom blessings.

**See Yourself in Paradise**



In "I Was Troubled by Many Questions," learn how a political rebel found the solutions he was looking for.

**"The Bible Changes Lives"**  
(*The Watchtower*, January 1, 2012)



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# SECTION 2 REVIEW

Discuss the following questions  
with your teacher:



1. What will God do about false religion?  
*(See Lesson 13.)*
2. Read Exodus 20:4-6.
  - How does Jehovah feel when people claim to worship him by using images?  
*(See Lesson 14.)*
3. Who is Jesus?  
*(See Lesson 15.)*
4. What qualities of Jesus appeal to you?  
*(See Lesson 17.)*
5. Read John 13:34, 35 and Acts 5:42.
  - Who practice real Christianity today? What proves to you that they are real Christians?  
*(See Lessons 18 and 19.)*
6. Who is the head of the congregation, and how does he direct it?  
*(See Lesson 20.)*
7. Read Matthew 24:14.
  - How is this prophecy being fulfilled today?
  - With whom have you been sharing the good news?  
*(See Lessons 21 and 22.)*
8. Do you think that baptism is a worthwhile goal? Why?  
*(See Lesson 23.)*
9. How can you protect yourself from Satan and the demons?  
*(See Lesson 24.)*
10. What is God's purpose for us?  
*(See Lesson 25.)*
11. Why do humans suffer and die?  
*(See Lesson 26.)*
12. Read John 3:16.
  - What has Jehovah done to rescue us from sin and death?  
*(See Lesson 27.)*
13. Read Ecclesiastes 9:5.
  - What happens when we die?
  - What will Jesus do for billions who have died?  
*(See Lessons 29 and 30.)*
14. How is God's Kingdom better than any other government?  
*(See Lessons 31 and 33.)*
15. Do you believe that God's Kingdom is ruling now? Why? When did it begin ruling?  
*(See Lesson 32.)*

Your questions:



# SECTION 3

**Focus:** Consider what God expects from his worshippers



## LESSONS

- 34** How Can We Show Our Love for Jehovah?
- 35** How to Make Good Decisions
- 36** Be Honest in All Things
- 37** What the Bible Says About Work and Money
- 38** Appreciate the Gift of Life
- 39** God's View of Blood
- 40** How Can We Be Clean in God's Eyes?
- 41** What Does the Bible Say About Sex?
- 42** What Does the Bible Say About Singleness and Marriage?
- 43** How Should Christians View Alcohol?
- 44** Do All Celebrations Please God?
- 45** What It Means to Be Neutral
- 46** Why Make a Dedication and Get Baptized?
- 47** Are You Ready to Get Baptized?



# How Can We Show Our Love for Jehovah?

Have you felt closer to God since you began studying the Bible? Would you like to continue to strengthen your friendship with him? If so, remember that the more Jehovah sees your love for him grow, the more he will love and care for you. How can you show him that you love him?

## 1. How do we show Jehovah that we love him?

We show our love for Jehovah by obeying him. (Read 1 John 5:3.) He does not force anyone to obey him. Instead, he gives each of us the opportunity to choose whether we will obey him or not. Why? Jehovah wants us to be “**obedient from the heart.**” (Romans 6:17) In other words, he wants you to obey him, not because you have to, but because you love him. Sections 3 and 4 of this book are designed to help you show your love for Jehovah by doing what pleases him and avoiding what displeases him.

## 2. Why can it be challenging to show our love for Jehovah?

“**Many are the hardships of the righteous one.**” (Psalm 34:19) We all struggle with our own imperfections. And we may also face economic problems, injustice, and other difficulties. When we experience hardships, we may not find it easy to do what Jehovah asks of us. That is because the wrong path may be easier to follow. But when you faithfully do what Jehovah tells you to, you show that you love him more than anything else. And you prove that you are loyal to him. In turn, he will be loyal to you. He will never leave you.—Read Psalm 4:3.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine why your obedience matters to Jehovah, and learn what can help you remain faithful to him.

### 3. An issue that involves you

According to the Bible book of Job, Satan made an accusation not just against the man Job but against all people who want to serve Jehovah.

**Read Job 1:1, 6–2:10**, and then discuss these questions:

- According to Satan, why did Job obey Jehovah?—See Job 1:9-11.
- What does Satan claim about all humans, including you?—See Job 2:4.

**Read Job 27:5b**, and then discuss this question:

- How did Job prove that he truly loved Jehovah?

Job proved his love for Jehovah by remaining loyal to him



### 4. Make Jehovah's heart rejoice

**Read Proverbs 27:11**, and then discuss these questions:

- How does Jehovah feel when you are wise and obey him? Why?



## 5. You can be loyal to Jehovah

Our love for Jehovah moves us to tell others about him. Our loyalty to him moves us to do so even when it is not easy. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

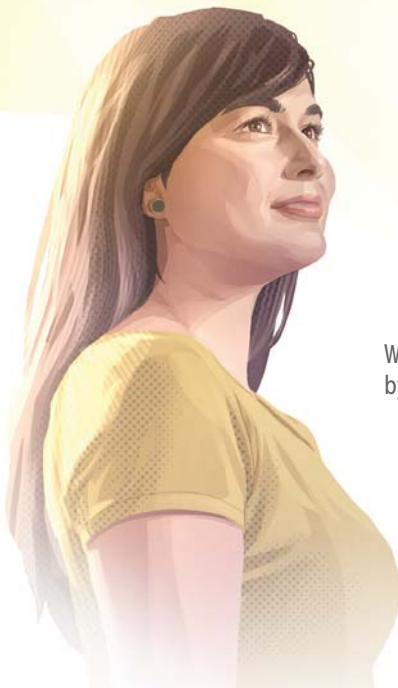
- Do you ever find it difficult to tell others about Jehovah?
- In the video, what helped Grayson overcome his fear?



**VIDEO:** Defend Your Faith Despite Opposition (5:09)

It is easier to be loyal to Jehovah when we love what he loves and hate what he hates. [Read Psalm 97:10](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Based on what you have learned, what are some things that Jehovah loves? What are some things that he hates?
- How can you learn to love what is good and hate what is bad?



We prove our love for Jehovah by remaining loyal to him

## 6. We benefit when we obey Jehovah

Obeying Jehovah is always best. [Read Isaiah 48:17, 18](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think we can trust that Jehovah always knows what is best for us? Why?
- How has your study of the Bible and the true God, Jehovah, benefited you so far?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “My actions don’t really matter to God.”

- What scripture could you use to show that our actions affect Jehovah’s feelings?

## SUMMARY

You can demonstrate your love for Jehovah by obeying him and remaining loyal to him despite challenges.

## Review

- What did you learn from Job's example?
- How will you prove your love for Jehovah?
- What will help you remain loyal to Jehovah?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

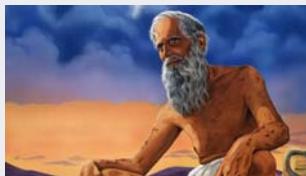
- Memorize what Proverbs 27:11 says, and think of it when you find it difficult to obey Jehovah.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Discover how you can be loyal to Jehovah and the congregation.

**"With Someone Loyal You Act in Loyalty"**



Learn more about Satan's accusations against humans.

**"Job Keeps His Integrity"**  
(*The Bible—What Is Its Message?* section 6)



Consider how even young ones can show their love for Jehovah.

**Make Jehovah Happy**



How can a young person who faces pressure from other youths stay loyal to God?

**Stand Up to Peer Pressure!**



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# How to Make Good Decisions

We all have decisions to make. Many of these decisions can have a big impact on us and our friendship with Jehovah. For example, we may have to decide where to live, how to support ourselves financially, or whether to get married. When we make good decisions, we can have a happy life and please Jehovah.

## 1. How can you use the Bible to help you make good decisions?

Before making a decision, pray for Jehovah's help and examine the Bible to see how he views the matter. (Read Proverbs 2:3-6.) In some cases, Jehovah provides a clear command. If so, deciding to obey that command is the best choice you could make.

What, though, if there is no clear Bible command telling you what to do? Jehovah will still guide you **"in the way you should walk."** (Isaiah 48:17) How? There may be principles that can guide you. Bible principles are basic truths that reveal God's thoughts and feelings. Often we learn how God feels about a matter when we read an account in the Bible. When we discern how Jehovah feels, we can make decisions that please him.

## 2. What factors should you consider before making a decision?

The Bible says: **"The shrewd one ponders each step."** (Proverbs 14:15) This means that before we make a decision, we should take the time to think about our choices. As you evaluate each option, ask yourself: 'What Bible principles apply? Which option will give me peace of mind? How will my decision affect others? Most important, will it make Jehovah happy?' —Deuteronomy 32:29.

Jehovah has the right to tell us what is good and what is bad. When we get acquainted with his laws and principles and are determined to follow them, we are developing a good conscience. The conscience is our inner sense of right and wrong. (Romans 2:14, 15) A trained conscience will help us make good decisions.

## DIG DEEPER

Take a closer look at how Bible principles and the conscience play important roles in decision-making.

### 3. Let the Bible guide you

How can Bible principles guide us when making decisions? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO:** *Let Bible Principles Guide You* (5:54)

- What is free will?
- Why did Jehovah give us free will?
- What has he provided to help us use our free will in the best way possible?

To see an example of a Bible principle, [read Ephesians 5:15, 16](#). Then discuss how you could make “the best use of your time” to . . .

- read the Bible regularly.
- become a better marriage mate, parent, son, or daughter.
- attend congregation meetings.

Like a map, our conscience helps us decide where to go in life

### 4. Train your conscience to make good decisions

When there is a clear Scriptural command about a matter, the right choice may seem easy. But what if there is no such command? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** *“Maintain a Good Conscience”* (5:13)

- In the video, what steps did the sister take to train her conscience and to make a decision that would please Jehovah?

Why should we not ask others to make decisions that we should make? [Read Hebrews 5:14](#), and then discuss these questions:

- While it may seem easier to ask others to make decisions for us, what should we be able to distinguish for ourselves?
- What is available that can help you develop your conscience and make good decisions?

## 5. Respect the consciences of others

Different people will make different decisions. How can we show respect for the consciences of others? Consider two situations:

**Situation 1:** A sister who likes to wear makeup moves to a congregation where many sisters are bothered when they see others wearing it.

**Read Romans 15:1 and 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24**, and then discuss these questions:

- Based on these verses, what might that sister decide? What will you do if you are with a person whose conscience forbids doing something that your conscience allows you to do?

**Situation 2:** A brother knows that the Bible does not condemn using alcohol in moderation, but he chooses to abstain from it. He is invited to a social gathering where he sees brothers drinking alcohol.

**Read Ecclesiastes 7:16 and Romans 14:1, 10**, and then discuss these questions:

- Based on these verses, what might that brother decide? What will you do if you see another person doing something that your conscience keeps you from doing?

### What steps lead to good decisions?



1. Ask Jehovah to help you decide what to do.—James 1:5.



2. Do research in the Bible and Bible-based publications to find principles that apply. You may also consult experienced Christians.



3. Consider the effect the decision will have on your conscience and the consciences of others.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “You have the right to do whatever you want. Who cares what other people think?”

- Why should we consider the feelings of God, as well as those of other people?

## SUMMARY

We make good decisions when we find out how Jehovah feels about a matter and then consider whether our actions will help others or harm them.

## Review

- How can you make decisions that please Jehovah?
- How can you train your conscience?
- How can you show respect for the consciences of other people?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Think of an upcoming decision that you have to make. Apply the three steps in the box “What Steps Lead to Good Decisions?”
- Other:

## EXPLORE



How can you make decisions that strengthen your friendship with God?

**“Make Decisions That Honor God”** (*The Watchtower*, April 15, 2011)



Deepen your understanding of how Jehovah gives us advice.

**Jehovah Guides His People**



See what factors helped one man to make a difficult decision.

**Jehovah Guarantees All That Is Good**



Learn more about how to please Jehovah when he has not given specific direction on a matter.

**“Do You Always Need a Bible Command?”** (*The Watchtower*, December 1, 2003)



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# Be Honest in All Things

Everyone wants friends who are honest. Jehovah expects his friends to be honest too. But this is not easy in a world where many people are dishonest. What benefits come from being honest in all things?

## 1. What is the most important reason to be honest?

When we are honest with others, we show Jehovah that we love and respect him. Consider: Jehovah knows everything we think and do. (Hebrews 4:13) He notices when we choose to be honest, and he appreciates it. His Word states: “**Jehovah detests a devious person, but His close friendship is with the upright.**”—Proverbs 3:32.

## 2. What are some ways to be honest in our daily life?

Jehovah wants us to “**speak the truth with one another.**” (Zechariah 8:16, 17) What does this mean? Whether we are speaking to our family, workmates, Christian brothers and sisters, or government officials, we do not lie or give misleading information. Honest people do not steal from others or defraud them. (Read Proverbs 24:28 and Ephesians 4:28.) And they pay all the taxes that they owe. (Romans 13:5-7) In these and other ways, we “conduct ourselves honestly in all things.”—Hebrews 13:18.

## 3. What are the benefits of being honest?

When we have a reputation for being honest, others trust us. We contribute to the safe, familylike atmosphere in the congregation. We enjoy a clean conscience. Our honesty can also “**adorn the teaching of our Savior, God,**” and attract those outside the congregation to true worship. —Titus 2:10.

## DIG DEEPER

See how honesty affects Jehovah and you, and learn how you can be honest in various situations in life.

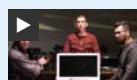


### 4. Honesty pleases Jehovah

Read Psalm 44:21 and Malachi 3:16, and then discuss these questions:

- Why do you think it is unwise to believe that we can hide the truth?
- How do you think Jehovah feels when we choose to tell the truth, even when it is difficult to do so?

When children tell the truth, they make their parents happy.  
When we tell the truth, we make Jehovah happy



**VIDEO:** What Contributes to Joy?—A Clean Conscience (2:32)



### 5. Act honestly at all times

Many people believe that honesty is not always practical. But consider why we should be honest at all times. [Play the VIDEO.](#)

Read Hebrews 13:18, and then discuss how we can be honest . . .

- with our family.
- at work or school.
- in other situations.

## 6. Honesty benefits us

Honesty may result in some problems. But in the long run, it is always the best policy.

**Read Psalm 34:12-16**, and then discuss this question:

- How does honesty make your life better?



Honest husbands and wives strengthen their marriage



Honest workers earn the trust of their employers



Honest citizens gain a good reputation with government officials

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Some lies are so small that they don’t matter.”

- Why do you believe that Jehovah hates all lies?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants his friends to be honest in all that they say and do.

## Review

- What are some ways to be honest?
- Why is it unwise to think we can hide the truth?
- Why do you want to be honest at all times?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask yourself, ‘Would Jehovah view me as an honest person?’ Identify any areas where you need to make adjustments.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



How can parents teach their children to be honest?

**Be Truthful**



What benefits come from keeping our promises?

**Keep Promises, Receive Blessings**



Consider whether we must pay taxes even if they are misused.

**“Taxes—Must You Pay Them?”**  
(*The Watchtower*, September 1, 2011)



What motivated a dishonest man to change his life and make an honest living?

**“I Learned That Jehovah Is Merciful and Forgiving”**  
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2015)



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# What the Bible Says About Work and Money

Have you ever felt weighed down by concerns about work or money? It can be challenging to care for our needs and also give Jehovah the worship he deserves. The Bible offers practical advice that can help us.

## 1. What does the Bible say about work?

God wants us to enjoy our work. The Bible says that “**there is nothing better for a man than to . . . find enjoyment in his hard work.**” (Ecclesiastes 2:24) Jehovah works hard. When we imitate him by working diligently, we please him and feel a sense of satisfaction.

Work is important. But we should never allow it to become more important than our worship of Jehovah. (John 6:27) He promises that when we put him first, he will care for our physical needs.

## 2. What is a balanced view of money?

While the Bible acknowledges that “money is a protection,” it also warns that money alone cannot make us happy. (Ecclesiastes 7:12) Thus, we are encouraged not to love money but to be “**content with the present things.**” (Read Hebrews 13:5.) When we remain content with what we have, we free ourselves from the frustration of always wanting more. We avoid unnecessary debt. (Proverbs 22:7) And we escape the dangers of gambling and pursuing get-rich-quick schemes.

## 3. How can money be used unselfishly?

Jehovah is a generous God, and we imitate him when we are “**generous, ready to share.**” (1 Timothy 6:18) We can use our money unselfishly by supporting the congregation and by helping others in need, especially fellow worshippers. Jehovah is most interested in, not the amount we give, but our motive for giving. When we give generously from the heart, we will be happy and we will please Jehovah.—Read Acts 20:35.

## DIG DEEPER

See the benefits of keeping work in its proper place and of being content.

### 4. Honor Jehovah by the way you work

Our friendship with Jehovah should influence our attitude toward work. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

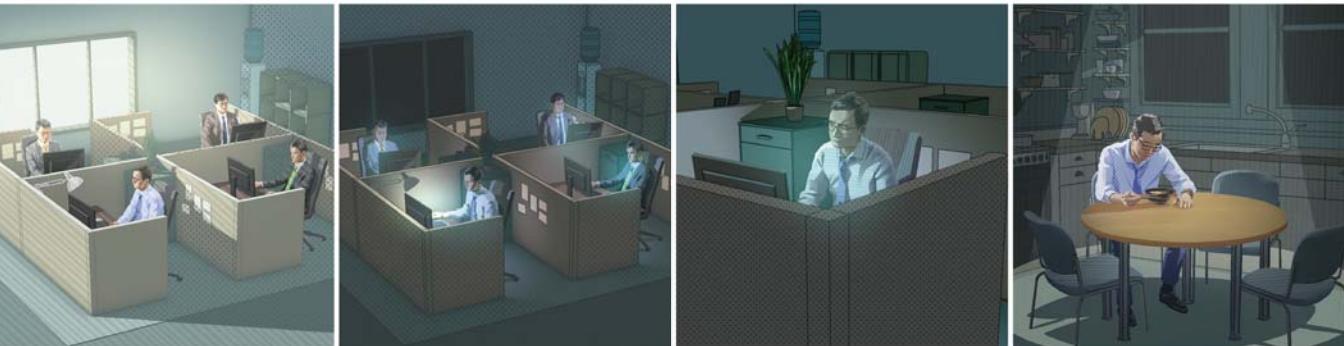


**VIDEO: Work Whole-Souled for Jehovah (4:39)**

- In the video, what impressed you about Jason's attitude and conduct at his workplace?
- What did he do to keep work in its proper place?

Read **Colossians 3:23, 24**, and then discuss this question:

- Why does our attitude toward work matter?



Work is important. But we should never allow it to become more important than our worship of Jehovah



## 5. Contentment benefits us

Many people try to accumulate as much money as they can. But the Bible encourages a different approach. [Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8](#), and then discuss this question:

- What does the Bible encourage us to do?

Even if we have very little, we can be happy. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Be “Content With the Present Things” (3:20)**

- Despite having little money, what makes these families happy?

But what if we have much and still want more? Jesus illustrated this danger. [Read Luke 12:15-21](#), and then discuss this question:

- What have you learned from Jesus' illustration?  
—See verse 15.

[Read and compare Proverbs 10:22 and 1 Timothy 6:10](#). Then discuss these questions:

- What do you think is more important? Having a friendship with Jehovah or having lots of money? Why?
- What problems come from chasing after money?

## 6. Jehovah will care for our needs

Work and money problems can test our faith in Jehovah. [Play the VIDEO](#) to see how we can deal with such tests of faith, and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: Jehovah Will Care for Our Needs (6:21)**

- In the video, what challenges did the brother face?
- What did he do to deal with the challenges successfully?

[Read Matthew 6:25-34](#), and then discuss this question:

- What does Jehovah promise to do for those who put him first?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “I have to work hard to support my family. I can’t go to congregation meetings every week.”

- What scripture convinces you that putting your worship of Jehovah first is always the best decision?

## SUMMARY

Secular work and money are necessary, but they should never distract us from serving Jehovah.

## Review

- What can help you to keep a balanced view of work?
- How does contentment benefit you?
- How can you show your trust in Jehovah's promise to provide for his people?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Review whether your work has caused you to miss meetings regularly over the past few months. If so, make a plan to improve the situation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Examine whether the Bible portrays money as evil.

**"Is Money the Root of All Evil?"** (Web article)



Learn what kind of giving pleases God.

**"What Does the Bible Say About Giving?"** (Web article)



Is gambling just an innocent diversion?

**"The Bible's Viewpoint —Gambling"**  
(*Awake!*, March 2015)



See what motivated a gambler and burglar to change his lifestyle.

**"I Was Passionate About Racehorses"** (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 2011)



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## Appreciate the Gift of Life

Life can be full of wonderful experiences. Even when we face problems, we can usually enjoy some aspects of life. How can we show that we appreciate the gift of life? And what is the most important reason for doing that?

### 1. Why should we appreciate life?

We should appreciate life because it is a gift from our loving Father, Jehovah. He is “the source of life”—he created all life. (Psalm 36:9) “**He himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.**” (Acts 17:25, 28) Jehovah gives us what we need to stay alive. But more than that, he sustains our life in a way that allows us to enjoy it.—Read Acts 14:17.

### 2. How can we show Jehovah that we appreciate the gift of life?

From the moment you were conceived, Jehovah cared about you. Under divine inspiration, one of God’s worshippers, David, said to him: “**Your eyes even saw me as an embryo.**” (Psalm 139:16) Jehovah greatly values your life. (Read Matthew 10:29-31.) It would hurt him deeply if anyone deliberately put an end to someone’s life, even his or her own.\* (Exodus 20:13) It would also hurt Jehovah if we needlessly put our life in danger or did not take precautions to protect the lives of others. When we take care of our life and respect the lives of others, we show that we appreciate the marvelous gift of life.

---

\* Jehovah cares deeply about those who are brokenhearted. (Psalm 34:18) He understands painful feelings that can lead to suicidal thoughts, and he wants to help. To see how his help can make a difference, read the article “I Want to Die—Can the Bible Help Me When I Have Suicidal Thoughts?” that is listed in the Explore section of this lesson.

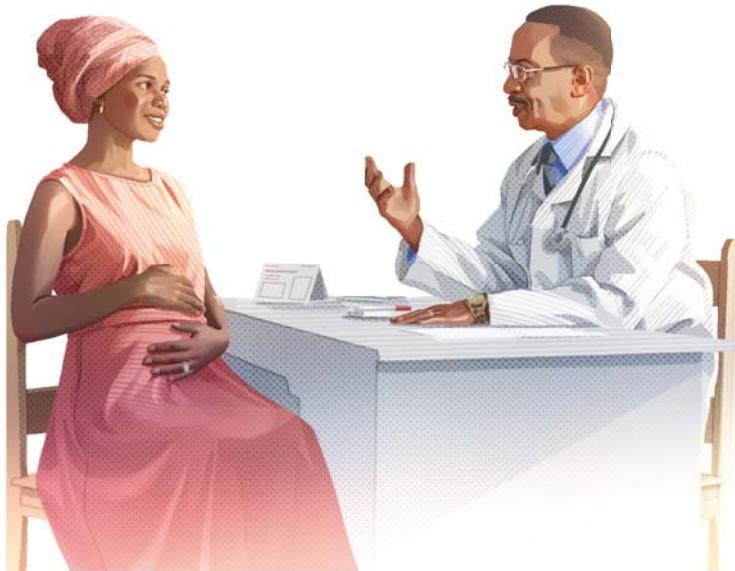
## DIG DEEPER

Consider some ways that you can show your appreciation for the gift of life.

### 3. Take care of your health

Dedicated Christians use every aspect of their life to serve Jehovah. It is as if they present their bodies as a sacrifice to God. [Read Romans 12:1, 2](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What should motivate you to care for your health?
- What are some ways that you can do so?



### 4. Take precautions to prevent injury or death

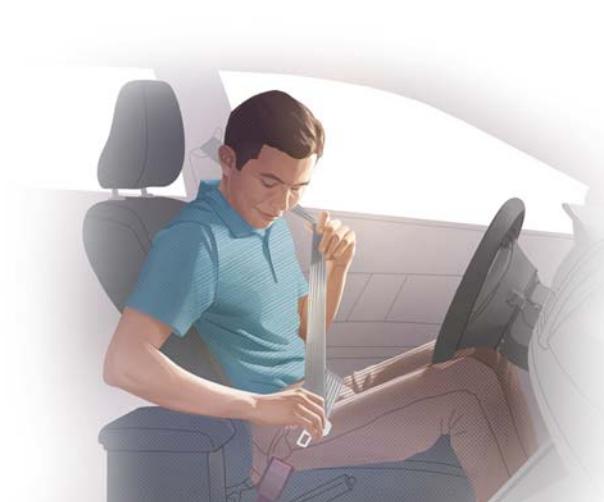
The Bible encourages us to avoid practices that are dangerous. [Play the VIDEO](#) to learn some things that you can do to be safe.



**VIDEO: Be Safety Conscious**  
(8:34)

[Read Proverbs 22:3](#), and then discuss how you and others can be safe . . .

- in your home.
- at your workplace.
- when playing sports.
- when operating a vehicle or riding in one.





## 5. Respect the life of an unborn child

In poetic language, David spoke of Jehovah's interest in the life and development of an unborn child. [Read Psalm 139:13-17](#), and then discuss this question:

- In Jehovah's eyes, does a person's life begin at conception or at birth?

Jehovah's laws for ancient Israel protected mothers and their unborn children. [Read Exodus 21:22, 23](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How did Jehovah view a person who *accidentally* ended the life of an unborn child?
- How would he feel if someone *intentionally* did that?\*
- How do you feel about God's view?

### Play the VIDEO.

Even a woman who appreciates the value of life may feel that an abortion is her only option. [Read Isaiah 41:10](#), and then discuss these questions:

- If a woman is facing pressure to have an abortion, to whom should she turn for help? Why?

\* Those who have had an abortion do not need to be overwhelmed with guilt—Jehovah can forgive them. For more information, see the article “What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?” that is listed in the Explore section of this lesson.



**VIDEO: Value Life as God Does (5:00)**

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “A woman has the right to choose whether to have an abortion—it’s her body.”

- What convinces you that Jehovah values the lives of both a mother and her unborn baby?

## SUMMARY

The Bible teaches us to love, respect, and safeguard Jehovah's gift of life. This includes both our own life and the lives of others.

## Review

- Why is human life valuable to Jehovah?
- How does Jehovah feel when someone deliberately puts an end to a human life?
- What do you appreciate about the gift of life?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Identify one way you can safeguard your health.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



How can we thank Jehovah for the gift of life?

**Song 141—The Miracle of Life**



Find the answer to the question, Will God forgive a woman who has had an abortion?

**“What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?”** (Web article)



Learn how God's view of life should affect our choice of recreation.

**“‘Extreme Sports’—Should You Take the Risk?”**  
(Awake!, October 8, 2000)



What if a person has suicidal thoughts? Consider how the Bible can help.

**“I Want to Die—Can the Bible Help Me When I Have Suicidal Thoughts?”** (Web article)



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# God's View of Blood

Blood is vital. Without it, none of us could live. As the Creator, God has the right to say how blood may be used. What has he said about blood? Can it be eaten or transfused? And how can you make good decisions on this matter?

## 1. What is Jehovah's view of blood?

Jehovah told his worshippers in Bible times: “**The life of every sort of flesh is its blood.**” (Leviticus 17:14) To Jehovah, blood represents life. Since life is a sacred, or holy, gift from God, blood is also sacred.

## 2. What use of blood does God forbid?

Jehovah commanded his pre-Christian worshippers not to eat blood. (Read Genesis 9:4 and Leviticus 17:10.) He confirmed this command when the governing body instructed Christians to “**keep abstaining . . . from blood.**”—Read Acts 15:28, 29.

What does it mean to abstain from blood? If a doctor told you to abstain from alcohol, you would not drink it. But would you eat foods that contained it or have alcohol injected into your veins? Obviously not. Likewise, God’s command to abstain from blood means that we should not drink blood or eat meat that has not been bled. Nor should we eat any food to which blood has been added.

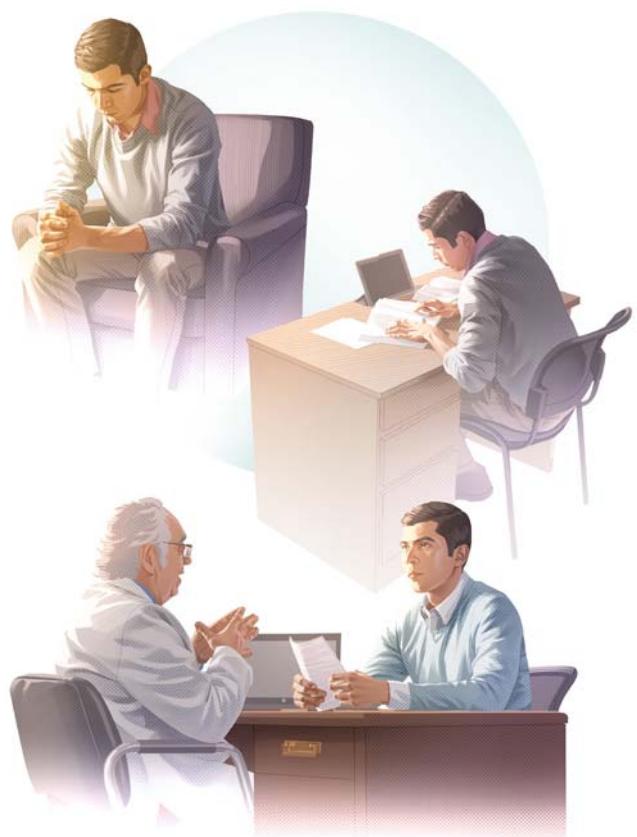
What about the medical use of blood? Some procedures clearly violate God’s law. These include the transfusion of whole blood or any of its main components—red cells, white cells, platelets, and plasma. Other medical procedures may not be a clear-cut violation of God’s law. For example, some procedures involve the use of fractions of one of the main components of blood. Other procedures involve the use of a person’s own blood. When weighing these options, each of us must make a personal decision.\*—Galatians 6:5.

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\* See Lesson 35, “How to Make Good Decisions.”

## DIG DEEPER

Examine how to make medical decisions regarding the use of blood.



### 3. Make medical decisions that please Jehovah

How can you make medical decisions that harmonize with God's view? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the importance of taking the steps that follow.



**VIDEO:** *How to Make Health-Care Decisions Regarding Blood* (5:47)

- Pray for wisdom.—James 1:5.
- Research Bible principles and how they apply.—Proverbs 13:16.
- Find out what options are available where you live.
- Identify which options are clearly unacceptable to you.
- Make sure your decision will leave you with a clean conscience.—Acts 24:16.\*
- Recognize that no one—not even your spouse, an elder, or your Bible teacher—should tell you what decision to make in matters of conscience.—Romans 14:12.
- Put your decision in writing.

### 4. Jehovah's Witnesses seek quality medical care

It is possible to adhere to God's law about blood and receive quality nonblood medical care. [Play the VIDEO](#).

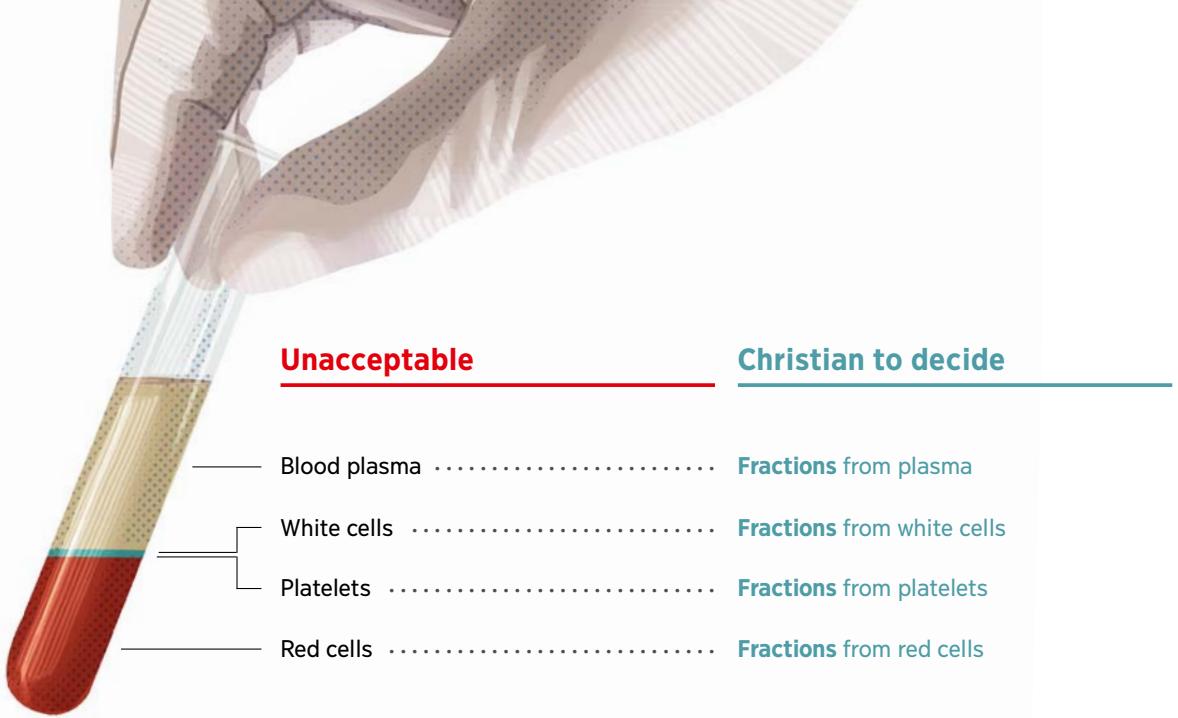


**VIDEO:** *Interview of Professor Massimo P. Franchi, M.D.* (1:36)

Read **Titus 3:2**, and then discuss this question:

- Why should we show a cooperative and mild spirit when dealing with medical professionals?

\* See point 5, "When Blood Fractions Are Involved," and Endnote 3, "Medical Procedures Involving Blood."



## 5. When blood fractions are involved

Blood has four main components—red cells, white cells, platelets, and plasma. These components contain many smaller parts, called blood fractions.\* Some fractions are used in medicines that help to fight diseases or help to stop bleeding.

\* Some doctors view the four main components of blood as fractions. Therefore, you may need to explain your personal decision not to accept transfusions of whole blood or of red cells, white cells, platelets, or plasma.

When it comes to blood fractions, each Christian must make his own decision based on his Bible-trained conscience. Some may decide to refuse a medical treatment or procedure that involves blood fractions. Others may feel that their conscience allows them to accept fractions.

When making your decisions, consider this question:

- How would I explain to a doctor why I reject or accept the use of certain blood fractions?

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** “What’s wrong with accepting blood transfusions?”

- What do you think?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants us to avoid misusing blood.

## Review

- Why does Jehovah view blood as sacred?
- How do we know that God's command to abstain from blood applies to blood transfusions?
- How can you make good decisions about the medical use of blood?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Use the articles in the Explore section to help you make your decisions regarding (1) blood transfusions, (2) medicines containing blood fractions, and (3) the use of your own blood in the course of a medical procedure. Then write your decisions down.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What factors should influence your decisions regarding medical procedures involving your own blood?

**"Questions From Readers"**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 15, 2000)



What should you consider when deciding whether to accept minor fractions of blood?

**"Questions From Readers"**  
(*The Watchtower*, June 15, 2004)



What led a physician to believe that Jehovah's view of blood is reasonable?

**"I Accepted God's View of Blood"** (*Awake!*, December 8, 2003)



Learn how elders who serve on Hospital Liaison Committees support their brothers and sisters.

***Jehovah Supports the Sick***



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# How Can We Be Clean in God's Eyes?

Imagine a loving mother getting her little boy ready for school. She makes sure that he has bathed and that his clothes are neat and clean. This keeps him healthy and shows others that his parents are taking good care of him. Similarly, our loving Father, Jehovah, wants us to be clean—both physically and morally. When we are clean, we benefit ourselves and bring honor to him.

## 1. How can we be physically clean?

Jehovah tells us: “**You must be holy.**” (1 Peter 1:16) Holiness is related to physical and moral cleanliness. We can be physically clean by bathing regularly and by keeping our clothes, home, and vehicle neat and clean. We can also help clean our Kingdom Hall. By keeping physically clean, we bring honor to Jehovah.—2 Corinthians 6:3, 4.

## 2. To be clean, what habits should we avoid?

The Bible urges us to “**cleanse ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit.**” (2 Corinthians 7:1) Thus, we strive to avoid anything that would damage our body or our mind. Our thoughts should please Jehovah, so we do our best to reject improper thoughts. (Psalm 104:34) We also strive to use clean speech.—Read Colossians 3:8.

What else could make us physically or morally unclean? Some substances can contaminate our body. Therefore, we avoid such things as tobacco, the chewing of betel nut or coca leaves, and the recreational use of drugs. By avoiding these, we are healthier and we show respect for the gift of life. We also strive to be morally clean by fighting against the unclean practices of masturbation and of viewing pornography. (Psalm 119:37; Ephesians 5:5) It can be difficult to overcome these habits, but Jehovah can help us to do so.—Read Isaiah 41:13.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how being physically clean honors Jehovah, and see how to overcome unclean practices.



Jehovah can help us to conquer any bad habit

### 3. Physical cleanliness honors Jehovah

We can perceive Jehovah's view of cleanliness by examining his commands to ancient Israel. [Read Exodus 19:10 and 30:17-19](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What do these verses reveal about Jehovah's view of physical cleanliness?
- What good habits will help you remain physically clean?

Being physically clean takes time and effort. But we can do so no matter where we live or what our financial circumstances are. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: God Loves Clean People**  
(4:10)

- How does keeping our belongings neat and clean dignify our preaching work?

### 4. Conquer bad habits

If you smoke or use drugs recreationally, you may know how difficult it is to conquer the habit. What can help? Consider how the habit affects you. [Read Matthew 22:37-39](#), and then discuss how tobacco or the misuse of drugs affects . . .

- a person's friendship with Jehovah.
- a person's family and others around him.

Make a plan to conquer a bad habit.\* [Play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO: Exercising Self-Control** (2:47)

**Read Philippians 4:13**, and then discuss this question:

- How can a good routine of prayer, Bible study, and meeting attendance give a person the power to conquer a bad habit?

\* "How to Quit Smoking," listed in the Explore section of this lesson, explains practical steps that can be taken to overcome addictions.



**VIDEO:** *Take Action to Remain Clean*  
(1:51)

## 5. Fight against unclean thoughts and practices

Read **Colossians 3:5**, and then discuss these questions:

- How do we know that pornography, sexting, and masturbation are unclean in Jehovah's eyes?
- Do you think that it is reasonable for Jehovah to expect us to be morally clean? Why?

Find out how to fight against unclean thoughts.

**Play the VIDEO.**

Jesus used an illustration to show that we must act decisively to stay morally clean. Read **Matthew 5:29, 30**, and then discuss this question:

- Although Jesus was not suggesting that we harm ourselves physically, he did indicate that we need to take action. What kind of decisive action can a person take to avoid unclean thoughts?\*

If you are fighting to overcome unclean thoughts, Jehovah values your efforts. Read **Psalm 103:13, 14**, and then discuss this question:

- If you are struggling with an unclean habit, how does this scripture encourage you to keep fighting?

\* For help to overcome the habit of masturbation, see "How Can I Conquer the Habit of Masturbation?" in the book *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 1, chapter 25.

### A relapse does not mean defeat!

It could be easy to think, 'I failed, so I may as well give up.' But think about this: Just because a runner stumbles and falls, it does not mean that he has lost the race, nor does he have to start the race over again. Similarly, a relapse does not mean that you have lost the fight against overcoming the bad habit. Nor does it erase all the progress you have already made. Relapses are normal—they are part of the road to recovery. Don't give up! With Jehovah's help, you can conquer the bad habit.



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I'm addicted. I can't stop."

- What scripture could you use to show the person that with Jehovah's help he can stop a bad habit?

## SUMMARY

We please Jehovah by keeping our body, our mind, and our conduct clean.

## Review

- Why is it so important to be clean?
- How can you be physically clean?
- How can you keep your thoughts and your conduct clean?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask Jehovah to help you identify one aspect of your life where you could improve in being clean.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What simple things can you do to be physically clean even if your resources are limited?

**Health and Hygiene**  
—Handwashing



Discover practical steps you can take to stop smoking.

**“How to Quit Smoking”**  
(Awake!, May 2010)



Examine the effects of pornography.

**“Pornography —Harmless or Toxic?”**  
(The Watchtower, August 1, 2013)



Find out how one man overcame his addiction to pornography.

**“I Failed Many Times Before I Succeeded”**  
(The Watchtower No. 4 2016)



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# What Does the Bible Say About Sex?

Many people feel uncomfortable talking about sex. However, when the Bible mentions sex, it does so in a frank but dignified way. What it says benefits us. That makes sense. After all, Jehovah is our Creator. So he knows what is best for us. He shows us how our actions can please him and what will help us to enjoy life forever.

## 1. What is Jehovah's view of sex?

Sex is a gift from Jehovah. He wants it to be enjoyed by a man and a woman who are married to each other. This gift allows couples not only to have children but also to express their mutual love and affection in a natural and pleasurable way. That is why God's Word states: "**May you rejoice with the wife of your youth.**" (Proverbs 5:18, 19) Jehovah expects married Christians to be loyal to their mate, so they would never commit adultery.—Read Hebrews 13:4.

## 2. What is sexual immorality?

The Bible tells us that "**those who are sexually immoral . . . will not inherit God's Kingdom.**" (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10) Bible writers who wrote in Greek used the word *por-nei'a* to describe sexual immorality. That word includes (1) sexual relations\* between people who are not married to each other, (2) homosexuality, and (3) bestiality. We please Jehovah and benefit ourselves when we "abstain from sexual immorality."—1 Thessalonians 4:3.

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\* These disapproved relations include a variety of acts such as sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, and fondling another person's genitals in a sexual way.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how you can avoid sexual immorality and how you will benefit by staying morally clean.



### 3. Flee from sexual immorality

A faithful man named Joseph struggled to stay morally clean. [Read Genesis 39:1-12](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What motivated Joseph to flee?  
—See verse 9.
- Do you think that Joseph made the right decision? Why?

How can young people imitate Joseph and flee from sexual immorality today? [Play the VIDEO](#).



[VIDEO: Flee From Immorality \(5:06\)](#)

Jehovah wants all of us to reject immorality. [Read 1 Corinthians 6:18](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What situations could lead someone to commit sexual immorality?
- How can you flee from immorality?

### 4. You can resist temptation

What can make it difficult to resist the temptation to commit sexual immorality? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



[VIDEO: Fight Temptation With Bible Reading \(3:02\)](#)

- When the brother in the video realized that his thoughts and actions could result in his being unfaithful to his wife, what did he do?

Even faithful Christians struggle at times to keep their thoughts clean. How can you avoid dwelling on immoral things? [Read Philippians 4:8](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What kind of things should we think about?
- How can reading the Bible and keeping ourselves busy in Jehovah's service help us resist the temptation to sin?

## 5. Jehovah's standards benefit us

Jehovah knows what is best for us. He tells us how to keep morally clean and the benefits of doing so. [Read Proverbs 7:7-27 or play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: Lacking Good Sense  
(9:31)**

- How did the young man walk into a tempting situation?—See Proverbs 7:8, 9.
- According to Proverbs 7:23, 26, sexual immorality can have serious consequences. If we stay morally clean, what problems can we avoid?
- How can moral cleanliness help us to enjoy life forever?



Some people think that what the Bible says about homosexuality is unloving. But Jehovah, the God of love, wants everyone to enjoy life forever. To qualify, we must live up to his standards. [Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#), and then discuss this question:

- From God's viewpoint, are homosexual desires the only improper ones?

In order to please God, all of us need to make changes. Is it worth the effort? [Read Psalm 19:8, 11](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think that Jehovah's moral standards are reasonable? Why, or why not?



Jehovah has helped many to conform to his moral standards. He can help you too

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Sex between any two people is all right, as long as they love each other.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Sex is a gift from Jehovah for a husband and his wife to enjoy.

## Review

- What does sexual immorality include?
- What will help us to avoid sexual immorality?
- How do we benefit when we follow Jehovah's moral standards?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Memorize one or two scriptures from this lesson that will help you to resist immoral temptations.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Examine why it matters to God whether couples marry or not.

**"What Does the Bible Say About Living Together Without Marriage?"**  
(Web article)



Consider why the Bible's standard regarding homosexuality does not promote hatred.

**"Is Homosexuality Wrong?"**  
(Web article)



Learn how God's laws regarding all sexual activity protect us.

**"Is Oral Sex Really Sex?"**  
(Web article)



In the experience "They Treated Me With Dignity," see what motivated a homosexual to change his way of life to please God.

**"The Bible Changes Lives"**  
(*The Watchtower*, April 1, 2011)



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# What Does the Bible Say About Singleness and Marriage?

In some cultures, people believe that a person cannot be happy unless he or she gets married. Yet, not all married people are happy and not all single people are unhappy. The truth is that the Bible refers to both singleness and marriage as gifts.

## 1. What are some benefits of being single?

The Bible says: “**Whoever marries does well, but whoever does not marry will do better.**” (Read 1 Corinthians 7:32, 33, 38.) In what ways can a single person “do better”? Single Christians do not have to look after the needs of a mate. Thus, they generally have more freedom. For example, some are able to expand their ministry in interesting ways, such as by traveling to another land to preach the good news. Above all, they can spend more time drawing close to Jehovah.

## 2. What are some benefits of being legally married?

Marriage, like singleness, brings unique benefits. The Bible says that “**two are better than one.**” (Ecclesiastes 4:9) This is especially true of Christians who apply Bible principles in their marriage. Couples who legally marry make a commitment to love, respect, and cherish each other. As a result, they often feel more secure than do couples who simply live together. And marriage provides a secure foundation for raising a family.

## 3. How does Jehovah view marriage?

When Jehovah performed the first marriage, he said: “**A man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife.**” (Genesis 2:24) Jehovah wants a husband and wife to love and stick to each other for as long as they are alive. He allows divorce only when a mate is guilty of adultery. In such a case, Jehovah gives the innocent mate the right to decide whether he or she will get a divorce.\* (Matthew 19:9) Jehovah does not approve of polygamy among Christians.—1 Timothy 3:2.

\* See Endnote 4 about separation when adultery is not involved.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how you can be happy—and make Jehovah happy—whether you are single or married.

### 4. Make good use of the gift of singleness

Jesus viewed singleness as a gift. (Matthew 19:11, 12) [Read Matthew 4:23](#), and then discuss this question:

- How did Jesus use the gift of singleness to serve his Father and to help others?

Christians can enjoy using their singleness as Jesus did. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Faithful Single Ones**  
(3:11)

- In what rewarding ways can Christians use their singleness?

#### Did you know?

The Bible does not give a minimum age for marriage. However, it encourages a person to wait until he is “past the bloom of youth,” a time when strong sexual feelings can distort a young person’s judgment.

—1 Corinthians 7:36.



If two animals that are very different are yoked together, they will suffer. Likewise, a Christian who marries an unbeliever will have many problems

### 5. Choose your mate wisely

Choosing your mate is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. [Read Matthew 19:4-6, 9](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why should a Christian not rush into marriage?

The Bible can help you know what to look for in a marriage mate. Above all, look for a marriage mate who loves Jehovah.\* [Read 1 Corinthians 7:39 and 2 Corinthians 6:14](#). Then discuss these questions:

- Why should we marry only a fellow Christian?
- How do you think Jehovah would feel about our marrying someone who does not love Him?

\* In some cultures, parents choose a marriage mate for their son or daughter. When that is the case, loving parents first consider, not the money or social standing of the potential spouse, but whether he or she loves Jehovah.

## 6. View marriage as Jehovah does

In ancient Israel, some men divorced their wives for selfish reasons. [Read Malachi 2:13, 14, 16](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why does Jehovah hate an unjust divorce?

[Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Marriage—A Permanent Bond (4:30)**

- If you are married to an unbeliever, what can you do to make your marriage successful?



Adultery and divorce hurt the innocent mate and the children

## 7. Apply Jehovah's standards for marriage

A person may need to make great efforts to apply Jehovah's standards for marriage.\* But Jehovah blesses those who do. [Play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO: You Can Meet Jehovah's Standards for Marriage (4:14)**

[Read Hebrews 13:4](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Do you think that Jehovah's standards for marriage are reasonable? Why, or why not?

Jehovah expects Christians to register their marriages and divorces, as in most countries these are governed by civil authorities. [Read Titus 3:1](#), and then discuss this question:

- If you are married, are you sure that your marriage is legally recognized by the government?

\* If you are living with someone out of wedlock, whether you leave the person or marry is a personal decision.

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** “Why get married? Can't a couple just live together?”

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Singleness and marriage are gifts from Jehovah. Either can bring joy and satisfaction if enjoyed in harmony with Jehovah's will.

## Review

- How can a person make good use of his or her singleness?
- Why does the Bible say to marry only a fellow Christian?
- What is the only Scriptural basis for divorce?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If your marriage is not legally recognized by the government, find out what you need to do to make it legal.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What does marrying "only in the Lord" mean?

**"Questions From Readers"**  
(*The Watchtower*, July 1, 2004)



Watch two dramatizations that can help you make good decisions about dating and marriage.

***Preparing for Marriage***



Learn why one brother feels that what Jehovah has given him is much more valuable than anything he gave up.

***I Was Hoping That She Would Learn the Truth***



What are some things that a person should consider before contemplating divorce or separation?

**"Honor 'What God Has Yoked Together'"** (*The Watchtower*, December 2018)



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# How Should Christians View Alcohol?

Around the world, people have different opinions about alcohol. Some enjoy sharing an occasional drink with friends. Others choose not to drink at all. Still others drink to the point of getting drunk. What is the Bible's view of alcohol?

## 1. Is it wrong to drink alcoholic beverages?

The Bible does not condemn drinking alcohol. On the contrary, when listing many gifts that God has given us, the Bible includes "**wine that makes man's heart rejoice.**" (Psalm 104:14, 15) Some faithful men and women mentioned in the Bible drank alcoholic beverages.—1 Timothy 5:23.

## 2. What advice does the Bible give to those who choose to drink?

Jehovah condemns heavy drinking and drunkenness. (Galatians 5:21) His Word says: "**Do not be among those who drink too much wine.**" (Proverbs 23:20) So if we choose to drink—even in private—we should not drink so much that we cannot think clearly, control our speech and actions, or maintain our physical health. If we cannot control our drinking, we should be willing to stop drinking altogether.

## 3. How can we respect the decisions of others regarding alcohol?

Each person must decide whether to drink alcoholic beverages. We should not judge someone who chooses to drink alcohol in moderation, and we should not pressure someone to drink who does not want to. (Romans 14:10) We choose not to drink if our drinking could cause problems for others. (Read Romans 14:21.) We seek "**not [our] own advantage, but that of the other person.**"—Read 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider Bible principles that will help you decide whether to drink and how much to drink if you do so. Also find out what you can do if you struggle with a drinking problem.

### 4. Decide whether you will drink

How did Jesus view drinking alcohol? To learn the answer, consider the first miracle that he performed. [Read John 2:1-11](#), and then discuss these questions:

- From this miracle, what can we learn about Jesus' view of alcohol and those who drink it?
- Since Jesus did not condemn drinking alcohol, how should a Christian view someone who chooses to drink?

However, just because a Christian is free to drink alcohol, this does not mean that it is always wise for him to do so. [Read Proverbs 22:3](#), and then consider how the following factors might influence whether you will drink:

- You are going to drive or operate machinery.
- You are pregnant.
- A doctor has advised you not to drink alcohol.

- You have trouble controlling the amount you drink.
- The law does not allow you to drink alcohol.
- You are with someone who chooses to abstain because he has had trouble controlling his drinking in the past.

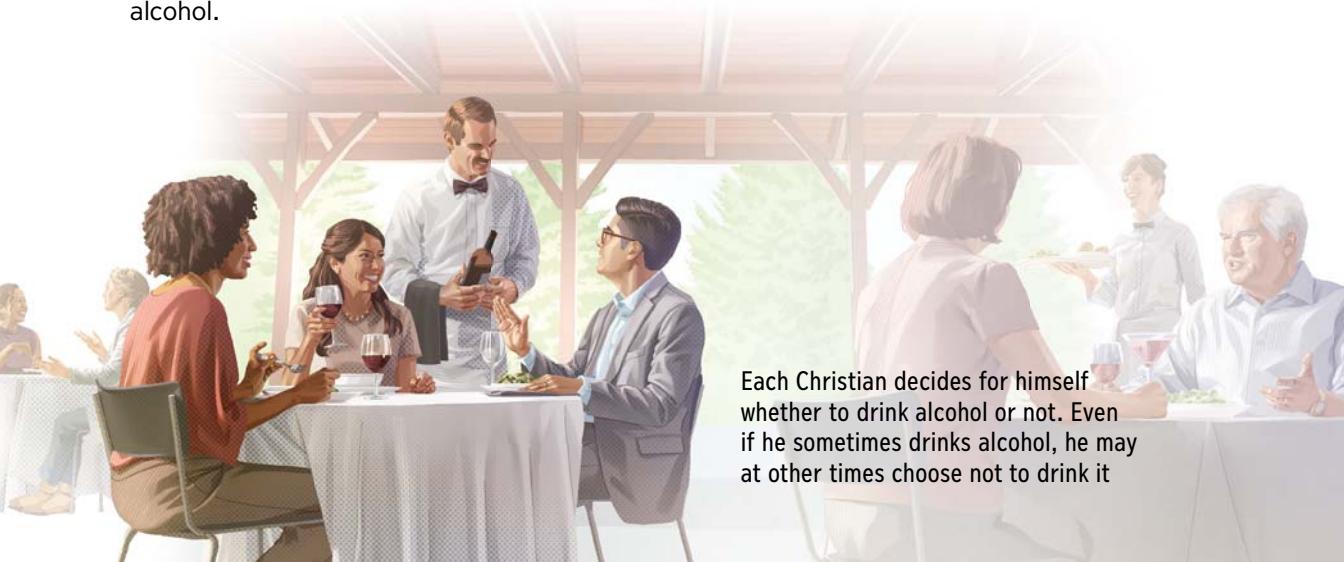
Should you serve alcohol at wedding receptions or other social gatherings? To see what can help you decide, [play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO: Should I Serve Alcohol? (2:41)**

[Read Romans 13:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:31, 32](#). After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- How can applying this principle help you to make a decision that will please Jehovah?



Each Christian decides for himself whether to drink alcohol or not. Even if he sometimes drinks alcohol, he may at other times choose not to drink it.

## 5. Decide how much you will drink

If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, remember this: While Jehovah does not condemn the drinking of alcohol, he does condemn overdrinking. Why? [Read Hosea 4:11, 18](#), and then discuss this question:

- What can happen when a person drinks too much?

How can we avoid drinking too much? We need to be modest, or aware of our limitations. [Read Proverbs 11:2](#), and then discuss this question:

- Why is it a good idea to set a definite limit on how much you will drink?

## 6. Overcome the misuse of alcohol

See what helped one man to stop abusing alcohol. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, how did alcohol affect the way Dmitry acted?
- Was he able to stop drinking right away?
- How was he finally able to break his addiction to alcohol?

[Read 1 Corinthians 6:10, 11](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How serious is drunkenness?
- What shows that someone who misuses alcohol can change?

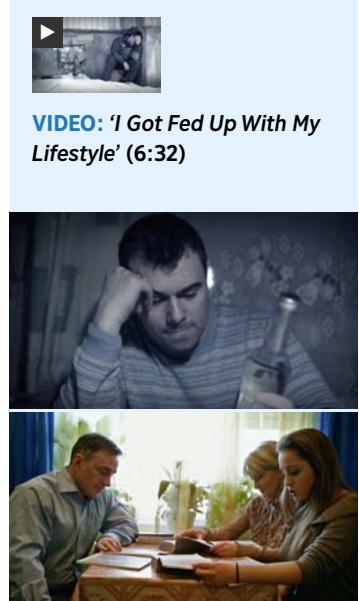
[Read Matthew 5:30](#), and then discuss this question:

- Cutting off a hand illustrates making sacrifices to please Jehovah. What can you do if you are struggling to overcome the misuse of alcohol?\*

[Read 1 Corinthians 15:33](#), and then discuss this question:

- What effect can your friends have on how much you drink?

\* Those who are addicted to alcohol may need professional help to break free. Many doctors suggest that those who have had a drinking problem should not drink at all.



**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** “Is drinking wrong?”

- How would you respond?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah provided alcohol for our enjoyment, but he condemns overdrinking and drunkenness.

## Review

- What is the Bible's view of alcohol?
- What are the dangers of drinking too much?
- How can we respect the decisions others make regarding drinking?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If you choose to drink, consider the circumstances and set a definite limit for yourself.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



How can teenagers make good choices about alcohol?

**Think Past the Drink**



Discover the steps you can take to overcome a drinking problem.

**“Keeping Alcohol in Its Place”**  
(*The Watchtower*, January 1, 2010)



Should a Christian share in toasting?

**“Questions From Readers”**  
(*The Watchtower*, February 15, 2007)



In the story “I Was a Bottomless Barrel,” see how a man gave up binge drinking.

**“The Bible Changes Lives”**  
(*The Watchtower*, May 1, 2012)



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# Do All Celebrations Please God?

Jehovah wants us to enjoy life and even to celebrate at times. But do all celebrations and holidays please him? How can we show our love for Jehovah in this matter?

## 1. Why do many celebrations displease Jehovah?

You might be surprised to learn that many celebrations are based on unscriptural teachings or have pagan origins. Such celebrations may be connected with false religion. They may be linked to spiritism or be based on the idea that the soul is immortal. Some celebrations are rooted in superstition or a belief in luck. (Isaiah 65:11) Jehovah warns his worshippers: “Separate yourselves . . . and quit touching the unclean thing.”—2 Corinthians 6:17.\*

## 2. How does Jehovah feel about celebrations that give undue honor to humans?

Jehovah cautions us not to fall into the trap of putting our “trust in mere humans.” (Read Jeremiah 17:5.) Some holidays honor rulers or soldiers. Others celebrate national symbols or independence. (1 John 5:21) Still others promote political or social movements. How would Jehovah feel if we gave undue honor to a person or an organization, especially one that promoted ideas contrary to His purpose?

## 3. What behavior can make celebrations unacceptable?

The Bible condemns “overdrinking, wild parties, [and] drinking bouts.” (1 Peter 4:3) Some celebrations feature unrestrained and immoral behavior. To remain Jehovah’s friends, we need to stay far away from such moral uncleanness.

\* See Endnote 5 to learn how to handle certain holiday situations.

## DIG DEEPER

Find out how you can please Jehovah by making wise decisions about holidays and celebrations.



### 4. Reject celebrations that dishonor Jehovah

Read **Ephesians 5:10**, and then discuss these questions:

- What do we need to make sure of when deciding whether to celebrate a holiday?
- What holidays are popular where you live?
- Do you think those holidays please Jehovah?

For example, have you ever wondered what God thinks of birthday celebrations? The Bible never refers to a worshipper of Jehovah celebrating a birthday, but it does record two birthdays celebrated by people who did not serve Him. **Read Genesis 40:20-22 and Matthew 14:6-10.** Then discuss these questions:

- What do both birthday celebrations have in common?
- Based on these Bible accounts, how do you think Jehovah feels about birthdays?

Still, you may wonder, ‘Does Jehovah really care whether I participate in a birthday or other unscriptural celebration?’ **Read Exodus 32:1-8.** Then, **play the VIDEO** and discuss the questions that follow.

- Why do we need to make sure of what is acceptable to Jehovah?
- How can we do so?

#### How to know if a celebration displeases God

- **Is it based on unscriptural teachings?** To find out, investigate its origins.
- **Does it give undue honor to humans, organizations, or national symbols?** We honor Jehovah above all and trust in him to solve the world’s problems.
- **Do its customs and practices conflict with Bible standards?** We need to remain morally clean.



**VIDEO: Holidays and Celebrations That Displease God (5:07)**

## 5. Help others to respect your beliefs

It can be hard to resist when others pressure you to participate in celebrations that displease Jehovah. Explain your decisions patiently and tactfully. To see an example of how to do this, [play the VIDEO](#).

**Read Matthew 7:12,** and then discuss these questions:

- Based on this verse, should you tell your unbelieving family members that they cannot celebrate a holiday?
- What might you do to reassure your family that even though you will not celebrate with them, you love and appreciate them?



**VIDEO: Tactfully Explain Your Beliefs (2:01)**

## 6. Jehovah wants us to be happy

Jehovah wants us to enjoy good times with our family and friends.

**Read Ecclesiastes 8:15,** and then discuss this question:

- How does this verse show that Jehovah wants us to be happy?

Jehovah wants his people to have fun and enjoy good times together. [Play the VIDEO](#) to see how this has been very evident at our international conventions.

**Read Galatians 6:10,** and then discuss these questions:

- Do we need to celebrate popular holidays to do “what is good” to others?
- What kind of giving would make you happier—feeling obligated to give on a holiday or giving spontaneously?
- Many Witnesses occasionally organize something special for their children and even surprise them with gifts.  
If you have children, what are some special things that you could do for them?



**VIDEO: Showing Hospitality at International Conventions (5:40)**

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “A holiday’s origins don’t really matter. It’s about having a good time with family and friends.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants us to enjoy time with family and friends. But he also wants us to avoid celebrations that displease him.

## Review

- What questions can we ask to determine whether a celebration displeases Jehovah?
- How can we help our family and friends to understand our decisions regarding holidays?
- How do you know that Jehovah wants us to be happy and to have fun?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Use what you learned in this lesson to evaluate the holidays that are popular in your area.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider some specific holidays that Christians do not celebrate.

**"Why Don't Jehovah's Witnesses Celebrate Certain Holidays?"** (Web article)



See four reasons why we believe that birthday celebrations displease God.

**"Why Don't Jehovah's Witnesses Celebrate Birthdays?"** (Web article)



See how young children who love Jehovah can please him during the holidays.

***You Are Precious to Jehovah***



Millions of Christians have chosen not to celebrate Christmas. How do they feel about their decision?

**"They Found Something Better"** (*The Watchtower*, December 1, 2012)



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# What It Means to Be Neutral

Jesus taught that his followers should be “no part of the world.” (John 15:19) This includes being neutral—not taking sides in the world’s politics and wars. Realistically, it is not always easy to be neutral. We may be ridiculed because of this. How can we stay neutral and remain loyal to Jehovah God?

## 1. How do true Christians view human governments?

Christians respect the government. We do as Jesus said and “**pay back Caesar’s things to Caesar**”—that is, we obey the laws of the land, such as those that require us to pay taxes. (Mark 12:17) The Bible teaches that human governments rule only because Jehovah allows them to rule. (Romans 13:1) So we recognize that human governments have only relative, or limited, authority. We look to our God and his heavenly Kingdom to solve mankind’s problems.

## 2. How can we show that we are neutral?

Like Jesus, we do not get involved in politics. When the people saw one of Jesus’ miracles and tried to make him their king on earth, he did not let them. (John 6:15) Why not? Because, as he later said, “**my Kingdom is no part of this world.**” (John 18:36) As Jesus’ disciples, we show our neutrality in a number of ways. For example, we do not go to war. (Read Micah 4:3.) We respect national symbols—such as flags—but we do not worship them. (1 John 5:21) And we do not take sides for or against any political party or candidate. In these ways and others, we show that we are completely loyal to God’s government—his Kingdom.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine situations that may test our neutrality, and see how you can make decisions that will please Jehovah.



### 3. True Christians are neutral

Jesus and his followers set the example for us. [Read Romans 13:1, 5-7 and 1 Peter 2:13, 14](#). Then, [play the VIDEO](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

- Why should we respect secular authorities?
- What are some ways we show that we are in subjection to them?

In times of war, some nations may claim to be neutral, but they assist both sides in the conflict. What is real neutrality? [Read John 17:16](#). Then, [play the VIDEO](#) and discuss the question that follows.

- What does it mean to be neutral?

What if secular authorities demand something that conflicts with God's law? [Read Acts 5:28, 29](#). Then, [play the VIDEO](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

- If there is a conflict between human law and God's law, whose law should we obey?
- Can you think of any circumstances in which Christians would not obey secular authorities?



[VIDEO: True Christians Are Neutral—Part 1 \(4:28\)](#)



[VIDEO: True Christians Are Neutral—Part 2 \(3:11\)](#)



[VIDEO: True Christians Are Neutral—Part 3 \(1:18\)](#)

## 4. Be neutral in thought and action

Read **1 John 5:21**. Then, [play the VIDEO](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, why did Ayenge decide not to join the political party or participate in nationalistic ceremonies, such as saluting the flag?
- Do you think that he decided wisely?

What other situations can test our neutrality? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- How can we remain neutral when it comes to international sporting events?
- How can we remain neutral even if we are personally affected by the decisions of politicians?
- How could the news media or our associations affect our neutrality?



**VIDEO:** Why True Christians Need Courage—To Maintain Neutrality (2:49)



**VIDEO:** Lessons From The Watchtower—Remain Neutral in a Divided World (5:16)

In what areas must a Christian remain neutral in thought and action?



**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** “Why don’t you salute the flag or sing the national anthem?”

- How would you respond?

## SUMMARY

Christians work hard to be politically neutral in their thoughts, words, and actions.

## Review

- What do we owe human governments?
- Why do we remain politically neutral?
- What situations can test our neutrality?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Think of a situation in which your neutrality could be tested, and decide in advance how you will handle it.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What sacrifices may we need to make in order to remain neutral?

**Jehovah Has Never Let Us Down**



What can families do to prepare in advance for tests of their neutrality?

**Maintain Neutrality at Public Events**



Why is defending one's country not the highest honor a person could have?

**"All Things Are Possible With God"**



Consider how to remain no part of the world when making decisions about your employment.

**"Each One Will Carry His Own Load" (The Watchtower, March 15, 2006)**



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## Why Make a Dedication and Get Baptized?

You dedicate yourself to Jehovah by promising him in a prayer that you will worship only him and put his will first in your life. (Psalm 40:8) Afterward, you get baptized. By doing so, you show others that you have made a dedication. The decision to dedicate ourselves to Jehovah is the most important one we will ever make. What may motivate you to make such a serious and life-changing decision?

### 1. What motivates someone to make a dedication?

Our dedication to Jehovah is motivated by love. (1 John 4:10, 19) The Bible urges us: “**Love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.**” (Mark 12:30) We show that we love God not only by what we say but also by what we do. Just as a couple who truly love each other get married, so our love for Jehovah motivates us to dedicate ourselves to him and get baptized.

### 2. What blessings does Jehovah offer to his baptized Witnesses?

When you get baptized, you will become a member of Jehovah’s happy family. You will then experience his love for you in many ways, and you will draw even closer to him than you are today. (Read Malachi 3:16-18.) In addition to having Jehovah as your Father, you will have a spiritual family of brothers and sisters around the world who love him and love you. (Read Mark 10:29, 30.) Of course, you must take certain steps before you get baptized. You need to learn about Jehovah, to love him, and to put faith in his Son. Finally, you must dedicate your life to Jehovah. If you take those steps and then get baptized, you will be on the path to enjoying life forever. God’s Word says: “**Baptism . . . is also now saving you.**”—1 Peter 3:21.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine why it is important for you to make a dedication to Jehovah and get baptized.

### 3. We all must choose whom we will serve

In ancient Israel, some people thought that they could worship both Jehovah and the false god Baal. But Jehovah sent his prophet Elijah to correct this wrong idea. [Read 1 Kings 18:21](#), and then discuss this question:

- What choice did the Israelites have to make?

Like the Israelites, we too must choose whom we will serve. [Read Luke 16:13](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Why can we not worship both Jehovah and someone or something else?
- How do we show Jehovah that we choose to worship him?



### 4. Meditate on Jehovah's love for you

Jehovah has given us many precious gifts. What can we give to him? [Play the VIDEO](#).



**VIDEO: Presenting Your Gifts to God**  
(3:04)

What are some ways in which Jehovah has shown love to you? [Read Psalm 104:14, 15 and 1 John 4:9, 10](#), and then discuss these questions:

- What gifts from Jehovah are you especially grateful for?
- How do those gifts make you feel about him?

When we receive a gift that we really like, we want to show appreciation to the one who gave it to us. [Read Deuteronomy 16:17](#), and then discuss this question:

- When you consider everything that Jehovah has done for you, what are you moved to give to him?

## 5. Dedication brings many blessings

Many people believe that fame, a good career, or money will make them happy. Is that true? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

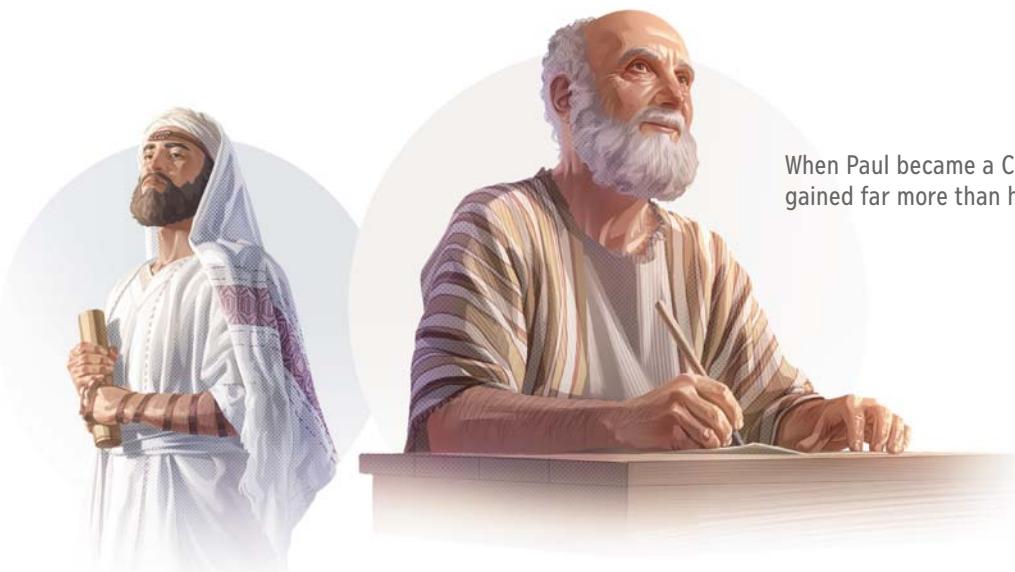
- Although the athlete in the video loved playing soccer, why did he leave that career?
- He decided to dedicate himself, not to soccer, but to Jehovah. Do you think he made the right decision? Why?

Before the apostle Paul became a Christian, he was pursuing a prominent career. He had studied Jewish law with a famous teacher. But he left that behind in order to become a Christian. Did Paul have any regrets? [Read Philippians 3:8](#), and then discuss these questions:

- Why did Paul say that what he did before he became a Christian was “a lot of refuse,” or garbage?
- What did he gain instead?
- How would you compare serving Jehovah to any other way you could use your life?



**VIDEO: Soccer Was My Reason for Living (5:45)**



When Paul became a Christian, he gained far more than he gave up

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “It’s unreasonable to devote your life to God.”

- Why do you think it makes sense to dedicate yourself to Jehovah?

## SUMMARY

Love moves us to dedicate ourselves to Jehovah and get baptized.

## Review

- Why does Jehovah deserve our wholehearted love and worship?
- How does Jehovah reward his baptized Witnesses?
- Would you like to dedicate yourself to Jehovah?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- As you prepare the next lesson, consider what obstacles might be holding you back from making a dedication.
- Other:

## EXPLORE

► 6:54



See why a musician and an athlete chose to dedicate themselves to Jehovah.

**Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?—Looking Back**



Consider additional reasons to make a dedication.

**“Why Dedicate Yourself to Jehovah?” (The Watchtower, January 15, 2010)**



In this music video, observe the joy of those who dedicate themselves to Jehovah.

**I Give My Life to You**



In the story “For Years I Wondered, ‘Why Are We Here?’” notice what motivated a woman to analyze her priorities.

**“The Bible Changes Lives” (The Watchtower, November 1, 2012)**



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# Are You Ready to Get Baptized?

You have learned many things about Jehovah through your study of the Bible. Likely you made some changes to apply what you learned. Yet, there may be something holding you back from dedicating yourself to Jehovah and getting baptized. This lesson will discuss some common obstacles to baptism and how you can overcome them.

## 1. How much do you need to know before you get baptized?

To get baptized, you need to have “**an accurate knowledge of truth.**” (1 Timothy 2:4) This does not mean that you have to know the answer to every Bible question before you get baptized. Even Christians who have been baptized for a long time keep learning. (Colossians 1:9, 10) But you do need to have a basic understanding of Bible teachings. Congregation elders will help you find out if you have enough knowledge.

## 2. What are some steps you need to take before baptism?

Before you can get baptized, you must “**repent . . . and turn around.**” (Read Acts 3:19.) This means that you feel deeply sorry for any sins you have committed and you ask Jehovah to forgive you. You also firmly reject bad conduct and are determined to live in a way that pleases God. In addition, you begin to participate in congregation activities by attending meetings and preaching as an unbaptized publisher.

## 3. Why should you not let fear hold you back?

Some are afraid that they will not be able to do what they promised Jehovah. True, at times you will make mistakes, even as faithful men and women mentioned in the Bible did. But Jehovah does not expect his worshippers to be perfect. (Read Psalm 103:13, 14.) He is pleased when you do your best! He will help you. In fact, Jehovah assures us that nothing “**will be able to separate us from [his] love.**”—Read Romans 8:38, 39.

## DIG DEEPER

See how you can overcome any obstacles to baptism by getting to know Jehovah better and accepting his help.



### 4. Get to know Jehovah better

How well do you need to know Jehovah before getting baptized? You need to know him well enough to love him and to want to please him. [Play the VIDEO](#) to see how Bible students around the world have done so. Then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** *The Road to Baptism*  
(3:56)

- In the video, what helped some individuals to prepare for baptism?

Read **Romans 12:2**, and then discuss these questions:

- Do you have any doubts about what the Bible teaches or whether Jehovah's Witnesses teach the truth?
- If so, what can you do about it?

### 5. Overcome possible obstacles to baptism

When we decide to dedicate ourselves to Jehovah and get baptized, we all face challenges. To see an example, [play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO:** *Love for Jehovah Conquers Obstacles* (5:22)

- In the video, what obstacles did Narangerel need to overcome to serve Jehovah?
- How did love for Jehovah help her to conquer those obstacles?

Read **Proverbs 29:25** and **2 Timothy 1:7**, and then discuss this question:

- What gives us the courage to overcome obstacles?



## 6. Trust in Jehovah's help

Jehovah will help you to please him. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: Jehovah God Will Help You (2:50)**

- In the video, what caused the Bible student to hold back from getting baptized?
- What did he learn that helped him to strengthen his trust in Jehovah?

**Read Isaiah 41:10, 13**, and then discuss this question:

- Why can you be confident that you can fulfill the promise you make at your dedication?

## 7. Deepen your appreciation for Jehovah's love

The more you think about how much Jehovah loves you, the more thankful you will be and the more you will want to serve him forever. [Read Psalm 40:5](#), and then discuss this question:

- What blessings from Jehovah do you especially appreciate?

The prophet Jeremiah loved Jehovah and his word, and he deeply appreciated the privilege of bearing Jehovah's name. He said: "Your word became to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart, for your name has been called on me, O Jehovah God." (Jeremiah 15:16) Answer these questions:

- Why is it a special privilege to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses?
- Do you want to get baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses?
- Does anything prevent you from doing so?
- What do you think you need to do to reach the goal of baptism?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I don't think I could live up to the responsibility of baptism."

- Is that how you feel?

## SUMMARY

With Jehovah's help, you can overcome any obstacle to baptism.

## Review

- How much Bible knowledge do you need to get baptized?
- What changes may you need to make before you can get baptized?
- Why should you not let fear hold you back?

Section completed on

## Goal

- Review "Am I Ready to Preach With the Congregation?" and "Am I Ready to Get Baptized?" at the end of Section 4.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider what should be the basis for your decision to get baptized.

**"Are You Ready to Get Baptized?"** (*The Watchtower*, March 2020)



Learn how to overcome specific challenges that could hold you back.

**"What Prevents Me From Getting Baptized?"** (*The Watchtower*, March 2019)



See how one man successfully overcame some major obstacles in order to get baptized.

**"Why Are You Delaying Baptism?"**



At first, a man named Ataa hesitated to get baptized. See what convinced him to take this important step.

***Do I Really Deserve This?***



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# SECTION 3 REVIEW

Discuss the following questions with your teacher:



## 1. Read Proverbs 27:11.

- Why do you want to be loyal to Jehovah?  
*(See Lesson 34.)*

## 2. How can you make good decisions when the Bible does not provide a specific command? *(See Lesson 35.)*

## 3. How can you be honest in all things? *(See Lesson 36.)*

## 4. Read Matthew 6:33.

- How can you keep “seeking first the Kingdom” when it comes to work and money?  
*(See Lesson 37.)*

## 5. What are some ways you can show that you value life as Jehovah does? *(See Lesson 38.)*

## 6. Read Acts 15:29.

- How can you obey Jehovah’s command regarding blood?
- Do you feel his requirements are reasonable?  
*(See Lesson 39.)*

## 7. Read 2 Corinthians 7:1.

- What does it mean to be physically and morally clean?  
*(See Lesson 40.)*

## 8. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10.

- What is the Bible’s view of sex? Do you agree with it?
- What direction does the Bible give about the use of alcohol?  
*(See Lessons 41 and 43.)*

## 9. Read Matthew 19:4-6, 9.

- What is God’s standard for marriage?
- Why must marriages and divorces be legally registered?  
*(See Lesson 42.)*

## 10. What are some celebrations and holidays that displease Jehovah, and why? *(See Lesson 44.)*

## 11. Read John 17:16 and Acts 5:29.

- How can you be neutral?
- If there is a conflict between human law and God’s law, what would you do?  
*(See Lesson 45.)*

## 12. Read Mark 12:30.

- How can you show that you love Jehovah?  
*(See Lessons 46 and 47.)*

Your questions:



# SECTION 4

**Focus:** Learn how to remain  
in God's love



## LESSONS

- 48** Choose Your Friends Wisely
- 49** How Can Your Family Be Happy?  
—Part 1
- 50** How Can Your Family Be Happy?  
—Part 2
- 51** How Can You Please  
Jehovah With Your Speech?
- 52** Why Our Clothing and  
Appearance Matter
- 53** Choose Entertainment That  
Pleases Jehovah
- 54** The Role of “the Faithful  
and Discreet Slave”
- 55** Support Your Local  
Congregation
- 56** Maintain Unity in the  
Congregation
- 57** What if You Commit a  
Serious Sin?
- 58** Remain Loyal to Jehovah
- 59** You Can Endure Persecution
- 60** Continue Making Progress



## Choose Your Friends Wisely

Close friends add to our happiness during good times, and they strengthen us during hard times. But the Bible warns us that not everyone is a good friend. So how can you choose good friends? Consider the following questions.

### 1. How will the friends you choose affect you?

We tend to become like the people we spend time with. This can be good or bad—and that is true whether we spend time with them in person or on social media. As the Bible says, “**the one walking with the wise will become wise, but the one who has dealings with the stupid [those who do not love Jehovah] will fare badly.**” (Proverbs 13:20) Friends who love and worship Jehovah can help you to stay close to him and to make good decisions. But close friends outside the congregation can cause us to draw away from Jehovah. No wonder the Bible encourages us to choose our friends wisely! When our friends are people who love God, we benefit both ourselves and them. We are able to “keep encouraging one another and building one another up.”—1 Thessalonians 5:11.

### 2. How will your choice of friends affect Jehovah?

Jehovah chooses his friends carefully. “**His close friendship is with the upright.**” (Proverbs 3:32) How would Jehovah feel if we were to choose friends who do not love him? He would be very disappointed! (Read James 4:4.) On the other hand, Jehovah will be pleased and will choose us as friends if we reject bad association and draw close to him and to those who love him.—Psalm 15:1-4.

## DIG DEEPER

Examine why our choice of friends is so important, and see how you can develop friendships that will truly enrich your life.

### 3. Beware of bad association

People who do not love God and his standards are bad association. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** *Learn to Reject Bad Association (6:17)*

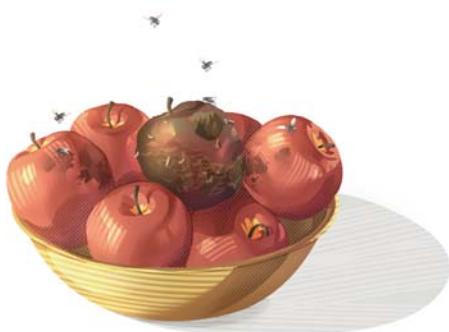
- How could we become involved in bad association without realizing it?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:33**, and then discuss these questions:

- What kind of person could be bad association for you? Why?

**Read Psalm 119:63**, and then discuss this question:

- What should you look for in a friend?



One rotten apple can spoil the rest.  
How might one bad associate affect you?

### 4. People who are different from us can become our good friends

The Bible describes David and Jonathan, two men in ancient Israel. They were very different in age and circumstances; yet, they had a remarkable friendship. **Read 1 Samuel 18:1**, and then discuss this question:

- Why do our friends not always have to come from our own age group or social status?

**Read Romans 1:11, 12**, and then discuss this question:

- How can friends who love Jehovah encourage each other?

In this dramatization, see how one young brother found friends in unexpected places. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO:** *Find Friends in Unexpected Places (5:06)*

- In the video, why were Akil's parents concerned about his friendships at school?
- What factors initially made those friendships appealing to him?
- How was he able to overcome his loneliness?



To have good friends, you need to be a good friend

## 5. How to cultivate good friendships

Consider how to find real friends—and how to be one in return.

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

Read **Proverbs 18:24** and **27:17**, and then discuss these questions:

- How do real friends help each other?
- Do you have good friendships like that? If not, how could you develop some?

Read **Philippians 2:4**, and then discuss this question:

- To have good friends, you need to be a good friend. How can you do that?



**VIDEO: What's a Real Friend? (4:14)**



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Any friends are better than no friends at all.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

When we choose our friends wisely, we please Jehovah and benefit ourselves.

## Review

- Why does Jehovah care about our choice of friends?
- What kind of friendships should we avoid?
- How can you build strong friendships with the right sort of people?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Get to know more people in the congregation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See how the right kind of friends can help us in times of trial.

**“Build Strong Friendships Before the End Comes”**  
(*The Watchtower*, November 2019)



Consider practical steps you can take to make good friends.

**“How Can I Make Good Friends?”** (*Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 1, chapter 8)



What should you know about online friendships?

**Be Social-Network Smart**



In the story “I Yearned for a Father,” find out what caused one man to reevaluate his choice of friends.

**“The Bible Changes Lives”**  
(*The Watchtower*, April 1, 2012)



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# How Can Your Family Be Happy?—Part 1

Newlyweds hope that the happiness they felt on their wedding day will last forever. And it can. Christians who have been married a long time and who have worked hard to apply the Bible's advice know that this is possible.

## 1. What advice does the Bible give to husbands?

Jehovah has appointed the husband as the head of the family. (Read Ephesians 5:23.) Jehovah expects him to make decisions that will benefit the family. The Bible advises husbands: “**Continue loving your wives.**” (Ephesians 5:25) What does that mean? A loving husband treats his wife kindly, both at home and in public. He protects her from harm and does his best to care for her physical and emotional needs. (1 Timothy 5:8) Most important, he takes the lead in caring for her spiritual needs. (Matthew 4:4) For example, he can pray and read the Bible with his wife. When a husband lovingly cares for his wife, he maintains his friendship with Jehovah.—Read 1 Peter 3:7.

## 2. What advice does the Bible give to wives?

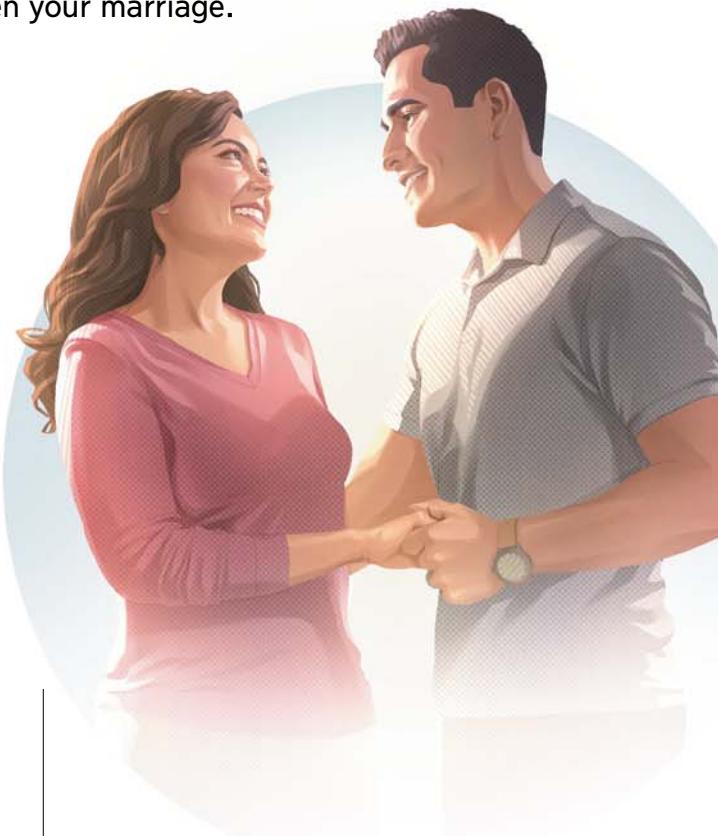
God’s Word says that a wife “**should have deep respect for her husband.**” (Ephesians 5:33) How can she do that? She can think about her husband’s good qualities and the efforts he makes to care for her and their children. She can also show respect by supporting the decisions he makes and by speaking kindly to him and about him, even if he is not a believer.

## 3. How can a couple strengthen their marriage?

The Bible says about married couples: “**The two will be one flesh.**” (Matthew 19:5) This means they must fight against any tendency to grow apart. They do so by regularly spending time together and by openly and lovingly sharing their thoughts and feelings with each other. They do not let anything or anyone—other than Jehovah—be more important than their mate. They are especially careful not to cultivate an inappropriate relationship with anyone else.

## DIG DEEPER

See what Bible principles can strengthen your marriage.



### 4. Husbands—love and take good care of your wife

The Bible says that “husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.” (Ephesians 5:28, 29) What does that mean? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



[VIDEO: Husbands, Love Your Wife as Yourself \(9:53\)](#)

- What are some ways in which a husband can show that he loves and cares for his wife?

[Read Colossians 3:12](#), and then discuss this question:

- How can a husband display these qualities in his marriage?

### 5. Wives—love and respect your husband

The Bible encourages a wife to respect her husband whether he serves Jehovah or not. [Read 1 Peter 3:1, 2](#), and then discuss these questions:

- If you have an unbelieving husband, doubtless you want him to worship Jehovah. What do you think would be more effective—constantly preaching to him or displaying good conduct and showing a respectful attitude? Why?

Husbands and wives can make good decisions together. However, at times a wife may disagree



with her husband. She may then express her thoughts calmly and respectfully, but she must recognize that Jehovah has given him the responsibility to decide what is best for the family. She should do her best to support his decision. By doing so, she contributes to a happy atmosphere at home. **Read 1 Peter 3:3-5**, and then discuss this question:

- How does Jehovah feel when a wife shows respect for her husband?

## 6. You can overcome problems in your marriage

No marriage is perfect. Therefore, couples must work together to overcome difficulties. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: How to Strengthen the Marriage Bond (5:44)**

- In the video, what were some signs that the couple were growing apart?
- What steps did they take to strengthen their marriage?

### Read 1 Corinthians 10:24 and Colossians 3:13.

After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- How can applying this advice strengthen a marriage?

The Bible says that we should honor one another. Showing honor includes treating a person in a kind and respectful way. **Read Romans 12:10**, and then discuss these questions:

- Should husbands or wives wait for their mate to honor them first? Why, or why not?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “My mate and I are not as close as we used to be.”

- How would you explain that the Bible can help them?

## SUMMARY

A husband and wife can be happy when they love each other, respect each other, and apply Bible principles.

## Review

- How can a husband contribute to a happy marriage?
- How can a wife contribute to a happy marriage?
- If you are married, which Bible principle could help strengthen your marriage?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If you are married, discuss with your mate one of the articles about marriage on jw.org.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn practical suggestions that can help you enjoy life as a family.

**Your Family Can Be Happy**  
(brochure)



► 4:26

Watch a music video that highlights the blessings of applying God's counsel in your marriage.

**Truly in Love**



Examine what it means to submit to a husband's headship.

**"Women, Why Submit to Headship?"** (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 2010)



How did one couple overcome serious problems—including their divorce?

**We Rebuilt Our Marriage With God's Help**



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# How Can Your Family Be Happy?—Part 2

Children are a gift from Jehovah. He expects parents to take good care of that gift. Jehovah provides wise advice that can help parents to do so. His advice can also help children to have a share in making family life a success.

## 1. What advice does Jehovah give to parents?

Jehovah expects parents to love their children and to spend as much time as possible with them. He also wants parents to protect their children from harm and to use Bible principles as the basis for training them. (Proverbs 1:8) He tells fathers: “**Go on bringing [your children] up in the . . . admonition of Jehovah.**” (Read Ephesians 6:4.) Jehovah is pleased if parents follow his direction when raising their children and do not pass that responsibility on to someone else.

## 2. What advice does Jehovah give to children?

Jehovah instructs children: “**Be obedient to your parents.**” (Read Colossians 3:20.) When children respect and obey their parents, they make both Jehovah and their parents happy. (Proverbs 23:22-25) Jesus set a good example when he was a child. Although he was perfect, he obeyed and respected his parents.—Luke 2:51, 52.

## 3. How can you draw closer to God as a family?

If you are a parent, no doubt you want your children to love Jehovah as much as you do. How can you accomplish this goal? By doing what the Bible says: “**You must inculcate [Jehovah’s words] in your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road.**” (Deuteronomy 6:7) To “inculcate” means to teach by repeating something. Likely, you know that you must often repeat something to your children so that they will remember it. This scripture means that you should look for regular opportunities to talk to your children about Jehovah. It is a good idea to set aside some time each week to worship as a family. If you do not have children, you will still benefit by taking time each week to study God’s Word.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider practical suggestions that contribute to a happy and secure family life.

### 4. Train your children with love

Training a child can be challenging. How can the Bible help? [Read James 1:19, 20](#), and then discuss these questions:

- How can parents show love when they communicate with their children?
- Why should a parent never discipline his children when he is angry?\*

\* In the Bible, “discipline” relates to instruction, guidance, and correction. It never means abuse or cruelty.  
—Proverbs 4:1.



**VIDEO:** *Safeguard Your Children From Evil* (2:58)

#### Did you know?

Jehovah’s Witnesses produce many tools that help parents to teach their children about sex and to protect them from abuse. For example, see:

- *Protect Your Children* (video)
- *Learn From the Great Teacher*, chapters 10 and 32
- “Teaching Your Child About Sex” (*Awake!* No. 5 2016)

### 5. Protect your children

To safeguard your children, it is crucial that you talk to each child about sex. This may feel awkward. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- Why is it a challenge for some parents to talk to their children about sex?
- In what way have some parents explained sex to their children?

As was prophesied, Satan’s world is becoming more and more wicked. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1, 13](#), and then discuss this question:

- Some of the wicked people referred to in verse 13 sexually abuse children. Therefore, why is it important for parents to teach their children about sex and how to protect themselves from abusers?

## 6. Respect your parents

Children and teenagers can show respect for their parents by the way they speak to them. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO:** How Can I Talk to My Parents?  
(2:19)

- Why is it worthwhile for a young person to communicate respectfully with his parents?
- How can a young person speak to his parents in a way that shows them honor?

**Read Proverbs 1:8**, and then discuss this question:

- How should a young person react when his parents give him direction?

## 7. Worship Jehovah as a family

The families of Jehovah's Witnesses set aside a specific time each week to worship together. What can this family worship be like? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- How can a family have a regular Family Worship program?
- What can a parent do to make family worship practical and enjoyable?—See opening picture of this lesson.
- What may make it a challenge for you to study together?

In ancient Israel, Jehovah expected families to talk regularly about the Scriptures. **Read Deuteronomy 6:6, 7**, and then discuss this question:

- How can you apply this principle?



**VIDEO:** Family Worship—The Challenges and the Rewards  
(8:04)

### Ideas for family worship:

- Prepare for congregation meetings.
- Read and discuss a Bible account that your family will enjoy.
- If you have young children, download or print an activity for children from jw.org.
- If you have teenage children, discuss an article for teenagers on jw.org.
- Act out a Bible story with your children.
- Watch and discuss a video on jw.org.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “The Bible is too complicated for children.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants parents to love, train, and protect their children; children to respect and obey their parents; and families to worship him together.

## Review

- How can parents train and protect their children?
- How can children show honor to their parents?
- What are the benefits of setting aside time each week to worship as a family?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask others in the congregation for ideas on what to consider for family worship.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



What lessons will prepare your child for adulthood?

**“Six Lessons Children Need to Learn”** (*Awake!* No. 2 2019)



Learn practical advice that the Bible offers to caregivers.

**“What Does the Bible Say About Caregiving for Elderly Parents?”** (Web article)



See how a man who did not know how to raise children became a successful father.

***Taught by Jehovah to Raise Our Family***



Consider how fathers can strengthen their relationship with their sons.

**“How Can Fathers Stay Close to Their Sons?”**  
(*The Watchtower*, November 1, 2011)



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# How Can You Please Jehovah With Your Speech?

When Jehovah created us, he gave us a wonderful gift—the ability to speak. Does he care about the way we use that gift? He certainly does! (Read James 1:26.) So how can we use our ability to speak in a way that will please Jehovah?

## 1. How should we use the gift of speech?

The Bible tells us to “keep encouraging one another and building one another up.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Can you think of some who need encouragement? What can you do to make them feel better? Assure them that you care about them. Perhaps you can tell them what you appreciate about them. Can you think of a scripture that would encourage someone you know? There are many from which you can choose. Remember, too, that the way you say something can affect others just as deeply as the words you use. So always try to speak kindly and mildly.—Proverbs 15:1.

## 2. What type of speech must we avoid?

The Bible says: “Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth.” (Read Ephesians 4:29.) This means that we do not use foul language or make cruel and offensive remarks that are meant to hurt someone’s feelings. We must also avoid harmful gossip and slander.—Read Proverbs 16:28.

## 3. What will help us to speak in an upbuilding way?

Often the things we talk about reveal what is really in our heart or weighing on our mind. (Luke 6:45) So we need to train ourselves to focus on positive things—things that are righteous, chaste, lovable, and praiseworthy. (Philippians 4:8) To focus on these things, we must choose our entertainment and friends wisely. (Proverbs 13:20) It also helps to take the time to think before we speak. Consider how your words will affect others. The Bible says: “Thoughtless speech is like the stabs of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is a healing.”—Proverbs 12:18.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how to speak in a way that pleases Jehovah and encourages others.



What might affect the way you speak?



### 4. Control your speech

At times, we all say things we later regret. (James 3:2) **Read Galatians 5:22, 23**, and then discuss these questions:

- Which of these qualities could you pray for to help you control your speech? How might these qualities help you?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:33**, and then discuss this question:

- What effect might your choice of friends and entertainment have on the language you use?

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7**, and then discuss this question:

- When might it be wise to keep silent or to wait for a better time to say something?

## 6. Be kind when you speak to your family

Jehovah wants us to communicate with our family in a kind and loving way. [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO:** Speak “What Is Good for Building Up” Others (4:07)



**VIDEO:** Love and Respect Unite Families (3:08)

- In the video, why did this brother want to change the way he spoke about others?
- What did he do to change?

**Read Ecclesiastes 7:16**, and then discuss this question:

- What should we remember when we are tempted to speak negatively about someone?

**Read Ecclesiastes 7:21, 22**, and then discuss this question:

- How can these verses help you to keep from overreacting when someone speaks negatively about you?

- What will help you to speak kindly to your family?

**Read Ephesians 4:31, 32**, and then discuss this question:

- What kind of speech builds up a family?

Jehovah expressed how he felt about his Son, Jesus. **Read Matthew 17:5**, and then discuss this question:

- How can you imitate Jehovah in the way you communicate with your family?



Look for opportunities to commend others

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “I speak my mind. It’s not my problem if others don’t like what I say.”

- Do you agree? Why, or why not?

## SUMMARY

Words have power. We need to think carefully about what we say, when we say it, and how we say it.

## Review

- What are some ways that you can use speech to help others?
- What kind of speech do you want to avoid?
- What can help us always to be kind and upbuilding in our speech?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- This week, try to commend someone in your family or in the congregation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



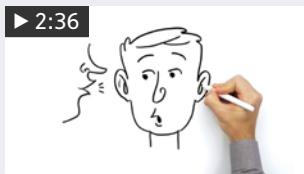
What can help us to use positive speech?

**Develop the Tongue of the Wise Ones**



Learn what can help you to avoid using bad language.

**"Is Cursing Really That Bad?"**  
(Web article)



See how you can avoid falling into the trap of harmful gossip.

**How Can I Stop the Gossip?**



Discover how Jehovah helped a man with his struggle to quit swearing.

**"I Began to Think Seriously About Where My Life Was Headed"** (*The Watchtower*, August 1, 2013)



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# Why Our Clothing and Appearance Matter

We all have preferences about how we want to dress and groom ourselves. If we follow a few simple Bible principles, we can not only express our personal taste but also please Jehovah. Let us consider some of those principles.

## 1. What principles should guide our choices in dress and grooming?

We should choose “**appropriate dress, with modesty and soundness of mind**,” and maintain a clean appearance that reflects our “**devotion to God**.” (1 Timothy 2:9, 10) Consider these four principles: (1) Our dress should be “appropriate.” As you have observed at congregation meetings, Jehovah’s people have different tastes, but our dress and hairstyles show respect for the God we worship. (2) Dressing “with modesty” means our appearance would not be sexually provocative, nor should it draw too much attention to ourselves. (3) We show “soundness of mind” when we do not adopt every fad of dress and grooming that comes along. (4) Our appearance should always reflect our “devotion to God,” indicating to others that we worship the true God.—1 Corinthians 10:31.

## 2. How can our appearance affect our fellow believers?

While we have the freedom to choose what we wear, we should think of the effect our appearance might have on others. We try our best not to offend anyone but, rather, to “**please [our] neighbor for his good, to build him up**.”—Read Romans 15:1, 2.

## 3. How can our appearance attract others to true worship?

While we try to dress appropriately on every occasion, we pay particular attention to our dress when we attend congregation meetings and share in the ministry. We do not want to detract from the important message we are taking to people. Instead, our appearance can make the truth attractive to others and “**adorn the teaching of our Savior**.”—Titus 2:10.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how we can make sure that our clothing and appearance are appropriate for us as Christians.



Our appearance can show whether we respect humans with authority. Even though Jehovah sees what is in our heart, our appearance should also reflect respect for him

### 4. A good appearance shows respect for Jehovah

What is the most important reason for us to care about our appearance? **Read Psalm 47:2**, and then discuss these questions:

- How should the fact that we represent Jehovah affect the way we dress?
- Do you think it is reasonable to be concerned about our appearance when we attend meetings and share in the ministry? Why, or why not?

## 5. How to make good choices about dress and grooming

Play the VIDEO.



**VIDEO: "Do All Things for God's Glory" (10:18)**

Whether our clothes are expensive or cost little, they should be clean and appropriate for the specific situations we find ourselves in. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:24 and 1 Timothy 2:9, 10.** Then, discuss why we would want to avoid wearing clothing that is . . .

- sloppy or overly casual.
- tight-fitting, revealing, or otherwise sexually provocative.

Although Christians are not under the Mosaic Law, it reveals Jehovah's thinking. **Read Deuteronomy 22:5**, and then discuss this question:

- Why should we avoid dress and grooming that makes men look like women or women look like men?

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:32, 33 and 1 John 2:15, 16**, and then discuss these questions:

- Why should we care whether our appearance offends some in the community or in the congregation?
- What styles of dress and grooming are common where you live?
- Do you think some of those styles might be inappropriate for a Christian? Why, or why not?



We can dress and groom ourselves in a variety of ways and still please Jehovah

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I have the right to wear anything I want."

- Do you agree? Why, or why not?

## SUMMARY

When we make good choices about our appearance, we show our respect for Jehovah and for others.

## Review

- Why is our dress and grooming important to Jehovah?
- What are some principles that should guide our decisions about our appearance?
- How can our appearance affect the way others view true worship?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Consider whether you need to make any adjustments to your clothing or grooming.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See what message your clothes might be sending.

**“How Do I Look?”**  
(Web article)



Learn why it is wise to think before you ink.

**“What Does the Bible Say About Tattoos?”** (Web article)



Consider additional principles that can guide our decisions.

**“Does Your Style of Dress Glorify God?”** (*The Watchtower*, September 2016)



How did one sincere woman develop a balanced view of others' choices about personal appearance?

**“Dress and Grooming Was My Stumbling Block”**  
(*Awake!*, December 22, 2003)



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# Choose Entertainment That Pleases Jehovah

Jehovah is “the happy God.” (1 Timothy 1:11) He wants us to be happy and to enjoy our life. He is pleased when we set aside time from work to relax. In this lesson, we will see how we can use our leisure time in ways that are enjoyable and satisfying—and that also please Jehovah.

## 1. What should we remember when choosing entertainment?

What do you like to do when you relax? Some prefer to spend their leisure time quietly at home—reading a book, listening to music, watching a movie, or browsing the Internet. Others enjoy being more active with friends—hiking, swimming, or playing a game. Whatever our preference is, we need to make sure that our choice of entertainment is “**acceptable to the Lord.**” (Ephesians 5:10) It is important that we understand this because a lot of popular entertainment features things that Jehovah hates, such as violence, sexual immorality, or spiritism. (Read Psalm 11:5.) What will help us to make wise choices in our entertainment?

If we choose friends who love Jehovah, they can have a good influence on us and on our choice of entertainment. As we learned in a previous lesson, “the one walking with the wise will become wise.” On the other hand, if we regularly associate with people who have no love for God’s standards, we “will fare badly.”—Proverbs 13:20.

## 2. Why is it important to control how much time we spend on entertainment?

Even if the entertainment we choose is wholesome, we need to be careful not to spend too much time on it. Otherwise, we may not have enough time to spend on more important activities. The Bible encourages us to make “**the best use of [our] time.**”—Read Ephesians 5:15, 16.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how to make good decisions about your entertainment.

### 3. Avoid unwholesome entertainment

Why should we choose our entertainment carefully? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the questions that follow.

- How were the ancient gladiatorial games similar to some modern entertainment?
- In the video, what did Danny learn about entertainment?

**Read Romans 12:9**, and then discuss this question:

- How should this verse affect your choice of entertainment?

What are some things that Jehovah hates? **Read Proverbs 6:16, 17 and Galatians 5:19-21**. After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- Which of the things mentioned in these verses are common in today's entertainment?



**VIDEO: What Entertainment Should I Choose? (4:39)**

#### How to choose your entertainment wisely

Ask yourself:

- **What?** Does it include anything that Jehovah hates?
- **When?** Does it interfere with more important activities?
- **Who?** Does it bring me in close or regular contact with people who do not love Jehovah?

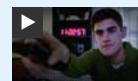
It is safer to stay as far away from danger as possible. That is why we should stay away from any entertainment that we suspect might not be good for us



## 4. Use your time wisely

Play the VIDEO, and then discuss the question that follows.

- Although the brother in the video was not viewing anything unwholesome, how was his use of leisure time affecting him?



**VIDEO:** What Controls Your Time?  
(2:45)

Read Philippians 1:10, and then discuss this question:

- How could this verse help us decide how much time we spend on recreation?

## 5. Choose wholesome entertainment

Even though some entertainment displeases Jehovah, there are many enjoyable things that do not. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:15 and Philippians 4:8**, and then discuss this question:

- What wholesome entertainment do you enjoy?



You can enjoy wholesome entertainment and recreation

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “There’s nothing wrong with entertainment that features violence, immorality, or spiritism, as long as I’m not doing those things.”

- What would you say?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah wants us to choose and enjoy wholesome entertainment.

## Review

- What entertainment should Christians avoid?
- Why should we be careful about how much time we spend on entertainment?
- Why do you want to choose entertainment that pleases Jehovah?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Using the box “How to Choose Your Entertainment Wisely,” analyze the entertainment that you enjoy.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider who is responsible for choosing our entertainment.

**“Do Jehovah’s Witnesses Ban Certain Movies, Books, or Songs?”** (Web article)



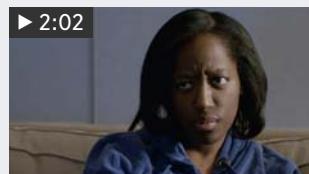
See how you can make good decisions regarding recreation and leisure activities.

**“Is Your Recreation Beneficial?”** (*The Watchtower*, October 15, 2011)



In the story “I Even Overcame My Prejudice,” see why a man changed his choice of entertainment.

**“The Bible Changes Lives”** (*The Watchtower*, February 1, 2010)



See how a mother makes a wise decision regarding entertainment that features stories about the spirit world.

**Avoid Entertainment That Features Spiritism**



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## The Role of “the Faithful and Discreet Slave”

Jesus is the Head of the Christian congregation. (Ephesians 5:23) Today, from his position in heaven, Jesus directs his followers on earth by means of a “faithful and discreet slave.” (Read Matthew 24:45.) Having received an appointment from Jesus himself, the “slave” would have a certain amount of authority but would remain a slave of Christ and serve Christ’s brothers. Who is that slave? How does the slave care for us?

### 1. Who is “the faithful and discreet slave”?

Jehovah has always used a man or a small group of men to give direction to his people. (Malachi 2:7; Hebrews 1:1) After Jesus’ death, the apostles and elders in Jerusalem took the lead. (Acts 15:2) Following that pattern, today a small group of elders—the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses—provides spiritual food and directs the preaching work. This group is **“the faithful and discreet slave whom [Jesus] appointed.”** (Matthew 24:45a) All members of the Governing Body are spirit-anointed Christians, who look forward to joining Christ in his heavenly Kingdom when their life on earth is over.

### 2. What spiritual food does the faithful slave provide?

Jesus said that the faithful slave would **“give [fellow Christians] their food at the proper time.”** (Matthew 24:45b) Just as the food we eat helps us to stay physically strong and healthy, spiritual food—instruction from God’s Word—gives us the strength we need to remain loyal to Jehovah and carry out the work Jesus has assigned us to do. (1 Timothy 4:6) We receive that spiritual food through meetings, assemblies, and conventions, as well as through Bible-based literature and videos that help us to understand God’s will and to strengthen our friendship with him.

## DIG DEEPER

See why we need “the faithful and discreet slave”—the Governing Body.



The Governing Body provides spiritual food, direction, and practical help for Jehovah's Witnesses around the world

### 3. Jehovah's people must be organized

Under Jesus' direction, the Governing Body organizes the work of Jehovah's Witnesses. A similar arrangement existed among the early Christians. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO:** Jehovah Organizes His People (6:18)

Read **1 Corinthians 14:33, 40**, and then discuss this question:

- How do these verses show that Jehovah wants his Witnesses to be organized?

### 4. The faithful slave organizes our preaching work

Preaching was the most important work performed by the early Christians. **Read Acts 8:14, 25**, and then discuss these questions:

- Among the early Christians, who directed the preaching work?
- How did Peter and John respond to the direction of their fellow apostles?

Preaching is the most important work organized by the Governing Body. [Play the VIDEO.](#)



**VIDEO:** Focused on the Preaching Work (1:24)

## 5. The faithful slave provides direction



Jesus emphasized how important preaching is. **Read Mark 13:10**, and then discuss these questions:

- Why is the preaching work so important to the Governing Body?
- Why do we need “the faithful and discreet slave” to organize this global work?

The Governing Body provides direction for Christians worldwide. How does it decide what direction to give? Consider how the governing body of the early Christians did so. **Read Acts 15:1, 2**, and then discuss these questions:

- What issue caused conflict among some early Christians?
- To whom did Paul, Barnabas, and others go in order to settle the issue?

**Read Acts 15:12-18, 23-29**, and then discuss this question:

- Before making a decision, what did the early governing body consider when seeking God’s guidance on the matter?  
—See verses 12, 15, and 28.

**Read Acts 15:30, 31 and 16:4, 5**, and then discuss these questions:

- How did the early Christians react to direction given by the governing body?
- How did Jehovah bless their obedience?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and James 1:5**, and then discuss this question:

- Where does the Governing Body look for guidance when it makes decisions today?

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “If you listen to the Governing Body, you’re just following men.”

- What proves to you that Jesus is leading the Governing Body?

## SUMMARY

The Governing Body is “the faithful and discreet slave” appointed by Christ. It gives direction and spiritual food to Christians earth wide.

## Review

- Who appointed “the faithful and discreet slave”?
- How does the Governing Body care for us?
- Do you believe that the Governing Body is “the faithful and discreet slave”?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- As encouraged at 2 Thessalonians 3:1, regularly pray for Jehovah to bless the work of the Governing Body.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See how the Governing Body is organized to do its work.

**“What Is the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses?”**  
(Web article)



Learn how the Governing Body makes sure that we receive trustworthy spiritual food.

**Producing Accurate Publications**



How do the members of the Governing Body feel about the work Jesus has assigned them to do?

**A Cherished Privilege**



How do our meetings and conventions prove that Jehovah is directing the Governing Body?

**Jehovah Is Teaching His People**



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# Support Your Local Congregation

Around the world, millions of people joyfully worship Jehovah in thousands of congregations. They are grateful for the instruction and guidance they receive, and they eagerly support the congregation in many ways. Is that how you feel about your congregation?

## 1. What are some ways you can use your time and energy to support the congregation?

All of us can lend a hand in the congregation. For example, are some in your congregation elderly or infirm? Can you help them travel to meetings? Or can you help them with other practical matters, such as shopping or housework? (Read James 1:27.) We can also volunteer to help clean and maintain our Kingdom Hall. No one forces us to do these things. Love for God and our brothers moves us to “offer [ourselves] willingly.”—Psalm 110:3.

Baptized Witnesses can support the congregation in additional ways. Spiritually qualified brothers can serve as ministerial servants and, in time, as elders. Both brothers and sisters may actively support the preaching work by serving as pioneers. Some Witnesses can assist by helping to build places of worship or by moving to an area where a congregation needs help in other ways.

## 2. How can we use our material resources to support the congregation?

We can “honor Jehovah with [our] valuable things.” (Proverbs 3:9) We count it a privilege to contribute money and other resources to support the local congregation and the worldwide preaching work. (Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.) Our donations also support disaster relief. Many choose to “set something aside” regularly as a donation. (Read 1 Corinthians 16:2.) We can donate using contribution boxes at our places of worship or online at [donate.jw.org](http://donate.jw.org). Jehovah gives us the opportunity to show our love for him by the way we choose to use our material things.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider some of the ways that you can support the congregation.



**VIDEO:** 'A Gift in Hand to Jehovah' (4:47)

### 3. We can use our material things

Jehovah loves a cheerful giver, and Jesus feels the same way. For example, Jesus took note of a poor widow and her effort to make a contribution. **Read Luke 21:1-4**, and then discuss these questions:

- Do we need to make large donations to please Jehovah?
- How do Jehovah and Jesus feel about our heartfelt donations?

To learn how our donations are used, [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the question that follows.

- How are donations used to benefit congregations around the world?

## 4. We can volunteer our help

In Bible times, worshippers of Jehovah zealously worked to maintain their places of worship. But this involved more than just contributing money. **Read 2 Chronicles 34:9-11**, and then discuss this question:

- How did every Israelite help take care of Jehovah's house, or place of worship?

To see how Jehovah's Witnesses follow that ancient example, [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the questions that follow.

- Why is it important to keep our Kingdom Hall clean and in good repair?
- What are some ways that you can help?



**VIDEO: Caring for Our Places of Worship (3:31)**



## 5. Brothers can reach out for more responsibility

The Scriptures encourage Christian men to reach out to do all they can to support the congregation. To see an example, [play the VIDEO](#). Then answer the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Brothers—Reach Out for a Fine Work (5:19)**

The Bible explains what the qualifications are for brothers who serve as ministerial servants and elders. **Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13**, and then discuss these questions:

- What is expected of brothers who reach out to serve as ministerial servants and elders?
- What is expected of their families?  
—See verses 4 and 11.
- When brothers strive to meet these qualifications, how does everyone in the congregation benefit?

- In the video, how did Ryan reach out to support the congregation more fully?

**SOMEONE MAY ASK:** "How do Jehovah's Witnesses fund their work?"

- How would you answer?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah greatly appreciates our efforts to support the congregation with our time, energy, and material things.

## Review

- How can we use our time and energy to support the congregation?
- How can we use our material things to support the congregation?
- In what ways would you like to support the congregation?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Volunteer to help clean and maintain the place where the local congregation gathers for meetings.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Consider why God no longer requires his worshippers to tithe.

**"What Does the Bible Say About Tithing?"** (Web article)



The Bible assigns some roles to baptized men. But what if a baptized woman needs to care for these roles?

**"Understanding Headship in the Congregation"**

(*The Watchtower*, February 2021)



Meet some courageous Witnesses who make great sacrifices to transport publications to their fellow worshippers.

***Distributing Bible Literature in Congo***



Find out how our work is financed very differently from that of other religious organizations.

**"How Is the Work of Jehovah's Witnesses Financed?"**

(Web article)



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*Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org



# Maintain Unity in the Congregation

When we are among fellow believers, we feel as King David did: “How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1) Our unity is not an accident. Each of us plays a role in maintaining it.

## 1. What is remarkable among God’s people?

If you attend a congregation meeting in another land, you may find that you cannot understand the language, but in many ways you will feel at home. Why? Because we study the Bible using the same publications everywhere. And we strive to show love for one another. No matter where we live, we all **“call on the name of Jehovah, to worship him in unity.”**  
—Zephaniah 3:9, footnote.

## 2. What can you do to promote unity?

**“Love one another intensely from the heart.”** (1 Peter 1:22) How can you apply this counsel? Rather than focusing on the imperfections of others, look for their good qualities. Instead of associating with only those who share your interests, try to get to know brothers and sisters who come from different backgrounds. We can also work hard to root out any feelings of prejudice we may have.—Read 1 Peter 2:17.\*

## 3. What will you do when you have a disagreement with a fellow Christian?

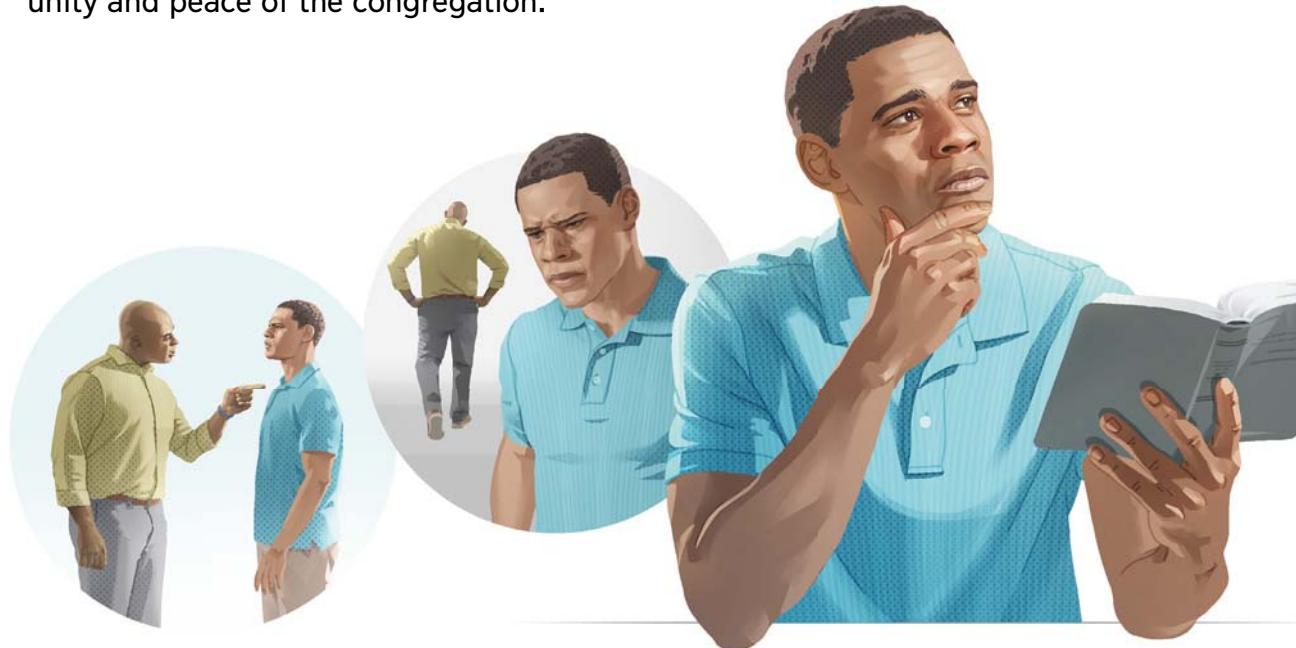
We are united, but we are also imperfect. Sometimes we disappoint or even hurt one another. So God’s Word tells us to **“continue . . . forgiving one another,”** adding: **“Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same.”** (Read Colossians 3:13.) We have hurt Jehovah countless times, and yet he has forgiven us. So he expects us to forgive our brothers. If you realize that you have hurt someone, take the initiative to settle matters.—Read Matthew 5:23, 24.†

\* Endnote 6 considers how love moves Christians to avoid transmitting infectious disease.

† Endnote 7 discusses how to settle business and legal matters.

## DIG DEEPER

Look for ways that you can contribute to the unity and peace of the congregation.



### 4. Overcome prejudice

We want to love all our brothers. But we may struggle to accept someone who seems different from us. What can help? **Read Acts 10:34, 35**, and then discuss these questions:

- Jehovah accepts as his Witnesses all sorts of people. How should that affect your view of others who come from a background different from yours?
- What kinds of prejudice common in your area do you want to avoid?

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13**, and then discuss this question:

- How do you think you could draw closer to brothers and sisters of a different background?

### 5. Forgive freely and make peace

Jehovah forgives us freely even though he will never need us to forgive him. **Read Psalm 86:5**, and then discuss these questions:

- How great is Jehovah's forgiveness?
- Why are you grateful for his forgiveness?
- What situations could make it difficult for us to get along with others?

How can we imitate Jehovah and remain united with our brothers and sisters? **Read Proverbs 19:11**, and then discuss this question:

- When someone annoys or offends you, what could you do to make the situation better?



What will you do to make peace?

Sometimes we offend others. When that happens, what should we do? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



[VIDEO: Making Peace Brings Blessings \(6:01\)](#)

- In the video, what did the sister do to make peace?

## 6. Look for the good in your brothers and sisters

When we get closer to our brothers and sisters, we get to know their strengths *and* their weaknesses. How can we focus on their strengths? [Play the VIDEO](#), and then discuss the question that follows.



[VIDEO: Become More Beautiful! \(5:10\)](#)

- What can help you to see the positive qualities of your brothers and sisters?

Jehovah focuses on our good qualities. [Read 2 Chronicles 16:9a](#), and then discuss this question:

- How does knowing that Jehovah focuses on your good qualities make you feel?



Even a beautiful diamond has flaws, but it is still valuable. Similarly, all our brothers and sisters are imperfect, but they are precious to Jehovah

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “Before I forgive someone, he has to earn my forgiveness.”

- Why should we be eager to forgive others?

## SUMMARY

You can help to maintain unity in the congregation by being forgiving and showing love for all your brothers and sisters.

## Review

- How can you overcome prejudice?
- What will you do if you have a disagreement with a fellow Christian?
- Why do you want to imitate Jehovah's example of forgiving others?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If you find it difficult to get along with another Christian, get to know him better and identify some of his good qualities.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn how one of Jesus' illustrations can help us to avoid judging others.

*Remove the Rafter*



Do we need to apologize if we feel we have not done anything wrong?

**"Apologizing—A Key to Making Peace"** (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 2002)



See how some have learned to treat others impartially.

***Do Not Judge by Outward Appearance***



Consider ways you can deal with personal conflicts before they disturb the peace of the congregation.

**"Settle Differences in a Spirit of Love"** (*The Watchtower*, May 2016)



To find all media for LESSON 56, scan code or go to the publication *Enjoy Life Forever!* on jw.org.



# What if You Commit a Serious Sin?

Even though you love Jehovah deeply and you try hard to avoid doing anything that would hurt him, you will occasionally make mistakes. However, some sins are more serious than others. (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10) If you commit a serious sin, remember that Jehovah has not stopped loving you; he is willing to forgive and help you.

## 1. What must we do to receive Jehovah's forgiveness?

Those who love Jehovah are filled with sorrow when they realize that they have committed a serious sin. But they find comfort in what Jehovah promised his people: “**Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be made as white as snow.**” (Isaiah 1:18) If we sincerely repent, Jehovah will completely forgive us. How do we repent? Moved by deep regret, we stop doing what is bad and beg Jehovah to forgive us. Then we work hard to change the wrong thinking or habits that led to our sin, and we try to live according to Jehovah’s clean standards.—Read Isaiah 55:6, 7.

## 2. How does Jehovah use the elders to help us when we sin?

If we commit a serious sin, Jehovah tells us to “**call the elders of the congregation.**” (Read James 5:14, 15.) These appointed men love Jehovah and his sheep. They are qualified to help us repair our relationship with Jehovah.—Galatians 6:1.

How do the elders help us if we commit a serious sin? Two or three elders will correct us, using Scriptural counsel. They will also give us practical suggestions and encouragement to help us avoid sinning again. To protect the congregation from harmful influences, the elders remove from the congregation any who commit serious sins and are unrepentant.

## DIG DEEPER

Deepen your appreciation for how Jehovah helps us if we commit a serious sin.



### 3. Confessing helps us to heal

Any sin we commit involves Jehovah, so we rightly confess to him. **Read Psalm 32:1-5**, and then discuss this question:

- Why is it good for us to confess our sins to Jehovah instead of trying to hide them?

In addition to confessing our sins to Jehovah, we find relief when we seek help from the elders. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.

Confess your sin, be honest with the elders, and accept Jehovah's loving help



**VIDEO: "Those Whom Jehovah Loves He Disciplines"**  
**(3:01)**

- In the video, how did elders help Canon return to Jehovah?

We need to be open and honest with the elders; they are there to help us. **Read James 5:16**, and then discuss this question:

- How does being honest with the elders make it easier for them to help us?

## 4. Jehovah shows mercy to sinners

If a person who has committed a serious sin refuses to follow Jehovah's standards, he is removed from the congregation, and we do not socialize with him. [Read 1 Corinthians 5:6, 11](#), and then discuss this question:

- Just as leaven ferments bread dough, how would socializing with an unrepentant sinner affect the congregation?

In imitation of Jehovah's mercy toward imperfect sinners, elders reach out and help those who have been removed from the congregation. Many have returned to the congregation because the discipline, although painful, brought them to their senses.—Psalm 141:5.

How does the way Jehovah deals with sinners show that he is reasonable, merciful, and loving?

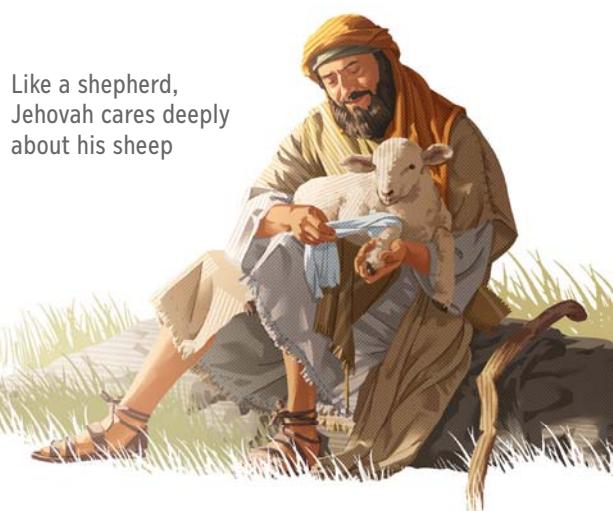
## 5. Jehovah forgives us when we repent

Jesus used an illustration that helps us understand how Jehovah feels when a person repents. [Read Luke 15:1-7](#), and then discuss this question:

- What does this teach you about Jehovah?

[Read Ezekiel 33:11](#), and then discuss this question:

- Repentance involves what important step?



Like a shepherd,  
Jehovah cares deeply  
about his sheep

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I'm afraid that if I tell the elders about my sin, they will remove me from the congregation."

- What would you say to someone who feels that way?

## SUMMARY

If we commit a serious sin but are sincerely sorry and determined to stop doing what is bad, Jehovah will forgive us.

## Review

- Why is it good for us to confess our sins to Jehovah?
- What do we need to do to have our sins forgiven?
- If we commit a serious sin, why should we seek help from the elders?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Get to know the elders in the congregation.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



See how one man experienced Jehovah's mercy that is described at Isaiah 1:18.

**Never Doubt Jehovah's Mercy**



How do the elders try to help those who commit a serious sin?

**"Responding to Sin With Love and Mercy"** (*The Watchtower*, August 2024)



Consider how love and mercy are shown toward unrepentant sinners.

**"Help for Those Who Are Removed From the Congregation"** (*The Watchtower*, August 2024)



In the story "I Needed to Return to Jehovah," learn why a man who strayed from the truth felt that Jehovah drew him back.

**"The Bible Changes Lives"**  
(*The Watchtower*, April 1, 2012)



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## Remain Loyal to Jehovah

True Christians are determined never to allow anything or anyone to interfere with their worship of Jehovah. No doubt that is how you feel. Jehovah values your loyalty. (Read 1 Chronicles 28:9.) What situations could test your loyalty to him, and how can you deal with them?

### 1. How could others test our loyalty to Jehovah?

Some people will try to prevent us from serving Jehovah. Who would do such a thing? Some who have left the truth tell lies about God's organization in order to destroy our faith. They are called apostates. Also, some religious leaders spread false information about us to cause unsuspecting ones to leave the truth. It is dangerous for us to argue with any opposers, to read their books or blogs, to go to their websites, or to watch their videos. Regarding those who try to discourage others from loyally serving Jehovah, Jesus said: “Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”—Matthew 15:14.

### 2. What personal decisions may test our loyalty to Jehovah?

Love for Jehovah will move us to avoid having any involvement with false religion. Neither our job nor the organizations we belong to nor any activities we engage in should be connected with false religion. Jehovah warns us: “Get out of [Babylon the Great], my people.”—Revelation 18:2, 4.

## DIG DEEPER

Learn how you can avoid letting anyone weaken your loyalty to Jehovah. Also see how you can show loyalty by getting out of Babylon the Great.

### 3. Beware of false teachers

How should we react if we hear negative things about Jehovah's organization? **Read Proverbs 14:15**, and then discuss this question:

- Why are we careful not to believe everything we hear?

**Read 2 John 9-11**, and then discuss these questions:

- How should we treat apostates?
- Even if we do not interact directly with apostates, how could we come into contact with their teachings?
- How do you think Jehovah would feel if we were to pay attention to negative speech about him or his organization?

### 4. Remain loyal to God when a brother sins

If we learn that someone in the congregation has committed a serious sin, what obligation do we have? Consider a principle from God's Law to ancient Israel. **Read Leviticus 5:1**.

As instructed in that verse, if we learn that a person has committed a serious sin, we should tell the elders what we know. Before doing so, however, it would be a kindness to urge the wrongdoer himself to go to the elders and confess his sin. If he fails to do so, our loyalty to Jehovah should prompt us to tell the elders what we know. How does such an approach demonstrate loyal love for . . .

- Jehovah God?
- the person who has sinned?
- others in the congregation?



If a fellow believer is in trouble, help him!

What would you do if you were asked to contribute to a religious charity?



## 5. Stay out of Babylon the Great

[Play the VIDEO.](#)

Read Luke 4:8 and Revelation 18:4, 5, and then answer these questions:

- Is my name still on the membership rolls of a false religion?
- Do I belong to an organization that is connected with another religion?
- Does my work support false religion in any way?
- Are there any other areas in my life where I need to separate from false religion?
- If I answered yes to any of these questions, what changes should I make?

In all cases, make a decision that leaves you with a clean conscience and reflects your loyalty to Jehovah.



[VIDEO: Get Out of Babylon the Great! \(5:06\)](#)



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** “I need to know what apostates are saying about Jehovah’s Witnesses so that I can defend the truth.”

- Would that be wise? Why, or why not?

## SUMMARY

To remain loyal to Jehovah, we need to avoid associating with those who try to mislead us.

## Review

- Why should we not listen to the ideas of apostates?
- If we learn that a brother has sinned seriously, what should we do?
- How can we heed the warning to flee from false religion?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- If you are connected in any way with false religion, take steps to separate yourself from it.
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Learn how to react when others spread false reports about Jehovah's Witnesses.

**"Do You Have the Facts?"**  
(*The Watchtower*, August 2018)



How can you identify organizations or activities that support Babylon the Great?

**"Keep Busy During the Last of 'the Last Days'"**  
(*The Watchtower*, October 2019, paragraphs 16-18)



What have some opposers done to try to weaken our faith?

***Beware of Deceit***



In the story "I Had Been Looking for God Since Childhood," read about a Shinto priest who broke off ties with false religion.

**"The Bible Changes Lives"**  
(*The Watchtower*, July 1, 2011)



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# You Can Endure Persecution

Sooner or later, all Christians will face opposition, even persecution. Should that alarm us?

## 1. Why do we expect persecution?

The Bible clearly says: “**All those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.**” (2 Timothy 3:12) Jesus was persecuted because he was no part of Satan’s world. We are also no part of the world, so we are not surprised when we are persecuted by this world’s governments and religious organizations.—John 15:18, 19.

## 2. How can we prepare for persecution?

We need to strengthen our trust in Jehovah now. Make time every day to pray to him and to read a portion of his Word. Attend congregation meetings regularly. These activities will give you the strength you need to face any persecution courageously, even if it comes from family members. The apostle Paul, who was often persecuted, wrote: “**Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid.**”—Hebrews 13:6.

We can also build our courage by preaching regularly. Preaching teaches us to trust in Jehovah and overcome any fear of man. (Proverbs 29:25) If you develop the courage to preach now, you will be well-prepared to keep preaching even if the government restricts our work.—1 Thessalonians 2:2.

## 3. How do we benefit by enduring persecution?

Of course, we do not enjoy being persecuted, but when we endure persecution successfully, our faith becomes stronger. We draw closer to Jehovah because we experience his help when we feel we can no longer go on. (Read James 1:2-4.) It hurts Jehovah to see us suffer, but it pleases him to see us endure. The Bible says: “**If you endure suffering because of doing good, this is an agreeable thing to God.**” (1 Peter 2:20) The reward Jehovah will give to all who endure faithfully is eternal life in a world free from opposition to true worship.—Matthew 24:13.

## DIG DEEPER

Review why it is possible and rewarding to stick loyally to Jehovah despite persecution.



### 4. You can endure family opposition

Jesus realistically acknowledged that our family may not support our decision to worship Jehovah. **Read Matthew 10:34-36**, and then discuss this question:

- What can happen when a family member decides to serve Jehovah?

To see an example of this, **play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Jehovah Took Us In**  
(5:13)

- What would you do if a relative or a friend tried to discourage you from serving Jehovah?

**Read Psalm 27:10 and Mark 10:29, 30.** After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- How may this promise help you if you face opposition from family or friends?

### 5. Keep worshipping Jehovah despite persecution

It takes courage to serve Jehovah when others try to prevent us from doing so. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: Showing Courage  
Despite Persecution (6:27)**

- What about the examples in this video strengthens you?

**Read Acts 5:27-29 and Hebrews 10:24, 25.**

After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- Why is it so important to continue worshipping Jehovah even if our preaching work or meetings are restricted?

## 6. Jehovah will help you endure

Jehovah's Witnesses of varying ages and backgrounds have loyally continued to serve Jehovah even when they were persecuted. To see what helped them, [play the VIDEO](#). Then discuss the question that follows.

- In the video, what helped these Witnesses to endure?

**Read Romans 8:35, 37-39 and Philippians 4:13.** After reading each scripture, discuss this question:

- How does this scripture assure you that you can endure any trial?

**Read Matthew 5:10-12,** and then discuss this question:

- Why can you be happy in spite of persecution?



**VIDEO: Jehovah God Will Strengthen Me (3:40)**

Millions of Jehovah's worshippers have successfully endured opposition. You can too!



**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** "I couldn't endure persecution."

- What scriptures might give them the confidence they need?

## SUMMARY

Jehovah treasures our efforts to serve him despite persecution. With his help, we can successfully endure!

## Review

- Why should Christians expect persecution?
- What can you do now to be ready when persecution comes?
- What can help you to feel confident that you can serve Jehovah despite any trial?

Lesson completed on

## Goal

- Ask a fellow Christian: “Has anyone ever tried to stop you from serving Jehovah? How did you handle it?”
- Other:

## EXPLORE



Watch a young brother explain how Jehovah helped him endure when he was imprisoned because of his neutrality.

*Enduring Despite Persecution*



Consider what helped one couple to serve Jehovah faithfully for many years despite opposition.

*Serving Jehovah During Times of Change*



Learn how to face persecution courageously.

**“Prepare Now for Persecution”** (*The Watchtower*, July 2019)



How should we view family opposition, and how can we successfully deal with the challenges it brings?

**“The Truth Brings, ‘Not Peace, But a Sword’”** (*The Watchtower*, October 2017)



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# Continue Making Progress

Throughout this Bible course, you have learned a lot about Jehovah. The things you have learned have made you love him so much that you probably dedicated yourself to him and got baptized. If not, perhaps you are thinking of doing this in the near future. But your progress does not end at baptism. You can keep drawing closer to Jehovah forever. How?

## 1. Why should you continue to strengthen your friendship with Jehovah?

We must work hard to continue strengthening our friendship with Jehovah. Why? “**So that we never drift away**” from him. (Hebrews 2:1) What can help us to keep serving Jehovah faithfully? We can stay busy in the preaching work and look for other ways to serve our God more fully. (Read Philippians 3:16.) Serving Jehovah is the best way of life!—Psalm 84:10.

## 2. What else should you continue to do?

Although this Bible course is now ending, your life as a Christian will continue. The Bible says we need to “**put on the new personality.**” (Ephesians 4:23, 24) As you continue studying God’s Word and attending congregation meetings, you will learn new things about Jehovah and his qualities. Look for ways to imitate his personality more closely in your life. Continue making any changes necessary to make Jehovah happy.

## 3. How will Jehovah help you make progress?

The Bible says: “**God . . . will himself finish your training. He will make you firm, he will make you strong, he will firmly ground you.**” (1 Peter 5:10) All of us face temptations. But Jehovah gives us what we need in order to resist them. (Psalm 139:23, 24) He promises to give you both the desire and the power to serve him faithfully.—Read Philippians 2:13.

## DIG DEEPER

Consider how you can continue to make progress and how Jehovah will bless you.

### 4. Keep communicating with your best Friend

Prayer and Bible study have helped you to become Jehovah's friend. How can those activities help you draw even closer to him?

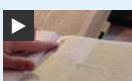
**Read Psalm 62:8**, and then discuss this question:

- To strengthen your friendship with Jehovah, how can you improve the quality of your prayers?

**Read Psalm 1:2 and footnote**, and then discuss this question:

- To strengthen your friendship with Jehovah, how can you improve your Bible reading?

How can you make your personal study more meaningful? To see some ideas, **play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.



**VIDEO: Improve Your Personal Study (5:22)**

- Which of the suggestions in the video could you apply?
- What topics would you like to study?

### 5. Set spiritual goals

Having goals in Jehovah's service will help you to continue making progress. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the question that follows.



**VIDEO: The Best Life Ever (3:31)**

- In this video, how did Cameron benefit from setting spiritual goals?

Not everyone can move to preach in another land. However, we can all set reasonable goals.

**Read Proverbs 21:5**, and then consider what goals you would like to set . . .

- in the congregation.
- in the field ministry.

How can the principle in the verse help you to reach your goals?

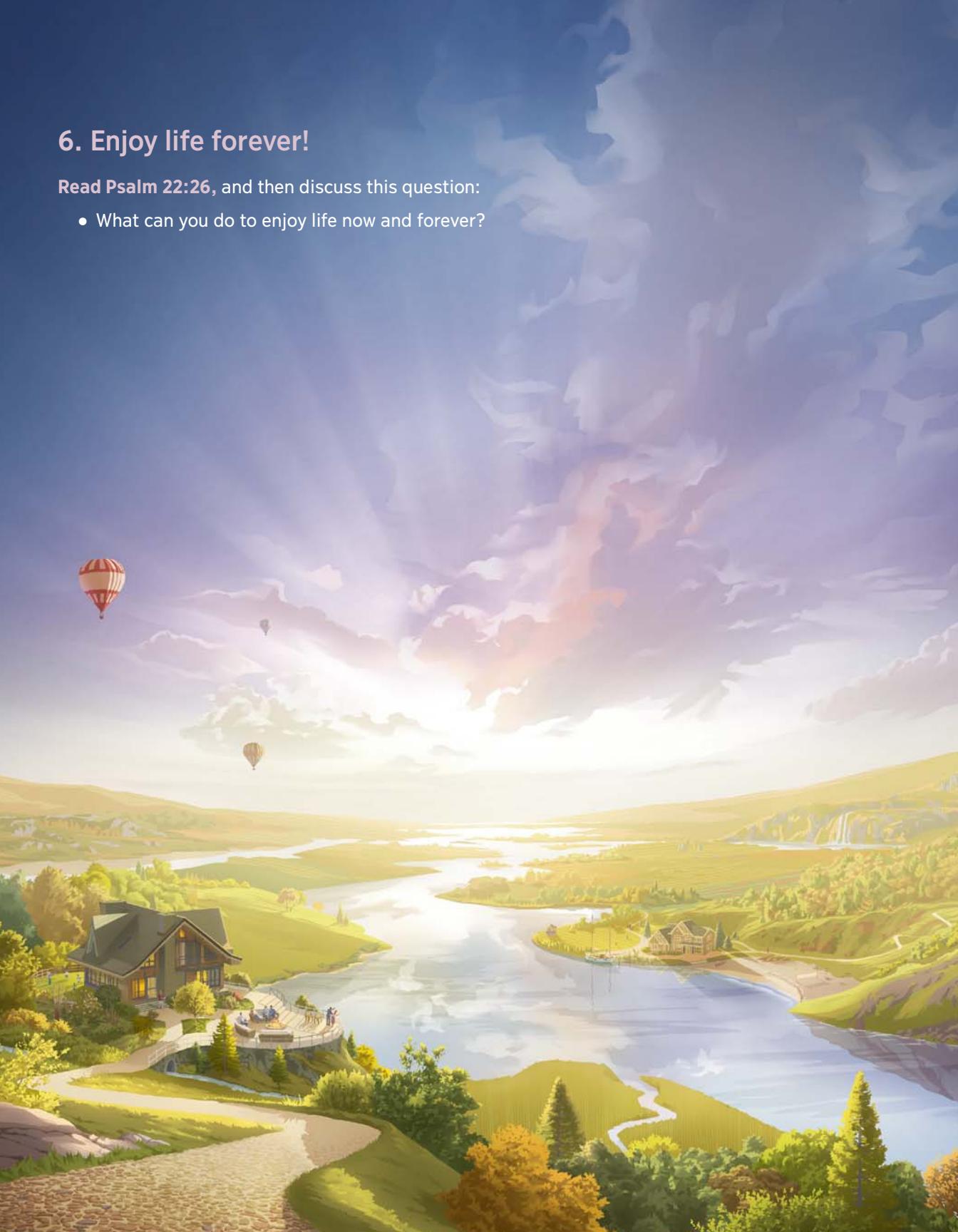
#### Goals to consider

- Improve the quality of your prayers.
- Read the entire Bible.
- Get to know everyone in your congregation.
- Start and conduct a Bible study.
- Serve as an auxiliary pioneer or a regular pioneer.
- If you are a brother, reach out to become a ministerial servant.

## 6. Enjoy life forever!

Read Psalm 22:26, and then discuss this question:

- What can you do to enjoy life now and forever?



## SUMMARY

Continue to strengthen your friendship with Jehovah and to set spiritual goals. Then you can enjoy life forever!

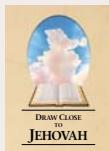
## Review

- Why can you be confident that Jehovah will help you to serve him faithfully?
- How can you strengthen your friendship with Jehovah?
- How can spiritual goals help you to progress?

Bible course completed on

## Long-Term Goal

- Read the books *Draw Close to Jehovah* and “Come Be My Follower.” These publications will help you to continue making progress and drawing closer to your heavenly Father and his Son.



## EXPLORE

► 9:20



What does Jehovah value more, one dramatic act of devotion or a lifetime of faithfulness to him?

**Be Faithful Like Abraham**

► 5:25



Even a faithful servant of Jehovah may lose joy. See how to regain it.

**Regain Joy Through Study and Meditation**



How can you set spiritual goals and reach them?

**“Use Spiritual Goals to Glorify Your Creator”**

(*The Watchtower*, July 15, 2004)



Why is Christian maturity essential, and how can you gain it?

**“Press On to Maturity—‘The Great Day of Jehovah Is Near’”**

(*The Watchtower*, May 15, 2009)



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# SECTION 4 REVIEW

Discuss the following questions  
with your teacher:



**1. Read Proverbs 13:20.**

- Why is it important to choose your friends wisely?

(See Lesson 48.)

**2. What advice from the Bible can help you if you are . . .**

- a husband or a wife?
- a parent or a child?

(See Lessons 49 and 50.)

**3. What kind of speech pleases Jehovah? What kind of speech displeases him?**

(See Lesson 51.)

**4. What Bible principles will help you make good choices about your personal appearance?**

(See Lesson 52.)

**5. How can you choose entertainment that pleases Jehovah?**

(See Lesson 53.)

**6. Read Matthew 24:45-47.**

- Who is “the faithful and discreet slave”?

(See Lesson 54.)

**7. How can you support the congregation with your time, energy, and material resources?**

(See Lesson 55.)

**8. Read Psalm 133:1.**

- What are some ways that you can contribute to the unity of the congregation?

(See Lesson 56.)

**9. How can we receive Jehovah’s help if we commit a serious sin?**

(See Lesson 57.)

**10. Read 1 Chronicles 28:9 and footnote.**

- How can you show you are “completely devoted” to Jehovah when others oppose true worship or leave the truth?
- To stay loyal to Jehovah and keep separate from false religion, do you need to make any changes?

(See Lesson 58.)

**11. How can you prepare for persecution?**

(See Lesson 59.)

**12. What do you plan to do to keep making spiritual progress?**

(See Lesson 60.)

**Your questions:**



## Am I Ready to Preach With the Congregation?

You may be ready to become an unbaptized publisher if you . . .

- Regularly study the Bible, pray, and attend congregation meetings.
- Appreciate and believe what you are learning and want to tell others about it.
- Love Jehovah and choose as close friends those who love him.
- Have withdrawn your membership from any political or false religious association.
- Live according to Jehovah's standards and want to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses.



If you feel that you are ready to preach with the congregation, your Bible teacher can arrange for you to meet with the elders to discuss how you can qualify.

## Am I Ready to Get Baptized?

You may be ready to get baptized if you . . .

- Are an unbaptized publisher.
- Share regularly in the preaching work as much as you can.
- Support and follow the direction of "the faithful and discreet slave."  
—Matthew 24:45-47.
- Have dedicated yourself to Jehovah in prayer and want to serve him forever.



If you feel that you are ready to get baptized, your Bible teacher can arrange for you to meet with the elders to discuss how you can qualify.

# Endnotes

## 1. Identifying Babylon the Great

How do we know that “Babylon the Great” represents all false religion? (Revelation 17:5) Consider these factors:

- **She operates worldwide.** Babylon the Great is said to be sitting on “crowds and nations.” She has “a kingdom over the kings of the earth.”—Revelation 17:15, 18.
- **She cannot be a political or commercial power.** “The kings of the earth” and “the merchants” survive her destruction.—Revelation 18:9, 15.
- **She misrepresents God.** She is called a prostitute because she forms alliances with governments for money or other favors. (Revelation 17:1, 2) She misleads people of all nations. And she is responsible for the death of many.—Revelation 18:23, 24.

## 2. When Would the Messiah Appear?

The Bible foretold that there would be 69 weeks until the Messiah arrived.—Read Daniel 9:25.

**When did the 69 weeks start?** In the year 455 B.C.E. At that time, Governor Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem “to restore and to rebuild” the city.—Daniel 9:25; Nehemiah 2:1, 5-8.

**How long did the 69 weeks last?** In some Bible prophecies, a day represents a year. (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6) Each week, then, represents seven years. In this prophecy, 69 weeks add up to 483 years (69 weeks  $\times$  7 days).

**When did the 69 weeks end?** Counting 483 years from 455 B.C.E. brings us to the year 29 C.E.\* This is the exact year when Jesus was baptized and became the Messiah!—Luke 3:1, 2, 21, 22.

\* From 455 B.C.E. to 1 B.C.E. is 454 years. From 1 B.C.E. to 1 C.E. is one year (there was no zero year). And from 1 C.E. to 29 C.E. is 28 years. This gives us the total of 483 years.

## 3. Medical Procedures Involving Blood

There are medical procedures that make use of a patient’s own blood. Some of these—such as a person donating blood or having his own blood stored in advance of surgery—are not acceptable for Christians.—Deuteronomy 15:23.

However, other procedures may not be objectionable. These include blood tests, hemodialysis, hemodilution, or the use of a cell-salvage or heart-lung bypass machine. Each Christian must decide for himself how his own blood will be handled *in the course of a procedure, medical test, or current therapy*. Each doctor may perform these procedures slightly differently. So before accepting any surgical procedure, medical test, or therapy, a Christian needs to find out exactly how his own blood will be handled. Consider the following questions:

- What if some of my blood would be diverted outside my body and the flow might be interrupted for a time? Does my conscience allow me to view this blood as still part of me, thus not requiring that it be poured “out on the ground”?—Deuteronomy 12:23, 24.
- What if during a medical procedure some of my own blood would be withdrawn, modified, and directed back into (or onto) my body? Does it trouble my Bible-trained conscience, or could I accept such a procedure?

## 4. Marital Separation

God’s Word discourages separation and makes it clear that separation does not give either mate the right to remarry. (1 Corinthians 7:10, 11) However, there are situations in which some Christians have considered separation.

- **Willful nonsupport:** A husband refuses to provide for the family materially, to the point that the family is left without the basic necessities of life.—1 Timothy 5:8.
- **Severe physical abuse:** Abuse can lead to the point that a mate’s physical health or life is in danger.—Galatians 5:19-21.
- **Absolute endangerment of a person’s relationship with Jehovah:** A spouse makes it impossible for the mate to serve Jehovah.—Acts 5:29.



# Endnotes

## 5. Holidays and Celebrations

Christians do not participate in holidays that displease Jehovah. But each Christian must use his Bible-trained conscience to decide how to handle certain situations regarding such holidays. Consider a few examples.

- **Someone wishes you a happy holiday.** You may simply say, "Thank you." If the person wants to learn more, you can explain why you do not celebrate the holiday.
- **Your marriage mate, who is not one of Jehovah's Witnesses, invites you to have a meal with relatives during a holiday.** If your conscience allows you to go, you could explain to your mate beforehand that if pagan customs are part of the meal, you will not participate in them.
- **Your employer offers you a bonus during the holiday season.** Should you reject the bonus? Not necessarily. Does your employer view the bonus as part of the celebration, or does he view it as simply a way to show appreciation for your good work?
- **Someone gives you a gift during the holiday season.** The gift-giver may say: "I know that you don't celebrate the holiday, but I want you to have this." Perhaps the person is just being kind. On the other hand, is there reason to think that he is trying to test your faith or involve you in celebrating the holiday? After considering this, it is up to you to decide whether to accept the gift. In all our decisions, we want to have a good conscience and be faithful to Jehovah.—Acts 23:1.

## 6. Infectious Diseases

Because we love people, we are very careful not to transmit infectious diseases to others. This is true whether we are suffering from an infectious disease or have reason to believe that we might be a carrier of one. We act this way because the Bible commands: "You must love your neighbor as yourself."—Romans 13:8-10.

What does obeying this command mean in practical terms? An infected person should not initiate displays of affection, such as hugging or kissing. He should not react negatively if some feel that, for the protection of their family, they cannot invite him into their home. And before getting baptized, he should inform the coordinator of the body of elders of his condition so that arrangements can be made to protect others who are also getting baptized. Before beginning a courtship, someone who may have been exposed to an infectious disease should voluntarily have a blood test. By doing this, you show that you care about others "as you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others."—Philippians 2:4.

## 7. Business and Legal Matters

We can prevent many problems by putting all financial agreements in writing—even if the agreement is with another Christian. (Jeremiah 32:9-12) Still, Christians may sometimes have minor differences with each other about money or other matters. They should be able to settle such differences quickly and peaceably, and in private.

How, though, should we settle serious matters such as fraud or slander? (Read Matthew 18:15-17.) Jesus gave us three steps to follow:

- (1) Try to settle the matter between yourselves.  
—See verse 15.
- (2) If that does not work, ask one or two mature ones in the congregation to go with you.—See verse 16.
- (3) If the matter is still unresolved, only then should you approach the elders.—See verse 17.

In most cases, we should not take our brothers to court because that could reflect badly on Jehovah and on the congregation. (1 Corinthians 6:1-8) However, there are some situations that may need to be settled legally: divorce proceedings, child custody, alimony payments, insurance claims, bankruptcy cases, or probating wills. A Christian who uses the court to settle such matters as peaceably as he can is not violating the Bible's counsel.

If a serious crime is involved—such as rape, child abuse, assault, major theft, or murder—then a Christian who reports it to the secular authorities does not violate the Bible's counsel.

# Track Your Bible Reading

## HEBREW-ARAMAIC SCRIPTURES

### Creation and early human history

**Genesis** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38  
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

**Exodus** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38  
39 40   **Leviticus** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27   **Numbers** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34  
35 36   **Deuteronomy** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

### Settling the Promised Land

**Joshua** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

**Judges** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21   **Ruth** 1 2 3 4

### Ancient Israel's kings

**1 Samuel** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31   **2 Samuel** 1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24   **1 Kings** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22   **2 Kings** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25   **1 Chronicles** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29   **2 Chronicles** 1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31  
32 33 34 35 36

### Return from exile

**Ezra** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10   **Nehemiah** 1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13   **Esther** 1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

### Account of Job

**Job** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38  
39 40 41 42

### Songs and practical wisdom

**Psalms** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38  
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50  
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62  
63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73  
74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85  
86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97  
98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106  
107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115  
116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124  
125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134  
135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144  
145 146 147 148 149 150   **Proverbs** 1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31  
**Ecclesiastes** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
**Song of Solomon** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

### Prophetic writings

**Isaiah** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40  
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53  
54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66  
**Jeremiah** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38  
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51  
52   **Lamentations** 1 2 3 4 5   **Ezekiel** 1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41  
42 43 44 45 46 47 48   **Daniel** 1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12   **Hosea** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14   **Joel** 1 2 3   **Amos** 1  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9   **Obadiah** 1   **Jonah** 1  
2 3 4   **Micah** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7   **Nahum** 1  
2 3   **Habakkuk** 1 2 3   **Zephaniah** 1 2 3  
**Haggai** 1 2   **Zechariah** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12 13 14   **Malachi** 1 2 3 4

## CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES

### Life and ministry of Jesus

**Matthew** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28   **Mark** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16   **Luke** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24   **John** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

### Growth of the Christian congregation

**Acts** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

### Letters of the apostle Paul

**Romans** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16   **1 Corinthians** 1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16   **2 Corinthians**  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
**Galatians** 1 2 3 4 5 6   **Ephesians** 1 2  
3 4 5 6   **Philippians** 1 2 3 4   **Colossians**  
1 2 3 4   **1 Thessalonians** 1 2 3 4  
5   **2 Thessalonians** 1 2 3   **1 Timothy** 1  
2 3 4 5 6   **2 Timothy** 1 2 3 4   **Titus** 1  
2 3   **Philemon** 1   **Hebrews** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13

### Writings of other apostles and disciples

**James** 1 2 3 4 5   **1 Peter** 1 2 3 4  
5   **2 Peter** 1 2 3   **1 John** 1 2 3 4 5  
**2 John** 1   **3 John** 1   **Jude** 1   **Revelation**  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

 As you read the Bible, mark off  
each chapter.



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