

- Song 49 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“What Is Jehovah Your God Asking of You?”: (10 min.)

Obey Jehovah out of awe and love (De 10:12; w09 10/1 10 ¶3-4)

(Deuteronomy 10:12) “Now, O Israel, what is Jehovah your God asking of you? Only this: to fear Jehovah your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul,

*** w09 10/1 p. 10 pars. 3-4 What Does Jehovah Ask of Us? ***

What could motivate us to obey God willingly? Moses mentions one factor, saying: “Fear Jehovah your God.” (Verse 12) This is not a morbid dread of bad consequences but, rather, a healthy, reverential regard for God and his ways. If we are filled with a profound awe of God, we will want to avoid displeasing him.

What, though, should be our primary motive for obeying God? Moses states: “Love him [Jehovah] and . . . serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul.” (Verse 12) Love of God involves more than feelings. One reference work explains: “Hebrew verbs for feelings sometimes refer as well to the actions that result from them.” This same work says that to love God means “to act lovingly” toward him. In other words, if we truly love God, we will act in ways that we know are pleasing to him.—Proverbs 27:11.

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- (Deuteronomy 10:12) “Now, O Israel, what is Jehovah your God asking of you? Only this: to fear Jehovah your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul,
- (Proverbs 27:11) Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice, So that I can make a reply to him who taunts me.

Obedience leads to blessings (De 10:13; w09 10/1 10 ¶6)

(Deuteronomy 10:13) and to keep the commandments and statutes of Jehovah that I am commanding you today for your own good.

*** w09 10/1 p. 10 par. 6 What Does Jehovah Ask of Us? ***

Our willing obedience will bring blessings. Moses writes: “Keep the commandments . . . that I am commanding you today, for your good.” (Verse 13) Yes, every commandment of Jehovah—everything that he asks of us—is for our good. How could it be otherwise? “God is love,” the Bible says. (1 John 4:8) Hence, he has given only such commands as would further our lasting welfare. (Isaiah 48:17) Doing all that Jehovah asks of us will spare us many frustrations now and lead to endless future blessings under his Kingdom rule.

- (Deuteronomy 10:13) and to keep the commandments and statutes of Jehovah that I am commanding you today for your own good.
- (1 John 4:8) Whoever does not love has not come to know God, because God is love.
- (Isaiah 48:17) This is what Jehovah says, your Repurchaser, the Holy One of Israel: “I, Jehovah, am your God, The One teaching you to benefit yourself, The One guiding you in the way you should walk.

Jehovah wants us to draw close to him (De 10:15; cl 16 ¶2)

(Deuteronomy 10:15) But only to your forefathers did Jehovah draw close and express his love, and he has chosen you, their offspring, out of all the peoples, as you are today.

- (Isaiah 41:8) “But you, O Israel, are my servant, You, O Jacob, whom I have chosen, The offspring of Abraham my friend,
- (James 2:23) and the scripture was fulfilled that says: “Abraham put faith in Jehovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness,” and he came to be called Jehovah’s friend.
- (Deuteronomy 10:15) But only to your forefathers did Jehovah draw close and express his love, and he has chosen you, their offspring, out of all the peoples, as you are today.
- (James 4:8) Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you indecisive ones.

Jehovah does not force us to obey him. Rather, he wants us to love and obey him “from the heart.” (Ro 6:17) Those who choose to serve Jehovah enjoy the best way of life.

- **(Romans 6:17)** But thanks to God that although you were once the slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over.



Digging for Spiritual Gems:

De 9:1-3—Although the sons of Anak were “great and tall,” why did the Israelites have no need to fear them? (it-1 103)

(Deuteronomy 9:1-3) 9 “Hear, O Israel, today you are crossing the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified to the heavens, 2 a people great and tall, the sons of the An’a-kim, about whom you know and have heard it said, ‘Who can stand up to the sons of A’nak?’ 3 Therefore, you should know this day that Jehovah your God will cross ahead of you. He is a consuming fire, and he will annihilate them. He will subdue them before your eyes so that you may quickly drive them out and destroy them, just as Jehovah has promised you.

*** it-1 p. 103 Anakim ***

A race of people of extraordinary size who inhabited the mountainous regions of Canaan as well as some coastal areas, particularly in the S thereof. At one time three prominent men of the Anakim, that is, Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, resided at Hebron. (Nu 13:22) It was here that the 12 Hebrew spies first saw the

Anakim, and 10 of the spies subsequently gave a frightening report of the experience, alleging that these men were descendants of the pre-Flood Nephilim and that, by comparison with them, the Hebrews were like “grasshoppers.” (Nu 13:28-33; De 1:28) Their great stature caused them to be used as a standard of comparison in describing even the giantlike men of the Emim and the Rephaim. Their strength apparently produced the proverbial saying: “Who can make a firm stand before the sons of Anak?”—De 2:10, 11, 20, 21; 9:1-3.

- (Numbers 13:22) When they went up into the Neg'eb, they came to Heb'ron, where A-hi'man, She'shai, and Tal'mai, the An'a·kim, were living. Incidentally, Heb'ron had been built seven years before Zo'an of Egypt.
- (Numbers 13:28-33) Nevertheless, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the fortified cities are very great. We also saw the An'a·kim there. 29 The A·mal'ek-ites are dwelling in the land of the Neg'eb, and the Hit'tites, the Jeb'u-sites, and the Am'or-ites are dwelling in the mountainous region, and the Ca'naan-ites are dwelling by the sea and along the Jordan.” 30 Then Ca'leb tried to calm the people as they stood before Moses by saying: “Let us go up immediately, and we are sure to take possession of it, because we can surely conquer it.” 31 But the men who went up with him said: “We are not able to go up against the people, because they are stronger than we are.” 32 And they kept on giving the Israelites a bad report about the land that they had spied out, saying: “The land that we passed through to spy out is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of extraordinary size. 33 And there we saw the Neph'i-lim, the sons of A'nak, who are from the Neph'i-lim, and in comparison

we seemed like grasshoppers, both to us and to them.”

- (Deuteronomy 1:28) What kind of place are we going to? Our brothers made us lose heart by saying, “They are a people greater and taller than we are, and their cities are great and fortified to the heavens, and we saw the sons of the An'a·kim there.”
- (Deuteronomy 2:10, 11) (The E'mim formerly lived there, a people great and numerous and tall like the An'a·kim. 11 The Reph'a-im were also considered like the An'a·kim, and the Mo'ab-ites used to call them E'mim.
- (Deuteronomy 2:20, 21) This too used to be considered the land of the Reph'a-im. (The Reph'a-im formerly lived there, and the Am'mon-ites used to call them Zam·zum'mim. 21 They were a great and numerous and tall people like the An'a·kim; but Jehovah annihilated them before the Am'mon-ites, and these drove them out and settled in their place.
- (Deuteronomy 9:1-3) “Hear, O Israel, today you are crossing the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified to the heavens, 2 a people great and tall, the sons of the An'a·kim, about whom you know and have heard it said, ‘Who can stand up to the sons of A'nak?’ 3 Therefore, you should know this day that Jehovah your God will cross ahead of you. He is a consuming fire, and he will annihilate them. He will subdue them before your eyes so that you may quickly drive them out and destroy them, just as Jehovah has promised you.

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

Bible Reading:) (4 min.)
De 10:1-22 (th study 10)

(Deuteronomy 10:1-22) 10 "At that time Jehovah said to me, 'Carve out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones, and come up to me on the mountain; also you must make for yourself an ark of wood. 2 And I will write on the tablets the words that appeared on the first tablets, which you shattered, and you should place them in the ark.' 3 So I made an ark of acacia wood and carved out two tablets of stone like the first ones and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. 4 Then he wrote on the tablets the words he had written before, the Ten Commandments, which Jehovah had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly; and Jehovah gave them to me. 5 Then I turned and went down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark that I had made, where they remain, just as Jehovah had commanded me. 6 "The Israelites then departed from Be-er'oth Ben'e-ja'a-kan for Mo-se'rah. There Aaron died and was buried, and his son El-e-a'zar began to serve as priest in his place. 7 From there they departed for Gud'go-dah, and from Gud'go-dah for Jot'ba-thah, a land flowing with streams of water. 8 "At that time Jehovah set apart the tribe of Le'vi to carry the ark of Jehovah's

covenant, to stand before Jehovah in order to minister to him, and to bless in his name, as they do to this day. 9 That is why Le'vi has no share or inheritance with his brothers. Jehovah is his inheritance, just as Jehovah your God had said to him. 10 I myself stayed on the mountain as I did the first time, 40 days and 40 nights, and Jehovah listened to me on that occasion also. Jehovah did not want to destroy you. 11 Then Jehovah said to me, 'Go ahead of the people, and prepare to depart, so that they may go in and take possession of the land that I have sworn to their forefathers to give to them.' 12 "Now, O Israel, what is Jehovah your God asking of you? Only this: to fear Jehovah your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of Jehovah that I am commanding you today for your own good. 14 Look, to Jehovah your God belong the heavens, even the heavens of the heavens, and the earth with all that is in it. 15 But only to your forefathers did Jehovah draw close and express his love, and he has chosen you, their offspring, out of all the peoples, as you are today. 16 You must now cleanse your hearts and stop being so stubborn. 17 For Jehovah your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the God great, mighty, and awe-inspiring, who treats none with partiality and does not accept a bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless child and the widow and loves the foreign resident, giving him food and clothing. 19 You too must love the foreign resident, for you became foreign residents in the land of Egypt. 20 "Jehovah your God you should fear, him you should serve, to him you should cling, and by his name you should swear. 21 He is the One you are to praise. He is your God, who has done all these great and awe-inspiring things for you that your own eyes have seen. 22 With 70 people your forefathers went down into Egypt, and now Jehovah your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the heavens.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (th study 3)

Initial Call

Question: What is God's purpose for humans?

Scripture: Ge 1:28

- (Genesis 1:28) 28 Further, God blessed them, and God said to them: "Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving on the earth."

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 29 ¶1

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video Why Study the Bible? (th study 9)

Return Visit

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: Isa 55:11

- (Isaiah 55:11) 11 So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return

to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 29 ¶2

Bible Study: (5 min.) fg lesson 12 ¶4-5 (th study 18)

3. Why do Christians meet together?

provide fine opportunities to benefit from Drawing close to God is not easy because we live among people who lack faith in God and ridicule his promise of peace on earth. (2 Timothy 3:1, 4; 2 Peter 3:3, 13) So we need the encouraging association of fellow believers, and they need us.—Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.

Associating with people who love God helps us to draw close to God. The meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses the faith of others.—Read Romans 1:11, 12.

- (2 Timothy 3:1) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here.
- (2 Timothy 3:4) betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God,
- (2 Peter 3:3) First of all know this, that in the last days ridiculers will come with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires
- (2 Peter 3:13) But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

- (Hebrews 10:24, 25) And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, 25 not forsaking our meeting together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you see the day drawing near.
- Paragraph 5
- (Romans 1:11, 12) For I am longing to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to you for you to be made firm; 12 or, rather, that we may have an interchange of encouragement by one another's faith, both yours and mine.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 135

Video Games: Are You Really Winning?: (7 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience: How could video games rob you? What things in life are more important than video games? (Eph 5:15, 16) What does your choice of video games reveal about who you are on the inside? How can you be a real winner?

How could video games rob you?

What things in life are more important than video games? (Eph 5:15, 16)

What does your choice of video games reveal about who you are on the inside?

How can you be a real winner?

“Make Wise Decisions Regarding Alcoholic Beverages”: (8 min.) Discussion. Play the video Think Past the Drink.



All Christians need to exercise self-control regarding alcoholic beverages. (Pr 23:20, 29-35; 1Co 6:9, 10) If a Christian chooses to drink, he should do so in moderation. He must also avoid dependence on alcohol and avoid stumbling others. (1Co 10:23, 24; 1Ti 5:23) Certainly, no one, especially young ones, should be pressured to consume alcoholic beverages.

- (Proverbs 23:20) Do not be among those who drink too much wine, Among those who gorge themselves on meat,
- (Proverbs 23:29-35) Who has woe? Who has uneasiness? Who has quarrels? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has bleary eyes? 30 Those lingering long over wine; Those searching out mixed wine. 31 Do not look at the wine's red color As it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly, 32 For in the end it bites like a serpent, And it secretes poison like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will speak perverse things. 34 And you will be like one lying down in the middle of the sea, Like one lying at the top of a ship's mast. 35 You will say: "They have struck me, but I did not feel it. They beat me, but I did not know it. When will I wake up? I need another drink."
- (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10) Or do you not know that unrighteous people will not inherit God's Kingdom? Do not be misled. Those who are sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, men who submit to homosexual acts, men who practice homosexuality, 10 thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners will not inherit God's Kingdom.
- (1 Corinthians 10:23, 24) All things are lawful, but not all things are advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. 24 Let each one

keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person.

- (1 Timothy 5:23) Do not drink water any longer, but take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent cases of sickness.

WATCH THE WHITEBOARD ANIMATION
THINK PAST THE DRINK, AND THEN
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why must all Christians obey laws regarding drinking alcohol?—Ro 13:1-4
- (Romans 13:1-4) Let every person be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God; the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. 2 Therefore, whoever opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God; those who have taken a stand against it will bring judgment against themselves. 3 For those rulers are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you want to be free of fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it; 4 for it is God's minister to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear, for it is not without purpose that it bears the sword. It is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath against the one practicing what is bad.

- Why should we avoid letting others pressure us to drink alcohol?—Ro 6:16
- (Romans 6:16) Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the

one you obey, either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- How can we avoid pitfalls related to alcoholic beverages?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 10
¶1-7, intro video

(Ezekiel 37:5) “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life.

Paragraph 2

(Ezekiel 21:7) And if they say to you, ‘Why are you sighing?’ you will say, ‘Because of a report.’ For it will certainly come, and every heart will melt with fear and every hand will hang limp and every spirit will become dejected and every knee will drip with water. ‘Look! It will certainly come—it will take place,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.”

(Ezekiel 33:21) At length in the 12th year, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month of our exile, a man who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said: “The city has been struck down!”

Paragraph 4

(Ezekiel 37:1-10) The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and by his spirit Jehovah took me and set me down in the middle of the valley plain, and it was full of bones. 2 He had me pass all around them, and I saw that there were very many bones lying in the valley plain, and they were very dry. 3 He asked me: “Son of man, can these bones come to life?” To that I said: “Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the one who knows.” 4 So he said to me: “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah: 5 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will put sinews and flesh on you, and I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will come to life; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.”’” 7 Then I prophesied just as I had been commanded. As soon as I prophesied, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones began to come together,

bone to bone. 8 Then I saw sinews and flesh come on them, and skin covered over them. But there was still no breath in them. 9 He then said to me: “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these people who were killed, so that they may come to life.”” 10 So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.

Paragraph 5

(Ezekiel 37:4-6) So he said to me: “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah: 5 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will put sinews and flesh on you, and I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will come to life; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.””

(Ezekiel 37:7, 8) Then I prophesied just as I had been commanded. As soon as I prophesied, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones began to come together, bone to bone. 8 Then I saw sinews and flesh come on them, and skin covered over them. But there was still no breath in them.

(Ezekiel 37:9, 10) He then said to me: “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these people who were killed, so that they may come to life.”” 10 So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.

Paragraph 6

(Ezekiel 37:11) Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Here they are saying, ‘Our bones are

dry, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’

(Jeremiah 34:20) I will hand them over to their enemies and to those seeking to take their lives, and their dead bodies will become food for the birds of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth.

Paragraph 7

(Ezekiel 37:12-14) So prophecy and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people, and bring you to the land of Israel. 13 And you will have to know that I am Jehovah when I open your graves and when I raise you up out of your graves, O my people.” 14 ‘I will put my spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will settle you on your land; and you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done it,’ declares Jehovah.”

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)

- Song 3 and Prayer