

- Song 40 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

**“How Jehovah Wants to Be Worshipped”:
(10 min.)**

The Israelites were to obey, love, and serve Jehovah with all their heart and soul (De 11:13; it-2 1007 ¶4)

(Deuteronomy 11:13) “And if you will diligently obey my commandments that I am commanding you today and love Jehovah your God and serve him with all your heart and all your soul,

*** it-2 p. 1007 Soul ***

Serving With One's Whole Soul. The “soul” basically means the entire person, as has been shown. Yet certain texts exhort us to seek for, love, and serve God with ‘all our heart and all our soul’ (De 4:29; 11:13, 18), while Deuteronomy 6:5 says: “You must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force.” Jesus said it was necessary to serve with one's whole soul and strength and, additionally, “with your whole mind.” (Mr 12:30; Lu 10:27) The question arises as to why these other things are mentioned with the soul, since it embraces them all. To illustrate the probable meaning: A person might sell himself (his soul) into slavery to another, thereby becoming the possession of his owner and master. Yet he might not serve his master wholeheartedly, with full motivation and desire to please him, and thus he might not use his full strength or his full mental capacity to advance his master's interests. (Compare Eph 6:5; Col 3:22.) Hence these other facets are evidently mentioned to focus attention on them so that we do not fail to remember and consider them in our service to God, to whom we belong, and to his Son, whose life was the ransom price that bought us. “Whole-souled” service to God involves the entire person, no bodily part, function, capacity,

or desire being left out.—Compare Mt 5:28-30; Lu 21:34-36; Eph 6:6-9; Php 3:19; Col 3:23, 24.

- (Deuteronomy 4:29) “If you search for Jehovah your God from there, you will certainly find him, if you inquire for him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- (Deuteronomy 11:13) “And if you will diligently obey my commandments that I am commanding you today and love Jehovah your God and serve him with all your heart and all your soul,
- (Deuteronomy 11:18) “You must impress these words of mine on your heart and your soul and bind them as a reminder on your hand, and they should be like a headband on your forehead.
- (Deuteronomy 6:5) You must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength.
- (Mark 12:30) and you must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.’
- (Luke 10:27) In answer he said: “‘You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”
- (Ephesians 6:5) Slaves, be obedient to your human masters, with fear and trembling in the sincerity of your hearts, as to the Christ,
- (Colossians 3:22) You slaves, be obedient in everything to those who are your human masters, not only when they are watching, just to please men, but with sincerity of heart, with fear of Jehovah.

- (Matthew 5:28-30) But I say to you that everyone who keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If, now, your right eye is making you stumble, tear it out and throw it away from you. For it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be pitched into Ge·hen'na. 30 Also, if your right hand is making you stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. For it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to land in Ge·hen'na.
- (Luke 21:34-36) “But pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy drinking and anxieties of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon you 35 as a snare. For it will come upon all those dwelling on the face of the whole earth. 36 Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that must occur and in standing before the Son of man.”
- (Ephesians 6:6-9) not only when being watched, just to please men, but as Christ’s slaves doing the will of God whole-souled. 7 Slave with a good attitude, as to Jehovah and not to men, 8 for you know that whatever good each one does, he will receive this back from Jehovah, whether he is a slave or a freeman. 9 Also, you masters, keep treating them in the same way, not threatening, for you know that both their Master and yours is in the heavens, and there is no partiality with him.
- (Philippians 3:19) Their end is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory is really their shame, and they have their minds on earthly things.

- (Colossians 3:23, 24) Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as for Jehovah, and not for men, 24 for you know that it is from Jehovah you will receive the inheritance as a reward. Slave for the Master, Christ.

(Deuteronomy 12:2, 3) You should completely destroy all the places where the nations you will dispossess have served their gods, whether on the high mountains or on the hills or under any luxuriant tree. 3 You should pull down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, burn their sacred poles in the fire, and cut down the graven images of their gods, obliterating their very names from that place.

Everyone was to worship in one place (De 12:11-14; it-1 84 ¶3)

(Deuteronomy 12:11-14) You will bring all that I am commanding you to the place that Jehovah your God chooses to have his name reside—your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution from your hand, and every vow offering that you vow to Jehovah. 12 You will rejoice before Jehovah your God, you and your sons, your daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite inside your cities, for he has no share or inheritance with you. 13 Be careful not to offer up your burnt offerings in any other place you may see. 14 You should offer your burnt offerings only in the place that Jehovah chooses in one of your tribal territories, and there you should do everything I am commanding you.

*** it-1 p. 84 Altar ***

The Israelites were instructed to tear down all pagan altars and destroy the sacred pillars and poles customarily built alongside them. (Ex 34:13; De 7:5, 6; 12:1-3) They were never to imitate these nor offer up their children by fire as did the Canaanites. (De 12:30, 31; 16:21) Instead of a multiplicity of altars, Israel was to have just one altar for the worship of the one true God, and this would be located at the place Jehovah would choose. (De 12:2-6, 13, 14, 27; contrast this with Babylon, where there were 180 altars to the goddess Ishtar alone.) They were at first instructed to make an altar of unhewn stones following the crossing of the Jordan River (De 27:4-8), and this was built by Joshua on Mount Ebal. (Jos 8:30-32) Following the division of the conquered land, the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built a conspicuous altar by the Jordan, which provoked a temporary crisis among the other tribes until it was determined that the altar was no sign of apostasy but only a memorial of faithfulness to Jehovah as the true God.—Jos 22:10-34.

- (Exodus 34:13) But you are to pull down their altars, you are to shatter their sacred pillars, and their sacred poles you are to cut down.
- (Deuteronomy 7:5, 6) “Instead, this is what you should do to them: Tear down their altars, break up their sacred pillars, cut down their sacred poles, and burn up their graven images. 6 For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God, and Jehovah your God has chosen you to become his people, his special property, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.
- (Deuteronomy 12:1-3) “These are the regulations and the judicial decisions that you should be careful to carry out all the days that you are alive in the land that Jehovah the God of your forefathers will give you to possess. 2 You should completely destroy all the places where the nations you will dispossess have

served their gods, whether on the high mountains or on the hills or under any luxuriant tree. 3 You should pull down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, burn their sacred poles in the fire, and cut down the graven images of their gods, obliterating their very names from that place.

- (Deuteronomy 12:30, 31) be careful not to be entrapped after they have been annihilated from before you. Do not ask about their gods, saying, ‘How were these nations accustomed to serve their gods? I too will do the same.’ 31 You must not do this to Jehovah your God, because they do for their gods every detestable thing that Jehovah hates, even burning their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.
- (Deuteronomy 16:21) “You should not plant any sort of tree as a sacred pole near the altar of Jehovah your God that you make for yourself.
- (Deuteronomy 12:2-6) You should completely destroy all the places where the nations you will dispossess have served their gods, whether on the high mountains or on the hills or under any luxuriant tree. 3 You should pull down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, burn their sacred poles in the fire, and cut down the graven images of their gods, obliterating their very names from that place. 4 “You must not worship Jehovah your God in that way. 5 Rather, seek Jehovah your God wherever he chooses to establish his name and his place of residence among all your tribes, and go there. 6 That is where you are to bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution from your hand, your vow offerings, your voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and flock.

- (Deuteronomy 12:13, 14) Be careful not to offer up your burnt offerings in any other place you may see. 14 You should offer your burnt offerings only in the place that Jehovah chooses in one of your tribal territories, and there you should do everything I am commanding you.
- (Deuteronomy 12:27) There you will offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of Jehovah your God, and the blood of your sacrifices should be poured out against the altar of Jehovah your God, but the flesh you may eat.
- (Deuteronomy 27:4-8) When you have crossed the Jordan, you should set up these stones on Mount E'bal and cover them with plaster, just as I am commanding you today. 5 You are also to build an altar there to Jehovah your God, an altar of stones. You should not use iron tools on them. 6 You should build the altar of Jehovah your God with whole stones and offer burnt offerings to Jehovah your God on it. 7 You are to offer communion sacrifices and eat them there, and you will rejoice before Jehovah your God. 8 And clearly write on the stones all the words of this Law."
- (Joshua 8:30-32) It was then that Joshua built an altar on Mount E'bal to Jehovah the God of Israel, 31 just as Moses the servant of Jehovah had commanded the Israelites and as it is written in the book of the Law of Moses: "An altar of whole stones on which no iron tool has been wielded." On it they offered up burnt offerings to Jehovah as well as communion sacrifices. 32 Then he wrote there on the stones a copy of the Law that Moses had written before the Israelites.
- (Joshua 22:10-34) When they came to the regions of the Jordan in the land of

Ca'naan, the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh built an altar there by the Jordan, a large, impressive altar. 11 Later the other Israelites heard it said: "Look! The Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Ca'naan in the regions of the Jordan on the side belonging to the Israelites." 12 When the Israelites heard about it, the whole assembly of the Israelites congregated at Shi'loh to go to war against them. 13 Then the Israelites sent Phin'e-has the son of El-e-a'zar the priest to the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh in the land of Gil'e-ad, 14 and ten chieftains were with him, one chieftain of each paternal house of all the tribes of Israel, each a head of his paternal house among the thousands of Israel. 15 When they came to the Reu'ben-ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma-nas'seh in the land of Gil'e-ad, they said to them: 16 "This is what all the assembly of Jehovah says: 'What is this act of unfaithfulness that you have committed against the God of Israel? You have turned back today from following Jehovah by building yourselves an altar and rebelling against Jehovah. 17 Was the error of Pe'or not enough for us? We have not cleansed ourselves from it down to this day, even though a plague came upon the assembly of Jehovah. 18 And you would turn back today from following Jehovah! If you rebel today against Jehovah, then tomorrow he will be indignant against the entire assembly of Israel. 19 Now if it is because the land of your possession is unclean, cross over to the land of Jehovah's possession where the tabernacle of Jehovah resides and settle among us, but do not rebel against Jehovah, and do not make us rebels by building yourselves an altar in addition to the altar of Jehovah our God.

20 When A'chan the son of Ze'rah committed an act of unfaithfulness regarding what was devoted to destruction, did not indignation come against all the assembly of Israel? And he was not the only man to die for his error.” 21 At this the Reu'ben·ites, the Gad'ites, and the half tribe of Ma·nas'seh said in answer to the heads of the thousands of Israel: 22 “The God of gods, Jehovah! The God of gods, Jehovah! He knows, and Israel will also know. If we were rebellious and unfaithful to Jehovah, do not spare us this day. 23 If we built ourselves an altar to turn back from following Jehovah and to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, and communion sacrifices on it, Jehovah will exact the penalty. 24 No, it was because of another concern that we did this, for we said, ‘In the future, your sons will say to our sons: “What do you have to do with Jehovah the God of Israel? 25 Jehovah has put the Jordan as a boundary between us and you, the Reu'ben·ites and the Gad'ites. You have no share in Jehovah.” And your sons will hinder our sons from worshipping Jehovah.’ 26 “So we said, ‘Let us by all means take action by building an altar, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, 27 but to be a witness between you and us and our descendants after us that we will carry out our service to Jehovah before him with our burnt offerings and our sacrifices and our communion sacrifices, so that your sons may not say to our sons in the future: “You have no share in Jehovah.”’ 28 So we said, ‘If they should say that to us and to our descendants in the future, we will then say: “See the replica of Jehovah’s altar that our forefathers made, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, but to be a witness between you and us.”’ 29 It is unthinkable for us to rebel against Jehovah and to turn back today from following Jehovah by building an altar

for burnt offerings, grain offerings, and sacrifices, other than the altar of Jehovah our God that is before his tabernacle!” 30 When Phin'e-has the priest, the chieftains of the assembly, and the heads of the thousands of Israel who were with him heard the words that the descendants of Reu'ben, Gad, and Ma·nas'seh spoke, they were satisfied. 31 So Phin'e-has the son of El·e·a'zar the priest said to the descendants of Reu'ben, Gad, and Ma·nas'seh: “Today we know that Jehovah is among us, because you have not committed this act of unfaithfulness against Jehovah. Now you have saved the Israelites out of the hand of Jehovah.” 32 Then Phin'e-has the son of El·e·a'zar the priest and the chieftains returned from the Reu'ben·ites and the Gad'ites in the land of Gil'e·ad to the land of Ca'naan, and they brought back word to the other Israelites. 33 And the Israelites were satisfied with the report. The Israelites then praised God, and they said nothing more about going to war against the Reu'ben·ites and the Gad'ites to destroy the land in which they were dwelling. 34 So the Reu'ben·ites and the Gad'ites named the altar, because “it is a witness between us that Jehovah is the true God.”



Jehovah wants his people to worship him whole-souled, to reject all false worship, and to be united.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

De 11:29—How, apparently, was this verse fulfilled? (it-1 925-926)

(Deuteronomy 11:29) 29 “When Jehovah your God brings you into the land you are to possess, you must pronounce the blessing on Mount Ger'i-zim and the curse on Mount E'bal.

*** it-1 pp. 925-926 Gerizim, Mount ***

In harmony with instructions given by Moses, the tribes of Israel assembled at Mounts Gerizim and Ebal under Joshua's direction shortly after their conquest of Ai. There the people heard the reading of the blessings they would receive if they obeyed Jehovah and the maledictions that awaited them if they disobeyed him. The tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin stood in front of Mount Gerizim. The Levites and the ark of the covenant were situated in the valley, and the other six tribes stood in front of Mount Ebal. (De 11:29, 30; 27:11-13; Jos 8:28-35) Apparently, the tribes stationed in front of Mount Gerizim responded to the blessings read in their direction, whereas the other tribes responded to the curses read in the direction of Mount Ebal. While it has been suggested that the blessings were read toward Mount Gerizim because of its greater beauty and fertility in contrast with rocky, largely barren Mount Ebal, the Bible does not furnish any information on this matter. The Law was read aloud “in front of all the congregation of Israel, together with the women and the little ones and the alien residents who walked in their midst.” (Jos 8:35) This vast throng could hear the words from positions in front of either mountain. This was probably due, at least in part, to the excellent acoustics of the area.—See EBAL, MOUNT.

- (Deuteronomy 11:29, 30) “When Jehovah your God brings you into the land you are to possess, you must pronounce the blessing on Mount

Ger'i-zim and the curse on Mount E'bal. 30 Are they not on the other side of the Jordan toward the west, in the land of the Ca'naan-ites who live in the Ar'a-bah, opposite Gil'gal, beside the big trees of Mo'reh?

- (Deuteronomy 27:11-13) On that day Moses commanded the people, saying: 12 “The following tribes will stand on Mount Ger'i-zim to bless the people when you have crossed the Jordan: Sim'e-on, Le'vi, Judah, Is'sa-char, Joseph, and Benjamin. 13 And the following will stand on Mount E'bal to pronounce the curse: Reu'ben, Gad, Ash'er, Zeb'u-lun, Dan, and Naph'ta-li.
- (Joshua 8:28-35) Then Joshua burned A'i and reduced it to a permanent mound of ruins, as it remains to this day. 29 He hung the king of A'i on a stake until the evening, and as the sun was about to set, Joshua gave the order to take his dead body down from the stake. Then they pitched it at the entrance of the city gate and raised up a great pile of stones over him, which is there to this day. 30 It was then that Joshua built an altar on Mount E'bal to Jehovah the God of Israel, 31 just as Moses the servant of Jehovah had commanded the Israelites and as it is written in the book of the Law of Moses: “An altar of whole stones on which no iron tool has been wielded.” On it they offered up burnt offerings to Jehovah as well as communion sacrifices. 32 Then he wrote there on the stones a copy of the Law that Moses had written before the Israelites. 33 All Israel, their elders, the officers, and their judges were standing on both sides of the Ark in front of the Levitical priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant of Jehovah. The foreign residents were there as well as the natives. Half of them stood in front of Mount Ger'i-zim, and the other half in front of Mount E'bal (just as Moses the

servant of Jehovah had previously commanded), to bless the people of Israel. 34 After this he read aloud all the words of the Law, the blessings and the curses, according to all that is written in the book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, including the women and children and the foreign residents who were living among them.

- (Joshua 8:35) There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, including the women and children and the foreign residents who were living among them.

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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 11:1-12 (th study 2)**

(Deuteronomy 11:1-12) 11 “You must love Jehovah your God and always keep your obligation to him and his statutes, his judicial decisions, and his commandments. 2 You know that today I am addressing you, not your sons who have not known or seen the discipline of Jehovah your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm.

3 They did not see his signs and his deeds that he did in Egypt to Phar’aoth king of Egypt and to all his land; 4 or what he did to the armies of Egypt, to Phar’aoth’s horses and war chariots, which were overwhelmed by the waters of the Red Sea when they were chasing after you, and Jehovah destroyed them once and for all. 5 They did not see what he has done for you in the wilderness until your coming to this place, 6 or what he did to Da’tan and A-bi’ram, the sons of E·li’ab the son of Reu’ben, when the earth opened and swallowed them up, along with their households and their tents and every living thing that followed them, before the eyes of all Israel. 7 Your own eyes have seen all the great deeds that Jehovah did.

8 “You must keep the whole commandment that I am giving you today, so that you may grow strong and cross over into the land to take possession of it, 9 and so that you may live long in the land that Jehovah swore to give to your forefathers and their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 “The land you are going to take possession of is not like the land of Egypt, out of which you came, where you used to sow your seed and irrigate it with your foot, like a garden of vegetables. 11 But the land you are about to cross into and possess is a land of mountains and valley plains. It drinks the water that rains from the heavens; 12 it is a land that Jehovah your God is caring for. The eyes of Jehovah your God are constantly upon it, from the beginning of the year to the close of the year.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Show Empathy”: (8 min.) Discussion. Play the video Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Showing Empathy.

Empathy is the ability to understand the thinking, feelings, values, and needs of others. It is easily sensed by others and springs from a heartfelt desire to help. When we show

empathy in the ministry, we reflect Jehovah’s love and care, and this draws people to him.—Php 2:4.

- (Philippians 2:4) 4 as you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Showing empathy is not a mere technique; it is reflected in the way we listen and speak as well as in our attitude, gestures, and facial expressions. We demonstrate empathy by showing genuine interest in someone. We take note of his interests, beliefs, and circumstances. We offer practical information and assistance but do not pressure him to change. When others respond by allowing us to help them, we increase our joy in the ministry.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING—IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS—SHOWING EMPATHY, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- How did Neeta show empathy when Jade said that she was too stressed to have her study?



- How did Neeta show empathy when Jade said that she is not really organized?



- How did Neeta show empathy when Jade was late?

Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video Initial Call: Suffering—Jas 1:13. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Initial Call: (2 min.) Use the sample conversation. (th study 1)

Initial Call

Question: How do we know that our suffering is not punishment from God?

Scripture: Jas 1:13

- (James 1:13) 13 When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone.

Link: Why do we suffer?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 9 ¶7

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 103

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 10 ¶8-12, box 10A

Paragraph 8

(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 50:33) This is what Jehovah of armies says: "The people of Israel and Judah are oppressed, And all those taking them captive have held onto them. They have refused to let them go.

Paragraph 9

(Acts 3:21) Heaven must hold this one within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old.

(Galatians 6:16) As for all those who walk orderly by this rule of conduct, peace and mercy be upon them, yes, upon the Israel of God.

(Ezekiel 37:2) 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.

(Matthew 13:24-30) He presented another illustration to them, saying: "The Kingdom of the heavens may be likened to a man who sowed fine seed in his field. 25 While men were sleeping, his enemy came and oversowed weeds in among the wheat and left. 26 When the stalk sprouted and produced fruit, then the weeds also appeared. 27 So the slaves of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow fine seed in your field? How, then, does it have weeds?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy, a man, did this.' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go out and collect them?' 29 He said, 'No, for fear that while collecting the weeds, you uproot the

wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest season, I will tell the reapers: First collect the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them up; then gather the wheat into my storehouse.”

Paragraph 10

(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.

(Isaiah 6:13) “But there will still be a tenth in it, and it will again be burned, like a big tree and like an oak, which after they are cut down leave a stump; a holy seed will be its stump.”

(Job 14:7-9) For there is hope even for a tree. If it is cut down, it will sprout again, And its twigs will continue to grow. 8 If its root grows old in the ground And its stump dies in the soil, 9 At the scent of water it will sprout; And it will produce branches like a new plant.

Paragraph 12

(Ezekiel 37:10) 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.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 72 and Prayer