

- Song 134 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“What Parents Can Learn From Manoah and His Wife”: (10 min.)



Be a good example of faithfulness to the true God (Jg 13:1, 2, 6)

(Judges 13:1, 2) Again the Israelites did what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, and Jehovah gave them into the hand of the Phi-lis'tines for 40 years. ² Meanwhile, there was a man of Zo'rah of the family of the Dan'ites, whose name was Ma·no'ah. His wife was barren and childless.

(Judges 13:6) Then the woman went and told her husband: “A man of the true God came to me, and his appearance was like an angel of the true God, very awe-inspiring. I did not ask him where he was from, nor did he tell me his name.

Seek Jehovah's direction (Jg 13:8; w13 8/15 16 ¶1)

(Judges 13:8) Ma·no'ah pleaded with Jehovah and said: “Pardon me, Jehovah. Please let the man of the true God whom you just sent come again to instruct us about what we should do with the child who will be born.”

*** w13 8/15 p. 16 Parents—Train Your Children From Their Infancy ***

Consider the case of the Danite named Manoah, who lived in the town of Zorah in ancient Israel. Jehovah's angel informed Manoah's barren wife that she would give birth to a son. (Judg. 13:2, 3) Faithful Manoah and his wife were no doubt overjoyed by that prospect. However, they also had serious concerns. So Manoah prayed: “Excuse me, Jehovah. The man of the true God that you just sent, let him, please, come again to us and instruct us as to what we ought to do to the child that will be born.” (Judg. 13:8) Manoah and his wife were concerned about their child's upbringing. They undoubtedly taught their son, Samson, God's law, and their efforts evidently met with success. “In time Jehovah's spirit started to impel [Samson],” says the Bible. As a result, Samson performed many powerful works as one of Israel's judges.—Judg. 13:25; 14:5, 6; 15:14, 15.

- (Judges 13:2, 3) Meanwhile, there was a man of Zo'rah of the family of the Dan'ites, whose name was Ma·no'ah. His wife was barren and childless. ³ In time Jehovah's angel appeared to the woman and said to her: “Look, you are barren and childless. But you will conceive and give birth to a son.
- (Judges 13:8) Ma·no'ah pleaded with Jehovah and said: “Pardon me, Jehovah. Please let the man of the true God whom you just sent come again to instruct us about what we should do with the child who will be born.”

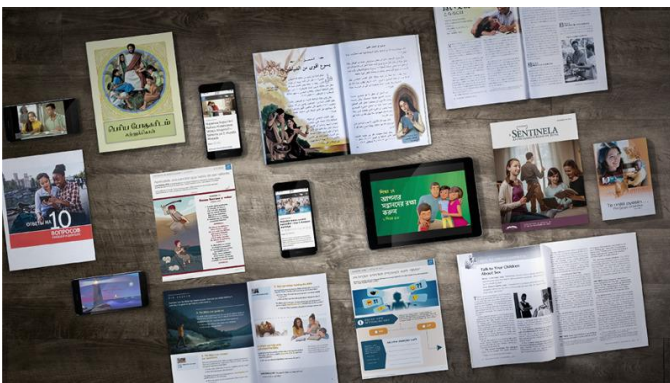
- (Judges 13:25) In time Jehovah's spirit started to impel him in Ma'ha-neh-dan, between Zo'rah and Esh'ta-ol.
- (Judges 14:5, 6) So Samson went down with his father and mother to Tim'nah. When he reached the vineyards of Tim'nah, why look! a lion came roaring at him. 6 Then Jehovah's spirit empowered him, and he tore it in two, just as someone tears a young goat in two with his bare hands. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.
- (Judges 15:14, 15) When he came to Le'hi, the Phi-lis'tines shouted triumphantly at meeting him. Then Jehovah's spirit empowered him, and the ropes on his arms became like linen threads that were scorched with fire, and his fetters melted off his hands. 15 He now found a fresh jawbone of a male donkey; he reached out and grabbed it and struck down 1,000 men with it.

(Judges 14:1-4) Then Samson went down to Tim'nah, and in Tim'nah he saw a Phi-lis'tine woman. ² So he went up and told his father and mother: "In Tim'nah a Phi-lis'tine woman caught my eye, and I want you to get her for me as a wife." ³ But his father and mother said to him: "Can you not find a woman among your relatives and among all our people? Must you go and take a wife from among the uncircumcised Phi-lis'tines?" But Samson said to his father: "Get her for me, because she is the right one for me." ⁴ His father and mother did not realize that this was from Jehovah, for He was looking for an opportunity against the Phi-lis'tines, as the Phi-lis'tines were ruling over Israel at that time.

**** w05 3/15 pp. 25-26 Samson Triumphs in the Strength of Jehovah! *****

As Samson kept growing, "Jehovah continued to bless him." (Judges 13:24) One day Samson came to his father and mother and said: "There is a woman that I have seen in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines, and now get her for me as a wife." (Judges 14:2) Imagine their surprise. Instead of freeing Israel from the hands of the oppressors, their son wanted to form a marriage alliance with them. Taking a wife from among worshipers of pagan gods was against God's Law. (Exodus 34:11-16) Hence, the parents objected: "Is there not among the daughters of your brothers and among all my people a woman, so that you are going to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" Still, Samson insisted: "Get just her for me, because she is the one just right in my eyes."—Judges 14:3.

- (Judges 13:24) The woman later gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and as the boy grew, Jehovah continued to bless him.
- (Judges 14:2) So he went up and told his father and mother: "In Tim'nah a Phi-lis'tine woman caught my eye, and I want you to get her for me as a wife."



Do not hold back from giving your children correction (Jg 14:1-4; w05 3/15 25-26)

- (Exodus 34:11-16) “Pay attention to what I am commanding you today. Here I am driving out from before you the Am'or-ites, the Ca'naan-ites, the Hit'tites, the Per'iz-zites, the Hi'vites, and the Jeb'u-sites. 12 Be careful that you do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, or it may prove to be a snare among you. 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. 14 You must not bow down to another god, for Jehovah is known for requiring exclusive devotion. Yes, he is a God who requires exclusive devotion. 15 Be careful not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, because when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to their gods, someone will invite you and you will eat from his sacrifice. 16 Then you will surely take some of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters will prostitute themselves to their gods and cause your sons to prostitute themselves to their gods.
- (Judges 14:3) But his father and mother said to him: “Can you not find a woman among your relatives and among all our people? Must you go and take a wife from among the uncircumcised Phi-lis'tines?” But Samson said to his father: “Get her for me, because she is the right one for me.”

What tools to help parents raise their children are available in your language?

Spiritual Gems:

Jg 14:2, 3—In what way was this Philistine woman “the right one” for Samson? (w05 3/15 26 ¶1)

(Judges 14:2, 3) 2 So he went up and told his father and mother: “In Tim'nah a Phi-lis'tine woman caught my eye, and I want you to get her for me as a wife.” 3 But his father and mother said to him: “Can you not find a woman among your relatives and among all our people? Must you go and take a wife from among the uncircumcised Phi-lis'tines?” But Samson said to his father: “Get her for me, because she is the right one for me.”

*** w05 3/15 p. 26 Samson Triumphs in the Strength of Jehovah! ***

In what way was this particular Philistine woman “just right” for Samson? Not in the sense that she was “beautiful, engaging, attractive,” suggests McClintock and Strong's Cyclopedia, “but right relative to an end, purpose, or object.” Relative to what end? Judges 14:4 explains that Samson “was looking for an opportunity against the Philistines.” Samson was interested in the woman for that purpose. As Samson grew to adulthood, “Jehovah's spirit started to impel him,” or stir him to action. (Judges 13:25) So the spirit of Jehovah was the driving force behind Samson's unusual request for a wife as well as his entire career as judge over Israel. Did Samson get the opportunity he was seeking? Let us first consider how Jehovah assured him of divine backing.

- (Judges 14:4) His father and mother did not realize that this was from Jehovah, for He was looking for an opportunity against the Phi-lis'tines, as the Phi-lis'tines were ruling over Israel at that time.

- (Judges 13:25) In time Jehovah's spirit started to impel him in Ma'ha-neh-dan, between Zo'rah and Esh'ta·ol.

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.)
Jg 14:5-20 (th study 5)**

(Judges 14:5-20) 5 So Samson went down with his father and mother to Tim'nah. When he reached the vineyards of Tim'nah, why look! a lion came roaring at him. 6 Then Jehovah's spirit empowered him, and he tore it in two, just as someone tears a young goat in two with his bare hands. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. 7 Then he went down and spoke to the woman, and she was still the right one in Samson's eyes. 8 Later when he was going back to take her home, he turned aside to look at the dead body of the lion, and there in the lion's carcass was a swarm of bees and honey. 9 So he scraped the honey out into his hands and ate it as he walked along. When he rejoined his father and mother, he gave them some to eat. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the carcass of a lion. 10 His father went down to the woman, and Samson held a banquet there, for that was what the young men used to do. 11 When they saw him, they brought 30 groomsmen to accompany him. 12 Then Samson said to them: "Please let me tell you a riddle. If during the seven days of the banquet you solve it and tell me the answer, I will have to give you 30 linen garments and 30 outfits of clothing. 13 But if you are unable to tell me the answer, you must give me 30 linen

garments and 30 outfits of clothing." They said: "Tell us your riddle; we want to hear it."

14 So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat,

And out of the strong came something sweet." They were unable to solve the riddle for three days.

15 On the fourth day, they said to Samson's wife: "Trick your husband so that he will tell us the answer to the riddle. Otherwise, we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Did you invite us here to take our possessions?"

16 So Samson's wife wept over him and said: "You must hate me; you do not love me. You told a riddle to my people, but you have not told the answer to me." At this he said to her: "Why, I have not told it even to my own father and mother! Should I tell it to you?" 17 But she kept weeping over him the rest of the seven-day banquet. He finally told her on the seventh day, because she had pressured him. Then she told her people the answer to the riddle. 18 So on the seventh day before the sun set, the men of the city said to him:

"What is sweeter than honey, And what is stronger than a lion?"

He replied to them: "If you had not plowed with my young cow, You would not have solved my riddle."

19 Then Jehovah's spirit empowered him, and he went down to Ash'ke-lon and struck down 30 of their men and took their clothing and gave the outfits to those who had answered the riddle. He was furious as he went back up to his father's house. 20 Samson's wife was then given to one of his groomsmen who had accompanied him.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Teach Bible Students to Feed Themselves Spiritually”: (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video Help Your Bible Students to Feed Themselves Spiritually.

In order to satisfy their spiritual need and progress to spiritual maturity, Bible students must learn more than the truths that we teach them. (Mt 5:3; Heb 5:12–6:2) They must also learn how to feed themselves spiritually.

- (Matthew 5:3) “Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the Kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.
- (Hebrews 5:12-6:2) For although by now you should be teachers, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God, and you have gone back to needing milk, not solid food. 13 For everyone who continues to feed on milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is a young child. 14 But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their powers of discernment trained to distinguish both right and wrong.

From the beginning, show your Bible students how to prepare for their Bible study, and encourage them to do so. (mwb18.03 6) Encourage them to pray before each session of personal study. Help them to access and use digital tools for study. Explain how to keep up with what is new on jw.org and JW Broadcasting®. Progressively teach them to read the Bible every day, to prepare for

congregation meetings, and to research the answers to their questions. Help them to meditate on what they are learning.

- *** Extracted Document ***
- 6 Therefore, now that we have moved beyond the primary doctrine about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying a foundation again, namely, repentance from dead works and faith in God, 2 the teaching on baptisms and the laying on of the hands, the resurrection of the dead and everlasting judgment.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENTS TO FEED THEMSELVES SPIRITUALLY, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- How did Neeta help Jade to see that study involves more than knowing the answers?



- What helped Jade to be convinced that Jehovah is right to prohibit sexual immorality?



- What did Jade come to understand about meditation?

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iffi lesson 02 summary, review, and goal (th study 17)

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: _____

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 110

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 18 ¶1-8, intro video

(Ezekiel 38:18) “On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘my great rage will flare up.

Paragraph 1

(Revelation 16:14) They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

(Revelation 16:16) And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.

Paragraph 2

(Ezekiel 38:18) “On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, ‘my great rage will flare up.

(Jeremiah 25:29) For look! if I am bringing calamity first on the city that bears my name, should you go unpunished?” “You will not go unpunished, for I am calling for a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth,” declares Jehovah of armies.

(Jeremiah 25:33) “And those slain by Jehovah in that day will be from one end of the earth clear to the other end of the earth. They will not be mourned, nor will they be gathered up or buried. They will become like manure on the surface of the ground.’

Paragraph 3

(Exodus 34:6) Jehovah was passing before him and declaring: “Jehovah, Jehovah, a God

merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in loyal love and truth,

(1 John 4:16) And we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in union with God and God remains in union with him.

Paragraph 4

(Genesis 4:3-8) After some time, Cain brought some fruits of the land as an offering to Jehovah. 4 But Abel brought some firstlings of his flock, including their fat. While Jehovah looked with favor on Abel and on his offering, 5 he did not look with any favor on Cain and on his offering. So Cain grew hot with anger and was dejected. 6 Then Jehovah said to Cain: “Why are you so angry and dejected? 7 If you turn to doing good, will you not be restored to favor? But if you do not turn to doing good, sin is crouching at the door, and its craving is to dominate you; but will you get the mastery over it?” 8 After that Cain said to his brother Abel: “Let us go over into the field.” So while they were in the field, Cain assaulted his brother Abel and killed him.

(Hebrews 11:4) By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than that of Cain, and through that faith he received the witness that he was righteous, for God approved his gifts, and although he died, he still speaks through his faith.

(Acts 13:22) After removing him, he raised up for them David as king, about whom he bore witness and said: ‘I have found David the son of Jes'se a man agreeable to my heart; he will do all the things I desire.’

(1 Samuel 25:9-14) So David's young men went and told all of this to Na'bal in David's name. When they finished, 10 Na'bal answered David's servants: “Who is David, and who is the son of Jes'se? Nowadays many servants are breaking away from their masters. 11 Do I have to take my bread and my water and the meat that I butchered for my shearers and give

it to men who come from who knows where?"
12 At that David's young men returned and reported all these words to him. 13 David immediately said to his men: "Everyone strap on your sword!" So they all strapped on their swords, and David also strapped on his own sword, and about 400 men went up with David, while 200 men stayed with the baggage. 14 Meanwhile, one of the servants reported to Ab'i-gail, Na'bal's wife: "Look! David sent messengers from the wilderness to wish our master well, but he screamed insults at them.

(1 Samuel 25:32, 33) At this David said to Ab'i-gail: "Praise Jehovah the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 And blessed be your good sense! May you be blessed for restraining me this day from incurring bloodguilt and from taking revenge with my own hands.

(James 1:20) for man's anger does not bring about God's righteousness.

Paragraph 5

(Genesis 18:22-25) Then the men left from there and went toward Sod'om, but Jehovah remained with Abraham. 23 Then Abraham approached and said: "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it? 25 It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?"

Paragraph 6

(Ezekiel 36:23) 'I will certainly sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them; and the nations will have to know that I am Jehovah,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, 'when I am sanctified among you before their eyes.

(Jeremiah 30:11) "For I am with you," declares Jehovah, "to save you. But I will make an extermination among all the nations to which I scattered you; However, you I will not exterminate. I will discipline you to the proper degree, And I will by no means leave you unpunished."

(Psalm 103:9) He will not always find fault, Nor will he stay resentful forever.

Paragraph 7

(Isaiah 43:10) "You are my witnesses," declares Jehovah, "Yes, my servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and have faith in me And understand that I am the same One. Before me no God was formed, And after me there has been none.

(Hebrews 3:13) but keep on encouraging one another each day, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you should become hardened by the deceptive power of sin.

(Hebrews 3:15) As it is said, "Today if you listen to his voice, do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of provoking to bitter anger."

(2 Peter 2:1, 2) However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These will quietly bring in destructive sects, and they will even disown the owner who bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. 2 Furthermore, many will follow their brazen conduct, and because of them the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively.

Paragraph 8

(Isaiah 55:7) Let the wicked man leave his way And the evil man his thoughts; Let him return to Jehovah, who will have mercy on him, To our God, for he will forgive in a large way.

(Romans 2:4) Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, because you do not know that God in his kindness is trying to lead you to repentance?

(1 Corinthians 5:11-13) But now I am writing you to stop keeping company with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. 12 For what do I have to do with judging those outside? Do you not judge those inside, 13 while God judges those outside? “Remove the wicked person from among yourselves.”

(John 3:36) The one who exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

(Romans 1:26-32) That is why God gave them over to disgraceful sexual passion, for their females changed the natural use of themselves into one contrary to nature; 27 likewise also the males left the natural use of the female and became violently inflamed in their lust toward one another, males with males, working what is obscene and receiving in themselves the full penalty, which was due for their error. 28 Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a disapproved mental state, to do the things not fitting. 29 And they were filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice, being whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, schemers of what is harmful, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, false to agreements, having no natural affection, and merciless. 32 Although these know full well the righteous decree of God—that those practicing such things are deserving of death—they not only keep on doing them but also approve of those practicing them.

(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.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 148 and Prayer