

- Song 1 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “‘The Judge of All the Earth’ Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah”: (10 min.)

18:23-25, 32; 19:24, 25

What do we learn from Jehovah’s actions regarding Sodom and Gomorrah?

- Jehovah will not indefinitely tolerate wickedness
- Those who survive the coming judgment will be those who pay attention to God’s will and do it.—Lu 17:28-30

ASK YOURSELF: ‘Does the brazen conduct of this wicked world distress me?’ (2Pe 2:7) ‘Does my daily life show that doing Jehovah’s will is most important to me?’

- (Genesis 18:23-25) 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?”
- (Genesis 18:32) Finally he said: “Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there.” He answered: “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

- (Genesis 19:24, 25) Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sod’om and Go-mor’rah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. 25 So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground.
- (Luke 17:28-30) Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. 29 But on the day that Lot went out of Sod’om, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 It will be the same on that day when the Son of man is revealed.
- (2 Peter 2:7) And he rescued righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the brazen conduct of the lawless people—

Ge 18:23-25—Abraham was confident that Jehovah always renders righteous judgments (w17.04 18 ¶1)

(Genesis 18:23-25) 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?”

*** w17 April p. 18 par. 1 “The Judge of All the Earth” Always Does What Is Right ***

“WILL the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?” (Gen. 18:25) With that question, Abraham expressed confidence that Jehovah would render perfect justice in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham was convinced that Jehovah would never act unjustly by “putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one.” Such an act was “unthinkable” to Abraham. Some 400 years later, Jehovah said of himself: “The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness who is never unjust; righteous and upright is he.”—Deut. 31:19; 32:4.

- (Genesis 18:25) 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?”
- (Deuteronomy 31:19) “Now write down this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites. Have them learn it in order that this song may serve as my witness against the people of Israel.
- (Deuteronomy 32:4) The Rock, perfect is his activity, For all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness who is never unjust; Righteous and upright is he.

Ge 18:32—Jehovah affirmed that he would not destroy Sodom if ten righteous men were found there (w18.08 30 ¶4)

(Genesis 18:32) 32 Finally he said: “Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there.” He answered: “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

*** w18 August p. 30 Patience—Endurance With a Purpose ***

Of course, when it comes to exercising patience, Jehovah is the most outstanding example for us to follow. (2 Pet. 3:15) There are many accounts in God’s Word of times when Jehovah displayed great patience. (Neh. 9:30; Isa. 30:18) For instance, how did Jehovah react when Abraham questioned His decision to destroy Sodom? First of all, Jehovah did not interrupt as Abraham spoke. Instead, Jehovah listened patiently to each of Abraham’s questions and concerns. Then, Jehovah showed that he had listened as he repeated Abraham’s concerns and assured him that He would not destroy Sodom even if just ten righteous men were found in that city. (Gen. 18:22-33) What a fine example of patient listening and of not overreacting!

- (2 Peter 3:15) Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you according to the wisdom given him,
- (Nehemiah 9:30) You extended patience to them for many years and kept warning them by your spirit through your prophets, but they refused to listen. Finally you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.
- (Isaiah 30:18) But Jehovah is waiting patiently to show you favor, And he will rise up to show you mercy. For Jehovah is a God of justice. Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him.
- (Genesis 18:22-33) 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?" 26 Then Jehovah said: "If I find in Sod'om 50 righteous men in the city, I will pardon the whole place for their sake." 27 But Abraham again responded: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah, whereas I am dust and ashes. 28 Suppose the 50 righteous should lack five. Because of the five will you destroy the whole city?" To this he said: "I will not destroy it if I find there 45." 29 But yet again he spoke to him and said: "Suppose 40 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it for the sake of the 40." 30 But he continued: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me go on speaking: Suppose only 30 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it if I find 30 there." 31 But he continued: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah: Suppose only 20 are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20." 32 Finally he said: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten." 33 When Jehovah finished speaking to Abraham, he went his way and Abraham returned to his place.

Ge 19:24, 25—Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness of their inhabitants (w10 11/15 26 ¶12)

(Genesis 19:24, 25) 24 Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sod'om and Go·mor'rah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. 25 So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground.

*** w10 11/15 p. 26 par. 12 Jehovah Is Our Sovereign Lord! ***

12 We can be certain that Jehovah will soon assert his sovereignty. He will not endlessly tolerate wickedness, and we know that we are living in the last days. Jehovah took action against the wicked during the Flood. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and Pharaoh and his forces. Sisera and his army and Sennacherib and his Assyrian troops were no match for the Most High. (Gen. 7:1, 23; 19:24, 25; Ex. 14:30, 31; Judg. 4:15, 16; 2 Ki. 19:35, 36) We can therefore be confident that Jehovah God will not indefinitely put up with disrespect for his name and mistreatment of his Witnesses. Furthermore, we now see evidence of the sign of Jesus' presence and of the conclusion of this wicked system of things.—Matt. 24:3.

- (Genesis 7:1) After that Jehovah said to Noah: "Go into the ark, you and all your household, because you are the one I have found to be righteous before me among this generation.
- (Genesis 7:23) So He wiped every living thing from the surface of the earth, including man, animals, creeping animals, and the flying creatures of the sky. They were all wiped off the earth; only Noah and those with him in the ark survived.
- (Genesis 19:24, 25) Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sod'om and Go·mor'rah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. 25 So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground.
- (Exodus 14:30, 31) Thus Jehovah saved Israel on that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel also saw the great power that Jehovah wielded against the Egyptians, and the people began to fear Jehovah and to put

faith in Jehovah and in his servant Moses.

- (Judges 4:15, 16) Then Jehovah threw Sis'e-ra and all his war chariots and all the army into confusion before the sword of Ba'rak. Finally Sis'e-ra got down from his chariot and fled on foot. 16 Ba'rak chased after the war chariots and the army as far as Ha-ro'sheth of the nations. So Sis'e-ra's whole army fell by the sword; not even one remained.
- (2 Kings 19:35, 36) On that very night the angel of Jehovah went out and struck down 185,000 men in the camp of the As-syr'i-ans. When people rose up early in the morning, they saw all the dead bodies. 36 So King Sen-nach'er-ib of As-syr'i-a departed and returned to Nin'e-veh and stayed there.
- (Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Ge 18:1, 22—How was it that "Jehovah appeared to" Abraham and "remained with" him? (w88 5/15 23 ¶4-5)

(Genesis 18:1) 18 Afterward, Jehovah appeared to him among the big trees of Mam're while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day.

(Genesis 18:22) 22 Then the men left from there and went toward Sod'om, but Jehovah remained with Abraham.

* w88 5/15 p. 23 Has Anyone Seen God? ***

Now it is possible to understand why Abraham addressed the materialized angelic spokesman of God as if he were talking to Jehovah God himself. Since this angel spoke precisely what God wanted to have said to Abraham and was there personally representing Him, the Biblical record could say that "Jehovah appeared to him."—Genesis 18:1.

Remember that an angelic spokesman for God could transmit His messages just as precisely as a telephone or a radio can transmit our words to another person. Hence, it can be understood how Abraham, Moses, Manoah, and others could speak with a materialized angel as if they were talking to God. While such individuals were able to see these angels and the glory of Jehovah reflected by them, they were not able to see God. Therefore, this in no way contradicts the apostle John's statement: "No man has seen God at any time." (John 1:18) What these men saw were angelic representatives and not God himself.

- (Genesis 18:1) Afterward, Jehovah appeared to him among the big trees of Mam're while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day.
- (John 1:18) No man has seen God at any time; the only-begotten god who is at the Father's side is the one who has explained Him.

Ge 19:26—Why did Lot's wife become "a pillar of salt"? (w19.06 20 ¶3)

(Genesis 19:26) 26 But Lot's wife, who was behind him, began to look back, and she became a pillar of salt.

*** w19 June pp. 20-21 par. 3 Help Others Deal With Stress ***

3 Lot made a bad decision when he chose to live among the grossly immoral people of Sodom. (Read 2 Peter 2:7, 8.) The region was

prosperous, but Lot paid a high price for moving to Sodom. (Gen. 13:8-13; 14:12) His wife apparently became so attached to the city or to some of the people living there that she disobeyed Jehovah. She lost her life when God rained fire and sulfur on the region. And think of Lot's two daughters. They were engaged to men who died in Sodom. Lot lost his home, his possessions and, most painful of all, his wife. (Gen. 19:12-14, 17, 26) During this stressful period, did Jehovah lose patience with Lot? No.

- (2 Peter 2:7, 8) And he rescued righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the brazen conduct of the lawless people— 8 for day after day that righteous man was tormenting his righteous soul over the lawless deeds that he saw and heard while dwelling among them.
- (Genesis 13:8-13) So A'bram said to Lot: "Please, there should be no quarreling between me and you and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land available to you? Please, separate from me. If you go to the left, then I will go to the right; but if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 So Lot raised his eyes and saw that the whole district of the Jordan was a well-watered region (before Jehovah destroyed Sod'om and Go-mor'rah), like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt, as far as Zo'ar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself the whole district of the Jordan, and Lot moved his camp to the east. So they separated from each other. 12 A'bram lived in the land of Ca'naan, but Lot lived among the cities of the district. Finally he set up his tent near Sod'om. 13 Now the men of Sod'om were wicked, gross sinners against Jehovah.
- (Genesis 14:12) They also took Lot, the son of A'bram's brother who was

dwelling in Sod'om, as well as his goods, and they continued on their way.

- (Genesis 19:12-14) Then the men said to Lot: "Do you have anyone else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and all your people in the city, bring out of this place! 13 For we are going to destroy this place, because the outcry against them has indeed grown great before Jehovah, so that Jehovah sent us to destroy the city." 14 So Lot went out and began to speak to his sons-in-law who were to marry his daughters, and he kept saying: "Get up! Get out of this place, because Jehovah will destroy the city!" But to his sons-in-law, he seemed to be joking.
- (Genesis 19:17) As soon as they had brought them to the outskirts, he said: "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you and do not stand still in any part of the district! Escape to the mountainous region so that you may not be swept away!"
- (Genesis 19:26) But Lot's wife, who was behind him, began to look back, and she became a pillar of salt.

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

Bible Reading:) (4 min. or less) •

Ge 18:1-19 (th study 12)

. (Genesis 18:1-19) 18 Afterward, Jehovah appeared to him among the big trees of Mam're while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing some distance from him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. 3 Then he said: "Jehovah, if I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant. 4 Please, let a little water be brought and have your feet washed; then recline under the tree. 5 Seeing that you have come here to your servant, let me bring a piece of bread so that you may refresh yourselves. Then you may go on your way." At this they said: "All right. You may do as you have spoken." 6 So Abraham hurried to the tent to Sarah and said: "Quick! Get three measures of fine flour, knead the dough, and make loaves of bread." 7 Next Abraham ran to the herd and chose a tender and good young bull. He gave it to the attendant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then took butter and milk and the young bull that he had prepared and set the food before them. Then he stood by them under the tree as they were eating. 9 They said to him: "Where is your wife Sarah?" He replied: "Here in the tent." 10 So one of them continued: "I will surely return to you next year at this time, and look! your wife Sarah will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the tent entrance, which was behind the man. 11 Abraham and Sarah were old, being advanced in years. Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah began to laugh to herself, saying: "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I really have this pleasure?" 13 Then Jehovah said to Abraham: "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Am I really going to give birth even though I am old?' 14 Is anything too extraordinary for Jehovah? I will return to you next year at this appointed time, and Sarah will have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh!" for she was afraid. At this he said: "Yes! You did laugh." 16 When the men got up to leave and looked down toward

Sod'om, Abraham was walking with them to escort them. 17 Jehovah said: "Am I keeping hidden from Abraham what I am going to do? 18 Why, Abraham is surely going to become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by means of him. 19 For I have come to know him in order that he may command his sons and his household after him to keep Jehovah's way by doing what is right and just, so that Jehovah may bring about what he has promised concerning Abraham."

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

• **First Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience the following questions: How did the publisher properly introduce the scripture? How did he make clear the application of the scripture?**

How did the publisher properly introduce the scripture?

How did he make clear the application of the scripture?

• First Return Visit: (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 6)

○●○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What Bible prophecies are we seeing fulfilled?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What blessings will people enjoy in the future that God promises?

- (2 Timothy 3:1-5) 3 But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, 3 having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, 4 betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, 5 having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• bhs 98 ¶10

*** bhs chap. 9 p. 98 Is the End of the World Near? ***

WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE LIKE IN THE LAST DAYS

10 At 2 Timothy 3:1-5, the Bible says: “In the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here.” The apostle Paul described how many people would behave during the last days. He said people would

- be selfish
- love money
- disobey their parents
- not be loyal
- lack affection for their family
- have no self-control
- be violent and aggressive
- love pleasures more than God
- pretend to love God but refuse to obey him

• fg lesson 1 ¶3

*** fg lesson 1 ques. 2 ***

2. Why is the good news urgent?

Suffering will end only when God clears the earth of bad people. (Zephaniah 2:3) When will that happen? God’s Word foretold the conditions that now threaten mankind. Current events indicate that God’s time to act is close.—Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

First Return Visit: (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer the Teach Us book, and discuss the artwork on page 98. (th study 9)

○●○ FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What Bible prophecies are we seeing fulfilled?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What blessings will people enjoy in the future that God promises?

- (2 Timothy 3:1-5) 3 But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, 3 having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, 4 betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, 5 having an appearance of godliness but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• **bhs 98 ¶10**

*** bhs chap. 9 p. 98 Is the End of the World Near? ***

WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE LIKE IN THE LAST DAYS

10 At 2 Timothy 3:1-5, the Bible says: “In the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here.” The apostle Paul described how many people would behave during the last days. He said people would

- be selfish
- love money
- disobey their parents
- not be loyal
- lack affection for their family
- have no self-control
- be violent and aggressive
- love pleasures more than God
- pretend to love God but refuse to obey him



LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 35

- **“Are You Benefiting From Examining the Scriptures Daily?”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Do Not Love the World (1Jo 2:15).**

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Are You Benefiting From Examining the Scriptures Daily?

Does your spiritual routine include reading the Bible text and comments for the day from Examining the Scriptures Daily? If not, can you make it part of your routine? Many consider the text early in the day so that they can reflect on those thoughts as they go about their daily activities. (Jos 1:8; Ps 119:97) How might you benefit even more from the Scripture text? Read the context of the Bible verse to determine the background. Try to think of a Bible account that illustrates the principle highlighted in the text. Then apply the principle to your own life. When God’s Word affects your decisions, it will direct your life and truly benefit you.—Ps 119:105.

Bethel families around the world consider Examining the Scriptures Daily at breakfast time. In recent years, many of these discussions have been posted on JW Broadcasting® under the category PROGRAMS AND EVENTS. When was the last time you reviewed one or more of them?

Perhaps some of the material is exactly what you need. For instance, how might the account of Lot influence your decisions?

WATCH THE VIDEO DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD (1JO 2:15), AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

• What Bible principle was the foundation for this Morning Worship discussion?

• How does the account of Lot illustrate the danger of loving the world or the things in it?— Ge 13:12; 14:12; 19:3, 12, 13, 24-26

• How do we show that we love Jehovah and not the world or the things in it?

[Pictures on page 7]

How can I show throughout the day that I value Jehovah's Word?

• (Joshua 1:8) This book of the Law should not depart from your mouth, and you must read it in an undertone

day and night, in order to observe carefully all that is written in it; for then your way will be successful and then you will act wisely.

- (Psalm 119:97) How I do love your law! I ponder over it all day long.
- (Psalm 119:105) Your word is a lamp to my foot, And a light for my path.
- (Genesis 13:12) A'bram lived in the land of Ca'naan, but Lot lived among the cities of the district. Finally he set up his tent near Sod'om.
- (Genesis 14:12) They also took Lot, the son of A'bram's brother who was dwelling in Sod'om, as well as his goods, and they continued on their way.
- (Genesis 19:3) But he was so insistent with them that they went with him to his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unleavened bread, and they ate.
- (Genesis 19:12, 13) Then the men said to Lot: "Do you have anyone else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and all your people in the city, bring out of this place! 13 For we are going to destroy this place, because the outcry against them has indeed grown great before Jehovah, so that Jehovah sent us to destroy the city."
- (Genesis 19:24-26) Then Jehovah made it rain sulfur and fire on Sod'om and Go-mor'rah—it came from Jehovah, from the heavens. 25 So he overthrew these cities, yes, the entire district, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. 26 But Lot's wife, who was behind him, began to look back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

CHAPTER 104

The Jews Hear God's Voice—Will They Show Faith?

(John 12:28-50) Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was standing there heard it and began to say that it had thundered. Others said: "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered: "This voice has occurred, not for my sake, but for your sakes. 31 Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And yet I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all sorts of men to myself." 33 This he was really saying to indicate what sort of death he was about to die. 34 Then the crowd answered him: "We heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?" 35 So Jesus said to them: "The light will be among you a little while longer. Walk while you still have the light, so that darkness does not overpower you; whoever walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, exercise faith in the light, so that you may become sons of light." Jesus said these things and went off and hid from them. 37 Although he had performed so many signs before them, they were not putting faith in him, 38 so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, who said: "Jehovah, who has put faith in the thing heard from us? And as for the arm of Jehovah, to whom has it been revealed?" 39 The reason why they were not able to believe is that again Isaiah said: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and has made their hearts hard, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn around and I heal them." 41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory, and he spoke about him. 42 All the same, many even of the rulers actually put faith in him, but they

would not acknowledge him because of the Pharisees, so that they would not be expelled from the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory of men even more than the glory of God. 44 However, Jesus called out and said: "Whoever puts faith in me puts faith not only in me but also in him who sent me; 45 and whoever sees me sees also the One who sent me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. 47 But if anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I came, not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 Whoever disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of my own initiative, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment means everlasting life. So whatever I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me."

Paragraph 1 on Page 242

(John 12:27, 28) Now I am troubled, and what should I say? Father, save me out of this hour. Nevertheless, this is why I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

Paragraph 2 on Page 242

(John 12:29) The crowd that was standing there heard it and began to say that it had thundered. Others said: "An angel has spoken to him."

Paragraph 3 on Page 242

(Matthew 3:17) Look! Also, a voice from the heavens said: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved."

(Matthew 17:5) While he was still speaking, look! a bright cloud overshadowed them, and look! a voice out of the cloud said: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved. Listen to him."

Paragraph 4 on Page 242

(John 12:30) Jesus answered: "This voice has occurred, not for my sake, but for your sakes.

Paragraph 5 on Page 242

(John 12:31, 32) Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And yet I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all sorts of men to myself."

Paragraph 6 on Page 242

(John 12:34) Then the crowd answered him: "We heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?"

Paragraph 7 on Page 242

(John 8:12) Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will by no means walk in darkness, but will possess the light of life."

(John 9:5) As long as I am in the world, I am the world's light."

(John 12:35, 36) So Jesus said to them: "The light will be among you a little while longer. Walk while you still have the light, so that darkness does not overpower you; whoever walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, exercise faith in the light, so that you may become sons of light." Jesus said these things and went off and hid from them.

(Galatians 3:13) Christ purchased us, releasing us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse instead of us, because it is written: "Accursed is every man hung upon a stake."

Paragraph 8 on Page 242

(Isaiah 6:10) Make the heart of this people unreceptive, Make their ears unresponsive, And paste their eyes together, So that they may not see with their eyes And hear with their ears, So that their heart may not understand And they may not turn back and be healed."

(John 12:40) "He has blinded their eyes and has made their hearts hard, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn around and I heal them."

Paragraph 9 on Page 242

(John 12:42, 43) All the same, many even of the rulers actually put faith in him, but they would not acknowledge him because of the Pharisees, so that they would not be expelled from the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory of men even more than the glory of God.

Paragraph 10 on Page 242

(John 12:44, 45) However, Jesus called out and said: "Whoever puts faith in me puts faith not only in me but also in him who sent me; 45 and whoever sees me sees also the One who sent me.

(John 12:48) Whoever disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him on the last day.

Paragraph 1 on Page 243

(John 12:49, 50) For I have not spoken of my own initiative, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment means everlasting life. So whatever I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me."

(Romans 5:8, 9) But God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more, then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.

◇ With regard to Jesus, on what three occasions has God's voice been heard?

◇ What rulers put faith in Jesus, but why might they not confess him openly?

◇ On what basis will people be judged "on the last day"?

- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 2 and Prayer