

- Song 25 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- “The Illustration of the Olive Tree”: (10 min.)  
25:11; 26:1-3, 28



11:16-26

What do the various features of the symbolic olive tree represent?

- The tree: the fulfillment of God’s purpose regarding the Abrahamic covenant
- The trunk: Jesus, the principal part of Abraham’s offspring
- The branches: the full number of the secondary part of Abraham’s offspring

The “broken off” branches: natural Jews who rejected Jesus

The “grafted in” branches: spirit-anointed Christians out of the nations

As foretold, Abraham’s offspring—Jesus and the 144,000—will bring blessings “to people of the nations.”—Ro 11:12; Ge 22:18

What do I learn about Jehovah from the way he fulfilled his purpose regarding Abraham’s offspring?

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**Ro 11:16—The cultivated olive tree represents the fulfillment of God’s purpose regarding the Abrahamic covenant (w11 5/15 23 ¶13)**

**(Romans 11:16) 16 Further, if the part of the dough taken as firstfruits is holy, the entire batch is also holy; and if the root is holy, the branches are also.**

\*\*\* w11 5/15 p. 23 par. 13 ‘O the Depth of God’s Wisdom!’ \*\*\*

13 The apostle Paul goes on to compare those who become part of Abraham’s seed to branches on a symbolic olive tree. (Rom. 11:21) This cultivated olive tree represents the fulfillment of God’s purpose with regard to the Abrahamic covenant. The root of the tree is holy and represents Jehovah as the one who gives life to spiritual Israel. (Isa. 10:20; Rom. 11:16) The trunk represents Jesus as the primary part of Abraham’s seed. The branches collectively represent “the full number” of those included in the secondary part of Abraham’s seed.

- (Romans 11:21) For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.

- (Isaiah 10:20) In that day those remaining of Israel And the survivors of the house of Jacob Will no longer support themselves on the one who struck them; But they will support themselves on Jehovah, The Holy One of Israel, with faithfulness.
- (Romans 11:16) Further, if the part of the dough taken as firstfruits is holy, the entire batch is also holy; and if the root is holy, the branches are also.

them to become spiritual Jews.—Rom. 2:28, 29.

- (Romans 11:17, 18) However, if some of the branches were broken off and you, although being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became a sharer of the richness of the olive's root, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches. If, though, you are arrogant toward them, remember that it is not you who bears the root, but the root bears you.
- (Romans 2:28, 29) For he is not a Jew who is one on the outside, nor is circumcision something on the outside, on the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one on the inside, and his circumcision is that of the heart by spirit and not by a written code. That person's praise comes from God, not from people.

**Ro 11:17, 20, 21—Anointed ones grafted onto the symbolic olive tree must continue to exercise faith (w11 5/15 24 ¶15)**

**(Romans 11:17) 17 However, if some of the branches were broken off and you, although being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became a sharer of the richness of the olive's root,**

**(Romans 11:20, 21) 20 That is true! For their lack of faith, they were broken off, but you are standing by faith. Do not be haughty, but be in fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.**

**Ro 11:25, 26—The complete number of spiritual Israelites “will be saved” (w11 5/15 25 ¶19)**

**(Romans 11:25, 26) 25 For I do not want you to be unaware of this sacred secret, brothers, so that you do not become wise in your own eyes: A partial dulling of senses has come upon Israel until the full number of people of the nations has come in, 26 and in this manner all Israel will be saved. Just as it is written: “The deliverer will come out of Zion and turn away ungodly practices from Jacob.**

\*\*\* w11 5/15 p. 24 par. 15 ‘O the Depth of God's Wisdom!’ \*\*\*

15 What, then, did Jehovah do to fulfill his purpose? Paul explains that branches from a wild olive tree were grafted onto the cultivated olive tree to replace those broken off. (Read Romans 11:17, 18.) Thus, spirit-anointed Christians of the nations, such as some in the congregation in Rome, were figuratively grafted onto this symbolic olive tree. In this way they became part of Abraham's seed. Originally, they were like wild olive branches, not having any opportunity to be a part of this special covenant. But Jehovah opened the way for

\*\*\* w11 5/15 p. 25 par. 19 ‘O the Depth of God's Wisdom!’ \*\*\*

19 Yes, Jehovah's purpose with regard to “the Israel of God” is being fulfilled in a marvelous way. (Gal. 6:16) As Paul said, “all Israel will be saved.” (Rom. 11:26) In Jehovah's due time, “all Israel”—that is, the complete number of spiritual Israelites—will serve as kings and

priests in heaven. Nothing can cause Jehovah's purpose to fail!

- (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.
- (Romans 11:26) and in this manner all Israel will be saved. Just as it is written: "The deliverer will come out of Zion and turn away ungodly practices from Jacob.

### Digging for Spiritual Gems:

**Ro 9:21-23—Why should we yield to the molding of the Great Potter, Jehovah? (w13 6/15 25 ¶5)**

**(Romans 9:21-23) 21 What? Does not the potter have authority over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for an honorable use, another for a dishonorable use? 22 What, then, if God had the will to demonstrate his wrath and to make his power known, and he tolerated with much patience vessels of wrath made fit for destruction? 23 And if this was done to make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory,**

\*\*\* w13 6/15 p. 25 par. 5 Let Jehovah's Discipline Mold You \*\*\*

5 What if humans stubbornly refuse to be molded by the Great Potter? How, then, does he exercise his divine authority? Think about what happens to the clay if it becomes unsuited for the intended purpose. Why, the potter can make another type of vessel out of it or simply discard it! When the clay is useless, though, generally the potter is at fault. This is never the case with our Potter. (Deut. 32:4) When a person does not yield to Jehovah's molding, the fault always lies with that person. Jehovah exercises his potterlike authority over humans by adjusting his dealings with them depending on their response to his molding.

Those who respond properly are fashioned in a beneficial way. For example, anointed Christians are "vessels of mercy" who have been molded into 'vessels for an honorable use.' On the other hand, those who stubbornly oppose God end up as "vessels of wrath made fit for destruction."—Rom. 9:19-23.

- (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.
- (Romans 9:19-23) You will therefore say to me: "Why does he still find fault? For who has withstood his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to be answering back to God? Does the thing molded say to its molder: "Why did you make me this way?" 21 What? Does not the potter have authority over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for an honorable use, another for a dishonorable use? 22 What, then, if God had the will to demonstrate his wrath and to make his power known, and he tolerated with much patience vessels of wrath made fit for destruction? 23 And if this was done to make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory,

**Ro 10:2—Why must we be certain that our worship is based on accurate knowledge? (it-1 1260 ¶2)**

**(Romans 10:2) 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to accurate knowledge.**

\*\*\* it-1 p. 1260 Jealous, Jealousy \*\*\*

Misdirected Zeal. One may be sincerely zealous, or jealous, for a certain cause and yet be wrong and displeasing to God. That was true of many of the Jews of the first century. They looked for righteousness to come to them through their own works under the Mosaic Law.

But Paul showed that their zeal was misdirected because of lack of accurate knowledge. Therefore they did not receive the real righteousness that comes from God. They would have to see their error and turn to God through Christ to receive righteousness and freedom from the condemnation of the Law. (Ro 10:1-10) Saul of Tarsus was one of such, being extremely zealous for Judaism to the point of excess, “persecuting the congregation of God and devastating it.” He was scrupulously keeping the Law as “one who proved himself blameless.” (Ga 1:13, 14; Php 3:6) Yet his jealousy for Judaism was a misdirected one. He was sincere of heart, for which reason Jehovah exercised undeserved kindness through Christ in turning him to the way of true worship.—1Ti 1:12, 13.

- (Romans 10:1-10) Brothers, the goodwill of my heart and my supplication to God for them are indeed for their salvation. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to accurate knowledge. 3 For because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the Law, so that everyone exercising faith may have righteousness. 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is by the Law: “The man who does these things will live by means of them.” 6 But the righteousness resulting from faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ that is, to bring Christ down, 7 or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.” 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart”; that is, “the word” of faith, which we are preaching. 9 For if you publicly declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be

saved. 10 For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation.

- (Galatians 1:13, 14) Of course, you heard about my conduct formerly in Ju'da-ism, that I kept intensely persecuting the congregation of God and devastating it; 14 and I was making greater progress in Ju'da-ism than many of my own age in my nation, as I was far more zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
- (Philippians 3:6) regarding zeal, persecuting the congregation; regarding righteousness based on law, one who proved himself blameless.
- (1 Timothy 1:12, 13) I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who imparted power to me, because he considered me faithful by assigning me to a ministry, 13 although formerly I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man. Nevertheless, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and with a lack of faith.

**What has this week's Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?**

**What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?**

**Bible Reading: ) Ro 10:1-15**

(4 min. or less) •

(Romans 10:1-15) 10 Brothers, the goodwill of my heart and my supplication to God for them are indeed for their salvation. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to accurate knowledge. 3 For because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the Law, so that everyone exercising faith may have righteousness.

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is by the Law: “The man who does these things will live by means of them.” 6 But the righteousness resulting from faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ that is, to bring Christ down, 7 or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.” 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your own mouth and in your own heart”; that is, “the word” of faith, which we are preaching. 9 For if you publicly declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation.

11 For the scripture says: “No one who rests his faith on him will be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. There is the same Lord over all, who is rich toward all those calling on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved.” 14 However, how will they call on him if they have not put faith in him? How, in turn, will they put faith in him about whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach? 15 How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent out? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!”

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

**Second Return Visit Video: (5 min.)**  
Play and discuss the video.

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

○○● SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: Is the Bible’s advice practical?

Scripture: Pr 14:30

Link: Has the Bible accurately foretold the future?

- (Proverbs 14:30) 30 A calm heart gives life to the body, But jealousy is rottenness to the bones.

**• Bible Study: (5 min. or less)** Begin with the second return visit sample conversation, and then start a Bible study using the Teach Us book. (th study 9)



**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 60

- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Discontinuing Unproductive Bible Studies”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video.



**WHY IMPORTANT:** People must call on the name of Jehovah in order to be saved. (Ro 10:13, 14) Yet, not everyone who agrees to study the Bible wants to live by Jehovah’s standards. We make the best use of our precious time in the ministry by helping those who truly want to make changes to please Jehovah. If a Bible student does not make meaningful progress after a reasonable period of time, we wisely redirect our efforts to those whom Jehovah is drawing to him and his organization. (Joh 6:44) Of course, if at a future time the person gives evidence of being “rightly disposed for everlasting life,” we gladly resume his Bible study.—Ac 13:48.

- (Romans 10:13, 14) For “everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved.” 14 However, how will they call on him if they have not put faith in him? How, in turn, will they put faith in him about whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach?
- (John 6:44) No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws

him, and I will resurrect him on the last day.

- (Acts 13:48) When those of the nations heard this, they began to rejoice and to glorify the word of Jehovah, and all those who were rightly disposed for everlasting life became believers.

**HOW TO DO IT:**

- Commend the student for wanting to gain accurate knowledge.—1Ti 2:4
- (1 Timothy 2:4) whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.
- Emphasize the importance of applying what he has learned.—Lu 6:46-49
- (Luke 6:46-49) “Why, then, do you call me ‘Lord! Lord!’ but do not do the things I say? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man who in building a house dug and went down deep and laid a foundation on the rock. Consequently, when a flood came, the river dashed against that house but was not strong enough to shake it, for it was well-built. 49 On the other hand, whoever hears and does nothing is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The river dashed against it, and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”
- Kindly discuss Jesus’ illustration of the sower, and ask him to consider what may be holding him back.—Mt 13:18-23
- (Matthew 13:18-23) “Now listen to the illustration of the man who sowed. 19 Where anyone hears the word of the Kingdom but does not get the sense of it, the wicked one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart;

this is the one sown alongside the road. 20 As for the one sown on rocky ground, this is the one hearing the word and at once accepting it with joy. 21 Yet, he has no root in himself but continues for a time, and after tribulation or persecution has arisen on account of the word, he is at once stumbled. 22 As for the one sown among the thorns, this is the one hearing the word, but the anxiety of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 As for the one sown upon the fine soil, this is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one 100 times more, that one 60, the other 30.”

- Tactfully explain why you are discontinuing the study
- Let him know that you will call periodically to encourage him and that the study can resume in the future if he makes progress

WATCH THE VIDEO, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What did you learn from the conversation that indicated that the student was not making spiritual progress?

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- How did the publisher help the student appreciate that he needed to make changes?

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- How did the publisher leave the door open for the study to resume in the future?

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[Box on page 7]

Before discontinuing a Bible study, seek Jehovah’s direction in prayer. While taking into account the student’s age or other limitations, look for indications of meaningful progress.

- Does the person keep his appointments to study?

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- Does he prepare for the study?

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- Does he attend congregation meetings?

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• Is he making changes in harmony with Bible principles?

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• Does he share with others what he is learning?

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• Is he withdrawing from false religion?

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Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

1 John chap. 5:6

(Matthew 15:1-20) Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying: 2 "Why do your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal." 3 In reply he said to them: "Why do you overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For example, God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Let the one who speaks abusively of his father or mother be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother: "Whatever I have that could benefit you is a gift dedicated to God," 6 he need not honor his father at all.' So you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you when he said: 8 'This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. 9 It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, for they teach commands of men as doctrines.'" 10 With that he called the crowd near and said to them: "Listen and get the sense of it: 11 It is not what enters into a man's mouth that defiles him, but it is what comes out of his mouth that defiles him." 12 Then the disciples came and said to him: "Do you know that the Pharisees were stumbled at hearing what you said?" 13 In reply he said: "Every plant that my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. 14 Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." 15 Peter responded: "Make the illustration plain to us." 16 At this he said: "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Are you not aware that whatever enters into the mouth passes through the stomach and is discharged into the sewer? 18 However, whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and those things defile a man. 19 For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, sexual immorality, thefts, false



testimonies, blasphemies. 20 These are the things that defile a man; but to take a meal with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

(Mark 7:1-23) Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him. 2 And they saw some of his disciples eat their meal with defiled hands, that is, unwashed ones. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, clinging to the tradition of the men of former times, 4 and when they come from the market, they do not eat unless they wash themselves. There are many other traditions that they have received and cling to, such as baptisms of cups, pitchers, and copper vessels.) 5 So these Pharisees and scribes asked him: “Why do your disciples not observe the tradition of the men of former times, but they eat their meal with defiled hands?” 6 He said to them: “Isaiah aptly prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. 7 It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, for they teach commands of men as doctrines.’ 8 You let go of the commandment of God and cling to the tradition of men.” 9 Further, he said to them: “You skillfully disregard the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 For example, Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Let the one who speaks abusively of his father or mother be put to death.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother: “Whatever I have that could benefit you is corban (that is, a gift dedicated to God),”’ 12 you no longer let him do a single thing for his father or his mother. 13 Thus you make the word of God invalid by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like this.” 14 So calling the crowd to him again, he said to them: “Listen to me, all of you, and understand the meaning. 15 Nothing from outside a man that enters into him can defile him; but the things that come out of a man are the things that defile him.” 16 ——— 17 Now when he had entered a house away from the crowd, his disciples began to question him about the illustration. 18 So he said to

them: “Are you also without understanding like them? Are you not aware that nothing from outside that enters into a man can defile him, 19 since it enters, not into his heart, but into his stomach, and it passes out into the sewer?” Thus he declared all foods clean. 20 Further, he said: “That which comes out of a man is what defiles him. 21 For from inside, out of the heart of men, come injurious reasonings: sexual immorality, thefts, murders, 22 acts of adultery, greed, acts of wickedness, deceit, brazen conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, and unreasonableness. 23 All these wicked things come from within and defile a man.”

(John 7:1) After this Jesus continued traveling about in Gal'i-lee, for he did not want to do so in Ju-de'a because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

Paragraph 1 on Page 136

(John 7:1) After this Jesus continued traveling about in Gal'i-lee, for he did not want to do so in Ju-de'a because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

Paragraph 2 on Page 136

(Matthew 15:2) “Why do your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal.”

(Mark 7:3) (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, clinging to the tradition of the men of former times,

Paragraph 3 on Page 136

(Matthew 15:3-6) In reply he said to them: “Why do you overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For example, God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Let the one who speaks abusively of his father or mother be put to death.’ 5 But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother: “Whatever I have that could benefit you is a gift dedicated to God,” 6 he need not honor his father at all.’ So you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition.

(Exodus 20:12) “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you.

(Exodus 21:17) “Anyone who curses his father or his mother must be put to death.

Paragraph 4 on Page 136

(Mark 7:11) But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother: “Whatever I have that could benefit you is corban (that is, a gift dedicated to God),”

Paragraph 5 on Page 136

(Matthew 15:6-11) he need not honor his father at all.’ So you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you when he said: 8 ‘This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. 9 It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, for they teach commands of men as doctrines.” 10 With that he called the crowd near and said to them: “Listen and get the sense of it: 11 It is not what enters into a man’s mouth that defiles him, but it is what comes out of his mouth that defiles him.”

(Isaiah 29:13) Jehovah says: “This people approach me with their mouth And they honor me with their lips, But their heart is far removed from me; And their fear of me is based on commands of men that they have been taught.

Paragraph 6 on Page 136

(Matthew 15:12-14) Then the disciples came and said to him: “Do you know that the Pharisees were stumbled at hearing what you said?” 13 In reply he said: “Every plant that my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. 14 Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Paragraph 7 on Page 136

(Matthew 15:17-20) Are you not aware that whatever enters into the mouth passes through the stomach and is discharged into the sewer? 18 However, whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and those things defile a

man. 19 For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, sexual immorality, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies. 20 These are the things that defile a man; but to take a meal with unwashed hands does not defile a man. ”

◇ The Pharisees and scribes make what accusation?

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◇ As Jesus points out, how do the Pharisees willfully overstep God’s Law?

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◇ What are the things that actually defile a man?

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· Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 36 and Prayer