

Reference Document

“The 6-Year-Old Who Was Afraid of the Police”

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video, the source it is based on, where to verify it, and any notes on confidence level. Claims are organized in the order they appear in the video.

Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced from court rulings, government inquiries, official Watchtower publications (including *The Watchtower*, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, *My Book of Bible Stories*, and JW.org-published video and text), peer-reviewed research, or other government/regulatory records. Primary sources can stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established advocacy or document-archive sites, academic researchers, or reputable investigative journalism. Secondary sources support claims and are most defensible when paired with a primary or another independent secondary.

SECTION 1: The Cold Open — A 6-Year-Old’s Quote

Claim: A 6-year-old American Jehovah's Witness child, told that police would be at a community park event, said: "Yes, they will, because there's Jehovah's Witnesses in jail."

- **Source:** Anonymous — mother of the child, longtime viewer of EXJW Analyzer, in direct communication with the creator
- **URL:** <https://exjwanalyzer.com>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — firsthand testimony from a named-but-anonymized source; no independent corroboration available because the conversation was private. Identifying details (location, ages, gender of siblings, etc.) have been changed to protect the family.
- **Note:** Direct child quotes are reproduced verbatim. Mother’s contemporaneous account.

SECTION 2: The Email Scene — Why a 6-Year-Old Feared Arrest

Claim: As of March 2026, at least 171 Jehovah’s Witnesses are in prison in Russia under the 2017 Supreme Court ruling that designated the organization as extremist; 64 are in prison in Eritrea; 14 are in Crimea.

- **Source:** JW.org — *Jehovah’s Witnesses in Prison for Their Faith* (the organization’s own running count of imprisoned members by country)
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/global/jehovahs-witnesses-in-prison/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — published directly by Watchtower; numbers are current to the date of the recording.
- **Note:** Watchtower updates these numbers monthly. Counts have shifted slightly since recording.

Claim: The Russian Supreme Court banned Jehovah's Witnesses as an "extremist" organization in 2017.

- **Source:** *Persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia* — consolidated overview of the 2017 Supreme Court ruling and its enforcement
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_in_Russia
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — encyclopedia summary citing the Russian court ruling, US State Department reports, and ECHR rulings.

SECTION 3: The Four-Layer Conditioning System

Claim: *My Book of Bible Stories* was published by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in 1978, is still in print, and is indexed on the official Watchtower Online Library at jw.org. It contains 116 illustrated stories designed for very young children.

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania — *My Book of Bible Stories* (1978; reprinted multiple times). Watchtower Online Library indexed publication.
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/publication/r1/lp-e/my>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the official Watchtower publication, hosted on Watchtower's own digital library.

Claim: *My Book of Bible Stories* contains illustrations of Jezebel being thrown to her death from a window, Jael driving a tent peg through Sisera's skull, the killing of the firstborn of Egypt, and the Flood drowning humanity — rendered for young readers.

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania — *My Book of Bible Stories*, Stories 71 (Jezebel), 50 (Jael), 30 (the firstborn / tenth plague), and 10 (the Flood).
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/publication/r1/lp-e/my>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the illustrations and stories are visible in the published book and on the Watchtower Online Library.

Claim: The official Watchtower children's video "Become Jehovah's Friend" Lesson 40 ("Jehovah Forgives") shows the animated character Caleb sobbing at the kitchen table, banging his face on the table, and asking his father, "What if Jehovah doesn't want to be my friend anymore?" — over having taken a birthday cupcake at school.

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society — *Become Jehovah's Friend*, Lesson 40: *Jehovah Forgives*. Animated children's video, hosted on JW.org.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/become-jehovahs-friend-2/jehovah-forgives/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the video is published by Watchtower and hosted on the organization's official website. The dialogue is verbatim from the video soundtrack.
- **Direct dialogue from the video:**

"What if Jehovah doesn't want to be my friend anymore?"

Claim: The 2016 "Remain Loyal to Jehovah" regional convention featured a "bunker video" series in which Jehovah's Witnesses are shown huddled in a basement during the Great Tribulation, with worldly authorities going house to house demanding registration. The sequence ends with authorities breaking in and the screen fading to black.

- **Source:** Independent investigative analysis of the 2016 "Remain Loyal to Jehovah" Regional Convention drama presentation, including the bunker sequence shown to convention audiences (mixed-age, including children).
- **URL:** <https://jwsurvey.org/news/worst-convention-ever-part-2-the-bunker>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — established advocacy and investigative-journalism site (JWsurvey, run by former JW Lloyd Evans/Cedars). Documents and analyzes the convention sequence with extensive direct citation.
- **Note:** Convention program archive and additional supporting material at <https://avoidjw.org/2016-regional-convention/>

Claim: The June 15, 1980 issue of *The Watchtower*, in the article "Why Must Christians Keep Separate from the World?", states: "a very prominent part of Satan's world are the political kingdoms of the earth."

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, June 15, 1980 — "Why Must Christians Keep Separate from the World?" (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania).
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1980442>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower publication, hosted on Watchtower's own digital library.
- **Verbatim from the article:**

"Also a very prominent part of Satan's world are the political kingdoms of the earth, described by the apostle John as a beast that came up out of the sea, having seven heads and 10 horns."

Claim: The Watchtower publication *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, in its chapter on Neutrality, uses 1 John 5:19 to argue that "the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one" and concludes: "no matter what worldly faction a person might support, under whose control would he really come?"

- **Source:** *Reasoning from the Scriptures* — Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, chapter "Neutrality." Standard publisher reference manual used by Jehovah's Witnesses in door-to-door ministry.
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1101989249>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the cited passages appear verbatim on Watchtower's own digital library.
- **Verbatim from the chapter:**

"(1 John 5:19) So, no matter what worldly faction a person might support, under whose control would he really come?"

SECTION 4: 1,006 Cases — The Australian Royal Commission and the Pennsylvania Grand Jury

Claim: The Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse examined the Jehovah’s Witnesses organization’s handling of child sexual abuse cases between 2015 and 2017 and obtained, by summons, the organization’s internal records dating back to 1950 — approximately 5,000 documents.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth of Australia) — *Report of Case Study No. 29: The response of the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd to allegations of child sexual abuse*, and Case Study No. 54.
- **URL:** <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/media-releases/report-jehovahs-witness-organizations-released>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — report of a national, government-conducted Royal Commission inquiry.

Claim: The records the Royal Commission obtained contained 1,006 alleged perpetrators of child sexual abuse, with more than 1,800 victims; 579 of those alleged perpetrators had confessed to their elders.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse — same Case Study 29 report.
- **URL:** <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/media-releases/report-jehovahs-witness-organizations-released>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the figures are stated directly in the Royal Commission’s findings.
- **Verbatim from the Royal Commission release:**
“The documents identified 1,006 members who had been accused of child sexual abuse since 1950.”

Claim: Of the 1,006 alleged perpetrators identified in the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ internal records, not a single one was reported by the church to secular authorities.

- **Source:** Royal Commission counsel Angus Stewart, summarizing the Commission’s findings during public testimony; coverage by NPR.
- **URL:** <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/07/27/426756849/australias-jehovahs-witnesses-failed-to-report-1-006-alleged-child-sex-abuses>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — reputable national news outlet (NPR) reporting on the Royal Commission’s testimony and findings, traceable to the primary Royal Commission record.
- **Verbatim from the NPR coverage of Stewart’s testimony:**
“Not one was reported by the church to secular authorities.”

Claim: Pennsylvania’s Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, through two consecutive panels (the 49th and the 52nd), has charged 17 Jehovah’s Witnesses with child sex abuse since 2022. Pennsylvania Attorney General Dave Sunday is overseeing the investigation.

- **Source:** Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General — official charging announcements (Westmoreland County, latest charge in the running 52nd Statewide Investigating Grand Jury investigation).
- **URL:** <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/taking-action/westmoreland-co-man-allegedly-abused-2-children-charges-result-from-grand-jury-investigation-of-jehovahs-witnesses-congregation-members/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official statement of charges issued by the Pennsylvania state government.
- **Note:** Case archive at <https://www.jwchildabuse.org/pennsylvania-grand-jury-criminal-child-abuse-cases/>

SECTION 5: The Sticky Close — Religious Trauma Syndrome

Claim: “Religious Trauma Syndrome” was coined in 2011 by Dr. Marlene Winell, a licensed psychologist, in the journal *Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Today* (British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies, Volume 39).

- **Source:** Dr. Marlene Winell, Ph.D. — *Religious Trauma Syndrome*, three-article series in *Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Today* Vol. 39 (BABCP, 2011). Author’s full text mirrored online.
- **URL:** <https://from-away.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/5.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the source article is the originating publication of the term, written by the term’s author.

Claim: Winell’s framework names Jehovah’s Witnesses explicitly. She writes that high-control religions threaten children with the “horror of dying forever at Armageddon,” and that “small children can obviously visualize these things while not having the brain capacity to evaluate the message.”

- **Source:** Marlene Winell, Ph.D. — *Religious Trauma Syndrome* (2011), as published in *Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Today* Vol. 39.
- **URL:** <https://from-away.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/5.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — both quoted phrases are verbatim from Winell’s published article.
- **Verbatim from the article:**
“Jehovah’s Witnesses threaten the horror of dying forever at Armageddon. Small children can obviously visualize these things while not having the brain capacity to evaluate the message.”

Claim: Religious Trauma Syndrome is now indexed in the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s PubMed Central library, the canonical biomedical-literature repository operated by the National Library of Medicine.

- **Source:** National Institutes of Health, PubMed Central — PMC11553601 (peer-reviewed indexing of Religious Trauma Syndrome literature).
- **URL:** <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11553601/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the article is hosted on the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central repository.

SECTION 6: Additional Supporting Sources

Become Jehovah’s Friend — Series Overview

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society — *Become Jehovah’s Friend* series landing page, JW.org.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/become-jehovahs-friend-2/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower-hosted video series.
- **Contains:** Full episode index for the children’s animated series referenced in the video, including the cupcake episode (Lesson 40), the toy-wizard episode, the friends-only-with-other-Witnesses episode, and others.

JWfacts — Documentation of Caleb & Sophia content

- **Source:** JWfacts.com — comprehensive doctrinal and content reference compiled by former Witness Paul Grundy.
- **URL:** <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/birthdays.php>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — established documentation resource with verifiable Watchtower citations and screenshots.
- **Contains:** Standalone documentation of the Caleb cupcake scene and its dialogue, with screenshots from the official video.

Dr. Marlene Winell — clinical site (Journey Free)

- **Source:** Dr. Marlene Winell, Ph.D. — *Journey Free*, the author's clinical practice and Religious Trauma Syndrome resource site.
- **URL:** <https://www.journeyfree.org/rts/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — resource maintained by the originator of the Religious Trauma Syndrome framework.
- **Contains:** Full overview of the Religious Trauma Syndrome framework, intake materials, and Winell's curriculum vitae.

2016 Remain Loyal to Jehovah Convention — Program Archive

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — document archive of the 2016 Watchtower regional convention program and supporting materials.
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/2016-regional-convention/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — long-running document-archive site that catalogs Watchtower convention materials and analysis.
- **Contains:** Full convention program for the 2016 “Remain Loyal to Jehovah” regional convention, including the bunker drama context.

Worst Convention Ever, Part 2: The Bunker

- **Source:** Covert Fade — YouTube series on the 2016 “Remain Loyal to Jehovah” convention, episode focused on the bunker sequence.
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwVzyReieV4>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — established former-Witness investigative content with extensive direct citation of the Watchtower source material.
- **Contains:** Frame-by-frame analysis of the bunker drama sequence shown to mixed-age convention audiences.

Pennsylvania Grand Jury Criminal Child Abuse Cases — Tracker

- **Source:** JWchildabuse.org — running case archive of the Pennsylvania Statewide Investigating Grand Jury's ongoing investigation into Jehovah's Witnesses.
- **URL:** <https://www.jwchildabuse.org/pennsylvania-grand-jury-criminal-child-abuse-cases/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — case-tracking resource with links to charging documents and news coverage for each case.
- **Contains:** Per-defendant case files for the 17 individuals charged through the 49th and 52nd Statewide Investigating Grand Juries since 2022.