

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 25

Song 122 and Prayer

□ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jl Lessons 11-13 (30 min.)

□ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: James 1-5 (10 min.)

No. 1: James 1:22–2:13 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Love Overcomes Fear—1 John 4:16-18 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Just Reading the Bible Is Not Sufficient—*rs* p. 328 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

□ **Service Meeting:**

Song 95

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in December. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower*, invite the audience to give suggestions on an interesting question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: How Should You Answer? Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 69, paragraphs 1-5. Include a demonstration of a publisher answering a Bible student who has to make a personal decision. The student asks, “What would you do in my situation?”

10 min: “A Helpful Series for Our Ministry.” Questions and answers. Using a portion of a recent article from the series “A Conversation With a Neighbor,” briefly demonstrate the suggestion in paragraph 3.

Song 45 and Prayer

A Helpful Series for Our Ministry

¹ From time to time, the public edition of *The Watchtower* features the series “A Conversation With a Neighbor.” This series has a twofold objective—to present Bible teachings in an appealing way and to show us how we

1. The series “A Conversation With a Neighbor” has what twofold objective?

might reason tactfully on certain subjects. (1 Pet. 3:15) How can we make good use of these articles?

² **Use Them in the Ministry:** You might save extra copies of issues of *The Watchtower* that include an article from this series. When a householder, interested person, or Bible student asks a question or raises an objection that has been addressed in one of these articles, give him a copy of that article and offer to discuss it. If you do not have a printed copy of the magazine that featured the article, perhaps you can download it from jw.org.

³ How might you discuss one of these articles with someone? Some have invited the person to read aloud the words of the neighbor, while they read the words of the Witness. This third-person approach can be effective because it allows the individual to examine our beliefs in a way that does not make him feel uneasy.—Deut. 32:2.

⁴ **Train Yourself and Others:** As you read through these articles, take note of the scriptures, illustrations, and lines of reasoning. Notice the tone of the material. Then try a similar approach in your ministry. (Prov. 1:5; 9:9) One sister observed, “Reading these articles is like learning from a ‘perfect’ pioneer partner—one who always knows just the right thing to say!”

⁵ You can also use these scripted examples to help your Bible students prepare for the ministry. Read the information together, allowing the student to play the role of the publisher. In this way, Bible students can practice expressing their beliefs in a tactful manner. (Col. 4:6) Truly, these articles are one of the many ways that Jehovah helps us “fully accomplish” our ministry.—2 Tim. 4:5.

2. How can we use this series of articles in our ministry?

3. How might we discuss one of the articles with a householder?

4. How can we use the articles in this series to train ourselves?

5. How can we help our Bible students prepare for the ministry?

Myriads of Brothers (Revelation 7:9, 10)

1. Myriads on myriads of brothers,
Millions for all to see,
Each one a faithful witness,
Firm in integrity.
Myriads we are on myriads,
Growing, a mighty crowd,
From ev'ry nation and tribe and tongue,
We praise our God aloud.
2. Myriads on myriads of brothers,
We preach both far and near
"Good news of something better,"
Which millions long to hear.
And as we keep on preaching,
Though we at times are stressed,
Jesus refreshes the weary souls;
He gives us peace and rest.
3. Myriads on myriads of brothers,
God keeps us in his sight,
Safe in his earthly courtyards,
Serving him day and night.
Myriads we are on myriads,
With Kingdom news we go,
God's fellow workers we have become,
Serving him here below.

Mexico



Germany



Botswana



Nicaragua



Italy

Why Do We Attend Large Assemblies?

Why is there such joy on the faces of these people? They are attending one of our assemblies. Like God’s servants in the past, who were instructed to assemble three times a year, we look forward to meeting together in larger groups. (Deuteronomy 16:16) Every year, we have three events: a **special assembly day**, a two-day **circuit assembly**, and a three-day **district convention**. How do we benefit from these gatherings?

They strengthen our Christian brotherhood. Just as the Israelites rejoiced at praising Jehovah “among the congregated throngs,” we too enjoy worshipping him together at special events. (Psalm 26:12; 111:1) These gatherings create an opportunity to meet and associate with Witnesses from other congregations or even from other lands. At midday, we enjoy a meal together at the assembly location, adding to the friendly atmosphere of these spiritual occasions. (Acts 2:42) There we experience firsthand the love that unites our “whole association of brothers” in the world.—1 Peter 2:17.

They help us to make spiritual progress. The Israelites also benefited by having “understood the words” of the Scriptures that were expounded to them. (Nehemiah 8:8, 12) We too appreciate the Bible instruction that we receive at our assemblies. Each program is based on a Scriptural theme. Through interesting talks, symposiums, and reenactments, we learn how to do God’s will in our life. We are encouraged when we hear the experiences of those who are successfully meeting the challenge of living as Christians in these difficult times. At district conventions, costume dramas bring Bible accounts to life and teach us practical lessons. At every assembly, a baptism is held for those who want to symbolize their dedication to God.

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to get to know our brotherhood better, please attend our next assembly. Your Bible teacher can show you the printed program from the last one so that you can see the sort of subjects that are discussed. Mark on your calendar when and where the next assembly will be held, and attend it if you can.



- Why are the assemblies happy occasions?
- How might you benefit from attending an assembly?

How Is Our Kingdom-Preaching Work Organized?

Shortly before his death, Jesus announced: “This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14) But how would this global preaching work be accomplished? By following the pattern Jesus set when he was on earth.—Luke 8:1.

We try to contact people at their homes. Jesus trained his disciples to preach the good news from house to house. (Matthew 10:11-13; Acts 5:42; 20:20) Those first-century evangelizers were assigned specific territories in which to preach. (Matthew 10:5, 6; 2 Corinthians 10:13) Similarly today, our preaching work is well-organized, and each congregation is given an assigned area to cover. This enables us to fulfill Jesus’ command to “preach to the people and to give a thorough witness.”—Acts 10:42.

We endeavor to reach people wherever they can be found. Jesus also set the example by preaching to people in public places, such as along the seashore or by a community well. (Mark 4:1; John 4:5-15) We too engage people in conversations about the Bible wherever we can—on the streets, in business places, in parks, or over the telephone. We also witness to our neighbors, workmates, classmates, and relatives when we have an appropriate opportunity. All these combined efforts have made it possible for millions of people earth wide to hear “the good news of salvation.” —Psalm 96:2.

Can you think of someone with whom you would like to share the good news of God’s Kingdom and what that news means for their future? Do not keep this message of hope to yourself. Share it with them as soon as you can!

- What “good news” must be proclaimed?
- How are Jehovah’s Witnesses imitating Jesus’ method of preaching?



Spain



Belarus



Peru

FIND OUT MORE

Ask your Bible teacher to demonstrate how you might tactfully share with one of your acquaintances something that you have learned from the Bible.





Canada



House to house



Bible study



Personal study

What Is a Pioneer?

The term “pioneer” often refers to those who explore new territories and open up a way for others to follow. Jesus was a pioneer of sorts, having been sent to the earth to perform a life-giving ministry and to open the way to salvation. (Matthew 20:28) Today, his followers are imitating him by spending as much time as possible ‘making disciples.’ (Matthew 28:19, 20) Some have been able to take up what we call the pioneer service.

A pioneer is a full-time evangelizer. All of Jehovah’s Witnesses are publishers of the good news. However, some have organized their life to serve as **regular pioneers**, spending 70 hours each month in the preaching work. To do this, many limit their secular work to part-time. Others are selected to serve as **special pioneers** in areas where the need for Kingdom proclaimers is greater, devoting 130 hours or more to the ministry each month. The pioneers are content to live a modest lifestyle, confident that Jehovah will supply them with the necessities of life. (Matthew 6:31-33; 1 Timothy 6:6-8) Those who cannot pioneer full-time may serve as **auxiliary pioneers** as they are able, increasing their preaching activity to 30 or 50 hours a month.

A pioneer is motivated by love for God and for people. Like Jesus, we notice the desperate spiritual condition that many find themselves in today. (Mark 6:34) But we have knowledge that can help them right now, giving them a solid hope for the future. Love of neighbor motivates a pioneer to give generously of his time and energy to help others spiritually. (Matthew 22:39; 1 Thessalonians 2:8) As a result, his faith is strengthened, he draws closer to God, and he experiences much happiness.—Acts 20:35.

- How would you describe a pioneer?
- What motivates some to pioneer full-time?

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PIONEERS

Eligible regular pioneers are enrolled in the two-week **Pioneer Service School**. Single pioneer brothers who qualify and who would like to be used more fully where there is a need may apply for the two-month

Bible School for Single Brothers. Qualified married couples may apply for the **Bible School for Christian Couples**. With the help of this schooling, pioneers can ‘fully accomplish their ministry.’—2 Timothy 4:5.

18 Keep praying for us, for we trust we have an honest* conscience, as we wish to conduct ourselves honestly in all things.^a

19 But I especially urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd^b of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, with the blood of an everlasting covenant, **21** equip you with every good thing to do his will, working in us through Jesus Christ what is well-pleasing in his sight,

13:18 *Lit., “good.”

CHAP. 13
a 2Co 1:12

b 1Pe 5:4

Second Col.

a Ac 27:1

to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 Now I urge you, brothers, to listen patiently to this word of encouragement, for I have written you a short letter. **23** I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he comes soon, I will be with him when I see you.

24 Give my greetings to all those who are taking the lead among you and to all the holy ones. Those in Italy^a send you their greetings.

25 The undeserved kindness be with all of you.

THE LETTER OF JAMES

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Greetings (1)
Endurance brings happiness (2-15)
 Tested quality of faith (3)
 Keep asking in faith (5-8)
 Desire leads to sin and death (14, 15)
Every good gift is from above (16-18)
Hearing and doing the word (19-25)
 A man looking in a mirror (23, 24)
Clean and undefiled worship (26, 27)</p> <p>2 Favoritism, a sin (1-13)
 Love, the kingly law (8)
Faith without works is dead (14-26)
 Demons believe and shudder (19)
 Abraham called Jehovah's friend (23)</p> | <p>3 Taming the tongue (1-12)
 Not many should become teachers (1)
 The wisdom from above (13-18)</p> <p>4 Do not be a friend of the world (1-12)
 Oppose the Devil (7)
 Draw close to God (8)
Warning against pride (13-17)
 “If Jehovah wills” (15)</p> <p>5 Warning to the rich (1-6)
 God blesses patient endurance (7-11)
 Let your “yes” mean yes (12)
 Prayer of faith effective (13-18)
 Helping a sinner to return (19, 20)</p> |
|---|--|

1 James,^a a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the 12 tribes that are scattered about:

Greetings!

CHAP. 1
a Mt 13:55

Second Col.

a Mt 5:11, 12
b 1Pe 1:6, 7

2 Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet with various trials,^a **3** knowing as you do that this tested quality of your faith produces endurance.^b

4 But let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything.^a

5 So if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep asking God,^b for he gives generously to all and without reproaching,^{*c} and it will be given him.^d **6** But let him keep asking in faith,^e not doubting at all,^f for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. **7** In fact, that man should not expect to receive anything from Jehovah;^{*g} **8** he is an indecisive man,^g unsteady in all his ways.

9 But let the lowly brother rejoice^{*} over his exaltation,^h **10** and the rich one over his humiliation,ⁱ because like a flower of the field he will pass away. **11** For just as the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the plant, and its flower falls off and its outward beauty perishes, so too the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits.^j

12 Happy is the man who keeps on enduring trial,^k because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life,^l which Jehovah^{*} promised to those who continue loving Him.^m **13** When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone. **14** But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed^{*} by his own desire.ⁿ **15** Then the desire, when it has become fertile,^{*} gives birth to sin; in turn sin, when it has been carried out, brings forth death.^o

16 Do not be misled, my beloved brothers. **17** Every good

1:5 *Or "finding fault." 1:7, 12 *See App. A5. 1:9 *Lit., "boast." 1:14 *Or "caught as by bait." 1:15 *Lit., "has conceived."

CHAP. 1

- a 1Co 14:20
- Eph 4:13
- b 1Ki 3:9
- Mr 11:24
- 1Jo 3:22
- c Mt 7:11
- d Pr 2:3-6
- Joh 15:7
- 1Jo 5:14
- e Mt 7:7
- f Mt 21:22
- Heb 11:6
- g Jas 4:8
- h Jas 2:5
- i 1Ti 6:17
- j Isa 40:6,7
- Mt 19:24
- k Mt 5:10
- Jas 1:2
- l 2Ti 4:8
- 1Pe 5:4
- Re 2:10
- m Jas 2:5
- n Ge 3:6
- 1Jo 2:16
- o Ro 5:21

Second Col.

- a Mt 7:11
- b Jer 31:35
- 2Co 4:6
- c Mal 3:6
- d Joh 1:12,13
- Ro 8:28
- Eph 1:13,14
- 2Th 2:13
- 1Pe 1:23
- e Re 14:4
- f Pr 10:19
- Pr 17:27
- g Ec 7:9
- Mt 5:22
- h Jas 3:18
- i Col 3:8
- 1Pe 2:1
- j Le 18:5
- 1Sa 15:22
- Mt 7:21
- 1Jo 3:7
- k Lu 6:46
- Jas 2:14
- l Ps 19:7
- m Mt 7:24
- Lu 11:28
- Joh 13:17
- n Ps 39:1
- Pr 12:18
- Pr 15:2
- 1Pe 3:10

gift and every perfect present is from above,^a coming down from the Father of the celestial lights,^b who does not vary or change like the shifting shadows.^{*c} **18** It was his will to bring us forth by the word of truth,^d so that we would become a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.^e

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: Everyone must be quick to listen, slow to speak,^f slow to anger,^g **20** for man's anger does not bring about God's righteousness.^h **21** Therefore, put away all filthiness and every trace of badness,^{*i} and accept with mildness the implanting of the word that is able to save you.[#]

22 However, become doers of the word^l and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,^k this one is like a man looking at his own face^{*} in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself, and he goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he is. **25** But the one who peers into the perfect law^l that belongs to freedom and continues in it has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; and he will be happy in what he does.^m

26 If any man thinks he is a worshipper of God^{*} but does not keep a tight rein on[#] his tongue,ⁿ he is deceiving his own heart, and his worship is futile. **27** The form of worship^{*} that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after or-

1:17 *Or "with whom there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow." 1:21 *Or possibly, "and the abundance of badness." #Or "your souls." 1:23 *Or "his natural face." 1:26 *Or "is religious." #Or "does not bridle." 1:27 *Or "religion."

phans^a and widows^b in their tribulation,^c and to keep oneself without spot from the world.^d

2 My brothers, you are not holding to the faith of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ while showing favoritism, are you?^e

2 For if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in splendid clothing comes into your meeting, but a poor man in filthy clothing also enters, **3** do you look with favor on the one wearing the splendid clothing and say, "You take this seat here in a fine place," and do you say to the poor one, "You keep standing" or, "Take that seat there under my footstool"? **4** If so, do you not have class distinctions among yourselves,^g and have you not become judges rendering wicked decisions?^h

5 Listen, my beloved brothers. Did not God choose those who are poor from the world's standpoint to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom, which he promised to those who love him?ⁱ **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you^k and drag you before law courts? **7** Do they not blaspheme the fine name by which you were called? **8** If, now, you carry out the royal^{*} law according to the scripture, "You must love your neighbor as yourself,"^l you are doing quite well. **9** But if you continue showing favoritism,^m you are committing sin, and you are convicted^{*} by the law as transgressors.ⁿ

10 For if anyone obeys all the Law but makes a false step in one point, he has become an offender against all of it.^o **11** For the one who said, "You must not commit adultery,"^p also said, "You must not murder."^q If, now, you do not commit adultery but you do murder,

2:8 *Or "kingly." 2:9 *Or "reproved."

CHAP. 1

- a De 14:29
- De 27:19
- Ps 68:5
- b Isa 1:17
- 1Ti 5:3
- c Job 29:12, 13
- Isa 58:7
- d 1Co 5:7
- Jas 4:4
- Re 18:4

CHAP. 2

- e 1Ti 5:21
- Jas 3:17
- f Le 19:15
- g Ga 3:28
- h De 1:17
- i Re 2:9
- j Lu 22:28-30
- k Ac 13:50
- l Le 19:18
- Mt 22:39
- Ro 13:10
- m Jas 2:1
- n Le 19:15
- o De 27:26
- Ga 3:10
- p Ex 20:14
- De 5:18
- q Ex 20:13
- De 5:17

Second Col.

- a Jas 1:25
- b Pr 21:13
- Mt 5:7
- Mt 6:15
- Lu 6:36
- c Tit 3:8
- Jas 1:25
- d 1Co 13:2
- e De 15:7, 8
- Mt 25:35, 36
- Lu 3:11
- Ro 12:13
- 1Ti 5:4
- Jas 1:27
- 1Jo 3:17
- f Mt 7:21
- Heb 10:24
- g Mt 8:28, 29
- Lu 4:33, 34
- h Ge 22:9, 12
- i Heb 11:17
- j Ge 15:6
- Ro 4:3
- Ga 3:6
- k 2Ch 20:7
- Isa 41:8

you have become a transgressor of law. **12** Keep on speaking and behaving in such a way as those do who are going to be judged by the law of a free people.^{*a} **13** For the one who does not practice mercy will have his judgment without mercy.^b Mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he does not have works?^c That faith cannot save him, can it?^d **15** If a brother or a sister is lacking clothing^{*} and enough food for the day, **16** yet one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but you do not give them what they need for their body, of what benefit is it?^e **17** So, too, faith by itself, without works, is dead.^f

18 Nevertheless, someone will say: "You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." **19** You believe that there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder.^g **20** But do you care to know, O empty man, that faith without works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?^h **22** You see that his faith was active along with his works and his faith was perfected by his works,ⁱ **23** and the scripture was fulfilled that says: "Abraham put faith in Jehovah,^{*} and it was counted to him as righteousness,"^j and he came to be called Jehovah's^{*} friend.^k

24 You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works and not by faith alone. **25** In the same manner, was not Rahab the prostitute also declared

2:12 *Lit., "law of freedom." 2:15 *Lit., "is naked." 2:23 *See App. A5.

righteous by works after she received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way?^a **26** Indeed, just as the body without spirit* is dead,^b so also faith without works is dead.^c

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive heavier* judgment.^d **2** For we all stumble* many times.^e If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. **3** If we put bridles in the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide also their whole body. **4** Look also at ships: Although they are so big and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the man at the helm is inclined to go.

5 So, too, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it makes great brags. See how small a fire it takes to set a great forest ablaze! **6** The tongue is also a fire.^f The tongue represents a world of unrighteousness among our body members, for it defiles all the body^g and sets the whole course of life* on fire, and it is set on fire by Ge-hen'na.^h **7** For every kind of wild animal and bird and reptile* and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humans. **8** But no human can tame the tongue. It is unruly and injurious, full of deadly poison.^h **9** With it we praise Jehovah,* the Father, and yet with it we curse men who have come into existence "in the likeness of God."ⁱ **10** Out of the

2:26 *Or "breath." 3:1 *Or "stricter." 3:2 *Or "make mistakes." 3:6 *Lit., "the wheel of the birth (origin)." #See Glossary. 3:7 *Or "creeping thing." 3:9 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 2

- a Jos 2:1, 15
- Jos 6:17
- Heb 11:31
- b Ps 146:4
- c Ro 10:10
- Jas 2:17

CHAP. 3

- d Lu 12:48
- e 1KI 8:46
- Pr 20:9
- 1Jo 1:8
- f Pr 16:27
- Mt 12:36, 37
- g Ps 39:1
- Mt 15:11, 18
- Mr 7:23
- h Ps 140:3
- Pr 12:18
- Pr 18:7
- i Ge 1:26, 27

Second Col.

- a Eph 4:29
- b Mt 7:16
- c Ro 13:13
- 1Co 3:3
- d Eph 4:31
- e 1Co 13:4
- f 1Co 2:14
- Php 3:19
- g Pr 14:30
- Ga 5:19-21
- h Ro 12:9
- 1Ti 5:1, 2
- i 2Co 13:11
- 1Th 5:13
- 2Pe 3:14
- j 1Ti 3:3
- Tit 3:2
- k Ga 5:22, 23
- l Jas 2:9
- m 1Pe 1:22
- n Isa 32:17
- Heb 12:11
- o Mt 5:9
- 1Pe 3:11

CHAP. 4

- p Ro 7:23
- Ga 5:17
- Jas 3:14
- 1Pe 2:11
- q Mt 5:22
- Jas 3:16

same mouth come blessing and cursing.

My brothers, it is not right for things to happen this way.^a **11** A spring does not cause the fresh* water and the bitter water to bubble out of the same opening, does it? **12** My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives, or a grapevine figs, can it?^b Neither can salt water produce fresh water.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him by his fine conduct demonstrate works performed with a mildness that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy^c and contentiousness*^d in your hearts, do not be bragging^e and lying against the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above; it is earthly,^f animalistic, demonic. **16** For wherever there are jealousy and contentiousness,* there will also be disorder and every vile thing.^g

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure,^h then peaceable,ⁱ reasonable,^j ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits,^k impartial,^l not hypocritical.^m **18** Moreover, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peaceful conditionsⁿ for* those who are making peace.^o

4 What is the source of the wars and fights among you? Do they not originate from your fleshly desires that carry on a conflict within you?^{2p} **2** You desire, and yet you do not have. You go on murdering and coveting, and yet you are not able to obtain. You go on fighting and waging war.^q You do not have because of your not asking. **3** When you do ask, you do not receive because you are asking

3:11 *Lit., "sweet." 3:14, 16 *Or possibly, "selfish ambition." 3:18 *Or possibly, "by." 4:1 *Lit., "in your members."

for a wrong purpose, so that you may spend it on your fleshly desires.

4 Adulteresses,* do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is making himself an enemy of God.^a **5** Or do you think that for no reason the scripture says: "The spirit that has taken up residence within us keeps enviously longing"?^b **6** However, the undeserved kindness that He gives is greater. So it says: "God opposes the haughty ones,^c but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones."^d

7 Therefore, subject yourselves to God;^e but oppose the Devil,^f and he will flee from you.^g **8** Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you.^h Cleanse your hands, you sinners,ⁱ and purify your hearts,^j you indecisive ones. **9** Give way to misery and mourn and weep.^k Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into despair. **10** Humble yourselves in the eyes of Jehovah,^l and he will exalt you.^m

11 Stop speaking against one another, brothers.ⁿ Whoever speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against law and judges law. Now if you judge law, you are not a doer of law but a judge. **12** There is only one who is Lawgiver and Judge,^o the one who is able to save and to destroy.^p But you, who are you to be judging your neighbor?^q

13 Come, now, you who say: "Today or tomorrow we will travel to this city and will spend a year there, and we will do business and make some profit,"^r **14** whereas you do not know

4:4 *Or "You unfaithful ones." 4:10, 15; 5:4 *See App. A5.

CHAP. 4

- a 2Ch 19:2
Joh 15:19
Joh 17:14
Joh 18:36
1Jo 2:15
1Jo 5:19
b Ge 6:5
Ge 8:21
c Ps 138:6
d Pr 3:34
1Pe 5:5
e Heb 12:9
1Pe 2:17
1Pe 5:6
f Eph 4:27
Eph 6:11
g Mt 4:10, 11
Lu 4:13
h Isa 44:22
Isa 55:6, 7
i Isa 1:16
j 1Jo 3:3
k Joe 2:12
l 2Ch 7:14
2Ch 33:12, 13
m Pr 29:23
Mt 23:12
n Le 19:16
Pr 17:9
o Isa 33:22
p Mt 10:28
q Mt 7:1
Lu 6:37
Ro 14:4
r Lu 12:18-20

Second Col.

- a Ps 39:6
Pr 27:1
Ec 6:12
b Job 14:1, 2
Ps 102:3
1Pe 1:24
c Ac 18:21
Heb 6:3
d Lu 12:47
Joh 9:41
Joh 15:22

CHAP. 5

- e Pr 11:28
Lu 6:24
Lu 18:25
f Mt 6:19
Lu 12:33
g Eze 7:19
h Le 19:13
De 24:14, 15
Jer 22:13
Mal 3:5
i Jer 12:3
j Mt 24:3
k De 11:14
Jer 5:24
l Heb 6:12
m 1Th 3:13
n 1Co 4:5

what your life will be like tomorrow.^a For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears.^b **15** Instead, you should say: "If Jehovah* will,^c we will live and do this or that." **16** But now you take pride in your arrogant boasting. All such boasting is wicked. **17** Therefore, if someone knows how to do what is right and yet does not do it, it is a sin for him.^d

5 Come, now, you rich men, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming upon you.^e **2** Your riches have rotted, and your clothing has become moth-eaten.^f **3** Your gold and silver have rusted away, and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh. What you have stored up will be like a fire in the last days.^g **4** Look! The wages you have withheld from the workers who harvested your fields keep crying out, and the cries for help of the reapers have reached the ears of Jehovah* of armies.^h **5** You have lived in luxury and for self-gratification on the earth. You have fattened your hearts on the day of slaughter.ⁱ **6** You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one. Is he not opposing you?

7 Be patient then, brothers, until the presence of the Lord.^j Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until the early rain and the late rain arrive.^k **8** You too exercise patience;^l make your hearts firm, because the presence of the Lord has drawn close.^m

9 Do not grumble* against one another, brothers, so that you do not get judged.ⁿ Look!

5:9 *Or "groan; complain." Lit., "heave sighs."

The Judge is standing before the doors. **10** Brothers, take as a pattern of the suffering of evil^a and the exercising of patience^b the prophets who spoke in the name of Jehovah.*^c **11** Look! We consider happy[#] those who have endured.^d You have heard of the endurance of Job^e and have seen the outcome Jehovah* gave,^f that Jehovah* is very tender in affection[^] and merciful.^g

12 Above all, my brothers, stop swearing, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath. But let your "Yes" mean yes and your "No," no,^h so that you do not become liable to judgment.

13 Is there anyone suffering hardship among you? Let him carry on prayer.ⁱ Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms.^j **14** Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders^k of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him^l in the name of Jehovah.* **15** And

5:10, 11, 14, 15 *See App. A5. 5:11 #Or "blessed." ^Or "very compassionate."

CHAP. 5

- a Mt 5:12
- b Heb 6:12
- c 2Ch 36:16
- d Jas 1:2-4
- e Job 1:20, 21
- f Job 42:10
- g Ps 103:8
Lu 6:36
- h Mt 5:34-37
- i Ps 50:15
- j Col 3:16
- k Ac 20:28, 35
1Pe 5:2
- l Ps 141:5
Mr 6:13
Lu 10:34

Second Col.

- a 2Sa 12:13
Ps 32:5
Pr 28:13
1Jo 1:9
- b 1Sa 12:18
1Kl 13:6
- c 1Kl 17:1
- d 1Kl 18:42, 45
- e Ga 6:1
- f 1Ti 4:16

the prayer of faith will make the sick one[#] well, and Jehovah* will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore, openly confess your sins^a to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. A righteous man's supplication has a powerful effect.*^b **17** E-li'jah was a man with feelings like ours, and yet when he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.^c **18** Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the land produced fruit.^d

19 My brothers, if anyone among you is led astray from the truth and another turns him back, **20** know that whoever turns a sinner back from the error^e of his way will save him* from death and will cover a multitude of sins.^f

5:15 #Or possibly, "tired one." 5:16 *Lit., "has much force when it is at work." 5:20 *Or "his soul."

THE FIRST OF PETER

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Greetings (1, 2)
A new birth to a living hope (3-12)
Be holy as obedient children (13-25)</p> <p>2 Form a longing for the word (1-3)
Living stones built into a spiritual house (4-10)
Living as foreigners in the world (11, 12)
Proper subjection (13-25)
Christ, a model for us (21)</p> <p>3 Wives and husbands (1-7)
Show fellow feeling; seek peace (8-12)</p> | <p>Suffering for righteousness' sake (13-22)
Be ready to defend your hope (15)
Baptism and a good conscience (21)</p> <p>4 Live for God's will, as Christ did (1-6)
End of all things has drawn close (7-11)
Suffering as a Christian (12-19)</p> <p>5 Shepherd the flock of God (1-4)
Be humble and watchful (5-11)
Throw all anxiety on God (7)
Devil is like a roaring lion (8)
Concluding words (12-14)</p> |
|---|---|

some who evidently were zealous about their faith and obviously thought they had a good relationship with God but who did not understand what was really required in order to have God's approval.—Rom. 10:2-4.

Could we have a good personal relationship with God if we treated as of little importance his commandments? One of these is that we regularly assemble with fellow believers.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

If we personally read the Bible, is that sufficient?

It is true that many people can learn a great deal by reading the Bible personally. If their motive is to learn the truth about God and his purposes, what they are doing is highly commendable. (Acts 17:11) But, being honest with ourselves, are we truly going to grasp the full significance of it all without help? The Bible tells about a man who held a prominent position but who was humble enough to acknowledge his need for help in understanding Bible prophecy. That help was provided by a member of the Christian congregation.—Acts 8:26-38; compare other references to Philip in Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-17.

Of course, if a person reads the Bible but does not apply it in his life, it does him little good. If he believes it and acts on it, he *will* associate with God's servants in regular congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) He will also join with them in sharing the "good news" with other people.—1 Cor. 9:16; Mark 13:10; Matt. 28:19, 20.

How can a person know which religion is right?

(1) On what are its teachings based? Are they from God, or are they largely from men? (2 Tim. 3:16; Mark 7:7) Ask, for example: Where does the Bible teach that God is a Trinity? Where does it say that the human soul is immortal?

(2) Consider whether it is making known the name of God. Jesus said in prayer to God: "I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me out of the world." (John 17:6) He declared: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must

95 “Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good”

(Psalm 34:8)

1. Our service to God we cherish;
We value our priv’lege to preach.
We buy out the time and give God our best,
For many we still need to reach.

(CHORUS)

*God’s Word invites us: ‘Come taste and see—
See that Jehovah is good.’
Godly devotion brings greatest gain,
We know we’ve done all we could.*

2. For those in the full-time service,
Rich blessings and treasures abound.
By trusting in God to care for their needs,
In all things contentment is found.

(Chorus)

Your aim, however, should be to give a clear witness about God’s purpose and, in time, to let your listener see for himself what the Bible says. The Bible is far more persuasive than anything that we personally might say.—Heb. 4:12.

“Always With Graciousness”

How appropriate that servants of Jehovah, who himself is gracious, are told to let their speech be “always with graciousness, seasoned with salt”! (Col. 4:6; Ex. 34:6) This means that we ought to speak with kindness, even when it may not seem deserved. Our speech should be in good taste, not rough or tactless.

Many people are under tremendous pressure, and daily they are subjected to verbal abuse. When we call on such people, they may speak harshly. How should we respond? The Bible says: “An answer, when mild, turns away rage.” Such an answer can also soften one who has an opposing viewpoint. (Prov. 15:1; 25:15) To people who experience roughness every day, a manner and a voice that express kindness can be so appealing that they may listen to the good news we bring.

We have no interest in arguing with those who show no respect for truth. Rather, our desire is to reason from the Scriptures with people who will allow us to do so. Regardless of the situation we encounter, we keep in mind that we ought to answer with kindness and with conviction that the precious promises of God are reliable.—1 Thess. 1:5.

Personal Decisions and Matters of Conscience

When a Bible student or a fellow believer asks what he should do in a given situation, how should you answer? You may know what you would personally do. But each person must bear responsibility for his own decisions in life. (Gal. 6:5) The apostle Paul explained that he encouraged “obedience by faith” among the people to whom he preached. (Rom. 16:26) That is a fine example for us to follow. A person who makes decisions mainly to please his Bible teacher or another human is serving men, not living by faith. (Gal. 1:10) So a simple, direct answer may not be in the best interests of the one who is making the inquiry.

How, then, could you reply in a manner that is consistent with the Bible’s guidelines? You might draw attention to appropriate Bible principles and examples included in the Bible record. In some cases,

you might show him how to do research so as to find those principles and examples himself. You could even discuss the principles and the value of the examples but without applying them to the situation at hand. Ask the person if he sees in them something that might help him to make a wise decision. Encourage him to consider in the light of these principles and examples what course would be pleasing to Jehovah. You are thus helping him to ‘train his own perceptive powers to distinguish both right and wrong.’—Heb. 5:14.

Commenting at Congregation Meetings

Meetings of the Christian congregation often provide opportunities for us to make public declaration of our faith. One way in which we do that is by commenting in response to questions. How should we comment? With a desire to bless, or speak well of, Jehovah. That is what the psalmist David did when “among the congregated throngs.” (Ps. 26:12) We should also comment in a manner that encourages fellow believers, inciting them “to love and fine works,” as the apostle Paul urged. (Heb. 10:23-25) Studying the lessons in advance can help us to accomplish this.

When called on to comment, keep your remarks simple, clear, and brief. Do not cover the entire paragraph; address just one point. If you give only part of the answer, that will allow others the opportunity to give additional comments. It is especially beneficial to highlight the scriptures cited in the material. When doing so, endeavor to draw attention to the portion of the text that bears on the point under consideration. Learn to comment in your own words rather than reading directly from the paragraph. Do not become disturbed if a comment you make does not come out exactly right. That happens occasionally to everyone who comments.

It is obvious that knowing how we ought to answer involves more than knowing the answer itself. It requires discernment. But how satisfying it is when you give an answer that comes from your heart and that touches the hearts of others!—Prov. 15:23.

HOW TO COMMENT AT MEETINGS

- If called on first, give a simple, direct answer to the question
- To add to the discussion, (1) show how a cited scripture bears on the point under consideration, (2) mention how the matter affects our lives, (3) explain how the information can be used, or (4) relate a brief experience that highlights a key point
- Listen carefully to comments given so that you will know how to build on what has been said
- Try to comment in your own words

1. Move ahead, move ahead to maturity!
It's the will of our God that we gain ability.
Try your best to improve in your ministry,
Then our God your work will bless.
There's a place in the service for all.
It's the work Jesus did, you'll recall.
Look to God that you thus at no time may fall,
Standing firm for righteousness.
2. Move ahead, move ahead, boldly witnessing!
Everlasting good news to all sorts of people bring.
Join in praise to Jehovah, our God and King,
As we preach from door to door.
Wicked foes try to cause us to fear.
Don't shrink back, but let ev'ryone hear
Joyful news that the Kingdom of God is here.
Teach the truth yet more and more.
3. Move ahead, move ahead, always follow through,
And improve in your skills
for there's so much work to do.
Let God's spirit keep on motivating you.
Find the joy that is divine.
Love the people you work hard to find.
Keep returning to reach heart and mind.
And assist all good progress each day to make,
So the light of truth will shine.