

- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD**

- **“Trust in Jehovah and Do Good”:** (10 min.)  
Ps 37:1, 2—Maintain focus on serving Jehovah, not on the apparent success of wrongdoers (w03 12/1 9-10 ¶3-6)  
Ps 37:3-6—Trust in Jehovah, do good, and be blessed (w03 12/1 10-12 ¶7-15)  
Ps 37:7-11—Wait patiently on Jehovah to remove the wicked (w03 12/1 13 ¶16-20)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Ps 34:18—How does Jehovah respond to those who are “brokenhearted” and “crushed in spirit”? (w11 6/1 19)  
  
Ps 34:20—How was this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus? (w13 12/15 21 ¶19)

What does this week’s Bible reading teach me about Jehovah?

What points from this week’s Bible reading can I use in the field ministry?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ps 35:19–36:12

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Prepare This Month’s Presentations:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play each sample presentation video, and discuss the highlights. Encourage publishers to build their own presentation.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 93
- **“Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Using Videos to Teach”:** (15 min.) Discussion. To illustrate the points under the subheading “How to Do It,” use the jw.org video *Who Is the Author of the Bible?* (Look under PUBLICATIONS > BOOKS & BROCHURES. Then locate the *Good News* brochure. The video is found under the lesson entitled “Is the Good News Really From God?”)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 17 ¶1-13
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 61 and Prayer

**IMPROVING OUR SKILLS IN THE MINISTRY**  
**Using Videos to Teach**



**WHY IMPORTANT:** Videos can touch the hearts of people by appealing to the senses of sight and hearing. This helps to hold attention and to make a lasting impression. Jehovah has set the best example of using visual aids to teach.—Ac 10:9-16; Re 1:1.

The videos *Does God Have a Name?*, *Who Is the Author of the Bible?*, and *How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?* supplement lessons 2 and 3 of the *Good News* brochure. The videos *Why Study the Bible?*, *What Happens at a Bible Study?*, and *What Happens at a Kingdom Hall?* encourage individuals to study the Bible with us or to attend congregation meetings. Some of our feature-length videos may also be used to teach on Bible studies.—km 5/13 3.

**HOW TO DO IT:**

- Download in advance the video you want to show the householder
- Prepare one or two questions that will be answered by the video
- Watch the video together
- Discuss the main points

**TRY THIS:**

- Turn to the back of one of our tracts, and direct attention to the code that links to the video *Why Study the Bible?*
- Show the video *How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?* and offer the *Good News* brochure, highlighting lesson 3

# 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)*

- 13 Jehovah looks down from heaven;  
He sees all the sons of men.<sup>a</sup>
- 14 From his place of residence,  
He gazes on the inhabitants of the earth.
- 15 He is the one forming the hearts of all;  
He examines all their works.<sup>b</sup>
- 16 No king is saved by a large army;<sup>c</sup>  
A mighty man is not saved by his great power.<sup>d</sup>
- 17 The horse is a false hope for salvation;<sup>e</sup>  
Its great strength does not ensure escape.
- 18 Look! The eye of Jehovah watches over those fearing him,<sup>f</sup>  
Those waiting for his loyal love,
- 19 To rescue them\* from death  
And to keep them alive during famine.<sup>g</sup>
- 20 We are\* in expectation of Jehovah.  
He is our helper and our shield.<sup>h</sup>
- 21 Our hearts rejoice in him,  
For we trust in his holy name.<sup>i</sup>
- 22 May your loyal love rest upon us, O Jehovah,<sup>j</sup>  
While we keep waiting for you.<sup>k</sup>
- Of David, when he disguised his sanity<sup>l</sup> before A-bim'e-lech, who drove him away, and he left.
- נ [Aleph]
- 34** I will praise Jehovah at all times;  
His praise will be on my lips constantly.
- ב [Beth]
- 2 I\* will boast in Jehovah;<sup>m</sup>  
The meek will hear and rejoice.

33:17 \*Or "for victory." 33:19 \*Or "their soul." 33:20 \*Or "Our soul is." 34:2 \*Or "My soul."

CHAP. 33

- a Ps 11:4  
Ps 14:2  
Pr 15:3  
Heb 4:13
- b 1Ch 28:9  
Job 34:21  
Pr 24:12
- c Jos 11:6
- d 2Ch 32:21  
Ps 44:4, 5
- e 2Ki 7:6, 7  
Ps 20:7  
Pr 21:31  
Isa 31:1
- f Job 36:7  
Ps 34:15
- g Isa 33:15, 16
- h De 33:29
- i Ps 28:7  
Pr 18:10
- j Ps 32:10
- k Mic 7:7

CHAP. 34

- l 1Sa 21:12, 13
- m Jer 9:24  
1Co 1:31

Second Col.

- a Ps 35:27
- b Heb 5:7
- c Ps 18:48
- d 2Sa 22:1
- e 2Ki 6:17  
Ps 91:11  
Mt 18:10  
Heb 1:7, 14
- f 2Ki 19:35  
Da 6:22  
Ac 5:18, 19  
Ac 12:11
- g 1Pe 2:3
- h Ps 23:1  
Php 4:19
- i Ps 23:6  
Ps 84:11
- j Job 28:28  
Pr 1:7  
Pr 8:13
- k De 6:1, 2  
De 30:19, 20  
1Pe 3:10-12

ג [Gimel]

- 3 Magnify Jehovah along with me;<sup>a</sup>  
Let us exalt his name together.

ד [Dalet]

- 4 I inquired of Jehovah, and he answered me.<sup>b</sup>  
He rescued me from all my fears.<sup>c</sup>

ה [He]

- 5 Those who looked to him became radiant;  
Their faces could not be put to shame.

ו [Zayin]

- 6 This lowly one called, and Jehovah heard.  
He saved him from all his distresses.<sup>d</sup>

ז [Heth]

- 7 The angel of Jehovah camps all around those fearing Him,<sup>e</sup>  
And he rescues them.<sup>f</sup>

ח [Teth]

- 8 Taste and see that Jehovah is good;<sup>g</sup>  
Happy is the man who takes refuge in him.

ט [Yod]

- 9 Fear Jehovah, all you his holy ones,  
For those who fear him lack nothing.<sup>h</sup>

י [Kaph]

- 10 Even strong young lions\* have been reduced to hunger,  
But those seeking Jehovah will lack nothing good.<sup>i</sup>

יא [Lamed]

- 11 Come, my sons, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of Jehovah.<sup>j</sup>

יב [Mem]

- 12 Who among you takes pleasure in life  
And would love to see many good days?<sup>k</sup>

34:10 \*Or "maned young lions."

י [Nun]

13 Then guard your tongue  
from what is bad,<sup>a</sup>  
Your lips from speaking de-  
ception.<sup>b</sup>

ס [Samekh]

14 Turn away from what is bad  
and do what is good;<sup>c</sup>  
Seek peace and pursue it.<sup>d</sup>

א [Ayin]

15 The eyes of Jehovah are on  
the righteous,<sup>e</sup>  
And his ears listen to their  
cry for help.<sup>f</sup>

פ [Pe]

16 But the face of Jehovah is  
against those doing what  
is bad,  
To erase all memory of them  
from the earth.<sup>g</sup>

צ [Tsade]

17 They cried out, and Jehovah  
heard;<sup>h</sup>  
He rescued them from all  
their distresses.<sup>i</sup>

ק [Qoph]

18 Jehovah is close to the  
brokenhearted;<sup>j</sup>  
He saves those who are  
crushed in spirit.<sup>\*k</sup>

ר [Resh]

19 Many are the hardships\* of  
the righteous one,<sup>l</sup>  
But Jehovah rescues him  
from them all.<sup>m</sup>

ש [Shin]

20 He is guarding all his bones;  
Not one of them has been  
broken.<sup>n</sup>

ת [Taw]

21 Disaster will put the wicked  
to death;  
Those hating the righteous  
will be found guilty.

22 Jehovah is redeeming the  
life\* of his servants;  
None of those taking refuge  
in him will be found guilty.<sup>o</sup>

34:18 \*Or "are discouraged." 34:19  
\*Or "calamities." 34:22 \*Or "soul."

CHAP. 34

a Jas 1:26  
Jas 3:8

b Pr 12:19  
Pr 15:4  
1Pe 2:1

c Ps 37:27  
Ps 97:10  
Am 5:15  
Ro 12:9

d Mt 5:9  
Heb 12:14

e Job 36:7  
Ps 33:18

f Ps 18:6  
Isa 59:1

g Ps 37:10  
Pr 10:7

h Ps 145:18, 19

i 2Ch 32:22  
Ac 12:11

j Ps 147:3  
Isa 61:1

k Ps 51:17  
Isa 57:15  
Isa 66:2

l Pr 24:16  
2Ti 3:12

m Da 6:21, 22  
1Co 10:13

n Joh 19:36

o Ps 84:11

Second Col.

CHAP. 35

a 1Sa 24:15

b Ps 3:7

c Ex 15:3

d Isa 42:13

e 1Sa 23:26

f Isa 12:2

g Jer 17:18

h Ex 14:19, 20  
Isa 37:36

i Ps 57:6  
Ps 141:10

j Ps 18:17

k Ps 40:17  
Pr 22:22, 23

l Ps 27:12  
Mt 26:59

Of David.

**35** O Jehovah, defend my  
case against my oppos-  
ers;<sup>a</sup>

Fight against those who fight  
against me.<sup>b</sup>

2 Take up your buckler\* and  
large shield,<sup>c</sup>

And rise up to my defense.<sup>d</sup>

3 Lift up your spear and battle-  
ax\* against my pursuers.<sup>e</sup>

Say to me:<sup>f</sup> "I am your salva-  
tion."<sup>f</sup>

4 May those who are hunting  
for my life<sup>g</sup> be put to  
shame and humiliated.<sup>g</sup>

May those who are plotting  
to destroy me retreat in  
disgrace.

5 May they become like chaff  
in the wind;

May Jehovah's angel drive  
them away.<sup>h</sup>

6 May their path be dark and  
slippery

As Jehovah's angel pursues  
them.

7 For without cause they have  
hidden a net to trap me;  
Without cause they have dug  
a pit for me.<sup>h</sup>

8 May disaster come upon him  
by surprise;

May the net that he hid catch  
him;

May he fall into it and be de-  
stroyed.<sup>i</sup>

9 But I<sup>h</sup> will rejoice in Jehovah;  
I will be joyful in his acts of  
salvation.

10 All my bones will say:  
"O Jehovah, who is like you?  
You rescue the helpless from  
those who are stronger,<sup>j</sup>  
The helpless and the poor  
from those who rob them."<sup>k</sup>

11 Malicious witnesses come  
forward,<sup>l</sup>

35:2 \*A small shield, often carried by  
archers. 35:3 \*Or "double ax." 35:3,  
4, 7, 9 <sup>h</sup>Or "my soul."

- Asking me things I know nothing about.
- 12** They repay me with bad for good,<sup>a</sup>  
Making me\* feel bereaved.
- 13** But when they were ill, I clothed myself with sackcloth;  
I afflicted myself\* by fasting,  
And when my prayer would return unanswered,<sup>#</sup>
- 14** I walked about mourning as for a friend or a brother of mine;  
I bowed down in sorrow,  
like one mourning for his mother.
- 15** But when I stumbled, they rejoiced and gathered together;  
They gathered together to strike me down in ambush;  
They tore me to pieces and did not keep silent.
- 16** The ungodly scornfully mock me,<sup>\*</sup>  
They grind their teeth against me.<sup>b</sup>
- 17** O Jehovah, how long will you just look on?<sup>c</sup>  
Rescue me\* from their attacks,<sup>d</sup>  
My precious life<sup>#</sup> from the young lions.<sup>Δe</sup>
- 18** Then I will give thanks to you in the great congregation;<sup>f</sup>  
I will praise you among the throngs of people.
- 19** Do not let those who for no reason are my enemies gloat over me;  
Do not let those hating me without cause<sup>g</sup> wink their eyes maliciously.<sup>h</sup>
- 20** For they do not speak words of peace,
- 35:12, 13, 17** \*Or “my soul.” **35:13** #Or “would return upon my bosom.” **35:16** \*Or possibly, “The ungodly mock for a cake.” **35:17** #Lit., “My only one,” referring to his soul, or life. <sup>Δ</sup>Or “maned young lions.”
- CHAP. 35  
a 1Sa 19:4, 5  
1Sa 20:33  
Jer 18:20  
b Ps 37:12  
c Hab 1:13  
d Ps 142:6  
e Ps 22:20  
Ps 57:4  
f Ps 22:22  
g Ps 69:4  
Joh 15:24, 25  
h Pr 6:12, 13  
Second Col.  
a Ps 31:13  
Jer 11:19  
Mt 26:4  
b Ps 28:1  
c Ps 10:1  
Ps 71:12  
d Ps 26:1  
Ps 96:13  
e Ps 41:1, 2  
f Ps 84:11  
Ps 149:4  
g Ps 51:14  
h Ps 71:24

- But they deceptively scheme against the peaceful ones of the land.<sup>a</sup>
- 21** They open their mouth wide to accuse me,  
Saying: “Aha! Aha! Our eyes have seen it.”
- 22** You have seen this,  
O Jehovah. Do not remain silent.<sup>b</sup>  
O Jehovah, do not stay far from me.<sup>c</sup>
- 23** Awake and rise to my defense,  
My God, Jehovah, defend me in my legal case.
- 24** Judge me according to your righteousness,<sup>d</sup> O Jehovah my God;  
Do not let them gloat over me.
- 25** May they never say to themselves: “Aha! We got what we wanted.”\*  
May they never say: “We have swallowed him up.”<sup>e</sup>
- 26** Let all of them be put to shame and disgraced,  
Those who gloat over my calamity.  
Let those who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and humiliation.
- 27** But let those who take pleasure in my righteousness shout joyfully;  
May they constantly say:  
“May Jehovah be magnified,  
who takes pleasure in the peace of his servant.”<sup>f</sup>
- 28** Then my tongue will recount\* your righteousness<sup>g</sup>  
And praise you all day long.<sup>h</sup>  
To the director. Of Jehovah’s servant, David.
- 36** Transgression speaks to the wicked one deep within his heart;
- 35:25** \*Or “Aha! Our soul.” **35:28** \*Or “meditate on.”

There is no fear of God before his eyes.<sup>a</sup>

- 2** For in his own eyes he flattens himself too much to detect and hate his error.<sup>b</sup>
- 3** The words of his mouth are hurtful and deceptive; He shows no insight for doing what is good.
- 4** He plots hurtful schemes even on his bed.  
He is set on a path that is not good;  
He does not reject what is bad.
- 5** O Jehovah, your loyal love reaches to the heavens,<sup>c</sup>  
Your faithfulness up to the clouds.
- 6** Your righteousness is like majestic mountains;<sup>d</sup>  
Your judgments are like vast, deep waters.<sup>e</sup>  
Man and beast you preserve.<sup>f</sup> O Jehovah.<sup>f</sup>
- 7** How precious your loyal love is, O God!<sup>g</sup>  
In the shadow of your wings,  
The sons of men take refuge.<sup>h</sup>
- 8** They drink their fill of the rich bounty\* of your house,<sup>i</sup>  
And you cause them to drink of the torrent of your delights.<sup>j</sup>
- 9** With you is the source of life;<sup>k</sup>  
By your light we can see light.<sup>l</sup>
- 10** Continue showing your loyal love to those who know you,<sup>m</sup>  
And your righteousness, to the upright in heart.<sup>n</sup>
- 11** Do not let the foot of the haughty tread on me  
Or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

36:6 \*Lit., "like mountains of God."  
"Or "save." 36:8 \*Lit., "the fatness."

CHAP. 36

- a Ro 3:18  
b De 29:19, 20  
c Ps 103:11  
d Ps 71:19  
e Ro 11:33  
f Ps 145:9  
1Ti 4:10  
g Mic 7:18  
h Ru 2:12  
Ps 17:8  
Ps 91:4  
i Ps 65:4  
j Ps 16:11  
k Job 33:4  
Jer 2:13  
Ac 17:28  
Re 4:11  
l Ps 27:1  
Ps 43:3  
Jas 1:17  
1Pe 2:9  
m Ps 103:17  
n Ps 7:10  
Ps 97:11

Second Col.

- a Ps 1:5

CHAP. 37

- b Ps 73:3  
Pr 23:17  
c Ps 73:12, 19  
d Isa 1:17  
Heb 13:16  
e Pr 28:20  
f Ps 55:22  
Pr 16:3  
g Mt 6:33  
Php 4:6  
1Pe 5:6, 7  
h Ps 62:1  
La 3:26  
i Job 21:7  
Ps 73:3  
Jer 12:1  
j Pr 14:29  
Eph 4:26  
k Ps 55:23

- 12** There the wrongdoers have fallen;  
They have been knocked down and cannot get up.<sup>a</sup>

Of David.

⌘ [Aleph]

- 37** Do not be upset\* because of evil men

Or envious of wrongdoers.<sup>b</sup>

- 2** They will quickly wither like grass<sup>c</sup>

And shrivel like green new grass.

⌘ [Beth]

- 3** Trust in Jehovah and do what is good;<sup>d</sup>

Reside in the earth,\* and act with faithfulness.<sup>e</sup>

- 4** Find exquisite delight\* in Jehovah,

And he will grant you the desires of your heart.

⌘ [Gimel]

- 5** Commit your way to\* Jehovah;<sup>f</sup>

Rely on him, and he will act in your behalf.<sup>g</sup>

- 6** He will make your righteousness shine like daybreak,  
And your justice like the midday sun.

⌘ [Daleth]

- 7** Keep silent before Jehovah<sup>h</sup>  
And wait expectantly\* for him.

Do not be upset by the man  
Who succeeds in carrying out his schemes.<sup>i</sup>

⌘ [He]

- 8** Let go of anger and abandon rage;<sup>j</sup>

Do not become upset and turn to doing evil.\*

- 9** For evil men will be done away with,<sup>k</sup>

37:1 \*Or "show yourself heated up."  
37:3 \*Or "land." 37:4 \*Or "Find your greatest joy." 37:5 \*Lit., "Roll your way upon." 37:7 \*Or "patiently." 37:8 \*Or possibly, "Do not become upset, for it can only lead to harm."

But those hoping in Jehovah  
will possess the earth.<sup>a</sup>

† [Waw]

- 10** Just a little while longer,  
and the wicked will be no  
more;<sup>b</sup>

You will look at where they  
were,

And they will not be there.<sup>c</sup>

- 11** But the meek will possess  
the earth,<sup>d</sup>  
And they will find exquisite  
delight in the abundance of  
peace.<sup>e</sup>

† [Zayin]

- 12** The wicked man plots  
against the righteous;<sup>f</sup>  
He grinds his teeth at him.

- 13** But Jehovah will laugh at  
him,

For He knows that his day  
will come.<sup>g</sup>

† [Heth]

- 14** The wicked draw their  
swords and bend\* their  
bows

To bring down the oppressed  
and the poor,  
To slaughter those whose  
way is upright.

- 15** But their sword will pierce  
their own heart;<sup>h</sup>  
Their bows will be broken.

‡ [Teth]

- 16** Better is the little of the righ-  
teous one  
Than the abundance of many  
wicked ones.<sup>i</sup>

- 17** For the arms of the wicked  
will be broken,  
But Jehovah will support the  
righteous.

\* [Yod]

- 18** Jehovah is aware of what the  
blameless go through,\*  
And their inheritance will  
last forever.<sup>j</sup>

- 19** They will not be put to  
shame in the time of  
disaster;

CHAP. 37

a Ps 25:12, 13  
Ps 37:29  
Mt 5:5  
2Pe 2:9

b Job 24:24

c 1Sa 25:39  
Ps 52:4, 5

d Isa 45:18  
Mt 5:5  
Re 21:3

e Ps 72:7  
Ps 119:165  
Isa 48:18

f 1Sa 18:21, 25

g 1Sa 26:9, 10

h 2Sa 17:23  
Es 7:10  
Ps 7:15

i Pr 16:8  
Pr 30:8, 9  
1Ti 6:6

j Ps 16:11

Second Col.

a Pr 10:7

b De 15:11  
Job 31:16, 22  
Ps 112:9  
Pr 19:17

c Ps 37:9

d Pr 16:9

e Pr 11:20

f Ps 34:19  
Pr 24:16

g Ps 91:11, 12

h Ps 94:14  
Mt 6:33  
Heb 13:5

i De 24:19  
Ps 145:15  
Pr 10:3

j De 15:7, 8  
Ps 112:5

k Ps 34:14  
Isa 1:17

l 2Sa 22:26

m Ps 97:10  
Pr 2:7, 8

n Pr 2:22

In the time of famine they  
will have plenty.

‡ [Kaph]

- 20** But the wicked will perish;<sup>a</sup>  
The enemies of Jehovah will  
vanish like glorious pas-  
tures;

They will vanish like smoke.

‡ [Lamed]

- 21** The wicked one borrows and  
does not repay,  
But the righteous one is gen-  
erous\* and giving.<sup>b</sup>

- 22** Those blessed by Him will  
possess the earth,  
But those cursed by Him will  
be done away with.<sup>c</sup>

‡ [Mem]

- 23** Jehovah guides\* the steps of  
a man<sup>d</sup>

When He finds pleasure in  
his way.<sup>e</sup>

- 24** Although he may fall, he will  
not be hurled down,<sup>f</sup>  
For Jehovah supports him by  
the hand.<sup>g</sup>

‡ [Nun]

- 25** I was once young and now  
I am old,  
But I have not seen anyone  
righteous abandoned,<sup>h</sup>  
Nor his children looking for  
bread.<sup>i</sup>

- 26** He always lends freely,<sup>j</sup>  
And his children are in line  
for a blessing.

‡ [Samekh]

- 27** Turn away from bad and do  
what is good,<sup>k</sup>  
And you will remain forever.

- 28** For Jehovah loves justice,  
And he will not abandon his  
loyal ones.<sup>l</sup>

‡ [Ayin]

They will always be  
guarded;<sup>m</sup>

But the descendants of the  
wicked will be done away  
with.<sup>n</sup>

37:14 \*Or "string." 37:18 \*Lit., "the days of the blameless."

37:21 \*Or "showing favor." 37:23 \*Or "makes firm." 37:24 \*Or "with His hand." 37:25 \*Or "food."

29 The righteous will possess the earth,<sup>a</sup>  
And they will live forever on it.<sup>b</sup>

▢ [Pe]

30 The mouth of the righteous one imparts wisdom,\*  
And his tongue speaks about justice.<sup>c</sup>

31 The law of his God is in his heart;<sup>d</sup>  
His steps will not falter.<sup>e</sup>

⚡ [Tsade]

32 The wicked watches the righteous,  
Seeking to put him to death.

33 But Jehovah will not abandon him to the hand of that one<sup>f</sup>  
Or find him guilty when he is judged.<sup>g</sup>

⤴ [Qoph]

34 Hope in Jehovah and follow his way,  
And he will exalt you to take possession of the earth.  
When the wicked are done away with,<sup>h</sup> you will see it.<sup>i</sup>

⤴ [Resh]

35 I have seen the ruthless, evil man  
Spreading out like a luxuriant tree in its native soil.<sup>j</sup>

36 But he suddenly passed away and was gone;<sup>k</sup>  
I kept searching for him, and he could not be found.<sup>l</sup>

⚡ [Sin]

37 Take note of the blameless one,\*  
And keep the upright one<sup>m</sup> in sight,  
For the future of that man will be peaceful.<sup>n</sup>

38 But all the transgressors will be destroyed;  
The future of wicked people will be cut off.<sup>o</sup>

37:30 \*Or "utters wisdom in an undertone." 37:37 \*Or "the one who keeps integrity."

CHAP. 37

a De 30:20  
Ps 37:9  
Pr 2:21  
Mt 5:5

b Mt 25:46  
Re 21:3, 4

c Mt 12:35  
Eph 4:29  
Col 4:6

d De 6:6  
Ps 40:8

e Ps 121:3

f 2Pe 2:9

g Ps 109:31

h Ps 37:22

i Ps 52:5, 6

j Es 5:11  
Job 21:7

k Ex 15:9, 10

l Ps 37:10

m Job 1:1

n Job 42:12, 16

o Ps 1:4  
Pr 10:7  
2Pe 2:9

Second Col.

a Isa 12:2

b Ps 9:9  
Isa 33:2

c Isa 46:4  
1Co 10:13

d Ps 22:4  
Da 3:17  
Da 6:23

CHAP. 38

e Jer 10:24

f Ps 32:4

g Ps 6:2  
Ps 41:4  
Ps 51:8

h Ezr 9:6  
Ps 40:12

i Ps 38:3

⤴ [Taw]

39 The salvation of the righteous is from Jehovah;<sup>a</sup>  
He is their fortress in the time of distress.<sup>b</sup>

40 Jehovah will help them and rescue them.<sup>c</sup>  
He will rescue them from the wicked and save them,  
Because they take refuge in him.<sup>d</sup>

A melody of David,  
to serve as a reminder.\*

**38** O Jehovah, do not reprove me in your anger,  
Nor correct me in your wrath.<sup>e</sup>

2 For your arrows have pierced deep into me,  
And your hand presses down on me.<sup>f</sup>

3 My whole body is sick\* because of your indignation.  
There is no peace within my bones because of my sin.<sup>g</sup>

4 For my errors loom over my head;<sup>h</sup>  
Like a heavy burden, they are too much for me to bear.

5 My wounds stink and fester  
Because of my foolishness.

6 I am distressed and extremely downcast;  
I walk around sad all day long.

7 There is a burning within me;\*  
My whole body is sick.<sup>i</sup>

8 I have grown numb and become completely crushed;  
My anguished heart makes me groan aloud.\*

9 O Jehovah, all my desires are before you,  
And my sighing is not hidden from you.

38:Sup \*Or "to bring to remembrance."  
38:3 \*Lit., "There is no sound spot in my flesh." 38:7 \*Lit., "My loins are full of burning." 38:8 \*Or "roar."



- Song 95 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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## PSALMS 34-37 | Trust in Jehovah and Do Good

**37:1, 2****“Do not be . . . envious of wrongdoers”**

- Do not allow the temporary success of wicked people to distract you from serving Jehovah. Keep your focus on spiritual blessings and goals

**37:3****“Trust in Jehovah and do what is good”**

- Trust that Jehovah will support you through any doubt or anxiety. He will help you stay faithful
- Keep busy by sharing the good news of God’s Kingdom

**37:4****“Find exquisite delight in Jehovah”**

- Schedule time to read God’s Word and meditate on it with the goal of getting to know Jehovah better

**37:5, 6****“Commit your way to Jehovah”**

- Have complete trust that Jehovah will help you handle any problem
- Maintain good conduct in the face of opposition, persecution, or misrepresentation

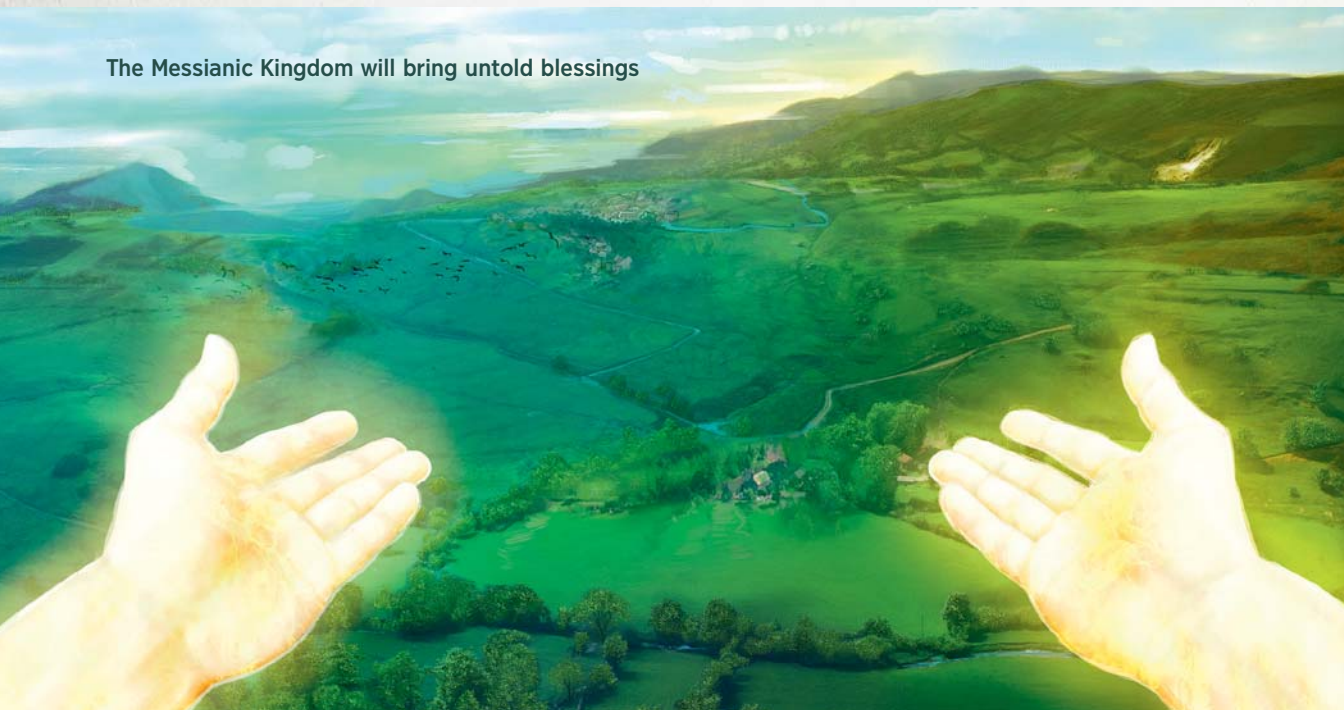
**37:7-9****“Keep silent before Jehovah and wait expectantly for him”**

- Avoid rash acts that can rob you of joy and spiritual security

**37:10, 11****“The meek will possess the earth”**

- Seek meekness, and humbly wait on Jehovah to remove all the injustice you experience
- Support fellow believers, and comfort the depressed with the promise of God’s new world, which is close at hand

The Messianic Kingdom will bring untold blessings



(w03 12/1 9-10 ¶3-6)

## **“Do Not Be Envious”**

<sup>3</sup> We are living in “critical times hard to deal with,” and wickedness abounds. We have seen come true the apostle Paul’s words: “Wicked men and impostors will advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled.” (2 Timothy 3:1, 13) How easy it is to be affected by the apparent success and prosperity of wicked people! All of that can distract us, causing our spiritual vision to get out of focus. Note how the opening words of Psalm 37 alert us to this potential danger: “Do not show yourself heated up because of the evildoers. Do not be envious of those doing unrighteousness.”

<sup>4</sup> The world’s media daily bombard us with a list of injustices. Dishonest businessmen get away with fraud. Criminals exploit the vulnerable. Murderers remain undetected or go unpunished. All such examples of the perversion of justice can provoke anger and disturb our peace of mind. The seeming success of evildoers may even prompt feelings of envy. But will our being upset improve the situation? Does envy of the apparent advantages that the wicked enjoy alter the outcome for them? Most definitely not! And there is really no need for us to become “heated up.” Why not?

<sup>5</sup> The psalmist answers: “For like grass they will speedily wither, and like green new grass they will fade

away.” (Psalm 37:2) Green new grass may look pretty, but the blades soon shrivel and die. Likewise with evildoers. Their apparent prosperity is not permanent. When they die, their ill-gotten gains help them no more. Justice finally catches up with everyone. “The wages sin pays is death,” wrote Paul. (Romans 6:23) Evildoers and all who are unrighteous will finally receive their “wages” and no more. What a profitless way of life!—Psalm 37:35, 36; 49:16, 17.

<sup>6</sup> Should we, then, allow the fleeting prosperity of evildoers to disturb us? The lesson from the first two verses of Psalm 37 is this: Do not allow their success to cause you to deviate from your chosen course to serve Jehovah. Rather, keep your focus on spiritual blessings and goals.—Proverbs 23:17.

*(w03 12/1 10-12 ¶7-15)*

### **“Trust in Jehovah and Do Good”**

<sup>7</sup> “Trust in Jehovah and do good,” the psalmist urges us. (Psalm 37:3a) When we are beset by anxieties or even by doubts, our confidence needs to be firmly placed in Jehovah. He is the One who offers complete spiritual security. “Anyone dwelling in the secret place of the Most High,” wrote Moses, “will procure himself lodging under the very shadow of the Almighty One.” (Psalm 91:1) When unsettled by the increase of lawlessness in this system of things, we need all the

more to lean on Jehovah. If we sprain an ankle, we are pleased to have the arm of a friend for support. Likewise, when we endeavor to walk in faithfulness, we need Jehovah's support.—Isaiah 50:10.

<sup>8</sup> One antidote to being disturbed by the prosperity of the wicked is to be busy searching out and helping sheeplike ones to come to an accurate knowledge of Jehovah's purpose. In the face of increasing wickedness, we need to be fully occupied with helping others. "Do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others," said the apostle Paul, "for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." The greatest "good" we can do is to share with others the glorious good news of God's Kingdom. Our public preaching truly is "a sacrifice of praise."—Hebrews 13:15, 16; Galatians 6:10.

<sup>9</sup> "Reside in the earth," David continues, "and deal with faithfulness." (Psalm 37:3b) "The earth" of David's day was the territory Jehovah had given to Israel, the Promised Land. During Solomon's reign its boundaries reached from Dan in the north to Beer-sheba in the south. This was Israel's residence. (1 Kings 4:25) Today, wherever we live on earth, we look forward to the time when the whole planet will become a paradise in the new world of righteousness. In the meantime, we reside in spiritual security.—Isaiah 65:13, 14.

<sup>10</sup> What will be the result when we “deal with faithfulness”? The inspired proverb reminds us: “A man of faithful acts will get many blessings.” (Proverbs 28:20) Our faithfully persevering in preaching the good news wherever we live and to whomever we can certainly brings rewards from Jehovah. For example, Frank and his wife, Rose, took up a pioneer assignment 40 years ago in a town in northern Scotland. The few who had shown interest in the truth there had drifted away. Undeterred, this pioneer couple set about the work of preaching and making disciples. Now there is a flourishing congregation in that town. This couple’s faithfulness has truly had Jehovah’s blessing. “The greatest blessing,” Frank humbly explains, “is simply that we are still in the truth and are useful to Jehovah.” Yes, when we “deal with faithfulness,” we receive and appreciate many blessings.

### **“Take Exquisite Delight in Jehovah”**

<sup>11</sup> To strengthen our relationship with Jehovah and to maintain our trust in him, we must “take exquisite delight in Jehovah.” (Psalm 37:4a) How do we do that? Rather than being preoccupied with our own situation, difficult though it may be, we make Jehovah our concern. One way to do this is to take time to read his Word. (Psalm 1:1, 2) Does your Bible reading bring you delight? It will when you read with the goal of learning

more about Jehovah. Why not pause after reading a portion and ask yourself, ‘What did this passage teach me about Jehovah?’ You may find it helpful to have a notebook or some paper handy when you read the Bible. Each time you stop to reflect on the meaning of what you have read, jot down a phrase that reminds you of one of God’s endearing attributes. In another psalm, David sang: “Let the sayings of my mouth and the meditation of my heart become pleasurable before you, O Jehovah my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14) This concentrated attention to God’s Word on our part is “pleasurable” to Jehovah and delightful to us.

<sup>12</sup> How can we derive happiness from our study and meditation? We can make it our aim to learn as much as we can about Jehovah and his ways. Such publications as *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* and *Draw Close to Jehovah* furnish us much that we can reflect on with appreciation. In turn, David assures the righteous, Jehovah “will give you the requests of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4b) It was this kind of confidence that must have prompted the apostle John to pen the words: “This is the confidence that we have toward him, that, no matter what it is that we ask according to his will, he hears us. Further, if we know he hears us respecting whatever we are asking, we know we are to have the things asked since we have asked them of him.”—1 John 5:14, 15.

<sup>13</sup> As integrity keepers, our greatest delight is to see the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty. (Proverbs 27:11) Do our hearts not overflow with joy when we learn of the tremendous preaching work carried out by our brothers in lands that used to be under totalitarian or dictatorial rule? We eagerly look forward to seeing what further freedom may develop before the end of this system. Many of Jehovah's servants living in western countries have a vigorous share in preaching to students, refugees, and others who temporarily reside in the west and enjoy freedom of worship. It is our earnest wish that as these individuals return home, they continue to let the light of truth shine in even apparently impenetrable darkness.—Matthew 5:14-16.

### **“Roll Upon Jehovah Your Way”**

<sup>14</sup> What a relief it is to know that our worries and what may seem to us to be oppressive weights can be lifted! How? “Roll upon Jehovah your way, and rely upon him,” says David, adding, “and he himself will act.” (Psalm 37:5) In our congregations, we have ample evidence that Jehovah is a reliable support. (Psalm 55:22) Those in the full-time ministry, whether as pioneers, traveling overseers, missionaries, or volunteers serving at Bethel, can all testify to the reliability of Jehovah's care. Why not speak to ones you know and ask how Jehovah has helped them? You will undoubtedly hear many experiences showing that



even during difficult times, Jehovah's hand is never short. He always provides life's necessities.—Psalm 37:25; Matthew 6:25-34.

<sup>15</sup> When we make Jehovah our confidence and trust in him implicitly, we can experience the psalmist's further words: "He will certainly bring forth your righteousness as the light itself, and your justice as the midday." (Psalm 37:6) As Jehovah's Witnesses, we often find ourselves misrepresented. But Jehovah opens the eyes of honesthearted ones to help them realize that our public ministry is motivated by love for Jehovah and for neighbor. At the same time, our upright conduct, though misrepresented by many, cannot be hidden. Jehovah sustains us through all manner of opposition and persecution. As a result, the righteousness of God's people shines forth like the sun at midday.—1 Peter 2:12.

(w03 12/1 13 ¶16-20)

### **“Keep Silent . . . Wait Longingly”**

<sup>16</sup> The psalmist's next words are: "Keep silent before Jehovah and wait longingly for him. Do not show yourself heated up at anyone making his way successful, at the man carrying out his ideas." (Psalm 37:7) Here David stresses the need for us to wait patiently for Jehovah to act. Although the end of this system has not yet come, this is no cause for

complaint. Have we not seen that Jehovah's mercy and patience are far greater than we at first thought? Can we now show that we too wait patiently as we keep busy preaching the good news before the end comes? (Mark 13:10) Now is the time to avoid rash acts that can rob us of our joy and spiritual security. Now is the time to resist ever more strongly the corrupting influence of Satan's world. And now is the time to maintain moral purity and never jeopardize our righteous standing with Jehovah. Let us continue to banish immoral thoughts and avoid unseemly acts toward those of the opposite or, indeed, the same sex.—Colossians 3:5.

<sup>17</sup> “Let anger alone and leave rage,” David counsels us. “Do not show yourself heated up only to do evil. For evildoers themselves will be cut off, but those hoping in Jehovah are the ones that will possess the earth.” (Psalm 37:8, 9) Yes, we can confidently look forward to the time—now so near—when Jehovah will eradicate from the earth all corruption and those who are responsible for it.

### **“Just a Little While Longer”**

<sup>18</sup> “Just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more; and you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be.” (Psalm 37:10) How those words encourage us as we approach the end of this system and the culmination of disastrous

independence from Jehovah! Whatever kind of government or authority has been devised by man has failed miserably. And now we are nearing the time for a return to rule by God, true theocracy, the Kingdom of Jehovah in the hands of Jesus Christ. It will take complete control of the world's affairs and remove all opposers of God's Kingdom.—Daniel 2:44.

<sup>19</sup> In the new world under God's Kingdom, search as you may, you will not be able to find a "wicked one." Indeed, anyone who then rebels against Jehovah will quickly be removed. No one who attacks his sovereignty or who refuses to submit to godly authority will be there. All your neighbors will be like-minded in their desire to please Jehovah. What security that will bring—no locks, no bars, nothing that will mar complete trust and happiness!—Isaiah 65:20; Micah 4:4; 2 Peter 3:13.

<sup>20</sup> Then, "the meek ones themselves will possess the earth." (Psalm 37:11a) But who are these "meek ones"? The word translated "meek" comes from a root word meaning "afflict, humble, humiliate." Yes, "the meek ones" are those who humbly wait on Jehovah to right all the injustices inflicted upon them. "They will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace." (Psalm 37:11b) Even now we find an abundance of peace in the spiritual paradise associated with the true Christian congregation.

(w11 6/1 19)

## **Draw Close to God**

### **Comfort for the Brokenhearted**

‘JEHOVAH could never love me.’ So said one Christian woman who has struggled with depression much of her life. She convinced herself that Jehovah must be distant from her. Is Jehovah really far from those of his worshippers who may be depressed? The comforting answer is found in the inspired words of the psalmist David, as recorded at Psalm 34:18.

David knew the effect that extreme distress can have on a faithful worshipper of Jehovah. As a young man, David lived as a fugitive, relentlessly pursued by Saul, a jealous king bent on killing him. David sought refuge in what he might have thought to be the last place that Saul would look—the enemy city of Gath, in Philistine territory. But after being recognized, David narrowly escaped by feigning insanity. David credited God with delivering him, and based on this experience, he wrote Psalm 34.

Did David believe that God is far away from those who in the face of distress become dejected or feel unworthy of His notice? David writes: “Jehovah is near to those that are broken at heart; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.” (Verse 18) Let us see how those words convey comfort and hope.

**“Jehovah is near.”** One reference work says that this phrase is “an expressive way of saying that the Lord is attentive and watchful, always ready to help and to save his people.” It is reassuring to know that Jehovah watches over his people. He sees what they are going through in these “critical times,” and he knows their innermost feelings.—2 Timothy 3:1; Acts 17:27.

**“Those that are broken at heart.”** In some cultures, “a broken heart” has reference to unrequited love. But the psalmist’s words refer to “more general grief and sorrow,” says one scholar. Yes, even faithful worshippers of God may at times experience extreme hardships that break their heart.

**“Those who are crushed in spirit.”** Discouraged ones may become so low in their own eyes that they momentarily lose all hope. A handbook for Bible translators says that this expression may be rendered “those who have nothing good to look forward to.”

How does Jehovah respond to those who are “broken at heart” and “crushed in spirit”? Does he keep distant from them, feeling that they are unworthy of his love and attention? On the contrary! Like a loving parent who holds and comforts a child in distress, Jehovah is near to his worshippers who cry out to him for help. He is eager to comfort and soothe their broken heart and crushed spirit. He can give them the wisdom and

strength needed to cope with any trials they may face.—2 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:5.

Why not find out how you can draw closer to Jehovah? This compassionate God promises: “I reside . . . with the one crushed and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly ones and to revive the heart of the ones being crushed.”—Isaiah 57:15.

(w13 12/15 21 ¶19)

<sup>19</sup> When the lamb was slaughtered for the Passover meal, the Israelites were not to break any of its bones. (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:11, 12) What of “the Lamb of God” who came to provide the ransom? (John 1:29) He was impaled with a criminal on each side. The Jews asked Pilate that the bones of the impaled men be broken. This would hasten their death so that they would not be left on the stakes into Nisan 15, a double Sabbath. Soldiers broke the legs of the two impaled criminals, “but on coming to Jesus, as they saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.” (John 19:31-34) That matched what was done with the Passover lamb, so this lamb was in that sense “a shadow” of what was to come on Nisan 14, 33 C.E. (Heb. 10:1) Moreover, the way things worked out fulfilled the words at Psalm 34:20, which should strengthen our confidence in prophecy.

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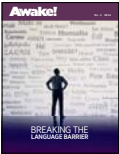
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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Presentations



#### AWAKE!

**Offer:** This issue of *Awake!* discusses an intriguing topic. [Hand the householder a copy.]

**Question:** Did you know that Jehovah's Witnesses translate literature into over 750 languages?

**Scripture:** Re 14:6

#### AWAKE!

**Question:** Do you think that this principle could be of help when a married couple need to discuss a problem?

**Scripture:** Jas 1:19

**Offer:** [Point out the article that begins on page 10.] This article considers additional Bible principles along this line.



#### TRACTS

**Question:** Please note this question. [Read the multiple-choice question on the front of the tract.] What's your opinion?

**Scripture:** [Listed on page 2 of the tract]

**Offer:** This tract explains what that scripture can mean for you.

#### BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

**Question:**

**Scripture:**

**Offer:**



*“Let Your Light Shine”*

(Matthew 5:16)

1. Jesus has commanded  
That we shine our light,  
Like the sun, impartial,  
That all might gain sight.  
Through God’s Holy Scriptures,  
Words of wisdom shine.  
May we now reflect his light  
By our deeds so fine.
2. With God’s Kingdom message  
Light on hearts is shed,  
Comfort brought to mourners,  
Hope for those now dead.  
Light from Scripture guides us  
As we do His will;  
Gracious words, well-seasoned too,  
Make it brighter still.
3. Light from fine works gleaming,  
Brightens up this world,  
To our words adds luster,  
Like a priceless pearl.  
May our light keep shining  
As we do what’s right,  
Then our works will always be  
Pleasing in God’s sight.

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- Show the video *How Can We Be Sure the Bible Is True?* and offer the *Good News* brochure, highlighting lesson 3

## “Look! Jehovah’s Slave Girl!”

MARY looked up, wide-eyed, as the visitor entered her home. He did not ask for her father or her mother. He was there to see her! He could not be from Nazareth; of that she was sure. In a small town like hers, strangers stood out. This one would stand out anywhere. He addressed Mary in a way that was altogether new to her, saying: “Good day, highly favored one, Jehovah is with you.”—*Read Luke 1:26-28.*

<sup>2</sup> Thus the Bible introduces us to Mary, daughter of Heli, of the town of Nazareth in Galilee. We meet her at a crossroads, in a sense. She was engaged to marry the carpenter Joseph who was, not a man of wealth, but a man of faith. So her course may have seemed to lie neatly mapped out before her—a simple life of working supportively as the wife of Joseph, raising a family together with him. Suddenly, though, she found herself faced with this visitor who

**1, 2. (a) Mary received what greeting from a stranger? (b) In what way was Mary at a crossroads?**

brought her an assignment from her God, a responsibility that would change her life.

<sup>3</sup> Many are surprised to learn that the Bible does not tell us much about Mary. It says little of her background, less of her personality, and nothing at all of her appearance. Yet, what God's Word does say about her is revealing indeed.

<sup>4</sup> In order to get acquainted with Mary, we need to look beyond many preconceptions about her that are promoted in various religions. So let us ignore the countless "likenesses" executed in paint, marble, or plaster. Let us ignore, too, the complex theology and dogma that bestow on this humble woman such lofty titles as "Mother of God" and "Queen of Heaven." Let us instead focus on what the Bible actually reveals. It gives us priceless insight into her faith and how we can imitate it.

### **A Visit From an Angel**

<sup>5</sup> Mary's visitor was no mere man. It was the

**3, 4. In order to get acquainted with Mary, what do we need to ignore, and on what do we need to focus?**

**5. (a) What can we learn about Mary from her reaction to Gabriel's greeting? (b) What vital lesson can we learn from Mary?**

angel Gabriel. When he called Mary “highly favored one,” she was “deeply disturbed” by his words and wondered about this unusual greeting. (Luke 1:29) Highly favored by whom? Mary did not expect to be highly favored among men. But the angel was speaking of the favor of Jehovah God. That mattered to her. Still, she did not proudly presume that she had God’s favor. If we strive for God’s favor, never haughtily assuming that we already have it, we will learn a vital lesson that young Mary fully understood. God opposes the haughty, but he loves and supports the lowly and humble.—Jas. 4:6.

<sup>6</sup> Mary would need such humility, for the angel held out to her an almost unimaginable privilege. He explained that she was to bear a child who would become the most important of all humans. Gabriel said: “Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom.” (Luke 1:32, 33) Mary surely knew of the promise God had made to David more than one thousand years earlier—namely, that one of his descendants

#### **6. The angel held out what privilege to Mary?**

would rule forever. (2 Sam. 7:12, 13) So her son would be the Messiah whom God's people over the centuries had been hoping for!

<sup>7</sup> What is more, the angel told her that her son would "be called Son of the Most High." How could a human woman produce God's Son? Really, how could Mary produce a son at all? She was engaged to Joseph but not yet married to him. This question Mary put into frank words: "How is this to be, since I am having no intercourse with a man?" (Luke 1:34) Note that Mary spoke of her virginity without a trace of shame. On the contrary, she treasured her chastity. Today, many youths are eager to cast off their virginity and quick to ridicule those who do not. The world has certainly changed. Jehovah, however, has not changed. (Mal. 3:6) As in Mary's day, he values those who adhere to his moral standards.

—*Read Hebrews 13:4.*

<sup>8</sup> Although she was a faithful servant of God, Mary was an imperfect human. How, then, could she produce a perfect offspring, the Son of God? Gabriel

**7. (a) What did Mary's question reveal about her? (b) What can young people today learn from Mary?**

**8. How could Mary, though imperfect, produce a perfect offspring?**



**The angel Gabriel held out to Mary an almost unimaginable privilege**

explained: “Holy spirit will come upon you, and power of the Most High will overshadow you. For that reason also what is born will be called holy, God’s Son.” (Luke 1:35) Holy means “clean,” “pure,” “sacred.” Normally, humans pass on their unclean, sinful state to their offspring. In this case, though, Jehovah would perform a unique miracle. He would transfer the life of his Son from heaven to the womb of Mary and then use his active force, or holy spirit, to “overshadow” Mary, shielding the child from any taint of sin. Did Mary believe the angel’s promise? How did she respond?

### **Mary’s Response to Gabriel**

<sup>9</sup> Skeptics, including some theologians of Christendom, have a hard time believing that a virgin could give birth. For all their education, they fail to grasp a simple truth. As Gabriel put it, “with God no declaration will be an impossibility.” (Luke 1:37) Mary accepted Gabriel’s words as truth, for she was a young woman of great faith. However, that faith was not gullibility. Like any reasoning person, Mary

**9. (a) Why are skeptics wrong to doubt the account about Mary? (b) In what way did Gabriel strengthen Mary’s faith?**



needed evidence on which to base her faith. Gabriel was prepared to add to her store of such evidence. He told her about her elderly relative Elizabeth, long known as a barren woman. God had miraculously enabled her to conceive!

<sup>10</sup> Now what would Mary do? She had her assignment before her and had evidence that God was going to do all that Gabriel had said. We should not assume that this privilege presented no fears, no hardships. For one thing, she had her engagement to Joseph to consider. Would their marriage proceed when he found out about her pregnancy? For another thing, the assignment itself may have seemed a daunting responsibility. She was to carry the life of the most precious of all of God's creatures—his own beloved Son! She would have to care for him when he was a helpless infant and protect him in a wicked world. A weighty responsibility indeed!

<sup>11</sup> The Bible shows that even strong, faithful men

**10. Why should we not assume that Mary's privilege presented no fears or hardships?**

**11, 12. (a) How have even strong, faithful men sometimes responded to challenging assignments from God? (b) What did Mary reveal about herself in her response to Gabriel?**

have sometimes hesitated to accept challenging assignments from God. Moses protested that he could not speak fluently enough to act as God's spokesman. (Ex. 4:10) Jeremiah objected that he was "but a boy," too young to take on the task God had assigned him. (Jer. 1:6) And Jonah ran away from his assignment! (Jonah 1:3) What about Mary?

<sup>12</sup> Her words, so full of simple humility and obedience, resonate for all people of faith. She said to Gabriel: "Look! Jehovah's slave girl! May it take place with me according to your declaration." (Luke 1:38) A slave girl was the lowliest of servants; her life was entirely in the hands of her master. That is how Mary felt about her Master, Jehovah. She knew that she was safe in his hands, that he is loyal to those who are loyal to him, and that he would bless her as she did her best with this challenging assignment. —Ps. 18:25.

<sup>13</sup> Sometimes God asks us to do what may seem difficult, even impossible, in our eyes. However, in his Word he gives us ample reasons to trust him, to

**13. If doing what God asks of us seems difficult or even impossible, how can we benefit from Mary's example?**

place ourselves in his hands, as Mary did. (Prov. 3: 5, 6) Will we? If we do, he will reward us, giving us reasons to build even stronger faith in him.

### **The Visit With Elizabeth**

<sup>14</sup> Gabriel's words about Elizabeth meant a lot to Mary. Of all the women in the world, who could understand her situation better? Mary hurried to the mountainous country of Judah, a trip of perhaps three or four days. As she entered the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah the priest, Jehovah rewarded Mary with further solid evidence to bolster her faith. Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting and immediately felt the infant in her womb leap for joy. She was filled with holy spirit and spoke of Mary as "the mother of my Lord." God had revealed to Elizabeth that Mary's son would become her Lord, the Messiah. Further, she was inspired to commend Mary for her faithful obedience, saying: "Happy too is she that believed." (Luke 1:39-45) Yes, everything that Jehovah had promised Mary would come true!

**14, 15. (a) How did Jehovah reward Mary when she visited Elizabeth and Zechariah? (b) What does Mary's speech recorded at Luke 1:46-55 reveal about her?**

# **61**     *What Sort of Person I Should Be* (2 Peter 3:11)

1. How can I repay you, what gift can I give  
    To thank you, Jehovah, for the life that I live?  
I look in my heart with your Word as my mirror;  
    The person I see, may you help me see clearer.  
My life I have promised in service to you,  
    But not from mere duty will I do what I do.  
Whole-souled and wholehearted I serve you by  
    choice;  
    May I be one more who makes you rejoice.
  
2. Help me to examine, and help me to see  
    Just what sort of person you desire me to be.  
Those loyal to you, you will loyally treasure;  
    May I be among those who bring your heart  
    pleasure.

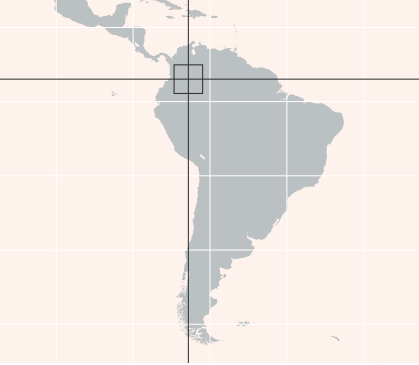
APRIL 2016

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
MAY 30–JUNE 26, 2016



COVER IMAGE:  
**COLOMBIA**

The Wayuu people like to talk about God. Many efforts are made to reach them with the good news. They are skilled artisans who usually sell their products in the city. There they hear the good news through public witnessing

PUBLISHERS  
**166,049**

BIBLE STUDIES  
**229,723**

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE  
(2015)  
**510,952**

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1. God's Word and all its promises  
Give reason to endure.  
The things you've learned and come to love  
Are all well-founded and sure.  
Be stabilized in holy faith,  
Keeping God's day close in mind.  
Stand firm in your integrity;  
By tests you will be refined.
2. Maintain the love you had at first,  
Which somehow could be lost.  
Despite the trials you will meet,  
Endure no matter the cost.  
Whatever test may come your way,  
Never yield to doubt or fear.  
Jehovah will provide escape,  
Our God ever will be near.
3. All those enduring to the end  
Are those who will be saved.  
The book of life will list their names,  
A record clearly engraved.  
So let endurance be your aim;  
Let it have its work complete.  
Jehovah's favor you will know;  
With joy you will be replete.

# “Let Endurance Complete Its Work”

*“Let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything.”—JAS. 1:4.*

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SONGS: 135, 139

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What will help you to endure?

Who are some outstanding examples of endurance?

What does it mean to “let endurance complete its work”?

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THE battle was grueling. Israelite soldiers led by Judge Gideon had chased their enemies—the Midianite army and its allies—all night for a distance of some 20 miles (32 km)! The Bible relates what happened next: “Gideon then came to the Jordan and crossed it. He and the 300 men

1, 2. (a) What can we learn from the endurance of Gideon and his 300 men? (See opening picture of the standard edition.) (b) According to Luke 21:19, why is endurance so important?





## “Let Endurance Complete Its Work”

**When we endure trials,  
our Christian personality  
becomes more complete**  
(See paragraphs 15, 16)



When we endure trials,  
our Christian personality  
becomes more complete  
(See paragraphs 15, 16)



with him were tired.” Nevertheless, Gideon and his men had not yet won the war, for about 15,000 enemy soldiers remained. After having suffered years of Midianite oppression, the Israelites knew that this was no time to give up. So to eliminate the enemy, “they kept up the pursuit” and subdued Midian.—Judg. 7:22; 8:4, 10, 28.

2 We too are fighting a relentless battle. Our enemies include Satan, his world, and our own imperfections. Some of us have battled for decades, and with Jehovah’s help, we gained victories. At times, though, we may get tired of battling our enemies and of waiting for the end of this system of things. Indeed, we have not yet won the complete victory. Jesus warned that we who live in the last days would face severe trials and cruel mistreatment, but he also said that gaining the victory would depend on our endurance. (Read Luke 21:19.) What is endurance?

What will help us to endure? What can we learn from those who have endured? And how can we “let endurance complete its work”?—Jas. 1:4.

## WHAT IS ENDURANCE?

3 In the Bible, enduring means more than simply putting up with trials or adversity. Endurance involves our mind and heart, or the *way* we react to hardships. A person who endures manifests courage, steadfastness, and patience. Endurance is “the spirit which can bear things, not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope,” says one reference work. “It is the quality which keeps a man on his feet with his face to the wind. It is the virtue which can transmute the hardest trial into glory because beyond the pain it sees the goal.”

4 Christian endurance is motivated by love.

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3. What is endurance?

4. Why can we say that endurance is motivated by love?

**(Read 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7.) Love for Jehovah motivates us to endure anything that is in harmony with his will. (Luke 22:41, 42) Love for our brothers helps us to endure their imperfections. (1 Pet. 4:8) Love for our marriage mate enables us to endure “tribulation” that even happily married couples experience and to strengthen the marital bond.—1 Cor. 7:28.**

## **WHAT WILL HELP YOU TO ENDURE?**

**5 *Turn to Jehovah for strength.* Jehovah is “the God who supplies endurance and comfort.” (Rom. 15:5) He alone fully understands not only the problems we face but also the way our environment, emotions, and even our genetic make-up affect us. He is thus the best one to equip us to endure. “He satisfies the desire of those who fear him,” the Bible says. “He hears their cry for**

**5. Why is Jehovah the best one to help us endure?**

help, and he rescues them.” (Ps. 145:19) How, though, will God answer our prayers for strength to endure?

**6 Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.** When we ask Jehovah to help us cope with trials, he will “make the way out.” Does Jehovah maneuver matters to remove the trial? Perhaps. Often, however, he makes the way out “*so that [we] may be able to endure it.*” Yes, Jehovah strengthens us so that we “may endure fully with patience and joy.” (Col. 1:11) And since he knows our physical, mental, and emotional limits so intimately, Jehovah will never allow a situation to develop to a point that we cannot remain faithful.

**7 *Nourish your faith with spiritual food.***

**On Mount Everest, the world’s tallest mountain,**

**6. As promised in the Bible, how may Jehovah “make the way out” of trials for us?**

**7. Illustrate why we need spiritual food to endure.**

a climber burns about 6,000 calories a day, considerably more than the average person needs. To endure the ascent and reach their goal, climbers must consume as many calories as possible. Similarly, to endure in our Christian course and reach our goal, we must regularly take in as much spiritual food as possible. We need self-discipline to devote time to reading, study, and our Christian meetings. These activities nourish our faith with “the food that remains for everlasting life.”—John 6:27.

**8** *Remember the issue of integrity.* When a servant of Jehovah faces a trial, there is much more at stake than one person’s suffering. By the way we react to our trials, we demonstrate whether we really view Jehovah as the Universal

**8, 9.** (a) According to Job 2:4, 5, what is involved when we face trials? (b) When you face trials, what invisible scene might you imagine?

**Sovereign. Satan, an enemy of Jehovah’s sovereignty, taunted Jehovah with the words: “A man will give everything that he has for his life. But, for a change, stretch out your hand and strike [Job’s] bone and flesh, and he will surely curse you to your very face.” (Job 2:4, 5) According to Satan, no one serves Jehovah out of unselfish love. Has Satan changed since he made that claim? Not at all! Many centuries later, when he was ousted from heaven, Satan was still called “the accuser of our brothers . . . , who accuses them day and night before our God!” (Rev. 12:10) Satan has not forgotten the issue of integrity. He is eager to see us surrender to our trial and withdraw our support of God’s sovereignty.**

**9 When you struggle with adversity, therefore, imagine this invisible scene. Satan and his demonic followers are on one side, pointing to your**

struggles and alleging that you will buckle under the pressure and give up. On the other side are Jehovah, his reigning Son, the resurrected anointed ones, and myriads of angels. They are cheering you on, delighted by your daily endurance and support of Jehovah's sovereignty. You can take personally Jehovah's inspired request: "Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice, so that I can make a reply to him who taunts me." —Prov. 27:11.

**10** *Focus on the rewards of endurance.* Suppose that while traveling on a lengthy journey, you stop in the middle of a long tunnel. Everywhere you look, it is dark. Nevertheless, you are confident that if you keep traveling toward the end of the tunnel, you will again see light. Similarly, you may at times feel overwhelmed by the

**10.** How can you imitate Jesus in focusing on the rewards of endurance?



problems you face. Even Jesus could have felt that way. He was the target of “hostile speech from sinners,” humiliation, and even painful execution on “a torture stake”—surely the darkest period of his life on earth! Yet, Jesus endured it all “for the joy that was set before him.” (Heb. 12:2, 3) He focused on the rewards of his endurance, particularly his contribution to the sanctification of God’s name and the vindication of Jehovah’s sovereignty. The darkness of Jesus’ trials was temporary, but the brilliance of his heavenly reward would be everlasting. Today, the trials you face may be painful and even crushing. But remember that your tribulations on the road to eternal life are temporary.

## **“THOSE WHO HAVE ENDURED”**

**11 We do not have to endure alone. To**

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**11. Why should we consider the experiences of “those who have endured”?**

encourage Christians to endure the hardships heaped on them by Satan, the apostle Peter wrote: “Take your stand against him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by the entire association of your brothers in the world.” (1 Pet. 5:9) The experiences of “those who have endured” teach us how to remain steadfast, reassure us that we can succeed, and remind us that our faithful course will be rewarded. (Jas. 5:11) Let us consider a few examples.[1]

12 *The cherubs.* The example set by some of the first spirit creatures to appear to humans can teach us to endure in a difficult assignment. Jehovah God “posted at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning continuously to

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12. What do we learn from the example of the cherubs posted at Eden?

guard the way to the tree of life.”[2] (Gen. 3:24) Surely those cherubs were not originally created for this assignment! After all, sin and rebellion were not part of Jehovah’s purpose for mankind. Yet, nowhere do we read that the cherubs—spirit creatures of high rank—complained that they were overqualified for this task. They did not become bored and give up. Rather, they obediently stuck to their assignment and endured until their work was completed—perhaps at the time of the Flood, over 1,600 years later!

13 *The patriarch Job.* If you are crushed by the discouraging words of a friend or family member, are plagued by a serious illness, or are grieved by the death of a loved one, you can find comfort in the example of Job. (Job 1:18, 19; 2: 7, 9; 19:1-3) Although he was unaware of the source of his troubles, Job did not give up in

13. How was Job able to endure his trials?

despair. Why not? For one thing, “he feared God.” (Job 1:1) Job was determined to please Jehovah in favorable and unfavorable circumstances. With God’s help, Job reflected on the wondrous things Jehovah had already accomplished by means of His holy spirit. Job became even more confident that Jehovah would end his trials at the right time. (Job 42:1, 2) And that is precisely what happened. “Jehovah removed Job’s tribulation and restored his prosperity. Jehovah gave him double what he had before.” Job lived “a long and satisfying life.”—Job 42:10, 17.

14 *The apostle Paul.* Are you facing bitter opposition, even persecution, from enemies of true worship? Are you a congregation elder or a circuit overseer who feels the weight of your heavy responsibilities? Meditate on the example

14. According to 2 Corinthians 1:6, how did the endurance of Paul help others?

of Paul. He faced numerous “things of an external kind” by vicious persecutors, and he felt daily pressure on account of his anxiety for the congregations. (2 Cor. 11:23-29) Yet, he refused to give up, and his example strengthened others. (Read 2 Corinthians 1:6.) When you endure hardship, remember that your example is likely encouraging others to endure.

## **WILL ENDURANCE “COMPLETE ITS WORK” IN YOU?**

15 Under inspiration, James wrote: “Let endurance complete its work.” What “work” must endurance complete? It helps us to “be complete and sound in all respects, not lacking in anything.” (Jas. 1:4) Trials often reveal our weaknesses, aspects of our personality that we need

15, 16. (a) What “work” must endurance complete? (b) Give examples of how we can “let endurance complete its work.”

to refine. If we endure those trials, however, our Christian personality becomes more complete, or sound. For example, we may become more patient, appreciative, and compassionate.

16 Because endurance completes the vital work of molding us as Christians, do not compromise Scriptural principles to bring an end to tests that come your way. For instance, what if you struggle with unclean thoughts? Rather than give in to temptation, prayerfully reject such desires. You will thus fortify your self-control. Are you facing opposition from an unbelieving family member? Instead of yielding under pressure, be determined to maintain your pattern of wholehearted worship. Consequently, you will strengthen your confidence in Jehovah. Remember: To have God's approval, we must endure. —Rom. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:12.

17 We must endure, not for a time, but *to the end*. To illustrate: Imagine a ship that capsizes. To survive, the passengers must swim to shore. The swimmer who gives up only a few yards from shore faces the same fate as the swimmer who gave up much earlier. Similarly, we are determined to endure until we reach the new world. Our life depends on our enduring. We have an attitude like that of the apostle Paul, who twice stated: “We do not give up.”—2 Cor. 4:1, 16.

18 We can be absolutely confident that Jehovah will help us endure to the end. We share Paul’s conviction as expressed at Romans 8:37-39: “We are coming off completely victorious through the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor

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17, 18. (a) Illustrate the importance of enduring to the end. (b) As we get closer to the end, what confidence can we have?

governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God’s love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” True, at times we will get tired. But may we endure to the end, so that it may be said of us as it was said of Gideon and his men: “They kept up the pursuit.”—Judg. 8:4.

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## ENDNOTES:

[1] (paragraph 11) You will also find it encouraging to review the endurance of God’s people in modern times. For example, the *Yearbooks* of 1992, 1999, and 2008 contain the faith-strengthening reports of our brothers in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Russia.

[2] (paragraph 12) The Bible does not say how many cherubs were assigned to this task.

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# 139 *Teach Them to Stand Firm*

(Matthew 28:19, 20)

1. What a joy to teach Jehovah's sheep  
And to see how they have grown.  
We have seen how he has guided them  
As they've made the truth their own.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah, may you hear our prayer  
And keep them in your watchful care.  
In Jesus' name, for them we plead: May they succeed;  
May ev'ry one of them stand firm.*

2. Ev'ry day we said a prayer for them,  
As their faith was under test.  
We made time to teach and care for them;  
They've grown strong, and they've been blessed.

*(Chorus)*

3. May they all maintain their confidence,  
Trust in God and in his Son.  
Through endurance and obedience,  
May their race for life be won.

*(Chorus)*