

- Song 4 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Sustains Those Who Are Ill”:** (10 min.)
Ps 41:1, 2—Happy are those who show consideration to lowly ones (w15 12/15 24 ¶7; w91 10/1 14 ¶6)
Ps 41:3—Jehovah cares for upright ones who are sick (w08 9/15 5 ¶12-13)
Ps 41:12—Hope for the future can help the sick to endure (w15 12/15 27 ¶18-19; w08 12/15 6 ¶15)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 39:1, 2—How must we guard our speech? (w09 5/15 4 ¶5; w06 5/15 20 ¶12)

Ps 41:9—How did Jesus apply David’s situation to himself? (w11 8/15 13 ¶5; w08 9/15 5 ¶11)

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 42:6–43:5

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) g16.3 cover
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) g16.3 cover
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 2 ¶4-5
—Conclude by introducing the jw.org video *Does God Have a Name?*

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 128
- **Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!**: (15 min.) Discussion. Show the jw.org video *Become Jehovah’s Friend—Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!* (Song 24). (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Then discuss the corresponding activity “Compare: Life Now and in the Future,” using the following questions: What changes will occur in Paradise? What blessings do you look forward to? How can meditating on your hope help you to endure?—2Co 4:18.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) ia chap. 17 ¶14-22, review on p. 152
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 36 and Prayer

PSALMS 38-44 | Jehovah Sustains Those Who Are Ill

41:1-4

Faithful servants can be confident of Jehovah’s support during any adversity

- David became very ill
- David showed consideration to lowly ones
- David did not expect a miraculous recovery, but he looked to Jehovah for comfort, wisdom, and support
- Jehovah viewed David as a man of integrity



4 *Making a Good Name With God* **(Ecclesiastes 7:1)**

- 1. Throughout our lifetime, We want to use each day
 To make a good name And all God's laws obey.
If in Jehovah's sight We strive to do what's right,
 Then to his own heart We'll bring delight.**
- 2. To seek in this world A celebrated name,
 To want its favor, To bask in its acclaim
Is simply vanity. For if its friend we'd be,
 Jehovah's favor We would not see.**
- 3. In God's remembrance We want our name to be
 Inscribed in his book For all eternity.
On him we can depend, So we his truth defend
 And keep our good name Down to the end.**

(See also Gen. 11:4; Prov. 22:1; Mal. 3:16; Rev. 20:15.)

29 The righteous will possess the earth,^a
And they will live forever on it.^b

▢ [Pe]

30 The mouth of the righteous one imparts wisdom,*
And his tongue speaks about justice.^c

31 The law of his God is in his heart;^d
His steps will not falter.^e

⚡ [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^f
Or find him guilty when he is judged.^g

⤴ [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,^h you will see it.ⁱ

⤴ [Resh]

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

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

⚡ [Sin]

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

38 But all the transgressors will be destroyed;
The future of wicked people will be cut off.^o

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;^a
He is their fortress in the time of distress.^b

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

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.^e

2 For your arrows have pierced deep into me,
And your hand presses down on me.^f

3 My whole body is sick* because of your indignation.
There is no peace within my bones because of my sin.^g

4 For my errors loom over my head;^h
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.ⁱ

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."

- 10** My heart pounds, my strength is gone,
And the light of my eyes has left me.^a
- 11** My friends and my companions avoid me because of my plague,
And my close acquaintances keep their distance.
- 12** Those seeking my life* set traps;
Those trying to harm me speak of ruin;^b
They mutter deception all day long.
- 13** But like someone deaf,
I would not listen;^c
Like someone speechless,
I would not open my mouth.^d
- 14** I have become like a man who cannot hear,
Whose mouth has nothing to say in defense.
- 15** For on you, O Jehovah,
I waited,^e
And you answered me,
O Jehovah my God.^f
- 16** For I said: "May they not gloat over me
Or exalt themselves over me
if my foot slips."^g
- 17** For I was ready to collapse,
And my pain was always with me.^g
- 18** I confessed my error;^h
I was troubled by my sin.ⁱ
- 19** But my enemies are vigorous* and mighty,[#]
Those hating me for no reason have become numerous.
- 20** They repaid me with bad for good;
They were resisting me for pursuing what is good.
- 21** Do not abandon me,
O Jehovah.

38:12 *Or "my soul." 38:19 *Lit., "alive." #Or possibly, "But my enemies without cause are many."

CHAP. 38

a Ps 6:7

b 2Sa 16:7
Ps 62:4

c 2Sa 16:11

d Ps 39:2, 9

e 2Sa 16:12
Ps 123:2

f Ps 138:3

g Ps 77:2

h Ps 32:5

i Ps 51:3

Second Col.

a Ps 22:11
Ps 35:22b Ps 27:1
Ps 62:2
Isa 12:2

CHAP. 39

c 1Ch 16:41
1Ch 25:1

d Pr 18:21

e Ps 141:3

f Ps 38:13
Mt 27:12
1Pe 2:23

g Ps 90:12

h Ps 90:9
Jas 4:14

i Ps 90:4

j Ps 62:9
Ps 144:4k Ps 49:10
Ec 2:18, 19
Ec 4:8
Lu 12:19, 20

O God, do not remain far away from me.^a

- 22** Do hurry to help me,
O Jehovah, my salvation.^b

To the director; of Je-du'thun.*
A melody of David.

- 39** I said: "I will guard my step

To avoid sinning with my tongue.^d

I will guard my mouth with a muzzle^e

As long as anyone wicked is in my presence."^g

- 2** I was speechless and silent;^f
I kept quiet even about what is good,
But my pain was intense.*

- 3** My heart smoldered* inside me.
As I pondered,[#] the fire kept burning.

Then my tongue spoke:

- 4** "O Jehovah, help me to know what my end will be,
And the measure of my days,^g
So that I may know how short my life is.*

- 5** Indeed, you have made my days just a few;^h

And my life span is as nothing before you.ⁱ
Surely every man, though he seems secure, is nothing but a mere breath.^j (*Selah*)

- 6** Surely every man walks about like a shadow.
He rushes around* for nothing.

He piles up wealth, not knowing who will enjoy it.^k

- 7** What, then, can I hope for,
O Jehovah?

You are my only hope.

39:Sup *See Glossary. 39:2 *Or "stirred up." 39:3 *Lit., "grew hot." *Or "sighed." 39:4 *Or "how transient I am." 39:5 *Lit., "handbreadths." 39:6 *Lit., "makes noise."

- 8** Save me from all my transgressions.^a
Do not let the foolish one make me an object of contempt.
- 9** I remained speechless;
I could not open my mouth,^b
Because this was your doing.^c
- 10** Remove your plague from me.
I am worn down because your hand strikes me.
- 11** You correct man with punishment for his error;^d
You consume the things he treasures just as a moth does.
Surely every man is but a mere breath.^e (*Selah*)
- 12** Hear my prayer, O Jehovah,
Listen to my cry for help.^f
Do not ignore my tears.
For I am but a foreign resident to you,^g
A traveler passing through,^h
just like all my forefathers.^h
- 13** Turn your harsh gaze away from me so that I may cheer up
Before I pass away and I am gone.ⁱ
- To the director. Of David. A melody.
- 40** I earnestly hoped in*
Jehovah,
And he inclined his ear[#]
to me and heard my cry for help.ⁱ
- 2** He brought me up out of a roaring pit,
Out of the slimy mire.
And he set my feet upon a crag;
He made my footing secure.
- 3** Then he put a new song in my mouth,^j

39:12 *Or "A settler." 40:1 *Or "waited patiently for." #Or "bent down to listen."

CHAP. 39

a Ps 25:11
Mic 7:19

b Job 40:4
Ps 38:13

c 2Sa 16:10

d Ps 90:8

e Ps 39:5
Ps 102:11

f Ps 28:1

g Le 25:23
1Ch 29:15

h Heb 11:13

CHAP. 40

i Ps 34:15

j Ps 33:3
Ps 98:1

Second Col.

a Re 15:3

b Ex 15:11

c Ps 139:17, 18

d 1Sa 15:22
Ps 51:16, 17
Ho 6:6

e Isa 50:5

f Heb 10:5-9

g Lu 24:44

h Joh 4:34

i Ps 37:31
Ro 7:22

j Ps 22:22

k Heb 13:15

l Heb 2:12

Praise to our God.
Many will look on in awe
And put their trust in
Jehovah.

- 4** Happy is the man who trusts in Jehovah
And who does not look to the defiant or to those who are false.*
- 5** How many things you have done,
O Jehovah my God,
Your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us.^a
None can compare to you;^b
If I were to try to tell and speak of them,
They would be too numerous to recount!^c
- 6** Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,^{*d}
But you opened up my ears to hear.^e
You did not ask for burnt offerings and sin offerings.^f
- 7** Then I said: "Look, I have come.
In the scroll* it is written about me.^g
- 8** To do your will, O my God, is my delight,^{*h}
And your law is deep within me.ⁱ
- 9** I proclaim the good news of righteousness in the great congregation.^j
Look! I do not restrain my lips,^k
O Jehovah, as you well know.
- 10** I do not cover over your righteousness in my heart.
I declare your faithfulness and salvation.
I do not hide your loyal love and your truth in the great congregation."^l
- 11** O Jehovah, do not withhold your mercy from me.

40:4 *Or "to liars." 40:6 *Or "delight in." 40:7 *Lit., "the scroll of the book." 40:8 *Or "desire."

May your loyal love and
your truth constantly
safeguard me.^a

- 12** The calamities surrounding
me are too many to count.^b
So many of my errors over-
whelm me that I cannot see
my way;^c

They are more numerous
than the hairs of my head,
And I have lost heart.

- 13** Please be willing, O Jehovah,
to save me.^d

O Jehovah, hurry to
help me.^e

- 14** May all those seeking to take
my life*
Be put to shame and dis-
graced.

May those who delight in
my calamity
Retreat in humiliation.

- 15** May those who are saying to
me: “Aha! Aha!”
Be appalled because of their
own shame.

- 16** But let those seeking you^f
Exult and rejoice in you.^g
May those who love your acts
of salvation always say:
“May Jehovah be magni-
fied.”^h

- 17** But I am helpless and poor;
May Jehovah pay attention
to me.

You are my helper and my
rescuer;ⁱ

My God, do not delay.^j

To the director. A melody of David.

- 41** Happy is anyone who
shows consideration to
the lowly one;^k

Jehovah will rescue him in
the day of calamity.

- 2** Jehovah will guard him and
keep him alive.
He will be pronounced happy
in the earth;^l
You will never turn him over
to the will* of his enemies.^m

40:14 *Or “soul.” **41:2** *Or “desire;
soul.” See Glossary.

CHAP. 40

a Ps 61:6, 7

b Ps 71:20

c Ps 38:4

d Ps 25:17

e Ps 38:22
Ps 70:1-5

f De 4:29

g Ps 13:5

h Ps 35:27

i Ps 54:4
Isa 50:7
Heb 13:6

j Ps 143:7

CHAP. 41

k De 15:7, 8
Ps 112:9
Pr 14:21
Pr 22:9

l Mt 5:7

m 2Pe 2:9

Second Col.

a 2Ki 20:5
Ps 103:3

b Ps 51:1

c Ps 6:2
Ps 147:3

d Ps 32:5
Ps 38:3
Pr 28:13

e Ps 3:2
Ps 71:10, 11

f 2Sa 15:12
Job 19:19
Ps 55:12, 13

g Mr 14:18
Joh 13:18
Joh 13:26

h Ps 31:8
Jer 20:13

i Ps 25:21
Pr 2:7

j Ps 34:15

k 1Ch 16:36
1Ch 29:10

- 3** Jehovah will sustain him on
his sickbed;^a
During his sickness you will
completely change his bed.

- 4** For I said: “O Jehovah, show
me favor.^b

Heal me,^{*c} for I have sinned
against you.”^d

- 5** But my enemies speak evil
about me:

“When will he die and his
name perish?”

- 6** If one of them comes to
see me, his heart speaks
falsely.

He gathers something harm-
ful to say;

Then he goes out and
spreads it abroad.

- 7** All those who hate me whis-
per to one another;
They are scheming some-
thing bad against me:

- 8** “A dreadful thing has over-
taken him;

Now that he is down, he will
not rise again.”^e

- 9** Even the man at peace with
me, one whom I trusted,^f
Who was eating my bread,
has lifted his heel against
me.^g

- 10** But you, O Jehovah, show
me favor and raise me up,
So that I may repay them.

- 11** By this I will know that you
are pleased with me:
When my enemy cannot
shout in triumph over me.^h

- 12** As for me, you uphold me
because of my integrity;ⁱ
You will keep me in your
presence forever.^j

- 13** May Jehovah, the God of
Israel, be praised
Throughout all eternity.*
Amen and Amen.

41:4 *Or “my soul.” **41:9** *Or “turned
against me.” **41:13** *Or “From eternity
to eternity.”

BOOK TWO
(Psalms 42-72)

To the director.

Mas'kil* of the sons of Kor'ah.^a

- 42** As a deer that longs for streams of water,
So I long* for you, O God.
- 2** I do thirst* for God, for the living God.^b
When may I come and appear before God?^c
- 3** My tears are my food day and night;
All day long people taunt me: "Where is your God?"^d
- 4** These things I remember, and I pour out my soul,*
For I once walked along with the multitude;
I used to walk solemnly^e before them to the house of God,
With sounds of rejoicing and thanksgiving,
Those of a crowd celebrating a festival.^e
- 5** Why am I* in despair?^f
Why is this turmoil within me?
Wait for God,^g
For I will yet praise him as my Grand Savior.^h
- 6** My God, I am* in despair.ⁱ
That is why I remember you,^j
From the land of Jordan and the peaks of Her'mon,
From Mount Mi-zar'.[#]
- 7** Deep waters call to deep waters
At the sound of your waterfalls.
All your surging waves have overwhelmed me.^k
- 8** By day Jehovah will grant me his loyal love,
And by night his song will be with me—a prayer to the God of my life.^l

42:Sup; 42:4 *See Glossary. 42:1 *Or "my soul longs." 42:2 *Or "My soul thirsts." 42:4 #Or "slowly." 42:5, 11; 43:5 *Or "is my soul." 42:6 *Or "my soul is." #Or "the little mountain."

CHAP. 42

- a 2Ch 20:19
b Ps 63:1
c Ps 27:4
Ps 84:2
d Ps 3:2
Ps 42:10
Ps 79:10
e De 16:14, 16
2Ch 30:23, 24
f Ps 55:4
Mr 14:34
g Ps 37:7
La 3:24
Mic 7:7
h Ps 43:5
i Ps 22:1
Joh 12:27
j Jon 2:7
k Ps 88:7
l Ps 27:1

Second Col.

- a Ps 13:1
b Ps 38:6
Ps 43:2
c Ps 3:2
Ps 42:3
Ps 79:10
d Ps 37:7
e Ps 42:5
Ps 43:5

CHAP. 43

- f Ps 26:1
Ps 35:24
g Ps 35:1
Pr 22:22, 23
h Ps 28:7
Ps 140:7
i Ps 42:9
j Ps 40:11
Pr 6:23
k Ps 5:8
Ps 27:11
Ps 143:10
l 1Ch 16:1
Ps 78:68, 69
m Ps 84:3
n 2Sa 6:5
o Ps 37:7
p Ps 42:5, 11

- 9** I will say to God, my crag:
"Why have you forgotten me?"^a
Why should I walk about sad because of the oppression by my enemy?"^b
- 10** With murderous hostility* my enemies taunt me;
All day long they taunt me: "Where is your God?"^c
- 11** Why am I* in despair?
Why is this turmoil within me?
Wait for God,^d
For I will yet praise him as my Grand Savior and my God.^e
- 43** Judge me, O God,^f
Defend my legal case^g against a disloyal nation.
Rescue me from the man of deception and unrighteousness.
- 2** For you are my God, my fortress,^h
Why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about sad because of the oppression by my enemy?ⁱ
- 3** Send out your light and your truth.^j
May these lead me;^k
May they guide me to your holy mountain and to your grand tabernacle.^l
- 4** Then I will come to the altar of God,^m
To God, my exceeding joy.
And I will praise you with the harp,ⁿ O God, my God.
- 5** Why am I* in despair?
Why is this turmoil within me?
Wait for God,^o
For I will yet praise him as my Grand Savior and my God.^p

42:10 *Or possibly, "As if crushing my bones."

To the director.

Of the sons of Kor'ah.^a Mas'kil.*

- 44** O God, we have heard
with our own ears,
Our forefathers have re-
counted to us,^b
The deeds you accomplished
in their days,
In the days of long ago.
- 2** With your hand you drove
away nations^c
And settled our forefathers
there.^d
You crushed nations and
drove them out.^e
- 3** It was not by their own sword
that they took possession
of the land,^f
And their own arm did not
bring them victory.^g
Rather, it was by your right
hand and your arm^h and
the light of your face,
For you took pleasure in
them.ⁱ
- 4** You are my King, O God;^j
Command* complete victory^k
for Jacob.
- 5** By your power we will drive
back our adversaries;^k
In your name we will trample
down those who rise up
against us.^l
- 6** For I do not trust in my bow,
And my sword cannot
save me.^m
- 7** It was you who saved us from
our adversaries,ⁿ
You who humiliated those
who hate us.
- 8** To God we will offer praise
all day long,
And we will give thanks to
your name forever. (*Selah*)
- 9** But now you have cast us off
and humiliated us,
And you do not go out with
our armies.
- 10** You keep making us retreat
from our adversary;^o

44:Sup *See Glossary. **44:4** *Or
"Grant." #Or "grand salvation."

CHAP. 44

- a 2Ch 20:19
b Ex 13:14
Nu 21:14
Jg 6:13
c De 7:1
d Ex 15:17
Ps 78:55
Ps 80:8, 9
e Jos 10:5, 11
Ps 135:10, 11
f De 4:38
Jos 24:12
g 1Sa 12:22
h Isa 63:11-13
i De 7:7, 8
j Ps 74:12
Isa 33:22
k Ps 18:39
Php 4:13
l Ps 60:12
m 1Sa 17:45
Ps 20:7
Ps 33:16
n Jos 24:8
o De 28:15, 25
- Second Col.
a De 28:64
b De 32:30
c De 28:37
2Ch 7:20
d Ex 34:10
e Ps 139:1
Ec 12:14
Jer 17:10
f Ro 8:36

Those who hate us take
whatever they want.

- 11** You hand us over to be
devoured like sheep;
You have scattered us among
the nations.^a
- 12** You sell your people for next
to nothing;^b
You make no profit from the
sale.*
- 13** You make us a reproach to
our neighbors,
An object of ridicule
and jeering to those all
around us.
- 14** You make us an object of
scorn* among the nations,^c
Something for the peoples to
shake their heads at.
- 15** I feel humiliated all day long,
And I am overwhelmed by
my shame,
- 16** On account of the sound of
their taunts and insults,
Because of our enemy who is
taking revenge.
- 17** All of this has come upon us,
yet we have not forgotten
you,
And we have not violated
your covenant.^d
- 18** Our heart has not deviated;
Our footsteps do not stray
from your path.
- 19** But you have crushed us
where the jackals dwell;
You have covered us with
deep shadow.
- 20** If we have forgotten the
name of our God
Or if we spread out our
hands in prayer to a
foreign god,
- 21** Will not God discover this?
He is aware of the secrets
of the heart.^e
- 22** For your sake we are being
put to death all day long;
We have been accounted as
sheep for slaughtering.^f

44:12 *Or "by the price for them."
44:14 *Lit., "a proverb."

23 Rouse yourself. Why do you keep sleeping, O Jehovah?^a Awake! Do not keep casting us off forever.^b

24 Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and our oppression?

25 For we^{*} have been brought down to the dust; Our bodies are pressed to the ground.^c

26 Rise up as our helper!^d Rescue^{*} us because of your loyal love.^e

To the director; set to "The Lilies." Of the sons of Kor'ah.^f Mas'kil.^{*} A song of love.

45 My heart is stirred by something good.

I say: "My song is^{*} about a king."^g

May my tongue be the stylus^h of a skilled copyist.ⁱ

2 You are the most handsome of the sons of men. Gracious speech flows from your lips.^j

That is why God has blessed you forever.^k

3 Strap your sword^l on your side, O mighty one,^m In your dignity and your splendor.ⁿ

4 And in your splendor go on to victory;^o Ride in the cause of truth and humility and righteousness.^p

And your right hand will accomplish^q awe-inspiring things.

5 Your arrows are sharp, making peoples fall before you;^q They pierce the hearts of the king's enemies.^r

44:25 *Or "our souls." **44:26** *Lit., "Redeem." **45:Sup** *See Glossary. **45:1** *Lit., "My works are." *Or "pen." [△]Or "scribe." **45:4** *Or "success." *Lit., "teach you."

CHAP. 44

a Ps 7:6
Ps 78:65, 66

b Job 13:24
Ps 13:1
Ps 88:14

c Ps 119:25

d Ps 33:20

e Ps 130:7

CHAP. 45

f 2Ch 20:19

g Ps 2:6

h Isa 8:1

i 2Sa 23:2
Ezr 7:6

j Joh 7:46

k Ps 72:17

l Re 1:16
Re 19:15

m Isa 9:6

n Heb 1:3

o Re 6:2

p Re 19:11

q Ps 2:9
2Th 1:7, 8

r Re 17:14
Re 19:19

Second Col.

a Ps 89:29, 36

b Isa 11:4
Jer 33:15
Heb 1:8, 9

c Heb 7:26

d Mt 7:23

e Isa 61:1
Ac 10:38

f Ps 21:6

g Isa 13:12

6 God is your throne forever and ever;^a

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.^{*b}

7 You loved righteousness,^c and you hated wickedness.^d

That is why God, your God, has anointed you^e with the oil of exaltation^f more than your companions.

8 All your garments are scented with myrrh and aloeswood and cassia;

From the grand ivory palace, stringed instruments make you rejoice.

9 The daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor.

The royal consort^{*} has taken her stand at your right hand, adorned in gold of O'phir.^g

10 Listen, O daughter, pay attention and incline your ear;

Forget your people and your father's house.

11 And the king will long for your beauty,

For he is your lord, So bow down to him.

12 The daughter of Tyre will come with a gift;

The wealthiest of men will seek your favor.^{*}

13 Inside the palace^{*} the king's daughter is absolutely magnificent;

Her clothing is adorned with^h gold.

14 She will be brought to the king in richly woven garments.^{*}

45:6 *Or "justice." **45:9** *Or "The queen." **45:12** *Or "soften your face." **45:13** *Lit., "house." *Lit., "with settings of." **45:14** *Or possibly, "in embroidered robes."

- Song 4 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah Sustains Those Who Are Ill”:** (10 min.)
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PSALMS 38-44 | Jehovah Sustains Those Who Are Ill

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- David became very ill
- David showed consideration to lowly ones
- David did not expect a miraculous recovery, but he looked to Jehovah for comfort, wisdom, and support
- Jehovah viewed David as a man of integrity



(w15 12/15 24 ¶7)

⁷ Still, if we are ill, we can look to God for comfort, wisdom, and support, as did true worshippers in the past. King David wrote: “Happy is anyone who shows consideration to the lowly one; Jehovah will rescue him in the day of calamity. Jehovah will guard him and keep him alive.” (Ps. 41:1, 2) We know that an individual living in David’s day who showed consideration to a lowly one did not keep living without end. Hence, David could not have meant that such a considerate individual would be kept alive miraculously, thus gaining everlasting life. We can take those inspired words to mean that God would help the loyal considerate one. How? David explained: “Jehovah will sustain him on his sickbed; during his sickness you will completely change his bed.” (Ps. 41:3) Yes, an individual who showed consideration to a lowly one could be certain that God was aware of him and his faithful course. And the recuperative power of his God-given body might help him to get better, to recover from his sickness.

(w91 10/1 14 ¶6)

⁶ A considerate person helps the needy. “The day of calamity” can be any calamitous occasion or long period of hardship that weakens an individual. He trusts in God to guard him during infirmity, and others

‘pronounce him happy in the earth’ by spreading the news of Jehovah’s merciful dealings with him. God sustained David “upon a divan of illness,” perhaps during the stressful time when David’s son Absalom sought to seize Israel’s throne.—2 Samuel 15:1-6.

(w08 9/15 5 ¶12-13)

¹² David’s trust in “the Provider of escape” did not waver. Concerning an upright worshipper who is ill, David said: “In the day of calamity Jehovah will provide escape for him. Jehovah himself will sustain him upon a divan of illness; all his bed you will certainly change during his sickness.” (Ps. 41:1, 3) Here again, notice David’s confidence, as expressed in the words “Jehovah himself will.” David was sure that Jehovah would provide escape for him. How?

¹³ David did not expect Jehovah to perform a miracle and remove the sickness. Rather, David felt certain that Jehovah would “sustain him”—that is, give him support and strength while he was lying on his sickbed. David definitely needed such help. In addition to the sickness that weakened him, he was surrounded by enemies who were saying evil things about him. (Verses 5, 6) Jehovah may well have strengthened David by bringing to his mind comforting thoughts. Notably, David said: “Because of my integrity you have upheld me.” (Verse 12) David may also have found

strength in reflecting on the fact that despite his weakened condition and the bad things that his enemies were saying, Jehovah regarded him as a man of integrity. David did finally recover from his sickness. Is it not reassuring to know that Jehovah can sustain those who are sick?—2 Cor. 1:3.

(w15 12/15 27 ¶18-19)

¹⁸ As long as the present system of things remains and we are imperfect, sickness is a fact that we must face. We cannot expect now to be cured miraculously. However, Revelation 22:1, 2 points to the time when we will be healed completely. The apostle John saw in vision “a river of water of life” and “trees of life” with leaves “for the healing of the nations.” This does not refer to any herbal remedy now or in the future. Rather, it points to Jehovah’s provision through Jesus for giving everlasting life to obedient mankind—truly something we can look forward to.—Isa. 35:5, 6.

¹⁹ As we await that glorious future, we know that Jehovah is interested in each of us personally, even when we are ill. We can be confident, just as David was, that our God will sustain us during any time of sickness. And with David we can say: “As for me, you uphold me because of my integrity; you will keep me in your presence forever.”—Ps. 41:12.

(w08 12/15 6 ¶15)

¹⁵ Because integrity is at the core of Jehovah's judgment of us, it is essential to our hope for the future. David knew this to be true. (*Read Psalm 41:12.*) He cherished the hope of receiving God's favorable attention forever. Like true Christians today, David hoped to live forever, continuing to draw ever closer to Jehovah God while serving him. David saw the role that his maintaining integrity would play if he was to see the fulfillment of that hope. Similarly, Jehovah upholds us, teaches us, guides us, and blesses us as we keep our integrity.

(w09 5/15 4 ¶5)

It is the course of discretion to guard our lips when in the presence of wicked people. When confronted by ridiculers in our ministry, silence may well be the proper response. Moreover, would it not sometimes be wise to remain silent so as not to convey an impression of approval when our schoolmates or coworkers tell off-color jokes or use vulgar language? (Eph. 5:3) "I will set a muzzle as a guard to my own mouth," wrote the psalmist, "as long as anyone wicked is in front of me."—Ps. 39:1.

(w06 5/15 20 ¶12)

39:1, 2. When the wicked seek information to bring harm to our fellow believers, we are wise ‘to set a muzzle as a guard to our mouth’ and remain silent.

(w11 8/15 13 ¶5)

⁵ *It was foretold that the Messiah would be betrayed by a treacherous associate.* David prophesied: “The man at peace with me, in whom I trusted, who was eating my bread, has magnified his heel against me.” (Ps. 41:9) A person who ate bread with someone was thought to be his friend. (Gen. 31:54) So the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot was treachery of the worst sort. Jesus called attention to the fulfillment of David’s prophetic words when He referred to his betrayer and told his apostles: “I am not talking about all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But it is in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, ‘He that used to feed on my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’”—John 13:18.

(w08 9/15 5 ¶11)

¹¹ For example, David refers to a trusted friend, one who used to eat bread with him, as betraying him. (Verse 9) This may remind us of one incident in David's life. During Absalom's rebellion, David's trusted counselor Ahithophel turned traitor and joined Absalom in the revolt against the king. (2 Sam. 15:31; 16:15) Just imagine the weakened king on his sickbed, with no strength to get up, all the while knowing that he was surrounded by conspirators who wished him dead so that they could carry out their evil plans.—Verse 5.

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BREAKING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER



3 COVER SUBJECT
Breaking Through an
Ancient Barrier

4 Breaking the Language Barrier
—A Look Behind the Scenes

Did you know that Jehovah's Witnesses publish literature that is translated into over 750 languages?

Why do we do that? So that the Bible's message can reach "every nation and tribe and language and people."—Revelation 14:6, footnote.

This issue of "Awake!" provides a behind-the-scenes look at our translation work.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

8 PORTRAITS FROM THE PAST
Ignaz Semmelweis

10 HELP FOR THE FAMILY
How to Discuss Problems

12 THE BIBLE'S VIEWPOINT
Faith

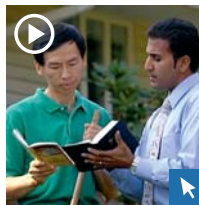
14 Food Allergy and Food Intolerance
—What's the Difference?

16 WAS IT DESIGNED?
The Ant's Neck



MORE ONLINE

VIDEOS



'Good News to Every Nation, Tribe, and Tongue'

Watch this video to see how Jehovah's Witnesses share practical wisdom from the Bible in hundreds of languages all over the world.

(Look under PUBLICATIONS > VIDEOS)

2

Who Is God?

1. Why should we worship God?

The true God is the Creator of all things. He had no beginning and will never have an end. (Psalm 90:2) He is the Source of the good news found in the Bible. (1 Timothy 1:11) Since God gave us life, we should worship only him. 📖 *Read Revelation 4:11.*

2. What is God like?

No human has ever seen God because he is a Spirit, which means that he is a higher form of life than the physical creatures who live on earth. (John 1:18; 4:24) Nevertheless, we can discern God's personality from the things he has made. For instance, the variety of fruits and flowers tells us of his love and wisdom. The size of the universe tells us of his power. 📖 *Read Romans 1:20.*

We can learn even more about God's personality by reading the Bible. For example, it tells us what God likes and what he does not like, how he treats people, and how he reacts in different situations. 📖 *Read Psalm 103:7-10.*

3. Does God have a name?

Jesus said: "Our Father in the heavens, let your *name* be sanctified." (Matthew 6:9) Although God has many titles, he has only one name. In each language, it is pronounced differently. In English it is usually pronounced "Jehovah." But some people pronounce it "Yahweh." 📖 *Read Psalm 83:18.*

God's name has been taken out of many Bibles and replaced with the titles Lord or God. But when the Bible was written, it contained God's name some 7,000 times.

Jesus made God's name known when he taught people about God. 📖 *Read John 17:26.*

4. Does Jehovah care about us?

Does widespread suffering mean that Jehovah is a God who does not care about us? Some people claim that he makes us suffer to test us, but this is not true.

📖 *Read James 1:13.*

God has granted man the dignity of free will. Do we not appreciate our freedom to choose to serve God? (Joshua 24:15) But many choose to do bad things to others, so suffering abounds. It hurts Jehovah to see such injustice. 📖 *Read Genesis 6:5, 6.*

Jehovah is a God who cares about us. He wants us to enjoy life. Soon he will eliminate suffering and those who cause it. Meanwhile, he has good reason to allow suffering for a limited time. In Lesson 8, we will learn what that reason is. 📖 *Read 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7, 13.*

Like this loving father, God is acting for our long-term good



5. How can we draw closer to God?

Jehovah invites us to draw close to him by speaking to him in prayer. He is interested in us individually. (Psalm 65:2; 145:18) He is willing to forgive. He recognizes our efforts to please him, even if we sometimes fail. So despite our imperfection, we really can enjoy a close relationship with God.

📖 *Read Psalm 103:12-14; James 4:8.*

Since Jehovah has given us life, we should love him more than we love anyone else. (Mark 12:30) As you express your love for God by learning more about him and doing as he asks, you will draw ever closer to him.

📖 *Read 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 5:3.*



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128 *The Scene of This World
Is Changing*
(1 Corinthians 7:31)

1. To give us hope and to save us
From sin and death that enslave us,
His only Son our God gave us—
No gift could have greater worth.

(CHORUS)

*Though the scene of this world
is now changing,
God has been wisely arranging
Blessings for heaven and earth.*

2. The world around us is ailing.
The wicked system is failing.
But God's rule we are now hailing;
The Kingdom has come to birth.

(Chorus)

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Compare: Life Now and in the Future

Watch song 24. Then compare each pair of pictures. Which pictures show life in Paradise?



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

¹⁴ 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?

**The friendship of
Mary and Elizabeth
was a blessing to
them both**



¹⁵ In turn, Mary spoke. Her words are carefully preserved in God’s Word. (*Read Luke 1:46-55.*) It is by far Mary’s longest speech in the Bible record, and it reveals much about her. It shows her thankful, appreciative spirit as she praises Jehovah for blessing her with the privilege of serving as the mother of the Messiah. It shows the depth of her faith as she speaks of Jehovah as abasing the haughty and powerful and as helping the lowly and poor who seek to serve him. It also hints at the extent of her knowledge. By one estimate, she made over 20 references to the Hebrew Scriptures!*

¹⁶ Clearly, Mary thought deeply about God’s Word. Still, she remained humble, preferring to let the Scriptures do the talking rather than speaking of her own originality. The son who was then growing in her womb would one day show the same spirit, saying: “What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him

* Among such references, Mary evidently quoted from the faithful woman Hannah, who had also received a blessing from Jehovah in the matter of childbirth.—See the box “Two Remarkable Prayers,” in Chapter 6.

16, 17. (a) How did Mary and her son show a spirit that we need to imitate? (b) Mary’s visit with Elizabeth reminds us of what blessing?

that sent me.” (John 7:16) We do well to ask ourselves: ‘Do I show such respect and reverence for God’s Word? Or do I prefer my own ideas and teachings?’ Mary’s position is clear.

¹⁷ Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months, no doubt receiving and providing a great deal of encouragement. (Luke 1:56) The Bible’s warm account of this visit reminds us of what a blessing friendship can be. If we seek out friends who truly love our God, Jehovah, we are sure to grow spiritually and draw closer to him. (Prov. 13:20) Finally, though, it was time for Mary to return home. What would Joseph say when he learned of her condition?

Mary and Joseph

¹⁸ Mary likely did not wait for her pregnancy to reveal itself. She no doubt had to speak to Joseph. Beforehand, she may have wondered how this decent, God-fearing man would respond to what she had to tell him. Nonetheless, she approached him and told him all that had happened to her. As you might imagine, Joseph was deeply troubled. He wanted to

18. What did Mary reveal to Joseph, and how did he respond?

believe this dear girl, but it seemed that she had been unfaithful to him. The Bible does not say what thoughts went through his mind or how he reasoned. But it does say that he decided to divorce her, for at that time, engaged couples were viewed as being married. However, he did not want to expose her to public shame and scandal, so he chose to divorce her in secret. (Matt. 1:18, 19) It must have pained Mary to see this kind man agonizing over this unprecedented situation. Yet, Mary was not embittered.

¹⁹ Jehovah kindly helped Joseph to find the best course. In a dream, God's angel told him that Mary's pregnancy was indeed miraculous. That must have been a relief! Joseph now did what Mary had done from the start—he acted in harmony with Jehovah's leading. He took Mary as his wife, and he prepared to take on the unique responsibility of caring for Jehovah's Son.—Matt. 1:20-24.

²⁰ Married people—and those contemplating marriage—do well to learn from this young couple of

19. How did Jehovah help Joseph to follow the best course?

20, 21. What can married people and those contemplating marriage learn from Mary and Joseph?

2,000 years ago. As Joseph saw his young wife fulfill the duties and cares of motherhood, he was surely pleased that Jehovah's angel had directed him. Joseph must have seen the importance of leaning on Jehovah when making major decisions. (Ps. 37:5; Prov. 18:13) He no doubt remained careful and kind in making decisions as the family head.

²¹ On the other hand, what can we surmise from Mary's willingness to marry Joseph? Although at first he may have found her story difficult to comprehend, she waited on him to decide how to proceed, for he was the man who would be the family head. That certainly was a good lesson for her, as it is for Christian women today. Finally, these incidents likely taught both Joseph and Mary much about the value of honest and open communication.—***Read Proverbs 15:22.***

²² That young couple certainly started their marriage off on the best of foundations. They both loved Jehovah God above all and yearned to please him as responsible, caring parents. Of course, greater

22. What was the foundation of Joseph and Mary's marriage, and what prospect lay before them?

blessings awaited them—and greater challenges too. Before them lay the prospect of raising Jesus, who would grow up to be the greatest man the world has ever known.

TO THINK ABOUT . . .

- What can we learn from Mary about humility?
- How was Mary's obedience outstanding?
- In what ways did Mary strengthen her faith?
- In what ways would you like to imitate the faith of Mary?

36 “What God Has Yoked Together” (Matthew 19:5, 6)

1. With dignity and joy,
A threefold cord is bound.
With God and men to witness,
These sacred vows resound.
He vowed before Jehovah
To love her from the heart.

(CHORUS)

*“What God has yoked together
Let no man put apart.”*

2. They both have searched God’s Word
To learn to do his will,
And now they seek his blessing,
Their promise to fulfill.
She vowed before Jehovah
To love him from the heart.

(Chorus)

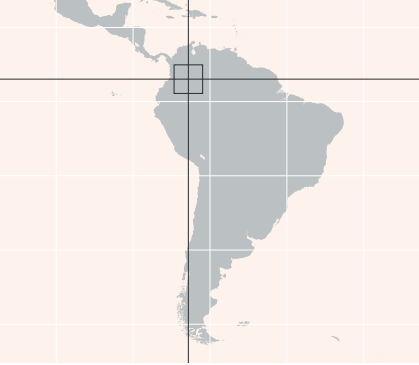
APRIL 2016

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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10 Are You Using Your Imagination Wisely?

13 WEEK OF JUNE 6-12 **"Let Endurance Complete Its Work"**

To receive the gift of eternal life, we must endure to the end. This article reviews four things that will help us to endure and three examples of steadfast endurance. It also explains the work that endurance must complete in each of us.

18 WEEK OF JUNE 13-19 **Why Should We Meet Together for Worship?**

All Christians face obstacles that can make it difficult to attend congregation meetings. To motivate us to overcome these obstacles, this article considers how our attending meetings affects us and others and what it means to Jehovah God.

23 LIFE STORY **Former Nuns Become True Spiritual Sisters**

27 WEEK OF JUNE 20-26 **Maintain Your Neutrality in a Divided World**

As human governments near their end, we can expect them to become less and less tolerant of our neutral stand. This article identifies four keys to maintaining our neutrality and avoiding compromise.

32 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

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20 *Bless Our Meeting Together* (Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. Bless us as we meet together,
Great Jehovah, we now pray.
For our meetings we do thank you;
May your spirit with us stay.
2. Help us, Lord, refine our worship;
With your Word, oh, do us fill.
Train our minds and tongues to witness;
Love within our hearts instill.
3. So, dear Father, bless our meetings;
Grant us peace and unity.
May our words and may our actions
Magnify your Sov'reignty.

Why Should We Meet Together for Worship?

“They continued devoting themselves . . . to associating together.”—ACTS 2:42.

SONGS: 20, 119

USING THE BOX

**“REASONS TO ATTEND MEETINGS,”
EXPLAIN . . .**

how congregation meetings are good for us.

how we help others when we attend meetings.

how Jehovah feels when we attend meetings.

WHEN Corinna was only 17 years old, her mother was arrested and sent to a Soviet labor camp. Later, Corinna herself was exiled to Siberia, thousands of miles away from her home. Treated like a slave, she was sometimes forced to work outdoors in the bitter cold without adequate

1-3. (a) How have Christians shown that they are eager to meet together? (See opening picture of the standard edition.) (b) What will we discuss in this article?



Why Should We Meet Together for Worship?



clothing. Despite those harsh conditions, Corinna and another sister were determined to attend a congregation meeting.

2 “We left our work area in the evening,” she explains, “and walked to a railway station 15 miles (25 km) away. The train departed at two o’clock in the morning, and we rode for six hours before disembarking and walking six miles (10 km) to the meeting place.” Was the trip worth it? Corinna relates: “At the meeting, we studied *The Watchtower* and sang Kingdom songs. It was a very upbuilding and faith-strengthening experience for us.” Though they did not return to work until three days later, the farm manager did not even notice that Corinna and her companion had been away.

3 Jehovah’s people have always treasured occasions to meet together. Immediately after the Christian congregation was formed, followers of

Jesus began “devoting themselves . . . to associating together.” (Acts 2:42) You likely share their desire to attend congregation meetings regularly. Nevertheless, all Christians face obstacles. Secular work, a busy schedule, or fatigue because of our daily routine can make it difficult to attend meetings. What will motivate us to try to overcome these obstacles and maintain a healthy pattern of meeting attendance?[1] How can we help our Bible students and others to see the importance of attending meetings? In this article, we will consider eight reasons to meet together for worship. We can group those reasons into three categories: how you are affected, how others are affected, and how Jehovah is affected when you attend meetings.[2]

HOW YOU ARE AFFECTED

4 *Meetings educate us.* Every congregation

4. How does meeting together help us to learn about Jehovah?

meeting helps us to learn about our God, Jehovah. For example, over a recent period of almost two years, most congregations considered the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* at the Congregation Bible Study. Did not that study of God's qualities, along with the heartfelt comments of your brothers and sisters, strengthen your love for your heavenly Father? We also increase our knowledge of God's Word by paying careful attention to talks, demonstrations, and Bible readings. (Neh. 8:8) For instance, think of the spiritual gems you discover each week as you prepare for and listen to highlights from the Bible reading!

5 Meetings teach us to apply Bible principles in all aspects of our life. (1 Thess. 4:9, 10) The *Watchtower* Study, for example, is tailored to the needs of God's people. Has a *Watchtower* Study motivated you to reevaluate your goals, to forgive

5. How have meetings helped you to use what you learned from the Bible and to improve the way you preach?

a fellow Christian, or to improve the quality of your prayers? The midweek meeting educates us for the ministry. We learn how to preach the good news and how to teach Scriptural principles effectively.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

6 *Meetings encourage us.* This system of things can weaken us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In contrast, congregation meetings encourage and strengthen us. (Read Acts 15:30-32.) At many of our meetings, we review the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. As a result, we reinforce our conviction that Jehovah's promises for the future will likewise be fulfilled. Of course, it is not just those who speak from the platform who encourage us. Fellow Christians who offer comments and sing from the heart also build us up. (1 Cor. 14:26) And when we converse with our brothers and sisters before and after the meetings, we feel a

6. How do our meetings encourage us and help us to keep strong?

sense of belonging and enjoy true refreshment.
—1 Cor. 16:17, 18.

7 Meetings bring us under the influence of holy spirit. The glorified Jesus Christ said: “Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.” (Rev. 2:7) Yes, Jesus leads the Christian congregation by means of holy spirit. We need holy spirit to help us resist temptation, to embolden and equip us for the ministry, and to enable us to make sound decisions. Should we not take advantage of every provision—including congregation meetings—to receive that spirit?

HOW OTHERS ARE AFFECTED

8 Meetings give us opportunities to show our brothers that we love them. Think deeply about the challenges some brothers and sisters in your

7. Why is it so important to be at our meetings?

8. When our brothers see us at the meetings and hear us comment and sing, how does this help them? (See also the box “He Always Leaves Feeling Better.”)

HE ALWAYS LEAVES FEELING BETTER

“LATELY, I have been burdened with health problems that make it difficult to get to the meetings. But once I’m there, I can enjoy the wonderful spiritual meal that Jehovah has prepared. Even though I come with severe knee pain, heart problems, and complications from diabetes, I always leave the meeting feeling better than when I arrived.

“When I first heard song number 68, ‘A Prayer of the Lowly One,’ sung by our congregation, I was moved to tears. It was so beautiful! My hearing aids picked up everyone’s voice, and I sang along. Oh, how wonderful it felt to be there!”
—George, age 58.

congregation must endure. No wonder the apostle Paul wrote: “Let us be concerned about one another”! Paul thereafter explained that we can show our concern by “not forsaking our meeting together.” (Heb. 10:24, 25; ftn.) Your presence at meetings

shows that you deem your fellow worshippers worthy of your time, attention, and concern. In addition, your heartfelt comments and singing encourage your fellow Witnesses.—Col. 3:16.

9 *Meetings unite us with fellow believers.* (Read John 10:16.) Jesus compared himself to a shepherd, and his followers to a flock of sheep. Consider: If two sheep are on a hill, two other sheep are in a valley, and still another sheep is grazing elsewhere, would we describe those five sheep as a flock? Generally, a flock of sheep stays together under the care of its shepherd. Similarly, we cannot follow our Shepherd if we deliberately isolate ourselves. We need to meet together with other Christians to be part of “one flock” under “one shepherd.”

9, 10. (a) Explain how Jesus’ words found at John 10:16 help us to understand why it is important to meet with our brothers. (b) If we are at the meetings regularly, how can we help someone who has been rejected by his family?

10 When we attend a meeting, we contribute to the unity of our brotherhood. (Ps. 133:1) Some of our fellow worshippers have been rejected by their parents and siblings. Yet, Jesus promised that he would give them a spiritual family to love them and care for them. (Mark 10:29, 30) When you attend meetings regularly, you may very well prove to be a father, mother, brother, or sister to one of these dear ones! Does that not motivate us to do our utmost to be at all the meetings?

HOW JEHOVAH IS AFFECTED

11 *Our meeting attendance gives Jehovah what he deserves.* As our Creator, Jehovah deserves praise, glory, thanksgiving, and honor. (Read Revelation 7:12.) When we pray, sing, and speak about Jehovah at our meetings, we are giving him what he so richly deserves—our worship.

11. How does attending meetings help us to give Jehovah what he deserves?

We cherish the privilege to honor the One who has done so much for us.

12 Jehovah also deserves our obedience. He has commanded us not to forsake our meeting together, especially during this time of the end. When we willingly obey that command, Jehovah is pleased. (1 John 3:22) He notices and values the effort we put forth to attend each meeting.—Heb. 6:10.

13 *Our meeting attendance shows Jehovah that we want to draw close to him and his Son.* At our meetings, our Grand Instructor directs us through the pages of his Word, the Bible. (Isa. 30:20, 21) Even unbelievers who attend our meetings may conclude: “God is really among you.” (1 Cor. 14:23-25) Jehovah blesses meetings with his holy spirit and actively directs the Scriptural teaching

12. How does Jehovah feel when we obey his command to attend meetings?

13, 14. How do we draw close to Jehovah and Jesus at meetings?

program. At our meetings, then, we are listening to Jehovah's voice and sensing his loving care. Consequently, we draw close to him.

14 Jesus said: "Where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst." (Matt. 18:20) In principle, Jesus' statement applies to our meetings. As head of the congregation, Christ "walks among" the congregations of God's people. (Rev. 1:20–2:1) Think of it! Jehovah and Jesus are actively involved in strengthening us at Christian meetings. How do you think Jehovah feels when he observes our eagerness to draw close to him and his Son?

15 *Our meeting attendance demonstrates that we support God's sovereignty.* Although Jehovah commands us to attend meetings, he does not force us to comply. (Isa. 43:23) Therefore, it is up to us to show Jehovah how deeply we love him

15. How does going to meetings show God that we want to obey him?

from our heart and how firmly we support his rule. (Rom. 6:17) For example, we may be pressured by an employer who insists that we sacrifice regular meeting attendance for secular work. We may be opposed by a government that threatens us with fines, imprisonment, or worse if we meet together for worship. Or we may be tempted to engage in recreation rather than attend a meeting. In each of these situations, we face a choice: Whom will we serve? (Acts 5:29) When we choose to support Jehovah's sovereignty, we make his heart rejoice. —Prov. 27:11.

CONTINUE DEVOTING YOURSELF TO MEETING TOGETHER

16 The early Christians did not simply meet together for a brief period following the stunning miracle at Pentecost 33 C.E. “They continued de-
16, 17. (a) How do we know that meetings were very important to Christians in the first century? (b) How did Brother George Gangas feel about Christian meetings?”

voting themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to associating together.” (Acts 2:42) The Greek word translated “devoting themselves” implies enduring or persevering in a course with intense effort. Under Roman rule and faced with opposition by the Jewish religious leaders, those Christians did not find it easy to attend meetings. Nevertheless, they persevered.

17 Many modern-day servants of Jehovah have shown deep appreciation for Christian meetings. George Gangas, who served on the Governing Body for over 22 years, stated: “To me, meeting with the brothers is one of life’s greatest pleasures and a source of encouragement. I love to be at the Kingdom Hall among the first, and leave among the last, if possible. I feel an inward joy when talking with God’s people. When I am among them I feel at home with my family, in a spiritual paradise.” He added: “As the

compass always points to the north, just so my innermost thought and desire is to attend the meetings.”

REASONS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

1. They educate us.
2. They encourage us.
3. They bring us under the influence of holy spirit.
4. They give us opportunities to show our brothers that we love them.
5. They unite us with fellow believers.
6. Our attendance gives Jehovah what he deserves.
7. Our attendance shows Jehovah that we want to draw close to him and his Son.
8. Our attendance demonstrates that we support God’s sovereignty.

18 Do you feel the same way about gathering together to worship Jehovah? Then be determined to endure and persevere in your earnest efforts to attend meetings regularly. You will thus show that you agree with King David, who said: “Jehovah, I love the house where you dwell.”—Ps. 26:8.

18. How do you feel about our meetings, and what are you determined to do?

ENDNOTES:

[1] (paragraph 3) Some of our fellow believers are unable to attend meetings regularly because of circumstances beyond their control, such as serious illness. They can be certain that Jehovah understands their situation and deeply appreciates their whole-souled worship. Elders may assist these infirm ones to benefit from spiritual programs, perhaps by helping them to tie in by telephone hookup or by recording the meetings for them.

[2] (paragraph 3) See the box “Reasons to Attend Meetings.”

Come! Be Refreshed

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;
The way of our God is not known.
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;
We cannot succeed on our own.
Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;
They help us build faith in our God.
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,
They give us the strength to go on.
We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;
His will is what we want to do.
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;
Our love for the truth they renew.
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;
His counsel by us should be heard.
To buy out the time for occasions to meet
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.
By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,
We learn how our faith can be shown.
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,
We know that we're never alone.
So as we look forward to much better times,
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live
With wisdom that comes from above.

(See also Ps. 37:18; 140:1; Prov. 18:1; Eph. 5:16; Jas. 3:17.)