

- Song 104 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Praise Jehovah, the Hearer of Prayer”:** (10 min.)
Ps 61:1, 8—Make your promises to Jehovah a matter of prayer (w99 9/15 9 ¶1-4)
Ps 62:8—Show trust in Jehovah by pouring your heart out to him in prayer (w15 4/15 25-26 ¶6-9)
Ps 65:1, 2—Jehovah is the Hearer of prayer for all righteous ones (w15 4/15 22 ¶13-14; w10 4/15 5 ¶10; it-2 668 ¶2)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 63:3—Why is Jehovah’s loyal love better than life? (w06 6/1 11 ¶7)

Ps 68:18—Who were the “gifts in the form of men”? (w06 6/1 10 ¶5)

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 63:1–64:10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 81
- **“Keeping Our Life Simple Helps Us Praise God”:** (15 min.) Begin with a discussion of the article. Then play and briefly discuss the JW Broadcast-ing video *We Live a Simple Life*. (Go to VIDEO ON DEMAND > FAMILY.) Encourage all to consider how to simplify their life in order to serve Jehovah more fully.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
ia chap. 19 ¶1-16
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 88 and Prayer

Keeping Our Life Simple Helps Us Praise God



Today, it is easy to complicate our lives with many things. Time and energy are required to shop for, pay for, use, maintain, and safe-guard possessions. Jesus lived a simple life so that material possessions would not needlessly pull him away from his ministry.—Mt 8:20.

How could you simplify your life so that you can do more in the ministry? With some adjustments, could someone in your house-hold join the pioneer ranks? Even if you are currently in full-time service, have you grad-ually allowed material things to complicate your life? A simple life in Jehovah’s service is a happy, contented life.—1Ti 6:7-9.

WAYS THAT I CAN SIMPLIFY MY LIFE:

1. Praise Jah with me;
Loud let it ring!
He gives us life, breath, and ev'ry good thing.
Each day and night,
His name we bless.
His perfect love clothes His almightiness.
We sing his praise, and his name we confess.
2. Praise Jah with me.
He satisfies
And hears our prayers as our needs he supplies.
His mighty arm
Strengthens the weak;
His holy spirit sustains all the meek.
His name we praise; Of his power we speak.
3. Praise Jah with me.
Our God is just;
He brings all comfort, in him we can trust.
Wrongs he will right;
Hearts he will heal.
Rich Kingdom blessings all mankind will feel.
Come let us praise him with joy and with zeal!

To the director; set to "Do Not Bring to Ruin." Of David. Mik'tam.*
When Saul sent men to watch David's^a
house to put him to death.^a

- 59** Rescue me from my enemies, O my God;^b
Protect me from those rising up against me.^c
- 2** Rescue me from those who act wickedly,
And save me from violent* men.
- 3** Look! They wait to ambush me;^{*d}
Strong men attack me
But not because I have revolted or sinned,^e
O Jehovah.
- 4** Though I did no wrong, they run and prepare to attack.
Do arise at my calling and see.
- 5** For you, O Jehovah God of armies, are the God of Israel.^f
Awake to turn your attention to all the nations.
Do not show mercy to any malicious traitors.^g (*Selah*)
- 6** They return each evening;^h
They growl* like dogs/ and prowl around the city.^j
- 7** Look what pours* forth from their mouth;
Their lips are like swords,^k
For they say: "Who is listening?"^l
- 8** But you, O Jehovah, will laugh at them;^m
You will scoff at all the nations.ⁿ
- 9** O my Strength, I will keep watch for you;^o
For God is my secure refuge.^{*p}
- 10** The God who shows loyal love to me will come to my aid;^q

59:Sup; 60:Sup *See Glossary.
59:Sup #Lit., "the." 59:2 *Or "blood-thirsty." 59:3 *Or "my soul." 59:6, 14 *Or "bark." 59:7 *Or "bubbles." 59:9 *Or "secure height."

CHAP. 59

- a 1Sa 19:11
b 1Sa 19:12
Ps 18:48
Ps 71:4
c Ps 12:5
Ps 91:14
d 1Sa 19:1
Ps 10:9
Ps 71:10
e 1Sa 24:11
1Sa 26:18
Ps 69:4
f De 33:29
g Pr 2:22
h 1Sa 19:11
i Ps 22:16
j Ps 59:14
k Ps 57:4
Ps 64:3
l Ps 10:4, 11
Ps 73:3, 11
m Ps 37:12, 13
n Ps 33:10
o Ps 27:1
Ps 46:1
p Ps 9:9
Ps 62:2
q Ps 6:4

Second Col.

- a Ps 54:7
b Ge 15:1
De 33:29
Ps 3:3
c Ps 64:8
Pr 12:13
Pr 16:18
d Ps 7:9
e 1Sa 17:46
Ps 9:16
Ps 83:17, 18
f Ps 59:6
g Ps 109:2, 10
h Job 37:23
Ps 21:13
Ps 145:10-12
i 1Sa 17:37
Ps 61:3
j Pr 18:10
k Isa 12:2
l Ps 59:10

CHAP. 60

- m 2Sa 8:13
1Ch 18:3
n Ps 60:10

God will cause me to look in triumph on my foes.^a

- 11** Do not kill them, so that my people may not forget.
By your power make them wander about;
Cause their downfall,
O Jehovah, our shield.^b
- 12** For the sin of their mouth, the word of their lips,
May they be trapped by their pride,^c
Because of the cursing and deception that they speak.
- 13** Finish them off in your wrath;^d
Finish them off, so that they are no more;
Make them know that God is ruling in Jacob and to the ends of the earth.^e (*Selah*)
- 14** Let them return in the evening;
Let them growl* like dogs and prowl around the city.^f
- 15** Let them wander about for something to eat;^g
Do not let them be satisfied or find a lodging place.
- 16** But as for me, I will sing about your strength;^h
In the morning I will joyfully tell about your loyal love.
For you are my secure refuge;ⁱ
And a place for me to flee in my time of distress.^j
- 17** O my Strength, to you I will sing praises,^{*k}
For God is my secure refuge, the God who shows loyal love to me.^l

To the director; set to "The Lily of Reminder." Mik'tam.* Of David.
For teaching. When he fought with A'ram-na-ha-ra'im and A'ram-Zo'bah, and Jo'ab returned and struck down 12,000 E'dom-ites in the Valley of Salt.^m

60 O God, you rejected us;
you broke through our defenses.ⁿ

59:17 *Or "make music."

You were angry with us;
but now accept us back!

- 2** You caused the earth to quake; you split it open. Repair its breaches, for it is falling.
- 3** You caused your people to suffer hardship. You made us drink wine that makes us stagger.^a
- 4** Give* a signal to those fearing you
To flee and dodge the bow.
(*Selah*)
- 5** So that your loved ones may be rescued,
Save us with your right hand and answer us.^b
- 6** God has spoken in his holiness:^{*}
"I will exult, I will give out She'chem as an inheritance,^c
And I will measure off the Valley[#] of Suc'coth.^d
- 7** Gil'e-ad belongs to me, as does Ma-nas'seh,^e
And E'phra-im is the helmet[#] for my head;
Judah is my commander's staff.^f
- 8** Mo'ab is my washbasin.^g
Over E'dom I will throw my sandal.^h
Over Phi-lis'ti-a I will shout in triumph."ⁱ
- 9** Who will bring me to the besieged* city?
Who will lead me as far as E'dom?^j
- 10** Is it not you, O God, who have rejected us,
Our God, who no longer goes out with our armies?^k
- 11** Help us in our distress,
For salvation by humans is worthless.^l

60:4 *Or possibly, "You have given."
60:6 *Or possibly, "in his holy place."
#Or "Low Plain." 60:7 *Lit., "stronghold." 60:9 *Or possibly, "fortified."

CHAP. 60

- a Isa 51:17
b Ps 18:35
Ps 21:8
Ps 108:6
Ps 118:15
Isa 41:10
c Ge 12:6, 7
d Jos 13:27, 28
Ps 108:7-9
e Jos 13:29-31
f Ge 49:10
g Nu 24:17
2Sa 8:2
h Nu 24:18
2Sa 8:14
i 2Sa 8:1
j 2Sa 8:14
Ps 108:10-13
k De 1:42
De 20:4
Jos 7:12
l Ps 62:9
Ps 118:8
Ps 146:3

Second Col.

- a Ps 18:32
b 2Sa 10:12
Ps 44:5

CHAP. 61

- c Ps 5:2
Ps 17:1
Ps 28:2
Ps 55:1
d Jon 2:2
e Ps 27:5
Ps 40:2
f 1Sa 17:45
Ps 18:2
Pr 18:10
g Ps 23:6
Ps 27:4
h Ps 63:7
i Ps 115:13
j Ps 18:50
Ps 21:1, 4
k 2Sa 7:16, 17
Ps 41:12
l Ps 40:11
Ps 143:12
Pr 20:28
m Ps 146:2
n Ps 65:1
Ps 66:13
Ec 5:4

CHAP. 62

- o Ps 37:39
Ps 68:19
Isa 12:2

- 12** By God we will gain power,^a
And he will trample on our adversaries.^b

To the director; to be accompanied with stringed instruments. Of David.

- 61** Hear, O God, my cry for help.

Do pay attention to my prayer.^c

- 2** From the ends of the earth
I will cry out to you
When my heart is in despair.^{*d}

Lead me onto a rock that is higher than I am.^e

- 3** For you are my refuge,
A strong tower that protects me from the enemy.^f

- 4** I will be a guest in your tent forever;^g

I will take refuge in the shelter of your wings.^h (*Selah*)

- 5** For you, O God, have heard my vows.

You have given me the inheritance belonging to those who fear your name.ⁱ

- 6** You will add days to the life* of the king,^j

And his years will be from generation to generation.

- 7** He will sit enthroned* forever before God;^k

Grant him[#] loyal love and faithfulness, so that these may safeguard him.^l

- 8** Then I will sing praises* to your name forever^m

As I pay my vows day after day.ⁿ

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

- 62** Indeed, I wait* silently for God.

My salvation comes from him.^o

61:2 *Or "grows feeble." 61:6 *Lit., "days." 61:7 *Or "will dwell." #Or "Assign." 61:8 *Or "make music." 62:Sup *See Glossary. 62:1 *Or "my soul waits."

- 2 Indeed, he is my rock and my salvation, my secure refuge;^a
I will never be greatly shaken.^b
- 3 How long will you assault a man in order to murder him?^c
All of you are as dangerous as a leaning wall, a stone wall ready to collapse.*
- 4 For they consult together to topple him from his high position;^d
They take pleasure in lying. With their mouth they bless, but inside they are cursing.^d (*Selah*)
- 5 Indeed, I wait silently* for God^e
Because my hope comes from him.^f
- 6 Indeed, he is my rock and my salvation, my secure refuge;
I will never be shaken.^g
- 7 Upon God depends my salvation and my glory.
My strong rock, my refuge, is God.^h
- 8 Trust in him at all times, O people.
Pour out your hearts before him.ⁱ
God is a refuge for us.^j (*Selah*)
- 9 The sons of men are a mere breath,
The sons of mankind are a delusion.^k
When laid together on the scales, they are lighter than a mere breath.^l
- 10 Do not trust in extortion
Or put false hopes in robbery.

62:2 *Or "secure height." 62:3 *Or possibly, "All of you, as if he were a leaning wall, a stone wall ready to collapse." 62:4 *Or "his dignity." 62:5 *Or "wait silently, O my soul."

CHAP. 62

- a Ps 18:2
b Ps 37:23, 24
2Co 4:8, 9
c Ps 38:12
d Ps 5:9
Ps 28:3
Ps 55:21
e Ps 43:5
Mic 7:7
f Ps 62:1, 2
Ps 71:5
g Ps 16:8
Pr 10:30
h Ps 95:1
Isa 26:4
i 1Sa 1:15
j Pr 14:26
k Ps 60:11
l Isa 40:15

Second Col.

- a De 6:10-12
Job 31:24, 28
Pr 11:4, 28
Pr 23:4, 5
Mt 6:19, 24
Mr 8:36
Lu 12:15
1Ti 6:17
1Jo 2:16
b Job 9:4
Na 1:3
Re 19:1
c Ps 36:7
Ps 86:15
Mic 7:18
d Job 34:11
Pr 24:12
Ro 2:6
2Co 5:10
Ga 6:7
2Ti 4:14
Re 20:12, 13
Re 22:12

CHAP. 63

- e 1Sa 23:14
f Isa 26:9
g Ps 42:2
h Ps 63:Sup
Ps 143:6
i 1Ch 16:28
Ps 96:6
j Ps 30:5
Ps 100:5
k Ps 66:16, 17
l Ps 71:23
Ps 135:3
m Ps 119:55, 148
n 1Sa 17:37
o Ps 5:11
Ps 57:1
Ps 61:4
p Isa 41:10

- If your wealth increases, do not set your heart on it.^a
- 11 Once God has spoken, twice I have heard this:
That strength belongs to God.^b
- 12 Also loyal love is yours, O Jehovah,^c
For you repay each one according to his deeds.^d
A melody of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.^e
- 63** O God, you are my God,
I keep looking for you.^f
I do thirst* for you.^g
I am* faint with longing for you

In a dry and parched land, where there is no water.^h

- 2 So I have looked upon you in the holy place;
I have seen your strength and your glory.ⁱ
- 3 Because your loyal love is better than life,^j
My own lips will glorify you.^k
- 4 Thus I will praise you all my life;
In your name I will lift up my hands.
- 5 I am* satisfied with the best and choicest portion,[#]
So my mouth will praise you with joy on my lips.^l
- 6 I remember you while upon my bed;
I meditate on you during the watches of the night.^m
- 7 For you are my helper,ⁿ
And I shout joyfully in the shadow of your wings.^o
- 8 I cling* to you;
Your right hand keeps fast hold on me.^p
- 9 But those who seek to destroy my life*

63:1 *Or "My soul thirsts." #Lit., "My flesh is." 63:5 *Or "My soul is." #Lit., "as with fat and fatness." 63:8 *Or "My soul clings." 63:9 *Or "destroy my soul; kill me."

Will descend into the depths of the earth.

10 They will be handed over to the power of the sword; They will become food for jackals.*

11 But the king will rejoice in God.

Every person swearing by Him will exult,*

For the mouth of those speaking lies will be silenced.

To the director. A melody of David.

64 Hear my voice, O God, as I plead.^a

Safeguard my life from the dreadfulness of the enemy.

2 Shield me from the secret plots of wicked men,^b From the crowd of wrongdoers.

3 They sharpen their tongue just like a sword; They aim their cruel words like arrows,

4 To shoot at the innocent from their hiding places; They shoot at him suddenly, without fear.

5 They hold fast to their evil intent;*

They discuss how to hide their traps.

They say: "Who will see them?"^c

6 They search out new ways of wrongdoing;

They secretly devise their shrewd strategy;^d

The thinking within each one's heart is unfathomable.

7 But God will shoot at them;^e Suddenly they will be wounded by an arrow.

8 Their own tongue will cause their downfall;^f

63:10 *Or "foxes." 63:11; 64:10 *Or "boast." 64:5 *Or "They encourage one another to do evil."

CHAP. 64

a Ps 55:1

b Ps 56:6
Ps 109:2

c Ps 10:4, 11
Ps 59:7

d Ps 140:5

e Ps 7:11, 12

f Pr 12:13
Pr 18:7

Second Col.

a Ps 107:40, 43

b Ps 58:10
Ps 68:2, 3

CHAP. 65

c Ps 76:2

d Ps 116:18
Ec 5:4

e Ps 145:18
Ac 10:31
1Jo 5:14

f Ps 40:12
Ro 7:23, 24
Ga 5:17

g Ps 51:2
Isa 1:18
1Jo 1:7

h Ps 15:1-5
Ps 27:4
Ps 84:1-4
Ps 84:10

i Ps 36:7, 8

j 1Sa 3:3
1Ch 16:1

k De 10:21
Re 15:3

l Ps 22:27

m Ps 93:1

n Ps 89:9
Ps 107:29

o Isa 17:12, 13
Isa 57:20

p Ps 66:3

All those looking on will shake their head.

9 Then all men will become afraid, And they will proclaim what God has done, And they will have insight into his deeds.^a

10 The righteous one will rejoice in Jehovah and take refuge in him;^b All the upright in heart will exult.*

To the director.

A melody of David. A song.

65 Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;^c

We will pay our vows to you.^d

2 O Hearer of prayer, to you people of all sorts* will come.^e

3 My errors have overwhelmed me,^f But you cover over our transgressions.^g

4 Happy is the one whom you choose and bring near To reside in your courtyards.^h

We will be satisfied with the goodness of your house,ⁱ Your holy temple.*^j

5 You will answer us with awe-inspiring deeds^k of righteousness,

O God of our salvation;

You are the Confidence of all the ends of the earth^l

And of those distant across the sea.

6 You* firmly established the mountains by your power; You* are clothed with mightiness.^m

7 You* calm the raging seas,ⁿ The crash of their waves and the turmoil of the nations.^o

8 The inhabitants of remote places will be awestruck by your signs;^p

65:2 *Lit., "all flesh." 65:4 *Or "sanctuary." 65:6, 7 *Lit., "He."

You will cause those from
the sunrise to the sunset to
shout joyfully.

- 9 You care for the earth,
Making it abundantly fruit-
ful* and very rich.^a
The stream from God is full
of water;
You provide grain for them,^b
For that is how you prepared
the earth.
- 10 You drench its furrows and
level off its plowed soil;*
You soften it with showers of
rain; you bless its growth.^c
- 11 You crown the year with your
goodness;
Your tracks overflow with
abundance.^d
- 12 The pastures of the wilder-
ness keep overflowing,^e
And the hills are clothed
with joyfulness.^f
- 13 The pastures are covered
with flocks,
And the valleys* are carpet-
ed with grain.^g
They shout in triumph, yes,
they sing.^h

To the director. A song. A melody.

- 66** Shout in triumph to God,
all the earth.ⁱ
- 2 Sing praises* to his glorious
name.
Make his praise glorious.^j
- 3 Say to God: "How awe-
inspiring your works are!^k
Because of your great
power,
Your enemies will cringe be-
fore you.^l
- 4 All the earth will bow down
to you;^m
They will sing praises to you;
They will sing praises to
your name."ⁿ (*Selah*)

65:9 *Lit., "making it overflow." 65:10
*Or "its ridges." 65:11 *Lit., "drip
with fatness." 65:12 *Lit., "dripping."
65:13 *Or "low plains." 66:2 *Or
"Make music."

CHAP. 65

a De 11:11, 12
Ac 14:17
b Ps 104:14, 15
c Ps 147:7, 8
d Ge 27:28
De 33:16
Mal 3:10
e Isa 35:1
f Isa 55:12
g Isa 30:23
h Ac 14:17

CHAP. 66

i Ps 98:4
j Ps 72:19
Re 4:11
k Ex 15:16
Ps 76:12
Isa 2:19
Jer 10:10
l Ps 81:15
m Ps 22:27
Mal 1:11
n Isa 42:10
Re 15:4

Second Col.

a Ps 46:8
Zep 2:11
b Ex 14:21, 22
c Jos 3:15, 16
d Ex 15:1
e Da 4:34
1Ti 1:17
f Ps 11:4
Pr 15:3
Heb 4:13
g Isa 37:29
h De 32:43
Ro 15:10
i 1Sa 25:29
j 1Sa 2:9
Ps 121:3
k De 8:2
l Nu 15:3

m Ps 56:12
Ps 116:14
Ec 5:4, 5
n Nu 30:2
Jg 11:35

- 5 Come and see the works of
God.
His deeds toward the sons of
men are awe-inspiring.^a
- 6 He changed the sea into dry
land;^b
They crossed the river on
foot.^c
There we rejoiced in him.^d
- 7 He rules forever^e by his
might.
His eyes keep watch on the
nations.^f
Those who are stubborn
should not exalt them-
selves.^g (*Selah*)
- 8 Praise our God, you
peoples,^h
And let the sound of his
praise be heard.
- 9 He preserves us alive;ⁱ
He does not allow our feet
to stumble.^j
- 10 For you have examined us,
O God;^k
As silver is refined, so you
have refined us.
- 11 You brought us into a hunt-
ing net;
You put a crushing burden
upon us.*
- 12 You allowed mortal man to
ride over us;^l
We came through fire and
through water;
Then you brought us to a
place of relief.
- 13 I will come into your
house with whole burnt
offerings;^l
I will pay my vows to you^m
- 14 That my lips promisedⁿ
And my mouth spoke when
I was in distress.
- 15 I will offer burnt offerings of
fatted animals to you
With the smoke of sacrificial
rams.

66:9 *Or "sets our soul in life." #Or
"stagger; totter." 66:11 *Lit., "on our
hips." 66:12 *Lit., "our head."

I will offer bulls along with
male goats. (*Selah*)

- 16** Come and listen, all you who
fear God,
And I will tell you what he
has done for me. ^{*a}
- 17** I called to him with my
mouth
And glorified him with my
tongue.
- 18** If I had harbored anything
hurtful in my heart,
Jehovah would not have
heard me. ^b
- 19** But God did hear; ^c
He paid attention to my
prayer. ^d
- 20** Praise to God, who did not
reject my prayer
Or withhold his loyal love
from me.

To the director; to be accompanied
with stringed instruments.
A melody. A song.

- 67** God will show us favor
and bless us;
He will make his face shine
upon us ^e (*Selah*)
- 2** So that your way may
be known throughout the
earth, ^f
Your acts of salvation among
all the nations. ^g
- 3** Let peoples praise you,
O God;
Let all the peoples praise
you.
- 4** Let nations rejoice and shout
joyfully, ^h
For you will judge the peo-
ples fairly. ⁱ
You will guide the nations of
the earth. (*Selah*)
- 5** Let peoples praise you,
O God;
Let all the peoples praise
you.
- 6** The earth will give its pro-
duce; ^j
God, our God, will bless us. ^k

66:16 *Or "my soul."

CHAP. 66

- a Ps 22:24
b Job 27:8, 9
Pr 15:29
Pr 28:9
Isa 1:15
Joh 9:31
c Ps 34:6
Ps 65:2
Ps 116:1
1Jo 3:22
d Heb 5:7

CHAP. 67

- e Nu 6:25
Pr 16:15
f Ro 10:18
Col 1:23
g Ps 98:2
Isa 49:6
Lu 2:30, 31
Ac 28:28
Tit 2:11
h Isa 42:10
i Ps 9:8
Ps 96:10
Ps 98:9
Ro 2:5
j Le 26:4
Ps 85:12
Isa 30:23
Eze 34:27
k Ge 17:7

Second Col.

- a Ps 22:27
Re 15:4

CHAP. 68

- b Nu 10:35
Ps 21:8
c Na 1:6
d Ps 32:11
e Isa 12:4
f Ex 6:3
g Ex 22:22-24
De 10:17, 18
Ps 10:14
Ps 146:9
h Isa 57:15
i Ps 113:9
j Isa 61:1
k De 28:15, 23
Ps 107:33, 34
l Ex 13:21
m Ps 114:1, 4
Heb 12:26
n Ex 19:18
Jg 5:4, 5

- 7** God will bless us,
And all the ends of the earth
will fear* him. ^a

To the director. Of David.
A melody. A song.

- 68** Let God rise up, let his
enemies be scattered,
And let those who hate him
flee from before him. ^b
- 2** As smoke is driven away,
may you drive them away;
As wax melts before the fire,
So let the wicked perish be-
fore God. ^c
- 3** But let the righteous rejoice; ^d
May they be overjoyed be-
fore God;
May they exult with rejoic-
ing.
- 4** Sing to God; sing praises* to
his name. ^e
Sing to the One riding
through the desert plains. ^f
Jah^A is his name! ^f Rejoice
before him!
- 5** A father of the fatherless
and a protector* of
widows ^g
Is God in his holy dwelling. ^h
- 6** God gives those who are
alone a home to dwell in; ⁱ
He leads prisoners out into
prosperity. ^j
But the stubborn* must live
in a parched land. ^k
- 7** O God, when you led* your
people, ^l
When you marched through
the desert, (*Selah*)
- 8** The earth quaked; ^m
Heaven poured down rain*
because of God;
This Si'nai quaked because
of God, the God of Israel. ⁿ
- 9** You made it rain in abun-
dant, O God;
- 67:7** *Or "honor." **68:4** *Or "make mu-
sic." ^fOr possibly, "on the clouds."
^A"Jah" is a shortened form of the name
Jehovah. **68:5** *Lit., "judge." **68:6**
*Or "rebellious." **68:7** *Lit., "went out
before." **68:8** *Lit., "dripped."

- You reinvigorated your exhausted people.*
- 10** They dwelled in your tent community;^a
In your goodness, you provided for the poor, O God.
- 11** Jehovah gives the command; The women proclaiming the good news are a large army.^b
- 12** The kings of armies flee,^c they flee!
She who remains at home shares in the spoil.^d
- 13** Although you men were lying among the campfires,*
There will be the wings of a dove covered with silver,
With pinions of fine^e gold.
- 14** When the Almighty One scattered its kings,^e
Snow fell in Zal'mon.*
- 15** The mountain of Ba'shan^f is a mountain of God;*
The mountain of Ba'shan is a mountain of peaks.
- 16** Why do you look with envy, you mountains of peaks,
Toward the mountain that God has chosen* as his dwelling?^g
Indeed, Jehovah will reside there forever.^h
- 17** The war chariots of God are tens of thousands, thousands upon thousands.ⁱ
Jehovah has come from Si'nai into the holy place.^j
- 18** You ascended on high;^k
You carried away captives;
You took gifts in the form of men,^l
Yes, even stubborn ones,^m
to reside among them,
O Jah God.

68:9 *Lit., "inheritance." **68:13** *Or possibly, "the sheepfolds." ^eOr "yellowish-green." **68:14** *Or "It was as if it snowed in Zalmon." **68:15** *Or "a majestic mountain." **68:16** *Or "desires."

CHAP. 68

- a Nu 10:34
b Ex 15:20
Jg 5:1
Jg 11:34
1Sa 18:6
c Nu 31:25-27
Jos 10:12, 16
Jos 12:7
Jg 5:19
d Nu 31:27
1Sa 30:23-25
e Nu 21:3
Jos 10:5, 10
f Nu 21:33
De 3:8, 10
g 1Ch 11:5
Ps 48:2, 3
Ps 132:13
h De 12:5, 6
1Ki 9:3
Heb 12:22
i 2Ki 6:16, 17
Mt 26:53
j Ex 19:23
De 33:2
k 2Sa 5:7
l Eph 4:8, 11
m De 2:36
De 7:22

Second Col.

- a Ps 55:22
1Pe 5:6, 7
b Isa 12:2
Isa 45:17
c De 32:39
d Ps 55:23
Eze 18:26
e Nu 21:33
f Ps 58:10
g 1Ch 15:25, 28
Ps 24:7
h 1Ch 15:16
Ps 87:7
Ps 150:3
i Jg 11:34
1Sa 18:6
j Ps 95:6
Isa 44:2
k Ge 49:27
1Sa 9:21
l Ps 138:8

- 19** May Jehovah be praised, who daily carries our load,^a
The true God of our salvation. (*Selah*)
- 20** The true God is for us a God who saves;^b
And Jehovah the Sovereign Lord provides escape from death.^c
- 21** Yes, God will smash the heads of his enemies,
The hairy crown of the head of anyone who continues* in his guilt.^d
- 22** Jehovah has said: "I will bring them back from Ba'shan;^e
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,
- 23** So that your foot may be awash in blood^f
And the tongue of your dogs may have its portion from the enemies."^g
- 24** They see your processions, O God,
The processions of my God, my King, into the holy place.^g
- 25** The singers walk in front, the musicians playing stringed instruments after them;^h
In between are the young women playing tambourines.ⁱ
- 26** In congregated throngs,*
praise God;
Praise Jehovah, you who are from the Source of Israel.^j
- 27** There Benjamin,^k the youngest, is subduing them,
Also the princes of Judah with their noisy crowd,
The princes of Zeb'u-lun, the princes of Naph'ta-li.
- 28** Your God has decreed that you will be strong.
Show your strength, O God, you who have acted in our behalf.^l

68:21 *Or "walks about." **68:26** *Lit., "In assemblies."

- 29 Because of your temple at Jerusalem,^a
Kings will bring gifts to you.^b
- 30 Rebuke the wild beasts of the reeds,
The assembly of bulls^c and their calves,
Until the peoples bow down bringing* pieces of silver.
But he scatters the peoples who delight in war.
- 31 Bronze articles will be brought* out of Egypt;^d
Cush will hasten to offer gifts to God.
- 32 O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,^e
Sing praises* to Jehovah, (*Selah*)
- 33 To the one who rides the ancient heaven of heavens.^f
Look! He thunders with his voice, his mighty voice.
- 34 Acknowledge God's strength.^g
His majesty is over Israel,
And his strength is in the skies.*
- 35 God is awe-inspiring from his* grand sanctuary.^h
He is the God of Israel,
Who gives strength and power to the people.ⁱ
Praise to God.

To the director; set to "The Lilies." Of David.

- 69** Save me, O God, for the waters threaten my life.^{*j}
- 2 I have sunk down into the deep mud, where there is no solid ground.^k
I have come into deep waters,
And the rushing stream has swept me away.^l

68:30 *Or possibly, "stamping down on." 68:31 *Or possibly, "Ambassadors will come." 68:32 *Or "Make music." 68:34 *Lit., "clouds." 68:35 *Lit., "your." 69:1 *Or "have come to my soul."

CHAP. 68

- a 1Ki 6:1
1Ch 16:1
Ezr 5:14
- b 1Ki 10:10
2Ch 32:23
Ps 72:10
- c Eze 39:18
- d Isa 45:14
Isa 60:5
- e De 32:43
- f Ps 104:3
- g Ps 96:7
- h Ps 47:2
Ps 66:5
- i Ps 29:11
Isa 40:29-31

CHAP. 69

- j Ps 144:7
La 3:54
Jon 2:5
- k Ps 40:2
- l Ps 32:6
Jon 2:3

Second Col.

- a Ps 22:2
- b Ps 119:82
Ps 119:123
Isa 38:14
- c Lu 23:22
Joh 15:24, 25
- d Ps 22:6
Jer 15:15
- e Isa 50:6
Mt 26:67
Mt 27:29
- f Job 19:13
Ps 31:11
Joh 1:11
Joh 7:5

- g 1Ki 19:10
Ps 119:139
Mt 21:12, 13
Mr 11:15-17
Joh 2:13-17

- h Ro 15:3

- 3 I am exhausted from calling out;^a
My throat has become hoarse.
My eyes have grown weary while waiting for my God.^b
- 4 Those hating me without cause^c
Are more numerous than the hairs of my head.
Those who would do away with me,
My treacherous enemies,* have become many.
I was forced to hand over what I had not stolen.
- 5 O God, you are aware of my foolishness,
And my guilt is not hidden from you.
- 6 May those hoping in you not be put to shame because of me,
O Sovereign Lord, Jehovah of armies.
May those seeking you not be humiliated because of me,
O God of Israel.
- 7 I suffer reproach on your account;^d
Humiliation covers my face.^e
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers,
A foreigner to the sons of my mother.^f
- 9 Zeal for your house has consumed me,^g
And the reproaches of those reproaching you have fallen upon me.^h
- 10 When I humbled myself* with fasting,^h
I was reproached for it.
- 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became an object of scorn* to them.

69:4 *Or "enemies for no reason." 69:10 *Lit., "my soul." ^hOr possibly, "When I wept and fasted." 69:11 *Lit., "a proverb."

- Song 104 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Praise Jehovah, the Hearer of Prayer”:** (10 min.)
Ps 61:1, 8—Make your promises to Jehovah a matter of prayer (*w99 9/15 9 ¶1-4*)
Ps 62:8—Show trust in Jehovah by pouring your heart out to him in prayer (*w15 4/15 25-26 ¶6-9*)
Ps 65:1, 2—Jehovah is the Hearer of prayer for all righteous ones (*w15 4/15 22 ¶13-14; w10 4/15 5 ¶10; it-2 668 ¶2*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 63:3—Why is Jehovah’s loyal love better than life? (*w06 6/1 11 ¶7*)

Ps 68:18—Who were the “gifts in the form of men”? (*w06 6/1 10 ¶5*)

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 63:1–64:10

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

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

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 81
- **“Keeping Our Life Simple Helps Us Praise God”:** (15 min.) Begin with a discussion of the article. Then play and briefly discuss the JW Broadcast-ing video *We Live a Simple Life*. (Go to VIDEO ON DEMAND > FAMILY.) Encourage all to consider how to simplify their life in order to serve Jehovah more fully.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
ia chap. 19 ¶1-16
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 88 and Prayer

Keeping Our Life Simple Helps Us Praise God



Today, it is easy to complicate our lives with many things. Time and energy are required to shop for, pay for, use, maintain, and safeguard possessions. Jesus lived a simple life so that material possessions would not needlessly pull him away from his ministry.—Mt 8:20.

How could you simplify your life so that you can do more in the ministry? With some adjustments, could someone in your household join the pioneer ranks? Even if you are currently in full-time service, have you gradually allowed material things to complicate your life? A simple life in Jehovah’s service is a happy, contented life.—1Ti 6:7-9.

WAYS THAT I CAN SIMPLIFY MY LIFE:

PSALMS 60-68 | Praise Jehovah, the Hearer of Prayer

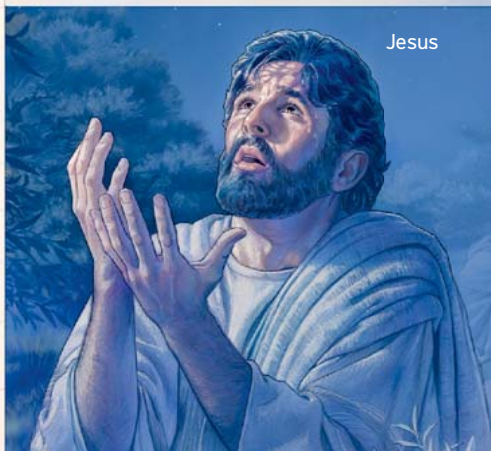
61:1, 8

Make your promises to Jehovah a matter of prayer

- Praying about our promises will strengthen our resolve to keep them
- Our dedication to God is the most important promise we can make



Hannah



Jesus

62:8

Show trust in Jehovah by pouring your heart out to him in prayer

- A meaningful prayer includes our innermost feelings
- When our prayers are specific, we become more keenly aware of Jehovah's answers

65:1, 2

Jehovah is the Hearer of prayer for all righthearted ones

- Jehovah listens to “people of all sorts” who sincerely want to know him and want to do his will
- We can go to Jehovah in prayer at any time

Topics I want to include in my prayers:



Cornelius

(w99 9/15 9 ¶1-4)

Keeping Our Promises to God

Our dedication to God is undoubtedly the most important promise we can make. By taking this step, we demonstrate that we want to serve Jehovah forever. While God's commandments are not burdensome, it may not always be easy to do his will, living as we do in this wicked system of things. (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 John 5:3) But once we have 'put our hand to the plow' and have become dedicated servants of Jehovah and disciples of his Son, Jesus Christ, we should never look back at the things of the world that we have left behind.—Luke 9:62.

When we pray to Jehovah, we may feel moved to promise him that we will fight to overcome a weakness, cultivate a Christian quality, or increase some aspect of our theocratic activity. What will help us follow through on these promises?—Compare Ecclesiastes 5:2-5.

Sincere promises stem from the heart as well as the mind. Therefore, let us back up our promises to Jehovah by opening our hearts to him in prayer, honestly expressing our fears,

desires, and weaknesses. Praying about a promise will strengthen our resolve to keep it. We could look on our promises to God as debts. When debts are large, payment has to be made gradually. Likewise, many promises we make to Jehovah will take time to fulfill. But by regularly giving him what we can, we show that we mean what we say, and he will bless us accordingly.

We can demonstrate that we take our promises seriously by praying about them often, perhaps each day. This will show our heavenly Father that we are sincere. It will also serve as a regular reminder. David left us a fine example in this regard. In song, he beseeched Jehovah: “Do hear, O God, my entreating cry. Do pay attention to my prayer. . . . I will make melody to your name forever, that I may pay my vows day after day.”—Psalm 61:1, 8.

(w15 4/15 25-26 ¶6-9)

TRUST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

⁶ Can you bring a distressing problem to Jehovah in prayer and thereafter be at peace, knowing that you have done what you can about the situation and he will handle the rest? Yes, you can! **(Read Psalm 62:8; 1 Peter 5:7.)** Learning to do so is an important aspect of developing a relationship with Jehovah. Yet, trusting that Jehovah will provide what you need can be quite a challenge. Why? One reason may be that Jehovah does not always respond right away.—Ps. 13:1, 2; 74:10; 89:46; 90:13; Hab. 1:2.

⁷ Why does Jehovah not give us an immediate response to our every request? Recall that he likens our relationship with him to that of children with a father. (Ps. 103:13) A child cannot rightly expect a parent to grant every request or to do so right away. Some of a child's requests may be mere passing whims. Others must wait till the time is right. Still others may not be in the child's best interests or in the best interests of others involved. Furthermore, to concede immediately to a child's every

request would change the relationship to one of master and slave, the child being the master. Similarly, Jehovah may in our best interests allow time to pass before his response to our prayers becomes evident. That is his prerogative as our wise Creator, loving Master, and heavenly Father. Fulfilling all our requests right away would distort the proper relationship between us and him.—Compare Isaiah 29:16; 45:9.

⁸ Another factor is that Jehovah is fully aware of our limitations. (Ps. 103:14) Therefore, he does not expect us to endure in our own strength but offers us his fatherly help. Of course, at times, we might feel that we cannot go on anymore. But Jehovah assures us that he will never allow his servants to suffer beyond their limit of endurance. Yes, he will “make the way out.” **(Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.)** Therefore, we have good reason to trust that Jehovah’s assessment of what we can bear is right.

⁹ When relief does not immediately follow our prayers for help, let us wait on the One who knows just when to act in our behalf. Remember that he too is exercising patience,

for he is ever eager to come to our rescue. “Jehovah is waiting patiently to show you favor, and he will rise up to show you mercy. For Jehovah is a God of justice. Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him.”—Isa. 30:18.

(w15 4/15 22 ¶13-14)

¹³ Consider this: From his prehuman existence, Jesus observed firsthand Jehovah’s response to the prayers of His human servants. Then, during his earthly ministry, Jesus used prayer as his means of communicating his feelings to his Father in heaven. Would he have done so—even spending an entire night in prayer—had he thought that Jehovah was not really listening? (Luke 6:12; 22:40-46) Would he have taught his disciples to pray had he thought that prayer was nothing more than a psychological crutch? Clearly, Jesus knew that prayer is real communication with Jehovah. On one occasion, Jesus said: “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. True, I knew that you always hear me.” We too can have confidence that Jehovah is the “Hearer of prayer.”—John 11:41, 42; Ps. 65:2.

¹⁴ When you are specific in your prayers, you become more keenly aware of Jehovah's answers, even though they may be subtle. Answered prayers will make Jehovah more real to you. In addition, the more you express your innermost concerns to Jehovah, the closer he will draw to you.

(w10 4/15 5 ¶10)

¹⁰ The second way in which you can strengthen your desire to serve Jehovah wholeheartedly is by means of your prayers. At Psalm 65:2, we read: "O Hearer of prayer, even to you people of all flesh will come." Even during the time that Israel was God's covenant people, foreigners who came to Jehovah's temple could approach him in prayer. (1 Ki. 8:41, 42) God is not partial. Those who observe his commandments have the assurance that he will listen to them. (Prov. 15:8) Surely, "people of all flesh" include you young ones.

(it-2 668 ¶2)

Those Whom God Hears. People “of all flesh” may come to the “Hearer of prayer,” Jehovah God. (Ps 65:2; Ac 15:17) Even during the period that Israel was God’s “private property,” his covenant people, foreigners could approach Jehovah in prayer by recognizing Israel as God’s appointed instrument and the temple at Jerusalem as his chosen place for sacrifice. (De 9:29; 2Ch 6:32, 33; compare Isa 19:22.) Later, by Christ’s death, the distinction between Jew and Gentile was forever removed. (Eph 2:11-16) At the home of the Italian Cornelius, Peter recognized that “God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.” (Ac 10:34, 35) The determining factor, then, is the heart of the individual and what his heart is moving him to do. (Ps 119:145; La 3:41) Those who observe God’s commandments and do “the things that are pleasing in his eyes” have the assurance that his “ears” are also open to them.—1Jo 3:22; Ps 10:17; Pr 15:8; 1Pe 3:12.

(w06 6/1 11 ¶7)

63:3. God’s “loving-kindness is better than life” because without it, life is meaningless and purposeless. We are wise to cultivate friendship with Jehovah.

(w06 6/1 10 ¶5)

68:18—Who were the “gifts in the form of men”? These were men from among those taken captive during the conquest of the Promised Land. Such men were later assigned to assist the Levites in their work.—Ezra 8:20.

- Song 104 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

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- Song 81
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- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
ia chap. 19 ¶1-16
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 88 and Prayer

Keeping Our Life Simple Helps Us Praise God



WAYS THAT I CAN SIMPLIFY MY LIFE:

Today, it is easy to complicate our lives with many things. Time and energy are required to shop for, pay for, use, maintain, and safe-guard possessions. Jesus lived a simple life so that material possessions would not needlessly pull him away from his ministry.—Mt 8:20.

How could you simplify your life so that you can do more in the ministry? With some adjustments, could someone in your house-hold join the pioneer ranks? Even if you are currently in full-time service, have you grad-ually allowed material things to complicate your life? A simple life in Jehovah’s service is a happy, contented life.—1Ti 6:7-9.



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Question: Would you not agree that if the Bible is from God, it should be able to survive any attempts to destroy it?

Scripture: Isa 40:8

Offer: This series of articles discusses the fascinating story of the Bible's survival.



GOOD NEWS FROM GOD!

Question: Many feel that reading Bible prophecy is like reading the newspaper. Which of these foretold conditions have you seen or heard about?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Offer: This brochure explains why such conditions actually mean *good news* for those who love God. [Highlight lesson 1, question 2.]

THE WATCHTOWER (back page)

Question: I'd like to get your opinion on this question. [Read the first question on page 16.] Some believe that religion is a human invention. Others think that God uses religion to draw us to him. What do you think?

Scripture: Jas 1:27, ftn.

Offer: This article explains further what the Bible says on this topic. I'd be happy to come back and discuss some points from the article.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

“Give Us More Faith”

(Luke 17:5)

1. Because we are imperfect, O Jehovah,
The inclination of our heart is flawed.
There is a sin that easily ensnares us—
A lack of faith in you, the living God.

(CHORUS)

*Give us more faith, we beg of you, Jehovah.
Please help us out according to our need.
Give us more faith, according to your mercy,
That we may honor you in word and deed.*

2. Apart from faith, no one can fully please you.
We must believe our faith will be repaid.
And as a shield, our faith provides a refuge.
We face the future firm and unafraid.

(Chorus)

- Song 104 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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WAYS THAT I CAN SIMPLIFY MY LIFE:

He Protected, He Provided, He Persevered

JOSEPH swung another load onto the donkey's back. Picture him looking around at the darkened village of Bethlehem and patting the flank of the sturdy beast of burden. He was surely thinking of the long trip ahead. Egypt! A foreign people, a foreign tongue, foreign customs—how would his little family adapt to so much change?

² It was not easy to tell the bad news to his beloved wife, Mary, but Joseph braced himself and did it. He told her of the dream in which an angel delivered this message from God: The king, Herod, wanted their little son dead! They had to leave right away. (*Read Matthew 2:13, 14.*) Mary was deeply concerned. How could anyone want to kill her innocent, harmless child? Neither Mary nor Joseph could fathom it. But they trusted in Jehovah, so they readied themselves.

1, 2. (a) What changes did Joseph and his family face? (b) What bad news did Joseph have to tell his wife?

³ Unaware of the unfolding drama, Bethlehem slept as Joseph, Mary, and Jesus slipped out of the village in the darkness. Heading southward, with the sky beginning to lighten in the east, Joseph likely wondered what lay ahead. How could a lowly carpenter protect his family against forces so powerful? Would he always be able to provide for his own? Would he manage to persevere in carrying out this heavy assignment that Jehovah God had given him, to care for and raise this unique child? Joseph faced daunting challenges. As we consider how he rose to meet each one, we will see why fathers today—and all of us—need to imitate the faith of Joseph.

Joseph Protected His Family

⁴ Months earlier, in his hometown of Nazareth, Joseph found that his life changed forever after his engagement to the daughter of Heli. Joseph knew Mary as an innocent, faithful young woman. But then he learned that she was pregnant! He intended to

3. Describe the departure of Joseph and his family from Bethlehem. (See also the picture in the standard edition.)

4, 5. (a) How did Joseph's life change forever? (b) How did an angel encourage Joseph to take on a weighty assignment?



Joseph acted decisively and selflessly to protect his child

divorce her secretly to protect her from scandal.* However, an angel spoke to him in a dream, explaining that Mary was pregnant by means of Jehovah's holy spirit. The angel added that the son she bore would "save his people from their sins." He further reassured Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home."—Matt. 1:18-21.

⁵ Joseph, a righteous and obedient man, did just that. He took on the weightiest of assignments: raising and caring for a son who was not his own but who was most precious to God. Later, in obedience to an imperial decree, Joseph and his pregnant wife went to Bethlehem to register. It was there that the child was born.

⁶ Joseph did not take the family back to Nazareth. Instead, they settled in Bethlehem, just a few miles from Jerusalem. They were poor, but Joseph did all he could to protect Mary and Jesus from want

* In those days, engagement was viewed in almost the same light as marriage.

6-8. (a) What events led to another change in the lives of Joseph and his little family? (b) What evidence suggests that Satan sent the "star"? (See also footnote.)

or suffering. In a short time, they took up living in a humble home. Then, when Jesus was no longer a baby but a small child—perhaps over a year old—their lives suddenly changed again.

⁷ A group of men arrived, astrologers from the East, likely from faraway Babylon. They had followed a “star” to the home of Joseph and Mary and were looking for a child who was to become king of the Jews. The men were deeply respectful.

⁸ Whether they knew it or not, the astrologers had put little Jesus in great peril. The “star” they had seen led them first, not to Bethlehem, but to Jerusalem.* There they told wicked King Herod that they were looking for a child who was to become king of the Jews. Their report filled the man with jealous rage.

⁹ Happily, though, there were forces greater than Herod or Satan at work. How so? Well, when the

* This “star” was no natural astronomical phenomenon; nor was it sent by God. Clearly, Satan used that supernatural manifestation as part of his wicked design to destroy Jesus.

9-11. (a) In what ways were forces greater than Herod or Satan at work? (b) How did the journey to Egypt differ from what is described in apocryphal myths?

visitors reached Jesus' house and saw him with his mother, they brought out gifts, asking for nothing in return. How strange it must have been for Joseph and Mary to find themselves suddenly in possession of “gold and frankincense and myrrh”—valuable commodities! The astrologers intended to go back and tell King Herod just where they had found the child. However, Jehovah intervened. By means of a dream, he instructed the astrologers to return home by another route.—*Read Matthew 2:1-12.*

¹⁰ Shortly after the astrologers left, Joseph received this warning from Jehovah's angel: “Get up, take the young child and its mother and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I give you word; for Herod is about to search for the young child to destroy it.” (Matt. 2:13) So, as we noted at the outset, Joseph obeyed swiftly. He put his child's safety above all else and took his family to Egypt. Because those pagan astrologers had brought such costly gifts, Joseph now had assets that might help the family during their sojourn ahead.

¹¹ Apocryphal myths and legends later romanticized the journey to Egypt, claiming that little Jesus

miraculously shortened the trip, rendered bandits harmless, and even made date palms bend down to his mother to yield their fruit.* In truth, it was simply a long, arduous trek into the unknown.

¹² Parents can learn a lot from Joseph. He readily set aside his work and sacrificed his own comfort in order to protect his family from danger. Clearly, he viewed his family as a sacred trust from Jehovah. Parents today raise their children in a perilous world, a world full of forces that would endanger, corrupt, or even destroy young ones. How admirable it is when mothers and fathers act decisively, as Joseph did, working hard to protect their children from such influences!

Joseph Provided for His Family

¹³ It seems that the family did not stay long in Egypt, for soon the angel informed Joseph that Herod was dead. Joseph brought his family back to their

* The Bible clearly shows that Jesus' first miracle, "the beginning of his signs," did not occur until after his baptism.—John 2:1-11.

12. Parents who are raising children in this perilous world can learn what from Joseph?

13, 14. How did Joseph and Mary end up raising their family in Nazareth?

homeland. An ancient prophecy had foretold that Jehovah would call his Son “out of Egypt.” (Matt. 2: 15) Joseph helped to fulfill that prophecy, but where would he lead his family now?

¹⁴ Joseph was cautious. He wisely feared Herod’s successor, Archelaus, who was likewise vicious and murderous. Divine guidance led Joseph to take his family up north, away from Jerusalem and all its intrigues, back to his hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. There he and Mary raised their family.—***Read Matthew 2:19-23.***

¹⁵ They led a simple life—but not an easy one. The Bible refers to Joseph as the carpenter, using a word that embraces many ways of working with wood, such as cutting down timber, hauling it, and seasoning it for use in building houses, boats, small bridges, carts, wheels, yokes, and all kinds of farm implements. (Matt. 13:55) It was hard physical work. A carpenter in Bible times often worked near the doorway of his modest house or in a shop adjacent to it.

15, 16. What was Joseph’s work like, and what tools might he have used?

¹⁶ Joseph used a wide range of tools, some likely handed down from his father. He may have used a square, a plummet, a chalk line, a hatchet, a saw, an adze, a hammer, a mallet, chisels, a drill that he worked by pulling a bow back and forth, various glues, and perhaps some nails, though they were costly.

¹⁷ Imagine Jesus as a small boy watching his adoptive father at work. His eyes wide and intent on Joseph's every movement, he no doubt admired the strength in those broad shoulders and sinewy arms, the skill of the hands, the intelligence in the eyes. Perhaps Joseph began showing his young son how to perform such simple tasks as using dried fish skin to smooth out rough spots on wood. He likely taught Jesus the differences between the varieties of wood that he used—the sycamore fig, oak, or olive, for example.

¹⁸ Jesus learned, too, that those strong hands that felled trees, hewed beams, and pounded joints together were also gentle hands that caressed and

17, 18. (a) What did Jesus learn from his adoptive father? (b) Why did Joseph have to work ever harder at his trade?

88 *Children Are a Trust From God* (Psalm 127:3-5)

1. When a man becomes a father

And a woman has a child of her own,
They share a trust, they must remember,
That is not theirs, not theirs alone.
The gift they share is from Jehovah;
Of life and love he is the one true Source.
To parents he gives sure direction
That they may follow the wisest course.

(CHORUS)

*A sacred trust you have been given;
A precious life is in your hands.
You can bestow the greatest favor;
Instruct your child in God's commands.*

2. All the words God has commanded—

They must always prove to be on your heart.
These words you'll speak to sons and daughters;
This is your trust, this is your part.
To them you'll speak along your roadway,
When you rise up and when you are at rest.
In years to come, may they remember,
May they be faithful, may they be blessed.

(Chorus)

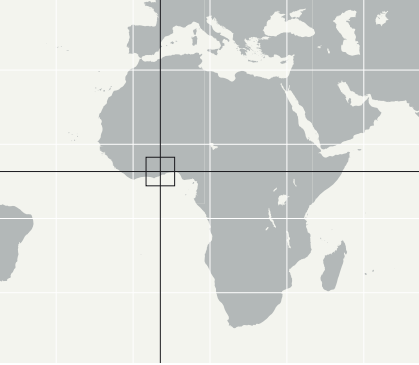
MAY 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JUNE 27–JULY 31, 2016



COVER IMAGE:
GHANA

A resourceful Kingdom proclaimer uses one of our tracts to witness to fellow students. She lives in the town of Ho in the Volta region of Ghana

PUBLISHERS
125,443

BIBLE STUDIES
382,408

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2014)
347,725

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23 WEEK OF JULY 25-31 Benefit Fully From Jehovah’s Provisions

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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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141 *Searching for Friends of Peace* (Luke 10:6)

1. Jesus commanded: 'Let the truth be heard.'
In summer heat, on dusty roads,
He let all hear Jehovah's word.
He loved God's sheep and called to ev'ryone.
He searched the land
from the sunrise 'til the day was done.
From door to door and in the street,
We share with ev'ryone we meet
The news that soon man's troubles
all will be gone.

(CHORUS)

*Searching the world
For friends of peace in ev'ry nation,
Searching to find
A heart inclined toward salvation,
Wanting to leave
No stone unturned.*

2. Time waits for no one, so the search goes on.
A million hearts, a million lives,
We give our all to save just one.
Love is the force that makes us call again.
A wounded heart can be healed,
and broken lives can mend.
We search the towns and city squares,
And when we find someone who cares,
The joy we feel inspires us to go on.

(Chorus)

“Go, . . . and Make Disciples of People of *All* the Nations”

“Go, . . . and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them . . . , teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you.”

—MATT. 28:19, 20.

SONGS: 141, 97

HOW ARE JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES
DIFFERENT CONCERNING . . .

the message they preach and why they preach it?

the methods they use?

the scope of their work?

WHETHER people agree with us or bitterly oppose us, few would deny that as a group Jehovah’s Witnesses are well-known for their preaching activities. It may even be that you have met people in your ministry who have stated that while they disagree with our beliefs, they respect us for the work we do. As we know, Jesus foretold that the good news of the Kingdom would be preached in all the inhabited earth. (Matt. 24:14) But how do we know that the work we do is in fulfillment

1, 2. What questions arise because of Jesus’ words found at Matthew 24:14?

of Jesus' prophecy? Is it presumptuous on our part to think that we are the ones who are doing this work?

2 Many religious groups feel that they are preaching the Gospel, or good news. However, their efforts are often limited to personal testimonies, church services, or programs broadcast through the media—whether by means of television or on the Internet. Others point to their charitable activities or their endeavors in the fields of medicine and education. How do these claims measure up when compared with what Jesus commanded his disciples to do?

3 Were Jesus' disciples to be passive, waiting for people to come to them? Definitely not! After his resurrection, Jesus addressed hundreds of his disciples and told them: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them . . . , teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you.” (Matt. 28:19, 20) Four actions are therefore required. We must make disciples, baptize them, and teach them, but what is the first thing we need to do? Jesus said: “Go”! With regard to this command, one Bible scholar commented: “To ‘go’ is the task of each believer, whether across the street or across the ocean.”—Matt. 10:7; Luke 10:3.

4 Was Jesus referring only to the individual efforts of his followers, or was he alluding to an organized campaign to

3. According to Matthew 28:19, 20, what four things must Jesus' followers do?

4. What is involved in becoming “fishers of men”?



We preach wherever people can be found
(See paragraph 10)

preach the good news? Since one individual would not be able to go to “all the nations,” this work would require the organized efforts of many. Jesus indicated as much when he invited his disciples to become “fishers of men.” (Read Matthew 4:18-22.) The type of fishing he referred to here was not that of a lone fisherman using a line and a lure, sitting idly while waiting for the fish to bite. Rather, it involved the use of fishing nets—a labor-intensive activity that at times required the coordinated efforts of many.—Luke 5:1-11.

5 To know who are preaching the good news today in fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy, we need to answer these four questions:

- What should be the message of the preaching work?
- What should be our motive for doing this work?
- What methods should be used?
- What should be the scope and duration of this preaching work?

The answers to these questions will help us not only to identify who are doing this lifesaving work but also to strengthen our resolve to persevere faithfully in it.—1 Tim. 4:16.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE MESSAGE?

6 Read Luke 4:43. Jesus preached “the good news of the

5. What four questions need to be answered, and why?

6. Why can you be confident that Jehovah’s Witnesses are preaching the right message?

Kingdom,” and he expects his disciples to do the same. What group of people are preaching that message in “all the nations”? The answer is obvious—only Jehovah’s Witnesses. Even some opposers acknowledge this fact. For example, a missionary priest once told a Witness that he had lived in many different countries and that he had asked the Witnesses in each country what message they were preaching. What answer was he given? The priest said: “They were all so stupid that they gave the same answer: ‘The good news of the Kingdom.’” Far from being “stupid,” however, those Witnesses were speaking in unity, as true Christians should. (1 Cor. 1: 10) And they were echoing the message contained in *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah’s Kingdom*. This magazine is available in 254 languages, and an average of nearly 59 million copies of each issue are produced, making it the most widely circulated magazine in the world.

7 The clergy of Christendom are not preaching God’s Kingdom. If they do speak about the Kingdom, many refer to it as a feeling or a condition in the heart of a Christian. (Luke 17:21) They do not help people to understand that God’s Kingdom is a heavenly government with Jesus Christ as Ruler, that it is the solution to all mankind’s problems, and that it will soon remove all wickedness from this earth. (Rev.

7. How do we know that the clergy of Christendom are not preaching the right message?

19:11-21) Rather, they prefer to remember Jesus at Christmas and Easter. They seem to have no idea of what Jesus will accomplish as earth's new Ruler. Since they have lost sight of the *message* they are supposed to preach, is it any wonder that they have also lost sight of what should be the *motive* for doing this work?

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR MOTIVE FOR DOING THE WORK?

8 What should be the motive for doing the preaching work? It should not be to collect money and construct elaborate buildings. Jesus told his disciples: "You received free, give free." (Matt. 10:8) The Word of God should not be commercialized. (2 Cor. 2:17, ftn.) Those preaching the message should not seek personal gain for the work that they do. (Read Acts 20:33-35.) Despite this clear direction, most churches are sidetracked by collecting money or by making efforts to survive financially. They have to support a paid clergy, as well as a multitude of other employees. In many cases, the leaders of Christendom have amassed great wealth.—Rev. 17:4, 5.

9 What is the record of Jehovah's Witnesses regarding collections? Their work is supported by voluntary donations. (2 Cor. 9:7) No collections are taken at their Kingdom Halls

8. What is the wrong motive for doing the preaching work?

9. How have Jehovah's Witnesses shown that they engage in the preaching work with the right motive?

or conventions. Yet, last year alone, Jehovah’s Witnesses spent 1.93 billion hours in preaching the good news and conducting free of charge over nine million Bible studies each month. Amazingly, not only do they go unpaid for their work but they also gladly cover their own expenses. When speaking of the work of Jehovah’s Witnesses, one researcher stated: “The main goal is preaching and teaching. . . . There is no clergy, which cuts costs considerably.” What, then, is our motive for doing this work? Put simply, we do this work of our own volition because we love Jehovah and we love our neighbor. This willing spirit is in fulfillment of the prophecy found at Psalm 110:3. (Read.)

WHAT METHODS SHOULD BE USED?

10 What methods did Jesus and his disciples use to preach the good news? They went to the people wherever they could be found—in public areas and in private homes. The preaching work included searching for deserving ones from house to house. (Matt. 10:11; Luke 8:1; Acts 5:42; 20:20) This systematic method showed impartiality.

11 How have the churches of Christendom measured up in this regard? For the most part, church members have been happy to leave any preaching to the paid clergy. But rather

10. What methods did Jesus and his disciples use to preach?

11, 12. When it comes to preaching the good news, how do the efforts of Christendom compare with those of Jehovah’s people?

than being “fishers of men,” Christendom’s clergy seem more concerned with merely keeping the “fish” they already have. True, at times certain clergymen may endeavor to stir up some form of evangelism. For example, early in the year 2001, Pope John Paul II stated in a letter: “Over the years, I have often repeated the summons to the *new evangelization*. I do so again now . . . We must revive in ourselves the burning conviction of Paul, who cried out: ‘Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.’” The pope then went on to say that this mission “cannot be left to a group of ‘specialists’ but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God.” But how many have responded to this appeal?

12 What has been the record of Jehovah’s Witnesses? They are the only ones who preach that Jesus has been ruling as King since 1914. As Jesus instructed, they place a high priority on the preaching work. (Mark 13:10) The book *Pillars of Faith—American Congregations and Their Partners* states: “For Jehovah’s Witnesses, the missionary focus overwhelms all other concerns.” Referring to statements made by a Witness, the author continues: “When they encounter hunger, loneliness, and ill health, they try to help, . . . but they never forget that their primary task is delivering a spiritual message about the coming end of the world and the necessity for salvation.” Jehovah’s Witnesses continue to deliver that message, using methods that Jesus and his disciples used.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE SCOPE AND DURATION OF THE WORK?

13 Jesus described the scope of the preaching work by saying that the good news would be preached “in *all* the inhabited earth.” (Matt. 24:14) Disciples are to be made “of people of *all* the nations.” (Matt. 28:19, 20) That entails a global work.

14 To understand how Jehovah’s Witnesses have fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy with regard to the scope of the preaching work, let us consider some facts. There are approximately 600,000 members of the clergy in the various denominations in the United States, where there are some 1,200,000 Witnesses of Jehovah. Worldwide, the Roman Catholic Church has a little over 400,000 priests. Now consider the number of Witnesses involved in the Bible-based Kingdom-preaching work. Worldwide, some eight million volunteer ministers preach to people in 240 lands. What an amazing work is being accomplished, all to Jehovah’s praise and glory!—Ps. 34:1; 51:15.

15 As Jehovah’s Witnesses, we desire to reach as many people as possible with the good news before the end comes. For this reason, we stand out as unique with regard to the work we do in translating and publishing Bible literature. Millions

13. What should be the scope of the preaching work?

14, 15. What proves that Jehovah’s Witnesses have fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy with regard to the scope of the work? (See opening pictures of the standard edition.)

of books, magazines, tracts, and convention and Memorial invitations have been distributed free of charge. We have produced various publications in more than 700 languages. Over 200 million copies of the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* have been published in over 130 languages. Last year alone, we produced approximately 4.5 billion pieces of Bible literature. On our official website, information is available in more than 750 languages. What other group of ministers is doing a similar work?

16 How long would the foretold preaching work continue? Jesus said that this global work would continue right on through the last days, “and then the end [would] come.” What other religious group has continued to preach the good news during these momentous last days? Some of those whom we meet in the ministry may say: “We have the holy spirit, but you people are doing the work.” But is not the fact that we can endure in the work evidence that we have God’s spirit? (Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:14) From time to time, certain religious groups have tried to do what Jehovah’s Witnesses regularly accomplish, but those efforts usually result in failure. Others engage in so-called missionary activities for a limited time and then go back to their normal routine. Still others may even try to go from door to door, but what are they preaching? The

16. How do we know that Jehovah’s Witnesses have God’s spirit?

answer to that question makes it clear that they are not carrying out the work that Christ began.

WHO REALLY ARE PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS TODAY?

17 So who really are preaching the good news of the Kingdom today? With full confidence, we can say: “Jehovah’s Witnesses!” Why can we be so confident? Because we are preaching the *right message*, the good news of the Kingdom. By going to the people, we are also using the *correct methods*. Our preaching work is being done with the *right motive*—love, not financial gain. Our work has the *greatest scope*, reaching out to people of all nations and languages. And we will continue to do this work *without letup*, year in and year out, until the end comes.

18 We truly marvel at what is being accomplished by God’s people in these exciting times in which we live. But how is it possible for all of this to happen? The apostle Paul answers in his letter to the Philippians: “God is the one who for the sake of his good pleasure energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act.” (Phil. 2:13) May all of us continue to be energized by our loving Father as we do our very best and fully accomplish our ministry.—2 Tim. 4:5.

17, 18. (a) Why can we be certain that Jehovah’s Witnesses are the ones who are preaching the good news of the Kingdom today? (b) How is it possible for us to continue in this work?

Forward, You Ministers of the Kingdom!

(2 Timothy 4:5)

1. Go forward in preaching the Kingdom
To people in ev'ry land.
With love in your hearts for your neighbor,
Help meek ones to take their stand.
Our service to God is a priv'lege;
His word we are glad to proclaim.
Go out in the field and keep preaching;
Give witness to God's holy name.

(CHORUS)

*Forward, boldly preach the
Kingdom message ever far and wide.
Forward, faithful, loyally remaining
on Jehovah's side.*

2. True ministers keep pressing forward
With God's prize of life in view.
We follow the steps of our Master
With hearts that have been made new.
The good news of God's coming Kingdom
Is something that all need to hear.
We preach in the strength of Jehovah;
With him there is nothing to fear!

(Chorus)

3. Together we press ever forward,
God's remnant and other sheep.
The old and the young men and women
In step with the truth do keep.
Our service we hold to be sacred;
Our worship is never routine.
To God may we prove ever worthy
By conduct that's holy and clean.

(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 23:4; Acts 4:29, 31; 1 Pet. 2:21.)