

- Song 138 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Who Is the Most Important Person in Your Life?”:** (10 min.)  
 Ps 83:1-5—Our primary concern should be Jehovah’s name and sovereignty (w08 10/15 13 ¶7-8)  
 Ps 83:16—Our steadfastness and endurance bring honor to Jehovah (w08 10/15 15 ¶16)  
 Ps 83:17, 18—Jehovah is the most important Person in the whole universe (w11 5/15 16 ¶1-2; w08 10/15 15-16 ¶17-18)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Ps 79:9—What does this verse teach us about our prayers? (w06 7/15 12 ¶5)
- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ps 85:8–86:17

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?

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶1
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶3
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶7-8

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 111
- **Does God Have a Name?:** (15 min.) Start by playing the jw.org video. (Look under PUBLICATIONS > BOOKS & BROCHURES. Then locate the *Good News* brochure. The video is found under the lesson entitled “Who Is God?”) Then consider the following questions: How can this video be used when witnessing informally, publicly, and from house to house? What good experiences have you had using this video?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
 ia chap. 20 ¶14-26, review on p. 179
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 143 and Prayer  
*Reminder:* Play the music through once, and then ask the congregation to sing the new song.

PSALMS 79-86 | Who Is the Most Important Person in Your Life?



The composer of Psalm 83 was likely a descendant of the Levite Asaph, a contemporary of King David. This psalm was written during a time when enemy nations were a threat to Jehovah’s people.

**83:1-5, 16**

- In his prayer, the psalmist focused on Jehovah’s name and sovereignty rather than on his personal safety
- Today, God’s servants continue to face one attack after another. Our faithful endurance brings honor to Jehovah

**83:18**

- Jehovah wants us to know his name
- We must show through our actions that Jehovah is the most important Person in our life

1. The living and true God—  
 The God of all creation  
 In ev'ry generation—  
 Jehovah is your name.  
 We're honored and we're proud  
 To be your congregation.  
 In ev'ry tribe and nation,  
 Your glory we proclaim.

*(CHORUS)*

*Jehovah, Jehovah,  
 There is no God like you.  
 There's no other in the heavens  
 Or on the earth below.  
 You alone are God Almighty,  
 And this all men must know.  
 Jehovah, Jehovah,  
 We have no other God but you.*

2. You cause us to become  
 Whatever you desire,  
 To do as you require—  
 Jehovah is your name.  
 And Witnesses for you  
 Is what you've kindly named us.  
 We're honored you have claimed us—  
 A people for your name.

*(Chorus)*

Like the earth that he has established forever.<sup>a</sup>

**70** He chose David<sup>b</sup> his servant  
And took him from the sheep pens,<sup>c</sup>

**71** From tending the nursing ewes;

He made him the shepherd over Jacob, his people,<sup>d</sup>  
And over Israel, his inheritance.<sup>e</sup>

**72** He shepherded them with integrity of heart,<sup>f</sup>  
And with skillful hands he led them.<sup>g</sup>

A melody of A'saph.<sup>h</sup>

**79** O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;<sup>i</sup>

They have defiled your holy temple;<sup>j</sup>

They have turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.<sup>k</sup>

**2** They have given the dead bodies of your servants as food to the birds of the heavens

And the flesh of your loyal ones to the wild beasts of the earth.<sup>l</sup>

**3** They have poured out their blood like water around Jerusalem,  
And no one is left to bury them.<sup>m</sup>

**4** We have become an object of reproach to our neighbors;<sup>n</sup>  
Those around us ridicule and jeer us.

**5** How long, O Jehovah, will you be furious? Forever?<sup>o</sup>  
How long will your indignation burn just like fire?<sup>p</sup>

**6** Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not know you  
And on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.<sup>q</sup>

**7** For they have devoured Jacob

#### CHAP. 78

a Ps 104:5  
Ps 119:90  
Ec 1:4  
b 1Sa 16:12, 13  
c 1Sa 17:15  
d 2Sa 7:8  
e 2Sa 6:21  
f 2Sa 8:15  
1Ki 3:6  
1Ki 9:4  
1Ki 15:5  
g 1Sa 18:14

#### CHAP. 79

h 1Ch 25:1  
i Ex 15:17  
j 2Ki 24:12, 13  
Ps 74:3, 7  
La 1:10  
k 2Ki 25:9, 10  
2Ch 36:17-19  
Jer 52:13  
l Jer 7:33  
Jer 15:3  
Jer 34:20  
m Jer 14:16  
Jer 16:4  
n De 28:37  
Eze 36:4  
o Ps 74:1  
Ps 85:5  
Isa 64:9  
p Zep 1:18  
q Jer 10:25

#### Second Col.

a 2Ch 36:20, 21  
b Ne 9:34  
c Ps 69:17  
La 3:22  
d 1Ch 16:35  
e Jos 7:9  
1Sa 12:22  
2Ch 14:11  
Ps 115:1, 2  
Isa 48:9  
Jer 14:7  
f Joe 2:17  
g Jer 51:35  
Eze 36:23  
h Ex 2:23  
Isa 42:6, 7  
i Ps 102:19, 20  
j Jer 12:14  
k Ps 74:18  
l Ps 74:1  
Ps 95:7  
Ps 100:3  
m Ps 145:4  
Isa 43:21

#### CHAP. 80

n 1Ch 25:1  
o Ps 77:20  
Isa 40:11  
Jer 31:10  
Eze 34:12  
1Pe 2:25  
p Ex 25:20, 22  
1Sa 4:4

And have desolated his homeland.<sup>a</sup>

**8** Do not hold us accountable for the errors of our ancestors.<sup>b</sup>

Quickly show us your mercy,<sup>c</sup>  
For we have been brought very low.

**9** Help us, O God of our salvation,<sup>d</sup>

For the sake of your glorious name;

Rescue us and forgive\* our sins for the sake of your name.<sup>e</sup>

**10** Why should the nations say: "Where is their God?"<sup>f</sup>

Before our eyes may it become known among the nations

That the shed blood of your servants has been avenged.<sup>g</sup>

**11** May you hear the sighing of the prisoner.<sup>h</sup>

Use your great power\* to preserve<sup>#</sup> those sentenced to death.<sup>Δi</sup>

**12** Repay our neighbors sevenfold<sup>j</sup>

For the taunts they have leveled at you, O Jehovah.<sup>k</sup>

**13** Then we, your people and the flock of your pasture,<sup>l</sup>  
Will give thanks to you forever;

And we will declare your praise from generation to generation.<sup>m</sup>

To the director; set to "The Lilies."  
A reminder. Of A'saph.<sup>n</sup> A melody.

**80** O Shepherd of Israel, listen,

You who are guiding Joseph just like a flock.<sup>o</sup>

You who sit enthroned above\* the cherubs,<sup>p</sup>

Shine forth.<sup>q</sup>

**79:9** \*Lit., "cover." **79:11** \*Lit., "arm."  
#Or possibly, "set free." ΔLit., "the sons of death." **80:1** \*Or possibly, "between." #Or "Reveal your radiance."

- 2 Before E'phra'im and Benjamin and Ma-nas'seh,  
Do stir up your mightiness;<sup>a</sup>  
Come and save us.<sup>b</sup>
- 3 O God, restore us;<sup>c</sup>  
Let your face shine upon us,  
so that we may be saved.<sup>d</sup>
- 4 Jehovah God of armies, how  
long will you be hostile toward\*  
the prayer of your people?<sup>e</sup>
- 5 You feed them tears as their  
bread,  
And you make them drink  
tears beyond measure.
- 6 You let our neighbors quarrel  
over us;  
Our enemies keep mocking  
us as they please.<sup>f</sup>
- 7 O God of armies, restore us;  
Let your face shine upon us,  
so that we may be saved.<sup>g</sup>
- 8 You made a vine<sup>h</sup> depart  
from Egypt.  
You drove out the nations  
and planted it.<sup>i</sup>
- 9 You cleared a space for it,  
And it took root and filled  
the land.<sup>j</sup>
- 10 The mountains were covered  
by its shadow,  
And the cedars of God by its  
branches.
- 11 Its branches reached as far  
as the sea,  
And its shoots to the River.<sup>\*\*k</sup>
- 12 Why have you broken down  
the stone walls of the vineyard,<sup>l</sup>  
So that all those passing by  
pluck its fruit?<sup>m</sup>
- 13 The boars of the forest ravage  
it,  
And the wild animals of the  
field feed on it.<sup>n</sup>
- 14 O God of armies, please  
return.  
Look down from heaven and  
see!

80:4 \*Lit., "fume against." 80:11  
\*That is, the Euphrates.

## CHAP. 80

- a Isa 42:13  
b Isa 25:9  
c Ps 85:4  
La 5:21  
d Nu 6:25  
Ps 67:1, 2  
e Ps 74:1  
Ps 85:5  
La 3:44  
f Ps 44:13  
Ps 79:4  
g Ps 80:3, 19  
h Isa 5:7  
i Ps 44:2  
Ps 78:55  
Jer 2:21  
j Ex 23:28, 30  
Jos 24:12, 13  
1Ki 4:25  
k Ge 15:18  
Ex 23:31  
1Ki 4:21  
Ps 72:8  
l Isa 5:5  
m Na 2:2  
n 2Ki 18:9  
2Ki 24:1  
2Ki 25:1  
2Ch 32:1  
Jer 39:1

## Second Col.

- a Isa 63:15  
b Isa 5:7  
Jer 2:21  
c Ex 4:22  
Isa 49:5  
d Ps 79:5  
Jer 52:12, 13  
e Ps 89:20, 21  
f Ps 80:7

## CHAP. 81

- g 1Ch 25:1  
h Ps 28:8  
i Nu 29:1  
j Ex 23:16  
Nu 10:10  
k Le 23:23, 24  
l Ex 12:14  
m Ex 12:12

- Take care of this vine,<sup>a</sup>
- 15 The stock\* that your right  
hand has planted,<sup>b</sup>  
And look upon the son  
whom<sup>#</sup> you made strong  
for yourself.<sup>c</sup>
- 16 It is burned with fire,<sup>d</sup> cut  
down.  
They perish at your rebuke.\*
- 17 May your hand give support  
to the man at your right  
hand,  
To the son of man you have  
made strong for yourself.<sup>e</sup>
- 18 Then we will not turn away  
from you.  
Preserve us alive, so that we  
may call on your name.
- 19 O Jehovah God of armies,  
restore us;  
Let your face shine upon us,  
so that we may be saved.<sup>f</sup>
- To the director; upon the Git'tith.\*  
Of A'saph.<sup>g</sup>

- 81** Shout joyfully to God our  
strength.<sup>h</sup>  
Shout in triumph to the God  
of Jacob.
- 2 Begin the music and take a  
tambourine,  
The melodious harp together  
with the stringed instrument.
- 3 Blow the horn on the new  
moon,<sup>i</sup>  
On the full moon, for the day  
of our festival.<sup>j</sup>
- 4 For it is a decree for Israel,  
A ruling of the God of  
Jacob.<sup>k</sup>
- 5 He established it as a re-  
minder for Joseph!<sup>l</sup>  
When He went out against  
the land of Egypt.<sup>m</sup>  
I heard a voice\* that I did not  
recognize:

80:15 \*Or "main stem of the vine." <sup>#</sup>Or  
"branch that." 80:16 \*Lit., "the rebuke  
of your face." 81:Sup \*See Glossary.  
81:5 \*Or "language."

- 6 "I lifted the burden from his shoulder;<sup>a</sup>  
His hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 In your distress you called, and I rescued you;<sup>b</sup>  
I answered you from the thundercloud.<sup>\*c</sup>  
I tested you at the waters of Mer'i-bah.<sup>#d</sup> (*Selah*)
- 8 Hear, my people, and I will testify against you.  
O Israel, if you would only listen to me.<sup>e</sup>
- 9 Among you, there will be no strange god,  
And you will not bow down to a foreign god.<sup>f</sup>
- 10 I, Jehovah, am your God,  
The one who brought you out of the land of Egypt.<sup>g</sup>  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.<sup>h</sup>
- 11 But my people did not listen to my voice;  
Israel would not submit to me.<sup>i</sup>
- 12 So I let them follow their stubborn hearts;  
They did what they thought was right.<sup>\*j</sup>
- 13 If only my people would listen to me,<sup>k</sup>  
If only Israel would walk in my ways!<sup>l</sup>
- 14 Their enemies I would quickly subdue;  
I would turn my hand against their adversaries.<sup>m</sup>
- 15 Those who hate Jehovah will cringe in his presence,  
And their outcome<sup>\*</sup> will be forever.
- 16 But he will feed you<sup>\*</sup> with the finest<sup>#</sup> wheat<sup>n</sup>  
And satisfy you with honey from the rock.<sup>o</sup>

81:7 \*Lit., "in the hidden place of thunder." #Meaning "Quarreling." 81:12 \*Lit., "They walked in their counsels." 81:15 \*Lit., "time." 81:16 \*Lit., "him," that is, God's people. #Lit., "the fat of."

## CHAP. 81

- a Ex 1:13, 14  
Ex 6:6
- b Ex 14:10, 13  
Ps 91:15
- c Ex 19:16, 19
- d Ex 17:6, 7
- e Ex 15:26
- f Ex 20:2-5  
De 6:13, 14
- g De 5:6
- h De 32:13, 14
- i Ex 32:1  
De 32:15
- j Jer 7:23, 24  
Jer 11:7, 8  
Mic 6:16
- k De 32:29
- l De 5:29  
Isa 48:17, 18
- m Nu 14:9
- n Ps 147:14
- o De 32:13, 14

## Second Col.

## CHAP. 82

- a 1Ch 25:1
- b 2Ch 19:6
- c Ex 18:21, 22  
Ps 82:6  
Joh 10:34, 35
- d Le 19:15  
Ec 5:8
- e De 1:16, 17  
2Ch 19:7  
Pr 18:5
- f De 24:17
- g Jer 22:3
- h Mic 3:1
- i Ps 11:3  
Pr 29:4
- j Joh 10:34, 35  
1Co 8:5
- k Ps 49:12
- l Ps 146:3, 4
- m Ps 96:13

## CHAP. 83

- n 2Ch 20:14
- o Ps 28:1
- p Ps 2:1, 2

A melody of A'saph.<sup>a</sup>82 God takes his place in the divine assembly;<sup>\*b</sup>In the middle of the gods<sup>#</sup> he judges;<sup>c</sup>2 "How long will you continue to judge with injustice<sup>d</sup>And show partiality to the wicked?<sup>e</sup> (*Selah*)3 Defend<sup>\*</sup> the lowly and the fatherless.<sup>f</sup>Render justice to the helpless and destitute.<sup>g</sup>

## 4 Rescue the lowly and the poor;

Save them out of the hand of the wicked.<sup>h</sup>5 They do not know, nor do they understand;<sup>h</sup>

They are walking about in darkness;

All the foundations of the earth are being shaken.<sup>i</sup>6 "I have said, 'You are gods,<sup>#j</sup> All of you are sons of the Most High.7 But you will die just as men do;<sup>k</sup>And like any other prince you will fall!"<sup>l</sup>8 Rise up, O God, and judge the earth.<sup>m</sup>

For all the nations belong to you.

A song. A melody of A'saph.<sup>n</sup>83 O God, do not be silent;<sup>o</sup>Do not keep quiet<sup>\*</sup> or still, O Divine One.2 For look! your enemies are in an uproar;<sup>p</sup>Those who hate you act arrogantly.<sup>\*</sup>

## 3 With cunning they secretly plot against your people;

They conspire against your treasured ones.<sup>\*</sup>

82:1 \*Or "in the assembly of the Divine One." 82:1, 6 \*Or "godlike ones."

82:3 \*Or "Judge." 83:1 \*Or "keep speechless." 83:2 \*Or "raise their heads."

83:3 \*Lit., "concealed ones."

- 4 They say: "Come, let us annihilate them as a nation,<sup>a</sup> So that the name of Israel may be remembered no more."
- 5 They devise a unified strategy;\* They have made an alliance<sup>a</sup> against you<sup>b</sup>—
- 6 The tents of E'dom and the Ish'ma-el-ites, Mo'ab<sup>c</sup> and the Hag'rites,<sup>d</sup>
- 7 Ge'bal and Am'mon<sup>e</sup> and Am'a-lek, Phi-lis'ti-a<sup>f</sup> together with the inhabitants of Tyre.<sup>g</sup>
- 8 As-syr'i-a<sup>h</sup> too has joined them; They give support to\* the sons of Lot.<sup>i</sup> (*Selah*)
- 9 Do to them as you did to Mid'i-an,<sup>j</sup> As you did to Sis'e-ra and Ja'bin at the stream\* of Ki'shon.<sup>k</sup>
- 10 They were annihilated at En-dor;<sup>l</sup> They became manure for the ground.
- 11 Make their nobles like O'reb and Ze'eb<sup>m</sup> And their princes\* like Ze'bah and Zal-mun'na,<sup>n</sup>
- 12 For they said: "Let us take possession of the land where God dwells."
- 13 O my God, make them like a whirling thistle,<sup>o</sup> Like stubble blown about by the wind.
- 14 Like a fire that burns up the forest, Like a flame that scorches the mountains,<sup>p</sup>
- 15 So may you pursue them with your tempest<sup>q</sup>

83:5 \*Lit., "They consult with a heart together." <sup>a</sup>Or "a covenant." 83:8 \*Lit., "have become an arm to." 83:9 \*Or "wadi." 83:11 \*Or "leaders." 83:13 \*Or "like tumbleweed."

## CHAP. 83

- a Ex 1:8-10  
2Ch 20:1  
Es 3:6
- b 2Sa 10:6  
Isa 7:2, 5
- c 2Ch 20:1, 10
- d 1Ch 5:10
- e Jer 49:2
- f Ex 15:14  
Ps 60:8
- g Am 1:9
- h 2Ki 17:5
- i Ge 19:36-38  
De 2:9
- j Jg 8:10, 12
- k Jg 4:2, 7, 15
- l Jos 17:11
- m Jg 7:25
- n Jg 8:21
- o Isa 17:13
- p Ps 144:5  
Na 1:6
- q Isa 30:30

## Second Col.

- a Ps 11:6
- b Ex 6:3  
Ps 68:4  
Isa 42:8  
Isa 54:5
- c Ps 59:13  
Ps 92:8  
Da 4:17

## CHAP. 84

- d 2Ch 20:19
- e Ps 27:4  
Ps 43:3  
Ps 46:4
- f Ps 42:1, 2  
Ps 63:1, 2
- g Ps 23:6  
Ps 65:4
- h 1Ch 25:7  
Ps 150:1
- i Ps 28:7

And terrify them with your windstorm.<sup>a</sup>

- 16 Cover\* their faces with dishonor,  
So that they may search for your name, O Jehovah.
- 17 May they be put to shame and be terrified forever;  
May they be disgraced and perish;
- 18 May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah,<sup>b</sup> You alone are the Most High over all the earth.<sup>c</sup>

For the director; upon the Git'tith.\*  
Of the sons of Kor'ah.<sup>d</sup> A melody.

- 84** How lovely\* your grand tabernacle is,<sup>e</sup>  
O Jehovah of armies!
- 2 My whole being\* yearns,  
Yes, I am faint with longing,  
For the courtyards of Jehovah.<sup>f</sup>  
My heart and my flesh shout joyfully to the living God.
- 3 Even the bird finds a home there  
And the swallow a nest for herself,  
Where she cares for her young  
Near your grand altar,  
O Jehovah of armies,  
My King and my God!
- 4 Happy are those dwelling in your house!<sup>g</sup>  
They continue to praise you.<sup>h</sup> (*Selah*)
- 5 Happy are the men who find their strength in you,<sup>i</sup>  
Whose hearts are set on the highways.
- 6 When they pass through the Ba'ca Valley,\*  
They make it into a place of springs;

83:16 \*Lit., "Fill." 84:Sup \*See Glossary. 84:1 \*Or "deeply loved." 84:2 \*Or "My soul." 84:6 \*Or "the valley of baca bushes."

And the early rain clothes it\*  
with blessings.

- 7 They will walk on from  
strength to strength.<sup>a</sup>  
Each one appears before  
God in Zion.
- 8 O Jehovah God of armies,  
hear my prayer;  
Listen, O God of Jacob.  
(*Selah*)
- 9 Look, our shield<sup>b</sup> and our  
God,\*  
Look upon the face of your  
anointed one.<sup>c</sup>
- 10 For a day in your courtyards  
is better than a thousand  
anywhere else!<sup>d</sup>

I choose to stand at the  
threshold of the house  
of my God  
Rather than to dwell in the  
tents of wickedness.

- 11 For Jehovah God is a sun<sup>e</sup>  
and a shield;<sup>f</sup>  
He gives favor and glory.  
Jehovah will not hold back  
anything good  
From those walking in integ-  
rity.<sup>g</sup>
- 12 O Jehovah of armies,  
Happy is the man who trusts  
in you.<sup>h</sup>

For the director. Of the sons of  
Kor'ah.<sup>i</sup> A melody.

- 85** You have shown favor,  
O Jehovah, to your  
land;<sup>j</sup>  
You brought back those of  
Jacob who were taken  
captive.<sup>k</sup>
- 2 You have pardoned the error  
of your people;  
You forgave\* all their sin.<sup>l</sup>  
(*Selah*)
- 3 You held back all your fury;  
You turned away from your  
hot anger.<sup>m</sup>

84:6 \*Or possibly, "And the instructor  
enwraps himself." 84:9 \*Or possibly,  
"Look at our shield, O God." 85:2 \*Lit.,  
"covered."

## CHAP. 84

- a Ps 18:32  
Isa 40:29-31  
Hab 3:19
- b Ge 15:1
- c 1Sa 2:10
- d Ps 26:8  
Ps 27:4  
Ps 43:3, 4
- e Ps 27:1  
Isa 60:19, 20
- f De 33:29  
2Sa 22:3  
Ps 144:2
- g Ps 34:9  
Ps 37:18
- h Ps 146:5  
Jer 17:7

## CHAP. 85

- i 2Ch 20:19
- j Le 26:42  
Joe 2:18
- k Ezr 2:1  
Jer 30:18  
Eze 39:25
- l Jer 50:20  
Mic 7:18
- m Ps 103:9  
Isa 12:1

## Second Col.

- a Ps 80:3, 4
- b Ps 74:1  
Ps 79:5
- c Ezr 3:11  
Jer 33:10, 11
- d La 3:22
- e Isa 57:19
- f De 8:17, 18  
Ps 78:7
- g Isa 46:13
- h Ps 72:3  
Isa 32:17
- i Isa 26:9  
Isa 45:8
- j Ps 84:11  
Jas 1:17
- k Le 26:4  
Ps 67:6  
Isa 25:6  
Isa 30:23
- l Ps 89:14

## CHAP. 86

- m Ps 34:6  
Isa 66:2
- n Ps 37:28

- 4 Restore us,\* O God of our  
salvation,  
And set aside your displea-  
sure with us.<sup>a</sup>
- 5 Will you be furious with us  
forever?<sup>b</sup>  
Will you prolong your anger  
to generation after genera-  
tion?
- 6 Will you not revive us again  
So that your people may  
rejoice in you?<sup>c</sup>
- 7 Show your loyal love to us,  
O Jehovah,<sup>d</sup>  
And grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the true  
God Jehovah says,  
For he will speak peace to his  
people,<sup>e</sup> to his loyal ones,  
But let them not return to  
overconfidence.<sup>f</sup>
- 9 Surely his salvation is near  
to those who fear him,<sup>g</sup>  
So that his glory may reside  
in our land.
- 10 Loyal love and faithfulness  
will meet together;  
Righteousness and peace  
will kiss each other.<sup>h</sup>
- 11 Faithfulness will sprout from  
the earth,  
And righteousness will look  
down from the heavens.<sup>i</sup>
- 12 Yes, Jehovah will give what  
is good,<sup>\*j</sup>  
And our land will yield its  
harvest.<sup>k</sup>
- 13 Righteousness will walk  
before him<sup>l</sup>  
And make a path for his foot-  
steps.

A prayer of David.

- 86** Incline your ear,\*  
O Jehovah, and an-  
swer me,  
For I am afflicted and poor.<sup>m</sup>
- 2 Guard my life,\* for I am  
loyal.<sup>n</sup>

85:4 \*Or "Gather us back." 85:12 \*Or  
"prosperity." 86:1 \*Or "Bend down and  
listen." 86:2 \*Or "soul."

Save your servant who is  
trusting in you,  
For you are my God.<sup>a</sup>

- 3** Show me favor, O Jehovah,<sup>b</sup>  
For I call to you all day long.<sup>c</sup>
- 4** Make your servant\* rejoice,  
For to you, O Jehovah,  
I turn.<sup>#</sup>
- 5** For you, O Jehovah,  
are good<sup>d</sup> and ready  
to forgive;<sup>e</sup>  
You abound in loyal love for  
all those who call on you.<sup>f</sup>
- 6** Listen, O Jehovah, to my  
prayer;  
And pay attention to my  
pleas for help.<sup>g</sup>
- 7** I call on you in the day of my  
distress,<sup>h</sup>  
For you will answer me.<sup>i</sup>
- 8** There is none like you among  
the gods, O Jehovah,<sup>j</sup>  
There are no works like  
yours.<sup>k</sup>
- 9** All the nations that you made  
Will come and bow down  
before you, O Jehovah,<sup>l</sup>  
And they will give glory to  
your name.<sup>m</sup>
- 10** For you are great and do  
wondrous things;<sup>n</sup>  
You are God, you alone.<sup>o</sup>
- 11** Instruct me, O Jehovah,  
about your way.<sup>p</sup>  
I will walk in your truth.<sup>q</sup>  
Unify my heart\* to fear your  
name.<sup>r</sup>
- 12** I praise you, O Jehovah my  
God, with all my heart,<sup>s</sup>  
And I will glorify your name  
forever,
- 13** For your loyal love toward  
me is great,  
And you have saved my life\*  
from the depths of the  
Grave.<sup>#t</sup>

**86:4** \*Or "the soul of your servant."  
#Or "I raise my soul." **86:11** \*Or "Give  
me an undivided heart." **86:13** \*Or  
"soul." #Or "Sheol," that is, the com-  
mon grave of mankind. See Glossary.

CHAP. 86

- a 2Ch 16:9  
b Ps 57:1  
c Ps 25:5  
d Ps 25:8  
Ps 145:9  
Lu 18:19  
e Isa 55:7  
Mic 7:18  
f Ps 130:7  
g Ps 17:1  
h Ps 18:6  
i Ps 116:1  
j Ex 15:11  
Ps 96:5  
1Co 8:5, 6  
k De 3:24  
Ps 104:24  
l Isa 2:2, 3  
Zec 14:9  
Re 7:9, 10  
m Re 15:4  
n Ps 72:18  
Da 6:27  
o De 6:4  
Ps 83:18  
Isa 44:6  
1Co 8:4  
p Ps 27:11  
Ps 119:33  
Ps 143:8  
Isa 54:13  
q Ps 43:3  
r Ec 12:13  
Jer 32:39  
s Mt 22:37  
t Job 33:28  
Ps 56:13  
Ps 116:8

Second Col.

- a 2Sa 15:12  
b Ps 10:4  
Ps 54:3  
c Ex 34:6  
Ne 9:17  
Jon 4:2  
d Ps 25:16  
e Ps 28:7

CHAP. 87

- f 2Ch 20:19  
g Ps 48:1  
h Ps 78:68  
Ps 132:13  
i Ps 48:2  
Isa 60:14  
j Ps 89:10  
Isa 30:7

- 14** O God, presumptuous men  
rise up against me;<sup>a</sup>  
A band of ruthless men seek  
to take my life,<sup>\*</sup>  
And they have no regard for  
you.<sup>#b</sup>
- 15** But you, O Jehovah, are a  
God merciful and compas-  
sionate,<sup>\*</sup>  
Slow to anger and abundant  
in loyal love and faithful-  
ness.<sup>#c</sup>
- 16** Turn to me and show me  
favor.<sup>d</sup>  
Give your strength to your  
servant,<sup>e</sup>  
And save the son of your  
slave girl.
- 17** Show me a sign\* of your  
goodness,  
So that those who hate me  
may see it and be put to  
shame.  
For you, O Jehovah, are my  
helper and comforter.

Of the sons of Kor'ah.<sup>f</sup>  
A melody. A song.

- 87** His city's foundation is in  
the holy mountains.<sup>g</sup>
- 2** Jehovah loves the gates of  
Zion<sup>h</sup>  
More than all the tents of  
Jacob.
- 3** Glorious things are being  
said about you, O city of  
the true God.<sup>i</sup> (*Selah*)
- 4** I will count Ra'hab<sup>j</sup> and  
Babylon among those who  
know\* me;  
Here are Phi-lis'ti-a and Tyre,  
together with Cush.  
It will be said: "This is one  
who was born there."<sup>k</sup>
- 5** And about Zion it will be  
said:  
"Each and every one was  
born in her."<sup>l</sup>

**86:14** \*Or "seek my soul." #Or "have  
not set you in front of themselves."  
**86:15** \*Or "gracious." #Or "and truth."  
**86:17** \*Or "evidence." **87:4** \*Or "ac-  
knowledge."



- Song 138 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“Who Is the Most Important Person in Your Life?”:** (10 min.)  
Ps 83:1-5—Our primary concern should be Jehovah’s name and sovereignty (w08 10/15 13 ¶7-8)  
Ps 83:16—Our steadfastness and endurance bring honor to Jehovah (w08 10/15 15 ¶16)  
Ps 83:17, 18—Jehovah is the most important Person in the whole universe (w11 5/15 16 ¶1-2; w08 10/15 15-16 ¶17-18)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
Ps 79:9—What does this verse teach us about our prayers? (w06 7/15 12 ¶5)  
  
Ps 86:5—In what way is Jehovah “ready to forgive”? (w06 7/15 12 ¶9)

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 85:8–86:17

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶1
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶3
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) fg lesson 7 ¶7-8

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 111
- **Does God Have a Name?:** (15 min.) Start by playing the jw.org video. (Look under PUBLICATIONS > BOOKS & BROCHURES. Then locate the *Good News* brochure. The video is found under the lesson entitled “Who Is God?”) Then consider the following questions: How can this video be used when witnessing informally, publicly, and from house to house? What good experiences have you had using this video?
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)  
ia chap. 20 ¶14-26, review on p. 179
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 143 and Prayer  
*Reminder:* Play the music through once, and then ask the congregation to sing the new song.

PSALMS 79-86 | Who Is the Most Important Person in Your Life?



The composer of Psalm 83 was likely a descendant of the Levite Asaph, a contemporary of King David. This psalm was written during a time when enemy nations were a threat to Jehovah’s people.

**83:1-5, 16**

- In his prayer, the psalmist focused on Jehovah’s name and sovereignty rather than on his personal safety
- Today, God’s servants continue to face one attack after another. Our faithful endurance brings honor to Jehovah

**83:18**

- Jehovah wants us to know his name
- We must show through our actions that Jehovah is the most important Person in our life

(w08 10/15 13 ¶7-8) <sup>7</sup> What was the psalmist's foremost concern? Of course, he must have been very worried about his own personal safety and that of his family. Yet, the subject of his prayer was the reproach being brought on Jehovah's name and the threats against the nation that bore that name. May we all keep a similar, balanced viewpoint as we endure the difficult final days of this old world.—*Read Matthew 6:9, 10.*

<sup>8</sup> The psalmist quotes Israel's enemies as saying: "Come and let us efface them from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." (Ps. 83:4) What hatred those nations had for God's chosen people! But they had another motive for their conspiracy. They coveted Israel's land and boasted: "Let us take possession of the abiding places of God for ourselves." (Ps. 83:12) Has something similar been true in our day? Yes!

(w08 10/15 15 ¶16) <sup>16</sup> Throughout these “last days,” Jehovah has thwarted all efforts to eliminate his people. (2 Tim. 3:1) As a result, opposers have been shamed. Psalm 83:16 foreshadowed this when it said: “Fill their faces with dishonor, that people may search for your name, O Jehovah.” In country after country, opponents have failed miserably in their effort to silence Jehovah’s Witnesses. In those lands, the steadfastness and endurance of worshippers of the one true God have served as a witness to rightharted ones, and many have ‘searched for Jehovah’s name.’ In a number of lands where Jehovah’s Witnesses were once viciously persecuted, there are now tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of happy praisers of Jehovah. What a triumph for Jehovah! And how embarrassing for his enemies!—*Read Jeremiah 1:19.*

(w11 5/15 16 ¶1-2) PERHAPS the first time you saw Jehovah’s name was when it was shown to you at Psalm 83:18. You may have been surprised to read those words: “That people may know that you, whose name is

Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.” Since then, you no doubt have used this same scripture to help others come to know our loving God, Jehovah.—Rom. 10:12, 13.

<sup>2</sup> Although it is important for people to know Jehovah’s name, such knowledge in itself is not enough. Notice how the psalmist highlights yet another truth essential to our salvation when he says: “You alone are the Most High over all the earth.” Yes, Jehovah is the most important Person in the whole universe. As the Creator of all things, he has the right to expect full submission from all his creatures. (Rev. 4:11) For good reason, then, we need to ask ourselves, ‘Who is the most important person in *my* life?’ It is vital that we carefully analyze our answer to that question!

(w08 10/15 15-16 ¶17-18) <sup>17</sup> We know, of course, that the battle is not over. And we continue to preach the good news—even to opposers. (Matt. 24:14, 21) However, the opportunity now open to such opposers to repent and gain salvation will soon come to an end. The sanctification of Jehovah’s name is far

more important than human salvation. (*Read Ezekiel 38:23.*) When the nations combine in the foretold earth-wide effort to destroy God's people, we will remember these words of the psalmist's prayer: "O may they be ashamed and be disturbed for all times, and may they become abashed and perish."—Ps. 83:17.

<sup>18</sup> A humiliating end awaits determined opposers of Jehovah's sovereignty. God's Word reveals that those who "do not obey the good news"—and for this reason are executed at Armageddon—will suffer "everlasting destruction." (2 Thess. 1:7-9) Their destruction and the survival of those who worship Jehovah in truth will be convincing evidence that Jehovah is the only true God. In the new world, that great victory will not be forgotten. Those who come back in the "resurrection of . . . the righteous and the unrighteous" will learn of Jehovah's great act. (Acts 24:15) In the new world, they will see convincing evidence of the wisdom of living under Jehovah's sovereignty. And meek ones among them will quickly be convinced that Jehovah is the only true God.

**(w06 7/15 12 ¶5) 79:9.** Jehovah listens to our prayers, especially when they are concerning the sanctification of his name.

**(w06 7/15 12 ¶9) 86:5.** How grateful we can be that Jehovah is “ready to forgive”! He is on the lookout for any evidence that would provide a basis for him to show mercy to a repentant wrongdoer.

- Song 138 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

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**83:1-5, 16**

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**83:18**

- Jehovah wants us to know his name
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# 7

## What Is God's Kingdom?



### 1. What is God's Kingdom?

The Kingdom of God is a heavenly government. It will replace all other governments and will cause God's will to be done in heaven and on earth. The news about God's Kingdom is good. Soon God's Kingdom will satisfy man's need for good government. It will unite everyone living on earth.

📖 *Read Daniel 2:44; Matthew 6:9, 10; 24:14.*

A kingdom must have a king. Jehovah appointed his Son, Jesus Christ, to be King of His Kingdom.

📖 *Read Revelation 11:15.*

### 2. Why is Jesus the ideal King?

God's Son is the ideal King because he is kind and he is firm for what is right. (John 1:14) Also, he is powerful enough to help people because he will rule over the

earth from heaven. After he was resurrected, he ascended to heaven and sat down to wait at Jehovah's right hand. (Hebrews 10:12, 13) Finally, God gave him power to begin ruling.

📖 *Read Daniel 7:13, 14.*

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What makes  
Jesus an  
ideal King?

—MARK 1:40-42.

### 3. Who will rule with Jesus?

A group called "the holy ones" will rule with Jesus in heaven. (Daniel 7:27) The first holy ones chosen were Jesus' faithful apostles. Jehovah has continued to select faithful men and women as holy ones until now. Like Jesus, they are resurrected with a spiritual body.


📖 *Read John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.*




How many people go to heaven? Jesus called them a “little flock.” (Luke 12:32) They will finally number 144,000. They will rule over the earth with Jesus.


 *Read Revelation 14:1.*

#### 4. What happened when Jesus began ruling?

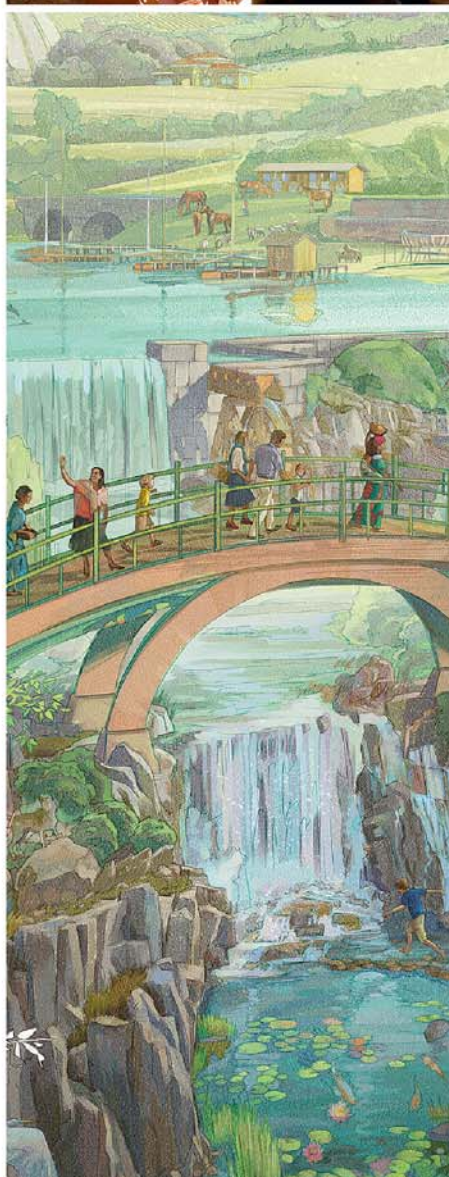
God’s Kingdom began ruling in 1914.\* Jesus’ first action as King was to throw Satan and his demons down to the earth. Satan became furious and began causing trouble throughout the earth. (Revelation 12:7-10, 12) Since then, mankind’s woes have severely increased. Wars, famines, epidemics, and earthquakes are all part of a “sign” that the Kingdom will soon take full charge of earth’s affairs.  *Read Luke 21:7, 10, 11, 31.*

#### 5. What does God’s Kingdom accomplish?

By means of a global preaching work, God’s Kingdom is already uniting a great crowd of people from all nations. Millions of meek people are becoming subjects of Jesus. God’s Kingdom will protect them when it destroys the present wicked system of things on earth. So all who want to benefit from God’s Kingdom should learn to be obedient subjects of Jesus.  *Read Revelation 7:9, 14, 16, 17.*

During a period of 1,000 years, the Kingdom will accomplish God’s original purpose for mankind. The earth will become a global paradise. Finally, Jesus will hand the Kingdom back to his Father. (1 Corinthians 15:24-26) Do you know someone whom you would like to tell about God’s Kingdom?  *Read Psalm 37:10, 11, 29.*

\* For details of how Bible prophecy foretold the year 1914, see pages 215-218 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*



1. Life, like a mist, appears for just a day,  
Then disappears tomorrow.  
All that we are can quickly fade away,  
Replaced with tears and sorrow.  
If a man should die, can he live again?  
Hear the promise God has made:

*(CHORUS)*

*He will call; The dead will answer.  
They shall live at his command.  
For he will have a longing  
For the work of his own hand.  
So have faith, and do not wonder,  
For our God can make us stand.  
And we shall live forever,  
As the work of his own hand.*

2. Friends of our God, though they may pass away,  
Will never be forsaken.  
All those asleep who in God's mem'ry stay,  
From death he will awaken.  
Then we'll come to see all that life can be:  
Paradise eternally.

*(Chorus)*

- Song 138 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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<sup>13</sup> This little domestic scene is rich in lessons for Christ's followers today. We must never allow anything to crowd out the filling of our "spiritual need." (Matt. 5:3) While we want to imitate Martha's generous, industrious spirit, we never want to become so "anxious and disturbed" about the less essential part of hospitality that we miss out on what matters most. We associate with fellow believers, not primarily for the sake of serving or receiving sumptuous food, but mainly for an interchange of encouragement and the imparting of spiritual gifts. (*Read Romans 1:11, 12.*) Even the simplest meal may make such an upbuilding occasion possible.

### **A Beloved Brother Lost—And Restored**

<sup>14</sup> Did Martha accept Jesus' gentle reproof and learn from it? We need not wonder. The apostle John, in introducing a thrilling account about Martha's brother, reminds us: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." (John 11:5) Months had passed since Jesus' visit to Bethany described above.

**13. What lessons can we learn from the way that Jesus corrected Martha?**

**14. Why can we be sure that Martha set a good example in accepting correction?**

Clearly, Martha had not indulged in sulking; she was not nursing a grudge against Jesus for his loving counsel. She had taken it to heart. In this matter too, she set an excellent example of faith for us, for who of us does not need a little correction at times?

<sup>15</sup> When her brother took ill, Martha surely busied herself with his care. She did everything in her power to soothe his discomfort and help him get better. Nonetheless, Lazarus sank still deeper into his illness. Hour after hour, his sisters stayed by his side to care for him. How often Martha must have gazed into her brother's haggard face, remembering their many years together and the joys and sorrows they had shared!

<sup>16</sup> When it looked as if Lazarus was beyond their help, Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus. He was preaching some two days' journey away. Their message was simple: "Lord, see! the one for whom you have affection is sick." (John 11:1, 3) They knew that Jesus loved their brother, and they had faith that he would do whatever he could to help his

**15, 16. (a) How did Martha surely respond when her brother took ill? (b) Why were Martha's and Mary's hopes dashed?**



**Martha's faith in Jesus  
was rewarded when  
she and Mary saw their  
brother resurrected**

friend. Did they cling to the hope that Jesus might arrive before it was too late? If so, their hopes were dashed. Lazarus died.

<sup>17</sup> Together, Martha and Mary mourned their brother, taking care of the preparations for his burial and receiving the many guests from Bethany and its environs. Still, no news of Jesus. Martha may have grown more puzzled as the time passed. Finally, four days after Lazarus' death, Martha heard that Jesus was nearing the town. Ever the woman of action, even in this grim hour, Martha got up and, without telling Mary, rushed out to meet Jesus. —*Read John 11:18-20.*

<sup>18</sup> When Martha caught sight of her Master, she put into words the thought that had been tormenting her and Mary for days: “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.” But hope and faith were not dead in Martha. She added: “And yet at present I know that as many things as you ask God for, God will give you.” Jesus immediately said

**17. What puzzled Martha, and how did she react when she heard that Jesus was nearing the town?**

**18, 19. Martha expressed what hope, and why was her faith remarkable?**

something to strengthen her faith: “Your brother will rise.”—John 11:21-23.

<sup>19</sup> Martha thought that Jesus was talking about the future resurrection, so she replied: “I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.” (John 11:24) Her faith in that teaching was remarkable. Some Jewish religious leaders, called Sadducees, denied that there would be a resurrection, though it was a clear teaching in the inspired Scriptures. (Dan. 12:13; Mark 12:18) Martha knew, however, that Jesus taught the resurrection hope and had even performed resurrections—although not of anyone who had been dead as long as Lazarus had. She did not know what lay ahead.

<sup>20</sup> Jesus then made an unforgettable statement: “I am the resurrection and the life.” Indeed, Jehovah God has given his Son the authority to perform resurrections on a global scale in the future. Jesus asked Martha: “Do you believe this?” Then she gave the answer discussed at the outset of this chapter. She had faith that Jesus was the Christ, or Messiah,

**20. Explain the meaning of Jesus’ unforgettable statement recorded at John 11:25-27 and of Martha’s reply.**



that he was the Son of Jehovah God, and that he was the one whom the prophets had foretold would come into the world.—John 5:28, 29; *read John 11:25-27*.

<sup>21</sup> Do Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ, value faith like that of Martha? The events that next unfolded before Martha's eyes provide the clearest of answers. She hurried to get her sister. Thereafter, she saw that Jesus was deeply moved as he talked to Mary and the many mourners with her. She saw the tears come to his eyes as he freely showed his deep grief over the pain that death causes. She heard Jesus order that the stone be rolled away from her brother's tomb.—John 11:28-39.

<sup>22</sup> Ever practical, Martha objected that the body would smell by now, four days after death. Jesus reminded her: “Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” She did believe, and she did see the glory of Jehovah God. Right then and there, he empowered his Son to bring Lazarus back to life! Think of the moments that must have been etched in Martha's memory to the

**21, 22. (a) How did Jesus reveal his feelings for those who mourn? (b) Describe the resurrection of Lazarus.**

end of her days: Jesus' commanding call, "Lazarus, come on out!"; the faint noise from the cave where Lazarus was entombed as the man rose and, still bound in the bandages used to prepare the body, inched his way to the door of the cave; Jesus' command to "loose him and let him go"; and, to be sure, the ecstatic embrace as Martha and Mary flew into their brother's arms. (*Read John 11:40-44.*) The burden on Martha's heart was lifted!

<sup>23</sup> This account shows that the resurrection of the dead is not mere wishful thinking; it is a heartwarming Bible teaching and a proven historical reality. (Job 14:14, 15) Jehovah and his Son love to reward faith, as they did in the case of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. They have such rewards in store for you too if you build strong faith.

### **"Martha Was Ministering"**

<sup>24</sup> The Bible record mentions Martha just one more time. It was at the outset of the final week of Jesus' life on earth. Knowing well what hardships lay ahead

**23. What do Jehovah and Jesus want to do for you, and what do you need to do?**

**24. The Bible record gives us what last glimpse of Martha?**

of him, Jesus again chose that haven at Bethany as his residence. From there he would walk the two miles to Jerusalem. Jesus and Lazarus were dining at the home of Simon the leper, and there we get this last glimpse of our subject: “Martha was ministering.”—John 12:2.

<sup>25</sup> How typical of that industrious woman! When we first come upon her in the Bible, she is working; when we leave her, she is still working, doing her best to care for the needs of those around her. Congregations of Christ’s followers today are blessed to have women like Martha—stouthearted and generous, always putting their faith into action by giving of themselves. Did Martha keep doing just that? It seems likely. If so, she acted wisely, for she had yet to meet her share of obstacles.

<sup>26</sup> Within days, Martha had to endure the terrible death of her beloved Master, Jesus. Further, the same murderous hypocrites who killed him were determined to kill Lazarus as well, since his resurrection was boosting the faith of so many. (*Read John*

**25. Why are congregations today blessed to have women like Martha?**

**26. What did Martha’s faith help her to do?**

*12:9-11.*) And, of course, death did eventually sever the loving bonds that joined Martha to her siblings. We do not know how or when that happened, but we may be fairly sure of this: Martha's precious faith helped her endure to the end. That is why Christians today do well to imitate the faith of Martha.

### TO THINK ABOUT . . .

- What can we learn from the counsel Jesus gave Martha?
- In what ways did Martha display a giving, industrious spirit?
- How did Martha show remarkable faith?
- In what ways would you like to imitate the faith of Martha?

# 143      *Light in a Darkened World* (2 Corinthians 4:6)

1. In these days, dark and lawless days,  
    Shines a light we can see.  
    Like the dawn of another day  
    That will soon come to be.

*(CHORUS)*

*Shining through the darkness,  
    Ours is a message so bright.  
    It offers hope and light—  
Sparkling like the daylight,  
    Bringing tomorrow in sight—  
    So ends the night.*

2. Those who sleep need awakening  
    As the time ebbs away.  
    We give hope and encouragement.  
    For their future we'll pray.

*(Chorus)*

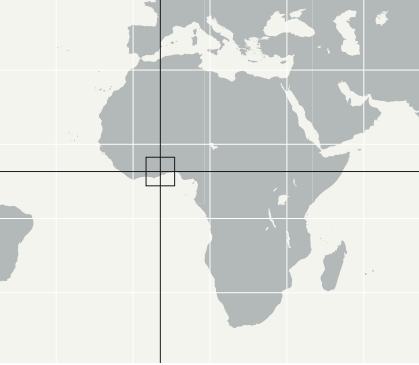
MAY 2016

# 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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### 3 WEEK OF JUNE 27–JULY 3 Settle Differences in a Spirit of Love

Because of our inherited imperfection, we are sure to face situations that cause ill feelings. This article shows how Bible principles can be applied in order to settle differences with others.

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### 8 WEEK OF JULY 4-10 “Go, . . . and Make Disciples of People of All the Nations”

This article discusses evidence that Jehovah’s Witnesses are the only people on earth today who are fulfilling Jesus’ prophetic words found at Matthew 24:14. It also explains what is involved in becoming “fishers of men.”—Matt. 4:19.

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### 13 WEEK OF JULY 11-17 How Do You Make Personal Decisions?

When you make personal decisions, do you simply do what feels right to you? Or do you ask others what they would do? This article explains why the best decisions are made when we allow Jehovah God’s thinking to be the determining factor.

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### 18 WEEK OF JULY 18-24 Is the Bible Still Changing Your Life?

Do you find the refining of your Christian qualities now harder than the larger changes you made before baptism? This article explains why this challenge exists and how we can continue to cultivate godly qualities with the help of God’s Word.

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

This article alerts us to a trap that could cause us to miss out on beneficial spiritual provisions. We will consider how we can avoid falling into that trap, and we will learn how to benefit from all the spiritual food available to us.

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### 28 FROM OUR ARCHIVES

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### 30 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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May 2016

Vol. 137, No. 8 ENGLISH

## *We Must Be Taught*

(Isaiah 50:4; 54:13)

1. Come with rejoicing, and learn about Jehovah.  
    “Come drink life’s water,” the spirit has said.  
    Healthful instruction, God has provided.  
    All those who hunger for truth will be fed.
  
2. Never forsaking our gathering together,  
    We must be taught; we must learn what is right.  
    Here with God’s spirit, here with our brothers,  
    Here we are strengthened to walk in the light.
  
3. Lips that sing praise,  
    how encouraging to hear them!  
    Tongues of the taught ones,  
    how sweet is their sound!  
    Oh, may we always meet with God’s people!  
    Oh, may we always among them be found!



# Benefit Fully From Jehovah's Provisions

*“I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself.”—ISA. 48:17.*

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**SONGS: 117, 114**

**HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?**

**What could cause us to miss out on the benefits of some spiritual provisions?**

**What suggestions can help us to benefit from all portions of the Bible?**

**How can we benefit from considering material directed to young people and to the public?**

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**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** love the Bible. It provides reliable instruction and helps us to find comfort and hope. (Rom. 15:4) We view the Bible, not as a collection of human ideas, but “just as it truthfully is, as the word of God.”—1 Thess. 2:13.

**1, 2. (a) How do Jehovah's Witnesses feel about the Bible? (b) What is your favorite part of the Bible?**



## Benefit Fully From Jehovah's Provisions

Are you getting the most  
out of your Bible reading?  
(See paragraph 7)



2 No doubt all of us have our favorite portions of the Bible. Some especially enjoy the Gospels, which paint a beautiful picture of Jehovah’s personality as reflected in his Son. (John 14:9) Others are fond of parts of the Bible containing prophecy—perhaps Revelation, with its preview of “the things that must shortly take place.” (Rev. 1:1) And who among us has not found comfort in the Psalms or drawn practical lessons from the book of Proverbs? The Bible truly is a book for everyone.

3 Because we love the Bible, we also love our Bible-based publications. For instance, we appreciate the spiritual food we receive in the form of books, brochures, magazines, and other literature. We know that these provisions from

3, 4. (a) How do we feel about our publications?  
(b) What publications do we receive for specific groups of people?

Jehovah help us to stay spiritually alert, well-fed, and “healthy in faith.”—Titus 2:2.

4 In addition to publications for Jehovah’s Witnesses in general, we receive Bible-based material that appeals to specific groups. Some material is especially designed to help young people; other material assists their parents. Much of the material in print and on our website is prepared with the non-Witness public in mind. Such an abundance of spiritual food reminds us that Jehovah has kept his promise to “make for all the peoples a banquet of rich dishes.”—Isa. 25:6.

5 Very likely, most of us wish that we had more time to read the Bible and Bible-based publications. We can be sure that Jehovah appreciates our efforts to make “the best use of [our] time” by engaging in regular Bible reading and personal study. (Eph. 5:15, 16) Realistically, we may not

5. We can be sure that Jehovah appreciates what?

always be able to give equal attention to all the spiritual food available to us. However, we need to be aware of a subtle danger. What is it?

6 There is a danger that we could miss out on some benefits because we assume that certain spiritual provisions do not apply to us. For example, what if a portion of the Bible does not seem relevant to our situation? Or what if we are not part of the primary audience for a certain publication? Do we tend to give such information superficial consideration or even skip it altogether? If so, we could be depriving ourselves of information that would be of great benefit to us. How can we avoid falling into that trap? Above all, each one of us should bear in mind that God is the Source of our spiritual provisions. Through the prophet Isaiah, he said: “I, Jehovah, am your

6. What could cause us to miss out on the benefits of some of Jehovah’s provisions?

God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself.” (Isa. 48:17) It will be helpful to consider three suggestions for benefiting from all portions of the Bible and the various types of spiritual food available to us.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR BENEFICIAL BIBLE READING**

**7 Read with an open mind.** The Bible clearly says that “*all* Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial.” (2 Tim. 3:16) True, some portions of the Bible were initially directed to one individual or group. That is why we need to read the Scriptures with an open mind. “When I read the Bible, I try to remember that there may be several lessons that can be drawn from a passage,” says one brother. He adds: “Remembering this motivates me to look beyond the obvious.” Before reading God’s Word, we do well to pray for an

**7. Why do we need to read the Bible with an open mind?**

open mind and for wisdom to discern the lessons that Jehovah wants us to learn.—Ezra 7:10; read **James 1:5**.

**8 Ask questions.** As you read a Bible passage, take time to pause and ask yourself such questions as these: ‘What does this tell me about Jehovah? How can I apply this information in my life? How can I use it to help others?’ When we reflect on such questions, we will surely get more out of our Bible reading. As an example, think about the Scriptural qualifications for Christian elders. (Read **1 Timothy 3:2-7**.) Since the majority of us do not serve as elders, we might initially think that this passage would have little application to our own life. However, when we consider a few of the many possible answers to the following questions, we will see that this list of

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**8, 9. (a)** When reading the Bible, what questions might we ask ourselves? **(b)** What do the qualifications for Christian elders tell us about Jehovah?

qualifications can benefit all of us in a number of ways.

**9 *What does this tell me about Jehovah?*** By giving this list of qualifications, Jehovah reveals that he has a high standard for those who serve in an appointed capacity. He expects them to set a good example, and he holds them accountable for the way they treat the congregation, “which he purchased with the blood of his own Son.” (Acts 20:28) Jehovah wants us to feel safe in the care of the appointed undershepherds. (Isa. 32: 1, 2) From that standpoint, the Scriptural qualifications for Christian elders remind us of how much Jehovah truly cares for us.

**10 *How can I apply this information in my life?*** From time to time, an appointed man should examine himself in the light of these spir-

**10, 11. (a)** When reading the qualifications for elders, how can we apply the information in our own life? **(b)** How can we use this information to help others?



itual qualifications, looking for areas in which he can improve. A brother who is “reaching out to be an overseer” needs to give careful attention to these qualifications, for he should strive to meet them to the best of his ability. (1 Tim. 3:1) In fact, each Christian can learn from the qualifications listed in these verses, as most of them involve things that Jehovah asks of all Christians. For instance, all of us should be reasonable and sound in mind. (Phil. 4:5; 1 Pet. 4:7) As elders prove to be “examples to the flock,” we can learn from them and “imitate their faith.”—1 Pet. 5:3; Heb. 13:7.

11 *How can I use this information to help others?* We could use the list of qualifications for Christian overseers to help interested ones or Bible students to see ways that elders among Jehovah’s Witnesses differ from the clergy of Christendom. Also, when reading through the list, we

might recall the effort that elders in our own congregation are putting forth in our behalf. Reflecting on how they expend themselves deepens our “respect for those who are working hard” among us. (1 Thess. 5:12) And the more we show our sincere respect for these hardworking overseers, the more we add to their joy.—Heb. 13:17.

**12 Do research.** Using tools available to us, we might look for such information as the following:

- Who wrote this portion of the Scriptures?
- Where and when was it written?
- What significant events occurred when a particular Bible book was written?

Background information of this nature may bring to light lessons that are not immediately obvious.

**13** For example, consider Ezekiel 14:13, 14, 12, 13. (a) Using tools available to us, what kind of research might we do? (b) Give an example of how background information may reveal lessons that are not immediately obvious.

where we read: “If a land sins against me by acting unfaithfully, I will stretch out my hand against it and destroy its food supply, and I will send famine upon it and cut off man and animal from it. ‘Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were within it, they would be able to save only themselves because of their righteousness,’ declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.” By doing some research, we learn that this portion of Ezekiel was written in about the year 612 B.C.E. By that time, Noah and Job had been dead for centuries, and their record of faithfulness was in God’s memory. But Daniel was still alive. In fact, he may have been in his late teens or early 20’s when Jehovah said that he was just as righteous as Noah and Job. The lesson? Jehovah notices and values the integrity of all his faithful worshippers, including those who are relatively young. —Ps. 148:12-14.

## **BENEFIT FROM A VARIETY OF PUBLICATIONS**

**14** Just as we find it beneficial to study all portions of God's Word, we can benefit from all the spiritual food available to us. Consider a few examples. **Material for young people.** In recent years, much of our literature has been published for young people.[1] Some of this material is designed to help them deal with the pressures at school or the challenges of adolescence. How may all of us benefit from reading such material? When we do so, we are reminded of what our faithful young people are facing. In turn, we are in a better position to help and encourage them.

**15** Many of the problems addressed in material for young people are not unique to them.

**14.** How does the material published for young people help them, and how can it benefit others too? (See opening picture of the standard edition.)

**15.** Why should adult Christians be interested in information for young people?

All of us need to defend our faith, control our emotions, reject harmful peer pressure, and avoid unwholesome associations and entertainment. These topics and many others have been addressed in material designed for teenagers. Should adult Christians feel that it is demeaning for them to read publications directed to young people? Not at all! Although the material is presented in a way that appeals to youths, the information is based on timeless Scriptural principles, and all of us can benefit from these spiritual provisions.

16 Besides helping young people to deal with problems, our publications help them to grow spiritually and draw close to Jehovah. (Read Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13.) Here, too, adult Christians can benefit. For example, the April 2009 issue of

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16. What else do our publications help young people to do?

*Awake!* included the article “Young People Ask . . . How Can I Make Bible Reading Enjoyable?” The article provided a number of suggestions and included a box that could be cut out and kept in the Bible for reference. Have adults also benefited from the article? “I have always struggled with Bible reading,” wrote a 24-year-old wife and mother. “I took to heart the suggestions in this article, and I am making good use of the cutout that was provided. Now I look forward to Bible reading. I can see how the books of the Bible harmonize and are interwoven like a beautiful tapestry. I have never been this excited over Bible reading.”

17 Material for the public. Since 2008 we have enjoyed the study edition of *The Watchtower*, which is written primarily for Jehovah’s Witnesses. But what about our magazines that

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17, 18. How can we benefit from reading material written for the public? Give an example.

are principally for the public? Can we benefit from reading these too? Consider an illustration. Imagine that one day, before the public talk, you notice that someone whom you invited has come to the Kingdom Hall. No doubt you are thrilled. As the public speaker delivers his talk, you are likely thinking about that visitor. In effect, you are hearing the talk through his ears. As a result, you come away from that talk with renewed appreciation for the subject.

18 We can experience something similar when we read material written for the public. For example, the public edition of *The Watchtower* discusses Scriptural topics in terms that a non-Witness reader can understand. The same is true of many of the articles published on jw.org, such as those in the sections entitled “Bible Questions Answered” and “Frequently Asked Questions.” When we read this information, we deepen

our appreciation for familiar truths. Moreover, we may learn fresh ways to explain our beliefs when we are engaging in the ministry. Similarly, *Awake!* regularly strengthens our conviction that the true God exists, and it helps us learn how to defend our beliefs.—Read 1 Peter 3:15.

19 Clearly, Jehovah has given us an abundance of provisions to fill our “spiritual need.” (Matt. 5:3) May we continue to make use of all the spiritual provisions available to us. We will thereby show our gratitude to the One who teaches us to benefit ourselves.—Isa. 48:17.

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19. How can we show our gratitude to Jehovah for his provisions?

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**ENDNOTE:**

[1] (paragraph 14) Such material includes *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volumes 1 and 2, as well as the series “Young People Ask,” which is now published exclusively online.

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# **114      *God's Own Book—A Treasure***

(Proverbs 2:1)

1. There is a book that by its many pages,  
Brings peace and joy and hope to humankind.  
Its wondrous thoughts  
are charged with such great power;  
It brings life to the “dead,” sight to the “blind.”  
That precious book is God’s own Holy Bible.  
Its words were penned  
by men whom God inspired,  
By men who truly loved their God Jehovah,  
And by his holy spirit they were fired.
2. They wrote a record true of God’s creations,  
How by his might this universe appeared.  
They also told how man at first was sinless  
But how his Paradise then disappeared.  
They further told about a certain angel  
Who challenged God and spurned his sov’reignty.  
That challenge led to sin and man’s great sorrow,  
But soon will come Jehovah’s victory.
3. Today we live in times of joy unbounded.  
God’s Kingdom now is here with Christ as Lord.  
This is the day Jehovah grants salvation  
To all who come to him in full accord.  
Within his book are found these cheerful tidings;  
A sacred banquet feast on which to feed.  
It offers peace beyond all human thinking;  
This Living Treasure beckons all to read.

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)