

- Song 48 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Walk in the Law of Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
Ps 119:1-8—True happiness depends on our walking in God's law (w05 4/15 10 ¶3-4)
Ps 119:33-40—God's Word gives us the needed courage to cope with life's trials (w05 4/15 12 ¶12)
Ps 119:41-48—Accurate knowledge of God's Word gives us confidence to preach (w05 4/15 13 ¶13-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 119:71—What could be good about suffering affliction? (w06 9/1 14 ¶4)

Ps 119:96—What is meant by “I have seen a limit to all perfection”? (w06 9/1 14 ¶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 119:73-93

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 69
- **“If a Child Answers the Door”:** (5 min.) Talk.
- **Local Needs:** (10 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (yb16 59-62)
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *ia* chap. 23 ¶15-29 and the chapter review on p. 204
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 13 and Prayer

If a Child Answers the Door

If a child answers the door, we should ask to speak with his parents. This shows respect for their headship. (Pr 6:20) If the child invites us to come in, we should decline. If his parents are unavailable, we should return at another time.

If the child is older, perhaps in his mid-to-late teens, it would still be appropriate to ask for his parents. If they are not available, we might ask whether his parents let him choose his own reading material. If they do, we can offer him literature and perhaps direct him to jw.org.

When making a return visit on a youth who has shown interest, we should ask to meet his parents. This will allow us to explain our purpose in calling and show them the trustworthy and reliable advice found in the Bible for families. (Ps 119:86, 138) Our showing respect and consideration for the parents will be a good witness and may give us other opportunities to share the good news with the family.—1Pe 2:12.



Daily Walking With Jehovah

(Micah 6:8)

F/C F C7 Bb/D Bb Bb/F F Dm

Hand in hand with our dear Fa - ther, We would
In this day of man - kind's judg - ment, As the
Help for us God has pro - vid - ed Through his

Am Dm Bb Bb/C C7 F F/C

hum - bly walk with him each day. Oh, how
sys - tem's end is draw - ing near, We are
spir - it and his writ - ten Word, Through the

F C7 Bb/D Bb Bb/F F Dm

un - de - served his kind - ness That he
faced with op - po - si - tion That he
Chris - tian con - gre - ga - tion, Through could as -

Am Dm Bb Bb/C C7 F F/A

grants to those who seek his way! God for
make us turn a - way in fear. But Je -
sur - ance that our prayer is heard. As we're

Daily Walking With Jehovah

C/Bb Bb C7 Bb/F F F/C

us has made pro - vi - sion That we
ho - vah gives pro - tec - tion; Close to
walk - ing with Je - ho - vah, He will

G/B G7/B C/G G7 C7 F F/A

thus can take his hand. So we
him help we us do what's right, That Help we us

C/Bb Bb C7 Bb/F F F/A A+5

make our ded i - ca - tion; With Je -
might for ev - er - serve him; Love him
im - i - tate his kind - ness And him walk

Bb Bb/C C7 F

ho - vah we take our stand.
loy - al - ly, nev - er stray.
mod - est - ly in his sight.

- 22 The stone that the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.*^a
- 23 This has come from Jehovah;^b
It is wonderful in our eyes.^c
- 24 This is the day that Jehovah has made;
We will be joyful and rejoice in it.
- 25 Jehovah, save us, please,
we beg!
Jehovah, grant us victory, please!
- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Jehovah;^d
We bless you from the house of Jehovah.
- 27 Jehovah is God;
He gives us light.^e
Join in the festival procession with branches in hand,^f
Up to the horns of the altar.^g
- 28 You are my God, and I will praise you;
My God, I will exalt you.^h
- 29 Give thanks to Jehovah,ⁱ
for he is good;
His loyal love endures forever.^j

℣ [Aleph]

- 119** Happy are those who are blameless* in their way,
Who walk in the law of Jehovah.^k
- 2 Happy are those who observe his reminders,^l
Who search for him with all their heart.^m
- 3 They practice no unrighteousness;
They walk in his ways.ⁿ
- 4 You have commanded
That your orders be carefully kept.^o

CHAP. 118

a Isa 28:16
Lu 20:17
Ac 4:11
1Co 3:11
Eph 2:19, 20
1Pe 2:4-7

b Ac 5:31

c Mr 12:10, 11

d Mt 21:7-9
Mt 23:39
Mr 11:7-10
Lu 19:37, 38

e Ps 18:28
1Pe 2:9

f Le 23:34
Ps 42:4

g Ex 27:2

h Ex 15:2
Isa 25:1

i Ps 50:23

j Ezr 3:11
Ps 118:1

CHAP. 119

k 2Ki 20:3
Jas 1:25

l Ps 19:7

m 2Ch 31:20, 21

n Isa 38:3

o De 5:33
Jer 7:23
Jas 2:10

Second Col.

a Ps 51:10

b Ps 119:80

c Pr 6:20, 22

d Ps 25:5

e Ps 112:1

f Ps 19:13
Ps 37:31

g Jer 15:16

h Ps 19:8, 10
Ps 119:72

i Ps 119:93
Ps 119:100

j Ps 25:10

k Jas 1:23-25

l Isa 38:20

- 5 If only I could remain steadfast*^a
So as to observe your regulations!
- 6 Then I would not be put to shame^b
When I consider all your commandments.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart
When I learn your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will observe your regulations.
May you never utterly forsake me.
‡ [Beth]
- 9 How can a young man keep his path clean?
By keeping on guard according to your word.^c
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you.
Do not let me stray from your commandments.^d
- 11 In my heart I treasure up your saying^e
So that I may not sin against you.^f
- 12 May you be praised, O Jehovah;
Teach me your regulations.
- 13 With my lips I declare
All the judgments that you have spoken.
- 14 I rejoice over your reminders^g
More than over all other valuable things.^h
- 15 I will ponder over* your ordersⁱ
And keep my eyes on your paths.^j
- 16 I am fond of your statutes.
I will not forget your word.^k
‡ [Gimel]
- 17 Deal kindly with your servant,
So that I may live and observe your word.^l

119:5 *Lit., "O that my ways were firmly established." 119:15 *Or "study."

118:22 *Lit., "the head of the corner."

119:1 *Or "who keep integrity."

- 18** Open my eyes so that I may see clearly
The wonderful things from your law.
- 19** I am but a foreigner in the land.^a
Do not hide your commandments from me.
- 20** I am* consumed with longing
For your judgments at all times.
- 21** You rebuke the presumptuous,
The cursed ones who stray from your commandments.^b
- 22** Remove from me* scorn and contempt,
For I have observed your reminders.
- 23** Even when princes sit together and speak against me,
Your servant ponders over* your regulations.
- 24** I am fond of your reminders;^c
They are my advisers.^d
‏[†] [Daleth]
- 25** I lie* prostrate in the dust.^e
Preserve me alive according to your word.^f
- 26** I told you of my ways, and you answered me;
Teach me your regulations.^g
- 27** Make me understand the meaning* of your orders,
So that I may ponder over* your wonderful works.^h
- 28** I have* been sleepless from grief.
Strengthen me according to your word.
- 29** Remove from me the way of deception,ⁱ
- CHAP. 119**
a 1Ch 29:15
b De 28:15
c Ps 119:14
Ps 119:168
d De 17:18-20
Ps 119:105
2Ti 3:16, 17
e Ps 22:15
f Ps 119:154
Ps 143:11
g Ps 86:11
h Ps 145:5
i Ps 141:4
Pr 30:8
- Second Col.**
a Jos 24:15
b Ps 19:7
c Ps 25:20
Ps 119:80
d Isa 48:17
Joh 6:45
Jas 1:5
e Ps 119:112
f Ps 23:3
g Lu 12:15
1Ti 6:10
Heb 13:5
h Nu 15:39
Pr 4:25
Pr 23:4, 5
i Ps 19:9
Ps 119:75

119:20 *Or "My soul is." 119:22 *Lit., "Roll away from upon me." 119:23 *Or "studies." 119:25 *Or "My soul lies." 119:27 *Lit., "way." #Or "study." 119:28 *Or "My soul has."

- And favor me with your law.
- 30** The way of faithfulness I have chosen.^a
I recognize that your judgments are right.
- 31** I cling to your reminders.^b
O Jehovah, do not let me be disappointed.^{*c}
- 32** I will eagerly pursue* the way of your commandments
Because you make room for it in my heart.[#]
‏[†] [He]
- 33** Teach me, O Jehovah,^d the way of your regulations,
And I will follow it to the end.^e
- 34** Give me understanding,
So that I may observe your law
And keep it with my whole heart.
- 35** Guide me* in the pathway of your commandments,^f
For in it I take delight.
- 36** Incline my heart to your reminders,
Not to selfish gain.^{*g}
- 37** Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless;^h
Preserve me alive in your way.
- 38** Fulfill your promise* to your servant,
So that you may be feared.[#]
- 39** Remove the disgrace that I dread,
For your judgments are good.ⁱ
- 40** See how I long for your orders.
Preserve me alive in your righteousness.

119:31 *Or "be put to shame." 119:32 *Lit., "will run." #Or possibly, "you make my heart have the confidence." 119:35 *Or "Make me walk." 119:36 *Or "to profits." 119:38 *Or "saying." #Or possibly, "Which is made to those who fear you."

† [Waw]

- 41 May I experience your loyal love, O Jehovah,^a
Your salvation in harmony with your promise;^{*b}
- 42 Then I will reply to the one taunting me,
For I put my trust in your word.
- 43 Do not utterly remove the word of truth from my mouth,
For I have hoped in* your judgment.
- 44 I will keep your law constantly,
Forever and ever.^c
- 45 And I will walk about in a place of safety,^{*d}
For I search for your orders.
- 46 I will speak about your reminders in front of kings,
And I will not be ashamed.^e
- 47 I am fond of your commandments,
Yes, I love them.^f
- 48 I will raise my hands to your commandments, which I love,^g
And I will ponder over* your regulations.^h
- † [Zayin]
- 49 Remember your word* to your servant,
Through which you give me hope.[#]
- 50 This is my comfort in my affliction,ⁱ
For your saying has preserved me alive.
- 51 The presumptuous utterly scorn me,
But I do not deviate from your law.^j
- 52 I remember your judgments from of old,^k O Jehovah,

CHAP. 119

- a Ps 51:1
Ps 90:14
- b Ps 119:76
- c Ps 119:33
- d Ps 118:5
- e Ro 1:16
- f Job 23:12
Ps 119:174
Ro 7:22
- g Ps 119:127
- h Ps 119:23
Ps 119:71
- i Ps 94:19
Ro 15:4
- j Ps 119:157
- k Nu 16:5
De 1:35, 36
De 4:3

Second Col.

- a Ro 15:4
- b Ps 119:158
Ps 139:21
Pr 28:4
- c Ps 63:6
Isa 26:9
- d Ps 16:5
- e Ex 19:8
- f Ps 51:17
- g Ps 57:1
- h Ps 119:101
Eph 5:15
- i 2Ch 29:1, 3
- j 1Sa 26:8, 9
2Ch 29:1, 2
- k Ps 42:8

l Pr 13:20

m Ps 33:5
Ps 104:13

And I find comfort in them.^a

- 53 I am seized with burning rage because of the wicked,
Who forsake your law.^b
- 54 Your regulations are songs to me
Wherever I dwell.*
- 55 During the night I remember your name,
O Jehovah,^c
So that I may keep your law.
- 56 This has been my practice
Because I have observed your orders.

† [Heth]

- 57 Jehovah is my portion;^d
I have promised to keep your words.^e
- 58 I appeal to you[#] with all my heart;^f
Show me favor^g according to your promise.*
- 59 I have examined my ways,
In order to turn my feet back to your reminders.^h
- 60 I hurry and do not delay
To keep your commandments.ⁱ
- 61 The ropes of the wicked surround me,
But your law I do not forget.^j
- 62 At midnight I get up to give you thanks^k
For your righteous judgments.
- 63 I am a friend of all who fear you
And of those who keep your orders.^l
- 64 Your loyal love, O Jehovah, fills the earth;^m
Teach me your regulations.
- † [Teth]
- 65 You have dealt well with your servant,

119:41, 58 *Or "saying." 119:43 *Or "I wait for." 119:45 *Or "a roomy place." 119:48 *Or "study." 119:49 *Or "promise." *Or "For which you made me wait."

119:54 *Or "In the house where I dwell as a foreigner." 119:58 *Or "I soften (seek the smile of) your face."

O Jehovah, according to
your word.

- 66** Teach me good sense and
knowledge,^a

For I have put my trust in
your commandments.

- 67** Before I was afflicted,
I used to go astray,^{*}
But now I keep your
saying.^b

- 68** You are good^c and your
works are good.
Teach me your regulations.^d

- 69** The presumptuous smear
me with lies,
But I observe your orders
with all my heart.

- 70** Their heart is insensitive,^{*e}
But I am fond of your law.^f

- 71** It is good that I have been
afflicted,^g
So that I may learn your
regulations.

- 72** The law that you have pro-
claimed is good for me,^h
More so than thousands of
pieces of gold and silver.ⁱ

^{*} [Yod]

- 73** Your hands made me and
formed me.
Give me understanding,
So that I may learn your
commandments.^j

- 74** Those who fear you see me
and rejoice,
For your word is my hope.^{*k}

- 75** I know, O Jehovah, that
your judgments are righ-
teous^l
And that you have afflicted
me in your faithfulness.^m

- 76** May your loyal loveⁿ please
comfort me,
According to the promise,^{*}
you made to your servant.

- 77** Show me mercy, so that
I may keep living,^o

119:67 *Or "I was sinning by mis-
take." **119:70** *Lit., "unfeeling, like
fat." **119:74, 81** *Or "I wait for your
word." **119:76** *Or "saying."

CHAP. 119

a 1Ki 3:9
Ps 94:10
Da 2:21
Php 1:9

b Ps 119:11

c Ps 86:5
Mr 10:18

d Isa 48:17

e Isa 6:10

f Ps 40:8
Ro 7:22

g 1Co 11:32
Heb 12:9-11

h De 17:18, 19

i Ps 19:7, 10
Pr 3:13-15

j 1Ch 22:12
Job 32:8

k Ps 119:147

l Ps 119:160

m De 32:4
Heb 12:11

n Ex 34:6
Ps 86:5

o Ps 51:1
Ps 103:13
Ps 119:116
Da 9:18
Lu 1:50

Second Col.

a Ro 7:22

b Ps 119:45

c 1Ki 8:58

d Ps 119:5, 6
1Jo 2:28

e Mic 7:7

f Ps 69:3

g Ps 86:17
Ps 102:2

h Ps 119:61
Ps 119:176

i Ps 7:6
Re 6:9, 10

j Ps 142:6

For I am fond of your law.^a

- 78** May the presumptuous be
put to shame,
For they wrong me without
cause.^{*}
But I will ponder over[#] your
orders.^b

- 79** Let those who fear you
return to me,
Those who know your
reminders.

- 80** May my heart be blameless
in following your regula-
tions,^c
So that I may not be put to
shame.^d

➤ [Kaph]

- 81** I long for[#] your salvation,^e
For your word is my hope.^{*}

- 82** My eyes long for your
saying^f
While I say: "When will you
comfort me?"^g

- 83** For I am like a skin bottle
dried up in the smoke,
But your regulations I do
not forget.^h

- 84** How many days must your
servant wait?
When will you bring judg-
ment against those perse-
cuting me?ⁱ

- 85** The presumptuous dig pits
for me,
Those who defy your law.

- 86** All your commandments
are trustworthy.
Men persecute me without
cause; help me!^j

- 87** They almost exterminated
me from the earth,
But I did not abandon your
orders.

- 88** Preserve me alive because
of your loyal love,
So that I may keep the re-
minders you have spoken.

119:78 *Or possibly, "with lies." #Or
"study." **119:81** *Or "My soul pines
for."

↳ [Lamed]

- 89** Forever, O Jehovah,
Your word will remain in
the heavens.^a
- 90** Your faithfulness is through
all generations.^b
You have firmly established
the earth, so that it con-
tinues to stand.^c
- 91** By your judgments they*
remain until today,
For they are all your ser-
vants.
- 92** If I had not been fond of
your law,
I would have perished in my
affliction.^d
- 93** I will never forget your
orders,
Because by them you have
preserved me alive.^e
- 94** I belong to you; save me,^f
Because I have searched
for your orders.^g
- 95** The wicked wait to
destroy me,
But I give close attention to
your reminders.
- 96** I have seen a limit to all
perfection,
But your commandment has
no limit.*
- ↳ [Mem]
- 97** How I do love your law!^h
I ponder over* it all day
long.ⁱ
- 98** Your commandment makes
me wiser than my ene-
mies,^j
Because it is with me for-
ever.
- 99** I have more insight than all
my teachers,^k
Because I ponder over*
your reminders.
- 100** I act with more understand-
ing than older men,
Because I observe your
orders.

119:91 *That is, all his creative works.

119:96 *Lit., "is very broad." **119:97**,

99 *Or "study."

CHAP. 119

a Ps 89:2

Ps 119:152

b De 7:9

c Ps 104:5

Ec 1:4

d Pr 6:23

Mt 4:4

e Le 18:5

De 30:16

Joh 6:63

Ro 10:5

f Ps 86:2

Isa 41:10

g Ps 119:15

h Ps 40:8

i Ps 1:2

j Ps 19:7

Pr 2:6

Pr 10:8

k Mt 11:25

Lu 2:46, 47

Second Col.

a Ps 18:23

Ps 119:59

b Ps 19:7, 10

Pr 24:13, 14

c Ps 119:100

d Ps 97:10

Ps 101:3

Pr 8:13

Pr 13:5

Ro 12:9

e Ps 43:3

Pr 6:23

Isa 51:4

Ro 15:4

2Ti 3:16, 17

2Pe 1:19

f Ps 34:19

g Ps 119:88

Ps 143:11

h Ps 50:23

Ho 14:2

Heb 13:15

i De 33:10

Isa 48:17

j Ps 119:61

k Ps 119:87

l Ps 19:8

Ps 119:129

Jer 15:16

- 101** I refuse to walk on any evil
path,^a
So that I may keep your
word.
- 102** I do not turn aside from
your judgments,
For you have instructed me.
- 103** How sweet your sayings are
to my palate,
More so than honey to my
mouth!^b
- 104** By your orders I act with
understanding.^c
That is why I hate every
false path.^d

↳ [Nun]

- 105** Your word is a lamp to my
foot,
And a light for my path.^e
- 106** I have sworn an oath, and
I will carry it out,
To observe your righteous
judgments.
- 107** I have been greatly
afflicted.^f
O Jehovah, preserve me
alive according to your
word.^g
- 108** Please take pleasure in
my voluntary offerings
of praise,^h O Jehovah,
And teach me your judg-
ments.ⁱ
- 109** My life is in constant dan-
ger,^{*}
But I have not forgotten
your law.^j
- 110** The wicked have set a trap
for me,
But I have not strayed from
your orders.^k
- 111** I take your reminders as my
permanent possession,^{*}
For they are the joy of my
heart.^l
- 112** I have resolved* to obey
your regulations

119:108 *Lit., "the voluntary offerings of my mouth." **119:109** *Or "My soul is in my hand constantly." **119:111** *Or "my eternal heritage." **119:112** *Lit., "have inclined my heart."

At all times, down to the last.

□ [Samekh]

113 I hate the halfhearted ones,*^a

But I love your law.^b

114 You are my shelter and my shield,^c

For your word is my hope.*^d

115 Stay away from me, you evil men,^e

So that I may observe the commandments of my God.

116 Support me as you promised,*^f

So that I may keep living; Do not let my hope turn into disappointment.*^g

117 Support me that I may be saved;^h

Then I will always concentrate on your regulations.ⁱ

118 You reject all those who stray from your regulations,^j

For they are false and deceitful.

119 You discard all the wicked of the earth as if they were worthless dross.^k

That is why I love your reminders.

120 The dread of you makes my body* tremble;

I am in fear of your judgments.

⚡ [Ayin]

121 I have done what is just and righteous.

Do not abandon me to my oppressors!

122 Guarantee the welfare of your servant;

May the presumptuous not oppress me.

119:113 *Or "men of divided heart."

119:114 *Or "I wait for your word."

119:116 *Or "according to your saying." *Or "be put to shame." **119:120** *Lit., "flesh."

CHAP. 119

a 1Ki 18:21
Re 3:16

b Ps 40:8
Ps 119:97

c Ps 32:7
Ps 91:2

d Ps 130:5

e Ps 26:5

f Isa 41:10

g Ps 25:2
Ro 10:11

h Isa 41:13

i Jos 1:8
Ps 119:48

j 1Ch 28:9
Ps 95:10

k Pr 2:22
Pr 25:4, 5
Eze 22:18

Second Col.

a Ps 69:3
Ps 143:7

b Ps 119:81

c Ps 69:16

d Ps 143:10

e Ps 119:34
2Ti 2:7
Jas 1:5

f Ps 9:19
Jer 18:23

g Ps 19:9, 10
Ps 119:72
Pr 3:13, 14

h Ps 19:8

i Ps 119:104

j Ps 119:105
Pr 6:23
2Co 4:6
2Pe 1:19

k Ps 19:7
Pr 1:1, 4
2Ti 3:15

l Ps 42:1
1Pe 2:2

m 1Sa 1:10, 11
2Sa 16:11, 12
Isa 38:9, 20

n Heb 6:10

o Ps 19:13
Ro 6:12

123 My eyes have grown weary waiting for your salvation^a
And for your righteous promise.*^b

124 Show your loyal love to your servant,^c
And teach me your regulations.^d

125 I am your servant; give me understanding,^e
So that I may know your reminders.

126 The time has come for Jehovah to act,^f
For they have broken your law.

127 That is why I love your commandments
More than gold, even fine* gold.^g

128 Therefore, I consider every instruction* from you to be right;^h
I hate every false path.ⁱ

⚡ [Pe]

129 Your reminders are wonderful.
That is why I observe* them.

130 The disclosure of your words brings light,^j
Giving understanding to the inexperienced.^k

131 I open my mouth wide and sigh,*
Because I long for your commandments.^l

132 Turn to me and show me favor,^m
In keeping with your judgment toward those loving your name.ⁿ

133 Guide my steps safely* by your saying;
May nothing wicked dominate me.^o

119:123 *Or "saying." **119:127** *Or "refined." **119:128** *Or "order." **119:129** *Or "my soul observes." **119:131** *Lit., "pant." **119:133** *Or "Make my steps steady."

- 134** Rescue* me from oppressive men,
And I will keep your orders.
- 135** Make your face shine* upon your servant,^a
And teach me your regulations.
- 136** Tears stream down from my eyes
Because people do not keep your law.^b
- 𐤑 [Tsade]
- 137** You are righteous,
O Jehovah,^c
And your judgments are fair.^d
- 138** The reminders you give are righteous
And completely reliable.
- 139** My zeal consumes me,^e
Because my adversaries have forgotten your words.
- 140** Your saying is thoroughly refined,^f
And your servant loves it.^g
- 141** I am insignificant and despised;^h
Yet, I have not forgotten your orders.
- 142** Your righteousness is an eternal righteousness,ⁱ
And your law is truth.^j
- 143** Though distress and difficulty come upon me,
I remain fond of your commandments.
- 144** The righteousness of your reminders is eternal.
Give me understanding,^k so that I may keep living.
- 𐤒 [Qoph]
- 145** I call with my whole heart.
Answer me, O Jehovah.
Your regulations I will observe.
- 146** I call on you; save me!
I will keep your reminders.
- 147** I have been awake before dawn* to cry for help,^l

119:134 *Lit., "Redeem." 119:135 *Or "smile." 119:147 *Or "in the morning twilight."

CHAP. 119

- a Nu 6:25
Ps 4:6
- b Eze 9:4
2Pe 2:7, 8
- c De 32:4
- d Re 16:5, 7
- e 2Ki 10:16
Ps 69:9
Joh 2:17
- f Ps 12:6
Ps 119:160
- g Ps 119:97
- h Ps 22:6, 7
- i Ps 36:6
- j Ex 34:6
Ps 119:160
Joh 17:17
- k Ps 119:34
- l Ps 5:3
Ps 88:13
Mr 1:35

Second Col.

- a Ps 63:6
Lu 6:12
- b Ps 51:1
Isa 63:7
- c De 4:7
Ps 46:1
Ps 145:18
- d Ps 19:9
Joh 17:17
- e Ps 119:144
Ec 3:14
- f Ps 9:13
- g 1Sa 24:15
Ps 43:1
- h 2Ki 17:15, 18
Ps 73:27
Pr 15:29
- i 1Ch 21:13
Ps 86:15
Isa 55:7
2Co 1:3
Jas 5:11

j Ps 25:19

k Ps 139:21

- For your words are my hope.*
- 148** My eyes open before the night watches,
So that I can ponder over* your saying.^a
- 149** Do listen to my voice because of your loyal love.^b
O Jehovah, preserve me alive according to your justice.
- 150** Those who engage in shameful conduct* come near;
They are far away from your law.
- 151** You are near, O Jehovah,^c
And all your commandments are truth.^d
- 152** Long ago I learned about your reminders,
That you have established them to last forever.^e
- 𐤓 [Resh]
- 153** Look on my affliction and rescue me,^f
For I have not forgotten your law.
- 154** Defend me* and rescue me;^g
Preserve me alive in harmony with your promise.^h
- 155** Salvation is far away from the wicked,
For they have not searched for your regulations.^h
- 156** Your mercy is great,
O Jehovah.ⁱ
Preserve me alive in harmony with your justice.
- 157** My persecutors and my adversaries are many;^j
But I have not deviated from your reminders.
- 158** I look on the treacherous with loathing,
Because they do not keep your saying.^k

119:147 *Or "I wait for your words." 119:148 *Or "study." 119:150 *Or "in obscene conduct." 119:154 *Or "Conduct my legal case." *Or "saying."

- 159** See how I love your orders!
O Jehovah, preserve me
alive because of your loyal love.^a
- 160** The very essence of your
word is truth,^b
And all your righteous judgments
endure forever.
𐤓 [Sin] or [Shin]
- 161** Princes persecute me^c for
no cause,
But my heart stands in awe
of your words.^d
- 162** I rejoice over your saying^e
Like someone who finds
great spoil.
- 163** I hate falsehood
—I detest it^f—
I love your law.^g
- 164** Seven times a day
I praise you
Because of your righteous
judgments.
- 165** Abundant peace belongs to
those who love your law;^h
Nothing can make them
stumble.*
- 166** I hope for your acts of sal-
vation, O Jehovah,
And I observe your com-
mandments.
- 167** I keep* your reminders,
And I love them dearly.ⁱ
- 168** I observe your orders and
your reminders,
For you are aware of all that
I do.^j
𐤓 [Taw]
- 169** May my cry for help reach
you, O Jehovah.^k
According to your word,
make me understand.^l
- 170** May my request for favor
come before you.
Save me, as you have prom-
ised.*
- 171** May my lips overflow with
praise,^m

119:165 *Or "For them there is no stumbling block." **119:167** *Or "My soul keeps." **119:170** *Or "according to your saying."

CHAP. 119

- a Ps 119:40, 88
La 3:22
b 2Sa 7:28
Ps 12:6
Joh 17:17
c Ps 119:23
d 2Ki 22:19
e Jer 15:16
f Ps 101:7
Ps 119:29,
104
g Ps 1:2
h Ps 1:2, 3
Pr 3:1, 2
Isa 32:17
Isa 48:18
i Ps 1:2
Ps 40:8
Ro 7:22
j Ps 139:3
Pr 5:21
Pr 15:11
Heb 4:13
k Ps 18:6
l 1Ch 22:12
Pr 2:3, 5
m Ps 63:5
Ps 71:17
Ps 145:7

Second Col.

- a Ps 40:9
b Ps 60:5
c De 30:19
Jos 24:15, 22
d Ps 1:2
e Ps 9:13, 14
Isa 38:19
f Ps 95:7
Lu 15:4
1Pe 2:25
g Ec 12:13

CHAP. 120

- h Ps 18:6
i Ps 50:15
Jon 2:1, 2
j Pr 12:22
k Ps 7:13
l Ps 140:10
m Ge 10:2
n Jer 49:28
o Ps 57:4

For you teach me your regu-
lations.

- 172** May my tongue sing about
your saying,^a
For all your commandments
are righteous.
- 173** May your hand be ready
to help me,^b
Because I choose to obey
your orders.^c
- 174** I long for your salvation,
O Jehovah,
And I am fond of your law.^d
- 175** Let me* live so that I may
praise you;^e
May your judgments be my
help.
- 176** I have strayed like a lost
sheep.^f Search for your
servant,
For I have not forgotten
your commandments.^g

A Song of the Ascents.*

120 I called to Jehovah in
my distress,^h

And he answered me.ⁱ

- 2** O Jehovah, rescue me*
from lying lips
And from the deceitful
tongue.

3 What will He do to you, and
how will He punish you,*
You deceitful tongue?^j

4 With sharp arrows^k of a
warrior
And burning coals^l of
broomwood.

5 Woe to me, for I have
lived as a foreigner
in Me'shech!^m

I have been dwelling among
the tents of Ke'dar.ⁿ

- 6** I have* been dwelling far
too long
With those who hate peace.^o
- 7** I am for peace, but when
I speak,
They are for war.

119:175; 120:2 *Or "my soul." **120:Sup**
*See Glossary. **120:3** *Lit., "and what
will He add to you?" **120:6** *Or "My
soul has."

- Song 48 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Walk in the Law of Jehovah”:** (10 min.)
Ps 119:1-8—True happiness depends on our walking in God’s law (w05 4/15 10 ¶3-4)
Ps 119:33-40—God’s Word gives us the needed courage to cope with life’s trials (w05 4/15 12 ¶12)
Ps 119:41-48—Accurate knowledge of God’s Word gives us confidence to preach (w05 4/15 13 ¶13-14)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ps 119:71—What could be good about suffering affliction? (w06 9/1 14 ¶4)

Ps 119:96—What is meant by “I have seen a limit to all perfection”? (w06 9/1 14 ¶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 119:73-93

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 69
- **“If a Child Answers the Door”:** (5 min.) Talk.
- **Local Needs:** (10 min.) As an option, discuss the lessons learned from the *Yearbook*. (yb16 59-62)
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If the child is older, perhaps in his mid-to-late teens, it would still be appropriate to ask for his parents. If they are not available, we might ask whether his parents let him choose his own reading material. If they do, we can offer him literature and perhaps direct him to jw.org.

When making a return visit on a youth who has shown interest, we should ask to meet his parents. This will allow us to explain our purpose in calling and show them the trustworthy and reliable advice found in the Bible for families. (Ps 119:86, 138) Our showing respect and consideration for the parents will be a good witness and may give us other opportunities to share the good news with the family.—1Pe 2:12.



PSALM 119 | “Walk in the Law of Jehovah”

To walk in the law of Jehovah means to submit ourselves willingly to divine guidance. We have many good examples in the Bible of those who, like the psalmist, followed Jehovah’s law and relied on him.

Psalm 119 is written in an acrostic, or alphabetic, arrangement. This may have served as a memory aid. The psalm has 22 stanzas, each containing 8 verses. Each verse in a stanza begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Since there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, the psalm has 176 verses, making it by far the longest psalm in the Bible.



119:1-8

True happiness depends on our walking in God’s law

Joshua demonstrated full confidence in Jehovah’s direction. He knew that to be happy and successful, he needed to trust in Jehovah with his whole heart



119:33-40

God’s Word gives us the needed courage to cope with life’s trials

Jeremiah showed courage and reliance on Jehovah amid difficult circumstances. He kept his life simple and persevered in his assignment



119:41-48

Accurate knowledge of God’s Word gives us confidence to preach

Paul was not afraid to share God’s message with anyone. He had full confidence in Jehovah’s help when he boldly preached to Governor Felix

In what situations can I show more confidence when witnessing to others?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |



September 5-11

Treasures From God's Word

“Walk in the Law of Jehovah”

Psalm 119:1-8—True happiness depends on our walking in God's law

Reference: w05 4/15 10 **paragraphs 3-4.**

3 True happiness depends on our walking in God's law. (Psalm 119:1-8) If we do this, Jehovah will consider us 'faultless in our way.' (Psalm 119:1) Being faultless does not mean that we are perfect, but it does indicate that we strive to do Jehovah God's will. Noah "proved himself faultless among his contemporaries" as a man who "walked with the true God." That faithful patriarch and his family survived the Flood because he pursued the life course outlined by Jehovah. (Genesis 6:9; 1 Peter 3:20) Similarly, our survival of this world's end depends on our 'carefully keeping God's orders,' thus doing his will.—Psalm 119:4.

4 Jehovah will never leave us if we 'laud him with uprightness of heart and continue to keep his regulations.' (Psalm 119:7, 8) God did not abandon the Israelite leader Joshua, who applied the counsel to 'read in the book of the law day and night so that he might do all that was written in it.' That made him successful and enabled him to act wisely. (Joshua 1:8) Near the end of his life, Joshua was still lauding God and could remind the Israelites: "You well know with all your hearts and with all your souls that not one word out of all the good words that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed." (Joshua 23:14) Like Joshua and the writer of Psalm 119, we can find happiness and success by praising Jehovah and trusting in his word.

Psalm 119:33-40—God's Word gives us the needed courage to cope with life's trials

Reference: w05 4/15 12 **paragraph 12.**

Following the guidance of God's word gives us the courage needed to cope with life's trials. (Psalm 119:33-40) We humbly seek Jehovah's instruction so that we can keep his law "with the whole heart." (Psalm 119:33, 34) Like the psalmist, we ask of God: "Incline my heart to your reminders, and not to profits," or "unjust profit." (Psalm 119:36; footnote) Like the apostle Paul, we "conduct ourselves honestly in all things." (Hebrews 13:18) If an employer wants us to do something dishonest, we muster up courage to adhere to God's directions—and Jehovah always blesses such a course. In fact, he helps us to keep all bad inclinations under control. Let us therefore pray: "Make my eyes pass on from seeing what is worthless." (Psalm 119:37) Never would we want to view as desirable any worthless thing hated by God. (Psalm 97:10) Among other things, this moves us to avoid pornography and spiritistic practices.— 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Revelation 21:8.

Psalm 119:41-48—Accurate knowledge of God's Word gives us confidence to preach

Reference: w05 4/15 13 **paragraphs 13-14.**

13 Accurate knowledge of God's word gives us confidence to witness courageously. (Psalm 119:41-48) And we do need courage to 'answer the one reproaching us.' (Psalm 119:42) At times, we may be like Jesus' persecuted disciples, who prayed: "Jehovah, . . . grant your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness." The result? "They were one and all filled with the holy spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness." The same Sovereign Lord gives us the courage to speak his word with boldness.—Acts 4:24-31.

14 We will have the courage needed to give a witness without any fear of shame if we cherish "the word of truth" and 'keep God's law constantly.' (Psalm 119:43, 44) Diligent study of God's written Word equips us to 'speak about his reminders in front of kings.' (Psalm 119:46) Prayer and Jehovah's spirit will also help us to say the right things in a proper way. (Matthew 10:16-20; Colossians 4:6) Paul

courageously spoke about God's reminders to first-century rulers. For example, he witnessed to Roman Governor Felix, who "listened to him on the belief in Christ Jesus." ([Acts 24:24, 25](#)) Paul also gave a witness before Governor Festus and King Agrippa. (Acts 25:22–26:32) With Jehovah's backing, we too can be courageous witnesses, never "ashamed of the good news."—Romans 1:16.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Psalm 119:71—What could be good about suffering affliction?

Reference: *w06 9/1 14* [paragraph 4](#).

Hardship can teach us to rely more fully on Jehovah, to pray to him more earnestly, and to be more diligent in studying the Bible and applying what it says. Moreover, our response to affliction can reveal personality flaws that can be corrected. Suffering will not make us bitter if we allow it to refine us.

Psalm 119:96—What is meant by "I have seen a limit to all perfection"?

Reference: *w06 9/1 14* [paragraph 5](#).

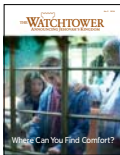
The psalmist is speaking about perfection from a human viewpoint. He likely had in mind that man's concept of perfection is limited. In contrast, God's commandment has no such limit. Its guidance applies to all aspects of life. "To all perfection I see a limit," reads the *New International Version*, "but your commands are boundless."



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Presentations



THE WATCHTOWER

Question: We all need comfort at times. But where can we find it?

Scripture: 2Co 1:3, 4

Offer: This issue of *The Watchtower* considers how God provides such comfort.



TEACH THE TRUTH

Question: How can we know if God cares about us?

Scripture: 1Pe 5:7

Truth: God invites us to pray to him because he cares.

THE WATCHTOWER (back page)

Question: Some think that God's Kingdom is a condition in a person's heart; others think that it's the result of human efforts to bring world peace. What do you think?

Scripture: Da 2:44

Offer: According to the Bible, God's Kingdom is a real government. This article discusses further what the Bible says about God's Kingdom.

BUILD YOUR OWN PRESENTATION

Question:

Scripture:

Offer:

Make Me Know Your Ways

(Psalm 25:4)

A F#m C#m G/A A7

We're gath - er - ed to - geth - er Je - ho - vah, our God, Ac -
Un - reach - a - bly high is your wis - dom, O God; Your

D F#7+5 Bm Bm/A

cept - ing your warm in - vi - ta - tion. Your
judg - ments we find re - as - sur - ing. Your

Bm/G# C#7 F° F#m

Word is a lamp that lights up our road - way, The
Word is a source of un - end - ing won - der; Your

A/B B13 Bm7 E13sus4 E7

source of di - vine ed - u - ca - tion.
say - ings of truth are en - dur - ing.

Make Me Know Your Ways

Chorus

Teach me your ways, and make me un - der - stand; In -

cline my ear to hear your wise com - mand.

Cause me to walk in ways of truth and right, And

make your law my prin - ci - pal de - light.

- Song 48 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

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When making a return visit on a youth who has shown interest, we should ask to meet his parents. This will allow us to explain our purpose in calling and show them the trustworthy and reliable advice found in the Bible for families. (Ps 119:86, 138) Our showing respect and consideration for the parents will be a good witness and may give us other opportunities to share the good news with the family.—1Pe 2:12.



ing for just three years and concentrate on your career? After that, you can start studying again.”

The woman replied: “I have waited 24 years to find Jehovah. Why would I put off learning about him for another three years?”

The very week she was to join the Theocratic Ministry School, a film company contacted her. They offered her a lucrative four-year contract on the condition that she accept any movie role she was given. She declined the offer. In May 2014, she qualified as an unbaptized publisher, and as August approached, she decided that she would preach 100 hours that month. When asked the reason why, she said, “I want to celebrate the 100-year rule of Jesus by preaching one hour for every year he’s been ruling!” She achieved her goal. In January 2015, she was baptized, and she now serves as an auxiliary pioneer.

Making the Best of a Night in Prison

In **Sri Lanka**, four sisters set off by bus to preach in an unassigned territory that was predominantly Buddhist. On their second day of preaching, a monk and a taxi driver accosted the sisters. Soon an angry crowd of about 30 people surrounded them. The police arrived, took the sisters to the police station, and held them overnight in prison cells, even though no charge of any wrongdoing was made. They were put with hardened criminals and were subjected to verbal abuse and filthy language, yet their presence in the prison opened opportunities to give a witness. One of the



Sri Lanka: Four sisters traveled by bus to preach in unassigned territory

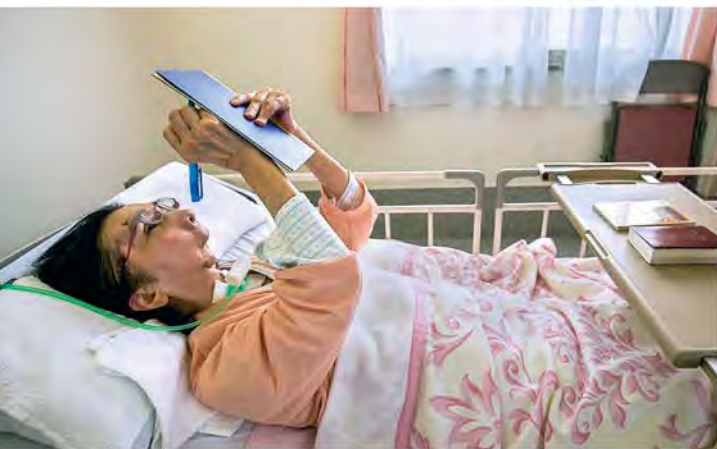
sisters said: “I was confined with murderers, but I was able to talk to them about the truth. They were surprised that I was there, and they had many questions about my beliefs. One person even asked me, ‘Why are you so happy?’ ”

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has accepted our submission for a fundamental rights case against the police for holding prisoners without a valid charge. The case is still pending.

Help for a Bedridden Woman

Michiko, a pioneer sister in **Japan**, was conducting a study in sign language with an elderly woman in a hospital. The sister asked the staff if there were any other patients with whom she could talk. Michiko then met Kazumi, who could hear but could not speak. Kazumi was bedridden following a car accident at the age of 23 and was unable to swallow food or even drink water. She had many questions and readily accepted a Bible study.

Michiko asked the questions, and Kazumi used her hands to point to the answers in the paragraphs or to write them out. When Kazumi obtained a cell phone, Michiko was able to consider the day’s text with her each morning. Although Kazumi weakened physically, she kept growing spiritually to the point of expressing a desire to become one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. At the age of 61, after studying for 13 years, Kazumi finally became an unbaptized publisher.



Japan: Kazumi enjoys writing warm, uplifting letters

Because Kazumi is bedridden, the congregation arranged for her to listen in to all the meetings and assembly programs. Various sisters in the congregation read Kazumi's prepared comments at the meetings.

Kazumi writes warm, uplifting letters that are tailor-made for each Bible student who attends the meetings. She witnesses to the hospital staff and to those who visit her. Kazumi tells them, "If you study the Bible, you will be happy."

A Monk Learns the Truth

In a **Southeast Asian country**, a sister went to an optician at a hospital, where she met a monk. She asked him, "Would you like to have perfect health and live forever in a beautiful place?" A friendly discussion en-

¹³ Like Peter, many today seek to follow Christ “at a good distance”—in such a way that no one else will notice. But as Peter himself later wrote, the only way to follow Christ properly is to stick as close to Him as we can, imitating His example in all things, regardless of the consequences.—**Read 1 Peter 2:21.**

¹⁴ Peter’s cautious steps finally brought him up to the gate of one of Jerusalem’s most imposing mansions. It was the home of Caiaphas, the wealthy and powerful high priest. Such homes were usually built around a courtyard, with a gate in the front. Peter reached the gate and was refused entrance. John, who knew the high priest and was already inside, came and got the doorkeeper to admit Peter. It seems that Peter did not stick close to John; nor did he try to get inside the house to stand at his Master’s side. He stayed in the courtyard, where some slaves and servants were passing the chilly night hours in front of a bright fire, watching as the false witnesses against Jesus paraded in and out of the trial going on inside.—Mark 14:54-57; John 18:15, 16, 18.

¹⁵ In the firelight, the girl who had admitted Peter at the gate was able to see him better. She recognized him. She said accusingly: “You, too, were with Jesus the Galilean!” Caught off guard, Peter denied knowing Jesus—or even understanding what the girl was talking about. He went to stand near the gatehouse, trying to be inconspicuous, but another girl noticed him and pointed out the same fact: “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” Peter swore: “I do not know the man!” (Matt. 26:69-72; Mark 14:66-68) Perhaps it was after this second denial that Peter heard a cock crowing, but he was too distracted to be reminded of the prophecy Jesus had uttered just hours earlier.

¹⁶ A little while later, Peter was still trying desperately to escape notice. But a group of people standing around in the courtyard approached. One of them was related to Malchus, the slave whom Peter had wounded. He said to Peter: “I saw you in the garden with him, did I not?” Peter felt driven to convince them that they were wrong. So he swore to the matter, evidently saying that a curse should come upon him if he was lying. That was Peter’s third denial. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a cock crowed—the second one Peter heard that night.—John 18:26, 27; Mark 14:71, 72.

13. What is the only way to follow Christ properly?

14. How did Peter pass the nighttime hours during Jesus’ trial?

15, 16. Explain how Jesus’ prophecy about three denials was fulfilled.

¹⁷ Jesus had just come out onto a balcony overlooking the courtyard. In that moment, described at the outset of this chapter, his eyes met Peter's. It dawned on Peter just how terribly he had failed his Master. Peter left the courtyard, crushed by the weight of his own guilt. He headed into the streets of the city, his way lit by the sinking full moon. The tears welled up. The sights swam before his eyes. He broke down and wept bitterly.—Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61, 62.

¹⁸ In the wake of such a failure, it is all too easy for a person to assume that his sin is too terrible for forgiveness to be possible. Peter may have wondered as much himself. Was it so?

Peter gave his Master much to forgive, but who of us does not need forgiveness every day?

Was Peter Beyond Forgiveness?

¹⁹ It is hard to imagine the depth of Peter's pain as the morning broke and the events of the day unfolded. How he must have reproved himself when Jesus died later that day after hours of torment! Peter must have shuddered to think of how he had added to his Master's pain on what turned out to be the last day of His life as a man. Deep though the abyss of his sadness surely was, Peter did not give in to despair. We know as much because we soon find him in association with his spiritual brothers again. (Luke 24:33) No doubt all the apostles regretted how they had behaved on that dark night, and they brought one another a measure of comfort.

²⁰ In a way, we here see Peter in one of his finer moments. When a servant of God falls, what matters most is not the depth of his fall but the strength of his determination to get up again, to set matters right. (***Read Proverbs 24:16.***) Peter showed genuine faith by gathering with his brothers despite his low spirits. When one is burdened by sadness or regret, isolation is tempting but dangerous. (Prov. 18:1) The wise course is to stay close to fellow believers and regain spiritual strength.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

17, 18. (a) How did Peter react when it dawned on him how terribly he had failed his Master? (b) What may Peter have wondered?

19. How must Peter have felt about his failure, yet how do we know that he did not give in to despair?

20. What can we learn from Peter's actions in one of his finer moments?

²¹ Because he was with his spiritual brothers, Peter got to hear the shocking news that Jesus' body was not in the tomb. Peter and John ran to the tomb where Jesus had been buried and the entrance had been sealed. John, likely a younger man, arrived first. Finding the entrance of the tomb open, he hesitated. Not Peter. Though he was winded, he went straight in. It was empty!—John 20:3-9.

²² Did Peter believe that Jesus had been resurrected? Not at first, even though faithful women reported that angels had appeared to them to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead. (Luke 23:55–24:11) But by the end of that day, all traces of sadness and doubt in Peter's heart had melted away. Jesus lived, now a mighty spirit! He appeared to all his apostles. He did something else first, though, something private. The apostles said that day: "For a fact the Lord was raised up and he appeared to Simon!" (Luke 24:34) Similarly, the apostle Paul later wrote about that remarkable day when Jesus "appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." (1 Cor. 15:5) Cephas and Simon are other names for Peter. Jesus appeared to him that day—evidently when Peter was alone.

²³ The details of that touching reunion are left unrecorded in the Bible. They remain between Jesus and Peter. We can only imagine how moved Peter was to see his beloved Lord alive again and to have an opportunity to express his sorrow and repentance. More than anything in the world, Peter wanted forgiveness. Who can doubt that Jesus extended it, and in abundance at that? Christians today who fall into sin need to remember Peter's case. Never should we assume that we are beyond the reach of divine forgiveness. Jesus perfectly reflects his Father, who "will forgive in a large way."—Isa. 55:7.

Further Proof of Forgiveness

²⁴ Jesus told his apostles to go to Galilee, where they would meet him again. When they arrived, Peter decided to go out fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Several others accompanied him. Once

21. Because he had gathered with his spiritual brothers, what news did Peter hear?

22. What caused all traces of sadness and doubt in Peter's heart to melt away?

23. Why do Christians today who fall into sin need to remember Peter's case?

24, 25. (a) Describe Peter's night of fishing on the Sea of Galilee. (b) What was Peter's reaction to Jesus' miracle the next morning?

again, Peter found himself on the lake where he had spent much of his earlier life. The creaking of the boat, the lapping of the waves, the feel of the coarse nets in his hands must all have seemed comfortingly familiar. The men caught no fish all that night.—Matt. 26:32; John 21:1-3.

²⁵ At dawn, though, a figure called from the shore and urged the fishermen to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They complied and pulled in a great catch of 153 fish! Peter knew who that person was. He leaped from the boat and swam



Peter leaped from the boat and swam ashore

ashore. On the beach, Jesus gave his faithful friends a meal of fish cooked over charcoal. He focused on Peter.—John 21:4-14.

²⁶ Jesus asked Peter if he loved his Lord “more than these”—evidently pointing to the large haul of fish. In Peter’s heart, would love for the fishing business compete with love for Jesus? Just as Peter had denied his Lord three times, Jesus now gave him the opportunity to affirm his love three times before his fellows. As Peter did so, Jesus told him how to show that love: by putting sacred service ahead of all else, feeding, strengthening, and shepherding Christ’s flock, His faithful followers.—Luke 22:32; John 21:15-17.

²⁷ Jesus thus confirmed that Peter was still useful to him and to his Father. Peter would play a valuable role in the congregation under Christ’s direction. What powerful proof of Jesus’ full forgiveness! Surely that mercy touched Peter, and he took it to heart.

²⁸ Peter faithfully carried out his assignment for many years. He strengthened his brothers, as Jesus had commanded on the eve of His death. Peter worked kindly and patiently at shepherding and feeding Christ’s followers. The man called Simon came to live up to the name that Jesus had given him—Peter, or Rock—by becoming a steady, strong, reliable force for good in the congregation. Much evidence to that effect is found in the two warm, personal letters Peter wrote that became valuable books of the Bible. Those letters show, too, that Peter never forgot the lesson he had learned from Jesus about forgiveness.—**Read 1 Peter 3:8, 9; 4:8.**

²⁹ May we learn that lesson as well. Do we daily ask God’s forgiveness for our many errors? Do we then accept that forgiveness and believe in its power to cleanse us? And do we extend forgiveness to those around us? If we do, we will imitate the faith of Peter—and the mercy of his Master.

26, 27. (a) What opportunity did Jesus give Peter three times? (b) Jesus provided what proof of his full forgiveness of Peter?

28. How did Peter come to live up to his name?

29. How can we imitate the faith of Peter and the mercy of his Master?

TO THINK ABOUT . . .

- How did Peter display a faulty view of forgiveness?
- In what ways did Peter test Jesus’ forgiveness?
- How did Jesus show forgiveness toward Peter?
- In what ways would you like to imitate Peter’s faith and Jesus’ mercy?



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Psalm 95:2)

C Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F2/A G7/B Csus4 C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, de - serv - ing of praise,
Hap - py are those whom you choose to in - vite
May your at - ten - tion cause joy to a - bound;

C/B Gm6/Bb Asus4 A A7/G D7/F# Bm/D D7 G G7/F

To you, O Sov - reign, our voic - es we raise.
In - to your courts of in - struc - tion and light.
In all the earth let your wor - ship be found.

C/E Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F2/A G7/B Csus4 C

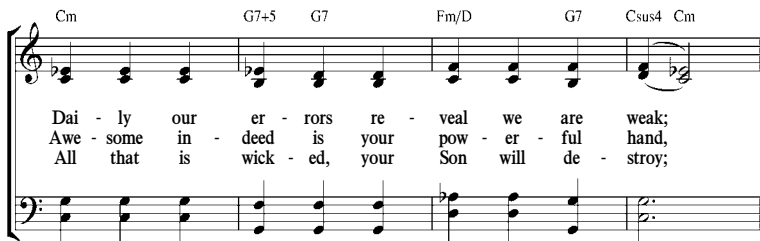
We bow to you, O Great Hear - er of prayer,
Teach us to know you; your Word is our guide.
Crowned with your good - ness, your King - dom ap - pears,

C/B C7/Bb F/A Fm6/Ab C/G G7 C

Plac - ing our - selves un - der your ten - der care.
Here in your tem - ple, we wish to re - side.
Wip - ing out sick - ness, death, sor - row, and tears.


A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Cm G7+5 G7 Fm/D G7 Csus4 Cm



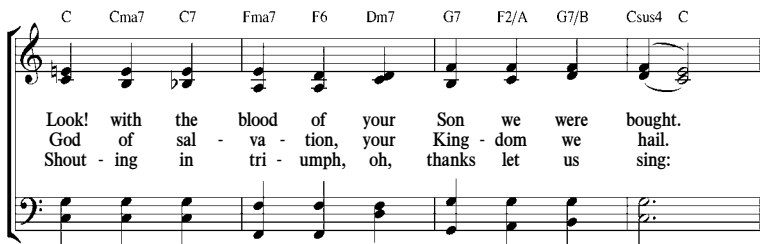
Dai - ly our er - rors re - veal we are weak;
Awe - some in - deed is your pow - er - ful hand,
All that is wick - ed, your Son will de - stroy;

Cm/Eb Fm/D G7/D G7 Ab7 G7sus4 G7



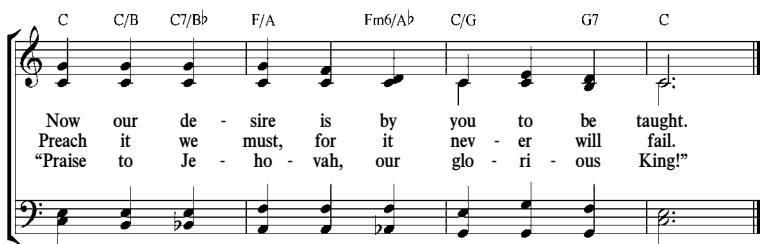
For our trans - gres - sions for - give - ness we seek.
Giv - ing your ser - vants the cour - age to stand.
Bless - ed cre - a - tion will cry out for joy.

C Cma7 C7 Fma7 F6 Dm7 G7 F2/A G7/B Csus4 C



Look! with the blood of your Son we were bought.
God of sal - va - tion, your King - dom we hail.
Shout - ing in tri - umph, oh, thanks let us sing:

C C/B C7/Bb F/A Fm6/Ab C/G G7 C



Now our de - sire is by you to be taught.
Preach it we must, for it nev - er will fail.
'Praise to Je - ho - vah, our glo - ri - ous King!'"

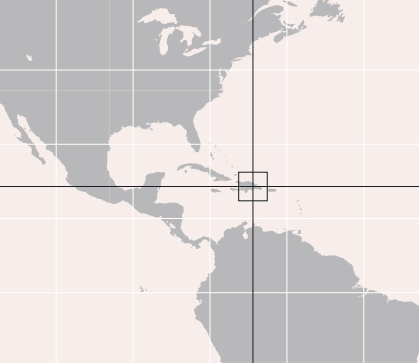
JULY 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 25, 2016



COVER IMAGE:
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On the beach at Las Terrenas, a special pioneer uses the Bible to share the good news with a man who has harvested coconuts

PUBLISHERS
37,536

BIBLE STUDIES
69,892

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
120,103

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 THEY OFFERED THEMSELVES WILLINGLY —In Ghana

7 WEEK OF **AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 4** **Seek the Kingdom, Not Things**

Jesus taught us to ‘seek first the Kingdom,’ not material things. How can we avoid the snare of materialism and simplify our life so that we can pursue more important spiritual interests? Consider Jesus’ encouraging words in the portion of his Sermon on the Mount found at Matthew 6:25-34.

13 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 5-11** **Why Must We “Keep on the Watch”?**

As Christians, we must take seriously Jesus’ admonition to “keep on the watch” in these last days. (Matt. 24:42) To do that, we need to guard against negative influences that could cause us not to be alert and vigilant with respect to Jesus’ coming. This article explains how we can avoid being distracted from our watchfulness.

18 “Do Not Be Afraid. I Will Help You”

21 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 12-18** **Grateful Recipients of God’s Undeserved Kindness**

26 WEEK OF **SEPTEMBER 19-25** **Spread the Good News of Undeserved Kindness**

These two articles examine many of the ways that we benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness. They also explain why our deep gratitude for these expressions of love should move us to make known to others how they too can benefit from Jehovah’s undeserved kindness.

31 QUESTIONS FROM READERS

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 11 July 2016 is published monthly with an additional issue published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; L. Weaver, Jr., President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2016 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

July 2016
Vol. 137, No. 11 ENGLISH

136 The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!

(Revelation 11:15; 12:10)

Capo fret 2

G A C G
 A D A

Je - ho - vah, you al - ways have been, And
 The time for the Dev - il is short; We
 The an - gels in heav - en re - joice And

Eb F G A Em F#m Bm
 F G A F#m C#m

al - ways you will be. You've giv - en the throne to your
 know what this will mean. Though liv - ing in times of dis -
 sing with joy - ful cries. The heav - ens a - bove are re -

Dm Am G D
 Em Bm A E

Son; He rules by your de - cree. The
 tress, We see the things and un - seen. The
 lied Of Sa - tan his lies. The

Am D
 Bm E

King - dom has been brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will
 King - dom has been brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will
 King - dom has been brought to birth; His ru - ler - ship will

Chorus G D G
 A E A

fill the earth. For now have come to pass Sal -
 fill the earth.
 fill the earth.

C G D G D
 D A E A E

va - tion and king - dom and might. The King - dom is in

Em Am D7 G
 F#m Bm E7 A

place. We pray: "Let it come, Let it come!"



Why Must We “Keep on the Watch”?

“You do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”—MATT. 24:42.

FIVE, four, three, two, one! As we see the clock on the video screen counting down, we know that it is time to be in our seats to enjoy the musical prelude that begins a convention session. It is time to listen quietly to the beautiful music of the Watchtower orchestra and, most important, prepare our mind and heart for the talks that will follow. But what if some individuals are distracted, milling about or conversing with their friends, unaware that the program is beginning? They have evidently failed to keep on the watch as to what time it is and what is taking place around them—the chairman is on the platform, the music is playing, and the audience is seated. That scenario may help us appreciate the “countdown” for a much greater event, one that calls for us to be keenly aware of what is coming in the near future. And what event is that?

² When speaking of “the conclusion of the system of things,” Jesus Christ urged his disciples: “Keep looking, keep

1. Illustrate why it is important to be aware of what time it is and what is happening around us. (See opening picture.)
2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to “keep on the watch”?

SONGS: 136, 129

HOW CAN WE KEEP ON THE WATCH DESPITE . . .

the influence of the Devil?

the spirit of the world?

our own weaknesses?

awake, for you do not know when the appointed time is.” After that, Jesus admonished them repeatedly: “*Keep on the watch.*” (Matt. 24:3; **read Mark 13:32-37.**) Matthew’s account of the same discussion also reveals that Jesus warned his followers to stay alert: “*Keep on the watch, therefore, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. . . . Prove yourselves ready, because the Son of man is coming at an hour that you do not think to be it.*” Again, he said: “*Keep on the watch, therefore, because you know neither the day nor the hour.*”—Matt. 24:42-44; 25:13.

³ As Jehovah’s Witnesses, we take seriously Jesus’ warning. We know that we are living deep in “the time of the end” and that there cannot be much time left before the “great tribulation” begins! (Dan. 12:4; Matt. 24:21) We see distressing wars, increasing immorality and lawlessness, religious confusion, food shortages, pestilences, and earthquakes taking place around the world. We know that a phenomenal Kingdom-preaching work is being accomplished by Jehovah’s people everywhere. (Matt. 24:7, 11, 12, 14; Luke 21:11) We eagerly anticipate what the Lord’s coming will mean for us and for the accomplishment of God’s purpose.—Mark 13:26, 27.

COUNTING DOWN THE TIME

⁴ We know that every convention session has a precise time to start. However, try as hard as we might, we cannot pinpoint the exact year, much less day

3. Why do we pay attention to Jesus’ warning?

4. (a) Why can we believe that Jesus now knows when Armageddon will occur? (b) Although we do not know when the great tribulation will begin, what can we be sure of?

and hour, when the great tribulation will begin. When on earth, Jesus said: “Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matt. 24:36) But Christ has been empowered in heaven to wage war against Satan’s world. (Rev. 19:11-16) Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that Jesus now knows when Armageddon will occur. We, however, do not know. It is imperative that we stay watchful until the tribulation occurs. Yet, the timing of that event has never been uncertain to Jehovah. He has determined exactly when the end will come. He is counting down the time to the start of the great tribulation, and its start “will not be late!” (**Read Habakkuk 2:1-3.**) How can we be sure of this?

⁵ Jehovah’s prophecies have always been fulfilled right on time! Consider his precise timing when he delivered the Israelites from Egypt. Referring to Nisan 14, 1513 B.C.E., Moses stated: “At the end of the 430 years, *on this very day*, all the multitudes of Jehovah went out of the land of Egypt.” (Ex. 12:40-42) Those “430 years” began when Jehovah’s covenant with Abraham went into effect in 1943 B.C.E. (Gal. 3:17, 18) Sometime later, Jehovah told Abraham: “Know for certain that your offspring will be foreigners in a land not theirs and that the people there will enslave them and afflict them for 400 years.” (Gen. 15:13; Acts 7:6) Those “400 years” of affliction evidently began in 1913 B.C.E. when Ishmael mocked Isaac at the time of his being weaned, and they ended

5. Give an example to show that Jehovah’s prophecies are always fulfilled right on time.

when the Israelites made their exodus out of Egypt in 1513 B.C.E. (Gen. 21:8-10; Gal. 4:22-29) Yes, four centuries in advance, Jehovah set the precise time for the deliverance of his people!

⁶ Joshua, who was among those delivered from Egypt, reminded all Israel: “You well know with all your heart and with all your soul that not one word out of all the good promises that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed.” (Josh. 23: 2, 14) We can be certain that Jehovah’s promise of deliverance through the great tribulation will not fail us either. However, if we want to survive the destruction of this system, we must keep on the watch.

WATCHFULNESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL

⁷ We can learn a lesson from ancient times about the importance of being watchful. Back then, many larger cities—such as Jerusalem—were surrounded by high walls. The walls provided physical protection from invaders as well as elevated vantage points from which to watch the surrounding landscape. Day and night, watchmen were stationed on the walls and at the gates. They were to alert the city’s inhabitants of any approaching danger. (Isa. 62:6) It was a life-and-death matter that the watchmen remain awake and attentive at their posts.—Ezek. 33:6.

6. Why can we be sure that Jehovah will save his people?

7, 8. (a) What was the role of a watchman in ancient times, and what lesson does that teach us? (b) Give an example of what could happen when watchmen fell asleep on the job.

⁸ Jewish historian Josephus relates that in 70 C.E., the Roman forces were able to take possession of the Tower of Antonia, adjoining the city wall of Jerusalem, because the guards at the gates were asleep! From there, the Romans rushed the temple and set fire to it, resulting in the finale of the greatest tribulation that Jerusalem and the Jewish nation had ever experienced.

⁹ Most nations today have “watchmen” in the form of border patrols and high-tech surveillance systems. They watch for intrusions into their territory and for enemies who pose a threat to national security. However, such “watchmen” can perceive only those threats that come from man-made governments or humans. They are unaware of the existence and activities of God’s heavenly Kingdom government in the hands of Christ and the role it will play in the impending judgment on all the nations. (Isa. 9:6, 7, fn.; 56:10; Dan. 2:44) On the other hand, by being alert and watchful spiritually, we will be ready whenever that day of judgment arrives.—Ps. 130:6.

BEWARE OF BEING DISTRACTED FROM YOUR WATCHFULNESS

¹⁰ Imagine a watchman who has been awake at his post all night. He becomes most weary and apt to fall asleep just before the end of his watch. Likewise, the closer we get to the end of this system of things, the greater the challenge for us to stay awake. How tragic it would be if we were to fail to keep on the watch! Let

9. What are most people today not aware of?

10, 11. (a) Of what must we be careful, and why? (b) What convinces you that the Devil has influenced people to ignore Bible prophecy?



Are you doing everything you can to remain spiritually alert? (See paragraphs 11-16)

us consider three negative influences that could weaken our alertness and vigilance if we are not careful.

¹¹ ***The Devil is lulling people into spiritual apathy.*** Shortly before his death, Jesus three times warned his disciples about “the ruler of this world.” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) Jesus knew that the Devil would keep people in darkness mentally in order to undermine the sense of urgency that permeates God’s prophecies about the future. (Zeph. 1: 14) Satan blinds people’s minds through the world empire of false religion. What have you detected in your conversations with others? Has the Devil not already “blinded the minds of the unbelievers” about the coming end of this system of things and the fact that Christ is now ruling God’s Kingdom? (2 Cor. 4:3-6) How often do you hear people say, “I’m not interested”? For the most part, they are apathetic when we try to tell them where this world is headed.

¹² Do not let the apathy of others discourage or dissuade you from keeping

12. Why must we not let the Devil deceive us?

on the watch. You know better. Paul wrote to fellow believers: “You yourselves know very well that Jehovah’s day is coming,” and he added, “exactly as a thief in the night.” (**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.**) Jesus warned us: “Keep ready, because at an hour that you do not think likely, the Son of man is coming.” (Luke 12:39, 40) Soon, Satan will deceive the masses into accepting a false sense of “peace and security.” He will mislead them into thinking that all is well on the world scene. What about us? That day of judgment does not have to “overtake [us] as it would thieves,” provided we “stay awake and keep our senses.” That is why we daily must read God’s written Word and meditate on what Jehovah is telling us.

¹³ ***The spirit of the world is inducing spiritual sleep.*** Many are so wrapped up in their mundane affairs of life that they are not “conscious of their spiritual need.” (Matt. 5:3) They are engrossed

13. How is the spirit of the world affecting mankind, and how can we avoid that dangerous influence?

in the material attractions of the world that foster “the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes.” (1 John 2:16) Also, the entertainment industry has intoxicated people with the ‘love of pleasures,’ and the temptations are intensifying year by year. (2 Tim. 3:4) This is why Paul told Christians that they should “not be planning ahead for the desires of the flesh,” which induce spiritual sleep.—Rom. 13:11-14.

¹⁴ Instead of the world’s spirit, we welcome in our life the influence of God’s spirit by which Jehovah has given us a clear understanding of the events that lie ahead of us.^[1] (1 Cor. 2:12) Yet, we realize that it does not take anything extraordinary to make a person spiritually drowsy—the ordinary things of life will do that if allowed to crowd out our spiritual activities. **(Read Luke 21:34, 35.)** Others may ridicule us for keeping on the watch, but that is no reason for us to lose our sense of urgency. (2 Pet. 3:3-7) Instead, we must regularly associate with fellow Christians at our congregation meetings, where God’s spirit is present.

¹⁵ ***Our imperfect flesh can weaken our resolve to stay alert.*** Jesus knew of the tendency that imperfect humans have to succumb to the weaknesses of the flesh. Consider what happened the night before Jesus was to be executed. In order to maintain his integrity, he needed to turn to his heavenly Father for strength. Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to “keep on the watch” while he prayed. However, they did not recog-

nize the seriousness of what was coming. Rather than watching out for their Master, they gave in to the urge of their flesh and went to sleep. Jesus, though also physically tired, was fully awake in fervent prayer to his Father. That is what his companions should have been doing.—Mark 14:32-41.

¹⁶ To “keep awake” spiritually means more than just having good intentions. A few days before the incident in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told those same disciples to make supplication to Jehovah. **(Read Luke 21:36.)** So to remain spiritually watchful, we too must stay alert in prayer.—1 Pet. 4:7, ftn.

PROVE YOURSELVES EVER WATCHFUL

¹⁷ Since Jesus said that the end will come “*at an hour that [we] do not think to be it,*” this is no time to doze off spiritually, no time to pursue the illusions and fantasies that Satan and his world offer and that our flesh craves. (Matt. 24:44) Through the pages of the Bible, God and Christ tell us what they have in store for us in the immediate future and how we can keep on the watch. We have to pay attention to our spirituality, to our relationship with Jehovah, and to Kingdom priorities. We must be aware of time and events so that we can be ready for what is coming. (Rev. 22:20) Our life is at stake!

16. According to Luke 21:36, how did Jesus instruct us to “keep awake”?

17. How can we make sure that we are ready for what is coming in the near future?

14. What warning do we find at Luke 21:34, 35?

15. What happened to Peter, James, and John, and how might that happen to us too?

ENDNOTE:

[1] (paragraph 14) See chapter 21 of the book *God’s Kingdom Rules!*

Holding Fast to Our Hope

(Hebrews 6:18, 19)

Dm Dsus4 Dm A Dm/A G2/B A/C# Dm Gm/D

Men have been grop - ing for cen - tu - ries in dark - ness.
 "God's day is near!" rings the King - dom proc - la - ma - tion;

Dm Dsus4 Dm A Dm/A G2/B A/C# Dm

Vain is their quest as they try to catch the wind.
 Men will no long - er cry out to God: "How long?"

Dm7 Gm Gm/Bb G7/B C Bb/D C7/E F F/A

Man's trag - ic flaw is re - vealed in its stark - ness:
 Soon he will free all his groan - ing cre - a - tion.

Bb Gm6/Bb Bb Gm6/Bb Bb6 E7/B B° A/C#

None can they save, for they all have sinned.
 Praise God Al - might - y, and join our song.

Holding Fast to Our Hope

Chorus

