

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Christ Suffered for Us”:** (10 min.)
Isa 53:3-5—He was despised, and he was crushed for our errors (w09 1/15 26 ¶3-5)
Isa 53:7, 8—He willingly sacrificed his life for us (w09 1/15 27 ¶10)
Isa 53:11, 12—We can have a righteous standing because he remained faithful until death (w09 1/15 28 ¶13)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 54:1—Who is the “barren woman” mentioned in this prophecy, and who are her “sons”? (w06 3/15 11 ¶12)

Isa 57:15—In what sense does Jehovah “reside” with those who are “crushed” and “lowly”? (w05 10/15 26 ¶3)

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) Isa 57:1-11

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *If*—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *If* 30-31—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 14-15 ¶16-17—If available, have a father study with his minor son or daughter.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 5
- **“Help Your Children to Develop Unshakable Faith in the Creator”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *What Your Peers Say—Belief in God* (video category TEENAGERS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *kr* chap. 8 ¶18-13, chart on p. 83
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 24 and Prayer

ISAIAH 52-57 | Christ Suffered for Us



53:3-5

“He was despised and was avoided by men . . . We considered him as plagued, stricken by God and afflicted”

- Jesus was despised and charged with blasphemy. Some believed that God was punishing him, as if plaguing him with a loathsome disease

53:10

“It was Jehovah’s will to crush him, . . . and through him the delight of Jehovah will have success”

- Jehovah no doubt suffered when he saw his Son put to death. But he delighted to see Jesus’ absolute faithfulness. Jesus’ death provided an answer to Satan’s challenge regarding the loyalty of God’s servants and brought benefits to repentant humans. It thus helped to accomplish “Jehovah’s will”

You Gave Your Precious Son

(1 John 4:9)

F C/E Dm7

Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, There seemed no
Your kind - ness, your mer - cy, They draw us

Am/C Bb F/A

hope for us. The ran - som has giv - en
close to you. Your great name, your friend - ship,

Gm C7sus4 C7 F

Hope to ev - 'ry - one! We give our
These we've come to love. But some - thing

C/E Dm Am/C

lives to you, Our best in all we do.
more than this Is your most pre - cious gift.

You Gave Your Precious Son

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides accompaniment with a dotted half note G3 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G3 and A3 in the second measure. The lyrics are: "And we'll tell that oth - ers too, That He died that we might live. You".

Bb F/A

And we'll tell that oth - ers too, That
He died that we might live. You

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides accompaniment with a dotted half note G3 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G3 and A3 in the second measure. The lyrics are: "your will might be done. You gave your pre - cious sent him from a - bove.".

Gm Csus4 C Chorus F/A Bbadd9 C

your will might be done. You gave your pre - cious
sent him from a - bove.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides accompaniment with a dotted half note G3 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G3 and A3 in the second measure. The lyrics are: "Son, And now we sing as one, A".

Dm F/A Bbma7 C F Csus4/E

Son, And now we sing as one, A

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. The bass clef has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass clef provides accompaniment with a dotted half note G3 in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G3 and A3 in the second measure. The lyrics are: "song we'll sing for - ev - er, for giv - ing us your".

Dm C Bb Gm7 Fma7/A

song we'll sing for - ev - er, for giv - ing us your

You Gave Your Precious Son

B \flat C7 F F $\text{sus}4$ F B $\text{badd}9$

pre - cious Son. *Repeat from beginning*

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble staff shows chords for B \flat , C7, F, F $\text{sus}4$, F, and B $\text{badd}9$. The melody consists of quarter notes: B \flat (2), C (3), D (4), E (5), F (6), G (7), A (8), B \flat (9). The bass staff provides accompaniment with a bass line of quarter notes: B \flat (2), C (3), D (4), E (5), F (6), G (7), A (8), B \flat (9). The lyrics 'pre - cious Son.' are aligned with the melody. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end, with the instruction 'Repeat from beginning' written to the right.

Ending
F C/E Dm7 Am/C

Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, we pray in grat - i - tude.

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music, marked as an ending. The treble staff shows chords for F, C/E, Dm7, and Am/C. The melody consists of quarter notes: G (7), A (8), B \flat (9), C (10), D (11), E (12), F (13), G (14). The bass staff provides accompaniment with a bass line of quarter notes: F (1), C (2), G (3), D (4), A (5), E (6), B \flat (7), F (8). The lyrics 'Je - ho - vah, dear Fa - ther, we pray in grat - i - tude.' are aligned with the melody. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.

B \flat F/A Gm7

We of - fer our thanks for giv - ing us your

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble staff shows chords for B \flat , F/A, and Gm7. The melody consists of quarter notes: G (7), A (8), B \flat (9), C (10), D (11), E (12), F (13), G (14). The bass staff provides accompaniment with a bass line of quarter notes: B \flat (2), F (3), C (4), G (5), D (6), A (7), E (8), B \flat (9). The lyrics 'We of - fer our thanks for giv - ing us your' are aligned with the melody. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.

C7 $\text{sus}4$ C F

pre - cious Son.

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth line of music. The treble staff shows chords for C7 $\text{sus}4$, C, and F. The melody consists of quarter notes: G (7), A (8), B \flat (9), C (10), D (11), E (12), F (13), G (14). The bass staff provides accompaniment with a bass line of quarter notes: C (1), F (2), C (3), G (4), D (5), A (6), E (7), C (8). The lyrics 'pre - cious Son.' are aligned with the melody. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.

- 16** I will put my words in your mouth,
And with the shadow of my hand I will cover you,^a
In order to plant the heavens
and to lay the foundation
of the earth^b
And to say to Zion, ‘You are
my people.’^c
- 17** Awake! Awake! Rise up,
O Jerusalem,^d
You who have drunk from
the hand of Jehovah his
cup of wrath.
You have drunk the goblet;
You have drained out the cup
causing staggering.^e
- 18** Not one of all the sons whom
she bore is there to guide
her,
And not one of all the sons
whom she raised has taken
hold of her hand.
- 19** These two things have
befallen you.
Who will sympathize with
you?
Destruction and devastation,
hunger and sword!^f
Who will comfort you?^g
- 20** Your sons have fainted.^h
They lie down at every street
corner*
Like wild sheep in the net.
They are full of the wrath
of Jehovah, the rebuke
of your God.”
- 21** So please listen to this,
O woman afflicted and
drunk, though not with
wine.
- 22** This is what your Lord
Jehovah says, your God
who defends his people:
“Look! I will take from
your hand the cup causing
staggering,ⁱ
The goblet, my cup of wrath;
You will never drink it again.^j

51:20 *Lit., “at the head of all streets.”

CHAP. 51

a De 33:27
Ps 91:1

b Isa 65:17
Isa 66:8, 22

c Isa 60:14
Jer 31:33
Zec 8:8

d Isa 52:1
Isa 60:1

e Jer 25:15

f Eze 14:21

g La 1:17

h La 2:11

i Isa 51:17

j Isa 54:9
Isa 62:8

Second Col.

a Isa 49:25

CHAP. 52

b Hag 2:4

c Isa 51:17

d Isa 61:3

e Isa 35:8
Isa 60:21
Re 21:27

f Isa 51:14
Isa 61:1

g Isa 50:1

h Isa 45:13

i Ge 46:5-7

j Ps 137:3
Jer 50:17

k Ps 74:10
Ro 2:24

l Eze 20:44

- 23** I will put it into the hand
of your tormentors,^a
Those who said to you,^{*}
‘Bow down so that we may
walk over you!’
So you made your back like
the ground,
Like a street for them to walk
on.”

52 Awake! Awake! Clothe
yourself with strength,^b
O Zion!^c

Put on your beautiful
garments,^d O Jerusalem,
the holy city!

For no more will the un-
circumcised and unclean
one enter into you.^e

- 2** Shake off the dust, rise and
take a seat, O Jerusalem.
Loosen the bonds on your
neck, O captive daughter
of Zion.^f

- 3** For this is what Jehovah
says:

“You were sold for nothing,^g
And without money you will
be repurchased.”^h

- 4** For this is what the Sover-
eign Lord Jehovah says:
“At first my people went
down to Egypt to live there
as foreigners;ⁱ
Then As-syr'i-a oppressed
them without cause.”

- 5** “What, then, should I do
here?” declares Jehovah.
“For my people were taken
for nothing.
Those ruling over them
keep howling in triumph,”^j
declares Jehovah,
“And constantly, all day long,
my name is treated with
disrespect.^k

- 6** For that reason my people
will know my name;^l
For that reason they will
know in that day that I am
the One speaking.
Look, it is I!”

51:23 *Or “to your soul.”

- 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news,^a The one proclaiming peace,^b The one bringing good news of something better, The one proclaiming salvation, The one saying to Zion: "Your God has become King!"^c
- 8 Listen! Your watchmen raise their voice. In unison they shout joyfully, For they will see it clearly* when Jehovah gathers back Zion.
- 9 Become cheerful, shout joyfully in unison, you ruins of Jerusalem,^d For Jehovah has comforted his people;^e he has repurchased Jerusalem.^f
- 10 Jehovah has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;^g All the ends of the earth will see the acts of salvation* of our God.^h
- 11 Turn away, turn away, get out of there,ⁱ touch nothing unclean!^j Get out from the midst of her,^k keep yourselves clean, You who are carrying the utensils of Jehovah.^l
- 12 For you will not depart in panic, Nor will you have to flee, For Jehovah will go ahead of you,^m And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.ⁿ
- 13 Look! My servant^o will act with insight. He will be raised up high, He will be elevated and greatly exalted.^p

52:8 *Or "eye to eye." 52:10 *Or "the victory."

CHAP. 52

- a Isa 40:9
Na 1:15
Ac 8:4
Ro 10:15
Eph 6:14, 15
- b Lu 2:14
Ac 10:36
Eph 2:17
- c Ps 93:1
Isa 33:22
Mic 4:7
Mt 24:14
Re 11:15, 17
- d Isa 61:4
- e Isa 66:13
- f Isa 44:23
- g Isa 51:9
- h Ps 22:27
Isa 49:6
- i Isa 48:20
Jer 50:8
Jer 51:6
Zec 2:6
- j Le 5:2
Eze 44:23
- k 2Co 6:17
Re 18:4
- l Le 10:3
Nu 3:6, 8
Ezr 1:7
Ezr 8:30
- m Ex 13:21
1Ch 14:15
- n Isa 58:8
- o Isa 42:1
Isa 61:1
Php 2:5-7
- p Ps 2:6
Ps 110:1
Isa 9:6
Mt 28:18

Second Col.

- a Ps 2:2
b Ps 2:10
Ps 72:11
c Ro 15:20, 21

CHAP. 53

- d Ro 10:16
- e Isa 51:9
- f Isa 40:5
Joh 12:37, 38
- g Isa 11:1
Zec 6:12
- h Isa 52:14
Joh 1:10
Php 2:7
- i Ps 22:7
Mt 26:67, 68
Joh 6:66
1Pe 2:4
- j Zec 11:13
Joh 18:39, 40
Ac 3:13, 14
Ac 4:11
- k Mt 8:14-17
- l Le 16:21, 22
1Pe 2:24
1Jo 2:1, 2

- 14 Just as there were many who stared at him in amazement —For his appearance was disfigured more than that of any other man And his stately form more than that of mankind—
- 15 So he will startle many nations.^a

Kings will shut their mouths* before him,^b Because they will see what they had not been told And give consideration to what they had not heard.^c

53 Who has put faith in the thing heard from us?^d And as for the arm of Jehovah,^e to whom has it been revealed?^f

- 2 He will come up like a twig^g before him,^{*} like a root out of parched land. No stately form does he have, nor any splendor;^h And when we see him, his appearance does not draw us to him.[#]

- 3 He was despised and was avoided by men,ⁱ A man who was meant for* pains and was familiar with sickness. It was as if his face were hidden from us.[#]

He was despised, and we held him as of no account.^j

- 4 Truly he himself carried our sicknesses,^k And he bore our pains.^l But we considered him as plagued, stricken by God and afflicted.

52:15 *Or "will be speechless." 53:1 *Or possibly, "in what we heard?" 53:2 *"Him" could refer to an observer in general or to God. #Or "there is no special appearance that we should desire him." 53:3 *Or "who understood." #Or possibly, "He was like someone from whom people turned their faces."

- 5 But he was pierced^a for our transgression;^b
He was crushed for our errors.^c
He bore the punishment for our peace.^d
And because of his wounds we were healed.^e
- 6 Like sheep we have all wandered about,^f
Each has turned his own way,
And Jehovah has caused the error of us all to meet up with him.^g
- 7 He was oppressed^h and he let himself be afflicted,ⁱ
But he would not open his mouth.
He was brought like a sheep to the slaughter,^j
Like a ewe that is silent before its shearers,
And he would not open his mouth.^k
- 8 Because of restraint* and judgment he was taken away;
And who will concern himself with the details of his generation?^l
For he was cut off from the land of the living;^j
Because of the transgression of my people he received the stroke.^m
- 9 And he was given a burial place* with the wicked,ⁿ
And with the rich^o in his death,^o
Although he had done no wrong^a
And there was no deception in his mouth.^p
- 10 But it was Jehovah's will* to crush him, and he let him become sick.

53:8 *Or "oppression." #Or "his manner of life?" ^Or "was struck dead."
53:9 *Or "And one will give his burial place." #Lit., "a rich man." ^Or "no violence."
53:10 *Or "But Jehovah took delight."

CHAP. 53

a Zec 12:10
Joh 19:34
b Da 9:24
Ro 4:25
c Mt 20:28
Ro 5:6, 19
d Col 1:19, 20
e 1Pe 2:24
f 1Pe 2:25
g 1Pe 3:18
h Ps 22:12
Ps 69:4
i 1Pe 2:23
j Joh 1:29
1Co 5:7
k Mt 27:12-14
Ac 8:32, 33
l Da 9:26
Mt 27:50
m Zec 13:7
Joh 11:49, 50
Ro 5:6
Heb 9:26
n Mt 27:38
o Mt 27:57-60
Mr 15:46
Joh 19:41
p 1Pe 2:22

Second Col.

a Le 16:11
2Co 5:21
Heb 7:27
b Isa 9:7
1Ti 6:16
c Col 1:19, 20
d Isa 42:1
e Ro 5:18, 19
f 1Pe 2:24
g Ps 22:14
Mt 26:27, 28
Heb 2:14
h Mr 15:27
Lu 22:37
Lu 23:32, 33
i Mt 20:28
1Ti 2:5, 6
Tit 2:13, 14
Heb 9:28
j Ro 8:34
Heb 7:25
Heb 9:26
1Jo 2:1, 2

CHAP. 54

k Isa 62:4
l Isa 44:23
Isa 49:13
m Isa 66:7, 8
n Ga 4:26, 27
o Isa 49:20
p Isa 33:20

If you will present his life* as a guilt offering,^a
He will see his offspring,[#]
he will prolong his days,^b
And through him the delight[^] of Jehovah will have success.^c

- 11 Because of his anguish,* he will see and be satisfied.
By means of his knowledge the righteous one, my servant,^d
Will bring a righteous standing to many people,^e
And their errors he will bear.^f

- 12 For that reason I will assign him a portion among the many,
And he will apportion the spoil with the mighty,
Because he poured out his life* even to death^g
And was counted among the transgressors;^h
He carried the sin of many people,ⁱ
And he interceded for the transgressors.^j

54 "Shout joyfully, you barren woman who has not given birth!^k
Become cheerful and cry out for joy,^l you who never had birth pains,^m
For the sons* of the desolate one are more numerous
Than the sons of the woman with a husband,"ⁿ says Jehovah.

- 2 "Make the place of your tent more spacious.^o
Stretch out the tent cloths of your grand tabernacle.
Do not hold back, lengthen your tent cords,
And make your tent pins strong.^p

53:10, 12 *Or "soul." 53:10 #Lit., "seed." ^Or "will; good pleasure."
53:11 *Or "the trouble of his soul."
54:1 *Or "children." #Or "master."

- 3** For you will spread out to the right and to the left.
Your offspring will take possession of nations,
And they will inhabit the desolated cities.^a
- 4** Do not be afraid,^b for you will not be put to shame;^c
And do not feel humiliated,
for you will not be disappointed.
For you will forget the shame of your youth,
And the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.^d
- 5** “For your Grand Maker^d is as your husband,^{*e}
Jehovah of armies is his name,
And the Holy One of Israel is your Repurchaser.^f
He will be called the God of the whole earth.^g
- 6** For Jehovah called you as if you were an abandoned wife and grief-stricken,^{*h}
Like a wife married in youth and then rejected,” says your God.
- 7** “For a brief moment I abandoned you,
But with great mercy I will gather you back.ⁱ
- 8** In a flood of indignation I hid my face from you for a moment,^j
But with everlasting loyal love I will have mercy on you,^{*k} says your Repurchaser,^l Jehovah.
- 9** “This is like the days of Noah to me,^m
Just as I have sworn that the waters of Noah will no more cover the earth,ⁿ
So I swear that I will no more become indignant toward you or rebuke you.^o

54:5 *Or “master.” 54:6 *Lit., “hurt in spirit.”

CHAP. 54

- a Isa 49:8
Eze 36:35
b Isa 41:10
c Isa 61:7
d Isa 44:2
e Eze 16:8
Ho 2:16
f Isa 44:6
g Zec 14:9
Ro 3:29
h Isa 49:14
Isa 62:4
i De 30:1, 3
Ps 30:5
Ps 106:47
Isa 27:12
Jer 29:10
j Isa 47:6
Eze 39:23
k Isa 55:3
l Isa 48:17
Isa 49:26
m Ge 7:23
n Ge 8:21
o Jer 31:35, 36
Eze 39:29
- Second Col.
a Isa 51:6
b Isa 55:3
c Isa 14:1
d Isa 52:2
e La 1:2, 17
f Re 21:19
g Jer 31:34
Joh 6:45
h Ps 119:165
Isa 66:12
Jer 33:6
i Isa 1:26
Isa 60:21
j Isa 52:1
k Jer 23:4
Zep 3:13
l Eze 38:16, 22
Zec 2:8
Zec 12:3
m Isa 10:5
n Ps 2:2, 4
Isa 41:12

- 10** For the mountains may be removed
And the hills may be shaken,
But my loyal love will not be removed from you,^a
Nor will my covenant of peace be shaken,^b says Jehovah, the One having mercy on you.^c
- 11** “O afflicted woman,^d storm-tossed, uncomforted,^e
I am laying your stones with hard mortar
And your foundation with sapphires.^f
- 12** I will make your battlements of rubies,
Your gates of sparkling stones,^{*g}
And all your boundaries of precious stones.
- 13** And all your sons^{*h} will be taught by Jehovah,^g
And the peace of your sons^{*h} will be abundant.^h
- 14** You will be firmly established in righteousness.ⁱ
You will be far removed from oppression,^j
You will fear nothing and have no cause for terror,
For it will not come near you.^k
- 15** If anyone should attack you,
It will not be at my orders.
Whoever makes an attack on you will fall because of you.^l
- 16** “Look! I myself created the craftsman,
Who blows on the charcoal fire,
And his work produces a weapon.
I myself also created the destructive man to bring ruin.^m
- 17** No weapon formed against you will have any success,ⁿ

54:12 *Or “of stones of fire.” 54:13 *Or “children.”

And you will condemn
any tongue that rises up
against you in the
judgment.

This is the heritage* of the
servants of Jehovah,
And their righteousness
is from me," declares
Jehovah.^a

55 Come, all you thirsty
ones,^b come to the
water!^c

You with no money, come,
buy and eat!

Yes, come, buy wine and
milk^d without money and
without cost.^e

2 Why do you keep paying
out money for what is not
bread,

And why spend your
earnings* for what brings
no satisfaction?

Listen intently to me, and
eat what is good,^f

And you^g will find great de-
light in what is truly rich.^{Ag}

3 Incline your ear and come
to me.^h

Listen, and you^g will keep
alive,

And I will readily make
with you an everlasting
covenantⁱ

In harmony with the expres-
sions of loyal love to David,
which are faithful.^{*j}

4 Look! I made him a witness^k
to the nations,
A leader^l and commander^m
to the nations.

5 Look! You will call a nation
that you do not know,
And those of a nation who
have not known you will
run to you
For the sake of Jehovah
your God,ⁿ the Holy One
of Israel,

54:17 *Or "inheritance." 55:2 *Or
"hard-earned money." 55:2, 3 *Or
"your soul." 55:2 ^aLit., "in fatness."
55:3 *Or "trustworthy; reliable."

CHAP. 54

a Jer 23:6

CHAP. 55

b Ps 42:2

Ps 63:1

Am 8:11

Mt 5:6

c Isa 41:17

d Joe 3:18

e Re 21:6

Re 22:17

f Isa 25:6

g Ps 36:7, 8

Ps 63:5

h Jas 4:8

i Isa 61:8

j 2Sa 7:8, 16

2Sa 23:5

Ps 89:28, 29

Jer 33:25, 26

Ac 13:34

k Re 1:5

Re 3:14

l Da 9:25

Mt 23:10

m Ge 49:10

n Zec 8:23

Second Col.

a Isa 49:3

Isa 60:9

b 1Ch 28:9

c Ps 145:18

Jas 4:8

d Eze 18:21

Ac 3:19

e Ex 34:6

2Ch 33:12, 13

f Nu 14:18

Ps 103:12, 13

Isa 43:25

g Ps 40:5

h Ps 103:11

i Nu 23:19

Isa 46:11

j Jos 23:14

Isa 45:23

k Ps 135:6

Isa 46:10

l Isa 35:10

m Isa 54:13

Isa 66:12

n Isa 42:11

o Isa 44:23

Because he will glorify you.^a

6 Search for Jehovah while he
may be found.^b

Call to him while he is near.^c

7 Let the wicked man leave
his way^d

And the evil man his
thoughts;

Let him return to Jehovah,
who will have mercy
on him,^e

To our God, for he will
forgive in a large way.^{*f}

8 "For my thoughts are not
your thoughts,^g

And your ways are not my
ways," declares Jehovah.

9 "For as the heavens are
higher than the earth,
So my ways are higher than
your ways

And my thoughts than your
thoughts.^h

10 For just as the rain and
the snow pour down from
heaven

And do not return there until
they saturate the earth,
making it produce and
sprout,

Giving seed to the sower
and bread to the eater,

11 So my word that goes out
of my mouth will be.^{*i}

It will not return to me
without results,^j

But it will certainly
accomplish whatever is
my delight,^{*k}

And it will have sure success
in what I send it to do.

12 For you will go out with
rejoicing,^l

And in peace you will be
brought back.^m

The mountains and the hills
will become cheerful be-
fore you with a joyful cry,ⁿ

And the trees of the field
will all clap their hands.^o

55:7 *Or "will freely forgive." 55:11
*Or "will prove to be." *Or "my will."

13 Instead of thornbushes the juniper tree will grow,^a And instead of the stinging nettle the myrtle tree will grow. And it will bring fame to* Jehovah,^b An everlasting sign that will never perish.”

56 This is what Jehovah says: “Uphold justice,^c and do what is righteous, For my salvation will soon come And my righteousness will be revealed.^d

2 Happy is the man who does this And the son of man who holds fast to it, Who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it^e And who holds his hand back from any kind of evil.

3 The foreigner who joins himself to Jehovah^f should not say, ‘Jehovah will surely separate me from his people.’ And the eunuch should not say, ‘Look! I am a dried-up tree.’”

4 For this is what Jehovah says to the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths and who choose what I delight in and who hold fast to my covenant:

5 “I will give to them in my house and within my walls a monument and a name, Something better than sons and daughters. An everlasting name I will give them, One that will not perish.

6 As for the foreigners who join themselves to Jehovah to minister to him, To love the name of Jehovah^g

55:13 *Or “will make a name for.”

CHAP. 55

a Isa 41:19
Isa 60:13

b Jer 33:9

CHAP. 56

c Mic 6:8

d Isa 46:13
Isa 51:5

e Isa 58:13, 14

f Isa 60:10
Zec 8:23

g Mal 1:11

Second Col.

a Isa 2:3
Mic 4:2
Zec 8:3

b 1Ki 8:29, 43
Mt 21:13
Mr 11:17
Lu 19:46

c De 30:3
Isa 27:12
Ho 1:11

d Isa 49:22
Isa 60:4

e Jer 12:9

f Isa 6:10
Isa 29:10

g Jer 6:13, 14
Eze 13:16

h Eze 33:6

i Mic 3:6

j Isa 5:22
Isa 28:7
Ho 4:11

And to be his servants, All those who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it And who hold fast to my covenant,

7 I will also bring them to my holy mountain^a And make them rejoice inside my house of prayer. Their whole burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar. For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”^b

8 The Sovereign Lord Jehovah, who is gathering the dispersed ones of Israel,^c declares:

“I will gather to him others besides those already gathered.”^d

9 All you wild animals of the field, come to eat, All you wild animals in the forest.^e

10 His watchmen are blind,^f none of them have taken note.^g

All of them are speechless dogs, unable to bark.^h They are panting and lying down; they love to slumber.

11 They are dogs with a voracious appetite;* They are never satisfied. They are shepherds who have no understanding.^j They have all gone their own way; Every last one of them seeks his own dishonest gain and says:

12 “Come, let me take some wine, And let us drink our fill of alcohol.^j And tomorrow will be like today, only far better!”

56:11 *Or “with a strong soul.”

57 The righteous one has perished,
 But no one takes it to heart.
 Loyal men are taken away,*^a
 With no one discerning that
 the righteous one has been
 taken away
 Because of^z the calamity.

2 He enters into peace.
 They rest on their beds,*
 all who walk uprightly.

3 "But as for you, come closer,
 You sons of a sorceress,
 You children of an adulterer
 and a prostitute:

4 Whom are you making
 fun of?
 Against whom do you open
 your mouth wide and stick
 out your tongue?
 Are you not the children
 of transgression,
 The children of deceit,^b

5 Those who are inflamed with
 passion among big trees,^c
 Under every luxuriant tree,^d
 Who slaughter the children
 in the valleys,*^e
 Under the clefts of the crags?

6 With the smooth stones of
 the valley* is your portion.^f
 Yes, these are your lot.
 Even to them you pour out
 drink offerings and offer
 gifts.^g
 Should I be satisfied^z with
 these things?

7 On a mountain high and lofty
 you prepared your bed,^h
 And you went up there to
 offer sacrifice.ⁱ

8 Behind the door and the
 doorpost you set up your
 memorial.
 You left me and uncovered
 yourself;
 You went up and made your
 bed spacious.

57:1 *That is, in death. ^zOr possibly, "From." 57:2 *That is, in the grave.
 57:5 *Or "wadis." 57:6 *Or "wadi."
^zOr "Should I comfort myself."

CHAP. 57

a Mic 7:2
 b Isa 1:4
 Isa 30:9
 c Isa 1:29
 d De 12:2
 1Ki 14:22, 23
 e 2Ki 16:1, 3
 Jer 7:31
 f Jer 3:9
 g Jer 7:18
 h Jer 2:20
 Eze 16:16
 Eze 23:17
 i Eze 20:28

Second Col.

a Eze 16:25, 33
 Eze 23:18
 b Isa 30:9, 10
 Isa 59:3
 c Isa 1:3
 Jer 2:32
 Jer 9:3
 d Isa 42:24, 25
 e Ps 50:21
 f Isa 58:2
 g Isa 66:3
 h Jer 7:4
 Mic 3:4
 i Jg 10:14
 Isa 42:17
 j Isa 56:6, 7
 Isa 66:20
 Eze 20:40
 Joe 3:17

k Isa 35:8
 Isa 40:3
 Isa 62:10

And you made a covenant
 with them.
 You loved sharing their bed,^a
 And you gazed at the male
 organ.*

9 You went down to Mel'ech*
 with oil
 And with an abundance of
 perfume.
 You sent your envoys far off,
 So that you descended to the
 Grave.^z

10 You have toiled in following
 your many ways,
 But you did not say, 'It is
 hopeless!'
 You found renewed strength.
 That is why you do not
 give up.*

11 Whom did you dread and fear
 So that you started to lie?^b
 You did not remember me.^c
 You took nothing to heart.^d
 Have I not kept silent and
 withdrawn?^e
 So you showed no fear of me.

12 I will make known your
 'righteousness'^f and your
 works,^g
 And they will not benefit
 you.^h

13 When you cry for help,
 Your collection of idols will
 not rescue you.ⁱ
 A wind will carry all of them
 away,
 A mere breath will blow
 them away,
 But the one who takes refuge
 in me will inherit the land
 And will take possession of
 my holy mountain.^j

14 It will be said, 'Build up,
 build up a road! Prepare
 the way!^k

57:8 *Possibly referring to idolatrous
 worship. 57:9 *Or possibly, "the king."
^zOr "Sheol," that is, the common grave
 of mankind. See Glossary. 57:10 *Lit.,
 "grow weary." 57:11 *Or "and hidden
 matters?"

Remove any obstacle from the way of my people.”

15 For this is what the High and Lofty One says, Who lives* forever^a and whose name is holy:^b “I reside in the high and holy place,^c

But also with those crushed and lowly in spirit, To revive the spirit of the lowly

And to revive the heart of those being crushed.^d

16 For I will not oppose them forever Or always remain indignant;^e For a man’s spirit would grow feeble because of me,^f

Even the breathing creatures that I have made.

17 I was indignant at his sinful pursuit of dishonest gain,^g So I struck him, I hid my face, and I was indignant. But he kept walking as a renegade,^h following the way of his heart.

18 I have seen his ways, But I will heal himⁱ and lead him^j And restore* comfort to him^k and to his mourning ones.”^l

19 “I am creating the fruit of the lips. Continuous peace will be given to the one who is far away and the one who is near,”^m says Jehovah, “And I will heal him.”

20 “But the wicked are like the restless sea that cannot calm down, And its waters keep tossing up seaweed and mire.

21 There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”ⁿ

57:15 *Or “resides.” 57:18 *Or “make compensation with.”

CHAP. 57

a Ge 21:33
Ps 90:2
Isa 40:28
1Ti 1:17

b Ex 15:11
Lu 1:46, 49

c 1Ki 8:27

d Ps 34:18
Ps 147:3
Isa 61:1
Isa 66:2

e Ps 103:9
Mic 7:18

f Job 34:14, 15

g Jer 6:13
Jer 8:10

h Jer 3:14

i Jer 33:6
Ho 14:4

j Isa 49:10

k Isa 12:1

l Isa 61:2
La 1:4

m Isa 48:18
Eph 2:17

n Pr 13:9
Isa 3:11

Second Col.

CHAP. 58

a Isa 1:2
Isa 31:6
Isa 59:13

b Isa 29:13
Eze 33:32

c Isa 1:14, 15

d Mal 3:14

e Le 16:29

f Jer 34:15, 16
Mic 3:2-4

58 “Call out full-throated; do not hold back!

Raise your voice like a horn. Proclaim to my people their revolt,^a

To the house of Jacob their sins.

2 They seek me day after day, And they express delight to know my ways, As if they were a nation that had practiced righteousness

And had not abandoned the justice of their God.^b

They ask me for righteous judgments, Delighting to draw close to God:^c

3 ‘Why do you not see when we fast?’^d

And why do you not notice when we afflict ourselves?’^e

Because on the day of your fast, you pursue your own interests.^f

And you oppress your laborers.^f

4 Your fasting ends in quarrels and fights, And you strike with the fist of wickedness.

You cannot fast as you do today and have your voice heard in heaven.

5 Should the fast that I choose be like this, As a day for someone to afflict himself,^g

To bow down his head like a rush,

To make his bed on sackcloth and ashes?

Is this what you call a fast and a day pleasing to Jehovah?

6 No, this is the fast that I choose:

58:3 *Or “our soul?” #Or “delight.” 58:5 *Or “his soul.”

- Song 20 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Christ Suffered for Us”:** (10 min.)
Isa 53:3-5—He was despised, and he was crushed for our errors (w09 1/15 26 ¶3-5)
Isa 53:7, 8—He willingly sacrificed his life for us (w09 1/15 27 ¶10)
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Isa 54:1—Who is the “barren woman” mentioned in this prophecy, and who are her “sons”? (w06 3/15 11 ¶12)

Isa 57:15—In what sense does Jehovah “reside” with those who are “crushed” and “lowly”? (w05 10/15 26 ¶3)

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) Isa 57:1-11

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) *If*—Lay the groundwork for a return visit.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) *If* 30-31—Lay the groundwork for the next visit.
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) *bh* 14-15 ¶16-17—If available, have a father study with his minor son or daughter.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 5
- **“Help Your Children to Develop Unshakable Faith in the Creator”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *What Your Peers Say—Belief in God* (video category TEENAGERS).
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ISAIAH 52-57 | Christ Suffered for Us



53:3-5

“He was despised and was avoided by men . . . We considered him as plagued, stricken by God and afflicted”

- Jesus was despised and charged with blasphemy. Some believed that God was punishing him, as if plaguing him with a loathsome disease

53:10

“It was Jehovah’s will to crush him, . . . and through him the delight of Jehovah will have success”

- Jehovah no doubt suffered when he saw his Son put to death. But he delighted to see Jesus’ absolute faithfulness. Jesus’ death provided an answer to Satan’s challenge regarding the loyalty of God’s servants and brought benefits to repentant humans. It thus helped to accomplish “Jehovah’s will”

February 13-19

Treasures From God's Word

Isaiah 53:3-5—He was despised, and he was crushed for our errors

Reference: w09 1/15 26 paragraphs 3-5.

“Despised” and Held “as of No Account”

3 *Read Isaiah 53:3.* Just imagine what it must have meant for the only-begotten Son of God to forgo the joy of serving at his Father's side and come to earth to give his life in sacrifice to save mankind from sin and death! (**Philippians 2:5-8**) His sacrifice was to accomplish real forgiveness of sins, which the offering of animal sacrifices under the Mosaic Law only foreshadowed. (**Hebrews 10:1-4**) Should he not have been welcomed and honored, at least by the Jews, who were awaiting the promised Messiah? (John 6:14) Instead, the Christ was “despised” by the Jews, and they “held him as of no account,” as Isaiah had prophesied. The apostle John wrote: “He came to his own home, but his own people did not take him in.” (John 1:11) The apostle Peter told the Jews: “The God of our forefathers . . . has glorified his Servant, Jesus, whom you, for your part, delivered up and disowned before Pilate's face, when he had decided to release him. Yes, you disowned that holy and righteous one.”—**Acts 3:13, 14.**

4 Isaiah also prophesied that Jesus was meant to have “acquaintance with sickness.” During his ministry, Jesus certainly got tired on occasion, but there is no indication that he got sick. (John 4:6) He did, however, become acquainted with the sicknesses of those to whom he preached. He felt pity for them and healed many. (Mark 1:32-34) Jesus thus fulfilled the prophecy that states: “Truly our sicknesses were what he himself carried; and as for our pains, he bore them.”—**Isaiah 53:4a; Matthew 8:16, 17.**

As if “Stricken by God”

5 *Read Isaiah 53:4b.* Many of Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the reason for his suffering and death. They believed that God was punishing him, as if plaguing him with a loathsome disease. (**Matthew 27:38-44**) The Jews charged Jesus with blasphemy. (Mark 14:61-64; John 10:33) Of course, Jesus was neither a sinner nor a blasphemer. But in view of his great love for his Father, the very idea that he was to die accused of blasphemy must have added to his suffering as Jehovah's Servant. Nevertheless, he was willing to submit to Jehovah's will.—**Matthew 26:39.**

Isaiah 53:7, 8—He willingly sacrificed his life for us

Reference: w09 1/15 27 paragraph 10.

Read Isaiah 53:7, 8. When John the Baptizer saw Jesus approaching, he exclaimed: “See, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) In speaking of Jesus as a Lamb, John may have had in mind the words of Isaiah: “He was being brought just like a lamb to the slaughtering.” (**Isaiah 53:7, footnote**) “He poured out his soul to the very death,” prophesied Isaiah. (**Isaiah 53:12**) Interestingly, on the night when Jesus instituted the Memorial of his death, he gave a cup of wine to the 11 faithful apostles and stated: “This means my ‘blood of the covenant,’ which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins.”—**Matthew 26:28.**

Isaiah 53:11, 12—We can have a righteous standing because he remained faithful until death

Reference: w09 1/15 28 **paragraph 13**.

Read Isaiah 53:11, 12. Of his chosen Servant, Jehovah stated: “The righteous one, my servant, will bring a righteous standing to many people.” In what way? The end of verse 12 gives us a clue to the answer. “And for the transgressors he [the Servant] proceeded to interpose.” All of Adam’s descendants are born sinners, “transgressors,” and therefore receive “the wages sin pays,” namely, death. (**Romans 5:12; 6:23**) Reconciliation between Jehovah and sinful man is necessary. Chapter 53 of Isaiah’s prophecy describes beautifully how Jesus ‘interposed,’ or interceded, on behalf of sinful mankind, stating: “The chastisement meant for our peace was upon him, and because of his wounds there has been a healing for us.”—**Isaiah 53:5**.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Isaiah 54:1—Who is the “barren woman” mentioned in this prophecy, and who are her “sons”?

Reference: w06 3/15 11 **paragraph 2**.

Whom, then, did “the free woman” Sarah and her son, Isaac, represent? Paul indicated that Sarah, the “barren woman,” symbolized God’s wife, the heavenly part of his organization. This heavenly woman was barren in that before Jesus came she had no spirit-anointed “children” on the earth. (**Galatians 4:27; Isaiah 54:1-6**) However, at Pentecost 33 C.E., holy spirit was poured out on a group of men and women who were thus born again as children of this heavenly woman. The children produced by this organization were adopted as sons of God and became joint heirs with Jesus Christ under a new covenant relationship. (**Romans 8:15-17**) One of these children, the apostle Paul, could write: “The Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.”—**Galatians 4:26**.

Isaiah 57:15—In what sense does Jehovah “reside” with those who are “crushed” and “lowly”?

Reference: w05 10/15 26 **paragraph 3**.

Jehovah is unsearchably great and lofty, yet “his eyes are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him.” (**2 Chronicles 16:9**) And what does Jehovah do when he finds lowly worshippers who are crushed in spirit as a result of various trials? In a sense, he “is residing” with such ones by means of his holy spirit “to revive the spirit of the lowly ones and to revive the heart of the ones being crushed.” (**Isaiah 57:15**) Thus, his revived worshippers are better able to resume serving him with rejoicing. What humility on God’s part!

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ISAIAH 52-57 | Christ Suffered for Us



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- Jehovah no doubt suffered when he saw his Son put to death. But he delighted to see Jesus’ absolute faithfulness. Jesus’ death provided an answer to Satan’s challenge regarding the loyalty of God’s servants and brought benefits to repentant humans. It thus helped to accomplish “Jehovah’s will”

appears thousands of times in ancient Bible manuscripts. So Jehovah wants you to know his name and to use it. In a sense, he is using the Bible to introduce himself to you.

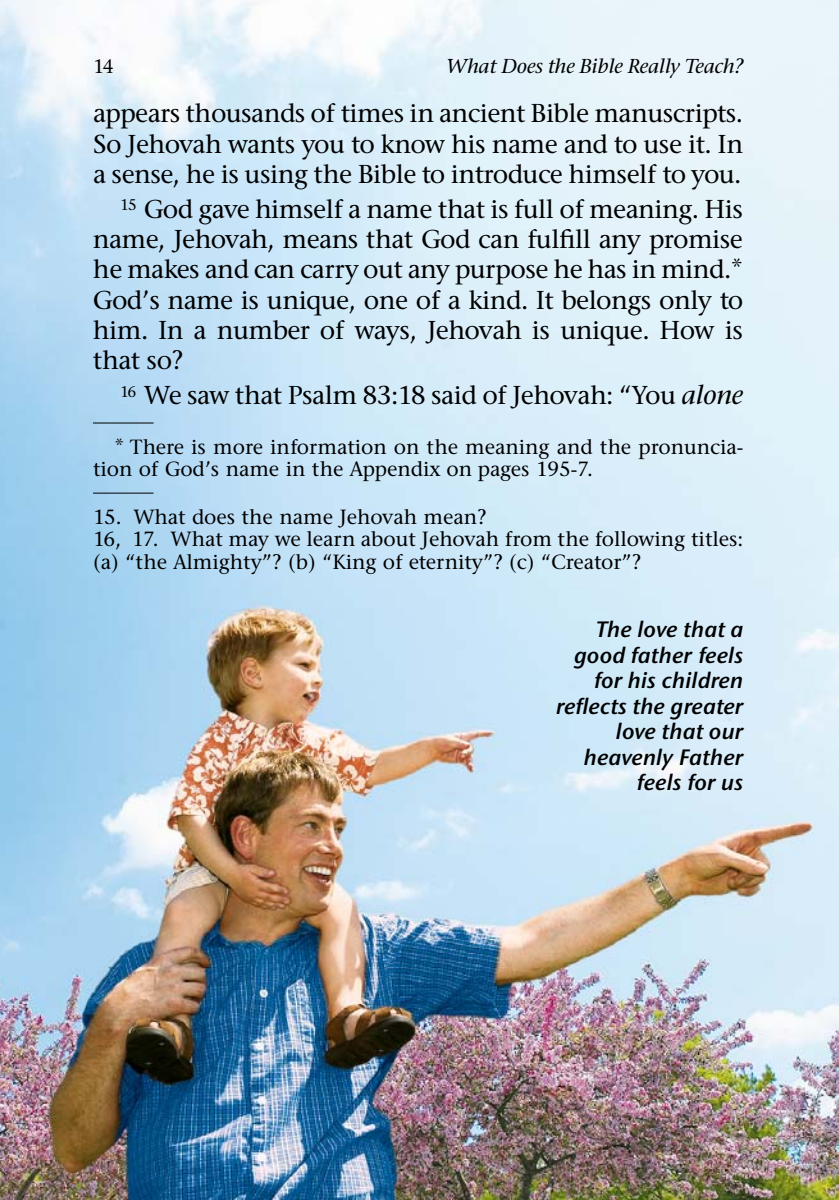
¹⁵ God gave himself a name that is full of meaning. His name, Jehovah, means that God can fulfill any promise he makes and can carry out any purpose he has in mind.* God's name is unique, one of a kind. It belongs only to him. In a number of ways, Jehovah is unique. How is that so?

¹⁶ We saw that Psalm 83:18 said of Jehovah: "You *alone*

* There is more information on the meaning and the pronunciation of God's name in the Appendix on pages 195-7.

15. What does the name Jehovah mean?

16, 17. What may we learn about Jehovah from the following titles: (a) "the Almighty"? (b) "King of eternity"? (c) "Creator"?



*The love that a
good father feels
for his children
reflects the greater
love that our
heavenly Father
feels for us*

are the Most High.” Similarly, Jehovah alone is referred to as “the Almighty.” Revelation 15:3 says: “Great and wonderful are your works, Jehovah God, the Almighty. Righteous and true are your ways, King of eternity.” The title “the Almighty” teaches us that Jehovah is the most powerful being there is. His power is unmatched; it is supreme. And the title “King of eternity” reminds us that Jehovah is unique in another sense. He alone has always existed. Psalm 90:2 says: “Even from time indefinite to time indefinite [or, forever] you are God.” That thought inspires awe, does it not?

¹⁷ Jehovah is also unique in that he alone is the Creator. Revelation 4:11 reads: “You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created.” Everything that you can think of—from the invisible spirit creatures in heaven to the stars that fill the night sky to the fruit that grows on the trees to the fish that swim in the oceans and rivers—all of it exists because Jehovah is the Creator!

CAN YOU BE CLOSE TO JEHOVAH?

¹⁸ Reading about Jehovah’s awe-inspiring qualities makes some people feel a little uneasy. They fear that God is too high for them, that they could never get close to him or even matter to such a lofty God. But is this idea correct? The Bible teaches just the opposite. It says of Jehovah: “In fact, he is not far off from each one of us.” (Acts 17:27) The Bible even urges us: “Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you.”—James 4:8.

18. Why do some people feel that they could never get close to God, but what does the Bible teach?

God's Wondrous Works

(Psalm 139)

D Em7 Dma7/F# G6 D/F#

O God, you know my rest and wak - ing, When I lie

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody is primarily quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: D, Em7, Dma7/F#, G6, and D/F#.

Em7 D/F# G6 A Asus4 A D/F#

down and when I rise a - new. You search my

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff includes the label 'R.H.' above the first measure. Chord symbols are: Em7, D/F#, G6, A, Asus4, A, and D/F#.

G6 Gma7 Gm D/F# Bm A6 D/A

thoughts, my in - most in - cli - na - tion, The words I

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are: G6, Gma7, Gm, D/F#, Bm, A6, and D/A.

G D/F# Em7 A F#m/A

speak, the ways I walk, you know them too. You

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are: G, D/F#, Em7, A, and F#m/A.

D Em7 Dma7/F# G6 D/F#

saw when I was made in se - cret, My ve - ry

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music on the page. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are: D, Em7, Dma7/F#, G6, and D/F#.

God's Wondrous Works

Em7 D/F# G6 A Asus4 A D/F#

bones not hid - den from your sight. You saw my

R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'bones not hid - den from your sight. You saw my'.

G6 Gma7 Gm D/F# Bm A6 D/A

form; its parts were down in writ - ing. I love the

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'form; its parts were down in writ - ing. I love the'.

G D/F# Em7 G/A D A/C# D D/F#

won - der of your ways and praise your might. Your knowl - edge,

R.H.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'won - der of your ways and praise your might. Your knowl - edge,'.

G D/F# G D/F# D A D A/C# D D/F#

God, is won - drous, awe - in - spir - ing; Of this my

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'God, is won - drous, awe - in - spir - ing; Of this my'.

G D/F# D Bm A A/C# D D/F#

soul is ve - ry well - a - ware. If I should

Detailed description: This system contains the ninth and tenth lines of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef. The music consists of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'soul is ve - ry well - a - ware. If I should'.

God's Wondrous Works

G D/F# G D/F# D A Bm

fear that dark - ness might en - fold me, Your spir - it,

Em Bm/F# G6 Gma7 G6 F# F#/E D Em7 Dma7/F# G6

God, would find me, e - ven there. Where could I hide from you, Je -

D/F# Em7 D/F# G6

ho - vah, Or be con - cealed, be hid - den from your

A Asus4 A D/F# G6 Gma7 Gm

face? Not in the Grave nor in the high - est

D/F# Bm A6 D/A G D/F# Em7 G/A D

heav - en, Not in the dark nor in the sea; there is no place.

(See also Ps. 66:3; 94:19; Jer. 17:10.)

Help Your Children to Develop Unshakable Faith in the Creator



Creation declares Jehovah's glory. (Ps 19:1-4; 139:14) However, the Devil's world promotes God-dishonoring theories about the origin of life. (Ro 1:18-25) How can you prevent such ideas from taking root in the mind and heart of your children? Help them from an early age to develop faith that Jehovah exists and cares about them personally. (2Co 10:4, 5; Eph 6:16) Draw out their deepest thoughts about what they are taught at school, and use the many tools available to reach their heart.—Pr 20:5; Jas 1:19.

WATCH THE VIDEO *WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY—BELIEF IN GOD, AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

- What is a common myth about belief in God?

- What is taught in your school?

- What convinces you that Jehovah exists?

- How might you help someone to reason that God created all things?



The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking

This brochure was designed particularly to help Witness youths who are taught evolution in school. It may also be given to those who want an in-depth discussion about evidence of a Creator.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AVAILABLE:

- JW.ORG series “My Bible Lessons” (Ages 3 and under)
- Video *Become Jehovah’s Friend* —“Jehovah . . . Created All Things”
- *Awake!* series “Was It Designed?”
- JW.ORG worksheet “Why Do I Believe in God?”
- JW.ORG series “Creation or Evolution?” (four parts)
- JW Broadcasting video series “Viewpoints on the Origin of Life”
- Video *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God’s Glory*
- Brochure *Was Life Created?*
- Book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?*



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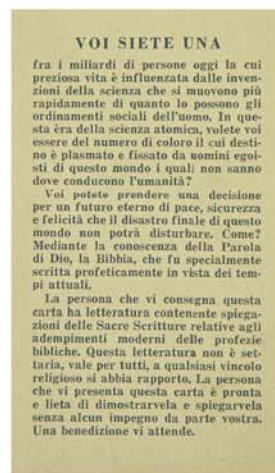
phonograph work still lacked the teaching aspect of the ministry, the ability to touch the hearts of people.”

6 Testimony cards. Beginning in 1933, publishers were encouraged to use testimony cards in their door-to-door ministry. A testimony card was about three by five inches in size. It contained a brief Bible message and a description of Bible-based literature that the householder could obtain. A publisher would simply hand the card to the householder and ask him to read it. “I welcomed the testimony card work,” said Lilian Kammerud, who eventually served as a missionary in Puerto Rico and Argentina. Why was that? “Not all of us could give a good presentation,” she said. “So it helped me get accustomed to approaching people.”

7 Brother David Reusch, who was baptized in 1918, observed, “Testimony cards helped the brothers, for very few felt that they were able to say the right thing.” This tool had its limits, though. “Sometimes,” said Brother Reusch, “we met people who thought we could not speak. In a sense, many of us were not able to speak. But Jehovah was preparing us to meet the public as his ministers. Soon he would put words in our mouth by teaching us to use the Scriptures at the door. This was accomplished through the Theocratic Ministry School that began in the 1940’s.”
—**Read Jeremiah 1:6-9.**

8 Books. Since 1914, Jehovah’s people have produced over 100 different books that discuss Bible topics. Some of those books were specifically designed to train publishers to be effective ministers. Anna Larsen, in Denmark, who has been a publisher for some 70 years, says: “Jehovah helped us to be more effective publishers by means of the Theocratic Ministry School and the associated books we received. I remember that the first of those books was the *Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers*, released in 1945. It was followed by “*Equipped for Every Good Work*,” published in 1946. Now we have *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*, published in 2001.” Certainly, the Theocratic Ministry School and related books have played a key role as Jehovah has “adequately qualified us to be ministers.” (2 Cor. 3:5, 6) Are you enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School? Do you bring the *Ministry School* book to the meeting each week and follow along as the school overseer refers to it? If you do, you will be allowing Christ to train you to be a better teacher.—2 Cor. 9:6; 2 Tim. 2:15.

- 6, 7. (a) What were the benefits and the limitations of using testimony cards?
- (b) In what sense has Jehovah ‘put words in our mouths’?
8. How can you allow Christ to train you?



Testimony card
(Italian)

9, 10. What role have books played in planting and watering seeds of truth?

11, 12. In harmony with the cited scriptures, what audiences were our magazines designed to reach?

⁹ Jehovah has also assisted us by having his organization provide books that help publishers to explain basic Bible teachings. *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* was a particularly effective book. It was first published in 1968 and had an immediate impact. “Demand for the *Truth* book has been so heavy,” stated the November 1968 *Kingdom Ministry*, “that in September the Society’s Brooklyn factory added a special night shift.” The article went on to explain: “At one time during August the demand for *Truth* books exceeded the supply by over one and a half million copies!” By 1982, over 100 million copies of the book had been published in 116 languages. In the 14 years from 1968 to 1982, the *Truth* book helped to add over one million Kingdom publishers to our ranks.^[2]

¹⁰ In 2005, another outstanding Bible study aid, *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*, was released. Some 200 million copies have already been published in 256 languages! With what effect? In just seven years, from 2005 to 2012, about 1.2 million people became publishers of the good news. During that same period, the number of people studying the Bible with us climbed from about 6 million to more than 8.7 million. Without a doubt, Jehovah is blessing our efforts to plant and water seeds of Kingdom truth.—**Read 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7.**

¹¹ **Magazines.** Originally, the target audience for *The Watch Tower* was primarily the “little flock,” those with “the heavenly calling.” (Luke 12:32; Heb. 3:1) On October 1, 1919, Jehovah’s organization released another magazine, which was designed to appeal to a different audience, the public. That magazine became so popular with the Bible Students and the public that for many years its circulation was far greater than that of *The Watch Tower*. That magazine was first named *The Golden Age*. In 1937, the name was changed to *Consolation*. Then, in 1946, it became known as *Awake!*

¹² Over the decades, the style and format of *The Watchtower* and the *Awake!* have changed, but the purpose has remained the same—to advertise God’s Kingdom and build faith in the Bible. Today, *The Watchtower* is produced in a study edition and a public edition. The “domestics” are the intended audience for the study edition—that is, both the “little flock” and the “other sheep.”^[3] (Matt. 24:45; John 10:16) The public edition is prepared especially for those who do not yet know the truth but who have a respect for the Bible and for God. (Acts 13:16) *Awake!* focuses on those

FOOTNOTES

[2] Some other Bible study aids that have helped publishers teach Bible truth are *The Harp of God* (published in 1921), “*Let God Be True*” (published in 1946), *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (published in 1982), and *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* (published in 1995).

[3] See the July 15, 2013, issue of *The Watchtower*, page 23, paragraph 13, which discusses our clarified understanding of who make up the “domestics.”

WORLD RECORDS FOR PUBLICATIONS

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOOKS PUBLISHED

Bible

Over 5 billion

All Bible translations (in whole or in part) combined^[1]



King James Version^[2]



1 billion

New International Version^[3]



Over 400 million

New World Translation^[4]



Over 201 million

Other books

Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-tung^[1]



Estimated at more than 1 billion

What Does the Bible Really Teach?^[4]



Over 201 million

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES INTO WHICH A TEXT IS TRANSLATED

Listen to God and Live Forever^[4]



477

Universal Declaration of Human Rights^[5]



413

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!^[4]



359

Would You Like to Know the Truth?^[4] (tract)



364

MOST PUBLISHED AND WIDELY TRANSLATED MAGAZINES

The Watchtower^[4]



45.9 million per month in 212 languages

Awake!^[4]



44.7 million per month in 99 languages

AARP *The Magazine*^[6]



22 million bimonthly in English only

Liahona^[7]



About 500,000; at times, nearly 50 languages

[1] Source: Guinness World Records

[2] Source: King James Bible Trust

[3] Source: Biblica Fact Sheet

[4] Published by Jehovah's Witnesses, as of January 2014

[5] Source: United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Web site, as of October 2013

[6] Source: AARP

[7] Published by the Mormons

13. What do you find remarkable about our magazines? (Discuss the chart “World Records for Publications.”)

14. What have we zealously promoted, and why?

15, 16. (a) What do you appreciate about the *New World Translation*? (Discuss the box “Speeding Up Bible Translation.”) (b) How can you allow Jehovah to touch your heart?

who know little about the Bible and the true God, Jehovah.—Acts 17:22, 23.

13 By the beginning of 2014, each month more than 44 million copies of *Awake!* and some 46 million copies of *The Watchtower* were published. *Awake!* was translated into some 100 languages, and *The Watchtower*, into over 200, which made them the most widely translated and distributed magazines on earth! As remarkable as those achievements are, they should not surprise us. These magazines contain the message that Jesus said would be preached in all the inhabited earth.—Matt. 24:14.

14 The Bible. In 1896, Brother Russell and his associates changed the name of the corporation they used to publish literature so that it included the word Bible; it became known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. That change was appropriate because the Bible has always been the primary tool for spreading the good news about the Kingdom. (Luke 24:27) In harmony with the legal corporation’s name, God’s servants have zealously promoted the distribution and reading of the Bible. For example, in 1926, we printed on our own presses *The Emphatic Diaglott*, a translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures produced by Benjamin Wilson. Beginning in 1942, we printed and distributed some 700,000 copies of the entire *King James Version*. Just two years later, we began printing the *American Standard Version*, which uses Jehovah’s name in 6,823 places. By 1950, we had distributed over 250,000 copies.

15 The year 1950 saw the release of the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures*. The complete *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was released in one volume in 1961. This translation honors Jehovah by restoring his name to the locations where it appeared in the original Hebrew text. The divine name also appears 237 times in the main text of the Christian Greek Scriptures. To ensure that it is as accurate and readable as possible, the *New World Translation* has been revised several times, most recently in 2013. As of 2013, more than 201 million copies of the *New World Translation* have been published in whole or in part in 121 languages.

16 How have some responded to reading the *New World Translation* in their own language? A Nepali man said: “For many, the old Nepalese translation that we had was difficult to understand, since it used classical language. But now we can understand the Bible so much better, as it uses the language of everyday life.” When a woman in the

Come to Jehovah's Mountain

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

B \flat Gm Cm/E \flat F B \flat /D F7/C B \flat F/A Gm C F F/E \flat

Raise your eyes up and see, Far a - bove the high - est hill.
Je - sus gave the com - mand To go forth and preach the word.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat Fm/A \flat G7 G+5/F Cm/E \flat E \flat m6 B \flat /D Gm7 Cm7 F

There stands Je - ho - vah's moun - tain Lift - ed up in this day.
Good news a - bout the King - dom Reach - es all men to - day.

B \flat Gm Cm/E \flat F B \flat /D F7/C B \flat F/A Gm C F F/E \flat

Peo - ple come from a - far, Ev - 'ry - where from sea to sea,
Christ now rules from a - bove, Urg - ing all to take his side.

B \flat /D Cm11 B \flat Fm/A \flat G7 G+5/F Cm/E \flat E \flat m6 B \flat /D Gm7 Cm7 F7 B \flat

Call - ing to one an - oth - er, 'Come serve God and o - bey.' Now the
Meek ones who hear his voice Let God's Word show them the way. It brings

Come to Jehovah's Mountain

Eb/Bb
Bbma7
Eb/Bb
Bbma7

time has ar-rived For the small, a great na-tion to be. As we
 joy to the heart, As the great crowd con-tin-ues to grow. And we

Eb/Bb
Dsus4
D
Gm
Gb7
F

grow and we thrive, God's di-rec-tion and bless-ing we see.
 all have a part, As we strive to let ev-'ry-one know.

Bb
Gm
Cm/Eb
F
Bb/D F7/C
Bb
F/A
Gm
C
F
F/Eb

Mil-lions now come to God And ac-cept his sov-'reign-ty.
 Let us lift up the voice, Call-ing out for all to hear,

Bb/D Cm11
Bb
Fm/Ab
G7
G+5/F
Cm/Eb
Eb6
Bb/D
Gm7
Cm7
F7
Bb

Loy-al they vow to be And from his side nev-er stray.
 'Come to Je-ho-vah's moun-tain, Here for-ev-er to stay.'

(See also Ps. 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 60:22; Acts 16:5.)

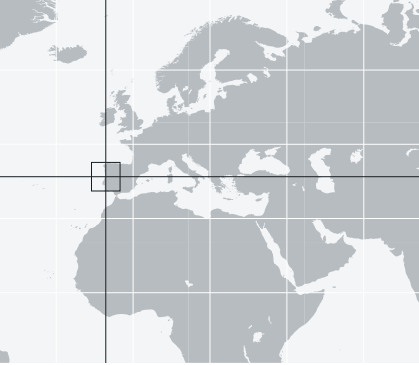
DECEMBER 2016

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 26, 2017



COVER IMAGE:
PORTUGAL

Many tourists come to the city of Aveiro in northern Portugal to see the interesting salt evaporation ponds. Local Witnesses make sure to offer the good news to those who sell the locally produced salt

PUBLISHERS
48,840

BIBLE STUDIES
28,687

MEMORIAL ATTENDANCE
(2015)
91,472

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Becoming “All Things
to People of All Sorts”

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By Undeserved Kindness
You Were Set Free

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‘Setting Your Mind on the Spirit
Means Life and Peace’

In Romans chapters 6 and 8, we find vital information related to our life as Christians. Studying that material can help us to benefit from God’s undeserved kindness and to maintain our focus on what will result in our everlasting good.

18 DO YOU REMEMBER?

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FOR *THE WATCHTOWER* 2016

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

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THE WATCHTOWER®
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) Issue 18 December 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.

December 2016
Vol. 137, No. 18 ENGLISH

He Will Make You Strong

(1 Peter 5:10)

D Bm G A D

There was a rea - son why God brought the truth to you And
God gave his own be - lov - ed Son in your be - half; On

G A Bm Em7 Asus4 A

called you from the dark - ness to the light. With - in your
this ac - count, He wants you to suc - ceed. If He did

D Bm G Em/G F#sus4 F#

heart, he saw the long - ing that you had To
not with - hold the gift of His dear Son, Then

Bm9 Bm Bm9/A Bm/A G

search for him and prac - tice what is right. You
nev - er doubt He'll give the strength you need. He

He Will Make You Strong

G D/F# Em Em/D

prom - ised him in prayer to do his will; He
won't for - get the faith and love you've shown; He

Em/C# F#7+5 Bm D/A G Dma7/F# Em11 A7sus4 *Chorus*

helped you then, and he will help you still. With
will not fail to care for all His own.

D Em11 D/F# G D/F#

Je - sus' blood He bought you, to God you now be - long. So

Em/C# F#7 Bm D/E E7 G/A A7

he will make you firm, and he will make you strong. He'll

He Will Make You Strong

D A/C# Bm7 D/A A/G G Dadd9/F#

guide you and pro - tect you, as he has all a - long. Yes,

This system of music features a treble and bass clef in the key of D major. The treble clef contains a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with notes D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: D, A/C#, Bm7, D/A, A/G, G, and Dadd9/F#.

Gadd9/B Gm/Bb D/A A7sus4 A7

he will make you firm, and he will make you

This system continues the melody from the first system. The treble clef notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The bass clef accompaniment includes notes D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, and C4. Chord symbols above the treble staff are Gadd9/B, Gm/Bb, D/A, A7sus4, and A7.

D

strong.

This system concludes the piece with a final D chord in the treble clef, indicated by a long horizontal line and a fermata. The bass clef accompaniment consists of notes D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, and C4.



Throw All Your Anxiety on Jehovah

“Throw all your anxiety on [Jehovah], because he cares for you.”

—1 PET. 5:7.

WE LIVE in very stressful times. Satan the Devil is bitterly angry and “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.” (1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:17) Therefore, it is not surprising that at times even we, God’s servants, experience some feelings of anxiety. After all, on occasion, God-fearing servants of Jehovah in the past, such as King David, had “anxious concern.” (Ps. 13:2) Recall, too, that the apostle Paul experienced “anxiety for all the congregations.” (2 Cor. 11:28) But what can we do when we are overwhelmed by feelings of anxiety?

² Our loving heavenly Father came to the aid of his servants in the past, and today he makes it possible for us to gain considerable relief from distress or anxiety. The Bible urges us: “Throw all your anxiety [“cares; worries,” ftn.] on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Pet. 5:7) How, though, can you do that? Let us consider four ways that you can do so—by means of heartfelt prayer, by reading God’s Word and meditating on

1, 2. (a) Why should we not be surprised when we experience some anxiety? (See opening picture.) (b) What will we consider in this article?

SONGS: 38, 7

CAN YOU EXPLAIN?

How can God’s Word relieve our anxiety?

How can you experience “the peace of God”?

How can the congregation help you to reduce anxiety?

it, by tapping into Jehovah’s holy spirit, and by sharing your feelings with a trusted confidant. As we examine these four ways, see if you can identify practical steps that you want to take.

“THROW YOUR BURDEN ON JEHOVAH”

³ A first step we can take is to approach Jehovah in earnest prayer. When you are confronted by situations that cause uneasiness, apprehension, or anxiety, pour out your heart to your loving heavenly Father. The psalmist David begged Jehovah: “Listen to my prayer, O God.” Then in the same psalm, he said: “Throw your burden on Jehovah, and he will sustain you.” (Ps. 55:1, 22) After you have done all you can to solve a problem, heartfelt prayer will certainly accomplish more than worry. But how can prayer help you to avoid becoming overwhelmed by disquieting thoughts and anguish?—Ps. 94: 18, 19, fn.

⁴ **Read Philippians 4:6, 7.** Jehovah can respond to our earnest, heartfelt, and persistent supplications. How? By giving us inner calm that can free our mind and heart of disturbing emotions. Many can testify to this, based on their own experience. In place of anxiety, a distressing sense of foreboding, God helped them to gain a profound sense of peace and tranquillity that actually surpassed human understanding. That can be your experience too. Thus “the peace of God” can triumph over any challenge you may face. You can fully trust Jehovah’s compassionate promise: “Do not be anxious, for I am your God. I will

3. How can you “throw your burden on Jehovah” by means of prayer?

4. When we are anxious, why is prayer so important?

fortify you, yes, I will help you.”—Isa. 41:10.

INNER PEACE FROM GOD’S WORD

⁵ A second way to gain inner peace is by reading Bible texts and meditating on them. Why is this important? The Bible contains practical spiritual guidance that can help you to avoid, reduce, or deal with anxiety. Do not overlook the fact that God’s Word is helpful and refreshing because it contains the Creator’s own words of wisdom. As you reflect on God’s thoughts—day or night—and consider how best to use the Bible’s practical guidance, you will be greatly strengthened. Jehovah specifically linked reading his Word with being “courageous and strong” and not being “struck with terror or fear.”—Josh. 1:7-9.

⁶ In God’s Word, we find Jesus’ soothing sayings. His words and teachings were a source of refreshment to his listeners. Multitudes were drawn to him because he calmed troubled hearts, strengthened the weak, and consoled the depressed. (**Read Matthew 11:28-30.**) He showed loving consideration for others’ spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. (Mark 6:30-32) Jesus’ promise of support still applies. It can prove to be as true for you as it was for the apostles traveling with Jesus. You do not have to be in Jesus’ physical presence to benefit. As heavenly King, Jesus continues to have and show empathy. Thus, when you are anxious, he can mercifully ‘come to your aid’ and ‘help you at the right time.’ Yes, Jesus can help you to cope with distress, and he can fill your

5. How can God’s Word bring us inner peace?

6. Jesus’ words can have what positive effect on you?

heart with hope and courage.—Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:16.

GODLY QUALITIES PRODUCED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

⁷ Jesus promised that our Father in heaven will not fail to give holy spirit to those asking Him. (Luke 11:10-13) This puts at your disposal a third, powerful means to alleviate anxiety—the fruitage of the spirit. These positive qualities that are produced by God's active force reflect the very personality of the almighty God. **(Read Galatians 5:22, 23; Col. 3:10)** As you cultivate the fruitage of that spirit, your relationship with others will improve. Thus, you will find that many situations that could otherwise cause anxiety do not arise. Reflect briefly on how the fruitage of the spirit will help you.

⁸ *“Love, joy, peace.”* When you strive to deal respectfully with people, you will likely find that you are better able to deal with your own negative emotions. How is that so? Well, as you show brotherly love, tender affection, and honor, you will avoid situations that could cause anxiety.—Rom. 12:10.

⁹ *“Patience, kindness, goodness.”* You promote peaceful relationships by heeding the admonition: “Become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another.” (Eph. 4:32) In so doing, you prevent situations from developing that could otherwise cause anxiety. Also, you can deal more effectively with situations that arise because of human imperfection.

7. How will you benefit as God responds when you ask for holy spirit?

8-12. How can the fruitage of God's holy spirit help you to deal with or avoid stressful situations?

¹⁰ *“Faith.”* Today, our anxiety is often related to concern over money and material possessions. (Prov. 18:11) Accordingly, strong faith in Jehovah's loving care can help you to cope with or avoid such anxiety. How is that? You can avoid much anxiety by heeding the apostle Paul's inspired counsel to be “content with the present things.” Paul adds: “For [God] has said: ‘I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you.’ So that we may be of good courage and say: ‘Jehovah is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”—Heb. 13:5, 6.

¹¹ *“Mildness, self-control.”* Think how practical and effective it is for you to display those qualities. Thus, you will likely avoid actions that could cause anxiety for you personally, and you will benefit by avoiding “malicious bitterness, anger, wrath, screaming, and abusive speech.”—Eph. 4:31.

¹² Admittedly, you will need humility to yield to “the mighty hand of God” and to “throw all your anxiety on him.” (1 Pet. 5:6, 7) But as you cultivate humility, you will be on a path that results in God's favor and support. (Mic. 6:8) By maintaining a realistic estimate of your physical, mental, and emotional abilities, you will be less likely to become overwhelmed by anxiety, for you will be relying on God.

“NEVER BE ANXIOUS”

¹³ At **Matthew 6:34 (read)**, we find Jesus' profound advice: “Never be anxious.” It may, however, seem difficult to follow that advice. What did Jesus mean when he said: “Never be anxious”? Obviously, he could not have meant that

13. What did Jesus mean when he said: “Never be anxious”?



Some Practical Ways to Reduce Anxiety

Set appropriate priorities.

PHILIPPIANS 1:10, 11



Have realistic expectations.

ECCLESIASTES 7:16



Make room in your schedule for some quiet time each day.

MATTHEW 14:23

a servant of God would not at some point in life experience anxiety; we have already noted the words of David and of Paul on this matter. But Jesus was helping his disciples to realize that *undue*, or *extreme*, anxiety does not solve problems. Each day has its own challenges, so Christians do not need to add anxious thoughts about the past or the future to the concerns of the present. How can you apply Jesus' advice and experience relief from debilitating anxiety?

¹⁴ Some anxiety may be caused by a person's past actions or failings. He may be plagued with guilt about something he did in the past, even many years ago. At times, King David felt that his 'errors loomed over his head.' He admitted: "My anguished heart makes me groan aloud." (Ps. 38:3, 4, 8, 18) In that situation, what was the wise thing for David to do? What did he do? He trusted in Jehovah's mercy and forgiveness. With conviction he said: "Happy is the one whose transgression is pardoned." —**Read Psalm 32:1-3, 5.**

¹⁵ At other times, you may become anxious about the present. For instance, when David wrote Psalm 55, he feared

14. How can you deal with anxiety about your past?

15. (a) Why should you not be anxious about the present? (b) What practical steps can you take to reduce anxiety? (See the box "Some Practical Ways to Reduce Anxiety.")

for his life. (Ps. 55:2-5) Nevertheless, he did not allow anxiety to destroy his confidence in Jehovah. David made his problems a subject of fervent prayer, but he also understood the value of taking practical steps to deal with the cause of the anxiety. (2 Sam. 15:30-34) Learn a lesson from David. Instead of allowing anxiety to overwhelm you, take what steps you can to deal with the situation and then confidently leave matters in Jehovah's hands.

¹⁶ Unwarranted anxiety often results if a Christian agonizes over possible future problems. However, you need not be consumed by anxiety, or worry, over events that you do not know anything about. Why not? Because things often do not turn out to be as bad as we feared they might be. Moreover, there is no situation beyond the control of the God on whom you can throw all your anxiety. His very name is understood to mean "He Causes to Become." (Ex. 3:14) The profound meaning of the divine name assures us that God is fully capable of seeing to it that his purposes in behalf of his servants are carried out. You can be certain that God can reward his faithful ones and help them deal with anxiety about the past, the present, and the future.

16. How can the meaning of God's name strengthen your faith?



Enjoy Jehovah's creation.

PSALM 104:24, 25



Keep a sense of humor.

PROVERBS 17:22



Get regular exercise.

1 TIMOTHY 4:8



Get sufficient sleep.

ECCLESIASTES 4:6

HEARTFELT COMMUNICATION

¹⁷ A fourth way to help you cope with anxiety is good communication, sharing your feelings with a trusted confidant. A marriage mate, a close friend, or a congregation elder may be able to help you to put your anxiety into perspective. “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs it down, but a good word cheers it up.” (Prov. 12:25) Frank and honest communication can do much to help you to understand and deal with your concerns. The Bible tells us: “Plans fail when there is no consultation, but there is accomplishment through many advisers.”—Prov. 15:22.

¹⁸ Jehovah also helps Christians to deal with anxieties by means of weekly congregation meetings. There you can associate with fellow believers who are concerned about you and who want to encourage one another. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Such “an interchange of encouragement” will help to replenish your spiritual resources and make it easier for you to deal with any anxiety.—Rom. 1:12.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD —YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH

¹⁹ Consider how a congregation elder in Canada learned the value of throwing his anxiety on Jehovah. He has a high-

17, 18. How can good communication help you to cope with anxiety?

19. Why can you be confident that your relationship with God will strengthen you?

stress job as a schoolteacher and counselor, and he also has had to deal with an anxiety disorder. How has this brother coped? “Above all,” he explains, “I find that working hard to fortify my relationship with Jehovah gives me the greatest strength to cope with emotional difficulties. The support of true friends and spiritual brothers is vital in times of distress. I am open and honest with my wife about my feelings. Fellow elders and our circuit overseer were invaluable in helping me put things into perspective. I also sought medical help, made changes in the way I managed my time, and set aside time to relax and exercise. Gradually, I began to feel more in control. When there are things that I cannot control, I leave matters in Jehovah’s hands.”

²⁰ In summary, we have noted the value of throwing our anxiety on God by means of heartfelt prayer and by reading his Word and meditating on it. We also considered the value of cultivating the fruitage of his spirit, sharing our feelings with a trusted confidant, and drawing strength from upbuilding Christian association. The next article will discuss how Jehovah further sustains us by providing us with the hope of a reward.—Heb. 11:6.

20. (a) How can we throw our anxiety on God? (b) What will we discuss in the following article?

Jehovah, Our Strength

(Isaiah 12:2)

C G/B C G7/D C/G G C C° C

Gra - cious Je - ho - vah, our strength and our might,
 We who now serve you re - joice in your light;
 Glad - ly, O God, we keep do - ing your will.

G7 C/G G C G/B Am G/D C/D D G

You are our Sav - ior, in you we de - light.
 Eyes that are o - pened now see truth and right.
 Though Sa - tan mocks us, we're trust - ing you still.

C G/B C G7/D C/G E7/G# Am E7/G# Am

We are your Wit - ness - es bear - ing your news,
 Search - ing the Scrip - tures, we hear your com - mand;
 Though he may slay us, oh, help us to be

E/B Am/C G/D B7/D# Em A7 D7 G Chorus G7

Wheth - er men hear or they proud - ly re - fuse.
 Mak - ing our choice, for your King - dom we stand. Je -
 Firm to the end for your grand Sov - 'reign - ty.

Jehovah, Our Strength

C F/C C C/E F C/E F C

ho - vah, our Rock, Our strength and our might,

G B° Am/C E7/B Am G/D D7 G

Your name we make known Both day and night.

C G7/F C/E G7/D C G/F C/E G7/D C F

Glo - rious Je - ho - vah, Al - might - y in pow'r,

F#° C/G C#° Dm C/G G C

You are our hid - ing place; You are our Tow'r.

(See also 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 18:2; Isa. 43:12.)