

- Song 108 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- “Jehovah Delights in Loyal Love—Do You?”: (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Hosea*.]
Ho 6:4, 5—Jehovah was displeased by the Israelites’ lack of loyal love (w10 8/15 25 ¶18)
Ho 6:6—Jehovah is pleased when we show loyal love (w07 9/15 16 ¶8; w07 6/15 27 ¶7)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ho 1:7—When was the house of Judah shown mercy and saved? (w07 9/15 14 ¶7)

Ho 2:18—What are the past and future fulfillments of this verse? (w05 11/15 20 ¶16; g05 9/8 12 ¶2)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ho 7:1-16

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY


- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 1Jo 5:3—Teach the Truth. Invite the person to the meetings.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) De 30:11-14; Isa 48:17, 18—Teach the Truth. Direct attention to jw.org. (See mwb16.08 8 ¶2.)
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) Iv 12-13 ¶16-18 —Show how to reach the heart.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 100
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) Talk by an elder. Give a five-minute Scriptural introduction based on the November 15, 2015, *Watchtower*, page 14, and then play the video *Tutorial for Making Donations Electronically*. After the video, show the page “How to Donate to the Worldwide Work” on jw.org, and review the options for electronic donations listed for your country.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr chap. 20 ¶1-6, boxes on pp. 211, 214
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 107 and Prayer

HOSEA 1-7 | Jehovah Delights in Loyal Love—Do You?

Loyal love is love motivated by commitment, integrity, loyalty, and deep attachment. Jehovah used the experience of Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Gomer, to teach a lesson in loyal love and forgiveness.—Ho 1:2; 2:7; 3:1-5.

 Write your answers in the spaces provided.



How did Gomer show a lack of loyal love?



How did Israel show a lack of loyal love?



How did Hosea show loyal love?

How did Jehovah show loyal love?

FOR MEDITATION: How can I show loyal love for Jehovah?

1. Loyal love! God is love.

We can sense his care from above.
 God by means of his precious Son
 Paid the ransom for ev'ryone,
 Giving hope that we might possess
 Life eternal and happiness.

(CHORUS)

*Hey there, all you thirsty ones,
 Come and drink life's water free.
 Yes, come drink, you thirsty ones;
 God's loyal love you'll see.*

2. Loyal love! God is love.

All his works give proof of his love.
 Love Jehovah has further shown,
 Giving Jesus the kingly throne.
 God's own purpose has come to pass.
 See! His Kingdom is here at last!

(Chorus)

3. Loyal love! God is love.

May his spirit move us to love.
 As we loyally help the meek,
 God's commandments they learn to keep.
 We are serving with godly fear,
 Preaching boldly for all to hear.

(Chorus)

Hosea 1-7

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Ho-se'a the son of Be-e'ri in the days of Uz-zi'ah, Jo'tham, A'haz, and Hez-e-ki'ah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jer-o-bo'am son of Jo'ash, the king of Israel. **2** When Jehovah started to speak his word through Ho-se'a, Jehovah said to Ho-se'a: "Go, marry a woman of prostitution and have children of prostitution, because by prostitution the land has turned completely away from following Jehovah."

3 So he went and married Go'mer the daughter of Dib-la'im, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 Then Jehovah said to him: "Name him Jez're-el, for in a little while I will hold an accounting against the house of Je'hu for the acts of bloodshed of Jez're-el, and I will put an end to the royal rule of the house of Israel. **5** In that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jez're-el."

6 She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And He told him: "Name her Lo-ru-ha'mah, for I will no longer show mercy to the house of Israel, because I will certainly drive them away. **7** But I will show mercy to the house of Judah, and I will save them by Jehovah their God; I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

⁸ After weaning Lo-ru-ha'mah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. ⁹ Then He said: "Name him Lo-am'mi, because you are not my people and I will not be yours.

¹⁰ "And the number of the people of Israel will be like the grains of sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' it will be said to them, 'The sons of the living God.' ¹¹ And the people of Judah and of Israel will be gathered together into unity and will choose for themselves one head and go up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jez're-el.

2 "Say to your brothers, 'My people!'
And to your sisters, 'O woman shown mercy!'

² Accuse your mother; accuse her,
For she is not my wife and I am not her husband.
She should remove her prostitution from herself
And her adultery from between her breasts,

³ Or I will strip her naked and make her as in the day
she was born,
Making her like a wilderness,
Reducing her to a waterless land,
And causing her to die of thirst.

⁴ And to her sons I will not show mercy,
For they are the sons of prostitution.

- ⁵ For their mother has committed prostitution.
She who was pregnant with them has acted shamefully, for she said,
‘I will go after my passionate lovers,
Those who give me my bread and my water,
My wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.’
- ⁶ So I will block your way with a hedge of thorns;
And I will raise up a stone wall against her,
So that she cannot find her paths.
- ⁷ She will chase after her passionate lovers, but she will not overtake them;
She will look for them, but she will not find them.
Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband,
For I was better off at that time than I am now.’
- ⁸ She did not recognize that it was I who had given her the grain, the new wine, and the oil,
And I who had given her silver in abundance
And gold, which they used for Ba'al.
- ⁹ ‘Therefore, I will return and take away my grain in its time
And my new wine in its season,
And I will snatch away my wool and my linen that were to cover her nakedness.

- ¹⁰ Now I will expose her private parts in full view of
her passionate lovers,
And no man will rescue her out of my hand.
- ¹¹ I will put an end to all her joy,
Her festivals, her new moons, her sabbaths, and
all her festive seasons.
- ¹² And I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, of which
she has said:
“These are my wages, which my passionate
lovers gave to me”;
I will turn them into a forest,
And the wild animals of the field will devour
them.
- ¹³ I will hold an accounting against her for the days
when she offered sacrifices to the Ba'al
images,
When she would adorn herself with her rings and
ornaments and would chase after her
passionate lovers,
And I was the one she forgot,' declares Jehovah.
- ¹⁴ 'So I will persuade her,
I will lead her into the wilderness,
And I will speak to win her heart.
- ¹⁵ I will give her vineyards back to her from that time
onward,

And the Valley of A'chor as a gateway to hope;
She will answer there as in the days of her
youth,
As in the day when she came out of the land of
Egypt.

- ¹⁶ And in that day,' declares Jehovah,
'You will call me My husband, and you will no
longer call me My master.'
- ¹⁷ 'I will remove the names of the Ba'al images from
her mouth,
And they will no longer be remembered by their
name.
- ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them with the
wild animals of the field,
And with the birds of the heavens and the
creeping things of the ground;
I will rid the land of the bow and the sword and
war,
And I will make them lie down in security.
- ¹⁹ I will engage myself to you forever;
And I will engage myself to you in righteousness
and in justice,
In loyal love and in mercy.
- ²⁰ I will engage myself to you in faithfulness,
And you will certainly know Jehovah.'

²¹ 'In that day I will answer,' declares Jehovah,
 'I will answer the heavens,
 And they will answer the earth;

²² And the earth will answer the grain and the new
 wine and the oil;
 And they will answer Jez're-el.

²³ I will sow her like seed for myself in the earth,
 And I will show mercy to her who was not shown
 mercy;
 I will say to those not my people: "You are my
 people,"
 And they will say: "You are my God."'''

3 Then Jehovah said to me: "Go once again, love the woman who is loved by another man and is committing adultery, just as Jehovah loves the people of Israel while they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes."

² So I purchased her for myself for 15 silver pieces and a ho'mer measure and a half of barley. ³ Then I said to her: "You will remain mine for many days. You must not commit prostitution, and you must not have relations with another man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

⁴ It is because for a long time the people of Israel will dwell without a king, without a prince, without a sacrifice, without a pillar, and without an eph'od and

teraphim statues. ⁵ Afterward the people of Israel will come back and look for Jehovah their God and for David their king, and they will come trembling to Jehovah and to his goodness in the final part of the days.

4 Hear the word of Jehovah, O people of Israel,
For Jehovah has a legal case against the
inhabitants of the land,
Because there is no truth nor loyal love nor
knowledge of God in the land.

2 False oaths and lying and murder
And stealing and adultery are widespread,
And one act of bloodshed follows another act of
bloodshed.

3 That is why the land will mourn
And every inhabitant in it will waste away;
The wild animals of the field and the birds of the
heavens,
Even the fish of the sea, will perish.

4 “However, let no man contend or reprove,
For your people are like those who contend
against a priest.

5 So you will stumble in broad daylight,
And the prophet will stumble with you, as if it
were night.

And I will silence your mother.

⁶ My people will be silenced, because there is no knowledge.

Because you have rejected knowledge,
I will also reject you from serving as my priest;
And because you have forgotten the law of your
God,
I myself will forget your sons.

⁷ The more they increased, the more they sinned
against me.

I will change their glory into disgrace.

⁸ They feed on the sin of my people,
And they are greedy for their error.

⁹ It will be the same for the people as for the priest;
I will call them to account for their ways,
And I will bring on them the consequences of
their actions.

¹⁰ They will eat but not be satisfied.
They will be promiscuous, but they will not
increase,
Because they have shown no regard for
Jehovah.

¹¹ Prostitution and wine and new wine
Take away the motivation to do what is right.

¹² My people consult their wooden idols,

Doing what their staff tells them;
Because the spirit of prostitution causes them to
go astray,
And by their prostitution they refuse to submit to
their God.

¹³ On the tops of the mountains they sacrifice,
And on the hills they make sacrifices smoke,
Under oak trees and storax trees and every big
tree,
Because their shade is good.
That is why your daughters commit prostitution
And your daughters-in-law commit adultery.

¹⁴ I will not hold an accounting against your daughters
because of their prostitution,
And against your daughters-in-law because of
their adultery.
For the men go off with the harlots
And sacrifice with the temple prostitutes;
Such a people without understanding will come
to ruin.

¹⁵ Although you are committing prostitution, O Israel,
Let not Judah become guilty.
Do not come to Gil'gal or to Beth-a'ven,
And do not swear, 'As surely as Jehovah is
alive!'

16 For like a stubborn cow, Israel has become
stubborn.
Will Jehovah now shepherd them like a young
ram in an open pasture?

17 E'phra-im is joined to idols.
Let him alone!

18 When their beer is finished,
They become promiscuous.
And her rulers dearly love dishonor.

19 The wind will wrap her in its wings,
And they will be ashamed of their sacrifices.”

5 “Hear this, you priests,
Pay attention, O house of Israel,
Listen, O house of the king,
For the judgment involves you;
Because you are a trap to Miz'pah
And a net spread over Ta'bor.

2 And those falling away have sunk deep in
slaughter,
And I am warning all of them.

3 I know E'phra-im,
And Israel is not hidden from me.
For now, O E'phra-im, you have acted
promiscuously;
Israel has defiled itself.

- ⁴ Their dealings do not permit them to return to their
God,
Because there is a spirit of prostitution among
them;
And Jehovah they do not acknowledge.
- ⁵ The pride of Israel has testified against him;
Both Israel and E'phra-im have stumbled in their
error,
And Judah has stumbled with them.
- ⁶ With their flock and their herd they went to look for
Jehovah,
But they could not find him.
He had drawn away from them.
- ⁷ They have betrayed Jehovah,
For they have fathered foreign sons.
Now a month will devour them and their portions.
- ⁸ Blow a horn in Gib'e-ah, a trumpet in Ra'mah!
Shout a war cry at Beth-a'ven—after you, O
Benjamin!
- ⁹ O E'phra-im, you will become an object of horror in
the day of punishment.
I have made known what will surely happen
among the tribes of Israel.
- ¹⁰ The princes of Judah are like those moving a
boundary.

I will pour out my fury on them like water.

¹¹ E'phra·im is oppressed, crushed by judgment,
For he was determined to follow after his
adversary.

¹² So I was like a moth to E'phra·im
And like rottenness to the house of Judah.

¹³ When E'phra·im saw his sickness, and Judah his
ulcer,
E'phra·im went to As·syr'i-a and sent to a great
king.
But he was unable to heal you,
And he could not cure your ulcer.

¹⁴ For I will be like a young lion to E'phra·im,
And like a strong lion to the house of Judah.
I myself will tear to pieces and go away;
I will carry them off, and no one will rescue them.

¹⁵ I will go away and return to my place until they bear
the consequences of their guilt,
And then they will seek my favor.
When they are in distress, they will seek me.”

6 “Come, and let us return to Jehovah,
For he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us.
He struck us, but he will bind our wounds.

² He will revive us after two days.
On the third day he will raise us up,

And we will live before him.

³ We will know, we will earnestly seek to know
Jehovah.

His going out is as certain as the dawn;
He will come to us like a pouring rain,
Like a spring rain that saturates the earth.”

⁴ “What should I do with you, E'phra-im?
What should I do with you, Judah?
For your loyal love is like the morning clouds,
Like the dew that quickly vanishes.

⁵ That is why I will cut them down by means of the
prophets;
I will kill them with the words of my mouth.
And the judgments on you will shine as the light.

⁶ For in loyal love I delight, not in sacrifice,
And in the knowledge of God, rather than in
whole burnt offerings.

⁷ But they, like mere men, have violated the
covenant.
There they have betrayed me.

⁸ Gil'e-ad is a town of evildoers,
Covered with footprints of blood.

⁹ The company of priests are like marauder bands
lying in ambush for a man.
They murder on the road at She'chem,

For their conduct is shameful.

¹⁰ I have seen a horrible thing in the house of Israel.
There E'phra·im practices prostitution;
Israel has defiled itself.

¹¹ Furthermore, O Judah, a harvest is set for you,
When I gather back the captives of my people.”

⁷ “At the time when I would heal Israel,
The error of E'phra·im is also exposed,
And the wickedness of Sa·mar'i·a.
For they practice deception;
Thieves break in and marauder bands raid
outside.

² But they do not say in their heart that I will
remember all their wickedness.
Now their dealings are all around them;
They are right in front of my face.

³ They make the king rejoice by their wickedness,
And princes by their deceit.

⁴ All of them are adulterers,
Burning like an oven fired by a baker,
Who stops stirring the fire after kneading the
dough until it is leavened.

⁵ On the day of our king, princes have become sick
—They are enraged because of wine.
He has reached out his hand to ridiculers.

- ⁶ For they approach with hearts burning like an oven.
All night long the baker sleeps;
In the morning the oven blazes like a flaming fire.
- ⁷ All of them are hot like an oven,
And they devour their rulers.
All their kings have fallen;
No one among them calls out to me.
- ⁸ E'phra·im mixes with the nations.
E'phra·im is like a round cake left unturned.
- ⁹ Strangers have consumed his strength, but he
does not know it.
And his gray hairs have turned white, but he
does not notice it.
- ¹⁰ The pride of Israel has testified against him,
But they have not returned to Jehovah their God,
Nor have they looked for him despite all of this.
- ¹¹ E'phra·im is like a simpleminded dove, lacking
good sense.
They have called out to Egypt; they have gone to
As·syr'i·a.
- ¹² Wherever they go, I will spread my net over them.
I will bring them down like the birds of the
heavens.
I will discipline them according to the warning
given to their assembly.

- ¹³ Woe to them, for they have fled from me!
Devastation to them, for they have transgressed
against me!
I was ready to redeem them, but they have
spoken lies against me.
- ¹⁴ From their heart they did not call to me for help,
Although they kept wailing on their beds.
For their grain and new wine they would slash
themselves;
They turn against me.
- ¹⁵ Although I disciplined them and strengthened their
arms,
They are against me, scheming what is bad.
- ¹⁶ They changed course, but not to anything loftier;
They were as unreliable as a loose bow.
Their princes will fall by the sword because of
their defiant tongues.
For this they will be an object of ridicule in the
land of Egypt.”

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October 16-22

Treasures From God's Word

Hosea 6:4, 5—Jehovah was displeased by the Israelites' lack of loyal love

Reference: w10 8/15 25 **paragraph 18**.

Loyal love should be evident in all our dealings with fellow worshippers of Jehovah. Even under difficult circumstances, the law of loving-kindness should not depart from our tongue. When the loving-kindness of the sons of Israel became “like the dew that early goes away,” Jehovah was displeased. (**Hosea 6:4, 6**) On the other hand, Jehovah takes pleasure in a regular pattern of loving-kindness. Consider how he blesses those who pursue it.

Hosea 6:6—Jehovah is pleased when we show loyal love

Reference: w07 9/15 16 **paragraph 8**.

Practicing sin is an indication of a lack of loyal love for God. No amount of spiritual sacrifices can compensate for this deficiency.

Reference: w07 6/15 27 **paragraph 7**.

In this connection, recall that in the past, Jehovah revealed to his ancient people that obedience was

even more important than animal sacrifices. (**Proverbs 21:3, 27**; Hosea 6:6; Matthew 12:7) Why was that so, since it was Jehovah who had commanded his people to offer such sacrifices? Well, what is the motive of the one offering the sacrifice? Is he doing it to please God? Or is he merely following some ritual? If a worshipper is truly desirous of pleasing God, he will take care to be obedient to all of God's commands. God has no need of animal sacrifices, but our obedience is one thing of value that we can give him.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Hosea 1:7—When was the house of Judah shown mercy and saved?

Reference: w07 9/15 14 **paragraph 7**.

This was fulfilled in 732 B.C.E., in the days of King Hezekiah. At that time, Jehovah ended the Assyrian threat to Jerusalem by having an angel slay 185,000 of the enemy's forces in one night. (**2 Kings 19:34, 35**) Jehovah thus delivered Judah, not "by a bow or by a sword or by war, by horses or by horsemen," but by an angel.

Hosea 2:18—What are the past and future fulfillments of this verse?

Reference: w05 11/15 20 **paragraph 16**.

God also fulfilled this promise: “I shall certainly conclude a covenant in that day in connection with the wild beast of the field and with the flying creature of the heavens and the creeping thing of the ground, and the bow and the sword and war I shall break out of the land, and I will make them lie down in security.” (Hosea 2:18) The Jewish remnant who returned to their homeland lived in security, with nothing to fear from animals. This prophecy also had a fulfillment in 1919 C.E., when the remnant of spiritual Israel was freed from “Babylon the Great,” the world empire of false religion. They now dwell in security and enjoy life in a spiritual paradise with their companions, who hope to live forever on earth. Animalistic traits do not exist among these true Christians.—Revelation 14:8; Isaiah 11:6-9; Galatians 6:16.

Reference: g05 9/8 12 **paragraph 2.**

In fact, life on earth will experience a new type of harmony, for God will teach his loyal human subjects how to be good caretakers of their terrestrial home. He will even “conclude a covenant,” as it were, with all predatory beasts, causing them to live in peaceful submission to humans.—Hosea 2:18; Genesis 1:26-28; Isaiah 11:6-8.

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***lv* 12-13 ¶16-18**

¹⁶ This is not to say that obedience to God is an easy course to follow. We must fight against the influences of this debased world, which “is lying in the power of the wicked one.” (1 John 5:19) We must also contend with the imperfect flesh, which inclines us toward violating God’s laws. (Romans 7:21-25) But our love for God can win out. Jehovah blesses those who want to prove their love for him by their obedience. He gives his holy spirit “to those obeying him as ruler.” (Acts 5:32) That spirit produces beautiful fruitage in us—precious qualities that can aid us in pursuing an obedient course.—Galatians 5:22, 23.

¹⁷ In this publication, we will examine Jehovah’s principles and moral standards and many other indications of his will. As we do, we need to keep a number of important things in mind. Let us remember that Jehovah does not force us to obey his laws and principles; he wants willing obedience that stems from our heart. Let us not forget that Jehovah is asking us to live in a way that will bring rich blessings now and lead to everlasting life in the future. And let us see our wholehearted obedience for what it is—a precious opportunity to show Jehovah just how much we love him.

¹⁸ To help us discern right from wrong, Jehovah has lovingly endowed us with the faculty of conscience. Yet, to be a reliable guide, our conscience needs to be trained, as the next chapter will discuss.

100 *Receive Them With Hospitality*

(Acts 17:7)

1. Jehovah shows sincere hospitality.

He cares for all without partiality.

He gives both rain and sun,

withholding these from none;

He fills our hearts with food and good cheer.

Whenever we show favor to lowly ones,

We imitate our God as beloved sons.

Our Father will repay

the goodness we display,

Our kindness that is truly sincere.

2. We never know the good that may come about

When we see those in need and we help them out.

Though strangers they may be,

in hospitality,

We lend a hand to care for their needs.

Like Lydia of old, we say: 'Be my guest.'

When they come to our home, they find peace and rest.

Our Father is aware

of all those ev'rywhere,

Who imitate his merciful deeds.

- Song 108 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- “Jehovah Delights in Loyal Love—Do You?”: (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Hosea*.]
Ho 6:4, 5—Jehovah was displeased by the Israelites’ lack of loyal love (w10 8/15 25 ¶18)
Ho 6:6—Jehovah is pleased when we show loyal love (w07 9/15 16 ¶8; w07 6/15 27 ¶7)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Ho 1:7—When was the house of Judah shown mercy and saved? (w07 9/15 14 ¶7)

Ho 2:18—What are the past and future fulfillments of this verse? (w05 11/15 20 ¶16; g05 9/8 12 ¶2)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ho 7:1-16

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY


- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) 1Jo 5:3—Teach the Truth. Invite the person to the meetings.
- **Return Visit:** (4 min. or less) De 30:11-14; Isa 48:17, 18—Teach the Truth. Direct attention to jw.org. (See *mwb16.08 8 ¶2*.)
- **Bible Study:** (6 min. or less) Iv 12-13 ¶16-18 —Show how to reach the heart.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 100
- **Local Needs:** (15 min.) Talk by an elder. Give a five-minute Scriptural introduction based on the November 15, 2015, *Watchtower*, page 14, and then play the video *Tutorial for Making Donations Electronically*. After the video, show the page “How to Donate to the Worldwide Work” on jw.org, and review the options for electronic donations listed for your country.
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.)
kr chap. 20 ¶1-6, boxes on pp. 211, 214
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 107 and Prayer

HOSEA 1-7 | Jehovah Delights in Loyal Love—Do You?

Loyal love is love motivated by commitment, integrity, loyalty, and deep attachment. Jehovah used the experience of Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Gomer, to teach a lesson in loyal love and forgiveness.—Ho 1:2; 2:7; 3:1-5.

 Write your answers in the spaces provided.



How did Gomer show a lack of loyal love?



How did Israel show a lack of loyal love?



How did Hosea show loyal love?

How did Jehovah show loyal love?

FOR MEDITATION: How can I show loyal love for Jehovah?

Living as Christians

Reference: w15.11 14.

Show Appreciation for Jehovah's Generosity

Jehovah is a generous God. (**James 1:17**) From the dark expanse of the starry heavens to the verdant blanket covering the earth, Jehovah's creation sings of his generosity.—**Psalm 65:12, 13; 147:7, 8; 148:3, 4.**

The psalmist's appreciation for his Creator was so deep that he was moved to compose a song extolling the works of Jehovah. Read Psalm 104, and see if you do not share his sentiments. The psalmist said: "I will sing to Jehovah throughout my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live." (**Psalm 104:33**) Is that your desire too?

Superlative Example of Generosity

Jehovah wants us to follow his example of being generous. He also provides sound reasons for us to be generous. Note what he inspired the apostle Paul to write: "Instruct those who are rich in the present system of things not to be arrogant, and to place their hope, not on uncertain riches, but on God, who richly provides us with all the things we enjoy. Tell them to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be generous, ready to share, safely treasuring up for themselves a fine foundation for the future, so that they may get a

firm hold on the real life.”— **1 Timothy 6:17-19**.

When Paul wrote his second inspired letter to the congregation in Corinth, he emphasized the proper attitude to have toward giving. “Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart,” said Paul, “not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (**2 Corinthians 9:7**) Next, Paul mentioned those who benefit from generous giving: the recipients, whose needs are satisfied; and the donors, who are enriched by spiritual blessings.— **2 Corinthians 9:11-14**.

Paul concluded this section of his letter by referring to the strongest evidence of God’s generosity. “Thanks be to God for his indescribable free gift,” wrote Paul. (**2 Corinthians 9:15**) Jehovah’s gift evidently includes the sum total of all the goodness that God extends to his people through Jesus Christ. It is so lofty that words cannot fully describe its value.

How can we show appreciation for all that Jehovah and his Son have done and will yet do for us? One way is by being generous in the giving of our time, energy, and resources to advance the pure worship of Jehovah, whether it is a small amount or a greater portion.—**1 Chronicles 22:14; 29:3-5; Luke 21:1-4**.

20 The Ministry of Relief

FOCUS OF CHAPTER

Christian love in action during times of disaster

IT IS about 46 C.E., and Judea is in the grip of famine. The Jewish disciples of Christ living there lack the means to pay the sky-high prices demanded for the meager supply of grain available. They are hungry, staring starvation in the face. However, they are about to experience the protection of Jehovah's hand in a way that no other disciples of Christ have ever felt it before. What is about to happen?

² Moved by the suffering of the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem and Judea, Jewish and Gentile Christians in Antioch, Syria, collect funds for their fellow believers. Then they select two responsible brothers in their midst, Barnabas and Saul, to deliver the relief aid to the congregation elders in Jerusalem. (**Read Acts 11:27-30; 12:25.**) Imagine how touched the needy brothers in Judea must have been by this act of love on the part of their brothers in Antioch!

1, 2. (a) What hardship did Christians in Judea face? (b) What act of love did the Judean Christians experience?

³ That event, back in the first century C.E., is the first recorded instance of Christians living in one part of the world sending relief aid to Christians living in another part. Today, we follow the pattern set by our brothers in Antioch. When we learn that fellow believers in another area experience a disaster or a trial, we come to their aid.*^[1] To appreciate how our relief efforts relate to our other ministerial activities, let us consider three questions about the ministry of relief: Why do we view relief work as a ministry? What are the objectives of our relief work? How do we benefit from the ministry of relief?

Why Relief Work Is “Sacred Service”

⁴ In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul explained that Christians have a twofold ministry. Although Paul’s letter was directed to anointed Christians, today his words apply to Christ’s “other sheep”

*[1] This chapter considers relief efforts performed in behalf of fellow believers. However, in many instances, our relief work also benefits non-Witnesses.—Gal. 6:10.

3. (a) How do God’s people in modern times still follow the pattern set by early Christians in Antioch? Give an example. (See also the box “Our First Large-Scale Relief Effort in Modern Times.”) (b) What questions will we consider in this chapter?

4. What did Paul tell the Corinthians about the Christian ministry?

as well. (John 10:16) One part of our ministry is “the ministry of the reconciliation,” that is, our preaching and teaching work. (2 Cor. 5:18-20; 1 Tim. 2:3-6) The other part involves a ministry that we perform in behalf of fellow believers. Specifically, Paul referred to a “relief ministry.” (2 Cor. 8:4) As to the expressions “*ministry* of the reconciliation” and “relief *ministry*,” in both instances the word “ministry” is a translation of a form of the Greek word *di-a-ko-ni'a*. Why is that significant?

⁵ By using the same Greek word for both activities, Paul grouped relief work with other forms of ministry that were carried out in the Christian congregation. He had stated earlier: “There are different ministries, and yet there is the *same* Lord; and there are different activities, . . . But [they] are performed by the very *same* spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:4-6, 11) In fact, Paul linked the various congregational ministries with “sacred service.”*^[2] (Rom. 12:1, 6-8) No wonder he felt that it was appropriate to give part of his time “to minister to the holy ones”!—Rom. 15:25, 26.

*^[2] Paul used the plural form of *di-a'ko-nos* (minister) to describe “ministerial servants.”—1 Tim.3:12.

5. Why is it significant that Paul called relief work a ministry?

⁶ Paul helped the Corinthians to see why relief work was part of their ministry and worship to Jehovah. Note his reasoning: Christians who provide relief do so because they are “submissive to the good news about the Christ.” (2 Cor. 9:13) Hence, moved by their desire to put Christ’s teachings into practice, Christians help fellow believers. The kind acts that they perform in behalf of their brothers, stated Paul, are nothing less than expressions of “the surpassing undeserved kindness of God.” (2 Cor. 9:14; 1 Pet. 4:10) Thus, in commenting on serving our brothers in need, which includes relief work, *The Watchtower* of December 1, 1975, rightly stated: “We should never doubt that Jehovah God and his Son Jesus Christ give real importance to this kind of service.” Yes, relief work is a valuable form of sacred service.—Rom. 12:1, 7; 2 Cor. 8:7; Heb. 13:16.

Relief Work With Clear Objectives

⁷ What are the objectives of our relief ministry? Paul addressed that question in his second letter to

6. (a) As Paul explained, why is relief work part of our worship? (b) Describe how our relief work is carried out globally today. (See the box “When Disaster Strikes!” page 388.)

7, 8. What is the first objective of our relief ministry? Explain.

OUR FIRST LARGE-SCALE RELIEF EFFORT IN MODERN TIMES

IN September 1945, just a few months after World War II ended in Europe, Brother Knorr announced the start of a large-scale campaign to send “material aid to the needy brethren of central Europe.”

Within weeks after that announcement, Witnesses in Canada, the United States, and other lands began sorting and packing clothing and collecting food. From January 1946 onward, goods were sent to fellow believers in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, and Romania.

This aid program was not a onetime effort. Relief shipments continued for two and a half years! During that time some 85,000 brothers and sisters sent more than 700,000 pounds of food, over 1,000,000 pounds of clothing, and more than 124,000 pairs of shoes to their brothers and sisters in war-ravaged lands. By August 1948, this huge relief effort was concluded. “This has certainly been an expression of love one toward another,” noted *The Watchtower* in 1949. “We know all the brethren did this as an honor to the Lord, having in mind that this material assistance would help some to carry on their true worship; and so they esteemed it a great privilege to be able to serve

their brethren in this manner.” This relief effort brought praise to Jehovah, provided relief to fellow believers, and strengthened the bond of unity among the brothers worldwide.

p. 211

the Corinthians. (**Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-15.**) In these verses, Paul highlights three main objectives, or goals, that we attain by sharing in “the ministry of this public service,” that is, relief work. Let us consider them one at a time.

⁸ First, our relief ministry brings glory to Jehovah. Note how often in the five verses cited above Paul directs his brothers’ attention to Jehovah God. The apostle reminds them of “an expression of thanks to God” and of “many expressions of thanks to God.” (Verses 11, 12) He mentions how relief efforts cause Christians to “glorify God” and to praise “the surpassing undeserved kindness of God.” (Verses 13, 14) And Paul concludes his consideration about the relief ministry by declaring: “Thanks be to God.”—Verse 15; 1 Pet. 4:11.

⁹ Like Paul, God’s servants today view relief
9. What change in thinking may relief work cause? Give an example.

PREPARATION FOR A DISASTER

The Governing Body has directed that all branches worldwide give guidelines to congregation elders and traveling overseers as to how to prepare for and deal with disasters. For example, even before a disaster occurs, the elders need to make sure that they have up-to-date contact information for each congregation member.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES!

- 1**
Local elders contact all publishers
- 2**
Elders report to the coordinator of the body of elders
- 3**
Coordinators report to traveling overseers and other responsible brothers who are in contact with the branch office
- 4**
Food, water, shelter, medical care, and emotional and spiritual support are provided as soon as possible
- 5**
Branch office sends a report about the situation and the needs to the Coordinators' Committee of the Governing Body
- 6**
Disaster Relief Committee organizes relief efforts and helps the brothers and sisters with their long-term recovery
- 7**
Coordinators' Committee assesses the needs and, if needed, approves that volunteers from other countries extend help

107 *The Divine Pattern of Love*

(1 John 4:19)

1. The pattern of love, we learn from Jehovah
Shows the way, guides our way.
In all he has done, his dealings have shown us
How to display his loving way.
He gave us his Son, his dearest possession
To cover our sin, forgiving transgression.
What proof of his love—its greatest expression!
His way is love, Yes, God’s way is love.
2. When we walk his way, our love for each other
Will be true, warm and true,
Will move us to care for all of our brothers,
Old ones and new, not just a few.
True love for our God and love for our brother,
We can’t have the one and not have the other.
The faults of our friends, we readily cover,
Proving our love, Our brotherly love.
3. The pattern of love, the bond that unites us
Lets us be family.
Our Father above now warmly invites us:
“Come taste and see real unity.”
Come share in the love and joy that define us;
God’s spirit and Word, he gives to refine us.
Our brothers and friends are here to remind us,
God’s way is love. Jehovah is love.

(See also Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:3; 2 Pet. 1:7.)

AUGUST 2017

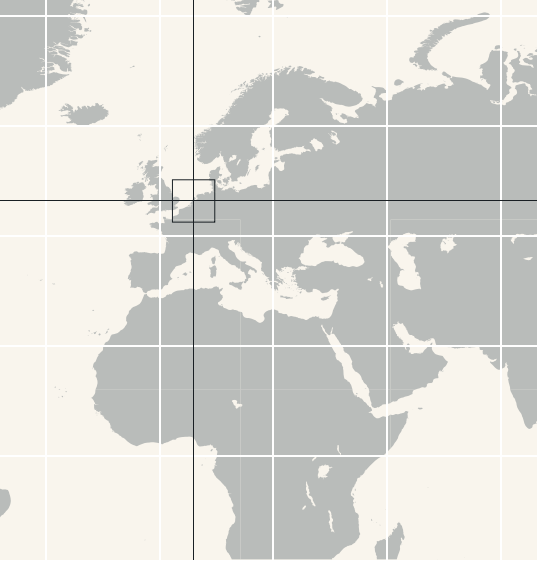
THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 22, 2017

LARGE
PRINT
EDITION



COVER IMAGE:

NETHERLANDS

Two pioneers in Amsterdam share the Kingdom message with a passerby

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Are You Willing to Wait Patiently?

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“The Peace of God . . . Surpasses All Understanding”

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

27 WEEK OF OCTOBER 9-15

How We Strip Off and Keep Off the
Old Personality

39 WEEK OF OCTOBER 16-22

How We Put On and Keep On the
New Personality

The first article explains what it means to strip off the old personality and why doing so is urgent. It also discusses what we can do to keep off the old personality. The second article considers several qualities that are part of the new personality and explains how we can demonstrate these in our life and ministry.

51 Love—A Precious Quality

59 FROM OUR ARCHIVES

126 *Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty*

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

1. Stay awake, stand firm, grow mighty,
Be determined to endure.
Carry on with manly courage,
For the victory is sure.
We obey Christ Jesus' clear command;
Under him we firmly take our stand.

(CHORUS)

*Stay awake, stand firm, and grow mighty!
Carry on right to the end!*

2. Stay awake, and keep your senses,
Always ready to obey.
Stay alert to Christ's direction
Through his faithful slave today.
Heed the counsel of the older men,
Who protect his sheep and truth defend.

(Chorus)

3. Stay awake, remain united
As the good news we defend.
Though our enemies will fight it,
We will preach until the end.
Join the shout of praise throughout the land.
Look! Jehovah's day is soon at hand!

(Chorus)



How We Put On and Keep On the New Personality

“Clothe yourselves with the new personality.”—COL. 3:10.

“THE new personality.” That expression occurs twice in the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10) It

1, 2. (a) Why is putting on the new personality within our reach? (b) What aspects of the new personality are recorded at Colossians 3:10-14?

SONGS:
126, 28

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What aspect of the new personality greatly contributes to our unity?

In what ways can we display compassion and kindness?

How can we demonstrate humility and mildness?

refers to a personality that is “created according to God’s will.” Developing such a new personality is within our reach. Why? Because Jehovah created humans in his image and thus made it possible for us to reflect his beautiful qualities.—Gen. 1:26, 27; Eph. 5:1.

² True, because of the imperfection we inherited from our first parents, we are affected by wrong desires. We may also have been deeply influenced by our environment. Yet, with Jehovah’s merciful help, we can succeed in becoming the sort of person he wants us to be. To strengthen our desire to reach that goal, we will consider several aspects of the new personality that the apostle Paul was inspired to write about. (Read Colossians 3:10-14.) We will also consider how we can demonstrate these aspects in our ministry.

“YOU ARE ALL ONE”

³ After exhorting us to put on the new personality, Paul goes on to describe *impartiality* as one striking characteristic of the new personality. He stated: “There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave, or free-

3. What is one characteristic of the new personality?

man.”* In the congregation, why should there be no distinction based on race, nationality, or social status? Because true followers of Christ “are all one.” —Col. 3:11; Gal. 3:28.

⁴ Those clothed with the new personality treat fellow believers and outsiders with dignity, regardless of their social or racial background. (Rom. 2:11) This can be a challenge in some parts of the world. For example, in South Africa most Witnesses still live in areas that were set apart for their race—be it affluent suburbs, black townships, or areas where people of mixed race once had to live. Hence, to encourage our brothers to “widen out,” in October 2013 the Governing Body approved a special arrangement to help the brothers to get to know one another better. (2 Cor. 6:13, ftn.) What did it involve?

⁵ Arrangements were made for two congregations of different language or race to be together

* In Bible times, Scythians were looked down on as uncivilized people.

4. (a) How do servants of Jehovah need to treat others? (b) What situation can pose a challenge to Christian unity?

5, 6. (a) To strengthen the unity among God’s people in one country, what arrangements were made? (See opening picture.) (b) What have been the results?

on some weekends. Brothers and sisters from both congregations shared in the preaching work, attended meetings together, and enjoyed hospitality at the homes of one another. Hundreds of congregations took part, and the branch office received many good reports about this arrangement, even from outsiders. For example, one religious minister was moved to say, “I am not a Witness, but I will say that you have an outstandingly organized preaching work, and you have racial unity.” How did the arrangement affect the Witnesses?

⁶ At first, a Xhosa-speaking sister named Noma had reservations about inviting white brothers from an English-language congregation to her modest home. But after sharing in the preaching work with the white Witnesses and enjoying hospitality in their homes, she exclaimed, “They are normal people just like us!” So when it was the turn of her Xhosa-language congregation to extend hospitality to the English-language congregation, she prepared a meal and invited some visitors. Among her guests was a white elder. Noma said, “I was impressed that he was willing to sit close to the floor on a plastic crate.” As a result of this ongoing arrangement, many brothers and sisters made new friends and

are determined to continue to widen out in their associations.

“TENDER AFFECTIONS OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS”

⁷ Until Satan’s world comes to an end, we will continue to experience trials. We deal with unemployment, serious illnesses, persecution, natural disasters, loss of possessions because of crime, or other hardships. To support one another in our suffering or adversity, we need to have genuine compassion. Feeling *tender compassion* will move us to acts of *kindness*. (Eph. 4:32) These aspects of the new personality will help us to imitate God and be of comfort to others.—2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

⁸ How can we show even greater consideration toward foreigners or disadvantaged ones in our congregation? We need to befriend such individuals and help them to see that they are a valuable part of the congregation. (1 Cor. 12:22, 25) Consider what happened to Dannykarl who moved from the Philippines to Japan. At his workplace, he was not treated as well as the local employees. Then he attended

7. Why is there an ongoing need to show compassion?

8. Our showing compassion and kindness to all in the congregation may lead to what good results? Give an example.

a meeting of Jehovah’s Witnesses. “Almost all in attendance were Japanese,” says Dannykarl, “yet they gave me a warm welcome, as if they were my old acquaintances.” He continued to experience expressions of kindness, which helped him to make spiritual progress. He was baptized, and today he serves as an elder. His fellow elders view Dannykarl and his wife, Jennifer, as a blessing to the congregation. The elders say about them, “They lead a very simple life as pioneers and set a fine example of seeking the Kingdom first.”—Luke 12:31.

⁹ When we share the Kingdom message with others, we have a fine opportunity to do “good toward all.” (Gal. 6:10) Out of compassion for immigrants, many Witnesses endeavor to learn a new language. (1 Cor. 9:23) This has led to rich blessings. For example, a pioneer sister in Australia named Tiffany learned Swahili in order to be of help to a Swahili-language congregation in the city of Brisbane. Though learning the language was a struggle for Tiffany, her life has been enriched. She says: “If you want an exciting ministry, serving in a foreign-language congregation is for you. It’s like traveling without leaving your city. You get to experience our

9, 10. Give examples of the rewards that come from showing compassion in the ministry.



What moves Christian ministers to help immigrants?
(See paragraph 10)

worldwide brotherhood and see its miraculous unity firsthand.”

¹⁰ Consider also the example of a family in Japan. Sakiko, the daughter, relates: “In the 1990’s, we often met Brazilian immigrants when we were in the field ministry. When we showed them scriptures from their Portuguese Bible, such as Revelation 21: 3, 4 or Psalm 37:10, 11, 29, they paid attention and sometimes even shed tears.” But the family’s compassion did not stop there. “When we saw their spiritual hunger,” says Sakiko, “we began to study

Portuguese as a family.” Later, the family helped to establish a Portuguese-language congregation. Through the years, the family helped many immigrants to become servants of Jehovah. “It took a lot of work to learn Portuguese,” adds Sakiko, “but the blessings far outweigh the efforts. We are so thankful to Jehovah.”—Read Acts 10:34, 35.

“CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH . . . HUMILITY”

¹¹ Our motive for clothing ourselves with the new personality must be to honor Jehovah, not to win praise from men. Remember that even a once perfect spirit creature sinned because he allowed himself to become filled with pride. (Compare Ezekiel 28:17.) How much more difficult it is for sinful humans to avoid improper pride and haughtiness! Still, it is possible to clothe ourselves with *humility*. What will help us to do so?

¹² To remain humble, we need to set aside time to meditate daily on what we read in God’s Word. (Deut. 17:18-20) In particular, we do well to reflect on Jesus’ teachings and his wonderful example of humble service. (Matt. 20:28) Jesus even washed the feet of his apostles. (John 13:12-17) We also

11, 12. (a) Why is having the right motive for putting on the new personality so important? (b) What will help us to remain humble?

need to pray frequently for God’s spirit to help us fight any tendency of feeling superior to others. —Gal. 6:3, 4; Phil. 2:3.

¹³ **Read Proverbs 22:4.** Humility is required of all true worshippers and brings great rewards. Being humble will help us to promote peace and unity in the congregation. Developing and strengthening humility will also make us recipients of God’s undeserved kindness. The apostle Peter stated: “All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the haughty ones, but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones.” —1 Pet. 5:5.

“CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH . . . MILDNESS . . . AND PATIENCE”

¹⁴ In today’s world, people who are mild and patient are often considered weak. How far such reasoning is from the truth! These beautiful qualities originate from the most powerful Person in the universe. Jehovah God is the best example of showing *mildness* and *patience*. (2 Pet. 3:9) Consider how he responded through his angelic representatives when Abraham and Lot questioned him. (Gen. 18:22-33;

13. What are the rewards for being humble?

14. Who is the best example in showing mildness and patience?

19:18-21) Also, for over 1,500 years, Jehovah put up with the wayward nation of Israel.—Ezek. 33:11.

¹⁵ Jesus was “mild-tempered.” (Matt. 11:29) He showed great patience in putting up with the weaknesses of his followers. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus endured unjust criticism from religious opposers. Yet, he was mild and patient right up to his wrongful execution. While suffering agonizing pain on the torture stake, Jesus prayed that his Father forgive his executioners because, as he said, “they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34) What an outstanding example of mildness and patience under painful and stressful circumstances!—Read 1 Peter 2:21-23.

¹⁶ How can we show mildness and patience? Paul mentioned one way when he wrote to fellow believers: “Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same.” (Col. 3:13) Indeed, it takes mildness and patience on our part to obey this command. But by being forgiving, we promote and preserve the unity in the congregation.

15. What example did Jesus set in showing mildness and patience?

16. In what practical way can we show mildness and patience?

¹⁷ Being clothed with mildness and patience is not optional for a Christian. It is an essential requirement for our salvation. (Matt. 5:5; Jas. 1:21) More important, by means of these qualities, we honor Jehovah and help others to heed the Bible’s counsel.—Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24, 25.

“CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH LOVE”

¹⁸ All the qualities considered thus far are closely connected with *love*. For example, the disciple James had to counsel his brothers for favoring the rich over the poor. He showed that such conduct violated the royal law: “You must love your neighbor as yourself.” Then he added: “If you continue showing favoritism, you are committing sin.” (Jas. 2: 8, 9) In contrast, love will move us to avoid any discrimination based on education, race, or social status. Indeed, impartiality needs to be more than a veneer. It must be a genuine part of our personality.

¹⁹ Love is also “patient and kind” and “does not get puffed up.” (1 Cor. 13:4) It truly takes patience, kindness, and humility to continue sharing

17. Why are mildness and patience important?

18. What connection is there between love and impartiality?

19. Why is it important that we clothe ourselves with love?

the Kingdom message with our neighbors. (Matt. 28:19) These same qualities make it easier for us to get along with *all* the brothers and sisters in the congregation. What is the reward for showing such love? It produces united congregations that reflect well on Jehovah and that attract newly interested ones. Fittingly, the Bible's description of the new personality concludes with this powerful truth: "Besides all these things, clothe yourselves with love, for it is a perfect bond of union."—Col. 3:14.

"CONTINUE TO BE MADE NEW"

²⁰ Each of us should ask himself, 'What more can I do to strip off and keep off the old personality?' We need to pray fervently for God's help and work hard to overcome any attitude or practice that will prevent us from inheriting God's Kingdom. (Gal. 5: 19-21) We also need to ask, 'Do I continue to be made new in my dominant mental attitude?' (Eph. 4:23, 24) Putting on and keeping on the new personality is an ongoing process for all Christians until we are able to do so to the full. Imagine how wonderful life will be when everyone we know is clothed to perfection with the new personality!

20. (a) What questions should we ask ourselves, and why? (b) We look forward to what time?

28 *Gaining Jehovah's Friendship* (Psalm 15)

1. Who is your friend, O God?

Who in your tent may dwell?

Who gains your friendship? Who gains your trust?

Who really knows you well?

All who embrace your Word,

All who have faith in you,

All who are loyal, all who are just,

Living the truth for you.

2. Who is your friend, O God?

Who may approach your throne?

Who brings delight and makes you rejoice?

Whose name to you is known?

All who exalt your name,

All who your Word obey,

All who are faithful, honest in heart,

Truthful in all they say.

3. Throwing our cares on you,

Baring our hearts in prayer,

Drawing us closer, bonding in love,

Feeling your daily care,

We yearn to be your friend.

Long may our friendship grow.

No greater Friend could we ever gain,

No greater Friend we'll know.

