

- Song 112 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- **“Jehovah’s Administration and Its Work”:** (10 min.)
[Play the video *Introduction to Ephesians.*]
Eph 1:8, 9—“The sacred secret” involves the Messianic Kingdom (*it-2* 837 ¶4)
Eph 1:10—Jehovah is unifying all his intelligent creatures (*w12* 7/15 27-28 ¶3-4)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
Eph 3:13—In what sense did Paul’s tribulations “mean glory” for Christians in Ephesus? (*w13* 2/15 28 ¶15)

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

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- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Eph 1:1-14 (5)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (1)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 95
- **“Make Your Personal Study More Rewarding”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Keep “a Tight Grip”—Through Effective Personal Study* (video category THE BIBLE).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 70
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 144 and Prayer

EPHESIANS 1-3 | Jehovah’s Administration and Its Work

1:8-10

Jehovah’s administration is an arrangement to unify all his intelligent creatures.

- It prepares the anointed for life in heaven with Jesus Christ as their spiritual Head
- It prepares those who will live on earth under the Messianic Kingdom

 **What are some ways that I can contribute to the unity of Jehovah’s organization?**



1. Jehovah, God of love,
 You have promised us your peace.
 So we ask you for your spirit;
 May its fruitage yet increase.
 Our faith in your dear Son,
 Who is loyal, ever true,
 Gives us access to your friendship;
 We are now at peace with you.
2. Your spirit aids our sight
 As your Word gives needed light.
 We are guided and protected
 In a world as dark as night.
 Until the time has come
 When all wars and terrors cease,
 May your spirit bless our efforts
 To maintain our godly peace.
3. You've gathered those you love,
 Both in heaven and on earth,
 We're united by your spirit
 To proclaim the Kingdom's birth.
 Your righteous Kingdom rule
 Soon will bring an end to war.
 Then the meek ones will delight to
 Live in peace forevermore.

Ephesians 1-3

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, to the holy ones who are in Eph'e-sus and are faithful in union with Christ Jesus:

² May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ, ⁴ as he chose us to be in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and unblemished before him in love. ⁵ For he foreordained us to be adopted as his own sons through Jesus Christ, according to his good pleasure and will, ⁶ in praise of his glorious undeserved kindness that he kindly bestowed on us by means of his beloved one. ⁷ By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness.

⁸ This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding ⁹ by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed ¹⁰ for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him ¹¹ with whom we are in union and were assigned as heirs, having been foreordained according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things as he decides according to his will, ¹² so that we who have been first to hope in the Christ should serve for the praise of his glory. ¹³ But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed by means of him with the promised holy spirit, ¹⁴ which is a token in advance

of our inheritance, for the purpose of releasing God's own possession by a ransom, to his glorious praise.

¹⁵ That is why I also, since I have heard of the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and the love that you demonstrate toward all the holy ones, ¹⁶ never stop giving thanks for you. I continue mentioning you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the accurate knowledge of him. ¹⁸ He has enlightened the eyes of your heart, so that you may know to what hope he called you, what glorious riches he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones, ¹⁹ and how surpassing the greatness of his power is toward us believers. It is according to the operation of the mightiness of his strength, ²⁰ which he exercised toward Christ when he raised him up from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above every government and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named, not only in this system of things but also in that to come. ²² He also subjected all things under his feet and made him head over all things with regard to the congregation, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills up all things in all.

2 Furthermore, God made you alive, though you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you at one time walked according to the system of things of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. ³ Yes, among them we all at one time conducted ourselves in harmony with the desires of our flesh, carrying out the will of the flesh and of our thoughts, and we were naturally children of wrath just as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, ⁵ made us alive together with the Christ, even when we were dead in trespasses—by undeserved kindness you have been saved.

⁶ Moreover, he raised us up together and seated us together in the

heavenly places in union with Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming systems of things he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness in his graciousness toward us in union with Christ Jesus.

⁸ By this undeserved kindness you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing; rather, it is God's gift. ⁹ No, it is not a result of works, so that no one should have grounds for boasting. ¹⁰ We are God's handiwork and were created in union with Christ Jesus for good works, which God determined in advance for us to walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore, remember that at one time you, people of the nations by fleshly descent, were the ones called "uncircumcision" by those called "circumcision," which is made in the flesh by human hands. ¹² At that time you were without Christ, alienated from the state of Israel, strangers to the covenants of the promise; you had no hope and were without God in the world. ¹³ But now in union with Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have come to be near by the blood of the Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, the one who made the two groups one and destroyed the wall in between that fenced them off. ¹⁵ By means of his flesh he abolished the enmity, the Law of commandments consisting in decrees, in order to make the two groups in union with himself into one new man and to make peace, ¹⁶ and to reconcile fully both peoples in one body to God through the torture stake, because he had killed off the enmity by means of himself. ¹⁷ And he came and declared the good news of peace to you who were far off, and peace to those near, ¹⁸ because through him we, both peoples, have free access to the Father by one spirit.

¹⁹ So you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones and are members of the household of God, ²⁰ and you have been built up on the foundation of the

apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone. ²¹ In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Jehovah. ²² In union with him you too are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit.

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus in behalf of you, the people of the nations— ² if, really, you have heard about the stewardship of God's undeserved kindness that was given to me for your sakes, ³ that by way of a revelation the sacred secret was made known to me, just as I wrote previously in brief. ⁴ So when you read this, you can realize my comprehension of the sacred secret of the Christ. ⁵ In other generations this secret was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by spirit, ⁶ namely, that people of the nations should, in union with Christ Jesus and through the good news, be joint heirs and fellow members of the body and partakers with us of the promise. ⁷ I became a minister of this according to the free gift of God's undeserved kindness that was given me through the operation of his power.

⁸ To me, a man less than the least of all holy ones, this undeserved kindness was given, so that I should declare to the nations the good news about the unfathomable riches of the Christ ⁹ and should make everyone see the administration of the sacred secret that has been hidden through the ages in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ This was so that now, through the congregation, there might be made known to the governments and the authorities in the heavenly places the greatly diversified wisdom of God. ¹¹ This is according to the eternal purpose that he formed in connection with the Christ, Jesus our Lord, ¹² by means of whom we have this freeness of speech and free access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to give up on account of my tribulations in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.

¹⁴ For this reason I bend my knees to the Father, ¹⁵ to whom every family in heaven and on earth owes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that he may grant you through the abundance of his glory to be made mighty in the man you are inside, with power through his spirit, ¹⁷ and that through your faith you may have the Christ dwell in your hearts with love. May you be rooted and established on the foundation, ¹⁸ in order that with all the holy ones you may be thoroughly able to comprehend fully what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of the Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness that God gives.

²⁰ Now to the one who can, according to his power that is operating in us, do more than superabundantly beyond all the things we ask or conceive, ²¹ to him be the glory by means of the congregation and by means of Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- Song 112 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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June 10-16 / Ephesians 1-3

- Song 112 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

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Jehovah's Administration and Its Work

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Ephesians 1:8, 9—“The sacred secret” involves the Messianic Kingdom

Ephesians 1:8, 9: This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed

***it-2* 837 paragraph 4**

The Messianic Kingdom. In Paul’s writings he gives a full view of the revelation of the sacred secret of the Christ. At Ephesians 1:9-11 he speaks of God’s making known “the sacred secret” of his will, and says: “It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him, in union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels.” This “sacred secret” involves a government, the Messianic Kingdom of God. “The things in the heavens,” to which Paul refers, are the prospective heirs of that heavenly Kingdom with Christ. “The things on the earth” will be its earthly subjects. Jesus pointed out to his disciples that the sacred secret had to do with the Kingdom when he said to them: “To you the sacred secret of the kingdom of God has been given.”—Mark 4:11.

Ephesians 1:10—Jehovah is unifying all his intelligent creatures

Ephesians 1:10: for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him

w12 7/15 27-28 paragraphs 3-4

3 Moses told the Israelites: “Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.” (Deuteronomy 6:4) Jehovah’s actions and purpose are harmonious. Thus, “at the full limit of the appointed times,” God put into operation “an administration”—that is, an arrangement for unifying all his intelligent creatures. (Read Ephesians 1:8-10.) This administration will carry out its objective in two stages. The first stage prepares the congregation of anointed ones for life in heaven under Jesus Christ as their spiritual Head. This stage began at Pentecost 33 C.E. when Jehovah started to gather those who would rule with Christ in heaven. (Acts 2:1-4) Since the anointed have been declared righteous for life on the basis of Christ’s ransom sacrifice, they readily acknowledge that they have been adopted as “God’s children.”—Romans 3:23, 24; 5:1; 8:15-17.

4 The second stage prepares those who will dwell in Paradise on earth under Christ’s Messianic Kingdom. The “great crowd” make up the initial part of this group. (Revelation 7:9, 13-17; 21:1-5) During the Thousand Year Reign, they will be joined by billions of resurrected ones. (Revelation 20:12, 13) Imagine how the resurrection will further demonstrate our unity! At the end of the thousand years, the “things on the earth” will be subjected to a final test. Those proving faithful will be adopted as earthly “children of God.”—Romans 8:21; Revelation 20:7, 8.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Ephesians 3:13—In what sense did Paul’s tribulations “mean glory” for Christians in Ephesus?

Ephesians 3:13: So I ask you not to give up on account of my tribulations in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.

w13 2/15 28 paragraph 15

Our perseverance in doing Jehovah’s will helps others to take hold of glory. To the congregation in Ephesus, Paul wrote: “I ask you not to give up on account of these tribulations of mine in your behalf, for these mean glory for you.” (Ephesians 3:13) In what sense did Paul’s tribulations “mean glory” for the Ephesians? Paul’s readiness to continue ministering to them despite trials demonstrated to the Ephesians that the privileges they enjoyed as Christians were weighty and of the highest conceivable value. Had Paul given up under tribulation, would that not have conveyed the message that their relationship with Jehovah, their ministry, and their hope were not valuable? Paul’s endurance exalted Christianity and demonstrated that discipleship is worth any sacrifice.

Ephesians 3:19—How do we come “to know the love of the Christ”?

Ephesians 3:19: and to know the love of the Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness that God gives.

cl 299 paragraph 21

The Greek term rendered “to know” means to know “practically, through experience.” When we show love the way Jesus did—unselfishly giving of ourselves in behalf of others, compassionately responding to their needs, forgiving them from our hearts—then we can genuinely appreciate his feelings. In this way, by experience we come “to know the love of the Christ which surpasses knowledge.” And let us never forget that the more we become like Christ, the closer we will draw to the one whom Jesus perfectly imitated, our loving God, Jehovah.

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

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Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Ephesians 1:1-14 (*th* study 5)

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations



INITIAL CALL

Question: Are we living in the last days?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What will happen after the last days?



FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What will happen after the last days?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

Link: How can we enjoy the future God has promised?



SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How can we enjoy the future God has promised?

Scripture: Joh 3:16

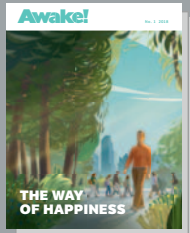
Link: What does it mean to exercise faith?



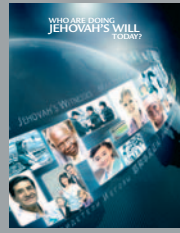
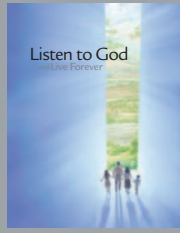


Teaching Toolbox

MAGAZINES



BROCHURES



BOOKS



TRACTS



VIDEOS



CONTACT CARDS



The Light Gets Brighter

(Proverbs 4:18)

1. The prophets of old sought to learn of the Christ,
The hope of all groaning creation.
God's spirit revealed that Messiah would come,
Providing the means of salvation.

The time has arrived, the Messiah now reigns,
The proof of his presence is clear.
How great is the favor of learning such things;
Into these even angels would peer!

(CHORUS)

*Our path now becomes ever brighter;
We walk in the full light of day.
Behold what our God is revealing;
He guides us each step of the way.*

2. Our Lord has appointed a trustworthy slave,
Through whom He gives food in due season.
The light of the truth has grown brighter with time,
Appealing to heart and to reason.

Our path ever clearer, our steps ever firm,
We walk in the brightness of day.
All thanks to Jehovah, the Source of all truth,
We most gratefully walk in his way.

(Chorus)

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Keep “a Tight Grip”—Through Effective Personal Study

Bro 1: The more you study, the more you understand Jehovah. The more you understand Jehovah, the more you love him.

Sis 1: Jehovah clearly tells us that: “My thoughts are not your thoughts.” So if we want to understand Jehovah’s thinking better, we need to dig deep in our study and then share those thoughts with others.

Sis 2: Personal study is like fuel that keeps you going.

Bro 2: Personally, I’m not a good student but I really learned how to study the Bible. The Bible came alive during Gilead.

Sis 2: Self-discipline is involved—very much.

Sis 3: I overcome the tiredness aspect of Bible study by not doing it at a time of day when I know I’m going to be tired. I can be tired for other things later on, but not for that.

Bro 1: Each session of my Bible study begins with a prayer. “Please help me recognize it is counsel for me, and then give me the strength to work on it.”

Sis 4: I have a color-coded system so I know what certain things stand for.

Bro 1: I have a particular color for Jehovah’s good hand in people’s lives; I have another color for warning examples; I have another for fine examples to imitate.

Bro 3: Study and meditation work together. Study helps us to acquire information, and meditation empowers us to put that information into practice.

Bro 2: You have to get behind the information, not just focus on one verse or one chapter. See who’s involved, the time, the conditions, how many people are there, and then you’ll get the true meaning of the verse.

Sis 3: John 1:1—who is “the Word”? We can go to verse 18. “Begotten” meant he had a beginning, a time when he started—when he began—in heaven with his Father. That’s where he was.

Sis 4: Philippians 4:6, 7 is a scripture that I've read many times over. "The peace of God that excels all thought." OK, how do you get that? It's from having a good relationship with Jehovah. How is it that God's peace 'guards your heart'? "By means of Christ Jesus, our Lord." And I said, "Why by Jesus?" Because Jesus paid the ransom. That ransom is what makes possible a relationship with Jehovah. So it almost goes full circle.

Bro 3: During my personal study, I try to identify principles. To do this, I try to look behind the commandment. For instance, at Matthew 28:19, 20, Jesus commanded us to "go...and make disciples." Behind this commandment, I find the principle of loving our neighbor. Using this principle helps me to preach to all sorts of people, regardless of their gender, race or nationality.

Bro 4: I attended a school for congregation elders which had Gilead graduates as instructors. One of the methods is to analyze a certain Bible account from different perspectives. We can't see the whole picture from one angle.

Sis 3: I share my research results with Bible students, and that helps them to know Jehovah better and it helps them to see that what they're studying is of practical value.

Bro 1: I had studied up on Jacob; he wrestled all night with an angel. And I wanted to share it with some of my friends. One of the brothers that happened to sit around when this discussion was going on, he came back to me and he said to me "I had concluded my arrangements to quit full-time service. But after listening to that discussion, I decided I'm no longer stopping." And that was such a wonderful moment for me. I thanked Jehovah.

Sis 4: When I learned that I was going to become a mom, I said "Jehovah, if this little one could love you, then I'll get to keep him forever." And I began to teach everything I was learning to him.

Sis 2: So it's a matter of keeping my faith strong, and there's no shortcut.

Bro 1: Every session of study that is properly done with good meditation adds a new pillar to the strength of our faith.

Sis 4: I look forward to those times when I can, you know, run upstairs by myself and just shut everything off and it's just me and Jehovah.

Sis 1: Life today is very unpredictable but I've come to see that, as long as I keep a tight grip on God's Word, nothing can "separate [me] from God's love."

Make Your Personal Study More Rewarding

WHY IMPORTANT: Personal study of God’s Word helps us “to comprehend fully what is the breadth and length and height and depth” of the truth. (Eph 3:18) It also helps us to remain blameless and without blemish in the midst of a wicked world and to keep “a tight grip on the word of life.” (Php 2:15, 16) Personal study of God’s Word allows us to choose material that we need as individuals. How can we make the most of the time we spend reading and studying the Bible?

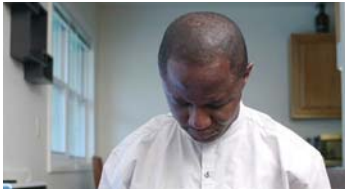
HOW TO DO IT:

- Highlight verses and make notes in your personal study Bible, either on paper or in electronic format
- Ask yourself these questions as you read God’s Word: ‘Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?’
- Get the facts. Using the research tools available, search by topic or Bible verse
- Meditate on what you read to discern how the information applies to you
- Apply what you learn to your day-to-day life.—Lu 6:47, 48



WATCH THE VIDEO *KEEP “A TIGHT GRIP”—THROUGH EFFECTIVE PERSONAL STUDY, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*

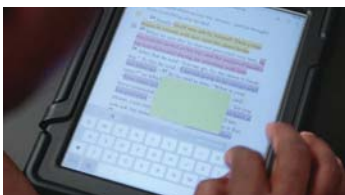
- How have some described personal study?



- Why should we begin each session of personal study with prayer?

- What can help us to understand a Bible passage better?

- What types of marks might we put in our study Bible?



- Why is meditation so important when studying God’s Word?

- What should we do with what we learn?



“How I do love your law! I ponder over it all day long.”—Ps 119:97



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JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

JOHN 9:1-18

- A BEGGAR BLIND FROM BIRTH IS HEALED

Jesus is still in Jerusalem on the Sabbath. As he and his disciples are walking in the city, they see a beggar who has been blind from birth. The disciples ask Jesus: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?”—John 9:2.

The disciples know that the man has no invisible soul that existed before he was born, yet they may wonder whether a person might sin while in his mother’s womb. Jesus answers: “Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but it was so that the works of God might be made manifest in his case.” (John 9:3) So neither this man nor his parents were guilty of a specific error or sin that caused his blindness. Rather, as a result of Adam’s sin, all humans are born imperfect and are subject to defects, such as blindness. But the man’s blindness provides an op-



portunity for Jesus to make manifest the works of God, as he has done at other times in healing people of their sicknesses.

Jesus stresses that it is urgent to do these works. “We must do the works of the One who sent me while it is day,” he says. “The night is coming when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the world’s light.” (John 9:4, 5) Yes, soon Jesus’ death will plunge him into the darkness of the grave where he can do nothing. In the meantime, he is a source of enlightenment to the world.

But will Jesus heal the man, and if so, how? Jesus spits on the ground and with the saliva makes a paste. He puts some of it on the blind man’s eyes and says: “Go wash in the pool of Siloam.” (John 9:7) The man obeys. When he does, he can see! Think of his joy at seeing for the first time in his life!

Neighbors and others who knew him to be blind are amazed. “This is the man who used to sit and beg, is it not?” they ask. “This is he,” some answer. But others cannot believe it and say: “No, but he



looks like him.” The man himself responds: “I am he.”—John 9:8, 9.

Hence, they ask him: “How, then, were your eyes opened?” He replies: “The man called Jesus made a paste and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and gained sight.” They then ask: “Where is that man?” The beggar answers: “I do not know.”—John 9:10-12.

The people lead the man to the Pharisees, who also want to know how he gained sight. He tells them: “He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.” It would seem natural that the Pharisees would want to rejoice with the healed beggar. Instead, some of them denounce Jesus. “This is not a man from God,” they claim, “for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Yet others say: “How can a man who is a sinner perform signs of that sort?” (John 9:15, 16) So they are divided.

Faced with these conflicting views, they turn to the man who now can see and ask: “What do you say about him, since it was your eyes that he

opened?” He has no doubts about Jesus and responds: “He is a prophet.”—John 9:17.

The Jews refuse to believe this. They may think that there is some scheme between Jesus and this man to fool the people. They conclude that one way to settle the matter is to question the beggar’s parents about whether he really was blind.

- ◇ What is the cause of the man’s blindness, and what is not?
- ◇ How do those who know the blind man react to his being healed?
- ◇ How are the Pharisees divided over the man’s being healed?

144 *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!*

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

1. When the eyes of blind ones see again
And the ears of deaf ones hear again,
When the songs of children fill the air
And joy and peace are ev'rywhere,
When our loved ones will return to life,
To an earth that's free from sin and strife,

(CHORUS)

*You will see how God these things supplies,
If you keep your eyes on the prize.*

2. When the wolves and lambs will feed as one,
When the bears and calves bask in the sun,
Then a mere young boy will lead them all,
And they will heed his childish call.
When our tears belong to yesterday,
When our fears and pain have passed away,

(Chorus)

APRIL 2019

THE  **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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After his resurrection, Jesus met with his disciples and instructed them to "go, . . . and make disciples" (See study article 14, paragraph 1)

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113 *Our Possession of Peace*

(John 14:27)

1. Praise Jehovah, God of peace,
 God of unity.
 He will make all wars to cease,
 Bring in harmony.
Prince of Peace is Christ his Son,
 Tender, calm, and kind.
When the fight for right he's won,
 Perfect peace we'll find.
2. We have left off angry words,
 Making quarrels cease.
 We have made from spears and swords,
 Implements of peace.
If this peace we want to keep,
 Then we must forgive.
 Peacefully as Jesus' sheep,
 May we learn and live.
3. Peace from God gives proof to all;
 He has blessed our way.
 His commands we gladly keep,
 Ready to obey.
We would recommend our way,
 Show our peaceful care
 Till the Kingdom's perfect day
 Brings peace ev'rywhere.

Imitate Jesus and Remain at Peace

“The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts.”—PHIL. 4:7.

SONG 113

Our Possession of Peace

PREVIEW

All of us must deal with problems that could rob us of peace. This article discusses three things that Jesus did and that we can do to remain at peace, even when we are enduring severe trials.

ON HIS final day as a human, Jesus was troubled. Soon he would suffer a cruel death at the hands of lawless men. But it was more than his impending death that was giving Jesus concern. He deeply loved his Father and wanted to please him. Jesus knew that if he proved faithful under the coming difficult test, he would contribute to the vindication of Jehovah's name. Jesus also loved people, and he knew that our future prospects for everlasting life would depend on his finishing his earthly course successfully.

² Even though Jesus was under great stress, he was at peace. "I give you my peace," he had told his apostles. (John 14:27) He had "the peace of God," the calmness and tranquility that result from a person's precious relationship with Jehovah. That peace put Jesus' mind and heart at rest.—Phil. 4: 6, 7.

³ None of us will ever face the kind of pressure that Jesus had to endure, but all who follow Jesus will face trials. (Matt. 16:24, 25; John 15:20) And like Jesus, we will feel troubled at times. How can we prevent anxiety from dominating us and rob-

1-2. Why was Jesus troubled?

3. What will we examine in this article?

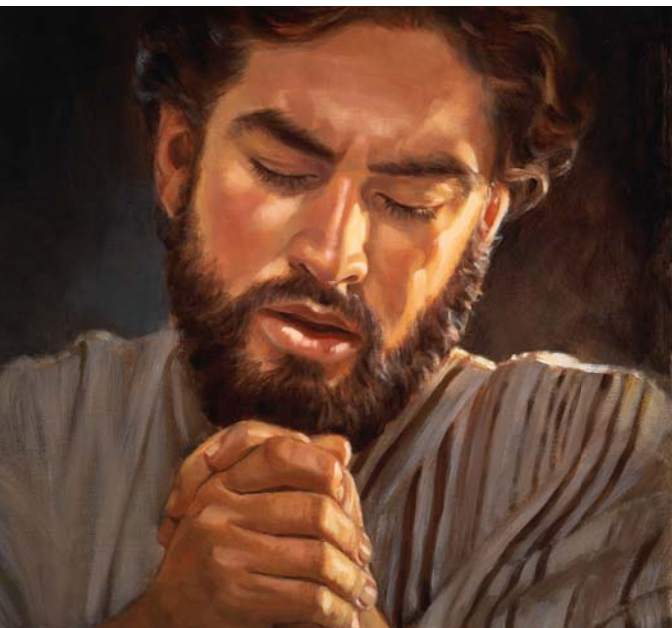
bing us of our peace of mind? Let us examine three things that Jesus did during his ministry on earth and see how we can imitate him when we face trials.

JESUS CONTINUED PRAYING

⁴ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Jesus prayed often throughout the last day of his life on earth. When he instituted the commemoration of his death, he prayed over the bread and the wine.

4. With 1 Thessalonians 5:17 in mind, give some examples to show that Jesus prayed often during the last day of his life on earth.

We can remain at peace by praying
(See paragraphs 4-7)



(1 Cor. 11:23-25) Before leaving the place where they had held the Passover, he prayed with the disciples. (John 17:1-26) When he and the disciples arrived at the Mount of Olives that night, he prayed repeatedly. (Matt. 26:36-39, 42, 44) And the very last words Jesus spoke before dying were uttered in prayer. (Luke 23:46) Through prayer, Jesus included Jehovah in every major event on that momentous day.

⁵ One reason why Jesus could endure his trial was that he relied on his Father in prayer. The apostles, on the other hand, failed to persevere in prayer that night. As a result, their courage weakened when the hour of test arrived. (Matt. 26:40, 41, 43, 45, 56) When we face trials, we will remain faithful only if we follow Jesus' example and "pray continually." What can we pray for?

⁶ We can pray for Jehovah to "give us more faith." (Luke 17:5; John 14:1) We need faith because Satan will test all who follow Jesus. (Luke 22:31) How will faith help us to remain at peace even when we must deal with one challenge after another? When we have done all that we rea-

5. Why did the apostles' courage weaken?

6. How will faith help us to remain at peace?

sonably can to deal with a trial, faith will move us to leave the matter with Jehovah. Because we trust that he can handle matters better than we ever could, we have peace of mind and heart.—1 Pet. 5: 6, 7.

⁷ Prayer helps us to maintain our inner peace no matter what trials we face. Consider the example of Robert, a faithful elder who is now in his 80's. He says: "The counsel at Philippians 4:6, 7 has helped me to cope with many trials in my life. I have had to deal with financial problems. And I temporarily lost my privilege of serving as an elder." What has helped Robert to maintain inner peace? "I pray as soon as I start to feel anxious," he says. "I believe that the more frequently and intensely I pray, the more peaceful I feel."

JESUS ZEALOUSLY PREACHED

⁸ Read **John 8:29**. Even while being persecuted, Jesus had inner peace because he knew that he was making his Father happy. He remained obedient when it was difficult for him to do so. He loved his Father and built his whole life around serving

7. What did you learn from Robert's comments?

8. As stated at John 8:29, what is another reason why Jesus had inner peace?

Jehovah. Before he came to earth, he was God’s “master worker.” (Prov. 8:30) And while on earth, he zealously taught others about his Father. (Matt. 6:9; John 5:17) That work brought Jesus great joy. —John 4:34-36.

⁹ We can imitate Jesus by obeying Jehovah and “always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58) When we are “intensely occupied” in the preaching work, we are better able to put our troubles into perspective. (Acts 18:5) For example, those we meet in our ministry often face worse problems than we do. Yet, when they learn to love Jehovah and apply his counsel, their lives improve and they become happier. Each time we see that happen, we feel more confident that Jehovah will care for us. And that conviction helps us to retain our inner peace. A sister who has struggled all her life with depression and deep feelings of worthlessness found this to be true. “When I am busy in the ministry,” she says, “I feel more emotionally stable and happy. I think it is because when I am in the field service, I feel closest to Jehovah.”

9. How can being occupied in the preaching work help us to maintain our inner peace?



We can remain at peace by preaching
(See paragraphs 8-10)

¹⁰ Consider also the example of a sister named Brenda. Both she and her daughter are afflicted with multiple sclerosis. Brenda is confined to a wheelchair and has limited energy. She preaches from door to door when she can, but she witnesses primarily by writing letters. She says: “Once I mentally and emotionally accepted that my condition is not reversible in this system, I felt free to focus on my ministry. Witnessing, in fact, takes my

10. What did you learn from Brenda’s comments?

attention away from my anxieties. It forces me to concentrate on helping those I contact in our congregation's territory. And it constantly reminds me of the hope I have for the future."

JESUS ACCEPTED HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

¹¹ Throughout Jesus' challenging ministry, the faithful apostles proved to be real friends to Jesus. They were living examples of the proverb that says: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Prov. 18:24) Jesus valued such friends. During his ministry, none of his fleshly brothers put faith in him. (John 7:3-5) At one point, his relatives even thought that he had gone mad. (Mark 3:21) By contrast, Jesus could say to the faithful apostles on the night before his death: "You are the ones who have stuck with me in my trials."—Luke 22:28.

¹² The apostles occasionally disappointed Jesus, but he looked past their faults and saw that they had faith in him. (Matt. 26:40; Mark 10:13, 14; John 6:66-69) On the last night with them before he was executed, Jesus said to these loyal men: "I have called you friends, because I have made

11-13. (a) How did the apostles and others prove to be real friends to Jesus? (b) What effect did Jesus' friends have on him?

known to you all the things I have heard from my Father.” (John 15:15) Without a doubt, Jesus’ friends were a great source of encouragement to him. The help they gave him in his ministry made Jesus’ heart overflow with joy.—Luke 10:17, 21.

¹³ In addition to the apostles, Jesus had other friends, men and women, who assisted him in the preaching work and in other practical ways. Some opened their homes to him so that he had somewhere to eat a meal. (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1, 2) Others traveled with him and shared their belongings with him. (Luke 8:3) Jesus had good friends because he was a good friend to them. He did good things for them and was reasonable in what he expected from them. Jesus was perfect, but he appreciated the support his imperfect friends gave him. And they, no doubt, helped him retain his inner peace.

¹⁴ Good friends will help us to stay loyal to Jehovah. And the best way to make good friends is to be a good friend. (Matt. 7:12) For example, the Bible encourages us to expend ourselves in behalf of others, especially those who are “in need.” (Eph. 4:28) Can you think of someone in your

14-15. How can we make good friends, and how can they help us?



We can remain at peace by associating with good friends
(See paragraphs 11-15)

congregation whom you can help? Can you do the shopping for a housebound publisher? Can you provide a meal for a family who is struggling financially? If you know how to use the jw.org[®] website and *JW Library*[®] app, could you help others in your congregation to access the treasures found there? When we are absorbed in helping others, we are more likely to be happy.—Acts 20:35.

¹⁵ The friends we make will support us when we face trials, helping us to maintain our inner peace. Just as Elihu listened when Job spoke about his

trials, our friends help us by patiently listening as we put our concerns into words. (Job 32:4) We should not expect our friends to make decisions for us, but we are wise if we listen to their Bible-based advice. (Prov. 15:22) And just as King David humbly accepted the help of his friends, we should not be too proud to accept the help our friends offer when we are in need. (2 Sam. 17:27-29) Really, such good friends are a gift from Jehovah.—Jas. 1:17.

HOW TO REMAIN AT PEACE

¹⁶ **Read Philippians 4:6, 7.** Why does Jehovah tell us that we can receive the peace that he gives “by means of Christ Jesus”? Because we can gain lasting peace in our thinking and feelings only if we understand and have faith in the role that Jesus fulfills. For example, by means of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice, all of our sins can be forgiven. (1 John 2:12) What relief that thought brings to us! As King of God’s Kingdom, Jesus will undo any damage Satan and his system may inflict on us. (Isa. 65:17; 1 John 3:8; Rev. 21:3, 4) What hope that inspires in us! And even though Jesus has given us a

16. According to Philippians 4:6, 7, what is the only way that we can gain peace? Explain.

challenging assignment, he is with us, supporting us through the last days of this system. (Matt. 28: 19, 20) What courage that builds in us! Relief, hope, and courage—these are some of the solid foundation stones on which our peace of mind is built.

¹⁷ How, then, can you retain your peace of mind when you are shaken by severe trials? You can do so by imitating the things Jesus did. First, pray and persist in prayer. Second, obey Jehovah and preach zealously even when it is difficult to do so. And third, look to your friends to help you through trials. Then the peace of God will guard your mind and heart. And like Jesus, you will conquer any trial.—**Read John 16:33.**

17. (a) How can a Christian retain inner peace? (b) As promised at John 16:33, what will we be able to do?

WHAT ROLE DO THE FOLLOWING PLAY IN OUR
MAINTAINING INNER PEACE?

■ Prayer

■ Preaching

■ Friends

SONG 41

Please Hear My Prayer

Please Hear My Prayer

(Psalm 54)

1. Heavenly Father, please hear my song.
You are my God; to you I belong.
Great is your name, beyond all compare.

(CHORUS)

Gracious Jehovah, please hear my prayer.

2. Thank you, O God, for granting this day,
Giving me life, and showing the way.
How I delight in your tender care.

(Chorus)

3. Oh, how I long to do what is right!
Help me, O Lord, to walk in the light.
Give me the strength all burdens to bear.

(Chorus)

