

- Song 119 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

- **“The Importance of Faith”:** (10 min.)  
 Heb 11:1—Faith defined (*w16.10 27 ¶6*)  
 Heb 11:6—Faith is necessary to please God (*w13 11/1 11 ¶2-5*)  
 Heb 11:33-38—Faith enabled God’s servants in the past to meet difficult challenges (*w16.10 23 ¶10-11*)
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)  
 Heb 11:4—On what was Abel’s faith based? (*it-1 804 ¶5*)

Heb 11:5—How was Enoch’s faith rewarded? (*wp17.1 12-13*)

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) Heb 11:1-16 (10)

**APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY**

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**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

- Song 3
- **“What Will You Do in the Year of Drought?”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video.
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- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
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HEBREWS 11 | The Importance of Faith

11:1, 6, 33-38 

How can strong faith help you in the following situations?



- You receive a challenging theocratic assignment.—Heb 11:8-10

- You lose a loved one in death.—Heb 11:17-19

- The secular authorities place restrictions on your worship.—Heb 11:23-26

(Hebrews 10:38, 39)

1. On many occasions God spoke to men  
By means of his prophets of old.  
Today he is saying, 'Let all repent,'  
By God's own Son we are told.

*(CHORUS)*

*Do we have strong faith? Is it real?  
We must build such faith to survive.  
Is our faith proved true by our works?  
By means of faith, we'll be preserved alive.*

2. We gladly obey Christ Jesus' command  
To share Kingdom truth far and wide.  
We boldly declare God's message of hope;  
His promise we'll never hide.

*(Chorus)*

3. Our faith is an anchor firm and secure;  
We never will shrink back in fear.  
Our trust in Jehovah helps us endure;  
We know salvation is near.

*(Chorus)*

## Hebrews 11

**11** Faith is the assured expectation of what is hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities that are not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by means of it, the men of ancient times had witness borne to them.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we perceive that the systems of things were put in order by God's word, so that what is seen has come into existence from things that are not visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than that of Cain, and through that faith he received the witness that he was righteous, for God approved his gifts, and although he died, he still speaks through his faith.

<sup>5</sup> By faith E'noch was transferred so as not to see death, and he was nowhere to be found because God had transferred him; for before he was transferred he received the witness that he had pleased God well. <sup>6</sup> Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please God well, for whoever approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, after receiving divine warning of things not yet seen, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; and through this faith he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that results from faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, although not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he lived as a foreigner in the land of the promise as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the very same promise.

<sup>10</sup> For he was awaiting the city having real foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith also Sarah received power to conceive offspring, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who made the promise. <sup>12</sup> For this reason, from one man who was as good as dead, there were born children, as many as the stars of heaven in number and as innumerable as the sands by the seaside.

<sup>13</sup> In faith all of these died, although they did not receive the fulfillment of the promises; but they saw them from a distance and welcomed them and publicly declared that they were strangers and temporary residents in the land. <sup>14</sup> For those who speak in such a way make it evident that they are earnestly seeking a place of their own. <sup>15</sup> And yet, if they had kept remembering the place from which they had departed, they would have had opportunity to return.

<sup>16</sup> But now they are reaching out for a better place, that is, one belonging to heaven. Therefore, God is not ashamed of them, to be called on as their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac—the man who had gladly received the promises attempted to offer up his only-begotten son— <sup>18</sup> although it had been said to him: “What will be called your offspring will be through Isaac.” <sup>19</sup> But he reasoned that God was able to raise him up even from the dead, and he did receive him from there in an illustrative way.

<sup>20</sup> By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and E'sau concerning things to come.

<sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, when about to die, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshipped while leaning on the top of his staff.

<sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, nearing his end, spoke of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and he gave instructions concerning his bones.

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses was hid by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the young child was beautiful and they did not fear the order of the king. <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when grown up, refused to be called the son of Phar'ao'h's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing to be mistreated with the people of God rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin, <sup>26</sup> because he considered the reproach of the Christ to be riches greater than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked intently toward the payment of the reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, but not fearing the anger of the king, for he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he observed the Passover and the splashing of the blood, so that the destroyer might not harm their firstborn.

<sup>29</sup> By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted it, they were swallowed up.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jer'i-cho fell down after the people had marched around them for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Ra'hab the prostitute did not perish with those who acted disobediently, because she received the spies in a peaceable way.

<sup>32</sup> And what more will I say? For time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gid'e-on, Ba'rak, Samson, Jeph'thah, David, as well as Samuel and the other prophets. <sup>33</sup> Through faith they defeated kingdoms, brought about righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became mighty in war, routed invading armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order that they

might attain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Yes, others received their trial by mockings and scourgings, indeed, more than that, by chains and prisons. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were tried, they were sawn in two, they were slaughtered by the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, while they were in need, in tribulation, mistreated; <sup>38</sup> and the world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and mountains and caves and dens of the earth.

<sup>39</sup> And yet all of these, although they received a favorable witness because of their faith, did not obtain the fulfillment of the promise, <sup>40</sup> because God had foreseen something better for us, so that they might not be made perfect apart from us.

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- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

**TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

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 Heb 11:1—Faith defined (*w16.10 27 ¶6*)  
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11:1, 6, 33-38 

How can strong faith help you in the following situations?



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- The secular authorities place restrictions on your worship.—Heb 11:23-26

## September 16-22 / Hebrews 11

- Song 119 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 minutes or less)

### Treasures From God's Word

**"The Importance of Faith":** (10 minutes)

Hebrews 11:1, 6, 33-38

How can strong faith help you in the following situations?

- You receive a challenging theocratic assignment.—Hebrews 11:8-10
- You lose a loved one in death.—Hebrews 11:17-19
- The secular authorities place restrictions on your worship.—Hebrews 11:23-26

### Hebrews 11:1—Faith defined

**Hebrews 11:1:** Faith is the assured expectation of what is hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities that are not seen.

### w16.10 27 paragraph 6

The Bible's description of faith is found at Hebrews 11:1. (Read.) Faith focuses on two kinds of things that are not visible to us:



(1) “What is hoped for”—this may include future events that have been promised to happen but that have not yet occurred, such as the end of all wickedness and the coming new world. (2) “Realities that are not seen.” In this context, the Greek word translated “evident demonstration” refers to “convincing evidence” of an invisible reality, such as the existence of Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, the angels, and the activities of the heavenly Kingdom. (Hebrews 11:3) How do we prove that our hope is alive and that we believe in the unseen things spoken of in God’s Word? By our words and deeds—without which our faith would be incomplete.

### **Hebrews 11:6—Faith is necessary to please God**

**Hebrews 11:6:** Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please God well, for whoever approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

### **w13 11/1 11 paragraphs 2-5**

What does it take to please Jehovah? “Without faith it is impossible to please [God] well,” writes Paul. Notice that Paul does not say that it is *difficult* to please God without faith. Rather, the apostle says that it is *impossible* to do so. In other words, faith is an essential ingredient for pleasing God.

What kind of faith pleases Jehovah? Our faith in God must involve

two aspects. First, we “must believe that he is.” Other translations say “believe that he is real” and “believe that he exists.” How could we possibly please God if we doubted his existence? Still, genuine faith involves more, for even the demons believe that Jehovah exists. (James 2:19) Our faith that God is real should move us to action, that is, to prove our faith by living in a way that is pleasing to him.—James 2:20, 26.

Second, we “must believe that” God is “the rewarder.” A person with true faith is fully convinced that his efforts to live in a way that pleases God will not be in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58) How could we please Jehovah if we doubted his ability or desire to reward us? (James 1:17; 1 Peter 5:7) A person who concludes that God must be uncaring, unappreciative, and ungenerous does not know the God of the Bible.

Whom does Jehovah reward? “Those earnestly seeking him,” says Paul. A reference work for Bible translators notes that the Greek word rendered “earnestly seeking” does not mean “going out to find” but, rather, implies coming to God “in worship.” Another reference work explains that this Greek verb is in a form that suggests intensity and concentrated effort. Yes, Jehovah rewards those whose faith moves them to worship him with wholehearted love and zeal.—Matthew 22:37.

## **Hebrews 11:33-38—Faith enabled God’s servants in the past to meet difficult challenges**

**Hebrews 11:33-38:** Through faith they defeated kingdoms, brought about righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became mighty in war, routed invading armies. Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order that they might attain a better resurrection. Yes, others received their trial by mockings and scourgings, indeed, more than that, by chains and prisons. They were stoned, they were tried, they were sawn in two, they were slaughtered by the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, while they were in need, in tribulation, mistreated; and the world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and mountains and caves and dens of the earth.

### **w16.10 23 paragraphs 10-11**

10 In Hebrews chapter 11, the apostle Paul describes the trials that many unnamed servants of God endured. For example, the apostle mentions women of faith who lost their sons in death but later received them back by resurrection. Then he mentions others who “would not accept release by some ransom, in order that they might attain a better resurrection.” (Hebrews 11:35) Though we cannot be

sure whom Paul had in mind, some, like Naboth and Zechariah, were stoned to death for obeying God and doing his will. (1 Kings 21:3, 15; 2 Chronicles 24:20, 21) Daniel and his companions clearly had the opportunity to “accept release” by compromising their integrity. Instead, their faith in God’s power enabled them, so to speak, to ‘stop the mouths of lions’ and ‘quench the force of fire.’—Hebrews 11:33, 34; Daniel 3:16-18, 20, 28; 6:13, 16,21-23.

11 Because of their faith, such prophets as Micaiah and Jeremiah “received their trial by mockings . . . and prisons.” Others, like Elijah, “wandered about in deserts and mountains and caves and dens of the earth.” All of them endured because they had an “assured expectation of what is hoped for.”—Hebrews 11:1, 36-38; 1 Kings 18:13; 22:24-27; Jeremiah 20:1, 2; 28:10, 11; 32:2.

## **Digging for Spiritual Gems**

### **Hebrews 11:4—On what was Abel’s faith based?**

**Hebrews 11:4:** By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than that of Cain, and through that faith he received the witness that he was righteous, for God approved his gifts, and although he died, he still speaks through his faith.

### ***it-1* 804 paragraph 5**

Ancient Examples of Faith. Each one of the “so great a cloud of

witnesses” mentioned by Paul (Hebrews 12:1) had a valid basis for faith. For example, Abel certainly knew about God’s promise concerning a “seed” that would bruise “the serpent” in the head. And he saw tangible evidences of the fulfillment of the sentence Jehovah pronounced upon his parents in Eden. Outside Eden, Adam and his family ate bread in the sweat of their face because the ground was cursed and, therefore, produced thorns and thistles. Likely Abel observed that Eve’s craving was for her husband and that Adam dominated his wife. Undoubtedly his mother commented about the pain attending her pregnancy. Then, too, the entrance to the garden of Eden was being guarded by cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword. (Genesis 3:14-19, 24) All of this constituted an “evident demonstration,” giving Abel the assurance that deliverance would come through the ‘seed of promise.’ Therefore, prompted by faith, he “offered God a sacrifice,” one that proved to be of greater worth than that of Cain.—Hebrews 11:1, 4.

### **Hebrews 11:5—How was Enoch’s faith rewarded?**

**Hebrews 11:5:** By faith Enoch was transferred so as not to see death, and he was nowhere to be found because God had transferred him; for before he was transferred he received the witness that he had pleased God well.

## **wp17.1 12-13**

In what sense, then, was Enoch “transferred” so that he did not “see death”? Jehovah likely transferred Enoch gently from life to death, sparing him any pangs of death. But first, Enoch received “the witness that he had pleased God well.” How? Just before his death, Enoch may have received a vision from God, perhaps one showing him the earth as a paradise. With that vivid sign of Jehovah’s approval, Enoch fell asleep in death. Writing about Enoch and other faithful men and women, the apostle Paul stated: “In faith all of these died.” (Hebrews 11:13) Thereafter, his enemies may have searched for the body, but it was “nowhere to be found,” perhaps because Jehovah disposed of it, preventing them from desecrating it or using it to promote false religion.

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

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# Our Christian Life and Ministry

## MEETING WORKBOOK

### Sample Conversations



#### INITIAL CALL

**Question:** How does God feel about those who sincerely seek him?

**Scripture:** 1Pe 5:6, 7

**Link:** To what extent does God pay attention to us as individuals?



#### FIRST RETURN VISIT

**Question:** To what extent does God pay attention to us as individuals?

**Scripture:** Mt 10:29-31

**Link:** How do we know that God understands us?



#### SECOND RETURN VISIT

**Question:** How do we know that God understands us?

**Scripture:** Ps 139:1, 2, 4

**Link:** How can God's care benefit us?





# 3

## *Our Strength, Our Hope, Our Confidence*

(Proverbs 14:26)

1. O Jehovah, you have given us  
a hope that we hold dear.  
It's a hope we find so thrilling  
we want the world to hear.  
But at times this life's anxieties  
are the cause of fears within,  
And the hope that burned so brightly  
has suddenly grown dim.

*(CHORUS)*

*You're our strength, you're our hope,  
you're our confidence.*

*Whatever we lack, you supply.*

*When we preach, when we teach,  
we have confidence*

*because it's on you we rely.*

2. So Jehovah, please instill in us  
a heart that won't forget,  
For you've always been our comfort  
when troubled times we've met.  
And these thoughts that lift and strengthen us  
can revive that dying flame,  
For they fill our hearts with courage  
to speak about your name.

*(Chorus)*

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## What Will You Do in the Year of Drought?

Faith and trust are closely related. For example, strong faith in Jehovah helps us to trust that he will protect and care for us. (Ps 23:1, 4; 78:22) As we get closer to the end of this system of things, we can expect Satan’s attacks to increase. (Re 12:12) What will help us?

**WATCH THE VIDEO *WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THE YEAR OF DROUGHT?* AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. How are we like the “tree” mentioned at Jeremiah 17:8?

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2. What is one form of “heat”?

---

3. How is the “tree” affected, and why?

---

4. What does Satan want to destroy?

---

5. In what way are we like *experienced* fliers?

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6. Why should we continue to trust the faithful and discreet slave, and how will our trust be tested?

---

7. Why should we continue to trust Bible principles despite ridicule from the world?

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# DISCIPLESHIP —HOW SERIOUS?

LUKE 14:25-35

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- THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE

---

Jesus has taught valuable lessons while having a meal at the house of a leader of the Pharisees. As Jesus continues his trip toward Jerusalem, large crowds travel with him. Why? Are they really interested in being his true followers, no matter what that may require of them?

As they travel along the way, Jesus says something to them that may shock some: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26) But what does he mean in saying this?

Jesus is not saying that all who become his followers must literally hate their relatives. Rather, he means that they must hate them in the sense of lov-

ing them less than they love Jesus, not being like the man in his illustration of the evening meal who turned down an important invitation because he just got married. (Luke 14:20) The Jews' ancestor Jacob is said to have "hated" Leah and loved Rachel, meaning that he loved Leah less than her sister Rachel.—Genesis 29:31; footnote.

Note that Jesus says that a disciple should hate "even his own life," or soul. This means that a true disciple must love Jesus more than he loves his own life, even being willing to lose his life if necessary. Clearly, becoming a disciple of Christ is a serious responsibility. It is not to be undertaken casually, without careful thought.

Discipleship may involve hardship and persecution, for Jesus says: "Whoever does not carry his torture stake and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27) Yes, a true disciple of Jesus must be willing to undergo a burden of reproach such as Jesus faced. Jesus has even said that he will die at the hands of his enemies.

So the crowds traveling with Jesus need to analyze very carefully what it means to be a disciple of

Christ. Jesus emphasizes this with an illustration. “For example,” he says, “who of you wanting to build a tower does not first sit down and calculate the expense to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, he might lay its foundation but not be able to finish it.” (Luke 14:28, 29) Thus, before becoming Jesus’ disciples, those traveling with him toward Jerusalem should have firmly decided to carry out the responsibility fully. He underscores that thought with another illustration:

“What king marching out against another king in war does not first sit down and take counsel whether he is able with 10,000 troops to stand up to the one who comes against him with 20,000? If, in fact, he cannot do so, then while that one is yet far away, he sends out a body of ambassadors and sues for peace.” To emphasize his point, Jesus says: “In the same way, you may be sure that not one of you who does not say good-bye to all his belongings can be my disciple.”—Luke 14:31-33.

Of course, Jesus is not saying that only for the crowds following him on the road. All who learn of



Christ must be willing to do what he is saying here. This means that they need to be ready to sacrifice everything they have—their belongings, even their life—if they are to be his disciples. That is something to think and pray about.

Now Jesus brings up a matter that he touched on in his Sermon on the Mount when he said that his disciples are “the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13) He likely meant that even as literal salt is a preservative, his disciples have a preserving effect on people, protecting them from spiritual and moral decay. Now, as his ministry draws to a close, he says: “Salt, to be sure, is fine. But if the salt loses its strength, with what will it be seasoned?” (Luke 14:34) His listeners know that some salt available then was impure, mixed with earthy matter and thus of little use.

So Jesus is showing that even those who have long been his disciples must not let their determination grow weak. If that were to happen, they would become useless, like salt that has lost its strength. The world might then ridicule them. More than that,



they would be unfit before God, even bringing reproach upon his name. Jesus stresses the importance of avoiding that outcome, saying: “Let the one who has ears to listen, listen.”—Luke 14:35.

- ◇ What does Jesus mean in saying that a disciple must “hate” his relatives and even “his own life”?
- ◇ What is Jesus teaching by means of his illustrations about building a tower and about a king with an army?
- ◇ What is the point of Jesus’ comments about salt?

# *“This Is the Way”*

(Isaiah 30:20, 21)

1. There is a way of peace,  
The way you've come to know.  
It is the way you learned,  
The way of long ago,  
The way that Jesus taught you  
When his voice you heard.  
This is the way of peace,  
Found in Jehovah's Word.

*(CHORUS)*

*This is the way to life; This is the way.*

*Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!*

*God's voice is calling: 'This is the way;*

*Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'*

2. There is a way of love,  
No need to look around.  
God's voice has shown the way  
He lets himself be found.  
His love is full and good;  
His love is warm and true.  
This is the way of love;  
It touches all we do.

*(Chorus)*

3. There is a way of life,  
No need to look behind.  
Our God has promised us:  
No better way we'll find,  
No higher way to peace,  
No finer way to love.  
This is the way to life,  
Thanks to our God above.

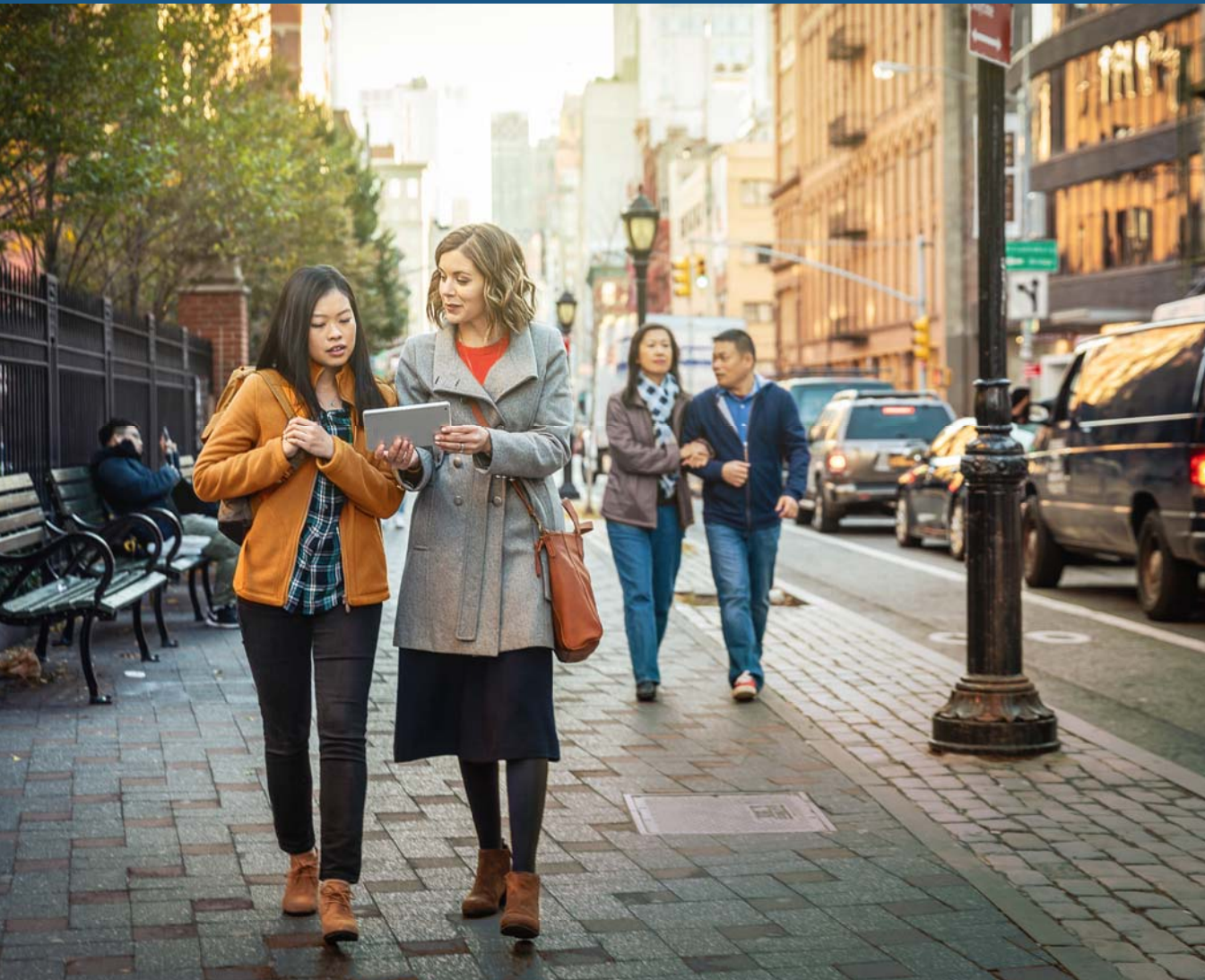
**(CHORUS)**

*This is the way to life; This is the way.  
Don't look aside; Not for a moment stray!  
God's voice is calling: 'This is the way;  
Do not look back, for yes, this is the way.'*

JULY 2019

THE **WATCHTOWER**  
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:  
SEPTEMBER 2-29, 2019

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### COVER PICTURE:

Many Kingdom publishers show personal interest in others from non-Christian lands and share with them the practical wisdom found in the Bible (See study article 30, paragraphs 12-13)

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1. In this year of goodwill  
by our God, all need to hear  
That the day of his anger  
will come, and it is near.

*(CHORUS)*

*It means their life, but not just theirs;  
It means our own life as well.  
It means their life if they obey,  
So all the nations we must tell;  
We must tell.*

2. There's a message to preach,  
so we spread it all abroad.  
We invite all to come and  
be reconciled to God.

*(Chorus)**(BRIDGE)*

It's urgent, it's important,  
That people listen, learn, and live.  
We tell them, and we teach them;  
Life-giving truth we freely give.

*(Chorus)*

# “Go . . . Make Disciples”

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations.”—MATT. 28:19.*

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## SONG 60

It Means Their Life

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## PREVIEW

The Christian congregation has a primary mission—to help people become disciples of Christ. This article provides practical suggestions that will help us carry out our mission.

**THE apostles must have been full of anticipation as they gathered on a mountainside. Jesus had, after his resurrection, arranged for them to meet him at that location. (Matt. 28:16) That was perhaps the occasion when “he appeared to more than 500 brothers at one time.” (1 Cor. 15:6) Why had Jesus called his disciples to this meeting? To give them an exciting mission: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations.”—Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

**<sup>2</sup> The disciples who heard Jesus’ words became part of the first-century Christian congregation. The primary mission of that congregation was to make more disciples of Christ.\* Today, there are tens of thousands of true Christian congregations throughout the earth, and the primary mission of those congregations remains the same. In this article, we will consider four questions: Why is disciple-making so important? What does it involve? Do**

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**\* EXPRESSION EXPLAINED: Disciples** of Christ do more than learn what Jesus taught. They put what they learn into action. They try to follow Jesus’ footsteps, or example, as closely as possible.—1 Pet. 2:21.

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**1-2. (a) According to Jesus’ command recorded at Matthew 28:18-20, what is the primary mission of the Christian congregation? (b) What questions will we consider in this article?**



all Christians have a part in making disciples? And why do we need patience for this work?

## **WHY IS DISCIPLE-MAKING SO IMPORTANT?**

<sup>3</sup> Why is the disciple-making work so important? Because only disciples of Christ can be friends of God. In addition, those who follow Christ improve their lives now and have the hope of enjoying endless life in the future. (Read John 14:6; 17:3.) Certainly, Jesus has entrusted us with an important responsibility, but we do not do this work by ourselves. The apostle Paul wrote about himself and certain close associates: “We are God’s fellow workers.” (1 Cor. 3:9) What a privilege Jehovah and Christ have given to imperfect humans!

<sup>4</sup> The disciple-making work can bring us much joy. Consider the example of Ivan and his wife, Matilde, in Colombia. They witnessed to a young man named Davier, who told them: “I want to make changes in my life, but I can’t.” Davier was a prizefighter who used drugs, drank excessively, and lived with his girlfriend, Erika. Ivan explains: “We began visiting

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3. According to John 14:6 and 17:3, why is the disciple-making work so important?

4. What can we learn from the experience involving Ivan and Matilde?

him in his isolated village, which meant riding our bicycles many hours along muddy roads. After noticing improvements in Davier’s behavior and attitude, Erika joined in the Bible study.” In time, Davier gave up drugs, drinking, and boxing. He also married Erika. Says Matilde: “When Davier and Erika got baptized in 2016, we remembered that Davier used to say, ‘I want to change, but I can’t.’ We just couldn’t hold back our tears.” Without a doubt, we feel intense joy when we help people become disciples of Christ.

## **WHAT DOES DISCIPLE-MAKING INVOLVE?**

<sup>5</sup> We take the first step in making disciples when we “search out” those with the right heart condition. (Matt. 10:11) We prove that we truly are Jehovah’s Witnesses by witnessing to all whom we meet. We prove that we are genuine Christians by following Christ’s command to preach.

<sup>6</sup> Some people are eager to learn Bible truths, but many we meet may seem to be indifferent at first. We may have to stimulate their interest. To be successful in the ministry, we need to have a well-thought-out strategy. Select specific subjects that

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5. What is the first step in making disciples?

6. What can help us to be successful in the ministry?

will likely interest those you will meet. Then plan how you will introduce the topic.

<sup>7</sup> For example, you might ask a householder: “Would you mind if I ask your opinion on something? Many problems facing us today affect people around the world. Do you think that it would take a world government to solve the world’s problems?” Then you could discuss Daniel 2:44. Or you might say to a neighbor: “What do you think is the key to raising well-behaved children? I would like to hear your opinion.” Then discuss Deuteronomy 6: 6, 7. Whatever subject you choose to discuss, think about the people who will hear you. Imagine how they will benefit from learning what the Bible really teaches. When talking with them, it is important that you listen to them and respect their viewpoint. That way you will understand them better, and they will be more likely to listen to you.

<sup>8</sup> Before a person decides to study the Bible, you may need to invest time and effort in making return visits. Why? Because people may not be available when we call on them again. Also, you may need to return several times before the householder feels

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7. How might you start a conversation with someone, and why do you think it is important to listen and show respect?

8. Why does making return visits require persistence?

comfortable enough with you to accept a Bible study. Remember, a plant is more likely to grow when it is watered regularly. Similarly, an interested person's love for Jehovah and Christ is more likely to grow when we regularly discuss God's Word with that person.

## **DO ALL CHRISTIANS HAVE A PART IN MAKING DISCIPLES?**

<sup>9</sup> Every Christian minister is involved in helping to find honesthearted ones. We could liken this work to finding a lost child. In what way? Consider the real-life example of a three-year-old boy who wandered away from home. About 500 people were involved in searching for him. Finally, some 20 hours after the child went missing, a volunteer discovered the little boy in a cornfield. That volunteer refused to take credit for locating the boy. He said: "It took hundreds of people to find him."

<sup>10</sup> Many people are like that child. They feel lost. They have no hope, but they want help. (Eph. 2:12) Over eight million of us are involved in trying to find these deserving ones. You may not personally find someone who will study the Bible with you.

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**9-10.** Why can we say that every Christian minister is involved in finding honesthearted ones?

However, other publishers working the same territory may find someone who wants to learn the truth found in God's Word. When a brother or sister meets someone who becomes a disciple of Christ, everyone who shared in the search has good reason to rejoice.

<sup>11</sup> Even if you are not presently conducting a Bible study, you can assist in making disciples in other

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**11.** Even if you are not conducting a Bible study, in what other ways could you help to make disciples?

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Witnesses worldwide are involved  
in the search for deserving ones  
(See paragraphs 9-10)



ways. For example, you can welcome new ones and befriend them when they come to the Kingdom Hall. In that way, you can help to convince them that love identifies us as true Christians. (John 13:34, 35) The answers you give during the meetings, though brief, can teach newly associated ones to express their convictions in a sincere and respectful manner. You can also accompany a new publisher in the ministry and help him to use the Scriptures to reason with people. By doing that, you will be teaching him to imitate Christ.—Luke 10:25-28.

<sup>12</sup> None of us should think that we need exceptional abilities to teach others to be disciples of Jesus. Why not? Consider the example of Faustina, who lives in Bolivia. She could not read when she began associating with Jehovah's Witnesses. Since then, she has learned to read to a limited degree. She is now baptized, and she loves to teach others. Usually, she conducts five Bible studies each week. Although Faustina cannot yet read as well as most of her students, she has helped six people to the point of baptism.—Luke 10:21.

<sup>13</sup> Many Christians are very busy caring for

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12. Do we need exceptional abilities to make disciples? Explain.

13. Even if we are very busy, what are some of the blessings that we can enjoy in the disciple-making work?

important responsibilities. Still, they make time for conducting Bible studies, and they get much joy from it. Note Melanie's example. She was a single parent, raising her eight-year-old daughter in Alaska. She also had a full-time job and helped care for a parent with cancer. Melanie was the only Witness in her isolated town. She used to pray for strength to face the cold and go out preaching because she really wanted to find someone with whom she could study the Bible. Eventually she met Sara, who was thrilled to learn that God has a personal name. After some time, Sara accepted a Bible study. Says Melanie: "On Friday evenings, I would be exhausted, but my daughter and I both benefited by going out to conduct that study. We enjoyed researching answers to Sara's questions, and we were so pleased to see her become Jehovah's friend." Sara courageously faced opposition, left her church, and got baptized.

## **WHY MAKING DISCIPLES REQUIRES PATIENCE**

<sup>14</sup> Even if your ministry seems to be unproductive, do not give up hope of finding potential disciples. Remember that Jesus likened disciple-making

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14. (a) How is disciple-making like fishing? (b) What effect do Paul's words recorded at 2 Timothy 4:1, 2 have on you?

to fishing. Fishermen may spend many hours before they catch any fish. Often they work late at night or early in the morning, and sometimes they have to sail long distances. (Luke 5:5) In like manner, some disciple-makers spend many hours patiently “fishing” at different times and in various locations. Why? To improve their chances of meeting people. Those who put in the extra effort are often rewarded by meeting people who are interested in our message. Could you try preaching at a time of day when you are more likely to meet people or at a location where you are more likely to find them?—Read **2 Timothy 4:1, 2**.

<sup>15</sup> Why does conducting Bible studies require patience? One reason is that we need to do more than help the student come to know and love the doctrines found in the Bible. We need to help the student come to know and love the Author of the Bible, Jehovah. And in addition to teaching a student *what* Jesus requires of his disciples, we need to help the student come to know *how* to live as a true Christian. We must patiently assist him as he struggles to put Bible principles into practice. Some are able to change their thinking and habits in just a few months; others take longer.

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15. Why does conducting Bible studies require patience?





Patiently assist your students  
to make spiritual progress  
(See paragraphs 15-16)



**<sup>16</sup> A missionary in Peru had an experience that illustrates the benefit of being patient. “I had studied two books with a Bible student named Raúl,” says the missionary. “But he still faced serious challenges in his life. He had a stormy marriage, used foul language, and had children who found it difficult to respect him. He came to the meetings regularly, so I continued visiting him to help him and his family. More than three years after I met him, he qualified for baptism.”**

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**16.** What did you learn from the experience involving Raúl?

<sup>17</sup> Jesus told us to “go . . . make disciples of people of all the nations.” To fulfill that commission, we often have to speak with people whose way of thinking is very different from our own, including those who do not belong to any religious organization or who may not believe that God exists. The next article considers how we can present the good news to people with different backgrounds.

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17. What will we discuss in the next article?

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 34:** A man leaving on vacation accepts literature from Witnesses at an airport. Later, while sightseeing, he sees other Witnesses doing public witnessing. After he returns home, publishers call at his door. **Page 38:** The same man accepts a Bible study. Eventually, he qualifies for baptism.

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### HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- Why is disciple-making important?
- Who is involved in making disciples?
- Why does disciple-making require patience?

## *Sowing Kingdom Seed*

(Matthew 13:4-8)

1. Come share in the work of our Master;  
Respond to his call and obey.  
He offers to help and to guide you;  
His teaching will show you the way.  
The seed of the truth has power to grow  
In hearts that are honest and true.  
So give of your best as you faithfully share  
In the work you've been given to do.
2. How much of your work is successful  
May often depend much on you.  
Those hearing will need your assistance  
To learn and to love what is true.  
So help them to deal with pressures and doubts  
They're certain to face on their way.  
The seed of the truth will bring joy when you see  
How it grows in their heart day by day.

