

- Song 3 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“I Will Be With You as You Speak”:** (10 min.)
 Ex 4:10, 13—Moses felt inadequate for his assignment (*w10 10/15 13-14*)
 Ex 4:11, 12—Jehovah assured him (*w14 4/15 9 ¶5-6*)
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- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
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Ex 5:2—In what sense did Pharaoh not know Jehovah? (*it-2 12 ¶5*)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Ex 4:1-17 (12)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then invite the person to our meetings. (2)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS


- Song 61
- **“How to Use the Sample Conversations”:** (5 min.) Discussion.
- **“You Can Preach and Teach!”:** (10 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Be a Courageous . . . Publisher* (video category TEENAGERS).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jy chap. 121*
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 73 and Prayer

EXODUS 4-5 | “I Will Be With You as You Speak”

4:10-15

With Jehovah’s help, Moses overcame his fears. What can we learn from Jehovah’s interaction with Moses?

- We should avoid focusing on our own inadequacies
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 How has Jehovah helped me to overcome hurdles in the ministry?



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)

Exodus 4-5

4 However, Moses answered: “But suppose they do not believe me and do not listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘Jehovah did not appear to you.’” ² Then Jehovah said to him: “What is that in your hand?” He answered: “A rod.” ³ He said: “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ Jehovah now said to Moses: “Reach out your hand and seize it by the tail.” So he reached out and seized it, and it became a rod in his hand. ⁵ God then said: “This is so that they may believe that Jehovah the God of their forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

⁶ Jehovah said to him once more: “Put your hand, please, into the upper fold of your garment.” So he put his hand into the fold of his garment. When he drew it out, why, his hand was stricken with leprosy like snow! ⁷ Then he said: “Return your hand into the upper fold of your garment.” So he returned his hand into his garment. When he drew it out of the garment, it was restored like the rest of his flesh! ⁸ He said: “If they will not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, then they will certainly heed the next sign. ⁹ Still, even if they will not believe these two signs and refuse to listen to your voice, you will take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry land, and the water that you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry land.”

¹⁰ Moses now said to Jehovah: “Pardon me, Jehovah, but I have never been a fluent speaker, neither in the past nor

since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”¹¹ Jehovah said to him: “Who made a mouth for man, or who makes them speechless, deaf, clear-sighted, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah?”¹² So go now, and I will be with you as you speak, and I will teach you what you should say.”¹³ But he said: “Pardon me, Jehovah, please send anyone whom you want to send.”¹⁴ Then Jehovah’s anger blazed against Moses, and he said: “What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak very well. And he is now on his way here to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will rejoice.”¹⁵ So you must speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with you and him as you speak, and I will teach you men what to do.”¹⁶ He will speak for you to the people, and he will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him.¹⁷ And you will take this rod in your hand and perform the signs with it.”

¹⁸ So Moses went back to Jeth'ro his father-in-law and said to him: “I want to go, please, and return to my brothers who are in Egypt to see whether they are still alive.” Jeth'ro said to Moses: “Go in peace.”¹⁹ After that Jehovah said to Moses in Mid'i-an: “Go, return to Egypt, because all the men who were seeking to kill you are dead.”

²⁰ Then Moses took his wife and his sons and lifted them onto a donkey, and he started back to the land of Egypt. Moreover, Moses took the rod of the true God in his hand.

²¹ Then Jehovah said to Moses: “After you have returned to Egypt, see that you perform before Phar'aoh all the miracles

that I have empowered you to do. But I will allow his heart to become obstinate, and he will not send the people away.

²² You must say to Phar'aoh, 'This is what Jehovah says: "Israel is my son, my firstborn. ²³ I say to you, Send my son away so that he may serve me. But if you refuse to send him away, I am going to kill your son, your firstborn.'"

²⁴ Now on the road at the lodging place, Jehovah met him and was seeking to put him to death. ²⁵ Finally Zip-po'rah took a flint and circumcised her son and caused his foreskin to touch his feet and said: "It is because you are a bridegroom of blood to me." ²⁶ So He let him go. At that time she said, "a bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

²⁷ Then Jehovah said to Aaron: "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of the true God and greeted him with a kiss. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of Jehovah, who had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him to do. ²⁹ After that Moses and Aaron went and gathered all the elders of the Israelites. ³⁰ Aaron told them all the words that Jehovah had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs before the eyes of the people. ³¹ At this the people believed. When they heard that Jehovah had turned his attention to the Israelites and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed down and prostrated themselves.

5 Afterward, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Phar'aoh: "This is what Jehovah the God of Israel says, 'Send my people away so that they may celebrate a festival

to me in the wilderness.”² But Phar'aoth said: “Who is Jehovah, that I should obey his voice to send Israel away? I do not know Jehovah at all, and what is more, I will not send Israel away.”³ But they said: “The God of the Hebrews has communicated with us. Please, we want to make a three-day journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to Jehovah our God; otherwise, he will strike us with disease or with the sword.”⁴ The king of Egypt replied to them: “Why is it, Moses and Aaron, that you are taking the people away from their work? Return to your labor!”⁵ And Phar'aoth continued: “Look at how many people of the land there are, and you would have them rest from their labor.”

⁶ That same day, Phar'aoth commanded the taskmasters and their foremen:⁷ “You must no longer give straw to the people to make bricks. Let them go and gather straw for themselves.”⁸ But you must still impose on them the same quota of bricks as they made in the past. Do not reduce it for them, for they are relaxing. That is why they are crying out, ‘We want to go, we want to sacrifice to our God!’⁹ Make them work harder, and keep them busy so that they will not pay attention to lies.”

¹⁰ So the taskmasters and their foremen went out and said to the people: “Here is what Phar'aoth has said, ‘I am giving you no more straw.’¹¹ Go and get your own straw for yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.”¹² Then the people scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.¹³ And the taskmasters kept urging them: “You must each finish your

work every day, just as when straw was provided.”¹⁴ Also the foremen of the Israelites, whom Phar'aoh's taskmasters had appointed over them, were beaten. They asked them: “Why did you not reach the quota of bricks that you used to make? It happened both yesterday and today.”

¹⁵ So the foremen of the Israelites went in and complained to Phar'aoh: “Why are you treating your servants this way?

¹⁶ No straw is given to your servants, yet they are saying to us, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are beaten, but your own people are at fault.”¹⁷ But he said: “You are relaxing, you are relaxing! That is why you are saying, ‘We want to go, we want to sacrifice to Jehovah.’”¹⁸ So now go, get back to work! No straw will be given to you, but you must still produce your quota of bricks.”

¹⁹ Then the foremen of the Israelites saw that they were in serious trouble because of the order: “You must not reduce your daily quota of bricks at all.”²⁰ After that they met up with Moses and Aaron, who were standing there to meet them as they came out from Phar'aoh.²¹ At once they said to them: “May Jehovah look upon you and judge, since you have made Phar'aoh and his servants despise us and you have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”²² Then Moses turned to Jehovah and said: “Jehovah, why have you afflicted this people? Why have you sent me?”²³ From the time that I went in before Phar'aoh to speak in your name, he has dealt worse with this people, and you have certainly not rescued your people.”

- Song 3 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“I Will Be With You as You Speak”:** (10 min.)
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- Song 61
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- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
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EXODUS 4-5 | “I Will Be With You as You Speak”

4:10-15

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 How has Jehovah helped me to overcome hurdles in the ministry?



June 29-July 5 / Exodus 4-5

- Song 3 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"I Will Be With You as You Speak": (10 minutes)

Exodus 4:10-15

Picture: Moses and Aaron appearing before Pharaoh and members of the Egyptian royal court.

With Jehovah's help, Moses overcame his fears. What can we learn from Jehovah's interaction with Moses?

- We should avoid focusing on our own inadequacies
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How has Jehovah helped me to overcome hurdles in the ministry?

Picture: A brother taking a stand for his faith before court officials.

Exodus 4:10, 13—Moses felt inadequate for his assignment

Exodus 4:10: Moses now said to Jehovah: "Pardon me, Jehovah, but I have never been a fluent speaker, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Exodus 4:13: But he said: "Pardon me, Jehovah, please send anyone whom you want to send."

w10 10/15 13-14

"I am not good enough." You may feel that you are not qualified to be a minister of the good news. Some faithful servants of Jehovah in Bible times felt that they were not good enough to handle tasks that Jehovah assigned to them. Take Moses as an example. When he received a specific commission from Jehovah, Moses said: "Excuse me, Jehovah, but I am not a fluent speaker, neither since yesterday nor since before that nor since your speaking to your servant, for I am slow of mouth and slow of tongue." Although Jehovah reassured him, Moses replied: "Excuse me, Jehovah, but send, please, by the hand of the one whom you are going to send." (Exodus 4:10-13) What was Jehovah's reaction?

Exodus 4:11, 12—Jehovah assured him

Exodus 4:11, 12: Jehovah said to him: “Who made a mouth for man, or who makes them speechless, deaf, clear-sighted, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah? So go now, and I will be with you as you speak, and I will teach you what you should say.”

w14 4/15 9 paragraphs 5-6

5 Before Moses returned to Egypt, God taught him a vital principle, the same principle that Moses later recorded in the book of Job: “The fear of Jehovah—that is wisdom.” (Job 28:28) To help Moses to acquire such fear and act wisely, Jehovah drew a contrast between humans and Almighty God. He asked: “Who made a mouth for man, or who makes them speechless, deaf, clear-sighted, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah?”—Exodus 4:11.

6 What was the lesson? Moses did not need to be afraid. He was sent by Jehovah, who would give Moses whatever he needed to deliver God’s message to Pharaoh. Besides, Pharaoh was no match for Jehovah. After all, this was not the first time God’s servants had been in danger under Egyptian rule. Perhaps Moses meditated on how Jehovah had

protected Abraham, Joseph, and even Moses himself during the reigns of past Pharaohs. (Genesis 12:17-19; 41:14, 39-41; Exodus 1:22–2:10) With faith in Jehovah, “the One who is invisible,” Moses courageously appeared before Pharaoh and proclaimed every word that Jehovah commanded Moses to speak.

Exodus 4:14, 15—Jehovah provided Aaron to assist Moses

Exodus 4:14, 15: Then Jehovah’s anger blazed against Moses, and he said: “What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak very well. And he is now on his way here to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will rejoice. So you must speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with you and him as you speak, and I will teach you men what to do.

w10 10/15 14

Jehovah did not exempt Moses from carrying out the assignment. However, Jehovah did appoint Aaron to assist

Moses in handling the task. (Exodus 4:14-17) Moreover, in the years that followed, Jehovah stood by Moses and provided him with whatever he needed to succeed in fulfilling his God-given assignments. Today, you can be confident that Jehovah will move experienced fellow believers to help you too in carrying out your ministry. Above all, God's Word assures us that Jehovah will qualify us for the work he has commanded us to do.—2 Corinthians 3:5; see the box "The Happiest Years of My Life."

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 4:24-26—For what possible reason did Zipporah call Jehovah "a bridegroom of blood"?

Exodus 4:24-26: Now on the road at the lodging place, Jehovah met him and was seeking to put him to death. Finally Zipporah took a flint and circumcised her son and caused his foreskin to touch his feet and said: "It is because you are a bridegroom of blood to me." So He let him go. At that time she said, "a bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

w04 3/15 28 paragraph 4

Zipporah's expression "you are a bridegroom of blood to me" is an unusual one. What does it indicate about her? By her compliance with the requirements of the circumcision covenant, Zipporah acknowledged a covenant relationship with Jehovah. The Law covenant later made with the Israelites showed that in a covenant relationship, Jehovah can be thought of as a husband and the other party as a wife. (Jeremiah 31:32) Hence, in addressing Jehovah (through his representative angel) as "a bridegroom of blood," Zipporah appears to have been acknowledging her own submission to the terms of that covenant. It was as if she had accepted a wifely position in the circumcision covenant, with Jehovah God as the husband. In any case, because of her decisive act of obedience to God's requirement, the life of her son was no longer in danger.

Exodus 5:2—In what sense did Pharaoh not know Jehovah?

Exodus 5:2: But Pharaoh said: “Who is Jehovah, that I should obey his voice to send Israel away? I do not know Jehovah at all, and what is more, I will not send Israel away.”

it-2 12 paragraph 5

To “know,” therefore, does not necessarily mean merely to be acquainted with or cognizant of something or someone. The foolish Nabal knew David’s name but still asked, “Who is David?” in the sense of asking, “What does he amount to?” (1 Samuel 25:9-11; compare 2 Samuel 8:13.) So, too, Pharaoh had said to Moses: “Who is Jehovah, so that I should obey his voice to send Israel away? I do not know Jehovah at all and, what is more, I am not going to send Israel away.”

(Exodus 5:1, 2) By that, Pharaoh evidently meant that he did not know Jehovah as the true God or as having any authority over Egypt’s king and his affairs, nor as having any might to enforce His will as announced by Moses and Aaron. But now Pharaoh and all Egypt, along with the Israelites, would come to know the real meaning of that name, the person it

represented. As Jehovah showed Moses, this would result from God's carrying out His purpose toward Israel, liberating them, giving them the Promised Land, and thereby fulfilling His covenant with their forefathers. In this way, as God said, "You will certainly know that I am Jehovah your God."—Exodus 6:4-8; see ALMIGHTY.

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(th study 12)

- Song 3 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations*

▲ Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh

INITIAL CALL

Question: Are we living in the last days?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:1-5

Link: What will happen after the last days?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *bhs* 98 ¶10



RETURN VISIT

Question: What will happen after the last days?

Scripture: Re 21:3, 4

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

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *bhs* 100 ¶15



* Beginning this month, the sample conversations will include only the initial call and return visit.

Bible Study: (5 min. or less) *bhs* 100 ¶15-16 (*th* study 8)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

¹⁵ Do you believe that we are living in the last days? Many Bible prophecies about the last days are coming true. Soon Jehovah will decide to stop the preaching of the good news and “the end” will come. (Matthew 24:14) What is the end? It is Armageddon, when God will remove all wickedness.

Jehovah will use Jesus and his powerful angels to destroy anyone who refuses to obey Him and his Son.

(2 Thessalonians 1:6-9) After that, Satan and his demons will not mislead people. And all those who want to obey God and accept his Kingdom will see every promise of God come true.—Revelation 20:1-3; 21:3-5.

¹⁶ This world ruled by Satan will soon come to its end. So it is very important that we ask ourselves, ‘What do I need to do?’ Jehovah wants you to learn as much as you can from the Bible. You need to take your study seriously. (John 17:3) Jehovah’s Witnesses have meetings every week to help people understand the Bible. Try to attend those meetings regularly. **(Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.)** If you learn that you need to make changes, don’t be afraid to make them. As you make them, your friendship with Jehovah will become stronger.—James 4:8.

"This good news
of the Kingdom will be
preached in all
the inhabited earth."
—Matthew 24:14



61 *Forward, You Witnesses!*

(Luke 16:16)

1. Firm and determined in this time of the end,
Prepared are God's servants the good news to defend.
The Devil has fought and opposed them.
With Jehovah, they take their stand against him.

(CHORUS)

*Then forward, you Witnesses, ever strong of heart!
Rejoice that in God's work, you too may have a part!
Go tell far and wide that the Paradise is near
And that soon all its blessings will be here.*

2. Servants of Jah do not seek a life of ease;
The world and its rulers we do not try to please.
Unspotted at all times remaining,
Our integrity we will keep maintaining.

(Chorus)

3. God and his Kingdom are mocked and pushed aside;
His great name is slandered, its holiness denied.
Let's share in its sanctification,
And declare it to ev'ry tribe and nation.

(Chorus)

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How to Use the Sample Conversations

Since January 2018, sample conversations have appeared on the cover of *Our Christian Life and Ministry—Meeting Workbook*. How can they be used?

When Giving Student Assignments: You should use the question, scripture, and link from the sample conversation. However, this does not mean that you must copy the wording used in the sample conversation video. You may use a different setting, introduction, line of reasoning, and so forth. You may also offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox, even if it is not specified in the instructions for the part.

When in the Ministry: The sample conversations are designed to provide helpful ideas. If a person shows sincere interest and wants to know more, you may continue the conversation, perhaps using content from the sample return visit. You may modify the sample conversations or use something entirely different. Would a subject from a previous month or a different scripture have wider appeal in the local territory? Are people where you live more interested in a current event or a local news item? Regardless of how you choose to use the sample conversations, your goal should be to “do all things for the sake of the good news, in order to share it with others.” —1Co 9:22, 23.



You Can Preach and Teach!

Moses initially doubted his ability to fulfill an assignment that Jehovah had given him. (Ex 4:10, 13) Have you ever felt that way? Are you studying the Bible with Jehovah’s Witnesses? Do you wonder whether you could ever preach from house to house? Or perhaps you are a young person who hesitates to witness at school. Or maybe you are afraid to participate in telephone witnessing or in some form of public witnessing. Beg Jehovah for the strength of his holy spirit. (1Pe 4:11) Be confident that he can equip you for any assignment he gives you.—Ex 4:11, 12.

WATCH THE VIDEO *BE A COURAGEOUS . . . PUBLISHER*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What challenge did Sister Aoyama face?

- Where did she find strength and courage?—Jer 20:7-9

- How did she benefit by reaching out in Jehovah’s service?

- What challenges in the ministry can Jehovah help you to overcome?



mwb20.06-E
200203

Be a Courageous . . . Publisher

(Raw Transcript)

I thought that only those with an abundance of mature knowledge and experience did special metropolitan public witnessing. I thought: 'I can't do it; I'm too young.' Still, I decided to send in the application. I received the invitation in the mail within a month. I suddenly felt really insecure and afraid. So I prayed to Jehovah, "I can't do this yet."

I thought I wouldn't be able to participate in this type of service feeling that way, so I prayerfully did research to find some material that would help me.

I found an article about Moses. It was an article that stressed that even if we think we aren't able to carry out an assignment, with Jehovah's power we can. I also heard a talk that used Jeremiah 20:7. I was encouraged when he said, "Even though you might feel you can't do something, if Jehovah gives you the power to do it, then you can do it." Actually, Jehovah saw my potential and gave me the courage to perform this service, even though I thought it was beyond my ability.

I am being shown time and time again that Jehovah draws people who are sincerely interested in the Bible to

the carts. I've even experienced helping people make a request for a Bible study by using my smartphone.

I'm really able to grow, thanks to this ministry, and gain more joy from Jehovah than I ever thought possible.

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODIntExpYouth/pub-jwbcov_201805_12_VIDEO

“TAKE COURAGE! I HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD”

JOHN 16:1-33

-
- SOON THE APOSTLES WILL SEE JESUS NO MORE
 - THE APOSTLES’ GRIEF WILL TURN INTO JOY
-

Jesus and the apostles are poised to leave the upper room where they held the Passover meal. Having given them considerable admonition, Jesus adds: “I have said these things to you so that you may not be stumbled.” Why was such a warning appropriate? He tells them: “Men will expel you from the synagogue. In fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he has offered a sacred service to God.”—John 16:1, 2.

That may be troubling news for the apostles. Although Jesus had said earlier that the world would hate them, he had not directly told them that they would be killed. Why not? “I did not tell you these things at first, because I was with you,” he says.



(John 16:4) Now he is forearming them before he departs. This may help them to avoid being stumbled later.

Jesus continues: “I am going to the One who sent me; yet not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’” Earlier that evening they had inquired about where he was going. (John 13:36; 14:5; 16:5) But now, shaken by what he said about persecution, they are absorbed in their own grief. Thus they fail to ask further about the glory that awaits him or what that would mean for true worshippers. Jesus observes: “Because I have told you these things, grief has filled your hearts.”—John 16:6.

Then Jesus explains: “It is for your benefit that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I do go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7) Only by Jesus’ dying and going to heaven can his disciples receive the holy spirit, which he can send as a helper to his people anywhere on earth.

The holy spirit “will give the world convincing evidence concerning sin and concerning righteousness

and concerning judgment.” (John 16:8) Yes, the world’s failure to exercise faith in God’s Son will be exposed. Jesus’ ascension to heaven will provide convincing evidence of his righteousness and will demonstrate why Satan, “the ruler of this world,” merits adverse judgment.—John 16:11.

“I still have many things to say to you,” Jesus continues, “but you are not able to bear them now.” When he pours out the holy spirit, it will guide them to an understanding of “all the truth,” and they will be able to live by that truth.—John 16:12, 13.

The apostles are puzzled by Jesus’ further statement: “In a little while you will see me no longer, and again, in a little while you will see me.” They ask one another what he means. Jesus realizes that they want to question him about this, so he explains: “Most truly I say to you, you will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice; you will be grieved, but your grief will be turned into joy.” (John 16:16, 20) When Jesus is killed the next afternoon, the religious leaders rejoice, but the disciples grieve.

Then their grief changes into joy when Jesus is resurrected! And their joy continues when he pours out upon them God's holy spirit.

Comparing the apostles' situation to that of a woman during birth pangs, Jesus says: "When a woman is giving birth, she has grief because her hour has come, but when she has given birth to the child, she remembers the tribulation no more because of the joy that a man has been born into the world." Jesus encourages his apostles, saying: "You also, now you have grief; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."—John 16:21, 22.

Up to this time, the apostles have never made requests in Jesus' name. He now says: "In that day you will make request of the Father in my name." Why are they to do so? Not because the Father is reluctant to respond. In fact, Jesus says: "The Father himself has affection for you, because you have had affection for me . . . as God's representative."—John 16:26, 27.

Jesus' encouraging words to the apostles may have emboldened them to affirm: "By this we

believe that you came from God.” That conviction will soon be tested. In fact, Jesus describes what is just ahead: “Look! The hour is coming, indeed, it has come, when each one of you will be scattered to his own house and you will leave me alone.” Yet he assures them: “I have said these things to you so that by means of me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world.” (John 16:30-33) No, Jesus is not abandoning them. He is sure that they too can be world conquerors, just as he is, by their faithfully accomplishing God’s will despite the attempts of Satan and his world to break their integrity.

- ◇ The apostles are troubled when Jesus gives what warning?
- ◇ Why do the apostles fail to ask Jesus any further questions?
- ◇ How does Jesus illustrate the apostles’ change from grief to joy?

Grant Us Boldness

(Acts 4:29)

1. As we tell about the Kingdom,
As we witness for your name,
There are many who oppose us
And who try to bring us shame.
But instead of fearing men,
It's really you we must obey.
So we beg you now for your spirit;
O Jehovah, hear what we pray.

(CHORUS)

*Grant us boldness as we witness;
Help us overcome our fear.
Give us confidence and courage
So that all the world may hear.
Armageddon draws ever near,
But until that great day is here,
Grant us boldness as we witness.
This is our prayer.*

2. Even though we may be fearful,
You remember we are dust.
Your assurance to support us
Is a promise we can trust.
Give attention to the threats
Of those who persecute and blame.
May you help us all to continue
As we boldly speak in your name.

(Chorus)

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ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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COVER PICTURE:

Brother J. F. Rutherford and other anointed servants who took the lead boldly proclaimed God’s judgments against this wicked system of things (See study article 14, paragraph 8)

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We Will Keep Enduring

(Matthew 24:13)

1. How can we endure

When trials come, as Jesus said?
Through his pain he saw
The joy of better things ahead.
God's promise, God's justice,
Were thoughts on which he fed.

(CHORUS)

*We need to have endurance.
Our faith we must defend.
His love is our assurance.
So we will keep enduring to the end.*

2. Though the passing years

May bring us sorrow, bring us pain;
There beyond the tears,
We see the life that we can gain.
To be there, feel free there,
Determined we remain.

(Chorus)

3. We will not give up

Nor see the need for doubt or fear.
Faithfully we'll serve
Until Jehovah's day is here.
Let's keep on enduring.
That time is very near.

(Chorus)

“Run the Race to the Finish”

“I have run the race to the finish.”—2 TIM. 4:7.

SONG 129

We Will Keep Enduring

PREVIEW

Many of Jehovah’s servants today suffer the effects of advancing age; a number are dealing with a debilitating illness. And all of us feel tired at times. So the idea of running in a race may seem intimidating. This article discusses how all of us can run with endurance and win the race for life that the apostle Paul spoke about.

WOULD you want to run in a race that you know is difficult, especially if you feel sick or tired? Likely not. The apostle Paul, however, said that all true Christians are in a race. (Heb. 12:1) And all of us, young or old, energetic or tired, must endure to the end if we want to receive the prize that Jehovah offers us.—Matt. 24:13.

² Paul had freeness of speech because he had successfully “run the race to the finish.” (Read 2 Timothy 4:7, 8.) But what, specifically, is the race that Paul spoke about?

WHAT IS THE RACE?

³ Paul sometimes used features from the games held in ancient Greece to teach important lessons. (1 Cor. 9:25-27; 2 Tim. 2:5) On a number of occasions, he used running as in a footrace to illustrate the Christian course of life. (1 Cor. 9:24; Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:16) A person enters this “race” when he dedicates himself to Jehovah and gets baptized. (1 Pet. 3:21) He crosses the finish line when Jehovah grants him the prize of everlasting life.—Matt. 25:31-34, 46; 2 Tim. 4:8.

-
1. What must all of us do?
 2. As recorded at 2 Timothy 4:7, 8, why did Paul have freeness of speech?
 3. What is the race that Paul spoke about?

⁴ What are some of the similarities between running a long-distance footrace and living a Christian life? There are a number of parallels. Let us consider three of them. First, we need to follow the right course; second, we must focus on the finish line; and third, we have to overcome challenges along the way.

FOLLOW THE RIGHT COURSE

⁵ To qualify for the prize in a literal race, the runners must follow the course laid out by the organizers of the event. Similarly, if we want to receive the prize of everlasting life, we must follow the Christian course, or way of life. (Acts 20:24; 1 Pet. 2:21) However, Satan and those who follow his example want us to make a different choice; they want us to “continue running with them.” (1 Pet. 4:4) They ridicule the course of life we follow and claim that the path they are on is better, that it leads to freedom. But their claim is false.—2 Pet. 2:19.

⁶ Any who run with those influenced by Satan’s world soon discover that the path they have chosen does not lead to freedom; it leads to slavery. (Rom. 6:16) Consider the example of Brian. His parents

-
4. What will we consider in this article?
 5. What course must we follow, and why?
 6. What do you learn from the example of Brian?

encouraged him to follow the Christian course of life. But when he was in his teens, he questioned whether that path would make him happy. Brian decided to run with those who lived by Satan's standards. "Little did I realize that the so-called freedom I desired would lead me into the clutches of addiction," he says. "In time, I was abusing drugs and alcohol and living immorally. Over the next several years, I progressively experimented with harder drugs and became a slave to many of them. . . . I began selling drugs to support my lifestyle." Eventually, Brian decided to live by Jehovah's standards. He changed paths and got baptized in 2001. He is genuinely happy now that he is following the Christian course of life.*

⁷ How important it is that we choose the right road to follow! Satan wants all of us to stop running on the cramped road that is "leading off into life" and cross over to the spacious road that most people in this world are on. That road is popular and is easier to travel. But it is "leading off into destruction." (Read Matthew 7:13, 14.) To remain on the right road and not be sidetracked, we must trust in Jehovah and listen to him.

* See the article "The Bible Changes Lives" in the January 1, 2013, issue of *The Watchtower*.

7. According to Matthew 7:13, 14, what two roads are set before us?



All of us must follow the Christian course of life
(See paragraphs 5-7)

STAY FOCUSED AND AVOID STUMBLING

⁸ The contestants in a long-distance race keep an eye on the road immediately in front of them so that they do not stumble. However, they might still accidentally be tripped by a fellow runner or step into a pothole. If they do fall down, they get back up and keep on running. They focus primarily, not on what made them stumble, but on the finish line and the prize they hope to win.

⁹ In our race, we may stumble many times, making mistakes in what we say or do. Or our fellow runners may make mistakes that hurt us. That is to be expected. We are all imperfect, and we are all running on

-
8. If a runner stumbles, what does he do?
 9. If we stumble, what should we do?

the same cramped road to life. So we are bound to “bump” against one another at times. Paul acknowledged that we at times would give one another “cause for complaint.” (Col. 3:13) But rather than focus on what made us stumble, let us focus on the prize ahead. If we do stumble, let us choose to get back up and keep on running. If we become bitter and resentful and refuse to get back up, we will not cross the finish line and receive the prize. In addition, we are likely to become an obstacle for others who are trying to run on the cramped road to life.

¹⁰ Another way we can avoid becoming “a stumbling block” to our fellow runners is by yielding to their preferences whenever possible instead of insisting on our rights. (Rom. 14:13, 19-21; 1 Cor. 8:9, 13) In this important way, we are not like the runners in a literal race. They compete against the other runners, and each runner strives to gain the prize just for himself. Those runners think primarily about their own interests. So they may try to push their way to the front of the pack. By contrast, we are not competing against one another. (Gal. 5:26; 6:4) Our goal is to help as many as possible to cross the finish line with us and gain the prize of life. So we try to apply Paul’s inspired counsel to “look out not only

10. How can we avoid becoming “a stumbling block” to others?

for [our] own interests, but also for the interests of others.”—Phil. 2:4.

¹¹ In addition to looking at the road immediately in front of them, the runners in a literal race focus on the finish line. Even if they cannot see that line with their literal eyes, they can imagine themselves crossing it and receiving the prize. They stay motivated by keeping the prize clearly in mind.

¹² In the race that we run, Jehovah has kindly offered his people a guaranteed reward for completing the race—everlasting life either in heaven or on a paradise earth. The Scriptures provide previews of this reward, so that we can imagine how wonderful our life will be. The more we keep the hope alive in

11. What does a runner focus on, and why?

12. What has Jehovah kindly offered us?

We have to stay focused and avoid stumbling others
(See paragraphs 8-12)



our mind and heart, the less likely we are to allow anything to stumble us permanently.

KEEP RUNNING DESPITE CHALLENGES

¹³ The runners in the Greek games had to overcome challenges, such as tiredness and pain. But all they had to rely on was their training and their own strength. We are like those runners in that we receive training in how to run the race we are in. But we have an advantage over the literal runners. We can draw on an unlimited source of power. If we rely on Jehovah, he promises not only to train us but also to make us strong!—1 Pet. 5:10.

¹⁴ Paul had to deal with many challenges. In addition to being insulted and persecuted by others, he at times felt weak and he had to cope with what he called “a thorn in the flesh.” (2 Cor. 12:7) But rather than view those challenges as a reason for giving up, he saw them as an opportunity to rely on Jehovah. (Read 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.) Because Paul adopted this viewpoint, Jehovah helped him through all his trials.

¹⁵ We too may be insulted or persecuted for our

13. What advantage do we have over literal runners?

14. How does 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 help us to face challenges?

15. If we imitate Paul, what will we experience?

faith. We may also have to cope with poor health or exhaustion. But if we imitate Paul, each of those challenges can become an opportunity to experience Jehovah's loving support.

¹⁶ Are you lying in a bed or sitting in a wheelchair? Do you have weak knees or poor eyesight? If so, can you run along with those who are young and healthy? You certainly can! Many older and infirm ones are running on the road to life. They cannot do this work in their own power. Instead, they draw on Jehovah's strength by listening to Christian meetings over a telephone tie-line or watching meetings through video streaming. And they engage in the disciple-making work by witnessing to doctors, nurses, and relatives.

¹⁷ Never let discouragement over your physical limitations convince you that you are too weak to run on the road to life. Jehovah loves you for your faith in him and your record of endurance. You need his help now more than ever, and he will not abandon you. (Ps. 9:10) Instead, he will draw even closer to you. Note the comments of a sister who deals with some challenging medical conditions: "As health issues continue to mount, I find that the opportunities

16. Even if you are infirm, what can you do?

17. How does Jehovah feel about those with physical limitations?



We want to keep running in the race for life
despite our personal challenges

(See paragraphs 13-20)

to share the truth with others become less frequent. But I know that even my small efforts bring joy to Jehovah’s heart, and that makes me happy.” When you feel low, remember that you are not alone. Think of the example set by Paul, and recall his encouraging words: “I take pleasure in weaknesses, . . . for when I am weak, then I am powerful.”—2 Cor. 12:10.

¹⁸ Some who are running on the road to life face another challenge. They are dealing with personal circumstances that others cannot see and may not understand. For example, they have to cope with depression or overwhelming feelings of anxiety. Why do these dear servants of Jehovah face an especially

18. What especially difficult challenge do some face?

difficult challenge? Because when a person has a broken arm or is confined to a wheelchair, everyone can see the problem he or she faces and may feel moved to help. However, those who must cope with an emotional or a mental disorder may not show any outward signs of suffering. Their distress is just as real as is the distress of someone with a broken limb, but they may not receive the same compassionate response from others.

¹⁹ If you live with limitations and feel that you are misunderstood, you may be able to draw strength from the example of Mephibosheth. (2 Sam. 4:4) He had to deal with being infirm, and he was misjudged by King David. Mephibosheth did nothing to bring these trials on himself. Yet, he did not allow himself to become negative; he appreciated the positive things in his life. He was thankful for the kindness David had shown him in the past. (2 Sam. 9:6-10) So when David misjudged him, Mephibosheth saw the complete picture. He did not allow David's mistake to make him bitter. And he did not blame Jehovah for what David had done. Mephibosheth focused on what he could do to support Jehovah's appointed king. (2 Sam. 16:1-4; 19:24-30) Jehovah had

19. What do we learn from the example of Mephibosheth?

Mephibosheth's excellent example recorded in His Word for our benefit.—Rom. 15:4.

²⁰ Because of severe anxiety, some brothers and sisters feel very nervous and self-conscious in everyday social situations. They may find it difficult to be in large groups, but they continue to attend congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions. They find it a challenge to speak to strangers, yet they talk to others in the field ministry. If that is true in your case, be assured that you are not alone. Many deal with similar struggles. Remember that Jehovah is pleased with your whole-souled efforts. The fact that you have not given up is proof that he is blessing you and giving you the strength you need.* (Phil. 4:6, 7; 1 Pet. 5:7) If you are serving Jehovah despite enduring physical or emotional limitations, you can be confident that you are pleasing Jehovah.

²¹ Thankfully, there are differences between a literal race and the one Paul talks about. In a literal

*** For additional practical suggestions about dealing with anxiety as well as experiences of those who are successfully dealing with it, see the May 2019 program on jw.org[®]. Look under LIBRARY > JW BROADCASTING[®].**

20. How may anxiety affect some, but of what can they be confident?

21. With Jehovah's help, what will all of us be able to do?

footrace in Bible times, only one person won the prize. By contrast, everyone who endures faithfully in the Christian course of life receives the prize of everlasting life. (John 3:16) And in the literal race, all the runners had to be physically fit; otherwise, they had little chance of winning. On the other hand, many of us have physical limitations, yet we are enduring. (2 Cor. 4:16) With Jehovah's help, we will all run the race to the finish!

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 55: Staying busy in the ministry keeps this older brother on the right Christian course. Page 57: We could stumble others either by insisting that they drink more alcohol or by not limiting our own use of it. Page 60: Even when bedridden in a hospital, a brother stays in the Christian race by witnessing to his caregivers.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

- What is the race that Paul spoke about?
- What challenges do we face?
- How can we endure?

SONG 144

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize!

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)