AUGUST 10-16 | EXODUS 15-16

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- "Praise Jehovah in Song": (10 min.)

 Ex 15:1, 2—Moses and the men of Israel sang praises to Jehovah (w95 10/15 11 ¶11)

 Ex 15:11, 18—Jehovah deserves our praise (w95 10/15 11-12 ¶15-16)

 Ex 15:20, 21—Miriam and the women of Israel sang praises to Jehovah (it-2 454 ¶1; 698)
- Digging for Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)
 Ex 16:13—Why might Jehovah have chosen quail to feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (w11 9/1 14)

Ex 16:32-34—Where was the jar of manna kept? (w06 1/15 31)

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

• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Ex 16:1-18 (10)

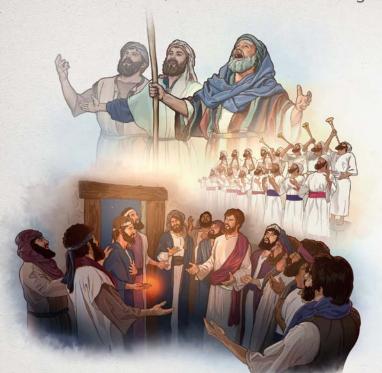
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did Linda make good use of questions? How did she make the scripture application clear?
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- Initial Call: (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video What Happens at a Bible Study? (9)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 81
- "Praise Jehovah as a Pioneer": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Three Sisters in Mongolia (video category TEENAGERS). Interview a brother or a sister in the congregation who is currently serving as a pioneer or who has served as such in the past. Ask the following questions: What challenges have you faced? What blessings have you enjoyed?
- Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) jy chap. 127, box on p. 291
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 16 and Prayer

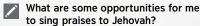
EXODUS 15-16 | Praise Jehovah in Song



15:1, 2, 11, 18, 20, 21

Music can have a powerful influence on the mind and body. Singing is an important part of our worship of Jehovah.

- Moses and the Israelites sang praises to Jehovah for their miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea
- King David assigned 4,000 men to serve as musicians and singers at the temple
- The night before Jesus died, he and his faithful apostles sang praises to Jehovah



A Victory Song

(Exodus 15:1)

1. Sing to Jehovah. His great name is highly exalted.

His proud Egyptian foes, He has cast into the sea.

Praise Jah Almighty;

Besides him there can be no other.

Jehovah is his name;

He has gained the victory.

(CHORUS)

Jehovah God, Most High over all, The one who is forevermore the same, You soon will cause your enemies to fall And sanctify your holy name.

2. See now all nations Opposing the Sov'reign, Jehovah.

Though mightier than Pharaoh,

They too will suffer shame.

Judgment awaits them;

They cannot escape Armageddon.

Soon ev'ryone will know

That Jehovah is God's name.

(Chorus)

Exodus 15-16

15 At that time Moses and the Israelites sang this song to Jehovah:

"Let me sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted.

The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

² My strength and my might is Jah, since he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

- ³ Jehovah is a powerful warrior. Jehovah is his name.
- Phar'aoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea,

And his finest warriors have sunk into the Red Sea.

- ⁵ The surging waters covered them; down into the depths they sank like a stone.
- ⁶ Your right hand, O Jehovah, is great in power; Your right hand, O Jehovah, can shatter an enemy.
- ⁷ In your great majesty you can throw down those who rise up against you;

You send out your burning anger, it eats them up like stubble.

- ⁸ By a breath from your nostrils waters massed together; They stood still, holding back the floods; The surging waters congealed in the heart of the sea.
- ⁹ The enemy said: 'I will pursue! I will overtake!

- I will divide spoil until I am satisfied!
 I will draw my sword! My hand will subdue them!'
- ¹⁰ You blew with your breath, the sea covered them; They sank like lead in majestic waters.
- Who among the gods is like you, O Jehovah?
 Who is like you, showing yourself mighty in holiness?
 The One to be feared with songs of praise, the One doing wonders.
- 12 You stretched out your right hand, and the earth swallowed them up.
- ¹³ In your loyal love you have led the people whom you have redeemed;
 - In your strength you will guide them to your holy place of dwelling.
- ¹⁴ Peoples must hear; they will shudder; Anguish will seize the inhabitants of Phi-lis'ti-a.
- ¹⁵ At that time the sheikhs of E'dom will be terrified, And trembling will take hold of the mighty rulers of Mo'ab.

All the inhabitants of Ca'naan will be disheartened.

¹⁶ Fear and dread will fall upon them.

Because of the greatness of your arm they will be as motionless as a stone

Until your people pass by, O Jehovah, Until the people whom you produced pass by.

¹⁷ You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,

The established place that you have prepared for yourself to inhabit, O Jehovah,

A sanctuary, O Jehovah, that your hands have established.

¹⁸ Jehovah will rule as king forever and ever.

When Phar'aoh's horses with his war chariots and his cavalrymen went into the sea,

Then Jehovah brought back the waters of the sea upon them,

But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

²⁰ Then Mir'i-am the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her with tambourines and with dances. ²¹ Mir'i-am sang in response to the men:

"Sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

Went out to the wilderness of Shur and marched on for three days in the wilderness, but they did not find water. ²³ They came to Ma'rah, but they were not able to drink the water from Ma'rah because it was bitter. That is why he named it Ma'rah. ²⁴ So the people began to murmur against Moses, saying: "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ He cried out to Jehovah, and Jehovah directed him to a tree. When he threw it into the water, the water became sweet.

There He established for them a regulation and a case for judgment, and there He put them to the test. ²⁶ He said: "If

you will strictly listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and will do what is right in his eyes and will pay attention to his commandments and keep all his regulations, I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians, for I, Jehovah, am healing you."

- ²⁷ After that they came to E'lim, where there were 12 springs of water and 70 palm trees. So they camped there by the water.
- 16 After they departed from E'lim, the entire assembly of the Israelites eventually came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between E'lim and Si'nai, on the 15th day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt.
- ² Then the entire assembly of the Israelites began to murmur against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites kept saying to them: "If only we had died by Jehovah's hand in the land of Egypt while we were sitting by the pots of meat, while we were eating bread to satisfaction. Now you have brought us out into this wilderness to put this whole congregation to death by famine."
- ⁴ Then Jehovah said to Moses: "Here I am raining down bread for you from the heavens, and each of the people should go out to gather his amount day by day, so that I may put them to the test to see whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵ But on the sixth day when they prepare what they have gathered, it is to be double the amount that they pick up on each of the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: "In the evening you will certainly know that it is Jehovah who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ In the morning you will see Jehovah's glory, for he has heard your murmurings against Jehovah. Who are we that you should murmur against us?" ⁸ Moses continued: "When Jehovah gives you meat to eat in the evening and in the morning bread to satisfaction, you will see that Jehovah has heard your murmurings that you are murmuring against him. But who are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against Jehovah."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron: "Tell the entire assembly of the Israelites, 'Come near before Jehovah, for he has heard your murmurings." ¹⁰ As soon as Aaron had spoken to the entire assembly of the Israelites, they turned and faced toward the wilderness, and look! Jehovah's glory appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ Jehovah spoke further to Moses, saying: ¹² "I have heard the murmurings of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be satisfied with bread, and you will certainly know that I am Jehovah your God."

¹³ So that evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning a layer of dew was all around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew evaporated, there was a fine, flaky substance on the surface of the wilderness, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they began to say to one another, "What is it?" for they did not know what it

was. Moses said to them: "It is the bread that Jehovah has given you for food. ¹⁶ This is what Jehovah has commanded, 'Each one should gather it according to how much he can eat. You are to take an omer measure for each individual according to the number of the people that each of you has in his tent." ¹⁷ The Israelites began to do so; they gathered it, some gathering much and some gathering little. ¹⁸ When they would measure it by the omer, the one who had gathered much had no surplus and the one who had gathered little had no shortage. They each gathered it according to what they could eat.

¹⁹ Then Moses said to them: "Nobody should leave any of it until the morning." ²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. When some men left some of it until the morning, it bred worms and stank, and Moses became indignant at them. ²¹ They would pick it up morning by morning, each one according to what he could eat. When the sun got hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day, they picked up twice as much bread, two omer measures for each person. So all the chieftains of the assembly came and reported it to Moses. ²³ At that he said to them: "It is what Jehovah has said. Tomorrow there will be a complete rest, a holy sabbath to Jehovah. Bake what you need to bake, and boil what you need to boil; then save whatever is left over and keep it until the morning." ²⁴ So they saved it until the morning, just as Moses had commanded, and it did not stink nor were there maggots in it. ²⁵ Then Moses said: "Eat it today, because today is a

sabbath to Jehovah. Today you will not find it on the ground. You will pick it up for six days, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none." ²⁷ However, some of the people did go out to pick it up on the seventh day, but they found nothing.

²⁸ So Jehovah said to Moses: "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? ²⁹ Take notice of the fact that Jehovah has given you the Sabbath. That is why he is giving you the bread for two days on the sixth day. Everyone must stay where he is; nobody is to leave his locality on the seventh day." ³⁰ So the people observed the Sabbath on the seventh day.

³¹ The house of Israel named the bread "manna." It was white like coriander seed, and its taste was like that of flat cakes with honey. 32 Then Moses said: "This is what Jehovah has commanded, 'Fill an omer measure of it as something to be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread that I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I was bringing you out of the land of Egypt." 33 So Moses said to Aaron: "Take a jar and put in it an omer measure of manna and deposit it before Jehovah as something to be kept throughout your generations." ³⁴ Just as Jehovah commanded Moses, Aaron placed it before the Testimony so that it might be preserved. 35 The Israelites ate the manna for 40 years, until they came to a land that was inhabited. They ate the manna until they came to the frontier of the land of Ca'naan. 36 Now an omer is a tenth of an e'phah measure.

AUGUST 10-16 | EXODUS 15-16

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- "Praise Jehovah in Song": (10 min.)

 Ex 15:1, 2—Moses and the men of Israel sang praises to Jehovah (w95 10/15 11 ¶11)

 Ex 15:11, 18—Jehovah deserves our praise (w95 10/15 11-12 ¶15-16)

 Ex 15:20, 21—Miriam and the women of Israel sang praises to Jehovah (it-2 454 ¶1; 698)
- Digging for Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)
 Ex 16:13—Why might Jehovah have chosen quail to feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (w11 9/1 14)

Ex 16:32-34—Where was the jar of manna kept? (w06 1/15 31)

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

• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Ex 16:1-18 (10)

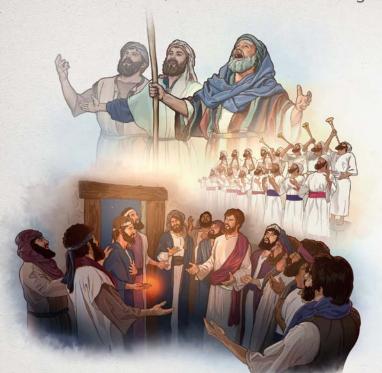
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did Linda make good use of questions? How did she make the scripture application clear?
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 81
- "Praise Jehovah as a Pioneer": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Three Sisters in Mongolia (video category TEENAGERS). Interview a brother or a sister in the congregation who is currently serving as a pioneer or who has served as such in the past. Ask the following questions: What challenges have you faced? What blessings have you enjoyed?
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- Song 16 and Prayer

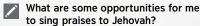
EXODUS 15-16 | Praise Jehovah in Song



15:1, 2, 11, 18, 20, 21

Music can have a powerful influence on the mind and body. Singing is an important part of our worship of Jehovah.

- Moses and the Israelites sang praises to Jehovah for their miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea
- King David assigned 4,000 men to serve as musicians and singers at the temple
- The night before Jesus died, he and his faithful apostles sang praises to Jehovah



August 10-16 / Exodus 15-16

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Praise Jehovah in Song": (10 minutes)

Exodus 15:1, 2, 11, 18, 20,21

Music can have a powerful influence on the mind and body. Singing is an important part of our worship of Jehovah.

 Moses and the Israelites sang praises to Jehovah for their miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea

Picture: Moses and a group of Israelites singing a victory song to Jehovah.

 King David assigned 4,000 men to serve as musicians and singers at the temple

Picture: Levites blowing trumpets and singing in worship to Jehovah.

• The night before Jesus died, he and his faithful apostles

sang praises to Jehovah

Picture: Jesus and his faithful apostles singing praises to Jehovah.

What are some opportunities for me to sing praises to Jehovah?

Exodus 15:1, 2—Moses and the men of Israel sang praises to Jehovah

Exodus 15:1, 2: At that time Moses and the Israelites sang this song to Jehovah: "Let me sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. My strength and my might is Jah, since he has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

w95 10/15 11 paragraph 11

Jehovah's destruction of the Egyptian military forces exalted him in the eyes of his worshipers and made his name widely known. (Joshua 2:9, 10; 4:23, 24) Yes, his name was elevated above the powerless, false gods of Egypt, who proved unable to deliver their worshipers. Trust in their deities and in mortal man and military power led to bitter disappointment. (Psalm 146:3) No wonder the Israelites were moved to sing praises that reflected wholesome fear of the living God, who mightily delivers his people!

Exodus 15:11, 18—Jehovah deserves our praise

Exodus 15:11: Who among the gods is like you, O Jehovah? Who is like you, showing yourself mighty in holiness? The One to be feared with songs of praise, the One doing wonders.

Exodus 15:18: Jehovah will rule as king forever and ever.

w95 10/15 11-12 paragraphs 15-16

15 Had we stood safely with Moses, we surely would have been moved to sing: "Who among the gods is like you, O Jehovah? Who is like you, proving yourself mighty in holiness? The One to be feared with songs of praise, the One doing marvels." (Exodus 15:11) Such sentiments have been

echoed throughout the centuries since then. In the last book of the Bible, the apostle John describes a group of faithful anointed servants of God: "They are singing the song of Moses the slave of God and the song of the Lamb." What is this great song? "Great and wonderful are your works, Jehovah God, the Almighty. Righteous and true are your ways, King of eternity. Who will not really fear you, Jehovah, and glorify your name, because you alone are loyal?"—Revelation 15:2-4.

16 So today too there are liberated worshipers who appreciate not only the creative handiworks of God but also his decrees. People from all nations have been spiritually liberated, separated from this polluted world because they recognize and put into practice the righteous decrees of God. Yearly, hundreds of thousands escape this corrupt world to dwell with the clean, upright organization of Jehovah's worshipers. Soon, after God's fiery judgments against false religion and the rest of this wicked system have been executed, they will live forever in a righteous new world.

Exodus 15:20, 21—Miriam and the women of Israel sang praises to Jehovah

Exodus 15:20, 21: Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her with tambourines and with dances. Miriam sang in response to the men: "Sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

it-2 454 paragraph 1

Much of the group singing in Israel appears to have been antiphonal, either two half choruses alternating in singing parallel lines, or a soloist and an answering chorus alternating. In the Scriptures this apparently is referred to as "responding." (Exodus 15:21; 1 Samuel 18:6, 7) This type of singing is indicated by the very way some of the psalms are written, such as Psalm 136. The description of the two large thanksgiving choirs in Nehemiah's time and of their part in the inauguration of the wall of Jerusalem implies that they sang in this style.—Nehemiah 12:31, 38, 40-42; see SONG.

it-2 698

Miriam is the first woman designated a prophetess in the Bible. God evidently conveyed some message or messages through her, perhaps in inspired singing. (Exodus 15:20, 21) Thus, she and Aaron are recorded as saying to Moses: "Is it not by us also that [Jehovah] has spoken?" (Numbers 12:2) Jehovah himself, through the prophet Micah, spoke of having sent "Moses, Aaron and Miriam" before the Israelites when bringing them up out of Egypt. (Micah 6:4) Though Miriam was privileged to be used as an instrument of divine communication, her relationship as such toward God was inferior to that of her brother Moses. When she failed to keep her proper place, she suffered severe chastisement from God.—Numbers 12:1-15.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 16:13—Why might Jehovah have chosen quail to feed the Israelites in the wilderness?

Exodus 16:13: So that evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning a layer of dew was all around the camp.

w11 9/1 14

Following the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt, God twice provided them with an abundance of meat in the form of quail.—Exodus 16:13; Numbers 11:31.

Quail are small birds, about 7 inches (18 centimeters) in length and weighing about 3.5 ounces (100 grams). They breed in many parts of western Asia and Europe. Being migratory birds, they winter in North Africa and Arabia. During their seasonal passage, vast flocks traverse the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and fly over the Sinai Peninsula.

According to *The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*, quail "fly rapidly and well, and take advantage of the wind; but if the wind changes its course, or the birds become exhausted from long flight, the whole immense flock is apt to fall to the ground, where the birds lie stunned." Before continuing their migration, they have to rest on the ground for a day or two, thus becoming easy catch for hunters. In the early 20th century, Egypt was exporting some three million quail annually for food.

Both times that the Israelites fed on quail were in the spring. Although quail regularly flew over the Sinai area during that time, it was Jehovah who caused 'a wind to burst forth' to drive these birds into the Israelite encampment.—Numbers 11:31.

Exodus 16:32-34—Where was the jar of manna kept?

Exodus 16:32-34: Then Moses said: "This is what Jehovah has commanded, 'Fill an omer measure of it as something to be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread that I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I was bringing you out of the land of Egypt." So Moses said to Aaron: "Take a jar and put in it an omer measure of manna and deposit it before Jehovah as something to be kept throughout your generations." Just as Jehovah commanded Moses, Aaron placed it before the Testimony so that it might be preserved.

w06 1/15 31

Shortly after their deliverance from Egypt, the Israelites

began to murmur about food. So Jehovah provided manna for them. (Exodus 12:17, 18; 16:1-5) At that time, Moses instructed Aaron: "Take a jar and put in it an omerful of manna and deposit it before Jehovah as something to be kept throughout your generations." The account states: "Just as Jehovah had commanded Moses, Aaron proceeded to deposit it before the Testimony [an archive for the safekeeping of important documents] as something to be kept." (Exodus 16:33, 34) While Aaron undoubtedly gathered manna into a jar at that time, the depositing of it before the Testimony had to wait until Moses made the Ark and placed the tablets in it.

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Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Exodus 16:1-18 (th study 10)

AUGUST 10-16 | EXODUS 15-16

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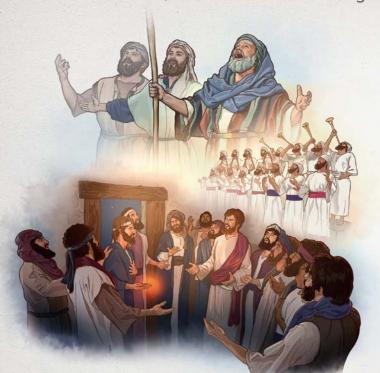
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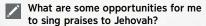
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Our Christian Life and Ministry

Sample Conversations

0

INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find help to deal with grief?

Scripture: 2Co 1:3, 4

Link: What happens to someone who dies?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



bhs 71 ¶4

 \bigcirc

RETURN VISIT

Question: What happens to someone who dies?

Scripture: Ec 9:5, 10

Link: What hope do we have for the dead?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



bhs 63 ¶6

What Happens at a Bible Study?

(raw transcript)

The Bible is the world's most popular book. You may already have a copy in your home. Its wisdom can help you and your family to enjoy life now and gain a real hope for the future. Jehovah's Witnesses offer a home Bible study program that is designed to help you get the most out of your own Bible. You will not be taught religious traditions—only what the Bible teaches. The Bible study is free and there is no charge for the Bible or Bible study publication you will use. You choose when, where, and how often you would like to study. You will consider Bible subjects by topic. A study session may be as short as ten minutes or up to an hour or more. Regardless of where or when you choose to study, you are not obligated to become one of Jehovah's Witnesses. There are no tests or exams. And you can learn at your own pace. A variety of study guides are available, and you can choose the one that suits you best. You'll have the opportunity to read and research the material before you discuss it with one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Study sessions can be held at your home, over the phone, or via computer. You'll learn how to apply the Bible's

wisdom so that you can enjoy life to the full. Fill in the online request for a Bible study and a Witness in your area will call to discuss the Bible at a time and place convenient for you.

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/request-a-visit/video-bible-study

The Life of a Pioneer

(Ecclesiastes 11:6)

At the start of the day, with the sun yet to rise,
 We are making our way
 with the sleep in our eyes, and we pray.

We are there with a smile for the people we meet. Some may stop for a while, some pass by on the street, but we stay.

(CHORUS)

It's the life that we choose; For Jehovah we live. And whatever he asks, we will do.

In the work we endure,
Whether sunshine or rain.
It's a way we can say ev'ry day: "I love you."

 At the end of the day, with the sun sinking low, Feeling happy and tired, in our heart there's a glow, and we pray.

It's a life that we love, always giving our best.

And Jehovah we thank,

for by him we are blessed ev'ry day.

(Chorus)

AUGUST 10-16 | EXODUS 15-16

- Song 149 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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- Digging for Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)
 Ex 16:13—Why might Jehovah have chosen quail to feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (w11 9/1 14)

Ex 16:32-34—Where was the jar of manna kept? (w06 1/15 31)

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

• Bible Reading: (4 min. or less) Ex 16:1-18 (10)

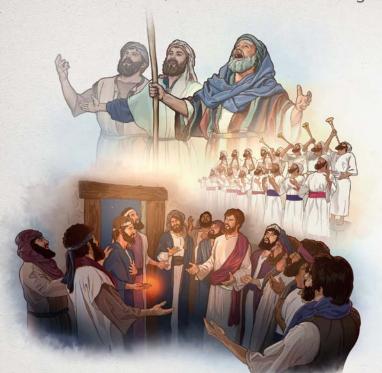
APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Discussion. Play the video, and then ask the audience: How did Linda make good use of questions? How did she make the scripture application clear?
- Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (3)
- Initial Call: (5 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then introduce and discuss (but do not play) the video What Happens at a Bible Study? (9)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 81
- "Praise Jehovah as a Pioneer": (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Three Sisters in Mongolia (video category TEENAGERS). Interview a brother or a sister in the congregation who is currently serving as a pioneer or who has served as such in the past. Ask the following questions: What challenges have you faced? What blessings have you enjoyed?
- Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) jy chap. 127, box on p. 291
- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 16 and Prayer

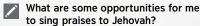
EXODUS 15-16 | Praise Jehovah in Song



15:1, 2, 11, 18, 20, 21

Music can have a powerful influence on the mind and body. Singing is an important part of our worship of Jehovah.

- Moses and the Israelites sang praises to Jehovah for their miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea
- King David assigned 4,000 men to serve as musicians and singers at the temple
- The night before Jesus died, he and his faithful apostles sang praises to Jehovah



Praise Jehovah as a Pioneer

The Israelites had remarkable reasons to praise Jehovah. He had brought them out of Egypt and had rescued them from Pharaoh's army! (Ex 15: 1, 2) Jehovah continues to show goodness to his people. How can we show our gratitude?—Ps 116:12.

One way is by serving as an auxiliary or a regular pioneer. You can pray for the desire and the power to serve as a pioneer. (Php 2:13) Many start first as an auxiliary pioneer. You may choose either a 30- or a 50-hour requirement during the months of March and April and during the month of the circuit overseer's visit. After tasting the joy of serving as an auxiliary pioneer, you may want to reach out to serve as a regular pioneer. Even some who work full-time or who have health limitations have been able to serve as regular pioneers. (*mwb16.07* 8) Most certainly, Jehovah is worthy of any effort we put forth to praise him!—1Ch 16:25.



WATCH THE VIDEO THREE SISTERS IN MONGOLIA, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:







• What blessings have they experienced?



• What avenues of service opened up as they served as regular pioneers?



• What effect has their example had on others?

Three Sisters in Mongolia

(raw transcript)

I was the first to start studying the Bible. After that, I started studying too. After watching them for a year, I began studying too. Since our parents had stopped studying, only three of us went to the meetings. We saved our allowance to take the bus to meetings. But sometimes when we were short of money—My sisters let me ride the bus, since I'm the youngest, and they would walk. We used to walk an hour and a half each way. Meetings were so important to us that we never felt it was a burden. May 2007. For me, it was October 2006. I was baptized in October 2005. Three years later, I spent a week with a special pioneer who was serving in the countryside. We prayed together every night and read life stories from The Watchtower. I told Jehovah that I wanted to be just like her. Although my relatives were unhappy with my decision, with Jehovah's help, I decided to become a pioneer. I followed her example, and I became a pioneer too. I was working six days a week to support my family, so I prayed to Jehovah for the opportunity to become a pioneer. After my boss reduced my work to five days a week, I started pioneering. Pioneer service gives you the opportunity to serve Jehovah more fully. Working closely

with Jehovah, I really feel part of his family. My relationship with Jehovah has gotten stronger. When I pray now, it feels like I'm talking to my close friend. It allows you to expand your ministry. I became a special pioneer in June 2013. I've served at Bethel since September 2013. In April 2014, I was appointed a special pioneer. Now I can serve Jehovah more fully. My appreciation for Jehovah has deepened. Our mother, who had opposed us, became a pioneer too. Full-time service is—really awesome!

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/VODIntExpYouth/pub-jwb 201711 7 VIDEO

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TRIED BY THE SANHEDRIN, THEN ON TO PILATE

MATTHEW 27:1-11 MARK 15:1 LUKE 22:66-23:3 JOHN 18:28-35

- MORNING TRIAL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN
- JUDAS ISCARIOT TRIES TO HANG HIMSELF
- JESUS IS SENT TO PILATE TO BE CONDEMNED

The night is drawing to a close when Peter denies Jesus for the third time. The members of the Sanhedrin have finished with their mock trial and have dispersed. Come dawn Friday morning, they reconvene, likely to give some cloak of legality to the illegal night trial. Jesus is brought before them.

Again the court demands: "If you are the Christ, tell us." Jesus answers: "Even if I told you, you would not believe it at all. Moreover, if I questioned you, you would not answer." However, Jesus courageously indicates to them his identity as the one foretold at Daniel 7:13. He says: "From now on



the Son of man will be seated at the powerful right hand of God."—Luke 22:67-69; Matthew 26:63.

They persist: "Are you, therefore, the Son of God?" Jesus replies: "You yourselves are saying that I am." This seems to justify killing Jesus on the charge of blasphemy. "Why do we need further testimony?" they ask. (Luke 22:70, 71; Mark 14:64) So they bind Jesus and lead him away to Roman Governor Pontius Pilate.

Judas Iscariot may see Jesus being taken to Pilate. When Judas realizes that Jesus has been condemned, he feels a certain remorse and despair. However, rather than turning to God in true repentance, he goes to give back the 30 pieces of silver. Judas tells the chief priests: "I sinned when I betrayed innocent blood." But he gets the heartless reply: "What is that to us? You must see to it!"—Matthew 27:4.

Judas throws the 30 silver pieces into the temple and then adds to his wrongs by attempting selfmurder. As Judas tries to hang himself, apparently the branch to which he ties the rope breaks. His

THE FIELD OF BLOOD

The chief priests are not sure what to do with the silver pieces that Judas throws into the temple. "It is not lawful to put them into the sacred treasury," they say, "because they are the price of blood." So they use the money to purchase the potter's field in which to bury strangers. It comes to be called the "Field of Blood." —Matthew 27:6-8.

body drops to the rocks below, where it bursts apart.—Acts 1:17, 18.

It is still early in the morning when Jesus is taken to the palace of Pontius Pilate. But the Jews taking him there refuse to enter. They think that such contact with Gentiles will defile them. That would disqualify them from eating the meal on Nisan 15, the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is viewed as part of the Passover period.

Pilate comes out and asks them: "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They respond: "If this man were not a wrongdoer, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate may feel that they are trying to pressure him, so he says: "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews reveal their murderous intent,

replying: "It is not lawful for us to kill anyone." —John 18:29-31.

Actually, if they kill Jesus during the Passover festival, it will likely cause a public uproar. Yet if they can get the Romans to execute Jesus on a political charge, which the Romans are authorized to do, it will tend to absolve these Jews of responsibility before the people.

The religious leaders do not tell Pilate that they had condemned Jesus for blasphemy. Now they trump up different charges: "We found this man [1] subverting our nation, [2] forbidding the paying of taxes to Caesar, and [3] saying he himself is Christ a king."—Luke 23:2.

As a representative of Rome, Pilate has reason for concern about the charge that Jesus is claiming to be a king. So Pilate reenters the palace, calls Jesus to him, and asks: "Are you the King of the Jews?" In other words, 'Have you broken the law of the empire by declaring yourself to be a king in opposition to Caesar?' Perhaps to find out how much Pilate already has heard about him, Jesus says: "Are

you asking this of your own originality, or did others tell you about me?"—John 18:33, 34.

Professing ignorance of the facts about Jesus but desiring to learn them, Pilate replies: "I am not a Jew, am I?" He adds: "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What did you do?"—John 18:35.

Jesus does not attempt to dodge the central issue—kingship. He answers in a way that no doubt greatly surprises Governor Pilate.



- ♦ Why does the Sanhedrin reconvene in the morning?
- ♦ How does Judas die, and what happens to the 30 pieces of silver?
- ♦ On what charges do the Jews want Pilate to have Jesus killed?

16 Praise Jah for His Son, the Anointed (Revelation 21:2)

Jehovah anointed his Son
 To rule over ev'ryone.
 His throne is established on justice,
 That God's will on earth may be done.

(CHORUS)

Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed.

Praise Jesus, O you faithful sheep,
Who loyally follow day after day
and all his commandments keep.

Praise Jah for his Son, the Anointed,
the Ruler of heavenly fame,
Anointed with exultation and might
to honor God's holy name.

Christ's brothers are chosen and called.
 God gives them their own new birth.
 This bride class will share in the Kingdom
 And bring Paradise to this earth.

(Chorus)



LARGE PRINT EDITION





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COVER PICTURE:

A shepherd in ancient Israel cares for a sheep that was lost (See study article 25, paragraph 9)

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7 Jehovah, Our Strength

(Isaiah 12:2)

 Gracious Jehovah, our strength and our might, You are our Savior, in you we delight.
 We are your Witnesses bearing your news, Whether men hear or they proudly refuse.

(CHORUS)

Jehovah, our Rock, Our strength and our might, Your name we make known Both day and night. Glorious Jehovah, Almighty in pow'r, You are our hiding place; You are our Tow'r.

We who now serve you rejoice in your light;
 Eyes that are opened now see truth and right.
 Searching the Scriptures, we hear your command;
 Making our choice, for your Kingdom we stand.
 (Chorus)

3. Gladly, O God, we keep doing your will. Though Satan mocks us, we're trusting you still. Though he may slay us, oh, help us to be Firm to the end for your grand Sov'reignty.

(Chorus)

"Unify My Heart to Fear Your Name"

"Unify my heart to fear your name. I praise you, O Jehovah my God, with all my heart."—PS. 86:11, 12.

SONG 7

Jehovah, Our Strength

PREVIEW

In this article, we will focus on the portion of King David's prayer recorded at Psalm 86:11, 12. What does it mean to fear the name of Jehovah? What basis do we have for being in awe of that great name? And how can the fear of God be a protection against giving in to temptation?

CHRISTIANS love God, and they also fear him. To some, that might seem like a contradiction. However, we are not referring to the type of fear that terrifies you. We are going to discuss a special type of fear. People who have this type of fear are in awe of God and have sincere respect for him. They do not want to displease their heavenly Father because they do not want to harm their friendship with him.—Ps. 111:10; Prov. 8:13.

² Read Psalm 86:11. As you think about those words, you can tell that faithful King David understood the importance of godly fear. Let us consider how we may apply David's inspired words. First, we will examine some reasons for holding God's name in awe. Second, we will discuss how to show that we are in awe of God's name in our daily life.

WHY DOES JEHOVAH'S NAME INSPIRE AWE?

³ Think of how Moses felt when he was huddled in a rocky crevice and he saw a vision of Jehovah's

^{1.} What is godly fear, and why is it necessary for those who love Jehovah?

^{2.} Based on King David's words recorded at Psalm 86:11, what two things will we discuss?

^{3.} What experience may have helped Moses to remain in awe of God's name?

glory passing by. Insight on the Scriptures notes that it "was probably the most awe-inspiring experience of any man prior to the coming of Jesus Christ." Moses heard the following words, evidently spoken by an angel: "Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abundant in loyal love and truth, showing loyal love to thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin." (Ex. 33:17-23; 34:5-7) Memory of that event possibly came back to Moses when he used the name Jehovah. It is no wonder that Moses later warned God's people Israel to "fear this glorious and aweinspiring name."—Deut. 28:58.

⁴ When we think about the name Jehovah, we do well to meditate on the one who bears that name. We should remember his qualities, such as his power, his wisdom, his justice, and his love. Reflecting on those qualities and others can fill us with awe for him.—Ps. 77:11-15.

⁵ What do we know about the meaning of God's name? Many scholars agree that the name Jehovah seems to mean "He Causes to Become." That

^{4.} Meditating on what qualities can fill us with awe for Jehovah?

^{5-6. (}a) What is the meaning of God's name? (b) According to Exodus 3:13, 14 and Isaiah 64:8, in what ways does Jehovah make things happen?

meaning reminds us that Jehovah has an unstoppable will, and he can make things happen. How so?

⁶ Jehovah makes things happen by becoming whatever is needed in order to fulfill his purpose. (Read Exodus 3:13, 14.) We have often been encouraged to contemplate that awe-inspiring aspect of God's personality. Jehovah can also cause his imperfect human servants to become what is needed in order to serve him and fulfill his purpose. (Read Isaiah 64:8.) In these ways, Jehovah causes his will to be carried out. Nothing can stop him from causing his purposes to be fulfilled.—Isa. 46: 10, 11.

⁷ We can build our appreciation for our heavenly Father by meditating on what he has done and what he has enabled us to do. For instance, when we meditate on the wonders of creation, we are filled with awe at what Jehovah has accomplished, what he has caused to come into existence. (Ps. 8: 3, 4) And when we meditate on what Jehovah has caused us to become so that we can do his will, we develop deep respect for him. The name Jehovah really is awe-inspiring! It includes all that our

^{7.} How can we build our appreciation for our heavenly Father?

Father is, all that he has done, and all that he will do.—Ps. 89:7, 8.

"I WILL DECLARE THE NAME OF JEHOVAH"

⁸ Just before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, Jehovah taught Moses the words of a song. (Deut. 31:19) Moses, in turn, was to teach the song to the people. (Read Deuteronomy 32:2, 3.) As we meditate on verses 2 and 3, it is clear that Jehovah does not want his name to be hidden, treated as if it were too sacred to pronounce. He wants his name to be known by all his intelligent creation! What a privilege it was for people to hear Moses teach them about Jehovah and His glorious name! What Moses taught them nourished and refreshed them, like gentle rain on vegetation. How can we make sure that our teaching is like that?

⁹ When we are in the door-to-door work or the public ministry, we can use our Bible to show people God's personal name, Jehovah. We can offer them beautiful literature, excellent videos, and material on our website that honor Jehovah. At work, at school, or while traveling, we may find opportu-

^{8.} What does Deuteronomy 32:2, 3 reveal about Jehovah's view of his name?

^{9.} How can we help to sanctify Jehovah's name?



Moses' teaching was refreshing. It focused on the name and person of Jehovah God (See paragraph 8)

nities to talk about our beloved God and what he is like. When we tell those we meet about Jehovah's loving purpose for mankind and the earth, we are giving them a view of Jehovah that may well be completely new to them. As we tell others the truth about our loving Father, we are adding to the sanctifying of God's name. We are clearing up some of the lies and slander about Jehovah that others may have been taught. We offer people the most nourishing, refreshing teachings available.

—Isa. 65:13, 14.

¹⁰ When we conduct Bible studies, we want to help our students come to know and use Jehovah's name. In addition, we want to help them to see what his name stands for. Will we accomplish that if we simply convey instructions, divine standards, and rules of conduct? A good student may learn about God's laws, even admire them. But will the student obey Jehovah out of love for him as a Person? Remember, Eve knew God's law, but she did not truly love the Lawgiver; nor did Adam. (Gen. 3:1-6) So we must do more than teach others about God's righteous requirements and standards.

¹¹ Jehovah's requirements and standards are appealing and beautiful. (Ps. 119:97, 111, 112) But our students may not see them that way unless they see Jehovah's love behind those laws. So we might ask our students: "Why do you think God asks his servants to do this or to refrain from doing this? What does that tell us about him as a Person?" If we help our students to think about Jehovah and

^{10.} When we conduct Bible studies, why do we need to do more than teach God's requirements and standards?

^{11.} When teaching about God's laws and standards, how may we help our students come to love the Lawgiver?

to develop real love for his glorious name, we are more likely to reach their heart. Our students will come to love not only the laws but also the Lawgiver. (Ps. 119:68) They will grow in faith and will be helped to endure fiery tests to come.—1 Cor. 3: 12-15.

"WE WILL WALK IN THE NAME OF JEHOVAH"

¹² A vital phrase found at Psalm 86:11 is "unify my heart." King David was inspired to write those words. During his life, he saw how easy it is to allow the heart to become divided. On one occasion, he was on his roof and he saw another man's wife bathing. At that moment, was David's heart unified or divided? He knew Jehovah's standard: "You must not desire your fellow man's wife." (Ex. 20: 17) Yet, evidently he kept looking. His heart became divided between his desire for the woman, Bath-sheba, and his desire to please Jehovah. Although David had long loved and feared Jehovah, he gave in to his selfish desire. In that instance, David pursued a very bad course. He brought reproach on Jehovah's name. David also

^{12.} How did David once fail to maintain a unified heart, and with what result?



David once allowed his heart to become divided (See paragraph 12)

brought terrible harm to innocent people, including his own family.—2 Sam. 11:1-5, 14-17; 12:7-12.

¹³ Jehovah disciplined David, and he recovered. (2 Sam. 12:13; Ps. 51:2-4, 17) David remembered the trouble and misery that resulted when he let his heart become divided. His words recorded at Psalm 86:11 may also be rendered: "Give me an undivided heart." Did Jehovah help David make his heart whole, or undivided? Yes, for Jehovah's Word later refers to David as a man whose "heart

^{13.} How do we know that David's heart again became unified?

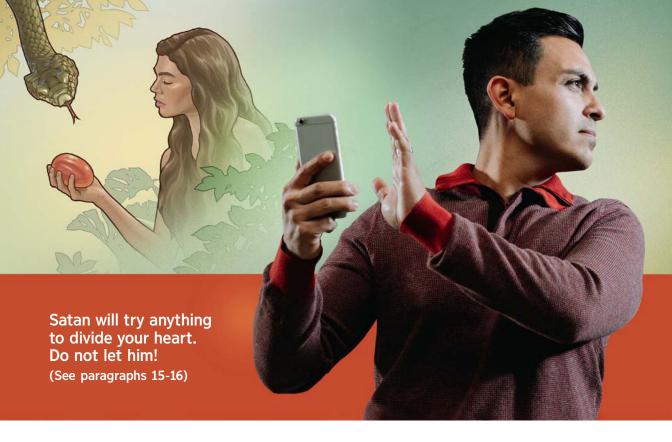
was . . . complete with Jehovah his God."-1 Ki. 11:4: 15:3.

¹⁴ David's example is both encouraging and sobering. His fall into serious sin stands as a warning to God's servants today. Whether we have recently begun to serve Jehovah or have done so for many years, we need to ask ourselves, 'Am I resisting Satan's attempts to divide my heart?'

¹⁵ For instance, if you see an image on TV or the Internet that could arouse sensual desires, how do you respond? It might be easy to rationalize that the picture or movie is not exactly pornographic. But might it represent an effort by Satan to divide your heart? (2 Cor. 2:11) That image can be like a little metal wedge that a man uses to split a big log. At first he drives the thin, sharp edge of the wedge into the log. Then as he drives the wedge deeper, the log splits apart. Could suggestive imagery in the media be like the thin part of that wedge? What may start off as small and seemingly harmless can quickly lead a person to commit sins that divide his heart and break his integrity. So refuse to give anything

^{14.} What do we need to ask ourselves, and why?

^{15.} How might godly fear protect us when we are exposed to sensual images?



improper entry into your heart! Keep it unified to fear Jehovah's name!

¹⁶ Besides seductive imagery, Satan presents us with many other temptations to do wrong. How do we respond? It is easy to rationalize. For example, we might reason: 'Well, I would not be disfellowshipped for doing this, so it must not be that serious.' Such reasoning is deeply flawed. We do better to ask ourselves such questions as these: 'Is Satan

^{16.} When faced with temptation, what questions should we ask ourselves?

trying to use this temptation to divide my heart? If I give in to wrong desires, would I bring reproach on Jehovah's name? Would this action draw me closer to my God, or might it distance me from him?' Meditate on such questions. Pray for wisdom to answer them honestly, without self-deception. (Jas. 1:5) Doing so can be a real protection. It can help you to reject temptation firmly, as Jesus did when he said: "Go away, Satan!"-Matt. 4:10.

¹⁷ A divided heart is of little value. Imagine that a sports team has members who do not get along with one another. Some want glory only for themselves, a few do not want to play by the rules, and a number treat the coach with contempt. A team like that is unlikely to win a match. In contrast, a team that is united is more likely to have success. Your heart can be like that successful team if your thoughts, desires, and emotions are united in serving Jehovah. Remember, Satan would love to divide your heart. He wants your thoughts, desires, and emotions to be at odds and in conflict with Jehovah's standards. You, however, need your heart to be whole in order for you to serve Jehovah. (Matt. 22:36-38) Never let Satan divide your heart!

^{17.} Why is a divided heart of little value? Illustrate.

¹⁸ Pray to Jehovah as did David: "Unify my heart to fear your name." Make it your aim to live up to that prayer. Each day, be determined that your decisions, from small to great, show that you hold Jehovah's holy name in profound awe. In so doing, as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you will reflect well on that name. (Prov. 27:11) And all of us will be able to say, along with the prophet Micah: "We will walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever." —Mic. 4:5.

18. In harmony with the words of Micah 4:5, what is your resolve?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Page 21: Moses taught God's people a song that honored Jehovah. **Page 26:** Eve did not reject wrong desires. In contrast, we reject images or messages that might encourage wrong desires and bring reproach on God's name.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What are some reasons for being in awe of Jehovah's name?
- How can we teach our Bible students in a way that shows our deep love for God's name?
- What does it mean to have a unified heart?

41 Please Hear My Prayer (Psalm 54)

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.

 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)