

- Song 92 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Equipped to Do Jehovah’s Work”:** (10 min.)
 Ex 35:25, 26—Jehovah blessed the willing spirit of his people (w14 12/15 4 ¶4)
 Ex 35:30-35—Holy spirit equipped Bezalel and Oholiab for “every sort of work” (w11 12/15 18 ¶6)
 Ex 36:1, 2—Jehovah rightly received the credit for their work (w11 12/15 19 ¶7)

- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (10 min.)
 Ex 35:1-3—What can we learn from the Sabbath law? (w05 5/15 23 ¶14)

Ex 35:21—How is the generous spirit of the Israelites an excellent example for us? (w00 11/1 29 ¶1)

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 35:1-24 (11)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (11)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 68
- **2018 Publishing Committee Report:** (15 min.)
 Play the video (video category OUR ORGANIZATION). Then ask the audience: What changes has the organization made in our printing operations, and why? What endeavors have accelerated because of the reduction in printing? What important role does translation play in the production of spiritual food? What blessings have resulted from digital publishing and video production?
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- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 69 and Prayer

EXODUS 35-36 | Equipped to Do Jehovah’s Work

35:25, 26, 30-35; 36:1, 2

Jehovah’s holy spirit equipped Bezalel and Oholiab to carry out the detailed plans for the tabernacle. (See cover picture.) Jehovah’s powerful holy spirit is also available to his servants today. How can we benefit from it?

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 **For what assignments can Jehovah equip you?**



92 *A Place Bearing Your Name*

(1 Chronicles 29:16)

1. How great is the honor, Jehovah,
 To build you a place for your name!
We offer it now with rejoicing
 To add to your glory and fame.
Whatever the things we may give you,
 They rightly were yours from the start.
Our labor, our skill, our possessions,
 We joyfully give from the heart.

(CHORUS)

*May we present this place to you,
 And here may your name be known.
We dedicate this place to you;
 Please accept it as your own.*

2. And now may we honor you, Father,
 By filling this place with your praise.
May glory ascend with the increase
 Of those who are learning your ways.
Committing this place to your worship,
 We give it our generous care.
And long may it stand as a witness,
 Supporting the message we bear.

(Chorus)

Exodus 35-36

35 Moses later gathered the entire assembly of the Israelites together and said to them: “These are the things that Jehovah has commanded to be done: ² Work may be done for six days, but the seventh day will become something holy to you, a sabbath of complete rest to Jehovah. Anybody doing work on it will be put to death.

³ You must not light a fire in any of your dwelling places on the Sabbath day.”

⁴ Moses then said to the entire assembly of the Israelites: “This is what Jehovah has commanded, ⁵ ‘Take up a contribution for Jehovah from among yourselves. Let everyone with a willing heart bring a contribution for Jehovah: gold, silver, copper, ⁶ blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, ⁷ ram skins dyed red, sealskins, acacia wood, ⁸ oil for the lamps, balsam for the anointing oil and for the perfumed incense, ⁹ onyx stones, and other stones for setting in the eph'od and the breastpiece.

¹⁰ “Let all who are skilled among you come and make everything that Jehovah has commanded, ¹¹ namely, the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, its clasps and its panel frames, its bars, its pillars, and its socket pedestals; ¹² the Ark and its poles, the cover, and the curtain for the screen; ¹³ the table and its poles and all its utensils and the showbread; ¹⁴ the lampstand for light and its utensils and its lamps and the oil for lighting; ¹⁵ the altar of incense and its

poles; the anointing oil and the perfumed incense; the screen for the tabernacle's entrance; ¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering and its copper grating, its poles and all its utensils; the basin and its stand; ¹⁷ the hanging curtains of the courtyard, its pillars and its socket pedestals; the screen of the entrance to the courtyard; ¹⁸ the tent pins of the tabernacle and the tent pins of the courtyard and their cords; ¹⁹ the finely woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for serving as priests.'"

²⁰ So all the assembly of the Israelites went out from before Moses. ²¹ Then everyone whose heart impelled him and everyone whose spirit incited him came and brought their contribution for Jehovah to be used for the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

²² They kept coming, the men along with the women, each with a willing heart, bringing brooches, earrings, rings, and other jewelry, as well as all sorts of articles of gold. They all presented their offerings of gold to Jehovah. ²³ And all who had blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, ram skins dyed red, and sealskins brought them.

²⁴ All those contributing silver and copper brought Jehovah's contribution, and all who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it.

²⁵ All the skilled women spun with their hands, and they brought what they had spun: blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine linen. ²⁶ And all the skilled women whose hearts impelled them spun the goat hair.

²⁷ And the chieftains brought onyx stones and other stones to be set in the eph'od and the breastpiece, ²⁸ and the balsam and the oil for lighting and for the anointing oil and for the perfumed incense. ²⁹ All the men and women whose hearts incited them brought something for the work that Jehovah, through Moses, had commanded to be done; the Israelites brought it as a voluntary offering to Jehovah.

³⁰ Then Moses said to the Israelites: "See, Jehovah has chosen Bez'al-el the son of U'ri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. ³¹ He has filled him with the spirit of God, giving him wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of every sort of craftsmanship ³² for making artistic designs, for working with gold, silver, and copper, ³³ for cutting and setting stones, and for making all kinds of artistic wood products. ³⁴ And he has put it into his heart to teach, he and O-ho'li-ab the son of A-his'a-mach of the tribe of Dan. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all the work of a craftsman, an embroiderer, and a weaver using blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine linen, and of a loom worker. These men will do every sort of work and prepare every sort of design.

36 "Bez'al-el will work along with O-ho'li-ab and every skilled man to whom Jehovah has given wisdom and understanding so as to know how to do all the work of the holy service just as Jehovah has commanded."

² Moses then called Bez'al-el and O-ho'li-ab and every skilled man into whose heart Jehovah had put wisdom, everyone whose heart impelled him to volunteer to do the work. ³ Then they took from Moses all the contribution that

the Israelites had brought for the work of the holy service. However, these continued to bring him voluntary offerings, morning after morning.

⁴ Then after they started the holy work, all the skilled workers were coming, one after another, ⁵ and they were telling Moses: “The people are bringing much more than what is required for the work that Jehovah has commanded to be done.” ⁶ So Moses commanded that an announcement be made throughout the camp, saying: “Men and women, do not bring any more goods for the holy contribution.” With that the people were restrained from bringing in anything else. ⁷ The goods were enough for all the work to be done, and more than enough.

⁸ So all the skilled workers made the tabernacle of ten tent cloths of fine twisted linen, blue thread, purple wool, and scarlet material; he made them with cherubs embroidered on them. ⁹ Each tent cloth was 28 cubits long and 4 cubits wide. All the tent cloths were the same size. ¹⁰ Then he joined five of the tent cloths together, and the other five tent cloths he joined together. ¹¹ After that he made loops of blue thread on the edge of the one tent cloth where it would join. He did the same on the edge of the outermost tent cloth at the corresponding place where it would join. ¹² He made 50 loops on the one tent cloth and 50 loops on the other edge of the tent cloth at the place where it would join so that the loops would be opposite one another. ¹³ Finally, he made 50 gold clasps and joined the tent cloths together with the clasps, so that the tabernacle became one unit.

¹⁴ Then he made tent cloths of goat hair for the tent over the tabernacle. He made 11 tent cloths. ¹⁵ Each tent cloth was 30 cubits long and 4 cubits wide. The 11 tent cloths were the same size. ¹⁶ Then he joined five of the tent cloths together, and he joined the other six tent cloths together. ¹⁷ Next he made 50 loops along the edge of the outermost tent cloth where it joined, and he made 50 loops along the edge of the other tent cloth that joined with it. ¹⁸ And he made 50 copper clasps for joining the tent together to become one unit.

¹⁹ He made a covering for the tent out of ram skins dyed red and a covering out of sealskins to go over that.

²⁰ Then he made out of acacia wood the tabernacle's panel frames, which stood upright. ²¹ Each panel frame was ten cubits high and one and a half cubits wide. ²² Each panel frame had two tenons joined to each other. That is how he made all the panel frames of the tabernacle. ²³ Thus he made the panel frames for the south side of the tabernacle, 20 panel frames, facing south. ²⁴ Then he made 40 socket pedestals of silver to go under the 20 panel frames, two socket pedestals beneath one panel frame for its two tenons and two socket pedestals under each following panel frame for its two tenons. ²⁵ For the other side of the tabernacle, the northern side, he made 20 panel frames ²⁶ and their 40 socket pedestals of silver, two socket pedestals beneath the one panel frame and two socket pedestals beneath each of the other panel frames.

²⁷ For the rear section of the tabernacle to the west, he made six panel frames. ²⁸ He made two panel frames as corner posts of the tabernacle at the two rear corners.

²⁹ The posts were doubled from the bottom to the top, up to the first ring. That is what he did with the two corner posts.

³⁰ So they amounted to eight panel frames along with their 16 socket pedestals of silver, two socket pedestals under each panel frame.

³¹ Then he made bars of acacia wood, five bars for the panel frames of the one side of the tabernacle ³² and five bars for the panel frames of the other side of the tabernacle and five for the panel frames of the tabernacle for the rear section to the west. ³³ He made the middle bar to extend along the middle of the panel frames from one end to the other. ³⁴ He overlaid the panel frames with gold, and he made their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and he overlaid the bars with gold.

³⁵ Then he made a curtain of blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. He made it with cherubs embroidered on it. ³⁶ Then he made for it four acacia pillars and overlaid them with gold, along with hooks of gold, and cast four socket pedestals of silver for them.

³⁷ Next he made a screen for the entrance of the tent out of blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen woven together, ³⁸ as well as its five pillars and their hooks. He overlaid their tops and their connectors with gold, but their five socket pedestals were of copper.

- Song 92 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Equipped to Do Jehovah’s Work”:** (10 min.)
 Ex 35:25, 26—Jehovah blessed the willing spirit of his people (w14 12/15 4 ¶4)
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- Song 69 and Prayer

EXODUS 35-36 | Equipped to Do Jehovah’s Work

35:25, 26, 30-35; 36:1, 2

Jehovah’s holy spirit equipped Bezalel and Oholiab to carry out the detailed plans for the tabernacle. (See cover picture.) Jehovah’s powerful holy spirit is also available to his servants today. How can we benefit from it?

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 **For what assignments can Jehovah equip you?**



October 19-25 / Exodus 35-36

- Song 92 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Equipped to Do Jehovah's Work": (10 minutes)

Exodus 35:25, 26, 30-35; 36:1, 2

Jehovah's holy spirit equipped Bezalel and Oholiab to carry out the detailed plans for the tabernacle. (See cover picture.) Jehovah's powerful holy spirit is also available to his servants today. How can we benefit from it?

Cover picture: Bezalel and Oholiab crafting items of gold for the tabernacle. One man hammers fine details into a cherub's wing, and the other hammers out a sheet of gold.

Caption: Bezalel and Oholiab make items for the tabernacle

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Pictures: Collage: Jehovah's Witnesses handling various theocratic assignments. 1. Sisters help with construction work. 2. A brother prepares to conduct a *Watchtower* Study lesson. 3. A brother preaches to a shopkeeper as the brother's witnessing partner watches for opposers. 4. A couple attends the School for Kingdom Evangelizers.

Exodus 35:25, 26—Jehovah blessed the willing spirit of his people

Exodus 35:25, 26: All the skilled women spun with their hands, and they brought what they had spun: blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine linen. And all the skilled women whose hearts impelled them spun the goat hair.

w14 12/15 4 paragraph 4

What brought Jehovah the most pleasure was, not the material offerings, but the willing spirit of those who thus supported pure worship. They were also moved to contribute their time and labor. "All the skilled women spun with their hands," says the account. Indeed, "all the skilled women whose hearts impelled them spun the goat hair." Moreover,

Jehovah gave Bezalel “wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of every sort of craftsmanship.” In fact, God filled Bezalel and Oholiab with the skill needed to do all the work that was commissioned.—Exodus 35:25, 26, 30-35.

Exodus 35:30-35—Holy spirit equipped Bezalel and Oholiab for “every sort of work”

Exodus 35:30-35: Then Moses said to the Israelites: “See, Jehovah has chosen Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. He has filled him with the spirit of God, giving him wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of every sort of craftsmanship for making artistic designs, for working with gold, silver, and copper, for cutting and setting stones, and for making all kinds of artistic wood products. And he has put it into his heart to teach, he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do all the work of a craftsman, an embroiderer, and a weaver using blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine linen, and of a loom worker. These men will do every sort of work and prepare every sort of design.

w11 12/15 18 paragraph 6

The experience of Moses’ contemporary Bezalel reveals

much about the way God's spirit can operate. (Read Exodus 35:30-35.) Bezalel was appointed to take the lead in making the necessary furnishings for the tabernacle. Did he have knowledge of crafts prior to this vast project? Possibly, but in all likelihood his most recent job was that of making bricks for the Egyptians. (Exodus 1:13, 14) So how would Bezalel fulfill his complicated task? Jehovah "proceeded to fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in every sort of craftsmanship and for designing devices . . . to make ingenious products of every sort." Whatever natural aptitude Bezalel may have had was enhanced by holy spirit. The same is true of Oholiab. Bezalel and Oholiab must have learned well, for they not only performed their duties but also taught others what to do. Yes, God put it into their hearts to teach.

Exodus 36:1, 2—Jehovah rightly received the credit for their work

Exodus 36:1, 2: "Bezalel will work along with Oholiab and every skilled man to whom Jehovah has given wisdom and understanding so as to know how to do all the work of the holy service just as Jehovah has commanded." Moses then called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled man into whose

heart Jehovah had put wisdom, everyone whose heart impelled him to volunteer to do the work.

w11 12/15 19 paragraph 7

Another testimony that Bezalel and Oholiab were guided by God's spirit is the amazing durability of their work. Their productions were still in use some 500 years later. (2 Chronicles 1:2-6) Unlike modern-day manufacturers, Bezalel and Oholiab had no interest in leaving their signature or trademark on their work. All credit went to Jehovah for their accomplishments.—Exodus 36:1, 2.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Exodus 35:1-3—What can we learn from the Sabbath law?

Exodus 35:1-3: Moses later gathered the entire assembly of the Israelites together and said to them: "These are the things that Jehovah has commanded to be done: Work may be done for six days, but the seventh day will become something holy to you, a sabbath of complete rest to Jehovah. Anybody doing work on it will be put to death. You must not light a fire in any of your dwelling places on the Sabbath day."

w05 5/15 23 paragraph 14

Give priority to spiritual matters. The nation of Israel was not to allow caring for physical needs to crowd out attention given to spiritual activities. The Israelites' lives were not to be devoted solely to mundane pursuits. Jehovah set aside time each week that he designated as sacred, time used exclusively for activity related to worship of the true God. (Exodus 35:1-3; Numbers 15:32-36) Each year, additional time was to be set aside for specified holy conventions. (Leviticus 23:4-44) These would provide opportunities to recount Jehovah's mighty acts, to be reminded of his ways, and to express gratitude to him for all of his goodness. As the people expressed their devotion to Jehovah, they would grow in godly fear and love and would be helped to walk in his ways. (Deuteronomy 10:12, 13) The wholesome principles embodied in those instructions benefit Jehovah's servants today.—Hebrews 10:24, 25.

Exodus 35:21—How is the generous spirit of the Israelites an excellent example for us?

Exodus 35:21: Then everyone whose heart impelled him and everyone whose spirit incited him came and brought their contribution for Jehovah to be used for the tent of meeting,

for all its service, and for the holy garments.

w00 11/1 29 paragraph 1

Imagine, then, how the Israelites felt. Generations had suffered through bitter slavery and deprivation. Now they were free and had rich material possessions. How would they feel about parting with some of those possessions? They might have felt that they had earned them and had a right to keep them. However, when called upon to contribute financially to support pure worship, they did so—and not reluctantly or stingily! They did not forget that Jehovah had made it possible for them to have those material things. Thus, they gave abundantly of their silver and gold and livestock. They were “willing-hearted.” Their ‘hearts impelled them.’ ‘Their spirit incited them.’ It truly was “a voluntary offering to Jehovah.”—Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-9, 20-29; 36:3-7.

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 minutes or less) Exodus 35:1-24 (th study 11)

- Song 92 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

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Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations

INITIAL CALL

Question: Is the Bible still relevant today?

Scripture: **2Ti 3:16**

Link: Is the Bible compatible with science?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *fg* lesson 11 ¶1



RETURN VISIT

Question: Is the Bible compatible with science?

Scripture: **Job 26:7**

Link: Is the Bible's advice practical?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• *bhs* 21 ¶8



THE BIBLE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

¹⁸ We have learned that there is no other book like the Bible. It is harmonious, and when it talks about scientific or historical matters, it is always accurate. It also gives us good advice and contains many prophecies that have already come true. But the Bible does even more than that. The apostle Paul wrote: “The word of God is alive and exerts power.” What does that mean?—**Read Hebrews 4:12.**

¹⁹ The Bible can change your life. It can help you to know who you really are. It can help you to understand your deepest thoughts and feelings. For example, we may think that we love God. But to prove that we love him, we need to apply what the Bible says.

²⁰ The Bible truly is a book from God. He wants you to read it, study it, and love it. Be thankful for this gift, and keep studying it. Then you will understand God’s purpose for humans. In the next chapter, we will learn more about this purpose.

Sowing Kingdom Seed

(Matthew 13:4-8)

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

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2018 Publishing Committee Report

Raw Transcript

Throughout history, Jehovah has provided for the spiritual needs of his people. Jehovah has also given his people what's needed to carry out any work he has assigned them to do. In modern times, Jehovah has used printed literature to provide spiritual food. But in recent years, digital media has become readily available. Have you wondered what impact the increased use of electronic publications and the emphasis on using the new Teaching Toolbox has had on the amount of literature being printed? How has the brotherhood benefited from these adjustments? As you watch the following video, it will become obvious that a significant amount of money is being saved each year. This has allowed the organization to reallocate those funds to other critically needed areas, such as disaster relief, and to help compensate for unavoidable rising operational costs at facilities around the world. As prophesied in the book of Isaiah, Jehovah's people enjoy a great variety of spiritual food in this time of the end—JW Broadcasting®, jw.org®, Bible releases in one language after another. Jehovah generously provides all of the resources needed in order to prepare and serve this rich banquet to our worldwide brotherhood. And while all of the silver and gold belong to Jehovah, he has not given his people unlimited resources.

Rather, he dignifies his people with the privilege of managing the resources that he has provided. The Governing Body is careful to constantly “make sure of the more important things” as they direct the use of these resources in areas that will do the most good. How have they made sure of the more important things in providing printed publications throughout the years? Since the 1870’s, printed publications have played an important role in dispensing spiritual food. Through the years, much of the organization’s resources have been allocated for the machinery, buildings, and support of the brothers that have cared for printing. During the 20th century, printeries sprang up in one country after another. By the 1970’s, there were 37 printing branches with 64 large printing presses and, by the ’90’s, 28 bindery lines. Around this time, a series of significant technological improvements were made in the printing and binding industry. Taking advantage of these technologies, the organization increased their printing and binding capacity while at the same time reducing the number of printing branches and personnel. For example, starting in 2003, the worldwide printing and bindery capacity was upgraded with the purchase of seven new, high-speed MAN Roland web presses and the installation of a new, deluxe-cover bindery line. As a result, in less than four years, the number of printery personnel had been reduced by 25 percent. Of

course, over time our needs change, both for the brotherhood and for the field. Additionally, new developments prompt the organization to reevaluate how resources can best be used. For example, significant adjustments in the late '80's and early '90's better equipped the organization to support translation into new languages. Additionally, in 2005, a higher priority was given to Bible translation. This would allow more language groups to benefit from the New World Translation, especially where it had become difficult to obtain an acceptable Bible translation at a reasonable cost. More recently, there has been a change in how people consume information. As a result, greater emphasis has been placed on digital media, including videos. All the while, demand for printed literature continued to grow, especially for the field ministry. In recent years, 85 percent of our global printing work was dedicated to publications used in the field ministry. So a growing need in translation, a growing need for digital publications, and production of publications for the field continued to increase. How has the Governing Body made sure of the more important things in view of these developments? Consider a few recent decisions and their impact. In 2008, the public edition of The Watchtower was introduced and we began to offer only one issue in the field ministry each month. In 2013, the Awake! and the public edition of The Watchtower were

reduced from 32 to 16 pages. This allowed for two magazines to be printed at once. Then, in 2016 and again in 2018, decisions were made to reduce the number of issues of the Awake! and the public edition of The Watchtower. These decisions allowed for more languages to begin translating the magazines. They also reduced our magazine-printing workload by 63 percent over the past ten years. Other recent adjustments include no longer distributing hard copy releases at conventions, the simplified Teaching Toolbox, eliminating specific monthly literature offers, and the increased emphasis on using the Bible. All of these decisions have reduced the printing of books used in the ministry by 25 percent over the past three years. What have been the results of the reduction in printing needs? For one, less space or buildings are needed for our global printing work. Also, instead of reinvesting in new printing equipment, funds were able to be reallocated to other areas. Consider a few examples. In 2009, rather than invest in new presses for the Italy and Spain branches, it was determined that their work could now be absorbed by the higher-capacity presses recently installed in Britain and Central Europe. In 2016, consideration needed to be given to the aging press in Australasia. It was determined that the Japan branch could care for their needs, avoiding further investment. The original plans for the new branch in Chelmsford, Britain included a

new, large printery. However, the reduction in printing allowed for Britain's work to be absorbed by Central Europe and other printeries in 2018. This has resulted in saving millions of dollars in new construction costs. Similar savings were also experienced by consolidating the printing of Argentina, India, and the Philippines to other branches. Currently, there are six bookbinding branches and three additional branches with web presses that print magazines, brochures, and tracts. Of course, as printing was consolidated, staffing levels were also reduced. Today, a total of 1,100 serve as full-time printery workers worldwide. This represents a further reduction of 350 full-time workers over the past decade. What have been some of the notable benefits of these adjustments? For one thing, the organization is now free to do more for the brothers in other areas. Consider a few examples. Additional resources are now available to help support the growing number of translation teams worldwide. As of September 2018, the number of languages in which we have produced literature has increased from 488 in 2010 to over 900 today. In 2012 (before the introduction of 16-page magazines), the study edition of *The Watchtower* was translated into 158 languages. Now, only six years later, the language count has more than doubled to 335 languages. Especially noteworthy is the increase in the number of languages that now have

the New World Translation. For the first 40 years after its initial release, the New World Translation was made available, in whole or in part, in 38 languages. However, in just the last 18 years, this number has more than quadrupled to 177 languages! Some of these language groups did not have a reliable secular translation in their language. Now, even in languages where there are only a few hundred publishers, our brothers are delighted to enjoy the best translation of Jehovah's Word in their mother tongue. More resources can now be used to develop content on jw.org® in nearly 1,000 languages. People who have never read our publications before are now receiving a witness thanks to the extraordinary reach of jw.org®. And the impact of the website on the brotherhood has been amazing. Think, for example, of how the online Study Bible has deepened our knowledge of God's Word—enriching our faith—and how JW Broadcasting® has unified our brotherhood just when we need it the most in this time of the end. This is so important! Certainly, the beneficial impact of these recent decisions is readily evident. Jehovah is blessing his people with a wide variety of spiritual food like never before in history. This is a result of “the faithful and discreet slave” making sure of the more important things. What a thrill to work along with Jehovah's organization and witness his divine blessing upon it!

HUNDREDS SEE HIM PRIOR TO PENTECOST

MATTHEW 28:16-20 LUKE 24:50-52

ACTS 1:1-12; 2:1-4

- JESUS APPEARS TO MANY
 - HE ASCENDS TO HEAVEN
 - JESUS POURS OUT HOLY SPIRIT ON 120 DISCIPLES
-

After Jesus' resurrection, he arranges for his 11 apostles to meet him at a mountain in Galilee. Other disciples are there too, about 500 of them, some of whom initially have doubts. (Matthew 28:17; 1 Corinthians 15:6) But what Jesus now says helps to convince each one of them that he truly is alive.

Jesus explains that God has given him all authority in heaven and on earth. "Go, therefore," Jesus urges them, "and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20) Yes, not only is Jesus alive but he is still interested in having the good news preached.

All of Jesus' followers—men, women, and children—receive this same commission to make disciples. Opposers may try to stop their preaching and teaching, yet Jesus assures them: “All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth.” What does that mean for his followers? He tells them: “Look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.” Jesus does not say that all who share in preaching the good news will be enabled to do miraculous works. Still, they will have the backing of holy spirit.

Altogether, Jesus appears to his disciples “throughout 40 days” after his resurrection. He materializes various bodies and shows “himself alive to them by many convincing proofs,” instructing them “about the Kingdom of God.”—Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:7.

Evidently while the apostles are still in Galilee, Jesus directs them to return to Jerusalem. When meeting with them in the city, he says: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but keep waiting for what the Father has promised, about which you heard from me; for John, indeed, baptized with water, but you will be baptized

with holy spirit not many days after this.”—Acts 1:4, 5.

Later Jesus meets again with his apostles. He leads “them out as far as Bethany,” which is on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. (Luke 24:50) Despite everything that Jesus has told them about his departure, they still believe that in some way his Kingdom will be on earth.—Luke 22:16, 18, 30; John 14:2, 3.

The apostles ask Jesus: “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?” He simply replies: “It does not belong to you to know the times or seasons that the Father has placed in his own jurisdiction.” Then, stressing again the work they must do, he says: “You will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the most distant part of the earth.”—Acts 1:6-8.

The apostles are on the Mount of Olives with the resurrected Jesus when he begins to rise heavenward. Soon a cloud obscures him from their sight. After his resurrection, Jesus had materialized fleshly bodies. But now Jesus dematerializes the body he used on



this occasion, and he ascends to heaven as a spirit creature. (1 Corinthians 15:44, 50; 1 Peter 3:18) As the faithful apostles are gazing after him, “two men in white garments” appear beside them. These are materialized angels, who ask: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was taken up from you into the sky will come in the same manner as you have seen him going into the sky.”—Acts 1:10, 11.

Jesus left the earth without public fanfare, his faithful followers being the only observers. He will return “in the same manner”—without public fanfare, with only his faithful followers discerning his presence in Kingdom power.

The apostles return to Jerusalem. During the following days, they gather with other disciples, including “Mary the mother of Jesus and . . . his brothers.” (Acts 1:14) This group persist in prayer. One subject of prayer is the choosing of a disciple to replace Judas Iscariot and thus restore the apostolic number to 12. (Matthew 19:28) They want a disciple who has witnessed Jesus’ activities and his resurrection. For the last time mentioned in the Bible, lots are cast to

determine God’s will. (Psalm 109:8; Proverbs 16:33) Matthias, who may have been one of the 70 whom Jesus sent out, is selected and “counted along with the 11 apostles.”—Acts 1:26.

Ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Jewish Festival of Pentecost 33 C.E. takes place. About 120 of the disciples are assembled in an upper room in Jerusalem. Suddenly, a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze fills the whole house. Tongues as if of fire become visible, one upon each of those present. The disciples all begin to speak in different languages. This is the outpouring of the holy spirit that Jesus had promised!—John 14:26.

- ◇ Who are present when Jesus gives instructions at a mountain in Galilee, and what does he say?
- ◇ For how long after his resurrection does Jesus appear to his disciples, and what does he do?
- ◇ Given how he departs, in what manner is Jesus to return?
- ◇ What occurs at Pentecost 33 C.E.?

Go Forward in Preaching the Kingdom!

(2 Timothy 4:5)

1. Go forward in preaching the Kingdom
To people in ev'ry land.
With love in your hearts for your neighbor,
Help meek ones to take their stand.
Our service to God is a priv'lege;
His word we are glad to proclaim.
Go out in the field and keep preaching;
Give witness to God's holy name.

(CHORUS)

*Forward, boldly preach the
Kingdom message ever far and wide.
Forward, faithful, loyally remaining
on Jehovah's side.*

2. Together we press ever forward,
Anointed and other sheep.
The old and the young men and women
In step with the truth do keep.
The good news of God's coming Kingdom
Is something that all need to hear.
We preach in the strength of Jehovah;
With him there is nothing to fear!

(Chorus)

AUGUST 2020

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



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Respect the Place of Others in Jehovah’s Congregation	

COVER PICTURE:

Jesus is depicted in the heavens. Next to him stand some of his corulers. Together they look at a vast number of angels. Some angels are going toward the earth to carry out their assignments. Jehovah delegated authority to all shown in this picture (See study article 32, paragraph 5)

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101 *Working Together in Unity*

(Ephesians 4:3)

1. From a world divided and cold,
 God has brought us into his fold.
 Unity and peace we possess,
 Bringing us happiness.
 Unity we cherish;
 Harmony is sweet.
 In God's work there's much to be done.
 He directs us now through his Son.
 May we serve obediently,
 Working in harmony.
2. As we pray to be of one mind,
 Always tender, loving, and kind,
 Love will grow and praise will increase,
 Giving us joy and peace.
 Peace is so refreshing,
 Bringing such delight.
 As we show true brotherly love,
 God will grant us peace from above.
 With his help, united we'll be,
 Serving him endlessly.

You Have a Place in Jehovah's Congregation!

“Just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although many, are one body, so too is the Christ.”—1 COR. 12:12.

SONG 101

Working Together in Unity

PREVIEW

All of us want to feel that we belong to Jehovah. But at times, we may wonder where we fit in. This article will help us to see that each one of us has a valuable place in the congregation.

WHAT a privilege we have to be part of Jehovah's congregation! We are in a spiritual paradise that is full of peaceful, happy people. What is your place in the congregation?

² We can learn much about this topic from an illustration that the apostle Paul used in several of his inspired letters. In each of these letters, Paul compared the congregation to the human body. He also compared the individuals in a congregation to parts of the body.—Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:16.

³ In this article, we will consider three important lessons that we can learn from Paul's illustration. First, we will learn that each one of us has a place* in Jehovah's congregation. Second, we will discuss what we can do if we find it difficult to see our place in the congregation. And third, we will discuss why we need to stay busy fulfilling our own role in God's congregation.

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The **place** we have in Jehovah's congregation refers to the role we play in building up and strengthening the congregation. It is not determined by our racial, tribal, economic, social, cultural, or educational background.

1. What privilege do we enjoy?
2. What illustration did the apostle Paul use in several of his inspired letters?
3. What three lessons will we consider in this article?

EACH ONE OF US HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN JEHOVAH'S CONGREGATION

⁴ The first lesson we can learn from Paul's illustration is that each one of us has an important place in Jehovah's family. Paul begins his illustration by saying: "Just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function, so we, although many, are one body in union with Christ, but individually we are members belonging to one another." (Rom. 12:4, 5) What was Paul's point? Each one of us has a different role in the congregation, but each one of us is valuable.

⁵ When you think of those who have a place in the congregation, your mind may immediately turn to those who take the lead. (1 Thess. 5:12; Heb. 13:17) It is true that through Christ, Jehovah has given "gifts in men" to His congregation. (Eph. 4:8) These "gifts in men" include Governing Body members, appointed helpers to the Governing Body, Branch Committee members, circuit overseers, field instructors, congregation elders, and ministerial servants. All these brothers are appointed by holy spirit to care for Jehovah's precious sheep and serve the interests of the congregation.—1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

4. What does Romans 12:4, 5 teach us?

5. What "gifts" has Jehovah given to the congregation?

We have different roles in the congregation, but each one of us is valuable
(See paragraphs 5-12)



⁶ Brothers are appointed by holy spirit to carry out various responsibilities. Just as various parts of the body, such as the hands and the feet, work to benefit the entire body, brothers who are appointed by holy spirit work hard to benefit the entire congregation. They do not seek personal glory. Instead, they strive to build up and strengthen their brothers and sisters. (Read 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8.) We thank Jehovah for such unselfish, spiritually qualified men!

⁷ Some in the congregation may be appointed to serve as missionaries, special pioneers, or regular pioneers. In fact, brothers and sisters around the world

6. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8, what do brothers who are appointed by holy spirit strive to do?

7. What blessings do many in full-time service enjoy?



have made preaching and disciple-making their full-time career. In doing so, they have helped many to become disciples of Christ Jesus. Although these full-time evangelizers usually have few material things, Jehovah has rewarded them with a life filled with blessings. (Mark 10:29, 30) We treasure these dear brothers and sisters, and we are grateful that they are part of the congregation!

⁸ Are appointed brothers and those in the full-time ministry the only ones to have a place in the congregation? Not at all! Every publisher of the good news is important to God and to the congregation. (Rom. 10:15; 1 Cor. 3:6-9) In fact, one of the most important goals of the congregation is to make disciples of

8. Why is every publisher of the good news precious to Jehovah?

our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Tim. 2:4) All who are associated with the congregation, both baptized and unbaptized publishers, try to make this work a priority.—Matt. 24:14.

⁹ Jehovah gives Christian sisters a dignified place in the congregation. He values these wives, mothers, widows, and single sisters who loyally serve him. The Scriptures frequently mention outstanding women who pleased God. They are commended as fine examples of wisdom, faith, zeal, courage, generosity, and good works. (Luke 8:2, 3; Acts 16:14, 15; Rom. 16:3, 6; Phil. 4:3; Heb. 11:11, 31, 35) How thankful we are to Jehovah to have in our congregations Christian women who have these same beautiful qualities!

¹⁰ We are also blessed to have many elderly ones. Some congregations have elderly brothers and sisters who have loyally devoted their entire life to serving Jehovah. Other older ones may have learned the truth more recently. In either case, our elderly ones may struggle with various health problems associated with advanced age. Those problems might limit what they can do in the congregation and in the preaching work. Yet, these older ones do what they can in the field ministry, and they use all the energy they have to encourage and train others! And we benefit from their ex-

9. Why do we treasure our Christian sisters?

10. Why do we value our elderly ones?

perience. They are truly beautiful to Jehovah and to us.—Prov. 16:31.

¹¹ Think, too, about our young ones. They face many challenges as they grow up in this world dominated by Satan the Devil and his wicked philosophies. (1 John 5:19) Yet, we all feel encouraged when we see our young ones comment at meetings, share in the ministry, and courageously defend their beliefs. Yes, you young ones have an important place in Jehovah’s congregation!—Ps. 8:2.

¹² Some of our brothers and sisters, however, struggle to believe that they are a meaningful part of the congregation. What can help us to feel that we as individuals have a place in the congregation? Let us see.

SEE YOUR PLACE IN THE CONGREGATION

¹³ Note the second lesson that we can learn from Paul’s illustration. He draws attention to a problem that many have today; they find it difficult to believe that they are valuable to the congregation. Paul writes: “If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the body,’ that does not make it no part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not

11-12. How have you been encouraged by the young ones in your congregation?

13-14. Why may some feel that they are not valuable to the congregation?

an eye, I am no part of the body,' that does not make it no part of the body." (1 Cor. 12:15, 16) What point was Paul making?

¹⁴ If you compare yourself with others in the congregation, you may be blinded to your own value. Some in the congregation may be gifted teachers, good organizers, or skilled shepherds. Perhaps you feel that you do not have those gifts to the same degree. This shows that you are humble and modest. (Phil. 2:3) But be careful. If you constantly compare yourself with those who have outstanding talents, you will be disappointed in yourself. You may even feel, as Paul mentioned, that you have no place in the congregation at all. What can help you to deal with such feelings?

¹⁵ Consider this fact: Jehovah gave some first-century Christians miraculous gifts of the holy spirit, but not all Christians received the same gifts. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.) Jehovah entrusted them with different gifts and abilities, but each Christian was valuable. Today, we do not have the miraculous gifts of the holy spirit. But the principle still applies. We may not all have the same talents, but all of us are valuable to Jehovah.

¹⁶ Rather than compare ourselves with other Chris-

15. According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, what do we need to recognize about any gifts we may have?

16. What counsel from the apostle Paul do we need to apply?

tians, we need to apply the inspired counsel of the apostle Paul: “Let each one examine his own actions, and then he will have cause for rejoicing in regard to himself alone, and not in comparison with the other person.”—Gal. 6:4.

¹⁷ If we follow Paul’s inspired counsel and examine our own actions, we may begin to see that we have unique gifts and abilities. For example, an elder may not be a gifted teacher when on the platform, but he may be very effective in the disciple-making work. Or he may not be as well-organized as some other elders in his congregation, but he might be well-known as a loving shepherd whom publishers feel free to approach for sound Scriptural advice. Or he might have a fine reputation for being hospitable. (Heb. 13:2, 16) When we clearly see our own strengths and gifts, we will have reason to feel good about what we can contribute to the congregation. And we will be less likely to envy our brothers who have gifts that are different from ours.

¹⁸ No matter what place we have in the congregation, all of us should desire to improve in our service and develop our abilities. To help us improve, Jehovah provides wonderful training through his organization. For example, at our midweek meeting, we receive instruction on how to be more effective in our

17. How will we benefit if we follow Paul’s counsel?

18. How can we develop our abilities?

ministry. Are you taking full advantage of that training program?

¹⁹ Another marvelous training program is the School for Kingdom Evangelizers. This school is open to brothers and sisters who are in the full-time ministry and who are between the ages of 23 and 65. It might seem to you that you could never reach this goal. But instead of making a list of reasons why you cannot attend, make a list of reasons why you *want* to attend. Then develop a plan that will help you meet the qualifications. With Jehovah's help and with hard work on your part, what may have seemed impossible to you can become a reality.

USE YOUR GIFTS TO BUILD UP THE CONGREGATION

²⁰ The third lesson we can learn from Paul's illustration is found at **Romans 12:6-8**. (Read.) Here Paul once again shows that those in the congregation have different gifts. But now he emphasizes that we should use whatever gift we have to build up and strengthen the congregation.

²¹ Consider the example of a brother whom we will

19. How can you reach the goal of attending the School for Kingdom Evangelizers?

20. What can we learn from Romans 12:6-8?

21-22. What lesson can we learn from Robert and Felice?

call Robert. After serving in a foreign land, he was assigned to serve at Bethel in his home country. Although he was reassured that the change of assignment was not because of any deficiency on his part, he said: “The negative view I had of myself—feeling like a failure—lingered for many months. There were times when I felt like quitting Bethel service.” How did he regain his joy? A fellow elder reminded him that Jehovah has trained us in each previous assignment so that we can be more useful in our *current* assignment. Robert recognized that he needed to stop looking at the past and start focusing on what he could do *right now*.

²² Brother Felice Episcopo faced a similar challenge. He and his wife graduated from Gilead in 1956 and served in the circuit work in Bolivia. In 1964 they had a child. Felice said: “We found it a challenge to leave our precious assignment. I must admit that I wasted about a year feeling sorry for myself. But with Jehovah’s help, I changed my attitude and got on with my new responsibility as a parent.” Can you relate to Robert or Felice? Do you get discouraged because you currently do not have the same privileges of service that you had in the past? If so, you will be happier if you change your focus and concentrate on what you can do *right now* to serve Jehovah and your brothers. Stay busy, using your gifts and abilities to help others, and you will find joy as you build up the congregation.

²³ Each one of us is precious to Jehovah. He wants us to be part of his family. If we take time to meditate on what we can do to build up our brothers and sisters and then work hard to fill that role, we will be less likely to feel that we do not belong in the congregation! But what about the way we view others in the congregation? How can we show that we appreciate them? In our next article, we will consider that important subject.

23. What should we take time to do, and what will we consider in the next article?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS Pages 42-43: The three pictures show what takes place before, during, and after a congregation meeting. **Picture 1:** An elder warmly greets a visitor, a young brother sets up the sound equipment, and a sister converses with an elderly sister. **Picture 2:** Young and old try to give comments during the *Watchtower* Study. **Picture 3:** A couple give a hand in tidying up the Kingdom Hall. A mother helps her child to put a donation in the contribution box. A young brother looks after the literature, and a brother gives a word of encouragement to the elderly sister.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM:

- Romans 12:4, 5?
- 1 Corinthians 12:15, 16?
- Romans 12:6-8?

SONG 24

Come to Jehovah's Mountain

24 *Come to Jehovah's Mountain*

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

1. Raise your eyes up and see,
Far above the highest hill.
There stands Jehovah's mountain
Lifted up in this day.

People come from afar,
Ev'rywhere from sea to sea,
Calling to one another,
'Come serve God and obey.'

Now the time has arrived
For the small, a great nation to be.
As we grow and we thrive,
God's direction and blessing we see.

Millions now come to God
And accept his sov'reignty.
Loyal they vow to be
And from his side never stray.

2. Jesus gave the command
 To go forth and preach the word.
Good news about the Kingdom
 Reaches all men today.

Christ now rules from above,
 Urging all to take his side.
Meek ones who hear his voice
 Let God's Word show them the way.

 It brings joy to the heart,
 As the great crowd continues to grow.
And we all have a part,
 As we strive to let ev'ryone know.

Let us lift up the voice,
 Calling out for all to hear,
'Come to Jehovah's mountain,
 Here forever to stay.'

(See also Ps. 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 60:22; Acts 16:5.)