

Monday, October 25

My servants will shout joyfully.—Isaiah 65:14.

Jehovah wants his family to be happy. There are many reasons why we can be cheerful right now, even though we may be facing difficulties. For example, we are certain that our heavenly Father loves us dearly. We have an accurate knowledge of God's Word, the Bible. (Jeremiah 15:16) And we are part of a unique family made up of people who love Jehovah, love his high moral standards, and love one another. (Psalm 106:4, 5) We can remain happy because we have the sure hope that life will get even better in the future. We know that soon Jehovah will remove all the wicked and that under the direction of his Kingdom, the earth will be restored to Paradise. We also have the wonderful hope that those who have died will be raised to life and reunited with their loved ones. (John 5:28, 29) What a joy that will be! And most important, we are sure that soon everyone in heaven and on earth will give our loving Father the honor, praise, and devotion that he deserves. w20.02 13 paragraphs 15-16

Tuesday, October 26

Against you—you above all—I have sinned.—Psalm 51:4.

If you commit a serious sin, do not try to cover the error. Instead, openly confess your sin to Jehovah in prayer. You will then begin to feel some relief from the anxiety caused by a guilty conscience. But if you want to restore your friendship with Jehovah, you need to do more than pray. You need to accept discipline. When Jehovah sent the prophet Nathan to expose King David's sin with Bath-sheba, David did not justify himself or try to minimize the sin. He immediately acknowledged that he had sinned not only against Bath-sheba's husband but, above all, against Jehovah. David accepted the discipline from Jehovah, and Jehovah forgave him. (2 Samuel 12:10-14) If we have committed a serious sin, we need to talk to those whom Jehovah has appointed to shepherd us. (James 5:14, 15) And we must avoid the urge to justify ourselves. The sooner we accept and apply whatever discipline we receive, the sooner we will regain our peace and joy. w20.02 24-25 paragraphs 17-18

Wednesday, October 27

Ten men out of all the languages of the nations . . . will take firm hold of the robe of a Jew, saying: “We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.”—Zechariah 8:23.

The “ten men” represent those who have the hope of living forever on earth. They know that Jehovah has blessed the group of anointed ones represented by the “Jew” and feel that it is an honor to worship him along with them. Even though it is not possible to know the name of each individual member of the anointed on earth today, those who hope to live on earth can “go with” the anointed. How? Today’s text answers. Note that the Bible verse mentions one Jew. But “you” and “you people” refer to more than one person. This means that this Jew is not just one person but represents the whole group of anointed ones. Those who are not anointed serve Jehovah along with the anointed. However, they do not view the anointed as their leaders, realizing that Jesus fills the role of Leader.—Matthew 23:10. *w20.01* 26 paragraphs 1-2

Thursday, October 28

By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves.—John 13:35.

Jesus said that his true disciples would be clearly identifiable if they showed the same sort of love that he displayed. That statement was true in the first century, and it is true today. How important it is that we overcome any challenges and show love for one another! Ask yourself: ‘What can I learn from brothers and sisters who have continued to show love for one another despite challenges?’ Human imperfection makes it difficult for us to show intense love for one another. Even so, we must try to imitate Christ. Jesus taught us the importance of making peace with a brother who has something against us. (Matthew 5:23, 24) He emphasized that we need to maintain good relations with others if we are to please God. Jehovah is happy when we do our best to make peace with our brothers. He will not accept our worship if we hang on to resentment and refuse even to try to make peace.—1 John 4:20. w20.03 24 paragraphs 1-4

Friday, October 29

We distinguish the inspired statement of truth from the inspired statement of error.—1 John 4:6.

Satan, “the father of the lie,” has deceived people since the start of human history. (John 8:44) Some of his lies include false teachings about death and about life after death. Those teachings form the basis for many popular customs and superstitions. Why are so many humans deceived? Satan’s lies about death exploit the way we naturally feel about death. Because we were created to live forever, we do not want to die. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) We consider death an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:26) Despite Satan’s efforts, the truth about death has not been kept hidden. In fact, more people than ever now know and proclaim what the Bible teaches about the condition of the dead and the hope for the dead. (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10; Acts 24:15) These truths comfort us, sparing us needless fear and uncertainty. w19.04 14 paragraph 1; 15 paragraphs 5-6

Saturday, October 30

Go on carrying the burdens of one another, and in this way you will fulfill the law of the Christ.—Galatians 6:2.

Jehovah God loves his worshippers. He always has, and he always will. He also loves justice. (Psalm 33:5) So we can be sure of two things: (1) It pains Jehovah when his servants are treated unfairly. (2) He will make sure that justice is served. The Law that God gave Israel through Moses was built on love. It promoted justice—justice for all, even vulnerable ones. (Deuteronomy 10:18) That Law reveals how deeply Jehovah cares about his worshippers. The Mosaic Law ended in 33 C.E. when the Christian congregation was established. Would Christians be without the benefits of a law that is built on love and promotes justice? By no means! Christians had a new law—“the law of the Christ.” Jesus did not write down a law code for his followers, but he did give them instructions, commands, and principles to live by. “The law of the Christ” includes everything Jesus taught. w19.05 2 paragraphs 1-3

Sunday, October 31

The God of all comfort . . . comforts us in all our trials.—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.

Humans have a natural need for comfort and a remarkable ability to provide it. For instance, when a little child falls and skins his knee while playing, he may run to Mommy or Daddy, crying. The parents cannot heal the wound, but they can comfort the child. They may ask what happened, wipe away his tears, offer soothing words and affection, and perhaps apply some medicine or a bandage. Before long, the child stops crying and may even resume playing. In time, the wound will heal. Sometimes, though, children are hurt in far worse ways. Some are sexually abused. The abuse can be inflicted on a single occasion, or it may go on for years. In either case, the abuse can leave deep emotional scars. In some cases, the offender is caught and punished. In others, the abuser may seem to escape justice. But even if justice is swift, the harmful effects of the abuse may last well into adulthood. w19.05 14 paragraphs 1-

Song 146 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Protect Your Precious Inheritance”:
(10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 17:15, 18—How do we know that ancient Israel was heavily forested? (w15 7/15 32)

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.) Jos 15:1-12 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Invite the person to our meetings. (19)

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Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 6 and Some People Say (9)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 139

“Share the Good News That a Better World Is Near!”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the original song video *The New World to Come* (video category MUSIC).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 15 ¶8-14

 Protect Your Precious Inheritance

Caleb protected his inheritance by driving out powerful enemies (Jos 15:14; *it-1* 1083 ¶3)

Not all Israelites protected their inheritance from corrupting influences (Jos 16:10; *it-1* 848)

Jehovah helped those who truly wanted to protect their inheritance (De 20:1-4; Jos 17:17, 18; *it-1* 402 ¶3)

Jehovah offers all Christians the precious inheritance of everlasting life. To safeguard our inheritance, we strengthen ourselves against temptation by means of Bible study, Christian meetings, the field ministry, and prayer.



ASK YOURSELF, ‘Am I protecting my inheritance?’

“Making All Things New”

(Revelation 21:1-5)

1. “The signs of the times” prove God’s rule has begun.
In glory enthroned sits Jehovah’s Son.
The heavens are cleansed, Satan’s now debased,
And soon on the earth let God’s will take place.

(CHORUS)

*Rejoice! For God’s tent is with men,
And he himself resides with them.
No more will there be pain or worrying,
No sting of death nor any sorrowing.
For God has said: ‘I’m making all things new.’
These words faithful are and true.*

2. Let all men the pure New Jerusalem see,
The bride of the Lamb shining radiantly.
Adorned for her husband in gems so bright,
And only Jehovah will be her light.

(Chorus)

3. This city so grand will become a delight.
Its gates will be open both day and night.
The nations will walk in her glory bright;
The servants of God now reflect that light.

(Chorus)

JOSHUA 15-17

15 The land allotted to the tribe of Judah for their families extended to the boundary of E'dom, the wilderness of Zin, to the Neg'eb at its southern end. ² Their southern boundary ran from the extremity of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward. ³ And it extended south to the ascent of A·krab'bim, passed over to Zin, then went up from the south to Ka'desh-bar'ne-a, over to Hez'ron, up to Ad'dar, and went around toward Kar'ka. ⁴ Then it passed on to Az'mon and extended to the Wadi of Egypt, and the boundary ended at the Sea. This was their southern boundary.

⁵ The eastern boundary was the Salt Sea up to the end of the Jordan, and the boundary at the northern corner was at the bay of the sea, at the end of the Jordan. ⁶ The boundary went up to Beth-hog'lah and passed over at the north of Beth-ar'a-bah, and the boundary went up to the stone of Bo'han the son of Reu'ben. ⁷ The boundary went up to De'bir at the Valley of A'chor and turned northward to Gil'gal, which is in front of the ascent of A·dum'mim that is south of the wadi, and the boundary passed over to the waters of En-she'mesh and ended at En-ro'gel. ⁸ The boundary went up to the Valley of the Son of Hin'nom to the slope of the Jeb'u-site at the south, that is, Jerusalem, and the boundary went up to the top of the mountain that faces the Valley of Hin'nom to the west, which is at the extremity of the Valley of Reph'a·im to the north. ⁹ And the boundary was marked from the top of the mountain to the spring of the waters of Neph-to'ah and extended to the cities of Mount E'phron; and

the boundary was marked to Ba'al-ah, that is, Kir'i-ath-je'a-rim. ¹⁰ The boundary went around from Ba'al-ah westward to Mount Se'ir and passed over to the slope of Mount Je'a-rim at the north, that is, Ches'a-lon, and it went down to Beth-she'mesh and passed over to Tim'nah. ¹¹ And the boundary extended to the slope of Ek'ron to the north, and the boundary was marked to Shik'ke-ron and passed over to Mount Ba'al-ah and extended to Jab'ne-el, and the boundary ended at the sea.

¹² The western boundary was at the Great Sea and its coast. This was the boundary of the descendants of Judah by their families on all sides.

¹³ And to Ca'leb the son of Je-phun'neh, he gave a share among the descendants of Judah at the order of Jehovah to Joshua, namely, Kir'i-ath-ar'ba (Ar'ba was the father of A'nak), that is, Heb'ron. ¹⁴ So Ca'leb drove out from there the three sons of A'nak: She'shai, A-hi'man, and Tal'mai, descendants of A'nak. ¹⁵ Then he went up from there against the inhabitants of De'bir. (The name of De'bir was previously Kir'i-ath-se'pher.) ¹⁶ Ca'leb then said: "To the man who strikes Kir'i-ath-se'pher and captures it, I will give my daughter Ach'sah as a wife." ¹⁷ And Oth'ni-el the son of Ke'naz, Ca'leb's brother, captured it. So he gave him his daughter Ach'sah as a wife. ¹⁸ While she was going home, she urged him to ask her father for a field. Then she dismounted from her donkey. Ca'leb asked her: "What do you want?" ¹⁹ She said: "Please grant me a blessing, for you have given me a piece of land in the south; give me also

Gul'loth-ma'im." So he gave her Upper Gul'loth and Lower Gul'loth.

²⁰ This was the inheritance of the tribe of Judah by their families.

²¹ The cities at the extremity of the tribe of Judah toward the boundary of E'dom in the south were: Kab'ze-el, E'der, Ja'gur, ²² Ki'nah, Di-mo'nah, A-da'dah, ²³ Ke'desh, Ha'zor, Ith'nan, ²⁴ Ziph, Te'lem, Be-a'loth, ²⁵ Ha'zor-ha-dat'tah, and Ke'ri-oth-hez'ron, that is, Ha'zor, ²⁶ A'mam, She'ma, Mo-la'dah, ²⁷ Ha'zar-gad'dah, Hesh'mon, Beth-pel'et, ²⁸ Ha'zar-shu'al, Be'er-she'ba, Biz-i-o-thi'ah, ²⁹ Ba'al-ah, I'im, E'zem, ³⁰ El-to'lad, Che'sil, Hor'mah, ³¹ Zik'lag, Mad-man'nah, San-san'nah, ³² Le-ba'oth, Shil'him, A'in, and Rim'mon—a total of 29 cities together with their settlements.

³³ In the She-phe'lah, there were: Esh'ta-ol, Zo'rah, Ash'nah, ³⁴ Za-no'ah, En-gan'nim, Tap'pu-ah, E'nam, ³⁵ Jar'muth, A-dul'lam, So'coh, A-ze'kah, ³⁶ Sha'a-ra'im, Ad-i-tha'im, and Ge-de'rah and Ged-e-ro-tha'im—14 cities and their settlements.

³⁷ Ze'nan, Ha-dash'ah, Mig'dal-gad, ³⁸ Di'le-an, Miz'peh, Jok'the-el, ³⁹ La'chish, Boz'kath, Eg'lon, ⁴⁰ Cab'bon, Lah'mam, Chit'lish, ⁴¹ Ge-de'roth, Beth-da'gon, Na'a-mah, and Mak-ke'dah—16 cities and their settlements.

⁴² Lib'nah, E'ther, A'shan, ⁴³ Iph'tah, Ash'nah, Ne'zib, ⁴⁴ Kei'lah, Ach'zib, and Ma-re'shah—nine cities and their settlements.

⁴⁵ Ek'ron and its dependent towns and its settlements;
⁴⁶ from Ek'ron westward, all that is alongside Ash'dod and their settlements.

⁴⁷ Ash'dod, its dependent towns and its settlements; Gaz'a, its dependent towns and its settlements, down to the Wadi of Egypt, the Great Sea, and the adjacent region.

⁴⁸ And in the mountainous region, Sha'mir, Jat'tir, So'coh,
⁴⁹ Dan'nah, Kir'i-ath-san'nah, that is, De'bir, ⁵⁰ A'nab, Esh'te-moh, A'nim, ⁵¹ Go'shen, Ho'lon, and Gi'loh—11 cities and their settlements.

⁵² Arab, Du'mah, E'shan, ⁵³ Ja'nim, Beth-tap'pu-ah, A-phe'kah, ⁵⁴ Hum'tah, Kir'i-ath-ar'ba, that is, Heb'ron, and Zi'or—nine cities and their settlements.

⁵⁵ Ma'on, Car'mel, Ziph, Jut'tah, ⁵⁶ Jez're-el, Jok'de-am, Za-no'ah, ⁵⁷ Ka'in, Gib'e-ah, and Tim'nah—ten cities and their settlements.

⁵⁸ Hal'hul, Beth-zur, Ge'dor, ⁵⁹ Ma'a-rath, Beth-a'noth, and El'te-kon—six cities and their settlements.

⁶⁰ Kir'i-ath-ba'al, that is, Kir'i-ath-je'a-rim, and Rab'bah—two cities and their settlements.

⁶¹ In the wilderness, Beth-ar'a-bah, Mid'din, Se-ca'cah,
⁶² Nib'shan, the City of Salt, and En-ged'i—six cities and their settlements.

⁶³ As for the Jeb'u-sites who were dwelling in Jerusalem, the men of Judah were not able to drive them away, so the

Jeb'u-sites continue dwelling with the people of Judah in Jerusalem to this day.

16 And the land that fell by lot to the descendants of Joseph was from the Jordan at Jer'i-cho to the waters east of Jer'i-cho, through the wilderness going up from Jer'i-cho into the mountainous region of Beth'el. ² It extended from Beth'el belonging to Luz and continued to the boundary of the Ar'chites at At'a-roth, ³ then it went down westward to the boundary of the Japh'le-tites as far as the boundary of Lower Beth-ho'ron and Ge'zer, and it ended at the sea.

⁴ So Joseph's descendants, Ma-nas'sseh and E'phra-im, took possession of their land. ⁵ The boundary of the descendants of E'phra-im by their families was as follows: The boundary of their inheritance to the east was At'a-roth-ad'dar, as far as Upper Beth-ho'ron, ⁶ and the boundary extended to the sea. Mich-me'thath was on the north, and the boundary went around east to Ta'a-nath-shi'loh, and it passed on the east to Ja-no'ah. ⁷ Then it went down from Ja-no'ah to At'a-roth and Na'a-rah and reached to Jer'i-cho and extended to the Jordan. ⁸ From Tap'pu-ah the boundary continued westward to the Wadi of Ka'nah, and it ended at the sea. This is the inheritance of the tribe of E'phra-im by their families; ⁹ the descendants of E'phra-im also had enclave cities in the midst of the inheritance of Ma-nas'sseh, all the cities and their settlements.

¹⁰ But they did not drive away the Ca'naan-ites who were dwelling in Ge'zer, and the Ca'naan-ites continue to dwell

among E'phra·im to this day and have been subjected to forced labor.

17 Then the lot fell for the tribe of Ma·nas'seh, because he was Joseph's firstborn. Since Ma'chir, the firstborn of Ma·nas'seh and the father of Gil'e·ad, was a man of war, he received Gil'e·ad and Ba'shan. ² And the lot fell for the rest of the descendants of Ma·nas'seh according to their families, for the sons of Abi-e'zer, the sons of He'lek, the sons of As'ri·el, the sons of She'chem, the sons of He'pher, and the sons of She·mi'da. These were the descendants of Ma·nas'seh the son of Joseph, the males according to their families. ³ But Ze·lo'phe·had the son of He'pher, the son of Gil'e·ad, the son of Ma'chir, the son of Ma·nas'seh, did not have sons, only daughters, and these were the names of his daughters: Mah'lah, Noah, Hog'lah, Mil'cah, and Tir'zah. ⁴ So they presented themselves before El·e·a'zar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the chieftains, saying: "It was Jehovah who commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." So at the order of Jehovah, he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father.

⁵ There were also ten allotments that fell to Ma·nas'seh apart from the land of Gil'e·ad and Ba'shan, which were on the other side of the Jordan, ⁶ for the daughters of Ma·nas'seh received an inheritance along with his sons, and the land of Gil'e·ad became the property of the rest of the descendants of Ma·nas'seh.

⁷ And the boundary of Ma·nas'seh was from Ash'er to Mich·me'thath, which faces She'chem, and the boundary

continued toward the south to the land of the inhabitants of En-Tap'pu·ah.⁸ The land of Tap'pu·ah became Ma·nas'seh's, but Tap'pu·ah on Ma·nas'seh's boundary belonged to the descendants of E'phra·im.⁹ And the boundary went down to the Wadi of Ka'nah, south of the wadi. There were cities of E'phra·im among the cities of Ma·nas'seh, and the boundary of Ma·nas'seh was on the north of the wadi, and it ended at the sea.¹⁰ To the south it belonged to E'phra·im, and to the north it belonged to Ma·nas'seh, and the sea was his boundary, and on the north they reached to Ash'er, and on the east, to Is'sa·char.

¹¹ In the territories of Is'sa·char and Ash'er, Ma·nas'seh was given Beth-she'an and its dependent towns, Ib'le·am and its dependent towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its dependent towns, the inhabitants of En-dor and its dependent towns, the inhabitants of Ta'a·nach and its dependent towns, and the inhabitants of Me-gid'do and its dependent towns, three of the heights.

¹² But the descendants of Ma·nas'seh were not able to take possession of these cities; the Ca'naan·ites persisted in dwelling in this land.¹³ When the Israelites grew strong, they subjected the Ca'naan·ites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out entirely.

¹⁴ The descendants of Joseph said to Joshua: "Why have you given us as an inheritance only one lot and one allotment? We are a numerous people, for Jehovah has blessed us until now."¹⁵ Joshua replied to them: "If you are such a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear out a

place for yourself there in the land of the Per'iz-zites and the Reph'a-im, since the mountainous region of E'phra-im is too cramped for you.”¹⁶ Then the descendants of Joseph said: “The mountainous region is not enough for us, and all the Ca'naan-ites who are dwelling in the land of the valley have war chariots with iron scythes, both those in Beth-she'an and its dependent towns and those in the Valley of Jez're-el.”¹⁷ So Joshua said this to the house of Joseph, to E'phra-im and Ma-nas'seh: “You are a numerous people, and you have great power. You will not receive only one lot,¹⁸ but the mountainous region will also be yours. Although it is a forest, you will clear it, and it will be the extremity of your territory. For you will drive away the Ca'naan-ites, even though they are strong and have war chariots with iron scythes.”

Song 146 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

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(10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 17:15, 18—How do we know that ancient Israel was heavily forested? (w15 7/15 32)

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 Protect Your Precious Inheritance

Caleb protected his inheritance by driving out powerful enemies (Jos 15:14; *it-1* 1083 ¶3)

Not all Israelites protected their inheritance from corrupting influences (Jos 16:10; *it-1* 848)

Jehovah helped those who truly wanted to protect their inheritance (De 20:1-4; Jos 17:17, 18; *it-1* 402 ¶3)

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ASK YOURSELF, ‘Am I protecting my inheritance?’

October 25-31 / Joshua 15-17

Song 146 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"Protect Your Precious Inheritance": (10 minutes)

Caleb protected his inheritance by driving out powerful enemies

Joshua 15:14: So Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, descendants of Anak.

***it-1* 1083 paragraph 3**

As Israel's campaign in southern Canaan continued, the inhabitants of Hebron, including their king (evidently Hoham's successor), were devoted to destruction. (Joshua 10:36, 37) However, although the Israelites under Joshua broke the power of the Canaanites, it appears that they did not immediately establish garrisons to hold on to their conquests. Evidently while Israel was warring elsewhere, the Anakim reestablished themselves at Hebron, making it necessary for Caleb (or the sons of Judah under Caleb's

leadership) to wrest the city from their control sometime afterward. (Joshua 11:21-23; 14:12-15; 15:13, 14; Judges 1:10) Originally assigned to Caleb of the tribe of Judah, Hebron was afterward given a sacred status as a city of refuge. It also served as a priestly city. However, “the field of the city [Hebron]” and its settlements were Caleb’s hereditary possession.—Joshua 14:13, 14; 20:7; 21:9-13.

Not all Israelites protected their inheritance from corrupting influences

Joshua 16:10: But they did not drive away the Canaanites who were dwelling in Gezer, and the Canaanites continue to dwell among Ephraim to this day and have been subjected to forced labor.

***it-1* 848**

The use of “forced labor” (Hebrew, *mas*) was evidently quite common in Bible times, with conquered peoples frequently being constituted slaves. (Deuteronomy 20:11; Joshua 16:10; 17:13; Esther 10:1; Isaiah 31:8; Lamentations 1:1) As slavish forced laborers, the Israelites, under the immediate oversight

of Egyptian chiefs who tyrannized over them, engaged in building the storage places of Pithom and Raamses. (Exodus 1:11-14) Then, upon entering the Promised Land, instead of following through on Jehovah's command to drive out all the Canaanite inhabitants of the land and devote them to destruction, the Israelites forced them into task work, slavish labor. This had the bad effect of luring Israel into the worship of false gods. (Joshua 16:10; Judges 1:28; 2:3, 11, 12) King Solomon continued levying the descendants of these Canaanites, that is, of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, for slavish forced labor.—1 Kings 9:20, 21.

Jehovah helped those who truly wanted to protect their inheritance

Deuteronomy 20:1-4: "If you go to war against your enemies and you see their horses and chariots and troops that outnumber yours, do not be afraid of them, for Jehovah your God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt is with you. When you are about to go into battle, the priest should approach and address the people. He should tell

them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are about to do battle with your enemies. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid or be terrified or tremble because of them, for Jehovah your God is marching with you to fight for you against your enemies and to save you.'

Joshua 17:17, 18: So Joshua said this to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh: "You are a numerous people, and you have great power. You will not receive only one lot, but the mountainous region will also be yours. Although it is a forest, you will clear it, and it will be the extremity of your territory. For you will drive away the Canaanites, even though they are strong and have war chariots with iron scythes."

***it-1* 402 paragraph 3**

Though so many of the Canaanites survived the major conquest and resisted subjugation, it could still be said that "Jehovah gave Israel all the land that he had sworn to give to their forefathers," that he had given them "rest all around," and that "not a promise failed out of all the good promise that Jehovah had made to the house of Israel; it all came true." (Joshua 21:43-45) All around the Israelites the enemy

peoples were cowed and offered no genuine threat to their security. God had stated earlier that he would drive the Canaanites out “little by little” so that the wild beasts would not multiply in a suddenly desolated land. (Exodus 23:29, 30; Deuteronomy 7:22) Despite the superior war equipment of the Canaanites, including war chariots with iron scythes, any failure of the Israelites finally to take certain areas could not be charged to Jehovah’s account as a failure on his part to fulfill his promise. (Joshua 17:16-18; Judges 4:13) Rather, the record shows that the Israelites’ few defeats were due to unfaithfulness on their part.—Numbers 14:44, 45; Joshua 7:1-12.

Jehovah offers all Christians the precious inheritance of everlasting life. To safeguard our inheritance, we strengthen ourselves against temptation by means of Bible study, Christian meetings, the field ministry, and prayer.

Ask yourself, 'Am I protecting my inheritance?'

[Image:] A father conducting family worship with his wife and children.

Spiritual Gems

Joshua 17:15, 18—How do we know that ancient Israel was heavily forested?

Joshua 17:15: Joshua replied to them: "If you are such a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear out a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, since the mountainous region of Ephraim is too cramped for you."

Joshua 17:18: but the mountainous region will also be yours. Although it is a forest, you will clear it, and it will be the extremity of your territory. For you will drive away the Canaanites, even though they are strong and have war chariots with iron scythes."

w15 7/15 32

The Bible states that certain areas of the Promised Land were forested and that trees were "plentiful." (1 Kings 10:27; Joshua 17:15, 18) Yet, on seeing the deforested condition of large portions of the land today, skeptics may wonder if that could ever have been the case.

The book *Life in Biblical Israel* explains that “forests in ancient Israel were much more extensive than they are today.” The natural cover of the highlands consisted mainly of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), evergreen oak (*Quercus calliprinos*), and terebinth (*Pistacia palaestina*). In the Shephelah, an area that includes the foothills between the central mountain range and the Mediterranean Coast, the sycamore fig (*Ficus sycomorus*) was also abundant.

The book *Plants of the Bible* states that some localities in Israel are now entirely devoid of trees. What contributed to this? Explaining that it was a gradual process, the book says: “Man has persistently interfered with the natural vegetation, mainly in order to expand his farming and pasture area, but also to obtain building materials and fuel for his fire.”

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) Joshua 15:1-12 (*th* study 5)

Song 146 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Protect Your Precious Inheritance”:
(10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

Jos 17:15, 18—How do we know that ancient Israel was heavily forested? (w15 7/15 32)

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.) Jos 15:1-12 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Invite the person to our meetings. (19)

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (4)

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iffi* lesson 01 point 6 and Some People Say (9)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 139

“Share the Good News That a Better World Is Near!”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the original song video *The New World to Come* (video category MUSIC).

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) *rr* chap. 15 ¶8-14

 Protect Your Precious Inheritance

Caleb protected his inheritance by driving out powerful enemies (Jos 15:14; *it-1* 1083 ¶3)

Not all Israelites protected their inheritance from corrupting influences (Jos 16:10; *it-1* 848)

Jehovah helped those who truly wanted to protect their inheritance (De 20:1-4; Jos 17:17, 18; *it-1* 402 ¶3)

Jehovah offers all Christians the precious inheritance of everlasting life. To safeguard our inheritance, we strengthen ourselves against temptation by means of Bible study, Christian meetings, the field ministry, and prayer.



ASK YOURSELF, ‘Am I protecting my inheritance?’

HOW TO OFFER THE *ENJOY LIFE FOREVER!* BROCHURE ON THE INITIAL CALL

Similar to our tracts, the back cover of the brochure includes an intriguing question. Try the following:

- ▶ Ask the multiple-choice question
- ▶ Read the Bible’s answer at Psalm 37:29
- ▶ Discuss the points under “What That Can Mean for You.” If time allows, read the scriptures and highlight the artwork
- ▶ Offer to answer the question posed near the bottom of the page, and begin discussing the first lesson

FOCUS AND GOALS FOR EACH SECTION

LESSONS	FOCUS	STUDENT GOALS
1 01-12	Consider how the Bible can help you and how you can come to know its Author	Encourage the student to read the Bible, prepare for the study, and start attending meetings
2 13-33	See what God has done for us and the kind of worship that pleases him	Motivate the student to share the truth with others and to become a publisher
3 34-47	Consider what God expects from his worshippers	Motivate the student to dedicate his life to Jehovah and get baptized
4 48-60	Learn how to remain in God’s love	Teach the student how to distinguish right from wrong and to make spiritual progress



SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS

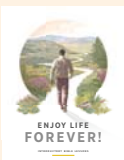
Initial Call

Question: Where can we find practical advice for daily living?

Scripture: 2Ti 3:16, 17

Link: Why can you trust the Bible?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *Iffi* 3

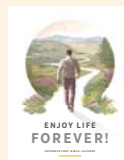
Return Visit

Question: Why can you trust the Bible?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: What are some questions that the Bible answers?

▶ FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:



• *Iffi* 12



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VIDEO: *Bible Reading* (2:05)

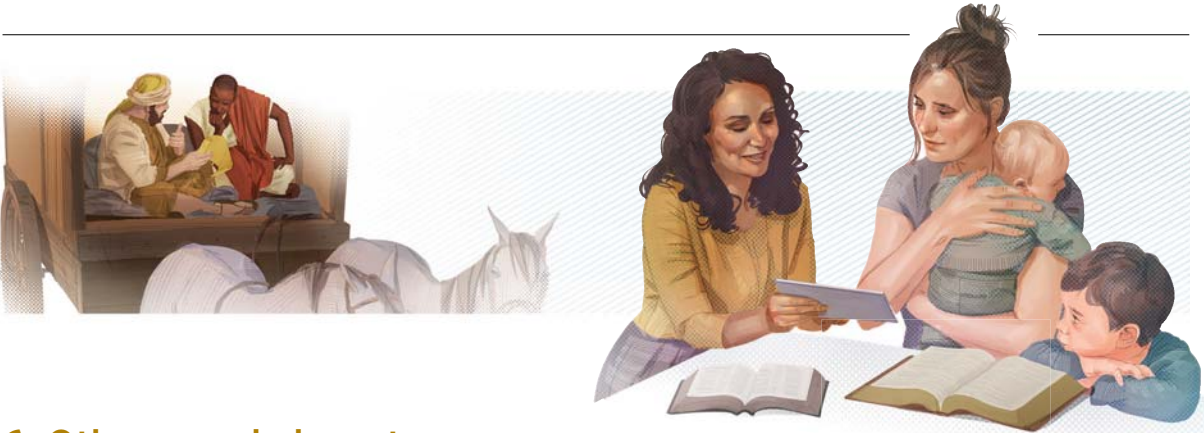
5. You can enjoy reading the Bible

Many people enjoy reading the Bible and are benefiting from it. **Play the VIDEO**, and then discuss the questions that follow.

- In the video, how did the young people feel about reading in general?
- Why do they now feel differently about reading the Bible?

The Bible says it can give us instruction that comforts us and gives us hope. **Read Romans 15:4**, and then discuss this question:

- Does the Bible’s promise of comfort and hope interest you?



6. Others can help us to understand the Bible

In addition to reading the Bible on their own, many have found that discussing it with others is helpful. **Read Acts 8:26-31**, and then discuss this question:

- How can we understand the Bible?—See verses 30 and 31.

The Ethiopian man needed help to understand the Scriptures. Many people today find it helpful to discuss the Bible with others

SOME PEOPLE SAY: “Studying the Bible is a waste of time.”

- What would you say? Why?

139 *See Yourself When All Is New* (Revelation 21:1-5)

1. Just see yourself, just see me too;
 Just see us all in a world that is new.
Think how you'll feel, how it will be,
 To live in peace, to be truly free.
No evil one will then prevail;
 Rule by our God cannot ever fail.
The time will have come for a new earthly start,
 The song of our praises
 will pour out from our heart:

(CHORUS)

*"We thank you, our God, for all you have done.
All things are new by the rule of your Son.
The fullness of our heart overflows in our song;
All glory and honor and praise to you belong."*

2. Now see yourself, and see me too;
 And look ahead to a world that is new.
No sight we see, no sound we hear
 Will cause alarm or give rise to fear.
All has come true, just as he said;
 Now over mankind, his tent is spread.
He now will awaken those sleeping in death;
 Their voices will join ours with
 ev'ry grateful breath:

(Chorus)

(See also Ps. 37:10, 11; Isa. 65:17; John 5:28; 2 Pet. 3:13.)

Song 146 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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(10 min.)

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 **Protect Your Precious Inheritance**

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Jehovah offers all Christians the precious inheritance of everlasting life. To safeguard our inheritance, we strengthen ourselves against temptation by means of Bible study, Christian meetings, the field ministry, and prayer.



ASK YOURSELF, ‘Am I protecting my inheritance?’



Share the Good News That a Better World Is Near!



During November, we will make a special effort to share the good news that a better world is near. (Ps 37:10, 11; Re 21:3-5) Adjust your schedule to share fully in this campaign. If you sign up to serve as an auxiliary pioneer for the month, you may choose a 30- or 50-hour requirement.

Prepare to share a scripture regarding the new world with as many people as possible. When selecting a Bible verse, consider what would appeal to people in your territory. If someone expresses interest on the initial call, give him a copy of the public edition of *The Watchtower* No. 2 2021. Then, follow up on interest as soon as possible and try to start a Bible study using the *Enjoy Life Forever!* brochure. What a joy to be fully occupied in sharing “good news of something better”—Isa 52:7.

For an option of how to present the message, watch the video *Initial Call: Good News—Ps 37:10, 11*

WATCH THE ORIGINAL SONG VIDEO *THE NEW WORLD TO COME*, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What wonderful future is the little girl imagining?

- What are some features of the new world that you anticipate?

- How can meditating on your hope help to prepare you to have a full share in the November campaign?—Lu 6:45

The New World to Come

1.1. Take a moment now and picture the scene.

Up ahead on the path are what seem to be

Children laughing at play

In a world free of the fears we once faced.

And taking care of this beautiful earth

Are a people that live by our Father's words:

"Until the moon is no more"—

There is the peace we have been waiting for.

We will feel His love

Under the rule of His Son

In the new world to come.

(CHORUS)

Hope is a fire in our hearts.

Hope is an anchor that holds us firm.

Hope is a light that shines like the sun

As we see ourselves there

In the new world to come.

2.2. Take a moment now and think of a place

By the mountains and rivers or wide open plains.

It's a place to call home.

And now walking in through your front door,

There is someone that you know

Holding out his open arms in hopes

Of a tearful embrace—

Feels like forever since you've been face-to-face.

Even death won't stop

Our God's outstretched love

In the new world to come.

(CHORUS)

Hope is a fire in our hearts.

Hope is an anchor that holds us firm.

Hope is a light that shines like the sun

As we see ourselves there

In the new world to come.

(BRIDGE)

And ev'ry word from His mouth
Will do all for which He sent it out.
Jehovah's will for this earth is
Fulfilling ev'ry living things' last wish.

(CHORUS)

Hope is a fire in our hearts.
Hope is an anchor that holds us firm.
Hope is a light that shines like the sun
As we see ourselves there
In the new world to come,
In the new world to come,
In the new world to come,
In the new world to come.

⁷ Have you heeded that warning? Remember, it is Jehovah himself who created humankind to have a “spiritual need.” (Matt. 5:3) That need can properly be filled only by means of the pure worship of Jehovah. Servants of Jehovah naturally want to keep as far away from spiritual prostitution as possible. But Satan the Devil has a different aim. He loves to lure God’s people into the snare of this form of prostitution. All too often, he has succeeded. By Ezekiel’s day, God’s people had a long history of getting involved in spiritual prostitution. We do well to examine that history, for it can teach us much about Jehovah’s standards, his justice, and his mercy.

“You Became a Prostitute”

⁸ In the book of Ezekiel, Jehovah uses the illustration of the prostitute in an especially personal way. Ezekiel was inspired to record, in two vivid passages, Jehovah’s feelings of hurt and betrayal on account of the disloyal and immoral behavior of his people. Why would he compare them to prostitutes?

7. Why do we heed the warning to “get out” of Babylon the Great?

8-10. What important requirement of pure worship helps us to understand Jehovah’s feelings about involvement in false religion? Illustrate.

⁹ To understand the answer, we must first recall a vital requirement regarding pure worship that we discussed in Chapter 5 of this publication. In the Law to Israel, Jehovah stated: “You must not have any other gods besides me [or, “in defiance of me,” ftn.]. . . . I, Jehovah your God, am a God who requires exclusive devotion.” (Ex. 20:3, 5) He later stressed the same truth in this way: “You must not bow down to another god, for Jehovah is known for requiring exclusive devotion. Yes, he is a God who requires exclusive devotion.” (Ex. 34:14) Jehovah could hardly have made the matter any clearer. We cannot worship Jehovah *acceptably* unless we worship him *exclusively*.

¹⁰ For the sake of illustration, we might think of a marriage. Both husband and wife have the right to expect a certain kind of exclusivity. If either mate were to give romantic or sexual attention to someone outside the marriage, the other mate would rightly feel jealous and betrayed. (**Read Hebrews 13:4.**) Similarly, when it comes to worship, Jehovah properly feels betrayed when his own people, dedicated exclusively to him, turn to false gods. He expresses this sense of personal betrayal forcefully in Ezekiel chapter 16.

¹¹ The 16th chapter of Ezekiel contains what is by far Jehovah's longest speech in the book—and one of his longest prophetic utterances in all of the Hebrew Scriptures. Jehovah focuses on the city of Jerusalem as representing unfaithful Judah. He relates the sad and shocking story of her origin and betrayal. She began as a helpless foundling, unclean and uncared for. Her parents were the pagan Canaanites of the land. Indeed, Jerusalem was long under the control of a Canaanite tribe, the Jebusites, until David conquered the city. Jehovah took pity on that foundling, cleaning her up and providing for her. In time, she became like a wife to him. In fact, the Israelites who eventually inhabited the city were in a covenant relationship with Jehovah, one that they had voluntarily entered into back in the days of Moses. (Ex. 24:7, 8) After Jerusalem became the capital of the land, Jehovah blessed, enriched, and beautified her, much as a wealthy and powerful husband might favor his wife with lovely ornaments.—Ezek. 16:1-14.

¹² Note what happened next. Jehovah said: "You be-

11. What did Jehovah relate about Jerusalem and her origin?

12. How did disloyalty creep into the history of Jerusalem?

gan to trust in your beauty, and you became a prostitute because of your fame. You lavished your acts of prostitution on everyone passing by, and your beauty became his.” (Ezek. 16:15) In the days of Solomon, Jehovah so blessed and enriched his people that Jerusalem became a most splendid city, surely outstanding in all the ancient world. (1 Ki. 10:23, 27) But disloyalty began to creep in. Solomon, seeking to please his many foreign wives, began polluting Jerusalem with the worship of pagan gods. (1 Ki. 11:1-8) And some of his successors to the throne did even worse, polluting the whole land with false worship. How did Jehovah feel about such acts of prostitution and betrayal? He said: “Such things should not take place, nor should they ever happen.” (Ezek. 16:16) But his wayward people sank even deeper into depravity!

¹³ Imagine Jehovah’s pain and revulsion as he exposed the wickedness of his chosen people: “You took your sons and your daughters whom you had borne to me, and you sacrificed these to idols to be devoured—have your acts of prostitution not gone far enough? You slaughtered my sons, and you offered

13. God’s people in Jerusalem were guilty of what wickedness?

“I WILL BRING AN END TO YOUR PROSTITUTION”

them as sacrifices by making them pass through the fire.” (Ezek. 16:20, 21) The unspeakable horror of such deeds shines a light on the wicked heart of Satan. How he loves to lure Jehovah’s people into such revolting practices! But Jehovah sees all. God can undo even the worst of satanic atrocities, and he will exact justice.—**Read Job 34:24.**

¹⁴ Jerusalem, however, did not have the sense to be appalled by her own wickedness. She continued her prostitution. Jehovah said that she was even more shameless than other prostitutes because she actually paid others to commit immorality with her! (Ezek. 16:34) God said that Jerusalem was just like her “mother,” the pagan tribes that once dominated the land. (Ezek. 16:44, 45) Continuing the family illustration, he said that Jerusalem’s older sister was Samaria, who preceded her into a life of religious prostitution. God also mentioned a second sister, Sodom, used proverbially here because it had long since been destroyed for its arrogance and utter depravity. Jehovah’s point was that Jerusalem outdid both of her sisters, Samaria and even Sodom, in terms of wicked-

14. Who were Jerusalem’s two sisters in Jehovah’s illustration, and who proved to be the most wicked of the three?

ness! (Ezek. 16:46-50) God's people ignored countless warnings and continued in their revolting course.

¹⁵ What would Jehovah do? He promised Jerusalem: "I am collecting together all the lovers you have given pleasure to" and, "I will give you into their hand." The former pagan allies of his people would destroy her, stripping her of her beauty and valuable things. "They will stone you and will slaughter you with their swords," he said. What was Jehovah's purpose in executing this judgment? It was not the extermination of his people. Rather, it was this: "I will bring an end to your prostitution." God added: "I will satisfy my rage against you, and my indignation will turn away from you; and I will be calm and no longer feel offended." As was discussed in Chapter 9 of this publication, Jehovah's long-term purpose was to bring about the restoration of his people after their exile. Why? He said: "I myself will remember the covenant that I made with you in the days of your youth." (Ezek. 16:37-42, 60) Unlike his people, Jehovah would prove to be profoundly loyal!—**Read Revelation 15:4.**

15. What was Jehovah's purpose in executing judgment on Jerusalem, offering what hope?

Walking in Integrity

(Psalm 26)

1. Please judge me, Lord, observe my loyalty;
Observe my trust in you and my integrity.
Examine me, and put me to the test;
My mind and heart refine, that my soul might be blessed.

(CHORUS)

*But as for me, Determined I will be
to walk eternally In my integrity.*

2. I do not sit with wicked men of lies.
I hate the company of those who truth despise.
Jehovah, please, don't take away my life
With men who take delight in bribery and strife.

(Chorus)

3. For I have loved the dwelling of your house.
Your worship, oh, so pure, I daily will espouse.
And I will march around your altar grand,
To make thanksgiving heard aloud throughout the land.

(Chorus)

AUGUST 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 31, 2021

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COVER PICTURE:

A couple preach in an area where there is a greater need for Kingdom publishers; a young sister helps with the construction of a Kingdom Hall; an elderly couple share in telephone witnessing. All of them derive much joy from their ministry (See study article 34, paragraph 11)

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117 *The Quality of Goodness*

(2 Chronicles 6:41)

1. O Jehovah, God of goodness,
 You have blessed us all our days!
You are holy, ever loyal,
 And so good in all your ways.
You show favor, granting mercy,
 Far beyond what we deserve.
You're so worthy of our worship,
 And it's you we gladly serve.

2. Your own goodness is reflected
 In the people whom you choose;
And the proof is in their conduct
 And the preaching of good news.
Your good teaching, your good shepherds,
 Bear good fruit in many lands.
May you grant us holy spirit,
 And may goodness guide our hands.

3. May you bless our deeds of goodness
 To our brothers, great or small.
May we show them special favor
 As we work at good t'ward all.
In each fam'ly, congregation,
 In each town and neighborhood,
With your blessing and your spirit,
 May we be a force for good.

“Taste” Jehovah’s Goodness—How?

“Taste and see that Jehovah is good; happy is the man who takes refuge in him.”—PS. 34:8.

SONG 117

The Quality of Goodness

PREVIEW

Jehovah is the Source of goodness. He provides good things for everyone—even wicked people. But he especially likes to do good things for his faithful worshippers. In this article, we will review how Jehovah expresses his goodness to his servants. We will also examine how those who expand their ministry may experience Jehovah’s goodness in a special way.

IMAGINE being offered something to eat that you have never tried before. You could learn something about it by looking at it, smelling it, getting the recipe, or asking others for their opinion about it. However, the only way to know for sure whether you like it is to taste it for yourself.

² We can learn something about Jehovah's goodness by reading the Bible and our publications as well as by hearing others talk about the blessings they have received from Jehovah. But we will gain a real understanding of how good Jehovah is when we "taste" his goodness for ourselves. (Read Psalm 34:8.) Let us illustrate one way we can do that. Suppose we want to engage in some form of the full-time ministry, but in order to reach that goal, we will need to simplify our life. Perhaps we have often read Jesus' promise that if we put Kingdom interests first, Jehovah will provide the things we really need, but we personally have never experienced the fulfillment of that promise. (Matt. 6:33) Nevertheless, with faith in Jesus' promise, we reduce our expenses, cut down on our secular work, and focus on our ministry. As we do so, we learn through our own experience that Jehovah really does care

1-2. According to Psalm 34:8, how can we learn about Jehovah's goodness?

for our needs. We “taste” Jehovah’s goodness personally.

³ Jehovah is “good to all,” even to those who do not know him. (Ps. 145:9; Matt. 5:45) But especially those who love Jehovah and serve him with their whole soul receive many blessings from him. (Read Psalm 16:1, 2.) Note just some of the ways that we benefit from Jehovah’s goodness.

⁴ Each time we apply what we learn from Jehovah, we see the good effects in our life. As we learned about him and came to love him, he helped us overcome thinking and practices that once separated us from him. (Col. 1:21) And when we dedicated ourselves to Jehovah and got baptized, we experienced his goodness even more as he gave us a good conscience and drew us into a close friendship with him. —1 Pet. 3:21.

⁵ We continue to experience Jehovah’s goodness as we engage in the ministry. Are you a shy person? Many of Jehovah’s people are. Perhaps before you became one of Jehovah’s servants, you could never have imagined yourself knocking on the door of a

3. In line with Psalm 16:1, 2, who receive Jehovah’s goodness?

4. How does Jehovah show his goodness to those who begin to draw close to him?

5. How do we experience Jehovah’s goodness in our ministry?

perfect stranger and sharing an unpopular message with him. Yet, today you do that on a regular basis. What is more, with Jehovah's help, you have learned to enjoy the preaching work! You have felt Jehovah's support in a number of ways. He has helped you to keep calm when faced with an opposer. He has also helped you to recall just the right scripture to share with an interested householder. And he has given you the strength to continue when you have been met with indifference in the territory.—Jer. 20: 7-9.

⁶ Jehovah has also shown us his goodness by training us for the ministry. (John 6:45) At our mid-week meeting, we listen to well-thought-out sample conversations, and we are encouraged to use them in the ministry. At first, we may be a bit apprehensive about trying something new, but when we do, we may find that the new approach appeals to those in our territory. We are also encouraged at meetings and conventions to engage in forms of the ministry that we might never have tried before. Once again, that will mean leaving our comfort zone, but when we do, we give Jehovah something to bless. Let us consider some of the blessings that result when we

6. How is the training that Jehovah provides evidence of his goodness?

explore new ways to give Jehovah our best, regardless of our circumstances. Then let us review ways in which we might expand our ministry.

JEHOVAH BLESSES THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM

⁷ *We draw even closer to Jehovah.* Consider the example of an elder named Samuel,* who serves with his wife in Colombia. This couple enjoyed pioneering in their home congregation, but they wanted to expand their ministry by helping a congregation that had a greater need. To reach that goal, they had to make some sacrifices. “We applied Matthew 6:33 and stopped making unnecessary purchases,” says Samuel. “But the hardest step was leaving our apartment behind. It was designed just for us, and it was mortgage-free.” In their new assignment, the couple found that they were able to live on just one-sixth of their former income. “We have seen how Jehovah guides our steps and answers our prayers,” says Samuel. “We feel his approval and love in ways that we never experienced before.” Are you able to expand your ministry in some way? If so, you can be

* Some of the names have been changed.

7. What blessing do we receive when we endeavor to expand our ministry?

sure that you will draw closer to Jehovah and that he will care for you.—Ps. 18:25.

⁸ *We find joy in our service.* Note the comments from Ivan and Viktoria, a married couple who serve as pioneers in Kyrgyzstan. They kept their life simple so that they could volunteer for any assignment, including construction projects. Ivan says: “We got fully absorbed in each project. Even though we were tired at the end of the day, we had a sense of peace and satisfaction, knowing that we had spent our energy in the Kingdom work. We also found great joy in the friendships and the warm memories we gained.”—Mark 10:29, 30.

⁹ We find joy in Jehovah’s service even when we have challenging circumstances. For example, Mirreh, an elderly widow in West Africa, retired from working at her medical practice and started pioneering. Mirreh has advanced arthritis and can only spend an hour at a time in the house-to-house ministry. But she is able to spend more time in public witnessing. She has many return visits and Bible studies, some of whom she contacts by telephone.

8. What do you learn from the comments made by Ivan and Viktoria?

9. What has a sister with challenging circumstances done to expand her ministry, and with what result?

What motivated Mirreh to reach out? “My heart overflows with love for Jehovah and Christ Jesus. And I frequently pray that Jehovah help me to do as much as I can in his service.”—Matt. 22:36, 37.

¹⁰ *We receive additional training from Jehovah.* Kenny, a pioneer who serves in Mauritius, found this to be true. When he learned the truth, he left university, got baptized, and entered the full-time ministry. He says, “I try to live by the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said: ‘Here I am! Send me!’” (Isa. 6:8) Kenny has worked on a number of construction projects, and he has also helped to translate Bible-based publications into his mother tongue. “I received training that taught me the skills I needed to accomplish my assignments,” says Kenny. But he learned more than just technical information. He adds, “I learned about my limitations and the qualities I need to develop to become a better servant of Jehovah.” (Read 1 Peter 5:10.) Why not examine your circumstances and see if you can make yourself available to receive additional training from Jehovah?

¹¹ Even experienced Witnesses benefit from

10. As shown at 1 Peter 5:10, what do those who reach out receive from Jehovah?

11. What efforts did sisters in South Korea make in order to engage in the ministry, and with what result? (See cover picture.)

training when they try a new form of service. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the elders in a congregation in South Korea wrote: “Some who once thought they could not participate in field service because of their health now do so through videoconferencing. Three sisters in their 80’s learned the new technology and began to share in the arrangement almost every day.” (Ps. 92:14, 15) Would you like to expand your ministry and taste Jehovah’s goodness even more? Consider some steps you can take that will help you reach that goal.

HOW YOU CAN REACH OUT

¹² *Learn to rely on Jehovah.* He promises to shower us with blessings when we trust in him and give him our best. (Mal. 3:10) A sister in Colombia named Fabiola saw Jehovah fulfill this promise in her case. She wanted to serve as a regular pioneer soon after she got baptized. However, her husband and three children relied on her income. So when she was eligible to retire, she prayed intensely to Jehovah for help. She says: “It normally takes a long time to process a pension, but mine was approved just one month after I had applied for it. It was like a miracle!” Two months later she enrolled as a pioneer. She

12. What does Jehovah promise to those who rely on him?

is now in her 70's and has been pioneering for over 20 years. During that time, she has helped eight people to the point of baptism. She says: "Although I feel weak at times, Jehovah helps me every day to keep my schedule."

¹³ *Benefit from the examples of those who relied on Jehovah.* The Bible is filled with examples of individuals who exerted themselves in Jehovah's service. In many instances, those servants of Jehovah had to take the first step before they received special blessings from Jehovah. For example, it was only after Abraham left his home—"although not knowing

13-14. What examples can help us to trust in Jehovah and to reach out?



How did Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, and the priests who crossed the Jordan River show trust in Jehovah?

(See paragraph 13)



where he was going”—that Jehovah blessed him. (Heb. 11:8) It was only after Jacob wrestled with the angel that he received a special blessing. (Gen. 32:24-30) When the nation of Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, it was only after the priests stepped into the raging Jordan River that the people were able to cross over.—Josh. 3:14-16.

¹⁴ You can also benefit from the examples of modern-day Witnesses who have relied on Jehovah and reached out. For instance, a brother named Payton and his wife, Diana, enjoyed reading about brothers and sisters who had expanded their service to Jehovah, such as those described in the series “They Offered Themselves Willingly.”* Payton says: “When we read their experiences, we felt as if we were watching someone enjoy a delicious meal. The longer we watched, the more we wanted to ‘taste and see that Jehovah is good.’” Eventually, Payton and Diana moved to serve where the need was greater. Have you read this series? And have you watched the videos *Witnessing in Isolated Territory—Australia* and *Witnessing in Isolated Territory—Ireland* that are published on jw.org? This material may help you to look for ways that you can expand your service.

* This series, previously published in *The Watchtower*, now appears on jw.org. Go to ABOUT US > EXPERIENCES > REACHING SPIRITUAL GOALS.

¹⁵ Choose the right association. We are more inclined to try a new dish if we spend time with those who enjoy it. Similarly, if we associate with those who build their life around serving Jehovah, we are more likely to look for ways to expand our service to God. A couple named Kent and Veronica found that to be true. “Our friends and family encouraged us to try new avenues of service,” says Kent. “We realized that by associating with those who seek the Kingdom first, we gained the confidence to try something new.” Kent and Veronica now serve as special pioneers in Serbia.

¹⁶ Make sacrifices for Jehovah. We do not need to give up all comforts in order to please Jehovah. (Eccl. 5:19, 20) However, if we were to hold back from doing more in God’s service just to avoid making personal sacrifices, we could make the same mistake as the man in Jesus’ illustration who created a comfortable life for himself but ignored God. (Read **Luke 12:16-21**.) A brother named Christian, who lives in France, says, “I was not giving the best of my time and energy to Jehovah and my family.” He and his wife decided to pioneer. But to reach that goal,

15. How can the right association help us?

16. As shown by Jesus’ illustration found at Luke 12:16-21, why should we be willing to make sacrifices?

they had to leave their jobs. To support themselves, they started a small cleaning business, and they learned to be content with less. Was the sacrifice worth making? Christian says, “We enjoy a more meaningful ministry now and enjoy seeing Bible students and return visits learn about Jehovah.”

¹⁷ *Be willing to try new types of service.* (Acts 17:16, 17; 20:20, 21) Shirley, a pioneer in the United States, had to adjust her ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic. At first, she hesitated to try telephone witnessing. Once she received training during the visit of the circuit overseer, though, she began regularly sharing in this form of witnessing. She says: “In the beginning, it was scary, but now I really enjoy it. We’re reaching more people than we did in the house-to-house work!”

¹⁸ *Make a plan and act.* When we face challenges, we prayerfully do our best to use our thinking ability to come up with a plan of action. (Prov. 3:21) Sonia, who serves as a regular pioneer with a Romany-language group in Europe, says: “I like to write my plans down on paper and keep that paper somewhere visible. I have a drawing of a traffic intersection on

17. What might keep us from trying something new in our ministry?

18. What can help us to face challenges as we try to expand our ministry?

my dresser. When I have a decision to make, I look at that intersection and think about which direction my decision will take me.” Sonia tries to keep a positive view of the challenges she faces. “Each new circumstance,” she says, “can be like a wall that blocks me or a bridge that helps me—it depends on my attitude.”

¹⁹ Jehovah blesses us in many ways. We can show how much we appreciate those blessings by doing all we can to bring him praise. (Heb. 13:15) That may include exploring new ways to expand our ministry, putting us in line for additional blessings. Each day, let us look for ways to “taste and see that Jehovah is good.” Then we will be like Jesus, who said: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”—John 4:34.

19. What should be our resolve?

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- What must we do in order to experience Jehovah’s goodness in a special way?
- How does Jehovah show his goodness to those who reach out?
- What can help us to reach out in Jehovah’s service?

SONG 80

“Taste and See That Jehovah Is Good”

*“Taste and See That
Jehovah Is Good”*
(Psalm 34:8)

1. Our service to God we cherish;
We value our priv’lege to preach.
We buy out the time and give God our best,
For many we still need to reach.

(CHORUS)

*God’s Word invites us: ‘Come taste and see—
See that Jehovah is good.’
Godly devotion brings greatest gain,
We know we’ve done all we could.*

2. For those in the full-time service,
Rich blessings and treasures abound.
By trusting in God to care for our needs,
In all things contentment is found.

(Chorus)