

- Song 33 and Prayer

- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “Look to Jehovah for Endurance and Comfort”: (10 min.)

15:4-7

- (Romans 15:4-7) 4 For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that unitedly you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 So welcome one another, just as the Christ also welcomed you, with glory to God in view.

One way that Jehovah comforts us and helps us to endure is through his Word. How do these Bible examples comfort and encourage you?

- Noah

- Joseph

- David

Ro 15:4—Read God's Word for comfort (w17.07 14 ¶11)

(Romans 15:4) 4 For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.

*** w17 July p. 14 par. 11 “Weep With Those Who Weep” ***

11 The account about Jesus' intense grief at the time of Lazarus' death is just one of countless consoling scriptures found in God's comforting Word. And no wonder, “for all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Rom. 15:4) If you are grieving, you too can find soothing comfort from such scriptures as the following:

- “Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those who are crushed in spirit.”—Ps. 34:18, 19.

- “When anxieties overwhelmed me, you [Jehovah] comforted and soothed me.”—Ps. 94:19.

- “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave everlasting comfort and good hope by means of undeserved kindness, comfort your hearts and make you firm.”—2 Thess. 2:16, 17.

- (Romans 15:4) For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.

- (Psalm 34:18, 19) Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the

hardships of the righteous one, But Jehovah rescues him from them all.

- (Psalm 94:19) When anxieties overwhelmed me, You comforted and soothed me.
- (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17) Moreover, may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave everlasting comfort and good hope by means of undeserved kindness, 17 comfort your hearts and make you firm in every good deed and word.

Ro 15:5—Petition Jehovah to supply you with “endurance and comfort” (w16.04 14 ¶15)

(Romans 15:5) 5 Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had,

*** w16 April p. 14 par. 5 “Let Endurance Complete Its Work” ***

5 Turn to Jehovah for strength. Jehovah is “the God who supplies endurance and comfort.” (Rom. 15:5) He alone fully understands not only the problems we face but also the way our environment, emotions, and even our genetic makeup affect us. He is thus the best one to equip us to endure. “He satisfies the desire of those who fear him,” the Bible says. “He hears their cry for help, and he rescues them.” (Ps. 145:19) How, though, will God answer our prayers for strength to endure?

- (Romans 15:5) Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had,
- (Psalm 145:19) He satisfies the desire of those who fear him; He hears their cry for help, and he rescues them.

Ro 15:13—Jehovah gives us hope (w14 6/15 14 ¶11)

(Romans 15:13) 13 May the God who gives hope fill you with all joy and peace by your trusting in him, so that you may abound in hope with power of holy spirit.

*** w14 6/15 p. 14 par. 11 “You Must Love Jehovah Your God” ***

11 Jehovah ‘gives hope that fills us with joy and peace.’ (Rom. 15:13) God-given hope enables us to endure tests of faith. Anointed ones who prove ‘faithful even to death will be given the crown of heavenly life.’ (Rev. 2:10) Integrity-keepers with an earthly hope will enjoy eternal blessings in the promised global Paradise. (Luke 23:43) What is our natural response to such prospects? Are we not filled with joy and peace, as well as love for the Giver of “every good gift and every perfect present”?—Jas. 1:17.

- (Romans 15:13) May the God who gives hope fill you with all joy and peace by your trusting in him, so that you may abound in hope with power of holy spirit.
- (Revelation 2:10) Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison so that you may be fully put to the test, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- (Luke 23:43) And he said to him: “Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise.”
- (James 1:17) Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, coming down from the Father of the celestial lights, who does not vary or change like the shifting shadows.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Ro 15:27—How were Gentile Christians “debtors” to the Christians in Jerusalem? (w89 12/1 24 ¶3)

(Romans 15:27) 27 True, they have been pleased to do so, and indeed they were debtors to them; for if the nations have shared in their spiritual things, they also owe it to minister to them with their material things.

*** w89 12/1 p. 24 “A Test of the Genuineness of Your Love” ***

Certainly, their Gentile brothers should have been moved to respond to their plight. After all, they owed a special “debt” to the Christians in Jerusalem. Was it not from Jerusalem that the good news had spread to the Gentiles? Paul reckoned: “If the Jewish Christians shared their spiritual treasures with the Gentiles, the Gentiles have a clear duty to contribute to their material needs.”—Romans 15:27, The New English Bible.

Ro 16:25—What is “the sacred secret that has been kept in silence for long-lasting times”? (it-1 858 ¶5)

(Romans 16:25) 25 Now to Him who can make you firm according to the good news I declare and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the sacred secret that has been kept in silence for long-lasting times

*** it-1 p. 858 Foreknowledge, Foreordination ***

The Messiah, or Christ, was to be the promised Seed through whom all righteous persons of all the families of the earth would be blessed. (Ga 3:8, 14) The first mention of such “seed” came after the rebellion in Eden had already been initiated, but prior to the birth of Abel. (Ge 3:15) This was some 4,000 years before the revelation of “the sacred secret” was made by the clear identification of that Messianic “seed.”

Hence, it was, indeed, “kept in silence for long-lasting times.”—Ro 16:25-27; Eph 1:8-10; 3:4-11.

- (Galatians 3:8) Now the scripture, foreseeing that God would declare people of the nations righteous through faith, declared the good news beforehand to Abraham, namely: “By means of you all the nations will be blessed.”
- (Galatians 3:14) This was so that the blessing of Abraham would come to the nations by means of Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promised spirit through our faith.
- (Genesis 3:15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel.”
- (Romans 16:25-27) Now to Him who can make you firm according to the good news I declare and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the sacred secret that has been kept in silence for long-lasting times 26 but has now been made manifest and has been made known through the prophetic Scriptures among all the nations according to the command of the everlasting God to promote obedience by faith; 27 to God, who alone is wise, be the glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.
- (Ephesians 1:8-10) This undeserved kindness he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding 9 by making known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure that he himself purposed 10 for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, to gather all things together in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him

- (Ephesians 3:4-11) So when you read this, you can realize my comprehension of the sacred secret of the Christ. 5 In other generations this secret was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by spirit, 6 namely, that people of the nations should, in union with Christ Jesus and through the good news, be joint heirs and fellow members of the body and partakers with us of the promise. 7 I became a minister of this according to the free gift of God's undeserved kindness that was given me through the operation of his power. 8 To me, a man less than the least of all holy ones, this undeserved kindness was given, so that I should declare to the nations the good news about the unfathomable riches of the Christ 9 and should make everyone see the administration of the sacred secret that has been hidden through the ages in God, who created all things. 10 This was so that now, through the congregation, there might be made known to the governments and the authorities in the heavenly places the greatly diversified wisdom of God. 11 This is according to the eternal purpose that he formed in connection with the Christ, Jesus our Lord,

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

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?

Bible Reading:) Ro 15:1-16
(4 min. or less) •

(Romans 15:1-16) 15 We, though, who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those not strong, and not to be pleasing ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even the Christ did not please himself, but just as it is written: "The reproaches of those reproaching you have fallen upon me." 4 For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that unitedly you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 So welcome one another, just as the Christ also welcomed you, with glory to God in view. 8 For I tell you that Christ became a minister of those who are circumcised in behalf of God's truthfulness, so as to verify the promises He made to their forefathers, 9 and that the nations might glorify God for his mercy. Just as it is written: "That is why I will openly acknowledge you among the nations, and to your name I will sing praises." 10 And again he says: "Be glad, you nations, with his people." 11 And again: "Praise Jehovah, all you nations, and let all the peoples praise him." 12 And again Isaiah says: "There will be the root of Jesse, the one arising to rule nations; on him nations will rest their hope." 13 May the God who gives hope fill you with all joy and peace by your trusting in him, so that you may abound in hope with power of holy spirit.

14 Now I myself am convinced about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are also full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and that you are able to admonish one another. 15 However, I have written to you more outspokenly on some points, so as to give you

another reminder, because of the undeserved kindness given to me from God 16 for me to be a public servant of Christ Jesus to the nations. I am engaging in the holy work of the good news of God, so that these nations might be an acceptable offering, sanctified with holy spirit.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.**

- **Initial Call: (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (th study 3)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's purpose for humans?

Scripture: Ge 1:28

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

(Genesis 1:28) 28 Further, God blessed them, and God said to them: "Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving on the earth."

- **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (th study 10)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's purpose for humans?

Scripture: Ge 1:28

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

- **Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (th study 11)**

●○○ INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's purpose for humans?

Scripture: Ge 1:28

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 129

• How Jehovah “Supplies Endurance and Comfort”: (15 min.) Play the video. Then discuss the following questions:

What lessons did you learn about receiving comfort?

What lessons did you learn about giving comfort?

What lessons did you learn about receiving comfort?

What lessons did you learn about giving comfort?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

1st chap. 58

CHAPTER 58

He Multiplies Loaves and Warns About Leaven (Matthew 15:32-16:12) But Jesus called his disciples to him and said: “I feel pity for the crowd, because they have already stayed with me for three days and they have had nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for they may give out on the road.” 33 However, the disciples said to him: “Where in this isolated place are we going to get enough bread to satisfy a crowd of this size?” 34 At this Jesus said to them: “How many loaves do you have?” They said: “Seven, and a few small fish.” 35 So after instructing the crowd to recline on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after offering thanks, he broke them and began giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And all ate and were satisfied, and they took up seven large baskets full of leftover fragments. 38 Now those eating were 4,000 men, as well as women and young children. 39 Finally, after sending the crowds away, he got into the boat and came into the region of Mag'a·dan.

16 Here the Pharisees and Sadducees approached him, and to test him, they asked him to display to them a sign from heaven. 2 In reply he said to them: “When evening falls, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is fire-red,’ 3 and in the morning, ‘It will be wintry, rainy weather today, for the sky is fire-red but gloomy.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but the signs of the times you cannot interpret. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation keeps seeking a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jo'nah.” With that he went away, leaving them behind. 5 Now the disciples crossed to the other side and forgot to take bread along. 6 Jesus said to them: “Keep your eyes open and watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees

and Sadducees.” 7 So they began to reason among themselves, saying: “We did not take any loaves along.” 8 Knowing this, Jesus said: “Why are you discussing among yourselves that you have no loaves, you with little faith? 9 Do you not yet see the point, or do you not remember the five loaves in the case of the 5,000 and how many baskets you took up? 10 Or the seven loaves in the case of the 4,000 and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not discern that I did not speak to you about bread? But watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they grasped that he said to watch out, not for the leaven of bread, but for the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

(Mark 8:1-21) In those days, there was again a large crowd, and they had nothing to eat. So he summoned the disciples and said to them: 2 “I feel pity for the crowd, because they have already stayed with me for three days and they have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them off to their homes hungry, they will give out on the road, and some of them are from far away.” 4 But his disciples answered him: “From where will anyone get enough bread in this isolated place to satisfy these people?” 5 At this he asked them: “How many loaves do you have?” They said: “Seven.” 6 And he instructed the crowd to recline on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and began giving them to his disciples to serve, and they served them to the crowd. 7 They also had a few small fish, and blessing these, he told them to serve these also. 8 So they ate and were satisfied, and they took up seven large baskets full of leftover fragments. 9 Now there were about 4,000 men. Then he sent them away. 10 Immediately he boarded the boat with his disciples and came into the region of Dal·ma·nu'tha. 11 Here the Pharisees came and started disputing with him, demanding from him a sign from heaven, to put him to the test. 12 So he sighed deeply in his spirit and said: “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly I say, no sign will be given to this generation.” 13 With that he left them, got aboard again, and went to the opposite shore.

14 However, they forgot to take bread along, and they had nothing with them in the boat except for one loaf. 15 And he warned them in no uncertain terms: “Keep your eyes open; look out for the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” 16 So they began arguing with one another over the fact that they had no bread. 17 Noting this, he said to them: “Why do you argue over your having no bread? Do you not yet perceive and understand? Are your hearts still dull in understanding? 18 ‘Though having eyes, do you not see; and though having ears, do you not hear?’ Do you not remember 19 when I broke the five loaves for the 5,000 men, how many baskets full of fragments you collected?” They said to him: “Twelve.” 20 “When I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000 men, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said to him: “Seven.” 21 With that he said to them: “Do you not yet understand?”

Paragraph 2 on Page 140

(Mark 8:2-4) “I feel pity for the crowd, because they have already stayed with me for three days and they have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them off to their homes hungry, they will give out on the road, and some of them are from far away.” 4 But his disciples answered him: “From where will anyone get enough bread in this isolated place to satisfy these people?”

Paragraph 3 on Page 140

(Matthew 15:34) At this Jesus said to them: “How many loaves do you have?” They said: “Seven, and a few small fish.”

Paragraph 5 on Page 140

(Matthew 16:2, 3) In reply he said to them: “When evening falls, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is fire-red,’ 3 and in the morning, ‘It will be wintry, rainy weather today, for the sky is fire-red but gloomy.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but the signs of the times you cannot interpret.

Paragraph 6 on Page 140

(Mark 8:15-17) And he warned them in no uncertain terms: “Keep your eyes open; look

out for the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” 16 So they began arguing with one another over the fact that they had no bread. 17 Noting this, he said to them: “Why do you argue over your having no bread? Do you not yet perceive and understand? Are your hearts still dull in understanding?”

Paragraph 7 on Page 140

(Mark 8:18-20) ‘Though having eyes, do you not see; and though having ears, do you not hear?’ Do you not remember 19 when I broke the five loaves for the 5,000 men, how many baskets full of fragments you collected?” They said to him: “Twelve.” 20 “When I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000 men, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said to him: “Seven.”

Paragraph 1 on Page 141

(Matthew 16:11) How is it you do not discern that I did not speak to you about bread? But watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Paragraph 2 on Page 141

(Matthew 16:12) Then they grasped that he said to watch out, not for the leaven of bread, but for the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

◇Why do people flock to Jesus?

◇When Jesus mentions leaven, what do the disciples mistakenly think?

◇What does Jesus mean by the expression “the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”?

• Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 34 and Prayer