

- Song 44 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- “Jehovah—‘The God of All Comfort’”: (10 min.)

[Play the video Introduction to 2 Corinthians.]



1:3, 4

One source of comfort that Jehovah provides is the Christian congregation. What are some ways we can console grieving ones?

- Listen to them without interrupting
- “Weep with those who weep.”—Ro 12:15
- Send an encouraging card, an e-mail, or a text message.—w17.07 15, box
- Pray with them and for them

[Box on page 7]

Many have found comfort from the following scriptures:

- “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.”—2Th 2:16, 17

- (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our trials so that we may be able to comfort others in any sort of trial with the comfort that we receive from God.
- (Romans 12:15) Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- (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.

2Co 1:3—Jehovah is “the Father of tender mercies” (w17.07 13 ¶4)

(2 Corinthians 1:3) 3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort,

*** w17 July p. 13 par. 4 “Weep With Those Who Weep” ***

4 Our Father of tender mercies has himself experienced the loss of loved ones, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and King David. (Num. 12:6-8; Matt. 22:31, 32; Acts 13:22) God’s Word assures us that Jehovah has eagerly anticipated—has had an earnest longing for—the time when he will bring them back to life. (Job 14:14, 15) They will be happy and in vibrant health. Consider, too, that God’s dearly beloved Son—“the one he was especially fond of”—died an agonizing death. (Prov. 8:22, 30) Words cannot express the pain Jehovah must have suffered.—John 5:20; 10:17.

- Paragraph 4
- (Numbers 12:6-8) He then said: “Hear my words, please. If there was a prophet of Jehovah among you, I would make myself known to him in a vision, and I would speak to him in a dream. 7 But it is not that way with my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. 8 Face-to-face I speak to him, openly, not by riddles; and the

appearance of Jehovah is what he sees. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against Moses?”

- (Matthew 22:31, 32) Regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, who said: 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob’? He is the God, not of the dead, but of the living.”
- (Acts 13:22) After removing him, he raised up for them David as king, about whom he bore witness and said: ‘I have found David the son of Jes’sse a man agreeable to my heart; he will do all the things I desire.’
- (Job 14:14, 15) If a man dies, can he live again? I will wait all the days of my compulsory service Until my relief comes. 15 You will call, and I will answer you. You will long for the work of your hands.
- (Proverbs 8:22) Jehovah produced me as the beginning of his way, The earliest of his achievements of long ago.
- (Proverbs 8:30) Then I was beside him as a master worker. I was the one he was especially fond of day by day; I rejoiced before him all the time;
- (John 5:20) For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, so that you may marvel.
- (John 10:17) This is why the Father loves me, because I surrender my life, so that I may receive it again.

2Co 1:4—We comfort others with the comfort Jehovah provides (w17.07 15 ¶14)

(2 Corinthians 1:4) 4 who comforts us in all our trials so that we may be able to comfort others in any sort of trial with the comfort that we receive from God.

*** w17 July p. 15 par. 14 “Weep With Those Who Weep” ***

14 Understandably, then, it can be difficult to know what to say to someone who is overwhelmed by grief. Nevertheless, the Bible states that “the tongue of the wise is a healing.” (Prov. 12:18) Many have found comforting thoughts to share from the brochure When Someone You Love Dies. Often, though, the most helpful thing you can do is to “weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15) “Tears have become the language of my heart,” admits Gaby, whose husband died. “That is why I get some comfort when friends cry with me. At that moment, I don’t feel quite so alone in my grief.”

- (Proverbs 12:18) Thoughtless speech is like the stabs of a sword, But the tongue of the wise is a healing.
- (Romans 12:15) Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

2Co 1:22—What are “the token” and the “seal” that each anointed Christian receives from God? (w16.04 32)

(2 Corinthians 1:22) 22 He has also put his seal on us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.

QUESTIONS FROM READERS

What are the “token” and the “seal” that each anointed Christian receives from God?—2 Cor. 1:21, 22; ftn.

▪ **Token:** According to one reference work, the Greek term translated “token” at 2 Corinthians 1:22 was “a legal and commercial technical term” meaning “first instalment, deposit, down payment, pledge, that pays a part of the purchase price in advance, and so secures a legal claim to the article in question, or makes a contract valid.” In the case of anointed ones, the full payment, or reward, is described at 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 as involving the putting on of an incorruptible heavenly body. The reward also includes receiving the gift of immortality.—1 Cor. 15:48-54.

In modern Greek, a related expression is used for an engagement ring. This is a fitting illustration for those who will become part of Christ’s figurative wife.—2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:2, 9.

▪ **Seal:** In the past, a seal was used as a signature to prove ownership, authenticity, or agreement. In the case of the anointed, they are “sealed,” or branded, figuratively by holy spirit as God’s possession. (Eph. 1:13, 14) This seal is not made permanent, though, until either sometime before the person dies faithful or sometime before the outbreak of the great tribulation.—Eph. 4:30; Rev. 7:2-4.

[Pictures on page 32]

In the past, a seal ring was pressed into clay or wax to authenticate a document

- (2 Corinthians 1:21, 22) But the one who guarantees that you and we belong to Christ and the one who anointed us is God. 22 He has also put his seal on us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.
- (2 Corinthians 1:22) He has also put his seal on us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.
- (2 Corinthians 5:1-5) For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, should be

torn down, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. 2 For in this house we do indeed groan, earnestly desiring to put on the one for us from heaven, 3 so that when we do put it on, we will not be found naked. 4 In fact, we who are in this tent groan, being weighed down, because we do not want to put this one off, but we want to put the other on, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who prepared us for this very thing is God, who gave us the spirit as a token of what is to come.

- (1 Corinthians 15:48-54) Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust; and like the heavenly one, so too are those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we will bear also the image of the heavenly one. 50 But I tell you this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit God's Kingdom, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Look! I tell you a sacred secret: We will not all fall asleep in death, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the blink of an eye, during the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised up incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 For this which is corruptible must put on incorruption, and this which is mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this which is corruptible puts on incorruption and this which is mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: "Death is swallowed up forever."
- (2 Corinthians 11:2) For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a chaste virgin to the Christ.
- (Revelation 21:2) I also saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out

of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- (Revelation 21:9) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls that were full of the seven last plagues came and said to me: "Come, and I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."
- (Ephesians 1:13, 14) But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed by means of him with the promised holy spirit, 14 which is a token in advance of our inheritance, for the purpose of releasing God's own possession by a ransom, to his glorious praise.
- (Ephesians 4:30) Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.
- (Revelation 7:2-4) And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrise, having a seal of the living God; and he called with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying: "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

2Co 2:14-16—What might the apostle Paul have had in mind when he spoke of “a triumphal procession”? (w10 8/1 23)

(2 Corinthians 2:14-16) 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him in every place! 15 For to God we are a sweet fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the latter ones an odor of death leading to death, to the former ones a fragrance of life leading to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things?

*** w10 8/1 p. 23 Did You Know? ***

Did You Know?

What did the apostle Paul have in mind when he spoke of “a triumphal procession”?

▪ Paul wrote: “God . . . leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and makes the odor of the knowledge of him perceptible through us in every place! For to God we are a sweet odor of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the latter ones an odor issuing from death to death, to the former ones an odor issuing from life to life.”—2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

The apostle was referring to the Roman practice of holding a celebratory procession to honor a general for his victory over enemies of the State. At such events, both the spoils and the prisoners of war were put on display and bulls were led to the sacrifice while the victorious general and his army received public acclaim. At the end of the procession, the bulls were sacrificed and many of the prisoners were likely executed.

The metaphor of the “sweet odor of Christ” signifying life for some and death for others is

“probably drawn from the Roman practice of burning incense along the way of the procession,” says The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. “The fragrance that signified triumph to the victors reminded the captives of the execution that likely awaited them.”

- (2 Corinthians 2:14-16) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in company with the Christ and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him in every place! 15 For to God we are a sweet fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the latter ones an odor of death leading to death, to the former ones a fragrance of life leading to life. And who is adequately qualified for these things?

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:) 2Co 3:1-18

(4 min. or less) •

(2 Corinthians 3:1-18) 3 Are we starting to recommend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some men, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. 3 For you are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers, inscribed not with ink but with the spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets but on fleshly tablets, on hearts.

4 We have this sort of confidence toward God through the Christ. 5 Not that we of ourselves are adequately qualified to consider that anything comes from us, but our being adequately qualified comes from God, 6 who has indeed adequately qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, not of a written code, but of spirit; for the written code condemns to death, but the spirit makes alive.

7 Now if the code that administers death and that was engraved in letters on stones came with such glory that the sons of Israel could not gaze at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, a glory that was to be done away with, 8 why should the administering of the spirit not be with even greater glory? 9 For if the code administering condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious would be the administering of righteousness! 10 In fact, even what had once been made glorious has been stripped of glory because of the glory that excels it. 11 For if what was to be done away with was brought in with glory, how much greater would be the glory of what remains!

12 Since we have such a hope, we are using great freeness of speech, 13 and not doing what Moses did when he would put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel might not gaze intently at the end of what was to be done away with. 14 But their minds were dulled. For to this present day, the same veil remains unlifted when the old covenant is read, because it is taken away only by means of

Christ. 15 In fact, to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies upon their hearts. 16 But when one turns to Jehovah, the veil is taken away. 17 Now Jehovah is the Spirit, and where the spirit of Jehovah is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, are transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, exactly as it is done by Jehovah the Spirit.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Second Return Visit Video: (5 min.)**
Play and discuss the video.

- **Second Return Visit: (3 min. or less)**
Use the sample conversation. (th study 6)

○○● **SECOND RETURN VISIT**

Question: How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' ransom sacrifice?

Scripture: Joh 17:3

Link: What happens at meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses?

- (John 17:3) 3 This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

• Bible Study: (5 min. or less) bhs 52-53 ¶3-4 (th study 8)

*** bhs chap. 5 pp. 52-53 The Ransom—God’s Greatest Gift ***

WHAT IS THE RANSOM?

3. Why do humans die?

3 The ransom is Jehovah’s way of freeing humans from sin and death. (Ephesians 1:7) To understand why the ransom was needed, we have to know what happened thousands of years ago in the garden of Eden. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned. Because they sinned, they died. We also die because we inherited sin from Adam and Eve.—See Endnote 9.

4. Who was Adam, and what did he have?

4 When Jehovah created the first man, Adam, He gave him something very precious. He gave Adam perfect human life. He had a perfect mind and a perfect body. He would never get sick, would never grow old, and would never die. Because Jehovah created Adam, He was like a father to him. (Luke 3:38) Jehovah regularly talked to him. God clearly explained to Adam what he expected from him and gave him enjoyable work to do.—Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16, 17.

Paragraph 3

- (Ephesians 1:7) By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness.
- Paragraph 4
- (Luke 3:38) son of E’nosh, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.
- (Genesis 1:28-30) 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.” 29 Then God said: “Here I have given to you every seed-bearing plant that is on the entire earth and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. Let them serve as food for you. 30 And to every wild animal of the earth and to every flying creature of the heavens and to everything moving on the earth in which there is life, I have given all green vegetation for food.” And it was so.

- (Genesis 2:16, 17) Jehovah God also gave this command to the man: “From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. 17 But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will certainly die.”

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 86

- **“Pursue Divine Education”: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video Spiritually Rich by Jehovah’s Teaching.**

WHY IMPORTANT: The Grand Instructor, Jehovah, offers us the best education possible. He teaches us how to improve our life and prepares us for a marvelous future—all free of charge! (Isa 11:6-9; 30:20, 21; Re 22:17) By means of divine education, Jehovah also equips us to share with others a lifesaving message.—2Co 3:5.

HOW TO DO IT:

- Cultivate the qualities of humility and meekness.—Ps 25:8, 9
- Accept training within your reach right now, such as student assignments on the midweek meeting
- Set spiritual goals for yourself.—Php 3:13
- Make sacrifices to qualify for further training.—Php 3:8

WATCH THE VIDEO SPIRITUALLY RICH BY JEHOVAH’S TEACHING, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What obstacles did some publishers overcome to attend the School for Kingdom Evangelizers?

- What training does the School for Kingdom Evangelizers provide?

- How have congregation members helped graduates in their new assignments?

- What are the enrollment requirements to attend the School for Kingdom Evangelizers? (kr 189)

- ✓ *** kr chap. 17 p. 189 Training Ministers of the Kingdom ***
- ✓ SCHOOL FOR KINGDOM EVANGELIZERS
- ✓ Purpose: To give those who are in full-time service (married couples, single brothers, and single sisters) specialized training so that they can be used more fully by Jehovah and his organization. Many graduates will be assigned to serve where there is a greater need in their home country. Graduates under 50 might serve as temporary special pioneers to open up and expand the work in isolated areas.
- ✓ Duration: Two months.
- ✓ Location: Decided by the branch office; usually at a Kingdom Hall or an Assembly Hall.
- ✓ Enrollment: Those between 23 and 65 years of age who are in full-time service, who are in good health, who have the circumstances to serve wherever there is a greater need, and who have the attitude “Here I am! Send me!” may be enrolled. (Isa. 6:8) All who attend the school, single brothers and sisters as well as married couples, must have

been in the full-time service for at least two years without interruption. Couples must have been married for at least two years. Brothers must have served as either an elder or a ministerial servant for at least two consecutive years. If this school is available in your branch territory, a meeting will be held at the regional convention to provide information for those interested in enrolling.

- ☐ Kingdom Ministry School
- ☐ School for Congregation Elders
- ☐ School for Kingdom Evangelizers

WHAT THEOCRATIC TRAINING AM I REACHING OUT FOR?

[Pictures on page 8]

What blessings will you gain from pursuing divine education?

- (Isaiah 11:6-9) The wolf will reside for a while with the lamb, And with the young goat the leopard will lie down, And the calf and the lion and the fattened animal will all be together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 The cow and the bear will feed together, And their young will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the bull. 8 The nursing child will play over the lair of a cobra, And a weaned child will put his hand over the den of a poisonous snake. 9 They will not cause any harm Or any ruin in all my holy mountain, Because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah As the waters cover the sea.

- (Isaiah 30:20, 21) Though Jehovah will give you bread in the form of distress and water in the form of oppression, your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and you will see your Grand Instructor with your own eyes. 21 And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying, “This is the way. Walk in it,” in case you should go to the right or in case you should go to the left.

- (Revelation 22:17) And the spirit and the bride keep on saying, “Come!” and let anyone hearing say, “Come!” and let anyone thirsting come; let anyone who wishes take life’s water free.

- (2 Corinthians 3:5) Not that we of ourselves are adequately qualified to consider that anything comes from us,

- What other training can you pursue in Jehovah’s organization?



[Box on page 8]

THEOCRATIC TRAINING I HAVE BENEFITED FROM

- ☐ Our Christian Life and Ministry
- ☐ Pioneer Service School

but our being adequately qualified comes from God,

- (Psalm 25:8, 9) Good and upright is Jehovah. That is why he instructs sinners in the way to live. 9 He will guide the meek in what is right, And he will teach the meek ones his way.
- (Philippians 3:13) Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having taken hold of it; but one thing is certain: Forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead,
- (Philippians 3:8) What is more, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ
- (Amos 1:1-15) The words of A'mos, who was among the sheep raisers from Te·ko'a, which he received in vision concerning Israel in the days of King Uz·zi'ah of Judah and in the days of Jer·o·bo'am son of Jo'ash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. 2 He said: "Jehovah will roar out of Zion, And he will raise his voice out of Jerusalem. The pastures of the shepherds will mourn, And the summit of Car'mel will dry up." 3 "This is what Jehovah says, "For three revolts of Damascus, and for four, I will not reverse it, Because they threshed Gil'e·ad with iron threshing sledges. 4 So I will send a fire upon the house of Haz'a·el, And it will consume the fortified towers of Ben-ha'dad. 5 I will break the bars of Damascus; I will destroy the inhabitants from Bik'ath-a'ven And the one ruling from Beth-e'den; And the people of Syria will go as exiles to Kir," says Jehovah.' 6 This is what Jehovah says, "For three revolts of Gaz'a, and for four, I will not reverse

it, Because they took a whole group of exiles to hand them over to E'dom. 7 So I will send a fire onto the wall of Gaz'a, And it will consume her fortified towers. 8 I will destroy the inhabitants from Ash'dod, And the one ruling from Ash'ke·lon; I will turn my hand against Ek'ron, And the remaining Phi·lis'tines will perish," says the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.' 9 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of Tyre, and for four, I will not reverse it, Because they handed over a whole group of exiles to E'dom, And because they did not remember the covenant of brothers. 10 So I will send a fire onto the wall of Tyre, And it will consume her fortified towers.' 11 This is what Jehovah says, 'For three revolts of E'dom, and for four, I will not reverse it, Because he pursued his own brother with the sword, And because he refused to show mercy; In his anger he keeps tearing them apart relentlessly, And he remains furious with them continually. 12 So I will send a fire into Te'man, And it will consume the fortified towers of Boz'rah.' 13 This is what Jehovah says, "For three revolts of the Am'mon-ites, and for four, I will not reverse it, Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gil'e·ad to widen out their own territory. 14 So I will set fire to the wall of Rab'bah, And it will consume her fortified towers, With a war cry in the day of battle, With a tempest in the day of storm wind. 15 And their king will go into exile together with his princes," says Jehovah.'

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

jy chap. 64

(Matthew 18:21-35) Then Peter came and said to him: “Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him: “I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times. 23 “That is why the Kingdom of the heavens may be likened to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he started to settle them, a man was brought in who owed him 10,000 talents. 25 But because he did not have the means to pay it back, his master ordered him and his wife and his children and all the things he owned to be sold and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell down and did obeisance to him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you.’ 27 Moved with pity at this, the master of that slave let him off and canceled his debt. 28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves, who owed him 100 de·nar’i-i, and grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back whatever you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell down and began to beg him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ 30 However, he was not willing, but he went and had him thrown into prison until he could pay back what he owed. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they became greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all the things that had happened. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him: ‘Wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you when you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you?’ 34 With that his master, provoked to wrath, handed him over to the jailers until he repaid all that he owed. 35 My heavenly Father will also deal with you in the same way if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Paragraph 2 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:21) Then Peter came and said to him: “Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?”

Paragraph 3 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:22) Jesus said to him: “I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times.

Paragraph 4 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:26) So the slave fell down and did obeisance to him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you.’

Paragraph 5 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:28, 29) But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves, who owed him 100 de·nar’i-i, and grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back whatever you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell down and began to beg him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

Paragraph 1 on Page 153

(Matthew 18:32-35) Then his master summoned him and said to him: ‘Wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you when you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you?’ 34 With that his master, provoked to wrath, handed him over to the jailers until he repaid all that he owed. 35 My heavenly Father will also deal with you in the same way if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Paragraph 2 on Page 153

(Matthew 6:12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

◇What prompts Peter to ask about forgiving his brother, and why may he consider it generous to forgive someone seven times?

◇How does the king's response to his slave's plea for mercy differ from the way that slave deals with his fellow slave?

◇What lesson should we learn from Jesus' illustration?

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

- Song 130 and Prayer