

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

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

**Elijah became afraid and ran for his life
(1Ki 19:3, 4; w19.06 15 ¶5)**

(1 Kings 19:3, 4) At that he became afraid, so he got up and ran for his life. He came to Be'er-she'ba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his attendant there. ⁴ He went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree, and he asked that he might die. He said: “It is enough! Now, O Jehovah, take my life away, for I am no better than my forefathers.”

*** w19 June pp. 15-16 par. 5 Rely on Jehovah When Under Stress ***

5 Read 1 Kings 19:1-4. Elijah became afraid, however, when Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him. So he fled to the area of Beer-sheba. He became so discouraged that “he asked that he might die.” What made him feel that way? Elijah was an imperfect man, “a man with feelings like ours.” (Jas. 5:17) Perhaps he felt overwhelmed by stress and physical exhaustion. It seems that Elijah thought that his efforts to promote pure worship had been futile, that nothing in Israel had improved, and that he was the only one still serving Jehovah. (1 Ki. 18:3, 4, 13; 19:10, 14) We may be surprised by the reaction of this faithful prophet. But Jehovah understood Elijah's feelings.

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- (1 Kings 19:1-4) Then A'hab told Jez'e-bel all that E-li'jah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² At that Jez'e-bel sent a messenger to E-li'jah, saying: “So may the gods do to me and add to it if by this time tomorrow I do not make you like each one of them!” ³ At that he became afraid, so he got up and ran for his life. He came to Be'er-she'ba, which belongs

to Judah, and he left his attendant there. ⁴ He went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree, and he asked that he might die. He said: “It is enough! Now, O Jehovah, take my life away, for I am no better than my forefathers.”

- (James 5:17) E-li'jah was a man with feelings like ours, and yet when he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
- (1 Kings 18:3, 4) Meanwhile, A'hab called O-ba-di'ah, who was over the household. (Now O-ba-di'ah greatly feared Jehovah, ⁴ and when Jez'e-bel was doing away with Jehovah's prophets, O-ba-di'ah took 100 prophets and hid them 50 to a cave, and he supplied them with bread and water.)
- (1 Kings 18:13) Has my lord not been told what I did when Jez'e-bel was killing the prophets of Jehovah, how I hid 100 of the prophets of Jehovah by groups of 50 in a cave and kept supplying them bread and water?
- (1 Kings 19:10) To this he said: “I have been absolutely zealous for Jehovah the God of armies; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, and I am the only one left. Now they are seeking to take my life away.”
- (1 Kings 19:14) To this he said: “I have been absolutely zealous for Jehovah the God of armies; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, and I am the only one left. Now they are seeking to take my life away.”

Jehovah gave him practical assistance and showed him awe-inspiring displays of power (1Ki 19:5-7, 11, 12; ia 103 ¶13; 106 ¶21)

(1 Kings 19:5-7) Then he lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree. But suddenly an angel touched him and said to him: "Get up and eat."⁶ When he looked, there at his head was a round loaf on heated stones and a jug of water. He ate and drank and lay down again.⁷ Later the angel of Jehovah came back a second time and touched him and said: "Get up and eat, for the journey will be too much for you."

(1 Kings 19:11, 12) But He said: "Go out and stand on the mountain before Jehovah." And look! Jehovah was passing by, and a great and strong wind was splitting mountains and breaking crags before Jehovah, but Jehovah was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but Jehovah was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake, there was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a calm, low voice.

*** ia chap. 12 p. 103 He Took Comfort in His God ***

Jehovah Sustained His Prophet

13 How do you think Jehovah felt as he looked down from heaven and saw his beloved prophet lying under that tree in the wilderness and begging for death to take him? We do not have to guess. After Elijah sank into sleep, Jehovah sent an angel to him. The angel gently woke Elijah with a touch and said: "Rise up, eat." Elijah did so, for the angel had kindly set out a simple meal for him—fresh, warm bread along with water. Did he even thank the angel? The record says only that the prophet ate and drank and went back to sleep. Was he too despondent to speak? At any rate, the angel woke him a second time, perhaps at dawn. Once more, he urged Elijah, "Rise up, eat," and he added these remarkable words, "for the journey is too much for you."—1 Ki. 19:5-7.

*** ia chap. 12 p. 106 par. 21 He Took Comfort in His God ***

21 In each case, the account reminds us that Jehovah was not to be found within these spectacular displays of nature's power. Elijah knew that Jehovah was not some mythical nature god such as Baal, who was hailed by his deluded worshippers as "the rider of the clouds," or bringer of rains. Jehovah is the real Source of all the awesome power found in nature, but he is also vastly greater than anything he has made. Even the physical heavens cannot contain him! (1 Ki. 8:27) How did all of this help Elijah? Remember his fear. With a God like Jehovah on his side, a God who had all that overwhelming power at His disposal, Elijah had nothing to fear from Ahab and Jezebel!—Read Psalm 118:6.

- (1 Kings 8:27) "But will God really dwell on the earth? Look! The heavens, yes, the heaven of the heavens, cannot contain you; how much less, then, this house that I have built!
- (Psalm 118:6) Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Jehovah gave him work to do (1Ki 19:15-18; ia 106 ¶22)

(1 Kings 19:15-18) Jehovah said to him: "Return, and go to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive, anoint Haz'a-el as king over Syria."¹⁶ And you should anoint Je'hu the grandson of Nim'shi as king over Israel, and you should anoint E-li'sha the son of Sha'phat from A'bel-me-ho'lah as prophet to take your place.¹⁷ Anyone escaping from Haz'a-el's sword, Je'hu will put to death; and anyone escaping from Je'hu's sword, E-li'sha will put to death.¹⁸ And I still have left 7,000 in Israel, all whose knees have not bent down to Ba'al and whose mouths have not kissed him."

*** ia chap. 12 pp. 106-107 par. 22 He Took Comfort in His God ***

22 After the fire was gone, a hush fell and Elijah heard “a calm, low voice.” It invited Elijah to express himself again, and he did so, pouring out his concerns a second time. Perhaps that brought him further relief. Undoubtedly, though, Elijah found even more comfort in what the “calm, low voice” told him next. Jehovah reassured Elijah that he was far from worthless. How so? God revealed much of his long-range purpose regarding the war against Baal worship in Israel. Clearly, Elijah’s work had not been in vain, for God’s purpose was moving inexorably forward. Furthermore, Elijah still figured in that purpose, for Jehovah sent him back to work with some specific instructions.—1 Ki. 19:12-17.

- (1 Kings 19:12-17) 12 After the earthquake, there was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a calm, low voice. 13 As soon as E·li’jah heard it, he wrapped his face in his official garment and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then a voice asked him: “What are you doing here, E·li’jah?” 14 To this he said: “I have been absolutely zealous for Jehovah the God of armies; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, and I am the only one left. Now they are seeking to take my life away.” 15 Jehovah said to him: “Return, and go to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive, anoint Haz’a-el as king over Syria. 16 And you should anoint Je’hu the grandson of Nim’shi as king over Israel, and you should anoint E·li’sha the son of Sha’phat from A’bel-me·ho’lah as prophet to take your place. 17 Anyone escaping from Haz’a-el’s sword, Je’hu will put to death; and anyone escaping from Je’hu’s sword, E·li’sha will put to death.

Jehovah speaks to us today through the pages of his Word, reminding us that he truly cares for us and that he gives us meaningful work to do in his service.—1Co 15:58; Col 3:23.

- **(1 Corinthians 15:58)** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord.
- **(Colossians 3:23)** Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as for Jehovah, and not for men,

Spiritual Gems:

1Ki 19:19-21—What does this account teach us about accepting a new assignment of sacred service? (w97 11/1 31 ¶2)

(1 Kings 19:19-21) 19 So he went from there and found E·li’sha the son of Sha’phat while he was plowing with 12 pairs of bulls ahead of him, and he was with the 12th pair. So E·li’jah went over to him and threw his official garment on him. 20 At that he left the bulls and ran after E·li’jah and said: “Please, let me kiss my father and my mother. Then I will follow you.” He replied to him: “Go, return, for what have I done to stop you?” 21 So he went back and took a pair of bulls and sacrificed them, and he used the plowing gear to boil the meat of the bulls and gave it to the people, and they ate.

After that he rose up and followed E·li'jah and began to minister to him.

*** w97 11/1 p. 31 An Example of Self-Sacrifice and Loyalty ***

Many of God's servants today display a similar spirit of self-sacrifice. Some have left their "fields," their livelihoods, to preach the good news in distant territories or to serve as members of a Bethel family. Others have traveled to foreign lands to work on the Society's construction projects. Many have accepted what might be called lowly tasks. Yet, no one who slaves for Jehovah is performing an insignificant service. Jehovah appreciates all who serve him willingly, and he will bless their spirit of self-sacrifice.—Mark 10:29, 30.

- (Mark 10:29, 30) Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, no one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news 30 who will not get 100 times more now in this period of time—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the coming system of things, everlasting life.

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.)
1Ki 19:1-14 (th study 12)

(1 Kings 19:1-14) 19 Then A'hab told Jez'e·bel all that E·li'jah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 At that Jez'e·bel sent a messenger to E·li'jah, saying: "So may the gods do to me and add to it if by this time tomorrow I do not make you like each one of them!" 3 At that he became afraid, so he got up and ran for his life. He came to Be'er-she'ba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his attendant there. 4 He went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree, and he asked that he might die. He said: "It is enough! Now, O Jehovah, take my life away, for I am no better than my forefathers." 5 Then he lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree. But suddenly an angel touched him and said to him: "Get up and eat." 6 When he looked, there at his head was a round loaf on heated stones and a jug of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. 7 Later the angel of Jehovah came back a second time and touched him and said: "Get up and eat, for the journey will be too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank, and in the strength of that nourishment he went on for 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Hor'eb, the mountain of the true God. 9 There he entered a cave and spent the night; and look! Jehovah's word came to him, telling him: "What are you doing here, E·li'jah?" 10 To this he said: "I have been absolutely zealous for Jehovah the God of armies; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, and I am the only one left. Now they are seeking to take my life away." 11 But He said: "Go out and stand on the mountain before Jehovah." And look! Jehovah was passing by, and a great and strong wind was splitting mountains and breaking crags before Jehovah, but Jehovah was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but Jehovah was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake, there was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire. After the

fire, there was a calm, low voice. 13 As soon as E·li'jah heard it, he wrapped his face in his official garment and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then a voice asked him: "What are you doing here, E·li'jah?" 14 To this he said: "I have been absolutely zealous for Jehovah the God of armies; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, and I am the only one left. Now they are seeking to take my life away."

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Return Visit Video: (5 min.) Discussion.
Play the video Return Visit: The Bible—Job 26:7. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

(Job 26:7) 7 He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing;

Return Visit: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation topic. (th study 18)

Return Visit

Question: Why can you trust the Bible?

Scripture: Job 26:7

Link: What are some questions that the Bible answers?

- (Job 26:7) 7 He stretches out the northern sky over empty space, Suspending the earth upon nothing;

Bible Study: (5 min.) Iff lesson 07 point 7 and Some People Say (th study 7)

7. The natural world reveals Jehovah's qualities

Jehovah reveals his qualities through the things he created. Play the VIDEO. Then read Romans 1:20, and discuss the question that follows.

VIDEO: Creation Reveals Jehovah's Love—The Human Body (1:57)

- What qualities of Jehovah do you see in the things he has made?

SOME PEOPLE SAY: "God is not a person, he's just a force that is everywhere."

- What do you think?
- Why do you feel that way?

- (Romans 1:20) For his invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world's creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 145

Maintain a Positive Viewpoint: (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video. Then ask the audience: What Bible principles can help us to maintain a positive viewpoint? How did Jehovah comfort Elijah? How does Jehovah comfort and care for us?

What Bible principles can help us to maintain a positive viewpoint?

How did Jehovah comfort Elijah?

How does Jehovah comfort and care for us?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 22

(Acts 4:20) But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."

(Colossians 4:6) Let your words always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person.

(Luke 10:1) After these things the Lord designated 70 others and sent them out by twos ahead of him into every city and place where he himself was to go.

(Luke 10:17) Then the 70 returned with joy, saying: "Lord, even the demons are made subject to us by the use of your name."

(Isaiah 41:10) Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be anxious, for I am your God. I will fortify you, yes, I will help you, I will really hold on to you with my right hand of righteousness.'

(2 Timothy 2:24) For a slave of the Lord does not need to fight, but needs to be gentle toward all, qualified to teach, showing restraint when wronged,

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone who demands of you a reason for the hope you have, but doing so with a mild temper and deep respect.

(John 4:34) Jesus said to them: "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

• Concluding Comments (3 min.)

• Song 57 and Prayer