

- Song 55 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

**"There Are More With Us Than With Them":
(10 min.)**

Elisha and his attendant were surrounded by the enemy (2Ki 6:13, 14; it-1 716 ¶4)

(2 Kings 6:13, 14) He said: "Go and find out where he is, so that I may send men to capture him." Later the report was made to him: "He is in Do'than." 14 He immediately sent horses and war chariots there, as well as a large army; they came by night and surrounded the city.

*** it-1 p. 716 Elisha ***

Israel Delivered From Syria. During the reign of King Jehoram of Israel, Syria plans a surprise attack upon Israel. More than once maneuvers of Ben-hadad II are frustrated by Elisha, who reveals to King Jehoram every move of the Syrians. At first Ben-hadad thinks that there is a traitor in his own camp. But when he finds out the real source of his difficulty, he sends a military force to Dothan, surrounding it with horses and war chariots to get Elisha. (PICTURE, Vol. 1, p. 950) Elisha's attendant is struck with fear, but Elisha prays to God to open the attendant's eyes, "and, look! the mountainous region [is] full of horses and war chariots of fire all around Elisha." Now, as the Syrian hosts close in, Elisha prays for the opposite kind of miracle, "Please, strike this nation with blindness." Elisha says to the Syrians, "Follow me," but he does not have to lead them by the hand, indicating that it is mental rather than physical blindness. They do not recognize Elisha, whom they came to take, nor do they know where he is taking them.—2Ki 6:8-19.

- (2 Kings 6:8-19) 8 Now the king of Syria went to war against Israel. He consulted with his servants and said: "I will encamp at such and such a place with you." 9 Then the man of the true God

sent word to the king of Israel, saying: "Beware of passing by this place, because that is where the Syrians are coming down." 10 So the king of Israel sent word to the place that the man of the true God had warned him about. He kept warning him, and he stayed away from there on several occasions. 11 This enraged the king of Syria, so he summoned his servants and said to them: "Tell me! Who among us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12 Then one of his servants said: "None of us, my lord the king! It is E-li'sha the prophet in Israel who tells the king of Israel the things that you say in your own bedroom." 13 He said: "Go and find out where he is, so that I may send men to capture him." Later the report was made to him: "He is in Do'than." 14 He immediately sent horses and war chariots there, as well as a large army; they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 When the attendant of the man of the true God rose early and went outside, he saw that an army with horses and war chariots was surrounding the city. At once the attendant said to him: "Alas, my master! What are we to do?" 16 But he said: "Do not be afraid! For there are more who are with us than those who are with them." 17 Then E-li'sha began to pray and say: "O Jehovah, open his eyes, please, that he may see." Immediately Jehovah opened the attendant's eyes and he saw, and look! the mountainous region was full of horses and war chariots of fire all around E-li'sha. 18 When the Syrians came down to him, E-li'sha prayed to Jehovah and said: "Please, strike this nation with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, just as E-li'sha had requested. 19 E-li'sha now said to them: "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and let me lead you to

the man you are looking for.” However, he led them to Sa·mar'i-a.

Elisha remained calm and strengthened his attendant (2Ki 6:15-17; w13 8/15 30 ¶2; see cover picture)

(2 Kings 6:15-17) When the attendant of the man of the true God rose early and went outside, he saw that an army with horses and war chariots was surrounding the city. At once the attendant said to him: “Alas, my master! What are we to do?” 16 But he said: “Do not be afraid! For there are more who are with us than those who are with them.” 17 Then E·li'sha began to pray and say: “O Jehovah, open his eyes, please, that he may see.” Immediately Jehovah opened the attendant's eyes and he saw, and look! the mountainous region was full of horses and war chariots of fire all around E·li'sha.

*** w13 8/15 p. 30 Elisha Saw Fiery Chariots—Do You? ***

Though surrounded by enemies at Dothan, Elisha remained calm. Why? Because he had developed strong faith in Jehovah. We too need such faith. Therefore, let us pray for God's holy spirit so that we can display faith and other aspects of the spirit's fruitage.—Luke 11:13; Gal. 5:22, 23.

- (Luke 11:13) Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!”
- (Galatians 5:22, 23) On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Jehovah miraculously saved Elisha and his attendant (2Ki 6:18, 19; it-1 343 ¶1)

(2 Kings 6:18, 19) When the Syrians came down to him, E·li'sha prayed to Jehovah and said: “Please, strike this nation with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, just as E·li'sha had requested. 19 E·li'sha now said to them: “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and let me lead you to the man you are looking for.” However, he led them to Sa·mar'i-a.

*** it-1 p. 343 Blindness ***

The blindness that was brought on the military force of the Syrians at the word of Elisha was evidently mental blindness. If the entire army had been struck with physical blindness, they would all have had to be led by hand. But the account simply says that Elisha told them: “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me.” On this phenomenon William James in his Principles of Psychology (1981, Vol. 1, p. 59) states: “A most interesting effect of cortical disorder is mental blindness. This consists not so much in insensibility to optical impressions, as in inability to understand them. Psychologically it is interpretable as loss of associations between optical sensations and what they signify; and any interruption of the paths between the optic centres and the centres for other ideas ought to bring it about.” This was apparently the kind of blindness removed by Jehovah when the Syrian army reached Samaria. (2Ki 6:18-20) Such mental blindness also may have been involved in the case of the men of Sodom, since the account shows that, instead of being distressed at loss of the faculty of sight, they persisted in trying to find the door of Lot's house.—Ge 19:11.

- (2 Kings 6:18-20) When the Syrians came down to him, E·li'sha prayed to Jehovah and said: “Please, strike this nation with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, just as E·li'sha had

requested. 19 E-li'sha now said to them: "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and let me lead you to the man you are looking for." However, he led them to Sa-mar'i-a. 20 When they arrived in Sa-mar'i-a, E-li'sha said: "O Jehovah, open their eyes so that they may see." So Jehovah opened their eyes, and they saw that they were in the middle of Sa-mar'i-a.

- (Genesis 19:11) But they struck the men who were at the entrance of the house with blindness, from the least to the greatest, so that they wore themselves out trying to find the doorway.

- (2 Kings 6:16) But he said: "Do not be afraid! For there are more who are with us than those who are with them."

Our opposers are not stronger than Jehovah. If we could peer into the spirit realm and see how Jehovah is using the angels to protect his people, what do you imagine we would see?

Spiritual Gems:

2Ki 5:15, 16—Why did Elisha not accept Naaman's gift, and what lesson can we learn? (w05 8/1 9 ¶2)

(2 Kings 5:15, 16) 15 After that he went back to the man of the true God, he and all his entourage, and he stood before him and said: "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in all the earth but in Israel. Now accept, please, a gift from your servant." 16 However, E-li'sha

said: "As surely as Jehovah whom I serve is living, I will not accept it." He urged him to accept it, but he kept refusing.

*** w05 8/1 p. 9 par. 2 Highlights From the Book of Second Kings ***

5:15, 16—Why did Elisha not accept Naaman's gift? Elisha refused the gift because he recognized that the miracle of healing Naaman was performed by Jehovah's power, not his own. It would have been unthinkable on his part to profit from his God-appointed office. True worshippers today do not reach out for personal gain from Jehovah's service. They take to heart Jesus' admonition: "You received free, give free."—Matthew 10:8.

- (2 Kings 5:15, 16) After that he went back to the man of the true God, he and all his entourage, and he stood before him and said: "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in all the earth but in Israel. Now accept, please, a gift from your servant." 16 However, E-li'sha said: "As surely as Jehovah whom I serve is living, I will not accept it." He urged him to accept it, but he kept refusing.
- (Matthew 10:8) Cure the sick, raise up the dead, make lepers clean, expel demons. You received free, give free.

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.)
2Ki 5:1-14 (th study 2)

(2 Kings 5:1-14) 5 Now Na'a-man the army chief of the king of Syria was a prominent man who was held in esteem by his lord, because through him Jehovah had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty warrior, although he was a leper. 2 On one of their raids, the Syrians had taken captive from the land of

Israel a little girl who became a servant to Na'a-man's wife. 3 She said to her mistress: "If only my lord would visit the prophet in Sa-mar'i-a! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." 4 So he went and reported to his lord, telling him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 Then the king of Syria said: "Go now! And I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and ten changes of garments. 6 He brought to the king of Israel the letter, which read: "Along with this letter that has come to you, I send my servant Na'a-man so that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he ripped his garments apart and said: "Am I God, to put to death and to keep alive? For he is sending this man to me, telling me to cure him of his leprosy! You can see for yourselves that he is seeking a quarrel with me." 8 But when E-li'sha the man of the true God heard that the king of Israel had ripped his garments apart, he at once sent word to the king: "Why did you rip your garments apart? Please let him come to me so that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Na'a-man came with his horses and his war chariots and stood at the entrance of the house of E-li'sha. 10 However, E-li'sha sent a messenger to tell him: "Go, wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be clean." 11 At this Na'a-man became indignant and started to leave, saying: "Here I said to myself, 'He will come out to me and stand here and call on the name of Jehovah his God, moving his hand back and forth over the leprosy to cure it.' 12 Are not the A-ba'nah and the Phar'par, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not wash in them and become clean?" With that he turned and went away in a rage. 13 His servants now approached him and said: "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not do it? How much more, then, since he only said to you, 'Wash and be clean'?" 14 At that he went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times, according to the word of the man of the true

God. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little boy, and he became clean.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call Video: (5 min.) Discussion.
Play the video Initial Call: Good News—Ps 37:10, 11. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video.

Initial Call: (3 min.) Begin with the sample conversation topic. Respond to a common objection. (*th study 12*)

Initial Call

Question: Is an end to violence and war realistic?

Scripture: Ps 37:10, 11

- (Psalm 37:10, 11) 10 Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; You will look at where they were, And they will not be there. 11 But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

Link: What Bible promise gives us hope?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- T-31; T-34

Bible Study: (5 min.) *Iff* lesson 08 intro and points 1-3 (*th* study 15)

You Can Be Jehovah's Friend

Jehovah wants you to know him better. Why? He hopes that the more you learn about his personality, his ways, and his purpose, the more you will want to be his friend. Can you really be God's friend? (Read Psalm 25:14.) What can you do to become his friend? The Bible answers those questions and reveals why friendship with Jehovah is the most important relationship you can have.

1. What invitation does Jehovah offer you?

"Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you." (James 4:8) What does this mean? Jehovah is inviting you to become his friend. Some may find it difficult to imagine being friends with anyone they cannot see, let alone with God himself. Yet, in his Word, the Bible, Jehovah reveals everything we need to know about his personality in order for us to draw close to him. When we read God's message to us in the Bible, our friendship with Jehovah grows even though we have never seen him.

2. Why is Jehovah the best Friend you can have?

No one loves you more than Jehovah does. He wants you to be happy and to turn to him whenever you need help. You can "throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7) Jehovah is always ready to support, comfort, and listen to his friends.—Read Psalm 94:18, 19.

3. What does Jehovah expect of his friends?

Jehovah loves people in general, "but His close friendship is with the upright." (Proverbs 3:32) Jehovah expects his friends to try to do things that he views as good and to avoid things that he considers bad. Some may feel that they could never live up to Jehovah's standards of

good and bad. However, Jehovah is large-hearted. He accepts everyone who truly loves Him and does his best to please Him.—Psalm 147:11; Acts 10:34, 35.

- (Psalm 25:14) Close friendship with Jehovah belongs to those who fear him, And he makes his covenant known to them.
- (James 4:8) Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you indecisive ones.
- (1 Peter 5:7) while you throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
- (Psalm 94:18, 19) When I said: "My foot is slipping," Your loyal love, O Jehovah, kept supporting me. 19 When anxieties overwhelmed me, You comforted and soothed me.
- (Proverbs 3:32) For Jehovah detests a devious person, But His close friendship is with the upright.
- (Psalm 147:11) Jehovah finds pleasure in those who fear him, In those waiting for his loyal love.
- (Acts 10:34, 35) At this Peter began to speak, and he said: "Now I truly understand that God is not partial, 35 but in every nation the man who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 37

“Practice Giving”: (15 min.) Discussion by an elder. Play the video We Are Thankful for Your Practice of Giving. Commend the congregation for specific ways they practice giving.

Jesus indicated that generosity is contagious. (Lu 6:38) Your practice of giving motivates your brothers and sisters to be kind and generous.

Cheerful giving is part of our worship. Jehovah takes note of those who generously show favor to fellow Christians in need of assistance and promises to reward them.—Pr 19:17.

WATCH THE VIDEO WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR PRACTICE OF GIVING, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How have your donations been used to support your brothers and sisters?
- Why should we continue to practice giving, regardless of the size of our gifts?—See also the jw.org article “Surplus Offsets a Deficiency.”

[Box on page 3]

LEARN MORE ONLINE

How can you make voluntary donations to support the work of Jehovah’s Witnesses? Click on the “Donations” link at the bottom of the home page in the JW Library® app. In many countries, you will find an FAQ tab that links to a document entitled Donations to Jehovah’s Witnesses—Frequently Asked Questions.

- (Luke 6:38) Practice giving, and people will give to you. They will pour into your laps a fine measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing. For with the measure that you are

measuring out, they will measure out to you in return.”

- (Proverbs 19:17) The one showing favor to the lowly is lending to Jehovah, And He will repay him for what he does.

- How have your donations been used to support your brothers and sisters?

Why should we continue to practice giving, regardless of the size of our gifts?—See also the jw.org article “Surplus Offsets a Deficiency.”

*** hdu article 5 Surplus Offsets a Deficiency ***

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

Surplus Offsets a Deficiency

- OCTOBER 1, 2020
- Jehovah’s Witnesses carry out religious and humanitarian activities in over 200 lands. But only about 35 of those lands receive enough local donations to care for their expenses. How are expenses cared for in lands that are less affluent?
- The Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses analyzes the spiritual needs and activities of fellow Witnesses around the globe. Funds are carefully budgeted and used accordingly. If a branch receives more funds than it needs to care for local activities, it makes the surplus available to lands that do not have enough. This arrangement follows the example of the early Christians, who helped one another “by means of an equalizing.” (2 Corinthians 8:14) They used their

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Iff lesson 26

(Genesis 3:1-5) Now the serpent was the most cautious of all the wild animals of the field that Jehovah God had made. So it said to the woman: "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" 2 At this the woman said to the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. 3 But God has said about the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden: 'You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it; otherwise you will die.'" 4 At this the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die. 5 For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad."

(John 8:44) You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a murderer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie.

(Genesis 2:15-17) Jehovah God took the man and settled him in the garden of E'den to cultivate it and to take care of it. 16 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."

(Genesis 3:6) Consequently, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something desirable to the eyes, yes, the tree was pleasing to look at. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward, she also gave some to her husband when he was with her, and he began eating it.

(Genesis 3:16-19) To the woman he said: "I will greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in pain you will give birth to children, and your longing will be for your husband, and he will dominate you." 17 And to Adam he said: "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return."

(Romans 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because they had all sinned—.

(Ecclesiastes 9:11) I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.

(James 1:13) When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone.

(1 John 5:19) We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.

(Genesis 3:1-6) Now the serpent was the most cautious of all the wild animals of the field that Jehovah God had made. So it said to the woman: "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" 2 At this the woman said to the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. 3 But God has said about the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden: 'You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it; otherwise you will

die.” 4 At this the serpent said to the woman: “You certainly will not die. 5 For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad.” 6 Consequently, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something desirable to the eyes, yes, the tree was pleasing to look at. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward, she also gave some to her husband when he was with her, and he began eating it.

(Genesis 3:4, 5) At this the serpent said to the woman: “You certainly will not die. 5 For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad.”

(Ecclesiastes 8:9) All of this I have seen, and I applied my heart to every work that has been done under the sun, during the time that man has dominated man to his harm.

(Psalm 31:7) I will rejoice greatly in your loyal love, For you have seen my affliction; You are aware of my deep distress.

(1 Peter 5:7) while you throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

(Isaiah 65:17) For look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be called to mind, Nor will they come up into the heart.

(Revelation 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

(Matthew 6:9, 10) “You must pray, then, this way: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. 10 Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also on earth.

• Concluding Comments (3 min.)

• Song 30 and Prayer