

- Song 111 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

### **TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD**

#### **1. "Jehovah, My Source of Goodness"**

**Friendships with those who serve Jehovah bring us delight (Ps 16:2, 3; w18.12 26 ¶11)**

**(Psalm 16:2, 3) I have said to Jehovah: "You are Jehovah, my Source of goodness. 3 And the holy ones in the earth, The majestic ones, bring me great delight."**

\*\*\* w18 December p. 26 par. 11 Young Ones, You Can Have a Satisfying Life \*\*\*

11 Read Psalm 16:3. David knew the secret to finding true friends. He found "great delight" in the company of those who loved Jehovah. Described as "holy ones," they were morally clean, upright. Another psalmist felt the same way about his choice of friends. He wrote: "I am a friend of all who fear you and of those who keep your orders." (Ps. 119:63) As we saw in the preceding article, you too can find many good friends among those who fear and obey Jehovah. That includes, of course, those of various ages.

- (Psalm 16:3) And the holy ones in the earth, The majestic ones, bring me great delight."
- (Psalm 119:63) I am a friend of all who fear you And of those who keep your orders.

**An approved relationship with Jehovah gives us contentment (Ps 16:5, 6; w14 2/15 29 ¶4)**

(Psalm 16:5, 6) Jehovah is my portion, my allotted share, and my cup. You safeguard my inheritance. 6 Pleasant places have been measured out to me. Yes, I am content with my inheritance.

\*\*\* w14 2/15 p. 29 "Gaze Upon the Pleasantness of Jehovah" \*\*\*

"Jehovah is my portion, my allotted share, and my cup," sang David. "You safeguard my inheritance. Pleasant places have been measured out to me." (Ps. 16:5, 6) David was thankful for his "portion," that is, for having an approved relationship with Jehovah and the privilege of serving him. Like David, we may suffer hardships, but we have so many spiritual blessings! Let us therefore continue to take delight in true worship and always "look with appreciation" upon Jehovah's spiritual temple.

**Jehovah's spiritual protection makes us feel secure (Ps 16:8, 9; w08 2/15 3 ¶2-3)**

(Psalm 16:8, 9) I keep Jehovah before me constantly. Because he is at my right hand, I will never be shaken. 9 So my heart rejoices, my whole being is joyful. And I reside in security.

\*\*\* w08 2/15 p. 3 pars. 2-3 Keep Jehovah Before You Constantly \*\*\*

2 All of us can learn much from the experiences of well-known Bible characters—Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Ruth, David, Esther, the apostle Paul, and others. However, accounts about less prominent individuals can also benefit us. Meditating on Bible narratives can help us to act in harmony with the psalmist's words: "I have placed Jehovah in front of me constantly. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be made to totter." (Ps. 16:8) How are we to understand these words?

3 A soldier usually wielded his sword with his right hand, leaving that side unprotected by the shield held in his left hand. Yet, he was protected if a friend fought near him on his right. If we keep Jehovah in mind and do his will, he will protect us. So let us see how considering Bible accounts can strengthen our faith so that we "keep Jehovah always before [us]."—Byington.

- (Psalm 16:8) 8 I keep Jehovah before me constantly. Because he is at my right hand, I will never be shaken.

Like David, we enjoy a rich life because it centers on the worship of Jehovah, our Source of goodness.

ASK YOURSELF, 'How is my life better than before I came into the truth?'

## 2. Spiritual Gems:

**Ps 17:8—What is the significance of the term “pupil of your eye”? (it-2 714)**

(Psalm 17:8) Guard me like the pupil of your eye; Conceal me in the shadow of your wings.

\*\*\* it-2 pp. 714-715 Pupil \*\*\*

The Hebrew word 'i-shohn' (De 32:10; Pr 7:2), when used with 'a'yin (eye), literally means “little man of the eye”; similarly, bath (daughter) is used at Lamentations 2:18 with the idea “daughter of the eye,” both expressions referring to the pupil. The two are combined for emphasis at Psalm 17:8 ('i-shohn' bath-'a'yin), literally, “little man, daughter of the eye” (“pupil of the eyeball,” NW). The reference is evidently to the tiny image of oneself that can be seen reflected in that part of another's eye.

The eye is extremely tender and sensitive; even a small hair or speck of dust between the lid and eyeball is quickly noticed. The transparent part of the eye (the cornea) covering the pupil must be guarded and cared for, because if this portion is scarred by injury or becomes cloudy through disease, distorted vision or blindness can result. With force and yet with delicacy of expression the Bible uses “the pupil of your eyes” in speaking of that which is to be guarded with utmost care. God's

law is to be so treated. (Pr 7:2) Mentioning God's fatherly care of Israel, Deuteronomy 32:10 says that He safeguarded the nation “as the pupil of his eye.” David prayed that he would be protected and cared for by God as “the pupil of the eyeball.” (Ps 17:8) He wanted Jehovah to be quick to act in his behalf when under enemy attack. (Compare Zec 2:8; where the Hebrew ba-vath' 'a'yin, “eyeball,” is used.)—See EYE.

- (Deuteronomy 32:10) He found him in a wilderness land And in an empty, howling desert. He protectively encircled him, took care of him, And safeguarded him as the pupil of his eye.
- (Proverbs 7:2) Keep my commandments and live; Guard my instruction like the pupil of your eye.
- (Lamentations 2:18) Their heart cries out to Jehovah, O wall of the daughter of Zion. Let tears stream down like a torrent day and night. Give yourself no respite, give your eye no rest.
- (Psalm 17:8) Guard me like the pupil of your eye; Conceal me in the shadow of your wings.
- (Proverbs 7:2) Keep my commandments and live; Guard my instruction like the pupil of your eye.
- (Deuteronomy 32:10) He found him in a wilderness land And in an empty, howling desert. He protectively encircled him, took care of him, And safeguarded him as the pupil of his eye.
- (Psalm 17:8) Guard me like the pupil of your eye; Conceal me in the shadow of your wings.
- (Zechariah 2:8) For this is what Jehovah of armies says, who after being glorified has sent me to the nations that were plundering you: 'Whoever touches you touches the pupil of my eye.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share?

leave an inheritance to their many sons. 15 But as for me, in righteousness I will see your face; I am satisfied to awaken in your presence.

### APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

**4. Starting a Conversation**  
(1 min.) **HOUSE TO HOUSE.** Offer the Memorial invitation. (th study 11)

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**5. Starting a Conversation**

(3 min.) **HOUSE TO HOUSE.** Offer the Memorial invitation. After the person shows interest, introduce and discuss the video Remember Jesus' Death. (th study 9)

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**6. Starting a Conversation**

(2 min.) **INFORMAL WITNESSING.** Offer the Memorial invitation. (th study 2)

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### 3. Bible Reading: ) (4 min.)

Ps 17:1-15 (th study 5)

(Psalm 17:1-15) 17 Hear my plea for justice, O Jehovah; Pay attention to my cry for help; Listen to my prayer spoken without deceit. 2 May you make a just decision in my behalf; May your eyes see what is right. 3 You have examined my heart, you have inspected me by night; You have refined me; You will find that I have not schemed anything bad, And my mouth has not transgressed. 4 As for the activities of men, In accord with the word of your lips, I avoid the paths of the robber. 5 Let my steps stay on your tracks So that my feet will not stumble. 6 I do call on you, because you will answer me, O God. Incline your ear to me. Hear my words. 7 Show your loyal love in a wonderful way, O Savior of those seeking refuge at your right hand From those who rebel against you. 8 Guard me like the pupil of your eye; Conceal me in the shadow of your wings. 9 Guard me from the wicked who attack me, From my mortal enemies who surround me. 10 They have become insensitive; With their mouth they speak arrogantly; 11 Now they hem us in; They watch for the chance to cause our downfall. 12 He is like a lion eager to tear its prey to pieces, Like a young lion crouching in ambush. 13 Rise up, O Jehovah, to confront him and bring him down; Rescue me from the wicked with your sword; 14 Rescue me with your hand, O Jehovah, From men of this world, whose share is in this life, Those whom you fill with the good things you provide And who

**7. Making Disciples  
(5 min.) Iff lesson 14 intro and points 1-3 (th study 6)**

As discussed in the preceding lesson, not all religions please God. However, we can worship our Creator in a way that makes him happy. What is “the form of worship [or, religion]” that pleases him? (James 1:27, footnote) Consider what the Bible teaches.

**1. On what should our worship be based?**

Our worship should be based on the Bible. Jesus said to God: “Your word is truth.” (John 17:17) Some religions ignore the truth found in God’s inspired Word, the Bible. They replace it with human teachings and traditions. But Jehovah is not pleased with those who “disregard the commandment of God.” (Read Mark 7:9.) On the other hand, we bring joy to his heart when we stick to the Bible and follow its advice.

**2. How should we worship Jehovah?**

As our Creator, Jehovah deserves our exclusive devotion. (Revelation 4:11) This means that we must love him and worship only him, without the use of any idol, image, or icon.—Read Isaiah 42:8.

Our worship must be “holy and acceptable” to Jehovah. (Romans 12:1) This means that we need to live by his moral standards. For example, those who love Jehovah love and follow his standards for marriage. And they avoid harmful practices, such as the use of tobacco or the misuse of drugs or alcohol.

**3. Why should we worship Jehovah with fellow believers?**

Our weekly meetings give us the opportunity to “praise Jehovah . . . in the congregation.” (Psalm 111:1, 2) One way we do this is by singing praises to God. (Read Psalm 104:33.) Jehovah asks us to attend meetings because he loves us and he knows that they will help us

to enjoy life forever. When we meet together for encouragement, we benefit ourselves.

- (James 1:27) The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world.
- (John 17:17) Sanctify them by means of the truth; your word is truth.
- (Mark 7:9) Further, he said to them: “You skillfully disregard the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.
- (Revelation 4:11) “You are worthy, Jehovah our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they came into existence and were created.”
- (Isaiah 42:8) I am Jehovah. That is my name; I give my glory to no one else, Nor my praise to graven images.
- (Romans 12:1) Therefore, I appeal to you by the compassions of God, brothers, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, a sacred service with your power of reason.
- (Psalm 111:1, 2) Praise Jah! I will praise Jehovah with all my heart In the assembled group of upright ones and in the congregation. 2 The works of Jehovah are great; They are studied by all those finding pleasure in them.
- (Psalm 104:33) I will sing to Jehovah throughout my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.

**LIVING AS CHRISTIANS**

Song 20

**8. How Can We Prepare for the Memorial?**  
**(15 min.) Discussion.**

In obedience to Jesus' command, on Sunday, March 24, we will commemorate the death of Jesus, which involved history's two greatest expressions of love. (Lu 22:19; Joh 3:16; 15:13) How can we prepare for this special occasion?

- Have an enthusiastic share in the campaign to invite people to the special talk and the Memorial. Make a list of acquaintances, and invite them. If any live outside your territory, consult jw.org to find the time and location of the meetings in their area
- During March and April, increase your activity in the ministry. Can you auxiliary pioneer with the goal of either 15 or 30 hours?
- On March 18, begin considering the important events that occurred during the final week of Jesus' life on earth. You can determine how much material to read each day from the "2024 Memorial Bible Reading Schedule" on pages 6-7
- On the day of the Memorial, watch the special Morning Worship program on jw.org
- At the Memorial, warmly welcome newcomers and inactive ones. Make yourself available to answer questions afterward. Arrange to call on attenders to further their interest
- Before and after the Memorial, meditate on the ransom

Play the VIDEO Remember Jesus' Death. Then ask the audience:

How can we use this video during the Memorial campaign?

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- (Luke 22:19) Also, he took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "This means my body, which is to be given in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me."
- (John 3:16) "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.
- (John 15:13) No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends.

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

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bt chap. 6 ¶18-24, box on p. 48

Paragraph 18

(2 Timothy 2:15) Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright.

(Acts 7:2) Stephen replied: "Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our forefather Abraham while he was in Mes·o·po·ta'mi-a, before he took up residence in Ha'ran,

(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.

Paragraph 19

(Acts 7:51-53) "Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you are always resisting the holy spirit; as your forefathers did, so you do. 52 Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? Yes, they killed those who announced in advance the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become, 53 you who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it."

(Acts 7:54-8:3) Well, at hearing these things, they were infuriated in their hearts and began to grind their teeth at him. 55 But he, being full of holy spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand, 56 and he said: "Look! I see the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God's right hand." 57 At this they cried out at the top of their voices and put their hands over their ears and rushed at him all together. 58 After throwing him outside the city,

they began stoning him. The witnesses laid down their outer garments at the feet of a young man called Saul. 59 As they were stoning Stephen, he made this appeal: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then, kneeling down, he cried out with a strong voice: "Jehovah, do not charge this sin against them." And after saying this, he fell asleep in death.

8 Saul, for his part, approved of his murder. On that day great persecution arose against the congregation that was in Jerusalem; all except the apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a. 2 But devout men carried Stephen away to bury him, and they made a great mourning over him. 3 Saul, though, began to ravage the congregation. He would invade one house after another, dragging out both men and women and turning them over to prison.

Paragraph 21

(Mark 14:62) Then Jesus said: "I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Paragraph 22

(John 11:25) Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life;

(Acts 7:59, 60) As they were stoning Stephen, he made this appeal: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then, kneeling down, he cried out with a strong voice: "Jehovah, do not charge this sin against them." And after saying this, he fell asleep in death.

Paragraph 23

(John 5:28, 29) Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, and those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment.

## Paragraph 24

(Acts 22:20) and when the blood of Stephen your witness was being spilled, I was standing by and approving and guarding the outer garments of those doing away with him.'

(1 Timothy 1:13) although formerly I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man. Nevertheless, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and with a lack of faith.

(Acts 7:48) However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands, just as the prophet says:

(Acts 17:24) The God who made the world and all the things in it, being, as he is, Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in handmade temples;

(Hebrews 9:24) For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, so that he now appears before God on our behalf.

BOX on 48

(Luke 24:48) You are to be witnesses of these things.

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a, and to the most distant part of the earth."

(Acts 22:20) and when the blood of Stephen your witness was being spilled, I was standing by and approving and guarding the outer garments of those doing away with him.'

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)
- Song 73 and Prayer