

No. 26 Do You Matter to God?

PLEASE NOTE: Warmly show the audience that Jehovah cares personally about each of his faithful servants. If we respond to his love and choose to serve him, he will draw ever closer to us

DOES GOD CARE ABOUT US? (12 min.)

We live in a harsh, loveless world

If fellow humans seem to care little about us, we may begin to think that God feels the same way

Jehovah God's feelings are not influenced by how people may feel about us [Read Isaiah 55:8, 9]

Jehovah is motivated by love in all that he does (1Jo 4:8)

We see evidence of God's love in the way he provides for mankind (Ac 14:16, 17)

Such goodness benefits all humans, regardless of race, nationality, religion, or character (Ps 145:9)

He created the earth with much beauty and variety

Our senses enable us to enjoy God's gifts (Ps 139:14; Jas 1:17)

Ultimately, we owe every happy moment in our life to God's love

Motivated by love, Jehovah took the initiative to open the way for imperfect humans to have a close relationship with him [Read 1 John 4:9, 10, 19]

He sent His Son, His greatest gift, for the sake of all mankind (Joh 3:16)

Although the ransom is available to all, each of us must choose whether to accept God's gift

DOES GOD CARE ABOUT YOU PERSONALLY? (13 min.)

As you take steps to respond to God's love, Jehovah will draw close to you personally [Read James 4:8]

He draws you to himself through the Bible's message and by his holy spirit (Joh 6:44; w13 5/1 14)

He invites you to pray to him, and he listens empathetically (Ps 65:2; Isa 63:9)

He applies the ransom in your behalf and forgives your sins (Ps 86:5; Ga 2:20)

Jehovah highly values each person who draws close to him (Mt 10:29-31)

God's Word teaches us what God appreciates in each individual (1Ch 28:9)

Jehovah sifts the good from the bad in us, cherishing our good works and qualities (Heb 6:10)

Jehovah wants his servants to understand how precious they are to him

Feeling that we are worthless is discouraging and dangerous (Pr 24:10)

When the prophet Daniel felt weak, an angel reminded him that he was precious to Jehovah (Da 10:16-19)

If you serve Jehovah, you can reassure your heart with this truth: You are precious to him! (1Jo 3:19, 20)

HOW CAN YOU DRAW CLOSER TO GOD NOW? (5 min.)

Listen to Jehovah as your loving Father

Study and meditate on his Word, always thinking about what you are learning about your Father (Joh 17:3)

Ask yourself, 'What appealing qualities do I see in all of Jehovah's words and actions?'

Respond to Jehovah's love by loving him in return

As you study the Bible, look for ways to apply what God is telling you (Jas 1:22-25)

What can you do to reflect God's qualities and thus draw closer to him? (Eph 5:1)

May you continue to build a bond of love with your heavenly Father that will grow stronger forever (Ps 16:11)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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