

## ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF YOUR SPIRITUAL NEED?

### *Note to the speaker:*

Emphasize the proper way to satisfy one's spiritual need. Provide encouragement and practical suggestions for overcoming obstacles that could prevent spiritual progress

### **ALL HUMANS HAVE A SPIRITUAL NEED** (4 min.)

Jesus indicated that all humans have an innate spiritual need [**Read Matthew 5:3**]

We desire to find meaning in life and answers to life's deep questions (*w13* 4/1 6)

People attempt to satisfy their spiritual need in a wide variety of ways (*w07* 8/1 3)

Various religious teachings and ideas about spirituality conflict with one another

Logically, they cannot all be true and thus cannot all satisfy our spiritual need

### **HOW TO SATISFY YOUR SPIRITUAL NEED** (13 min.)

Jesus promised that "those hungering and thirsting for righteousness" would be filled [**Read Matthew 5:6**]

To thirst for righteousness means to desire what is right according to God's standards

Satisfying our spiritual need requires looking to our Creator for guidance

Jehovah God does not want or expect humans to grope blindly for spiritual truth (Ps 32:8; Ac 17:26, 27)

God's inspired guidance for mankind is found in the Bible (2Ti 3:16)

Jesus often directed attention to God's written Word (Mt 4:4, 7, 10; Lu 10:25-28)

The Bible is far superior to any other religious book (*w12* 6/15 27-28 ¶8-9)

To satisfy our spiritual need, we must be diligent students of the Bible and apply its message in our life (Jas 1:22-25)

Because our Creator knows what is best for us, his moral standards promote our well-being (Ps 19:7-10)

When we follow God's guidance, we gain his approval and can become his friends (Ps 15:1, 2; Jas 2:23)

Attempting to fill our spiritual need in some other way will not bring the same satisfaction

Properly satisfying our spiritual need provides us with a sure hope for the future

Jesus said that "the Kingdom of the heavens" belongs to "those conscious of their spiritual need" (Mt 5:3)

A limited number will rule with Jesus in God's heavenly Kingdom (Lu 12:32)

Many more will enjoy everlasting life on earth under the rule of God's Kingdom (Mt 25:34)

### **OBSTACLES TO SATISFYING OUR SPIRITUAL NEED** (10 min.)

Despite having a spiritual need, many today fail to take the proper steps to satisfy it

As Jesus foretold, some are distracted by everyday affairs of life (Mt 24:3, 37-39)

Examining Bible prophecy can strengthen our conviction that we are living in "the last days" and need to take urgent action (2Ti 3:1-5)

Some hear the Bible's message and initially react favorably to it but then fail to progress spiritually

[Read and discuss the various obstacles described at Matthew 13:3-8, 19-23]

Such obstacles can be overcome by strengthening our appreciation for the wisdom of Bible truth (*w03* 2/1 8-13)

Some view the Bible's moral guidance as out of step with modern society or too difficult to follow

The world becomes more and more permissive concerning moral standards, not because humans are becoming more enlightened, but because wicked spirits have much influence (1Jo 5:19; Re 12:9, 12)

With help from Jehovah, it is possible to live a clean, happy life in harmony with his righteous standards (1Co 6:11)

### **MAKE IT YOUR PRIORITY TO SATISFY YOUR SPIRITUAL NEED** (3 min.)

Although effort is required to satisfy your spiritual need, such effort leads to happiness (Mt 5:3)

Make it your priority to study the Bible and attend Christian meetings regularly (Mt 6:33)

Help your family members and others to be conscious of their spiritual need and to find the true source of spiritual satisfaction (Re 22:17)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting March 2017. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)