Jesus, the Ultimate Hero



Sabbath FOR STUDY

- >> Memory Text: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV).
- Our Beliefs, no. 4, The Son: "He [Jesus] lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah."
- » Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 134, 135

WE KNOW HIM!

When Efe was a child, he was drawn to adventure stories. This fascination continued through his secondary school years. In high school his father would give him money to buy textbooks, and with the left-over change, Efe would purchase novels. He enjoyed unraveling plots and mysteries. When Efe enrolled in university-level studies, he became acquainted with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He experienced the joy of salvation as he learned about Jesus through His Word and was baptized!

Through the years Efe had built up a small library that mostly contained novels. After his conversion, he discovered that such books were not helping him grow spiritually. Thus, he decided to review all the titles in his little library and burn any book that he knew had a negative effect on his appetite for spending time with Jesus in prayer and studying His Word. So, into the fire went the novels!

Efe believes that God rewarded his stand for Jesus because shortly afterward he received a shipment of books by Ellen G. White. He had requested some used or donated books, and in reply he received more than he requested. Efe donated in turn many of those books to others. Then he wrote, asking for more, and again he received boxes full of precious books. The second shipment contained a great variety of Ellen G. White's books. They were all hardcover books, designed to last! Efe now had volumes of books about Jesus and the love of God in his library that he could share with others who were thirsty for the water of life.

Efe has a deep concern for today's young people who are missing the blessing of Christ-centered books. He writes: "I urge you, dear friend, to read that which nourishes the soul." Take time today to read the Bible and a book by Ellen G. White and you will grow closer to Jesus. In turn He will enable you to be a light for Him in this world!—Adapted from *Encountering God's Grace*, p. 156.

Sunday RESPONDING

- ≫ Read Ephesians 5:1, 2.
- Even adults would find it difficult to stand up and speak of Jesus in certain settings—such as a board meeting. Why do you think this is so? It's not as if He's a bad guy or has a bad rep. When you are asked in school to stand up and talk about your hero, do you say Jesus? If so, why, and if not, why not?
- As Christians, adults and young people alike, sometimes we hesitate to be identified as part of the Jesus Fan Club. From your perspective, why is that? Any suggestions to fix this problem? Share your thoughts.

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE SON

- » Read Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.
- First, Christ left His Father and His heavenly home to come and live among humanity. Second, He loved, cared, and served the people around Him who were suffering. And He wanted to give us an example of how we should live and be of service to others. Third, He suffered and died for sinners. He wanted to give us the opportunity to be restored to God's image. Can there be a better description of a hero?
- » How have Jesus' life, example, and death changed your life?
- > What can you do today to follow Jesus' example of service to your family, neighborhood, school, church, and community?

» Fill in the blanks.

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Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read 1 Peter 2:21.
- Some old Roman coins have a picture of an ox on them. The ox faces two things—an altar and a plow. On the coin is also an inscription that reads: "Ready for either." The ox symbolized the fervor of Rome. It was ready either for the supreme moment of sacrifice on the altar or the long labor of the plow on the farm.
- We can learn something about Christian living from this. Like the ox, ready for both slaughter and service, when you earnestly follow Jesus as your hero, you must be ready for anything. There may be times when you suffer, when you are ridiculed, when you are left alone, when nothing seems to be going your way. After all, Satan will do his best to keep you from Jesus. But in spite of it all, you will be totally content with life. Does this sound strange—hard to believe? But think about it. Ask yourself how much Jesus is worth to you. This week, take time to talk to the adults in your life about the hardships they have faced for the sake of their Christian life.

Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read Luke 2:40.
- » Review the memory text.
- The most important thing about being a part of God's kingdom is knowing that you belong in that kingdom. It is not enough just to feel as if you're part of it some of the time—such as when you are in church or reading your Bible. God's kingdom needs soldiers—ready for battle at any time. Being part of His kingdom means that you believe 100 percent that you belong with Him. No doubts, no maybes. Just confidence in who you are in Him.
- Study the life of Jesus—if not straight from the Bible, remember the stories you've heard growing up. Jesus knew, without doubt, who He was, what He was to do, when He was just 12 years old. Not because He was God, but because He was a kid just like you—but a kid who was always connected to the Person He belonged to. The secret is "connection" with the kingdom through Jesus.

Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

- In this week's lesson we are learning about what makes following Jesus worth our while. Fill in the blanks using the New International Version.
 - 1. "In your ______ with one another, have the same ______ as Christ Jesus: who, being in very ______ God, did not consider ______ with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself ______ by taking the very nature of a ______ being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:5-7, NIV).
 - "For we are God's _____, created in Christ Jesus to do
 _____, which God prepared in _____ for us to _____" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).
 - 3. "Follow God's ______, therefore, as dearly loved ______ and walk in the way of ______, just as Christ ______ us and gave himself up for us as a ______ and ______ to God" (Ephesians 5:1, 2, NIV).
 - 4. "You show that you are a ______ from Christ, the result of our ______, written not with ink but with the ______ of the ______, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of ______ hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NIV).
 - 5. "Though I sit in ______, the Lord will be my _____" (Micah 7:8, NIV).
 - 6. "For even the ______ of Man did not ______ to be served, but to ______" (Mark 10:45, NIV).
 - 7. "And the child grew and became _____; he was _____; with _____, and the _____ of God was on him" (Luke 2:40, NIV).
 - 8. "To this you were called, because Christ ______ for you, ______ you an example, that you should ______ in his ______" (1 Peter 2:21, NIV).

Friday APPLYING

- » Read 2 Corinthians 3:3.
- You believe that Jesus is the answer to all the world's problems. So you decide you will be His publicist, His agent. You are going to sell the ministry of Jesus—now, today, in this society. What would you do? How would you go about it? Would you advertise on TV or the internet? How would your marketing ideas differ from those you would have used if you had been His agent in Jerusalem during Jesus' time?

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