



Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** "God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. . . . These gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 41-44

THE DIFFERENCE OF ONE

One makes a difference. After years of service in South Africa, the famous missionary Robert Moffat returned to Scotland to recruit helpers. When he arrived at the church, he was disappointed that only a small group was there to hear him. What bothered him even more was that only women were there. They wouldn't be able to leave and go as missionaries without their husbands and families. He was hoping to challenge men. Even his text for the sermon was "Unto you, O men, I call" (Proverbs 8:4). Way in the back, in the loft of the church, was a little boy pumping the bellows of the organ. He was too young to be a missionary in Africa, but he listened with great interest. Meanwhile Moffat preached with frustration, knowing that no one in the audience would be following him back to Africa.

But God works in mysterious ways. Years later that little boy who pumped the organ during Moffat's service went and ministered to the unreached tribes of Africa. His name was David Livingstone! Because of David, millions today know Jesus.

One could have made a difference. A Christian baroness lived in the highlands of Nairobi, Kenya. Being very wealthy, she had many people working for her. One was a young boy who ran errands for her. One day the boy came to the baroness saying that he was not going to be working for her anymore and that he would like a reference letter. The baroness was surprised. She paid the boy well. He had a comfortable home. She really liked him. So she offered to pay him more if he'd stay. But the boy replied that he was not leaving for more money. He told her that he had come to work for her three months earlier to observe the ways of a Christian. Now he was ready to work for a Muslim to observe their ways. At the end of the next three months he was going to decide to become a Christian or a Muslim. The baroness was flustered. She began to think of all the things she would have done differently over the past three months had she known she was being watched so closely. And all she could do now was exclaim, "Why didn't you tell me at the beginning?"

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Philippians 4:6, 7.
- » Sometimes surviving in school is all about "camouflage." You try to blend in, not stick out. You don't want to do things that make you seem different. Unfortunately, you cannot be a Christian hero and go unnoticed. There is no such thing as an "invisible" disciple of Jesus. First, with all the pressures in your school and social life, is it even possible to be a hero in the popular sense, and a disciple of Jesus at the same time? If your answer is yes, give at least one example of a situation in which this is possible. If your answer is no, explain why.

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

- » Read Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-16.
- » Jesus is our example. He daily used the gifts and talents He was given. He healed the lame, restored sight and hearing, raised the dead, and preached hope of a better life. In following His example, we are to learn what our gifts and talents are. We are to use our gifts helping others. And we have been given the commission to tell others who Jesus is. We can tell them about a better life—a life without sin, suffering, and death. And we can tell them that Jesus is coming soon and that anyone ready to meet Him will go and live with Him eternally.
- » What are you doing to develop the gifts and talents God has given you?

- » Unscramble the following words and place them where they go in the verse below.

lal	ytiliba	sretsinim	deifirolg	seilppus
kaeps	deviecer	noinimod	retsinim	teepr
sdrawets	selcaro	rehtona	enoyna	yrolg

"As each one has _____ a gift, _____ it to one _____, as good _____ of the manifold grace of God. If _____ speaks, let him _____ as the _____ of God. If anyone _____, let him do it as with the _____ which God _____, that in _____ things God may be _____ through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the _____ and the _____ forever and ever. Amen" (1 _____ 4:10, 11, NKJV).

David Livingstone, missionary to Africa.



Tuesday
REFLECTING

- » Read Hebrews 11.
- » Notice the items reported in the media. Nobody talks about the ordinary, everyday things that go on. The world takes note of things out of the ordinary. And this phenomenon is not limited to this world. Heaven also takes note of the extraordinary that some people will let God do through them. Enoch walked with God, and Heaven noticed. Noah stood out among his peers, and Heaven noticed. Moses led a nation, and Heaven noticed. Throughout history you can find ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Whether those things were stupid or heroic, the world stood up and paid attention.
- » Be a hero of any kind, and the world will surely take notice. But be a hero and an agent for God's kingdom, and both earth and heaven will take notice. What this means is that being a Christian and following God will take you places you have never dreamed of. You will have adventures that you know God led you through. It means God will use you to make a difference in this world and in the next!

Thursday
CONNECTING

- » Read Judges 6.
- » Review the memory text.
- » In Judges 6 an angel visits Gideon, who at the time was hiding from the armies of Midian. He calls upon Gideon to be a mighty warrior and deliver Israel from her captors. Think about that for a minute. An angel asks a guy hiding in a cave to be a mighty warrior and deliver a nation from an entire army of fierce soldiers? It doesn't make sense. But to God it made perfect sense. For He sees us through divine eyes. He sees the potential in us to be used by Him. When God looks at you, He sees a young person full of potential. Will you let God use you and fulfill the plans He has for you?
- » God is still looking for Gideon-type leaders today. They may not be obvious leader material. They may be hiding in a cave. But God sees beyond the cave and into hearts. He can tell who will let themselves be used by His Spirit. Today's war is not one fought on a battlefield—it is one fought between good and evil. And it is not a war over land, but one fought over souls. You are an agent in this battle. God used Gideon thousands of years ago, and He can use you today. Will you join His team and let Him use you?

Wednesday
BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » This week you are learning that God is looking for persons of integrity. If you find yourself doubting that you could ever do anything great, remember the stories in the Bible. They are about people, most of them just as ordinary as you and me. What made them stand out as heroes? What kept some from becoming heroes? Fill in the blanks of the Bible verses that follow; then on the line following the text, answer this question for each verse: What did they do or not do that made them heroes?
- 1. "I have found _____ son of Jesse a man after my own _____; he _____ do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22, NIV). _____
- 2. "And the boy _____ continued to _____ in _____ and in _____ with the LORD and with people" (1 Samuel 2:26, NIV). _____
- 3. "The king talked with them, and he _____ _____ to _____, _____, _____ and _____" (Daniel 1:19, NIV). _____
- 4. "Now _____ was a very _____ man, more _____ than anyone else on the _____ of the _____" (Numbers 12:3, NIV). _____
- 5. "Ahab son of Omri did more _____ in the eyes of the LORD than _____ of _____ before him" (1 Kings 16:30, NIV). _____
- 6. "Eli's sons were _____; they had _____ for the LORD" (1 Samuel 2:12, NIV). _____
- 7. "There was a man _____ from God whose name was _____. He came as a _____ to _____ concerning that _____, so that _____ him all might believe" (John 1:6, 7, NIV). _____
- 8. "Therefore _____ and _____ disciples of all _____, baptizing them in the _____ of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____" (Matthew 28:19, NIV). _____

Friday
APPLYING

- » Read Matthew 28:19, 20.
- » Good disciples make good heroes. So figure out if you have what it takes to be a disciple and a hero. Below are texts that describe the disciples of Jesus. First, decide on the trait that the text is describing. Next, on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being nothing, 10 being a lot), mark how much of this quality you think you have. Finally, ask yourself—What does this say about the kind of disciple Jesus is looking for?

TEXT	DISCIPLE TRAIT	HOW MUCH OF IT DO YOU HAVE
1. Matthew 10:42	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. Mark 4:40	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. Luke 12:22	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. John 8:31	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. Matthew 17:14-21	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
6. John 13:35	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7. Luke 11:1-4	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. Matthew 16:24-26	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

