

our suggestions for parents

Dear Parents,

Every child is a gift from the Lord, and unique in His purpose for the kingdom. Children can touch the lives of others unlike any other person. Children show us the Lord in many ways—if we will stop to notice. Scripture even calls us to become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:16, 17). Since the Lord created every child unique, not all children learn the same way. It is important that we, as mature adults, embrace these differences in order to expand their knowledge of God.

The Lord pursues each child with tender love. The most important thing you as a parent can do is spend time with your children, modeling your trust in the Lord. Below are some suggestions for parents that you can use with your children to help them understand the Lord's message in their Sabbath School Bible study guide.

- Have family worship, modeling your commitment to the Lord. Include a brief thought for your growing child/youth to think about during the day.
- Read the Bible together. If some of the words are too difficult, take turns reading and let them read the words they know.
- Study the lesson with your child/children during the week in preparation for Sabbath School. Knowing that the lesson will be reviewed on Sabbath in their classes will strengthen in children a sense of accountability and will facilitate a deeper spiritual understanding of the content.
- Download the audio lessons at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1 so your child/youth can hear the lesson on their own. Use DVDs and CDs that will help children understand the lessons (e.g., Bible stories, *Your Story Hour*, and even the Bible on CD)—this works great with children who struggle with reading in their Bible courses. Technology is great for students in general, and it will be particularly

beneficial for students with special needs, providing tools that will assist them in becoming more independent learners.

- If you have a child with special needs, you may be interested to search for ideas, accommodations, and tools available for them at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/article/4/resources#.VGUZYdSxx4.
- Talk with your children about the lesson. For example, where do they see the lesson being applied in their daily lives? Whom did they see reflect Jesus today? How has the power text (memory verse) helped them with issues they're facing?
- Use a simple activity with the lesson. The children's lessons themselves contain some excellent ideas for family worship activities.
- Think about how your child learns best, and adapt the lesson to that way of learning. It could be auditory (listening), visual (seeing), or tactile (manipulating and touching), or it may be all three ways (multi-sensory)! Use what works.
- Talk with their Sabbath School teachers and let them know what you are doing at home, so they can reinforce it in Sabbath School. In return, support their efforts by encouraging your children to memorize the power text and to make it a habit to bring their Bible to church on Sabbath. By doing this, you provide positive affirmation of their good efforts, a feeling that each child needs to experience to grow spiritually.
- Talk with the pastor when your child is ready to make a commitment to the Lord. Let him or her know what studies you have completed with your child, and ask what he or she would recommend prior to baptism.

Our children are important to the Lord, and He wants each one to be successful. It is our privilege to see that we return to God what He has given us.

Lesson 1 Year C Qtr 2

Always There

(The Holy Spirit is a constant helper)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God sends the Holy Spirit to help us.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 5, God and the Holy Spirit: "God the eternal Spirit . . . draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 14:15-17; Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-10; The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 2:1-12

5 Ellen White references
The Desire of Ages, chap. 12, 13, pp. 114-131; *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 5, pp. 47-56. "The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race" (p. 49).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 9, pp. 187-192 ("Angels With a Promise"); vol. 10, pp. 9-13 ("The Flame From Heaven"); vol. 10, pp. 14-16 ("Men on Fire")

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Acts 2:4 (power text)
Monday—John 14:15-17
Tuesday—Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-10
Wednesday—Acts 2:1-12; John 3:8
Thursday—Galatians 5:22, 23
Friday—Acts 4:31

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- What evidence do I have that the Holy Spirit is guiding my life?
- In what areas of my life do I need the Holy Spirit's transforming power?
- How does the Holy Spirit help me?
- What fruit of the Spirit do I need most?
- How could I recognize the Holy Spirit's voice when I am tempted?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Talk about the qualities you think are important in a friend.
- Create a collage representing the fruit of the Spirit. Memorize the fruits of the Spirit.
- During worship let each family member share a time when the Holy Spirit helped them.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul decides to preach to the Gentiles. God wants us to accept all people.

Lesson 2 Year C Qtr 2

Of Equal Value

(Aquila and Priscilla help Paul)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

God's love compels us to be accepting of others.

2 Power Text (memory verse)

"Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ: "We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 18; Letters to People and Churches: Ephesians 2:11-22

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 24, pp. 243-254. "Paul realized that his sufficiency was not in himself, but in the presence of the Holy Spirit, whose gracious influence filled his heart, bringing every thought into subjection to Christ" (p. 251).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 93-96 ("Seekers After Truth")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Ephesians 2:13 (power text); Acts 18:1-17

Monday—Ephesians 2:11-13

Tuesday—Acts 18; Matthew 1:18, 19; Luke 5:18-24; John 1:45, 46

Wednesday—Ephesians 2:14-17

Thursday—Matthew 9:10-12

Friday—Ephesians 2:18, 19

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How do I feel when I am treated unjustly?
- What are my fears when I interact with people?
- How could I reach out to people who are different from me?
- What are some barriers between me and others?
- How will I, with God's help, seek to break down these barriers?
- What choices will I make today that will magnify the name of Jesus?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Talk about times you felt left out.
- Create something that represents how Jesus breaks down barriers.
- As a family, include someone you don't often talk to in your activities.

8 Coming up next week!

Paul counsels the Corinthian church on how to deal with differences. God will help us solve our differences too.

Lesson 3 Year C Qtr 2

Family Squabble

(Paul calls the Corinthian church to unity)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.

2 Power Text (memory verse)

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (1 Peter 3:8).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church: "In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, . . . and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: 1 Corinthians 1-3

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chaps. 29, 30, pp. 298-322. "Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who yields fully to the Lord is placed in direct touch with agencies that enable him to overcome" (p. 299).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 125-127 ("Paul's Love Letters")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—1 Peter 3:8 (power text)

Monday—1 Corinthians 1:4-7

Tuesday—1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Wednesday—1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Thursday—1 Corinthians 3:3-9

Friday—1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How do I reflect God's character in my life?
- What does Jesus' example teach me about interacting with others?
- How do I seek to foster unity in my church?
- How could I bring peace where there are divisions?
- In what ways could I support my church?
- How could I nurture a sense of community in my family and in church?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Discuss why Paul complimented the Corinthians before he criticized and counseled them.
- Write a letter to someone telling them why you admire them.
- At worship, plan how to improve unity in your home, school, workplace, and church.

8 Coming up next week!

Paul describes the kind of person a Christian should be. The choices we make show who we worship.

Lesson 4 Year C Qtr 2

Measuring Up (Paul describes the qualities of an elder)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We reveal God's love by living God's way.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
"The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11,12).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 22, Christian Behavior: "For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: Titus 1

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chaps. 9, 29, 31, pp. 87-96, 298-301, 323, 324. "In the work of setting things in order in all the churches, and ordaining suitable men to act as officers, the apostles held to the high standards of leadership outlined in the Old Testament Scriptures" (p. 95).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 152-155 ("The Runaway Slave")

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Titus 2:11, 12 (power text);
Titus 1
Monday—Titus 1:6
Tuesday—Titus 1:7
Wednesday—Titus 1:8
Thursday—Titus 1:9
Friday—Titus 2:7, 8

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How could I live like Jesus?
- What will others see in my life that is different?
- How do my choices show my family that I love Jesus?
- In what ways do I see Jesus living in me?
- What are some leadership qualities that I wish to develop?
- How may I serve God and others with the skills and gifts He gave me?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Create a poem or song expressing your praise to God.
- Pray for the leaders in your church.
- As a family, list the leadership qualities each of you has.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul shares with us the true meaning of love. God wants us to love others as He loves us.

Lesson 5 Year C Qtr 2

Love, the Greatest Gift (God's love is His greatest gift to us)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God's family members show love to one another.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 23, Marriage and the Family: "God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: 1 Corinthians 13

5 Ellen White references
Steps to Christ, chap. 1, pp. 11-15; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, pp. 1091, 1092. "Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. . . . His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes" (p. 12).

6 The Bible Story references
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 128-131 ("Love at Its Best")

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—1 Corinthians 13:13 (power text); Deuteronomy 6:5-9
Monday—1 Corinthians 13
Tuesday—1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Wednesday—1 Corinthians 13:1-3
Thursday—1 Corinthians 13:11-13
Friday—1 Corinthians 13

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How much time do I spend each day meditating on the love of Jesus?
- What actions in my life reveal my intentional love for those around me?
- How much do I desire to truly love the way Jesus loves?
- In what practical ways do I show God's love in my relationships?
- How do I express my love for my family members?
- What can I do to show God's love to those who seem unlovable?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Discuss why we should read 1 Corinthians 13 each day.
- Do something kind for someone.
- During worship, share what you love about the other family members.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul and Barnabas face troubles in Iconium. When we follow God's will, He will help us.

Lesson 6 Year C Qtr 2

Too Good Not to Share (Paul and Barnabas in Iconium)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We follow Jesus when we serve others in spite of obstacles.

2 Power Text (memory verse)

"With the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition" (1 Thessalonians 2:2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: "As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 14:1-7

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 18, pp. 177-179. "In every age and in every land, God's messengers have been called upon to meet bitter opposition from those who deliberately chose to reject the light of heaven" (p. 179).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 69-75 ("Mistaken for Gods")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—1 Thessalonians 2:2 (power text); 1 Chronicles 29:11

Monday—Acts 1:8; Acts 14:1

Tuesday—Acts 14:2

Wednesday—Acts 14:3; Acts 19:11, 12; John 4:48; Acts 5:15, 16

Thursday—Acts 13; Acts 14

Friday—Acts 14:1-7

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- What obstacles have I faced because of my faith?
- How will I serve God in spite of difficulties?
- What would I do if I were persecuted for my faith in Jesus?
- Do I remember to thank God for His constant presence in my life?
- How do I respond to opposition?
- What could I do to help those who are facing persecution for their beliefs?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Type "religious persecution" in an Internet search engine. Discuss what you learn.
- For family worship, read Acts 14:1-7 and *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 18, p. 179.
- Make a commitment to serve God in spite of obstacles you encounter.

8 Coming up next week!

Paul and Barnabas tell the people it is God who works miracles. In all things we should give God all the glory.

Lesson 7 Year C Qtr 2

Mistaken Identity (Paul and Barnabas in Lystra)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
When we give God the honor, others learn to worship Him.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them” (Acts 14:15).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 3, The Father: “God the eternal Father is . . . just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 14:8-18

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 18, pp. 179-187. “Through these works [nature] of the Almighty, the apostles led the minds of the heathen to a contemplation of the great Ruler of the universe” (p. 180).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 69-75 (“Mistaken for Gods”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Acts 14:15 (power text);
Revelation 4:11
Monday—Acts 14:8-10
Tuesday—Acts 14:11, 12
Wednesday—Acts 14:13, 14
Thursday—Acts 14:15-18
Friday—Psalm 103

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How honest am I in turning the glory to God when others praise me?
- Do I want others to notice the things I do?
- How satisfied am I when I serve God?
- What could I say to direct people’s attention to God when they praise me?
- What is my motivation when I do something in church?
- Do I serve God to bring glory only to Him?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Use an encyclopedia, concordance, or Bible dictionary to find out as much as possible about altars.
- Think of at least two people your family can help this week. Make a plan.
- Commit to having family worship every day. Discuss how it can help to remind you of God’s goodness to you.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul is warned about what will happen to him in Jerusalem. We use our talents and gifts in service to God and others.

Lesson 8 Year C Qtr 2

A Chain of Grace (Paul in Caesarea)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We join God in His work when we use our spiritual gifts to serve others.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
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” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 21:1-16

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 37, pp. 389-398. “The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate” (p. 393).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 106-110 (“Sermon on the Stairs”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

- Sunday—1 Peter 4:10 (power text); Ephesians 4:11-13
- Monday—Acts 21:1-6
- Tuesday—Acts 21:7-14
- Wednesday—Acts 21:15, 16
- Thursday—Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28-31
- Friday—1 Corinthians 13

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- Do I recognize God’s gifts in my life?
- How could I be a link in the chain of God’s grace?
- What gifts has God given me to use for Him?
- How can I use my gift(s) today to show someone God’s grace?
- How could I show my gratitude for the gifts God gave me?
- How does God want me to use the talents He has given me?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- During worship, discuss the various gifts each family member has.
- Think of a way to use the gift of hospitality to serve someone this week.
- As a family, brainstorm ways to combine your gifts to do a family service project.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul is arrested. By the power of God’s grace we can witness wherever we are.

Lesson 9 Year C Qtr 2

A Key Witness (Paul is arrested)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We serve others by telling them what Jesus means to us.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
“I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission: “The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ. . . . This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 21:17-22:29

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts to the Apostles, chap. 38, pp. 399-418. “While the Jewish leaders professed to have great zeal for the honor of God and the good of Israel, they were enemies of both” (p. 417).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 106-110 (“Sermon on the Stairs”); vol. 10, pp. 111-113 (“Boy With a Secret”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Acts 20:24 (power text); Acts 21:17-36

Monday—Acts 21:37-40

Tuesday—Acts 22:1-5

Wednesday—Acts 22:6-12

Thursday—Acts 22:13-22

Friday—Acts 9:1-18; Acts 22:1-10; Acts 26:4-18

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How do I recognize God’s leading in my life?
- What have I experienced about God that I can share with others?
- How willing am I to share my testimony, my story with others?
- What are some specific ways I could serve others?
- How could I gain the courage of Paul to share my faith with others?
- What is the story of my walk with Jesus that I am willing to share with others?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Have each family member write their own testimony.
- For worship on Friday night, have each family member share their testimony.
- Think of a person outside of your family with whom you could share your story and do that.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul shares words of encouragement in a letter to Timothy. We also can encourage others to serve God.

Lesson 10 Year C Qtr 2

A Friend Indeed (Paul praises God)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God wants us to know Him personally.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
“The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 1:14).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 4, God the Son: “God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. . . . He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 49, pp. 498-508. “What the church needs in these days of peril is an army of workers who, like Paul, have educated themselves for usefulness, who have a deep experience in the things of God, and who are filled with earnestness and zeal” (p. 507).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 149-151 (“Fight the Good Fight”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—1 Timothy 1:14 (power text);
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Monday—1 Timothy 1:12
Tuesday—1 Timothy 1:13
Wednesday—1 Timothy 1:14, 15
Thursday—1 Timothy 1:16
Friday—1 Timothy 1:17

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- For what things am I thankful to God?
- What does it mean to me to receive grace?
- How has God’s grace changed my life?
- How will I show my gratitude for His amazing grace?
- Who are people I know that need to hear about God’s love?
- How will I share God’s grace with others?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Discuss three things that God’s grace has done for you.
- Sing “Amazing Grace,” thinking about each word and how it applies to you.
- Tell a friend how much God loves you in spite of your past mistakes and failures.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul is imprisoned and sentenced to death in Rome. In spite of his trials and suffering, he remains faithful to Jesus.

Lesson 11

Year C Qtr 2

Keep Talking

(Paul trusts God amid hardships)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We speak about God's grace wherever we are.

2 Power Text (memory verse)

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you" (Acts 18:9, 10).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: "In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The History of the Early Christian Church: Acts 9:15, 16; Acts 20:24; Letters to People and Churches 2 Timothy 4:6-8

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 50, pp. 509-513. "Until his latest hour the life of Paul testified to the truth. . . . All who associated with him felt the influence of his union with Christ" (pp. 510, 511).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 149-151 ("Fight the Good Fight")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Acts 18:9, 10 (power text); Acts 9:15, 16, 20-24

Monday—Acts 16:22-34

Tuesday—Acts 21:20-40

Wednesday—Acts 23:9-11

Thursday—Acts 28:17-20

Friday—Acts 9:15; Romans 5:3-5

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- What does Paul's example teach about patience and faithfulness in suffering?
- What did I learn from my past difficulties?
- In what ways can my problems teach me to trust God?
- How can I be thankful to God even when I face challenges?
- What is God's purpose in allowing difficulties in my life?
- How can I continue to be faithful to God regardless of my circumstances?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Share with your family members about a time God helped you share His grace with others.
- Talk about Paul's perseverance in completing the task God assigned to him. Then talk about what you think God calls you to do for Him.
- Pray for people who face trials while sharing their faith.

8 Coming up next week!

God reveals Himself to us through nature and through His Word. We learn more about His love as we spend time with Him.

Lesson 12 Year C Qtr 2

Windows to God (Nature and the Bible reveal God)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
“The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul” (Psalm 19:7). “May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 6, Creation: “God [is Creator of all things and] has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
Old Testament, The Books of Poetry:
Psalm 19

5 Ellen White reference
Steps to Christ, chap. 1, pp. 9-16. “Nature and revelation alike testify of God’s love” (p. 9).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 8, pp. 58-61 (“Lessons From Little Things”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the

core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Psalm 19:1, 7, 14 (power text);
Isaiah 45:12

Monday—Psalm 19:1-6

Tuesday—Psalm 19:7-11

Wednesday—Psalm 19:12-14

Thursday—Psalm 119

Friday—Psalm 19:1-14

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- How does God reveal Himself to me?
- Are there lessons in nature that God wants to teach me?
- In what ways do I look for new and fresh revelations of God in my life?
- Do I “listen” to God when He speaks?
- What message does nature communicate about God’s love to me?
- How can I help others recognize God as the Creator of everything in nature?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- Research something about nature by watching, reading, or searching on the Internet.
- As a family, compare Psalm 19 and Psalm 119 during worship.
- Share what you have learned about God through nature.

8 Coming up next week!
God shares His plans. One of God’s special gifts to us is the gift of prophecy.

Lesson 13 Year C Qtr 2

God's Special Messenger (Ellen White's writings are the gift of prophecy)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God gave a special gift of prophecy for the church today.

2 Power Text (memory verse)
"Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 18, The Gift of Prophecy: "The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White"—the Lord's messenger (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10

5 Ellen White reference
Early Writings, pp. vii-32; *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 5, pp. 47-56. "With the consecrated worker for God, in whatever place he may be, the Holy Spirit abides" (p. 51).

6 The Bible Story reference
No corresponding story from *The Bible Story*

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—Amos 3:7 (power text); Revelation 22:8, 9
Monday—Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10
Tuesday—Joel 2:28-31
Wednesday—Matthew 24:11, 24
Thursday—Acts 11:27-30; Acts 13:1, 2; Ephesians 2:20, 21
Friday—John 15:15

Use the following **questions** as discussion starters with your family:

- What effect does God's gift of prophecy have in my life?
- Am I willing to ask God to open my heart and mind to the blessings of His special gift?
- How does the Spirit of Prophecy help me to know God more intimately?
- How does the Spirit of Prophecy help me in my day to day living?
- What books written by Ellen White do I plan to read?
- How will I share with others what I learned about God's gift of prophecy?

Choose from the following **activities** to help energize your time together:

- List the methods of communication God uses to reach us.
- As a family, discuss God's purpose with visions and how you would respond if God gave you a vision.
- Share what you have learned about the importance of the Spirit of Prophecy.

8 Coming up next week!
God is at the center of the world's creation. We acknowledge Him as our Creator when we worship Him.



ourbeliefs taken from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*

1 The Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.)

2 The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.)

3 The Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 4:35; Ps. 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Rev. 4:11.)

4 The Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and

the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1-3, 9, 13; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; 8:1, 2.)

5 The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.)

6 Creation

God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh

day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished, it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; 5; 11; Exod. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12, 18; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2; 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.)

7 The Nature of Humanity

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position. The image of God in them was marred, and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15, 3; Ps. 8:4-8; 51:5, 10; 58:3; Jer. 17:9; Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 3:4; 4:7, 8, 11, 20.)

8 The Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being,

our beliefs continued

endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9.)

9 The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15;

1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.)

10 The Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit, we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Substitute and Example. This saving faith comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him, we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 5:6-10; 8:1-4, 14-17; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.)

11 Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil

powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

12 The Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not

having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.)

13 The Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Micah 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.)

14 Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27;

Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.)

15 Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.)

16 The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (Matt. 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Rev. 3:20.)

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. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, 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. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.)

18 The Gift of Prophecy

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church, and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Joel 2:28, 29; Amos 3:7; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)

19 The Law of God

The great principles of God's law

our beliefs continued

are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.)

20 The Sabbath The gracious Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3; Exod. 20:8-11; 31:13-17; Lev. 23:32;

Deut. 5:12-15; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Matt. 12:1-12; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:16; Heb. 4:1-11.)

21 Stewardship We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings, and by returning tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. Stewards rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:71.)

22 Christian Behavior We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to re-create in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christ-like purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet

possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Gen. 7:2; Exod. 20:15; Lev. 11:1-47; Ps. 106:3; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 10:5; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 2:4; 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.)

23 Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring guide who wants them to become members of

His body, the family of God, which embraces both single and married persons. (Gen. 2:18-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9, 12; Mark 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:7, 10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.)

24 Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that the Lord set up and not humans. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. At His ascension He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the holy place of the earthly sanctuary. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary. It is a work of investigative judgment, which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of

this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Lev. 16; Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Heb. 1:3; 2:16, 17; 4:14-16; 8:1-5; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; Rev. 8:3-5; 11:19; 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:11, 12.)

25 The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected and, together with the righteous living, will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is near. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.)

26 Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, a resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Rev. 20:1-10.)

27 Millennium and the End of Sin

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected and, with Satan and his angels, will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Jer. 4:23-26; Ezek. 28:18, 19; Mal. 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Rev. 20; Rev. 21:1-5.)

28 The New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love, and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.)

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference session, when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language to express the teachings of God's Holy Word.

www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/indExod.html.