



## MADE WITHOUT WAX (Being Real, Part 2) Coming Home

June 4, 2022

### 1 PREPARING

#### A. THE SOURCE

**Acts 24:16 (NIV)** • “So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”

**2 Corinthians 1:12 (NIV)** • “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.”

**2 Corinthians 2:17 (NIV)** • “Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.”

**2 Corinthians 8:8, 9 (NIV)** • “I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

**Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)** • “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him

who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

**Philippians 1:15-18 (NIV)** • “It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.”

**1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13 (NIV)** • “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”

**1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)** • “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

**Philippians 2:19-23 (NIV)** • “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for

their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.”

**Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)** • “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

(See additional passages in student material.)

## B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “MADE WITHOUT WAX”

Made without wax is the description of someone who is sincere, genuine, or authentic. In New Testament times dishonest people would patch broken pottery and sculptures with wax, then whitewash or paint them to make them appear authentic and whole. When the objects baked in the Middle Eastern sun they would soon fall apart. The genuine article is something made without wax. In this lesson we will focus on becoming sincere or authentic with one another. Owning up to our true self with God might be easier than it is owning up to other people, because we know that He already knows everything. When it comes to our relationships with other people in the church, family, or school, being authentic emerges as one of the more difficult tasks of kingdom citizens. This lesson will focus on stories and sections from the Bible that show people interacting with one another with sincerity and grace.

## C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH “MADE WITHOUT WAX”

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Discover the connection between being real with one another and being real with God.

2. Deepen their confidence in the joy and grace that grow out of communities that practice authenticity.
3. Explore how their personal relationships can become more genuine.

## D. MATERIALS NEEDED

**Beginning** • (Activity A) two identical clear glass saltshakers, one filled with salt, the other with sugar; (Activity B) index cards, pens or pencils.

**Connecting** • Bibles and/or student lessons, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

**Applying** • Bibles.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN

**Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:**

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net))
- >> Service project reports

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students

need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

If you chose to do a similar activity when it was suggested in the first quarter, your lesson will be more effective if you choose Beginning Activity B).

## A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate how difficult it is to really know each other by looking at the surface. As a result of the veneer we so easily wear, we may not know one another as well as we should. To do this we will have students see if they can tell the difference between salt and sugar in saltshakers. You need two identical clear glass saltshakers. Fill one with salt and one with granulated white sugar.

**Get set** • **Say** to the class while holding up the saltshakers: **These are saltshakers! But one of them is sugar. The goal is to be able to look at the saltshaker and see if you can tell which one is the salt. I will ask you to choose which is the salt. Are you ready? I will pass in front of you, show you the saltshakers, and you will need to choose without much delay. You will then open your hand, and I will sprinkle the substance in your hand. Do not taste or smell it until I give you the word.**

**Go** • Go around the room and let them choose. For each person, mix the shakers up behind your back because some will be able to tell whether they have chosen correctly once the substance is in their hand. When everyone has chosen, let them all taste their choice. Ask those who chose correctly to stand. (Usually about 50 percent.)

**Debriefing** • **Ask: How did you make your choice? What qualities did you look for? Did you feel confident or unsure? What was your reaction when you got it right? wrong? What are some lessons this teaches us about how to relate to others?**

## B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • The purpose of this exercise is to get students to play the game “To Tell the Truth.” Give each student an index card and pen or pencil.

**Get set** • Each student will write on an index card five things about themselves that are true but that most people would not know about them, even their close friends. Then they are to write another statement that is untrue, but disguised in such a way as to leave doubt.

You make your own list and read it to them to demonstrate what you are asking them to do. Let them decide which statement about you is untrue. Then have them make their lists.

**Go** • After they have made their lists they can turn them in to you or read them from where they are, and the rest of the class can decide which statement they believe is untrue.

**Debriefing** • **Ask: Thinking about your group of close friends, how well do they really know you? On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being not as much as they think and 5 being probably more than you think) decide how well your friends know you. Who knows you the best? Even so, are there things that they don't know that would surprise them? Even if we don't know everything or even most things about a person, can we still know them? How and in what way?**

## C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

**Share the following illustration in your own words.**

The story is told of a young man who was invited to preach at a church in Nashville, Tennessee. On an impulse he used this text, “Thou shalt not steal.”

The next morning he stepped onto a city bus and handed the driver a dollar bill. The driver handed him his change, and he walked to the rear of the bus to stand, since there were no seats available.

Once he had steadied himself, he counted his change. There was a dime too much. His first thought was *The bus company will never miss this dime.*

By now the bus had stopped again, and the narrow aisle between him and the driver was one long line of people. Then it hit him; he could not keep the money that did not belong to him.

Half a dozen “excuse me’s” and several scowling looks later, he made his way to the front and said to the driver, “You gave me too much change.”

The driver replied, “Yes, a dime too much. I gave it to you on purpose. You see, I heard your sermon yesterday, and I watched in the mirror as you counted your change. Had you kept the dime I never again would have had any confidence in preaching.”—*Quiet Moments With God for Teens*

(Tulsa, Oklahoma: Honor Books, 2003), pp. 288, 289.

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

#### In your own words, share the following:

The word “sincere” (or authentic) means to be “sun tested” and comes from the act of making sure pottery and statues were “made without wax.” In the New Testament era dishonest folk would sell artifacts in the marketplace that only looked genuine, but in reality were patched together with wax and paint. If there is one quality that marks the many citizens of God’s kingdom, it is a desire to be genuine or made without wax. The “sun tested” part comes when the artifacts are heated. It becomes clear whether they are genuine or not. As a citizen of the kingdom of God, what you do and how you act speak concert-size decibels beyond anything you say. Even when Jesus rebuked the Pharisees He said, “Do as they say, but not as they do, because they do not do what they say.” A good slogan might be “promise less, deliver more.”

**Say:** Think of some scenarios in the Bible that show how the heat of the moment exposed the genuineness of someone’s char-

**acter.** (Examples: David and Nathan, Jesus and Peter, Daniel’s friends and the furnace, Joseph and Potiphar’s wife, Jesus and Pilate, Jesus and Satan’s temptations, etc.) Give the students a chance to come up with names. Then **ask:** **Who were they? What happened? What was the result? How are they remembered?**

**Ask:** When have you had moments that were “sun testing moments”? (This would be a good time to have small groups with adult participants.)

### B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

**Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath’s section of the lesson.**

**Debriefing • Say:** How others perceive our sincerity affects how they relate to us and to our Father in heaven. Genuine people have power to influence others. Consider why Paul sent Timothy to minister to the church in Philippi. Have volunteers find and read **Philippians 2:19-24**. (Timothy had proven he loved them with a genuine, sincere love. In all the problems the church had, one solution topped the list: a young man named Timothy.)

Have the following items listed on the white/chalkboard. **Say:** Rank the following according to the power that each item has to influence others for Christ with 1 being the most powerful and 6 the least. Let the students discuss their responses and come to consensus.

- \_\_\_ Acceptance and unconditional kindness to visitors who come to church
- \_\_\_ Teachers and pastors who can communicate messages that are relevant and exciting
- \_\_\_ Churches who are busy with serving broken people in the community
- \_\_\_ Hearing teenagers testify of their commitment to Christ in spite of the world’s ridicule
- \_\_\_ Seeing someone endure tragic sickness ending in death and hold unwaveringly to their faith

\_\_\_ Believers in the church who are humble and helpful to anyone

**Ask:** Which of the above can you see making a real difference in your church? What role could you play in making this happen?

### C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

**Present the following scenario:**

Imagine if one of you noticed a friend becoming more and more depressed. One day you hear them mention things like, “What does it matter if I’m gone anyway? No one will miss me.” Or “There isn’t anything worthwhile to live for.” You see them begin to disengage and put you at a distance. All of the signs of depression leading to suicide are there, but you fear losing the connection with them by confronting them or someone else on behalf of them.

**Ask:** How would you react to this behavior? What are some examples from Scripture that may help you respond to this situation?

**Say:** Before you go too far ahead, look at the stories and sayings in the Bible Insights section of the student lesson and see if you can find some principles to help you work out this problem. (Galatians 2:11-14; Luke 22:31-34; 2 Samuel 12:1-7.)

**Ask:** In the scenes above, what action is taken to help the one who is struggling? Is it wrong to help others by exposing their faults? When and in what way should this be done?

**Say:** Consider the statements made in the Bible verses given and try to make a few rules for being authentic with your relationships with others. And remember that if someone is in danger, it is always the right thing to seek help from your parents, teacher, pastor, or someone in authority.

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

**Say:** Looking at the New Testament church, we see a group of genuine “sun-tested, made-without-wax” believers. In groups of three to four look carefully at the verses given and discuss what you see to be important facts that made them a real body of believers: Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35. Here are some questions to guide you:

**Ask:** What do you see them doing? (praying, sharing, hanging out—remember it’s still festival time) What are they not doing? (They don’t isolate themselves—you know, do church then go home.) If you were to identify a quality that held them together like glue, what would it be? (love, mission, shared experience) What would this look like today? Is it even remotely possible to see people giving up their possessions for the Christian cause? (It would be weird, but I suppose it’s possible.) Why or why not? What do you think needs to happen to us as individuals for this kind of revival to be real in our lives today? (They were 100 percent about one thing. We are divided over many things.)

### B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In what sense is it easier to be authentic with your friends than with adults?
2. How or in what scenarios is it hard to be authentic?
3. How much of what we do for God is based on what others might think of us?
4. How does understanding and experiencing God’s grace make it easier for us to be genuine with one another?
5. What are some of the risks involved in becoming an authentic citizen of God’s kingdom?
6. How does being sincere and honest with others help your relationship with God?
7. Is authenticity negotiable? Can you wear the mask or pretend and still live as a

citizen in God's kingdom? To what degree are we all on the journey? (not perfect or not even close, but moving forward anyway)

## **6** CLOSING

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### **SUMMARY**

**In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:**

The tipping point of the Christian life is the place where we decide whether we will play

the game or be sun-tested. As we rest in God's grace we have nothing to fear from being exposed. The sneaky little lie that steals away our courage to be real with God and one another comes from a snake called Satan. The challenge of authenticity will be a continual battle to the end. When we fake it with God and one another, we deny our need of God and one another temporarily. We were created to know one another and be known by one another.

Be true. Be connected. Be constantly seeking ways to deepen your impact on others by the genuine faith you live out day by day.



## STUDENT LESSON

### MADE WITHOUT WAX (Being Real, Part 2)

Coming Home

June 4, 2022

#### Sabbath

### FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!” (Psalm 106:3, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church:** “The church is God’s family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 84, 85.

### COMING HOME

Turning off his Honda 750, Chad paused a moment. Conflicting thoughts raced through his head as he stood in the church parking lot. He hadn’t been to church for a while, and he was already 15 minutes late. What would people think when he walked in dressed in a T-shirt and faded blue jeans? Would they disapprove of his long hair?

Yet something drove him on, compelling him to keep going. Deep inside, his heart ached, and something was missing. Somehow he felt this was his day to “come home.” A voice within seemed to urge, “Chad, just do it.”

Entering the sanctuary as quietly as possible, he hoped to slip into the last row unnoticed, but it was packed. As he moved down the aisle, it seemed as if every row were jammed. The congregation quietly sang, “Softly and tenderly

Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.” Heads turned. Chad felt that everyone was staring at him.

Nervously he made a quick decision. *I guess I’ll just sit in the aisle*, he thought to himself. He sat there a moment feeling as if dozens of eyes were boring into his back. Then he heard footsteps behind him. The church’s head elder approached. *Oh, no! He’ll probably throw me out*, Chad thought. But to his utter amazement, the older gentleman sat on the floor beside him, gently touched him on the shoulder, and simply said, “Glad you’re here, boy.” Placing a hymnal in Chad’s hands, the elder added, “It’s number 287.”

Kind words, a caring gesture, a moving sermon, an invitation to dinner, and Chad knew he had come home.

God wants our church to be a place of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Bruised, battered, broken, beaten-up people will come through the doors of our church this week. As children of God we want to open our arms and hearts to receive them.

#### Sunday

### RESPONDING

- » Read Psalm 146:3-8; Jeremiah 17:5-8.
- » You love going to church and being with others who love Jesus just as you do. One of your friends seems sad and angry. You ask her if everything is OK. She tells you that she doesn’t understand how the Bible says

to love one another, and yet she sometimes sees the opposite happening.

- » How would you respond? What solution does the Bible offer? See Bible reading for today.

### Monday

## BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE CHURCH

- » Read Acts 2:38-42; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Peter 2:9.
- » We are God’s children and are part of the church family. The church and His children have a mission—to share God’s grace, mercy, and love. We are God’s hands and feet here on earth—we are to show love to everyone—both in the church family and in the world.
- » How can you be an example and share God’s love with your church family?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- » Put this verse back in its proper order.

in whom the whole building,

but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”

grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners,

being fitted together,

(Ephesians 2:19-22, NKJV).

Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

### Tuesday

## REFLECTING

- » Read Acts 4:32-35.
- » Why is it so difficult to genuinely love one another in the church? Why is it so difficult to be real with one another? With your friends—you choose them. In the church, we don’t get to choose who we are supposed to love. We come from all walks of life with so many different problems and issues, and we are expected to become like a body, a single unit? How is that possible? 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13 says, “And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen” (NLT).
- » God is the source of that kind of love. It doesn’t happen overnight, but it does happen. People from different ethnic groups and political positions come together to work on behalf of God. Even in the unchurched world there is a movement to build community and understand one another. It’s part of being human. It’s part of what it means to be made in the image of God.
- » Another reason to take off your mask and be real with others is that it would be lonely to go through life alone—never allowing others to know the real you. You know how lonely can feel. All of us need for the real us to be seen, recognized, and known.

### Wednesday

## BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the following texts from the New



International Version of the Bible (available at [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com)) with the phrases that correspond to them. The verses will give you the biblical view on “being real.”

- A. Philippians 1:15-18
- B. 1 Peter 1:22
- C. Galatians 2:11-14
- D. Luke 22:31-34
- E. Acts 2:42-47
- F. Acts 4:32-35

\_\_\_\_\_ “. . . For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “. . . The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “. . . Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.’”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “. . . How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

\_\_\_\_\_ “. . . And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

## Thursday **CONNECTING**

- » Read Acts 2:42-47.
- » Review the memory text.

- » Everything about you is known by God: the number of hairs on your head, what you would say today, how you will feel tomorrow, what makes you most angry, and what fills you with joy. Always be encouraged by your desire to be “made without wax” because God begins with your desire and your choice and coaches you through. Remember this promise, “Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out” (1 Corinthians 10:13, GNT).

## Friday **APPLYING**

- » Read 1 Peter 1:22.
- » Think about the people you have a difficult time being around. Who are the people around whom you feel you must wear a mask or pretend? First, pray for them throughout the week and see if your attitude shifts a little when you think of them. Second, write down a few ways to be “real” in their presence. Be sure to write a few thoughts as you pray and practice being authentic (real).

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