

## 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](http://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](http://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 3

## Master Designer (Created in God's Image)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
We worship God when His image is reflected in our lives.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26, 27).

**3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**  
Our Beliefs, no. 6, Creation: "God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. . . . 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" ([www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)).

**4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture**  
Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 1; 2.

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 2, pp. 44-51. "God created man in His own image. . . . Though formed from the dust, Adam was 'the son of God'" (p. 45).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 39-41 ("God Makes a Man"); pp. 43-45 ("Adam's First Meal"); pp. 46-50 ("Fairest

Creature of Creation"); pp. 52-56 ("Man's Garden Home")

**7 Family worship ideas**  
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:  
Sunday—Genesis 1:26, 27 (power text)  
Monday—Genesis 1:26-31  
Tuesday—Genesis 2:1-7  
Wednesday—Genesis 2:8-17  
Thursday—Genesis 2:18-24  
Friday—Psalm 150

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

- How does nature speak to me about the Creator?
- How does the Bible affirm my belief in the Creation story?
- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- How do I reflect God's character?
- How do I worship God as the Creator?
- How could I share my belief in the God of Creation?

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

- Because everyone was created in God's image, show someone His love.
- Sing together hymns or songs of praise on the theme of Creation.
- Discuss with your family members what it means to be created in the image of God and how your life could reflect God's character.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
God created us for a relationship with Him. We honor the Creator when we worship Him on His holy day.

# Lesson 2 Year C Qtr 3

## The Creator's Best Gift (The Gift of Sabbath)

### 1 Core teaching of this lesson

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

### 2 Power text (memory verse)

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

### 3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 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" ([www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)).

### 4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:8-11.

### 5 Ellen White reference

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 2, pp. 47, 48. "The Sabbath, ever pointing to Him who made them all, bids men open the great book of nature and trace therein the wisdom, the power, and the love of the Creator" (p. 48).

### 6 The Bible Story reference:

*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 57-60 ("A Day to Remember")

### 7 Family worship ideas

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

Sunday—Genesis 2:2, 3 (power text)

Monday—Exodus 20:8-11

Tuesday—Ezekiel 20:12

Wednesday—Matthew 12:9-12

Thursday—Revelation 14:6, 7

Friday—Isaiah 66:22, 23

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

- What makes my time with family and friends special?
- Why is it important for me to spend time with my friends?
- How do I spend time with God?
- What makes my time with God special on Sabbath?
- How does my worship on the Sabbath show God that I love Him?
- How could I help someone see the value of worshipping God on Sabbath?

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

- Discuss the importance of working six days and resting on the seventh-day.
- Plan several Sabbath activities that will remind you of the Creator (i.e. nature walk).
- At family worship talk about how it will be to celebrate the Sabbath in heaven.

### 8 Coming up next week!

God created us free to make moral choices. The decisions we make reflect whether we love God.

# Lesson 3 Year C Qtr 3

## Harmony Broken (A Choice With Devastating Consequences)

### 1 Core teaching of this lesson

We choose to worship God, who keeps us from falling.

### 2 Power text (memory verse)

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

### 3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 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. . . . When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him. . . . The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. . . . But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker” (www.adventist.org).

### 4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 3.

### 5 Ellen White reference

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 3, pp. 52-62. “Like the angels, the dwellers in Eden had been placed upon probation; their happy estate could be retained only on condition of fidelity to the Creator’s law” (p. 53).

### 6 The Bible Story reference:

*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 61-64 (“The First Mistake”); pp. 65-68 (“The Test of Love”); pp. 69-72 (“The Price of Sin”); pp. 73-77 (“One Gleam of Hope”)

### 7 Family worship ideas

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

- Sunday—Psalm 51:10 (power text)
- Monday—Genesis 3:6-15
- Tuesday—Romans 5:12
- Wednesday—Matthew 15:19;
- 1 Corinthians 15:22
- Thursday—Galatians 5:24;
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Friday—Genesis 1:26; Psalm 51:10

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

- How did the Fall affect nature?
- How did sin affect people?
- How is my life affected by the consequences of the Fall?
- What things do I need to ask God to change so that His character could be reflected in my life?
- Where do I find help to live in harmony with God’s law of love?
- With whom could I share that God can restore His image in us?

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

- Discuss the meaning of God’s promise to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15).
- Ask a family member to identify things that God needs to change in your character.
- Share what you have learned about how sin changed people’s nature and how God can restore in us His image.

### 8 Coming up next week!

Cain and Abel bring different sacrifices to God. The way we worship God reflects whether we love Him. **109**

# Lesson 4 Year C Qtr 3

## My Way or God's Way?

(Cain and Abel Choose How They Worship God)

### 1 Core teaching of this lesson

Worship is a test of our faithfulness to God.

### 2 Power text (memory verse)

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4:7).

### 3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 19, The Law of God: "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" ([www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)).

### 4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 4:1-12

### 5 Ellen White reference

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 5, pp. 71-79. "True faith, which relies wholly upon Christ, will be manifested by obedience to all the requirements of God. From Adam's day to the present time the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God's law" (p. 73).

### 6 The Bible Story reference:

*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 73-77 ("One Gleam of Hope"); pp. 78-81 ("The First Baby"); pp. 82-86

("The First Quarrel")

### 7 Family worship ideas

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

- Sunday—Genesis 4:7 (power text)
- Monday—1 Samuel 15:22
- Tuesday—Hebrews 11:4
- Wednesday—John 14:15
- Thursday—Romans 12:1, 2
- Friday—Psalm 119:9-11

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

- Where can I find out what is pleasing to God?
- Why is it important that I respect God's requirements?
- Who/what is number one in my life?
- With whom or with what am I spending most of my time?
- How are my choices showing whom or what I worship?
- How is my love for God reflected in my relationships with others?

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

- Talk about what made the difference between Abel's sacrifice and Cain's offering.
- Share with someone what difference faith makes in your life.
- Discuss what it means to "offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1).

### 8 Coming up next week!

Jacob loves Joseph more than his other children. Our true character is revealed as we interact with our family.

# Lesson 5 Year C Qtr 3

## Father's Favorite (Joseph Is the Favored Son)

### 1 Core teaching of this lesson

We treat each member of God's family with kindness and respect.

### 2 Power text (memory verse)

"Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor" (1 Peter 2:17).

### 3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 23, Marriage and the Family: "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" ([www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)).

### 4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 37:1-11

### 5 Ellen White reference

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 19, pp. 208-212. "Jacob unwisely manifested his preference for Joseph, and this excited the jealousy of his other sons" (p. 209).

### 6 The Bible Story reference:

*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 40-46 ("Sold Into Slavery")

### 7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore

the core teaching with your children:

Sunday—1 Peter 2:17 (power text)

Monday—1 Timothy 5:21

Tuesday—Genesis 37:3, 4

Wednesday—Genesis 37:7, 9

Thursday—Genesis 37:1-11

Friday—Acts 7:9

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

- What can I learn from the story of Joseph and his family?
- How do I feel when others are shown favoritism?
- In what area of my life do I show favoritism?
- How do I show respect to people around me?
- How is it damaging to others when I receive special treatment?
- What are ways that build up and strengthen family relationships?

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

- Discuss a time in your life when someone was favored over you. How did it feel? What did you do?
- Share a time when you felt God revealed His will to your family.
- Create a poem, song, or prose about being respectful and fair to others. Share it at family worship.

### 8 Coming up next week!

Joseph is sold into slavery. People can learn to deal with their problems in positive ways.

# Lesson 6 Year C Qtr 3

## Brother for Sale (Joseph's Brothers Sell Him)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
We respect one another by being honest and positive.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies” (Proverbs 12:17).

**3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**

Our Beliefs, no. 8, The Great Controversy: “All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan. . . . 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” (www.adventist.org).

**4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture**

Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 37:12-35

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 19, pp. 208-212. “To become a slave was a fate more to be feared than death. In an agony of terror he appealed to one and another of his brothers, but in vain. Some were moved with pity, but fear of derision kept them silent; all felt that they had now gone too far to retreat” (p. 211).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 47-50 (“A Sad, Sad Journey”)

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

Sunday—Proverbs 12:17 (power text)  
Monday—Genesis 37:12-20  
Tuesday—Genesis 37:21-35  
Wednesday—1 Thessalonians 5:15  
Thursday—Hebrews 12:14, 15  
Friday—1 Peter 3:8, 9

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

- When do I need to speak out against something?
- What fears keep me silent?
- When did I see someone treated unfairly?
- Did I have the courage to stand up for someone treated unjustly?
- How could I make things right with someone I may have hurt?
- On what is God calling me to take a stand today?

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

- Talk about some of the things Reuben could have done differently to save Joseph.
- Find in the Bible or concordance as many texts as you can about honesty and truth.
- Create a picture, sculpture, collage, or drawing of what honesty and truth look like.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Joseph is honest and loyal to his employer. God has given us guidelines to love and respect one another.

# Lesson 7 Year C Qtr 3

## That's Going Too Far (Joseph Honors God in His Master's House)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
Honoring boundaries is one way we treat one another with respect.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).

**3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**  
Our Beliefs, no. 21, Stewardship: “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” (www.adventist.org).

**4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture**  
Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 39:1-20

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 20, pp. 213-218. “If we were to cherish an habitual impression that God sees and hears all that we do and say and keeps a faithful record of our words and actions, and that we must meet it all, we would fear to sin” (p. 217).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 51-56 (“Two Strange Dreams”)

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

Sunday—Mark 12:29-31 (power text)  
Monday—Genesis 39:1-20  
Tuesday—Exodus 20:3-17  
Wednesday—Proverbs 1:10-19  
Thursday—Proverbs 3:1-8  
Friday—Psalm 119:1-16

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

- How would I respond if I found myself in a situation similar to Joseph’s?
- How could I honor God in my family?
- What things represent temptations to me?
- How could I overcome temptation?
- What Bible promises teach me that with God’s help I can “resist” the devil?
- How could I encourage someone who is being tempted?

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

- Discuss how the Ten Commandments help us know how to treat one another with love and respect.
- During worship take turns reading Psalm 119.
- How is Psalm 119 showing how we could overcome temptation and sin?

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Joseph makes friends in prison. We can extend our circle of friends by being helpful and kind to others.



# Lesson 8 Year C Qtr 3

## Strange Friends in Strange Places (Joseph Makes Friends in Prison)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
We take responsibility for our actions and respect the needs of others.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity” (Proverbs 17:17).

**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**  
Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 39:20 through 41:16; 41:39-45

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 20, pp. 218-223. “Joseph’s real character shines out, even in the darkness of the dungeon” (p. 218).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 57-60 (“From the Dungeon to the Throne”)

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

Sunday—Proverbs 17:17 (power text)  
Monday—Genesis 39:20-23  
Tuesday—Genesis 40  
Wednesday—Genesis 41  
Thursday—Isaiah 61:1, 2; Micah 6:8  
Friday—Matthew 25:34-36

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

- How do I react when someone treats me unfairly?
- Have I ever returned unkindness with kindness?
- How do I feel when someone forgets a promise made to me?
- Can I show mercy and love when being treated unjustly?
- What are positive ways I could respond when I face negative situations?
- How does Jesus want me to treat others?

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

- Write acrostics for the word “friend” and the name “Joseph”. Example: J=Jailed unfairly; O=On God’s side, etc.
- Make a list of things you could do to show love and respect to others.
- Discuss and make a plan on how your family could befriend someone in the community.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Joseph forgives his brothers. Just as God has forgiven us, we should forgive others.

# Lesson 9 Year C Qtr 3

## Dreams Do Come True (Joseph Forgives His Brothers)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
Because God provided forgiveness for us all, we forgive and respect one another.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

**3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**  
Our Beliefs, no. 3, God the Father: “God the eternal Father is . . . just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (www.adventist.org).

**4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture**  
Old Testament, Books of Moses: Genesis 42:1 through 45:11; 50:15-21

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 21, pp. 224-240. “Joseph was satisfied. He had seen in his brothers the fruits of true repentance” (p. 230).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 61-65 (“Noblest of All”); pp. 66-72 (“Family Reunion”)

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

Sunday—Ephesians 4:32 (power text)  
Monday—Genesis 42  
Tuesday—Genesis 43  
Wednesday—Genesis 44  
Thursday—Genesis 45:1-11; 50:15-21  
Friday—Proverbs 24:29; Matthew 6:12; Hebrews 10:17

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

- How do I acknowledge God’s forgiveness in my life?
- How do examples such as Joseph help me see the value of forgiving?
- Do I have a forgiving spirit?
- Is there a situation in my life in which I need to extend forgiveness?
- In what ways can I show forgiveness to someone?
- Is there someone whom I need to ask for forgiveness?

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

- Discuss how you might change on the inside and outside if you lived in a completely different culture.
- Write a dialogue that might have taken place among Joseph’s brothers as they were seated in order of their age.
- During worship spend time in prayer thanking God for His love, His forgiveness, and His many blessings.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Spies visit Jericho! God wants to use us to reach out to others who are seeking Him.

# Lesson 10 Year C Qtr 3

## Adopted by the Enemy (Rahab Hides Spies)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you” (Isaiah 41:9).

**3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**  
Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: “Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God’s sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin” (www.adventist.org).

**4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture**  
Old Testament, Books of History: Joshua 2

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 44, 45, pp. 481-483, 491. “Only faithful Rahab, with her household, was spared, in fulfillment of the promise of the spies” (p. 491).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 74-77 (“The Scarlet Cord”)

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

Sunday—Isaiah 41:9 (power text)

Monday—John 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 2

Tuesday—Joshua 2

Wednesday—Joshua 6:21-25

Thursday—Romans 8:14-17;

Galatians 4:5-7

Friday—Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5

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

- How do I gain assurance of salvation?
- How do I get to know the true God?
- How can God change my life?
- Do I show faith in God when I go through challenging situations?
- What experiences have strengthened my faith in God?
- How could I encourage others who are facing difficulties?

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

- Cut a bookmark from red paper. On it write your name, followed by “I have chosen you.”—Love, God.
- Tell Rahab’s story at worship. Let each one tell what part of the story means the most to them.
- Share with someone how it feels to be chosen and adopted by God to be part of His family.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Joshua receives the battle plan for taking Jericho. God fights the battle with evil for us.

# Lesson 11

Year C Qtr 3

## The Battle Belongs to the Lord (The Walls of Jericho Fall)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
God has already won the battle for us.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

**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**  
Old Testament, Books of History:  
Joshua 5:13 through 6:20

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 45, pp. 487-498. “God will do great things for those who trust in Him” (p. 493).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 85-87 (“The Captain Appears”); pp. 88-91 (“The Shout That Wrecked a City”)

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

Sunday—Romans 8:37 (power text)  
Monday—Joshua 5; 6  
Tuesday—Joshua 5:13-15  
Wednesday—Romans 8:37-39;  
1 John 3:8  
Thursday—Joshua 6:3-5  
Friday—Hebrews 2:14, 15

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

- Who do I depend on for the victories needed in my life?
- How do I show my dependence on God?
- For what “hidden” sins do I need to make confession?
- Am I confident that God will forgive my sins?
- What are some walls in my life that God needs to break down?
- Who do I trust to fight my battles?

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

- Have each person in your family share the biggest battle they ever fought and what they learned from it.
- Discuss how Joshua showed respect to God and share ways you can honor God this week.
- Write a song/poem/prayer of thanksgiving, praising God for winning the battle for you. Share it during worship.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Samson defeats his enemies. God is always with us, ready to give us the victory.

# Lesson 12

Year C Qtr 3

## Victory in Defeat (God Gives Samson the Victory)

**1 Core teaching of this lesson**  
Victory is a gift from God, not a product of our strength.

**2 Power text (memory verse)**  
“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

**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**

Old Testament, Books of History:  
Judges 16:23-31

**5 Ellen White reference**  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 54, pp. 560-568. “The very ones whom God purposes to use as His instruments for a special work, Satan employs his utmost power to lead astray. . . . But none need be overcome” (p. 568).

**6 The Bible Story reference:**  
*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 130-136 (“Strongest Man Who Ever Lived”)

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

Sunday—1 Corinthians 15:57 (power text)

Monday—Judges 15:9-15

Tuesday—Judges 15:18-20

Wednesday—Judges 16:23-31

Thursday—Zechariah 4:6

Friday—2 Corinthians 12:9

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

- Do I rely on God to do His will?
- From where do I draw my strength?
- Are the choices I make helping me come closer to God?
- What obstacles does God need to remove to achieve victory in my life?
- How will I seek the victory today?
- How could I bless someone by sharing God’s victories in my life?

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

- Write a report on how Samson defeated the Philistines (see Judges 15:9-15). Share it during worship.
- Discuss how Samson’s story applies to you.
- Share with your family things in your life that you need to overcome. Ask God to give you the victory.

**8 Coming up next week!**  
Ruth chooses God and God blesses her. God offers His grace to all.

# Lesson 13 Year C Qtr 3

## God's Magnet (Ruth Stays With Naomi)

### 1 Core teaching of this lesson

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

### 2 Power text (memory verse)

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

### 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

Old Testament, Books of History: Ruth 1:1-18

### 5 Ellen White reference

*Christ's Object Lessons*, chap. 23, pp. 290, 301. "Through the grace of Christ we may accomplish everything that God requires" (p. 301).

### 6 The Bible Story reference:

*The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 137-142 ("Gleaner Girl")

### 7 Family worship ideas

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

Sunday—Ruth 1:16 (power text)

Monday—Ruth 1:1-14

Tuesday—Ruth 1:15-22

Wednesday—Ruth 2

Thursday—Matthew 1:5, 6

Friday—Ruth 3; 4

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

- What does Ruth's story teach me about loyalty?
- How has God shown His grace to me?
- What is my response to God's grace?
- How do I show my faithfulness to God?
- How much am I willing to give up to follow God?
- Am I willing to leave everything behind and go where God calls me?

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

- Show your dedication to your family by doing something special without being asked.
- Discuss the reasons Ruth had to return to Moab and the reasons why she chose to go with Naomi to Bethlehem.
- Share how God provided for your family at a time when you did not know what the future would hold.

### 8 Coming up next week!

God cares for Elijah. We can trust that God will provide for us.



## 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,



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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

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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 most 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.

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