



## JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST

### The Great Appointment

October 22, 2022

#### 1 PREPARING

##### A. THE SOURCE

**Leviticus 16:30 (NIV)** • “Because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins.”

**Hebrews 8:1, 2 (NIV)** • “The main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.”

**Hebrews 9:22-24 (NIV)** • “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. . . . For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.”

**Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)** • “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

**1 John 2:1, 2 (NIV)** • “We have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

**Daniel 7:9, 10 (NIV)** • “As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”

**Revelation 14:7 (NIV)** • “He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.’”

**Revelation 3:5 (NIV)** • “The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.”

“Instead of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 referring to the purifying of the earth, it was now plain that it pointed to the closing work of our High Priest in heaven, the finishing of the atonement, and the preparing of the people to abide the day of His coming” (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 58).

“As the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which

it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people” (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 421, 422).

“It is a life of obedience which will please God and be acceptable to Him. Delay not to make an entire consecration to God, that your names may be recorded in the Lamb’s book of life” (Ellen G. White, *An Appeal to the Youth*, p. 71).

(See additional passages in student material.)

## **B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST”**

The beginnings of our Seventh-day Adventist church trace back to a group of people known as “Millerites,” those who accepted William Miller’s teaching about Jesus’ second coming on October 22, 1844. Ellen White, the Lord’s inspired messenger, was only 16 years old at the time of the Great Disappointment. She and her family embraced Miller’s teaching. Further study of the prophecies revealed that the time indicated in prophecy marked the beginning of Jesus’ ministry as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. Similar to the work of the high priest in the earthly sanctuary, Jesus began His work as our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary in 1844.

As the book of life is opened, each name that professed to love God, beginning with Adam and continuing with the living, is being reviewed. This work of Christ is known as the investigative judgment. Jesus is our lawyer, mediating on our behalf, while Satan accuses us of sin. Jesus reminds the Judge, God the Father, that His death on the cross covers those who have loved and obeyed Him. The names of those who have not been faithful to God are removed from the book of life, thus cleansing the heavenly sanctuary of sin.

Jesus offered us life by His death, but our choices and decisions about how we live our lives determine our eternal destiny. Satan wants to divert our minds from Jesus. Our life and eternity are safe only with Jesus. While this work is going on in heaven, we are to be daily recommitting our lives to serving Jesus in thought, word, and action.

## **C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST”**

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

1. Discover the significance of 1844 in relation to the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Understand what Jesus’ role as our high priest is during the investigative judgment.
3. Desire to show Jesus the commitment they made to Him is lasting by how they live their lives.

## **D. MATERIALS NEEDED**

**Beginning:** • (Activity A) table, edible items representing bitter, sweet, salty and sour (see activity); toothpicks and/or small cups. (Activity B) pieces of paper and pencils or an inkpad, 3" x 5" (7.5 cm. x 12.5 cm.) white cardstocks, transparent tape, clear drinking glass, lotion or other oily substance. (Activity C) two magnets, small block of wood.

**Connecting:** • Bibles, student lessons.

**Applying:** • Bibles, “The Courtroom” handout (p. 47), pencils.

## **2 BRIDGING**

### **A. WHERE WE’VE BEEN BEFORE**

**Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving 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 activity *and* with one another) and to study from the Word. At some point you should distribute or call their attention to their student lesson for this week.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

[NOTE: Prior to this activity, ask the students if they have allergic reactions to any of the food items you intend to use. Be sure to eliminate any food items that may trigger allergic reactions in students.]

**Get ready** • Gather some snacks with different flavors: bitter, sweet, salty, and sour (i.e., bitter: citrus peel, dark chocolate, unsweetened cocoa powder; sweet: dried fruits, banana, fruit juice; salty: salt, potato chip, or pretzels; sour: lemon, plain yogurt, or lemon juice).

**Get set** • Cut/break the solid sample into small pieces. If you are using the liquids, have toothpicks available for the students to dip into the liquid, or small cups. Arrange these on a table. Do your best to hide what the students will be tasting (i.e., don't pour the juice directly from a labeled bottle).

**Go • Say:** I want you to participate in a taste test. What different types of tastes are there? (sweet, sour, salty, bitter) Are you aware that your tongue has different areas on it that are more sensitive to certain tastes than to others? The front of your tongue is more sensitive to sweet and the back to bitter. The sides of your tongue taste salty and sour stronger. All areas of your tongue taste, though. Today I want you to try these different things and tell me what they taste like to you.

**Debriefing • Say:** You just tasted something bitter. How was it? You also tasted something sweet. How did you like that? Have you ever heard of the expression of something being “bittersweet”? The meaning can apply not only to flavors we can taste but also to something that happens that is both sad and happy. The experience of the early Adventists was bitter because Jesus did not come back to the earth on October 22, 1844, as expected. The Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844, was revealed to the apostle John, who wrote down this prophecy in Revelation 10:9, 10. The “little scroll” that John saw in the vision symbolized the in-depth study of the Word of God that was characteristic to the pioneers of the Advent movement. The sweet-as-honey flavor of the scroll was symbolic of the spirit of devotion, longing, and delight associated with the study of God’s Word that characterized the Advent believers. The bitter disappointment of the believers who were awaiting Jesus’ coming in the fall of 1844 is symbolized by the little scroll that became sour in the stomach after it was swallowed (Revelation 10:10). However, this event marked the start of the investigative judgment in heaven, where Jesus is looking at the life of everyone who has made a commitment to follow Him.

### B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • Each student needs a piece of paper, pencil, 3" x 5" (7.5 cm. x 12.5 cm.) white cardstock, a piece of transparent tape that you will distribute right before their part of the activity, clear drinking

glass, lotion, or other oily substance. If you have an inkpad, you could use that instead of the paper and pencils.

**Get set •** You will need to practice beforehand holding a clear drinking glass with your fingertips to see if you can make a visible fingerprint. You may need to apply a light layer of lotion or other oily substance to your fingertips to make this demonstration work. To begin the activity, hold a clear glass in your hand, making sure you are touching the glass firmly with your fingertips. Distribute a piece of tape about two inches (three centimeters) long when they are ready to remove their fingerprint from their paper. Be sure your hands are clean before you give them their tape so your fingerprints don't get on the tape.

**Go • Say:** As I am holding this glass I am leaving fingerprints. Can you see them? Now you're going to gather your fingerprint. With your pencil, darkly shade a section of the large piece of paper. Next, place one of your fingertips onto the pencil shading (or use the inkpad). Then I'm going to give you a piece of transparent tape to lift the print from your finger. Last, put the tape onto the white cardstock. When you put your finger onto the pencil dust, make sure you put the whole top third of your finger to the first joint, not just the very tip of your finger.

**Debriefing • Ask:** You know that every person has a unique fingerprint, right? Did you know that even if you cut your finger, the fingerprint will grow back in the same pattern? The three categories of fingerprint patterns are loops, whorls, and arches. Investigators use fingerprints to find clues. What do you know about the investigative judgment? This work is going on right now in heaven, where Jesus is investigating, or looking over, the book of life in which the names of all those who have accepted Him are written. He is looking for evidence to see who truly loves Him. Besides being an investigator, Jesus is our lawyer, defending our cases against Satan's accusations. It's like a court case. When our verdict is read, we want it to say: "Eternal Life!"

## C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

**In your own words, tell the following illustration:**

**Get ready •** Beforehand, test two magnets with something such as a small block of wood that can represent "sin" that will come between them. The block of wood should be thick enough so that the magnetic pull is weakened and therefore the magnets will not stay stuck to the wood on opposite sides of it.

**Go • Say:** See how my two magnets easily stick to each other? They're drawn together by magnetism. Now if I put this block of wood between them let's see what happens. They were sticking together very tightly, but they aren't now. Because the piece of wood moved the magnets farther apart, the connection was weakened. Eventually they won't be able to stay connected at all. (Demonstrate.)

**Debriefing • Say:** Let's say the magnets represent us and God. What happens when we stay close to God? (We stay connected.) Let's look at Jesus' words in John 15:5, 7. What is the key to being connected to Jesus? (We choose to abide in Him or stay connected to Him as the source of life.) What happens when we let sin come between us and God? (We disconnect.) Satan wants to come between God and us, like the block of wood that prevents the magnets from connecting. God is holy, and sin is repulsive to Him. So when we sin, our connection with God breaks, and we become separated from Him. Jesus wants to restore the connection by getting rid of sin. What do you know about the Day of Atonement? In the Old Testament once a year the high priest would make atonement for the cleansing of the sanctuary from the sins of the people. Do you know what *atonement* means? It is "at-one-ment." It is like reconciliation. What does that mean? By removing our sins, Jesus is atoning, reconciling, or bringing us back together to God like the two magnets so we can be reconnected again. This atonement process is happening right now in heaven, and it began on October 22, 1844.

At the end of this process of investigative judgment our high priest will return to earth in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will come to claim as His own all those who followed humbly in His footsteps and remained faithful to Him to the end. He will welcome the saved in His kingdom in heaven to live with Him forever.

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

#### Present the following ideas in your own words:

October 22, 1844, is a date that is familiar to most Seventh-day Adventists. Surely the phrase “the Great Disappointment” is associated with the date. If the disappointment was that Jesus didn’t return to earth on October 22, what significant event did take place on that date? Let’s look at some Bible verses to learn about what took place in the sanctuary.

Ask for volunteers to read the following verses, and you can add commentary between them.

- **Leviticus 16:34**

- **Leviticus 16:30**

**Say:** The Day of Atonement happened in the autumn once a year in the earthly sanctuary that the Israelites had set up under God’s direction. What did the high priest do on this day? (Cleanse the sanctuary from sin.) Two goats were required—one the Lord’s goat and the other the “scapegoat.”

Hebrews 9:22, 23

**Say:** The high priest would kill the Lord’s goat, and take its blood into the Most Holy Place, where he would apply it to the mercy seat. The mercy seat is the covering of the ark that contained the Ten Commandments. This sym-

bolized the price Jesus paid for our sins by sacrificing His life. This action also symbolized the cleansing of the people and the entire sanctuary from sin.

Next the high priest would transfer these sins from the sanctuary onto the head of the live scapegoat. The second goat was led out of the Israelites’ camp into the wilderness, thus symbolically illustrating the final judgment of Satan and the removal of sin from the universe. The Day of Atonement happened once a year and it symbolized the reconciliation between God and His people. **Ask:** What did the animal sacrifices symbolize? (They prefigured Jesus’ sacrificial death for the forgiveness of our sins.)

- **Hebrews 9:24**

- **Ask:** Is there a real sanctuary in heaven? (Yes) Who is our high priest? (Jesus) **Say:** Do you see the parallel between the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary with animal sacrifices and the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary with the blood of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice? Jewish people still celebrate the Day of Atonement. Do you know what it is called? (Yom Kippur) Do you know when this event occurs every year according to the Jewish calendar? (September or October)

- **Daniel 7:9, 10**

**Ask:** What is going on in heaven right now? (a judgment in which the books are opened) What is the name of this judgment? (the investigative judgment) Jesus began his work as our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. This is such an important event. God raised up a group of diligent Bible students in the United States and revealed to them the exact date it began, October 22, 1844. This was the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **Ask:** How do we know that this is the exact date? It’s called the 2300-day prophecy from Daniel.

- **Daniel 8:14**

**Say:** To understand prophecy, you must

know that a day symbolizes a year, so the 2300 days are really years. The prophecy starts at 457 B.C., when the temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt, and it continues until 1844.

- 1 John 2:1, 2

**Ask:** Who is speaking in our behalf? (Jesus) Satan accuses us of being unworthy of eternal life, but Jesus died for our sins, and He defends us, saying we are worthy to have eternal life because of His sacrifice. Christ's high-priestly ministry is in process today and will continue until just before His second coming. He is "atoning," or bringing us back to God, removing the sins that separate us from God, and looking to see whether those who promised allegiance to God have been faithful to Christ.

- Revelation 3:5

**Ask:** What is the book of life? (It is the book where everyone's names who ever lived and believed in God are recorded.)

- Matthew 10:32, 33

**Ask:** How are people being judged? (Everyone is being judged based on whether their actions were in harmony with their confession of faith.) Another purpose of this judgment is to vindicate God's justice before the universe by showing that He saves those who believe in Jesus and remain faithful to Him until the end.

- Revelation 21:27

- Romans 2:6-8

**Ask:** Who will enter heaven when Jesus returns? (Those whose names are written in the book of life, those who lived up to their commitment to follow God.)

- 2 Peter 3:14

**Say:** The book of life is the record used in the investigative judgment not only over the living but also over all the righteous who ever lived. How can we be sure our names stay in the book of life during the duration of the judgment? (By staying connected to Jesus, by obeying Him, and by showing that we love Him through our actions.) We shouldn't fear this judgment if we believe in Jesus and allow Him to make us more like Jesus. God wants to see each one of us in His kingdom. He promises to be our advocate and intercessor based on His own merits and sacrifice. We need to understand, though, that our lives on earth determine our eternity. Jesus offered us salvation by His death. There is nothing we can do to earn that salvation. Yet God respects our response to His gift of salvation. We are free to choose either to accept God's gift or to reject it. Our response to accept the gift of salvation by faith in Jesus will be revealed by whether we have a consistent relationship with God and live in harmony with His will for us. However, if we reject God's free gift of salvation by refusing to live in harmony with the principles of His kingdom, with unspeakable sorrow He will accept our choice. We need to live in such a way that our thoughts, words, and actions are in harmony with His will for us. Our life and eternity are safe only with Jesus.

[For Teachers: Extra information if the students ask such questions as How many judgments? (There are two—investigative judgment for those who have pledged allegiance to God; and the judgment of the wicked during the millennium.) Is everyone's case being judged during the investigative judgment right now? (Only the cases of those who committed their lives to God are being investigated.) Will not the righteous participate in the judgment of the wicked during the millennium? (Yes—Revelation 20:4.) How is the judgment connected to the resurrection that will take place at Jesus' coming? (All the righteous will be resurrected, along with the wicked who crucified Jesus—Revelation 1:7.) How many resurrections

will there be? (There will be two resurrections: the first at Jesus' second coming, and then a second after the millennium [Revelation 20:5], to reward each according to their works.)

## B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

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

**Ask:** What did Hiram Edson and others think would happen on October 22, 1844? How did they feel at midnight? How did God answer their prayers? What did they discover in Bible prophecy about what really happened on October 22, 1844? How was the Seventh-day Adventist Church formed after this? (Explain how the Seventh-day Adventist Church came to exist. Emphasize the origins of our church as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy—see Revelation 10.)

## C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

**Pose the following scenario:**

Imagine having a bad day at school—you're late, forgot your lunch, slammed your finger in your locker, got a headache because you forgot your lunch, and then failed a math quiz? Your friend shows off with a math quiz score of 100 percent. That is the last straw! In anger and haste you post some negative comments on Twitter about your friend. The next day you feel bad about what you have done, and you ask your friend to forgive you. Your friend does, but he/she has already shared with a teacher what you did. This teacher, Mr. Jones, is very strict. You are called into the principal's office with Mr. Jones. Also in the office is Mr. Smith, your favorite teacher, who knows you well. You admit to posting the comments that you're accused of and you say that you are sorry. Mr. Jones shows no mercy and asks that you be expelled from school for cyberbullying. Mr. Smith, on the other hand, pleads on your behalf, saying that you seem truly sorry and have asked forgiveness. He says that you are a good student, befriend new kids, volunteer to help hand out lunches for homeless people, and help other students with science homework. The principal listens quietly and then makes his judgment: You will not be expelled.

**Ask:** How would you feel about that verdict? What would you say to the teacher who stood up for you? Do you think the principal showed too much mercy or wasn't hard enough on you? How is Jesus pleading for your case in the investigative judgment? How is that encouraging? How can you reaffirm your commitment to Jesus and stay connected to Him?

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Beforehand, make copies of "The Courtroom" handout on page 47. Ask the students to fill in the answers.

**Ask:** Are courts on earth always fair? How about God's courtroom? I'm giving you a hand-out. Please draw lines to connect the word to its definition and then to the person whom it represents in the investigative judgment.

**Ask:** What answers did you get? Let's go through them together, and as we do, let's think about the investigative judgment that is going on right now in heaven.

**Say:** Jesus is working on our behalf in heaven, but He is expecting us to be doing our part on earth. What is our part? We know that we are saved by God's grace as we accept Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. So we cannot earn salvation through our actions. Then why are our actions important? Let's read some texts together (ask students to participate):

- James 2:17
- John 14:15
- Matthew 7:17
- Matthew 10:42
- 2 Peter 3:11, 12

**Say:** Our actions reflect whether we are true followers of Christ. Daily we need to consecrate our lives to Jesus. We need to show by our attitude, actions, and words that we are His. We should not do good things because we think we can earn salvation. What we do should come from our hearts because of the love we have for Jesus. We make a choice either to accept or to reject God's gift of salvation by how we live our lives.

## **B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

1. How does it make you feel thinking that your name is going to come up one day in the investigative judgment?
2. Do you think it's harder to get your name in the book of life, or keep it there?
3. How important is what you say, what you listen to, what you watch, what you do, what you Google on the Internet, or what you say about the unpopular student behind their back? How should you be living your life today if Jesus is coming soon?
4. How can you help your friends get to know Jesus, who is not only our Savior but also our Advocate who intercedes on our behalf before the Father?
5. What can we do to help others who don't know Jesus become interested in having a personal relationship with Him?

## **6 CLOSING**

### **SUMMARY**

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

October 22, 1844, was the beginning of the investigative judgment in the heavenly sanctuary. Each person's name in the book of life is being investigated before Jesus can return to earth to take us home. Jesus is our high priest. He is making atonement for us, interceding on our behalf before God the Father, attributing to us His righteousness and His atoning sacrifice. Jesus has already given us the gift of eternal life by His death on the cross. We can't do enough good things to earn that gift; we can only accept it. We show our gratitude and love for Jesus by obeying Him, by loving and caring for others, and by leading them into a saving relationship with Jesus. We are all sinners, but God enables us to have victory over sin if we choose Him daily and strive to honor Him with our lives.



## FOR LESSON FOUR:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE APPLICATION ACTIVITY.

### THE COURTROOM

Draw lines to match the word to its definition, and then to match to whom it represents in the investigative judgment:

lawyer

person who  
accuses another

God

defendant

person who  
makes legal decisions

us

judge

person who  
is charged with a crime

Satan

prosecutor

person who  
represents someone else

Jesus

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## STUDENT LESSON

### JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST The Great Appointment

October 22, 2022

#### Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15, 16, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 24, Christ’s Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:** “In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, [Jesus] 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.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 116-119

#### THE GREAT APPOINTMENT

The noon sun was bright but the air crisp on that autumn day in Port Gibson, New York. Hiram Edson paused a moment from his slow pacing and looked out his window toward the east. *No cloud yet*, he thought. Joy filled the air as people contemplated the glorious thought: *Jesus is coming today!* Hiram Edson, along with his family, were waiting for Jesus to return on that very day, October 22, 1844.

They, along with thousands of other believers, had listened to William Miller preach about Jesus’ second advent. They had studied the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14. They had prayed earnestly for guidance. Everything perfectly pointed to this day when they expected the fulfillment of their cherished hopes—Jesus’ second coming!

As the afternoon hours passed slowly, people continued their prayer vigils. Then the shadows of an early-autumn sunset began to stretch across the farmyard. Were they going to have to eat dinner too? Food was shared as people pondered the delay. The clock continued to tick: 9:00 p.m. Children began to yawn, yet they wanted to be awake when Jesus came. Ten o’clock brought a few heavy sighs. The dark night sky shone with millions of stars. Then the clock struck 12:00 midnight. Looks of question passed between faces. Tears began to well in eyes. Sobs of crying were heard. Edson later wrote, “Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. It seemed that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept and wept, till the day dawn” (in A. L. White, *Ellen G. White*, vol. 1, p. 53). It was a trial of their faith, as they did not see the fulfillment of their fondest hope realized.

What had gone wrong? The next morning Hiram Edson, along with some friends, gathered in his barn to pray. They knelt to ask God to give them guidance and understanding about what had happened. Then Edson and a friend set out to visit and encourage other local believers. As they walked across a cornfield, Edson was given insight.

He said, "I saw distinctly, and clearly, that instead of our High Priest coming out of the Most Holy of the heavenly sanctuary to come to this earth . . . at the end of the 2,300 days, . . . He for the first time entered on that day the second apartment of that sanctuary and . . . had a work to perform in the Most Holy before coming to this earth. . . . While I was thus standing in the midst of the field, my comrade passed on almost beyond speaking distance before missing me. He inquired why I was stopping so long. I replied, 'The Lord was answering our morning prayer, by giving light with regard to our disappointment'" (James Nix, *The Life and Work of Hiram Edson* [Berrien Springs, MI: Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, 1971], pp. 18-20).

So *that* was what had happened on October 22, 1844! In the Old Testament times the high priest entered the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement. That was the day the sanctuary and the people were cleansed of sin. Jesus, our high priest, had entered the real sanctuary in heaven to begin this work on October 22, 1844. The investigative judgment had begun. Since that time every name written in the book of life is being reviewed. Confessed sins are being blotted out. Jesus is doing His closing work in heaven, finishing the atonement and preparing His people for His coming.

Hiram Edson and William Miller and others continued their prophetic studies. Ellen White was a teenager in 1844, one of those waiting for Jesus. In December 1844 God called her to be His special messenger. Under inspiration from God, Ellen wrote numerous books that deal with topics that are essential for the life of faith as well as for good overall health. Translated into numerous foreign languages, her books are sought after by readers around the world as they bring light to the grand principles of God's Word.

Since 1844 the good news of Jesus' soon return continue to be preached worldwide. Jesus is in the last phase of His work in heaven, and He really is coming soon!

## Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 2 Peter 3:9.
- » Lauren's church is planning a Bible prophecy seminar in two weeks. Her Sabbath School teacher has encouraged students to invite their friends. Lauren wants to reach out to someone but feels uncertain. Have you ever felt like that? What would you do? One day at the public school she attends Lauren gets up the courage to talk during lunchtime to her friend Jasmine and invite her to the seminar. Jasmine bursts into laughter and exclaims, "No. I'm definitely not interested!" and then quickly changes the conversation to last night's episode of the TV show she watched. Lauren feels her face blush and is embarrassed. What would you have done? How do you share Jesus when you are being ridiculed?

Lauren has decided to avoid embarrassment and not invite anyone else to the seminar. Just then she finds her friend Katie in the library studying. Katie mentions how sad and confused she feels about the disasters and violence around the world. Lauren feels prompted to invite her to the Bible prophecy seminar, as it could help her understand what's going on in the world in light of the great controversy between good and evil. Katie says that she is interested and accepts the invitation. Imagine Lauren's joy! She is thrilled that she had the courage to invite someone else to the seminar. Has something like this ever happened to you? Think about how those who lived through the Great Disappointment must have felt. They did not give up telling others about Jesus' coming. The Advent message did not die after their disappointment. It spread worldwide.

- » What is God's message to you in Matthew 10:32, 33?

## Monday

### BIBLE ANSWERS ON CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

- » Read Leviticus 16:30; Hebrews 2:17; 8:1-5; 9:23, 24; 1 John 2:1, 2.
- » In 1844 Jesus entered the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary. He is now pleading before the Father for the forgiveness of all who believe in Him and accept His sacrifice for their salvation.



See activity at the end of this lesson.

## Tuesday

### REFLECTING

- » We know from Bible prophecy that the investigative judgment began in 1844. To understand symbolic prophecy, you must remember that a prophetic day symbolizes (or equals) a year (see Ezekiel 4:6). A prophetic week would then add up to seven years (seven prophetic days in a week).
- » Read Daniel 8:14. What does it mean that the sanctuary would be cleansed after 2300 days (or years)?
- » Based on Daniel 9:25, Jerusalem would be rebuilt and restored in accordance with the decree that began the period of 70 weeks of years. This decree was issued in 457 B.C. (see Ezra 7), which is the starting date of the 2300-day prophecy.

The mathematical calculations of this prophetic period are based on the Jewish calendar having months of about 30 days throughout the year. As a result, the length of a year when interpreting prophecy is 360 days, about five

days shorter than the calendar year that we are familiar with.

- » According to Daniel 9:24, 25, there are 69 weeks until Jesus' work as Messiah began. The prophetic interpretation of the 69 weeks of years (where the seven days of each week represent seven years) adds up to 483 years:  $69 \times 7 = 483$ . This period began in 457 B.C., when the decree for the restoration of Jerusalem was issued, and ended in A.D. 27, when Jesus was baptized by John and began His public ministry. The prophecy also says that the Messiah (Jesus) would be "cut off" (crucified) in the midst of the seventieth week—A.D. 31, when Jesus died.

#### In Summary:

- B.C. 457—2300 days and 70 weeks begin.
- A.D. 34—the end of the 70 weeks, when the gospel would be proclaimed/given to the world, not just to the Jews.
- A.D. 1844—the end of the 2300 prophetic days or historic years. This date marked the beginning of the investigative judgment that Christ has begun as our high priest in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.

## Wednesday

### BIBLE INSIGHTS



See activity at the end of this lesson.

## Thursday

### CONNECTING

- » Read 2 Peter 3:11, 12 and Revelation 3:5.
- » "We were disappointed, but not disheartened. We resolved to submit patiently to the process of purifying that God deemed needful for us, and to wait with patient hope for the

Savior to redeem His tried and faithful ones” (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 56).

- » How do you think the feelings of people after the Great Disappointment compare with those of the disciples after Jesus’ death? Read Luke 24:13-26. How did Jesus encourage the two travelers on the road to Emmaus? How has Jesus helped you overcome disappointments?

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- » Ellen White was a 16-year-old teenager on October 22, 1844. She wrote about the bitter disappointment of that day, but also how that year was the happiest of her life. She describes people praying with one another and really caring for each other, being so focused on Jesus that He was the main concern of their lives: “Every morning we felt that it was our first work to secure the evidence that our lives were right before God. Our interest for one another increased; we prayed much with and for one another. . . . The joys of salvation were more necessary to us than our food and drink” (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 55).

- » It sounds like the early Christian church in Acts 2:42-47. How can we be more like these examples of Christian love? What could you do to make a difference for others?
- » How much time in your day do you spend with Jesus? How often do you think about Jesus’ coming? If you knew it were next week, how much more attention would you give Him?

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## Friday APPLYING

- » Read Mark 13:32-37.
- » Write down your thoughts to the following questions:

Read Ephesians 4:1, 2, 29, 31, 32. How should we live our lives, knowing that Jesus is coming very soon?

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Read 2 Peter 3:3, 4, 8, 9. According to these passages we can expect that people will ridicule the message of Jesus’ return before His coming. What encouragement do you find listed in Peter’s message? What promise is listed in one of these verses that affirms your hope in Jesus’ soon return?

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Read 2 Peter 3:11, 12, 14. What can we do as we wait for Jesus’ second coming?

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Read Matthew 28:19, 20. Before Jesus returned to heaven after His death, He gave us a “Great Commission.” What did Jesus ask us to do? What promise did He give us? Read Matthew 24:14.

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## Monday activity

Find the following words hidden in the puzzle. Whenever there are two words, there are no spaces between the words in the puzzle.

INVESTIGATIVE	JUDGMENT	F N A Y G J D N E V A E H A D V O C A T E N G
CHILDREN	HEAVEN	L V R M I L L E R G E R I E R A P E R P J Z B
LOVE	SEVENTY WEEKS	H A H S U O E T H G I R K U T N E M E N O T A
ATONEMENT	ADVOCATE	L I R I W I Z V C L E A N S E D J P L E A D J
EDSON	LIFE	P Q G E R H A I Y T S E J A M E L A S U R E J
SECOND COMING	JERUSALEM	P T R H S A I I N V E S T I G A T I V E T C N
WILLIAM	ELLEN	R U E S P U M T P J D E Y O R T S E D Q U M J
GOD	RESURRECTED	O O B A V R R S E C O N D C O M I N G Q Q V E
DESTROYED	PREPARE	P D U E F L I R A T Y L O H T S O M S I N B L
JESUS	SIN	H E I N P I S E E W D E A T H N O S D E R U L
RECONCILED	SACRIFICE	E T L O A F U K S C S K E E W Y T N E V E S E
MAJESTY	PLEAD	C T T R A E S U M T T O W I L L I A M C G S N
CLEANSED	BLOTTED OUT	Y O F H M O E F M R P E G F L K G L O V E O I
PROPHECY	REBUILT	P L T T L P J O C I Q M D P R D K S Z L P M D
HIRAM	MILLER	X B C H I L D R E N M R Z J U D G M E N T T P
HIGH PRIEST	MOST HOLY	M D E L I C N O C E R M L S A C R I F I C E N
THRONE	DEATH	
RIGHTEOUS	WHITE	

## Wednesday activity

Read the following Bible passages and fill in the blanks.  
All texts are taken from the New King James Version.

“For on that day \_\_\_\_\_ shall make atonement for you, to \_\_\_\_\_ you, that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord” (Leviticus 16:30).

“Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things \_\_\_\_\_ should be \_\_\_\_\_ with these, but the heavenly things themselves with \_\_\_\_\_ than these” (Hebrews 9:23).

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that \_\_\_\_\_ . And if anyone sins, we have an \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father, Jesus Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ . And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also \_\_\_\_\_ ” (1 John 2:1, 2).

“For if when we were enemies we were \_\_\_\_\_ to God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ , much more, having been reconciled, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received \_\_\_\_\_ ” (Romans 5:10, 11).

“But \_\_\_\_\_ anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those \_\_\_\_\_ Lamb’s \_\_\_\_\_ of Life” (Revelation 21:27).