



March 18, 2023

Teens on a Mission



Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 25, The Second Coming of Christ:** “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.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 88-91.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

It was 1911, and explorers were attempting to travel to the uttermost parts of the world. Two teams set out to be the first in history to journey to the South Pole (Antarctica). The glaring difference between the two teams was their approach and preparation for the journey, which in the end made all the difference in the world.

One team was led by Roald Amundsen, who rigorously studied the travel methods of the Eskimos and others who traveled in similar climates. After careful study and reflection he determined that the best way to reach the South Pole was to travel by dogsled. Next he picked a team of skilled skiers and set reasonable goals for each day, making sure the dogs would have plenty of food and rest. His careful planning enabled the team to reach their goal without any major disasters. In fact, the only incident that his team encountered was an infected tooth that had to be extracted.

Unfortunately, the other team, headed up by Robert Falcon Scott, had a completely different experience. Scott, a British naval officer who had led a previous Antarctic expedition, did not thoughtfully plan out his expedition, as is displayed by his choice to use motorized sleds and ponies for the journey. Problems started soon after the expedition began. The motorized vehicles failed after five days, and the ponies, who had never experienced such bitter cold, had to be killed at the base of the Transantarctic Mountains. After the ponies were gone, Scott’s team had to drag the heavy sleds around and were sapped of their energy.

To make matters worse, their clothes were not appropriate for the weather, causing many team members to suffer from frostbite. In addition, the team became blinded by the snow because of inadequate eye protection. If that weren’t enough drama, the food and water ran low as a result of Scott’s poor planning and last-minute addition of a fifth person to the team. Amundsen, because of his thoughtful attention to details, had accomplished his goal and reached the destination, winning the expedition with the Norwegian flag.

It is worth paying careful attention to the details that will help us accomplish our goals. When it comes to our spiritual life, it is even more important to be guided by the firm principles of the Word of God. Only guided by the compass of the Holy Scriptures can we accomplish our mission and reach the destination that God has intended for us. Preparation means careful studying and training for the journey. It also means wearing the proper gear of God’s whole armor so that we might be prepared for the conflict that is before us: “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13). Even with careful planning and preparation we will encounter obstacles because “the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Yet if we follow Jesus’ example and press on in spite of the obstacles and temptations that come our way, He will help us reach the finish line. Paul’s words are encouraging and motivating: “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Peter 2:9.
- » A mission statement is used to describe the reason for the organization and how this helps to guide decisions, priorities, actions, and responsibilities.
- » This is the Seventh-day Adventist Church Mission Statement: “The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to make disciples of all people, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and unite with His remnant church, disciplining them to serve Him as Lord, and preparing them for His soon return.”
- » In what ways does this fit the church you attend? Does your church make soul winning a priority?

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- » Read Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; Ephesians 3:8-11.
- » Organizations have mission statements that help them reach their objectives. Similarly individuals use mission statements to help them achieve their goals. Knowing what is important and understanding God’s plan for your life will help you write your mission statement.
- » How do you see yourself fitting into the mission of the church?

- » How do your decisions and actions today affect how you will form your mission statement in light of telling others about God’s love and soon return?

- » Unscramble the verse below using the New King James Version Bible.

gospel of as come the 14 preached all the will And witness end
Matthew this will then the nations all a the in to kingdom and world
24 be

Tuesday
REFLECTING

- » Read Philippians 3:12-14.
- » Many people start focusing on the things that matter most when serious problems arise, such as cancer or financial difficulties. Trial by fire is one approach to finding a focus and purpose; however, it might not be the best way to spend your time on earth. The story of Blind Bart is a great example of someone straining out anything that gets in the way of their goal, and leaping out to obtain it. In Mark 10 a blind man named Bartimaeus is sitting by the road when he hears that Jesus is passing by. He cries out to Jesus, but he gets shushed by the crowd. Determined not to let the opportunity pass, he cries out louder, and Jesus stops and calls him to come. The blind man sheds his cloak, leaps into the air, and makes his way to Jesus. Amazing! Nothing got in the way of his goal. His reward—Jesus healed him and taught each of us a life lesson about focusing on what really matters in life.
- » Why not be driven by your mission, making every decision based upon your values? Why not live each day for the things you would be willing to die for? It's as simple as showing compassion for outsiders who can't get in, loving your neighbor with tangible grace, or empowering missionaries to spread the gospel through your offerings. Whatever your mission is, be the kind of person who is guided by a true north. Take the challenge of navigating the waters of your teen years with a clear sense of who you are and what you are destined to do.

Thursday
CONNECTING

- » Read Colossians 2:2, 3.
- » Review the memory text.
- » As we read today's assigned reading, we can see that Paul kept his mission statement simple. Paul knew what God wanted and expected, and relying on only God, Paul gave his all.
- » It seems clear when we read the Gospels that Jesus calls His followers to do incredible things to further the kingdom. Jesus can empower you to make bold choices for Him. More than anything else, He wants you, as a child in His kingdom, to experience the joy that comes from allowing God to accomplish what He has intended for your life. What if you were to try it out, keep it simple, and live by your mission statement? The journey about living with purpose for Jesus.
- » "Trust in God, and seek to move from principle, strengthened and ennobled by high resolves and a determination of purpose found only in God" (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 313).

Wednesday
BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the texts to the correct phrase. All Bible texts are from the New King James Version.

1 Peter 2:9 Acts 2:38, 39 Mark 16:15 Colossians 2:5-7
Genesis 12:1-3 Proverbs 21:21 Matthew 28:19, 20 Philippians 3:14

1. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"

2. "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

3. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

4. "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

5. " 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

6. "Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

7. "For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

8. "He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor."

Friday
APPLYING

- » Read Proverbs 21:21.
- » "Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high. . . . Let nothing hinder you. . . . Press with determination in the right direction" (Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 331, 332).
- » Write yourself a mission statement and determine to live according to it!

A personal mission statement addresses three questions:
1. What is my number-one mission goal that gives purpose to my life?
2. What do I stand for?
3. What am I doing to accomplish my mission goal and to do what I stand for?

My Mission Statement:

