

our suggestions for parents

Dear Parents,

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

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

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

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

- If you have a child with special needs, you may be interested to search for ideas, accommodations, and tools available for them at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/article/4/resources#.VGUZIYdSxx4.
- 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 D Qtr 2

Simon's Unexpected Cross (Simon carries the cross)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We show our love for Jesus when we support others in our community.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 201).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 23:26

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 78, pp. 741, 742: "The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence" (p. 742).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 9, pp. 101-104 ("Helped by an African")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Galatians 6:2 (power text)

Sunday—Isaiah 53:1-5

Monday—Luke 23:26

Tuesday—Matthew 27:32

Wednesday—Mark 15:21

Thursday—Acts 11:20, 13:1

Friday—Luke 23:26

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

- What burdens do I carry each day?
- Do I carry my burdens cheerfully and willingly?
- What lessons can I learn from carrying responsibilities?
- Do I rely on God to help me with my burdens or do I try to manage them on my own?
- What should I do when I see others carrying burdens?
- In what specific ways could I help someone carry their burdens?

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

- Discuss how Simon might have felt when he carried Jesus' cross and when he heard Jesus was alive.
- As a family, plan to do something to help and support someone you know needs help.
- Pray for sympathy and understanding for those needing help in your community.

8 Coming up next week!

John "adopts" Jesus' mother and cares for her. We show our love for God when we care for others.

Lesson 2

Year D Qtr 2

A Larger Circle (John “adopts” Mary)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We show Jesus’ love when we include others in our family circle.

2 Power text (memory verse)

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 23, Marriage and the Family: “God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 329).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 19:25-27

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 78, p. 752: “And now, even in His last agony, He remembers to provide for His sorrowing, widowed mother” (p. 752).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 9, pp. 118-123 (“Goodbye, Mother”)

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Romans 12:13 (power text)

Sunday—John 19:25

Monday—John 19:26, 27

Tuesday—John 14:2

Wednesday—Revelation 21

Thursday—Luke 10:38-42

Friday—Luke 19:1-10

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

- What do I learn from this story about the importance of hospitality?
- What does “hospitality” mean to me?
- In what ways do I exemplify the quality of “a lover of hospitality”?
- Does my hospitality end at my circle of friends?
- How do I offer hospitality to those who truly need it?
- In what specific ways could I be generous today?

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

- Talk about someone who has been hospitable or generous to you.
- Discuss ways your family could adopt the character traits of a hospitable person you know.
- As a family, discuss what you would have done if you were John to make Mary feel welcome in your home.

8 Coming up next week!

The disciples receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us.

Lesson 3 Year D Qtr 2

A Special Gift

(Disciples receive the Holy Spirit)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand and share God's Word.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 5, God the Holy Spirit: "God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 69).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New testament, The History of Early Christian Church: Acts 1:3-8

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chaps. 81-86, pp. 779-828; *The Acts of the Apostles*, chaps. 2, 3, pp. 17-34: "The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 805).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 9, pp. 161-164 ("Burning Hearts"); vol. 10, pp. 9-13 ("The Flame From Heaven")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Acts 1:8 (power text)
Sunday—Acts 1:3-5
Monday—Acts 1:6-8
Tuesday—1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Wednesday—Galatians 5:22
Thursday—John 16:5-16
Friday—John 14:26

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

- How does Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit apply to me?
- What do I need to be a more effective witness for Jesus?
- What is the condition to receive the Holy Spirit?
- What is my response when I am called to be Jesus' witness?
- Do I depend on Christ to help me when I witness?
- With whom can I share Jesus today?

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

- As a family, share times when the Holy Spirit has helped each of you.
- During worship discuss what is the purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to witness to others.

8 Coming up next week!

We are called to serve others. God requires us to show kindness to those around us.

Lesson 4 Year D Qtr 2

Repairing Walls

(Jesus taught us to show compassion)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We follow Jesus' example by showing others kindness and compassion.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday" (Isaiah 58:10).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: "God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts, which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 237).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, The Major Prophets:
Isaiah 58:6-12

5 Ellen White reference

Prophets and Kings, chap. 57, pp. 677, 678: "In words of unmistakable meaning the prophet points out the specific work of this remnant people who build the wall. . . . They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in" (p. 678).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 189-191 ("God Marks His Own")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Isaiah 58:10 (power text)
Sunday—Psalm 51:18
Monday—Isaiah 58:6, 7
Tuesday—Isaiah 58:8, 9
Wednesday—Isaiah 58:10-12
Thursday—Matthew 25:31-40
Friday—Isaiah 58:6-12

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

- What do I learn from Jesus' teaching on kindness and compassion?
- How do I live by God's law of love?
- How does kindness and compassion free people?
- In what ways do I minister to those in need?
- What acts of kindness could I do daily?
- To whom will I show compassion or kindness today?

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

- Think of modern day equivalents for the different ways of serving listed in Isaiah 58:10.
- As a family plan to do a special act of kindness for someone today.
- During worship thank each family member for an act of kindness they have done for you.

8 Coming up next week!

Paul teaches slaves to obey. We serve God when we obey and help others.

Lesson 5

Year D Qtr 2

Mastering Obedience

(Paul teaches slaves to obey)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We serve God when we serve others with our whole heart.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people" (Ephesians 6:7).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 11, Growing in Jesus: "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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 149).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: Ephesians 6:5-9

5 Ellen White reference

Messages to Young People, chap. 70, pp. 228-230: "The thing essential for successful work is a knowledge of Christ" (p. 230).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 135-138 ("God's Armor")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore

the core teaching with your children:

Sabbath—Ephesians 6:7 (power text)

Sunday—Ephesians 6:5, 6

Monday—Ephesians 6:7-9

Tuesday—1 Corinthians 9:19

Wednesday—Romans 6:6, 7

Thursday—Isaiah 1:19, 20

Friday—Romans 6:16

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

- What does Jesus' example of service reveal to me?
- How does serving out of love compare to serving out of duty?
- What is my attitude when I serve others?
- How should I react when I feel mistreated and unappreciated?
- How do I treat those who are my "masters"?
- What changes could my acts of kindness produce in someone's life?

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

- Interview someone who does service work.
- Explore ways you can serve in your community.
- Discuss the different areas in which your family has to obey various laws.

8 Coming up next week!

We are all one in Christ. God wants us to accept others unconditionally just like He accepts us.

Lesson 6

Year D Qtr 2

Forgiving the Runaway (Paul appeals to slave masters)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We serve God when we reflect His unselfish love to others.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23, 24).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: "Led by the Holy Spirit, we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute, and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 133).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: Philemon 1-22

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 43, pp. 456-460: "Jesus interposes between the sinner and God, saying, 'I will pay the debt'" (p. 458).

6 The Bible Story reference

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

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Matthew 5:23, 24 (power text)

Sunday—Philemon 1-11

Monday—Philemon 12-25

Tuesday—Luke 6:27, 28

Wednesday—John 15:12-17

Thursday—Psalm 130:4

Friday—Ephesians 6:5-9

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

- In what ways do I run away from God?
- When did I work through a conflict with someone?
- How did I experience forgiveness in my life?
- Do I unconditionally accept others?
- Do I reflect God's unselfish love?
- What can I do today to show God's love, forgiveness, and acceptance?

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

- Draw or write what the meeting of Onesimus and Philemon was like.
- Create a poster using your favorite texts found in Psalms with the words "forgive," "forgave," "forgiven."
- Discuss the parallels between Paul's willingness to pay Onesimus's debt and Christ's willingness to pay the price for our sins.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus sends us to share the Good News. God wants us to tell others of His love.

Lesson 7 Year D Qtr 2

Gathering the Nations (Jesus sends us to share Him)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We serve by getting involved in God's work around the world however we can.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission: "The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ. . . . This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His Second Advent" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 181).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, The Major Prophets:
Isaiah 66:18-23

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 3, pp. 25-34: "The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom" (p. 28).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 9, pp. 182-186 ("Forty Wonderful Days")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Matthew 28:19, 20 (power text)

Sunday—Isaiah 66:18-21

Monday—Isaiah 66:22, 23

Tuesday—Matthew 10:1-16

Wednesday—Acts 13:1-3

Thursday—Acts 8:26-40

Friday—Mark 16:15

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

- How does Jesus' Great Commission apply to me today?
- What is "the Good News"?
- How do I feel about being called to share the Good News?
- Whose missionary work could I support?
- In what ways can I help to spread the Good News?
- Who in my circle of friends needs to hear the Good News today?

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

- Visit www.adventist.org to learn more about the worldwide church.
- Write to someone who is working as a missionary in another country.
- Plan a project that will help people get to know Jesus.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus is the Creator! God gave Himself to us so we can know His nature and character of love and grace.

Lesson 8 Year D Qtr 2

Choosing the Right Word (Jesus is Creator, Light, and Life)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
The light of Jesus' love inspires our service.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind" (John 1:1, 4).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 4, God the Son: "Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ. . . . By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 43).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 1:1-5

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 29, p. 281; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 2, pp. 44-51: "All things were created by the Son of God" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 281).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 1, pp. 73-77 ("One Gleam of Hope"); vol. 7, pp. 23-26 ("The Wonderful Name")

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

Sabbath—John 1:1, 4 (power text)
Sunday—John 1:1-3
Monday—John 1:4, 5
Tuesday—Genesis 1:1-3; Isaiah 60:1, 2; John 1:1-5
Wednesday—Matthew 5:14-16
Thursday—John 1:9-14
Friday—John 8:12

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

- How does Jesus, the Light of the world, impress me to serve others?
- How is my life different because I believe in Jesus as my Creator?
- In what ways can I immitate Jesus' character?
- How can I be a light to others?
- What are some habits that I need to break in order to allow Jesus' light to enter my life?
- What can I do today that will be light and encouragement to my family?

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

- Plan "a night worship." As you turn off and then turn on the lights, talk about the difference light makes in darkness.
- What do the words "word," "life," and "light" have in common and how are they different?
- Share Bible verses about Jesus and talk about how they represent light to you?

8 Coming up next week!
John is exiled to Patmos. We worship God when we listen to His voice through Bible study and prayer.

Lesson 9 Year D Qtr 2

An Island Dream

(John receives a vision of Jesus)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We worship Jesus as the Son of God and Lord of our lives.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 18, The Gift of Prophecy: "One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 247).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 1

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chaps. 56, 57, pp. 568-592: "Among the cliffs and rocks of Patmos, John held communion with his Maker" (p. 571).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 167-170 ("The Voice Behind You")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 1:8 (power text)

Sunday—Revelation 1:1, 2

Monday—Revelation 1:3

Tuesday—Revelation 1:4-8

Wednesday—Revelation 1:9-18

Thursday—Revelation 1:19, 20

Friday—Revelation 1

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

- What demonstrations of God's providence do I have in my life?
- How has He used adverse circumstances to provide a blessing for me?
- Do I allow God to work in every area and circumstance of my life?
- How might I praise God in a difficult situation?
- Do I trust God to work all things out for His glory?
- If Jesus is Lord over my life, what could I share with others?

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

- Write a friend telling them you praise God for bringing them into your life.
- As a family select your favorite praise songs and sing them for worship.
- For worship have each of you share one thing that happened during this past week for which you praise God.

8 Coming up next week!

Messages are given to four churches. When we trust God with our lives we are worshiping Him.

Lesson 10

Year D Qtr 2

How to Be a Winner

(Four churches receive messages)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We worship God when our lives reflect our trust in Him.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 22, Christian Behavior: "We are called to be a godly people" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 311).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 2

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 57, pp. 585-588: "The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era" (p. 585).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 171-175 ("Overcomers for Christ")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 3:21 (power text)

Sunday—Revelation 2:1-3

Monday—Revelation 2:4-7

Tuesday—Revelation 2:8-11

Wednesday—Revelation 2:12-17

Thursday—Revelation 2:18-29

Friday—Revelation 2:7, 10, 11, 17, 26-29.

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

- What messages recorded by John apply to my local church?
- What are some promises Jesus gave to the churches in this lesson?
- Do I participate actively in my church?
- In what ways could I contribute to the worship services at church?
- How is my worship to God a response to all that He has done for me?
- How can I be available to those in need?

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

- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the churches in Ephesus, Pergamum, and Thyatira.
- Talk about what was different about the church in Smyrna.
- During worship, share how the messages given to the churches apply to you as an individual.

8 Coming up next week!

God sends more messages to churches. Our lifestyle and behavior testify that we love and worship God.

Lesson 11

Year D Qtr 2

Life-Saving Advice

(Three churches receive messages)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We praise God for His loving discipline and clear guidance.

2 Power text (memory verse)

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me” (Revelation 3:19, 20).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 12, The Church: “In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 163).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 3

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 57, pp. 588-590: “John saw the mercy, the tenderness, and the love of God blending with His holiness, justice, and power” (p. 589).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 176-179 (“Someone at the Door”)

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 3:19, 20 (power text)

Sunday—Revelation 3:1-3

Monday—Revelation 3:4-6

Tuesday—Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday—Revelation 3:14-18

Thursday—Revelation 3:19-22

Friday—Revelation 2 and 3

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

- How was the church of Laodicea different from the other churches?
- Following God's advice what positive changes do I need to make?
- What does it mean for me “to overcome” or “be victorious”?
- How does my life show that God has already won the victory for me?
- What guidelines given to the churches do I need to take to heart?
- With whom could I share the promises Jesus gave to the churches?

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

- Identify and talk about the things that can make you spiritually strong.
- Choose one of the messages given to the churches and apply in practice Jesus' advice.
- Share some of the things your family can do to be on “fire” for the Lord.

8 Coming up next week!

John sees heaven. Jesus created and redeemed us and He is worthy of our worship.

Lesson 12

Year D Qtr 2

The Emerald Throne (John sees heaven)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We worship Jesus because He created us and saves us.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being" (Revelation 4:11).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 417).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 4; 5

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chaps. 25, 26, pp. 436-438, 452: "The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence" (p. 436).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 180-183 ("The Throne of God")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 4:11 (power text)

Sunday—Revelation 4:1-3

Monday—Revelation 4:4, 5

Tuesday—Revelation 4:6-11

Wednesday—Revelation 5:1-5

Thursday—Revelation 5:6-10

Friday—Revelation 5:11-14

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

- How does worship unfold in God's throne room?
- How do I feel knowing that I was specially designed and created by Jesus?
- Do I recognize God as my Creator and Redeemer?
- What should I do in response to such love?
- What are my reasons to praise God?
- What could I share with someone about Jesus, my Creator?

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

- As a family walk around your neighborhood and praise God for all the things you see.
- Write a prayer of praise.
- Make and share, with your family, a plan for when you get to heaven.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus always loves us. Nothing can separate us from His love.

Lesson 13 Year D Qtr 2

God's Cure for Separation Anxiety (Jesus always loves us)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Regardless of our circumstances, Jesus is always there for us.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38, 39).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 3, God the Father: "God the eternal Father is the Creator. . . . He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 35).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: Romans 8:28-39

5 Ellen White reference

The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 56, pp. 576, 577; *The Great Controversy*, chap. 19, p. 350: "Through trial and persecution the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 576).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story (1994), vol. 10, pp. 79-83 ("Singing in Jail"); pp. 85-88 ("The Wound Washer"); pp. 89-91 ("Turning the World Upside Down")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Romans 8:38, 39 (power text)

Sunday—Romans 8:28-30

Monday—Romans 8:31, 32

Tuesday—Romans 8:33, 34

Wednesday—Romans 8:35-37

Thursday—2 Corinthians 11:24-28; Romans 8:38, 39

Friday—Matthew 7:7-11, Romans 8:32

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

- What was Paul's cure for anxiety?
- What are some troubles and disappointments in my life?
- What disasters do kids my age fear?
- How do the words in Romans 8:28, 38, and 39 encourage me?
- What promises from the Bible give me peace and comfort?
- What words of encouragement could I share with someone today?

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

- As a family, share five things from which you do not want to be separated.
- Restate Romans 8:28 in today's language.
- Read or recite by memory Romans 8:38, 39. Thank God for His love.

8 Coming up next week!

God calls Noah to a special work. God has a plan for each one of 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 Exodperience, 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 Exodhibited 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 Exodperiened temptation as a human being, but perfectly Exodemplied 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 Exodtends 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

our **beliefs** continued

being, endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-Exodaltation 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 Exodiatory, 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 Exodercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Substitute and Exodample. 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 Exodperience. (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 Exodpression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this Exodperience 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-Exodamination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to Exodpress 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 Exodperience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Joel 2:28, 29; Amos 3:7; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)

19 The Law of God

The great principles of God's law

our **beliefs** continued

are embodied in the Ten Commandments and Exodemplified in the life of Christ. They Exodpress 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 Christlike 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 Exodercise 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 Exodample and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring

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

24 Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

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

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

25 The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected and, together with the righteous living, will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is near. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore Exodhorted 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 The 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 Exodpected 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 Exodpress the teachings of God's Holy Word.

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