

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. (The following Parents' Pages were created for that purpose.)
- 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 them 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.

- Talk with your children about the lesson. For example, where do they see the lesson being applied in their daily life? 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 support 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 done 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 Him what God has given us.

Lesson 1 Year A Qtr 1

Family Dynamics (Jesus is an obedient son)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We honor God when we obey Him.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

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 who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 311).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 2:51, 52; Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Isaiah 53:7-12

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 7, pp. 68-74: “Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did. As we try to become acquainted with our heavenly Father through His word, angels will draw near, our minds will be strengthened, our characters will be elevated and refined. We shall become more like our Saviour” (p. 70).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 63-68 (“Happy Days in Nazareth”); pp. 69-73 (“First Big Holiday”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Luke 2:52 (power text)
Sunday—Mark 3:33, 34
Monday—Colossians 3:12
Tuesday—Colossians 2:6, 7
Wednesday—Romans 15:1, 2
Thursday—Luke 2:21-52
Friday—Luke 2:51, 52

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

- How did Jesus grow in favor with God and man?
- Whom did Jesus call His brother, sister, and mother?
- How could I exercise compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?
- How did Jesus respond when He was accused?
- How does obedience help me worship God with my whole heart?
- How could I “build up” and encourage someone to worship God?

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

- Based on Luke 2:51, 52, discuss the ways in which Jesus “grew” or “increased.”
- Share with your family your views about the advantages of obedience.
- Talk about ways to improve the quality of your family worships.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus cleanses the temple. We worship God when we show respect and reverence in His house.

Lesson 2 Year A Qtr 1

More Pigeons Than Prayer (Jesus cleanses the temple)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Showing respect and reverence in God's house is one way we respond to His love.

2 Power text (memory verse)
" 'It is written,' he said to them, ' "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers" ' " (Matthew 21:13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 12, The Church: "The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 163).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 2:13-25

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 16, pp. 154-166: "Only Christ can cleanse the soul temple" (p. 161).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 134-138 ("The Temple Cleansed")

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Matthew 21:13 (power text)

Sunday—Jeremiah 7:11
Monday—John 2:13-15
Tuesday—John 2:16
Wednesday—John 2:17
Thursday—John 2:18
Friday—John 2:19-22

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

- Why was Jesus so interested to maintain reverence in God's house?
- How is God's house a place of worship for me?
- How do I honor God's house?
- How could I keep my body as a temple for God?
- How could I contribute to a worshipful atmosphere in God's house?
- Who is a person I could invite to church on Sabbath?

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

- Describe how your family can honor Jesus at church.
- Name and describe three or four people who exercise their authority to honor God.
- With your family discuss novel and interesting ways you could worship together.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus reads in the synagogue. We respond to God's love when we worship Jesus.

Lesson 3 Year A Qtr 1

Now You See Him; Now You Don't (Jesus reads in the synagogue)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

When we respond to God's love, Christ becomes the center of our worship.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:7, 8).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 43).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 4:16-30

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 24, pp. 236-243: "So, in all ages, angels have been near to Christ's faithful followers" (p. 240).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 165-168 ("Hometown Boy Returns")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Psalm 16:7, 8 (power text)
Sunday—Isaiah 61:1, 2
Monday—Psalm 22:22; 35:18
Tuesday—Luke 4:14-16
Wednesday—Luke 4:18-22
Thursday—Luke 4:23-27
Friday—Luke 4:28-30

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

- What "good news" did Jesus bring?
- How do I respond to God's love?
- How do I offer praises to God at church?
- What happens when I don't spend time in worship?
- How can I keep Jesus in the center of my life and worship?
- How can I share the joy I found in Jesus with others?

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

- Share ways you could praise God.
- As a family, have a special Friday night worship (songs, Bible readings, story, and prayer).
- If possible, invite someone to join your family for worship on Friday evening.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus preaches in Capernaum. Worship is a verb and involves action.

Lesson 4 Year A Qtr 1

Way to Worship! (Jesus preaches in Capernaum)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

When we take an active part in worship, we are responding to God's love.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 20, The Sabbath:
"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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 281).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels:
Mark 1:21-28

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 26, pp. 252-261: "He [Jesus] placed the things of this life in their true relation, as subordinate to those of eternal interest; but He did not ignore their importance" (p. 254).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 157-159
("Madman in Church")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Psalm 100:4 (power text)

Sunday—Luke 4:31-37

Monday—Mark 1:21, 22

Tuesday—Mark 1:23-28; John 2:15, 16

Wednesday—1 Chronicles 16:8-36

Thursday—Psalm 65:4; 92:12-14

Friday—Psalm 100

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

- What could I learn about worship from Jesus' example?
- How could I make participation in worship a priority in my life?
- What talents has God given me that I use to glorify Him?
- How do I contribute to worship in church?
- What are my reasons for praising and worshipping God?
- With whom will I share the joy that comes from worshipping God?

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

- Discuss the talents present in your family that could be used in worship.
- Read Psalm 100 then praise and give thanks to God for His blessings.
- Sing together some of your favorite songs of praise.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus got thirsty. Jesus longs to spend time with us when we worship Him.

Lesson 5 Year A Qtr 1

When Jesus Got Thirsty (Jesus meets the woman at the well)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Wherever we are, we can worship God in the Spirit and in truth in response to His love.

2 Power text (memory verse)

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 5, The Holy Spirit: “God the eternal Spirit . . . draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 69).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 4:5-42

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 19, pp. 183-190: “Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit’s working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul” (p. 189).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 145-150 (“Sudden Harvest”)

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—John 4:24 (power text)

Sunday—John 7:37

Monday—John 7:38, 39; Revelation 21:6; 22:17

Tuesday—John 4:4-12

Wednesday—John 4:13-15; Psalm 63:1; 42:1, 2

Thursday—John 4:16-20

Friday—John 4:21-26, 39-42

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

- What does it mean to me that Jesus is “the Water of Life”?
- How could I worship God “in the Spirit and in truth”?
- What difference does worship make in my life?
- In what ways do I respond to God’s love?
- How can I enrich my worship experience?
- With whom will I share Jesus, “the Water of Life,” today?

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

- Discuss the meaning of “Water of Life” with your family.
- Pray together for the people you listed today so that you might share Jesus with them.
- As a family, talk about ways you can worship God “in the Spirit and in truth.”

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus restores sight to a blind man! Believing and acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God is an act of worship.

Lesson 6 Year A Qtr 1

I Believe

(Jesus heals a blind man)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 4, The Son: "God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus 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 9

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 51, pp. 470-475. "The [healed] man cast himself at the Saviour's feet in worship. Not only had his natural sight been restored, but the eyes of his understanding had been opened. Christ had been revealed to his soul, and he received Him as the Sent of God" (p. 475).

112 6 The Bible Story reference

No corresponding story.

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—John 9:35-38 (power text)

Sunday—John 9:1-3

Monday—John 9:4-12

Tuesday—John 9:13-34

Wednesday—John 9:35-41

Thursday—Romans 1:21

Friday—John 5:24

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

- How did the blind man's answer to the Pharisees prove his belief in Jesus?
- What makes it easy/hard to believe without seeing?
- How could I avoid spiritual blindness and walk in God's light?
- What things do I do that show I believe in Jesus?
- What in my life has been used to glorify God?
- In what ways can I share my beliefs with my friends?

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

- Take turns sharing why you believe in Jesus and how He makes a difference in your life.
- Identify specific things you can do to improve your spiritual "eyesight."
- Read Romans 8:38, 39 and discuss how God's infinite love is the basis for your faith in Him.

8 Coming up next week!

Seeds are scattered. We find in God's Word everything we need to live according to His will.

Lesson 7 Year A Qtr 1

Growing Season

(Seed is scattered in every soil)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God gives us His Word extravagantly.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life” (John 6:63).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 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” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 11).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

5 Ellen White reference
Christ’s Object Lessons, chap. 2, pp. 33-61: “To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, angels of God draw near. The Holy Spirit is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth” (p. 59).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 103-105 (“Seeds of Love”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the

core teaching with your children:

Sabbath—John 6:63 (power text)

Sunday—Mark 4:1-20

Monday—Psalm 119:105

Tuesday—Matthew 13:3-9

Wednesday—Luke 8:1-3

Thursday—Luke 8:5-8

Friday—Luke 8:11-15

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

- What is Jesus teaching me through the parable of the sower?
- In what ways is God’s Word like seeds scattered in the soil?
- How is God’s Word an extravagant gift of His love to me?
- How has the Bible transformed my life?
- How is spiritual growth built into God’s Word like physical growth is built into a seed?
- How can I bless others by sharing with them the riches of God’s Word?

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

- With your family, compare Matthew 13:1-23 to Luke 8:1-15 and discuss the significance of the Bible.
- Discuss how the “seeds” in this week’s lesson are like the Word of God within you.
- During prayer, thank God for His Word and ask Him to help your family grow.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus tells the parable of the yeast and mustard seed. By God’s grace our faith, though small, will grow.

Lesson 8 Year A Qtr 1

Kingdom Time (Growth like yeast/mustard seed)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:4-6).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 11, Growing in Christ: “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” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 149).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels:
Matthew 13:31-33

5 Ellen White reference
Christ's Object Lessons, chap. 5, pp. 76-79; chap. 7, pp. 95-102: “As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life” (p. 97).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 84-87
 (“Why the Power Failed”)

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

Sabbath—Philippians 1:4-6 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 13:10-12
Monday—Matthew 13:31; Luke 17:6
Tuesday—Matthew 13:31, 32
Wednesday—Matthew 13:33
Thursday—Matthew 13:34, 35
Friday—Matthew 13:31-33

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

- What does the yeast and the mustard seed represent?
- What is God's kingdom?
- How does my faith in God grow?
- How could I experience faith even as a “mustard seed” when I pray to God?
- What gives me the assurance that God will finish His work in me?
- How could I encourage someone who doesn't have enough faith in God?

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

- For worship discuss what is involved in the growth process of a plant.
- Make bread and observe the action of the yeast. Serve the bread at your evening meal.
- Read together Matthew 13:33 and share what the parable of the yeast means to you.

8 Coming up next week!
God treasures us. In giving our lives to God we realize the priceless gift we have in Jesus' sacrifice.

Lesson 9 Year A Qtr 1

Priceless! (Hidden treasure)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 121).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 13:44-46

5 Ellen White reference

Christ's Object Lessons, chap. 8, pp. 103-114; chap. 9, pp. 115-121: "So the finder of heavenly treasure will count no labor too great and no sacrifice too dear, in order to gain the treasures of truth" (p. 104).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 70-72 ("Treasures in Heaven")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—1 Peter 1:18, 19 (power text)

Sunday—Matthew 13:44

Monday—Matthew 13:45, 46;

Philippians 2:6; John 1:1

Tuesday—Exodus 19:3-6

Wednesday—Matthew 6:19-21

Thursday—Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Friday—Deuteronomy 14:2

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

- Where is the greatest treasure found?
- How much does God treasure me?
- How am I priceless to God?
- How can I respond to Jesus, who died just for me?
- How can I accept God's Word as a hidden treasure or a pearl of great value?
- How can I tell others about the treasure I've found in Jesus?

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

- Ask God to help your family find the treasures He has for each of you.
- Together with your family, share your favorite promises from God's Word.
- Discuss what Jesus gave up so that He could obtain the treasure of you and me.

8 Coming up next week!

A runaway son returns home and promises to serve his father. When we experience God's grace, we will want to serve others out of love for Him.

Lesson 10 Year A Qtr 1

The Real Prodigal (Father's love inspires service)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

God's lavish love for us inspires us to serve Him.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants" (Luke 15:18, 19).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 3, The Father: "God the eternal Father 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, The Four Gospels: Luke 15:11-32; Letters to People and Churches: 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 3:8, 9

5 Ellen White reference

Christ's Object Lessons, chap. 16, pp. 198-211: "The young man . . . sets his face toward home. Trembling with weakness and faint from hunger, . . . he hurries on to beg a servant's place where he was once a child" (p. 202).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 116-120 ("Lost Boy Found")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Luke 15:18, 19 (power text)
 Sunday—Luke 15:11-17
 Monday—Luke 15:18, 19
 Tuesday—Luke 15:20-24
 Wednesday—Luke 15:25-32
 Thursday—1 John 3:1
 Friday—1 John 3:16

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

- What is the message of this parable to me?
- Have I embraced the lavish love of God?
- What is my response to God's love?
- How can I share that love with someone who needs to experience it?
- How will my service to others reflect my love for God?
- What will I do to help someone return home to the heavenly Father?

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

- Discuss what being a "prodigal" means to your family.
- Show a family photo and share with your family how this reminds each of you of God's love.
- Plan to share God's love with someone in need through your unconditional service.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus sets an example for us. We serve others when we share God's love with them through acts of kindness.

Lesson 11

Year A Qtr 1

The Servant Master (Jesus washes disciples' feet)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 16, The Lord's Supper: "The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 225).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 22:7-13; John 13:1-17

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 71, pp. 642-651: "In washing the feet of His disciples, Christ gave evidence that He would do any service, however humble, that would make them heirs with Him of the eternal wealth of heaven's treasure" (p. 651).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 55-60 ("Feet Jesus Washed"); pp. 61-64 ("Farewell Party")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—John 13:14, 15 (power text)

Sunday—John 13:1-5

Monday—John 13:6-9

Tuesday—John 13:10, 11

Wednesday—John 13:12-17

Thursday—Matthew 20:25-28

Friday—Luke 22:25-27

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

- What did Jesus' example at the Lord's Supper teach about humility in service?
- Why is it important that I follow Jesus' example?
- What do I understand the meaning of Communion?
- What is the significance of washing each other's feet?
- How is foot washing an act of service?
- How does foot washing help restore broken relationships?

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

- Discuss how you can serve others when this requires humbling yourself.
- Share some ways your family can serve a neighbor, a friend, or an elderly church member.
- Have each family member agree to do an act of service for each other this week.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus makes the ultimate sacrifice for us. Service is sharing God's love with others in all circumstances.

Lesson 12

Year A Qtr 1

Love on a Tree (Jesus' crucifixion)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Like Jesus, we can share God's love with anyone, anywhere.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'" (Matthew 27:54).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 133).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 27:27-66; Luke 23:26-49

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 78, pp. 741-757; chap. 79, 758-764: "With amazement the angels beheld the infinite love of Jesus, who, suffering the most intense agony of mind and body, thought only of others, and encouraged the penitent soul [the thief] to believe" (p. 752).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 105-111 ("Nailed to a Cross"); pp. 112-117 ("Promise to a Thief")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Matthew 27:54 (power text)
 Sunday—Luke 23:26-34
 Monday—Luke 23:35-49
 Tuesday—Matthew 27:33-44
 Wednesday—Mark 15:22-32
 Thursday—John 19:17-24
 Friday—John 3:16, 17

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

- What is the good news in Jesus' death and resurrection?
- How is Jesus' sacrifice for us the greatest act of unconditional love and service?
- What difference does Jesus' sacrifice make in my life?
- What difference does my witness for Jesus make in the lives of those around me?
- How does Jesus' sacrifice inspire me to serve Him wholeheartedly?
- How and where do I share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection?

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

- Share your "testimony" of how Jesus' sacrifice has changed your life.
- Discuss how the prophecies were fulfilled at Jesus' crucifixion.
- Contact a person who needs to hear about Jesus' sacrifice and share your joy with that person.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus is alive! As we serve others we can tell them about the resurrection.

Lesson 13 Year A Qtr 1

Live Man Walking (Jesus is risen!)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We can enthusiastically share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs no. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ: "The . . . 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" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 121).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 80, pp. 769-778; chap. 81, pp. 779-787; chap. 82, pp. 788-794: "Look not to the empty sepulcher. Mourn not as those who are hopeless and helpless. Jesus lives, and because He lives, we shall live also" (p. 794).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 134-138 ("The Creator Rests Again"); pp. 139-142 ("Most Sacred Day"); pp. 143-148 ("Most Awful Night"); pp. 151-155 ("Most Glori-

ous Morning")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—1 Peter 1:3 (power text)
Sunday—Luke 24:1-5
Monday—Luke 24:6-12
Tuesday—Mark 15:22-32
Wednesday—Psalm 97:11, 12
Thursday—Isaiah 55:12
Friday—Matthew 27:33-44

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

- What is the good news of the resurrection story?
- How did the message of the resurrection change the disciples' lives?
- How is it changing my life?
- How can I encourage those who mourn?
- Who do I know that needs to hear about Jesus' gift to us?
- With whom can I share the hope that Jesus' resurrection brings?

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

- Discuss how the women may have felt when the disciples didn't believe them.
- Talk about how new birth in nature could remind us of the hope we have in Jesus' resurrection.
- Share with a friend, relative, or neighbor your belief in Jesus' resurrection and the hope of eternal life.

8 Coming up next week!

Apostles care for the new Christian church. As children of God we should help and care for anyone in need. **119**



ourbeliefs taken from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*

1 The Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.)

2 The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.)

3 The Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 4:35; Ps. 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Rev. 4:11.)

4 The Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and

the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1-3, 9, 13; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; 8:1, 2.)

5 The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.)

6 Creation

God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh

day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished, it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; 5; 11; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12, 18; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2; 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.)

7 The Nature of Humanity

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position. The image of God in them was marred, and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15; 3; Ps. 8:4-8; 51:5, 10; 58:3; Jer. 17:9; Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 3:4; 4:7; 8, 11, 20.)

8 The Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being,

our **beliefs** continued

endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9.)

9 The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15;

1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.)

10 The Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit, we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Substitute and Example. This saving faith comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him, we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 5:6-10; 8:1-4, 14-17; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.)

11 Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil

powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

12 The Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not

having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 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; Dan. 7:9-14; Micah 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.)

14 Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt.

28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.)

15 Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.)

16 The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (Matt. 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Rev. 3:20.)

17 Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His

church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.)

18 The Gift of Prophecy

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church, and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Joel 2:28, 29; Amos 3:7; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)

our **beliefs** continued**19 The Law of God**

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 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; Ex. 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; 9:7.)

22 Christian Behavior

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to re-create in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christ-like purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet

possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Gen. 7:2; Ex. 20:15; Lev. 11:1-47; Ps. 106:3; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 10:5; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 2:4; 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.)

23 Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring guide who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God, which embraces

both single and married persons. (Gen. 2:18-25; Ex. 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 exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.)

26 Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, a resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Rev. 20:1-10.)

27 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 expected at a General Conference session, when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language to express the teachings of God's Holy Word.

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

Notes

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