

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 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.

- If you have a child with special needs, you may be interested to search for ideas, accommodations, and tools available for them at <http://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 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 God what He has given us.

Lesson 1

Year B Qtr 1

The Great Gift Exchange (We offer ourselves to Jesus)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we offer Him our hearts.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “Therefore by [Jesus] let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 3:16, 17; Luke 1; 2; Matthew 1; 2

5 Ellen White references
Steps to Christ, chap. 8, pp. 67-75; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 17, pp. 167-177: “Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 69).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 95-98 (“The Man Who Walked Into Heaven”);

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—John 3:16; Hebrews 13:15
(power texts)

Sunday—John 3:16

Monday—John 3:17

Tuesday—1 John 4:9, 10, 19

Wednesday—Romans 5:8, 10

Thursday—Romans 12:1, 2

Friday—John 15:4, 7, 12

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

- What is my response to God’s gift?
- What does Jesus’ sacrifice prompt me to do?
- Have I accepted God’s gift of salvation?
- How do I accept Jesus in my life?
- Why is it important to consecrate myself to God daily?
- Whom can I tell about Jesus’ gift?

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

- Analyze John 3:16, 17. What is God’s part, and how should I respond?
- Discuss what it cost God to give us Jesus. Is anything you could give Him too costly?
- Create and share a simple gift with someone who is not expecting it.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus was a blessing to all. We can bless others by following His example.

Lesson 2 Year B Qtr 1

Being a Blessing (Jesus serves as a youth)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Like Jesus, we can serve others selflessly.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 21, Stewardship: "We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 2:51, 52

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 7, pp. 68-74: "From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others" (p. 70).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 85-90 ("The Carpenter's Son")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Mark 10:45 (power text)
Sunday—Luke 2:51

Monday—Luke 2:52

Tuesday—2 Corinthians 8:2-4; 9:7

Wednesday—John 13:1-17

Thursday—Matthew 5:23, 24; 18:21, 22

Friday—Proverbs 15:1, 18; Romans 12:18; 14:19

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

- In what ways does Jesus' example of service inspire me to serve others?
- How am I a blessing in my family?
- What are the acts of service that I can do regularly?
- Who are the people in my family who may need my help?
- How could I have a serving attitude in my relationship with others?
- Who is a person who needs my help today?

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

- Call your pastor or Sabbath School teacher and express your desire to serve actively at church.
- Do something nice that will make someone smile today.
- With your family, sing a song about service for worship tonight.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. We serve by loving the unlovable.

Lesson 3 Year B Qtr 1

Who Are the Blessed? (Jesus teaches love to enemies)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We honor God when we serve people who are not easy to love.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: “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” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 6:27-36; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14-21

5 Ellen White reference
Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, chap. 3, pp. 73-75: “His love received, will make us, in like manner, kind and tender, not merely toward those who please us, but to the most faulty and erring and sinful” (p. 75).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 62-65 (“God’s Better Way”)

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

Sabbath—Romans 12:21 (power text)

Sunday—Matthew 5:43-45

Monday—Matthew 5:46-48

Tuesday—Luke 6:27-36

Wednesday—Romans 12:14-21

Thursday—Psalm 23:5

Friday—Luke 6:27-36

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

- Whom do I consider an enemy?
- Is it possible to “love” an enemy?
- Why is it hard to love those who are difficult to get along with?
- In what practical ways can God’s love help me?
- What can I do to love the unlovable?
- How would life be different if everyone applied the truths that Jesus taught?

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

- Write notes asking for forgiveness to anyone you may have treated unkindly.
- Think of a person that you find difficult to love. Look for opportunities to show kindness to this person.
- Together, write a song or poem that tells how we should respond to our enemies.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus heals the son of a royal official. As we serve others we can introduce them to Jesus.

Lesson 4 Year B Qtr 1

A Desperate Father (Jesus heals official's son)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:36-38).

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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 4:46-54

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 20, pp. 196-200: "The nobleman longed to know more of Christ. As he afterward heard His teaching, he and all his household became disciples" (p. 200).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 153-156 ("Daddy's Prayer Answered")

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Matthew 9:36-38 (power text)

Sunday—John 4:46-50

Monday—John 4:51-54

Tuesday—Numbers 27:16, 17;

Matthew 9:35-38

Wednesday—Matthew 21:22

Thursday—Luke 9:1-6

Friday—Luke 10:2

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

- Who are Jesus' disciples today?
- In what ways did Jesus serve others?
- How do I rely on Jesus to do what He says He will do in my life?
- What areas of my life should I surrender to Jesus?
- How could I help others come to Jesus with their needs?
- In what ways can I encourage others to answer Jesus' call for service?

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

- Find a community service agency for children where your family can volunteer.
- During family worship, act out the story of the official's son being healed.
- As a family, plan a way to be of service to some of God's little ones.

8 Coming up next week!
The centurion's servant is healed. God wants us to share our faith in loving acts of service and blessing to others.

Lesson 5 Year B Qtr 1

Unexpected Faith (Jesus heals Roman servant)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

As our faith develops, so does our ability to serve.

2 Power text (memory verse)

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 7:1-10

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 32, pp. 315-320: “His [the centurion’s] faith took hold upon Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him merely as a worker of miracles, but as the friend and Saviour of mankind.

“It is thus that every sinner may come to Christ” (pp. 316, 317).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 7, pp. 177-179 (“The Centurion’s Servant”)

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Hebrews 12:2 (power text)

Sunday—Luke 7:1-4

Monday—Luke 7:5-10

Tuesday—Luke 7:9

Wednesday—Matthew 8:14, 15

Thursday—Mark 1:40-44

Friday—Mark 10:46-52

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

- How could I have as much faith as the centurion had?
- How do others know me outside my church?
- How am I a person of faith?
- What is the connection between one’s faith and service to others?
- In what ways can I develop my faith in God?
- How does my service reflect my faith in God?

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

- Find five other miracles of healing that Jesus performed.
- What acts of service or blessing could your family perform? Choose one to do this week.
- Sing one of the following hymns from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*: 333, 642, 643, or 644.

8 Coming up next week!

A non-Jewish woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Everyone has access to God’s blessings.

Lesson 6 Year B Qtr 1

Crumbs for the Dogs? (Jesus heals a foreign daughter)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Jesus calls us to accept everyone as God's precious child.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved'" (Romans 10:12, 13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: "As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Mark 7:24-30

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 43, pp. 399-403: "The blessings of salvation are for every soul" (p. 403).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 19-21 ("Needy Foreigner Helped")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Romans 10:12, 13 (power text)

Sunday—Mark 7:24-26

Monday—Mark 7:27-30

Tuesday—Acts 10:34

Wednesday—Galatians 3:28, 29

Thursday—Genesis 1:26, 27

Friday—Colossians 3:11

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

- How am I prejudiced toward others?
- How can I overcome prejudice?
- How do I serve the disadvantaged?
- Do I treat others with kindness?
- How may I encourage others to treat everyone with fairness?
- What will be my attitude today toward those who are different?

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

- Read Mark 7:24-30. What did Jesus say that sounded unkind?
- Talk about specific things you can do to overcome your prejudices.
- Do an act of kindness for someone against whom you are prejudiced.

8 Coming up next week!

The disciples acknowledge that Jesus is God. We choose to place Jesus first in everything.

Lesson 7 Year B Qtr 1

Who Is Jesus?

(Disciples believe Jesus is God)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We accept God's grace, acknowledging Jesus as Lord of our lives.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 16:13-20

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 45, pp. 410-418: "The truth which Peter had confessed is the foundation of the believer's faith. It is that which Christ Himself has declared to be eternal life" (p. 412).

6 The Bible Story reference

No corresponding story from *The Bible Story*.

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Philippians 2:9-11 (power text)

Sunday—Matthew 16:13-16

Monday—Matthew 16:17-20

Tuesday—Acts 2:36

Wednesday—Romans 8:38, 39

Thursday—2 Peter 3:18

Friday—2 Peter 1:16-18

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

- Who is Jesus to me?
- How does my life show what I believe about Jesus?
- What does it mean that eternal life is found in Jesus?
- What spiritual habits and experiences can strengthen my faith?
- Why is faith important when I pray?
- In what ways could I strengthen someone else's faith?

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

- Share with each other what Jesus means to you. How are your descriptions similar or different?
- Go for a walk and discover ways nature tells us that Jesus is the Creator and Lord.
- Act out the Bible story together.

8 Coming up next week!

Peter asks Jesus about forgiveness. Just as God forgives us, we should forgive others.

Lesson 8 Year B Qtr 1

A Heart of Stone (Peter asks about forgiveness)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God's forgiveness has no limits.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 7, The Nature of Humanity: "When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position. . . . 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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 18:21-35

5 Ellen White reference
Christ's Object Lessons, chap. 19, pp. 243-251: "We ourselves owe everything to God's free grace. . . . Let this grace be revealed to others" (p. 250).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 128-130 ("Meanest Man on Earth"); *The Bible Story*, vol. 8, pp. 91-93 ("Seventy Times Seven")

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

Sabbath—Psalm 86:5 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 18:21, 22
Monday—Matthew 18:23-27
Tuesday—Matthew 18:28-30
Wednesday—Matthew 18:31-35
Thursday—Psalm 103:9-12
Friday—Ezekiel 33:16; Micah 7:19

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

- What does it mean to forgive from the heart?
- For what mistakes, failures, offenses have I been forgiven?
- How does experiencing God's forgiveness empower me to forgive others?
- Are there some offenses that I find hard to forgive?
- How can I forgive those who have offended me?
- How does my relationship with Christ help me offer forgiveness?

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

- Multiply 70 x 7. How often would you have to forgive someone using this formula?
- Have each family member share a forgiveness story that was personally experienced.
- Read Micah 7:19 and thank God that He doesn't remember our sins.

8 Coming up next week!
Mary anoints Jesus. God's love can flow through us to others.

Lesson9 Year B Qtr 1

A Dinner Party to Remember (Mary anoints Jesus)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God's overflowing love motivates us to be loving.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. . . . We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:16, 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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 7:36-47

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 62, pp. 557-568: "She [Mary] had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she had longed to show Him honor" (p. 559).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 28-32 ("A Secret Jesus Told")

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

Sabbath—1 John 4:16, 19 (power text)

Sunday—Luke 7:36-38

Monday—Luke 7:39-48

Tuesday—Matthew 26:6, 7

Wednesday—Matthew 26:8-13

Thursday—Psalm 143:8

Friday—Psalm 47:1, 2

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

- How is God surrounding me with His love?
- What is my response to that love?
- How does God's love make me want to be generous?
- How do I express appreciation for the gifts that I receive?
- What gifts do I offer Jesus who has done so much for me?
- In what ways can I show that I accept and support others?

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

- Discuss the difference between Matthew's version and Luke's version of the story.
- Talk about the ways God has shown His love to your family.
- Plan as a family to reflect God's love to someone this week.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly. We reflect God's love when we share the good news about Jesus.

Lesson 10 Year B Qtr 1

Jesus' Big Entrance (Jesus' triumphal entry)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We share Jesus with others as we praise Him.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!'" (Matthew 21:9).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church: "The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 21:1-11

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 63, pp. 569-579: "All were happy and excited; the people vied with one another in paying Him homage" (p. 570).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 33-38 ("Donkey Jesus Remembered")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Matthew 21:9 (power text)

Sunday—Matthew 21:1-6

Monday—Matthew 21:7-11

Tuesday—Zechariah 9:9

Wednesday—Psalm 8

Thursday—Luke 19:37-40

Friday—Revelation 14:7

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

- How do I receive Jesus as my Lord?
- What things do I do to share Jesus with others?
- In what ways can I show God's love in my community?
- How do I share God's love in the church family?
- In what ways can others see that Jesus is my Lord and King?
- How does praising God with others strengthen the unity in my church?

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

- Experiment with different ways of sharing God with others.
- Sing a favorite "Hosanna" song or compose one.
- Create a banner or poster with a praise phrase (i.e., "Hosanna!") to remind your family of God's goodness.

8 Coming up next week!

Abiding in Christ gives power. When we live in harmony with Jesus, He helps us love one another.

Lesson 11

Year B Qtr 1

The Connection

(Abiding in Jesus empowers us)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Through a close friendship with Jesus we can build truly loving friendships with others.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ: "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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 15:1-12

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 73, pp. 674-678: "It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers" (p. 677).

6 The Bible Story reference

No corresponding story from *The Bible Story*.

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—John 15:5 (power text)

Sunday—John 15:1, 2

Monday—John 15:3, 4

Tuesday—John 15:5-8

Wednesday—John 15:9-12

Thursday—Hebrews 4:15, 16

Friday—2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 1:8

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

- What choices do I make to maintain a close friendship with Jesus?
- How important is this friendship to me today?
- How could I unite my weaknesses to Christ's strength?
- What habits do I need to change to be in harmony with Jesus?
- How does my life reveal my connection with Christ?
- In what ways could I reach out to others who do not have a meaningful connection with Jesus?

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

- Think about and share other metaphors to illustrate the unity with Jesus.
- Research the meaning of "grafting" and "pruning." Discuss these concepts in spiritual terms.
- Pray and ask God to show you ways to get better acquainted with Jesus.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus calls us friends. He wants us to love others the way He loves us.

Lesson 12

Year B Qtr 1

That's All I Ask (Jesus calls us friends)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 15:12-17

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 73, pp. 662-680: "All who are imbued with His Spirit will love as He loved" (p. 677).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 65-69 ("Last Loving Words")

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

Sabbath—John 15:12, 13 (power text)

118 Sunday—John 15:12

Monday—John 15:13

Tuesday—John 15:10, 14; Matthew 22:37-40

Wednesday—John 15:15

Thursday—John 15:16

Friday—John 15:17

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

- How did Jesus demonstrate that He is our friend?
- In what ways do I show God's love to others?
- How could my heart be filled with Christ's unconditional love to others?
- How could I explain to someone that God is able to do more than we could ask or think?
- How could I share my personal experiences of God's mercy, grace, and love?
- How willing am I to extend to others God's love?

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

- Discuss: for whom did Jesus die? Would He have died if no one except you had accepted His gift?
- Plan and prepare a meal for Friday evening. Then invite a friend to your home. Together create a friendship acrostic and discuss how loving God and loving others could transform your community.
- Ask God to show you how to love Him first so that you can love others.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus prays for His friends. God's love for us shows us how to love each other.

Lesson 13

Year B Qtr 1

Friends Forever (Jesus prays for His friends)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

God's love for us shows us how to love one another.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 2, The Trinity: "There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 17

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 73, pp. 662-680: "Thus in the language of one who has divine authority, Christ gives His elect church into the Father's arms" (p. 680).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 70-72 ("Please Look After Them")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—1 Peter 3:8 (power text)

Sunday—John 17:11

Monday—John 17:22, 23

Tuesday—John 17:13-19

Wednesday—Matthew 6:9-13

Thursday—Colossians 3:12-14

Friday—John 17:1-5

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

- How is unity with other believers a demonstration of God's grace?
- How can I reflect Jesus' love by accepting others unconditionally?
- How do I show I appreciate the diversity of those around me?
- How can a church that has unity in diversity reflect God's grace?
- How do the unique gifts of each church member help paint a beautiful picture of God's grace?
- What can I do today to maintain unity with others as Jesus instructed?

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

- Discuss how the power text makes a difference in your life today.
- Ask each family member to share what unity in Jesus means to them.
- Find ways to maintain unity within your family, church, and community.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus' friends fall asleep. We support our friends in their times of need.

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, 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

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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.)

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

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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; 11:1-

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.