



LIVING IN THE HERE AND NOW: SOLID GROUND

Second Opinions

February 15, 2025

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Matthew 7:13, 14 • “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Psalm 19:7-9 • “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

Psalm 119:4, 5 • “You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!”

(See additional passages in student material.)

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “LIVING IN THE HERE AND NOW: SOLID GROUND”

“Postmodernism” probably isn’t a word that comes up in the everyday vocabulary of your earliteens, yet they are of the newer generations, which are products of a postmodern world.

Among other things, this means that concepts of absolute right and wrong that earlier generations would have taken for granted no longer mean much in this culture. Behavior may not be seen as “wrong” but as “right for me,” or “right in this situation.” In a world comprised of a mosaic of different cultural and religious beliefs, values, and expectations, it may be hard for teens to find solid ground. Where do young people of this generation place the ultimate value? On success? Entertainment? Personal satisfaction? Christian teens need to learn to cope realistically with the world they live in—a world in which others will not automatically agree with their Christian values and standards—while planting their own feet firmly on the Word of God as their source of truth and guidance.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH “LIVING IN THE HERE AND NOW: SOLID GROUND”

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

1. Recognize that they live in a world that recognizes few, if any “absolutes.”
2. Distinguish between the concepts of “absolute truth” and “relative truth.”
3. Choose the Bible as the basis for absolute truth in their own lives.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) maze handouts (p. 66),

pencils; (Activity B) flour, water, salt, food coloring, bowl, mixing spoon.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons, paper, pens or pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

Applying • Paper, pens or pencils.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adult* at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Give students a copy of the maze handout on page 66.

Get set • **Say:** Take your pencil and do the two maze puzzles on your handout. When you've finished, compare your mazes with what the person next to you did.

Go • Let students complete the mazes, then compare. **Ask:** How is the first maze different from the second maze? (The first has only one correct path, but with the second you could follow more than one path and still get to the finish.) **Say:** Compare examples of people who used different paths to complete the second maze. **Ask:** Are all the answers to number two equally "right" as long as they end up at the finish?

Debriefing • **Ask:** Which of these mazes is more like our lives? (Each of the mazes is more like certain aspects of our lives than the other is.) Are there many right paths we can take to reach our goal, or just one? (It depends on the goal.) What if the goal is eternal life and heaven? (There's only one right path.) In what situations have you been in in which there is only "one right way" to do things? In what situations have you been in in which there was more than one way to achieve the goal?

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Provide the following ingredients and a bowl and spoon for mixing: 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, ½ cup very warm water, few drops food coloring.

Get set • Instruct students to mix flour and salt, then add in water and food coloring and knead for five minutes. The result should be play clay.

Go • Divide students into small groups (five people or less). After making the play clay, have them try a second batch (perhaps with a different color food coloring) and suggest they vary the amount of salt or water. See how the

finished product varies. If your group is larger, divide into groups of two or three and give each small group the ingredients for play clay. Suggest to a couple groups that instead of following the recipe they might want to vary the amounts (or try cold water instead of warm) and see what happens. Compare results.

Debriefing • Ask: Did following the recipe give you the end produce you expected? What happened if you tried to vary it? How much do you think you could mess around with this recipe and still get play clay? How is life like a recipe? (God provides instructions in His Word; we follow them in order to live a successful life.) How much can we “mess around” with the recipe for our lives and still get a good result? Is there only “one right way” to do it, or are there many ways to achieve a good result? (Point out that this is about the truths laid out in the Bible, not necessarily about their choices of career, or life mate, although God will give guidance in those areas too.)

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Jessica believes that there’s one right way to live, and that’s what the Bible teaches. Her friend Andrew says, “If what I’m doing doesn’t hurt anybody, then it’s right for me.” Jessica and Andrew believe in a lot of the same things. They both work hard in school and get good grades. They both volunteer after school because they like to help others. But Jessica thinks it’s wrong to drink, do drugs, or have sex before marriage. Andrew says, “Those things are wrong only if somebody gets hurt.” Jessica believes it’s important to go to church on the Sabbath day and to pray. Andrew says, “If those things make you feel good, that’s terrific. I don’t need them. Whenever I am listening to music or relaxing in nature, it makes me feel in touch with my spiritual side.”

Debriefing • Ask: Who’s right? If you were Jessica, how would you respond to Andrew? Do your friends believe the Bible shows us

the only right way to live, or do they think each person can decide for themselves what’s right? How do you decide what’s right?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Have students make a chart with two columns (a small group can do this together on a white/chalkboard; in a larger class have students work in pairs with a piece of paper for each pair). One column should be headed: “Truth Never Changes”; the other: “Different Truths for Different People.” **Say:** We hear a lot about “truth,” but we also hear different voices telling us what is true. Most Christians believe that in God’s Word, the Bible, God revealed a truth for all time that never changes. But many people today teach that “truth” can be different things to different people, in different situations. Under the heading “Truth Never Changes,” have students list absolute truths that are consistent with the Word of God. In the other column, under “Different Truths for Different People,” have them list the opinions of people who claim that truth is changing (students may list the same items in both columns to show the difference between human opinions and the absolute truths of the Bible; i.e., the law of God, the Sabbath, the principles of marriage).

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

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

Ask: What do you think about this parable? How is God’s solution to sin like the antidote to a deadly snakebite? How is the Bible our only trustworthy guide for living that helps us distinguish between right and wrong?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

You're writing a very important test in a class that you're not doing well in. If you flunk this test, you might fail. You're finding the test difficult, but you can easily see your studious friend's answers, and the teacher's not looking.

Ask: How do you decide whether or not to cheat? Is anyone getting hurt if you cheat? Is it up to you to decide for yourself what's right or wrong in this situation, or does God's Word have a clear guiding principle for you? What are some examples of biblical principles that can guide you in facing this situation?

5 APPLYING

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

Take the opportunity to announce Global Youth Day. This event will happen on March 15, 2025. To learn more about Global Youth Day you may visit www.youth.adventist.org. You may also want to download the Global Youth Day app. You can start planning with your Sabbath School class ways to get involved and participate in a community service project or a mission initiative on that day. The possibilities for service are endless. Some examples may include: visiting a nursing home, hospital, orphanage, or prison to comfort, sing, and pray for those who are sick, needy, and destitute, feeding the homeless, inviting people from the community to an open house event, etc.

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Give each student a piece of paper and ask them to make three columns. Head them: GOD'S STANDARDS, THE WORLD'S STANDARDS, MY STANDARDS. On the left hand side of the page, they are to list issues that involve moral decisions, such as drugs, honesty, dating, entertainment, etc. Encourage them to choose topics

that are relevant to their lives. Then, for each of the topics they have listed, have them fill out the three columns: what are God's standards on this issue (have them find a Bible verse to back this up), what are the world's standards (as evidenced by friends, media, etc.), and what are their own standards?

Debriefing • Say: Compare what you have in each of the three columns for each one of your moral decisions. Are your standards more like those of the world, or are they closer to God's standards? On what are you basing your moral decisions?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How do you respond to the statement "It's not wrong as long as nobody gets hurt"?
2. What's your standard for deciding what's right and what's wrong?
3. What do most of your friends believe about the Bible? How can you help them recognize that the Bible can give guidance for their daily lives?
4. What would you tell someone who says, "I can feel inside me if something's wrong, so I don't need the Bible or the church"?
5. How can you explain to someone that the Bible is timeless and it speaks to our lives today just as it spoke to people thousands of years ago?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

We don't live in a world of easy black-and-white decisions. There seem to be a lot of options to choose from. But we should not conform to the world's standard and base our decisions on what feels right at the mo-

ment or what gives us the greatest personal satisfaction. God's Word holds us to a higher, eternal standard. It's the solid ground under our feet when all that the world has to offer is shifting sand. We need to base our beliefs on

the Word of God and be ready at any time to share with others the treasures of God's Word that lead us to Jesus.

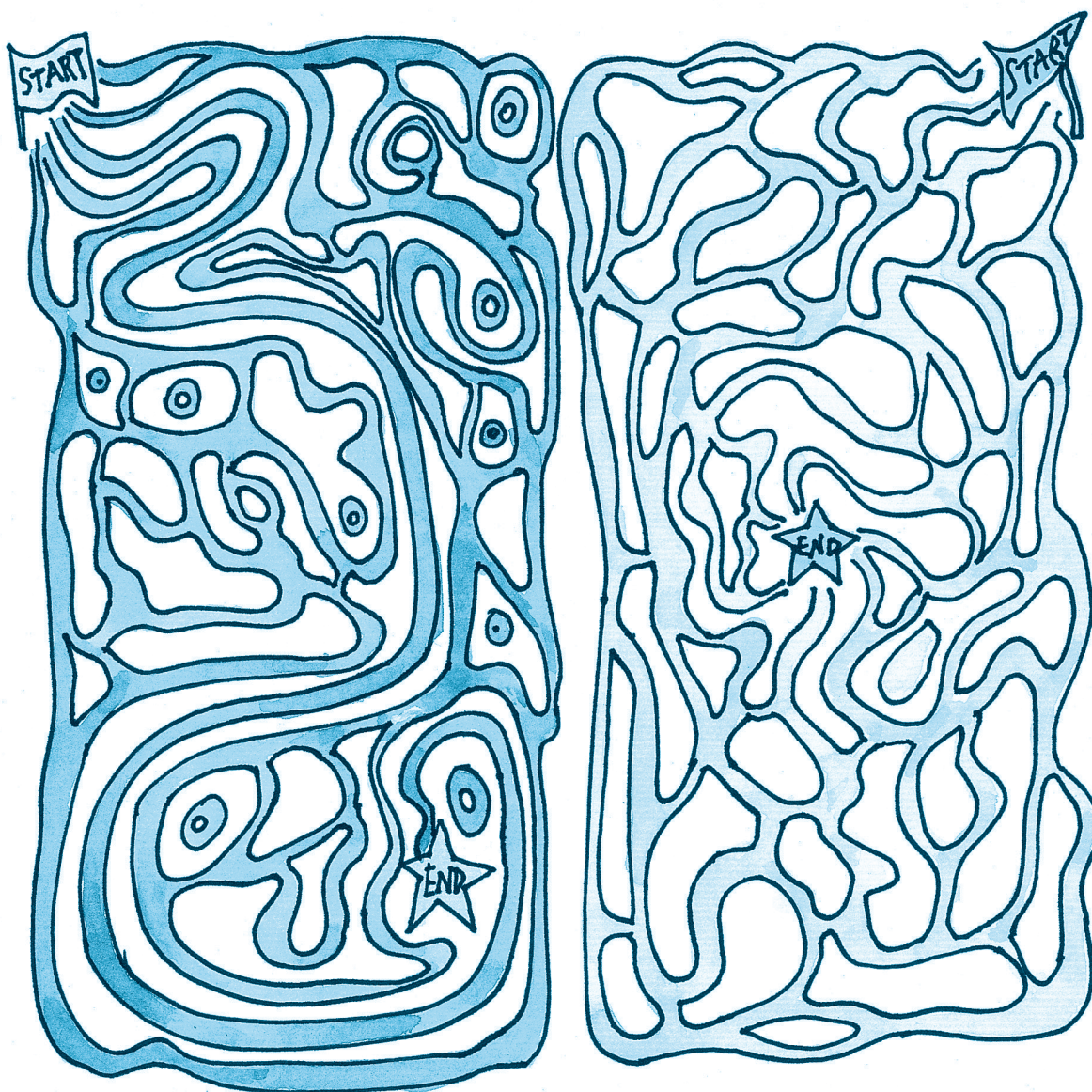
God's Word is always the surest foundation!

FOR LESSON SEVEN:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE BEGINNING ACTIVITY A.

Life's a Maze

DIRECTIONS: Find your way from the outside to the center of each of the mazes marking your path with your pencil.





STUDENT LESSON

LIVING IN THE HERE AND NOW: SOLID GROUND

Second Opinions

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Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 1, The Holy Scriptures:** “In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the 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.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 18-21

SECOND OPINIONS

While traveling around the world, John and his wife, Anne, were camping in a country far from home when John was bitten by a snake.

Not knowing what kind of snake it was or what the bite’s effects might be, John and Anne jumped into their jeep and headed for the nearest town, where a doctor examined John’s red, swollen, angry-looking snakebite wound.

“You were bitten by the most dangerous snake in this part of the country,” the doctor

said, “and the bite is fatal. Without treatment, you have less than an hour to live.”

“Is there any treatment?” Anne asked, frantic to save her husband’s life.

“Yes, you’re very fortunate that I have a small amount of the antidote here in my clinic,” the doctor said, filling the syringe.

“Wait a second,” John said. “You’re saying this antidote of yours is the only cure for the snakebite venom?”

“The only known cure, sir,” the doctor said.

“Hurry up and give him the needle!” Anne insisted.

“No, I want to think about this,” John said. “I think it’s pretty narrow-minded of you to insist this is the only treatment available. What if I want to try something different? I don’t like needles. I like herbal remedies. Maybe there’s an herb I can take. Or I’d like to try doing some exercises to see if those would make it better.”

“We must hurry, sir,” the doctor said.

“Already the poison is spreading through your bloodstream. I repeat, this antidote is the only cure.”

“John, just let him give you the needle,” Anne begged.

“I’m really not sure about this,” John said.

“There’s always more than one way to approach a situation. I think we need to explore other options rather than just taking his word for it that there’s only one cure.”

In real life, this situation would be unthinkable. In a life-or-death situation, most people would accept the doctor’s word that there’s only one available treatment. But many people

reject the message that there's only one way to eternal salvation—through Jesus—and only one guide to living life: the Bible. How are you relying on God's Word when the enemy attacks your soul?

Sunday

RESPONDING

- » Read Hebrews 4:12.
- » God knows our hearts. He knows when someone is searching for truth, even if they may think they believe differently. His Word will cut through all our misunderstandings and will put us on the right path to salvation through Jesus.
- » Your friend Tiffany is one of the nicest people you know. She's always cheerful and pleasant, she's kind to everyone, she likes to get involved in activities that will make the world a better place, such as raising money for the homeless or starting a recycling program. You ask if she'd like to come to church with you, but she says, "I believe Jesus was a good man, but I don't think He was God. I think God is in all of us; God is whatever you want Him to be. And I don't think I'm a sinner, so why do I need to be saved?"
- » "The children of God are those who are partakers of His nature. It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God's Spirit, will respond to kindness" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 75).
- » Why is it important that you help Tiffany understand that she needs Jesus? How do you respond to her beliefs? How can you share your beliefs in a way that would be meaningful to her?

Monday

BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- » Read Psalm 119:105; Luke 24:44-47; John 5:39.
- » The Bible leads us to a knowledge of Jesus, and it is only through Jesus that we can be saved. After His death Jesus used the Scriptures to help His followers understand the meaning of His life and death. He shows us through Scriptures that salvation comes only through Him (see John 3:16).
- » How can we get a deep understanding of God's Word?
- » The Bible is the Word of God and can be trusted as the authentic record that reveals God's character, His law, and His will for our lives. How do you make time each day to prayerfully read, study, and memorize the Scriptures?
- » Complete the code to find the Bible verse in the New King James Version. A few letters have been provided below.



See activity at the end of this lesson.

Tuesday

REFLECTING

- » Read Proverbs 3:5, 6.
- » "None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict" (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 593).
- » As Christian young people we need to stand firm on the Bible as our authority. The Word of God doesn't change. Basing your beliefs and your actions on God's Word will give you solid ground to stand firm in a world with shifting values.

- » How do you use the Holy Scriptures to make decisions about what is right and wrong?

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Use the reference list below to match and write the correct reference next to its corresponding verse. All Bible passages are taken from the New King James Version.



See activity at the end of this lesson.

Thursday

CONNECTING

- » Read Isaiah 8:20.
- » Review the memory text.
- » You face choices every day. Whom do you trust to give you guidance with those choices? The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and in it you can find guidance, comfort, encouragement, moral compass, and the faith of Jesus that you need for salvation. Ask God to answer your questions through the Holy Scriptures. Wait for Him to answer, and listen to His voice as you study His Word.
- » “The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. . . . So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested” (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 593).
- » God’s message of love and the Bible is for everyone. We live in a world today that offers more diversity in terms of people’s beliefs and cultures than ever before. Even

though we need to respect others and remember that they have the same right to their beliefs as we do to ours, we can share Jesus with them by actions, and when asked, we can open to them the Words of Life as Jesus has revealed to us. For our witness to be effective, we need to spend time with Jesus daily and to immerse ourselves in the prayerful study of the Holy Scriptures.

Friday

APPLYING

- » Read Psalm 119:105.
- » “To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God’s immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?” (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 593).
- » Think of a question or problem you are facing. What counsel do you find in God’s Word as you seek a solution to your question or problem? Look up some Bible verses. You may ask someone else to help you find answers in the Bible to your questions. How would you help someone else who is searching for answers to life’s difficult questions to find solutions in the Bible? Write down your answers and be prepared to help someone else.

Monday activity

BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

» Complete the code to find the Bible verse in the New King James Version. A few letters have been provided below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B				F					K				O					T		V		X			A

" _____
 " U S V T U J O U I F M P S E X J U I B M M

 Z P V S I F B S U , B O E M F B O

 O P U P O Z P V S P X O

 V O E F S T U B O E J O H "

_____ 3 : 5 , (_____) .
 Q S P W F S C T 3 : 5 , (O L K W) .

Wednesday activity

BIBLE INSIGHTS

» Use the reference list below to match and write the correct reference next to its corresponding verse. All Bible passages are taken from the New King James Version.

- "He is a shield." _____
- "Light to my path." _____
- "In all your ways acknowledge Him." _____
- "When you received the word of God . . ."
- "Your word is truth." _____
- "Taking heed according to Your word." _____
- "For instruction in righteousness . . ."
- "Through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures . . ."
- "The word of God is living and powerful." _____

Hebrews 4:12

Proverbs 30:5, 6

Romans 15:4

John 17:17

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:9, 10

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Proverbs 3:5, 6

1 Thessalonians 2:13