



TEENS ON A MISSION

Details, Details, Details

March 15, 2025

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

1 Timothy 4:11, 12 • “These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

Philippians 3:7-9 • “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

Romans 4:19-21 • “And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Romans 8:37-39 • “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor

height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Genesis 18:18, 19 • “Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

Joshua 24:14, 15 • “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

1 Kings 2:1-4 • “Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: ‘I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which

He spoke concerning me, saying, “If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,” He said, “you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.”””

1 Corinthians 16:15, 16 • “I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.”

Ephesians 4:11-15 • “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

James 1:2-6 • “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”

(See additional passages in student material.)

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “TEENS ON A MISSION”

Most teens are dealing with the changes of adolescence while at the same time trying to determine their mission on earth. It's not uncommon for teens to wander without a true

North. Much of a teenager's journey is an examination of the values, goals, and attitudes that will shape their future.

This lesson seeks to empower teens by giving them tools to develop and clarify their own personal mission statement that reflects their deepest convictions and an enduring sense of purpose. The Christian church has always held high hopes for teens and their potential to do great things for God. Amid a bombardment of distractions and an enemy that seeks to derail them, teens can steer through the confusion if they have a clear, strong, personal sense of their mission in life. The task of shaping and following through is entirely theirs, but others can engage them with thought-provoking questions and some helpful pointers so that they make the most out of their life today.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH “TEENS ON A MISSION”

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

1. Discern the value of living by well-thought-out principles.
2. Develop a mission statement that reflects their core values and goals.
3. Encourage others to be guided by goals that have eternal outcomes.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) index cards or slips of paper, pens or pencils; (Activity B) two water bottles, two small clear cups or glasses, two buckets of sand.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons, handout on pp. 111, 112.

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 • The goal of this exercise is to get students to trade items so they can accomplish their task. There are two groups and two tasks:

- Share lemonade on a street corner
- Paint a widow's house

The students are to trade away the items that seem least useful to accomplishing their task for things that others possess. They are to continue trading until each group has enough resources to finish their task. (Note: This is not a competition or monopoly.)

Get set • Write each of the following items on an individual piece of paper or an index card.

- > box of lemons
- > plastic pitchers
- > portable table and chair
- > sugar
- > ice
- > 10 gallons of water
- > paper cups
- > measuring stick
- > sand paper
- > paint rollers/brushes
- > 10 gallons of paint
- > drop cloths/tarps
- > tape
- > pressure washer
- > ladder

Write the two tasks on separate cards and assign each group a task or have them randomly draw a card. Explain the instructions, and then have each group draw seven cards from the stack that contains the list of necessary tools.

Go • After all of the cards have been distributed, each group will need to trade their useless stuff for necessary stuff. Listed below are a few tips for each group.

- Distribute lemonade on a street corner on a hot summer day. It is your responsibility to collect everything you need to make and give out lemonade on the corner of a street.
- Paint a widow's house. It's not an impossible task, but you need to get the house painted in a way that's an improvement.

Debriefing • Ask: When trading with another group, did you think the trades were mutually beneficial? What are some choices we have to make about living out our own personal mission in life? What worship songs or hymns do you think speak to this issue of letting other things go to obtain the things you really need?

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the principle of being deliberate with your life goals. There are two goals for this exercise: (1) fill a small clear cup or glass with water and (2) keep a simple sand castle (wet sand poured into a pail and turned over will suffice) moist without damaging it. Both tasks must be completed using a spray bottle (with various nozzle settings).

Get set • Divide the students into two groups, taking one volunteer from each side. The two spray bottles should look identical; however, one bottle should be on the spray setting while the other one should be on the stream setting. Ask the volunteers to choose their spray bottle (without using it of course). After they've made their choice, inform them that they cannot tamper or change their spray bottle during the course of the exercise. However, to emphasize how we need to adjust our lives to accomplish certain goals, suggest that they adjust the settings on the bottles. Also, designate an appropriate distance that each volunteer must stand away from each task.

Go • Begin with the glass-filling task. The volunteer with the bottle set on the stream setting will complete the task faster, since the bottle on spray setting will simply send mist into the air instead of directing a steady stream of water into the glass. The point will be clear that the focused stream of water is more effective for filling the glass. However, the roles will be reversed with the next exercise. The bottle on spray setting will be able to keep the sand castle moist without damaging it, whereas the bottle on stream setting will create small holes in the sand castle, therefore damaging the castle's smooth edges.

Debriefing • Ask: What kinds of adjustments were needed to fill the glass? moisten the sand castle? (turn the nozzle) Can you think of different approaches to reaching others that require similar adjustments? (Some require a more gentle approach, others more direct.)

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Suppose that you were taking archery and learning to aim at a target. You would be given instructions about the rules of the game, about how far from the bull's-eye you would have to stand, and about the hand-eye coordination strategies that would help you aim right on target. After learning all this, let's suppose that you

get frustrated with the rules of the game and decide to come halfway closer to the bull's-eye to ensure that your aim is more precise. Let's suppose that after several unsuccessful attempts, you decide to shoot randomly without paying so much attention to the target. Even better, after you aimed at a tree and see your arrow firmly attached to the tree trunk, you decide to take paint and brush and paint your own target around the arrow. Then you call your friends and show them your perfect aim. Would this experience make you a skillful archer?

Many people go through life with no real direction or purpose. While this approach to life may seem easy, it's an empty way to live. People without direction often drift from one thing to another without ever accomplishing or reaching a goal. Being clear about your target and then making every decision in light of it is how great people meet their goals.

Debriefing • Ask: Why do you think it's important to have direction and purpose in your life? What is your purpose on this earth? What goals have you set for your life? How do you plan on reaching your goals? What was Christ's direction and purpose? How did He stay focused on His goal?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Every citizen of the kingdom of God, at one point or another, discovers the need to clarify their purpose in relation to the King. If we are going to be true citizens of the kingdom of God, we need to know what our place is and what our purpose is. While there are some basic goals of the Christian life, God has enabled every believer with the potential to live deliberately for His cause. As we have seen, trying to do as many things as possible doesn't necessarily further God's kingdom. As a matter of fact, the Bible al-

cludes to the need to let some things go in order to accomplish the “goal” to which Christ has called you.

Have volunteers read the following passages and answer the following questions:

What did they let go of? What did they grab on to? **Acts 6:1-7; Mark 8:34-36; Matthew 13:44-46.**

Ask: What other stories or sections from the Bible depict this theme?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

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

Ask the students to form pairs and discuss the story and the significance of thinking carefully through our goals and decisions. Give the students a few minutes to formulate some answers before directing their attention back to a group discussion. **Ask:** To what degree is paying attention to detail important to being a mission-minded person?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

After being impressed at a weekend retreat to become a full-time missionary overseas, 16-year-old Benjamin shared his conviction with his pastor. Ben was so on fire that he wanted to quit school and jump on any plane heading overseas. Ben’s pastor didn’t want to quench his excitement, but what should the pastor say? What should he or she affirm? How can he or she guide Ben to a realistic mission for his life?

Each of us needs to come to a clear sense about who we are and what we should do for God. Typically, as a teenager you are taught, whether openly or by implied behavior, that your calling or mission in life has to do with your career or something you do later in life. In truth, it’s in your teenage years that you shape your own values that define the course of your life.

Now is the time to begin your mission statement! How? Start by looking at what God says about His desire for your future.

Copy and distribute the handout on pages 111 and 112.

Say: The following activities and questions are designed to help you develop your personal mission statement. In the lesson handout there is a list of “you are” verses from the New Testament, describing what God thinks of you and hopes for you. If God were to write your mission statement, it might have some of the same language as these verses. Look at these verses and answer the questions at the end of the handout.

After students share with each other, have them report to the group any insightful things they heard or learned.

5 APPLYING

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

This Sabbath is Global Youth Day. With your Sabbath School class, implement in practice the community service project or mission initiative you have planned together. 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

Share the following ideas in your own words:

In **Acts 2:42-47** and **4:31-35** we are introduced to a band of believers who are pursuing a mission. Imagine what it would be like to be a teenager in that church. What roles do you think someone like you might have? What would a church like the church in Acts look like today?

Organizations are not the only ones with mission statements. We as individuals can also develop a mission statement to guide us through life. In pairs or a group, think of someone you know who lives their life by a clear purpose. While you may not know their “mission statement,” what are they all about and what would their mission statement sound like based on what you see in them?

Say: A personal mission statement has three parts. Who am I and what is my life goal? What do I believe in most and what am I willing to take a stand for? What am I going to do about what I believe and what I am willing to take a stand for?

Have students write out a preliminary mission statement. Give them some time to answer the questions, reminding them that this is just a first draft.

As the teacher, you might develop your own mission statement to share with the students. In addition, you might even ask a few of your faithful students to be ready to share theirs with the group, hopefully inspiring the other students to complete their own statements.

Debriefing • Ask: What was helpful about answering those questions? To what degree have you thought about this topic before? What do you think is harder: becoming clear about your mission in life, or mustering the courage to live it out daily? Should a mission statement lean more toward being idealistic or realistic? What do you think?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think mission statements might be helpful to individuals in the church?
2. Based on the information you have so far to use in a mission statement, how can you live your life by your mission?
3. If you were to pray for anything in regard to owning your own mission, would it be: insight/wisdom or confidence/boldness?
4. How can friends be helpful to each other in living out their mission?
5. Find a partner in your Sabbath school or a classmate in your school with whom you can share your mission and who will help keep you accountable.
6. Is there someone older you can ask to help you remember your commitment to your mission? Ask them to check on you weekly and to pray for you.

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

Every successful business, organization, or movement has a mission statement that is well thought out. The process of asking those important questions about who you are and what matters to you is probably the most important part of your journey. But making a clear statement is only half of the equation; living by it is just as important. Listen, my friends: We desperately need young people to become clear about what God is calling them to be and to do. Let me just remind you what Paul said to Timothy (who was a young person when he first started working with him):

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Whether young or old, we all have the ability to take an active role in the kingdom and in the church. By setting clear goals and following a mission, each of us can assist the church in bringing people to Christ.

FOR LESSON ELEVEN:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE CONNECTING TO LIFE ACTIVITY.

Matthew 5:13—"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

Matthew 5:14—"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Matthew 10:29-31—"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

John 13:35—"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:14, 15—"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17—"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."

1 Corinthians 12:27—"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

2 Corinthians 3:3—"Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

Galatians 3:26-28—"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 4:7—"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Ephesians 2:19-22—"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

1 Thessalonians 2:10, 11—"You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children."

1 Peter 2:9, 10—"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

FOR LESSON ELEVEN cont.

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE CONNECTING TO LIFE ACTIVITY.

After looking at what God thinks about you and your future, carefully answer the following questions and share them with a partner.

1. What were the verses that really spoke to me?

2. What were the verses that really spoke to what I hope to become?

3. Which verses are essential for a Christian to believe?

Although you may not know where you will be in five years or what you will be doing, take a few minutes to think about your future by answering the following questions.

In five years:

1. What character qualities do I want to possess?

2. What do I want to experience in my walk with Jesus?

3. What skills do I want to develop for God's glory?

4. What do I want to do for Jesus?

5. What experiences do I want to avoid?

Now that you've thought about the future, ask yourself:

1. How will my present course lead me to reach my goals?

2. What does God need to change in my life so that I can attain my goals?



STUDENT LESSON

TEENS ON A MISSION

Details, Details, Details

March 15, 2025

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 25, The Second Coming of Christ:** “The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ’s coming is near. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 88-91

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

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

One team was led by Roald Amundsen, who rigorously studied the travel methods of the Eskimos and others who traveled in similar climates. After careful study and reflection he determined that the best way to reach the South Pole was to travel by dogsled. Next he picked a

team of skilled skiers and set reasonable goals for each day, making sure the dogs would have plenty of food and rest. His careful planning enabled the team to reach their goal without any major disasters. In fact, the only incident that his team encountered was an infected tooth that had to be extracted.

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

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

It is worth paying careful attention to the details that will help us accomplish our goals.

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

Sunday **RESPONDING**

- » Read 1 Peter 2:9.
- » A mission statement is used to describe the reason for the organization and how this helps to guide decisions, priorities, actions, and responsibilities.
- » This is the Seventh-day Adventist Church Mission Statement: "The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to make disciples of all people, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and unite with His remnant church, disciplining them to serve Him as Lord, and preparing them for His soon return."

- » In what ways does this fit the church you attend? Does your church make soul winning a priority?

Monday **BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

- » Read Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; Ephesians 3:8-11.
- » Organizations have mission statements that help them reach their objectives. Similarly individuals use mission statements to help them achieve their goals. Knowing what is important and understanding God's plan for your life will help you write your mission statement.
- » How do you see yourself fitting into the mission of the church?
- » How do your decisions and actions today affect how you will form your mission statement in light of telling others about God's love and soon return?
- » Unscramble the verse below using the New King James Version Bible.

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

Tuesday **REFLECTING**

- » Read Philippians 3:12-14.
- » Many people start focusing on the things that matter most when serious problems arise, such as cancer or financial difficulties. Trial by fire is one approach to finding a focus and purpose; however, it might not be the best way to spend your time on earth. The story of Blind Bart is a great example of someone straining out anything that gets in the way

of their goal, and leaping out to obtain it. In Mark 10 a blind man named Bartimaeus is sitting by the road when he hears that Jesus is passing by. He cries out to Jesus, but he gets shushed by the crowd. Determined not to let the opportunity pass, he cries out louder, and Jesus stops and calls him to come. The blind man sheds his cloak, leaps into the air, and makes his way to Jesus. Amazing! Nothing got in the way of his goal. His reward—Jesus healed him and taught each of us a life lesson about focusing on what really matters in life.

- » Why not be driven by your mission, making every decision based upon your values? Why not live each day for the things you would be willing to die for? It's as simple as showing compassion for outsiders who can't get in, loving your neighbor with tangible grace, or empowering missionaries to spread the gospel through your offerings. Whatever your mission is, be the kind of person who is guided by a true north. Take the challenge of navigating the waters of your teen years with a clear sense of who you are and what you are destined to do.

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday CONNECTING

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

Friday APPLYING

- » Read Proverbs 21:21.
- » "Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high. . . . Let nothing hinder you. . . . Press with determination in the right direction" (Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 331).

- » Write yourself a mission statement and determine to live according to it!

A personal mission statement addresses three questions:

1. What is my number-one mission goal that gives purpose to my life?
2. What do I stand for?
3. What am I doing to accomplish my mission goal and to do what I stand for?

My Mission Statement:

