

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 2

Staying Awake (Jesus' friends fall asleep)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Jesus' love leads us to support one another in times of need.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 7, The Nature of Humanity: "[We] are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 26:31-46

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 74, pp. 685-697: "The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. . . . If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened" (p. 687).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 73-77 ("Night in a Garden")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Galatians 6:2 (power text)

Sunday—Matthew 26:29-46

Monday—Acts 20:35

Tuesday—Matthew 26:41

Wednesday—1 John 3:18

Thursday—Galatians 6:10

Friday—Ecclesiastes 4:10

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

- How could the disciples have supported Jesus in His time of sorrow?
- How do I respond to others' needs?
- Who do I know that needs prayer?
- How have my friends or family members helped me in difficult times?
- In what ways can I help others?
- How can I encourage a friend or relative who is in need right now?

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

- Make a list of volunteer organizations. As a family, discuss how to get involved in one of them.
- Give everyone the opportunity to share a story about when they helped someone or someone helped them.
- Individually, think of a time you let down someone in your family and write them a note.

8 Coming up next week!

Despite His suffering, Jesus comforted others at the cross. We can show concern for others, even when we face difficult situations ourselves.

Lesson 2 Year B Qtr 2

Through Thick and Thin (Jesus comforts others at the cross)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Like Jesus, we can care for others even when we face difficulties.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother’” (Zechariah 7:9).

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” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 23:26-56; Matthew 27:45-56

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 78, pp. 741-764: “Christ pitied them in their ignorance and guilt. He breathed only a plea for their forgiveness,—‘for they know not what they do’” (p. 744).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 105-109 (“Nailed to a Cross”)

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

Sabbath—Zechariah 7:9 (power text)

Sunday—Luke 23:26-43

Monday—Luke 23:44-49

Tuesday—Matthew 27:45-56

Wednesday—Matthew 27:37;
Mark 15:26; Luke
23:38; John 9:19

Thursday—Luke 23:50-56

Friday—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

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

- What things concern me when I am going through a painful experience?
- What would be the advantage if I reached out to others rather than focusing on my own pain?
- What could I do to help a friend who is dying?
- Do I trust that God hears my prayers for those who are suffering?
- What resources are available to assist others who are hurting?
- How could I assist a stranger in need?

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

- Plan how you will care and encourage someone in need this week.
- Share a time someone who was struggling himself/herself helped you.
- Sing together the classic hymn “The Old Rugged Cross.”

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus’ followers tell others about His resurrection. We can share our hope for eternal life with our family, friends, and people in the community.

Lesson 3

Year B Qtr 2

Surprise at Sunrise

(The resurrection is proclaimed)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We can share our hope for eternal life because of Jesus' resurrection.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest" (Luke 24:6-9).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: "We give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9; and Mark 16:1-8

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chaps. 80-82, pp. 769-794: "Jesus lives, and because He lives, we shall live also. From grateful hearts, from lips touched with holy fire, let the glad song ring out, Christ is risen!" (p. 794).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 151-155 ("Most Glorious Morning")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Luke 24:6-9 (power text)
Sunday—Luke 24:1-12
Monday—Matthew 5:15
Tuesday—John 14:26
Wednesday—Luke 24:9-12
Thursday—Psalm 22:22
Friday—Mark 5:19

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

- Why was Jesus' resurrection the best news for the disciples?
- What does Jesus' resurrection mean to me?
- How could I bring hope to someone who is struggling with guilt over sins?
- How can I help someone accept God's love and forgiveness?
- How can I strengthen my relationship with God and be a light to others?
- How will I share the hope of eternal life with someone else today?

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

- Share the great news of Jesus' resurrection with someone you know.
- Light a candle to shine throughout worship time to remind you of your light shining to others.
- Sing or play "This Little Light of Mine" for worship.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus meets with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus. God is personally interested in our salvation.

Lesson 4 Year B Qtr 2

Risen Man Breaks Bread (Journey with Jesus to Emmaus)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Jesus showed us how to share Him with others.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 1, The Holy Scriptures: "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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: Luke 24:13-35

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 83, pp. 795-801: "Had the disciples failed to press their invitation, they would not have known that their traveling companion was the risen Lord" (p. 800).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 156-160 ("Mysterious Stranger"); vol. 9, pp. 161-164 ("Burning Hearts")

7 Family worship ideas

Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—2 Peter 1:3 (power text)
Sunday—Luke 24:13, 14
Monday—Luke 24:15, 16
Tuesday—Luke 24:17-24
Wednesday—Luke 24:25-27
Thursday—Luke 24:28-32
Friday—Luke 24:33-35

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

- How do I feel knowing that Jesus walks along with me and teaches me?
- What is my understanding of the Bible prophecies regarding Jesus?
- To whom do I turn when I am disappointed or hurt?
- What comfort does the study of God's Word bring me?
- What motivates me to share the Good News about Jesus with others?
- Whom can I tell about Jesus today?

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

- Create an acrostic with the words Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the willingness to share your knowledge about Jesus with others.
- Discuss with your family who is a person with whom you can share Jesus.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus appears to doubting Thomas. God wants us to learn to trust Him.

Lesson 5 Year B Qtr 2

Believing Is Seeing (Jesus appears to Thomas)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Our faith in Jesus is a witness to those around us.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: "Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as 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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 20:24-31

5 Ellen White reference

The Desire of Ages, chap. 84, pp. 806-808: "Should the world now follow the example of Thomas, no one would believe unto salvation; for all who receive Christ must do so through the testimony of others" (p. 807).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 165-169 ("Why Thomas Doubted")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—John 20:29 (power text)
Sunday—John 20:24-31
Monday—Psalm 32:8
Tuesday—Psalm 78:52; John 16:13
Wednesday—Matthew 7:7-11
Thursday—Matthew 14:25-31
Friday—Proverbs 3:5, 6

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

- What can I learn from Thomas's encounter with Jesus?
- What doubts do I need to overcome?
- Do I accept others' witness of God's love?
- In what areas of my life do I need to trust God more?
- What specific things do I need to do that would strengthen my faith?
- How could I strengthen the faith of a person who has doubts?

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

- For worship, let each family member share a faith-building experience.
- Share with a friend your experience of God's love, care, and providence.
- Talk about how God has guided and blessed your family.

8 Coming up next week!

Heaven is more wonderful than we can imagine. God's love gives us hope and encouragement.

Lesson 6

Year B Qtr 2

The Gift of Heaven

(John has a vision of heaven)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

Eternal life is ours when we accept God's gift of grace.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:1, 2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 28, The New Earth: "On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 21; 22

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chap. 42, pp. 662-678: "There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body" (p. 677).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 167-170 ("The Voice Behind You"); vol. 10, pp. 171-175 ("Overcomers for Christ")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 21:1, 2 (power text)

Sunday—Revelation 21:3-8

Monday—Revelation 21:9-14

Tuesday—Revelation 21:15-27

Wednesday—Revelation 21:19, 20

Thursday—Revelation 22

Friday—Revelation 22:20, 21

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

- How does the Bible describe heaven?
- What did John see about heaven?
- Why do I wish to get to heaven?
- When I get to heaven, whom do I want to meet first?
- How should I live until Jesus comes?
- Whom could I tell about heaven?

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

- Phone a friend and share why you look forward to living in heaven.
- List 10 things from nature that you will enjoy experiencing in heaven.
- As a family, share with someone the good news about heaven.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus is preparing us a home in His kingdom. We will live with Him forever.

Lesson 7 Year B Qtr 2

Heaven: A Sneak Preview (Jesus prepares heavenly homes)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

By God's grace we prepare to live with Him forever.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Four Gospels: John 14:1-3

5 Ellen White reference

Early Writings, pp. 11-20:
"Sometimes I think I can stay here no longer; all things of earth look so dreary. I feel very lonely here, for I have seen a better land. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest!" (p. 19).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 9, pp. 9-14 ("Jesus Friend of Children"); vol. 10, pp. 205-208 ("All Things New")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—John 14:1-3 (power text)
Sunday—John 3:16
Monday—Romans 5:21
Tuesday—Isaiah 11:6-9
Wednesday—John 5:24; 1 John 5:13
Thursday—1 Corinthians 2:9
Friday—John 14:2

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

- How do I live, knowing that God has prepared a home for me in heaven?
- What is "life forever with Jesus"?
- How is heaven more amazing than my most cherished dreams?
- How do I receive God's kingdom into my heart each day?
- How does my character become formed for heaven?
- With whom can I share what I know about our home in heaven?

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

- Discuss Ellen White's vision of heaven.
- Tell someone about heaven this week.
- Discuss together 1 Corinthians 2:9.

8 Coming up next week!

We are citizens of God's kingdom. By His grace God transforms us into people fit for His kingdom.

Lesson 8 Year B Qtr 2

Citizens of the Love Kingdom (God writes His law on our hearts)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

God is writing His law of love on our hearts to prepare us for citizenship in heaven.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 19, The Law of God: "Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the commandments" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, The Books of Moses: Exodus 20:1-17; New Testament, The Four Gospels: Matthew 22:34-40; John 14:15

5 Ellen White reference

Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 27, pp. 303-314: "Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.' Luke 10:27 (p. 305).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 2, pp. 153-158 ("Ten Golden Rules"); vol. 10, pp. 161-164 ("God Is Love"); vol. 10, pp. 128-131 ("Love at Its Best")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Jeremiah 31:33 (power text)

Sunday—Exodus 20:1-11

Monday—Exodus 20:12-17; John 14:15

Tuesday—Matthew 22:34-40

Wednesday—Revelation 14:12

Thursday—John 14:15

Friday—Jeremiah 31:33

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

- How is God's law a law of love?
- What does the law require of citizens?
- Why is it important to obey God's law?
- How is the law of God like a shield?
- How do I prepare to live in heaven?
- Does my life show that I obey God?

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

- Sing a hymn about God's law.
- Discuss how societies would be like without rules.
- Share how God's law helps us focus on others rather than on ourselves.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus defends us against Satan's accusations. By grace He welcomes us to His kingdom in heaven.

Lesson 9 Year B Qtr 2

Jesus Defends Us

(Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 24, Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary: "In [the sanctuary] Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Daniel 7:9, 10; New Testament: Matthew 22:1-14; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-26; 8:1, 2; 9:22-28; Revelation 5:9; 12:10; 21:27

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chaps. 23; 24, pp. 409-432: "The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment" (p. 421).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 157-160 ("Keep Up Your Courage!"); pp. 180-182 ("The Throne of God")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—1 John 2:1, 2 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 22:1-9
Monday—Matthew 22:10-14
Tuesday—Hebrews 4:14-16
Wednesday—Psalm 35:22-24
Thursday—1 John 4:16-18
Friday—1 John 2:1, 2

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

- How does Jesus defend my cause?
- Why do I need to accept Jesus' grace?
- How do I thank Jesus for saving me?
- How should I live, knowing that Jesus is defending my cause in heaven?
- How can I live to please God?
- How can I share with others what I know about Jesus' intercessory work?

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

- Act out the parable of the wedding garment from Matthew 22:1-14.
- Discuss how it would feel if none of the wedding guests came.
- Discuss the outcomes of accepting or rejecting Jesus' righteousness, which alone can cover us in the judgment.

8 Coming up next week!

Jesus will return to take us to His heavenly home.

Lesson 10

Year B Qtr 2

Just the Beginning of Praise (Home at last)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We will praise and worship God in heaven during the millennium.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" (2 Timothy 4:18).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 25, The Second Coming of Jesus: "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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 14:1-5

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chap. 40, pp. 635-652: "Before the ransomed throng is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in" (p. 646).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 196-200

("When Jesus Comes")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—2 Timothy 4:18 (power text)

Sunday—1 Corinthians 15:51, 52

Monday—1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

Tuesday—Revelation 14:1-5

Wednesday—Revelation 1:7

Thursday—John 14:1-3

Friday—Revelation 22:20

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

- What do I think about the wonderful things waiting for me in heaven?
- How do I picture heaven?
- What wonderful experiences make me think of heaven?
- How will I say "Thanks" to Jesus when I see Him face-to-face?
- What is something I am eagerly anticipating to experience in heaven?
- With whom will I share today what I have learned about heaven?

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

- Create a new song or poem for Jesus.
- Look at family photos and talk about the reunion you'll have in heaven.

8 Coming up next week!

The millennium is the period of 1,000 years that we will spend in heaven after Jesus' second coming.

Lesson 11

Year B Qtr 2

A Thousand Years in Heaven

(Millennium—a time of praise and worship)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We will praise God forever for His justice and mercy.

2 Power text (memory verse)

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!’” (Revelation 15:2, 3).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 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” (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 19:6-9; 20:1-6

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chap. 41, pp. 653-661: “At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God” (p. 660).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 196-200 (“When Jesus Comes”)

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 15:2, 3 (power text)

Sunday—Galatians 6:7-10

Monday—Revelation 22:4

Tuesday—Revelation 20:1-4;

1 Corinthians 6:3

Wednesday—Revelation 20:6

Thursday—Isaiah 33:22

Friday—Psalm 66:1-4; Psalm 98:7-9

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

- What does it mean that the saints will reign with God for 1,000 years?
- How can I resist Satan’s deceptions?
- What habits or behaviors do I need to change to be fit for heaven?
- How can I be sure that nothing keeps me from being loyal to God?
- How is God’s plan of redemption just?
- How can I help someone recognize and resist Satan’s deceptions?

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

- Explore how nature glorifies God.
- Share ways you could recognize and resist Satan’s deceptions.

8 Coming up next week!

God will bring the New Jerusalem to earth. Satan and sin will be destroyed forever. Everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord.

Lesson 12

Year B Qtr 2

Everyone Will Bow (End of sin—Satan destroyed)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We worship God, who defeated Satan and will end sin forever.

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. 27, The Millennium and the End of Sin: "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" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

New Testament, The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Revelation 20:7-10; 21:6-8

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chap. 42, pp. 662-674: "Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe. . . . Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations" (p. 673).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 201-204 ("Good Wins at Last")

7 Family worship ideas

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

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

Sunday—Isaiah 13:11

Monday—Revelation 20:7-10

Tuesday—Revelation 21:6-8

Wednesday—Daniel 6:25-27

Thursday—Luke 18:16

Friday—Revelation 21:7

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

- What will God destroy forever at the end of the millennium?
- What will Jesus' scars remind us?
- How am I affected by sin in the world?
- How could I live a pure life with Jesus?
- How can I prepare for life on the new earth when sin will be destroyed forever?
- How could I help someone who is struggling with the results of sin?

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

- Discuss how to help others renounce the world of sin and its allurments.
- Share what it means that you are God's ambassador.
- Talk about preparing for life on the new earth, where sin will be no more.

8 Coming up next week!

God will make all things new. We will live with God forever on the new earth.

Lesson 13 Year B Qtr 2

Earth's Makeover (The new earth)

1 Core teaching of this lesson

We will live with Jesus forever on the new earth.

2 Power text (memory verse)

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful'" (Revelation 21:3-5).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain

Our Beliefs, no. 28, The New Earth: "God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away" (www.adventist.org).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Old Testament, Major Prophets: Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:17-19; New Testament: 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21; 22:1-5

5 Ellen White reference

The Great Controversy, chap. 42, pp. 674-678: "The great controversy is ended. . . . From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love" (p. 678).

6 The Bible Story reference

The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 205-208 ("All Things New")

7 Family worship ideas

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

Sabbath—Revelation 21:3-5 (power text)

Sunday—Isaiah 11:6-9

Monday—Isaiah 65:17-19

Tuesday—2 Peter 3:13

Wednesday—Revelation 21:1-4

Thursday—Revelation 21:9-14

Friday—Revelation 22:1-5

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

- Why do I await life on the new earth?
- What do I wish to learn from Jesus?
- What place will the new earth be?
- Whom do I want to meet and talk to on the new earth?
- With whom can I share the knowledge that the earth will be made new?
- How can I care for the earth and the people around me?

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

- Look for ways to protect our planet.
- Show pictures of different jewels and talk about the New Jerusalem.
- As a family, discuss how God is going to re-create the earth.

8 Coming up next week!

We are created with a purpose. God wants us to partner with Him as He fulfills His plan in our lives.



ourbeliefs taken from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*

1 The Holy Scriptures

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

2 The Trinity

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

3 The Father

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

4 The Son

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

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

5 The Holy Spirit

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

6 Creation

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

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

7 The Nature of Humanity

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

8 The Great Controversy

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

our **beliefs** continued

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

9 The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

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

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

10 The Experience of Salvation

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

11 Growing in Christ

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

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

12 The Church

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

having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.)

13 The Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Dan. 7:9-14; Micah 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.)

14 Unity in the Body of Christ

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

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

15 Baptism

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

16 The Lord's Supper

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

17 Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His

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

18 The Gift of Prophecy

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

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

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.)

20 The Sabbath

The gracious Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration

of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; 31:13-17; Lev. 23:32; Deut. 5:12-15; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Matt. 12:1-12; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:16; Heb. 4:1-11.)

21 Stewardship

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings, and by returning tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. Stewards rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:7.)

22 Christian Behavior

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

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

23 Marriage and the Family

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

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

24 Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

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

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

25 The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected and, together with the righteous living, will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is near. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.)

26 Death and Resurrection

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

27 The Millennium and the End of Sin

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Jer. 4:23-26; Ezek. 28:18, 19; Mal. 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Rev. 20; Rev. 21:1-5.)

28 The New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love, and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.)

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference session, when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language to express the teachings of God's Holy Word.

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