



General Conference  
Sabbath School and  
Personal Ministries

# Mission Philosophy



# Objective 1

To revive the concept of **worldwide mission** and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and **making disciples**.



## KPI 1.1



Increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a **goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI)**.

“Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged. **Every church should be a training school** for Christian workers”

*The Ministry of Healing, p. 149*



Christ's  
Method

“Jesus . . . went about **doing good.**”

*Acts 10:38*

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

*The Ministry of Healing, p. 143*



# Christ's Method

**Step 1: Befriend**



“From **Christ's methods** of labor we may learn many valuable lessons. He did not follow merely one method; in various ways He sought to gain the attention of the multitude; and **then He proclaimed** to them the truths of the gospel.”

*Evangelism, p. 123*

“make disciples of all the nations” (Mt 28:19).

“gospel . . . preached in all the world” (Mt 24:14).

“gospel . . . preached to all the nations” (Mk 13:10).

“preach the gospel . . . to every creature” (Mk 16:15).

“repentance . . . preached . . . to all nations” (Lk 24:47).

“witnesses . . . to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“gospel to preach . . . to every nation” (Rev 14:6).

A faint, light gray world map is visible in the background, centered behind the text.

# Christ's Method

**Step 1: Befriend**

**Step 2: Proclaim**

“Follow Me, and **I will make you**  
become fishers of men.”

*Mark 1:17*

**"In all His work He was training them** for individual labor, to be extended as their numbers increased, and eventually to reach to the uttermost parts of the earth."

*The Acts of the Apostles, p. 32*

A faint, light gray world map is visible in the background, centered behind the text.

# Christ's Method

**Step 1: Befriend**

**Step 2: Proclaim**

**Step 3: Train**

# Christ's Method

# GROW

Step 1: Befriend



Prepare

Step 2: Proclaim



Plant



Cultivate



Harvest

Step 3: Train



Preserve



**Personal Ministries**  
provides a  
comprehensive disciple-  
making strategy based  
on Christ's method.





**Sabbath School** is the most broadly applied example of Christ's method in Seventh-day Adventist local churches.

# The Heart of Christ's Method: Personal Labor

"Christ's method. . . . **coming close**" (MH 143).

"Jesus. . . . **came close**" (GW 194).

"**personal labor**. . . . Christ's method" (COL 229).

"If we can have but one part done, let it be the  
**individual labor**" (*R&H*, 3/13/1888).



# Sabbath School: Christ's Method Applied

Because personal labor was the foundation of Christ's method, He encouraged **interactive teaching** more than preaching.

“It is not preaching that is the most important; it is house-to-house work, reasoning from the Word, explaining the Word. It is those workers who follow the methods that Christ followed who will win souls for their hire.”

*Gospel Workers, p. 468*

“There should be less preaching, and **more teaching**. . . . As we approach the end, I have seen that in these meetings there will be less preaching, and **more Bible study**. There will be **little groups** all over the grounds, with their Bibles in their hands, and different ones leading

“out in a free, conversational study of the Scriptures. This was the method that Christ taught His disciples.”

*Gospel Workers*, p. 407, 408

“Whenever practicable, every important discourse should be followed by a Bible study. Here the points that have been presented can be applied, questions can be asked, and right ideas inculcated. More time should be devoted to patiently educating the people, giving them

“opportunity to **express themselves**. It is instruction that men need, line upon line, and precept upon precept. . . . **This was the method of Christ's teaching.**”

*Evangelism*, p. 153





# Sabbath School: Christ's Method Applied

- “Less preaching”
- “More teaching” and “Bible study”
- “Little groups”
- “Conversational study of the Bible”
- “Points . . . presented can be applied”
- “Questions can be asked”
- “Opportunity to express themselves”



# Sabbath School: Christ's Method Applied

When we say "Christ's method," we mean Christ's method of what?



# Sabbath School: Christ's Method Applied

When we say "Christ's method," we  
mean Christ's method of what?

Reaching the people.  
Making disciples.  
Winning souls.

“The influence growing out of Sabbath school work should improve and **enlarge the church.**”

*Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 9*

“The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ.”

*Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 10*

















# EGW on “Sermonizing”

**Associated Words/Ideas:** Theorizing, Exhibition of Self, Christless, Lifeless, Dry, Tame, Lengthy, Argumentative, Prosy

**Contrasted Words/Ideas:** Bible Study, Teaching, Practical Education, Planning Work, Personal Labor, Heart-to Heart Work, Conviction of Sin

# Sermonizing: Proposed Definition

To lecture on **personal opinions and theories**. These monologues are generally dry and spiritless, can be lengthy and argumentative, and while speaking **about** Bible topics are not **truly drawn from the biblical text**.

Note: sermonizing can be done by either the SS teacher or the members of the class.



“We want Bible instruction instead of sermonizing. **That is the way Jesus taught.** He never preached a sermon after the modern style of sermonizing. . . . Everything which we receive of God comes through His Word and the Spirit impressing it upon the heart.”

*Letters and Manuscripts, Vol. 7, Ms 91, 1891*



# Essential Components of Mission Focus

1. Mission Offering



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2. Mission Education/Training

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1. Mission Offering
2. Mission Education/Training
3. Mission Activity
  - a) Evangelistic Class & Teacher
  - b) Evangelistic Activity Outside Class

“The formation of **small companies as a basis of Christian effort** has been presented to me by One who cannot err.”

*Christian Service, p. 72*

“In our churches **let companies be formed for service**. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men.”

*Christian Service, p. 72*





# Sabbath School: Alive or Dying?



- Does the class study the Bible?
- Does the teacher make Bible truth clear and practical?
- Is the class interactive—discussion and questions?
- Do non-members attend the class?
- Do members choose to invite non-members?
- Does the teacher labor personally for attendees?
- Does the class engage in outreach activities together?
- Is Sabbath School part of the church's growth strategy?

# **Mission: To Make Disciples**



# **Goal:** **Total Member Involvement**





# **Strategy:**

## **Every Church a Training School in Christ's Method of Making Disciples**



# **Application: Sabbath School a Part of the Evangelistic Strategy of Every Church**





I WILL GO  
*Be His Witness*



# Alive in Jesus

Sabbath School Curriculum

“Parents and teachers should constantly seek for improved methods. The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort.”

– Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 186.





**BIG IDEA:** God made the birds of the sky.

Beginners Year A, Quarter 1, Week 8

# God made the **BIRDS** of the **SKY**

## MEMORY VERSE

God said, "Let the  
earth bring forth the  
living creature..."  
- Genesis 1:24 NKJV

This lesson is based on Genesis 1:20-23 and Psalms 104:1-4.





Listen (hand to ear): do you hear the singing birds? They are happy as they sing of God's love. There are red ones, and blue ones, and yellow ones, too. God made each with a special song for you. Some birds fly way up high, like an eagle, and others run on the ground, like an emu. God cares for each one He made, and even more, He cares for you. God was excited for what would be next. What do you think is ahead on Day 6 (six fingers)?

(Say together) Thank You, God, for making the birds!



### Create

Help your child finish the Day 5 page in their Creation Book. Cut out small circles of different coloured paper and small yellow triangle beaks. Have your child glue the circles down. Stick on googly eyes and beaks. Use craft feathers to glue on for the wings. Write at the bottom of the page "On Day 5, God created the fish in the sea and the birds of the air."

### Explore

Share how birds build nests to keep their babies safe. Go outside and use sticks, leaves and bark to build a nest. Pretend to be birds and fly around looking for a safe place for your babies. 'Land' in your nest' and pretend to look after your babies.

### Learn

Show your child pictures of birds with large colourful tail feathers, such as peacocks and turkeys. Develop coordination and hand skills by making a tail plumage by pushing craft feathers into the holes of a colander placed upside down.

### Care

Make a birdseed feeder. Mix two spoonfuls of coconut oil with birdseed. Add peanut butter or sunflower butter. Firm up in the fridge for 30 minutes, then form into a cookie cutter or muffin pan. Poke a hole in the top for a loop of string. Place in the freezer for two hours to harden. Remove, and hang outside. Share how God loves and cares for your child, just as He cares for the birds.

### Prayer and Praise

Sit quietly with your child outside and listen for singing birds singing. Search for the birds whose songs you hear and talk about their different colors. Share the Bible verse Matthew 6:26 about God caring for the birds of the air, and how much He cares for you. Make up a song together to thank God for the birds and for watching over us too.





# the tall tower

Big Idea: I can choose to say,  
"God's way is my way."

WEEK  
9

## Memory Verse

*"My son, do not forget my law,  
but let your heart keep my  
commands."*

Proverbs 3:1, NKJV.

## Word of the Week

**"Proud"**

A proud person thinks they are more special or important than others. Usually people who are very proud of themselves feel as if they don't need God or anyone else to help them.

This week's lesson is based on *Genesis 11:1-9; Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 117, 124.

# THE TOWER OF BABEL

I CAN DEPEND ON MY  
LOVING GOD, OR I CAN  
DEPEND ON MYSELF. GOD  
WILL ALWAYS LET ME  
CHOOSE.

## MEMORY VERSE

**"In You, O Lord, I put my trust;  
let me never be put to shame."  
Psalm 71:1 (NKJV)**

## WORD OF THE WEEK: *DEPEND:*

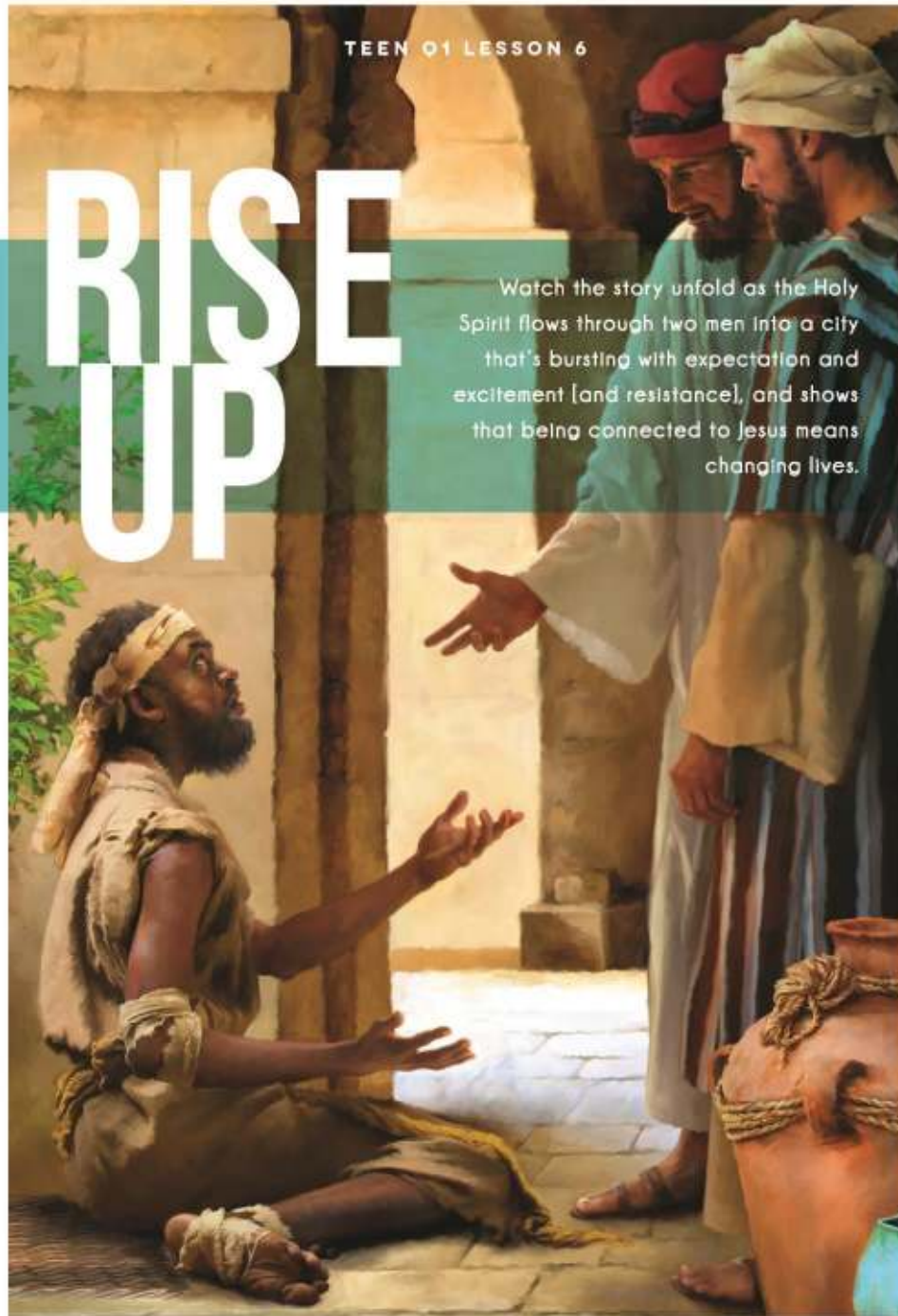
to trust in and rely on someone or something. As you read this lesson story, think about whom each person depended on. Whom do you depend on?

This week's lesson is based on the story of the Tower of Babel as found in *Genesis 11:1-9; Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 117, 124; *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 72-74; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 285-287.  
Extra Reading: *The Bible Story*, vol. 1, pp. 124-130.



# RISE UP

Watch the story unfold as the Holy Spirit flows through two men into a city that's bursting with expectation and excitement (and resistance), and shows that being connected to Jesus means changing lives.



# Giving God Your All



The love of Jesus is life changing! When we commit fully to God – often going against the pressures the world and within us – we give Him the go-ahead to show His love in unimaginable, undeserving, and even supernatural ways.

## LIFE VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your strength"

Deuteronomy 6:5

## DANIEL'S DILEMMA

It had been a long journey from Jerusalem to Babylon, but here he stood in the outer rooms of the royal court, cleansed and refreshed. His new sandals felt soft underfoot and his eyes widened in wonder as a luxurious new tunic was pulled over his head. The noble men of Babylon were a sight to behold! Their brightly colored tunics were embroidered with bright geometric patterns, ornate belts, fringed shawls, and layers of sparkling jewellery. Their hair was worn long and curled into ringlets (as were their beards!). His hair would soon be styled this way. Now dressed to impress, his own simple Hebrew garments and worn sandals were whisked away.

His name, Daniel, was to disappear just as quickly. The Babylonian King had decreed that Daniel and his three Hebrew friends were to be renamed after local gods\*. "To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah, Shadrach, to Mishael, Meshach, and to Azariah, Abed-Nego" (Daniel 1:7).

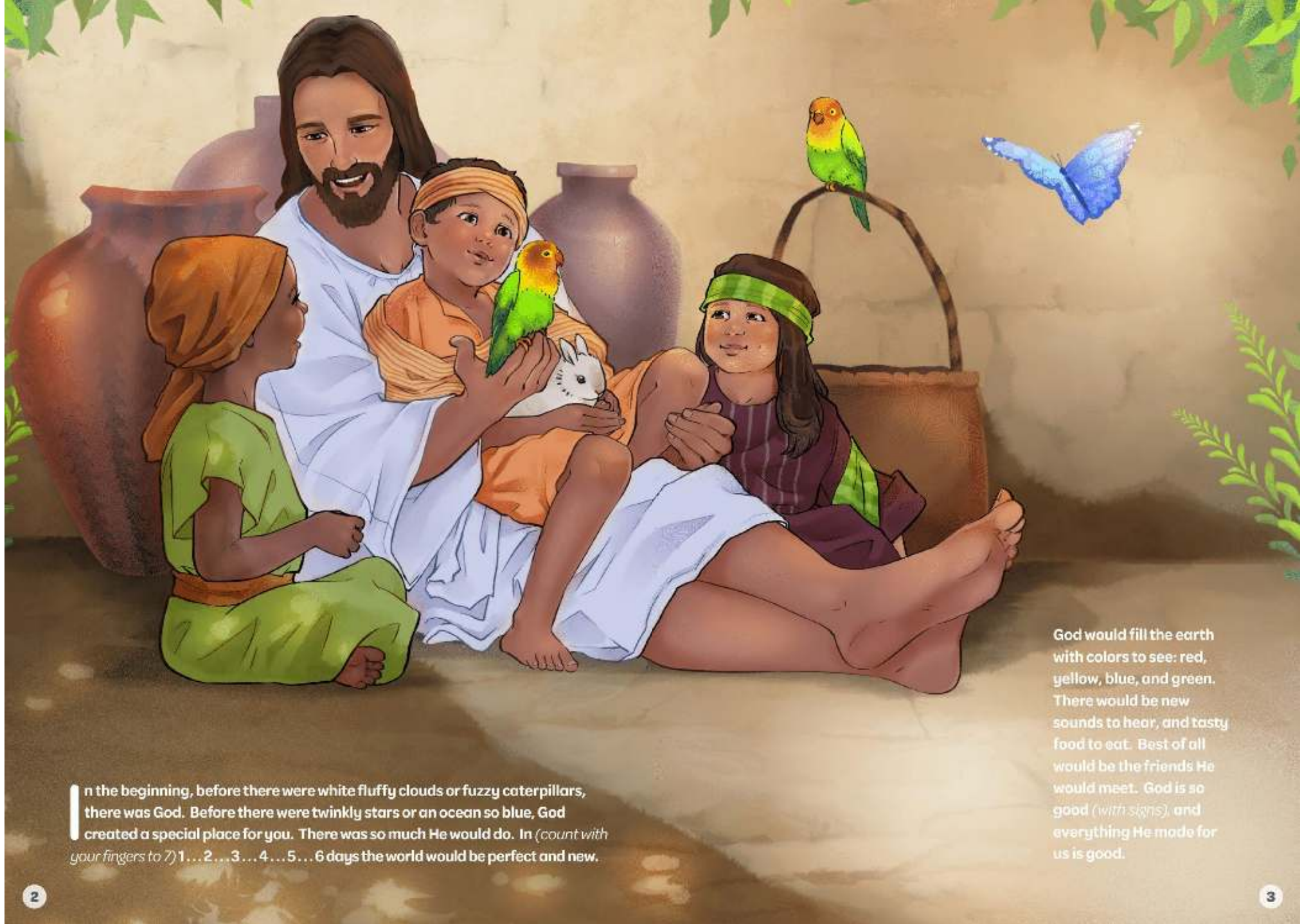
The chief of the eunuchs, Ashpenaz, had come to admire the teenagers that now stood before him in regal dress. It was he who had chosen them from among the noble families of Judah when Babylon had conquered

Jerusalem, and brought them to the most extravagant palace in the world. Even though they had been taken from their families as prisoners, and had witnessed the cruelty of war, the boys had treated Ashpenaz with respect. Now, the royal official could treat them to the best the king had to offer.

The king had planned the dinner himself. He may have taken these boys by force, but he would mold them gently into Babylonian leaders. "And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of it they might serve before the king" (Daniel 1:8). Treated to the glitz and glamour of the palace, decadent food and wine, a Babylonian education, access to the 'right crowd' and a backdrop of idol worship, it was hoped they would soon forget their identity, their culture and their God\*.

A feast and a future were being prepared for Daniel and his friends. But Daniel had a dilemma. The food to be lavished upon the Jewish boys was food God had declared unclean (Leviticus 11). The teens had been raised to follow God's Health Plan and not eat any meat or drink alcohol. This food, from the king's table, had also been consecrated to idols. Would he, a prisoner of war, accept the king's invitation? What would Daniel choose?





In the beginning, before there were white fluffy clouds or fuzzy caterpillars, there was God. Before there were twinkly stars or an ocean so blue, God created a special place for you. There was so much He would do. In (count with your fingers to 7) 1...2...3...4...5...6 days the world would be perfect and new.

God would fill the earth with colors to see: red, yellow, blue, and green. There would be new sounds to hear, and tasty food to eat. Best of all would be the friends He would meet. God is so good (with signs), and everything He made for us is good.



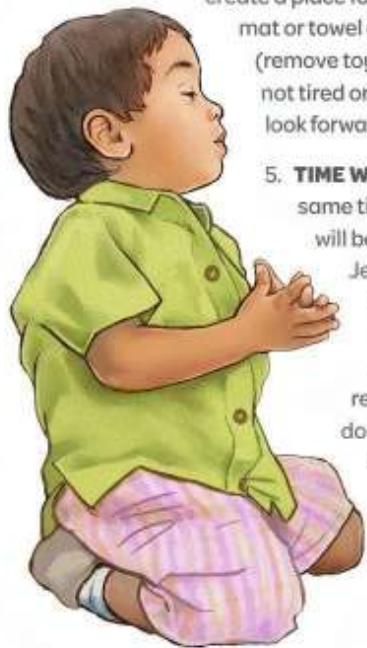


# Little Devotions

One of the most important life skills you can teach your child is to seek God every day in personal devotion. Although your child is now only 1, 2, or 3 years old, it's not too early to begin teaching them how to do this in simple ways.

**How can I begin to teach my Beginner child to turn his or her heart to Jesus?**

1. **PRAY:** Every day, pray for your child's heart to be opened to Jesus.
2. **IN THE EVERYDAY MOMENTS:** Look for opportunities to talk about Jesus and how much you love Him. Sing simple songs about this and teach your child to sing along with you. Spontaneous, authentic praise at this age is an important part of building faith.
3. **YOUR DEVOTIONAL PLACE:** Choose a chair, windowsill, or regular place where you will daily read your Bible and pray. Do this in a visible part of your home, such as the living area, so your child sees you spending time with Jesus.
4. **YOUR CHILD'S DEVOTIONAL PLACE:** Not too far from your Bible study space, create a place for your child to spend time with Jesus. Spread a small mat or towel on the floor, along with a few simple Bible picture books (remove toys and other distractions). Make sure that your child is not tired or hungry during this time, so it is a pleasant time they look forward to.
5. **TIME WITH JESUS:** Explain to your child that every day, at this same time, you are both going to spend time with Jesus. This will be quiet time, during which you will read, pray, or sing to Jesus. Show your child how they can look at the pictures in the Bible books and think about the stories. Explain that when Mommy/Daddy spend time with Jesus, your child will spend time with Jesus too. You won't talk or read stories together during this time, although you can do this later! To begin with, spend two to five minutes of individual time, depending on their ability to sit still and focus. Gradually increase the time as your child gets older.



**BIG IDEA:** God made the heavens and the earth.

Week 1: Creation Intro

## In the BEGINNING

### MEMORY VERSE

"In the beginning God  
created the heavens  
and the earth"  
(Genesis 1:1)



This lesson is based on Genesis 1:1, 2 and Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 44-51.



Sunday

## Life in a New World

The ark rested on top of the high mountain. Noah and his family looked all around. The world looked very different now. There were no more smooth mountains; no more jewels on the ground; no more grand, tall trees.

How happy Noah's family were that God had protected and saved them from the Flood. They could trust Him to help them turn this soggy earth and rubble into a beautiful place to live. Just like the shoots of bright green grass they saw poking through the mud, they would start again.

As always, God had a plan. Right before He hung the rainbow of promise in the sky, God asked Noah and his family to do something. He said, "Have many children. Grow in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1, ICB). This had been God's plan right from the time when He created Adam and Eve. But the earth filled up with people who didn't love God. Now, God hoped that those on the earth would love Him and other people.

And so God's small family began their new life in the freshly cleaned world. What did Noah become? **Genesis 9:20.** They planted new farms, grew new food, and had many children and grandchildren. Noah humbly and happily followed God and His ways.

God's plans are always good plans to save and help us. Like Noah and his family, we can choose to obey God.



### I Wonder

- Have you ever traveled to a place that looks very different from your home?
- What choices would Noah's family need to make in this new world?

#### Prayer Idea

Say a prayer of commitment to follow God's way.

#### Do

On thick paper, draw a large arrow sign pointing toward heaven. Have Mom or Dad write your prayer of commitment on the arrow. Hang it up to remind you of your decision.

#### Memory Verse

Monday

## Evil and Sadness, Again?

God's rainbow shone as a bright reminder of His love for Noah and his family after it rained. But even with this special symbol in the sky, not all of Noah's sons remembered to obey God. Little by little, Ham stopped being God's friend.

Time passed, and soon there were lots of people in the world again. The Bible says, "All the families grew and became different nations" (Genesis 10:5, ICB). Children grew up and had their own children, and they grew up and had more children. Soon there were lots of people in the world again.

Every person had a choice to follow God or not. Sadly, as years passed by, lots of people once again chose to listen to Satan's voice rather than God's. Ham's children followed his ways and learned to be unkind and mean. Their children learned to be like that too. They were *proud* and selfish.

The people lived in the mountains near the ark, but with more people came more troubles and fights. People who had chosen Satan's ways didn't like their cousins talking about God or telling them what to do. Finally, some of Noah's relatives decided to pack up and leave the mountains and live down on the flat land near a big river. It was beautiful there, and they wouldn't have to hear about the God they wanted to forget.

Every day we can choose to follow God, or not. Choosing God's way will help us be happy and kind. Sometimes it's hard to choose God's way, but He is close to us and will always help us when we ask Him.

### I Wonder

- Do you think the people who chose to forget God would be happy? Why/Why not?
- Why do you think Ham's family wanted to live so far away from God's faithful people?

#### Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you make good choices every day so you can be happy and show His love to your family.

#### Do

Have your child share some of the choices they made today. Write each on a small piece of paper. Separate them into important and not-so-important choices (e.g., helping clear the table, wearing green or red clothes). With God's help, how might you change a bad choice into a good choice?

#### Memory Verse



# GOD LEADS ABRAHAM

WHEN I CHOOSE TO BE  
GOD'S FRIEND, I WILL  
LIVE IN WAYS THAT TELL  
OTHERS ABOUT HIM.



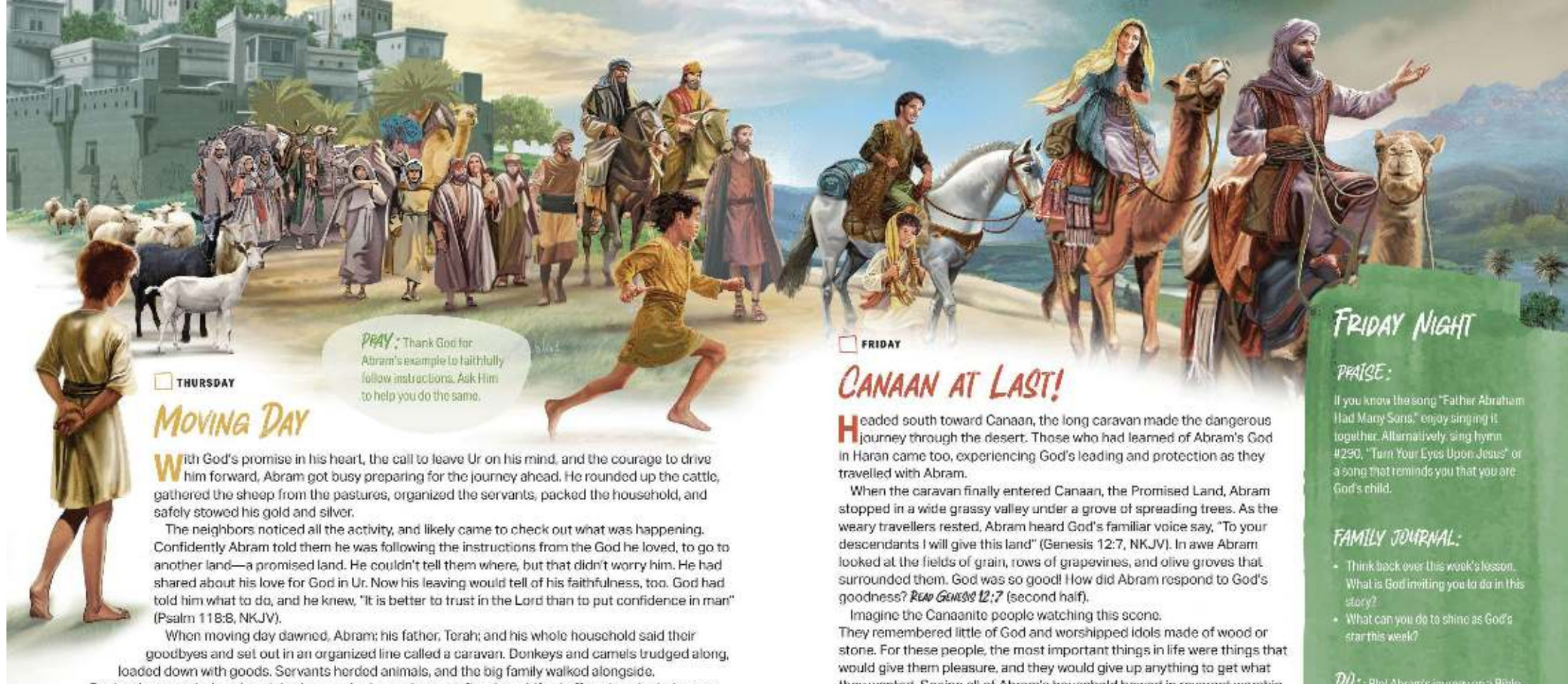
#### MEMORY VERSE

**"Your ears shall hear a word  
behind you saying, this is the way,  
walk in it." Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV)**

#### **WORD OF THE WEEK: DESCENDANT:**

Someone related to a person, or a group of people, who lived at an earlier time. Whom are you a descendant of? Answer this question again at the end of the week.





THURSDAY

## MOVING DAY

With God's promise in his heart, the call to leave Ur on his mind, and the courage to drive him forward, Abram got busy preparing for the journey ahead. He rounded up the cattle, gathered the sheep from the pastures, organized the servants, packed the household, and safely stowed his gold and silver.

The neighbors noticed all the activity, and likely came to check out what was happening. Confidently Abram told them he was following the instructions from the God he loved, to go to another land—a promised land. He couldn't tell them where, but that didn't worry him. He had shared about his love for God in Ur. Now his leaving would tell of his faithfulness, too. God had told him what to do, and he knew, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8, NKJV).

When moving day dawned, Abram, his father, Terah, and his whole household said their goodbyes and set out in an organized line called a caravan. Donkeys and camels trudged along, loaded down with goods. Servants herded animals, and the big family walked alongside.

By day they traveled, and at night they cooked over the campfire, then drifted off to sleep in their tents.

Finally, they stopped and set up home in the city of Haran to give everyone a rest. Just as he had in Ur, Abraham lived a kind, good life there. He taught the city dwellers about God, and some began to worship with Abram's family. What else happened here? *READ GENESIS 11:32.*

What a sad, sad day. After a time of mourning, Abram again followed the leading of God's voice, and the household moved on. Where was Abram going? *READ GENESIS 12:5.*

Now Abram knew where they were going! With renewed energy and a destination on their lips, the travelers set out for Canaan.

**PRAY:** Thank God for Abram's example to faithfully follow instructions. Ask Him to help you do the same.

**DO:** Design a luggage label with the words "God is leading to the Promised Land" on it. Make the word "Promised Land" big. Attach your label to a backpack as a reminder of God's leading. Place water and snacks in the backpack and go for a long walk outside. Think about Abram's faithfulness on his long journey.

## THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Read your memory verse. How might things have turned out if Abram hadn't listened?
- If you were journeying with Abram, what would you have done to help the household follow God's leading?

FRIDAY

## CANAAN AT LAST!

Headed south toward Canaan, the long caravan made the dangerous journey through the desert. Those who had learned of Abram's God in Haran came too, experiencing God's leading and protection as they travelled with Abram.

When the caravan finally entered Canaan, the Promised Land, Abram stopped in a wide grassy valley under a grove of spreading trees. As the weary travellers rested, Abram heard God's familiar voice say, "To your descendants I will give this land" (Genesis 12:7, NKJV). In awe Abram looked at the fields of grain, rows of grapevines, and olive groves that surrounded them. God was so good! How did Abram respond to God's goodness? *READ GENESIS 12:7* (second half).

Imagine the Canaanite people watching this scene. They remembered little of God and worshipped idols made of wood or stone. For these people, the most important things in life were things that would give them pleasure, and they would give up anything to get what they wanted. Seeing all of Abram's household bowed in reverent worship was a beautiful witness to the true God. The Canaanites were distant cousins, descendants of Noah's son Ham. God's promise to bless all the families of the earth was for them, too, if they would choose to believe (Genesis 12:3). Abram hoped they would.

Gazing up at the stars in Canaan, Abram quietly thought about the descendants God had promised him. Each star shone brightly, reminding him that all those who would be God's friend, right down through time, would shine as his descendants. He was a star. His wife, Sarai, was a star. His household were stars. You are a star. How amazing to be a star descendant!

## THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Can you think of another time God used a star in a special way in the Bible? Who did the star tell of?
- Why do you think God chose a star again?

## FRIDAY NIGHT

**PRAISE:**

If you know the song "Father Abraham Had Many Sons," enjoy singing it together. Alternatively, sing hymn #290, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," or a song that reminds you that you are God's child.

## FAMILY JOURNAL:

- Think back over this week's lesson. What is God inviting you to do in this story?
- What can you do to shine as God's star this week?

**DO:** Plot Abram's journey on a Bible map.

**PRAY:** Reflect on this week's lesson. Pray about what has been meaningful for you. Thank God that you can be God's friend like Abram.

**FOR YOU, PARENTS:** You too are a shining descendant of Abram. God has you on His heart as you parent your precious children. "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3, NKJV).





**TUESDAY**

## A RUNNER BRINGS SAD NEWS

**S**omehow, one of the captives made a daring escape from the clutches of the enemy kings. Thinking quickly, he dashed up into the hills of Mamre to share the bad news with Abram. Puffing, and barely pausing for breath, the runner panted out the terrible story of the battle and how Lot and his family had been captured. Imagine how Uncle Abram took this news.

Upon hearing the dreadful story, Abram decided immediately that Lot must be rescued. He could have done nothing, and let Lot suffer for his unwise choices. But he didn't. Abraham's big heart loved Lot too much for that. And God's words were buried deep in his heart: "Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help" (Proverbs 3:27, ICB). Lot sure needed help right now!

The first thing Abram did was pray, for he knew he would be risking his life to rescue his nephew. But he also knew he could trust God to show him what to do, just as he had many times before. Then what did Abram do? **Read GENESIS 14:14.**

These 318 men were Abram's loyal servants. They loved God, respected Abram, and knew how to defend themselves against invaders in the hills. Three neighboring rulers joined in with their armed servants too. Together the newly formed army marched toward Dan on their dangerous mission. Lot's captors far outnumbered them, but Abram's men were brave. After all, they had God on their side. And He is very wise and powerful.

### THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why do you think Abram was so willing to risk his life to rescue Lot?
- How willing would you have been to join Abram on his rescue mission?

When we pray to our powerful and wise God, He will show us what to do to help others who may be in trouble.

**PRAY:** Before Abram acted, He stopped and prayed. Run around, outside if you can, really fast, then STOP! When you're perfectly still, tell God silently what's on your mind. Repeat, and think about how we should pray before we act.

**DO:** Draw and decorate a shield. On the front, write down four things the little army trusted God to give them as they went to face the enemy. For example, courage. Remember that God offers you His "shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16, NKJV).

**WEDNESDAY**

## ABRAM TO THE RESCUE

**A**bram's army hurried on their way to track down the four greedy kings and their captives. One night as they neared the city of Dan, they spied the enemy camp. Quietly, ever so quietly, they crept closer to check things out.

What they saw made them wonder why they'd bothered to sneak up silently! The enemy armies were celebrating the victory with a lively party. They had figured there was nothing at all to worry about, for hadn't they just overthrown five kings, stolen their goods, and captured their people?

While thinking they were such clever warriors, they were really very unwise. If only they knew how God was working just outside their camp... Not wasting even a minute, Abram quickly organized his troops. What do you think Abram did? **Read GENESIS 14:15.**

What a wise plan that was! Surprised beyond belief at the sudden attack, the stunned soldiers quit partying and leaped up to flee. Never mind the captives, never mind the stolen food or treasures. Leaving everything behind, they ran for their lives, with Abram's men chasing hot on their heels.

Seeing his kind uncle Abram filled Lot with relief and made him hugely grateful. What a blessing! Abram had wisely trusted God and lived by the words "Learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor [stand up for those who are not free or don't have the power to act]!" (Isaiah 1:17, NKJV).

### THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Read your memory verse. What will Abram reap for doing good and rescuing Lot?
- You may never need to face an enemy and rescue captives, but what could you do to help someone else in trouble? Look for ways to help someone this week.

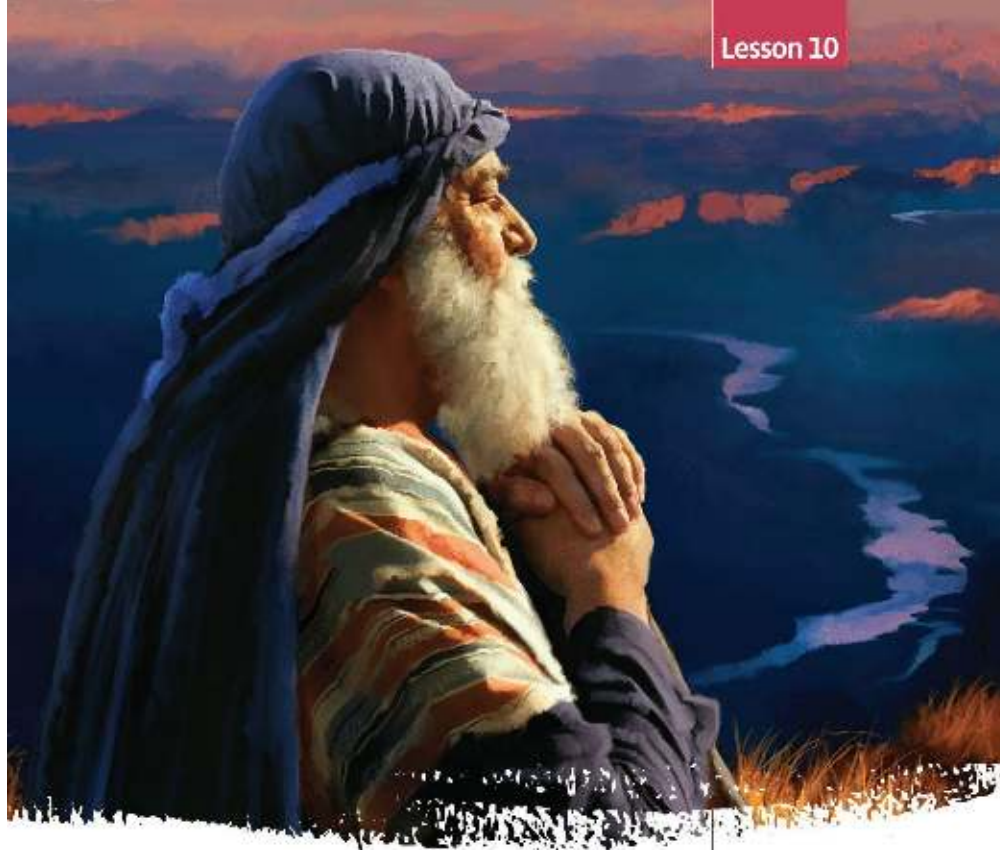
**PRAY:** Thank God that He can help us to help others.

### PARENT/FAITH TALK:

You may like to further unpack Isaiah 1:17 with your child. What would it look like for them to do good, seek justice, or defend others with less voice in the school playground, at home, or in other contexts relevant to their lives?

**FASTFACT:** There are at least 40 wars, big and small, being fought in the world at any given time. Sadly, many people lose their lives, and many more are left homeless and hungry.





## Friend of God

Following God's lead, Abram loved others unselfishly. Watch as his 'you-first' attitude produces one of the Bible's great hero moments, and be inspired to give to God and others just as generously.

### BIG IDEA

God is the true Owner of everything, and He always provides for my needs.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:34, NKJV).



SUNDAY

## TROUBLE IN THE CAMP

**LOUD, ANGRY VOICES ECHOED** across the valley where Abram's camp had stopped. Lot's herdsmen were fighting with Abram's herdsmen—again. Both wanted their sheep and cattle to graze on the hillside not far from the tents. When the animals got mixed up, dust and tempers rose. There just wasn't enough good grass for all their animals.

Something had to be done, and Abram knew it. He had to keep peace in the family. Abram called Lot over, and together they walked up a high hill to look across the land and valleys before them. Then Abram spoke. "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.... If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left" (Genesis 13:8, 9, NKJV).

Is Uncle Abram really offering me first choice? Lot wondered. His eyes darted around at the brown hills, and then down into the beautiful green Jordan Valley below. He saw the twisting silver river and fertile fields filled with abundance. Far to the south gleamed the wealthy twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The whole region looked something like the long-lost Paradise that Adam and Eve had known. How good it would be to live in such a lush valley, and how rich he could become trading his goods in the cities! Without hesitation Lot chose the valley.

*Think about the choices these two men made. How would you describe Abram? How would you describe Lot?*

Abram was the one whom God had called and blessed. This land had been promised to him and his descendants. As Abram was older, his wealth greater, and his position in the family higher than that of Lot, Abram had the right to choose first. But he didn't think about himself. With self-giving love he offered first choice to Lot. Abram chose to live in a right relationship toward Lot.

### Faith Talk

Discuss with your parents what you think it means to live in a right relationship toward others. Look for an answer in this week's memory verse, **Philippians 2:3, 4**. As you begin memorizing it, pray that God will give you a heart like Abram's—to think about others and not just yourself.



MONDAY

## RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

**READ Genesis 13:8-13** and think:

Are any of these "me first" scenarios familiar to you? Circle the one you do most often:

- I look for the biggest cookie on the plate. ☐ or ☐ I will leave that big cookie for someone else to enjoy.
- I run to be first in line. ☐ or ☐ It's OK for others to go in front of me.
- I like to choose first so I get what I want. ☐ or ☐ Someone else can choose first; I can be happy with what is left.
- I want to have the first turn. ☐ or ☐ I am happy to wait for others to have a turn.

Think through your day. Picture things that happened, or draw or write down some of the big moments in your day. Where were the opportunities for you to practice self-giving love by looking out for the interests of others? That might mean putting others first, making sure people have what they need, or standing up for others when they are being treated badly. It's not always an easy choice to look out for others. When we do, we are living in a right relationship toward them, just as Abram lived in a right relationship toward Lot. When you live this way toward others, you will find that people are more likely to live this way toward you.

### Get Outside

Go and look at the sky. Do you see any clouds? The rain falls from clouds heavy with moisture. Some of the water gathers in puddles on the ground, or in lakes or rivers. Water droplets then rise (evaporate) into the air and begin making a cloud until they fall in raindrops to the earth again, completing the water cycle. How does this remind you of a follower of Jesus who lives in a right relationship with others? Draw your thoughts.



“God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us.”

—Steps to Christ, p. 10.



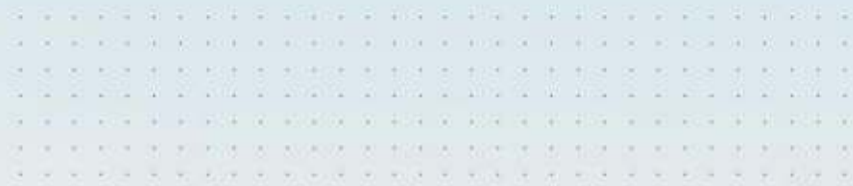
With a friend or family member, read Steps to Christ, Chapter 1, or listen to it using the QR code and discuss together:

What new insights about God's character, and Jesus, has this chapter challenged you with? So many people have distorted views of God, so who might you share your insights with?

## God in Creation

You probably know from memory the first words in the Bible: “In the beginning, God. . . .” In Hebrew, the word for God here is **Elohim**, which describes an almighty, all-powerful, transcendent God who is beyond our understanding but in control of everything. He is so powerful that He speaks just one word, and something is created—just from His voice.

But in the next chapter, Genesis 2, Moses chooses a different word for God: **Yahweh**. This name connects to Elohim, the same all-powerful, almighty God, but Yahweh represents the covenant God, in loving relation with His created people. Read **Genesis 2:7**. Then illustrate or draw the message of this verse using shades of color, stick figures, or a word picture.



Here in **Genesis 2:7**, we see God kneel to form the first human being out of the ground with His own hands. This is a God who gets close—so close that He breathes into his nostrils the breath of life. This name, Yahweh, presents a very different picture of God, but Moses uses both names in the first two chapters of the Bible to describe these two aspects of God to us.

In the New Testament, when Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray (see **Matt 6:9**), He swaps Moses' order, saying, “Our Father [corresponding to the covenant God Yahweh] in heaven [the dwelling place of Elohim].” Again, we see these two characteristics of God in Jesus' description of Him: the personal God, and the almighty, powerful God.

**Reflect:** How often do you think about these two parts of God's character (the personal, and the almighty powerful God)? Do you think of Him one way more often? (If so, which one?) Why might it be important to think about God's character more broadly than we do?

**Listen, then create:** Listen to some of your favorite hymns or other Christian music, and notice what the lyrics tell you about God's character. How deep or meaningful are the words? What Bible verses are they based on? If you're musical, write a song about God, then post it on the Alive in Jesus website, and hear what others from around the world have created.

# Pilot, Quarter 1, 2023

## Beginner, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior

### 79 churches, 20 languages

English

Spanish

Portuguese

French

Chinese

Kiswahili

Kirundi

Bangla

Ukrainian

Arabic

Turkish

Hungarian

Croatian

Finnish

Chichewa

Romanian

German

Bahasa

Swedish

Lugunda









# Primary Character Collector Cards



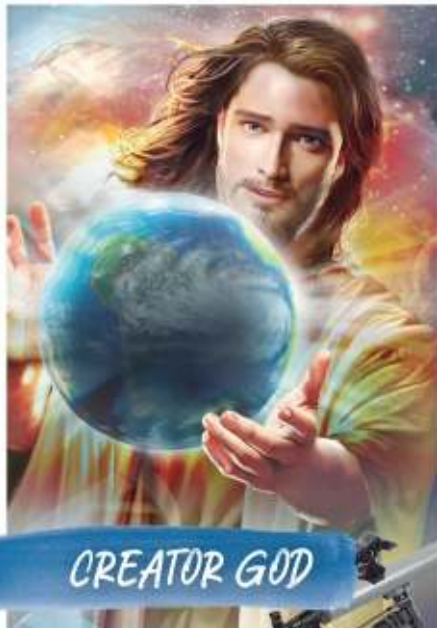
NOAH

## MEMORY VERSE

For since the creation  
of the world His  
invisible attributes  
are clearly seen.

ROMANS 1:20

YAQ1 WEEK TWO



CREATOR GOD

## MEMORY VERSE

For since the creation  
of the world His  
invisible attributes  
are clearly seen.

ROMANS 1:20

YAQ1 WEEK TWO



REBEKAH

## MEMORY VERSE

For I know the thoughts  
that I think toward you,  
says the Lord, thoughts  
of peace and not of evil,  
to give you a future  
and a hope.

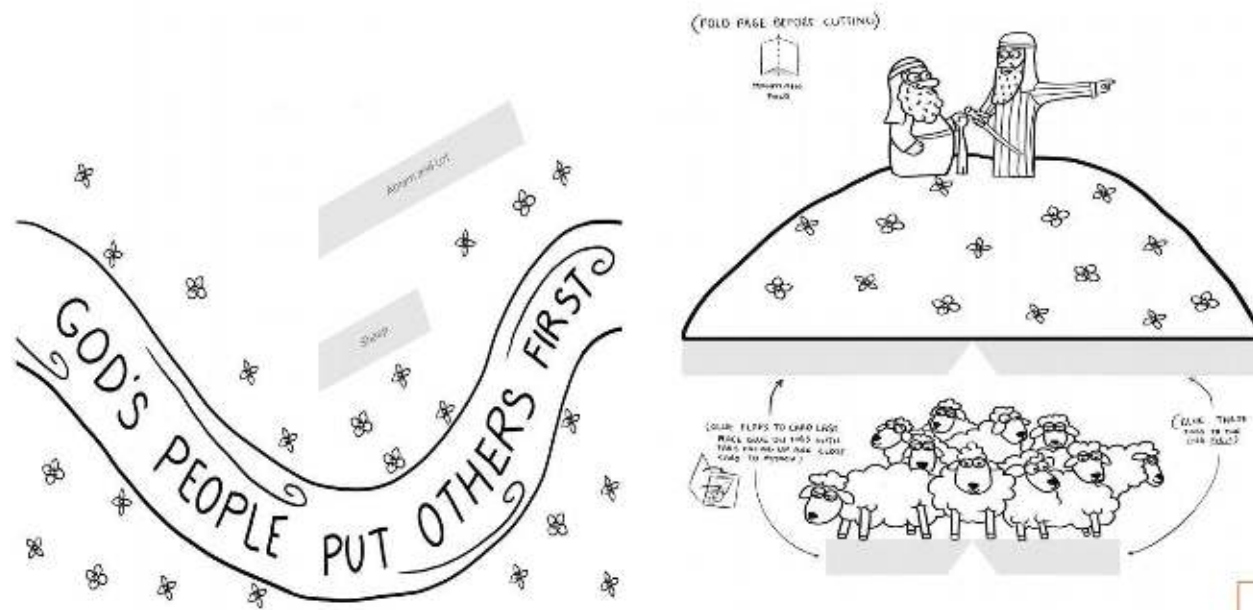
JEREMIAH 29:11

YAQ2 WEEK FOUR

# Christian Hospitality Coloring Book



Template:



## Materials:

- Printer + paper
- Color pencils/pens
- Glue or double-sided tape

## Instructions:

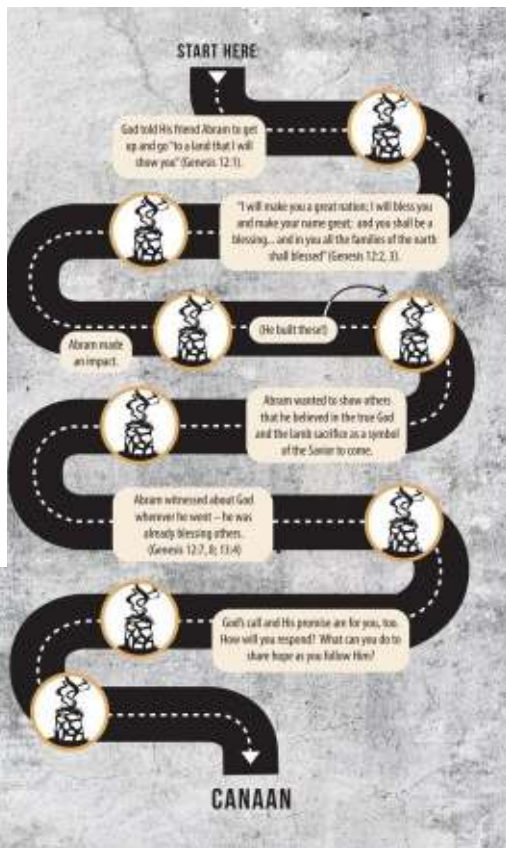
1. Download the template from the *Alive in Jesus* website - [www.spm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus](http://www.spm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus)
2. Mountain fold the page with the sheep.
3. Valley fold the bottom sheet.
4. Cut both pop-up pieces.
5. Fold tabs backwards.
6. To make the card, put glue or double-sided tape on the right tabs. Align to markers on base.
7. When attached to the card, fold both pop-up pieces flat with tabs facing up. Apply adhesive and fold card down over pop-up pieces. This will allow the pop-up pieces to find their natural alignment which will make for a much better fold!

Sample:





1. Read Genesis 12:1. Why do you think God chose Abram?
2. Why did God call Abram to leave everything behind and follow Him to a land that God would show him?
3. Why did God call Abram to leave everything behind and follow Him to a land that God would show him?
4. What are some words to describe how you would feel if you had to leave everything you know and go to an unknown place?
5. Read Genesis 12:4, 5. Who went with Abram?
6. Read Genesis 12:7, 8; 13:4. What did Abram do wherever he stopped to camp?
7. What are some ways you can witness to your friends and those around you?
8. How do we listen to God's voice, since people don't very often hear His voice out loud? How do you know what God's way is?
9. Read Genesis 12:10-20. What did Abram do in these verses? What do you think of his words and actions here? How does it make you feel knowing Abram failed God?
10. What does this story tell you about trust? On a scale of 1 to 10, how much did Abram trust God?
11. What is a part of your life you have a hard time trusting God with?
12. Abram ended up having a very close friendship with God. What helped this to happen?



## Junior Bible Study Handouts

OUR WORLD DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN BY ITSELF.  
IT DIDN'T COME FROM AN ACCIDENT, OR OVER  
TIME FROM SIMPLE LIFE TO MORE COMPLEX  
LIFE. IT WAS CREATED IN SIX REAL DAYS BY  
THE POWERFUL WORDS FROM GOD'S MOUTH.

**GOD SAID,  
"LET THERE BE LIGHT"  
AND THERE WAS!**  
(GENESIS 1:3)

HE HAD TO CREATE THE WORLD. HE  
DID IT BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE (GENESIS 1:1-24).  
HE WANTED YOU TO EXIST.  
HE WANTED TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH YOU!

I will give to God *freely*  
**Joyfully** for, "The earth is the Lord's...  
the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24)  
I delight in the Lord. (Psalm 27:6)  
and honor Him with my best.  
for every perfect gift is from Him.  
My loving God gives *generously,*  
that I may give to others.  
He returns my gifts, pressed  
down, shaken together,  
and running over.  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

### God promises Abraham...

"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give you and your descendants forever" (Genesis 13:14, 15).

"I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered" (Genesis 13:16).

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward" (Genesis 15:1).

"Look now toward heaven and count the stars if you are able to number them". And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be" (Genesis 15:5).

"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations... I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you" (Genesis 17:4).

"Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac" (Genesis 17:19).

**OUR GOD IS A PROMISE-KEEPER.  
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM!**

# Better Together

Nature Lesson



**Focus:** Zhuen memorizes the Bible and shares it with his friends.

- Can you name some creatures that live under the sea?
- Have you ever seen these two sea creatures? (Show image.)

There are lots of things that are just better together: peanut butter and jelly, French fries and ketchup, macaroni and cheese ... and socks! Share a time when you couldn't find your "other sock" and it was a problem.

This is also very true for the emperor shrimp and the nudibranch (pronounced new-di-brank), otherwise known as a sea slug; they are better together. In fact, the emperor shrimp wouldn't be alive at all without the sea slug to protect it.

You'll never see an emperor shrimp all by itself. They are always riding on the back of someone else; usually a sea slug. The ocean is a dangerous place, especially if you're just two centimeters tall. So, the tiny shrimp's safest spot to be is on the back of one of the most brightly-colored, slowest-moving creatures in the sea. The bright colors of the sea slug warn other creatures that sea slugs are deadly—keeping them away. If a creature does happen to swim close by who would want to eat the shrimp, it quickly hides underneath the sea slug or inside its stinging gills; there it is perfectly safe.

The emperor shrimp not only gets protection from the sea slug, it also gets breakfast, lunch, and dinner. As the sea slug slowly moves and eats, it stirs up the sand causing little pieces of food to float up to where the emperor shrimp can munch on them. So, the tiny emperor shrimp enjoys one of the safest and most pleasant rides in the sea—all thanks to its friend the sea slug.

- Why does the emperor shrimp need the sea slug? (It keeps it safe and gives it food.)
- How are the emperor shrimp and the sea slug like Noah and God? (Noah was "better together" with God.)

God was "together" with Noah every day—even though he couldn't see Him. He helped Noah as he built the ark. He was with him and his family (and all the animals) every day through the storm, and He was with them after they came out of the ark.

There is something else that is just better together: you and God! God knows what you need and provides things like water and air and warm sunlight for you to enjoy every day. He also sends His angels to protect you and remind you to make good choices, so that you stay away from danger. No matter how you look at it—life is just better with God in it! I'm so glad that He is always with us!

*God and Me: Better together!*





# Alive in Jesus

[sspm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus](https://sspm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus)



# Alive in Jesus

[sspm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus](https://sspm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus)

Current launch goal:

- 2025 (Babies, Beg, Kinder, Prim, Junior)
- 2026 (Teen, Youth)







# Alive in Jesus

Sabbath School Curriculum



I WILL GO  
*Be His Witness*

# Mission Alive: Literature Outreach

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2022 Annual Council

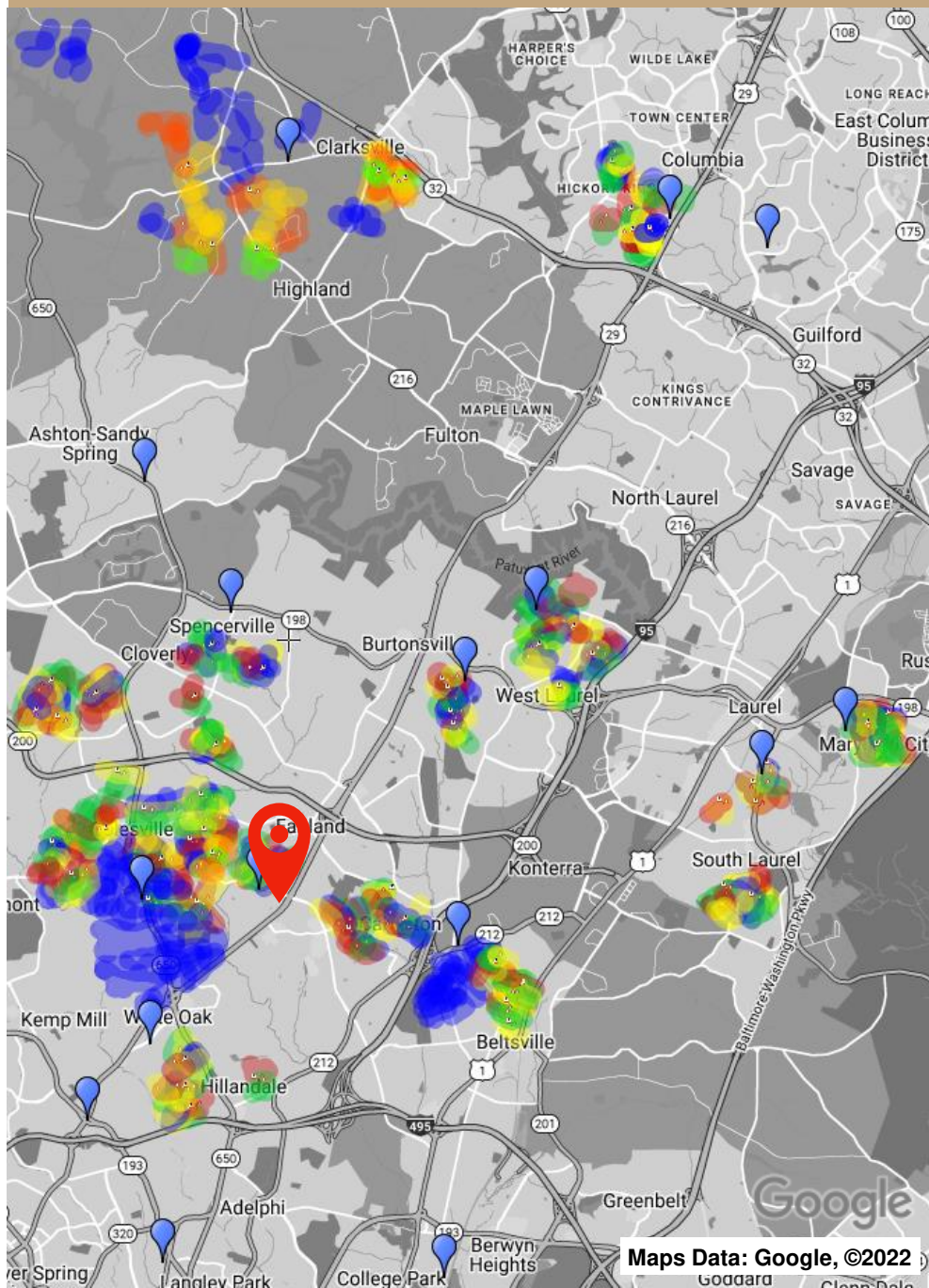






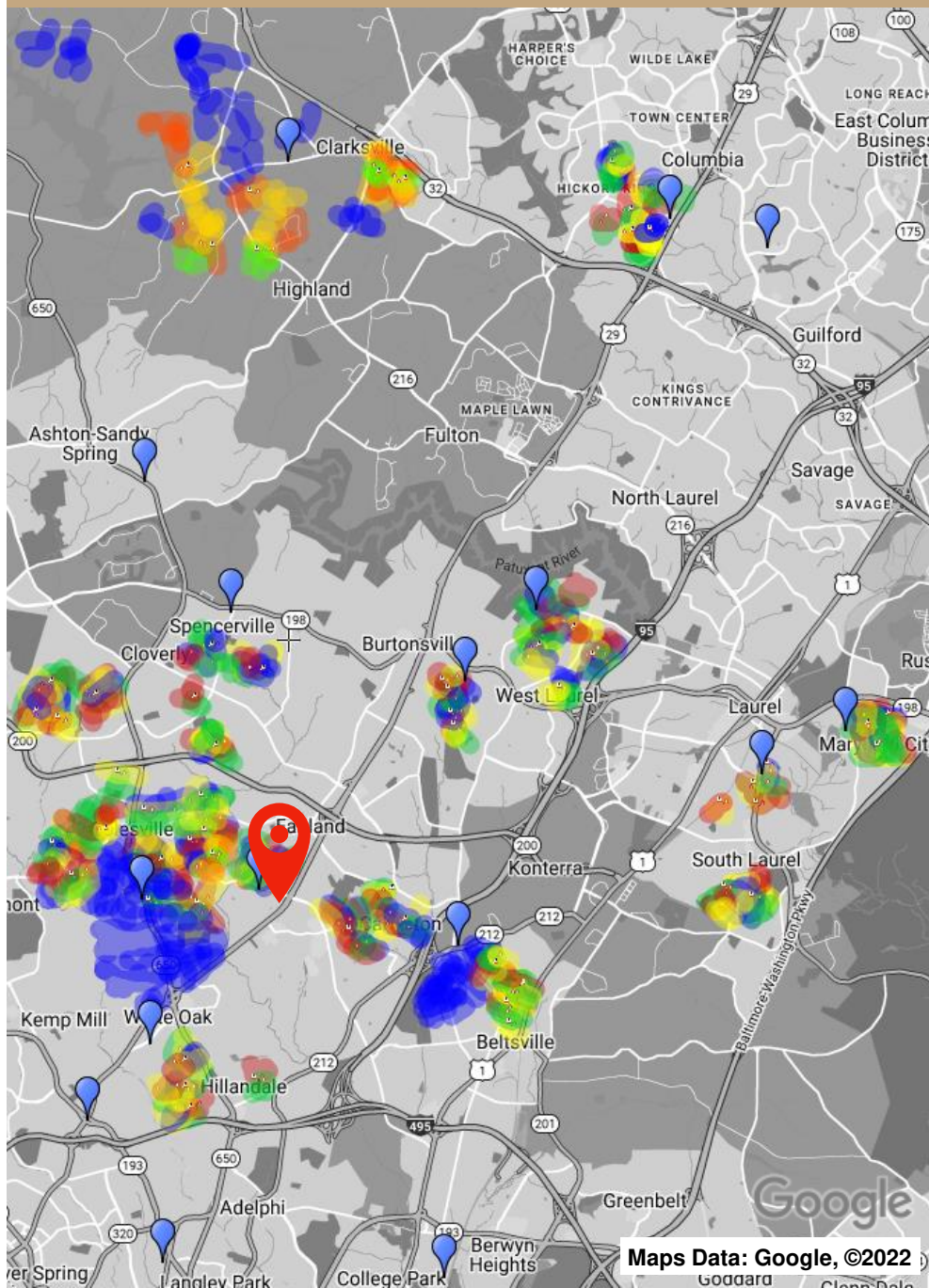
If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. Missionary work—introducing our publications into families, conversing, and praying with and for them—is a good work.

*Christian Service, p.145*



## Participating Churches

1. Southern Asia SDA Church
2. Triadelphia SDA Church
3. Beltsville SDA Church
4. Burnt Mills SDA Church
5. Connection Community SDA Church
6. Reaching Hearts International SDA Church
7. Remnant SDA Church
8. Atholton SDA Church
9. Washington-Spencerville Korean SDA Church
10. Washington Spanish SDA Church
11. Laurel Maranatha Spanish SDA Church
12. Washington-Spencerville Spanish SDA Church
13. Four Corners Spanish SDA Church
14. Washington Brazilian SDA Church
15. Tacoma Park Spanish SDA Church
16. Columbia I Hispanic SDA Church



Maps Data: Google, ©2022

# Outreach Statistics



**Churches**  
16



**Church Members**  
410



**Buses**  
14



**Duration**  
25 min.



**Delegates**  
400

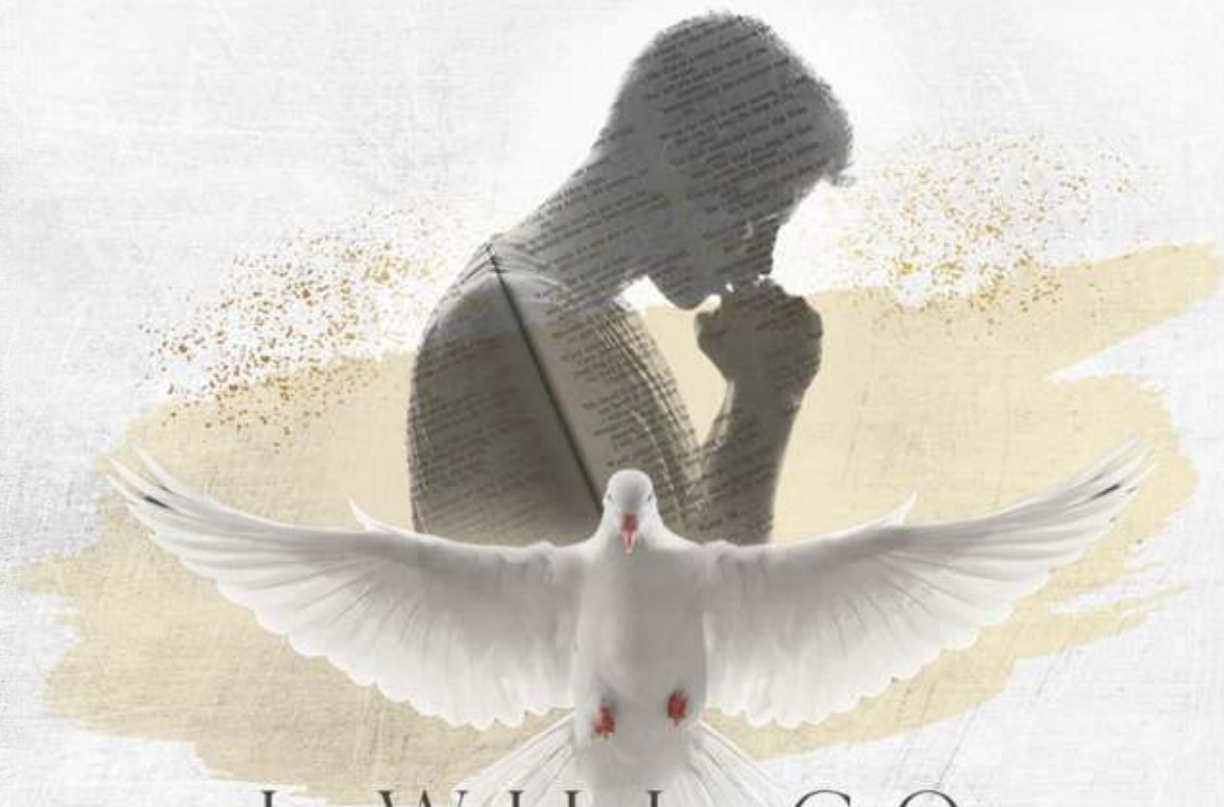


**Books**  
12,630



**12,630 Bible Study Offers**





I WILL GO  
*Be His Witness*