



**Alive
in Jesus**

“The Sabbath school is a work that touches our nearest and dearest interests; it should reach every home and every member of the home. Taking into account the ages of the different members of the average family, we may say emphatically that **of all the regular services held by the Seventh-day Adventist, none is of greater importance than the Sabbath school.**”

- Flora Plummer, *From Acorn to Oak*, p. 64.



“The teaching of the Bible should have our **freshest thought**, our **best methods**, and our **most earnest effort**.”

- Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 13.









Foundation: The Bible



Pillars:

- Grace
- Character
- Mission



A curriculum that...

- Is robust, with more depth
- Has chronological flow
- Explores all fundamental beliefs explored
- Includes a daily reading
- Has more parent involvement/sharing



Baby Steps

0-12 months



QUARTER ONE:
PARENTING WITH PURPOSE

9.



Slow Down

Life is busy! Do you ever long to just slow things down a little so that you can focus more on what's really important?

Connect

In 60 seconds, have each person write down a list of the things that cause stress in life. Invite each person to read their list and notice the overlap of ideas.

Discuss

You may know the story of Jacob and Esau—two brothers who were in conflict. Before they meet after being apart for 20 years, Jacob travels with his family and is very worried. There's a lot on his mind. But despite this, he does something.

Read about their story in **Genesis 32 and 33**, but take special note of **Genesis 33:14**.

In the midst of all his stress, Jacob chooses to “travel at the pace of children.” He knows his family, and he puts their needs first.

We likely don't have cattle, tents, a family the size of a village to move, or a death threat hovering over us, but we do have things that clamor for our attention: computers, jobs, schedules, lists, appointments ... and worries and concerns that distract and weigh us down.

- + What are the things in your life that might cause you to not “travel at the pace of children”? What are the important family things that you might neglect because of your “rapid pace”? Playing or taking a walk with your children after supper? Reading a book under a blanket tent? Working together outside on a family project?

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The Sabbath School Lessons

As you implement these program ideas, “make the learning fun. Pair it with your love” (Habenicht, p. 48).

Note: All songs are taken from the songbook, *Little Voices Praise Him*.

Lesson 1: Creation

MESSAGE God made all things good for me. He loves me.

This lesson focuses on nature and God’s creation. Many things around us can also be teaching moments and objects. Keep your eyes open and use all the opportunities to reinforce the lesson. However, it is important to designate and dedicate a special time each day for worship and review of the Bible. This will create patterns of life (or habits) that will be important for their future spiritual life. Keep the baby’s attention with the sounds, objects, and the songs and follow the sequence below.

BIBLE STORY Creation

EMPHASIS Mommy/Daddy love you, and God created the world because He loves you.

REFERENCES Genesis 1:1–2:3; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 44–51.

MEMORY VERSE Then God saw everything that He had made, and... it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

PROGRAM GOALS

The baby will:

- + Know that God made the world because He loves them.
- + Feel happy and loved by parents and Sabbath School teachers.
- + Respond by participating, and when possible, saying, “Thank You, Jesus.”

***PLEASE NOTE:** Songs are highlighted below and the number corresponds to songs in the songbook *Little voices Praise Him*. There are many songs in this first lesson. Choose just a few to sing and teach your baby at home.*

PRAY

Hold the little hands of your baby together while you say a short prayer to invite Jesus to be with you.

LIGHT

Show a light (flashlight, lamp, or other). Say: **Look at the light! God made the light. He made the day** (turn on the light/room light) **and He made the night** (turn off the light/ room light) because God loves us. Repeat a few times. (Sing while moving the flashlight or turning it on and off.)

SING

“God Made Our World,” #71 (Light)

God made our wonderful world
 God made our wonderful world
 He made the night, He made the light,
 God made our wonderful world



Quarter One

PARENTING WITH PURPOSE



WEEKLY TOPICS

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Dream | 8. Rest |
| 2. Cultivate | 9. Slow Down |
| 3. Clarify | 10. Notice |
| 4. Step | 11. Speak |
| 5. Show | 12. Worship |
| 6. Abide | 13. Sit |
| 7. Read | |



Dream

When you do something big or important, it can be helpful to start with the end in mind. When we think about the end of something, it helps us make wise decisions to get us to the end place. This is also true with parents. Although you hold a little one in your arms now, and the days can feel long, the years will be short. What might God's dreams be for you and your baby? How can you be an intentional parent in everyday moments?

Connect

Show a symbolic wrapped gift. Invite each person to respond:

- + As you think about the future and imagine your little one all grown up and ready to live their life, what's the most valuable gift you'd like to have given them? Share responses.

Then personally reflect on this gift in the context of the following questions:

- + Imagine you're in heaven. How important is your gift, from eternity's perspective?
- + What do you think God's dream for your little one is? How is it similar to or different from your dream for them?

Explore

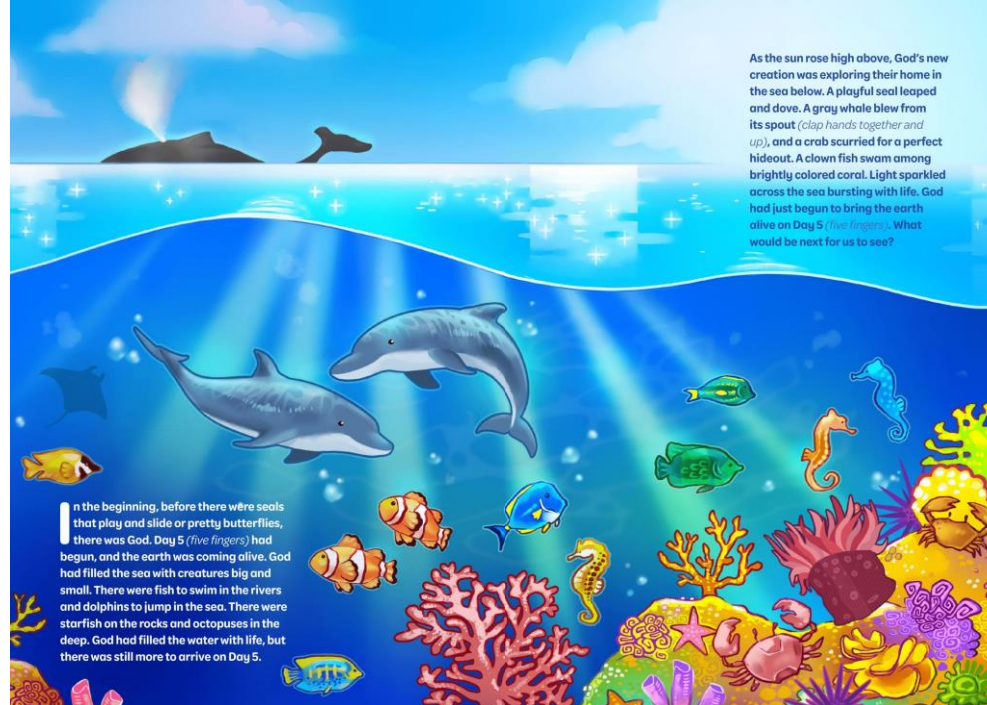
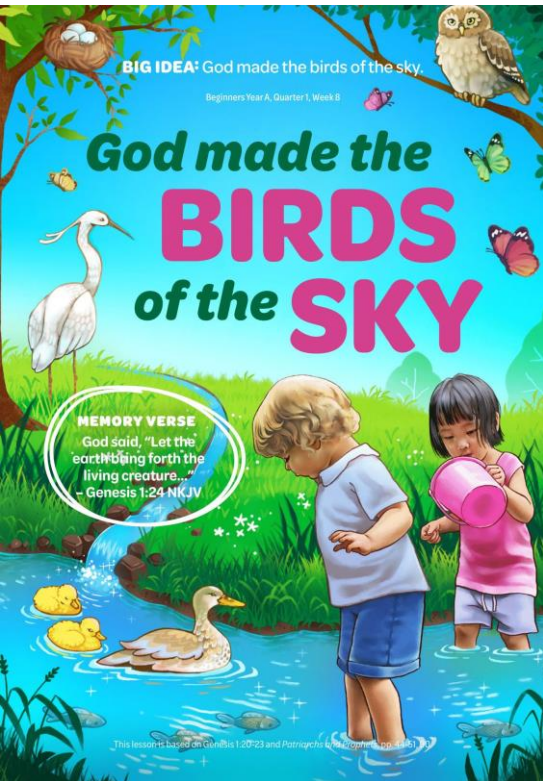
Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Read **Matthew 6:33**.

- + What words or phrases stand out to you in this verse? (What makes you say that?)
- + How does this verse inform or change your parenting priorities?

Now read **2 Corinthians 5:20**. Discuss these same questions.

Beginner 1-3 years



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 HEART OF THE MATTER For You, Parents

The water rushed to be within the boundaries God designed for it. Rivers and lakes flowed within their banks, the sea in its place. These boundaries would keep the water from overtaking the dry land, creating space where things would grow. God, in His infinite wisdom and creativity, crafted beautiful meandering rivers and oceans with the boundaries necessary to provide the balance needed between water and land.

Boundaries also offer the balance needed in raising a child of God. They give not only structure but security for your child. When age-appropriate boundaries are established with love and grace, a child learns self-control, confidence, and self-worth. They discover how to respect others' needs as well as to express their own. Children will search for where those boundaries are, so be clear and consistent. Just like a river who looks for the path of least resistance to flow, it is only natural for a child to test these limits. Give your child opportunities to make choices within the boundaries you create. When those boundaries are breached, gently and lovingly set your child back on a solid path. Pray for wisdom as you establish these grace-filled boundaries to meet the needs of your child. Delight in their growth as they find the path of joy through all God lovingly created for them.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6, NKJV

"Parents, in the training of your children, study the lessons that God has given in nature. . . . Ask the gardener by what process he makes every branch and leaf to flourish so beautifully, and to develop in symmetry and loveliness. . . . By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ." - The Desire of Ages, p. 516



Kindergarten 4-6 years

Abram Lets Lot Choose

Big Idea: God is loving, so I will put others first.

WEEK
11

Memory Verse

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).

Word of the Week

"Honor"

When you honor someone, you treat them with respect. You do things that show they are special and important to you. You put them first.

This lesson is based on Genesis 13 and Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 132-134.

Sunday

Blessed by God

Abram looked left, then right. He looked ahead and behind. Everywhere he turned there were wandering sheep, skipping goats, clip-clopping donkeys, grunting camels, and bellowing oxen. He owned so many animals. There were too many to count!

Abram smiled as he remembered God's promise. God had told him, "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you (Genesis 12:2, ICB). There was no doubt God had kept His promise! God had already blessed Abram with so much—and it wasn't just animals. What else had God given him? Read **Genesis 13:2**.

Wherever Abram went, people saw how God was blessing him. In fact, they honored him like a mighty prince. But Abram never acted more important than others. Instead, he showed God's humble love and kindness to everyone he met.

Abram had been on a big traveling adventure with God. He had left Canaan in hard times. But now he had returned with more than he'd ever had before. He set up his tent right next to the altar he had built near Bethel. There he offered a sacrifice, saying "Thank You" to God for His many blessings.

I Wonder

• What do you like most about Abram?

• What are some blessings God has given you (family, friends, pets, a home, church, food)?

• Prayer Idea

Thank God for the blessings He gives you.

• Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Tell your child about some blessings God has given you and how you have decided to use them.

Monday

Bursting With Blessings

Abram held up his big walking stick and waved. The sheep in the nearby field raised their heads. The goats in the valley below chomped and chewed. But far in the distance another shepherd waved back. It was Lot, Abram's nephew.

Abram was so glad to be back in Canaan with Lot. They had been many places together since they had left Ur. Abram and Sarai had cared for Lot and taught him to trust and obey God as they did.

Like Abram, Lot was rich with his own herds, flocks, and tents. God had blessed him too! There was just one problem on Abram's farm. What was it? Read **Genesis 13:6**.

Abram and Lot's workers began to argue and fight. There were no friendly waves to each other across the fields. Pointing their fingers angrily, they may have shouted: "Keep your sheep away from the best grass on the hill—it's our turn!" "No, it's not! You're just greedy!"

Back and forward, day after day, they argued and complained. Soon Abram heard about their arguments. It made him sad. He knew that unkind words hurt everyone. The Bible says, "A gentle answer will calm a person's anger. But an unkind answer will cause more anger" (Proverbs 15:1, ICB).

Abram could also see that there wasn't enough land for all the animals to be together. What could they do?

I Wonder

• What do you think Abram and Lot should do about their problem?

• Think of a time you were frustrated about sharing something. What did you do?

• Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you use kind and peaceful words, even when you're frustrated.

• Do

Choose a toy that is special to you. How can you be unselfish and share your toy? Look through your toys and take some to Adventist Community Services or a thrift store so they can go to children who don't have many.

• Memory Verse

Thursday

Too Many Blessings to Count!

Abram hummed as he set up his tent. It was so peaceful in the spot he had chosen for his new home. His tent looked out at green grass and big shady trees. But best of all, it faced an altar to God. God loved seeing Abram set up his home around the altar. He had a surprise to give His friend. What did God say to him? Read **Genesis 13:14, 15**.

All the land in every direction would be his, and his family's, forever! God promised Abram, "I will make your descendants (children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) as many as the dust of the earth. If anyone could count the dust on the earth, he would count your people" (Genesis 13:16, ICB).

A family too big to even count? That is a very big family!

Abram was as old as a grandfather, and he still didn't have a child of his own. But God wanted Abram to keep trusting Him. God would make it happen! God always keeps His promises.

God said to Abram, "Get up! Walk through all this land. I am now giving it to you" (Genesis 13:17, ICB). With a big smile Abram jumped to his feet. What a kind gift from his loving Friend.

I Wonder

• Why did God bless and honor Abram so much?

• Prayer Idea

Thank God for always keeping His promises.

• Do

Go outside and, if possible, find some dirt or dust. Take a handful. Look at all the fine little grains you can see. What a promise God gave to Abram!

• Memory Verse

Friday

God's Bright Light

Abram and Sarai made lots of friends in Canaan. They told all their friends about God and His love for everyone.

The people in Canaan noticed that Abram was different to other people. He was happy, friendly, and kind. He put others first, instead of himself. He spoke wise words about God. And he left "thank You" altars to God everywhere he went.

Abram was different—he had God's love in his heart! It made him stand out like a bright light that shines in the darkness.

The Bible says, "Be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, ICB).

With God's love in your heart, you can be a bright light too. You can smile at others, say hello, speak caring words, show kindness, and tell others about your best friend Jesus. When you do these things, you are shining God's love.

Who knows, maybe others will notice and want to make Jesus their best friend too!

I Wonder

• How can you shine God's love to someone this Sabbath?

• Prayer Idea

Read your memory verse (Romans 12:10). Ask God to help you honor others.

• Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a big heart or a circle on your page. Inside the picture write how Abram shared his love. Then write down how you can honor others and show God's kindness and love too.

For You, Parents

"While Christ is dwelling in the heart it is impossible to conceal the light of His presence, or for that light to grow dim. On the contrary, it will grow brighter and brighter as day by day the mists of selfishness and sin that envelop the soul are dispelled by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness" (Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 134).

Tuesday

You First!

Abram and Lot had a big problem. There were too many sheep, too many cows, and too many fights on their farm! How could they fix this? Abram thought about his problem. He prayed to God for wisdom. He wanted everyone to be happy and at peace.

Finally Abram said to Lot, "There should be no arguing between you and me. Your herders and mine should not argue either" (Genesis 13:8, ICB).

Abram pointed across the land. What did Abram say they should do? Read **Genesis 13:9**.

How kind of Abram! God had given all this land to him—but Abram was choosing to share the land with Lot. Not only that, but he was letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram would take whatever was left.

The Bible says, "Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:3, 4, ICB). And that is exactly what Abram did. He chose God's way and honored Lot more than himself. It's hard to be generous. Without God's help, it's easy to be selfish and greedy. "I want the biggest; I want the best; I want to go first." With God's love in our hearts, we can be like Abram and put others first too.

I Wonder

• What does this part of the story tell you about Abram?

• How can you show honor to your brothers, sisters, and other family members this week?

• Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to put others first, especially when it's hard.

• Do

Abram honored Lot by letting him choose first. Practice "honoring" each other. Take turns offering each other something today (one of a toy, a book, the best seat, the biggest treat).

• Memory Verse

Wednesday

The Best for Me!

Lot's eyes opened wide with delight. Uncle Abram was letting him choose to live wherever he wanted. He could choose first! As Lot looked out over the land, what did he see? Read **Genesis 13:10**.

It was beautiful! Lot had a big choice to make. Lot should have stopped and said, "No, Uncle Abram, you choose first!" But he didn't. He should have asked God to help him choose. But no, Lot didn't do that, either. Lot wanted the very best for himself. And Lot was sure that he would make the best choice.

Greedy! He searched for the greenest and most beautiful land. Finally he pointed. There! Down on the lush, flat, green land! That is where he wanted to live. He thought it looked perfect. It had lots of green grass, good food, and water. And it was really close to the busy city of Sodom.

Lot's decision was made. He said goodbye to Abram and Sarai. Then he gathered his family, his workers, and his animals. Together they walked down the hill and set up their tents near Sodom. He was so happy with his me-first choice! But the Bible says that "the people of Sodom were very evil" (Genesis 13:13, ICB). Uh-oh, that doesn't sound like a good place to live, does it?

I Wonder

• What had Abram done to be like the words in your memory verse? (Romans 12:10)

• Do you think Lot's choice was a good choice or a bad choice? What makes you say that?

• Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you a heart that is happy to put others first.

• Do

If possible, go to a lookout or a place in nature where you can admire the view. If this isn't possible, perch yourself high on furniture and use your imagination. Pretend you were given Lot's choice. What would you say and do?

• Memory Verse

Sabbath

God's Secret Agents

(Note: Place your hand over the picture at the bottom of the page, until you have read to the end of the first paragraph).

God made so many amazing creatures. Whether you look for creatures at the beach, in the forest, or the desert, you can find living creatures that teach us about God.

God made secret helpers in gardens for a special mission: to make flowers, fruit, and vegetables grow. Do you know what these creatures are? Here's a clue: they have five eyes and six legs. Their wings flap so fast, some at 11,000 flaps per minute, that they make a buzzing noise when they fly. And did you know they make honey?

You've got it: bees are God's incredible secret agents! If you can, go outside and sit very still. See if you can see any bees near some flowers. These female bees are called worker bees. They have left their home, called a hive, to collect pollen and nectar from flowers. It's also their job to build, clean, and protect their hive and raise baby bees. Their big family is called a colony, and their leader is called a queen bee. She has male bees who help her called drone bees.

We need to be careful around bees, because when they sting, it hurts! But bees have something very special to teach us.

Bees are called pollinators, which means that they go from flower to flower collecting nectar to bring back to the hive to make honey. Whenever they land on a flower, the pollen sticks to their legs. The bees pass the pollen from one flower to the next, like a secret agent. This is called pollination, and it is what gives flowers the food they need to be able to grow and become so beautiful. Their work of spreading pollen also means we end up with fruits and vegetables we need to survive.

Wherever we go, we can be like bees: we can either sting people and hurt them with our mean words, or we can spread God's blessings wherever we go. When we honor others, just as Abram did, we are God's workers too. Choose to be like a bee, spreading love and kindness wherever you go.

Kindy Joke Corner

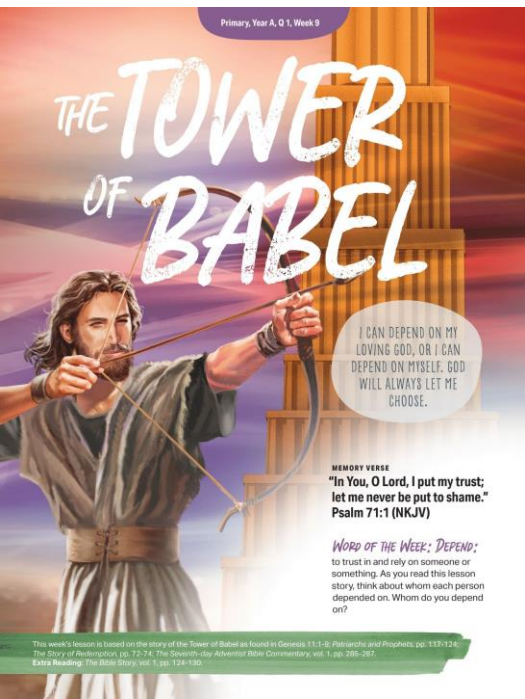
What did the queen bee say to the naughty bee? Bee-hive yourself!

What do you call a bee you don't understand? A mumble bee.

What do bees say when they return to the hive? Honey, I'm home!



Primary 7-9 years



Primary, Year A, Q 1, Week 9

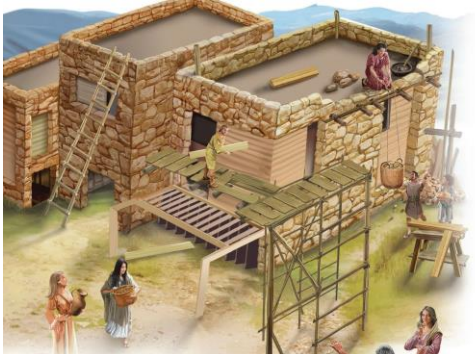
THE TOWER OF BABEL

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; Philippians 4:13; and Proverbs 3:5-7, 11:1-5. The Story of Babel appears on pp. 72-74. The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 286-287. Extra Reading: The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 124-130.



THURSDAY

DEPENDING ON GOD

In the world washed of wickedness Noah and his family set about finding a good place to plant gardens, begin farming, and make a warm home. For a time the family stayed in the mountain area near to where the ark had come to rest. Here Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth built cozy houses from whatever they could find.

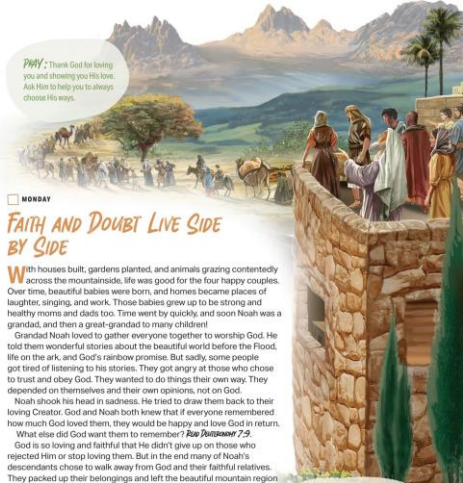
With happy hearts, they depended totally on God to guide them, for life was not easy in the flood-damaged world. Plants and forests had been ripped out of the ground, buried, or washed away. Rocks and rubble needed to be cleared, forests replanted, and vegetable gardens sown with seeds. It was hard work! Why were they happy? **Read Philippians 4:11-13.**

The Bible says it well in Philippians 4:11: "I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens" (CEB). God was pleased that they were happy and content as they depended on Him for everything.

PHAY: God wants to help you and fill your heart with happiness, no matter what is going on. Thank God for helping you to depend on Him.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Can you think of a time things were hard for you—at home, in school or with your friends? Did you depend on God to help you?



FRIDAY

FAITH AND DOUBT LIVE SIDE BY SIDE

With houses built, gardens planted, and animals grazing contentedly across the mountainside, life was good for the four happy couples. Over time, beautiful babies were born, and homes became places of laughter, singing, and work. Those babies grew up to be strong and healthy men and girls too. Time went by quickly, and soon Noah was a grandpa, and then a great-grandpa to many children!

Grandpa Noah loved to gather everyone together to worship God. He told them wonderful stories about the beautiful world before the Flood, life on the ark, and God's rainbow promise. But sadly, some people got tired of listening to his stories. They got angry at those who chose to trust and obey God. They wanted to do things their own way. They depended on themselves and their own opinions, not on God.

Noah shook his head in sadness. He tried to draw them back to their loving Creator. God and Noah both knew that if everyone remembered how much God loved them, they would be happy and love God in return. What else did God want them to remember? **Read Romans 7:9.**

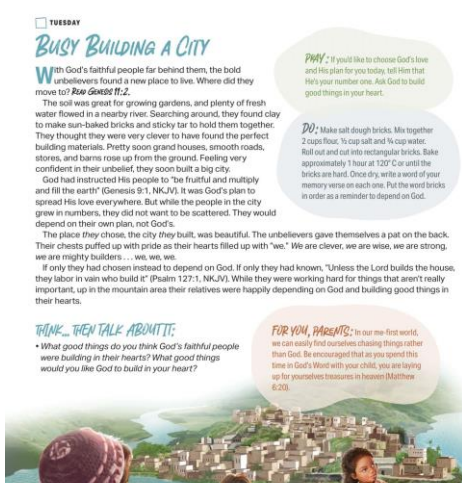
God is so loving and faithful that He didn't give up on those who rejected Him or stop loving them. But in the end many of Noah's descendants chose to walk away from God and their faithful relatives. They packed up their belongings and left the beautiful mountain region and headed south toward the plains.

God will do all He can to remind us of His love and keep us close to Him. And He will always love us, even if we choose to depend on ourselves and our own opinions instead of on Him.

MAY FIND: Genesis 8:4 says the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. If your family has a Bible with maps, an atlas, or Google maps online, look up Mount Ararat. Then trace where you think Noah and his family may have gone from there to build homes in the valley. Look at where you think the unbelievers might go next.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Imagine God's people watching their uncles, cousins, and friends walking away. How would they have felt?
- What would you have said to try to persuade the relatives not to turn their backs on God?



TUESDAY

BUSY BUILDING A CITY

When God's faithful people far behind them, the bold unbelievers found a new place to live. Where did they move to? **Read Genesis 11:2.**

The soil was great for growing gardens, and plenty of fresh water flowed in a nearby river. Searching around, they found clay to make sun-baked bricks and sticky tar to hold them together. They thought they were very clever to have found the perfect building materials. Pretty soon grand houses, smooth roads, stores, and barns rose up from the ground. Feeling very confident in their unbelief, they soon built a big city.

God had instructed His people to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1, NKJV). It was God's plan to spread His love everywhere. But while the people in the city grew in numbers, they did not want to be scattered. They would depend on their own plan, not God's.

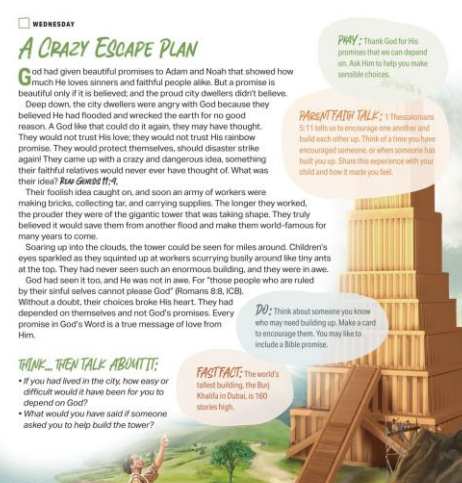
The place they chose, the city they built, was beautiful. The unbelievers gave themselves a pat on the back. Their chests puffed up with pride as their hearts filled up with "we." We are clever, we are wise, we are strong, we are mighty builders... we, we, we.

If only they had chosen instead to depend on God. If only they had known, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1, NKJV). While they were working hard for things that aren't really important, up in the mountain area their relatives were happily depending on God and building good things in their hearts.

DO: Make salt dough bricks. Mix together 2 cups flour, 1/2 cup salt and 1/4 cup water. Roll out and cut into rectangular bricks. Bake approximately 1 hour at 120°C or until the bricks are hard. Once dry, write a word of your memory verse on each one. Put the word bricks in order as a reminder to depend on God.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- What good things do you think God's faithful people were building in their hearts? What good things would you like God to build in your heart?



WEDNESDAY

A CRAZY ESCAPE PLAN

God had given beautiful promises to Adam and Noah that showed how much He loves sinners and faithful people alike. But a promise is beautiful only if it is believed, and the proud city dwellers didn't believe. Deep down, the city dwellers were angry with God because they believed He had flooded and wrecked the earth for no good reason. A God like that could do it again, they may have thought. They would not trust His love; they would not trust His rainbow promise. They would protect themselves, should disaster strike again! They came up with a crazy and dangerous idea, something their faithful relatives would never even have thought of. What was their idea? **Read Genesis 11:4.**

Their foolish idea caught on, and soon an army of workers were making bricks, collecting tar, and carrying supplies. The longer they worked, the prouder they were of the gigantic tower that was taking shape. They truly believed it would save them from another flood and make them world-famous for many years to come.

Soaring up into the clouds, the tower could be seen for miles around. Children's eyes sparkled as they squinted up at workers scurrying busily around like tiny ants at the top. They had never seen such an enormous building, and they were in awe. God had seen it too, and He was not in awe. For "those people who are ruled by their sinful selves cannot please God" (Romans 8:8, ICB). Without a doubt, their choices broke His heart. They had depended on themselves and not God's promises. Every promise in God's Word is a true message of love from Him.

DO: Think about someone you know who may need building up. Make a card to encourage them. You may like to include a Bible promise.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- If you had lived in the city, how easy or difficult would it have been for you to depend on God?
- What would you have said if someone asked you to help build the tower?



THURSDAY

GOD'S CLEVER PLAN

God longed for the tower builders to stop building and turn to Him, but some now believed they were more powerful than God. Others believed that He didn't even exist! God knew that these sad lies would spread, and people's hearts would become as hard as stone.

Out of love, God stepped in to stop the building Himself. He chose an interesting way to do it! What did God do? **Read Genesis 11:7.**

God and His team of angels went swiftly about their work to create total confusion. When someone asked for bricks, they may have been handed sticky tar. Another builder asking for a hammer might have been offered a shovel!

Everything was mixed up and messed up! Soon there was confusion and shouting, and angry fights up and down the tower. Some builders clenched their fists and kept on babbling, while others walked off the job. Just like that, work on the tower completely stopped.

Because of what happened, the city was called "Babel" (Genesis 11:9, NKJV), which sounds like the Hebrew word for "confusion" (balel), so they would always remember how He confused the languages there.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:9: "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (NKJV). What the proud city dwellers thought was a clever plan was really very foolish. God needed to direct their steps and challenge their dependence on themselves before wickedness grew bigger than their tower.

PHAY: If members of your family speak different languages, you may want to pray in these different languages together to thank God that He is powerful and in control.

SPEAK UP: Have fun saying the words "please" and "thank you" in different languages.

Please: Zulu—jibulisa; Russian—proshayutsa; German—bitte.

Thank you: Swedish—tack; Spanish—gracias; Chinese—dōn jǐ; God loves to hear us speak to others politely.

ROLE PLAY: Act out or mime this part of the story with your family. Use made-up words to ask a family member for something. Think about how frustrating this would be if it were real.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Read the memory verse. How were the tower builders "put to shame"?
- Have you ever had a friend step in and stop you from doing or saying something foolish? How grateful do you feel?
- Do you depend on God to always be that friend to you?



FRIDAY

FILL THE EARTH

God's clever plan to stop the tower builders had worked very well. Then to help them understand that they didn't rule the world as they proudly believed, God sent a massive bolt of lightning to smash the top of the tower and send it toppling to the ground. What an impressive way to remind them that He was in charge! Scared and stripped of their boastful words, people scurried to their homes and shut themselves in. Gradually they found others they could understand. But all living together in one place was a nightmare of mix-ups and misunderstandings! What happened next? **Read Genesis 11:8.**

God had said to Grandfather Noah and his sons, "Fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1, NKJV). But the city dwellers had ignored God's wise words, so now His wise plan meant they had to split up and spread out. God was pleased that they would have a fresh chance to learn to depend on Him again as their friend.

God loves us to depend on Him and follow His instructions. When we depend upon and obey Him, we show God that we choose Him to be the leader of our lives. When we don't, God doesn't give up on us. Instead, He uses different ways to help us.

PHAY: Thank God for helping you to depend on Him and follow His instructions.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- How well do you follow instructions? How do you respond when others do something to help you obey?



FRIDAY NIGHT

SHARE & PRAISE

Take your lesson book and your family to a favorite place; consider going outside. Reflect on what you have learned from the story as you look at the pictures and read parts of the lesson. Share your thoughts with your family. Recite your memory verse and sing some praise songs together, including the hymn "Only Trust Him." (6279).

FAMILY JOURNAL:

- One important thing I learned from this week's story is...
- Remembering this story will help me when I...

FOR YOU, PARENTS: No matter where you live in the world—city or country, be encouraged that God and His Spirit are with you and your family as you depend on Him. "The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides" (The Adventist Home, p. 15). May you and your family be blessed by a home that is the sweetest type of heaven.

SABBATH SPECIAL

RETELL THE STORY

Think about who you could tell the story to. Think also about who could help you.

Collect props (objects) that could help you tell the story in a creative way.

Suggested props for each day's lesson:
 Sunday: seeds, a gardening tool, stuffed farm animals (or pictures), building blocks.
 Monday: a baby doll, a backpack or bag.
 Tuesday: Either clay, playdough, dirt and water, or blocks. A picture of a large city.
 Wednesday: a rainbow you have drawn, lots of blocks, building tools.
 Thursday: a stone, building tool.
 Friday: a piece of cloth or other object to represent lightning, a backpack or bag.

Tell the story to your audience. You may like to practice several times first.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: THE FISH GOD SENT

There was only a little rice left in the house. Mother sighed as she gathered it in her hands, knowing it was enough only to fill her young son's tiny belly. She had no money left and no relatives or friends to help her. Life in Myanmar was full of challenges.

But Mother wouldn't let the tears come. She knew that, however bad things got, God loved and cared for her family. She would depend on God to help her yet again. With a smile she gathered her children, and they all knelt down and prayed that God would send them food for Sabbath lunch. Then they set out for church.

Mother was quiet on the way to church; her eldest daughter, Rachana, knew that she was praying. And she knew that God would provide for their needs. She was happy as she skipped into the little church and sang her favorite songs. The family enjoyed Sabbath worship, but when church ended, they were eager to get home and see what God had for them to eat.

About halfway home Mother stopped. "See that plastic bag on the road?" she said. "I think it has something inside it. Sister, please get it."

Sister opened the bag and looked inside. "It's a fish," she said. "Someone must have dropped it."

Mother looked around, but she saw no one looking as if they had lost something. "I think God sent the fish in answer to our prayers," Mother said.

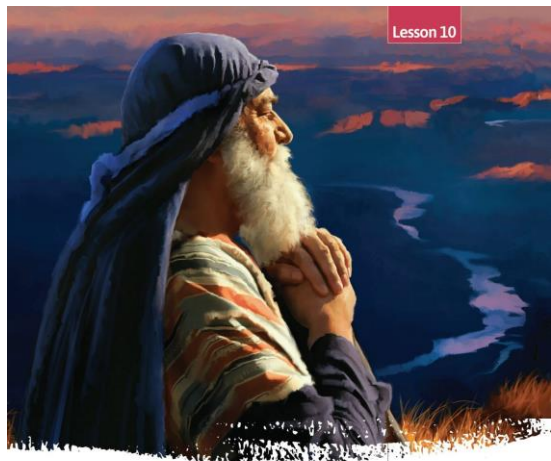
As the family set out for home, Mother chatted happily. "Isn't God good? He sent us a fish, and He even wrapped it so it would stay clean!"

When the family arrived home, Mother prepared a fire to cook the fish and rice while the children gathered some greens that grew around their little home. Then they feasted on fish and rice and vegetables.

When things are hard for Rachana's family, they talk about the times God has given them food. They know they can depend on God for all things. "God wants good things for us," Rachana says. "He loves us and cares for us."



Junior 10-12 years



Lesson 10

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 2:3,4, NKJV).

Reflect

Read Isaiah 42:8 and James 2:23. Do you have a true friend? What are the characteristics of a true friend? What about you—are you a true friend to someone? What does it look like to live in a right relationship with others?

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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.



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

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THURSDAY

GOD'S FRIEND

IN THE STILL, cool darkness of the night Abram lay awake. He tossed and turned, concerned about the future and the safety of his people. Would the four kings from the east attack his camp and take revenge on him? He was a peaceful man living in tents with no large army to protect against a powerful enemy.

In answer to his worries, God spoke to him in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward" (Genesis 15:1, NKJV).

What exciting, encouraging words! Just as a shield protects from enemy attacks, God promised to keep Abram and his household safe. But what about the "great reward"? It had been many years since God had first told Abram that his family would become a great nation and inherit the Promised Land. But Abram and Sarai were old, they had no children, and they still lived in tents in the hills!

That night God called Abram out to look up at the sky and count the stars. Of course, counting the stars was impossible! God assured Abram that his own son would be his heir and grow the small family into a great nation, too large to be counted (Genesis 15:5, 6).

Though he could not see how it could happen, Abram trusted God, who had never failed him. He believed God's promise! And God declared Abram to be righteous because he believed. Abram lived in a right relationship with God because he trusted that what God said was true.

Go Outside

Go outside on a starry night. Is there something in your life that you're worried about, or something that seems impossible? God is loving, powerful, and trustworthy. Talk to Him and spend some quiet time just listening as you look up at the stars.

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YOUR FRIEND

- ☐ **Read**
Read the quote carefully and highlight the parts that stand out to you.
- ☐ **Look up**
any unfamiliar words.
- ☐ **Respond** to the questions below and share your thoughts with a family member or friend.

"When you receive help and comfort, sing to the praise of God.

Talk with God.

Thus you will become a friend of God.

You will rely on Him.

You will obtain a faith that will trust whether you feel like trusting or not.

Remember that feeling is not an evidence that you are a Christian.

Implicit faith in God shows that you are His child.

Trust in God.

He will never disappoint you."

Ellen G. White, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 538

1. What three words would you use to describe your relationship with God right now?
2. What most challenges you from this quote? What can you learn to do?
3. What do you want to remember? What can you pray about right now?

God wants you to live in a right relationship with Him and others. Read **Proverbs 18:24** and talk with God about your thoughts.



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TUESDAY

SODOM'S LURE

SODOM WAS A BUSINESSMAN'S DREAM DESTINATION. The marketplace hummed with activity as caravans from the desert lined up to enter the city to trade their treasures and exotic wares. There was big money to be made in Sodom.

But there was something wrong. Even though wealth and luxury could be seen everywhere, there were signs of poor, needy people who were neglected. Even with the outward show of beauty, the city also had slums. The city's sickening high crime rate and terrible violence couldn't be hidden.

This was no place for a worshiper of God to live, and yet the attractions of the big city drew Lot like a magnet. He didn't plan on getting sucked into the evil things in the city. But slowly and steadily Lot went to the city more and more, until one day he moved inside the city gates.

The residents of Sodom didn't follow God, and their behavior was horribly repulsive. But there were some advantages to living in Sodom. With the market closer, it would be easier to buy whatever was needed. Plus, the city was full of amazing art and culture.

When we really, really want something, our desires can overrule our logical thinking and what we know is right. Giving in to temptation is a slippery slope. Read the prayer that Jesus taught in **Matthew 6:9-13**. Why might this be important? Include these words in your prayer now and talk to God about something that tempts you.



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WEDNESDAY

TROUBLE IN THE CITY

ONE DAY, WAR BROKE OUT IN THE LAND and the valuable trading town of Sodom was caught in the middle. This was no small skirmish, the Bible tells us the battle was set with "four kings against five" (Genesis 14:9). The four attacking kings overpowered their enemies, causing them to flee to the mountains. All the treasures of Sodom became the invaders' prized loot, along with all the people who had lived there. Lot and his family had become prisoners!

Abram heard the shocking news and leapt into action. "He trained his 318 trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit" (Genesis 14:14). But what could this elderly man and his small band of helpers do for Lot, when up against five kings and their armies? Read **Genesis 14:15-16** and draw or describe what happened in this epic Bible hero moment.

Reflect

As Abram returned from this dramatic escape he was met by the king of Salem, a place that would one day become Jerusalem. Abram's courage and integrity had been noticed by the king, who was also a priest of God. Most High, God had noticed too. Read what Priest Melchizedek said when he blessed Abram in **Genesis 14:18-20**.

After being blessed in such a powerful way, Abram did something very special with the goods that he had rescued. He paid tithes on them, giving a tenth to this priest and king.

Everything we have comes from God, including our money, talents, time, and bodies. Sharing these things with God and others is what it means to be a good steward. How can you be a good steward of your money, talents, time, and body? Why is tithing important? Come to Sabbath School this week ready to share your thoughts.

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SABBATH

COWS FOR TITHE

THE MAASAI MEN IN TANZANIA, AFRICA have a close connection with their cows. You could even say that they love their cows! Life is hard, and when someone dies, it's very sad. But when a man loses a cow, he may grieve for days and nights, telling everyone who will listen about the strength and features of his animal. Yes, the Maasai men value their cows.

That is why a Seventh-day Adventist pastor was amazed when a wealthy man called to give him 100 cows as a tithe. Can you guess this man's name? Abraham. But that isn't the most incredible part of this story!

Abraham, from Tanzania, had read Malachi 3:10: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." And Abraham didn't just read it. He believed God's promise! Because Abraham believed God, he decided to tithe his cows. He went into the corral and began counting. "One, two, three. ... When he got to 10, he put a tag in its ear and led that cow to the tithe area to give to the pastor. He counted out another 10 and set the 10th cow aside for tithe. This went on a long time. Abraham had a lot of cows! When he had 100 tithe cows, the pastor led them away.

Abraham's neighbors thought he'd gone mad. "Why would you give away your cows?" they asked. They didn't understand Abraham's friendship with God.

Nine months later the pastor received an amazing report! Abraham's heifers (female cows) were beginning to have babies. While the cows usually have a single calf, these mothers were bearing twins! Lots of twins!

When the neighbors heard about Abraham's double reward for his tithing, they said to Abraham, "Call your pastor. I want to give a tithe. We want our cows to have twins too!"

Of course, it wasn't because he wanted twin calves that Abraham gave God His tithe. It was because Abraham was in a relationship with God. He believed God, and he wanted to please Him with his actions.

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Teen 13-14 years

SUNDAY FLASHBACK AND A NEW BEGINNING

As the disciples walked the familiar way to the Mount of Olives, their minds wandered back to the incredible events that had taken place over the last six weeks. It had all been so very extraordinary...

Their beloved Friend and Leader had been betrayed, trialed, flogged, and crucified. All of Jerusalem had buzzed with the news of the death of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Jesus' friends had taken Him down, off that awful cross, on Friday afternoon.

On Sabbath, the disciples had gone into hiding, afraid of the authorities, of arrest, wondering if the same fate which had overtaken Jesus would soon happen to them. Each of them felt wracked in their own private shame and misery. They also thought of Judas, their friend turned betrayer, who was no longer with them.

The women crept out early on Sunday, planning to embalm the body, but returned, declaring that the stone had been rolled away! The women had seen angels, and Jesus He was alive! Peter and John had run to the tomb to see for themselves. The tomb was empty!

Behind closed doors, Jesus had appeared, right before them. He spoke to them, ate, and they had touched Him. He was alive!

The disciples travelled north to Galilee where Jesus met them again. Jesus gave them another miraculous catch of fish, a breakfast on the beach they'd never forget, then they'd returned to Jerusalem.

HIT PAUSE

Imagine you'd been there through all of this. Imagine the intensity of emotions, the new information, and the joy at discovering that Jesus was alive.

Jesus spent time with them and gave them "many infallible proofs" that He really was alive. He'd appeared to His disciples at different times and places during those 40 days, preparing them

for the work ahead, explaining the prophecies that showed He was the Messiah, and that His death and resurrection were an essential part of His mission on earth. Jesus "opened their understanding" so "that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45, 48) because they were real-life witnesses of these things. What would happen next? Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put under His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:7, 8). Jesus commanded them to continue His work to carry the gospel to all the world. But they couldn't go - not yet. They must first wait for the Promise of the Father; the Holy Spirit, which would baptize them not many days from now (Acts 1:4, 5). Then they could go! Wait... for Holy Spirit power. Yes, they would wait.

Jesus would return to heaven to prepare mansions for them, and then promised that He would come back to take them to heaven. As the disciples listened, their hearts became so full of love and adoration for their Jesus. They would do as He asked!

And now, they walked the familiar path toward the Mount of Olives with Him. The dust swirled around their feet as they passed the Jerusalem gate. People looked on, wondering about this same Jesus who had been crucified just a few weeks earlier.

Jesus stopped and the disciples pressed in close, their hearts beating as one, as they looked at His beautiful, shining face. He looked at them with such love. He didn't rebuke them or tell them what they should do next. He lifted His nail-scarred hands and blessed them in this final moment (Luke 24:50, 51).

And then, Jesus began to slowly rise, as though heaven itself couldn't bear to be without Him any longer. Then came His final words, which rang in their ears as they heard His voice one last time... "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amazed and in awe, the disciples looked



up, locking their eyes onto Jesus as He gradually became smaller and smaller until a beautiful cloud hid Him completely. Angels had come down to travel to heaven with Him. The sweetest, most joyful music from an angelic choir drifted down to them as they silently stared up in wonder. (DA, 831).

Their hearts beat fast as the beautiful cloud grew smaller and smaller. Their beloved Jesus was gone. His voice still clear in their minds. They didn't want to lose a moment without Him! They would do exactly as He asked!

Suddenly, a voice pierced their thoughts, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Startled, the disciples looked around. Two men, dressed in white stood near them. Angels! All of heaven had been waiting for Jesus to return, but these two angels had waited to comfort the disciples and remind them that Jesus would come again in this same way. Uncontainable joy flooded the disciples' hearts, as they walked back to Jerusalem, singing and praising God with every breath. Jesus said they would be given the Holy Spirit if they waited. Yes, they would wait!

GO Take your Bible, step outside, and look up into the sky. You might see the sun and a blue sky, grey clouds, or stars distant in the dark of night. Think about what it will be like to see Jesus come back through the sky you look at. He promised He would return, and His promises are trustworthy and true. This is really going to happen!

Slowly read **Revelation 19:11-16** and imagine it. What do you notice about this passage? What is similar and different from today's story from **Acts 1:9-11**?

WEDNESDAY WAITING, WAITING...

We've all waited for something. Maybe in a school cafeteria line, at a bus station, or at the store. There have probably been times when you haven't wanted to wait. You choose the shortest line or feel frustrated at the person in front who seems to be extra slow. Nobody likes to wait. And usually, we're all waiting for the same thing: our turn.

Think about a time when you had to wait. What did you do to pass the time? Did you notice all the people around you who were looking at their phones? Was there anyone just sitting still... thinking, noticing, just being present in the moment?

Have you ever thought that waiting might be good for you? We actually learn a lot while we wait... We

- slow down and notice what's around us.
- Learn to be patient (it grows our characters).
- think, reflect, and consider what's before us.

The disciples were full of joy as they walked back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Jesus had been taken back to heaven, but He commanded them to "wait for the Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). It wasn't a suggestion, but a command. They must obey Him. Jesus wanted the disciples to wait. The waiting was important. He knew they needed to stop to be still, to search their hearts and get ready for what He was about to do in their lives. They needed time to process all that had happened over the past 40 days.

They didn't really know how long they needed to wait. All Jesus had said was "until" you receive the gift. But how long would that be? Days? Months? Years? However long it took, they would obey Jesus. Jesus had told them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). They couldn't do this in their own strength or power. They needed to wait for the Holy Spirit power first.

REFLECT

When was the last time you had to wait for something or someone for a long time?

What did you do in that time? Did you fill it up with distractions, or did you search your heart for something God might have wanted to teach you? Read **Psalms 27:14** and **Psalms 62:5** and write these verses on a card or piece of paper. Give it to someone or keep this as a personal reminder to be open to growing as they wait on God.

THURSDAY A NEW DISCIPLE

The eleven remaining disciples climbed the stairs to the upper room where they were staying (Acts 1:13). Jesus' family were there too: Mary, and Jesus' brothers (Acts 1:14). They waited together and prayed.

There were already many more followers of Jesus - about 120 (Acts 1:15). As they came together, Peter declared that they needed to choose someone to replace Judas! What was the reason for this, and how did they choose this new disciple? Read **Acts 1:21-26**.

When Jesus appointed the 12 disciples, it was His first step in organizing the Christian church. "By these feeble messengers, through His Word and Spirit, He planned to place salvation within the reach of all." (Unlikely Leaders, p. 9).

THINK

Why was it important that the new disciple was "a witness with us of His resurrection" (Acts 1:22)? Can you be a witness, even though you didn't see Jesus after His resurrection? What does it really mean to be a witness? Read **Acts 22:15**, **Acts 4:20**, **Matthew 5:16** to shape your understanding of what a witness is. Discuss this with a parent, sibling, or friend.

FRIDAY TOGETHER AS ONE

Put yourself there, in that house with the 11 disciples and 120 believers while they waited for the Holy Spirit. Imagine being there... What did they talk about? What did they pray about? What did it feel like to be there, together, unified, waiting expectantly for a most precious gift that Jesus had promised they would receive?

At first, this group of committed followers had been nervous - maybe even a little scared - about what might happen to them now that Jesus was gone. Would the authorities try to hurt them if they preached about Jesus?

The same is true today. When you come really close to the cross to see Jesus, and what He did for you, you think about yourself much less. You start to change when you come close to Jesus. When you see Him and all He's done for you, you become a witness. You join with Jesus' chosen disciples, as someone who has seen and experienced what Jesus has done.

During the 40 days, the disciples:

- Talked, shared, and reflected on the past. They recalled what Jesus had done in their lives.
- They humbled themselves and made things right with each other. They surrendered and repented to God.
- They prayed, together, for 40 days. They also went into the temple and preached.

Jesus Himself said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20). When people come together to pray in unity of heart and purpose, there is power!

TRUTH CHECK

When did you last really pray for the Holy Spirit, instead of something you need from God? Why not pray for the Holy Spirit right now...

MONDAY THE BOOK OF ACTS

The book of Acts. In this book you'll find miracles, martyrs, magic, and mayhem. You'll also see gatherings, gifts, prison persecutions, and power. There's actually a lot of action in the book of Acts, so it's well-named. What do you already know about this book?

See if you already know of a story that links to any of the following words. Flick through your Bible to find stories and jot a reference or two down beside each one.

- Miracle -
- Martyr -
- Magic -
- Gifts -
- Prison -
- Power -
- Prayers -
- Angels -
- Storm -
- Vision -

For those of you who like a challenge try to find Jesus...

Where do we see Jesus in the book of Acts? In what sense is He part of every single story? For those who like a super challenge try to find: Love...

Did you know that the word love does not appear in the book of Acts? Even so, love is definitely there. See if you can discover where.

PRAY

Whether you've read the book of Acts before or not, plan to read this book in the next few months. Take the time right now to pause and pray. Ask God to teach you new, convicting truths as you read Acts. And as you begin to read, keep looking for Jesus and what the stories teach you about Him, His love, and His plans for you.

TUESDAY IN THE WORD

Maybe you've read the book of Acts before, or this might be the first time you're reading these stories. You may see something you've never noticed before in a familiar story, or, depending on what's happening in your life today, you might see a special message that God has just for you in what you read.

Our attitude in how we approach reading the Bible is really important. If you think, "Well, I've heard it all before - there's nothing for me in this," then you'll probably walk away empty. But if you come, humbly, seeking, and praying for God to teach you something new about Him and yourself, you'll never walk away empty. It might take a little "digging" and searching for the gems, but you'll find them.

We've told that "The spirit in which you come to the investigation of the Scriptures will determine the character of the assistant at your side. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. But if the Bible is opened with irreverence, with a feeling of self-sufficiency, if the heart is filled with prejudice, Satan is beside you, and he will set the plain statements of God's word in a perverted light." (Ellen G. White, Gospel Workers, 1:27).

Each week in Teens, you'll be invited to read a chapter or section from your Bible to dive deep into the story we're studying. This week, follow these simple steps:

- 1. PRAY** You can pray to God anywhere, but to begin this quarter, kneel down to show God that you come humbly before Him. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your guide as you read. Ask for an open heart and mind, and eyes that clearly see the messages in this chapter.
- 2. READ** Acts chapter 1. As you read, underline, or write down any interesting phrases or verses. Write these in your Bible Journal.
- 3. LOOK** over the chapter again and think/write:
 - What's the main message?
 - What does this chapter tell me about Jesus?
 - What might it teach me? What is God's message to me, here?
- 4. WRITE** a prayer as a response to what you've learned in this chapter (even one sentence is okay!).
- 5. CONSIDER** sharing a few thoughts and insights from your time with God to someone during the week or during Sabbath School.

SABBATH 40 DAYS CHALLENGE

During the Disciple's forty days with Jesus, He taught them what they needed to know for the next part of their journey: How to live as citizens of His kingdom and to teach others... Jesus can do the same for you. Will you do the 40 Days Challenge? Spend 40 days with God. Set aside time every day and make this a priority to start this year.

Part of your transition toward your adult life is to grow faith in the truths of the Bible that is separate to your parents, and to develop a personal relationship that is between just you and God. This 40 Day Challenge will help with that. If you miss a day or two, don't be discouraged! Just pick it up again when you can. Or, if this seems like too long, choose a shorter time period to commit to. Any time spent with God will be better than none.

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- Choose a particular time of day and as much as possible, stick to that time.
- Find somewhere where you can focus. If you have a quiet place you go to be alone that is ideal.
- Put away anything that might distract you (social media, books, games).

- Spend a short time being quiet and letting your busy brain slow down. If you can, go outside in nature. Focus on the sights and sounds and smells, and enjoy being outside with God's creation.
- Talk with God. Thank Him for being with you right here and right now. Ask for His wisdom as you read and reflect on His word.
- Read. Think. Write. Use your journal to record and track your thoughts and ideas throughout this 40 Day journey. Questions are good! It means you are working through important issues and establishing a faith relationship with God that is your own. All big discoveries begin with big questions. Remember that the weak is the finder! Seek answers from God, from His Word and from trusted adults.

NEW BEGINNING

The disciples had experienced a full three years with Jesus. He had told them to wait for a special gift. Their faces were turned to the future. What exactly would a new beginning hold?

BIG IDEA

Life with Jesus isn't always predictable or safe, but when I wait for His perfect timing, He brings new beginnings.

MEMORY VERSE

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me, for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'" **Acts 1:4-5**.

Abide in Jesus

John Piper

REALITY CHECK

I CAN GROW IN MY
RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD WHEN I LET
HIS LOVE INTO MY
EVERYDAY LIFE AND
CHOOSE TO ABIDE
IN JESUS.

John 15:9, NKJV

Revelation 3:14-22
Jeremiah 31:3, 4
John 15:1-11

TEACHER GUIDES

DRAFT

Primary
YEAR A • QUARTER 1

God Is Loving

- HERO 1 A New World
- HERO 2 A Perfect Home
- HERO 3 The Sabbath
- HERO 4 What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
- HERO 5 The Fall and a Promise
- HERO 6 Cain and Abel
- HERO 7 Noah Builds an Ark
- HERO 8 The Rainbow Promise
- HERO 9 The Tower of Babel
- HERO 10 God Calls Abram
- HERO 11 Abram and Lot
- HERO 12 Abram Rescues Lot
- HERO 13 The Promised Baby

Week 5

The Fall and a Promise

Bible Reference: Genesis 3

Big Idea	When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.
Memory Verse	"For You Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5).
References	Isaiah and Prophecy, pp. 33-39 The Story of Redemption, pp. 24-33 The Sabbath-School Advent Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 29-306 The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 41-77 Crisis Bible-People Stories, vol. 1, chap. 4
Fundamental Beliefs	3. The Father 4. The Son 7. The Nature of Man 8. The Great Controversy
Word of the Week	Jealous: Jealous but offer a big kiss.
Lesson Summary	Even though Adam and Eve made a bad choice and ate the fruit from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, God did not abandon them. He began from and then worked to share with them the promise of the greatest gift of all: the gift of salvation through One who would one day come and die to save them.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that God will never force us to choose His way. He will always let us choose. Feel thankful that God continues to love us, even when we make a wrong choice. Respond for choosing God's way this week.

1

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A Quiet Moment...

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

It happened in a beautiful garden on a perfect planet in a vast expanse of space. Unseen and undetected, the deathly serpent slipped into paradise and lulled in wait. With dazzling beauty and syrupy words, he spun the world's first lie. The words were trusted, believed, acted upon, and the downward spiral into darkness began.

If it would have remained the very saddest of stories if not for our merciful God. Things took a remarkable turn when the Son of God pleaded with His Father, saying, "Let the punishment fall on me; I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance." And so it was that "as soon as there was sin there was a Savior. Christ knew that he would have to suffer, yet He became man's substitute."

The choice to sin had been met with the choice to save. Oh, the power of choice. The first choice died of a fatal blow, while the second revealed the indescribable love of a merciful God. That love remains

ever deep and strong as He calls the sinner back to God.

Guilty? Forgotten, Refracted? Restored, Fearful? Reassured, Broken? Loved, Lost? Redeemed.

May you and the children be blessed as you explore the deep love of God that is behind the power of choice that He gave to His earthly children. May you find hope and inspiration in the words of Paul: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Then G. White, "Letter 22, 1882" in Letters and Manuscripts, vol. 13 (New York: White Estate, 1960), para. 17.
Then G. White, "The Fall" in Early Manuscripts, D.C. Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1988, 75.

2

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At a Glance

Big Idea: When I make a wrong choice, God loves me still, and has a plan to save.

Primary, Year A, Week 5

EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play a song of your choice
- Option 1: Modeling clay
- Option 2: Cozy Reading Corner

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome
- Songs
 - 1. Favorite
 - "Sabbath Song" (AU website)
 - 2. Play 2 volunteers: Thanks, Holy Spirit, request!
- Bible Focus: Sing "The Rocks of the Bible" (AU website), **Slide Fast Fact**
- Collect Offering
- Offering Chart and Mission Fast Fact (AU website)

FOCUS ACTIVITIES

- Recited: Garden of Eden story characters
- Object Lesson: Introduce **remote-controlled vehicle**
- Share RG idea

STORY, PART 1

Two Trees and a Choice. God doesn't force us to choose His way.

- Activity and discussion: Remote-controlled vehicle—reason for freedom of choice

STORY, PART 2

God's Loving Promise: Jesus would take man's place and fix the problem.

- Activity and debrief: children hide—we can't hide from God
- Activity and discussion: **Broken plate**—sin breaks. God mends

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER

- Character Collector Card 5: Adam and Eve
- Memory verse song: "Psalm 86:5" (AU website)
- Mission Story: Choosing Jesus (Animal Trail Cards)
- Object Lesson: Review, candy
- Challenge: Use craft to share story
- Commit: Do you want to choose God this week?
- Prayer

3

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Storytelling Cube

Template:



Sample:



Instructions:

1. Print the template from the Alive in Jesus website - www.aliveinjesus.org/alivepyaq115 (PYAQ115 3C)
2. Cut out shapes
3. Fold along the dotted lines and stick the flaps to create a cube.

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Program Outline

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

PLAY: Have a song of your choice playing quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

DO:

- **Option 1:** Make any number of the following items from **modeling clay** or **play-dough** and put them on a tray: any kind of fruit, snake, man, woman, tree, angel.
- Note:** These will be used by several children during Story Part 1.
- **Option 2:** Enjoy the books, puzzles, and other activities in the Cozy Reading Corner.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (8 MINUTES)

WELCOME: At 9:30, draw the children together and welcome them as a group to Sabbath School.

SING: Invite a child to select a favorite song, then sing the prayer song, "Sabbath Song."

PRAY: Invite three children to **pray**; one to **thank** God for who He is and all the ways He blesses us, one to ask for the Holy Spirit to be with us and to **help us learn**, and one to pray for **specific prayer requests** from the children.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing "The Rocks of the Bible" (AU website), **Bible Fast Fact**: The shortest verse in the Bible is only two words long: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). I wonder if God may have **wept** in today's story? Think about this as we learn together.

GIVE: Have a child collect the **offering**. Display your offering chart and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week's **fast fact** about this quarter's mission project.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

SHARE: This week's story takes us back to the Garden of Eden on earth.

- **Who do you think the story characters might be?** Record their answers on the whiteboard (e.g., Adam, Eve, God, if they say snake or serpent, write this too).

DO: Operate the remote-controlled vehicle. If you feel comfortable doing so, invite several children to have a turn. As different people take turns, ask:

- **Who is operating the vehicle?**
- **Can the vehicle choose where it goes?**

EXPLAIN: After the first part of the story, we will unpack the important lessons the remote-controlled vehicle teaches us. Start thinking about this, and how it might connect to this week's Big Idea.

READ: Read the Big Idea together from the whiteboard: **When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.**

4

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5

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Here you will find the story told in detail, with suggestions for how to use the props.

DETAILED STORY, Part 1

Two great trees stood in the Garden of Eden. (Point to two "trees") One was called the Tree of Life. The fruit of this tree would give life forever to anyone who ate it. The other tree was called "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" (Genesis 2:17). God asked Adam and Eve not to eat from this tree—*ever!* (Point to that tree. Show picture of tree.)

God wanted to keep Adam and Eve safe from Satan's lies, hurt, and sin. God let them choose. He wanted them to choose to love and obey Him. God would never force them to love Him.

But God told them they would die if they ate from this tree! He sent His loving angels to warn them that Satan would try to tempt them to do the wrong thing. They would be happy and safe by trusting God, staying away from this tree, and staying together. That tree was the only place where Satan could go in the garden of Eden.

One day, Eve wandered away from Adam and found herself at the forbidden tree, face to face with a beautiful, winged serpent. Suddenly, it began talking in the sweetest voice! Satan was speaking lies through the snake. (Show picture of Eve and the snake.)

• **What were the serpent's lies?** Read Genesis 3:4, 5. ("You won't die. Instead, you will know what both good and evil are—like God does.")

The smiling serpent held out the fruit. (Hold out an apple but explain that this fruit was more beautiful and delicious than this apple.) Eve took it and bit into it. (Give into the apple.) It was juicy and sweet! Nothing bad happened, so she quickly picked some and took it to Adam. (He lend to pick quickly and hold the fruit out to the children.)

Now it was Adam's turn to choose: God or Eve? He loved them both so much in the end he chose Eve over God and took a bite of the fruit.

The fruit didn't taste good for long. Tears stung Adam and Eve's eyes. (Pretend to cry.) Their hearts filled with sadness. Oh, no! Their choice to disobey God was sin, and it had changed them inside.

With a gasp, they looked down at their bodies. God's soft, covering light had disappeared from around them, and they were naked. They felt guilty, lonely, and cold. (Show picture of Adam and Eve hiding.) Fumbling with fig leaves, they tried to make themselves some clothes. (Hold leaves in hands.)

Adam and Eve now knew the difference between good and evil. God and Satan. It had been a day of sad choices.

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DETAILED STORY, Part 2

Adam and Eve heard God's footsteps in the garden. (Make footsteps!) Quickly, they ran and hid. (Pretend to run.) They felt so guilty and ashamed! God knew how they felt, and He knew where they were. He gently called to Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).

Adam's head popped up. Did God still want to be with them? They came out of hiding to see their God. He looked at them with both love and sorrow. They had hurt God by not trusting Him, but He loved them and hadn't left them!

With a sad but gentle voice, God told Adam and Eve that life would change. He had wanted to protect them from pain and death, but they had chosen to disobey Him. Now there would be consequences. They would have to leave their beautiful garden home. (Show picture of Adam and Eve leaving the Garden.) I filed with sadness, they left Eden, never to return.

• **Why did God tell them they would have to leave the Garden of Eden?** Read Genesis 3:22-23. (If they cry from the Tree of Life, they would live as sinners forever; That would be horrible!)

Even though they couldn't see God face to face anymore, God would never leave them. He says in His Word, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). God would not let sin win! He promised to send Someone to save them and destroy all evil forever! (Show picture of Jesus' scarred hand.) God had a way to fix their big mistake. Up in heaven, Jesus had paid to His Father, "Let the punishment fall on me; I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance."

Wow! Jesus would be the Rescuer! It would be hard for God the Father to let His Son come to earth to stand in place of all people and die for their sins. (Show picture of Jesus with children from all around the world.) But He knew Jesus was the very best His loving heart could give. And so, this became the plan and the promise.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they passed the consequences on to every human being, which is why we all need Jesus so much. Without Him dying on the cross, there would be no hope for any of us.

- **Read** how the promise is written in John 3:16. (God gave up His Son so that we can have eternal life.)

Mission Story Choosing Jesus

Focus: Learning about Jesus and choosing to worship Him instead of the gods in the temples.

Location: Help a child locate **Southern India** on your globe or world map.

Hadasah loved her new school. Her parents weren't Christians, but they had sent her to an Adventist school in southern India because they wanted her to learn English. They warned her, "Be careful! Don't listen to what those Christians say about their God! Remember the gods we worship in the temple!"

Hadasah tried to obey her parents, but as her teachers told stories about Jesus, she felt drawn to Him. "How can this God who made the world and everything in it love me?" she wondered. She didn't feel like her family's gods loved her.

The more Hadasah heard in Bible class, the more she realized that Jesus is the one true God, and that she loved Him. She accepted Jesus as her Savior, but she couldn't tell her parents. If they knew she had stopped worshipping their gods, they would most likely take Hadasah out of school.

Hadasah is praying that her parents will see the difference in her life and that they will one day accept her decision to follow Jesus. She doesn't like it when they force her to go to the temple. When that happens, Hadasah silently prays to Jesus instead of the gods her family worships.

Hadasah says, "I hope other children will choose to follow Jesus and will be ready when Jesus comes back. No matter what temptations come your way, don't wall. Give your life to Jesus now." Hadasah has given good advice. God has given each one of us the freedom to choose Jesus.

Let's pray for children like Hadasah who have made the choice to follow Jesus when it isn't easy.

Do: Spread your Animal Trail Cards on the floor and ask the children to describe which characteristic they think best describes Hadasah, along with their reasons for their choice.

- **Which characteristic do you think best describes Hadasah?**

How is Hadasah different from Adam and Eve in this week's lesson story?

Children's Mission Magazine, Quarter 1, 2011

Character Collector Card

Sample:



MEMORY VERSE

For You Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

PSALM 86:5

Instructions:
1. Print the template from the Alive in Jesus website - www.aliveinjesus.org/alivepyaq115

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- Collector Cards
- Scripture Songs
- Craft Templates
- Craft Videos
- Nature Lessons
- Mission stories
- Wall murals
- Bible infographics (Junior)
- Training videos



The image displays a collection of resources for a church service. On the left, there is a large banner with the text "GOD'S PEOPLE PUT OTHERS FIRST" in a stylized font, surrounded by small star-like icons. Below the banner, there are two smaller signs: one with the text "GOD'S PEOPLE PUT OTHERS FIRST" and another with the text "GOD'S PEOPLE PUT OTHERS FIRST". On the right, there is a large sign with the text "GOD'S PEOPLE PUT OTHERS FIRST" and a picture of a person. Below the sign, there is a small sign with the text "GOD'S PEOPLE PUT OTHERS FIRST".

Global Pilot, Q1 2023

- 15 divisions/unions/missions participated
- 55 churches
- 826 total responses
- Over 95% of the respondents indicated they found the new curriculum to be good, great, or excellent.



The Bible & Spiritual Growth

“It is very educational, inspirational, interactive, and an interesting curriculum. It has really improved our spiritual growth.” (WAD)

“I’m the mother of a teenager and I’m not an Adventist yet. But my son really liked this new lesson model.” (SAD)



The Bible & Spiritual Growth

“My child loved the lessons and is very disappointed that the pilot is over. She loved the bolded verses to look up each day. We made it like a treasure hunt to find the verses in the Bible, and that was very motivating for her to get into the Word.” (NAD)



The Bible & Spiritual Growth – Teacher Guides

“It is a very thoughtful curriculum, and you can see the intentionality in wanting each child to fall in love with Jesus. I appreciated it being relationship-building. Sometimes Sabbath School can become informational – learn the story, learn the songs, learn the verse, learn about God... but then the kids don’t ever get to *know* God. This focuses on the child’s heart relationship rather than just a lot of head knowledge.” (NAD)





Writing Objectives

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum aims

to incorporate the “freshest thought, [the] best methods, and [the] most earnest effort”¹ in its development, using best educational practice in the teaching of a biblical worldview. Each lesson is measured by the following writing objectives to ensure that this vision becomes a reality:

1. APPEAL	2. CLARITY	3. DISCOVERY	4. CONVICTION	5. ACTION
<i>Write and design lessons that uplift Christ in a way that attracts, invites, and engages.</i>	<i>Present stories and teachings of the Bible in a clear and accurate manner.</i>	<i>Challenge thinking, promote deep learning, and encourage reflection.</i>	<i>Speak to the heart, and foster a saving relationship with Jesus.</i>	<i>Encourage a response to God's call to grow, share, and do His will.</i>
1.1 Use warm descriptions and inviting language .	2.1 Present a true picture of God's just and merciful character as revealed in Christ, in His goodness and glory.	3.1 Invite children to respond thoughtfully to higher-order discussion and to reflection questions .	4.1 Be aware of the importance of how the biblical message is delivered and the process needed for spiritual life and growth .	5.1 Encourage personal ownership of ongoing commitment to God .
1.2 Communicate the infinite love of Christ for every child, revealing that Jesus is their Friend.	2.2 Use clear, easy-to-understand, age-appropriate language that resonates with children.	3.2 Create opportunities for children to internalize the story by sharing it in their own words.	4.2 Include key takeaways that show how the biblical message relates to the reader.	5.2 Show how loving obedience to God brings peace, joy, and blessing.
1.3 Express a kind and loving approach to all, while not avoiding difficult issues .	2.3 Avoid using clichés unless accompanied by a simple explanation.	3.3 Offer diversity of response activities as well as extension facts, differentiation, and multiple intelligence options.	4.3 Offer developmentally-appropriate messages and opportunities for personal reflection .	5.3 Relate God's invitation through age-appropriate appeals to action .
1.4 Provide parents with thoughtful encouragement, practical help, and instruction . (<i>Babies-Primary</i>)	2.4 Stay true to the biblical message, including key Adventist teachings (28 fundamental beliefs), while writing in a colorful and appealing style.	3.4 Establish a strong connection between the Bible story , the memory verse , and the teacher's program focus (including tips for teachers).	4.4 Intentionally invite a heart response to what is explored.	5.4 Promote active, age-appropriate involvement in witnessing and service .
1.5 Be sensitive to cultural diversity in lesson content and artwork.	2.5 Draw themes and lessons from the Bible rather than imposing a theme onto the text.	3.5 Incorporate nature learning through object lessons and encouragement for children to be outside in nature.	4.5 Encourage the use of the first person singular in responses (“I” rather than “we”).	5.5 Encourage an awareness of the needs of others in the home and community.
	2.6 Use the NKJV (sometimes ICB for Beginner through Primary), maintaining true dialogue in Bible stories.		4.6 Offer prayer suggestions that connect to the daily reading and seek to build one's relationship with God.	
	2.7 Incorporate at least one Bible reading and one Bible quote into every daily lesson.			

¹ *Idol*, p. 196.

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

Lesson Content / Narrative / Mission

“I found the lesson very dynamic, a very practical and simple way of telling the story. I managed to hold my daughter’s attention for longer. And our family loved the weekly activities, we did them all with great joy. As a mother I am very satisfied with this new curriculum.” (IAD)



Lesson Content / Narrative / Mission

“I appreciated that there was emphasis on only one point or idea. It was clear for the kids.” (MENAUM)

“Beautifully written and illustrated, love that there is something to read every day.” (SPD)



Lesson Content / Narrative / Mission

“Love that we had something meaningful to read every day and they enjoyed the “I Wonder” questions. As parents, we will miss this material!!!” (CHUM)

“The stories are more interesting than the old curriculum. Very interesting questions for you to think about. We use our Bibles more. It’s interactive and you can talk to your friends about it.” (SSD, Junior child)





The Whole Family

“The best part is the happiness in my boy seeing the entire family studying his own Bible lessons with him. It makes them feel belonged and loved.” (WAD)

“I like the part where each member of the family can share their own understanding of the lesson and our own experiences.” (SSD)



The Whole Family

“The illustrations are AMAZING. The focus on involving all family members, instead of just the one child reading the guide, was my absolute favorite part.” (NAD)



PRAY: If members of your family speak different languages, you may like to pray in these different languages together to thank God that He is powerful and in control.

SPEAK UP: Have fun saying the words "please" and "thank you" in different languages.

Please: Zulu—*jabilisa*; Russian—*pozhaluysta*; German—*bitte*.

Thank you: Swedish—*tack*; Spanish—*gracias*; Chinese—*doh jeh*. God loves to hear us speak to others politely.

ROLE PLAY: Act out or mime this part of the story with your family. Use made-up words to ask a family member for something. Think about how frustrating this would be if it were real.

THURSDAY

GOD'S CLEVER PLAN

God longed for the tower builders to stop building and turn to Him, but some now believed they were more powerful than God. Others believed that He didn't even exist! God knew that these sad lies would spread, and people's hearts would become as hard as stone.

Out of love, God stepped in to stop the building Himself. He chose an interesting way to do it! What did God do? *READ GENESIS 11:7.*

God and His team of angels went swiftly about their work to create total confusion. When someone asked for bricks, they may have been handed sticky tar. Another builder asking for a hammer might have been offered a shovel!

Everything was mixed up and messed up! Soon there was confusion and shouting, and angry fights up and down the tower. Some builders clenched their fists and kept on babbling, while others walked off the job. Just like that, work on the tower completely stopped.

Because of what happened, the city was called "Babel" (Genesis 11:9, NKJV), which sounds like the Hebrew word for "confusion" (*balal*), so they would always remember how He confused the languages there.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (NKJV). What the proud city dwellers thought was a clever plan was really very foolish. God needed to direct their steps and challenge their dependence on themselves before wickedness grew bigger than their tower.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- Read the memory verse. How were the tower builders "put to shame"?
- Have you ever had a friend step in and stop you from doing or saying something foolish? How grateful did you feel?
- Do you depend on God to always be that friend to you?

FRIDAY

FILL THE EARTH

God's clever plan to stop the tower builders had worked very well. Then to help them understand that they didn't rule the world as they proudly believed, God sent a massive bolt of lightning to smash the top of the tower and send it toppling to the ground. What an impressive way to remind them that He was in charge! Scared and stripped of their boastful words, people scurried to their homes and shut themselves in. Gradually they found others they could understand. But all living together in one place was a nightmare of mix-ups and misunderstandings! What happened next? *READ GENESIS 11:8.*

God had said to Grandfather Noah and his sons, "Fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1, NKJV). But the city dwellers had ignored God's wise words, so now His wise plan meant they had to split up and spread out. God was pleased that they would have a fresh chance to learn to depend on Him again as their friend.

God loves us to depend on Him and follow His instructions. When we depend upon and obey Him, we show God that we choose Him to be the leader of our lives. When we don't, God doesn't give up on us. Instead, He uses different ways to help us.

THINK... THEN TALK ABOUT IT:

- How well do you follow instructions? How do you respond when others do something to help you obey?

FRIDAY NIGHT

SHARE & PRAISE: Take your lesson book and your family to a favorite place; consider going outside. Reflect on what you have learned from the story as you look at the pictures and read parts of the lesson. Share your thoughts with your family. Recite your memory verse and sing some praise songs together, including the hymn "Only Trust Him." (#279).

FAMILY JOURNAL:

- One important thing I learned from this week's story is . . .
- Remembering this story will help me when I . . .

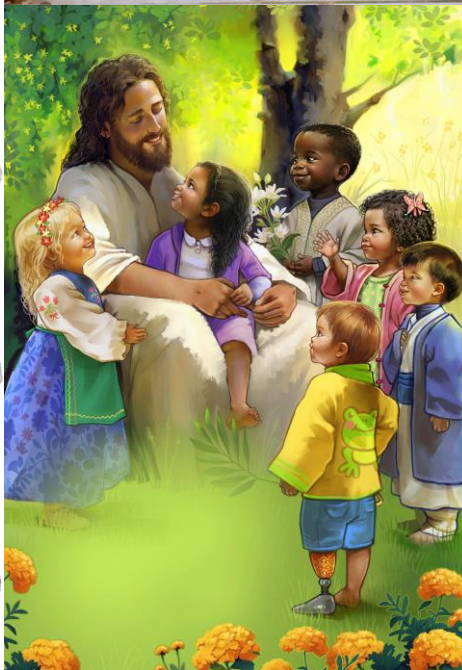
PRAY: Thank God for helping you to depend on Him and follow His instructions.

FOR YOU, PARENTS: No matter where you live in the world—city or country, be encouraged that God and His Spirit are with you and your family as you depend on Him. "The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 15). May you and your family be blessed by a home that is the sweetest type of heaven.





Our artwork shows that
**We Value
You**



Look in the mirror. What do you see? (Give child mirror.) Do you see your eyes (count 1 ... 2)? Your eyes are (color) just like mine (or mine are ____). God made you with (light/dark) hair and mine is _____. Can you wiggle your nose? Where are your ears? Count them: 1 ... 2 Can you make your mouth look happy ... sad ... silly? God made you as beautiful as can be!



God made eyes for seeing fluffy white clouds in the sky. What do you see? (Put hand over eyes as you look around.) He created ears for hearing birds singing in the trees. Listen ... what do you hear? (Cup hand over ear.) He made fingers for feeling the soft fur of a kitty. What can you feel that is (texture)? (Have child bring you something soft, bumpy, rough, smooth.) He created mouths for tasting a juicy strawberry. What do you like to taste? He made noses for smelling the sweetness of a rose. Sniff, sniff ... what do you smell with your nose?

Artwork

“I like the emotion with which my son saw the illustrations and the enthusiasm he had in studying his lesson every day.” (IAD)

“The images are appropriate, like the colors and shades that were used. My 2-year-old boy was very attracted to it. He learned new words. I am very impressed by everything he learned from the book and his teacher.” (SAD)



Artwork

“My son and I, we really appreciated the pictures and the design. The inclusiveness of the children’s pictures on the Beginner book is great! There’s dark skin children (not commonly seen previously), disabled children, and children playing with animals and nature. Very well done!” (EUD)



- Collector Cards
- Scripture Songs
- Craft Templates
- Craft Videos
- Nature Lessons
- Mission stories
- Wall murals
- Bible infographics (Junior)
- Training videos



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



Materials:

- Printer & paper
- Colored pencils/pens
- Glue or double-sided tape

Instructions:

1. Download the template for the Alive in Jesus website - www.aliveinjesus.org/alivetemplate
2. Mountain fold the page with the sheep.
3. Valley fold the bottom inset.
4. Cut both pupus pieces.
5. Fold hats backward.
6. To make the cord, put glue or double-sided tape on the right tabs. Align to mountains on base.
7. When attached to the cord, fold both pupus pieces flat with hats facing up. Apply adhesive and attach down over pupus pieces. This will allow the pupus pieces to find their natural alignment which will make for a much better fold!

Resources – Teacher Guides

“It helped me as a teacher not to worry about how to go about the day activities and made me prepare and get ready to teach children on Sabbath.” (WAD)

“Taught me new teaching possibilities.” (TED)

“There are plenty of activities, suggestions, and instructions to run a wonderful program for children—even if a person has had little or no experience as a teacher.” (NAD)



Resources – Teacher Guides

“So much variety of activities. Object lessons were fantastic! Having the craft laid out for us was awesome.” (SPD)

“The lessons, Dig Deep Bible discussions and nature lessons were outstanding. They were the best we ever had for the Junior class.” (NAD)

“There was a lot of information and a lot of things to do. There was enough content that one could choose what worked best in our setting.” (TED)













Alive in Jesus

sspm.adventist.org/aliveinjesus

Rollout

2025: Baby Steps, Beginner

2026: Kindergarten, Primary,

2027: Junior Teen

2028: Youth



Questions?



**Alive
in Jesus**