Dear Parents,

Every child is a gift from the Lord, and unique in His purpose for the kingdom. Children can touch the lives of others unlike any other person. Children show us the Lord in many ways—if we will stop to notice. Scripture even calls us to become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:16, 17). Since the Lord created every child unique, not all children learn the same way. It is important that we, as mature adults, embrace these differences in order to expand their knowledge of God.

The Lord pursues each child with tender love. The most important thing you as a parent can do is spend time with your children, modeling your trust in the Lord. Below are some suggestions for parents that you can use with your children to help them understand the Lord’s message in their Sabbath School Bible study guide.

- Have family worship, modeling your commitment to the Lord. Include a brief thought for your growing child/youth to think about during the day.
- Read the Bible together. If some of the words are too difficult, take turns reading and let them read the words they know.
- Study the lesson with your child/children during the week in preparation for Sabbath School. Knowing that the lesson will be reviewed on Sabbath in their classes will strengthen in children a sense of accountability and will facilitate a deeper spiritual understanding of the content.
- Download the audio lessons at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1 so your child/youth can hear the lesson on their own. Use DVDs and CDs that will help children understand the lessons (e.g., Bible stories, Your Story Hour, and even the Bible on CD)—this works great with children who struggle with reading in their Bible courses. Technology is great for students in general, and it will be particularly beneficial for students with special needs, providing tools that will assist them in becoming more independent learners.
- If you have a child with special needs, you may be interested to search for ideas, accommodations, and tools available for them at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/article/4/resources#.VGUZIYdSxx4.
- Talk with your children about the lesson. For example, where do they see the lesson being applied in their daily lives? Whom did they see reflect Jesus today? How has the power text (memory verse) helped them with issues they’re facing?
- Use a simple activity with the lesson. The children’s lessons themselves contain some excellent ideas for family worship activities.
- Think about how your child learns best, and adapt the lesson to that way of learning. It could be auditory (listening), visual (seeing), or tactile (manipulating and touching), or it may be all three ways (multi-sensory)! Use what works.
- Talk with their Sabbath School teachers and let them know what you are doing at home, so they can reinforce it in Sabbath School. In return, support their efforts by encouraging your children to memorize the power text and to make it a habit to bring their Bible to church on Sabbath. By doing this, you provide positive affirmation of their good efforts, a feeling that each child needs to experience to grow spiritually.
- Talk with the pastor when your child is ready to make a commitment to the Lord. Let him or her know what studies you have completed with your child, and ask what he or she would recommend prior to baptism.

Our children are important to the Lord, and He wants each one to be successful. It is our privilege to see that we return to God what He has given us.
Lesson 1  Year D Qtr 1

Family Ties
(Jesus enjoys Lazarus’ family)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God promises believers that our place in His family is sure.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 23, Marriage and the Family: “God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 329).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 33, p. 321, chap. 58, pp. 524, 525. “There was one home that He loved to visit—the home of Lazarus, and Mary, and Martha; for in the atmosphere of faith and love His spirit had rest” (p. 326).

6 The Bible Story reference:

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

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus brings us joy and freedom. He wants us to share this “good news” with others.

Sabbath—John 1:12 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 12:46-48
Monday—Matthew 12:49, 50
Tuesday—John 3:16
Wednesday—John 11:50-52
Thursday—John 1:12
Friday—Psalm 100:3

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

- To whom does God give the right to become His children?
- How do I feel knowing that I am part of God’s family?
- What promises can I claim that will help me feel secure in God’s love?
- What gives me the assurance that I am an heir in God’s royal family?
- What do I need most in my family?
- How could I encourage someone who doesn’t feel loved at home?

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

- Talk about what a birth certificate means and then make a birth certificate for heaven.
- Plan a worship that celebrates family.
- Discuss how it feels to be part of God’s family.

Coming up next week!
Jesus brings us joy and freedom. He wants us to share this “good news” with others.
Lesson 2 Year D Qtr 1

Spreading Good News (Bearer of good news)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We build friendships when we share the good news about Jesus.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 20, The Sabbath: “The fourth commandment of God’s unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 281).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 24, pp. 236-243. “Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have” (p. 239).

6 The Bible Story reference:

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Isaiah 61:1 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 28:19, 20
Monday—1 Corinthians 3:9
Tuesday—2 Corinthians 9:13
Wednesday—Isaiah 61:1-3
Thursday—Luke 4:16-21
Friday—Matthew 9:37, 38

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What does the “Good News” mean to me?
- What promises motivate me to share the Good News about Jesus?
- How can I share the Good News?
- In what ways am I uniquely gifted to spread joy?
- How does knowing Jesus as my personal Friend help me to share Him with others?
- Who are some people with whom I will share my joy about Jesus?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Write four notes of encouragement and give your notes to someone who is sad.
- Bake cookies, decorate them with smiley faces, and share them with someone who needs Jesus.
- During worship, let each family member share something good from this week.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus outlines the way He wants us to live. We show His love by sharing the things He teaches us.
The Invisible Kingdom
(Sermon on the Mount—Part 1)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Because God loves us, we accept His values and share them with others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 22, Christian Behavior: “We are called to be godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 311).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 31, pp. 298-309. “The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example, these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world” (p. 307).

6 The Bible Story reference:

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Matthew 5:16 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 5:1-5
Monday—Matthew 5:6-9
Tuesday—Matthew 5:10-12
Wednesday—Matthew 5:13
Thursday—Luke 6:7-26
Friday—Matthew 5:14-16

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What lessons from Jesus’ sermon on the mount do I need to learn?
- What were Jesus’ blessings to the souls who were thirsting and hungering after righteousness?
- What are some of the principles of God’s kingdom?
- What could I do to share these values with others?
- Who are some people with whom I could share Jesus’ teaching?
- In what ways do I think God wants me to “shine”?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Turn on a flashlight at floor level and then above your head. Which position sheds more light?
- Discuss what it means to let your light shine. Write three ways you could do this where you live.
- Ask God to show your family more ways to let your light shine.

8 Coming up next week!
Love your enemies! We show God’s love by loving others.
Core teaching of this lesson
Because God loves us, we are able to love our friends and our enemies.

Power text (memory verse)
“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ: “We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 201).

Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 31, pp. 310-314. “The righteousness which Christ taught is conformity of heart and life to the revealed will of God. Sinful men can become righteous only as they have faith in God and maintain a vital connection with Him” (p. 310).

The Bible Story reference:

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Psalm 133:1 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 5:21, 22.
Monday—Matthew 5:23-26
Tuesday—Matthew 5:27-32
Wednesday—Matthew 5:33-37
Thursday—Matthew 5:38-42
Friday—Matthew 5:43-48

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

■ How is Jesus’ teaching about loving our enemies applicable in my life?
■ How do I serve others with the gifts that God has given me?
■ What are some ways I could build unity with others?
■ Who are some unlovable people to whom I could show love?
■ How could I better show God’s love in my relationships?
■ How could I help others to love their enemies the way Jesus teaches?

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

■ Discuss ways you can restore broken relationships with others.
■ Plan to do something special for a friend today.
■ List ways you can show love to an enemy and apply these in your life.

Coming up next week!
Man borrows bread in the middle of the night! God wants us to help our friends even if it is inconvenient.
Lesson 5 Year D Qtr 1

Midnight Friend in Galilee
(Jesus teaches on prayer)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Because God loves us at all times, we are always willing to reflect His love to others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity” (Proverbs 17:17).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: “Led by the Holy Spirit, we sense our need, . . . and exercise faith. . . . This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God’s grace” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 133).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, chap. 6, pp. 130-134. “Take God’s promises as your own, plead them before Him as His own words, and you will receive fullness of joy” (p. 134).

6 The Bible Story reference:
No corresponding story in The Bible Story books.

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

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus touches a leper! God wants us to show compassion to those in need.

Sabbath—Proverbs 17:17 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 7:7, 8
Monday—Matthew 7:9-12
Tuesday—Luke 11:5-8
Thursday—John 15:12-17
Friday—Luke 11:5-13

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

- How does God answer prayer?
- What can I learn from this story about how I should approach God in prayer?
- How can I reflect God’s love to others?
- How persistent am I when I approach God in prayer?
- What is my attitude when God’s answer to my prayers is different than expected?
- How could I reflect God’s love to my family and friends?

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

- Discuss with your family ways that you could be a better friend to others.
- Call or write a friend saying thanks for a time they helped you.
- Seek out people who are facing adversity and make a difference in their lives.
Lesson 6 Year D Qtr 1

Touching the Untouchable (Jesus heals a leper)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
   Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.

2 Power text (memory verse)
   “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
   Our Beliefs, no. 4, God the Son: “Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ... By His miracles He manifested God’s power and was attested as God’s promised Messiah” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 43).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
   New Testament, Gospels: Mark 1:40-45; Matthew 8:2-4; Luke 5:12-16

5 Ellen White reference
   The Desire of Ages, chap. 27, pp. 262-266. “The work of Christ in cleansing the leper from his terrible disease is an illustration of His work in cleansing the soul from sin” (p. 266).

6 The Bible Story reference:
   The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 8, pp. 37-38 (“Lepers Cleansed”)

7 Family worship ideas
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   Sabbath—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4 (power text)
   Sunday—1 Peter 3:8
   Monday—1 Peter 3:9
   Tuesday—Mark 1:40-45
   Wednesday—Luke 5:12-16
   Thursday—Philippians 2:1-5
   Friday—Matthew 8:2-4

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

- What can I learn from Jesus’ miracle of healing the leper?
- How could I show the faith that the leper possessed?
- How do Jesus’ words to the leper strengthen my faith in Him?
- Why did Jesus tell the leper to keep his healing a secret?
- How does Jesus want me to respond to people who are not easy to love?
- How will I show compassion toward someone this week?

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

- During worship study the word compassion as well as words that are related.
- Come up with three ways your family could show compassion to someone who is mourning.
- As a family decide how you could live out the principles of Philippians 2:1-5.

8 Coming up next week!
   Jesus feeds the people. Jesus is able to provide for our needs.
Lesson 7 Year D Qtr 1

Unlimited
(Jesus feeds 5,000)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We serve a God who supplies all our needs.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 21, Stewardship: “We are God’s stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 301).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 8, pp. 41-45 (“Hungry People Fed”)

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

Sabbath—Isaiah 12:2 (power text)
Sunday—Mark 6:30
Monday—Mark 6:31
Tuesday—Mark 6:32-36
Wednesday—Mark 6:37-44
Thursday—John 6:35
Friday—Romans 6:23

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What can I learn from the story of the miraculous multiplication?
- What part did the disciples play in feeding the 5000?
- What is a seemingly impossible situation that I need to bring to God?
- How could I surrender to God’s will to help me overcome challenges?
- How do my choices reveal I am trusting God to meet my needs?
- How could I focus on God’s power when I face challenges?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- As a family, make and share sandwiches with someone in need.
- Pray and ask God to help you with a situation that seems humanly impossible.
- Talk about some of the things that God gave us freely. Thank Him together.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus tells the parable of talents. God wants us to use our talents in service to others.
Core teaching of this lesson
We serve God wherever He leads us.

Power text (memory verse)
“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith” (Romans 12:6).

Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts, which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 237).

Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Ellen White reference
Christ’s Object Lessons, chap. 25, pp. 325-365. “By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ” (p. 326).

The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 8, pp. 183-186 (“Tale of the Talents”)

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Romans 12:6 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 25:14, 15
Monday—Matthew 25:16-18
Tuesday—Matthew 25:19-25
Wednesday—Matthew 25:26-28
Thursday—Luke 19:12-19

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
■ What is the core teaching of Jesus’ parable of the talents?
■ What are some of the talents God has given me?
■ What am I doing with the talents I have been given?
■ In what areas of my life do I need to grow?
■ How can I be sure I am being a faithful steward of my talents?
■ Who would benefit if I shared the gifts God has given me?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
■ Have each family member name the talents they recognize God has given them.
■ Do something for someone in need using the talents you mentioned.
■ Share words of affirmation with someone whose talent you really appreciate.

Coming up next week!
Jesus talks about sheep and goats. We serve others as we become more like Jesus.
Lesson 9  Year D  Qtr 1

Service With a Smile
(Sheep and goats)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Accepting Jesus’ love for us inspires us to serve Him and others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Matthew 25:40).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: “As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 149).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 70, pp. 637-641. “When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering” (p. 637).

6 The Bible Story reference:

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

Sabbath—Matthew 25:40 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 24:1-14
Monday—Matthew 24:15-35
Tuesday—Matthew 25:31-46
Wednesday—Genesis 18:1-16
Thursday—Malachi 3:17, 18
Friday—1 Corinthians 4:1, 2

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

■ What is the main distinction between ‘sheep’ and ‘goats’ in Jesus’ parable?
■ How does my life show that I belong to those Jesus welcomes as sheep?
■ What difficulties do I encounter when I try to serve God and others?
■ How am I serving my family, those in my community and in my church?
■ When I serve am I motivated by the desire to be recognized or by unconditional love?
■ What more could I do to help those around me?

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

■ Discuss why Jesus described only two groups in this parable.
■ As a family, plan to help someone in need this week.
■ Write a letter of encouragement to someone who serves others without being acknowledged.

8 Coming up next week!
Lazarus dies. God offers us the ultimate gift of grace—eternal life!

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Lesson 10 Year D Qtr 1

Dead or Asleep?
(Lazarus dies)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus gives me peace when I face suffering and death.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God” (Job 19:25, 26).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 26, Death and Resurrection: “The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 387).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 58, pp. 524-527. “Christ represents death as sleep to His believing children. Their life is hid with Christ in God, and until the last Trump shall sound those who die will sleep in Him” (p. 527).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 9, pp. 22-27 (“Tears Jesus Shed”)

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

- Sabbath—Job 19:25, 26 (power text)
- Sunday—John 11:1-10
- Monday—John 11:11-16
- Tuesday—Job 19:25-27
- Wednesday—John 11:11
- Thursday—John 11:25
- Friday—John 11:1-16

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

- What gave Lazarus’ sisters hope and comfort?
- What gives me comfort in sorrow?
- What disappointments am I currently experiencing?
- What helps me bring my fears to God?
- How can I call to God when I hurt?
- How could I comfort a friend who experiences deep sorrow?

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

- Find as many Bible references as you can that compare death to sleep.
- Read and sing the verses of “Face to Face” (Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 206).
- Discuss how the words of this song match with the power text and with the lesson.

8 Coming up next week!
Mary and Martha mourn Lazarus’ death. Grace brings comfort to grieving hearts.
Two Sad Sisters
(Mary and Martha trust Jesus)

1. **Core teaching of this lesson**
   God’s love holds us tight in times of grief.

2. **Power text (memory verse)**
   “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25, 26).

3. **Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**
   Our Beliefs, no. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ: “In Christ’s life of perfect obedience to God’s will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 121).

4. **Where this lesson is found in Scripture**

5. **Ellen White reference**
   The Desire of Ages, chap. 58, pp. 528-533, “His [Jesus’] tender, pitying heart is ever awakened to sympathy by suffering. He weeps with those who weep, and rejoices with those that rejoice” (p. 533).

6. **The Bible Story reference:**
   The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 9, pp. 22-27 (“Tears Jesus Shed”)

7. **Family worship ideas**
   Use the following **texts** to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—John 11:25, 26 (power text)
   - Sunday—John 11:17-24
   - Monday—John 11:25-37
   - Tuesday—1 John 4:16; 5:12
   - Wednesday—Matthew 9:22-25
   - Thursday—John 20:31
   - Friday—John 11:33-36

   Use the following **questions** as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
   - What does this story suggest about the faith of Mary and Martha?
   - What is my response to Jesus in the face of grief?
   - For what am I grieving?
   - Do I trust that God’s strength will sustain me in grief?
   - How will my perspective change when I rely on His plan and timing?
   - How do I share Jesus’ grace and His comfort with those who grieve?

8. **Coming up next week!**
   Jesus calls Lazarus from his tomb.
   By God’s grace we have been given the gift of eternal life.
Lesson 12 Year D Qtr 1

A Resurrection Promise
(Lazarus is raised)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus gives us new life today and for eternity.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 25, The Second Coming of Christ: “When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected and, together with the righteous living, will be glorified and taken to heaven” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 371).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 58, pp. 533-536. “In all that He did, Christ was cooperating with His Father” (p. 536).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 9, pp. 22-27 (“Tears Jesus Shed”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   Sabbath—1 Thessalonians 4:16
   (power text)
   Sunday—John 11:38
   Monday—John 11:39-44
   Tuesday—John 5:24-27
   Wednesday—John 5:28, 29
   Thursday—1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
   Friday—Revelation 21:4

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
■ What does the miracle of Lazarus’ resurrection teach about Jesus?
■ What is a broken area of my life that only Jesus could restore?
■ How can I celebrate resurrection in my life today?
■ How does my view of death change when I think of Jesus’ coming?
■ What can I do today to prepare for my heavenly home?
■ With whom could I share the good news about resurrection today?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
■ Examine a bean seed. Do you see signs of life? Soak the bean overnight.
■ The next day remove the skin from the bean and separate the two halves. What signs of life do you see?
■ Sing “Jesus Is Coming Again” (Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 213).

8 Coming up next week!
Judas and Peter betray Jesus. God wants us to encourage those around us to reach out to Him for help.
Lesson 13

Failures Forgiven
(Disciples fail Jesus)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Like Jesus, we can forgive and encourage our friends even when they fail us.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs, no. 7 The Nature of Man: “When our first parents disobeyed God” “the image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature” [and] “are born with weaknesses” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 91).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 75, 76, pp. 698-722. “But a keener anguish rent the heart of Jesus; the blow that inflicted the deepest pain no enemy’s hand could have dealt. . . . Christ had been denied by one of His own disciples” (p. 710).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, (1994), vol. 9, pp. 78-81 ("Betrayed by a Traitor"); pp. 82-87 ("Jesus Betrayed by a Friend").

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

   Sabbath—Luke 22:32 (power text)
   Sunday—Matthew 26:1-30
   Monday—Matthew 26:31-35
   Tuesday—Mark 14
   Wednesday—Luke 22
   Thursday—Matthew 27:3-10
   Friday—Luke 22:61, 62

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:

■ How could I be like Jesus who forgave those who betrayed Him?
■ How could I make sure I don’t betray Jesus in my daily activities?
■ Is there anything in my life more important than my love for Jesus?
■ How could I make sure Jesus is the first and most important value in my life?
■ How do my words and actions reflect my acceptance of His love and grace?
■ How will my life change when Jesus becomes my first priority?

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

■ Read together the account of this story from one of the gospels.
■ Discuss the differences between Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial of Jesus.
■ Encourage someone who is facing difficult circumstances to trust God.

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

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

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

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

5 Holy Spirit
God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ’s life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16–18, 26; 15:26; 16:7–13; Acts 1:8, 53; 10:38; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.)

6 Creation
God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made “the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” and rested on the seventh day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished, it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1:1; 2:5; 11; Ex. 20:8–11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12, 18; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2; 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.)

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

8 Great Controversy
All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being,
endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1–11.

Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3:6–8; Job 1:6–12; Isa. 14:12–14; Eze. 28:12–18; Rom. 1:19–32; 3:4; 5:12–21; 8:19–22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4–9.)

9 Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ’s life of perfect obedience to God’s will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God’s law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily resurrection of Christ proclaims God’s triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3; 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20–22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19–21; Phil. 2:6–11; Col. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.)

10 Experience of Salvation

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

11 Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus’ victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. We are also called to follow Christ’s example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25–28; 25:31–46; Luke 10:17–20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22–25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12–18; Phil. 3:7–14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16–18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

12 Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world, and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God’s family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without
blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.)

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

14 Unity in the Body of Christ
The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.)

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

16 Lord’s Supper
The Lord’s Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (Matt. 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:22-30; Rev. 3:20.)

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

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

19 Law of God
The great principles of God’s law
are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God’s love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God’s covenant with His people and the standard in God’s judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and being. The obedience of faith demonstrates the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings, and by returning tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. Stewards rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:71.)

21 Stewardship
We are God’s stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God’s ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings, and by returning tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. Stewards rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:71.)

22 Christian Behavior
We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to re-create in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christ-like purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Gen. 7:2; Ex. 20:15; Lev. 11:1-47; Ps. 106:3; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 10:5; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 2:4; 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.)

23 Marriage and the Family
Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring guide who wants them to become members of
His body, the family of God, which embraces both single and married persons. (Gen. 2:18-25; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9, 12; Mark 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:7, 10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.)

24 Christ’s Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that the Lord set up and not humans. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. At His ascension He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the holy place of the earthly sanctuary. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary. It is a work of investigative judgment, which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Lev. 16; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Heb. 1:3; 2:16, 17; 4:14-16; 8:1-5; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; Rev. 8:3-5; 11:19; 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:11, 12.)

25 Second Coming of Christ

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

26 Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, a resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 26:18; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Rev. 20:1-10.)

27 Millennium and the End of Sin

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

28 New Earth

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

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