**Community**
We discover God’s purpose for our lives.

**POWER TEXT**
“The Lord then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation’” (Genesis 7:1).

**KEY REFERENCES**
- Genesis 7:1-13
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 7, pp. 97-104
- Student story on page 32 of this guide.

**OUR BELIEFS**
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

**OBJECTIVES**
The students will:
- **Know** that they can be a positive influence in their own families.
- **Feel** thankful for their families and the opportunity they have to share God’s love with them.
- **Respond** by finding ways to reflect God’s grace to others in their families.

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**Family Influence**

**The Bible Lesson at a Glance**
“Noah did all that the Lord commanded him” (Genesis 7:5). Because he chooses to trust God even when he can’t understand the entire plan, his family also choose God’s plan.

**This is a lesson about community.**
Because Noah chose to know and follow God, he was able to influence his family to do the same. Noah’s love for and obedience to God’s plan enabled his family to come to know, love, and follow God’s plan. Ultimately Noah’s influence over his family led to their physical salvation. We should never underestimate the power of being used by God within our families. We too have the opportunity to be used by God to influence our families for all eternity.

**Teacher Enrichment**
“God commanded Noah, ‘Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation.’ Noah’s warnings had been rejected by the world, but his influence and example resulted in blessings to his family. As a reward for his faithfulness and integrity, God saved all the members of his family with him. What encouragement to parental fidelity!” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 98).

_How are my choices affecting the members of my family?_  
_What changes might God be calling me to make in order to more positively influence my family?_
**Welcome**
Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly. You may debrief students on the previous lesson to help them see the chronological continuity of the Bible stories from one week to another. Then ask students to share a few things they have learned from the current lesson prior to Sabbath School. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week.

Transition into the Readiness activity of your choice.

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**Program notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON SECTION</th>
<th>MINUTES</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>MATERIALS NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door.</td>
<td>circles; red, yellow, and blue colors; hole punch; thread paper, scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ask about their week.</td>
<td>bowl, white flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td><strong>Readiness</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A. Changing Colors (see p. 26)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Walk Through (see p. 26)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Flour Handshake (see p. 27)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prayer and Praise</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>(see p. 27)</td>
<td>songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, paper circles, pens/pencils, tree shape or box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td><strong>Bible Lesson</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introducing the Bible Story (see p. 28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Experiencing the Story (see p. 28)</td>
<td>Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exploring the Bible (see p. 29)</td>
<td>Bibles, board, markers OR handouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td><strong>Applying the Lesson</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family Conflict (see p. 29)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td><strong>Sharing the Lesson</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Experiment (see p. 30)</td>
<td>bowl, water, stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer (see p. 30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reminder to Parents (see p. 30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Next Week’s Lesson (see p. 30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LESSON 2

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Changing Colors

Prepare in advance a circle of cardstock or stiff paper for each student. Provide paints or markers with vibrant colors.

Say: Color one side of your circle red and the other either yellow or blue. Then punch two holes in either side. Thread 12 inches (30 centimeters) of thread through each side. Twirl the circle by the threads. (See illustration.)

Debriefing

Ask: What colors do you see? What has changed the circles from two separate colors into a third totally different color?

Say: Sometimes people are like the string. They come into our lives and have a strong effect on us. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 7:1,

“The Lord then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation’” (Genesis 7:1).

Noah’s faith had a strong effect on his family, and our power point this week teaches us that, just as with Noah, God uses us to influence members of our family positively.

B

Walk Through

Give each student a piece of paper and a pair of scissors. (Or provide one for each small group.)

Say: I want you to see if you can find a way to walk through this piece of paper. You may cut the paper, but you may not glue or tape it back together. Give the students time to try, then demonstrate.

Say: Fold the paper in half. Cut from the fold toward the edge. Stop about one inch (2.5 centimeters) from the edge. Do this all the way to the other end of the paper, about every inch. Then turn your paper and cut from the edge toward the fold, again stopping one inch (2.5 centimeters) from the edge. Make these cuts between the cuts from the other side. Then carefully cut along the fold beginning after the first segment of fold and stopping before the last. Open the paper up carefully, shaking gently. You will be able to walk through the middle.

Debriefing

Ask: What made it possible for us to do something that seemed impossible at first?

Say: Sometimes we are faced with difficult situations in our families or in our community. Finding a solution can seem as impossible as walking through a piece of paper. In our lesson today Noah faces some pretty impossible situations. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 7:1,

“The Lord then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation’” (Genesis 7:1).

God had the answer to an impossible situation, and He used Noah to be a positive influence on his family. With God we can overcome seemingly impossible situations.

God uses us to influence members of our family positively.
READINESS ACTIVITIES

**Prayer & Praise**

**Fellowship**
Allow students to report things that they are pleased or troubled about. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Get contact information from the adult who brought them to church. Early in the following week, send a postcard or e-mail letting the visitors know how much you enjoyed having them in your class and that you would like to see them again.

**Suggested Songs**
- “We Are the Family of God” ([*He Is Our Song*, no. 114])
- “Side by Side” ([*He Is Our Song*, no. 123])
- “Love, Love” ([*He Is Our Song*, no. 132])
- “Oh, Fill It Up” ([*He Is Our Song*, no. 135])
- “Salt and Light” ([*Praise Time*, no. 43])

**Mission**
Use [Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults](http://www.juniorpowerpoints.org) (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

**Offering**
Say: Noah gave his time and talents to be used by God to build the ark. There are many ways we can offer ourselves to God and His work. One of these ways is by bringing our gifts of money so that God’s message can be funded around the world.

**Prayer**
Say: It took Noah a long time to build the ark, but all through the 120 years Noah prayed to God, and God helped him be a positive influence on his family. God wants us to be a positive influence in our family. Give each student a circle and say: Draw a face on one side to represent someone in your family and on the back write a word to represent something they need help with or a way you would like to help them. Stick the faces on a tree shape or put them into a box. Pray for the people whom the students have thought about, and that each student will be a positive influence in their family. Remember to pray for the students’ prayer requests, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.
Introducing the Bible Story
Say: Think of a time people have laughed at you. Or have you had the experience of telling the truth, but no one listened or believed you? That was just the situation that Noah found himself in. The difference was that this did not happen to Noah just once; it happened to him every day for 120 years.

Experiencing the Story
Choose a narrator, a spokesperson for God, Noah, Noah’s wife, Noah’s three sons and their wives, and animals. Ask the narrator to read the story in Genesis 7:1-13, with the spokesperson for God reading the parts where God’s words are recorded. Mark out the “ark” on the floor and have the others mime the story as it is told.

Divide into four groups and discuss how you think God, Noah, Noah’s family, and the people outside must have felt in the last days before the flood. Allow time for each group to share with the larger group.

Debriefing
Ask: How do you think the people outside the ark influenced their families?
Say: We are always an influence on the people we live with. Our only choice is whether or not we will let God use us to be a positive influence.

God uses us to influence members of our family positively.
Exploring the Bible

Write on the board the Bible texts and questions listed below. Say: Whether we are the youngest or the oldest or somewhere in between, we all have an influence on our families and those around us. Divide the students into groups to look at other families in the Bible. Ask them to decide what kind of influence the key people in the stories were on each other.

1. Eli and his sons (1 Samuel 2:12-25)
   - What were the root causes of Eli’s sons’ behavior?
   - What influence did Eli have over his sons? What influence did his sons have on those around?

2. Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:1-18)
   - What do you think are some reasons that Ruth decided to go with Naomi rather than return home? How did Naomi’s relationship with God influence Ruth’s decision?

3. The slave girl (2 Kings 5:1-14)
   - How would you have felt if you were a slave in a strange land? Why did Naaman’s wife listen to the slave girl? What part did the slave girl’s belief in God play? Who do you think taught the slave girl about God? Why do you think she remembered the lessons?

4. Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14)
   - In the book Patriarchs and Prophets by Ellen White, page 152, we are told that Isaac “encourages his [father’s] nerveless hands to bind the cords that confine him to the altar.” Why do you think Isaac did that? Why did Abraham plan to sacrifice his son? What effect did Abraham’s faith and obedience have on Isaac?

5. David and his brothers (1 Samuel 17:20-40)
   - How was David’s reaction different from his brothers? Who had the greater influence, David or his brothers? Why?

Ask: What is the common key to being a positive influence on those around you? (a living relationship with God.)

God uses us to influence members of our family positively.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Have students with visual impairments and learning disabilities sit close to the board. Alternatively, prepare in advance for these students a handout with the list of Bible references and questions.
Positive Experiment
Allow students to share if they had the opportunity during the past week to share how God has provided a way of escape from sin.

Have a glass bowl of water at the front of the class. Have some small stones and invite the students to come to the front and drop them in the bowl of water.

Ask: What happens to the water when you drop the stone in it? The ripples go out. It is the same with our actions. When we do something the ripples go out in other people’s lives.

Say: Divide into twos (or small groups) and share an occasion when someone did something that was a positive influence on you. Then share an occasion when you did something that was a positive influence on someone else.

Debriefing
Ask: What do these events have in common? Think of a recent occasion when the reverse happened. What influenced your behavior? How do these differ from the positive situations?

Prayer and closing comments:
Say: Let’s pray together for strength to be a positive influence in our families.

Reminder to parents:
Say: Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents’ Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.

Coming up next week:
Say: The rain comes. When we help and encourage others, we are part of God’s plan.
Debbie’s parents divorced when she was 6. All her life she’d gone to church—sometimes with her mom, sometimes with her dad, because they had different faiths. Most of the time, however, her mom just didn’t go to church. After a few years both her parents remarried. So when Debbie was at her dad’s house, she went to church with him. Little by little Debbie had to choose what her own set of beliefs and values would be. And little by little she decided that Jesus was a friend she could count on, no matter what. Once she decided that, she had some decisions to make about how to live her life. So she studied the Bible, asking God to guide her to choose a church where He would be glorified and His Word would be honored. When Debbie was baptized, she had no idea of the incredible witness she was to become to her family.

Noah did all that God commanded him in building the ark. He followed God’s directions exactly. He warned his friends and neighbors continually. But the most important job Noah had was being a husband and a dad. God was his best friend, and his earthly best friends were Mrs. Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. He loved them dearly! Spending time with his boys was his heart’s delight. But the things that the neighbors around them did for entertainment were not fitting to Noah’s family. They were busy. Whether they were poring over blueprints or hunting up the best lumber, you could count on the family of Noah to be together. Wherever they were, Noah was encouraging them, and teaching them God’s ways.

Shem, Ham, and Japheth grew up in a world a lot like ours. Violence was everywhere. People would try anything for pleasure. They didn’t respect God or His law, and selfishness ruled. Wrong seemed right, and right seemed, well . . . weird! Weird because people had given themselves over to Satan so much that they truly wanted no part of God’s way. These three young men had decisions to make, just as you and I do. They weren’t “automatically” saved from the Flood just because of who their dad was! Every person, no matter who, no matter where, has to decide whose side to be on: either on God’s side or on Satan’s side. There are no other options.

There might have been moments in their lives when Shem, Ham, or Japheth thought their dad might be taking things a little too far. Yet his love for them and his guidance of them was such a powerful witness of God’s love that they could see the wisdom of following God’s way, and His way was their ultimate choice too.

Remember Debbie? Debbie married a Christian man. Her sister, Jodi, would come during the summer and spend time with them. Later, when she was old enough, Jodi moved close to where Debbie lived. One day, to Debbie’s great delight, Jodi asked to study the Bible with them. Debbie didn’t know it, but Jodi was talking on the phone to their mom about the studies, and eventually Debbie’s mom began to take Bible studies too! One exciting summer Sabbath, Jodi and her mother were baptized together. They praise God for His love and saving power, and for the witness of Debbie in their family. It took many years for Debbie’s witness to result in the miracles that happened. Jodi says, “There was always a kind of peace Debbie had that I knew I wanted. I gave my heart to Jesus, and now I have that peace too!”

How about you? What kind of witness are you in your family? Whatever kind of situation you are in, you are a witness for or against God every day in your family. A family can be a more difficult place to witness for God by your life than anywhere else on earth! All families see each other at their best and at their worst. All families have good times and bad times. Sometimes people take their frustrations and irritations out on their family members. And unfortunately, we sometimes talk to our family members in ways that we would never dream of talking to someone else.

So how can your life be a positive witness in your family? Every day, say something such as: “Thank You, Jesus, for my family. I want to reflect You today to them, but I can’t do it by myself! Please give me the power to be like You, whatever comes my way in my family today.”
**KEY REFERENCES**
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 7, pp. 97-104
- Our Beliefs nos. 23, 11, 22

**POWER TEXT**
“The Lord then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation’” (Genesis 7:1).

**POWER POINT**
God uses us to influence members of our family positively.

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**Sabbath**
- **DO** Do the activity on page 19.
- **LEARN** Begin learning the power text.

**Sunday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:1-4 and this week’s story, “Family Influence.”
- **CREATE** Draw or make an animal-shaped craft. Write and attach to it your power text, Genesis 7:1.
- **REVIEW** Review the power text.
- **PRAY** Pray that you will be a positive influence on your family this week.

**Monday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:5.
- **DISCUSS** What can we learn from Noah’s example, who “did all that the Lord commanded him”? The Bible times they used tar to make things waterproof. What can you discover about tar?
- **RESEARCH** What happens when an area floods? What do people normally do to prepare for such emergency situations?
- **REVIEW** Review the power text.
- **PRAY** Thank God for His protection and saving grace.

**Tuesday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:6-10.
- **DISCOVER** What has God provided to protect us from sin? Can you find any Bible passages that tell us that?
- **SHARE** Find someone with whom you can share that God has provided an escape from sin.
- **REVIEW** Review the power text.
- **PRAY** Pray for people who are victims of floods. Ask God to send you to someone who needs to hear about God.

**Wednesday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:11, 12.
- **WRITE** In your Bible study journal, write about how you would feel if you couldn’t go out for 40 days.
- **THINK** Do we always understand when God is trying to protect us from evil? In what ways can you share your growing understanding of God with members of your family?
- **REVIEW** Review the power text.
- **PRAY** Pray specifically today for someone in your family.

**Thursday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:13.
- **CREATE** Write a song or poem that Noah’s family could have used to keep their spirits up and reinforce their trust in God while they waited for what was going to happen.
- **REVIEW** Review the power text.
- **PRAY** Ask God for the strength to be supportive to others in your family.

**Friday**
- **READ** Read Genesis 7:1-13 responsively at family worship.
- **DISCUSS** With your family, brainstorm ways you can encourage each other when you face difficulties.
- **PRESENT** Present the song or poem you wrote on Thursday.
- **SHARE** Share the power text with your family.
- **PRAY** Pray together that you, as a family, will be a positive influence in your neighborhood.