Dear Parents,

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

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

- Have family worship, modeling your commitment to the Lord. Include a brief thought for your growing child/youth to think about during the day.
- Read the Bible together. If some of the words are too difficult, take turns reading and let them read the words they know.
- Study the lesson with your child/children during the week in preparation for Sabbath School. Knowing that the lesson will be reviewed on Sabbath in their classes will strengthen in them a sense of accountability and will facilitate a deeper spiritual understanding of the content.
- Download the audio lessons at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1 so your child/youth can hear the lesson on their own. Use DVDs and CDs that will help children understand the lessons (e.g., Bible stories, Your Story Hour, and even the Bible on CD—this works great with children who struggle with reading in their Bible courses.) Technology is great for students in general, and it will be particularly beneficial for students with special needs, providing tools that will assist them in becoming more independent learners!
- If you have a child with special needs, you may be interested to search for ideas, accommodations, and tools available for them at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/article/4/resources#.VGUZlYdSxx4.
- 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 (multisensory)! Use what works.
- Talk with their Sabbath School teachers and let them know what you are doing at home, so they can reinforce it in Sabbath School. In return, support their efforts by encouraging your children to memorize the power text and to make it a habit to bring their Bible to church on Sabbath. By doing this, you provide positive affirmation of their good efforts, a feeling that each child needs to experience to grow spiritually.
- Talk with the pastor when your child is ready to make a commitment to the Lord. Let him or her know what studies you have done with your child, and ask what he or she would recommend prior to baptism.

Our children are important to the Lord, and He wants each one to be successful. It is our privilege to see that we return to God what He has given us.
1 Core teaching of this lesson
God gives us wisdom to serve others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her” (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

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
Prophets and Kings, chap. 1, pp. 25-34. “He who gave to Solomon the spirit of wise discernment, is willing to impart the same blessing to His children today” (p. 31).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 130-133 (“Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom”)

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

Sabbath—Proverbs 8:10, 11 (power text)
Sunday—1 Kings 3:1-3
Monday—1 Kings 3:4
Tuesday—1 Kings 3:5-9
Wednesday—1 Kings 3:10-13
Thursday—1 Kings 3:14, 15
Friday—1 Kings 4:29-34

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

- What can I learn from Solomon's prayer?
- Why did Solomon ask for wisdom instead of other things?
- What does wisdom mean to me?
- Have I thought about God's plans for my future?
- How could the gift of wisdom equip me for service?
- How will I let wisdom guide me in my relationships?

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

- Share in what areas of your life you need to exercise more wisdom.
- Ask God for wisdom and do a kind act to show God’s love to someone in need.
- Pray for the leaders of your church and of your country that they may lead wisely.

8 Coming up next week!
Words of wisdom offer guidance. God’s Word presents ways we can serve others.
Lesson 2 Year D Qtr 4

Words Fit for a King
(God’s Word teaches wisdom)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God's Word guides our service.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 1, The Word of God: “The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 11).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 1, pp. 33, 34. “In the proverbs of Solomon are outlined principles of holy living and high endeavor, principles that are heaven-born and that lead to godliness; principles that should govern every act of life” (pp. 33, 34).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 159-161 (“Wisdom of the Wise”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Proverbs 2:6 (power text)
Sunday—Proverbs 22:1
Monday—Proverbs 22:3
Tuesday—Proverbs 22:1-5
Wednesday—Proverbs 22:4
Thursday—Proverbs 22:9
Friday—Proverbs 22:22

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
■ How important is God’s Word to me?
■ How does my study of Scriptures strengthen my relationship with God?
■ Is God’s Word relevant for my life today?
■ What does the book of Proverbs teach about serving others?
■ What difference would applying the wisdom of Proverbs make in my life?
■ How could I use what I learned from Proverbs today?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
■ Ask God to give your family ideas of ways to serve others regularly.
■ Plan with your family ways you could be generous in your community.
■ Implement one of your service projects this week.

8 Coming up next week!
Solomon saves a baby. We reveal God's love by serving others fairly.
Lesson 3 Year D Qtr 4

Wisdom Rules
(Solomon saves a baby)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God’s love leads us to serve others fairly.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love” (Galatians 5:13).

3 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).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 3, pp. 51-60. “God is fully able to keep us in the world, but we are not to be of the world” (p. 59).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 134-136 (“Dividing a Baby”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Galatians 5:13 (power text)
- Sunday—1 Kings 3:9, 10
- Monday—1 Kings 3:11, 12
- Tuesday—1 Kings 3:16-21
- Wednesday—1 Kings 3:22, 23
- Thursday—1 Kings 3:24-27
- Friday—1 Kings 3:28

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What can I learn from Solomon?
- How do I reveal God’s love and compassion to those around me?
- In what ways do I serve God?
- How does my relationship with God impact my service?
- Do I rely on God for wisdom in dealing with others?
- How could I treat others fairly today?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- As a family, talk about why the ‘real mother’ was willing to give up her baby.
- Think of a situation in which you could deal fairly with someone you know.
- Ask God for wisdom to reach out to those who are treated unfairly.

8 Coming up next week!
Solomon prays for Israel. Prayer is one form of worshiping God.
Prayer Warrior
(Solomon prays for Israel)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We honor God when we pray for others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way" (1 Kings 8:23).

3 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).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 2, pp. 35-50. “The hour and place of prayer are sacred, because God is there” (pp. 48, 49).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 146-151 (“The Temple Dedicated”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—1 Kings 8:23 (power text)
- Sunday—1 Kings 8:14-19
- Monday—1 Kings 8:23, 24
- Tuesday—1 Kings 8:27
- Wednesday—Philippians 4:6
- Thursday—1 Peter 5:7
- Friday—Romans 12:12

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What is Solomon’s prayer teaching me about praying?
- How would it make me feel to know others are praying for me?
- How do my prayers for my family impact their lives?
- Do my prayers reflect my praise and worship to God?
- How does praying for others help me?
- Who are the people for whom I am praying?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Share during worship the ways God has kept His promises in your life.
- Mention names of people for whom you want to pray and pray for them with your family.
- Discuss three things that make you anxious and ask God to help you overcome them.

8 Coming up next week!
Solomon witnesses to the queen of Sheba. Our words and actions should match.
Lesson 5  Year D  Qtr 4

It’s a Match! (Queen of Sheba visits Solomon)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
   We serve best when our words and actions match.

2 Power text (memory verse)
   “‘You are my witnesses,’ declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me’” (Isaiah 43:10).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
   Our Beliefs no. 11, Growing in Christ: “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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 149).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
   Prophets and Kings, chap. 4, pp. 66-69. “The true Christian will make God first and last and best in everything” (pp. 68, 69).

6 The Bible Story reference:
   The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 155-158 (“The Queen of Sheba”)

7 Family worship ideas
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—Isaiah 43:10 (power text)
   - Sunday—1 Kings 10:1-3
   - Monday—1 Kings 10:4, 5
   - Tuesday—1 Kings 10:6-9
   - Wednesday—1 Kings 10:10-12
   - Thursday—1 Kings 10:13
   - Friday—Psalm 37:4

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

   - Why did God give Solomon wisdom as well as riches and long life?
   - How do I use God’s gifts to serve others?
   - How does my life draw people to God and reflect His love?
   - Do my words and my actions match?
   - How could I honor God with my words and actions today?
   - How could I direct people to give God the glory when they praise me?

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

   - Think of three difficult questions you would like to ask someone you consider wise.
   - Plan ways you can positively influence your friends for God.
   - Discuss with your family what makes a person truly happy.

8 Coming up next week!
   Daniel sets a healthy example in Babylon. We are witnesses for God in all we do.
Lesson 6  Year D  Qtr 4

Eat, Drink, and Be Healthy
(Daniel cares for his health)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We honor God when we take care of our health.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 22, Christian Behavior: “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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 311).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Daniel 1

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 39, pp. 479-490. “In personal appearance the Hebrew youth showed a marked superiority over their companions. As a result, Daniel and his associates were permitted to continue their simple diet during their entire course of training” (p. 484).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 6, pp. 9-14 (“Four Noble Young Men”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—1 Corinthians 10:31 (power text)
- Sunday—Daniel 1:1, 2
- Monday—Daniel 1:3-5
- Tuesday—Daniel 1:6-10
- Wednesday—Daniel 1:11-14
- Thursday—Daniel 1:15-21
- Friday—1 Corinthians 6:19

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What lessons can I learn from Daniel?
- What efforts do I make to eat healthfully and to exercise?
- How can I honor God by what I eat and what I drink?
- How could my life reflect the benefits of a healthful life to others?
- How does adopting a healthy lifestyle help me to better worship God?
- What steps will I take that will promote good health and glorify God?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Go for a walk, do some work in the garden, or play some outdoor sports.
- Together with your family members, prepare a healthy meal.
- Discuss 1 Corinthians 6:19 in relation to your lifestyle choices.

8 Coming up next week!
Hebrew youth are thrown into the fiery furnace. God is with us even in difficult or dangerous situations.
Lesson 7 Year D Qtr 4

Facing the Fire (Hebrew youth face fire)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
   We praise God, trusting that He is with us in every situation.

2 Power text (memory verse)
   “Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God’” (Daniel 3:28).

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
   Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Daniel 3

5 Ellen White reference
   Prophets and Kings, chap. 41, pp. 503-513. “Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth” (p. 512).

6 The Bible Story reference:

7 Family worship ideas
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—Daniel 3:28 (power text)
   - Sunday—Daniel 3:1-3
   - Monday—Daniel 3:4-7
   - Tuesday—Daniel 3:8-12
   - Wednesday—Daniel 3:13-18
   - Thursday—Daniel 3:19-25
   - Friday—Daniel 3:26-30

   Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
   ■ How did the Hebrew youth gain the courage to remain true to God?
   ■ Do I trust God in all things, no matter what happens?
   ■ In what ways do I show my trust in God?
   ■ What difference does choosing to trust God make in my life?
   ■ How do I react when I have to decide whether I will honor God?
   ■ How do I challenge my friends to trust Jesus in every circumstance?

   Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
   ■ Take time to count your blessings and praise God.
   ■ Discuss ways to improve your family worship.
   ■ Pray for people who are facing difficult situations.

8 Coming up next week!
   Nebuchadnezzar finds the one true God! When we allow God in our lives, His presence changes us.
Lesson 8  Year D  Qtr 4

King on His Knees
(Proud king is humbled)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We praise God for the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2).

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. . . . Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. . . . But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 91).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Daniel 4

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 42, pp. 514-521. “This public proclamation, in which Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the mercy and goodness and authority of God, was the last act of his life recorded in sacred history” (p. 521).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 6, pp. 44-48 (“The King Goes Mad”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Proverbs 11:2 (power text)
Sunday—Daniel 4:1-3
Monday—Daniel 4:4-9; Isaiah 30:21
Tuesday—Daniel 4:10-18
Wednesday—Daniel 4:19-27
Thursday—Daniel 4:28-33
Friday—Daniel 4:34-37

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
■ What did God want to communicate to King Nebuchadnezzar?
■ What can I learn from this week’s lesson about pride versus humility?
■ How does God need to get my attention to prevent me from pride?
■ How can I live as a humble child of God?
■ What are ways that the Holy Spirit works in my life?
■ What will humility look like in my life?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
■ Communicate to someone God's love in a creative way.
■ Discuss together ways you could respond with humility when people praise you.
■ Make a fruit salad for your family supper and read Galatians 5:22, 23 together.

8 Coming up next week!
Daniel faces the lions. Our God who protects us in all situations is worthy of our worship.
Lesson 9 Year D Qtr 4

Lion Lunch
(Daniel faces the lions)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (Psalm 56:3, 4).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 8, The Great Controversy: “All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan. . . . 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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 113).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture
Old Testament, The Major Prophets: Daniel 6

5 Ellen White reference
Prophets and Kings, chap. 44, pp. 539-548. “Daniel in the lions’ den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. . . . Faith reaches to the unseen, and grasps eternal realities” (p. 545).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 6, pp. 55-59 ("Night With the Lions")

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

- Sabbath—Psalm 56:3, 4 (power text)
- Sunday—Daniel 6:1-5
- Monday—Daniel 6:6-9
- Tuesday—Daniel 6:10-15
- Wednesday—Daniel 6:16-18
- Thursday—Daniel 6:19-24
- Friday—Daniel 6:25-28

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

- How is my faith in the God of Daniel?
- When has God protected me from harm and danger?
- How can I remain faithful to God no matter what the circumstances?
- Do I trust God to see me through, no matter the outcome?
- How do I react when I feel afraid of someone, something, or the future?
- How could I encourage someone who is facing difficulties?

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

- Discuss how laws in your country are made to protect you.
- Share ways that the Scriptures and God’s law guard against evil.
- Let each family member talk about a time they experienced God’s protection.

8 Coming up next week!
Daniel sees the future in vision. No matter what happens in the world’s history, God is in control.
Lesson 10  Year D  Qtr 4

Wars and Wars and More of the Same
(This world will pass away)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 18, The Gift of Prophecy: “One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 247).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Great Controversy, chap. 18, pp. 341, 342. “The study of the Revelation directs the mind to the prophecies of Daniel, and both present most important instruction, given of God to men, concerning events to take place at the close of this world’s history” (p. 341).

6 The Bible Story reference:

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

- Sabbath—Daniel 12:3 (power text)
- Sunday—Daniel 11:2-4
- Monday—Daniel 11:5-8
- Tuesday—Daniel 11:9-35
- Wednesday—Daniel 11:36-45
- Thursday—Daniel 12:1-4
- Friday—Ephesians 6:10-17

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

- What is the message of hope in the book of Daniel?
- Where do I place my trust, in the powers of this earth or in God?
- What choices can I make to remain a faithful citizen of God’s kingdom?
- How do I live knowing that I am God’s ambassador in this world?
- How could I bring hope to people?
- In what ways could I reflect the peace of God to those around me?

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

- Read the power text (Daniel 12:3) and discuss how it applies to your life.
- Share stories about how God’s protection was experienced in times of turmoil.
- Ask God for opportunities to share His love with those who face trials.

8 Coming up next week!
Jesus loves us! God sent Jesus to show us His character of love and grace.
Lesson 11  Year D  Qtr 4

Moving Into Our Neighborhood
(Jesus becomes one of us to show us God)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 4, God the Son: “God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ . . . . Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 43).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 1, pp. 19-26. “His [Jesus’] glory was veiled, His greatness and majesty were hidden, that He might draw near to sorrowful, tempted men” (p. 23).

6 The Bible Story reference:

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

   - Sabbath—John 1:14 (power text)
   - Sunday—John 1:1-9
   - Monday—John 1:10-14
   - Tuesday—Exodus 25:8
   - Wednesday—Matthew 1:23
   - Friday—1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17;
   - Revelation 21:3

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

   - Why did Jesus choose to become human and move into our neighborhood?
   - What was the Word or message that Jesus came to deliver?
   - What is my picture of God?
   - What evidence do I have that God loves me?
   - What connects me to God?
   - How can I share God’s love with someone today?

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

   - Talk about the significance of Jesus coming to live among us.
   - Discuss what will happen when Jesus’ glory is revealed for everyone to see.
   - Make a plan to share with some of your acquaintances the good news about Jesus.

8 Coming up next week!
Mary accepts God’s call. When we make God first in our lives, He empowers us to do great things for Him.
Lesson 12  Year D  Qtr 4

God in the Center
(Mary accepts the call to be Jesus’ mother)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
I humbly accept Jesus as the center of my life.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long” (Psalm 25:4, 5).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 3, God the Father: “God the eternal Father is . . . just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 35).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 10, p. 98. “It is through faith that spiritual life is begotten, and we are enabled to do the works of righteousness” (p. 98).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 7, pp. 18-22 (“Two Happy Mothers”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Psalm 25:4, 5 (power text)
- Tuesday—1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Wednesday—Numbers 12:3
- Thursday—Proverbs 6:16, 17; 16:18, 19
- Friday—Matthew 5:14-16

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?
- What can I learn from Mary’s response to God’s call?
- How can I receive a humble heart?
- What do I need to do to allow God to be first in my life?
- What changes do I need to make to allow Jesus to have control of my life?
- In what ways does my life reflect to others that God is the center of my life?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Discuss the implications of being “humble” versus being “haughty.”
- Talk about what characterizes humble people.
- Share with each other ways you could serve God and others in humility.

8 Coming up next week!
Zechariah praises God. Salvation is God’s greatest desire for each of us.
Core teaching of this lesson
God is personally interested in my salvation.

Power text (memory verse)
“The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace” (Luke 1:78, 79).

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).

Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chap. 10, pp. 97-100. “In ourselves we are incapable of doing any good thing; but that which we cannot do will be wrought by the power of God in every submissive and believing soul” (p. 98).

The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story (1994), vol. 7, pp. 18-22 (“Two Happy Mothers”)

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Luke 1:78, 79 (power text)
- Sunday—Luke 1:5-17
- Tuesday—Luke 1:5-25, 57-66
- Wednesday—Luke 1:67-79
- Thursday—Psalm 89:1, 2
- Friday—Genesis 3:15

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- Why was Zechariah's response to God a song of praise?
- What does his song tell us about God's plan for our salvation?
- How do I find assurance that God will guide in each stage of my life?
- What are some of God's promises for salvation?
- For what can I praise God right now?
- How will my attitude of praise reflect to others God's love?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Discuss ways that God has worked out your family's salvation.
- Share with each other some of God's blessings to you this week.
- Sing together some songs of praise to God.

Coming up next week!
As a child Jesus shared God’s love. We worship God when His character is reflected in our lives.
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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

Holy Spirit

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

Creation

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

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.)

Great Controversy

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

endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1–11.

Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3:1-11; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9.)

9 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 partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22, 53; Jer. 31:31–34; Ezek. 33:11, 36:25–27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3–8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21–26; 5:6–10; 8:1–4, 14–17; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17–21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4–7; Eph. 2:4–10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3–7; Heb. 8:7–12; 1 Peter 1:23, 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.)

11 Growing in Christ

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

12 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. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Dan. 7:9-14; Micah 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 1, 4; 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; 11:23-30; Rev. 3:20.)

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

18 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 therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3, Rev. 12:17; 14:12.)

21 **Stewardship**

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

22 **Christian Behavior**

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

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

Second Coming of Christ

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

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 unconscionable 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. 144:3; 150:6; Eze. 14:5; 6, 10; Dan. 12:2; 3, 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.)

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.)

New Earth

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

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

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