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 http://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 (multisensory)! Use what works.
- Talk with their Sabbath School teachers and let them know what you are doing at home, so they can support 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.
At Home in My Church
(Early Christians care for others)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ: “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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 201).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 7, pp. 70, 71: “Their [early Christians’] works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth” (p. 71).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 26-30 (“Sons of Encouragement”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Galatians 6:10 (power text)
- Sunday—Acts 4:32
- Monday—Acts 4:33
- Tuesday—Acts 4:34, 35
- Wednesday—Acts 4:36, 37
- Thursday—Acts 2:44
- Friday—Acts 2:45

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What did the early Christians do for each other?
- Do I know what the needs of my community are?
- How can I be more involved in my community?
- Why is it so important to be kind to other believers?
- What do I have that I am willing to share with others?
- How could I help fulfill the needs of others?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- As a family, begin putting change in a jar just for helping other Christians.
- Look through your closets. Are there things your family could give to someone else?
- Together with your family, write a note that you can give to someone on Sabbath.

8 Coming up next week!
Early Christians spread the Word in spite of persecution. We can share Jesus’ love in all circumstances.
Spreading the Word
(Early Christians are persecuted)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
God’s love unites us and brings us joy.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

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

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 11, pp. 103-111: “Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men” (p. 110).

6 The Bible Story reference:
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 31-34 (“Man With the Shining Face”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Romans 8:28 (power text)
Sunday—Acts 7:54-58
Monday—Acts 7:59, 60
Tuesday—Acts 8:1, 2
Wednesday—Acts 8:3
Thursday—Acts 8:4
Friday—Acts 8:5-8

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
■ How did God bring a blessing out of the evils of persecution?
■ How is the perseverance of the disciples inspiring to me?
■ How does Jesus’ love bind me to Him?
■ When was a time I had to take a stand for Christ?
■ What will help me stay true to God in times of persecution?
■ How can I help someone who is discouraged?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
■ Share your experiences about trusting God in difficult times.
■ Talk with your family and plan ways to support other Sabbath School members.
■ As a family, write a letter of encouragement to a person who is working for God.

8 Coming up next week!
Saul is converted! We follow Jesus by serving others.
Lesson 3  Year A  Qtr 2

Blinded
(Saul is converted)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We build community when we use our God-given talents to share with others His love.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth’” (Acts 13:47).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 10, The Experience of Salvation: “Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God’s sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 133).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 12, pp. 112-122: “The conversion of Saul is a striking evidence of the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit to convict men of sin” (p. 120).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 42-46 (“Enemy Becomes a Champion”)

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

- Sabbath—Acts 13:47 (power text)
- Sunday—Acts 9:1, 2
- Monday—Acts 9:3
- Tuesday—Acts 9:4
- Wednesday—Acts 9:5, 6
- Thursday—Acts 9:7-9
- Friday—Acts 9:10-19

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

- What changed Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a missionary?
- What is my experience in meeting Jesus?
- How has God gifted me to build others up?
- When have I used my strengths to tell others about God?
- In what ways can I use my gifts to spread the good news?
- With whom can I share the joy of my relationship with Jesus?

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

- Have each family member share something using their God-given talent.
- Plan a time for family members to use their special gift to tell someone about Jesus.
- Discuss ways you could have a Christlike spirit even when you are persecuted.

8 Coming up next week!
Christians support one another. As Christians we should be ready to help and support each other.
Core teaching of this lesson
God’s people are stronger when we support one another and work together.

Power text (memory verse)
“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 12, The Church: “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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 163).

Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 16, pp. 155-165: “God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will” (p. 163).

The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 65-67 (“Saul Becomes Paul”)

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
  - Sabbath—Ephesians 2:19, 20 (power text)
  - Sunday—Acts 11:19
  - Monday—Acts 11:20, 21
  - Tuesday—Acts 11:22-24
  - Wednesday—Acts 11:25, 26
  - Friday—Acts 11:19-30

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- What helped the first Christians spread the gospel abroad?
- How did the first Christians support those in need in their community?
- How do I work together for the good of the community?
- Do I acknowledge that all I have belongs to Christ?
- What else can I do to contribute to others’ needs?
- How could I fulfill God’s plan for me as a missionary?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Share stories about negative experiences that turned out to be a blessing in the end.
- Discuss ways your family can help church members in need.
- Plan to do something to help someone this week.

Coming up next week!
Paul used new approaches to evangelism! God wants us to accept and love others.
**Core teaching of this lesson**
We follow Jesus’ example when we love and accept others.

**Power text (memory verse)**
“No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are” (Acts 15:11).

**Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**
Our Beliefs no. 5, The Holy Spirit: “God the eternal Spirit . . . draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God” (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 69).

**Where this lesson is found in Scripture**

**Ellen White reference**
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 19, pp. 188-200: “He [Paul] felt the need of counsel, and when matters of importance arose, he was glad to lay these before the church and to unite with his brethren in seeking God for wisdom to make right decisions” (p. 200).

**The Bible Story reference**
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 76-78 (“Big Argument Settled”)

**Family worship ideas**
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Acts 15:11 (power text)

**Where this lesson is found chrono-logically in Scripture**

- **Sunday**—Acts 15:1, 2
- **Monday**—Acts 15:3
- **Tuesday**—Acts 15:4
- **Wednesday**—Acts 15:5-9
- **Thursday**—Acts 17:26, 27
- **Friday**—Revelation 5:9, 10; 7:9; 14:6

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

- What can I learn from how Paul treated the Gentiles?
- How does the gospel break down barriers?
- When have I experienced tensions caused by cultural differences?
- How can I deal positively with people who live and believe differently than I?
- How can I accept people without compromising my beliefs?
- To whom can I show acceptance today?

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

- Discuss how you should respond to those who try to pressure you into acting the way they do.
- As a family, plan to visit with someone who has a different cultural background.
- During worship, ask God for courage to defend those who are wronged by others.

**Coming up next week!**
We enjoy an abundant life when we surrender to Jesus. We serve others by sharing what Jesus has done for us.
Core teaching of this lesson
Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

Power text (memory verse)
“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

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

Where this lesson is found in Scripture
New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: Galatians 1; 2

Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 36, pp. 383-388: “He [Paul] took the position that every soul who would be saved must have a genuine, personal experience in the things of God” (p. 388).

The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 76-78 (“Big Argument Settled”); pp. 132-134 (“One Loving Family”)

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Galatians 2:20 (power text)
- Sunday—Galatians 1:6, 7
- Monday—Galatians 1:8, 9
- Tuesday—John 3:16
- Wednesday—Matthew 18:12-14
- Thursday—Galatians 2:17-21
- Friday—Ephesians 4:11-13

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- How did allowing Christ to control his life prepare Paul for service?
- What is the gospel of Christ?
- What does it mean to die to self?
- Why is it necessary to die to self in order to live for Christ?
- In what areas of service can I be useful?
- How can I share the good news by helping someone today?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Share specific examples of what it means to be crucified with Christ in your life.
- Discuss what John 3:16 means to your family.
- For worship, recite the power text and replace “I” with each family member’s name.

Coming up next week!
Paul is shipwrecked! Regardless of our circumstances God wants us to help those around us.
Lesson 7 Year A Qtr 2

Man Overboard
(Paul is shipwrecked)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all’” (Mark 9:35).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 11, Growing in Christ: “In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, . . . 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

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 118-122 (“Angel in the Storm”)

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

Sabbath—Mark 9:35 (power text)
Sunday—Acts 28:1, 2
Monday—Acts 28:3, 4
Tuesday—Acts 28:5, 6
Wednesday—Acts 28:7-9
Thursday—Luke 22:26
Friday—Matthew 20:26-28

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

■ What helped Paul to serve on the island of Malta even though he was a prisoner?
■ How did Paul reveal that He trusted God regardless of the circumstances?
■ What helps me trust God when things go wrong?
■ How can I reach out to others when I am hurting?
■ What obstacles in my life prevent me from serving God and others wholeheartedly?
■ How could I help those in need while experiencing my own time of crisis?

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

■ Share a time you served under difficult circumstances.
■ Read Luke 22:26 and list three ways your family can follow this counsel.
■ Talk about scenarios in which people around you may need your help.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul is a prisoner! It is a privilege to follow Jesus in service.
The Contented Prisoner
(Paul is imprisoned in Rome)

1. **Core teaching of this lesson**
   We can choose to serve God in the most difficult circumstances.

2. **Power text (memory verse)**
   “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:11-13).

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 that 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**
   The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 43, pp. 447-460: “Paul taught that religion is a practical, saving energy, a principle wholly from God, a personal experience of God’s renewing power upon the soul” (p. 451).

6. **The Bible Story reference**
   The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 125-127; 135-142; 157-160

7. **Family worship ideas**
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—Philippians 4:11-13 (power text)
   - Sunday—Acts 28:14, 15
   - Monday—Acts 28:16-20
   - Tuesday—Acts 28:21-23
   - Wednesday—Acts 28:24-28
   - Thursday—Acts 28:30, 31
   - Friday—Philippians 4:11-13

   Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
   - What did Paul share with the Jews in Rome?
   - How did the sharing of his personal story help strengthen Paul’s message?
   - How could Paul speak so confidently?
   - Do I allow God to use me anywhere?
   - In what practical ways can I share God’s love?
   - How do I reveal God to my friends?

   Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
   - Discuss situations that seem to make it impossible to serve others.
   - Find creative ways to serve the Lord.
   - Pray that your family will be willing to serve in any circumstance.

8. **Coming up next week!**
   Jesus says, “Go into all the world.” It is our privilege to share with others what Jesus has done for us.
Lesson 9 Year A Qtr 2

Burning Your Skis (The Great Commission)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission: “The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ. . . . This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 181).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Desire of Ages, chaps. 86, 87, pp. 818-835: “The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life” (p. 826).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 8, pp. 147-150 (“Homes for the Homeless”); vol. 9, pp. 182-186 (“Forty Wonderful Days”)

7 Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
Sabbath—Matthew 28:19, 20 (power text)
Sunday—Matthew 28:16, 17
Monday—Matthew 28:18
Tuesday—Matthew 28:19, 20
Wednesday—1 Peter 3:15
Thursday—Galatians 6:9
Friday—Acts 2:42-47

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

■ What does Jesus’ Great Commission mean to me?
■ How can I always be prepared to give a reason for the hope I have?
■ In what ways can I share the gospel message?
■ What is my story about what Jesus has done for me?
■ What are some other things I can do to “share” Jesus?

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

■ Discuss six ways you can personally follow Jesus’ challenge in Matthew 28:19, 20.
■ Find an outreach program at church in which to get involved.
■ Think of three people to whom your family could witness this week.

8 Coming up next week!
Paul teaches about God’s armor. God has provided us an armor of protection against evil.
Lesson 10  Year A  Qtr 2

Wearing God’s Armor
(Paul teaches about Christian armor)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
We worship God when we “wear” His “armor.”

2 Power text (memory verse)
“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 1, The Holy Scriptures: “God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the 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” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 11).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
The Acts of the Apostles, chap. 49, pp. 498-508: “God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip for the struggle” (p. 502).

6 The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 10, pp. 135-138 (“God’s Armor”)

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

- Sabbath—Ephesians 6:13 (power text)
- Sunday—Ephesians 6:10-12
- Monday—Ephesians 6:13-18
- Tuesday—Psalm 119:11
- Wednesday—2 Corinthians 10:3, 4
- Thursday—Matthew 6:9-13
- Friday—Ephesians 6:10-18

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

- Why do we need “the full armor of God”?
- What are the different components of the armor of God?
- How do we “put on the full armor of God”?
- What are some practical ways to “flee” the devil?
- Do I spend enough time in prayer to defeat the devil?
- How does wearing God’s armor empower me to worship Him?

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

- List the pieces of armor and discuss which are defensive and which are offensive.
- Describe three everyday objects that could serve as symbols for God’s care and protection.
- Talk about a time your family felt God’s protection especially spiritually.

8 Coming up next week!
We are fearfully and wonderfully made. God created us for Himself.
Core teaching of this lesson
We praise God who created us for companionship with Himself.

Power text (memory verse)
“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14).

Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
Our Beliefs no. 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 recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 311).

Where this lesson is found in Scripture

Ellen White reference
Christ’s Object Lessons, chap. 25, pp. 339-342, 353, 355; The Ministry of Healing, chap. 18, pp. 241-258: “By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in contact is consciously or unconsciously affected” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 339).

The Bible Story reference
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 39-41 (“God Makes a Man”); vol. 1, pp. 47-50 (“Fairest Creature of Creation”)

Family worship ideas
Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
- Sabbath—Psalm 139:14 (power text)
- Sunday—Genesis 1:26, 27
- Monday—Genesis 2:7
- Tuesday—Psalm 139:1-18
- Wednesday—Psalm 139:13-16
- Thursday—Psalm 139:17, 18
- Friday—Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7; Psalm 139:1-18

Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
- For what blessings do I praise God?
- Does my influence reflect God’s love to those around me?
- How do I show God’s love and grace in my interactions with others?
- How does my worship and praise to God help someone trust in Him?
- What can I do to help my family to connect with those around us?
- How can I share God’s love this week with someone who doesn’t know Him?

Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
- Pray and ask God to help you become all that He planned for you to be.
- Tell your child(ren) about the day they were born.
- With your family, sing or play praise songs for worship.

Coming up next week!
We commit our lives to Jesus. We worship God when we commit our lives to Him.
Dear Diary

(A commitment like a marriage)

1. **Core teaching of this lesson**
   Jesus transforms our lives when we commit our hearts to Him.

2. **Power text (memory verse)**
   “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

3. **Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain**
   Our Beliefs no. 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. . . . 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**
   New Testament, Letters to People and Churches: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:6, 7; James 2:14-17

5. **Ellen White reference**
   *Steps to Christ*, chap. 7, pp. 57-65: “The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers” (p. 59).

6. **The Bible Story reference**
   *The Bible Story*, vol. 10, pp. 176-179, 196-200

7. **Family worship ideas**
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—2 Corinthians 5:17 (power text)
   - Sunday—Colossians 2:6, 7
   - Monday—James 2:14
   - Tuesday—James 2:15, 16
   - Wednesday—James 2:17
   - Thursday—Romans 12:1
   - Friday—1 Corinthians 13

   Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
   - How are marriage vows similar to a person’s commitment to God?
   - What is the evidence that I made a total commitment to Jesus?
   - How has Jesus changed my life?
   - Do others see the change in my life since I know Jesus?
   - Does my life reflect the fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22, 23?
   - How can I lead someone to Jesus?

   Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
   - Share with each other your story of when you gave your life to Jesus.
   - Discuss ways to put your faith into action.
   - Talk about what it means to give your life to Jesus. Commit your life to Him.

8. **Coming up next week!**
   Jesus is coming soon! We show our love for God by sharing Jesus with others and preparing for His return.
Welcome Back, Jesus! (Jesus is coming back soon)

1 Core teaching of this lesson
   God’s Spirit empowers us to tell others about the blessed hope of Jesus’ soon return.

2 Power text (memory verse)
   “Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:11).

3 Key doctrine that this lesson helps to support and explain
   Our Beliefs no. 25, The Second Coming of Christ: “The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 371).

4 Where this lesson is found in Scripture

5 Ellen White reference
   The Great Controversy, chap. 40, pp. 635-652: “The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. . . And every mountain and island is moved out of its place” (p. 641).

6 The Bible Story reference

7 Family worship ideas
   Use the following texts to explore the core teaching with your children:
   - Sabbath—Acts 1:11 (power text)
   - Sunday—Matthew 24:36-44
   - Monday—Matthew 24:45-51
   - Tuesday—Luke 21:25-31
   - Wednesday—Acts 1:8
   - Thursday—John 5:28, 29
   - Friday—Isaiah 25:9

   Use the following questions as discussion starters of the lesson with your family:
   - What reminds me of the reality and nearness of Jesus’ coming?
   - Why do I expect Jesus to return soon?
   - How do I prepare for the second coming of Jesus?
   - What is my greatest hope when I think of Jesus’ coming?
   - How does my life reflect that Jesus is coming soon?
   - What am I doing to help spread the good news of His soon return?

   Choose from the following activities to help energize your time together:
   - Discuss ways the Holy Spirit can give each of you the power to tell others about Jesus.
   - Share with your family names of the people whom you wish to see at the resurrection.
   - Sing together “Lift Up the Trumpet” for worship.

8 Coming up next week!
   War breaks out in heaven. We live in harmony with God’s will when we observe His law.
1 The 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 The 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 The 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 The 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 The 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 1:6; 3:3; 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 The 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. 1:26-27; 15:3; 5:1-2; 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. 2:23; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 3:4; 4:7; 8, 11, 20.)

8 The 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,
10 The 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 2:23, 21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.)

11 Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demoniac 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, 16, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16–18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9, 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)

12 The 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 The 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 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 The 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 The 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 The 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. 5:12-15; Isa. 56:5; 6:5; 58:13, 14; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Matt. 12:1-12; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:16; Heb. 4:1-11.)

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/uni00A0Chron. 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. 6:1-4; 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 2:8, 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 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; Ezek. 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 The 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.)

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; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; 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 The 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; Ezek. 28:18, 19; Mal. 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Rev. 20; Rev. 21:1-5.)

28 The 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.