

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the First Half 2003

First Quarter

One Soul—The Search

Second Quarter

One Soul in Service

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Contents

One Soul–The Search

Introduction	4
1. The Miracle of Life.	5
2. The Lost Soul	9
3. Four Sides of the Human Being	14
4. My Soul	18
5. Basic Principles for Reaching One Soul	22
6. One Soul–the Child	27
7. Youth—a Time of Test and Choice	33
8. Reaching Different Personalities	37
9. The Poor, Sick, and Elderly	42
10. The Wealthy and Educated	46
11. The “Teachable Moment”	50
12. One Soul– Jesus’ Primary Interest	54
13. The Divine Potential.	59
Missionary Report from General Conference	
Education Department	64

One Soul in Service

Introduction	66
1. Connection to the Almighty.	67
2. Preaching.	72
3. Teaching.	77
4. Miracles and Healing	81
5. Government and Administration	85
6. The Gift of Languages	90
7. Noah—One Soul at a Turning Point	95
8. Abraham—One Influential Soul	99
9. Job—One Soul in Service.	103
10. Moses—One Soul in Leadership	107
11. Joseph—One Soul All Alone	111
12. Daniel—One Resolute Soul	116
13. My Resolve to Serve	120
Missionary Report from Russia	124

Introduction

“**T**he salvation of souls is of greater consequence than the whole world. One soul saved, to live throughout the ages of eternity, to praise God and the Lamb, is of more value than millions in money. Wealth sinks into insignificance when compared with the worth of souls for whom Christ died.”
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 246.

The focus of this quarter’s Sabbath School Lessons is on the search for one soul. Too often we preach about or discuss missionary work, saving souls, and spreading the message of heaven in terms that are so general or habitual that they have become meaningless or have no seeming effect on the church members. Therefore, we wish to look at various aspects of the amazing gift of life and also at how Christ worked—mostly with one soul at a time—and then provide encouragement for each person to identify his or her personal mission to minister to one soul.

Each one of us is responsible for his own soul—true. But we are also surrounded by many, many others in our family, in our daily occupation, in our church, in our community, and wherever we go. Besides, no one is an island to himself; each is influenced by and has an effect on everyone around him.

But how can one be the greatest possible blessing to others? These lessons present some opportunities and ways; but, more than that, they provide a forum for personal thought, discussion in the Sabbath School, and study in extended groups outside the Sabbath school on how one can identify and carry out his personal mission to minister to one soul at a time. A powerful force will be unleashed when each person who professes to have chosen to cast his lot with Heaven consciously connects with the Source of power made available to all who minister in behalf of the heavenly kingdom.

No one is left out of this process, for each one of us is constantly receiving and giving on various levels every day. The primary concern here is how to make our service more focused and effective. May God’s Spirit come very close to every student of the Sabbath school and inspire each one of us to resolve:

“Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
and love that soul through me,
and may I humbly do my part,
to win that soul to Thee.”

—*Baylus Benjamin McKinney*

—THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

**Special Sabbath School Offering for the
PHILIPPINES**

God bless the offerings of each generous heart!

1

Sabbath, January 4, 2003

The Miracle of Life

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 21.

OBJECTIVES

- To contemplate the miracle of life and love
- To understand how God views life
- To gain a new respect for the value of all life
- To make a new resolve to cherish and practice God’s attitude toward life

LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE

- 1. Scientific evidence and the Biblical record show that life comes only from life—from God Himself. What relationship exists between life, as God created it, and love? Genesis 1: 1, 27, 28; Deuteronomy 30:20; James 1:12.**

“God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, blessings flow out from Him to all the creatures He has made. In His infinite love He has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature, and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men.” —(*Review and Herald*, December 6, 1887) *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 23.

- 2. Why is life without love really not life at all? Matthew 24:12; 1 John 3:14.**
- 3. What is the result when selfishness rules, instead of love and respect? Genesis 6:11-13; Ezekiel 34:4; Micah 2:1, 2.**

“Human beings belong to one great family—the family of God. The Creator designed that they should respect and love one another, ever manifesting a pure, unselfish interest in one another’s welfare. But Satan’s aim has been to lead men to self first; and yielding themselves to his control, they have developed a selfishness that has filled the world with misery and strife, setting human beings at variance with one another.

“Selfishness is the essence of depravity, and because human beings have yielded to its power, the opposite of allegiance to God is seen in the world today. Nations, families, and individuals are filled with a desire to make self a center. Man longs to rule over his fellow men. Separating himself in his egotism from God and his fellow beings, he follows his unrestrained inclinations. He acts as if the good of others depended on their subjection to his supremacy.”—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 24.

THE CORE OF LIFE

- 4. On what is life based? Deuteronomy 30:6, 16; 2 Corinthians 13:11.**

“Love to God purifies and ennobles every taste and desire, intensifies every affection, and brightens every worthy pleasure. It enables men to appreciate and enjoy all that is true, and good, and beautiful.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 53.

- 5. What is the great life standard? Matthew 22:36-40.**

“Christ has declared, ‘If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.’ God’s character is expressed in His law; and he who keeps that law, must walk even as Christ walked, revealing in his life the excellence of its principles, which are holy, just, and good. But with a large number of church members, very little attention is given to God’s great standard

of righteousness. They are not doers of the words of Jesus. They neither love God supremely, nor their neighbor as themselves. There is very little Christlike sympathy and compassion, forbearance, and love, woven into their life experience. These are, in truth, commandment breakers, and thus they stand registered in the books of heaven.” –*Home Missionary*, October 1, 1897.

THE VALUE AND PURPOSE OF LIFE

6. What revealed how highly God values each single life? 1 John 4:9; Luke 19:10; Matthew 18:11.

“We can understand the value of the human soul only as we realize the greatness of the sacrifice made for its redemption. The word of God declares that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price. It is at an immense cost that we have been placed upon vantage ground, where we can find liberty from the bondage of sin wrought by the fall in Eden. Adam’s sin plunged the race into hopeless misery; but by the sacrifice of the Son of God, a second probation was granted to man. In the plan of redemption a way of escape is provided for all who will avail themselves of it. God knew that it was impossible for man to overcome in his own strength, and He has provided help for him.” –*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pp. 15, 16.

7. By contrast, what is the enemy’s purpose with mankind? 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9.

8. What is God’s ultimate purpose for every individual and for the whole human family? Genesis 1:28; Daniel 7:27; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

“In creating man, God designed that each human being should be a part of the web of humanity. He pledged Himself to make every provision for the happiness of men and women by making it possible for them to be

like Him. It is His purpose that nothing shall be wanting to their happiness if they remain loyal to His commandments. They are the objects of His special love and care, and He would make them consecrated channels through which blessings from His abundant resources shall flow to the world. How important then that each act his part with fidelity, striving with all his power to fulfill God's purpose for him." *—Signs of the Times*, July 26, 1899.

FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

- **What causes people to lose respect for life and its value?**
- **Concerning this, what danger do I personally face, and why?**
- **Considering my personal relationships, what do they reveal about how I regard human life?**
- **What needs to take place in our local church to improve our own respect for life? Why is this extremely important?**

FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

- **Consider various areas of life in which morality and the sacredness of life are under attack (e.g., media, modern science, social mores, and education).**
- **How can those who cherish divine principles be a more effective influence to counteract such attacks?**
- **What needs to be done in our families to help children keep from being drawn into disrespectful ways of thinking and acting? How can they learn not to copy disrespectful behavior but rather to value other human beings?**
- **How can our ways of thinking be insulated from evil and brought into harmony with the principles (mind) of God?**

The Lost Soul

“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.” Matthew 18:11.

OBJECTIVES

- To define what God is searching for
- To identify the enemy’s weaknesses
- To see ourselves as partners in the search for one soul

GOD’S SEARCH

1. **Ever since the great enemy perpetrated his attack against God and His creation, who has God been searching for? Genesis 3:8, 9. What question is He still asking men and women? Genesis 3:10, 11, 13.**

2. **After studying Luke chapter 15, explain the meaning of the differences in the things that were lost and the ways in which the searches were conducted.**

“In the parable of the lost sheep He has presented to our imagination no picture of a sorrowful shepherd returning without the sheep. The shepherd’s search ceases not until the lost is brought back to the fold. The woman whose coin is lost searches till she finds it. These parables do not speak of failure but of success and joy in the recovery of the lost. Here is the divine guarantee that not one lost soul is overlooked, not one is left unsuccored.” *—Australasian Union Conference Record, July 1, 1900, pp. 117, 118.*

**3. For what is God especially searching? What does He want?
Jeremiah 17:10; Proverbs 23:26.**

“It is Christ who searches the hearts and tries the reins of the children of men. All things are naked and open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do, neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight. In the days of ancient Israel the sacrifices brought to the high priest were cut open to the backbone to see if they were sound at heart. So the sacrifices we bring today are laid open before the piercing eye of our great High Priest. He opens and inspects every sacrifice brought by the human race, that He may prove whether it is worthy of being presented to the Father.” —(Manuscript 42, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1110.

4. What does God’s search of the human heart include? Psalm 139:23, 24; Zechariah 1:12; Isaiah 1:16-18.

“‘Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart’—the human heart, with its conflicting emotions of joy and sorrow; the wandering, wayward heart, which is the abode of so much impurity and deceit. 1 Samuel 16:7. He knows its motives, its very intents and purposes.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 34.

“There are many important lessons for each to learn. Let all remember that there is not a motive in the heart of any man that the Lord does not clearly see. The motives of each one are weighed as carefully as if the destiny of the human agent depended upon this one result.... Let us each one consider carefully the solemn truth: God in heaven is true, and there is not a design however intricate, not a motive however carefully hidden, that He does not clearly understand. He reads the secret devising of every heart. Man may plan out crooked actions for the future, thinking that God does not understand, but in that great day when the books are opened, and every man is judged by the things written in the books, those actions will appear as they are....

“There is no one, however earnestly he may be striving to do his best, who can say, ‘I have no sin.’ He who would say this would be under a dangerous deception. ‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.’” —(Manuscript 23, Feb. 8, 1906) *The Upward Look*, p. 53.

5. What is the enemy trying to accomplish while God searches for the soul? Psalm 143:3; Matthew 13:25; Acts 13:10; Galatians 1:7; Matthew 24:24; Romans 16:17, 18.

“Satan is the god of the world; his influence is to pervert the senses, control the human mind for evil, and drive his victims to violence and crime. He sows discord and darkens the intellect. The work of Christ is to break his power over the children of men. Yet how many in every department of life, in the home, in business transactions, and in the church, turn Jesus from their doors but let the hateful monster in.

“It is no wonder that violence and crime have spread over the earth, and moral darkness, like the pall of death, shrouds the cities and habitations of men. Satan controls many households, people, and churches. He watches the indications of moral corruption, and introduces his specious temptations, carefully leading men into worse and worse evils, till utter depravity is the result. The only safety is to watch unto prayer against his devices; for he goes about, in the last days, like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” —*Redemption: Or the Miracles of Christ, the Mighty One*, p. 92.

CONNECTION WITH THE ALMIGHTY

6. But what is Satan's fatal weakness? James 4:7; John 15:4, 5.

“Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure.

“No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 530.

7. What is God's dual purpose in forming a partnership with man? John 15:7, 8; James 1:27. Describe how this was effected in the church at Ephesus. (See Revelation 2:1-6.)

“At the first the experience of the church at Ephesus was marked with childlike simplicity and fervor. The believers sought earnestly to obey every word of God, and their lives revealed an earnest, sincere love for Christ. They rejoiced to do the will of God because the Saviour was in their hearts as an abiding presence. Filled with love for their Redeemer, their highest aim was to win souls to Him. They did not think of hoarding the precious treasure of the grace of Christ. They felt the importance of their calling; and, weighted with the message, ‘On earth peace, good will toward men,’ they burned with desire to carry the glad tidings of salvation to earth’s remotest bounds. And the world took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Sinful men, repentant, pardoned, cleansed, and sanctified, were brought into partnership with God through His Son....

“In every city the work was carried forward. Souls were converted, who in their turn felt that they must tell of the inestimable treasure they had received. They could not rest till the light which had illumined their minds was shining upon others. Multitudes of unbelievers were made acquainted with the reasons of the Christian’s hope. Warm, inspired personal appeals were made to the erring, to the outcast, and to those who, while professing to know the truth, were lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 578-580.

8. What success will this partnership achieve? Revelation 12:11.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What is the difference between a lost soul who will be lost and a lost soul who will be saved?**
- **Although every soul “standeth or falleth” to his own Master (Romans 14:4) and must make his own personal “calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10), why will a self-centered person not be saved?**

- **Why is it so important constantly to sense that one is lost if he is not in partnership with God? What Bible text from this lesson presents this concept as a principle?**
- **Of what must I be afraid?** *See Christ's Object Lessons, p. 161.*

FOR FURTHER PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

- **Study and discuss the meaning and significance of the word “invincible” in the following statements:**

“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 17.

“Talk and act as if your faith was invincible.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147.

“Living faith alone will make them invincible and enable them to stand in the evil day, steadfast, unmovable, holding the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 183.

“Truthfulness and integrity are attributes of God, and he who possesses these attributes possesses a power that is invincible.” –*Review and Herald*, March 10, 1903.

- **What is success?**

Four Sides of the Human Being

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify four sides of the human being
- To become more conscious of the dynamic of the human being created in God’s image
- To help meet one’s own and others’ needs for balance of the four sides
- To recognize the different sides of man as points of contact for God’s Spirit

1. **According to the Testimonies, the human being was created by God to develop spiritually, morally, mentally, and physically. With the help of the Bible verses provided and any others which you believe are particularly applicable, examine and explain the amazing human being and how God created him. Let us begin with the most important side.**

- *Spiritual:* Romans 1:11, 12; 7:14; 12:2; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 2:13, 16; 10:3, 4; Ephesians 1:3; 4:23; 5:19; Philippians 2:3, 5; Titus 1:15; Galatians 6:18; 1 Peter 2:5.

- *Social/Moral:* John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:10, 13, 15-18, 20, 21; 13:8; 14:13; 15:7, 14; 1 Corinthians 16:20; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2, 3, 32; Colossians 3:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 10:24, 25; 1 Peter 3:8-11; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12.

- *Mental:* 1 Chronicles 28:9; Proverbs 29:11; Isaiah 26:3; Daniel 2:29; 5:20; Matthew 22:37; Luke 8:35; 12:28; Acts 17:11; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 1:13.

- *Physical*: Deuteronomy 30:9; Matthew 6:31, 32; Romans 6:12; 8:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:21.

“The habits and principles of a teacher should be considered of even greater importance than his literary qualifications. If he is a sincere Christian he will feel the necessity of having an equal interest in the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual education of his scholars.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 135.

Looking carefully at the different sides of men, women, and children, we marvel at the wonderful interplay of spiritual depth, social grace, intellectual mind, and physical body which God gave the human being.

2. **Choose one or more of the following texts and explain how God sees the interrelationship of the different sides of a human being: 1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 2:3-10; 6:12; Philippians 2:2; Colossians 1:9, 21; 3:12-16; Hebrews 8:10-12; Galatians 6:1.**
3. **In 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, the apostle Paul explained that conflicts can arise inside oneself, as well as among brethren. What did he explain as being the reason for this?**

“It is selfishness that causes variance in the family circle and in the church.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 610.

COMING INTO BALANCE

4. **Through justification by faith and submission to the indwelling Christ, what discipline does the child of God recognize as necessary to maintain the divine balance? 1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 6:6-14; 1 Peter 5:6, 7.**
5. **How can we be channels to help others become balanced? Philippians 2:2-8.**

“God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character. Through a connection with Christ he will have clearer and broader views. His discernment will be more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. He who longs to be of service to Christ is so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 251.

“Without the power of God’s grace and Spirit we cannot reach the high standard He has placed before us. There is a divine excellence of character to which we are to attain, and in striving to meet the standard of heaven, divine incentives will urge us on, the mind will become balanced, and the restlessness of the soul will be banished in repose in Christ.”—*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 258.

DISCERNING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

6. How can the understanding of the different sides of man help us increase our effectiveness in being a channel of blessing to one soul? Matthew 10:8; 1 Corinthians 3:6-10.

“The physical, mental, and spiritual powers should be under the control of the God of heaven who gives us life, who gives us food, who gives us every blessing.”—*Review and Herald*, April 22, 1890.

“Nothing can, or ever will, give character to the work in the presentation of truth to help the people just where they are, so well as Samaritan work. A work properly conducted to save poor sinners that have been passed by the churches, will be the entering-wedge whereby the truth will find standing-room. A different order of things needs to be established among us as a people, and in doing this class of work, there would be created an entirely different atmosphere surrounding the souls of the workers; for the Holy Spirit communicates to all those who are doing God’s service, and those who are worked by the Holy Spirit will be a power for God in lifting up, strengthening, and saving the souls that are ready to perish.”—*Special Testimony for Ministers and Workers*, No. 11 (1898), p. 32.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Why is it so important to seek to be a balanced Christian?**
- **What attitude do I need so the Holy Spirit can accomplish this in me? How does faith (trust) in God and His word play an important role in this?**
- **What effect does sin have on the different sides of the human being?**
- **Discuss how we can develop all sides of our natures and how that relates to soul winning. (For example, how does a lack of good manners hinder our being able to reach a soul for Christ?)**

FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

- **Select a Bible story or event, and explain how one or more sides of one human being or a group of people caused a particular outcome (e.g., the experience at Kadesh-barnea; Israel's experience under King Solomon; the story of Balaam).**
- **How have recent or past events in the world turned out a certain way because of certain leaders' or individuals' lack of balance or strength in one or more parts of the human being?**
- **Although we want to be balanced on all sides, as was Jesus (Luke 2:52), we generally have special talent and strength in one area. How can this cause difficulties in the church, and yet how can it also bring about a great blessing? How does the answer to this question depend on one's personal attitude?**

My Soul

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine one’s individual strengths, weaknesses, and experience
- To search for divine guidance in determining one’s own mission for the heavenly kingdom today
- To make a personal commitment to have a partnership with God in carrying out that mission

EXAMINING ONE’S GIFTS

1. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11 presents the importance of different abilities supplied by God in the body of Christ—the church. Find one area in the list that most nearly corresponds to your personal strength and talent. Explain how this has or can have a practical application in searching for one soul.**
2. **The principles governing the spiritual gifts are presented in 1 Corinthians 12:11-27. Read them carefully, and then summarize in your own words what attitude you believe they encompass. See also 2 Corinthians 8:12; 1 Peter 4:10.**

“When man by faith walks with God, he uses the great talent of life to the best advantage. As far as possible, he should keep mind, soul, and body in a healthful condition, that his discernment may be clear, that he may understand spiritual things. He must not be so devoted to common business things that he will make no difference between the sacred and

the common, and like Nadab and Abihu neglect the special requirement that associates his service with a holy God. He is not to think that he is at liberty to use his own supposedly superior qualifications, without the holy fire, the vital, sanctifying element that makes his service acceptable to God.” –*The 1888 Materials*, p. 1674.

CARRYING OUT ONE’S MISSION—A PERSONAL CALL

3. In accordance with what attitude will God help each person manage his personal responsibility? 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ecclesiastes 9:10.

“Let every ray of light which shines from the word be heeded as the eternal truth of God. Then as you place your will on the Lord’s side, look around for some work to do for the Master. Set to work at whatever your hand finds to do; for it is in practicing truth, in blessing others, that you work out your own salvation. If God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure, you will cultivate those traits of character that every heir of heaven must possess.

“The reason many have so superficial an experience is that they do so much for themselves and so little for Jesus. Intercourse with those who are in need of help, with the purpose of saving their souls, will lead us to pray for wisdom, and look to Jesus as our helper. By unselfish labor for others, we shall establish ourselves in the faith far more firmly than by listening to so many sermons. The Holy Spirit will be our helper, giving us arguments with which to meet opposition, and in all our work giving us steadfast faith and unshaken confidence. Thus we shall gain an experience of more value than gold, silver, or precious stones.” –*Review and Herald*, January 12, 1897.

4. How and in what settings does God present opportunities to reach one soul? See John 4:6-42.

“Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives. All who are consecrated to God are channels of light. God makes them instruments of righteousness to communicate to others the light of truth.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 632.

“The result of the work of Jesus, as He sat, weary and hungry, at the

well, was widespread in blessing. The one soul whom He sought to help became a means of reaching others and bringing them to the Saviour. This is ever the way that the work of God has made progress on the earth. Let your light shine, and other lights will be kindled.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 195.

5. Nevertheless, to what is each one still connected? 1 Corinthians 12:18.

“Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of His recognized followers on earth. Jesus is the friend of sinners; and His heart is touched with their woe. He has all power, both in heaven and on earth; but He respects the means that He has ordained for the enlightenment and salvation of men; He directs sinners to the church, which He has made a channel of light to the world.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 122.

COMMITMENT TO A PARTNERSHIP

6. What personal commitment is each child of God called to make? Matthew 20:2, 4, 7; 10:8 (see also 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; Galatians 3:27).

7. What is the Saviour’s promise? Matthew 28:20, last part.

“Daily beset by temptation, constantly opposed by the leaders of the people, Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men, He must commune with God, pleading for energy, perseverance, and steadfastness. Thus He showed His disciples where His strength lay. Without this daily communion with God, no human being can gain power for service. It is the privilege of every one to commit himself, with all his trials and temptations, his sorrows and disappointments, to the loving Heavenly Father. No one who does this, who makes God his confidant, will fall a prey to the enemy.” —*Review and Herald*, November 10, 1910.

8. The Holy Spirit seeks to secure the attention of every human being through one or more of his sides, and each human witness for God does the same. How does this work? Matthew 10:20; 2 Corinthians 4:13.

“All the varied capabilities that men possess—of mind and soul and body—are given them by God, to be so employed as to reach the highest possible degree of excellence. But this cannot be a selfish and exclusive culture; for the character of God, whose likeness we are to receive, is benevolence and love. Every faculty, every attribute, with which the Creator has endowed us is to be employed for His glory and for the uplifting of our fellow men. And in this employment is found its purest, noblest, and happiest exercise.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 595.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What needs do I recognize around me? In what sense are they opportunities?**
- **What does God expect of me when I see such needs?**
- **For what purpose have I been entrusted by Heaven with insight, abilities, and talents?**
- **What relationship is there between my taking care of my own soul and my caring for other souls?**

FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

- **Get together with your family or a close group of friends and examine your individual and collective strengths; discuss ways to be a channel of blessing for God as an individual or in teams, depending on your abilities and resources.**
- **Examine how God has worked with you personally in the past and consider under prayer how you and those around you can be a greater blessing than before.**

Basic Principles for Reaching One Soul

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.” John 4:34.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the high purpose for each soul’s existence in this world
- To make a commitment to fulfill that purpose (one soul in search of another soul)
- To grasp and put into practice the divine principles necessary to carry out our mission

THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

1. **What was God’s original purpose for man? Psalm 37:29; Daniel 7:18.**

2. **How did Jesus define His personal mission to earth for the purpose of restoring the lost creation? Matthew 20:28; Luke 19:10; 4:16-21; John 6:40; 12:46, 50.**

3. **What part of that mission did He entrust to those who willingly connected themselves with Him? How were they to carry it out? John 20:21; 17:11, 14, 23, 21.**

“To the early church had been entrusted a constantly enlarging work—that of establishing centers of light and blessing wherever there were honest souls willing to give themselves to the service of Christ. The

proclamation of the gospel was to be world-wide in its extent, and the messengers of the cross could not hope to fulfill their important mission unless they should remain united in the bonds of Christian unity, and thus reveal to the world that they were one with Christ in God.... Their spiritual life and power was dependent on a close connection with the One by whom they had been commissioned to preach the gospel....

"Only as they were united with Christ could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies they would present before the world a united front and would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 90, 91.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES IN SEARCHING FOR A SOUL

4. Examine the following principles and explain their importance in the formation of God's kingdom:

- ***Free Will***

"The will is the governing power in the nature of man. If the will is set right, all the rest of the being will come under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the choice, the deciding power, the kingly power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or to disobedience." —*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pp. 147, 148.

"Jesus employed no miraculous agency to compel men to believe in Him. They were left to choose or reject Him, of their own free will. No direct power was to force them into obedience, and destroy the free moral agency that God has given to man." —*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 241.

"Men act out their own free will, either in accordance with a character placed under the molding of God or a character placed under the harsh rule of Satan." —*Review and Herald*, November 13, 1900.

- ***Personal Choice/Decision***

"No one is compelled to serve God. The full results of a man's choice rest upon himself, for he chooses of his own free will. Let him remember that if he chooses the principles of God, respecting and maintaining them, they become a part of his life, molding him according to the divine similitude. They are in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life." —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 219.

"...Christ represents the different results of the sowing as depending

upon the soil. In every case the sower and the seed are the same. Thus He teaches that if the word of God fails of accomplishing its work in our hearts and lives, the reason is to be found in ourselves. But the result is not beyond our control. True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become.”

—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 56.

- **Personal Responsibility**

“God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealings with human beings He recognizes the principle of personal responsibility. He seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence, and to impress the need of personal guidance. He desires to bring the human into association with the divine, that men may be transformed into the divine likeness. Satan works to thwart this purpose. He seeks to encourage dependence upon men. When minds are turned away from God, the tempter can bring them under his rule. He can control humanity.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 345.

“There must be far more personal responsibility, far more thinking and planning, far more mental power brought into the labor put forth for the Master. This would enlarge the capacity of the mind, and give keener perceptions as to what to do and how.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 416.

- **Respect**

“You must respect your own faith in order successfully to introduce it to others. By example as well as precept, you must show that you reverence your faith, speaking reverently of sacred things. Never allow one expression of lightness and trifling to escape your lips when quoting Scripture. As you take the Bible in your hands, remember that you are on holy ground. Angels are around you, and could your eyes be opened, you would behold them. Let your conduct be such that you will leave the impression upon every soul with whom you associate that a pure and holy atmosphere surrounds you.” —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 194, 195.

“...Every one who loves God in sincerity and truth will love the souls for whom Christ has died. If we wish to do good to souls, our success with these souls will be in proportion to their belief in our belief and appreciation of them. Respect shown to the human, struggling soul, is the sure means through Christ Jesus, of the restoration of the self-respect the man has lost.” —*The Gospel Herald*, May 1, 1898.

“All were created in His image, and even the most degraded are to be treated with respect and tenderness. God will hold us accountable for even a word spoken in contempt of one soul for whom Christ laid down His life.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 56.

- ***Harmony With God's Will/Character***

"We can see harmony in the word of God. We are to be in a condition to keep God's commandments and live, and His law as the apple of the eye. It is true sanctification to love God with all the heart, and with all the mind, and with all the strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. We must be subject to the will of God. We must not make our feelings a standard, but God's will must be our rule of action." –*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1890.

"Christians are to surrender their will to God's will, that they may maintain good works. They will be brought into circumstances where strong temptations will solicit them to indulge in evil. They will be brought into the society of those whose influence will tend to lead them to the indulgence of self in pleasure-seeking, and in gratification of natural inclination. This influence will be dangerous to the spiritual health of the soul. The Christian should withdraw himself from the company of those who are as a snare to his soul." –*The Youth's Instructor*, September 29, 1892.

5. How powerful is one's example in demonstration of divine principles through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? 2 Corinthians 3:18.

"We are dealing with men and women who are judgment bound. How careful should we be in every word and act to follow closely the Pattern, that our example may lead men to Christ. With what care should we seek so to present the truth that others by beholding its beauty and simplicity may be led to receive it. If our characters testify of its sanctifying power, we shall be a continual light to others—living epistles, known and read of all men." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 236.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What habits can I cultivate in my daily life to help me keep my mission in mind?**
- **What damage is done to a soul who is treated disrespectfully, as well as to one who is disrespectful to another person?**

- **How is it possible to have the mind of Christ—always respectful but always standing firm for truth (not indulging sin)?**

FOR FURTHER PERSONAL AND GROUP STUDY

- **Search for additional Bible texts which present the above principles of the heavenly kingdom, and discuss how they apply in your search for precious souls.**
- **Discuss what our witness should be like in the light of the following statement:**

“Some with whom you are brought in contact may be rough and uncourteous, but do not, because of this, be less courteous yourself. He who wishes to preserve his own self-respect must be careful not to wound needlessly the self-respect of others. This rule should be sacredly observed toward the dullest, the most blundering. What God intends to do with these apparently unpromising ones, you do not know. He has in the past accepted persons no more promising or attractive to do a great work for Him. His Spirit, moving upon the heart, has roused every faculty to vigorous action. The Lord saw in these rough, unhewn stones precious material, which would stand the test of storm and heat and pressure. God does not see as man sees. He does not judge from appearances, but searches the heart and judges righteously.” —*Gospel Workers*, pp. 122, 123.

Sabbath, February 7, 2003

One Soul—the Child

“He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:11.

OBJECTIVES

- To grasp the importance Heaven places on efforts to save a child, whether in one’s own family, within the church, or within our sphere of acquaintances and casual contact
- To understand the principles that are essential in helping the child’s character develop according to God’s will
- To resolve to minister more effectively to children individually

THE VALUE OF A CHILD

- 1. How does Heaven value a child? Why? Matthew 18:1-6; Psalm 127:3, 4; John 21:15.**

“The soul of the little child that believes in Christ is as precious in His sight as are the angels about His throne. They are to be brought to Christ and trained for Christ. They are to be guided in the path of obedience, not indulged in appetite or vanity.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 279.

“Remember that just as you are in your family, so will you be in the church. Just as you treat your children, so will you treat Christ.” —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1131.

- 2. What is the goal of the one who endeavors to win a child for God’s kingdom? Why is this work particularly important today? Luke 1:17; Malachi 4:5, 6.**

“The heart of the child is tender and easily impressed; and when we who are older become ‘as little children’ (Matthew 18:3); when we learn the simplicity and gentleness and tender love of the Saviour, we shall not find it difficult to touch the hearts of the little ones, and teach them love’s ministry of healing.” —*Education*, p. 114.

“The beauty and virtue of the word of God have a transforming influence upon mind and character; the sparks of heavenly love will fall upon the hearts of the children as an inspiration. We may bring hundreds and thousands of children to Christ if we will work for them.” —(Special Testimony to the Battle Creek Church; written at Cooranbong, N.S.W., Australia, December 15, 1897) *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 172.

CHILDREN ARE HIGHLY IMPRESSIONABLE

3. What principles must be observed to win a child for the kingdom of God and shape his character into the image of Christ? Study and discuss the following concepts and any others that you believe are important.

“Children are peculiarly susceptible to impressions; and the lessons which they receive in the early years, they will carry with them through life.” —*Australasian Union Conference Record*, September 6, 1909.

“When children are young, it is a comparatively easy matter to direct their minds into proper channels, to systematize their daily pursuits, to teach them order and regularity, and to instill into their minds and hearts a proper sense of their responsibility to God and to their fellow-creatures. But when the habits are formed, the inclinations bent in the wrong direction, the evil seed sown in the mind, it is almost impossible to mold the character anew.” —*The Health Reformer*, February 1, 1878.

- **Love** (Titus 2:4; 2 John 1:1; Hosea 11:1)

“Let your children have evidence that you love them, and that you want to make them happy. The more unlovely they are, the greater pains you must take to win their confidence and love; and when they realize that father and mother will use every justifiable means to make them happy, the barriers will be broken down.” —*Signs of the Times*, April 30, 1894.

- **Example**

“Children will learn to love that which the parents love. Those who would interest their sons and daughters in Bible truth, must themselves

feel an interest in Bible truth and Bible study. If we desire our children to love and reverence God, we must talk of His goodness, His majesty, and His power. If we would have them love and imitate the character of Christ, we must not only tell them of the sacrifice which He made for our redemption, of the love, humility, and self-denial manifested in His life on earth, but we must show them that this is the pattern which we are striving to follow.... Teach your children that every worldly consideration should be made secondary to their eternal interests.”—*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 285.

- ***Representation of the heavenly Father*** (Revelation 3:19; Proverbs 13:24; 23:26)

“Help the child to see that parents and teachers are representatives of God, and that, as they act in harmony with Him, their laws in the home and the school are also His. As the child is to render obedience to parents and teachers, so they, in turn, are to render obedience to God.”—*Education*, pp. 287, 288.

- ***Gentleness and patient perseverance*** (Genesis 33:14; Proverbs 15:1)

“In the education of her children, the mother needs the wisdom which God alone can give her. She also needs health and its accompaniment of calm nerves, clear judgment, and sound reasoning powers. She will then have decision as well as gentleness, firmness as well as love, and will be able to hold the reins of guidance with a firm yet patient hand.”—*The Health Reformer*, March 1, 1877.

- ***Discipline and consistency*** (Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 3:11, 12; 19:18; 29:15; Ephesians 6:4)

“At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and, by kind and judicious management, can be taught to obey.... The mother should not allow her child to gain an advantage over her in a single instance; and, in order to maintain this authority, it is not necessary to resort to harsh measures; a firm, steady hand and a kindness which convinces the child of your love will accomplish the purpose. But let selfishness, anger, and self-will have their course for the first three years of a child’s life, and it will be hard to bring it to submit to wholesome discipline. Its disposition has become soured; it delights in having its own way; parental control is distasteful. These evil tendencies grow with its growth, until, in manhood, supreme selfishness and a lack of self-control place him at the mercy of the evils that run riot in our land.

“Never should they [the children] be allowed to show their parents disrespect. Self-will should never be permitted to go unrebuked. The future well-being of the child requires kindly, loving, but firm discipline.”—*Child Guidance*, pp. 82, 83.

- **Order** (1 Corinthians 14:40)

“A well-regulated, orderly family is a pleasing sight to God and ministering angels. You must learn how to make a home orderly, comfortable, and pleasant. Then adorn that home with becoming dignity, and the spirit will be received by the children; and order, regularity, and obedience will be more readily secured by both of you.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 259.

- **Respect** (Philippians 2:3-5)

“If they would gather the children close to them, and show that they love them, and would manifest an interest in all their efforts, and even in their sports, sometimes even being a child among them, they would make the children very happy and would gain their love and win their confidence. And the children would more quickly learn to respect and love the authority of their parents and teachers.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 265.

- **Education** (Proverbs 1:8; Ezra 9:12; Proverbs 6:20)

“Fathers and mothers are to educate their children to obedience, teaching them to keep the law of the Lord, which is perfect, converting the soul. This is a most important work. If you neglect this work because your time and attention are given to the world, you will defeat the purpose the Lord has for the youth in preparing them for the service of God at home and in foreign fields.” –*Review and Herald*, October 28, 1909.

- **Temperance** (1 Corinthians 10:31)

“Some are not impressed with the necessity of eating and drinking to the glory of God. The indulgence of appetite affects them in all the relations of life. It is seen in the family, in the church, in the prayer meeting, and in the conduct of their children. It is the curse of their lives. It prevents them from understanding the truths for these last days.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 392.

- **Spiritual and moral guidance** (Ecclesiastes 12:12; Psalm 144:12; Proverbs 1:10)

“The foundation of all right education is a knowledge of God. Many parents who make great sacrifices to educate their children, seem to think that a well-trained intellect is more essential than a knowledge of God and His truth. They neglect to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and act as though they supposed this important part of education would come naturally, as a matter of course. But the first and most important lesson to be impressed upon young minds is the duty of regulating the life by the principles of the word of God.” –*Signs of the Times*, March 20, 1884.

4. What promise is coupled with the command of God to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? Proverbs 22:6.

“The Lord will be with you, mothers, as you try to form right habits in your children. But you must begin the training process early, or your future work will be very difficult. Teach them line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Bear in mind that your children belong to God, and are to become His sons and daughters. He designs that the families on earth shall be samples of the family in heaven....

“Over-indulgence always proves an injury to children. It is the veriest cruelty to allow wrong habits to be formed, to give the lines of control into the hands of the child, and let him rule.”—*Australasian Union Conference Record*, September 6, 1909.

5. What can happen if the extremes of harshness and indulgence characterize the treatment of a child? What cooperation is essential between both parents, as well as between parents and teachers?

“If parents are united in this work of discipline, the child will understand what is required of him. But if the father, by word or look, shows that he does not approve of the discipline the mother gives; if he feels that she is too strict and thinks that he must make up for the harshness by petting and indulgence, the child will be ruined. He will soon learn that he can do as he pleases. Parents who commit this sin against their children are accountable for the ruin of their souls.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 315.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND STUDY

- **What relationship does the following statement have with finding and winning the soul of the child for Christ? “Father and mother, bind your hearts in closest, happiest union. Do not grow apart, but bind yourselves more closely to each other; then you are prepared to bind your children’s hearts to you by the silken cord of love.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 316.**
- **Consider your own relationship with children, particularly in your present circumstance. How do you think God can use you in this area more than He has in the past?**

FOR FURTHER GROUP STUDY AND CONSIDERATION

- **In what ways is my local church ministering to the children of the surrounding community; what resources are available for us to accomplish such work? (See *Evangelism*, p. 583.)**
- **What responsibility does the church have before God for the souls of the children both within and outside of its ranks?**
- **What is my local church doing to reach the little ones entrusted to it?**
- **What can be done to improve such efforts and to be truly successful in working with children?**

Youth—a Time of Test and Choice

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” Psalm 37:4.

OBJECTIVES

- To see what special characteristics are necessary to work with a young person
- To understand the responsibility of parents and ways to connect with youth
- To encourage creativity and heartfelt earnestness in working with young people

WHO CAN AND WHO CANNOT WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **What characteristics keep individuals from being able to be a blessing to children or youth? Romans 10:3; Psalm 138:6; James 1:8; 2 Peter 3:16.**

“Parents and teachers of schools are certainly disqualified to educate children properly, if they have not first learned the lessons of self-control, patience, forbearance, gentleness, and love. What an important position for parents, guardians, and teachers! There are very few who realize the most essential wants of the mind, and how to direct the developing intellect, the growing thoughts and feelings of youth.” —*Christian Education*, p. 5.

2. **Young people are quick to discern hypocrisy and unkindness in parents and teachers; what is needed to avoid this terrible curse to oneself and others? Proverbs 11:9; Matthew 7:1-5; 15:13, 14.**

“A want of steadiness in family government is productive of great harm; in fact, it is nearly as bad as no government at all. The question is often asked, Why are the children of religious parents so often headstrong, defiant, and rebellious? The reason is to be found in the home training. The children have not had a good example, faithful instruction, and proper restraint.” —*Signs of the Times*, March 11, 1886.

“When Christ is formed within, the hope of glory, then the truth of God will so act upon the natural temperament that its transforming power will be seen in changed characters. You will not then, by revealing an unsanctified heart and temper, turn the truth of God into a lie before any of your pupils. Nor will you, by manifesting a selfish, un-Christlike spirit, give the impression that the grace of Christ is not sufficient for you at all times and in all places. You will show that the authority of God over you is not in name only, but in reality and truth.

“Let every teacher who accepts the responsibility of teaching the children and youth, examine himself. Let him ask himself, Has the truth of God taken possession of my soul? Has the wisdom which comes from Jesus Christ, which is ‘first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy,’ been brought into my character? Do I cherish the principle that ‘the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace’? James 3:17, 18.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 194, 195.

ESTABLISHING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

3. Why is it absolutely essential for parents and teachers to put self aside and have the mind of Christ in their relationships with young people? Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 1:8.

“We should ever look upon the youth as the purchase of the blood of Christ. As such they have demands upon our love, our patience, and our sympathy. If we would follow Jesus we cannot restrict our interest and affection to ourselves and our own families; we cannot give our time and attention to temporal matters and forget the eternal interests of those around us. I have been shown that it is the result of our own selfishness that there are not one hundred young men where now there is one engaged in earnest labor for the salvation of their fellow men.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 34, 35.

4. What will be the sure result of self-sacrificing, caring labor for a young soul? 1 Timothy 4:12.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where ‘the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever;’ where ‘the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick,’ and ‘the voice of weeping shall be no more heard.’ Psalm 37:29; Isaiah 33:24; 65:19.”—*Education*, p. 271.

5. What was Moses’ experience and instruction to parents? Exodus 2:9, 10; Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

“Parents, are you working with unflagging energy in behalf of your children? The God of heaven marks your solicitude, your earnest work, your constant watchfulness. He hears your prayers. With patience and tenderness train your children for the Lord. All heaven is interested in your work. Angels of light will unite with you as you strive to lead your children to heaven. God will unite with you, crowning your efforts with success. Christ delights to honor a Christian family; for such a family is a symbol of the family in heaven.”—*Review and Herald*, January 29, 1901.

GOD, PARENTS, AND CHURCH IN PARTNERSHIP

6. What do the words of Jonathan in 1 Samuel 14:6 show about how the family of earth may unite with the family of heaven to gain victories for the heavenly kingdom? What should be done to further the gifts God has entrusted to the youth?

“When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord’s work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction

and help. Thus they will learn to work for God....

“Plan ways whereby a live interest may be aroused. From week to week the youth should bring in their reports, telling what they have tried to do for the Saviour, and what success has been theirs.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 210, 211.

7. Why is it essential to be searching constantly and asking the Holy Spirit’s guidance for new ways to advance the kingdom of God, particularly in working with and encouraging the youth? Matthew 9:16, 17.

“There is among us too much clinging to old customs, and because of this we are far behind where we should be in the development of the third angel’s message. Because men could not comprehend the purpose of God in the plans laid before us for the education of workers, methods have been followed in some of our schools which have retarded rather than advanced the work of God.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 534.

“Christian women may exert an influence for good over the youth and children. Their capabilities are God’s entrusted talents, and should be wholly consecrated to the Master’s service. Many are quick to discern, and efficient to execute, but they need to be closely connected with God. They will seek for new methods and ways by which to develop character and educate the youth how to use the talents God has given them.” –*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 164.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND CONSIDERATION

- **What is my personal attitude toward young people? How is this shown in my relationship to the young people with whom I am acquainted?**
- **What partnership between mature adults and young people does God want to create?**
- **Over and over again, sociological studies reveal that parents are the greatest influence and inspiration to the child. What does this mean to us, despite the pressures of society and the world around us?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND DISCUSSION

- **Study the talents in your local church and how they can be put to use to reach young people.**
 - **Under what circumstances are groups more effective in searching for young people, and in what situations is it much better to have a one-on-one approach?**
 - **What does it take for a young person to search for another young person in the name of Christ?**
 - **What part(s) of the gospel is (are) especially attractive to a young soul?**
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Sabbath, February 22, 2003

Reaching Different Personalities

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28.

OBJECTIVE

- To consider the differences in approach for men as opposed to women
- To identify the four basic personality types and seek to learn how to approach each one
- To make a commitment to understand others better and to be God’s helping hand

For men, logic creates trust; they divide a problem or decision into individual parts before arriving at a solution, therefore presenting information to them in a logical order is the best way to approach them. They will generally store information and think about a subject before expressing themselves about a matter.

- 1. In light of the above, show how Jesus presented the gospel to Nicodemus in John 3:1-21. How did He meet the mind of this teacher of Israel?**

On the other hand, women use both sides of their brain at the same time and see a problem or decision in its entirety; they tend not to think in sequences but rather skip information and steps which they believe are not necessary. They look for a creative or unusual way to resolve a problem. They readily express themselves, often as a means to find a solution, rather than simply to present a decision.

- 2. Now examine Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:6-26. In what way did He meet the needs of her soul and her manner of thinking?**

"We all need to study character and manner, that we may know how to deal judiciously with different minds, that we may use our best endeavors to help them to a correct understanding of the word of God, and to a true Christian life." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 323.

"The Creator of all ideas may impress different minds with the same thought, but each may express it in a different way, yet without contradiction. The fact that this difference exists should not perplex or confuse us. It is seldom that two persons will view and express truth in the very same way. Each dwells on particular points which his constitution and education have fitted him to appreciate. The sunlight falling upon different objects gives those objects a different hue." —(Letter 53, 1900) *Publishing Ministry*, pp. 100, 101.

- 3. What is also important for men to remember? Proverbs 9:13.**

“A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.”
Proverbs 9:13, *King James Version*.

“When a woman comes to you with her troubles, tell her plainly to go to her sisters, to tell her troubles to the deaconesses of the church. Tell her that she is out of place in opening her troubles to any man, for men are easily beguiled and tempted. Tell the one who has thrown her case upon you that God has not placed this burden upon any man.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, pp. 97, 98.

DIFFERENT CHARACTER/PERSONALITY TYPES

“The Lord reveals truth to different minds in different aspects, so that through one man’s presentation some point of truth is made clearer than through another man’s presentation, and for this very reason the Lord does not permit one man alone the work of dealing with human minds.” –*Evangelism*, p. 336.

“If you desire to learn what course to take with your children, make their peculiar temperaments your constant study. All children can not be managed alike.” –*Review and Herald*, June 23, 1903.

Every day—in the family, in our labor, and in the church—we are made aware there are different types of characters, each one with a strong bent in a certain direction. This has been recognized for millennia. The following categorization, which was recognized even in ancient times, is viewed as still applicable today. It is given here only as an example and to help us understand that different personality types have both positive and negative aspects:

- Sanguine: Fun loving and happy, tending to be irresponsible
- Choleric: Good at management, tending to be controlling and dictatorial
- Melancholic: Very exact and methodical, tending to perfectionism or depression
- Phlegmatic: Relaxed and accepting of all circumstances, tending to lethargy

The Christian’s aim under the influence of the Holy Spirit is to be an overcomer—to accept his strengths as gifts from God and to be aware of and willing to gain the victory over his weaknesses.

4. Regardless of one’s personality, what fact will always remain while we live on this earth? Romans 3:23, 24. How can we best help ourselves and others?

“Do not study yourself; look away from self to Jesus. While you acknowledge yourself as a sinner, yet you may appropriate Christ as your sin-pardoning Redeemer. Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” —*Signs of the Times*, No. 56, 1894.

- 5. What human tendency can be avoided if we cherish the uniqueness of every soul and see each as a sinner saved by grace? Matthew 7:1-5.**

“Divine grace has been abundantly provided for every soul, so that each one may engage in the conflict and come off victorious. Do not become sluggish; do not flatter yourselves that you may be saved in walking in accordance with the natural traits of your character...” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 7, 1895.

THE SEARCH FOR ONE SOUL

- 6. What should prompt each of us to cherish and use every opportunity to be a blessing to only one soul near us or brought in contact with us? Jeremiah 31:3; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21.**

“We look at those who are doing despite to the Spirit of grace, and tremble for them. We feel sorry, and are disappointed, that they prove untrue to God and the truth; but we feel a deeper sorrow as we think of Jesus, who has purchased them with His own blood. We would give all our possessions to save one, but find we cannot do this. We would give life itself to save one soul unto life eternal, but even this sacrifice would not do the work. The one great sacrifice has been made in the life, the mission, and the death of Jesus Christ. Oh, that minds would contemplate the greatness of that sacrifice!” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 626.

- 7. What strengthens us never to give up on ourselves or on any other soul as long as there is breath in him? Hebrews 3:6, 16; 7:25.**

“We must not think of such a thing as discouragement, but hold fast to souls by the grasp of faith. Do not give up those for whom you are working. Go out in the mountains and seek the lost sheep. They may run from you, but you must follow them up, take them in your arms and bring them to Jesus.” –*The Home Missionary*, February 1, 1890.

8. Whether we labor formally or informally for one soul, what challenge is always present? 1 Thessalonians 5:14-16.

“All who profess to be children of God should unceasingly bear in mind that they are missionaries, in their labors brought in connection with all classes of minds. There will be the refined and the coarse, the humble and the proud, the religious and the skeptical, the confiding and the suspicious, the liberal and the avaricious, the pure and the corrupt, the educated and the ignorant, the rich and the poor;... These varied minds cannot be treated alike; yet all, whether they are rich or poor, high or low, dependent or independent, need kindness, sympathy, and love. By mutual contact our minds should receive polish and refinement. We are dependent upon one another, closely bound together by the ties of human brotherhood.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 554, 555.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What has been my attitude toward those in my family who seem hardened against the Saviour?**
- **What may be some reasons why I am ineffective in reaching out to another soul?**
- **How can my personal mission for heaven be successful?**
- **Considering the one human being (for example, my spouse, parent, brother, sister, or friend) to whom I am the closest, how can I make that relationship much better?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Depending on whether you are a man or a woman, study and think about how you can be a greater blessing than you have been so far to people of your same sex.**
 - **Find individuals in the Bible who seem to match one or more of the above personality types and examine how God worked with them and saved them. How can you be a partner with God in such work?**
-

9

Sabbath, March 1, 2003

The Poor, Sick, and Elderly

*“Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.”
Isaiah 35:3.*

OBJECTIVES

- To understand how to approach and treat the poor, sick, weak, and elderly
- To find principles for helping the poor
- To determine the greatest goal in providing material help
- To grasp the importance of making opportunities for the poor and sick to help others

RECOGNIZING NEEDS

1. **What different types of poverty, sickness, and weakness are all around us? Consider the example of Samson in answering this question. Judges 16:7, 11, 17, 19.**

“A direct necessity is being met by the work of women who have given themselves to the Lord and are reaching out to help a needy, sin-stricken people. Personal evangelistic work is to be done. The women who take up this work carry the gospel to the homes of the people in the highways and the byways. They read and explain the word to families, praying with them, caring for the sick, relieving their temporal necessities.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 118.

2. List principles that should be followed in relation to those in need, such as found in the following texts (add others that you consider are important):

- Exodus 22:22, 23
- Deuteronomy 23:19, 20
- Leviticus 25:35-37
- Deuteronomy 15:7-11
- Job 29:16
- Psalm 15:5
- Psalm 82:4
- Psalm 109:30, 31
- Isaiah 35:3
- Matthew 26:41
- Acts 20:35, first part
- Romans 14:21
- Romans 15:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:22

3. What opportunity is presented for the education of children?

“The watchful teacher will find many opportunities for directing pupils to acts of helpfulness. By little children especially the teacher is regarded with almost unbounded confidence and respect. Whatever he may suggest as to ways of helping in the home, faithfulness in the daily tasks, ministry to the sick or the poor, can hardly fail of bringing forth fruit.”—*Education*, p. 213.

THE GREATEST AIM

4. What is the Christian’s primary purpose in ministering to those in need? Isaiah 52:7; John 9:3, last part.

“There may be and there is danger of losing sight of the great principles of truth when doing the work for the poor that it is right to do, but we are ever to bear in mind that in carrying forward this work, the spiritual necessities of the soul are to be kept prominent. In our efforts to relieve temporal necessities, we are in danger of separating from the last gospel message its leading and most urgent features. As it has been carried on in some places, the medical missionary work has absorbed talent and means that belong to other lines of the work, and the effort in lines more directly spiritual has been neglected. Because of the ever-increasing opportunities for ministering to the temporal needs of all classes, there is danger that this work will eclipse the message that God has given us to bear in every city—the proclamation of the soon coming of Christ, the necessity of obedience to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 515.

5. To whom must every individual be connected? John 15:4-8. What type of dependence is this?

“The rich, the poor, the learned, the unlearned, the bond, and the free are equally God’s heritage, and he who is most exalted in the sight of God is he who has most genuine humility, the deepest sense of his unworthiness, the greatest realization of his dependence upon God. Those who truly love God, truly love their fellow-men. They constantly seek to do good to all those who are connected with them. They are laborers together with God.”—*Signs of the Times*, July 16, 1896.

6. What privilege do we need to help every human being gain? Matthew 6:19, 20; Acts 20:3.

“Let our workers come into close touch with those for whom they labor. Let them advise the wealthy to lay up treasure in heaven; for where their treasure is, there will their hearts be also. Let them advise the poor to give something to the cause of God. No matter how small their offering, it will be accepted. Let them do what they can cheerfully and willingly, and God will bless them.” –*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, pp. 581, 582.

FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND THOUGHT

- **Regardless of what others are doing, what is the Lord’s message for me concerning helping the poor and needy?**
- **What is particularly critical for me in this area?**
- **Why is it important to help a needy person in a way that preserves his self-respect?**

FOR ADDITIONAL GROUP STUDY AND DISCUSSION

- **What divine balance does God want us to have between dependence and independence? (Consider different kinds.) See Matthew 10:8.**
- **When is dependence healthy, and when is it unhealthy? What about independence?**
- **What partnership does God want to have with those who love Him? What level of respect does He always maintain?**

The Wealthy and Educated

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” 1 Corinthians 1:27.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand what attitude God wants us to have toward all men—the poor as well as the wealthy
- To identify and eradicate prejudice
- To understand the special problems of those who are rich and supposedly favored in life
- To understand the Christian ideal toward all men

ONE GOD—ONE BROTHERHOOD

1. **How does God view everyone, regardless of any human ranking? Malachi 2:10; Galatians 3:28.**

“The poor should be treated with as much interest and attention as the rich.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 551.

2. **Why do the poor so often view the rich with either suspicion or awe? What direct command from God is often ignored or outright rejected by those who are wealthy? Leviticus 25:17; Deuteronomy 24:14.**

“But does God care for money—for property? The cattle upon a thousand hills are His—the world and all that is therein.... He is no respecter of persons. Yet men of property have often looked upon their possessions and said, By my wisdom have I gotten me this wealth. But who gave them

power to get wealth? God has bestowed upon them the ability which they possess; and instead of giving Him the glory, they take it to themselves.”
–*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1880.

3. For what reasons does God entrust individuals with an abundance of His goods? Genesis 18:18, 19; Deuteronomy 8:18; Esther 10:3; 1 Corinthians 10:24.

“The rich should consecrate their all to God, and he who is sanctified through the truth in body, soul, and spirit, will also devote his property to God, and will become an agent whereby other souls will be reached. In his experience and example it will be made manifest that the grace of Christ has power to overcome covetousness and avarice, and the rich man who renders unto God his intrusted goods, will be accounted a faithful steward, and can present to others the fact that every dollar of their accumulated property is stamped with the image and superscription of God. He can present to those who are rich the truth as it is in Jesus, showing that it was God who intrusted him with ability to get wealth, and prospered his enterprises with His blessing that he might acquire wealth, and gladly acknowledging the fact that his talents are not his, but God’s who gave. The wealthy man who is truly converted, can bring to bear upon his wealthy brethren the lessons of Christ, and show to them that their wealth is only safe as it is laid up in the bank of heaven.” –*Review and Herald*, September 19, 1893.

TEMPTATIONS FOR THE EDUCATED AND THE RICH

4. What is a special danger for those who are well educated in the systems of this world? Romans 1:22; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:14; 3:19.

“The professed Christian world has had opportunity to obtain light and knowledge, but many close their eyes lest they shall see. Well-educated, intelligent men preach at the Word and round the Word, but they do not touch its inner meaning. They do not present truth in its genuine simplicity.” –*Signs of the Times*, January 11, 1899.

5. Despite the appearance that everything is wonderful for them, what special temptations, dangers, burdens, and griefs are borne by the rich? Luke 12:16-21; James 5:1-3; Revelation 18:16.

“Multitudes who are prosperous in the world, and who never stoop to the common forms of vice, are yet brought to destruction through the love of riches. The cup most difficult to carry is not the cup that is empty, but the cup that is full to the brim. It is this that needs to be most carefully balanced. Affliction and adversity bring disappointment and sorrow; but it is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life....

“The Bible condemns no man for being rich, if he has acquired his riches honestly. Not money, but the love of money, is the root of all evil. It is God who gives men power to get wealth; and in the hands of him who acts as God’s steward, using his means unselfishly, wealth is a blessing, both to its possessor and to the world. But many, absorbed in their interest in worldly treasures, become insensible to the claims of God and the needs of their fellow men. They regard their wealth as a means of glorifying themselves. They add house to house, and land to land; they fill their homes with luxuries, while all about them are human beings in misery and crime, in disease and death. Those who thus give their lives to self-serving are developing in themselves, not the attributes of God, but the attributes of the wicked one.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 211-213.

6. Therefore, what determined efforts need to be put forth for those who are wealthy? 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

THE HEAVENLY IDEAL—FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

7. However, what is it necessary to remember in all cases? Acts 10:34, 35; Titus 2:11-15.

“Jesus knew the wants of the soul. Pomp, riches, and honor cannot satisfy the heart. ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto Me.’ The rich, the poor, the high, the low, are alike welcome. He promises to relieve the burdened mind, to comfort the sorrowing, and to give hope to the despondent. Many

of those who heard Jesus were mourners over disappointed hopes, many were nourishing a secret grief, many were seeking to satisfy their restless longing with the things of the world and the praise of men; but when all was gained, they found that they had toiled only to reach a broken cistern, from which they could not quench their thirst. Amid the glitter of the joyous scene they stood, dissatisfied and sad. That sudden cry, 'If any man thirst,' startled them from their sorrowful meditation, and as they listened to the words that followed, their minds kindled with a new hope. The Holy Spirit presented the symbol before them until they saw in it the offer of the priceless gift of salvation.

"The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power than to those who heard it in the temple on that last day of the feast. The fountain is open for all. The weary and exhausted ones are offered the refreshing draught of eternal life." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 454.

FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND THOUGHT

- **Do I consider myself rich? Consider this question in the light of the phrase in Luke 12:21: "Rich toward God."**
- **Why do those often considered poor actually have an obligation to the rich? What obligation is that?**
- **What is necessary to reach wealthy people? How should one acquire the necessary qualities?**
- **What wealth for every soul is contained in Romans 8:28 and 2 Corinthians 8:9?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- **What partnership should function between those who are poor in this world's goods and those who have possessions?**
- **What are some "products" of the mind and some "products" of the spirit? Discuss how these also constitute riches.**

- **How does the following statement apply to work for the upper classes: “Ten truly converted, willing-minded, unselfish workers can do more in the missionary field than one hundred who confine their efforts to set forms and preserve mechanical rules, working without deep love for souls.”** –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 602.

11

Sabbath, March 15, 2003

The “Teachable Moment”

“The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.” Isaiah 50:4.

OBJECTIVES

- To know how to recognize and rightly use opportunities
- To develop a spirit that seeks for opportunities to reach one soul
- To create one’s own mission statement
- To understand how to be a friend and mentor in Christ’s stead

THE RIGHT MOMENT

1. **According to what principle should one communicate with every soul? Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 15:23; 1 Peter 3:15.**

“True education is not the forcing of instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind. The mental powers must be awakened, the interest aroused.” –*Education*, p. 4.

- 2. How can we know what to say, how to say it, and when to say it to a precious soul? Isaiah 30:21; 59:21; 2 Timothy 4:2. What can happen if the proper motives and the spirit of Christ are absent?**

“Educate yourself to speak pleasant words in the family. Let there be in the home an atmosphere of peace and love. Be pure in speech. Cultivate a soft and persuasive, not a harsh and dictatorial, tone of voice. Give the children lessons in voice culture. Train their habits of speech until no coarse or rough words will come spontaneously from their lips when any trial comes to them.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 70.

“In seeking to correct or reform others, we should be careful of our words. They will be a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death. In giving reproof or counsel, many indulge in sharp, severe speech, words not adapted to heal the wounded soul. By these ill-advised expressions the spirit is chafed, and often the erring ones are stirred to rebellion.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 120.

WATCHING FOR AND MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- 3. When love is our motive, what will become natural for us? Psalm 34:14; 37:3; Luke 6:35; Galatians 6:10. In what sense are the challenges presented in Matthew 5:44 actually opportunities to reach a soul?**

“We are nearing the close of this earth’s history; soon we shall stand before the great white throne. Your opportunities for work will soon be past. Therefore work while it is called today. With the help of God, every true believer can see where there is work to be done. When the human will cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent, and the worker can make opportunities. Watch for the souls with whom you come in contact. Watch for opportunities to speak a word in season to them. Do not wait for an introduction, or until you become acquainted with them, before you seek to save the perishing souls around you. If you will go to work in earnest, ways will open before you for the accomplishment of this work. Lean upon the divine arm for wisdom, strength, and skill for the work that God has given you to do.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, June 24, 1897.

4. **Keeping the gospel commission of Matthew 28:19, 20 in mind, write your own personal mission statement (it can be as short as one sentence!), presenting how you see yourself fitting into Heaven's plan—fulfilling your most important purpose on earth. Matthew 18:11; 2 Corinthians 5:20**

PREACHING AND MENTORING

5. **Often it is easier to be a preacher than to be a mentor, but both are needed. Search in your Bible for examples of both preaching and mentoring (see, for example, Matthew 5-7; 17:19-21; Luke 10:38-42; John 3:1-21; Acts 8:26-36).**
6. **What does it mean to be a friend and mentor? Job 2:11; 42:10; Proverbs 17:17; 27:6; James 2:23.**

“It is the nicest and most critical work ever given to mortals to deal with minds.”—*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 78.

“...The disciples were to seek blessings from God. In the feeding of the multitude and in the sermon on the bread from heaven, Christ had opened to them their work as His representatives. They were to give the bread of life to the people. He who had appointed their work, saw how often their faith would be tried. Often they would be thrown into unexpected positions, and would realize their human insufficiency. Souls that were hungering for the bread of life would come to them, and they would feel themselves to be destitute and helpless. They must receive spiritual food, or they would have nothing to impart. But they were not to turn one soul away unfed. Christ directs them to the source of supply.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 140, 141.

7. **Explain in your own words how Jesus is your personal Friend and Mentor. Psalm 23:1; John 10:11.**

“No intangible principle, no impersonal essence or mere abstraction, can satisfy the needs and longings of human beings in this life of struggle with sin and sorrow and pain. It is not enough to believe in law and force, in things that have no pity, and never hear the cry for help. We need to know of an almighty arm that will hold us up, of an infinite Friend that pities us. We need to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. And even so God has in His word revealed Himself.” –*Education*, p. 133.

8. Why is it critically important always to connect a soul not to oneself, but to Jesus as his very best Friend? 1 Samuel 22:3; Isaiah 43:11; Acts 5:31.

“A legal religion is insufficient to bring the soul into harmony with God.... The only true faith is that which ‘worketh by love’ (Galatians 5:6) to purify the soul. It is as leaven that transforms the character....

“Jesus proceeded to show His hearers what it means to keep the commandments of God—that it is a reproduction in themselves of the character of Christ. For in Him, God was daily made manifest before them.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 53, 55.

“The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part—the brain, the heart, the nerves—it touches with healing. By it the highest energies of the being are roused to activity. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety and care, that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul, joy that nothing earthly can destroy—joy in the Holy Spirit—health-giving, life-giving joy.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 115.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **Examining the way I have related to other souls in the past—no matter whether family or friends—for what must I ask God and them to forgive me?**
- **Considering carefully the mission statement I wrote for myself in response to question 4 above, how deep is my commitment to fulfilling this statement?**
- **What will happen if I connect a soul to myself instead of to Jesus?**

- **What individual or collective weaknesses can directly hinder God's church from being a light to individual souls?**
 - **Why is the acknowledgment and confession of one's own sin a major factor in making him able to reach another soul?**
 - **Why does the depth of one's experience with Jesus determine his ability to be a positive influence for another soul?**
-

12

Sabbath, March 22, 2003

One Soul—Jesus' Primary Interest

"When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled." John 11:33.

OBJECTIVES

- To recognize and emulate Jesus' manner of working with groups and individuals
- To grasp the vision and power of salvation in the individual's life
- To learn how to meet the needs of a soul
- To transmit to our acquaintances the joy and responsibility of participating in Christ's mission

1. What methods did Jesus' mission encompass? Matthew 4: 23, 24.

“During His ministry Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy but to save. His righteousness went before Him, and the glory of the Lord was His rearward. Wherever He went, the tidings of His mercy preceded Him. Where He had passed, the objects of His compassion were rejoicing in health, and making trial of their new-found powers. Crowds were collecting around them to hear from their lips the works that the Lord had wrought. His voice was the first sound that many had ever heard, His name the first word they had ever spoken, His face the first they had ever looked upon. Why should they not love Jesus, and sound His praise? As He passed through the towns and cities He was like a vital current, diffusing life and joy wherever He went.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 350.

2. What emphasis did Jesus place on one soul, even when speaking to large numbers of people? How personally and carefully did He work? Luke 14:23.

“Even the crowd that so often thronged His steps was not to Christ an indiscriminate mass of human beings. He spoke directly to every mind and appealed to every heart. He watched the faces of His hearers, marked the lighting up of the countenance, the quick, responsive glance, which told that truth had reached the soul; and there vibrated in His heart the answering chord of sympathetic joy.” —*Education*, p. 231.

“Christ drew the hearts of His hearers to Him by the manifestation of His love, and then, little by little, as they were able to bear it, He unfolded to them the great truths of the kingdom. We also must learn to adapt our labors to the condition of the people—to meet men where they are. While the claims of the law of God are to be presented to the world, we should never forget that love, the love of Christ, is the only power that can soften the heart and lead to obedience.” —(*Review and Herald*, November 25, 1890) *Evangelism*, p. 57.

3. Therefore, how significant is the work for one soul still today? Luke 14:23.

“In the command to go into the highways and hedges, Christ sets forth the work of all whom He calls to minister in His name. The whole world is the field for Christ’s ministers. The whole human family is comprised in their congregation. The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul.

“To a great degree this must be accomplished by personal labor. This was Christ’s method. His work was largely made up of personal interviews. He had a faithful regard for the one-soul audience. Through that one soul the message was often extended to thousands.

“We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. When the word has been preached in the pulpit, the work has but just begun. There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 229.

THE VISION

4. What goal did Jesus keep constantly in mind? John 17:24; Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 7:9, 10.

5. How individual and powerful is the work of salvation? Romans 14:4; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet he will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Every one must be tested, and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 490.

6. What joy and comfort does every person find in meeting the needs of (ministering to) the ones God has brought within his circle of blessing and in performing simple service? Psalm 126:5, 6.

“The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but by their unconscious influence they may start waves of blessing that will widen and deepen, and the blessed results they may never know until the day of final reward. They do not feel or know that they are doing anything great. They are not required to weary themselves with anxiety about success. They have only to go forward quietly, doing faithfully the work that God’s providence assigns, and their life will not be in vain. Their own souls will be growing more and more into the likeness of Christ; they are workers together with God in this life, and are thus fitting for the higher work and the unshadowed joy of the life to come.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 83.

“Not the amount of labor performed, or its visible results, but the spirit in which the work is done, makes it of value with God.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 397.

TRANSMITTING THE MISSION TO OTHERS

7. What does each believer’s mission include? Galatians 6:2.

“The work of the ambassadors for Christ is far greater and more responsible than many dream of. They should not be at all satisfied with their success until they can, by their earnest labors and the blessing of God, present to Him serviceable Christians, who have a true sense of their responsibility, and will do their appointed work. The proper labor and instruction will result in bringing into working order those men and women whose characters are strong, and their convictions so firm that nothing of a selfish character is permitted to hinder them in their work, to lessen their faith, or to deter them from duty. If the minister has properly instructed those under his care, when he leaves for other fields of labor, the work left will not ravel out; for it will be bound off so firmly as to be secure.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 17, 18.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **How does my life fulfill the mission which I have committed myself to? What adjustments should I make at this time?**
- **What experience have I made in the past week that makes me thrill with the joy of cooperation with Christ in blessing one soul?**
- **How am I inspiring others to carry out their personal mission?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Discuss the following quotation: “Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh, than the amount he doeth.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 135.**
- **Find an example in one of the gospels showing Christ’s ministering to an individual, and then study and explain how you can apply that example in your own mission.**
- **What collective vision/mission do the individuals in your group or church share?**

***Please read the Missionary Report from the
General Conference Education Department
on page 64***

The Divine Potential

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” 2 Timothy 1:9.

OBJECTIVES

- To define Heaven’s purpose for the human being and to commit to fulfill that purpose
- To see why service to one soul in Christ’s stead is the highest calling
- To glimpse the heavenly courts and increase our efforts to prepare to enter there
- To strengthen our commitment to search for one soul

THE HIGHEST CALLING

1. **What did Jesus present as the height of human potential? Matthew 23:11, 12; Mark 10:43-45. How are we to understand His statement about friends and servants? John 15: 15, 16.**

“What a wonderful reverence Jesus expressed in His life mission for human life! He stood not among the people as a king demanding attention, reverence, service, but as one who wished to serve, to lift up humanity. He said He had not come to be ministered unto, but to minister. I am sure that the great lesson of forgiveness must be learned more perfectly by us all, and we must practice the Christian graces. Wherever Christ saw a human being He saw one who needed human sympathy. Many of us are willing to serve certain ones—those whom we honor—but the very ones to whom Christ would make us a blessing if we were not so cold-hearted, so unkind and selfish, we pass by as unworthy of our notice. We do not help them, though it is our duty to do this—to bear with their rudeness, while seeking to cultivate the opposite traits of character. We must work the works of Christ.” —*Review and Herald*, April 12, 1887.

2. What are some of the reasons why service to one soul is such a blessing—not just to the receiver but especially to the giver? Isaiah 58:8-11; Acts 20:35; Colossians 3:23, 24.

- “In doing for others, a sweet satisfaction will be experienced, an inward peace which will be a sufficient reward. When actuated by a high and noble desire to do others good, they will find true happiness in a faithful discharge of life’s manifold duties. This will bring more than an earthly reward; for every faithful, unselfish performance of duty is noticed by the angels, and shines in the life record.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 132.
- “That contentment of mind, that affection, gentleness, and sunniness of temper which will reach every heart, will reflect upon you what your heart gives forth to others.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 80, 81.
- “The pleasure of doing good to others imparts a glow to the feelings which flashes through the nerves, quickens the circulation of the blood, and induces mental and physical health.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 56.
- “This is the recipe that Christ has prescribed for the fainthearted, doubting, trembling soul. Let the sorrowful ones, who walk mournfully before the Lord, arise and help someone who needs help.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 266.
- “Had there been nothing in the world to work at cross purposes with us, patience, forbearance, gentleness, meekness, and longsuffering would not have been called into action. The more these graces are exercised, the more will they be increased and strengthened. The more we deal our temporal bread to the hungry, the oftener we clothe the naked, visit the sick, and relieve the fatherless and the widow in their affliction, the more decidedly shall we realize the blessing of God.” —(Manuscript 64, 1894) *Welfare Ministry*, p. 306.
- “Let church members during the week act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath tell their experiences. The meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigor. When God’s people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath services will be filled with power. With joy they will bear witness to the preciousness of the experience they have gained in working for others.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 199.
- “It is the work that we do or do not do that tells with tremendous power upon our lives and destinies. God requires us to improve every opportunity for usefulness that is offered us. Neglect to do this is perilous to our spiritual growth.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 540.

- 3. What inklings of the love, service, efficiency, and vitality that reign in heaven are given in the Scriptures? Genesis 28:12; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 4:8; 5:11, 12.**

- 4. What is the longing desire of Jesus and of all Heaven? Luke 23:43; John 14:1-3; 17:24.**

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”
—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 69.

- 5. But what makes it difficult for the holy angels to prepare souls to enter that amazing place?**

“The work of these heavenly beings is to prepare the inhabitants of this world to become children of God, pure, holy, undefiled. But men, though professing to be followers of Christ, do not place themselves in a position where they can understand this ministry, and thus the work of the heavenly messengers is made hard. The angels, who do always behold the face of the Father in heaven, would prefer to remain close by the side of God, in the pure and holy atmosphere of heaven; but a work must be done in bringing this heavenly atmosphere to the souls who are tempted and tried, that Satan may not disqualify them for the place the Lord would have them fill in the heavenly courts.”—*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 923.

- 6. Therefore, how significant is our service today—in our own preparation for the heavenly home and in that of others? Matthew 16:27; 25:21; 1 Peter 1:22.**

“The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there. What we now are, in character and holy service is the sure foreshadowing of what we shall be.” *—The Adventist Home*, p. 535.

- 7. In light of the heavenly realities, what value will we place on one soul? Hebrews 11:9, 10; Revelation 21:23, 24.**

“The soul that God has created and Christ has redeemed is of great value because of the possibilities before it, the spiritual advantages that have been granted it, the capabilities it may possess if vitalized by the word of God, and the immortality which through the Life-giver it may obtain if obedient. One soul is of more value to heaven than a whole world of property, houses, lands, money. For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost. One soul won to Christ will flash heaven’s light all around him, penetrating the moral darkness and saving other souls.” *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 21, 22.

- 8. Therefore, what commitment and sacrifice will bring us the greatest of all joy—now and in eternity? Matthew 6:33; Revelation 22:17; Isaiah 13:12.**

“What will be the gratitude of souls that shall meet us in the heavenly courts as they understand the interest and sympathy and love which have been revealed for their souls? They felt the burden to labor and to invest means to place souls in positions where they could learn the truth, and in their turn become channels of light. Receiving the light from the Word of God, they communicated that light to others and became a part of the Lord’s firm, co-partners with Jesus Christ in saving souls ready to

perish. While all praise, all honor, and all glory will be given unto God and to the Lamb as our Redeemer, there will be no detracting from the glory of God in expressing gratitude to the instrumentality God has employed for the salvation of the souls ready to perish.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 16, pp. 264, 265.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **How can I use the gifts God has given me—time, means, talents, and influence—more effectively and in the light of eternity?**
- **Which of my personal habits hinder and which help me carry out my mission?**
- **Why do I need to renew my commitment to my mission every day—constantly keeping the end in mind?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Make a list of all the opportunities for service to one soul which are possible for your church or group. Discuss how to take advantage of the opportunities.**
 - **If there are any difficulties between brethren, discuss how a collective resolve under prayer, fasting, and forgiveness can resolve them.**
 - **Discuss ways to help one other accomplish your individual missions.**
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**Missionary Report from the
General Conference Education Department
To be read on Sabbath, March 29, 2003**
*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered Sabbath, April 5, 2003*

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15.

Dear brothers and sisters in the whole world, God’s church has received a commission that must be fulfilled to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6), and it is for that purpose that we are the International Missionary Society. As chosen of God, we are bearers of a complete, glorious message, full of solemn and decisive truths that require every person to make a decision for everlasting life or for eternal death. The great events that are taking place in heaven and earth require that every person who has received divine enlightenment become a channel for the heavenly light.

God’s plan of redemption, conceived in eternity and made concrete in time and history, is the very foundation of the gospel. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke about this event and used different figures, symbols, stories, poetry, and even the ritual of the sanctuary to make it more understandable. This, in practice, points to the inseparable coexistence of two elements that work together: Message and method, background and form.

The record of Scripture clearly shows that God Himself led the education of Israel, which was accomplished on three different levels: (a) **the family**, for they were to teach their children God’s way at all times, in all places, and in different ways (Deuteronomy 11:18-21), (b) **the people**, who were to be taught “ordinances and the laws,... the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do” (Exodus 18:20), and (c) **the youth**, for whom the “schools of the prophets” were established, where certain subjects, such as God’s law, history, sacred music, and poetry, were compulsory.

The church today has also received a task that may not be delayed: “...Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:...” Matthew 28:9, 20. As the remnant church, we have the holy duty to teach and educate at all levels, and it is in this sense that the efforts of the Education Department are directed. Even if we realize the magnitude of the challenge and are well aware of our own limitations, we consider it our duty to go forward, educating the church, the family, the youth, and the children.

We do not want to neglect any branch of the educational work; on the contrary, we wish to strengthen it in every area. But this requires divine

help and the cooperation of the whole church. We need more schools to provide primary and secondary level instruction and professional training institutes, mostly in the medical missionary area. We need to support the missionary schools that are now in operation, such as Insetés in Colombia and Maranatha International in Argentina. We should also put to use the school that was operating in Hungary and support the opening of new centers of religious instruction in countries which are strategically located, such as in Asia and Africa.

In this agenda we have to include the organization, in a short term, of courses for ministers and Bible workers, who for technical or other reasons cannot attend a school. We need to hold special meetings for the wives of ministers and workers and have good interaction with the Health, Youth, and Canvassing Departments and, over the long term, hold seminars on leadership, health reform, and the Sabbath school.

I want to encourage all the dear believers to make this first decade of the millennium the decade of education. There are millions of young people, workers, and believers who wish to benefit from some program of the General Conference in order to be able better to serve the Lord. Many churches, fields, and unions also wish to be more effective in their ministry, something that is possible only by investing resources in education and in remedial programs so the workers receive better technical and religious education, in accordance with the following statement: "If placed under the control of His Spirit, the more thoroughly the intellect is cultivated, the more effectively it can be used in the service of God. The uneducated man who is consecrated to God and who longs to bless others can be, and is, used by the Lord in His service. But those who, with the same spirit of consecration, have had the benefit of a thorough education, can do a much more extensive work for Christ. They stand on vantage ground." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.

Dear disciple of Jesus, open your heart to the altruistic call of the heavenly Master: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight;..." Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2. Every penny invested in the cause of education is a deposit in the bank of heaven which will certainly bring a wonderful return, for "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3. Join the divine ministry of education, which is the ministry of salvation itself. In eternity, we will see the results of these efforts made for the education and salvation of the souls whom Christ purchased with His precious blood.

May the grace and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

—Julio Sandoya
General Conference Education Department Leader

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the Second Quarter 2003

One Soul in Service

Introduction

In the previous quarter, titled “One Soul—the Search,” we studied the importance of respect for each individual soul and the efforts that God in partnership with each child of His puts forth to find one soul.

Now we will consider instances in which just one soul had a tremendous impact for God’s kingdom on the world. The divine word presents amazing details of certain stories, and the purpose of this is unmistakable: These stories demonstrate for our learning the training, tests, and victories of individuals who were just like us and whose trust in God was implicit. “As an educator no part of the Bible is of greater value than are its biographies. These biographies differ from all others in that they are absolutely true to life. It is impossible for any finite mind to interpret rightly, in all things, the workings of another. None but He who reads the heart, who discerns the secret springs of motive and action, can with absolute truth delineate character, or give a faithful picture of a human life. In God’s word alone is found such delineation.

“No truth does the Bible more clearly teach than that what we do is the result of what we are. To a great degree the experiences of life are the fruition of our own thoughts and deeds.” —*Education*, p. 146. What a fantastic statement concerning what we will find as we look at the environment and circumstances in which these men lived, the spiritual gifts they received, how they used those gifts, and the impact they made on history—all in harmony with God’s specific plan!

To meet the objectives of these lessons, you are encouraged to focus not

on the stories themselves—with which you are already very familiar—but on their specific importance for one soul in service today, as presented in the questions. Therefore, instead of relating in class what you already know without studying the lesson, please study carefully and share with the others in the class what you discovered that was new to you! Additionally, at the end of each lesson some questions and exercises are provided for applying the material practically. The teachers are requested to manage the class in such a way that there is adequate time at least to discuss the Group Study exercises and to decide the best time, place, and way to carry them out.

Our prayer is that, by coming into close connection with the Spirit of God, you will get the very most out of these lessons and yourself become “one soul in service” at this momentous time in history!

—THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Special Sabbath School Offering for the GENERAL CONFERENCE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

God bless your generous gift!

1

Sabbath, April 5, 2003

Connection to the Almighty

“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the ideal, divine pattern of service or serving
- To list the tools (abilities) of the servant
- To understand the power of the helps provided by Heaven
- To gain wisdom for how to serve

1. What elements lie at the foundation of all true service, through which “we may serve God acceptably and with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28)?

- 1 Chronicles 28:9
- Deuteronomy 11:13
- Romans 7:6
- Galatians 5:13, last part

2. How did Jesus express these in word and action? Matthew 7:21; 20:28; 25:34-40.

“The righteous are represented as wondering what they have done for which they are to be so liberally rewarded. They had had the abiding presence of Christ in their hearts; they had been imbued with His Spirit, and without conscious effort on their part; they had been serving Christ in the person of His saints, and had thereby gained the sure reward. But they had not had in view the reward they were to receive, and the expectation of it had been no part of the motive that had actuated their service. What they did was done from love to Christ and to their fellow-men,....”—*Maranatha*, p. 342.

3. Why is a connection with the Almighty the only way it is possible to serve rightly, or even to accomplish any good? John 15:4, 5, 7, 8; Luke 11:23.

“To handle sacred things as we would common matters is an offense to God; for that which God has set apart to do His service in giving light to this world is holy. Those who have any connection with the work

of God are not to walk in the vanity of their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of God, or they will be in danger of placing sacred and common things on the same level, and thus separate themselves from God. And just in proportion to man's consecration to God in this life, will be his advancement in the future life. It is impossible for men to refuse to walk in the light God has given them and still have a living connection with Him. They may lay plans which are looked upon as wise, but without God for their counselor, these plans will prove to be a snare. The enemy will work through such ones to carry out his own devices; for they reject the means by which God would teach and direct them." *—Review and Herald*, September 8, 1896.

4. **What are some important tools given to every single person for service? Nevertheless, what is the only way we can hope to use them rightly? Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7; Matthew 25:14, 15.**

"...Whatever our endowments, we cannot use these powers to accomplish good unless we are daily under the molding influence of the Spirit.... He wants us to put away from our lives the wrong words and unholy thoughts. Mind and heart, lips and pen, must be consecrated to God, for the service of those around us. God has given us the privilege of being coworkers with Him in the work of saving souls." *—The Youth's Instructor*, November 5, 1896.

ENDUED WITH POWER AND WISDOM

5. **What will Heaven accomplish by its great power—but only when linked with devoted human instruments? Isaiah 6:3; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 1:5; Revelation 12:10.**

"The power of God is the one element of efficiency in the grand work of obtaining the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is in accordance with the divine plan that we follow every ray of light given of God. Man can accomplish nothing without God, and God has arranged His plans so as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race without the cooperation of the human with the divine. The part man

is required to sustain is immeasurably small, yet in the plan of God it is just that part that is needed to make the work a success.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 319.

- 6. Although God’s wisdom is vastly superior to that of man, to what arrogance does the wicked one lead the vast majority of mankind, and particularly those who have been given special gifts, talent, and opportunity? Isaiah 10:13, 14; Daniel 4:30; Ezekiel 16:49.**

“The spirit manifested in the earth is a spirit of pride and self-exaltation. Men boast of illumination which in reality is the blindest presumption. Many do not hesitate to exalt human reason, to idolize human wisdom, and to set the opinions of men above the revealed wisdom of God.” —*The Southern Watchman*, March 1, 1909.

“If left to themselves, they will soon reveal their natural temperaments; unsanctified selfishness will be exhibited; human wisdom will occupy the throne of the heart. Men supposed to be sensible men, having discerning minds, will follow their own light, light which heaven has not originated. They will use strange fire in their service, but the Lord will not accept them. When these men see their own inefficiency, and discern how small all their human calculations are, they will realize that without a living connection with God, their influence will be misleading. They will see that the advancement and healthy growth of God’s work is not dependent upon unsanctified men.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, pp. 1819, 1820.

- 7. How is wisdom for service obtained? Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 57:15; 58:2; James 1:5.**

“God chooses men of a humble and contrite spirit through whom He can work, and imparts to them His wisdom. They are little in their own eyes, and will not interpret success as the result of their own smartness, but will glorify God. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord.’ If men are entrusted with great responsibilities, this is no assurance of their fitness for their position. The assurance comes after test and trial. If they evidence that they sense their own weakness, if they make God their trust, the Lord will supply them with His wisdom. If they ask in faith, they will increase in knowledge and ability. If they depend

upon God day by day, the stages of development will show a symmetrical growth heavenward. If they walk day by day in humility and contrition and wholeheartedness, in the strictest integrity doing justice to their fellow-men, showing reverence and honor to God by being obedient and true to Him, keeping the living principles of righteousness, God will honor them.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, pp. 1820, 1821.

PRACTICAL PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Prepare a list of the gifts, talents, abilities, and opportunities that you have at your disposal today.**
- **Under prayer and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, evaluate your own life and activities in the light of what you have previously defined as your mission.**
- **Decide what changes (maybe they’re small, but maybe they’re big!) to make so you will be more pleased with what you are doing, then make a plan and put these changes into action.**

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- **Let all who wish to do so set a time or times to come together to study, discover, discuss, and train for some specific type of service.**
 - **Create teams of like-minded individuals or age groups and make workable plans for individual or group service activities.**
-

Sabbath, April 12, 2003

Preaching

Spiritual Gifts in Service, Part 1
(1 Corinthians 12:28)

“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” Acts 8:4.

OBJECTIVES

- To define preaching as a function of service
- To determine the purpose of preaching
- To understand what preaching can and cannot accomplish
- To discover how to develop and use preaching

PREACHING AND ITS PURPOSE

This lesson and the next four are derived from the apostle Paul’s list of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28, beginning with those of apostles and prophets. Although the latter serve in many ways besides preaching, we will concentrate here only on this aspect. *Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition, defines “preach” as follows: “To deliver a sermon; to urge acceptance or abandonment of an idea or course of action; to advocate earnestly.” Hence, we can say that in its purest form preaching means to present a spiritual topic as a sermon or public speech in a well-developed, inspirational form under the power of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of bringing about a change of motivation and action on the part of the listeners. But we will learn that there are ways to preach without speaking!

1. What do the Scriptures reveal about Jesus’ purpose in delivering sermons?

- Matthew 4:17
- Mark 1:38, 39
- Luke 4:18, 19, 43

“He had tact to meet the prejudiced minds, and surprise them with illustrations that won their attention. Through the imagination He reached the heart.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 254.

- 2. How did He include this important work in the tasks assigned to His disciples? Matthew 10:5-8, etc. When did their preaching become most impressive and effective? Acts 2:4-8, 37, 38.**

- 3. When alone can preaching accomplish its divine purpose? Matthew 3:1, 2, 11; Luke 3:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:4. Therefore, who is responsible for the effects of a sermon?**

“While the people are so destitute of God’s Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit’s power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God’s Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, will be prepared to exert a healthful influence.”—*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 121.

“The minister of Christ should be encircled by an atmosphere of spiritual light, because he is connected with the world of light, and walks with Christ, who is the light of the world. Arguments may be resisted; persuasion and entreaty may be scorned; the most eloquent appeals, supported by the rigor of logic, may be disregarded. But a living character of righteousness, a daily piety in all the walks of life, an anxiety for the sinner wherever found, the spirit of truth burning in the heart, beaming from the countenance, and breathing from the lips in every word, constitute a sermon which is hard to resist or to set aside, and which makes the strongholds of Satan tremble. Ministers who walk with God are clad with the panoply of Heaven, and victory attends their efforts.”—*Review and Herald*, August 8, 1878.

SPIRITUAL SERMON ROBBERS

- 4. What warnings are given in the Spirit of Prophecy concerning things that all who preach need to be particularly careful about?**

- “One minister conversing with another in the desk before the congregation, laughing and appearing to have no burden of the work, or lacking a solemn sense of their sacred calling, dishonors the truth, and brings the sacred down upon the low level of common things.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 612, 613.
- “Sometimes the assemblies of God’s people have been treated with a commonness which has been an offense to God and has robbed the sacred work of its holiness and purity.
- “Many speakers waste their time and strength in long preliminaries and excuses. Some use nearly half an hour in making apologies; thus time is wasted, and when they reach their subject and try to fasten the points of truth in the minds of their hearers, the people are wearied out and cannot see their force.” –*Evangelism*, pp. 145, 146.
- “Ministers should possess refinement. They should discard all uncouth manners, attitudes, and gestures, and should encourage in themselves humble dignity of bearing. They should be clothed in a manner befitting the dignity of their position. Their speech should be in every respect solemn and well chosen.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 648, 649.
- “Do not present subjects that will arouse controversy. Let not your instruction be of a character to perplex the mind.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 58.
- “You may be sure that pure and undefiled religion is not a sensational religion. God has not laid upon anyone the burden of encouraging an appetite for encouraging speculative doctrines and theories.” –(*Australasian Union Conference Record*, March 15, 1904) *Evangelism*, p. 138.
- “Let everything connected with the giving of the message for this time bear the divine impress. Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work.” –*Evangelism*, p. 137.
- “Never bring the truth down to a low level in order to obtain converts, but seek to bring the sinful and corrupted up to the high standard of the law of God.” –(Manuscript 7, 1900) *Evangelism*, p. 137.
- “Not by startling notices and expensive display is His work to be carried to completion, but by following Christlike methods.... It is the naked truth which, like a sharp, two-edged sword, cuts both ways, arousing to spiritual life those who are dead in trespasses and sins. Men will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in a way that is in harmony with God’s purposes.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 383.

MORE THAN PREACHING IS NEEDED

5. What did Christ’s life reveal about the place preaching should occupy in service? Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Acts 10:38.

“During His ministry Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy but to save. His righteousness went before Him, and the glory of the Lord was His rearward. Wherever He went, the tidings of His mercy preceded Him.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 350.

“A minister is one who ministers. If you confine your work to sermonizing, the flock of God will suffer; for they need personal effort. Let your discourses be short. Long sermons wear out both you and the people. If ministers would make their sermons only half as long, they would do more good and would have strength left for personal work. Visit families, pray with them, converse with them, search the Scriptures with them, and you will do them good. Give them evidence that you seek their prosperity, and want them to be healthy Christians.” —(Manuscript 8a, 1888) *Evangelism*, p. 348.

6. What special respect should be shown to those who minister with the holy word? 1 Timothy 5:17-19; Acts 17:11.

“The churches themselves have been educated in such a way that they have had too little respect for those who preach the word of God, and who for years have given full proof of their ministry. But this way of dealing with the ministers and with the members of the family of God must be changed. The blessing of God cannot rest upon those who manifest little respect for the workers together with Him.” —*Review and Herald*, October 24, 1893.

7. What responsibility does every God-fearing Christian have in making sure that the preaching of the word meets the heavenly standard and reaches the heart with convicting power? Romans 10:8, 9; 14:13; Titus 3:1, 2.

“Ministers are engaged in a sacred, solemn work, but upon those who hear rests just as sacred a responsibility. They are to hear with a determination to follow the instruction that all must practice who gain eternal life. Each hearer should strive to understand each presentation of Bible truth as God’s message to him, to be received by faith and put into practice in the daily life. Parents should explain to their children the words spoken from the pulpit, that they also may understand and have that knowledge which if put into practice brings abundant grace and peace.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 531.

- **Consider the following quotation and then write down the ways in which your personal life is a sermon:**

“We cannot gain and possess the influence that Christ had; but then, I ask you why we should not educate ourselves and bring ourselves just as near to the Pattern as it is possible for us to do, that we may have the greatest possible influence upon the people. Our words, our actions, our deportment, our dress, everything, should preach. Not only with our words should we speak to the people, but everything pertaining to our person should be a sermon to them, that right impressions may be made upon them, and that the truth spoken may be taken by them to their homes; and thus our faith will stand in a better light before the community.”
—*Review and Herald*, May 30, 1871.

GROUP ACTIVITY

- **Sister White advises,**

“Our people should not be made to think that they need to listen to a sermon every Sabbath. Many who listen frequently to sermons, even though the truth be presented in clear lines, learn but little. Often it would be more profitable if the Sabbath meetings were of the nature of a Bible class study. Bible truth should be presented in such a simple, interesting manner that all can easily understand and grasp the principles of salvation.” —(Letter 192, 1906) *Evangelism*, p. 348.

- **Discuss appropriate ways to implement this counsel and put them into practice in your local church.**
- **From the following quotations, consider what every church sermon should contain and discuss the reasons why.**

“At every suitable opportunity let the story of Jesus’ love be repeated to the children. In every sermon let a little corner be left for their benefit.”
—*Child Guidance*, p. 552.

“...He will not dismiss a congregation without presenting before them Jesus Christ, the sinner’s only refuge,...” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 42.

“Christ crucified, Christ risen, Christ ascended into the heavens, Christ coming again, should so soften, gladden, and fill the mind of the minister that he will present these truths to the people in love and deep earnestness.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 159.

Teaching

Spiritual Gifts in Service, Part 2

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20.

OBJECTIVES

- To define teaching and its importance in service
- To list methods of teaching
- To understand how teaching helps to reach hearts with the words of life
- To arouse an interest in developing and using teaching more effectively

Turning again to *Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition, “teach” is defined as “to cause to know something; to cause to know how; to accustom to some action or attitude; to cause to know the disagreeable consequences of some action; to guide the studies of; to instruct by precept, example, or experience.”

TEACHING AND SERVICE

1. **What differences can we distinguish between preaching and teaching? Colossians 1:27, 28; 3:16. Explain what you understand as the special mission and importance of each.**

2. **What basic counsel do we find concerning teaching?**

“Christ, the great Medical Missionary, is our example. Of Him it is written that He ‘went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.’ Matthew 4:23. He healed the

sick and preached the gospel. In His service, healing and teaching were linked closely together. Today they are not to be separated.”—*Counsels on Health*, pp. 395, 396.

3. Just as Jesus used various settings for teaching, what opportunities should we recognize and take advantage of today?

- Matthew 5:1, 2
- Mark 2:13
- Mark 6:6
- Mark 6:30, 31
- Mark 12:35
- Luke 5:17
- Luke 10:38, 39

METHODS OF AND PURPOSE OF TEACHING

4. For what different types of people and under what circumstances is each of the following teaching methods appropriate in gospel service (consider, for example, the age, health, spiritual experience, and occupation of the learners)

- Expository teaching/lecture
- Presentation of questions
- Group discussion
- Development of thought and sequence
- Research
- Reading and analysis
- Mental or practical exercise
- Memorization
- Hands-on activities
- Personal counseling
- Personal visits
- Sharing of stories

- 5. What divine purpose lies behind everything done by those who serve as teachers? Luke 4:32, 36; Colossians 1:28; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Peter 3:14.**

“To bring man back into harmony with God, so to elevate and ennoble his moral nature that he may again reflect the image of the Creator, is the great purpose of all the education and discipline of life.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 49, 50.

- 6. Why must the teacher link the student with the divine Source of knowledge and spiritual strength? Galatians 6:4, 5; Romans 14:12.**

“Everyone must in the judgment give account of himself to God, and each should now learn for himself what is truth. But in order to do effective study, the interest of the pupil must be enlisted.... He who created us, with our various aptitudes, has in His word given something for everyone. As the pupils see that the lessons of the Bible apply to their own lives, teach them to look to it as a counselor.”—*Education*, p. 188.

- 7. What noble aim inspires us to put forth effort to improve our abilities to teach—to know how to reach other minds with the blessings of heaven?**

“Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of

circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions.” *—Education*, pp. 17, 18.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **If we are not ready learners, we will never be good teachers. Examine and evaluate this sentence in the light of Acts 17: 11 and your personal experience.**
- **Consider Jesus’ words in Matthew 18:3; what do children teach us about learning?**
- **Is it possible that the words of Jesus in Matthew 13:13-15 may apply to us?**
- **When should teachers listen? Galatians 6:6.**

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- **Discuss the attitude of your own local church toward the knowledge it holds. For example, does it carefully and conscientiously follow the advice found in *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 33: “You should examine the truths you have been led to believe, until you know that they are without a flaw. You lose much when you do not bring every point of faith you hold to the law and to the testimony, for you do not see or appreciate the truth as it is”?**
- **Discuss the following important question: Is it possible that we seek to learn and teach intellectual or theological knowledge while refusing that learning which would cleanse our souls?**
- **How can the local church improve its manner of teaching and create more teaching opportunities? In what areas should this be done?**

Miracles and Healing

Spiritual Gifts in Service, Part 3

“And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.” Luke 9:6.

OBJECTIVES

- To obtain a view of the types of miracles and healing that God carries out today
- To define the purpose of healing
- To understand the divine concept of life and health
- To encourage each soul in service to become more earnest and powerful in prayer

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

1. **What is the powerful relationship between the body and the soul? 3 John 2. How does this explain the way in which Jesus worked, as depicted in John 5:14 and Matthew 9:2-6—and also the way He works today through His servants?**

“Working through His Holy Spirit He sanctifies and cleanses the soul temple. Thus, though his whole powers had become deranged, man may be brought back restored to his original relationship to God, and become an agent of good to every other man. In place of the diseased, soul-and-body-destroying principles of evil, he follows heavenly principles. Sanctified by the agency of the Holy Spirit, his influence upon his fellow man becomes aggressive to expel from the earth the evils produced through the satanic perversion of that which God designed should be only good. All these perverted powers the Lord Jesus will turn to His service, and man becomes the human channel to work the will of God to redeem and bring back the people that have broken away from their allegiance to God, and to unite them to their proper Center.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, pp. 208, 209.

2. Thus, what relationship exists between the service of healing and the gospel? Who can do this service?

“The gospel ministry is needed to give permanence and stability to the medical missionary work; and the ministry needs the medical missionary work to demonstrate the practical working of the gospel. Neither part of the work is complete without the other.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 514.

“All can labor for the salvation of those who are out of the ark of safety. When church members stand pledged to the service of God, pledged to do missionary work, when they take hold of the work unselfishly because they love the souls for whom Christ has died and are desirous of uniting with the great Medical Missionary, the Lord will come very near to them to instruct them. Life is full of opportunities for practical missionaries. Every man, woman, and child can sow each day the seeds of kind words and unselfish deeds.”—*Medical Ministry*, p. 317.

3. In what connection are miracles always to be considered? Therefore, what should be our attitude toward them? Deuteronomy 29:2-4; John 3:2; 12:36-40.

“Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage....

“The Pharisees despised the simplicity of Jesus. They ignored His miracles, and demanded a sign that He was the Son of God. But the Samaritans asked no sign, and Jesus performed no miracles among them, save in revealing the secrets of her life to the woman at the well. Yet many received Him. In their new joy they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.’” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 120, 192, 193.

LIFE AND HEALTH—IN THE TRUE SENSE

4. What do those who serve in the healing arts need to understand so as to be the blessing which Heaven intends? Mark 5:19.

“The life of Christ and His ministry to the afflicted are inseparably connected. From the light that has been given me, I know that an intimate relationship should ever exist between the medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. They are bound together in sacred union as one work, and are never to be divorced. The principles of heaven are to be adopted and practiced by those who claim to walk in the Saviour’s footsteps. By His example He has shown us that medical missionary work is not to take the place of the preaching of the gospel, but is to be bound up with it. Christ gave a perfect representation of true godliness by combining the work of a physician and a minister, ministering to the needs of both body and soul, healing physical disease, and then speaking words that brought peace to the troubled heart....” –*Counsels on Health*, p. 528.

5. Once a person has regained health of body and soul, what should he be immediately helped to do? 2 Timothy 2:2.

“The Lord wants those who have gained an experience in His service to be educators. We are to be learners in the school of Christ, that we may teach others, and that we may plan wisely for the carrying forward of God’s work.” –*Medical Ministry*, p. 293.

“Those who, by divine grace, have gained the mastery over their faults, are to teach others how to overcome, pointing them to the Source of strength. To every converted soul is given the privilege of helping those around him who do not rejoice in the light in which he is standing. They also may know the joy that has come to him. ‘As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.’ John 1:12. They may take their place in the world as God’s light bearers.” –*This Day with God*, p. 226.

DIVINE RESOURCES

6. What resources has Heaven committed to all who want to serve in the healing arts? Matthew 10:8; Luke 10:9; James 5:14-16.

“If the motive of all our life is to serve and honor Christ and bless humanity in the world, then the dreariest path of duty will become a bright way—a path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. If we are children of God, there will be countless opportunities for serving

him by active ministry to those for whom he died. Jesus looks upon the wants, the necessities, of every soul, and ministers unto them by standing close beside the one whom he uses to be an instrument to help and bless others.” —*Review and Herald*, July 5, 1887.

“Put your hearts into this work, and the blessing of God will be with you. Go forth in faith, as you go praying that God will prepare hearts to receive the truth. Be pleasant and courteous. Show by a consistent course that you are true Christians. Walk and work in the light of heaven, and your path will be as the path of the just, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Under the divine guidance go forward in the work, and look to the Lord for aid. The Holy Spirit will attend you, and all heaven will be with you.” —*Bible Training School*, May 1, 1912.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND STUDY

- **Too often we take God’s miracles (divine intervention in human life) for granted, because they occur in multitudes of small ways every day, as revealed in the following quotation:**

“In every case of woe He brought relief, His kind words having a healing balm. None could say He had worked a miracle, yet He imparted His virtue to those He saw in suffering and in need. Through the whole thirty years of His private life He was humble, meek, and lowly. He had a living connection with God; for the Spirit of God was upon Him, and He gave evidence to all who were acquainted with Him that He lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father in the common things of life.” —*Review and Herald*, October 24, 1899. Resolve to be a better observer of your own life so you learn not only to recognize the miracles but also how to ask for Heaven’s aid so you can bless others.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- **As one group or in teams, help each other become better observers of the way God is working in your midst.**
- **What preparation of attitude and abilities is needed so God can work more powerfully in your local church?**

Carry out this preparation as quickly as possible, because “The whole host of heaven is waiting to fulfil the last work for this lost world, and yet the work waits. It is because the few who profess to have the oil of grace

in their vessels with their lamps, have not become burning and shining lights in the world. It is because missionaries are few.” *—Review and Herald*, March 27, 1894.

5

Sabbath, May 3, 2003

Government and Administration

Spiritual Gifts in Service, Part 4

“O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.” Psalm 67:4.

OBJECTIVES

- To define administration
- To understand the relationship between administration and spiritual service
- To cherish the gift of organization
- To become acquainted with some principles of administration

HEAVENLY ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT

- 1. What picture is given us of the system and administration of heaven? On what is it based? Psalm 103:19, 20; Isaiah 66: 1, 2; Revelation 5:11-14.**

“I seemed to be there where all was peace, where no stormy conflicts of earth could ever come—heaven, a kingdom of righteousness where all the holy and pure and blest are congregated, ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, living and walking in happy, pure intimacy, praising God and the Lamb who sitteth on the throne.

“Their voices were in perfect harmony. They never do each other wrong. Princes of heaven, the potentates of this mighty realm, are rivals

only in good, seeking the happiness and joy of each other. The greatest there is least in self-esteem, and the least is greatest in his gratitude and wealth of love.

“There are no dark errors to cloud the intellect. Truth and knowledge, clear, strong, and perfect, have chased every doubt away, and no gloom of doubt casts its baleful shadow upon its happy inhabitants. No voices of contention mar the sweet and perfect peace of heaven. Its inhabitants know no sorrow, no grief, no tears. All is in perfect harmony, in perfect order and perfect bliss....

“Heaven is a home where sympathy is alive in every heart, expressed in every look. Love reigns there. There are no jarring elements, no discord or contentions or war of words.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, pp, 104, 105.

2. Why can the very best administration without a godly foundation never mirror the government of heaven? In the following verses, find some principles that will be present in every spiritual administration and explain why they are important. Add more that you believe are necessary.

- 2 Chronicles 19:7
- Zechariah 8:17
- 1 Corinthians 14:40
- Titus 1:5
- Philippians 2:1-4
- 2 Corinthians 8:21
- Ephesians 4:1-4

“God’s holy Word gives us the principles that form the standard of correct management in temporal as well as spiritual things. God’s will is to be made the will of the human agent, and this will is to be kept prominent. Men are not to act as though there were one rule for the master and another for the servant. Christ was a servant. He lived not to please Himself, and by His life of service He has exalted all service.” –*The Educational Messenger*, March 19, 1909.

“The strength of our institutions is not found so much in their worldly prosperity as in the character of their managers. They are to be meek and lowly of heart, learning daily their lessons in the school of Christ, seeking by prayer and supplication to know the will of the Lord, and inquiring at every step, ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’ It is not the imposing buildings that will strike conviction to souls, but the piety, the humility, the love and fear of God, which actuate the hearts of those who occupy positions of trust in the management of the work.” –*Review and Herald*, February 27, 1894.

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF ORGANIZATION

- 3. For what purpose has God given the gift of organization to individuals? To whom will such servants always be subject? Romans 13:5; 1 Peter 2:17, 18; 5:5; Hebrews 13:17.**

- 4. From the following quotation, prepare a list of areas of service which need to be organized in every local church.**

“The church of Christ is organized for service. Its watchword is ministry. Its members are soldiers, to be trained for conflict under the Captain of their salvation. Christian ministers, physicians, teachers, have a broader work than many have recognized. They are not only to minister to the people, but to teach them to minister. They should not only give instruction in right principles, but educate their hearers to impart these principles. Truth that is not lived, that is not imparted, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue. Its blessing can be retained only as it is shared.

“The monotony of our service for God needs to be broken up. Every church member should be engaged in some line of service for the Master. Some cannot do so much as others, but everyone should do his utmost to roll back the tide of disease and distress that is sweeping over our world. Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged.

“Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work.

There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. One example is worth more than many precepts.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 148, 149.

5. What is often the case in the area of organization? Luke 16: 8. Study the following management principles and explain how they are a necessity in every cooperative effort, including the family and the church.

- Be proactive (take the initiative; do not just react)
- Begin with the end in mind (keep the main purpose always in the forefront)
- Do first things first (identify what is most important, and be sure it is done)
- Seek solutions and methods that are a blessing for everyone, not just a minority
- Seek to understand before being understood
- Synergize (obtain ideas from all the individuals involved; plan together)
- Sharpen the saw (take time for maintaining personal physical, mental, and spiritual well being)

6. Why is it so important for the children of God to be well organized in their personal lives and in their cooperative work? 2 Corinthians 3:3.

“When, in the providence of God, he has a work to be done by the human agent cooperating with the divine, He has a man to do that work, if he will heed the moving of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and mind. To understand the will of God is a great thing. Divine Wisdom has His hand hold of the living machinery in human agencies; men are selected as fitting instruments to do a given work; and O what a precious ability is given of God to man to know his fellowman, so that he can use, through the grace of God, the human agencies, and organize a working company to do the best work, according to their recognized ability! This is a sanctified

gift–genius; it is wise generalship that can make use of men according to their ability.” –*Special Testimonies–Relating to Various Matters in Battle Creek*, p. 16.

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

- **There are certain personality types which enjoy organizing specific things. If you are one of those people, write down what it is you like to organize. Look for opportunities to put this talent to good use.**
- **In what different ways does choosing to follow Jesus and be part of the heavenly kingdom help your life to be organized? Consider especially the importance of prioritizing (doing first things first).**

GROUP PRACTICE ACTIVITY

- **Select one area of service from question 4 and study how the principles given in question 5 can be applied to doing that service.**
-

The Gift of Languages

Spiritual Gifts in Service, Part 5

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4.

OBJECTIVES

- To consider the importance of speech and translation in service
- To grasp the importance of the Holy Spirit in giving correct understanding of languages
- To understand the spirituality of spoken and unspoken language
- To encourage the proper study of speech and language and its importance in learning

THE HERITAGE FROM BABEL

1. Why was it necessary for God to generate a multitude of languages at the time of Babel? Genesis 9:1; 11:4-9.

“God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious....

“Had they gone on unchecked, they would have demoralized the world in its infancy. Their confederacy was founded in rebellion; a kingdom established for self-exaltation, but in which God was to have no rule or honor. Had this confederacy been permitted, a mighty power would have borne sway to banish righteousness—and with it peace, happiness, and security—from the earth. For the divine statutes, which are ‘holy and just and good’ (Romans 7:12), men were endeavoring to substitute laws to

suit the purpose of their own selfish and cruel hearts.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 118, 123.

- 2. The many languages on earth have somewhat hindered the development of evil, but they have also put a special burden on the spread of the gospel. What help has God provided and will He continue to provide for this? Mark 16:17; Acts 2:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:10.**

“Before long there will be a positive necessity for many to leave their homes and go to work among those of other languages; and those who have some knowledge of foreign languages will thereby be able to communicate with those who know not the truth. Some of our people will learn the languages in the countries to which they are sent. This is the better way. And there is One who will stand right by the side of the faithful worker to open the understanding and to give wisdom. The Lord can make their work fruitful where men do not know the foreign language. As they go among the people, and present the publications, the Lord will work upon minds, imparting an understanding of the truth. Some who take up the work in foreign fields can teach the word through an interpreter. As the result of faithful effort there will be a harvest gathered, the value of which we do not now understand.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 537.

THE SPOKEN AND UNSPOKEN WORD

- 3. In addition to the accurate translation of a foreign language, what else is very important in the gospel work? Romans 15:6; Ephesians 1:17-20. What unique difficulty did Sister White address?**

“There are many who interpret that which I write in the light of their own preconceived opinions. You know what this means. A division in understanding and diverse opinions is the sure result.

“How to write in a way to be understood by those to whom I address important matter, is a problem I cannot solve. But I will endeavor to write much less. Owing to the influence of mind upon mind, those who misunderstand can lead others to misunderstand, by the interpretation they place upon the subjects from my pen. One understands them as he thinks they should be, in accordance with his ideas. Another puts his

construction upon the written matter, and confusion is the sure result.”
—(Letter 96, 1899) *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, pp. 79, 80.

How greatly we need the Holy Spirit’s aid and power at every step, and more so in the case of translation! In these last days, we cannot do without constant prayer and the indwelling Holy Spirit!

- 4. Besides words, what other parts of communication does God take into account in carrying out His purposes? Isaiah 6:8-10; Matthew 13:13-15; Mark 4:11, 12. How did Jesus deal with this?**

“Jesus watched with deep earnestness the changing countenances of His hearers. The faces that expressed interest and pleasure gave Him great satisfaction. As the arrows of truth pierced to the soul, breaking through the barriers of selfishness, and working contrition, and finally gratitude, the Saviour was made glad. When His eye swept over the throng of listeners, and He recognized among them the faces He had before seen, His countenance lighted up with joy. He saw in them hopeful subjects for His kingdom. When the truth, plainly spoken, touched some cherished idol, He marked the change of countenance, the cold, forbidding look, which told that the light was unwelcome. When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 255.

- 5. What should we consider in our every word and communication? John 6:68; Acts 5:20.**

“If you talk out your feelings, every doubt you express not only reacts upon yourself, but it is a seed that will germinate and bear fruit in the life of others, and it may be impossible to counteract the influence of your words. You yourself may be able to recover from the season of temptation and from the snare of Satan, but others who have been swayed by your influence may not be able to escape from the unbelief you have suggested. How important that we speak only those things that will give spiritual strength and life!” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 119.

- 6. What blessed service will flow naturally from the heart filled with Jesus' presence? Therefore, what should all who communicate with others study and practice? Proverbs 12:14; Colossians 3:17.**

“Countless are the opportunities for unselfish service. There are many to whom life is a painful struggle; they feel their deficiencies, and are miserable and unbelieving; they think they have nothing for which to be grateful. Kind words, looks of sympathy, expressions of appreciation, would be to many a struggling and lonely one as a cup of cold water to a thirsty soul. A word of sympathy, an act of kindness, would lift burdens that rest heavily upon weary shoulders. And every word or deed of unselfish kindness is an expression of the love of Christ for lost humanity.” —*Signs of the Times*, November 25, 1903.

TRAINING IN ONE'S MOTHER TONGUE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 7. Why is it necessary for every servant of God to do everything possible to train himself to speak his language correctly and clearly and to learn how to present the sacred word? Ephesians 6:19; Nehemiah 8:8.**

“If your students, besides studying God's word, learn no more than how to use correctly the English [or their own] language in reading, writing, and speaking, a great work will have been accomplished. Those who are trained for service in the Lord's cause should be taught how to talk properly in ordinary conversation and before congregations. Many a laborer's usefulness is marred by his ignorance in regard to correct breathing and clear, forcible speaking. Many have not learned to give the right emphasis to the words they read and speak. Often the enunciation is indistinct. A thorough training in the use of the English language is of far more value to a youth than a superficial study of foreign languages, to the neglect of his mother tongue.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 207, 208.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What great responsibility and practical application do you see for yourself (especially if you are a parent or a grandparent or have contact with children and youth) in the following statement?**

“In order to exert the right influence, he [the teacher] should have perfect control over himself, and his own heart should be richly imbued with love for his pupils, which will be seen in his looks, words, and acts.... Those who deal with the young should be very careful to call out the qualities of the mind, that they may better know how to direct its powers so that they may be exercised to the very best account.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 135.

- **How can you motivate others to want with all their hearts to have a relationship with Jesus Christ?**

GROUP ACTIVITY

- **It has been estimated that in some cases, 90% of the information we receive from other people is unspoken. In all verbal communication, the following elements can communicate more than the words and also affect the message: (1) Tone of voice, (2) facial expression, (3) actions and gestures, (4) touch, (5) space, and (6) time. Discuss what is necessary for each of us to have all of these elements sanctified and brought under the Holy Spirit's control.**
-

Noah—One Soul at a Turning Point

“Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Genesis 6:9.

OBJECTIVES

- To consider Noah’s environment and life circumstances
- To determine what his spiritual gifts were and how he used them
- To understand the impact his one life had on the world
- To study how we can apply his example in our day

THE WORLD OF NOAH’S DAY

1. **From Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:37-39, from what God said about the people who lived before and after the flood in Genesis 6:5 and 11:6, and from what the world is like today, what can we imagine the world was like in Noah’s day?** Remembering the special conditions of the environment and the longevity of that race, consider the following aspects:
 - Physical world
 - Activities of the people
 - Technology
 - Social conditions
 - Moral conditions
2. **How did Noah and his family relate to the society around them? Genesis 6:9-11.**

“By transgression the world became so vile that it was necessary to cleanse it by the Flood from its corruption. The law was preserved by Noah and his family, and Noah taught his descendants the Ten Commandments.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 363.

HIS SPIRITUAL GIFTS

3. Describe the spiritual gifts which Noah received from God and exercised. Genesis 6:14, 22; Hebrews 11:7.

“Noah, by his preaching and example in building the ark, condemned the world. God gave all who chose an opportunity to repent and turn to him. But they believed not the preaching of Noah. They mocked at his warnings, and ridiculed the building of that immense vessel on dry land. Noah’s efforts to reform his fellow-men did not succeed. But for more than one hundred years he persevered in his efforts to turn men to repentance and to God. Every blow struck upon the ark was preaching to the people. Noah directed, he preached, he worked, while the people looked on in amazement, and regarded him as a fanatic.” –*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 70.

4. What did the results of his preaching reveal, and what lessons are we to learn specifically from this? 1 Peter 3:20.

“‘The cities and villages constitute a part of the Lord’s vineyard. They must hear the messages of warning. The enemy of truth is making desperate efforts to turn the people from the truth of God to falsehood.... You are to sow beside all waters.

“‘It may be that you will not at once see the result of your labor, but this should not discourage you. Take Christ as your example. He had many hearers, but few followers. Noah preached for one hundred and twenty years to the people before the flood; yet out of the multitudes on the earth at that time only eight were saved.’

“The messenger continued: ‘You are entertaining too limited ideas of the work for this time. You are trying to plan the work so that you can embrace it in your arms. You must take broader views. Your light must not be put under a bushel or under a bed, but on a candlestick, that it may give light to all that are in the house. Your house is the world....’” –*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, pp. 208, 209.

5. **What impact did Noah's life and experience have on this world and society up to our very day? Consider the witness of the results of the flood, as well as the Biblical report of his spiritual heritage to the world. 2 Peter 2:5; 3:5-7.**

6. **What spiritual heritage did he leave for all ages? Ezekiel 14:20.**

"The grace of God has been freely offered to every soul. The message of the gospel has been heralded, 'Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.' Revelation 22:17. But character is not transferable. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit's working." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 411.

"Men have not had God in their thoughts; they have followed the imagination of their own hearts, and that continually, as did the inhabitants of the old world. The Lord sent a message of warning by His servant Noah, but the people who saw no evidences of the impending evil, laughed his message to scorn. In the world today there is a similar indifference to the warnings of the messengers of God. Reproof and entreaty alike fall upon deaf ears. One turns to another, and asks concerning the solemn messenger, 'Does he not speak in parables?' Is not spiritual darkness covering the earth, and gross darkness the people? Do not men stand in defiance of the Most High?" –*Review and Herald*, August 13, 1889.

7. **What does the example of Noah teach us about how we should deal with the unique challenges and dangers that face us in today's world? 2 Peter 3:3, 4, 10-14; 2 Timothy 3: 1-7; James 1:27.**

"Belief in the near coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven will not cause the true Christian to become neglectful and careless of the ordinary business of life. The waiting ones who look for the soon

appearing of Christ will not be idle, but diligent in business. Their work will not be done carelessly and dishonestly, but with fidelity, promptness, and thoroughness.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 309.

“God would have His ministers in this dispensation keep before the people, not only the mercy and love of Christ, but the doctrines of the Bible. These should be presented in simple language, adapted to the comprehension of children. Let the young be faithfully instructed in the truths of God’s word. The history of the past, the present, and the future, as revealed in the sacred Scriptures, should be taught in a pleasing, yet serious manner.”—*Signs of the Times*, May 26, 1881.

“In their efforts to advance the work all will manifest that oneness of sentiment and practice which reveals that they are God’s witnesses, that they love one another. To a world that is broken up by discord and strife, their love and unity will testify to their connection with heaven. It is the convincing evidence of the divine character of their mission.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 156, 157.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **Considering the life of Noah, how consistently do you maintain the purity of heaven in today’s world?**
- **What changes do you need to make in cooperation with God so that your life is a sermon of righteousness?**
- **With whom are you solidly connected in your adherence to holy principles of life?**

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Evidence is available in archaeology that the technology just before and right after the flood rivaled what the world is experiencing today. What does this tell us about what our own attitude should be toward our own life style?**
 - **What will keep us from being lulled into carnal complacency?**
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Abraham—One Influential Soul

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.” Genesis 18:19.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the environment and circumstances of Abraham’s life
- To identify why He became the father of faith
- To study the impact of his life on the world of his day, in history, and today
- To learn how to emulate his example

THE WORLD OF ABRAHAM’S DAY

1. **Abraham was called by God to leave his family and acquaintances so as to preserve the holy faith (Genesis 12:1). Underline in the quotation below the important characteristics of the family and social arrangements which were carried out to make this mission possible.**

“In early times the father was the ruler and priest of his own family, and he exercised authority over his children, even after they had families of their own. His descendants were taught to look up to him as their head, in both religious and secular matters. This patriarchal system of government Abraham endeavored to perpetuate, as it tended to preserve the knowledge of God. It was necessary to bind the members of the household together, in order to build up a barrier against the idolatry that had become so widespread and so deep-seated. Abraham sought by every means in his power to guard the inmates of his encampment against mingling with the heathen and witnessing their idolatrous practices, for he knew that familiarity with evil would insensibly corrupt

the principles. The greatest care was exercised to shut out every form of false religion and to impress the mind with the majesty and glory of the living God as the true object of worship.

“It was a wise arrangement, which God Himself had made, to cut off His people, so far as possible, from connection with the heathen, making them a people dwelling alone, and not reckoned among the nations. He had separated Abraham from his idolatrous kindred, that the patriarch might train and educate his family apart from the seductive influences which would have surrounded them in Mesopotamia, and that the true faith might be preserved in its purity by his descendants from generation to generation.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 141, 142.

- 2. What showed that the corrupting influences were not so very far away from Abraham’s encampment? Genesis 13: 6-10; 19:27, 28.**

- 3. What spiritual gifts did he receive from God, and how did he use them to maintain and further the kingdom of heaven to the extent of his ability? Romans 4:13, 17, 18.**

“His own example, the silent influence of his daily life, was a constant lesson. The unswerving integrity, the benevolence and unselfish courtesy, which had won the admiration of kings, were displayed in the home. There was a fragrance about the life, a nobility and loveliness of character, which revealed to all that he was connected with Heaven. He did not neglect the soul of the humblest servant. In his household there was not one law for the master and another for the servant; a royal way for the rich and another for the poor. All were treated with justice and compassion, as inheritors with him of the grace of life.

“‘He will command his ... household.’ There would be no sinful neglect to restrain the evil propensities of his children, no weak, unwise, indulgent favoritism; no yielding of his conviction of duty to the claims of mistaken affection. Abraham would not only give right instruction, but he would maintain the authority of just and righteous laws.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 142.

- 4. Although the Scriptures record some grave mistakes that Abraham made during his life, yet how did the apostle present the wonderful heritage of faith which has been passed to every child of faith? Romans 4:3, 9, 13; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23; Hebrews 11:8, 11.**

- 5. What blessing has come to the entire world as the result? Genesis 12:2, 3; Galatians 3:7-14, 29.**

“While the people are looking for earthly good, Jesus points them to a heavenly reward. But He does not place it all in the future life; it begins here. The Lord appeared of old to Abraham, and said, ‘I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.’ This is the reward of all who follow Christ. Jehovah Emmanuel—He ‘in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,’ in whom dwells ‘all the fulness of the Godhead bodily’—to be brought into sympathy with Him, to know Him, to possess Him, as the heart opens more and more to receive His attributes; to know His love and power, to possess the unsearchable riches of Christ, to comprehend more and more ‘what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God’—‘this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.’” —*Signs of the Times*, February 10, 1909.

A WORTHY, PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

- 6. What example from Abraham’s life is particularly significant for parents and those who are responsible for helping and instructing children and youth?**

“There would be no sinful neglect to restrain the evil propensities of his children, no weak, unwise, indulgent favoritism; no yielding of his conviction of duty to the claims of mistaken affection. Abraham would not only give right instruction, but he would maintain the authority of just and righteous laws.

“How few there are in our day who follow this example! On the part of too many parents there is a blind and selfish sentimentalism, miscalled love, which is manifested in leaving children, with their unformed judgment and undisciplined passions, to the control of their own will. This is the veriest cruelty to the youth and a great wrong to the world. Parental indulgence causes disorder in families and in society. It confirms in the young the desire to follow inclination, instead of submitting to the divine requirements. Thus they grow up with a heart averse to doing God’s will, and they transmit their irreligious, insubordinate spirit to their children and children’s children. Like Abraham, parents should command their households after them. Let obedience to parental authority be taught and enforced as the first step in obedience to the authority of God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 142, 143.

FOR PERSONAL CONSIDERATION

- **Although we tend to think of the great men of God as being somehow far above us, what does God in His word really want us to understand about and learn from them? Consider this question in the light of the following quotation:**

“Where are the deep, living, holy experiences which men of God were wont to recount? Has the standard of Christianity been lowered? ... No; that standard remains just where God placed it. Holy men of ages past were required to give up all for Christ, to cherish His spirit, and to imitate His example. Nothing less than this will He accept now.... When called to give up all for Christ, who will stand the test?”—*Our High Calling*, p. 249.

- **The lily on the muddy pond is an example of the Christian in a sinful, perverted world (see *Messages to Young People*, chapter 144, p. 423). How does one reconcile this thought with the admonition that families should move away from the cities?**

GROUP ACTIVITY

- **Discuss some of the choices which Abraham made—particularly marrying Hagar at the urging of his wife—and their impact on the world, particularly today through Islam.**

- **We are told that “Abraham’s household comprised more than a thousand souls.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 141. That was a small town! Discuss how the church can actually function as did Abraham’s household. Make plans and implement changes to bring this about.**

9

Sabbath, May 31, 2003

Job–One Soul in Service

“I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.” Job 29:15, 16.

OBJECTIVES

- To consider the society and environment in which Job lived
- To evaluate his spiritual gifts and how he used them
- To study the impact of his life up to our day
- To make a resolve to emulate his example

JOB’S ENVIRONMENT AND GIFTS

- 1. What do we know about the patriarch Job and his society? Job 1:1-5.**

“The long years amid desert solitudes were not lost. Not only was Moses gaining a preparation for the great work before him, but during this time, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he wrote the book of Genesis and also the book of Job, which would be read with the deepest interest by the people of God until the close of time.” –(*Signs of the Times*,

February 19, 1880) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1140.

The book of Job is considered the oldest of all the books of the Bible. It contains great lessons concerning the battle between Christ and Satan and man's part in this battle, as well as profound points of eternal truth and amazing characteristics of God Himself. It has had a powerful and enduring influence down through the centuries. Furthermore, some have connected this "greatest of all the men of the east" (Job 1:3) with the building of the Great Pyramid of Egypt, the only one of the seven wonders of the ancient world which is still standing today.

2. What spiritual gifts and influence were part of this great man's life? Job 29:4-16, 21-25.

Concerning the immensity of the almighty God who spoke so loftily to His servant in Job chapters 38-41, the Spirit of Prophecy wrote: "Before the oldest of the world's poets had sung, the shepherd of Midian recorded those words of God to Job—in their majesty unequalled, unapproached, by the loftiest productions of human genius."—*Education*, p. 159).

3. As we try to grasp these amazing concepts, what must we understand about what produced Job's great spirituality and trust in God?

"When Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed: 'I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes' (Job 42:6)....

"There can be no self-exaltation, no boastful claim to freedom from sin, on the part of those who walk in the shadow of Calvary's cross. They feel that it was their sin which caused the agony that broke the heart of the Son of God, and this thought will lead them to self-abasement. Those who live nearest to Jesus discern most clearly the frailty and sinfulness of humanity, and their only hope is in the merit of a crucified and risen Saviour."—*Maranatha*, p. 235.

THE USE OF HIS GIFTS

4. For what service was Job well known? Job 31:32.

“It were well for parents to learn from the man of Uz a lesson of steadfastness and devotion. Job did not neglect his duty to those outside of his household; he was benevolent, kind, thoughtful of the interest of others; and at the same time he labored earnestly for the salvation of his own family. Amid the festivities of his sons and daughters, he trembled lest his children should displease God. As a faithful priest of the household, he offered sacrifices for them individually. He knew the offensive character of sin, and the thought that his children might forget the divine claims, led him to God as an intercessor in their behalf.”
—(*Review and Herald*, August 30, 1881) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1140.

THE IMPACT OF HIS LIFE

5. What lesson concerning affliction has been a comfort to generation after generation and down to our very day? James 5:11.

“God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. He permitted affliction to come upon Job, but He did not forsake him.... God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others. ‘I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil.’ Jeremiah 29:11. The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.”
—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 129.

6. What else is particularly necessary for us to learn today?

“Every church member who has been truly converted is to be given some work. ‘The cause that I knew not, I searched out,’ Job declared. Consideration is to be given as to what service for God means. It means that we are to do the same kind of ministry that Christ did when He was in our world. In this work, whether we are rich or poor, we are called upon to wear Christ’s yoke, and learn of Him to be meek and lowly in heart.... Some more may especially be given the work of setting forth

Christ from the pulpit, opening the oracles of God to the churches. Yet they should not exclude themselves from visiting families, talking with them, praying with them, exhorting them, encouraging those who need encouraging, and presenting a ‘Thus saith the Lord’ to meet every case of deficiency. Altogether too little of this work is done. Personal labor is greatly needed. Many, many souls might be saved if those who claim to be followers of Christ would work as Christ worked, living not to please self, but to glorify God, acting as missionaries, showing genuine love for the Master by making every possible use of their entrusted talents.”—*The Kress Collection*, p. 157.

7. At what point did Job’s difficult situation change? Job 42: 7-10. What are we to learn from this?

“Let us strive to walk in the light as Christ is in the light. The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him.”—(Letter 88, 1906) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1141.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **Search and find your place in the following quotation:**

“There are those all around you who have woes, who need words of sympathy, love, and tenderness, and our humble, pitying prayers. Some are suffering under the iron hand of poverty, some with disease, and others with heartaches, despondency, and gloom. Like Job, you should be eyes to the blind and feet to the lame, and you should inquire into the cause which you know not and search it out with the object in view to relieve their necessities and help just where they most need help.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 530.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- **Read together and imagine the immensity of the God whom we serve, as expressed in Job 38:4-27, 31, 32. How does a realization of Him and His purposes make us reevaluate how we are using the gifts He has given us?**
- **How is the church heeding the following counsel?**

“It is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible.” *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 152.

10

Sabbath, June 7, 2003

Moses—One Soul in Leadership

“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:7.

OBJECTIVES

- To study Moses’ unique situation in society and history
- To see what his spiritual gifts were and how they were developed
- To learn the essential qualities of leadership
- To grasp the impact of this one man’s life on the world and the church

GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE

- 1. What purpose did God have in mind in calling the patriarchs and guiding Israel as a nation to stand apart from the society of their day? Genesis 12:3; Exodus 6:7, 8; Acts 3:25, 26; Galatians 3:8, 9.**
- 2. How did God lead Moses in an amazing way to participate in His great plan for the world? Exodus 2:3, 5, 9, 10, 15; 3:10.**

“The burden of God’s work, laid upon Moses, made him a man of power. While keeping, for so many years, the flocks of Jethro, he gained an experience that taught him true humility.” –*Conflict and Courage*, p. 370.

MOSES' SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- 3. What qualities were developed in him, first by his mother and then by God Himself? What else did he have to learn? Hebrews 11:23-29; Exodus 32:30-33; Numbers 12:3.**

“The command to deliver Israel seemed overwhelming; but, in the fear of God, Moses accepted the trust. Mark the result: He did not bring the work down to his deficiency; but in the strength of God he put forth the most earnest efforts to elevate and sanctify himself for his sacred mission.

“Moses would never have been prepared for his position of trust had he waited for God to do the work for him.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 611.

“He had yet to learn the same lesson of faith that Abraham and Jacob had been taught—not to rely upon human strength or wisdom, but upon the power of God for the fulfillment of His promises. And there were other lessons that, amid the solitude of the mountains, Moses was to receive.

In the school of self-denial and hardship he was to learn patience, to temper his passions. Before he could govern wisely, he must be trained to obey. His own heart must be fully in harmony with God before he could teach the knowledge of His will to Israel. By his own experience he must be prepared to exercise a fatherly care over all who needed his help.”
–*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 247.

4. What relationship between training and action is indispensable? What attitude is required?

“Those who bear responsibilities must be men trained for the work, men whom God can teach and whom He can honor with wisdom and understanding, as He did Daniel. They must be thinking men, men who bear God’s impress and who are steadily progressing in holiness, in moral dignity, and in an understanding of their work. They must be praying men, men who will come up into the mount and view the glory of God and the dignity of the heavenly beings whom He has ordained to have charge of His work. Then, like Moses, they will follow the pattern given them in the mount; and they will be on the alert to secure and bring into connection with the work the very best talent that can be obtained. If they are growing men, possessing sanctified intelligence; if they listen to the voice of God and seek to catch every ray of light from heaven, they will, like the sun, pursue an undeviating course, and they will grow in wisdom and in favor with God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 549.

5. List ways in which Moses’ life has had an impact in history and will continue to do so until the end of time. Joshua 22: 5.

“Moses was dead, but his influence did not die with him. It was to live on, reproducing itself in the hearts of his people. The memory of that holy, unselfish life would long be cherished, with silent, persuasive power molding the lives even of those who had neglected his living words. As the glow of the descending sun lights up the mountain peaks long after the sun itself has sunk behind the hills, so the works of the pure, the holy, and the good shed light upon the world long after the actors themselves have passed away. Their works, their words, their example, will forever live. ‘The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.’ Psalm 112:6.”
–*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 481.

“The life of Moses was marked with supreme love to God. His piety,

humility and forbearance, gave him influence with the host of Israel. His zeal and faith in God were greater than those of any other man upon the earth. He had often addressed his people in words of stirring eloquence. No one knew better than he how to move the affections of the people. He conducted all matters connected with the religious interests of the people with great wisdom.” —*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 342.

FOR PERSONAL STUDY

- **If you hold an office of any kind in the church, study Moses’ life more closely under prayer and compare your personal attitude and way of doing things with his.**
- **Prepare a list of leadership principles that you believe are important for yourself and for others who lead.**
- **To what extent are the gifts of preaching, teaching, and administration needed by those who have positions of leadership?**

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- **Reviewing Numbers 12:3; Psalm 25:9; 147:6; Isaiah 11:4; 61:1; Zephaniah 2:3; Matthew 11:29; 1 Peter 3:4, discuss the meaning of meekness as God sees it and in reference to Moses and Jesus. What other characteristics are encompassed in this virtue?**
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Joseph—One Soul All Alone

“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.” Hebrews 11:22.

OBJECTIVES

- To grasp the incredibly changing circumstances of Joseph’s experience
- To understand what spiritual gifts made it possible for him to be so successful
- To study the legacy of his life for Christian parents and young people
- To find inspiration for our own life

A PARALLEL OF JESUS

1. **The incredibly changing circumstances of Joseph’s life revealed a character consistently committed to God. Genesis 39:1, 20; 41:39, 40. Read the following quotation and underline at least 7 parallels between his life and that of Jesus.**

“Joseph illustrates Christ. Jesus came to His own, but His own received Him not. He was rejected and despised, because His acts were righteous, and His consistent, self-denying life was a continual rebuke upon those who professed piety, but whose lives were corrupt. Joseph’s integrity and virtue were fiercely assailed, and she who would lead him astray could not prevail, therefore her hatred was strong against the virtue and integrity which she could not corrupt, and she testified falsely against him. The innocent suffered because of his righteousness. He was cast into prison because of his virtue. Joseph was sold to his enemies by his own brethren for a small sum of money. The Son of God was sold to His bitterest enemies by one of His own disciples. Jesus was meek and holy. His was a life of unexampled self-denial, goodness, and holiness. He was not guilty of any wrong. Yet false witnesses were hired to testify

against Him. He was hated because He had been a faithful reprover of sin and corruption. Joseph's brethren stripped him of his coat of many colors. The executioners of Jesus cast lots for His seamless coat." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1096.

2. What loneliness must have shaken Joseph to the core of his being? Genesis 37:28. What made it possible for him to be so faithful to God?

"Joseph bore the test of character in adversity, and the gold was undimmed by prosperity. He showed the same lofty regard for God's will when he stood next the throne as when in a prisoner's cell. Joseph carried his religion everywhere, and this was the secret of his unwavering fidelity." –*Medical Ministry*, p. 37.

A LIFE OF SERVICE AMID EXTREME IDOLATRY

3. What type of society surrounded him every day? Regardless, what spiritual gifts did he cherish and use as a blessing wherever he was? Whom did he bless? Genesis 39: 2-5, 21-23; 40:8; 41:15, 16, 38, 39.

"In the bitter life of a stranger and a slave, amidst the sights and sounds of vice and the allurements of heathen worship, a worship surrounded with all the attractions of wealth and culture and the pomp of royalty, Joseph was steadfast. He had learned the lesson of obedience to duty. Faithfulness in every station, from the most lowly to the most exalted, trained every power for highest service.

"At the time when he was called to the court of Pharaoh, Egypt was the greatest of nations. In civilization, art, learning, she was unequaled. Through a period of utmost difficulty and danger, Joseph administered the affairs of the kingdom; and this he did in a manner that won the confidence of the king and the people. Pharaoh 'made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance: to bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.' Psalm 105:21, 22." –*Education*, pp. 52, 53.

- 4. What did the lives of Joseph and Jesus reveal about both the potential God has for every human being and the means by which that potential is achieved? Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:9.**

“Joseph did not complain at his lot, nor question why the Lord permitted him to suffer for righteousness’ sake. He did not allow any cloud of despondency to settle upon his heart. He believed in God, and patiently waited for His salvation. He determined that this affliction should serve as an occasion to glorify God and benefit his associates. He did not cease his efforts toward perfection of character. He forgot his sorrow in seeking to lighten the sorrows of others, and the prisoners saw that the Lord was with Joseph. When he had borne the proving of the furnace, the Lord brought him out of the gloomy cell, and exalted him to a position next to the king of Egypt. Those who honor God will be honored by Him.

“Had Joseph wavered and fallen under the first temptation, his strength would have been insufficient for the second test. It is important that we do not take a wrong step in any direction;...” –*Peter’s Counsel to Parents*, p. 17.

- 5. How were Jacob’s life and teaching a major factor in Joseph’s victorious life? What significance does this have for parents today? Genesis 37:3; 47:7-10.**

“The lessons given Joseph in his youth by Jacob in expressing his firm trust in God and relating to him again and again the precious evidences of His loving-kindness and unceasing care were the very lessons he needed in his exile among an idolatrous people. In the testing time he put these lessons to a practical use. When under the severest trial, he looked to his heavenly Father, whom he had learned to trust. Had the precepts and example of the father of Joseph been of an opposite character, the pen of inspiration would never have traced upon the pages of sacred history the story of integrity and virtue that shines forth in the character of Joseph. The early impressions made upon his mind garrisoned his heart in the hour of fierce temptation and led him to exclaim, ‘How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’” –*Child Guidance*, p. 197.

6. How does Joseph's example inspire us to be faithful to God and serve our fellowmen wherever we are? Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 5:6, 7.

“Here is an example to all generations who should live upon the earth. Although they may be exposed to temptations, yet they should ever realize that there is a defense at hand, and it will be their own fault if they are not preserved. God will be a present help, and his Spirit a shield. Although surrounded with the severest temptations, there is a source of strength to which they can apply and resist them. How fierce was the assault upon Joseph's morals. It came from one of influence, the most likely to lead astray. Yet how promptly and firmly was it resisted....

“Amid the snares to which all are exposed, they need strong and trustworthy defenses on which to rely.... The shield of grace can preserve all unconquered by the temptations of the enemy, though surrounded with the most corrupting influences. By firm principle and unwavering trust in God, their virtue and nobleness of character can shine; and, although surrounded with evil, no taint need be left upon their virtue and integrity.”—*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 133.

7. When the Israelites left Egypt in the exodus under Moses, what promise did they keep? Genesis 50:25; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32.

“In their departure from Egypt the Israelites bore with them a precious legacy, in the bones of Joseph, which had so long awaited the fulfillment of God's promise, and which, during the dark years of bondage, had been a reminder of Israel's deliverance.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 281.

FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT

- **What promise may every parent cherish? Study the following quotation:**

“The seed sown in infancy by the careful, God-fearing mother will become trees of righteousness, which will blossom and bear fruit; and the lessons given by a God-fearing father by precept and example will,

as in the case of Joseph, yield an abundant harvest by and by.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 116.

- **“It is in a crisis that character is revealed.”** –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 412. How many different crises did Joseph pass through? How did one prepare the way for the next? Identify the crises in your life and the direction your choices have carried you. Do you opt out of difficulties, or are you willing to do the hard study and the hard work that taxes your mind and strength and prepares you for the next crisis?

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Consider God’s amazing leading and wonderful blessing on Joseph. At first he was all alone with God in Egypt, but the day came when he had a family of his own and when his father, brothers, and all their families joined him. How did all of these events and the whole plan that God carried out relate to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah, whom Joseph prefigured?**
-

Daniel—One Resolute Soul

“I thank Thee, and praise Thee, O Thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of Thee: for Thou hast [now] made known unto us the king’s matter.” Daniel 2:23.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the surroundings in which Daniel and his companions were placed in Babylon
- To recognize his spiritual gifts and how he used them
- To understand the impact of his life in the world of his day
- To grasp the blessings of his one life on the world up to our day and even to the end

MEN OF GOD PLACED AT THE CENTER OF CIVILIZATION

1. Into what “university” were Daniel, his friends, and the very best students from Judah suddenly thrust? At what high levels of society and government did they afterward hold positions of responsibility? Daniel 1:3-6, 18-20; 2:13, 48, 49; 3:30; 5:11, 12; 6:1-3.
2. What made it possible for Daniel and his companions to be so much wiser than all others? What was their consistent attitude toward that wisdom? Where does wisdom come from? Daniel 2:19-23, 27, 28; 4:8, 9, 24-28.

- 3. Make a list of the spiritual gifts which God entrusted to Daniel. How did he use and cultivate them? What was always his top priority? Daniel 1:17; 5:12; 6:10, 22.**

- 4. What blessings accrued to the world of his day because of his close walk with God? Daniel 5:14; 6:3, 25-27.**

“...In Daniel God placed a light beside the throne of the world’s greatest kingdom, that all who would might learn of the true and living God. At the court of Babylon were gathered representatives from all lands, men of the choicest talents, men the most richly endowed with natural gifts and possessed of the highest culture this world could bestow; yet amid them all the Hebrew captives were without a peer. In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainments, and in spiritual power and insight they stood unrivaled. ‘In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.’ Daniel 1:20. While faithful to his duties in the king’s court, Daniel so faithfully maintained his loyalty to God that God could honor him as His messenger to the Babylonian monarch. Through him the mysteries of the future were unfolded, and Nebuchadnezzar himself was constrained to acknowledge the God of Daniel ‘as a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets.’ Daniel 2:47.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 220.

BLESSINGS AND WARNINGS FOR TODAY

- 5. In addition, how did Daniel’s life and close walk with God make it possible for Him to impart blessings to the church clear to the end of time? Daniel 7:1; 8:1; 9:1-4, 21-23; 10:1; 12: 9, 10. But what is necessary to receive these blessings?**

“While Daniel clung to his God with unwavering trust, the spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While he was instructed of man in the duties of court life, he was taught of God to read the mysteries of future ages, and to present to coming generations, through figures and similitudes, the wonderful things that would come to pass in the last days.

“God designed that man should be constantly improving, daily reaching a higher point in the scale of excellence. He will help us, if we seek to help ourselves. Our hope of happiness in two worlds depends upon our improvement in one. At every point we should be guarded against the first approach to intemperance.”—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 248.

6. Meanwhile, what is Satan’s aim? Romans 13:11.

“Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 260.

7. What tremendous blessing is awaiting every soul who follows the same principles of life as did Daniel? Hebrews 10:35, 36.

“A careful study of the working out of God’s purpose in the history of nations and in the revelation of things to come, will help us to estimate at their true value things seen and things unseen, and to learn what is the true aim of life. Thus, viewing the things of time in the light of eternity, we may, like Daniel and his fellows, live for that which is true and noble and enduring. And learning in this life the principles of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, that blessed kingdom which is to endure for ever and ever, we may be prepared at His coming to enter with Him into its possession.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 548.

- **The church of the Laodicean period is sleepy and at terrible risk because too many individuals seem to want easy messages and “baby food” (see 1 Corinthians 3:1, 2; Hebrews 5:12, 13). According to the following statement, how must the church counteract this danger?**

“Let all have more to teach, to write, and to publish in regard to those things that are now to be fulfilled and that concern the eternal welfare of souls. Give meat in due season to the old and the young, to saints and to sinners. Let everything that can be said to awaken the church from its slumbers be brought forward without delay. Let no time be lost in dwelling on those things that are not essential, and that have no bearing upon the present necessities of the people.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 157, 158.

- **What steps should ministers, teachers, and all who bear responsibilities in the church take to counteract the following problem?**

“You who have labored year after year, and have seen no souls brought to the knowledge of the truth, no churches raised up and organized, should change your manner of labor. You should fast and pray. You should lay the matter before your brethren, and solicit their counsel and prayers, lest you be self-deceived, and, what is more, deceive others also.”—*Review and Herald*, October 21, 1884. See Daniel 9:3.

GROUP ACTIVITY

- **Let the members of the church make a new commitment to study the books of Daniel and Revelation more intensively, in light of the following important promise:**

“We do not half realize what is before us. If the books of Daniel and the Revelation were studied with earnest prayer, we should have a better knowledge of the perils of the last days, and would be better prepared for the work before us—we should be prepared to unite with Christ and to work in His lines.”—*Review and Herald*, February 9, 1897.

***Please read the Missionary Report from Russia
on page 124***

13

Sabbath, June 28, 2003

My Resolve to Serve

“Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24.

OBJECTIVES

- To obtain a new awareness of one’s own gifts and where they come from
- To gain a new sense of one’s own value and accountability before God
- To develop that partnership with Heaven which will last for eternity
- To recognize the temptation to self-serving and how to conquer it
- To keep the power of one’s view of God and eternity always in mind

INCREASED AWARENESS

- 1. After studying the previous quarter about Heaven’s search for one soul and this quarter about the power of one soul who places himself at God’s disposal, what do we have to say about every human gift? Psalm 36:5-10; 25:12, 13; Acts 10:35; James 1:17.**

- 2. What does God expect of each soul who has received even one gift from Him? Psalm 100:2; Colossians 3:15-17.**

“Life is not given us to be spent in idleness or self-pleasing; before us are placed great possibilities. In the capital of strength a precious talent has been entrusted to men for labor. This is of more value than any bank deposit and should be more highly prized, for through the possibilities that it affords for enabling men to lead a useful, happy life it may be made to yield interest and compound interest. It is a blessing that cannot be purchased with gold or silver, houses or lands; and God requires it to be used wisely. No man has a right to sacrifice this talent to the corroding influence of inaction. All are as accountable for the capital of physical strength as for their capital of means.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 278.

“In the gift of His Son for our redemption, God has shown how high a value He places upon every human soul, and He gives to no man liberty to speak contemptuously of another. We shall see faults and weaknesses in those about us, but God claims every soul as His property—His by creation, and doubly His as purchased by the precious blood of Christ. All were created in His image, and even the most degraded are to be treated with respect and tenderness. God will hold us accountable for even a word spoken in contempt of one soul for whom Christ laid down His life.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 56, 57.

THE DIVINE PARTNERSHIP

3. What blessed, divine partnership is formed when one soul connects with God? Deuteronomy 10:12-14; Micah 6:8; James 1:27.

“Christians, when you took this name, you promised to prepare in this life for the higher life in the kingdom of God. Take the Christlife as your pattern. Keep eternity ever in view. Follow righteous principles of action, which with their refining, ennobling influence will restore in man the moral image of God. As by faith we adopt the principles which are an expression of the life of Christ, they are in the soul as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. The soul overflows with the riches of the grace of Christ, and the overflow refreshes other souls. Thus may the human agent show that he is keeping the pledge he has made. Thus he may work in partnership with Christ, showing to the world what it means to be a Christian.” —*Signs of the Times*, July 10, 1901.

4. **What significance does the phrase, “If thou wilt,” have in the following verses: Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 28:15, 58; 1 Kings 6:12, 13; 9:4, 5; Proverbs 2:1, 5-7; Zechariah 3:7.**

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power. We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 176.

5. **What major hindrance will be overcome in each soul through the grace of God? Deuteronomy 4:9.**

“The fibrous roots of selfishness will root themselves wherever they are given a chance. We want to cut out and exterminate every fiber of the root of selfishness.” —*Daughters of God*, p. 258.

“The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root of alienation. He longs to pour upon us His Holy Spirit in rich measure, and He bids us clear the way by self-renunciation. When self is surrendered to God, our eyes will be opened to see the stumbling stones which our un-Christlikeness has placed in the way of others.” —*Maranatha*, p. 114.

THE POWER OF GOD'S GLORY

6. **At every point, to whom is all glory due? Revelation 5:13.**

“Wonderful is the work which God designs to accomplish through His servants, that His name may be glorified. God made Joseph a fountain of life to the Egyptian nation. Through Joseph the life of that whole people was preserved. Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon. And these deliverances were as object lessons; they illustrated to the people the spiritual blessings offered them through connection with the God whom Joseph and Daniel worshiped. So through His people today God desires to bring blessings to the world. Every worker in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives

from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life.” –*Counsels on Health*, p. 209.

GROUP ACTIVITY

- **Discuss how each of the following paragraphs from *Counsels on Health*, pp. 203, 204, can be implemented in our mission to search for one soul and be one soul in service for God:**

“We are called to represent to the world the character of God as it was revealed to Moses.” See Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7.

“In the purity of their characters, in the holiness of their lives, in their mercy and loving-kindness and compassion, they are to demonstrate that ‘the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.’ Psalm 19:7.”

“God desired to make of His people Israel a praise and a glory. Every spiritual advantage was given them. God withheld from them nothing favorable to the formation of character that would make them representatives of Himself.”

“Their obedience to the laws of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world.”

**Missionary Report from the
Russia**
To be read on Sabbath, June 28, 2003
*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered Sabbath, July 5, 2003*

“**F**or, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:2. This wonderful divine promise is applied to the prosperity of the people of God in a dark world. Precisely because God’s children are “the light of the world,” they stand out in the darkness of sin in which this planet is sunk.

The Bolshevik revolution that reached its climax in 1917 convulsed the world and also directly influenced the church of God in what was later called the Soviet Union. The Reform Movement became established in this region during the ensuing years, as missionaries were sent there from Germany. It was first organized by Brothers Ostwald and Manchura. After the communist regime gained control of the country, communication with the European brethren became very difficult; but even more difficult were the circumstances in which our brethren found themselves. Nevertheless, they remained faithful to God’s commandments. Many of them were imprisoned because of their faith, some died as martyrs, and others were deported. Family members were separated from each other, and the pain and suffering were so great that only in the books of heaven is there an exact record of all the tears shed, as is described in God’s word: “Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book? When I cry unto Thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.” Psalm 56:8, 9. Communication with the headquarters of the worldwide work was maintained through secret letters written on pieces of cloth, and the brethren of the General Conference took great risks to visit the church as freedom allowed.

Due to various problems, resulting from the lack of communication and independent development over 50 years, the whole church had to be restructured and organized again after the fall of communism; organizational and theological differences required a complete remodeling. Many difficulties have had to be faced during this transition period, but God gave His grace and many believers have made their decision in favor of the church represented by the General Conference.

The work in Russia is very large and promising, as it includes one of the most extensive geographic territories in the world. Millions of people

are waiting for the light of the Reform, the true light. However, there are urgent needs, including a headquarters and places of worship in many places. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, we are now making a special request that you make an investment in the heavenly treasury so the work in Russia may be supported and advanced intensively and extensively.

May the Lord bless your generosity, as happened when the sanctuary was being built: "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses." "And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning." Exodus 35:29; 36:3. This is a wonderful example of consecration and generosity, as well as a model of commitment and interest of the people in the progress of God's cause. "God in His wise plans has made the advancement of His cause dependent upon the personal efforts of His people and upon their freewill offerings. By accepting the cooperation of man in the great plan of redemption, He has placed a signal honor upon him." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 464.

Our sincere, fervent request to every member of God's remnant people is that you cooperate actively to advance God's work worldwide, for the following promise is given: "...Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matthew 19:28, 29.

–Tzvetan Petkov and Gerhard Hunger