



powerpoints®

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Juniors/Teens



GraceLink Sabbath School Curriculum

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our beliefs

1 The Word of God

I believe that God inspired through the Holy Spirit every writer of the Bible. Everything written in the Word of God is true, and can help me live a happy and healthy life.

2 The Godhead

I believe that the God who loves me is One God manifested in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each works hard to teach me how to live a better, more meaningful life.

3 God the Father

I believe that God the Father is the power that keeps me—and every other creature in the universe—alive. He is kind and forgiving, and will never leave me.

4 God the Son

I believe that Jesus, God the Son, created this world and everything good in it. Two thousand years ago He came to this earth as a baby, grew up, and lived a sinless life. He then died on the cross so that I could someday live forever with Him in heaven.

5 God the Holy Spirit

I believe that God the Holy Spirit speaks to me through that still, small voice I hear in my thoughts whenever I feel afraid, sad, or lonely. He tells me that everything will be all right. The Holy Spirit also tries to teach me right from wrong by making me feel guilty when I sin and joyful each time I choose to obey God's laws of love.

6 Creation

I believe that God created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation He made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh day. When He finished making the trees, animals, oceans, mountains, and people, God looked around at all that He had done and said joyfully, "This is very good!"

7 The Nature of Humanity

I believe that Jesus made people in the image of God. Each enjoys the freedom to think and act any way they choose. Even though sin and bad choices have brought pain and suffering to many, we're still children of God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can care for each other just as God cares for each one of us.

8 The Great Controversy

I believe that Satan is a real being who wants to destroy us all. He works hard each day to bring sin into our lives. God wants us to live each day with joy, happiness, and love. God and Satan are fighting for control over our lives and our futures. To help us overcome sin, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit and loving angels to guide and protect us.

9 The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

I believe that Jesus lived a perfect life in order to show us that it's possible to overcome sin. He died on the cross so I won't have to lose my heavenly home because of my sins. Then God the Father raised Jesus from the dead to show how He'll someday raise me from the dead if I die before Jesus returns.

10 The Experience of Salvation

I believe that when I allow Jesus into my heart, He helps me change from a sinner to a child of God, ready to live forever in heaven. He teaches me how to be like Him as I read my Bible and follow the loving guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because of Jesus, I can feel confident that I'm forgiven and that there's a home waiting for me in heaven.

11 Growing in Jesus

I believe that when someone invites Jesus into their heart, changes start to happen. What they read, watch on television or on the Internet, eat, and listen to, and the places they

go, even the words they say, will change. The pages of the Bible will become like a textbook for living, and they will talk to Jesus throughout each day. These changes keep happening, day after day, until Jesus comes. I also believe that we are called to follow Jesus' example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity.

12 The Church

I believe that my church is a place where people who love Jesus can praise Him together with joy and anticipation. It's like attending a fun family reunion each week. Jesus loves His church and listens to every word spoken and every song sung.

13 The Remnant and Its Mission

I believe that before Jesus comes the second time, some people in my church will choose sin over salvation. Those who stay faithful to Jesus and to what the voice of the Holy Spirit tells them to do are called the remnant, and they will work extra hard to bring the love of God to the world. Though the remnant may be small in number, they will accomplish great things for God so that Jesus can return.

14 Unity in the Body of Christ

I believe that any church whose members worship God should welcome people from any nation, who speak any language, and whose skin is any color. We're all equal in God's sight. How we look and how we sound makes no difference. We're all children of the same heavenly Father.

15 Baptism

I believe that when I'm baptized, I'm telling everyone that I love God and want to live my life in service to Him. Baptism is like being buried as a sinner and then rising up to live a new life for Jesus.

16 The Lord's Supper
I believe that when Jesus ate His last meal with His disciples right before He was crucified, He taught us something wonderful. He said that the grape juice (wine) represented His spilled blood and that the bread represented His broken body. When I partake of "The Lord's Supper" at church, it helps me remember the sacrifice Jesus made for me on the cross.

17 Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
I believe that God has given us special talents that we can use to serve Him. We each enjoy different skills, such as music, preaching, teaching, art, giving Bible studies, visiting the sick, or making people feel welcome when they visit our church. Each spiritual gift is important to God's work.

18 The Gift of Prophecy
I believe that the people in God's church have needed help knowing how to live and what to look forward to in the future. So God appointed a woman named Ellen G. White to be His prophet and provide guidance, instruction, and correction for His people. Her writings also help us understand the important lessons found in the Bible.

19 The Law of God
I believe that God's Ten Commandments contain the best rules for living. Each is designed to protect me from sin and help me love God and others better. Each represents how much God loves me and how He wants me to live a happy, healthy life. Obeying the Ten Commandments is like saying "I love You" to God and others.

20 The Sabbath
I believe that God created the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) to be a holy day. He commands me to rest, worship Him, and serve Him by doing acts of kindness

for others on that day as a way of showing Him—and others—that I believe He is the Creator of all good things. God's holy Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday.

21 Stewardship
I believe that everything belongs to God: the trees, the flowers, the animals—even me. God has asked me to take care of what He created and to protect all things from harm—even me. So I will cherish God's creatures and creation. To show Him how proud I am to be His steward, I'll faithfully return a tithe (10 percent) of my time, talent, and money. I want God to bless this world and everything in it—even me.

22 Christian Behavior
I believe that anyone who loves Jesus should talk, act, eat, work, and play differently from those who don't love Jesus. As a child of God I need to think, feel, and act in harmony with the teachings of the Bible in all aspects of personal and social life. Everything I do should show others that Jesus lives in my heart and that I live by His rules of love.

23 Marriage and the Family
I believe that God designed marriage to be the lifelong union between a man and a woman. Our heavenly Father wants our earthly homes to be safe places where we learn about His love and forgiveness. When we love our brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts, we're experiencing a beautiful example of what it will be like to live in heaven with everyone who has chosen to love and obey God.

24 Jesus' Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary
I believe that God instructed Moses and the children of Israel to build a temple in the wilderness to explain what Jesus is doing right

now in the heavenly sanctuary. Jesus is our high priest who speaks to the Father on our behalf in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. He forgives us, cleanses sin from our hearts, and prepares us for His kingdom.

25 The Second Coming of Jesus
I believe that very soon Jesus is going to return to this earth and take to heaven everyone who has chosen to love and obey Him. When He comes, those who hate Him will be destroyed. But everyone who has remained faithful to Jesus will leave this dark world and spend eternity with Him in His heavenly kingdom.

26 Death and Resurrection
I believe that Jesus can raise people from the dead. He did it before, raising Lazarus and the widow's son, and He will do it again when He comes the second time. So even though some of my family members are asleep in their graves, I'll see them again because of the power of God over death.

27 The Millennium and the End of Sin
I believe that someday sin and sinners will be gone forever. Even those who died hating God will fully understand the lies that Satan told them, and will agree that God's judgment is just. Without God's presence to shield them from harm, Satan and every sinner will be completely destroyed by fire.

28 The New Earth
I believe that after Satan and sinners are destroyed, my heavenly Father will create a brand-new world for us to enjoy. There will be no death, no tears, no pain, no suffering. All will be peace and love. Best of all, I will enjoy this wonderful world forever together with my family and all who love God.

biblical timeline

Is your life exciting and fun every single day? Probably not! But everyone experiences certain events that are memorable and even life-changing. Being born is certainly one of those major events in life! Starting school, performing your first music recital, learning to read, going on a mission trip, inventing a game that your friends love to play, or committing your life to Jesus by

being baptized may be other events you remember. Something terribly sad may also have happened that you can't forget.

The Bible is a little bit like your life. Even though it contains many stories, and all of them can teach us something about God and His love for us, only a few of the Bible stories contain events that are both memorable and life-changing. Those events

were turning points in the history of God's people. Once they took place, everything was different afterward.

Six of those life-changing stories are illustrated in the six pictures you see below. Very likely you can look at them and figure out what Bible stories they represent. The six pictures form a Bible-picture time line that can help you make sense of the whole, big Bible story.



1600
YEARS

CREATION

Without it none of us would be here. That certainly changed everything forever!



900
YEARS

THE FLOOD

The world is very different now from what it was like before the Flood.



THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT

After God's people were led out of Egypt, they became a nation. They were no longer just individual families and tribes.

900
YEARS



THE CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON

God's people wandered far from the friendship God wanted to have with them, so He sent them into captivity in Babylon. Eventually they were able to return home, but never again did they have their own king. They were always under the power of some other kingdom.

In your Bible Study Guide you will find each weekly Sabbath School lesson marked as to where it fits in the big Bible story. Today we live between the first coming and the second coming of Jesus. We live very close to the Second Coming!

As you become more familiar with fitting the individual stories into the picture timeline, you will better understand the Bible as one big story and become closer friends with Jesus. And when you see how the small stories fit around the six bigger stories, then the Bible will become even more meaningful to you. Hopefully you will realize more than ever that you are part of the big Bible story!



600
YEARS



THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS

At last the Messiah, Jesus, for whom God's people had been waiting thousands of years, came to this earth to rescue us from the power of sin. From then on, the message about His love and salvation began to go to the whole world.

2000
YEARS



THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

This is the last major event foretold in the Bible. When Jesus comes, He will take us to heaven and end sin and suffering forever.

1000
YEARS

dear **student**

You are a gift from God, and He loves you very much! If the Lord knows each star by name and makes sure that it is in the proper place each night (Isaiah 40:26), how much more important are you?

Not every person is alike. Look around you. Everyone has different color eyes, hair, skin, and build (tall, short, big-boned, and thin). We all learn differently. Some people learn by listening, others by sight, and still others by touch. Some people use all three ways to learn.

Regardless of how you learn, the Lord wants you to love Him and serve Him with all your heart. You do that when you pray, learn about Him (in your lesson study), talk about Him to others, and do what is right.

Here is a great truth you should know about the Lord: Jesus isn't primarily concerned about how well you can read or write, or even how well you can speak. What Jesus cares about most is how much you love Him and want Him in your life. The greatest accomplishment in your life will be to show others how much God has blessed your life.

In school you use different ways to get the information that you want. Use those same ways to learn more about the Lord: Use your computer, iPod, or iPad to hear or study your lesson. Or have your parents read your lesson to you. Use the Bible on CD, or the audio podcast of your lesson at www.juniormpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1. It does not matter which way you get the information, as long as you are growing and maturing in the Lord.

Think about this when you meet Jesus face to face: He is not going to ask to see how well you write something. He will not ask you to read anything. His only pursuit is to read your heart to see how much you love Him. He wants to spend eternity with you!

This Bible study guide is **about ...**

Our worship of God

that involves our whole beings; we dedicate ourselves entirely to Him.

A respectful Christian community

that results when we nurture positive relationships with God's children.

Jesus' example of servant leadership

that encourages us to dedicate our lives to His service.

Jesus' saving grace

that transforms us and inspires us to share the good news of His resurrection.

Welcome to *PowerPoints* about God's grace.

God's grace IS power. It's the unlimited, for-sure, forever power that finds you and fills you up with everything you need to live a full and wonderful life in Him.



How to use this Bible study guide

The lessons and stories in this Bible study guide include principles that you can apply to your everyday life. They encourage you to communicate with God through prayer, reading from your Bible, and reflecting on what you read. That is how to grow in your relationship with Jesus. You will study the Bible lesson during the week, and in Sabbath School you will review it with your teacher and peers. This review process will help you gain a deeper spiritual understanding of the lessons.

A big part of your Sabbath School lesson is the study you do from the Bible and the discussions you have with your teachers and peers on Sabbath. Learn and review the power text during the week as you prepare for Sabbath School. As you memorize passages from the Bible you will become familiar with the truths found in God's Word, and you will learn to apply them to your life. As you study your Sabbath School lesson, engage your family members in discussion and share with them what you learned.

Most important, please take time to read, pray, and reflect on Jesus every day. Ask Him to help you apply what you study to what you do in real life. It isn't only what you know with your head, but also what you know with your heart, that helps you be a strong, growing Christian.

Happy growing in Jesus!

—General Conference Sabbath School Department

PS: Write and tell us how you're growing in Jesus.

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COMMUNITY

We reflect God's love in our relationships.

(LESSONS 1 THROUGH 5)

- The Holy Spirit is a constant helper.
- Aquila and Priscilla help Paul.
- Paul calls the Corinthian church to unity.
- Paul describes the qualities of an elder.
- God's love is His greatest gift to us.

SERVICE

We follow Jesus by serving others.

(LESSONS 6 THROUGH 9)

- Paul and Barnabas in Iconium.
- Paul and Barnabas in Lystra.
- Paul in Caesarea.
- Paul is arrested.

GRACE

God's grace transforms us.

(LESSONS 10 THROUGH 12)

- Paul praises God.
- Paul trusts God amid hardships.
- Nature and the Bible reveal God.

GRACE IN ACTION

We are grateful for the Gift of Prophecy.

(LESSON 13)

- Ellen White's writings are the gift of prophecy.

Student lesson

Always There

Have you ever felt lonely? Have you ever wished you had someone with you when you had to face difficult circumstances? While on earth Jesus had a Friend and Helper like that, and the same Friend and Helper wants to be part of your life as well. Some events from Jesus' life help us better understand His close connection with the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of His ministry, as He worked in the carpenter shop, Jesus heard the news about the preacher by the Jordan River. Listening to the reports, He knew that the preacher was the person sent to prepare the people for the good news of the gospel. Jesus put away His tools, said goodbye to His family, and headed for the Jordan.

Though the preacher was His cousin John, they had never met. Jesus at first stood quietly listening. John talked about the Messiah to come. He preached words of encouragement for sinners. He reserved harsh, severe words for the hypocrites, who had come to judge his work. Jesus watched as John baptized the repentant.

Then Jesus insisted on being baptized too. Although John protested, he fulfilled Jesus' request. John had been praying for a sign to know the Messiah when He came. As Jesus came out of the water and up onto the bank, the sky opened, and God sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove to rest on Jesus. John accepted it as the sign he had been waiting for.

After Jesus' baptism, the Spirit impressed Him to spend time alone talking with His Father and to gain a deeper understanding of His mission on earth. For the next 40 days Jesus fasted and communed with God. At the end Satan came to Him and tempted Him three times. Each time Jesus was able to overcome the temptation with words from Scripture that the Holy Spirit helped Him to recall (see Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).

In Gethsemane

Jesus knew that He had come to the end of His work on earth. In a few hours He would be taken away by force, betrayed by one of His disciples. He would be tried as a common criminal and put to death by the Romans in the most publicly humiliating way of that time. This was what He had come to earth to do, so He wasn't concerned for Himself. He was concerned about the 12 disciples who had been with Him for the past three years. He knew that they wouldn't understand what was going to happen. He had tried so often to tell them, but they weren't able to grasp that He was not going to be an earthly king.

Jesus asked His Father to send the Holy Spirit to earth after His return to heaven. The Holy Spirit would comfort, enlighten, and guide not only Jesus' disciples, but also all believers until Jesus returned to the earth at the end of the world.

• • •

Jesus could hardly wait to tell His disciples the good news about the Holy Spirit, every believer's best friend. He thought about how God's Spirit would comfort and guide them. Unlike Jesus, the Holy Spirit would never have to leave them.

In Heaven

Forty days after His ascension into heaven Jesus decided it was time to keep His promise to His disciples.

On Earth

The disciples were all gathered in the upper room praying, praising, and confessing their sins. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a rushing wind that swept through the room and settled as tongues of fire on each person's head.

The disciples were immediately energized. Their fear left them. Their understanding increased. They poured into the streets praising God and preaching the gospel. Pilgrims gathered from all over the world for the Feast of Harvest. As they stopped to listen to the disciples' speech, each of them heard the good news in their own language. The disciples healed the sick, cast out demons, and performed other miracles in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Epilogue

Jesus promised to send the same Spirit to us today. All we have to do is ask.

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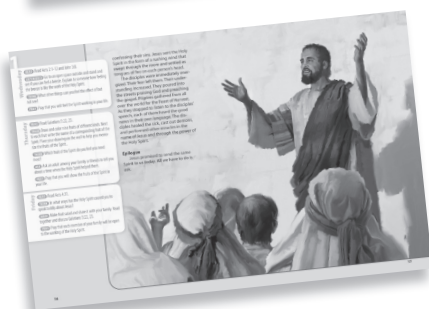
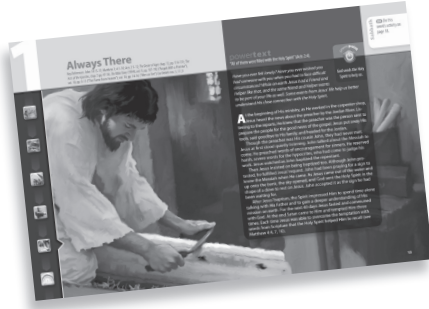
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POWER TEXT

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4).

POWER POINT

God sends the Holy Spirit to help us.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 2:4 and this week’s story, “Always There.”

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write the qualities you think are important in a friend.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Acts 2:4.

PRAY Ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to be your friend.

Monday

READ Read John 14:15-17.

THINK What presents would you like to give your friends if you were going away?

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* write a sentence about how we show that we love Jesus (see verse 15). Then write about Jesus’ farewell gift to His friends (see verses 16, 17).

PRAY Pray for your friends today.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-10.

THINK Think about times the Holy Spirit has helped you remember things or resist temptation.

MAKE Create a song, poem, or collage showing the ways the Holy Spirit can affect our lives.

PRAY Thank God for the Holy Spirit’s help.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 2:1-12 and John 3:8.

EXPERIENCE Go to an open space outside and stand and see if you can feel a breeze. Explain to someone how feeling the breeze is **like** the work of the Holy Spirit.

THINK What other things can you feel the effect of but not see?

PRAY Pray that you will feel the Spirit working in your life.

Thursday

READ Read Galatians 5:22, 23.

DRAW Draw and color **nine** fruits of different kinds. Next to each fruit write the name of a corresponding fruit of the Spirit. Place your drawing on the wall to help you memorize the fruits of the Spirit.

THINK Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need most?

ASK Ask an adult among your family or friends to tell you about a time when the Holy Spirit helped them.

PRAY Pray that you will show the fruits of the Spirit in your life.

Friday

READ Read Acts 4:31.

THINK In what ways has the Holy Spirit caused you to speak boldly about Jesus?

MAKE Make fruit salad and share it with your family. Read together and discuss Galatians 5:22, 23.

PRAY Pray that each member of your family will be open to the working of the Holy Spirit.

Student lesson

Of Equal Value

Have you noticed how easy it is to feel at home with others who believe the same as you do? Take a journey back in time and picture Paul with your mind's eye as he travels, makes friends, and shares with others his faith in Jesus.

Should find people here who are willing to accept the true God," Paul said to himself, as he stepped onto the dock and surveyed the bustling port city of Corinth. "But first I need to find food, work, and a place to stay."

Paul gathered his things and walked around the city, stopping only to eat lunch. Since Paul was a trained tentmaker, he asked the canvas merchants about the good tentmakers in town. The names Priscilla and Aquila kept coming up.

"I've got to deliver canvas to their shop," said one merchant. "Why not come with me?"

Paul hopped onto the merchant's cart.

"Tell me about these two," he said to the merchant.

"They do good work, even though they don't open on the seventh day," the merchant replied. "They're Jews, but they also follow Jesus, that teacher who was killed a few years back."

"Really?" said Paul, smiling to himself.

"Here we are," said the merchant, pulling up to the shop. As Paul helped him unload the canvas, a woman rushed out of the shop, followed by a man walking more slowly.

"Do you have a new helper?" the man asked the merchant, extending

his hand to Paul. "This is Priscilla, my wife; I'm Aquila."

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul said to them, clasping Aquila's hand in both of his. "I'm Paul." (See 1 Corinthians 1:3.)

"You worship the Christ!" Priscilla gasped, holding her hands over her heart.

"I do. I am an apostle of our Lord by the will of God," said Paul, smiling.

"Then you must stay and talk with us," said Priscilla.

"I'll be going now," said the merchant.

Handing the merchant a bag of coins, Aquila said, "Thank you for bringing our brother to us." The merchant nodded and drove away.

"Where have you come from?" Priscilla asked Paul.

"Most recently from preaching the gospel in Athens," Paul replied. "The people preferred their false gods to our true One, so I came here. And you?"

"We came from Rome when Emperor Claudius ordered out all Jews," replied Aquila. "Corinth seemed like an excellent place to reopen our business."

"And to share our faith," interjected Priscilla.

"God has been good to us," Aquila replied. "But it's difficult keeping up with everything. We haven't found a trained tentmaker to hire yet."

"You just have," smiled Paul.

"You must stay here with us," offered Priscilla. "And tell us more about the Christ."

"I'd like that," replied Paul.

The three settled into the routine of

working during the day and studying together in the evening. On Sabbath Paul taught in the synagogue. One day Silas and Timothy appeared at the shop. Paul greeted them with big hugs. With the large tent order finished, Paul could spend all his time preaching to the Jews. Soon, though, the Jews refused to listen. They argued with Paul and threatened him. After one very trying argument Paul shook out his clothes at them.

"If you die without believing, it will be your responsibility in the judgment," he warned. "From now on I'm preaching to the Gentiles."

Paul marched out of the synagogue and strode next door to Titius Justus's home. Paul preached Christ freely to Titius, one of the Gentiles who had worshipped God in the synagogue, and to his friends. After listening to Paul's reasoning, several Corinthians and some Jews—including Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his family—were baptized.

God convinced Paul to stay in Corinth despite the Jews' hostility. After 18 months in Corinth, he decided to move on. Priscilla and Aquila went with him to Ephesus. In Ephesus, Paul's example helped them to reach out to others. They took Apollos, a Jewish believer, into their home and taught him all they knew. When it was time for Apollos to leave, the Ephesian Christians wrote to other believers asking them to welcome him.

Paul continued traveling from place to place. Wherever he went, he continued to break down barriers between people in the name of Christ.

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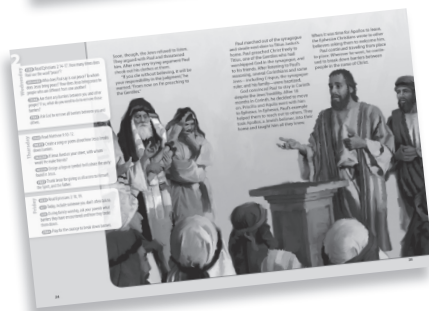
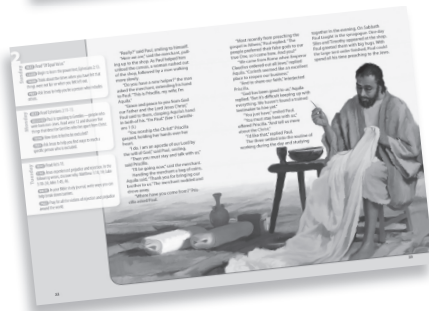
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POWER TEXT

“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13).

POWER POINT

God’s love compels us to be accepting of others.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 18:1-17 and this week’s story, “Of Equal Value.”

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Ephesians 2:13.

THINK Think about the times when you have felt that things were not fair or when you felt left out.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you be a person who includes others.

Monday

READ Read Ephesians 2:11-13.

DISCOVER Paul is speaking to Gentiles—people who were born non-Jews. Read verse 12 and discover five things that describe Gentiles who live apart from Christ.

THINK How does it feel to be excluded?

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you find ways to reach a specific person who is excluded.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 18.

FIND Jesus experienced prejudice and rejection. In the following verses, discover why: Matthew 1:18, 19; Luke 5:18-24; John 1:45, 46.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write ways you can help break down barriers.

PRAY Pray for all the victims of rejection and prejudice around the world.

Wednesday

FIND Read Ephesians 2:14-17. How many times does Paul use the word “peace”?

DISCOVER Who does Paul say is our peace? To whom does Jesus bring peace? How does Jesus bring peace to people who are different from one another?

THINK Are there any barriers between you and other people? If so, what do you need to do to remove those barriers?

PRAY Ask God to remove all barriers between you and others.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 9:10-12.

CREATE Create a song or poem about how Jesus breaks down barriers.

IMAGINE If Jesus lived on your street, with whom would He make friends?

DESIGN Design a logo or symbol to illustrate the unity found in Jesus.

PRAY Thank Jesus for giving us all access to Himself, the Spirit, and the Father.

Friday

READ Read Ephesians 2:18, 19.

ACT Today, include someone you don’t often talk to.

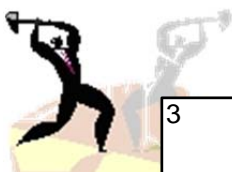
ASK During family worship, ask your parents what barriers they have encountered and how they broke them down.

PRAY Pray for the courage to break down barriers.

Lesson 02 Of Equal Value

Year C - 2nd Quarter

FTWTF
means:
Find
The
Word
That
Fits



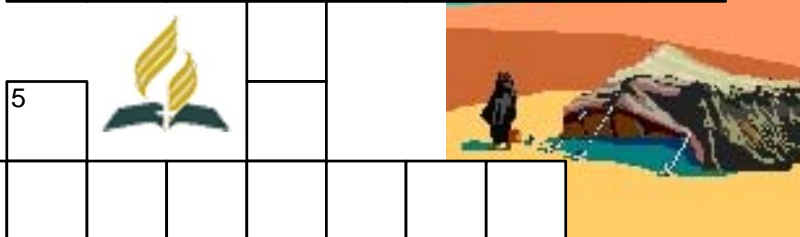
Power Point
God's love compels us
to be accepting of
others.

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Power Text

"Now in Christ Jesus you who
once were far away have been
brought near by the blood of
Christ"
Ephesians 2:13.

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12									
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Can't find an answer?
Check your Guide or
quarterly!



13							
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Across

Down

- "We came from Rome when Emperor Claudius ordered out all _____," replied Aquila. "Corinth seemed like an excellent place to reopen our business." "
- When it was time for Apollos to leave, the _____ Christians wrote to other believers asking them to welcome him.
- "If you die without believing, it will be your responsibility in the judgment," he warned. "From now on I'm preaching to the _____."
- FTWTF - Power Point
- "Grace & peace to you from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ," _____ said to them, clasping Aquila's hand in both of his.
- FTWTF - Title
- "They do good work, even though they don't open on the seventh day," the merchant replied. "They're Jews, but they also _____ Jesus, that teacher who was killed a few years back."
- [Friday's lesson] During family worship, ask your parents what _____ they have encountered & how they broke them down.
- "Do you have a new helper?" the man asked the merchant, extending his hand to Paul. "This is Priscilla, my wife; I'm _____."
- FTWTF - Power Text
- [Tuesday's lesson] Read Acts 18. Jesus experienced prejudice & _____. In the following verses, discover why: Matthew 1:18, 19; Luke 5:18-24; John 1:45, 46.
- "I've got to deliver canvas to their shop," said one _____. "Why not come with me?"
- Paul marched out of the synagogue & strode next door to Titius Justus's home. Paul preached Christ freely to Titius, one of the Gentiles who had worshipped God in the synagogue, & to his friends. After listening to Paul's reasoning, several Corinthians & some Jews-including Crispus, the synagogue ruler, & his family-were _____.
11. FTWTF - Power Text

Student lesson

Family Squabble

Have you ever had an argument with someone in your family? How did you feel afterward? What if bad feelings from an argument are allowed to fester? Jesus wants us to live at peace with all the members of our family at home and in the church. Paul gives us some good advice about living at peace.

And how is Chloe?" Paul asked his three visitors after they were seated and sipping refreshments.

"She's doing well," replied the oldest visitor. "And so is her business. In fact, that's why we are here. She was too busy to come on this buying trip."

"And the church?" asked Paul.

The visitors looked at each other.

"Well, it's not the same as when you were there," one visitor offered cautiously.

"What do you mean?" asked Paul.

"Remember how it was when Apollos visited? It's like that and worse. False teachers are telling the members things that are opposite of what you taught them. Some members now speak badly about your teachings," another added.

"The members are not getting along at all," said the third visitor. "They are arguing with each other during services. Some refuse to speak to others."

"Yes," the first visitor interrupted, "but some of them have reasons not to speak. Some husbands and wives are not being faithful to each other. Others are worshipping idols again and doing the other wicked things they used to do in the past."

Paul walked away from his visitors and looked out the window.

"We're sorry to bring you such bad news," said the second visitor.

Paul turned to face them. "I was afraid something like this would happen," he said. "God knew this was going to happen. Now I know too. He will give me the wisdom to deal with this."

After the visitors left, Paul spent hours praying about the situation. Then he called for Titus.

"Titus, I need you to take a letter to the Corinthian church," said Paul.

"Is there a problem?" asked Titus.

"Several," replied Paul. "False teachers, unfaithfulness in marriage, idol worship, fighting in the church. Some have returned to their old ways."

"Oh, no!" replied Titus. "That's really serious. Why don't you visit them again?"

"I will—later—but I don't think the people would listen to me right now," he said. "They would just become more stubborn and disobedient. I should be finished with the letter within a week. Come back then."

"Yes, sir," said Titus, turning to leave. "I'll be praying for you as you write."

• • •

Paul knew he would have to choose his words carefully. First he told the Corinthians how much he cared for them and mentioned the good things they were doing. "I always thank my God for you. . . . In Jesus you have been blessed in every way, in all your speaking and in all your knowledge" (1 Corinthians 1:4, 5).*

He asked them to get along with each other and even revealed that Chloe's people had told him about their disagreements with each other. He begged them "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" "that all of you agree with each other, so that you will not be divided into groups. I beg that you be completely joined together by having the same kind of thinking and the same purpose" (verse 10).

He reminded them of the things he had taught them. "I preached God's truth. . . . I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. . . . I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in the wisdom of a man" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

He pleaded with them to agree with each other and not to argue about whom they followed. "You have jealousy and arguing among you. This shows that you are not spiritual. . . . The one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God is important, because he is the One who makes things grow. . . . We are workers together for God" (1 Corinthians 3:3-9).

Finally he reminded them of whose they were. "And you are like a farm that belongs to God. And you are a house that belongs to God. . . . You should know that you yourselves are God's temple. God's Spirit lives in you. . . . And you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God" (verses 9-23).

* Scripture references in this lesson are from the *International Children's Bible*.

KEY REFERENCES

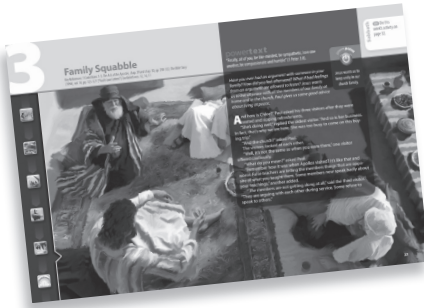
- 1 Corinthians 1-3
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chaps. 29 and 30, pp. 298-322
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 125-127 (“Paul’s Love Letters”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 12, 14, 11

POWER TEXT

“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble” (1 Peter 3:8).

POWER POINT

Jesus wants us to keep unity in our church family.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 32.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Peter 3:8 and this week’s story, “Family Squabble.”

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Peter 3:8.

PRAY Ask God to point out any conflicts in your life.

Monday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7. Notice that Paul takes time out to greet his friends at the church in Corinth.

REFLECT Why did Paul take time to compliment the Corinthians? When someone is going to criticize something you do, would you like them to tell you first what you did that was right?

PRAY Ask God to help you learn to affirm others.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.

THINK What was causing problems in the Corinthian church? Whom do you admire greatly? Why do you admire that person?

WRITE Write a paragraph in your Bible study journal about that person.

PRAY Thank God for giving Jesus as a model of peacekeeping.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

THINK Whom did Paul claim as the source of his preaching and power? Why do you think he did this?

LEARN Rewrite your power text, applying it to yourself.

PRAY Pray that Jesus will be the source of everything that you do and say.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 3:3-9.

COUNT How many times does Paul refer to the Corinthians as brothers in 1 Corinthians 1; 2; and 3? Why did he use this word so much?

PLAY Play a group game with your siblings (or other relatives). Make a promise to yourself not to argue or fight at all while you are playing. If anyone else argues, be a peacemaker.

PRAY Thank God for your church community and your family.

Friday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-23.

CREATE With an adult, make a peacemaker’s guidebook, listing helpful hints for peacemakers.

DISCUSS At worship tonight, discuss what can be done to improve unity in your home, school, workplace, and church.

PRAY With your family, pray for unity in your community of faith.



Power Text Lesson 03 - Family Squabble

Year C - 2nd Quarter

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble"

1 Peter 3:8.

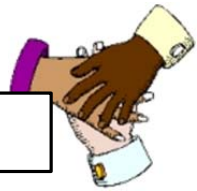
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FTWTF
means:
Find
The
Word
That
Fits

Can't find an answer?
Check your Guide or
quarterly!

Power Point
Jesus wants us
to keep unity in
our church
family.



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. FTWTF - Power Point</p> <p>5. FTWTF - Power Text</p> <p>8. FTWTF - Title</p> <p>10. "I preached God's truth. . . . I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the ____ . . . I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in the wisdom of a man" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).</p> <p>13. "Yes," the first visitor interrupted, "but some of them have reasons not to speak. Some husbands and wives are not being faithful to each other. Others are ____ idols again and doing the other wicked things they used to do in the past."</p> | <p>2. "And you are like a farm that belongs to God. And you are a house that belongs to God. . . . You should know that you yourselves are God's _____. God's Spirit lives in you. . . . And you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God" (verses 9-23).</p> <p>3. "... that all of you agree with each other, so that you will not be divided into groups. I beg that you be completely ____ together by having the same kind of thinking and the same purpose."</p> <p>4. Paul knew he would have to choose his ____ carefully. First he told the Corinthians how much he cared for them and mentioned the good things they were doing.</p> <p>6. [Monday's lesson] Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7. Notice that Paul takes time out to greet his friends at the church in Corinth. Ask God to help you learn to ____ others.</p> <p>7. "You have jealousy and ____ among you. This shows that you are not spiritual. . . . The one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God is important, because he is the One who makes things grow. . . ."</p> <p>9. "I will-later-but I don't think the people would ____ to me right now," he said. "They would just become more stubborn & disobedient."</p> <p>11. [Friday's lesson] At worship tonight, discuss what can be done to improve unity in your home, ____, workplace, and church.</p> <p>12. "Remember how it was when Apollos visited? It's like that & worse. ____ teachers are telling the members things that are opposite of what you taught them. Some members now speak badly about your teachings," another added.</p> |
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Student lesson

Measuring Up

Isn't it fun to get something in the mail? Who is the favorite person you like to receive mail from? Today in our story Titus gets a special letter from Paul. Let's find out what it said.

Titus had just finished reading Paul's letter. He was glad Paul had sent a detailed description of the kind of person an elder should be. This would make Titus's selection process easier. Paul had left Titus in Crete when he went to Ephesus. Titus felt honored that Paul thought he could finish the work here.

"... must not be guilty of doing wrong. He must have only one wife" (Titus 1:6),* Titus added quietly.

"This will be hard," he murmured. Some of the men had more than one wife or weren't faithful even to one. Others treated their wives like slaves.

"His children must be believers." This was even harder. Many of the members had children who had been corrupted by false teachers and worshipped other gods.

"They must not be known as children who are wild and who do not obey" (verse 6). Some of the children—who were actually young adults—took part in the drunken worship of the god Dionysus. When their parents converted, they hadn't. And, of course, in their half-drunken state they weren't going to submit to their father's authority as a church leader.

"He must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent"

(verse 7, NIV). Titus had seen plenty of violence in the name of the Lord. Some of the new believers had tried to force their religion on their families.

"And he must not be a person who always tries to get rich by cheating people" (verse 7). A Cretan (person from Crete) wouldn't be a Cretan without loving money, one of their own philosophers had said. The Cretans' reputation was so bad that one of the slang words for lying was to "cretize."

Titus sighed heavily and skipped down a few lines. "An overseer must faithfully follow the truth just as we teach it. He must be able to help people by using true and right teaching. And he must be able to show those who are against the true teaching that they are wrong" (verse 9).

False teaching and teachers were probably the biggest problems the believers faced. It wasn't just in Crete. It was everywhere. But there were many Jews in Crete, both inside and outside the church. The ones inside the church tried to place a lot of restrictions on the new members. Some wanted every non-Jew to be circumcised. The ones outside tried to get members to pay to listen to their teaching. Not only that, the people of Crete had confused the true believers with the other Jews. As a result, Christians did not have a good reputation in this city. Anyone chosen as an elder would need to have a character that stood far above everyone—even other so-called Christians.

And he would have to be a real diplomat—an ambassador for God—to deal with the different groups. He would have to be nearly perfect in following the truth. And when he had to set people straight, he would have to be very tactful. He had to know how to say things so that he didn't drive people away or keep them from joining. Being an elder carried tremendous responsibilities.

Titus looked at the letter again and decided to call in some people from the home churches. *They know these people better than I do*, he said to himself. *Maybe they can help me choose some good candidates as elders.*

"Paul sent a long list of qualifications for elders," Titus explained when the people assembled.

"Maybe you should read them one by one so we can compare them with the people we know," said one man.

Titus read the qualifications.

The room was silent. *Oh, no. They can't think of anyone*, Titus thought to himself.

Finally, someone spoke. "Paul raises the standard very high. I think we should all follow this standard as Christians even if we are not elders. It would make for a much calmer church, and we would be better witnesses."

"It's not Paul's standard. It's God's standard," responded Titus quietly.

"Then let's all follow it!" they agreed almost in unison.

* Unless otherwise noted, Scripture references are from Titus 1, ICB.

KEY REFERENCES

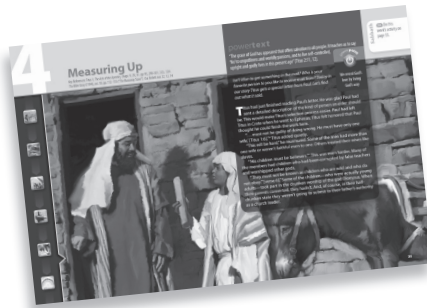
- Titus 1
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chaps. 9, 29, 31, pp. 87-96, 298-301, 323, 324
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 152-155 (“The Runaway Slave”)
- Our Beliefs, nos. 22, 12, 14

POWER TEXT

“The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age” (Titus 2:11, 12).

POWER POINT

We reveal God’s love by living God’s way.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read Titus 1 and this week’s story, “Measuring Up.”

LEARN Begin to learn the power text Titus 2:11, 12.

REMEMBER Is there anyone in your family who is good at writing letters? Can you think of a time when they wrote you a special letter?

PRAY Thank God for His letter, the Bible.

Monday

READ Read Titus 1:6

THINK Why was it important that an elder’s children be believers who obey their parents?

WRITE In your Bible journal write some things that an elder’s children may have been expected to do.

PRAY Ask God to help you respond in obedience to Him and to your parents.

Tuesday

READ Read Titus 1:7.

LIST Make a list in your Bible study journal of the qualifications for an elder.

DISCOVER Who are the elders in your church? How are they elected? What happens when one is chosen?

PRAY Say a special prayer for the elders in your church.

Wednesday

READ Read Titus 1:8.

CREATE Create a poem or song expressing your desire to live a life that praises God.

THINK Think about a leader you admire. What qualities from Paul’s list does this person have?

PRAY Say a special prayer for that leader.

Thursday

READ Read Titus 1:9.

THINK Identify people today who teach wrong ideas.

COMPARE Compare the wrong teachings indicated in Titus with those that Jesus and the apostles repeatedly warned against. Read Titus 1:10-14; Mark 13:22; Acts 20:29; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 2 Peter 3:3-7.

PRAY Ask God to help open your mind to recognize and avoid error.

Friday

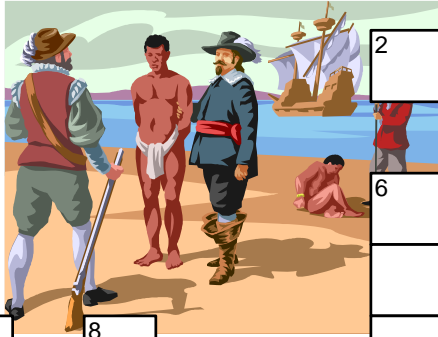
READ Read Titus 2:7, 8.

IMAGINE With your family at worship, imagine you were a church leader with Titus on Crete. What would you have found the most difficult to deal with?

LIST As a family, list the leadership qualities each of you has.

COMMIT Thank God for the qualities He has given to you. Commit them to His work.

Lesson 04 - Measuring Up



Power Point
We reveal God's love by living God's way.

False Teachings

Power Text
"The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness & worldly passions, & to live self-controlled, upright & godly lives in this present age" Titus 2:11, 12.

Can't find an answer? Check your Guide or quarterly!

Across

Down

FTWTF means:
Find The Word That Fits

- 2. FTWTF - PowerPoint
- 5. [Thursday's lesson] Ask God to help open your mind to recognize & avoid ____.
- 9. "Paul sent a long list of ____ for elders," Titus explained when the people assembled. "Maybe you should read them one by one so we can compare them with the people we know," said one man.
- 11. [Wednesday's lesson] Create a ____ or song expressing your desire to live a life that praises God.
- 12. FTWTF - Power Text
- 13. Finally, someone spoke. "Paul raises the standard very high. I think we should all follow this standard as Christians even if we are not elders. It would make for a much calmer church, & we would be better ____."
- 1. The ones inside the church tried to place a lot of ____ on the new members. Some wanted every non-Jew to be circumcised. The ones outside tried to get members to pay to listen to their teaching.
- 3. FTWTF - Title
- 4. " 'His children must be ____.' " This was even harder. Many of the members had children who had been corrupted by false teachers & worshipped other gods.
- 6. The Cretans' reputation was so bad that one of the ____ words for lying was to "cretize."
- 7. And he would have to be a real ____ -an ambassador for God-to deal with the different groups. He would have to be nearly perfect in following the truth.
- 8. And when he had to set people straight, he would have to be very _____. He had to know how to say things so that he didn't drive people away or keep them from joining. Being an elder carried awesome responsibilities.
- 10. "This will be hard," he murmured. Some of the men had more than one wife or weren't faithful even to one. Others treated their wives like _____.

LESSON 5

Student Lesson

Love, the Greatest Gift

Do you find it difficult to love some people? Have you ever read 1 Corinthians 13 and wondered how you could have the love described by Paul? Do you think it's even possible? Let's read about Tina and her family to see how the qualities described in this chapter could be applied to our lives today.

Love is patient, love is kind. . . . It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). This was a very familiar Bible passage for Tina and her two brothers. The message was simple, and it made so much sense. Tina didn't think it would be difficult to love others, as the Bible teaches, but she was in for a surprise!

Tina was 10 when her parents decided to raise foster children. Her family wanted to share the blessings God had given them with those less fortunate. Over the years, God rewarded their desire by sending them a total of 75 children! Tina and her brothers gladly accepted the children and shared their toys with them. They also shared laughter, tears, birthdays, holidays, their parents, and, most of all, the love of Jesus.

One time Tina's parents gave each of the children a gift. The children enjoyed their gifts and played with them throughout the day. As she went to sleep that evening, Tina placed her new gift on top of her dresser. The next morning when she woke up she noticed that her gift was not where she had left it. Had it fallen on the floor? Did she leave it in the living room? Tina looked all over her room, but couldn't find it.

"Mother, have you seen my gift

box?" asked Tina, coming down the steps and going into the kitchen.

"No," said Mom. "Didn't you take it to your room last night?"

"Yes, I thought I did," said Tina, looking troubled, "but I can't find it."

Entering the dining room, Tina found her brothers talking intensely about their missing gifts. It didn't take long before Tina noticed that there were empty chairs at the table. Just then Dad came in with the report:

"Andy has run away!" Dad's voice was filled with anxiety. "He's not in his room, and I couldn't find him anywhere around the house or on the street." The children all looked up in shock and disbelief. All of a sudden Andy's disappearance became the focus of heated discussion.

"This solves the mystery of the missing gifts!" Tina thought out loud. She was hurt that Andy would do this to them, especially after they had opened their hearts and home to him. Mom and Dad were very sad as well that Andy had left and stolen the gifts from the children.

"My children," said Dad, getting everyone's attention. "Andy has never had a home or things that belonged to him. If you have nothing of your own, it can be difficult to respect other people's things. I want you to understand that Andy didn't mean to hurt us. He would like to have a home of his own."

"Andy will come back to us," said Mom on a hopeful and confident tone. "Until then, we have something to do. We must remember that God loves each one of us. He has forgiven us, and if we follow His example, we should also forgive others when they do wrong to us. In Ephesians 4:32 we read,

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' Let's pray that God will help us find Andy."

The family prayed for Andy and asked God to help them forgive him. Later that afternoon Andy was found. He was sorry for what he had done. Tina was still hurt and a little angry, but she remembered her parents' words.

At the evening meal Tina sat right next to Andy and thought to herself, *Now is my chance to show love and forgiveness to my brother.* She said a quick prayer asking God to help her love Andy, although she didn't feel like being kind to him. Andy slouched in his chair and started gobbling up the food on his plate. The family members tried to include him in conversation, but he didn't seem eager to talk. Then Tina broke the silence:

"Andy, we are glad that you returned home!" She was smiling as she continued. "We missed playing with you today! How good to know that our team is complete again." Tina felt peace, and she knew that God had helped her forgive her foster brother.

One afternoon a few days later she sat thinking of Andy and how she had felt when she had found out he had run away. It was then she realized that we hurt God when we run away from Him. She remembered what Dad had read in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 at worship: "Love is patient, love is kind. . . . It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." So, right then and there, Tina decided that by God's grace she would nurture a spirit of love and forgiveness toward others.

God loves us so much, and He wants

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13
- *Steps to Christ*, chap. 1, pp. 11-15
- *The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, pp. 1091, 1092
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 128-131 (“Love at Its Best”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 23, 10, 14

POWER TEXT

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

POWER POINT

God’s family members show love to one another.

us to love others the way He loves us. Will you allow His love to change you? Will you love others God’s way?



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 46.

Sunday

READ Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9 and this week’s story, “Love, the Greatest Gift.”

THINK How have your ideas about love changed since you were a child?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Corinthians 13:13. Practice it every day.

PRAY Ask God to show you this week what He wants you to know about love.

Monday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13. Why do you think it is important to read this chapter every day?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, list good things that are meaningless if done without love.

PRAY Ask God to give you the gift of love.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

ASK Using this passage, ask yourself such questions as, “Am I patient and kind?” Choose one of the traits in the passage and spend the next 24 hours practicing that trait.

PRAY Thank God for giving you an example of how to love through Jesus’ power.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

THINK Think of something unselfish that you can do for someone today (such as spending free time helping him or her).

PRAY Ask God to help you practice love without being like a “clanging cymbal.” Use love in everything you do.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-13.

THINK Why do you think Paul talks (in verse 11) about being a child and being an adult in a passage about love?

SING Sing “Jesus Loves Me.”

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you love others the way He loves you.

Friday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13 again.

THINK Why do you think love is greater than hope or faith?

DO With your family, light a candle at the beginning of the Sabbath. As each person passes it to another, tell what you love about the other family members.

PRAY Thank God for lighting up your life with His love. Ask Him to help you be a light by loving others around you.

Student lesson

Too Good Not to Share

Have you ever tried to explain your belief in God to someone else? When? Have you ever felt embarrassed or frightened because you were a Christian? How can you follow Jesus and serve others in spite of the prejudice they may have toward you? A story from Paul's missionary journeys helps explain how the followers of Jesus may deal with challenges.

Two weary-looking men trudged toward Iconium as the sun was setting. "We had to shake the dust off of our feet as we came to the last city," said one of the travelers, smiling, "but it looks like my feet are all dusty again." He looked at his companion, hoping that a little humor would bring a smile. Their trek east over the mountains from Antioch had been a tiring one.

Paul looked up as if he had just now realized he wasn't alone. Paul was often like that, so intense he almost lost contact with the people around him. "But the believers we did leave in Antioch were so full of joy. I would go through all the hassle again just to see the looks on the faces of those who believed what we told them about the Messiah. Do you remember their joy when they realized that through Jesus, God could be right with them all the time?" Barnabas nodded in agreement.

"Well, we're almost to Iconium," said Barnabas, looking around as they headed through the small merchant stalls on the outskirts of the town. "Let's ask for directions to the Jewish synagogue." They had agreed that they would begin their work in this Greek town exactly the same way they had in the larger Roman colony of Antioch.

They would preach first at the synagogue, where Jews and even Gentiles were looking for the coming of the Messiah.

The synagogue worshippers were pleased to have visitors who had come from Jerusalem with messages to share. Once in a while visitors came from Jerusalem with news for the Jewish communities spread throughout these Greek hills. Often they came only to collect the tithes and offerings to be taken back to Jerusalem. Any such visitors were always welcomed. And so were Paul and Barnabas. The first Sabbath that they were there they began sharing their good news about the Messiah.

For a time all went well. Paul preached in the synagogue several times a week. Paul and Barnabas visited Jews and Gentiles alike in their homes and at their places of business. Wherever people were interested in hearing about Jesus, Paul and Barnabas shared. But not everyone at the synagogue, nor everyone in every home or every business, felt the same way about their message. As when friends and families disagree about something important, the Jews began to argue with one another concerning Paul and Barnabas.

Many of the Jewish leaders did not believe that this wonderful message about the Messiah was true. Some of them were jealous that so many people were listening to Paul and accepting the good news. They were especially furious when God blessed the work of Paul and Barnabas with miracles to show that He was with them. The Jewish leaders who opposed the teaching about Jesus convinced many

Gentiles to reject this message as well. They wanted the town officials to tell Paul and Barnabas to stop sharing the message about Jesus and leave. Then things could go back to the way they had been. The synagogue leaders could be in charge again.

When the town authorities questioned Paul and Barnabas, or any of their followers, they found that their answers were clear and sensible. They couldn't press any charges. So many of the new believers were becoming good and orderly citizens. How could the authorities deny that? In fact, the more jealous people tried to point out what was wrong with the new message, the more people believed in it.

Finally the Jewish leaders who were so jealous and angry decided to do something about the situation themselves. They got an ignorant noisy mob who didn't really understand what was going on and created a huge riot. They hoped it would end in the death of Paul and Barnabas. They hoped Paul and Barnabas would not have another chance to defend themselves before the authorities.

Friends of the two messengers found out about the plot. They hurried to tell Paul and Barnabas. "Don't run the risk of getting hurt by this mob," they warned. "The message you have to share about the Messiah is too wonderful. Leave for a while so you can come back and teach us later."

Paul and Barnabas did as their friends suggested. They left before the angry mob could stone them. But they would be back. The news about Jesus was too wonderful to keep to themselves.

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 14:1-7
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 18, pp. 177-179
- *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, pp. 295, 296
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 69-75 (“Mistaken for Gods”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 11, 17, 12

POWER TEXT

“With the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition” (1 Thessalonians 2:2).

POWER POINT

We follow Jesus when we serve others in spite of obstacles.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 and this week’s story, “Too Good Not to Share.”

LOCATE Locate Iconium on a map in your Bible.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Thessalonians 2:2.

PRAY Pray that God will give you the wisdom to serve those who are prejudiced against Jesus’ teachings.

Monday

READ Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 14:1.

EXPLAIN Explain how Acts 14:1 fulfills the prophecy of Acts 1:8.

THINK Why did Paul and Barnabas go to the Jewish synagogue in Iconium? Why is the phrase “as usual” used in verse 1?

PRAY Pray that God will use your “usual” worship habits to witness silently for Him.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 14:2.

THINK How do you think Paul and Barnabas felt when opposition against them arose?

IMAGINE Imagine what Paul might have said to his fellow Jews who followed him from city to city to persecute him.

WRITE Under a parent’s supervision, type “religious persecution” in an Internet search engine. See what you learn.

PRAY Pray for people in countries where they are persecuted for preaching about Jesus.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 14:3; 19:11, 12; and John 4:48.

NOTICE What was the purpose of using miraculous signs and wonders?

COMPARE Read Acts 5:15, 16. In your Bible study journal, compare Paul and Peter.

PRAY Pray that your God-inspired acts will draw attention to Him.

Thursday

SKIM Skim Acts 13 and 14.

IDENTIFY Identify the people who persecuted Paul in all other cities.

RESEARCH Use a New Testament map to calculate how far the Jews from Antioch traveled to follow Paul to Iconium and Lystra.

PRAY Pray for those who persecute others.

Friday

READ For family worship, read Acts 14:1-7 and *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 179.

DO Have someone stand with their heels against the wall. Place a coin on the floor 18 inches (0.5 meter) in front of their feet. Tell them to bend over, pick up the coin, and stand up without falling. Next do it in pairs. Discuss what made this exercise hard or easy.

COMMIT Make a commitment to serve God in spite of obstacles you encounter.

PRAY Thank God for friends and family who support you.

Find The Word That Fits

Power Point
We follow Jesus when we serve others in spite of obstacles.

Power Text
"With the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition"
1 Thessalonians 2:2.

Can't find an answer? Check your Guide or quarterly!

Across

Down



5. [Tuesday's lesson] Read Acts 14:2. How do you think Paul & Barnabas felt when opposition against them arose? Type "religious persecution" in an Internet search _____. Pray for people in countries where they are persecuted for preaching about Jesus.
8. FTWTF - Power Point
9. [Sunday's lesson] Locate _____ on a map in your Bible. Pray that God will give you the wisdom to serve those who are prejudiced against Jesus' teachings.
11. They would preach first at the synagogue, where Jews & even _____ were looking for the coming of the Messiah.
13. Many of the Jewish leaders did not believe that this _____ message about the Messiah was true. Some of them were jealous that so many people were listening to Paul & accepting the good news.
14. FTWTF - Title
1. FTWTF - Power Text
2. When the town authorities questioned Paul & Barnabas, or any of their followers, they found that their answers were clear & _____. They couldn't press any charges.
3. The synagogue worshippers were pleased to have visitors who had come from Jerusalem with _____ to share. Once in a while visitors came from Jerusalem with news for the Jewish communities spread throughout these Greek hills.
4. "Let's ask for directions to the Jewish _____." They had agreed that they would begin their work in this Greek town exactly the same way they had in the larger Roman colony of Antioch."
6. "But it looks like my feet are all dusty again." He looked at his companion, hoping that a little humor would bring a smile. Their trek east over the _____ from Antioch had been a tiring one."
7. They were especially furious when God blessed the work of Paul & Barnabas with _____ to show that He was with them.
10. Finally the Jewish leaders who were so jealous & _____ decided to do something about the situation themselves. They got an ignorant, noisy mob who didn't really understand what was going on & created a huge riot. They hoped it would end in the death of Paul & Barnabas.
12. Paul & Barnabas did as their friends suggested. They left before the angry mob could _____ them. But they would be back.

Student lesson

Mistaken Identity

Imagine you have just come in first place in a national competition. How do you feel? Everyone wants to congratulate you, and reporters want to talk to you. How easy do you think it would be to remember those people who helped train you and supported you? In our story today Paul and Barnabas remembered to give God the credit for their success.

Again Paul and Barnabas were on the road. They had such good news about God, the Creator and Savior. But in the two towns in which they had just preached, two things had happened. Some people had gladly heard their message and accepted Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. But others had not accepted Him and had caused a lot of trouble for those who had. Usually the people who were most angry about the Messiah's messengers were fellow Jews. This time as the two men traveled they decided to preach in towns where there were no Jews that would persecute them. They chose to go to Lystra, where most of the people worshipped in a temple dedicated to a god named Jupiter.

As usual, the two men were surrounded by crowds of people willing to listen to their message. Not too many exciting things happened in little towns like Lystra. So everyone came out to hear what the newcomers were preaching.

Paul looked around as he preached about the God who had made the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the other wonders of nature. Paul was enjoying being able to introduce these people

to the concept of the Creator God for the first time. He moved on to the topic of God the healer.

As Paul looked at the eager faces that were turned toward him, one particular set of eyes kept drawing his attention. A man was sitting on the ground near the front of the crowd. It was obvious from the look of his withered legs that he could not stand. He had probably never stood or walked in his life. Every time Paul caught the crippled man's eyes, it was as if God were impressing him that here was a true-hearted believer. Paul felt sympathy for the man, and stopping his sermon, he looked right into those eager eyes and said, "Stand up and walk."

Without a moment's hesitation, the lifetime cripple leaped up and began walking around. The crowd around them was speechless. And then a voice from the crowd announced with a loud voice in their native dialect, "The gods have come as men." One voice after another picked up the cue, and soon everyone was shouting and cheering. Paul and Barnabas, glad to have the attention off of themselves, slipped away to the house in which they had been told they could rest.

After a short while Paul and Barnabas heard a commotion outside. It sounded like a parade of some kind. It seemed that everyone in town was coming down the road toward their house. In front of the procession were the priest, leading an ox, and his assistants with garlands of flowers. They seemed to be on their way to offer a sacrifice, but they stopped right in front of the house. The two preachers

looked at each other and began to understand. It was the same phrase that the people had been shouting after the lame man walked. "The gods have come as men."

"Oh, no!" Paul exclaimed, and ran toward the door, tearing his robe in frustration.

Barnabas was close behind him and called to the people. "Don't! Stop! We're not gods!"

Paul stepped in front of the people. The noise heightened. "Why are you doing this?" he cried out to get the people's attention. The people began to quiet down. Paul began to speak now that he had their attention. "We are men, just like you. The reason we are preaching to you is that we want you to recognize and worship the true God, who created all of us, who heals us, and who saves us. He gives good things to all of us. Look at the harvest. Look at the fruit trees. They are all gifts from His goodness. We are not gods!"

Though the people did not seem to be convinced, they did stop their preparations for a sacrifice. Paul and Barnabas continued to talk with them and tried to explain to them that the only true Healer was the God of heaven and earth. They were only His messengers.

Life was unpredictable for the disciples! In the last two towns they had been condemned as troublemakers. In this one, they were being honored as gods. They had to remember to trust God for strength in bad times, and give Him glory in good times. Being the Messiah's messengers was certainly a calling full of surprises!

KEY REFERENCES

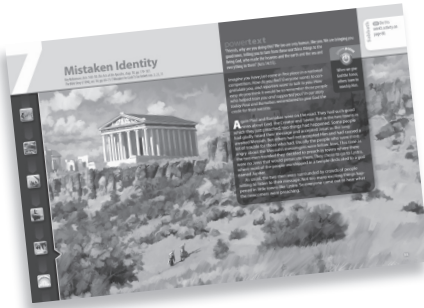
- Acts 14:8-18
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 18, pp. 179-187
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 69-75 (“Mistaken for Gods”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 3, 22, 11

POWER TEXT

“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them” (Acts 14:15).

POWER POINT

When we give God the honor, others learn to worship Him.



Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

Sunday

READ Read Revelation 4:11 and this week's story, “Mistaken Identity.”

THINK How would you feel if you were wrongly accused when you were trying to follow God's commands?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Acts 14:15.

PRAY Ask God to work through you the way He worked through Paul and Barnabas.

Monday

READ Read Acts 14:8-10.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, describe in words or in a picture what “faith to be healed” looks like.

THINK Think about a time when someone showed great faith. Tell someone else about it.

PRAY Ask God for the honesty to give Him the glory when you are praised.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 14:11, 12.

RESEARCH In an encyclopedia or other reference book, discover who were Zeus and Hermes.

THINK Are there people or things in your life that you put before God?

PRAY Ask God to help you see Him as your greatest hero.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 14:13, 14.

DISCUSS Why did Barnabas and Paul tear their clothes? What are some other ways people react to alarming news?

MAKE Make a sign to hang in your room that says “To God Be the Glory.”

REVIEW Review this week's power text.

PRAY Thank God, who blesses everyone even if they don't understand Him.

Thursday

READ Read acts 14:15-18.

THINK What does what happened to Paul and Barnabas tell you about people?

ASK Ask an adult about a time they gave God the honor when someone praised them.

REMEMBER When we give God the honor, others learn to worship Him.

Friday

READ For family worship, have everyone find and read a Bible verse that magnifies the Lord.

SING Sing or play a song using the word “magnify” (or “glory,” “praise,” or “honor”).

CREATE Using a piece of wire or a paper clip, form a small loop at one end. Rub a little cooking oil on the loop, then dip it in water. The thin film of water in the loop works as a mini magnifying “glass.” Try it out.

PRAY Pray that your life will always magnify the Lord.

Student lesson

A Chain of Grace

Imagine you are on a journey to see some old friends. You are really looking forward to seeing them. On your journey you hear that you will be in danger when you reach your destination. Would you continue with your journey or put it off until another time? Read on to discover what Paul did in such a situation.

Paul stood on the deck of a large sailing ship still tied to the dock in Tyre. He and the friends traveling with him had just spent seven restful days here while the ship was unloaded. Paul could see there were still a few tears on the faces of those waving goodbye. The Holy Spirit had impressed these believers to tell Paul that dangerous things were waiting for him in Jerusalem.

Paul was just beginning the very last part of his very last missionary trip. One more short stop, and he would visit his old friend Philip, the evangelist, and his daughters in Caesarea. Then he would go on to Jerusalem, where he knew God was directing him, even though his friends had warned him of danger.

On the three missionary trips that Paul had taken, many people had come to believe in Jesus, the Messiah. Paul had once been mistaken for Mercury, the chief speaker for the Greek gods. Actually, Paul had been the chief speaker for Jesus. But he was not the only one God was using to build the early church. Many people with many different gifts were joining God in His work to bring the gospel

of grace and the truth about Jesus to everyone.

For instance, Philip, the friend Paul was on his way to visit, was one of the seven God had chosen to help the 12 apostles with their work. As more and more people in Jerusalem started to believe in Jesus, helpers were needed to make sure that everyone was taken care of and had enough to eat. The apostles, such as Peter, James, and John, were busy preaching and teaching. Philip and others used their gifts as administrators to make sure everything was managed well. Once Philip had been sent by God's Spirit to an Ethiopian officer who was reading while he crossed the desert. Philip had explained the Scripture and then baptized the man. Now Philip's daughters preached and prophesied and helped the church as well. They were a family dedicated to God. Paul was looking forward to enjoying their hospitality for a few days.

At Philip's home Paul and those traveling with him enjoyed rest and freedom among friends. Then one day a visitor arrived. His name was Agabus. He also was led by God's Spirit.

Agabus entered Philip's house and walked over to where Paul sat. He picked up Paul's belt. Seating himself, Agabus wrapped the belt around both his own hands and feet and then looked up at Paul. "This is a message from the Holy Spirit. The owner of this belt will have his hands and feet shackled by the Jews in Jerusalem and will

be turned over to the Gentiles for trial and execution."

Paul's friends realized that this was another warning to Paul about what was to happen in Jerusalem. They did not want him to keep going. They begged him not to go.

"You're breaking my heart," Paul responded. "I believe God is sending me to Jerusalem. I am thankful that He is letting me know ahead of time what to expect. But I can't turn back."

"The Lord's will be done," his friends responded. For the last few days at Philip's house they spent memorable moments together.

Finally the day came when Paul and his friends started the walk from Caesarea down to Jerusalem. At the end of the first day of walking they stopped for the night at the home of another friend, Mnason. A believer who had moved from Cyprus to be closer to Jerusalem, he was one of the first Gentile believers. His comfortable home was a place where Gentile believers could stay when coming to Jerusalem for church meetings or visits. Mnason was one more of the many, many believers who made up the body of the newly formed Christian church.

Paul didn't know what lay ahead for him, but he knew that God had blessed the believers with many different gifts. Each gift was to be used to administer God's grace to others. Each member of the growing church was one more link in God's chain of grace let down from heaven to save and to serve all who would believe in Him.

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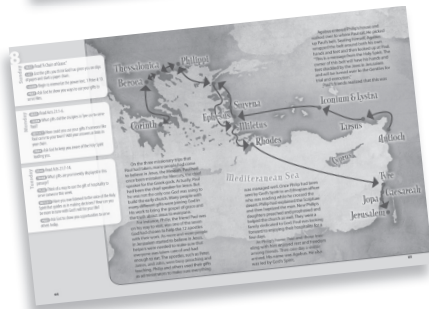
- Acts 21:1-16
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 37, pp. 389-398
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 106-110 (“Sermon on the Stairs”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 17, 21, 14

POWER TEXT

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

POWER POINT

We join God in His work when we use our spiritual gifts to serve others.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and this week’s story, “A Chain of Grace.”

LIST List the gifts you think God has given you on slips of paper and start a paper chain.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text, 1 Peter 4:10.

PRAY Ask God to show you ways to use your gifts to serve Him.

Monday

READ Read Acts 21:1-6.

THINK What gifts did the disciples in Tyre use to serve Paul?

REFLECT How could you use your gifts if someone like Paul came to your town? Add your answers as links in your chain.

PRAY Ask God to keep you aware of the Holy Spirit leading you.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 21:7-14.

THINK What gifts are prominently displayed in this passage?

PLAN Think of a way to use the gift of hospitality to serve someone this week.

REFLECT Have you ever listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit that guides us in making decisions? How can you be more in tune with God’s will for your life?

PRAY Ask God to show you opportunities to serve others today.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 21:15, 16.

THINK Why do you think the gift of hospitality was so often displayed in Paul’s day? Do you think it is used as often today? Why or why not?

TAKE Take the first step in practicing hospitality (for example, call or invite someone to do something with you).

PRAY Ask God for courage to use your gifts.

Thursday

COMPARE Compare Ephesians 4:11, 12 and 1 Corinthians 12:28-31. How alike or different are the spiritual gifts described?

THINK What spiritual gifts from this list do you think you have? Add them to your chain.

REFLECT In your Bible study journal, discuss with God any questions you have about using your gifts to serve others.

CREATE Make something that expresses praise to God for His gifts.

PRAY Thank God for the gifts He has given you.

Friday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13 with your family during worship.

DISCUSS Discuss the various gifts each family member has. Share your chain.

PLAN Brainstorm ways to combine your gifts to do a family service project. Let family members add their gifts to your chain.

SING Sing “Make Me a Servant” or another song about service.

PRAY Commit your gifts and your plans to God.

Student lesson

A Key Witness

Have you ever had to give a talk in front of your class or read something in church? Imagine that you had to stand in front of an angry mob and tell them why you loved Jesus. How do you think you would feel? Would you trust that God would let you know what to say?

Paul's last missionary trip had come to an end. He had reached Jerusalem at Passover time. The first morning, Paul and his fellow travelers reported to James and the other elders. They wanted to share the news of God's blessings on their work in the many cities they had visited. They also had offerings from the believers in those cities to help the work in Jerusalem.

One day as Paul was visiting in the Temple, some Jews from another city recognized him. "Men of Israel!" they shouted. "Help! This is the man who talks against the people of Israel, the law, and the Temple. He does it everywhere he goes. He has even brought Gentiles into the Temple to defile it." A crowd gathered quickly. Angry hands dragged Paul out of the Temple.

The crowd grew angrier and angrier as they hauled Paul away as if to stone him. They drew the attention of Roman guards, who rushed to find out what was happening. As the Roman soldiers got close to Paul, the people drew back from him. The captain ordered the soldiers to carry Paul to the Roman headquarters until he could figure out what was going on.

"May I speak to you?" Paul spoke

calmly and politely to the captain in perfect Greek as they entered the headquarters building.

The captain replied with surprise. "Aren't you the Egyptian terrorist who has taken 4,000 men out into the desert to overthrow the government?"

"No," Paul smiled, "I am a Jew from the well-respected city of Tarsus in Cilicia. Could I please speak to the people outside?" The captain, surprised, granted his request, and they stopped on the stairs. Paul turned toward the crowd. The people started to quiet.

Paul now talked in Aramaic to the people who had been trying to kill him.

"I am a fellow Jew," he began. "I was educated right here in Jerusalem. I became a member of the Sanhedrin and persecuted the followers of Jesus."

He told them how he had been converted, how his own proud heart had been won by the crucified Messiah. There was a power to the story of his personal experience. The people listened to this key witness for Jesus, the Messiah.

Paul continued with the story. When he finally got to the place where God had given him a vision to take the message about the Messiah to the Gentiles, the listening Jews erupted. "Take him away. Kill him. He doesn't deserve to live," they screamed.

The surprised Roman captain ordered the soldiers to take Paul up the stairs and beat him until they could find out what he had done. Almost instantly the soldiers had Paul upstairs,

stripped from the waist up, tied to posts, and ready to be flogged.

Finally Paul got the attention of the centurion. "Isn't it against the law for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't been convicted of a crime?" he asked politely.

"Stop!" cried the centurion, running for the captain.

"This man claims to be a Roman citizen," he gasped. "We'd better be careful what we do to him."

The captain joined the centurion and returned to where Paul was tied. "Are you really a Roman citizen?" he asked.

"Yes, I am," Paul replied.

"It cost me a lot of money to buy my citizenship," the captain confided as he handed Paul back his outer robe.

"I was born a citizen," Paul answered again.

The captain called a guard. "Remove his ropes and show him to one of the rooms downstairs. I've got to find out what this is all about."

Alone in a guarded room, Paul thought over the events that had taken place since he had arrived back in Jerusalem. He didn't know exactly how this would turn out in the end. But he was glad that, once again, God had given him an opportunity to share his story with so many different people. He knew that what God had done for Him had made him a key witness of God's goodness in sending Jesus as the Messiah. He would continue to testify about God's grace as long as he could, in Aramaic, in Greek, and in chains, if necessary.

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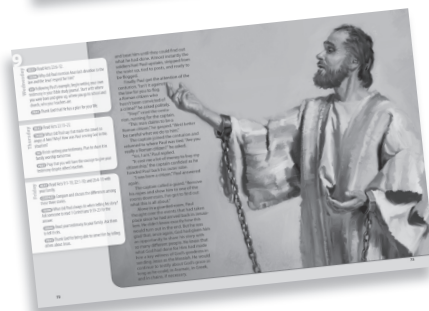
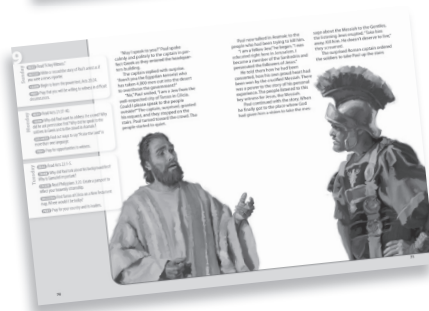
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- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 38, pp. 399-418
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp.106-110 (“Sermon on the Stairs”); vol. 10, pp. 111-113 (“Boy With a Secret”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 13, 11, 4

POWER TEXT

“I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24).

POWER POINT

We serve others by telling them what Jesus means to us.



Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 21:17-36 and this week’s story, “A Key Witness.”

REPORT Write or record the story of Paul’s arrest as if you were a news reporter.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Acts 20:24.

PRAY Pray that you will be willing to witness in difficult circumstances.

Monday

READ Read Acts 21:37-40.

THINK Why did Paul want to address the crowd? Why did he ask permission first? Why did he speak to the soldiers in Greek and to the crowd in Aramaic?

DISCOVER Find out ways to say “Praise the Lord” in more than one language.

PRAY Pray for opportunities to witness.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 22:1-5.

THINK Why did Paul talk about his background first? Why is Gamaliel important?

CREATE Read Philippians 3:20. Create a passport to reflect your heavenly citizenship.

DISCOVER Find Tarsus of Cilicia on a New Testament map. Where would it be today?

PRAY Pray for your country and its leaders.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 22:6-12.

THINK Why did Paul mention Ananias’s devotion to the law and the Jews’ respect for him?

DO Following Paul’s example, begin writing your own testimony in your Bible study journal. Start with where you were born and grew up, where you go to school and church, who your teachers are.

PRAY Thank God that He has a plan for your life.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 22:13-22.

THINK What did Paul say that made the crowd so angry at him? Why? How was Paul serving God in this situation?

DO Finish writing your testimony. Plan to share it in family worship tomorrow.

PRAY Pray that you will have the courage to give your testimony despite others’ reactions.

Friday

READ Read Acts 9:1-18; Acts 22:1-10; and Acts 26:4-18 with your family.

COMPARE Compare and discuss the differences among these three stories.

THINK What did Paul always do when telling his story? Ask someone to read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 for the answer.

SHARE Read your testimony to your family. Ask them to tell theirs.

PRAY Thank God for being able to serve Him by telling others about Jesus.

Student lesson

A Friend Indeed

If you could go to the mailbox and find a letter from anyone you know, who would it be? Why? While in prison Paul remembered his missionary travels and tireless work to win Jews and Gentiles alike for Jesus. During his ministry Paul had worked closely with Timothy. Now a prisoner in Rome, he remembers Timothy and writes him a letter. Our story this week helps us imagine Timothy getting a letter from his dear friend Paul. He loved Paul's encouraging, inspiring letters. He couldn't wait to find out what God was doing in Paul's life. Let's imagine he shares the letter with a cousin named Dimitri (Paul's words are quoted from 1 Timothy 1:12-16).

Eagerly Timothy read the letter his friend Paul had written him. It had been months since he had seen Paul.

"It's good to hear from Paul," Timothy said to his cousin Dimitri.

"Where's Paul now?" asked Dimitri.

"Paul has been imprisoned because of the gospel, and he is now in Rome," Timothy replied. "He wants me to visit churches and preach the good news about Jesus."

"I can understand that," Dimitri said. "You're doing well teaching new believers about the love of God. What else does Paul say?"

"Listen to this," Timothy answered. "Paul wrote, 'I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even

though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief'" (verses 12, 13).

"That is so powerful," Dimitri said.

"Paul recognizes that he was cursing Jesus and persecuting believers. In spite of that, he was chosen to be a worker for Jesus."

"You're right. Jesus did choose him," Timothy responded. "Remember when Paul was on the road to Damascus? He was going there to hunt more Christian believers. Jesus spoke to him anyway."

"Paul did some pretty awful things. He didn't seem to recognize that even though he thought he was doing good, he was really ruining his own life," Dimitri observed. "Is that all he wrote about?"

"No," Timothy continued. "He says, 'The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus'" (verse 14).

"Why did he write that?" asked Dimitri.

"I believe Paul is trying to tell us that even though his past was so terrible, Jesus still showed His patience and love in Paul's life. Once He got Paul's attention, Jesus used other believers, such as Ananias and Barnabas, to show His love to Paul. Ananias was the first to speak to Paul after the Damascus road experience. Barnabas stood up for Paul after his conversion even when the other believers didn't trust Paul."

"It's amazing how Jesus was still pursuing Paul when he was busy insulting Jesus and His followers," Dimitri observed. "I'm glad that God keeps on calling us, even when we aren't listening."

"That's God for you," Timothy said. "He patiently tries to make friends with us. Listen to what else Paul wrote.

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life'" (verses 15, 16).

"Did you notice that Paul said this is a trustworthy message?" Timothy asked. "Jesus made a promise to each of us. And we can take that promise into our own lives and know that we can be saved through His death and changed through His Spirit."

"It's exciting to hear Paul's letter," Dimitri exclaimed. "If Jesus can forgive Paul and make him a close friend, it means He can do that for me too."

"That's right," Timothy agreed. "God is patient in waiting for us to accept Him. He doesn't want anyone to choose to spend eternity anywhere else but with Him."

"Well, why would I keep Him waiting for me any longer? I choose Jesus to be my best Friend today!" replied Dimitri thoughtfully.

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 49, pp. 498-508
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 149-151 (“Fight the Good Fight”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 4, 10, 9

POWER TEXT

“The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 1:14).

POWER POINT

God wants us to know Him personally.



Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and this week's story, “A Friend Indeed.” Paul and Timothy were very close friends even though they were far apart in age. Timothy was like a son to Paul.

THINK Think about the people in your life who have been special to you.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Timothy 1:14.

PRAY Write a prayer in your Bible study journal, asking God by His grace to show you how to know Him better.

Monday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:12.

IDENTIFY What are three reasons Paul was thankful to Jesus?

THINK What kind of strength do you think Paul needed? What do you think it means to be faithful?

SHARE Share your friendship with someone new today.

PRAY Ask God to help you trust Him as Paul did.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:13.

LIST List three things that Paul had been in the past.

SHARE Talk with an adult, asking them to tell some way that God's grace changed them.

RECORD List three things that God's grace has done for you.

PRAY Thank God for His marvelous grace.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:14, 15.

IDENTIFY List three things that Paul says were poured out abundantly on him.

THINK When have any of these three things been poured out on you?

PRAY Thank God for specific things He does for you.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:16.

THINK Paul says that he was shown mercy because he was the worst of sinners. Why did Jesus display patience to Paul?

ANSWER How does Jesus pour out His grace on you?

DRAW Draw a picture of your face on your worst day. Draw another picture of yourself when you realize that God watches over you even in the worst situation. What difference do you see between the pictures? Always remember Jesus loves you.

PRAY Ask God to help you show His love to others.

Friday

READ Read 1 Timothy 1:17.

SHARE Tell a friend how much God loves you in spite of what you have done.

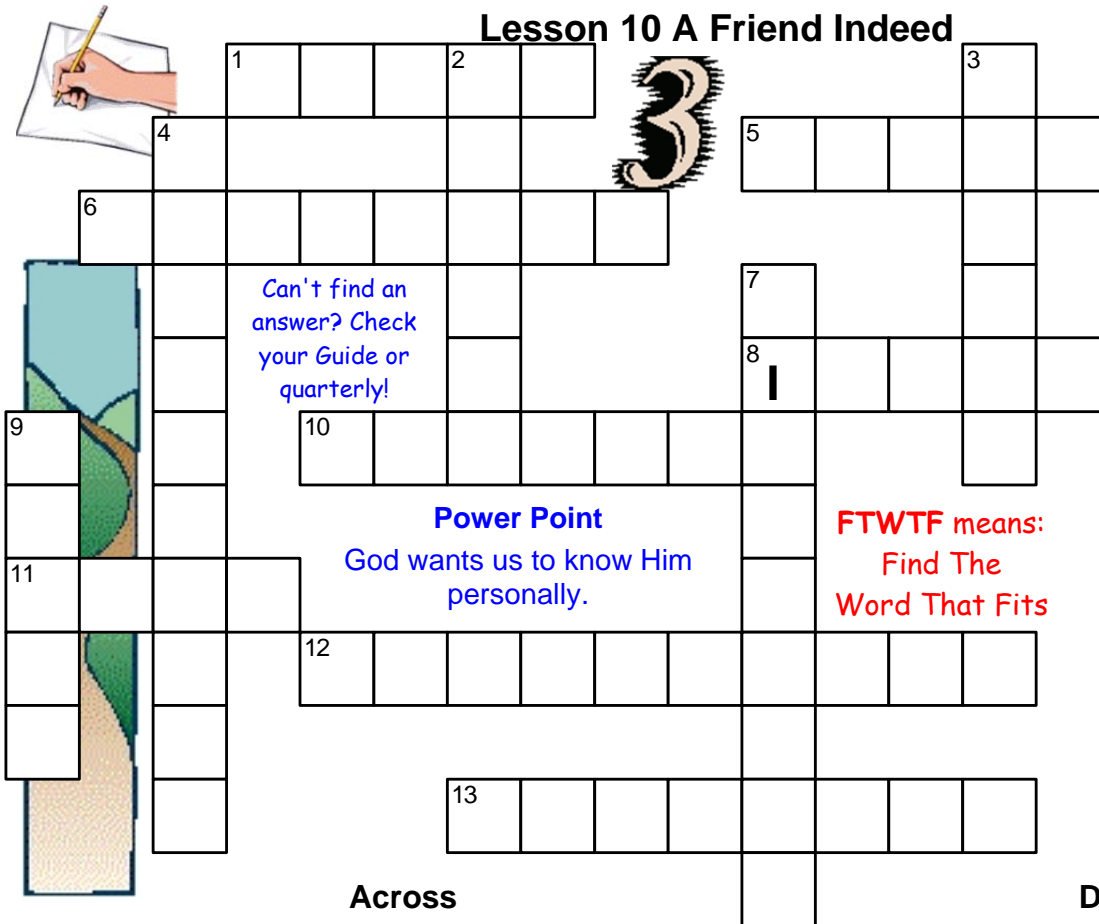
SING Sing “Amazing Grace” and think about each word.

WRITE Record in your Bible study journal your response to God's amazing love and grace.

PRAY Pray that someone special to you will experience God's amazing grace.

Lesson 10 A Friend Indeed

Year C - 2nd Quarter



Power Text

"The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith & love that are in Christ Jesus"

1 Timothy 1:14.

Can't find an answer? Check your Guide or quarterly!

Power Point

God wants us to know Him personally.

FTWTF means:
Find The Word That Fits



Across

Down

1. Barnabas stood up for Paul after his conversion even when the other believers didn't ____ Paul.
2. "Jesus made a promise to each of us. And we can take that promise into our own lives & know that we can be saved through His death & changed through His ____."
3. "It's exciting to hear Paul's _____," Dimitri exclaimed. "If Jesus can forgive Paul & make him a close friend, it means He can do that for me too."
4. FTWTF - Power Point
5. [Tuesday's lesson] Read 1 Timothy 1:14, 15. List ____ things that Paul says were poured out abundantly on him. When have any of these three things been poured out on you?
6. "I can understand that," Dimitri said. "You're doing well ____ new believers about the love of God. What else does Paul say?"
7. "It's amazing how Jesus was still pursuing Paul when he was busy insulting Jesus & His followers," Dimitri observed. "I'm glad that God keeps on calling us, even when we aren't ____."
8. FTWTF - Title
9. "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown ____ so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe in him & receive eternal life' (verses 15, 16)."
10. [Thursday's lesson] Read 1 Timothy 1:16. Draw a picture of your face on your worst day. Draw another picture of yourself when you realize that God ____ over you even in the worst situation. What difference do you see between the pictures?
11. "You're right. Jesus did choose him," Timothy responded. "Remember when Paul was on the ____ to Damascus? He was going there to hunt more Christian believers. Jesus spoke to him anyway."
12. FTWTF - Power Text
13. "Listen to this," Timothy answered. "Paul wrote, 'I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me _____, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer & a persecutor & a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance & unbelief' [verses 12, 13]."

Student lesson

Keep Talking

Stand up and stretch as high and as wide as you can. How does that feel? Imagine what it would feel like if you were chained and not able to stretch or move freely. Paul was in that situation. Many others may have felt depressed in such conditions, but Paul was full of hope. Moreover, he encouraged everyone with messages of God's grace.

The filthy cell is dark. A thin shaft of light filters in from a window high above. The prisoner's thin clothing is not enough to keep out the chill of the cold, damp stone floor and walls. Heavy chains clank each time he moves. He is awaiting execution, and his pen scratches across the paper as he writes last letters of hope and encouragement to his friends.

This is not the first time Paul has been thrown into prison. His life as a messenger of God's grace has been hard. Lashed by the Jews five times; beaten with rods three times; stoned once; shipwrecked three times, once floating at sea for an entire day and night. His life has been one of constant danger—from the Jews, from the Gentiles, from rivers, from bandits, in the city, in the country, from unfaithful friends.

He has gone without sleep, without food, without water. He has been cold and naked. Prison is nothing new. Yet in every one of these situations Paul found the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. Shipwrecked and stranded on the island of Malta for three months, Paul used the time to make converts. Imprisoned under house arrest in Rome for two years, he preached the gospel of grace to his guards and everyone else who came

to visit him. His message was preached first to the slaves and the poor, but eventually it made its way up through the rich and to the household of the emperor.

Finally he was called to appear before Nero. The emperor was a man of unusual cruelty who ruled the entire civilized world with an iron hand. Those who dared to speak a word against him, including his own mother, were executed without mercy. He hated Christians and sent thousands of them to their death in Rome. When Paul was called to defend himself on charges of rebelling against the government, he had no reason to be hopeful. But God had other plans for Paul's court appearance, and He knew He could count on Paul to use the opportunity to witness for Him.

A Roman prisoner was allowed to bring someone to court with him to help argue his case, much like a lawyer does today. But no one was brave enough to appear before Nero with Paul.

"At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me," he wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:16). "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth" (verse 17).

In a court appearance that would make others tremble, Paul stood calmly in the crowded hall and presented the good news about Jesus. People from many lands listened in awe as he explained how Jesus came and paid the price to save us from our sins. Paul's words and the peace

of Jesus that showed on his face converted many of the powerful and mighty who heard him that day.

Nero himself was influenced by Paul's speech and returned him to prison instead of throwing him to the lions in a public execution.

Nero eventually ordered Paul beheaded, but even on his way to his execution Paul preached the gospel of Jesus. Some of the soldiers who watched him die were moved by the Spirit of God as they listened to his grace-filled words.

Paul didn't complain that God had abandoned him as he sat alone in a filthy dungeon. His faith in his Savior was never shaken. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing," he wrote in his last letter to Timothy (verses 7, 8).

Paul was called to share God's message of grace in unusually difficult circumstances. But even in prison, even standing before one of history's most famous dictators, even on his way to his death, he found a way to share with others the good news about God's grace. He felt God's presence with him in even the worst of circumstances and used each to share his faith.

We don't know what our lives will bring. But God has promised to be with us no matter what lies ahead. "And surely I am with you always," Jesus promised (Matthew 28:20). It's a promise that we, like Paul, can take with us wherever we go.

KEY REFERENCES

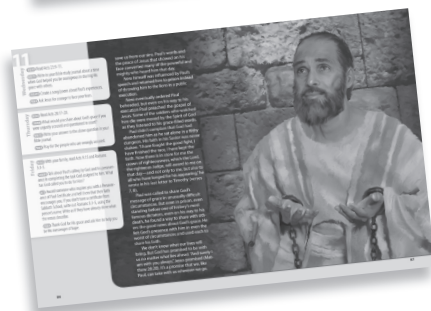
- Acts 9:15, 16; Acts 20:24
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 50, pp. 509-513
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 149-151 ("Fight the Good Fight")
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 10, 17, 11

POWER TEXT

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you" (Acts 18:9, 10).

POWER POINT

We speak about God's grace wherever we are.



Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 9:15, 16, 20-24 and this week's story, "Keep Talking."

WRITE Write the power text, Acts 18:9, 10, on a stone to remind you of God's protection.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Acts 18:9, 10.

PRAY Ask God for strength to witness, even in difficult times.

Monday

READ Read Acts 16:22-34.

RESEARCH Trace Paul's second missionary journey on a map.

ANSWER What would you do if you were facing some of Paul's trials?

PRAY Ask for God's protection for people who face trials while sharing their faith.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 21:20-40.

REFLECT How can your attitude reflect God's grace in difficult situations?

PRAY Ask God to help you share His grace even when you are falsely accused.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 23:9-11.

WRITE Write in your Bible study journal about a time when God helped you be courageous in sharing His grace with others.

CREATE Create a song/poem about Paul's experiences.

PRAY Ask Jesus for courage to face your fears.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 28:17-20.

THINK What would you share about God's grace if you were unjustly accused and questioned in court?

WRITE Write your answer to the above question in your Bible journal.

PRAY Pray for the people who are wrongly accused.

Friday

READ With your family, read Acts 9:15 and Romans 5:3-5.

SHARE Talk about Paul's calling by God and his perseverance in completing the task God assigned to him. What has God called you to do for Him?

ACT Award someone who inspires you with a Perseverance of Paul Certificate and tell them that their faith encourages you. If you don't have a certificate from Sabbath School, write out Romans 5:3-5, using the person's name. Write as if they have already done what the verses describe.

PRAY Thank God for His grace and ask Him to help you be His messenger of hope.

Student lesson

Windows to God

When was the last time you thought of God as you spent time in nature? What are some lessons you learned from nature and the Bible about God? Nature and the Bible reveal countless proofs of God's love for us.

Hey, Mom!" Brad exclaimed as he slid into the back seat and closed the car door. "My whole Sabbath School class is invited to Pastor Jack's house tomorrow night. We are going to have a potluck and play games. I can go, can't I?"

"Fasten your seat belt," Dad said as he turned the key and started the car.

Mom smiled back at Brad. "Yes, you may," she answered. "What kind of food are you supposed to take to the potluck?"

Brad finally found both ends of his seat belt and clicked them together. "Well, that's kind of a problem," he said, grinning. "I'm supposed to take something that I've made myself."

Dad laughed. "You could take a box of cereal and a carton of milk," he suggested as he drove out of the church parking lot.

"Very funny!" Brad exclaimed. "And something else too," Brad continued. "Everybody is supposed to bring an example of how we can see God in nature, or how nature teaches us about God. Can you give me an example?"

Dad glanced at Brad in the rearview mirror. "Sure, I can," he said. "But you can't use my examples tomorrow. You need to find one of your own."

"Ah, Dad, you are making it difficult for me!"

It was quiet in the car for a moment.

"Mom, will you give me an example I can use?"

Mom laughed. "I'll give you an example," she said. "But your dad's right. You'll have to find one of your own for tomorrow night."

"OK," Brad agreed. "Just give me an idea then."

"Well, here is one of my favorites," Mom began. "Birds rub oil from a special oil gland onto their feathers. The oil helps keep the birds clean. Dirt doesn't stick to them. In the Bible, oil represents the Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, the dirt of sin doesn't stick to us."

"That's cool!" Brad said thoughtfully. "I knew that part about birds rubbing oil on their feathers. But I didn't think about the Holy Spirit in that way."

"You have to think about things for a while, and then you can make some of those connections," Dad said. "It's called 'meditating' or 'ruminating.' Ruminating means to chew on an idea, as a cow chews its cud."

"Yuck!" Brad said.

"Talking about chewing makes me think of another example!" Mom added. "When you take good food into your body and chew on it, your digestive system breaks it down, and the food becomes a part of you. It makes you strong and healthy and protects you against disease."

"If you chew on God's Word, you'll become strong and healthy spiritually. You will be protected against the disease of sin. Then people will be able to see what God is doing in your life. They'll know what you've been chewing on!"

"Good one!" Dad exclaimed. "And here's another example. There's a text

in Isaiah that says, 'Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31, NKJV). Sometimes eagles need to travel long distances to find food. If they have to go a day or more without eating, they do not have a lot of energy to flap their wings and fly farther. So the eagles use thermals—warm air currents that rise from the ground—like elevators. A thermal can carry an eagle far, far up into the sky. Then it can glide for miles without having to flap its wings.

"It's like when we pray for the Holy Spirit in our lives and then just let Him carry us closer to God. We don't get closer to God by flapping around wearing ourselves out doing good works," Dad added.

"I like that example!" Brad said. "Maybe it won't be so hard to find my own example for tomorrow night."

"Maybe I could teach you how to make tamale pie tomorrow," Mom suggested. I know you really like tamale, and it's not hard to make."

"OK," Brad agreed. Then he laughed. "Pastor Jack said he would make something too. I wonder what it will be. Mrs. Jack says he can hardly boil water without burning it!"

"Here's another example of God in nature," Dad added. "God could have made you without taste buds. Then it wouldn't matter if your food was burned or not. Think what pleasures you would be missing, though! What does this tell you about God?"

"Wait a minute! My brain is chewing on something," Brad said. "I've got one!" he exclaimed. "Squirrels are always gathering nuts, and they hide lots of them

KEY REFERENCES

- Psalm 19
- *Steps to Christ*, chap. 1, pp. 9-16
- *The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 3, pp. 1143, 1144
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 58-61 (“Lessons From Little Things”)
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 6, 1, 23

away for the winter, when they will need them. That’s like the verse that says to hide God’s Word in your heart. So it is there when you need it. Right?”

“That’s good!” Dad said. “I would not be at all surprised if before your party tomorrow you came up with a whole bunch of ways to see God in nature!”



POWER TEXT

“The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1).

“The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul” (Psalm 19:7).

“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

POWER POINT

God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, and His work in our lives.

Sabbath

DO Do this week’s activity on page 89.

Sunday

READ Read Isaiah 45:12 and this week’s story, “Windows to God.”

LEARN Begin to learn the power texts, Psalm 19:1, 7, 14. Practice saying all the other verses of Psalm 19 as well.

PRAY Ask God to reveal Himself to you and through you.

Monday

READ Read Psalm 19:1-6.

CREATE Create something using things you find in nature.

WATCH Watch a nature program, read a nature book, or research something about nature on the Internet.

PRAY Thank God for all the things He has revealed to you through nature.

Tuesday

READ Read Psalm 19:7-11.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about something in the Bible that revives, makes wise, gives joy, gives light. List the Bible texts that help you feel this way.

PRAY Thank God for what He has revealed to you through His Word.

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 19:12-14.

TALK Talk with an adult about what you have learned about God through nature. Ask them if they can tell you something else that they have learned.

PRAY Thank God for what He has revealed about Himself to you through the lives of other Christians.

Thursday

COMPARE Look through Psalm 119 and find all the places in that psalm that remind you of Psalm 19.

WRITE Write what you find in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Pray that God will continue to revive you, make you wise, and give you joy and light through His Word.

Friday

REPEAT Say your power texts, and as much of Psalm 19 as you are able, to your family at worship.

SHARE Share stories of what you have learned about God through nature.

DRAW Ask each person to draw something they see when they read or hear Psalm 19:1-6. Then share your pictures and explain them.

PRAY Thank God together for the wonderful things in nature that reflect His love for us.

Lesson 12 Windows to God

Year C - 2nd Quarter

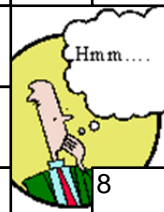
Power Point


God reveals Himself in nature, His Word, & His work in our lives.

Power Text

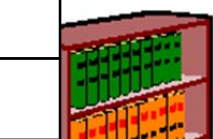
"The heavens declare the glory of God" Psalm 19:1. | "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul" Psalm 19:7.


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11								12		
13										





Can't find an answer?
Check your Guide or quarterly!





FTWTF
means:
Find
The
Word
That
Fits

"May these words of my mouth & this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock & my Redeemer" Psalm 19:14.

Across

Down

1. Dad glanced at Brad in the rearview _____. "Sure, I can," he said. "But you can't use my examples tomorrow. You need to find one of your own." "Ah Dad, you are making it difficult for me!"
4. "Good one!" Dad exclaimed. "And here's another example. There's a text in Isaiah that says, 'Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like _____' [Isaiah 40:31, NKJV].
5. [Monday's lesson] Read Psalm 19:1-6. _____ something using things you find in nature. Watch a nature program, read a nature book, or research something about nature on the Internet.
10. "Birds rub oil from a special oil gland onto their feathers. The oil helps keep the birds _____. Dirt doesn't stick to them. In the Bible, oil represents the Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, the dirt of sin doesn't stick to us."
11. FTWTF - Power Point
12. FTWTF - Title
13. "You have to think about things for a while, & then you can make some of those connections," Dad said. "It's called '_____' or 'ruminating.' Ruminating means to chew on an idea, as a cow chews its cud."
2. [Sunday's lesson] Ask God to _____ Himself to you & through you.
3. FTWTF - Power Text
6. So the eagles use thermals-warm air currents that rise from the ground-like _____. A thermal can carry an eagle far, far up into the sky.
7. "Very funny!" Brad exclaimed. "And something else too," Brad continued. "Every body is supposed to bring an example of how we can see God in nature, or how nature _____ us about God. Can you give me an example?"
8. "It's like when we pray for the Holy Spirit in our lives & then just let Him carry us closer to God. We don't get closer to God by _____ around wearing ourselves out doing good works," Dad added.
9. "If you chew on God's Word, you'll become strong & healthy spiritually. You will be protected against the _____ of sin. Then people will be able to see what God is doing in your life. They'll know what you've been chewing on!"

Student lesson

God's Special Messenger

Imagine you know that something bad is going to happen in your neighborhood. You know that if people follow some very simple rules, they will be safe. What would you do? God knows that sin is destroying the world. He has given a special gift of prophecy to the church. This helps His people get ready for His return when He will take them home.

Kevin was a visitor. He had just started to come to church and did not know much about the Bible. This Sabbath his teacher, Mrs. Cristobal, had promised that there would be time to ask any questions they wanted about the Bible.

Kevin could hardly wait until question time. As soon as Mrs. Cristobal asked, "Any questions?" Kevin called out, "I have one."

"OK, Kevin, let's hear it," said Mrs. Cristobal with a smile.

"I keep hearing people talk about 'Mrs. White.' I want to know who she is and how she fits in with the Bible."

"Good question, Kevin," replied Mrs. Cristobal. "Class, who can help Kevin with the answer?"

"I can," said Erica, waving her hand. "God gave her the gift of prophecy. In the early 1840s there was a group of people who believed that Jesus was going to come on October 22, 1844. Ellen was one of those people. When Jesus didn't come, she was really disappointed like everyone else. Lots of people stopped believing, but she did not. She studied the Bible with other believers and realized that no one could set a date for Jesus' return to earth."

"Yes, but what does that have to do

with prophecy?" interrupted Simon.

"I was coming to that," continued Erica. "Jesus sent a vision for the disappointed believers to a man called Hazen Foss. But he was afraid to tell anyone about it. Then he had another vision. In the new vision he was warned that if he did not tell others, God would use the weakest of the weak to deliver His message. But Foss still refused to talk about it."

"So Ellen White was the weakest of the weak?" asked Kevin. "Why?"

"She was only 17 when God called her," answered Mrs. Cristobal. "When Ellen was a child, she was hit in the face by a stone, and that accident left her very weak for the rest of her life. She barely attended school, so she was definitely not the kind of person you would expect to deliver messages from God."

"Why did God need to send more messages to us? Was the Bible not enough?" asked Kevin.

"Let's see what the Bible says," replied Mrs. Cristobal. "Look at the last book of the Bible, in Revelation 12:17. The apostle John is describing God's church at the end of time. What are the two things that are special about the church?" The sound of flipping pages stilled as the students found the text.

"They keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus," Kevin said. "I know what the commandments are, but what is the testimony of Jesus?"

"Look at Revelation 19:10. It tells us that Jesus communicates with His church through the gift of prophecy. He sends the Holy Spirit to give messages to a person He has chosen

to speak for Him," answered Mrs. Cristobal.

"How can we know that Ellen White was one of those people, chosen for this time? I've read Jesus' words that there would be false prophets at the end of time," said Sylvia, looking a bit puzzled.

"Yes, that's in Matthew 24:11, 24."

"I've found it!" shouted Simon. "It says that false prophets will appear."

Mrs. Cristobal continued, "The Bible gives four guidelines by which to test if someone is a true or a false prophet. Does anyone know what they are?"

"I guess what they say has to agree with the Bible," said Kevin.

"Their predictions should come true," added Francis.

"They must live a good life, or practice what they preach," said Sylvia. "H'mm, I have no idea what the fourth thing could be."

"Good, everyone!" said Mrs. Cristobal. "The fourth sign of a true prophet is that they must believe that Jesus is God and that He came and lived on earth as a man."

"Does Ellen White live up to all those things?" asked Kevin.

"Yes, she does," replied Mrs. Cristobal. "She always said that the things she wrote were not a replacement for the Bible but were to help people understand the Bible better. It's like having a flashlight in an unfamiliar dark room. It helps you find the light switch to turn on the main light. God wants all of us to be ready to live with Him in heaven. The gift of prophecy is just one of the ways He helps us."

"I'm beginning to understand," said Kevin.

KEY REFERENCES

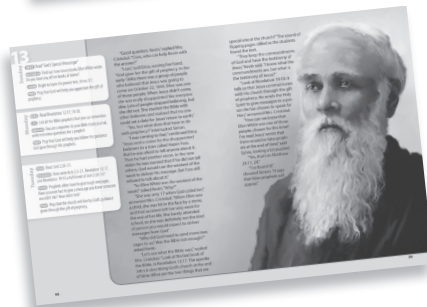
- Revelation 12:17; 19:10
- *Early Writings*, pp. vii-32
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 5, pp. 47-56
- No reference in *The Bible Story*
- *Our Beliefs*, nos. 18, 13, 1

POWER TEXT

“Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

POWER POINT

God gave a special gift of prophecy for the church today.



Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 102.

Sunday

READ Read Revelation 22:8, 9 and this week's story, "God's Special Messenger."

RESEARCH Find out how many books Ellen White wrote. Do you have any of her books at home?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Amos 3:7.

PRAY Pray that God will help you appreciate the gift of prophecy.

Monday

READ Read Revelation 12:17; Matthew 19:10.

LIST List all the Bible prophets that you can remember.

IMAGINE You are a reporter. In your Bible study journal, write interview questions for a prophet.

PRAY Pray that God will help you follow the guidance God gave through His prophets.

Tuesday

READ Read Joel 2:28-31.

RESEARCH How were Acts 2:2-21, Revelation 12:17, and Revelation 19:10 a fulfillment of Joel 2:28-31?

THINK Prophets often have to give tough messages. Have you ever had to give a message you knew someone wouldn't like? How did it feel?

PRAY Pray that the church will live by God's guidance given through the gift of prophecy.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 24:11, 24.

SEARCH Find Isaiah 8:20; Deuteronomy 18:21, 22; 1 John 4:2, 3; Matthew 7:16, 18-20 to discover the characteristics of a true prophet.

LIST List them in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Pray that you will know a true prophet from a false one.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 11:27-30; Acts 13:1, 2; Ephesians 2:20, 21.

THINK How did the gift of prophecy help the early church?

SING Sing a song in praise of God for all the ways He communicates with us.

LIST List the methods of communication God used to send prophetic messages.

PRAY Praise God that He is not limited by our methods of communication.

Friday

READ Read John 15:15.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write how you would answer someone who says that there are no prophets today.

THINK Ellen was 17 when she had her first vision. How would you feel if God gave you a vision now?

RESEARCH Find a new fact about Ellen White to share with your Sabbath School class.

PRAY Thank God for all His gifts.

Lesson 13 God's Special Messenger

Year C - 2nd Quarter

Can't find an answer?
Check your Guide or
quarterly!

Power Text

"Surely the Sovereign
Lord does nothing
without revealing his
plan to his servants the
prophets"
Amos 3:7.

Across

Down

2. "She was only 17 when God called her," answered Mrs. Cristobal. "When Ellen was a child, she was hit in the face by a _____, & that accident left her very weak for the rest of her life. She barely attended school, so she was definitely not the kind of person you would expect to deliver messages from God."
6. [Monday's lesson] Read Revelation 12:17; 19:10. List all the Bible prophets that you can remember. Imagine you are a reporter. In your Bible study _____, write interview questions for a prophet.
7. Kevin was a visitor. He had just started to come to church & did not know much about the _____.
8. As soon as Mrs. Cristobal asked, "Any questions?" Kevin called out, "I have one." "OK, Kevin, let's hear it," said Mrs. Cristobal with a _____.
9. FTWTF - PowerPoint
10. "Look at the last book of the Bible, in Revelation 12:17. The apostle John is describing God's church at the end of time. What are the two things that are special about the church?" The sound of flipping _____ stilled as the students found the text.
11. "I can," said Erica, waving her _____. "God gave her the gift of prophecy. In the early 1840s there was a group of people who believed that Jesus was going to come on October 22, 1844."
12. "Look at Revelation 19:10. It tells us that Jesus communicates with His church through the _____ of prophecy. He sends the Holy Spirit to give messages to a person He has chosen to speak for Him," answered Mrs. Cristobal.

1. "They keep the commandments of God & have the _____ of Jesus," Kevin said. "I know what the commandments are, but what is the _____ of Jesus?"
2. FTWTF - Title
3. FTWTF - Power Text
4. [Wednesday's lesson] Find Isaiah 8:20; Deuteronomy 18: 21, 22; 1 John 4:2, 3; Matthew 7:16, 18-20 to discover the characteristics of a true prophet. _____ that you will know a true prophet from a false one.
5. "She always said that the things she wrote were not a replacement for the Bible but were to help people understand the Bible better. It's like having a _____ in an unfamiliar dark room. It helps you find the light switch to turn on the main light."