

# Refresh!

*Jesus - the essence of our faith*

2016 JUNIOR YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER    THEME: JESUS – THE CENTER OF IT ALL

The official date for the Week of Prayer is **March 19-26, 2016**

Global Youth Day: **March 19, 2016**

Homecoming Sabbath: **March 26, 2016**

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DAY 1: THE TRINITY    DAY 2: THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

DAY 3: THE LAW OF GOD    DAY 4: THE SABBATH

DAY 5: THE SANCTUARY    DAY 6: DEATH AND HELL

DAY 7: THE END TIME    DAY 8: THE SECOND COMING

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# GLOBAL YOUTH *day*

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THE  
SERMON



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## TRANSLATION GUIDELINES

To meet the needs of our youth, youth leaders, and those needing to use our resources, we are offering opportunities to translate from English into other languages. Below are some guidelines to help you produce culturally appropriate translations.

1. Be objective.
2. Please be faithful and accurate to the source text.
3. Translate for meaning (rather than word for word), in a culturally sensitive way. Translation should preserve the content and meaning of the original text, with cultural and linguistic adaptations as needed, so that the translated text sounds natural and is easy for the intended readers to understand and use.
4. Do not do literal, word-for-word translation; this can be confusing or misleading. Take into account the differences in linguistic structure and complex connections between culture and language.
5. Be culturally sensitive. Cultural adaptation may be needed where necessary.
6. Reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the text and message at all times without omission or distortion. Do not soften, strengthen or alter the messages being conveyed.
7. Do not alter, change, add, or omit texts. Only alter a text with the consent of the GC Youth Ministries Department.
8. Do not add to what is written or said, nor provide unsolicited explanation, comments, or make recommendations.
9. Do not show bias towards the intended readers of the translated document.
10. Do not do literal (word-for-word) translation of Bible verses. Use a Bible translation (version) that is closest to the one used in the original source document, and make sure to cite (reference) it.
11. Do not do literal (word-for-word) translation of Spirit of Prophecy quotations. Take the quote directly from the translated Spirit of Prophecy books referenced in the original document. When citing translated work, please remember to change the page number to the one in the book (in the language you are translating to).

12. On the credit page, please list the following names:

- Editor: Vanessa Correa
- Writer: Kimberley Tagert-Paul
- Project Director: Gilbert Cangy
- Project Coordinator: Maria Manderson
- First Edit: Maria Manderson
- Translator: \_\_\_\_\_
- If you are using a copy editor to copy edit the translated work, the person/s name and contact information **MUST** also be listed.

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#### **EDITORIAL CREDITS:**

- Editor: Vanessa Correa
- Writer: Kimberley Tagert-Paul
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- Project Coordinator: Maria Manderson
- First Edit: Maria Manderson

#### **VERSION USED:**

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## EDITOR



Vanessa Correa is the Senior Editorial Assistant in the General Conference Youth Ministries Department. She is a millennial Adventist who really appreciates Ty Gibson's contribution to re-visioning how we preach and teach core doctrines of our denomination. She hopes that this Week of Prayer will constitute a turning point in Adventism and recalibrate the mission that lies in the hands of our youth.

## WRITER



Kimberley Tagert-Paul writes from Michigan. The author of over 1,000 shorts published nationally and internationally (including stories, devotionals, articles, skits, dramas, poems, and programming), writing for young people is her passion. She has authored/co-authored nine books.

Kimberley started reading and writing poems before kindergarten. She devoured whole libraries of books. At the tender age of nine, her mother pushed her to write, and would be thrilled to know that her encouragement came to fruition. Her first literary award came in fourth grade and encouraged her to pursue her passion. It only took her 40 years to realize that being an author was God's plan for her life.

Her first children's book, *God's Ten Promises* was published in 2010 by Pacific Press. In it, twins Cameron and Kaitlynn learn that the Ten Commandments are not merely commands, but rather promises. God only asks that we let Him be our God, and in turn, He will grow us into the kind of people that the nine other commandments promise. She wrote *Face Time*, a series of Bible studies on current topics that Pathfinder age youth want to learn about. It is available to buy on [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com) or at a local ABC store. She has contributed stories to each volume of *Miss Brenda's Bedtime Stories*, as well as the *NAD Parenting Devotional, Help! I'm a Parent*. Her latest book, *The Fruit of the Spirit* follows twins Cameron and Kaitlynn as they again spend the summer learning about the amazing love and character of God.

When not writing, she loves crafts, photography, and reading—especially her favorite book—the Bible. To take a break from work, she enjoys the waves and beauty of Lake Michigan with the love of her life, her husband Donald. She has two adult sons and their families that make life interesting and fulfilling. Her fourth grandchild will be making an appearance in 2016, and she loves to spoil each and every one of them. Her cats, Pumpkin Pie and Cutie Pie, make life fun. Kimberley's life goal is to make it to heaven and take as many people with her as she can.

## EDITORIAL BY VANESSA CORREA

This Week of Prayer material is not intended to be an annual event. This resource we hope and pray can kick start a movement in your youth group to transition Christianity from something abstract and distant to something concrete and intimate in each young person's life. Here are three key ways to take a small group from polite sharing to authentic change and caring.

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### 1. PRACTICE VULNERABILITY

Parents and leaders typically have a fear-based idea that they should never tell youth about their past failures or mistakes. While certain details can be left out, you can't skip vulnerability entirely. Prepare for leading a small group by thinking about lessons you have learned. Tell your youth about things that happened when you were their age, making it relevant to them, showing them how times have changed and yet spiritual truths are always the same. Don't try too hard to be trendy or cool, because youth can easily see through that and not take you seriously. Just be yourself and they'll sense that you are making this effort to lead them because you sincerely care about their well-being. When you initiate the sharing, you create bonds of trust. This is the only way to get past superficial layers of how youth think they are supposed to behave during church-related activities. You can't ask them to take their masks off if you are not willing to take yours off.

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### 2. ESTABLISH RULES

To create an environment conducive to genuine and quality sharing, the leader needs to establish ground rules right from the start. An effective environment will not happen by accident. Leaders are encouraged to avoid the temptation to spend a lot of time on icebreakers or idle chatter. If the leader is serious from day one, youth will notice the difference right away. They'll catch on quickly that this small group is not going to be just another meeting they're forced to go to; one that has nothing to do with their day to day realities.

- Privacy: group agrees not to gossip about each other or what is shared in the group
- Respect: group agrees not to talk over each other or interrupt each other
- Focus: group agrees not to go far off topic or distract each other

Explain that following these rules will benefit everyone and make the small group worth their effort. Note that rules come secondary to vulnerability. Without establishing a real bond, your youth will not give you the respect of following these rules. In fact, it often happens that children and teens can put on an act of compliance and participation, only for a youth leader to discover after the fact that the kids' hearts just were not in it the whole time. Express to them that is the last thing you want. You want to be a different kind of leader and you want them to have a different kind of experience—authentic change.

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### 3. FOLLOW UP PURPOSEFULLY

This is vital to the success of your small group, especially to keeping the momentum going after Week of Prayer is over. Find the best ways to check in with your youth during the time between your small group meetings. Give them access to you however they want it, whether it's your phone number, your email, your Facebook profile, etc. Learn to use the mobile apps they spend the most time using. Offer extra one-on-one time if they have questions about the previous meeting time, or if they have something they just want to get off their chests. It's not necessary to make every point of contact a teaching moment, but do what you can to keep the sense of community and the conversation going.

Maintain a healthy awareness of the fact that the time they spend with you is much less than all the other things going on in their lives. Connect pop culture and current events to the practical application of what they will learn this week about God's character and core Christian doctrine. Continue to remind them (over the course of the next 12 months) what this teaching has to do with their identity as God's children who are actively seeking Him and participating in the building of His spiritual kingdom. ●

## KEEPING IT REAL

by Maria Manderson

Gratitude for help on this Junior Youth Week of Prayer project goes to Ty Gibson, Vanessa Correa, and especially Kimberly Tagert-Paul, who has taken eight of our core doctrinal beliefs and made them readily accessible to our students.

Most relationships never get beneath the relational surface. This Week of Prayer series is designed to guide you into encouraging the students to dig deeper: think, talk, and open their hearts. You will challenge them, and yourself, to be honest about some of the fears, hurts, and habits that we struggle with each day.

The following eight sessions are designed to help Juniors grow as a Christian in the context of a caring, spiritual community where they will individually focus on Jesus and the others in the group.

Each day the small group time has three sessions: Exploration, Think and React, and Application. Each session will include interactive learning to help lead the group in the most effective way possible.

- Exploration (10-15 minutes) is the biblical and philosophical exploration of the main ideas on which the session is built.
- Think and React (20-30 minutes) should focus on helping the participant reflect and respond to the truths they have just discovered. Questions are included in this section.
- Application (10-15 minutes) shows how the lessons can be applied to everyday life.

**Note: The leader should make the interactive sessions exciting and natural. Feel free to adjust each exercise to the size of the group. Familiarize yourself with the "interaction" segments before the session and make sure to infuse excitement into each illustration.**

The most important reason for this week of prayer is for us to guide the youth to a discovery or rediscovery of Jesus as their personal friend. But on our journey to that discovery or rediscovery, we also hope this week will help Juniors:

- Change how they see our church and their relationship with it.
- Find healing.
- Discover new spiritual lessons.
- Build lasting, genuine friendships.

Our prayer is that these sessions, along with a few friends, and loving adult leaders—like yourself—will take them on a life-changing journey that will change how they view their relationship with Jesus and the church. ●

## CREATING YOUR OWN PRAYER NOTEBOOK

*(note to leader/designer: if you are printing this in book form, a good idea would be to put this at the back of the book or somewhere where it can be accessed easily by the students.)*

We highly recommend that you create a Prayer Notebook because in a few days, weeks, months, and even years, you can look back and reflect on the different ways that God has answered your prayer requests.

1. **GET A NOTEBOOK/3-RING BINDER.** Any notebook or binder will do, as long as it has paper and no writing in it. It could be an exercise book, loose-leaf writing paper, or a diary with a decent amount of pages in it, at least 75 so it will last for a year (around 4 days a page).
2. **FIND A HIDING SPOT.** God doesn't want you to show off your praying, so don't go bragging about it. You will be writing down your prayers in here, even the personal ones that you don't want anyone else knowing about. It's good if no one ever knows where your journal is. It is even better if they don't even know that it exists. You cannot find something you're not looking for. If any family members find out about it, (you don't want them to know all your secrets) tell them politely to not read it and not tell anyone else about your journal. Tell them that it is very special and that you would appreciate it if it all will be between God and you.
3. **WRITE AN ENTRY.** It doesn't matter how you write it. Just write it. Make sure to begin each entry with the date, then the request. Leave 2-3 lines after each entry to write when the prayer is answered—lightly cross it out, add the answer and the date it was answered.

When you're writing, don't leave out anything. Just say your prayer that is going through your mind. Later on you'll want to remember what was happening on the day you wrote. Write exactly what you would say if you were talking to Him face to face. Just talk to God. Yes, this is where you can share all your goals, dreams, and desires that God has placed in your heart and watch Him work in your life.

**TIP:** Writing in your notebook is another way of saying a prayer to God. You don't have to repeat yourself about the things that make you really worried; God answers before we even think to ask: *"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their*

prayers!" (Isaiah 65:24). The whole point of prayer is for you to share everything with God; each new thing you share will bring you both closer to each other as the days and weeks go by.

4. **ANSWERED PRAYERS.** Every now and again, maybe monthly or quarterly, go back and read your notebook. Make sure to write down any answers you've received. You will realize that prayer works. When God has answered your prayer, sometimes you will know, but other times you wouldn't know since it may be different from what you wanted or expect. Those of you who are tech-savvy just google "creating a prayer journal or prayer notebook" and get ideas to create your own. You can even turn your calendar on your phone or computer into a prayer notebook. ●

Below are two helpful websites in creating your own prayer notebook.

How to Make a Faith Notebook:

<http://thesethreegirlies.blogspot.com/2012/01/pages-of-faith.html>

Greeting Card Prayer Box:

<http://www.inlieuofpreschool.com/greeting-card-prayer-box/>

## READ THIS FIRST

**START YOUR PLANNING NOW.** We know that leadership sometimes changes at the end of the year, but please, if you will no longer be the AY leader next year, do not let that stop you from planning for this special week. Start your planning, develop your target, get your team together, and make sure your pastor is a part of that team.

**GLOBAL YOUTH DAY INFORMATION.** Get information on the Global Youth Day project. This day will be the launch of the Youth Week of Prayer. Please visit our website, [www.gcyouthministries.org](http://www.gcyouthministries.org), or contact your local youth director to find out how you can participate. Plan use the ADRA's In Their Shoes® Teen Experience program before and/or after the Week of Payer. This is a great tool.

**COMMIT YOUR PRAYER WARRIORS.** Get a team of adults together who will commit to praying for you and your ministry on a regular basis. Make sure this is a group with whom you can confidentially share both your personal and ministry prayer needs.

**CHOOSE A THEME SONG.** Involve your youth choir. If your church does not have a youth choir, this is the perfect time to get one started. Pick out songs that you all like and which fit the topic of each evening, or choose a song for the entire week.

**START A PRAYER JOURNAL.** Nothing is greater for your personal spiritual growth than time spent in prayer. Your youth group will grow as you grow. Prayer journaling will help you encounter God in new and exciting ways. You will be able to “track” your walk with God as you go back and review answered prayers and see how He has lead you step by step each day. New, fresh ideas will come to mind as you spend time in His presence journaling your prayers. You can find many ideas online on starting and keeping a prayer journal. Just go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in the words “starting a prayer journal.”

**FORM A WEEK OF PRAYER DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW TEAM.** Depending on the size of your church, this group can be four to eight persons who will go through all eight readings with you. Include on your team only interested and committed young adults and youth ministry leaders (Pathfinder, Sabbath School, etc., your pastor/s); this is important because it gives ownership to the entire group, rather than just you and your assistant. Ask the group to commit to meeting for at least three weeks—at least one week for four lessons, and an extra week to wrap things up. Be sure to identify the goal and direction you want to go, preferably at the first meeting, and choose a young person to speak for each day.

**INTEGRATE GLOBAL YOUTH DAY (GYD) INTO YOUR WEEK OF PRAYER PLANS.** Ideally, GYD should be a time to teach youth how to sacrificially give of themselves by providing opportunities in the church and the community. If you are a small youth group and do not have the resources to arrange a community-based GYD event, you can use this opportunity to break down denominational barriers in the area by partnering with and pooling resources and ideas with other youth groups from other churches in your area. ●



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complex truths in simple ways

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WEEK OF PRAYER SERMONS

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# 2016 Junior Youth Week of Prayer

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# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

Based on the Senior Youth Week of Prayer by Ty Gibson

## DAY ONE

# The Trinity

### EXPLORATION

This week, we are going to look at eight facets of God's character. These are important to help us understand who God is, and how very much He loves us. We will look at them in a new way that will help us see the very beauty and character of God.

Let's look at some statements you probably have heard before:

- The seventh day is the Sabbath.
- The 10 Commandments are still valid.
- Jesus is coming soon.

Are all of these statements true? (Watch out – it's a trick question!)

As Christian Seventh-day Adventists, we know that these statements are true whether you believe them or not. When non-believers see Jesus coming in the clouds, they will have no choice to believe, will they? Truth is truth. Even if you don't believe it.

So what makes these statements not just mere facts for us?

It all depends on one thing: a relationship with Jesus.

You may recall that Jesus once said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," and then a little later He said, "I AM... the truth" (John 8:32; 14:6). Jesus is the key to making what some consider just dry old facts, into beautiful truth. And knowing Him, The Truth, will set us free.

The most important truth that sets us free is found in 1 John 4:16. It states simply, "God is love." Everything we believe is based on this. Every doctrine comes back to this. God is love.

As we look around us at the world, not many people believe this truth. They see all the sad things happening to our world, and they say, "How can a God of love allow all of this." They have forgotten the very nature of God, the essence of His character.

God has called you to shine His love into this darkness. He wants you to show others who He really is. But, love is complicated, isn't it. Some people say things are love that really aren't. So maybe we should take a quick look at love and figure out what it is and isn't.

## THINK AND REACT

(LEADERS, HAVE TWO POSTER BOARDS FOR THIS ACTIVITY, OR TWO SEPARATE PLACES TO WRITE ON A CHALKBOARD. LABEL ONE, FIRST LOVE. LABEL THE OTHER, GOD'S LOVE. HAVE CHALK OR MARKERS AVAILABLE FOR THE STUDENTS TO WRITE WITH.)

- When was the first time you remember knowing that you were loved? Who was the person loving you? How did you know that it was love? (Give time for each student to think about this, and then instruct them to write on the first poster an attribute that showed them how they knew they were loved.)
- This time, think about the phrase, God is love. What does that love look like to you? (Leaders, let the youth write an attribute of God's love on the second poster.)

Let's compare the attributes of love that you wrote.

- Which are the same?
- Which are different?

Is love a focus on the needs of others?

Even with God, doesn't His love show that it wants the best for us and never anything that would harm us?

Love is about a relationship. You can't have love if you don't have a relationship with another.

So, can we agree that the love of God is a good thing? That He longs to have a real relationship with us? That He wants to share truth with us and others that will show His real character?

Let's take a look at who God is.

- The Father is God, but not all there is of God.
- Christ is God, but not all there is of God.
- The Holy Spirit is God, but not all there is of God.

Sometimes, it's just plain hard to wrap our minds around this. We do serve a triune God. That simply means three in one. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. It's really very beautiful. God wants to work with us, and to do so, He uses all the aspects of His character.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

What you may not know unless you are a Hebrew scholar is that the word "God" here, in Hebrew, is a plural noun. Elohim. Oh, your English teacher will be so happy to know you know what that means. Plural – more than one, noun – a person, place, or thing. Right? So, right there at the very beginning, God was telling us that He was a triune God! Jesus, and the Holy Spirit where there from. . .well, from the very beginning. God was never alone!

"The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2. They were all there. Just waiting to create a home for us where we could be safe and loved.

## APPLICATION

- Why do you think it is important to understand the beauty of a Triune God?  
Why do you think God want us to understand the different aspects of what makes Him complete?
- God's love is never an abstract thing. It is a relationship. Why do you think it is important to have a living relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? Do they each have something to teach us about love?

Love cannot be experienced in isolation. Love is a relationship, living and breathing. How can you take the attributes of God's love and let them shine in your lives so that others will see the true God, and want to seek Him for themselves?

In today's world, it is important that we do just that. The world is hungry for true love. Don't forget to pray that God will show others, through you, His marvelous love and grace.

What a wonderful God we serve.

What's not to like about a God like this?

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

Based on the Senior Youth Week of Prayer by Ty Gibson

## DAY TWO

# The Great Controversy

### DIGGING IN

Do you have a favorite place to hike? Do you ever go there, and though you've been there a thousand times, stop and find something new, and wonder how you had missed it all those other times?

Today, we are going to do that same thing. We'll look at the Great Controversy. It will give us another chance to look at the character of God. When we look at it through the lens of our verse, 1 John 4:16, "God is love." we just might find something new and beautiful.

If we look at our world, we have to admit it looks like a war zone at times. And it is. It's a battle ground of good versus evil. Only, we cannot see the battle that is really raging. The battle that's being fought for us.

From Genesis to Revelation, we encounter angels. Angels are also a creation of God. They have some special characteristics. . .

- They were created before humans. . .Job 38: 4-7, Revelation 1:20
- They are numerous. . .Hebrews 12:22
- They are powerful and intelligent. . .Psalms 103:20, Daniel 4:17
- They function in an orderly manner. . .Ephesians 3:10, Daniel 7:9-10
- They are mostly unseen by us, but not always. . .Hebrews 1:14. 13:2
- The war raging on our planet actually started with some of them. . .Revelations 12:7, 12.

God created a special angel to share His character to all the other angels, but, He made a choice that had eternal consequences. You know the story. He exalted himself instead of God. That started a war in heaven. The Greek word for war in Revelation 12:7 was polemos, similar to politics. Satan bullied the other angels, spreading lies about God's character. He wanted them to think God cared more about Himself than them. Remember our verse, the one we are using to look at things this week, 1 John 14:6, "God is love." What Satan tried to spread was simply not true. God is love. We know that. But, for some reason some of the angels believed him, and Satan and those angels were kicked out of heaven.

## THINK AND REACT

(LEADERS, GIVE EACH YOUTH A LARGE SHEET OF PAPER OR POSTER BOARD ON WHICH THEY CAN DRAW 7 SQUARES. HAVE THEM LABEL EACH ONE WITH THE KEY WORD YOU WILL GIVE THEM. AFTER THEY HAVE DONE THIS, ALLOW THEM TO WRITE OR DRAW IN EACH SQUARE THE ESSENCE OF WHAT YOU WILL READ NEXT. ENCOURAGE THEM TO WRITE IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT YOU MENTION AND THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD PICTURE YOU ARE PRESENTING. WHEN THEY ARE DONE, THEY WILL HAVE A PANEL THEY CAN REFER BACK TO TO EXPLAIN THE GREAT CONTROVERSY.)

### Dominion

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God gave man dominion over the world that He created.

Man was a free moral agent made for love. There was so much promise and hope in giving man freedom to choose. But, freedom has both promise and threat in its very nature. It's a choice.

### Abdication

God gave Adam and Eve the authority to govern their world according to His principles. Someone else had another idea, and you all know who that was. Earth's first occupants gave up that authority to Satan. He became the "ruler of this world.." John 12:31. The question is, did he have the right to rule? No. This was God's world, and He never gave up His love and power over it, did He? Satan rules by deception and force. God always rules by love and truth.

## The Promised Warrior

Now the earth, newly created, was at war. God stepped in right away and gave Adam and Eve, and in the same promise, all of us, a way to win the war. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel" Genesis 3:15. Jesus would come as our hero to win the war. He would crush the enemy, but the enemy would bruise Him. Achieving victory would come at a cost. It was a cost that God was willing to pay to get us back. Isn't that the very meaning of love?

## Organized Forces

God had a claim on the people He created. When He chose Israel to be His people, He staked that claim. He said that the Warrior-Savior would come from the line of Israel. Since the other nations surrounding Israel worshiped other gods, God made it clear that His people were not to do that. God made it clear that Israel should only worship Him.

Deuteronomy 32:8-12, 15-17.

## The Unarmed Warrior

The time came for Jesus to come to the earth. He came as a innocent baby. He brought no weapons of violence with Him. He would win the war, but with truth and love, something the devil forgot about. In Luke 4:5-7 we see the devil offering up the world to Jesus if He would only worship him. Jesus weapon was self-sacrificing love. Amazing! In John 12:31,32 we see how Jesus planned to win this ongoing conflict. "Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15, NIV). At last, the battle was won. Now, it is our job to share this wonderful news with the whole world.

## The Church Militant/Triumphant

How big is the battlefield? Do you think it is miles and miles long? No, it's contained in quite a small space. It's the human heart and mind. God made us to worship and serve Him. Satan has effectively tried to take His place. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us this, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Christ wants to be King of our hearts and minds. God wants us to freely choose truth and love as our standard. He wants us to share that self-sacrificing love with others, just like He did. Let the world see the beauty of God's wonderful love!

## The First Dominion Restored

In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it... They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more... And the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even forever... Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion. (Micah 4:1-8, KJV)

The battle is almost won. Jesus will return to earth soon. He will reclaim the earth as His and will make it new. Wow. What a wonderful end to this story. Jesus will reign as King and truth and love will win.

### APPLICATION

What does this lesson teach you about God's love? Does it show you that God's truth is powerful and that He only wants to win your heart and mind? Isn't that something that is worth sharing with others?

Ellen White, after a vision of the world to come, wrote the following, "In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed, but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died—here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men. (The Desire of Ages, p. 26)

It's a beautiful picture. It's a beautiful plan. God put it all in place to redeem us. I want to be a part of it all, and I hope you do, too.

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

Based on the Senior Youth Week of Prayer by Ty Gibson

Kimberley Tagert-Paul

DAY THREE

# The Law of God

## DIGGING IN

Everything changes in this world. Wind and rain cause erosion. That means constant water and wind can reshape even mountains of stone, right? Nothing is beyond change here. There is only one thing that man knows of that is beyond change. Do you know what that is?

It's God's law?

God's law is eternal and changeless. Remember this week we are looking at God's character through 1 John 4:16 – where we see that God is love. That means that the law is love, because it is a picture of the character of God.

How can a law be love? That's a good question. We think of laws as something we can't break because we will get into trouble. But, that's not always the case. Most laws are also meant to keep us safe.

Sometimes, though, they are just plain crazy. You have to wonder what people were thinking when they voted them into law. For instance, did you know that in the state of Alabama, it is illegal to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church? Don't believe me, look it up. If you live in North Carolina, beware, you may need voice lessons! It's illegal to sing off-key there. No, really. Now someone was really thinking in Indiana. They wrote and were able to get passed the following law: It's illegal to attend a public event or use public transport within 4 hours of eating onions or garlic.

Man's laws can be ridiculous. God's laws are never crazy. They were meant to guide us into becoming the kind of people that would love and serve God. In fact, the 10 commandments are actually promises. God promises that if we will make Him into our God and have no other

gods He will make us into the kind of people that wouldn't think of stealing, lying, or being unkind or disrespectful to our parents. We just have to put Him first in everything in our lives.

Sometimes we get so busy defending God's law and that the commandments are still valid that we forget why God wanted to make us His people. We forget that everything God did in our early history was to point us forward to Jesus. We get so busy trying to "keep" things that we forget the most important thing we have is really a free gift.

## THINK AND REACT

(LEADERS, PASS OUT A SHEET OF PAPER TO EACH PERSON WITH A GIFT BOX DRAWN ON IT. GIVE THE STUDENTS MARKERS OR COLORED PENS TO WRITE DOWN ON THE BOX THE THINGS THAT IMPRESS THEM MOST WHEN YOU READ THROUGH THE FOLLOWING.)

What is this free gift that we are given? Any ideas? **(Give the students time to respond.)**

It is salvation. What's it mean to receive a free gift. Have you ever gotten an unexpected gift from someone and said, "But, I don't have anything for you." Gifts are meant to be free. No strings attached. Sometimes, as humans, our gifts aren't free. But, God's salvation is. There is no way we can earn it. Nothing we can do to change it. Christ already paid the price for it. We can't earn it by not stealing, not lying, by keeping the Sabbath. There are absolutely no strings attached, except to accept it. You invite Jesus into your heart, and you are accepted. Can't get any plainer than that. Isn't that good news!

Galatians 3:24-25 tells us something very important. It reads, "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

Wow. That's both wonderful and may need a little explanation. The law taught us about God and His character of love. It pointed forward to Jesus and the incredible gift He would offer us. Have you ever had a tutor or teacher help explain something you didn't quite understand? Well, God's law did that for us. It showed us how to become God's people. If we would just let Him be our God. That was really glorious and gave us so much hope. Then, Jesus came and showed us how to live by doing it Himself.

Then came Calvary!

That wonderful free gift wasn't beyond our sight anymore. We saw plainly the sacrifice Jesus made, and could claim the free gift. We didn't need a tutor to teach us anymore. Our faith became sight.

So, what do we do with the commandments and God's love as seen through them? Do we not lie because it will make us better people? Do we not steal because it might help us earn our way to heaven?

## APPLICATION

We need to clearly see that nothing we can do will in anyway cause us to earn our salvation. That is so important. Jesus paid the price. That's really the end of the discussion.

When we love someone though, don't we want to be like them? Don't we want to give them a reason to smile and say, "They belong to me." So, do we keep the commandments out of a sense of duty or love? **(Leaders, give your students a chance to answer this question.)**

When you get married, boys, you'll bring your wives flowers sometimes. Why? Because you love her, not because you are hoping she'll cook your favorite meal. Girls, you will fix your hair and look pretty when you are going to see your husband, not because you hope he will take you on a shopping trip. Love will make you want to be your best. Love is that simple. It makes you want to be better, not because you have to be, but because your heart won't let you do anything different.

That's the beauty of God's law. We still honor it because it makes us better people, God's people. Not because we have to, but, because we want to love God back. And because we are thankful for His free gift of salvation that has no strings attached.

What's not to love about a God like that!

Accept God's free gift of salvation and then be the mirror of it in a world hungering for true love.

Helping Children Understand the Ten Commandments

By Kimberley Tagert-Paul



Seventh-day  
Adventists  
BELIEVE

*for Kids*  
Includes Teaching Tips



## GOD'S TEN PROMISES

by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

[HTTP://WWW.ADVENTISTBOOKCENTER.COM](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com)

In **Gods Ten Promises** you will find a refreshingly different approach to learning about this important topic. Join twins Cameron and Kaitlynn as they discover something exciting—the commandments are not a list of dos and donts. Rather, they are promises. In them, God is saying, “If you let Me, Ill make you into someone who wouldnt even think of stealing.”

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

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Kimberley Tagert-Paul

## DAY FOUR

# The Sabbath

### DIGGING IN

This week, we've been looking at eight aspects of God's character through our verse 1 John 4:16 – where we see that God is love. We've discovered that that love is changeless. We've been putting our focus on what Jesus has given us – the free gift of salvation. Nothing, nothing, and I repeat nothing that we can do can add or subtract from that free gift. Jesus paid for it by His sacrifice on Calvary.

This is the message our church needs to share with the world!

Wouldn't it be great if the first thing people thought of when they heard our name, Seventh-day Adventists was, "Oh, yeah, that's the church that can't stop talking about God's love for everyone." Can you imagine that? We'd have to build new churches with many more pews to hold everyone.

Today, we are going to look at a beautiful truth that reflects God's very character. It's also one of the great free gifts that God has given us. Let's settle in and explore the beauty of the Sabbath.

Often, we limit the Sabbath in our effort to prove to people that they ought to obey the fourth commandment. When we do this, we miss what the Sabbath actually means. We get so hung up on proving things that we forget the real relationship God wants to have with us on this very special day.

## THINK AND REACT

(LEADERS, YOU WILL NEED TO DIVIDE YOUR GROUP INTO SIX TEAMS. GIVE EACH TEAM A SHEET OF SMALL POSTER BOARD AND A MARKER. MAKE SURE EACH GROUP HAS A BIBLE.)

Let's take a fresh look at creation. In Genesis 1, we see that God proceeds with creation in an intentional artistic pattern, forming material spaces and then filling those space with life.

1. **GROUP ONE, SOMEONE READ GENESIS 1:3-5 OUT LOUD FOR US.**  
(Give the students time to read the verses.) Can someone tell us what the Bible says God did on this day? (*Forms the heavens and the earth, then separates the light from the darkness.*) Group one, can you quickly draw that on your board.
2. **GROUP TWO, SOMEONE PLEASE READ GENESIS 1:6-8 OUT LOUD.**  
(Give the students time to read the verses.) Now, can someone tell me what God did on this day? (*Formed the spaces of water and sky.*) Group two, can you draw on your board a representation of that.
3. **GROUP THREE, SOMEONE PLEASE READ GENESIS 1:9-13 OUT LOUD.**  
(Give the students time to read the verses.) Now, can someone put into words what God did on day three? (Give the students time to read the verses.) (*Formed the space of the dry land, and covered it with fruit trees and seeds and grasses.*) Group three, can you quickly draw the representation of that, please. Now, let's move on.
4. **SOMEONE IN GROUP FOUR, PLEASE READ GENESIS 1:14-19 OUT LOUD.**  
(Give the students time to read the verses.) Now, what did God do on day four? (*Forms the sun, the moon, and the stars.*) Group four, can you quickly draw that.
5. We are almost there. **GROUP FIVE, PLEASE READ GENESIS 1:20-23 OUT LOUD.** (Give the students time to read the verses.) This time, what did God do on day five? (*Formed the fish and the birds.*) Group five, can you draw quickly that on your board.
6. **LAST GROUP, SOMEONE READ GENESIS 1:24-26 OUT LOUD.**  
(Give the students time to read the verses.) Now, what did God make on this sixth day of creation? (*Formed the animals and man.*) Group six, you know the drill. Draw quickly a representation of that. Now I want someone with the posters of day 1-3 to come up and hold your posters.

7. **SOMEONE WITH DAY FOUR, COME UP AND STAND BY THE POSTER** that shows how God was preparing a place for His work of creation on your day. Do you see that! God formed, then filled. Cool, huh!
8. **SOMEONE BRING UP THE POSTER FOR DAY FIVE AND SIX.** Stand by the day that God made preparation for your day.
9. Do you see it? Isn't that beautiful?
10. God made preparation for the work of each day by forming then filling.  
**(Let the students discuss this for a little while if needed.)**
11. **NOW, WE COME TO DAY SEVEN.** The Sabbath. God formed then filled. Now, He sits back and is so happy with creation that He rests in satisfaction. He's been giving and giving, now He sits back creating the Sabbath as a way to have that giving reciprocated. He loves His creation, and gives them a chance to show His love back. It's a time of fellowship. It is a constant reminder that love is a reciprocal relationship!

Adam didn't see any of the creating. He just blinked open his eyes, and there looking back at him was the Creator. Wouldn't you love to know the first words exchanged by them! Adam looked around and saw all the beauty, and his heart believed. Maybe that's what Paul was talking about in Hebrews 11:3, "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Adam sensed that great love, and had faith that God's creative power made everything as a free gift for Eve and himself. Then, they were given the Sabbath to contemplate the reality of all that God had done and their dependence on the Creator. The Sabbath is plain and simply a beautiful free gift.

But, for us, the Sabbath has more meaning that just as a memorial of creation. It is also a memorial of redemption. The beauty goes on as you compare that words in Genesis with the words of John 1. The Bible seamlessly tells two interwoven stories, the story of creation and the story of recreation, with the Sabbath as the resolve in both stories. **(If time allows read the following, if not, have the texts written on a handout for the students to take with them.)** Genesis 1:1, John 1:1, Genesis 1:3. John 1:4-5, Genesis 1:26, John 1:14, Genesis 2:2, John 17:4, John 19:30.

God created us in the beginning, and recreates our hearts because of the free gift of Salvation. Wow! And the Sabbath stands as a constant reminder of our dependence on Jesus for Salvation. "Keeping" it isn't legalism, it's keeping a treasure!

## APPLICATION

The rest that God offers on the Sabbath is not a burden, because God is love. Ellen White wrote the following in *Faith and Works*, p. 38,

“We must not trust at all to ourselves or to our good works, but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in His love. God will accept every one that comes to Him trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified Savior. Love springs up in the heart. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there is an abiding, peaceful trust. Every burden is light; for the yoke which Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure.” When Christ says to come to Him for rest, He is offering the most liberated life imaginable.

Can you see how “keeping” the Sabbath has a very different meaning than you might have thought?

Can you see how God, our Creator loves us with an unchangeable love?

Are you willing to accept the Sabbath as a reminder of God's creation and His recreation of our sinful hearts, and let Him give us true liberating rest?

This week, let the beauty of God's love fill you in completeness. Let Him give you true rest that can only be found in His love.



## Global Youth Day is set to launch the official week of the Youth Week of Prayer meetings.

Ahead of time, please contact your pastor or conference youth leader to see what projects your church will be involved in on this day, March 19. If you are planning a full day event, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has an amazing activity that can be done during your afternoon AY program. In Their Shoes is an interactive poverty experience that takes teens on a 24-hour journey into the lives of teens from other countries around the world. Through the eyes of this new identity, they will begin to understand the challenges that millions of people in developing countries face every day. You'll discover what ADRA is doing to help and what the Bible has to say about living a life of Christian service. For more information please contact Lauren Lombard at [lauren.lombard@ADRA.org](mailto:lauren.lombard@ADRA.org).

[Click here](#) to download the Global Youth Day instruction files.

# Global Youth Day

## March 19, 2016

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DAY FIVE

# The Sanctuary

## DIGGING IN

Have you ever asked yourself what makes you a Seventh-day Adventist? What sets our church apart from others? You probably are thinking it is the Sabbath, but there are other churches out there that have discovered the beauty of the Sabbath truth. However, there is one understanding that sets us apart from all the other churches. It's a beautiful understanding of what we call the Sanctuary doctrine.

Ellen White was still a teenager when she had a remarkable dream. She saw a temple where many people were flocking. It was a place of safety for those going to it. When she entered, she saw that holding the whole building up was one immense pillar. She reflected on that pillar many times, trying to understand the meaning.

There's even more. She saw a Lamb tied to the one pillar, torn and bruised on our account. Look it up in *Early Writings*, pp. 78-79. God revealed to young Ellen that the one immense pillar was actually the cross of Christ. Our Christian beliefs rest and our church is built on the cross and the cross. Jesus must be kept in clear view as the whole point of every truth. The light that comes from Calvary is the only light to view truth from. That's why we need to study and understand the sanctuary. It provides a practical demonstration of the beauty of our faith.

We have already studied some of the beautiful aspects of God's character. Today, let's go on a whirlwind journey together as we discover the beauty of the sanctuary. Hang on, we are in for a fast but amazing trip!

## THINK AND REACT

LEADERS, AT THIS POINT YOU CAN EITHER SHOW A SLIDE OF THE SANCTUARY, OR BETTER YET, HAND OUT A DRAWING OF THE BASIC FLOOR PLAN OF THE SANCTUARY. ONE IS AVAILABLE ON THE [GCYOUTHMINISTRIES.ORG](http://GCYOUTHMINISTRIES.ORG) SITE. IF YOU HAND A COPY TO EACH OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE, THEY CAN TAKE THEIR OWN NOTES AND KEEP THEM FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS DOCTRINE. MAKE SURE YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH AND A STURDY SURFACE TO WRITE ON SO THEY CAN KEEP THEIR COPY FOR FURTHER REFERENCE. THE VERSES USED WILL HELP THEM TO UNDERSTAND AND BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT TO OTHERS AT A LATER DATE. THIS IS THE ONLY ACTIVITY FOR TODAY'S LESSON.

There are three basic steps in the journey through the sanctuary.

1. The Courtyard
2. The Holy Place
3. The Most-Holy-Place

The beauty of the Sanctuary Doctrine is to restore a personal relationship between God and us!

Every symbol in the sanctuary pointed toward Jesus. John 1:14 describes Jesus in sanctuary language. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The literal translation of the English word "dwelt" really means *tabernacle* or *sanctuary*. God said to Moses in the Old Testament, "Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). Now this same God has shown up in the world dwelling among us in a tabernacle made of flesh and blood. How beautiful is that! Notice what Jesus said about Himself in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus is that path through the sanctuary.

Each of the three phases of the sanctuary could only be accessed through a veil. Jesus said of Himself, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9). And the apostle Paul said that through Jesus we have "a new and living way, which He consecrated for us, through the veil—that is, His flesh" (Hebrews 10:20). It may seem a little hard to grasp, but the basic meaning is that salvation comes only through Jesus and his physical, literal death on the cross of Calvary. The temple pointed forward to that sacrifice where Jesus showed us that He truly was the only to path or way through the temple.

Now, let's take time to look at all the furnishings in the temple and how they pointed forward to Jesus, too.

- a) The main ceremony of the sanctuary was the sacrifice of the lamb on the brass altar. Pointing to Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins, John the Baptist proclaimed, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).
- b) The laver that was used for ceremonial washing pointed to Jesus as "the living water" (John 4:11) and teaches us about "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).
- c) The bread on table in the Holy Place pointed to Jesus, who said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).
- d) The seven-branched lampstand was kept burning to provide light in the sanctuary. Jesus said of Himself, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).
- e) The altar of incense pointed to a specific aspect of Christian experience: "He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 8:3). The fragrant incense burning in the sanctuary symbolized our prayer arising to God through Jesus.
- f) The Ten Commandments, God's ten laws of self-giving love, were kept inside the Ark of the Covenant, symbolizing God's desire to write the principles of His love in our hearts and minds: "I will put my laws into their minds, and in their hearts I will write them" (Hebrews 10:16).

Describing the round-trip journey He made from the Father to our world and back again, Jesus said,

"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father" (John 16:28).

Jesus came from the Most Holy Place in heaven into our sinful encampment here on earth. He took hold of our wayward hearts and made the journey back to the Most Holy Place, inviting us to follow Him on the path He has marked out for us. Amazing love!

## APPLICATION

Let's review what the sanctuary is all about, then. It's about Jesus fulfilling the many dimensions of His saving ministry on our behalf! It's all about Jesus leading us step-by-step back to a completely restored relationship with the Father!

There is so much more beauty and understanding we can gain if we study the sanctuary. Jesus clearly marked out a beautiful path of healing and salvation for us to follow as we walk the path of the sanctuary.

In Him, we walk through the door of his love. We go to the altar of sacrifice, and there, receive complete forgiveness for all our sins. We make our way to the laver, and our conscience is washed clean. We are no longer guilty. We see into the Holy Place the Bread of Life. Jesus, Himself, and we offer our prayers of gratitude mingled with the fragrance of Christ's righteousness. Then, in the Most Holy Place, we receive judgment from God and have His law of love written in our hearts. We don't have to be afraid of that judgment because Christ has already paid our price. What a beautiful journey!

What a beautiful and gracious God to invite us on this journey so that we can have a real relationship with Him!

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

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## DAY SIX

# Death and Hell

### DIGGING IN

This week we have been learning together about some important facets of God's character. Not only are we seeing that God is love, we are realizing how much He loves us! Everything He has done and is doing is based on His amazing love. Today is no exception. God never wanted there to be death on this earth, or a hell to come. It was man's choice to sin and make these things necessary in the fight against sin. You will see by the end of today's lesson, that only God has the character to take sin out of our lives and make our future beautiful. How can we know this? By studying our Bible!

Ellen White wrote a great note on why Bible study is important. "You should search the Bible; for it tells you of Jesus. As you read the Bible, you will see the matchless charms of Jesus. You will fall in love with the Man of Calvary, and at every step you can say to the world, 'His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths are peace.'" (*Life Sketches*, p. 293).

Let's look at this difficult topic and see the true character of God.

### THINK AND REACT

LEADERS, PLEASE PRINT OUT GOD'S LOVE CARD ATTACHED TO THIS LESSON FOR EACH OF YOUR YOUTH. ALSO PRINT OUT THE TAKE HOME LESSON FOR EACH YOUTH. YOU WILL COMPLETE THE FIRST PART OF THE LESSON TOGETHER. THE SECOND PART, THEY WILL TAKE HOME AND COMPLETE. BE SURE THAT YOU GIVE THEM TIME TO ASK ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS TOMORROW ON THE WORK THEY DO AT HOME. GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO WRITE ON AND WITH AS THEY DECIDE WHERE THE VERSES YOU READ SHOULD BE PLACED. REMEMBER AS YOU GO THROUGH THE MATERIAL TO GIVE THEM THE TIME THEY NEED TO FINISH THE SHEET.

The Bible talks about two kinds of death. We need to understand what these two deaths are before we go on. In Mathew 10:28, Jesus describes these two deaths. "And do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Can you see from this text that one death involves the killing of the body and that another is the killing of the soul?

Take out your journal page and write Mathew 10:28 in the column or columns you think it belongs. **(Give them time to write.)** This verse actually explains both types of death, doesn't it?

In Revelation 20:6 (NLT) we read the following, "Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years." Where does this text fit in on your worksheet? **(Give them time to write.)** The second death has no power over God's people, does it?

"Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment." (John 5:28, 29 TLB, *Living Bible*). Again we see that everyone will be resurrected, some to live eternal life, and the others will to be condemned by their own evil nature.

There's more that makes this really interesting. When we are resurrected after the first death, we will retain our basic characters. God in His special way preserves that until the time comes for Him to bring us to life again when He returns in the Second Coming. Ellen White wrote about it in a little book titled *Heaven*.

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. (Page 40)

Isn't that amazing?! The character we develop here on the earth will follow us into eternity. That's partly why those who choose to ignore God or defy Him in their lives will not be a part of eternity. They simply won't want to be. They cannot understand or handle the goodness of God.

Let's read Revelation 20:11-15 aloud. Let's put these verses where they belong on our worksheet. These are tough verses, but they do explain clearly the difference between the first and second deaths.

They also bring out four points we will take a quick look at.

1. Seeing God face to face-to-face will bring on our self-awareness.
2. The wicked, standing before God's throne and being able to look directly at His appearance fully of holy glory, will have a shockwave of realizing that they are completely out of harmony with God's kingdom and there is absolutely "no place for them". Every selfish deed of their lives passes before their minds with vivid clarity.
3. Forgiveness is possible only through embracing God's merciful love. Only those who have accepted God into their lives can endure this moment of self-reflection because Jesus paid the penalty for us on Calvary.
4. As wicked face their own reflection, as they see themselves clearly for who they are through the record of their life choices and experience the total weight of their guilt, fire destroys them permanently.

God's total being is described as a consuming fire for one simple reason: because the blazing purity of His selfless love stands in glaring contrast to all that selfishness brings with it. Because of who God is, selfish beings cannot stand in His presence without experiencing total mental and emotional breakdown under the crushing weight of their shame. Ellen White wrote about this. "To sin, wherever found, 'our God is a consuming fire.' Hebrews 12:29. In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 107).

Both the first death and the second death are the result of sin, but the first is temporary and occurs by means of physical causes, such as disease or tragedy or old age. However, the second death is not just on a physical level, but on the psychological and spiritual level. The character of evil people—what makes them who they are—dies permanently because the overwhelming guilt extinguishes them. **(At this point, stop and see if there are any questions on the difference between the first and second-death. Don't allow the discussion to drift away from the nature of these two points. There is still more beauty to be discovered.)**

What makes all of this beautiful instead of scary is that God gives us the choice of where we want to be when it comes to eternity and the second death. In giving us the choice, He also gave us what makes the choice possible: His only Son to die for us. Today's lesson is a long one, but a beautiful one that helps explain how a loving God needs to allow us to make our own choice, and why sin needs to be done away with.

## APPLICATION

This week, we have been studying an adaption of the Senior Youth Week of Prayer. Today's lesson is a long one, but a beautiful one that helps explain how a loving God needs to allow us to make our own choice, and why sin needs to be done away with.

The rest of this lesson is very beautiful. There is no way to condense it and still bring out the important points that show God's character. You will now be given the rest of the lesson to take home and read on your own. It will help explain some very hard things, and leave you with the beauty of God's love. Please take time to go through it tonight. If you have any questions, we can go over them tomorrow when we meet again. Be sure to finish filling in your God's Love Card chart with the correct verses so that you can use it to explain to others what the Bible has to say on this subject.

## TAKE HOME LESSON TO COMPLETE DAY SIX

The first death, in a sense, is not really death at all. Jesus called it sleep. Consider, for example, the young girl that Jesus resurrected. As He approached the girl's home, after being asked to come and heal her, Jesus said to the mourners, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." (Luke 8:52). Notice Jesus did not merely say the girl was sleeping, but He went a step further. "She is not dead," He plainly stated. Not understanding His meaning, "they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead" (Luke 8:53). But Jesus was not off in His diagnosis. He knew the girl was dead in the first-death sense. But He also knew she was not dead in the ultimate, second-death sense. In order to demonstrate His point, He proceeded to awaken the girl from her first-death sleep.

When the Bible says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), it does not merely mean the first death.

And when the Bible says of Jesus "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3), and that He went to the cross so that He "might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9), it does not merely mean the first death.

The ultimate wages of sin is the second death. It logically follows that Jesus can only save us from what He has endured and conquered for us. If Jesus only experienced the first death, then he can only save us from the first death and we must still face the second ourselves. But the glorious good news is that Jesus faced the full, horrific reality of the second death.

Pay attention as Jesus and His disciples enter the Garden of Gethsemane. Something astounding is about to happen.

No, that's an understatement.

Something far more than astounding is about to happen. All of history is about to converge at a single point of destiny, toward which each day and every event have been relentlessly rushing. Just now, in the next relatively brief period of time, the zenith revelation of God's love will unfold in the suffering and death of Jesus. And the world, indeed the universe, will never again be the same.

Watch.

Jesus is staggering under the weight of some invisible burden. The disciples can see that something is wrong. Jesus explains what's happening to Him:

"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death" (Matthew 26:38).

Here He opens to our understanding the nature of His suffering. "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The word here translated "soul" is *psyche* in the Greek, and that is precisely the word Jesus uses now to communicate what He's enduring.

Now, in Gethsemane, Jesus says He is dying at the psych level of His being. He is dying from the inside out, under the lethal power of our sin and guilt.

No physical abuse has yet been inflicted upon Him.

And yet, He is dying!

No blood has yet been drawn from His flesh by violence.

And yet, He is bleeding!

Luke tells us:

"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

He is bleeding through His pores due to the intense internal stress the shame of our sin is imposing on Him.

Isaiah 53 offers astounding insight to what Jesus endured for us. Notice verse 6:

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Then verse 10 says “His soul” was made “an offering for sin.”

And, finally, look at verse 12:

“He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

This is nothing short of astounding, because this means that Jesus entered the dark realm of our sin and shame. He took it all into His own conscience as if He were the guilty party instead of us.

From Gethsemane, Jesus is taken to the cross. Yes, nails were hammered through His hands and feet. Yes, His body was tortured. And yet, He never uttered a word about the physical pain, because His mental suffering was so intense that it nearly outdid His physical pain. Take in every line of this amazing statement by Ellen White:

“Many have suffered death by slow tortures; others have suffered death by crucifixion. In what does the death of God's dear Son differ from these? It is true He died upon the cross a most cruel death; yet others, for His dear sake, have suffered equally, so far as bodily torture is concerned. Why, then, was the suffering of Christ more dreadful than that of other persons who have yielded their lives for His sake? If the sufferings of Christ consisted in physical pain alone, then His death was no more painful than that of some of the martyrs. But bodily pain was but a small part of the agony of God's dear Son. The sins of the world were upon Him, also the sense of His Father's wrath as He suffered the penalty of the law transgressed. It was these that crushed His divine soul. It was the hiding of His Father's face—a sense that His own dear Father had forsaken Him—which brought despair. The separation that sin makes between God and man was fully realized and keenly felt by the innocent, suffering Man of Calvary. He was oppressed by the powers of darkness. He had not one ray of light to brighten the future” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 214).

Wow!

Bodily pain was but a small part of the agony of God's dear Son?

He had not one ray of light to brighten the future?

What does this mean?

What, really, did Jesus suffer for you and me?

Ellen White blows our minds with this deeper insight:

“The Savior could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that their separation was to be eternal” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 753).

Astounding!

For a sustained period of time, as our guilt enveloped His heart in emotional darkness, Jesus could not see life for Himself beyond the grave. But here’s the amazing thing: He was not trapped. His back was not up against a wall with no way out. There are two things He said before the cross that indicate that He was not trapped:

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father” (John 10:17-18).

And in Gethsemane He told Peter:

“Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53).

Don’t miss what all this means. Jesus faced the prospect of eternal death, and yet, for love of your soul and mine, He did not pull back. He was literally willing to die for ever and never be reunited to His Father to save us.

No wonder Paul called what happened at Calvary, “the love of Christ which passes knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19).

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, He demonstrated with astounding clarity and beauty that God literally loves all others more than His own existence.

This is the incredible truth the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of death and hell opens to view. And this is the truth that the false doctrines of natural immortality and eternal torment block from view.

Someone will say, but Jesus could not have experienced the second death, because the second death is eternal destruction, from which there is no resurrection.

Ah, but here's the glorious good news: Jesus did not simply experience the second death. He conquered it as He experienced it. Peter declared:

“Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it” (Acts 2:24).

Notice the language here. “It was not possible” for death to hold Jesus. But why? For one simple and profound reason:

“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law” (1 Corinthians 15:56).

But Jesus never sinned. Under the fiercest temptations to save Himself, He kept on loving all of us at any cost to Himself. And that selfless love, maintained with unbroken integrity straight through Gethsemane and Calvary, constituted perfect harmony with the law of God. By love alone, Jesus triumphed over the second death. Therefore, it was impossible for the second death to hold Him. His resurrection is proof of His victory over our sin and guilt.

Tears come to my eyes and adoration surges in my heart as the true significance of the Savior’s sacrifice dawns upon my mind.

How could He love me so deeply, so passionately, so selflessly?

Is this really what God is like?

Can it truly be that the Almighty God of the universe is this incredibly beautiful?

Calvary answers with a resounding, Yes!



# God's Love Card

## FIRST DEATH/HEAVEN

**Mathew 10:28** The death of the body

**John 5:28-29** God's people resurrected to eternity

**Revelations 2:-11-15** God's people resurrected for heaven and eternity

**Luke 8:52** The first-death is just a sleep, there is no conscious thought.

**1 Corinthians 15:3** If we choose to accept His sacrifice

**Ephesians 3:19**

## SECOND DEATH/HELL

**Mathew 10:28** The death of the soul

**Revelations 20:6** Those resurrected after the first death that belong to God will not suffer the second death.

**John 5:28-29** People who have not chosen God will be resurrected to condemnation.

**Revelations 20:11-15** Those who refuse God are done away with.

**Romans 6:23** The wages of sin is death. Without Christ's sacrifice, it leads to the second-death.

**Mathew 26:38** Jesus did not suffer just physical pain, but mental pain also

**Luke 22:44** Jesus experiences the internal shame of sin

**Isaiah 53:6-12**

**Ephesians 3:19**

**Acts 2:24**

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

Based on the Senior Youth Week of Prayer by Ty Gibson

Kimberley Tagert-Paul

## DAY SEVEN

# End-Time Events

## *Non-coercive Love*

### DIGGING IN

This week we have looked at some facets of God's character that show us our verse in 1 John 4:6 is absolutely true: God is indeed love! "You should search the Bible; for it tells you of Jesus. As you read the Bible, you will see the matchless charms of Jesus. You will fall in love with the Man of Calvary, and at every step you can say to the world, 'His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths are peace.'" (*Life Sketches*, p. 293). God really is love, and He loves you more than you can even imagine.

He loves you so much that He is planning on coming to take you to heaven with Him to live for eternity. The choice is yours, of course, but why would you want to refuse a God Who loves you more than He even loves Himself?

Knowing that the end times may be soon shouldn't frighten you or make you come to Jesus out of fear. God is love, not fear. Jesus has paid the ultimate price for us and He longs to share eternity with us. He wants to introduce you in heaven. That should be the motivation for surrendering to Him, not fear. Ellen White expressed this beautifully:

The shortness of time is frequently urged as an incentive for seeking righteousness and making Christ our friend. This should not be the great motive with us; for it savors of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend. (*Signs of the Times*, March 17, 1887)

That's just beautiful, isn't it? Love, not fear has to be our motive for drawing closer to Jesus. It also needs to be our motive and our standard when we study end-time events and share them with others.

## THINK AND REACT

LEADERS, FOR THE NEXT PART OF THE STUDY YOU WILL NEED 3 PLAIN BALLOONS THAT HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH AIR OR HELIUM. LABEL THEM AS FOLLOWS: APPEASEMENT THEOLOGY, COERCIVE THEOLOGY, ANTI-LOVE – FORCE. YOU WILL ALSO NEED A PIN THAT CAN POP THE BALLOONS EASILY WITH A TAG ATTACHED TO IT THE READS "LOVE WINS". IF YOU DON'T HAVE BALLOONS, DRAW 3 BALLOON SHAPES ON POSTER BOARD AND LABEL THEM. HAVE A DARK MARKER LABELED "LOVE WINS". AS EACH OF THE WRONG IDEAS OF GOD'S CHARACTER ARE DEBUNKED, HAVE A STUDENT USE THE LOVE WINS PIN/MARKER TO POP/MARK OUT THAT IDEA.

Our first balloon is labeled *Appeasement Theology*. What do you think that means? In war, it can mean that you give up something to another power to keep the peace. Many people have a distorted picture of God. They fear His judgment, so they try to appease Him by offering some form of sacrifice to withhold his anger. This has happened throughout history. Man's picture of God has become so bad, that they think it is the only way to make Him happy. Does that sound like a loving God to you?

Let's read Jeremiah 19:4, 5 aloud. "For they have forsaken Me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned incense in it to gods that neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal—something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter My mind."

Notice God said that it *never* came to His mind. God clearly is telling us that He does not want us to offer sacrifices in front of Him, cowering at His feet, hoping the sacrifices buy us some mercy and reduce His angry or hateful feelings. He only wants us to love Him back. Jesus already made the ultimate sacrifice for us. There is nothing we can give to Him but our love.

Appeasement is a product of guilt. It is completely foreign to God.

The rulers that killed Jesus thought that they could avoid the disaster they saw coming. Their distorted picture of God's character made them think they were doing the right thing. Were they?

In the final events of earth's history, we will see this theology at play again. People will have such a distorted view of God that they will think what they are doing is for God. In John 15:21 Jesus says that very thing: "These things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me." They never clearly knew the Father or Jesus, because God's does not reign a kingdom of appeasement; it is one of love, but unfortunately most people just cannot grasp that. If we truly understand God's true character, we will realize that Love Wins! Anyone want to pop the balloon and get that picture of God out of here? **(Give the pin/marker to a student to pop/mark out the appeasement balloon.)**

There is another theology we are going to debunk today. It's called *Coercive Theology*. You might know it better as scaring someone into the kingdom. Have you ever come across that anywhere? Many people try to say that we are very close to the end, and hope that others will be frightened enough to do something about their behavior. Do you think communicating Christianity with this method works? Do you think that might be another distorted picture of God?

In Mathew 24:14 we read, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Jesus used language that was very familiar to the people. Here, the word gospel is the Greek word *euaggelion*. It is used when talking about a military victory. So if we read the verse again, it looks like this: And this military victory will be a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The people were expecting Jesus to seize power as an earthly king would. Jesus was telling them that there was a new kind of kingdom and a new kind of power, one they couldn't see or understand through the power systems of this earth. By sharing this information He was purposefully avoiding scaring people into the kingdom; He was instead loving them in. John 3:16 tells us that. We all know this verse, so let's recite it together: "For God so loved (*agapaō*) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The love God is talking about here is agape love. It is a giving love. *Giving* defines God's total existence.

Jesus came as a servant. He gave Himself on the cross. And He tells us that we are to be givers of His love, too. His love is never forced. Can you see how Coersive Theology isn't a part of God's true character of love? Should we get rid of that balloon now? **(Have some one pop/mark out that balloon.)**

As we look at the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation, we find that most of the kindoms in the prophecy ruled by force. That force got bigger and badder as each new kingdom appeared. Destruction and lies were the ways they used to enforce their own earthly kingdom, right up until those forces met the "Prince of princes". Who is the Prince of princes? It's Jesus. We read that the evil kingdom of this world that rose against Jesus was "broken without human means". Jesus did not use human power to destroy. His weapons are truth in love. His weapon is sacrifice, on the

cross of Calvary. In the first part of Daniel 9:26 we read why Jesus did it. "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself." Did you get that? *Not for Himself*. His sacrifice was for you and me!

Did Jesus *have to* make this sacrifice? Was it His choice? Does His kingdom operate under a different power system that so beautiful it is almost incomprehensible?

Human nature operates on the premise of preserving the self at all costs. Kill or be killed. Tit for tat. Blow for blow. Hit me, and I'll hit you back and much harder so you will never hit me again. Brute strength wins. *Nothing of that nature was found in Jesus*. I Peter 2:23,24 tells us this: "...who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."

Only love for one's enemies has the power to crush the enmity and bring a different, completely new dynamic into the relationship. All anti-love forces are conquered by His love! (**Have someone pop the anti-love balloon.**)

## APPLICATION

The central messages of the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation are not fear—they are love. A love that we have a hard time grasping. A giving love, full of self denial. The message is clear if only we look at the end times through the lens of God's love and if only we teach people these messages without trying to make them afraid. The people of Jesus will overcome the force of Satan's end-time persecution by responding with the love of Christ rather than retaliating. Love that refuses to respond to evil with evil! Love that allows itself to be abused rather than choosing to return the abuse! Love that would rather die than hate the haters! That's the whole story of Daniel and Revelation in a nutshell.

And if that's the story, then the crucial question that comes through to each of our hearts is simply this:

Do you and I really see and know Jesus as the true, effective revealer of God's character?

We need to answer this question now because when the final events of history unfold upon the world, each of us will act out our personal picture of God.

What we think of Him and believe about Him will show for all to see in the final revision of the record of our life choices.

As you leave today, think about that question, because the answer is very important.

What is your picture of God?

How will you act that out in your life?

Remember, God is love and Love Wins!

# Junior Youth Week of Prayer

Based on the Senior Youth Week of Prayer by Ty Gibson

Kimberley Tagert-Paul

DAY EIGHT

# The Second Coming

## DIGGING IN

This week, we have studied different parts of God's character and have seen that they all point back to love. What an amazing God we serve Who loves us more than anything. Today, we will see that His second coming is all about that love, too. In fact, the very name of our denomination declares this biblical truth. We are Adventist. That name declares that the same Jesus who came to our world over 2,000 years ago will soon return to end all evil and pain. A whole new world of perfect harmony will exist. That's the best news of all. We should shout it to the world!

But too often Adventists lose sight of the love while they are defending our understanding of how He will come, and we lose sight of the love as we fight against the teaching of the secret rapture. Sometimes we miss the beauty in His coming. Yes, we know the truth of how He will come as described by the Bible, but we can't get so caught up in knowing the truth that we miss the bigger picture of that truth. And that bigger picture is the character of God, Who loves us more than anything and is coming to take us home for eternity. That's a beautiful promise to focus on.

Jesus came the first time as the bridegroom of the church. He came to save us *from* sin. But, there was more. He also came to draw us *into* His love. The plan of salvation does not merely get us out of trouble, it gets us into God's heart. Isn't that incredible! God loves us and longs for us to grow in Him. As He looks at us, He's looking for something specific and special. He longs for us to grow up spiritually to the point where we fall in love with Him in response to His love for us. Ellen White got this. According to her, falling in love with Jesus is what we're supposed to get out of the Bible. Check this out:

You should search the Bible; for it tells you of Jesus. As you read the Bible, you will see the matchless charms of Jesus. You will fall in love with the Man of Calvary, and at every step you can say to the world, "His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths are peace." You are to represent Christ to the world. You may show to the world that you have a hope big with immortality. (*Life Sketches*, p. 293)

Jesus wants to be everything to us. Basically, He wants us to let Him be Who He really is: our God. He wants us to be in a special relationship with Him. Hosea 2:19,20 (TLB) tells us this, "I will bind you to me forever with chains of righteousness and justice and love and mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness and love, and you will really know me then as you never have before." Standing before us with the promise of unwavering faithfulness, He offers an eternal union that will never be broken, which just happens to be what His second coming is all about.

## THINK AND REACT

LEADERS, HAVE READY A HEART CUTOUT FOR EACH YOUTH. MAKE IT BIG ENOUGH THAT THEY CAN WRITE WHAT THEY NEED TO ON IT. PASS THESE OUT AT THIS TIME, ALONG WITH SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH. THE YOUTH WILL WRITE ON ONE SIDE THE THINGS THAT THEY THINK WILL BE IMPORTANT IN A POSSIBLE SPOUSE. ON THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WILL WRITE DOWN THE THINGS JESUS TELLS US ABOUT HIMSELF AS YOU READ THE FOLLOWING. AT THE END, THEY WILL COMPARE AND SEE THAT JESUS'S LOVE FOR US IS COMPLETE AND HE TRULY IS THE PERFECT "HUSBAND" FOR HIS CHURCH.

It's perfectly normal to be thinking someday about the perfect spouse. You may not completely understand everything that goes into a good marriage yet, but you can begin to think about and pray about what God has planned for you.

On one side of your heart, write down at least five things you think you will be looking for in a spouse someday. Be specific. Not just, "handsome" or "rich". Write down concrete things that you think will make for a good marriage.

- Do you want this person to also love the Lord?
- Do you want them to be kindhearted toward others, like people that are hurting and in need?

(At this point, if you need to, to get their thoughts going, discuss with your group some aspects that they might want to consider in a future spouse. Give them time to write down the ones that matter most on their hearts.)

Jesus was very clear that He wants us, the church, to be His bride. More than that, He promises to be the perfect bridegroom. He wants us in a relationship with Him that will last for eternity. Sadly, human marriages don't always work out, do they? Sometimes it is hard to understand that a marriage can really last for a long time. It can really happen, though. Especially when we look at Jesus as our perfect spouse. Turn your paper hearts over, and as we talk now, write down a few of the promises Jesus makes that will make Him the perfect bridegroom. In John 14:1-3, we read the following,

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

What we're seeing here is that Jesus foretold His second coming by employing language that invoked the marriage customs of His time. First, there was the wooing phase. If a man loved a woman, he would interact with her in such a way as to draw her to himself. Once drawn to him, the couple would enter into the courtship phase, getting to know one another and growing in their love. Then the man would propose. If her answer was Yes, the man would then depart from his bride-to-be with a promise to return for her. The reason of his departure was practical. He would go away so that he could prepare a place for her in his father's house.

In other words, Jesus did not merely promise to return, He promised to return *for His bride*. He is coming back to Earth for one reason: because He deeply, passionately, longingly loves us and wants to spend eternity in a deep, genuine love relationship with us. Don't miss the fact that He says, "I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." Isn't that beautiful?! Jesus wants us to be with Him. Think of someone you like to be with, someone whose company you really enjoy—your mom or dad, your best friend, a classmate, maybe your grandparents. The point is simple and beautiful: we like to be with those we love. That's who we are to Jesus. He longs for our presence, for our friendship, for the enjoyment of our love.

What makes Jesus the perfect bridegroom?

What do you think?

(LEADERS, START A CONVERSATION THAT HELPS THE YOUTH TO THINK ABOUT AND NAME THE THINGS THAT MAKE JESUS SO ATTRACTIVE TO THEM. YOU MAY HAVE TO START SOME OF THE IDEAS, BUT, GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO NAME SOME THINGS ON THEIR OWN. SUGGESTIONS MIGHT INCLUDE THINGS LIKE, HE IS FORGIVING. HE DOESN'T HOLD SIN AGAINST US. HE CARES SO MUCH ABOUT US THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS ON THE CROSS. HE IS KIND AND CARING. HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR.)

Now, turn your hearts back over. Look at the things that you wrote down that might be important in a future spouse. Look back on the other side. Do you see that Jesus' character, the character of love that God shows toward us, meets and exceeds all the things that we need. **(Take time to discuss this.)**

## APPLICATION

This week, we have taken a good look at some key parts of God's character, hopefully in a new light. I hope you have learned this week how very much God loves you! Everything about Him is the ultimate love. Everything we believe as Seventh-day Adventists proclaim that God is love. Sometimes we spend so much effort proving what we believe and why we believe it that we forget to look at the actual beauty of what we believe. We miss Jesus, His true character, in our proof. That is never God's intention. He wants us to look at everything we do and believe through the light of 1 John 14:6, "God is love." That's what Jesus came to demonstrate to us when He came to earth the first time. How excited He must be that soon, very soon, He will get to come a second time and introduce us to the Father. God will tell Him, "Go and get our children." If we are alive, we will look up and see that black cloud hurtling to earth. Some suggest the reason the cloud is black is that Jesus is so excited to come get us that He will be traveling faster than the speed of light. That should make you excited.

We are Seventh-day Adventists. Our very name says we are looking for His coming, and that when He does, we will be complete.

The question for you is this: do you want to be with *Him*?

# HOMEcomings SABBATH

MARCH 26 / 2016

“...LET’S HAVE A FEAST AND  
**CELEBRATE**”

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