

2017/2018 Edition



The Pathfinder Bible Experience Application Guide

A team Bible knowledge challenge for
Daniel & Esther



North
American
Division
Pathfinder
Ministries

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The Pathfinder Bible Experience

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Introduction for Leaders

Pathfinders from across North America are committing to memory verses, chapters and books of the Bible as part of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* (PBE). PBE is a wonderful starting point for Bible study and a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. But memorization is just the beginning.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience was developed to help Pathfinders and young people meditate and reflect on what the Bible says and how it applies to their lives. It features ideas for application to help Pathfinders use what they study and apply it to their daily experience at home, school and church.

There are two objectives for this guide: 1) Pathfinders can learn more about the passages they are studying as part of PBE, examine their lives and grow stronger spiritually; and 2) Pathfinders can use these guides to become involved in outreach by leading out in small group Bible studies with their friends and peers in Pathfinders or at school. The goal is to see young people grow spiritually both in their personal walk with Jesus and as they minister to others.

This resource has the potential to revolutionize Pathfinders' lives. Help them take advantage of it. Use it. Go beyond the reading and memorizing—go deeper. Get into the application and be ready to experience what a difference God can make in them and through them. Show Pathfinders that they don't just need to memorize Scripture—they can also live it.

W. Gene Clapp
North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience Coordinator

Armando Miranda
North American Division Youth/Young Adult Ministries Associate Director

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

—ROMANS 15:4 (NKJV)

Purpose

The purpose of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* is to promote and encourage in-depth Bible study and memorization by Pathfinders, so their understanding of scripture will increase and their relationship to Christ will grow.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

— JOHN 17:17 (NKJV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets' own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

— 2 PETER 1:20-21 (NIV)

It is not safe for us to turn from the Holy Scriptures with only a casual reading of their sacred pages... Rein the mind up to the high task that has been set before it, and study with determined interest, that you may understand divine truth. Those who do this will be surprised to find what the mind can attain. The mind must be restrained and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures and upon noble, elevating themes. Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations.

— ELLEN G. WHITE
MIND, CHARACTER, AND PERSONALITY,
VOL. 1, PAGE 95

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

— PSALMS 119:105 (NKJV)

How to Use this Resource

King David didn't have a Bible and he never sat on a hillside reading a devotional book. He probably couldn't even read—and yet he knew God as well as anyone who ever walked the face of planet earth. In fact, most people you read about in the Bible were illiterate so they memorized large portions of scripture as they listened to it being recited by their parents and read by priests and scribes in the local synagogues and sanctuary. David learned to love the Bible through listening and memorizing it for himself. Throughout Psalms David talks about how much he loves the sanctuary and God's law—he even says he meditated on it day and night.

The most important passage of scripture in ancient Jewish culture is the Shema:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be
on your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home
and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down and when you get up.

When Pathfinders participate in *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* they are following in the footsteps of the ancient Israelites and Jesus Himself. Memorizing scripture locks it in their minds where no one can take it from them, but if all they do is memorize it, it does little good—they must allow it to guide them as they walk through life every day.

This guide will help Pathfinders in this journey of understanding scripture and living it. The chapter guides are not comprehensive. They do not cover every detail of each chapter—that would take a few hundred pages. Each chapter guide chooses a few key points to help Pathfinders start thinking differently about scripture—to get beyond memorization and on to internalization.

This booklet includes guides for each chapter featured in the 2017-2018 *Pathfinder Bible Experience*. Once Pathfinders have finished studying a chapter, you can share the corresponding chapter guide with them. Allow Pathfinders to answer questions verbally or by writing their answers in a journal and then discussing them with the group.

May Jesus Christ Himself bless you richly as you embark on this journey to making God's Word a living and vital part of who you are.

Introduction for Pathfinders

Pathfinders from across North America are committing to memory verses, chapters and books of the Bible as part of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* (PBE). PBE is a wonderful starting point for Bible study and a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. But memorization is just the beginning.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience Application Guide was developed to help Pathfinders and young people meditate and reflect on what the Bible says and how it applies to life today. It features ideas for application to help you use what you study as part of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* and apply it to your daily experience at home, school and church.

There are two objectives for this application guide: 1) you can learn more about the passages you are studying as part of PBE, examine your life and grow stronger spiritually; and 2) you can use these guides to become involved in outreach by leading out in small group Bible studies with friends and peers in Pathfinders or at school. The goal is for you to grow spiritually both in your personal walk with Jesus and as you minister to others.

This resource has the potential to revolutionize your life. Go beyond the reading and memorizing—go deeper. Get into the application and be ready to experience what a difference God can make in you and through you. You don't just need to memorize Scripture—you can also live it.

About the Pathfinder Bible Experience

The *Pathfinder Bible Experience* is a team based challenge that tests the group's knowledge of sections of scripture. Each year a new block of scripture is assigned and excited Pathfinders commit to immersing themselves in those passages of God's Word.

Then in February, after months of study, they gather together with other teams in their area to test their knowledge against a set of questions drawn from the scriptures they have been covering.

If they answer a high enough percentage of the questions correctly, they advance to a conference level event, then union level, and finally a division level event, typically held in April.

Each team competes against a standard, and all who perform to the designated percentage advance. Meeting together adds a sense of excitement and an additional level of adrenaline that spurs participants on to higher levels of recall. Yet any and all can advance, based solely on their efforts.

Scripture

Translations

- English: New King James (Thomas Nelson Pathfinder Edition recommended)
- Spanish: Reina Valera 1995 (RVR1995)
- French: Version Louis Segond en Français

Scripture Coverage

The NAD *Pathfinder Bible Experience* team will assign a book, books or sections of books of the Bible, totaling between 40 and 50 chapters per year. *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* also includes the relevant introductory text in the *SDA Bible Commentary* for the scriptures covered.

Questions

The questions for each level of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* will be distributed by the NAD *Pathfinder Bible Experience* Coordinator to the appropriate individuals at each participating conference and union.

All questions are prepared by persons appointed by the NAD Pathfinder Director. Questions are developed from the Pathfinder Edition of the New King James Version of the Bible and the latest edition of the *SDA Bible Commentary* book introductions for the associated scriptural passages. Less than 10% of the questions will come from the commentary.

Questions are written to stand alone and be able to be answered individually. Most require single word or short phrase answers. *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* does not use multiple choice questions. There should be limited use of true and false questions. Questions should always include the scriptural reference.

The NAD *Pathfinder Bible Experience* Coordinator will coordinate the translation of all the questions into Spanish and French.

All questions will be in harmony with the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

— JOHN 17:17 (NKJV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets' own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

— 2 PETER 1:20-21 (NIV)

It is not safe for us to turn from the Holy Scriptures with only a casual reading of their sacred pages... Rein the mind up to the high task that has been set before it, and study with determined interest, that you may understand divine truth. Those who do this will be surprised to find what the mind can attain. The mind must be restrained and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures and upon noble, elevating themes. Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations.

— ELLEN G. WHITE

MIND, CHARACTER, AND PERSONALITY,
VOL. 1, PAGE 95

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

— PSALMS 119:105 (NKJV)

Team Requirements

Teams are made up of two to six Pathfinders from a single club. Clubs may have multiple teams participate, so long as each team has at least four unique Pathfinders on each team.

Teams should be as complete as possible. For example a club would not be allowed to field three teams of four participants, but they could field two teams of six participants from that club.

Each team is comprised of the following:

- Two to six currently enrolled, and inducted Pathfinders. May include TLT's.
 - A **TEAM CAPTAIN**
 - Up to five additional team members
- An alternate
- A non-playing **COACH**

Each team will be made up of the same members who began the PBE testing at the Area/District Level. If a club has multiple teams and at one of the levels of testing a club team does not advance, no member of the non-advancing team may be added to or replace any team member of the team that does advance. No team member from any source may be added to or replace anyone on the team roster after the first level of official testing, except in rare or extreme circumstances. The Conference PBE Director must be consulted and will be the final arbiter in those situations.

Team Captain

During play, it is the duty of the **TEAM CAPTAIN** to listen to the consultation of the team and then determine what answer will be written by the team member with the answer sheet.

It is also the duty of the **TEAM CAPTAIN** to determine if the team wishes to challenge the decision of their **GRADER** after an answer is scored.

Alternate

Each team is encouraged to have an alternate participant ready to fill in if a regular team member is unable to attend an event, or becomes ill during an event. The alternate may also switch out with a regular team member at the intermission of the game. A switch is only allowed once per team, per game.

Coach

A club staff member, pastor, or committed parent acts as the team's **COACH**. Their role is to coordinate training and to motivate the team. Additional adults are welcome to assist with training, but there should be one official or “chief” coach per club in charge of coordinating the PBE efforts of the club.

Uniform Requirements

All team members must be in full dress uniform as described by the latest version of the *NAD Pathfinder Staff Manual* in order to participate at any level event. This uniform normally includes: dress uniform shirt with proper insignia, dress uniform pants or skirt, authorized socks or stockings, authorized shoes, Pathfinder belt, Pathfinder scarf and slide, and Pathfinder Sash.

Board Approval

As with all Pathfinder events, the church board, or a board-appointed body, must vote participation approval as well as acknowledgement of the specific event dates for inclusion on the local church calendar.

Preparation

Decide to Participate

Participation in *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* should not be made lightly or at the last minute. For you to achieve the purpose of the event, the Pathfinders need to have made a serious commitment to Bible study. To be fair to them, this means an early start and thorough preparations.

In September you need to be encouraging participation and promoting the event. Study should begin soon thereafter.

Club staff are encouraged to use the selected scripture as a thematic focus for meeting worships, outreach events and other activities as this will help reinforce the content, as well as connect non-participating Pathfinders with those who are studying for *The Pathfinder Bible Experience*.

Practice Questions

During the fall of the year, have various individuals prepare practice questions covering the sections of scripture for the year and the related book introductions from *The SDA Bible Commentary*. Ask your pastor, teachers, Sabbath School leaders, parents and regular church members. You might even arrange to share practice questions with other clubs in your area or conference.

Questions must stand alone and be able to be answered individually. Most should require single word or short phrase answers. *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* does not use multiple choice questions. There should be limited use of true and false questions.

Questions should always include the scriptural reference.

Reading and Memorization

Each team member should read the full text multiple times.

Many find it helpful to break the text into several blocks and have participants focus on smaller sections so that you have two specialists on each third of the material, but make sure that each one covers all of it as well.

The age of Pathfinders allows them to be masters of memorization. While it takes lots of work, it is an extremely effective method of preparation for the challenge.

Scripture

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 (NKJV)

Sample Question

Q: From Acts 8:9, what was the name of the sorcerer who boasted that he was someone great?

A: Simon.

Audio Bible Sources

Check these websites to find audio NKJV bibles.

adventistbookcenter.com

christianbook.com

amazon.com

biblebible.com

learnoutloud.com

Audio Learning

The NKJV is available from several companies on tape, CD, and as a digital download. Listening to the readings can dramatically improve a participant's recall abilities later. They can be played in a vehicle while traveling to a campout, or as a worship, or even on headphones while doing chores at home or community service projects with the club.

The club could also make their own recordings of the book and share them amongst the team members.

Dramatized versions are also available. These make it even more interesting and the Pathfinders can then see the verses in their minds when the questions are asked.

Practice Events

During December and January, provide several opportunities for the Pathfinders to practice against other teams from within the club or special practice teams made up of church members.

Have the Pathfinders take turns acting as scribe and writing out the answers. You may find that some are more skilled at this than others.

You may wish to get other Pathfinder Clubs together to hold practice events to encourage everyone to reach the highest level. This way you can share practice test questions as well as get a feel for what the real event will be like.

Meeting Frequency

If the team is to truly succeed they will need to meet together more often than for a few minutes during each weekly Pathfinder meeting. Most top teams will need to meet several hours a week in the fall to study together, and two or three times a week during January and early February. They will need to continue to meet a couple of times a week if they want to continue in first place at more advanced levels.

Other Creative Ideas

- Encourage the team—in fact, the entire club—to read the assigned scriptures during private and family worship.
- Enlist the help of the Sabbath School departments to play games and have activities that will cover the assigned scriptures.
- Have a mock event with the entire church.

Team Selection

At some point in late fall, the COACH, in consultation with the club staff and the interested Pathfinders, will need to establish specific team(s) that will participate.

The Program

Registration

In early January the club should send their registration form to the local conference.

Your conference may determine a different way to register, or they may send you the form in the mail or as an e-mail attachment in late December or early January.

Levels

Play takes place at four levels: area, conference, union, and division. After participation in the local area event, all teams holding a first place finish advance to the next level. After participation in the conference event, all teams holding a first place finish advance to the union level, and so on. That means that a team could participate in up to four different levels at four different locations.

Area Level

Conferences across the division use several different names and methods of dividing their territory into smaller geographic regions. Some call them regions, some federations, some sections, but most call them areas, so that is the term we use. Area level events bring together teams from within a portion of a conference. Obviously you want at least two teams and preferably more in an area event. Ideally an area event would include two to ten teams, but it is possible to have more.

Within the conference, there could be as few as two areas or many areas. Each team registers with the conference. The conference coordinates the running of area level events based on the number and location of teams registered to participate.

The conference or a coordinator arranges a venue for each area level event. Ideally the location would rotate over the years to the various churches in the area represented by the participating teams. This encourages church participation and adds some home team spirit.

Single team in an area

In some cases, there might only be one team participating from an area in a conference. If this is the case, then multiple areas should be combined so there are at least two teams in the event.

In extreme cases you might have to join with teams from an entirely different conference or union to compete at this level.

Forms

All forms are available online at pathfindersonline.org click on PBE

How to Progress

1. A team participates in an area level event. If they earn a first place standing they advance to the conference level event.
2. At the conference level event, all teams earning a first place standing advance to the union level event.
3. At the union level event, all teams earning a first place standing advance to the division level event.
4. At the division level event, all teams earning a first place standing will be acknowledged appropriately!

Not all teams who earn a first place standing choose to go to the next level due to other obligations or to the expense of travel.

Official Dates for Testing

Area The first Sabbath in February

Conference The first Sabbath of March

Union The last Sabbath in March

Division The third Sabbath in April

The local conference and union may alter the date forward or backward a week according to their unique scheduling needs.

Conference Level

All teams with first place scores are eligible for participation in the conference level event.

A large enough facility, such as a large church, church school or academy that is centrally located would be chosen to host the number of first place teams that would be participating in this level. First place teams from the area do not need to register for the conference but they do need to confirm that they will be participating.

Single team in a conference

In some cases, there might be only one team in an entire conference. In this case the team will need to make arrangements to participate in a neighboring conference so that there are at least two teams in the event.

In extreme cases you might have to join with teams from an entirely different union to compete at this level.

Union Level

All first place teams from the conference event are eligible to participate in the union level event.

A large enough facility, such as a large church, academy or college that is centrally located would be chosen within the union to host the event.

At this level each conference will need to register their first place teams with *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* Union Coordinator so proper arrangements can be made.

There may be anywhere from one to several conferences participating.

If there is no union youth director to lead out in the program, then one of the conference directors or a conference coordinator may coordinate this level so the various conferences may participate at this level and all first place teams will be able to move on to the division level.

Single team in a union

In some cases, there might be only one team in an entire union. In this case the team will need to make arrangements to participate in a neighboring union so that there are at least two teams in the event.

Division Level

All first place teams from the union event are then eligible to participate in the division level event. Those attending the division *Pathfinder Bible Experience* have placed first in all three prior levels: area, conference, and union. You cannot skip a level; you must participate at all levels. Each conference will need to register their first place teams from the union event with *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* Division Coordinator.

A large enough facility, such as a large church, academy or college would be chosen to host the event.

The Event

This section outlines the organizational needs and tasks of coordinators at all levels of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience*.

Coordination

See *The Program; Levels* on page 8 for details.

Question Distribution

Participating conferences will receive a copy of the questions in time for their area and conference levels. Participating unions will receive a copy of the questions in time for their level. Each level will have a new set of questions that would increase in difficulty as the levels increase.

Event Flow, Play & Details

Times listed are approximate. Remember, the more teams participating, the more time will be required.

Event Preparation by the Event Staff - 1:00 PM

1. Arrive at the site far enough ahead of the starting time to have set up complete before the teams arrive.
2. Confirm that the building is open, lights are on, temperature is set, and rest rooms are accessible.
3. Set up the equipment.
4. Set up the tables and chairs for the QUIZ MASTER, CLERK and the three APPEAL JUDGES.
5. Set up seating for the participating teams. Six members plus a GRADER.
6. Set up chairs near the teams for their COURIER. One COURIER for every four teams.

Event Preparation by the Team - times vary according to distance

1. Be dressed in full dress uniform.
2. Arrive at the site on time.

Staff Briefing - 2:00 PM

- The PBE COORDINATOR meets with the event staff to review policies and answer questions and has prayer with them.

Team Check-in - 2:15 PM

- As the team checks in they are assigned a circle of chairs.
- They are given their answer cards and their pen.
- They are introduced to the GRADER
- Team members turn over all electronic devices, Bibles, and notes in their possession to club staff or attending parents.

Welcome - 2:30 PM

- The QUIZ MASTER welcomes the group and introduces the staff and the participating teams.

Equipment & Supplies Needed

Each location hosting *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* event will need to have certain equipment and supplies on hand.

- A large projection screen
- An LCD projector
- A computer loaded with Microsoft PowerPoint, and a power cord
- A PowerPoint presentation of the proper level questions and answers
- A projector stand
- A table for the computer
- Cables to connect the computer to the projector
- A table for the APPEAL JUDGES
- Three chairs for the APPEAL JUDGES
- A podium and microphone for the QUIZ MASTER
- A table for the CLERK (the QUIZ MASTER may also sit at the table rather than stand at a podium)
- Two chairs, one for the CLERK and one for the QUIZ MASTER
- A stop watch or other method of keeping accurate track of seconds of time for the CLERK
- 100 sheets of pre-numbered paper or card stock per team on which the team members will write their answers
- A marker per team for writing answers
- A score card and pen for each team GRADER

Scribe

The scribe is whoever is writing the answer to the question. Because there will be team members who are most knowledgeable over specific segments of the Bible Study Book, the pen/pencil and answer sheet may be passed to that person on the team to write the answer. It is not required that the scribe be only one designated person on the team.

Response Timing

Following the second reading of the question, the teams will be given a specified amount of time, depending on the point value of the question, without regard to whether the time is for discussion or writing. A 10 second warning will be given prior to expiration of time. At the end of the specified time, time will be called and the scribe will hand their completed answer sheet to the grader to determine points awarded. No additional time will be granted.

Discussion/Response times are as follows:

- 1 pt = 25 seconds
- 2 pts = 30 seconds
- 3 pts = 35 seconds
- 4 pts = 40 seconds
- 5 pts = 45 seconds
- 6 pts = 50 seconds
- 7 pts = 55 seconds
- 8 pts = 60 seconds

Opening Exercises - 2:35 PM

- Prayer
- Pledge and Law
- Pathfinder Song

Song Service (Optional) - 2:40 PM

- Two or three songs

Instructions - 2:45 PM

- The QUIZ MASTER reviews the rules of play listed under Quiz Part 1. The rules should be projected on the screen while the QUIZ MASTER reviews them.
- They also review the grounds for disqualification and expulsion as listed in the manual and remind them that no one on the team may have any electronic device on their person during the event.
- Remind the audience and the teams that Christian decorum is expected of all present.

Quiz Part 1 - 2:50 PM

- Half of the questions will be asked during part 1.
- The first question is projected on the screen and the QUIZ MASTER reads it twice. If the question is worth more than one point the QUIZ MASTER will announce the point value before reading the question. For example, "For two points, name Adam's first two sons."
- When the QUIZ MASTER has read the question twice, the CLERK starts the stop watch and runs it for the designated time for that question. During this time the team discusses, determines and writes the answer. The CAPTAIN makes the final decision and tells the SCRIBE what to write.
- At 10 seconds from expiration of time the CLERK will call "10 seconds." The SCRIBE must write the answer on the pre-numbered paper for that question.
- At expiration of time the clerk will say "show your answer", by which time The SCRIBE will have handed the grader the team answer sheet.
- Answers may be written before time is called.
- After an appropriate pause of about 3 seconds the QUIZ MASTER will change the slide and read the answer twice.
- At this time the GRADER will determine if the team correctly answered the question and writes the question score on the score card and keeps a running total of the team's complete score. If the team did not provide an answer when "time" was called, they do not receive points for that question.
- If the team feels that the GRADER scored them incorrectly, they say to the GRADER, "Challenge." The GRADER then takes the answer card and gives it to a COURIER, who walks the card to the APPEAL PANEL. The APPEAL PANEL JUDGES consider the answer and determine the final point value of the answer, writing the score on the card. Their decision is final. No additional appeal is allowed. The COURIER then returns the card to the GRADER who adjusts the score per the APPEAL PANEL instructions.

Regular play continues while appeals are being made.
GRADERS may not refuse a challenge.

The APPEAL PANEL may deny a team the right to appeal if the team is felt to be challenging every wrong answer they submit. However the APPEAL PANEL should be very cautious in their decision to deny a team further appeals, just as the team should be reasonable in the frequency of their challenges.

- At the end of the half the QUIZ MASTER announces intermission.
- The GRADER writes in the total score for the half on the scorecard.

Intermission - 3:35 PM

- 5 minutes
- During this time the GRADER double checks the running totals.
- During intermission, a team may choose to replace one of their team members with their designated alternate.

Quiz Part 2 - 3:40 PM

- The second half of the questions are asked.
- Play proceeds in the same manner as outlined in Quiz Part 1.
- At the end of play, the GRADER writes the second half total on the score card and also the total for both halves.
- The GRADER double checks the second half total and the final total.
- The GRADER then takes the score card to the CLERK.

Devotional (Optional) - 4:25 PM

- A 10 minute devotional based on the section of scripture that is being covered.
- This also gives the CLERK time to finalize the awards.

Offering (Optional) - 4:35 PM

- The collection of an offering is at the discretion of the PBE COORDINATOR. If one is collected, the funds should be used to defray the expenses of the program or to provide travel support to the teams moving on to the next level.

Presentation of Awards - 4:40 PM

- The PBE COORDINATOR or the QUIZ MASTER will present the awards earned during the event. Every team receives an award, as all are winners as the children of God.
- To lessen the competitive spirit, exact points are not given or stated publicly during the program. Only the place standings are announced.
- Standings are announced by calling the clubs in alphabetical order and stating their standing. It is PBE policy that specific scores are never announced or released.
- Each team receives a certificate of participation.
- Each individual participant receives a PBE pin with the year and level.

Closing Prayer - 4:50 PM

Variations of NKJV

There are at least two different manuscripts for the New King James Version of the Bible. The variations are minor and infrequent, but they do exist. Teams are encourage to bring along the actual Bible with which they studied.

Pathfinders should be encouraged to use the latest edition of the Pathfinder Bible.

Language Variations

It is recognized that some participating teams may include members with different first languages. A team may answer an individual question in whatever language they are most comfortable, but the entire answer for that question must be in the same language. If multiple languages are used, the answer will not be accepted. The language of the submitted answer will determine the official Bible translation used to judge the answer.

Forms

All forms are available online at pathfindersonline.org click on PBE

PBE Pins

Pathfinder Bible Experience pins, year and level bars are available from AdventSource at www.adventsource.org or 402.486.8800.

Note: The PBE pins may only be purchased by conference or union leadership.

Standings

90 questions will be asked at each level of play. Points are awarded for correct answers. Rankings are established by grading on the curve.

Ranking is as follows:

- A score of 90% or above, as compared to the top score earned at the event, earns the team a first place standing.
- A score of 80-89%, as compared to the top score earned at that event, earns the team a second place standing.
- A score of 79%, as compared to the top score earned at that event, or below earns the team a third place standing.

Optional Ideas

- Arrange to have a photographer present to take historical and promotional pictures that can be used in the conference or union paper or website. You may need to have everyone sign a photo release, though in most cases like this you are not required to as it is a public event and the photos will be used for editorial rather than commercial purposes.
- Have canned or live music playing in the event area as the teams and audience arrive. However, sometimes this contributes to ever increasing noise levels.
- Have programs printed that list the details of the event, the rules and the teams participating. You could also list the next level event, date, and location.
- Provide blank answer sheets to audience members so that they can test their own knowledge of the scriptures.

Disqualification

Individual Disqualification

A team member will be disqualified if they are not wearing the complete dress uniform or if they are not qualified to be a team member.

COACHES are to see that each team member is in proper uniform.

Team Disqualification

Because the same questions are used in all areas, conferences, and unions, teams are prohibited from communicating with other teams in regards to any official question being used and at any level of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* program that year.

If this kind of contact takes place and is discovered the team would be disqualified from any further participation and would forfeit all standings from prior participation that year.

Each team member must sign an *Integrity Pledge* at each level affirming amongst other things, that they have not had usage of official questions except during the event itself. The *Integrity Pledge* is available online.

Point Disqualification & Team Exclusion

Any points earned during play, while being coached, commented to, or prodded by an audience member through any channel or method will be revoked.

A second instance during the same day of play will result in the team being expelled from play, and makes them ineligible to participate in any higher levels that year.

Personnel & Their Duties

Personnel are appointed by the PBE COORDINATOR for the level at which they will be working. For example, the CONFERENCE PBE COORDINATOR would appoint the QUIZ MASTER, CLERK, GRADERS, JUDGES and COURIERS for the conference level event.

Quiz Master

The QUIZ MASTER acts as host and MC for the event, and reads the questions. They read each question twice. It is recommended that the PBE COORDINATOR not be the QUIZ MASTER so that they may deal with issues that may arise during play.

They can be the YOUTH DIRECTOR, CONFERENCE PATHFINDER DIRECTOR, a PASTOR, an AREA COORDINATOR or even a LOCAL PATHFINDER DIRECTOR.

Clerk

The CLERK, with the use of a stopwatch or other technology, regulates the time period while the team determines the answer that would be recorded. The time begins after the question is read twice by the QUIZ MASTER.

The CLERK will call the end of time loud enough for all the participating teams to hear.

The CLERK receives the completed score cards from each GRADER and tabulates final team standings.

The CLERK is appointed by the PBE COORDINATOR at each level. They should be an adult with no specific club affiliation.

Grader

Each team needs an adult GRADER. They must be from a different club than the one they are grading. The GRADER should be in class A uniform.

The GRADER's job is to determine if the answer given by the team is correct or not. Once they have made the determination they record the score.

The GRADER keeps track of the team's answer score and cumulative score on the team's score sheet.

At intermission and at the end of the round they will double check the running total for accuracy.

It is also the GRADER's duty to watch for inappropriate communication between team members and anyone in the audience. Any points earned during play, while being coached, commented to, or prodded by an audience member through any channel or method will be revoked by the GRADER, and reported to the PBE COORDINATOR.

PBE Coordinator

The person responsible for *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* at each level is the PBE COORDINATOR.

At the area level this would normally be the AREA COORDINATOR or their designee.*

At the conference level this would normally be the CONFERENCE YOUTH DIRECTOR, CONFERENCE PATHFINDER DIRECTOR or their designee.*

At the union level this would normally be the UNION YOUTH DIRECTOR, UNION PATHFINDER DIRECTOR, UNION PATHFINDER COORDINATOR, their designee or a person appointed to that role by the CONFERENCE YOUTH DIRECTORS in that union.

At the division level this would normally be the a person designated by the DIVISION YOUTH DIRECTOR.

The PBE COORDINATORS responsibilities are:

- to oversee organization of at least one level of the program, from registration through completion. A conference level coordinator will most likely oversee all area levels as well as the conference level.
- to arrange for the needed personnel in a timely manner
- to arrange for the meeting venue
- in the case of conference and union level coordinators, to act as contact with the DIVISION PBE COORDINATOR

*If a club wishes to participate in the PBE program, but their conference does not wish to participate, the club PBE COACH should contact the DIVISION PBE COORDINATOR directly for further instructions.

A second instance of coaching, etc. during the same day of play will result the in the team being disqualified from that level and any future level that year.

Specific issues of grading

Accurate spelling is not required, but the answer must be recognizable.

All answers for questions must be given to the GRADER before the answers are given by the QUIZ MASTER so they can be checked off one by one.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience questions are not multiple choice. Therefore, additional answers given beyond the number requested are not accepted. The team must cross off any answer they do not want in the list or the first answers will be the accepted ones.

Direct quotes from the Bible and fill-in-the-blanks must be exact words in the exact order.

Appeal Panel Judge

Three adults serve as APPEAL PANEL JUDGES. APPEAL PANEL JUDGES determine the team's score for a grade they have challenged on a specific question.

APPEAL PANEL JUDGES should be individuals with biblical knowledge and a keen sense of fair play and justice. Pastors, church elders or Bible teachers would be excellent candidates for these positions.

The panel also meets one hour before the event to review the questions and confirm that they are as clear as possible. If there is any change made in a question, it must be modified on the JUDGES printed question list AND the electronic file the QUIZ MASTER uses.

If two languages are used, then there must be at least two judges per language for a total of four judges. There could be up to three judges per language.

If three languages are used, then again there must be at least two judges per language for a total of six judges. There could be up to three judges per language.

Specific issues on judging

Direct quotes from the Bible with fill-in-the-blank answers must be exact words in the exact order.

The judges are to uphold the answers given by the QUIZ MASTER for each question. If the answer is different than the one given by the QUIZ MASTER, it can only be accepted if it is found to be correct in the printed version of the *New King James Version*, *Reina Valera 1995*, *Version Louis Segond en Français* and the *SDA Bible Commentary* book introductions.

Courier

In case of a challenge, a COURIER walks the contested answer sheet to the APPEAL PANEL JUDGES. The PBE COORDINATOR will provide a COURIER for every four teams or fraction thereof. COURIERS can be non-playing Pathfinders or Adventurers. Once the APPEAL PANEL JUDGES have made a decision, the COURIER will return the contested answer sheet back to the team GRADER for grade updating.

Song Leader

A SONG LEADER, pianist, guitarist, or praise team to lead a short song service at the beginning of the event.

Devotional Speaker

Someone to give a 10 minute devotional based on the section of scripture that is being covered.

Forms of Recognition

Pins

Each participant will receive a PBE pin with the year and level. Pins, year and level bars are available from *AdventSource* at www.adventsource.org or 402.486.8800.

Note: The PBE pins may only be purchased by conference and union leadership.

Certificates

Each team participating receives a certificate indicating the level of play (area, conference, union, or division) and their standing (first, second, or third) in the event.

These certificates can be printed up before the event, except of course for their standing.

Certificate Seal

The certificate has a foil seal that is attached at the end of the event to indicate the standing of the team at the finish of the level event.

Authenticating Signature

Each certificate is signed by the PBE COORDINATOR for the level in which they are participating.

At the area level, this would typically be an AREA COORDINATOR, YOUTH DIRECTOR or CONFERENCE PATHFINDER DIRECTOR. At the conference level it would typically be the YOUTH DIRECTOR or CONFERENCE PATHFINDER DIRECTOR. The union it could be either the person in charge of Pathfinders for the union, the UNION PBE COORDINATOR or the UNION PRESIDENT. At the division it would be the DIVISION PBE COORDINATOR, the DIVISION YOUTH DIRECTOR, or the DIVISION PRESIDENT.

Additional Notes

Travel & Lodging Expenses

Travel to and from the event location is the responsibility of the club unless other arrangements are made by your conference. There is apt to be economic value for teams to travel together to union and division level events.

Meals

Meals for the team are the responsibility of the local club. Sometimes the event host church, club or school will arrange a fellowship meal following the event.

At the union and division level, leadership is encouraged to prepare at least the evening meal if not lunch as well.

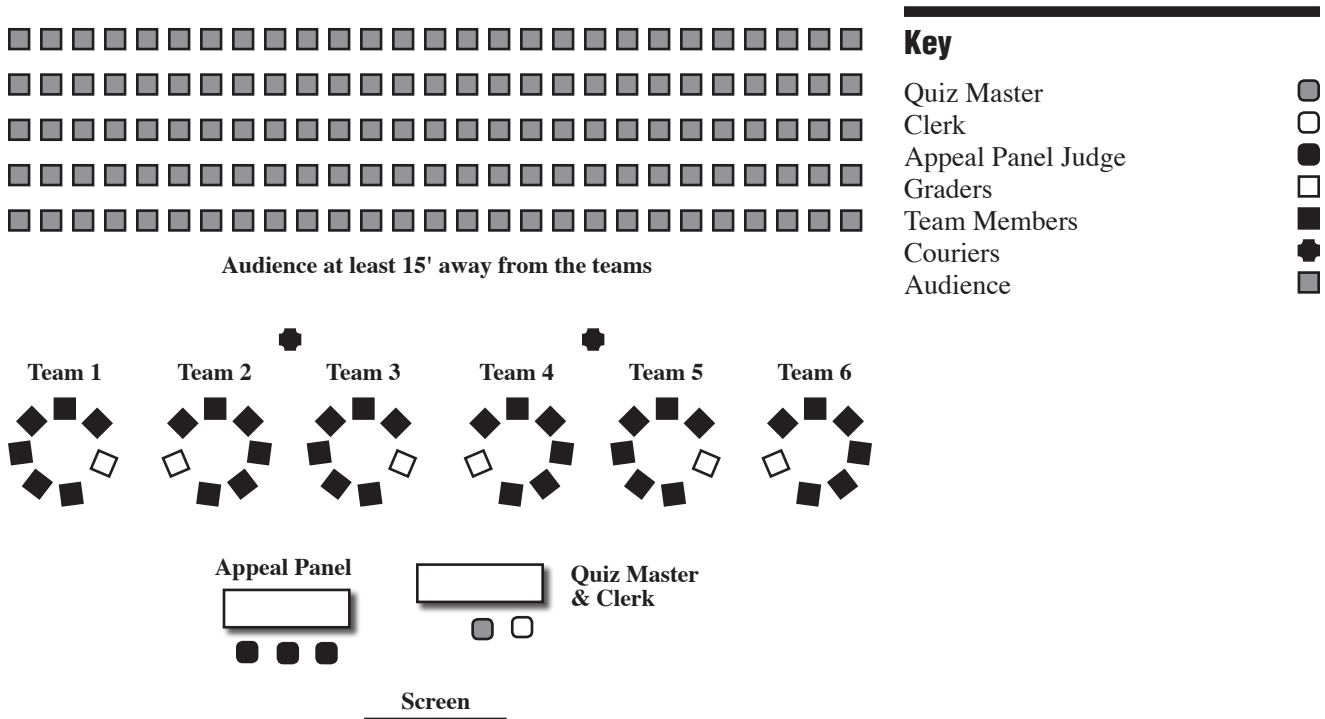
Drivers & Insurance

All drivers are to be approved by your local church board also and each vehicle used to transport Pathfinders is to be insured according to your local conference guidelines.

Make It Fun

As you lead your Pathfinders into *The Pathfinder Bible Experience*, be sure to keep it fun and enjoyable. The study of scripture is serious business, but if you become overbearing and ill tempered in the process, you will negate much of the blessing of the event.

Typical Room Set Up



Application Guide for the Daniel

1. Warm-up

Questions for individual reflection/small group discussion. These questions will attempt to help participants relate aspects of their own lives to the lives of Bible characters. This will involve personal sharing.

2. Engaging the Chapter

This will include some discussion of the chapter and one or more of the following:

- a. Entering the verses as a participant or bystander to help imagine the scene
- b. Relevant historical/background information
- c. Reflection/discussion questions that go deeper into the chapter

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life

- a. Thought provoking application questions
- b. Calls for commitment to action

4. Time of Prayer

May include any or all of the following: Adoration/confession/requests/praises/silent prayer/conversational prayer.

5. Outreach Ideas

Some chapter guides include ideas for getting outside of your group and reaching the world around you—that's how you live it!

Recommended Companions for this Series

Andrews Study Bible, <http://bible.andrews.edu>

Authentic: Committed for Life by Scott R. Ward, (catalog #623935) www.adventsource.org

Living It High School Outreach Resources for Pathfinders, <http://livingiths.org/resources/pathfinders>

Daniel Chapter 1

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. If you had to be captured by forces from a foreign country, which country would you want it to be? Why? What do you think life in captivity would be like there? Explain.

- b. What is your favorite kind of ethnic food (Mexican, Italian, Indian, etc.)? What is your least favorite kind of food? Explain.

What would you do if you were stuck in a country whose food you didn't really like? What would you do? What would you eat?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This is one of the most familiar stories in all of the Bible. As you read this chapter again, try not to think of it as the same old story you've heard for years. Try to find something new in it.

What do you think it was like to be "besieged" in Jerusalem? How long do you think it took for the people of Jerusalem to realize they had no way out and it was only a matter of time before their possessions were either taken or destroyed? How do you think it felt for them to realize that they would become slaves or be killed?

Do you think the Jews knew they would be carried off to Babylon, or do you think they thought they would be left Jerusalem in poverty like the Samaritans were? Explain.

What do you think Daniel’s parents told him during the besiegement to prepare him for what was coming? Do you think they felt like God was abandoning them, or do you think they still felt that God was watching over them and had a plan? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

- a. Try to think of a time when you saw that something really bad was going to happen in your life. Explain in detail what this coming tragedy was and how it made you feel at that time to know it was coming and you couldn’t stop it.

Once the tragedy had passed, what was your new perspective on it? Explain.

Has the way you see this tragedy changed at all in light of Daniel’s situation and how he responded to it? Explain.

What new thing do you think you could learn from the story of Daniel that could help you to be more prepared the next time you have to personally deal with a difficult situation? Explain in detail.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray and ask God to remind you to spend time with Him every day, not only so that you can enjoy His presence more, but also so that you will be more fully prepared for whatever difficult situations you may need to face in the future too.
- b. Pray for people you know that are dealing with difficulties right now. Pray and ask Jesus to help them to see beyond the hard times and to know that a better day will come. Pray for them to have wisdom, peace, and a greater trust in God.

Daniel Chapter 2

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Approximately how often do you have dreams? Are they vivid or hazy and hard to remember? What is the most memorable dream you've had that you feel comfortable sharing? Describe it in detail.

- b. Have you ever seen signs or advertisements for fortune tellers or palm readers? Do you know anything about how they claim to tell the future based on lines in peoples hands or tarot cards? Explain. Do you think this is an accurate and reliable way to know what will happen in the future? Why or why not?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter Daniel finds himself in a desperate situation where he needs God's help in order to save his own life and the lives of his friends. The way the story is told in the Bible, Daniel seems to be rather calm about it. Do you think he really was that calm, cool and collected, or do you think he freaked out a bit and went through a lot of stress before going to God with the problem? Explain.

What do you think it is that determines how quickly people go to God with problems versus how long they try to figure it out themselves? Do you think it depends on how big the problem is or how close the person feels to God, or a combination of both? Explain.

It is interesting to see how quickly Daniel gives special thanks to God for helping him know and understand the dream. Many times people forget to thank God as soon as they get the answer they want because they just get excited and forget. What do you think it was that helped Daniel to remember to thank God immediately after he received the answer to his prayers? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Try to think of several things you can do to feel closer to God and to think of Him more quickly when you face troubles in your life. Make a list of three things you would like to try, and then make plans for how to implement them in your life.

Talk over your list with some friends or adults who can help you to be successful in accomplishing the ways in which you want to try and get closer to God.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray over your lists together with some friends in a small group. Write down everyone's lists and requests, and pray for each other and encourage each other every day for one week. At the end of the week check in with each other to see how it's going and then say a prayer of thanksgiving for the successes you are having.

Daniel Chapter 3

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever had to stand up in front of someone in authority and tell the truth about something that happened to you or someone you knew. Was it hard or easy to tell the truth in spite of what others around you were doing and saying? Explain.

- b. Have you ever been pressured to tell a lie? Have you ever been pressured to simply stay quiet instead of speaking up to tell the truth? How did it make you feel? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: The story told in this chapter sounds like an incredible party! Can you imagine the thousands of people surrounding this huge statue that the king had ordered to be built in his likeness? Wouldn't you imagine there were also other nice decorations and impressive surroundings around the statue where the people gathered? Then there were all the musicians playing music and for some reason even a fiery furnace prepared to "encourage" the people there to worship the king and his image.

How do you think it would have felt for the average Babylonian who was there? Do you think it would have been like some of the popular festivals of our day with selling food vendors and drinks and other things for people to enjoy? Explain.

How do you think it made the king feel to see his subjects worshipping him? How do you think it made him feel when the God of the three Hebrews turned out to be more powerful than him? Why do you think his angry arrogance so quickly turned to humility and an order to worship the God of the Hebrews when he saw that he had clearly been outdone? Do you think the announcement to worship the Hebrew God was made to the entire crowd of people who had come to worship the image, or just to those around the fiery furnace? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Try to think of a time when you were sure you were right and wanted your way. When you find yourself in such a situation, is it easy or hard for you to admit that you may actually be wrong when you find out you are? What do you think you could do to be more open to input from others instead of being so set in your own ways in the future?

- b. Do you think you would have been able to stand up boldly for truth in the midst of a vast crowd all doing what was expected by the ungodly king, just like the three Hebrews did? Why or why not? Make a list of three things you could do that could help you to be bolder in standing up for what is right.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray with a small group and ask God to help you to think clearly about the choices you face on a daily basis. Ask him to help you to be mindful of what is right throughout the day and to give you the courage to stand up for God and His ways. Remember to pray daily for the requests made in your group for the coming week.

Daniel Chapter 4

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Who is the most arrogant public figure you can think of today? What does this person do and say that makes you think they are arrogant? Do you have any idea what makes arrogant people act the way they do? Explain.

- b. Who is the most humble person you can think of? What is it about this person that makes you think they are humble? Do you think being humble shows strength or weakness? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter King Nebuchadnezzar has another dream, but this time he remembers what it was about. It's interesting that even though the wise men were told the dream this time, they still couldn't interpret it. In chapter 2 the wise men said they could interpret the dream if the king told them what it was. Why do you think they couldn't come up with any interpretation of this dream even though the king was able to tell them what it was about? Don't you think they could have made up something? Why or why not?

Do you have any ideas as to why the king didn't call for Daniel first instead of the other wise men? After all, he was the only one who could interpret the last dream.

This chapter begins with the king sending a message to all his people praising God, and yet he is still humbled for 7 years because of his arrogance. Isn't this opening a tribute to God a sign of humility? Why or why not? Explain.

Why do you think it took such drastic measures for King Nebuchadnezzar to learn the lesson God had for him? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think through your life and the way you treat others and the way you talk about yourself. Do you think you struggle more with arrogance or low self-esteem? Talk about this chapter with a close friend or adult that you trust and ask them to be honest with you about the way they see you. Try to think of some goals together that would help each of you to be more like the people you want to become.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to help you to have a healthy self-image based on His love and sacrifice on your behalf. Ask Him to help you to continually look to His life as recorded in the gospels as a model for your life to follow. Choose a chapter in one of the gospels to pray over and apply the lessons to your life every day this week for your devotional time.

Daniel Chapter 5

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. When you were a little kid, did you ever wish you could come across some incredible mystery and solve it? Did you ever want to be a detective like Sherlock Holmes? Explain in detail the greatest mystery you ever dreamed of solving.

- b. What is the best trick you have ever played on anyone? Explain in detail what happened and what made the trick work.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter we have the story of a new king who didn't learn the lessons from the history of the king that reigned before him. So, here, as God's condemnation is falling on him, Daniel gives Belshazzar a brief history lesson of what he should have learned from the life and times of Nebuchadnezzar.

Since the story of Nebuchadnezzar eating grass for seven years like a cow made it into the Bible, you'd think it was also a well known story of the day, right? Wouldn't that be pretty incredible to know that the king of your country was taught such an amazing lesson for all the world around him to learn from too? How much arrogance do you think it took for Belshazzar to ignore all that recent history and get right up in God's face—so to speak—by desecrating the sacred objects from the Hebrew temple? Explain how you think Belshazzar and his one thousand friends could get to the point of having such a deliberately disrespectful party complete with drinking, carousing, and whatever else they could think of. Do we still see this kind of disrespect at times with the children of rich and famous people? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about some of the life lessons that you have had a hard time learning. Think about some of the life lessons that have been easier for you to learn. Try to figure out what helps you to learn from other people's mistakes as well as your own. Try to figure out what makes it harder for you to learn from other people's mistakes as well as your own. When you think you are starting to understand how you can learn more from life, discuss your discoveries with a friend or adult you trust to get their input as well.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus for the wisdom to learn from the past and to do better in the future. The Bible calls this process of learning and growing spiritually "sanctification." Look up some Bible verses that use this word and pray over them, asking God to help you learn and understand and become more and more like Him with the help of His Spirit.

Daniel Chapter 6

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Try to think of a time when you received a special award or honor for something you did. How does it make you feel to have someone or some group tell you that you have done a good job? Explain.

- b. What kind of award would you like to receive sometime during your lifetime? A Purple Heart, Nobel Prize, college scholarship, promotion to employee of the month, or some other recognition? Explain why this award would be meaningful to you.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This is another of the best known chapters in the Bible. The story of Daniel and the lion's den is one of the first Bible stories that is taught to children. In this story Daniel stands out from the rest of the crowd because he has chosen his own path in life and is fiercely committed to what he believes in. He is willing to follow God at any cost.

Would you rather be known as a "Holy Roller" or as someone who "fits in" with the rest of the crowd and goes along with what everyone else is doing?

How hard do you think it was for Daniel to stand apart from everyone else? What role do you think his family life back in Jerusalem played?

Do you think it's easier to stay true to the culture you grew up with when you are living in a foreign land that is very different from your original culture, or do you think it's easier to assimilate into the new culture? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about your life and try to decide which culture your life matches up with more—the culture that surrounds you where you live, or the ideal spiritual culture the Bible teaches us to be a part of. How hard is it for you to take the advice of the apostle Paul who instructs us to be “in the world but not of the world”?

Make a list of three things you would like to start doing in your life to help you be more a part of God's ideal culture as taught in the Bible.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to help you have the boldness to stand apart from the rest of the world and do what you know is right. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you to pray over your spiritual goals three times per day just like Daniel did.

Daniel Chapter 7

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What is the most confusing riddle you have ever heard that you eventually figured out? Why was it confusing to you at first and what helped you to finally understand it? Explain in detail.

- b. Try to think of someone you have heard about or a character from a book or movie that was difficult to relate to until you got to know more about them? What is it about getting to know someone that helps you to understand them better? Explain in detail and give at least one example.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This chapter contains some of the greatest mystery in the entire Bible. The founders and pioneers of our church wrestled with this chapter for many years trying to decipher it, and people are still disagreeing over it and forming new understanding of it today.

Why do you think it is so hard to understand the type of imagery used in this chapter?

Why do you think God spoke to Daniel with images of beasts and creatures instead of speaking plainly in everyday terms?

Do you think there is anything we can still learn from this chapter that can help us get to know God better today? Explain.

We are given counsel to spend most of our Bible study time with the clear passages that are easier to understand and less time with these really difficult passages. Why do you think that is? What percentages of time do you think should be spent on the easy versus the difficult passages of scripture? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

When was the last time you tried really hard to understand a difficult passage of Scripture? Why do you think you struggled with it?

How much time do you spend reading more easily understood passages of Scripture? Why do you think that is?

Choose one easy passage and one difficult passage from the book of Daniel to focus on this coming week in your devotions. Try spending 75% of your time on the easy passage and 25% on the difficult passage. Make notes about what you learn and then share it with your group the next time with you meet and tell them about what you found.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to help you focus on being led by the Holy Spirit as you choose passages of Scripture, and be sure to spend time in prayer both as you're preparing to study and all throughout your study time each day. All throughout each day this week ask God for understanding and try to let your mind wander off into these passages as often as you can. Try your best to "soak in" God's word.

Daniel Chapter 8

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Do you have a worst nightmare? Have you ever had dream that was so scary and hard to understand that it became very disturbing to you and you thought about it for days? Explain.

- b. Have you ever tried to imagine or create creatures or a world that no one has ever thought of before? What is the most interesting creation you have come up with? Explain in detail.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Read the entire chapter and then try your best to decipher verses 23-26. If even Daniel fainted and felt sick while trying to understand the message in them ,how do we have a chance today? Look closely at the last part of verse 26.

A misunderstanding of the prophecy in verse 14 of this chapter led to the Great Disappointment of 1844. It is a very complex prophecy that can only be understood in the context of many other difficult passages in Daniel and Revelation. 1844 was back in the horse and buggy days—long before computers and before there was a lot of information on the biblical Greek and Hebrew languages. These prophecies were studied extensively by Christians who mostly had no college degrees and very little training. Why do you think they were so interested in the deep prophecies like the ones in this chapter? Why do you think they tried to study it themselves instead of calling in some experts from a university somewhere? Explain.

Do you think it was easier or harder for the people studying Daniel in the 1800s to depend on the Holy Spirit help them understand the prophecies? Do you think it's easier, harder, or the same difficulty for people of our day who want to understand the book of Daniel? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Do you tend to read the Bible and just try to decide what it means for you personally, or do you try to understand the Bible more by studying it with other people? Do you ever consult commentaries and other study materials?

Choose one of the chapters of Daniel that we have already talked about and review what you have learned from it. Now, find some commentaries and books on Daniel and read what some professional scholars have learned about the passage. Talk to some friends about what you learn and have a discussion about the role that commentaries and other people's thoughts on Scripture play in your spiritual life.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to help you be as thorough as you can in your study of Scripture. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the difference between Bible study and devotional time. Ask Jesus to help you to always grow in your relationship with Him as a result of your time in the Bible.

Daniel Chapter 9

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. Have you ever experienced an answer to prayer? What is the most dramatic answer to prayer you have ever personally experienced? Explain in detail.

- b. What is the most amazing answer to prayer you have ever heard of happening to someone else? Was it something that happened to someone you know, someone from a story you read in a book, or someone that you remember from the Bible? Explain in detail.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter Daniel decides to intercede in prayer for his fellow Hebrews. He is praying during the time that Israel is captive in Babylon and Jerusalem is lying in ruins. The Bible tells us the Hebrews were allowed to be captured because they were no longer following God as they should have been. Now, many years into the captivity, Daniel feels inspired to repent and start praying for his people.

Daniel was one of the godliest people in the entire Bible. There is no record of him making mistakes or committing any sin—there are only stories of his great faithfulness. Why do you think Daniel prays "Forgive us" and "we have sinned"? Why do you think he is confessing sins that—from what we can tell—he didn't necessarily commit himself? Explain.

It seems that Daniel believes that his prayers actually make a difference in what God is able to do, and is willing to do to help His people. Do you think that prayers can actually change the outcome of things so dramatically? Explain.

Why do you think Daniel is asking forgiveness for what people several generations before him did? How do you think the sins of previous generations impacted the current generation in Daniel's day? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Have you ever felt God's presence come and fill you or impress you or speak to you when you've taken special time for prayer? Try to think of an issue that is on your mind regularly. Go somewhere and find a quiet place where you can intercede before God for this issue. Set aside maybe 20-30 minutes to spend with God about this issue. Spend the first 5-10 minutes explaining your concern to God and then spend the next 15-25 minutes just listening for God's reply. Try this whenever you have great concerns and see what happens. You may actually hear God's voice or feel His guidance in some way just like Daniel and many others have.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray as described above as often as you can and listen for some kind of leading or direction from God. His direction may come in various ways including wise advice from spiritual people you may know or clearer understanding in your own heart and mind as you pray over the issue. Journaling your prayers can be very helpful as well.

Daniel Chapter 10 & 11

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What is the strangest ritual or rite you have ever heard of? Is it a secret handshake, password, hazing, or some other tradition that accompanied a secret group or club? Explain.

- b. What is the most interesting Biblical tradition or symbol you have heard of (baptism, communion, fasting, etc.)? Why is it so interesting to you? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In these two chapters we see one long narrative where Daniel continues to receive secret detailed messages from God. Why do you think Daniel received messages so regularly that he was able to write them down or deliver them to others? Why do you think the messages went through Daniel instead of directly to the people who needed them? Explain.

Does this make Daniel a prophet or not? Explain.

Daniel obviously had a great love for God's people and a great desire to serve them and help them to know God better. Where do you think a desire like this comes from? Why do you think people choose to give their lives to serving others instead of making money and having fun? Explain.

Verse 12 says that the words of Daniel’s prayer were heard the day he spoke them and he was now receiving an answer because of that prayer. Do you think we still have to ask in order to receive an answer or solution today? Explain.

Verse 14 says that God chose to reveal to Daniel something that would not happen for many years? What is the point in telling people about future events? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Try to think of something in your life that you wish was different. Not something too extreme, but rather something that could realistically change. Try to think about how much time you have spent interceding and asking God to help each individual involved in the situation.

Choose the situation you just thought of, another one in your own life you may prefer more, or one from the life of someone you know who needs help. Write down in detail everyone involved and all the dynamics. Now make a list that will help you to pray in detail for every aspect of this situation and commit to praying at least three times per day for God’s best solution rather than your own.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Start praying now and commit to praying over the situation listed above for at least a week—preferably more—and make notes on how God acts.

Daniel Chapter 12

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Do your parents ever tell you to “just do what they say,” even if you don’t understand why? How does it make you feel when that happens? Explain.

- b. How much effort do you think parents should put into explaining things they want you to do instead of saying “just do it”? How much of a break do you think you should give your parents when they are tired and frustrated and just don’t feel like explaining what they want you to do? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: Daniel here is told clearly that he will not understand the visions and prophecies that he has had been given and has written down. How hard do you think it would be to organize your thoughts and present to others something that you don’t understand for yourself? Would you be tempted to think you are crazy or that maybe it’s not really that important? Explain.

How would you know if you are simply not understanding and clueless about what God wants you to do, or if you are misunderstanding and writing down the wrong thing? Explain.

What do you think it was about Daniel that caused him to be faithful in recording all these things, even though they made little to no sense to him? Explain.

Do you think you would be as faithful as Daniel was or would you give up? Explain.

How much do you think Daniel's daily relationship with God and learning to know His voice made a difference in his ability to do what God asked him to do?

How important do you think it is for you to have a close relationship with God and learn to hear His voice? Do you think God could ever choose you to deliver messages to others? Why or why not?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Try to think of some people in your life that you sometimes misunderstand or have conflict with. These may be family members, friends, or acquaintances. Try to think of some ways that you could work on improving your relationship with these individuals so that you can get along better. Maybe spend time just talking or having fun together and see if that helps you to get along better in other situations, such as when you need to accomplish tasks together or do other things that often lead to conflict.

Choose one person that you may have thought of as you read the paragraph above and make a plan for improving your relationship.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to bless and guide you as you make plans to improve your relationships with others—especially with parents and others who may have authority over you. Pray especially hard when you feel conflict arising with this person or persons and pray that God can alleviate the conflict before it gets worse.

Esther Chapter 1

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. What is the worst consequence/punishment you have ever experienced for disobeying your parents that you can talk about? Do you think it was fair? Explain.

- b. Do you think that it is good to punish wrongdoers, or do you think everyone should be free to do whatever they think is right in their own eyes? If you do believe that punishment for wrongdoers is important, how do you determine who should get to make the rules and who should get to enforce them?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This chapter tells the story of a disobedient queen. In the time of this story it appears that the queen was expected to do whatever the king told her to do and when she disobeyed there was a very serious consequence. In fact, there is a great deal of discussion about the example the queen was setting for all the other women of the empire and what the consequences of not punishing her would have been.

Do you think Queen Vashti would have been considered a pioneer for women's rights if she had done that in the 1800s instead of thousands of years ago in the Old Testament? Why or why not?

Do you think this story would have unfolded differently if it had happened today than if it had back then? Explain.



Do you think there are still countries where women are treated this way today? Do you think this is fair? What do you think should be done about it—or is it not our business? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. If you are male, take a few minutes to think about how you treat the females that you interact with. Do you think you are fair and unbiased? Try to think of some ways that you can help women in their struggle for equality in our world. Try to think of some women or girls that you could stand up for or encourage in some way. Have a serious discussion with some female friends and ask for their opinion and input on this important topic.

- b. If you are female, take a few minutes to think about how you and the other females you interact with would like to be treated. Make a list of the things in your own life that you wish were different in regards to gender equality. Get together with some of your female friends and plan to have a serious discussion with some male friends and ask for their opinion and input on this important topic.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Take some time to pray over how you treat your friends and the adults in your life with regards to gender equality. Ask God to reveal any hidden biases you may have. Pray and ask God to help you understand the Bible better and to understand how God wants us all to love and treat each other.

Esther Chapter 2

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever entered a contest you really wanted to win? Describe what kind of contest it was and how hard you worked. Maybe it was for an honor in Pathfinders, trying out for a sports team, or making something for the county fair. Describe in detail the process you went through to try to win or make the cut.

- b. Have you ever won a prize at an amusement park game booth or fair of some kind? Describe the type of game it was that you played and what you did to win. Describe how it felt to win.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This chapter is all about the beauty pageant that Esther entered in order to try to become queen. She worked hard and did everything that her uncle told her to do in detail. How important do you think it was for her to be respectful and especially to keep the family secret that her uncle told her to keep?

Do you think Esther entered the contest simply so she could become the most beautiful woman in the kingdom and have all the privileges of being queen, or do you think she was motivated by something else? Explain.

What do you think is the difference between trying to look your personal best and trying to be better looking than everyone else? What do you think is the best approach to managing and maintaining your outward appearance? Explain.

In the Bible, Paul clearly states that your beauty should come from your inner person rather than from how glamorous you can make yourself look on the outside. How can you apply this principle to the story of Esther? Explain.

 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

Think in detail about how you feel about your outward appearance. Think in detail about how you feel about the kind of person you are on the inside—how loving, kind and nice you are. As you think about it, where do you think your self-esteem comes from the most? Is it mostly from how you appear and what you have or possess, or does it come from who you are on the inside? Spend some time journaling or thinking about the kind of person you would ultimately like to become. Think of three things you can focus on to try to become a better person in the next month.

 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Pray and talk to God about the person that you are and the person that you want to become. Ask Him to guide you as you set goals for how you want to become more like Him. Make yourself a note to pray three times per day about who you are, and ask God to help you to be more aware of how you treat others so that you can be more focused on being good, kind, and loving.

Esther Chapter 3

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Do you feel like you have ever been treated unfairly? What do you think it means to be fair? Do you think it is possible to treat all people exactly the same or does fairness mean something different than treating people the same? Explain.

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: The culture of Esther's day was certainly a lot different than culture today. People did things then that seem unthinkable to people in our time.

What do you think it would be like to have to bow and pay homage to people who had authority over you, such as your teachers, parents, and older siblings? How would that make you feel? Explain.

Do you feel like there should be more respect for elders in our culture today? Why or why not? Explain in detail how this could happen if you think it should.

How much do you know about the WWII holocaust? Did you know that Hitler was not the first person to order the extermination of the Jews? Why do you think God's "chosen" people have endured so much persecution for so many thousands of years? How do you think you would feel if you were a person of Jewish heritage? Explain.

What people or groups of people do you think are particularly persecuted today? Do you think Muslims, Christians, Hispanics, Syrians, or other people are being unfairly persecuted today? Why or why not?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about the way that you treat other people. Do you find it easy or difficult to treat everyone you go to school or work with the same? Do you feel a tendency to treat male and females differently? Do you have a harder time accepting people from backgrounds and cultures that are different than yours? Take some time to think about why this may or may not be. Try to think of three people that you would like to treat better. Try to figure out why you treat them the way you do and how you can make a positive change.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to help you to be kind and loving to all people. Ask Him to help you filter out things you hear in the news or from friends that may be affecting the way you treat some other people. Pray and ask Jesus to help you to love all people the way He treats you in spite of your faults and mistakes.

Esther Chapter 4

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

What do you think it would be like to be a real-life prince or princess? What would you do if you were a princess who had a number of maids and/or servants? What would you have your servants do for you throughout the day? Explain.

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Mordecai and the Jews across the kingdom are receiving word about the decree to kill all the Jews in the kingdom. How do you think you would feel to learn that all people from your ethnic background had been condemned to death? How would you respond to such extreme hatred? Would you respond with equal hatred or with efforts to make an escape plan, or would you simply rely on praying to God? Explain.

In this scenario the attention is suddenly turned to queen Esther, who most people don't even know is a person of Jewish descent. How do you think Esther may be feeling at this point? Her life has been turned upside down during the past couple of years. She has gone from being an orphan to the queen of the kingdom. How much pressure to you think she was feeling at this time?

When Esther points out the fact that going in to the king uninvited can lead to instant death, Mordecai shows a strong faith in God and His leading. What does this scenario tell you about the relationship between Esther and Mordecai and the things he has taught her about God since she was a child? Explain in detail.

Do you think parents and caregivers are still teaching children to rely on God like this today? Why or why not? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

What do you honestly think you would do if you found yourself in a situation where other people were depending on you to take a strong stand for God? Do you feel like you currently have a strong enough faith in God to make a stand for something important?

Think about where you wish you were at in your walk with God. Compare that with where you feel you are now. Take some time to think about how Esther and Mordecai may have developed their relationships with God understanding that their time and calling was a bit different than ours today in many ways.

In spite of where your other family members are in their commitment to God, you can always improve where you stand with Him personally. Take some time to set some goals and plans for how you would like to grow spiritually in the next few weeks. Talk about your plans with your parents, pastor, or youth leader for input.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to bless you as you make plans for your spiritual growth. Pray and ask Jesus to give your family and friends the desire to grow spiritually as well. Be sure to set aside specific times each day to pray and to work on your spiritual growth plan.

Esther Chapter 5

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Imagine you are a royal princess. Describe in detail what your royal robes/dress/outfit would look like and what type of entourage you would have. Would you be more like a Disney princess or like Princess Kate Middleton? Describe in detail.

- b. Imagine you are a royal prince. Describe in detail what your life would be like. What kind of car would you drive, what kind of bodyguards would you have, where would you live, etc?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: When you read this chapter about Esther going in before the king at the risk of her own life, did it make you cringe or put you in any kind of suspense, or is the story so familiar that you didn't really feel anything? Try to imagine how Esther felt as she went through this episode in her life. How do you think you would have felt if you had been in her place? Explain.

Why do you think Esther was so subtle and secretive in the way she proceeded with her request? Why do you think she invited the king to banquets rather than just making her request immediately? Explain.

Do you think you would be so patient and take so long in making your appeal in regards to such an important issue? Explain.

What do you think Esther, the king, and Haman talked about during the banquets? Do you think it was a bit awkward or do you think there was plenty to talk about besides her pressing request? How hard do you think it would have been for Esther to entertain the king in this situation?

Why do you think Haman felt so special in this situation? Explain. Do you think it was mean for Esther to make him feel so special right before she exposed him? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about your relationships with other people. Are you the type of person to get straight to the heart of the matter and just “say it like it is”? Or do you try to take the time to listen to people and develop a better relationship with them before digging into a difficult issue that you think needs to be addressed? List what you see as the pros and cons of getting into issues with people both slowly and quickly.

Take some time to think about Esther’s approach and make some notes regarding what you can learn from how she approached the king and Haman. Try to think of at least two past situations when a slower and more deliberate approach with someone would have been more beneficial.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to guide you in how you deal with other people. Ask Him to help you to slow down and carefully think and talk through as many details as you can before having serious conversations with others.

Esther Chapter 6

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Talk about a time when you have experienced jealousy. Was it you being jealous of someone else or someone else being jealous of you? Did the jealousy end up being a good or a bad thing? Explain in detail.

- b. Talk about a time when you saw someone stand up and treat someone fairly when others were trying to be unfair. Explain what happened in detail and how it made you feel to see someone stand up for someone else. Talk about how this can inspire you to stand up for others that are in need of help.

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: This chapter says that the night before the banquet the king could not sleep, so he had someone bring in the book of royal records and read it to him. Do you think this was an incredible coincidence, a stroke of luck, or an act of God that caused this to happen? Explain in detail.

Why do you think Haman's mindset was so strongly set on receiving glory and honor? All through this book Haman seems to think of nothing but himself. How can you keep from feeling this way yourself? What do you think is the difference between having good self-esteem and being overconfident, selfish, and arrogant like Haman? Explain.

How do you think Haman was feeling during the last part of this chapter as he could see his scheme to kill all the Jews unraveling? How do you think people who don't believe in God deal with tragedies that they face in life? Explain.

How do you think a personal relationship with Jesus and "loving your neighbor as yourself" can keep you from falling into the same situation as Haman? Explain.

 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

Spend some time trying to think of a time in your life when something good happened that you were sure was not a coincidence. Try to remember all the details of what happened. What do you think would have happened or what different direction do you think your life would have taken if this "act of God" had not happened?

Spend some time thinking through your life looking for other ways that God has been leading and directing you in your life. Start a journal of all the incidences you can think of up to this point in your life and then keep the journal on hand to continue recording God's work in your life. The Bible calls these acts of God in our lives "Ebenezers." They are to be recorded and remembered to help strengthen our faith during difficult times.

Spend some time talking with your parents about miracles they have seen in your life that you might not have noticed, and write them down in your journal as well.

 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Pray and ask God to help you to remember the times He has worked in your life. Ask Him to remind you of events you may have forgotten or simply didn't notice because you were so caught up in the middle of the situation. Pray together with some friends and/or family and thank God for the ways He has been involved in your lives over the years.

Esther Chapter 7

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever had one of your plans backfire—something you thought would go one way but instead went completely wrong? Explain in detail what happened and what you learned from the experience.

- b. Have you ever gone into a situation—maybe a new school or a party or a vacation of some kind—that you thought would be terrible, but actually turned out to be great? Explain in detail what happened and how it made you feel.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter Haman’s evil plan is finally unraveled as the queen reveals her request! The king went into a rage, the villain fell apart and justice was served!

Do you see plots like this still happening in our world today? Why or why not? Explain.

Esther’s world may seem barbaric to us—with its public hangings and bodies left on display, etc.—but has human nature really changed that much over time? Do people still seek selfish gain and to do bad things to each other out of jealousy in our day? Explain.

What does this teach you about the Adventist concept called “the Great Controversy”? Discuss what you know about the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan and how it still impacts our world today.

Discuss with your group three ways you can be a positive influence in the Great Controversy and help others to choose God’s side instead of Satan’s.

 **3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

Try to think of some subtle worldly things that tempt you to be jealous and unhappy with what you have in life. We all have weaknesses and things that tempt each of us more than others. Try to identify at least three temptations that you need to be cautious of that could lead you down a wrong road.

 **4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Pray and ask God to help you to not be led into temptation as the Lord’s Prayer teaches us to do. Turn to Matthew 6:9-13 and pray through the Lord’s Prayer, applying each phrase to your own life.

Esther Chapter 8

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

If you were suddenly given the power to make any decree or law you wanted throughout the city you live in, what would it be? What do you think the results of your decree or law would be? Would most citizens of your city be for or against it? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: After Haman was gone and his power and authority was given to Mordecai, there was still a need for quick action in order to save the Jews. The original decree could not be rescinded, so they had to figure out something else to do. How do you think they came up with the new decree to counter the original one? Can you think of another decree that could have been just as effective? Explain.

Why do you think this king was still using the law of the Medes and the Persians? Why do you think it was important at that time to make laws that could not be undone? Do you think it made rulers think more carefully about the laws they made? Explain.

Do you think that in this case it was better that the original law stayed in effect because it then gave the Jews the opportunity to avenge themselves of their enemies? Do you think they could have done this otherwise? Explain.

Why do you think this scenario ended up being such a good witness that many people decided to become Jews? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Try to think of something in your life that looked at first like it would be totally devastating in some way, but ended up becoming a great blessing. Now, try to think about some challenges you are currently facing or may soon face that seem hopeless. Do you think there is any possible way that God can bring good out of these difficult circumstances? Spend some time thinking and talking through every detail with some friends and/or family members and look for possible ways good could come.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to bring good and unexpected results to the difficulties you face on a regular basis. Pray through difficult relationship dynamics, family situations, and any difficulties your friends and family members may be facing as well. Ask God to bring you peace and to give you faith that He can bring good out situations that seem like they can only be bad.

Esther Chapter 9 & 10

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. If you could choose one type of pest or scary creature in nature to completely kill off, what would it be and why (mosquitos, spiders, snakes, etc.)? What do you think the consequences of eliminating this creature would be. How would it effect the ecosystem? Explain.

- b. If you could run for any elected office in the nation what would it be (governor, mayor, president, judge, etc.)? Why would you want this power and what would you do with it to help people? Explain.

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: In this chapter the Jews were allowed to kill thousands of their enemies with God's blessing. How is it possible to understand all the killing that goes on in the Bible? Do we simply need to understand that people and cultures were just barbaric at that time and in that place? It seems like much of the Old Testament involves the killing of people who hate God's chosen people. Why do you think that is? Does all this killing seem hard to understand? Why or why not?

Do you think that if these enemies of the Jews had not been exterminated, they would have eventually found a way to kill the Jews? Explain.

Do you think it is possible that these avowed enemies of the Jews had already committed the unpardonable sin and were beyond saving anyway, so God allowed them to die so that they would stop tempting and persecuting His chosen people? Why or why not?

Why do you think it was important to establish a feast/festival in honor of this great victory for God's chosen people? What do you think was the Jewish perspective on this great event? How do you think you would have felt if you had been in their place at that time? Explain.



Why do you think God allowed Daniel, Esther, and Mordecai to hold such high positions in the governments of their time? Do you think it is still okay for Christians to hold high public offices today? Why or why not?



3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Try to put yourself in the shoes of some people from another culture that are facing trouble or some kind of persecution today. How difficult is it for you to relate to other people's struggles? Take some time to do a little research on the refugees from Syria or some other country where people are struggling to survive. Try your best to be objective in your research and understand the plight these people may be going through. Try to see another perspective other than the perspectives you hear most commonly amongst your peers.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask God to intercede in the lives of the people you hear about that are in difficult situations around the world. Include people you may have heard about in the news, such as: North Koreans, Syrians, Mexicans, Iranians, Iraqis, and anyone else who comes to mind. Try to spend some time each day in the coming week praying for those trapped in countries that are involved in some kind of conflict or persecution.





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