

PARTICIPANT'S STUDY GUIDE

for the book by Max W. Hammonds, MD,
and the "RGB for Life" Seminar Series

Seventh-day Adventist Christian: **Do You Know Who You Are?**



*A Curiously Hard Question
at a Most Critical Time*

Participant's Study Guide

For the Book

Seventh-day Adventist Christian:

Do You Know Who You Are?

A Curiously Hard Question at a Most Critical Time

by Max Hammonds, MD, MPH, MHA

To obtain a FREE download of this guide:

www.RGBforLife.com



World rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be copied or reproduced in any form or manner whatever, except as provided by law, without the written permission of the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review.

The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy of all facts and quotations as cited in this book.

The opinions expressed in this book are the author's personal views and interpretations, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

This book is provided with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in giving spiritual, legal, medical, or other professional advice. If authoritative advice is needed, the reader should seek the counsel of a competent professional.

Cover and study guide design by Jacque Hammonds, HGT Art, Carmel, Indiana.

Copyright © 2015 Max Hammonds

Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Do You Know Who You Are?

Contents

Participant's Study Guide

- Chapter 1** • *Introduction: Do You Know Who You Are?*
- Chapter 2** • *Do You Know You Are a Greatly Beloved Saint?*
- Chapter 3** • *Do You Know You Are a Christian?*
- Chapter 4** • *Do You Know You Are to Live in a Relationship With God?*
- Chapter 5** • *Do You Know You Live by the Gospel of RGB?*
- Chapter 6** • *Do You Know You Are to Walk With God?*
- Chapter 7** • *Do You Know You Are to Keep the Commandments?*
- Chapter 8** • *Do You Know You Are a Ministering Priest?*
- Chapter 9** • *Do You Know You Are Called to be a Faithful Steward?*
- Chapter 10** • *Do You Know You Are a Seventh-day Adventist Christian?*
- Chapter 11** • *Do You Know You Are Part of the Remnant?*
- Chapter 12** • *Do You Know You Are to Restore the Long-lost Teachings of the Bible?*
- Chapter 13** • *Do You Know You Are to Live in the Sanctuary Message?*
- Chapter 14** • *Do You Know You Have the Last Message to be Given to the World?*
- Chapter 15** • *Do You Know You Have a Mission – To Make Disciples?*
- Chapter 16** • *Do You Know You Are to be a Witness?*
- Chapter 17** • *Do You Know You Are One of the Sheep?*
- Chapter 18** • *Do You Know You Are to Build an Ark – a Refuge of Safety?*

CHAPTER 1

Do You Know Who You Are? (An Introduction)

Foundational Review

This is an introduction to a book called *Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do You Know Who You Are?* – a curiously hard question at a most difficult time.

The book was brought together from years of thinking about the experience of the average Seventh-day Adventist. These thoughts became sermons and these sermons became book chapters.

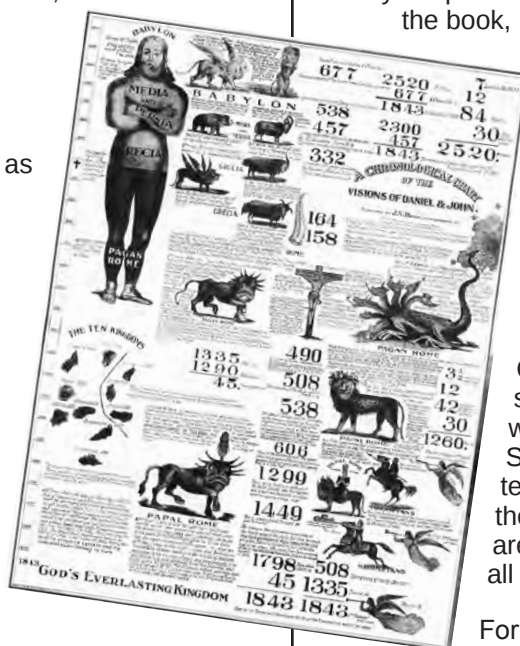
From the pages of the earliest Adventist books (like *Daniel and the Revelation*) to the later books (like *The Great Controversy*), Seventh-day Adventists have shown a deep grasp of the correlation between history and the Bible. But do SDA's know what they have? Many do not know – who they are, what they have been called to do, how they are to go about doing it.

The purpose of this book is to ask the question, and to probe some of the answers. The book is written as a personal, up close conversation, such as one might have with a close friend.

In this workbook we will continue that same conversational tone, as well as we can in a group setting. You should take every question as a personal question to you. The intention is to engage you personally.

The series covers 18 sessions. With time out for holidays and other interruptions, we will complete these sessions in a third of a year; a little over 4 months. That's a long time commitment but one you will come to appreciate and treasure.

Look at the Table of Contents. Here are the topics to be covered. The chapters are presented in a specific order to introduce the topics from the most basic concepts to the deeper ideas. Informally, the chapters are arranged in three sections.



You Are:



The first section covers the basics of being a Christian. You can't be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian until you know what a Christian is. The second section covers what an intense, personal relationship with God is like. The third section covers what a Seventh-day Adventist is like, especially in the Time of the End.

When you use this workbook as a study guide, each week you will have a chapter to read in the book and a study chapter to complete, like this one. In the back of the book, in the appendix is a set of discussion questions for the chapter which can be answered after the workbook session as been completed – sort of like a review sheet.

Yes, you will have an assignment each week. Like most seminars, you will get out of it what you put into it. Please read the chapter and do the workbook before coming to the seminar session. The Discussion Questions will be used in the seminar session as a discussion guide. You will be able to participate, and the Holy Spirit will have more opportunity to teach you, if you aren't chasing through the book chapter looking for answers or aren't wondering what that question was all about.

For this first study session there is no workbook pre-assignment. Instead, turn in the appendix in the book to the discussion questions for Chapter 1 for an introduction to what we will study for the next 18 weeks.

CHAPTER 2

Do You Know You Are a Saint... and Beloved?

Foundational Review

Usually you will find this section in outline form, but because our last session was an overview, here is a quick review in a few short phrases.

Over the years the Seventh-day Adventist Church has accumulated an amazing trove of spiritual and historical knowledge. But are the Seventh-day Adventists aware of who they are, what they have, what they are to do? The main question that we asked in our last chapter is: Do we know who we are? Do we know how to describe who we are? Do we know how to show who we are?

■ Encouraging Counsel

This seminar series builds from session to session as we move forward. If you miss a session, read the chapter and answer the discussion questions of the session that you missed. This will prepare you for the session that we are currently studying.

PLEASE – read the book chapter and fill out the Study Guide materials for each night before coming to the study session. This will make the discussion go so much smoother if you are already acquainted with topic. The Study Guide material is designed to be answered AFTER you have read the chapter.

The Beginning

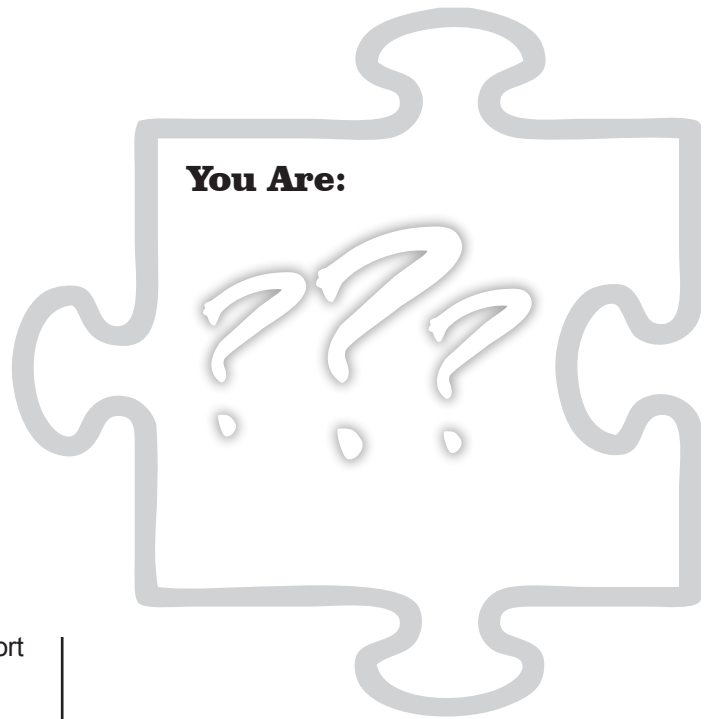
Let's start at the beginning.

QUESTION #1:

READ 1 John 4:8; John 16:27a. What is the beginning?
Where does God begin? What is the one great truth about God?

QUESTION #2:

READ Dan. 7:21-22. What are saints?



QUESTION #3:

Here are two lists of characteristics that describe the Saints mentioned in the scriptures of our book chapter.

Colossians 3:12-17

Faithful
Holy
Sanctified
Set apart

I Corinthians 5:1-2; 11:18-22

Passionate
Imperfect
Sinful
Helpless

Which set of words best describes "Saints?" Why do you think so? Be careful, only One opinion counts.

THINK IT THROUGH:

Think of a person that you know who loves you. Get their name firmly in mind; close your eyes and see their face in your mind. Write a description of what it is like to be loved using these words: "intense, unreserved, sacrificial, personal."

Chapter 2: Do You Know You Are a Saint... And Beloved?

David and Daniel

QUESTION #1:

How are David and Daniel different?

READ:

David

1 Samuel 17:36-37 _____

1 Samuel 25:21-22 _____

1 Samuel 26:9 _____

2 Samuel 11 _____

Daniel

Daniel 2:26-28 _____

Daniel 9:1-19 _____

Ezekiel 14:14 _____

Following the verses, write down the characteristics described about each person.

SUMMARIZE:

How are David and Daniel different?

QUESTION #2:

READ Daniel 9:22-23 and I Kings 14:8. How are David and Daniel alike?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Which one are you most like, David or Daniel? Why do you think so?



A Different Person

Now let's look at another person – Jesus.

QUESTION #1:

READ Mark 1:11. Does God love Jesus? How do you know He does? (Respond only with the words of Scripture.)

Where else in Scripture is this same sentiment expressed?

QUESTION #2:

READ Mark 12:6; John 3:35. Does Jesus know He is loved?

Where else in Scripture can you find evidence that Jesus knows He is loved? Find the scriptures and write them here.

■ Summary

BIG QUESTION:

Jesus knows that He is loved. Do you know that you are loved?

QUESTION #1:

Does God love you – personally? How do you know?

QUESTION #2:

READ Romans 1:7 and Jude 1:1. Do the descriptions in these Scriptures characterize you? Is this who you are? Is this how God sees you? Is this how you see yourself?

READ John 16:26-27 – Are you loved by God?

READ Romans 8:29-30 – Are you called by God?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Considering the information in this section, are you a Saint? Why do you think so?



Take Home

Thought Question

Who initiates the love relationship between God and His saints?

When?

How?

CHAPTER 3

Do You Know You Are a Christian?

Foundational Review

Last week we established that we are saints – and are loved. This seminar series builds from week to week as we move forward. If you miss a session, read the chapter and answer the discussion questions. This will prepare you for the session that we are currently studying.

PLEASE, read the material and fill out the Study Guide materials for each night before coming to the study session. This will make the discussion go so much smoother if you are already acquainted with topic. The Study Guide material is designed to be answered AFTER you have read the chapter.

Introduction

Yes, this is like a college class. Yes, you need to read the material. Yes, there will be an exam. It's called life...as a Seventh-day Adventist. The whole point of the book is that for the most part, most SDA's don't know who they are, don't know what they believe, and don't know what they are to be doing. Please read the material before coming to class.

■ The Seventh-day Adventist Church

QUESTION #1:

True or False: The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a cult. (Circle one)

QUESTION #2:

What is a cult?

Now answer the question again.

True or False: The SDA Church is a cult.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

QUESTION #3:

True or False: The Seventh-day Adventist Church is Christian. (Circle one)

How do you know?

■ Summarize

What does it mean to be Christian? What does a Christian believe? This is our topic for discussion tonight. You will discover that many churches that claim to be Christian are not Christian. (It is not our business to advertise this around. We don't tear down other people's houses. We build a house next to theirs and invite them to visit us.)

Understand that tonight we are just barely skimming the surface of some very deep subjects. It is not our purpose to explore all of these topics to their depths, but to whet your appetite to want to learn more.

5 C's

Let's look at the 5 C's which define what it means to be a Christian (and a hidden 6th C).

Chapter 3: Do You Know You Are a Christian?

The First “C”: Christ (Messiah, the Anointed One)

QUESTION #1:

What does Anointed One mean?
READ all these scriptures, then answer
for each Scripture reference: What or
who was “anointed” and what special
property or meaning is conferred on
that which has been anointed?



a. Exodus 29:29

b. Leviticus 8:10-11

c. 1 Samuel 9:26-10:1; 2 Samuel 1:14

d. 1 Samuel 16:13

e. Psalms 105:15

f. Isaiah 45:1

g. Isaiah 61:1

QUESTION #2:

READ Daniel 9:25-26. To what or to whom does
“Anointed One” refer? Why?

QUESTION #3:

Who does the Bible say Jesus Christ is (“Christ” is
Greek; “Messiah” is Hebrew)?

For each scripture, give a one to three word summary
answer to the question.

READ John 1:1-3 and 14

READ Colossians 1:13-18

READ Matt. 16:16

READ John 6:68-69

READ 1 John 4:2

SUMMARIZE:

READ Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12. Why is it important to
know who Jesus is?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Do Seventh-day Adventists know who Jesus is?

The Second “C”: the Cross

QUESTION #1:

Historically

1. What was the cross and by
whom was it used?
(Matthew 27:22, 23, 26, 27, 31)



2. On whom was it used, and why? (John 19:17-19)



QUESTION #2:

What basic ideas about the cross do we learn from the following Scriptures?

READ 1 John 4:9

READ Mark 10:45

READ 1 John 2:2

READ 1 Peter 2:24

READ Romans 5:8

READ 1 Timothy 1:15

QUESTION #3:

What of significance was accomplished at the Cross?

READ John 19:30 (the Greek word is *τετελεσται* – *tetelestai* – it is finished!). What do you think was finished?

READ Rev. 12:10. Again, what was finished? (See Daniel 7:13-14)

SUMMARIZE:

What did you learn about the Cross?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Do Seventh-day Adventists know the significance of the Cross? (Consider John 3:16) Explain why you think so.

**The Third “C”:
Commandments**

(Look for the hidden C – we will spend a lot more time on this later.)

QUESTION #1:

What are the four kinds of commandments? (One word answer to each section)



READ Exodus 16, 20:1-17; (repeat: Deut. 5:1-21) What kinds of laws are these?

READ Leviticus 1-7, 16-17, 21-25; Num. 6-10, 18-19, 28-29; Deut. 12-13, 16-19, 26. What kinds of laws are these?

READ Exodus 21-23; Lev. 18-20, 27; Num. 5, 15, 27-30, 35-36; Deut. 20-25. What kinds of laws are these?

READ Lev. 11-15; Deut. 14. What kinds of law are these?

QUESTION #2:

Do we have to obey *all* the Commandments?

READ carefully Matt. 5:18 before you answer.

QUESTION #3:

Why do we obey the Commandments? (Give three reasons from Scripture.)

READ Deut. 4:1 and Prov. 7:2

READ Deut. 6:5; 7:7-8; 8:16-18; 9:4-6 and Matt. 5:16

READ John 15:10, 11

QUESTION #4:

READ Matthew 22:37-40. Are you able to carry out these concepts consistently? Are you perfect? (Romans 7:18-24)

QUESTION #5:

READ – Ezekiel 36:26-27. (This is the hidden C!) Where can you find help to do what you find impossible to do in your own power?

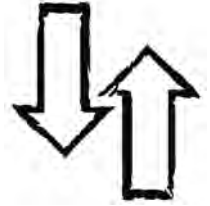
THINK IT THROUGH:

Do Seventh-day Adventists keep the Commandments in the way you just discovered? (This is important! More about this later)

The Fourth “C”: the Great Controversy

QUESTION #1:

Explain the Great Controversy. Give Scripture answers **ONLY** to the following questions.



a. READ Rev. 12:7-9. Where did it begin?

b. READ Gen. 3:1-6. How did it get transferred to earth?

c. READ John 19:30. What was the deciding battle?

d. READ Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 12:17. What's going on now in the Great Controversy?

e. READ Rev. 20:10, 14-15; Rev. 21:1-3. How will it end?

QUESTION #2:

Do other denominations know about this concept? How do you know that they know?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Do Seventh-day Adventists know about and understand the Great Controversy?

■ The Fifth “C”: the Second Coming

QUESTION #1:

Describe the Second Coming
of Jesus Christ

- a. READ Matt. 24:27-31.
Is it literal?

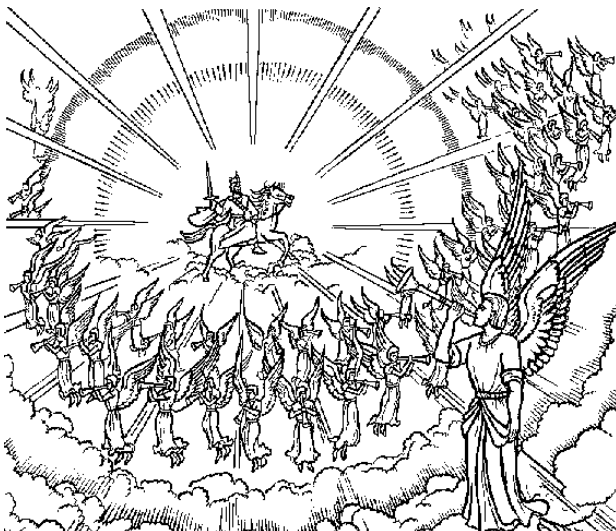
- b. READ 1 Thess. 4:16-17. Is it visible?

- c. READ 1 Thess. 4:16. Is it audible?

- d. READ Rev. 1:7. How many will see this event
happen?

- e. READ 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:16-17. What
happens to the righteous?

- f. READ 2 Thess. 2:8, 10; Rev. 14:17-20. What happens
to the wicked?



QUESTION #2: Why are there so many theories
about what will happen at the Second Coming of Jesus?
(HINT: See the book chapter for a suggested answer)

WHAT DO YOU THINK:

Do Seventh-day Adventists believe in the literal, visible,
audible Second Coming?

These 5 C's – these are what it means to be a Christian.
Many people and many denominations are not Christian
by these basic definitions.

Take Home

Thought Questions

Are you a Christian? How do you know?

Be prepared to give a reason for your faith, if asked:
Are the SDA's a cult or are they Christian?

CHAPTER 4

Do You Know You Are to Live in a Grace-Faith Relationship with God?

Foundational Review

Although this is one of the longest chapters in the book, this chapter contains the heart of the answer to our big question: “Do you know who you are?” Also please note – we are using Scripture continually, because Scripture is the foundation of our studies. Chapters 4-6 are a unit on the relationship with God – one in this session, one at our next session, and one at the third session.

A Relationship

QUESTION #1:

What is a relationship? What essentials are needed to establish a relationship?

QUESTION #2:

In any relationship, what are the two view-points?

Grace-Faith Relationship: Basic Definitions

■ Grace

QUESTION #1:

READ Eph. 2:4-7. Describe Grace using scripture ONLY.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
 - Christ
 - Cross
 - Commandments
 - Great Controversy
 - Second Coming

Grace and Faith

QUESTION #2:

What does Grace do for the sinner? Extract your answer from Eph. 2:4-7.

1.

2.

3.

The Hebrew word is “hesed.” The English word is “lovingkindness.” The Greek word is “*charis*” (from which we get our word “charity.”) The attitude and action of “hesed” or “lovingkindness” or “charity” is a much higher being bestowing an undeserved gift or blessing on a much lower being – so much lower that there is no possibility of the lower being reciprocating.

Chapter 7: Do You Know You Are to Live in a Grace-Faith Relationship with God?

Faith

QUESTION #1:

READ Romans 4:18-21. Describe Faith.

- a. What words in the verses describe Abraham's faith?

- b. Who has promised, according to the verse?

- c. Who is able to perform?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Be careful! Be sure to distinguish between Faith (in someone else) and Faithful (able to stand by myself).

Who has Faith? (Circle one) God or Man

Who is Faithful? (Circle one) God or Man

Don't confuse the two.

The Paralytic... and Us

TURN TO Luke 5:17-25 and read the story.

QUESTION #1:

READ Eph. 1:4.

- a. When did God's Grace begin for the paralytic?

- b. Who makes the first move in your relationship with God?

- c. When did your relationship with God begin for you? How long ago? (Be careful! Trick question!)



THINK IT THROUGH:

For how long are God's commands and promises valid? For how long will God's Grace continue to be available to you? (Review Eph 1:4 and Eph. 2:4 before you answer.)

QUESTION #2:

READ 1 John 4:10. What was the Gift that God gave to the paralytic?

QUESTION #3:

When did the Paralytic *first* express his Faith in Jesus?

- a. How do we respond to the giving of the Gift? If someone offered you \$50, is it yours, if you don't accept it?

- b. What else? What comes before the acceptance of the Gift? READ John 16:8 (also a gift)

- c. Convinced/Convicted of what? What do you need to be convinced of? Look at the words of the verse.

Sin – who has conquered sin? (John 16:33; Romans 8:2)

Righteousness – whose righteousness? (Jeremiah 23:6)

Judgment – who has pronounced judgment and on whom? (John 5:24, 29)

QUESTION #4:

READ Romans 4:21.
But why do we express
Faith in God, based on
what evidence? What
did Abraham based it
on? (Answer from the
words of the verse)



QUESTION #5:

READ Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21. What decision point
MUST the paralytic reach to make the Gift his?

Must it also be the same for you? _____

QUESTION #6:

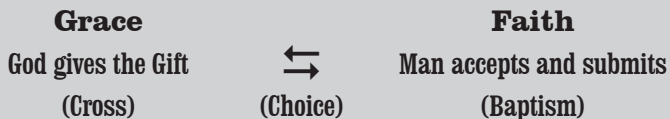
READ John 3:3. How does Jesus describe this
experience?

Are you physically born again? If not, what experience is
Jesus describing?

QUESTION #7:

READ Romans 6:3-4. By what public action do you
make this choice known to the world?

*This is a graphic, formulary depiction of what we have
just studied.*



THINK IT THROUGH:

How and when did you express your Faith in Jesus in
this way?

The Paralytic Again

QUESTION #1:

When did the paralytic express his Faith in Jesus a sec-
ond time? (Replay the scene in your mind.)

a. What was going through his mind as he lay there?

b. Do these thoughts come to you when you place
yourself in God's hands?

c. What did the paralytic *do*?

QUESTION #2:

How can you express your Faith like this? This is VERY
important.

a. READ Romans 6:16, 19. What does it say you should
do which results in sanctification? What is your part?
(Paul says it twice in verse 19. Be very specific.
Quote the exact words of the verse.)

b. READ Romans 6:17. What does Paul call this action?
(middle of the verse)

c. READ John 15:5. What does Jesus call this
same action?

d. READ Hebrews 10:23. Again, exactly WHY would
you do this?

e. READ Phil. 2:13. What will God do IN you at this point?

f. READ Rom 12:2. Can you do this for yourself?

g. READ 2 Cor. 3:18. If you can't do it for yourself, who does it?

QUESTION #3:

READ Ezekiel 36:26, 27. What is the Second Gift? What does He do? (We will talk more about this in a later study)

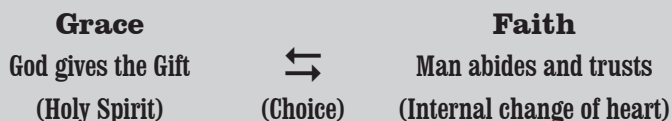
QUESTION #4:

READ Luke 5:20. What did Jesus say to the paralytic in verse 20?

a. Was that enough for the Paralytic? Did Jesus need to do anything further for him? (DA 268)

b. Do you think Jesus and the Paralytic have a relationship at this point?

This is a graphic, formulary depiction of what we have just studied.



THINK IT THROUGH:

Is this second expression of Faith in Jesus harder to do than the first? Why or why not?

The Paralytic One More Time

QUESTION #1:

READ Luke 5:24. Now the Paralytic gets a test of the relationship. When Jesus told the Paralytic to stand up and walk, what did the Paralytic *do* that was the same as what Abraham did? (compare with Romans 4:19-20)

QUESTION #2:

Why does the Paralytic even try to stand up and walk? Be careful. This answer is critical. Consult Romans 4:17-18 and Hebrews 11:17-19. Imagine Abraham standing there with the knife in his hand – what is going through his mind, do you think?



QUESTION #3:

What is the Third Gift? (Part of this is still hidden from the Paralytic, but it is here for completeness.)

a. READ Galatians 5:25. What does Paul call this action?

b. READ Romans 1:5 and 16:26. What does Paul call this action here?

c. READ 1 John 2:6. What does John call this action?

d. READ Genesis 5:22-24. What does Genesis call this action?

(Compare this with the Hebrews account of the same action. READ Heb. 11:5.)

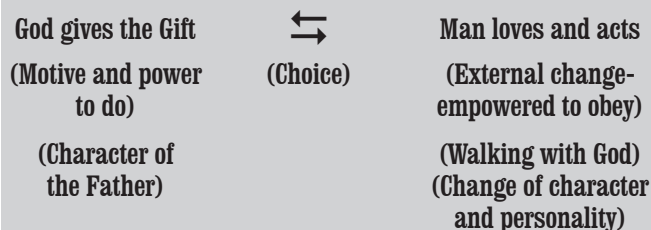
QUESTION #4:

READ Hebrews 11:6. How can we be pleasing to God?
(Compare with Rom. 4:21)

THINK IT THROUGH:

Based on what we have learned – as reflected in this diagram, how can you “walk by the Spirit”?

This is a graphic, formulary depiction of what we have just studied.



Summarize

Name the three Gifts God gives and how we receive each of them.

1.

2.

3.

THINK IT THROUGH:

How does choice play a role in the Grace-Faith Relationship? What makes this so difficult for humans to do?



Take Home

Thought Questions

What's the point of the Grace-Faith Relationship?

READ Exodus 25:8; Jeremiah 24:7; Isaiah 44:8; Revelation 21:3. Is it about “getting the work done” or about “being good?” Or being healthy? Or going to heaven? What's the end game here? What's the outcome that God has been planning all along?

CHAPTER 5

Do You Know You Are to Live in the Gospel of RGB?

Foundational Review

First I want to establish Scripture as the foundation of our study. This study is not about what I said in my book; this is about what the Scripture says. You must have your Bible with you. Second, we must establish foundations – for where we are going – to find answers to the question Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do you know who you are?

Chapters 4-5-6 are a unit. Our last session was #4. This session is #5, and the next session is #6. In this session – I want to go over the Grace-Faith Relationship that we established in our last session, take it apart, and examine its three parts up close. And we will do that through a story.

Basic Truth

TRUTH #1

First I want to establish something vitally important. We know that God loves us. Yes? Good.

TRUTH #2

What is the next truth to be established firmly in your minds? READ Isaiah 59:2. How wide is that separation? Is there any possible way to bridge that gulf between you and God on your own? What is the topic of chapter 2 of Steps to Christ?

The second truth is the great need of mankind for a Savior. Just like the first truth – that God loves you personally. Unless you can accept these two truths – that God loves you personally and that you have a need that you yourself cannot meet – the rest of what we discuss in this seminar will not make any sense whatsoever.

I believe that this is the greatest stumbling block truth to evangelism – not Sabbath, not State of the Dead, not Hell. Many people, including many Seventh-day Adventists, are unwilling to admit and



You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1) and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian – the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
 - Christ
 - Cross
 - Commandments
 - Great Controversy
 - Second Coming
- In a Grace-Faith Relationship (Ephesians 2:8-10)

refuse to acknowledge that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation from the terrible scourge of Sin – and that they are totally unable to meet this need on their own.

The Problem

Turn to Genesis 3. Look at the first five verses. Do you recognize the story? Good. Now, READ Genesis 3:6 and listen carefully. Count the number of different considerations that went through Eve's mind as she contemplated what the serpent had just told her.

QUESTION #1:

How many different factors did Eve consider when allowing sin into the world? (Put your finger in this place – don't lose it.)

QUESTION #2:

Do you remember the story of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness? Good. How many temptations did Jesus face in the wilderness? Hold your place in Genesis 3:6.

Chapter 7: Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

QUESTION #3:

Turn to 1 John 2:16. How many basic temptations does the enemy still use today? What are they? Name them from the verse.

Turn back to Genesis 3:6. Compare the two texts – do they look the same?

Sin comes in a set of three. We could look at Psalm 51:1-2 for the three names for the three kinds of sin. And we could look at Romans 5:6, 8, 10 for how they are described there. But I don't want to dwell here – we will come back to this in our next session.

QUESTION #4:

READ 1 Corinthians 13:13. How many parts would you expect God to use in the Covenant Grace- Faith Relationship to solve the sin problem?



The Illustration and the Story

THE ILLUSTRATION

Last time we talked, we discussed the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as a single concept. Today I want to examine that concept in its three parts. I call these three parts of the solution: R – G – B. Look at the back of a video player. Three plug-in jacks – Red, Green, Blue – are the three colors that your eye can see. From these three colors your brain then creates all of the other colors. I want to use these three letters to examine God's Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with us.

THE STORY

To do this, I want to use the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Turn there, starting in verse 11. Do you know this story? Write a short summary outline of the story.

REMEMBER TRUTH #2.

You and I are the Prodigal. For the rest of this chapter to make sense, you must see yourself as the Prodigal.

Received From:

Faith, the First Gift, and the Son

QUESTION #1:

Let's focus on the gifts that the Father gives the Son.

- a. READ Luke 15:22. What gifts did the Prodigal Son receive on returning home?

- b. What's so special about these gifts? What is the significance of each gift?

Robe

Ring

Sandals

- c. What's the significance of these gifts? What do they mean to the Prodigal?

- d. Was he expecting these gifts? Did he deserve these gifts?

QUESTION #2:

Now, you are the Prodigal. What is the First Gift offered by God to you? (John 3:16)

- a. How big a gift is this? Describe what all you think is encompassed by this gift. (clue: Philippians 2:5-8)

- b. Just like the Prodigal: Do you deserve it?
(Romans 3:10-19)

- c. Then why does God offer it? What does it say in
John 3:16? (CHECK Truth #1 above)

QUESTION #3:

READ Ephesians 2:8. How can we accept this Gift?

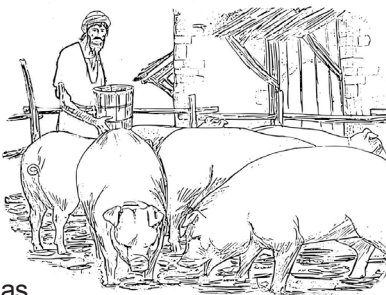
If you don't know what Faith is, look at Romans 3:21.
We talked about it in our last session.

Growing In:

Hope, The Second Gift, the Holy Spirit

Let's return to OUR Story. Yes, please see it as OUR story, not just the Prodigal's story. Watch carefully what happens to the Prodigal. See if you recognize this same Growth in your own life.

READ Luke 15:17. Do you mean to tell me that this Prodigal, who is so deluded by the Devil, so steeped in sin, so enslaved to his sinful life that he is now staring at a locust pod – *pig food* – as food for himself, now suddenly has an amazing insight into his own situation? Really?



QUESTION #1:

READ John 16:8; Ephesians 1:18.

- a. What was the gift that the Prodigal received, even while still at the pig sty?

- b. Who helped the Prodigal to understand his situation?

- c. Who has been convicting him all the way?

QUESTION #2:

Is that same Gift also offered to you? (John 14:16)

QUESTION #3:

The work of the Holy Spirit.

- a. REVIEW Luke 15:17. What did the Holy Spirit help the Prodigal Son to remember that would cause him to think that his Father would even give him the time of day, even as a servant?

- b. In Luke 15:19, what else does the Prodigal remember?

- c. READ verse 18. Although the Prodigal does not know how the generosity of his Father will interact with his own unworthiness, what has the Prodigal decided to do? (clue: Romans 6:16, 19)

- d. READ Romans 8:5. What has the Prodigal set his mind on? What course of action has he chosen to follow? (Luke 15:18)

- e. READ John 14:17. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit does – when you have chosen to “present yourself?”

This is what happens when you “present yourself” in this manner to the Holy Spirit's influence. READ 2 Corinthians 3:18. In our next session we will discuss all that transpires as a result of this interaction with the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION #4:

Let's focus on your response to this second gift.

READ John 15:5. What does Jesus say that you should do as a response?

QUESTION #5:

READ Hebrews 10:23 and Romans 15:13. Use the information in these two scriptures and answer the following questions.

a. What is Hope; that is, what is constant expectancy?

b. In whom do you have Hope – yourself or God?

c. Whom do you constantly expect to be faithful – you or God?

This concept of Hope, this constant expectancy that the Holy Spirit will accomplish in us what God and Jesus have promised, is one of the most powerful concepts ever. Can you see the reason for the joy and peace talked about in Romans 15:13? As a summary statement, READ Romans 5:1-5. Think about that Scripture as a preparation for the next session.



Becoming Like:

Love, the Third Gift, and the Father

QUESTION #1:

Just to be very clear, about whom was the Prodigal's father thinking as he watched the road every day? Was he thinking about himself or about his son?

QUESTION #2:

As the Prodigal approaches the turn off from the main road that leads to home, he is a bit hesitant.

a. READ Luke 15:19. Whom did the Prodigal think he would embarrass when he returned home, himself or his father? Whom is the Prodigal thinking about, himself or his Father?

b. Whom is the Prodigal becoming like?

QUESTION #3:

READ 2 Peter 1:2-4. Now concentrate on verse 4.

a. Whom does God want you to become like? Whom was the Prodigal becoming like?

b. READ Galatians 5:22-23. How else is this state of being described?

c. If the Spirit makes you alive, how do you function when this fruit appears in your life? (look at Galatians 5:25)

d. READ Ephesians 3:19. How does Paul describe this state of being?

e. READ Jeremiah 31:33. With your new knowledge, explain the meaning of this verse.

f. READ Jeremiah 24:7. What is the impact of the final outcome of the Great Controversy? Where is God going with this Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with you?

Summary

Do you know who you are?

- A Saint, and greatly beloved.
- A human being, in great need of Salvation.
- A recipient, of the greatest rescue plan ever devised.

QUESTION #1:

READ 1 John 4:16. Here is the perennial question: Why does God do this for you?

This is why God is running towards you. Remember, you are the Prodigal.



READ Luke 15:20. This is one of the most awesome pictures of God in the Bible. The running God, running to embrace you.

This then is the core of the Christian life. This is the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. This is the agreement that you have with God. What He has promised you and what you have promised Him. It's a Covenant. It is the basics of how Christianity works. This will be the operating basis for the rest of our sessions, just as it is the basis for the Christian life in Christ.

Take Home

Thought Questions – When you enter into the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship:

- a. What does God promise to do for you? (Ephesians 3:14-20)

- b. What do you promise to do for God? (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:20-21)



CHAPTER 6

Do You Know You Are to Walk with God?

Foundational Review

This Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship has three Parts:

- **Received From: Faith – Gift/Son**
(what He has promised, He is able to perform)
- **Growing In: Hope – Gift/Holy Spirit**
(confident expectancy)
- **Becoming Like: Love – Gift/Character of the Father**
(partake of divine nature)

What we have outlined above is basic Christianity. All that we have studied up to now is the first section of the book. And what's the driving force? What makes this Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship work? (READ Gal. 5:6 if you have forgotten.) Love is the driving force; God's Love for us, our Love response to Him.

This relationship is not just for SDA Christians. This is for all Christians. Be careful. There are other Christians besides SDA Christians.

Please note the following principles:

- #1: All the Gifts are received by **Faith** (in story of the Paralytic and the Prodigal).
- #2: It is always *your* **Choice** to receive or not to receive the Gifts.
- #3: The **First Move** is always God's move (in our study last session).
- #4: While one member of **Godhead** is emphasized at each level, **all three** are involved at every level.
- #5: Each level is **more complex** than the diagram appears; for example, Level I gifts include repentance, faith, cleansing, righteousness, adoption, and reconciliation.
- #6: **Hope** is the courage to go on in confident expectancy.
- #7: **Love** is the driving force.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Ephesians 2:8-10)
 - Received From (1 John 4:7)
 - Growing In (Ephesians 4:12-16)
 - Becoming Like (2 Peter 1:4)

The Middle Section of the Book

Now we will move on (following the counsel of Hebrews 2:1) and leave behind the elemental teachings to press on to a more mature, more intimate relationship with God in the Christian life. In the middle section of the book, the Relationship gets more intense. And this session's concept is critical!

Chapters 4-5-6 are a unit. Chapter 6, the final chapter of this unit, is the preparation for that level of intensity. This is so critical that unless and until SDA Christians make the concept in this chapter operative in their lives, all the rest of what we will study, none of it will happen.

Have you ever asked yourself:

Okay, I understand the theory. But how does it actually work? Let's look at the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship chart, take it apart, and examine how it actually works, especially the second part.

Chapter 6: Do You Know You Are to Walk With God?

Everyone knows that they want to accept Jesus as their Savior. Everyone knows that they want to go to heaven. But what happens in between those two events? How does it actually work? How do you get from “accept Jesus” to “walk with God?”

This is the major question. (READ Hebrews 11:5-6 and Gen. 5:21-22 to get a scriptural idea.) How can I be “pleasing to God?” How do I “walk with God?” How does this actually work?

Introduction

QUESTION #1:

(TEST) Draw a line to MATCH the phrases in column B that go with the phrases in column A.

A

- (1) Hope
- (2) Confess with the Mouth
- (3) Pleasing to God
- (4) Grace

B

- (a) Faith
- (d) Walk with God
- (c) Abide
- (b) Believe in the Heart

- (Ephesians 2:8)
- (Colossians 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1)
- (Hebrews 10:23; John 15:5)
- (Romans 10:9-10)

QUESTION #2:

Explain how all of the above word pairs are related to each other. (Compare this group with the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship Chart. Look at the Scriptures attached and compare the word pairs to the chart.)

QUESTION #3:

Explain how each of these situations makes it hard to be a Christian. Explain your answer.

- a. The world does not follow God. (What do they follow?) (1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 2 Peter 1:16; Matt. 15:9)

- b. We are trained to function like the world. How does the world function? (Gal. 5:17, 19-21)

- c. We don't know what to do after we confess. (What do we usually do?) (Luke 18:18-21)

- d. We don't know how to walk. (How should we “walk?”) (1 John 2:6; Gal. 6:2)

Level I:

Love is the Driver



This is R.

Received From (confession, surrender, repentance) but how does it actually work?

QUESTION #1:

READ Romans 10:8-10.

- a. What does it mean to confess with the mouth?

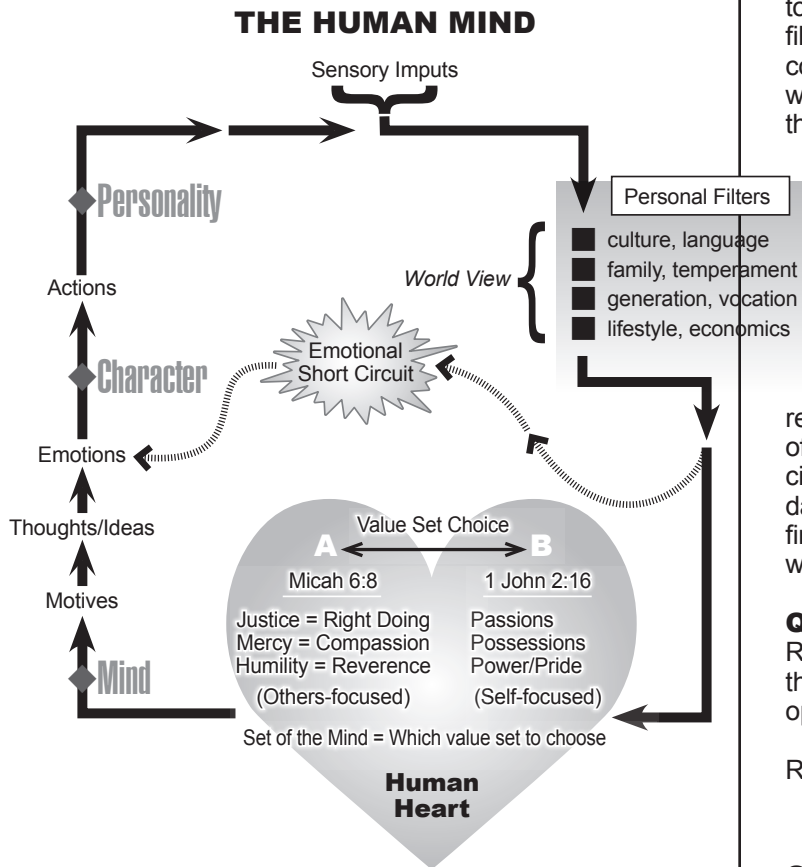
- b. What does it mean to believe in your heart?

- c. Is this just an intellectual acceptance? If not, what is it?

- d. Is this just a legal transaction that we agree to? If not, what else is involved?

QUESTION #2:

Where is the biblical “heart” and what critical, basic activity happens there?
(See the chart: The Human Mind)



QUESTION #3:

READ Matt 22:37. What more is Jesus asking of us, than just an intellectual declaration?

QUESTION #4:

Review the story in John 21:12-17. What was Jesus asking of Peter?

Remember: Love is the driver!

Level II:

The Heart



This is Growing In.
(unpacked)

The functions of the human mind are illustrated in the accompanying diagram. At the top of the diagram various sensory inputs enter the mind – sight, sounds, touch, odors, flavors, and balance. These inputs are filtered through the preset attitudes and assumptions, conditioned by and adopted from the situations in which we became adults. Then the inputs are passed on to the most critical processor, the heart. Here the inputs are evaluated and compared to the set of values held in the heart. By this comparison choices are made to accept, reject, or modify their meaning and what response would be appropriate. On the basis of these choices, motives are assigned (mind), thoughts are constructed (character), and actions are considered and may be taken (personality).

Notice the emotional short-circuit which can allow a response/action to take place without the considerations of the choice, motive, and thought functions. This short-circuit can be helpful in an emergency. It can also be dangerous when the habit is developed to react without first considering whether a true emergency exists and what response would be appropriate.

QUESTION #1:

READ Romans 8:5. The basic concept is the mindset or the set of the mind. The mindset constitutes the basic operating philosophy of the heart.

READ Romans 7:18. Do you have the ability to choose?

QUESTION #2:

What are the two options for a “mindset” in the “human heart?” (Fill in outline)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. READ 1 John 2:16 | b. READ Micah 6:8 |
| Lust of the _____ | Do _____ |
| Lust of the _____ | Love _____ |
| Pride of _____ | Walk _____ |

(Did you notice that both options come in a set of three?)

QUESTION #3:

READ Romans 8:6. How does Paul describe the two options for a “mind set” in the human heart?

What is the result of each option?

QUESTION #4:

READ Romans 6:17, 19b, 21-22. How important is this “obedience from the heart?” What does it result in?

THINK IT THROUGH:

READ Romans 7:18. Do you have the ability to choose between the options in your “heart?”

Satan does not want you to know that you have the power to choose. This is the reason for the distractions, the deception, and the divisions that he tries to insert into every Christian’s life.



The Holy Spirit

REALLY IMPORTANT SECTION!

QUESTION #1:

READ Jeremiah 17:9; 13:23. Do you have the power to change your own heart?

Repeat this to yourself until you hear it: “I do not have the power to change my heart.”

(Maybe we should stop trying and do it the Jesus way.)

QUESTION #2:

READ John 14:16-17. In response to our confession of mouth and belief of heart in Level I, what did Jesus promise?

- a. READ Ezek. 36:26-27. Who has knowledge, patience, and skill to change our hearts?

- b. READ Romans 8:11; Ezekiel 37:14; 2 Corinthians 3:6, John 6:63. Who has the gifts, power, and life to enable us to do that which we cannot do on our own?

The Heart Change

How does this actually work? How does the Holy Spirit do this heart change? Is it magic? How and when are we changed by the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION #1:

READ Acts 2:38. When do you receive the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION #2:

READ 2 Corinthians 3:18. How does the Spirit change your focus?

Whom do you focus on by the Spirit?

- a. READ John 14:26. Whose teaching do we focus on by the Spirit?

- b. READ John 15:26. Whom does the Spirit testify about?

QUESTION #3:

READ Romans 12:2. What further does the Holy Spirit do to you?

- a. READ 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11. What is given to the new Christian and who decides what each Christian receives?

- b. READ Ephesians 4:12-13. Through what mechanism or organization does the Holy Spirit build close bonds of fellowship and ministry?

- c. READ Ephesians 3:16. While strengthening the church organization through ministry to be more effective, what happens internally to the individual Christian?

- d. READ Galatians 5:22, 23. What is the Holy Spirit creating within each individual Christian in placing Christians together in a group effort in ministry?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- e. READ 2 Peter 1:4. What is the final end product that the Holy Spirit is creating in each individual Christian?
- _____
- _____
- _____

SUMMARY:

1. What does the Spirit give us? Romans 8:11

2. How does He give it? Ephesians 3:16

3. What did Jesus call this process? John 3:8

Although there are many more Scriptures to support suggest this same progression of Holy Spirit work, this marvelous concept seems to be the best kept secret in all of Christendom. So many people seem not to know how this works or to care to participate in it. But this is how the Holy Spirit actually does this heart change, in combination with our heart choice.

Level III:
*Combining Faith and Hope;
 Becoming Like*



Now that we have explored how Level I and Level II works, how does Level III actually work?

QUESTION #1:

READ Heb. 11:6. What does the verse say “pleases” God? (Answer only with scripture.)

In our last session, this was part of our definition of Faith from Hebrews and from Romans – to believe He is and to believe He can do what He promised. Faith made the human response to God’s Grace possible in Level I.

QUESTION #2:

What makes the human response possible in Level II? In order to “please God” we must choose to:

- a. Give up our hu _ _ _ m _ _ _ s _
 (aka submission – Eph. 4:22, 23; Rom. 8:5, 6)
 - b. Recognize that we (can vs. cannot – circle one)
 act on the decision we have made. (Romans 7:18)
 - c. Come to Life. How do we “live” or “come to life?”
 (Ezek. 37:14)
- _____

QUESTION #3:

READ Gal. 5:25. If we live by the Spirit, Let us walk by the Spirit. If we receive Level I by Faith, and Level II by Faith, how do we receive Level III?

Summarize

All three levels are received by Faith. Are you tired of trying hard? Would you like to learn to walk by Faith?



QUESTION #1:

Is this easy to do? Describe how hard this was for...

Jacob (Gen. 32:24-29)

David (Psalms 51:10)

QUESTION #2:

READ Phil. 2:13-14. Explain this text in light of the above discussion.

QUESTION #3:

The Holy Spirit gives

1. Conviction (John 16:8)
2. Life (Romans 8:11; Ezek. 37:14)
3. Vision of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18)
4. Transformed Mind (Romans 12:2)
5. New Mind Set (Romans 8:6)
6. Power to Strengthen (Eph. 3:16)
7. Power to Do (1 Peter 2:9)

Do these functions of the Spirit all happen in just this order? Why or Why not?

Take Home

Thought Questions:

Why is learning to “walk by the Spirit” pleasing to God? Finish each phrase from the information in the scripture listed with that phrase.

Jeremiah 31:9 – Because God is...

John 16:27 – Because God is...

Colossians 1:10-12 – Because God wants us to be...



CHAPTER 7

Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

Foundational Review

In our last session we moved on from the basic level of Christianity as most people experience it. We explored how the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship actually works, how the gift from Jesus of the Holy Spirit brings internal/external changes promised by God. Let's review one last time this entire relationship in detail just to review what we have covered in our first six sessions.

Level I – The gift is Jesus/Cross. Understand that this is much bigger than a simple sacrifice. We choose to accept this gift from our heart of love responding to His heart of love. (Matt 22:37) We respond by accepting it by Faith, publicly displayed in our baptism.

Level II – The gift of the Holy Spirit has multiple parts – conviction, teaching, heart change, life, abiding, gifting, empowering, leading, group ministry, group growth in the body, character transformation. Our choice is made by choosing our mind set (Micah 6:8 vs. 1 John 2:16). We respond in faith by abiding in the Spirit in Hope.

Level III – What about Level III? What happens here by Faith? Please realize that this third part is a very important part. Our Faith activated in Romans 6:17 as “obedience from the heart” results in 2 Peter 1:4 in “partaking of the divine nature – which means developing a personality like the Father. There is much more to this third part, so much so that we will spend an entire session talking about it. But first we need to fill in some of the details of Level II in a more intense fashion, starting tonight. But let me ask you first, did you read Ephesians 3:14-19? READ it now and follow this outline of its principle parts.

Father	Holy Spirit	Jesus Christ
Riches of Grace (Gifts)	Strengthened with power Inner man (heart)	Dwell (abide) in [our] hearts

Rooted and Grounded in love (accept and receive)
Comprehend and Know the Love (abide and grow)
Filled up to fullness of God (act and become like)

This verse is a complete and concise summary of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. You now know much more than most people will ever know about their Christianity.

In this session let's add one last component – to be complete. This session has one message which is a very simple concept. And in the process we will do a hidden TEST over all that we have covered before.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

This is basic Christianity.

Chapter 7: Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

And in each session we note these basic concepts in our black box on the very first page – to remind us of the Basics of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship that we have with God.

Introduction

If you read Chapter 7 in the book, then you know about the teacups and the cookbooks. Now it is your turn. Write the name of an object that you have held on to in a safe and secure place – because it is a memory of someone precious to you.

(From the chapter – This is a **TEST QUESTION**)
What do we call these precious items? Why?

QUESTION #1:

What does the biblical word “keep” mean?
Choose ONE; explain your choice.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| a. Obeying | d. Owning |
| b. Holding close | e. Remembering |
| c. Hiding in secret | f. Treasuring |

QUESTION #2:

READ Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 – How do we SDA's commonly use the word “keep” when referring to ourselves?



Ten Commandments – Short Form

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| I (No other gods) | V (Father and Mother) |
| II (No images) | VI (Not murder) |
| III (Name in vain) | VII (Not adultery) |
| IV (Sabbath) | VIII (Not Steal) |
| | IX (Not lie) |
| | X (Not covet) |

Let's consider three concepts –

First Concept: The Ten Commandments and what they describe

QUESTION #1:

Explain how the Ten Commandments are a –
(Each expression has a slightly different focus.
Explain each in simple terms.)

- a. Description of the character of God
(clue: Psalms 119:3)

- b. Description of the People of God who follow in His ways

- c. Description of those who are in a relationship with God and choose to be partakers (clue: 2 Peter 1:4)

- d. Description of those who love God (clue: John 15:10)

The 10 Commandments describe:

- Who God is
- Who His people are
- and the relationship

Second Concept: The Will of God

QUESTION #1:

The Will of God for your life – how important is it to you?

- a. READ Hebrews 10:36 – to receive what was promised? What was promised?

- b. READ I John 2:17 – to live forever?
Is the will of God something you think you might need to know and do?

This is the second **TEST QUESTION**:

From all the material that we have studied up to now, choose your own personal Scripture and answer the following question:

- c. What do you think is the will of God for you personally? (Choose your own Scripture and explain it)

THINK IT THROUGH:

Can you carry out the Will of God for you – by yourself? (see Romans 7:18-22)



Third Concept: The Power to Do = Love

QUESTION #1:

READ Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-40.
What motivator is strong enough to make the will of God happen in your life? What did Jesus say?

QUESTION #2:

READ Zech. 4:6. Why love? Why not physical strength? Why not moral fortitude? Why not cultural correctness? Why not intellectual assent and agreement? Why are these any or all of these not enough of a motivator?

QUESTION #3:

Why love? Because...

- a. John 3:16 – LOOK AT the story of Mary at Simon's Feast in Luke 7:40-50 – Notice especially the parable Jesus told.

1. READ Luke 7:42 – What question did Jesus ask of Simon?

2. What was the answer?

The first reason we love is because we are loved. – 1 John 4:19.

- b. LOOK AT Luke 15:11-32 – Review the story of the Prodigal Son, especially the attitude of the older brother and the father's words.

1. READ Luke 15:32 – What reason did the father give for the celebration?

2. Why did the father refer to the younger brother as "this brother of yours"?

The second reason we love is because we are family – "members of the household of God" – Eph. 2:19

- c. LOOK AT Luke 10:30-37 – Review the story of the Good Samaritan.

1. READ Luke 10:33 – Why did the Samaritan do what he did?

2. What cultural, physical, social, economical reason did he have?

3. READ Matthew 25:40 – Whom does God love?
Whom does God want us to love?

4. READ Leviticus 19:34; 1 John 2:2 – Why show compassion for them?

The third reason to love is because they are fellow human beings, our neighbors – Leviticus 18:19

Think It Through

Does God love you? Do you love God? Do you love those whom God loves?

Why we “keep” the commandments – (Fill in the blanks)

a. Not because we try hard, but because we _____ hard. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

b. Because we treasure the _____. (John 17:23)

c. Because it is an act of _____. (Romans 12:1)

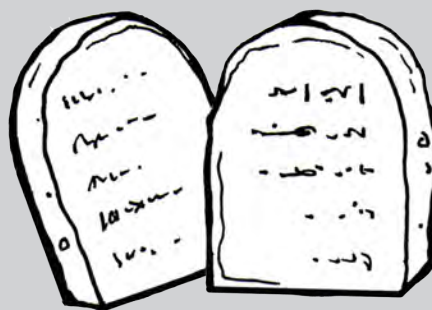
Take Home

Thought Questions – Three Basic Concepts

a. Rethink: Why do you “keep” the Sabbath holy?

b. What do you think: Keeping the Commandments and Having the Faith of Jesus – are these two ideas separate concepts or the same concept? How are they related?

c. Does God love you? Do you love God?



CHAPTER 8

Do You Know You Are a Ministering Priest?

Foundational Review

Read again Ephesians 3:14-19. Never forget – this is the Gospel, the full three part Gospel. This is how it actually works. These are the underlying concepts to all else that will be discussed in the study guide. Also remember, this middle section is not just for SDAs. It is for all Christians who want an intense relationship with God.

In our last session we began the middle section of the book with “keep” the Commandments. This session introduces a new direction and a specific concept. To do this, let’s use what God used to teach this same concept to the children of Israel. Listen to the Scriptures; let the Scriptures teach us.

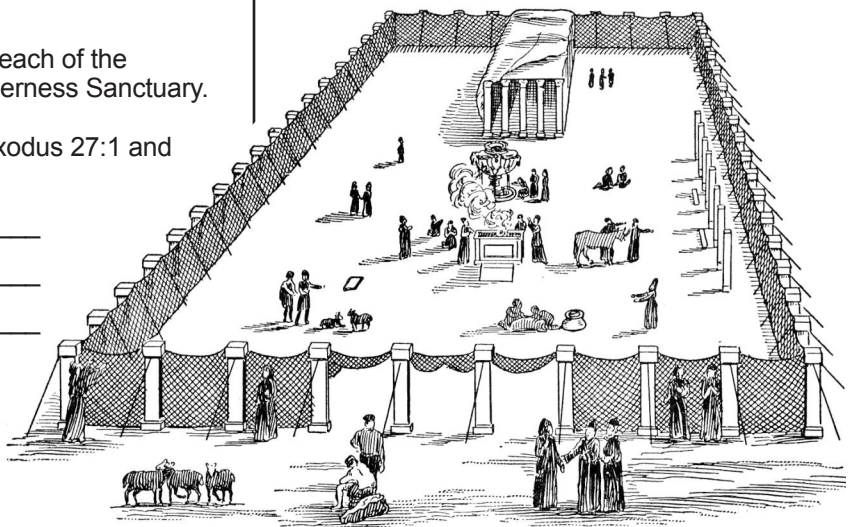
Introduction to Wilderness Sanctuary

Describe, explain the use of, and what took place at each of the articles and furniture found in the Old Testament wilderness Sanctuary.

- a. Altar of Burnt Offering (Exodus 29:38-39 – Use Exodus 27:1 and on to help)

- b. The Laver (Exodus 30:18-19)

- c. The Lampstand (Exodus 27:20-21 – Use Exodus 25:31 and on to help)



- d. The Table of Showbread (Exodus 25:23, 29-30)

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

This is basic Christianity.

Chapter 8: Do You Know You Are a Ministering Priest?

e. The Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-5,6-7)

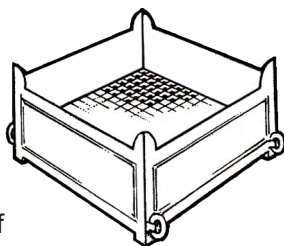
f. The Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10-22)

Now let's begin to draw our lessons for today from the Wilderness Sanctuary.

Altar of Burnt Offering

QUESTION #1:

READ Leviticus 1:3; 4:20. Who brought an offering to the Altar of Burnt Offering? Why?



a. READ Exodus 29:38-39. How often was this done?

b. Through the death of Jesus, is this sacrifice still available today to those who need it? (Be careful what we say about the Sanctuary.)

Purpose: Accept sacrifice/transfer of sin

Lesson: Always available, may revisit

THINK IT THROUGH:

Is this all there is to the Plan of Salvation?

What is your opinion: Why do so many people think that this is all there is to the Gospel?

Called to be Priests

QUESTION #1:

READ Exodus 19:4-6. What did God promise to do with His people where the other people in the world could see?

QUESTION #2:

READ 1 Peter 2:9. What does God ask of His People today?

Are you sure? (check Revelation 5:9-10)

One of the reasons we encourage people to study Revelation is that it puts emphasis on the critical. Why study the Sanctuary? Because we, who are Christians, have been called to be priests, let's find out what it is that we are called to do as priests.

Laver

QUESTION #1:

READ Exodus 30:18-19. Why did the priests stop to wash at the Laver?



QUESTION #2:

READ Exodus 30:20-21. What was the danger if they did not wash?

QUESTION #3:

Why would they die? (Compare Hebrews 12:29 and Isaiah 33:14 with Psalms 24:3, 4)

QUESTION #4:

READ and compare John 13:10 and Matthew 15:18-20. In the Ordinance of Humility, what is symbolically being washed clean again?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Is this about cleaning ourselves up before we minister? Is this about being afraid God will strike us down if we are dirty? What is this about?

QUESTION #1:

What part of us needs daily cleansing (clue: Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 2:29)?

QUESTION #2:

READ John 13:12-15. Why do we do this before we minister? (Compare Exodus 30:18-20 with Hebrews 12:28b-29.)

QUESTION #3:

What stories do you know from the Bible about people who tried to minister before making sure that they were prepared, were rededicated, were in the relationship, were abiding?

QUESTION #4:

As Priests, what's the lesson for us at the Laver?

Purpose: Cleanse the heart**Lesson: Prepare the heart to minister**

Now let's move through the first veil into the first apartment of the Wilderness Sanctuary.

Lampstand

READ John 1:5. With four layers of skins and cloth over the Tent of Meeting, what was the purpose of the Lampstand in the First Apartment?



- a. READ Psalms 119:105; cf. John 1:9-14. Who/What does the Lampstand represent?

- b. READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does the Light do for us?

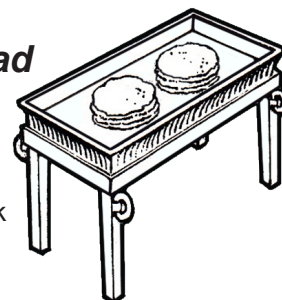
THINK IT THROUGH:

As priests, what's the lesson for us from the Lampstand? As priests what are we to do with the Light we have received from the Word?

Purpose: To learn in order to teach**Lesson: Be enlightened by the Word****Table of Showbread**

(Literally "the Bread of the Face")

Quick Reminder: LOOK AT Exodus 25:23, 29. There is drink as well as bread on the table.

**QUESTION #1:**

The symbolism of the showbread.

- a. READ Leviticus 24:9. What did the priests do with the showbread?

b. READ John 4:34. What did Jesus say was His bread, His food?

c. READ John 6:53-57 with John 14:12. What is to be our bread and our drink?

d. READ Galatians 6:2; cf. Leviticus 18:1. As priests, what burdens do we bear?

QUESTION #2:

How intimately are we connected to the ministry of Christ at the Table of the Bread of the Face?

QUESTION #3:

We have to ask this question because so many people use this as an excuse to not come to Communion. READ I Corinthians 11:17-30. In the context of the Sanctuary service of priests, what is the significance of agreeing to partake in Communion?

Are you “worthy” to serve?

QUESTION #4:

READ Jer. 23:6. What makes you “worthy?” What did you gain at the Altar of Burnt Offering and at the Laver that makes you “worthy” to serve?

QUESTION #5:

READ John 14:16-17. What Gift did you receive that makes your service possible? How do you receive that Gift?

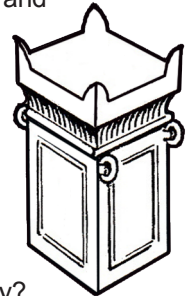
THINK IT THROUGH:

As priests, what’s the lesson for us at the Table of Showbread?

Purpose: *To participate in the ministry of Jesus*

Lesson: *Ministry is practical*

Do you see how important it was to understand the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship? This makes the concept of being a Priest much clearer and easier to grasp.



Altar of Incense

QUESTION #1:

READ Exodus 30:6 (compare with Hebrews 9:3-4). Where and how is the Altar of Incense placed in the Sanctuary?

QUESTION #2:

READ Revelation 8:3-4. What activity takes place here just across “the Veil” from God?

QUESTION #3:

With Whom are you most closely aligned physically and spiritually when interceding on behalf of others?

THINK IT THROUGH:

As priests, what’s the lesson for us at the Altar of Incense?

Purpose: *To intercede for others*

Lesson: *Learn to pray like Jesus*

SPECIAL QUESTION:

READ John 16:13; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11; Romans 8:26-27. Which member of the Godhead has primary responsibility for the activities of the priests in the first apartment?



Take Home

Thought Questions

Think about each piece of furniture in the Sanctuary as you answer each question.

1. Can you wash your own feet? (Romans 12:2)

How desperately we need the Holy Spirit to function as Christians!!

2. Who especially needs the Light? (Isaiah 60:1-2; Matthew 15:14)

When you see the Light, what are you to do with it? (Matthew 5:16)

3. What are we promising to do when we partake of Communion? (John 13:15; 14:12)

We are promising to make Jesus' food, our food.

4. What does it mean to partake of Communion unworthily? (Compare 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 with John 13:18)

When we no longer abide, such that we can no longer minister, our light has gone out.

5. How close to God are you when you are praying for others? (Exodus 30:6; Hebrews 9:3-5)

6. Why did we need to establish the abiding of the Holy Spirit in us before embarking on this assignment as priests? (Ephesians 3:16)

7. What do you think the people of the world would do if they found some group of Christians who were actually doing what is outlined here? How do you think they would respond? What would they do? What would they say? (See Colossians 3:12-17)



CHAPTER 9

Do You Know You Are Called to be a Faithful Steward?

Foundational Review

In this middle section of the book is the full, three part Gospel which is for all Christians, not just SDAs. This is how the Gospel actually does its work in those who want a more intense relationship with God.

In this middle section, we talked about that more intense relationship with God:

#1: Why we “keep” the Commandments.

#2: How we function as Priests in our work for others, as emphasized in Level II.

This week, we are emphasizing another important segment:

#3: Functioning in the attitude of a Steward/Servant.

■ *Eliezer the Steward*

QUESTION #1:

What is a Steward? Choose ONE; explain and defend your answer.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a. A slave | d. A servant |
| b. A manager | e. An underling |
| c. A non-owner | |

QUESTION #2:

TURN TO Genesis 24. Review the story of Eliezer in Genesis 24:1-9; 10-14; 15-26. How do the following characteristics describe the role of a Steward as illustrated by Eliezer?

- a. Praying: When Eliezer prays, to whom does he pray? Whose God does Eliezer trust? (Verse 27)

Why does Eliezer say “the God of my master Abraham?”

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

This is basic Christianity.

Stewardship
is

Heart
Work

Chapter 9: Do You Know You Are Called to be a Faithful Steward?

b. Persistent: Whom does Eliezer represent? Whose mission is he on? (Verse 33-34)

c. Persuasive: How careful and focused is Eliezer? (Verse 33-56)

1. When Bethuel and Laban set food before him, what does Eliezer say?

2. When and only when did Eliezer bring out the silver and gold presents?

3. What did Eliezer say when Bethuel and Laban wanted to delay his departure?

Eliezer was the consummate business manager. And yet NONE of what Eliezer had or did or said was about him or about anything that was his.

Mindset of a Steward

QUESTION #1:

READ Luke 17:7-10. Describe the mindset of a Steward.

Does this seem harsh to you?

In John 13:3-5 Jesus washes the disciples' feet. Then in Matthew 20:28, Jesus says: "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve."

QUESTION #2:

READ Phil 2:1-5. Try again with this new information; describe the Steward mindset.

Reach for a concept/idea that is beyond just being a good manager. Imagine the reason why the Steward/Manager is a good steward. What makes this attitude in a human being possible – since this is one of the answers to the question: Seventh-day Adventist Christian: do you know who you are?

Faithful

QUESTION #1:

Think about the characteristics of a Steward outlined above and about the lives of the men listed below. Describe what each man was given to manage and give an illustration of the circumstance under which he managed. For each man choose ONE characteristic that describes how he managed. (See the book chapter for help.)



<u>Man</u>	<u>What he manages</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>
Moses			Numbers 12:7
Joseph			Genesis 39:4-6; Hebrews 11:22
Abraham			Genesis 15:6
Paul			Romans 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:7

QUESTION #2:

READ Matthew 24:45 and Matthew 25:21. What is the main characteristic of a Steward?

But what made it possible for each of these men to carry out their task for God?

**QUESTION #3:**

What does the word “faithful” mean? (check a dictionary)

“Faithful” in both Hebrew and Greek means firm, permanent, steadfast, unchanging, unwavering, solid, unmovable, stable, sure.

It is important to understand the meaning of faithful (the basic concept of the Steward/Manager) in the relationship of being human vs. being God, the difference between faithfulness in God and faithfulness in Man.

QUESTION #4:

READ Deuteronomy 7:9-10. What does it mean when God is “faithful?”

QUESTION #5:

READ Psalm 78:37. What does it mean when Man is “faithful?”

In this understanding, consider the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship.

QUESTION #6:

In each level, how do we accept, abide, and act?

QUESTION #7:

What is this human-type “faithfulness” based on? (Recheck the biblical definition of Faith. READ Romans 4:21.)



God and Man

With this definition of Faith firmly in mind, let's look at the relationship between the faithfulness of God and the faithfulness of Man and how they interact with each other. Let's look at another relationship in the Bible.

QUESTION #1:

READ Genesis 5:24. What was Enoch doing when taken up by God?

QUESTION #2:

READ Hebrews 11:5. Why was Enoch taken up?

QUESTION #3:

READ 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Colossians 1:10. What does “pleasing” mean and how is it related to “walking with God?”

READ Hebrews 10:23 – this is God's faithfulness.
READ Hebrews 11:1-3 – this is human faithfulness.

Here in Hebrews 11 we find listed all of the “faithful”, from Abel to Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and on. Hebrews 11:2 says “for by it [faith] men of old gained approval.”

QUESTION #4:

In what did they have their faith? In themselves?

QUESTION #5:

Verse 4 says that by faith Abel did... By Faith in whom?

QUESTION #6:

Verse 5 says that by faith Enoch did... By Faith in whom?

QUESTION #7:

What does Hebrews 10:23 say? Who is faithful?

QUESTION #8:

Back to Hebrews 11:3 –

a. By faith we understand what? By faith in whom?

b. READ John 15:5, 10-12. How do we “please God” and “walk with God”?

QUESTION #9:

READ Ephesians 3:16 (Look at the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship Model. Look at Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18). How is it that Enoch (and we) are made capable of such a walk? Who is responsible for making this happen?

■ Think It Through

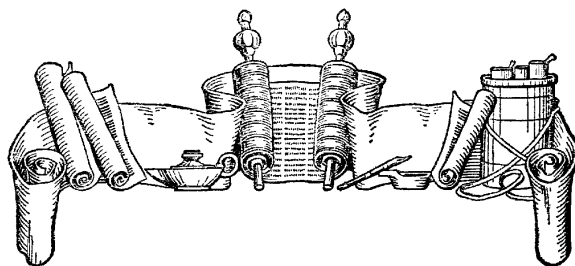
QUESTION # 1:

READ Hebrews 11:6. In Whom does Enoch have faith?

What two concepts does Enoch believe about God?

Question #2:

With this in mind, explain what make Enoch and Eliezer “faithful.”



Take Home

Thought Questions

Whom do you trust? What do you believe about God?

Since this is critical to being a good Steward, what is faithfulness?

CHAPTER 10

Do You Know You Are a Seventh-day Adventist?

Foundational Review

Just as in the last two sessions, READ Ephesians 3:14-19. Never forget that this is the full, three part Gospel. This is how it actually works. These are the underlying concepts to all else that we will discuss. This middle section is not just for SDAs, but for all Christians who want an intense relationship with God.

Elijah and the People

QUESTION #1:

READ 1 Kings 18:21 and the story about Elijah facing down the people in the book chapter.

- a. Why did the people not answer when Elijah told them to choose between God and Baal?
 1. Religion wasn't important to them.
 2. They didn't remember the Exodus stories.
 3. They were confused.
 4. They didn't know who they were.

QUESTION #2:

What do you think: Are we SDAs like these Israelites? (premise of the book)

The last third of the book is about being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Let's take all that we have said about being Christians and being intense about our relationship with God and apply it specifically to Seventh-day Adventists. And let's find out what the Bible has to say, specifically, about Seventh-day Adventists.

A question that immediately arises is: What makes us think that Seventh-day Adventists are so special? Aren't we being a little arrogant? Especially when we think of ourselves as the Last Day Remnant people?

You Are:

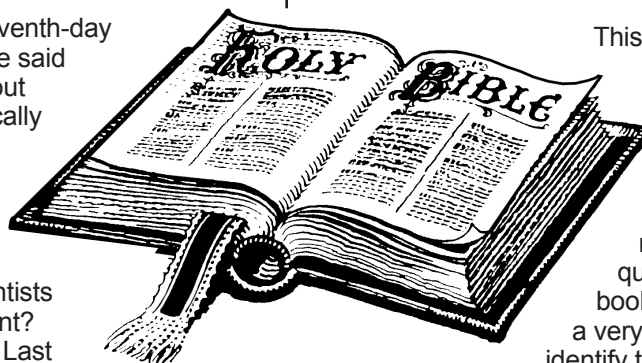
- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

This is basic Christianity.

Think It Through

Are we being arrogant? Does the Bible really describe Seventh-day Adventists at the Time of the End as the Remnant people?

Let's find out. Open your Bibles. Set the diagram of the book of Revelation (at the end of this session) next to your Bible as we work through this session.



This is an old-fashioned Bible Study. Don't go too fast; stop and think through what the Bible says. Try to understand it. Remember: we are not trying to answer all questions posed by the book of Revelation, just a very specific question "to identify the Last Day Remnant."

Chapter 10: Do You Know You Are a Seventh-day Adventist?

Elijah and the People

To give us a historical connection, let's first orient ourselves to a time-line.

QUESTION #1:

What book of the Bible do we use to create a time-line of God's People?

QUESTION #2:

Yes, turn to the Book of Daniel. Using the "Timeline for the Book of Daniel" found at the end of this exercise, compare what is listed in the outline with what you find in the book of Daniel, specifically:



1. The visions Daniel 2 & 7 which give the overall timeline of the history of the world (Metals and Beasts; Iron plus Iron/Clay and the Little Horn.) Note that Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 designates: time/times/ $\frac{1}{2}$ time and 1260 day/years, followed by the Stone Kingdom and the kingdom given to the saints at the end.
2. The vision of Daniel 8, which has a Sheep with two horns, Goat with one horn which splits into four horns to the four winds. Out of one of these comes the Little Horn which begins the history of the Papacy (538-1798 AD) and Daniel 8:14 which designates the 2300 day/years, but no specific dates, and is followed by the Time of the End.
3. The vision of Daniel 9, which describes the decree to rebuild and occupy Jerusalem (in 457 BC) which describes a period for the Jews (70 weeks of years) from this starting point. This delineates the same starting point for the 2300 days of Daniel, which end in 1844 (in Daniel 8) with the cleansing the sanctuary, a euphemism for judgment.
4. The 70 weeks of years for the Jews, which pinpoints the time of the Cross when the Messiah will be cut off in the middle of the last or 70th week.

That's our basic timeline. The two important dates from Daniel for our study session are the Cross and the end of the 2300 day/years in 1844.

Revelation

The book of Revelation has lots of puzzles to be worked out. In this session we will not try to solve all the puzzles. We will look at just one of the puzzles, the intervals or gaps that appear between the sixth and seventh units in the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets in the first eleven chapters of Revelation.

Look at the simplified outline of Revelation at the end of this exercise. For our purposes we will assume (although some may disagree) that the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets are historical periods that run concurrently, all beginning at the time when the author John is writing. We are not discussing the information found in these units, but we are interested in the historical placement of them.

Interlude #1

QUESTION #1:

LOOK AT Revelation 6:12.

- a. Which seal is described here?

- b. Where is the seventh seal?

- c. What comes in between the sixth and seventh seals?

QUESTION #2:

Find Interlude #1 on your Revelation outline and LOOK AT Revelation 7 about the 144,000.

- a. Verse 1 says four angels are holding back the four winds to prevent destruction. What are they waiting for?

- b. Write on the Revelation outline what happens to this group (verse 2-4) just before the release of the four winds of destruction graphically described at the end of the 6th seal.

- c. READ Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:19. What does this sealing signify/symbolize?

Interlude #1 does not tell us what the historical date is, but we know that the events of this first interlude occur between the sixth and the seventh Seals.



Interlude #2a

QUESTION #1:

LOOK AT Revelation 9:13.

- a. Which trumpet is described here?

- b. Where is the seventh trumpet?

- c. What comes in between?

QUESTION #2:

Find Interlude #2a on your Revelation outline and LOOK AT Revelation 10.

On the Revelation outline write in the following three pieces of information.

- a. READ Revelation 10:6. The Strong Angel announces the end of prophetic time.

Think It Through

1. What time has ended? Earthly time or prophetic time?

2. READ Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6. What kind of time do the prophetic parts of the Bible work in?

3. READ Daniel 8:14. When does the longest and last prophetic time come to an end such that the Strong Angel could say that there is no longer any "time"?

- b. READ Daniel 8:17, 19; 12:4. Write on the outline the name of the book (that was "closed" and is now "opened" – that is, it is to be understood) that the Angel has in his hand – and what time period has now begun.

In 1844 the last time prophecy came to a close and the Time of the End began. This occurred between the sixth and seventh trumpets. If they run concurrently, this is the same historical time as between the sixth and seventh seals. Now we have an historical date for the first two Interludes.

Think It Through

1. READ Revelation 10:7. What is to be completed during this time?

2. READ Col. 1:26-29; 2:2-3. What is the mystery of God?

- c. READ Revelation 10:8-11. What does eating the Little Book do to John (who represents God's Time of the End People) and what must they do afterwards?

What historical event is symbolically described by "sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach"?

Interlude #2b

We are not finished with this Interlude, as the seventh trumpet doesn't appear until the middle of Chapter 11.

QUESTION #1:

Find Interlude #2b on your diagram AND look at the first half of Revelation 11.

Write in on the Revelation outline the following information.

- a. READ verse 11. Who or what was resurrected at this time?

- b. READ verses 2, 3 (compare to Daniel 7:25). What historical time period comes to an end with an earthquake (see verse 13) (similar to the sixth seal Revelation 6:12)?

This is confirmation of the time period for all three of the Interludes to occur.

At the end of the 6th Seal and the 6th Trumpet, prophetic time comes to an end, the Time of the End begins, the Great Disappointment occurs, there is a reawakening of Bible knowledge in the book of Daniel, the Lisbon earthquake, the darkened sun, the red moon, and the falling of the stars all occur – all in the hundred years between 1750 and 1850.



Interlude #3

The first half of the book of Revelation occurs before the break point of the year 1844 (which for John was still future, but for us has already happened). The second half of Revelation occurs after the break point of 1844 (which was future for John, and is still future for us). Before continuing with the narrative of Revelation, John inserts Revelation 12-14 which is the source of our next two Interludes.

QUESTION #1:

LOOK AT Revelation 12 and notice that it is divided into three parts.

- (verses 1-4) History of the Jews, (verses 5) Jesus is a transition
- (verses 6, 13-16) History of Christian Church (Woman in the Wilderness)
- (verse 17) Remnant; this is the group we are trying to identify!

- a. Where do these three historical divisions fit on our Daniel timeline?

- b. Which of these three divisions fits with a date that is already there?

- c. READ verses 6 and 14. How do you know this is where the second division fits?

QUESTION #2:

Find Interlude #3 on your diagram and write in the following three pieces of information.

- a. READ Revelation 12:17. What group emerges after the 1260 years and how does Satan relate to them?

- b. What are this group's two characteristics?

1.

2.

- c. READ Revelation 19:10. What is the testimony of Jesus?

This interlude happens at precisely the same time as the first three interludes and gives us more descriptions of this group of people who emerge at this time in history. Revelation 13 outlines activities of Unholy Trinity. This is part of the Revelation 12-14 complex interlude, but it is not of interest to us and our question: "Who is the Remnant?"

Revelation 14:12

Interlude #4

Revelation 14 outlines the activities of the People of God during the Time of the End. This is also part of this three chapter interlude and it is of importance to us.

QUESTION #1:

Write down on the Revelation outline the following information.

- a. Two purposes for the sealing of this group as found in verses 1 and 4.
1. (see Revelation 7:2, 3)

2. (See Mark 1:17)

This second answer has been the whole point of our study during the first nine chapters of this book.

- b. In verses 6-12, what do those who follow the Lamb have to say to the world?

We will discuss these Three Angels Messages later, but here they are. Write them down on the Revelation outline. Note the historical time when these three messages are to be delivered. It is following Revelation 12:17, when the dragon makes war with the “remnant of her seed,” that Revelation 13 and 14 take place.

QUESTION #2:

READ Revelation 12:16. What time period has just finished?

QUESTION #3:

READ Rev. 12:17. What time period has now begun?

In this interlude we find more descriptions of this group of people whom we are trying to identify, the Remnant which has three messages to share with the world.

Characteristics of the Remnant

Let's put together all of the characteristics described in the interludes.

- appear at the end of the 1260 day-years, after the falling of the stars
- are awaiting the sealing of the Holy Spirit
- are charged with calling the large group of victors in the Time of the End
- understand the book of Daniel just as prophetic time ends
- go through a Great Disappointment in order to speak further to the whole world
- are the “remnant of the seed” of the church in the wilderness
- keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus and/or the faith of Jesus
- have the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy
- are to give the Three Angels Messages.

QUESTION #1:

Who are these people?

QUESTION #2:

Do you know who you are?

Think It Through

If the world is poised between the sixth and seventh Seals and the sixth and seventh Trumpets, if all pieces are in place for the final events to happen, why is the process not moving forward?

What's missing on our outline? Don't the Churches, Seals, and Trumpets run concurrently? Do we have an interlude between the 6th and 7th Seals? Do we have an interlude between the 6th and 7th Trumpets? Then what's missing?

Interlude #5

QUESTION #1:

READ Revelation 3:17, 18. Where is the Interlude between the sixth and seventh Churches and what does it reveal?

Laodicea – and her apathetic attitude – serves as its own interlude. The church (woman in the wilderness) was dying in Thyatira. The church in Sardis was brought back to life by the Spirit. The church in Philadelphia was gaining strength for the test to come. But progress stopped with the apathy of Laodicea.

Conclusion

QUESTION #1:

LOOK AT Revelation 3:14-22 and compare this with our opening story of Elijah and the people on Mt. Carmel. What does Laodicea not know?

QUESTION #2:

READ Hebrews 12:26-27. How will God get the process moving forward again?

QUESTION #3:

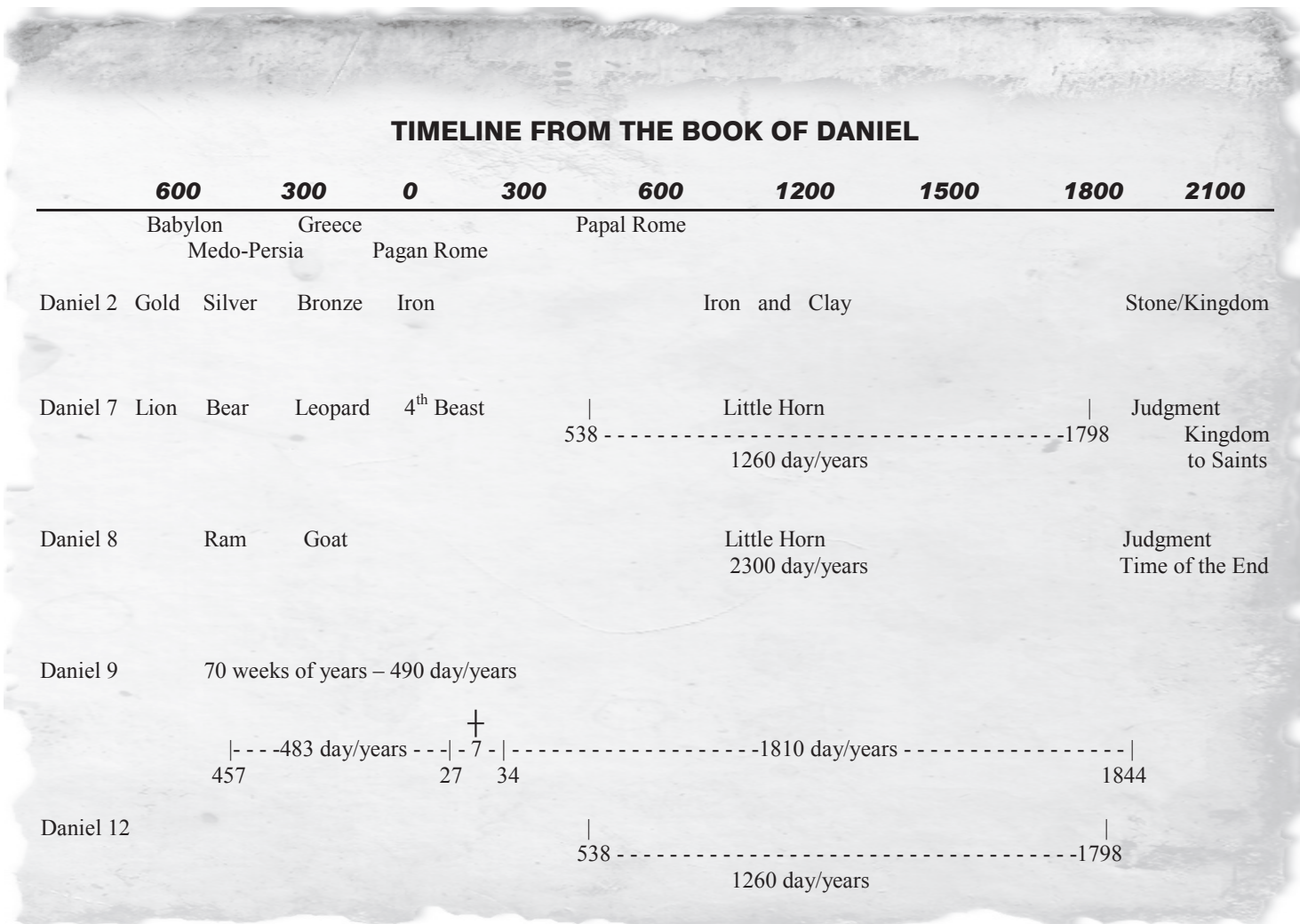
How are these people of Laodicea like the people of Elijah's time? (Compare 1 Kings 18:21 with Revelation 3:17.)

Take Home

Thought Question

Is claiming that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the Remnant a statement to be arrogant about or a statement to be ashamed of?

We begin our discussion of the second half of our studies about who we are with the very difficult reality that we are Laodicea and we don't know that we are the Remnant. It's not arrogance; it's a desperate situation that God must correct. We cannot correct it.



SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION



“Interludes”	
Chapter 1	Introduction and purpose of the book
Chapter 2-3	The Seven Churches <i>Interlude #5: Chapter 3:14-18 – Laodicea</i>
Chapter 4-5	The Heavenly Throne Room
Chapter 6	The Six Seals <i>Interlude #1 – Chapter 7: The 144,000 and the Great Multitude</i>
Chapter 8:1	The Seventh Seal
Chapter 8-9	The Six Trumpets <i>Interlude #2a – Chapter 10: The Strong Angel</i>
	<i>Interlude # 2b – Chapter 11:1-14: The Two Witnesses</i>
Chapter 11:15-19	Seventh Trumpet
Chapter 12	The History of the Great Controversy on Earth <i>Interlude #3 – Chapter 12:17: The Remnant (cf. Chapter 19:10)</i>
Chapter 13	The Activities of the Unholy Trinity
Chapter 14	The Activities of the People of God <i>Interlude #4 – Chapter 14:1-12: The People of God and the Three Angels Messages (cf. Chapter 12:17)</i>
Chapter 15	The Close of Probation
Chapter 16	The Seven Last Plagues
Chapter 17-19	The Scarlet Woman, The Battle of Armageddon, The Second Coming of Jesus (Reference Chapter 19:10 with Chapter 12:17)
Chapter 20	The Millennium and the Final Great White Throne Judgment
Chapter 21-22	The New Heaven and New Earth

Chapter 11

Do You Know You Are the Remnant?

Foundational Review –

READ Revelation 12:17. This is the group of people who were described in the last session who appeared after 1260 days are ended, at the end of the 2300 days which starts the Time of the End. (Daniel 12:7; Revelation 10:5-6) These people have done the following:

- have gone through the Great Disappointment, yet must prophesy again (Revelation 10:8-11)
- keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17)
- are being sealed with the Holy Spirit (Revelation 7:3-4; Ephesians 1:13)
- have been given the special task to call the people of the world at the Time of the End (Daniel 12:3)
- are teaching and living in the Three Angels’ Messages – as part of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship (Revelation 14:6-12)

These people are the Time of the End Remnant, the People of God at the end time.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Are these the people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Be prepared to defend your answer. _____

The Remnant –

QUESTION #1: READ 2 Kings 19:30-31; Isaiah 10:20-22. What’s the Bible definition of a Remnant? _____

You Are – A Saint (Ephesians 1:1) and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27) A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26) In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8) Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7) Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16) Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4) Required to choose (Romans 12:1) Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21) Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6) Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2) Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10) Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6) This is basic Christianity.
--

Multiple remnants are described and represented by various characters in the Bible: Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Joshua, Jeremiah, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Paul, John the Beloved.

In the general description of a remnant at the beginning of Chapter 11 of the book:

QUESTION #2: READ Ezekiel 36:26-27. What's the first descriptor of the remnant? _____

NOTE: As a result, the Remnant has *chosen* to live in Covenant Relationship with God, the Covenant Relationship of R-G-B (ref. Romans 4:21; Hebrews 11:6). They believe that God is and that God knows what He is doing.

QUESTION #3: READ Jeremiah 23:2-6; Zechariah 1:3. What's the second descriptor of the remnant? _____

NOTE: The message is always the same message: Return to the Grace-Faith Relationship.

QUESTION #4: READ Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5. What's the third descriptor of the remnant from Chapter 11? _____

NOTE: The crisis does not change them into the Remnant. The crisis reveals them to be the Remnant.

QUESTION #5: READ Genesis 45:5-7. What's the fourth descriptor of the remnant? _____

QUESTION #6: READ Zechariah 4:6. What's the fifth descriptor of the remnant? _____

NOTE: Their connection with the Holy Spirit will have to have been established prior to the time when they must work by His power (Matthew 25:1-4).

QUESTION #7: Now attempt to answer the following question.

Arrange the experiences of the Remnant in the order of occurrence. Choose which one to label as #1, #2, etc.

- a. #_____ Assigned a task to provide for survival of others in the crisis
- b. #_____ Functions in the power of the Holy Spirit
- c. #_____ Endures and explains how to endure the crisis to others
- d. #_____ Chooses to live in the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship
- e. #_____ Delivers a message to the world about the choices and the coming crisis

THINK IT THROUGH: Why is it hard to arrange these events? Where did you place (b) above?

These are the characteristics of every remnant including the Remnant of Revelation 12:17 – the Remnant at the Time of the End.

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Revelation 3:17. What prevents the Seventh-day Adventist Church from becoming the Remnant? _____

Story and Example –

QUESTION #1: Who are the two bible characters that we usually identify as having the same task as the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

1 Kings 17:1 _____ Matthew 3:1 _____

QUESTION #2: How are Elijah and John the Baptist alike in their mission, ministry, message, and power. (For the Mission – ref. Malachi 3:7 and 4:6) (Ministry to whom?) _____

READ their messages. Elijah: READ 1 Kings 18:21 John the Baptist: READ Matthew 3:2-3

NOTE: They each had the same message but with a different area of emphasis.

QUESTION #3: READ Zechariah 4:6. Both were powered by Whom? _____

QUESTION #4: What was their very human reaction to what happened to them?

Elijah

1 Kings 19:2 What did he hear from Jezebel?

Verse 8 – Where did he run to?

Verse 4 – What did he want to do?

THINK IT THROUGH: Why did they have this reaction? What would have been your reaction? Why? _____

QUESTION #5: For the dejected Elijah and John the Baptist – and the Remnant – by whose Righteousness, by whose Power, by whose Love do they carry out the assignment given them?

READ Jer. 23:6 – Righteousness _____

READ Zech. 4:6 – Power _____

READ 1 John 4:19 – Love _____

QUESTION #6: READ 1 Kings 19:11-13. How was Elijah reminded that God is in control? _____

QUESTION #7: READ Luke 7:19-23. How was John the Baptist reminded that God is in control? _____

NOTE: This is the core lesson for the remnant! When you are *painfully human*, you need God to be in control of your life in order to carry out your job. He will remind you through Scripture.

THINK IT THROUGH: Who needs to know this? Which Remnant are we concerned about?

Being Painfully Human – a Parable

QUESTION #1: What does it mean to be painfully human? _____

QUESTION #2: LOOK AT Matthew 13:3. What is this parable about? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Matthew 13:22. How does Jesus describe the third kind of soil? What are the two problems with the soil? _____

We humans understand the “thorns” of worry and loss of hope of Elijah and John the Baptist.

QUESTION #4: READ Revelation 3:17. What is the deceitfulness of riches? _____

But what are riches?

READ Deut. 7:7. What “riches” are described here? _____

READ Deut. 8:17. What “riches” are described here? _____

READ Deut. 9:4-6. What “riches” are described here? _____

NOTE: All of these are “riches.”

QUESTION #5: Compare Matthew 13:22 and Revelation 3:17. In the Parable of the Sower and in Jesus’ explanation, which kind of “thorns” do you think is most dangerous to the spiritual life of the Remnant – Lose of Hope or Spiritual Arrogance? Why do you think so? _____

QUESTION #6: Consider the three different remedies for this condition which Jesus gave to wake up apathetic, arrogant Laodicea.

- a. READ Revelation 3:15-18. Laodicea must see the truth of the situation and the promises to apply the corrective measures.
- b. READ Matthew 24:15-22. There must be a world-wide crisis with tribulation to wake up Laodicea.
- c. READ Genesis 32:24. The experience of Jacob at the brook Jabok must be the experience of Laodicea – facing a situation which Laodicea cannot conquer, riches (popularity,

economics, spiritual superiority) are gone (shaking time in Hebrews 12:26, 27), and they become exhausted and realize their helplessness.

Which remedy will work, do you think? _____

QUESTION #7: What is the greatest weakness of the Remnant (in every age)?

(See the weaknesses of Elijah and John the Baptist) _____

THINK IT THROUGH: What is the only way to address that weakness? What do you think they need to hear from the Scriptures? (You come up with your favorite Scriptures. If you need suggestions, look at the outline of the first seven sessions. What Scriptures are your favorites there?) _____

***TAKE HOME* Thought Question –**

What is Hope?

From Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20) _____

From the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13) _____

From the Father (2 Peter 1:4) _____

Chapter 12

Do You Know You Are to Restore the Long-lost Teachings of the Bible?

Foundational Review –

Each workbook lesson throughout the second half of the book begins with the same reminder. These statements should remind you that the topics covered in the previous sessions are the core of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship that every Seventh-day Adventist Christian must have. Each of these statements taken separately and collectively are the essential beginnings of the answer to our question: “Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do you know who you are?”

You Are –
A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)
In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)
Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)
Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)
Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
This is basic Christianity.

The Scripture references are only an initial reference to the statement. For a more complete study of each of these statements, see the chapters in the book or the workbook sessions which cover these topics.

As a further reminder, the study of this workbook session will go infinitely easier if you have read the corresponding chapter in the book. If you have not read it, please find a comfortable quiet spot where you can concentrate – and read it now.

Protestants –

For this session, let’s talk about Protestants. Be sure you have your Bible with you as we will be reading lots of Scripture.

QUESTION #1: What is a Pro-test-ant? Define each segment of the word, if you can, from the Latin words used to build this reference to us as Seventh-day Adventists.

Pro – as a common prefix or as a stand-alone word, what does it mean? _____

Test – this is the root word of several words we commonly use, *testify* and *testimony*. What does it mean? _____

ant – is a common suffix which means *one who*

QUESTION #2: Describe and explain the historical setting in which this word was first used.
(See Chapter 12 in the book) _____

THINK IT THROUGH: What does it mean to be a Time of the End Pro-test-ant? What would they be pro-testing or “speaking out for”? _____

Story and Example –

READ Daniel 7:23-25 and Daniel 8:9-12. In vision, Daniel saw illustrated the character of the power that would rule the world for 1260 years. He also saw in general the principles by which this power would operate and in which it would teach others to believe.

Here is a general summary of some of the major errors that Luther and the other Reformers were protesting. This list contains the Biblical doctrine and the major errors which replaced them as Luther and others came to understand them.

Doctrine

Christ as Lord

Cross as Salvation

Mother Church replaced with

Church clergy, especially the head, as Lord

Church liturgy as salvation

Mass/Sacraments/Indulgences/Pilgrimages

Commandments	Church tradition and edicts
Great Controversy	Church supremacy on earth
Hope of the Resurrection	Angry God/Hell and Purgatory
Heavenly Sanctuary	Forgiveness by clergy on Earth
Holy Spirit	Church Authority as Infallible
Jesus as High Priest	Elevation of Saints/Mariology

From this list you can see why history has called this Pro-test-ing at the time of the Reformation. In the process, these reformers – Luther, Swingli, Calvin, the Wesleys, the Baptists and others – established what Protest-ant Christians have recognized as the basic tenets of Protestantism.

QUESTION #1: READ Isaiah 58:12. What does God say He would have His People do for Him at the Time of the End? _____

Some of the basic teachings of the Bible have not yet been restored. Seventh-day Adventists have helped in “speaking out for” the following seven prime biblical teachings (the seven Ss) that were lost but are to be restored, especially at the Time of the End.

Let’s discuss each of these seven teachings specifically in two ways:

1. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus?
2. What is the significance of this teaching during the Time of the End?

Teaching #1 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

The doctrine connected with William Miller is the Second Coming. READ Daniel 8:14. In the Seventh-day Adventist mind, this date is forever attached to October 22, 1844 and the Great Disappointment because Jesus did NOT come again. But the doctrine has not lost it relevance. Every twenty-fifth verse of scripture of the New Testament talks about this doctrine. It is also the last of the Five Cs we talked about

as being characteristic of being a Christian.

QUESTION #2: READ Isaiah 58:12. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? Who’s coming again? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Matthew 24:30-31. What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? When is Jesus coming? _____

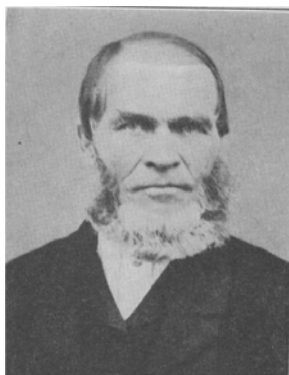
THINK IT THROUGH: If this is one of the 5 Cs of Christian beliefs, why does this doctrine need to be restored by the Seventh-day Adventists? See Chapter 3 and Chapter 12 in the book for several possible responses.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

This teaching is part of our name. We are *Advent* – ists.

Okay, that one was easy. Let’s try the second one.

Teaching #2 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

The doctrine connected with Hiram Edson is the Sanctuary. READ Leviticus 16:30. This teaching is connected with Hiram Edson because of his corn field vision that he had the morning after October 22, 1844.

We have talked already about the First Apartment of the Sanctuary in Chapter 8. We will discuss Leviticus 16:30 again in our next session when we discuss the subject of the Sanctuary in terms of the Third

Angel’s message.

QUESTION #2: READ Hebrews 8:1. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? _____

QUESTION #3: Where is Jesus serving now? _____

In our next session we will ask: What is Jesus actually doing there?

QUESTION#3: REVIEW Leviticus 16:30. Of what significance is this teaching for the Time of the End? _____

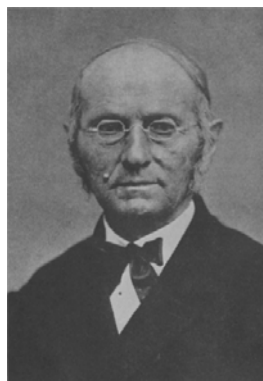
QUESTION #4: When does this happen? _____

More about this in our next session!

THINK IT THROUGH: When do all of these teachings seem to have their grand finale? _____

Let's see if this is true for the next teaching.

Teaching #3 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

This doctrine is the Spirit of Prophecy. READ Joel 2:28. This doctrine is connected to Joseph Bates because:

- a. He belonged to the Conditional Christian Connection Church which believed that all the spiritual gifts would be active in the Time of the End.
- b. However, he did not believe that Ellen White had the gift of prophecy, until he observed her in vision and questioned her afterward in regard to what she saw in vision and what she understood about it from her prior knowledge.

QUESTION #2: READ Acts 1:4-5 and Acts 2:33. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? _____

QUESTION #3: What gift did Jesus give to His church after He ascended to the Father? _____

QUESTION #4: READ Amos 3:7. What significance is this teaching for the Time of the End? _____

QUESTION #5: Does God still need to speak to His People? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: What does God still yet need to say to His people at the Time of the End? See Chapter 12 in the book or your own study for several possible responses.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

This next teaching is one that we believe but don't always connect it with the Time of the End.

Teaching #4 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

The doctrine associated with James White is the State of the Dead.

READ Ecclesiastes 9:5-6. If James White were to speak to us today, he would say that, in his day, this Scriptural teaching about the condition of humans after they are dead was generally understood and agreed to by many members of many denominations – Lutherans, Puritans, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Baptists – but particularly, the Conditional

Christian Connection Church of James White and Joseph Bates.

QUESTION #2: READ Ecclesiastes 12:7 and John 5:28-29. In the name of James White's church, can you guess what the word "conditional" stood for? (Remember what doctrine we are discussing.) _____

QUESTION #3: READ John 11:11-14. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? _____

QUESTION #4: What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? Two answers. First Answer: In Genesis 3:4, we read about the first lie. READ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. How will Satan use this first lie as the last lie? _____

Second answer: READ 1 Corinthians 15:56-57. Why is this last lie such a serious deception in the Time of the End? _____

Teaching #5 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

The doctrine is the Sabbath. READ Genesis 2:2 and Exodus 20:8.

Although Joseph Bates had written a small pamphlet previously, this teaching is connected to John N Andrews because he wrote the first definitive, theological treatise on the Sabbath. Seventh-day

Adventists are not the only Protestants to know this Bible teaching and this wasn't the first Protestant book ever written on the Sabbath.

Lots of other men in other denominations had written on this subject very well. But this was the first time a Seventh-day Adventist had written such a scholarly work – and this teaching is also part of our name.

QUESTION #2: READ Mark 2:27-28. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: From what you have learned in our first nine chapters, what does this mean to you personally? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Isaiah 58:13-14. What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: Of what is the Sabbath a symbol – that we have been studying during our first nine chapters? _____

EXTRA CREDIT: Use a concordance to do a word study on the word “creator.” (There are only 5-7 verses with the word “creator” in the whole Bible.) How does the Sabbath symbolize the concepts described in the word “creator” as used in the Bible? _____

Teaching #6 –



QUESTION #1: Who is this man? _____

The doctrine is the Seraphim (The Three Angels). READ Revelation 14:6-12. As we saw two weeks ago, the Three Angels are the People of God and the three messages are the messages to be delivered by the People of God in the Time of the End. In two weeks we will explore more fully the meaning of these messages.

QUESTION #2: READ Revelation 10:1-2. What does this teaching have to do with Jesus?

- a. Compare with Revelation 1:13-16 and Ezekiel 1:26-28. Who is the Strong Angel of Revelation 10? _____
- b. READ Revelation 10:10-11. What is the Strong Angel’s relationship to the People of God who are the Three Angels? _____

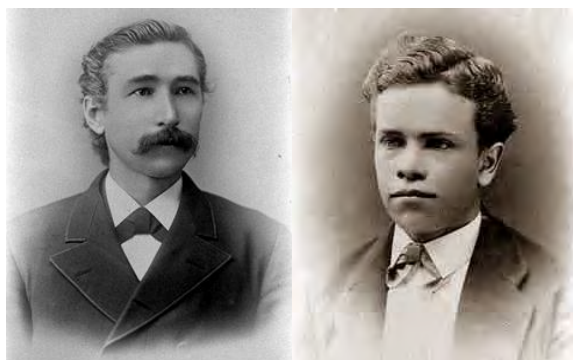
QUESTION #3: READ Hebrews 4:7. What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: In the Time of the End – while the Dragon is doing his work in Revelation 13 through the Sea Beast, the Land Beast, and the False Prophet, the Three Angels are delivering their messages of Revelation 14 to the confused and dying world. The two groups

of people are locked in the final spiritual combat. In the face of this quickly coming conflict, when would be a good time to respond to the Three Angels’ Messages? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Jeremiah 8:20. What does a person miss out on, if he fails to respond to the Three Angels’ messages in the Time of the End? How important are these three messages, do you think? _____

Teaching #7 –



QUESTION #1: Who are these two men? _____

The doctrine is Salvation by Faith. READ 1 John 5:11-12 and Ephesians 2:8-9. These two men are forever linked to this teaching because of all the events that transpired during the 1888 General Conference and during the twenty years that followed. The concept they championed is Righteousness by Faith – the understanding of which marked a major turning point in the spiritual growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have much more to say on this topic in two weeks.

QUESTION #2: What does this teaching have to do with Jesus?

a. READ John 3:16. In our Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship, Who is the first gift from God to us and the center of our connection with Him? _____

b. READ Romans 1:17. How do we accept this gift and all that accompanies it? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Revelation 7:14. What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? How will the People of God survive in the Time of the End? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Colossians 2:8. At the time when every worldly philosophy and every false religion is running rampant in the world (the Time of the End), why will this doctrine be at the heart of every other teaching in the Time of the End? _____

Teaching #8 – A Bonus –



QUESTION #1: Who is this woman? _____

The doctrine is Sola Scriptura. READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17. This phrase is one of the four phrases that marked the Protestants of the Reformation:

Sola Scriptura	Only Scripture
Sola Gracia	Only Grace
Sola Fida	Only Faith
Sola Christos	Only Christ

This doctrine “is an eighth and is also part of the seven” because the Scriptures are the prime source for knowledge about God.

Ellen White and every other prophet taken individually – and all other religious materials – are subservient to the Scriptures for their substantiation. Ellen White is a prophet – not because the Bible agrees with her writings, but because her writings agree with the Bible. The Bible is the prime source.

QUESTION # 2: What does this teaching have to do with Jesus? _____

READ Luke 24:27. How do we know that Jesus was a prophet? _____

QUESTION #3: What is the significance of this teaching for the Time of the End? _____

READ Isaiah 8:20. How will the People of God know what to believe in the Time of the End? _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

- a. Where did Ellen G. White place herself in relation to the Scriptures? _____

- b. Why is it important to know our doctrinal history (how we grew doctrinally)? _____

- c. What is unique about these eight doctrinal positions for the Seventh-day Adventist Church? _____

- d. Are we the only Christians who believe these teachings of the Bible? _____

TAKE HOME Thought Question –

Are Seventh-day Adventists a People of the Book? (See Revelation 12:17 and 14:12) _____

Chapter 13

Do You Know You Are to Live in the Sanctuary Message?

Foundational Review –

Chapter 13 and 14 are two parts of a unit – the reality of the Third Angel’s Message. Chapter 13 is the illustration of the concept in the Sanctuary to help us (who don’t normally think in Sanctuary terms) to understand the importance and relevance of Daniel 8:14.

Chapter 14 is what this will look like in the actual lives of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. When we have finished these two studies, you should be able to explain to someone what it means to live in the Third Angel’s Message – and more importantly – you should be able to actually *live* in the Third Angel’s Message yourself.

You Are –
A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
 and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)
In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)
Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)
Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)
Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)
 Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)
This is basic Christianity (Ephesians 3:14-19)

As a reminder, read Chapter 13 before doing this workbook study. It will go so much easier. This is a very intense study so be prepared to concentrate and enter into the spirit and the reality of it.

The Sanctuary –

QUESTION #1: Why did God want a very real wilderness Sanctuary to be built?

- a. READ Exodus 25:8. _____
- b. READ Revelation 21:3. _____
- c. READ Daniel 8:14. _____

The Millerites, our forefathers, grasped the significance of the “cleansing of the sanctuary” as a judgment time at the end of the 2300 days. However, they had a difficult time following the thread of their new understanding forward into the whole truth of the Second Apartment ministry.

QUESTION #2: READ Hebrews 6:19-20; Hebrews 10:19-23; Revelation 14:7. Why must we also move forward in our more complete understanding of the Second Apartment ministry of Jesus? _____

In this study session look for the connection between these three verses. To understand the connection between the above verses, we will focus on Jesus and the Sanctuary.

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh . . . (this hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us – Hebrews 6:19-20), let us draw near . . . to the Veil. Because the “hour of His judgment has come . . .” So, let us draw near to the Veil.

ILLUSTRATION: Here is a diagram of the Wilderness Sanctuary outer courtyard surrounded by the wall curtain. On this diagram are the various furniture items in each area that you will identify as you work through this study.

Insert here your illustration of the wilderness Sanctuary.

QUESTION #3: READ: Hebrews 8:1-2. Did you ever ask yourself: What *is* our High Priest – Jesus – actually doing in the Sanctuary? What does a High Priest do, not just in the Second Apartment, but in the entire sanctuary? _____

Let’s focus on two Areas of Work of the High Priest:

1. The Sin problem: How is He dealing with our sins, where *are* our sins exactly and what is He doing with them? We’ll follow our sin through the Sanctuary and see what Jesus is doing to “cleanse the sanctuary.”

2. The Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship: How does the activity in the Sanctuary lead us to connect with God? We’ll see how all of this relates to the good news of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship.

QUESTION #4: What is the Sanctuary Message? Do you understand the significance of the Sanctuary Message for the 21st Century Seventh-day Adventist Christian, and for the world, especially now that we are living in the Time of the End – at the time of the Judgment? _____

As we work through this together, on a personal level, we are actually asking the question: what is Jesus really doing in the Heavenly Sanctuary and what does this have to do with me?

As you work through the following exercises, on the Sanctuary diagram, identify each item of furniture in the area being discussed and label it.

Courtyard –

What article of furniture is in the outer courtyard in front of the entry gate? Label it.

QUESTION #1: READ 1 Peter 2:24. In the plan of Salvation, what gift of Grace from God is symbolized by this altar? _____

QUESTION #2: READ Hebrews 4:16. What response of Faith from God’s people is symbolized by this altar? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Romans 10:9; Deuteronomy 30:6. If we are not bringing a lamb today, what are we bringing to offer to Jesus? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Matthew 20:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- a. What function is Jesus our High Priest performing in this area? _____

- b. Is He still doing it today? _____

c. Is this about a ritual – like circumcision or baptism? If not, what is it about? _____

QUESTION #4: This is the first level of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. This is “Receiving From” of R-G-B. And this is Sanctuary – very real heavenly Sanctuary. READ 1 Peter 2:24. At this level God removes the Penalty of Sin and where are they placed? _____

QUESTION #5: This level represents the first “R” on the Sanctuary diagram which is _____.

This is the symbolism of the altar of burnt offering that was very real in the wilderness Sanctuary – and is equally real in the heavenly Sanctuary. Here we find grace and forgiveness, submission and faith. Here at this altar of burnt offering we may “draw near with confidence . . . that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:16)

First Apartment –

QUESTION #1: What articles of furniture are present in the first apartment of the Sanctuary tent? Label them.

QUESTION #2: READ Psalms 119:105. In the plan of Salvation, what gift of Grace from God is symbolized by the lamp stand? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Deut. 6:5-6. What response of Faith from God’s people is symbolized by the lamp stand? _____

QUESTION #4: READ Ephesians 4:11-16. In the plan of Salvation, what gift of Grace from God is symbolized by the table? _____

QUESTION #5: READ John 14:12 (compare with what Chapter 13 says about John 6:53 and John 4:34). What response of Faith from God’s people is symbolized by the table? _____

QUESTION #6: READ Jeremiah 23:6 (See Leviticus 16:13). In the plan of Salvation, what gift of Grace from God is symbolized by the altar of incense? _____

QUESTION #7: READ 1 John 5:16. What response of Faith from God’s people is symbolized by the Altar of Incense? _____

QUESTION #8: How are the activities of this First Apartment described in Hebrews 9:6 (NASB or KJV)? (A one word answer from Scripture)

KJV _____ NASB _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

- a. What two functions is Jesus performing as High Priest in this area?

READ John 14:16-17; Luke 11:13 _____

READ Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:2 _____

- b. The entire first apartment symbolizes the 2nd “R” for the People of God which is

_____.

At this level God removes the Power of Sin and replaces it with the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is the symbolism of the first apartment and its furniture that was very real in the wilderness Sanctuary – and is equally real in the heavenly Sanctuary. Here we find the High Priest Jesus leading us to learn in order to teach (lamp stand), to receive in order to serve (table), and to pray in order to intercede (altar of incense). Here in this first apartment we are empowered, we are gifted, we are put to work with each other in a “body” which changes us internally, writing the “commandments of God” on our hearts and imparting the “divine nature” into our character. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

PLEASE NOTE: All of this is a review for you. All of this we have discussed before. All of this is received by the People of God *by Faith*.

Review –

QUESTION #1: LOOK AT Hebrews 11:6. By Faith, do you believe that God is and that He can do what He says He can do? _____

QUESTION #2: LOOK AT Romans 4:18-22. By Faith, do you believe that God can do what He promised to do in these two areas of the Sanctuary? _____

QUESTION #3: Do you understand . . .

- a. (READ Romans 1:17) that this is ALL by Faith? _____
- b. (READ Joshua 24:15) that you must CHOOSE to allow it? _____
- BUT . . .
- c. (READ Romans 12:2) that you don't DO any of this? It is done for you and in you. _____

We have done this review so that we can add this last part – the scariest part. Be sure you pay attention. This is important.

The Veil, the Priest, and the Sin –

QUESTION #1: READ Exodus 26:33. Where is “the Veil” located in the sanctuary? Locate it on your diagram and label it.

QUESTION #2: READ Exodus 30:6; Hebrews 12:29. Why is this area scary? Who resides behind the Veil? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Leviticus 4:6. What is on the Veil? _____

QUESTION #4: READ Numbers 18:1. Where else is the Sin of the people also residing? _____

QUESTION #5: What does the Veil symbolize?

READ Isaiah 59:2 _____

READ Hebrews 10:20 _____

THINK IT THROUGH: THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

QUESTION #6: Where do your forgiven sins reside as of now? (See Leviticus 4:6, 34; Numbers 18:1) _____

QUESTION #7: Which is located where in heaven? _____

QUESTION #8: READ Dan. 8:14. Now do you understand why the heavenly sanctuary has to be cleansed? _____

Just to make sure we understand –

QUESTION #9: Who is represented by all of these sanctuary locations? _____

QUESTION #10: READ Romans 3:10; Genesis 4:13; Isaiah 53:5-6; Hebrews 8:1-2. Why is Jesus carrying all of our sins? _____

Second Apartment –

Now let’s move into a new area – the second apartment.

QUESTION #1: What is the box that sits in this apartment? Label it.

QUESTION #2: READ Hebrews 9:4. What three items are inside the box? Label them on your Sanctuary diagram.

QUESTION #3: Describe how Jesus is symbolized in each of these articles found in or near the Ark of the Covenant.

a. The Ten Commandments – READ John 1:1-3; John 17:4 (see Chapter 7). _____

b. The Jar of Manna – READ Colossians 1:17. _____

- c. Aaron’s Rod – READ Numbers 17:5; Matthew 12:18-21; 28:18. _____

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Daniel 8:14

QUESTION #1: What does Jesus intend to do during the “cleansing of the sanctuary?”

- a. READ 1 John 3:5. _____

- b. READ 1 John 3:8; Leviticus 16:21-22; Revelation 20:1-3. _____

- c. READ Leviticus 16:30; 1 John 1:9. _____

- d. READ Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:20; Ephesians 5:26-27; Jude 1:24. _____

QUESTION #2: READ Psalms 24:3-4; Revelation 14:4b. What does Jesus intend that we should “do” during this same time? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Romans 1:17. By what action on our part is this activity in the Second Apartment done in us? _____

At this level God removes the Presence of Sin and replaces it with the “divine nature” of the Father. This is the symbolism of the second apartment, the ark and the articles found in and around it that was very real in the wilderness Sanctuary – and is equally real in the heavenly Sanctuary. Here we find the High Priest Jesus in His mercy (mercy seat) using His guiding power (commandments), His sustaining power (manna), and his authoritative power (Aaron’s rod) to thoroughly cleanse all Sin of His people from the Sanctuary. This makes it possible for the People of God to be at-one-ment with God so God “will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.” (Revelation 22:3)

TAKE HOME Thought Question –

In the Sanctuary, Jesus is all of the articles there; He is all of the activities there; He sacrifices, sustains, and saves us there – at every stage, in every apartment. Jesus can and will take away the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin from His people.

NOW THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

- a. Do you believe that Jesus is faithful to you *personally*? _____
- b. READ Hebrews 10:22-23. Do you believe this applies to you *personally*? _____
- c. By Faith in Him, do you believe that Jesus can and will save you? _____

This is the faith required of you – in order to live in the Third Angel’s Message – while Jesus does for you in the second apartment the cleansing necessary for you to enter into heaven.

In our next session we will begin to see what this kind of life actually looks like here on earth.

Study 14

Do You Know You Have the Last Message To Be Given to the World?

Foundational Review –

Since our study of Chapter 10, we have been discussing specifically things pertaining to Seventh-day Adventists. These things are not for us to brag about, but for us to pray about – not for us to lord it over others, but for us to ask the Lord to empower us to carry out the impossible task which He has given us.

Have you read Chapter 14 in the book? If not, please read the chapter before doing this workbook session. Please.

This study session will seem like a TEST – because it is. We will be reviewing material we have studied previously – but put to a new use.

Actually, our study is meant to be a question-and-answer discussion. But, if you think of it as an exam, then treat it as an Open Book Exam. The Scriptures are listed above for a reason. If you don't know the answer, look up the Scripture.

Last session we said: Chapter 13 and 14 are two parts of a unit about the Third Angel's Message. In our last study session in Chapter 13 we presented this concept as illustrated in the Sanctuary – to help us (who don't normally think in Sanctuary terms) to understand the importance and relevance of Daniel 8:14. We talked about cleansing. We talked about removing the penalty, power, and the presence of Sin – so that we can stand in the presence of God Himself.

You Are –

A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

A Christian – the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)

In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)

Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)

Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)

Required to choose (Romans 12:1)

Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)

Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)

Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)

Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)

This is basic Christianity. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Review of Where We Are –

READ Hebrews 10:19-23.

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

Do you remember this Scripture? This is what our last session was all about.

In this study session based on Chapter 14, we will see what this looks like in the real lives of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. This session brings together all the important topics that we have discussed previously. This is the climax of the basic question of the book: Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do you know who you are?

SDA Christians are:

- a. Beloved Saints – living in a Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God
- b. Ministering as Priests with the mind-set of Stewards
- c. Grasping the concept of abiding in the empowering embrace of the Holy Spirit

For the Seventh-day Adventist Church we add to this –

- d. Understanding the unique calling – and responsibility – of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be carried out in its painfully weak human condition
- e. Proclaiming the Three Angels’ Messages – the Time of the End Message of God

We’ve worked our way from the very basics of being a Christian, through the intensity of a more intimate relationship to God, to the realization that in the Time of the End God has raised up a unique group of people – the Seventh-day Adventist Church. God has empowered them to “prophecy again” (Revelation 10:11), to deliver His loving message for the final time – the messages of the Three Angels found in Revelation 14:6-12. As the visible beginnings of the Remnant, like Elijah and John the Baptist, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to call out the

larger invisible part of the Remnant, those in the world who desperately want to enter into a Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with Him.

This is who we are. Now – I want you to watch it all come together in this session.

Millerites and the Three Angels –

QUESTION #1: Do you know in what way the Millerites understood the Three Angels’ Messages? In this diagram, draw a line between each specific Angel’s Message and the way in which it was understood by the Millerites prior to October 22, 1844.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. First Angel | Consequences of rejecting the imminent Second Coming |
| b. Second Angel | Gospel, Obedience, and Judgment |
| c. Third Angel | Rejection of Second Coming by churches constitutes Babylon |

Now let’s take the Three Angels one by one and grasp their meaning in the context of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship at the Time of the End. As a guide, examine and review again the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship Diagram:

<u>Grace</u>		<u>Faith</u>
God Gives the Gift	⇌	Man Accepts and Submits by Faith
Jesus/Cross (1 Peter 2:24)	Choice	Baptism (Romans 6:1-4)
God Gives the Gift	⇌	Man Abides and Trusts in Hope
Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17)	Choice	Internal Change of Heart (Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 15:5)
God Gives the Gift	⇌	Man Loves and Acts
Motive and Power to Do (Ephesians 3:16)	Choice	External Change – Empowered to Obey (John 15:8-10)
Character of the Father (2 Peter 1:4)		Change of Character and Personality (Galatians 5:22-25)

First Angel –

QUESTION #1: READ Revelation 14:6-7. In the First Angel, the Millerites of the 1840’s saw the gospel, the obedience (in giving God glory), and the judgment. What *more* do you see? _____

Describe First Angel’s Message in Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship terms.

(Clue: Ephesians 2:4-7 – What Gifts are you to “receive?”) _____

QUESTION #2: READ Ezekiel 37:14; Ephesians 4:12-16. How will you grow? _____

QUESTION #3: READ Psalm 24:2-3. Whom will you “become like” in order to stand? _____

QUESTION #4: READ Revelation 14:7b. What is the confirmation and assurance that this angel’s message can be believed? How does the emphasis on the Sabbath fit into the Time of the End? _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

READ Hebrews 11:6. Is God to be trusted to do what He promises? Do you believe Him? _____

You have to believe this yourself and live this yourself – before you can give this message to anyone else.

THINK IT THROUGH: How should this message be delivered to “those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people?” People have to be aroused to their true condition, yes? They have to acknowledge their sinful condition and standing before God, yes? Then how should we deliver it? How was it – how should it have been given to you? Our last four seminar meetings will explore this more fully.

Second Angel –

READ Revelation 14:8 and 18:4. In the Second Angel, the Millerites believed that the churches of the 1840’s, by their refusal to hear the message of Christ’s soon return, had become Babylon. What *more* do you see? _____

Do you remember our diagram of the human heart from Chapter 6?

The First Angel had four parts. Let’s see how many parts there are in the Second Angel.

PART I:

QUESTION #1: Using this diagram, describe the two choices presented in the Second Angel’s message.

READ Micah 6:8

READ 1 John 2:16

Human Heart

A ← Value Set Choice → B

Micah 6:8

1 John 2:16

For Others

For Self

Justice = right doing

possessions

Mercy = compassion

passions

Humility = reverence

power/pride

Set of the Mind = which value set to choose

(based on Who or What is loved/worshiped)

QUESTION #2: READ John 3:19-21. How did Jesus describe these two choices to Nicodemus?

What two options did Jesus present? _____

PART II: In the Second Angel’s Message, Babylon is described as “fallen.”

QUESTION #1: READ Jeremiah 3:6, 13. In the Biblical sense, how does someone become “fallen?” _____

What does that have to do with worship? _____

QUESTION #2: God is calling His People to “come out of her? How do you do that? Listen carefully to these two Scriptures and describe for each how God’s People “come out of her.”

READ Ephesians 5:1-10. _____

READ Psalm 5:7. _____

QUESTION #3: READ John 14:16, 17; 15:5. If you “come out,” what do you “go into”? _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

- a. Where are you abiding? _____
- b. In the Second Angel’s Message, what does the Sabbath/Sunday choice represent?

- c. Does waving the American flag, make you an American? Does keeping the seventh day Sabbath make you a Seventh-day Adventist Christian? What does? _____

- d. Have you made the choice to abide? Why? _____

Again, you have to believe this yourself and live this yourself – before you can give this message to anyone else.

Third Angel –

READ Revelation 14:9-12. The Millerites saw that . . .

The Third Angel’s Message points out the consequences of the choice made under the Second Angel, concentrating on the negative, devastating consequences of choosing not to follow God. On our Plan of Salvation Chart at the Third Level – the internal choice results in external behavior.

QUESTION #1: Passing over the negative effects which are stark, real and devastating, list the positive results of choosing to follow God described in these scriptures:

READ 2 Peter 1:4; Galatians 5:22-23. _____

READ Revelation 3:12; 7:2-3. _____

READ Romans 1:17 (See also Romans 3:22; 4:5; Galatians 5:5; Philippians 3:9. _____

The Three Angels' Messages –

So what's so hard about preaching the Three Angels' Messages? And what is this “tribulation such as never was since there was a nation”? This ought to be duck soup, right? But it is not. It is more like frog soup. Give a one or two word answer about why this is so hard from the following scriptures:

READ Matthew 24:42-44. _____

READ Matthew 24:21. Preaching in the midst of a crisis, what will be going on around you?

READ 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Revelation 13:14. _____

READ Revelation 13:15. _____

READ Zechariah 13:6. Who will be putting on the pressure to give in? _____

READ Hebrews 12:26-27. _____

THINK IT THROUGH: The Millerites saw the Third Angel's Message being fulfilled as the consequence of preparing or not preparing for the imminent Second Coming of Jesus on October 22, 1844. What *more* do you see? _____

As described in each of the following scriptures, what does *living in* the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship look like when every earthly support is taken away at the Time of the End, do you think? READ:

Job 13:15 _____

Romans 4:20-21 _____

Hebrews 10:19-23 _____

Daniel 3:17-18 _____

Philippians 4:13 _____

At the Time of the End, living in the Third Angel’s Message is done just like the First and Second Angel – by Faith.

Again, you have to believe this yourself and live this yourself – before you can give this message to anyone else.

This is the Third Angel’s Message in its fullness – beyond the Millerite view of consequences. When it all comes together, in the midst of devastating chaos, this will be the life of Seventh-day Adventist Christians, living in the messages of all three angels – an inspiring, engaging, practical life of Righteousness by Faith. This life will be so distinct, so obvious that no one will mistake these people for any other than the People of God. This life will proclaim volumes – about God and the life that is possible in Him – to the people of the world who are living in a totally different and rebellious paradigm.

Some will see the contrast and will want to leave the chaos and to share in the peace, the reconciliation, and the Covenant that the People of God have. These desperately searching people of the world will be drawn to them and to God – making up the final Remnant, “a great multitude, which no one could count . . .” (Revelation 7:9) Others who have rejected the Creator God as their Lord will reject the example of the People of God and persecute them to the uttermost.

When it all comes together, you as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian knows “who you are,” makes the choices and experiences the empowerment of “who you are,” so that when the final crisis comes, you will be prepared to live the life of “who you are” as an example before the world.

TAKE HOME QUESTION:

1. Do the above statements describe who you are?

Write a Faith statement of your commitment to living in the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship of the Three Angels’ Messages. Refer to all of the Three Angels’ Messages in your answer.

First Angel _____

Second Angel _____

Third Angel _____

2. Last week we asked the question: Do you know you are to live in the Sanctuary Message? We illustrated the Covenant-Grace-Faith Relationship in the Sanctuary. This week we asked: Do you know you have the last message to be given to the world? We illustrated the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship in the Three Angels’ Messages. And we said that these two chapters are two parts of a unit.

What’s the connection between the two chapters? _____

Study 15

Do You Know You Have a Mission – To Make Disciples?

Foundational Review –

In our last two sessions we said that Chapter 13 and 14 are two parts of a unit. Chapter 13 demonstrated how we are to live BY FAITH in the Second Apartment of the Sanctuary – where we can stand in the presence of a Holy God. (Hebrews 10:19-23) Chapter 14 demonstrated how we are to live BY FAITH in the Third Angel’s Message at the Time of the End. (Revelation 14:12) These two lessons addressed the same topic – how to live in Righteousness by Faith at the Time of the End – whether it is for worship before God or whether it is as a witness before the world.

In the next four sessions, we want to explore what this witness before the world will look like – in very practical terms. The final four studies of this seminar will cover:

Making Disciples – your mission

Being a Witness – how you function

Being One of the Sheep – your practical life in relationship to others

Building an Ark – your practical life in the final crisis

You Are –

A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)

In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)

Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)

Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)

Required to choose (Romans 12:1)

Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)

Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)

Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)

Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)

Unique calling – Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)

To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)

To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)

To give 3 Angels’ Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Adventist Christianity. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Again, the warning: Read Chapter 15 before working through this study. It will make your work easier and if you are in a seminar, it will make the classroom discussion go so much smoother.

The Illustration –

In the classroom illustration we were introduced to long-range planning and the three phases of such a venture. What are those three phases?

QUESTION #1: Draw a line between the phase in the left-hand column with the correct description of that phase in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| a. The “Why” | 1. the main task, the mission |
| b. The “What” | 2. three or four focused steps to achieve the main task |
| c. The “How” | 3. the shared values |

The “Why” – our shared values – are the ones you see listed above in the sidebar box. Those guiding principles describe who we are. They are the prime answers to the question: Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do You Know Who You Are?

QUESTION #2: What about the “What” for the Seventh-day Adventist Church? If we were to take a poll of Seventh-day Adventist Christians in your church, what would *they* say is the “main task,” the mission of the church? How would *they* answer this question, do you think? Write down the first three or four answers that you think THEY would say. _____

QUESTION #3: From the answers you gave or perhaps your own thinking – describe what *you* think is the “main task” of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. _____

Remember what we are looking for: the mission – the “main task” of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

Part I – The “WHY” of Abraham

Let’s investigate the basis of Abraham’s Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God. This will seem simplistic – but sometimes the simplest of ideas totally escapes us as to its importance.

QUESTION #1: READ Genesis 12:1-5. What was Abram’s response to God’s call to leave Ur?

QUESTION #2: READ Genesis 15:6. Why did Abram respond as he did? _____

QUESTION #3: What did God credit Abram with as a result of his belief? What does it say in verse 6? _____

THINK IT THROUGH: Is righteousness important in your life? What does righteousness bring to you?

READ Romans 4:6-8 _____

READ 1 Corinthians 1:30 _____

READ Philippians 3:9-11 _____

Back to Abraham –

QUESTION #4: READ Romans 4:18-21. Try to think in terms of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. What is the Grace-based promise that God has promised to Abram? And what is Abram’s faith response? _____

What is it that Abram believes about God? _____

THINKING IT THROUGH: What is the basis of your Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God? _____

Is forgiveness, redemption, and resurrection from the dead important to you? _____

Do you believe that God will do what he promises? _____

Is this relationship and these results really that important to you? What do you think? _____

ONE MORE THOUGHT – Do you remember the definition of obedience that we discussed in our study of Chapter 4? READ Romans 6:17. It says that obedience that comes from the _____? The heart is that place where you have CHOSEN God’s way of life (Micah 6:8) instead of the enemy’s way of life (1 John 2:16). The heart is the place where you have CHOSEN to abide (John 15:5) in the Holy Spirit and where you have CHOSEN to let Him change you. (Romans 12:2)

PLEASE NOTICE: These are Abraham’s values. They look remarkably like our set of values. These are the “Why” for Abraham.

PART II – The “What” of Abraham

Having gotten the “Why” in place, let’s discuss Abraham’s “What” – the “main task” assigned to Abraham.

QUESTION #1: READ Genesis 12:2; 17:4. What was Abraham’s assigned “main task”? _____

“What” does it say he is to be? _____

In order for Abraham to be a father of many nations, what will Abraham have to start with? With at least one child!

QUESTION #2: READ Genesis 18:19. “What” will Abraham focus on – in his “obedience from the heart?” “What” is his heart focused on? “What” is upmost in his mind? _____

“What” is Abraham’s mission – his main task? “What” all is included in this “main task?”

1. The first phrase says – “Command his children . . . after him” – what does this mean?

2. “To *keep* the way of the Lord” – Notice the word “keep.” What does this word mean in terms of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship? _____

3. “Doing righteousness and justice” – what does this mean? _____

QUESTION #3: Did Abraham do it – the “main task”? Give some examples from the life of Abraham, focusing on the people in his life, that shows how he carried out this “main task”.

QUESTION #4: Abraham was focused on making a family who – by trusting in God – would do three things: Fill in the blanks from the material in the book chapter 15.

– f_____ a_____ h_____

– d__ a_ h_ d__

– c_____ o_ w___ h_ w__ g_____

QUESTION #5: What do we call those whom we train to do the above three things? Fill in the missing word directly from the Scripture.

READ Genesis 18:19 – Abraham called them ch_____.

READ Mark 3:34-35 – Jesus called them br_____.

READ Matthew 10:1a – Jesus also called them d_____.

THINK IT THROUGH: READ Matt. 28:19a. What did Jesus say was the “main task” of His church? _____

QUESTION #5: We will talk more about this next week, but – Jesus defines a disciple as one who will –

READ Matt 4:19 _____

READ John 13:15 _____

READ John 14:12 _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

What do you think is the “main task” of the Remnant Church at the Time of the End? _____

Has the basic “main task” changed – just because it is the Time of the End? _____

Summary –

QUESTION 1#: When God gives us our “main task” to do – in the Time of the End, how can we follow Abraham’s model for making disciples? Answer directly from the Scripture.

READ Romans 4:21 _____

READ Matthew 28:19 _____

READ Romans 5:3-5 (compare to Revelation 14:12a); Ephesians 2:10 _____

BECAUSE – We want to make disciples who, trusting God like us will:

READ Revelation 14:4b _____

READ John 13:15 _____

READ 2 Timothy 4:5-6 _____

THINK IT THROUGH: What should you recommend to the church board if a particular church activity is not focused on making disciples? _____

Be careful – How would you know whether it is a “disciple making” program or not? What will tell you the thinking that has gone on in planning the program? What questions should you ask?

What kinds of church activities make disciples? _____

REMEMBER: The main purpose of the main purpose is to be the *main purpose*.

***TAKE HOME* Thought Question –**

To carry out the “main task” of being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Should you quit your job and become a Bible worker? Why or why not? _____

To carry out the “main task” of being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Should you not go to the Ladies Night Out next Thursday evening, but instead set up a Bible study? Why or why not?

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, what is your “main task”? Where would you start, do you think? Give the reason why you would start there. _____

Study 16

Do You Know You Are To Be A Witness?”

Foundational Review –

Three sessions ago we studied the Sanctuary which illustrated the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship for us personally, removing the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin in our lives so that we are enabled to stand before God – with confidence by Faith in His ability to do what He has promised.

Two sessions ago we studied the Three Angels’ Messages which illustrated this same Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as we present it to others, inviting them 1) to worship God, 2) to make a choice to come out of the world’s orientation to life and to enter into/abide in God’s plan of salvation, and 3) to receive the wonderful consequence of making that choice – everlasting life with our best Friend.

Last session we began working through the basic, real life applications of this Christian life, to grasp the idea that Seventh-day Adventist Christians – to be the Remnant that they are called to be – must be living this Christian life in the Time of the End. Instead of imagining what this would look like, we are studying what it actually will look like in these last four sessions

In our last session we studied about Making Disciples. In this session we are studying about Being a Witness. NOTE: Be sure you read Chapter 16 before doing the study as it makes the study so much easier.

You Are –

A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)

In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)

Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)

Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)

Required to choose (Romans 12:1)

Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)

Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)

Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)

Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)

Unique calling – Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)

To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)

To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)

To give 3 Angels’ Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Adventist Christianity. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

One More Time –

Just to make sure you sense the urgency of the times, READ Matthew 24:4-14.

QUESTION #1: How many of these events have already taken place? _____

Time is short. The material in these last four studies is absolutely critical to carrying out the assignment that we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. “What we could have done in easier times, we will be forced to do in harder times” refers not just to the work to be done, but to the experience of getting to know Jesus. As we are studying these four last sessions, notice that as Jesus takes us through these activities, He’s building a closer and closer relationship with us. Doing these activities is good for us as well as good for those to whom we are reaching out.

Review – of Disciple Building

QUESTION #1: How did Abraham respond when he was called by God?

- a. READ Genesis 15:6. Abraham _____ God.
- b. READ Genesis 12:2. When assigned his task, Abraham believed God and acc_____ his assignment, even when, as yet, he had no heirs.
- c. READ Hebrews 11:8, 17-19. Abraham believed God and fo_____ on his task – even believing that God could raise the dead if necessary to keep His promises.

QUESTION #2: READ Genesis 18:19. (direct quote from last week’s lesson)

What three things did Abraham train his family (disciples) to do?

- a. Believe and fo_____ him
- b. Do as he _____
- c. Ca_____ when he is gone.

The Story – Part 1 – How Jesus Makes Disciples

READ Mark 5:1-5 – the story of the Wild Man of Gadara. (I know that you know this story. Every Kindergarten class worthy of the name has had the kids act out this story. Let’s use it to see how Jesus makes disciples and turns them into witnesses.)

Imagine that you are with Jesus and the disciples. You have just gotten out of the boat – when this wild, hairy, naked man comes rushing out of the rocks near the beach. He is growling, screaming, spitting, his dirty fingernails clawing the air, just waiting to tear into your flesh, you think.

What do you do? What is your first reaction? What would any self-respecting, practical, superstitious fisherman do and say? “Get back in the boat! Someone push us off! We’re outta here! Come on, push! Push!”

Wait a minute! You look around. Where is Jesus? He’s not in the boat. Where is He? You and the other disciples look back at the beach. Jesus is still standing there. The wild man is on his knees in front of Jesus and they are having a conversation. And you want the answer to only one question.

QUESTION #1: READ Matthew 28:20. *Why* is Jesus still standing there? _____

Believe and Follow

QUESTION #1: After Jesus intervened for the Wild Man and saved him from his demons –

1. Do you think Jesus and the Wild Man had a relationship? _____
2. Do you think the Wild Man believed in Jesus? _____
3. READ Mark 5:18. Is he willing to follow Jesus anywhere? _____

Why? READ Luke 7:42-43 _____

IMPORTANT: The “why” question above is a very important question. We will talk more about this in our next session.

QUESTION #2: Which is correct for you? (Circle a or b.)

- a. I follow Jesus because it is the right thing to do.
- b. I follow Jesus because He loved me and I believe in Him.

If you answered with (a) above, it is not wrong – but it is not a full, mature answer. The Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship grows until you are not just doing the *right* thing, you are doing the *loving* thing – for Jesus and for others. The loving thing is still the right thing, but the motive has changed. The “right thing” – when it depends on *your* opinion – can change in your heart to an evil thing. Remember there are those who will persecute the saints at the end of time and think that they are doing the “right thing.” But a loving, Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship is stronger than doing the right thing.

SUMMARY: We Believe and Follow – because it is the loving thing to do.

COROLLARY QUESTIONS: How important is it to know whom to follow?

Circle the correct answer about Believing and Following. Be prepared to discuss and defend each answer.

T F You don’t have to be careful about whom you follow – if they are nice to you.

T F Disciples shouldn’t believe in you; you must lead them to believe in God.

T F You don’t have to be a disciple to make a disciple.

Accept the Assignment and Do as Jesus Does

QUESTION #1: READ Mark 5:19. What was the Wild Man’s assignment? _____

READ Mark 5:20. Did he accept his assignment? _____

QUESTION #2: What is he telling the people – the 28 fundamental beliefs? The story of Christmas or the story of Creation? Is he relating the story of the Cross? What is he telling them? What does it say in the Scripture that he is telling them? (see Mark 5:20) _____

THINK IT THROUGH: Do you have a story to tell? What story? _____

SUMMARY: We Accept our Assignment and Do as He Did because –

Everyone has at least one evangelistic sermon that they can preach – *their own story*.

***PART 2* – The Disciple Has Become a Witness**

QUESTION #1: To what four kinds of people will he tell his story? (See the book chapter 16.)

- a. Those who _____ him and will _____ him
- b. Those who _____ him and will _____ him
- c. Those who _____ him and will _____ him
- d. Those who _____ him and will _____ him

QUESTION #2: To what four kinds of people will you tell your story?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

THINK IT THROUGH: Why did Jesus ask this man – and why is He asking you – to tell your story and to be a witness? _____

READ Luke 4:18-19. If the Wild Man (and you) do what Jesus did, what will be the purpose of his (and your) assignment to tell his (and your) story? _____

How do you think you will do this? What specific, practical things do you think you will be doing? _____

Focused on the Task and Carrying on after Jesus is Gone

QUESTION #1: READ Mark 5:20. Does the Wild Man go and do his assignment? _____

Will you? _____

(This is very important.) Why? _____

QUESTION #2: READ Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-18. Did the Wild Man have to go alone? _____

Are you ever alone on God’s assignment? _____

SUMMARY: We Focus and Carry on when Jesus is gone because – we are never alone.

Pressing the Point Home –

1. The word “Christian” means _____ of Christ.
2. To be a Christian you must not only accept Jesus as Savior, you must also _____ Jesus as Lord. (Several words are possible. Explain the word you used)

TAKE HOME Thought Question –

Is Jesus calling you to be a disciple and a witness? _____

What assignment has He given you? _____

How do you think it will be received? _____

Does that matter to you? _____

Study 17

“Do You Know You Are To Be One Of The Sheep?”

Foundational Review –

Four sessions ago we studied the Sanctuary which illustrated the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship for us personally, removing the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin in our lives so that we are enabled to stand before God – with confidence by Faith in His ability to do what He has promised.

Three sessions ago we studied the Three Angels’ Messages which illustrated this same Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as we present it to others, inviting them 1) to worship God, 2) to make a choice to come out of the world’s orientation to life and to enter into/abide in God’s plan of salvation, and 3) to receive the wonderful consequence of making that choice – everlasting life with our best Friend.

Two sessions ago we began working through the basic, real life applications of this Christian life, to grasp the idea that Seventh-day Adventist Christians – to be the Remnant that they are called to be – must be living this Christian life in the Time of the End. In these last four sessions we are studying what this life will actually will look like.

Two sessions ago we studied Making Disciples – like Abraham made disciples. Last session we studied Being a Witness – like the Wild Man became a witness. This week is an unusual title: Being One of the Sheep. Be sure you read Chapter 17 before working through this study. The discussion we

You Are –

A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)

In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)

Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)

Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)

Required to choose (Romans 12:1)

Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)

Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)

Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)

Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)

Unique calling – Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)

To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)

To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)

To give 3 Angels’ Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Adventist Christianity. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

are about to have will be much easier – because some of the questions are asking for ideas directly from the chapter.

Part 1 – On the Mount of Olives – Matthew 24:1-14

Turn to Matt. 24. In this session we will spend most of our time here.

QUESTION #1: READ verse 3. On the Mount of Olives that last night, what basic question did the disciples ask Jesus? _____

Do you know anyone in the secular world who is asking this question? _____

QUESTION #2: What were the first three general answers that Jesus gave them?

- a. Matthew 24:4 _____
- b. Matthew 24:8 _____
- c. Matthew 24:14 _____

QUESTION #3: What events do the Seventh-day Adventists of your church usually focus on when they start talking about the Time of the End or the Second Coming? _____

QUESTION #4: What event is to be the one all-consuming event for the Remnant that truly marks the Second Coming of the Lord? (Matthew 24:14) _____

ALERT! – The rest of this session is focused on this one point! Jesus’ discussion with His disciples does not end here. Jesus has a lot more to say on this topic.

Part One was on the signs of the end – and *the* most important sign.

Part 2 – Watching

Three Groups Who Were Not Watching: Fill in the blanks directly from Chapter 17.

QUESTION #1: The Unknowing – Matthew 24:38-39. These people are consumed with l ____ .

They don’t even *know* the ev ____ . They don’t even *know* that it’s c ____ g.

These people are consumed with life. There is nothing wrong with life.

- a. Should we be consumed by it? _____
- b. What event are we to be focused on? _____
- c. What is our mission? _____

THINK IT THROUGH:

Was Jesus involved in life? Did He go to weddings? Did He go to special dinners? _____

But what was He always focused on? _____

What should the life of the Remnant be focused on? _____

QUESTION #2: The Unwatchful – Matthew 24:43. These people are not paying a _____.

They don't know w _ _ _ to watch. They don't know the t _ _ _ _ g.

- a. Is it enough to just know what event will take place? _____
- b. What else must the Remnant do? _____

- c. Can we know the WHEN – the timing of the event? (Matthew 24:14, 21-29) Be prepared to defend your answer. _____

- d. Which sign did Jesus especially emphasize to tell us WHEN the end will come? Matthew 24:14) _____

QUESTION #3: The Unexpectant – Matt24:45-47 and 48-51. Two Sections: The first group of people expect the Master at any time. They are always r _ _ _ y. The second group of people do not expect the Master any time soon. They are not r _ _ _ y. They do not realize the i _ _ _ _ _ _ y of His return.

- a. Why is this group not ready? What did they say about the coming of the Master? What did they not EXPECT? (Matthew 24:48) _____

THINK IT THROUGH: Is it enough to know the Signs of the Times? What three lessons are we to learn from the three groups in Part Two of Jesus' Sermon?

- a. _____

- b. _____
- c. _____

Part 3 – the Gospel and the World

Look at Matthew 24:14 again. Notice the two words “world” and “gospel.”

QUESTION #1: The first word – What World?

- a. What world are the disciples to witness to? (Acts 1:8) Where do they start? Then go where? _____

- b. What world is the Time of the End Remnant to witness to? Where does it start? And then go where? _____

REREAD Acts 1:8 in a modern (Hammonds) version. “But you shall be My witnesses both in your home church, and in your local neighborhood and your county, and even out into the whole viewing area of your local television station – and into the whole world.”

- c. Where does your witness start? Where does it go from there? _____

QUESTION #2: The second word – What Gospel? (in practical terms – three parables)

FIRST PARABLE – Looking at our three words – Know, Watch, Expect – our three virgins are all alike. All three words are operative.

- a. The Ten Virgins *know*, are *watching*, and *expect* the Bridegroom. What’s the critical element that’s missing for half of them? (Zech 4:6; Ezekiel 37:14) _____

The Gospel is *Spirit-given* and *Spirit-driven*.

THINK IT THROUGH: What critical information is Jesus teaching in this parable? (John 15:8-10) _____

If this part is missing, all the knowing and watching and expectancy will be for nothing.

THE SECOND PARABLE – It is unfortunate that the word “talent” is used – because we think of performance talents or gifts when we hear the word.

- a. Besides money, what did the Master give these three – really? _____

- b. What will they need to carry out their mission? (See the first parable – the parables build from the first to the third parable.) _____

Compare the difference in *attitude* between the first two servants and the third servant. (Compare Hebrews 11:6 with Matthew 25:24-25; see Chapter 9 in the book.)

- c. Do the first two servants believe Hebrews 11:6 about the Master? _____

- d. What is the reward for loving and trusting the Master – in this life and in the life to come? (This answer is critical – to see if you have been paying attention in all of these studies. For help, see Chapter 4) _____

- e. As a result, what will be missing in the lives of those who “fear” like the third servant? (one word answer from each scripture)
John 15:5 _____
Matthew 7:20 _____

The Gospel is based on *Faith vs. Fear* and *Fruitful vs. Unfruitful*

THOUGHT QUESTION: What does the Bible mean by the term “fruit?”

Ephesians 2:10 _____
Galatians 5:22-23 _____

THIRD PARABLE – Like the Ten Virgins, the two groups in this parable are remarkable similar in one aspect and so very different in another.

- a. Which group – the sheep or the goats – were surprised that the people in great need represented Jesus? (Matthew 25:37, 44) _____
- b. Describe the difference in attitude between the sheep and the goats toward those in need.
Goats – Luke 6:32-34 _____

Sheep – Matthew 9:36 _____

-
- c. What criteria does Jesus use to separate the Sheep and the Goats? (Matthew 9:36; 25:40)
-

The Gospel is *Others-focused* – rather than Self-focused.

THOUGHT QUESTION: Why did the Sheep help these people? What critical element is missing in the goats? _____

NOTE: Each of these elements – HOLY SPIRIT, FAITH AND FRUITFUL, and COMPASSION – is critical to the “preaching” of the Gospel to the whole world.

The Time of the End – Matthew 24:14

Now the “preaching” must take some very practical forms – the Who and the How.

QUESTION #1: Who will deliver this Gospel to the whole world for a witness? (Isaiah 43:10; 44:8, See Chapter 16) _____

QUESTION #2: According to the three parables, in what three ways will they do this? (TEST QUESTION)

First Parable _____

Second Parable _____

Third Parable _____

Take Home Thought Questions

Has the “gospel to the whole world” already begun in your part of “Jerusalem?”

Are you part of the body of Christ? (i.e.; Are you a Christian?) If so, what is your part in the “preaching”? (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11) _____

What are the Three R’s that God uses to get us ready to participate? How did we describe them in our Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship? Fill in the blanks. (See Chapters 4-6, 13)

Re _____ (to turn around) Rec _____ from

Re _____ (make alive again) Gr _____ in

Re _____ (create anew) Bec _____ like

Which of these three must we have a part in? _____

How do we partake of these three Gifts? By _____ (Romans 1:17; See Chapters 13-14)

Study 18

Do You Know You Are To Build An Ark?

Foundational Review –

Five sessions ago we reached the climax of our question – “Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do you know who you are?” We studied the Sanctuary, illustrating the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship for us personally, enabling us to stand before God – with confidence by Faith in His ability to do what He has promised. We followed in the next session with the Three Angels’ Messages, illustrating this same Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as we present it to others.

Then we got practical, investigating basic, real life applications of this Christian life – lived in our own lives and demonstrated to others – as the Remnant in the Time of the End.

We have studied Making Disciples – like Abraham made disciples, Being a Witness like the Wild Man became a witness, and Being One of the Sheep in caring for those in need.

Be sure you read Chapter 18 before working through this study. The discussion we are about to have will be much easier – because some of the questions are asking for ideas directly from the chapter.

Part I – the Remnant

You Are –

A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)

A Christian – the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)

In a Covenant Grace – Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)

Accepting – Received From – Faith – Son (1 John 4:7)

Abiding – Growing In – Hope – Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Acting – Becoming Like – Love – Father (2 Peter 1:4)

Required to choose (Romans 12:1)

Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)

Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

Gifts of Holy Spirit – internal/external change (Romans 12:2)

Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)

Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)

Unique calling – Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)

To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)

To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)

To give 3 Angels’ Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Adventist Christianity. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

First of all – do you understand the concept of the Visible Remnant and the Invisible Remnant as we discussed Chapter 11 about the Remnant?

QUESTION #1: The following five points describe the Visible Remnant.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from Scripture.

- a. (READ John 16:8) By _____ and (Ezekiel 36:26-27) a change of _____ – the Visible Remnant has chosen to live in Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God. This does not make them the Remnant; it makes them true Christians. (Remember: You have to be a Christian before you can be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.)
- b. They have a (Revelation 14:6-12) _____ to deliver to the people of the world, both to those who have chosen to live in relationship with God and those who have not.
What’s the message? – (Jeremiah 23:2-6) _____

- c. The Remnant must personally (Revelation 14:12a) _____ and explain to others a _____. This does not change them into the Remnant; it reveals them to be the Remnant. *The Remnant is recognized as separate and distinct from other Christian by their special God-assigned task.*
- d. They are assigned a task to provide for the (Isaiah 37:32) _____ of others. The Visible Remnant will function as Stewards and Priests, a very serious appointment of the Lord.
- e. In the crisis – Remnant must function, can only function, in the power of the _____. (Zechariah 4:6) The Remnant’s connection with the Holy Spirit must be established _____ to the time when they must work by His power. (Matthew 25:1-4)

Do you see why the answer to our question – “Do you know who you are?” – is so important?

This is who we are as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

- f. READ Revelation 12:17. With whom is the Dragon angry – the Woman? No. The daughters of the woman (the seed)? No.
Then with whom is the Dragon angry? _____
Why is he angry with them – in the Time of the End? (Revelation 12:11, 17) _____

QUESTION #2: The Invisible Remnant are described in both the Old and New Testaments.

- a. How are they described in the OT? (Zechariah 8:22-23) _____

- b. How are they described in the NT? (John 12:20-21) _____

There is a Remnant – visible to all – who have their assignment and their task. They are calling out to whom? Yes, everyone. But who responds? Those who want what the Remnant has found for themselves and for others. These are the Invisible Remnant who respond – and join with the Visible Remnant to make the Final Remnant People of God in the Time of the End.

QUESTION #3: There have always been Remnants – Visible and Invisible.

- a. List – by group or by name – the Invisible Remnant (those in the world who responded) to the messages of the Visible Remnant listed. (Use the Bible or the Internet, or other research tools)

Noah –	Abraham –
Elijah –	John the Baptist –
Martin Luther –	John Wesley –
Joseph Wolfe –	William Miller –
Mark Finley –	

THINK IT THROUGH –

If you are part of the Visible Remnant Church, what Invisible Remnant are you hoping will respond to your messages? _____

QUESTION #4: Just as a REVIEW (to solidify the concept in your mind), list the activities that the former Visible Remnant have been *doing* while living in the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. (See the activities list under VISIBLE REMNANT above) _____

THINK IT THROUGH –

What is it that you – as part of the Visible Remnant – will have been doing to reach your Invisible Remnant? _____

Part II – NOAH –

What three messages (similar to Noah’s messages) are the Visible Remnant to be preaching in the Time of the End?

Noah #1 – God loves you and wants to rescue you.

Time of the End #1 – First Angel – John 3:16

QUESTION #1: READ Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 1:16. What name does the Visible Remnant use to describe what God is offering with this first Gift? _____

Noah #2 – God is giving you a choice.

Time of the End #2 – Second Angel – 1 Kings 18:21

QUESTION #2: What is Gift #2 and the choice that accompanies the Gift?

GIFT – John 14:16 vs. Ephesians 2:2 _____

CHOICE – Micah 6:8 vs. 1 John 2:16 _____

QUESTION #3: READ Revelation 14:8. From where does God call people to be transformed by this second gift? _____

Out of what? (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Revelation 13:13-14) _____

Into what? (John 14:16-17; 15:5) _____

Noah#3 – There are consequences to your choice.

Time of the End #3 – Third Angel – Revelation 22:12; John 5:28-29

QUESTION #4: READ Revelation 14:12; compare to 2 Peter 1:4. Those who respond positively to the first two messages, what do they develop under the guidance of Gift #2? _____

QUESTION #5: READ Revelation 18:2-4; 2 Peter 3:7. What is the purpose of the Special Emphasis Message? _____

Living in these days of ease, this scenario is very difficult to imagine and extremely difficult for the painfully human Visible Remnant to do.

THINK IT THROUGH: This is a review question – which reminds us of just how critical the previous sessions have been. It is critical that you know this, that you dream this, that you automatically answer this when asked – that you never forget and never try to do it any other way. READ Ezekiel 37:14; Zechariah 4:6. By what process and by what power is the visible Remnant able to carry out this task? _____

QUESTION #5: By reading the chapter beforehand, you will know what kind of opposition the Visible Remnant should expect to these messages. Read about this opposition in the chapter and answer: What are the three kinds of people opposed to Noah when he delivered his messages. Who were they?

Colossians 2:8 _____

Matthew 15:8-9 _____

Micah 7:6 _____

QUESTION #6: READ Acts 8:26-29. Who are the Visible Remnant looking for? Who is left to talk to? _____

a. READ Acts 8:27. In the Time of the End, what does an “Ethiopian” mean? _____

b. READ 1 John 1:1-3; Romans 8:14. What is the “Ethiopian” looking for? _____

Part III – THE ARK –

QUESTION #1: While the Remnant are acting the part of making disciples, being witnesses, and serving others (as Sheep) – what is the fourth task they are called to do? What’s the name of this final chapter? _____

QUESTION #2: What is the New Testament equivalent of the Ark? Answer with two or three words from the scripture.

Ephesians 4:12 _____

1 Peter 2:5 _____

Matthew 16:18 _____

QUESTION #3: What three characteristics must this “ark” have – just like Noah’s Ark had?

a. Receiving from – Psalms 119:114, 117 _____

b. Growing in – Ephesians 4:15 _____

c. Becoming like – Ephesians 4:13, 16 _____

QUESTION #3: How do you build an “ark?” This seems like a hard question, but actually you already know how to do this. Give a two or three word answer from the scriptures.

a. Receive from – Do justly

Deuteronomy 6:5 _____

Joshua 24:15b _____

Romans 8:5 _____

b. Grow in – Love mercy

Acts 4:23-30 _____

Matthew 5:16 _____

Colossians 3:12-17 _____

c. Become like – Walk humbly

Matthew 9:36 _____

Luke 10:33 _____

2 Peter 1:4 _____

Please understand that this is why it was so important for you to establish the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship by Faith in Jesus. This is why it was so important to establish obedience from

the heart by Hope in the Holy Spirit. This is why it was so important to establish the power of the Spirit by Love of the Father as the source of functioning by the church. All this must be in place in order to build an Ark – (as in the chapter) deliberately, radically, compassionately.

***TAKE HOME* Thought Question –**

The description of those whom Jesus intended for His People to reach out to in Matthew 25:35-36 is listed below. Following each word, you will find a two- word description of the literal meaning of the word. At the end of the line, write a two-word description of the metaphorical meaning of the word. Use the scriptural definition of each word by looking up each word in a concordance.

- a. Can you picture them? Are you aware of “those who dwell on the earth” who are:

	<u>Literal</u>	<u>Metaphorical</u>
“hungry” –	without food	Amos 8:11; John 6:35 –
“thirsty” –	without water	Isaiah 55:1; John 4:14 –
“strangers” –	not known, not accepted	Ephesians 2:12-14 –
“naked” –	exposed, without clothing	Psalms 32:1; 91:4 –
“sick” and tired –	ill and dying	Isaiah 1:5-6; Jeremiah 3:22;
.		Matthew 11:28-29 –
“imprisoned” and bound –	in jail	Isaiah 49:8-10 –

- b. How will you respond to these people, do you think?
- c. What kind of Ark will you build? Who will help you?
- d. What will it look like? Will it look like your church currently?