

Primary

TEACHER GUIDE

Year A, Quarter 1
My God Is Loving





SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

PRIMARY • YEAR A • QUARTER 1

A Teacher Guide for Primary Sabbath School (children ages 7-9)



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Primary Teacher Guide

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

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My God Is Loving

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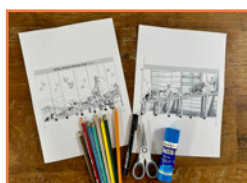


Dear Primary Sabbath School Teacher,

Thank you so much for being willing to teach your group of Primary children this year!

As you pray and plan from this new curriculum, may God lead you to know just how to make every Sabbath full of teachable moments that are eternally life-changing for the children.

- The main goal of this curriculum is to help your Primary students **to know and love Jesus and His living Word**, to **grow into His likeness**, and to want to serve Him every day.
- In all your interactions, the stories, and the group activities, remember to point the children to **God's living, powerful Word**. As you read the condensed narrative portions each week, be sure to have your Bible nearby to open so the children can read from it. Encourage the children to bring their own Bibles to Sabbath School each week.
- Encourage **parents and caregivers to read the lesson** to the children each day. Also encourage the children to **spend time with Jesus every day** (see ideas for this at the beginning of the *Primary Student Guide*).
- Be **intentional about the culture you foster** in the classroom, helping all to have a sense of belonging. Notice those who might be on the fringes and involve them.
- Ensure that you always have at least one other **adult helper** in the room with you. They can welcome children who arrive late and assist you as needed.
- This new, global Sabbath School curriculum is written for hundreds of cultures. You will no doubt find some things that need adjusting and adapting to **meet the needs of the kids in front of you**. If your group has very little knowledge, make the lessons simpler. If they know a lot, go deeper still. Look to adapt some of the activities for children with **special needs**. See www.aliveinjesus.info for a training video on nurturing children with special needs. Pray for wisdom about what and how to use this curriculum, while staying true to its goals.
- The **Kindergarten and Primary Bible stories are the same**, so if you belong to a small church with combined Sabbath School classes, select the level that will best suit the knowledge and needs of your children.
- We have provided you with **music** suggestions in the program. You might also like to invite the children to choose songs and lead the singing time. Where possible, choose songs that apply to the weekly theme. If possible, display the words of the songs so that everyone can learn the songs together. Keep in mind the importance of choosing songs that share spiritual truths, as music will linger in our minds for years to come.
- Make an **Offering Chart** at the beginning of each quarter from the template provided on our website. Together with the children, write weekly offering goals at the bottom of the page to encourage children to give to God's work. Each week after the offering has been collected and counted, invite one child to color the new section to indicate the offering goal has been met. Display the Offering Chart in a prominent place in your Sabbath School room.





- You may like to make special mention of **birthdays** by singing a birthday song and giving a small gift to the child. If appropriate in your culture, encourage children to bring a Birthday-Thank Offering for your mission project. Also, be sure to acknowledge **visitors** and make them feel welcome in your Sabbath School. You'll find a "Happy Birthday" song and a "Visitor Song" on the Alive in Jesus website.
- Establish a healthy understanding of **prayer**. Model how special it is to talk with God as a friend through your own prayers, encouraging children to pray from their heart with reverence. Kneel for the opening prayer, explaining that this shows God we are humble.
- Encourage children to learn their **weekly memory verse**. You can share various methods of doing memorization with them and point them to the weekly **Scripture Song**, which will help them to remember the verse. Please also spend a few moments reflecting on the meaning of each memory verse by discussing the questions each week. You may like to play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive, as they do their crafts, or as they leave Sabbath School, to reinforce the memory verses each quarter.
- Display the Alive in Jesus quarterly **mural** at the front of your classroom. This is an important visual teaching tool and will bring color and life to your Sabbath School room.
- All resources can be found on the **Alive in Jesus website**, www.aliveinjesus.info, including crafts, music, training videos, podcasts, news and updates, and general information about Alive in Jesus.
- The Primary children will look to you as one of the most important adults in their lives, so **make your personal daily abiding with Jesus a priority**. Pray for these children and the precious hour you have together each Sabbath morning.

Jesus said, "I must preach the kingdom of God . . . for this purpose I have been sent" (Luke 4:43). He has called you, and He will equip you, as you teach, nurture, guide, and love the Primary children in your care this year.

Thank you for being willing to serve in this way! May God lead you as you lead His little children into a loving friendship with Him.

"The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in **bringing souls to Christ**." "It gives to young and old a **knowledge of God's word**, . . . [and] it awakens in them a **love for its sacred truths**, and a **desire to study them for themselves**; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings."

Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 10, 11.

LESSON COMPONENTS. These teaching principles are included in all teacher guides, although not always in a specific order. All activities fall under one or more of these areas, although we've chosen to highlight the most prominent in each lesson.



HOOK

Arouse Curiosity

Hooking children into the topic to help make them eager to learn Bible truths.



HEAD

Story Immersion and Exploration

Sharing the story and key ideas in a memorable and meaningful way.



HEART

Connection With God

Touching the children's hearts and fostering love for God through worship.



HAND

Commitment and Application

Applying the learning in life through mission and service.



HOORAY

Learning Celebration

Celebrating new insights about God, or their learning from the lesson.



Tips for Telling Bible Stories in Sabbath School

"Teach me what I do not see" (Job 34:32).

1. Practice telling the Bible story as you would any other story. This is the heart of Sabbath School. We want to show children that the Bible is living, powerful, true, and trustworthy, and that God has a special message for them personally in each story. Invest time into how you will communicate this most effectively to the children in your class. Remember:

- Learn the story and be so familiar with it that you can recall the different parts. Don't read it. Memorize an outline, select appropriate visuals according to the age of your audience.
- Change the pitch, tone, and speed as the action unfolds. Use action, enthusiasm, and appropriate gestures.
- Plan your opening sentence to catch the immediate attention of the children.
- Tell the events in a logical sequence. Don't tell unnecessary details (this will confuse and interrupt the story). The younger the audience, the fewer details are needed.
- Finish the story at the peak of interest. Don't speak too quickly, sermonize, summarize, or retell the story—children don't need this.

2. Pray with the children before you tell a Bible story, or before you read from the Bible. Ask God to help everyone understand the Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

3. Sabbath School should be a joyful, memorable place, where children learn about God and grow to love Him. We should prayerfully consider how to communicate God's sacred stories in clear, meaningful ways. Children should know that the Bible stories are true—not fables. Both the method and the message of communication should clearly support this idea.

4. Make the Bible story memorable and engaging by using one or more of the following strategies:

- **Peg people** and props. If possible, purchase some wooden pegs and paint or decorate them as wooden people to be used in some storytelling sections. Over time, you may like to add new people: Jesus, disciples, and other Bible characters. Encourage children to retell the Bible story to each other using these peg people. You may also like to display these in a regular place with other objects (animals, house, ocean—using colored materials or simple boxes) for children to

play with if they arrive early. Move these peg people and objects around on your fabric scene as you tell the story. Children can take turns doing this as you tell the story, and they can then retell the story in their own words. This is an effective method to teach children to recall, internalize, and share the story with someone else.

- Use the weekly **Picture PowerPoints** as you tell the story. Pause to reference the emotions on the faces of the Bible characters, the backgrounds, and the details of the story. These pictures will stay in the minds of the children and help them remember the story.
- **Felts** (younger children). Although felts are an older resource, they're helpful because you can unpack the story as it happens with visuals that will stay in the minds of children. Practice with your felts ahead of time so that you can be clear about the sequence and position of each one.
- **Dramatic storytelling** with objects. Use expression and various objects, sounds, and smells that use our five senses to make the story memorable and clear.
- **Alive in Jesus podcasts.** Invite the children to listen to one or two of the daily narratives of the Sabbath School podcast and then tell, draw, or discuss the remainder of the story in groups or pairs. As the children listen to the story, they may want to draw what they hear (stick people) or write two questions for discussion at the end of the story. Alternatively, each child can draw a small section of the story to string together as a long story scene at the end.

5. Pray that God will help you to communicate His stories effectively for the specific age to whom you're speaking. You're dealing with God's Word and eternal implications.

"Show me Your ways, O Lord;

Teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

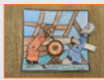
On You I wait all the day."

Psalms 25:4, 5

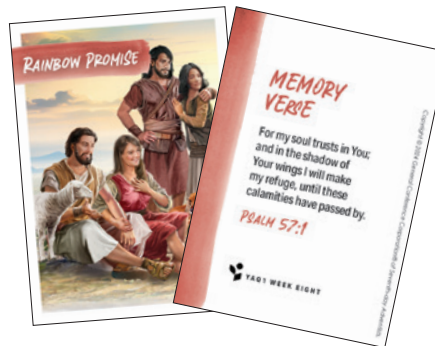
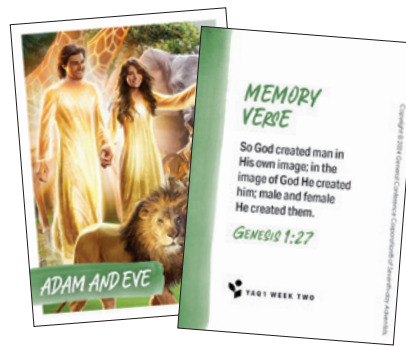
Craft Resources



Primary, Year A, Quarter 1

WEEK	CRAFT	SAMPLE	RESOURCES/SUPPLIES
1: A New World	Color Wheel		Week 1 craft template on white cardstock, crayons, nature stickers, marker, pencil, scissors.
2: A Perfect Home	Creation Bookmark		Week 2 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils, scissors, glue.
3: The Sabbath	Sunset-to Sunset-Spinner		Week 3 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils, split pins, scissors.
4: What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?	Good Choices Chatterbox		Week 4 craft template, colored pencils, scissors.
5: The Fall and a Promise	Storytelling Cube		Week 5 craft template on white cardstock, scissors, glue.
6: Cain and Abel	Stone Altar		Week 6 craft template, colored pencils/crayons, cotton balls, orange cellophane/tissue paper, glue.
7: Noah Builds an Ark	Ark Builders Craft Stick Ark		Week 7 craft template on white cardstock, split pins, colored pencils, scissors, glue. A piece of thick cardboard, craft sticks, craft glue, scissors.
8: The Rainbow Promise	Promise and Protection Spinner		Week 8 craft template, colored pencils, split pins, scissors.
9: The Tower of Babel	Tower of Babel		Week 9 craft template (ideally printed on white cardstock), orange and brown paper (cut into small rectangles), scissors, glue.
10: God Leads Abram	Starry Sky Picture		A sheet of white cardstock, black paper, white crayon, watercolor paints, paintbrush, water, scissors, glue.
11: Abram and Lot	Choosing First Pop-up		Week 11 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils/crayons, scissors, glue.
12: Abram Rescues Lot	Frog Puppet		Two paper plates, stapler, green cellophane/tissue paper, colored paper (white, black, red, and green), scissors, glue, marker.
13: The Promised Baby	Christian Hospitality Coloring Book		Week 13 craft template (two pages printed double-sided), colored pencils, scissors, stapler.

Character Cards





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

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WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 1

A New World

Bible Reference: Genesis 1:1-23

Big Idea	Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.
Memory Verse	"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen" (Romans 1:20).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 33, 34 <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary</i> , vol. 1, pp. 207–217 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 21–34
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 1. The Holy Scriptures 2. The Trinity 3. The Father 4. The Son 5. The Holy Spirit 6. Creation
Word of the Week	Attribute: An attribute is a quality or feature of something. It can describe a color, shape, or size. It can also describe what a person is like.
Lesson Summary	This lesson looks at God's creative power as seen in the first five days of Creation at the beginning of this earth's history. In five days God created the light, sky, plants, sun, moon, stars, fish, and birds, as special gifts to us. We can appreciate the unity of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and their love and creative power as we enjoy the beauty and wonder of all that He made during those first five amazing days.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that God is love and that He created the earth as a special place for us to enjoy. Feel grateful that God's creation shows how much He loves us. Respond by joyfully focusing on God's love as seen in nature.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Let there be . . . “light”; “a firmament”; “lights in the firmament” (Genesis 1:3, 6, 14). By the power of His word, God made our world come miraculously into existence. He spoke words powerfully from a heart of love. “Let there be . . .”

More than 6,000 years later, despite the ravages of sin, we can still be filled with wonder at the evidence of God’s “Let there be . . .”

“‘God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy” (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 2).

Let’s open our eyes and hearts, and slow down for a moment to drink it all in. Let’s pause to enjoy the intricacy of a tiny fern; the delicate perfume of a budding flower; the striking grandeur of towering mountains; the warbling songs of birds at dawn.

Let’s look beyond the beauty of nature to the God of beauty. Fields of lilies and fluttering birds remind us of His provision and faithfulness (Matthew 6:26-30). The sunrise whispers of Christ’s soon return (Psalm 19:4, 5). The heavens speak of His righteousness (Psalm 97:6), and every gust of wind calls us to live our lives in the power of His Spirit (John 3:8).

As you and the children explore the beauty of God and the wonders of His creation together this Sabbath, our prayer is that you will come to deeply know that “God is love” (1 John 4:8).



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 1

EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play **"When God Speaks"** or worship songs of your choice.
- Discover the mural: kids question each other.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is Our Creator"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray.
- Introduce Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Fruit: Describe attributes.
- One-minute brainstorm: What is God like?
- God Is Love: 1 John 4:8, 16
- Share the **Big Idea: Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- **Color wheel** discussion: Attributes of God—God of order, as seen in Creation

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 1: Creator God**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: "Romans 1:20"**
- Review: Personal responses to learning
- Mission Story: "Our Living God"
- **Craft:** Color Wheel
- Sing: Closing song: **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Use the color wheel spinner you made at Sabbath School to tell your parents/caregivers about what you've learned about Creation.
- Pray: Thank God for His attributes.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Source a **piece of fruit**, a **sharp knife**, and a **chopping board**.

- Print or prepare to show (digitally) the words for "**Sabbath Song**" and "**The Books of the Bible**."
- Visit the AIJ website for information about the location of this quarter's mission offering. Print and create an **Offering Chart**. Source a **globe or world map**. Print the **13 Mission Fast Facts** so you can share a Mission Fast Fact each week.
- Write the **Big Idea** at the top of your **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display. (Do this every week.)

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Prepare a "**creation collection**" of some of the following items: a **flashlight or lightbulb**, a **globe or world map** (also used in mission focus), **flowers**, **branch**, **fruit** and **vegetables**. Note: you may wish to have more than one of each object if you have a large Sabbath School class.

Source a **color wheel**. A **flashlight**, **globe**, and **calendar**.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 1: Creator God** for each child. Fold and glue the two sides together. Source a container, envelope, bag, or key ring for children to store these cards in the classroom this quarter.

Craft Materials

Print a **week 1 craft template** on white cardstock for each child. Source **stickers** of things God created on Days 1 to 5. Source: **crayons**, **markers**, **pencils**, **scissors**. Make a sample.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "When God Speaks"
 - "God Is Our Creator"
 - "Be Still, Be Silent"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song: "Romans 1:20"
 - "God Bless You"
- ☐ Location of mission offering and 13 Mission Fast Facts
- ☐ Offering Chart template
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 1
- ☐ Character Card 1: Creator God for each child
- ☐ Craft template for week 1



qr.aij.info_PA1t

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Globe or world map
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Piece of fruit
- ☐ Sharp knife
- ☐ Chopping board
- ☐ Flashlight or lightbulb
- ☐ Nature items: flowers, branch, fruit, vegetables
- ☐ Calendar
- ☐ Nature stickers (Creation days 1-5)
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the song “**When God Speaks**” or worship songs of your choice quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge children by name as they arrive. Interact with them in a personal way.

DO: As the children arrive, show them the mural for this quarter and ask them to pair up and ask each other:

- **What do you think we might learn about in Sabbath School this quarter?**
- **What are three things you notice?**
- **What do you want to learn more about this quarter?**

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Ask for a few answers to the questions about the mural and affirm answers. Explain that this quarter we will discover what happened at the very beginning of our earth, which is found at the beginning of the Bible. We'll learn about an amazing, loving Creator God.

SING: Sing “**God Is Our Creator.**” Introduce the song “**Be Still, Be Silent**” and explain that you will sing it each week before you pray. Listen to it and follow along with the words (printed or displayed digitally).

PRAY: Ask God to be close to you and the children as you learn more about Him in Sabbath School this quarter.

BIBLE FOCUS: Introduce and listen to “**The Books of the Bible**” song. Display a list of the books of the Bible as the children listen. This song will be sung each week this quarter. Explain that learning the books of the Bible in order helps us find Bible verses quickly when we use our Bibles. Share a **Bible Fast Fact**. The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. “Testament” means agreement, or covenant. The Old Testament was written before Jesus came to earth, and the New Testament was written after Jesus went back to heaven. They show the agreement God has made with us, His people.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus.**” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J OBJECT LESSON: Show the children a **piece of fruit** and ask them to describe its **attributes** (qualities or features: color, shape, size, etc.). Prompt if necessary.

Cut the fruit in half and describe more of its attributes (parts, texture, etc.). Cut it into small pieces. Have the children taste it and further describe its attributes (sweet, juicy, etc.).

Teaching Point: Like the piece of fruit, God has many different attributes that tell us what He is like.

BRAINSTORM: Engage the children in a quick **one-minute brainstorm** about God's attributes.

- **What is God like? Let's list as many of His attributes as we can in a minute!** (Loving, kind, wise, holy, faithful, etc.)

Set a timer and quickly write the attributes on the whiteboard/poster paper as children share. Count them at the end.

- **Are any of these attributes new to you, or different from what you've been told God is like?**

DISCUSS: • **How do we know what God is like?** (From others who have taught us, Bible stories we've heard, reading the Bible, etc.)



Teaching Point: Highlight that the **Bible** is the main way people can know about God's attributes and how truly wonderful He is. It is like a letter from God in which He tells us about Himself. Let's bring and use our Bibles in Sabbath School every week so we can learn more about our loving God!

 **READ:** • On our list of God's attributes, which one stands out the most for you? (Prompt to identify love.)

Read 1 John 4:8, 16.

Teaching Point: God doesn't just love us—**God IS love!** Many of His other attributes tell us about what His amazing love is like. (*Hold up your Bible.*) When we read our Bibles from Genesis, the first book of the Bible, to Revelation, the last book, God's love for sinful people is very clear. Let's first learn about how God's creative power shows that He is love.

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together from the whiteboard/poster paper: **Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **ACTIVITY:** • What would our world be like without color? What would be different in our lives if we lived in black and white?

Light can be broken into seven different colors. When it passes through raindrops in the air, it makes a rainbow. Spin your **color wheel** to show how light is made of seven colors we can't normally see.

• **Which of God's attributes do light and a rainbow remind you of?** (Faithful, promise keeper, creative, powerful.)
Everything God created tells us of Him in some way.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 1: Creator God** to place in their container (or on their key ring). Explain that they will receive one card each week they come to Sabbath School. Discuss the picture and have the children recite the memory verse. Then sing the **Scripture Song: "Romans 1:20."**

• **What does the memory verse tell you about God? What helps us to understand what He is like?**

Teaching point: The memory verse tells us that there are things about God that are invisible to people, but the things He's created help us to understand what He is like.

 **REVIEW:** Invite the children to share either of the following:

- One of God's attributes they'd especially like to thank Him for.
- What they'd like to thank God for creating during the first five days of Creation.

MISSION STORY: Read this week's mission story, "**Our Living God**," and discuss the follow-up question.

CRAFT: Display your **color wheel spinner**. Highlight the features of both sides and explain how to make it.

Quietly play "**When God Speaks**" while children complete their craft. Draw attention to the parts that relate to the creation story.

SING: Bring children back together and sing the closing song "**God Bless You**."

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Use the color wheel spinner you made at Sabbath School to tell your parents/caregivers about what you've learned about Creation.

PRAY: Thank God for the wonderful world He made for us. Ask Him to be with the children and their families and to help them see God's love clearly in the week ahead.

Bible Story



Big Idea: Our loving God made earth to be our wonderful home.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues by ► clicking through the images as you tell the Bible story. Spread your **storytelling collection** on the floor where all children can see them. Instruct children to listen carefully and raise their hand as they recognize an object that relates to the story. Before beginning, turn off the light, pull the curtains, or have children close their eyes. You may like to include flashlights or a light to pass around. Props: a **flashlight**, **flower** or **branch**, **globe**, and **calendar**.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► When God began to create life in our world, the earth was covered in water and darkness. There was no sky. There was nothing, other than God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. God's love was so big, His plan for our world so wonderful. **What did God do? Read Genesis 1:1.** (Created the heavens and the earth.)

Imagine God's smile as He thought about all the amazing things He could create on the brand-new earth. The Bible says the earth was "without form, and void" (Genesis 1:1), which means the earth hadn't yet been prepared for plants, animals, or people to live on it. God is the Creator of all things—He knew just what we would want and need. God's powerful voice spoke into the emptiness. **What did God say? Read Genesis 1:3.** ("Let there be light.")

► Suddenly beams of light flooded into the darkness. God's light shone warm and clear, brightening the beginning of His new world. "God saw the light, that it was good" (Genesis 1:4). (Allow light into your room/shine flashlights.)

"God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:5). God was pleased.

God knew exactly what the world needed next: a great layer to separate the waters. We call this layer the sky. The Bible calls it the "firmament," and says, "Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide . . . the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament' " (Genesis 1:6, 7).

The waters below were held down on the earth by gravity. (Drop an object and explain gravity.)

The water above was changed into a vapor, like the steam above a boiling pot of water. This is like a warm blanket for our earth. It helps animals and plants to grow and people to be warm and protected from the coldness out in space. God, in His love, thought of every tiny detail! He created this home so that it would be the best home possible for us.

What did God create on Day 3? Read Genesis 1:9–13. (Dry land and plants.) Show flower or branch and ask: **Do you prefer to pick flowers or climb trees?**

► The waters swirled as land rose up to make towering mountains, gentle hills, and low valleys. Rivers ran across the land and waves lapped on the beaches.

Thousands of different types of foods began growing when God spoke—watermelons and apples, potatoes and beans. God created them all to give us delicious foods to make us grow strong and healthy. **What is your favorite healthy food?**

God also splashed the earth with color. Bright flowers bloomed, trees blossomed, and grass carpeted the land. What a beautiful and colorful place the world was! No wonder "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12).

What did God create on Day 4 of Creation? Read Genesis 1:14–19. (Sun, moon, and stars.)

► The silvery moon moved up into the night sky, and millions of stars sparkled like tiny lights. Then, as morning came, the sun climbed high to warm and light up the earth for the very first time.



Genesis 1:14, 15 tells us that these lights also show us:

1. *Day and night.* The earth turns once every 24 hours. The part of the earth the sun shines on has daylight, while the other side has night. (Turn a globe while you shine a flashlight on it to represent the sun.)
2. *Time—days, months, and years.* The earth and the moon are like great big clocks. The sun marks off days and years, while the moon gives us months. (Show calendar.)
3. *Signs.* Sometimes God used the sun, moon, or stars to give people very important messages. (Extension study: read [Matthew 24:29](#).)
4. *Seasons.* The pull of the sun and moon gives us spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

As the fourth day came to an end, “God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:18).

What did God create on Day 5? Read Genesis 1:20-23. (The creatures that live in the water and birds.)

► Suddenly the sea was alive with many special creatures. Fish flapped and dolphins dived. Streams, lakes, and ponds were full of life.

Next God's voice filled the sky with birds. Some soared high while others flitted from branch to branch in the trees. Eagles, swallows, and ducks appeared. The air was alive with clucking and chirping. (Say different bird names and see how quickly the children can make their bird calls.)

“And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:21). He knew how much we would like it too.

UNPACK THE STORY

- **Why do you think God made light, water, and firmament (air) before He made land, plants, fish, and birds?** (Plants need good soil, light, water, and air to grow well. Fish need water, and birds need air.)
- **What attributes have we discovered about God in the Creation story so far?** (He is wise, creative, powerful, logical.)

TEACHING POINT Our God is a God of order. He created everything in an order that makes sense. He was always thinking about what the next part of His creation would need, including us—His children.

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story Our Living God



Focus: Nature tells us about our Creator God.

Location: Help a child locate **China** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Lin lives in China. She is 11 years old and in the fifth grade. Lin wants to be a teacher when she grows up. She has already taught her younger sister, Chee, to read.

It is difficult for children in China to share their faith in Jesus with their friends. Many parents do not want their children to be Christians. But Lin has learned to share her love for Jesus in quiet ways.

One time her class was having a test. Some of her classmates wore chains around their necks with little idols on them. During the test, the children sometimes touched the idol. This was their way of worshipping the idol and asking the god it represents to help them pass the test.

One of Lin's classmates asked Lin why she didn't wear an idol around her neck. Lin explained that she doesn't worship an idol. "What do you worship?" her friend asked her. Lin told her friend that she is a Christian and worships the living God, the God who made the heaven and the earth.

Lin explained that God had created everything—the world, the stars, the trees, the sea, and all the animals. She said that Jesus is God's Son, and that He came to live on earth so that people could see what God is like and know that He loves them.

"He's alive," she said. "He hears our prayers and answers them because He cares for us."

A few days later Lin's science teacher asked the class, "Who believes in God?" Lin and another student stood. The teacher told the class, "We don't need gods; we have evolution!"

After school that day some of Lin's friends asked her why she had stood up in class. "Look around you," Lin said. "How could so many kinds of trees and flowers and birds just come into existence by chance? God created the world; He left nothing to chance."

• **What things in nature can you see around you that tells you that God created our world?**



Craft

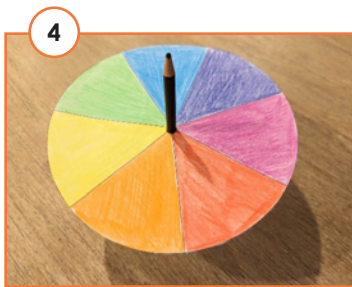
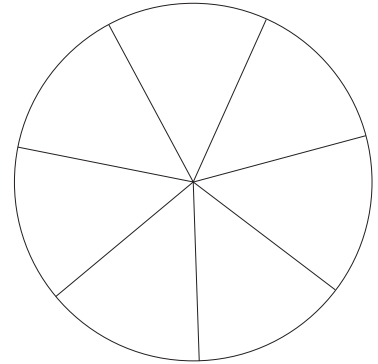
Color Wheel

What you need:

Week 1 craft template on white cardstock, crayons, nature stickers, marker, pencil, scissors (1).

Instructions:

- Color each section of the circle a different color in the following order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Make sure the colors are bright. Write numbers 1-7 on each segment (2).
- Cut out your circle.
- Put stickers of things God created on days 1-5 on the back of your circle (3).
- Carefully push a sharp pencil through the center of your circle (4).
- Play a game with your spinner. Take turns with a friend to spin (5). Whatever number the pencil is pointing to when it stops (6), share something that God made on that day of Creation!





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 2

A Perfect Home

Bible References: Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-25

Big Idea	We are God's very special creation, made in His image.
Memory Verse	"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 44-51 <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary</i> , vol. 1, pp. 214-217, 222-227 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 35-56
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 3. The Father 6. Creation 7. The Nature of Humanity 11. Growing in Christ 21. Stewardship 23. Marriage and the Family
Word of the Week	Image: a likeness, picture, reflection, or representation of something. You are made in God's image, to be like Him.
Lesson Summary	This lesson explores the sixth day of Creation, when God made animals, then Adam and Eve. God created the world and everything in it to be a special gift of love for His final, very special act of Creation: a man and a woman made in His image. Surrounded by beauty, they were to be loving caretakers of everything in God's new world.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that we are God's very special creation, made in His image. Feel glad that God created so many beautiful and intricately designed things because He loves us. Respond by thanking God for everything He created.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

"Am I important?" It's a question we have all asked ourselves from time to time. It's easy to believe we are anything *but* important when relationships unravel, when we feel tired, or when goals are missed, or projects fail. Important? I don't think so!

God understands. He answered this question right at the beginning of time, before it took shape in our hearts. He spoke words with the power to dispel our self-doubt: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). God didn't say, "Let Us make trees in Our image, or goats in Our likeness." No, He voiced these beautiful words, "Let Us make man in Our image." Men and women, boys and girls, would be created to reflect the Creator Himself.

We take after God. He shaped us, breathed life into us, loved us, made us like Himself. Sure, sin has disfigured the image, but not destroyed it. God continues to shape us, gently making us more and more like Himself when we allow Him to. We are of infinite worth to God, for He made us in His image.

As you explore this truth with the children, may you know without a doubt that you are God's idea, God's creation, God's child. You are created in His image.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: We are God's special creation, made in His image.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 2

EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play **"When God Speaks"** or worship songs of your choice.
- Trace face profiles

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is Our Creator"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray.
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Nature table and magnifying glasses
- Compare God's nature with human-made materials: God of order, beauty, thought.
- Share the **Big Idea: We are God's special creation, made in His image.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Activity: Sort **animal pictures** (animal roles/blessing to people).
- Discuss: What is the importance of animals to people and our world.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Sculpt a **play-dough person**—only God can create life.
- Discussion: Psalm 139:14 ("fearfully and wonderfully made")

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 2: Adam and Eve**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: "Genesis 1:27"** (Answer questions in pairs.)
- Option: Memory verse in pairs
- **Nature Lesson:** "Eye See"
- Sticky note "Thank You" to God beside Creation poster
- **Craft:** Creation bookmark
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Share God's special gift of the Sabbath with someone new. Spend a moment talking and praying together about whom the children could invite to Sabbath School, on a Sabbath walk in nature, or to family worship next Sabbath. The gift of Sabbath shouldn't be kept to ourselves!
- Pray: Children thank God for Creation, final prayer.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Early Arrivals: Source paper roll or poster-size pieces of paper, pencils.

Focus Activities: Source a collection of natural objects, used to create a **Nature Table**. Suggestions: feathers, rocks, shells, bark, wood, flowers, leaves, and anything else with interesting colors, shapes, or textures. Add small containers of sand, dried beans, bugs, etc. If possible, source a set of **magnifying glasses** and/or a **microscope**.

Source **Nature Closeup Pictures**.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Print set of cut-up **Animal Cards**.

Make a set of five cards with **Animal Role Titles**.

Source **modeling clay** or **play-dough**.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 2: Adam and Eve**.

Source small **sticky note** for each child.

Craft Materials

Print a **week 2 craft template** on white cardstock for each child. Source: **colored pencils, scissors, glue**.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "When God Speaks"
 - "God Is Our Creator"
 - "Be Still, Be Silent"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song: "Genesis 1:27"
 - "God Bless You"



qr.aij.info_PA11

- ☐ Nature Closeup Pictures
- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for Week 2
- ☐ Animal Cards
- ☐ Character Card 2: Adam and Eve
- ☐ Craft template for week 2

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Paper roll or poster-sized pieces of paper
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Natural objects: e.g., feathers, rocks, shells, bark, wood, flowers, leaves, sand, dried beans, bugs
- ☐ Magnifying glasses or microscope
- ☐ Small sticky notes
- ☐ Cards: Animal Role Titles (included in program)
- ☐ Modeling clay or play-dough (recipe included in program)
- ☐ Pictures of unusual animals (e.g., manatee, platypus, axolotl)



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: We are God's special creation, made in His image.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the song “**When God Speaks**” or another worship song of your choice quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Take time to talk to each child individually as they arrive. Let them know that you care about them and that you are glad they have come.

DO: Invite children to pair up to create face profiles. One child can lie down on their side while another traces around their head with a pencil. Then swap.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Show some profiles from early arrivals and ask them to guess which profile belongs to each person.

SING: Sing “**God Is Our Creator**.” Ask the children if they have anything special they would like the group to pray about. Sing the prayer song, “**Be Still, Be Silent**.”

PRAY: Invite several children to pray, remembering to pray for the special requests.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**” song while referring to the list of the books in order. Tell the children that if they'd like to, they can also listen to this song at home.

Share a **Bible Fast Fact**: There are 66 books of the Bible. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J DO: Distribute a **magnifying glass** to each child and give them several minutes to explore the details in the nature objects on your **Nature Table**. Encourage them to notice the closeup texture, color, shape, patterns, etc. in each natural object.

VIEW: Then compare these natural objects with human-made materials by looking at the **Nature Closeup Pictures**. Talk about the beautiful colors and detailed patterns on the **peacock feathers** when they are magnified. Show a piece of smooth **paper** and have children feel it before showing the picture of magnified paper.

DISCUSS: • **What do you think the paper will look like when it's magnified?** (Accept all answers, then show the picture.)

• **When you look at what God has created and compare it to what people have created, what do you notice?** (God's creation is intricate, beautifully detailed, and patterned—even when highly magnified. Man's creation is random, disorderly.)

• **What did this comparing activity tell you about God?** (He is a God of order, beauty, intricate design, and careful thought.)

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together from the whiteboard/poster paper: **We are God's very special creation, made in His image.**



BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story with the animal card activity illustration and discussion.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

CREATE: To recognize our limitations when compared with God's creative power, give each child a piece of **modeling clay** or **play-dough**. Give them just a minute to sculpt a person and try to bring it to life.

DISCUSS: • **Why couldn't you bring your person to life?** (We can't create life, only God can!)

- **What does the Bible say about how we are made? Read Psalm 139:14.** (We are "fearfully and wonderfully made.")
- **What does God think of us? Read the first half of Isaiah 43:4.** (Precious, honored, loved.)

TEACHING POINT: Each of us are a "fearfully and wonderfully made" miracle, for only God can create a living, breathing person. We are all precious to Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 2: Adam and Eve** to place in their container. Discuss the picture and recite the memory verse together. Then sing the **Scripture Song, "Genesis 1:27."**

Invite the children to discuss the following questions in pairs:

- **What does it mean to be "made in God's image"?**
- **How do you feel, knowing you are made in God's image?**

If time allows, have the children say the **memory verse** in pairs, saying one word each. Say it again faster.

NATURE LESSON: Read the **Nature Lesson**, "Eye See," and engage the children in the discussion questions.

DO: Give each child a small **sticky note** and have them write "Thank You" on it. Invite them to stick it beside something on the Creation poster that they would like to thank God for. Alternatively, they could stick it beside their favorite animal card.

CRAFT: Distribute a **Creation Bookmark** craft outline to each child and have them make the bookmark.

While children complete their craft, play the song **"When God Speaks."** Invite the children to sing along.

Alternatively have the children use **play-dough** or **modeling clay** to **sculpt** something (object or scene) to represent each of the six days of Creation.

SING: Bring children back together to sing the closing song, **"God Bless You."**

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Share God's special gift of the Sabbath with someone new.** Spend a moment talking and praying together about whom the children could invite to Sabbath School, on a Sabbath walk in nature, or to family worship next Sabbath. The gift of Sabbath shouldn't be kept to ourselves!

 **PRAY:** Invite the children to form a **circle** and thank God for the part of God's creation they stuck their sticky note beside. As you pray the final prayer, ask God to be with the children and help them always remember that they have been created in God's image and that He loves them very much.

Bible Story



Big Idea: We are God's special creation, made in His image.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Place one **Animal Card** under each child's seat—facedown—until needed. Retain the cards that show mothers with their young. You may like to sculpt both Adam and Eve from play-dough or pretend to form these shapes on the ground as you share those parts of the story. Source and show a few pictures of unusual animals (e.g., manatee, platypus, axolotl) for a quick name guess.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Flowers and trees swayed in the gentle breeze. The world was beautiful! It was Day 6 of Creation. "God said, 'Let the earth be filled with animals'" (Genesis 1:24, ICB).

At God's command, horses galloped, snakes slithered, and lions roared. All of God's animals were different, but they lived together happily.

What did God mean when He said the animals were made "according to its kind"? Read Genesis 1:25. (They were designed to have babies just like themselves. God made monkeys to always be monkeys; they can't turn into people!) (Show Animal Cards you have set aside—mothers with their young.)

When God created animals, He knew they would be very important to all people and to the world. (Children to look at Animal Cards that were under their seats. How are these animals important?)

► He created some animals to help us, such as horses to ride and oxen to pull heavy loads. Others, such as squirrels and monkeys, help the planet. They spread seeds so that more trees grow in forests. Forests create the oxygen we all need to breathe and live.

People should care for the animals. Animals can teach us a lot! **What does Proverbs 6:6 tell us?** (That lazy people should watch how hard ants work and learn from them.)

Other animals bring us joy because of how they look and the things they do. Think about mischievous monkeys, playful otters, and parrots that learn to talk.

God designed some animals to be our loving, loyal friends—such as cats or dogs. (Ask about their pets/animals.) Their love can remind us of God's love for us, which never ends.

(Note: take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.)

DO Display and read each **Animal Role Title** card and spread them out on the floor. Titles include (write on five separate cards):

- God created animals to help us directly.
- God created some animals to help look after the planet.
- God created some animals that we can learn important lessons from.
- God created some animals to bring us joy.
- God created some animals to be our special friends.

Invite children to place each of their animal pictures beside the label that best fits. Encourage them to discuss their choices with others to clarify their thinking and reasoning. As a group, review each title and collection of animal pictures.

- **Animals are a blessing to us. How are we to be a blessing to the animals?** (We can care for them.)



TEACHING POINT God created the animals to be a blessing to us, and we can be a blessing to them as we responsibly take care of them. When we do this, we are being good creation caretakers.

► Let's continue with the story. It was now time for God's most special creation. This time He didn't speak. God took some dust and began to gently shape it into an arm, a tummy, a mouth, and a heart filled with blood. (**Kneel on the floor and pretend to shape a person out of air.**) When He had finished, a man lay perfect and still. God bent over his face and breathed into his nostrils. (**Bend over and blow out.**) The man came to life!

Adam opened his eyes to see God's kind, smiling face. Adam was made in the image of God. He was designed to love and care for others.

► God had the best new job for him! He could name all the animals. "Giraffe" popped into his head for a tall creature, and "rabbit" for a little ball of fur. What amazing creatures there were to meet and name. (**Show unusual animal pictures for the children to quickly guess the names of each.**)

All the animals had mates. Adam needed one too. **What did God do? Read Genesis 2:21, 22.** (God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs while he slept.)

► Adam and Eve were created for each other as the very first male and female. Children would come from their special love for each other. Our families all come from this very first family. We're all God's precious children.

Adam and Eve wore a covering of God's warm light and glory that fit them perfectly. (**PowerPoint picture.**) Imagine never having to change your clothes and them never getting old and ripped!

Then God gave them a beautiful garden home called the Garden of Eden. It was a wonderful home with a blue sky and sparkling stars at night, green grass, lots of fun animal friends, and amazing places to explore. Adam and Eve enjoyed the beauty of their garden and talking with their loving Creator, God.

Resource

Animal Cards





Nature Lesson “Eye See”

Focus: The human eye is an amazing example of God's intricate creation.

- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be blind?
- How do you think your eyes work to be able to see? Let's find out!

The incredible human eye weighs less than one ounce (28 grams), yet it is one of the most complex organs in the human body—only the brain is more complex. The eye allows us to see by catching light rays passing through the air. These light rays are turned into electrical impulses, or messages, as they hit the back of the eye, also called the retina. The messages travel to the brain through a special pathway called the optic nerve. Then the brain changes the messages into pictures that allow us to see and experience the world around us.

Even though the eye has only six muscles, these muscles are the most active in the human body. They work with nearly 2 million different parts to give us sight. The busy muscles in our eyes are always adjusting to light, distance, and speed, all without us having to think about it. The very detailed design of the eye allows humans to be able to tell the difference between 10 million different colors!

God created our eyes to see and enjoy the incredible variety of designs, colors, and details in the beautiful world around us. He wanted us to see how much He loves us with our own eyes. But more important than just appreciating God's beautiful world, we must remember that God created each of us in His own image.

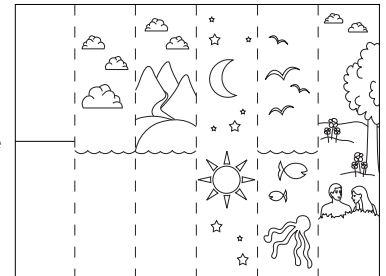
- How do you feel, knowing that God created such an incredible thing as the human eye?
- God created you in His image. What would He like to see in you when He returns to take His people to heaven?

Craft

Creation Bookmark

What you need: Week 2 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils, scissors, glue (1).

- Cut out two rectangles from cardstock, then glue “God the Creator” onto one of the rectangles and color (2).
- Color the rest of your Creation bookmark and cut it out (3).
- Fold along the dotted lines, flipping it over each time (4).
- Glue each end on the bookmark onto each rectangle (5).
- Use it as a bookmark, or unfold it to tell the story of Creation (6).







Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Calls Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 3

The Sabbath

Bible References: Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:1-10

Big Idea

God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.

Memory Verse

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 47, 48
The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 220, 221.
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 57-60

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 6. Creation
- 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 19. The Law of God
- 20. The Sabbath
- 28. The New Earth

Word of the Week

Sabbath: The seventh day of the week, from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday; God's blessed day of rest.
Sabbath (verb): to rest, to cease.

Lesson Summary

The seventh-day Sabbath is one of God's special gifts to us. On the very first Sabbath, God blessed the day and made it holy. Then He rested and spent time in fellowship with Adam and Eve. God invites us to remember the Sabbath by stopping our work and spending the day in fellowship with Him each week too. The Sabbath is a constant reminder of His love and creative power.

Learning Goals

The children will:
Know that God gave us the Sabbath and blessed it as a very special day.
Feel God's loving presence with them on the Sabbath.
Respond by worshipping God and choosing to spend time with Him on the Sabbath.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Our to-do lists run long as time seems to whizz by. For many of us, life feels increasingly busy. The antidote for life's busyness is simple. It begins and ends with God.

In His infinite wisdom God gave and modeled something we all need: Sabbath rest. Not just physical rest or the absence of "doing," but rather a restful state of "being": being in God's presence, being at peace, being spiritually nourished from His Word, being rejuvenated, being part of a communal worship experience at church, and being a blessing in service to others.

From the very first Sabbath, God has invited all people to enjoy being free from the burden of work. God

invites us to intentionally withdraw from our everyday lives each Sabbath so that we can pause in His presence. Although it's a privilege and a blessing to serve Him, each Sabbath He invites us to connect and draw strength and renewal from His endless supply of love and grace.

May both you and the children sense God's presence as you explore the gift of the Sabbath and grow together on God's holy day.

Shabbat Shalom.





Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 3

EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play **"When God Speaks"** or worship songs of your choice.
- Natural objects collected by different church members

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is Our Creator"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray: Requests
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Role play: Gift offered and rejected
- Discuss why Sabbath is a gift from God.
- Share the **Big Idea: God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Activity and Discussion: **Doughnut sharing circle** about Adam and Eve's first Sabbath

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Miming**— first six days of the week and Sabbath activities
- Discussion: What is different about Sabbath?

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 3: The Sabbath**
- **Memory Verse:** "Exodus 20:8," and longer **Scripture Song**, "Exodus 20:8-11"
- In pairs, discuss why Sabbath is special.
- **Mission story:** "Such a Little Thing"
- **Mission Challenge:** Share next week's Big Idea with an older neighbor.
- **Craft: Sunset-to-Sunset**
- Sing closing song, **"God Bless You."**
- Respond: Commit to spending time with God today.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Early Arrivals: Ask **church members from across generations** to bring in a nature treasure and briefly share about it: pinned butterfly, pressed flower, gems or rocks, shells, a shed snakeskin. Children observe and ask questions.

Focus Activities: Source a **small box** and **gift wrap**. Place a **gift for the children** inside the box and wrap it. Suggestions: something practical like a new set of markers or a set of magnetic letters for the class, or something for each child, such as a bookmark or eraser.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Prepare **Mission Fast Fact**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Source whiteboard and marker.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 3: The Sabbath**.

Craft Materials

Print **week 3 craft template** on white cardstock for each child. Source: **colored pencils, split pins, scissors**.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "When God Speaks"
- "God Is Our Creator"
- "Be Still, Be Silent"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Exodus 20:8-11"
- "God Bless You"



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- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 3
- ☐ Character Card 3: The Sabbath
- ☐ Craft template for week 3

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Church members to bring and present nature treasures
- ☐ Gift-wrapped box
- ☐ Gift for class/children
- ☐ Whiteboard or poster, and marker
- ☐ Bell



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the song “When God Speaks” or worship songs of your choice quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Greet the children warmly as they arrive. Introduce church members who have brought in different nature treasures.

DO: Look at the natural objects together (e.g., gems or rocks, amazing feather, speckled egg, beetle shell). Allow children to ask questions and church members can share and connect with the children.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

SING: Sing “God Is Our Creator” and “Be Still, Be Silent.”

PRAY: Invite two children to pray, thanking God for the Sabbath.

BIBLE FOCUS: Listen to and learn “The Books of the Bible” song. Share the **Bible Fast Fact:** Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. **Ask:** Who can name them in order? (Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy.) These books are called the Torah or the Pentateuch.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “Thank You, Jesus.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter’s mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “Visitor Song.” Sing “Happy Birthday” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

DO: Have an adult offer you a **present**. Reject the present and push it away; “I don’t want it!” Have them try to give it to you again as they explain that it is for everyone. Refuse the present again and knock it to the floor. Have the adult try to give the present a third time. Have the adult ask the children if they would like it. Give it to them.

DISCUSS: • **What did you think when I refused the present?** (Accept all responses.)

Teaching Point: God gives us a special present every week—a whole day with Him: the Sabbath. Many people are too busy to enjoy His gift. It is as though they refuse it in the same way the present was rejected.

- **How do you think God feels about that?** (Disappointed, sad, rejected.)
- **How do you think God feels when we accept the gift of the Sabbath?** (Happy, loved, appreciated.)

READ: Let’s learn more about God’s special gift to us!

Read the **Big Idea** together: **God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today’s story. Then creatively share the Bible story with a doughnut discussion.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

MIME: Have the children stand up and spread out. Say, “Day 1, Sunday,” and invite them to mime something they do on the first day of the week. Select a child to repeat their mime for the group to guess. Quickly repeat this process for the next five days of Creation.

DISCUSS (MISSION): • **What do most of the activities you mimed on the first six days have in common?** (They are mostly work or things we do in our spare time.)

• **How were your Sabbath mimes different?** (They are focused on God: worshiping and spending time with Him.)

• **How could you help someone else enjoy the Sabbath?** (Challenge the children to think of someone specific—a younger sibling, a shut-in, a sick church member, etc.) Encourage the children to put their plan into action and be prepared to report back next Sabbath.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 3: The Sabbath** to place in their container. Discuss the picture and recite the **memory verse** together. Then sing the longer **Scripture Song**, “**Exodus 20:8-11.**”

• **What’s special about the Sabbath day and why?** Invite children to stand and share their answer to this question with two other people. (Ring a bell after one minute to indicate they should swap partners, and then again after the second minute to bring the children back together.)

Suggest that the children underline or highlight the memory verse in their Bibles at home.

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story**, “Such a Little Thing,” and discuss the follow-up question.

MISSION CHALLENGE: Look for an older person in your neighborhood who may not know the truth about God’s love. Pray for a way to gently share next week’s Big Idea with them.

CRAFT: Show the children your completed **Sunset-to-Sunset craft**.

• **What does this help us to remember?** (That the Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.)

If time allows, show the children several ways we can **find out what time the sun sets** (church bulletin, online, or on some calendars). Distribute a craft outline to each child and have them cut out and assemble the craft.

SING: Bring children back together to sing the closing song, “**God Bless You.**” Remind the children that we’ll worship God and celebrate Sabbath together in heaven. Won’t that be awesome?!

RESPOND: Our loving God has given us a very special invitation to spend time with Him today and every Sabbath.

• **Will you spend time with Him?** This afternoon, talk to God as if He is sitting right next to you in person.

PRAY: Ask God to be with the children and their families and to help them always remember God’s special gift of the Sabbath.

Bible Story



Big Idea: God gave us the Sabbath, a very special day to spend with Him.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Draw very simple pictures on the whiteboard as you tell the story.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► The sun set on the sixth day of Creation. Everything was just as God planned it would be—beautiful and perfect. His final act of Creation, the seventh day, would be like placing a diamond on top of a sparkling crown.

How did God create the Sabbath? Read Genesis 2:2. (He stopped working and rested.)

God never sleeps, so He wasn't feeling tired. When God rested "from all His work" (Genesis 2:2), it was a different kind of rest. This rest meant that God made an extra-special time to just be with Adam and Eve: the Sabbath. It was a whole day for them to spend together and with God—what a gift!

What do you think Adam and Eve might have done with God on that first Sabbath? (Talked together, explored the garden, admired plants and animals.)

God must have loved to hear Adam laugh at chattering monkeys, or see Eve smile at a pretty rose. Imagine all the questions they had for God! He must have enjoyed telling them why the hippo has a huge mouth, or how He made the tiny fireflies.

As Adam and Eve spent time with their Creator God on Sabbath, they couldn't help loving Him. His love was all around them.

This is what Genesis 2:3 means when it says, "God blessed the seventh day" (ICB). He blessed this day with His very own perfect kind of love.

God gave this Sabbath blessing to everyone—from Adam right down to you. God invites us to spend every Sabbath resting with Him and enjoying His blessings.

What else did God do on the first Sabbath? Read Genesis 2:3. (Made it holy.)

Our God is so good and holy. When He made the Sabbath holy, He was making it different and special, just like Himself. God was setting apart the whole seventh day to share His perfect love with His children. The seventh day is the most special day! (Note: take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.)

DO Engage the children in a **doughnut discussion circle**. Have half the class sit on the floor in a circle. Have the remaining children sit facing one of the seated children. Each pair of children will discuss the first question together, then have the children on the inner circle move to the child on their right to discuss the next question. Repeat for each question.

If you had been in the Garden of Eden that first Sabbath . . .

- **Where would you have wanted to explore with God?**
- **What would you have looked at first?**
- **What would you have said to God?**
- **What would you have asked God?**
- **Even though you can't see God face-to-face on Sabbath, how do you know He is with you?**

TEACHING POINT The first Sabbath ever was very special. Our Sabbaths are special too because God blesses them.



► The Sabbath is God's most special gift to us. **What did He tell us to do with the Sabbath? Read the first word of Exodus 20:8. (Remember.)**

To help people remember the gift of the Sabbath, God wrote the Sabbath commandment on stone with His finger when He wrote the Ten Commandments. He sent prophets, Jesus Himself, and other teachers in the Bible. God also created a seven-day week to remind us.

The Sabbath is so special that we will be remembering and enjoying it with God forever in the new earth (Isaiah 66:23).

Because it's so important to remember the Sabbath, what does God ask us to do? Read Exodus 20:9–10. (Stop working.)

God gives us six days to work hard, then on the Sabbath we can stop being busy. He knows we need a break from learning, working, planning, choosing, and worrying. On Sabbath we can do different things to be close to God.

► Reading Bible stories on Sabbath is a special way for us to get to know God better too. Spending time in nature on Sabbath is another way to learn more about our awesome God!

The Sabbath is also a special time to worship God. When we are with Him, our hearts want to love Him. We can gather with friends at church on His holy day. We can read His words together, sing to Him, praise Him, and talk to Him in prayer.

On Sabbath we will want to share with others and help each other grow closer to Him too. We can give offerings and help others.

The seventh day, Saturday, is the most special day!

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story **Such a Little Thing**



Focus: It is wonderful to share the blessing of the Sabbath with others.

Location: Help a child locate **Israel** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Kristina and her mother are Seventh-day Adventists who moved to Israel from Ukraine. They didn't know where to find an Adventist church in the city, so they worshipped every Sabbath in their apartment.

One Sabbath a new school friend, Alona [ah-LOH-nah], knocked on Kristina's door and asked her to play. Because it was Sabbath, Kristina suggested that the girls play Sabbath School. "What's Sabbath School?" Alona asked.

"Sabbath School is fun!" Kristina explained. "We sing songs about God and listen to Bible stories. Then we learn a Bible verse and play a game based on the Bible." Alona thought Sabbath School sounded fun!

The girls gathered their dolls and stuffed animals and set them up in Kristina's bedroom. Then Kristina began teaching Alona and the dolls songs about Jesus; they read a Bible verse and played a Bible game. The girls had fun playing Sabbath School and decided to play again the next Sabbath.

The girls told their friends about Kristina's Sabbath School, and one week their friend Nadia [NAH-de-ah] came. She liked it so much that she continued to come whenever she could.

One day Kristina's mother had good news. "I found an Adventist church today!" she said. "Now we can go to church on Sabbath!" Kristina was so happy. "May I invite Alona and Nadia to come with us?" she asked.

Kristina invited the girls, but their parents thought the church was too far away. Kristina continued to play Sabbath School with them on Sabbath afternoons. Kristina is happy to help others learn that Jesus loves them.

• **What made the Sabbath enjoyable for Kristina, Alona, and Nadia?**



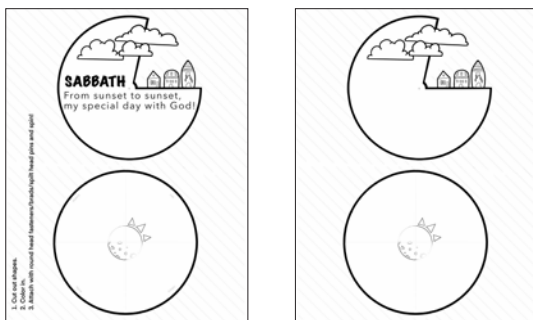
Sunset-to-Sunset Spinner

What you need:

Week 3 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils, split pin, scissors (1).

Instructions:

- Color in your circles (2).
- Cut out each circle (3).
- Place the Sabbath circle over the full circle and push a split pin through the center (3).
- Rotate them to show the passing of time—from sunset to sunset (4).





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 4

What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?

Bible References: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:2-19

Big Idea God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.

Memory Verse "Let us choose justice for ourselves; let us know among ourselves what is good" (Job 34:4).

References *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 33-43
The Great Controversy, pp. 492-504

Fundamental Beliefs Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:
3. The Father
4. The Son
8. The Great Controversy
19. The Law of God

Word of the Week **Jealousy:** Wanting what another person has or can do.

Lesson Summary This lesson explores the harmony that existed in heaven and how it was shattered when Lucifer allowed pride and jealousy to grow in his heart. Throughout Lucifer's campaign against God, all the angels were given the choice to believe either him or God. Just as He did the angels in heaven, God gives us the freedom to choose because He loves us so much.

Learning Goals The children will:
Know that God will never force anyone to love Him; He will always let us choose.
Feel a desire to respond to God's love and choose His ways.
Respond by choosing to give their hearts to God every morning.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Glorious songs of praise echoed through the courts of heaven, giving voice to the indescribable love that filled the angels' hearts. Love for their Creator came as naturally to the angels as breathing, for they had only experienced harmony, peace, unity, and serenity in their heavenly home.

Then, in an inconceivable twist, Lucifer entertained the notion of self-importance. Pride crept in. Jealousy stalked close on its heels, followed by gossip, and veiled slander. A whisper here, a subtle untruth there. An angry glance, a puzzled frown, a surprised stare. As the seeds of discontent and confusion matured, full-blown rebellion was unleashed. God looked on in everlasting love as heaven's harmony unraveled.

God or Lucifer? Every angel was free to choose. While Lucifer tried to coerce others, "a compassionate Creator, in yearning pity for Lucifer and His followers,

was seeking to draw them back from the abyss of ruin into which they were about to plunge."

We know what happened, and we know the sad result. We experience it every day.

Choices . . .

God or Lucifer?

God's way or my way?

God's peace or my pleasure?

In love, God will always let us choose.

As you explore this sad chapter in heaven's history, may you experience the love of God anew. God, who IS love, doesn't force or coerce, but rather seeks to draw with compassion and "yearning pity." Love never gives up, never dies, never fails. God's love drew two thirds of the angels to His side—may it draw the children too, today, and always.

* Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1890, 1908), p. 39.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 4

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Bookmark Bible texts for children to read during story time.
- Angel craft

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - “**Alive in Jesus**”
 - “**God Is Our Creator**”
 - “**Be Still, Be Silent**”
- Pray: Invite the children to share answered prayers, and ask two volunteers to pray, including giving thanks.
- Bible Focus: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**” and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- “**Thank You, Jesus,**” offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- “**Visitor Song**”
- “**Happy Birthday**”

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Review Sabbath challenge from previous week.
- Share the **Big Idea: God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Object lesson: **Dirt in water—sin pollutes**
- Discussion and activity: Identify abilities using **Strength Cards**. God gives abilities.
- Read: John 5:30.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Object lesson: **Weed roots**—pride grows deep roots
- Object lesson and discussion: Heated hearts

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 4: Fallen From Heaven**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “Job 34:4”**
- Apply memory verse.
- **Nature Lesson:** “Wild Sheep or Wild Goat”
- **Craft:** Good Choices Chatterbox
- Commit: Write choices in heart-shaped cutouts.
- Sing “**God Bless You.**”
- **Mission Challenge:** Sing your memory verse to your family every day this week.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Write the following **Bible verses** on **strips of paper**: Ezekiel 28:17; Exodus 20:17; John 5:30; Isaiah 14:12. Give one verse to the first five children as they arrive. Help them find the verse and **bookmark** it for use during the storytelling section.

Print an **Angel outline** for each child. Source **glitter, markers**, or other resources of your choice, and **pushpins**. (Angels will be used during the story.)

Print an **extra angel** from **Angel outline to be Lucifer**. Decorate with extra sparkle before class.

Object lesson: source **hard and soft items** in the **shape of a heart** to show contrast. You may choose soft and hard bread (fresh and stale/overtasted), or soft play-dough (from last week) to contrast with a stone or old play-dough. Both will be used throughout the program. Update **Offering Chart**.

Prepare **Mission Fast Fact**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Source **felt set** and **felt board** or **peg people**. Create a scene in **heaven** with as many angels as you can source. Choose three **Strength Cards** that represent the abilities of specific children in your class. Source a see-through drinking **glass, dirt**, and a **weed** with a substantial tap root or root system. Clean dirt off, store in **plastic bag**.

Source **Hard and soft hearts** to unpack the story.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 4: Fallen From Heaven**.

Print and cut out small **paper heart shapes** for kids to write on with pens or markers.

Craft Materials

Print a **week 4 craft template** for each child. Source: **colored pencils, scissors**.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "Alive in Jesus"
 - "God Is Our Creator"
 - "Be Still, Be Silent"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song: "Job 34:4"
 - "God Bless You"
 - "Into My Heart"
- ☐ Angel outline for each child
- ☐ Angel outline to be premade into sparkly Lucifer
- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 4
- ☐ Strength Cards (few)
- ☐ Character Card 4: Fallen From Heaven
- ☐ Small heart outline for each child
- ☐ Craft template for week 4



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Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Strips of paper: Bible verses
- ☐ Glitter/angel decorations
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Pushpins
- ☐ Heart-shaped hard and soft items: bread or play-dough
- ☐ Felt set and board: angels and heaven, or peg people
- ☐ Drinking glass with dirt
- ☐ A weed with root system in plastic bag



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly welcome children as they arrive. Ask them about how their special day with God was last Sabbath.

DO: As the first five children arrive, give them a **strip of paper** with a Bible text. Ask if they will read the text aloud during the storytelling. Help them find the text and slip the paper into their Bible as a bookmark.

Color or decorate a small angel.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Express how wonderful it is to learn more from the Bible and worship our loving God together.

SING: Sing “**Alive in Jesus**” and “**God Is Our Creator**.”

PRAY: Invite children to **share** any answers to prayer they may have had this week. You may like to record these on the whiteboard. Then sing “**Be Still, Be Silent**” and invite several children to **pray**, remembering to include thanks for the answered prayers.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**.” Share **Bible Fast Fact:** The Bible tells us many interesting and true things about real people. For example, the oldest man in the Bible was Methuselah. He was 969 when he died (Genesis 5:27). How old is the oldest person you know?

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter’s mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J SHARE: Distribute a **magnifying glass** to each child and give them several minutes to explore the details in the nature objects on your **Nature Table**. Encourage them to notice the closeup texture, color, shape, patterns, etc., in each natural object.

OBJECT LESSON: Show the children your **soft heart** (bread or play-dough) and share that it will help us to learn something important in Part 2 of today’s story. Wonder aloud about what we might learn from the soft heart.

READ: Share that the Big Idea gives us a clue that it must have something to do with choices. Read the **Big Idea** together: **God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

G SHARE: **Pray, asking God to help the children understand today’s story. Then creatively share the Bible story** with props and PowerPoint pictures. Use the Strength Cards for a discussion partway through.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

DISCUSS: Display your two contrasting hearts—hard and soft. Allow the children to touch them and describe the difference between them.

- **Who does the hard heart make you think of in today's story?** (Lucifer and one third of the angels.)
- **Who does the soft heart make you think of?** (Two thirds of the angels.)

TEACHING POINT: The hearts of the one third of the angels hardened because they chose to listen to Lucifer and rebel. The hearts of two thirds of the angels chose to believe what they knew to be true about God—their hearts stayed soft.

- **What can help our hearts stay soft with the love of Jesus?** (Read the Bible, pray, sing songs about God's love, choose to do and believe what is right.)

 **SING:** The most important thing we can do is choose to invite Jesus into our hearts every day. Let's do that together now. Sing **"Into My Heart"** or another worship song of your choice.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 4: Fallen From Heaven** to place in their container. Discuss the picture and recite the **memory verse** together. Then sing the **Scripture Song**, **"Job 34:4."**

Reinforce that God gives us the choice to serve Him every day.

- **How do we do this?** (Pray and give Him our hearts. Ask Him to keep them soft.)

NATURE LESSON: Read the **Nature Lesson**, "Wild Sheep or Wild Goat," and engage the children in the discussion questions.

CRAFT: Give each child a **Good Choices Chatterbox** outline and have them follow the instructions to complete it. Highlight that it will remind us to choose to invite Jesus into our hearts every day. Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly as the children complete their craft.

 **COMMIT:** Give children a cutout heart and pen. Each person can **write on the heart** what they would like to do every day this week to choose Jesus. Invite them to fold the hearts and keep it somewhere to remind them of today's message.

 **SING:** Bring the children back together. Pause for a moment for them to silently thank God for letting them have freedom to choose. Then sing **"God Bless You."**

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Sing your memory verse to your family every day this week.**

PRAY: Ask God to be with the children and their families and to help them choose to invite Jesus into their hearts every day.

Bible Story



Big Idea: God gives me freedom to choose because He is love.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions	Show the pictures from this week's story in the Program PowerPoint . Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story. Props: felt board scene with angels in heaven (or peg angels), angels made by early children, sparkly Lucifer angel made from the same angel outline, a clear glass of water , dirt , a weed with strong root system, felt board scene with angels in heaven or peg people, sparkly Lucifer angel made from angel outline.
Note	Alert the children who have the following verses to be ready to read from their Bibles: Ezekiel 28:17; Exodus 20:17; John 5:30; and Isaiah 14:12.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► God created thousands and thousands of beautiful angels. They loved Him and enjoyed serving Him. (Children who arrived early can pin their angels to the felt board.)

Lucifer was the leader of the angels. He was the loved and respected angel who led the heavenly choir. He was also strong, swift, smart, and wise. Lucifer happily thanked God for all these abilities he had been given.

► One day, for a reason no one can understand, Lucifer looked at himself and felt very proud. He didn't praise God for his abilities or talents. **What started to happen in Lucifer's heart when he admired himself? Read the first half of Ezekiel 28:17.** (He became proud of his good looks.)

Something was hatching in Lucifer's heart—something selfish and proud. It was the seed of sin. God was very sad that His beautiful angel was beginning to love himself more than anyone else—even more than God.

► Lucifer became jealous of Jesus. Why was Jesus invited to talk with God and he wasn't? The more he thought about it, the more jealous and poisonous his thoughts became.

What does God say about jealousy in the Ten Commandments, His laws of love? Read Exodus 20:17. (Don't be jealous of what others have.) When we are jealous our hearts will fill up with a poison that will never let us be happy. (Illustrate by putting dirt in your glass of water.)

No one had ever been jealous in heaven before. Every angel was happy that their angel friends had special gifts. No one even knew what jealousy was! How sad that Lucifer was inventing stinking thinking.

► It wasn't long before Lucifer whispered his thoughts and lies to other angels. He told the angels they didn't really need God's laws, and that heaven would be a much better place if they could just follow their own hearts and do as they pleased.

PAUSE and REFLECT (Note: take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.)

DISCUSS

- **What special abilities did Lucifer have?** (He was a responsible leader, wise, strong, swift, smart, good singer.)

DO/APPLY

God has given each of us special abilities too. Hold up Strength Cards one at a time and ask:

- **Who in our class has this special ability?**
- **How can we guard against becoming proud of ourselves and our abilities like Lucifer did? Read John 5:30.** (Remember that our strengths are gifts from God.)

TEACHING POINT

We should be grateful for the abilities God gives us and use them to bless others. Then there is no room for pride in our hearts.



Some angels started to believe Lucifer's whispered gossip and clever lies. Other angels were upset to hear what he was saying about God. The angels had always been best friends, but Lucifer's lies were hurting their friendships.

The loyal angels loved Lucifer and tried to remind him that God was powerful, loving, and kind. But he would not listen.

Lucifer's pride and jealousy had grown too big—just like a weed with strong roots. **(Display your weed: its strong root system helps it grow quickly.)** It strangled the love and goodness in his heart—just like weeds can strangle the good plants in a garden.

► God the Father and Jesus loved Lucifer and tried to stop his poisonous, jealous thoughts. Jesus talked with Lucifer many times and showed him how kind and fair God's government was. God would have forgiven Lucifer, but Lucifer was too proud to say he was sorry. He hardened his heart and chose to continue his rebellion.

God allowed Lucifer to tell lies about Him because He is love, and He rules His kingdom with a law of love. He didn't make robots. He created beings who could choose to love and serve Him or choose their own way.

All of heaven took sides. Lucifer's sneaky words and actions tricked a third of all the angels. The other two thirds were loyal to God. **(Separate the angels on the felt board into two groups: 1/3 and 2/3.)**

A war began in heaven. We don't know exactly what kind of war it was, but the Bible tells us what happened because of this war.

► **What happened to Lucifer? Read Isaiah 14:12.** **(He couldn't stay in heaven; he was cast out.)**

Lucifer had become Satan, which means "enemy." That was a sad, sad day for all of heaven. God had done everything possible to save Lucifer, but he just didn't want to be rescued and forgiven. Today the war is not yet over. But one day when Satan and death are destroyed the war will be forever over, because Jesus paid our penalty on the cross and showed the universe God's true character of unchanging love.

TEACHER NOTES

Nature Lesson Wild Sheep or Wild Goat



Focus: Making good choices.

- Have you ever seen a wild goat? What did it look like?
- Let's find out what wild sheep and wild goats can teach us about making good choices. (Show picture.)

How can you tell the difference between a wild sheep and a wild goat? Both animals live in mountainous, rocky places. Both are good runners and jumpers. Both chew their cud and are covered with warm fur.

But the male goat has a beard. He also has long horns that curve up and back in a V above his head. The male sheep, on the other hand, has thick curved horns that grow in a spiral back and down around his ears. Female sheep and goats have shorter horns.

In Bible times, people drove goats into town and milked them. They also used their fur and meat. The goats were independent and wanted their own way.

The sheep acted gentler and were more cooperative. They didn't have to be driven but stayed near their shepherd, depending on him to care for them. They often became pets, prized more for their wool than for their meat.

The Bible talks about people being like sheep or goats. While goats want to go their own way, sheep love to follow Jesus. When Jesus comes again, He "will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:32, NIV).

Let's give our hearts to Jesus right now, so when that exciting day comes, we'll find ourselves in the right flock!

- Who in today's lesson were like goats?
- Who were like sheep?

This story is adapted from a story of the same name by Elaine Egbert, *Nature in a Nutshell*, copyright © 2003 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

Craft

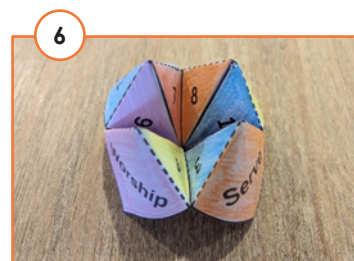
Good Choices Chatterbox

What you need: week 4 craft template, colored pencils, scissors (1).

- Decorate and color your chatterbox template (2).
- Cut around your chatterbox and fold according to instructions (3-6).
- Invite someone to choose which word/number they want and read what's inside. Then swap!



Fold opposite corners together, then unfold.



Fold each corner into the middle.

Flip over and fold each corner into the middle again.





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 5

The Fall and a Promise

Bible Reference: Genesis 3

Big Idea

When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.

Memory Verse

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 52-70
The Story of Redemption, pp. 24-51
The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 229-236
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 61-77
Carolyn Byers, *Forever Stories*, vol. 1, chap. 4

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

3. The Father
4. The Son
7. The Nature of Humanity
8. The Great Controversy
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
10. The Experience of Salvation
25. The Second Coming of Christ

Word of the Week

Sorrow: Sadness felt after a big loss.

Lesson Summary

Even though Adam and Eve made a bad choice and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and Evil, God did not abandon them. He forgave them, and then went on to share with them the promise of the greatest gift of all: the gift of salvation through One who would one day come and die to save them.

Learning Goals

The children will:

- Know** that God will never force us to choose His way; He will always let us choose.
- Feel** thankful that God continues to love us, even when we make a wrong choice.
- Respond** by choosing God's way this week.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

It happened in a beautiful garden on a perfect planet in a vast expanse of space. Unseen and undetected, the destroyer slithered into paradise and lurked in wait. With dazzling beauty and syrupy words, he spun the world's first lies. The words were trusted, believed, and acted upon, and the downward spiral into darkness began.

It would have remained the very saddest of stories if not for our merciful God. Things took a remarkable turn when the Son of God pleaded with His Father, saying, "Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance."¹ And so it was, that "as soon as there was sin there was a Savior. Christ knew that He would have to suffer, yet He became man's substitute."²

The choice to sin had been met with the choice to save. Oh the power of choice. The first choice

dealt a fatal blow, while the second revealed the indescribable love of a merciful God. That love remains ever deep and strong as it calls the sinner back to God.

Guilty? Forgiven.
Rebellious? Restored.
Fearful? Reassured.
Broken? Loved.
Lost? Redeemed.

May you and the children be blessed as you explore the deep love of God that sits behind the power of choice that He gave to His earthly children. May you find hope and inspiration in the words of Paul: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

¹Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 1958), p. 75.

² *Ibid.*



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 5

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Modeling clay

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"Alive in Jesus"**
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray: Ask three volunteers to pray focusing on giving thanks, the Holy Spirit, and requests).
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Predict Garden of Eden story characters.
- Object Lesson: Introduce remote-controlled vehicle
- Share the **Big Idea: When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Activity and discussion: Remote-controlled vehicle—reason for freedom of choice

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity and discussion: Using a broken plate demonstrate how sin breaks, but God mends.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 5: The Promise**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Psalm 86:5"**
- Mission Story: "Choosing Jesus"
- Craft: **Storytelling Cube**
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Write Psalm 147:3 in a card and share it with someone who is sad.
- Commit: Do you want to choose God this week?
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Source **Modeling clay** or **play-dough** and **baking trays**.

Source a **remote-controlled vehicle** or drone (if able to go outside). If you are unable to source either, source a **picture** of a remote-controlled car or drone.

Prepare Mission Fast Fact.

Write the Big Idea at the top of the whiteboard, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Use **modeling clay story props** made by early arrivals, **remote-controlled car**, **2 buckets** or jars filled with **sand**. Poke a small **tree branch** into each and label one "The Tree of Life," and the other "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Source **felts** of the story of Genesis 3.

Source a **plate or tile**: break into pieces and store in a container.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 5: The Promise**.

Craft Materials

Print a **week 5 craft template** on white cardstock for each child. Make a sample to show the children using **scissors**, **glue**.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "Alive in Jesus"
 - "God Is My Faithful Friend"
 - "Be Still, Be Silent"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song: "Psalm 86:5"
 - "God Bless You"



qr.aij.info_PA1t

- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 5
- ☐ Character Card 5: The Promise
- ☐ Craft template for week 5

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Modeling clay or play-dough
- ☐ Whiteboard/markers
- ☐ Baking tray
- ☐ Remote-controlled car or drone or picture of one
- ☐ Felts of the story of Genesis 3
- ☐ 2 buckets of sand
- ☐ 2 small tree branches
- ☐ Labels for trees
- ☐ Broken plate or tile



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

DO: Make any number of the following items from **modeling clay** or **play-dough** and put them on a **tray**: any kind of fruit, snake, man, woman, tree, angel.

Note: These will be used by several children during the story. Alternatively, use felts.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. It's wonderful to be together in Sabbath School again today!

SING: Sing **"Alive in Jesus"** and **"God Is My Faithful Friend."** Then sing the prayer song, **"Be Still, Be Silent."**

PRAY: Invite three children to **pray**: one to **thank** God for who He is and all the ways He blesses us, one to ask for the Holy Spirit to be with us and to **help us learn**, and one to pray for **specific prayer requests** from the children.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing **"The Books of the Bible."** Challenge the children to memorize the books of the Bible in order by the end of the quarter. Remind them that they can ask their parents to find "The Books of the Bible" song on the Alive in Jesus website to listen at home. Share a **Bible Fast Fact**: The shortest verse in the Bible is only two words long: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). I wonder if God may have wept in today's story? Think about this as we learn together.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing **"Thank You, Jesus."** Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **"Visitor Song."** Sing **"Happy Birthday"** to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

SHARE: This week's story takes us back to the Garden of Eden on earth.

- **Who do you think the story characters might be?** Record their answers on the whiteboard (e.g., Adam, Eve, God. If they say snake or serpent, write this too).

J DO: Operate the remote-controlled vehicle. If you feel comfortable doing so, invite several children to have a turn. Each time there is a different person in control, ask:

- **Who is operating the vehicle?**
- **Can the vehicle choose where it goes?**

EXPLAIN: After the first part of the story, we will unpack the important lessons the remote-controlled vehicle teaches us. Start thinking about this, and how it might connect to this week's **Big Idea**.

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together from the whiteboard: **When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story, including an activity with a remote-controlled car.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

DO: Close your eyes and count to 20 while everyone **hides** in the room without opening cupboards or moving things. (Most will be visible when you open your eyes.)

DISCUSS: • **How easy/hard was it to hide? Why?**

- **What does this remind you of in today's story?** (Adam and Eve trying unsuccessfully to hide from God.)
- **Why did Adam and Eve try to hide from God?** (They felt guilty, afraid, worried, ashamed, naked, sad, lonely, etc.)
- **Why did God come to meet with them? Read Deuteronomy 31:8.** (God will never leave us.)

DO: Display your broken plate pieces and invite a group of children to try piecing the plate back together (carefully!).

- **How successful were you?** (Not very!)
- **What could the broken plate/tile and your inability to put it back together remind you of?** (Accept ideas.)

TEACHING POINT: Wrong choices affect us, like the breaks in the plate/tile. We can't put ourselves back together, but our forgiving God promises to do just that when we accept Jesus and His plan to save us.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 5: The Promise** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the **memory verse**. Then sing the **Scripture Song** together: "**Psalm 86:5.**"

- **How does the memory verse describe God? How has God shown that He is like this in this week's story?**

TEACHING POINT: What God did for us all those years ago was the most amazing promise. We can thank Him and celebrate that Jesus did come to our earth!

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story**, "Choosing Jesus," and discuss the follow-up question.

CRAFT: Display your **Storytelling Cube** and explain how to make it.

Note: Allow at least 10 minutes for this craft. You may like to enlist the help of several additional adults. Have helpers **make a few extra cubes** to use next week.

Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background as children complete their craft.

SING: Bring children back together to sing "**God Bless You.**"

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Write **Psalm 147:3** in a card and share it with someone who is sad.

 **COMMIT:** Explain that sometimes we feel tempted to do things we know we shouldn't, and sometimes we give into temptation, and we sin. God loves us so much that He lets us choose and made a way to get rid of the sin in our lives when we ask Him to.

Ask the children:

- **Do you want to choose God this week?**

PRAY: Pray with the children and ask God to help each of them continue to choose Jesus every day this week.

Bible Story



Big Idea: When I make a wrong choice, God still loves me and has a plan to save.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Invite several of the children who arrived early to use the **play-dough objects** to represent the story on a tray as it unfolds or tell the story using **felts**. Use your **two trees** in buckets/jars of sand. Use your facial expressions and body language to express the range of emotions experienced by Adam and Eve.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Two great trees stood in the Garden of Eden. One was called the tree of life. The fruit of this tree would give life forever to anyone who ate it. The other tree was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17), but God asked Adam and Eve not to eat from this tree—ever! (*Two trees/branches in sand.*)

This tree was like a signpost telling Adam and Eve that Satan had rebelled. He had created a war between God and Satan, good and evil. God never wanted them to know that evil caused hurt, pain, and death. But He let them choose.

God told them they would die if they ate from this tree. He also sent His angels to warn them that Satan would try to tempt them to do the wrong thing. They needed to keep away from this tree!

► One day Eve found herself at the forbidden tree, face-to-face with a beautiful, winged serpent. Suddenly it began talking in the sweetest voice! It was Satan! (*Clay creations.*)

What lies did the serpent tell her? Read Genesis 3:4, 5. (You won't die. You will be like God.)

The lies confused Eve, but they sounded good. She chose to believe them. She took the fruit he offered her and bit into it. It was juicy and sweet. She picked some more for Adam and gave it to him to eat. He took a bite too.

The fruit didn't taste good for long. Tears stung Adam and Eve's eyes, and deep sorrow filled their hearts as they realized their sad mistake. Their choice to disobey God was sin, and it had changed them inside.

► Blinking back tears, they realized that God's soft, covering light had disappeared from around their bodies. They felt guilty, lonely, chilled, and naked. Fumbling with fig leaves, they tried to make themselves some clothes.

It had been a day of sad choices. Let's pause for a moment to discuss what's happened so far in the story . . . (*Note: Take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.*)

DISCUSS

- **Why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden?** (Just listen at this stage.)

Note: You may hear things such as "Why didn't God put a fence around the tree?" "Couldn't He just stop them from eating the fruit?" "Putting the tree there wasn't fair." Acknowledge their thoughts and explain that the remote-controlled car can help us learn why God put the tree there.

DO

Operate the remote-controlled vehicle.

- **Is this vehicle free to choose where it goes?** (No.)

In pairs, have one child enact being the "remote-controller" and give instructions to the other child who is a "robot" (e.g., forward, left, right, stop, etc.).

- **How would it feel to be controlled by someone like this all the time?**

- **Do you think your parents or anyone else could force you to love them?** (No, and neither can God!)



TEACHING POINT God could have made us like robots that He could control. He could have forced us to love Him instead of allowing us to choose. But because choice is so important, He put a "choice tree" in the Garden.

Let's continue with the story . . . Adam and Eve heard God's footsteps in the garden. Guilt, fear, and shame drove them to run and hide. God knew how they felt, and He knew where they were. He kindly called to Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).

Adam's head popped up. Did God still want to be with them? They came out of hiding to see their God. He looked at them with both love and sadness. They had hurt God by not trusting Him, but He loved them and always would!

With a sad but gentle voice, God told Adam and Eve that life would change. Their choice to disobey had consequences. There would be hard work, pain, and death.

▶ They would also have to leave their beautiful garden home, Eden. **Why? Read Genesis 3:22, 23.** (If they ate from the tree of life, they would live as sinners forever. That would be horrible!)

But God would never leave them.

And God would not let sin win! He promised to send someone to save them and destroy all evil forever. Adam and Eve needed to know that though they'd made a big mistake, God had a way to fix it. They couldn't see that up in heaven, Jesus had said to His Father, "Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance" (Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 75).

▶ God the Father would let His Son come to earth to stand in place of all people and die for their sins. This became the plan and the promise. **Read John 3:16.** (God gave up His Son so that we can have eternal life.)

When Adam and Eve sinned, they passed the consequences on to everyone, so we all need God's plan. Because of His death, we can have forgiveness of our sins and the promise that we can someday live with Him forever!

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story Choosing Jesus



Focus: Learning about Jesus and choosing to worship Him instead of the gods in the temples.

Location: Help a child locate **southeastern India** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Hadassah was nervous and worried about going to a new school. *What if the children don't like me? What will my teachers be like? Will my classmates be kind to me?* she wondered.

Hadassah's parents weren't Christians, but they had enrolled her in an Adventist school in southeastern India because they wanted her to learn English. They warned her, "Be careful! Don't listen to what those Christians say about their God! Remember the gods we worship in the temple!"

Hadassah tried to obey her parents, but as her teachers told stories about Jesus, she felt drawn to Him. *How can this God who made the world and everything in it love me?* she wondered. She didn't feel like her family's gods loved her!

The more Hadassah heard in Bible class at her new school, the more she realized that Jesus is the one true God and that she loved Him. She accepted Jesus as her Savior, but she couldn't tell her parents. If they knew she had stopped worshiping their gods, they would most likely take Hadassah out of school. Then she would have to go to another school where she would be forced to worship gods she didn't believe in anymore.

Hadassah is praying that her parents will see the difference in her life and that they will one day accept her decision to follow Jesus.

Hadassah says, "I hope other children will choose to follow Jesus and will be ready when Jesus comes back. No matter what temptations come your way, don't wait. Give your life to Jesus now." Hadassah has given good advice. God has given each one of us the freedom to choose Jesus.

Let's pray for children like Hadassah who have made the choice to follow Jesus when it isn't easy.

• **How is Hadassah different from Adam and Eve in this week's lesson story?**



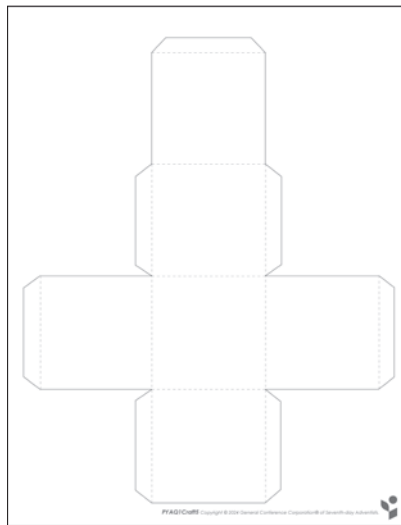
Storytelling Cube

What you need:

Week 5 craft template on white cardstock, scissors, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Cut out your cube template (2).
- Fold along the dotted lines and glue the flaps to create a cube (3).





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

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WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 6

Cain and Abel

Bible Reference: Genesis 4:1-15

Big Idea

When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.

Memory Verse

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word" (John 14:23).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 71-79
The Story of Redemption, pp. 52-56
The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 238-242
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 79-90

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

3. The Father
4. The Son
7. The Nature of Humanity
8. The Great Controversy
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
22. Christian Behavior
23. Marriage and the Family

Word of the Week

Mercy: Being kind and forgiving to someone when they don't deserve it, when it is unexpected, or when you have more power than they do.

Lesson Summary

God taught Adam, Eve, and their children to bring offerings that would remind them of His promise and His plan to save them. God was pleased when they showed their love for Him by listening to Him and following His instructions. He patiently reasoned with Cain, extended His mercy, and gave consequences when Cain chose to do things his own way instead of God's.

Learning Goals

The children will:

Know that God does all He can to help people accept His promise and plan to save.

Feel the peace that comes from doing what God asks us to do.

Respond to God's love by listening to Him and doing what He asks.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Imagine the sunlit field as little lambs leaped and played near their mothers in the late-afternoon sunshine. As your mind rolls back in time, imagine Adam and his family as they search for the perfect little lamb . . .

A perfect lamb. Such an innocent, trusting creature took center stage in God's poignantly beautiful object lesson. Rich with layers of meaning, it was an object lesson that served to define fallen man's relationship with his merciful God. It was all about salvation.

God had made a very big plan and promise to save each and every human. Humanity's grateful response was to build an altar, just as God had instructed. Then, condemned to death and sick at heart, the sinful person brought an innocent lamb. These actions acknowledged great need: "I am a sinner. I am sorry. I need a Savior."

The sinner then slayed the lamb in a ceremony that spoke loudly of healing. Jesus was the remedy for

sin! He would one day take humanity's place and die as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). While the sinner likely recoiled in horror at the physical act of killing the lamb, their heart was to grasp the bigger meaning. It served as a reminder of God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, sympathy, compassion, and generosity. And it offered hope.

"Yet in the sacrificial offerings, pointing to the great and perfect offering of God's dear Son, there appeared a star of hope to illuminate the dark and terrible future, and relieve it of its utter hopelessness and ruin."

As you explore this sad yet beautiful story with your children, let the Lamb of God take center stage. Our prayer is that His love and mercy will speak loudly to the children's hearts, inspiring them to pursue God and respond to His love by choosing to follow Him.

* Ellen G. White, *The Story of Redemption* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 1947), p. 50.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 6

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Game in pairs with Storytelling Cube

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"Alive in Jesus"**
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray: Numbers 6:24-26
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Wrong choice scenario cards (discussion about punishment and mercy)
- Share the **Big Idea: When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Hunt for lamb cards**
- Discussion: Jesus, the perfect lamb

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Object lesson: **Herb scatter**

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 6: Cain and Abel**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "John 14:23"**
- **Nature Lesson:** "Eclipse of the Moon"
- **Craft:** Lamb Sacrifice
- Apply: Personal prayer
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Pass on God's mercy by showing it to the people in your family.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Use **Storytelling Cube** from last week's lesson.

Source **sticky notes**.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

On small pieces of paper, write one of the following **wrong choice scenarios**. Create one scenario for each child.

1. Lying to your parents about homework
2. Breaking someone's toy on purpose
3. Yelling at your parents
4. Hitting someone at school
5. Sneaking out of the house when you should be doing your chores
6. Stealing food from a classmate's lunch box

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Write the following **Bible references** on the whiteboard to be looked up during the story parts: John 1:29; Genesis 4:3; Genesis 4:8.

Source two wrapped **baby dolls**. Make two altars from upside-down **boxes**. Write one of the following on each side of one box: I am sorry for my sins; Jesus would one day die like the lamb for my sins; I follow God's instructions; I love God.

Source a **toy lamb**, **twigs**, **cellophane** to look like fire, **fruit**, and **vegetables**.

Print one copy of the **Lamb Cards**. Cut up the 12 lamb cards. Hide these around your Sabbath School room.

Source a **small plate**, **water**, **dried herbs** or **pepper**, and **dishwashing liquid**.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 6: Cain and Abel**.

Craft Materials

Source **week 6 craft template** for each child. Source: **cotton balls**, **red or orange cellophane/tissue paper**, **colored pencils/crayons**, **glue**. Make a sample.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "Alive in Jesus"
 - "God Is My Faithful Friend"
 - "Be Still, Be Silent"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song "John 14:23"
 - "God Bless You"
- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Lamb cards
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 6
- ☐ Storytelling Cube from last week
- ☐ Character Card 6: Cain and Abel
- ☐ Craft template for week 6



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Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Wrong choice card for each child (included)
- ☐ Two wrapped baby dolls
- ☐ Two boxes
- ☐ Toy lamb, twigs
- ☐ Cellophane (fire) + craft
- ☐ Fruit and vegetables (offering)
- ☐ Small plate
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Dried pepper or herbs
- ☐ Dishwashing liquid
- ☐ Sticky notes



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Interact warmly with all children as they arrive. Building positive relationships with them is key to having them trust and respect you as their teacher.

DO: In pairs, use the extra **Storytelling Cubes** that were made by helpers last week. Take turns throwing it like a die and have the partner tell the part of the story that is shown on the top face of the cube.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

SING: Sing “**Alive in Jesus**” and “**God Is My Faithful Friend.**”

PRAY: Introduce the children to the prayer in **Numbers 6:24-26**. Explain that you would like to pray this beautiful prayer over them. Sing the prayer song, “**Be Still, Be Silent.**” Invite the children to bow their heads as you read the prayer.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible.**”

Share the **Bible Fast Fact:** Hebrews 11 is known as the “faith chapter” of the Bible because 16 people are remembered for their faithfulness to God (one is in today’s story). Have an adult read the chapter to you sometime and count how many of them you know.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus.**” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter’s mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J DO: Beforehand, on small pieces of paper, write one of the following scenarios. Ensure each of your children has one scenario:

1. Lying to your parents about homework
2. Hitting someone at school
3. Breaking someone’s toy on purpose
4. Sneaking out of the house when you should be doing your chores
5. Yelling at your parents
6. Stealing food from a classmate’s lunch box

Distribute a wrong choice card, a pen, and a sticky note to each child. Have them write a possible punishment on the sticky note and stick it over the wrong choice.

- **Would the punishment you have suggested be fair?**
- **What would it mean to be shown mercy in this situation?** (The punishment would be withheld.)

Instruct the children to take off the sticky note and write “Mercy” over the wrong choice. Have them place their cards under their chairs (to use at the end).

Teaching Point: Mercy is being kind and forgiving instead of giving someone the punishment they deserve when they have done something wrong. God continually shows His people mercy.



SHARE: Today's story is about Cain and Abel, the children of Adam and Eve in last week's story. It is a very sad story, but we are going to look for the good parts, where God shows mercy and where His people listen to Him and obey.

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together from your whiteboard: **When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story, along with the altar activity.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

OBJECT LESSON: Sprinkle **dried herbs (or pepper)** on your **plate of water**. Share how the herbs represent the bad things that can grow in our hearts: selfishness, jealousy, anger, grumbling, etc. Review how God's love and mercy can clean up our hearts when we choose to listen to Him and follow His instructions. To demonstrate this, squirt a small amount of **dishwashing liquid** into the water and watch the herbs/pepper move away.

This is what God had wanted to do with the bad things in Cain's heart. It wasn't too late!

TEACHING POINT: No matter how many bad choices we make, it is never too late for God's love and mercy to change us. When we follow God's instructions, repent (say we are sorry), and let Him change us, He knows how much we love Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 6: Cain and Abel** to place in their storage container. Discuss anything they notice about the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse** together. Then sing the **Scripture Song: "John 14:23."**

- **What does it mean to keep God's word?** (Do what God asks you to do.)
- **Who in the story kept God's word?** (Adam, Eve, Abel.)

NATURE LESSON: Read the **Nature Lesson**, "Eclipse of the Moon," and discuss the follow-up question.

CRAFT: Display your completed **Lamb Sacrifice craft** and share instructions for making it. You may like to review the importance of having and following instructions. Distribute a **Lamb Sacrifice outline** to each child.

Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background as children complete their crafts. Alternatively, you may like to listen to songs that focus on Jesus as the Lamb.

 **APPLY:** Invite the children to place their finger on the stone in their craft that they find most meaningful, or that they would like God to help them with. Give them a minute to have a personal prayer about this with God.

 **SING:** Bring the children back together to sing your closing song, **"God Bless You."** Invite each child to point to another child at the end of this song to show who they'd like God to bless in the week ahead.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Pass on God's mercy by showing it to the people in your family.**

PRAY: As you pray the final prayer, ask God to be with the children and their families. Thank God for His love and mercy, and ask God to help the children listen to Him and follow His instructions this week.

Bible Story



Big Idea: When God sees me listening to Him and obeying Him, He knows how much I love Him.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions	Show the pictures from this week's story in the Program PowerPoint . Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Props: two wrapped baby dolls; twigs and cellophane flames; a toy lamb; your two box altars , one for Abel's sacrifice, one for Cain's.
Note	Before you begin, highlight the list of Bible references on the whiteboard. Explain that volunteers will read today's texts. Choose three volunteers to be ready to read: John 1:29; Genesis 4:3; Genesis 4:8.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► One day the first-ever baby was born into the world! Adam and Eve cuddled him close. They named their sweet boy Cain (*baby dolls*).

Soon baby Abel joined the family. They grew into strong, healthy boys. Cain became a gardener, and Abel looked after the sheep.

Adam taught his children about God, in the same way that God wants your family to teach you. Adam's children learned about the Garden of Eden, the first Sabbath, and talking face-to-face with God. They learned that God loved them very much, and they learned how to love Him back.

► Adam took Cain and Abel out to find a perfect little lamb—the best one in the flock. Adam shared how this lamb was a reminder of God's Son, Jesus, who would one day come to the earth to die for their sins.

How do we know the lamb is a reminder of Jesus? Read John 1:29. (*John called Jesus the Lamb of God.*)

Then the lamb was sacrificed on a stone altar. The family said they were sorry for their sins and asked God to show His mercy. It was a sad reminder that they were sinners who needed a Savior to die in their place (*lamb, box altar, fire*).

Fire flashed down from heaven to burn up the little lamb offering. God was saying thank you. So even in sadness, the family saw God's great love and mercy.

Abel grew up to be a strong young man who loved God very much. He happily chose to follow God's instructions to sacrifice a lamb. God accepted Abel's offering.

Cain grew up angry and selfish. He was even angry with God. Then one day he stubbornly disobeyed by not bringing a lamb as an offering. **What did Cain bring to God instead? Read Genesis 4:3.** ► (*Fruit and vegetables he had grown.*)

Cain thought he could do things his own way. This was the fruit he had grown! (*Show fruit and vegetables on altar.*)

Fire didn't fall from heaven. God couldn't accept Cain's sacrifice—it wasn't what He had asked for. It didn't represent what Jesus would do for us.

Let's pause the story for a moment to think about something important. (*Note: Take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.*)

HUNT

Instruct the children to pretend to "go to the field" and find the most perfect lamb for the sacrifice. Have them look for the **12 lamb cards** in the room and decide together on the best lamb.

DISCUSS

- **Why do you think a perfect lamb had to be chosen?** (The lamb represented Jesus, who would one day die. Jesus is perfect because He never sinned; He is the only one who could die to save sinners.)
- **What did God want the people to remember when they made an altar and sacrificed a lamb?**
Read the messages on the four sides of your box altar.



TEACHING POINT God wanted the lamb sacrifice to remind His children of these important things. They were too important to forget!

► Let's continue the story! Cain was angry. God's fire had burned up Abel's lamb sacrifice, but it didn't burn Cain's fruit. Abel tried to encourage his brother to choose to do what was right. But Cain would not listen.

God tried to talk to Cain too. He warned him that sin would really hurt him—and others! But Cain still didn't listen. **What did Cain do? Read Genesis 4:8.** (He killed his brother, Abel.)

► Adam and Eve sobbed with sadness. They had lost their beautiful boy! God was close to them as they cried.

God had seen the selfishness and anger in Cain's heart. He saw what Cain had done. But God's love could easily grow in Cain's heart if only he would let it. So God gave Cain a chance. His kind voice rang out across the field to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain replied angrily, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9).

Cain was lying! He didn't want a new heart. ► Now there would be very sad consequences. God had to send Cain away from his family to wander around the earth.

Adam and Eve wept. No Abel, and now no Cain!

Cain grumbled to God. He didn't want to roam the earth, and he really didn't want someone to kill him! He was very scared they would. He didn't even realize God had sent him away to help protect him!

God listened to Cain as he grumbled. Then He put a mark of protection on Cain so that he would not be attacked. However, if anyone did try to kill Cain, they would be punished.

God is so loving! We call that special kind of love "mercy," for God was kind and forgiving when Cain wasn't sorry or honest or respectful. Cain didn't deserve God's mercy. But God gave it to him anyway.

TEACHER NOTES



Nature Lesson Eclipse of the Moon

Focus: We can sometimes let other things come between us and God.

- Have you ever seen a full moon in the night sky?
- Let's find out what an eclipse of the moon is and what it can teach us. (Show picture.)

Elaine Egbert stepped outside to check the full moon. This is what she saw.

I knew that there would be a total eclipse of the moon that night, hiding it from my view. It was hard to imagine because right when I stepped outside, the moon shone brightly from the cloudless sky, stretching my shadow out behind me.

I kept watching carefully. Soon our earth would pass between the moon and the sun, blocking my view of the full moon and creating an eclipse.

First, I saw just a hint of a shadow on the moon's left side, as though a cloud had crowded it. Later, only half the moon shone. At last, just before midnight, the whole of the moon's face was eclipsed, or hidden. It looked dark brownish-red, and my shadow no longer stretched out behind me.

As I gazed at the moon that had been so bright earlier, I thought about God, and you, and me. God is like the moon. He shines His blessings on us and promises to guide us. When we accept His blessings and follow Him, we feel peaceful and happy.

But sometimes we let other things come between God and us. We might choose to do things our own way, or we might choose to ignore God's instructions. Then the joy and happiness Jesus provides gets blocked, and it's as if He is eclipsed, or hidden from us. His love is still there—but our sin is in the way.

When we find ourselves in this position, it's important to make things right with God. We can ask for His forgiveness and accept His mercy.

When sin and selfishness get between you and God, what can you do? (Pray. Say you're sorry. Ask for His forgiveness.)

This story is adapted from a story by the same name by Elaine Egbert, *Nature in a Nutshell*, copyright © 2003 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

Craft

Stone Altar

What you need:

Week 6 craft template, colored pencils/crayons, cotton balls, red or orange cellophane/tissue paper, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Color the altar (2).
- Glue cotton balls onto the lamb (3).
- Glue orange cellophane or scrunched-up tissue paper above the lamb (3).







Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 7

Noah Builds an Ark

Bible Reference: Genesis 5-7

Big Idea	I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.
Memory Verse	"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" (Deuteronomy 7:9).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 35-41 <i>The Story of Redemption</i> , pp. 57-69 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 91-115
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 3. The Father 4. The Son 7. The Nature of Humanity 8. The Great Controversy 11. Growing in Christ 19. The Law of God 20. The Sabbath 28. The New Earth
Word of the Week	Faithful: Being committed and loyal to someone, no matter what.
Lesson Summary	This lesson explores faithfulness: God's faithfulness; and the faithful response of Enoch and Noah. Spending time with God taught Enoch and Noah to trust Him. God called Noah to build an ark to save people from a coming worldwide flood. Noah faithfully obeyed, built, and preached. The flood came as promised. God provided safety for people, but only Noah and his family went inside—and a parade of animals, as promised.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know God loves the world and its people. Feel grateful that God is faithful and always makes a way for us to be saved. Respond by choosing to spend time with God and follow His voice.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Noah. The name elicits images of a bearded builder, an ardent preacher, a man of single-minded resolve. At first glance he appears to be the lead actor in this dramatic narrative. But strip back the story layers, and we find an incredibly loving and faithful God whose heart is grieved by the enormity of sin and the cancerous hold it had on almost every human He so lovingly created. He wanted to save them all.

It is undoubtedly God who has the lead role. And Noah knew this. His relationship with his Father God was profoundly strong and deep; this trust was built on mutual love, quiet time spent in each other's presence, and listening—really listening—to one another's voices. Stated succinctly, "Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9).

And the result? Noah's faithfulness to God's call and plan.

Preach about rain without ever having seen it? Faithful.
Build a massive boat in the mountains? Faithful.
Endure rejection and ridicule? Faithful.
Preach with few results? Faithful.

Unswervingly faithful.

As you and the children delve into the story of Noah together, may you be humbled and inspired by the faithfulness of both God and Noah. And more important, may the children's hearts be drawn like magnets toward their loving Creator God, for only then will they pursue lives of faithfulness to their friend Jesus.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 7

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Animal charades

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"Alive in Jesus"**
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray.
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Obstacle course (Faithfulness T-shirt)
- Discussion: Faithfulness
- Share the **Big Idea: I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Creatively share the Bible story.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Discussion: God's faithfulness
- Response: Thanks; name on T-shirt

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 7: Noah**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Deuteronomy 7:9"**
- **Mission Story:** "No School on Sabbath"
- **Mission Challenge:** Share your memory verse (say, write, sing) with someone who might not know God well.
- Review: Faithful story characters
- **Craft:** Ark Builders or Craft Stick Art
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- Share: Thanks
- Pray.

Program Preparation



Opening and Focus Activities

Think of unusual animals to use as prompts in charades for early arrivals.

Source a **large adult T-shirt** that will fit two children inside snugly. Write "**Faithfulness T-shirt**" on the front and write "**Our God is Faithful**" on the back.

Source **objects** and/or **furniture** and set up a short obstacle course. Pairs of children will do this inside the T-shirt, so it needs to be challenging! E.g., going between the legs of a chair or stepping up and over a small stool while remaining in the T-shirt.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Collect **small building tools**, such as a hammer and nails, tape measure, and screwdriver.

Source **Ark model** and **toy animals** or **felt set**, and **spray bottle** with **water** inside.

Source **Faithfulness T-shirt** and **marker**.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 7: Noah**.

Craft Materials

There are two craft options this week for you to choose from, depending on the interest and abilities of the children in your class. Choose either "**Ark Builders**" or "**Craft Stick Ark**." Option 1 (Ark Builders): Source **week 7 craft template** on white cardstock, split pins, colored pencils, scissors, glue. Option 2 (Craft Stick Ark): Source craft sticks, cardboard, glue, scissors.

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "Alive in Jesus"
- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Be Still, Be Silent"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Deuteronomy 7:9"
- "God Bless You"



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- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 7
- ☐ Character Card 7: Noah
- ☐ Craft template for week 7

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Whiteboard/markers
- ☐ Large adult T-shirt
- ☐ Objects/furniture to set up obstacle course
- ☐ Building tools
- ☐ Ark model and toy animals or felt set
- ☐ Spray bottle with water inside
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Offering container



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Smile warmly and greet children by name as they arrive. Talk about fun things they did this past week to get to know them better.

DO: Invite the children to play a game of animal charades with you. Take turns acting out an animal on God's ark. Think of unusual or surprising animals as prompts for those that need it. Wherever possible, look for children to take the lead in running activities like this for you.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

SING: Sing “**Alive in Jesus**” and “**God Is My Faithful Friend**.”

PRAY: Share that it is important to pray before we read the Bible, because the Holy Spirit helps us understand what we read, and our hearts can be soft and teachable. Sing “**Be Still, Be Silent**” and **invite a child to pray**.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**.”

Share the **Bible Fast Fact**: More than 40 different people wrote the Bible, and all were inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). This means God spoke to their minds about what to write. We can trust that what they wrote is true.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

OBJECT LESSON: Invite individual children to put themselves through your **obstacle course**. Discuss how easy it was to do.

Invite two children to get inside your **Faithfulness T-shirt** together and complete the obstacle course again. As they progress, encourage them to stick together—faithfulness is sticking together!

DISCUSS: • **How easy/hard was it to be faithful to your teammate?**

- **In real life, who is faithful to you?** (Mom, Dad, Grandma, etc.)
- **Is there someone who is ALWAYS faithful to us?** (God! He is committed and loyal.)
- **What does it mean for us to be faithful to God?** (To love and follow Him no matter what those around us are doing. Just as Abel was in last week's story.)

SHARE: Hold up the **Faithfulness T-shirt** and share that in today's story we will be learning about some faithful and unfaithful Bible characters who lived a few hundred years after Adam and Eve, Cain, and Abel.

READ: Read the Big Idea from your whiteboard together: **I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **ACTIVITY:** Read the message on the back of the **Faithfulness T-shirt** “Our God is faithful!” God is faithful, and His Word can always be trusted to come true—back in Noah’s day, and today too!

- **How does that fact make you feel?** (Use facial expressions and body language to show your classmates.)
- **What could faithfulness look like in your life?**
- **What steps will you take to be more faithful this week?**

COMMIT: Invite the children to write their name in permanent marker on the **Faithfulness T-shirt** to thank God for His faithfulness. **Note:** if you have a large class, have them do this (a few at a time) during craft.

TEACHING POINT: When we spend time with God and listen to His voice as Noah did, our hearts will naturally trust and obey Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 7: Noah**. Have them place it in their storage container. Discuss the picture. Have the children recite the **memory verse**, then sing the **Scripture Song**, “**Deuteronomy 7:9.**”

- **What does the memory verse say we should know about God?**
- **God is faithful to you! How will you respond to God’s faithfulness to you?**

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Share your memory verse (say, write, sing) with someone who might not know God well.

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story**, “No School on Sabbath,” and discuss the follow-up question.

REVIEW: • **Who was faithful and turned their hearts to God in today’s Bible story?** Record responses on your whiteboard: Enoch, Noah, and his family.

CRAFT: There are two craft options this week for you to choose from, depending on the interest and abilities of the children in your class. Choose either “**Ark Builders**” or “**Craft Stick Art.**”

SING: Bring children back together to sing “**God Bless You.**”

 **SHARE:** Hold up the Bible and invite each child to **share** what they’d like to thank God for from this true story in His Word.

PRAY: Pray that the children and their families will know God’s love as they spend time with Him this new week.



Bible Story

Big Idea: I can be faithful to God by spending time with Him and obeying His voice.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions	Show the pictures from this week's story in the Program PowerPoint . Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Props: Faithfulness T-shirt , marker , bag of building objects . Use a model ark and animals , or a felt set and board. Spray bottle with water inside.
Note	Write Genesis 6:5, 6 and Genesis 7:10, 11 on the whiteboard and teach the children how to use the references at the top of the pages in the Bible to help them find it.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Adam lived to be 930 years old! During those years he faithfully told all of his children and grandchildren what it was like to live in perfect Eden, and about the sad day they had disobeyed God. They could even go to the gates of Eden to see the angels guarding the Garden. Adam told the story of his fall, how very important it was to follow God, and how God promised to send Someone to save them from the evil world. Some people listened, but many didn't. They became proud, mean, and selfish.

► There was one special man named Enoch who loved God very much. He was kind and humble. The Bible says, "Enoch walked with God" (Genesis 5:22). **What does this mean?** (It means he and God were on the same path. Enoch loved God with all his mind and heart. He agreed with what God said and was faithful and obedient to God's law.) God hadn't yet given the Ten Commandments to His people, but He had taught them to follow His law of showing love to Him and to others. God helped Enoch to show this love by being kind and gentle. He also gave him a strong, wise, and growing mind. (Show T-shirt: it was as if they were in the Faithfulness T-shirt together.)

► Enoch preached to the people about God's love. He also pleaded with them to follow God and stop doing wrong. Then one day, when Enoch was old, his best friend God took him to heaven!

Hundreds of years went by. **What were the people like, and how did God feel about them?** Read **Genesis 6:5, 6**. (They were very wicked; they did evil continually. God was very sad.)

God knew that if He didn't do something, there would be no one left through whom the Savior could be born. God tried to turn people's hearts back to Him again and again, but only a few listened.

God decided He would send a huge flood to cover the whole world. But first He wanted to warn everyone because He loved them. He needed a faithful man to help Him.

► God chose Noah (show felt and board). He told Noah to build a big boat, called an ark, and told him exactly how to build it. Noah listened and obeyed all of God's instructions.

Noah and his sons got to work, sawing, hammering, and building the ark (show building tools). The ark had rooms for people and animals, and one door on the side. Everyone who chose to go in through that door would be safe from the flood.

► Noah told everyone about God's plan to wash the world clean. Most people thought he was crazy, but that didn't stop Noah. He faithfully built and preached for 120 years!

Spending time with God every day helped Noah to be so faithful.

Finally, the ark was finished.

Noah tried one last time to invite the people to come into the ark to be saved from the coming flood! They just laughed and made fun of him. *Rain? Water had never fallen from the sky!*

Suddenly the people stopped laughing. Their eyes opened wide in surprise.

► Animals plodded and pranced toward the ark! (Felt set or toy animals and ark.) They marched in twos, out of the



woods, across the fields, over the hills, and into the ark. The clean animals came in seven pairs. Birds came too, flying through the ark's door. For seven days they kept coming and coming—led by angels that no one could see.

But only eight people trusted God and came into the ark: Noah, his wife, their sons—Shem, Ham, Japheth—and their wives.

Then God closed the door. Not even the strongest man in the world could open it.

For seven days Noah and his family patiently waited inside the ark, trusting that the flood would come just as God had said. **What happened after seven days? Read Genesis 7:10, 11.** (It began to rain.)

► Lightning flashed, and thunder roared. Huge raindrops began to fall, and water exploded out of the ground. (Spray water bottle lightly over children.) What a huge storm!

Some of the people pounded on the ark door—but it was closed tight. It was too late. The water slowly covered the whole world. All living things outside the ark were destroyed.

Inside the ark, Noah and his family and all the animals were safe. Angels hovered over the ark to keep it safe through the storm—just as God had promised. He is always faithful.

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story No School on Sabbath



Focus: God gives us courage and helps us to be faithful to Him.

Location: Help a child locate **Kyrgyzstan** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Kamila loved God and loved spending time with Him, especially on His holy Sabbath. But she had a big problem when she started eighth grade in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. The public school required that all eighth graders study six days a week—from Monday through Saturday.

Kamila and her mother went to the pastor of their Seventh-day Adventist church to ask for help. The pastor prayed about it. Then he wrote a letter to Kamila's school, asking that she be excused on Saturdays.

Kamila and her mother took the letter to the principal. "Other Christians go to church on Sunday, and your daughter can go to church on Sunday too," she said to Mother. "Then she can study on Saturday. We cannot excuse her."

Kamila didn't go to school the next Sabbath. Instead, she went to church with Mother. She had decided to be faithful to God no matter what. At church Mother saw the principal of the Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Tokmok, located about two hours away by car.

Mother explained the school situation to the principal and asked whether Kamila could go to the Adventist school. The principal prayed for Kamila. She asked God to find someone to help pay Kamila's school fees—it was too much for Mother.

"I'll tell you next Sabbath whether I've found someone," the principal said.

All week Kamila prayed for God to find someone to help.

The next Sabbath at church, the principal greeted her with a big smile. "God has blessed you!" she said. "We have found someone."

"Thank You so much!" Kamila prayed to her faithful Friend.

• **How does Kamila remind you of Noah?**



Ark Builders

What you need: Week 7 craft template on white cardstock, four split pins, colored pencils, scissors, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Color pictures and cut out (2).
- Carefully poke holes through each dot, using a pen or sharp pencil.
- Attach split pin through each hole as shown (3).
- Glue the people to the background, only up to the middle of the log and under the holes (4).
- Move the tab up and down to make the men saw the log!



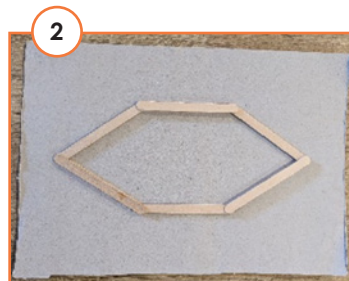
Craft by Kimanh le Roux, A Sketch of Faith. www.asketchoffaith.com. Used by permission.

Craft Stick Ark

What you need: A piece of thick cardboard, 50-60 craft sticks, craft glue, scissors (1).

Instructions:

- Glue one craft stick onto the cardboard as shown (2).
- Arrange the next two craft sticks (overlapping each other) and glue (2).
- Continue until all six are in place. This will form the base of the boat (2).
- Dot each end of the craft sticks with glue and carefully layer with more craft sticks (3).
- Build your ark 10-15 craft sticks high, making sure to overlap each time, so there is a slight gap between each craft stick above and below (3).
- Once dry, cut the excess cardboard off around the base and enjoy playing with your ark! (3)





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 8

The Rainbow Promise

Bible Reference: Genesis 7:17-9:17

Big Idea	I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.
Memory Verse	"For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57:1).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 105-108 <i>The Story of Redemption</i> , pp. 67-71 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 113-123
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 3. The Father 7. The Nature of Humanity 10. The Experience of Salvation 11. Growing in Christ
Word of the Week	Protect: To keep someone or something safe.
Lesson Summary	This lesson explores the way Noah and his family trusted God to protect and lead them as their time in the ark came to an end and they embarked on building new lives in a dramatically changed world. God sent a rainbow as a promise of future care. They were grateful for God's encouragement, blessings, fulfilled promises, and His promise to protect them in the future.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that they can trust God to protect them and keep His promises. Feel thankful for God's protection and fulfilled promises. Respond by choosing to actively trust God's promises.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

A stunning arch of color stretches across a rain-washed sky. We can't help smiling. The vivid colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet dazzle and delight. Mesmerized, we trace the beautiful beams of light with our eyes. We wonder at its vast size and ethereal glow. But best of all, we cherish the message of each rainbow—a message of God's protection.

With bold brushstrokes, God painted the very first rainbow for Noah and his little family. He knew “that those who had been saved from the general ruin would have their fears awakened whenever the clouds should gather, the thunders roll, and the lightnings flash; and that . . . the pouring out of the waters from the heavens would strike terror to their hearts, for fear that another flood was coming upon them.”¹

God understood, so He made a loving promise that “never again shall there be a flood to destroy the

earth” (Genesis 9:11). Then, to further emphasize His words, God created the rainbow to be a striking symbol of the trustworthiness of His promise. The beauty of it chased away the fear in those eight hesitant hearts. They “looked with admiration and reverential awe mingled with joy upon this sign of God's mercy.”²

God invites us to look with “admiration and reverential awe” at His rainbows too. Each arch of glowing color is a personal guarantee from God. You are safe in His protective care; you can trust Him. What a beautiful promise!

As you and the children explore God's protection and promises through the lens of Noah's story, may you be filled with praise and thankfulness.

¹ Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 1953), vol. 1, p. 1091.

² *Ibid.*





Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 8

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Build an altar.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
 - **"Sabbath Song"**
- Pray: Circle of thanks
- Bible Focus: Sing **"Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity and Discussion: Objects that protect us
- Picture: Ark on rough sea
- Share the **Big Idea: I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Discussion: Protection
- Activity: **Patience rating scale (1-10)**

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Imagine what it might have been like to leave the **ark**.
- Thank God for things that match the different colors of the rainbow.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Psalm 57:1"**
- **Nature Lesson:** "Cheetah Protects Her Cubs"
- **Craft: Promise and Protection Spinner**
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Share last week's lesson story and your craft spinner with a younger child this week.
- Pray.
- Take Home: Extra **Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise**



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Source either **LEGO, DUPLO, or other building blocks** for the children to build an altar together.

Source five objects that provide protection. Suggestions: **raincoat or umbrella, house key, bike helmet, knee pads, work gloves, sunscreen, etc.**

Source a **picture** of Noah's ark on a rough sea from last week's storytelling **Picture PowerPoint**, two toy birds/pictures of birds (dove, raven).

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Write the numbers 1 to 10 on separate pieces of **paper** to be used as a rating scale.

Source a stuffed **toy lamb** or a **picture** of a lamb.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise**. Print extra ones for the children to take home as a reminder to trust God's promises.

Craft Materials

Print **week 8 craft template** for each child. Source: **colored pencils, split pins, scissors**. Make one as a sample.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Psalm 57:1"
- "God Bless You"



qr.aij.info_PA1t

- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 8
- ☐ Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise
- ☐ Craft template for week 8
- ☐ Picture of ark on rough sea

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Building blocks
- ☐ 5 objects that provide protection
- ☐ 10 numbered pieces of paper
- ☐ 2 toy birds/pictures of birds (dove, raven)
- ☐ Toy lamb or picture of lamb
- ☐ Cloth for Noah "costume"



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Welcome all children with a bright smile as they arrive. Talk with them about anything special that happened this week.

DO: Build a big altar of sacrifice together with **LEGO, DUPLO, or other building blocks**. Share that this week's story has an altar and that their altar will be used during the story.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Express how wonderful it is to be together to worship our loving God.

SING: Sing “**God Is My Faithful Friend.**” Sing the prayer song “**Sabbath Song.**”

PRAY: Have the children form a **circle** and each thank God for one thing in a group prayer. Close by thanking God for the children and their grateful hearts.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible.**”

Share the **Bible Fast Fact:** The Bible writers came from many different backgrounds: a shepherd, a king, people who worked in a palace, fishermen, a doctor, and many others. God used all kinds of people to share His messages, and He still does this today.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus.**” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

ACTIVITY: View the collection of **objects that protect**, and decide what they have in common. If time allows, select children to quickly demonstrate how each object is used. Do this while the children are discussing what they have in common. Highlight how each object protects us by keeping us safe or minimizing harm.

DISCUSS: • **How can these objects remind us of God?** (He protects us.)

SHARE: Display a **picture of the ark** on a rough sea from last week's Picture PowerPoint, and share that today's story looks at how God protected Noah and his family.

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together: **I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

DISCUSS: • **How and when can we worship and praise God in our daily lives, as Noah and His family did?** (Encourage children to think beyond Sabbath worship.)

- **What does God's rainbow remind us of?** (His promise to protect His people, no more worldwide floods, the rainbow around God's throne in heaven.)

TEACHING POINT: Rainbows remind us of God's promise to love and protect us. They also remind us to thank Him for His many colorful blessings.

 **PRAISE:** Invite the children to color in the **rainbow** displayed. Then have the children say a color in the rainbow and think of something that is that color and thank God for it. We can thank God for all His many blessings!

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise** to place in their container. Discuss the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse** together. Sing the **Scripture Song, "Psalm 57:1."** Invite them to stand and create actions to accompany the verse.

 **APPLY:** • **What situations might you find yourself in that seem scary or hard to deal with? How could saying your memory verse help?** (It reminds us that God will protect us—we can trust Him.)

Explain that you will give the children an extra character card to take home as a reminder to say their memory verse and to trust in God whenever they are afraid.

- **Where could you display your card?** (On your wall at home, on the top of your school desk, on the bathroom door, etc.) Plan to put it there!

NATURE LESSON: Read the **Nature Lesson, "Cheetah Protects Her Cubs,"** and discuss the follow-up question.

CRAFT: Display your completed **Promise and Protection Spinner** and share instructions for making it. Distribute an **outline** to each child.

Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background as the children complete their craft.

SING: Bring children back together to sing **"God Bless You."**

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Share last week's lesson story and your craft spinner with a younger child this week.**

PRAY: Thank God for the ways He protects us. Thank Him for His promises, especially the promise that we will one day see Him and the rainbow around His throne in heaven.

TAKE HOME: You might like to give the children an extra **Character Card 8: Rainbow Promise** to take home as a reminder to claim their memory verse and trust God's promises.

Bible Story



Big Idea: I can thank God for His protection and trust all His promises.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. You may like to use a **felt set** to create the story as you tell it. Or you may like to give two children **two birds** to use as the raven and dove. Props: the **altar** made by children who arrived early; a **toy lamb**. Numbers 1 to 10 written on individual sheets of paper.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Safe inside the ark, Noah and his little family were protected by their loving God. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. That much rain buried everything and washed all the badness away.

Right on time, just as God had promised, He stopped the rain! In its place, He sent howling winds to help dry up the water.

► Then God guided the ark into peaceful waters on top of a group of mountains. The little family was grateful that their home had stopped rolling and tossing around!

They continued to care for all the beautiful, slimy, fluffy, squawky, growly animals in the ark. The family threw grain to the birds and bananas to the monkeys. They swept out the lions' area and shoveled out elephant poo. Some jobs were fun, and others weren't, but they faithfully did them all.

They waited and wondered how long it would be until they could leave the ark. **How long did the water cover the earth? Read Genesis 7:24. (150 days, which equals five months!)**

Then one day Noah let a raven go to test if the earth was dry or not (**toy/picture**). It returned—there was too much water around for it to land. A week later he let a white dove fly away, but it returned too.

Noah waited . . . Seven days later he released the dove again. This time it came back with an olive leaf in its beak—there were growing plants somewhere out there! Noah waited another week . . . Then he let it go again. This time it didn't return—it had found a new home!

Noah and his family were so excited! Soon they would be free to explore their new home. But they would be patient. God had shut the ark's door, and God would let them out. Their job was to wait patiently while God allowed the land to dry out and plants to grow so the family could survive outside the ark. They kept on patiently waiting and trusting God to protect them.

Let's pause the story for a moment. (*Note: Take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.*)

DISCUSS

- **What did God protect Noah and his family from during the year they were in the ark?** (Stormy seas, howling winds, the ark capsizing, animals that would normally be wild, boredom, fear, etc.)
- **What has God protected you from during the last year?** (Share how God protects us from many dangers or scary things we don't even know about!) Briefly share how the story of Noah reflects how God will save us from this world of sin through Jesus.

DO

Lay the numbers 1 to 10 on the ground to create a rating scale. Invite children to stand on a number in response to the questions. 1: not at all; 10: very much.

- **How patient do you think Noah and his family were while they waited in the ark?**
- **How patient are you while waiting for something you have been promised?**
- **How big a difference was there in where you stood for both questions?** (Discuss possible reasons for a difference.) Remember, God will help us to wait patiently!



► Let's continue our story. One day it happened! God opened the heavy door to the ark. Eight happy people leaped to their feet and set the animals free. The waiting was finally over!

How wonderful it was to stand upon dry ground. **What did Noah do first? Read Genesis 8:20.** (Built an altar and offered animal sacrifices to thank God.)

► Noah and his family had so much to thank God for! (Use altar of building blocks; toy lamb.) When an altar was built and the animals placed on top, the little family knelt together and began to worship God. They thanked Him for protecting and saving them through the roughest seas and the wildest storm. God accepted the gift of their praise and thanks; He loved His faithful children.

► Noah and his family were shocked when they took a good look around. All the beauty had been washed away. The land was rough and dirty, without trees, and with jagged, bare mountains.

God saw their sadness, and He understood, for He must have felt it too. God had a special surprise to share with Noah and his family. It was a beautiful thing they had never seen before, and He knew how happy it would make them.

With a sudden burst of color, a beautiful rainbow blazed in a big arch across the sky. They gazed up in awe at the first rainbow this world had ever seen.

Even more beautiful than the rainbow was the message of love it sent. It was God's way of telling them that He would never flood the whole earth again.

Did you know there's a rainbow in heaven? Where is it? Read Revelation 4:2, 3. (There is a rainbow around His throne in heaven. God was sharing a very special piece of heaven with His children.) ► (Show the picture of God's throne in the Picture PowerPoint.)

A rainbow would always remind people that God keeps His promise to love and care for His children.

TEACHER NOTES

Nature Lesson Cheetah Protects Her Cubs

Focus: God protects us the way a mother cheetah protects her cubs.

- **What do you know about cheetahs?**

- **Let's find out how a mother cheetah can remind us of God's protection.** (Show picture.)

If you were to see a newborn baby cheetah, you would think it was very cute and cuddly with its soft, dark fur. However, you would never be able to see one in the wild, because the mother cheetah is very protective of her little cubs.

She has two to six tiny cubs who are born blind and helpless. The mother cheetah does her best to protect them for the first six weeks of their life while they are only drinking her milk. She leaves them safely snuggled together in a den, goes hunting, and then comes back to feed and groom them. Then every few days she transfers them to a new den so there isn't a buildup of "cheetah smell" for predators to sniff out and track.

During this time the cubs grow a thick yellowish-gray stripe down their backs, called a mantle. This color helps the cubs blend into the shadows of their surroundings. It also helps the cheetah cubs look like fierce little honey badgers. Other animals don't like to attack honey badgers because they are ferocious fighters, so the cheetah cubs are safer.

After six weeks the young cheetahs are old enough to go hunting with their mother. They are together all the time until the cubs are between 16 and 24 months old. During these months the mother protects them and teaches them how to protect themselves. The cubs mostly learn to hunt from their mother, but they also learn by play fighting with each other. The mother cheetah knows this, so her cubs never get in trouble for play fighting!

God protects and cares for us, just as a mother cheetah cares for her cute little cubs.

- **Who do you think taught a mother cheetah how to protect her young?**

www.Cheetah.org

Craft

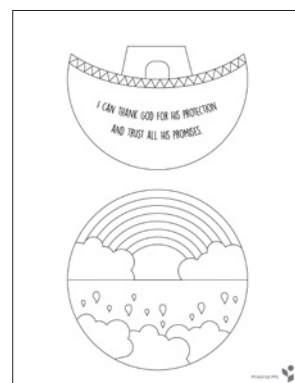
Promise and Protection Spinner

What you need:

Week 8 craft template, colored pencils, split pin or brad, scissors.

Instructions:

- Color the pictures (1).
- Cut out each circle (2).
- Fasten the ark on top of the rainbow with a split pin or brad, so that it's able to spin (2).







Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

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WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 9

The Tower of Babel

Bible Reference: Genesis 11:1-9

Big Idea	God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.
Memory Verse	"In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be put to shame" (Psalm 71:1).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 117-124 <i>The Story of Redemption</i> , pp. 72-74 <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary</i> , vol. 1, pp. 285-287 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 124-130
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 1. The Holy Scriptures 3. The Father 4. The Son 7. The Nature of Humanity 8. The Great Controversy 11. Growing in Christ
Word of the Week	Depend: To trust and rely on someone or something.
Lesson Summary	After the flood, Noah's descendants could choose to depend either on God or on themselves. Many chose to depend on themselves. They built the Tower of Babel to defy God, His plan, and promises. This wouldn't make them happy or content. God intervened and mixed up their languages. As a result, the people spread out, and God's rescue plan and promise went forward.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that when we choose to depend on God, we will be happy and content. Feel thankful for the things our loving God does to help us depend on Him. Respond by choosing to depend on God.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

It was a simple instruction: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 9:1), followed by a renewed covenant. Given by a dependable God to His dependent children, it was the road map forward in a flood-ravaged world. If it were followed, an abundance of blessings and fulfilled promises would be enjoyed in its wake.

But the renewed covenant was ignored and ultimately replaced by the choice to depend on self. It was a path that indulged pride, aimed for fame, and ultimately led to the Tower of Babel.

We may wonder how wickedness wormed its way back into the world so quickly. But our “me-first” culture is just as prone to self-reliance and pride. We can easily

find ourselves chasing after the wrong things and depending on ourselves rather than on God. We may not build a skyscraper, but we may build a tower of independence.

Our trustworthy God invites us to something so much better. “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10). A strong tower—what a powerful metaphor! Let’s choose to run to our strong tower, God, and be safe.

As you and the children unpack the story of building the tower, our prayer is that you will see the futility of building towers of independence and that you will each be filled instead with the desire to depend on our loving and reliable God.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 9

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Build tallest tower.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
 - **"Sabbath Song"**
- Pray: For each other in pairs (James 5:16)
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity and Discussion: Trust fall
- Share the **Big Idea: God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Object lesson and discussion: **"Staying afloat"**/dependence on God (soda and raisins)
- Apply: Choosing to depend on God

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Speak in **another language** and discuss how God gets our attention to help grow our dependence on Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 9: The Tower of Babel**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Psalm 71:1"**
- **Mission Story:** "Learning French"
- **Mission Challenge:** Learn "Hello, God loves you" in the language of someone who is new to your country and share it with them this week.
- **Craft: Tower of Babel**
- Share: Guests share stories of dependence
- Peer share and commit: Musical sharing and personal prayer
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Source **building blocks, disposable cups or containers, and measuring tape.**

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint.**

- Source props for Noah's family as they set up homes, farms, etc. A **shovel, rake, basket, wooden stake, seeds.** For object lesson: Source a **clear glass, raisins one per child), and bubbly lemonade or other clear soda.**
- Source **peg or LEGO people, and a hammer.**
- Find **two foreign language speakers from different generations (e.g., senior/youth).** Prep them to also think of sharing an experience in which they depended on God, or daily ways they depend on Him. (Alternatively, learn how to say "Pass me a nail" in another language.)

Update **Offering Chart.**

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 9: The Tower of Babel.**

Craft Materials

Source **week 9 craft template** (ideally printed on white cardstock). Source: **orange and brown paper** (cut into small triangles), **scissors, glue.** Make a sample: instructions appear at the end of the lesson.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Psalm 71:1"
- "God Bless You"



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- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 9
- ☐ Character Card 9: The Tower of Babel
- ☐ Craft template for week 9

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Blocks, or cups, or containers for building
- ☐ Measuring tape
- ☐ 1 clear glass
- ☐ Lemonade/clear soda
- ☐ Raisins (1 per child)
- ☐ Props for Noah's family: rocks, shovel, rake, baskets, seeds, wooden stake, etc.
- ☐ Peg or LEGO people
- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ 2 foreign language speakers



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children as they arrive. Talk with them about last week's Mission Challenge to share their story and craft with a younger child. How did it go?

DO: Build a tall tower with **building blocks, disposable cups, or containers**. Measure its height and keep building higher.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Express how wonderful it is to be together to worship God.

SING: Sing “**God Is My Faithful Friend**” and “**Sabbath Song**.”

PRAY: **James 5:16** tells us to pray for one another. Invite the children to pray in pairs in a quiet place in the room. Remind them to pray for each other and to ask God to be with us in Sabbath School.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**.” Share the **Bible Fast Fact**: More Bibles are sold in the world than any other book. And that doesn't include the millions of copies that are given away each year. In 2018 the Bible Society gave away 38 million copies around the world!

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

OBJECT LESSON: To demonstrate the meaning of dependence on God, engage several children in a “**trust fall**.” Invite a tall child to stand about a foot (1/3 meter) in front of your smallest child with their back to him/her. Instruct the tall child to fall backward into the arms of the small child. Comment that they don't look too eager (if true). **Stop them before they carry out this action!** Invite them to fall backward into an adult's arms instead of the small child's arms.

DEBRIEF: • **Why didn't** (child's name) **want to fall backward the first time?**

• **What made it easier for** (child's name) **to depend on the person behind him/her the second time?**

TEACHING POINT: We can choose to depend on God because we know He is strong and loving.

READ: Read the **Big Idea** together: **God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.**

Let's learn more about depending on God in today's story about people who lived after the flood.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

DO: Invite your **foreign language speakers** to hold a **hammer** and repeat a “building” instruction in another language, becoming animated/frustrated.

DISCUSS: • **How did you start to feel when you couldn’t understand?** (A bit frustrated, confused, etc.)
• **How would you feel if you couldn’t understand anyone around you in real life?** (Alone, anxious.)

TEACHING POINT: When God mixed up the languages, He knew the people would feel the same way you did. He was getting their attention and giving them another opportunity to choose to depend on Him. God sometimes gets our attention in interesting ways to help us depend on Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 9: The Tower of Babel** to place in their container.

Discuss the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse**, then sing the **Scripture Song**, “**Psalm 71:1**.”

- **How different might today’s story have been if the people had put their trust in the Lord?**
- **When have you trusted in God instead of trusting in yourself?**

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story**, “Learning French,” and discuss the follow-up question.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Learn “Hello, God loves you” in the language of someone who is new to your country and share it with them this week.

CRAFT: Show the children your completed **Tower of Babel craft** and share instructions for making it.

 **SHARE:** While the children do their craft, invite your foreign language speakers from different generations (ages) to share how they have chosen to depend on God. They may like to share a specific experience, or the many things they depend on Him for each day—things we tend to take for granted such as shelter, food, and clean water. Encourage them to be brief and simple. Thank them together as a class.

 **PEER SHARE and COMMIT:** If time allows, play **music** and invite the children to **walk around**. When the music stops, they can find a partner nearby and **share** something they’ve learned or enjoyed in today’s lesson. Do this a couple of times. On the last stop, invite them to pray on their own, and commit to depending on God more in the coming week.

SING: Bring children back together to sing your closing song, “**God Bless You**.”

PRAY: Ask God to be with the children and their families. Thank God for being dependable and ask Him to help the children choose to depend on Him this week.

Bible Story



Big Idea: God lets me choose to depend on Him or on myself.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions	Show the pictures from this week's story in the Program PowerPoint . Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Other props: glass, lemonade/soda, raisin for each child, rocks, shovel, rake, basket, wooden stake, seeds , etc. Ask children to use peg or LEGO people to follow your story cues. At the appropriate time in the story, draw attention to the tower your early arrivals built and have a child/children break it down.
Note	When the children look up Psalm 144:15, explain that the book of Psalms is about halfway through the Bible. Demonstrate how knowing this can help us find the verse more easily.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Noah and his family looked around them. Thick, gooey mud completely covered the new earth after the flood. But slowly the sun dried out all the mud. Noah and his family found a place to make a new home.

For a time they stayed in the mountains near the ark. The world around them looked so different! Plants and trees had been ripped out of the ground, buried, or washed away. Rocks had tumbled and smashed.

Noah and his family got to work right away. *(Imagine what this would have been like. Children use tools as they imagine the scene.)* Rocks and rubble needed to be carried away with a big heave-ho! Land needed clearing for a farm. Wells needed digging. Forests and trees needed to be replanted. Fruit and vegetable gardens needed to be dug and then sown with seeds.

It was hot, hard work! But Noah and his family were happy and content. **Why do you think they were happy even though their lives were hard? Read Psalm 144:15. (People are happy when the Lord is their God.)** God was pleased that they were happy and content as they depended on Him for everything.

Let's pause the story for just a moment to look at something. *(Note: Take no longer than five minutes to do the following activity.)*

OBJECT LESSON Place a see-through **glass** filled with clear, **bubbly lemonade/soda**, at the front of the room. Give each child a **raisin** to drop into the glass (it will float).

DISCUSS Discuss with a buddy, then lead a whole-class discussion:
• What happened to the raisin in the glass? What could this teach us about depending on God?

TEACHING POINT Noah and his family were able to "stay afloat" by depending on God when they had to build new lives after they left the ark. When we depend on God and the promises He has given us in the Bible, we are able to "stay afloat" and to be happy and content during hard times or challenges.

APPLY **• What situations might we face that require us to choose to depend on God?** (Friendship troubles, difficult lessons at school, temptations to do something wrong, etc.)

Let's continue with our story. Time went by, and Noah's family grew and grew. Granddad Noah loved to gather everyone together to worship God. He told them wonderful stories about the beautiful world before the flood, life on the ark, and God's rainbow promise. But sadly, some people got tired of listening to his stories. They got angry at those who chose to trust and obey God. They wanted to do things their own way. They depended on themselves and their own opinions, not on God.



Noah shook his head in sadness. He tried to draw them back to their loving Creator. God and Noah both knew that if everyone remembered how much God loved them, they would be happy and love God in return. **What else did God want them to remember? Read Deuteronomy 7:9.** (God is faithful and merciful, and keeps His promises.)

► But some of Noah's family just didn't want to listen. They didn't want to trust and obey God. With God's faithful people far behind them, the bold unbelievers left the mountains and moved down to the grassy plains. ► The soil was great for growing gardens, and plenty of fresh water flowed in a nearby river. Searching around, they found clay to make sun-baked bricks and sticky tar to hold them together. They thought they were very clever to have found the perfect building materials. Pretty soon grand houses, smooth roads, stores, and barns rose up from the ground.

Here they built a beautiful city. They felt very clever and very confident in themselves. They thought they were the best!

It was God's plan for people to spread all over the earth, but they wanted to stay in the beautiful city they were so proud of. They would not trust God or His rainbow promise. They decided to depend on themselves instead.

► They came up with a big idea! They would build a gigantic tower so tall that it would keep them safe from another flood. Yes, they would take care of themselves! It would be so high that it would make them famous! They began working on it right away.

Sand was shoveled. Bricks were formed and dried in the sun, then stuck into place with sticky tar. A big tower began to take shape. Higher and higher it went. The people now felt very, very proud. Some believed they were more powerful than God. Others believed that He didn't even exist!

God loved His people. He didn't want these lies to spread. He wanted His love to spread, so the Savior (Jesus) could one day come and save His children from sin. **What did God do? Read Genesis 11:7.** (Confused their languages.)

► Everything was mixed up and messed up! When someone asked for bricks, they may have been handed sticky tar. Another builder asking for a hammer might have been offered a shovel! Soon there were angry fights up and down the tower. Just like that, work on the tower stopped.

The city was called "Babel" (Genesis 11:9), which sounds like the Hebrew word for "confusion" (*balal*).

Then God sent a huge bolt of lightning to smash the top of the tower and send it toppling to the ground. CRASH! Wow—God had their attention now!

► Gradually the people found others they could understand. These groups split up and spread out to "fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1), as God had told Noah and his sons to do. God was pleased they would have a fresh chance to learn to depend on Him again as their friend.

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story Learning French



Focus: We can depend on God for help to learn something important, yet difficult.

Location: Help a child locate **Belgium** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Imagine not being able to understand a word your teacher says!

That's what it was like for Linda when she started school in the city of Brussels in Belgium. Her mother enrolled her in a French-speaking school. Linda knew no French at all! She spoke Flemish, a local language, as well as Spanish.

A few weeks after school started, Linda's teacher, Miss Cathy, told Linda's mother that Linda was having trouble in school because she couldn't understand French.

Mother offered to help Linda learn French at home. Every afternoon Mother and Linda asked God to help Linda learn French. Then they worked together, studying hard.

Within a week Miss Cathy noticed that Linda's work was improving. When she gave the children a test in math, Linda received the highest score.

That afternoon Miss Cathy asked Linda's mother how Linda had improved so much in just a week. "We did two things," Mother said. "We prayed, and we worked together."

A few weeks later, when the class took a test in French, Linda again scored the highest grade in class.

Again Miss Cathy asked her mother how Linda had improved so quickly. And again Linda's mother answered, "We prayed, and we worked together."

Linda and her mother were grateful that God was helping Linda learn French quickly when they depended on Him for help. They were also glad that they could share this with Miss Cathy. Maybe one day she would learn to love God and depend on Him too.

• **What could you depend on God to help you with this week?**



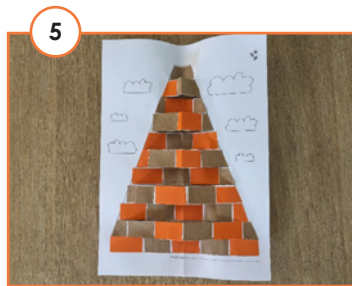
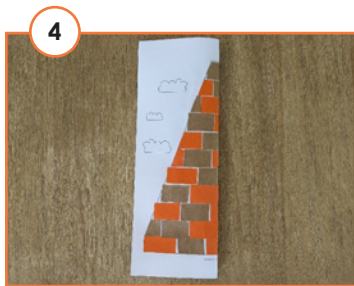
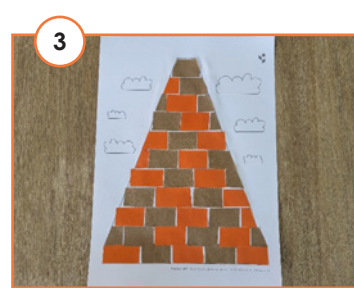
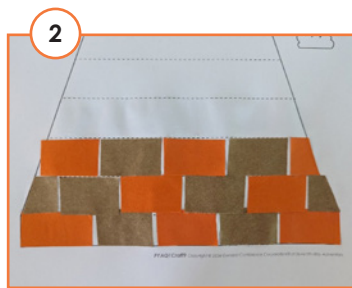
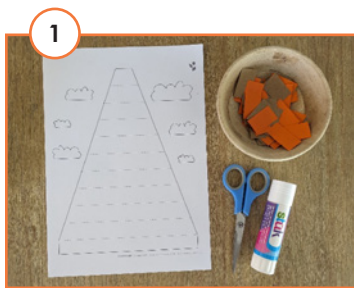
Tower of Babel

What you need:

Week 9 template (ideally printed on white cardstock), orange and brown paper (cut into small rectangles), scissors, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Glue the orange and brown rectangles along each row of the tower (2-3).
- Fold the page in half (vertically) (4).
- Cut along each dotted line (5).
- Unfold the page, then refold every second row in the middle and along the edges. This will make each second row stand out (6).





Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

- WEEK 1 A New World
- WEEK 2 A Perfect Home
- WEEK 3 The Sabbath
- WEEK 4 What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
- WEEK 5 The Fall and a Promise
- WEEK 6 Cain and Abel
- WEEK 7 Noah Builds an Ark
- WEEK 8 The Rainbow Promise
- WEEK 9 The Tower of Babel
- WEEK 10 **God Leads Abram**
- WEEK 11 Abram and Lot
- WEEK 12 Abram Rescues Lot
- WEEK 13 The Promised Baby

Week 10

God Leads Abram

Bible References: Genesis 11:26-32; 12:1-9

Big Idea

As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.

Memory Verse

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 125-128
The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 289-296
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 133-141

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 4. The Son
- 8. The Great Controversy
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 22. Christian Behavior

Word of the Week

Descendant: Someone related to a person or a group of people who lived at an earlier time (e.g., a child, a grandchild, a great-grandchild).

Lesson Summary

Abram developed a beautiful friendship with God. Because he loved God, recognized His voice, and followed His instructions to leave Ur, others around Abram got to know and love his God by the way he lived and worshipped.

Learning Goals

The children will:

- Know** what it looks like to be God's friend.
- Feel** a desire to be God's friend and share Him with others.
- Respond** by choosing to be God's friend and living in a way that tells others about Him as Abram did.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

The bustling city of Ur sat in opulent splendor on the fertile plains of the Euphrates River. It was a prosperous trade city belonging to a wealthy empire. It was also a city saturated with superstition and heathenism, temples and idolatry.¹

Abram's story began in this unlikely place and in an unlikely way. God simply called Him to leave it all behind: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

Leave your country? Leave your family? Head to a place unknown?

In Bible times it would have seemed a particularly absurd and irrational command had it not been for one thing: Abram recognized and trusted the voice of

the Command-giver. He knew deep down in the core of his being that his Friend, God, had spoken. And he knew that "the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be."² No wonder the Bible says that he "was called the friend of God" (James 2:23).

There are many inspiring lessons to be learned from the life of Abram, who was later called Abraham. But let's not forget where all the lessons begin and end: with a friendship with God. It's worth repeating: *everything worth anything begins and ends with a friendship with God*. Only then can we speak of faithfulness and obedience, sacrifice, and courage.

As you and the children explore the beginnings of Abram's story, may you be drawn to God and long to be His friend too. Always and forever.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1890, 1908), p. 125.

² *Ibid.*



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 10

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song** playlist
- Make stars.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"** and another worship song of your choice
 - **"Sabbath Song"**
- Pray: Children are thankful for . . .
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** collect offering, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**.
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Explanation: Noah's descendants on family tree
- Share the **Big Idea: As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Activity: **God's friends**, paper strips
- Discussion: Abram's feelings when leaving home, trusting God

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Blindfold pairs**
- Discussion: Knowing God's voice, trusting His instructions

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 10: Faithful Abram**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Isaiah 30:21"**
- Whisper memory verse.
- Read: You are a star descendant.
- **Nature Lesson: "Sugar Gliders"**
- Pray and commit: Personal prayer; commit to time with God, our friend.
- **Craft: Watercolor Sky**
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Be like Abram and make friends for God. Tell a friend what you really like about them. Then tell them why you love your best Friend, Jesus.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Make the spiral part of a **star mobile** using the **craft outline**. Have **stars** and **glitter** and **glue** ready for your children to make stars.

Draw a **large tree** on your whiteboard or a piece of posterboard. (You will record names on it to create Noah's family tree.)

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Create **labels**: "The City of Ur," "Haran," and "Canaan/The Promised Land." Prior to the lesson, attach the "City of Ur" label to the whiteboard, and the remaining two labels on other walls above a space where you can gather for subsequent sections of the story. If space is limited, remain below the whiteboard, and change the labels during the storytelling.

Cut paper into one inch (two and a half centimeters) wide **strips** for each child to write their name on, then make into links. Cut another very **long, narrow strip** to thread through the links. **Glue** ends together. Write God on this long strip.

Source enough **blindfolds** for half of the children.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 10: Faithful Abram**.

Craft Materials

Source **white cardstock, black paper, scissors, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, glue, and water**. Craft instructions included at the end of the lesson.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Isaiah 30:21"
- "God Bless You"



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☐ Mission Fast Fact

- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 10
- ☐ Character Card 10: Faithful Abram

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Whiteboard/posterboard and markers, glitter, glue, stars
- ☐ Labels
- ☐ Blindfold
- ☐ Paper to cut into strips, glue



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Smile warmly and welcome children by name as they arrive.

DO: Cut out and decorate stars (**Star Mobile craft outline**). Attach stars to the spiral of your **star mobile**. (This will be used in week 13.)

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group to Sabbath School.

SING: Sing “**God Is My Faithful Friend**” and a worship song of your choice.

PRAY: Encourage children to share something they have been thankful for this past week. Sing the prayer song, “**Sabbath Song**.” Then invite several children to pray, remembering to thank God for His blessings.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**.”

Share the **Bible Fast Fact**: There are three main patriarchs—meaning fathers—in the Bible. They are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That's why Abraham is sometimes called Father Abraham. God gave all three patriarchs His special blessing promises.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J SHARE: To unpack the word “descendants,” point to the **blank tree** you have drawn on the whiteboard. Write **Noah** at the top of the trunk and explain that you will record the names of his descendants (people related to him) branching out towards the top of the tree to create a “family tree.” Add Noah's sons' names above his name as you share a little about each. You may also like to add their son's names (Abram in particular) to give context for the next four lessons:

Japheth: His family became known as Japhethites. Many lived by the sea and sailed all over the world to make new nations. Some of Japheth's sons were **Gomer**, **Magog**, and **Javan**.

Ham: His family moved across the land, building many cities and kingdoms. One of Ham's sons was named **Mizraim**, which means Egypt. Another son was called **Canaan**. Both family groups formed great nations, a long way from Babel. Ham's other son, **Cush**, was the father of the Bible's most famous hunter, **Nimrod**. This mighty man and his family formed the kingdom of Babylon, and he later built the city of Nineveh.

Shem: His family journeyed south, where they built villages and cities, including Ur. Shem had many children, who had many more children. The Bible records nine generations of sons between Shem and a very special son, **Abram**.

READ: As we learn about Abram in today's lesson, we will be reminded that (read the Big Idea together from the whiteboard): **As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

DO: Organize your children into **pairs** and **blindfold** one. Explain that their partner will guide them with instructions to a place in the room. Whisper a different destination to each child giving the instructions (e.g., the door, the whiteboard, the cupboard).

DEBRIEF: • **Blindfolded children: How did you know where to go?** (Heard partner's instructions.)

- **How easy or hard was it to follow your partners instructions? Why?** (Accept/discuss responses.)
- **How easy or hard do you think it was for Abram to follow God's instructions? Why?**

TEACHING POINT: Abram was God's friend, so he recognized and trusted God's voice and instructions. We can too.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 10: Faithful Abram** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse**. Then sing the **Scripture Song, "Isaiah 30:21."**

Try to whisper the memory verse very quietly to each other.

- **How carefully did you have to listen?**
- **How carefully did Abram listen to "the word behind him"?**

We can listen carefully to God too, just as Abram did.

 **READ/REFLECT:** Invite the children to sit quietly with their eyes closed and their faces turned upward as you slowly read:

"Gazing up at the stars in Canaan, Abram quietly thought about the descendants God had promised him. Each star shone brightly, reminding him that all those who would be God's friend, right down through time, would shine as his descendants. He was a star. His wife, Sarai, was a star. His household members were stars. You are a star. How amazing to be a star descendant of Abram!"

PRAY and COMMIT: Invite the children to say a personal prayer. After their short prayer time, encourage them to spend time this week listening, not just talking, in their prayer time with God. We can listen to God most by paying attention to what He tells us in His Word, the Bible. We can also pay attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

How else can you become closer friends with God? (Reading the Bible, studying the lesson, being in nature, listening to and singing worship songs.)

NATURE LESSON: Read the **Nature Lesson**, "Sugar Gliders," and read prompt for personal prayer.

 **CRAFT:** Show the children your watercolor sky picture and invite each child to make one too with paper, a white crayon (for stars), watercolor paints, and a black cardstock mountain. Hang these in the classroom if possible as a reminder of God's promise.

SING: Bring children back together to sing your closing song, "**God Bless You.**"

PRAY: Thank God for the ways He protects us. Thank Him for His promises, especially the promise that we will one day see Him and the rainbow around His throne in heaven.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Be like Abram and make friends for God. Tell a friend what you really like about them. Then tell them why you love your best Friend, Jesus.**

PRAY: Ask God to be with the children and their families as they listen to His voice and shine like stars for Him this week.

Bible Story



Big Idea: As God's friend, I will live in a way that tells others about Him.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Sit under the **"City of Ur"** label in front of the whiteboard. Explain that this is where the first part of today's story took place. Write the names **Enoch, Abel, Adam, and Eve** below **Noah** on the trunk of your family tree as you talk about them in the story. "Journey" to tell the story beside the **Haran** and **Canaan labels** (or stay by the whiteboard and change the labels). Children can think about how Abram may have responded throughout the story (e.g., hearing God's voice, thinking about God's instruction, bowing reverently, listening, gazing at the stars).

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Abram was born to a very rich and well-known shepherd named Terah. They lived in the big and busy city of Ur (sign), where people worshipped idols.

► As Abram grew up, Father Terah told him wonderful stories about God's great love and how He had cared for their big family. He talked about Great-grandfather Noah and the flood, Enoch, faithful Abel, and Adam and Eve. (Add to family tree.)

Abram wanted to be faithful, good, and kind, like God, and like his family in the stories. Then others would know that God is kind and good.

While many people in the city (and even his own home) worshipped idols, Abram didn't. What good was an idol? No, he would stay close to God and obey Him.

Abram talked with God, and listened to God, and thought about God. He believed God. **What does the Bible say Abram was called? Read James 2:23. (Friend of God.)**

What a beautiful thing it is to be known as God's friend!

God decided to use His faithful friend Abram to do something big and loving for Him. Wickedness had spread through the world again, and God needed Abram's help to do something about it.

► One day Abram heard God say, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

What a big thing to be asked to do! Abram was a rich man who had a wife, a comfortable home, and lots of servants and animals.

People might think he was crazy and foolish, but Abram didn't question God—not even for a moment. He had never doubted God's voice before, and he wouldn't now. He would obey his friend, God.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

- **How might Abram have felt when God asked him to leave his home?** (Excited, afraid, uncertain, eager, trusting.)
- **How might you have felt?**
- **Why do you think Abram was able to hear God speaking to him?** (He prayed and listened when he prayed. He heard God's voice.)

Just as Abram did, we can all be God's friend. His love is so big that He can be friends with all of us and millions of other people all at the same time! He longs for us to trust Him and listen to Him, as Abram did.

When we become close friends with God, over time we will learn to recognize Him speaking to us too. He may speak through the Bible, through adults who are His friends, and even in our thoughts.



God talked to Abram again. God had shared an instruction, and now He was sharing a promise.

- **What did God say? Read Genesis 12:2.** (I will bless you and make you a great nation.)

It was, first of all, the promise of a baby, and, second of all, a promise of many, many descendants.

► Later God took him outside into the inky darkness. He said softly, "Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count" (Genesis 15:5, ICB).

Abram felt humbled. God was going to bless him so He could then bless many, many people in the future. And they would shine as stars to show others about God, just as Abram did. He had always tried to live and talk in ways that would show what His loving God was like. Now God was going to help him show the whole world!

Abram and his household busily prepared for the journey ahead. Cattle and sheep were rounded up, goods were packed, and donkeys and camels loaded. Then Abram said goodbye to his friends and neighbors. He was leaving to follow his faithful God.

Finally they stopped in the city of Haran. Just as he had in Ur, Abraham lived a kind, good life and taught the city dwellers about God. After a while God told Abram to leave Haran and go to Canaan.

When they finally entered Canaan, Abram stopped to rest. God said to him, "To your descendants I will give this land" (Genesis 12:7). In awe Abram looked at the fields of grain, the grapevines, and the olive groves. God was so good!

- **How did Abram respond to God's goodness? Read Genesis 12:7.** (He built an altar and worshipped God.)

Abram worshipped God in this new, promised land. He showed everyone everywhere that he was God's friend.

TEACHER NOTES



Nature Lesson Sugar Gliders

Focus: When we listen closely, we can recognize God's voice speaking to us, just as the sugar glider learns to recognize its owner's voice.

- Have you ever wondered how much fun it would be to fly from tree to tree?
- Let's find out about a little animal called a sugar glider that can do just that. (Show picture.)

Sugar gliders are clever little tree-dwelling mammals that look a bit like flying possums. When the trees are too far apart for them to scramble between the branches, they hurl themselves into the air and spread out their legs. A flap of loose skin between their front and back legs creates a cupped surface that catches the air and helps the glider sail to another tree. It can glide as far as 150 feet (almost 46 meters).

That would be cool to watch! But to see one, you would have to stay up late because they come out at night to eat fruit, insects, and leaves. They have large eyes that give them good night vision. But they also have very good hearing. Their big, hairless ears rotate like a cat's ears so that they can easily hear a predator approaching or the slightest sound among the trees. To communicate, they "yap" softly to each other, but only one sugar glider yaps at a time while the others listen. Their lives depend on how well they see and how carefully they listen.

If a sugar glider is tamed as a pet, it becomes very good at recognizing and listening to its owner's voice, just as Abram became good at recognizing and listening to God's voice. We can learn to recognize and listen to God's voice by reading His Word and listening and talking to Him in prayer—we just need to be still and focus, like the sugar glider.

- Why not ask God to help you recognize and listen to His voice?

The story is adapted from "More About Sugar Gliders" by Elaine Egbert, *Nature in a Nutshell*, copyright © 2003 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

Craft

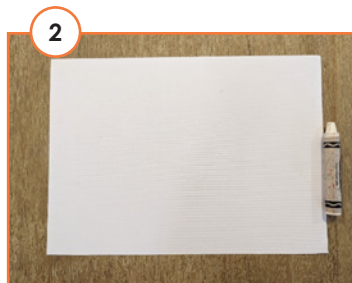
Starry Sky Picture

What you need:

A sheet of white cardstock, black paper, white crayon, watercolor paints, paintbrush, water, scissors, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Dot all over the white cardstock using a white crayon (2). The more the better!
- Paint over the top with purple and blue watercolor paints (3).
- Cut out a mountain outline from black paper and glue along the bottom of the page (4).







Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 11

Abram and Lot

Bible Reference: Genesis 13

Big Idea	When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.
Memory Verse	"And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:14).
References	<i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , pp. 132-134 <i>The Bible Story</i> , vol. 1, pp. 149-151
Fundamental Beliefs	Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson: 3. The Father 7. The Nature of Humanity 11. Growing in Christ 22. Christian Behavior 23. Marriage and the Family
Word of the Week	Unselfish: Saving or showing more concern for other people than yourself.
Lesson Summary	Abram was faced with the problem of insufficient land and space for his growing household and that of his nephew Lot. Abram prayed about the situation, and when God advised that he and Lot should separate, Abram followed God's direction and unselfishly let Lot choose first which land he would like.
Learning Goals	The children will: Know that our friend God will help us put others first. Feel a desire to put others first. Respond by unselfishly allowing others to have the first choice.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Increased possessions led to trouble. Trouble led to fighting. Where might fighting lead?

Abram didn't wait to find out. There simply wasn't enough pasture for two prosperous, nomadic households to exist side by side. Separation was the obvious answer, and the way it should happen was obvious too. The land had been divinely gifted to Abram, and he was Lot's senior in every sense of the word. Abram should take the best and leave the rest for Lot, period.

But we all know the story takes a divine detour around the humanly obvious. Abram couldn't help himself. True to his character and to his friendship with God, he acted in accordance with a timeless principle of God's kingdom: unselfishness. He let Lot choose first.

Unselfishness gave way to selfishness that day, but the one who extended it came out the victor. Lot chose by sight, but Abram chose by faith.

Unselfishness. It remains a universal principle of God's kingdom. It's therefore a call to us—to be steadfast in our friendship with God and in our pursuit of peace with others; to give up what we want and put others first. It's a call to be truly countercultural in today's self-absorbed world.

As you explore this segment of Abram's story, may you and the children be inspired by the life of an unselfish man and his friendship with an unselfish God. Our prayer is that your precious children will pursue a friendship with God and a life of unselfishness that will ultimately end in heaven.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 11

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Character Cards activity

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"** and a worship song of your choice
 - **"Sabbath Song"**
- Pray.
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Walk 'n' talk—**Making the Right Choice** cards
- Share the **Big Idea: When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Creatively share the Bible story.

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Application: **Choosing a gift**
- Discussion: We are naturally selfish, but God helps us be unselfish.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 11: Abram and Lot**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Jeremiah 31:14"**
- Option: Find/order memory verse words
- **Mission Story:** "Out of the Rubble"
- **Craft:** Choosing First Pop-up
- Object lesson: Jar of sand
- **Mission Challenge:** Use your Sabbath School craft as a prop, and share last week's story with someone who lives near you and may not know God as their friend yet.
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- Pray with pause for personal prayer.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Prepare for **Character Cards activity** by pulling out the containers/rings used to store cards.

Prepare for Focus Activities: write out the words included below to create a set of **Making the Right Choice cards** and attach them to the walls around your room prior to the lesson.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Source a variety of **inexpensive small gifts** that will suit your children, context, and budget. Ensure there is one for each child, and that there is a variety of gifts—some more appealing than others. Also source a tray to hold gifts.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 11: Abram and Lot**.

Option: write each word of the **memory verse** on a separate piece of **paper** and hide them in the room.

Fill a **jar** with **sand** or **dust**.

Craft Materials

Print a **week 11 craft template** on white cardstock for each child. Source: **colored pencils/crayons, scissors, glue**. Make a sample.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Jeremiah 31:14"
- "God Bless You"



qr.aij.info_PA11

- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 11
- ☐ Character Card 11: Abram and Lot
- ☐ Choosing First outline for each child
- ☐ Craft template for week 11 on cardstock

Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Paper to make Making the Right Choice cards
- ☐ Paper for individual words from memory verse (option)
- ☐ Jar full of sand or dust
- ☐ Variety of inexpensive small gifts, one for each child
- ☐ Serving tray
- ☐ Each word of memory verse written on separate slips of paper
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children as they arrive. Invite them to share how they were able to shine as one of God's twinkling stars last week.

DO: Have the children use their **Character Cards** to engage with each other.

- Which is your favorite memory verse?
- How many memory verses can you recite?
- Describe one of the characters for each other to guess.
- Mime part of a character's story for each other to guess.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

SING: Sing "God Is My Faithful Friend" and a song of your choice. Sing the prayer song, "Sabbath Song."

PRAY: Invite several children to pray, remembering to thank God for being with you as you learn together.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing "The Books of the Bible." Share the **Bible Fast Fact**: There are 185 songs in the Bible. From these, 150 of them are in the book of Psalms. Psalms is the Bible's songbook and poetry book.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing "Thank You, Jesus." Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the "Visitor Song." Sing "Happy Birthday" to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J DO: Engage the children in a quick **walk 'n' talk** activity. Draw their attention to the five **Making the Right Choice cards** attached to the walls around the room. Explain that they will work their way clockwise around each of the cards and discuss what the right choice would be in **small groups**.

DISCUSS: Briefly review each card.

- What did each of the examples require you to be? (Unselfish.)
- How easy/hard is it to be unselfish?

READ: As we learn more about Abram in today's lesson, we will be reminded of our Big Idea. Read the **Big Idea** together: **When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **DO:** Invite two children to choose one of the **two small gifts** on your serving tray. Commend a child if they let the other person choose first. Repeat the activity with pairs of children until everyone has a gift. Prompt for unselfishness, commend acceptance of a lesser gift or offers to unselfishly swap, etc.

DISCUSS: • **How natural was it for you to be unselfish and let the other person choose first?**

- **Don't answer out loud: When choosing a gift, were you more like Abram or Lot?**
- **Why did Abram let Lot choose first?** (Abram prayed, God showed him what to do, and he obeyed.)

TEACHING POINT: Because of sin, we are naturally selfish. But when we are God's friend, He will help us to be unselfish like Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 11: Abram and Lot** to place in their container. Discuss the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse**. Then sing the **Scripture Song "Jeremiah 31:14."** Share that Abram was satisfied with God's goodness and had unselfishly put Lot first.

MEMORY VERSE [OPTION]: If time allows, invite your children to quickly find the **memory verse words** hidden in the room and work together to assemble the memory verse. Before beginning, challenge them to act unselfishly during this activity.

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story**, "Out of the Rubble," and discuss the follow-up questions.

CRAFT: Show the children your completed **Choosing First** craft and share instructions for making it. As the children work on their crafts, play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

 **OBJECT LESSON:** Show the children your jar of sand or dust.

- **How many grains of sand (or dust) might there be in this jar?**
- **Could you count them?**

Remind the children of God's wonderful promise to Abram and how we are Abram's descendants when we are God's friends. Millions and millions of other people are too. What a privilege!

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Use your Sabbath School craft as a prop, and share last week's story with someone who lives near you and may not know God as their friend yet.

SING: Bring children back together to sing "**God Bless You.**"

 **PRAY:** Before you pray, say that you will have a silent part in the prayer where they can ask God to help them put others first this week, just as Abram did.

Ask God to be with the children and their families and to guide them in their friendship with Him this week. Pause for personal prayer. Ask God to help them choose to unselfishly put others first.

Bible Story



Big Idea: When God is my friend, He will help me put others first.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Have the children put their **thumbs up or down** as you tell the story: thumbs up for happy things, or things done God's way; thumbs down for sad things, or things not done God's way.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► When Abram and Sarai left Ur to follow God on His great adventure, they took Abram's nephew Lot with them. Lot's father, Haran, had died some time before. Abram's kindness to Lot made the two great friends.

When they finally arrived in Canaan together, Lot chose to set up camp close to his uncle Abram. When their sheep and cattle had eaten well, Abram and Lot moved their traveling village to where there was more rich, green grass.

At each new camping spot Abram built an altar so that everyone could worship God. When they packed up and moved on to new grazing grounds, the altar was left behind as a reminder of Abram's deep love for God.

Over time, altars dotted the land. Each one silently told other travelers that God had been worshipped there. Sometimes they would pause and worship at the altars too.

Abram soon became "very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:2). Now their households were huge! Life was good for everyone.

► But after a while angry shouts erupted from the shepherds in the hills, and grumpy words were spoken around the evening campfires. **What was the problem? Read Genesis 13:6.** (There wasn't enough land to support them all.)

There simply wasn't enough grass to feed so many animals and support so many people. Tempers raged, and fights broke out.

Abram prayed about the problem, and God showed His good friend what to do.

► Abram went to find Lot, and said, "We should separate. The whole land is there in front of you. If you go to the left, I will go to the right. If you go to the right, I will go to the left" (Genesis 13:9, ICB). He could choose first! What an unselfish thing for Uncle Abram to do.

Uncle Abram was very unselfish when he said Lot could choose the land he wanted. Lot should have let his uncle choose first! Abram was older and had been so kind to his nephew. But Lot didn't think of that. Instead he smiled greedily and made his choice.

Lot looked at the lush, green Jordan Valley. Yes, his herds would grow fat there. He thought of the busy cities where he could sell his animals and goods. He would be a wealthy man! Repaying Abram's unselfishness with selfishness, Lot moved with his household to the plain of Jordan.

► Abram sadly waved goodbye. He would miss Lot. But he also felt at peace, knowing he had put Lot first and let him choose. Anywhere with God was the right place to live!

God loved Abram's unselfish heart. **What did God say to Abram? Read Genesis 13:14, 15.** (All the wonderful land he could see in every direction was his.)

Then God reminded Abram of the many descendants he had been promised. God had already said they would be like the stars in the night sky. **What did God now say Abram's descendants would be like? Read Genesis 13:16.** (Dust—unable to be counted.)

► Many, many people would know and love God because of Abram's faithfulness.

Abram knew that his descendants would unselfishly shine for God like stars in the night sky. And like specks of dust



dancing in the sunlight, their lives would show others what a happy friendship with God looks like.

So even though Abram didn't have the best land in Canaan, he was content to have God as his friend and to carry God's promise in his heart. He truly knew the blessing of unselfishly putting others first.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- **Why was Abram able to unselfishly let Lot choose the land he wanted?** (Abram was God's friend; he knew that letting Lot choose was the good thing to do.)
- **What else did Abram do in this story that reminds you he was God's friend?** (He prayed, loved, and looked after Lot and his people, built altars, and worshipped God.)

TEACHER NOTES



Mission Story Out of the Rubble

Focus: We can unselfishly care for each other, as God cares for us.

Location: Help a child locate **Haiti** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Sebastien and his grandmother were visiting his friend next door when an earthquake violently shook the house. The walls crumbled, and the floor above fell in.

Sebastien's aunt rushed to Sebastien's grandmother's home. Nothing remained but a pile of rubble! Someone told her no one inside had survived. She wept for her mother and her nephew, Sebastien.

The day after the earthquake, a neighbor was passing by the house. He heard a voice from the rubble. He stopped and listened. Someone was alive under the pile of stones and concrete! It was Sebastien! The man called to the boy and asked if he was hurt.

"My leg is stuck under some rocks, and I can't pull it out," Sebastian said. "It hurts."

"Hold on!" the man answered. "We'll get you out."

Soon several men were removing rubble with their hands to reach the boy. But progress was slow. When Sebastien's aunt learned that her nephew was alive in the rubble, she rushed to the scene with food and water for him. The men worked quickly, but so carefully, to try to reach Sebastien.

As the sun set on the second day after the earthquake, the men had to stop digging. Sebastien asked that someone stay with him during the night so he wouldn't be alone. And that's just what someone did!

Early the next morning the men began digging again. One man squeezed through a tiny hole to where the boy was trapped and worked to release him. Hours later he stumbled out of the ruins carrying Sebastien in his arms.

At Haiti Adventist Hospital the doctors said that his leg was too badly injured. It had to be cut off to save his life.

The doctors and nurses cared for Sebastien. He was given crutches and was taught how to walk again. Sebastian knows he has a family who loves him and lots of new friends who want to help him.

And when he grows up, he wants to be a doctor so he can care for others the way many people unselfishly cared for him.

- Which people showed unselfish care in this story?
- How did God lead and protect in this story?

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Making the Right Choice Cards

Create a set of **Making the Right Choice cards**. Take five pieces of paper and write one of the following on each piece:

- There is one piece of pie left and you want it, but others might want it too. What should you do?
- You are building a very tall tower with your LEGO building blocks. Your younger brother comes along and wants to build one of his own, but there aren't enough pieces. What could you do?
- Your mother asks you to set the table for dinner, but it isn't your turn. What should you do?
- You are given a bag of candy when you are having lunch with your friends. You want to quickly hide it and take it home. What should you do?
- A bowl of fruit is being passed around the table. You love grapes, so you want to take them all. What should you do?



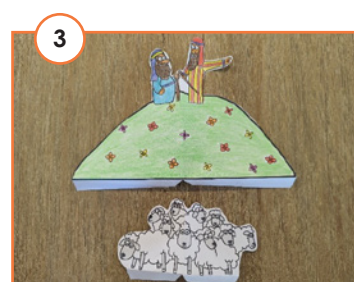
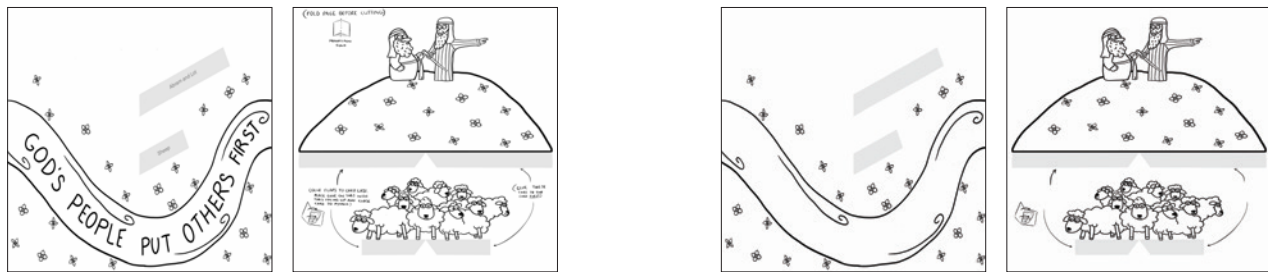
Choosing First Pop-up

What you need:

Week 11 craft template on white cardstock, colored pencils/crayons, scissors, glue (1).

Instructions:

- Color the pictures (2).
- Fold both pages (vertically), then cut around the pictures of Abram and Lot, and the sheep (3).
- Glue the tabs on the right-hand side of each picture and stick to the card, as shown (4).
- Then glue the tabs on the left-hand side and close the card to stick (5).



Craft by Kimanh le Roux, A Sketch of Faith. www.asketchoffaith.com. Used by permission.



Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 12

Abram Rescues Lot

Bible Reference: Genesis 14

Big Idea

God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

Memory Verse

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 133-136
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 152-155

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 7. The Nature of Humanity
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 21. Stewardship
- 22. Christian Behavior

Word of the Week

Wise: Being able to make good choices based on experiences and knowing what is true and right.

Lesson Summary

This lesson explores the way Abram trusted God's wisdom. Abram wisely chose to follow God's guidance so he could be a blessing and rescue Lot after he and his family were captured by enemy kings near Sodom.

Learning Goals

The children will:

Know that God can help us make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

Feel excited to do good things for others.

Respond by looking for opportunities to bless others every day.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

On the surface this story has all the elements of a classic “feel good” rescue mission: the good guy rescues the not-so-good guy from the enemy’s encampment with a tiny band of men. He accepts nothing in return and goes home a hero.

But there is more to the story hiding below the surface.

The good guy, Abram, had every reason not to be the good guy in this situation. He didn’t have to risk his life and his men to rescue his selfish nephew, Lot. No one would have blamed him for leaving Lot in the mess he’d gotten himself into. But as soon as Abram heard the dreadful news that Lot had been captured by enemy kings, grace swung into action, prayers for wisdom ascended to heaven, and the humble shepherd became the soldier-leader of a dangerous rescue mission.

Lot wasn’t just his self-centered nephew; Lot was God’s child in need. The battle wasn’t his; it was God’s. The victory wasn’t his; it was God’s. The spoils weren’t his; they were God’s.

The story was directed by God from beginning to end. Abram was simply given the starring role—a role that deflected glory back to the Director.

It is always about God.

As you and the children journey with Abram on his daring rescue mission, may you be in awe of our wonderful God as He leads and directs. May each of you be inspired to personally follow His direction to be a much-needed blessing in the lives of others, just as Abram was.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 12

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Character Card charades

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"** and a worship song that the children choose
 - **"Sabbath Song"**
- Pray: Kinds of prayers Abram prayed
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Game: How wise are you?
- Share the **Big Idea: God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Discussion: How wrong choices lead to more wrong choices
- Object lesson: **Hand in ice water**

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Apply: Helping scenario **walk 'n' talk**
- Discussion: Tithing
- Activity: Work out tithe

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 12: Brave Abram**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Galatians 6:9"**
- Discuss: Apply memory verse to story.
- Craft and nature lesson combined: **"Boiling a Frog"**
- Commit: Craft as reminder to ask for God's wisdom
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Look for a way you could bless or help someone from another country. You may have Christian books you could send; goods or monies you could give to missionaries; some extra coins to bring for the 13th Sabbath mission offering; prayer.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

Bring out **Character Cards**. Include extra names of Bible characters to mime, written on small pieces of paper.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the **Big Idea** at the top of the **whiteboard**, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

Source **ice cubes, chilled water, bowls** (enough for four or five children to share one bowl so that all children can participate), **towels or paper towels** for drying hands.

Write out a set of **service cards** and attach to the walls or spread out on tables.

Source **tithe envelopes** and **many coins** (or beans or counters) of the same value for small groups of children to use when calculating tithe.

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 12: Brave Abram**.

Craft Materials

Source: **paper plates** (small), **stapler, colored paper** (white, black, red, and green), **green cellophane/tissue paper, glue, markers, scissors**.

Make a sample; instructions included at the end of the lesson.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

- ☐ Music:
 - "God Is My Faithful Friend"
 - "Sabbath Song"
 - "The Books of the Bible"
 - "Thank You, Jesus"
 - "Visitor Song"
 - "Happy Birthday"
 - Scripture Song: "Galatians 6:9"
 - "God Bless You"
- ☐ Mission Fast Fact
- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 12
- ☐ Character Card 12: Brave Abram



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Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Mime prompts
- ☐ Bowls of ice cubes, chilled water
- ☐ Towels or paper towels
- ☐ Paper to write out service cards
- ☐ Tithe envelopes
- ☐ Coins or beans for tithe
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)
- ☐ Whiteboard/markers



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Give them an opportunity to share one way they were able to put someone first last week. Were they able to share their story and craft with a neighbor?

DO: Play a game of **charades** using a set of **Character Cards**. Invite a child to take the top card, discretely look at it, then mime part of the story depicted on the card for the other children to guess. The child who guesses correctly then has a turn. You may need to add other Bible characters if you have a big group.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group to Sabbath School.

SING: Sing “**God Is My Faithful Friend**” and a worship song of the children's choice.

PRAY: In our lesson stories so far, what kinds of prayers has Abram prayed? (Prayers of thanks, requests for guidance and wisdom when facing problems, prayers as part of worship, talking to God as a friend.) Sing the prayer song, “**Sabbath Song**,” and invite several children to pray, remembering to ask God to help us to remember these things when we pray.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing “**The Books of the Bible**.”

Share the **Bible Fast Fact**: What do you think the very last word of the Bible is? Here's a clue: you say this word every time you pray. “Amen” means “it is true” or “let it be so.”

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J DO: Invite at least four older church members to join your Sabbath School for five minutes. Have them stand in a circle with the children. Give one of them a ball or soft toy. Ask the older members, “What is something wise you can share with the children here today?” (60-second answer.) Throw the ball/toy to a child to begin. They will throw it to an adult, who will catch it and answer the question. Then they will throw it to a child, who will then throw it to another adult, who will answer the same question until all adults have responded.

Discuss:

- Why do older people have more wisdom than children?
- Which life lesson/wisdom did you most appreciate?

SHARE: Teaching Point: People with more life experience than us are wiser than us, but God is the wisest of all!

READ: As we learn more about Abram in today's lesson, we will be reminded of our Big Idea. Read the Big Idea from the whiteboard together: **God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **APPLY:** • Like Abram, what could you do to help someone else in trouble or in need of help? (Remember, the first thing is always to pray!)

To explore this question, engage the children in a **walk 'n' talk** activity. Place the five service cards around the room. Form **five groups**. Have them rotate around the **service cards**, discussing each question. If time allows, share responses as a class. Service card questions include (write the following on separate pieces of paper):

1. Your neighbor is sick. Their yard is overgrown. How can you help them?
2. A new person has joined your class at school. Others are not including them. What can you do?
3. Your parents have been at work all day. Now at home, they are working hard to get everything ready for Sabbath. What can you do to help?
4. The man next door has just fallen off his ladder and is lying on the ground. What should you do?
5. A friend has just found out their little brother has been taken to hospital. What could you do?

DISCUSS: • Why did Abram give Melchizedek one tenth of all the goods he'd recovered? (One tenth is a tithe; it belongs to God and it is given to Him because He asks that we return it to Him.)

TEACHING POINT: Tithe money supports pastors and workers who share the good news of Jesus' love. This money allows more people to know and love God.

DO: Display a **tithe envelope** and explain its use. In **small groups**, have the children work out the tithe on a **pile of coins** (or your chosen alternative), place it in a **tithe envelope**, and fill in the front. If you used coins, a child from each group could place it in the offering bag during church offering.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 12: Brave Abram** to place in their storage container.

Discuss the picture and have the children recite the **memory verse**. Sing the **Scripture Song**, "**Galatians 6:9**."

• **What did Abram reap for doing good and rescuing Lot?** (He had the peace and satisfaction that comes from doing the right thing and helping others.)

COMBINED CRAFT and NATURE LESSON: Note: As a response to the learning, today's craft relates to the Nature Lesson.

Show the children your completed **Frog Craft** and share instructions for making it. Set the children to work on the frog craft without explaining its relevance.

Read the **Nature Lesson**, "Boiling a Frog," while the children work.

TEACHING POINT: One unwise choice can lead to another and another until we don't notice what we are doing wrong—as Lot did. Let's be like Abram and ask God to help us make wise choices instead.

 **COMMIT:** Display your frog in an eye-catching spot this week as a reminder to ask God to help you make wise choices.

SING: Bring children back together to sing "God Bless You."

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Look for a way you could bless or help someone from another country. You may have Christian books you could send; goods or monies you could give to missionaries; some extra coins to bring for 13th Sabbath mission offering; prayer.

 **PRAY:** As you pray the closing prayer, ask God to be with the children and their families and to guide them to make wise choices that will help others this week. Thank God for His help and for His great love for us.

Bible Story



Big Idea: God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Add clarity to the story setting and characters by drawing a simple picture on the whiteboard: the hills where Abram lived, Sodom on the plains, the king and his three friends in the east, five kings on the plains. (A simple line drawing with stick figures is fine!)

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Abram and his household loved God and lived peacefully up in the hills.

Meanwhile, Lot pitched his tents near Sodom. He became dazzled by the sinful city and the wicked people who lived there. He soon said to himself, *Sodom would be an exciting place to live . . . The people aren't as wicked as they seem . . . We won't worship idols . . .* In the end Lot made an unwise choice to move right into wicked Sodom!

► Then one day trumpets of war blasted their message through Sodom. "Prepare for war! Prepare for war!" they cried.

Four mighty kings had declared war on Sodom and four nearby kingdoms who had rebelled against them. There were four kings against five. But the armies of the five kings lost. They dropped their weapons and ran for their lives to hide. The enemy rushed into Sodom and took many people as prisoners, including Lot and his family. They also stole everything the people owned! Then they began to march home.

Poor Lot! He had not made wise choices. Now he was in real trouble.

► A messenger ran to the hills to tell Abram the terrible news.

Abram decided immediately that Lot had to be rescued. He could have done nothing and let Lot suffer for his unwise choices, but he didn't. **Abram prayed first, and then what did he do? Read Genesis 14:14.** (Called his 318 trained men to go rescue Lot.)

These men were Abram's loyal servants who loved God and knew how to defend themselves. Three neighboring rulers joined in with their armed servants. Together they raced after the enemy army. Lot's captors far outnumbered them, but Abram's men were brave because they had God on their side, and He is very wise and powerful.

Let's pause our story for a moment to think about an important Bible message. (Note: Take no longer than three minutes to do the following activity.)

DISCUSS

- **What made it so easy for Lot to move into Sodom?** (He had already chosen to move close to Sodom, so life in a sinful city had come to look normal to him. He had become so used to sin that he could no longer wisely judge what was good or bad.)



OBJECT LESSON

To illustrate this, fill **bowls** with **chilled water** and **ice cubes**. Have the children hold their hand in the water.

- **How does it feel?** (Freezing!)
- **When you leave your hand in the water, what happens?** (Your hand stops feeling so cold; it gets used to it.)
- **How does this remind you of what will happen if we keep making unwise choices?** (One unwise choice can lead to another and another, until wrong doesn't look wrong anymore. This happened to Lot, and things went badly for him.)



► Let's continue with our story. Abram and his little army crept up to the enemy camp at night. The enemy armies were celebrating their victory with a party! Not wasting a minute, Abram and his men made a surprise attack. The enemy jumped up and ran for their lives!

► After chasing the enemy away, Abram and his men set the prisoners free. Then they headed back to Sodom with all the stolen goods and treasures. Lot and his family were free!

► Soon Melchizedek, the priest and king of Salem, rushed out to greet Abram. He was a true friend of God and hadn't fought in the war. He had a special blessing to give Abram: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High . . . who has delivered your enemies into your hand" (Genesis 14:19, 20).

With a grateful heart Abram gave the priest Melchizedek one tenth of all the goods he had recovered. The Bible calls this one tenth tithe. It is a gift to God.

In Bible times people gave a tithe of food, animals, or goods. Today we give one tenth of the money we receive. God knows we are saying "Thank You!" to Him for everything He has given us.

The king of Sodom was so happy to see his people safe and well! Abram was welcomed as a hero. The grateful king told him, "You may keep all these things for yourself. Just give me my people who were captured" (Genesis 14:21, ICB).

How did Abram answer the king? Read Genesis 14:22, 23. ("I will take nothing.")

Abram's reply was wise. Most people would have accepted the king's generous offer and become very rich. But Abram was far more interested in showing the king and the captives what God is like.

TEACHER NOTES



Nature Lesson Boiling a Frog

Focus: One wrong choice can lead to another and another, until we can't tell what's good or bad.

- Have you ever seen a frog jump?
- Let's find out what frogs can teach us about making wise choices. (Show picture.)

There are more than 6,000 different species of frogs in the world, and new ones are still being discovered. Frogs are amphibians, which means they can live on both land and in the water. Frogs come in many different sizes and are found all over the world—except in Antarctica.

One of the smaller frogs is the Cuban tree frog. It is 2-5.5 inches (5-12.7 millimeters) long and weighs only two ounces (56 grams). One of the largest frogs is the West African goliath frog. A goliath frog can grow up to 14 inches (35 centimeters) long and weigh seven pounds (more than three kilograms). Guess where that huge frog got its name!

Frogs are best known for their bulging eyes, slimy skin, loud croaking, and especially their jumping. A sharp-nosed frog can jump over 60 times its own body length. That means that if you are about four feet two inches (128 centimeters) and had frog-jumping powers, you would be able to jump 2,520 feet (768 meters)! You would definitely be the long jump world champion.

Even though frogs are such amazing jumpers, they won't always leap away from danger, because they can be tricked into thinking they are safe. If a frog is happy in a pot of cool water, you can slowly turn up the heat, and the frog won't notice. Even when the water begins to steam, the frog won't jump out. It will stay in the water until it dies, because it has become used to the danger.

- How do frogs remind you of what can happen to us when we repeatedly make wrong choices?

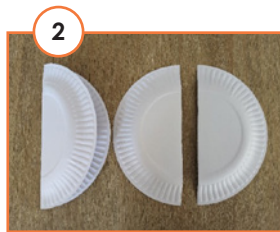
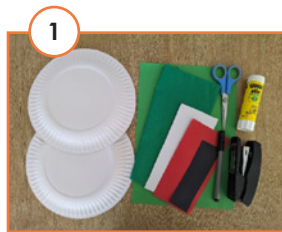
Craft

Frog Puppet

What you need: Two paper plates, stapler, green cellophane/tissue paper, colored paper (white, black, red, and green), scissors, glue, marker (1).

Instructions:

- Fold two paper plates in half. Cut one paper plate down the middle. Leave the other folded (2).
- Staple each half to the back of the folded paper plate. This will make pockets for your hands.
- Cut up small squares of green cellophane/tissue paper and glue onto the top of the puppet (3).
- Frog eyes: cut out two semicircles of white paper. Draw eyes with marker and glue on the top (4).
- Frog mouth: cut a semicircle out of black paper. Glue inside the mouth (4).
- Frog tongue: cut a strip of red paper and wind around your finger to create a coil. Glue inside the mouth, half sticking out (4).
- Frog legs: cut four strips of green paper, folding each one both ways so they "spring." Glue to the bottom of the puppet (5).







Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 1

My God Is Loving

WEEK 1	A New World
WEEK 2	A Perfect Home
WEEK 3	The Sabbath
WEEK 4	What Happened to God's Beautiful Angel?
WEEK 5	The Fall and a Promise
WEEK 6	Cain and Abel
WEEK 7	Noah Builds an Ark
WEEK 8	The Rainbow Promise
WEEK 9	The Tower of Babel
WEEK 10	God Leads Abram
WEEK 11	Abram and Lot
WEEK 12	Abram Rescues Lot
WEEK 13	The Promised Baby

Week 13

The Promised Baby

Bible Reference: Genesis 15:1-6, 17; 18:1-16; 21:1-7

Big Idea

I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.

Memory Verse

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

References

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 137-139
The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, pp. 320-328
The Bible Story, vol. 1, pp. 156-161

Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 7. The Nature of Humanity
- 10. The Experience of Salvation
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 22. Christian Behavior
- 25. The Second Coming of Christ

Word of the Week

Fulfill: To do something that is expected or has been promised.

Lesson Summary

This lesson explores how God repeated His promise to give Abraham many descendants so that he would wait patiently for its fulfillment. God and several angels also visited Abraham in disguise to share that his promised son would be born next year. God fulfilled His promise, and baby Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah.

Learning Goals

The children will:

- Know** that they can believe God's promises because God is faithful.
- Feel** reassured that God will do what He says.
- Respond** by waiting patiently for promises to be fulfilled, especially the promise of Jesus' second coming.



A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Have you ever noticed how often God's promises create vivid mental pictures that amplify their meaning and serve as reminders? A rock, a fortress, a shield, wings, a strong tower, a refuge, a rainbow, a mother hen . . .

God often employed this technique when He gave and regave His promise to Abram.

At first the promise spoke of innumerable twinkling stars—a nighttime reminder of the promise.

Then the promise was likened to grains of sand that trickle through fingers and scrunch beneath bare feet—a tactile reminder of the promise.

Later God reframed the promise as particles of dust that dance in a shaft of light or swirl on the desert floor—a daytime reminder of the promise.

Next it was embedded in the meaning of His

new name, Abraham, which means “father of a multitude”—an audible reminder of the promise.

Finally God delivered the promise in human form with a newborn son—a personal, visual reminder of the promise.

The promise spanned a long and agonizing 25 years. God's powerful reminders of the promise were lovingly staggered across that time to encourage continued belief, foster patience, and keep hope alive. They were messages of love from a faithful God to His chosen, aging couple. And when the time was right, “the birth of Isaac, bringing, after a lifelong waiting, the fulfillment of their dearest hopes, filled the tents of Abraham and Sarah with gladness.”*

As you and the children immerse yourselves in Abraham's story of waiting, may you embrace God's promises, cherish the mental pictures they create, and be encouraged to wait patiently for their fulfillment.

* Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1890, 1908), p. 146.



Simple Program Outline

Big Idea: I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.

Primary, Year A, Quarter 1, Week 13

EARLY ARRIVALS

- **Scripture Song playlist**
- Set up Abram's tent.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
 - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"** and a worship song of your choice
 - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray: Give thanks in pairs.
- Bible Focus: Sing **"The Books of the Bible"** and share **Bible Fast Fact**.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity
- Share the **Big Idea: I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

- Discussion: Reason for reminders
- Activity: **Promise rotation**
- Apply: Promise box

UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Object lesson and discussion: **Two balloons**; God can do the impossible.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 13: Baby Isaac**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "Hebrews 10:23"**
- Option: Find/order memory verse words.
- **Mission Story:** "Praying for a Baby"
- Review: Partner sharing with music
- **Craft: Christian Hospitality Coloring Book**
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Mission Challenge:** Put service suggestions from craft into practice to serve another family.
- Pray.



Program Preparation

Opening and Focus Activities

For **Early Arrivals**, use **sheets** to make a tent; and source a **basket, bowls, cups, tea towels/cloth for clothes**; other items that relate to camp living.

Focus: create a set of **four to six waiting cards**. Write something the children in your context would find it hard to wait for (e.g., a new toy, a visit to friends or family far away, a special church event), or source **pictures** of these things.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Write the Big Idea at the top of the whiteboard, or print/write out and display.

Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Picture PowerPoint**.

- Use **star mobile** (week 10), create a **Bible promise box**, or print some **small promise cards** from an online website. Source a **basin, towel, eating utensils, food, drink**.

Source five reminders of God's promise: **star mobile** (week 10), jar of **sand** (week 11), **dust** in a small container, a **card** on which you have written, "Abram -> Abraham", **picture** of Abram entertaining God (Student Guide, p. 107).

Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 13: Baby Isaac**.

Craft Materials

Print **week 13 craft template** for each child, and source **colored pencils, scissors, stapler**. Instructions and a photo of the completed booklet included at the end of the lesson.

What Do I Need?

Source From AIJ Website (www.aliveinjesus.info)

☐ Music:

- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Be Still, Be Silent"
- "The Books of the Bible"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Hebrews 10:23"
- "God Bless You"

☐ Mission Fast Fact

- ☐ Picture PowerPoint for week 13
- ☐ Character Card 13: Baby Isaac
- ☐ Craft template for week 13



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Additional Resources to Source

- ☐ Class Bible
- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Sheets to make tent
- ☐ Camp essentials: blankets, basket, bowls, cups, cloth, etc.
- ☐ "Food," "drink," and eating utensils for Abraham's guests
- ☐ Cards to write "waiting" scenarios on, whiteboard
- ☐ Star mobile (Week 10)
- ☐ Jar of sand/dust (Week 11)
- ☐ Bible promise box, two balloons, and a pin
- ☐ Card: Abram -> Abraham
- ☐ Picture of Abraham from student guide
- ☐ Craft materials (see above)



Full Program Outline

Big Idea: I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.

EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

LISTEN: Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background.

CONNECT: Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Talk about any blessings they had this past week.

DO: Make a **tent** space with sheets draped over a table or chairs. Children can set up the tent and use camp items to pretend they are part of Abram's tent-dwelling household.

OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

WELCOME: Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

SING: Sing **"God Is My Faithful Friend"** and another worship song or hymn of your choice.

PRAY: Look at the activities your early arrivals engaged with.

- **What do these objects remind us to be thankful for?** (Homes, family, food, etc.)

Sing **"Be Still, Be Silent."** Invite children to pray in pairs, thanking God specifically for these things.

BIBLE FOCUS: Sing **"The Books of the Bible."** Share the **Bible Fast Fact:** In the Bible, God makes more than 7,000 promises to humans. In today's story one of these many promises will be fulfilled.

GIVE: Have a child collect the offering as you all sing **"Thank You, Jesus."** Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

SING: Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **"Visitor Song."** Sing **"Happy Birthday"** to a child who has had a birthday this week, and pray for God to bless them.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

J DO: • **What do you really look forward to and find it hard to wait for?**

To help the children think about this, spread your set of **waiting cards** out in a line across your whiteboard ledge or across the floor. Invite them to stand beside the card they would find it the hardest to wait for.

DISCUSS: • **Why is it hard to wait for something special?**

• **How much easier is it to wait when:**

- you have a promise to hang on to?
- you trust the promise giver?
- the promise giver reminds you of the promise and lets you know it will happen soon?

READ: As we learn more about Abram in today's lesson, we will be reminded of our **Big Idea**. Read the Big Idea together: **I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.**

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

SHARE: Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

OBJECT LESSON: Display your **two balloons** and ask:

- **Is it possible to poke a balloon with a pin and not have it pop?** (No!)
- **Are you sure . . . Really sure?** (Yes!)

Invite a child to use a pin to pop the balloon without tape. At the same time, poke a pin into your balloon in the center of the tape. (It won't pop!) Exclaim that you've done what seemed impossible!

• **How does this activity remind you of God?** (He can do what looks impossible and fulfill His promises, just as He did for Abraham and Sarah.)

TEACHING POINT: We can believe that God will fulfill His promises, even when doing so seems impossible to us. One of God's big promises is that Jesus will come again and take us to heaven to be with Him.

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

MEMORY VERSE: Give each child **Character Card 13: Baby Isaac**.

Discuss the picture and recite the **memory verse** together. Then sing the **Scripture Song, "Hebrews 10:23."**

• **How well did Abraham and Sarah put this verse into practice?** (It was hard for them to believe at times, but God helped them to have faith and be hopeful). Give the children their collection of Character Cards from the quarter to take home.

MISSION STORY: Share the **Mission Story, "Praying for a Baby,"** and discuss the follow-up question.

 **REVIEW:** Play **music** of your choice and invite the children to move around. When the music stops, have them find a **partner** nearby and **share** something they've learned or enjoyed in today's lesson. Repeat several times, ensuring the children have a different partner each time.

CRAFT: Show the children your completed **Christian Hospitality Coloring Book** and share instructions for making it.

As the children work on their crafts, explain that God will give them a new name in heaven; it will be written on a white stone (Revelation 2:17), and on a crown (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 646) God gives them.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Put an idea from your Helping Hands craft into action this week to serve another family.** Challenge the children to pray about it and work with their families to adapt an idea to suit them.

SING: Bring children back together to sing **"God Bless You."**

 **PRAY:** Thank God for His many promises. Ask Him to be with the children and their families and to help them believe God's promises and wait patiently for them to be fulfilled.

Bible Story



Big Idea: I can wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled, because God is faithful.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Props: **tent structure** from early arrivals, a **basin, towel, eating utensils, food, drink, star, dust**.

Pray: Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

TELL THE STORY

► Time ticked slowly by . . . God had promised Abram and Sarai many descendants—as many as the stars in the sky (**star mobile**)—but they were still waiting to cuddle a baby of their own.

God's promise was so important that He shared it again!

• **What else did God tell Abram? Read Genesis 17:5.** (That his name was changed to Abraham.)

Abraham means “father of a multitude,” so the new name became another reminder of God's promise. God changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means “princess.”

► One day Abraham glanced out of the open doorway of his tent and saw three traveling strangers. He hurried outside to greet the leader of the little group: “Sir, if you think well of me, please stay awhile with me, your servant. I will bring some water so all of you can wash your feet. You may rest under the tree. I will get some bread for you, so you can regain your strength. Then you may continue your journey” (Genesis 18:3-5, ICB).

The strangers happily accepted (**food, drink**). Partway through their meal the travelers paused and asked Abraham, “Where is Sarah your wife?” (Genesis 18:9).

Looking back at the tent, Abraham replied, “Here, in the tent” (Genesis 18:9).

One of the men responded, “I will certainly return to you about this time a year from now. At that time your wife Sarah will have a son” (Genesis 18:10, ICB).

Abraham's mind raced . . . How did the stranger know Sarah's name and that she would have a baby boy? Suddenly he realized that this kind Man was God Himself! Disguised as a human, God had come to deliver the good news. That's how much He loved Abraham.

What a privilege to be able to serve the God of heaven and two of His angels!

DISCUSS • **Why did God share the promise again with Abraham?** (To encourage him. To remind him that He is faithful and would keep His promise.)

DO Place the following around the room: **star mobile**, jar of **sand** or bag of **dust**, Abram to Abraham **card**, **picture** of God's visit to Abram. Organize children into **four groups** and have them rotate and discuss each of the four reminders of the promise God gave to Abram.

1. **Stars:** why do you think God chose this as a reminder? How often would Abraham have seen this reminder?
2. **Sand/dust:** why do you think God chose this as a reminder? How often would Abraham have felt this promise reminder?
3. **Name:** why do you think God used this promise reminder? How often do you think Abraham would have heard this promise reminder?
4. **Strangers:** why do you think God used this as a promise reminder? How do you think Abraham would have felt?



DISPLAY Show your promise box (or small promise cards) and the many Bible promises it contains. We can believe them all because God is a faithful promise keeper.

- **Which of God's promises are you waiting to have fulfilled?** (Promises that are personal to the children.) Share with the children the promise that Jesus will come again to take us to heaven to be with Him. We can trust that He'll keep this promise, just as He kept His promise to Abraham.

Let's continue our story . . . Abraham and Sarah would have a son!

► Sarah heard the stranger's words of promise and laughed to herself. She thought it sounded crazy! How could a nearly 90-year-old woman have a baby? Impossible!

No one heard Sarah laugh, no one saw her laugh, but God did. **What did God say about Sarah's laugh? Read Genesis 18:13, 14.** (He said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh . . . ? Is anything too hard for the Lord?")

Filled with fear and shame at being found out, Sarah lied, saying, "I did not laugh" (Genesis 18:15). The Lord responded kindly but seriously, "No, but you did laugh!" (Genesis 18:15).

Sarah had doubted God—it had been a long time to wait for his promise. But now she knew she could hope. God was about to fulfill His promise.

► One year later a loud cry pierced the silence. The baby boy was here! God had fulfilled His promise! Sarah had given birth to a miracle baby at the great-grandmotherly age of 90, and Abraham was 100!

Sarah wrapped her baby and snuggled him close. As she stroked his soft cheeks, she laughed happily. Only a year before, Sarah had laughed in unbelief. Now she laughed with pure joy.

God must have known this tiny baby would bring happy laughter, for he told them to call their son Isaac, meaning "to laugh."

Isaac was the first of Abraham's many descendants; the first twinkling star, the first tiny speck of dust (**star, dust**). One day Jesus would be born into this special family of promise.

God fulfilled His promise, as He always does. For nothing is impossible for God.

TEACHER NOTES

Mission Story Praying for a Baby



Focus: God loves to do miracles for us, just as He did for Abraham and Sarah.

Location: Help a child locate **India** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Ruchi was very sad. She had been married for three years and didn't have a baby. She and her husband had visited doctors, prayed to gods of wood and stone, and done everything else they could think of. But nothing worked.

One day a woman named Shakina came to visit some of her family members who lived with Ruchi. Shakina heard that Ruchi wanted a baby, so she spoke to her. "I believe in Jesus, who is the true God," Shakina said. "Let me pray for you."

Ruchi had never heard about Jesus, but she was delighted. Shakina invited her to kneel to pray.

"Lord, let Ruchi have a baby," Shakina prayed. Week after week Shakina returned to pray with Ruchi. "You should pray too," Shakina said. "You should have faith in Jesus, just like Abraham did."

"Abra-who?" Ruchi asked. She had never heard of Abraham.

Shakina told the story of how Abraham and Sarah had prayed for a baby. God answered their prayers by giving Sarah a baby boy when she was 90 years old. Ruchi said to herself, *Wow, if God could give Sarah a baby when she was so old, then He can give me a baby. I'm only 24!* Ruchi began to pray every day. "Jesus, please give me a baby too," she prayed.

One day Shakina told the story of how God had given Hannah a baby named Samuel. Ruchi's faith grew. She began to read the Bible.

Ruchi kept praying and reading the Bible for four years. One day she felt something unusual in her tummy. She immediately went to the doctor, and he announced that she was pregnant! Ruchi joyfully thanked God and called Shakina to tell her the news.

Ruchi gave birth to a baby girl named Cash. A year later she had another baby. Today Ruchi happily takes her two children to church every Sabbath. "Jesus is more powerful than anything else in the world," she says.

• **How does this story help you believe that God can do the impossible?**



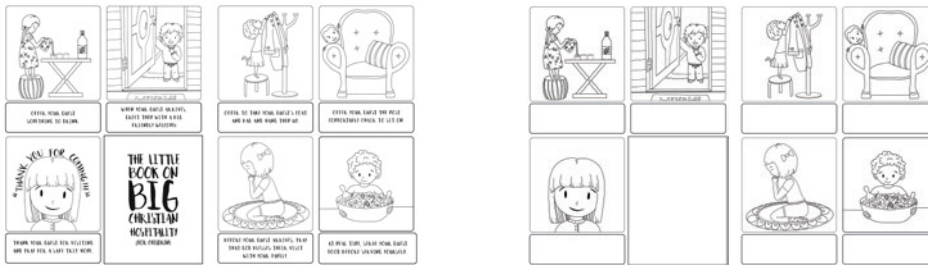
Christian Hospitality Coloring Book

What you need:

Week 13 craft template (two pages printed double-sided), colored pencils, scissors, stapler (1).

Instructions:

- Color the pictures (2-3).
- Cut around each rectangle (4).
- Arrange in order and staple together (4-5).



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