

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS
FIRST HALF 2027

Jesus'
MIRACLES



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JESUS' MIRACLES

Author: Humberto Avellaneda Blanco

Content: General Conference Ministerial Department

Translation, Editing, and Design: General Conference

Publishing Department

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General Conference
International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
Reform Movement

625 West Avenue, Cedartown, GA 30125 USA
Phone: +1 770 748 0077 Fax: +1 770 748 0095
Email: info@sda1844.org
www.sda1844.org

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INTRODUCTION

We live in a wounded, confused, aimless world. Science has advanced, but the human heart remains empty; technology has united continents, but it has separated families; hospitals are full, while people continue to suffer. In this context of despair, the lessons to be studied in this half year invite us to turn our attention to the only One who has the power to heal the body, restore the mind, and save the soul—Jesus Christ, God's Son.

The gospels encapsulate His mission in one sentence: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Matthew 9:35.

These three areas—teaching, preaching, and healing—fulfilled the purpose of His coming as the Messiah: To save humanity, which had been battered by sin.

- In teaching, He enlightened minds that were darkened by error.
- In preaching, He opened the door of hope to a world that was without comfort.
- In healing, He demonstrated the power of the kingdom of God over evil.

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He reconciled humanity with Heaven. Every miracle was an expression of divine love, a revelation of His Father's character. He did not come to amaze crowds but to show His Father's compassion in action. Wherever He went, He left behind life, faith, and restoration.

His ministry was not improvised. Centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah had prophesied His work. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified." Isaiah 61:1–3.

When He began His ministry in Nazareth, Jesus declared the fulfillment of that prophecy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He

hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:18–19, 21.

"If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father." John 15:24.

"All Christ's miracles were wrought to bless those whom these leading Jews neglected and despised, and refused to help. And He was beloved [by the common people] because He was the Restorer, the Great Physician. All His graces were light from heaven. In every good work He sought to lead them to accept Him as their personal Saviour. His life was fragrant, a savor of life unto life. He brought sunshine into the heart and home. They came to Him mourning, and left Him with songs of praise and glad rejoicing. He offered Himself to them that they might give Him a home in their hearts." —*This Day with God*, p. 275.

All of this is relevant today. In a time when physical, mental, and spiritual illnesses abound, when the whole world groans under the burden of sin, Jesus remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8. His power has not lessened, His compassion has not changed, and His touch continues to heal lives.

These lessons will not only remind us of the miracles of the past but also invite us to experience the miracles of Jesus ourselves:

- The miracle of a renewed mind
- The miracle of a restored home
- The miracle of a heart transformed by His grace

Every lesson that we study during this half year will be an open window to the light of the gospel; an opportunity to contemplate Jesus as the great Teacher, Preacher, and Healer; and to renew our faith in the One who came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

—*The General Conference Ministerial Department*

LESSON

1

Sabbath,
January 2,
2027

Special Sabbath School Offering
CAMBODIA

Give your offering from your heart, as God has blessed you!

WATER TURNED TO WINE

"From the day when she heard the angel's announcement in the home at Nazareth Mary had treasured every evidence that Jesus was the Messiah. His sweet, unselfish life assured her that He could be no other than the Sent of God. Yet there came to her also doubts and disappointments, and she had longed for the time when His glory should be revealed."
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 145.



SUNDAY

JESUS' PRESENCE

1 Why did Jesus attend the wedding in Cana? What was the significance of His presence?



John 2:1, 2 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: ²And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

"By this miracle Christ also gave evidence of His mercy and compassion. He showed that He had regard for the necessities of those who followed Him to hear His words of knowledge and wisdom."—*This Day with God*, p. 366.

"The Saviour's early miracles strengthened the disciples to stand against this opposition...."

"Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast."

Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness. In the wilderness of temptation He Himself had drunk the cup of woe. He came forth to give to men the cup of blessing, by His benediction to hallow the relations of human life." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 144, 147.



MONDAY

"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU"

2 Why did Mary address Jesus, not someone else, saying, "*They have no wine*"? Why are there so many people today who have no wine?



John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, *They have no wine.*

"As she saw the many glances bent upon Jesus, she longed to have Him prove to the company that He was really the Honored of God. She hoped there might be opportunity for Him to work a miracle before them.... These words were a suggestion that He might supply their need. But Jesus answered, 'Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 145.



TUESDAY

3 What did her words to the servants, "*Do whatever He tells you,*" mean? What will happen when we do what He tells us to do?



John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, *Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*



Genesis 41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, *Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.*



1 John 5:14, 15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.



WEDNESDAY

EMPTY JARS

4 Where were the jars? What did they represent, and what was their purpose?



John 2:6, 7 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. ⁷Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

"Beside the doorway stood six large stone water jars, and Jesus bade the servants fill these with water. It was done. Then as the wine was wanted for immediate use, He said, 'Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.' Instead of the water with which the vessels had been filled, there flowed forth wine." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 148.

"Jesus Christ is the originator of all missionary work done in our world. He worked miracles to heal the sick, but He never worked a miracle in His own behalf. His first noted miracle was performed at a marriage feast in Cana, when He turned water into wine." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 230.

"There is another field of labor, humbler, it may be, but fully as promising. It is found in the home of the lowly, and in the mansion of the great; at the hospitable board, and in gatherings for innocent social enjoyment." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 152.



THURSDAY

5 What kind of wine does the world offer, and why was the best wine served last?



John 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

"As men set forth the best wine first, then afterward that which is worse, so does the world with its gifts. That which it offers may please the eye and fascinate the senses, but it proves to be unsatisfying. The wine turns to bitterness, the gaiety to gloom. That which was begun

with songs and mirth ends in weariness and disgust. But the gifts of Jesus are ever fresh and new. The feast that He provides for the soul never fails to give satisfaction and joy. Each new gift increases the capacity of the receiver to appreciate and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. He gives grace for grace." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 148.



FRIDAY

HE MANIFESTED HIS GLORY

6 What did the master of the banquet and the guests realize when they tasted the wine? Who had to explain the miracle? Why?

 **John 2:9–10** When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, ¹⁰And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

"As the guests at the feast remarked upon the quality of the wine, inquiries were made that drew from the servants an account of the miracle. The company were for a time too much amazed to think of Him who had performed the wonderful work. When at length they looked for Him, it was found that He had withdrawn so quietly as to be unnoticed even by His disciples.... The attention of the company was now turned to the disciples. For the first time they had the opportunity of acknowledging their faith in Jesus. They told what they had seen and heard at the Jordan, and there was kindled in many hearts the hope that God had raised up a deliverer for His people. The news of the miracle spread through all that region, and was carried to Jerusalem." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 149–150.



SABBATH

7 What did the guests and Jesus' disciples see? What conclusion did His disciples reach?

 **John 2:11; 1:14** This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him....
^{1:14}And the Word was made flesh,

and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

"In all these revelations of the divine presence the glory of God was manifested through Christ." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 366.

"His disciples believed on Him.' Verse 11.... By this miracle Christ also gave evidence of His mercy and compassion. He showed that He had regard for the necessities of those who followed Him to hear His words of knowledge and wisdom." —*This Day with God*, p. 366.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What was man's responsibility with the clay pots?
- How is this wedding remembered even today? Why?

"The gift of Christ to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism into His death; the wine, the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world. The water to fill the jars was brought by human hands, but the word of Christ alone could impart to it life-giving virtue. So with the rites which point to the Saviour's death. It is only by the power of Christ, working through faith, that they have efficacy to nourish the soul." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 148.

LESSON

2

Sabbath,
January 9,
2027

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED

"The news of Christ's return to Cana soon spread throughout Galilee, bringing hope to the suffering and distressed. In Capernaum the tidings attracted the attention of a Jewish nobleman who was an officer in the king's service. A son of the officer was suffering from what seemed to be an incurable disease. Physicians had given him up to die; but when the father heard of Jesus, he determined to seek help from Him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 196.



SUNDAY

RETURNING TO CANA OF GALILEE

1 What news spread throughout Galilee? Why did Jesus go to Cana, not to Nazareth?



John 4:43–45 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee. ⁴⁴For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country. ⁴⁵Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

"The Galileans who returned from the Passover brought back the report of the wonderful works of Jesus. The judgment passed upon His acts by the dignitaries at Jerusalem opened His way in Galilee. Many of the people lamented the abuse of the temple and the greed and arrogance of the priests. They hoped that this Man, who had put the rulers to flight, might be the looked-for Deliverer. Now tidings had come that

seemed to confirm their brightest anticipations. It was reported that the prophet had declared Himself to be the Messiah. But the people of Nazareth did not believe on Him. For this reason, Jesus did not visit Nazareth on His way to Cana. The Saviour declared to His disciples that a prophet has no honor in his own country. Men estimate character by that which they themselves are capable of appreciating. The narrow and worldly-minded judged of Christ by His humble birth, His lowly garb, and daily toil. They could not appreciate the purity of that spirit upon which was no stain of sin." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 196.



MONDAY

2 Who went to Cana in search of Jesus? Why?



John 4:46 *So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.*

"In Capernaum the tidings attracted the attention of a Jewish nobleman who was an officer in the king's service. A son of the officer was suffering from what seemed to be an incurable disease. Physicians had given him up to die; but when the father heard of Jesus, he determined to seek help from Him. The child was very low, and, it was feared, might not live till his return; yet the nobleman felt that he must present the case in person. He hoped that a father's prayers might awaken the sympathy of the Great Physician." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 196.



TUESDAY

A MAN IN GREAT DIFFICULTY

3 What happened when the king's officer arrived in the town and found Jesus?



John 4:47 *When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.*

"On reaching Cana he found a throng surrounding Jesus. With an anxious heart he pressed through to the Saviour's presence. His faith faltered when he saw only a plainly dressed man, dusty and worn with travel. He doubted that this Person could do what he had come to ask of Him; yet he secured an interview with Jesus, told his errand, and besought the Saviour to accompany him to his home." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 197.



WEDNESDAY

4 On what was his faith based?



John 4:48 *Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.*

"But He knew also that the father had, in his own mind, made conditions concerning his belief in Jesus. Unless his petition should be granted, he would not receive Him as the Messiah.... Notwithstanding all the evidence that Jesus was the Christ, the petitioner had determined to make his belief in Him conditional on the granting of his own request. The Saviour contrasted this questioning unbelief with the simple faith of the Samaritans, who asked for no miracle or sign."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 198.



THURSDAY

5 Whom did officer represent? What was his greatest need, which is also the need of many today?

the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.³⁹ But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign....



1 Corinthians 1:22–23 *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: ²³But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness.*



Matthew 12:38–39, first part
Then certain of the scribes and of

"But the nobleman must realize his need before he would desire the grace of Christ. This courtier represented many of his nation. They were interested in Jesus from selfish motives. They hoped to receive

some special benefit through His power, and they staked their faith on the granting of this temporal favor; but they were ignorant as to their spiritual disease, and saw not their need of divine grace." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 198.



FRIDAY

HOPE OF HEALING AND SALVATION

6 What did Jesus see in this officer, and what did He do before performing the miracle?



Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

"Jesus had a greater gift to bestow. He desired, not only to heal the child, but to make the officer and his household sharers in the blessings of salvation, and to kindle a light in Capernaum, which was so soon to be the field of His own labors." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 198.



SABBATH

7 What has been your experience with Jesus? What lessons have you learned?



John 4:50 *Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.*

"His faith took hold upon Christ as did Jacob, when, wrestling with the Angel, he cried, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.' Genesis 32:26. Like Jacob he prevailed. The Saviour cannot withdraw from the soul that clings to Him, pleading its great need. 'Go thy way,' He said; 'thy son liveth.' The nobleman left the Saviour's presence with a peace and joy he had never known before. Not only did he believe that his son would be restored, but with strong confidence he trusted in Christ as the Redeemer.... The nobleman longed to know more of Christ. As he afterward heard His teaching, he and all his household became disciples. Their affliction was sanctified to the conversion of the entire fam-

ily. Tidings of the miracle spread; and in Capernaum, where so many of His mighty works were performed, the way was prepared for Christ's personal ministry." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 198, 200.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What is the basis of genuine faith?
- What important lesson can be learned from this miracle?

"The Saviour longs to give us a greater blessing than we ask; and He delays the answer to our request that He may show us the evil of our own hearts, and our deep need of His grace. He desires us to renounce the selfishness that leads us to seek Him. Confessing our helplessness and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 200.

LESSON

3

Sabbath,
January 16,
2027

THE PARALYTIC HEALED AT BETHESDA

"Disease is sometimes produced, and is often greatly aggravated, by the imagination. Many are lifelong invalids who might be well if they only thought so. Many imagine that every slight exposure will cause illness, and the evil effect is produced because it is expected. Many die from disease the cause of which is wholly imaginary." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 241.



SUNDAY

1 Where was the paralytic? Why did Jesus heal him and not others?



John 5:2–3, 5 *Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. ³In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.... ⁵And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.*

"He saw the wretched sufferers watching for that which they supposed to be their only chance of cure. He longed to exercise His healing power, and make every sufferer whole. But it was the Sabbath day. Multitudes were going to the temple for worship, and He knew that such an act of healing would so excite the prejudice of the Jews as to cut short His work.... But the Saviour saw one case of supreme wretchedness. It was that of a man who had been a helpless cripple for thirty-eight

years. His disease was in a great degree the result of his own sin, and was looked upon as a judgment from God. Alone and friendless, feeling that he was shut out from God's mercy, the sufferer had passed long years of misery." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 201–202.



MONDAY

"I HAVE NO ONE TO HELP ME"

2 What question did the Master ask the paralytic, and what did it mean?



John 5:6 *When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?*

"The sick man was lying on his mat, and occasionally lifting his head to gaze at the pool, when a tender, compassionate face bent over him, and the words, 'Wilt thou be made whole?' arrested his attention. Hope came to his heart. He felt that in some way he was to have help." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 202.



TUESDAY

3 What was the paralytic's reply? What lesson can be learned from this poor man's case?

when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.



Luke 10:34 *And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*



John 5:7 *The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man,*

"But the glow of encouragement soon faded. He remembered how often he had tried to reach the pool, and now he had little prospect of living till it should again be troubled." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 202.



WEDNESDAY

WORDS OF POWER

4 What words of the Master changed the man's life? In what way are those words also for us today?



John 5:8, 9 *Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. ⁹And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.*



Isaiah 60:1 *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

"Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says, 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.' But the man's faith takes hold upon that word. Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 202.



THURSDAY

5 Did Jesus give him any assurance of healing? What lesson does this contain for us?



John 5:9 *And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.*



James 1:6 *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

"Jesus had given him no assurance of divine help. The man might have stopped to doubt, and lost his one chance of healing. But he believed Christ's word, and in acting upon it he received strength. Through the same faith we may receive spiritual healing. By sin we have been severed from the life of God. Our souls are palsied. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking. He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 203.



FRIDAY

6 When did the man realized that it was Jesus who had healed him? What did Jesus tell him when He saw him in the temple?



John 5:14–15 *Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. ¹⁵The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.*

"In the temple Jesus met the man who had been healed. He had come to bring a sin offering and also a thank offering for the great mercy he had received. Finding him among the worshipers, Jesus made Himself known, with the warning words, 'Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 204.



SABBATH

DUAL PURPOSE

7 Why did Jesus not heal the man on a different day? Why did He tell him to carry his bed on the Sabbath?



John 5:9, 10 *And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. ¹⁰The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.*

"Jesus had come to 'magnify the law, and make it honorable.' He was not to lessen its dignity, but to exalt it. The scripture says, 'He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth.' Isaiah 42:21, 4. He had come to free the Sabbath from those burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing. For this reason He had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing at Bethesda. He could have healed the sick man as well on any other day of the week; or He might simply have cured him, without bidding him bear away his bed. But this would not have given Him the opportunity He desired. A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's

life on earth. Everything He did was important in itself and in its teaching. Among the afflicted ones at the pool He selected the worst case upon whom to exercise His healing power, and bade the man carry his bed through the city in order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of what it was lawful to do on the Sabbath, and would open the way for Him to denounce the restrictions of the Jews in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare their traditions void." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 206.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- How many people do you have around you who say, in essence, "I have no one to put me in the pool"?

"Should God forbid the sun to perform its office upon the Sabbath, cut off its genial rays from warming the earth and nourishing vegetation? Must the system of worlds stand still through that holy day? Should He command the brooks to stay from watering the fields and forests, and bid the waves of the sea still their ceaseless ebbing and flowing? Must the wheat and corn stop growing, and the ripening cluster defer its purple bloom? Must the trees and flowers put forth no bud nor blossom on the Sabbath?" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 206.

LESSON

4

Sabbath,
January 23,
2027

A WOMAN'S TOUCH OF FAITH REWARDED

"The wondering crowd that pressed close about Jesus realized no accession of vital power from the contact. But when the poor, suffering woman, who for twelve years had been an invalid, in her great need put forth her hand and touched the hem of His garment, she felt the healing virtue. Hers was the touch of faith, and Christ recognized that touch."
—Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 334.



SUNDAY

1 What problem did the woman in the story have? How sensitive was her case?

 **Luke 8:43** *And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any.*

"God has given a special command that we should regard the stranger, the outcast, and the poor souls who are weak in moral power. Many who appear wholly indifferent to religious things are in heart longing for rest and peace. Although they may have sunken to the very depths of sin, there is a possibility of saving them." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 233.



MONDAY

A SPECIAL TOUCH

2 Why did Jesus ask, “Who touched Me?”? What would a casual touch be like?



Luke 8:45–46 *And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? ⁴⁶And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.*

“But Jesus knew that somebody had touched Him with no casual touch, but with the touch of faith. A longing soul had reached out to Him for help which no one but He could give.” —*Daughters of God*, p. 64.

“So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.



TUESDAY

3 What twofold purpose did Jesus have in revealing the woman who had touched Him?



Luke 8:47 *And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.*



John 8:47 *He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

"And when the woman knew she was not hid, she acknowledged the good work that had been wrought in her. She told the story of her suffering and her hopeless condition, and her act of faith in touching His garment." —*Daughters of God*, p.64.

"He gave no opportunity for superstition to claim healing virtue for the mere act of touching His garments. It was not through the outward contact with Him, but through the faith which took hold on His divine power, that the cure was wrought." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 344.



WEDNESDAY

SPENT EVERYTHING

4 Like humanity without Christ, what had the woman done during the twelve years of her illness?



Isaiah 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hear-ken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

"On the way to the ruler's house, Jesus had met, in the crowd, a poor woman who for twelve years had suffered from a disease that made her life a burden. She had spent all her means upon physicians and remedies, only to be pronounced incurable." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.



THURSDAY

5 Why do many spend everything and not experience the healing of their souls?



Luke 8:46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.

"Why do we not come to Jesus in faith? Many give Him a casual touch, coming in contact only with His person. The woman did more than this.

She put forth her hand in faith and was healed instantly.... The friends of the truth will honor Him who is the Author and Finisher of their faith. Christ will prove Himself a physician in restoring the body as well as the soul. The workers together with God will yoke up with Christ and place themselves, soul, body, and spirit, in right relation to God." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 239.



FRIDAY

SHE PERSEVERED AND SUCCEEDED

6 Why did this woman not give up despite the difficulties that she had in trying to get close to Jesus?



Matthew 9:21 *For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.*

"She felt assured that if she could only go to Him she would be healed. In weakness and suffering she came to the seaside where He was teaching, and tried to press through the crowd, but in vain. Again she followed Him from the house of Levi-Matthew, but was still unable to reach Him. She had begun to despair, when, in making His way through the multitude, He came near where she was."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.



SABBATH

7 What was the most wonderful thing this woman ever heard?



Mark 5:34 *And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

"Satan is the destroyer; the Lord is the Restorer. The Lord has not worked as a physician in the way that He desires to work, because, He says, Ye will not come to Me, that I may give you life. We look to

every source for relief except to the One who proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.'" –*Christ Triumphant*, p. 239.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What is your greatest challenge today?

"Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

LESSON

5

Sabbath,
January 30,
2027

SOUND MINDS RESTORED TO THE DEMONIACS AT GADARA

"The disciples and their companions fled in terror; but after a time they noticed that Jesus ... was there where they had left Him. He who had stilled the tempest ... did not flee before those demons...." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 84.



SUNDAY

THE MAN'S CONDITION WITHOUT CHRIST

1 What was the condition of the demoniacs of Gadara? What did this have to do with sin?



Mark 5:3–5 *Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: ⁴Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. ⁵And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.*

"Their flesh was torn and bleeding where they had cut themselves with sharp stones. Their eyes glared out from their long and matted hair, the very likeness of humanity seemed to have been blotted out by the demons that possessed them, and they looked more like wild beasts than like men." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 337.



MONDAY

2 Why did Jesus go to the land of Gadara, and why did He come to this world?

"Nearly the whole world is lying in wickedness. To every believer in Christ, words of hope have been given for those who sit in darkness: 'The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.' Matthew 4:15-16." —*Counsels on Health*, p. 387.



Luke 1:79, first part *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death....*



1 John 3:8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*



TUESDAY

3 What extraordinary and powerful change occurred when the demon-possessed met Jesus?



Mark 5:15 *And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.*



Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

"With authority He bade the unclean spirits come out of them. His words penetrated the darkened minds of the unfortunate men.... A marvelous change had come over the demoniacs. Light had shone into their minds. Their eyes beamed with intelligence. The countenances, so long deformed into the image of Satan, became suddenly mild, the bloodstained hands were quiet, and with glad voices the men praised God for their deliverance...." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 84.



WEDNESDAY

4 Why did the demons ask to be allowed to enter the swine?



Mark 5:10–12 *And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. ¹¹Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. ¹²And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.*

"Into these the demons asked to be allowed to enter, and Jesus suffered them. Immediately a panic seized the herd. They rushed madly down the cliff, and, unable to check themselves upon the shore, plunged into the lake, and perished....

"In causing the destruction of the swine, it was Satan's purpose to turn the people away from the Saviour, and prevent the preaching of the gospel in that region." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 338, 340.



THURSDAY

TEMPORARY LOSSES

5 Why did Jesus allow the swine to be destroyed? What lesson did this incident convey?



Mark 5:13 *And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.*

"It was in mercy to the owners of the swine that this loss had been permitted to come upon them. They were absorbed in earthly things, and cared not for the great interests of spiritual life. Jesus desired to break the spell of selfish indifference, that they might accept His grace. But regret and indignation for their temporal loss blinded their eyes to the Saviour's mercy." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 338.



FRIDAY

CALLED TO WITNESS

6 Why did the Lord not let the healed man go with Him? What was the result of the man's remaining in Gadara?



Luke 8:38–40 *Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might*

be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. ⁴⁰And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

"Those who had been mediums of the prince of darkness became channels of light, messengers of the Son of God. Men marveled as they listened to the wondrous news. A door was opened to the gospel throughout that region. When Jesus returned to Decapolis, the people flocked about Him, and for three days, not merely the inhabitants of one town, but thousands from all the surrounding region, heard the message of salvation. Even the power of demons is under the control of our Saviour, and the working of evil is overruled for good." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 340.



SABBATH

7 What great things does God do in human beings today?



Mark 5:19, last part ... *And tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*



Ezekiel 37:5–6 *Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.*

"It showed the depths of degradation to which Satan is seeking to drag the whole human race, and the mission of Christ to set men free from his power. Those wretched beings, dwelling in the place of graves, possessed by demons, in bondage to uncontrolled passions

and loathsome lusts, represent what humanity would become if given up to satanic jurisdiction.... Through his specious temptations Satan leads men to worse and worse evils, till utter depravity and ruin are the result. The only safeguard against his power is found in the presence of Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 341.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What other kinds of demons plague humanity?

"But as soon as Jesus pointed out their duty they were ready to obey. Not only did they tell their own households and neighbors about Jesus, but they went throughout Decapolis, everywhere declaring His power to save, and describing how He had freed them from the demons. In doing this work they could receive a greater blessing than if, merely for benefit to themselves, they had remained in His presence. It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 339.

LESSON

6

Sabbath,
February 6,
2027

PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW HEALED

"In the excitement which then pervaded Capernaum there was danger that the object of His mission would be lost sight of. Jesus was not satisfied to attract attention to Himself merely as a wonder-worker or as a healer of physical disease. He was seeking to draw men to Him as their Saviour. While the people were eager to believe that He had come as a

king to establish an earthly reign, He desired to turn their minds from the earthly to the spiritual. Mere worldly success would interfere with His work...." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 86.



SUNDAY

AT PETER'S HOUSE

1 What was Jesus doing before He came to Peter's house?



Mark 1:29 *And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.*

"While the congregation in the synagogue were still spellbound with awe, Jesus withdrew to the home of Peter for a little rest. But here also a shadow had fallen. The mother of Peter's wife lay sick, stricken with a 'great fever.' Jesus rebuked the disease, and the sufferer arose, and ministered to the wants of the Master and His disciples." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 259.



MONDAY

2 What did Peter's mother-in-law's friends do when Jesus arrived at the disciple's house? What lesson can we learn from this?



Luke 4:38 *And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.*

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit." —*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 273.



TUESDAY

3 Why did the Master perform no more miracles on that day?



Mark 1:31 *And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.*

"For fear of the rabbis, the people dared not come for healing upon the Sabbath; but no sooner had the sun disappeared below the horizon than there was a great commotion." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 259.



WEDNESDAY

AFTER THE SABBATH

4 What happened at Peter's house after the Sabbath ended?



Mark 1:32–33 *And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed*

with devils.³³ And all the city was gathered together at the door.

"From the homes, the shops, the market places, the inhabitants of the city pressed toward the humble dwelling that sheltered Jesus. The sick were brought upon couches, they came leaning upon staffs, or, supported by friends, they tottered feebly into the Saviour's presence." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 259.



THURSDAY

5 What did Peter's mother-in-law do after she was healed? What does the Lord expect of everyone today?



Matthew 8:15, last part ... And she arose, and ministered unto them.



Luke 17:18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

"Shall all our devotional exercises consist in asking and receiving? Shall we be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive? Shall we be recipients of His mercies and never express our gratitude to God, never praise Him for what He has done for us? We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 317.



FRIDAY

6 For how long did Jesus work that night in healing the sick? Why?



Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.

"Hour after hour they came and went; for none could know whether tomorrow would find the Healer still among them. Never before had Capernaum witnessed a day like this. The air was filled with the voice

of triumph and shouts of deliverance. The Saviour was joyful in the joy He had awakened. As He witnessed the sufferings of those who had come to Him, His heart was stirred with sympathy, and He rejoiced in His power to restore them to health and happiness. Not until the last sufferer had been relieved did Jesus cease His work. It was far into the night when the multitude departed, and silence settled down upon the home of Simon." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 259.



SABBATH

IN THE MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

7 What did Jesus do before and after completing such great work? How does this apply to us?



Mark 1:35–37 *And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

³⁶And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. ³⁷And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.



Luke 11:9–10 *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

"The long, exciting day was past, and Jesus sought rest. But while the city was still wrapped in slumber, the Saviour, 'rising up a great while before day,... went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.' Thus were spent the days in the earthly life of Jesus. He often dismissed His disciples to visit their homes and rest; but He gently resisted their efforts to draw Him away from His labors. All day He toiled, teaching the ignorant, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, feeding the multitude; and at the eventide or in the early morning, He went away to the sanctuary of the mountains for communion with His Father. Often He passed the entire night in prayer and meditation, returning at daybreak to His work among the people." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 259.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What do you really do when you carry out something good for the Lord?

"No self-assertion mingled with His life.... None of the means that men employ to win allegiance or command homage did Jesus use....

"Never before had Capernaum witnessed a day like this. The air was filled with the voice of triumph and shouts of deliverance.... Early in the morning Peter and his companions came to Jesus, saying that already the people of Capernaum were seeking Him. With surprise they heard Christ's words, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent.' Luke 4:43." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 86.

LESSON

7

Sabbath,
February 13,
2027

CLEANSING OF THE GALILEAN LEPER

"In some instances of healing, Jesus did not at once grant the blessing sought. But in the case of leprosy, no sooner was the appeal made than it was granted. When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 266.



SUNDAY

SEPARATED FROM SOCIETY

1 What other name did the Jews give to leprosy? Why?



Mark 1:40 *And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.*

"Of all diseases known in the East the leprosy was most dreaded. Its incurable and contagious character, and its horrible effect upon its victims, filled the bravest with fear. Among the Jews it was regarded as a judgment on account of sin, and hence was called 'the stroke,' 'the finger of God.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 262.



MONDAY

2 What did a person in Israel have to do when he was declared to be a leper?



Leviticus 13:45–46 *And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon*

To what is this applicable today?

his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. ⁴⁶All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.

"Like one already dead, he was shut out from the habitations of men.... If pronounced a leper, he was isolated from his family, cut off from the congregation of Israel, and was doomed to associate with those only who were similarly afflicted. The law was inflexible in its requirement. Even kings and rulers were not exempt. A monarch who was attacked by this terrible disease must yield up the scepter, and flee from society." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 262.



TUESDAY

IN DIRE STRAITS

3 What motivated the leper to go to Jesus, knowing the barriers that he faced?



Matthew 8:1-2 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. ²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

"The difficulties were great, but this was his only hope. The leper is guided to the Saviour. Jesus is teaching beside the lake, and the people are gathered about Him. Standing afar off, the leper catches a few words from the Saviour's lips. He sees Him laying His hands upon the sick. He sees the lame, the blind, the paralytic, and those dying of various maladies rise up in health, praising God for their deliverance. Faith strengthens in his heart. He draws nearer and yet nearer to the gathered throng. The restrictions laid upon him, the safety of the people, and the fear with which all men regard him are forgotten. He thinks only of the blessed hope of healing." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 263.



WEDNESDAY

4 What did he have to do to reach Jesus?

 **Luke 5:12** *And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who see-*

ing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.



2 Chronicles 15:7 *Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.*

"The disease has made frightful inroads, and his decaying body is horrible to look upon. At sight of him the people fall back in terror. They crowd upon one another in their eagerness to escape from contact with him. Some try to prevent him from approaching Jesus, but in vain. He neither sees nor hears them. Their expressions of loathing are lost upon him. He sees only the Son of God. He hears only the voice that speaks life to the dying. Pressing to Jesus, he casts himself at His feet with the cry, 'Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 263.



THURSDAY

5 Why did Jesus touch the leper when He could have healed him by just speaking?



Mark 1:41 *And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.*

"The work of Christ in cleansing the leper from his terrible disease is an illustration of His work in cleansing the soul from sin. The man who came to Jesus was 'full of leprosy.' Its deadly poison permeated his whole body. The disciples sought to prevent their Master from touching him; for he who touched a leper became himself unclean. But in laying His hand upon the leper, Jesus received no defilement. His touch imparted life-giving power. The leprosy was cleansed. Thus it is with the leprosy of sin—deep-rooted, deadly, and impossible to be cleansed by human power." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 266.



FRIDAY

A DIFFICULT SITUATION

6 What made the Master's work especially difficult?



Mark 1:43, 44 And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; ⁴⁴And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

"The words of Scripture show with what urgency Christ enjoined upon the man the necessity of silence and prompt action.... Had the priests known the facts concerning the healing of the leper, their hatred of Christ might have led them to render a dishonest sentence. Jesus desired the man to present himself at the temple before any rumors concerning the miracle had reached them. Thus an impartial decision could be secured, and the restored leper would be permitted to unite once more with his family and friends." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 264.



SABBATH

7 Why did the man ignore Jesus' command to say nothing before going to the priest? What lesson is in this for us?



Mark 1:45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

"Notwithstanding the caution of Jesus, the man made no further effort to conceal the fact of his cure. It would indeed have been impossible to conceal it, but the leper published the matter abroad. Conceiving that it was only the modesty of Jesus which laid this restriction upon him, he went about proclaiming the power of this Great Healer.... He rejoiced in the vigor of manhood, and in his restoration to his family and society, and felt it impossible to refrain from giving glory to the Physician who had made him whole." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 264.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What barriers exist for spiritual lepers today?

“But since the days of Elisha the prophet, such a thing had never been known as the cleansing of one upon whom this disease had fastened. They dared not expect Jesus to do for them what He had never done for any man. There was one, however, in whose heart faith began to spring up. Yet the man knew not how to reach Jesus. Debarred as he was from contact with his fellow men, how could he present himself to the Healer?” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 262.

LESSON

8

Sabbath,
February 20,
2027

Please read the Missionary Report from
Central African Republic
on page 47

THE PARALYTIC'S FAITH BLESSED

"I will refer to the paralytic who had not used his limbs for many years. There he was. The priests, the rulers, and scribes examined his case and pronounced it hopeless. They told him that by his own sin he had brought himself into this condition, and there was no hope for him. But the word was brought to him that there was a man called Jesus who was doing

mighty works. He was healing the sick, and He had even raised the dead. 'But how can I go to Him?' he said." —*Faith and Works*, p. 67.



SUNDAY

1 What was the biggest problem for the man who was paralyzed? How does a similar situation affect people in the world today?



Mark 2:3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.



Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

"Like the leper, this paralytic had lost all hope of recovery. His disease was the result of a sinful life, and his sufferings were embittered by remorse. In vain he had appealed to the Pharisees and doctors for relief; they pronounced him incurable, they denounced him as a sinner and declared that he would die under the wrath of God....

"His great desire was relief from the burden of sin. He longed to see Jesus and receive the assurance of forgiveness and peace with heaven. Then he would be content to live or to die, according to God's will." —*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 73–74.



MONDAY

GOD'S WORK AND THAT OF THE CHURCH

2 Who moved the paralytic to seek the divine Physician when he was still at home?



John 15:16; 12:32 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you....*
^{12:32}And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

"It was Christ who had brought conviction to his conscience when he was yet at home. When he repented of his sins and believed in the power of Jesus to make him whole, the mercy of the Saviour had blessed his heart. Jesus had watched the first glimmer of faith grow into a conviction that He was the sinner's only helper, and had seen it grow stronger with every effort to come into His presence. It was Christ who had drawn the sufferer to Himself." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 75.



TUESDAY

3 What role does the church play today in the lives of those who are spiritually paralyzed?



Luke 5:18, first part *And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy...*

"Christ's work in behalf of the paralytic illustrates the way in which we are to work. Through his friends, this man had heard of Jesus, and requested to be brought into the presence of the great Physician." —*Testimony Treasures*, vol. 2, p. 491.

"'We will carry you to Jesus,' his friends replied, 'right into His presence; we have heard He has come to such a place.'

"And so they took the hopeless man and bore him to where they knew Jesus was." —*Faith and Works*, p. 67.



WEDNESDAY

4 What obstacles confronted the man and his friends at Peter's house? What similar obstacles are there in the world today?



Mark 2:4 *And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

"But so dense was the crowd that had assembled in and about the house where the Saviour was, that it was impossible for the sick man and his friends to reach Him, or even to come within hearing of His voice. Jesus was teaching in the home of Peter. According to their custom, His disciples sat close about Him, and 'there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, who were come out of every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem.' Luke 5:17." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 74.

"But the crowd was so dense about the house where Jesus was that they could not even get to the door. What should they do? The paralytic suggested that they take the tiles from the roof and make an opening, and let him down." —*Faith and Works*, pp. 66-67.



THURSDAY

5 What were the most melodious words the paralytic ever heard? What do those words still mean today?



Mark 2:5 *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

"The Saviour knew that the paralytic had been tortured by the suggestions of the priests that because of his sins God had cast him off. Therefore His first work was to give him peace of mind. 'Son,' He said, 'thy sins be forgiven thee.'" —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 234.

"The words falling from the lips of Jesus, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee' (Matthew 9:2), are worth everything to us. He saith, I have borne your sins in My own body on Calvary's cross. He sees your sorrows.... The lowly, contrite heart will make very much of forgiveness and pardon...." —*That I May Know Him*, p. 235.



FRIDAY

HEALED TWICE

6 What did Jesus say after telling the man, "*Thy sins be forgiven thee*"? What impression did those words make on the people who were present?



Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

"This manifestation showed before the people that there was One in their midst that could not only forgive sins but that could heal the sick." —*Faith and Works*, p. 67.



SABBATH

READY TO FOLLOW JESUS

7 What happened when the healed paralytic returned home?



Mark 2:12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went



Matthew 9:6–7 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.



Luke 5:26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.



Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

"In the home of the healed paralytic there was great rejoicing when he returned to his family, carrying with ease the couch upon which he had been slowly borne from their presence but a short time before. They gathered round with tears of joy, scarcely daring to believe their eyes.... This man and his family were ready to lay down their lives for Jesus. No doubt dimmed their faith, no unbelief marred their fealty to Him who had brought light into their darkened home." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 271.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What other types of paralysis are there?

"Physical disease, however malignant and deep-seated, was healed by the power of Christ; but the disease of the soul took a firmer hold upon those who closed their eyes against the light. Leprosy and palsy were not so terrible as bigotry and unbelief." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 271.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FIELD

To be read on Sabbath, February 20, 2027

The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, February 27, 2027

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a country located in the middle of the African continent. The country covers a radius of 623,000 square kilometers, with a population of about 5 million people. The spoken languages are French and Sango. The country achieved independence in 1960, having been a French colony. The country is very rich in mineral resources, such as kerosene, diamonds, iron, coal, gold, copper, uranium, and pewter; but it remains very poor economically as a result of multiple wars and uprisings. There are many orphans and widows.

The International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, began its mission in the capital of the Central African Republic, Bangui City, in 2019, with the work of Brother Masumbuko Daniel from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under much suffering. Although French is an official language of the country, most people do not understand it but speak Sango, the local language. Brother Masumbuko had to get a translator to reach out for souls and go from door to door. The most dominant churches keep Sunday, for Adventism was only introduced in 1960 and there are few Sabbath-keeping churches. At the beginning, Brother Masumbuko and his family were challenged by these Sunday-keeping churches; and at one point the whole family was put under arrest for four days. However, consistent efforts yielded wonderful results.

The church now has 12 members and 85 interested souls; 45 of them are youth, and 40 are adults. In January 2020, the General Conference sent US \$4,000 so that a piece of land could be purchased for church projects. Three small structures were built on the property.

In August 2021, the area where the land was located became part of land urbanization for the expansion and development of the city. Thus, it came under government administration along with streets that were

being developed throughout the area. The land has been reappraised; if an owner still wants to keep it, he has to pay the new price and thus obtain the title deed to the land. But if he cannot afford to pay the new price, then the government will expropriate the land and reimburse the owner whatever amount it deems appropriate. The land that was purchased for the church was affected by this new regulation.

By the grace of God, negotiations with the Bangui City officials in charge of landmarking resulted in an agreement allocating a parcel of 2,400 square meters to the church. This land will be used for a place of worship and the headquarters of the Central African Republic Field. All of the donations that are received from this Special Sabbath School Offering will be used, first, for the required payment under the new zoning ordinances and then to erect buildings within the time frame required by the government. Any delays may lead to the land being forfeited.

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

We appeal to your generous hearts to give to the Lord for the work in the Central African Republic, for there are many interested souls who need to hear the word of God and also some projects to be carried out. May God bless your gift with many returns.

Your brother in Christ,

—*Masumbuko Daniel*
Central African Republic Field Leader

LESSON

9

Sabbath,
February 27,
2027

SPECIAL SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERING
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FIELD
God multiply your generous donations!

A MAN'S DEFORMED HAND MADE NORMAL

"The gospel places a high value upon humanity as the purchase of the blood of Christ, and it teaches a tender regard for the wants and woes of man. The Lord says, 'I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.' Isaiah 13:12." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 286.



SUNDAY

MIRACLE ON THE SABBATH

1 What question did the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus on the Sabbath?



Matthew 12:10 *And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.*

"Upon another Sabbath, as Jesus entered a synagogue. He saw there a man who had a withered hand. The Pharisees watched Him, eager to see what He would do. The Saviour well knew that in healing on the Sabbath He would be regarded as a transgressor, but He did not hesitate to break down the wall of traditional requirements that barricaded the Sabbath." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 286.



MONDAY

2 What question did Jesus ask His accusers in response? Why did they not answer Him?



Matthew 12:11 *And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?*

"Jesus bade the afflicted man stand forth, and then asked, 'Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?...' "The spies dared not answer Christ in the presence of the multitude, for fear of involving themselves in difficulty. They knew that He had spoken the truth. Rather than violate their traditions, they would leave a man to suffer, while they would relieve a brute because of the loss to the owner if it were neglected. Thus greater care was shown for a dumb animal than for man, who is made in the image of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 286.



TUESDAY

MIRACLE ON THE SABBATH

3 What lesson did Jesus teach by performing this miracle on the Sabbath?



Matthew 12:12 *How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.*



Mark 2:27 *And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.*

"The Saviour well knew that in healing on the Sabbath He would be regarded as a transgressor, but He did not hesitate to break down the wall of traditional requirements that barricaded the Sabbath." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 286.



WEDNESDAY

4 How highly does God value a soul?



Matthew 12:13 *Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.*

"One soul is of more value to heaven than a whole world of property, houses, lands, money. For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost. One soul won to Christ will flash heaven's light all around him, penetrating the moral darkness and saving other souls." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 21.



THURSDAY

5 What can and should be done on the Sabbath?



Luke 6:9 *Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?*

"It was a maxim among the Jews that a failure to do good, when one had opportunity, was to do evil; to neglect to save life was to kill. Thus Jesus met the rabbis on their own ground. 'But they held their peace. And when He had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, He saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.' Mark 3:4–5." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 286.

"The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children....

"We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is wrong to walk out-of-doors. Oh, no. Christ led His disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed walls." —*Child Guidance*, pp. 532–533.



FRIDAY

FULL RESTORATION

6 How completely was the man's hand restored? In the same way, what does the Lord desire to restore in His children today?



Luke 6:10 *And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.*

"When we place ourselves where God cannot cooperate with us, our strength will be found weakness. All that is ever done toward restoring the image of God in man is done because God is the efficiency of the worker. It is His power alone that can restore the body, energize the mind, or renew the soul." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, 151.

"Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to cooperate with Him in building up the old waste places, raising up the foundations of many generations. They are to stand as repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. Through their testimony the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a witness, a constant reminder of God, to attract notice and arouse investigation that shall direct the minds of men to their Creator." —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 179.



SABBATH

7 What did the Pharisees plan to do to Jesus on the Sabbath? How does one transgress the Sabbath?



Luke 6:11 *And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.*



Matthew 12:14 *Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.*

"When Jesus turned upon the Pharisees with the question whether it was lawful on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill, He confronted them with their own wicked purposes. They were

hunting His life with bitter hatred, while He was saving life and bringing happiness to multitudes. Was it better to slay upon the Sabbath, as they were planning to do, than to heal the afflicted, as He had done? Was it more righteous to have murder in the heart upon God's holy day than love to all men, which finds expression in deeds of mercy?" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 287.

"When the Sabbath commences, we should place a guard upon ourselves, upon our acts and our words, lest we rob God by appropriating to our own use that time which is strictly the Lord's....

Talking upon anything or everything which may come into the mind is speaking our own words." —*Child Guidance*, p. 529.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- Discuss the scope of Sabbath spirituality.

"In the healing of the withered hand, Jesus condemned the custom of the Jews, and left the fourth commandment standing as God had given it. 'It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days,' He declared. By sweeping away the senseless restrictions of the Jews, Christ honored the Sabbath, while those who complained of Him were dishonoring God's holy day." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 287.

LESSON

10

Sabbath,
March 6,
2027

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED

"It is faith that connects us with heaven and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every evil trait and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 65.



SUNDAY

HE IS WORTHY

1 What reasons were presented to Jesus by the delegation of elders for healing the centurion's servant?



Luke 7:4–5 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: ⁵For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

"As Jesus entered Capernaum, He was met by a delegation of the elders, who told Him of the centurion's desire. They urged 'that he was worthy for whom He should do this: for he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 316.



MONDAY

2 What was and always will be the Master's response to a plea for one in need?



Matthew 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.



Luke 7:6, first part Then Jesus went with them.

"Jesus immediately set out for the officer's home; but, pressed by the multitude, He advanced slowly." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 316.

"As the shepherd goes before his sheep, himself first encountering the perils of the way, so does Jesus with His people. 'When he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them.' The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour's footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has borne." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 204.



TUESDAY

"I AM NOT WORTHY"

3 What did the Roman centurion say concerning himself when Jesus approached his house?



Luke 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof.

"The news of His coming preceded Him, and the centurion, in his self-distrust, sent Him the message, 'Lord, trouble not Thyself: for I am not worthy that Thou shouldest enter under my roof.' But the Saviour kept on His way, and the centurion, venturing at last to approach Him, completed the message, saying, 'Neither thought I myself worthy to come unto Thee;' 'but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 316.



WEDNESDAY

4 What did Jesus say about the Roman centurion? Did this concern the works he had performed?



Matthew 8:10 *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

"But He marveled at the faith of the centurion who came to Him. The centurion did not question the Saviour's power. He did not even ask Him to come in person to perform the miracle. 'Speak the word only,' he said, 'and my servant shall be healed.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 315.



THURSDAY

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

5 What characterized the miracle performed for the Roman centurion's servant?



Matthew 8:8, last part, 13 ... *But speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed....¹³ And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

"For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.' As I represent the power of Rome, and my soldiers recognize my authority as supreme, so dost Thou represent the power of the Infinite God, and all created things obey Thy word. Thou canst command the disease to depart, and it shall obey Thee. Thou canst summon Thy heavenly messengers, and they shall impart healing virtue. Speak but the word, and my servant shall be healed." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 316.

"The centurion saw with the eye of faith that the angels of God were all around Jesus, and that His word would commission an angel to go to the sufferer. He knew that His word would enter the chamber, and that his servant would be healed." —*The Truth about Angels*, p. 185.



FRIDAY

6 What other lesson can be learned from Jesus' miracle in healing the centurion's servant?



Luke 7:4, 6, last part, 7 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this. ⁶... Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my

roof. ⁷Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.



Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.



Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

"The Jewish elders who recommended the centurion to Christ had shown how far they were from possessing the spirit of the gospel. They did not recognize that our great need is our only claim on God's mercy. In their self-righteousness they commended the centurion because of the favor he had shown to 'our nation.' But the centurion said of himself, 'I am not worthy.' His heart had been touched by the grace of Christ. He saw his own unworthiness; yet he feared not to ask help. He trusted not to his own goodness; his argument was his great need. His faith took hold upon Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him merely as a worker of miracles, but as the friend and Saviour of mankind." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 316.



SABBATH

A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAN

7 In addition to faith, what other godly qualities did the Roman centurion possess?



Matthew 8:5–6 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, ⁶And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

"The centurion's servant had been stricken with palsy, and lay at the point of death. Among the Romans the servants were slaves, bought and sold in the market places, and treated with abuse and cruelty; but the centurion was tenderly attached to his servant, and greatly desired his recovery. He believed that Jesus could heal him. He had not seen the Saviour, but the reports he heard had inspired him with faith. Notwithstanding the formalism of the Jews, this Roman was convinced that their religion was superior to his own. Already he had broken through the barriers of national prejudice and hatred that separated the conquerors from the conquered people. He had manifested respect for the service of God, and had shown kindness to the Jews as His worshippers." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 315.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What makes it possible for one to receive healing from Heaven?

"The Jewish nation would not receive their promised Messiah when He came in just the manner prophecies declared He would come. Here was a man, not professedly of Israel, who had not had the opportunities that Israel had abundantly received, who in faith and appreciation of Christ was far in advance of the people of Israel, whom the Lord had made the repository of most sacred, precious truth." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 241.

LESSON

11

Sabbath,
March 13,
2027

HEALING OF THE BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB MAN

"What a support Christ would have found in His earthly relatives if they had believed in Him as one from heaven, and had cooperated with Him in doing the work of God! Their unbelief cast a shadow over the earthly life of Jesus. It was a part of the bitterness of that cup of woe which He drained for us." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 325.



SUNDAY

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

1 Where was Jesus when a man was brought to Him? What was the man's problem?



Matthew 12:22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

"It was in the region of Decapolis that the demoniacs of Gergesa had been healed. Here the people, alarmed at the destruction of the swine, had constrained Jesus to depart from among them. But they had listened to the messengers He left behind, and a desire was aroused to see Him. As He came again into that region, a crowd gathered about Him, and a deaf, stammering man was brought to Him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 404.



MONDAY

2 What different method did Jesus use to heal the man? Why?



Mark 7:33–35 *And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. ³⁵And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.*

"Jesus did not, according to His custom, restore the man by a word only. Taking him apart from the multitude, He put His fingers in his ears, and touched his tongue; looking up to heaven, He sighed at thought of the ears that would not be open to the truth, the tongues that refused to acknowledge the Redeemer. At the word, 'Be opened,' the man's speech was restored, and, disregarding the command to tell no man, he published abroad the story of his cure." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 404.



TUESDAY

THE DANGER OF DOUBT

3 What did the Pharisees say about the miracle? How did Jesus address this idea?



Matthew 12:24, 32 *But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This*

fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.... ³²And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

"It was just before this that Jesus had a second time performed the miracle of healing a man possessed, blind and dumb, and the Pharisees had reiterated the charge, 'He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.' Matthew 9:34. Christ told them plainly that in attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, they were cutting themselves off from the fountain of blessing. Those who had spoken against Jesus Himself, not discerning His divine character, might re-

ceive forgiveness; for through the Holy Spirit they might be brought to see their error and repent. Whatever the sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 321.



WEDNESDAY

4 Besides the Pharisees, who else had doubts about His ministry? What conclusions did they come to?



John 7:5 *For neither did his brethren believe in him.*

"His brothers heard of this, and also of the charge brought by the Pharisees that He cast out devils through the power of Satan. They felt keenly the reproach that came upon them through their relation to Jesus. They knew what a tumult His words and works created, and were not only alarmed at His bold statements, but indignant at His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. They decided that He must be persuaded or constrained to cease this manner of labor, and they induced Mary to unite with them, thinking that through His love for her they might prevail upon Him to be more prudent." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 321.



THURSDAY

5 How dangerous is doubt on the part of God's children?



Matthew 14:31 *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

"It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light. The habit of careless and irreverent criticism re-

acts upon the character, in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, 'Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 323. "Never utter a word of doubt. It is as seed sown in the heart of both speaker and hearers, to produce a harvest of discouragement and unbelief." —*The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 163.



FRIDAY

SENSES CRIPPLED BY THE ENEMY

6 Where does spiritual blindness come from, and how dangerous is it?



2 Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*



Isaiah 35:5 *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

"It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's Word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul. Thus it had been with these Jewish leaders. They were convinced that a divine power attended Christ, but in order to resist the truth, they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. In doing this they deliberately chose deception; they yielded themselves to Satan, and henceforth they were controlled by his power." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 322.



SABBATH

7 What prevents a person from hearing God's voice and keeps his tongues tied, preventing him from praising the Lord? When a miracle occurs, what happens immediately?



Mark 7:35–36 *And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. ³⁶And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it.*



Zechariah 7:11 *But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.*

"Nothing fell so harshly on their ears as the name of Jesus whom they had crucified; and they were determined not to listen to any evidence in His favor. As when the Holy Spirit through Stephen declared the mighty evidence of Jesus' being the Son of God, they stopped their ears lest they should be convinced. Satan had the murderers of Jesus fast in his grasp." —*Early Writings*, p. 208.



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What is the state of many people's ears and tongues? How can this be overcome?

"The last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so,' said Jesus, 'shall it be also unto this wicked generation.' There are none so hardened as those who have slighted the invitation of mercy, and done despite to the Spirit of grace. The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting Heaven's invitation to repent. Every step in the rejection of Christ is a step toward the rejection of salvation, and toward the sin against the Holy Spirit." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324.

LESSON

12

Sabbath,
March 20,
2027

STILLING THE STORM

"Their cry arouses Jesus. As the lightning's glare reveals Him, they see the peace of heaven in His face; they read in His glance self-forgetful, tender love, and, their hearts turning to Him, cry, 'Lord, save us: we perish.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 335.



SUNDAY

THEY TOOK JESUS WITH THEM

1 In accordance with Jesus' command to His disciples that day, what did they do when they set sail?



Mark 4:35, 36 *And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. ³⁶And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.*

"After He had dismissed the multitude, they took Him, even 'as He was,' into the boat, and hastily set off. But they were not to depart alone. There were other fishing boats lying near the shore, and these were quickly crowded with people who followed Jesus, eager still to see and hear Him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 334.



MONDAY

2 What sudden disaster struck? What similar things happen today?

"The evening had been calm and pleasant, and quiet rested upon the lake; but suddenly darkness overspread the sky, the wind swept wildly down the mountain gorges along the eastern shore, and a fierce tempest burst upon the lake." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 334.



Mark 4:37 *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*



TUESDAY

3 What great contrast was there between the disciples and Jesus? Why?



Mark 4:38 *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*



Psalm 119:165 *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

"When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear was in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the 'Master of earth and sea and sky' that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, 'I can of Mine own self do nothing.' John 5:30. He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith—faith in God's love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336.



WEDNESDAY

A FATAL OVERSIGHT

4 How effective were their efforts to guide the boat? What had they forgotten?



Mark 4:39 *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the*

wind ceased, and there was a great calm.



Titus 3:5, first part *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,...*

"Those hardy fishermen had spent their lives upon the lake, and had guided their craft safely through many a storm; but now their strength and skill availed nothing. They were helpless in the grasp of the tempest, and hope failed them as they saw that their boat was filling.... Absorbed in their efforts to save themselves, they had forgotten that Jesus was on board. Now, seeing their labor vain and only death before them, they remembered at whose command they had set out to cross the sea. In Jesus was their only hope. In their helplessness and despair they cried, 'Master, Master!' But the dense darkness hid Him from their sight. Their voices were drowned by the roaring of the tempest, and there was no reply. Doubt and fear assailed them. Had Jesus forsaken them? Was He who had conquered disease and demons, and even death, powerless to help His disciples now? Was He unmindful of them in their distress?" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 334.



THURSDAY

5 After rebuking the wind, what did Jesus ask His disciples?



Mark 4:40 *And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

"The storm ceases. The billows sink to rest. The clouds roll away, and the stars shine forth. The boat rests upon a quiet sea." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 335.



FRIDAY

HOW TO CALM STORMS

6 What other types of storms confront Christians in this world?



James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown*

of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

"How often the disciples' experience is ours! When the tempests of temptation gather, and the fierce lightnings flash, and the waves sweep over us, we battle with the storm alone, forgetting that there is One who can help us. We trust to our own strength till our hope is lost, and we are ready to perish. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not cry in vain. Though He sorrowfully reproves our unbelief and self-confidence, He never fails to give us the help we need. Whether on the land or on the sea, if we have the Saviour in our hearts, there is no need of fear. Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the sea of life, and will deliver us from danger in the way that He knows to be best." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336.



SABBATH

7 How can human passion—the most dangerous of all storms—be calmed?



Psalm 107:29–30 *He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. ³⁰Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.*



Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

"Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul. However fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, 'Lord, save us,' will find deliverance. His grace, that reconciles the soul to God, quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What do you think is the most dangerous type of storm today, and why?

“As Jesus rested by faith in the Father’s care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour. If the disciples had trusted in Him, they would have been kept in peace. Their fear in the time of danger revealed their unbelief. In their efforts to save themselves, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in despair of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could give them help.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336.

LESSON

13

Sabbath,
March 27,
2027

FOOD FOR THE MULTITUDE

"It is the grace of God on the small portion that makes it all-sufficient. God's hand can multiply it a hundredfold. From His resources He can spread a table in the wilderness. By the touch of His hand He can increase the scanty provision and make it sufficient for all. It was His power that increased the loaves and corn in the hands of the sons of the prophets...."
—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 226.



SUNDAY

"GIVE YE THEM TO EAT"

1 What request did the disciples make of Jesus? What solution did He give them?

 **Matthew 14:15–16** *And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. ¹⁶But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.*

"As we see the necessities of the poor, the ignorant, the afflicted, how often our hearts sink. We question, 'What avail our feeble strength and slender resources to supply this terrible necessity? Shall we not wait for someone of greater ability to direct the work, or for some organization to undertake it?' Christ says, 'Give ye them to eat.' Use the means, the time, the ability, you have. Bring your barley loaves to Jesus." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 49.



MONDAY

2 In response to the Master's command, what did Andrew find in the crowd? What was his and Philip's attitude?



John 6:7-9 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

"Like Andrew looking upon the five barley loaves and the two little fishes, we exclaim, 'What are they among so many?' Often we hesitate, unwilling to give all that we have, fearing to spend and to be spent for others. But Jesus has bidden us, 'Give ye them to eat.' His command is a promise; and behind it is the same power that fed the multitude beside the sea." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 369.



TUESDAY

3 What parallels were there between the boy's situation and that of the man visiting in Gilgal during the famine in Elisha's time? What does the Lord do with little?



2 Kings 4:42-44 And there came a man from Baalshalisa, and

brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. ⁴³And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the Lord, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof. ⁴⁴So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Lord.

"The gift brought to Him with thanksgiving and with prayer for His blessing, He will multiply as He multiplied the food given to the sons of the prophets and to the weary multitude." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 243.

"It is the grace of God on the small portion that makes it all-sufficient. God's hand can multiply it a hundredfold." —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 226.



WEDNESDAY

BEFORE THE MIRACLE

4 Before performing the miracle, how did Jesus organize the crowd, and what does this teach us?



Matthew 14:19 p.p. Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass...



John 6:10 Then Jesus said, Make the people sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

"Jesus ordered that these things be brought to Him, and then He asked the disciples to have the people sit down on the grass, in companies of fifty and a hundred, to preserve order, and so that all might witness what He was about to do." — *The Desire of Ages*, p.365.

"God is a God of order. Everything connected with heaven is in perfect order; submission and thorough discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. Success can only attend order and harmonious action. God requires order and system in His work now no less than He required it in the days of Israel." — *Christian Service*, p. 111.



THURSDAY

THE COMMAND TO GIVE

5 How did the miracle of multiplication take place, and what does it teach us?



Matthew 14:19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

"Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples; they imparted to the multitude; and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, the heavenly food, and impart it to others....The food multiplied in His hands; and the hands of the disciples, reaching out to Christ Himself the Bread of Life, were never empty. The little store was sufficient for all.... As we con-

tinue imparting, we continue to receive; and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 369–370.



FRIDAY

BARLEY LOAVES FOR JESUS

6 What kind of loaves were found, and what was their significance?



John 6:9 *There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?*

"It was humble fare that had been provided; the fishes and barley loaves were the daily food of the fisher folk about the Sea of Galilee. Christ could have spread before the people a rich repast, but food prepared merely for the gratification of appetite would have conveyed no lesson for their good....

"So when you are surrounded by souls in need, know that Christ is there. Commune with Him. Bring your barley loaves to Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 366.



SABBATH

LET NOTHING BE LOST

7 After the people had eaten, why did Jesus tell the disciples to gather up the leftovers? Besides the fact that nothing should be wasted, what other lessons did the Master's words impart?



John 6:12–13 *When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. ¹³Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.*

"Christ once gave His disciples a lesson upon economy which is worthy of careful attention. He wrought a miracle to feed the hungry thousands who had listened to His teachings; yet after all had eaten and were satisfied, He did not permit the fragments to be wasted." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 381.

"We should neglect nothing that will tend to benefit a human being. Let everything be gathered up that will relieve the necessity of earth's hungry ones. And there should be the same carefulness in spiritual things. When the baskets of fragments were collected, the people thought of their friends at home. They wanted them to share in the bread that Christ had blessed." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 368.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What are the barley loaves that you bring to Jesus today?

"It is a great mistake to trust in human wisdom or numbers in the work of God. Successful work for Christ depends not so much on numbers or talent as upon pureness of purpose, the true simplicity of earnest, dependent faith. Personal responsibilities must be borne, personal duties must be taken up, personal efforts must be made for those who do not know Christ. In the place of shifting your responsibility upon someone whom you think more richly endowed than you are, work according to your ability." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 370.

LESSON

14

Sabbath,
April 3,
2027

WALKING ON WATER

"Jesus said to winds and waves, to the troubled waters, 'Peace, be still.' Oh, how many times have we in our experience been in a similar position as were these disciples. How many times has Christ revealed Himself to us and turned our sorrow into joy. Oh, powerful Redeemer, gracious and compassionate Saviour, able with Thine infinite power to calm all tempests, able to revive all hearts. He is our Redeemer. We may trust Him in the storm as well as the sunshine."
—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 242.



SUNDAY

LET NOTHING BE LOST

1 What was the disciples' attitude even as they complied with Jesus' words to get in the boat and cross to the other side?

 **Mark 6:45** *And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.*

"They had left Jesus with dissatisfied hearts, more impatient with Him than ever before since acknowledging Him as their Lord. They murmured because they had not been permitted to proclaim Him king. They blamed themselves for yielding so readily to His command. They reasoned that if they had been more persistent they might have accomplished their purpose." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 379.



MONDAY

2 What questions did the disciples ask themselves on the way?



Matthew 28:17 *And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

"Were they always to be accounted followers of a false prophet? Would Christ never assert His authority as king? Why did not He who possessed such power reveal Himself in His true character, and make their way less painful? Why had He not saved John the Baptist from a violent death? Thus the disciples reasoned until they brought upon themselves great spiritual darkness. They questioned, Could Jesus be an impostor, as the Pharisees asserted?" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 380.



TUESDAY

3 When Jesus approached them, walking on the water, what did His disciples think He was? Why? What do Jesus' words always bring?



Mark 6:49 *But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out.*

"The One who has come for their help they count as an enemy. Terror overpowers them. The hands that have grasped the oars with muscles like iron let go their hold. The boat rocks at the will of the waves; all eyes are riveted on this vision of a man walking upon the white-capped billows of the foaming sea. They think it a phantom that omens their destruction, and they cry out for fear. Jesus advances as if He would pass them; but they recognize Him, and cry out, entreating His help. Their beloved Master turns, His voice silences their fear, 'Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 381.



WEDNESDAY

THE LOST TO BE RESCUED

4 When does the Lord act to save people?



Matthew 14:25 *And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*



Mark 6:48 *And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*

"Until the fourth watch of the night they toiled at the oars. Then the weary men gave themselves up for lost. In storm and darkness the sea had taught them their own helplessness, and they longed for the presence of their Master.

"When their hearts were subdued, their unholy ambition quelled, and in humility they prayed for help, it was given them. At the moment when they believe themselves lost, a gleam of light reveals a mysterious figure approaching them upon the water. But they know not that it is Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 380, 381.



THURSDAY

5 What was Peter's request? What made him begin to sink in the water?



Matthew 14:28 *And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

"As soon as they could credit the wondrous fact, Peter was almost beside himself with joy. As if he could scarcely yet believe, he cried out, 'Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water. And He said, Come.'

"Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high, and come directly between him and the Master; and he is afraid. For a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 381.



FRIDAY

6 What did he cry out? What was the only way that he could walk on the water?



Matthew 14:30–31 *But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. ³¹And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

"Walking side by side, Peter's hand in that of his Master, they stepped into the boat together. But Peter was now subdued and silent. He had no reason to boast over his fellows, for through unbelief and self-exaltation he had very nearly lost his life. When he turned his eyes from Jesus, his footing was lost, and he sank amid the waves. When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter! We look upon the waves, instead of keeping our eyes fixed upon the Saviour. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our souls." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 381.



SABBATH

TOTAL DEPENDENCE

7 If Jesus invites us to walk on the water, what can we be sure of? What lesson did Jesus want to teach Peter as well as us?



Matthew 14:31, first part *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him,...*



Isaiah 43:2 *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

"Jesus did not bid Peter come to Him that he should perish; He does not call us to follow Him, and then forsake us. Jesus read the character of His disciples. He knew how sorely their faith was to be tried. In this incident on the sea He desired to reveal to Peter his own weakness—to show that his safety was in constant dependence upon divine power. Amid the storms of temptation he could walk safely only as in utter

self-distrust he should rely upon the Saviour. It was on the point where he thought himself strong that Peter was weak; and not until he discerned his weakness could he realize his need of dependence upon Christ. Had he learned the lesson that Jesus sought to teach him in that experience on the sea, he would not have failed when the great test came upon him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 382.

NOTES

ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What do today's storms and waves consist of?

"Those who fail to realize their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation. We may now suppose that our feet stand secure, and that we shall never be moved. We may say with confidence, 'I know in whom I have believed; nothing can shake my faith in God and in His word.' But Satan is planning to take advantage of our hereditary and cultivated traits of character, and to blind our eyes to our own necessities and defects. Only through realizing our own weakness and looking steadfastly unto Jesus can we walk securely." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 382.

LESSON

15

Sabbath,
April 10,
2027

THE CANAANITE WOMAN'S DAUGHTER MADE WHOLE

"Here Christ meets one of an unfortunate and despised race, that has not been favored with the light of God's word; yet she yields at once to the divine influence of Christ, and has implicit faith in His ability to grant the favor she asks. She begs for the crumbs that fall from the Master's table. If she may have the privilege of a dog, she is willing to be regarded as a

dog.... This was the only miracle that Jesus wrought while on this journey. It was for the performance of this act that He went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 401–402.



SUNDAY

SEEKING A SOUL

1 What were Jesus' purposes in making the journey to the region of Phoenicia?

 **Mark 7:25–26** *For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: ²⁶The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.*

"The work before Him now was to prepare His disciples for their mission. In coming to this region He hoped to find the retirement He had failed to secure at Bethsaida. Yet this was not His only purpose in taking this journey. 'Behold, a Canaanitish woman came out from those borders, and cried, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.' Matthew 15:22, R.V. The people of this district were of the old Canaanite race. They were idolaters, and were despised and hated by the Jews." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 399.



MONDAY

2 How did the heathen woman know about Jesus? What did she decide to do?



Matthew 15:22 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

"This woman had heard of the prophet, who, it was reported, healed all manner of diseases. As she heard of His power, hope sprang up in her heart. Inspired by a mother's love, she determined to present her daughter's case to Him. It was her resolute purpose to bring her affliction to Jesus. He must heal her child. She had sought help from the heathen gods, but had obtained no relief. And at times she was tempted to think, What can this Jewish teacher do for me? But the word had come, He heals all manner of diseases, whether those who come to Him for help are rich or poor. She determined not to lose her only hope." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 399.



TUESDAY

3 Who sought whom in this account of the miracle? What was Jesus' purpose in bringing His disciples to this place?



Mark 7:24–25 *And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid. ²⁵For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet.*

"Christ knew this woman's situation. He knew that she was longing to see Him, and He placed Himself in her path. By ministering to her sorrow, He could give a living representation of the lesson He designed to teach. For this He had brought His disciples into this region. He desired them to see the ignorance existing in cities and villages close to the land of Israel. The people who had been given every opportunity to understand the truth were without a knowledge of the needs of those

around them. No effort was made to help souls in darkness. The partition wall which Jewish pride had erected, shut even the disciples from sympathy with the heathen world. But these barriers were to be broken down." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 400.



WEDNESDAY

SHE PERSEVERED

4 Why did He disregard the woman's request at first—and, apparently, treat her roughly?



Matthew 15:23 *But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.*

"But although Jesus did not reply, the woman did not lose faith. As He passed on, as if not hearing her, she followed Him, continuing her supplications. Annoyed by her importunities, the disciples asked Jesus to send her away. They saw that their Master treated her with indifference, and they therefore supposed that the prejudice of the Jews against the Canaanites was pleasing to Him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 400.



THURSDAY

5 What did the Syrophenician woman see in these words of Jesus?



Matthew 15:26 *But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.*

"This was virtually asserting that it was not just to lavish the blessings brought to the favored people of God upon strangers and aliens from Israel. This answer would have utterly discouraged a less earnest seeker. But the woman saw that her opportunity had come. Beneath the apparent refusal of Jesus, she saw a compassion that He could not

hide. 'Truth, Lord,' she answered, 'yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' While the children of the household eat at the father's table, even the dogs are not left unfed. They have a right to the crumbs that fall from the table abundantly supplied. So while there were many blessings given to Israel, was there not also a blessing for her? She was looked upon as a dog, and had she not then a dog's claim to a crumb from His bounty?" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 401.



FRIDAY

6 What did the following words of Jesus mean?



Matthew 15:24–25 *But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ²⁵Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.*

"When He said, 'I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel,' He stated the truth, and in His work for the Canaanite woman He was fulfilling His commission. This woman was one of the lost sheep that Israel should have rescued. It was their appointed work, the work which they had neglected, that Christ was doing." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 402.



SABBATH

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

7 What type of barriers prevent God's people from doing a good work for the Master?



Mark 7:29–30 *And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter. ³⁰And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.*

"Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men. Christ and His mission have been misrepresented, and multitudes feel that they are virtually shut away from the

ministry of the gospel. But let them not feel that they are shut away from Christ. There are no barriers which man or Satan can erect but that faith can penetrate." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 403.

"The gifts of His grace through Christ are free to all. There is no election but one's own by which any may perish.... Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The provisions of redemption are free to all; the results of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions."—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 71.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What other dangerous barriers to the barriers are there?

"This act opened the minds of the disciples more fully to the labor that lay before them among the Gentiles. They saw a wide field of usefulness outside of Judea. They saw souls bearing sorrows unknown to those more highly favored. Among those whom they had been taught to despise were souls longing for help from the mighty Healer, hungering for the light of truth, which had been so abundantly given to the Jews." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 402.

LESSON

16

Sabbath,
April 17,
2027

THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISH

"And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets." Luke 5:2.

"Long had the fishermen toiled that night; often had they been disappointed in their expectations, as time and again the net was drawn up empty. When the Divine Presence was with them, and they, at His bidding, once

more cast their net into the sea, what an abundance they gathered in! They were unprepared to handle so large a draught.... However long and faithfully we may toil in our human strength, we can hope for no real results; but as soon as we welcome Christ into the heart, He will work with and through us, to the salvation of souls." —*Manuscript 67, 1903.*



SUNDAY

TWO WAYS TO SEE THE MIRACLE

1 The other disciples considered this miracle a great economic blessing for the day, but what was Peter's experience?

 **Luke 5:8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

 **Isaiah 6:5** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

"But Peter was unmindful now of boats or lading. This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, was to him a manifestation of divine power. In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. The

presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness. Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of infinite purity, overwhelmed him. While his companions were securing the contents of the net, Peter fell at the Saviour's feet, exclaiming, 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 246.



MONDAY

2 Given Peter's submission and acknowledgment, what responsibility did the Master entrust to him from then on?



Luke 5:10, last part, 11 ... And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. "And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

"Peter exclaimed, 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man;' yet he clung to the feet of Jesus, feeling that he could not be parted from Him. The Saviour answered, 'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' It was after Isaiah had beheld the holiness of God and his own unworthiness that he was entrusted with the divine message. It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and dependence upon divine power that he received the call to his work for Christ." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 246.



TUESDAY

GIVING ALL TO THE MASTER

3 What reward will be given to one who, even in the midst of great material prosperity, devotes what he has to the Master's service?



Luke 5:6–7 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

"Before asking them to leave their nets and fishing boats, Jesus had given them the assurance that God would supply their needs. The use of Peter's boat for the work of the gospel had been richly repaid. He who is 'rich unto all that call upon Him,' has said, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.' Romans 10:12; Luke 6:38. In this measure He had rewarded the disciple's service. And every sacrifice that is made in His ministry will be recompensed according to 'the exceeding riches of His grace.' Ephesians 3:20; 2:7." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 249.



WEDNESDAY

4 What sad experience does one make when he works apart from Christ?



Luke 5:5, first part *And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing....*



John 15:5, last part ... *For without me ye can do nothing.*

"During that sad night on the lake, when they were separated from Christ, the disciples were pressed hard by unbelief, and weary with fruitless toil. But His presence kindled their faith, and brought them joy and success. So it is with us; apart from Christ, our work is fruitless, and it is easy to distrust and murmur. But when He is near, and we labor under His direction, we rejoice in the evidence of His power. It is Satan's work to discourage the soul; it is Christ's work to inspire with faith and hope." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 249.



THURSDAY

A BOAT FOR JESUS

5 To whom does the Master say today, "Launch out into the deep"? What will be the result when one obeys this command?



Luke 5:4 *Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.*



Matthew 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

"No special work for God can be accomplished until self and selfishness are overcome. To many everything connected with themselves is of great importance. Self is a center, around which everything seems to revolve. Were Christ on the earth now, He would say to such, 'Launch out into the deep.' Be not so self-caring. There are thousands whose lives are just as precious as yours. Then why do you wrap your coat about you, and hug the shore? Awake to duty and to usefulness! If you will launch out into the deep and let down your nets, the Master will gather in the fishes, and you will see of the mighty working of God." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 326.



FRIDAY

6 What is your boat that should be lent to the Master today?



Luke 5:3; 14:33 *And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship....^{14:33} So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

"Jesus asks the use of Simon's boat. Although weary with his toil and disappointment, Simon cheerfully complies with the request of Christ. The unpretentious fishing boat is made the pulpit from which come forth the words of Christ. Surely the little craft of Simon's was never so honored as on this occasion. It had never been put to so profitable use by its owner. Jesus proclaims Bible truth; He speaks words of eternal life. The truths spoken in that sermon ... [have gone] all over the world, and accomplished a work that eternity alone will reveal." —*The Upward Look*, p. 288.



SABBATH

COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

7 What should our obedience to the Master be like? What will be the result?



Luke 5:5, last part ... *Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.*

"This was true obedience. Here is an instance of implicit trust in the words of Christ, in spite of an objectionable past experience. Our first lesson is to learn the will of God, even though we pass through trying circumstances, and then, knowing His will, to obey unquestioningly. Such obedience will always be rewarded." —*The Upward Look*, p. 288.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- When can your boat be filled?

"Everyone who in living faith follows Jesus, with an eye single to His glory, will see the salvation of God just as surely as these discouraged, despondent fishermen saw their boats filled by the miraculous draught. It was because Christ was in the ship that they were successful in their efforts to catch fish. The indwelling presence of the Saviour is equally necessary in the work of winning souls." —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 237.

LESSON

17

Sabbath,
April 24,
2027

Please read the Missionary Report from
Estonian Field
on page 94

THE BLIND MAN'S SIGHT RESTORED

"A man who is spiritually blind is easily led by those who improve every favorable opportunity to advance theories and conjectures regarding God. The one deceived by Satan imparts to a fellow being the new light that he supposes he has received, as Eve placed the forbidden fruit in the hand of Adam. Unenlightened heathen are in no worse condition spiritually than is the man who has known the truth but has accepted error...." —*Medical Ministry*, p. 93.



SUNDAY

1 What did the Master once say about Bethsaida? Why?



Matthew 11:21 *Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*

"Then began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not: ...'But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you'." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 265.



MONDAY

A DIFFERENT MIRACLE

2 What other miracle of Jesus is recorded as taking place in Bethsaida?



Mark 8:22 *And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.*

"Do not be blind to the higher interests of the soul, to the blessed and glorious prospects for the better life. The anxious, burdened seekers for worldly gain are blind and insane. They turn from the immortal, imperishable treasure, to this world. The glitter and tinsel of this world captivate their senses, and eternal things are not valued." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 250.



TUESDAY

3 Why did Jesus take the blind man outside the town? What call is for God's people today?



Mark 8:23 *And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands*

upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.



Revelation 18:4 *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*



2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

"All heaven is interested in the salvation of man, and is ready to pour upon him her beneficent gifts, if he will comply with the conditions Christ has made: 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean.' 2 Corinthians 6:17." —*Counsels on Health*, p. 288.



WEDNESDAY

THREE WAYS TO SEE

4 Through what three stages did the blind man pass as he regained his vision? How do these relate to the conditions in the end-time church?



Mark 8:23, first part, 24–25 *And he took the blind man by the hand....*

²⁴*And he looked up, and said, I see*

men as trees, walking. ²⁵After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.



Revelation 3:15–17, last part *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷... And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*

"Yet despite the insult which man has offered Him, God's love is still extended to the race; and He permits light to shine, enabling man to see that in order to live a perfect life he must obey the natural laws which govern his being. How important, then, that man should walk in this light, exercising all his powers, both of body and mind, to the glory of God!" —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 118.



THURSDAY

5 How dangerous is it if one's vision is blurred, as was the situation for the blind man of Bethsaida?



Mark 8:24 *And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.*



Revelation 3:16 *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

"Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not. If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 76.

"David had been blinded to his wonderful departure from God. He had excused his own sinful course to himself until his ways seemed possible in his own eyes. One wrong step had prepared the way for another, until his sins called for the rebuke from Jehovah through Nathan. David awakens as from a dream. He feels the sense of his sin. He does not seek to excuse his course, or palliate his sin, as did Saul; but with remorse and sincere grief, he bows his head before the prophet of God, and acknowledges his guilt." —*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, p. 93.



FRIDAY

THE REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

6 What does the Lord desire for man's vision? What has He provided?



Mark 8:25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and

made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.



Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

"Jesus wants man to see not men as trees walking but all things clearly. There is only one remedy for the sinful soul, and unless it is received, men will accept one delusion after another until their senses are perverted." —*Evangelism*, p. 593.



SABBATH

7 Why is it so important to have clear vision?



Matthew 6:22–23 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

"'But if thine eye be evil,' if you study selfish purposes, and work only to that end, the whole character is defective, the whole body is full of darkness. Such do not look to Jesus. They do not behold His character, and they are not changed into His image. The spiritual vision is defective, and the way from earth to heaven is darkened by the hellish shadow of Satan. So Satan is pleased to have it, for he can lead that person blindfolded to ruin." —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 64.

"As a student, you must learn to see with your brain as well as your eyes. You must educate your judgment so that it shall not be feeble and inefficient. You must pray for guidance, and commit your way unto the Lord. You must close your heart against all foolishness and sin, and open it to every heavenly influence." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 302.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- How is your spiritual eyesight?

"May the God of all grace so enlighten your understanding that you may discern eternal things, that by the light of truth your own errors, which are many, may be discovered to you just as they are, that you may make the necessary effort to put them away, and in the place of this evil, bitter fruit may bring forth fruit which is precious unto eternal life." —*Our Father Cares*, p. 315.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM ESTONIAN FIELD

To be read on Sabbath, April 24, 2027

The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, May 1, 2027

Dear brethren around the world!

The church in Estonia welcomes you with the words of 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Although Estonia is a small European country, the IMS SDA Reform Movement has a rich, difficult, and notable history here. Located between Russia and the countries of western Europe, this Baltic country with a population of just under 1.4 million people has repeatedly found itself between the millstones of their conflicts, especially in the twentieth century.

In 1918, during World War I, a large group of believers, about 300 people, were disfellowshipped from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because they disagreed with the church's sending the believers' tithes and offerings to the government for the military. Among them was an active preacher, Brother Conrad Hahn, whose life and activity continued for about two more years.

In 1921, the disfellowshipped believers established contact with other excluded groups of Adventists all over Europe; and in 1922, they were accepted as members in the newly organized International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement. At that time, the Estonian Field had 13 local churches and groups throughout the country and 9 Bible workers. On the same occasion, two young, energetic brothers, Wilhelm Korpman and August Holmström, were ordained as ministers.

Under their leadership, the church in Estonia carried out active missionary work in the 1920s and 1930s, as a result of which its number grew to about 500 people (about 200 of them lived in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia) and churches of the Reform Movement were formed in neighboring Latvia and Finland.

Then came a very difficult time of great upheaval: World War II, Estonia's loss of independence, and the arrival of the Nazi and then

Communist regimes. Some church members emigrated abroad; and many were persecuted, imprisoned, or exiled to Siberia. Some suffered and even died in the attempt to avoid being forced into the military. The church's activities were banned. For about 30 years, the remaining believers were cut off from contact with their brethren in other parts of the world. The membership of the church decreased significantly. Nevertheless, God preserved a remnant; the believers still continued to meet secretly in each other's homes and apartments. God also provided a way for them to receive Sabbath School Lessons from abroad, which they translated and copied by hand.

Then, by the grace of God, the pressure of the state regime began to ease. In the 1970s, the brethren from abroad and from Ukraine began to cautiously visit Estonia. In 1991, the country regained its independence, and the way for missionary work to be done was again opened.

In 1992, Elder Henry Dering visited Estonia and presented a series of public meetings. Thus began the revival of the church. It was officially registered again, and new members were baptized. At the beginning of this period, Elders Tzvetan Petkov, Vladimir Marinov, and Joseph Manov worked here in turn, and other brethren visited as well.

For many years, the number of church members remained at about 20 people, but now it has decreased a little. In 1993, God in His grace inspired a sister from Canada, Leila McTavish (of Finnish descent), to give us funds to purchase a house for worship in Tallinn; this was a great blessing for the development of the church. Public meetings, including those devoted to health, as well as meetings with interested souls, have been held in this place. From here, church members went on missionary visits to different parts of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; they also went out to sell spiritual literature. And, of course, this is where the Sabbath services and other meetings and gatherings have been held ever since.

After purchasing this house, we carried out reconstruction and renovation in 1994 to create a beautiful house of prayer. Over the next 30 years, routine maintenance continued, but there were no major renovations. Therefore, the house has deteriorated. Much of the structure needs major repairs, the plumbing and heating have failed repeatedly, and the premises do not look nice enough to invite new people. Therefore, we have undertaken major remodeling in the hope that the building will truly serve for the glory of God and the growth of the church for many years and be attractive and neat at all times. With God's and your help, we will be able to do this and not be embarrassed to in-

vite guests for public worship services, seminars, and courses so that more people may come to God.

We have been collecting money for this renovation for many years, but it is still not enough. In addition, construction materials have become much more expensive. Therefore, we ask you please to give with all your hearts for the reconstruction of the building.

We thank God for all the work that has been done on this house and pray that He will help us to continue to work for Him despite the difficult times. We thank you in advance for your concern for God's work in Estonia and the Baltics; and we thank God, who inspires the hearts of the believers to be generous.

We want to encourage you with Romans 12:10–13: "Be ... not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints...."

May God richly bless the gifts and the givers.

—*Emanuil Dimitrov*
Estonian Field Leader

LESSON

18

Sabbath,
May 1,
2027

Special Sabbath School Offering for
ESTONIAN FIELD

Let your offerings reflect the heavenly blessings that you have received!

THE POSSESSED SON RESTORED

"In a brief space of time the favored disciples have beheld the extreme of glory and of humiliation. They have seen humanity as transfigured into the image of God, and as debased into the likeness of Satan. From the mountain where He has talked with the heavenly messengers, and has been proclaimed the Son of God by the voice from the radiant glory, they

have seen Jesus descend to meet that most distressing and revolting spectacle, the maniac boy, with distorted countenance, gnashing his teeth in spasms of agony that no human power could relieve. And this mighty Redeemer, who but a few hours before stood glorified before His wondering disciples, stoops to lift the victim of Satan from the earth where he is wallowing, and in health of mind and body restores him to his father and his home." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 429.



SUNDAY

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE VALLEY

1 What should we do after having a "mountaintop" experience with Jesus?

 **Luke 9:37** *And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.*

"Jesus and the three disciples were seen approaching, and with a quick revulsion of feeling the people turned to meet them. The night of communion with the heavenly glory had left its trace upon the Saviour and His companions. Upon their countenances was a light that awed the beholders. The scribes drew back in fear, while the people welcomed Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 429, 427.



MONDAY

2 What spirit is more dangerous than the one that tormented the man's son?



Mark 9:16–18 *And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them? ¹⁷And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; ¹⁸And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.*

"The disciples, unable to account for their defeat, felt that they were bringing dishonor upon themselves and their Master. And in the crowd there were scribes who made the most of this opportunity to humiliate them. Pressing around the disciples, they plied them with questions, seeking to prove that they and their Master were deceivers. Here, the rabbi triumphantly declared, was an evil spirit that neither the disciples nor Christ Himself could conquer. The people were inclined to side with the scribes, and a feeling of contempt and scorn pervaded the crowd." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 427.



TUESDAY

JESUS' QUESTION

3 What did Jesus ask the scribes? Why?



Mark 9:16 *And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?*

"As if He had been a witness of all that had occurred, the Saviour came to the scene of conflict, and fixing His gaze upon the scribes inquired, 'What question ye with them?' But the voices so bold and defiant before were now silent. A hush had fallen upon the entire company." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 427.



WEDNESDAY

4 Why did the Master make a declaration about the multitude and ask questions before performing the miracle to heal the boy? What had happened to the disciples' faith?



Mark 9:19 *He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.*

"When Jesus sent out the twelve to preach through Galilee. As they went forth strong in faith, the evil spirits had obeyed their word.... Jesus looked about Him upon the awe-stricken multitude, the caviling scribes, the perplexed disciples. He read the unbelief in every heart; and in a voice filled with sorrow He exclaimed, 'O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?' Then He bade the distressed father, 'Bring thy son hither.'

"Their unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ, and the carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 427-429.



THURSDAY

5 Why did Jesus ask the father for how long the boy had suffered under the terrible affliction?



Mark 9:21 *And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.*



1 Peter 5:7 *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

"The multitude looked on with bated breath, the father in an agony of hope and fear. Jesus asked, 'How long is it ago since this came unto him?' The father told the story of long years of suffering, and then, as if he could endure no more, exclaimed, 'If Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.' 'If Thou canst!' Even now the father questioned the power of Christ." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 428.



FRIDAY

"IF YOU CAN" VS. "IF YOU BELIEVE"

6 What were the father's request and the Master's response? On what did the boy's relief depend?



Mark 9:22–23 *And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him; but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.* ²³Jesus said unto him, *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

"...There is no lack of power on the part of Christ; the healing of the son depends upon the father's faith. With a burst of tears, realizing his own weakness, the father casts himself upon Christ's mercy, with the cry, 'Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 428.



SABBATH

7 What is the only way to resist and overcome every temptation and sinful trait?



Mark 9:23–24 *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.* ²⁴*And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

"In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, 'Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.' John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, 'Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.' You can never perish while you do this—never." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 429.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What prevents Jesus from performing miracles in your life?

"In order to succeed in such a conflict they must come to the work in a different spirit. Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 431.

LESSON

19

Sabbath,
May 8,
2027

SIGHT GIVEN TO THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

"The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ's disciples. While Jesus corrected their error, He did not explain the cause of the man's affliction, but told them what would be the result. Because of it the works of God would be made manifest. 'As long as I am in the world,' He said, 'I am the light of the world.' Then having

anointed the eyes of the blind man, He sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam, and the man's sight was restored. Thus Jesus answered the question of the disciples in a practical way, as He usually answered questions put to Him from curiosity." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 471.



SUNDAY

THE AUTHOR OF SUFFERING

1 What question did the disciples ask Jesus, and what did He answer concerning the man who was born blind?

 **John 9:1–3** *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. ²And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? ³Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

"It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become

perverted. Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 471.



MONDAY

2 Where does human suffering come from?



Job 2:6–7 *And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. ⁷So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*

“God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 471.



TUESDAY

HEALING VIRTUE

3 What did the divine Physician use to heal the blind man? What lesson was in this?



John 9:6–7 *When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, ⁷And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*

“The disciples were not called upon to discuss the question as to who had sinned or had not sinned, but to understand the power and mercy of God in giving sight to the blind. It was evident that there was no healing virtue in the clay, or in the pool wherein the blind man was sent to wash, but that the virtue was in Christ.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 471.



WEDNESDAY

THE ENEMY'S PLAN

4 The man's parents knew who had performed the miracle. Why did they not answer all of the Pharisees' questions?

 **John 9:22–23** *These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him*

"During this time no child could be circumcised nor dead be lamented in the offender's home. The sentence was regarded as a great calamity; and if it failed to produce repentance, a far heavier penalty followed. The great work wrought for their son had brought conviction to the parents, yet they answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: but by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.' Thus they shifted all responsibility from themselves to their son; for they dared not confess Christ." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 472.



THURSDAY

5 About what is it impossible to keep silent? What did the Pharisees want to do with the blind man whom Jesus healed?

said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

²⁵*He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. ²⁶Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?*

²⁷*He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?*

 **John 9:24–27** *Then again called they the man that was blind, and*

"The Pharisees saw that they were giving publicity to the work done by Jesus. They could not deny the miracle. The blind man was filled with joy and gratitude; he beheld the wondrous things of nature, and was

filled with delight at the beauty of earth and sky. He freely related his experience, and again they tried to silence him, saying, 'Give God the praise: we know that this Man is a sinner.' That is, Do not say again that this Man gave you sight; it is God who has done this." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 473.



FRIDAY

6 What continues to be Satan's purpose today? How should one respond to his subtleties and attacks?



John 9:30–34 *The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet*

he hath opened mine eyes. ³¹Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. ³²Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. ³³If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. ³⁴They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

"Then they questioned again, 'What did He to thee? how opened He thine eyes?' With many words they tried to confuse him, so that he might think himself deluded. Satan and his evil angels were on the side of the Pharisees, and united their energies and subtlety with man's reasoning in order to counteract the influence of Christ. They blunted the convictions that were deepening in many minds. Angels of God were also on the ground to strengthen the man who had had his sight restored." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 473.



SABBATH

THE MOST DANGEROUS BLINDNESS

7 What is the worst kind of blindness, and how difficult is it to cure?



John 9:39–41 *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. ⁴⁰And some of the Pharisees which were*

with him heard these words, and
said unto him, Are we blind also?
“Jesus said unto them, If ye were

blind, ye should have no sin: but
now ye say, We see; therefore your
sin remaineth.

“The manifestation of divine power that had given to the blind man both natural and spiritual sight had left the Pharisees in yet deeper darkness. Some of His hearers, feeling that Christ’s words applied to them, inquired, ‘Are we blind also?’ Jesus answered, ‘If ye were blind, ye should have no sin.’ If God had made it impossible for you to see the truth, your ignorance would involve no guilt. ‘But now ye say, We see.’ You believe yourselves able to see, and reject the means through which alone you could receive sight. To all who realized their need, Christ came with infinite help. But the Pharisees would confess no need; they refused to come to Christ, and hence they were left in blindness—a blindness for which they were themselves guilty. Jesus said, ‘Your sin remaineth.’” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 475.



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What must one be sure of in the face of intimidation?

“As these hypocrites tried to make him disbelieve, God helped him to show, by the vigor and pointedness of his replies, that he was not to be ensnared. He answered, ‘I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be His disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is.’ The Lord Jesus knew the ordeal through which the man was passing, and He gave him grace and utterance, so that he became a witness for Christ. He answered the Pharisees in words that were a cutting rebuke to his questioners.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 474.

LESSON

20

Sabbath,
May 15,
2027

A WOMAN'S DEFORMED BACK STRAIGHTENED

"The compassionate heart of Christ was touched at the sight of this suffering woman, and we should suppose that every human being who looked upon her would have rejoiced that she was loosed from her bondage, and healed of an affliction that had bowed her

down for eighteen years. But Jesus perceived by the lowering, angry countenances of the priests and rabbis that they felt no joy at her deliverance. They were not ready to utter thankful words because one who had been suffering and deformed by disease was restored to health and symmetry. They felt no gratitude that her deformed body was made comely, and that the Holy Spirit made glad her heart till it overflowed with thankfulness, and she glorified God." —*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 148.



SUNDAY

1 What does sin do to a human being? What was impossible for the woman whose back was bent?

 **Luke 13:11** *And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was*

bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.



Isaiah 40:26, first part *Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things....*



Hebrews 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

"Sin defaced and almost obliterated the divine image; but Christ came to restore that which had been lost. He will change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 644.



MONDAY

RESTORATIVE POWER

2 What three things did Jesus do in freeing her of her infirmity?



Luke 13:12–13 *And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. ¹³And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

"Says the True Witness: 'I know thy works.' The motives, the purposes, the unbelief, the suspicions and jealousies may be hid from men, but not from Christ.... 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.'" —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 256.



TUESDAY

3 How does the enemy react when the Lord frees a person from bondage?



Luke 13:14 *And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.*

"The psalmist says, 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.' But in the midst of the words of gratitude is heard a discordant note. 'And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day.' He was indignant that Christ had caused an unhappy woman to sound a note of joy upon the Sabbath. In a loud voice, harsh with passion, he said to the people, 'There are six days in which men ought to work; in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.'" —*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 148.



WEDNESDAY

4 To what did Jesus compare a person who is trapped by the enemy?

"Christ has done all for us because we were helpless; we were bound in chains of darkness, sin, and despair, and could therefore do nothing for ourselves. It is through the exercise of faith, hope, and love that we come nearer and nearer to the standard of perfect holiness.... The soul is of infinite value. Its worth can be estimated only by the price paid to ransom it. Calvary! Calvary! Calvary! will explain the true value of the soul." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 187.



Luke 13:15–16 *The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*



THURSDAY

5 To the Lord, what is every person? What is significant about this privilege?



Luke 13:16 *And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*



John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*



Galatians 3:7–10 *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. ⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. ⁹So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. ¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*



FRIDAY

RESULT OF COMMUNION WITH CHRIST

6 Despite her situation, what spiritual relationship did the bent-over woman maintain? What was her first reaction to the divine touch?



Luke 13:10–11, 13 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.... ¹³And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

"Our spiritual life must be daily revived by the stream that makes glad the city of our God. We must be always on the watch for opportunities to use for God the talents He has given us....

"Union with Christ and with one another is our only safety in these last days. Let us not make it possible for Satan to point to our church members, saying: 'Behold how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another. We have nothing to fear from them while they spend more strength fighting one another than in warfare with my forces.'" —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 27, 240.



SABBATH

7 What huge difference is there between God's faithful children and those who oppose them?



Luke 13:17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

"The work that Christ had done was in harmony with the sanctification of the Sabbath day. The people on this side and that side wondered and were glad at the work that had been wrought for the suffering woman; and there were those whose hearts were touched, whose minds were enlightened, who would have acknowledged themselves the disciples

of Christ, had it not been for the lowering, angry countenances of the rabbis." —*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 148.

"Heaven is to be reflected in the character of the Christian. The song of gratitude and praise is to be heard by those in darkness." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 30.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- List other disastrous results of sin.
- What do you think is the most dangerous obstacle that blocks you from looking up?

"God is the life-giver. From the beginning all His laws were ordained to life. But sin broke in upon the order that God had established, and discord followed. So long as sin exists, suffering and death are inevitable. It is only because the Redeemer has borne the curse of sin in our behalf that man can hope to escape, in his own person, its dire results." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 522.

LESSON

21

Sabbath,
May 22,
2027

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6.

"The ruler's house was not far distant, but Jesus and His companions advanced slowly, for the crowd pressed Him on every side. The anxious father was impatient of delay; but Je-

sus, pitying the people, stopped now and then to relieve some suffering one, or to comfort a troubled heart." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 342.



SUNDAY

OPENLY SEEKING JESUS

1 Where was the Master when the ruler of the synagogue spoke to Him?

 **Mark 5:21** *And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.*

"Returning from Gergesa to the western shore, Jesus found a multitude gathered to receive Him, and they greeted Him with joy. He remained by the seaside for a time, teaching and healing, and then repaired to the house of Levi-Matthew to meet the publicans at the feast. Here Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, found Him." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 342.



MONDAY

2 What did he plead with Jesus to do?



Luke 8:40–42 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him:

for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: ⁴²For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying.

"This elder of the Jews came to Jesus in great distress, and cast himself at His feet, exclaiming, 'My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray Thee, come and lay Thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 342.



TUESDAY

DO NOT BE AFRAID

3 It took time to go to the ruler's home. What tragic information was brought to him?



Luke 8:49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

"While they were still on the way, a messenger pressed through the crowd, bearing to Jairus the news that his daughter was dead, and it was useless to trouble the Master further. The word caught the ear of Jesus. 'Fear not,' He said; 'believe only, and she shall be made whole.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 342.



WEDNESDAY

4 Should delay or adversity make a person stop praying to Jesus? Rather, what should be done?



Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

 **Mark 5:36** *As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.*

"Jairus pressed closer to the Saviour, and together they hurried to the ruler's home." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.

"When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 133.

THURSDAY

AT JAIRUS' HOUSE

5 Jesus asked everyone to leave. Who stayed with the Master, and why?

John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

 **Mark 5:38–39** *And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. ³⁹And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.*

 **Luke 8:51** *And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and*

"Already the hired mourners and flute players were there, filling the air with their clamor. The presence of the crowd, and the tumult jarred upon the spirit of Jesus. He tried to silence them, saying, 'Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.' They were indignant at the words of the Stranger. They had seen the child in the embrace of death, and they laughed Him to scorn. Requiring them all to leave the house, Jesus took with Him the father and mother of the maiden, and the three disciples, Peter, James, and John, and together they entered the chamber of death." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.



FRIDAY

6 In what special way did Jesus perform this great miracle?



Luke 8:54–56 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. ⁵⁵And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. ⁵⁶And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

"Jesus approached the bedside, and, taking the child's hand in His own, He pronounced softly, in the familiar language of her home, the words, 'Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.' Instantly a tremor passed through the unconscious form. The pulses of life beat again. The lips unclosed with a smile. The eyes opened widely as if from sleep, and the maiden gazed with wonder on the group beside her. She arose, and her parents clasped her in their arms, and wept for joy." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 343.



SABBATH

AT JAIRUS' HOUSE

7 Jairus did not go to Jesus by night or in secret. And even though he was told, "*Trouble not the Master,*" what resulted from his faith and perseverance? What should this cause God's people to do?



Mark 5:24, 42–43 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.... ⁴²And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. ⁴³And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.



Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

"True success in any line of work is not the result of chance or accident or destiny. It is the outworking of God's providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance. Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 486.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- Mention other examples of perseverance.
- What is real faith?

"Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

LESSON

22

Sabbath,
May 29,
2027

LAZARUS' RESURRECTION

"Among the most steadfast of Christ's disciples was Lazarus of Bethany. From their first meeting his faith in Christ had been strong; his love for Him was deep, and he was greatly beloved by the Saviour. It was for Lazarus that the greatest of Christ's miracles was performed.... At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest. The Saviour had no home of

His own; He was dependent on the hospitality of His friends and disciples; and often, when weary, thirsting for human fellowship, He had been glad to escape to this peaceful household, away from the suspicion and jealousy of the angry Pharisees. Here He found a sincere welcome, a pure, holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 524.



SUNDAY

THE DELAY—A MYSTERY

1 Since Lazarus was His friend, what questions arose in the minds of the family and Jesus' disciples when He did not go quickly to see Lazarus?



John 11:5–6 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

"This delay was a mystery to the disciples. What a comfort His presence would be to the afflicted household! they thought. His strong af-

fection for the family at Bethany was well known to the disciples, and they were surprised that He did not respond to the sad message, 'He whom Thou lovest is sick.'... During the two days Christ seemed to have dismissed the message from His mind; for He did not speak of Lazarus.... The Saviour had warned His disciples of trials, losses, and persecution. Would He forsake them in trial? Some questioned if they had mistaken His mission. All were deeply troubled." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 526.



MONDAY

2 Why did the Master ask, "Are there not twelve hours in the day?"?



John 11:9–10 *Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. ¹⁰But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.*

"After waiting for two days, Jesus said to the disciples, 'Let us go into Judea again.' The disciples questioned why, if Jesus were going to Judea, He had waited two days. But anxiety for Christ and for themselves was now uppermost in their minds. They could see nothing but danger in the course He was about to pursue. 'Master,' they said, 'the Jews of late sought to stone Thee; and goest Thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day?' I am under the guidance of My Father; as long as I do His will, My life is safe. My twelve hours of day are not yet ended. I have entered upon the last remnant of My day; but while any of this remains, I am safe.... He who walks in a path of his own choosing, where God has not called him, will stumble. For him day is turned into night, and wherever he may be, he is not secure." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 526–527.



TUESDAY

HE NEVER FORGETS HIS PEOPLE

3 Does the Lord forget or ignore His children who are in need?



John 11:7 *Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judea again.*

 **Isaiah 49:15** *Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

"In the thought of the peril their Master was about to incur by going to Jerusalem, the disciples had almost forgotten the bereaved family at Bethany. But not so Christ. The disciples felt rebuked. They had been disappointed because Christ did not respond more promptly to the message. They had been tempted to think that He had not the tender love for Lazarus and his sisters that they had thought He had, or He would have hastened back with the messenger. But the words, 'Our friend Lazarus sleepeth,' awakened right feelings in their minds. They were convinced that Christ had not forgotten His suffering friends."
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 527.



WEDNESDAY

4 Why did Jesus permit Lazarus to die and then come back to life after being buried for four days?

 **John 11:17** *Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.*

"But Christ had not only the loved ones at Bethany to think of; He had the training of His disciples to consider. They were to be His representatives to the world, that the Father's blessing might embrace all. For their sake He permitted Lazarus to die. Had He restored him from illness to health, the miracle that is the most positive evidence of His divine character, would not have been performed....He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that as they looked on the dead face of their brother their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. But He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing their faith would shine forth with far greater power. He suffered every pang of sorrow that they endured. He loved them no less because He tarried; but He knew that for them, for Lazarus, for Himself, and for His disciples, a victory was to be gained." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 528.



THURSDAY

5 What other lesson about mercy did the Master want to give by delaying His arrival in Bethany?

 **John 11:4** *When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*

"In delaying to come to Lazarus, Christ had a purpose of mercy toward those who had not received Him. He tarried, that by raising Lazarus from the dead He might give to His stubborn, unbelieving people another evidence that He was indeed 'the resurrection, and the life.'... This was to be an evidence that the priests could not misinterpret. This was the reason of His delay in going to Bethany. This crowning miracle, the raising of Lazarus, was to set the seal of God on His work and on His claim to divinity....

"Every eye is fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is bent to catch the slightest sound. With intense and painful interest all wait for the test of Christ's divinity, the evidence that is to substantiate His claim to be the Son of God, or to extinguish the hope forever." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 529, 536.



FRIDAY

6 Since Jesus knew that He was going to raise Lazarus, why did He weep? Why does He still weep today?

 **John 11:35** *Jesus wept.*

 **Luke 19:41** *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.*

"Though He was the Son of God, yet He had taken human nature upon Him, and He was moved by human sorrow. His tender, pitying heart is ever awakened to sympathy by suffering. He weeps with those that weep, and rejoices with those that rejoice.... Christ did not weep for Lazarus; for He was about to call him from the grave. He wept because

many of those now mourning for Lazarus would soon plan the death of Him who was the resurrection and the life." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 533.

"Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the guilt and obstinacy of His chosen people. He weeps also over the hardheartedness of those who, professing to be co-workers with Him, are content to do nothing." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 32.



SABBATH

WORKING WITH JESUS

7 What important principle did Jesus convey when He said, "Take ye away the stone," and "Loose him, and let him go"?

 **John 11:39, 44** Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days...
"And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

"'Take ye away the stone.' Christ could have commanded the stone to remove, and it would have obeyed His voice. He could have bidden the angels who were close by His side to do this. At His bidding, invisible hands would have removed the stone. But it was to be taken away by human hands. Thus Christ would show that humanity is to cooperate with divinity. What human power can do divine power is not summoned to do. God does not dispense with man's aid. He strengthens him, cooperating with him as he uses the powers and capabilities given him....

"His movements are impeded by the graveclothes in which he was laid away, and Christ says to the astonished spectators, 'Loose him, and let him go.' Again they are shown that the human worker is to cooperate with God. Humanity is to work for humanity." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 535–536.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- In what way are the blessings of the fourth day received today?

"When the Lord is about to do a work, Satan moves upon someone to object. 'Take ye away the stone,' Christ said. As far as possible, prepare the way for My work. But Martha's positive and ambitious nature asserted itself. She was unwilling that the decomposing body should be brought to view. The human heart is slow to understand Christ's words, and Martha's faith had not grasped the true meaning of His promise." — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 535.

LESSON

23

Sabbath,
June 5,
2027

TEN LEPERS CLEANSED

"Let us then remember the lovingkindness of the Lord, and the multitude of His tender mercies. Like the people of Israel, let us set up our stones of witness, and inscribe upon them the precious story of what God has wrought for us. And as we review His dealings with us in our pilgrimage, let us, out of hearts melted with gratitude, declare, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.' Psalm 116:12–14." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 348.



SUNDAY

1 What similarity is there between the conditions in the world today and those in the time of the ten lepers?



Luke 17:12 *And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off.*



Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

"Here is a lesson for us all. These lepers were so corrupted by disease that they had been restricted from society lest they should contaminate others. Their limits had been prescribed by the authorities. Jesus comes within their sight, and in their great suffering they cry unto Him who alone has power to relieve them." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 179.

"By the ritual law the leper was pronounced unclean. Whatever he touched was unclean. The air was polluted by his breath. Like one already dead, he was shut out from the habitations of men. One who was suspected of having the disease must present himself to the priests, who were to examine and decide his case. If pronounced a leper, he was isolated from his family, cut off from the congregation of Israel, and doomed to associate with those only who were similarly afflicted. Even kings and rulers were not exempt. A monarch attacked by this terrible disease must yield up the scepter and flee from society." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 67.



MONDAY

FAITH TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY

2 The Master told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests, even though they were not yet healed. At what point did the miracle take place, and what was the significance of this?

 **Luke 17:14** *And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.*

"Jesus bids them show themselves to the priests. They have faith to start on their way, believing in the power of Christ to heal them. As they go on their way they realize that the horrible disease has left them." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 179.



TUESDAY

3 What does the Lord expect of those who receive His blessings?

 **Luke 17:15–16** *And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.*

"When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, whatever the outcome of the case, let us not lose faith in God. If we are called upon to

meet bereavement, let us accept the bitter cup, remembering that a Father's hand holds it to our lips. But should health be restored, it should not be forgotten that the recipient of healing mercy is placed under renewed obligation to the Creator. When the ten lepers were cleansed, only one returned to find Jesus and give Him glory. Let none of us be like the unthinking nine, whose hearts were untouched by the mercy of God. 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.' James 1:17." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 233.



WEDNESDAY

4 What blessings are given to others when a person lives a life of gratitude to God?



Luke 17:17-18 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? ¹⁸There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

"For the sake of this one man, who would make a right use of the blessing of health, Jesus healed the whole ten. The nine passed on without appreciating the work done, and rendered no grateful thanks to Jesus for doing the work." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 180.

"If by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same influence upon others, and they upon still others. Thus by our unconscious influence thousands may be blessed." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 417.



THURSDAY

RESULT OF BEING GRATEFUL

5 What blessing did the grateful Samaritan leper receive that the other nine who were healed did not?



Luke 17:19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

"Satan is the destroyer; the Lord is the Restorer. The Lord has not worked as a physician in the way that He desires to work, because, He says, Ye will not come to Me, that I may give you life. We look to every source for relief except to the One who proclaimed over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.'" —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 239.



FRIDAY

6 What else can be learned by one who is comforted as he works for the Master, no matter where he is?



Luke 17:17–18 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?
¹⁸There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

"If one life out of ten is saved, and one soul out of one hundred is saved in the kingdom of God, all connected with the Institute will be amply repaid for all their efforts. All their anxiety and care will not be wholly lost. If the King of glory, the Majesty of heaven, worked for suffering humanity, and so few appreciated His divine aid, the physicians and helpers at the Institute should blush to complain if their feeble efforts are not appreciated by all and seem to be thrown away on some."
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 180.



SABBATH

GREATER BLESSING AND GRATITUDE

7 Who is represented today by the nine lepers who did not return to express their gratitude to God?



Luke 17:17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

"I was shown that the nine who did not return to give glory to God correctly represent some Sabbathkeepers who come to the Health Institute as patients. They receive much attention and should realize the

anxiety and discouragements of the physicians, and should be the last to cause them unnecessary care and burdens. Yet I regret to say that frequently the patients who are most difficult to manage at the Health Institute are those of our faith. They are more free to make complaints than are any other class. Worldlings, and professed Christians of other denominations, appreciate the efforts made for their recovery more than many Sabbathkeepers do. And when they return to their homes they exert an influence more in favor of the Health Institute than do Sabbathkeepers." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 180.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- In line with today's lesson, give some reasons why people may not be grateful to God.

"The truth has been illuminating their pathway on every side. God has wrought wonderfully in the salvation of souls in their own households, but where are their offerings, presented to Him in grateful thanks for all His tokens of mercy to them? Many of them are as unthankful as the brute creation. The sacrifice for man was infinite, beyond the comprehension of the strongest intellect, yet men who claim to be partakers of these heavenly benefits, which were brought to them at so great a cost, are too thoroughly selfish to make any real sacrifice for God. Their minds are upon the world, the world, the world." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 197.

LESSON

24

Sabbath,
June 12,
2027

BLIND BARTIMAEUS' VISION RESTORED

"And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus." Mark 10:50.

"Worldly attractions will be presented to draw the attention from the Lord Jesus; but laying aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets, we are to press forward, showing to the world, to angels, and to men that the hope of seeing the face of God is worth all the efforts and the sacrifices ..." —This Day with God, p. 374.



SUNDAY

A SAD CONDITION

1 Who was Bartimaeus? What question did he ask?



Mark 10:46 *And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jer-*

icho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.



Luke 18:36 *And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.*

"As he waits and watches, he hears the tread of many feet, and he eagerly inquires, What means this noise of travel? The by-standers answer that 'Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.' With the eagerness of intense desire, he cries, 'Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!' They try to silence him, but he cries the more vehemently, 'Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!' This appeal is heard. His persevering faith is rewarded." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 126.



MONDAY

2 Just like Bartimaeus, in what condition is humanity today?



2 Corinthians 4:4, first part *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ,*

"A man who is spiritually blind is easily led by those who improve every favorable opportunity to advance theories and conjectures regarding God. The one deceived by Satan imparts to a fellow being the new light that he supposes he has received, as Eve placed the forbidden fruit in the hand of Adam. Unenlightened heathen are in no worse condition spiritually than is the man who has known the truth but has accepted error." —*Medical Ministry*, p. 93.



TUESDAY

HOW WE SEE JESUS

3 What was significant about Bartimaeus crying out, "Jesus Thou Son of David, have mercy on me"?



Mark 10:47 *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

"The Pharisees had gathered close about Jesus as He answered the question of the scribe. Now turning He put a question to them: 'What think ye of Christ? whose son is He?' This question was designed to test their belief concerning the Messiah—to show whether they regarded Him simply as a man or as the Son of God. A chorus of voices answered, 'The Son of David.' This was the title which prophecy had given to the Messiah. When Jesus revealed His divinity by His mighty miracles, when He healed the sick and raised the dead, the people had inquired among themselves, 'Is not this the Son of David?' The Syrophenician woman, blind Bartimaeus, and many others had cried to Him for help, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord.... But many who called Jesus

the Son of David did not recognize His divinity. They did not understand that the Son of David was also the Son of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 608.



WEDNESDAY

4 ***"And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace." When does one become like such people?***



Luke 18:39 *And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.*

"Let no one turn away a soul who leaves the service of Satan and asks Jesus for pardon. 'Of some have compassion, making a difference.' When they give evidence that the Spirit of God is striving with them, present to them every encouragement for entering the Lord's service. Do not discourage them by indifference, by drawing away from them with an air of, 'I am holier than thou.' Isaiah 65:5." —*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, p. 265.

"No wonder that some become discouraged, linger by the way, and are left for wolves to devour. Satan is upon the track of all. He sends his agents forth to gather back to his ranks the souls he has lost. There should be more fathers and mothers to take these babes in the truth to their hearts, and to encourage them and pray for them, that their faith be not confused." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 68.



THURSDAY

5 ***Why did Jesus ask the blind man, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"***



Matthew 7:7-8 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that knocketh it shall be opened.*



Mark 10:51 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The*

"It is only when the sinner feels the need of a Saviour, that his heart goes after the One who can help him. When Jesus walked among men, it was the sick that wanted a physician. The poor, the afflicted and distressed, followed after Him, to receive the help and comfort which they could not find elsewhere." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 126.



FRIDAY

WALKING WITH JESUS

6 After the Saviour restored his sight, what did Bartimaeus do?



Mark 10:52 *And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immedi-*

ately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.



Luke 18:42–43 *And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. ⁴³And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.*

"There will always be obstacles before us, but we are to follow our Leader, and meet our difficulties unitedly, hand in hand. There is only one way to heaven. We must walk in the footsteps of Jesus, doing His works, even as He did the works of His Father. We must study His ways, not man's ways; we must obey His will, not our own. Walk carefully. Do not go ahead of Christ. Make no move without consulting your Leader. Ask in humble prayer, and 'ye shall receive.' He is the Way, the Truth, the Life." —*Our Father Cares*, p. 264.

"All must now work for themselves, and when they have Jesus in their hearts they will confess Him to others. No more could a soul who possesses Christ be hindered from confessing Him than could the waters of Niagara be stopped from flowing over the falls." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 233.



SABBATH

7 What would happen if those who are spiritually blind would cry to Jesus as did Bartimaeus?



Luke 18:39, first part *And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more....*

 **Jeremiah 33:3** *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

"Not only is physical sight restored, but the eyes of his understanding are opened. In Christ he sees his Redeemer, and the Sun of Righteousness shines into his soul. All who feel their need of Christ as did blind Bartimaeus, and who will be as earnest and determined as he was, will, like him, receive the blessing which they crave." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 126.

"The lesson of persevering faith and labor Christ Himself has taught us. In the parable of the lost sheep He has presented to our imagination no picture of a sorrowful shepherd returning without the sheep. The shepherd's search ceases not until the lost is brought back to the fold. The woman whose coin is lost searches till she finds it. These parables do not speak of failure but of success and joy in the recovery of the lost. Here is the divine guarantee that not one lost soul is overlooked, not one is left unsuccored. With all our efforts in seeking for the lost, Christ will cooperate." —*Pastoral Ministry*, p. 117.



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- As revealed in today's lesson, to what group do you belong?

"This world is a vast lazar house, but Christ came to heal the sick, to proclaim deliverance to the captives of Satan. He was in Himself health and strength. He imparted His life to the sick, the afflicted, those possessed of demons. He turned away none who came to receive His healing power. He knew that those who petitioned Him for help had brought disease upon themselves; yet He did not refuse to heal them." —*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 756.

LESSON

25

Sabbath,
June 19,
2027

THE WIDOW OF NAIN'S SON RAISED TO LIFE

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:26.

"In the home of the redeemed there will be no tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. 'The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.' Isaiah 33:24. One rich tide of happiness will flow and deepen as eternity rolls on.... Let our faith pierce through every cloud of darkness and behold Him who died for the sins of the world. He has opened the gates of Paradise to all who receive and believe on Him. To them He gives power to become the sons and daughters of God."

—Maranatha, p. 352.



SUNDAY

"WEEP NOT"

1 On His second missionary trip through Galilee, Jesus visited the village of Nain. What did he encounter as He entered the village?



Luke 7:11–12, first part *And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. ¹²Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out....*

"As they draw near, a funeral train is seen coming from the gates. With slow, sad steps it is proceeding to the place of burial. On an open bier carried in front is the body of the dead, and about it are the mourners,

filling the air with their wailing cries. All the people of the town seem to have gathered to show their respect for the dead and their sympathy with the bereaved." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 318.

MONDAY

2 What was unique about the funeral procession? What were Jesus' first words to the grieving mother?

 **Luke 7:12** *Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.*

"It was a sight to awaken sympathy. The deceased was the only son of his mother, and she a widow. The lonely mourner was following to the grave her sole earthly support and comfort. 'When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her.' As she moved on blindly, weeping, noting not His presence, He came close beside her, and gently said, 'Weep not.' Jesus was about to change her grief to joy, yet He could not forbear this expression of tender sympathy." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 318.

TUESDAY

3 As far as we know, the mother made no request. Why did Jesus raise her son to life, and why was this miracle recorded?

 **Luke 7:13** *And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.*

"He who stood beside the sorrowing mother at the gate of Nain, watches with every mourning one beside the bier. He is touched with sympathy for our grief. His heart, that loved and pitied, is a heart of unchangeable tenderness. His word, that called the dead to life, is no less efficacious now than when spoken to the young man of Nain. He says, 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.' Matthew 28:18. That power is not diminished by the lapse of years, nor exhausted by the ceaseless activity of His overflowing grace. To all who believe on Him He is still a living Saviour." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 319.



WEDNESDAY

GOD HAS VISITED HIS PEOPLE

4 What did Jesus do in raising up the young man? What is significant about His words today?



Luke 7:14 *And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.*

"'He came and touched the bier;' to Him even contact with death could impart no defilement. The bearers stood still, and the lamentations of the mourners ceased. The two companies gathered about the bier, hoping against hope. One was present who had banished disease and vanquished demons; was death also subject to His power? In clear, authoritative voice the words are spoken, 'Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.' That voice pierces the ears of the dead. The young man opens his eyes. Jesus takes him by the hand, and lifts him up. His gaze falls upon her who has been weeping beside him, and mother and son unite in a long, clinging, joyous embrace." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 318.



THURSDAY

5 How did the people who were present react? What prophecy was fulfilled?

risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. "And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.



Luke 7:16–17 *And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is*



Deuteronomy 18:15 *The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.*

"The multitude look on in silence, as if spellbound. 'There came a fear on all.' Hushed and reverent they stood for a little time, as if in the very presence of God. Then they 'glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people.' The funeral train returned to Nain as a triumphal procession. 'And this rumor of Him went forth throughout all Judea, and throughout all the region round about.'" —*Pastoral Ministry*, p. 173.



FRIDAY

DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DEATH

6 Over what other type of death does Satan have no power? What can the Master do?



Ephesians 2:1-3 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in*

time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

"Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He cannot hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power. God is saying to all who are dead in sin, 'Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.' Ephesians 5:14. That word is eternal life. As the word of God which bade the first man live, still gives us life; as Christ's word, 'Young man, I say unto thee, Arise,' gave life to the youth of Nain, so that word, 'Arise from the dead,' is life to the soul that receives it. God 'hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.' Colossians 1:13. It is all offered us in His word. If we receive the word, we have the deliverance." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 320.



SABBATH

7 What other truth is confirmed by this miracle?



Mark 16:6 *And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was cru-*

cified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.



1 Thessalonians 4:14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

"And 'if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your

mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.' 'For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.' Romans 8:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17. This is the word of comfort wherewith He bids us comfort one another." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 320.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What are the keys of death?

"Jesus changed the mother's grief to joy when He gave back her son; yet the youth was but called forth to this earthly life, to endure its sorrows, its toils, and its perils, and to pass again under the power of death. But Jesus comforts our sorrow for the dead with a message of infinite hope: 'I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore,... and have the keys of hell and of death.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 320.

LESSON

26

Sabbath,
June 26,
2027

Please read the Missionary Report from
General Conference
Publishing and Translation Department
on page 143

THE GREATEST OF ALL MIRACLES

"The miracle-working power of Christ's grace is revealed in the creation in man of a new heart, a higher life, a holier enthusiasm. God says: 'A new heart also will I give you.' Ezekiel 36:26. Is not this, the renewal of man, the greatest miracle that can be performed? What cannot the human agent do who by faith takes hold of the divine power?" —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 152.



SUNDAY

THE HUMAN CONDITION

1 What is the natural condition of every human being?

 **Isaiah 64:6** But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

"From His high position, Christ, the King of glory, the Majesty of heaven, saw the condition of men. He pitied human beings in their weakness and sinfulness, and came to this earth to reveal what God is to men." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 185.



MONDAY

2 Who took possession of man after the fall?

 **Peter 2:19, last part** ... For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

 **2 Corinthians 4:4** *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

"At his creation Adam was placed in dominion over the earth. But by yielding to temptation, he was brought under the power of Satan. 'Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.' 2 Peter 2:19. When man became Satan's captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became 'the god of this world.' 2 Corinthians 4:4." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.



TUESDAY

A HELPING HAND

3 What great miracle does the Lord desire to perform for everyone?

 **John 8:10–11** *When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? "She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

"This was to her the beginning of a new life, a life of purity and peace, devoted to the service of God. In the uplifting of this fallen soul, Jesus performed a greater miracle than in healing the most grievous physical disease; He cured the spiritual malady which is unto death everlasting. This penitent woman became one of His most steadfast followers. With self-sacrificing love and devotion she repaid His forgiving mercy." —*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, p. 256.

"For this erring woman the world had only contempt and scorn, but the Sinless One pitied her weakness and reached to her a helping hand. While the hypocritical Pharisees denounced, Jesus bade her, 'Go, and sin no more.'

"For this erring woman the world had only contempt and scorn, but the Sinless One pitied her weakness and reached to her a helping hand. While the hypocritical Pharisees denounced, Jesus bade her, 'Go, and sin no more.'" —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 89.



WEDNESDAY

4 When can the Master perform the greatest miracle in one's life?

 **Psalm 51:3-4** *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 'Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou might-*

est be justified when thou speak-est, and be clear when thou judg-est.



Acts 3:14-15, first part, 19 *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵And killed the Prince of life.... ¹⁹Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

"'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone,' had come to her as a death sentence. She dared not lift her eyes to the Saviour's face, but silently awaited her doom. In astonishment she saw her accusers depart speechless and confounded; then those words of hope fell upon her ear, 'Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.' Her heart was melted, and, casting herself at the feet of Jesus, she sobbed out her grateful love and with bitter tears confessed her sins." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 89.



THURSDAY

5 Why is this considered the greatest miracle that Jesus performs?

 **John 5:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word,*

and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.



Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

"The miracle-working power of Christ's grace is revealed in the creation in man of a new heart, a higher life, a holier enthusiasm. God says: 'A new heart also will I give you.' Ezekiel 36:26. Is not this, the renewal of man, the greatest miracle that can be performed? What cannot the human agent do who by faith takes hold of the divine power?" —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 253.



FRIDAY

6 How does this greatest miracle take place in one's life?



1 Samuel 10:6–7 *And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. ⁷And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.*

"All the disciples had serious faults when Jesus called them to His service. Even John, who came into closest association with the meek and lowly One, was not himself naturally meek and yielding. He and his brother were called 'the sons of thunder.'" —*Our Father Cares*, p. 191. "The Saviour did not withdraw from them because of their weakness and errors. They continued to the end to share His trials and to learn the lessons of His life. By beholding Christ, they became transformed in character." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 296.



SABBATH

7 How deep does this greatest of all miracles go?



2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*



Isaiah 49:24–25 *Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? ²⁵But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.*

"Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.'" —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 476.

"Though He had no taint of sin upon His character, yet He condescended to connect our fallen human nature with His divinity. By thus taking humanity, He honored humanity. Having taken our fallen nature, He showed what it might become, by accepting the ample provision He has made for it, and by becoming partaker of the divine nature." —*Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 134.

NOTES



ADDITIONAL STUDY

- What things do you think prevent the Lord from performing this greatest miracle in your life?

"The souls that turn to Him for refuge, Jesus lifts above the accusing and the strife of tongues. No man or evil angel can impeach these souls. Christ unites them to His own divine-human nature. They stand beside the great Sin Bearer in the light proceeding from the throne of God." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 90.

**MISSIONARY REPORT FROM
GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHING
AND TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT**

To be read on Sabbath, June 26, 2027

The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, July 3, 2027

Greetings with the word of God in Mark 16:17 and Acts 2:4: "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Although there are presently more than 7,000 languages in the world, more than half of the population speaks just 23 of them. Thus, the concept of "present truth" confirms that the principles of the Holy Scriptures are not static but the most crucial knowledge for the time in which we live. Right now, we face the challenge of translating the three angels' messages into an unprecedented linguistic diversity to carry out the great commission to reach "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6.

From a contemporary Adventist perspective, the Biblical gift of tongues has a strictly missionary purpose—to serve as a bridge so that everyone in the world may hear the call to repentance in his own language. In 2027, the work of professional and volunteer translators is a modern extension of this gift, making it possible for hope to transcend barriers. Translations seek to ensure that every person may receive the assurance that Christ is coming soon. In addition, this gift makes it possible for truth to transform lives. Accurate translations guarantee that the message of salvation is a "beacon of light" in times of crisis.

The work of translation in God's church goes beyond words; it is a process that expresses divine thought and teaching in relation to the world around us. Translators and interpreters enable printed and/or virtual and digital publications to reach communities that would otherwise remain isolated from the "global family." This occurs through the spoken word or through content transmitted virtually. It is our commitment to ensure that "sound doctrine" is communicated with

accuracy and clarity, giving every individual access to present truth in the language of the heart—the only language capable of producing deep spiritual transformation through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The two lists below show the most widely spoken languages in the world as of 2026. The first one lists total speakers (native and non-native), and the second gives the number who speak a particular language as their mother tongue. Among the ten languages with the largest number of speakers worldwide, English remains the primary global language, followed by Mandarin Chinese:

English: ~1.528 billion
Mandarin Chinese: ~1.184 billion
Hindi: ~609 million
Spanish: ~558–559 million
Standard Arabic: ~335 million

French: ~312 million
Bengali: ~284 million
Portuguese: ~267 million
Russian: ~253 million
Indonesian: ~252 million

When considering only the language that people learn at home, the figures change significantly, with Mandarin Chinese and Spanish at the top:

Mandarin Chinese: ~990 million native speakers
English: ~390 million native speakers
Spanish: ~484 million native speakers
Hindi: ~345 million native speakers

It is also important to consider several key points shown in the 2026 statistics: Digital Dominance: English predominates on the Internet, being used on more than 52 percent of all websites and in the training of the vast majority of artificial intelligence models. Growth of Spanish: Spanish has shown sustained growth, driven by demographics in Latin America and its expansion in the United States. Influence of French: French is an official language in 35 countries, and its use continues to grow in Africa and in international organizations.

Currently, the General Conference issues the following regular publications: Readings for the Week of Prayer, Sabbath School Lessons, and The Sabbath Watchman. They are translated primarily into four languages—English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. However, other departmental and publishing materials are translated into an average of 120 languages.

Considering the importance of this work, the delegates at the 2023 General Conference World Assembly made the decision to establish

the Translation Department within the General Conference Publishing Department. This addition to the organizational structure of the church requires an operating fund to work effectively. Therefore, we appeal to the believers worldwide to give generously for this work which is such a great blessing to the entire church.

With the following statement from the Spirit of prophecy, we confirm this and express our gratitude in advance for your contributions: "The printed word of truth is to be translated into different languages and carried to the ends of the earth." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 26.

—Raquel Orce Sotomayor
General Conference Publishing and
Translation Department Leader

Jesus' MIRACLES

"All Christ's miracles were wrought to bless ... And He was beloved [by the common people] because He was the Restorer, the Great Physician. All His graces were light from heaven. In every good work He sought to lead them to accept Him as their personal Saviour. His life was fragrant, a savor of life unto life. He brought sunshine into the heart and home. They came to Him mourning, and left Him with songs of praise and glad rejoicing. He offered Himself to them that they might give Him a home in their hearts."

—This Day with God, p. 275.



**International
Missionary Society**

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Reform Movement