

# God, Our Savior



## SABBATH—SEPTEMBER 30

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Genesis 3:9–15; Genesis 17:7; Matthew 1:18–23; John 3:16; John 14:1–3.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “The Lord God called to the man and said, ‘Where are you?’ ” (Genesis 3:9, NIV).

The Bible tells us that God wants to communicate with His children and to be close to them in His heart.

**WHEN DID GOD** first give His people work to do for Him? Was the first time when God commanded Abram to leave his country (Genesis 12:1–4)? Or was it when Moses led God's people out of Egypt? Or was it when Jesus came to this earth (Matthew 1:18–25)? Or when Paul traveled to preach the Good News about Jesus (Acts 13:4–14:26)? You may be surprised to learn that our work as a church started before any of these things happened. Our work for God started when He made the skies and earth and then made humans (Genesis 1:26, 27). God also is the reason for our work as a church.

The Bible tells us that God wants to communicate with His children and to be close to them in His heart. From the beginning, God started a special friendship with Adam and Eve. After they sinned, God continued His work for the human family. But now, God's plan included saving people from sin and death. In the end, God's saving plan will be a success (Revelation 21, 22). God's future success helps us, as a church, to feel excited about sharing the Good News with everyone on earth (Revelation 14:6, 7).

So, we must be friends **with** God before we work **for** Him. We also must understand the work God wants to do in our lives. But first, we must try to answer the question, Who is this God who wants to save us and be our Friend?

**THE GOD WHO COMES LOOKING FOR US  
(Genesis 3:9–15)**

God made humans. He gave us this earth as our home. In the beginning, everything was perfect and beautiful. What was God's plan for us back then? God wanted us to live in perfect peace with Him and with each other. God gave us a very precious gift: His love. But our love for Him needed to be real. So, God also gave us another precious gift: free choice. God made us free to choose good or evil. Of course, God told Adam and Eve about the danger of disobeying Him (Genesis 2:16, 17). Satan tricked Eve into thinking that nothing bad would happen when she ate the forbidden fruit. Satan lied to Eve and told her the fruit would make her as wise and smart as God: "You will learn about good and evil. Then you will be like [the same as] God!" (Genesis 3:5, ICB). Sad to say, Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Worse, she gave the fruit to Adam. Adam made the same poor choice as Eve. Sin ruined God's perfect earth.

Adam and Eve's sin changed God's plan for this planet. Before God made the earth, He made a plan to save humans if they chose to sin. Now, God put His plan into action.

**Read Genesis 3:9–15. What were God's first words to Adam after he and Eve sinned? Why are God's words so powerful today? What do they teach us about God?**

Of course, God knew where Adam and Eve hid. God asked them where they were for a special reason. Adam and Eve needed to understand why their sin was so bad. God also wanted to end Satan's control over humans. So, God shared with Adam and Eve His plan to save the human family (read Genesis 3:14, 15). What was His plan? God promised to send "Christ [Jesus] to make peace with us and to bring us back to himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19, WE).

Do you see that God went looking for Adam and Eve before He judged them and gave them His saving promise? God's question to Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9, ERV), shows us two important ideas. (1) We are sinners, who are lost. (2) We need Someone to save us. God is the One who goes looking for lost sinners. He searches for us because He wants to save us and to be our Friend.

**God continues to ask us today, "Where are you?" What does this question mean to you? How have you answered God?**



**Satan tricked Eve into thinking that nothing bad would happen when she ate the forbidden fruit.**

## THE GOD WHO WANTS TO BE WITH US (Genesis 17:7)

Read Genesis 17:7; Genesis 26:3; and Genesis 28:15. In these verses, what did God promise Abraham and his future children?

---



---



With God's help, Moses leads the Hebrew people out of Egypt to freedom.

In the Old Testament stories, we see God and His saving plan at work: God continues to try to save humans. After the Flood, the people from the city of Babel decide to live in one place. There, they will build a city and a tower up to heaven. God stops their plan. He causes the builders not to understand each other. The builders stop their work and move far away from the tower (Genesis 11:1–9). Later, God chooses Abram (who later became Abraham) to serve Him. God plans to bless everyone on earth because of Abram and his future children (Genesis 12:1–3). God promises Abraham and his future children many things. God promises them: “ ‘I will be your God’ ” (Genesis 17:7, 8), and “ ‘I will be with you’ ” (Genesis 26:3, ERV; Genesis 28:15).

As history goes on, Joseph ends up in Egypt. God uses Joseph to save His people. The Bible tells us that the Lord was with Joseph during the hard times in his life (Genesis 39:2, 21, 23). Hundreds of years later, God sends Moses to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. God promises Moses, “ ‘I will be with you’ ” (Exodus 3:12). Moses trusts in this promise. With God's help, Moses leads the Hebrew people out of Egypt to freedom. Again and again, God shows His people that He wants to be with them.

Read Exodus 29:43, 45. What was one of the reasons that God told Moses to build Him a holy tent in the desert? God wanted to be with His children. God told Moses that He very much wanted to live with the children of Israel. The plan for building the holy tent showed the Israelites the most important part of God's plan to save them: Jesus Christ. “The offerings and the work of the priests or spiritual leaders showed the people the death of Jesus and His work to save them. The work the priests did had no meaning without Jesus.”—Ellen G. White, *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, December 17, 1872, adapted.

**What are ways that God has been part of your life?**

**THE GOD WHO BECAME ONE WITH US  
(Matthew 1:18–23)**

The Old Testament shows us God’s plan to save sinners. God chose the Israelites to be His people and to teach other people about His plan and His love. Everything God did was part of His plan to save sinners. God told His special messenger Isaiah, “ ‘Remember what happened long ago. Remember, I am God and there is no other God. There is no other like [the same as] me. . . . When I plan something, it happens. I do whatever I want to do’ ” (Isaiah 46:9, 10, ERV). In the New Testament, the plan that was only a promise in Eden (Genesis 3:15) now becomes a Person: Jesus.

**In Matthew 1:18–23, the angel of the Lord announces to Joseph in a dream that Mary will have a special Baby. What important things does this story tell us about God?**

Immanuel means “God with us.” In the desert, God lived among His people in the Holy Tent. Now God lived with them in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus’ coming to earth showed us that God continued to want to be with us. Jesus, God’s Son, was fully human and fully God. Jesus said, “ ‘I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except by [because of] Me’ ” (John 14:6, NLV).

**Jesus was God. He became a Man and lived among us. What does His being born in a human body teach us about God’s work to save us? Read John 1:14–18 for the answer.**

God was in Jesus. In Jesus, God lived in a human body among His children. Jesus was “the only Son of the Father. The Word [Jesus] was full of [filled with] grace [mercy] and truth” (John 1:14, ERV). Jesus kept all the promises that God made in the Old Testament. God promised that Jesus would become one with us. So, that’s what Jesus did. Jesus became one with us. Jesus was God in human flesh. God in Jesus continued to do His work to save us.

**Think about God’s love for us. God loves us so much that He was born as a Human Baby. He came as one of us to live with us. How should this love make us feel? How does this love help us understand the work that God gives us to do to help Him save other people?**



**Jesus’ coming to earth showed us that God continued to want to be with us.**

**THE GOD WHO CONTINUES TO BE WITH US (John 3:16)**

**Jesus made peace for us with God when He died for us on the cross.**

Jesus' life and work were the best examples of God's saving plan. Jesus' work on earth lasted for 3½ years. During this short time, God showed us more about who He was and His saving plan than He had shown us at any other time in the past. Jesus was the perfect Example of the God that no human could see. All God's mercy and strength lived in Jesus. Jesus made peace for us with God when He died for us on the cross (Colossians 1:15, 19, 20). In Jesus, God showed humans how much He loved them and wanted to save them. Jesus Himself told us about His saving work: " 'The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them' " (Luke 19:10, ERV).

**Carefully read John 3:16 and think about Jesus' words. What is the connection in these verses between God's love and His saving plan?**

Things happened during the final week of Jesus' life that connected God's promises from the past with our hope for the future. Jesus celebrated the Passover. This holy day helped the Jews remember the time when God led His people out of Egypt. During the Passover, Jesus gave up His life to make us free from sin. Paul wrote, "Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right [accepted] with God because of what Christ has done for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV).

**Read the command in Matthew 28:18–20 that Jesus gave to His followers. What promise does Jesus also give them? How does this promise give us hope while we do God's work?**

Jesus' death was only part of His plan to bring us back to God, and not the end of His work. Jesus won the war with sin and death. Then God gave Jesus "all power [control] in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18, ERV). Because Jesus controls everything, He commanded His followers to make new followers for Him everywhere on earth. Then Jesus added this powerful promise: " 'You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time' " (Matthew 28:20, ERV).

**Jesus promised to be "with you always." How has Jesus kept His promise to you as you do God's work?**

## THE GOD WHO WILL COME BACK FOR US (John 14:1–3)

**Read John 14:1–3. What is the connection between these verses and the Bible’s end-time message?**

During Jesus’ work on earth, He made us a very precious promise. Jesus promised to be with us forever. This promise is named the Blessed Hope. The Blessed Hope shows us how much God loves us and wants to live with us. Jesus said, “ ‘After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am’ ” (John 14:3, ERV).

In Revelation, John tells us that Jesus will keep this promise. “I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, ‘Now God’s home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God’ ” (Revelation 21:3, ICB).

“God will finish His work to save humans. God’s mercy is more powerful than sin. Satan says the earth is his. God will take this earth away from Satan. . . . God will make the earth new. Then God will honor this earth in a special way. God will make His home on the earth with the people that He saved. . . . The saved people will live with God forever. God’s light will shine on them. God’s people will praise Him for His wonderful gift: Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’ [Immanuel is another name for Jesus.]”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 26, adapted.

This quote from Ellen G. White is a beautiful picture of the future life of the saved. God finally will get His wish to be with His children forever. We can be a part of this exciting experience!

**This Week’s Tasks:** This quarter, we will invite you to do some special tasks. These tasks will give you the chance to better understand God and His work in your life. Also, the tasks will help you to be more involved in God’s work. Take the time to think about each task. Be ready to share what you learned with your class each week.

**Task #1: Pray this week for God to open your heart to Him. Ask Him to help you become part of His work.**

**Task #2: Is there someone you see every day at work or in your neighborhood whose name you don’t know? Learn this person’s name. Begin to pray for this person each day.**



**Pray this week for God to open your heart to Him.**



**Jesus told His followers,  
Go to every country and  
group of people on earth.  
Go to every faraway  
country.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** God did not make His plan to save sinners after Adam sinned. God’s plan “is the secret truth that was hidden for long ages past, but is now made known” (Romans 16:25, [ICB]). God’s plan to save sinners shows the important rules of His government. From the beginning, God and Jesus knew that Satan would sin. God and Jesus knew that Satan would trick humans into sinning, too. God didn’t plan for sin to be a part of life. But God saw that sin would happen. So, God made a plan to solve the sin problem before Adam and Eve sinned. God loved humans so much. Because of His love, God gave His only Son to die for our sins. ‘Everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal [everlasting] life.’ John 3:16 [ERV].”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 22, adapted.

“Jesus didn’t tell His followers that their work would be easy. . . . But Jesus would not leave them to fight alone. Jesus told His followers that He would be with them. If His followers do God’s work with faith, God will protect them. . . . So, God’s followers must obey Him. They must work with Him. Then they will not fail. Jesus told His followers, Go to every country and group of people on earth. Go to every faraway country. I will be with you wherever you go. Work in faith and don’t be afraid. I will never leave you. I will be with you always. I will help you do your work. I will guide you. I will comfort you. I will make you holy. I will support you and give you everything you need. I will give you success when you talk with other people. I will give you the words to say that will help them to think about heaven.”—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 29, adapted.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① God’s first words to Adam and Eve after they sinned were, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9, ERV). How does this Bible truth help us to better understand God’s plan for us and for our loved ones?
- ② Jesus became a Man. God the Father lived in Jesus when Jesus came to this earth to save us. How does this miracle make you feel? Jesus’ death on the cross helps us understand God’s plan for us. What does the Cross tell us about God’s love?
- ③ The church’s work belongs to God. So, God will help us do His work. What should you do when you feel afraid or not good enough to do the work?

## TWO BOYS, TWO PRAYERS—PART 1

Father was excited when he saw a sign in front of a new school. The sign said Adventist Maranatha School. The school was located in Conakry. Conakry is the capital of Guinea, a country in West Africa. Father decided to visit the school. He wanted his two sons to get a Christian education. Father had no idea this school would change his life.

Father went inside and found a teacher. Father asked the woman, “Is this a Christian school?”

The woman said, “Yes. This is a Seventh-day Adventist school.”

Father told the teacher, “I want my sons to go to a Christian school.”

Soon, the two boys were students at the school. The boys were named Junior and Emile. Junior was 11, and Emile was 8. The boys studied the Bible at their new school and learned Bible verses that Father never heard before. Father was surprised when his boys told him that the teachers worshiped God on Saturdays. The boys asked Father if they could go to Saturday meetings at the church next to the school. Father thought the meetings were afterschool classes, so he agreed.

The boys went to church every Sabbath for two years. Sometimes, schoolteachers visited Father and invited him to come to church. The teachers asked Father, “Will you come to our church on Sabbath?” Father always refused. He said, “No, I’m busy. I must work on Saturday.”

Not long after, the church pastor, Matthew, told his church members, “Today, we will visit the father of Junior and Emile.” A group of 15 church members went with Junior and Emile to their home. Junior and Emile were so happy. The pastor asked Father, “May we pray with you?”

Father agreed. The pastor asked Father if he had any special needs. Father did. He worked for a company that helped make people’s lives better. Months earlier, Father asked the government of Guinea for a gift of money to do special work in the community. Father had not gotten an answer from the government. So, the pastor prayed about the gift of money. Soon after, the government answered the pastor’s prayer. The government agreed to give Father’s company the money. Father went to the school and told the teachers about the answer to prayer. Father thanked God for the gift. But he wasn’t ready to go to church.

Thank you for your 13th Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped the Adventist Maranatha School in the middle of West Africa. Your 13th Sabbath Offering this quarter will again help church workers in the middle of West Africa share the Good News. Read the rest of Father’s story next week.

INSIDE  
*Story*  
by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



The pastor asked Father, “May we pray with you?”

