## Contents

1. **God and Forgiveness** (March 29–April 4) .................................................... 5
2. **Forgiveness in the Hebrew Bible** (April 5–11) ........................................... 17
3. **Forgiveness and Repentance** (April 12–18) .............................................. 29
4. **How Jesus Forgave** (April 19–25) ........................................................... 41
5. **Forgiveness and Guilt** (April 26–May 2) ................................................. 53
6. **Forgiveness and the Church** (May 3–9) .................................................... 65
7. **For the Love of God** (May 10–16) ........................................................... 77
8. **Loyalties** (May 17–23) ........................................................................ 89
9. **Reverence** (May 24–30) ................................................................... 101
10. **Why Forgive?** (May 31–June 6) ............................................................ 113
11. **Out of the Heart** (June 7–13) ............................................................... 125
12. **Selfless Service** (June 14–20) ............................................................... 137
13. **Living the Life of Faith** (June 21–27) .................................................... 149

---

**Editorial Office:** 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
Email: goldsteinc@gc.adventist.org

- **Principal Contributor:** Geoffrey Garne
- **Editor:** Clifford Goldstein
- **Associate Editor:** Lyndelle Brower Chiomenti

- **Editorial Production Manager:** Soraya Homayouni Parish  
**Art and Design:** Lars Justinen  
**Pacific Press® Coordinator:** Paul A. Hey

1. **Key Text, Lesson Aim, and Outline:** Patience Barnes, freelance writer, Mt. Pleasant, Penn., U.S.A.
2. **The Commentary:** Janalee Shaw, freelance writer, Silver Spring, Md., U.S.A.
3. **The Inductive Bible-Study Method:** Stephen Chavez, managing editor, Adventist Review, Silver Spring, Md., U.S.A.
4. **The Focus-on-Witnessing Approach:** Tresa Beard, freelance writer, Springboro, Ohio, U.S.A.
5. **The Life-Application Approach:** Faith Crumbly, editor, Sabbath School Leadership, Hagerstown, Md., U.S.A.

---

The Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, whose members serve as consulting editors. The published guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the authors.
How to Use This Teachers Edition

The teachers comments demonstrate different methods of teaching the Standard Bible Study Guide. Five parts make up the teachers comments:

1. Key Text, Lesson Aim, and Outline: The key text is taken from the standard edition guide. The lesson aim is designed to: (a) help class participants understand and know about the lesson material, (b) evoke an appropriate feeling about the lesson material that complements the lesson content and helps to internalize it, and (c) help class participants apply the lesson material to their daily lives. The lesson outline may not always follow exactly the material that appears in the standard guide. It may reflect additional perspectives as it attempts to stimulate class discussion.

2. The Commentary follows the traditional teaching methods of Sabbath School. It explains Bible passages and provides appropriate information leading to spiritual applications.

3. The Inductive Bible-Study Method emphasizes careful, methodical discovery of the meaning in a text. The teacher encourages and supports the learner’s investigation and discovery, using distinctive approaches: (a) Study a text thoroughly and systematically before drawing a conclusion. (b) Look for textual meaning carefully and thoroughly; understand the passage in context; avoid misquoting the author. We must not develop opinions without biblical proof. (c) Share insights through group discussion as students examine a Bible passage together. (d) Apply the text to life today. (e) Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to class members during Bible study.

4. The Focus-on-Witnessing Approach should be used in conjunction with other methods of Bible study to demonstrate how particular passages of Scripture can be used to encourage people to commit their lives to Christ and to nurture spiritual life once it has been awakened.

5. The Life-Application Approach demonstrates how issues that grow out of Bible study can be shared in a small-group setting. This section uses an approach suitable for discussion in a small group in which interpersonal sharing and dialogue are key elements.

Use a combination of teaching methods. Within one class period it is often possible to draw from all five methods demonstrated in the teachers comments. Some teachers will prefer to focus on one method of teaching, drawing heavily on the material in the teachers comments.

For a listing of the individuals appointed by the General Conference to write the teachers comments for the current Bible Study Guide, please refer to page 1.
Forgiveness. Such a simple word. Such a basic word. Such a common word. Just a few syllables uttered from the tongue, a few scratches scrawled from the tip of a pen, that is all. Yet, how much power, how much potential, how much healing exists within those few sounds and scratches. How many lives would be so much different, so much better, so much happier and richer, were forgiveness written into the variables that made up the equations of their personal existence?

Forgiveness. It’s double-edged. Its force pushes in two directions, forward and backward. It impacts the subject (those who forgive) as well as the object (those who are forgiven). It radiates in all directions, reaching out and caressing those who, if nothing else, stand on the sidelines and see what forgiveness does to those on either end of this divine blessing.

Perhaps this whole quarter’s Bible Study Guide should be titled “Sandwiched.” Because as Christians, we are sandwiched in by forgiveness: the forgiveness that we have received from Christ and the forgiveness that we, having received, give to others. The attendant blessings are manifold: the blessings that we have received from God, the blessings that we give to others because of what we have received from God, and the blessings that we get back when we give to others. Not a bad wrap, all things considered.

This quarter, we will try to consider, if not all things about forgiveness (that will take eternity, and we have only three months), as much as limits of time and space allow. We will study forgiveness from two perspectives, that of subject and of object, because, as Christians, we become both. We are the object of God’s forgiveness, and because of that forgiveness, we become the subject, giving forgiveness to those who perhaps are as undeserving as we are.

First, we will look at what it means to be forgiven by God; what it means for us that, no matter what we’ve done, no matter how ugly our record, we can stand before our Creator forgiven, justified, pardoned, and cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Second, we will look at what happens in the lives of those who have been forgiven.

What does that forgiveness do to us? How does it change us? What does it motivate us to do for others?

Forgiveness. It comes with such a heavy price tag: the blood of Christ. Yet, as we will see over the next few months, no one can afford to be without it.