

# Living *by the* Word of God



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## SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Phil. 2:12–16; Luke 4:4, 8, 10–12; Ps. 37:7; Ps. 46:10; Ps. 62:1, 2, 5; Col. 3:16.*

**Memory Text:** “**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves**” (*James 1:22, NKJV*).

**T**he best method of studying the Bible is of no use if we are not determined to live by what we learn from Scripture. What is true for education in general also is true for studying the Bible in particular: you learn best not just by reading or hearing, but by practicing what you know. This obedience opens a full treasure house of divine blessings that otherwise would be closed to us, and it leads us on an exciting and life-transforming way to increase our understanding and knowledge. If we are not willing to abide by the Word of God and are not willing to practice what we have studied, we will not grow. And our witness will be impaired because our life is out of harmony with our words.

We grow in grace and wisdom through inspiring models who illustrate to us what it means to live by the Word of God. There is no better example and no motivational force more powerful than Jesus Christ. He gave us a pattern to follow. He lived a life in full harmony with the will of God.

This week, we will study what it means to live by the Word of God and under its divine authority.

\* Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, June 27.

## The Living Word of God and the Holy Spirit

To study the Word of God carefully and with the proper method is very important. But, just as important, perhaps even more so, is that we put into practice what we have learned. The ultimate goal of studying the Bible lies not in acquiring greater knowledge, as wonderful as that can be. The goal is not about our mastering of the Word of God but about the Word of God mastering us, changing our lives and our way of thinking. That is what really matters. To be willing to live the truth that we have learned means to be willing to submit to that biblical truth. This choice sometimes involves an intense struggle, because we are fighting a battle over who will have the supremacy in our thinking and in our life. And, in the end, there are only two sides from which to pick.

**Read** Philippians 2:12–16. What are these verses saying about how we should live?

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Yes, God works in us, but He does so through the Holy Spirit, who alone gives us the wisdom to understand the Holy Scriptures. Furthermore, as sinful human beings, we often are opposed to God’s truth, and left to our own devices, we would not obey the Word of God (*Rom. 1:25; Eph. 4:17, 18*). Without the Holy Spirit, there is no affection for God’s message. There is no hope, no trust, no love in response. Through the Holy Spirit, God indeed “works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (*Phil. 2:13, NKJV*).

The Holy Spirit is a Teacher who desires to lead us into a deeper understanding of Scripture and to a joyful appreciation of the Word of God. He brings the truth of God’s Word to our attention and gives us fresh insights into those truths, so that our lives are characterized by faithfulness and a loving obedience to the will of God. “No one is able to explain the Scriptures without the aid of the Holy Spirit. But when you take up the Word of God with a humble, teachable heart, the angels of God will be by your side to impress you with evidences of the truth.”—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 411. In this way, spiritual things are interpreted spiritually (*1 Cor. 2:13, 14*), and we are able joyfully to follow God’s Word “morning by morning” (*Isa. 50:4, 5*).

**Philippians 2:16 says that we should hold “fast the word of life” (NKJV). What do you think that means? And how do we do that? See also Deuteronomy 4:4, which teaches something similar. What is our role in this whole process?**

## Learning From Jesus

There is no better and more inspiring example to follow than Jesus Christ. He was familiar with the Scriptures, and was willing to follow the written Word of God and abide by it.

**Read** Luke 4:4, 8, 10–12. How does Jesus use Scripture to counter Satan’s temptations? What does this tell us about how central the Scriptures must be to our faith, especially in times of temptation?

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Jesus knew the Scriptures well. He was so intimately familiar with the Word of God that He could quote it by heart. This familiarity with God’s written Word must have resulted from precious quality time with God in studying the Scriptures.

If He had not known the exact words of Scripture and the context in which they appear, He could easily have been deceived by the devil. Even the devil quoted Scripture and used it for his own deceptive purposes. Thus, just being able to quote Scripture, as the devil did, is not enough. One also needs to know what else Scripture has to say on a subject and know its correct meaning. Only such familiarity with God’s Word will help us, like Jesus, not to be fooled by God’s adversary but to be able to resist the attacks of Satan. Time and again we read about Jesus opening the minds of His followers to understand Scripture by referring them to what “is written” (*Luke 24:45, 46; Matt. 11:10; John 6:45; etc.*). He assumed that those who read the Scriptures can come to a correct understanding of its meaning: “ ‘What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?’ ” (*Luke 10:26, NKJV*). For Jesus, what was written in Scripture is the norm that we should live by.

In John 7:38, Jesus—the Word of God made flesh—referred His followers back to what Scripture said. It is only through the Bible that we know that Jesus is the promised Messiah. It is the Scriptures that testify about Him (*John 5:39*). Jesus Himself was willing to abide by the Scriptures, the Word of God committed to writing. If He was willing to do that, what does this tell us about what we should do, as well?

**What has been your own experience with using the Scriptures in your battle with temptation? That is, when tempted, did you start reading the Bible or quote Scripture? What happened as a result, and what have you learned from that experience?**

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## Jesus Versus Scripture?

**Read** John 5:45–47. What powerful message does Jesus give us here about His relationship to the Bible?

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Some people claim that when Jesus spoke He put His words in stark contrast to the words of Scripture, as we find them in the Old Testament. They say that the words of Jesus are even elevated above the words of Scripture.

In the New Testament, we read that Jesus said: “ ‘You have heard that it was said . . . but I say to you . . . ’ ” (*Matt. 5:43, 44; compare with Matt. 5:21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 38, 39*). When Jesus said these famous words in the Sermon on the Mount, He was not trying to abandon or abolish the Old Testament, as some interpreters claim. Instead, He responded to various interpretations of Scripture and to oral traditions that were used by some interpreters of His day to justify behavior toward other people that God did not condone and never commanded, like hating your enemy (*see Matt. 5:43*).

Jesus did not abolish the Old Testament in any way or in any degree lessen its authority. The opposite is true. It was the Old Testament that, indeed, proves who He is. Instead, He intensified the meaning of the Old Testament statements by pointing us to God’s original intentions.

To use Jesus’ authority to disqualify Holy Scripture or to denigrate some parts of the Bible as uninspired is perhaps one of the subtlest, and yet most dangerous, criticisms of Scripture, because it is done in the very name of Jesus. We have Jesus’ example of how much authority He gave to the Scriptures, which, in His day, consisted of the Old Testament only. What more evidence do we need about how we should view the Old Testament, as well?

Far from weakening the authority of Scripture, Jesus consistently upheld Scripture as a reliable and trustworthy guide. In fact, He unambiguously states in the very same Sermon on the Mount: “ ‘Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill’ ” (*Matt. 5:17, NASB*). And He continues to say that whoever “ ‘annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven’ ” (*Matt. 5:19, NASB*).

**What are some of the key doctrines that, to this day, find their grounding in the Old Testament? Think, for example, of Creation (*Genesis 1, Genesis 2*) and the Fall (*Genesis 3*). What other crucial Christian truths do we find in the Old Testament that are later amplified in the New Testament?**

## Quiet Times With the Word of God

Our lives tend to be hectic and filled with tension and stress. Sometimes we have to work hard just to get by—to survive and to put food on the table. Other times, even when we have the necessities of life, we hustle and bustle because we want more and more. We want the things that we think will make us happy and fulfilled. But, as Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes warns us, that doesn't always happen.

Whatever the reason, we can be terribly busy in our lives, and so it's very easy, amid the busyness, to crowd out God. It's not that we don't believe, but only that we don't spend quality time reading, praying, and drawing close to the Lord, who has “ ‘your breath in His hand’ ” (*Dan. 5:23, NKJV*). We can be too diverted by other things to experience quality time with God. We all need moments in which we deliberately slow down to meet the one who is our Savior, Jesus. How can the Holy Spirit speak to us if we do not pause to listen? The special quiet time with God, in reading His Word and in the communication of prayer, is the source of our spiritual life.

**Read Psalm 37:7; Psalm 46:10; and Psalm 62:1, 2, 5. What do these texts teach us about quiet time with God? Why is quiet time with God so important?**

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If you love someone, you enjoy spending time alone with that beloved person. Choose a place in which you can read and reflect on God's Word without interruptions. In our hectic life, this can succeed only if you deliberately reserve a specific window of time for this encounter. Often the beginning of the day is best for these minutes of quietness and reflection. Such moments before the workday begins can become a blessing for the whole rest of the day, because the valuable thoughts you gain will accompany you for many hours. But be creative to find the right quality time you need in order to meet with God without interruption.

To be connected through prayer with the living God of the Bible affects your life as nothing else ever can. Eventually, it contributes to your becoming more like Jesus.

**How deliberate are you in seeking time to spend alone with the Lord? What are those times like, and how do they help you to know even better the reality and love of God?**

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## Memory and Song

**“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You”** (*Psalm 119:11, NKJV*).

Memorizing Scripture brings multiplied blessings. When we store precious passages of God’s Word in our minds, we can bring to life what has been committed to memory and apply it in new and changing circumstances. That way, the Bible directly impacts our thinking, our decisions, and influences our values and behavior. Memorizing Scripture brings the Bible to life in our daily experience. Furthermore, it helps us to worship God and to live a faithful life according to the Scriptures.

To remember Scripture word by word is a tremendous safeguard against deceptions and false interpretations. Learning Scripture by heart enables us to cite Scripture, even when we do not have a Bible available. This can become a tremendous power for good in situations when temptations arise, or when we are faced with adverse challenges. To recall God’s promises, and to fix our minds on God’s Word rather than on our problems, lifts our thoughts to God, who has a thousand ways to help when we see none.

**Read** Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16. How can singing God’s Word establish and strengthen the Word of God in our minds?

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Singing the words of the Bible also can be a powerful way to memorize the text of Scripture. In singing, the words of Scripture are more easily remembered. To combine the words of Scripture with beautiful melodies will anchor them in our thoughts more firmly, and be an effective way to dispel our anxious moods. Scripture passages that are connected with simple but harmonious melodies can easily be sung and memorized by little children and adults alike. Scripture was the inspiration for numerous and world-famous oratorios, symphonies, and other music that has shaped and influenced Christian culture throughout the centuries. Compositions that lift up our minds and direct our thoughts to God and His Word are a wonderful blessing and positive influence in our lives.

“Music forms a part of God’s worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 594.

**Further Thought:** Read Ellen G. White, “The Privilege of Prayer,” pp. 93–104, in *Steps to Christ*.

“The natural eye can never behold the comeliness and beauty of Christ. The inward illumination of the Holy Spirit, revealing to the soul its true hopeless, helpless condition without the mercy and pardon of the Sin-bearer—the all-sufficiency of Christ—can alone enable man to discern His infinite mercy, His immeasurable love, benevolence, and glory.”—Ellen G. White, *The Upward Look*, p. 155.

“Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory, to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations. . . . When Satan would lead the mind to dwell upon earthly and sensual things, he is most effectually resisted with, ‘It is written.’ ”—*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, April 8, 1884.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1 How does the reality of free will and free choice play into all our decisions regarding faith and obedience? Though many areas of our life are out of our control, with regard to the crucial things, the things that pertain to eternal life, we do have free choice. What are you doing with the free will that God has given you? What kind of spiritual choices are you making?
- 2 Think about the role that the Sabbath can and should play in terms of giving us quiet time with God. How does keeping the Sabbath protect you from being so caught up in working and doing things that you don’t spend the time with God that you need to spend? How can you learn to make the Sabbath more of the spiritual blessing that it was meant to be?
- 3 What has been your experience in spending time with God alone in prayer and study? How does this spiritual practice impact your faith? How *should* it impact your faith? In class, if you feel comfortable, talk about your own personal times of reading and praying and what you have gained from them. How might others benefit from what you have learned?
- 4 What are some of your favorite texts that you have memorized? What is it about them that you like so much? How has memorizing them been a blessing to you?

## Escape From a Plane Crash

By ANDREW MCCHESENEY, Adventist Mission

Pius Kabadi Tshiombe, a 53-year-old lay evangelist, boarded the An-2 single-engine biplane for a flight to visit a church that he planted in a remote region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. But the Soviet-built plane operated by Kinshasa-based Air Kasai developed engine trouble shortly after taking off from Kamako for the 90-mile (150-kilometer) flight to Tshikapa, located near the border with Angola. As the pilot looked for a place to land, the plane lost altitude, and smoke filled the cabin. Tshiombe saw the pilot emerge from the cockpit. “Follow the pilot,” a voice seemed to say.

Tshiombe sprang to his feet. The pilot opened an exit and jumped out. Tshiombe also jumped. Moments later, the An-2 slammed into the bush and burst into flames. The crash occurred about two miles (three kilometers) from the Kamako airport on July 27, 2018. Only Tshiombe and the pilot survived; the other five passengers died. “He survived with only his cell phone,” said Tshiombe’s wife, Nicole, who received confirmation about her husband’s condition via WhatsApp photographs sent by a friend after the crash. “He had a head and leg wound but no broken bones.”

Among the photos was one of Tshiombe, dazed and wearing a blood-soaked shirt, with a cell phone in his hand. Nicole was unable to speak with her husband for three days, but his first words by phone were filled with praise to God. “I will never leave this God,” he told her. “He is wonderful.”

Tshiombe had wanted to visit a small church plant of 15 people that he opened after evangelistic meetings in Kabungyu. But he ended up on the An-2 on a Friday after learning that his desired flight left on Saturday.

“They told him that he would have to travel on the Sabbath,” his wife said. “He said, ‘I can’t because I worship on Sabbath.’ But they said, ‘The flight only goes on Saturday.’ He said, ‘I’ll find another way to reach my destination.’ ”

Tshiombe, pictured second from left, called his wife from the airport to announce his change in plans. He hoped to find a new way to connect to Kabungyu. Nicole has many questions about what happened. She doesn’t understand why only Tshiombe and the pilot survived. She doesn’t know whether Tshiombe’s decision to keep the Sabbath played a role in the story. But she believes that he was delivered as promised in Psalm 91:14, where



the Lord says, “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him” (NKJV).

“Be faithful to God because He can protect us at all times,” she said.

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*Part of a 2019 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped expand the Adventist clinic in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this Sabbath, which will help spread the gospel in the Trans-European Division.*



**Key Texts:** *James 1:22; Luke 4:4, 8, 10–12; John 5:46, 47; 1 Cor. 2:12–14; Phil. 2:13; Ps. 37:7; Ps. 46:10; Ps. 62:1, 2, 5; Ps. 119:11.*

## ***Part I: Overview***

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This quarter we have studied various principles of biblical interpretation. But the best hermeneutical principles will avail nothing if they do not lead to a joyful practice of the biblical message. The exposition of Scripture is not just an intellectual exercise. The goal of any study of the Bible is more than acquiring head knowledge. If done properly, it will lead to heart obedience. It is an obedience that is deeper and more meaningful than just outward conformity. It will lead to a joyful faithfulness to the will of God. The truths of Scripture want to be lived, they do not just want to be believed. Such a response to the biblical message is possible only through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, who brings the words of Scripture to new life. He kindles the desire in us to embrace the truths of Scripture and follow them with heart and mind. The best example of this response to Scripture is found in Jesus Christ, who has shown to us how to deal with the Word of God and implement it in one's life. Jesus never nullified Scripture but consistently pointed to Scripture as the authoritative norm for even His words. Jesus also gave us examples of spending quiet time in solitude with the Word of God. This discipline is something we have to regain intentionally in our hectic world. We also can bring Scripture to fruition when we memorize it. Often singing the words of Scripture will anchor them firmly in our minds and hearts and cheer us on.

## ***Part II: Commentary***

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### **The Living Word of God and the Holy Spirit**

The Bible makes it clear that man in his sinfulness and fallen state is spiritually blind and does not accept the things of God, for they are foolishness to him. He cannot even understand them, because they need to be spiritually discerned (*1 Cor. 2:14*). Even if we were to understand the plain meaning of the words of Scripture clearly, we would have no desire to follow them without the transforming work of the Holy Spirit on our hearts. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible to write down the truth God revealed to them (*see 2 Pet. 1:19–21, 2 Tim. 3:16*). But to have the inspired Word of God is not enough. The Word also must be embraced and be applied and implemented

in our lives. Without the Holy Spirit, we will have no appreciation of the divine message and no desire to obey it. Without the Holy Spirit, we will evidence no faith, no hope, and no love in response to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit enables us to see the spiritual and existential significance of the scriptural Word for our lives (*see 1 Cor. 2:12, 14, 15; Eph. 1:17–19; Ps. 119:8*).

The Holy Spirit continues to speak to people through the Bible today, making the Written Word of God come alive. Thus, the dead letter of the biblical book becomes the living Word of God that is sharper than a two-edged sword (*Heb. 4:12*), cutting through to our innermost being and transforming our lives in the light of Scripture. Several biblical passages point out that the task of the Holy Spirit is to put Jesus Christ into central focus, lifting up the Son of God and what He has done for us (*see John 15:26; 1 John 4:2, 3*).

Where have you experienced the help of the Holy Spirit in leading you joyfully to obey the words of Scripture in your life?

### Learning From Jesus

By embracing the scriptural Word as trustworthy and true, we are led by the Spirit to accept the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, as our personal Savior and Lord and as our highest example to emulate. We can learn much from the way Jesus used the Scriptures. He was intimately familiar with all that Scripture had to say and was able to quote the exact words of Scripture when He was tempted by the devil (*Matt. 4:4, 7, 10*). His familiarity with Scripture guarded Him against being misled by a selective use of Bible passages. He knew all the Scriptures, and for Him Scripture could not be broken (*John 10:35*). The entire Scripture was sacred for Him. Hence, Jesus repeatedly referred back to Scripture and to what is written (*see Luke 24:45, 46; Matt. 11:10; John 6:45; John 7:38*).

In what way does Jesus' example inspire you to know the words of Scripture better for yourself? How can you become more familiar with the Bible? In what areas do you need to make the Bible the norm for your life and to follow it faithfully?

### Jesus Versus Scripture?

One of the things we often hear today is a supposed dichotomy between the “gospel and doctrine.” It might sound strange to suggest a contradiction and even antagonism between Jesus and the Bible. But in church history there have been repeated attempts to pitch Christ against Scripture and to elevate Christ as the interpreting norm over what the Bible states. Ultimately some even use Christ to judge Scripture and make some Scripture null and void. Perhaps the most famous example is found in Martin Luther's well-known principle by

which he judged Scripture: “All the genuine sacred books agree in this, that all of them preach and inculcate [*treiben*] Christ. And that is the true test by which to judge all books, when we see whether or not they inculcate Christ.”—*Martin Luther, Luther’s Works, Vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I, Preface to the New Testament*, eds. E. Theodore Bachmann and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 35 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976), p. 396.

Thus, Scripture must be interpreted in favor of Christ, not against Him. In Luther’s view, Christ and Scripture can be set over against each other, because Luther ranked the personal Word (Christ) over the spoken Word (gospel) and the Written Word (Scripture). This approach meant that while Scripture is queen, Christ is King, even over Scripture! If a passage of Scripture seems to be in conflict with Luther’s view of Christ, his Christ-centered interpretation becomes a gospel-centered criticism of Scripture, where the content of Scripture is criticized in the name of Christ. Thus, Luther’s Christological method became a tool of theological criticism of Scripture. This distinction and ranking leads to a canon within the canon, where Christ becomes the interpretative key and norm for interpreting the Bible but also relegates some parts of the Bible and even whole books, such as the epistle of James, to the periphery as empty and worthless, because they are thought not to point to Christ. The following quotation from Luther illustrates this problematic aspect and is particularly insightful because it deals with the Sabbath:

“Briefly, Christ is the Lord, not the servant, the Lord of the Sabbath, of law, and of all things. The Scriptures must be understood in favor of Christ, not against him. For that reason they must either refer to him or must not be held to be true Scriptures. . . . Therefore, if the adversaries press the Scriptures against Christ, we urge Christ against the Scriptures. We have the Lord, they the servants; we have the Head, they the feet or members, over which the Head necessarily dominates and takes precedence. If one of them had to be parted with, Christ or the law, the law would have to be let go, not Christ. For if we have Christ, we can easily establish laws and we shall judge all things rightly. Indeed, we would make new decalogues, as Paul does in all the epistles, and Peter, but above all Christ in the gospel. And these decalogues are clearer than the decalogue of Moses, just as the countenance of Christ is brighter than the countenance of Moses (2 Cor. 3:7–11).”—*Martin Luther, Luther’s Works, Vol. 34: Career of the Reformer IV*, eds. Hilton C. Oswald and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 34 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), pp. 112, 113.

Contrast this quote with John 7:38, in which Jesus refers back to Scripture rather than to Himself as the norm for authentic belief.

### Quiet Times With the Word of God and Memorizing Scripture

Jesus was busy with healing people and preaching the good news all day long. But He drew His spiritual strength from quality times of solitude in which He would pray (*Mark 1:35*) and recall the promises of Scripture. In our hectic and busy life, we have to plan deliberately for quiet times with God in which we are uninterrupted, have undisturbed time to reflect on God's Word, and can pray. Such quiet times will give us strength and spiritual vitality that nothing else can provide. When you are reading Scripture for the pleasure of it, read less, but read more of what is important for your spiritual life. When your thoughts begin to wander and drift to unimportant subjects, focus your attention on what God has done for you and practice spiritual concentration on the Word of God. Sometimes the singing of a spiritual song or hymn helps to focus our thoughts and even makes it easier to remember and memorize words of Scripture.

Which times of the day are the most undisturbed for you? What helps you to focus on God's Word and have some quality quiet time with Jesus? In what circumstances does singing help you remember the Bible? Where do you see advantages in memorizing parts of Scripture, and how can you use that to be a blessing for others?

## ***Part III: Life Application***

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Sometimes people say, "Keeping the biblical law not to eat unclean food is not essential for salvation, as long as you believe in Christ." Or people might say, "If you live together even though you are not married, it is not decisive for you as a Christian, as long as you love Jesus." Where do you see a danger in such a line of argumentation? Why is it not safe to go against clear statements of Scripture, even when this is done in the name of Jesus?

Ellen G. White has aptly stated: "The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 9.

In light of what we have studied this past quarter, why do you think this principle is so important? What do you want to learn from the way Jesus was familiar with Scripture and from the way He followed the Word of God? How can Scripture become an integral part of your life and influence the decisions you have to make?



We have the privilege of joining with Christ in His mission of saving others. That will be the focus of next quarter's guide, entitled "Making Friends for God: The Joy of Sharing in His Mission," by Mark Finley.

The idea of mission being God's work first is clarified throughout Scripture. Solomon states it this way, "[God] has put eternity in their hearts" (*Eccles. 3:11*). When a person is born into this world, God places a desire for eternity deep within his or her being. Not only has God placed within each one of us a longing for Himself—but He also sends His Holy Spirit to draw us to Himself. When the human race was condemned to eternal death, the love of God already had made provision. Christ would leave the glory and splendor of heaven and come to this sin-darkened world on a redemptive mission. Before we ever gave Him our life, He provided salvation to us through His death. We turned our backs on Him, but He turned His face toward us. We cared little for Him, but He cared immensely for us. It is not our job to save a lost world; it is God's. But it is our responsibility to joyfully cooperate with God in what He is doing to save the lost. May this guide assist us in understanding our part in mission more clearly.

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### Lesson 1—Why Witness?

#### The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **Providing Opportunities for Salvation** (*James 5:19, 20*)

MONDAY: **Making Jesus Glad** (*Zeph. 3:17*)

TUESDAY: **Growing by Giving** (*Luke 6:38*)

WEDNESDAY: **Faithfulness to Christ's Command** (*Isa. 49:6*)

THURSDAY: **Motivated by Love** (*2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 18–20*)

**Memory Text**—*1 Timothy 2:3, 4, NKJV*

**Sabbath Gem:** When we understand who God is and have experienced the marvels of His grace and the power of His love, we cannot help witnessing to others about Him.

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### Lesson 2—Winsome Witnesses: The Power of Personal Testimony

#### The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **Unlikely Witnesses** (*Mark 5:15–20*)

MONDAY: **Proclaiming the Risen Christ** (*Mark 16:1–11*)

TUESDAY: **Changed Lives Make a Difference** (*Acts 4:13*)

WEDNESDAY: **Sharing Our Experience** (*Acts 26:8*)

THURSDAY: **The Power of a Personal Testimony** (*Acts 26:1–32*)

**Memory Text**—*Acts 4:20*

**Sabbath Gem:** When a person says, "I once was hopeless but now have hope. I was filled with guilt but now have peace. I was purposeless but now have purpose," then even skeptics can see the gospel's power. This is the witness the world so desperately needs.

**Lessons for People Who Are Legally Blind** *The Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is available free in braille, on audio CD, and via online download to people who are legally blind or physically disabled. This includes individuals who, because of arthritis, multiple sclerosis, paralysis, accident, and so forth, cannot hold or focus on normal ink-print publications. Contact Christian Record Services for the Blind, Box 6097, Lincoln, NE 68506-0097. Phone: 402-488-0981; email: [services@christianrecord.org](mailto:services@christianrecord.org); website: [www.christianrecord.org](http://www.christianrecord.org).