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Making Friends for Jesus

Sometimes we understand just one idea, and that changes everything. Many years ago, I sat in a leadership meeting with other church leaders. We talked about sharing our faith with people, witnessing, and preaching the Good News about Jesus. One of my friends said, “The work we do for God is really God’s work, not ours. God uses all of the treasures in heaven to save our planet. Our job is to work together with Him to save lost people.” When I heard that, I felt my heart become light. It was not my job to save this lost planet. It was God’s job. I was responsible for working with Him in what He already was doing.

The Bible shows us this same idea. Solomon says, “He [God] has put thoughts of the forever in man’s mind” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NLV). When we are born, God puts in our hearts a wish for heaven and everlasting life. Augustine said, “Lord, we were made for You. Our hearts will never find rest until they rest in You.”—Adapted. John tells us that Jesus is the true Light that gives light to all people (John 1:9). God puts in each of us a wish for God. He also sends His Holy Spirit to lead us to Himself.

Did you know that every wish to do right comes from the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit also causes us to feel that sin is wrong. The Holy Spirit helps us do good, be kind, and be unselfish too. We may not fully understand how the Holy Spirit works. But we know that He works in our lives to bring us near to Jesus (John 16:7–15). The Holy Spirit’s work in our lives is a wonderful gift. But the best gift of all is Jesus Himself.

When humans fell into sin, they became lost with no hope. The penalty was death. But God loved us so much that He gave His Son to save us. Luke writes, “ ‘The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them’ ” (Luke 19:10, ERV). Paul adds, “But here is how God has shown his love for us. While [when] we were still [continuing to be] sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NIV). God led the way in saving us. Jesus left the glory and beauty of heaven. He came to this planet full of sin. Jesus came to save

us. Before we turned to Jesus, He made a big jump from heaven to us. Before we gave Him our lives, He died on the cross to save us. We were God's enemies. But He was our Friend. We turned our backs on Jesus. But He turned His face to us. We love Him. But He loves us very deeply. So much more.

In Luke 15, Luke shows us three picture stories about God's love for us. First, Luke shows us Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd never stops looking for His lost sheep. Second, we read about a woman who looks everywhere for her lost silver coin. Third, we read about a father who runs out to meet his lost son who comes home again. Ellen G. White says this about Jesus: "God's saving plan was put in place before God made the earth. Jesus was not the only one who worked so hard to save humans. In meetings in heaven, God the Father and the Son made a promise. If humans sinned, then Jesus agreed to take the punishment for man's sins. Jesus and the Father felt the same about this plan. Jesus agreed to accept our punishment."—*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, November 15, 1898, adapted.

Now think about this: we have God's wonderful blessing and the big job of working with Jesus to save people. This work will give us joy that will continue forever. That is what these lessons this quarter are all about.

***When someone is born,
God puts in his heart a wish
for heaven and everlasting life.***

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