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Christian Education

“Wisdom begins with fear and respect for the LORD. Knowledge of the Holy One leads to understanding” (Proverbs 9:10, ERV).

Think about the verse above. It talks about two ideas that are closely joined to each other: (1) “fear,” which is “wonder.” This is the wonder we feel when we think about the glory and power of God. And (2) “knowledge,” which is the same as learning truth about God’s love and what is in His heart. So, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding start with God Himself.

This is so true, is it not? God is the One who made everything and gives it life (John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:16, 17). We may know a lot about caterpillars, stars, and angels. All these things were made by God. So, all true knowledge, wisdom, and understanding come from God Himself.

The Bible is clear: “God is love” (1 John 4:8, KJV). This verse explains a quote from Ellen G. White: “Love is why God made everything. Love is the reason for why God decided to save us too. God’s law shows us the same thing. God gave us this law to show us how to live our lives. The first and most important commandment is: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ Also, ‘Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself.’” (Luke 10:27, ERV). God has no beginning or end. He knows everything. To love this God we must love Him with all our strength, mind, and heart. Then we will fully develop every gift, skill, and power that we have.”—*Education*, page 16, adapted.

Yes, all true knowledge and education begin with loving the Lord. So, Christian education should turn our minds to God and what He teaches us about Himself. God has shown us Himself in the Bible and in nature. The Bible and nature show us everything we need to be saved in Jesus and to love Him with our heart and spirit. Nature has been hurt and spoiled by thousands of years of sin. But nature continues to show us the

power and beauty of God and His love. The Bible teaches us how to understand correctly what we see in nature. The Bible is the perfect measure of truth. The best way to learn about God is in the Bible. The Bible shows us who God is, what He has done for us, and what He is doing for humans now. The Bible teaches us about how the earth was made and how we are saved. This message must be the center of all Christian education.

John said that Jesus is the “the true light that gives light to all people” (John 1:9, ERV). So, Jesus gives every human life. In the same way, Jesus gives every human light. He helps them to understand some part of His truth and love.

We are all in a war in this life. It is named the worldwide war between God and Satan. In this war, Satan is our enemy. Satan tries to block us from getting the knowledge that God wants to give us. So, Christian education must help students to better understand the knowledge that God offers us in the Bible.

What if we learn science, reading and writing, math, or medicine and do not learn about God? As Jesus said, “ ‘It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world [the best of everything that life on this earth offers] if you yourself are lost’ ” (Mark 8:36, ERV). How can an excellent education help you if you die in the lake of fire? The answer is clear, is it not?

So, the topic for our lesson study this quarter is education. What does it mean to get a “Christian education”? How can we as a church find a way to help all our members get this education?

All Christian education starts with loving the Lord.

This Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide has been written by many different presidents of Seventh-day Adventist colleges and schools in North America.