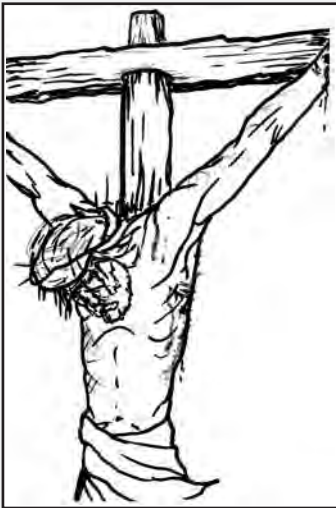


Jesus, Our Obedient Brother



SABBATH—JANUARY 15

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Leviticus 25:25–27, 47–49; Hebrews 11:24–26; 1 Corinthians 15:50; Hebrews 12:1–4.



Jesus became a Man with all our human weaknesses, and He died.

MEMORY VERSE: “God’s children all have a body. That is why Jesus himself had the same [body]. But because Jesus also had a body, he was able to die and stop the devil. The devil has power to make people die. But Jesus, by his own death, was able to stop the power of death” (Hebrews 2:14, WE).

HEBREWS 1 says that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus leads the angels. Jesus “shines as bright as God. He is just like [the same as] God himself” (Hebrews 1:3, WE). In Hebrews 2, Jesus is the Son of man. For a short time, God made Jesus a little lower than the angels (Hebrews 2:7). Jesus became a Man with all our human weaknesses, and He died.

In Hebrews 1, God says to Jesus: “ ‘You are My Son’ ” (Hebrews 1:5, NLV). In Hebrews 2, Jesus says that humans are “ ‘my brothers and sisters’ ” (Hebrews 2:12, ERV).

In Hebrews 1, the Father announces that Jesus is God and King (Hebrews 1:8–12). In Hebrews 2, the Son says He will trust in God (Hebrews 2:13).

In Hebrews 1, Jesus is God, the One who made us, who keeps us alive, and is our King. In Hebrews 2, Jesus is the human High Priest, our Spiritual Leader. He will never fail us.

What does this Bible truth teach us? Jesus the Son is also Jesus our Brother. The work of Jesus our Brother shows us the most perfect picture of God, who loves us and made us (Hebrews 1:1–4).

BROTHER AND SAVIOR (Leviticus 25:25–27, 47–49)

Read what Moses says in Leviticus 25:25–27, 47–49. In these verses, who can save a person who sold himself to pay a loan? Also, who can buy back land for the family member?

The law of Moses talks about the person who must sell his land or himself because he is poor. The poor man will get back his land or his freedom in 50 years. The 50th year was a special Sabbath year. At this time, people freed their slaves and gave them back their land.

But 50 years is a long time to wait. That is why the law of Moses said that the nearest male family member can pay the money that the poor man owes. Then the poor man can be free from the loan or slavery much sooner.

When someone is killed, his nearest male family member also must become his avenger. Then the avenger must go after the killer and punish him (Deuteronomy 19:11–13).

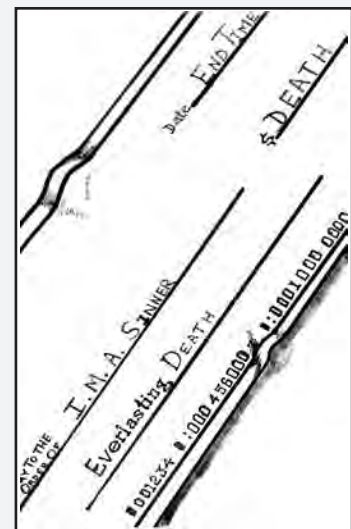
Read Hebrews 2:14–16. What do these verses say about both Jesus and us?

Hebrews 2:14–16 shows us that we are slaves of the devil. But Jesus is the One who buys us from slavery and makes us free. When Adam sinned, humans became the slaves of Satan. We no longer can do what is right and good on our own (Romans 7:14–24). Worse, the penalty for sin is death. We cannot pay this penalty ourselves (Romans 6:23). So, on our own, we have no hope without Jesus.

Jesus became human, the same as us. He became our close male family Member to save us. Jesus is not ashamed to say we are His “brothers and sisters” (Hebrews 2:11, ERV).

Here is an interesting thought: when Jesus became human, He also showed us, at the same time, that He was God. In the Old Testament, the real Savior of Israel, or close male family Member, is Yahweh (read Psalm 19:14; Isaiah 41:14; Isaiah 43:14; Isaiah 44:22; Jeremiah 31:11; Hosea 13:14). Yahweh is another name for God.

Just how close can Jesus be to you? What has been your experience? Why is your having this experience so important to your faith?



The penalty for sin is death.

HE IS NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BROTHERS (Hebrews 11:24–26)

Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters (Hebrews 2:11). Jesus is one with God. But He loved us so much that He made us part of His family in heaven. Compare this love with the public shame that the Christians suffered in their communities (Hebrews 10:33).

Read about Moses in Hebrews 11:24–26. How do the decisions Moses made show us what Jesus did for us?



Jesus loved us so much that He made us part of His family in heaven.

Moses was “called the son of Pharaoh’s [the king of Egypt’s] daughter” (Hebrews 11:24, ERV). Moses was a powerful man in the most powerful kingdom on earth at the time. Moses got the best education and military training. Stephen tells us “ ‘The Egyptians taught Moses everything they knew. He was powerful in all he said and did’ ” (Acts 7:22, ERV). Ellen G. White says that Moses was “a favorite leader of the soldiers in the Egyptian army.” Pharaoh also loved Moses, his adopted grandson. Ellen G. White tells us that Pharaoh “wanted to make Moses king after him” (read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 245, adapted). Moses gave up all this honor and fame when he chose to be part of the people of God. The Israelites were slaves. They had no education. They were not a powerful people at all.

What does God ask from us? Read Matthew 10:32, 33; 2 Timothy 1:8, 12; and Hebrews 13:12–15.

The Christians suffered much. They were hurt and shamed in public. So, they started to feel ashamed of Jesus. Now, Paul warns the Christians they are in danger of “nailing him [Jesus] to the cross again, shaming him before everyone” (Hebrews 6:6, ERV). So, Paul keeps telling his readers to continue to trust in Jesus (Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 10:23).

God wants us to accept Jesus as our God and our Brother. As our Savior, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. As our Brother, Jesus shows us the way we should live. God made us to “be like [the same as] His Son [in how we think and act]. Christ [Jesus] was first and all those [people] who belong to God are His brothers” (Romans 8:29, NLV).

Jesus chose to do what was necessary to make us His brothers and sisters. What does His decision teach us about His wonderful love for us?

FLESH AND BLOOD THE SAME AS US (1 Corinthians 15:50)

Hebrews says that Jesus became human. As a human, Jesus can help us and die for us (Hebrews 2:9, 14–16; Hebrews 10:5–10). This Bible truth is the most important part of the plan God made to save us. This Bible truth also gives us our only hope for everlasting life.

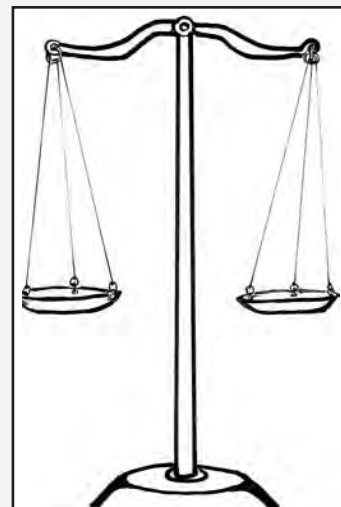
Read Matthew 16:17; Galatians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:50; and Ephesians 6:12. These verses talk about human weakness. What are some weaknesses we as sinners have?

“Flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12, KJV) is a word picture for sinners and their weaknesses. Because of sin, we also die (1 Corinthians 15:50). Hebrews says that Jesus was made the same as His brothers “in all things” (Hebrews 2:17). These words show us that Jesus became completely human. Jesus did not only look human. He also really was human, the same as us.

But Hebrews also says that Jesus was different from us: Jesus did not sin (Hebrews 4:15). That is how Jesus can be our Spiritual Leader. Jesus “is holy. He is good. He has never done any wrong” (Hebrews 7:26, WE). As sinners, our hearts are evil. We are born the slaves of sin. Paul says “the Law is right and good, but I am a person who does what is wrong and bad. I am not my own boss. Sin is my boss” (Romans 7:14, NLV; read also Romans 7:15–20). Jesus came as our Savior. He offered Himself to God for our sins. “He is holy. He has no sin in him. He is pure [clean; without guilt]” (Hebrews 7:26, ERV; read also Hebrews 7:27, 28).

Now God can forgive us and accept us because Jesus lived an obedient life and then offered Himself for our sins (Hebrews 2:14–17). Jesus also keeps the promises in the New Agreement. He writes His law in our hearts (Hebrews 8:10). He gives us the strength to live holy lives. Jesus beat the enemy for us, too. Jesus made us free from sin. He gives us power over sin in our lives. Now we can “serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14, NIV). Yes, Jesus beat the devil and sin. But we must wait for a time before Satan is destroyed. Satan will be destroyed forever when God finishes His final work as Judge (Revelation 20:1–3, 10).

Jesus promises to help us win the war against sin. So, why do we fight against sin and fail? What are we doing wrong? How can we live the life that Jesus wants for us?



Satan will be destroyed forever when God finishes His final work as Judge (Revelation 20:1–3, 10).

JESUS IS MADE PERFECT BY SUFFERING (Hebrews 2:10, 17, 18)

Read Hebrews 2:10, 17, 18 and Hebrews 5:8, 9. Why did Jesus suffer? How was His suffering an important part of the plan of God to save sinners?

Paul says that God “made Jesus a perfect Savior through [by] his suffering” (Hebrews 2:10, ERV). This verse is surprising. Paul already told us that Jesus “shines as bright as God. He is just like [the same as] God himself” (Hebrews 1:3, WE). Paul also tells us that Jesus “did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15, NIV). As our Spiritual Leader, Jesus “is holy. He has no sin in him” (Hebrews 7:26, ERV). Jesus “gave Himself as a perfect gift to God” (Hebrews 9:14, NIV; read also Hebrews 10:5–10). If Jesus did not sin, why did He need to be made perfect by suffering?

The Bible tells us the answer: “Jesus was God’s Son. But by suffering he learned what it means to obey. In this way he was made perfect. Eternal [everlasting] salvation [the plan of God to save us from sin] comes from him. He saves all those [people] who obey him” (Hebrews 5:8, 9, NIV). So, suffering made Jesus fit to save us.

Let us look at three ways that suffering made Jesus fit to be our Savior and High Priest, or Spiritual Leader:

1. God made “Jesus a perfect Leader by having Him suffer for men’s sins” (Hebrews 2:10, NIV). The death of Jesus allowed God to save us and show us mercy. Jesus is the only One who can make that mercy possible. As God, Jesus can help us. As our sin offering, Jesus also can save us.

2. Suffering taught Jesus how to obey (Hebrews 5:8). Why did Jesus need to learn obedience? First, the obedience of Jesus made it possible for God to accept the death of Jesus for our sins (Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:5–10). Second, the sufferings of Jesus helped Him to become our Example (Hebrews 5:9). So, Jesus “learned” obedience because obedience was a new experience for Him. As God, did Jesus need to obey anyone? Of course not! Everyone obeyed Jesus, the King of heaven and the everlasting Son. But to save us, the powerful Son of God became the obedient Son of man.

3. Jesus never sinned. So, He is a High Priest we can trust (Hebrews 2:17, 18). He is full of mercy. Suffering did not fill Jesus with more mercy for us. The mercy already in His heart caused Jesus to come to suffer and die for us (Hebrews 10:5–10; compare with Romans 5:7, 8). The suffering of Jesus shows us His love as a Brother.



The suffering of Jesus shows us His love as a Brother.

THE BROTHER AS OUR EXAMPLE (Hebrews 12:1–4)

Another reason why Jesus became human and lived as a Man was to be our Example. Jesus is the only One who can show us the right way to live.

Read Hebrews 12:1–4. In these verses, Paul compares the Christian life to a race. How does Paul say we should run this race?

In these verses, Jesus is the last person in a long list of people who show us faith. Paul says that Jesus “is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete” (Hebrews 12:2, ERV). The word written as “leader” comes from the Greek word “**archegos**.” “**Archegos**” also can be written as “pioneer.” Jesus is the pioneer of the race we must run as Christians. Jesus runs ahead of us to show us the way. Hebrews 6:20 says that Jesus went ahead of us to make a way for us to God. The words “the one who makes our faith complete” teach us that Jesus showed the strongest faith in God possible. Hebrews 12:1–4 also teaches us Jesus ran the race with success. Jesus shows us what living by faith is all about.

In Hebrews 2:13, Paul writes words from Isaiah 8:17, 18. In these verses from Isaiah, Jesus talks to His Father: “And again He says, ‘I will put My trust in God.’ At another time He said, ‘Here I am with the children God gave Me’ ” (Hebrews 2:13, NLV; read also Isaiah 8:17, 18).

Isaiah says these words just before the kings of northern Israel and Syria join their armies. Together, these kings planned to enter the kingdom of Judah by force (Isaiah 7:1, 2). Isaiah showed faith in God at this time. But King Ahaz showed no faith in God (2 Kings 16:5–18). God promised to protect Ahaz as His own son. God says Ahaz may ask Him for a sign to show him that God will keep His promise. Ahaz refuses. Ahaz sends messengers to Tiglath-pileser, the king of Assyria, with a message: “ ‘I am your servant and your son’ ” (2 Kings 16:7, NLV). How sad! Ahaz wishes to be a son of his enemy and not the son of God.

Jesus is different from Ahaz. Jesus puts His trust in God and His promise. God promises Jesus that He will put His enemies under His control (Hebrews 1:13; Hebrews 10:12, 13). God makes the same promise to us. We need to believe God, too, just as Jesus did (Romans 16:20).



Jesus is the only One who can show us the right way to live.



Jesus “makes his sun shine on both wrong and good people” (Matthew 5:45, WE).

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Hebrews 2:13 shows us the words of Jesus. Jesus talks to His Father about His brothers and sisters: “ ‘Here I am with the children God gave Me’ ” (Hebrews 2:13, NLV). Patrick Gray says that these verses show us that Jesus protects and takes care of His brothers and sisters. The Romans had a law that helps us understand this idea about Jesus. The Roman law is known as “**tutela impuberum**” in the Latin language. This law helped protect Roman children when their fathers died: “A schoolteacher became responsible for the children and their money until the children grew up. The schoolteacher was often an older brother of the children. This Roman law showed that the older brother had a duty to take care of his younger brothers and sisters.”—*Godly Fear: The Letter to the Hebrews and Greco-Roman Critiques of Superstition* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003), page 126, adapted. This Roman law helps explain why Paul says we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus and His children. As our older Brother, Jesus is our Teacher. He also is the One who protects us.

“Jesus came to this earth as a Man. He became our Helper, who goes to the Father for us. Jesus did these things to show us an important Bible truth. In the worldwide war between God and Satan, we can obey every rule in the law of God if we connect ourselves with the Father and the Son.”—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, page 253, adapted.

“In His life and lessons, Jesus gave us a perfect example. He showed us how to work for God and not to be selfish. God does not live for Himself. Jesus made this earth and keeps everything going. These things show us that Jesus always works to help the people He made. ‘ “He makes his sun shine on both wrong and good people. He lets the rain fall on people who do right and on people who do wrong.” ’ Matthew 5:45, [WE]. God gave His Son this work of keeping everything alive. God also made Jesus our Leader. In these things, Jesus shows us how not to be selfish. The perfect example of Jesus teaches us how we should serve God and other people.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 649, adapted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① Hebrews tells us that Jesus became our Brother to save us. Knowing this, what do you think when you see people refuse to accept His mercy and be saved?
- ② How does the story about Moses help us understand, in a small way, what Jesus did for us and continues to do now?

DR. JESUS

Sengphet is a doctor at a large hospital in Laos. Laos is a country in Southeast Asia. Everyone respects Dr. Sengphet. But he feels that he is not a success. He cannot heal his son.

Dr. Sengphet's son is a grown man who works in Bangkok, Thailand. There, the young man becomes sick. The doctors in Bangkok try to heal him. But the young man does not get better. So, Dr. Sengphet brings his son back to Laos to heal him at the hospital where he works. But the young man only gets worse. Other doctors tell Dr. Sengphet to take his son to a big hospital in Vientiane. Vientiane is the capital city of Laos. So, Dr. Sengphet brings his son to the Vientiane hospital. The doctors there give the young man many tests to discover why he is sick. In the end, the doctors can find nothing wrong with the son of Dr. Sengphet. The doctors say the problem is "all in his mind."

All the medical tests take more than a year. Dr. Sengphet and his wife spend all their money on their son. But nothing they do helps him get better. At the time, they do not know anything about the Bible. So, they do not know the story about the bleeding woman: "Many doctors tried to heal her. She spent all the money she had to pay them. She was not better, but was getting worse" (Mark 5:26, WE). For sure, Dr. Sengphet and his wife can understand the experience of this poor woman!

Dr. Sengphet and his wife bring their son home. Because Dr. Sengphet and his wife do not know what else to do, they pray to Jesus. He is the most powerful Doctor there is. Dr. Sengphet and his wife pray in their bedroom for Jesus to heal their son.

As they pray, their son walks into their bedroom. "What happened to me?" he asked. "Why do I feel peace all of a sudden?"

Dr. Sengphet and his wife keep praying. Then their son has a dream right there in their room while he is wide awake. In this dream, the son sees an evil spirit leave his body. The spirit says, "I can no longer stay because Jesus says that you are His. You belong to Him now."

That day, the son is healed. Dr. Sengphet and his family start to worship Jesus. For months after this experience, Dr. Sengphet tells everyone about his love for Jesus. "Dr. Jesus Christ healed my son. Now my family and I accept Him as our Savior."

Sad to say, Dr. Sengphet stopped worshiping Jesus after some time. Dr. Sengphet forgot about how Jesus healed his son. Please pray for Dr. Sengphet and other people who loved Jesus in the past but now no longer worship Him. Please pray that all these people will come back to Jesus again.

This story shows us the "I Will Go" plan of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This plan is about how we can share Jesus with everyone. Learn more about this plan at IWillGo2020.org.

INSIDE Story

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



The spirit says, "I can no longer stay because Jesus says that you are His. You belong to Him now."