

The Work of *the* Holy Spirit



SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *John 16:8–11; Rom. 5:10; Heb. 4:15, 16; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9; 1 John 5:12, 13; Ps. 31:24.*

Memory Text: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (*Romans 15:13, NASB*).

As we come to the end of our study this quarter on the Holy Spirit and spirituality, we will focus on one other decisive work of the Spirit that has not yet received our attention.

When Jesus announced to the disciples that He would go to the Father, He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. “ ‘But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you’ ” (*John 14:26, NKJV*).

According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is a *parakletos*, that is, a “Helper” or “Comforter” or an “Advocate” who intercedes for us. At the same time Jesus also announced the work that this Advocate would do: He will “convict” the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (*John 16:8, NKJV*).

During our final week we will study in more detail this specific work of the Holy Spirit. We also will learn how this work of the Spirit is related to two other important aspects of His ministry for us: our assurance of salvation and the glorious hope that propels our life as disciples of Jesus Christ.

* Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, March 25.

Conviction of Sin

Read John 16:8, 9. What crucial work does the Holy Spirit do for us, and why is this so important?

Jesus has called the Holy Spirit the *paraclete*, a word rich in meaning and one that conveys the idea of *helper*, *advocate*, and *comforter*. The Holy Spirit does not enter into this important work of conviction as the accuser of the brethren or as our prosecutor. He is sent by Jesus not to condemn us but, rather, to help us see our need of grace.

Only a comforter will be received as a helper. It is a great tragedy that Christians, however well-intentioned, often approach sinners with an accusing spirit rather than a helping one. If we go around pointing out sin in the lives of other people, then we do something that Jesus has not called us to do. After all, who are we to point out sin in others when we are hardly sinless ourselves?

Read Romans 2:1 and Matthew 7:3. What message must we take from these verses?

We are His witnesses, not His prosecutors. We are called to be witnesses of His redemptive power, not to condemn others for their wrongs. In trying to convict other people of their sins, we assume a work that is not ours; it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Comforter—not us—who shall “convince” (*John 16:8, RSV*) the world of what sin really is. People who have not committed their lives to Jesus often have no real sense of what sin truly is, and just how destructive it can be.

The idea here is not that the Spirit will list specific erroneous acts. Instead, He goes to the most fundamental sin of all: unbelief in Jesus Christ (*John 16:9*). Our deepest misery and alienation consists not in our moral imperfection but in our estrangement from God and our refusal to accept the One whom God has sent for the purpose of rescuing us from this condition.

The fundamental problem of all sin is that we do not believe in Jesus, and, thus, reject the only One who can save us from our sin and guilt. This is the sin that puts self at the center of things and refuses to believe the Word of God. Only the Holy Spirit can open our hearts and minds to our great need of repentance and of the Redemption that is found through Christ’s death in our behalf.

The Need of Righteousness

John 16:8 said that the Holy Spirit will convict the world, not just of sin but also of *righteousness*. In other words, the world, which does not know what sin really is, does not know what true righteousness is either.

Unconverted people imagine that external morality will suffice. They desire not the righteousness of God but their own righteousness. They desire a righteousness that comes from their outward acts, such as obedience to the law of God. But our acts of obedience to the law can never justify us before God.

In Isaiah 64:6, the prophet describes all self-made righteous acts of the people of his day as “filthy rags.” Even our best religiously motivated, self-perceived righteousness is in fact the opposite: unrighteousness.

But the righteousness of Jesus is sufficient for us. It meets all the claims of the law of God. It counts with God the Father. And we can claim it for ourselves through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Read Romans 5:10 and Hebrews 4:15, 16. How is our righteousness related to Christ’s living ministry in the presence of the Father in heaven?

The righteousness that is demanded by the law is fulfilled by Jesus’ perfect life. He died in our behalf. Although rejected by those who put Him to death here on earth, He was welcomed by the Father in heaven. By means of the Resurrection, God the Father placed the stamp of His approval upon Jesus’ life and redemptive work. Now Jesus lives to intercede for us (*Heb. 4:15, 16*), and He applies the merits of His death in our behalf because we do not have the righteousness needed for salvation.

Thus, we can live because He lives in us. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (*Gal. 2:20, NKJV*). When Jesus lives in us, we walk by the Spirit (*Rom. 8:4*), and receive new spiritual life through the power of the Spirit (*compare with Gal. 3:2–5; 5:16, 18*).

The Father’s exaltation of Jesus in heaven is revealed in Christ’s powerful presence among us through the Spirit. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, His disciples live in growing conformity to Christ.

Have you experienced the reality of just how filthy your own attempts at righteousness really are? What does this teach you about your need of Christ’s righteousness instead?

Conviction About Judgment

Read John 16:8, 11. What judgment is Jesus referring to? Why is this judgment good news?

There remains one last great conviction that is part of the work of the Spirit: the conviction about judgment. Here is where much of our preaching on this passage seems to go in a wrong and harmful direction. Often a discussion of sin and righteousness seems to lead many professed Christians to pronounce warnings about the judgment on those who reject Christ. In doing so, they want to warn sinners, often with fearful overtones, of the future judgment that awaits them.

And although that judgment is a reality, this is not what Jesus talks about in John 16:11. The language indicates that the Lord is not talking about future judgment, as He did in John 12:48. Instead, the aspect of the judgment that Jesus now refers to is the good news that Satan has already been judged at Calvary. The devil, the great enemy of truth, is now living on borrowed time. Judgment will come, but the focus here is on an awareness that the prince of this world now already stands condemned (*John 12:31*).

Read 1 Peter 5:8, 9. How is Satan described by Peter? How can we resist him?

The devil, knowing that his time is short and that he has been fatally defeated at Calvary, is nevertheless still alive. And he is furious, trying to devour as many as he can. But he is a defeated enemy. Jesus has won the victory. The blood of Jesus makes us free.

When, during World War II, the Nazi troops received the decisive blow with the successful Allied invasion of France on June 6, 1944, it was clear that Hitler was defeated. Yet, the eleven months between D-Day (when the attack was initiated) and VE Day (May 8, 1945, when the war ended in Europe) were the bloodiest of all. Similarly, Satan knows that he was decisively defeated at the cross. Yet, he stubbornly fights and tries to devour as many as he can. In these challenging times we are called to be sober and alert and to cast all our anxiety upon Jesus, because He cares for us (*1 Pet. 5:7, 8*).

Why is judgment good news? Who is our surety in the judgment? How can we preach about the judgment in such a way that we instill hope rather than fear?

The Assurance of Salvation

Read 1 John 5:12, 13; Romans 8:15–17; and 2 Corinthians 5:5. Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior, why can we have the assurance of eternal life? What is the basis for this assurance?

The Holy Spirit is the One who leads sinners to Jesus. Jesus' substitutionary death has reconciled us with God. Jesus' forgiveness sets us free to live new lives as God's adopted children. Now we are no longer God's enemies (*Rom. 5:10*), but we walk according to the Spirit (*Rom. 8:4*), and set our thinking on the things of the Spirit (*Rom. 8:5*). If we did not have the Spirit of Christ, we would not be His children and would not belong to Him (*Rom. 8:9*). But now we have the internal testimony of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us. He testifies to us that we belong to Jesus and that we are heirs of God and heirs with Christ (*Rom. 8:17*). The same powerful life that raised Jesus from the dead is now active in us and makes us, who were spiritually dead, alive (*Rom. 8:10*). Even more than that, He also seals in our hearts the assurance that we truly belong to God. Having heard and believed the gospel of our salvation, we are sealed in Jesus with the Holy Spirit, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance (*Eph. 1:13, 14, NASB*). Every believer may have this certainty (*1 John 5:12, 13*).

Read Ephesians 1:13, 14. What does it mean to be sealed by the Spirit?

Those who accept Christ are born again; that is, born “‘of the Spirit’” (*John 3:3, 5*). The Holy Spirit seals this fact in our hearts so that we can have assurance of being saved, and experience the joy that comes from being a child of God. The Holy Spirit identifies us as belonging to Christ. “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ” (*Rom. 8:9, NIV*). We now have a consciousness that God is our loving Father and we are His dear children. The Holy Spirit is the down payment, the deposit, or the pledge toward the ultimate gift of eternal life and immortality that will be given to us at Jesus' second coming (*1 Cor. 15:51–54*). This is the hallmark of authentic faith. It is difficult to see how Christians can witness with convincing power without having such assurance.

“Talk courage, talk faith and hope, and you will be all light in the Lord. Keep thinking of the open door that Christ has set before you, that no man can shut. God will close the door to all evil, if you will give him a chance. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up for you a standard against him.”—Ellen G. White, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, April 16, 1889.

The Holy Spirit and Hope

Read Romans 5:4, 5; 15:13; and 1 Corinthians 13:13. How are love and hope related to each other? How is the Holy Spirit instrumental in giving us love and hope?

The Holy Spirit is the One who has poured out the love of God within our hearts. He connects us to God and makes God's love dwell in us. God's steadfast and unchanging love is the reason and the bedrock of our hope. Without love there would be no hope. Only love generates hope. Because God's love is combined with His faithfulness, we have the wonderful hope that He will come again and take us home to where He is.

Read Psalm 31:24. What effect does hope have on us?

Hope inspires. Hope gives new strength. Hope lets us sing and be joyful. Hope is essential for life. Without hope, what is the purpose of life?

Having hope, however, is something different from being optimistic. The optimist thinks that everything will get better: the weather, the economy, the school grades, the finances, et cetera. Hope, instead, is not blind optimism. Rather, it is grounded in God's faithfulness and in the promises that He has given in the past. Hope believes that God will fulfill what He has said because He is faithful and true. God has proven to be dependable, and He does not waver. His steadfastness and truth are the foundation for our hope.

No question: the foundation of our hope is found in Jesus on the cross. When we look to the cross, we can see in the most powerful way possible the reality of God's love for us. The Cross, with Jesus dying for our sins, gives us and the universe an unparalleled revelation of just what our God is truly like. Thus, as fallen and temporal beings in a vast cosmos, we can find hope, not in ourselves or in whatever "great" things we accomplish but in our God—a God who has revealed Himself to us on the cross.

How is the Advent hope grounded in God's faithful promises? How does hope influence our lives? How can we develop a lifestyle that reflects hope instead of despair?

Further Thought: Read selections of Ellen G. White, *Ye Shall Receive Power*, especially the October section, “Ready for the Spirit,” pp. 283–313.

We can summarize the activity of the Holy Spirit by saying that the Holy Spirit works harmoniously together with God the Father and God the Son to accomplish our salvation. The Holy Spirit awakens us from our spiritual death. He leads us to an awareness of our sinfulness and opens our eyes to the fact that we are in and of ourselves lost. He kindles in us the desire for change and leads us to Jesus Christ, who alone can meet the needs of our innermost being. He gives us assurance of salvation because He always points us to Jesus and to what Jesus has done for us. He conforms us to be more like Jesus. He keeps us faithful in our walk with God. He enables us to fulfill God’s will and effectively engage in mission. He generates the Written Word of God as our safe guide and norm for our Christian life and doctrine. Where would we be without the Holy Spirit? What could we do without the Holy Spirit? We would be miserable and lost and could do nothing that would give God the glory and honor. Thanks be to Jesus for having promised and sent the Holy Spirit. “The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people.”—Ellen G. White, *Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 13.

Discussion Questions:

- 1 Dwell more on the questions of what is sin and what is righteousness. Why should we, as Christians who believe in the Bible as the Word of God, have a different understanding of what sin and righteousness are than do those who don’t believe in the Bible? What are those differences? What does the Bible teach us about sin and about righteousness that other sources do not?
- 2 Share with the members of your Sabbath School group what aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit has been most valuable to you. Why was it so important, and how has this impacted your life?
- 3 In class, talk about the hope that we have in Jesus. What are the reasons for this hope? That is, if someone were to ask about the “reason for the hope that is in you” (*1 Pet. 3:15, NKJV*), what answer would you give, and why? How convincing an argument could you make?
- 4 The lesson this week talks about the question of assurance of salvation. What is assurance of salvation? And if we have it, why do we have it? On what must it be based? And how does it differ from presumption?

Something Beautiful: Part 3

While I was at the rehabilitation center, I spent a lot of time thinking about straightening out my life. I had committed some crimes while I was selling drugs, and this knowledge weighed on me. When I left the rehabilitation center, I went to the police and confessed that I had driven a getaway car while a friend committed a robbery. During the robbery, my friend had killed someone, making me an accessory to murder.

I was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison. My friend was imprisoned for life. Other prisoners treated me badly when they learned that my confession had put my friend in jail. It took a long time for them to accept me.

While I was in prison, I asked a Seventh-day Adventist pastor to visit me. He came often, and we studied the Bible together. I accepted Jesus as my Savior during this time. Other church members also visited me, and soon I had more letters and visitors than anyone, thanks to the spirit of family among the Adventist members. I tried to pass the love that they showed me on to other prisoners when I could.

Some of the prisoners were not Swedish citizens. They would serve their time without visits from loved ones. When the Adventists learned about these people, they visited them and helped them with practical needs, and when the prisoners left prison, the church members kept in touch with them. Some of these women asked, "What kind of church do you belong to that cares about others like this?" I was glad my Adventist friends followed through with these needs. Some of these prisoners joined a Bible study correspondence course, and others joined my prayer group. Now that they have been released, I pray that they will search for God.

I had a checkup because of my heart problem. The doctor performed the test three times before she called in another doctor. He performed the test again, and then asked me for my name. "We were not sure you were the same patient, because your heart is normal size and is working perfectly. I see no health problems here at all. Your angina is completely gone."

When I was released from prison, God provided work for me and a place to live. As I look back, I realize that God saved me from myself, saved my life from death, and then He made everything in my life so beautiful.

The Lesson in Brief

▶ **Key Text:** *John 16:8–11*

▶ **The Student Will:**

Know: Rejoice in the “Comforter,” who brings strength and hope into his or her life, as well as the assurance of salvation.

Feel: Nurture a deepening sense of the Spirit’s presence in daily living.

Do: Resolve to listen to the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to reveal Christ’s righteousness in his or her life.

▶ **Learning Outline:**

I. Know: The Spirit’s Work

A What is the difference between conviction and accusation? How do you feel when you are convicted to do something? How do you feel when you are accused of doing something?

B What does it mean that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin? Is there a difference between sin (singular) and sins (plural)?

II. Feel: The Spirit’s Desire

A How can conviction of sin make us feel our need for Christ’s righteousness?

B Why is a lack of knowledge regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit so detrimental to our Christian lives?

III. Do: The Spirit’s Goal

A What is the Spirit’s ultimate goal in our lives? How can we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in making that goal a reality?

B How can we receive the hope, assurance, and strength that the Scriptures promise to give us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

▶ **Summary:** The Holy Spirit’s goal is to lead us to an intimate relationship with Jesus and place within our hearts the guarantee of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. He does this marvelous work by convicting us that, apart from Christ, we are lost. Sin is not merely something we do; it is a state of being. The Holy Spirit reveals who we are and who Jesus is and what He means to us. The Spirit testifies of Jesus’ righteousness, goodness, grace, and power. He draws us to Jesus in whom we have the gift of eternal life and the assurance of eternity.

Learning Cycle

►STEP 1—Motivate

Spotlight on Scripture: *Romans 15:13*

Key Concept for Spiritual Growth: The Holy Spirit is a precious gift sent by Jesus to encourage, support, and strengthen us in our Christian life. Jesus promised His disciples that He would give them “ ‘another Helper, that He may abide with you forever’ ” (*John 14:16, NKJV*). He would not leave them “ ‘orphans’ ” (*John 14:18, NKJV*). In the Person of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would be with His disciples. Unfettered by time and space, He would be accessible to all. In fact, He would be nearer to them than if He never ascended on high.

Ellen G. White makes this remarkable statement: “At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 669, 670.

The Holy Spirit is our Friend, our Ally, our Comforter, our Encourager, our Teacher, our Strength, and our Guarantee of eternal life.

Just for Teachers: This lesson is our last of the quarter and an excellent time to review some of our past lessons. Remind your class that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, not some vague shadowy force, some impersonal being, or indefinable power that proceeds from God. As the personal Representative of Christ, the Holy Spirit is there to help us in our journey heavenward. He convicts of sin and reveals our need of a Savior; but He also shines a spotlight on Christ’s righteousness in all of its luster and beauty.

It is the revelation of the righteous character of Christ and His unconditional love for us that leads us to long to be like Him and to surrender to the claims of the One who promises never to let us go. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, guiding us to understand the magnificence of grace, the glory of the Cross, and the wonder of the atonement. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we are

impressed with, and led to accept, Christ as our all-loving Savior and all-powerful Lord.

Opening Discussion: Imagine the confusion and bewilderment of the disciples when Christ told them that He was going away. What must they have thought when He informed them that He would soon ascend to the Father? Certainly, they must have felt anxious, worried, uncertain, confused, and perplexed. They could not understand fully what He meant when He told them He would send the Comforter to them. It was not until later, when the Holy Spirit came in the fullness of His power at Pentecost, that they began to understand the meaning of Jesus' words. Then, sensing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, they understood the meaning of Christ's words, " 'It is to your advantage that I go away' " (*John 16:7, NKJV*).

Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit is just as much for us as it was for these New Testament believers. His promise is not limited. The Holy Spirit longs to fill our lives with His presence.

Questions for Discussion:

- ❶ Ask your class members to describe a time when they felt the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. What circumstances led to this experience?
- ❷ What special times of closeness to Jesus have your students had? What were their devotional lives like at this time? Invite class members to share times when the Holy Spirit obviously has been present in their lives.

►STEP 2—Explore

Just for Teachers: The major theme of this quarter's lessons is the Holy Spirit's role as the Third Person of the Godhead to convict us of sin, reveal Christ's righteousness in all of its beauty, inspire us with hope, guide us into divine truth, and continually impress our hearts with a longing for heaven.

This week's lesson highlights these themes. It focuses especially on the Holy Spirit's role in each of our lives in extremely practical ways.

Bible Commentary

I. The Role of the Holy Spirit (*Review John 16:8–11 with the class.*)

In John 16:8–11, Jesus lists three major roles of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit

“ ‘will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment’ ” (*John 16:8, NKJV*). Let’s explore each of these terms a little more deeply. Notice that Jesus does not say that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of their *sins*, plural, but of *sin*, singular. Now do not misunderstand; the Holy Spirit certainly does convict us of our sins or acts that are not in harmony with God’s will. But the intent of this passage is something deeper.

Here *sin* is used as a state of being. It is not necessarily merely what we do. It is who we are. We are born with fallen human natures into a state of sin. We are sinners both by birth and by choice. The Holy Spirit reveals our desperate state without Christ. Left to ourselves, we have no hope of salvation. We are not only sinners. We are in a lost condition with no possibility of salvation without a Savior.

Praise God! The Holy Spirit does not leave us in this hopeless state. He not only convicts us of sin, but He also convicts us of righteousness.

The word for *righteousness* used here in the original language is *dikaïosynē*, which is Christ’s own righteousness. His righteousness is the source and standard of all righteousness. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, our unworthiness, and our absolute lost condition without Christ. He then reveals to us the perfection of Christ’s righteousness and the wonder of His grace. The Spirit nurtures faith within our hearts to receive Christ’s righteousness as our own and to live as children of God, adopted into Heaven’s family through grace.

The last expression in our trio of the Spirit’s convictions is judgment. Jesus explains why the Holy Spirit convicts us of judgment in John 16:11 by stating, “ ‘Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.’ ” On the cross, Jesus triumphed over the principalities and powers of hell (*Col. 2:15*). Satan is a defeated foe. Jesus has overcome. The victory over evil, death, and the grave is won. The Holy Spirit reveals to us that we are on the winning side.

Consider This: “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (*Rom. 8:1, NKJV*). Outside of Christ, there is no way we can pass the final judgment; but in Christ, through Christ, and by Christ, there is no way we can be lost. Christ won the battle for our salvation on Calvary. How does the Holy Spirit lead each one of us into the assurance of salvation? What role does the Holy Spirit play in leading us to accept the righteousness of Christ? Why is the ministry of the Holy Spirit so vital in the life of each Christian?

►STEP 3—Apply

Just for Teachers: Lead your class in a practical discussion on what it means to live a Spirit-filled life. Make a list of all the things the Holy Spirit promises to do in our lives. Discuss this list with your class. Why is each one of these things important in our Christian experience?

Application Questions:

❶ What are some of the different names of the Holy Spirit? How are these names important to you?

❷ In what specific ways does the Holy Spirit inspire us with hope?

❸ How is hope different from optimism? In what is the hope that the Holy Spirit gives us grounded?

►STEP 4—Create

Just for Teachers: When we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, He will break down every barrier that stands between Jesus and us, and lead us to rejoice in the salvation our Savior so freely offers.

Activities:

❶ Pass out an index card to each member of your class, and ask them to write down the most significant thing they discovered in class about the Holy Spirit this quarter and the difference it will make in their lives. Give them three to five minutes to write two or three sentences. (Or instead of writing things down, allow students to ponder the question prayerfully.)

An example of what they might write is listed below:

“This quarter I was reminded again that the Holy Spirit is the personal Representative of Christ, who is ever longing to draw me nearer to Christ. I was impressed with the thought that Jesus is present with me daily through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.”

❷ Invite your class members to share with the class the testimonies they have written down or meditated upon.

In our study guide for next quarter, titled *Feed My Sheep: 1 and 2 Peter*, by Robert McIver, we will be reading the words of Peter, who was with Jesus at most of the important moments in His ministry. Peter also was a prominent leader among the earliest Christians. These facts alone would make his letters worth reading. But these letters take on added interest given that they were written to churches that faced persecution from without and the danger of false teachers arising from within.

First and Second Peter also have practical words on how Christians should live. First and foremost, Christians should love one another (*1 Pet. 4:8*). Peter sums up his view by saying, “Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind” (*1 Pet. 3:8, NRSV*).

Peter’s epistles are a fervent proclamation of the gospel, the central message of the Bible. If anyone knew the saving grace of the Lord, it was Peter. This same Peter—who so openly denied His Lord, saying, “I do not know the Man” (*Matt. 26:74, NKJV*)—was the same one who was later told by Jesus: “Feed my sheep” (*John 21:17*). These two epistles are examples of Peter doing just that: feeding the Lord’s sheep.

Lesson 1—The Person of Peter

The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **Depart From Me!** (*Luke 5:1–9*)

MONDAY: **Confessing the Christ** (*Matt. 16:13–17*)

TUESDAY: **Walking on Water** (*Matt. 14:22–33*)

WEDNESDAY: **Denying His Lord** (*Luke 22:31–33, 54–62*)

THURSDAY: **Peter as Church Leader** (*Acts 2:14–36*)

Memory Text—*Matthew 14:30, 31*

Sabbath Gem: Peter knew what it was to make mistakes, to be forgiven, and to move on ahead in faith and humility. Having experienced for himself the grace of God, Peter remains a powerful voice for us all, who need to experience the same grace, as well.

Lesson 2—An Inheritance Incorruptible

The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **To the Exiles** (*1 Pet. 1:1*)

MONDAY: **Elected** (*1 Pet. 1:2*)

TUESDAY: **Key Themes** (*1 Pet. 1:3–12*)

WEDNESDAY: **Living the Life of Salvation** (*1 Pet. 1:13–21*)

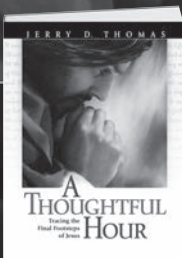
THURSDAY: **Love One Another** (*1 Pet. 1:22–25*)

Memory Text—*1 Peter 1:22*

Sabbath Gem: As we will soon see, even in the first few verses, Peter has a lot of important truth to reveal to us today, centuries removed from when he wrote.

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