

# Contents

1. There Is a Right Time for Everything—March 30–April 5 .....	4
2. Our Choices—April 6–12 .....	11
3. Are You Ready for Life’s Big Changes?—April 13–19 .....	18
4. Do You Feel Lonely?—April 20–26 .....	25
5. Wise Advice for Families—April 27–May 3 .....	32
6. The King’s Love Song—May 4–10 .....	39
7. Peace and Agreement in the Family—May 11–17 .....	46
8. Parents and Children—May 18–24 .....	53
9. Times of Loss—May 25–31 .....	60
10. Little Times of Trouble—June 1–7 .....	67
11. Families of Faith—June 8–14 .....	74
12. What Have They Seen in Your House?—June 15–21 .....	81
13. The Work of Elijah in the End Time—June 22–28 .....	88

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## Different Times of Life

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Jesus made the earth in six days. During days 1–5, Jesus turned the earth into something beautiful and perfect. Jesus took away darkness. He made light shine. God said to the sea: “ ‘You can come this far, but no farther [that is all]. This is where your proud waves will stop’ ” (Job 38:11, ERV). God made the dry land. He filled it with colors and perfumes. God made birds. They flew over the sea. Below, the fish splashed in the waves. God made every animal. They ran and jumped on the new earth. Or they hung from tree branches. Finally, God made humans. They were special. They were different from everything else God made on the earth.

Then God got ready for the first Sabbath on earth. God looked at everything He made. He said that all of it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31, KJV).

If only the story ended there with the perfect people living on a perfect earth forever with no sin. What if Adam and Eve never sinned? Make a picture of their perfect life in your mind. We have a hard time making that picture, right?

That is because we are sinners. We live on an earth that is very different from the one God first made. Ellen G. White writes, “Adam and Eve saw the first flower die and the first leaf fall. The death of the flower and leaf made Adam and Eve very sad. Adam and Eve cried over the dying plants more than we cry when we lose someone we love. The death of the flowers was a good reason for Adam and Eve to be sad. But then the leaves fell off the trees. The falling leaves were an awful lesson. The leaves taught Adam and Eve that every human on the earth is born to die.”—*Patriarchs [Old Testament leaders] and Prophets [special messengers]*, page 62, adapted. We do not cry about a dying leaf the same way Adam did. Why not? Because we live on an earth full of sin our whole lives. We see death as a part of our life experience.

This quarter, we will study about the different life experiences that we humans have on this earth. Most of all, we will look at the different life experiences that families have.

God made families in Eden. He made the husband first. Then the wife next. After

Adam sinned, Adam and Eve had children, who had more children. All these families are part of history, from Eden until now. Many of the first Bible stories happen in the family. The Bible shows us that families are important to these Bible stories. That is no surprise. Most of the big experiences we have in life happen in our families.

Today, different ways of life and beliefs attack the Bible truth about the family. Here is one example from the past. In Bible times, men often married more than one wife. This practice was not good. It did not make families strong. It caused family members to feel jealous and mad at each other. Today, many people do not know the Bible truth about the family. They want to answer the question: What is a family? But we can see the Bible truth about the family in communities everywhere today. Families help us get started in life. Families also can be the biggest reason for good or evil in our lives. Families change our lives. Why do we behave or solve problems the way we do? We do the same as our parents taught us to do when we were kids.

Each person is different. Each family is different too. This quarter, we will study the important Bible rules to help our families grow stronger in all the different times of our lives.

***“The falling leaves taught Adam and Eve that every human on the earth is born to die.”—Ellen G. White, Patriarchs [Old Testament leaders] and Prophets [special messengers], page 62, adapted.***

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