Contents

Making Friends for Jesus

1. Why Should We Tell People About Jesus?—June 27–July 3
2. Telling People About Jesus: The Power of Our Personal Stories — July 4–10 12
3. Seeing People the Way That Jesus Sees Them — July 11–17 20
4. Prayer Power: Asking God to Help People — July 18–24
5. The Holy Spirit Helps Us Share the Message About the Cross – $July\ 25$ – $31\ldots36$
6. No Limits to What We Can Do for God—August 1–7 44
7. Sharing Bible Truth — <i>August 8–14</i> 52
8. Helping People as Jesus Helped Them—August 15–21 60
9. What Jesus Felt About People — August 22–28
10. An Exciting Way to Be Part of God's Work—August 29-September 4 76
11. Sharing the Story About Jesus—September 5–11
12. A Message Worth Sharing—September 12–1892
13. Moving Forward in Faith—September 19–25

Editorial Office: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Come visit us at our website: http://www.absg.adventist.org

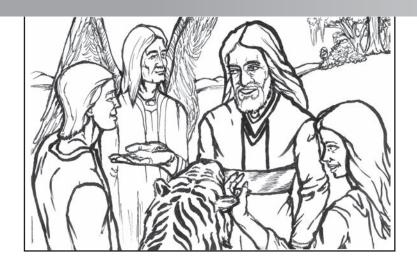
Printing and Circulation Office: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

Principal Contributor	. Mark Finley
Editor	
Consulting/Contributing Editors	
Publication Manager	
Editorial Assistant	. Sharon Thomas-Crews
Art and Design	. Lars Justinen
Line Drawings	
Pacific Press® Coordinator	
E. G. White Estate Consultant	

The Inside Stories by Adventist Mission that follow each lesson have been adapted for the Easy Reading Edition. The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Three Angels Deaf Ministries, PO Box 1946, Greenbelt, MD 20768; http://www.3adm.org.

© 2020 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* Easy Reading Edition may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* Easy Reading Edition, under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. "Seventh-day Adventist," "Adventist," and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference.

Introduction



Making Friends for Jesus

ometimes 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, NIrV). 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.

Mark Finley was born in Connecticut in the United States of America. Many people know Pastor Finley as a preacher of the Good News about Jesus. He worked as a vice president for the General Conference from 2005 to 2010. After he retired from full-time work, Pastor Finley worked part-time as an assistant to the president of the General Conference. Pastor Finley and his wife, Ernestine, have three children and five grand-children.