

# Contents

---

- 1** Adam and Eve: The Intended Ideal—*June 30–July 6* ————— 6
- 2** Abraham and Sarah: Faith Tested and Tried—*July 7–13*———14
- 3** Isaac and Rebekah: Rearing Rivals—*July 14–20*———22
- 4** Jacob and Rachel: Labor of Love—*July 21–27*———30
- 5** Moses and Zipporah: Relating With Relations—*July 28–August 3*—38
- 6** Samson and His Women: The Folly of Passion—*August 4–10*—46
- 7** Boaz and Ruth: Firm Foundations—*August 11–17*———56
- 8** Elkanah and Hannah: Fulfilling a Vow—*August 18–24*———64
- 9** The Jobs: Living With Losses—*August 25–31*———72
- 10** David and Bathsheba: Adultery and After—*September 1–7*——80
- 11** Ahab and Jezebel: Abuse of Authority—*September 8–14*——88
- 12** Hosea and Gomer: Forgiving the Unfaithful—*September 15–21*—96
- 13** Yahweh and Israel: Fulfillment Beyond Failure—*September 22–28*  
—————104

---

**Editorial Office** 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Come visit us at our Web site at [<http://www.absg.adventist.org>]

**Principal Contributor**

Gordon Christo, Ph.D.  
and Rosenita Christo, M.A.

**Editor**

Clifford R. Goldstein

**Associate Editor**

Soraya Homayouni Parish

**Publication Manager**

Lea Alexander Greve

**Editorial Assistants**

Tresa Beard  
Larie S. Gray  
Jean Kellner

**Pacific Press® Coordinator**

Paul A. Hey

**Art Director and Illustrator**

Lars Justinen

**Concept Design**

Dever Design

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, whose members serve as consulting editors. The published guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s).

# *For Better or for Worse:*

---

*Marriage was meant to be one of the most uplifting and edifying aspects of human existence.*

In his will, German poet Heinrich Heine offered his estate to the man who married his widow. The reason, he said, was that this way he'd be sure that there would be at least one person who mourned his death.

Of all the devastating effects of sin, one of the worst has to be what it has done to marriage. From what we can gather from Scripture (and the wonderful insights from the Spirit of Prophecy), marriage was meant to be one of the most uplifting and edifying aspects of human existence. It was designed to reveal our humanity in ways that nothing else could. As if God, after the earth came forth from His creative word, hadn't already done enough for the race. In His love for us He gave us more, perhaps what was to be even the best blessing of all—marriage.

Of course, from the first bite of the forbidden fruit, things went from bad to worse. In the Bible account, right after the first couple sinned, the first thing we see is how sin immediately impacted their relationship. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons" (*Gen. 3:7*). Nothing between men and women, husbands and wives, has been the same ever since.

What should have been a source of joy, freedom, and fulfillment has become, too often, a source of misery, oppression, and despair. Not always (indeed, in many cases marriages are wonderful expressions of spiritual and physical unity that helps complete a human being), but still far too often.

This quarter we're going to look at married couples in the Old Testament, not so much as a study on the principles of marriage but rather to use married couples (though in many cases the marriages were composed of more than "couples") as a starting point to learn various lessons—about faith, works, obedience, hope, trust, love, and

# *Lessons From Old Testament Couples*

---

a host of other aspects of what it means to be a follower of the Lord in a fallen world.

It makes good sense to use marriage as a starting point, simply because marriage is so fundamental to human existence. This relationship forms the foundation of the family, and it's out of the family that (for the most part) we propagate ourselves. Also, considering how often marriage is used in the Bible as a symbol for various spiritual truths, it seems to be a good starting point.

Of course, not everyone is married; many of the great Bible characters—Daniel, John the Baptist, and even Jesus—weren't (maybe we ought to do a quarter on the singles in the Bible!). Nevertheless, the principles we can learn from studying these marriages often can be applied to various aspects of our lives, whether married or not.

Thus, for the next few months as we explore the relationships of various couples—Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, even Ahab and Jezebel, and more—we'll seek to mine from the Word of God practical truths that we can apply to our daily relationships with one another and with the Lord, who says to His people: “For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee” (*Isa. 62:5*).

Our two authors this quarter have been happily married for many years. Gordon Christo is director of collegiate education of the Southern Asia Division; his wife, Rosenita, works in the division office. They have two grown children.

# Got Questions?

## Sabbath School University *has answers!*

*Sabbath School University* is a 28-minute discussion of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. SSU discusses the content and strategies to enrich your Sabbath School with fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and missions. Sabbath School leaders, don't miss this weekly broadcast on Hope Channel.



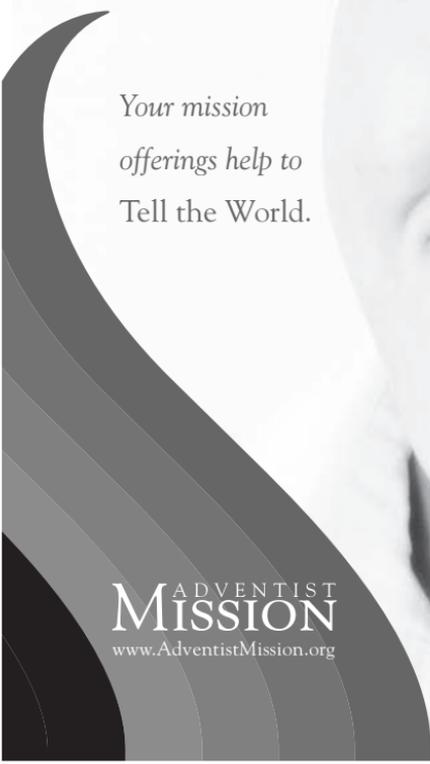
[www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org)



WE'RE ALL  
GOD'S  
CHILDREN.

SOME OF  
US JUST  
DON'T  
KNOW  
HIM YET.

*Your mission  
offerings help to*  
Tell the World.



ADVENTIST  
**MISSION**  
[www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)