

God's Last Message of Love Training Manual

*This manual is a companion tool for the
Folder and CD-ROM resource,
God's Last Message of Love.*

*By
Adrian Ebens*

© Maranatha Media 2001

www.maranathamedia.com.au

Introduction

INTRODUCTION	4
1. THE KEY TO SUCCESS – KNOWING YOUR IDENTITY.....	6
(A) INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY	6
(B) CORPORATE IDENTITY	8
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER.....	11
2. ESSENTIAL PREPARATION.....	12
(A) EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION	12
(B) FERVENT PRAYER.....	13
(C) DAILY BIBLE STUDY	15
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER.....	17
3. PRESENTING THE FOLDER – BASIC MODEL.	18
(A) THE USE OF MODELS	18
(B) DEVELOPING THE SWORD MODEL.....	18
(C) STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE SWORD MODEL	21
4. PRESENTING THE FOLDER – ADVANCED MODEL.....	24
(A) THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INTERLOCKING SYSTEM.....	24
(B) BUILDING YOUR FOUNDATION	26
(i) <i>Christ – The Truth</i>	26
(ii) <i>Christ – The Way</i>	29
(C) USING THE RIGHT BUILDING MATERIALS.....	34
(iii) <i>Christ – The Life</i>	34
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER.....	37
5. PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING THE WALL LAYERS	39
(A) THE PRINCIPLE OF PARADOX.....	39
(B) THE PRINCIPLE OF REPETITION AND EXPANSION	40
(C) THE PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT TIMING.....	41
KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER.....	42
6. SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR EACH WALL LAYER.....	43
7. MAKING YOUR STRUCTURE INVITING.....	45
(A) THE ROOF – THE SHADE OF THE CROSS	45
(B) THE WINDOWS – LIGHTHOUSE TO THE WORLD – INDIRECT INVITATION	45
(C) THE DOOR – DIRECT INVITATION	45
8. BUILDING THE HOUSE.....	47
(A) OUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR.....	48
(i) <i>LAYER ONE: The Story of God – Jesus Our Saviour</i>	48
(ii) <i>LAYER TWO: The Story of the Great Controversy – Humanity’s Struggle with Sin</i>	49
(iii) <i>LAYER THREE: The Story of Salvation – How God will Save You and Me</i>	51
(B) AN INVITATION TO ACCEPT JESUS AS SAVIOUR AND LORD	52
(C) LAYER FOUR: KEY LOCATIONS AND TIMING OF SALVATION.....	53
(D) OUR ALL POWERFUL LORD.....	54
(i) <i>LAYER FIVE: The Story of Salvation – Corporate</i>	54
(ii) <i>LAYER SIX: The Story of God – Jesus the Source of Life</i>	55
(iii) <i>LAYER SEVEN: The Story of the Great Controversy</i>	56
8. GIVING THE BIBLE STUDY	61
(A) BENEFITS.....	61
(i) <i>Deepens Your Knowledge of the Bible</i>	61
(ii) <i>Strengthens Your Faith</i>	61

God's Last Message of Love Training Manual

(iii) *Deepens Prayer Life* 61
(iv) *Prevents Insulation and Creates New Friends* 61
(B) QUALIFICATIONS 62
(i) *Conversion* 62
(ii) *Love for Souls* 62
(iii) *Testimony* 63
(iv) *Knowledge* 63
(v) *Prayer* 63
(C) A SUGGESTED FORMAT 63
(i) *Develop Friendship* 63
(ii) *Review Previous Study* 64
(iii) *Share the Current Subject* 64
(iv) *Seek Feedback/Decision* 64
(v) *Leave Study Materials* 64

9. SECURING DECISIONS AND DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS 65

(A) KEY FACTORS 65
(i) *Know Your Identity* 65
(ii) *Reach for the Heart* 65
(iii) *Be Direct* 65
(iv) *Be Empathetic* 66
(v) *Be Scriptural* 66
(B) MAKING THE APPEAL 66
(i) *Seize the Moment* 66
(ii) *Present the Call as Coming From Jesus* 67
(iii) *Use Stories* 67
(iv) *Types of Appeals* 67
(C) DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS 67
(i) *Seek to Find the Cause* 68
(ii) *Use Scripture to Answer* 68
(iii) *Keep the Door Open* 68
(iv) *Respect Individual Choice* 69

10. NURTURE AND INTEGRATION 70

(A) SPIRITUAL INTEGRATION 70
(B) SOCIAL INTEGRATION 70
(C) ORGANISATIONAL INTEGRATION 70
(D) EVANGELISTIC INTEGRATION 71

Introduction

Thirty minutes was all I had! What was I going to do? I had nothing prepared and I didn't know what I should prepare. A feeling of deep fear began to take over me and then questions as to my ability began to surface. I quickly assembled a few texts on paper, jumped in the car and drove off. I was on my way to a Bible study and I felt so unprepared.

This was my final year at college preparing for the ministry. I was really looking forward to being in the ministry but this sense of fear regarding giving Bible studies really caused me to question my suitability to ministry. As I drove along these questions of doubt and inability floated around in my head and I suddenly cried out to God, "I don't know how to do this – PLEASE HELP ME!"

Our dear Saviour loves to answer cries for help and I know that Jesus has been answering that prayer for a number of years and I know he will continue to teach me and show me how to present the wonderful message of the Bible.

Have you ever felt that kind of fear, a total sense of inability to share the gospel of Jesus? I have met hundreds of people personally who feel this way, even ministers. "Maybe it is just not my gift" is a typical response and I can really relate to that comment, because I felt that way personally. As I look at our church now, there are so few people who give Bible studies and I have to ask the Lord, "Why did you give this gift to so few people?" when it is one of the greatest blessings and the most important tool for evangelism – teaching them all things that Jesus commanded, Matt 28:20.

Giving Bible studies is not simply a gift, it is learned. It is a combination of your personal saving relationship with Jesus and a learned knowledge of the Bible. It takes effort and determination but the rewards are beyond description. God can use any person to share the truths of the Bible. I have read of one lady who was blind and asked her "students" to read texts for her. In the first church where I was pastoring, an elderly man, who found it hard to speak and was sometimes awkward in conversation, was one of our greatest blessings. He was determined to share the love of Jesus and he would letterbox and then talk to interested people and then grab me to come and get decisions. He was responsible for at least three or four baptisms a year. So remember, anyone can give studies, we may just do it different ways.

There is nothing more frustrating than having a burden to do something and not know how to do it. I have talked to many people in churches and they all would like to know how to give studies, but don't know how. "If only someone could teach me" is a common comment that I hear and it is a fair one. If those of us in ministry spent more time teaching our people how to share the Word of God then we could spend less time trying to keep them "entertained" in church.

A few years ago a minister from South America came to share with us in Australia about the soul winning efforts of their lay members. In that year the South American division baptised 150,000 people! Praise God. I sat eagerly and listened to his instruction. It was kind of embarrassing and yet thrilling at the same time. All he did was read quotes from the book *Christian Service* by Ellen White and then tell stories of how they put these principles into practice. I was deeply impressed by that event and there was one quote in particular that he read that has stayed with me ever since and has become a personal burden in my ministry.

“Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged. Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings [Bible studies].” *Christian Service*, page 59.

Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. I know this statement is true and I know it is true for you who have purchased this Charts folder. Well let us begin! There are a number of principles that I wish to share that I know will help you to present this folder, but first I would like to offer a small word of prayer:

“Father, we thank You so much for calling us to labour with You in the gospel and for giving us the joy of sharing the good news of Jesus with all around us. Please grant Your Spirit and give us wisdom to share the beautiful truths of the Bible. Show us how to work, how to obtain decisions, in what order to present the message. We lack wisdom Lord and we know that without You we can do nothing, but we know that Jesus is our wisdom (1 Cor 1:24) and that we can do all things through Him. (Phil 4:13) Thank You for hearing this prayer, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

1. The Key to Success – Knowing Your Identity

Most people will be familiar with the story of the ugly duckling. A swan's egg somehow ended up in a duck's nest. The swan egg hatched along with all the duck eggs and the swan became a member of the duck family. Somehow the baby swan was different, he didn't seem to fit in. He looked ugly in comparison to the baby ducks, but all assumed including the swan that he was a duck. He seemed to be slower, more clumsy and bigger than his siblings. He was criticized for being different to the others and began to despair. He tried even harder to fit in and perform the tasks that were assigned to the life of a duck but the harder he tried the more discouraged he became. Then one day some swans were nearby and approached the "ugly duckling." He looked at the beautiful graceful swans and thought how wonderful they looked. He called out to the swans and said, "I wish I could be like you." The swans replied, "Look in the stillness of the water and see that you are one of us." The swan looked into the water with utter amazement and joy. A whole new sense of purpose and meaning flooded through the discouraged swan. He had found his true identity and knew he could enjoy life to the full and fulfil the role that God created Him for.



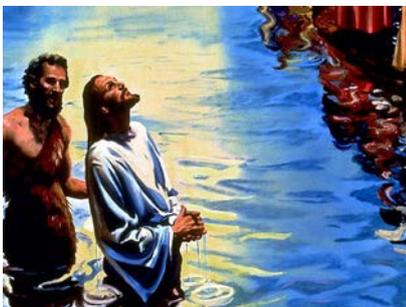
When the ugly duckling saw his reflection in the water, he realised his true identity

The cause of the whole situation was a false sense of identity. He had a false sense of identity as an individual and also a false sense of community identity – the group to which he belonged.

(A) Individual Identity

Our Individual Identity was Lost

Adam and Eve were created as a son and daughter of God. This was their identity as individuals. If asked, "Who are you?" they could joyfully respond, "We are children of God – the maker of heaven and earth." When Adam and Eve fell into sin, their identity as children of God was shattered, not because God rejected them but because they had given Satan access to their mind and he told them that God rejected them and would destroy them. Sin had broken the relationship between man and God. Isa 59:1,2. Our identity as individuals is bound to the relationship with our creator God. When that relationship is broken then our identity is shattered. This is why sin is so destructive, because a soul that has no identity is a soul that can find no peace and no rest. This lost sense of identity has been stamped into the human soul. I have often heard people say they are trying to find themselves. In other words they are seeking for their identity.



We are offered back our identity as children of God through Jesus Christ. John 1:12

Jesus Restores Our Identity

When Jesus came to our world, He became one of us. Since He was both God and man, He was able to reconnect the broken relationship between God and man. When the voice was heard from heaven "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" God was talking to a man, a man like us. This means that through Jesus, each of us are offered back our true identity – sons and daughters of God. God "has made us accepted in the beloved" Eph 1:6 and as we receive Jesus He gives to us the right to be sons and daughters of God. John 1:12.

The Enemy Seeks to Confuse Us About Our Identity

When Jesus was baptised, the Word of God from heaven clearly stated that He was God's Son and that God loved Him. When Jesus went into the wilderness, Satan attacked Him on this very point. Satan knew that if Jesus believed that He was the Son of God, then He would assume the role of Messiah. If Satan could convince Jesus that He was someone else, then the whole game was over. So how did Satan seek to confuse Jesus about His identity? "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Matt 4:3. The Word of God had told Jesus that He was God's Son. There was nothing to prove unless He doubted God's Word. Satan sought to draw Jesus into a performance mode to sustain the claim that He was God's Son. As we shall learn in the chart "[The Origin of Satan's Kingdom](#)" Satan was seeking to draw Jesus into his kingdom, his way of existence – an existence that has no identity and is seeking constantly to prove to himself that he is someone of value. Praise God that Jesus trusted God's Word and chose to believe that He was God's Son.



Satan seeks to draw us away from our identity as children of God and seek to find identity and value by our own achievements and efforts

What does all this have to do with learning to give Bible studies? Stay with me and you will soon see the importance of this subject. This contest between Christ and Satan is repeated in the mind and heart of every person born into this world. (See *Desire of Ages*, page 116). While Jesus has overcome for us, without exception, every human being has fallen for the temptation of trying to turn stones into bread. By this I mean, seeking to prove their identity by performance, achievement or displays of power. The entire fabric of our society is one of performance and achievement. Ask any person who does not fall into the category of wealthy, famous, athletic, intellectual or beautiful and you will find the sense of being left out and of discouragement. There are few who escape this trap and even those who have one or more of these advantages will likely feel left out because they don't excel in other areas. We are constantly compared with each other in a performance sense. We are compared academically and athletically for 12 years of our life (at school) before we reach 20 years of age. This constant process of comparison eventually causes a majority of people to feel that they are sub-standard and set themselves goals way below their potential. Many of the few who succeed become proud, arrogant and conceited while inside there is the constant fear that others will outdo them. As a youth pastor, I constantly encountered young people who felt worthless and useless. This is all part of the web that Satan seeks to trap us in – the kingdom of identity by performance and achievement.

Let me say at this point, that if you are feeling worthless and discouraged, please remember that because of Jesus, you are a son or daughter of God and God loves you so much that He emptied every resource of heaven to save you. If you can truly believe this, you will perform and achieve things you never imagined were possible and the good news is that it won't even matter because whether you succeed or fail, your identity as a child of God never changes.



If you feel discouraged and worthless, remember that you are a child of God and your value is based on that fact

True Identity and Successful Evangelism

Now, again we ask, what does this have to do with giving Bible studies and bringing people to Jesus? Giving Bible studies, leading people to Christ requires the use of gifts, abilities and skills. Most of the people I talk to in the church feel that they are incapable of giving Bible studies, preaching and bringing souls to Christ. The main reason why people believe this is because they

compare themselves with others. Their focus is performance based. On the other hand, I have seen pride from some individuals from their success in evangelistic endeavour. Once again, this is performance focused. In my own experience I have felt the emotions of both sides of performance. When I was in my late teens, I thought to myself, I could never preach or give Bible studies. Years later after the success of many baptisms, my heart has swelled with carnal pride at the achievement. Value by performance is the language of the world but value by performance is not a part of the kingdom of heaven. It causes so much discouragement, pride and strife in the church.



When we find our value in Christ, we will seek to win souls out of love to Jesus not because of a need to succeed and achieve.

One of the main problems with a performance focus is that it makes you as a Bible teacher more concerned about your achievement than the people you are studying with. It can cause people to try and force decisions out of people. It can cause people to rush people through studies to get them into the baptismal font. All this can be avoided if we have a clear identity as children of God. Our desire to share God's Word comes from a sense of joy that we are children of God not a sense of desperation that if we "convert" a soul then we will find approval and peace. This problem is far more widespread in the church than many realize. It is my prayer that you will be motivated to save souls because you have a sense of your identity in Christ and confident assurance of salvation.

(B) Corporate Identity

Jonah was sleeping in the bottom of a boat going in the opposite direction to where he should have been going. He was running away from his responsibility to evangelise the mighty Assyrian city of Nineveh. God commanded a storm to arrest Jonah's flight from responsibility. When Jonah drew the "short straw" he was asked to identify himself. Notice the content of the question. "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" Jonah 1:8 NIV.

The Example of Israel

These are the questions of corporate identification. Our identity is defined by our race, our nation and our occupation. The children of Israel had a unique identity. They were to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Ex 19:6. As a community they were to live out the principles of God's kingdom and through this example be a light to the nations around them. Isa 60:1-3. God had taken the children of Israel out of Egypt in a miraculous way and trained and taught them His principles. God instituted a number of memorials to help them remember their corporate identity. If Israel forgot their identity then the mission objectives they were given would be lost. The Passover ceremony was a reminder of how the angel of death had passed over them in Egypt and they were saved. Many of the experiences of Israel were put to song so they would not forget the mighty acts of God on their behalf. Ps 105 is a good example of this. The Israelites also kept accurate records of their family lineage. All this was to help them remember who they were as a people.

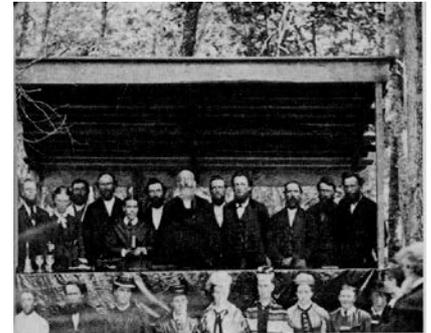


God called the Israelites out of Egypt to demonstrate His principles and be a light to the world

What does the corporate sense of identity have to do with giving Bible studies? I will let Ellen White answer that question.

“In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”
Last Day Events, page 72.

Knowing how and why God has raised the Seventh-day Adventist movement will deeply affect what you present in your studies and the fervour and conviction that you display as you present. If you are not familiar with the history of the Seventh-day Adventist movement then you will be unable to appreciate the message and mission that God has given to us. If you do not have a correct sense of mission then your work in evangelism will be of little value. I urge you to study and know our history. An excellent book to start with would be *Life Sketches* by Ellen White or the video series *Keepers of the Flame* presented by Dr Allan Lindsay. The series that I have found the most helpful is the six volume Ellen White Biography by Arthur White. Although it is long, it has really helped shape my understanding of how and why God called the SDA movement. I highly recommend it. The first two volumes are enough to give you a solid background and the rest can be read as you participate in sharing God's Word.



Our mission statement is defined by our history. We must understand our history as a church if we are to work intelligently and effectively

Defining Our Corporate Identity

“Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world.” 7T 138.

If you ever hear someone say that Seventh-day Adventists are simply one of many denominations doing a work for God and that our work is no more vital than the churches around us, then know that that person sadly does not understand the identity of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.



The Seventh-day Adventist church is a prophetic movement, specially raised by God to give God's last message of love to the world

The Seventh-day Adventist movement is prophetically described in Revelation as the people who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

“Let all be careful not to make an outcry against the only people who are fulfilling the description given of the remnant people, who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus. God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God.” *Last Day Events*, page 43.

It is vitally important for us when we read Rev 14:12 and Rev 12:17 to see ourselves personally in those verses. God is calling us personally to participate in this warfare against the beast and his allies. Not just your minister, your Sabbath School teacher – but YOU!

The Mission

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import--the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.” 9T 19.

God has called Seventh-day Adventists as an organised unified movement, but the success of an organisation depends upon the vision and fervency of the individuals that make up that organisation. The organisation is never a substitute for individual effort. Ellen White comments as follows:



Each of us has a personal responsibility to share Jesus and His love with our family, friends neighbours. Organisational efforts can never replace personal responsibility

“Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. *The Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

Leadership is required to make effective use of resources in the church but since every member of the church is part of the priesthood, every individual needs to shoulder part of the responsibility for the whole movement. Only in this way will individuals work intelligently for the cause of truth. Ellen White continues to warn of the danger of relying upon the church structure to do the work.

“Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul. Christ commits to His followers an individual work, a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel.” *The Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

Do you feel this responsibility personally? Do you seek God on your knees asking Him to send His Spirit, to fill His ministers and teachers and lay members with power to proclaim this message? Do you feel the burden of lost souls going to Christless graves? Now is not the time to be absorbed in church or social politics or worldly privileges and monetary gain but Christ and Him crucified, this is what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist – mind, body, and soul fervently in love with Christ and fervently proclaiming God’s last warning message.

Do not look inwardly with despair if you feel flat and empty of power, God waits for our pleas for His Spirit to empower and refresh us, but such pleas will never come from a heart that has no sense of our history and mission. Let us arise and shine knowing where we came from and what we are called to do.

Key Points to Remember

1. Every citizen of God's kingdom finds his or her identity and value in the simple fact that they are children of God. In other words, our identity is defined by relationship to God.
2. When Satan rejected God as his Father, he lost his identity and value. He then began to experience worthlessness and despair as a result.
3. To compensate his loss, Satan redefined his identity by his own achievements and abilities. In other words, he found his identity and value by displays of power, performance and position.
4. God is the source of all life and power. For Satan to take glory to himself, he had to introduce the philosophy that every life form has life and power in its self. This is the basis of Satan's kingdom.
5. Adam and Eve were enticed into Satan's new kingdom. They were deceived with the belief that we can have life apart from God. The price they paid was the loss of their identity; the experience of worthlessness and despair and the constant drive to find value in what they could achieve rather than the restful assurance that they were children of God. Consequently, the whole human race is stamped with this drive for value by what we achieve combined with the false belief that we as humans have power in ourselves.
6. The law of heredity has imprisoned and doomed the human race to suffer the tragic results of Adam and Eve's choice. No man, woman or child has power to escape this kingdom.
7. Jesus Christ came to restore our true identity. John 1:12. Through Christ we are offered the thrilling opportunity to be children of God once again. We are offered the restful assurance that our identity is found in our relationship to God, not our achievements.
8. To be effective soul winners, our identity and value must be based firmly in our relationship to God. Our natural human nature draws us into finding value by how much Bible knowledge we have, how many souls we win and what positions we occupy in the church. Only as we rest in the saving assurance of Jesus can we bring souls to Him.
9. God has always had a group or remnant of people that He has used to reflect His kingdom principles.
10. Everyone has an individual relationship with God and also a corporate relationship as His remnant people.
11. We cannot truly know our purpose and mission as a people without knowing our history as a people. In other words, we learn our mission and purpose by studying how God has dealt with our spiritual forefathers. Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11,12
12. The Seventh-day Adventist movement has been specially raised by God to give God's last message of love.

2. Essential Preparation

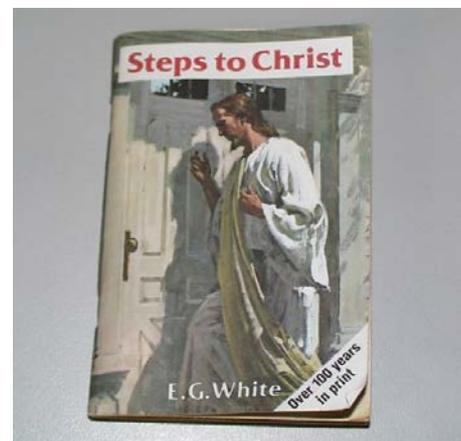
(A) Experiential Knowledge of Salvation

I was sitting in my room intently reading the book *Steps to Christ*. To be intently reading this book was a miracle. Four years earlier I had tried to read it but it was dry and boring. Now I was 18 and in my final year of high school. I could sense that I was morally adrift. I had never stopped attending church, never smoked, never drank, but I was filling my mind with things equally bad – violent movies, rock music – and constantly seeking to please and amuse myself, with little care or thought for others – competitive, loud, aggressive – a description of a typical teenager? Maybe, but I did not love Jesus or really appreciate the cross. I rarely read the Bible and prayed selfish 30 second prayers each day. I was empty, I felt guilt and I felt worthless in our performance driven society. I reached page 13 of *Steps to Christ* and I was drinking in the scene – I needed help and the Spirit saw that I was open. I read about Jesus in Gethsemane, on the cross – dying for me. I had heard the story many times but now as I pictured it, it was real and He did it for me. Jesus really did love me and suddenly I knew it. My heart went out to Him with a new sense of love I had never experienced before. I sobbed out a heart-broken thank you and asked Jesus to take control of my life. A peace so pure, so sweet, so joyful filled my heart and I believed now that my sins were forgiven. O the joy of redemption, the sweet assurance of salvation, a deep love relationship with Jesus – who can describe it?

Here lies the first and the most crucial pre-requisite to soul winning – conversion. What do I exactly mean by conversion? “He whose heart is filled with love for Christ because he himself has been sought for by the Saviour and brought back to the fold, KNOWS HOW TO SEEK THE LOST.” *Ministry of Healing*, page 179.

Here is a wonderful thought – those who have experienced and ARE experiencing the joy of salvation through Jesus know how to seek the lost. How can someone who has not experienced salvation describe it grippingly to others? You must taste it to tell of it.

Jesus said “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free”. The word “know” in the Greek means to know by experience rather than simply mental perception. The Greek language uses a different word for mental perception. Let me give you an example of this. I know about New York. I know that over 20 million people live there. I know it is on the east coast of the USA. I have seen pictures of its tall skyscrapers and bustling traffic. I have met people who have been to New York, but I don’t know New York, why? Because I have never been there and experienced it myself. I know Sydney. I know that it is the biggest city in Australia, I know that nearly 5 million people live there, I know it is on the east coast of Australia, but much more, I have walked its streets, I have crossed the Harbour Bridge and sat in the Opera House, I have sailed on its harbour and worked in the CBD. I have lived in its suburbs and walked in its parks. I know Sydney because I have experienced it. When we apply this to salvation, while we may memorise detailed lists on how to present the subject of salvation, all this is useless if we have not experienced salvation ourselves.



The book *Steps to Christ* led to a wonderful conversion experience

Now the searching questions: “Have you experienced and do you experience the joy of salvation? Are you confident that your sins are forgiven? Do you have the abiding assurance of salvation? Do you know that you stand righteous before God because of Jesus?”

If you can truly say YES to these questions, then I rejoice with you in the joy of Jesus and declare that you have the most important qualification for soul winning. If you feel unsure or doubt your experience with God then let me invite you to truly accept Jesus as your Saviour. It is a fact that the majority of the church members do not experience the joy of salvation. “The new birth is a rare experience in these last days.” 6BC 1075. Not one in one hundred understand the plan of salvation. 1SM 360. The hardest thing for most people is to simply believe God – that they are accepted and forgiven and are considered righteous. It takes faith to believe, but faith is simple if you know that God loves you as His child. If your faith is struggling, take the book *Steps to Christ* and read it prayerfully, believe every word, do not wait to FEEL forgiven, that will never come until you CHOOSE to BELIEVE you are forgiven and when you do the Spirit will bear witness with you that you are a child of God. Rom 8:10,15. Do not go past this point until you have experienced salvation, otherwise your efforts will yield little or damaging results; but you can have it right now, simply by believing John 3:16 – there are no obstacles, no barriers erected by God, only your will to believe prevents you and only you control your will. Surrender your will to Christ, choose to believe and you will be free!



Do You Really Know Jesus?

Why is this so important? Because truth is not a theory – it is a person that you love! Let me repeat it: Truth is not a theory, not simply a set of teachings; it is a person that you love and know. Jesus said, “I am the truth” John 14:6. “Christ is Christianity.” GW 282,283. “Christ crucified – talk it, pray it, sing it, and it will break and win hearts.” RH June 2, 1903. You can’t truly commune with (talk, pray, and sing which is often done as a form) Christ unless you know Him. John 17:3; 8:32.

As you share the truths of the Bible you are sharing Christ. “Jesus is the centre and circumference of all saving truth.” RH 15/8/1893. At each point you share a biblical fact and then share how you have experienced that truth, this is where the power to affect hearts is.

“Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart.” *Christian Service*, page 122.

(B) Fervent Prayer

Standing before one of the most powerful assemblies of men in the world, Martin Luther was asked to retract his teachings from the Bible. At the same time the previous day, when he was asked the same question he had appeared submissive and his courage seemed as if it would fail as he asked for more time. That night he wrestled with God in prayer for courage and strength to stand true to the Bible though the entire world be against it. Now Luther stands again before the diet at Worms and speaks with power and confidence “unless I am persuaded.... I cannot and will not recant.” GC 160.



The power in Martin Luther's Life came from Prayer

Essential Preparation

His courage and firmness amazed everyone so that even the emperor stated, “This monk speaks with an intrepid heart and unshaken courage.” GC 161.

Where did Luther obtain such power? From earnest, persevering prayer. Ellen White pens the most amazing words concerning the reformation: “From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the great reformation.” GC 210.

We see that it was not the strength and intellect and courage of the reformers that caused the reformation but rather their passion for earnest prayer that takes hold of God.

We may read countless stories of great men – Wesley, Finney, James White – all found power in earnest prayer.

The following quote is the most powerful for me:

“...The disciples had come to connect His [Jesus’] hours of prayer with the power of His words and works.” MB 102,103.

We often think the wonderful things that Jesus did were simply because He was Jesus; but Jesus says clearly of Himself He could do nothing. Jesus was the most earnest, most persevering pray-er in the history of mankind – this was the source of His power. (See 2T 201-203).

A lack of earnest prayer reveals an underlying trust in one’s own ability or simply a lack of interest in the work of the gospel of Christ. We are told that: “The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife.” ChS 42



Jesus – Our Example in Prayer

I know in my own heart that when I read these quotes I am both excited and challenged – I find I tend to focus on the chore of long hours of prayer and often forget the joy of communion – what could be more thrilling than intimate communion with God. I remember a number of times in my experience that I have really wanted to pray and when I began my heart felt as hard as a rock. This really disappointed me. Sometimes I would get up in discouragement and go and “do” something but praise God at other times I hung on sensing the sheer wickedness of my heart in not desiring to pray and hanging onto Jesus until I broke through – not a pleasant experience to begin with but what joy when after some time of pleading with God, to have the sense of communion and assurance of His love.

I also remember the many times of praying with dear friends – the closest friends I have are those that I have prayed long with – what a joy and privilege is prayer. I plead with you, dear reader, seek to overcome your natural resistance to prayer.

Another point to remember is that prayer is a relationship experience. My carnal heart has often sought to obtain merit by my “long prayers”. There is no merit in our prayers – do not watch the clock to see that you have spent hours in prayer so then you can tell others of your wonderful devotion – when others exclaim the wonderful providence of God – do not seek to claim that this

came about because of your prayers – this cheapens prayer. As Jesus said, go into your closet and do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

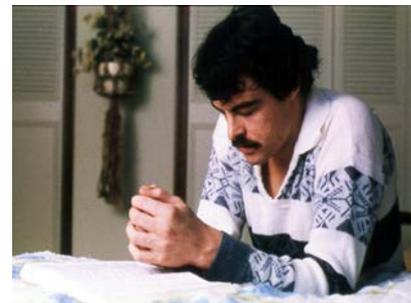
Ellen White pens these challenging words: “Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it – wrestling with God, how few know what it is! How few....” GC 621.

I cry out as the disciples did when they heard Jesus pray: “Lord teach us to pray!” Luke 11:1.

The disciples were spiritual men; they had forsaken all to follow Jesus, they had prayed often – but to hear Jesus pray was a revelation of how faithless their prayers were. I cry out with the disciples, “Teach me how to pray”.

I don't know what your experience is like, but I have found in myself a natural resistance for persisting in prayer. I find that I would rather work for an hour than pray for an hour! How is your experience? There are thousands of reasons, many of them legitimate, for being kept from prayer. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon challenges us with the following statement:

“Prayer itself is an art that only the Holy Ghost can teach us. He is the giver of all prayer. Pray for prayer – pray till you can pray.”



Prayer is the breath of the soul

How many of us can say that we have gone to our closet and with earnest prayer with tears prayed for our loved ones and for our town/city. As I look at the lives of the godly men of the O.T. and the N.T. and the reformation, earnest fervent persistent prayer characterized them all. Do we have need for earnest fervent persistent prayer today? EW 73.

Do we believe Jesus is about to return? Are we certain? As we carry the joy of the gospel in our hearts, and we see the despair and sorrow of those about us – how much are we willing to do to help them possess the peace and joy we have in Jesus.

I can't and won't give you a list of pointers on prayer, except one: Cry to our dear Saviour and cry Lord teach me how to pray!! We need prayer and we need it NOW!

Unless we pray earnestly for people to share with, for those we study with now, we will achieve very little. But what a weapon is ours in prayer if we will use it. Let us look to Jesus and take hold of Him in prayer.

(For more detail: See sermon “[Teach Us To Pray](#)” on CD-Rom and see the book “[With Christ in the School of Prayer](#)” by Andrew Murray.)

(C) Daily Bible Study

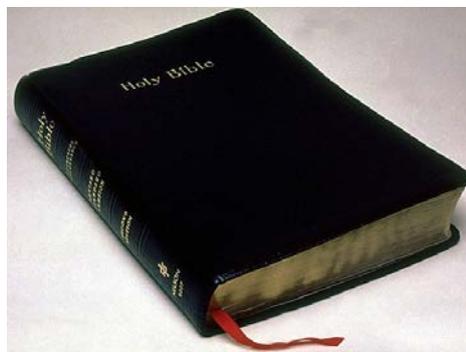
I remember as soon as I had given my heart to Jesus I developed a high hunger for the Word of God. I went to as many Bible studies a week as I could. Some of my teachers left me awed – they would rattle off text after text and seemed to have answers to every question. I thought to myself I will never be able to do what they do – I'm glad I'm not a prophet...

Essential Preparation

Becoming a Bible student is not a quick process. I remember I had to adjust my whole lifestyle to get deeper into the Word. I was so used to instant gratification from hearing audio and visual media that it took a while for me to adjust to just sitting with my Bible and enjoying it. Many people surface read the Scriptures as I once did, but there is no real joy in that, digging and finding precious truths is the best experience in the world. I remember one day after having some beautiful truth revealed to me that I literally jumped up and down with excitement – I confirmed the text that you shall know the truth and it will set you free.

You can never learn the depth of truth or really appreciate it by listening to others or reading books about the Bible, you have to do the hard yards – but boy does it pay!

I must have been a slow learner – it took me about 2 – 3 years before I really started to enjoy Bible study for myself. It need not take that long, but it did for me. I will share with you a secret that really helped me switch into Bible study mode. It was not until I began to memorise Scripture that I really began to enjoy it. When I began to memorise I automatically began to meditate on a single text and play it over and over and ask the question what does this mean? It is like chewing food – over and over – you chew and then you really get the maximum digestion effect. You don't have to memorise but you need to learn the principles of going over a passage again and again and asking the what, why and how questions. Memorising gave me confidence in the Word and the ability to recall texts when needed. It enhanced Bible studies and helped me to answer 'off the cuff' questions that I normally couldn't answer. I highly recommend memorization – it may be only a passage a day, but it really helps.



The Living Word that gives life

I must confess that in my first few years of study I did not always relish it and I came to the point where I pled with Jesus – 'please help me to love your Word and cherish it, because I don't.' I know Jesus answered that prayer and I know He will continue to answer it.

If you don't love studying the Bible then pray for it. If TV or amusement or novels are more alluring, ask for a change in appetite then change your diet believing that it will become more delicious than the meaningless diet of the past. Through the drawing power of Jesus I now love the Bible more than anything – it is such a precious treasure. I hope it will be for you also. Once again I could give you heaps of pointers on study, but if you fall in love with studying the Bible – Jesus will teach you all you need to know.

I have found that unless I am daily studying the Word, my Bible studies are flat and canned. Daily study brings freshness and joy. You will also find that when you really desire to win others to Jesus you will increase your hunger for Bible study. I often say, *you will never really understand the Bible until you share/teach it to someone else* and that is because truth is living and written on hearts not just theories on paper; it must be shared to be known.

Let's pray:

“Lord we thank You for Your precious Word that is life to us. Teach us how to study, teach us to love Your Word and may Your Word flow out of us like a fountain and quench the thirst of others.

We thank You
In Jesus Name
Amen.”

I want to mention at this point that if you embrace the principles mentioned above, you are well qualified to win souls for Christ. In the next few sections I will be presenting a model for how to systematically give Bible studies. Let me stress that it is not vital to understand these principles before you begin sharing the Word of God. Some of the principles are complex and take time to appreciate, but I will attempt to share them because they have been such a blessing to me. The best way to learn is to do it and develop your own approach under the leading of the Spirit. The principles in the next few sections will provide assistance and value to developing your own system and will only really come into focus as you begin sharing the Bible with others. I also want to stress that what I am presenting is just one approach. In time you may find others ways that suit your style and personality. My prayer is that you will take and use that which the Holy Spirit impresses you with and leave the rest.

Key Points to Remember

1. It takes a converted person to lead a soul to Christ. When our hearts are filled with love for Christ, we will know how to lead souls to Him. MH 179.
2. We can only present to people what we know. To know Jesus means that we not only know the facts about Him, but also that we experience the joy of Jesus in our lives everyday. We know the freedom of forgiveness; the hope of eternal life and it is this knowledge that gives vigour and power to our witness for Him.
3. Truth is a person – Jesus Christ. John 14:6. It is not simply a collection of dry facts. It is living, breathing and alive with the power of God. John 6:63
4. Our success to win souls depends not so much upon our factual knowledge but rather our ability to find our way to a person's heart. ChS 122.
5. The power of Christ's words and works was directly related to His communion with His Father in prayer. MB 102,103
6. Earnest fervent prayer comes from the heart of one who feels their need of God and their total inability to do anything with out Him.
7. A lack of prayer in the life indicates a self-reliance or self-confidence that makes it hard for God to use us.
8. The human heart has a natural resistance to earnest fervent prayer, let pray for Jesus to teach us to pray and also to love to pray.
9. Studying the Bible is not a simple exercise of gathering facts, it is learning more about Jesus.
10. Prayerful study of the Bible is an act of worship to God.
11. A study of the Bible will broaden the intellect like nothing else can.
12. Daily Bible study makes your studies with others more alive. Conversely, sharing the Bible with others helps you to better understand it.

3. Presenting the Folder – Basic Model.

You have two options for presenting the series of charts in the folder. In this chapter we will look at a basic model and in chapters 4-8 you can look at an advanced model for presenting. The advanced model requires more effort to learn but will provide greater flexibility in making Jesus the centre of every teaching. If you are fairly new to giving Bible studies, I would suggest that you begin the basic model and then look at the advanced model later on.

(A) The Use of models

It is essential to have a framework or model of what you plan to present to others. Giving Bible studies without a plan is like building a house without a plan – it doesn't work very well. See Chapter 4 for more details on this. In the basic model will develop a model based around a sword. In the advanced model we will develop a model based around a house.

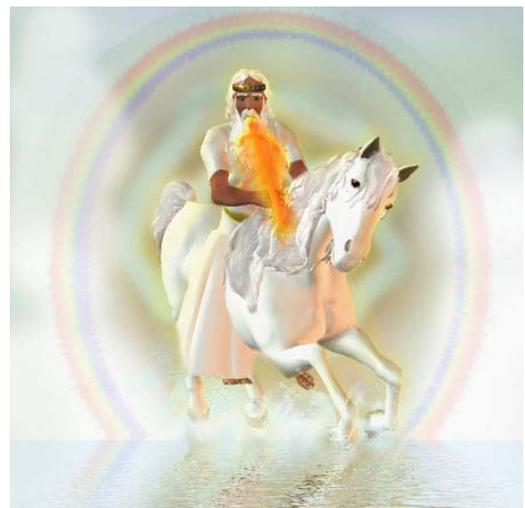
(B) Developing the Sword model

The aim of sharing God's word is to present the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The Bible tells us in John 14:6 that Jesus is *the* truth. The aim of our Bible study is to present all of Jesus as revealed in the Bible. We have very powerful image of Jesus given to us in the Book of Revelation chapter 1:

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. Rev 1:12-16

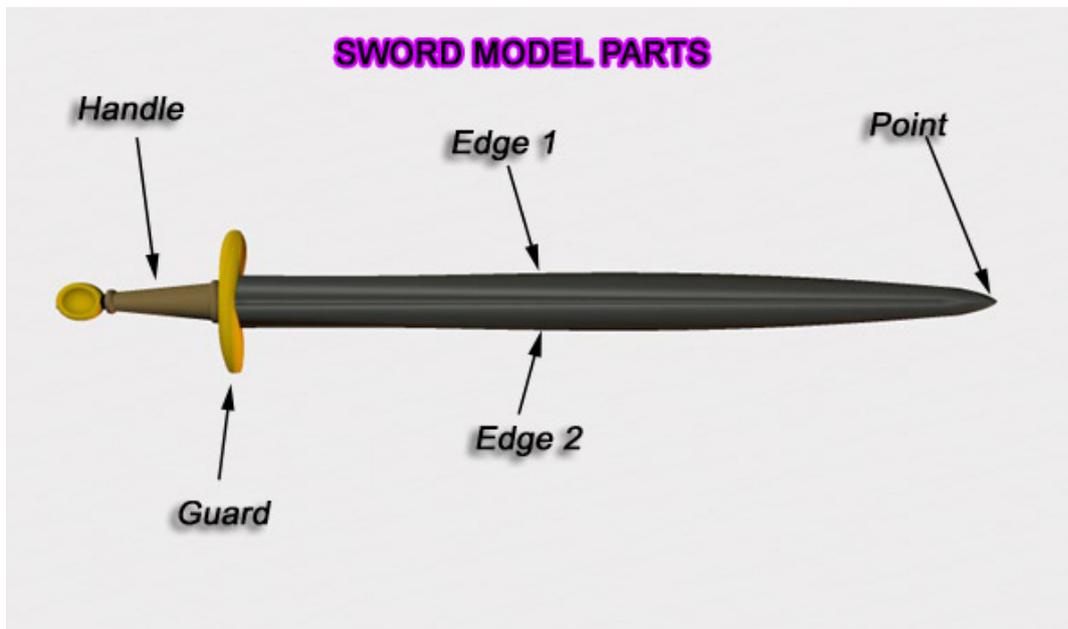
A similar picture is presented to us in Revelation 19:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword. Revelation 19:11-15



Jesus is referred to as the WORD OF GOD. This is a graphical illustration of John 1:1,14. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. What comes out of Jesus' mouth is significant; a sword, a two edged sword. Paul refers to this sword in Ephesians 6:17....and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word

of God. Paul refers to the sword itself as the word of God. Obviously the sword comes from the mouth of Jesus and therefore is the Word of God. I have found that the sword provides a fitting model for presenting the three angels messages of Revelation 14.



In the picture above, we notice the various parts of the sword.

1. Handle	To be able to use this sword, we need to know where the handle is and how to take hold of it. If we don't know where to pick it up, the sword is useless to us. Having an absolute confidence in God's Word is to know where the handle is. Also to rightly discern the Word of God, we must know the times and seasons (1 Thes 5:1). We must understand the prophetic time that we live in, so we can hear the prophetic word of God that applies to us. For example we are preparing to meet Jesus as King, whereas 2000 years ago, God's people should have been preparing for the Lamb of God. Knowing the time is crucial to a correct handling of the sword.
2. Guard	The Guard stops the user from sliding his or her hand onto the edges of the sword and hurting themselves. God has provided Guard's for us in the Word of God. Guard's include the prophets, strong spiritual life, keeping healthy as shown in the example of Daniel, avoiding worldliness, dressing appropriately etc. All these things protect us and help us to use the sword more efficiently.
3. Edge 1&2	The edges of the sword is what cuts. The cuts of God's word cut in two ways, cuts that heal and cuts that destroy. What that sword cuts is shown in Hebrews 4:12. <i>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</i> God's Word cuts into our mind and heart. It defends, comforts and encourages us on the one hand but also attacks and exposes us on the other. The Word says we are all sinners and totally evil on one hand and on the other it points us to Jesus and offers us eternal life and helps us to conquer our evil natures. We will call edge 1 "The healing cut" and edge two "the exposing cut". Truth must expose our errors so it can then truly heal us of our sins.
4. The Point	The point of the sword is often used to confront with a decision. When a person has seen both edges of the sword, the exposing and the healing cuts, they have a

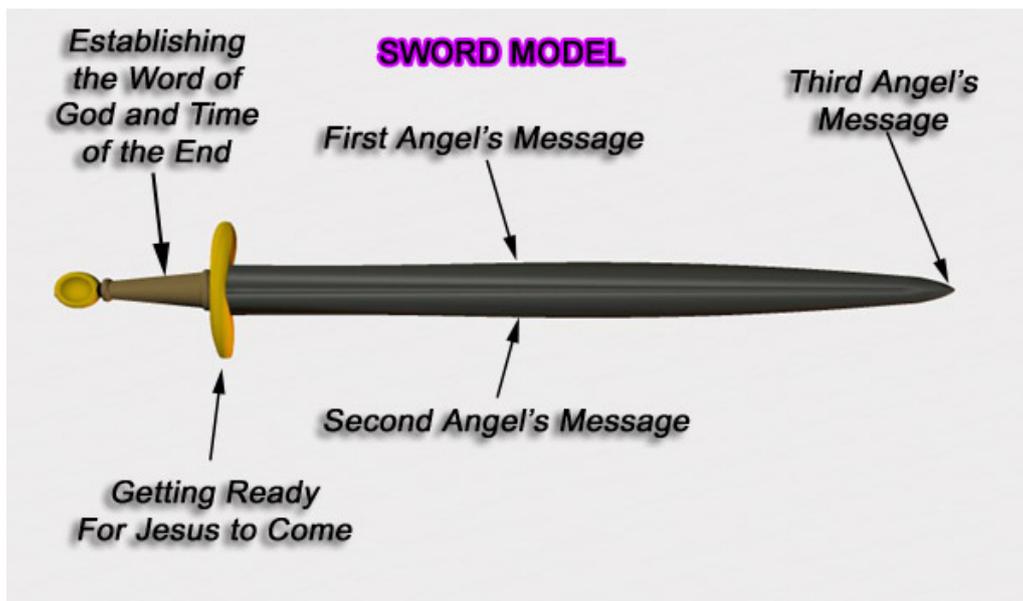
Presenting the Folder - Sword Model

	choice to accept or reject the exposing and healing process. Hence the term “Getting to the point”
--	--

God’s Word covers the period from the beginning to the end of the world, so the sword will cover from the beginning to the end of the world. Think of the healing edge as the story of redemption that traces a line from when God promised to Adam and Eve that a redeemer would come right down to when God’s city descends on to the earth after the millennium. Think of the exposing edge as the story from When God confronted Adam and Eve with the sin in the garden to Cain who received the curse to Nimrod who formed the religion of Babylon down to the woman who rides the seven headed beast in Revelation and the then the destruction of the wicked in the fire. These two lines run parallel through history, two systems, two kingdoms, two approaches to life. The Sword provides healing through one line and it exposes the false system that Satan has developed over the past 6000 years on the other line. Eventually the world must make a choice as the two lines will not continue. God will bring an end to the world. Think of the this as the final events of earth’s history, the image to the beast that is set up and the choice we are all given to either worship God or worship the beast. This is the point of decision. With these thoughts in mind, we have the following table.

1. Handle	1. Establishing Your Source of Authority. 2. Establishing the Time of the End
2. Edge 1	3. The First Angel’s Message
3. Edge 2	4. The Second Angel’s Message
4. The Point	5. The Third Angel’s Message
5. The Guard	6. Getting Ready for Jesus to Come

The Guard is placed last because a person will not accept God’s guards until they personally have made a decision to follow Him.



1. Establish Your Source of Authority – The Handle Part a

Your source of authority is Christ in His person and His written word. Unless your student accepts the Bible as the authority for finding truth you will waste your time. Your aim is to present an

objective and subjective case for the Bible. By objective case I mean, that which appeals to the mind, by subjective case I mean that which appeals to the heart. If either is lacking, your presentation will lack power. The first chart "Jesus of Nazareth" comes right to the point – "Who is Jesus Christ and what will we do with His claims?" The second chart concerning the prophecies of Christ adds indisputable proof that Christ is indeed the Son of God and the Saviour of the World. The third chart "Jesus Believed all the Old Testament" builds on the proof of who Christ is to defend the Old Testament. The last chart gives an overview of the origin, nature and power of God's Word.

2. Establish the Time of the End – The Handle Part b

This section is crucial. If you can't show that we are living in the time of the end, then you have no right to teach that the Three Angel's Messages are present truth and apply now. The prophecy of Daniel 2 is used to establish this point. The second chart "Signs of Christ's Coming" covers Matthew 24. Daniel 2 and Matthew 24 are important keys to any presentation of our message. "Ministers should present the sure word of prophecy as the foundation of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be carefully studied, and in connection with them the words, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" GW 148.1.

3. The First Angel's Message (The Everlasting Gospel) – Edge 1

Revelation 14:6 refers to the first angel having the everlasting gospel. This is exactly what is presented in this section. From before creation to the new earth, we will aim to present the gospel story and the principles of God's kingdom and show how and why God is worthy of our worship.

4. The Second Angel's Message (The Counterfeit Gospel) – Edge 2

The call "Babylon is fallen" reveals Satan's attempt to pervert and counterfeit the work of Christ in the gospel. We notice that Cain was not induced to abandon worship or spiritual activity, he was merely tempted to change the forms of worship to suit himself. God has revealed in his Word Satan's false religious movements and their attacks on God's people. God's Word also shows us how His church has often been deceived by this false religion and this why God sends the cry – Babylon is fallen. We must leave that system or perish.

5. The Third Angel's Message (The Worship War)- The Point

Every person is called to make a choice between God's appointed means of salvation and their own ideas of worshipping God and obtaining salvation. The worship of the Creator as revealed in the Sabbath is the key to true worship.

6. Getting Ready for the Second Coming of Jesus (God's Guards)

Taking the example of the Israelites who came out of Egypt, God's church emerges from Babylon with a need to be instructed and trained and prepared for the second coming. This section highlights the rise of such a movement and important truths that were given to the church to preserve it and make it efficient in its work.

(C) Step by Step Through the Sword Model

We now will go step by step through the sword model approach and layout what extra Bible studies to give and what decisions to call for.

Presenting the Folder - Sword Model

Page	CHART	BIBLE STUDY NUMBER
1	A. Establishing Your Source of Authority (Handle)	
3	1. Jesus of Nazareth	
5	2. Fulfilled Prophecies of the Messiah	
	<i>DECISION: Do You believe that Jesus is the Son of God?</i>	
7	3. Jesus Believed All of the Old Testament	9
9	4. The Word of God	1
	<i>DECISION: Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God?</i>	
11	B. Establishing the Time of the End (Handle)	
13	1. The Prophetic Sign Posts of Daniel Two	3
15	2. Signs of Christ's Second Coming	5
	<i>DECISION: Do you believe that we are living in the last days and that Jesus is coming soon?</i>	
17	C. The First Angel's Message (Sword Edge 1)	
19	1. Christ: The Way, The Truth and The Life	2
21	2. The Godhead	27
23	3. The Kingdom of God	11
25	4. Lucifer's Rebellion	33
27	5. The Three Charges of Satan	
29	5. The Origin of Satan's Kingdom	
31	6. Jesus Our Creator	39
33	7. From Freedom to Slavery	2
35	8. The Plan of Salvation	2
37	10. The Gospel Lost and Restored (Part 1)	
39	11. Plan of Salvation Mapped Out	
41	12. When Jesus Became the Messiah	15
43	13. He Humbled Himself	
45	14. Steps to Finding Personal Peace	8,21
	<i>DECISION: Do you accept Jesus as your personal Saviour?</i>	
47	15. Walking With Jesus	26,29
	<i>DECISION: Would you like to attend church with us?</i>	
49	16. Lest We Forget	20
	<i>DECISION: Would you like to seal your friendship with Jesus in baptism at some point in the near future?</i>	
51	17. When Jesus Became the Priest	
53	18. The Comforter	37
55	19. Christ's Victory is Ours	
57	20. The Feasts and Their Meaning	
59	21. When Jesus Becomes the Judge	15
61	22. The Three Phases of the Judgment	16
63	23. Man Lies Down and Where is He?	10
65	24. The Two Resurrections	4, 6, 7

Page	CHART	BIBLE STUDY NUMBER
67	D. The Second Angel's Message (Sword Edge 2)	
	<i>The Identity of the Little Horn</i>	
69	1. The Prophetic Sign Posts of Daniel Seven	28
71	2. The Little Horn Identified	
73	3. He Shall Think to Change Times and Laws	49
75	4. The Ten Commandments Unchanged Throughout the Bible	11
77	5. The Sabbath Unchanged Throughout the Bible	12
	<i>DECISION: Are you willing to Honour and Obey Your Creator by Keeping the Sabbath and set aside this day to Spend with Him?</i>	
79	6. The Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary	
	<i>The Activities of the Little Horn</i>	
81	7. Christian Apostasy and Reformation	46
83	8. The Falling Away in Pergamos	14
85	9. The Gospel Counterfeited	
87	10. The 1260 Years of Papal Supremacy	28
89	11. The Little Horn Casts the Truth (Gospel) to the Ground	
91	12. Apostolic Faith Restored	24
93	13. The Gospel Lost and Restored (Part 2)	
95	E. The Third Angel's Message (Sword Point)	
97	1. War of Worship in Revelation – The Issue	
99	2. War of Worship in Revelation – The Contenders	
101	3. War of Worship in Revelation – The Focal Point	34
103	4. God's Relationship Seal (The Sabbath)	
105	F. Getting Ready for the Second Coming of Jesus (Guard)	
107	1. Identifying Marks of the Remnant Church	25
	<i>DECISION: Will you respond to God's call to become part of His Remnant Church and use your gifts and talents to further the gospel of Christ?</i>	
109	2. The Tests of a True Prophet	19
111	3. Recognition of God's Abundant Blessings	18
113	4. SDA Tithe and Offering System	35
115	5. Diet in the Bible	17
117	6. Dress and Adornment	
119	7. Guarding the Avenues of the Soul	23
121	8. The Spirit of Christ Versus the Spirit of the World	
	<i>DECISION: Can you see the necessity of these lifestyle principles and would there be anything that would prevent you from keeping them?</i>	

4. Presenting the Folder – Advanced Model

(A) The Importance of an Interlocking System

So how do you give Bible studies? This is the key question. I find that there are plenty of people that have a reasonable grasp of the various Bible teachings, but they do not know how they link together. This is the central cause of problems in sharing Bible truths. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW EACH TEACHING RELATES TO THE REST OF BIBLE TRUTH.

John Flavel, a 17th century Puritan Scholar, penned these words in the introduction to his book *The Fountain of Life Opened Up*:

“Knowledge is man’s excellency above beasts that perish. Ps 32:9. The knowledge of Christ is the Christian’s excellency above the heathen, 1 Cor 1:23,24. Practical and saving knowledge of Christ is the sincere Christian’s excellency above the self-cozening hypocrite, Heb 6:4,6. But methodical and well-digested knowledge of Christ is the *strong Christian’s* excellency above the weak, Heb 5:13,14... For such is the excellency thereof, even above all other knowledge of Christ, that it renders the understanding judicious, the memory tenacious, and the heart highly and fixedly joyous.”

Notice the progression of thought:

- 1) What gives man the advantage over animals is his ability to learn and apply knowledge.
- 2) What gives a Christian the advantage over the heathen is his knowledge of Christ.
- 3) What gives the sincere Christian an advantage over the nominal Christian is practical, saving knowledge of Christ.
- 4) What gives the strong sincere Christian an advantage over the weak sincere Christian is a methodical well-digested knowledge of Christ.

So in summary, to share Christ with others we must have a knowledge of Him that is sincere, practical, saving and methodical. I have covered the importance of a practical saving knowledge of Christ in the previous section. Our aim now is to build a methodical knowledge of Christ.



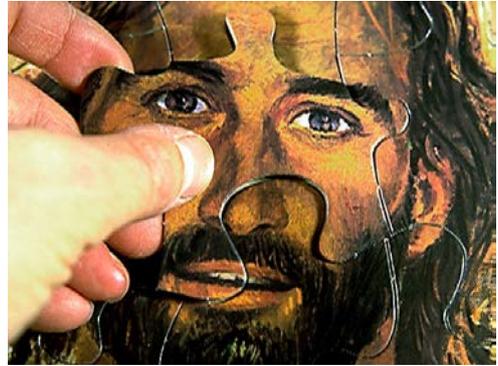
Just as a builder needs to follow a systematic plan to build a house, so a Bible teacher needs a systematic plan to teach his or her students

Let’s listen a little more to John Flavel as he expands this thought of a methodical knowledge of Christ.

“A young ungrounded Christian, when he sees all the fundamental truths, and sees good evidence and reasons of them, perhaps may be yet ignorant of the right order and place of every truth. It is a rare thing to have young professors to understand the necessary truths methodically: and this is a very great defect: for a great part of the usefulness and excellency of particular truths consisteth in the respect they have to one another. This therefore will be a very considerable part of your confirmation, and growth in your understandings, to see the body of the Christian doctrine, as it were, at one view, as the several parts of it are united in one perfect frame; and to know what aspect one point has upon another, and which are their due places. There is a great difference betwixt the sight of the several parts of a clock or watch, as they are disjointed and scattered abroad, and the seeing of them conjoined, and in use and motion. To see here a pin and there a wheel, and not know how to set them all together, nor ever see them in their due places will give but little satisfaction. It is the frame and design of holy doctrine that must be known, and every

part should be discerned as it has its particular use to that design, and as it is connected with the other parts. By this means only can the true nature of Theology, together with the harmony and perfection of truth be clearly understood.”

Truth to be understood must take the various parts and see them as a complete system and see how each part relates to the other. It is like a jigsaw puzzle of a picture of Jesus. If you have all the pieces in your hands you will see small parts of Christ and gain small comfort here and there; but when you join all the pieces of the puzzle together – the picture will thrill your soul and fortify the mind in such a way that the enemy is hard-pressed to overcome you.



Truth is like a jigsaw of the face of Jesus. We must understand how each piece fits into another to complete the picture

We read in *Education*, page 123:2,3:

“The Bible contains all the principles that men need to understand in order to be fitted either for this life or for the life to come. And these principles may be understood by all. No one with a spirit to appreciate its teaching can read a single passage from the Bible without gaining from it some helpful thought. But the most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study. Its great system of truth is not so presented as to be discerned by the hasty or careless reader. Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface, and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, "here a little, and there a little." Isaiah 28:10. When thus searched out and brought together, they will be found to be perfectly fitted to one another.”

So how do we go about this work? Again Ellen White gives us the answer in the following way:

“Take one point at a time, and make that one point plain, speaking slowly and in a distinct voice. Speak in such a way that the people shall see what is the relation of that one point to other truths of vital importance.” Ev 202.

So now we have established the fact that we need to gather up all the truths we can and then fit them together to build a strong fortress of truth.

The Bible tells us that each man must build his own spiritual house, and that the house we build will be tested by fire at the end of time. “Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.” 1 Cor 3:12-13.

Noah was required to build an ark according to certain specifications and requirements. Noah faithfully built the ark and it stood the test of water – we too must build an “Ark of Safety” – a house that will stand the test of fire. So what specifications does the Bible give for building? Christ – the Truth, the Way, the Life!

I Have All The Bits But Where Do They All Go?

Before we start building our structure we need to address a fundamental point. Even if you have all the materials to build a house it still will be very hard to build if you don't know where each piece fits. Imagine a Bricklayer having all the bricks but no plan on how to build. Worse still imagine that while he was trying to work out where to put them, the Labourer was handing him bricks at rapid speed. It would be safe to say that not much building would be achieved. This exact scenario happens often in a spiritual sense. A Bible worker comes each week to give a study to someone who is interested. Each study completed is like a brick being handed to the student. If the Bible worker does not lay out a plan of how to build the spiritual structure, the student will end up with a pile of bricks in no particular order and provide no safety for him for the coming fire. Worse still, if a student does not know where something fits in the whole system he or she is more likely to forget that information. Have you ever put something down in an untidy room and then tried to find it later? When we share the Bible with others we must first give them a perspective of the whole structure we intend to build. Show them the foundation stones, the dimensions of the building and how high it will be. Show them where each room will be and what will go in it. Then when you hand your student some building material, they will have a map and know exactly where to put it and more importantly where to find it again when they need it.



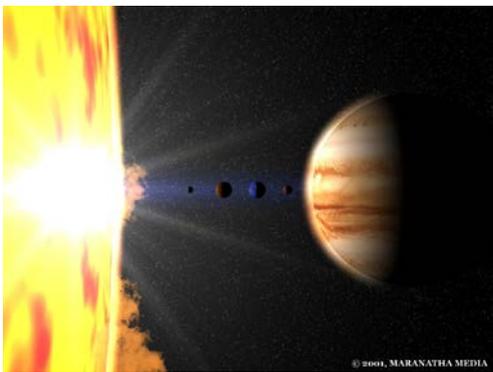
If we don't know what we are building before we build we can end up with a pile of bricks rather than a well built house

In Old Testament times, a building found its dimensions and framework from what was called a cornerstone. It was the most important part of the building. It took most of the weight, it determined the shape and height of the building. The Bible refers to Jesus as the cornerstone. 1 Peter 2:6 and we must show people the essence and importance of Christ the cornerstone. This is our task in the next section. The next section is the cornerstone and framework for our whole building. Let's begin!

(B) Building Your Foundation

One of the most penetrating and revealing texts in the Bible is John 14:6. In this verse, we receive an amazing view of Christ. He refers to himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Each one of these terms is full of meaning and gives us a better understanding of just how wonderful and amazing Jesus is. These three words Way, Truth and Life form the basis of our whole building. Lets now examine each of these terms in relation to our building project.

(i) Christ – The Truth



Jesus has made all things including time and space. Therefore anything in time or space finds its truth in Christ

Jesus is the Truth! There is a danger of limiting this statement to the general realm of salvation, but Jesus is the truth about everything in the realms of time and space. Paul, speaking of Jesus says: "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col 2:3. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. 1 Cor 1:24 tell us that Christ is the wisdom of God.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or

powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Col 1:16,17

It says in Col 1:16,17 that it is Jesus who spoke the worlds into existence and continues to sustain them. All things hold together or consist in Him – Christ. This makes clear the fact, that all truth that enters the domain of time and space finds its source in the person of Jesus Christ – the Son of God. Since as human beings we live in the confines of time and space, then every truth about every subject is found in Jesus Christ. This is a very important principle to understand.

People have often said to me that there is truth in the Bible and truth outside the Bible and the two go together. For example it was suggested to me that the truths found in science and popular psychology is a complimentary body of truth to the truths of salvation. This concept has a very limited view of Christ and prevents Him from being the Lord of all creation in the realms of time and space. So how we address this idea of truth inside and “so called” outside the Bible. If I were to say to you “Is $1+1=2$ the truth” I am sure that you would say that it is the truth. Do we find this truth explicitly stated in the Bible? No. Then is there truth outside the Bible? Before I give a definite NO, let me ask you this: what does $1+1=2$ mean? In and of itself, it means nothing. It is a convention that we use to help us understand the realms of time and space – the material world. As soon as you use this convention in the material world, you are entering the Truth of Jesus Christ, for He is the creator and sustainer of time and space. Therefore, all mathematical and scientific conventions are meaningless in themselves and possess no truth at all apart from the material world. We can see the results of using scientific conventions to understand the universe apart from Christ: a strange array of theories on evolution that defy mathematical probability and are absolutely untrue. It is sad also that many Christian scholars and even some SDA scholars have become so infatuated with this false distinction of truth inside and outside the Bible or Christ that they advance the false theory of theistic evolution and its equally sad sister, modern psychology.



Christ is the Rock that we build upon.

The house that we build must have a solid base, built upon Christ the truth. If our structure contains a false idea that there is truth outside of Christ, then we become double minded and unstable in all our ways. James 1:8.

With this crucial thought in mind, let us now start on the foundation. Every house must have a foundation and the Bible tells us that Christ is that foundation. This is stated in a number of ways in Scripture:



The building we build must abide the test of fire

Matt 7:24	The wise man builds on the rock
1 Cor 10:4	Christ is the rock
1 Peter 2:6	Christ is the chief cornerstone

Christ therefore is the foundation, but what exactly does that mean? Remember that the house we build must endure the test of fire at Christ's coming. 1 Cor 3:12-13. The house then must be a house that will save us. The foundation then is Christ presented to us as a Saviour. Again we ask the question: How is Christ a Saviour to us? Certainly as a

Sacrifice upon the cross, but what about Advocate and Deliverer and all the other roles that Christ must assume to save us.

As we examine Scripture, the various roles of Christ may be summarized into seven. Christ saves us in the following ways:

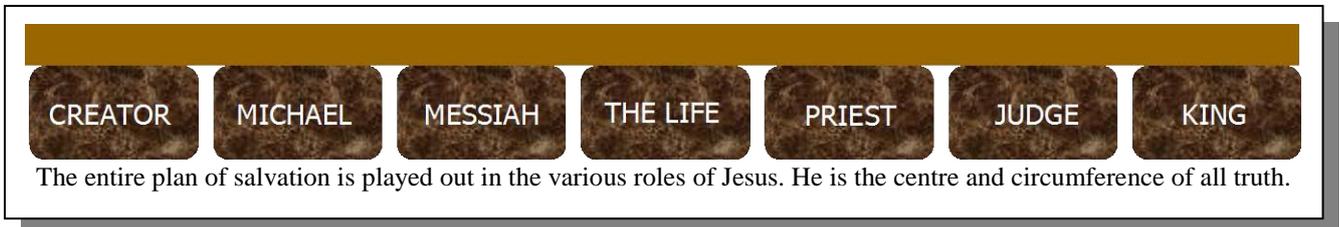
- 1) *Creator.* (Isa 43:1-3) – Jesus made everything in the universe from the biggest galaxy to the smallest atom. But more than this, His power sustains and upholds everything and keeps it in order. Jesus uses this mighty creative power to save us.
- 2) *Michael, Deliverer, Captain of the Lord's Host.* (Rev 12:7-9; Ex 23:20; Ex 33:14; Isa 63:8,9; Joshua 5:13-15) – Christ personally fought the war in heaven and led the children of Israel to victory over their enemies – He is our Warrior Prince that leads the war against Satan and saves us.
- 3) *Messiah.* (Matt 1:21; John 1:29) – This role involves Teacher, Healer, Overcomer and Lamb. Jesus left the glorious courts of heaven and took upon Himself our human nature. He is our brother, He is one of us and He knows our trials and difficulties because He has faced them. He faced Satan in the wilderness and endured every weapon of hell on our behalf. Our wonderful Saviour overcame the flesh, the world and the devil. Praise God for our heroic Saviour. He came close to us and healed our diseases and taught us about the kingdom of God and how to find true freedom and then He died the death that we deserved that we might enjoy the life that He deserves. The most powerful demonstration of the love of God. Christ is our Messiah that saves us.
- 4) *The Life.* (1 Cor 15:17-20; Gal 2:20; John 15:5; SC 26) – Jesus said to Martha at the tomb of Lazareth, “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”. John 11:25. Christ is our Life, we live because He rose from the dead and lives. He is the fountain of physical and spiritual life. Each heartbeat and every desire to do right comes from Jesus. Such a vital truth that is rarely understood. Christ is the source of every desire to do right and leads us to repentance and sustains our spiritual life. Christ saves us by being our “life-support machine”.
- 5) *Priest.* (Rom 5:10; 1 John 2:1; Heb 7:25) – The death of Christ, powerful and thrilling as it is, requires a priest to intercede that sacrifice before God and send us the benefits of His atonement. Jesus knows exactly how we feel and is perfectly equipped to intercede for us to the Father. Our High Priest saves us.
- 6) *Judge.* (John 3:17; 5:22; Isa 33:22) – Satan has accused us as lawbreakers. Only the Judge can save us against these accusations – Christ saves us as Judge.
- 7) *King.* (Isa 33:22; Rev 19:16; 1 Thess 4:16-18) – When Jesus comes the second time, He comes as King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ will save us from this world and translates us to His heavenly kingdom physically.



We must know Jesus in all His roles to truly know Him.

Christ is a Saviour in all these ways. We must know Him in each of these roles to have a complete foundation. John 17:3. Many churches focus only on the work of Jesus the Messiah, but we are told that we must know Christ intimately and to do this we must know Him in all of His roles. We must know Him as the Creator, Michael, Priest, Judge and King also.

We read in Prov 9:1, “Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars.” 1 Cor 1:24; Luke 11:49, Matt 23:34. Since Jesus is the wisdom of God, we see that Wisdom has seven pillars as the foundation of its house. So now we have our foundation established.



In keeping with the thought that Jesus is THE TRUTH, then we could safely assume that every teaching of the Bible will find itself attached to these seven roles at some point. When we keep this thought in mind, it makes the job of sharing Bible studies much easier, because every study must come down to these seven roles at some point. To expand this point, we are reminded that Jesus told the two men on the road to Emmaus all the things concerning himself in the books of Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets. Luke 24:27,44. This means all the Bible is about Christ and this makes sense for Christ is called the Word of God. John 1:1; Rev 19:13.

I have included a chart on the next page to demonstrate the principle of all truth being in Christ. The chart “Christ – The Truth” shows where each of the 27 Fundamentals lock into the seven roles of Jesus.

(ii) Christ – The Way

Jesus said, “I am the way”. The word in the Greek – hodos – means way, highway or journey. Christ is not only the truth as revealed in His various roles; He is the highway or journey to salvation. As we link the roles of Jesus together in a line they form the path of salvation that everyone must follow to enter eternal life. Jesus said that no man comes to the Father but by me. John 14:6. The word by in the Greek “ $\alpha\lambda\omicron\upsilon\sigma\iota\varsigma$ ” can also mean “through” or “with”. If we wish to stand on the sea of glass before the Father then we can only do it through, by and with Jesus.

Christ the Truth Chart

Christ the Way Chart

A Journey Means Time

Christ the WAY brings to us a fundamental point: Salvation involves time. If Christ is the journey or highway and we must travel that highway, then we find that salvation is a journey, a process that involves time. As we place the roles of Jesus together side by side in the context of time, we can see indeed that Christ is the WAY of salvation. As we lay the roles of Jesus together side by side, we can see the *story* of Jesus. The story of Jesus is the WAY of salvation. Forgive me for stating things that may seem obvious, but take time to think through the implications of this truth. This wonderful story is beautifully told in Philippians 2:5-11:

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Christ is the Highway to salvation. Travelling a highway takes time, therefore to follow Christ the way involves time – prophetic time

This passage gives the story of Jesus in summary form from Creator to exalted King. This is the story that saves us. This is the story that means life to us. Praise God for the wonderful story of Jesus.

We Must take the Journey

Please notice that if we are the *come* to the Father then we must come through Jesus. We must come with Jesus along this path from Lamb to Resurrection, to Priest to Judge to King. We cannot simply assent to each role, we must walk each role, we must *experience* each role. What exactly do



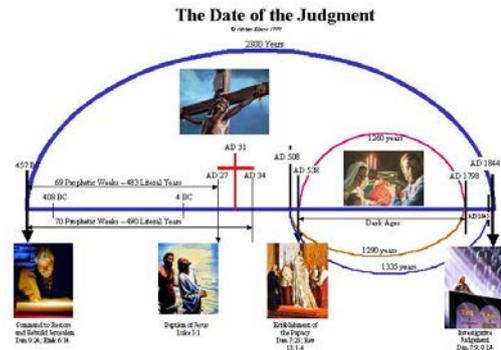
As the disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven, they *followed* Him by faith into heaven. In the same way we *follow* Jesus into the Most Holy Place in Heaven.

I mean by this? We must stand at the foot of the cross and with tears feel the weight of our guilt and shame roll from our shoulders and be replaced by the sheer joy of release and freedom to be made a child of God again. We must experience the power of the cross and know our Saviour as the Lamb. We must then follow him to the tomb and wait with eager expectation. We must stand in awe and joy at the triumph of our majestic Saviour bursting forth from the tomb. With Mary let us fall at His feet in adoration and worship knowing that Jesus has banished the Second Death. He has conquered it, smashed it, destroyed it, O sing for joy and rejoice. We must then follow Jesus to the Mt of Olives and watch Him ascend into heaven and with faces lifted up know that our loving

Saviour is interceding for us. We need look to no man, simply look up and know that your Priest is covering you, empowering you. By Faith follow Him into the Holy place and watch Him, do not let him out of your spiritual sight. Then at the appointed time follow Him into the Most Holy Place and with joy realise that He is going to make the final atonement. Stay close to Him and listen as

He pleads your case before the Father. Be confident and full of joy that your Judge will save you. Finally follow Him as he prepares for battle putting on His garments of vengeance. Anticipate His coming deliverance, the long awaited deliverance from the kingdoms of this world.

We just took the last five steps of the journey together. Notice that we must walk with Jesus to experience each crucial step. Remember that the disciples experienced bitter disappointment because they did not follow fully Jesus in time. The early Adventists were also bitterly disappointed because they did not discern the times written in the scriptures and briefly lost sight of Jesus. Christ the WAY impresses upon us the importance of the prophetic time periods: The 490 years and the 2300 years. For many years I could not fully see how crucial these time periods were. To me they were simply facts; good facts, important facts but simply facts. My prayer is that you can see that we must know these times if we are to walk the path with Jesus. These prophetic time periods give us the schedule for the journey of Jesus and we do not want to miss the bus when Jesus comes by! This is why Ellen White wrote:



The 490 and 2300 years enable us to follow Jesus to crucial points in His ministry.

The Scripture which above all others has been both the foundation and central pillar of the Advent faith was the declaration “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the Sanctuary be cleansed.” Great Controversy 409

Why is the 2300 days the central pillar of our faith? Because it leads us right to where Jesus is NOW! We must tell the world where He is so they can know Jesus the Judge and experience this part of the journey. Remember that everyone must walk the whole way with Jesus, not part of the way. We must have all of Jesus to have salvation. Why am I pressing this point so hard?

Most of the Christian world presents Christ the Lamb of God and the wonder of His resurrection. But these two roles are only part of who Jesus is. Who in the Christian world is impressing upon people the importance of knowing Jesus as the Judge and its vital importance in the plan of salvation? A gospel without all of Jesus is a gospel without power! Please remember this, a gospel without all of the roles of Jesus is a gospel without true power.

Salvation is a Process

Another crucial point that comes out of this is that salvation is not simply an event, it is a process. When we make only the roles of Jesus on the cross and in the resurrection the whole gospel then Christ can only be a substitute because these roles are a work of substitution, but Christ as Priest and Judge provides a work of substitution and example. He provides us power to live the victorious Christian life and this is where the power of the gospel is manifested in us. My friends, let us follow Jesus all the WAY. Let’s take the whole journey with Jesus unless we hear the sad words from His lips “Will you also go away?” John 6:67. In the early part of Jesus’ ministry on earth, He was very popular, but as time progressed and He began to teach truths that were more challenging to popular teaching, many people turned away from Him and followed Him no more. John 6:66. It is interesting to notice that as we line up the roles of Jesus, a similar situation will occur. Jesus is popular in His roles as Messiah and Resurrection, but He is not popular as Judge, as the one that

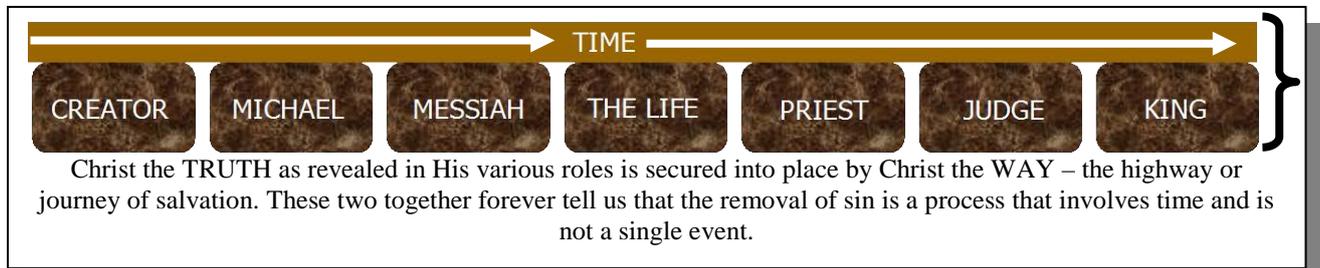
investigates our relationship to Him. Christ as Judge reveals the falseness of those who follow Jesus for loaves and fishes. Consequently many turn away from Him.

Christ the WAY Resolves Questions on Assurance of Salvation

Christ the WAY helps to address another often perplexing issue. You may have been asked at some point “are you saved?” Those people who focus on Christ’s work on the cross and His resurrection usually answer “yes”. Those who focus on the judgement usually have a lot of uncertainty and often answer “that is personal” or “I’m not sure”. Due to the fact that the SDA message has called for a focus on the judgment, there are many people who answer this way. This is sad because Christ’s work on the cross assures us of salvation and we should carry the blood of Jesus with us into the judgment and be confident of the verdict given to us. When people ask me “are you saved?” I can answer as follows:

1. *I have been saved* by Jesus the Lamb and Jesus the Life
2. *I am being saved* by Jesus the Priest and Jesus the Judge
3. *I will be saved* by Jesus the King.

Knowing Jesus in each of His roles helps us to answer this question with assurance and confidence without denying that the final verdict has not been decided. Looking at this another way, in one sense I have not been saved because I am still on the earth in the battle of life, Jesus my King has not yet delivered me, but Jesus my Lamb has already saved me. In this context I am both saved and also not saved. This fact brings to us the importance of paradoxical truth: Holding two truths in tension that seem to contradict each other. We will learn more about paradoxical truth in the next section.



(C) Using the Right Building Materials

The house we build is a spiritual house – a living house. John 1:1 tells us that Christ is the Word – the ultimate communication about God. John 6:63 says that the words that Christ speaks are spirit and life. The bricks we use to build up our house must be living bricks, charged with the life of Christ brought to us by His Spirit. This is a vital principle that many fail to understand or appreciate.

(iii) Christ – The Life

In section one we learned that the human race has been deceived by Satan concerning the source of life. [See Key Point 4](#). Satan convinced Eve that there was power inherent in the tree of knowledge that God could not even control.

“By partaking of this tree, he declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge. He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself. It was because of *its wonderful properties*, imparting wisdom and power, that He had prohibited them from tasting or even touching it.” *Patriarchs and Prophets* Page 54.

The key point here is a belief that all living things have inherent power. It is the trademark of Satan's kingdom. After the fall of Adam and Eve, this philosophy soon became widespread in the form of nature worship and most notably, sun worship. This false philosophy is stamped into the human soul. It causes the soul to reach within itself to achieve and succeed. Paul traces this sad fact in the following way.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened...Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. Romans 1:20,21,25



Satan introduced to the human race, two false concepts through the tree of knowledge. “You will not die” meaning we have power inherent in ourselves and “If you eat from this tree you will be like gods” meaning that there are objects in creation by which we can become more powerful. These two lies deny the truth that all power comes directly from God and is not inherent in objects.

The hand of God is clearly seen in the things that He has made. God upholds every living thing by His power. Heb 1:3. Everything holds together in Christ. Col 1:16,17. But man who followed Satan's ways did not glorify God as the source of life and therefore were not thankful for the gifts they enjoyed. This led the human race to strange ideas about the origin of the world and the truth about God was turned into a lie and man served themselves and objects of their devotion rather than God. Once we recognize this fact, we can begin to comprehend some wonderful truths.

Have you ever been asked “My neighbours do not believe in God and yet they are very nice people. How could God keep them out of heaven?” or what about this question, “How can God judge the natives in Africa who never heard the Gospel?” In the past I have answered these questions in very awkward ways but when you understand that Christ is the source of all life, these questions are easy to answer.

The Bible tells us that there is none righteous and none that do good. Romans 3:10. How can this be true when my non-Christian neighbours have been so kind and friendly? Please notice the following verse: “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 It also says that God makes the rain fall on the just and the unjust. Matthew 5:45 This is not just physical rain but spiritual also. God's spirit is reaching out to the hearts of all people, whether Christian or non-Christian. When your neighbour does something nice it is because Jesus inspired that person to do something nice. This is how God draws people to himself, He encourages them to do good things and enjoy the blessings of goodness.

Obviously the Spirit of God is restricted in the life of one who does not acknowledge Him, but God still has power to influence their life for good.

Please remember the following quote, it has been such a blessing to me.

Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts. *Steps to Christ* Page 26.

The implications of this truth are far reaching. The love that a mother feels for her child did not originate in her heart, it came from Christ. The love that husband and wife feel for each other does not originate in themselves it comes from Christ. Each right desire, each simple pleasure, every joy find their source in Christ. At this point I just have to stop and cry "Praise God!" What a wonderful Saviour. Do you realise that whenever you felt bad for doing wrong, it was Jesus reaching out to you. Do you realise that the only thing that stopped your parents from ending your life when you were wailing at 2 o'clock in the morning was the Spirit of Christ. Do you realise that every time you desire to pray for a friend that this thought came from Jesus. Such precious truth! Meditate on this fact and begin to see the freedom it brings you in your Christian walk. Hopefully you will see the depth of meaning in the verse that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" James 1:17. I have to share another quote with you.



Christ is the source of every right impulse. Every desire to do right comes from Him.

The child cannot, by any anxiety or power of its own, add to its stature. No more can you, by anxiety or effort of yourself, secure spiritual growth. The plant, the child, grows by receiving from its surroundings that which ministers to its life – air, sunshine, and food. What these gifts of nature are to animal and plant, such is Christ to those who trust in Him. *Steps to Christ* Page 68.

Christ is our food and drink and sunshine. Think about Him, mediate on Him, rest in Him and allow His thoughts to fill your mind. I really encourage you to read the chapter in *Steps to Christ* called [Growing up into Christ](#) It will bless you immensely.

One more point before we move on. In my early Christian experience, I tended to be proud of the fact that I thought good thoughts and had a burden for the lost. I took comfort in my efforts to reach others. This is nothing but pure theft. God was the one that put the good thoughts in my heart and then I had the gall to say they were my thoughts. Let us not steal Christ's righteous thoughts that He gives to us and claim that we thought them ourselves.

Now the application of what we have learnt. We have been talking about building a house. We can read of numerous people in the Bible who became proud because of what they built, most notably King Nebuchadnezzar. We can be saved from all this pride and arrogance by knowing that Christ is our life. He will show you how to build, He will teach you how to put layer upon layer. He will make the words of Scripture come alive and teach you how to take God's Word as it reads.

As we allow Christ to be our life, we will build our house with living bricks. We will not seek to fit the meaning of passages into our carnal desires. We let them cut across us and expose us and heal us. We do not question the authority of the Biblical statements; we do not seek to escape the conviction of Scripture by consigning to the culture of the day. We refuse to allow human speculation and philosophy interpret the Bible for us – we take the Bible as it reads and let the Spirit of God teach us its meaning. When we do this, the Spirit of God will fill us and we as Christ's representatives become living stones to be used in the building. 1 Peter 2:5.

“What material shall we place upon this foundation... Shall we not rather bring the most precious material – gold, silver, precious stones? Shall we not distinguish sharply between the chaff and the wheat? Shall we not realize that we must receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts, that it may mold and fashion the life?” YRP 111.

We have now looked closely at our foundation, which is Christ the Truth and the Way and the Life. Build every study upon these principles and you will build a house that will stand the test of fire.

Key Points to Remember

1. A systematic knowledge of the truth is essential to imparting the truths of the Bible to others. In other words we must see how each Bible truth links to other Bible truths.
2. Sharing the truth is like building a house; we must build a structure that will save us, just like Noah built an ark to be saved from the flood.
3. Jesus Christ is the Truth. John 14:6. He is the source of all truth. Col 2:3. There is no such thing as truth in the Bible and truth outside the Bible. The conventions of maths and science are not truth in themselves, they are used to understand the material world and this domain belongs to Christ. John 1:1-3. You can't understand your environment without a knowledge of Christ.
4. Jesus is the foundation of all Scripture and every Bible truth finds its centre in Jesus. Jesus is the centre and circumference of all truth. Christ is Christianity.
5. Salvation is Knowing Christ. Knowing Christ involves knowing all the roles that He occupies in the plan of salvation: 1. Creator 2. Michael 3. Messiah 4. Life 5. Priest 6. Judge and 7. King. We must know Jesus in all these roles to truly know Him. If we don't know Jesus in any of these roles then we don't truly know Him.
6. Jesus calls Himself “The Way”. The word ‘way’ means highway or journey. Jesus is the journey to salvation. As we link the roles of Jesus together in a line, we form the highway of salvation.
7. We must follow Jesus and walk with Jesus on this journey to salvation. The Bible gives us time prophecies to help us follow Jesus as He moves from role to role. It is essential to know when Jesus moves to a new role so that we can understand in what context we are to relate to Him. Currently we relate to Jesus as our Judge-Priest. This relationship differs from His role as Priest. Jesus has shut that door and opened another door for access to God.
8. While Jesus was here on earth, he was popular to begin with, but as He presented deeper and more challenging truths, many turned away from Him. Today Jesus is popular as the Messiah but few are willing to walk with Jesus the Judge.
9. Jesus is the Source of all life.
10. Satan deceived the human race into believing that all life has inherent power in itself. This error causes us look at the gifts of God as if they were coming from within us and instead of giving thanks to God, we express pride of achievement.

Presenting the Folder - Advanced Model

11. Christ is the source of every right impulse. He draws both believers and non-believers to himself. Every desire to do right comes from Christ. Without His prompting we can do nothing but evil.
12. Recognising that Jesus is the source of every physical and spiritual blessing helps us to see that all good that we ever have done or will do is owed to Him. Each time we do good, we can express gratitude to Jesus rather than pride of achievement.

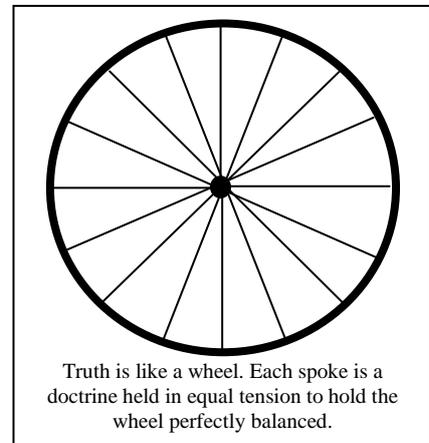
5. Principles for Building the Wall Layers

Having worked out our framework in the previous chapter, we now we need to have a system for adding layers of bricks to build the walls. In other works we have worked out how to build in the horizontal direction, but how do we build in the vertical direction? Before we examine how to do this we need to look at some building principles that will help us at this point.

(A) The Principle of Paradox

When I was around 12 years of age, my father bought me a five-speed racer. It was great to ride. One day when I was riding I noticed that the rim was slightly buckled. I was told that the spokes needed adjusting. I grabbed the spoke adjuster and went to work. Have you ever tried to take a buckle out of a bike wheel? Well I made a total mess of it. I could see where a spoke was loose and began to tighten it, but that loosened spokes in other places, the more I worked the more frustrated I became, eventually I had to take the wheel to the bike shop and they had to fix it for me.

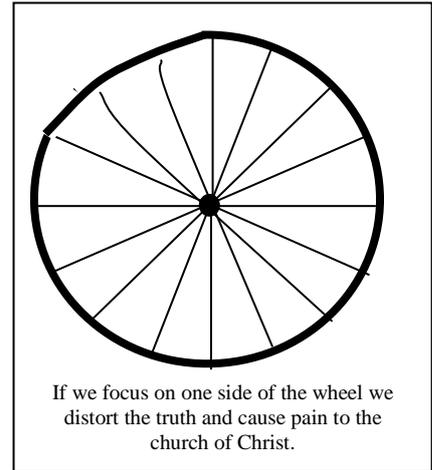
In many ways, truth is like a bike wheel. Ellen White expressed this thought by saying “Christ, His character and work, is the centre and circumference of all truth.” OHC 16. The concept of circumference immediately suggests a wheel. If we think of each teaching as a spoke, we will see that all the spokes are attached at the centre, which is Christ, and that each spoke must be correctly tensioned for the wheel to be perfectly aligned. If one spoke is tightened too much it affects the spokes directly opposite and buckling starts to occur. This is a vital principle to remember when studying the Bible. So how do we apply this principle?



Have you ever noticed passages in the Bible that seem to conflict? Two texts that seem to be saying the opposite but when you investigate closely they actually are in complete harmony but hold each other in tension. We call these occurrences paradoxes. The Bible is full of paradoxes. One of the most common of these is that we are saved by grace but judged by works. This just doesn't make sense until Christ is brought to the centre of the paradox. Another one is that we are dead in Christ but at the same time we are living in the spirit. We labour hard for the master while we rest in Christ. God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Over and over we see these paradoxes. When you think about it, this is a wonderful thing, because the most intelligent person in the world will fail to grasp the meaning of the Bible unless Christ is in the centre to hold all the doctrines in correct tension. This means that logic alone is useless to understanding the Bible. But when logic and reason are combined with a faith in Jesus, the paradoxes resolve and the truth is grasped. This is why a simple faith in Christ is wiser than all the wisdom of the world. 1 Cor 1:26-29.

Just while we are on this issue, if you observe closely, you may notice that our whole church is struggling with this principle on many issues and it's hard to avoid. In some churches you will find a strong preaching of overcoming sin through Christ and the importance of holding up standards. The more you continue to emphasize this message the more you tighten the spoke of sanctification and the tension becomes too great and some parts of the wheel of truth buckle. People become discouraged and feel like giving up, or they grit their teeth and focus on the faults of others to cover up their own faults and settle into a lukewarm self-satisfaction. There are many in our church who think this way – I know because I thought this way for years – and while we need to uphold the joy of victory in Christ, if we press this fact continually we end up hurting ourselves and others and

distorting the truth. There are many in the church that can see the false balance of focusing only on standards and overcoming and so to balance this they focus only on forgiveness and the covering righteousness of Jesus. This is important to do, but again if we only talk about forgiveness then we can be lulled into a lukewarm state and compromise with the world because we are not encouraged to walk forward in the light and enjoy the victories available to us in Christ. As a church we need to take our broken wheel back to the Master's workshop so He can fix it and then learn from Him the principles of paradox that we might be saved a lot of the pain and heartache that we currently are suffering.



So what does the principle of paradox have to do with building a house of truth? We have stated a number of times that eternal life is to know Jesus Christ completely. John 17:3. When we look at Christ Himself, we see a series of marvellous paradoxes – He is truly God and truly man. He is both a personal intimate Saviour and at the same time the ruler of the whole universe. He is with us by His Spirit on earth and at the same time He works beside His Father in heaven overseeing the plan of salvation. He is both our brother and friend but also our master and king. He is our judge but also our lawyer and mediator. He loves us so much that He gave His life, but He so hates the sins that we commit that He is determined to destroy it even if it means the loss of all who cling to it. ***Unless we understand the paradox that we see in Christ we will build an unbalanced building.*** Let me illustrate. During the dark ages God was presented to the people only as judge and ruler. His attributes of power and might were extolled and God's punishment of the wicked was dwelt upon and eventually distorted. He was seen as far away up in heaven apart from sinners. Martin Luther could not love this God, in fact he hated Him. Because the power and majesty of God was dwelt upon, truth soon became error and truth of our loving God was lost in a false balance. To correct this error, the church has sought to present God as our friend, who is close to us and watching over us like a Father. These views are urgently needed, but if we only see God as a friend, we are in danger of not taking His word seriously and obeying it. We must hold both views in tension: The loving friend and the powerful Lord, the caring elder brother and the one worthy of supreme worship. We will represent these two perspectives as "Personal Saviour" and "All Powerful Lord".

(B) The Principle of Repetition and Expansion

I had the opportunity of working on a passionfruit farm at one stage and I learnt many lessons about spiritual things while I was there. One job that I was required to assist with was the planting of a new patch of passionfruit vines.



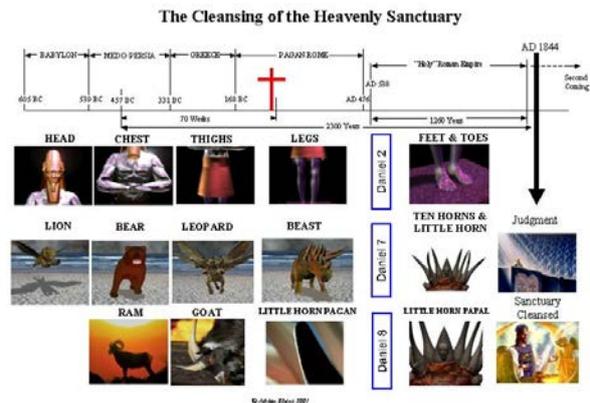
Building a vineyard is best done by going over the same ground adding each part of the row until it is complete.

Passionfruit vines like grape vines are usually trained to grow along wiring that is about four or five feet off the ground. There are a number of things you need to do to plant a passionfruit vineyard from scratch. 1. Put your posts in the ground. 2. Attach wiring to the posts in straight lines with just enough room for the tractor to drive between. 3. Plant the vines and 4. Attach the irrigation. So what is the best way to plant the vineyard? We could try to do all four things at once, which while possible, makes life very interesting; we would be tripping over wiring and damaging plants as

we tried to do everything at once. The best way to do it is to go over the ground a number of times

doing each part of the job adding piece by piece. Firstly put your posts in the ground. This is setting your foundations. Every post must line up and be driven deep into the soil. We must then go over the same ground again but this time attach the wiring that the vines will grow on. Once that is completed, you have a framework to build upon and grow “much fruit”. Go over the same ground again and plant your vines, attaching each vine to the wiring, so that each vine fits into the framework. Lastly go over the same ground again and attach your irrigation system, so the plants will receive the water they need.

I remember when I was planting this new patch of vines; the Lord impressed me that this same principle is used in studying the Scriptures. You need to go over the same ground again and again and each time add a little bit more. This is the principle of repetition and expansion. This principle is a key principle to Bible study. For example, this principle is used in the book of Daniel. Daniel 2 sets out a series of kingdoms. Daniel 7 goes over the same ground but this time adds more detail about each kingdom and also more context, by adding the judgment scene. In Daniel 8 more detail is added as the same ground is covered. This same principle occurs in Matt 24. It also occurs right through the first half of the book of Revelation: repetition and expansion.



The Bible often uses repetition and expansion. Daniel 2, 7 and 8 all cover the same ground, but each time more detail is added.

You will notice in chapter eight that the sequence of charts I use to present a series of studies is different to the actual sequence of charts in the folder. Using the illustration of the passion fruit vines again, the folder sequence represents what it would look like when completed, but we must build up to this sequence by repetition and expansion. If you went through the folder chart by chart it would be like trying to put posts in the ground, run wiring, plant plants and set up irrigation lines all at the same time. The sequence laid out in [chapter eight](#), follows a progression that covers a section at a time, making it easier for your Bible students to take in what you are teaching them. The building sequence of charts is different to the finished sequence of charts.

(C) The Principle of Right Timing

When Jesus comes again the second time, there will be millions who expect that He will do exactly what He did the first time: teach, heal and encourage people to turn from their sins; offering the world another chance to accept Him. Instead, the Bible says that Christ will come “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:” 2 Thess 1:8. Paul tells us that we must know the times and the seasons. 1 Thess 5:1-3. Jesus tells us to watch and pray. Matt 25:13.

We mentioned earlier that Christ is the Way or highway to salvation. John 14:6. Psalms 77:13 tells us that God’s way is in the sanctuary. This journey through the sanctuary has been placed in a time sequence in Daniel 7, 8 and 9. Daniel 9 tells us the time when Jesus will die on the cross – “cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease” and Daniel 8 combined with Daniel 7 tell us when the judgment will begin. This allows us to follow Jesus from outer court through first apartment to second apartment. We must follow Christ by faith because the last movement from Holy to Most Holy is

NOT an earthly event. Although heralded on earth, it took place in heaven. This is why the timing is essential. “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” Rev 3:3. This coming portrays Christ’s sudden transition to the Most Holy Place for His day of at-one-ment work of sealing and judgment. Mal 3:1-4.

Lets just stop for a minute before we move on. As I have mentioned a few times already, the understanding of these principles is not a prerequisite for giving studies. If you have a testimony of what Jesus has done for you then you are qualified. It may take a while to grasp these principles but move forward and share God’s Word and the Spirit of God will teach you what you need to remember. You may also find other principles in your study of the Bible that have not been revealed to me, if you do then send me an email, I would love to hear! Most of all remember that your value as a person is not based on your ability to grasp and understand deeper spiritual things but upon the fact that you are a child of God.

Key Points to Remember

1. Truth is paradoxical. This means in the Bible that teachings can appear to contradict each other but they are simply on two ends of the same line or rope. All paradoxes are resolved in the person of Jesus, who is the centre and circumference of all truth.
2. Jesus is both God and man; King of all creation while at the same time our brother in the human experience. It is essential to understand paradox when presenting the person of Jesus to people. We must present both the divinity and the humanity of Jesus otherwise we can present a God that is both too far away and seemingly harsh or one that is like us and not to be taken too seriously.
3. In Jesus the man, we see an imminent or close Saviour, that is close to us, a personal friend who empathises with us. In this context we can focus on presenting salvation from a personal perspective. In Jesus the Creator and King we see a transcendent Lord who is above and over all. In this context we can present the government or corporate aspects of salvation that extend beyond the realm of personal salvation and deal with the triumph and saving of the government of God from the charges and attacks of Satan and his allies.
4. The Bible often presents information through the principle of repetition and expansion. A subject is covered once in an overview style and then the ground is covered again adding pieces to the overview. Again and again the ground is covered adding new pieces each time.
5. The principle of repetition and expansion stops a person from being overwhelmed with too much information at once and is essential to teaching Bible truths as being linked together.
6. Christ is the way or journey to salvation. The Bible provides a time schedule for this journey of Jesus. If events of this journey are presented at the wrong time or out of sequence then they are not truth at all.
7. In the context of Jesus the Way, truth must be present truth to be saving truth.

6. Setting the Context for Each Wall Layer

We learnt in section three that Jesus is the source of all Truth. This fact means that the most basic questions that people have will find their answer in Jesus. These questions can be easily summed up in the story of Jonah that we mentioned earlier. The questions that were put to Jonah by the sailors in the middle of the huge storm are very important for us to answer for ourselves. Jonah was asked, "What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" Jonah 1:8 NIV. These are questions that everyone asks themselves at some point: 1) Where did I come from? 2) Why am I here? and 3) Where am I headed?

Studying the person of Jesus can answer each of these questions. The first question "Where did I come from?" has to do with origin. The Bible tells us that we were made in God's image Gen 1:26. Therefore to answer the question "Where did we come from?" we must study about God. The question "Why am I here?" seeks to address the question of our environment. Why is there suffering and pain in the world and what does it all mean? The question "Why am I here" can also be a question of what is my purpose. This question can be answered by determining our origin. If we know we are made in God's image then we can see for what purpose we were created. The questions concerning why our world is the way it is are answered in studying the Bible truths about the rebellion of Satan and the fall of the human race or what we call the Great Controversy. Finally the question, "Where am I headed?" This question seeks to understand our destiny. Is there hope for the future or just meaningless existence? The plan of salvation gives us the answers to this question. We have the hope of being saved from this sad and painful environment through the precious blood of Jesus. Let us now summarise what we have just looked at



We all face the questions, 1) Where did I come from? 2) Why am I here? and 3) Where am I headed?

Questions	Issue Addressed	Answer
Where did I come from?	Origin	Truth about God
Why am I here?	Environment	Truth about the Great Controversy
Where am I headed?	Destiny	Truth about Salvation

We remind ourselves once again that since Jesus is the source of all truth, each of the above truths can be taught as part of the story of Jesus from Creator to King. Jesus is God. (John 1:1; Phil 2:6) Therefore studying the story of Jesus we can learn the truth about God. Jesus told us that if you have seen me then you have seen the Father. John 14:9. Secondly, the truth about the Great Controversy can be taught in the context of Jesus as leader against the rebellion of Satan. Finally the truth about salvation can be taught in the context of the story of Jesus and the steps He has taken to save us. By following this sequence we can keep Jesus as the centre of every truth presented. Let us recap once again.

Questions	Issue Addressed	Context	Framework
Where did I come from?	Origin	Story of God	Story of Jesus from Creator to King
Why am I here?	Environment	Story of the Great Controversy	
Where am I headed?	Destiny	Story of Salvation	

Setting the Context for Each Wall Layer

The three stories we have just described will form the basis for us building vertically. If we now apply the principles of paradox we discussed in the last section, we can tell each of these three stories in the context of Jesus as “Personal Saviour” and also as “All Powerful Lord.” Using the principle of repetition and expansion, we will start at the simplest point and move towards the more complex. The story of Jesus as personal saviour is the simplest place to start. Finally we will add prophetic elements to help address the principle of right timing. We will add the timing elements between the context of Personal Saviour and All Powerful Lord. Applying these principles we get the following:



I have ordered the section of “All Powerful Lord” in a different sequence to “Personal Saviour” firstly because dealing with the plan of salvation is easier when done together and leaving the Great Controversy last allows us deal with the subject of our destiny last. It does not have to be done in this order, but this is the way I like to present it.

7. Making Your Structure Inviting

(A) The Roof – The Shade of the Cross

We have mentioned the building of the walls before the roof because we have been building from the ground up, but in real terms we know it is wise to build the roof immediately after the foundation is established. This protects us from weather extremes as we build. The roof that covers us is Christ our Passover (1 Cor 5:6) who was crucified for us. He is also our shade. Psalms 121:5. The blood of Christ shades and covers all our work. The power of the cross is the central theme that pervades all things. Our best view of God comes to us via the cross of Christ. The shade of this roof keeps us from straying into pride of knowledge as we build and strengthen our house. If we lose this shade and covering we will soon lose the energy and will to complete our task.



Christ our Passover covers us. He is our shade from sin.

(B) The Windows – Lighthouse to the World – Indirect Invitation

Many stories have been told of lost travellers saved by the light shining through the windows of someone's home. As we grow in knowledge and grace, the light of truth grows bright. The more we become like Christ the more we shine like Him. This truth is reflected by the Law of God dwelling in the sanctuary and just above it the glorious light of God shines out from between the cherubim. We are the light of the world, but unless we have windows to allow this light to shine into the world – we are useless. Windows allow the blessings of God to be poured upon humanity. Mal 3:10. As we share Bible truth it must shine out of us as living light and draw others to Christ.

(C) The Door – Direct Invitation

Christ is the door to life. We must personally invite people to enter the reality of Biblical truth as it is in Jesus. The highest joy of sharing Jesus is seeing people respond to the call of Christ. If no door is found in your structure then there is no way to invite people to come in. We must make direct appeals to people to come to Christ. At the right time, moved by the Spirit, we must call people to accept Christ as their Saviour and be saved from the coming destruction. May a door be found in your soul that pleads with sinners to accept Jesus Christ and find salvation.

Let me just stop again at this point and say, do not worry if you do not grasp all the finer details of what was presented in this section. Do not let that stop you from moving forward and sharing God's Word. The central and key point is that Christ is the centre and circumference of all truth. Christ the person is at the centre of every Bible doctrine. This has been my key point all the way through. If the Holy Spirit shares with you another way of expressing this point then use that instead. Each person must fight in his or her own armour. My single prayer is that in what we have examined we see Jesus as the way the truth and the life.

Completed House Chart
Goes here

8. Building The House

In this section we will suggest a sequence of charts that puts the above principles into practice. We will lay the foundation on the seven roles of Jesus and then step through each of the three wall layers that address Jesus as our “Personal Saviour.” We will then add the layer about the timing of salvation and then the three layers that deal with our “All powerful Lord”

One of the key points to remember is that you are not simply imparting information; you are talking about a person – Jesus Christ. Every teaching of the Bible should lead us at some point to tell about Jesus. For example, we don't simply talk about the Sabbath; we talk about the Sabbath and THEN tell what the Sabbath teaches us about Jesus. To aid in maintaining this principle I will list next to each chart a list of Jesus' attributes and characteristics that you can point out in regard to the particular doctrine you are dealing with. When I refer to attributes, I mean the abilities and roles of Christ. This includes the seven roles Jesus fills and His inherent abilities He uses in each: His divinity, His majesty, His power, His wisdom and His glory. When I refer to characteristics, I mean character traits such as love, mercy, compassion and humility.



Constantly we remember that when we share Bible truths that we are sharing Christ the Truth – It must be shared in the context of a person

You will notice that the sequence I suggest below is different to the actual sequence in the folder. This is because we are using the principles of repetition and expansion as explained in the last chapter. The building sequence of charts is different from the finished sequence of charts. Refer to [Chapter 5b](#) for more detail. I will also mention that the number of bricks shown in the diagrams do not directly relate to the number of charts used, but simply to show the building up of the house.

Please continue on next page...

(A) Our Personal Saviour

In this first section we will focus on Jesus our personal Saviour. We will introduce His wonderful character, His power to save us, and most of all His incredible love for us.

(i) LAYER ONE: The Story of God – Jesus Our Saviour

In this section our aim is to simply tell the story of Jesus covering the high points of His life, who He is and how He came from heaven. We will start with Jesus as the Messiah because this is where Jesus is closest to us and because nearly everybody has heard of Jesus the man. We will not detail Christ’s work as priest, judge and king until we deal with the rebellion and origin of sin in the next section.

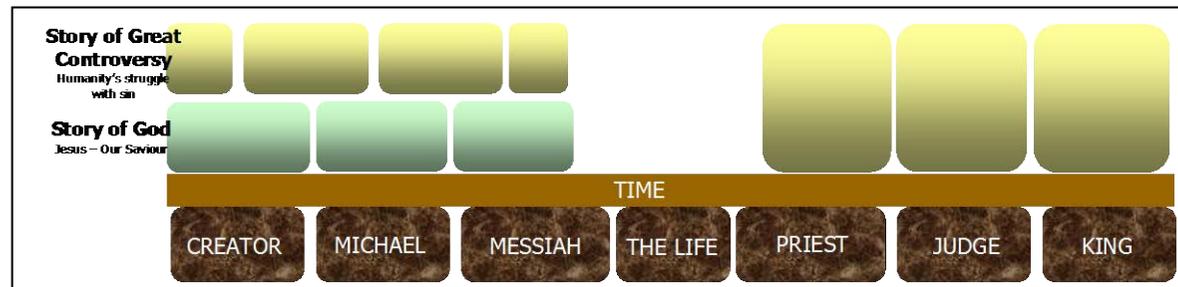


Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Jesus of Nazareth <i>Invite Investigation.</i>		2	Messiah: Teacher, Healer, Lamb, Son of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: He sought us to save us. • Humility: As God, He left His throne in heaven for us. • Compassion: He healed our diseases. • Friendship: He wanted to be with us. • Determination: Completed His task in the face of overwhelming opposition. 	1. Invite Investigation: This chart is designed to draw your student into studying the person of Jesus. Every person must answer the question by Jesus “Who do you say that I am?” Matt 16:15
Fulfilled Prophecies of the Messiah <i>Evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be.</i>		3	Messiah: Teacher, Healer, Lamb, Son of God, Infallible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedient: He obeyed His Father’s will even though He knew what He would suffer. • Orderly: The plan was clearly mapped out. • Encourager: He gave God’s people hope by telling us in advance what He planned to do. 	2. Give the Facts: Use this chart to show the impossibility of fabricating the story of Jesus. The fact that Jesus fulfilled the 48 prophecies listed here is compelling evidence
He Humbled Himself <i>Appeal to the Heart</i>	2	22	Creator. Michael. Messiah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humble: Did not cling to His position as God. He came down into the stench of sin to be with us. • Love: Love beyond comprehension, He gave His innocent, pure, holy life for our wicked, sinful, corrupt lives. • Compassion: He could not remain in heaven while we were lost. He pitied us, He yearned to save us. • Merciful: He did not leave us to the devices of Satan. • Obedient: He obeyed His Father’s will even when He felt He couldn’t go on. • Trust: He trusted His Father to the point of death. 	3. Appeal to the Heart: This chart builds to a decision to accept Jesus as the Son of God. We have given the evidence in the previous chart, now we must reach for the heart. Tell the wonderful story of Jesus’ journey from Creator to the cross.

DECISION: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?					
Note: This is not a decision to accept Jesus as Saviour. This will take place after the study on the fall of man.					
Jesus Believed All of the Old Testament	9	4	Messiah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith: As a man, Jesus simply trusted God's Word and believed it. 	Link the Certainty of Jesus to the Certainty of the Bible: From the chart "Fulfilled prophecies of the Messiah" we have shown the absolute certainty of Jesus and we can therefore have confidence in His words and beliefs. If Jesus believed in the Bible, then so can we.
The Word of God <i>The infallible guide to life and salvation.</i>	1	5	Creator. The Way, Truth and Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> True: The Bible reveals that God is the Truth and cannot lie. Love: We see God's love in seeking to communicate with us through the Word of God. Comforting: God seeks to comfort and encourage us through His Word. 	Build Confidence in the Bible: This chart builds to a decision, so again we must reach for the heart. Give an overview of the Bible and its power, then testify to its power in your own life. Based on the evidence of the prophecies of Jesus and its power in your own life, call for a decision to trust the Word of God.
DECISION: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?					

(ii) LAYER TWO: The Story of the Great Controversy – Humanity's Struggle with Sin

In this section we go into more detail about why Jesus needed to come. We start by explaining the nature of God's kingdom and then contrast that with the rise of Satan's rebellion and kingdom. The key charts are the "Kingdom of God" and "The Origin of Satan's Kingdom." God's kingdom is family based, identity and value are linked to our relationship to God. Satan's Kingdom a rejection of relationship to God and therefore is achievement based because in this kingdom you have no relational identity or value and must therefore develop our own. We explain the demise of the human race and our helpless condition when Adam and Eve chose Satan's kingdom.



Building the House

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Christ: The Way, The Truth and The Life		10	Creator, Michael, Messiah, The Life, Priest, Judge, King.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humble: Did not cling to His position as God. He came down into the stench of sin to be with us. • Love: Love beyond comprehension, He gave His innocent, pure, holy life for our wicked, sinful, corrupt lives. • Compassion: He could not remain in heaven while we were lost. He pitied us, He yearned to save us. • Merciful: He did not leave us to the devices of Satan. • Obedient: He obeyed His Father's will even when He felt He couldn't go on. • Trust: He trusted His Father to the point of death. • Mindful: We are always on his mind as He intercedes for us • Faithful: He promises to defend us in the judgment. • Courageous: He will deliver us from this world as our king. 	1. Set the Framework: In the previous section we made an invitation to study the person of Jesus. We use this chart to set the framework for our investigation. Our aim is to simply acquaint the student with the seven roles of Jesus – get them familiar with the foundation. Avoid dealing with any details at this point. You could easily go through this chart in 10 minutes and move on to the next one. We will come back to this chart numerous times, each time adding detail that we have learned. This chart will form the basis for all future studies.
The Kingdom of God <i>Introduction to the nature of God's kingdom.</i>		12	Creator: Powerful, Majestic. Source of life. Source of our identity. Source of our value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: God is love. To live in His presence is pure joy. • Relational: God is focused on intimate relationship with us. • Fatherly: We are His children and He cares for us as a tender Father. • Benevolent: Not a controlling, domineering king, but a Father who delights in liberty and freedom for all His children. • Just: His government is based on the law of love. • Creative: The endless varieties of creation testify to His creative and artistic genius. • Orderly: God orders the universe like clockwork. All the galaxies, stars and planets right down to the tiny atoms are under His direction and control. 	2. Set the Context: To explain the Great Controversy, we must give a picture of the kingdom of God and His character before the controversy began. This sets the context for all future studies. The crucial points here are developing the identity and value system of heaven.
Lucifer's Rebellion Points 1 – 4 <i>The entrance of sin.</i>	33	13	Creator: Wisdom in dealing with crisis. Michael: Power to deal with the crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience: Gave Satan time to reveal His intentions before removing Him. • Merciful: Preserves the life of one who is now His enemy. • Calm: Deals with the crisis methodically and without retaliation. • Justice: Removes Lucifer and the angels that followed him, from heaven. 	3. Explain Controversy Origins: Having set the context, we can now tell the story of the war in heaven and how sin originated.
The Origin of Satan's Kingdom <i>The philosophy of the rebellious kingdom.</i>		14	Creator: Source of all life. His character is the law of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational: God values us for our relationship to Him not our performance for Him. • Generous: Provides life to every creature and provides a delightful environment to live in. 	4. Contrast the Two Kingdoms: It is crucial to set clearly the different philosophies of the two kingdoms. Both provide identity and value in totally different ways. God's kingdom through relationships, Satan's through performance and achievement.
From Freedom to Slavery <i>The human race joins the rebellious kingdom.</i>		16	Messiah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: Love beyond comprehension, He gave His innocent, pure, holy life for our wicked, sinful, corrupt lives. • Compassion: He could not remain in heaven while we were lost. He pitied us, He yearned to save us. • Merciful: He did not leave us to the devices of Satan. 	5. Explain Humanity's Transferral to New Kingdom: Tell the story of humanity's fall and the impact of embracing the new kingdom – despair, emptiness, pride, denial and death.
Lucifer's Rebellion Points 5-7 <i>The final results of the rebellious kingdom.</i>		13	King.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice: Sin is finally dealt with. Each person freely makes his or her choice to love or reject God. • Patience: God allows time for all to see the wisdom of His kingdom and the false charges made against Him. 	6. Trace the Destiny of the Rebellion: To complete this line of bricks, move to the period where Christ is King and the rebellion is defeated.

(iii) LAYER THREE: The Story of Salvation – How God will Save You and Me

In this section we sketch out the plan of salvation. We detail the plan and then begin to more closely examine each of Christ's roles except His role as judge. We need to introduce more concepts about the government of God and lay down some of the prophetic time line before we address this topic. We briefly introduce the work of Christ as Priest and then deal with the subjects of the second coming, heaven and the millennium. Once again of focus is personal. At the end of this section you can then make an appeal for your students to accept Jesus as their Saviour. In this section we repeat the chart "He Humbled Himself". Now that your student has more detail about the great controversy and the seriousness of the crisis for the human family, you can add more depth as you present this chart.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Christ: The Way, The Truth and The Life		10	Creator, Michael, Messiah, The Life, Priest, Judge, King.	See details in previous section.	1. Set the Framework: Now that you have explained to your student about the fall of man and the need for salvation, we can now review our framework chart from the context of salvation. As we go over this chart and address each role we can focus heavily on telling of Jesus roles as Messiah, Priest, Judge and King. Avoid dealing with Prophetic Periods.
The Plan of Salvation <i>God's plan to save us.</i>		17	Creator. Messiah. Priest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: How could God give His only Son for us unless He loved us beyond comprehension? • Merciful: He did not leave us to the devices of Satan. • Personal: The work was not left to the angels; God is personally involved at every step. • Generous: God poured out all the resources of Heaven to save us: His Son to die for us, His Spirit to draw us, and His angels to minister to us. 	2. Set the Context: We must now explain in a simple way the plan God has mapped out to save us. This chart addresses the four major elements that form the plan of salvation:- The law, the sanctuary, the lamb and the priest. Briefly explain each element without going into detail, especially in regard to the Sanctuary.
He Humbled Himself <i>Irresistible love displayed. Penalty of sin is paid. God is reconciled to man.</i>		22	Creator. Michael. Messiah.	See details in First Section	3. Show How We are Reconciled by the Death of Jesus: We now look at this chart in terms of God's loving effort to save us. We now show that Christ endured the sufferings of the cross that we might live.
Transition from Earthly to Heavenly Ministry <i>Christ prepares a people for the heavenly kingdom.</i>		26	Priest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tireless: He ever lives to make intercession for us. • Faithful: He has determined to save us. • Empathetic: He carries our humanity upon Him, He knows exactly how we feel and how we struggle. 	4. Explain How Jesus Now Helps us in Heaven. We address Christ's ministry here in terms of confession and repentance and hearing and answering prayer. We have not yet addressed the subject of the sanctuary, so our aim is simply to explain that Christ is interceding for us and helping us in our Christian walk.
Signs of Christ's Second Coming <i>Christ warns us of the trials before His return and the need for vigilance.</i>	5	8	Messiah – <i>Prophet.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithful: Jesus does not hide the facts of the difficulties facing the church. • Earnest: He pleads with His followers to be watchful and let no-one deceive them. • Encouraging: He does not focus on doom and gloom but climaxes with His return to collect those who maintain faith in Him. 	5. Share the Blessed Hope of the Christian: We now share the joy of seeing Jesus at the end of this world. God's ultimate joy is to restore us to open fellowship with Himself. At the Second Coming, the goal is achieved.

Building the House

The Two Resurrections <i>Righteous and wicked receive their rewards.</i>	4,6,7	33	King.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational: He reclaims and reunites His whole family to live with Him first in heaven then back on earth. • Faithful: He fulfils His promise to return. • Protective: Delivers us from the forces of evil that are closing in upon us. • Just: Those who reject Christ receive a just sentence. 	6. Explain the Final Destiny of Lost and Saved: We now address the subjects of heaven, the millennium and the new earth and what happens to both the righteous and the wicked.
--	-------	----	-------	---	---

(B) An Invitation to Accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord

At this stage we will go through a few charts that invite a response to our loving Saviour that we have been talking about. Once a person has accepted Jesus you then need to help them consolidate that decision by the chart “Walking with Jesus”. It also would be appropriate to introduce the subject of baptism and possibly seek for a commitment to be baptised at a later time. This will require prayer and the leading of the Spirit. Finally, someone who has just given their heart to Christ must understand the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit and how He helps us in our Christian walk.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Steps to Finding Personal Peace	8, 21	23	Saviour	Making Jesus our closest friend.	1. Call for Decision: In the previous section we have explained the plan of salvation. Use this chart to invite your student to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour.
DECISION: DO YOU ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR? <i>Now would be a good time to give your student a copy of Steps to Christ.</i>					
Walking With Jesus	26, 29	24	Saviour, Friend, Lord.	Pointers on maintaining your close friendship with Jesus.	2. Safeguard the Decision: Once a person has accepted Jesus, they need guidance as to how to safeguard that decision. Prayer, Bible study and regular fellowship are all vital keys.
DECISION: Would you like to join a Bible study group / come to church?					
Lest We Forget	20	25	Saviour, Friend, Lord.	Sealing your friendship with Jesus – baptism of water.	3. Seal the Decision: Once a person has made a decision for Jesus, present the subject of baptism as something Jesus asks His children to do to seal their decision.
DECISION: Would you like to seal your friendship with Jesus in baptism at some point in the near future?					
The Comforter	37	27	Saviour, Friend, Lord.	Sealing your friendship with Jesus – baptism of the Spirit.	4. Blessings from the Decision: It is now time to make your student aware of the great blessings that Jesus gives to those who surrender their lives to Him

(C) LAYER FOUR: Key Locations and Timing of Salvation

Now we want to go back and begin to introduce the time process to the plan of salvation and the places of significance as outlined in the sanctuary. This will help develop the concept of Jesus “the way or highway” to salvation. See section 3c for more detail. We will look at the sanctuary including its feasts and then the 70-week prophecy followed by the 2300 days. Avoid going into too much detail on the background of Daniel 8 and 9; simply give enough detail to present the time prophecies and their connection to the sanctuary and the plan of salvation.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
<p>Christ: The Way, The Truth and The Life</p> <p><i>Review the work of Christ in salvation. Our focus this time is the prophetic time periods.</i></p>		10	Creator, Michael, Messiah, The Life, Priest, Judge, King.	See details in previous section.	<p>1. Set the Framework: We have now built our wall layers to the point of a person understanding the joy of personal salvation. We can now introduce the teachings concerning the timing of the plan of salvation. Your focus in going over this chart is the second green sign on the right with the prophetic dates. Show how prophecy allows us to follow Christ in His work for us</p>
<p>The Sanctuary – The Gospel in Type and Symbol</p> <p><i>The details of the plan of salvation given in symbol.</i></p>		20	Messiah, Priest, Judge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precise: The plan of salvation is carefully and thoroughly laid out before us. • Thorough: The sanctuary reveals God’s thoroughness in removing sin, root and branch. • Illustrative: The symbols, the colours, the ceremonies, the costumes show us God as a wonderful teacher. 	<p>2. Set the Context: The Sanctuary is the key to following Jesus in the plan of salvation. It provides the context for His various roles. Explain each part of the Sanctuary as related to the roles that Jesus occupies.</p>
<p>The Predicted Coming of the Messiah</p> <p><i>The coming Messiah is authenticated by prophecy.</i></p>	15	21	Messiah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precise: God’s timing is perfect. No haste and no delay. • Considerate: God does not act without telling us His plans. He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. 	<p>3. Show Timing of Christ as Lamb: Show the breathtaking timing of the 490 year prophecy and how that Jesus came on time.</p>
<p>The Feasts and Their Meaning</p> <p><i>The symbols of the sanctuary reveal an ordered process of dealing with sin.</i></p>		29	Messiah, Priest, Judge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precise: The plan of salvation is carefully and thoroughly laid out before us. • Thorough: The sanctuary reveals God’s thoroughness in removing sin, root and branch. • Illustrative: The symbols, the colours, the ceremonies, the costumes show us God as a wonderful teacher. 	<p>4. Explain How Sanctuary Feasts Show Timing of Christ’s Work: Since the work of Christ in the Passover, Unleavened bread, First Fruits and Pentecost all happened on time, explain how the remaining feasts also happen in a time frame.</p>
<p>The Date of the Judgment</p> <p><i>The time of the end is clearly revealed.</i></p>	16	30	Priest, Judge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precise: God’s timing is perfect. No haste and no delay. • Considerate: God does not act without telling us His plans. He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. • Patient: The time from the cross to the judgment is long and displays the patience and forbearance of God. • Merciful: God seeks to prepare us and warn us of the judgment and to get ready. 	<p>5. Show Timing of Christ as Judge: Both the 490 Year Prophecy and the Feasts prepare us to show the timing of 1844 as the time of the judgment.</p>

(D) Our All Powerful Lord

In our first section, we focused on how God saves us personally. This is vitally important. We now need to look at the wider issues that relate to salvation. How useful would it be for Jesus to save us and then we find that God’s government is corrupt and inconsistent. Our salvation would be lost. Our salvation depends not only on the ability of Jesus to save us personally but also on His ability to demonstrate the integrity of His government. He must show that His way is right and that Satan is wrong. This section deals with the corporate, governmental issues of salvation.

Now that we have covered the framework of the seven roles of Christ a number of times, we will not mention it specifically from now on. You may wish to revisit it at various times to ensure the material you are studying is clearly anchored in the framework.

(i) LAYER FIVE: The Story of Salvation – *Corporate*

Satan has charged God with having a law that is unreasonable and inconsistent. [See chart on CD-ROM “Three Charges of Satan Against God”](#). We find that the plan of salvation helps to answer these charges. If we take the example of Job, we can see that Job’s faith in God as demonstrated in a victorious life rebuffed the charges of Satan. In the same way, God will rebuff Satan by pointing to a group of people who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. It is essential for us to understand these issues in the wider context of salvation so that we may have an intelligent faith that knows how and why we must appropriate the power of God to live victorious Christian lives.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
The Three Charges of Satan Against God		On CD	Creator – <i>Governor Michael – Captain of the Lord’s army</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient: God reacts slowly and carefully to the crisis. • Humble: He does not demand obedience and seek to force submission. • Wise: He knows the best way to deal with sin – allow Satan time to reveal his purposes. 	1. Set the Context: Satan has charged God’s Government with being faulty. This chart sets the context for God’s saving of His kingdom by answering the charges of Satan through the plan of salvation
The Object of Christ’s Priestly Ministry		28	Messiah – <i>Overcomer. Priest – Intercessor, Strengtheners.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heroic: Jesus steps into the most trying circumstances and faces every weapon of hell just for us. • Determined: His love for us drives Him and strengthens Him in His conflict with Satan. • Incredible Faith: Even when carried in the arms of Satan to a high mountain, He is unafraid, He trusts His Father. 	2. Explain How Christ’s Character is Given to us by His Intercession: Christ’s victory is ours when we enter into a relationship with Him. Victory in our lives disproves Satan’s claims that God’s law is unjust.
The Three Phases of the Judgment	45	31	Judge – <i>Defender of His People.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just: God deals fairly with each case. • Loving: He acts as judge and defence lawyer. He wants to save everyone He can. • Gracious & Merciful: All those who express faith in Christ are covered with His righteousness and declared righteous. • Exact: Every thought, word and act are brought into the judgment. 	3. Show How that Christ Defends His People in the Judgment Against Satan’s Accusations: Satan is accusing us of being sinful because firstly we are and secondly Satan does not want anyone to disprove his claim that God’s law is unjust. Jesus overturns Satan’s claims by showing our trust in His righteousness through our close relationship to Him. This relationship matures to the point where our character is righteous even as He is righteous.

God's Last Message of Love Training Manual

God's Relationship Seal		52	King.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relational: The Sabbath rest experienced by believers is evidenced by a trusting loving confidence in God that will carry the faith through the time of trouble in the last days. 	4. Show that it is God's Creative Power that Brings us into harmony with His Law and defeats Satan's claims: The Sabbath is a symbol of God's creative power. (Ex 20:11) It is also a symbol of relationship to Him (Ezek 20:12,20) God overcomes Satan's charges by recreating the hearts of His faithful children through a loving and thankful relationship.
--------------------------------	--	----	-------	---	--

(ii) LAYER SIX: The Story of God – Jesus the Source of Life

At the heart of the war between God and Satan is the issue of rights to worship. Why should we worship God? In this section we detail the facts that Christ is the very fountain of life. He is the creator of all there is. He not only made but also continues to actively sustain every living thing. We learn that no creature has power in himself or herself. From these facts we learn the importance of God's law and the true meaning of the Sabbath and what happens to man when he separates from God – death. We see that God alone has the right to our worship because in Him we live and move and have our being.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
The Kingdom of God		12	<i>Creator – Governor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love: God is love. To live in His presence is pure joy. Relational: God is focused on intimate relationship with us. Fatherly: We are His children and He cares for us as a tender Father. Benevolent: Not a controlling, domineering king, but a Father who delights in liberty and freedom for all His children. Just: His government is based on the law of love. 	1. Set the Context: Use this chart to show that God is the source of life for each of His creatures. From God's throne comes the river of life which supplies every living creature. This fact makes God worthy of our worship and should cause us to be ever thankful for granting us life. Satan is contending for our Worship but has no grounds to do so since he has not made us.
The Godhead	27	11	<i>Creator – Eternal, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Glory, Honour, Majesty, Power.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infinite: God is greater, more complex, more amazing than we could ever imagine or understand. 	2. Seek to Explain the All powerful, all Knowing all Loving God that the Bible Reveals to us: God alone is capable to rule the universe. His omnipresence ensures that personal relationships are maintained. His omnipotence ensures that all creation continues to live and His Omniscience assures us that He that guides the wheel of destiny has the wisdom to do it right.
Our World Made in Six Days	39	15	<i>Creator – Creates from nothing.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative: The endless varieties of creation testify to His creative and artistic genius. Orderly: God orders the universe like clockwork. All the galaxies, stars and planets right down to the tiny atoms are under His direction and control. 	3. Show God's Power to Create from Nothing by Describing the Creation Week: God is Worthy of our worship because He alone can cause things to be. He is the originator of everything and to Him alone is worship and honour due.

Building the House

Man Lies Down and Where is He?	10, 32	32	Creator – <i>Source and Sustainer of all life.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving: Every good thing comes from God – every heart beat, every meal, every talent, every close relationship, every joyful occasion is a gift from Him. 	4. Explain that there is NO life apart from God: Satan has told the human race that immortality is an inherent trait of every creature, but since God sustains us every moment then there can be no life and no existence apart from God
The Ten Commandments Unchanged Throughout the Bible	11	38	Creator – <i>Governor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: God’s law is a code to safeguard relationships in the purity of love. • Uncomplicated: God gives ten simple, basic rules to ensure freedom and peace for all. 	5. Explain that Because God alone is worthy of Worship then His law is worthy to be kept.
The Sabbath Unchanged Throughout the Bible	12	39	Creator – <i>Worthy of Worship.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational: God loves to spend time with His children. He loves us to talk to Him, confide in Him, and trust Him. The Sabbath is a special time to do these things. 	6. Show that the Sabbath is the key Memorial to Remind us that God is the Source of all Life.
DECISION: Are you willing to honour and obey your creator by keeping the Sabbath, set aside as a special day to spend time with Him?					

(iii) LAYER SEVEN: The Story of the Great Controversy

In this section we will look at the kingdom war between God and Satan.

(a) Kingdom War – Battle for the Throne

Here we will examine the fundamental differences between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The relationship focus of God’s kingdom is starkly contrasted by the performance and achievement focus of Satan’s kingdom. The principles of Satan’s kingdom are described and displayed in the kingdom prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7. Satan appears to take the upper hand in the war when he seduces the bulk of Christianity into his kingdom of control and force. The battle climaxes in Revelation 13 and 14 where God’s followers triumph over the beast and his image by the faith of Jesus and then God establishes an everlasting kingdom that will never pass away nor ever be challenged again.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
The Kingdom of God		12	King – Ruler and Defender of His subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love: God is love. To live in His presence is pure joy. • Relational: God is focused on intimate relationship with us. • Fatherly: We are His children and He cares for us as a tender Father. • Benevolent: Not a controlling, domineering king, but a Father who delights in liberty and freedom for all His children. • Just: His government is based on the law of love. 	1. Set the Context – Cover key aspects of God’s Kingdom: This series of charts will trace the Biblical portrayal of battle for the throne of the universe. Use this chart to remind your student of the key points about God’s kingdom. A relationship based kingdom, where God is the source of life and love is the ruling principle. Then contrast this with the next chart
The Origin of Satan’s Kingdom		14	King – The only person capable of ensuring peace and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience: Gave Satan time to reveal his intentions before removing Him. • Merciful: Preserves the life of one who is now His 	2. Contrast Satan’s Kingdom with God’s kingdom: We have covered these kingdoms before so you will cover both of these charts briefly in about 5-10 minutes.

God's Last Message of Love Training Manual

			freedom for all.	<p>enemy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm: Deals with the crisis methodically and without retaliation. • Justice: Removes Lucifer and the angels that followed him, from heaven. 	
The Prophetic Sign Posts of Daniel Two	3	7	King – Ruler of a stable unending kingdom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steady: God rules His kingdom with a steady hand. His kingdom will last forever. • Content: God is not striving and ambitious to prove that He rules the universe. He is so far above His creation in power and strength it is not an issue for God. • Patient: He is patient with men who claim to be a god themselves. God's patience reveals that a stable kingdom can never be built on ambition, pride and desire for control. 	3. Outline the development of the Principles of Satan's Kingdom on Earth: The Image of Daniel 2 traces the world kingdoms that reflect that principles of Satan's kingdom. Show how that the end of this prophecy shows that the kingdom of Christ will triumph over Satan's kingdom
The Prophetic Sign Posts of Daniel Seven	28	35	King – Ruler of a stable unending kingdom. Judge of all nations, kings and kingdoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same points as previous chart • Just: God does not allow evil kingdoms to extend themselves endlessly. God's forbearance can be worn out and then judgment begins. 	4. Expand the Outline Given in Daniel 2: Show How Satan moves his kingdom right into the church and places his own kingdom principles within it.
The Little Horn Identified		36	King – Revealer of every dark secret.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful, Kind, Loving: As contrasted to the pride, arrogance, hatred and controlling nature of the Little Horn. 	5. Show How the Medieval church reflects the principles of Satan's Kingdom: The Bible shows us clearly how the Christian church abandons the principles of the kingdom of God and embraces the kingdom of Satan.
The 1260 Years of Papal Supremacy		44	King – Grants the enemy time to reveal their government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise: God allows His enemies to prove themselves unworthy to rule the universe. 	6. Secure the Identity of the Little Horn
He Shall Think to Change Times and Laws	14	37	King – He alone is infallible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent: His law is life. • Unchanging: God and His words never differ. He cannot lie. 	7. Secure the Identity of the Little Horn
War of Worship in Revelation – The Issue		49	King – The only one worthy of our worship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful and Awesome: Words fall short. 	8. Show How God strikes back by Calling His People back to the Principles of His Kingdom.
War of Worship in Revelation – The Contenders		50	King – The First and Original who Satan seeks to copy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity: Members of the Godhead are in total unity and harmony – supporting and loving each other. This is in contrast with Satan who manipulates and deceives those who work under His control. There is no unity or harmony, only the desire for worship and first place. 	9. Show who the Final Players in the War between God and Satan will be
War of Worship in Revelation – The Focal Point	34	51	King – Seal of authority found in creative power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing: God tests the claims of His children, by the sign of the Sabbath. 	10. Show How God Uses the Sabbath to reveal who really believes God's Word

Building the House

(b) Kingdom War – Struggle for the True Gospel

The enemy knows that the secret weapon of God’s kingdom is the power of the gospel. The gospel both reveals the love and integrity of God and at the same time the hatred and thirst for power in the heart of Satan. In this section we will trace the story of Satan’s attempts to destroy the gospel of Christ and deceive the whole world into following him.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
The Same Gospel Spanning Three Eras		18	Messiah. Priest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanging: Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Consistent: God has one plan of salvation, not plans for different nations or people. 	1. Set the Context: Use this chart to give an overview of how the four elements of the gospel have not changed through time. They are the same all the way through.
The Gospel Lost and Restored (Part 1)		19	Michael.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faithful: Jesus faithfully aids His erring people and draws them back to Him. Protective: Jesus loves His church and will decimate any power that seeks to destroy His people. 	2. Establish Type of How Gospel was Lost and Restored with Israel: God Gave the Gospel to Adam and it was passed down from son to son, but the gospel was lost while Israel was in Egypt. On Mt Sinai God gave the gospel back to Israel. This chart sets a precedent for what happened to Christianity later on.
Transition from Earthly to Heavenly Ministry		26	Priest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tireless: He ever lives to make intercession for us. Empathetic: He carries our humanity upon Him, He knows exactly how we feel and how we struggle. Available: You can talk to Jesus anytime and He is there to hear you. No human being can do this. 	3. Show How the Gospel Elements Switch from Earthly Visible to Heavenly Invisible View at the Ascension of Jesus: Explaining this transfer is vital! Make sure your student understands that the core functions of the Jewish religion are functioning right now in heaven – The sanctuary, the priest and the law with the blood of the slain lamb.
The Gospel Counterfeited		43	Priest – The only mediator between God and man.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compassionate: He is the only person who truly cares for your soul and salvation. Confidential: You can confess your weaknesses to Him and not another soul will ever be told. 	4. Show How the Christian Church Surrendered Faith in the Heavenly Gospel and was Seduced into Following an Earthly Counterfeit: Show how each of the four elements of the gospel were made visible again by the church but diverted the view from Christ to man
The Little Horns Casts the Truth (Gospel) to the Ground	49	45	Priest – Performs His tasks in the heavenly sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has Integrity: Jesus carries out His office because He loves us, not to control or manipulate us. Truthful: Jesus does not use His office as a cover for gaining power and prestige. 	5. Bring Daniel 8 into the Context of the Previous Chart: It is vital to show that Daniel 8 is directly linked to this counterfeiting process. This gives context to the meaning of the end of the 2300 days as being similar to Israel coming to Mt Sinai in the context of regaining the Gospel of Christ.
The Gospel Lost and Restored (Part 2)		47	Priest. Judge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faithful: Jesus faithfully aids His erring people and draws them back to Him. Protective: Jesus loves His church and will decimate any power that seeks to destroy His people. 	6. Show that True Gospel Restored in 1844: Explain that from the Reformation to 1844, the four elements of the Gospel were restored to the Heavenly View and therefore the True Gospel was restored or the Sanctuary was restored to its rightful place.

God's Last Message of Love Training Manual

(c) Kingdom War – Surviving the Valley of Death

In this section we trace the amazing story of the survival of the true church of God and the rise of the remnant people of God. Satan was nearly successful in wiping out the entire Christian faith during the dark ages, but God cut this short in righteousness and initiated the reformation that would recover all the apostolic truths of the Bible. The reformation prepares the church of God for the final show-down between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. You will notice that the main attribute for Christ is Michael. It was the Angel of God's presence that carried Israel through the wilderness to Canaan. In the same way it is the attributes of Michael that carries His people through the dark ages. Even though this period is occurring while Christ is the priest, in this context, this is the attribute best reflected in this context.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Christian Apostasy and Reformation	46	41	Michael – <i>Shepherd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring: Jesus walks with His people through trial. His heart is united to ours. 	1. Set the Context: This chart gives an overview of the Christian falling away and restoration. Go through in brief detail giving an overview of the dark valley that Christianity passed through.
The Falling Away in Pergamos		42	Michael – <i>Warrior Prince.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnest: Jesus pleads with us not to listen to or follow the enemy. 	2. Explain the Apostasy of Christianity in the Third and Fourth Century or the Pergamos Period: It was during this time that many false teachings entered the church. Explain these changes and the impact they produced.
Apostolic Faith Restored	24	46	Michael – <i>Warrior Prince.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faithful: Jesus faithfully aids His erring people and draws them back to Him. Protective: Jesus loves His church and will decimate any power that seeks to destroy His people. 	3. Show the Reformation of the Christian Church: When the Church returned to the Bible as the sole source of authority then the true faith was restored
The Identifying Marks of the Remnant Church of God	25	54	Michael – <i>Shepherd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precious: To those who hold fast the faith of Jesus, He is indeed precious. 	4. Point out the Group of People who are the Result of the Reformation: Revelation clearly identifies a number of marks of God's people in the last days. While many churches halted in the way of reformation there is a group who followed all the way.
The Two Disappointments		On CD	Michael – <i>Shepherd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive: Even when we fail to follow Him, He remains positive and open. Understanding: He knows our weaknesses and comforts us in our trials. 	5. Compare the Disappointment of the Disciples with the Disappointment of the Adventists: When Jesus moved from the earth to Heaven, God's people were disappointed. Again when Jesus moved from the First Apartment ministry to the Most Holy Place, His people were disappointed.
Revelation Identifies the SDA Movement	31	On CD	Michael – <i>Warrior Prince.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering: He gives His children not only salvation, but also purpose and mission and a sense of achievement in assisting in the spreading of the gospel. 	6. Show How Revelation Clearly Shows the Origin, History and Mission of God's Final Movement: That Movement is the SDA movement. This information should not be given to vindicate that SDAs are right but rather, simply as a fulfilment of prophecy and God's work, not man's
The Tests of a True Prophet	19	55	Michael – <i>Reveals God's Will.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Communicator: Jesus shares with us His desires, warnings and encouragement through the prophets. 	7. Show How God appointed a Prophet to Guide the Development of His Final Movement: Just as God appointed Moses to Guide Israel out of Egypt, God chose

Building the House

Ellen G White to help Guide the SDA movement

DECISION: Will you respond to God's call to become a part of God's Remnant Church and use your gifts and talents to further the gospel of Christ?

(d) Kingdom War – Preparing for the Final Assault

God prepares His people for the climax of the war by giving His people a range of principles that will strengthen their faith and keep them sharp for the conflict. These principles are often challenged as being unnecessary for salvation, but when Jesus asks us to do something, there is a good reason for it, even if we do not understand immediately the reason for it. This section is an extension of the previous section, therefore the context chart is Christian Apostasy and Reformation. You may want to briefly refer to this again before moving on.

Chart	Bible Study	Page	Role / Attributes	Characteristics	Notes
Recognition of God's Abundant Blessings	18	56	Creator, The Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving and Generous: God pours upon us endless blessings just to see us enjoy them. 	1. Show Tithing as an acknowledgement that God is the source of all blessing. This principle protects us from pride, greed and selfishness.
SDA Tithing and Offering System		57	Creator, The Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orderly: God provides for His servants that spread the gospel. 	2. This chart is simply aimed at explaining how tithing works in the SDA church.
Diet in the Bible	17	58	Creator, The Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring: Jesus wants us to enjoy the best of health. 	3. Show how caring for our bodies is a stewardship principle and also an acknowledgement that we belong to God and are not free to engage in habits that destroy our bodies.
Dress and Adornment		59	Creator, King.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neat, Tidy and Practical: Jesus wants to save us from focusing on temporary externals and focus on the fulfilling things of life. 	4. Show how that what we wear is a reflection of what is in our hearts. If we find value in our relationship with God, then we will not need to draw attention to ourselves by what we wear.
Guarding the Avenues of the Soul	23	60	Michael – <i>Shepherd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Teacher: Jesus wants us to have the best education that develops the mind and body for our best enjoyment. 	5. Explain that if we love Jesus then we will refuse to listen to or watch those things that offend him.
The Spirit of Christ Versus the Spirit of the World		61	Michael – <i>Shepherd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peaceful: Jesus is not seeking value from performance and achievement but rests in the relationship with His Father. 	6. Show how that if we have been set free by the gospel then we will feel no need to prove to others that we are valuable.

Decision: Can you see the necessity of these lifestyle principles and would there be anything that would prevent you from embracing them?

This series of studies will provide your student adequate knowledge about Jesus to make an informed decision to follow Him. From this point you will want to teach your student how to study for themselves and dig deeper into the Word of God, we will talk more about this in the section on integration.

8. Giving The Bible Study

As we sat around the kitchen table the questions came thick and fast. We talked about the wonder of God's love in giving His Son and how Jesus paid the price for our sins. We talked about God's law and how He would write it in our hearts. The more texts we read, the more excited they became and when asked if they would follow the teachings of the Bible, they agreed. Some months later they were baptised and the peace and happiness they expressed on that day still brings me joy now.

There are few joys like the joy of sharing Jesus through the Bible, sitting together with God's Word and watching that Word change peoples lives before your very eyes. Though sometimes a challenge, the rewards greatly outweigh the difficulties. In this section we will look at the benefits of giving studies, then some of the qualifications needed and lastly some suggestions on giving the actual study.



There are a few joys like sharing the Bible with others

(A) Benefits

(i) Deepens Your Knowledge of the Bible

One thing I have learnt from giving studies is that you don't really learn the message of the Bible until you share it with somebody else. When I first began to study the Bible with others, I thought I had a fair amount of knowledge, but as the questions came, there were some I could not answer. I had to study and learn. The more I learned, the more I fell in love with the wonderful message of the Bible. One of the best ways to learn is by being asked questions. The more questions I have been asked, the more I have learned. The answers that I have not known, I have been driven to find. If you really want to know the Bible then learn to share it with someone else.

(ii) Strengthens Your Faith

Each time I share God's Word with someone, my own faith is deepened and strengthened. At times I have been tempted to be discouraged by life's trials, but each time I share the Bible, I am encouraged to forget my trials and thank God for all He has done and each time I share about the love of Jesus, my own heart is touched and reminded of God's goodness to me. If you want a strong and vibrant faith you must share it with others.

(iii) Deepens Prayer Life

As you spend time with people and feel a burden for their salvation, you will pray for them, you will feel urgency for their salvation and will plead with God to save them. This will add a new depth to your prayer life.

(iv) Prevents Insulation and Creates New Friends

When you join the church you can fall into the danger of cutting off your friendships outside the church. If all of our friends are in the church we can become insular and weak. We need to keep friends outside the church; we must be a light to the world. You also make lots of new friends by giving studies. Some of my most special friends are those I have studied the Bible with.

(B) Qualifications

Most of the people I talk to feel totally unqualified to give studies. The most essential qualifications that are needed are not so much knowledge and eloquence but are more matters of the heart.

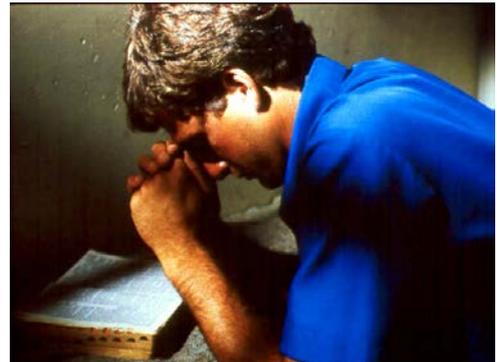
(i) Conversion

He whose heart is filled with love for Christ because he himself has been sought for by the Saviour and brought back to the fold, KNOWS HOW TO SEEK THE LOST.” *Ministry of Healing*, page 179.

This is the first and most essential qualification – conversion. As the above quote states, the converted person knows how to seek the lost. A converted person is continually in a state of gratitude to Jesus for His salvation and this is the most attractive aspect of the Christian. A converted person is also filled the Spirit of God and continues to seek more of the Spirit to maintain his or her walk with God. “Ten truly converted, willing-minded, unselfish workers can do more in the missionary field than one hundred who confine their efforts to set forms, and preserve mechanical rules, working without deep love for souls.” – *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 602.

(ii) Love for Souls

While some people struggle to believe that God answers their prayers, there is one prayer that I know God will answer every time and that is “Lord please send me someone to share the Bible with”. When I ask people to pray this prayer, I often get the response “I can’t pray that prayer because when I have to tell someone about my faith and the Bible I won’t know what to say”. I have felt this way myself in the past and it reveals two things: a lack of faith in God and a lack of love for souls. We must pray that God will put a love for souls in our hearts that will overpower our fear of talking to people. This is one of the greatest sins of the church – that is a lack of love for the salvation of souls.



Ask Jesus to Put Love in Your Heart for Souls

“The true missionary spirit has deserted the churches that make so exalted a profession; their hearts are no longer aglow with love for souls, and a desire to lead them into the fold of Christ. We want earnest workers. Are there none to respond to the cry that goes up from every quarter, “Come over and help us”?” – *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 156.

We must ask God to put this love in our hearts because it is not natural to love those outside of our family and friends.

“By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathizing with them, you will win hearts. This is the highest missionary work that you can do. To do it, you will need resolute, persevering faith, unwearying patience, and a deep love for souls.” – *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 41.

Why not kneel down and pray right now that Jesus will give you a deeper love for souls, a burden for the salvation of the lost that will eclipse every other earthly concern.

(iii) Testimony

The demoniac healed by Jesus knew little about the Bible but he knew what Jesus had done for him. Jesus told him, “go home and tell people what God has done for you”. If you do not have a testimony to share then you will find it hard to reach peoples’ hearts. If you can’t reach the heart, you will see very few decisions made for Christ or the truth. Many people say to me, ‘I grew up in the church and have always believed in God’ or ‘it happened slowly.’ My response is that all have sinned and are in desperate need of a saviour. If you don’t sense a deep appreciation for what Christ has done for you then maybe you need to ask yourself if you really have experienced genuine conversion. The older brother of the prodigal stayed at home and served his father but in reality he was just as lost. The sad thing is that he didn’t know it. A testimony is the most powerful tool in witnessing.

(iv) Knowledge

Yes, we do need knowledge of the Scriptures. I have found that if you give Jesus your few barley loaves and fishes of knowledge, He will multiply it a hundred fold.

“The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have.” COL 354



The more questions people ask us the more we will want to study and give an answer.
The more we share the more we learn

If you are studying your Bible every day and staying close to Jesus, you will often “learn on the job”. I have learnt many things by being asked questions and as I sat and thought, the Holy Spirit would place a text in my mind that I had studied the week before and therefore I often come away from the study learning more than I have taught. Don’t ever let your lack of knowledge be a stumbling block to giving Bible studies. This is a snare of the devil to believe you don’t have enough knowledge. Place your feet in the water and watch the action!

(v) Prayer

No person comes to Jesus without the prayers of someone. Take your Bible students to Jesus and plead for their salvation and that their eyes be opened to the light of truth. A soul winner is always a person of prayer.

(C) A Suggested Format

There is no one way to give a study. This simply gives a few suggestions for those who want some ideas. Everyone develops his or her own style but you may find some helpful points below.

(i) Develop Friendship

You can’t win strangers to Christ. When you first arrive spend some time getting to know your student and their family, work and hobbies. I really like this time and it is the key to friendship. I find that if I am willing to share myself with others, they often are willing share about themselves.

(ii) Review Previous Study

At the end of each study, I like to leave the chart and study for the topic I have given. At this point you can review the material that was looked at in the previous study. It is during this time that questions often surface. Deal with any questions related to the study before moving on. Sometimes, I have so many questions about the previous study; I put the next study off and just deal with the issue in question. It is unwise to move forward if people have not understood a subject.

(iii) Share the Current Subject

I never give a set time to share a topic. It can vary from 30 to 90 minutes and in some cases longer. It is important to remember that unless you sense a real desire on the part of your student, most people overload with information after an hour or so. Make the person the focus of your study rather than the information you are presenting. If you try to push through the information you will give the impression that what you are presenting is more important than your student's understanding. I have often carried a study over three weeks praying for the topic to reach the mind and heart.

Some students will raise questions that are not directly on the topic being shared. Pray for wisdom as to what to address and what to leave until later. If you put off every question that is asked, you can kill the desire to ask questions. For this reason, if a person appears to have lots of questions, I sometimes spend the first few sessions just answering questions. When you do this you can more easily gauge a person's knowledge level and spiritual interest. It is best to start where people have an interest and then move into a methodical sequence.

(iv) Seek Feedback/Decision

When you have finished a study it is very important to see what they have understood and where necessary seek for a decision. In most cases it is almost useless to ask, "Did you understand that?" I find it better to ask 'knowledge application questions' like "What benefit do you receive from the resurrection of Jesus?" or "So where is your great grandmother now?" I also like to ask 'heart application questions' like "What do you think it will be like to see Jesus coming in the clouds?" or "How do you feel about knowing that Jesus has paid the price for all of your sins?" Your questions must stimulate the mind and satisfy the heart. In the next section we will discuss in more depth the process of securing decisions.

(v) Leave Study Materials

It is very important to leave material with your student to go through in between studies. You can print copies of the charts from the CD-ROM to leave with your students. Encourage them to go over the material and point out the blessings of doing so. I often invite people to "check me out" – that is make sure that what I have said is Biblical. The Bible studies on the CD-ROM have a review section at the end of the study. When you leave a Bible study, point out the review and tell them that in the next study you will go over that review together.

9. Securing Decisions and Dealing With Objections

Helping people decide to do something about the truths they have been studying and accepting is often the most difficult part of soul winning. Many people are led to study God's Word and believe the truths that are presented, but never make the crucial decisions to live in harmony with the teachings presented. Leading people to decide for something that is often unpopular, out of step with society, and threatening to their financial well-being is not an easy task. But filled with the Spirit and the certainty of the message you can learn one of the most vital parts of soul winning.

(A) Key factors

(i) Know Your Identity

I remember working in a mission with an evangelist. I watched him closely as we went on a series of visits to people who were coming to the meetings. The evangelist displayed such a confidence in what he was sharing with the people. You could tell that he was absolutely convinced that it was the truth he was sharing. He showed no hesitation whatever in calling people to make a decision. The strongest factor in having that confidence is knowing your identity. We discussed this fact in section 1 of the manual. You must have absolute confidence that God has raised the SDA movement to call people to worship God and keep all of His commandments.



We must humbly but directly call for decisions to be made

I remember once when I preached a sermon, I felt convicted to make an appeal. Right at that moment the thought came to me, 'they won't respond, it will look silly when no-one stands up.' Then I felt impressed, 'For the sake of Jesus and the truth, you *must* call for a decision'. I made the appeal with firm conviction and a number responded, even some that I never thought would.

You must have absolute certainty that you personally have been called to work in the SDA movement. The majority of people in the church who struggle with witnessing, fail on this very point. Certainty of identity gives power to call for action and decision.

(ii) Reach for the Heart

The heart is the deciding factor in making decisions. If a person is not emotionally committed, they won't move forward. "Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart." GW 193. I have found very few people who will step forward on the pure logic of Scripture. As you seek wisdom from God, he will teach you how to make heartfelt appeals.

(iii) Be Direct

Once you have dwelt with a subject adequately, move straight to the point. Ask your student "Have you understood the topic we have just looked at?" If they answer yes then ask them "Would there be anything that would prevent you from embracing this Bible truth?" Again, your ability to be direct is in direct proportion to your confidence in the message combined with your love for souls.

“The secret of our success and power as a people advocating advanced truth will be found in the making of direct, personal appeals to those who are interested.” E.G.W., *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, August 30, 1892.

(iv) Be Empathetic

Remember that some of the decisions that your students will make may cause upheaval in their lives and in some cases pain and persecution. If your student begins to express difficulties, acknowledge them. If you had similar trials when you were making your decision, share your experience with them and how God helped you. You may also share a friend’s experience or an experience from the Bible like Paul, who lost everything when he became a Christian. If someone gets the slightest hint that you don’t appreciate their difficulties, they won’t move forward.

Ellen White said of Jesus “He knew 'how to speak a word in season to him that is weary'; for grace was poured upon His lips, that He might convey to men in the most attractive way the treasures of truth.” DA 254. She also admonishes us "Put all the Christ-like tenderness and love possible into the voice." Ev 174.

(v) Be Scriptural

It is important that you are inviting people to respond to the Word of God, not you personally. It is good to use passages of Scripture to form the appeal. Passages like 2 Cor 6:2 “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” When people raise objections, answer them from the Bible. Jesus always met objections with “It is written”.



Let your appeals be always to Bible Truths and repeat Bible answers when objections come

(B) Making the Appeal

(i) Seize the Moment

When the Holy Spirit is placing someone under conviction, seize the moment and call for decision. “Bring them to the point to decide. Show them the importance of the truth; it is life or death. With becoming zeal pull souls out of the fire.” 1T 152.

“Many are convicted of sin, and feel their need of a sin-pardoning Saviour ... if words are not spoken at the right moment, calling for decision from the weight of evidence already presented, the convicted ones pass on without identifying themselves with Christ, the golden opportunity passes, and they have not yielded, and they go farther and farther away from the truth.” Ev 283.

“When persons who are under conviction are not brought to make a decision at the earliest period possible, there is danger that the conviction will gradually wear away.” Ev 298.

I remember one person that I had been studying with was coming close to making a decision. A series of events had led this person to start to cool off. Prayerfully, I invited this person to come to an evangelistic series that we had planned. This person came along and after the first program I felt impressed to ask this person if I could come with the evangelist to see them at home. I was uncertain how they would respond but I felt this was the moment. I went straight over to this person after the program and asked if we could make a visit. They agreed and while we were visiting, they made a decision for baptism. I was so glad I responded to the Spirit and seized the moment.

Not all people respond at the same time. If you sense a person backing away, don't close the door by forcing the situation. Seek to find the source of the resistance and seek to address it.

(ii) Present the Call as Coming From Jesus

When you are calling people to a decision, frame the call as coming from Jesus Himself. We are ambassadors for Christ and we are making the call on His behalf. For instance if you are calling for a decision on the Sabbath you can say something like "Jesus is inviting you to step forward and walk with Him by keeping all of His commandments". Presenting a decision this way will also protect you from undue disappointment if they refuse to make the decision. They have refused Christ not you.

(iii) Use Stories

One thing I learnt from the senior minister in the first church I pastored in was the power of stories to gain decisions. Whether stories from the Bible or your personal experience, a story is more likely to reach the heart.

(iv) Types of Appeals

a. Appeal to God's Love For Them

This is the most important and most used appeal. I remember when I first gave my heart to Jesus it was because I couldn't turn away from what He had done for me on the cross. His love for me awakened my love for Him. A good text to use as a base is Romans 5:6,7. "Talk to souls in peril and get them to behold Jesus upon the cross dying to make it possible for Him to pardon us." 6T 67.

b. Appeal to the Influence on Others

It is important to remind people that the decision they make will affect family and friends either for good or bad. If your student responds to the truth, others are more likely to be influenced in that direction. If they reject God's call, they may be responsible for others also not making a decision for Christ. A good text to use is Romans 14:7.

c. Appeal to Choice of Life or Death

Impress upon the student the life and death nature of the decision. Not in a manipulative, frightening way, but the seriousness of the decision should be impressed upon them. You may remind your student that in the end there will only be two classes of people, those who follow Christ and are saved and those who reject Him and are lost. A good passage to use is Matthew 7:13,14.

d. Appeal to Avoid Delay

It is God who calls us and impresses our hearts to follow Him. If we persistently reject His calls there is no possibility for us to initiate a response when we desire at a later time. Show the danger of delay and the closing of opportunity to be saved. God does not continually make opportunities. The story of Felix in Acts 24:22-25 is good to share. A good text to share is 2 Corinthians 6:2.

(c) Dealing With Objections

Throughout the evangelistic series, people will raise questions regarding the new truths they are learning. Sometimes their objections may be extremely strong. This does not mean they are not

interested. It may mean the Holy Spirit is deeply convicting them and they are confused. Deal with them kindly, lovingly, and positively. Listen to their objections, seek God for wisdom, and kindly answer their questions from the Bible.

Very few people make up their minds to unite with the church without a struggle. We are asking them to make a major decision that will have personal, economic, and social consequences. They need help to decide correctly. (When I say help, I do not mean pressure. We must always respect a person's freedom to choose.) They are constantly considering the consequences they will or might experience if they do what Jesus wants them to do. Since they must make a personal evaluation of these consequences, only they know what is really hindering them. Some of their reasons are nonexistent in reality. Some can be overcome through action based on faith in God. Some are definite, tangible problems with which they will need practical help. Your student does not know this, and only as you get him to express himself will you know how to help him make the right decision.



Very few people come to major decisions without a struggle; be patient and prayerful

(i) Seek to Find the Cause

When people begin to raise objections, it is vital to seek to find the source of the obstacle. "The sacred responsibility rests upon the minister to watch for souls as one that must give an account. He must interest himself in the souls for whom he labours, finding out all that perplexes and troubles them and hinders them from walking in the light of truth." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, August 30, 1892. "The minister must know the nature of the difficulties in the minds of the people, that he may know how to give every man his portion of meat in due season." MS, 4/1893.

I remember one person I was studying with that came to the point of deciding to join the church and then they started to cool off. At first I was not sure why. As I carefully sought for the reasons why, I discovered that the family was really pressuring my student regarding removing the use of flesh foods. Since the family was so insistent, it came down to a decision between offending the family or rejecting truth. I am sure you will appreciate that this was a hard decision. After an appeal to God's first claim on her life and the benefits of making such a decision, my student showed great courage and moved forward and was baptised. It is interesting to note that in this case, once they had made the decision, the family accepted it and caused no more trouble about it.

(ii) Use Scripture to Answer

When people begin to object, use the Word to bring conviction. The enemy will be seeking to fill your student's mind with fear and scepticism. Only the Word of God can cut through the arguments of the enemy. Simply remind your student of what you have studied and read again the texts. I also like to present Scripture promises that God will look after them and provide their every need. Texts like Phil 4:19; Jude 24 and 1 Cor 10:13 are excellent promises of God to help us when in the valley of decision.

(iii) Keep the Door Open

If a person shows signs that they are not ready to move forward, do not force the issue so that you are unable to come back to it later. Wait for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction under more favourable circumstances. I remember one couple that we had studied with for over 3 years and it

seemed we would lose them. We put the matter to God earnestly in prayer. Through a series of providences God opened the way and within 3 months they were both baptised.

(iv) Respect Individual Choice

Finally, if a person decides no, though painful, respect their choice and seek to remain friends. Though Jesus loved the rich young ruler, He did not compel him to follow. He sadly watched the young man walk away. Sometimes we have to do this. It is the sad part of soul winning but we must respect the individuals' choice.

10. Nurture and Integration

Try to imagine the disappointment that a farmer would experience having harvested a large crop only to return six months later to the storage shed to find half the crop eaten out by weevils. It takes a lot of effort to bring a soul to Christ, to instruct them and teach them and prepare them for baptism. All that work can be wasted if they are left on their own once they join the church. We have an obligation to nurture and help new members integrate into the new church family and start to use their spiritual gifts.

The most difficult time period for new members is in the first six months. Learning about church governance, finding and making friends in the church, deepening their understanding of the message and beginning to share their faith. We will now briefly look at various aspects of integration.

(A) Spiritual Integration

When people first begin the Christian walk, it takes time to learn the *how* of the Christian walk. Developing a daily devotional life and developing a strong Bible study habit is essential for settling into the truth. I strongly advise that you continue studying with your student for a while until you see evidence that they are beginning to feed themselves from the Word. Take them deeper into the Word; teach them more about the wonders of salvation and the joy of the Christian walk.

(B) Social Integration

Fellowship is a key reason for coming together as a church. If your student fails to find friends in the church there is a strong possibility they will leave. Sadly, since many members are so focused on their personal lives they have little time for nurturing new members. Beyond this, I have found that a few members love to “feed on new lambs”. It breaks my heart, but criticism and coldness are features of many churches, especially where there is no focus on soul winning. You must prayerfully help you student to integrate. This does not mean to be over protective and “beat up” any members that even look like doing the wrong thing. Invite them to social gatherings. Introduce them to other members.



New people needed to integrated into the Christian life, not left to take care of themselves.

At the same time, if you display a critical attitude toward your church, your minister or even some members in the church, you will destroy any possibility of integration and they will become useless to the church family. I have seen new people brought into the church under a critical spirit and they have become puppets for power hungry legalists who seek to control the church. While we are not naïve to problems in the church, it is imperative to maintain a positive attitude when discussing the church with new members. Over time you will need to explain the Laodicean condition of the church and some of the problems, but with humble heart and hopeful outlook share your confidence that God will carry His church through.

(C) Organisational Integration

It is important for your student to understand the organisational structure of the church. This is currently a great weakness. In time your student may fill church office. Help them to understand the various offices of the church, the importance of attending business meetings and how the election

process works. I firmly believe that if people were more thoroughly instructed in this area we would see less conflict in the nominating committee process. In time make sure that they have a church manual. Many people feel this is over the top. To such I would say, we are a movement in earnest seeking souls for the kingdom. We must be organised and intelligent to the functions and operations of the church. We must prepare people to be burden bearers.

(D) Evangelistic Integration

Every member of the church is called to witness for Christ. Your student needs to begin immediately to share their faith and be in an environment where they can learn to bring others to Christ. Firstly I would say, take them with you to other Bible studies and let them watch and learn. Help them to prepare a personal testimony and arrange for them to share it either in a Sabbath School class, a small group in your home or in at church to the whole congregation. Many will be fearful, but your example and joyful confidence will help them to move forward. Encourage them to read the books *Evangelism*, *Gospel Workers* and *Christian Service* by E.G. White. These are excellent books and will inspire your student to service. Seek to involve your student in any evangelistic programs that you run. They may be able to be a part of a prayer team or deliver leaflets or set up audiovisual equipment, anything to involve them in the context of winning souls.

Getting people involved evangelistically is one of the strongest ways to prevent them from leaving the church. The joy of soul winning will keep the joy of Jesus in their hearts.

It is my hope and prayer that this resource will be a blessing to you as you seek to bring Jesus to those around you. Soul winning is the essence of making yourself rich in heaven. Loving relationships are the economy of heaven and the more friends you make and bring to Jesus the more souls you will have memories with in the kingdom of God. I am earnestly looking forward to seeking out those that I have been blessed to share the Bible with when we get to heaven and embracing them with joy. As Paul says, "For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy." 1 Thess 2:19,20.

Let us close with a prayer.

"Dear Father in Heaven,

Thankyou for the privilege of working with you in sharing the wonderful gospel of Jesus. Help us to be bold and, filled with your Spirit, reflect the loving Spirit of Jesus to all those within our sphere. As we go forth trusting that You will help us, multiply our talents and gifts for service and may we have the joy of seeing many of Your children in the kingdom of heaven.

Thankyou in Jesus' wonderful name,

Amen."