



GATEWAY
ADVENTIST CENTRE

GATEWAY CARE GROUP TEACHING RESOURCES

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Created: January 2007
Updated: June 2015 (v7)
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A. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

Purpose

Over the years at Gateway Adventist Centre (GAC), we are often asked “what do we teach in our care groups?”, “what topics are appropriate for seekers?”, “what teaching aid do you use?”. At GAC we believe the Seventh-Day Adventist church has been blessed with many inspired resources that could be adapted into teaching material in care groups.

Audience

The intended audience for this document is the CARE leadership and members of the church interested and involved in small group ministry. It is important reading for church board members, care group leadership team, ministry leadership team and Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) members at GAC.

You will find in this document – most of the study curriculum are mainly lesson outlines or series outlines. We encourage our teachers to read the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy to gain an insight and form their own lessons to meet the needs of the seekers in your CARE group. If we had prescribed a Q & A format lessons, the teachers will miss the blessings of discovering their own Biblical insights as they are guided by the Holy Spirit.

B. HOW TO GET TRAINING IN CARE GROUP MINISTRY?

You can learn how to setup a soul winning care group. The training curriculum which GAC recommends is:

- FAST Survival Kit – to build up the WORD of God in the core team (the members)
- FAST Basic Training – to build up the SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES (prayer, devotional) in the core team
- FAST Team Tactics – to learn step by step the in and outs of how to setup a CARE group

These resources are available from www.fast.st or email to fast.australia@gmail.com.

Online training is also available. Watch 4 training videos at:

- www.rightlytrained.org
- Download the PDF Workbook and the PDF Powerpoint presentations to follow along the online training

Weekend seminars are often conducted by GAC trainers. Please visit the following calendar

- www.gatewaysda.org

C. ELLEN G. WHITE AND SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Compilation - In reading Ellen White’s work, she may not use the terms – ‘cell groups’, ‘small groups’ or even ‘CARE groups’ but she would refer them to ‘small companies’, ‘home bible reading’ etc.

We note a few common threads in her writing:

- It is for the purpose of soul-winning
- In the process of soul-winning the members are revived and grow spiritually
- The work of God will not finish until men and women (laity) in our church is mobilised to work together
- The simple and effective avenue for more men and women to serve is via small group

The following are some useful references:

- Address to Minister 1892 p.18
- Gospel Workers p.193
- Evangelism p.115, p.282
- Testimonies Vol.9, pp.82-83, p.126
- Counsel to Parents p. 551

Below are some sample quotations:

1. The work of God will not be finished until the laity is mobilised

The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers. – Testimonies Vol. 9, 117

2. Our early SDA pioneers used a simple method – Bible Readings For the Home Circle

The idea of holding Bible-readings is a Heaven-born idea, and opens the way to put hundreds of young men and women into the field to do an important work, which otherwise could not have been done. - Ellen White, Sabbath School Worker 1889, p.1

3. Small Groups to Unite in Prayer for Souls --We are laborers together with God.

Spiritual workers are needed not only to labor in the pulpit but to do personal work among the people. Too much time is devoted to the churches in preaching. This is not attended with the best results. The work of the Lord's ambassadors is to organize companies of workers to hunt for the for the souls who need help. Hours are spent in preaching that might better be devoted to house-to house labor. In the spirit of Christ, with a heart all aglow with His love, seek to win the hearts of those in the families you visit. Give faithful admonitions and instruction from the Word of God. There are appropriate and applicable lessons from the Scripture that need to be presented in the spirit of Christ and in love for the souls for whom He has died. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" [2 Tim. 3:16, 17] - Manuscript Releases Volume Twelve, page 240, paragraph 2

4. Blessing Will Come

And to the church in Los Angeles, over a year ago, when the Lord was mightily stirring the people through the tent meetings in progress, was sent the word: "Let the Los Angeles church have special seasons of prayer daily for the work that is being done. The blessing of the Lord will come to the church members who thus participate in the work, gathering in small groups daily to pray for its success. Thus the believers will obtain grace for themselves, and the work of the Lord will be advanced. - Evangelism, page 111, paragraph 3

5. The Blessings of Fellowship

Let small companies assemble in the evening, at noon, or in the early morning to study the Bible. Let them have a season of prayer, that they may be strengthened, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. . . . If you yourselves will open the door to receive it, a great blessing will come to you. Angels of God will be in your assembly. You will feed upon the leaves of the tree of life. - In Heavenly Places, page 92, paragraph 3

6. A vision of the end-time ... people reaching out in home-groups

In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God. I heard voices of thanksgiving and praise, and there seemed to be a reformation such as we witnessed in 1844. – Testimonies Vol. 9 p.126

D. GUIDELINES FOR CARE GROUP MINISTRY

CARE stands for 'Christ Attitude Reflected in Everybody'. A Care Group is not merely a place for sharing the word of God but a place to share by our own lives for Jesus Christ. Each Care Group must be a wholistic care group and must have all five components below **C L E A R** components:

- 1) **C**ommunity – creates a sense of belonging to a 'family or community'
- 2) **L**eadership – strong Spiritual leadership and clear direction
- 3) **E**vangelism or 'Go make disciples' – soul-winning oriented; it cannot merely be for nurturing
- 4) **A**ccountability – everyone is accountable to another for spiritual growth and character development
- 5) **R**eproduce – (or Replication of) another group through **equipping, training** and sharing roles to develop the next line of leaders and carers

Some 'back to basic' approach in managing care groups:

- 1) Each care group would have a leader and carer. Roles are shared with other core members e.g. birthday-social, food roster, prayer request email, reminder email/sms.
- 2) If there are no seekers in the group; then the group is given 6 months to pray and prepare. If there is no seekers in 6 months, the group is shut down as it is not purposeful.
- 3) Spiritual leadership is essential. Care Group can grow with strong spiritual leadership (spoken and living in the life of the leader). Care Group can stagnate and fail due to the lack of spiritual leadership.
- 4) Care Groups are not Bible Training time slot in the church. It is a 'gateway' for new people to come to know the church family. Teaching is done in Sabbath School, Worship in Divine Service, Witnessing in evangelism and Caring is done in Care Groups. Care Groups are 'relational' groups.
- 5) Care Group leaders are accountable to the Care Group Coordinator. There needs to be accountability and training to develop next line of leadership. Leadership prayer time is vital.
- 6) Splitting care group to grow is important. The care group number is effective when it is around 10-12 regular people. Care should be taken in handling a growth and subsequent care group split. Each member should have a choice as to which care group they should go with.

Details of the five components that makes a wholistic CARE group (CG) is listed in the next section:

Overview of Wholistic CARE groups:

A healthy CG will have several components in place. These can be illustrated by our left hand. Below are brief descriptions of each component. They will be covered in more detail in the following sections.

C ommunity

- The "thumb" is the community because all the fingers can wrap around it – providing care and protection.
- Everything else that CG does works in relationship to community
- This community is found when each CG member is in Christ because He brings to the group the unity that He has with the Father
- As CG member grow closer to God, they will also grow closer to each other
- The CG becomes family who are committed to each other's well being and spiritual progress
- They flow in and out of each other's lives during the week

L eadership

- Leadership is represented by the pointing finger – it sets direction for the group
- The leader are the more spiritually mature people in the CG
- Leaders have a relationship with God, know the importance of daily walk with Him and have a heart for people.
- They are trained to oversee the CG, and look for new leaders who can lead a new CG under God's guidance.
- They would preferably completed FAST Survival Kit, Basic Training and Team Tactics courses.

E vangelism

- The tallest finger indicates the highest priority for the CG – that is, Evangelism or Soul-Winning
- Evangelism is what give the CG its **purpose**, otherwise it turns into a club or a cosy small group, but doesn't progress anywhere.
- Evangelism is constantly held in front of CG members
- They are always on the look out for people to invite, particularly those who are lost
- Remember 'no seekers, no care group!'

A ccountability

- The 'ring' finger; suggest responsibility and accountability
- The CG has a system of support for its members – families have accountability to each other; so does a CG.
- They take responsibility for each other, lifting each other up in prayer, and giving encouragements to each other in their daily walk with God.

R eproducing through Training

- The smallest finger represents the weaker CG members who are in process of growing and thus needs to be trained and equipped.
- Start off by giving each core member a simple role and responsibility – this will build ownership and provide on-the-job training for them
- Get them started on a FAST discipleship training curriculum with another disciple-maker
- They need to be equipped for their personal devotional life with God, for reaching out beyond the CG to others who need God.

Most churches today will have two or at most three of the components functioning. Yet those churches who have all five components functioning well are the fastest growing churches today.

Components in Synergy

- The 5 components are integrated and interdependent
- The 5 components must be in place and healthy for CG to be healthy
- The sum total is greater than the parts (Divine Synergy). One horse can normally pull 2 tons. Two horses hitched together can sometimes pull 23 tons.
- Goal: carefully form enough healthy CG to reach critical mass – base congregation.

Factors For CG growth

900 CG leaders in 8 countries were surveyed. The factors that DO and DO NOT grow a CG were the same in each culture. What are they?

Things that DO NOT make a CG grow:

- Age and marital status
- Gender
- Education and Social Status
- Spiritual Gifting
- Personality (extrovert or introvert)

Things that DO make a CG grow:

- A CG leader who spends time in prayer both for his/her own connection with God and in intercession for CG members
- A CG who spends time together outside of the meeting
- CG members who have clear goals
- A visitor follow-up
- Meeting preparation with clear and meaningful Biblical teachings

E. TOPICS & IDEAS

Below are various study series that we have used at Gateway Adventist Centre. These study resources have been reviewed and adapted with a clear purpose to arouse the spiritual interest of people at Care Group. There is 4 to 5 years of study series in this booklet. This booklet has CG study series that will keep you busy for years!

Study Series suitable for **first time or new seekers** (# in brackets is number of lessons for the series):

- Learning to Love (5)
- To know God (11)
- He Taught Faith (6)
- Encounter with Jesus (30)
- Come Alive with Jesus (7)
- Steps to Jesus (13)
- Jesus the Essence of Life (8)

Study series to **learn about Jesus and the gospel**:

- Gospel according to Mary Magdalene (7)
- Miracles of Jesus (9)
- Parables of Jesus (I) – early parables suitable for new seekers (11)
- Parables of Jesus (II) – later parables more suited for arousing interest in Biblical truths (9)
- Salvation through Noah's Ark (6)
- Last Week of Jesus' Life (9)

Study series on **Bible Characters which points to Jesus' Character**:

- Life of Daniel (6)
- Life of David (9)
- Life of Joseph (10)

Study series on **Bible Books and topics to learn practical Christian principles**:

- Study of Genesis (14)
- Study of Philippians (5)
- Study of James (9)
- Courtship & Relationship Series (5)
- Positive Relationship – Relationship God's Way (7) 
- Higher than the Highest – Excellence (7) 
- Christian Finance Series (5) 

Study series to **arouse interest in Bible Truths and/or prophecy**:

- Stay Alive with Jesus (15)
- Life after Death series by Pr Geoff Youlden (8)
- The Prophecies of Daniel (8)

Study series to **arouse the urgency of time and revival**:

- From Exodus to Advent (12)
- Conversion and Righteousness by Faith (9)
- The Branch & The Vine (10)

The subsequent pages in this document provide the study outline and the reference resources. These studies were developed by different leaders at GAC. Appendix A – Some good icebreaker questions and Appendix B contains some of the lessons.

Ideas on Teaching Inductive & Relational Bible Study in CG:

1. Do an inductive Bible study/ contextual Bible reading on the passages (taken from FAST Team Tactics Training):
 - a) **Observations / Insights**—understand the contents of the passage. Ask the :who, where, when, what, why, how questions. Summarize the passage in a short paragraph.
 - b) **Principles**—inquire the lessons that we can learn from this passage: Is there any promise? command? Warning? Example for follow or not to follow? What does this passage tell me about God?
 - c) **Application**—how is the situation in the passage similar to our daily life and how we can apply the lessons learned to ourselves. Try to post questions such as : What bondage of sin do you want Jesus to free you from? Are you willing to let Jesus calm the storm in your life? Would you like Jesus to heal your spiritual blindness? Good applications are not easy to make, but they are what make the passage meaningful for the seeker's today. Make sure your application 'PASS' i.e. is **P**ersonal; **A**chievable; **S**pecific; **S**piritual application.
2. Compare the same account in different references in the Bible, see what other insights can you draw out.
3. Only when you've done the above, then read the references e.g. Desire of Ages for additional lessons.
4. At prayer time, encourage members to pray for one another the specific areas they desire to apply in the coming week(s).

F. REFERENCES

Other references available for CARE Group ministry (goto www.gatewaysda.org > resources > care groups):

- Care Group Role and Responsibility Document – role descriptions for carer, leader and care group coordinators
- Care Group Song Book
- Explorer Class Teaching Resources – this is entry level class for visitors / seekers to Sabbath School
- Discovery Class Teaching Resources – this is second level class for visitors / seekers who have attended Explorer Class and now wanting to learn more

LEARNING TO LOVE

TARGET: Group with high number of seekers, especially in the early stage of a new group with new seekers.

THEME: Learning to Love is a 5 study series which focus on how to develop a fruitful and meaningful relationship. This study highlights the 2 crucial aspects of developing that kind of relationship, both loving God and loving others.

Key Text: Matthew 22:37-39

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Loving God	
2	Loving Ourselves	
3	Loving Family	
4	Loving One Another (Loving Others)	
5	Loving Enemy	

REFERENCE:

1. Appendix B – Bible References and lesson notes available for each lesson

TO KNOW GOD

TARGET: Group with mixtures of seekers and believers.

THEME: This study begins with an introduction of a few basic Bible topics, then proceed to Jesus and building a saving relationship with Him. It serves to lay a foundation on understanding of Christianity.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	The Story of Creation	
2	Origin of Evil and it's Consequences	
3	A New Hope revealed	
4	Jesus- Who is He?	
5	Do I really need this Jesus	
6	How to come to Him?	
7	A New Birth	
8	Growing up into Christ	
9	Faith of Jesus	
10	Keeping the Commandments of God	
11	Living a life of Prayer	

REFERENCES:

1. Steps to Christ by EG White
2. Appendix B – Bible References made available for each topic. Make your own notes and questions to ask.

HE TAUGHT FAITH

TARGET: General or suitable for Seekers that needs to understand what is FAITH.

THEME: Through out Jesus' ministry, He wanted to teach His disciples and other believers what faith is all about. There had been various occasions when He clearly pointed out or commended on certain individual's faith. There are great blessing install for those who are willing apply such principles into their own lives.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	BIBLE REFERENCE	Desire of Ages REF	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Definition of Faith The Faith of the Centurion	Matt 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10	Chapter 32	
2	What Faith is Not Little faith (calms the storm) Jesus Walks on Water	Matt 8:23-27 Mark 4:36-41 Luke 8:22-25 Matt 14:23-33 Mark 6:45-51 John 6:15-21	Chapter 35 Chapter 40	
3	Saved by Faith Healing of woman with bleeding	Matt 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48	Chapter 36	
4	Faith expressed thru Action Healing of the paralytic	Matt 9:1-2, Mark 2:1-5, Luke 5:17-21	Chapter 27	
5	Growing Faith Healing of a demon possessed boy	Matt 17:14-21 Mark 9:14-27 Luke 17:5-6	Chapter 47	
6	Faith of Jesus	Matt 27:32-54	Chapter 78	

Notes:

Lesson 3 - Faith in Action

Healing of the paralytic- "Jesus saw their faith"- Matt 9:1-2, Mark 2:1-5, Luke 5:17-21

Lesson 4 - Saved by Faith

Healing of the hemoptoc woman –healing thru faith, "your faith has healed you" Matt 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48
Healing of the blind and dumb-"According to your faith will it be done to you"
Matt 9:27-30,

Lesson 5a - Great Faith

- Faith of the Canaanite woman- "you have great faith" Matt15:21-28, Mk 7:24-30
- Matt 8:5-13 The faith of the centurion

Lesson 5b - Growing Faith

- The fig tree withers "if you have faith..move mountain" "believe and prayer" Matt 21:18-22, Mk 11:20-26
- Matt 17:14-21-healing of a boy with a demon "if you have faith as a mustard seed.."
- Mk 9:14-27 "help my unbelief"
- Lk 17:5-6: Increase our faith

Lesson 5c - Little Faith

- Matt 16: 5-12 "...why are you talking...having no bread...yeast of the Pharisees"
- Matt 6:30 "You of little faith, so do not worry..."
- Matt 13:58 "becoz of lack of faith"
- Mk 6:6 'He was amazed with the lack of faith"..he could not do any miracles there

Lesson 6 - Faith of Jesus- Crucifixion Matt 27:32-54

ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

TARGET: Seekers wanting to know how to be a Christian and what does it mean to be a Christian

THEME: Each lesson deals with a person or persons having encounter with Jesus while He was on earth. There are 30 lessons; you may like to study in blocks of 10 lessons to make a series for the care group.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	The Leper	
2	The Devil	
3	The First Disciples	
4	The Wedding Feast	
5	Nicodemus	
6	Woman at the Well	
7	Nobleman	
8	The Centurion	
9	Blind Man Near Bethsaida	
10	Man at Pool of Bethesda	
11	Man Sick of the Palsy	
12	Blind Dumb Demoniac	
13	Disciples In the Storm	
14	Demoniac of the Gadarenes	
15	Woman with issue of Blood	
16	John the Baptist	
17	The Five Thousand	
18	Woman Caught In Adultery	
19	Man Born Blind	
20	Martha and Mary	
21	Ten Lepers	
22	Rich Young Ruler	
23	Bartimaeus	
24	Zaccheus	
25	Simon's Feast	
26	Peter's Denial	
27	Pilate	
28	At the Cross	
29	Road to Emmaus	
30	Peter at the sea of Tiberias	

REFERENCES:

1. Resource is from Advent Productions – contact Benjamin Ng (www.adventproductions.org)

COME ALIVE WITH JESUS

TARGET: Seekers wanting to know how to be a Christian and what does it mean to be a Christian

THEME: Come Alive! Seven encouraging lessons in dynamic Christian living.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Being Born – experiencing the energy and vitality of a new kind of birth	
2	You’ve Been Born Again – dealing with the realities of your new life in Christ	
3	You’ve Got To Eat To Grow – focussing on the essential qualities of reading and studying the Bible	
4	You’ll Learn To Talk – learning how prayer can become important in your new relationship with Christ.	
5	But How Can You Tell? – discovering the dynamic qualities of the fruits of the Spirit, as they are lived out in a Christian’s life.	
6	Get Your Exercise! – finding out how easily ... and logically ... witnessing can work for you.	
7	You’ll Need Friends – experiencing the tremendous benefits you gain from fellowshiping with other Christian friends.	

REFERENCES:

1. Come Alive lessons available at Australian Union Conference – Resource Centre. Contact: AUC Office, Ringwood, Victoria.
2. Entire seven “Come Alive” lessons available online at --
<http://www.capitolviewchurch.org/studyguides/cawjindex.html>
3. Download PDFs of the Come Alive lessons at -- <http://www.papsda.co.nz/biblestudy.html> or at www.gatewaysda.org > resources > Care Group Resources

STEPS TO JESUS

TARGET: Seekers wanting to know how to be a Christian and what does it mean to be a Christian. This study is based on the book 'Steps to Christ' by Ellen White. You can teach the contents of this book without using 'Steps to Christ' but solely from the Bible. Teachers can refer to the book 'Steps to Christ'.

THEME: 'Steps to Christ' is one of the most spiritual books ever written. It is Bible-based and covers the essential of a spiritual walk with Jesus.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	God's love for sinners	
2	The sinner's need of Christ	
3	Repentance	
4	Confession	
5	Consecration	
6	Faith and Acceptance	
7	The Test of Discipleship	
8	Growing up into Christ	
9	The Work and the Life	
10	A Knowledge of God	
11	The Privilege of Prayer	
12	What to do with Doubt	
13	Rejoicing in the Lord	

REFERENCES:

1. Download study guides from www.gatewaysda.org > resources > Care Group Resources. Select 'Steps to Jesus Series.doc'. Teachers are to read the book 'Steps to Christ' but at CG should only teach from the Bible.

JESUS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE

- TARGET:** A mixture of seekers who would like to know that Jesus provides a wholistic direction to life.
- THEME:** This series aims at pointing our CG members to Jesus, the One who provides ALL the important elements that sustain life. By explaining things seen (physical elements), the study will help them to relate to spiritual things (things unseen). And by making it part of their daily life, they'll recall what Jesus is to them.
- NOTES:** The study starts off by sharing some basic health facts on the importance of the NEWSTART element e.g. rest. This is followed by a study from the Bible that Jesus claims for Himself to be the spiritual element. Draw 2-3 principles that Jesus is the key to this theme. When we make our daily application we are reminded of the Spiritual significance. The application depends very much on the group you are working with.

NO/DATE	THEME	PASSAGE	SOP REFERENCE	APPLICATION
1	Food / Bread	Jesus - Bread of Life John 6:25-41	Desire of Ages Chapter 41 The Crisis in Galilee	2 Fruits & 5 Veges a Day
2	Exercise	Jesus - Lord of Talents Matt 25:14-29	Desire of Ages Chapter 25 Talents	Exercise 20 mins / day
3	Water	Jesus - the Living Water John 4:1-14	Desire of Ages Chapter 19 At Jacob's Well	6-8 glasses of water / day
4	Sunlight Light	Jesus - Light of the world John 9:1-5, 35-41, 1:1-9	Desire of Ages Chapter 51 The Light of Life	15-20mins a day of sunlight in the morning not during the heat of the day
5	Temperance	Jesus - The Overcomer Matt 4:1-11	Desire of Ages Chapter 12 The Temptation	
6	Air/Breath	Jesus - The Breath of Life John 20:19-23	Desire of Ages Chapter 84 Peace be unto You	
7	Rest	Jesus - The Restorer Matt 11:28-30	Desire of Ages Chapter 34 The Invitation	8 hours of sleep / day; before midnight, say a prayer before sleeping – to enter into God's rest
8	Trust	Jesus - Way, Truth & Life Jn 14:5-14	Desire of Ages Chapter 73 Let not your heart ...	

Suggested format:

- 5-7 min INTRO: the importance of one element of life, i.e. food, sunlight, water
- 15-20 min CONTENT: draw max 3 main points (principles) from the study passage
- 5 min APPLICATION/APPEAL: suggest 1 or 2 ways which the members can apply the studied element into their daily life. (Discussion can continue during sharing time)

REFERENCE:

1. DESIRE OF AGES by Ellen G White – look for corresponding chapters in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY MAGDALENE

TARGET: A mixture of seekers and members.

THEME: “Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.” Jn 26:13. Mary’s life demonstrated the conversion journey of a person who was once broken, and yet touched by the love of Christ, responded with great love, tenacious loyalty, and a perfect devotion. A study with many life applications as well as introduction to some of the distinctive Adventist doctrines.

NO/DATE	TITLE	BIBLE REFERENCE	THEMES	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Adultery in the temple	John 8: 2-11	Judgement True repentance	
2	Praying for the dead	John 11:1-43	State of the dead	
3	Martha’s distractions	Luke 10: 38-42	Morning devotion Service for God	
4	Simon’s feast	Matt 26:6-13 Mark 14:3-9 John 12:1-8	Total surrender Total sacrifice	
5	At the cross	Matt 27:35-56 Mark 15:25-41 Luke 23:32-49 John 19:18-37	The power of the cross	
6	At the tomb	Matt 27:57-61 Mark 15:42-47 Luke 24:50-56 John 19:38-42	Sabbath Dead in sin Plan of salvation	
7	The Resurrection	Matt 28:1-7 Mark 16:1-8 Luke 24: 1-12 John 20:1-18	Witnessing Summary of the study	

REFERENCE:

2. AT JESUS’ FEET by Doug Batchelor

3. DESIRE OF AGES by Ellen G White – look for corresponding chapters in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings.

REMARKS:

“At Jesus’ feet” - is a faith sharing book for people with some Biblical background. If your group members are new to many Bible stories, you may like to choose to cover certain points in the book rather than all of them. You will find it more beneficial if you dig into the Bible and Desire of Ages, to go deeper into areas which are appropriate for your group.

MIRACLES OF JESUS

TARGET: General, suitable for a mixture of seekers and believers as many lessons can be learned and apply in individual's life.

THEME: The common theme is on the miracles of Jesus, yet different spiritual lessons can be drawn from Through each miracle Jesus performed, He had a deeper spiritual lesson to teach, i.e. healing the blind- spiritual blindness, demon possessed-slave of sin, etc.

NO/ DATE	TITLE	BIBLE REFERENCE	DESIRE OF AGES	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Turning water into wine	John 2:1-11	At the marriage feast	
2	Healing of the leper	Matt 8:2-4 Mark 1:40-44 Luke 5:12-14	Thou can make me clean (I)	
3	Healing of the paralytic	Matt 9:2-8 Mark 2:1-12 Luke 5:18-26	Thou can make me clean (II)	
4	Healing of a demon possessed man	Matt 8:28-34 Mark 5:1-20 Luke 8:26-39	Peace be still (II)	
5	Healing of the hemophilic	Matt 9:18-36 Mark 5:21-48 Luke 8:40-56	Touch of faith	
6	Feeding the 5,000	Matt 14:13-21 Mark 6:32-44 Luke 9:10-17 John 6:1-13	Give ye them to eat	
7	Walking on water	Matt 14:22-34 Mark 6:45-52 John 6:14-21	A night on the lake	
8	Healing of the blind	John 9	The light of life (II)	
9	Resurrection of Lazarus	Luke 10:38-42 John 11:1-44	Lazarus, come forth	

REFERENCE:

1. Desire of Ages - Ellen G White

JESUS' PARABLES 1

TARGET: This study serves as a good introduction of many Jesus' teachings for seekers and believers alike, . Continuity is not as crucial as other study series.

THEME: In this series we will study the 'stories that Jesus told'. These stories are recorded in the Bible so that we can better understand who Jesus is and what He teaches.

NO/DATE	TOPIC / BIBLE REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	CHRIST OBJECT LESSON CHAPTER
1	The Parable of the Sower Matt 13:1-9, 18:23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15	Jesus illustrates the things of the kingdom of heaven, and the work of the great Farmer for His people.	"The Sower went forth to sow
2	The Parables of the Mustard Seed & the Yeast Matt 13:31-33; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-21	Jesus illustrates the power of the grace of God how it converts the heart.....	"Like a grain of Mustard Seed" 'Like unto Leaven'
3	Hidden Treasure Matt 13:44	Jesus shows how important to search the word of God and truth.	"Hidden Treasure"
4	Two Worshipers Luke 18:9-14	Self-sufficiency versus self-renunciation (total dependence on Jesus)	"Two worshipers"
5	The Lost sheep and Lost coin Matt 18:12-14; Luke 15:1-10	Jesus desires that all are not lost but found in His love and grace.	"This man receiveth sinners
6	The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Matt 18:21-35	The true ground upon which forgiveness is granted and the danger of cherishing an unforgiving spirit.	"The Measure of Forgiveness"
7	The Parable of the Two Sons Matt 21:23-32	Words are of no value unless they are accompanied with appropriate deeds.	"Saying and Doing"
8	The Parable of the Rich Fool Luke 12:13-24	Shows the folly of those who make the world their all	"Gain that is loss"
9	The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	Jesus showed that our neighbor does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong ... our neighbor is every person who needs our help.	'Who is my neighbor?'
10	The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31	In this life men decide their eternal destiny	"A great gulf fixed"
11	The Rich young ruler The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard Matt 19:16-30; 20:1-26; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30	The truth of God's free grace	Reward of grace

REFERENCE:

1. Christ Object Lessons – Ellen G White

JESUS' PARABLES 2

TARGET: This second series may be more suitable for believers and long term seekers, or a group who has previously studied the first series. You may want to study the first series, take a break by studying another topic series, then come back to do the second series.

NO/DATE	TOPIC / BIBLE REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	CHRIST OBJECT LESSON CHAPTER
1	The Parable of the Growing Seed Mark 4:26-29	Different stages of Christian growth	"First the blade, then the Ear"
2	The Parable of the Weeds Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	The mix of true and false worshipers in God's church and leaving judgment to Him.	"Tares"
3	The Parable of the petitioning friend Luke 11:1-13	Prayers- intercessory	"Asking to give"
4	The Lost Son Luke 15:11-32	God's dealing with those who have once known His love	"Lost and is found"
5	The Parable of the Fig tree Luke 13:1-9	Illustrates the God's mercy in relation to His justice & judgement	"Spare it this year"
	The Parable of the Great Banquet Luke 14:1,12-24	God's merciful invitation Personal ministry	"Go into the highway and hedges"
6	The Parables of the Tenants Matt 21:33-44; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19	Importance of obedience for God's people	"The Lord's vineyard"
7	The Parable of the Wedding Banquet Matt 22:1-14	Illustrates God's people's rejection of the gospel invitation Righteousness of Christ	"Without a wedding garment"
8	The Parable of the Talents Matt 25:13-30; Luke 19:12-27	What it means to watch for Jesus' second coming	"Talents"
9	The Parable of the 10 Virgins Matt 25: 1-13	Illustrates the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming	"To meet the Bridegroom"

REFERENCE:

1. Christ Object Lessons – Ellen G White

SALVATION THROUGH THE ARK (STORY OF NOAH)

TARGET: General – a good series to share with seekers the importance of salvation in the current prophetic times that we live in. There are many parallels with Noah's story and our time.

THEME: God's grace and judgment for an evil generation.

KEY TEXT: Genesis 6 to 9

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Who is Noah?	
2	State of Man	
3	Prophecy about the flood	
4	Call for salvation (I)	
5	Call for salvation (II)	
6	Restoration	

REFERENCE:

1. Patriarchs and Prophets – Ellen G White
 - Ch 7. **The Flood,**
 - Ch 8. **After the Flood**
2. Sabbath School Lesson “**The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant**” (1st Quarter 2003).
Lesson 3. All Future Generations. Go to [http:// ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/](http://ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/)
3. Appendix B provides lesson outlines for your CARE group

LAST WEEK OF JESUS' LIFE

TARGET: A power study series for seekers to understand the life mission of Jesus especially His final week on earth to save mankind. This is a good study as a lead up to decision making events e.g. evangelistic series. Good for first time or regular seekers. A consistent and regular seekers are preferred when running this study series.

NO/DATE	TOPIC / BIBLE REFERENCE	BIBLE REFERENCE	DESIRE OF AGES CHAPTER
1	Simon's Feast	Matt 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-19	Chapter 62
2	Symbol of Humility and Communion	Matt 26:26-29; Mark 14:17-18, 22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 24-30; John 13:1-20	Chapters 71 and 72
3	Promise of the Second Coming	John 13:31 – 14:31	Chapter 73
4	Gethsemane : Plan of Salvation	Matt 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:40-53; John 18:1-12	Chapter 74
5	Jesus under Trial	Matt 26:57-27:14; Mark 14:53-15:5; Luke 22:54-23:5; John 18:13-38	Chapters 75 and 77
6	Judas	Matt 26:1-5, 14-16, 21-25; Matt 27:3-10	Chapter 76
7	Death of Jesus	Matt 27:31-56; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37	Chapters 78 and 79
8	Resurrection of Jesus	Matt 28:2-4; 11-15	Chapters 80 and 81
9	Resurrected Christ	Luke 24:13-48; John 20:19-29	Chapters 83 and 84

REFERENCE:

1. Desire of Ages – Ellen G White

THE LIFE OF DANIEL

TARGET: This is simple enough for seekers to understand, laying a foundation for future prophecy study. It also serves as an excellent revival study for believers.

THEME: The life of Daniel and his friends demonstrated obedience, faithfulness unto death, humility, and submissive prayers. Such characters are to be processed by God's people at the end time. Their experiences also serve as an illustration of ours to come. Moreover, it shows how the God of Heaven gradually and patiently reveals Himself to a pagan king.

NO/DATE	BIBLE REFERENCE & TITLE	RESOURCES	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Daniel Chapter 1 Babylonian Captivity	PK Chapter 39 PG tape # 3 & 4	
2	Daniel Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar's dream of great image	PK Chapter 40 PG tape # 5 & 6	
3	Daniel Chapter 3 The fiery furnace-a test of allegiance	PK Chapter 41 PG tape # 7 & 8	
4	Daniel Chapter 4 The conversion of Nebuchadnezzar	PK Chapter 42 PG tape # 9	
5	Daniel Chapter 5 The fall of Babylon	PK Chapter 43 PG tape # 10	
6	Daniel Chapter 6 Daniel in the lion's den	PK Chapter 44 PG tape # 11	

REFERENCES:

1. Mystery of Daniel Unsealed – A good study guide written by Pr Mark Finley. Available from Hart Research. Visit www.adventistevangelism.org
2. PK — Prophets and Kings, by Ellen G. White
2. Peter Gregory (PG) MP3 — A series of MP3 by Peter Gregory with an in depth study on the book of Daniel. Visit www.ionabible.org
3. GOD CARES (Vol 1) – Mervyn Maxwell. This provides historical background as well as life application to the study.

THE LIFE OF DAVID

TARGET: Suitable for a group with mixture of seekers and believers. Preferably a stable group so that everyone can follow the flow of the story

THEME: David was anointed as the king earlier, yet he waited patiently for years. The difficult circumstances in the time of waiting had refined, taught and prepared Him for future responsibility. Through his life, we learn of his characters of humility, respect for authority, true repentance, and obedience. Such is a man that's after God's own heart!

NO/DATE	TOPIC	BIBLE REFERENCE	RESOURCE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	The Anointing of David	1 Sam 16:1-13	PP Chapter 62	
2	David & Goliath	1 Sam 16:14-23, ch17	PP Chapter 63	
3	David fleeing from Saul	1 Sam ch 18-22	PP Chapter 64	
4	The Magnanimity of David	1 Sam 22:20-23, ch 23-27	PP Chapter 65	
5	The down fall of Saul	1 Sam 28, 31	PP Chapter 66 & Chapter 67	
6	David came to the throne	2 Sam ch 2 to ch5:5	PP Chapter 69	
7	The Reign of David	2 Sam 5:6-25, ch 6-7, 9-10	PP Chapter 70	
8	David's sin & repentance	2 Sam ch 11-12, Ps 51	PP Chapter 71	
9	The last years of David	2 Sam 24, 1 King 1, 1 Chron 21	PP Chapter 73	

REFERENCE:

1. Patriarch & Prophets (PP) by Ellen G White

OTHER BIBLE REFERENCES:

- 1 Samuel 16;
- 1 King 2;
- Matthew 1:1,6, 22:42-45;
- Luke 1:32;
- Acts 13:22;
- Romans 1:3;
- Hebrews 11:32

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

THEME: The life of Joseph is an anti-type of Jesus, the Saviour and deliverer for His people.

Joseph's character of being faith in all circumstances, humility, diligence, and forgiveness serves as an example to us all.

The repentance experience of Jacob's sons illustrate the victorious experience of God's people at the end time.

NO	TOPIC	BIBLE REF	REFERENCES
1	Joseph and his family (dealing with jealousy, anger and fear)	Gen 37	ED chpt 7 "Lives of Great Men" PP chpt 19 "Return to Canaan" CS chpt 1 "Favoured Son, Hated Brother"
2	Joseph as slave in Egypt (overcoming temptations; learning stewardship and doing great in small things)	Gen 39	PP chpt 20 "Joseph in Egypt" CS chpt 2 "Resisting temptation"
3	Joseph and the prisoners' dreams (trusting God when mistreated, disappointed and abandoned)	Gen 40	PP chpt 20 "Joseph in Egypt" CS chpt 3 "Imprisoned and Forgotten"
4	Joseph and pharaoh's dreams (standing before high authorities; humility when promoted)	Gen 41	PP chpt 20 "Joseph in Egypt" CS chpt 4 "Remembered and Promoted" CS chpt 5 "Reward of Righteousness"
5	Joseph and his brothers (learning forgiveness and trust again)	Gen 42	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 6 "Activating a seared conscience"
6	Joseph's cup and Benjamin (learning patience and wisdom)	Gen 43 Gen 44	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 7 "Groanings of a sad dad" CS chpt 8 "Fear displaced by Grace"
7	Joseph Revealed to his brothers (learning God's grace)	Gen 45	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 9 "I am Joseph"
8	Joseph and family reunion (humility and forgiveness)	Gen 46:1-7, 28 – Gen 47:12	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 10 "Ultimate family reunion" FP "Israelites, the overcomers"
9	Joseph and his work place (integrity at work place)	Gen 47 Gen 50:1-8	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 11 "On the Job Integrity"
10	Joseph and his final years (leaving a legacy behind)	Gen 50:22-26	PP chpt 21 "Joseph and his Brothers" CS chpt 12 "Highlights of Twilight"

REFERENCES:

1. ED (Education) by E G White
2. PP (Patriarchs and Prophets) by E G White
3. CS (Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness) by Charles Swindoll
4. FP (Focus on Prophecy #8 "Israelites, the overcomers") - Dr Fam Siow Leong
5. Appendix B contains some Spirit of Prophecy quotations

REMARKS:

Try to encourage members attend the whole series consistently. At the same time, establish a theme from each study, i.e. Study 3 - overcome temptation, Study 7- true repentance, so that visitors can follow and gain something from the study.

STUDY OF GENESIS

TARGET: Suitable for seekers to understand the faith of the patriarchs in the Bible

THEME: Book Study

NO/DATE	TOPIC	BIBLE REFERENCE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	The Creation	Genesis 1	
2	Consequence of Rebellion	Genesis 2	
3	Temptation and Fall	Genesis 3	
4	The Plan of Salvation	Genesis 3	
5	Cain and Abel	Genesis 4	
6	Seth and Enoch	Genesis 5-6	
7	The Flood	Genesis 7-10	
8	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “The Tower of Babel”	
9	The Call of Abraham	Genesis 12 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “The Call of Abraham”	
10	Abraham in Canaan	Genesis 13-15; 17:1-16; 18 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “Abraham in Canaan”	
11	The Test of Faith	Genesis 16; 17:18-20; 21:1-14; 22:1-19 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “The test of faith”	
12	Destruction of Sodom	Genesis 19 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “Destruction of Sodom”	
13	The Marriage of Isaac	Genesis 24 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “The marriage of Isaac”	
14	Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:19-34; 27 Patriarch and Prophets Chapter – “Jacob and Esau”	

REFERENCES.

1. Patriarchs and Prophets by Ellen G White

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

TARGET: General.

THEME: Paul shared his true joy in Christ despite of imprisonment, practical spiritual counsels from friend to friends.

NO/DATE	BIBLE REFERENCE	SUGGESTED WORD STUDY	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Introduction to Philippians	Find out all the repeated words in Philippians	
2	Philippians Chapter 1 Joy in suffering	Joy, Confidence/ confident	
3	Philippians Chapter 2 Joy in serving	Mind, The mind of Jesus, Humility	
4	Philippians Chapter 3 Joy in believing	The calling of God and how to respond to it - the story of Paul	
5	Philippians Chapter 4 Joy in giving	Paul's source of joy	

REFERENCES:

1. SDA Bible Commentaries
2. "Acts of Apostles" by Ellen G. White
3. Ch 12 & 13 - The Background of Paul
4. Ch 21 - The background of the church in Philippi
5. Ch 43 , 44 & 45 - Background on the book of Philippians.
6. Strong concordance for word studies.

REMARKS: How to do WORD Study?

1. Peter Gregory – How to Study The Bible – mp3 series. Available at www.ionabible.org

THE BOOK OF JAMES

THEME: Christianity in Action (Faith and Works). James is a closer in style to the Book of Proverbs than it is to the any NT book. James focus is not on doctrine, but on how the Christian faith is to be lived on a day to day basis. Although Jesus is seldom referred to or quoted, his teaching on the sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) underlies much of this letter.

TARGET: James is a good book for people of all spiritual background – seekers to members a like. However it is important to emphasis the importance of submitting to Jesus by faith to allow works to be the fruits. Without this submission, it becomes our burden which is a wrong concept.

NO/DATE	FOCUS AREA	BIBLE REFERENCE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Trials and Temptation	1:1-18	
2	Listening and Doing	1:19-27	
3	Mercy and Judgment	2:1-13	
4	Faith and Works	2:14-26	
5	Taming the Tongue	3:1-12	
6	True and False Wisdom	3:13-18	
7	Friendship with God	4:1-12	
8	Investing in the Future	4:13-5:12	
9	Power of Prayer	5:13-20	

RESOURCES:

1. Serendipity Bible Study for Groups, Zondervan Publishing (9 Lessons in Appendix B)
2. <http://smallgroupstudies.blogspot.com/search/label/James>

COURTSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP SERIES

TARGET: Seeker that have been in your care group for a while and for members as well.

THEME: Preparation for Marriage.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	FOCUS AREAS	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Purpose of Marriage	- Overview of the Seminar - Readiness for Courtship - Dating versus Courtship - Commitment - Options of Singleness	
2	How do I know this is the one?	- Criteria of choosing future Spouse - Importance of Counsels - Qs to ask before marriage - MYP (Messages to Young People)	
3	The Seasons of courtship	- True love versus Infatuation - Stages of Courtship - Communication	
4	Romance and Relationship	- Boundaries-emotional, physical, time, mental - Practical tips - Handling break up	
5	Q & A Just friends?		

RESOURCES:

1. Christian Resource On Spouse Selection (CROSS) by Phil Mills, MD. Available at www.mybiblefirst.org

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP – GOD’S WAY SERIES

TARGET: Seeker that have been in your care group for a while and for members as well. Useful for youth and young adults age groups in your care groups.

THEME: Preparation for Courtship.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	FOCUS AREAS	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Finding your soul mate		
2	What do I look for?		
3	Marrying the right person		
4	Why do relationship go bad?		
5	Where ever you go, I will go		
6	Playing the love game		
7	Passion and Purity		
8	Review		

RESOURCES:

1. This study series is based on a sermon series by Pr Keala Thompson – see www.audioverse.org
2. Download from Gateway Adventist Centre Website – www.gatewaysda.org > Resources > Teaching / Care Group Resources
3. These resources comes with mp3 sermon that the leaders can listen to and prepare the lessons.

HIGHER THAN THE HIGHEST - EXCELLENCE SERIES

TARGET: Seeker that have been in your care group for a while and for members as well. Good series for young adults and youth in the care group.

THEME: How to live a life of Excellence.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	FOCUS AREAS	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	The Need for Excellence	Why should Christians pursue excellence?	
2	The key for Excellence	Ingredients for success in life.	
3	The Goals for Excellence	Goal setting a vital element of a Christian journey.	
4	The Steps for Excellence	Practical steps to get you on the journey of excellence.	
5	The Way for Excellence	Time management is self management!	
6	The Urgency for Excellence	Avoiding the trap of mediocrity and sin!	
7	The Relationship for Excellence	Communications will make or break relationships.	

RESOURCES:

1. Download from Gateway Adventist Centre Website – www.gatewaysda.org > Resources > Teaching / Care Group Resources
2. Lessons available in English and Chinese.

CHRISTIAN FINANCE SERIES

THEME: To learn the Biblical principles related to money, wealth and planning
To apply these principles into our day to day lives

TARGET: Seekers and members

NO/DATE	TOPIC	FOCUS AREAS	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	First Principles of Money	We will learn about the KEY principles in the Bible that God has for us concerning wealth and money.	
2	Getting a Grip on Your Finances	What does the Bible say about accumulating wealth? What does the Bible say about investment, speculation, debt, loans? Only the rich faces certain temptations – what are these? What does God give us to help us manage our finances?	
3	Money and Relationships	Does money change our relationships? What if I start a business with someone, does it impact our relationship? Practical ideas on 'how money is managed' to protect our relationships. What if I get married, how much of what I have, should I share?	
4	God's Way ≠ Man's Way	God has a method that confounds all human logic and economics for finance. How can we tap into His way to help us live a life that He wants us to have? If ownership is God's part, what is my part?	
5	End-time Investments Q & A	If Jesus were to come tomorrow or next week – what would your financial priority be? How would you plan your investment strategy? Is it kingdom-focus on worldly-focus? Can we balance our needs now and planning for the future?	

RESOURCES:

3. Download from Gateway Adventist Centre Website – www.gatewaysda.org > Resources > Care Group Resources

STAY ALIVE WITH JESUS

TARGET: Seekers wanting to know more about Bible Truths

THEME: Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about the future? Or what heaven might be like? Or what happens to people when they die? And what about living in the here and now; does the Bible have any guidelines on how to manage your time, money and health? These, and many more questions, are answered in these fifteen study guides covering some of the great truths of the Bible.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	He's Coming Back	
2	When He Comes	
3	Your First Thousand Years with Jesus	
4	God's New Earth For You	
5	Where Are You After You Die?	
6	Destruction of the Wicked?	
7	Only One Way to Heaven	
8	Baptism: Is It Necessary	
9	Your Lord will be your Lawyer	
10	Directions for Living	
11	Lord of Your Time	
12	Why do so Many Worship on Sunday?	
13	Lord of Your Things	
14	Lord of Your Body	
15	He'll guide you to His Church	

REFERENCES:

1. Stay Alive lessons available at Australian Union Conference – Resource Centre. Contact: AUC Office, Ringwood, Victoria.
2. Download PDFs of the Stay Alive lessons at -- <http://www.papsda.co.nz/biblestudy.html> or at www.gatewaysgda.org > Resources > Care Group Resources
3. Chinese Lessons available from Gateway Adventist Centre. Email: info@gatewaysgda.org

LIFE AFTER DEATH SERIES

TARGET: Suitable for seekers who already have a basic understanding on Bible truth. Also useful for believers who would like to learn how to explain certain distinctive Adventist doctrines to others. Only run this series if you have regular seekers in your CG.

THEME: A series of 8 studies based on the Life after Death seminar held by Pr Geoff Youlden, Australian Union Conference Evangelist. A thorough and convincing presentation on many of the Adventist pillars of truth.

NO/DATE	TITLE / TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Life after death -Second coming/ Resurrection/ Heaven	
2	How to find your way to happiness -Plan of salvation: justification & sanctification	
3	The unfolding of book of Revelation -The Three angels messages	
4	The forgotten secret: the answer to Stress -Sabbath	
5	The AntiChrist, who is He? -Daniel 7	
6	Why are there so many denomination -Reformation history and role of SDA church	
7	Ways to avoid diseases -Health principles in the Bible	
8	Is baptism really that important? Biblical teaching on baptism.	

REFERENCES:

1. Life after Life Seminar series DVD available from Pr Geoff Youlden or Steps to Life (www.steps.org.au)
2. Amazing Facts study series
3. Studying Together- Mark Finley

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL

TARGETS: Preferable to seekers who have basic understanding of Christianity, and have gone through 'The Life of Daniel'. It is the key to understand prophecy in Revelation for believers.

THEME: This study shows how God has accurately foretold world history as well as revealed things to come. This sets the stage of understanding to the prophecy in Revelation.

NO/DATE	BIBLE REFERENCE & TITLE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Introduction to the book of Daniel	
2	Daniel Chapter 2 The great image in Nebuchanezzar's dream	
3	Daniel Chapter 7 The vision of 4 beasts & the judgement scene	
4	Daniel Chapter 7:24-25, Rev 13 The parallel of little horn and the beast in Rev	
5	Daniel Chapter 8, Chapter 9:1-20 The vision of the ram and goat & The prayer of Daniel	
6	Daniel 8:14-17,26-27, Chapter 9:21-27 The 70 weeks in 2300 days prophecy	
7	Daniel Chapter 10 & Chapter 11 The great controversy The kings of the North and South	
8	Daniel Chapter 12 Conclusion of the book of Daniel	

REFERENCE:

1. "God Cares", Vol 1 by Meryvn Maxwell
2. Peter Gregory MP3 series on "Studies on the book of Daniel". (www.ionabible.org)
3. Excellent Resource is 'Mystery of Daniel Unsealed' by Pr Mark Finley. Study Guides are available for your group from Hart Research Resources

FROM EXODUS TO ADVENT

TARGETS: Preferable to seekers who are second generation SDA; that needs to make a decision to consecrate their lives and have a clear identity why we are SDA Christians.

THEME: **PP 407.1** – “The wilderness wandering....was to serve as a discipline for the rising generation, preparing for entrance into the Promised land...”

NO/DATE	TOPIC & BIBLE REFERENCES	PP REF	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Introduction/ Moses Exodus 1 - 4:17 ; 1 Cor 10:1 - 13 ; Num 12:3 ; Deut 34:10-12	Moses PP 293.1	
2	Deliverance at midnight Exodus 6:1-13; Exodus 11:-12	The Passover	
3	Crossing the Red sea Exodus 14, 5:22 - 27; 1 Cor 10:1-2	Exodus	
4	Melted Manna Exodus 16; John 6:48-51; Manna in NT	From the Red Sea to Sinai	
5	Law and gospel in Sinai Exodus 19 - 20	The Law given to Israel	
6	Worship of Golden Calf Exodus 31:18 - 34:9	Idolatry at Sinai	
7	Wandering in the wilderness for 40 yrs Numbers 13-14	The 12 Spies	
8	Challenging the leader(s) – Miriam & Korah Numbers 12, 16 - 17	Fr Sinai to Kadesh (B) The rebellion of Korah	
9	Striking the Rock Numbers 20	The Smitten Rock	
10	Apostasy to the Jordan Numbers 25	Apostasy to the Jordan	
11	Crossing the Jordan - Joshua 3 The fall of Jericho - Joshua 6	Crossing the Jordan The Fall of Jericho	
12	Death of Moses Deut 32:45-52; Deut 34; Heb 11:23-30; Rev 15:2-4	The death of Moses The Song of Moses and the Lamb by M. Venden	

Remarks: Parallel between Exodus and Advent Movement

EXODUS	ADVENT MOVEMENT
Entered Egypt pure, yet came out semi-pagan	From apostolic church went into Dark ages Reformation movement
Delivered to serve God and keep His commandment	Modern Israelites out of spiritual Babylon
Judgement for Egyptians - 10 plagues Israelites not hurt	7 plagues in Revelation, God's people protected from them
Deliverance at midnight	Christ will return at midnight
Moses died prior to the entering of Canaan	EG White died before Christ's return
Crossing the Red sea	Biblical baptism
Marah - place of bitterness	Great disappointment
Mt. Sinai - 10 commandments	Sabbath truth recovered
Health laws	Health reform
Building of the sanctuary	Sanctuary message
Triumph at the end	Sing Song of Moses
Repeated rebellion against God/ Self reliance	
Delay and wandered in wilderness for 40 yrs	Second coming delayed due to lack of faith 1888 message
Korash challenged Moses leadership	Church leadership challenged
Apostasy at Jordan	Shaking and revival
God stayed with His people all the way	God will be with His people till the end

CONVERSION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH SERIES

TARGET: Simple study that can appeal to seekers (when kept simple) as well as appeal to luke-warm second generation SDA.

THEME: Christianity in Action (Faith and Works). James is a closer in style to the Book of Proverbs than it is to the any NT book. James focus is not on doctrine, but on how the Christian faith is to be lived on a day to day basis. Although Jesus is seldom referred to or quoted, his teaching on the sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) underlies much of this letter.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	RESOURCE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Purpose of God in Creation of Man	PG C & R Tape 1	
2	Hope of Glory	PG C & R Tape 2	
3	What is Righteousness	PG C & R Tape 3	
4	Fall of Man	PG C & R Tape 4	
5	The Mind of Man	PG C & R Tape 5	
6	The Plan of Salvation	PG C & R Tape 6	
7	Invitation and Repentance	PG C & R Tape 9	
8	Justification by Faith	PG C & R Tape 12	
9	Victory over sin	PG C & R Tape 19	

RESOURCES:

1. Conversion and Righteousness by Faith by Peter Gregory. Available at www.ionabible.org

THE BRANCH AND THE VINE

TARGET: Mainly for groups with long-term seekers who had been exposed to basics of Christianity.

THEME: This series of study describe just how to abide in Christ and thereby find the peace and comfort that is so blessedly found in the Bible, but may be missing in a person's searching heart. It is based on Jesus teaching found John 15 and it is one of the final teachings of Jesus before His death at Calvary.

NO/DATE	TOPIC	RESOURCE	DISCUSSION LEADER
1	Abiding and Dependency Understand nature of abiding and total dependence on Jesus	Lecture #1 on MP3	
2	Abiding and Fruits Understand the purpose of abiding is to bear fruits and the desire to do so.	Lecture #1 on MP3	
3	Abiding and Life Purpose God purpose is for us to live a life attached to Him and be a witness in our lives to the world.	Lecture #2 on MP3	
4	Abiding and Pruning We are prune by the word; and the challenge is application of the word in our lives.	Lecture #2 on MP3	
5	Abiding and Daily Living Challenging the students to spend morning devotion with the Lord and just be with Him; abide with Him.	Lecture #3 on MP3	
6	Abiding and Other Branches We cannot rely on circumstances or others to bear the fruits. We need to experience God directly in our own lives. We are not to look at others.	Lecture #4 on MP3	
7	Abiding "As I" We can only abide as we see how Jesus does it. He was a branch when the Father was the Vine; when He was on earth. How did he do it? To live a godly and connected life?	Lecture #4 on MP3	
8	Abiding and Unlimited Joy The fruit of abiding is unlimited joy for the Father, Jesus and us. What is this unlimited joy? Do we long for it?	Lecture #5 on MP3	
9	Abiding and "Reflecting" What does it mean to be called to reflect the love of God to the world. In this study we look at the why this is imperative for the Christian life.	Lecture #6 on MP3	
10	Abiding and Harvest God is waiting and longing for the fruit to be ripen before Jesus comes with the 'sickle' for the 'harvest'. This lesson is to share the importance of our daily 'will' to be surrendered to God		

RESOURCES:

1. Listen to the MP3 by Pr Frank Philips at – www.justifiedwalk.com – look for series called 'The Branch and The Vine'.
2. Download lessons from www.gatewaysda.org > resource > Care Group Resources (Teacher's guide and student lessons).

APPENDIX A – ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

Sample Questions for sharing (reference – “Leading Life Changing Small Groups” by Donahue):

Awareness of God (right relationship to God):

1. What impresses you most about Jesus?
2. What event in the life of Christ means the most to you?
3. In what ways does the creation inspire you?
4. When did God become real to you?
5. Who helped you mist in your understanding of God?
6. When you were a child, what impressed you most about God?
7. Of all the things you know about the nature or character of God, what means most to you personally?
8. When do you feel closest to God?
9. What one question above all others do you want God to answer?
10. If God is real to you, what gives you that certainty?
11. What do you most want God to do for you?
12. What does ‘faith’ mean to you personally?
13. When has God seemed furthest away from you?
14. What do you find hardest to believe about God?
15. ‘God is love’ – what does that mean to you personally?
16. Of all the teachings of Jesus, what has come to be the most significant in your life?
17. How do you endeavour to show your gratitude to God?
18. What word best describes God to you?
19. At what time in your life was God most real to you?
20. What is the most vivid experience of prayer you have had?
21. What certainty fo you have that you matter to God?
22. In what way does your relationship to God make your way of facing life any different?

Inter-personal (right relationship with others):

1. Describe the person who has meant most in your life other than a parent or child. What is that person’s outstanding characteristic?
2. Who was the first person you felt really understood you? What did they do? What were they like? What was their effect on you?
3. Are you the kind of person others confide in? Why?
4. What kind of person do you confide in?
5. What makes a person a good listener?
6. What kind of listener do you think you have been in this group?
7. How do you feel this group have listened to you, both corporately and separately?
8. What makes a ‘good’ marriage?

Self-awareness (right relationship to self):

1. Draw your own crest or coat-of-arms as you wish it were (which describes you) ... and explain it to the group.
2. What would you do if you knew you could not fail?
3. What would you most like to do or be for the next 5 years, if there were no limitations (of family, money, education, health, etc.)?
4. Who is the most authentic person you have met? Describe them.
5. What is your most satisfying accomplishment – ever? Before you were 6? Between the ages of 6 and 12? 12 and 18? 18 and 25? Over 25?
6. Tell your strongest points. Tell your three weakest points.
7. What is your happiest memory at various ages?
8. Describe the most significant event in your life.
9. Describe the characteristics of your ‘ideal’ spouse
10. What person besides your parents has been most influential in your life.
11. What present would most like to receive?
12. List what your personal freedom depends upon.
13. What approval do you need the most?
14. In whose presence are you most uncomfortable? Why?

15. If you had what you really wanted in life, what would you have?
16. Describes the most excitingly creative person you have known.
17. Write your own obituary.
18. List some creative ways to begin and to end a day.
19. List your long range goals; or short range goals
20. What do you most day dream about?
21. Who do you most trust in?
22. Who has most changed your life?
23. Where would you live if you could, and what would you do there?
24. Tell who you are, apart from your titles, honours or your job description
25. What is the best book (apart from the Bible) you have ever read?
26. What kind of social gathering or party do you like best?
27. Describe your favourite way of spending leisure time.
28. What feelings do you have trouble expressing or controlling?
29. What makes you feel depressed or 'blue'?
30. What kind of things makes you irritated ... or furious?
31. What makes you anxious, worried or afraid?
32. What gives you self-respect?

Responsibility to humankind (right relationship to the world):

1. What would you most like to do to be remembered in history?
2. What is your ideal for the future of society (both immediate and long-range)?
3. Describe your convictions about 'equality'
4. How could you help to change an injustice of which you are aware?
5. What is the greatest current need in your community?
6. If you were willing, what could you do to change your church, your home, your neighbourhood, your school, or your job?
7. What disturbs you most about misuse of the physical resources in our world?
8. How do you personally react to the underfed and underprivileged in your country and in other areas of the world?
9. If you had limitless resources, how would you use them to benefit others?

General (for use in groups or individual reflection):

1. List the things that make you or keep your life complicated
2. List the things that you do to keep your life simple.
3. List the things that you could do to make your life more simple.
4. What do you find to be the worst pressures and strains in your work?
5. What do you find most boring and unenjoyable about your work?
6. What do you enjoy most in your work?
7. What shortcomings handicap you in your work?
8. What are your special qualifications for your work?
9. How do you feel your work is appreciated by others?
10. What are your ambitions and goals in your work?
11. How do you feel about the salary or reward you get for your work?
12. How do you feel about the people you work with?
13. How do you feel about the choice of career you have made?
14. How do you feel about the way you handle money?

Additional Items for Young People:

1. The 3 things I do best at school are ...
2. The longest trip I ever took was to ...
3. I have these hobbies or things I like to do ...
4. My pet is ...
5. One of the best books I ever read was ...
6. My favourite radio or television programme is ...
7. If I could spend one day as I please, I would do these things ...
8. The three things that I want more than anything else are ...
9. The three loveliest things I know are ...

10. Three kinds of work I would like to do ...
11. The things I wonder about most is ...
12. I think my best quality is ...
13. Probably the worst fault is ...
14. The three grown-ups I like best, next to my mother and father, are ...
15. What I like best about church is ...
16. The things I do not like about my church are ...
17. The things that are different which I wish we could do at church are ...
18. I think the Bible is ...
19. One or two words which best describe God to me are ...
20. One scar or injury I received when I was young was ... and how it came about is ...

APPENDIX B – STUDY REFERENCES

STUDY SERIES : LEARNING TO LOVE

I. LOVING GOD

- 1 Jn 4:19 What is man naturally looking for? Why are we looking for love? Or to be loved? We love because God first love us.
- Jn 15:15 What does God call us? God call us as friends and love us as a friend.
- 1 Jn 3:16 What is the greatest expression of love? When you visit a war memorial what does it represent? i.e. to lay down your own live for another
- Jn 15:13 There is no greater love than ...
- Rm 5:8 It is worth to die for someone that is proven worthy. What about when we are not worth i.e. a sinner? What did God do?
- 1 Jn 4:8 What is the Bible definition of love?
- 1 Jn 5:3 In our expression of love to God what is something tangible we do because He first love us?
- Deut 10:12, 13 What is the great commandment that Jesus quoted in the Old Testament?
- Jn14:15 Which comes first? Keeping or Love? Keeping commandment indicates ...
- 1 Jn 2:5 What is the evidence of our love towards God? To keep His word = perfecting love in us.
- 1 Jn 4:17, 18 Love is not fear? Why do some fear God and not love Him?
- Ps 40:8 It should be a delight ... when we delight to do something? What does that mean practically?
- Rm 8:28 How can all things work together for God? What is the ingredients required?
- Rm 8:35, 38-39 Can God's love be separated, taken away from us?
- Read Jeremiah 31:3 – do you want to response to God's loving kindness and continue to study the Bible and learn more about this loving God?

Appeal

II. LOVING OURSELVES

- Mt 22:38, 39 Recap from last week – Where do we get true, pure, genuine love from? Loving our neighbour assume one thing? What was Jesus' assumption when He said this? ... that we know how to love ourselves
- Mt 7:12 What is the 'golden rule'? Why is this important? Do you know of anyone recently that demonstrated this – at school, university or work place or home?
- Gen 1:26, 27 If we are created in God's image – what does that mean to you, with respect to 'love'?
- Gen 5:3 Adam's son was in his own likeness, after his image ... what does that imply?
- Ps 8:3-5 According to the Bible what was man's position with respect to other created beings?
- 1 Jn 3:1 Although, we are lower than the angel does it mean we are not loved by God? How does God treat us? What is it like to belong to the King of Kings?
- 1 Pet 1:18, 19 How do we become children of the King of Kings, God?
- Isa 6:5 If we are without God, how would we feel? Compare this to how Isaiah felt in the presence of the King, Lord of the hosts?

Jn 15:4-6	We need to abide to have this unconditional love. How do we 'abide'?
1 Cor 6:19, 20	We are bought with a price ... we can learn to love ourselves because we are precious in the eyes of God.
Appeal	Perhaps you have not seen yourself as a child of God ... do you choose to have God as your loving Father and begin a journey of spiritual growth?

III. LOVING FAMILY

Gen 2:18, 21-23	According to the Bible, who created the first family? Why did God make the first family unit? What was His reason?
Gen 2:24	What does this verse mean from the context of a 'family' unit? When is a new family unit formed?
Gen 3:12, 13	After sin entered the world – what happened to the loving relationship between Eve and Adam; and mankind and God?
Gen 4:3, 4	Adam and Eve's sons gave offerings to God. In Genesis 4 we learn the two attitudes contending for supremacy in the home. What are these two attitudes?
1 Cor 13:4, 5	Without God, in sin we cannot have a happy home. The Bible in the famous 'love chapter' outlines the basis for relationship and family. In your own words paraphrase these verses.
Mt 11:28, 29	Why is having rest in Jesus important? Do family need rest in Jesus?
Eph 5:25	To love in the family ... we need to learn to love in what manner? If we can learn to love ourselves ... how will it reflect in how we love others?
1 Jn 3:16	What is true love in the family? Is self-sacrificing love demonstrated in you? Is it demonstrated in your parents and in your siblings? How can we cultivate this sort of self-sacrificing love?
Appeal	Read Hebrews 12:1 – do you want to look to Jesus to learn this self-sacrificing character and renew the love in your family?

IV. LOVING ONE ANOTHER

John 17:15	Jesus did not pray to take the disciples out of this world – why?
John 17:20-21	Jesus wanted the disciples to be one with Him as He is with the Father. In this way what would the response of the 'world'? Can the people around us 'believe' if we are not loving one another?
John 13:34 John 15:12, 17 Rom 13:8	What is the common theme of these verses? What does that mean in practical terms?
1 Peter 2:22	How are we to 'love one another'? What should our attitude be?
1 John 4:7, 11,12	Why is this important? For the world to believe, for us to witness we need a pure heart. How do we have this?
Luke 9:23 Gal 2:20	Reading this two verses, what is Jesus example to us?
Phil 2:5-8	What character of Jesus do you observe in this verse? Do we need this characteristic to love

others?

2 John 1:5-6

Another important pre-requisite to 'love one another' is found in this verse. Why is this important?

1 Cor 12:12,25-27
Appeal

God would have us grow up in the body of Christ. How can we care for each other more in this CARE group? Share an idea with the group.

V. LOVING ENEMY

Mt 5:43-47

How does Jesus want us to treat our enemies? Is this possible?

1 Jn 3:4
Rm 3:23

Read these two verses. What do we need to recognize to make it possible for us to love our enemies?

1 Jn 4:20

Can we say we truly love God if we hate others? Why is this not possible? Can we push the grudge, bad feelings and suppress anger in the back of our mind?

1 Pet 3:8-12

How can we love our enemies? How can we not lose our control?

Mt 7:3-5

If we say we are followers of Jesus and cannot love others – what does the Bible describe us to be?

Ja 1:19-22

A practical step to loving your enemy is presented in the counsel given by James. Share your experience on how you implemented this practical counsel.

Phil 4:8, 13

It all starts with our own thinking ... if we think positively, how will it impact us?

Lk 17:3, 4

How do you feel when you let go and forgive someone?

Mt 18:21-35

If we expect God to forgive us all as sinners, what does he expect of us?

Appeal

Read 1 John 1:9 – Is there any person in your life today that you need to forgive? Is there something you said or thought or did that you would want to bring to Jesus today for His forgiveness?

STUDY SERIES : TO KNOW GOD

I. THE STORY OF CREATION

Gen 1:1
Gen 1:2
Ps 33:6, 9
Isa 45:18
Gen 2:7
Gen 2:8
Gen 2:9
Gen 2:15
Gen 2:16, 17
Gen 2:18
Gen 2:1-3
Ps 16:11

II. ORIGIN OF EVIL AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Gen 3:1-6, 9-24
Rev 12:9
Rev 12:7
Eze 28:12-17
Isa 14:12-14
Gen 3:1
Rm 6:23
Gen 3:16-24

III. A NEW HOPE REVEALED

Rm 6:23
Rm 5:12
Isa 59:1, 2
Gen 3:15
Gal 4:4, 5
1 Cor 15:25, 26
Rm 5:15, 17-19
Heb 2:14
1 Cor 15:55, 56
Col 1:27

IV. JESUS, WHO IS HE?

Isa 9:6
Jn 8:58
Mt 1:21
Heb 4:14, 15
2 Cor 5:21
Rm 5:7, 8
Jn 1:29
1 Cor 15:17, 18
Rev 1:18
Acts 1:9
Jn 14:1-3
Heb 2:17
Heb 4:14
Jn 14:3
Jn 14:6

V. DO I REALLY NEED JESUS?

Ps 51:5
Ps 58:3
Jer 17:9
Eph 4:18
Rm 8:7
Jer 13:23
Jn 3:3
1 Cor 2:14
Rm 7:12, 14,15,18,24
Acts 4:10, 12
Jn 1:29
Eph 2:12, 13
Col 1:19, 20
Rm 6:23
Jn 3:16
2 Cor 5:1

VI. HOW TO COME TO JESUS?

Acts 2:37, 38
Lu 5:8
Jn 12:32
Acts 5:31
Rm 2:4
2 Cor 7:9
Pr 28:13
Eze 33:15
Ps 33:1, 2
Ps 51:1-14, 17
Pr 28:13
Ps 32:5
Ja 5:16
Acts 3:19
1 Jn 1:9

VII. A NEW BIRTH

Acts 26:9-18
Jn 5:24
Jn 3:3-6
Gal 5:19-23
Jn 3:8
Eze 36:26
Rm 12:2
Rm 8:5
Heb 8:10
1 Jn 3:14
Jn 5:30, 19
2 Tim 3:15, 16
Rev 3:20

VIII. GROWING UP IN CHRIST

1 Pet 2:2
Jn 17:17
Jn 6:35
Jn 4:14
Ps 84:11
Mt 11:28-30
2 Pet 1:4
1 Cor 3:9
Rev 3:19
Rm 5:1-5
Jn 17:20
Phil 2:13
Col 2:6

IX. FAITH OF JESUS

Rev 14:9-11
Rev 14:12
Heb 11:1
Heb 11:5, 6
Gen 5:22-24
Acts 16:31
Jn 4:42
Rm 10:17
Jn 4:42
Mt 17:20
Heb 3:18
Heb 4:3
1 Cor 13:2
Ja 2:14-26
Ps 125:1
Jn 14:9-11
Jn 5:19, 30
Jn 8:29

X. KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Rev 14:12
Rm 7:12
Deut 4:10-13
Mt 22:37, 40
Rm 7:1-3
Rm 6:15-18
Rm 3:20
Gal 3:24
Rm 7:9
Rm 6:1-4
Ja 2:10
Jn 15:10
Eccl 12:13, 14
Mt 18:21, 22
Lk 17:3-5
Lk 7:40-43
Jn 14:15
Rev 14:12
Heb 8:10
1 Jn 5:3

XI. LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER

Mt 7:7
Deut 13:14
Jer 29:11-13
Ps 78:23, 24
Mal 3:10
Mt 6:9-13
Mk 9:24
1 Pet 5:7
Ja 1:5
Ja 5:15
Mt 6:11
Ja 4:3
1 Thess 5:16-18
Eph 3:20
1 Chr 16:12
Mk 1:35
Lk 5:15, 16
Lk 6:12

STUDY SERIES : SALVATION THROUGH THE ARK (STORY OF NOAH)

Lesson 1. WHO IS NOAH?

1. What is the Genealogy of Noah? 1 Chron 1:4, Gen 6:10, Gen 5:29
2. What was the age of Noah at key points of the story? Gen 5:32, 7:6, 9:28-29
3. Why was Noah chosen to bring a message of judgment? What was his character like?
 - a, Just – live by faith Gen 6:8-10 (Rom 1:17, Gen 6:5, Gen 5:22, Amos 3:3)
 - b, Obedience Gen 6:22, 7:5
 - c, Righteous Gen 7:1, Eze 14:14, Heb 11:7
 - d, God's messenger 2 Pet 2: 5
4. What is Righteousness?
1 Jn 3:7, Ps 119:172, 1 Jn 5:17, 1 Jn 3:4

If unrighteousness=sin, sin=breaking God's law,
and unrighteousness=breaking God's law
→ Righteousness = obeying God's law
5. How do we become righteous?
Ps 119:151, Jn 14:6 Righteousness = commandment = truth = Jesus
Jn 17:17, Jn 1:1 Righteousness = truth = Word = Jesus
Ps 119:130, Jn 8:12 Righteousness = Word = light = Jesus
Jer 23:6 → Jesus our Righteousness
6. What is "Righteousness by faith"?
1Jn 3:24
Eph 3:17, 2:8-10

Matt24: 37-39
God's end time people will have the same characters and experience as Noah.

Reference:

- Patriarchs and Prophets Ch 7 The Flood
- "Conversion and Righteousness by faith" cassette # 3 "What is righteousness" by Peter Gregory

Lesson 2. STATE OF MAN (Key Text: Gen 6:5)

Gen 1:26, 27
Gen 1:31
Gen 3:6
Gen 3:11-13
Gen 4:5
Gen 4:8
Gen 4:19
Gen 4:23
Gen 6:2
Gen 6:5,11
Mat 24:38, 39
2 Tim 3:1-5

Reference:

- Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch 7. **The Flood**
- Sabbath School Lesson "**The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant**" (1st Quarter 2003). Lesson 3. **All Future Generations** ([http:// ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/](http://ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/)).

Lesson 3. PROPHECY ABOUT THE FLOOD (Key Text: Gen 6:3)

Gen 6:13
Gen 6:17
Gen 5:21
Gen 5:25
Gen 5:28
Gen 6:6
Gen 5:27
Gen 7:7-9
Gen 7:10,11
Mat 24:37-39
2 Pet 3:3-7
2 Pet 3:9-13

Reference:

- Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch 7. **The Flood**
- The meaning of Methuselah: 1. Math = man; Sheh'-lakh = weapon, missile. (man of the dart); 2. Muth = death; Shalach = to bring or send forth (his death shall bring).

Lesson 4. CALL FOR SALVATION 1 (Key Text: Gen 6:18)

Gen 6:6
Mi 7:18
Gen 6:14-16
Gen 6:18
John 3:16
John 14:6
Acts 4:12
2 Pet 3:9

Reference:

- Sabbath School Lesson "**The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant**" (1st Quarter 2003). Lesson 3. **All Future Generations** ([http:// ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/](http://ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/)).
- 1 cubit ~ 45 cm, so the size of the ark is approximately 135m x 22.5m x 13.5m

Lesson 5. CALL FOR SALVATION 2 (Key Text: Gen 7:23)

Gen 6:9
Gen 6:8
Eph 2:8,9
Heb 11:7
Heb 11:1
Heb 12:2
Rev 12:17
Rev 14:12
Ja 2:17, 19-20

Reference:

- Sabbath School Lesson "**The Promise: God's Everlasting Covenant**" (1st Quarter 2003). Lesson 3. **All Future Generations** ([http:// ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/](http://ssnet.org/qtrly/eng/03a/)).

Lesson 6. RESTORATION (Key Text: Gen 9:12-17)

Gen 8:1; cf. 1:2
Gen 8:11; cf. 1:12
Gen 8:17; cf. 1:25, 28
Gen 8: 22; cf. 1:14-18

Gen 7:6-10, 14-16; cf. 2:18-20

Gen 9:1-3; cf. 1:28-30

Gen 9:12-17

Eze 1:28

Rev 4:2,3

Rev 21:1,4,5

Rev 22:3-5

Reference:

- Sabbath School Lesson “**The Promise: God’s Everlasting Covenant**” (1st Quarter 2003). Lesson 3. **All Future Generations** ([http:// ssnet.org/qrtrly/eng/03a/](http://ssnet.org/qrtrly/eng/03a/)).
- Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch 8. **After the Flood**

STUDY SERIES : THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

USEFUL QUOTATIONS

4T.543.003

If you ever achieve success in the Christian life you must resolve that you will be men after God's own heart. The Lord wants your influence to be exerted in the church and in the world to elevate the standard of Christianity. True Christian character should be marked by firmness of purpose, an indomitable determination, which cannot be molded or subdued by earth or hell. He who is not blind to the attraction of worldly honors, indifferent to threats, and unmoved by allurements will be, all unexpectedly to himself, overthrown by Satan's devices.

4T.544.001

God calls for complete and entire consecration, and anything short of this He will not accept. The more difficult your position the more you need Jesus. The love and fear of God kept Joseph pure and untarnished in the king's court. He was exalted to great wealth, to the high honor of being next to the king; and this elevation was as sudden as it was great. It is impossible to stand upon a lofty height without danger. The tempest leaves unharmed the modest flower of the valley, while it wrestles with the lofty tree upon the mountaintop. There are many men whom God could have used with wonderful success when pressed with poverty,-- He could have made them useful here, and crowned them with glory hereafter,-- but prosperity ruined them; they were dragged down to the pit because they forgot to be humble, forgot that God was their strength, and became independent and self-sufficient.

4T.544.002

Joseph bore the test of character in adversity, and the gold was undimmed by prosperity. He showed the same sacred regard for God's will when he stood next the throne as when in a prisoner's cell. Joseph carried his religion everywhere, and this was the secret of his unwavering fidelity. As representative men you must have the all-pervading power of true godliness. I tell you, in the fear of God, your path is beset by dangers which you do not see and do not realize. You must hide in Jesus. You are unsafe unless you hold the hand of Christ. You must guard against everything like presumption and cherish that spirit that would suffer rather than sin. No victory you can gain will be so precious as that gained over self.

5T.321.001

There is earnest work to be done in this age, and parents should educate their children to share in it. The words of Mordecai to Esther may apply to the men and youth of today: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Young men should be gaining solidity of character, that they may be fitted for usefulness. Daniel and Joseph were youth of firm principle, whom God could use to carry out His purposes. Mark their history, and see how God wrought for them. Joseph met with a variety of experiences, experiences that tested his courage and uprightness to the fullest extent. After being sold into Egypt he was at first favored and entrusted with great responsibilities; but suddenly, without any fault on his part, he was unjustly accused and cast into prison. But he is not discouraged. He trusts in God; and the purpose of his heart, the purity of his motive, is made manifest. The eye of God is upon him, a divine hand leads him, and soon we see him come forth from prison to share the throne of Egypt.

5T.321.002

Joseph's checkered life was not an accident; it was ordered of Providence. But how was he enabled to make such a record of firmness of character, uprightness, and wisdom? It was the result of careful training in his early years. He had consulted duty rather than inclination; and the purity and simple trust of the boy bore fruit in the deeds of the man. The most brilliant talents are of no value unless they are improved; industrious habits and force of character must be gained by cultivation. A high moral character and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them. The openings of Providence must be quickly discerned and eagerly seized upon.

5T.321.003

Young men, if you would be strong, if you would have the integrity and wisdom of a Joseph or a Daniel, study the Scriptures. Parents, if you would educate your children to serve God and do good in the world, make the Bible your textbook. It exposes the wiles of Satan. It is the great elevator of the race, the reprover and corrector of moral evils, the detector which enables us to distinguish between the true and the false. Whatever else is taught in the home or at school, the Bible, as the great educator, should stand first. If it is given this place, God is honored, and He will work for you in the conversion of your children. There is a rich mine of truth and beauty in this Holy Book, and parents have themselves to blame if they do not make it intensely interesting to their children.

CT.496.003

While cultivating the mind the student should also cultivate uprightness of heart and loyalty to God, that he may develop a character like that of Joseph. Then he will scorn the thought of yielding to temptation, fearing to sully his purity. Like Daniel, he will resolve to be true to principle and to make the very best use of the powers with which God has endowed him.

CT.537.001

A good character must be built up brick by brick. Those characteristics which will enable the youth to labor successfully in God's cause must be obtained by the diligent exercise of their faculties, by improving every advantage Providence gives them, and by connecting with the Source of all wisdom. They must be satisfied with no low standard. The characters of Joseph and Daniel are good models for them to follow; and in the life of the Saviour they have a perfect pattern.

CT.537.002

All are given an opportunity to develop character. All may fill their appointed places in God's great plan. The Lord accepted Samuel from his very childhood, because his heart was pure. He was given to God, a consecrated offering, and the Lord made him a channel of light. If the youth of today will consecrate themselves as did Samuel, the Lord will accept them and use them in His work. Of their life they may be able to say with the psalmist, "O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works." Psalm 71:17.

GW.477.001

Study the history of Joseph and of Daniel. The Lord did not prevent the plottings of men who sought to do them harm; but He caused all these devices to work for good to His servants, who amid trial and conflict preserved their faith and loyalty.

GW.477.002

So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory.

51- Joseph is the type of Jesus Christ:

There have been described up to 130 similarities: Among them:

- Both were the favorite son of a wealthy father: Gen. 37:3, Matt. 3:17
- Both were rejected and hated by their brothers;
- Both were sold for the price of a slave: Gen. 37:28, Matt. 26:15
- Their brothers conspired to kill both of them; Joseph eventually was not killed, Jesus was;
- Joseph reconciled with his brothers, and soon he raised them to honors, Jesus did the same, he died for our redemption;
- Joseph fed with bread all the people in the 7 years of shortage, Jesus is the "bread of life" of Jn.6:48-58;
- Joseph was the Savior of his people and of the gentiles, Jesus, the Savior of all mankind, in an eternal dimension;
- Both loved those who hated them, pardoning them, and even raising them to honors: Gen.50:20, Matt. 5:44
- Both were shepherds: Gen. 37:2, John 10:11-14
- Both were taken into Egypt to avoid being killed: Gen. 37:28, Matt. 2:13
- Both began their ministry at the age of thirty: Gen. 41:46, Luke 3:23
- Both were filled with the Spirit of God: Gen. 41:38, Luke 4:1
- Both were humble and unspoiled by wealth: Gen. 45:7-8, John 13:12
- Both loved people freely: Gen. 45:15, John 13:34
- Both gained the confidence of others quickly: Gen. 39:3, Matt. 8:8
- Both gave bread to hungry people that came to them: Gen. 41:57
- Both resisted the most difficult temptations: Gen. 39:8-9, Heb. 4:15.
- Both were given vision into the future: Gen. 37:6, Matt. 24:3.
- Both were hated for their teachings: Gen. 37:8, John 7:7

- Both were falsely accused: Gen. 39:14, Mark 14:56
- Both were silent before their accuser: Gen. 39:20, Mark 15:4
- Both were condemned between two prisoners: Gen. 40:2-3, Luke 23:32
- Both were not recognized by their own brethren: Gen. 42:8, Luke 24:37.
- Both became a servant: Gen. 39:4, Phil. 2:7
- Both became a lord / Lord: Gen. 45:8, Rev. 19:16.

STUDY SERIES: THE BOOK OF JAMES

Author:

Traditionally it was assumed that the James who wrote this epistle was the brother of Jesus (Mk 6:3), and the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; Gal 1:19)

Theme:

Practical Christianity – Christianity in Action

Characteristics:

James is a closer in style to the Book of Proverbs than it is to any NT books. James' focus is not on doctrine, but on how the Christian faith is to be lived on a day-to-day basis. Although Jesus is seldom referred to or quoted, his teaching on the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) underlies much of this letter.

Teaching Tool (Reference: Serendipity Bible):

- Read the entire passage in one reading without commentary to allow the participants to appreciate the Bible as it is
- OPEN – these are icebreaker questions to 'warm up' ... you need not ask all these questions
- DIG – these are questions to deepen understanding of the passage. Please do your own observations BEFORE reading or using these questions. By making your own observations and insights you can then structure your own questions to allow people to learn the principles of the passage.
- REFLECT – this will allow you to focus on 'applying' the words into real life, practical and achievable applications for the coming week. Ask the participants to apply the principle to something they will do this coming week.
- Teachers please note ... we must point our students back to Jesus in each lesson. James maybe about 'doing' but it must come from a transformed heart before it is placed in action. Please bring this up each lesson !

Lesson 1 – Trials and Temptations (James 1:1-18)

OPEN:

1. Are you more likely to write a letter / email or call?
2. When the mail arrives what do you open and read first?
3. As you look back on the "good ol' days" in your life, were they more likely to be the hard times or the easy times?

DIG:

1. What three themes are introduced here? How are they related to each other?
2. Does James view hardship as an idealist or realist? Why?
3. What wisdom is needed in those times? In receiving wisdom, is doubt ever to be expressed? Why (not)? How so?
4. Who are these poor and rich? What's there to take pride in? What is "low" about a rich person's position?
5. What is the practical difference between trials and temptations? How would you illustrate the process in verses 14-15? How is this related to the gifts from God (vv.16-18)?

REFLECT:

1. Concerning a trial you have experienced, what pressures did it bring on your faith? What wisdom did you gain through it?
2. With so much wealth in society, what do vv.9-11 mean to you? What then should you 'take pride in'?
3. What are the warning signs that you are being enticed by our evil desires? What helps you break the pull of the 'evil desires'?
4. What is a 'good and perfect gift' for which you can be thankful?

Lesson 2 – Listening and Doing (James 1:19-27)

OPEN:

1. Which best describes your temper: Short fuse, big bomb? Long fuse, little fizz?
2. For what things are you sure to check a mirror before leaving the house?

DIG:

1. What exactly is the 'righteous life that God desires' (vv.20,27)? How is it produced? What is its opposite?
2. What's the point of the mirror image? How is this point reflected in both worthless and pure religion (vv.26-27)?

REFLECT:

1. Think of one failed and one successful relationship you have. What would (or did) change if (when) vv.19-20 were applied with each regularly?
2. What from God's word here will you put into action this week?

Lesson 3 – Mercy and Judgment | Favouritism Forbidden (James 2:1-13)

OPEN:

1. For what event would you buy the 'best seats': World Cup? Olympic? Children's school event?
2. Contrast any two branches of your family tree in terms of what they've got and what they lack. Put yourself on a limb

DIG:

1. James is writing to an economically depressed community. Why would favouritism be a problem in this setting?
2. For what reason does James oppose favouritism (vv.4-13)?
3. What is the 'law' (vv.8-12 c.f. 1:25)? Its purpose? Its consequences?

REFLECT:

1. To you, who are people with 'gold rings': The rich? Powerful? Athletic? Mr Right?
2. Who are today's 'poor': Orphans? School dropouts? Poor English speakers? Single parents? What would change if the 'royal law' and 'God's favouritism' were applied to them?
3. How has favouritism in Christian circles affected you or others?

Lesson 4 – Faith and Deeds (James 2:14-26)

OPEN:

1. Are you a doer or a thinker? Are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting? Give an example.

DIG:

1. Pretend the scene in vv.15-17 happened in your church this Saturday. Role play how 'faith without works' differ from 'faith with works'. What is the underlying problem here? The solution?
2. How do Abraham (Gen 22) and Rahab (Josh 2) prove James' point?
3. How does Paul's argument in Rom 3:28 differ from James' point in 2:24? What kind of faith is each criticizing?

REFLECT:

1. If you were arrested for being a Christian, what evidence would be used to prove the point?
2. From 1:22-27 and 2:14-17, what further evidence do you want to provide this week?

Lesson 5 – Taming the Tongue (James 3:1-12)

OPEN:

1. What symptoms of "foot-in-mouth" disease have you recently demonstrated?
2. What is one of your best known "bloopers"?

DIG:

1. Why is a stricter judgment paced upon teachers?
2. Are they biased, hypocritical, over-educated, irrelevant or what? How does this rap on teachers relate to taming the tongue?
3. What do the three illustrations here (horse's bit, ship's rudder, fire's spark) each reveal about the tongue's power?
4. From the next set of illustrations (vv.11-12), how is it possible for human beings to both curse others and praise God?
5. What does this say about the tongue? About human nature? About hope for change?

REFLECT:

1. When do you feel like your tongue is 'set on fire by hell'?
2. What have you found helpful in controlling your tongue? In changing the source of its spring (v.11)?

Lesson 6 – True and False Wisdom (James 3:13-18)

OPEN:

1. What best describes you when working with a committee? A busy bee? A hibernating bear? A wise old owl? A prowling lion?

DIG:

1. How do these kinds of wisdom differ as to their source?
2. Their symptoms? Their results?

REFLECT:

1. How is 'earthly wisdom' hurting you?
2. In which area do you need heaven's wisdom? How will you cultivate that?

Lesson 7 – Friendship with God (James 4:1-12)

OPEN:

1. Over what and with whom did you quarrel most when you were a kid?
2. What purchase is highest on your 'wish list' now?

DIG:

1. From what does this strife (vv.1, 11) come: Persecution? Possessiveness? Private pleasures? Misguided prayer? Frustrated desires (see 1:14)?
2. How is James' ten-fold prescription (vv.7-10) an effective antidote? Why the switch to the imperative voice ("Do this, do that")?
3. How long does this cure fit the other themes in James?
4. What is meant by 'adulterous people' (v.4), 'friendship with this world' (v.4), and submission to God (vv.7-10)? Give examples.
5. What are some outward signs of this inner submission to God?
6. Is the law in verse 11 and 12 important? Why? Compare 2:8, 12.
7. How does grace (v.6) relate to the Ten Commandment law?

REFLECT:

1. What is your usual response when your desires are frustrated?
2. How is the 'world' trying to get you to be its 'friend' now? How is that related to your faithfulness to God?
3. How is James' cure (vv.7-10) applicable to you as you struggle with the world's seduction?

Lesson 8 – Investing in the Future (James 4:13-5:12)

OPEN:

1. Are you a long-range planner, or do you take one day at a time? Illustrate.
2. If you inherited a lot of money, how would you use the your first \$100,000?

DIG:

1. Regarding tomorrow, what's wrong with the type of planning here? Likewise with 'boasting'? With profit-making?
2. What might be going on behind the scenes with these wealthy people (4:13-14; 5:1-6)?
3. How are they violating the 'royal law' (2:8)?
4. What will happen to their wealth? What is the lesson in that?
5. Where should we lay up our treasures (Matthew 6:19-21)?

REFLECT:

1. Where is your treasure and where is your heart now?
2. How does James relate to your plans for the future?
3. Have you ever omitted God in your planning? How do you specifically involve Him?
4. What does James imply about using wealth or power?

Lesson 9 – Power of Prayer (James 5:13-20)

OPEN:

1. When have you and your community experienced the effects of lack of rain? Or too much rain?
2. As a child, what did you pray before going to sleep?

DIG:

1. Instead of seeking retaliation or vengeance, what are the poor to do? Why?
2. What lessons are provided by the farmer? By the returning Judge? By the prophets? By Job? By the call to integrity (v.12)?
3. What lessons about prayer is James highlighting in verses 13-18? How is the example of Elijah meant as an encouragement to those addressed in verses 13-16?
4. From this book, what are some ways 'wandering from faith' has been demonstrated in this community? What has James done to try to bring them back?

REFLECT:

1. When you experienced hardship, what enables you to be patient and wait for God? What has really tested that?
2. When have you come the closest to wandering from faith? What (or who) helped bring you back? How does that demonstrate the healing ministry of the body of Christ? How would you help someone else come back to the faith?
3. The book of James can polarise those who grappled with it. Which way do you find yourself leaning: Guilty or inspired? Resistant or repentant? Passing the buck to the rich or passing out bucks to the poor?
4. How can you be a 'doer' of the truth you have heard in James?